



# Vignettes 279

September 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2025

## Contents

Club News .....	2
Programme Secretary' Review .....	2
Chairmans Challenge Part 2 .....	3
Battle Secretary's Review .....	3
External Exhibitions and Competitions .....	6
BBC pictures .....	7
Quote of the week .....	7
Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026 .....	8
Definitions of Set Subjects .....	8
CCC Annual Competition Categories .....	9
Club Competitions from September 2025 .....	10
Competition Rules from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 .....	12
Club Programme 2025-26 .....	14

## **Club News**

Hi everybody. I hope you are all well. Welcome back to the first meeting of the new 25 - 26 club season. Jean tells me that the subs are coming in thick and fast so a big thanks to everyone who's paid to date. Sorry I missed the first night but I'll be back next week. By the way, Canon is about to announce a new camera next Tuesday. Just thought you would like to know. Here's Dave with his weekly round up:

### **Programme Secretary' Review**

*So, we're off! We had a decent turnout of over 30 members for our opening meeting, including over 20 who had already paid their subscriptions. An excellent start. Those who haven't paid yet know what to do!*

*The committee went through their roles and responsibilities again, together with a brief outline of their photographic histories. Some images were shown, though no puffins at this stage. I feel we may see some later in the season. I then gave a quick rundown of this year's programme. Thanks to those members who came to speak to me afterwards with offers of contributions for the member nights, and for thoughts on the Plan B ideas.*

*After the break (and many thanks to Bex for stepping up into the barista role) David gave us an interesting insight into the current uses (or should that be misuses) of AI in photography, including the way it is employed to clean up images in Lightroom. The use of ChatGPT to modify images, and critique them suggesting Photoshop improvements was very illuminating. I'm sure there will be more discussion to come, especially with regard to competition images. Finally, David gave us a brief introduction to his Members Challenge Part 2. This year it will focus on improving our understanding and use of camera settings. It will be a 30 week challenge, with task 1 being an aperture and depth of field assignment. More details will follow in Vignettes.*

*Next week we have our regular evening looking at the WCPF Travelling Print Exhibition. There are 72 prints, covering three sections - Nature, Open Mono and Open Colour - about a third of the images which were shown at the WCPF 2025 Members Exhibition in May. The good news is that none of the prints have been lost by Evri this year, so they will be the highest quality selection.*

*If you thought that the opening meeting was like the first day back at school next week will be like a fun exam time. We will split into 6 tables and review the prints in batches. The invigilator (i.e. me) will allow 10-15 minutes review and discussion time, and will then ask for views on the 'best' print from each batch. At the end of the evening I will tot up the scores and we will have another look at the most popular prints and see if our choices agree with those of the WCPF judges.*

*It will be our usual 7:30pm start.*

*Hope to see you all next week.*

*Cheers*

*Dave*





## Chairmans Challenge Part 2

Here is the first of this years photo challenge.

### 30 Tasks Based on Camera Settings —





- Unlike most photography challenges which are just a simple list of ideas or subjects, this 30-week challenge is designed to put the knowledge gained in last year's challenge to the test.
- Each week there will be a task based on mastering Camera Settings
- A brief will be published each week.
- By the end of the challenge, we should have further enhanced the understanding of our cameras.

Each task includes:

-  **Objective**
-  **Camera Setting Focus**
-  **Assignment**
-  **Notes/Tips**

1 September 2025

#### 1. Aperture Study: Depth of Field

-  **Objective:** Understand how aperture affects depth of field.
-  **Setting:** Aperture Priority (A/Av Mode)
-  **Assignment:** Photograph the same subject at f/2.8, f/5.6, and f/11.
-  **Tip:** Use a fixed focal length for consistency; focus on the same point.

Paul's been in touch - Battle against Wantage and Swindon

### Battle Secretary's Review

Hi everyone

Following our recent committee meeting, please see the invite and the poster below and more will follow on soon re the selection approach and Bottle images

Thanks

Paul

Hi Paul.

Please find attached October's battle invitation details which are pretty much the same as last year. I hope all is in order but please shout if you have any questions/comments and I look forward to another close competition!

Kind Regards

Dave Young

SPS Battle Sec



Thursday 9th October 2025 19:30

### Club Battle Invitation

We are delighted you can join us for an inter club battle on Thursday 9th October 2025 between:

- Cirencester Camera Club (lead:Paul Norris)
- Wantage Camera Club (lead:Maria Walker)
- Swindon Photographic Society (lead:Dave Young)

The judge for the evening is Steve Field LRPS AWPf EFIAP BPE2\*.

