

ELLON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP
2019/2020 – INTERNAL CLUB COMPETITIONS
OVERVIEW, RULES AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

Competitions in 2019-2020

- Phototrek (see last page of this document)
- Digital Image League (see definitions on the next page) – for *photographer of the year*
 - Open
 - Repetition
 - Urban/rural decay
 - Close-up/macro
 - Landscape/seascape
- Voigtlander Vito B Trophy (new competition, see below)
- Print
 - Black and white
 - Portfolio

New Approaches for 2019-2020

For this season we are taking some new approaches:

- we have reduced the league of Digital Image League competitions from 6 to 5
- we will have external judges for all our digital image competitions, Phototrek and the Portfolio print competitions.
- we want the judges to concentrate on the critique of the images and, for the Digital Image League competitions we are asking them to select and grade only the top images (the judges will not give images a score). Top images will be graded as: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, highly commended or commended. The guidelines we are sending to judges are attached at the end of this document.
- an image cannot be entered more than once in the Digital Image League competitions. But:
 - a Phototrek image can also be entered into one Digital Image League competition and into the print competitions.
 - a previously entered Digital Image League photo can also be entered into the print competitions.
- We want to encourage members to go out and take new photos, so we prefer images in the Digital League to be less than a year old but up to 3 years old is acceptable.
- we are introducing a new digital image competition at the end of the season (the Voigtlander Vito B Trophy) with the intent of attracting more people to enter* – not just the ‘usual suspects’. This competition will NOT be open to everyone. You will be **excluded** from entering if:
 - you have had any image graded within any of the ‘top image’ categories (see above) earlier in the season.
 - you came first in **any** competition (print or digital) during this season or the previous season.

*in 2018-19 we had c 60 members – 39 people entered the digital image competitions (11 of them entered 3 or fewer images during the season). 24 people would have been excluded from the Voigtlander Vito B Trophy competition if we had run it last year.

Digital Image League – competition definitions

Title	Definitions
Open	As the title states open to all types of images.
Landscape Seascape	External images of country side and seaside
Repetition	<p>Some of the most powerful compositions are found when the photographer can identify repetitious of objects or shapes. Such repetition exists both in nature and in the human-made world (eg. a stack of bottles, a line of windows etc.). Here are a few examples of repetitious photographs to give you inspiration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close up of dog fur • row of windows • patterns in high rise windows • rows of plants in a garden • slats of a fence • a baking tray of cupcakes <p>Capturing repetition in photos, a couple of techniques: you can either emphasis it or break it</p>
Rural /Urban Decay	Urban/Rural decay is the process whereby something has become gradually damaged, worse, or less. It could be animal, vegetable, mineral or man-made. It could be a previously functioning building near a city, an abandoned village to farms and crofts falls into disrepair or a rotten tree trunk. It's essentially the art of capturing beautiful photographs of a subject that is inherently not beautiful.
Close-up /Macro	It is generally understood to mean any photo that shows the subject closer, and in more detail, than we're used to seeing in everyday life. Display the close detail - the broader scene is not included

NB: colour or B&W images are acceptable in all these competitions

ELLON PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP
DIGITAL IMAGE LEAGUE PHOTO JUDGING GUIDELINES
(sent to the digital image judges)

The club is trying to get some consistency in judge's approach across its various competitions. We have moved to a judging approach which gives priority to a critique of the images along with selection and grading of the top images – a numeric score is not given.

Obviously, judges have their own styles, personalities, likes, dislikes and skills, but even taking this into account, we think we can strive for more consistency.

We share the 'What Judges Should be Looking For' guidance from the SPF (see below) with our members. We ask judges to use this as a basis for their grading and critique.

We ask the judges to follow these guidelines:

- IMAGE CRITIQUE
 - All images to be given a critique. With a focus on positive aspects and what could be improved – this helps people improve their photography
 - Feedback from our members includes: "I don't like this picture" or "I've seen lots of images of this place" are not a good basis for grading.
- IMAGE GRADING:
 - 'Top images' to be graded into the following categories:
 - 1st, 2nd & 3rd, highly commended, commended (for 1st place we prefer a single winning image)
 - All other images should not be given a grading
 - An image that does not fit within the title/criteria of the competition **must not** be put into any of the 'top image' grades
- Results should be sent to the competition secretary a minimum of 5 days before the competition results are announced.

