



Vignettes 154

November 3rd, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Well, what an absolutely great turnout on Monday night, with over 30 of us eagerly anticipating Comp A judging night, the first of the season. We were privileged to have the excellent Michael Krier taking on his final judging event of his long career and what a night we had. Mike and I can't remember in our 8-year membership not only such a healthy submission of around 100 images across all four comps but also of a high standard we've certainly not see before. Even more encouraging were the number of submitted prints in both comp categories. Prints are, understandably, often the poor neighbour to DPI's due to comparative costs (printer, ink, paper, waste, mount board, mount cutter, tape and patience. Even using print labs comes with a cost). So, to have a print submission approaching a 50% increase over what we normally receive is very encouraging.

Well done everyone for making the effort and for giving Michael Krier such a hard job in his final diligent and constructive assessment. As Michael (and all judges) often say, it's only the judge's opinion, so for those who didn't gain an award, keep going and feed the judges' comments into your next competition entry.

As Mike mentioned on Monday, Michael produced a really helpful aide memoire of steps to improve your photography which we posted in Vignettes a couple of years ago. Michael has updated it and it's attached to this bulletin.

Finally, well done too to our many new members (this year and last) who scored highly. It's always good to have a broad base of talent across the club which is motivating for us all, for helping with battles against other clubs, for the annual WCPF inter-club DPI and print competition, and last, but not least, keeping us on our competitive toes! On that note we now have a healthy 43 members which is also very encouraging.

Jill has been in touch and here's last night's results and winning images:

COMP A RESULTS:

SET PRINT (18)

FIRST	Faded Beauty	Carol Thorne
SECOND	Bluebell Woods	Jill Bewley
THIRD	Queeensferry Crossing	Ruth Barker
HC	Turquoise Translucence	Val Thomas
HC	Water Droplets	Steve Kirby
C	Red Feather Droplets	Patrick Barker
C	Blue Ripples	Alun Thomas
C	Fluid Blue	Mike Cheeseman
C	Purple Love	Vikki O'Keeffe
C	Tree Shock	Paul Norris



Faded Beauty by Carol Thorne

OPEN PRINT (21)

