

ORKNEY CAMERA CLUB

Annual Competitions - PRINTS

Notes for Judges

By volunteering to help the club by judging the annual 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 annual competitions have two sections:

- Monochrome prints
- Colour prints

Each section is divided into four categories:

- People (portraits, candid, crowd scenes etc.)
- Places (landscape, seascape etc.)
- Natural History (Descriptive shots of flora and fauna. NOT landscape/seascape.)
- Miscellaneous (Might include abstracts, 'fine art' images, still life. Must not belong to the other categories.)

You are asked to choose, in each category:

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd 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.

You are also asked to choose:

- the best overall monochrome print and
- the best overall colour print.

(If you use your full quota of awards, you will have made 74 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 (well composed, interesting, imaginative)?
- 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.

What we ask of the judges

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.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

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