

**THE THAMES VALLEY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC FEDERATION  
ANNUAL FEDERATION COMPETITION RULES**

These rules apply both to the 9-sheet and 16-sheet competitions

General: All exhibits must include an introduction with a brief description of the material. For smaller exhibits this may occupy less than one page.

1. CLASSES

(A) Traditional

Entries may be of a general or specialised nature and may include  
postage stamps used or unused, as singles or multiples and stamps used on cover to illustrate their usage;  
varieties eg watermark, gum, perforation, printing etc;  
essays and proofs, both adopted and rejected;  
specialised items eg postal forgeries, postally used fiscal stamps  
postal stationery, to illustrate an issue per se rather than routes, rates or markings

(B) Postal History

Entries should comprise a study of postal routes, rates, markings or marcophily (a study of postal marks and cancellations or instructional and informative markings).

Entries that were formerly classified as 'Social', that are Postal History supplemented by relevant ephemera are now classified as Postal History. The supplementary material must not comprise more than 50% of the exhibit

(C) Aerophilately

Entries may include documents carried by air, official and semi-official stamps – mint and used and on cover, postal markings, vignettes, labels, leaflets, messages, and papers dropped from the air, mail recovered from accidents, relevant maps, photographs, and timetables.

(D) Thematic

Entries should consist of stamps and other philatelic material to illustrate a topic or theme.

The introductory page(s) must include a plan of the exhibit.

Material should be included from a range of stamp issuing territories. Mint and used material should not normally be mixed on one sheet. Use of postal material other than stamps that is relevant to the theme (e.g. postmarks, postal stationery, proofs, essays, booklets, miniature sheets) is encouraged.

(E) Open

An Open Class exhibit develops a subject according to the choice of the collector, giving them the total freedom to arrange it with the only limits being:

The introductory page(s) must include a plan of the exhibit.

- The philatelic material will cover at least 50% of the extent of the exhibit
- The non-philatelic material will be no thicker than 5mm to fit into standard exhibition frames.
- The material selected will 'tell a story'.

(F) Cinderella

Entries may consist of embossed, imprinted or adhesive stamps or labels, which were issued for Fiscal or Revenue purposes or other non-postal purposes. Entries may include documents bearing such stamps or labels or relating to the origin or usage of such stamps or labels.

- |            |                  |                   |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| (G) Junior | a) Traditional   | b) Postal History |
|            | c) Aerophilately | d) Thematic       |
|            | e) Open          | f) Cinderella     |

The judges will take account the age of the entrant when marking.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

Each Federated Society may submit one or two entries in each of the six classes A - F, and one entry in each of the six sub-classes a – f in class G. The arrangement and presentation shall be the work of an individual member of the sponsoring Society, and that member shall be the sole owner of all items in the entry. Each entry from a Federated Society must be from a different individual and no individual may have more than one entry in the competition.

***It may be necessary to restrict the number of entries from each Society that can be displayed at the competition venue because of the limited frame space available***

Entries that have won a Thames Valley Federation class, may not be re-entered into that class for a period of five years unless they have been substantially rewritten with greater than 50% new material. However, successful entrants in the 9-sheet competition are encouraged to develop their entries for the 16-sheet competition.

Entrants for the Junior Class must be under 18 years of age at the time of the competition.

## 3. ENTRIES

Each entry shall consist of the appropriate number of standard sized sheets (not to exceed 245 mm by 300 mm.), except that double sized sheets can be used counting as two sheets. The first sheet, which may contain philatelic material, must contain the title of the entry and some introductory notes as well as a plan. All sheets, with progressive numbering of pages on the front or reverse, must be enclosed in protective covers.

Each entry must be included on an entry form giving the name of the competitor and their Sponsoring Society, together with the class they have entered. An estimate of the value is required for insurance purposes only. The name of the entrant and their society must not appear on the entry itself, nor must any indication of value be shown.

It is recommended that entrants have insurance cover for their entries.

## 4. AWARDS

For the 9-Sheet Competition

The President's Cup shall be awarded to the winner of Class A (Stamps)

The Major Miles Trophy shall be awarded to the winner of Class B (Postal History).

The British Philatelic Trust Trophy shall be awarded to the winner of Class C (Thematic).

The Cinderella Cup shall be awarded to the winner of Class D (Cinderella).

A cup shall be awarded to the winner of Class G (Junior).

Appropriate certificates will be awarded to all entrants in each of the seven classes.

For the 16-Sheet Competition

Certificates will be awarded to all entrants.

## 5. INSURANCE OF EXHIBITS

Exhibits will be stored in a safe place prior to Exhibition Day, and kept under constant surveillance during the day. Entrants are recommended to insure their collections. This normally covers competition entries in the UK. The Federation will provide up to £10,000 total insurance cover for those exhibits that are not otherwise insured for the period during which they are held by the Federation. Although the organising Committee will take the utmost care in the safeguarding of each exhibit, the Committee members accept no personal responsibility in respect of any Entry.

6. MARKING

The marking scheme is based upon the National Rules, adapted for Federation use.

