Crawley Camera Club Monthly Competitions - Notes

This set subject competition is a regular part of the Club programme – as well as a fun competition where members themselves vote for the best images of the month – it has other important roles in Club activities:

- It sets a regular challenge (based on the set subject of the month) for members to find (old or new) images – providing motivation to take pictures or develop new skills to post-process older images.
- It provides a regular source of new images to share, discuss, provide feedback, learn new ideas, critique, etc.
- It provides an opportunity for members to test out images, techniques, skills in a "safe space" and get helpful feedback before submitting to a judged Club competition or maybe a SPA competition/exhibition.
- It provides time and opportunity to test out judging and feedback skills when voting for images. Why are some images better than others, etc? This helps develop members' own photography experiences and skills - and might provide insights into some competition judges' decisions.

Overview

Any member can submit up to three digital images (jpegs) for each competition and all Club members can then vote for their favourites. The winners are announced at a Club meeting.

There is a Set Subject in each month based on a common theme through the year (July-June). In recent years this has been the letters of the alphabet (in various sequences to provide variety). This provides a lot of flexibility as to the content of the image – but bear in mind the higher scores generally reflect image quality and impact and recognised match to the set subject.

The content might, for example, be related to the shape of the letter, or an object/scene/emotion/etc which starts with or is associated with the letter or a phrase containing the letter, or contains the letter as part of the image, or a scene of a generally recognisable place name, or a portrait with a link to or characteristic of a generally recognisable person. Note – providing a person's name / place name when it might **not be clear** that it is the real name is not helpful for establishing a link to the set subject.

Each image has a title given by the photographer and the title can help 'set the scene' and show why/how the images address the set subject (if it is not obvious from the image content itself).

Club members vote for their favourites on a website.

Submitting your entries

The set subject each month is included in the programme so you can prepare images early. Images can have been taken at any time but ideally have not previously seen at the Club.

Up to three digital images (jpegs) are submitted by attachment **in an email when requested**.

Images can be colour or monochrome.
Resize images to 1600 pixel wide max and/or 1200 pixel high max (1600x1200 max).
Use sRGB colour space.

Naming convention is image title_your name_your ref.jpg
Image title and your name can include spaces. Separator is underscore.
Your ref is optional and can include spaces and might include your own image reference for example.
For consistency with the Club PDI competitions if "your ref" is blank then the final underscore should still be included.

Examples
Red Flower_John Smith_img2109.jpg
Red Flower_John Smith_.jpg

Your entries will be acknowledged usually within 24/48 hours by email. If not please follow-up to the same email address.

After the deadline the received images are anonymised, sorted into alphabetical order of title, and loaded onto the voting website.

Voting for your favourite photographs

Everyone will be sent an email containing a link to the competition poll.

If you don't get the email – check your spam/junk mail folders – sometimes your email service will put emails which contain links into these folders. The link is to a site called **pollunit.com** and will also contain a complicated set of characters which is the site reference for the specific competition.

When you click on the link it takes you to the website. It should work on desktop computers, laptops, tablets and even mobile phones. It should work using your preferred browser on those devices.

Each competition takes the same format. You have a set number of "dots" or "votes" to spread out across your favourite images – with a maximum number of dots you can give to any one image (usually four).

So you can usually give 0,1,2,3,4 dots to each image depending on how much you "like" the image. But the total number of dots you can use per competition is limited.

There are two Rounds of voting. In Round 1 you have 40 "dots" (votes) and the purpose is to identify the top 10 images (or more if tied on total votes) which go through to Round 2.
In Round 2 these "top 10" images have a new vote to identify an overall 1,2,3 placed image. You have fewer "dots" (16) to spread across the images.

This IS a set subject competition (as well as sourcing images for discussion) so your assessment should take account of the relevance of the image content to the set subject (the title may help), the quality of the image (eg composition, appropriate sharpness and exposure etc), novelty/creativity and photographer input. Note – images that don't obviously match the set subject (even with the help of a title) should not get high marks - no matter how exceptional the image.

There is no set way of distributing the dots – it is up to you to decide.
For example you could select your 10 favourite images and give them each 4 dotes/votes - and others get 0. Or you could decide to give some 4's, some 3's, some 2's, some 1's until you have used all 40 dots. You choose – but be aware that 1's dilute your votes from your 3,2 scoring images.

The results are anonymised so your individual votes are not published – but think about how you might justify your voting pattern in any month to another member based on the images presented.

Two simple "rules" that you need to follow in EACH Round (the website won't check for you at the time but sets of votes will be removed if they don't meet the criteria):

- Please use ALL your dots (there is a running total of what you have used just above the images)
- Please give at LEAST ONE IMAGE FROM ANOTHER PHOTOGRAPHER OTHER THAN YOURSELF a maximum 4 dots – ie don't evenly distribute your dots across all pictures. You can give as many more 4's as you like.

You CAN vote for your own images (including awarding four dots) – provided they are your favourites in the competition (!) and at least one of your four dots is to another photographer.

Note – there is NO SUBMIT button – when you click on the dots then it will show "saved" and your votes for that image are recorded. You CAN change your mind and click on a different number of dots for that image – in which case the new votes are saved.

If you want to see the title of an image then click on the "I" in the corner of an image.

If you want to leave a comment about the images/poll/competition then you can in the space below the images. These are seen by all the participants during the competition.

Registering your vote

When you make your first vote the website may ask you to enter a username/password or proceed as a guest or anonymously. Please do not use "anonymous". It is useful to check that we have no duplication.
If you use "guest" then please leave a name we will recognise (!)
If you register then enter your email address and a password of your choosing (just for this site). The next time you vote you can use the same values. This provides a better user experience as you can come back and change votes later if you want – or see previous competitions – but is not essential.

What happens next

There is a close date/time for each poll. After this deadline the votes are counted and the results checked and verified – and results announced shortly afterwards. The top three images go through to the annual final in June comprising winners from each month.