

# NAIRN CAMERA CLUB

## RULES FOR NAIRN CAMERA CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS **Season 2022-23 variation**

### 1. Method of entry

All entries must be submitted to the Competition Secretary **on or before** the competition deadline and be accompanied by a completed Entry Form. Entry forms may be downloaded from the NCC website or requested from the Competition Secretary. Digital entries and the digital file for Print entries (**see 6 and 7 below**) may be emailed to the Competition Secretary along with a digital copy of the completed Entry Form.

### 2. Competition deadlines

are as published in the annual programme. There are **four** formal competitions (judged by external judges) and **one** Portfolio competition each year (September to April). In addition, impromptu mini-competitions (informal), for example "Best summer photo", "Best Christmas photo" may be held.

### 3. Competition specifications:

**Age of image:** **All images must have been taken by the Club Member in the 24 months preceding the competition deadline.**

*This requirement is to encourage members to be active photographers.*

**Note- age of component parts of a composite image:** In any composite image the age of the principal component file must be below the limit on age of image. However, additional components such as textures or a replacement sky may be included which are older than the limit.

**Repeated use of images:** Images must not have been entered in any previous NCC formal competition.

**Authorship of images:** Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite images are usually permitted provided all component images meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, **texture packages** and clipart are not permitted.

**Composite Images:** In some Topic competitions composite images will not be permitted. When that is the case this requirement will be made clear on the Camera Club website. In any case, Composite images must be declared on the Entry Form (by ticking "composite" in the appropriate box).

**Number of images:** In each of the four "formal" competitions a member may submit a **maximum of four images** of which **all four** may be **Topic** images but a **maximum of two** may be **Open** images.

*This requirement is to encourage members to participate more fully in the topic competitions and thereby extend the range of their photographic skills and interests.*

#### Definition of monochrome

In defining Monochrome, the Club applies the following extract from the SPF rules:

*"A work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A monochrome work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the monochrome category. A monochrome image modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category."*

### 4. Competitions

In the formal competitions, print images and digital images compete on an equal basis.

There are two sections:

- **Topic** image: the topics are as listed in the NCC Annual Programme
- **Open** image

### 5. Competition categories:

The purposes of having **Novice**, **Intermediate** and **Advanced** categories in our **formal** competitions is to encourage participation and to widen opportunity. The membership of these groupings will be reassessed at the end of each season for use in the next. In this process, for the Intermediate and Advanced categories each member's highest scoring 10 images will be provided by the Competition secretary who will advise the Committee in discussion. Where promotion between categories is indicated it will be automatic but where demotion is possible there will be discussion with the individual member before any change is made.

Any new member will be asked, on joining, as to their standard of photography and will be provisionally placed accordingly. This placing will, however, be viewed in the light of any competition scores and may be reassessed as the season progresses and concludes. This process will also apply to any members who return to competitions after a break of a year or more. In such cases the President under guidance from the committee will make the final decision.

#### Novice

The purpose of having a **Novice** category in our formal competitions is merely to indicate to each Judge that the member has little experience of photography and therefore comments made by the Judge on a Novice's images should take that into account. Novice

status is agreed in discussion with the Competition Secretary who may refer to the Club President for advice. A member will hold Novice status for no more than **two** Club seasons and this status will expire should the member win a trophy in the first season

### **Intermediate**

The purpose of having an **Intermediate** category in our formal competitions is to provide a stepping stone between Novice level and Advanced level.

### **Advanced**

Competition scores from a number of previous seasons are the principal means of determining membership of this group. Advanced status is agreed annually by the Committee using the score data provided by the Competition Secretary. Members who are designated within the Advanced group for the forthcoming season will be informed of their status and will be excluded from consideration for the Intermediate Photographer of the Year (POTY) trophy.

#### 6. **Print or Digital**

An image may be entered as a print or as a digital image which meets the specifications given below. Occasionally competitions will be designated as digital only.

**Note for 2022-23: The position regarding Print entries is dependent on Covid restrictions, type of meetings (either in person or by Zoom) and the availability of Judges who are willing to judge prints.**

**For 2022-23 all competitions (4 x formal and also Portfolio) will be digital only unless the Committee confirms that print entries will be accepted. Any such confirmation would be by email to each member and by a notice in the Club website at least 2 weeks before a competition deadline.**

#### 7. **Specification of Print entries** (Applicable in 2022-23 if Print entries become acceptable – see Paragraph 6 above)

Trade or external processing of film and prints is allowed.

