

Internal Competition Rules

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Our internal competitions give Society members the chance to have their work assessed, often by well-known external judges. Apart from the competitive aspect, much can be gained from the advice given as part of the judging process. Competitions also provide members with an opportunity to see the work of other members which can extend knowledge and inspire.
- 1.2. Members are encouraged to enter their preferred competitions, but it is not compulsory.
- 1.3. The competition season runs from September to July with a one month break in between. These are for Projected Digital Images (PDI) and Prints:
 - 1.3.1. **Bi-Monthly PDI League Competitions** - Four rounds of PDI competitions, with three classes for different experience levels plus an open prescribed section with different themes selected by the Competition Secretaries. The scores are accumulated over the rounds, leading to trophies at the end for those with the highest scores.
 - 1.3.2. **Bi-Monthly Print League Competitions** - Four rounds of Print competitions, with three classes for different experience levels plus an open prescribed section with different themes selected by the Competition Secretaries. The scores are accumulated over the rounds, leading to trophies at the end for those with the highest scores.
 - 1.3.3. **Annual PDI Competition** - A PDI competition, with three classes for different experience levels plus an open Nature section.
 - 1.3.4. **Annual Print Competition** - A Print competition, with three classes for different experience levels plus an open Nature section.
 - 1.3.5. **President's Cup** - A PDI panel competition, open to any member without any distinctions or photographic qualifications above the level of LRPS or equivalent. This is intended to encourage less experienced members to get involved. Each entry consists of a panel of three PDI images on a related theme.
 - 1.3.6. **Garmston Bowl** - A Print panel competition open to all. Each entry consists of a panel of five Print images on a related theme.
 - 1.3.7. **Creative Competition** - A Creative photography competition for both PDI and Print entries of all levels of experience.
- 1.4. Members must submit entries to competitions using the Society's web-based competition management system (PhotoEntry).
- 1.5. The following sections describe in detail the Bristol Photographic Society competition rules, which are governed by the Council and which members entering competitions must adhere to.
- 1.6. If you have any questions about internal competitions, you can contact the Print and PDI Competition Secretaries by email: competitions@bristolphoto.org.uk

2. General Rules

- 2.1. Members must enter the correct number of images as specified for their class and in total for that competition date (see [APPENDIX](#)).
- 2.2. Entries must originate as photographs (image capture of objects via light sensitivity), taken by the entrant, on photographic emulsion, or acquired digitally.
- 2.3. Each photographer must own the copyright of every element of the image – Clip Art, Copyright-free material and Fractals are NOT acceptable.
- 2.4. Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, clipart and Generative AI is not permitted. The competition secretaries reserve the right to see the original unprocessed images used in an entry.
- 2.5. Prints and PDI images, once having been submitted in a specific competition will not be accepted a second time in the same competition, either in following rounds or following years. In addition, an image that has been entered in the print bi-monthly competition may not be entered in the PDI bi-monthly competition in the same competition year, and vice-versa. Images may be carried forward to a different competition, for example to the annual print, PDI and Creative competitions (and indeed switched from print to PDI or vice-versa if desired). But again, the same image may not be used in both the Annual Print and Annual PDI competitions in the same year. Converting a colour image into monochrome does not make it a 'new' image for the purposes of the above restriction on re-use.
- 2.6. The theme for Bi-Monthly PDI and Print Prescribed competitions will be set by the competition secretaries at the beginning of each new season and published in the competition schedule. Details will also be available in PhotoEntry
- 2.7. For the Nature section in the Annual Competitions, entries must conform to the WCPF / PAgB Nature guidelines which the club now uses. These can be found in the Definitions section below.
- 2.8. In instances where a competition receives more entries than can be accommodated, the Competition Secretaries will reduce the number of submissions by removing the last image entered by each participant within a given class. If two were originally entered, the second will be culled. It is recommended that if you have two images, ensure that your preferred image is entered first.
- 2.9. 6.1. To be accepted, all competition entries must be submitted to the Society's competition management system ([PhotoEntry](#)), using the member's own account created for them by the Competition Secretaries.
- 2.10. Entries for the competition close at 04:00 the morning after the closing date, and no changes can be made after that time.
- 2.11. All communication with the Competition Secretaries by members should include their Membership Number, the applicable competition and be sent to the following email address: competitions@bristolphoto.org.uk

