

## **Selecting images for external Club competitions**

As a Society, we participate in a number of external competitions each season. Some of these competitions involve relatively few clubs and take place face-to-face at club meetings; some are very large, involve many clubs and require prints or PDIs to be despatched to third parties for them to be judged either privately or in public. Some competitions also have a fun element as old rivalries are re-visited but all have one serious purpose and that is to test ourselves against our peers to see where we rank in the overall standard. It also enables us to see whether we're making progress year on year.

When you join LSAPS, you sign a declaration authorising us, among other things, to use your images to represent the Society in external club competitions, so you might wonder how those selections are made and why one of your images has - or has not - been picked.

Each competition has its own set of criteria and these vary from one to the other. It's the job of our External Competitions Secretary to carefully consider which of our many images best fit the criteria for a particular competition. They have digital copies of all Print and PDI entries to review and they obviously take into account how images performed in any recent internal club competitions. Whilst different judges' assessments of the same image may vary, frankly there's little point in submitting something which has scored badly in the past. This is especially important in those external competitions where you might only be allowed to submit 12 or 15 entries in total; or, for example, a total of 5 in each category. Having made their selection the Competition Secretary prepares a short list of entries which is circulated to the Council and those selected are contacted directly. Unavoidably, there's a degree of subjectivity involved in the selection of images - how can there not be when you're choosing between similar images that have had similar scores in the past - but reference to the relevant criteria keeps this to a minimum.

Most people are flattered or honoured to represent their club but it's a fact that some names will come up more frequently than others. This is simply because - as we all know - some members consistently excel in competitions; and who wouldn't use some of those images? The proof of the pudding is, as they say, in the eating and this season (2018/19) we have fared well in external competitions, vindicating our selections. We might not be the top of the heap yet but we are making steady progress.