

Stoke Poges Photographic Club

INTERNAL COMPETITION RULES 2026/2027

A - GENERAL RULES

1. All new members are assigned to the intermediate level unless they hold a photographic qualification. This rule is aimed to help those new to photographic competitions, though not necessarily new to photography, and to assist judges in assessing entries from such members. Promotion from the intermediate to the advanced level is by invitation from the committee based on the quality of the member's entries over at least one season. Members may choose to defer for one season.
2. Members must have paid their annual subscription before entry to competitions.
3. Entries for projected and print competitions will be separated into intermediate and advanced levels unless there is a small entry per level where the Internal Competition Secretary may combine intermediate and advanced levels advising the judge of the situation. Exceptions to this are the Edith Ward Competition or elsewhere when specifically indicated by the committee.
4. All entries must be the original work of the photographer submitting them, who holds the Copyright. Images may be colour or black & white unless otherwise specified. They may be trade or home processed.
5. All entries for SET SUBJECT competitions cannot be taken prior to the date the subject was voted on at the AGM in 2025. The EDITH WARD alphabet competition entries must have been taken within twelve months prior to entry. There is no date requirement for OPEN subject competitions.
6. PDI and Print entries for internal competitions must be emailed to the Internal Competition Secretary on the following email address sppc03@outlook.com no later than the Thursday prior to the competition Tuesday. Digital images must be sent along with either a completed scanned entry form or full written details by email. **NOTE WeTransfer is not accepted.** Prints should not be handed in until the evening of the competition. The digital file for print competitions will be used to project your entry on the evening although ONLY the print will be judged.
7. In general, marks out of 20 will be awarded for competition entries. However, in some competitions such as the '3 Of a Kind' competition or where club members are judging, other methods may be used.
8. Images may only be entered once for either a digital or a print competition, except where rules D5, E1, F1 or G1 apply. Any image entered into a digital competition cannot later be entered in a print competition and vice-versa.
9. If trophies are awarded, they shall be retained for one year but must be returned to the Internal Competition Secretary in a clean, undamaged state, one month before the next year's competition.

B - DIGITALLY PROJECTED IMAGES COMPETITIONS – GENERAL

1. A maximum of three images may be entered in set subject competitions and three images in the open competition. The total number of entries submitted for any competition cannot exceed 4.
2. Images must be ranked from 1 to 4. In the event of there being a large number of entries the Internal Competition Secretary reserves the right not to show all the entries. Images ranked by the entrant No 4 will be withheld first, followed by No 3 and so on until the entry has been reduced to an adequate number for showing on the evening. Images not shown may be used in subsequent competitions but not in the Finals unless they are accepted in a set or open competition for that season.
3. Members may rank their entry in any order preferred. For example No's 1, 3 and 4 could be Set Subject with No 2 as Open. Images not shown may be used in a subsequent competition.
4. If there is a small entry into either set subject or open the Internal Competition Secretary may combine intermediate and advanced levels, the judge will be made aware of this on the night.
5. To assist the competition secretary please ensure that jpegs are labelled as follows: **IMAGE TITLE by John Smith.jpg** the Title must be in CAPS, "by" must be included, your name must be lower case with initial capitals and .jpg should be last. The maximum image size is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high.

6. Wrongly sized or wrongly captioned photographs will be rejected by our competition software.

C - PRINT COMPETITIONS – GENERAL

If for any reason the club cannot meet in the hall both PDI and Print competitions will be run online using projected images where the Digital rules will apply.

1. Advanced and Intermediate members can enter up to 4 prints.

2. Prints must be ranked from 1 to 4.

3. Members may rank their entry in any order preferred. For example No's 1 & 3 could be a set subject with No 2 as Open.

4. All prints must be mounted on mounting board or stiff card. Glass covered and/or solid framed prints are not accepted. Please write the title, your name, date of the competition and TOP on the back of your prints and be aware that it will be read in dim lighting on competition nights so please be as clear as possible.

5. Prints should have a maximum mount size of 40cm x 50cm. (approx. 16 x 20 inches). Prints in mounts larger than this will not be entered into the competition.

6. A digital file with a maximum image size of 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high and identical to your print must accompany your entry form – this is just for display on the night and will not be judged.

7. If there is a small entry into either set subject or open the Internal Competition Secretary may combine intermediate and advanced levels, the judge will be made aware of this on the night.

D - THE EDWINA CHOWN STOKE POGES COMPETITION

1. Up to 4 projected images may be entered by any member. Images must be entered in accordance with the general projected image rules as detailed above.

2. Entries must be ranked from 1 to 4. In the event of there being a large number of entries the Internal Competition Secretary reserves the right not to show all the entries. Images ranked by the entrant No 4 will be withheld first, followed by No 3 and so on until the entry has been reduced to an adequate number for showing on the evening.

3. Images must be photographs taken within a 5 mile radius of Stoke Poges (as the crow flies, see map) and the title must include the name of the place it has been taken.

4. There is no time requirement for when the photo has been taken.

5. Entrants images may be used in publicity. Entrants will need to specify on their entry if this is not permitted.

6. Images **will not be separated** into intermediate and advanced levels.

7. Images may be used in other competitions, but not in the Finals unless they have subsequently been used in a Set Subject or Open competition. The maximum projected image size is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high.

8. The judge will select the best image and the author will be awarded The Edwina Chown Memorial Cup.

E - INFORMAL DIGITAL IMAGE ALPHABET COMPETITION (THE EDITH WARD TROPHY)

1. Up to 4 projected images may be entered by any member. Images must be entered in accordance with the general projected image rules as detailed above.