WHAT JUDGES SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR

1. DO I LIKE THIS PHOTOGRAPH? WHY? *Perhaps 50% of the decision*

Does it tell a story?
Does it make a statement?
Does it elicit an emotion?

It doesn't need to be a big statement. It could be "What a pretty flower."

Is it creative?

Does it show the subject in an unusual attractive way?
Does it use an interesting, fresh approach?
Does it utilise interesting techniques?

But ... what could be changed to do this better?

There is a "rightness" about good pictures which is difficult to quantify and which often defies the "rules".

2. SUBJECT MATTER AND CONTENT *Perhaps 25% of the decision*

Is this something that will provoke interest in others?

Something the viewer may not get to see – travel/early rising/field craft/etc.
Something you don't notice because it is ordinary or familiar but shown in a new way.

Subjective E.G. Displaying Bird v Striking Flower v Pretty Girl (or boy)

3. PRODUCTION VALUES (NOT JUST THE TECHNICAL STUFF). *Perhaps 25% of the decision*

Everything that goes into the creative process;
How was it made? How difficult was it? How much thought went into it?

Composition
Lighting
Colour (or not)
Perspective
Viewpoint
Depth of Field
Angle of view

4. TECHNICAL (CRAFT, EXECUTION, PRESENTATION) *Takes points off or moves you down the order*

Is the focus accurate and the exposure appropriate?
Is the centre of interest (subject) the sharpest point?
Is it appropriately sharpened? Is it "over sharpened"
Does the Depth of Field enhance the subject or distract from it?
Does the overall (and specific area) contrast suit the subject?
 Are dark areas blocked up?
 Are bright areas burnt out?
Are the colours pleasing? (Not necessarily correct).

Good Technical Quality and Technique do not in themselves ensure a good photograph but without them you reduce the chances considerably that the judge will view your work with respect. Equally if a judge does not point out technical deficiencies it suggests a lack of qualification to do the job.

Mainly though Judges should constantly strive with their comments to encourage club members to take even more, and even better, photographs and to have FUN doing it.

PhotoTrek Digital Image Challenge

- The competition is open to all club members.
- There will be 5 categories. (See below).
- You are asked to submit a 'portfolio' of 3 independent images: choose 3 out of 5 of the categories and submit **one** photo for each chosen category.
- Images will be entered via PhotoEntry. The name of the entry **MUST** be preceded by the category number. Please use **EXACTLY** this format:
 - Cat-1-photname
- All images are to be taken between 1st May and 31st August 2019.
- Images may be Colour or Monochrome.
- All images to be submitted to Photoentry by 2nd September 2019.
- The images will be judged (using an external judge) on 7th October. Each image will be scored between 10 and 20 points (the judge will not know the author of the images or the portfolio groupings)
- The member with the **highest scoring portfolio** will be the winner.
- In the event of a tie - the tied portfolio with the highest scoring individual photo will be the winner.

The 5 categories are:

Cat-1. Landscape/seascape: images of a coastal or inland scene.

Cat-2. Street: At its most basic, street photography is candid photography made in public situations. In photographic terms "street" is not limited to roadways as the word might suggest. It is a stand in for any public setting. Many street photographers look for scenes which trigger an immediate emotional or visual response, especially through humour or a fascination with ambiguous, odd, or surreal happenings. <https://in-public.com/street-photography/>

Cat-3. Architecture. Images showing internal or external views of novel, interesting, complex, beautiful (etc.) building(s) of any age.

Cat-4. Transport. Images that capture aspects of the action or mechanism of the transportation of people or things.

Cat-5. Events. Images taken at organised events (including fetes, galas, shows, concerts, sports events.....).

Images can be black and white or colour.

NB: in previous years we have tried to make this a summer themed competition with images required to illustrate summer in some way. **We have removed this requirement this year.**