



Guidelines for Judges

The Images Photography Group is a friendly group of enthusiastic photographers with a very wide range of skills, experience, styles and viewpoints. As a group our main objective is first and foremost to enjoy our photography at all levels. In the process we hope to learn from each other by sharing ideas, trying new techniques and equipment, looking for new angles, and generally exploring the world of photography.

Our aim is to have an informal discussion environment at all times where anyone can feel free to speak their mind, with supper and coffee continuously available throughout the evening.

We have a strong digital photography bias but all photographic work of any kind is welcome. Entries can be presented as either prints or digital projected images, we cannot currently show slides.

Members are invited to enter a maximum of two images into a club night and these can be either prints or digital projected images. We restrict the number of entries to keep the judging to a reasonable time frame and to allow for open discussion during the event which we feel is not possible when very large numbers of images are presented..

We strongly encourage members to ask questions and discuss images with the guest judge during the event so we would ask that you also encourage feedback and comments as you go. We prefer the judging to be a two way informal interactive discussion from which members can learn about your experiences and hear your opinions on their work and photography in general.

Our members range from first time and compact users to those who have been involved in photography for many years. Likewise our styles range from the very traditional to the very abstract or unusual. Reflecting this diversity of talent and style the club has adopted a very broad or liberal style in the interpretation and presentation of its members work at our competition nights.

We have two grades of competition.

Advanced grade is for the experienced members

Intermediate grade is for those from novice to intermediate levels.

We have two subject categories for competition

Open subject

Set subject changes each month

New members and visitors are encouraged to present their work for comment by the judge from the first time they attend a meeting. This often results in work being presented which may not conform to the expected standards of mounting or cropping etc.

These new members are the most valuable resource for the future of our club and we would appreciate your assistance in helping us to preserve them. For example, if the work is unmounted or obviously from a first time entrant, please be diplomatic in your comments, senior members of the club will guide the new member accordingly.

If you have a short program or selection of your work that you would like to present towards the end of the evening, we would love to see it. Any contribution would be much appreciated as are your comments while judging.

For New Judges:

If you have not judged at a club event before listed below are a few guidelines:

If you have any questions on the night or before the event please feel free to speak to any of the committee. We will be pleased to give a few suggestions and an idea of what is expected from you the judge.

The evening will start with a period of socialising while the prints are all put up on display and guests etc are introduced. This is then followed by the announcement of future activities by the club president who will at the end of his address introduce you to the club.

You will then be given the opportunity to tell the club a little about yourself and your work before commencing your commentary and marking of the prints on display followed by the digital projected images.

1. At the start of the event you will be given a card indicating the various grades that can be given to an image. These are:

Acceptance

These images are of a standard acceptable for entry into the club competition but which do not stand out for special comment.

Merit

Images that deserve comment and show a degree of skill/creativity relative to the grade.

Highly Commended

This grade is for images which are of very high standard and therefore deserve special comment but are still not the "Perfect Photo"

Honours

This is the top award and is reserved for those images you find be of outstanding technical quality, creativity and composition.

You will then be asked to select the top three images (1st, 2nd and 3rd) for each of the two grades (Advanced & Intermediate). We combine prints and digital projected images together for the purposes of these awards.

2. The awards given should be related to the grade, and therefore the expected standard of the worker who produced the image. An image which might give an Intermediate grade worker a Highly Commended score may only warrant an Acceptance or Merit if presented by an Advanced grade worker.
- 3 . You are not limited to the number top or bottom awards you can give. You have been asked to come along and give an opinion of the clubs work so mark them as **you** believe they warrant. There will be a wide range of work presented and we therefore fully expect a wide range of scores from the highest to the lowest.
4. When giving your awards please briefly comment on the image and the reason for your judgement. We are here to listen to, and learn from your comments. We are also aware that there are no hard and fast rules when judging photographic work, so your own experience and opinions of an image are in the end what you will be using to make your decisions. We may ask you to comment on a mark but will always respect your views.
- 5 . Please avoid if possible comparing images from different workers but mark each on its own merit. Comparison of images in order to illustrate a point to the members is quite acceptable.

We are here to enjoy ourselves and thank you for joining us in having a fun evening.