

Rules and Guidance for Competitions

Rules Applicable to all Sileby Competitions

Any closing date published in this programme is the final date for entries. No late entries will be accepted. Entries that do not conform to the rules listed below will be rejected.

The original image/images must have been taken using a photographic process and all elements must be the entrant's own work. *When replacing a sky, for example, the new sky must have been taken by the entrant; or if a person is added to an image the figure must have been photographed by the entrant.* This rule is included to protect the copyright of authors.

A photographic work may be used only once in its submitted form for each competition. An image may be presented as a monochrome print, a colour print and as a digital image either colour or monochrome, but never both (see "Rules Specific to Projected Digital Images", below). Such alternative versions **MUST NOT** be submitted at the same time for the same competition.

An entry judged by the Competition Secretaries to be to be significantly similar to one entered previously will not be accepted for the same competition even in subsequent years. *Therefore, images must have been taken from a significantly different viewpoint, at a different time of day or year or in different lighting conditions. Images must not just be subsequent frames but have the subject in a significantly different pose or position. Images that have been cropped or had minor elements "spotted out" at the suggestion of a judge or members cannot be re-entered in the same medium in the same competition.*

Image titles should be kept brief, to enable them to be included in the likes of entry forms and score sheets. The suggested limit is 40 characters including spaces. Whilst it is recognised that some authors like to provide, for future reference, a full and descriptive definition of an image, this should not be included as a part of a title. If such additional information is so provided it should be shown in brackets, so it remains absolutely clear what the title of an image is.

The Committee reserves the right to suspend any Competition for one or more seasons.

Rules Specific to Prints

Prints mounts **must** measure 500mm by 400mm. No minimum print size is specified, but as a guide, it is usual for the print area to be at least 500 square centimetres.

All prints should bear a title, the author's name and the name of the Society clearly marked on the reverse of the mount.

Monochrome prints are defined as those with as many shades of grey as the author wishes. Additionally, such a print may be given an overall tint and still be considered as monochrome. When selected areas are coloured, even when a single colour is used, the print is designated as a colour print.

Prints must be mounted on substantial card, usually with the card forming a border. Prints are commonly presented on black, grey, white or cream mounts although other subdued colours are sometimes used. Careful and sympathetic mounting is particularly important if the print is to be considered for inclusion in a Sileby panel for an External Competition, where one odd mount in the group of prints can severely detract from the overall impression.

Care should be taken to ensure that no excess glue remains on the print and/or mount as this can damage other entrants' prints. Any tape securing the back of a window mount must be securely attached and shall be soft and smooth so that it does not scratch the surface of other prints. The use of brown parcel tape is discouraged in this regard. Labels on the backs of prints must be attached securely so that they do not become detached and stick to other prints. If, in the opinion of the Competition Secretaries, a submitted print appears likely to cause damage to another image, it can be withdrawn from a Competition.

It is not unknown for prints and their mounts to be damaged accidentally. Whilst every effort is made to minimise damage, authors should be aware of the possibility and should not submit anything irreplaceable. The possibility of damage should be taken into account when deciding upon a mount style and construction.

Rules Specific to Projected Digital Images

Unlike prints, where the colour and monochrome sections are distinct, there is only one category of digital image. Thus, once a given frame has been used in colour, it cannot subsequently be used **in any competition** in monochrome or *vice versa*.

Digital images must be submitted on CD, USB pen drive or by email to the Competition Secretaries (compsec@silebyps.org.uk). They must be submitted using a file naming convention whereby the first group of letters denotes the author's initials, then a space, hyphen or underscore followed by the title of the image. They should be prepared such that the width of the image does not exceed 1280 pixels and the height does not exceed 1024 pixels. **Do not** pad out smaller images with black. Any pin lines added as borders should not be narrower than two pixels per side. Image formats are limited to JPEG and 8-bit TIFF; the latter must be "flattened". Formats such as PSD, which are related to specific image manipulation applications, are **NOT** acceptable.

INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Quarterly Competitions

This competition is over four rounds throughout the calendar year, from January to November, and covers all categories, namely monochrome prints, colour prints, projected digital images. Members may enter any or all of the categories, with a maximum of **three** entries in each per round. Awards are presented at the Annual Dinner for the winners in each category and can only be won if three entries have been made in each of the four rounds.

In accordance with the "Rules Applicable to all Sileby Competitions", above, an image may be entered both as a projected digital image and as a print but **never** in the same round.

The Graham Johnson 12-Shot Challenge

This competition is run as digital only and all pictures must have been taken on a smartphone.

Images should be taken that reflect as closely as possible the twelve subjects listed for the current year. At least ten images must be taken after the start of the competition; up to two may have been taken earlier. Any number of images may be taken, of course, but only one image per subject may be submitted.

Detailed instructions for the preparation and submission of work, which may change from season to season, shall be issued alongside the list of subjects.

Annual (Christmas) Competition

Members may submit up to seven entries in total with not more than five entries being in any one category, namely monochrome prints, colour prints or projected digital images. Awards are made for:

Best Monochrome Print
Best Colour Print

Best Projected Image

This competition is intended to promote current images. Entries must not have been submitted to any Sibley Photographic Society competition prior to January 1st of the calendar year of submission.

Digital Image Knockout Competition

The logistics for this competition are complex, so entrants are asked to read and follow the published instructions and adhere strictly to deadlines.

Entrants declare a list of eighteen entries. In each round of the knockout, three entries are used and then subsequently discarded. Each round consists of pairs of entrants, as determined by a draw, competing against each other. In the event of there being insufficient entrants to allow the first round to be completely filled, an appropriate number of entrants will be awarded a *bye* to the next round. Entrants awarded a *bye* must discard three entries. The entrant from each pair winning the round enters the draw for the next round. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by a *sudden death play-off* using one extra entry.

Entries must not have been previously used in the Knockout Competition. The definition of "used" here refers to images that have been judged or discarded for a *bye* in the first round. Thus, any images declared in a given year but not judged or selected by the entrant for a *bye* may be entered in a subsequent year.

Thematic Competition

The form of this annual competition is chosen by combining a subject with a medium, for example "*monochrome digital*". Both of these elements are drawn randomly, so that a wide variety of topics and presentation forms are covered.

Entrants may submit a maximum of four images. As with other competitions, entries must not have been previously used in the Thematic Competition.

Panel Competition

This competition is open to prints and digital images in panels or sets of three or four images. Individual prints must be not larger than A4 and may be mounted separately or together on one mount board, the latter to be not larger than 500mm by 400mm. Digital images must be in accordance with the above "Rules specific to Projected Digital Images". Each panel of three or four digital images must be combined to form one image for projection with a size not exceeding 1280 x 1024 pixels. Each member may submit up to two panels of prints and two panels of projected images. The subject matter is open but from time to time it may be that Themed panels will be requested.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Note that the specifications for digital projected images are likely to vary from one external competition to another. For prints, most will specify a size of exactly 500mm by 400mm, in line with Sibley's requirements, sometimes with a maximum thickness, often 4mm. You are advised to read the rules for each external competition carefully.

Submission dates and rules for Federation and other external competitions will be announced by the External Competition Secretary as details are received. These dates must be rigorously adhered to. It is interesting, informative and usually inspiring to visit other clubs' exhibitions and particularly those mounted by the federations.

