



MID-CESHIRE CAMERA CLUB

Founded 1976



LOTTERY FUNDED

COMPETITION RULES

[Revised May 2024]

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1. General

1.1. General Information Appertaining to Competition Entries.

- 1.1.1. Only paid-up members of MID-CESHIRE CAMERA CLUB (abbreviated to MCCC or 'the club') shall be eligible to enter any Competition.
- 1.1.2. The use of the word 'image' relates to both PDI and Print.
- 1.1.3. An image (including any associated post-processing) entered in any competition must be the work of the author.
- 1.1.4. An image can be printed by a third party.
- 1.1.5. Please make sure your name does not appear on your images.
- 1.1.6. There will be two main Competitions held through the season, although these may be varied by the Committee. The first will be the 'Photographer of the Year' Competition and the second will be the Annual Competition(s) held in March and April. Judging will be by an invited independent judge.
- 1.1.7. The Competition Secretary will call for submission of competition entries.
- 1.1.8. Dates and details of each competition, including Handing In (HI) dates, are published in the Season's Programme.
- 1.1.9. Entries will not be accepted after that date.
- 1.1.10. All trophies awarded to winners must be returned to the Competition Secretary when requested.

1.2. The Competition Secretary Powers

- 1.1.11. The Competition Secretary has the power to:
- 1.1.12. Refuse any entry which does not conform to the rules of a competition.
- 1.1.13. Withdraw entries equally from each entrant, if there are too many entries in a Monthly or Annual Competition for the running of that evening's show.
- 1.1.14. Exclude entries with a subject matter that, in his/her judgement, does not conform to the competition's stated theme or section classification.

1.3. Duplicate Image Rule

- 1.1.15. An image will be deemed as a duplicate if it is so similar to a previous image that it is indistinguishable from the original. There must be a demonstrable difference between the two and while this is subjective, it is requested that authors exercise common sense when submitting an image. If in doubt the Competition Secretary will advise.
- 1.1.16. Examples:
 - 1.1.16.1. The same tree photographed in different seasons would be allowed.
 - 1.1.16.2. A model wearing a different outfit would be allowed.
 - 1.1.16.3. A model in a significantly different pose would be allowed.

1.4. What is defined by a 'Clearly Altered Reality'

- 1.1.17. The purpose of this definition is not to stifle creativity but to add parameters to guide image submission into the correct genre or classification.
- 1.1.18. MCCC defines a "clearly altered reality" when an image has been manipulated or edited in such a way that it does not accurately represent the original scene.

- 1.1.19. This can include changing colours, adding, or removing objects, distorting proportions, or applying digital filters or effects.
- 1.1.20. The term "clearly altered reality" suggests that the manipulation is obvious or intentional, rather than subtle or incidental.
- 1.1.21. Images that become surrealistic as a result of their in-camera or post processing will be deemed as having a clearly altered reality.
- 1.1.22. A surrealistic style aims to create dreamlike or otherworldly images that challenge conventional perceptions of reality.
- 1.1.23. Surrealistic photography employs techniques such as double exposure, photomontage, and digital manipulation to combine or distort images and create unexpected juxtapositions or visual illusions.
- 1.1.24. Subtle changes or inclusions to an image where the original scene continues to be accurately represented will be considered to fall outside of this definition.
- 1.1.25. Examples of this include adding a person or animal, changing a cloudless sky to a sunny sky with clouds.
- 1.1.26. An image that includes several subtle changes will also be considered to fall outside this definition providing the original scene continues to be accurately represented. This would cover images where a sky has been replaced and a further element such as a person or vehicle has been added.

1.5. Composite Image Rule

- 1.5.1. In a composite image the subject or dominant feature cannot be used again in another image.

