



RIBBLESDALE & DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB



Advice on entering Club Competitions

This document should be read alongside the **Rules for Club Competitions**, which take precedence if there is any discrepancy.

The Club's internal competitions provide an opportunity for members to see each other's work and to benefit from the constructive comments of an experienced photographer. For most members the competitive structure adds to the enjoyment of the evening, but placing images in order of merit is of course a subjective process and you will not always agree with the judge; please don't let this put you off showing your work! Our competitions are organised and run by the Internal Competitions Secretary, who will gladly advise you if you are unsure whether your entry complies with the rules. Make sure the images you enter, as well as any creative alterations, are your own work. Deliberately passing off someone else's work as your own is the only crime that can get you banned from competing! Read the other rules carefully – they will not all be covered here. If you need practical advice on mounting prints, spotting slides or preparing digital files, ask another member to help you, or request a Thursday workshop on the topic. Sharing skills is what the Club is for!

Themed Competition

This is the first competition of the season and is for prints only, presented as a walk-round exhibition, the competition is judged by all the members attending on the night, you are given a scoring sheet and as you view the images you give each one a mark, out of 10, please do not mark your own entries, when everyone has handed their sheets in the marks are added together and the winner announced. The entrant chooses a theme and expresses it **either** by combining several images within a single mount (a collage or montage - you can combine the images in any way you like) **or** by showing three separately-mounted single image prints (a panel). You may submit a maximum of two entries, either two montages, two panels or one montage and one panel. The competition is judged by members and the winner announced on the night.

Winter Series: Open Competitions

No image will be eligible if it has previously been entered in any Winter Series or Annual Competition in any format. A new image derived from the same source as a previous entry must be substantially different from that entry. On each Open Competition evening, the three sections - Prints, Slides and Digital images – will be judged separately. Members may enter up to four images in total, spread across each section, ie 4 Prints or 4 Digital images or 4 slides or 2 prints and 2 Slides etc as long as the total entry does not exceed 4.

The judge will give marks, usually out of 10, to each image, from which the placing within each section is determined (though occasionally a judge has preferred to give the placings directly without assigning marks.)

After the competition the Competitions Secretary will convert the placings into points as in below:

Place:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Points:	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

It may happen that (say) ten entries come equal third: then we just add up the available points and divide by 10: $7+6+5+4+3+2+1=28$, $28/10 = 2.8$ points each. Similarly, if there are two equal at fourth, $(6+5)/2$ gives 5.5 points each, and of course the next scoring image is in sixth place. At the end of the season the points are added up, and the winner of each section collects a trophy at the Annual Dinner. This system rewards effort and consistency as well as occasional brilliance, unlike the Annual Competition, which has a first-past-the-post structure. Within a given section, the more entries you put in, the more points you stand to win; so there is some scope for strategy if you are of a competitive disposition! For most competitions the entry date is a fortnight before the judging so the judge has time to assess the images in advance – see the printed programme for *entry nights*, or consult it on www.ribblesdalecameraclub.org.uk

The Annual Competition

The Annual Competition is held over three evenings in February or March. Details of the Sections (prints, slides, digital images) and of the Classes (open, monochrome, portrait, nature, record) are given in the Rules. Class definitions follow:

Classes 1, 1M and 2 are as written in the Rules.

Classes 3 and 4 – Nature and Record photography: the image presented must be essentially as seen through the viewfinder at the moment of exposure. Removal of minor blemishes is acceptable if it preserves a truthful picture of the subject and its environment at that moment.

Class 3 – Nature photography: images which convey accurate and detailed information about the appearance or behaviour of natural organisms and geological specimens. Domestic animals and cultivated plants are not acceptable as the main subject. If the subject has been removed from its natural environment or is captive, trained or controlled, this must be made clear in the title; judges are encouraged to give preference to images where the subject is in its natural state, indicated by the words 'free' (animals and insects) or 'in situ' (plants and geological specimens) in the title.

The identity of the subject should be indicated as accurately as possible in the title by use of its common or scientific name. It is the entrant's responsibility to comply with the law on photography of protected species; if images have been taken under licence this should be stated.

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Class 4 – Record photography: images which convey accurate and detailed information about specific man-made objects and structures, and which would help in reconstructing the subject following damage or destruction. The title should clearly identify the subject.

Make sure you have the right entry forms for the Annual Competition. You can download them from the website or collect them from the Internal Competitions Secretary. There is a separate form (and separate entry date) for each Section. In each Section you can enter up to eight images, but please ensure that not more than four of them are in the same Class.

If you want to be considered for the James Abbott Trophy you must mark on your Prints entry form which three prints you are selecting (one must be a portrait and one a landscape).

External Competitions

After the Annual Competition, the External Competitions Secretary will be collecting images for the Club's entry to the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union (L&CPU)'s Annual Competition. You have the right to be represented in the entry as an individual, and if there are particular images you wish to include, make this known. Please do not remove prints or slides after the Annual Competition until the selection has been made.

The Club also enters the Inter-Club Photographic Alliance (ICPA) annual competition, and you may be asked to contribute images for this. Prints and slides entered for these competitions may be selected for the Folios which are circulated around the participating clubs in the following season, so you may not get them back for a year.

Naturally you retain copyright of all your images, but most competition entries are conditional on permission being given to use the images in specified ways. Check the L&CPU website if you are concerned by this.

Exhibitions

From time to time the Club stages public exhibitions of its work, and you may be asked to lend prints for these. They usually run for about a month.

