

Restructured Competition System from September 2021

The current system of competitions was reviewed and it was felt that a better balance could be achieved between League and Open competitions. There was no desire to increase the total number of competitions and indeed reducing the number has attractions.

Open (no classes) Competitions

It was also felt that the current Master Photographer had possibly run its course although the concept of challenging our members to photograph a range of subject matter and to use various in-camera and post-processing techniques is still very desirable. One downside has always been that the results are subject to a single judge's opinion. We therefore decided that the Master Photographer would be a culmination of points accumulated over the competition year from the various Open (i.e. no classes) Competitions. In doing so it seemed appropriate to rethink these competitions, and the following was agreed.

All Open (no classes) Competitions to be half an evening each and to be awarded 1 overall winner (5 points) and 5 certificates (3 points). It is proposed that there will be slightly more print competitions (in continuing tradition) for the following reasons

1. Print competitions are not digital equipment-dependent (giving greater flexibility in who organises/runs the competitions)
2. Provides a continuing supply of good work for inter-club Federation competitions
3. Stretches members more in terms of making high standard and well presented work

Note 1: There is no requirement to enter all the competitions. It is perfectly reasonable to score highly in the Master Photographer Competition by gaining points in some but not all the competitions i.e. can concentrate on specialist subjects if the member wishes to.

Note 2: There is no requirement to formally enter the Master Photographer Competition and the top five results will be published at the end of the year. It is not proposed to publish everyone's scores because not everyone would have been working towards the Master Photographer Award. In the event of a tie for the winner, the one who receives the most 'winners' takes the trophy, and if a tie still exists then the one who enters the most competitions receives the trophy.

Monochrome and a standard genre to be rotated annually (prints)

The monochrome print competition will fill half an evening. The other half of the evening will be another standard genre that will be rotated annually. For example, Cityscape/Architecture, Events/Sport and Still Life.

Portrait and Nature Competitions (alternating annually between prints and PDI)

These are currently held in one evening i.e. half an evening each. We propose the addition of one more similar evening with the addition of 2 extra categories i.e. half an evening each. Each evening to alternate annually between prints and PDI.

Portrait and Landscape/Seascape (½ evening each)

Nature and Street (½ evening each)

Set Subjects Competition (prints – at least in first year)

In the spirit of the current Master Photographer we suggest that it is reformed as a 'set subjects' competition with 2 different subjects each year. These should be of the more challenging and interesting type typical of some of the current Master Photographer categories (conceptual, creative, experimental). Each subject ½ an evening each. Gerald Kitiyakara will organise this competition with the subjects being of his own choice.

This increases the number of Open (no classes) competition evenings from 3 to 4 each year.

To summarise the eight Open Competitions (held on 4 competition nights)

1. Monochrome Print and an elected 'Standard Genre' Print (½ evening each)
2. Portrait and Landscape – ½ evening each (alternate PDI/prints annually)
3. Nature and Street – ½ evening each (alternate PDI/prints annually)
4. Set Subject – 2 subjects half an evening each (prints) – each one run as a separate competition.

League Competitions

With the provision of a wider choice of subject areas in the Open competitions (and alternating at least some between PDI and prints) the number of league competitions will be reduced back to 4 PDI and 4 prints (as it used to be). With the present number of active members in the club it is probably not possible to increase the number of entries per competition back up to 3. This will be kept under annual review and monitor entry level during the next season.

Summary

The above plan leads to one less judged competition evening a year. It provides a balance of 8 League competitions (over 8 evenings) and 8 Open Competitions (over 4 evenings). All main photographic genres will be covered over a period of 2 to 3 years. As it stands there are slightly more Print than PDI competitions and we propose keeping to that. Print competitions challenge members that bit more. They are also very flexible in organisation requiring 'low tech' and allowing a number of different committee members to run them if necessary.

League competition rules to remain the same and considered completely independently from the 'Open Competitions' i.e. work entered into the Open Competitions can be used in one or more league competitions under existing rules.

The restructured competition schedule will be trialled for a year and not formally incorporating into the Competition Rules until after then.

Open Competition rules

1. An image (print or PDI) cannot be re-entered into an Open Competition of the same genre in another year.
2. An image (print or PDI) can be entered into more than one genre at any time e.g a monochrome portrait could be entered into both the monochrome and portrait competitions.