



# **Swindon Photographic Society**

also known as

## **Swindon Camera Club**

Affiliated to

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

through the

Western Counties Photographic Federation

## **THE COMPETITION RULES**

*The Constitution and The Competition Rules have been split into separate documents in 2025.  
Items in italics are included to help clarity and understanding.*

## **GENERAL COMPETITION RULES**

A member cannot vote for their own entry in any competition.

All images submitted for club competitions and/or exhibitions must have been taken by the member using a photographic process. Composite images are normally permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. *Note: the 'Scapes competition does not allow composites.*

This means any software that adds content that is not the photographer's content is not permitted. This includes but is not restricted to the use of clip-art or another photographer's image, downloaded textures or backgrounds, third-party decorative borders, AI generated content that draws content from outside the photographer's own work, replacing clouds with stock images (using your own cloud images is fine), plus shaped or textured brushes not created by the photographer.

Technology that enhances an existing image without drawing on image data from outside that image (e.g., AI De-noise, AI Scaling, AI Sharpening) is acceptable. Software tools that replace or remove an image element or extend an image such as content-aware fill, healing, patching or object removal are only permitted where the source for the inserted image data is wholly contained within the base image(s).

In the event that a copyright infringement case is brought against the club because of using an unlicensed image, the member responsible will be liable for any financial losses incurred by the club.

Whilst all care will be taken when handling entries, the club cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage to members' entries.

The title of an image must not be more than 30 characters in length. *(Note: valid characters are numbers between 0 and 9, letters A to Z or ( ), ' - + ? ! : & @)*

An image can only be entered in a Monthly competition twice. All internally judged competitions are excluded, as is the Annual Exhibition which has its own rule.

Competitions may have a Combined Category, or a Primary and Advanced Category, which allows judging in some competitions to take experience into consideration (as *specified in the rules for each competition*).

The medium for entries for competitions will be print or digital images (*as specified in the rules for each competition*).

For all competitions, unless otherwise specified, each member can enter up to three entries per medium.

All digital entries (including a digital copy of prints) must be uploaded onto the competition database by the photographer in line with the timescales shown in the Programme. For External competitions the prints must be brought to the club by the closing date (so they can go to the judge) whereas for Internal competitions the prints must be brought on the night of the competition to be displayed before the club starts.

The Federation guidelines for the number of images in an evening that can be given appropriate comments without rushing, is between 80 and 100 depending on the judge's experience level.

In the event that the competition entry volume exceeds 80, the Competition Secretary will cull the entry to an anticipated manageable level. This cull will start at the member's lowest preference, however at least one entry from each member (their first preference) will be assessed.

Any images culled by the Competition Secretary will be regarded as 'not submitted' and therefore will not be subject to the 'only entered twice' rule on Page 2.

Additionally, if in the opinion of the Judge the total entry still exceeds a comfortable amount to be commented on adequately, the Judge may choose not to comment on some of the lower preference images. In this event all images sent to the judge will still be shown.

Any images culled by the Judge will be regarded as 'submitted' as they will have been assessed even if not commented on, therefore will be subject to the 'only entered twice' rule on Page 2.

The winner of the Monthly Competition Primary Category will move to the Advanced Category for the following year.

When a Primary member scores 5 or 4 points for any image in a monthly competition on at least 6 occasions over any period of time, they will move to the Advanced Section for the following year.

A member moves to the Advanced Category for the following year if that member wins two Annual Exhibitions in different seasons.

Any member may request to change their Category, up or down, by applying to the Competition Secretary two weeks before the proposed change, who will assess their previous work/scores before making a decision. Any changes will be effective from the next competition entry date if the member has not previously submitted work that season, or from the start of the next season if they have already submitted work that season.

Once an image has been submitted to any club competition, the same image cannot be resubmitted to any future competition using a different title.

Members are on their honour to observe any time restrictions set out in these rules.

