



Hexham & District Photographic Society

INTERNAL SOCIETY IMAGE COMPETITIONS

Rules and Regulations

Updated July 2026

Types of Competition

There are two types of competition – Print and PDI. Each competition will have two exclusive classes ‘Standard’ and ‘Advanced’ and two sections ‘Colour’ and ‘Mono’. There will be two Print and two PDI competitions per year open to participants in both classes. The following rules apply to both competitions

Basic Rules

1. The competitions are open to all members of the Society, that is both Standard and Advanced class participants.
2. Images will be judged by an external judges selected by the Competition Secretary.
3. The competitions are Open competitions, meaning the judge will not be aware of the member’s classification during the judging process.
4. Each competition will be divided into Colour and Monochrome sections.
 - a. The Colour section is for colour images only. Duotone, tri-tone and monochrome images with a single colour element are deemed to qualify as colour images.
 - b. The Monochrome section is for monochrome images only. Monochromatic is deemed to be a continuous tone greyscale or single colour tinted image. Duotone, tri-tone and monochromatic images depicting an object or element picked out in colour will be deemed colour images and are therefore not eligible for the monochrome competitions.
5. A maximum of two images may be entered by each member per section per round.
6. Subject matter will be of the member’s choice.
7. The judge will be asked to pick out the top 5 images in each section, and these will be displayed in reverse order at the end of the presentation. Up to 10% of entries may be given Highly Commended (HC). These images will be given a “Ranking Score” which will be used to decide the Advanced Class trophies.
8. The judge will give each image an “Image Score” between 15 and 30. The total of the season’s scores will be used to decide the Photographer of the Year and the Standard Class trophies. The scores will be published after completion of the judge’s presentation.

9. At the end of the year there will be an Advanced Class winner of each section in the Print and PDI competitions based on the participant who has the highest total of "Ranking Score" points based on the following system.
- First Place: 10 Points
 - Second Place: 7 Points
 - Third Place: 5 Points
 - Fourth Place: 3 Points
 - Fifth Place: 2 Points
 - Highly Commended: 1 Point
10. At the end of the year there will be a Standard Class winner of each section in the Print and PDI competitions based on the participant who has the highest total of "Image Score" points.
11. Standard Class trophies can only be won by members who are classified as 'Standard' for that season and Advanced Class trophies can only be won by members who are classified as 'Advanced' for that season.
12. An image entered in one competition cannot be entered in any other club competition, except for the Brannigan knockout competition. This includes images that are substantially identical in nature (for example, a colour image converted to monochrome or an image from the same image sequence).
13. All work entered in competitions shall be the personal work of the participant, who must own either the film or digital original; this includes all parts of the image if it is a composite. Any entry into Society, Northern Counties Photographic Federation or Photographic Alliance of Great Britain competitions must be lens-made images taken by the entrant. For the avoidance of doubt, composite images are permissible provided that all components of the image have been taken by the entrant – use of images from any other source, including royalty free images or clip art, are not permitted.
14. Websites and magazines may offer royalty free images for the author to use and manipulate - this is acceptable for personal work but images containing such material cannot be entered in Society competitions, no matter the extent to which they have been manipulated. Any image component used, if it contains pixels, must have been taken by the entrant and not downloaded from the web or a CD.
15. Digital adjustments including, for example, tone and contrast, burning, dodging, cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, minor cleaning work, HDR, stitched panoramas, focus stacking and multiple exposure taken at the same location at the same time are permitted.
16. Digital adjustments using Generative AI tools are not permitted
17. All entrants retain copyright of their entries.
18. Image identity will be in the format: - 'Title', and membership number. The image title must not exceed 25 characters in length. eg Skiddaw Sunset 76
19. Images considered being of an offensive or highly sensitive nature or that do not adhere to the rules may be withdrawn from the competition by the Competition Secretary.
20. Additional rules specific to each competition – Print and PDI are set out below.

PRINT COMPETITIONS

- 1 All prints can be Home or Trade processed, either by traditional or digital means.
- 2 All Prints shall be mounted securely on mount boards, which shall not exceed 500 mm x 400 mm in size.
- 3 The size of the print and the colour of the mount is determined by the entrant.
- 4 The image identity, see 18 above, should be written clearly on the back of the print together with "Mono" or "Colour". There should be no other identifying marks of any kind on the print or the mount.
- 5 A PDI jpeg of each print, labelled with the image Identity, see 18 above, in the format described in 'PDI rules' below, should be emailed as attachments to the internal competitions' secretary - Print@hexhamphotographic.org They should be in separate e-mails with the subject title of the email being Mono or Colour, depending on which type of image is attached

PDI COMPETITIONS

1. Digital images should be in jpg format, quality 8 or maximum 280 pixel/inch sized to the maximum following dimensions: **3840 pixels by 2160 pixels**. Therefore, for a landscape image, the maximum dimension is 3840 pixels whereas for portrait and square images the maximum dimension is 2160 pixels. Files should be no larger than 1.5 MB
2. The image file name should be in the format as described in section 18 above.
3. A PDI jpeg of each image, in the format described above, should be emailed as attachments to the internal competitions' secretary - PDI@hexhamphotographic.org They should be in separate e-mails with the Subject title of the email being Mono or Colour, depending on which type of image is attached.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

This is awarded to the photographer (Standard and Advanced) who accrues the most 'image score' points in one season for all their images submitted to the four externally judged internal competitions, that is mono and colour in the PDI and print competitions. Sixteen is the maximum number of images per person per season. The 'image score' rates every submitted image on a range between 15 to 30 points.

