

## **Galashiels Camera Club - Annual Competition Rules**

Members should enter as Standard or Beginner as per their designated class throughout the season. Entries may include images used in previous monthly competitions but **not** those entered in any previous Annual Competition.

There are four categories: General, Landscape, Nature, and People. A maximum of **three** projected images and **three** prints may be entered in each category. Each member could, theoretically, enter 24 images. All images must be marked with the category in which they are entered.

**Digital images** should be submitted on CD, DVD, SD card, CF card, or memory stick, marked with the member's name and membership number. With the agreement of the Competition Secretary, they may also be submitted by **email**.

Images must be submitted in JPG format, with maximum pixel dimensions of 1600 horizontally and 1200 vertically. Images should be submitted in sRGB colour space. Images not correctly resized will be resized by the club.

Image file names must be as follows: The category letter eg "L" for landscape, the entrant's membership number (2 digits) followed by a single blank, then the title as on the entry form (e.g. "L 06 Borrowdale Sunrise.jpg"), no longer than 50 characters in total.

Beginners may submit image files straight from the camera (full size as jpg), and the filename format will not be enforced. Image files will be adjusted to suit by the club.

Digitised Colour slides are acceptable, resized to 1600 x 1200 px, as DPI submissions. (If you need help copying slides to Digital format, contact the Competition secretary)

**Prints** should be marked on the back with a letter in brackets: (G) General, (L) Landscape, (N) Nature, (P) People. Then the Title. E.g. L 06 "Borrowdale Sunset"

Prints must be mounted with a maximum mount size of 16" x 20" (40 cm x 50 cm), with the category, author's membership number and image Title on the back of the mount. The minimum size of the print area is 6" x 4" (15 cm x 10 cm).

**Home-processed prints** must be marked with an "H" on the back. Home processing is a throwback to the old days of darkroom processing, which still applies, however, this now includes using an inkjet printer at home i.e. not printed by a photo lab.

**General** means any subject not fitting into one of the other three categories.

**Landscape** may be interpreted as the portrayal of a place, an open vista. It includes land (wild or cultivated), sea, urban, industrial, sky and even the weather.

**Nature** should conform to the FIAP definition of "living untamed animals and uncultivated plants in their natural habitat, geology and other natural phenomena. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens and aquariums, provided that no human elements are visible e.g. enclosure fences, man-made structures, etc.

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, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. **No** techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted, including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed.

Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images must be wholly the work of the author and be no more than **three years old** at the start (Opening Night) of the season during which the competition is held. Minor components of a composite image may be older but not the main component. The three-year rule will apply from the start of the 2017-18 season.

**People** images include both portraits and more general images of people, but not portraits of animals.

### **Images and AI Generated content**

Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer. Composite Images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement.

For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks, textures and clipart are not permitted.

The use of AI software is allowed provided all images used have been taken by you, and only your own photographs are used in the processing. No modifications are allowed based on AI generated text input or generated using images or elements not taken by the photographer. RAW files or jpegs (incl. neighbouring jpegs) may be requested if there is any doubt of the eligibility of the entry.

There are no restrictions on using software that is called 'AI' such as Photoshop or Lightroom we have all been using these programs and 'AI' tools for years within previous versions of Photoshop etc. This is because AI (or AI Assisted) uses existing image content only when processing the image.

We wish to ensure that all parts of the finished photograph have been taken by the author. We therefore do not allow those 'AI' features that 'Generate' content using other people's imagery or text prompts. This is because AI Generate (or Generative AI) has human-like intelligence, and imports new content into the image, so some or all of the pixels in the image will no longer have been taken by the author.

Key features in Photoshop or Lightroom to avoid that 'generate' content include - Generate Image', Generative Fill', 'Generative Expand', 'Generative Remove', and Text Prompts or Effects. There isn't an overall switch to disable all 'AI Generate' features in Lightroom or Photoshop, it is handled on a tool-by-tool basis.

This does not mean that a tool such as the Remove tool cannot be used. In both Lightroom and Photoshop, the remove tool has an option to untick 'Generative AI' or turn off 'Generative AI' in Photoshop (on the options bar). If 'Generative AI' is turned off, the tool still uses the

advantages of the new AI Firefly, but it uses it as a Content-Aware removal tool, meaning it is using the information from the photographer's own picture to replace the area, not imagery from other people's photographs, so no infringement of our rules.

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**Awards** will be made in each of the categories and in both classes as follows:

a) **Projected Image – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Commended(s)**

b) **Print - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Commended**

c) In addition, **Trophies** will be awarded for the following: -

Best **B&W Print**

Best **Colour Print** (Home or Trade processed)

Best **Projected Image**

Best **General Image** (B&W, Colour Print or Projected Image)

Best **Landscape** (B&W, Colour Print or Projected Image)

Best **Nature** (B&W, Colour Print or Projected Image)

Best **People** (B&W, Colour Print or Projected Image)

Best **Home Processed Print** (H)

Best **Overall** (Burns Trophy)

Best **Beginner** in Annual Competition (Neil McLean Trophy)

Out with the Annual competition: The following presentations will be made **on the night**:

**Best newcomer:** for contributions to the club during the current season. This applies to new members only (Committee decision)

**Highest total point scorers** in the monthly competitions during the season:

1) Projected Image

2) Print

3) Best Beginner (if appropriate)

In the case of dispute, the decision of the Committee will be final.