Printed images may be mounted either on card or in window mounts but must **not** be framed.

**Print size:** The maximum print size is A3 (16.5" x 11.5" or 42cm x 30cm approx).

**Mount size:** The maximum mount size is 20" x 16" (50cm x 40cm approx.).

**Label:** Prints must be named on the rear (bottom left corner) with the image title. The photographer should not be identified.

For a Print entry a corresponding digital file must be provided. This will not be sent to the judge but will be displayed on the competition night. **The digital file must meet the requirements for digital image entries (see 8 below).**

#### 8. **Specification of Digital entries**

Images should be submitted on CD, DVD or Memory Stick (**labelled with the member's name**). The CD, DVD or Memory Stick will be returned at a subsequent club meeting. **Alternatively** images may be emailed to the Competition Secretary along with a digital copy of the completed Entry Form.

**Note for 2021-22: In Season 2022-23 email will be the most likely method of submission although other methods can be used if agreed with the Competition Secretary.**

**Format for all entries:** JPEG.

**Size:** maximum of 1600 pixels (wide) and 1200 pixels (high). NB The maximum size for square images is 1200 x 1200 pixels, the maximum height for portrait orientated images is 1200 pixels.

*These dimensions match the native resolution of the projector used on the competition night.*

**Label:** Files must be named with the image title. The photographer should not be identified.

#### 9. **Judging and scoring of the formal competitions**

Judges of our formal competitions are external, independent and have relevant experience. They will judge images taking into account **technical merit** and criteria such as **composition, light(ing), subject, topic interpretation, motive, presentation** etc.

**Marks will be awarded out of 20** (with no half marks) and in commenting on images the judge will be asked to include **constructive feedback** aimed at helping club members to improve their photographic and/or software skills.

At the end of the evening the judge or Competition Secretary will announce images which are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category and the top Novice image.

#### 10. **Portfolio competition**

This competition is intended to further extend the range of competitions that members can experience as a means of improving their photography and to help extend their range of photographic skills and interests.

The character and detail of the Portfolio Competition may change from year to year and therefore the Portfolio Rules for the season will appear separately on the Club website. These details will cover aspects such as the age of images, submission deadline, subject matter, number of and titling of images, sequencing, anonymity of author, etc.

#### **Judging and scoring**

The winning entry will be decided by popular vote of the club members present on the competition evening. **Usually** members have been given a scorecard on which they should mark all entries out of 20. The portfolio rules for the season will specify how the competition will

be judged. Members may not award marks for their own entry. Results will be collated by the Competition Secretary and the portfolio with the highest score will be the winner.

#### 11. NCC Annual Awards

At the end of the club year we present the following awards:

1. **Best Open Image**
2. **Best Topic Image**
3. **Best Monochrome Image**
4. **Best Printed Image** (May not be applicable for Season 2022-23)

These category awards are decided by an external judge's review of the selection of highest scoring entries from all four formal competitions. In addition to the trophies for the winning image in each category, certificates will be awarded for the first, second and third placed images. These are open to all members irrespective of categories.

#### 5. **Best Portfolio**

This are open to all members irrespective of categories and is decided by a popular vote as detailed in the Portfolio section (above) along with the separate Portfolio rules for the season (see website). The author of the winning portfolio will receive the trophy and certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third placed portfolios.

6. **Novice of the Year**
7. **Intermediate Photographer of the Year**
8. **Photographer of the Year**

Novice and Intermediate group members are **not excluded** from the Photographer of the Year (top three positions) and attaining one of those positions would **exclude** them from consideration for the Novice and Intermediate POTY trophy.

To qualify for the Novice of the Year, Intermediate Photographer of the Year or Photographer of the Year awards a member must submit a minimum of **ten** images and enter for at least **three of the four** Formal competitions in the club year.

To ensure results that are fair and representative, the awards will be decided by a standardised calculation based on the judges' scores obtained over the four formal competitions.

- Credits will be awarded to each entry. These credits will be determined by the judge's scoring of the entry ie 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc.
- The sum of the top ten credits a member achieves over the year will decide the final outcome.  
The Competition Secretary will keep a record of cumulative scores throughout the year. The winners will receive the appropriate trophy and certificates will be awarded to first, second and third placed photographers.