



# Vignettes 281

September 18<sup>th</sup> , 2025

## Contents

Club News .....	2
Summer Cup 2025 .....	2
Summer cup winners - Chat GPT Analysis.....	3
Programme Secretary's Update.....	5
Craft And Vision .....	5
Photography Cheat Sheets - how to affect depth of field.....	6
Abbey Road Music Photography Awards .....	6
BBC pictures.....	7
Chairmans Challenge Part 3 .....	7
Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026.....	9
Definitions of Set Subjects .....	9
CCC Annual Competition Categories.....	10
Club Competitions from September 2025 .....	11
Competition Rules from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 .....	13
Club Programme 2025-26.....	15

## **Club News**

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. A great turnout on Monday night for our self judged Summer Cup entries taken over the informal summer meet ups we've just had during the close season. 19 entries in total and well done to all the winners. Lots of in house stuff this week. Here's Fin to kick off:

### **Summer Cup 2025**

*Hi everyone. The 27 members who attended on Monday night enjoyed reminiscing over those heady summers evenings in the Cotswold Water and Sculpture Parks, the amazing hospitality of Worcester Camera Club and not forgetting our visit to the Missing Link – the key to getting Martyn home earlier on a Monday night! The voting produced three clear favourites with some familiar names scooping the first spoils of the new season so well done to the winners:*

First Place went to Gary Gleghorn with 'Evening on the Riverbank'



Second Place was David Wallis with 'Rowing at Sunset in Worcester'



Third Place went to Andy Dipper with 'The All-Seeing Eye'



*Don't forget all images from the Summer Cup can be re-entered into the Annual Miles Shield Competition at the end of the Season for images taken at Club outings and events.*

*Now we move quickly on to the seasons General Competitions and the first of our external judges – Ben Cremin ARPS from Swindon Photographic Society will be critiquing the 22 Prints and 32 DPI images that have been entered for Competition A to be judged on Monday 6th October at 7:30pm.*

*For all our newcomers and particularly those who haven't been in a camera club before, this is a good opportunity to see how judges critique images, what they look for and suggest how improvements can be made. Judging is generally operated in a good natured positive environment with the purpose of improving our photography.*

*Of course it's a subjective process at the end of the day and you might hear the odd muttering of 'Judges eh, what do they know'! All I can say is what goes round comes round. We've all had images that have done better than expected and visa versa but I don't think anyway will tell you that a camera club doesn't improve your photography. It's good to see a healthy entry list particularly in the (more expensive) print category and we are a club with many members willing to help so do ask if you are not sure about any aspect of the competition process.*

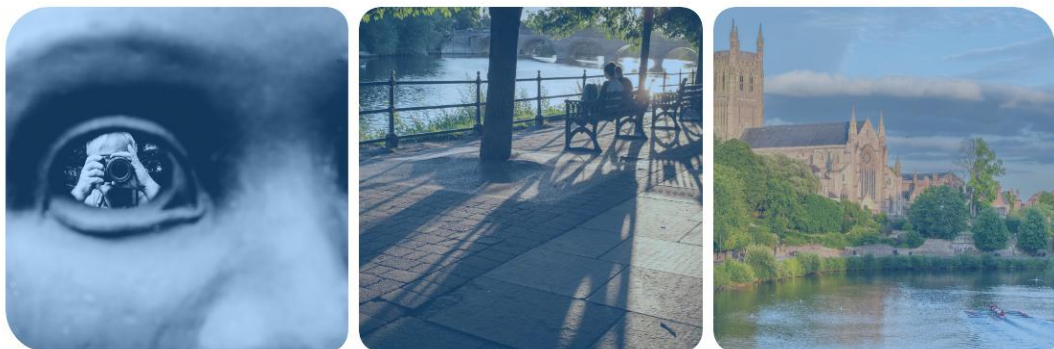
*Thanks Fin.*

After the break David Wallis introduced the dreaded Ai process available out there to analyse the winning images. Many members will be aware that one can have your image 'judged' through the Ai software such as ChatGPT as a way to improve your image. My personal view is that, Ai fills me with dread. To my mind it removes artistic creation, our ability to think and learn and 'levels' everything to a common denominator. Even the title can be created by Ai which is a shame. Not much we can do about it so let's hope our unfettered creativity still wins the day.

On a positive note, I do admit that the Ai influenced processing software out there (pretty well all of it) can speed up processing but you are still in control. However, note that whatever processing you do with Ai the principle is that it has to be using your pixels in an image. The WCPF, PAGB & RPS have created a strict set of Ai guidance for photographers. Ask Fin if you are not sure. Here's David Wallis:

### ***Summer cup winners - Chat GPT Analysis***

*Hi everyone. I hoped you enjoyed our impromptu analysis of the winning images on Monday night. ChatGPT did a pretty good job in critiquing the images. Here you go:*



(Note: Blue cast introduced by ChatGpt)

## *"Evening on the Riverbank"*

- *Composition: Golden hour lighting creates long, dramatic shadows from benches and trees. The leading lines of the pavement and shadows guide the eye toward the seated figures and the glowing river beyond.*
- *Style: Warm, peaceful, and contemplative. The interplay of shadow and light adds depth and a painterly quality.*
- *Mood/Impact: Calm and romantic. It conveys a sense of tranquility and fleeting beauty at sunset.*

