



The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Briefing Notes for Judges

PAGB Competitions

1. As you know, it is not the function of judges to tell us what sort of pictures they like or dislike, but to tell us how well done the picture is for one of its type. You should recognise the value of every genre of photography, including Studio Work as well as Nature; Traditional as well as Creative; Architectural as well as Still Life; People as well as Animals and Birds.
2. This is the best the UK has to offer this year and you should please hit lots of 5s. If there is an error, it is better that the score is too high, rather than too low.
3. Consistency is important when there are several rounds. If you believe the score you gave earlier was wrong, then you shouldn't be afraid to admit it but, if a picture drops 2 or 3 points from one round to another, then the audience's confidence in the judges is damaged. Most do not feel so strongly about scores increasing!
4. It is not necessary to agree a consensus with the other judges and you should keep discussion to a minimum. Make up your own mind and do not be influenced unnecessarily by the others, or by any previous knowledge of the photograph.
5. The 2 button should be used fairly infrequently or not at all, as you should remember that the Club/Federation has already selected these pictures and has chosen them as the best that they have. If there are particularly very poor pictures, then the 2 may be used but you must be consistent. We have observed absurd situations where a Club's result has been ruined by a very low score of 6 or 7 whilst similar images from other Clubs have scored more

Nature in Open Events and Categories

Nature work should be judged on its pictorial merit. Interesting content of nature photographs is obviously crucial as it is with all genre, but, especially in an Open category, judges should ask themselves why (say) a picture of a Lion standing proud, looking at the camera is any worthier of a high score than (say) an equally well arranged Large Dog.

Nature Events and Categories

PAGB competitions decide Nature eligibility based solely on the appearance of the image rather than compliance with provenance, such as is defined in the familiar but separate FIAP/PSA definition. You should judge the image based on its story telling and pictorial merits rather than on any opinion you may have of how it was obtained. If you think that the image content is implausible, then that could affect your opinion.

Titles of Nature images are usually factual. Descriptive titles of the subject, although common, are not required. Alternative styles include statements of situation or behaviour. We do not normally expect images to be judged on the basis of their titles.

Exhibitions with PAGB Patronage

Photographic Alliance (PAGB) Patronage is a quality mark recognising that suitable standards will be maintained by the Organiser of an Event (PAGB Patronage Requirements). The following indicates standards which the PAGB expects to be met during judging.

An Open Exhibition should include all genre of photography within the Acceptances. The PAGB expects you to vote on whether the picture is good of its type and not to apply personal likes or dislikes to your voting.

Individual category Exhibitions will have their own rules for eligibility. Nature Exhibitions, for example may or may not use the PAGB eligibility criteria. The Exhibition Chairman must brief the judges and the judges *should* follow that briefing.

Your personal views can come into play when choosing the awards.

The Exhibition Chairman should not quote a figure for the percentage of Acceptances required prior to the marking. The selectors should mark each image without having to think 'am I accepting too many'. It is then the job of the organisers to decide the cut off to achieve the required number of Acceptances, even if this requires the selectors to split a mark band.

Marking (4 Band System)

2- Definitely OUT. Well below standard. Should be used very sparingly.

3 - OUT Below standard required.

4 – IN General Level of Acceptance.

5 – Definitely IN Possible Award or just very good of its type

Note A vote of 9 (3x3) will give a rejection just the same as any of 6, 7 or 8, but will give the entrant some encouragement to enter next time.