

KCC Photo Group have a series of competitions throughout the season (from September to April) and all members of KCCPG are eligible to submit entries.

**Competition entries must be submitted as MLSlide (.kdb) files.** The procedure for compiling and submitting the files is given below.

Please enter **your name consistently in MLSlide** for every competition, so that your images are attributed to you throughout the season. (For example, Joseph Bloggs and Joe Bloggs will appear as separate individuals in the league table).

To ensure the judge has time to comment on images, if the total number of images is too large, then the final image (last listed in MLSlide) from each member will be removed.

NOTE: The usual maximum image age (2 years old) is not applicable this season. We do encourage you to take images for specific competitions, but it is not mandatory.

REMEMBER: You may submit any image in your portfolio which has not been submitted previously. The PDI of the Year competition allows you to resubmit an entry used earlier in the season.

## Themed Competitions (Held in Summer, Autumn, Winter, and Spring)

Each evening includes two projected digital image (PDI) competitions each with a subject.

**Subject definitions are found on the website.** Members may submit **two images for each subject**, giving a maximum of four per competition evening.

## Three on a Theme

Members may enter **up to two panels of three images**. Each panel should have a theme across three images with a title that reflects the theme. The title will be read out and the judge shown the panel of three images, followed by the three images in turn.

Examples include:

Birds of Prey: Eagle, Hawk, Kestrel

Human Life: Baby, Teenager, Elderly Person

Canal Scene: Winter, Summer, Autumn

Guy Fawkes Night: Crowd scene, bonfire, fireworks/sparkler.

Clock: Egg timer, dandelion seed head, Big Ben.

Sails/Sales: Shopping sales, boat sails, windmill sails

Quay/Key: Harbour quay, key(s) for a lock, piano keys

There is no rule about whether the images show subjects as a whole or detail thereof, for all or any of the three images.

All images can be from any year and can include images used in other competitions. However, the panel must not have previously been submitted.

### Guidance on Preparing your Panel

- Select three competition-quality images. The panel will be judged on the individual image qualities *and* how well they sit together, giving one score for each panel.
- Images should be balanced for colour and arranged to produce a harmonious set.
- All the images must be in a single horizontal row on a black background, but can include a mixture of landscape, square and portrait orientation images.

### PDI of the Year (Colour and Monochrome)

**Up to three projected images** may be submitted for each PDI of the Year competition.

Images already submitted to this season's competitions can be used here.

### Print of the Year (Colour and Monochrome)

**Up to two colour and two monochrome prints** may be submitted. MLSSlide files must be submitted in advance and prints brought on the night.

Images may be used in other competitions in the season.

### Take Three (formerly 'Take Five')

Members can submit **up to three PDI images** for this fun competition (judged internally). This does not count toward Photographer of the Year, but a prize will be awarded for the highest score.

It is an ideal opportunity to include unusual/experimental images, your personal favourites, or images for which you would like feedback from other members of the club.

### Compiling competition entries

Competition entries are handled through a computer application called **MLSSlide**. Full details on downloading, installing, and using MLSSlide are found here:-

<https://www.kccphotogroup.org/pdi-print-export>

**It is important that you have downloaded and installed the latest competition definitions file**, as described on the web page. The link to the current competition definitions file is on the **Exporting PDI & Print Image Files** web page:-

<https://www.kccphotogroup.org/pdi-print-export>

To install the current definitions file:-

- Download the file and unzip it.
- Launch MLSSlide.
- Click the **Manage Definitions File** command item.
- Drag and drop the unzipped definitions file into the upper left pane of the **Competition Definitions** window.

- Right-click on the new competition definitions entry and choose **Set as Competition List** from the contextual menu. The list of competitions should update to reflect those of the current season.
- Click the **Close** button.

Note that submitted images should be a maximum of **1,600 pixels wide and 1,200 pixels high**.

You may add a border to your image either before or after resizing.

The colour space used in MLSlide is **sRGB**, so to ensure proper display of the image you should convert the image to sRGB if it was recorded in a different colour space (e.g. Adobe RGB).

### **Quick Start Guide to Compiling Entries in MLSlide**

- Ensure you have installed the current season's competition definition file (see above link). You only need to do this **once per season**.
- Choose **Create new project**. Enter your name and select the competition. The remaining fields will be filled in automatically from the competition definitions.
- Click **OK** and choose location to save MLSlide competition file; leave the filename in default format.
- Drag and drop your images into the MLSlide image list pane, or choose **Add image(s) to project** to select your image files.
- Choose **Edit selected entry title** and enter the correct title for your images if necessary (the images are named using the file name by default).
  - The title is read out when the images are judged. It should be simple, complement the image, and help the judge interpret the author's work.
- As you make changes MLSlide automatically updates the .kdb competition file. When you are finished, choose **Quit** to leave the application.

### **Compiling Three on a Theme Panels in MLSlide**

- Choose **Create new project**. Enter your name and choose **Three on a Theme** from the competition menu.
- Drag three image files into the MLSlide image list pane, or choose **Add a Panel Set to Project** and select your three panel image files.
- The MLSlide display will show four images: the panel itself and your three images **in the order you want them to be shown**. To reorder the images, right click on an image and choose the appropriate option.
- **MLSlide will automatically generate a combined panel**. This can be used, or the user may insert their own panel image, but this must have the three images in a straight, horizontal line, against a black background.
- Repeat in the same project window for each panel to be entered.
- **Edit selected entry title** and enter the correct title for your panels.

## **Submitting Entries**

MLSlide files containing compiled competition entries must be submitted by the deadline specified in the KCCPG Secretary's email, sent prior to the competition. This is generally

**midnight of the Friday before the competition**, but may change as needed. The deadline should be considered absolute.

Members are reminded that submitted images must be entirely their own work.

## Transferring Entries

### ***Direct upload to the KCCPG Dropbox***

- Entries **must** be submitted as MLSlide .kdb files. **Do not submit JPEG image files.**
- In your browser, go to <https://tinyurl.com/kccpgcompupload>.
  - NOTE: **This URL has changed since the 2023-24 season**; be sure to update your bookmarks!
- Drag and drop your MLSlide file(s) where indicated, or click the **Add Stuff** button to use an open file dialog box.
- You will get visual confirmation that the files have been uploaded successfully.
- The competition secretary will get automatic notification of your entry; you need do nothing else.

### **OR Email entries to Competition Secretary**

- If you are having trouble with the server submission, you may email your .kdb file to [kcccompetitionentry@gmail.com](mailto:kcccompetitionentry@gmail.com).

## Photographer of the Year

Over the course of the season, members accrue points from the following competitions:

- **Themed competition:** two highest scores from each competition evening.
- **Three on a theme:** one highest score.
- **Colour/Mono Print/PDI of the Year:** two highest scores per competition evening.

In summary, one score will contribute if fewer than three entries are judged, two scores in the case of three or four entries and three scores in the (rare) case of five or more entries.

This highest scoring member at the end of the season is the **Photographer of the Year**.

## Malcolm Taylor Trophy

To be eligible, members must: (a) have never won a KCC Photo Group competition (including the current season) *and* (b) not hold a professional photographic qualification or photographic distinction from the RPS or PAGB.

The qualifying member with the highest total (counted as described for Photographer of the Year) wins the **Malcolm Taylor Trophy**.

## External Competitions

Each year a pool of high-quality images will be used to compete in the **Rosebowl Interclub Competition** arranged by the **Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (CACC)**. Normally these are from the previous season and have received favourable feedback from judges.

Friendly interclub battles with other clubs are also arranged from time to time.