POULTON-LE-FYLDE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
COMPETITION RULES
(Issue 9 - August 2011)

FORMAT

There will be four quarterly competitions per Society year. Each quarterly will consist of two main sections (Prints and Projected Digital Images) with three Classes in each (Open Colour (excluding Nature); Open Monochrome (excluding Nature) and Nature).

ENTRY

Entry into each quarterly will consist of a maximum of four images from each Member.
There will a maximum entry limit of two prints, and a maximum entry limit of two projected digital images – i.e. two prints (all in one Class or one in two different Classes) plus two projected digital images (all in one Class or one in two different Classes).
An image previously entered in a quarterly competition or Annual Exhibition and which has not received an award may be used in one further quarterly in a subsequent society year.
Only fully paid up Members are eligible to enter.
The entrant must own full copyright to all elements of the image.
The Internal Competition Secretary reserves the right to reduce the number of entries (in line with a Committee agreed protocol) where this may be necessary to allow for comfort of judging and presentation. To this end, entrants should enter their order of preference (1 - 4: best – least preferred) in the box provided against each image title on the entry form.

PRESENTATION

Prints must be mounted on suitable card at the standard size of 50cm x 40cm.
The prints themselves can be of any size determined by the author, but the larger the better for viewing purposes.
Mounts must not have Velcro, Adhesive/Masking tape on the back of the mount. The backing mount must be the same size as the window mount i.e. 50cm x 40cm, and the total thickness of the mount must not exceed 4mm.
All mounts must display the Member's competition number, level and the title of the print on the reverse. If the reverse of the mount is black then a white adhesive label must be attached.

Slides must be scanned prior to submission, either by the entrant or a nominated member.
Projected Digital Images should be a maximum of 1400px wide x 1050px high jpg maximum quality format sRGB (images in portrait format should be resized to 1050px high).
To cater for all viewing situations, where images are less than the maximum in any direction (1400px wide x 1050px high), unused area should be filled with black.
Titles - please limit titles to no more than 28 characters (including spaces). Longer titles may be abbreviated.

CLASSES

Each quarterly competition will consist of two sections each split into the following three Classes at three Levels: -

1   Prints:

1.1 Open Colour (excluding Nature)	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
1.2 Open Monochrome (excluding Nature)	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
1.3 Nature	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced

2   Projected Digital Images:

2.1 Open Colour (excluding Nature)	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
2.2 Open Monochrome (excluding Nature)	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
2.3 Nature	Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced

NATURE

Nature images may be of living birds, plants, animals, fungi etc. provided they are not domesticated or cultivated. They may also cover subjects such as weather and geology provided they are titled to show their significance in the natural world. Images of animals which are domesticated, as well as images of cultivated plants, are ineligible. Images of semi-wild animals in captivity (e.g. zoos or nature reserves), or under other forms of restraint, are acceptable provided this is disclosed in the title.
Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable, such as Barn Owls or Storks adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, or reclaiming it.
Any manipulation of the image is limited to minor re-touching of blemishes, exposure, sharpening etc. and must not alter the content of the original scene.
Titles must be specific and correct. Latin titles are not essential if the species can be accurately titled in English

DIGITAL IMAGES

Straight scans or manipulated images are eligible for any of the above classes, except Nature.

LEVELS

Competitions should be inclusive and give all Members the chance to enter. Whilst there is the competitive element to quarterly competitions, the purpose is also to encourage constructive comment on work entered, improvement and learning in photography, and personal confidence.

Members can self-assess the level at which they initially enter. However, purely by way of guidance, it is not expected that Members with photographic experience and/or qualifications as shown will enter a level lower than indicated. This does not stop a Member from entering a level higher than the guidance given if they feel confident to do so.

The Committee may award a member with promotion to a higher level, on merit.

Once a Member has entered a level, they will remain at that level for the rest of the society year.

Advice on determining a suitable entry level can be obtained from the Internal Competition Secretary.

ADVANCED:

- Members with a photographic qualification e.g. City & Guilds, Degree.
- Members with distinctions from other societies e.g. RPS / FIAP / PAGB.
- Previous winners of an intermediate annual league table.

INTERMEDIATE:

- Members studying for or holding a photographic qualification e.g. modules in City & Guilds, GCSE "O" level.
- Previous winners of a PPS beginner annual league or other external photographic competition at a similar level.
- Previous member of another photographic society, at any level other than that of 'Beginner'.

BEGINNERS:

- Members who have newly joined the Society with no previous or limited photographic experience.

SCORING

There will be eighteen League Tables in the Quarterly Competitions, consisting of the two main sections (Prints and Projected Digital Images) with three Classes in each (Open Colour (excluding Nature); Open Monochrome (excluding Nature) and Nature), in each of the three levels.

The scores in each will be as follows: -

FIRST PLACE	10 Points
SECOND PLACE	8 Points
THIRD PLACE	6 Points
HIGHLY COMMENDED	4 Points
COMMENDED	2 Points
FOR ENTRY, if no other award is gained	1 Point per Class

All Points awarded in each Class will be carried forward to the next quarterly.

(In the event of a draw in any Class, in any level, the league winner will be decided on count back - using the number of highest awards).

TROPHIES

At the Committee's discretion, a trophy will be awarded to the league winner of each Class at each level.

Certificates will be awarded to the authors placed first, second and third in each Class and at each level in the four quarterlies and to the authors placed first, second and third in each Class and at each level of the league at the end of the society's year.

In addition the "Photographer of the Year" trophy will be awarded to the Member with the highest total points accumulated from all their scores in the four quarterly competitions.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

All members will be invited to enter at least one print or one projected digital image of their choice into the Annual Exhibition, as long as this piece of work has not previously been entered into an Exhibition.

Entries awarded a place (1st, 2nd or 3rd) and highly commended and commended from all quarterlies must be available for entry to the Annual Exhibition - this is a condition of entry.

Entry levels to the Annual Exhibition will be dependent upon the venue.

Additional Annual Exhibition entries will be invited from Members who have entered the quarterlies, pro-rata to the number of prints and projected digital images each Member has entered into the quarterlies.