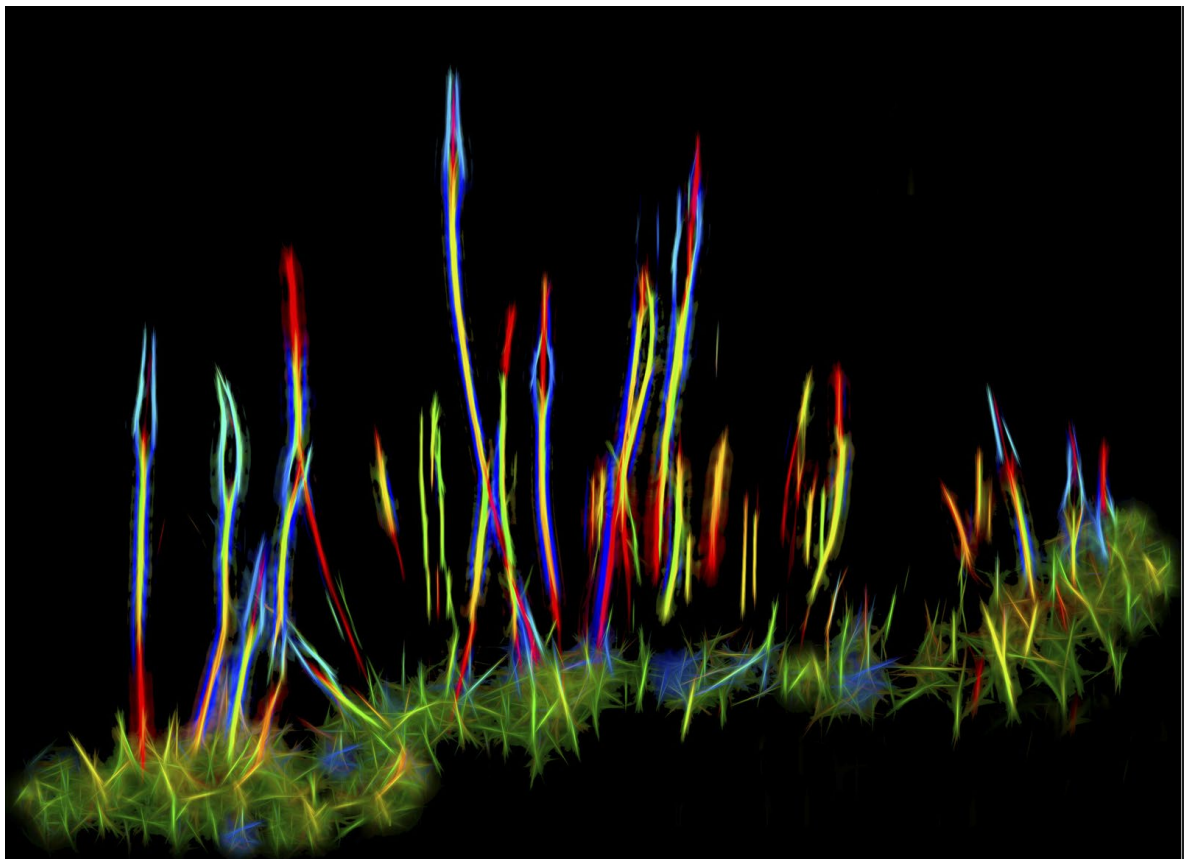
FIRST	Pretty Flamingo	Fin Simpson
SECOND	Ballet Dancers	Mike Cheeseman
THIRD	Centre Point	Ruth Barker
HC	Shades of Speed	Liz Gillham
HC	Behind Bars	Jill Bewley
C	Iceberg Variation	Paul Jones
C	Red flag at West Bay	Dave Cahill



Pretty Flamingo by Fin Simpson

SET DPI (33)

FIRST	Moss Rockets	Dave Cahill
SECOND	Warped	Bob Berry
THIRD	Angles	Peggy Howard
HC	Motoring Nightmare	David Wallis
HC	Linear Living	Daphne Neale
C	Cubism	Mike Cheeseman
C	Vein Glorious	Jill Bewley
C	Surfer	Sue Gunnee
C	Oily Water	Val Thomas
C	Purple Rain	Fin Simpson
C	Pom poms	Chris Donohoe



Moss Rockets by Dave Cahill

OPEN DPI (29)

FIRST	Catching the light	Jill Bewley
SECOND	Clean Lines	Alun Thomas
THIRD	Martha	Liz Gillham
HC	Munich Surfers	Dave Cahill
HC	Dark Clouds	Bob Berry
C	The Hare of the Lawn	Patrick Barker
C	Up and Over	Tricia Lindsay
C	Young Photographer	Peggy Howard
C	Splendid Isolation	Rob Gorthy



Catching the Light by Jill Bewley

Given that about 37% of the total number of entries (101) were given awards, it was good to see that about 60% of the awards (22) were given to different members, of which 5 are new members. An excellent spread of winners.

The Comp Points System - A Note from Jill

Jill has been in touch with a few words for our new members to explain the season's competition points system...

Thank you to everyone, especially our new members, who submitted images for Competition A, and so great to have an increased number of prints. This made it a really interesting and varied judging night with a record number of images in recent years (101 to be precise!). The whole set of images will shortly be displayed on the website under Competition Galleries, with the placed images at the end of each section: <https://cirencestercameraclub.org/competition-a-2022-results/>

To read the image titles and placing, please hover your mouse over the thumbnails, or click to open the images and scroll through.

Points system

All five of the General Competitions (A-E) count towards the overall score at the end of the season, along with the points from the separate Annual Competitions which are held in May. The member who has accumulated the most points during the year will be awarded the President's Cup, plus there are Trophies for the most points accumulated for Prints and DPLs.

