

Club competitions run from year to year on fairly traditional lines with a tendency to perpetuate the same old styles of imagery - which tends to encourage a mindset which inevitably leads people to submit pictures that will please the judge. Winning cups and gaining awards is one thing - indeed for some members it's their sole objective, but from time to time we should stop to consider and ask the question. Why am I taking pictures to please a particular judge for a single competition?

It's all very fine having an objective such as winning, but from time to time we should consider its validity. Why not try something new at the club?

Instead of the time honoured competition where there are distinct winners and losers, why not organise an image appreciation event, where a knowledgeable and respected photographer with the ability to read and interpret pictures can take time to understand, appreciate, and interpret the meaning and significance of the images. Alternatively, invite a panel of three or four photographers to give their views and interpretations.

This style of event should encourage audience participation and the opportunity for the author of the work to have an input and broaden the discussion.

An event such as this, if supported with a spirit of openness and adventure, should lead the way to a better understanding of those stimulating, risk-taking, and non-predictable formulaic images that so often are not entered into competitions through "fear of failure".

Art should be about taking risks, let's do it, & eventually we will give the judges who expect predictability something to think about !