



Vignettes 301

February 19th, 2026

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Thank you for all your kind comments after we reached the 300 Vignettes milestone. Onwards and upwards. Another excellent night of judging from Martin Fry on Monday, the best judge out there in my opinion. Always constructive right across the board. We can always come away with positives from Martin's image critique and sometimes when you submit an image which you are not (in all honesty) sure about, you can rely on Martin to give you the critique commentary you were kind of expecting.

Well done to our President for taking a clean sweep on the night. Might just have another look at the small print for the 'Life membership' we awarded John a few weeks ago. I'm sure it says somewhere that he's not allowed to win all the time!!! Here's Dave with his round up followed by Fin's summary of the night's proceedings.

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. Well done to everyone who picked up an award in the Competition E (Open) judging last week. Especially anyone who got two first places! 😊 As usual Martin Fry provided some excellent feedback on the images, with lots of constructive suggestions regarding editing and cropping to improve the overall impact. There used to be a judge (his actual name escapes me) with the nickname 'cropper'. I'm beginning to think Martin may have taken over the mantle in that area. [Martyn here - close Dave it was Cropper Swinyard]

As he said at the start, judging a competition like this allows him a lot more time for analysis of the submissions, as opposed to salon judging where there may only be a few seconds for the score to be registered. I chatted to him at the break and he said the Cheltenham Salon judging this year is being done remotely, something which he wasn't keen about. I can understand why – when all the judges are together they are at least all seeing the same image, and there is some interaction between them. Perhaps there is even a chance for them to review a score if it is out of line with the others. When viewing remotely that can't happen, and they may see differences related to their viewing set up. Martin said remote judging is also more tiring and less rewarding.

I also asked him about titles. In the past he has said that he looks at the image first, then the title. There were a couple last night where clearly he didn't get the title, another warning to be very careful when naming your images. As usual Fin will provide the full results (below).

Next week we have another member driven evening, Lockdown Memories, a photographic journey through the three coronavirus lockdowns, with presentations from myself, Fin and Brian. Yes, there were three lockdowns! Fin may say there were four!

It will be our usual start time 7:30pm, hope to see you there.

Cheers

Dave

Thanks Dave. I absolutely agree on the titles point. For me, the title has to bring you straight into the narrative in as few words as possible and, if necessary, add some humour

to get the judge in the mood. It's always possible to miss something in an image or not 'get' what the photographer wants you to focus on, which a good title can rectify. I personally think that titles can make a big difference whether they are viewed first or later in the image appreciation. Definitely worth thinking about. Here's Fin:

Competition Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. Another great night with excellent feedback on every image from Martin Fry, our guest judge on the evening. There were several recurring themes in Martin's feedback throughout the evening that I thought is worth reiterating here - one was SIMPLICITY where he highlighted that subtle cropping would have made a stronger impact. He also identified a number of images where bright light at the top/side was pulling the viewer away from the 'story' so should be toned down plus commented that he felt a few of the colour DPIs and Prints could be stronger if in Black and white.

Martin handed out 18 awards from the total entry of 54 images. Yet again the awards were spread across 15 different members demonstration the depth of talent we have within the Club. A couple of special mentions first to our President, John Hankin, who not only came first in both competitions but also picked up the tin of Quality Street in the raffle, and secondly to Linda Thomas who achieved a Commended with her very first DPI entry - "A Rainy Day in New York".

As this was the last of the OPEN General Competitions we are now able to reveal the 2025/26 Open Print and Open DPI winners and they are x and y (this information has been redacted and will be revealed at the AGM and Awards Evening on Monday 18th May).

We now move on to the last SET Subject Competition - "In the Kitchen" on 16th March 2026 - looks like this could have been more of a challenge for some as only 36 entries in total for this one!

PLEASE NOTE Monday 16th March is also the Closing Date for ALL Annual Competitions

*Cheers,
Fin*

2025/26 COMPETITION E RESULTS

OPEN PRINT



FIRST	Finely Balanced	John Hankin
SECOND	Hold the Line	Lawrence Wilcock
THIRD	Modern family Life	Paul Norris
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Nature in Balance	Roger Armitage
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Passing Through	Ruth Barker
COMMENDED	Essence of bike	Fin Simpson
COMMENDED	Wren	John Spreadbury

OPEN DPI



FIRST	Breakaway	John Hankin
SECOND	Asters in the Rain	Dave Cahill
THIRD	Block, tackle & Sail	Martyn Smith
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Beckford's Tower	Celia Watson
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Got to Catch the Bus	Ruth Barker
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Selfie in the Sunset	Bex Jordan
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Short eared Owl hunting	Paul Norris
COMMENDED	A Rainy Day in New York	Linda Thomas
COMMENDED	Radical Mastectomy	Brian Champion
COMMENDED	Tradition	Bill Lincoln
COMMENDED	Two Boys at Clevedon Pier	Colin Hoskins

As you know Martin Fry is from the Cheltenham Camera Club and puts a lot of time for little or no money in helping other clubs and judging so we will continue to keep the Cheltenham Salon Comp details in Vignettes until it closes at the end of March

CISP

Our friends in the Cheltenham Camera Club launched its CISP (Cheltenham International Salon of Photography) in the new year. We regularly support the competition and generally get some notable acceptances so why not have a go. Of course, the CISP team always come down to Cirencester to present to us a great AV evening for us in the Autumn of the 'accepted' images so it's good to support a local club. The more images you enter, the cheaper it is. Entries close on the 29th March.

