



GIBRALTAR STUDY CIRCLE

COMPETITION RULES APRIL 2024

1. New Electronic Competition Rules & Guidance

FROM 2024 THE GSC ANNUAL COMPETITION IS TO BECOME ELECTRONIC, WITH ENTRIES, VIEWING AND JUDGING TO BE HELD ON-LINE ON THE GSC WEBSITE.

This document sets out the rules for this electronic competition and gives some guidance to the judging criteria the Judge(s) will use to score the entries (see sections 7-9).

This will:

- make the finding of Judges and the judging process simpler
- allow viewing of entries by a wider audience
- **allow submission of electronic entries by overseas members.**

Where physical entries have been submitted, whether printouts or actual exhibits, they will be displayed at the Competition Meeting.

2. Classification of Exhibits

The annual competition will comprise seven classes. Each paid up member is eligible to enter one or more classes, subject to any restrictions imposed in that class. The classes are:

1. The Premier (Advanced) Class. *This class is only open to members who have been awarded 70% (Small Vermeil) or more in at least one of classes 2 to 7 in previous years.*
2. Postal History Class – typically covers such as FDC's, Censorship, specific handstamps on covers and pre-adhesives.
3. Adhesive Stamps Class – Queen Victoria to King George VI.
4. Queen Elizabeth II Class.
5. GB used in Gibraltar Class.
6. Miscellaneous Class – Postal Stationery, Revenues, Picture Postcards, Artwork, Gibraltar used in Morocco, etc.
7. Open Class. *Different rules apply to judging this class - see section 9 below.*

In addition, a Novice Award will be made to any member who has not been awarded:

- a) first prize in any previous Gibraltar Study Circle competition, or
- b) a bronze medal or better in any national philatelic exhibition.

Such entries will be judged under the appropriate class as normal, with the award going to whoever is deemed to have submitted the best 'novice' entry in any class.

3. Exhibits

Entries for Classes 2 to 7 should normally comprise a maximum of 16 sheets (one standard frame). A lesser number of sheets may be submitted without penalty provided that, in the judge(s) opinion, the subject is adequately covered by the sheets submitted. Should this not be the case points will be deducted accordingly.

Entries for the 'Premier' class must be not less than 32 sheets (two standard frames).

All sheets should normally be of the same size, colour and the following maximum sizes as approved and recommended during the F.I.P. board meeting in Seoul, August 13-14, 2014 – that is, not more than:

- 21 x 29.7cm or 23 x 29cm – equivalent to 4 sheets in one row for a standard frame
- 42 x 29.7cm or 46 x 29cm – equivalent to 2 sheets in one row for a standard frame
- 31 x 29cm – equivalent to 3 sheets in one row for a standard frame.

Each page must be sequentially numbered at the bottom right corner or on the reverse, for ease of setting out. Entries must not include any items not wholly owned by the entrant.

4. Submission of Entries

All entries should be computer scanned (rather than photographed), ideally to a .pdf document(s) but if absolutely necessary as .jpeg/.jpg files, at a resolution of not less than 200 dots per inch (dpi). Less than 200dpi will give poor results on the web page which could impact the scoring.

Entries must be submitted as e-mail attachments to the Webmaster, Mr Stan Lawrence at therockeditor@outlook.com by the published submission date. If the entry is too large for email, the exhibitor can use other suitable transmission



methods i.e. cloud storage such as DropBox, Microsoft OneDrive or Google Cloud, in which case a link to the cloud storage must be emailed to the above address with suitable access permissions. All entries will be loaded on to the Member's Section on the GSC website gibraltarstudycircle.com.

Any Member wishing to enter the competition but who is unable to scan to electronic files may submit their entry by post as full colour high quality photocopies. *However, please be aware that regardless of how good the photocopies are, there is always some loss of quality of the resulting scan when seen on-line.*

5. Judging

Judging will take place on-line with the judge(s) given access to the entries on the Website. The results and awards will be announced at the Autumn Competition Weekend, where any hard copy versions of the entries will be displayed. The decision of the Judge(s) in respect of any award is final. All classes will be judged according to the criteria in the ABPS guidance for federation competitions. A basic outline of this criteria is set out below.

6. Presentation

The results and presentation of awards will be made on the day of the competition, usually the Saturday afternoon of the Competition Weekend. Members unable to attend will have their results sent to them in the form of a GSC certificate showing the title of the entry, the class of the entry and the score achieved duly signed by the Judge and the Chairman. Any trophies won by absentee competitors will remain with the Study Circle due to the cost and insecurity of posting such items.

7. Judging Criteria

The criteria used by the judges is well defined, trying to gain some uniformity in judging across the philatelic world. In general, these criteria are divided into four areas:

1. Treatment & Importance
2. Knowledge & Research
3. Condition & Rarity
4. Presentation.

These are described briefly as follows:

7.1. Treatment & Importance

Judges consider how the exhibitor has treated his exhibit in terms of getting his story across. The exhibit must have:

- a beginning, with a clear title and introduction
- a middle, showing a cohesive story
- an appropriate and clear ending
- a good balance between all three.

The importance of the exhibit, in philatelic terms, relies on:

- the significance of the exhibit within the subject area
- the general significance of the subject area in general philatelic terms.

