



WELCOME TO

Dunchurch Photographic Society

Your friendly guide to membership, club life and competitions



BELONG

A welcoming community
for every level of
photographer



CREATE

Print and projected-image
competitions throughout
the season



SHARE

Members' evenings, exhibitions,
feedback and friendship

Take part at your own pace. Ask questions. Try something new.

We are very glad you are here.

A warm welcome

Dunchurch Photographic Society brings together people who enjoy making, sharing and talking about photographs — from complete beginners to experienced image-makers.

Club language and routines can feel unfamiliar at first. This pack explains the essentials in plain English, so you can join in with confidence and find the parts of society life that suit you best.

HELLO

There is no “right” way to take part. Come to listen, enter a competition, bring work to a members’ evening, volunteer at the exhibition or simply enjoy the company. Participation is encouraged, never forced.

What you can look forward to

Club evenings Talks, demonstrations, critiques and the chance to learn from other photographers.	Members’ evenings Relaxed “show and tell” sessions where members share images, techniques or equipment.
Competitions Print and Projected Digital Image events designed to stretch your creativity and provide useful feedback.	Annual exhibition A chance to show work publicly and help welcome visitors to the society.

Your first few weeks

- Introduce yourself - members will be happy to help you find your feet.
- Look out for your PhotoEntry login from the Competition Secretary.
- Check the current programme and competition closing dates.
- Put your name on the tea and coffee rota when you are ready.
- Bring questions. No one expects a new member to know every process or abbreviation

NOTE

A note about this guide This is a friendly explanation of the published information. The current society rules, annual programme, PhotoEntry listings and notices from the committee take priority if anything changes.

MEMBERSHIP

The society rules, in plain English

The formal rules describe an open, member-led club with elected officers, clear decision-making and fair procedures. Joining the society means agreeing to follow them.

1

Who can join?

Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. The society is affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation.

2

Elected officers.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Syllabus Secretary are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

3

The committee

The officers and four elected members manage the society, joined by the Immediate Past Chairman and Honorary President as ex-officio members. A committee member attending fewer than half of club meetings may be asked to resign from the committee.

4

Co-opted help

The committee may co-opt a society member to serve until the following AGM.

5

Annual subscription

Members set the following year's subscription at the AGM. It is payable at the first meeting of the club year.

6

Formal admission

A membership candidate is proposed by one member and seconded by another. The committee may accept or reject the application at an ordinary committee meeting.

7

Following the rules

Membership includes an undertaking to comply with and abide by the society rules.

8

Quorums

Six people form a quorum at a committee meeting. At a general meeting, 30% of the membership forms a quorum.

you

What this means for you The society belongs to its members. You can vote at general meetings, stand for elected roles and help shape the club — while respecting the processes that keep decisions fair.

MEMBERSHIP

Meetings, conduct and continuity

These rules protect members' voices, the society's finances and the fair handling of sensitive situations.

9

Calling a special meeting

At least 30% of ordinary members may request a special meeting. The written request must state its purpose and reach the Secretary at least 14 days before the proposed date.

10

Records and finances

The Secretary keeps minutes and handles correspondence. The Treasurer collects subscriptions and authorised monies, prepares a year-end balance sheet for the AGM, and arranges an external audit approved by members.

11

Fair conduct procedure

The committee may expel a member or ask them to resign. Where an accusation is made, the member must have a full and reasonable opportunity to respond and bring witnesses at a later meeting. The member may appeal to a Special General Meeting. The proceedings are confidential.

12

Subscriptions in arrears

The committee may remove a member from the membership list when their subscription is more than three months overdue.

13

Resigning

A member whose subscription is not in arrears may resign at any time by notifying the Honorary Secretary.

14

If the society closes

A Special General Meeting appoints a liquidator and decides how the society's assets will be disposed of.

15

Guests and prospective members

Members may occasionally invite guests. Prospective members are normally expected to join after two visits.

16

Subgroups

The committee may approve subgroups. Participants should be full society members, and each subgroup should cover its own running costs.

17

Changing the rules

Rules may be changed only at an AGM or at a special meeting called under Rule 9.

SPIRIT

Friendly club culture

The formal rules are the framework; the everyday spirit is simpler: be considerate, support fellow members, contribute when you can, and treat people and their photographs with respect.

COMPETITIONS

How entries work

Competitions are there to help members share their work, experiment, receive constructive feedback and enjoy a little friendly challenge.

Two ways to enter

PRINTS	PDI
Physical photographs, mounted and handed in at the club. You must also upload a digital version to the PhotoEntry System.	Projected Digital Images: JPEG files displayed through the club projector.

The entry process

1	Receive your login	The Competition Secretary will email your PhotoEntry username and password after you join.
2	Choose the event	Open the relevant competition in PhotoEntry and check its subject, sections and current closing information.
3	Submit by Wednesday	Online entries close on the Wednesday before the competition. Prints must also be handed in by that deadline.
4	Check your preparation	Use the print or PDI checklist below before submitting.

Preparation checklists

PRINT CHECKLIST	PDI CHECKLIST
- Mounted; maximum mount size 50 cm × 40 cm. - Maximum thickness 5 mm. - On the back, top-left: image title, your name and "Dunchurch PS". - Upload a digital version to PhotoEntry - Handed in by the competition closing Wednesday.	- JPEG file in the sRGB colour space. - Maximum 3840 pixels wide × 2160 pixels high. - Submitted through PhotoEntry by the closing Wednesday. - Optional: a very thin 1–2 pixel border can help show the image edge clearly on projection.
	Why "Dunchurch PS" goes on print labels It identifies the club if a print is selected for an inter-club battle.

