



Vignettes 80

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. An excellent competition night on Monday with forthright judge Michael Krier from Cheltenham giving our beloved images the once over at this, the last of this season's regular club competitions. I've always quite liked Mike's straightforward style and if you have either forgotten his entertaining no holds barred "Meet the Judge" talk to us a couple of years ago, or weren't there, it was excellent. As Mike C mentioned, he left us with a useful crib sheet for entering club competitions. Perhaps I should have looked at it!! Anyway it's posted below, so next time he's judging our images, there'll be no excuses! I think I fell foul of burnt out highlights a couple of years ago. Here's Monday night's results, hot off the press from Jamie:

Title (Set – Landscape)	Judge's score	Photographer
Burnham Lighthouse	Commended	John Smith
Enjoying the Falls	Commended	Katrina Ellor
Sydney Harbour	Commended	Martyn Smith
Sun on Mount Esja	Commended	Sue Gunnee
Cotswold wall	Commended	Val Thomas
Loweswater Cumbria	Highly Commended	Carol Thorne
Woodland Bluebells	3rd	Colin Hoskins
Autumn Wave	2nd	David Cahill
Cold Out Warm In	1st	Mike Cheeseman

Title (Open)	Judge's score	Photographer
Piano Keyboard	Commended	Mike Cheeseman
Taking Stock	Commended	John Crew
Derelict Engine	Commended	Katrina Ellor
The Vessel - New York	Commended	David Wallis
Longing for the Sea Again	Highly Commended	Steve Knight
Lots of Faces	Highly Commended	Colin Hoskins
A Snowy Day in The Park	3rd	Val Thomas
Grass Seed Head with Visitor	2nd	Syd Mathews
Winter Cotswold Sheep	1st	Patrick Barker

Once again, 14 different winners from 18 results is becoming a regular characteristic of our club competitions which demonstrates the strength and breadth of members' abilities. Good also to see Colin, Val, Katrina and Mike gaining awards in both competitions. Well done to all.

Here is Michael Krier's crib sheet:

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), others as PDIs.

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

1. 2 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)
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)
7. "It's been done before" - so what!
8. Judges don't always get it right!

By all means learn from what judges say, 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'.

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

Michael Krier MA (Photography), ARPS, AFIAP

michael@krier.photography

Programme Change for The End of The Season

Following on from our discussion on Monday, I can confirm that the AGM will be on the 10th May, brought forward from the 17th May. This leaves us with two remaining dates in the club season:

1. 17th May
2. 24th May

As we explained, the Knock Out Print (KOP) competition, which was cancelled last year, is proving difficult to convert into a PDI virtual competition. It's just down to the impracticalities of the technology in running it the way we do. For that reason, the committee feels that it would be more practical to hold the KOP as normal once we return physically so the preference therefore is to cancel it. That being the case and given that the 17th May is the next major date in the Government's lockdown "roadmap", we would like to revisit Val & Alun's suggestion earlier in the season that we have a meet up outdoors now the nights are lighter. The lockdown rules from the 17th allow a max of 30 to meet outdoor (club membership is 35 - we might just need to be inventive if we have a full house!). Hopefully by then, most, if not all of us, will have had at least one job. If the weather looks bad, it could be postponed to the 24th and the Awards night programmed for that date be brought forward to the 17th.

So, the critical question is: Would members support an outdoor meet up on the 17th or the 24th? We want to ensure that there's a general groundswell of support for the idea so members don't feel disenfranchised. Although the club's virtual varied programme has been well attended this season (more so than at physical meet ups) there's always times during the club season when some members don't "attend" which can be for a variety of reasons. So let us know what you think and if you think it's a good idea, any suggestions on where we could meet would be appreciated. Choice of either date would be decided by the weather forecast so we would have to keep it flexible.

LRPS Group

Just to reiterate the announcement we made on Monday night, a big congratulations to John Smith who achieved his LRPS distinction last week. As Mike mentioned, the club's RPS Distinctions Advisory Group counts another success amongst its midst and continues to welcome members wishing to have a crack at an RPS distinction, or any other for that matter. John's submitted panel received, like Jill's LRPS panel the previous month, overwhelmingly positive plaudits from the judges on a day when less than 50% of the submissions achieved a pass. Well done, John.

The RPS is holding a joint session with the PAGB on May 5th all about distinctions (including the PAGB DPI options) – booking details on the RPS website.

Internal Competitions

The “Summer Competition” will comprise:

1. The Summer Cup
2. The Ted Parrot Cup

The Ted Parrot Cup is for “Sporting Action” and the definition is:

“An image of a fast-paced competitive physical activity governed by a specific set of rules defined by a sports governing body”.