1.6. Use of Third-Party Software Tools

- 1.1.27. Pre-Sets – The use of Third-Party Pre-sets is allowed.
- 1.1.28. The use of in-camera filters is allowed.
- 1.1.29. Brushes – The use of Third-Party Brushes is not allowed.
- 1.1.30. Skies – The use of Third-Party Skies is not allowed.
- 1.1.31. Textures – The use of Third-Party Textures is not allowed.
- 1.1.32. Clouds – The use of Third-Party Clouds is not allowed.
- 1.1.33. Photoshop Neural Filters – Cannot be used to add additional elements(s) to your image.
- 1.1.34. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Software to generate complete images or parts of an image is not allowed. The general use of AI to make selections or create filters is permitted.

2. Entry Requirements

2.1. Prints

- 2.1.1. The Competition Secretary will require a Support PDI in order to run Print competitions judged remotely and for easier viewing for all members on the night.
- 2.1.2. Support PDI's must be submitted to the Competition Secretary in electronic format via We Transfer.
- 2.1.3. An image can be printed by a third party.
- 2.1.4. During the life of a Print, it may only be entered once in a Monthly Competition and once in an Annual Competition.
- 2.1.5. A Print initially entered as colour in any Season can be converted into Mono and entered only once in a subsequent Season's Monthly Mono Competition.
- 2.1.6. All prints must be mounted on card no thicker than 4mm.
- 2.1.7. The maximum size of the mount is 50cm x 40cm; with one side at least 25cm. On the back of the mount, you must write:
 - 2.1.7.1. Membership No. (but not your name, for anonymity reasons)
 - 2.1.7.2. The print title.
 - 2.1.7.3. The order in which the prints should be displayed (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

1.7. Projected Digital Images (PDIs)¹

- 2.1.8. Images must be submitted to the Competition Secretary in electronic format via We Transfer.
- 2.1.9. During the life of a PDI, it may only be entered once in a Monthly Competition and once in an Annual Competition.
- 2.1.10. A PDI initially entered as colour in any Season can be converted into Mono and entered only once in a subsequent Season's Monthly Mono Competition.
- 2.1.11. The image must be saved in .jpg file format and sized 1600 pixels wide for landscape orientation or 1200 pixels high for portrait orientation.
- 2.1.12. One side should equal one of the dimensions but not exceed either.
- 2.1.13. Colour profile to be used is sRGB IEC61996-2-1.

¹ More information on preparing images as PDIs is in the MCCC document 'How to create and re-size a PDI for MCCC in JPEG file using Adobe Photoshop '.

3. Photographer of the Year

1.8. Monthly League Scoring System

- 3.1.1. Judge's marks for the Monthly Competitions (1-6) will be recorded month by month.
- 3.1.2. Judges will be told to mark as follows:
 - 3.1.2.1. 1st – 20 marks
 - 3.1.2.2. 2nd - 19½ marks
 - 3.1.2.3. 3rd – 19 marks
 - 3.1.2.4. 4th – 18½ marks
 - 3.1.2.5. 5th – 18 marks
- 3.1.3. Highly Commended – 17 ½ marks. The judge can award as many HC's as he/she likes
- 3.1.4. Commended – 17 marks. The judge can award as many C's as he/she likes
- 3.1.5. Members will be notified of their monthly cumulative marks so they can monitor their progress in the Monthly League and ultimately Photographer of the Year competition.
- 3.1.6. At the end of the season the top 10 highest marks for each entrant will be used to calculate Photographer of The Year for which there are two Awards:
 - 3.1.6.1. Photographer of The Year – Prints
 - 3.1.6.2. Photographer of The Year – PDIs
- 3.1.7. In the event of a Draw, the winner of Photographer of the Year would be decided by the photographer with the highest number of Firsts (20 marks), if this was the same then the highest number of Seconds (19½ marks) and so on.

