

Dartford and District Photographic Society
Competition Rules
(February 2025)

1. General Requirements

1.1 Entry into any Dartford and District Photographic Society competition is restricted to current members of the society. Should any dispute arise, the verdict of the committee will be final.

1.2 Each entry must bear the name of the entrant together with a title.

1.3 The competition secretary(s) shall keep a permanent record of all competition entries and results.

1.4 The original photographic image(s) employed in all work submitted into any society competition must be that of the entrant and no other person.

1.5 Entries of either digitally projected images or prints in intermediate and annual competitions will not be accepted if previously entered at any time and in any format in intermediate or annual competitions, with the exception noted in 2.1 below for certain entries to annual competitions. This exclusion applies also to the entry of a photograph similar to a previous entry but employing a different original photographic image and to a similar version of a previous entry with either a changed title, or in monochrome instead of colour (or vice-versa), or with an adjusted crop or other enhancement.

1.6 Digitally projected image files should be in jpeg format, with an sRGB colour space, and a maximum image size of 1600 horizontal pixels x 1200 vertical pixels.

1.7 Prints submitted for all competitions must be mounted. Prints can be any size provided that they are attached to a mount no bigger than 40 x 50 cm. Mounts should have a identification label fixed to the back (preferably on the top right hand side to help with orientation).

1.8 Entry into any competition automatically excludes the society and any allocated judge from any responsibility resulting from loss or damage that might occur to any entry while in their possession.

1.9 The closing date for entry into intermediate or annual competitions is normally 14 days before the date of the competition. The competition secretary can, however, specify a shorter time applicable to all entrants. Late entry will only be allowed if special dispensation is obtained from the competition secretary. Information on entry dates on other competitions will be notified in advance at meetings and on the society's website.

1.10 The competition secretary(s) may, subject to the permission of the entrant, seek to retain certain entries for future external competitions and display on the Society's website. The entrant, however, always retains the right not to grant permission.

1.11 The names of competition judges will be announced as soon as practical after confirmation either in the in the programme and/or on the website.

2. Individual Competition Requirements

2.1 Annual Competitions

The following requirements apply to both the annual print and the annual projected digital competitions.

Members can enter up to four photographs into each annual competition. Each entry should be put into one of the four categories below:

- Nature
- Pictorial
- Portraiture
- Record

Members can choose any combination of categories subject to an overall total of up to four photographs. The category of each photograph is to be identified by the entrant. Entries can be monochrome or colour.

As an exception to paragraph 1.5 each entrant may enter into an annual competition up to two photographs previously entered in previous seasons' intermediate competitions. A photograph from an intermediate competition can only be entered one time into any annual competition, and the entrant should provide the competition secretary with the date of the competition and title used when the photograph was previously entered.

The competition will be judged by a KCPA Premier Judge/PAGB listed judge, who will be required to comment upon, and mark, all entries. Competitions will be judged on a 0-20 mark basis. The judge will select the best photograph in each of the categories and from these will select the overall winner. Certificates will be awarded to the category winners and to the overall winner.

2.2 The Intermediate Competitions

There will be four intermediate competitions each photographic year, two print competitions and two projected digital image competitions. Unless a particular competition has a specific requirement listed in the programme, all intermediate competitions will be assumed to be open subject and members will be allowed up to three entries in each competition. Prints and PDIs can be monochrome or colour, but normal print size/PDI requirements will apply, unless specifically modified for a particular competition. An external judge will be employed and will be required to comment on, and mark on a 0-20 point basis, all entries, and select first, second and third places. Certificates will be awarded to the winners of each competition.

2.3 The President's Cup

The President's Cup is an annual competition whose subject, format and entry requirements are decided by the president at the previous AGM. The conditions for the given year will be advised in the annual programme and the website. Judging will be carried out by the President*. A maximum of three entries per member is allowed. The collection of entries will be arranged by the competition secretary(s) and entries should be available no later than two weeks before the judging.

(*The President shall have the right to nominate an alternative judge, should this be appropriate, and shall be the sole arbiter in any dispute or ruling not specifically covered by the conditions above.)

2.4 The George Nuttall Trophy

The George Nuttall Trophy is awarded to members who have not won a major trophy in previous years, or not previously won the trophy. The trophy will be awarded to the qualifying member with the highest aggregate score for those photographs taking first, second or third places in intermediate competitions plus those photographs placed first in a category in the annual competitions.

3. External Competitions

These are defined as all competitions arranged or organised by, or in conjunction with, bodies other than just the Dartford and District Photographic Society.

3.1 The Inter-Society Print Competition also known as The Meinertzhagen Competition

The Inter-Society Print Competition is an annual competition normally held in November between the Dartford, Bexleyheath and Woolwich societies. The venue and responsibility for organising the event is shared on a rotational basis. Members may enter up to three prints (mono or colour). No prior selection by the individual societies concerned should take place regarding the suitability of the entries. The prints must be the sole work of the entrant. Prints should comply with current PAGB rules regarding copyright ownership. There is no limit to the print size, but prints must be titled and mounted.

Only the highest scoring print from each entrant is counted as the qualifying mark. The winning society is the one with the highest average - calculated from the sum of the qualifying marks, divided by the number of the society's entrants. The winning society is awarded the G.F.Meinertzhagen Shield and the best print in the competition is awarded the Dobinson Trophy, both of which are retained for one year. The judge is normally selected from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) list of judges, although other judges may be acceptable, provided prior agreement is obtained from all three Societies.

Digital projected images of the prints entered are used to prepare a slide show on the night of the competition but the judge marks the prints in advance.

The Inter-Society competition is a longstanding competition with unique entry conditions that separate it from all other such competitions. It has been in existence for more than 80 years and carries with it a long tradition of encouraging open club entry with no preselection by club officers. Up to three entries from all club members regardless of their expertise, ability or standing within the club are to be encouraged and accepted.

3.2 KCPA Ross Cup Competition and KCPA Diamond Jubilee Competition

The KCPA Ross Cup Competition is an annual print competition, held in the Autumn, it is open to all member societies/clubs affiliated to the Kent County Photographic Association. Similarly the Diamond Jubilee Competition is an annual PDI competition held in the Spring. Information and rules for the competition can be found on the KCPA website.

The Society's committee will decide each year whether or not to submit an entry to each of these competitions. For each competition the Society has to enter 8 photographs with no more than two from any member, and a small selection panel of Society members will choose the entry. The competition secretary(s) will arrange the collection of photographs for selection and for the preparation and forwarding of the selected images to KCPA.

3.3 Other external competitions

Other external competitions are held on a fairly regular basis with other photographic societies and clubs during the course of each year. Dates and venues can be found in the Society's Programme. Specific requirements of these competitions should be checked with the competition secretary(s), who will be responsible for organising selection of entries and preparations for the competitions.