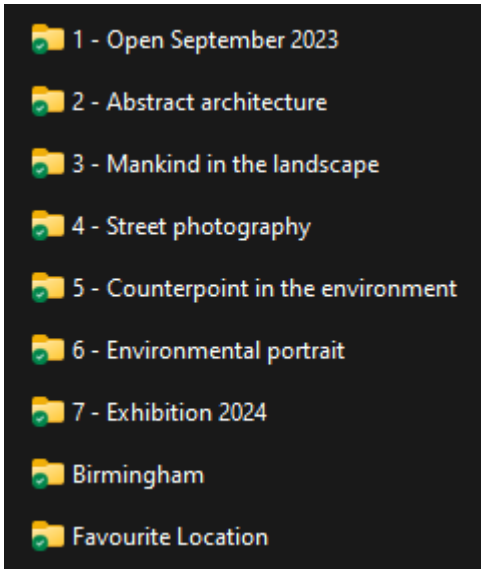
TDCC Competitions – Entering Competitions
Needs updating with new system

Anyone who is entering competitions is required to install Dropbox; free accounts are available – download the Dropbox app from https://www.Dropbox.com/desktop , install it and set up an account. Do not agree to part with money at any time. This will give you 2 Gbytes of storage for free.

Once you have installed Dropbox, ask the IT Manager (Alvin Roussel – club.tech.tdcc@gmail.com) to grant you access to a set of folders which are your own, and allow you to enter images for competitions and other thing such as Meetups. You will receive an "invitation" email, and you need to accep the invite. (For more guidance on Dropbox, see the document "Setting up Dropbox" which is also in the Info Centre in the Competition Information section).

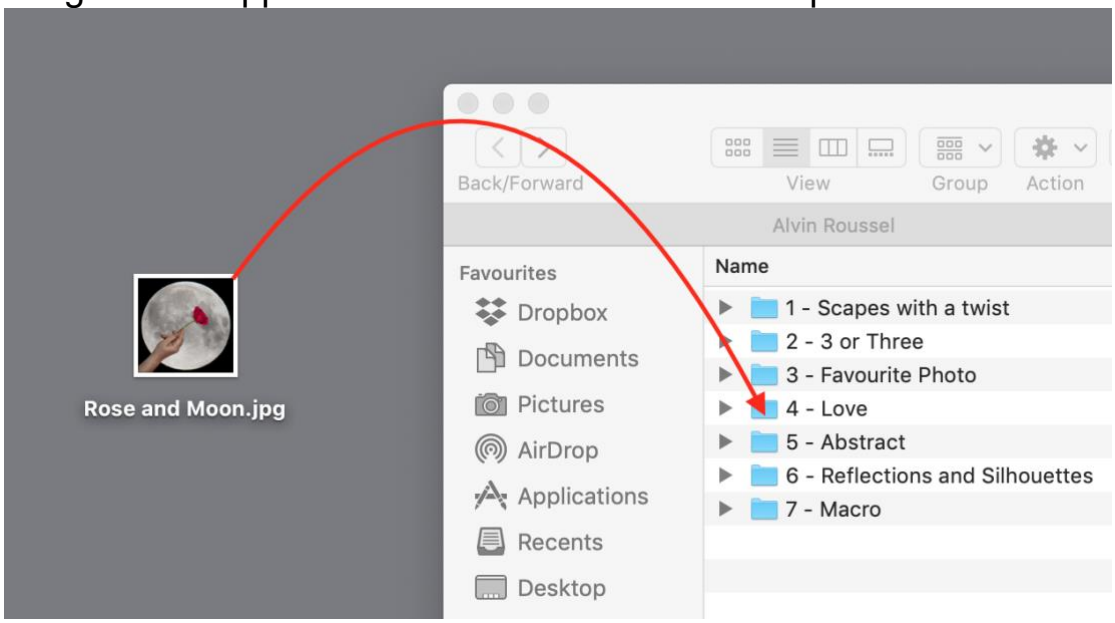
Here is an example of folders that you'll see when you have got access to your folders:



Any member entering either a Digital Competition is **required** to copy their images into the appropriate folder. For Print Competitions, images should be put in a Dropbox folder, **if at all possible**. Examples of cases where this is not possible are montages or prints from film.

The image files should be given the exact names to be used when members are presented with the lists of images to score.

Use of Dropbox and Image Names for Digital & Print Competitions
Image names are the name you give to the image, nothing more. These image names are what you want members to see when they are scoring your image, for example, "A beach at Sunset". Whatever you type is exactly what will appear in the Info Centre or on printed scoresheets. So, do not include underscores, your name, the competition name or anything else that would look odd when your image name appears on a scoresheet. For example:



You can upload your competition entries into your Dropbox any time before the competition deadlines. This may be helpful if you are travelling as a deadline approaches.

