

Shirley Photographic Society

Founded 1937

**General Rules and Competition
Rules**

Updated October 2022

SHIRLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY CLUB RULES

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General Rules

1 Name of the Society

The Society shall be known as "THE SHIRLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY" herein after referred to as the "Society" and shall be affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- to promote interest in all aspects of amateur photography through lectures and meetings
- to provide facilities for persons interested in photography to meet and exchange ideas and information

3 Membership

The Society shall consist of Honorary Members, Ordinary Members and Junior Members.

Membership implies the undertaking to comply with and abide by these Rules.

The annual subscription payable by the Members shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

3a) Honorary members

In recognition of exceptional services to the Society, the Committee may grant Honorary Membership. Such members shall pay no subscription.

Their election as Honorary Members shall entitle them to all the privileges of Ordinary Membership for life.

3b)

Ordinary Members

Ordinary Members shall be entitled to attend programme meetings, enter competitions and invite friends. They shall be entitled to hold office, vote on any proposals and make nominations.

3c)

Junior Members

Junior members shall be under the age of 18 years. They shall be entitled to the same privileges as Ordinary Members but may not hold office, nor vote nor make nominations.

3d)

Student members

The fee for students in full time education on production of a Students Union Card will be 50% of annual ordinary membership fee.

Members enrolling after 31st December

New members who are introduced and join after 31st December will at the absolute discretion of the Treasurer pay a proportion of the annual subscription.

4 Application for Membership

The acceptance of new Members shall be to the approval of the Committee. The committee reserve the right to refuse Membership.

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5 Forfeiture of Membership

Any member whose subscription is unpaid by the 31st October shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society. Such members will be reinstated on payment of their subscription, subject to the approval of the committee. The Committee reserve the right to refuse reinstatement. The committee may, at the request of two Members and after due consideration, call on a Member to resign if, for any reason, his or her connection with the Society is considered detrimental to the Society's interest. Such Members shall be afforded an opportunity of appearing before the Committee.

6 Meetings

The Society will normally meet weekly during the winter months.
Joint meetings with other Societies shall be held at the discretion of the Committee.

7 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in April each year and will be announced at the two weekly meetings immediately prior to it being held.
All Members may attend, and Honorary and Ordinary Members may vote in accordance with the rules.

8 Administration

The administration of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of Officers and Ordinary Members. The Officers of the committee shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Programme Secretary, the Competition Secretary, the External Competitions Secretary, and the Publicity Officer. In addition, there will be three Ordinary Members of the Committee. The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur during the course of the year and may co-opt further Members to cover other responsibilities and activities as necessary. Six members shall constitute a quorum at Committee meetings. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees. The Committee shall have power to draft the Competition Rules and information. The President present at any meetings shall preside as chairman and in his/her absence the senior Officer present shall be appointed chairman of the meeting and in the event of an equality of votes the chairman presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

9 Election of Officers and Committee

All Officers and Ordinary Members of Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The President may not hold office consecutively for more than two years and in normal circumstances there will be a progression from Vice President to President in successive years. The immediate Past President is not eligible for nomination as Vice-President for one year. In the event of there being no vacancy caused by an Ordinary Member resigning, the Ordinary Member of the Committee who has served the longest on the Committee shall not be eligible for re-election as an Ordinary Member of Committee for one year. In the event of there being more than one such member it shall be decided in committee which Member shall resign.

The Committee at the committee meeting immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting will ratify all other Officers and Ordinary Members of Committee that are eligible and willing to serve. *There may be contesting nominations, which will be in accordance with Rule 10.*

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10 Nominations

Nominations, to fill vacancies or contesting the present holder, are required in writing and must be received by the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations must have a Proposer, Seconded and the agreement of the Nominee. Vacancies still without a written Nomination at the Annual General Meeting may have a verbal nomination.