3. Competition Class

3.1. All members will be assigned a competition class by the Competition Secretaries within PhotoEntry based on their experience (see table below):

Class	Experience Level	Default Class Assumptions
Club	Limited experience in photography	Photography Course Members New members (12 months or less) without any distinctions or equivalent higher-level qualifications Existing Club Class members
Intermediate	Some experience of competition photography.	Existing Intermediate Class members
Advanced	Considerable experience of competition, exhibition or commercial work.	Any member with higher-level photographic distinctions or equivalent qualifications e.g. ARPS and above, DPAGB and above, BPE * and above, MA (Photography) and above. Existing Advanced Class members
Open (Prescribed)	Open to all (Club, Intermediate and Advanced)	All members will be assigned to Prescribed in addition to the Competition Class based on their experience.

- 3.2. Members are responsible for confirming which Competition Class that they will enter and must inform the Competition Secretaries of this on joining or at the beginning of the competition season, while the competition is still open for entry.
- 3.3. Where a member has not informed the Competition Secretaries which class they compete in, an assumption will be made using rules to initially assign them a default competition class. This can be changed by informing the Competition Secretaries before entering a competition (see also 3.6 and 3.7).
- 3.4. Members must compete in the same Competition Class for both Print and PDI competitions in any one season.
- 3.5. At the end of the competition season members are encouraged to move to a higher Competition Class if they feel that this is appropriate.
- 3.6. Members may change Competition Class within a competition season if desired however this is strongly discouraged as the competitor will forfeit any points gained, or entitlement to any award previously anticipated.
- 3.7. Members may only downgrade their Competition Class with agreement of the Council.
- 3.8. At the end of the season the Competition Secretaries may request certain members to enter a higher Competition Class in the next season where it is believed that this will ensure fairer competition.
- 3.9. The Competitions Secretaries can advise members on their Competition Class if necessary.
- 3.10. In the Bi-Monthly competitions, the Prescribed section is optional to enter. Members can decide if they wish to compete just in their experience-based Class, just Prescribed, or both. They must however adhere to the correct number of images allowed (see [APPENDIX](#)).

4. Awards

- 4.1. Competitions will be scored by position: First (1st); Second (2nd); Third (3rd); and Highly Commended (HC).
- 4.2. Points will be accrued by entrants and entered into the Print and the PDI Bi-Monthly Competition league tables to use as the basis for awarding the Competition Trophies at the end of the season (see table below).

Position	Points
1 st	4
2 nd	3
3 rd	2
HC	1

- 4.3. Each Class and Prescribed competition will have its own Bi-Monthly Competition league table for both Print and PDI. Prescribed results will be added to contestants' results by Class after the Round 4 competition to give the overall total league results for that season.
- 4.4. Reasonable endeavours will be made to issue Award Certificates to winners on the competition night. Where this is not possible, they will be available for collection from an index file in the Clubroom.
- 4.5. Following the presentation of the competition Trophies a winner may have the Trophy at home until December of the same year. This is to make sure they are in the club's possession ready for the new season and they can be displayed in the trophy cabinet for all to see.

