

THE POSTAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB RULES - ISSUED 1st MAY, 2007

1. OVERVIEW

The Postal Photographic Club, formerly The Half Plate Postal Club, was founded in 1937 by George A. Slight, A.R.P.S, the Founder President. The club was renamed on 1st January 2000 to replace the old name, which meant little to prospective young members. It is a photographic club which conducts its operations through the post. Membership is open to amateur and professional photographers alike, using cameras of any type, film based or digital, and prints from chemical processes or computer controlled digital printers. The use of high street D&P shops / mini labs to produce prints is acceptable, but members are encouraged to home process.

Membership is divided into circles of up to 15 members, each circle specialising in either monochrome prints, colour prints, colour slides or digitally manipulated prints. Although all circles accept the submission of digital work, the purpose of digital circles is to encourage the manipulation of photographic images in the pursuit of "photo art", using digital means. The other circles are expected to limit any digital manipulation to replicate effects that are achievable in a conventional darkroom. (see Digital Imaging Policy below)

Membership brings with it the right to receive the FOLIO at regular intervals, usually monthly. The folio then becomes the equivalent of the clubroom, lecture room, print display and platform of the normal photographic club. The folio holds prints / slides, which have been submitted for comment, a notebook for members' photographic discussions and conversations and any necessary stationery for the smooth running of the circle.

Originally the maximum size of print was limited to Half Plate size, 4¾ x 6½ inch, mounted 5 x 7 inch, hence the original club name, but this has since been increased to a maximum print size of 5 x 7 inch mounted within the official club folder. Slides must be in 2" x 2" mounts, i.e. usually 35mm format.

THE AIM OF THE CLUB IS TO PROMOTE ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE. To this end members are pledged to do certain things. One print / slide per month, of the member's own work, must be provided for inclusion in the folio. This duty gets the member into the habit of preparing a print or slide at regular intervals, which is as good as he / she is able to make, thus providing the practice that makes perfect. Every member has to give a written appreciation and comment of the folio prints / slides in the folio, preferably without having first read the comments of others. Such comments help to instruct the maker of the image, but, even more, provide a valuable educative exercise which sharpens artistic perception and leads to better picture making by the critic, an exercise which, being in writing, should not be rushed. The ability to evaluate good work is strengthened by arranging the prints / slides in order of merit and assigning scores. Finally, in the pages of the notebook, opinions and experiences are exchanged and, at the same time, friendships begun and established.

Each circle is under the control of a circle secretary whose tasks are to prepare each folio for despatch and ensure the inclusion of all necessary stationery. In addition the circle secretary collates the results of completed folios, identifies and retains the top three prints for submission to the Founders Cup Competition,

despatches folios each month and tracks the circulation of each folio, to ensure a smooth and timely passage around all circle members.

The circle secretaries, together with the Club President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Storekeeper, Competition Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Editor and any other officers appointed by the committee, form the Club Committee who will meet to discuss club business at least once a year, usually at the club's annual rally.

Each circle, through the circle secretary, retains considerable freedom to operate in a manner agreed by its members within the guidelines of this document. The intake of a new member to a circle is at the discretion of the circle secretary relative to the particular circumstance of that circle at the time.

To further encourage a high standard of folio entry a number of trophies and certificates are awarded annually in The Founder's Cup Competition. All entries for this competition will have already been awarded a top three place in one of the print circle folios during the 12 months prior to the competition:

The Founders Cup - awarded for the best print overall.

The Floyd Landscape Trophy - awarded for the best landscape print.

The Norman Richards Portrait Cup - awarded for the best portrait print.

The Singleton Trophy - awarded to the best-wet process print.

Up to 10 certificates of merit each, for Commended, Highly Commended and Very Highly Commended prints.

The Travelling Exhibition is selected from prints submitted by members for the Annual Print Competition (up to six per member per circle membership) and the following trophies are awarded:

The Ellis Martin Cup - to the circle achieving the highest average score

The Challenge Cup - for the best print in the exhibition.

The Maurice MacDowell Cup - for the best colour print in the exhibition.

The Jack Cowper Tannadice Salver - for the best monochrome print in the exhibition.

The Andrew Emond Trophy - for the best landscape print in the exhibition.

The Harry Ridgway Cup - for the best portrait in the exhibition.

The Scottish Quaich - for the best action shot in the exhibition.

The Singleton Rose Bowl - for the best architectural print in the exhibition.

