



# The History of BCG

## “Competitions - Sliding into Digital”

A significant change in BCG Monthly Competition took place on Monday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2005. Digital images were competing in BCG competitions for the very first time. The competition subjects on that evening were Open and Shadows. Previously on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 BCG members were sent an email that described the submission requirements for digital images. The file size limit was a maximum of 300KB. The maximum dimensions were a width of 1024 pixels and a height of 768 pixels. The images would be saved as JPEGs and there was a naming protocol to be followed. It was strongly emphasised that any file that was incorrectly sized, incorrectly named or the wrong format would not be judged.

There were now three separate sections in BCG competitions – Prints, Slides and now Digital Images. Members could submit 4 images in each section – a maximum of 12 entries. BCG also had an A Grade Premium Section for both Prints and Slides where eligible members could submit one extra image. Some members could therefore submit a total of 13 entries. Competition evenings rapidly became unwieldy because of increased numbers and the infrastructure required in changing from slides to digital images.

A motion was put to the 2005 AGM that slides and digital images should be combined into one section called Projected Images. It failed. A year later at the 2006 AGM a motion was passed that members could only submit a maximum of 8 entries. They could be any combination of print or slide or digital images so long as the number of images submitted in any one of these sections did not exceed 4 entries.

While slides continued to be a separate competition entity, their numbers declined dramatically. Digital images increased even more dramatically. Former slide workers had transferred to digital. The significant influx of new members were invariably digital workers. The decline in slides was highlighted by our participation in an interclub slide competition called the “Bill Smit Competition”. In 2006 BCG ran a long last in a field of 5 clubs because of our inability to put together a full entry. The Monthly Slide Competitions and the Annual Slide Competition became unviable with sometimes only one entrant being in any particular grade. The inevitable happened. Slides ceased to be part of BCG competitions. Slides had been a mainstay of BCG competitions since 1954 with the introduction of quarterly slide competitions and later as monthly competitions. By 2007, digital images dominated the BCG competitions.



“Me and my shadow” – by Diane Francis. This digital image was submitted in the first BCG competition that included digital images - February 2005.