

## Crawley Camera Club - Club Competitions – Notes (April 2026)

The Club organises competitions during each season which are judged by an external visiting judge. They will usually critique images, provide additional development feedback to newer members, and score the images on the night between 20 (best) through to 11-12-13 depending on the judge. They also choose an overall 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> image on the night.

Their criteria include image quality (focus points, exposure, relevant sharpness, contrast, colour, etc), composition and aesthetics, content, impact and storytelling, photographer input to creativity etc – but all judges vary.

Images can be post-processed on computers and merged etc – **but all content must be from images by the photographer**. Increasingly generative AI software is now available and use of AI-generated images or parts of images are NOT allowed in competitions.

Usually there are eight events.

- Two Rounds of a PDI (Projected Digital Image) competition at the Hut – images are projected onto screen
- Two Rounds of an ODI (Online Digital Image) competition via Zoom – usually in Winter when weather might disrupt Hut meetings – judges are sent images to review in advance.
- Two Rounds of a Print Competition at the Hut - images are usually mounted on standard-sized 50cm x 40cm boards – print can be any size inside this board. Prints are labelled on reverse using standard Club label from the [website](#).
- A Digital Image of the Year Competition – when members can **only** re-use images from earlier PDI/ODI rounds
- A Print of the Year Competition – when members can **only** re-use prints from earlier Print rounds.

Members can usually submit up to three images per round/event before the deadline about a week in advance. Images are submitted using the PhotoEntry website (even for Print Comps). Occasionally more images are allowed to fill the judging time – but only the best three scores per photographer on the night are used as part of the overall scoring. See individual PhotoEntry pages for actual numbers.

Digital images must be max 1600 pixel wide x max 1200 pixels high jpegs and use sRGB colourspace.

Images that have previously scored less than 17 by a judge may be re-submitted one more time in a later Round of a competition - with any changes suggested by the judge or other members. This is intended to support photographer learning and development – not for purposes of trying the same image with a different judge.

Members can include any reasonable image content – no restrictions (ie “open”) – in colour or monochrome. Titles can be any length (but judges usually prefer them not too long).

Other Clubs/external organisations will sometimes have separate competitions for wildlife which have stricter rules about not changing images. CCC does not have separate wildlife competitions and so these images can be entered in the open competitions.

Photographers in the Club are separated into Group A or B and images are likewise grouped. Group A images are assessed more critically by judges (normally viewed as “advanced” group) – “should know better”. Group B images are assessed as knowingly submitted by newer or less experienced members who want more feedback and coaching on their images. Newer Club members usually join into Group B to gain experience of competitions unless agreed otherwise. Group A and B images are essentially in separate competitions with separate scoring bands.

The marks from each event are accumulated through the season to determine overall PDI, ODI and Print winners and also an overall Photographer of the Year.

Images used in Club competitions are sometimes re-used to represent the Club in interclub competitions across Surrey and Sussex.

Members are encouraged to try out images in the separate monthly competitions to get feedback on images they think might be used in judged competitions.