11 Selection Committee for External Competitions and Exhibitions

The selection Committee shall consist not less than four and not more than six other members of the Society who, by virtue of their experience or qualifications, shall be considered qualified to select work from Members to represent the Society in competitions, exhibitions and similar events. The Selection Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and all Members will be eligible for reelection. Nominations will be in accordance with Rule 10, but a Member shall not be eligible for election where Shirley Photographic Society is not the Member's "Prime Society" as described in the Competition Rules. Four elected Members shall constitute a quorum at meetings.

12 Other Appointments and Committees

There shall be other appointments and Committees, as considered necessary from time to time, in order to preserve the efficient working of the Society. They shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and all Members will be eligible for re-election. Nominations will be in accordance with Rule 10.

13 Finance

The Financial year shall commence on 1st April when annual subscriptions become due and the accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting each year. Subscriptions must be paid in full by 1st October each year for membership to continue.

The society funds will be administered by the treasurer in conjunction with the committee. Members will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred solely for the benefit of, and on behalf of the Society.

14 Outings

Outings and other similar functions will be arranged as considered desirable. Members may invite friends on such occasions where this would not result in the exclusion of Members.

15 Alteration to rules

Proposals for alterations of these Rules may be made by any three Members. Such proposals must be submitted in writing to an Officer of the Committee. Normally proposals will be considered at the Annual General Meeting, but the Committee may recommend their consideration at any other meeting. If proposals are to be considered at another meeting, the Secretary must circulate the proposals to all the Members, not less than one week prior to the meeting declared for such considerations. Such alterations shall be incorporated in the Rules of the Society if approved by a simple majority of the Members present, and in the event of equality of votes the chairman present shall not have a second or casting vote.

16 Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved only by the consent of three fourths of the Members present at such a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting shall appoint a Liquidator with powers to dispose of the total net assets of the Society after payment of all liabilities for the benefit of the Midland Counties Photographic Federation.

Competition Rules

1 General

- 1a) Print and Projected Image Competitions will be held during the programme season in order that members may obtain sound critique of their work and compete for the Society's various awards.
- 1b) In order that competition is equitable, Members will be allocated to groups, at the discretion of the Selection Committee and based on their ability/ experience. Members will compete in competitions as appropriate to their allocated class, with the exception of open class competitions such as the Print Panel. At the end of each season, at the discretion of the Selection Committee, members may be moved to another group. Members may appeal to the Selection Committee if they are dissatisfied with their allocation.
- 1c) Competitions will enable the Selection Committee to assess and select prints and images to compete against other societies or for exhibition in the Society's name on suitable occasions.
Members are expected to make available such selections that may be requested.
- 1d) In the event of a Member being an active worker in another Photographic Society or Camera Club, he/she must declare their "Prime Society" and should it not be the Shirley Photographic Society any such member may not be invited to attend any meetings of the Selection Committee.
- 1e) Entries for Competitions must be in the hands of the Competition Secretary by midnight of the Thursday two weeks prior to the Competition (unless otherwise announced).
- 1f) All entries of projected images and prints to any of the Society's activities are entirely at the owner's risk.
- 1g) Entries not complying with club rules may be rejected at the absolute discretion of the Competition Secretary.

2 Prints

- 2a) Prints must:
 - i) Contain the **Author's name** and **Title** on the back, at the top. Adjacent to the author's name, the author's preference sequence number must be included in order for (in the event of excessive entries) the Competition Secretary to remove the last sequence number should the total number of entries be excessive (as in Clause 4 "Foot note").
The competition secretary will not be held responsible for any mistakes or illegible writing.
 - ii) can be any size or format but must be mounted on standard size of 500 mm X 400 mm board.
- 2b) All original images and any subsequent manipulation (if not excluded by the rules of the competition) must be the work of the Members. The only exception to this rule is the Prints alone can be commercially printed but all other work is done by the member only (i.e. Photoshop manipulation etc. and mounting)