The Summer Cup set subjects are:

1. *Stress.*
2. *Relaxation.*
3. *Happiness.*

In terms of DropBox details for competition submissions, it will be the same all season:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/zRwHLz7MfRGHIZyCHNsp>

Next year’s Club Competitions

Jamie has been in touch with the Reddits of our poll to choose the subject for each of next year’s regular competitions:

Hi Martyn. The votes are in and thanks to everyone who voted for the subjects for next season’s club competitions. Can you include these in the next edition of Vignettes? I think it’s a great diverse range of subjects and it gives everyone lots of time to get that special shot.

Subject	Competition
Water (in all its forms)	A
Architecture	B
Sunrise, sunset	C
Coastal	D
Winter	E
Farming in the Cotswolds	Pitchers Trophy (annual Competition)

Miscellaneous

Scottish Nature Photography Awards

There's some terrific photos in the Scottish Nature Photography Competition and it's refreshing to see this year's winner is a beautifully lit floral image by Charles Everitt. Catch the competition entries and winners here:

<https://scottishnaturephotographyawards.com/>

Cirencester Twinning Association

Val & Alun have been in contact about the Cirencester Twinning Association calendar for next year:

Hi Martyn. The Cirencester Twinning Association is in the process of selecting images for it's 2022 calendar of views in Cirencester. We have been asked by our friend, who is chair of the Association, whether Camera Club members have images which might be suitable. Images of the Parish Church and Cecily Hill are not needed. Any suitable images should be sent for consideration to the chair, Anna Colledge, at anna.colledge@btinternet.com by [the 30th April](#).

Many thanks. Alun and Val

So, there you go. An opportunity to get one of your Cirencester images into mortality, well at least 2022!

Don't try this at home

I came across this amazing YouTube video last week. I guess the Finnish are used to walking on ice in wintertime, even if they risk being run over by a ship! Must have been tricky for the cameraman humping around such huge kit in those days.

<https://youtu.be/TPHJK-ieS6I>

New Members

We've had three new members join the club this year and whilst Zoom has been a great salvation in keeping us all linked up, it does have its shortcomings in integrating the membership in the way achievable with physical meet ups. Communication on Zoom is good but it is hampered by the "staccato" nature of the technology and, in addition, we often don't have that much time to "small talk" on club nights before we get into the business of the evening. And then, all too quickly, club night is all over. To my mind that's been a bit of a disadvantage to our new faces so, in response to my email request to tell us a little bit about themselves, I am delighted to say that the response has been positive. Here's Lloyd's "CV":

Lloyd Wigglesworth

Hi Martyn, Thank you so much for your enquiry. I cannot wait to be able to mix physically with fellow photographers later in the year. I had a photography trip planned next week with PhotoJourney with a group to go to Scottish Islands for 6 days. Alas it had to be cancelled of course. I went with the same organisers, PhotoJourney, to Nepal just before the first lock-down in February 2020 and it was wonderful.

My real love is portraits and a highlight last year was spending a day with Paul Wilkinson, a professional portrait photographer, learning about posing subjects and light & shadow. I am trying to learn landscape work and am slowly getting better at it but consider myself to be a complete amateur at it. I moved to mirrorless this year with a Canon R6 and use an RF prime and a wide angle zoom plus my older EF lenses with an adapter. I have experimented with creating a small portrait studio set up at home using flash and different backdrops and have loved that.

For the past few years I have made a number of video portraits of people. 3-4 minutes long with the aim of capturing their essence. I think it's the same principle for still portraits but probably easier having moving pictures and sound. It would be fun to create a gallery in the members' gallery. I will definitely contact Jill to organise that.

I cannot make all the club meetings as I have a (nearly) full time job. My last decade has been coaching CEO's having spent 30 years in many different businesses. Ironically one of my management roles was running a publishing company which included magazines such as Practical Photography - but that was before my love of photography emerged. Maybe my passion was triggered by that experience...

Really looking forward to meeting you guys in person.

All best wishes,

Lloyd

Some great and varied interests from Lloyd which will add to the breadth and depth of the club's skill base. A Canon R6 man I see. Lloyd's clearly got good taste! All being well we'll post Gary's feedback next week.

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56654460>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-36417297>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56647773>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56677607>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-56611003>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-56678180>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-56559464>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56689445>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56700587>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-56653825>

Quote of The Week

The picture that you took with your camera is the imagination you want to create with reality.

Scott Lorenzo

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

Cheers and stay safe.

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)