### *1. "Rowing at Sunset in Worcester"*

- *Composition: A wide river scene framed by lush greenery and dominated by the grand Worcester Cathedral in the background. The rowing crew in the lower right provides movement, energy, and scale.*
- *Style: Golden hour again enhances textures and colors — the cathedral glows warmly, contrasting with the cool water. The dynamic element of the rowers prevents the image from feeling static.*
- *Mood/Impact: Majestic and harmonious. It balances human activity with historic architecture and nature, suggesting continuity between past and present.*

### *2. "The All Seeing Eye"*

- *Composition: A very creative perspective. The photographer is captured through the reflection (or opening) in what looks like a sculpture or mask. The camera lens aligns perfectly within the eye cavity, giving a surreal sense of being "watched while watching."*
- *Style: Strong black-and-white contrast emphasizes form and intensity. The focus on the eye area pulls the viewer directly into the scene, enhancing the eerie, voyeuristic mood.*
- *Mood/Impact: Intriguing and slightly unsettling — it plays on themes of perception, surveillance, and introspection.*

## Overall Analysis:

- *All three images share a strong use of light (especially golden hour and high contrast).*
- *There's a theme of perspective and human presence — whether through reflection, quiet companionship, or teamwork on the river.*
- *The moods shift from intense and surreal (Image 3) to serene and intimate (Image 1) to grand and dynamic (Image 2).*

## Competition Recommendation:

- *Best bet: The All Seeing Eye → most original, high-impact, judges will remember it.*
- *Second entry: Rowing at Sunset in Worcester → strong narrative, architectural + human element, technically solid.*
- *Keep as supporting work: Evening on the Riverbank → beautiful, but might not stand out against lots of sunset/riverbank entries.*

Thanks David. All food for thought and I'm sure this is a subject we will be returning to whether we like it or not. Here's our Prog Sec Dave Cahill with an update:

### ***Programme Secretary's Update***

*Hi everyone. This week we had another good turnout for the Summer Cup in house judging. Well done to Gary, David and Andy. See Fin's comments above. The AI critique afterwards was interesting. I thought ChatGPT was pretty accurate, while Gemini was generally off the mark. Gary's suggestion to use AI to help with titles is something I might try despite Martyn's more gloomy outlook!*

*Next week we have our first external speaker, Nick Hodgson MA FRPS. Nick is a documentary landscape photographer with many years of presentation experience. His talk covers his documentary work on coal free mining in the Forest of Dean. This work formed part of his photography MA, and his RPS Fellowship panel submission. It has also been exhibited at various locations, and there is an accompanying award-winning book called Free Mines Coal Faces which is endorsed by Magnum photographer Martin Parr.*

*Nick will describe the documentary project research and approach, shooting in different (and at times technically challenging) environments, and the process of producing and marketing a book. He will also talk about the RPS 'F panel' process and will bring some of the actual prints for us to look at. I'm looking forward to it.*



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

*Hope to see you all next week.*

### ***Craft And Vision***

Some of you may remember the video talk we had last year from David duChemin, called 'The Heart Of The Photograph'. I signed up for his free newsletter email, The Contact Sheet, which often has some thought provoking philosophical photographic

musings. The latest one was all about having the wrong lens with you, something which I am often guilty of complaining about. I thought I would share a couple of quotes:

It is usually (maybe always) easier and more productive to change our thinking than it is to waste that energy wishing we could change our lenses.

And

You can't always change your gear, but you can always change your thinking. They are usually a quick and interesting read - if you want to sign up go to

<https://craftandvision.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3a17aa8802f4a8960a46d1f26&id=88b6c24a92&e=5f55b33f3c>

*Cheers*

*Dave*

Thanks Dave. If I could add my 'two penn'orth'

'You can't have too many camera bags'!!!

### ***Photography Cheat Sheets - how to affect depth of field***

We post these Cheat Sheets every now and again and as it's the beginning of the season, why not remind you about depth of field settings. Check out this useful article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/photography-cheat-sheet-how-to-affect-depth-of-field>

### ***Abbey Road Music Photography Awards***

Abbey Road studios has announced the nominees for its Music Photography Awards, after considering more than 20,000 submissions from 30 different countries. The photographs up for awards feature stars including Chappell Roan, Lana Del Rey, Charli XCX, Tyler the Creator, Pulp, The 1975, Maggie Rogers, Fontaines DC, Doja Cat, Central Cee and Burna Boy. Fans can vote for music moment of the year on the MPA's website until 23 September and the awards ceremony will take place at London's Abbey Road on 2 October. Check out some great images here:

<https://abbeyroadmusicphotographyawards.com/>

### ***BBC pictures***

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





<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czxwl89e79o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cly7y70dr69o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cly9rgr4q4do>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y8r1dm2k6o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg9eqr39p0o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crkj08kmd67o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyv63p5jr6ro>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yey383yvno>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g2z8nv344o>

### ***Chairmans Challenge Part 3***

Here is the third of this year's photo challenge.

15 September 2025

#### **Show Motion with Blur**

-  **Objective:** Use motion blur creatively.
-  **Setting:** Shutter Priority or Manual Mode, Slow Shutter (e.g., 1/10s)
-  **Assignment:** Photograph a waterfall, ferris wheel, or traffic.
-  **Tip:** Use a tripod or panning technique.

### **Quote of the week**

A tear contains an ocean. A photographer is aware of the tiny moments in a persons life that reveal greater truths - Anonymous

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 ([david.cahill@cantab.net](mailto:david.cahill@cantab.net))



### ***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 Cirencester.
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		