The event will be projected at our meeting hall if any of your members would like to attend in person but also available on Zoom (Zoom details issued nearer the time). Steve will be in the hall.

### General Rules

Deadline for submission	Please email or transfer your images to me by the end of Friday 19th September 2025 so that I can get all images packaged up and to the judge two weeks prior to the Battle.
Number of Images	Each club to submit 20 images with no more than 3 images from the same author
Image Author and AI	<p>All images submitted must have been taken by the club member using a photographic process. Composite images are permitted provided all component images meet this requirement.</p> <p>This means any software that adds content that is not the photographer's content is not permitted. This includes but is not restricted to the use of clip-art or another photographer's image, downloaded textures or backgrounds, third-party decorative borders, AI generated content that draws content from outside the photographer's own work, replacing clouds with stock images (using your own cloud images is fine), plus shaped or textured brushes not created by the photographer.</p>

	Technology that enhances an existing image without drawing on image data from outside that image (e.g., AI De-noise, AI Scaling, AI Sharpening) is acceptable. Software tools that replace or remove an image element or extend an image such as content-aware fill, healing, patching or object removal are only permitted where the source for the inserted image data is wholly contained within the base image(s).
Image Currency	No image can be more than 3 years old at the time of submission
Digital Images	The native size for our projector used in the hall is 1920 pixels wide * 1200 pixels high. Smaller images will still project but will appear smaller than the full size image and larger images will be reduced to fit.  Colour Space/Mode: SRGB, 8 bit  File Format: .jpg only
File Naming	Short Title followed by underscore_ then Authors name  E.g. The Beginning_Dave Young.jpg  The only characters to be used in file names are letters A-Z and numbers 0-9 and underscore.

### Running of the Battle

The images will be anonymised to include title only and the projection order randomised before delivering to the judge in advance of the Battle.

Zoom details will be issued in advance of the Battle.

We will have 30 images and then a short break before the remaining 30 images.

Score sheets will be emailed in advance of the meeting. The score sheets are automated, requiring only the score and “return” to be typed and it gives half time as well as final scores and also the final positioning so our results should all tally!

After the welcomes and introductions, Steve will give us his comments and score (out of 20) and I will then announce the club and then move onto the next image.

Our club meets at:

Des Moffatt Western Community Centre,

Swindon

SN2 1NF

Parking is available behind the hall or on local streets.

If you think you will have any members attending in person then please let me know nearer the time, you will all be most welcome.

If you have any questions about the event please contact me either on david.exstream@gmail.com or 07887 24 22 23.

I look forward to meeting you and good luck!

Dave Young

SPS Battle Secretary

## **External Exhibitions and Competitions**

### It's that time again - Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Yes, it's come around again. Your exclusive first look at the 2025 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is here. Now in its 61st year, this world-renowned competition, developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London, has once again brought together the most striking, moving, and unforgettable images of wildlife from across the globe. Selected from 60,636 entries across 113 countries and territories, the images you're about to discover were chosen by an international panel of experts in wildlife photography, conservation, science, and filmmaking. Each shot tells a story – of survival, resilience, and connection, and offers us a window into the often hidden lives of wild animals and the fragile ecosystems they call home.

Check out the website and some images here:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/selected-from-60-000-entries-take-an-exclusive-sneak-peek-at-powerful-images-from-the-wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2025-competition>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy>

### 2025 Capture the Dark photography winners

DarkSky International reveals the winners of the 2025 Capture the Dark photography contest. The night sky is one of the most magical subjects – but capturing it is becoming increasingly difficult. With the 2025 Capture the Dark contest, DarkSky International not only showcases breathtaking astrophotography from around the world but also draws urgent attention to the growing threat of light pollution. Capture the Dark has become a global stage for responsible night sky photography. Backed by DarkSky International – an organization committed to protecting natural darkness. 2200 photographers from 22 countries entered. Check out the winners here:

<https://darksky.org/what-we-do/events/photo-contest/2025-winners/>

### Ocean Photographer of the Year finalists

From hauntingly beautiful marine life portraits to raw moments of environmental urgency, the OPOTY 2025 finalists capture it all. Get out your wetsuit and have a look at the winners!:

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/winners-gallery/>

### **BBC pictures**

As usual some great images and backstories from across the globe from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c98l27ge6q9o>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgnx9x4z7go>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnv7lj7ezj1o>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz938xw3y4qo>

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20250826-the-photographer-who-covered-covid-from-hospital>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0kzyl2v22po>

### **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, have a good week.*

*Cheers*

Martyn ([thehoneys@btinternet.com](mailto:thehoneys@btinternet.com))

