Simple Guide to Preparing for Competitions

This guide is designed to help you think through what images you might use in a competition and some tips on how you might adjust the image to maximise the score you might receive.

Prior to a Competition:

- It is useful to first read the rules of our competitions – there are few! They can be found by clicking the link of the Competitions Zone page.
- You are provided with a brief of the competitions for the following seasons straight after Christmas. A link to the briefs are found on the Competitions Zone page. You will find a summary and also a fuller presentation that gives ideas for what kind of images may work well in each competition. So you have plenty of time to prepare.
- Read the brief carefully – it is important that you match the brief as far as possible.
- Look through your stock to see if any are suitable – or could be changed to become suitable
- If no stock, then think through some ideas for images that might work and get using your camera!
- There are a wide range of workshops that you could attend – a few recommendations of these can be found in a link on the Club Zone.

Tips for Preparing an Image for Entry to a Competition:

- First: after initial processing, leave the image for up to a week, so you can review it with fresh eyes.
- Check the story / imagery versus the brief – use the title to encourage the viewer to understand the image better.
- Check the crop – does it support the story / imagery?
- Check for distractions – remove, using remove tools or cropping
- Zoom in on your entire image and check for spots / aberrations
- Check the light – most good images ‘glow’ and have brightness
- Check there are no overblown highlights
- Check the focus – especially of the focal point – if short Depth of Field, then check it work effectively.
- If your image contains a horizon, it MUST be horizontal unless deliberately not

Ask your yourself – would I score this image high, if not, why not? Then be prepared to tweak it to improve the image.

These tips reflect those that are common mistakes seen when judging – so can help you score higher.

For more details of how to enter either a print of digital competition, return to the Competitions Zone and click on the link “How to make entries to TDCC Competition”.