

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PSA) INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS



Belmont 16s Photography Club is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and that allows our club to enter the PSA Interclub competitions. These competitions enable clubs from all over the world to compete against one another in the following categories:

- Pictorial - Colour
- Pictorial - Monochrome
- Nature
- Photojournalism
- Photo Travel

Both colour or monochrome images are permitted in the Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel section.

How the competitions are organised

There are three Rounds in each competition and they occur in November, February and April.

The club entry in each category in each Round consists of *six* images and they must come from six different club members. Individual club members are permitted to have an entry in more than one category in each Round and *ALL club members are eligible to enter*.

Entries for **Round 1** must be submitted by 1st November to give time for the selections to be made. Entries are made for the club web page where monthly competition entries are uploaded. Each club member can submit **one image in each section** in each Round.

After entries close the entries are scored by the club's Advanced Grade members or others who have done the club's judge training course. The six highest scoring images in each section then become the club entry for that section.

Images that are not selected for Round 1 are automatically transferred to Round 2 but members are encouraged to change their entries if they receive low scores. The six highest scoring images are not transferred to the next Round because *once an image is included in a club entry it cannot be entered again in any section in any year*.

After the images are submitted to PSA by your club representative they are judged in a Group where we are competing against 20-25 clubs from various countries. Scores are given to each image. There are awards for the highest scoring images and the points for the club accumulate over the three Rounds to determine the best club in the Group (for each section - Nature, etc). The Groups are graded according to the performance of the club over the years in which they compete - it is league table in which the best performing clubs in each section get promoted and poor performing clubs get demoted for the following year's competition.

Prior to Round 1 of each completion, the club members who wish to participate must sign a release form that will permit the PSA to display their images on the PSA website and/or in the PSA Journal. These release forms can be downloaded from the club website and they are also available from Roy Killen. If you do not sign the release form your images can not be selected to represent the club.

Note: Some of our club members are also members of other clubs that participate in the PSA Interclub competitions (Wangi club for example). Those members may participate in the PSA Interclub competitions through only ONE club.

Why enter?

There is no fee for entering these competitions. They provide an additional opportunity for club members to share their images and see how the standard of their images compares with the images of other club members across all grades. It is not unusual for B Grade members to have images selected to represent our club.

The primary purpose of the competitions is to provide an opportunity to compare the standard of images in our club with the images produced by clubs across the world.

How to enter

Entries are made on the Belmont 16s website in the same way that entries for normal monthly competitions are submitted. Image dimensions and file sizes are the same as for club compositions (maximum of 1920 x 1200 pixels and 2MB). To enter, do the following:

1. Log in to the Belmont 16s website and click on the “Members” button (top right of the home page).
2. Select the competition you want to enter by clicking on the appropriate *green* button on the right half of the page (for example, “PSA Interclub Photojournalism”).
3. Select and upload your image in the same way that you do this for monthly club competitions. The system will allow you to enter only one image in each section of the Interclub competition (Nature, PJ, etc). Your images do NOT have to be ones that you have previously entered in club competitions.

Judging

The club entries in each Group are judged by a Host Club from another Group. Images are scored from 1 to 5 by three judges (giving a maximum possible total score of 15). 10% of the images in the Group are eligible for Merit awards and a further 10% are eligible for HM awards, based on the highest scores and judges’ discussion.

End of Year

Top Clubs: Group Standings are kept and represent a club’s total scores from each Round of judging. The top three clubs in every group are determined at the end of the competition

season based on these scores. The top scoring club in each group receives a Plaque. The 2nd and 3rd place clubs receive a Certificate.

Best of the Best: All Merit Images from each round are judged again to determine the Best of the Best for each group. The End of Year Image Awards given are a Gold Medal, Silver Medal and Bronze Medal, with Best of the Best Honourable Mention Images receiving ribbons.

The Best of Show is chosen from all Gold Medal Images from each group and is awarded a Best of Show Plaque.

Definitions

COLOUR

Any photograph that is not monochrome. It includes a monochrome photograph that has been partially toned or had some colour added. Images entered in open colour competitions may be processed or altered in any way. There are no restrictions on subject matter.

MONOCHROME

Any photograph containing shades of only one colour. If tinting is carried out, it must be over the total photograph – partial tinting and/or the addition of one extra colour is NOT acceptable in the monochrome section. Images entered in monochrome competitions may be processed or altered in any way if they remain monochrome. There are no restrictions on subject matter.

PHOTO TRAVEL

A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All images must look natural.

NATURE

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or

capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells.

High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural. Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed.

Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

No modification that changes the truth of a Nature image is allowed. Images may be cropped but no other technique that removes, adds or moves any part of the image is allowed.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and lens flare are allowed.

Complete conversion of colour images to greyscale monochrome is allowed. Partial conversion, toning and infrared captures or conversions are not allowed.

Images of the same subject that are combined in camera or with software by focus stacking or exposure blending are allowed. Multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively and combined in camera or with software (image stitching) are allowed.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality. Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise and restoration of the appearance of the existing scene, or complete conversion to full monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not eligible.

When *Human Interest* is specified, those images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding sports action.

If you have any questions about the PSA Interclub competitions please email Roy Killen at roykillen@mac.com

For more information about the Photographic Society of America you can visit their website <https://psa-photo.org> PSA offers many benefits for individual members (such as free online courses and study groups) and Roy Killen can give you more information about those benefits.