After each judging evening, all the points will be added to a spreadsheet - each entry gains one point, so just by entering 4 images in each Competition you can accumulate a minimum of 20 points.

The scoring system is as follows:

Entry: 1

Commended: 2

Highly Commended: 3

Third: 4

Second: 5

First: 6

If you have any questions at all about the Competitions please do drop me an email to competitions@cirencestercameraclub.org.

Jill Bewley

Comp Sec

Next Week - Show and Tell

A big thanks to everyone who has volunteered to give us their take on an image(s) which means something to them. As a result of some more members volunteering on Monday night, we've now got a full and varied cast of likely suspects dealing with a (truly) wide range of subjects. With much thanks, here's the volunteers with a cryptic note on their subject, where known (but don't hold me to it!):

- Mike Cheeseman – Weavers Hall
- Jill Bewley - Puffins
- Martyn Smith - The Banshees of Inisherin.
- David Wallis - Northern Lights
- Paul Jones - TBA
- David Cahill - Meteor image
- Shaun Little - Work in Progress
- Finn Simpson - Rugby Comp winning image
- Patrick Barker - TBA

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63449296>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63366608>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63427210>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-63416941>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63411863>

European Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards 2022 announced

The winners of the European Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards 2022 have just been announced, from the huge number of images that were submitted this year. Across the 10 categories which include birds, underwater world, landscape, and nature, more than 18,000 images were entered from 35 countries across Europe. All were hoping to take that prestigious first place. Here's a link to the website and some amazing images:

<https://www.gdtfoto.de/seiten/gdt-european-wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-results-2022.html>

PAGB Newsletters

Paul Jones has been in touch with the latest PAGB Newsletters

Hi Martyn. A couple of newsletters, the latest with a slot by my fellow undergrad Brian May on 3D photography. Cheers, Paul

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en318%2015%20Oct%202022.pdf>

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en319%201%20Nov%202022.pdf>

Volunteers

Here's our regular volunteer spot for in house club events over the season as updated. It's edging forward slowly as names are added. All we need is a few volunteers to contribute - in most case it won't be for more than 20 minutes or so. Just to be clear, **we are not asking for anyone to run the whole night.** Just to be part of a team for the evening. From my experience time flies at these events and there's no doubt that you learn from the experience as a presenter. Once we have enough people we will liaise on which aspect each volunteer will talk about. We'll add members to each event as we get them:

So, at the moment here's the following 'In House' events which will require member input along with the latest volunteers:

7th November - Show & Tell - display your favourite image, story, composition and processing tools. A night with a potential practical edge to it.

1. Mike Cheeseman – Weavers Hall
2. Jill Bewley - Puffins
3. Martyn Smith - The Banshees of Inisherin.
4. David Wallis - Northern Lights
5. Paul Jones - TBA
6. David Cahill - Meteor image
7. Shaun Little - Work in Progress
8. Finn Simpson - Rugby Comp winning image
9. Patrick Barker - TBA

21st November - Lightroom Workshop. An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences given the recent comprehensive updates to this excellent software. A foil to the excellent Photoshop presentations we've had in the past couple of years from Shaun.

1. David Wallis - the mysteries of cataloguing
2. John Smith - using Lightroom in the cloud across different platforms
- 3.

23rd January - Multiple Exposures - A timely dedicated genre which is the subject of a club competition (submission Feb). An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences, advise on techniques and we'll set some tables up to have a go.

1. Mike Cheeseman using strobe flash
- 2.

30th Jan - Speed learning - (not to be confused with speed dating!) an experienced member led workshop group discussion on different aspects of photography we can share in groups. E.g appropriate use of different AF modes, dedicated camera make menus, typical camera settings for different genres etc. Each group discussion to last, say, 20/30 minutes. Format to be finalised. All thoughts and ideas gratefully received.

Q1 from Jill - How to use the Tone Curves and Colour Grading on Lightroom.