	<b>Cinderella, Traditional, Postal History and Aerophilately</b>	<b>Junior</b>
Philatelic and Related Knowledge	25 )	40
Personal Study and research	10 )	
Treatment	20	10
Originality and Philatelic Importance	5	10
Relative Condition	15	10
Rarity	10	-
Presentation, Write-up and arrangement	15	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	<b>Thematic</b>	<b>Junior</b>
Treatment	Plan 15 )	
	Development 15 )	40
	Originality 5 )	
Knowledge, Study research	Thematic 15 )	
	Philatelic 15 )	20
Condition	10	10
Rarity	10	-
Presentation	15	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

OPEN CLASS

Title, idea and creativity	20	
Treatment		
Plan and Development	20	
Research and knowledge of the subject	20	40
Material		
Condition and Rarity	15	
Intelligent use and variety of non-philatelic Material	10	25
Presentation		<u>15</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

7. AWARD LEVELS

(a) Gold	Marks 90-100
(b) Vermeil	80- 89
(c) Silver	70- 79
(d) Bronze-silver	60- 69
(e) Bronze	50- 59
(f) Certificate of Merit	40- 49

## 8. NOTES TO ENTRANTS

The following should assist in preparing an exhibit.

The breadth of the subject chosen should be appropriate to the size of the entry.

Entries comprising 9 SHEETS to be shown:

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

Entries comprising 16 SHEETS to be shown:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

Description

- (a) The subject should be chosen carefully, ensuring that the entry is appropriate to the class.
- (b) Introductory remarks are essential to the entry.
- (c) The write-up should be precise and apposite.
- (d) It must be borne in mind that the reader may be new to the subject.

Philatelic Knowledge & Personal Study - Exhibit should demonstrate:

- (a) Full & accurate appreciation of the subject chosen.
- (b) Detailed study of existing information.
- (c) Any contribution of new information.
- (d) Careful selection from the material available is indicative of the entrant's knowledge of the subject.

Treatment

The entry should have a logical development of the subject, with a clear beginning middle and end.

Originality and Philatelic importance – The factors considered include:

- (a) Originality of approach
- (b) The degree of advancement that has been attained relative to the subject chosen.
- (c) The significance of the subject matter in relation to the development of the postal system, or equivalent for Cinderella material.

Relative condition and Rarity

- (a) Is the condition of items shown (bearing in mind the availability and condition of extant material):  
Below average/average/above average/outstanding?
- (b) Are there rare items present? (Monetary value relates as much to demand as to rarity). If so, this may be indicated in the write-up.

Presentation, write-up and arrangement.

- (a) Attention should be paid to the positioning of material to present an attractive overall display:
  - (i) at sheet level (ii) at frame level.
- (b) The write-up can be by any means available (hand-written, typewritten, stencil, Letraset, printing machine etc.). Correct spelling and legibility are important.
- (c) Where there is a need to point to an exact point on a stamp or cover, arrows cut from self-adhesive labels are useful. It is strongly recommended that such arrows should not be attached to the item itself but to a protective mount
- (d) The mounting of items on THIN edging is acceptable.
- (e) Entries can be mounted on album pages or sheets of paper of appropriate size and thickness.
- (f) Ensure that exhibits are securely mounted.
- (g) The sticking of captions or typed information is accepted. Be sure to align such items correctly.
- (h) Do not mention different Types (e.g. Type 'A' or Type 'B') unless you say what they are.
- (i) Postal History may require a map.

(j) Photocopies/Photographs.

- (i) Any photocopy or photograph (copy) of a cover or stamp should be clearly labelled as such
- (ii) All copies of entire items should be reduced by at least 25%
- (iii) Enlarged copies may be used to illustrate items such as a flaw or postal mark that is not otherwise easily seen. Such enlargements should be at least 50% greater than the original.
- (iv) Scanned images printed on the page should be treated as copies.

Open Class

**Title, Idea and Creativity**

An ingenious title, which covers the theme as well as the original idea, should be rewarded.

**Treatment**

A plan that explains the content of the exhibit is necessary. The plan should not consist of a lengthy text, but of a division of the theme in logical sections so the public and the judges can form an opinion of what the exhibit deals with.

Development is shown by following up on the intentions of the plan by necessary, explanatory texts on the pages. These texts should be written close to the objects they describe.

Research shall be understood in a wide sense and can generally be interpreted as the exhibitor's mastery of the subject. This mastery can also be shown by short comprehensive texts. *'Mastery is shown by restraint'*

**Material**

The points for 'Condition and Rarity' are principally allotted to the 'Quality' of philatelic as well as non-philatelic material. If the judges find rare objects (from either category), points may be added.

Lack of relevant philatelic material sometimes makes it impossible to give thorough treatment of the theme and in that case the non-philatelic material can enhance the description and make the exhibit more attractive.

The exhibitor is encouraged to use as many non-philatelic items as possible, and not be just restricted to postcards.

*Suggested further reading*

Although it is an American book, those who wish to progress could usefully read/acquire a copy of "The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook" by Randy L. Neil

A more detailed paper on Preparing Philatelic Exhibits by Mark Bailey is posted on the Thames Valley website.