

## **Leeds Philatelic Society: Competitions**

There will be two kinds of Competitions on the Competition Evening. First there will be a Fun Competition, and secondly a Formal Competition.

### **1. Fun Competition**

This is a Competition without too many rules. Displays may be up to 16 standard (Clarendon/A4) size sheets (or 8 double size sheets) on any topic or theme.

Judging will be by all members present on the evening. Members will be asked to award points on the following criteria and maxima:

Originality:	15 points
Quality of presentation (oral and/or written on sheets, layout, clarity, coherence):	40 points
Quality of material:	20 points
Degree of interest invoked:	25 points

Entries of less than 16 sheets are likely to lose points on the 'Quality of presentation' criterion.

Any oral presentation required will be limited to 2 minutes, solely written presentation is preferred.

Feedback will be informal. There might even be a trophy or mystery prize awarded to exhibitor(s) scoring the highest depending upon what we have in the cupboard!

### **2. Formal Competition**

These entries are intended to be the launch pad for later entry into Federation, Inter-Federation, National and International Exhibiting. The Classes that will apply are Traditional (stamps alone, or more usually a mixture of stamps and their usages), Postal History, Aerophilately, Postal Stationery, Open (including Cinderellas, Revenues, Officials, Literature, Astrophilately & Maximaphily), Picture Postcard, Thematic, and Novice. Entries will be one-frame of 16 sheets up to Clarendon/A4 size (or up to 8 double sheets or a combination of both formats), except for Novice entries which should be between 4 to 8 sheets.

### ***The criteria and points available***

For the formal competition, these are somewhat more complex than those used for our fun competition. They are detailed below in Annex 1 which also contains links to where more guidance is available, the award levels and the trophies to be won.

### ***Judging***

This will be by all members present on the evening, partly to give them experience in judging. A competitor will be barred from judging their own exhibit. The Competition Secretary having taken advice may move an exhibit between Classes where the exhibitor would benefit. There will be feedback to exhibitors designed to indicate how the exhibit could gain a higher mark.

### ***Submitting Your Exhibits***

Bring your exhibits at the start of the evening but forewarn your Competitions Secretary (currently Tony Plumbe (E: [ajplumbe@hotmail.com](mailto:ajplumbe@hotmail.com); T: 07442059040) of all the exhibits you are bringing by three days before the Competitions Evening. You can submit as many exhibits as you wish to both the Fun and Formal Competitions, unless there are more exhibits that can be coped with on the evening when a proportional and fair reduction in the number of exhibits per member will be operated by the Competitions Secretary.

## ***Submission by Zoom***

For members who are unable to attend in person, it will be possible to make a presentation in either the Fun or Formal Competitions, **but prior arrangement with the Secretary & Competitions Secretary is required at least seven (7) days before the Competitions Evening.** Members present in-person will watch your presentation projected on a large screen and judge it on the same criteria and points system as applies to physically present exhibits. Such exhibits will usually need to have been specially prepared for landscape format Zoom presentation and not just scans of portrait format album pages. The presentation should not exceed ten minutes and will be cut off at that time limit. There will be no provision for judging by remote means.

## ***Disclaimer***

The Leeds Philatelic Society will take every care to ensure the safety of entries entrusted to them but take no responsibility for any loss or damage arising during the time entries are in their possession, and entrants are recommended to make arrangements to insure valuable material.

## **ANNEX 1**

This Annex is divided into (1) Criteria and points available, (2) Class definitions, (3) Guidance available, (4) Award levels, (5) Trophies and (6) Frame numbers.

