

Competition Rules of the Newent & District Camera Club

Introduction

Competitions are run throughout each Club season from mid-September to April. The aims are to:

- encourage members to improve their photography.
- pick up hints and tips from the feedback given to help improve skills.
- encourage members to explore and try out different genres of photography.
- provide a platform for members' work.
- provide the Club with images for inter-club competitions ("battles").

To ensure everyone who takes part has a reasonable chance of achieving success, entrants are categorized in either the "Improvers" or "Advanced" groups. These are comparable to two divisions in sporting competitions and are intended to reflect relative experience, skill level and previous results.

There are four categories of Club competitions: Monthly, Portfolio, Project and Annual. Each Monthly competition has a pre-defined theme set before the end of the previous Club season. The Portfolio, Project and Annual competitions are individual events.

Notice of the competitions, with entry deadline and judging dates, are included in the Club programme.

Group Administration

1. New members will join the Improvers group unless they demonstrate to the Competition Secretary that they have achieved competition success at another club, hold a recognized photography qualification, other distinction, or evidence of advanced experience.
2. At the end of each season the highest scoring Improvers will be promoted to the Advanced group.
3. To maintain a balance of numbers in each group the Competition Secretary may, before the first competition of the season is judged, adjust the membership of each group.

Common Principles

Unless stated otherwise in the 'Competitions Specifics' table below, the following general rules apply to all competitions:

1. Images submitted for competitions will only be accepted from paid up members.
2. Images submitted for competitions must be the work of the member submitting them. The Club discourages the use of other people's art WITHOUT any obvious input from the member.

3. Time limits for Images and Prints.

For Advanced Members Images and Prints must have been taken within 3 years of the start of the season (September), except for annuals.

For Improver Members, Images and Prints are not restricted to a time limit, except for annuals.

For both Advanced and Improvers Images and Prints they must not have been used in previous years' competitions.

For Annual Projected Image and Annual Print competitions, for both Advanced and Improver Members, the image must have been taken within twelve months of the hand in deadline. An image or print that has been used in two previous competitions of the current season may be entered for the Annuals, but must have been taken in the twelve months leading up to the hand in deadline.

4. Any image, for digital projection or as a print, may be entered TWICE (2) in any Club competition of the current season. The exception to this is if an image is changed substantially (possibility as a result of advice from a judge), then this will be considered a new image, so may itself be used twice. Significant changes may include: cropping, different treatments and obvious changes to brightness, contrast and other post processing affects you may wish to use. Individual images that have gained a Club award or trophy cannot be re-entered in future seasons' Club competitions.
5. Any member's image can be entered at any time for inter-club competitions ('battles ') at the discretion of the Club's 'Battles' co-ordinator.
6. Images may be in colour or monochrome.
7. Competition judges (including members) will award up to a maximum of 20 points per photograph entered.
8. For the "Projected Image" section of each competition: The submitted images must be:
- in JPEG file format with sRGB colour space.
 - numbered 1,2, etc. in the order for presentation, and titled (e.g. **1 Water Lilies**), up to the maximum allowed.
 - Uploaded to the web server being used for club competitions between the dates stated below, using the details supplied at the time by the Competitions Secretary.
9. For the "Printed Image" section of each competition: The submitted prints must be:
- Mounted.
 - a minimum unmounted image size of 175mm by 125mm.
 - a maximum size, including mount, of 500mm by 400mm.
 - identified on the reverse side with the number and title and have an arrow indicating which is the top edge.
 - printed by the member or a commercial print service.
 - submitted to the Competition Secretary on or before the appropriate deadline dates stated below.
 - accompanied by an identical digital version conforming to rule 8.
 - collected at the end of the relevant judging session unless an arrangement has been agreed with the Competition Secretary.
- 10 Any dispute arising about these rules, or the operation of competitions will be decided by the Competition Secretary. If this does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, an appeal can be made to the Committee Chairman.

- 11 Members are deemed to have licensed the Club to show their images during Club activities, on the Club web site and for use in competitions against other clubs; apart from this they retain ownership of the intellectual property rights to any competition entries submitted.
- 12 The Club accepts no liability for loss or damage to images submitted by members for competitions.

Awards

Trophies are no longer awarded, however all competition winners (Advanced and Improvers) will be listed on our website “Roll of Honour”

In the event of a tie for the winning place, the number of 20s will be applied, followed by the number of 19s, 18s, etc., until a clear winner is identified.