2. Entries must be ranked from 1 to 4. In the event of there being a large number of entries the Internal Competition Secretary reserves the right not to show all the entries. Images ranked by the entrant No 4 will be withheld first, followed by No 3 and so on until the entry has been reduced to an adequate number for showing on the evening.

3. Images must be photographs taken within the last twelve months from the date of the competition. The main subject of the entry for this season must start with the letter "O" although your title might not contain this letter, e.g.: "O" photograph of a glass of orange juice titled "REFRESHING VITAMIN C" or "T" a photograph of people jumping up on a trampoline "BOUNCY BOUNCY".

4. Images **will not be separated** into intermediate and advanced levels.

5. Images may be used in other competitions, but not in the Finals unless they have subsequently been used in a Set Subject or Open competition. The maximum projected image size is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high.

6. The judge will select the best image and the author will be awarded the Edith Ward trophy.

F - CHARLES HARDING CUP FOR BEST PROJECTED IMAGE PRESENTATION

1. This competition is based on a presentation of up to 12 projected images (including title pages or text images) with or without live commentary, and lasting a maximum of 5 minutes.
2. Recorded commentary and/or music are not permitted.
3. Distinctions between intermediate and advanced levels do not apply.
4. The winner shall be selected by members present on the basis of best all round entertainment, subject matter, quality of presentation and commentary. Technical ability is not the sole deciding factor.
5. The maximum projected image size is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high.
6. The Charles Harding Cup will be awarded to the winner.
7. Images may be reused in set or open competitions providing they haven't been entered before but not in the Finals unless they have subsequently been shown in competition for that season.

G - THREE OF A KIND PRINT COMPETITION

1. Sets of three prints showing some connection or a common theme may be entered. (NOT three images of the same thing from different angles, but three different things with a link). A set title must be shown for each set.
2. Three groups of three prints are allowed per member, ranked from 1 to 3. In the event of one group having to be withheld because of the number of entries, it would be No 3 and in the event of two groups being withheld it would be No's 2 and 3.
3. The prints will be shown simultaneously for judging. Each of the three parts of the set must have **ONLY THE PRINT VISIBLE i.e. NO MOUNT AND EACH PRINT MUST BE FIXED TO AN A4 BACKING BOARD**. All prints in a set should have the same title and they should be marked LH for showing on the left hand, CTR for centre and RH for right. A set title should be displayed.
4. There are no restrictions on which prints may be entered in this competition. Individual entries in a previous year's competition are eligible to make up a set of three images. Entries may be reused in other set or open print competitions held in the season providing they haven't been entered before but not in the Finals unless they have subsequently been shown in a set or open competition for that season.
5. Separate advanced & intermediate levels apply provided there are a sufficient number of entries.
6. Cups will be awarded for the best Three of a Kind print set for the advanced and the intermediate level.

H – MEMBERS EVENING COMPETITIONS

1. Projected images and prints may be entered in accordance with the general image and print rules as detailed above.
2. Unless otherwise specified, images and prints will not be separated into intermediate and advanced levels.
3. Any scores or marking from members evening competitions DO NOT count towards Photographer of the Year.

I - PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

1. This award is given based on the highest twelve scores from the 4 projected image and 4 print competitions run through the season for both intermediate and advanced.
2. Only points gained within the set subject and open competitions can be included in the cumulative Photographer of the Year score. Points gained within the Alphabet competition or other informal competitions are not eligible for inclusion in Photographer of the Year.
3. The overall winner in both intermediate and advanced with the highest score in each category will receive a trophy.
4. In the event of a tie, the trophy will be awarded to the individual with the greater number of 20's. In the event of a continued tie the next highest scores will be taken into account until a winner is decided.

J - PRINT AND PROJECTED IMAGES FINALS

1. The SET SUBJECT and OPEN finals will be held on separate evenings – these are four separate competitions.
 2. Members may enter up to three images per competition from the appropriate category (Set Subject or Open). The original competition set subject and date of open entry must be noted on the entry form. (Images from the informal alphabet competition, “Three of a Kind” and any Member Evening event are not eligible unless they have also been shown in a set subject or open competition).
 3. Images must be ranked from 1 to 3. In the event of there being a large number of entries the Internal Competition Secretary reserves the right not to show all the entries. Images ranked by the entrant No 3 will be withheld.
 4. All entries to either the Print or Projected finals (SET SUBJECT and OPEN) will be allowed to have amendments as per rule I – 6 this would be subject to the Committees discretion as to whether any amendment(s) has/have been excessive. Ideally this would be no more than three.
 5. All entries to any of the finals (Print SET/OPEN, Projected SET/OPEN) must have been previously judged in the appropriate category. Entries submitted but withheld from competition are not eligible for the finals.
 6. Amended entries in any of the categories made as a result of a judge’s comments during the course of the competitions that have been entered in the current season’s competitions and then entered in the finals will be permitted. Such amendments could include: -
 - A different crop
 - An adjustment to saturation
 - An alteration to the brightness
 - A darkening of a bright highlight
 - An alteration to the contrast
 - An adjustment to either the horizontal or vertical aspect
 - Conversion to black and white
 - A keyline added
 - Cloning or removal of a small distracting object
- Any amendments must be made to the original image or the original image that was entered. No additional objects to be added.
- Any entries that are altered must have a list of alterations accompanying the new image when it is submitted for the Finals so that the review of this rule change can be evaluated.
7. Trophies will be awarded for the best image for the advanced and intermediate categories for the set subject and open in the print and PDI finals.

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