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3 Projected Images

- 3a)** Digital Images must be:
- i) Photographic files in JPG format, with minimum compression and sized at 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high. (Not 1600 pixels vertical). See club website for instructions on sizing images for competition.
 - ii) For images smaller than this the background surrounding the image should preferably be black.
 - iii) File names shall be in the format:
Authors name-Image Title-author's number preference for example:- **Shirley Bloggs-My Photo-1**
 - iv) Use capital letters and spaces in your name and title where they would normally appear. The competition secretary will not be held responsible for any typos or mistakes in the given title.
 - v) The author's preference sequence number must be included in order for (in the event of excessive entries) the Competition Secretary to remove the last sequence number should the total number of entries be excessive (as in Clause 4 "Foot note").
 - vi) Please do **not** put spaces before or after the hyphen. The file size of each digital image shall not exceed 2.5Mb.
- 3b)** Entries shall be forwarded to the competition secretary by e-mail, CD or memory stick, by the hand in date. The competition secretary shall not be responsible for delays in email or errors in files.

4 Entries

The **MAXIMUM** entry for each competition shall be as follows:

First Digital	up to 3 digital images
First Print	up to 3 images
Natural History	up to 2 print and/or 2 digital entries
Set Assignment	up to 2 prints and up to 2 digital images (NB: The President may change this for their particular assignment)
Panel	up to 2 print and/or 2 digital entries
Theme (People / Travel)	up to 2 print and/or 2 digital entries
Mono	up to 2 print and/or 2 digital entries
Straight out of the Camera	up to 3 digital images
Landscape	up to 2 print and/or 2 digital entries
Annual Digital	up to 3 digital images
Annual Print	up to 3 images (there is no specific requirement for a mono)
AV	1 entry
Creative	up to 3 entries

The committee may alter these numbers at the start of a season based on previous entry numbers and number of club members.

Footnote

All prints, and projected images entered shall be numbered 1, 2 etc. in order of the worker's preference. If the number of entries is excessive (ie generally >100), the number may be reduced at the Competition Secretary's discretion. This will be affected by removing the last numbered print(s) or projected image(s), or a random image if they are not numbered.

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5 Eligibility of Entries in Competitions

- 5a) Work judged in previous seasons cannot be entered into any Shirley Photographic Society competition in any format, i.e. print or digital, colour or mono (see 5c for exceptions to this rule).
- 5b) Work may not be entered more than twice during the same season in any format (see 5c for exceptions to this rule).
- 5c) Work entered as a panel or in the Christmas knockout or Bring 6 prints competitions is NOT constrained by the above rules. e.g. a single image from a panel can be entered in a later or earlier season but it then becomes subject to rules 5a and 5b above.
- 5d) In the event an image is dropped due to excessive entries it will not count as having been entered.
- 5e) Work may be entered in a panel only once.
- 5f) If the Competition Secretary is of the opinion that work entered for a print or projected image competition is so similar as to be almost identical, regardless of the title, to work previously entered by the worker in the same class, the Competition Secretary has absolute discretion to withhold that work from the competition.
- 5g) **SET ASSIGNMENT** competition
Only work entered resulting from exposure made after the date the subject has been announced are eligible for this competition.
Work can be entered into other competitions subject to the rules of that competition.

6 Subject Definitions

6(a) Landscape

A landscape should represent the pictorial aspect of an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view. It may be a countryside, sea or town scene.

It is further defined as a 'large vista' image of the natural environment (land or sea), urban or industrial settings. It may include people but these should be incidental rather than the main subject.

Only a single image should be used (except for stitching) with **minimal** manipulation to the image, all allowed adjustments must appear natural. HDR conversion is allowed and colour images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

6(b) Natural History

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.

Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible.

Nature Pictures which have been modified but preserve the truth of the statement may be entered. Any images that show an obvious alteration cannot be entered into the nature section but can be entered into the Open sections.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

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Titles should preferably be descriptive, and every effort possible made to identify the subject. Latin names may be used if wished. The title should include a (W) if the subject has been taken in its natural habitat.

Permitted	Not permitted
Any living zoological or botanical organism free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Organisms in zoos, game farms, aquariums, botanical gardens, any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food. 'Falconers' birds (jesses cannot be cloned out). Wild flowers/plants in parkland or "wild" gardens (ie not cultivated). Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild. Geological formations Weather phenomena	Domestic animals. hybrid Mounted species. Cultivated plants. Human-created plants.

