



Vignettes 290

November 19th, 2025

Contents

Club News	2
Programme Secretary's Review	2
Interactive Battle Selection Evening – 26 November.....	2
Christmas Quiz ans Meal.....	3
External Exhibitions and Competitions	4
BBC pictures.....	5
Chairmans Challenge Part 12	6
Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026.....	7
Definitions of Set Subjects	7
CCC Annual Competition Categories.....	8
Club Competitions from September 2025	9
Competition Rules from 1 st September 2025	11
Club Programme 2025-26.....	13

Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Here's Dave with his weekly round up:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. Despite the various technical challenges, I hope you will agree we had an excellent evening viewing the Cheltenham International Salon Of Photography (CISP) 2025 AV presentations. Richard McCleery again presented the AVs which he produced, pulling together a selection of the accepted images across the 5 categories - Scapes, Monochrome, Creative, Nature and Open Colour.

*The full results can be found here, along with the galleries of all the inspiring images:
<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/club/cheltenham-international-salon-photography-cisp>*

I was a bit disappointed for Gary as only one of his images came up in the AV, despite his 4 acceptances. If you want to be reminded of the club entries which were accepted then check out Vignettes 265.

I hope the evening inspired a few more of you to have a go next time. With all the technical issues there wasn't much time for Richard to give any tips regarding images that might do well, or not, in each section. So as a reminder, last year his overall message was to try to come up with something different, keep it simple and choose an image with immediate impact, rather than a slow burner. All designed to catch the judges' attention.

There was a question last night about costs – I looked back and last year it ranged from £14 for one section to £26 for all 5. You could submit up to 4 images per section. It's very easy to enter as it all runs from the Pixoroosystem that we use for competitions.

Next week we are promised a very interactive 'Battle Selection Evening'. I will leave it to Paul to give more details. See below.

It will be our normal start time of 7:30pm.

I hope to see you there.

Dave

And here's Paul:

Interactive Battle Selection Evening – 26 November

Hi all

Next week we have our battle selection evening which is designed to be a fun and interactive session to help select a number of images for future inter club battles. The planned format of the evening is as follows:

First Half

40-50 images are selected from the recent competitions and additional member submitted entries. These are drawn from the first two monthly competitions a few from last years' annuals and final competition of last year.

Club members are split into 4 groups, facilitated by someone from the selection committee and run through 10 - 12 images each. The best few are selected from each set with comments. The four sets of grouped images are then circulated once to another group and the same process is followed. There will be a facilitator for each group, and all images can be viewed on a laptop.

Each group will then have the opportunity to feedback to the wider audience of club members with their preferred images and rationale.

Second Half

From the preferred images from each group these are then discussed in a plenary group and the best images selected. We would present all of them on the main screen and then in say three or four selected groups, these would be voted on and the top picks taken forward for consideration for inclusion in either DPIC or the Stroud / Cheltenham battle.

As time allows, I would also propose to run through some of the images and comments from the recent Swindon vs Wantage battle and ascertain whether there are any other views from members.

Hope that all makes sense and look forward to seeing you there

Cheers

Paul

Thanks Paul. I think that's a good, democratic process which helps to look at images objectively. It also balances out views where we feel that some judges have either over-Awarded or under-Awarded images - we've all been there!!

Christmas Quiz and Meal

And now there are 26 - Christmas Quiz - it's getting close

We are now up to 26 for the Christmas Quiz at the Greyhound in Siddington which has become our regular venue for this event. David Wallis has once again been volunteered to be Quizmaster!! Thanks David and Dave Cahill gets a night off!! So, one for the diary.

I've been in touch with the pub and everything is confirmed. I should get the menu to circulate in the next few weeks and we normally give them about 10 days notice so get ready to let me know what you would like to eat plus any allergies. Pay on the night:

Christmas Quiz

Venue - Greyhound Pub, Siddington

Date - December 15th 2025

Time - 7.00 sharp.

Food - from 7.45

Team tables will be chosen at random nearer the time but in the first instance can you let me know if you are coming. I'll list the attendees in Vignettes each week. Here's the latest and do let me know if I have left you off:

1. David Wallis
2. Martyn S
3. Colin Hoskins
4. Brian Champion
5. Gary Gleghorn
6. Steve Kirby
7. John Crew
8. Paul Norris
9. Fin Simpson
10. Dave Cahill
11. John Hankin
12. Paul Jones
13. Mike Cheeseman
14. Steve Finch
15. Bex Jordan
16. Joh Smith
17. Patrick Barker
18. Ruth Barker
19. Roger Armitage
20. Lawrence Wilcock
21. Billy Kerr
22. Jean T
23. Andy Dipper
24. Katrina
25. Steve Johnston
26. Brian Kent
27. ?

Don't leave it too late.

What is white balance in photography?

[Ed Note: Don't Forget my Challenge!]

We post cheat sheet articles from time to time and here's one on White Balance. Newcomers and veterans often ask what is white balance in photography – it's a setting that's often taken for granted and neglected, even by experienced shooters. Take a look:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/lighting/what-is-white-balance-in-photography>

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Incredible image of great balls of fire wins world's richest photo competition

Italian photographer Gianluca Gianferrari has won the grand prize in the world's richest photography competition – the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA). His photo is titled 'Etna's Paroxysm' and shows glowing volcanic rock being ejected from Sicily's Mount Etna volcano during an eruption. Check out all the winning stories here:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/great-balls-of-fire-win-worlds-richest-photo-competition>

Nature's Best International Awards

The 30th annual Nature's Best International Awards drew entries from photographers around the globe across 11 categories, celebrating the beauty and diversity of the natural world. The competition honors both professionals and amateurs, showcasing outstanding talent while raising awareness of environmental and wildlife conservation. This year's overall winner is a passionate wildlife photographer from Ontario, Canada. Thomas Vijayan has been awarded the Grand Prize for the image Emperor Penguin Family – a heartwarming portrait of a chick nestled within the embrace of its devoted parents amidst the icy Antarctic expanse. Check out the website.

https://new.expression.adobe.com/webpage/PpOC62HLUW4FE?clickref=1100lBGnIdfw&mv=affiliate&mv2=pz&as_camptype=&as_channel=affiliate&as_source=partnerize&as_campaign=futurepublishing

Wildflower Photographer of the Year competition

A photo of Cornish heather taken by a teenager has won a photography prize. M. Stanway was named the Young People's winner of the Eden Project's first Wildflower Photographer of the Year competition. The Eden Project said hundreds of people had entered "stunning images" from the Shetlands to Sark of British wildflowers to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Wildflower Centre (NWC). Here's the story:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy5k7598g7o>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cr7myg8j38lo>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1k0xn9nyzdo>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly98grgg5no>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1lq9422l2o>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5ylwdw6qq1o>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6201ijn0d4o>

Chairmans Challenge Part 12

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

19 November 2025

12 . Cloudy White Balance Effect

-  **Objective:** Use WB to enhance warmth.
-  **Setting:** White Balance: Cloudy
-  **Assignment:** Shoot during golden hour using “Cloudy” WB.
-  **Tip:** Enhances warm tones in landscapes and portraits.

Quote of the week

The camera makes you forget you're there. It's not like you are hiding but you forget, you are just looking so much - Annie Leibovitz

That's it, have a good week.

Cheers

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)

Dave (david.cahill@cantab.net)

Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026

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

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 st Place	6 points
2 nd Place	5 points
3 rd 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 1st, 2nd, or 3rd 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.

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

Competition Rules from 1st 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 50cmx40cm 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 DPIs
	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		