

Morecambe Camera Club

Competition Guidelines & Rules

(to be ratified at 2026 AGM)

Competitions Overview

The club prides itself on being a friendly group of people all with a common interest in capturing and creating images. Experienced members are more than willing to provide practical guidance to those less experienced. We hold regular competitions throughout the year to give members an opportunity to put their skills into practice, and these are a great way to improve and get feedback on your photography.

We use visiting judges who provide constructive feedback on all entries and allocate either 1st, 2nd, 3rd place then Commended or Highly Commended awards to images they feel deserving. Images entered in the competitions may be displayed on the club website (unless the competition secretary is notified otherwise). They may also be used to publicise the club via local press, etc.

The club also enters inter-club competitions with other local clubs and those organised by the Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union (L&CPU). It is assumed that any images entered in club competitions can be used in these inter-club events.

General Rules

- There's no time limit on when an image was taken, although more recent work is encouraged.
- File names should be the image title (this will be displayed on the screen during the competition – please check spellings)
- The maximum number of images allowed to be entered in monthly competitions is a total of 4 spread across any sections (generally there are 3 sections in monthly competition: Nature, Set Subject & Open).
- Members are not permitted to submit entries for the Annual Competitions unless they have already entered into at least two Monthly Competitions (exceptions will be made for new members who have joined part way through the season).
- Entries should be submitted by the dates specified in the programme. Late entries may not be accepted.
- Images should be submitted by email to competitions.mcc@gmail.com (entries will be accepted on memory sticks handed in by the deadline. All entries received will be acknowledged by email).
- Images that qualify for the Nature section may not be entered into the Open section of the monthly competitions, but they may be entered into the Set Subject section if appropriate for the topic.
- Manipulation of Images (applies to all classes except Nature): most types of creative in-camera and post-production editing and manipulation are allowed. This includes panoramic stitching, HDR, filters, multiple images or layers, artwork and computer graphics, as long as the original photographic content predominates and is the work solely of the photographer. No third party clip-art images, textures or overlays are permitted.
- Permitted AI-enhanced editing includes editing tools that perform transformations, enhancements or corrections based exclusively on the existing pixel data captured in the author's original photograph. Prohibited AI editing includes AI-assisted processes for synthetic image generation that incorporates external image data, visual elements, textures, objects or scenes not originally present in the author's photograph.¹

Nature Images²

- Composite images are not accepted in the Nature sections
- Nature means images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an Image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.
- Nature includes:
Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.
- Nature excludes:
Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants.
Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied.
- Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.
- An Image appearing to meet these criteria will be accepted as Nature.
- The Judges will normally assume that any Image presented to them is eligible.
- Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then Photographers warrant that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences.

Restrictions on Resubmissions

- If an image has placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Monthly Competition that image is not eligible for entry into any future Monthly Competition. They will however still be eligible for entry into a future Annual Competition. Unplaced Images (or close variations) should not be entered more than twice in Monthly Competitions.
- No image having been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the Annual Competition shall be eligible for entry into any further Competition
- No image is eligible for entry into more than one section of the Annual Competition. Except, on the annual judging night, the winning image from each section of the annuals gets automatic entry into the 'best in show' section.

Image size

Where possible images entered in club competitions should comply with the requirements for L&CPU competitions – currently this means the height should not exceed 1200 pixels and the width should not exceed 1600 pixels. Images should be saved as highest quality jpegs in sRGB colour space. Don't get hung up on this if you're not sure about re-sizing images or setting colour space – just email your entries to competitions.mc@gmail.com.

¹ Based on FIAP guidelines published in [PAGB e-news, 15 January 2026](#)

² Based on 2025 L&CPU rules