List of trophies previously awarded for reference:

Competition	Projected Image	Prints
Monthly:	Kings Cup	Print Consistency Trophy
Project:	Walwin Cup	N/A
Portfolio:	Hawkins Shield	Cairns Terry Cup
Annual Print:	N/A	James Cup (Colour Print)
		Bisco Cup (Mono Print)
Annual Project Image:	Jones Trophy	N/A
Best of the best:		

2026 – 2027 Competition Calendar

			2026-2027 Deadlines		
	Description	Requirements	Subject	Upload & print hand-in 'window'	Judging
Newent Photographs	Photographs to Advertise Newent. This is a one-off Fun Competition to try and guess which image has been taken on a Camera or Smart Phone. Images will also be supplied to Newent Business Club for use on their Visit Newent Website. By entering this competition, you are giving Newent Business Club permission to use your photograph on their website. Note: This competition does NOT count towards any of our annual Awards.	Members can submit Two Digital Images. (Please bring on a USB stick on the evening). Both images to be of the same subject, 1 taken on a smart phone & 1 on a camera to advertise Newent & its surrounding area (5 miles) for members to guess which is the phone and camera image and the reasons for this decision. Both Images to be Unedited in JPEG Format. Members will select the best overall image. Photographs submitted in last season's Newent competition should not be re-entered.	Photographs to Advertise Newent.	8 Sept 2026	8 Sept 2026 Review evening
Monthly	Five themed competitions per Club season Award is for consistency over the five competitions	Images submitted for each competition: Advanced Members, Images and Prints must have been taken within 3 years of the start of the season (September). Improver Members, Images and Prints are not restricted to a time limit. For both Advanced and Improvers, Images and Prints must not have been used in previous years' competitions. Maximum of THREE projected digital and/or a maximum of THREE printed images	Monthly 01 Open.	6 to 13 Oct 2026	27 Oct 2026 Judge: TBA
			Monthly 02 Industry.	27 Oct to 3 Nov 2026	17 Nov 2025 Judge: TBA
			Monthly 03 Open.	17 to 24 Nov 2026	8 Dec 2026 Judge: TBA
			Monthly 04 Flora.	8 to 15 Dec 2026	5 Jan 2027 Judge: TBA
			Monthly 05 Monochrome.	5 to 12 Jan 2027	26 Jan 2027 Judge: TBA

Portfolio	One-off competition to illustrate the photographer's ability across a range of categories / photographic genres as given below: Architecture, Landscape, Abstract, Still Life, Portrait, Wildlife, Macro, Street, Astro, Creative, Sport & Event. When submitting your Image you must give a Title for the Image and advise its Genre.	A set of FOUR digital and / or a set of FOUR printed images In each set, each image must belong to a different category / genre of photography, as listed. Advanced Members, Images and Prints must have been taken within 3 years of the start of the season (September). Improver Members, Images and Prints are not restricted to a time limit. For both Advanced and Improvers, Images and Prints must not have been used in previous years' competitions.	Four different categories / genres of photography	2 to-9 Feb 2027	23 Feb 2027 Prints & Digital Judge: TBA
Project	One-off competition to illustrate the photographer's ability to present a set of images related by a single consistent theme, which can be a sequence of images that tell a story.	EIGHT digital images plus a title image (optional). In addition, Notes / Explanation may be submitted to aid the judge's understanding of the Project (Recommended). Advanced Members, Images must have been taken within 3 years of the start of the season (September). Improver Members, Images are not restricted to a time limit. For both Advanced and Improvers, Images must not have been used in previous year's competitions.	Single theme	2 to 9 Mar 2027	23 March 2027 Judge: TBA
Annual Projected Image	One-off open competition for digital images	Members select a maximum of THREE DIGITAL IMAGES , colour and/or monochrome. Images must have been taken within 12 months of the hand in deadline and can include entries used for the proceeding competitions of the current season provided they comply with the 12-month rule.	n/a	23 to 30 March 2027	13 April 2027 Judge: TBA
Annual Print	One-off open competition for prints	Members select a maximum of THREE PRINTS , colour and/or monochrome. Images must have been taken within 12 months of the hand in deadline and can include entries used for the proceeding competitions of the current season provided they comply with the 12-month rule.	n/a	23 to 30 March 2027	20 April 2027 Judge: TBA

Important notes

1. All Club Competitions will be judged by an independent judge.
2. If for any reason it is not possible to appoint an independent judge, due to Covid or other reason, the competition judging will be peer reviewed' by PARTICIPATING club members i.e. All improver members who have submitted an entry for the relevant competition will judge all improvers entries, and all advanced members who have submitted an entry for the relevant competition will judge all advanced entries.

Guidelines for judging:

Interpretation of the topic: Relevance, story, portrayal (Up to 5 points).

Creativity: How is the image thought-through, is it original / inventive (Up to 5 points).

Technique: Composition, lighting, cropping, exposure, focus (Up to 5 points).

Impact: To what extent does it have the 'wow' factor (Up to 5 points).

3. **For ALL competitions**, the timeframe for uploading digital image entries and digital copies of prints is from 00:01 hours on the first date to 23:59 hours on the second. Prints should be submitted within this time frame by depositing in the 'Advanced' group or 'Improver' group print-box kept for this purpose in Newent Library during club evenings or during normal Library opening hours.
4. **For Monthly competitions**, as stated in common principles under item 8, please ensure your images are numbered in order of presentation 1, 2 & 3. If a large number of DPI's (digital projected images) are received for any of the monthly competitions (typically over 36 entries per group) at the discretion of the competitions secretary the imaged judges will be limited to your first 2 images per person. The Print competitions are unaffected and if you submit 3 prints all 3 will be judged.