10 certificates of merit

The Annual Colour Slide Competition is selected from 35mm colour slides submitted by members (up to six per member per circle membership) and the following trophies are awarded:

Dorothy MacDowell Salver - awarded for the best slide in the competition.

Thomas Langley Trophy - awarded for best natural history slide in the competition.

10 certificates of merit.

Membership of the Postal Photographic Club is restricted to those who live in the British Isles because of possible delays in the circulation of folios due to overseas postage, customs etc.

The club logo which appears on stationery was designed to be symbolic of the unity of the organisation, the black and white semi-circles standing for the circles which unite The Postal Photographic Club.

2. DIGITAL IMAGING POLICY

Images produced using traditional silver based photographic methods and / or electronic technology can be used by members for all circle and club activities, unless specifically excluded. The original image may be recorded by a camera using silver based or computer based electronic media. In addition to the established print and slide circles, the club will include circles dedicated to digital imaging and the creative potential of the computerised medium. All parts of the image must be the photographers' own work. Copyright free and other imported images are not permitted.

Digital Imaging Circles

Initially the circle members will use prints mounted on the standard club folders, but other electronic storage and transmittal methods may be considered in the future. Workers may use the full range of image generating facilities and creative techniques available to them, producing monochrome or coloured images that do not necessarily reproduce photographic methods.

All Other Circles

The other circles will restrict the type of photographic image to that defined in their title. The type of camera used and the method by which these images are made need not be limited to the conventional film / wet chemical methods. The worker should identify the process used and any manipulation that has been carried out. Computer manipulation must replicate methods produced in conventional photography.

If they wish, individual circles have the right to decide not to include the use of images produced by these alternative methods in their circle. As it is difficult to be precise when defining the boundaries between image manipulation in photographic, computer generated and other artistic methods, ultimately fellow circle members will have to say if they consider someone has stepped outside the limits.

Approved at the PPC Committee Meeting, September 2001.

THE RULES

1. The club shall be called “The Postal Photographic Club”.
2. The club shall be run by a “Policy, Organisation and Rules Committee” with executive powers and composed of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Storekeeper, Publicity Secretary, the Editor of the club's official magazine “Photonews” and the Circle Secretaries. The committee shall have powers to co-opt members not exceeding numerically the number of circle secretaries.
3. The object of the Club is the promotion of artistic and technical excellence. Towards this aim the portfolio of photographic prints or slides, photographed and contributed by members is to be circulated each month together with a notebook. Entries may be made by any process and may have been taken on any type of camera (see Overview for expansion of this topic).
4. The maximum size of prints is limited to 7 x 5 inches (17.5 x 12.5 cm)
5. Prints shall be mounted in the official club folder, consisting of lightweight card of 10 x 7 inch folded in book form to 5 x 7 inch, incorporating a data sheet and two folded sheets of 10 x 7 inch paper for comments. The front of the folder shall show Club logo, Club name, Title of Print, Name and Address of print author, and spaces for voting index, folio number, circle number and date submitted. The print shall be mounted on the inside face of the front cover. The data sheet shall be comprehensively laid out to allow all required photographic data to be recorded by the author. A similar folder to be used for the slide folios.
6. Each member shall provide an entry for each round of the folio, either directly to the circle secretary or by placing it in the appropriate pack in each folio consignment. Whilst all efforts will be made by members to ensure that no damage is incurred to entries, no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage.
7. All members are expected to do their best to contribute a short constructive comment to each print or slide, written on the blank pages in each folder, and, as far as possible, take part in the notebook discussions.
8. Members shall dispatch the portfolios in accordance with the schedule provided, and advise the circle secretary of the scores assigned and destination and date of dispatch. Members who habitually delay portfolios or fail to provide an entry for three consecutive months without providing adequate reason will, at the circle secretaries discretion, be removed from membership of that circle.
9. There will be an Annual Subscription (amount determined by AGM for the following year) due on 1st January each year, with penalty for late payment. New members joining after 1st January will pay their first years subscription at the full rate up to the end of July and at half rate from August. The Annual Subscription is not returnable on resignation. Membership of more than one circle will not incur additional subscription.
10. Members no longer taking part in active folio work but who wish to keep in touch with the Club may apply for Associate Membership with a reduced subscription to be set by AGM. The General Secretary will send associate members copies of the club magazine and general circulars issued.