COMPETITIONS

Quick-reference table

Entry allowances below are taken from the society's new-member guide. Subjects and dates in the Merit competition change, so always check the current season's programme and PhotoEntry listing.

Competition	Theme or Subject	Prints	PDI's
Summer Challenge	Photographs taken during the summer recess	2	2
Gerry Coyle Memorial	Best colour print	3	—
Merit Competition	Three rounds; a different subject each round; highest total score wins	2 / round	2 / round
John Hughes Trophy	Best monochrome print	3	—
President's Trophy	Best projected image, any subject	—	3
Toft / Wally Mills Nature	Best nature image; restrained, honest processing	2	2

A few useful definitions

- Any subject / open subject means you choose the subject matter, unless the current competition notice adds a restriction.
- Monochrome means the image is presented in tones of a single colour rather than full colour. Check the current competition rules for the formal definition used by the society.
- Nature entries must remain "honest": the you are allowed to adjust basic levels, saturation and straightening a wonky horizon, but no significant editing.
- Merit subjects are announced for each round. The overall winner is the photographer with the highest score after Round 3.



New to competition? Start with one image you enjoy. Treat the judge's comments as one informed viewpoint, keep what helps, and remember that entering is already a useful creative step.

COMPETITION GUIDE

Summer, colour and the Merit rounds

Every event offers a different creative prompt. The notes below explain the published purpose and entry allowance, followed by a friendly starting suggestion.

Summer Challenge SEASON OPENER

Entry allowance: Up to 2 prints and 2 PDIs

Images must have been taken during the society's summer recess. It is an inviting way to begin the new club year and share what caught your eye while regular meetings were paused.

A helpful way to approach it: Choose images that say something about your summer — a place, a person, an event, a detail or an unexpected Moment that still fits within the theme of the competition (if there is one specified).

Gerry Coyle Memorial BEST COLOUR PRINT

Entry allowance: Up to 3 prints

A print-only competition for the strongest colour photograph.

Colour should be an important part of the image's impact, whether it is bold, subtle, harmonious or deliberately contrasting.

A helpful way to approach it: Ask whether the image would lose something essential without its colour. Pay particular attention to print brightness, colour balance and mounting.

Merit Competition THREE-ROUND SERIES

Entry allowance: Up to 2 prints and 2 PDIs in each round

The Merit competition is a single competition that runs across three rounds. Each round has a different subject which are announced at the AGM, and the overall winner is the photographer with the highest cumulative score after the third round.

A helpful way to approach it: Think of it as a season-long project. Read each subject carefully, plan early and use what you learn in one round to strengthen the next.

BRIEF

Check the exact subject wording A set subject can be interpreted broadly, but the judge will still consider how clearly the image answers the brief. Use the wording shown in the current programme and PhotoEntry.

COMPETITION GUIDE

Monochrome, open PDI and nature

These trophy events focus on a particular medium or photographic approach. Entry limits are those shown in the new-member guide.

John Hughes Trophy BEST MONOCHROME PRINT

Entry allowance: Up to 3 prints

A print-only competition for monochrome work. With colour removed, the viewer's attention falls more strongly on light, tone, shape, texture, timing and composition.

A helpful way to approach it: Look for a full tonal range that suits the subject. Monochrome is not simply a colour image with saturation removed — decide what the treatment adds.

President's Trophy BEST PDI • ANY SUBJECT

Entry allowance: Up to 3 PDIs

An open-subject competition for Projected Digital Images. You may choose any subject, making this a good opportunity to enter work that represents your own interests and style.

A helpful way to approach it: Select images that hold attention on a projected screen. Check the 1600 × 1200 limit, sRGB colour and edge detail before uploading.

Toft Trophy / Wally Mills Trophy BEST NATURE IMAGE

Entry allowance: Up to 2 prints and 2 PDIs

The nature competition covers both print and projected entries. Images must be "honest": the new-member guide says no significant editing, apart from basic levels, saturation and correcting a wonky horizon.

A helpful way to approach it: Put natural behaviour, habitat, detail or atmosphere first. Keep processing restrained and avoid changes that alter the truth of the scene.

CLUB LIFE

More than competitions

The society's most valuable moments often happen between the formal programme items: conversations over tea, shared experiments, new friendships and the confidence to show a photograph for the first time.

Members' evenings Informal, enjoyable sessions. Members may demonstrate a technique or piece of equipment, or simply share favourite images in a relaxed "show and tell". Everyone is welcome to contribute.	Annual exhibition The society aims to organise an exhibition, normally at the Floor One Gallery in Rugby Library. Members are encouraged to submit images of any subject; they do not need to have appeared in a competition.
Exhibition stewarding The exhibition needs member volunteers in timed sessions to welcome visitors, answer questions and represent the society.	Tea and coffee rota The mid-evening break is shared fairly. Two members take responsibility for making refreshments and clearing up, and everyone is asked to take a turn.
Invite a guest Members may occasionally bring guests. Prospective members can visit twice before they are normally expected to join.	Ask for help Whether it is PhotoEntry, mounting, resizing, printing or choosing an image, ask. Club knowledge is there to be shared.

Useful contacts and links

Website	Open website
New-member guide	Open new-member guide
Secretary	secretary@dunchurchps.com
Chair	chairman@dunchurchps.com
 One final thought This is your society. Take part as much as feels comfortable, ask questions and enjoy the process. The club is looking forward to seeing your photographs.	

WELCOME – WE ARE GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED US!