



Chichester Camera Club – Classification Grading Appeals

Background: In August 2017, the Selection Committee received an appeal about promotions from Intermediate to Advanced Class, questioning the decisions related to performance in the Intermediate League. At the time, there was no agreed appeals procedure and so it was thought proper to use this opportunity to develop a recognised procedure. This was done and the process agreed by the Management and Selection Committees, and fits within the shared desired objective to make the workings of the Selection Committee more understandable to the wider Club Membership.

Context: Promotions from Club and Intermediate classes are largely dependent upon performance in the internal competitions and performance in the Annual Exhibitions. As the Role Guidance for the Selection Committee notes, it is the responsibility of the Selection Committee to:

*Recommend end-of-year promotions for existing members, based upon internal competition and Annual Exhibition results and to advise the Club's Management Committee of their recommendations; and
Recommend promotions outside of competition results in consultation with the Management Committee where this is thought to be in the best interests of the member/s concerned.*

Usually, but not exclusively, it can be expected that the top two or three in Intermediate and the well performing Club Class members in both Print and PDI sections will be promoted to the next group, and as the final marks at the top of these leagues are often very close, with just half marks between the results, any larger gaps in the results generally marks the cut of point.

Principles: Inevitably, there can be occasions when a member who does not make the 'cut', feels hard done by and sometimes will claim that if it weren't for a particularly low mark by one judge, their season total would have been higher. This cannot be grounds for an appeal, for although one poor result can affect the final outcome, all entries are subject to the same judge and by the same token a different judge (or indeed the same judge on a different day) might have given an image a higher mark, but might also have marked other entries differently with the same overall outcome. The only grounds for appeal are whether or not the overall body of work – *outside of the competition results* – is of sufficient quality to merit being in a higher class. Appeals cannot be retrospective, but will only be considered on the outcome of the current season's results. In that context and with those principles, the appeal procedure is proposed as follows.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

If any member wishes to appeal that they should have been promoted to a higher class for the following season once the promotions have been made (which is usually shortly after the conclusion of the Annual Exhibition) they may request a review from the Selection Committee Chair. If the Selection Committee allows the appeal, insofar as it meets the general principles, the Selection Committee will ask the member to resubmit ALL the judged work from the previous season along with all the member's Annual Exhibition entries.

- All the work (whether prints or PDIs) will then be re-assessed by the Selection Committee, usually but not necessarily at the New Members' meeting at the end of August, when the

images will be carefully considered and any change that is considered merited will be made.

- The Selection Committee's re-assessment will be ratified by the Management Committee to ensure this is a joint decision by both.
- If the decision remains against promotion, the Member who appealed may make a further appeal to the Chairs of the two committees, whose subsequent decision is final.
- Should the Member accept the outcome of the appeal and wish to have advice from the Selection Committee on how to improve their work, a Selection Committee member (or more) will arrange for such advice.

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