6(c) Themed Competitions:

(i) People

This is wide open to imagination, as long as there is at least one person in the image it qualifies. It can be one person or a group of people, they can fill the frame or only be a fraction of the image.

Images can be colour or mono, and there are no restrictions on manipulation. The only restriction for this competition, is that there must be a person somewhere in the image.

(ii) Travel Competition

Travel photography is where the image must express the feeling of a time and place, and portray a land, its people or its distinctive features or culture, in its natural state. There are no geographical limitations. Any subject is allowed, as long as it gives the feeling of a time and a place, so it can be a landscape, environmental portrait, cityscape and even nature.

For travel images no elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. Resizing, cropping, sharpening, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original colour of the scene are allowed but no special effect filters can be applied.

6(d) The Panel Competition

A matched panel, of three or four prints or digital images, that will be displayed together, and will be judged as a set.

Entries in the panel competition may be representative of any branch of photography. The digital images should be presented in one composite image of 1600x1200 pixels (width x height).

When entering prints the layout you wish them to be presented in should be written on the back of each print. To prevent confusion label them as they will be seen from the front, ie an image to appear on the left of your panel as the judge looks at should be labelled as "Left". The Panel Competition will be judged as one section for all members and there will be two trophies presented, one for print entries, and one for digital entries.

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6(e) The Mono Competition

Any subject, any theme is eligible. Images comprising various tones of one colour (e.g Sepia), or black-and-white, are eligible. No restrictions on processing or manipulation. Composite images are allowed.

6(f) Creative

Our definition of Creative is 'Altered Reality'.

The image must obviously display a change in natural colour, form, shape, or any combination of these. Creative images are often montages (a blending or composite of multiple images). HDR images without further changes are not considered 'Altered Reality'.

All images, including textures etc, must be taken by the author. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated, provided that the original photographic content predominates: images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Creative images may be colour or monochrome.

6(g) Straight-out-of-the-Camera

The spirit of this competition is very simple, images must be taken on a camera with absolutely no manipulation allowed. Enter the image that resulted when you pressed the shutter, so not even cropped. Use of in-camera filters, such black-and-white, dramatic lighting, etc are not permitted. The only exception is to resize to 1600 x 1200 pixels, nothing else.

6(h) Christmas Knockout

Entries can be any branch of photography. There is no limit on the number of entries (digital) anyone can enter.

Files should be titled with the authors name, space and a number, eg TimH 01, TimH 02 etc The software will recognize the authors name and not place two from the same author against each other in the early rounds. If images are not titled in exactly this way the software will not be able to identify the author and so two of your images may get drawn against each other in the first round.

Competition information

7 Marking for competitions

7a) Judges will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Highly Commended and Commended as they consider are justified and appropriate to the competition they are judging.

7b) In order to arrive at a member's total marks for awards, e.g. TRICOLOUR-6 Cup and the MERIT AWARDS, the Competition Secretary will give each print or projected image the following points:-

1 POINT	for an Entry per item accepted
plus	
2 POINTS	for a Commendation
3 POINTS	for a Highly Commended
4 POINTS	for 3rd
5 POINTS	for 2nd
6 POINTS	for 1 st

7c) **Aggregate marks competition**

To be awarded to the worker achieving the highest total marks for all her/his PRINT entries entered in ALL Competitions during the season. The PRINTS are to be totalled irrespective of which competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

Note 1: Prints & projected images should retain the title under which they were originally shown within the society.

Note 2: In the event of any difficulties in the interpretation of the phrase "obviously different" the matter should be referred to the society's President (or his/her deputy), whose decision shall be final.