5. Digital Image Submission

5.1. Both PDI and digital copies of Print submissions must adhere to the specification below to be accepted:

Max Height (px)	1200	Enforced
Min Height (px)	533	Enforced
Max Width (px)	1600	Enforced
Min Width (px)	1200	Enforced
File type	JPG	Enforced
Colour profile	sRGB	Notified, not enforced

- 5.2. If an image is larger than the required size, it will be automatically downsized to meet the required standard.
- 5.3. The minimum height allows for a panoramic dimension of 3:1.
- 5.4. Entries submitted using a colour profile other than sRGB will not be disqualified but have a higher risk of not be projected for the competition judge as the photographer intended.
- 5.5. To aid projection it is recommended that whenever possible entrants submit entries maximising their allowed image dimensions.

6. Print Image Submission

- 6.1. Digital images of the prints must be submitted to the Society's competition management system (PhotoEntry), otherwise the prints will be disqualified.
- 6.2. Prints must be mounted. The maximum size of mount accepted is 500mm x 400mm.
- 6.3. Prints must be labelled using the standard template available from the BPS website (in [PDF](#) or [Microsoft Word](#) format) and from a link in found in PhotoEntry. Labels must be affixed to the bottom right-hand side of the rear of the print to indicate its orientation for viewing.
- 6.4. Nature entries for the Annual Print Competition must indicate that this is the intended theme on the label.
- 6.5. No other identifying information must be present.
- 6.6. To be accepted, prints for submission must be placed in the box provided for this purpose in the clubrooms by 21:30 on the competition closing date. Entries will be disqualified if the digital copy has been uploaded to PhotoEntry, but the print has not also been entered.

7. Definitions

7.1. BPS follows the rules of the WCPF & PAGB and adheres to the following definitions where available. These definitions apply to all BPS competitions where a category has been applied:

Term	Definition	External Reference
Monochrome	<p>A black and white work going from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey.</p> <p>A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category.</p> <p>On the other hand, a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category.</p>	PAGB Monochrome Eligibility
Colour	All images other than those classed as Monochrome are defined as colour images. A black and white image which has been modified by the addition of partial toning or by the addition of one colour to any part of the image is a Colour Image.	
Nature	<p>Nature means Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story-telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.</p> <p>- Nature includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.</p> <p>- Nature excludes images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.</p> <p>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 minor distractions including overlapping elements.</p> <p>Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.</p>	PAGB Nature Eligibility
Wildlife	<p>Images entered in Wildlife sections are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.</p> <p>Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections.</p>	

	<p>Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.</p> <p>Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections.</p>	
Travel	<p>A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristics or culture of a land as they are found naturally.</p> <p>There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are NOT appropriate.</p> <p>Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment.</p> <p>Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted.</p> <p>The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome.</p> <p>Other derivations including infrared are not permitted.</p> <p>All permitted adjustments must appear natural.</p>	
Macro	<p>An image where the subject is at a magnification ratio of 1:1 or higher is considered a Macro image.</p>	
Creative	<p>A Creative image is constructed in camera or during post processing using the photographer's imagination.</p>	
Documentary	<p>Images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world, where the journalistic (story-telling) value of the image receives priority over pictorial quality</p>	<p>Photographic Society of America (PSA)</p>

8. APPENDIX

8.1. Bi-Monthly PDI Competitions

Competition Group	Competition	Typical Schedule	Class	Theme	Max Entries by Category		Max Entries Overall	Other Entry Restrictions	Awards Given	
					By Class	Open			By Class	Overall
Bi-Monthly PDI Competitions	Round 1	September	Club	N/A	2	0	2	N/A	1, 2, 3, HC	PDI Club, Intermediate, and Advanced Trophies (based on accumulated League Points - see Awards)
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 1	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 2	November	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 2	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 3	January	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 3	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 4	March	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 4	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	

8.2. Bi-Monthly Print Competitions

Competition Group	Competition	Typical Schedule	Class	Theme	Max Entries by Category		Max Entries Overall	Other Entry Restrictions	Awards Given	
					By Class	Open			By Class	Overall
Bi-Monthly Print Competitions	Round 1	October	Club	N/A	2	0	2	N/A	1, 2, 3, HC	Print Club, Intermediate, and Advanced Trophies (based on accumulated League Points - see below)
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 5	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 2	December	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 6	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 3	February	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 7	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Round 4	April	Club	N/A	2	0	2		1, 2, 3, HC	
			Intermediate	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	2	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Theme 8	0	1			1, 2, 3, HC	

