

The Practical Camera Club (of Southampton)

General information about competitions

Competitions run by the club

The club runs three ongoing competitions during the first three quarters of the year:

- Colour Print
- Monochrome Print
- Projected Digital Image (PDI)

These are followed in the fourth quarter by 3 annual competitions:

- Print Best of the Best (BoB)
- PDI BoB
- The Len Ferguson Memorial Trophy

The PDI competition is held monthly from January to September (so 9 competitions in all).

The print competitions will be held once in each of the first three quarters of the year (so 3 monochrome and 3 colour print competitions, making 6 in all).

The Len Ferguson Memorial Trophy and BoB competitions are annual competitions held in the last quarter of the year.

The top five of the monthly PDI and quarterly print competitions decide the images to be put forward into the two “Best of the Best” (BoB) competitions in the fourth quarter.

One BoB competition will be held for the best images from each of the nine PDI competitions. So the best 5 images from 9 competitions means a total of $(5 \times 9 =)$ 45 images will be carried forward to the PDI BoB.

One BoB competition will be held for the best prints from each of the mono and colour quarterly print competitions. So, the best 5 prints from 6 competitions means a total of $(5 \times 6 =)$ 30 prints carried forward to the Print BoB.

The Len Ferguson Memorial Trophy is open to the whole club and follows the format of the PDI competitions. The subject matter is always “People or Portraits” so one or more people should be the main subject of the image.

The monthly and quarterly competitions are judged by the (attending) members of the club.

This may not be the best way to judge a competition but it ensures that every member thinks carefully about other people's photographs and what differentiates the best from the rest. The members can then apply this same thinking when taking their own photographs.

The annual BoB and Len Ferguson competitions may be judged by external judges.

The Competition Secretary will convene a small group of members who will decide which images and prints are put forward as the club's entries into the SCPF inter-club competitions.

The rules of each of the competitions are shown below.

The Practical Camera Club (of Southampton)

Competition Rules

Definition of Terms Used in the Competition Rules

BoB = Best of the Best.

Each of the monthly and quarterly competitions will have a winner and 4 runners up. These will be carried forward to the fourth quarter of the year and entered into a competition to define the ultimate winner.

Competitions Secretary = the person who is the present Competitions Secretary or whoever they designate as their deputy.

Monochrome (mono) = a single colour or a grey.

Monochrome images are those that are comprised of various shades of a single colour. In this context black is deemed to be a colour and greys are a shade of black. An image with any amount of a second colour within it is considered a colour image.

PDI = Projected Digital Image.

Photographic images in a 'jpg' file format are entered into a PDI competition where they are shown using a high quality digital projector with prescribed specifications.

Print = a permanent representation of the digital image on a flat surface in either colour or monochrome.

SCPF = Southern Counties Photographic Federation

Section 1: Quarterly Colour Print and Monochrome Print Competitions

1.1 All entries should bear the author's name and title of the image clearly marked on the **back** of the mount in the following format.

- for Monochrome Prints the format must be M_Title_Name
- for Colour Prints the format must be C_Title_Name

An example of a colour print entry might be:

C_Bird on a Stick_Gary Armour

1.2 Entries may not be accepted after the final submission time and date. At present this is 7:15pm on the day of the competition.

1.3 A maximum of three prints per member may be entered in each competition.

1.4 Prints may be mounted or un-mounted. However, un-mounted prints tend to attract a lower score than mounted prints.

Note that winners put forward to the Southern Counties Photographic Federation (SCPF) will be required to have a window mount. This can be done for you if you do not have the capability.

1.5 The **minimum visible size** of an image is 178mm x 127mm (7" x 5") and the **maximum size of a mount** is 500mm x 400mm (19.7" x 15.75").

1.6 Prints may be commercially produced.

1.7 The entries will be marked by each of the club members present using a score ranging from 0 to 10 in increments of one point.

The average of all the members' scores will be calculated to define the first 5 places in each competition.

1.8 A volunteer member will lead a review of each of the entries after scoring is completed. Everyone is invited to contribute to this analysis.

1.9 The first 5 prints from each of the Monochrome print competitions and each of the Colour print competitions will be entered into the single year-end BoB Print competition.

In the event of there being multiple prints tying for 5th place all of the prints on that score will be entered. In addition, the Competition Secretary has discretion to include any prints that score less than the 5th placed print.

1.10 The Competition Secretary retains the power to increase or decrease the number of entries to the BoB competition.

1.11 A print may be re-entered into a future competition if it did not receive a score of 10 but, if reworked, the re-entered print it must have the same title with an incremental alphabetical suffix (/A, for the first reworking, /B for the second reworking etc).

e.g. C_Bird on a Stick/A_Gary Armour

1.12 In total there will be 3 quarterly competitions for each of monochrome and colour prints to be held in the first 3 quarters of the year.

Some print competitions will have a defined subject. The others are open subject.

1.13 The 1st to 5th placed prints will be retained by the Competition Secretary for the BoB print competition and possibly for the SCPF competitions.

The prints may be reworked and passed to the Competitions Secretary at a later date but a minimum of 2 weeks before the BoB competition date.

1.14 The title of the print and the member's name shall not be integrated into the image nor written directly on the front of the mount.