### **A1. The criteria and points available** for the formal competition will be as follows:

For the ***Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Postal Stationery, and Open (including Cinderellas, Revenues, Officials, Astrophilately & Maxiphilately) Classes:***

Treatment:	20 points
Philatelic Importance:	10 points
Philatelic & Related Knowledge:	20 points
Personal Research & Study:	15 points
Condition:	10 points
Rarity:	20 points
Presentation:	5 points

For the ***Thematic Class:***

Treatment	35 points divided as follows:
Plan of Exhibit & its Implementation:	15 points
Development of Theme:	15 points
Originality of Theme	5 points
Knowledge, Personal Study & Research	30 Points divided as follows:
Thematic:	15 points
Philatelic:	15 points
Condition & Rarity	30 points divided as follows:
Condition:	10 points
Rarity:	20 points
Presentation	5 points

For the **Picture Postcard Class**:

Idea & Plan (Originality with clear plan followed throughout the entry)	: 10 points
Treatment (Story line & development of subject; types of postcards)	: 20 points
Knowledge & Research (Extent to which knowledge of subject shown; printers & publishers known; exhibitor's own study & writing/publications)	: 35 points
Condition (No foxing or damage or blunt/bent corners to postcards while taking account of age, usage and numbers known)	: 10 points
Rarity (Sheer availability of such postcards not just monetary value)	: 20 points
Presentation (Neatness, balance & layout; pleasing to the eye)	: 5 points

For the **Novice Class**:

Philatelic and related knowledge of subject:	30 points
Presentation of the subject:	30 points
Condition of the material:	30 points
Potential for development of subject:	10 points
Pages short of 8 pages:	1 point deducted for each page short of 8 pages

## A2. Class Definitions

This section is based partly on prior text developed by this Society.

Richard Smith in 2019.

**Traditional:** Comprises adhesive stamps and examples of their usage. Material related to the production of adhesive stamps such as artwork, essays, proofs and specimens may be included; ephemera material should be excluded.

**Postal History:** Comprises studies of postal markings, routes and rates. This may include the outer cover of communications sent prior to formal postal systems but the emphasis needs to be on the outer cover rather than the contents of the communication. Private posts both long ago and from recent times are included. Ephemeral material should be kept to a minimum, and two covers per sheet are preferable.

**Aerophilately:** Comprises a study of the development, operation or other defined scope of airmail services, or the production and usage of stamps relating to airmail or aerophilately. Covers, postcards, stationery, newspapers, wrappers, and labels that have been transported by air by whatever means may be included. Covers need to be organised to show the development or operation of air services. Routes, rates, postal markings, maps and diagrams will often feature in such exhibits. The emphasis needs to be, however, on the aerophilatelic aspects rather than the routes and rates, which may fall in the Postal History Class above, or on the stationery itself which may be re-allocated to the Postal Stationery Class (that follows).

**Postal Stationery:** This includes studies of postal cards, pre-franked and registered envelopes, wrappers, postal orders, reply coupons and aerogrammes authorised by Postal Authorities, usually but not always with a franking device printed thereon. Also permitted are studies relating to the

production and printing of the stationery, items of postal stationery printed or used by private bodies under license from the Postal Authorities, and stationery bearing additional postage stamps.

**Open** (including Cinderellas, Revenues, Officials, Astrophilately & Maxiphilately ): This class broadens the scope of traditional stamp displays, offers greater creative scope, and allows exploration of subjects through a wider lens by enabling exhibitors to combine philatelic material (stamps, covers, etc.) with relevant non-philatelic items to tell a story or develop a subject. A wide variety of non-philatelic items, such as historical documents, advertisements, postcards (the image side is considered non-philatelic), photographs, maps, coins, medals, and other three-dimensional objects can be included provided they are not over 5mm thick (so as to fit in frames), but at least 50% of the exhibit must be philatelic items. The 50% is based on overall balance and content, not physical space occupied. This class enables exhibitors to present research and material in a wider cultural, social, industrial, or commercial context, providing an imaginative and creative narrative or storyline. It enables exhibitors to display their depth of knowledge and research by connecting the philatelic items to the broader world around them. Diverse materials to enhance the understanding and attractiveness of the exhibit are desirable. Most 'Context Philately' entries fit in this Class.

**Thematic:** For entries illustrating a theme or topic in which postal material is the predominant element. Apart from the minimum of maps and drawings giving information relevant to the entry, non-philatelic material should be excluded. The exhibit needs to be subject-centric focused, to develop a clear and logical narrative, and to demonstrate both knowledge of the theme and of the philatelic material in equal measure. A wide variety of philatelic material should be included within each exhibit ranging through stamps, covers, essays and proofs, booklets, the postal side of postcards, and postal stationery to postmarks and cancellations. Studies of a single stamp or route or rate are likely to be re-allocated to another Class.

