

B Group Info & FAQs

Until this season, B Group was known as the Entry (E) Group. And what is now the A Group used to be two groups – A and I (Advanced and Intermediate).

The reason for the change is that the boundaries between “A” and “I” were getting blurred, so they were combined into A Group, and “E” became “B”.

The B Group is run on informal lines, as it has to cater for a wide range of photographers, from absolute beginners to those who have more experience but may not feel ready to enter the Tuesday competitions.

Here are some of the questions I’ve been asked most often...

Q: *What is the B Group?*

A: It’s for members new to the Club. Its aim is to help new members become familiar with the Club and how it works. Although some B Group members are new to photography, others are more experienced, so the B Group attempts to cater for all abilities.

Q: *How do I join the A Group?*

A: B Group members can join the A Group at any time – but they cannot then rejoin the B Group. At the end of the season, about a third of B Group members are moved to the A Group; but you can stay in the B Group if you wish – some members do.

Q: *Why does the B Group only have 4 competitions?*

A: The first two meetings are to give advice and assessment on your photographs, and to provide advice on entering competitions and/or exhibitions.

Q: *Do I have to enter the competitions:*

A: No.

Q: *Can I enter Tuesday competitions?*

A: You can enter the Projected Image and Speciality competitions (the latter are prints only). You cannot enter the general A Group print competitions.

Q: *Do my prints have to be mounted?*

A: No – but they tend to fall off the easel if they’re not mounted. You don’t have to have them mounted with a recess, and for assessment evenings, any old bit of card will do. The Club frames are 40 × 50 cm, so many members use mounts of this size for convenience, which look good with prints from 6 × 4 in. up to A3+.

Q: *How big do my prints have to be? Should I get them enlarged?*

A: They can be any size you like.

Q: *I’m not doing prints – can I just bring images for projection?*

A: We’re hoping that a few people will bring laptops so that digital images can be assessed. The B Group does not currently have a dedicated projected image competition.

Q: *I’m not sure my needs will be catered for...*

A: If you think there’s an aspect of photography we’re not covering enough, please say so. We’re always looking for new ideas and subjects to cover.

B GROUP COMPETITIONS

New for 2009

We're having our own "Speciality" for the first time ever! It's an experiment which, if successful, will be carried forward to the A Group competitions.

The subject matter is "The other 5 senses" – i.e. Hearing, Touch, Taste, Smell and The Sixth Sense.

Any print entered in any of the four competitions as a "Specialty" will get an extra point.

Basic rules

You can enter 2 prints per competition.

If you would like to enter your print as a Speciality, just put an "S" in a circle on the back of the mount, and the "sense" you're expressing. You can do this for as many prints as you want.

B Group competitions are run differently from A Group competitions, in that you bring your prints on the night of the competition, and print details are not entered into the website.

For more information on Club competitions, see the Members' area in the Club's website:
http://www.bhcc-online.org/members_01_comprules.html

Commentating

An experienced member of the Club will comment on the submitted prints. The main difference to A Group competitions is that the commentator gives a fuller critique, with the aim of informing B Group members how images work.

Prints are awarded points: gold = 5 points, silver = 3 points, bronze = 2 points, pass = 0 (very unlikely to happen!).

In addition, Speciality prints will automatically gain an extra point.

At the end of the season, the B Group members with the three highest points overall will be given awards: a trophy for first place, and certificates for second and third.

(Note: points gained on Tuesday night competitions by B Group members are not added to the B Group competition score – but you could, of course, win an award in the Projected or Speciality competitions.)

Anne Graham