7.2. Originality

Judges will consider several factors, including:

- the degree of advancement which has been attained relative to the chosen subject
- the relative completeness achieved in covering the chosen subject
- the degree of balance achieved between the scope of the subject, available space and originality of approach.

7.3. Condition & Rarity

Judges will assess all items based on:

- their quality in relation to scarcity, age and the average for the subject matter
- the rarity of items in terms of:
 - difficulty of acquisition – not simply monetary value
 - how difficult would it be to replicate the exhibit.



7.4. Presentation – Write-up & Arrangement

The entry should have a clear and balanced appearance so that the philatelic material is highlighted. The text must be clear and concise. The general appearance of the entry, as well as the readability and effectiveness of the text, will be considered.

8. Scoring of Classes 1 to 6 Using the Above Guidelines

The following table sets out the judging sheet for classes 1 to 6 (the Open Class 7 is scored differently – see next section), showing how the judges arrive at the overall score based on their interpretation of the above factors:

Treatment and Importance	Philatelic treatment.	20	30
	Idea and Plan	10	
Knowledge, Study and Research	Philatelic Knowledge	20	35
	Research and Personal Study	15	
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	30
	Rarity	20	
Presentation	Write-up & Arrangement	5	5
Total			100

Table 1. Score Sheet for Competition Classes 1-6

These score sheets follow the ABS guidelines.

More detailed guidance for Classes 1 to 6 can be found on the A.B.P.S. website here: ABPS.co.uk/judging

This page shows a list of documents that you can download. Select the file “ABPS National Guidelines for Federation Competitions”. This will trigger the download of a pdf file with more information.

9. Scoring of Open Class 7 Using the Above Guidelines

This class gives an exhibitor freedom to present an exhibit on any subject using up to 50% of non-philatelic items. The non-philatelic material must not be thicker than 5 mm so it can fit into standard exhibition frames.

The entry should be 16 Sheets or 32 sheets.

There should ideally be at least one philatelic item on each sheet, but some leeway is allowed on this so long as the overall proportion in the exhibit is at least 50% philatelic by area. The advice to judges has been that sheets that are predominately philatelic or non-philatelic should be a small proportion. Sheets that have a balance about 50% tend to be the most interesting and attractive. Wide sheets 1.5 or 2 normal sheets wide can be used to accommodate wide items so long as the total is equivalent to 16 or 32 normal sheets for fitting in one or two standard frames.

The scoring sheet for Open Class is slightly different to the other classes to allow for the non-philatelic content. The following table sets out the ABPS score sheet for the Open Class:

Treatment & Importance	Title & Plan	10	30
	Philatelic treatment.	5	
	Non-Philatelic treatment	5	
	Philatelic importance	5	
	Non-philatelic importance	5	
Knowledge, Study & Research	Philatelic Knowledge & Research	20	35
	Non-philatelic Knowledge & Research	15	
Condition & Rarity	Condition	10	30
	Rarity	20	
Presentation	Write-up & Arrangement	5	5
Total			100

Table 2. Score Sheet for Competition Class 6 (Open Class).



As can be seen, equal relevance is given to philatelic and non-philatelic content until you get to the Knowledge, Study & Research. Here the emphasis is on the philatelic content, given that this is a philatelic exhibit.

More detailed guidance for the pen Class can be found on the A.B.P.S. website here: ABPS.co.uk/judging
This time, select the file “*F.I.P Guidelines on Judging Open Philately*”.

10. Class of Award

The class of award is defined by the score attained on the score sheets shown above. The following table sets out the “medals” awarded for the range of scores

Award Attained	Score
Certificate of Participation	45-49
Bronze	50-54
Bronze-Silver	55-59
Silver	60-64
Large Silver	65-69
Small Silver-Gilt (Small Vermeil)	70-74
Large Silver-Gilt (Large Vermeil)	75-79
Gold	80 +

Table 3. Award to score equivalence.

Exhibits will qualify for the awards appropriate to the marks gained as shown above.

11. Determining the Winners of Classes 2-7

To determine the GSC Competition winner of classes 2 to 7, any member who submits an entry that has already been a winning entry in a GSC Competition within the previous three years will have the score for that re-entry reduced by 10 marks from those awarded by the judge(s).

This in *no way* alters the Judge’s actual score or assessment, which is done to strict ABPS guidelines. This is simply to allow other GSC members the chance to win within the GSC competition.

12. Trophies

In addition to a certificate and a suitable permanent memento for the winner of each class, the class winners will hold the following trophies for one year:

	CLASS	TROPHY
1.	Premier Class	The “Wally” Jackson Dhow Trophy
2.	Postal History Class	The GSC Rock Racer Trophy
3.	Adhesive Stamp Class	The Neville Swedish Glass Award
4.	Queen Elizabeth II Class	The George Coates Carriage Clock
5.	GB Used in Gibraltar Class	The A26 Duplex Award
6.	Miscellaneous Class	The Gibraltar Study Circle Silver Salver
7.	Open Class	The Tercentenary Handstamp
8.	Novice Class	The Joan Brook Swedish Glass Award.

Table 4. Trophy awarded to winner of each class in competition.

Any trophies awarded to exhibitors not present at the weekend will be held by the Committee and a suitable photograph of the awarded trophy sent to the exhibitor with the certificate for the win.

Trophies must be returned in time for the presentations the following year. Awards may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge(s) the standard in that class does not reach an acceptable level for a specialist society.

The GSC Committee

April 2024