

GUIDANCE FOR SINGLE SHEET COMPETITION

Introduction

The competition will be introduced for the first time at the 2026 AGM.

The aim is to encourage ALL members to attend the AGM as a fun philatelic event as well as a business event and to submit an entry whatever their level of collecting and displaying skill and whatever their interests.

There will be no fee for entry.

The only rules are to define the format and procedure to be used.

There are no judging criteria; judging will be by the members present on the day.

A valuable philatelic prize will be awarded for the best entry.

Rules on the Format and Procedure

1. Only one sheet may be submitted; it can be on any album page or sheet size up to A3 maximum;
2. Open to LPS members only, one entry per member may be made and must be anonymous, but will be registered and given an identifying number by the organiser;
3. The Immediate Past President will be the Organiser, solely responsible for oversight of the arrangements and who may not submit a competitive entry themselves;
4. There are no restrictions on the scope of the subject matter but it must contain an element of (the many kinds of) philatelic material or postcards;
5. All entries must be the entrant's own property;
6. Entries must stand on their own; there will be no opportunity to make a verbal presentation;
7. There are no judging criteria nor a marking scheme; each member will be provided with a voting paper to record their anonymous vote for their first, second and third preferences of entries at the appropriate time during the meeting;
8. In the event of a tie of votes for first preference, the votes for second and, if required, for third, will be taken into account; the count will be undertaken by the Organiser and verified by the Secretary;
9. Entries can be submitted at any previous club meeting or on the night of the AGM direct to the Organiser;
10. The Organiser will supervise mounting and taking down of entries; the entrant will arrange for collection with the Organiser;
11. The submission of an entry is at each member's own risk.
12. The Organiser will reserve the right to exclude any entry which does not follow the defined format.

Some Helpful Hints

Single sheet competitions have become popular especially for societies' own competitions. Examples of entries to some of these can be found online e.g.

<https://nwfedps.uk/index.php/single-page-competition-2025/>

The judging of a single sheet competition by the popular vote of members is very different from subsection to formal judging criteria by a panel. The emphasis should therefore be on your own personal interests, creating an attractive display, telling a story and maybe even poking some fun.

The range of philatelic (or postcard) material that might be used is huge. It includes Stamps, Covers, Booklets, Souvenir sheets, Labels, Postmarks, Postcards, Die proofs, Plate proofs, Plate numbers, Coils, Revenue stamps, Meter cancels, Varieties, but one source has identified over 200 categories of philatelic material!

<https://gtapa.org/member-services/handout-2-philatelic-elements-for-thematic-collectors>

Non philatelic material which might be used to support the subject might include maps, photos, cuttings etc.

Although single sheets lend themselves to some kind of story or theme, entries are not confined to thematic or topical subjects and all categories of collecting are included – single country or region, postal history, stamp design and production and postcards etc..

A single sheet is also an opportunity to showcase a particular rare or unusual item, with appropriate explanation and supporting material.

A title and short explanatory text is advisable.

The Future

If the competition is successful as an addition to the AGM programme, it will be developed in the light of experience. Member feedback will be welcome on questions like –

- 1) should the competition become more formal with judging criteria and a marking scheme?*
- 2) should there be different categories?*
- 3) should it be extended to non-members of LPS?*

BUT, for now, please take part and enjoy!!

AND start thinking about it NOW.

THIS GUIDANCE NOTE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE LANARKSHIRE P.S. WEBSITE

<http://www.lanarkshireps.co.uk/>