

# Proposed changes to meeting structure for BPC - 2013



## Introduction

The BPC management committee has been examining the club programme recently after some strong feedback received from members regarding the normal competition process.

Given the large focus on competition, but little time for image discussion and improvement a proposal for changes to the club meeting schedule has been developed for 2013. The changes would result in having:

- competitions 1 in 3 meetings
- workshop/events 1 in 3 meetings
- group image discussions 1 in 3 meetings

Additionally, a change to the number of times an image and variants is presented has been proposed.

The reduction in the number of competition meetings is relatively small. We have 23 meetings per year, including the AGM, Annual Exhibition and Awards night. The remaining 20 nights are split equally between 10 competitions and 10 workshops/events. Under the new meeting structure, we will have 7 competitions per year, 7 group discussions and 6 workshops/events. We may choose as a club to have 6 discussions and 7 workshops/events. The result is actually an increase in the extent of image viewing and discussion.

Discussing images may also lead to other members finding new inspiration for their images rather than working in isolation. Many artistic educational courses have group critiques to both inspire and improve the work of the participants.

To improve the critique, BPC members will be encouraged to attend the SAPF judging school.

To assist those seeking more competition/exhibition involvement, we will maintain & promote a list of competitions & exhibitions in the wider community, and make that available to club members.

## Proposed group image discussion procedure for BPC

Each participant will be allowed to bring up to 3 images, or groups of images if they wish to discuss them as a set (ie if they have 3 versions of the same thing that they would like to obtain an opinion of), but may not necessarily be seen or discussed on the night.

Images would be viewed in a round of viewing, with only 1 image per person (or group of images) commented on in that round. With sufficient time additional rounds of viewing could be performed. This ensures that everyone submitting images has at least one image (or set) commented upon. The preferred method of display is as projected images to ensure effective use of time.

For such a meeting to work, a chairperson and a panel of members (maximum of 3) will be appointed (randomly selected by lottery from those present) to begin and manage the discussion, ensuring each image has some feedback. The chairperson will be responsible for starting the discussion. If club members agree, guests could be invited onto the panel.

Each member seeking feedback for their images will be given no more than 2 minutes to present their image and discuss what they are trying to achieve. The panel & chairperson may then comment, followed by the members in attendance. This may be followed by a short reply from the exhibitor if required.

A set a time will be allocated for each picture using a timer. When the timer sounds, the person who is speaking may finish and then its time to move on. At the end of the meeting time will be allocated for general discussion to allow for missed images or those wishing to comment further. Initially, the maximum time will be 7 minutes, but may be adjusted depending on the number of images being displayed.

An alternative to this would be for a member to be given 5 minutes to present a series of projected images in a mini slide show and explain them to the membership. Discussion would be at the discretion of the chairperson.

The meeting is as much about peer review as it is expert review. It is important to encourage participation from anyone, including being part of the panel. We need as many members involved as possible and should encourage members to get involved. To encourage involvement, the **People's Choice Pizza award** will be transferred to the group image discussion. This also overcomes the logistics of organizing the Peoples Choice award.

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### Proposed changes to number of image & its variants displayed in a year

There has also been a proposal to restrict (and enforce) the number of times an image or *minor* variant can be displayed in competition. We currently have a policy limiting the number of times an image may be displayed during the year, but this does not allow for small variants.

It has been observed this year that a number of images are minor variants of the same subject appear in different sections either on the same night or numerous times over the course of the year. For example, the same image presented in both the prints and projected images with little apparent variation on the either same night or during the year.

The aim of this proposed change is to increase the variety of images displayed on competition nights rather than restrict experimentation.

It has been proposed that an image (including its minor variants) can only be shown once during the year of normal competition nights, plus at the Annual or any inter-club competitions. This may be aided by reducing the number of competition nights, but the proposed change in competition rules to restrict small variations should reflect this. As a disincentive to display the same image, a points penalty may be applied.

The committee will develop guidelines to clarify this further and present them to the membership.

This proposal would not be applied to the group image discussions.