

Ryde Focus Group - Monthly Competition Rules



General

1. All images must be the work of the author.
2. Each member may submit a maximum of three images in each competition. Each image as well as having the author's name, title and class should also be numbered 1,2 OR 3. Number 1 and 2 being the author's first CHOICES. If there are too many images the 3rd image will be removed. Only the points of two images will be carried to the end of year results.
3. Any images placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd may not be entered into another club completion.
4. Digital Images. Images should be saved as JPEG files and given to the competition secretary preferably two weeks before the competition. Late entries may be accepted by the competition secretary. Images may be submitted by email or memory device. Images will be retained on the club's laptop and with the committee's discretion, and with the member's permission, images may be used in inter-club competitions.
Each image must have the author's name, title and class.
Images will be projected at a size and resolution in accordance with Southern Counties Photographic Federation requirements.
The competition secretary reserve the right not to show images if, in exceptional circumstances, it would take excessive time to correct file names for competition.
5. Black and White. A "B&W image is either monochrome or one which is tinted with a single colour (e.g. sepia or selenium tint). Any other colour element in the picture means that it is a colour image. Each competition will be designated as either Colour or B&W.
6. Print Sizes. Competition prints must be a minimum of 7" by 5" (17.5 by 12.5 cm). They should be mounted, and the mount should be no larger than 20" by 16" (50 by 40 cm).
7. Points and Record-Keeping. Each image will be awarded points out of 10 by an independent judge. These points will be recorded by the Competition Secretary, along with the image's author and competition category.
8. Competition Categories. From Sept 2005, the club will divide its monthly competitions into two categories, to be known as Beginner (B) and Advanced (A). At the start of the season (i.e. in Sept), a member may choose a category in which to compete. A member of the B category may switch in mid-season to the A category, but points and places achieved thus far in the B category will be forfeit, for purposes of the End of Year and High Points competitions (see below). A member who wins a B category, End of Year or High Points competition must subsequently compete in the A category. Members who have competed in the A category may not switch to the B category.

End of Year Competition

1. At the end of each competition year (i.e. in May), the club will hold an End of Year competition. This will be held in the same two categories, A and B.
2. All images shown by the Competition Secretary's records to have placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd within their category in a monthly competition during that competition year will be eligible. If a member has competed in both A and B categories during the year, only their images from the A category will be eligible.
3. Any member who does not have an eligible image under the rule above, may enter one image of their choice, in their current competition category.
4. The winner of the End of Year competition will be selected by an independent judge for each competition category. The club will award a cup or plaque to the winners.

High Points Competition

1. In Sept 2005, the club inaugurated a new competition, known as the High Points competition. The intent is to identify and honour the members who produce the highest quality work throughout the competition year, rather than in a single competition.
2. The image data recorded from the monthly competitions by the Competition Secretary will be used to maintain a running total of points for each member throughout the competition year. This information will be made available to members on a regular basis.
3. To be eligible for the High Points competition, a member must have submitted at least 8 images in a given competition category during that competition year. At the end of the competition year (i.e. in May), the Competition Secretary will determine which members are eligible in each category.
4. The best 8 scoring entries from each members' entries will be totalled and count towards their final position in the high point's competition.
5. The winners of the High Points competition will be the members who achieve the highest score from these 8 entries in each competition category. The club will award a cup or plaque to the winners.

Judges

To ensure equal standards of judging all Southern Counties Photographic Federation judges go through a training program before they start officially judging. The training program is based on the teachings of Dr Eddy Sethna. Judges are only human therefore ultimately each judge's interpretation of an image will differ based on their individual views and interpretations.

Being on an Island we do frequently use Local judges who are not part of Southern Counties therefore they use the knowledge and experience they have gained over many years to interpret an image.

We as a group tend to use judges regularly we are happy with but will ask new judges to meetings to try and widen our network of judges. Therefore, regardless of individual's personal views the judge's decision is final. If any member of the group is unhappy with a judge that person is to formally notify in writing to either the Chairman or Competition Secretary so that it can be looked into in the proper manner, it is not to be taken directly to the judge.