

Competition Secretary's Report 2018-19

Introduction

This report on the competitions in the 2018-19 season is divided into two sections, the first deals with the external competitions and the second covers internal competitions.

External

External competitions are where Winchester Photographic Society compete against other clubs in the south in events under the auspices of the Southern Counties Photographic Federation, or SCPF. We compete in a Print League and a Project Digital Image League. In both of these we are in Division 1 and this season we maintained those positions (just). Those of you that were at the Members' evening three weeks ago on the 14th May will have heard the detail of the selection process, the images that represented the Society and how well each image did. The slides from that evening are on the website under the Competitions page and you are welcome to ask me questions about any aspect of it.

There are 2 SCPF competition evenings in our season one print and one PDI.

Internal

Internal competitions are where we compete against each other in the club. There are two types of Internal Competitions: League, comprising five rounds of images divided into three classes, and Standalone Competitions which are open and one offs.

There are 14 internal competition evenings in our season made up of:

- Ten leagues:
 - Five Print Leagues
 - Five PDI Leagues
- Four standalone:
 - Society evening: which includes the Theme, Portrait, Creative and Humour competitions
 - Panel and journalism evening
 - Christmas KO
 - The Image of the Year

I think that competitions are a good thing for members to participate in, not for the competitive element but as a way of practicing, developing and honing your craft. Only by using your camera and experimenting with techniques will you learn and improve.

Participation in the competitions this season has generally been quite strong with the exception of the Beginners' League. This is a little disappointing but understandable perhaps so over the summer the committee and I will be considering and planning more ways to encourage and support members who want to have a go. I'd be delighted to hear from anyone with ideas or suggestions on this, and/or that would like to help.

Looking ahead

Summer

Over the summer I am going to lead a small team that will review the structure and processes behind our internal League competitions with the intention of producing a proposal for the membership on or about the start of next season. The team will be:

- Me
- Another committee member
- One representative from each class.

I am now requesting volunteers from each class to join this team. A message will also go in the Newsletter requesting help. Hopefully I'll be inundated with volunteers to make my job of selection really hard.

Next season

Theme for next season during the Society Evening is: Song Titles. Take a photograph that represents the title of a song

The mono competition will be print round 3, on the 18th February 2020

Gordon Brown Competition Secretary