

SOLIHULL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY- INTERNAL COMPETITIONS 2026-27

PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING SOCIETY COMPETITIONS

- To encourage all members, whatever their level of experience, to improve their work through participation in competitions, both in print and projected images.
- To identify work that might be used for Society entries in national or interclub competitions, unless the author specifically requests otherwise.

GENERAL RULES FOR ENTRIES IN ALL COMPETITIONS

- Open to all members of the Society. There will be no separate competitions for members with differing levels of experience
- All members will be required to tick a box on the membership application/renewal form to confirm that they have read and understood the competition rules
- Every piece of work must include the author's name and its title. Work must be handed in by the closing date which is usually two weeks before each competition. No late entries will be accepted.
- Work submitted for a print competition may not be resubmitted for a projected image competition and vice versa unless significantly changed from the original.
- Prints
 - The maximum size for all mounts is 20" x 16" (approx 50 cm x 40 cm).
 - Print size is not limited provided they are within the above dimensions.
 - The author and image title should be clearly written on the back of the print
- Digital
 - Images to be submitted by e-mail to dpi@solihullphotographicsociety.co.uk in jpeg format, with **maximum width 1600 and maximum height 1200 pixels** using s-RGB colour space
 - Any images with different size ratio (e.g. letterbox or portrait) should still be either 1600 pixels wide if landscape format or 1200 pixels high if portrait format. Do not fill any "spare" space with black background as this will be done by our software.
 - For a panel DPI, the image size must be 1920 x 1200 and any background will be permitted.
 - Images to be labelled EXACTLY as **Your Name#Image Title#1**. All image files must end with the #1; do not add anything else. The only exception to this is the annual DPI competition where the #1 is replaced by #C, #M, or #S depending on which category you wish your image to be entered in (Colour, Mono or Scapes).
 - Many digital images project better if they have a thin 2-3 pixel keyline around the edge, especially if the image is dark
- Use of AI based software - Any image entered in a competition should be solely the member's work. Thus
 - The inclusion of image elements that are wholly generated from text or images not taken by the author, is not acceptable. This includes use of brushes and texture layers unless created by the author
 - AI based editing techniques that are acceptable include: content aware fill and stretching backgrounds (whether AI generated or not); AI based algorithms for sharpness, noise removal and other basic edits; and masks made with AI assistance.
 - There is no intention of actively 'policing' these rules but we will rely solely, as we do now, on the integrity of members.

BASIS OF COMPETITION	SECTIONS	MARKING	RULES
THE AGGREGATE COMPETITION			
Four competitions are held during the season for new work only. Colour or mono images are accepted on any subject matter. Points are awarded and aggregated over the four competitions.	Prints: Up to 2 prints. Projected: Up to 2 images.	Points are awarded in each section as follows: First7 Second6 Third5 Highly Commended4 Commended3 All other entries1 Print and projected image trophies are awarded to the members gaining the most points over the four competitions.	No print or projected image must have previously been entered in any Society competition.
THE DEREK FOSS PANEL COMPETITION			
A panel is a collection of prints/images that are viewed together as a set. Panels can be on a theme or not, but they should appear 'greater than the sum of the parts' when viewed as a whole. All entries must have one overall title.	Up to 3 print and 3 projected panels Prints: 3, 4 or 5 prints numbered in the order in which they are to be displayed. There are 2 rows available for presentation. Digital images: Up to 5 images contained within a single 1920 x 1200 pixel format. If the background is an image it counts as 1 of the 5	For each section the judge is asked to select the 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place panel along with as many Highly Commendeds and Commendeds as felt appropriate.	- No print/projected image panel previously entered in the Derek Foss Competition is eligible. No more than one print/image may have been previously used in other SPS competitions. - For print panels, Triptychs (three prints mounted in one mountboard) are not eligible.

THE ANNUAL NATURE COMPETITION			
A nature image may comprise “Living, <u>untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat</u>, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena.”	Prints: Up to 2 prints. Projected: Up to 2 images.	For each section the judge is asked to select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place along with as many Highly Commendeds and Commendeds as felt appropriate.	• No print/image previously entered in the annual nature competition is eligible. • Only nature work is accepted. Anything else is rejected. This includes animals which are domesticated and cultivated or hybrid plants. • Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as barn owls adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes reclaiming it. • Any manipulation or modification must not alter the truth of the original scene. Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and <u>minor</u> distractions. • Use of filters, texture layers or other “artistic” post processing treatment is not allowed. • All entries must be titled with the name of the main subject.. Trivial and/or cute titles are not acceptable.

THE ANNUAL PROJECTED IMAGE COMPETITION AND THE BETTY DERRICK LANDSCAPE TROPHY			
Images may be of any subject, <u>except nature</u> , for which there is a separate competition.	Up to 3 images. The category in which the image should be judged should be indicated next to the title (see page 1).	Images will be assessed in one of the following categories: Colour, Mono and Scapes. For each category the judge is asked to select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place along with as many Highly commendeds and Commendeds as felt appropriate.	• No image previously entered in this competition is eligible. • Scapes are defined as any image of land (urban or rural), water, sky, etc., and techniques such as HDR, focus stacking, stitching, and composites are allowed but all images must be the work of the same author. People and animals may be included in the scene as long as they are ancillary and/or supportive of the main subject.
THE ANNUAL PRINT COMPETITION			
Prints may be of any subject, <u>except nature</u> , for which there is a separate competition	Up to 3 prints. The category in which the print should be judged should be indicated next to the title.	Prints will be assessed in one of the following categories: Colour, Mono, and Scapes. For each category the judge is asked to select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place along with as many Highly commendeds and Commendeds as felt appropriate. An additional award (The Anniversary Trophy) is given to the best print overall.	• No print previously entered in this competition is eligible. • Scapes are defined as any image of land (urban or rural), water, sky, etc., and techniques such as HDR, focus stacking, stitching, and composites are allowed but all images must be the work of the same author. People and animals may be included in the scene as long as they are ancillary and/or supportive of the main subject. .

THE ROGER PINN PROJECTED IMAGE AND PRINT 'IT'S A KNOCK-OUT' COMPETITION															
This is a light-hearted 'It's a Knock - Out'competition, judged by an audience of Society members, and compered by a member.	Prints: Up to 3 prints. Projected: Up to 3 images.	For each section the audience selects the 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place.	Images entered in the KO competition do not qualify for millennium award points												
THE MILLENNIUM AWARD															
This competition is to find the best and most consistent print and projected image worker of the year. Just by entering the current year's competitions, members are automatically in the running for this award.		The winner is the member with the highest overall score from all the Society internal competitions, including each of the four aggregate competitions, but excluding the Knockout. Points are awarded as follows: <table><tr><td>First</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Second/runner-up</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Third</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Highly commended</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Commended</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>All other entries</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	First	7	Second/runner-up	6	Third	5	Highly commended	4	Commended	3	All other entries	1	- Both print and projected image competitions have to be entered. - Images entered in the KO competition do not qualify for millennium award points
First	7														
Second/runner-up	6														
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