Any image submitted for competition may also be displayed on the club website or in other ways deemed appropriate for club publicity. The copyright of the image remains with the author.

Any image submitted for club competition will be considered for: Battles with other clubs; External Club Competitions (e.g. WCPF) and Club Exhibitions and the author's consent for this use will be assumed to have been given unless explicitly indicated on the annual membership form that SPS is not the members' primary club. The copyright of the image remains with the author.

The Battle Secretary will select the images to be used in battles, based on the specific battle criteria and the best images to represent the club.

## **Prints**

Advanced section Monthly Competition prints and Annual Exhibition prints (externally judged competitions) must be mounted, Primary section prints can be mounted but it is not mandatory.

Mounts must have a maximum outside dimension of 500mm x 400mm, and be no more than 5mm thick. The aperture for the image can be any size, and there is no minimum mount or print size.

Club judged prints can be mounted as above, or can be unmounted in which case the maximum print size is A3, there is no minimum size.

Prints that break the size rules will be excluded from the competition.

Prints must contain the title on the back. The photographer's name or any other identification must not appear anywhere on the front or back.

(You may also wish to indicate which way up the print is to be shown.)

No mount should be used that, in the opinion of the Competition Secretary, can cause damage to any other member's print. All velcro, clips, rings or similar fixings must be removed from the mount.

*(Prints that break this rule will be excluded from the competition.)*

A digital copy of the print must be uploaded onto the competition database by the photographer in line with the timescales shown in the Programme. As these digital files will be used to produce the control documentation in advance of the competition, any print submitted without a corresponding digital file will be excluded from the competition.

## **Digital Images**

Images will be projected in a landscape format at the native resolution of the projector. Native mode size is 1920 pixels horizontally and 1200 pixels vertically. (Images smaller than this size will still project correctly but will appear smaller on the screen than those at the maximum size allowed.)

Images that exceed the size rule will be automatically resized, however the quality of the resized image may not be as intended by the photographer. It is the photographer's responsibility to ensure the image is of an appropriate size.

Colour Space/mode: SRGB, 8 bit.

File Format: Only .JPG files are acceptable.

Images must be uploaded onto the competition database by the photographer. The image sequence will default to the order that the files are uploaded, and the title will be the same as the image filename.

*(The photographer's name and Advanced or Primary category will be added automatically.)*

## THE COMPETITIONS

### Monthly Competitions

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (on separate evenings)  
Category: Primary & Advanced  
Judge: External

There are three open subject competitions, and one set subject competition per Medium, making 8 competitions in total.

Points will be awarded as follows:

First place - 7 points; Second place - 5 points; Third place – 4 points;  
Highly Commended - 2 points; Commended - 1 point.

The Judge can select any number of Highly Commended or Commended awards but this should not exceed 50% of the entry volume. All points scored in the competition will be counted for a total accumulated score.

Prints or digital images placed first, second or third in a Monthly Competition will not be eligible for entry to another Monthly Competition in the same Category. *(This does not preclude them from the Annual Exhibition.)*

### Internal Competitions

Judged by the members, the top 8 scoring images will be eligible for points as follows: First place - 7 points; Second place - 5 points; Third place - 4 points; Fourth and Fifth place - 2 points; Sixth, Seventh and Eighth place - 1 point. In the event of multiple images gaining the same score, each will be awarded the higher number of points, and subsequent scores will resume at their numerical position. *(ie if there are two images with equal points in second place, the next image will be in fourth place).*

### The Annual Exhibition

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (on separate evenings)  
Category: Primary & Advanced, Monochrome and Colour  
Judge: External

Entries are limited to 4 prints in total split over colour and mono, and 4 digital images in total split over colour and mono, per member. There is no requirement to enter both colour and mono sections but a maximum of 3 images per section is permitted.

