



Hutt Camera Club Incorporated

Competition Rules

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1 Introduction:

The Hutt Camera Club runs a number of competitions each year

- A ladder competition
- End of year portfolio competition

This document lays out the rules for these competitions.

2 Ownership and Use of Images:

You as author will always retain ownership of images submitted to Hutt Camera Club. Images may be used to promote Hutt Camera Club or displayed at club evenings unless expressly specified by the author otherwise in writing – i.e. “Not for publicity use.”

3 General:

- Entrants must be financial members.
- Images may be commercially processed but must have been exposed by the entrant.
- Entries must be the bona-fide work of the entrant
- Images may be digitally enhanced, but images created solely by electronic means e.g. Fractals, are not eligible for entry. The final image must have been based on a photograph taken by the entrant.
- The “year” refers to the calendar year.
- The submission of an entry in any competition is deemed to be acceptance and understanding of these Rules.

4 Ladder Competition:

- There are two separate ladder competitions, one for prints and one for projected images.
- Each ladder competition consists of four rounds.
- There are different grades depending on member’s experience.
- In each grade there is a section for printed images and a section for digital projected images.
- Members can enter either or both sections.

- Entrants are awarded point by the judge in each round and at the end of the year those members with the most points in each grade section are the winners of the ladder trophies.

4.1 General:

- Entrants may submit up to 3 prints and or 3 projected images (6 images in total) in each round.
- Both colour and monochrome work may be submitted in the same entry.
- The same image may not be submitted in both prints and projected image sections.

4.2 Grading:

- Entrants must choose which grade to enter at the beginning of the competition year and must work in the same grade for prints and projected images.
- Once you have competed in a grade you cannot go back to a lower grade without the approval of the committee.
- Members unsure about which grade to enter should seek the advice of the Competition Secretary and Committee.

Beginner (B):

New members with less than two years photographic experience at club/competition level would usually start in this grade. Members move to the Intermediate grade if one or more of the following applies:

- They are in the top two of the Beginners ladder at the end of the previous year.
- They achieve four or more 'Honours' throughout the previous year.
- They decide to self-promote themselves up to the Intermediate grade.
- They receive their LPSNZ letters.
- The Committee decides they need to be moved up a grade.

Intermediate (I):

Members move to the Advanced grade if one or more of the following applies:

- They win the Intermediate grade ladder competition for the previous year.
- They achieve five or more 'Honours' throughout the previous year.
- They decide to self-promote themselves up to the Advanced grade.

- They receive their APSNZ letters.
- The Committee decides they need to be moved up a grade.

Advanced (A):

- Everyone else.
- Work is evaluated at a level acceptable for outside competitions.

4.3 Entries:

Each competition has three subject categories:

- “Set Subject” which is nominated by the club
- “Nature” in which images fitting the Nature definition are acceptable
- “Open” in which images of any topic are acceptable

It is the entrant’s responsibility to get entries to the Competition Secretary by closing date specified in the club syllabus and notified by the club newsletter.

All entries are to be labelled with membership number, subject category and title. Names should not appear on entries.

Entries deemed by the judge not to comply with the set subject will be placed in the open subject category.

Entries may be submitted in any subject category or spread between the three up to the maximum number allowed.

While every care is taken, the club will not accept liability for damage to entries.

Failure to comply with these instructions will invalidate the entry and exclude it from the competition.

4.4 Print Entries:

- B Grade prints should be mounted or fixed on backing material firm enough to hold the print upright. Please contact the Competition Secretary for assistance.
- I Grade - All prints must be matted.
- A Grade – All prints must be matted.
- Mounted and/or Matted prints may not exceed 41cm x 51cm (16” x (20”)
- Framed or glass covered prints are not acceptable
- Membership number, subject category and title must appear on the reverse of the print.

4.5 Projected Image Entries:

- Images must be in jpg format.
- **Maximum of 1620 pixels on the horizontal side AND 1080 on the vertical side.**
- It is strongly recommended that your images have one of these edges at the maximum size or you will not be presenting the highest quality image you can. e.g. a 700 x 700 image though technically correct should have been sized to 1080 x 1080. (700 square is less than half the resolution of 1080)

Files are to be named as follows:

A-S-L2-310-Title

Where:

A is your grade Advanced (A), Intermediate (I), or Beginner (B)

S is your subject category i.e. one of S (Set), N (Nature), or O (Open)

L2 is the competition e.g. Ladder 2 = L2

310 is your membership number

Title is the image title. If no image title is provided, then please use a number instead to make the file name unique.

Example file names are:

A-O-L1-824-RustyGate.jpg

B-S-L3-456-Over the Rainbow.jpg

- Images are to be submitted by email attachment to the Competition Secretary (competitions@huttcameraclub.org.nz) who will confirm receipt.
- Hutt Camera Club is not responsible for loss of images due to corruption during file transfer or any other accidental deletion and or corruption of images.