Section 2: Monthly Projected Digital Image (PDI) Competitions

2.1 There is only one PDI category. Both monochrome and colour images are included in the same competition.

2.2 For all entries the file name of the images must be in the following format:

Title_Name.jpg

where 'Title' is the descriptive title of the image, Name is the member's name and jpg is the file extension which indicates the file format.

An example of a PDI entry might be:

Bird on a Stick_Gary Armour.jpg

2.3 All competition files in the format shown in 2.2 above must be with the Competition Secretary (or designated deputy) either via email or on a memory stick at least 72 hours (3 days) before the competition date (ie 7pm on the Saturday prior to the competition).

The Competition Secretary reserves the right to modify the cut-off date.

2.4 A maximum of 3 PDIs may be entered by each member in each of the 9 PDI competitions.

2.5 Due to the variables of the equipment and software (camera through to projector) it is important to set the equipment to **8bit SRGB** Gamut (not AdobeRGB) to maximise the image colour integrity **or 8bit grey scale**.

2.6 The final image will not contain multiple layers as these are not supported by the jpg format.

2.7 As images may be carried forward into higher SCPF competitions it is also important that images are modified and finalised at a high resolution. For our internal competitions it must be reduced to a maximum **1600 x 1200 pixels**. For the SCPF competitions this must then be reduced to a maximum 1400 x 1050 pixels.

*Note: the above sizes are the maximum dimensions. One dimension can be less than the maximum but **the height cannot exceed 1200 pixels nor can the width exceed 1600 pixels.***

Images that are entered into the SCPF inter-club competitions must be available in both the 1400 x 1050 and 1600 x 1200 formats.

2.8 When finalising the images in jpg format ensure that Quality is set to 12 (maximum).

2.9 Images must be derived from original images which do not infringe copyright. The inclusion of entire or partial elements of clip art, stock photos or copyright-free materials is not permitted.

2.10 The entries will be marked by each of the club members present using a score ranging from 0 to 10 in increments of 1 point.

The average of all the members' scores will be calculated to define the first 5 places.

2.11 A volunteer member will lead a review of each of the entries after scoring is completed. Everyone is invited to contribute to this analysis.

2.12 The 1st to 5th placed images will be entered into the year-end BoB PDI competition.

In the event of there being multiple images tying for 5th place all of the images on that score will be entered.

2.13 The Competition Secretary retains the power to increase or decrease the number of entries to the BoB competition.

2.14 A PDI may be re-entered into a future competition if it did not receive a score of 10 but, if reworked for the re-entry it must have the same title with an incremental alphabetical suffix (/A, for the first reworking, /B for the second reworking etc).

e.g. Bird on a Stick/A_Gary Armour.jpg

2.15 In total there will be nine monthly competitions (January-September).

Some of the competitions may have a defined subject, the remainder are open subject.

2.16 The placed images will be retained by the Competition Secretary (or his/her nominated deputy) for the PDI BoB competition and possibly for the SCPF competitions. The images may be reworked and passed to the secretary at a later date but a minimum of 3 weeks before the BoB competition date.

2.17 The title of the image shall be integrated into the image, but not the member's name.

Section 3: The Len Ferguson Memorial Trophy Competition

Len Ferguson, the founder of the club, died in 2014. He was particularly interested in taking photographs of people. The trophy in his memory is therefore awarded to the best photograph where the subject matter is “People or Portraits”, which means the main subject of the image should be of one or more people.

- 3.1 The competition is held in the fourth quarter of the year and is open to all members of the club.
- 3.2 The competition is a PDI competition.
- 3.3 Three images are allowed for each entrant in this competition.
- 3.4 The competition may be judged by an external judge or by the members present.
- 3.5 The trophy will be awarded at the end of the evening in which the images are judged and the trophy will be returned at the following year's competition.

Section 4: The PDI Best of the Best Competition

- 4.1 The images used in the PDI BoB will come from the nine monthly PDI competitions held earlier in the year. In addition, the three highest placed images from the previous year's Len Ferguson Memorial Trophy will be included.
- 4.2 The images brought forward from the monthly competitions will be the 1st to 5th placed PDI images from each competition.
- 4.3 Images may be reworked but they must be with the Competition Secretary at least two weeks before the BoB competition.
- 4.4 The competition may be judged by an external judge or by the members present.
- 4.5 The Winner is the 'Club PDI Photographer of the Year'.

Section 5: The Print Best of the Best Competition

- 5.1 The images used in the Print BoB will come from the three quarterly colour print competitions and the three quarterly monochrome print competitions held earlier in the year.
- 5.2 The prints brought forward from the quarterly competitions will be the 1st to 5th placed prints from each of competition. In addition, any print that scored lower than the 5th placed print will also be brought forward at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.
- 5.3 Prints may be reworked and remounted but they must be with the Competition Secretary at least two weeks before the BoB competition.
- 5.4 The competition may be judged by an external judge or by the members present.
- 5.5 The Winner is the 'Club Print Photographer of the Year'.

Section 6: Other General Information

- 6.1 Subject to agreement by the membership, the Committee may review and amend the above rules. All amendments shall be offered to the general membership for comment, approval and adoption.
- 6.2 At the beginning of the SCPF season, all 1st to 5th placed club competition prints and others deemed to be suitable by the Competition Secretary will be eligible for selection for entry into the SCPF league competitions and for use in exhibitions.