Print Competitions

Print Competitions work like this:

- The Competition Team will email everyone reminders of the deadline before the Competition Evening.
- Anyone submitting images should do so before the deadline specified, which is usually 4 days before the Competition Evening:
- It is **essential** that you copy in to Dropbox the digital versions of the 1 or 2 images that you intend to print and bring on the evening. Once you have done this, there is nothing more you need to do, other then bring your printed & mounted images to the Competion Evening. If you cannot provide digital versions, please contact the Competition Team (club.competitions.tdcc@gmail.com) for guidance.
- You can use the Info Centre to confirm that the Competition Team have received your entries.
- After the deadline, the Competition Team then emails each member with the numbers assigned to their images and prepares scoresheets for the Competition Evening.

- On the Competition Evening, members should bring their printed images to place on the club's exhibition boards by 7:45pm:
    - It looks best if the images are mounted, but not essential (they should NOT be framed)
    - Please ensure the mount boards have Velcro dots/pads (hook type) to enable the board to "stick" to the exhibition boards
    - Many members bring A4 or similar sized prints. Larger or smaller prints are acceptable, but the print and its mount **should not exceed** an area of 320 sq inches (e.g. 16" x 20" or 40cm x 50 cm)
    - Numbers will already have been placed on the exhibition boards – please mount your picture at the appropriate place, unless directed otherwise by the Competition Team
- The Competition Team will give every member attending a clipboard and scoresheet to allow them to review all the images and score them before the tea break. Members should give their own images a score of 0, or an "X". PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SCORESHEET.
- After the tea break, a guest Judge will select a number of images that piqued their interest and give the club some constructive feedback on the images
- A few days after the Competition Evening, the Competition Team will email the results, winners and runners-up in each group. The competition entries will also be placed on the web site so they can be viewed by anyone who could not attend the evening.

Digital Competitions

Due to the complexity of setting up the Digital Competitions, your entries may be rejected if you do not follow the process. OK that sounded a little bit strict, but it really does help if you can help us by taking the following steps:

- The Competition Team will remind everyone a few times before the Competition Evening and will announce a deadline for submissions
- Anyone submitting images should place full resolution jpg/jpeg image(s) into the appropriate competition Dropbox folder. A minimum resolution of 1920x1080 is recommended. There isn't a maximum limit, but there is a point at which no extra benefit is realized from submitting bigger files, simply because most people will not have a monitor that will display higher resolutions. Submitted images must not exceed 10mb otherwise they will be rejected. THERE IS NO NEED TO TELL THE COMPETITION TEAM ABOUT YOUR ENTRIES
- Images are submitted to the competition simply by copying them in to the appropriate Dropbox folder
- You use the Info Centre to check your images have been received by the Competition Team (see the Competition Handbook Supplement for more information)
- After the deadline, the Competition Team will email the club to announce that scoring can now commence, and a pdf list of the images will be attached.

Members can then use the Info Centre to score the images (author's names are not shown and EXIF data is removed from the images)

- As many members as possible are requested to score the images in the competition with scores between 12 and 20. When submitting the scores, members should assign a score of 0 to their own images.
- The Competition Team will review the submitted scoring forms and create a digital presentation to show the submitted images and the results
- A guest Judge will attend on the Competition Night to give feedback on at least one image per author. To allow the Judge to prepare, the Competition Team will send the images to the Judge in advance. Typically this will be the highest scoring image for each author, but the Competition Team may choose other images if the Judge's feedback would be useful to all members.
- On Competition Night, the typical format is:
    - All images are shown in a short slide show
    - The highest scoring image from each member will be reviewed by a guest judge so that constructive feedback can be given
    - The results will be announced

The Competitions Team has a lot of work to do for Digital Competitions, so again it is stressed that the process above should be followed carefully.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions are much simpler, and the process is:

- No need to provide digital images in dropbox
- Just turn up on the night with your mounted prints and put them on any display board where there is space
- Either on your mount, or on a strip below, give the name of your image and your name

Members are free to bring friends and family to the Exhibition evening. They still need to pay for coffee or tea though ☺

Image Content, Manipulation, and Use of "AI"

It is acceptable to use AI in certain situations, but only in line with the PAGB guidance below.

- The predominant image content must be directly derived from original photographic image(s) which are entirely the work of the entrant; images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.
- The use of any source images which are generated by any image generation programs, including those that are "AI-based", is forbidden.
- We accept that the use of "AI-based" editing tools in image editors such as Photoshop is becoming increasingly prevalent in photographers' workflows.

- We do allow the use of "AI-based" tools in Photoshop, Lightroom, and similar editing programs, including noise reduction and sharpening, but with limitations outlined below.
- The use of tools like (but not limited to) Photoshop's Remove and Generative Fill must be limited to a small area of the final image (no more than around 10% total area) and the resultant product of such tools must be akin to manipulating the image with a clone/stamp tool.
- The use of any tool which introduces a significant visual element which is not in your own source photographs is forbidden. For example, Generative Fill may or may not be allowed depending on whether it introduces new visual element(s). It is acceptable to remove minor distractions and/or extend the canvas in any direction by a small amount, filling the blank area sympathetically with the existing background.