TROPHIES

1. Trophies will be awarded at the conclusion of the two rounds to the Advanced class participant with the most ranking points in each of the Mono and Colour section Print and PDI competitions. (see trophy categories)
2. Trophies will be awarded at the conclusion of the two rounds to the Standard class participant with the most 'image score' points in each of the Mono and Colour section Print and PDI competitions. (See trophy categories)
3. A trophy will be awarded to the photographer with the highest image score across all competitions (Photographer of the year)
4. A trophy will be awarded to the photographer who wins the members' vote through the Brannigan competition
5. A trophy will be awarded to a photographer who shows a consistent performance, but who has not received a trophy from any of the awarded trophy categories.

BRANNIGAN KNOCKOUT TROPHY

This is a knockout trophy competition of four rounds each season which is judged by the members -

- Each competitor submits three PDIs of standard competition dimensions, in confidence, to the competition organiser (mail to davidbest34@googlemail.com) at least two days in advance of their competition date to allow the presentations to be formatted for the evening.
- Files should be in JPG format, i.e. with the ".jpg" file extension, sRGB or Grayscale. Sized to 3840 pixels by 2160 pixels - This means for a landscape orientation image the maximum dimension is 3840 pixels, whereas for portrait orientation and square images, the maximum dimension is 2160 pixels
- Images can be of any subject from a member's portfolio (not time limited) and can be images previously used in Society competitions.
- Images submitted can only be used once for this competition (but may be used in other Society competitions if they qualify)
- The competitor should indicate a priority for each image (numbered 1, 2 and 3 to determine running order) and make sure each image has a title.
- The competitor will be asked to describe each of their images on the evening. If, for whatever reason, the competitor does not want to speak on the night they may submit a written description to the competition organiser to be read out on their behalf on the night.
- The competitor is encouraged to tell the audience whatever they want about their image - why they took it, what it says to them, what they are trying to communicate to the viewer, any technical information on the capture and the post-processing. They should keep this down to about a minute or so for each image.
Members should talk about their images and have fun telling the audience about their photography.
- If members do not want to participate in the competition, they should let the competition organiser know as soon as possible. Members dropping out will give a bye to their opponent to the next round.

Format of the evening

- In a match each photographer will show and describe alternately a single image before the audience votes for their preference of image
- Each photographer will present three images but have no knowledge of each other's entries. Images will be designated a preference by each photographer (image 1 will compete against image 1 etc)
- It is the best of three in the first round to decide the winner of each match
- Winners will then go forward to round 2, which will also be a random draw selection.

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

All Society members are classified as either Advanced (A) or Standard (S) class participants. Classification is reviewed when a member joins the Society and is confirmed on an annual basis.

Promotion from S to A class is based on one of the following criteria:

- The individual has won either Colour or Mono Standard Trophy internal club competition in that season.
- The individual achieves an external photographic distinction or accreditation i.e. LRPS, ARPS, CPAGB, DPAGB, etc.
- The annual review of an individual's submitted work is defined as Advanced by the Society Selection Panel.
- New members will by default be classified as Standard unless they have been an Advanced competitor in a previous club or a review of their work by the Society Selection panel recommends they should be an Advanced competitor

Note – For the purposes of classification, Monochrome and Colour sections are treated independently; e.g. a member can be classified as a Standard for the monochrome section and an Advanced Worker for colour, or vice versa. A Standard member who is promoted by winning a trophy in either the monochrome or colour section PDI or print competitions, will become an Advanced participant in both the PDI and print competitions of the relevant section, that is colour or monochrome.

SOCIETY SELECTION PANEL

The Society Selection Panel will be chaired jointly by the Internal and External Competition Secretaries and made up of all Society Members appointed as NCPF judges and up to two additional Society members (appointed randomly on a rotational basis). A quorum of at least 3 persons is required for the Selection Panel. The duties of Panel are:

- Selection of images for entry into external competitions.
- Classification of members into Standard or Advanced Workers for monochrome and colour work.

COMPETITION AWARDS

TROPHY	FOR	TO
Davison Trophy	<i>Advanced Mono Prints</i>	Advanced participant gaining most points related to ranking in two competition rounds
Keen Trophy	<i>Advanced Mono PDI</i>	Advanced participant gaining most points related to ranking in two competition rounds
Edgar Shield	<i>Standard Mono Prints</i>	Standard participant gaining most image score points in two competition rounds
Jim Shipp Memorial	<i>Standard Mono PDI</i>	Standard participant gaining most image score points in two competition rounds
Carol Palmer Trophy	<i>Advanced Colour Prints</i>	Advanced participant gaining most points related to ranking in two competition rounds
Louie Ord Memorial	<i>Advanced Colour PDI</i>	Advanced participant gaining most points related to ranking in two competition rounds
Donald Low Trophy	<i>Standard Colour Prints</i>	Standard participant gaining most image score points in two competition rounds
Sydney Coston Trophy	<i>Standard Colour PDI</i>	Standard participant gaining most image score points in two competition rounds
Palmer Pot	<i>Photographer of the Year</i>	Member gaining the most image score points in all internal externally judged competitions each season
Wardle Rose Bowl	<i>PoY Runner up</i>	Member gaining the second most image score points in all internal externally judged competitions each season
Fothergill Silver Tray	<i>Consistent Performance</i>	Member showing consistent performance who did not win another trophy that season.
Members' Trophy	<i>Brannigan Knockout Competition</i>	The member who is the winner of the Brannigan Knockout competition