**Picture Postcard:** Picture postcard entries should emphasize the picture on the postcard rather than the postal use or philatelic attributes. A topic or a story needs to be developed based upon the images on the postcards. An exhibit may have a geographical/topographical approach (illustrations of a place or area), a thematic approach, or focus on a specific artist, photographer, or printer. This Class enables the exhibitor to show the historical or social context of the images depicted. Postcards may be used or unused but if unused must have a clear indication like an address space and/or stamp box that they were intended for postal use. Unlike the postal stationery Class, privately as well as postal authority produced postcards are equally acceptable. For the purpose of this Class, postmarks are irrelevant, except in indicating approximate publication date of the postcard. The research, knowledge and creativity demonstrated by the exhibitor are rewarded.

**Novice:** This Class is for members who have never submitted an entry in one of the other Classes above and can be of any subject covered by these other classifications. Entries can be up to a maximum of 8 sheets but must be a minimum of 4 sheets.

### A3. Guidance available

There is more information on the Leeds Philatelic Society website ([www.leedsps.org.uk](http://www.leedsps.org.uk)): click 'Competitions' on the left hand menu, then click on the blue underlined 'here' in the middle of the text that appears, and the Annual Competition Rules will emerge on a webpage with the URL: [https://www.leedsps.org.uk/competitions/Leeds\\_PS\\_Competition\\_Rules.pdf](https://www.leedsps.org.uk/competitions/Leeds_PS_Competition_Rules.pdf) Where there are any differences, what is stated on the LPS website over-rides anything available elsewhere.

There is also much guidance available on the relevant ABPS webpage at <https://www.abps.org.uk/judging/>

The ABPS Seminars and Events webpage also contains links to many useful presentations that have been used in the last decade though not all download links now work; please see: <https://www.abps.org.uk/seminars-and-events/#>

If you are seeking to go on to exhibiting at levels **above** National, there are special regulations that apply to each Class that can be downloaded from <https://www.abps.org.uk/international-philately/> under the 'Special Regulations for individual classes' heading. These do not apply in LPS competitions.

The whole gamut of Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) is available from <https://www.f-i-p.ch/regulations/>

If you are engaging in competitions judged in North America, see the APS 'Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting' at [https://stamps.org/Portals/0/Judging-Manual\\_1.pdf](https://stamps.org/Portals/0/Judging-Manual_1.pdf)

## A4. Award levels

At Leeds Philatelic Society level, the Federation level awards will apply, and are:

Gold	80+ points	Silver	60-64 points
Large Vermeil	75-79 points	Silver-Bronze	55-59 points
Vermeil	70-74 points	Bronze	50-54 points
Large Silver	65-69 points	Certificate of Participation	45-49 points

In parenthesis, it should be noted that at National Level these are:

Large Gold	90+ points	Large Silver	70-74 points
Gold	85-89 points	Silver	65-69 points
Large Vermeil	80-84 points	Silver-Bronze	60-64 points
Vermeil	75-79 points	Bronze	55-59 points

At International Level each award level increases by 5 points

## A5. Trophies

These will be awarded as follows:

Class	Trophy
<i>Traditional</i>	Dr Jacob
<i>Postal History,</i>	Lawrence Moore
<i>Aerophilately,</i>	Elizabethan 60 Years
<i>Postal Stationery</i>	Philip G Walker
<i>Open</i>	145 RAC
<i>Thematic</i>	Ian Gilchrist

<b><i>Picture Postcard</i></b>	<b>John Barker Memorial</b>
<b><i>Novice</i></b>	<b>Founder's Cup</b>

## **A6. Frame Numbers**

At Society and Federation level, exhibits are usually of one-frame (16 sheets) but may extend to 3 frames at Federation level.

At National level, there may be a special Single Frame competition but exhibits otherwise comprise 3, or 5, or 8 frames.

At International level, exhibits are usually five or eight frames. To be entered, exhibits will need to have attained particular levels of award at the National level.

Tony Plumbe  
13 January 2026