1. Mike Cheeseman - flash
2. Shaun Little -
- 3.

6th March - Take 5 - 5 member led 20 min presentation on their burning photography issues we all might learn from. Totally diverse and open to anyone with something to share.

1. Martyn Smith - Camera bags (a light-hearted look!)
2. Dave Cahill - Blipfoto
3. Paul Norris - Straight pictures – what is the 'driver' to enhance the image in your camera.
4. Paul Jones -

24th April - The Panel Challenge(s) - The Panel Challenge is being expanded this year to provide for a dedicated Smart Phone Panel. We're working on the rules so watch this space. No volunteers needed but just a heads up of what's to come.

24th April - Then and now - As the Panel Challenges may not take up the whole evening we are working on a new idea from John Smith for members to revisit and capture old Cotswold postcard locations for an evening of 'then and now' images - watch this space. However, here's a taster from the BBC's website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62820981>

Date to be Confirmed - Travelogue Night - Member led presentation giving tips on where to take great images. Short stay, long stay holidays (Uk and abroad), staying local, days out - just about anywhere you fancy.

1. Sue Gunnee - TBC.
2. Martyn Smith - Holy Island.
3. Andy Kennedy - Manhattan.
4. Paul Norris - Near and Far - what inspires me on holiday.
5. Paul Jones - New Zealand

Club Committee meeting

The Club Committee is due to meet on November 16th on Zoom. If you have any questions or agenda items, please send them to our Sec Stephen Chapman or Chair Mike Cheeseman.

This Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023

	Competition Set & Open	Submission Date	Judging Night
A	Abstract + Open	03/10/22	31/10/22
B	Reflections + Open	31/10/22	05/12/22
C	Urban / Street photography + Open	05/12/22	16/01/23
D	Fog / steam / mist / smoke + Open	16/01/23	20/02/23
E	Multiple exposures + Open	27/02/23	27/03/23
Annual	2021-22 Annual competition	03/04/23	08/05/23

Club Competitions – Set Subject A-E Definitions

A: ABSTRACT

Abstract photography is the art of capturing subjects in such a way that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colours, and textures. It can encompass a huge variety of subject matter, take us out of our comfort zone, make us question what we see, or invite us to enter another realm. The subject matter is often implied or suggested rather than overtly and literally presented. Any image that is altered reality is acceptable.

B: REFLECTIONS

“Reflection photos refer to any shot, no matter what type of photography genre, that uses a reflective surface.” This can be a landscape, building, water, windows etc.

C: URBAN or STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Urban photography is a broad genre that can include anything within a built-up, urban environment, but the image must convey an aspect of a city. Your image must have been taken in a built-up urban environment but does not *have* to include people. However, it can also include candid shots of people which then makes it Street Photography which is also accepted.

D: FOG / STEAM / MIST / SMOKE

This topic can include a wide variety of images, from misty morning landscapes to smoke wisps created at home – as long as the predominant effect / subject includes Steam or Mist or Smoke or Fog.

E: MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

Multiple exposure means superimposing two or more photos to create a completely new, different image either directly in the camera or afterwards in image processing.

Annual Competitions

(Submission Deadline 03 April 2023)

Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Quenington Sculpture 5-26 th June 2022	DPI
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI
Cavendish Cup	Black and White Open	Print
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI

**All DPIs to be 1600px x 1200px in sRGB colour space. DPI version of Prints must also be submitted.
NB Portrait images must be 1200px on *longest* side.**

The Dropbox link is featured on every Comp submission page, along with a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

Quote Of the Week

The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera ^L~~SEPP~~ Dorothea Lange

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

Appendices – Documents from Michael Krier

Evaluating your images (what judges may be looking for)

The 10 elements of a 'good image':