To ensure that the Annual Exhibition only includes fresh work every year, no image may be entered in more than one Annual Exhibition. *(Fresh images produced by manipulation are not affected by this restriction.)*

All entries should include the author's order of preference from 1-4 (do not restart the sequence for colour and mono images), otherwise the order will be at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.

*Some of the prints entered for this competition may be hung in a library or other exhibitions during the summer, to promote the club.*

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### **Summer Competition**

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (may be on separate evenings)  
Category: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

All components of the submitted image must have been taken by attending any of the summer programme events organised by the club, in the preceding summer. Composite components of the submitted image must have been taken at the same event.

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### **Monochrome Competition** (Mike Brougham award for Prints)

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (may be on separate evenings)  
Category: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

An image is considered to be Monochrome if it (in addition to a straight black and white image) is toned entirely in one colour. A black and white image modified by partial toning, or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work.

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### **Portrait Competition** (Roy Henry award for Digital Image)

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (may be on separate evenings)  
Category: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

A portrait is an image of a person. The intent is to show the basic appearance of the person, and some insight into his or her personality.

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### **Creative Competition**

Medium: Digital Images only  
Class: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

Creative photography is an extension of conventional photography into creative art. They are images that have been modified during or after exposure above and beyond simple manipulation. The purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with new ideas.

There is no limit to when the components of the image were taken, however, the creation will have been constructed for the current season.

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### **John Evans Competition** (Rose Bowl)

Medium: Mobile Phone images only  
Category: Combined  
Judge: External

The Rose Bowl was presented to the club to commemorate a former Evening Advertiser Chief Photographer, so this competition is for images that have a recognisable story.

Images must have been taken with a mobile phone on or after the 1st January in the year preceding the competition, within a ten-mile radius of Regent Circus, Swindon, and must be identifiable as from this area. The judge will be asked to adhere to the brief.



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### **Bernard Hinton Competition**

Medium: Digital Images only  
Category: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

This is named after a past member of the club who took a great interest in photographing Swindon's Parks and gardens.

The digital image must have been taken in the nominated Swindon park or garden during the preceding or current club season, the venue of which will be published in the programme each year.

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### **'Scapes Competition**

Medium: Digital Images only  
Class: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

This includes Landscape, Seascape and Cityscape images where the location is the primary focus of the image.

Images must be a true representation of the scape as originally captured by the camera so no composite images are allowed.

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### **Street Competition**

Medium: Digital Images only  
Class: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

This is for Candid Public Photography and should convey the essential truth of what the photographer saw at the time it was taken.

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### **Series Competition**

Medium: Prints & Digital Images (may be on separate evenings)  
Category: Combined  
Judge: Club Members

A series is defined as a sequence of images with some form of link discernible by the viewer.

**Digital:** A sequence of between 4 and 8 related images.

For the Digital competition, the filename of the uploaded files for each Set must contain the same title, preceded by 1 Alpha character and 1 numeric starting at 1 plus a space and the series title.

e.g. "A1 Winning Images.jpg"  
"A2 Winning Images.jpg"

*The competition database will rename the Series when the control documents are downloaded.*

*(For projection we will use Faststone software, for a period of 6 seconds each, with a Transition Effect of "Fade In and Out" and an Effect Duration of "5:Longest".)*

**Tryptic Prints:** A tryptic (3 images) presented on a single sheet of paper, no larger than A3 in size.

### **The Albright Award for Photographer of the Year.**

This will be awarded to the photographer with the greatest number of points accumulated from all competitions (excluding the Annual Exhibitions and Kevin Wilcox Award) during the current club year.

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### **The Kevin Wilcock Award**

Awarded for the best Natural History Image

The Competition Secretary will propose up to 10 Natural History images from all the entries used during the year, for the current President to select the winner.

Natural History Images are to be of any living fauna or flora, must be the main focal point of the image, and should convey the essential truth of what the photographer saw at the time it was taken. *(Please be aware that the WCPF and other organisations may use a more restrictive definition.)*

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### **End of the Competition Rules**