

# ORKNEY CAMERA CLUB

## Monthly Competitions

### *Notes for Judges*

#### **General**

In volunteering to help the club by judging a monthly competition you are, of course, free to use whatever judging method you prefer. These notes simply offer a few ideas that might help those new to judging or who find the notion of competitive photography rather strange. Most camera clubs run competitions, not just for the winning of trophies but for the opportunity to hear the views of people from outside the club (whether photographers themselves or not) to help members take a fresh look at their work and improve their skills.

OCC monthly competitions have four sections:

- Monochrome prints
- Colour prints
- Monochrome projected image
- Colour projected image

***You are asked to choose, in each section:***

- 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> places and
- Up to 3 'Highly Commended' and up to 3 'Commended' images if you feel that the number and / or quality of the entries justify those awards.  
(If you use your full quota of awards, you will have made 36 decisions!!)

***Questions we suggest you consider in reaching these decisions are:***

- How well does the image fit the competition theme?
- Is it technically competent (in focus, well exposed, well printed, showing an appropriate range of colours or tones)?
- Does it have an impact artistically (beautiful, impressive, well composed, interesting, imaginative, memorable)?
- Is it well presented (clean, well displayed/mounted)?
- Does its title add (or subtract) anything?

You might, of course, introduce your own criteria as well.

If it helps you to sort out the placings, you might award marks (out of 20?) to each image. If you share these marks with the audience, unplaced members will be able

to see how they are doing in relation to the front-runners, but this is up to you. With or without a numerical score, **we ask you to comment, however briefly, on every entry**. This might be general comments on your reaction to the image and an explanation of why you did, or did not, award it a place. Constructive criticism is as valuable as any number of points.

Please think about how you wish to present the results – it can, for example, help to maintain interest if you save the leading images until the end and announce them in reverse order.

Obvious maybe, but please keep notes: of your comments if you can - of the awards definitely!

### **Competition themes**

Each monthly competition has a theme. We encourage imaginative interpretation of the themes by the photographer – and by the judge - but you must be convinced that a photograph captures the set theme before you consider it for an award. For instance, a sunset might not match the theme of 'night'; a pet cat is not 'wildlife' or 'natural history'; silhouettes, shadows and reflections are three entirely different things; a stone wall is not 'rock'.

### **The theme for your competition**

For your information, below is the guidance that has been given to club members on interpretation of the theme of:

**We hope these notes are helpful and we thank you very much for giving the club your time and expertise.**