David ([david.wallis@btinternet.com](mailto:david.wallis@btinternet.com))

Dave ([dave.cahill975@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.cahill975@btinternet.com))

## Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026

	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
<b>Summer Cup</b>	DPI – 2025 Summer Club Events	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>A</b>	Open DPI & Print	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>B</b>	Set DPI & Print – Square Format	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
<b>C</b>	Open DPI & Print	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
<b>D</b>	Set DPI & Print – Automotive	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>E</b>	Open DPI & Print	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>F</b>	Set DPI & Print – In the Kitchen	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Annual</b>	2025-2026 Competitions Annual	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> April and 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Definitions of Set Subjects

**SQUARE FORMAT:** typically refers to using a square aspect ratio (1:1) intentionally as a creative constraint or theme. This can be achieved in camera, or by cropping during post processing. So, you are being asked to explore how composition, balance, or storytelling changes when restricted to a square. The square naturally invites symmetry, central framing, and geometric precision and works well for portraits, minimalism, or patterns. Rule of thirds still applies but feels different, centred subjects often look stronger in square, and negative space becomes more powerful. Explore how the square changes emotional or narrative impact. How does it shift the viewer's attention compared to landscape or portrait orientation?

**AUTOMOTIVE:** A follow- on from Amy Shore's Presentation in October. A chance to explore and creatively interpret vehicles and the world around them as your primary theme. This can go far beyond simply photographing a car — it's an invitation to tell stories, explore design, motion, culture, and even emotion through the lens of automotive imagery.

**IN THE KITCHEN:** Typically, a scene encompassing components or activities that you would find in the kitchen. This could be food still life, equipment and utensils or an activity such as stirring a pot.



### CCC Annual Competition Categories

– Submission deadline 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		
Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic Chosen by President)	Sunset in the Cotswolds	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print + DPI 1600 x 1200 sRGB
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Cavendish Cup	Black & White Open	Print + DPI 1600 x 1200 sRGB
Miles Shield	Open (Club Outing)	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Ted Parrot Trophy	Sporting Action	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Pitchers Cup (Open to new members only)	Open	Print + DPI or DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB

For all Competitions, please upload images by the submission date shown above via Pixoroo link below: -

[pixoroo.com/public/account/login](https://pixoroo.com/public/account/login)

## Club Competitions from September 2025

Club Competitions are designed to allow members the opportunity for their best images to be critiqued by a qualified judge from outside the club whilst engaged in friendly competition with other club members. The judge will award the following positions and points.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	6 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	5 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 points
Highly Commended	3 points
Commended	2 points
All other entries	1 point

Points from all externally judged competitions throughout the season are totalled prior to the Awards Evening and the member with the most points is awarded the **Presidents Cup**.

### Summer Cup

The Summer Cup is a Member Judged competition held at the start of each season. Members may enter one DPI taken at one of the Club's Summer Events that year. As this competition is member judged all entries, including those placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> may be entered in any General or Annual Competition.

### General Competitions

All General Competitions are externally judged and consist of 2 sections:

1. Digital Projected Image (DPI)
2. Mounted Print

There are 6 competitions throughout the season – 3 x Open and 3 x Set Subject. Following completion of all six competitions trophies are awarded at the Annual AGM to the members with the most points in each of the following Categories.

1. Open DPI
2. Open Print
3. Set DPI
4. SET Print

Set subjects, submission and judging dates are available on the Club Website, Vignettes and Pixoroo.

### Annual Competitions

There are several Trophy based Annual Competitions, many dedicated to the memory of past Camera Club members. Judging is spread over two evenings towards the end of the season. Members may enter once in each competition with the winner holding the Trophy for one year.

<b>Pitchers Trophy</b>	A subject chosen by the Club President each year – DPI
<b>Pitchers Cup</b>	Open to New members only in their first full season – open DPI
<b>Dennis Moss Trophy</b>	A mounted Print on any subject
<b>Leonard Jones Cup</b>	Open subject DPI
<b>Cavendish Cup</b>	A monochrome mounted Print on any subject
<b>Miles Shield</b>	A DPI taken on a Club outing or Practical Event.
<b>Gladiator Trophy</b>	A DPI with an Aviation Theme
<b>Ted Parrot Trophy</b>	Sporting Action based DPI

