

## Preparing pictures for competitions (2023)

Whether you're a camera or smartphone photographer your club membership entitles you to enter all our competitions which is a great way to improve your photography skills as all pictures entered will receive feedback from an impartial judge from another club in the region. Your membership number (on your membership card) is the only thing the judge receives from us and no names are mentioned at a competition evening unless an image receives a 'Highly Commended' or above.

We have two competition categories: **CLUB** which is usually for new members or those fairly new to photography and **ADVANCED** but it's your choice which category you choose to enter your images in.

There's a six-minute tutorial on our YouTube channel ~ 'A guide to competitions' to help you ease yourself into this part of the club's calendar of events.

The competition rules are posted on our club website at <http://wbphoto.org> click on the Competitions tab itself to access these and it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with these as they can change. The Seasonal programme (available on the club website) has the competition entry and judging dates.

We have two club competition formats:

### **Projected Digital Image Competitions** (often shortened to PDI).

The competition images are stored on the club laptop and then projected onto a screen making this competition the easiest to enter. You can enter up to **EIGHT** images over the year (maximum 4 images at a time) and they can be either colour or monochrome (black & white) or a combination of the two.

We have three rounds to this PDI competition with one being a subject chosen by the members at the AGM whilst the other two are 'open' which means you can enter any images you like.

As the images are going to be shown to everyone through the club projector the image size should be no larger than 1200 pixels high by 1600 pixels wide which is a 3 : 4 crop. They can be smaller though so if you want to show a 1 : 1 (square crop) you can choose 1200 pixels by 1200 pixels. All PDI's are accepted as JPEG files, which is the universal format

for showing on a screen and sending as an email attachment, and the maximum file size for each image is 2MB.

If you're not familiar with image resizing and naming then we have a short tutorial video on our club YouTube channel showing how to resize images for the PDI competitions and our members are there if you need a little extra help or advice.

With your image resized the last bit is to name it. Each image entry should have your competition number, an underscore and the image title e.g. 27\_Tynemouth Priory.

With your images as JPEG's, resized and named then simply email them, before the competition deadline date, to [comp@wbps.co.uk](mailto:comp@wbps.co.uk)

In addition to the eight seasonal PDI images the club offers three trophy competitions during the year which are all in the PDI format.

- The Alan Potts Trophy – three linked PDI's themed on the 'Natural World'.
- The Presidents Trophy – three linked PDI's judged as a set with this year's theme being Man Made
- The Anne Swearman Trophy – three PDI's based on 'Creative Photography'.

The club website (Competitions Tab) has more details and images of previous winning PDI images.

## **Print Competitions**

We have two categories to this competition being Colour prints and Monochrome prints and you can enter up to SIX prints in each category during the year (maximum three prints in each category at a time). The choice of subject is entirely up to you.

It's also your choice as to whether you print your images at home or send them off to a specialist company to print them for you.

The prints should be mounted and the traditional method is to buy Mountboard (from an art supplier), cut an appropriately sized window in it and then lay the board over your print and stick it down with tape. A3 or A4 sized prints are best for viewing but there's no hard and fast rule other than the Maximum size of the Mountboard is 50cm X 40cm.



For those who don't want the outlay of a printer, photographic paper, cutting equipment etc then outsourcing is the way to go. There are quite a few 'Next Day' UK based printers on the internet where you send them the images electronically, specify the size and paper and they'll print it for you. To get a feel for this type of service have a look at <https://www.simlab.co.uk> who some of our members use.

Jackie Williams at Holly Frames, 47 Park View, Whitley Bay will provide and cut 'standard' mountboard and insert a bevelled window at £5.00 per image if you give her 2-3 weeks' notice – this is a 'special price' for members only so please tell her you're a WBPS member if you place an order. If you run short of time and need boards in a hurry then it's the normal shop price of £11 per image. Heavyweight and coloured boards are available but at an additional cost.

There are other local / national suppliers so it can pay to shop around.

Just as with the PDI images your mounted print needs to have your competition number, underscore and the title of your print E.G. (27\_Harbour sunrise) written on the back of the mountboard. Entry deadline dates are shown in the Club Programme and prints are brought to the club on this day and given to the Competitions Secretary who will pass them over to the Judge.

Entering club competitions is both fun and an invaluable way to improve your photography but you can also choose to just sit back for a while and enjoy the evenings if you want to.

Our Competitions Secretary and members are there to help you so do ask for advice or guidance so you can get the most out of the competition evenings.