1. Impact or 'wow factor'
2. The photographer's seeing, selection, positioning
3. Composition (rule of thirds, point of interest, diagonal lead in, balance ...)
4. Use of light (photography = drawing with light), especially studio images and landscapes
5. Application of colour (PDIs & Colour Prints), range of tones (Mono)
6. Technical basics: sharpness, depth of field, exposure, filters, processing
7. Presentation: image dimensions, choice of paper (prints), subtle key stroke (PDIs)
8. Stand out: significance of subject, technique, treatment, experimentation ...
9. Emotional impact: engagement of viewer with subject, story
10. 'Beauty' - back to 1 above

Common errors:

1. Distracting light areas (especially edges) taking viewer's eye away from main point of interest
2. Flat lighting, lack of contrast or excessive contrast; conflicting colours
3. Under or over cropping, including inappropriate dimensions
4. Questionable editing: mistakes, over-complication, over-worked technique
5. Lack of clarity as to 'the point of the picture'
6. Dust on sensor, horizons not level, distracting elements ...
7. Some images may be better presented as prints (e.g. mono, panels), others as PDIs.

Photography is not a 'competitive sport' - the perils of competition:

1. c2 to 3 seconds (salons); 'pre-judging' v 'judging on the night'
2. Salons use 5, 4, 3, 2 scoring to achieve 25% acceptance rate
3. Constraints imposed on judges by competition rules (define 'out of 20', limited HC/C awards)
4. Judges' idiosyncrasies, preferences, fashions and trends, interpretation of set subjects ...
5. A successful image in one competition is rejected in another
6. Judges have to choose from what's put before them on the night
(so your excellent image can be outclassed by another photographer's even better one)
7. "It's been done before" - so what!
8. Judges don't always get it right!

By all means learn from what judges say (and this item), but don't become obsessed with pleasing judges or emulating the latest fashions, unless that's your thing. It pays to look at and appreciate photographs by 'professionals' and 'the greats'.

**It's your seeing and image-making that counts,
and the pleasure you get from your photography!**

Photographers referred to in Michael Krier's presentation

Influences
Cartier-Bresson
Bill Brandt
Irving Penn
Brassai
William Klein
Dorothea Lange
Robert Frank
Paul Hill

Portraiture
David Hockney
Richard Avedon
Thomas Ruff
Bill Viola
Annie Liebowitz
Shelby Lee Adams
Erin Kornfield

Landscape
Jo Cornish
Ansell Adams
Bathazar Burkhard
Jem Southam
John Piper
Michael Fry
Thomas Joshua Cooper
Roni Horn
Henry Callahan
John Blakemore
Fay Godwin

Documentary
Stephen Shore
Don McCullin
Simon Norfolk
John Davies
Edward Burtynsky
Sebastao Salgado
Alec Soth
Simon Norfolk
Bill Jacobson
Robert Weingarten
Jitka Hanzlova
Wayne Bullock
Joel Sternefld
David Goldblatt
Hilda and Bernd Becher
Andy Earl
Martin Hunter
Ambroise Tezenas
Gregory Crewdson
Jeff Wall
Paul Hill

this list is not exhaustive!

The ten stages in making an image

1. Seeing
2. Selecting
3. The light
4. Positioning
5. Composing
6. Shooting (technicalities)
7. Timing
8. Processing (technicalities)
9. Assessing
10. Presenting

Idea / Message / Emotion / Beauty

Some underlying issues

- What makes for a 'good' or 'beautiful' image
- Differences between 'club' photography and 'professional' / 'fine art' photography
- 'Rules' and 'Fashions'
- Why competitions ?
- Critique versus judgement/scoring
- Photographers or Graphic Manipulators ?
- Alternatives to single images
- Some strategies for making better images
- Social media and the 'younger generation'

Other contemporary photographers

Susan Meiselas
Ralph Gibson
Nick Brandt
Paulette Tavorima
Luc De La Haye
Eva Karhu
Giulio Di Sturco

...

Other sources:

Photographers' Gallery

AOP awards
Photo London (May)
Tate Museums
V&A
Observer/Guardian photos

Smethwick PS exhibitions