

Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union



Annual Individual Print & Projected Image Competition

9th & 10th May 2026

Rules and Guidelines

Judges

Mike Sharples	MPAGB ARPS EFIAP FBPR
Richard Spurdens	EFIAP/p DPAGB BPE4
Ralph Duckett	MPAGB EFIAP/p APAGB

This Competition will be held in camera

Online Entry Opens	Saturday 28 March 2026 @ 00:01
Online Entry Closes	Saturday 25 April 2026 @ 23:59
Prints	Prints taken to drop off points no later than Friday 8 May 2026

Overview

This is the L&CPU Annual Individuals event, where all club members are invited to select and submit their own images.

- PDI - two categories:
 - Open (which includes colour and monochrome)
 - Nature
- Prints - three categories:
 - Open Colour
 - Open Monochrome
 - Nature

Photographer of the Year will be awarded to the individual who achieves the highest combined score of all their images within the respective sections.

The L&CPU entry for the **PAGB Inter-Federation Championship**, held in June each year, is selected from the print entries submitted to this competition. In addition, the content of the **Folio** boxes and the selection for the **L&CPU Annual Exhibition** are also drawn from these same print entries.

Return of Prints

Please note the following regarding the return of prints:

- If your print is selected for the **PAGB Inter Fed Championship**, it may also be retained for inclusion in the following year's Folio. In this case, your print may not be returned for up to 24 months.
- The content of the **Folio** boxes is compiled from the print entries submitted to this competition. If your print is chosen for the Folio, it will not be returned for at least 12 months.
- Selections for the **L&CPU Annual Exhibition** are also made from these entries. If your print is chosen for the Exhibition, it will not be returned for at least 12 months.

Rules

1	This competition is open to all L&CPU Federated Clubs
2	The categories are as follows: a) PDI – Open b) PDI - Nature c) Prints – Open Colour d) Prints – Open Monochrome e) Prints – Nature
3	Entries a) A photographer may enter up to four (4) images in categories (b) (c) (d) & (e), eight (8) images in (a) b) Nature images must be entered into the Nature Sections c) Composite images are not accepted in the Nature sections d) The overall result is based on the total score of all your images in the respective sections e) An Image, including the front of a print mount, must not display any of the Photographer's name or their Club.
4	Eligibility a) Club members may only enter images for one club b) Only bona fide members of that club may enter c) Except for final printing, images entered must be entirely the work of the stated photographer d) An image (or one significantly similar) must not have been entered into any L&CPU Individuals Competition previously e) An image (or one significantly similar) may only be used once, in one category within this competition f) Images constructed from or that include royalty/copyright free/AI generated images are not acceptable http://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/guidance_ai.pdf g) Club members must live within the Federation catchment area ie Lancashire (incl Greater Manchester) and Cheshire and I.O.M. Images entered on behalf of or by an individual who does not live within the catchment area are not eligible, unless the club has obtained an approval for that photographer from the PAGB. (See PAGB 'Guidance – Photographer Eligibility') http://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/guidance_photographereligibility.pdf
5	Nature (this definition is taken from PAGB definition of Nature and has been adopted by the L&CPU) a) All Nature images must be entered into the Nature Sections b) Composite images are not accepted in the Nature sections c) 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. d) Nature includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent

	<p>on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.</p> <p>e) Nature excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images where the subjects are obviously domestic animals or plants. • Images where an obviously artistic treatment has been applied. <p>f) 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	Awards
	<p>a) In addition to the section awards there will be three other awards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Print Photographer of the Year ○ Projected Digital Image Photographer of the Year ○ Photographer of the Year <p>b) In the event of a draw, those individuals will share the trophy</p>
7	PDIs
	<p>a) PDI (Projected Digital Images) must be within 1600 px (horizontal) x 1200 px (vertical) in jpeg format, in sRGB colour space (including mono)</p> <p>b) The entry system will not accept a file size of more than 2mb</p>
8	Prints
	<p>a) Prints can be mounted on card and backed, 50cm x 40cm and no thicker than 4mm.</p> <p>b) Alternatively prints can be mounted on 50cm x 40cm card with a window opening and the print secured on the back with framers tape.</p> <p>c) A digital file of each print must be uploaded to the portal</p> <p>d) Print labels generated by the portal must be affixed to the back of your print entries, on the top right-hand corner; these contain a barcode which is used in the administration of the competition. All other labels on the back of the print should be removed or blanked to make them unusable.</p> <p>e) A copy of the club entry form must be included within your print box, along with the prints</p>
9	The L&CPU delegates decisions on eligibility to the discretion of each event organiser and their decision is final
10	The L&CPU reserve the right to use prints and PDI's for Folios, Exhibitions and PAGB competitions
11	Prints from this competition may be retained for L&CPU Folios, Exhibitions and PAGB competitions

Guidelines

1	<p>Submission of Entries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entries can be made by Club Competition Secretaries via the L&CPU Information Portal online competition entry system at https://lcpu-portal.org/ If you are unsure, email competitions@lcpu.org.uk • Individual authors can upload their own entry through the L&CPU portal by using their email address and password. • An individual password can be sought by selecting the 'request password' option on the Portal log in page
2	<p>Dual Club Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Competition Secretaries must exercise caution when using images from members who are part of another club within this or another federation. Duplicate submissions may result in disqualification.
3	<p>Print Management & Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For practical reasons the delivery of print boxes should be through the club competition secretary • If a print is not backed with card, it is likely to be less robust and therefore probably more prone to damage
4	<p>Colour and monochrome versions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour & Mono versions of the same image are likely to be considered identical unless the artistic treatment differs significantly.
5	<p>Same Title, Different Authors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images with the same title, submitted by different authors, are treated as distinct images
6	<p>Image Manipulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulated images are welcome in all sections except Nature, provided the manipulation is carried out by the author
7	<p>Nature v Open Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature rules apply strictly to images in the Nature section. However, pictorial composites are permitted in the Open section
8	<p>AI-Generated Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI generated images, whether partially or entirely created by AI, are not permitted. However AI tools may be used for selection or enhancement of an image
9	<p>L&CPU Publicity Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By entering, authors grant the L&CPU the right to display digital versions of their images in L&CPU publicity materials, including the L&CPU website and Focal Points
10	<p>Author Accreditations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competition software allows up to 3 accreditations per author. Enter accreditations in the following order: RPS, PAGB, and then any others
11	<p>Trophy Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winning clubs are responsible for returning trophies in good condition and in a timely manner for the following year's competition

Awards

Photographer of the Year	Grand total from all 5 categories	Gold medal
PDI Photographer of the Year	Result is calculated by the total scores of all images entered in each category	Gold medal
Print Photographer of the Year	Result is calculated by the total scores of all images entered in each category	Gold medal
Best Digital Open worker	Result is calculated from the images entered in the Open category	
Best Digital Nature worker	Result is calculated from the images entered in the Nature category	
Best Print Open worker	Result is calculated from the prints entered in the Open category	
Best Print Nature worker	Result is calculated from the prints entered in the Nature category	
Best Print Mono worker	Result is calculated from the prints entered in the Mono category	
Judges Choice	The judges will select a number of images from each category Gold, silver and bronze Commended	Gold award – medal & certificate Silver award – ribbon and certificate Bronze – ribbon and certificate Commended - certificate