4.6 Judging:

A strong image should display some or all of the following elements:

- Technical excellence
- A knowledge of the importance of choice of subject
- Good lighting
- Dramatic composition
- Handling depth of field effectively
- Eliciting emotional impact
- Exhibiting freshness and creativity

The judge will give each image one of the following ratings:

- Honours
- Merit
- Commended
- Accepted
- Not Accepted

Honours:

An image that scores an Honours is an exceptionally strong image; true photographic excellence. It need not be a perfect image, just a very, very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements of the image must work together to form a whole that is far greater than the sum of the parts. There should not be any obvious flaws. Images that score an Honours may break the “rules”. When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are very common in such an image.

A score of Honours should not be given out without very good reason since it implied true photographic excellence. If a judge feels that an image has the “Wow” factor and immediately falls in love with it they should give it Honours with no apologies to anyone. Authors of photographic images should not be made to feel that Honours is impossible to achieve.

Merit:

An image that scores Merit is a very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements of the image must work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find. Obvious flaws must be compensated by other elements in the image. Images that score Merit may break the “rules”. When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are very common in such an image.

Commended:

This is a good solid image, an image towards which every member should be striving as a minimum. Such an image is technically correct and a bit more. It exhibits AT LEAST ONE of these elements.

Showing knowledge of:

- the importance of choice of subject
- good lighting
- dramatic composition
- handling depth of field effectively

- eliciting emotional impact
- exhibiting freshness and creativity

The elements of the image work together. There may be minor flaws but they are compensated for by other elements in the image. For the most part, images that score a Commended do not break the “rules”. If a rule is broken, it is broken with intention and works to enhance the image. A Commended is a first step above a technically correct but otherwise uninspiring image. It is the start on the path towards the high impact image.

Accepted:

An Accepted would be awarded to an image that may have either some technical flaws, or has no significant strengths. Such an image is sometimes referred to as a record shot. It is acceptable, but does not generate any special interest or stir emotions. It is the quality of image that we would expect that most hobbyists should be able to take as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure, auto-focus cameras allow. The author has made a correct exposure in a non-difficult lighting situation and the subject of the image is sharp. However the image lacks those elements towards which imagemakers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving. An Accepted could also be awarded to an image that did have one of the strengths just mentioned (which might have earned it a Commended) but that strength has been neutralized by a significant flaw.

Not Accepted:

An image is not accepted if the judge feels that the image is not of sufficient quality to earn Accepted. An image which is not accepted may be re-submitted in one further ladder competition.

Other Judging Notes:

- The judge will give constructive comments aimed at helping the author to improve the quality of their work.
- On completion of the judging for each set or photograph, the author should be identified, with the exception of non-accepted entries.
- All communication with the Judge will be made through the Competition Secretary.
- Entries gaining acceptance or better cannot be re-entered in further ladder competitions.

4.6 Judging:

Points are awarded in each grade as follows based on the rating given by the Judge:

Judges Rating	Set Subject	Nature	Open
Honours	14	10	10
Merit	9	6	6
Commended	5	3	3
Accepted	2	1	1
Not Accepted	0	0	0

5 End of Year Portfolio Competitions:

At the end of the year, immediately following the AGM, we have a Portfolio competition. These are the premiere competitions in the club's year. There are two trophies at stage;

- The Cliff Perry Trophy
- The Dorothy Comeley Memorial Trophy

Portfolio Arrangement

A portfolio (for the purposes of these competitions) is a set of image of your choosing. It is a chance to show what you do best. The set of images should sit well together and hold the eye within the set. A common link be it colour, theme or similar can hold a set together. The set will be judges as a whole, not as individual images.

The rules for the Trophy Competitions are as follows:

- An entrant may enter only one of the competitions, not both.
- The criteria for both competitions: members are invited to submit a portfolio of SIX prints.
- Entries must be matted prints. Framed or glass covered prints are not acceptable.
- Matted prints, inclusive of image, may not exceed 41cm x 51cm (16" x 20").
- Prints may have been entered into previous club ladder or interclub competitions.
- Prints which have been entered in previous Cliff Perry or Dorothy Comely competitions are ineligible for entry.

The Cliff Perry Memorial Trophy

(a) Eligibility

- The competition is open to all members who:

- Have less than three years membership.
- Do not have photographic honours (e.g. LPSNZ or higher)
- Are not employed in the business of photography.
- Have not previously won the Cliff Perry Trophy.
- Have not previously won the Beginner Grade Ladder competition in either the print or projected sections.

(b) Specific Requirements

Entries in the Cliff Perry Memorial Trophy do not need to follow a theme, however, it is expected that they demonstrate “proficiency of a high order in practical photography”. This means the applicant must demonstrate sound basic technical ability, along with good compositional skill and awareness of lighting. Proficiency implies skill with the camera and in processing and presenting images. Photographic proficiency is best demonstrated by a diversity of approach. (For example: by a variety of subject matter; variety of lens choice; variety of viewpoints etc.)

The Dorothy Comely Memorial Trophy

(a) Eligibility

The competition is open to all club members.

(b) Specific Requirements

Entries in the Dorothy Comely Memorial Trophy are expected to follow a theme that links the images together in some way. They are also expected that they demonstrate “proficiency of a high order in practical photography”, but do not need to demonstrate a range of skills.

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