CAMERA CLUB JUDGING: THE FIRST YEAR

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GOSFORTH CC

WHAT WE WILL TALK ABOUT

- Why judge?
- The logistics
- Common pitfalls
- Good practice
- Improving your craft

WHY JUDGE?

- Competitions are a staple of CC/PS calendars
- Amateurs want to improve
- It can be fun!
- Provide points for discussion/debate
- More judges retiring
- New perspectives

WHY NOT JUDGE?

- It is a subjective opinion, and a single one, at that
- Competitions generally focus on the single image
- Beginners can be easily put off/discouraged
- Improvement becomes focused on judges comments

THE LOGISTICS

- Initial enthusiasm!
- Not understanding the time commitment
- Pricing/expenses
- PDI vs prints

COMMON PITFALLS

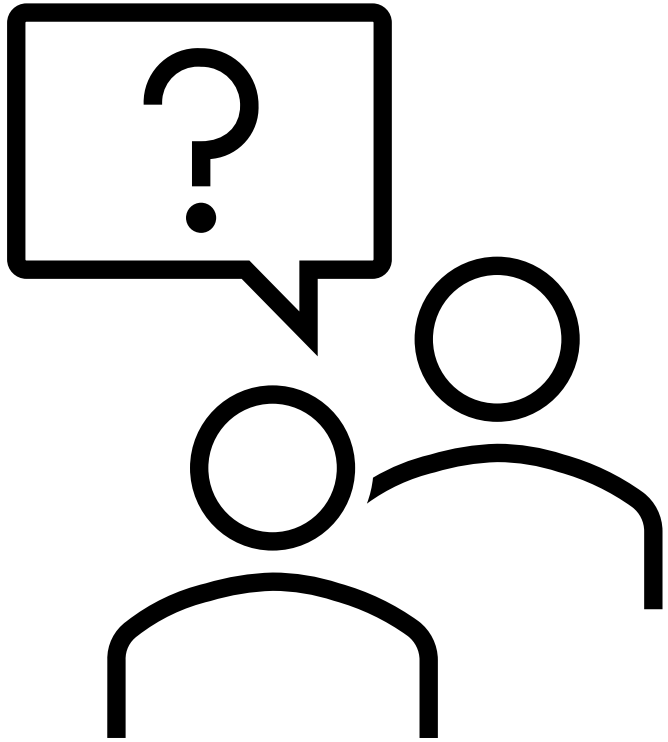
- Being too amenable, taking on too much
- Being rigid about ‘rules’
- Under or over-emphasising technical aspects
- Compulsive reactions
- Stock answers and using the old cliches too often
- ‘Changing’
- Placing ‘easy’ genres highly – wildlife, portraiture
- What about if you have nothing to say?

COMMON PITFALLS – **DO NOT**

- Take on >1 session per month to start with
- Assume the competitions secretaries will give you all the information you require in the invite
- Assume that all entries will abide by competition rules
- Assume all the images will be present and accounted for
- Assume the club will have the PDIs on the night
- Forget to take prints with you on the night
- Assume there will be a podium/place to rest your device/paper
- Forget to confirm start and finish times
- Call something a ‘record shot’

GOOD PRACTICE

- Stick to time
- Keep a diary!
- Read instructions carefully – Scoring? Themes? Number of places and HC/C?
- Check images on receipt – number, integrity
- Provide a short introduction about yourself, your photographic experience and judging experience
- Broaden your horizons

IMPROVING YOUR CRAFT

- Understand the limitations of your vocabulary and try to expand
- Practice evaluating any image you see in under 2 minutes
- A beginners guide to pictures – Stuart Oring
- Borrow from good judges you have seen
- Learn to include general comments everyone can learn from as well as specific comments