



St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR Splash In 2011

Competition rules

This year's 'Splash In' organised by the St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR will take place on Saturday 27th August with judging the following evening on Sunday 28th August. The entry fee is £20 which includes entry to the slideshow on the Sunday.

Registration

Entrants must register for the competition by completing the entry form and submitting it with a cheque for £20 made payable to 'St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR' to: Georgia Conolly, St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR, Rangers Office, Northfield, St Abbs, TD14 5QF **by 1st August**. A maximum number of 45 entrants are allowed in the competition and places will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis'.

Registration will also be possible on the morning of 27th August but we would encourage all participants to register in advance by 1st August.

Competition categories

There are 3 categories in the competition:

- **Marine Life Portrait:** close-up portraits of marine species. Photographs can be portrait or landscape but should not include divers.
- **Reserve Atmospheric:** demonstrating the Reserve and its spectacular underwater scenery, these may include shots with divers in the frame.
- **The John Goldie Most Humorous Shot:** portraying aspects of the reserve, its inhabitants or visitors in silly or compromising positions. Any form of image manipulation is allowed – let your imagination run wild, but please remember that the Splash In is a family show!

A maximum of 3 images may be submitted per person, but this must include one image in the Most Humorous Shot category. If a competitor does not wish to enter this category, then only 2 images may be entered.

Please also remember, you are diving in a marine reserve so take extra care not to damage or disturb marine life whilst taking your photos.

Rules

1. All competitors must check in at the **Old School, St Abbs, between 8am – 10am on 27th August**. Here they must demonstrate that their **memory card is empty** and that the **correct date and time are set on their camera**. Each competitor will be issued with a numbered ID card which they must photograph so that the first image on the memory card is of this numbered ID card. If they have not pre-registered then they must also enter and pay their entrance fee.
2. Only 1 memory card may be entered per competitor.

3. All images must be taken within the reserve on 27th August. Both underwater and surface shots are acceptable (but remember – the reserve only extends up to the high water mark so make sure all shots are below the high water mark!)
4. All entrants must check back in at the Old School, St Abbs, between **4pm – 6pm**, where they must take another image of their numbered ID card to show that the last image on the memory card is of the ID card. All original images must be retained on the memory card until the end of the competition.
5. Images may be downloaded to the competitor's own computer to check quality and to perform any whole image optimisation as defined below, prior to downloading onto the VMR's laptop.
6. Minimal digital manipulation using sharpening, colour correction, brightness and contrast adjustment may be made to the whole image only. **No cropping is allowed.** The organisers reserve the right to compare final images with the originals on the entrant's memory card and may disallow images they believe to be over-manipulated.
7. **The organisers reserve the right to disqualify photographs if they feel marine life has been tampered with or damaged in any way to achieve the desired results.**
8. Competitors must hand in their chosen images on 28th August between **9am – 12 noon** at the Old School, St Abbs. No images will be accepted after 12 noon. All images must be presented in person – emailing of entries will not be accepted.
9. Images may be taken in any format but should be submitted in JPEG format in the same size and resolution that they were taken – **no change to size or resolution should be made.**
10. Images should be downloaded onto the VMR's laptop using one of the following methods:
 - Your own camera USB cable
 - The VMR card reader
 - CD

No USB sticks will be allowed to enter images onto the VMR laptop (this is due to National Trust for Scotland IT policy)
11. Please note the VMR card reader can only read the following memory cards: CompactFlash; MultiMedia card; SecureDigital; SmartMedia; Memory Stick; Memory Stick Pro; Microdrive.
12. Files names should comprise the photographer's name and the category e.g. Joe Bloggs MLP1, Joe Bloggs RA1, Joe Bloggs MHS1 etc. If downloaded straight from a card they will be renamed and rotated as applicable in Photoshop by the organisers.
13. Exhibition of images will take place at the slide show held at the Old School, St Abbs at 7pm where the audience will act as judges and place their votes. Each entrant receives one free ticket to the slideshow, but as the hall has limited seating all other tickets must be brought in advance from Scoutscroft Dive Shop, Coldingham. **Tickets for the slide show will go on sale at Scoutscroft Dive Shop at 8am on 27th August.** The cost of a ticket is £2 per person, whatever the age of that person and does not include refreshments.

14. Prizes will be awarded after all the votes have been counted for:

- Marine Life Portrait 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best beginner*
- Reserve Atmospheric 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best beginner*
- Most Humorous Shot 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Best image in show

*a beginner is someone who has not been placed in a previous competition or had images published.

15. The VMR reserves the right to publish winning images on the VMR website and Facebook page. Images may also be used in future publicity relating to the event and other VMR activities.

16. The organiser's decision on any matters arising from these rules shall be final.

Questions

If you have any questions about the competition or rules please contact the Marine Ranger, Georgia Conolly, by emailing gconolly@nts.org.uk

Timetable summary

Monday 1st August

Deadline for advance registration for the competition

Saturday 27th August

8am – 10am Check in at the Old School

8am Tickets go on sale at Scoutscroft Dive Shop for the slideshow

4pm – 6pm End of day check in at the Old School

Sunday 28th August

9am – 12pm Entering of images at the Old School

7pm Slideshow begins at the Old School

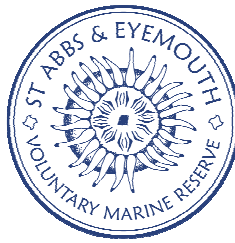
Safety

Participants are responsible for their own safety at all times. Divers must dive within the limits of their own dive certification level and abide by the VMR Code of Conduct at all times. The VMR cannot accept responsibility for the safety of participants during their diving activity, nor does it accept responsibility for any damage to personal equipment that may occur as a result of diving activities.

The VMR would like to thank all sponsors for their kind donations and volunteers for their hard work and help in organising this event.

Please abide by the VMR Code of Conduct when diving which is included in your registration pack.

Happy diving and GOOD LUCK!



The St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR Splash In 2011
27th – 28th August

ENTRY FORM

This form should be returned no later than 1st August. General entry can be made on the day but please enter and pay your entry fee in advance if possible.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS LEGIBLY SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU IN FUTURE IF WE NEED TO

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
POSTCODE:		
TEL:		
EMAIL:		
ARE YOU A BEGINNER? (a beginner is someone who has not been placed in a previous competition or had photos published)	YES NO (delete as appropriate)	

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR' for £20. I have read the rules published on the VMR website and agree to abide by them.

SIGNATURE **DATE**

Please return this form along with your entry fee to: Georgia Conolly, St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR, Rangers Office, Northfield, St Abbs, TD14 5QF no later than 1st August.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received:

Fee received:

Entrant registration number:

Memory card returned on time:

Type and number of images: **MLP** **RA** **MHS**