



Overview of Competitions in TDCC

In our camera club, we pride ourselves in making our competitions fun, interactive, educational, and most importantly, structured to help our members develop new skills, or improve existing skills. Each competition is typically preceded by a presentation or a workshop so that we can learn from experts, then put that to use in an upcoming competition. We have 3 Digital Competitions and 3 Print Competitions each year – members can enter up to 2 photos in each Competition.

In the case of Digital Competitions, members upload their images to Dropbox two weeks before the Competition Evening. The Competition Secretary then uploads these images to TDCC's Info Centre so that all members can view and score the images, at their own pace, in advance of the Competition Evening. On the evening, we present all the images on a large screen with a high-quality projector and ask an external judge to critique several of the images. We then conclude the evening by announcing the winners of the Competition – based only on the member's votes. Members benefit both from the experience of analysing other member's images and getting feedback from the Judge, which leads to improvements in their photography skills.

For Print Competitions, members advise the Competition Secretary of their planned entries one week before, and on the Competition Evening, members bring their prints and mount them on our display boards. We give every Member a paper form to score the images, and following the evening, the Competition Team adds up all the scores and announces the winner by email. We also have an external judge on the evening who will choose some of the photographs and give his/her feedback on the work.

We recognise that members have a wide range of skills – from people who have brought their first camera or mobile, through to professional photographers. To make the Competitions fairer and more enjoyable, we organise folks in to 3 groups – Improvers, Intermediate and Advanced. For each Competition, there is a winner and two runners-up in each group.

At the end of the season, we give prizes to the members in each Group who achieved the highest ranking for their best 8 photographs across the season. If a person has been doing well in their group and wants to continue to be challenged, then we encourage them to move up a group in the next season.