

SW ARTICLE COMPETITION 2019

Theme:

My Top Five

Brief:

Write an article based on your top five. There is no restriction on the subject of your Top 5

Word Count:

Max 1000 words

Judge:

Graeme Osborn

Graeme started on his local paper in Crawley, West Sussex, in 1980. He spent five years as a reporter covering everything from the courts to the council, crime, murder, music, you name it. Then he moved into sub-editing, and realised he'd found his niche. It was all about the words.

After a year, he got a job on Jane's Defence Weekly, and he stayed with Jane's for more than a decade, moving up to become chief sub/production editor and eventually managing editor in charge of all the magazines.

Next came a move to Flight International magazine, where he stayed until 2009 until redundancy threw him onto the freelance market. In 2012 he joined Insurance Times on the subs desk, leaving on Brexit vote day to go freelance again.

He has also written fiction, with none published so far, and write songs on the guitar and plays in a band.

Judge's Notes:

The key things of course are: make it interesting and keep it to the point.

You have one chance to engage the reader, and if they don't take to it, you've failed.

The intro should explain why you've chosen your subject and what interests you about it.

Because this is a light-hearted piece the writing can be looser and chatty but avoid purple prose, overdoing the hyperbole and cliché.

Don't try too hard to be funny.

Each one of your choices should include the reason for its position, and even how you came to that decision. If it's a subject you are passionate about, try and instil some of that passion, while bearing in mind all of the above.

Have fun!

Deadline:

Monday 7th October 2018. This will be by electronic submissions only. (E-mail entries to Terry. See Submission Rules).

Results:

Monday 2nd December 2018.

Rules:

Open to members only.

One entry per member.

Write on only one side of A4 paper.

Manuscripts must be typed and lines must be **single spaced**.

Title of article and page number to appear on each page.

No author's name to appear anywhere on the manuscript.

Submission Rules:

E-mail your story as a Word doc attachment to Terry (e-mail address available on request)

Your file should have the same name as the title of your article prefixed by SWA19 (e.g. 'SWA19 – My Top 5 Numbers')

Once all the entries are in, they will be sent electronically to Graeme. You will receive an e-mail from Terry confirming when your entry has been received by Graeme.

For this competition, work may be discussed amongst members, but is entirely up to the individual and done on a mutual basis between writer and reader. Members should not discuss any other entries without the permission of the author to respect the privacy of those who wish to keep their work to themselves.

Failure to comply with any of the rules may result in your work being withdrawn from the competition.

Good Luck!

Should probably be 'if they don't take it, you've failed' rather than read it.