

Observations from the Returns that Clubs have sent to me over the Year 2013/2014

The following is a summary of the most common comments that clubs have sent to me with their returns. **They are not my own personal comments.**

Helping Judges

Quite a few clubs have expressed a wish for beginners work to be assessed in a more congenial manner. Perhaps a star could be placed alongside **beginners** work (with their permission, of course) by the club Comp Sec? This will give judges a chance to modify their appraisal of the work.

A common comment made by clubs concerns the **range** of marks awarded by judges. Some clubs like a large range, other less so. Every club has different views on this. Perhaps this could be indicated by the Comp Sec? For example, some clubs feel that giving low marks will put off less experienced photographers.

Helping Clubs

Some judges are not very good at spreading their appraisals over the allotted time given. Dividing the number of pieces of work by the time should give a rough idea of time spent on each piece. It is also important that clubs start promptly and control the length of their tea-breaks. Judges should be aware of whether they can 'run-over' or not. Some clubs have to vacate their premises at a given time.

Some judges repeat a lot. When assessing a piece of work, try not go into a long repetition at the end (particularly noticeable when a low mark is about to be given *pers. com*).

General

Most of us knock judges at some time or other - I know I have - but remember, you have submitted your work and by definition are therefore competitive. You have to accept the appraisal that the judge gives, even if you don't agree with it. Please don't badger a judge on the night - it is not good form.

Also remember that most judging is carried out in the evening, and for many judges this is after a hard day's work. They are entitled to be tired, and many are! So please forgive them for some irregularities.

And for those that do complain - have a go at judging yourself - it is an eye-opener!