8.3. Annual Competitions

Competition Group	Competition	Typical Schedule	Class	Theme	Max Entries by Category		Max Entries Overall	Other Entry Restrictions	Awards Given	
					By Class	Open			By Class	Overall
Annual PDI & Print Competitions	Annual PDI Competition	May	Club	N/A	4	0	4	N/A	1, 2, 3, HC	Best Travel, People, Action, Landscape and Monochrome
			Intermediate	N/A	4	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	4	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Nature	0	4			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Annual Print Competition	June	Club	N/A	4	0	4	N/A	1, 2, 3, HC	Best Travel, People, Action, Landscape and Monochrome
			Intermediate	N/A	4	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	4	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Prescribed	Nature	0	4			1, 2, 3, HC	
Annual Panel Competitions	President's Cup (PDI Panel)	July	Club	N/A	1 (3 images)	0	1 (3 images)	Excludes entries from ARPS, EFIAP, DPAGB, EPSA, higher distinctions or equivalent higher qualifications	1, 2, 3, HC	President's Cup
			Intermediate	N/A	1 (3 images)	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	1 (3 images)	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
	Garmston Bowl (Print Panel)	July	Club	N/A	1 (5 images)	0	1 (5 images)	N/A	1, 2, 3, HC	Garmston Bowl
			Intermediate	N/A	1 (5 images)	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
			Advanced	N/A	1 (5 images)	0			1, 2, 3, HC	
Annual Creative Competition	Creative PDI Competition	July	Prescribed	Creative	0	4	4	Entries must not have been entered into previous Creative competitions. The previous year's trophy winner is not eligible to enter.	1, 2, 3, HC	Bob Faris Trophy
	Creative Print Competition	July	Prescribed	Creative	0	4			1, 2, 3, HC	

8.4. Competition Medals and Trophies

Competition Group	Competition Winner	Medal	Trophy
PDI Bi- Monthly Competition	PDI League winner Club Class	Yes	The Hewitt Cup
	PDI League winner Intermediate	Yes	Avonia Trophy
	PDI League winner Advanced	Yes	
	PDI League winner Prescribed Subject Class	Yes	
Print Bi- Monthly Competition	Print League winner Club Class	Yes	BPS R J R Fry Comp.
	Print League winner Intermediate	Yes	BPS Print Competition
	Print League winner Advanced	Yes	
	Print League winner Prescribed Subject class	Yes	
PDI Annual Competition	Annual PDI Competition Club Class	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Intermediate	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Advanced	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Best People	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Best Travel	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Nature	Yes	Annual slide comp.
	Annual PDI Competition Best Action	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Best Mono	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Best Landscape	Yes	
	Annual PDI Competition Best Overall	Yes	H Salanson trophy
	Annual PDI Competition Best People	Yes	
Print Annual Competition	Annual Print Competition Club	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Intermediate	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Advanced	Yes	E G Watts Memorial
	Annual Print Competition Nature	Yes	R J Fry comp. (Animal Studies)
	Annual Print Best Image (All levels)	Yes	Roderick J Fry trophy
	Annual Print Competition Mono	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Best People	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Travel	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Best Action	Yes	
	Annual Print Competition Best Landscape	Yes	
Presidents Cup	Presidents Cup (PDI Panel)	Yes	Presidents Cup
Garmston Bowl	Garmston Bowl (Print Panel)	Yes	Garmston Bowl
Creative Competition	Creative Competition Best PDI	Yes	
Creative Competition	Creative Competition Best Print	Yes	
Creative Competition	Creative Competition Overall winner	Yes	Bob Faris Trophy