## **Competition Rules from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

### **General Competitions**

1. There are 6 General competitions (3 Open and 3 set subject) per Season each consisting of 2 categories – Digital Projected Image (DPI) and Print.
2. Club members may enter one entry in each category for each General Competition.
3. All digital images must be in the sRGB colour space, no greater than 1600 pixels wide x 1200 pixels high, and 2.3Gb in size.
4. All prints must be mounted with mount size not to exceed 50cm x 40cm and a digital image of each Print entry must be provided.
5. All image Manipulation processes and techniques are eligible, provided that:
  - a) the image originates from a camera or smartphone.
  - b) entrants own the copyright to every element of their submissions the image, including its components.
  - c) AI techniques (eg AI denoise, AI sharpening) can be used to enhance the image provided that data is not drawn from outside the existing image to create new content (Generative AI).
  - d) the image is no older than three (3) years from the first meeting of the current club season.
  - e) any modification of the original image must be made by the author or under his/her personal direction.
6. All General Competition entries both DPI and Print should be uploaded to Pixoroo by the Competition close date.
7. All Prints should be handed to the Competitions Secretary by the competition close date specified in Pixoroo and the Club programme.
8. All digital images and digital images of prints entered for any competition must be available for use in inter-club competitions and for display on the club website. All prints must be available for interclub battles and for publicity displays in
9. Cirencester.
10. The club reserves the right to maintain a catalogue of all images entered in competitions.
11. A digitally projected image or print that has been awarded a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any class of General competition may not be entered into any Club, Summer or Annual competition again.
12. Entries cannot be submitted more than twice in any class.

### **Annual Competitions**

1. Annual Competitions are divided into a range of categories. Details of each category are published on the Club Website, Vignettes and Pixoroo. Winners of each category are awarded a trophy.
  - a) The General Competition rules plus the additional rules below apply to all Annual Competitions.
  - b) Members can enter one image per category.
  - c) Members must have entered 2 or more General Competitions during the current season.

- d) Entries for competitions that feature practical night/club outing must be taken between the previous judging date and the closing date of the current seasons Annual Competitions.
- e) A digitally projected image or print that has been awarded a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any class of Annual competition may not be entered into any General, Summer or Annual competition again.
- f) A monochrome image is an image that consists of varying tones of a single colour. Most commonly, this refers to grayscale images, which contain only shades of grey ranging from black to white. However, a monochrome image can also use any other single hue, with variations in brightness or intensity.
- g) Sporting Action is defined as fast paced competitive activity governed by a specific set of rules defined by a sports governing body.

## Club Programme 2025-26

S E P T	01 September 2025		Opening Meeting incl Photo AI & Chairman's Challenge Pt2
	08 September 2025		WCPF Print Viewing
	15 September 2025		Summer Cup Knockout DPLs
	22 September 2025		Nick Hodgson - Free Mines Coal Faces
	29 September 2025		Colin Walls - Observational Photography
O C T	06 October 2025		Competition A Judging - Open
	13 October 2025		Mop Fair - 6:30pm - Cirencester Parish Church
	20 October 2025		Amy Shore - How To Be A Car Photographer
	27 October 2025		How To Preserve, Present, Display Our Images
N O V	03 November 2025		Competition B Judging - Square Format
	10 November 2025		Brian Lee - My Diamond Decade
	17 November 2025		Cheltenham Salon AV Presentation
	24 November 2025		Battle Selection Evening
D E C	01 December 2025		Competition C Judging - Open
	08 December 2025		Andy Phillips - More Than Meets The Eye - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	15 December 2025		Annual Buffet/Quiz - 7pm - Greyhound Pub
	22 December 2025		Christmas Break
	29 December 2025		Christmas Break
J A N	05 January 2026		Charlie Waite - Behind The Photograph - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	12 January 2026		Travelogue UK
	19 January 2026		Competition D Judging - Automotive
	26 January 2026		Take 4
F E B	02 February 2026		Tim Jones - An Evening With Fotospeed
	09 February 2026		Latest Developments in Photoshop - Shaun Little
	16 February 2026		Competition E Judging - Open
	23 February 2026		Lockdown Memories

M A R	02 March 2026		Ian Howard - The Anatomy Of A Shot - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	09 March 2026		Cirencester College Visit - 7pm
	16 March 2026		Competition F Judging - In The Kitchen
	23 March 2026		Battle v Stroud & Cheltenham
	30 March 2026		Terry Walters - 100 Monochrome Images
A P R	06 April 2026		Bank Holiday - Easter Monday
	13 April 2026		Macro Photography - Mike Cheeseman & John Smith
	20 April 2026		The Print Panel Challenge/Annual Competition Judging
	27 April 2026		Annual Competition Judging
M A Y	04 May 2026		Bank Holiday - May Day
	11 May 2026		Outdoor Model Photoshoot - Kate Peake
	18 May 2026		AGM & Annual Awards
	Competition Judging		
	External Speakers		