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8 Annual awards

These are held for one year and are as follows:

- 8.1) LANDSCAPE COLOUR TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Intermediate, Group 1 entered in the Landscape competition.
- 8.2) STRANGE TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced, Group 2 entered in the Landscape competition
- 8.3) KIRK CUP**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 entered in the Landscape competition.
- 8.4) SUFFIELD ROSE BOWL**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Intermediate, Group 1 entered in the Landscape competition.
- 8.5) BIGGS SALVER**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Advanced, Group 2 entered in the Landscape competition.
- 8.6) JOHN HOGG TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 entered in the Landscape competition.
- 8.7) ERIC JONES MEMORIAL TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Intermediate, Group 1 entered in the Natural History competition.
- 8.8) DAVID BENTLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced, Group 2 entered in the Natural History competition.
- 8.9) NORMAN J. PRUE TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 entered in the Natural History competition.
- 8.10) HUGH OWEN TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Intermediate, Group 1 entered in the Natural History competition.
- 8.11) HAYDN JONES MEMORIAL TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Advanced, Group 2 of the Natural History competition.
- 8.12) DON MALLETT TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed image from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 entered in the Natural History competition.
- 8.13) TOM BARTLETT TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best printed panel across all groups.
- 8.14) WATKINS TROPHY**
Awarded by the judge for the best projected panel across all groups.

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8.15) MOBLEY TROPHY

This will be awarded by the judge for the best print or projected image in the President's Set Assignment competition.

8.16) JOHN BURTON MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded by the judge for the best projected image or print across all groups for the Mono competition.

8.17) DON & ELSIE WARDELL TROPHY

Awarded by the judge for the best projected image or print across all groups for the Theme competition.

8.18) DAVID VENABLES SHIELD

To be awarded by the judge for the best AV entry in the Audio Visual competition.

8.19) TIMBRELL TROPHY

Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Intermediate, Group 1 in the Annual Projected image competition.

8.20) ROY HOLMES PLAQUE

Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced, Group 2 in the Annual Projected image competition.

8.21) COLOUR GOBLET

Awarded by the judge for the best projected image from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 in the Annual Projected Competition

8.22) KEN BOWLES SALVER

Awarded by the judge for the best COLOUR print from the Intermediate, Group 1 entered in the Annual Print competition.

8.23) WALKER PLAQUE

Awarded by the judge for the best COLOUR print from the Advanced, Group 2 entered in the Annual Print competition.

8.24) FRANK SMYTH MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded by the judge for the best COLOUR print from the Advanced Plus, Group 3 print in the Annual Print competition.

8.25) TRICOLOUR-6 CUP

To be awarded to the worker, regardless of group, achieving the highest total marks for all her/his projected image entries entered in all competitions during the season. The projected images are to be totalled irrespective of which of the competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

8.26) INTERMEDIATE MERIT AWARD

For the Intermediate, Group 1 worker obtaining the highest marks in the aggregate marks in all the print competitions as defined in 7c. The print images are to be totalled irrespective of which of the competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

8.27) ADVANCED MERIT AWARD

For the Advanced, worker Group 2 obtaining the highest marks in the aggregate marks in all the print competitions as defined in 7c. The print images are to be totalled irrespective of which of the competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would

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be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

8.28) ADVANCED PLUS MERIT AWARD

For the Advanced Plus, Group 3 worker obtaining the highest marks in the aggregate marks in all the print competitions as defined in 7c. The print images are to be totalled irrespective of which of the competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

8.29) PETER WOODBRIDGE TROPHY

To be awarded to the worker, regardless of group, achieving the highest total marks for all her/his image entries entered in all competitions during the season. The projected and printed images are to be totalled irrespective of which of the competitions they were entered, provided that they are all obviously different (i.e. as would be appreciated by a casual observer). In the event of a tie between two or more workers they shall be recognised as joint holders, the trophy being held by each person for an equal period.

8.30) PATRICK BARLOW AWARD

An illuminated scroll presented at the discretion of the President to a member for Outstanding Service to the Society.

9 Certificates

9a) Certificates will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in all competitions and to all trophy winners.

9b) It is intended that a balance is maintained whereby the award of a certificate shall have an achievement value, but yet also generate encouragement by not being too difficult to win.

10 Interclub competitions

Rules as laid down by common agreement between competing societies /clubs

Notes

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