1.9. Monthly Competitions – Print & PDI

- 3.1.8. Competitions 1, 3, 5 are Open genres therefore any subject matter is permitted. This includes images that fall within the definition of a clearly altered reality (see para. 1.4)
- 3.1.9. All other competitions will be theme based and will fall outside the definition at para 1.4.
- 3.1.10. Competition 2 is Open MONO only. This is to provide sufficient bank of work for the club to enter external dedicated mono competitions.
- 3.1.11. Competition 4 will be on a rotating genre basis in this order:
 - 3.1.11.1. Portrait
 - 3.1.11.2. Landscape
 - 3.1.11.3. Architecture
 - 3.1.11.4. Wildlife
- 3.1.12. The genre will be decided by the Committee prior to the AGM.
- 3.1.13. Members will be notified of the genre at the AGM. The genre parameters will be taken from para. 4.1.
- 3.1.14. Rules 2.1 and 2.2 apply.
- 3.1.15. There will be two Sections:
 - 3.1.15.1. Open and Themed Prints - (support PDI's of the prints are required)
 - 3.1.15.2. Open and Themed Projected Digital Images (PDIs)
- 3.1.16. You may enter both PRINT and PDI sections.

1.10. Prints

3.1.17. You may enter a maximum of THREE prints in each competition.

3.1.18. See section 2.1, above for format and sizing information for your entries.

1.11. PDIs

3.1.19. You may enter a maximum of THREE PDIs in each competition.

1.12. Entry Format

3.1.20. Entries should be titled in the following format:

3.1.20.1. 1st image file name is 1_title.jpg e.g. 1_Bittern at dawn.jpg

3.1.20.2. 2nd image file name is 2_title.jpg e.g. 2_Dog.jpg

3.1.20.3. 3rd image file name is 3_title.jpg e.g. 3_Barn Owl.jpg

3.1.20.4. Do not use punctuation marks in titles e.g. , . / ? ! : ;

3.1.21. Place the image files in a Folder of your Name (e.g. Camila Winforth) but NOT your Membership Number.

3.1.22. Please ensure your name does not appear on your prints or PDI's.

1.13. Monthly Competition 6 – Chair's Theme Competition

3.1.23. The subject / genre will be decided by the Chair before the AGM and published in the Syllabus.

3.1.24. The Theme Competition is run on the same basis as a Monthly Open Competition as it forms part of the 'Photographer of the Year' competition.

4. Annual Competitions

1.14. **Format for Prints**

- 4.1.1. Entries can be made to one or more sections within this competition.
- 4.1.2. **Open:** is any subject matter excluding those covered by the sections: Nature, Record, Portrait, Landscape. Suggested subjects include sports, action, people, street photography, photojournalism, cultivated plants, farm animals, pets.
- 4.1.3. **Nature:** meaning wild animals and wild plants in their natural or controlled surroundings e.g. Zoos. Cultivated plants, house plants, farm animals, pet animals are not acceptable and should be entered in the Open section (see Section 6 below).
- 4.1.4. **Record (Illustrative):** technical perfection in taking the image is required here in order to show the subject in detail such that it could be copied or reconstructed from the photograph. A literal rather than an artistic portrayal of the subject is required so it should be a single image of a subject. Suggested subjects include stained glass, statue, mascot, architecture detail, ornament, mechanical detail.
- 4.1.5. **Portrait:** can be either a single Human or Animal study with an emphasis on portraying the identity and character of the individual. Group shots of people to be entered in the Open section.
- 4.1.6. **Landscape:** an overall view of an area which could be a landscape, seascape, or cityscape, conveying the atmosphere of the setting. Added elements is permitted but they must be insignificant within the scene (Refer to para. 1.4).
- 4.1.7. **Mono:** the subject is unrestricted. Images entered in this section cannot be entered in any other section of the competition. Monochrome images entered in other sections of the competition will be included in that section's award only.

1.15. **Format for PDI's**

- 4.1.8. Entries can be made to one or more sections within this competition.
- 4.1.9. **Open:** is any subject matter excluding those covered by the sections: Nature, Record, Portrait, Landscape, Creative (see below). Suggested subjects include sports, action, people, street photography, photojournalism, cultivated plants, farm animals, pets.
- 4.1.10. **Nature:** meaning wild animals and wild plants in their natural or controlled surroundings e.g. Zoos. Cultivated plants, house plants, farm animals, pet animals are not acceptable and should be entered in the Open section (see Section 6 below).
- 4.1.11. **Record (Illustrative):** technical perfection in taking the image is required here in order to show the subject in detail such that it could be copied or reconstructed from the photograph. A literal rather than an artistic portrayal of the subject is required, so it should be a single image of a subject. Suggested subjects include stained glass, statue, mascot, architecture detail, ornament, mechanical detail.
- 4.1.12. **Portrait:** can be either a single Human or Animal study with an emphasis on portraying the identity and character of the individual. Group shots of people to be entered in the Open section.
- 4.1.13. **Landscape:** an overall view of an area which could be a landscape, seascape, or cityscape, conveying the atmosphere of the setting. Adding elements is permitted but they must be insignificant within the scene (Refer to para. 1.4).

4.1.14. **Mono:** the subject is unrestricted. Images entered in this section cannot be entered in any other section of the competition. Monochrome images entered in other sections of the competition will be included in that section’s award only.

4.1.15. **Creative:** the creative use of a single or multiple images to produce one image that is Clearly an Altered Reality. All images are creative to a certain extent but this is the section where the judge will expect you to let your imagination run wild.

1.16. **Number of Entries Prints**

4.1.16. You may enter a maximum of 3 entries in any one section (or classification), and up to a maximum of 10 entries in total.

4.1.17. Please provide a support PDI for each print in accordance with 2.1 above

4.1.18. In addition to the standard information, the Competition Section (or Classification) entered must appear on the back of the mount.

1.17. **Number of entries - PDI’s**

4.1.19. The total number of images must not exceed 130 so that the judge can comfortably give each image a fair critique on the night.

4.1.20. You may enter a maximum of 3 entries in any one section (or classification), and up to a maximum of 6 entries in total.

4.1.21. In the event of there being more than 130 images in total the Competition Secretary will be forced to omit images. If you make the full entry of 6 PDI’s please indicate which image you would elect to be omitted by adding the number 6 to the end of the title e.g. 1_Red Shank6.jpg

4.1.22. Image format and sizing – please refer to para. 2.1

4.1.23. Each entry/image file, must be saved in a folder of your name (but not your Membership Number). This folder should be placed in a section folder with a name relating to the relevant section (or classification). Place all section folders in a main folder of your name.

Main folder	Section Folder	Name sub-folder	Images
Camila Winforth Annual PDI	Nature	Camila Winforth	1_Red Shank.jpg 2_Long Eared Owl.jpg 3_Bog Myrtle.jpg
	Record	Camila Winforth	1_WinchesterCathedral.jpg 2_Austin6.jpg
	Portrait	Camila Winforth	1-Ted.jpg

5. Awards

1.18. General

- 5.1.1. Awards will be made for the first place in each section with 'Very Highly Commended', 'Highly Commended' and 'Commended' being awarded at the Judge's discretion.
- 5.1.2. Awards will also be made for 'Best Overall PDI', 'Best Overall Print', and 'Best Colour Print'.

6. Annual Knock-out Competition

1.19. General Information

- 6.1.1. This Competition will be run at the end of the season in an informal manner and will be judged by the Members present on that night.
- 6.1.2. You may enter up to 6 PDIs that have not been entered into any previous MCCC competition nor 'Through Your Lens'/'Through Your 'Phone'
- 6.1.3. Images entered in the Knockout Competition can be entered in subsequent competitions.
- 6.1.4. Image entry / format is documented at para. 2.1
- 6.1.5. Entries should be titled in the following format as per para. 4.4.8:

7. Nature Eligibility in PAGB Competitions (2020)

1.20. General

- 7.1.1. MCCC has adopted the PAGB definition for its Annual Nature competitions:

1.21. Nature means:

- 7.1.2. Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.

1.22. Nature includes:

- 7.1.3. Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums, and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.
- 7.1.4. Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

1.23. **Nature excludes:**

7.1.5. Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.

7.1.6. Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied. Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

1.24. **Summary**

7.1.7. An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature.

7.1.8. The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible.

7.1.9. Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

Rob Bentley
MCCC Chair
May 2024