Here's the details:

<https://u40660329.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.qHg0BpZ4GDH5dOQ8UvVN0YPeDm9-2FCIBmTqfWP5-2B2SxoFMe1Js3fe8RecOCYWAskCAZua TJmN4986NP-2F65BOWuHAhcb9HsHsPUwu2-2FvAFvJtS7RQ09dzxdPFRykZ1VI9BjfVxoXndFokHVVhJ6yKAeQ1qozBtg7uwJbMdtNAmiMuWj-2FQYi32Dei6YbgmAqJjS2xRBJOPRhTckK26NGit-2Fz9v4gHhRgEDdRvcBKI2JHyC50F06eudLGpCkMQvDO5yZ8ku8AN7HHW1u2t6ZHLmiUjKLw-3D-3D>

We forgot to publish the WCPF Inter Club Digital competition 2026
So here they are along with Paul's commentary.

Title – WCPF Inter Club Digital competition 2026

The Western Counties competition was held on 8 Feb in Exeter. Cirencester performed credibly, achieving an overall 15th place out of 41 clubs, which is the best result in recent years. The leading club Bristol Photographic Society scored 232, with Cirencester achieving 206, at the top end of the "pack".

I would particularly like to call out Tricia and Billy for their excellent Tinned Salmon and Family Life pictures that scored 13 marks as well as Ruth and Gary for their Reflections of the Divine and Red Squirrel reflection images, where one of the judges scored a max 5.

All our other images performed well with a minimum mark of 10 but with most other images scoring 11 or 12.

Summarised below are a list of the images and entered and associated scores:

Dear Paul,

Western Counties Photographic Federation Digitally Projected Inter-Club Competition 2026

We would like to thank you very much for entering DPIC. Your support is very much appreciated and we hope your club will enter a year. Individual image scores are shown below. Please forward the results to your club members.

Results have now been published on the Competition website, at <https://photoexhib.com/wcpcf/digital/results-2026/results.htm>. It contains winning clubs, award-winning images, and lists and galleries of all entered images.

If you have any difficulty reading this email, please [click here](#) to see your results on the website.

Yours sincerely,
Sandie Cox and Ralph Snook
Inter Club Championship Secretaries

Name: Paul Norris (Cirencester Camera Club). Entrant id: 1021. Email: Apnorris100@hotmail.com

Open Class Entries - Acceptance mark: 6. Maximum images in this class: 18. You entered 18

			
<i>"Baker Street"</i>	<i>"Drops Of Tangerine"</i>	<i>"Family Life"</i>	<i>"My ball"</i>
Score: 11	Score: 11	Score: 13	Score: 11
Mr Dave Cahill	Mrs Ruth Barker	Mr Billy Kerr	Mr John Hankin LRPS



"He's Behind You!"

Score: 11

Mr Colin Hoskins



"First Home"

Score: 10

Mr Martyn Smith



"Not This Time Mr Owl"

Score: 13

Mr Paul Norris
ARPS



"Outnumbered"

Score: 11

Mr John Hankin
LRPS



"Panes and Pants"

Score: 12

Mr Martyn Smith



"Polo Action"

Score: 12

Mr John Hankin
LRPS



"Reflections Of The Devine"

Score: 12*

Mrs Ruth Barker



"Tri Light"

Score: 11

Mr Steve Kirby



"Is That Me"	"Black and Light"	"Tinned Salmon 2"	"Generations"
Score: 12*	Score: 11	Score: 13	Score: 11
Mr Gary Gleghorn	Mr Mike Cheeseman LRPS	Mrs Patricia Lindsay LRPS	Mr Gary Gleghorn



"Misty Sunrise,
Down Ampney"

Score: 10

Mr Paul Norris
ARPS



"Short Eared Owl"

Score: 11

Mr Paul Norris
ARPS

Cheltenham Camera Club Annual Exhibition

Martin Fry had a quick work with me on Monday night just to remind me about the Cheltenham Camera Club exhibition in Cheltenham coming up in April. We had in fact received an email 'flyer' about it as follows:

It is that time of year again, and I am reprising the email I sent you last year – preparation for our annual exhibition is progressing, and I wonder if I could again take the liberty of sending you a copy of our flyer and asking whether you would be prepared to put the word around your respective clubs in the hope that people might be interested? They're also hopefully going out via our social media, MCPF and RPS Western Region, as well as the various UK Exhibition, RPS and other facebook pages.

With many thanks

James de Courcy LRPS

Vice-Chair and Exhibition Co-Ordinator



Cheltenham Camera Club

Inspiring the Photographic Community Since 1865

Annual Exhibition 2026



The Gardens Gallery,
Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham, GL50 1SD

15th – 20th April 2026

(1000-1700 daily)

Entry Free.

www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk



External Competitions and Exhibitions

[10 best photos this year according to the Sony World Photography Awards](#)

The Sony World Photography Awards has just revealed the category winners and shortlisted photographers in its Open competition 2026. The Open competition recognizes the best single images to have been taken in the last year. Unlike the other competitions within the Sony World Photography Awards, where entrants submit a series of photographs, the Open competition is all about a single image, so the photographer gets just one chance to impress. Check out an article and website links [here](#).



<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/these-are-the-best-photos-this-year-according-to-the-sony-world-photography-awards-what-do-you-think>

<https://www.worldphoto.org/blogs/17-02-26/2026-open-competition-category-winners-and-shortlists-announced>

Winter Olympics

I don't about you but the Winter Olympics seem to have been broadcast in a foreign language. The old days of the ski jump, bobsleigh and figure skating seem to have been subsumed by Big Air, Slopestyle, Halfpipe, and terms like goofy, cork, hole shot, switch, rail box and knuckle. Still, it's fun to watch even though the commentators speak gobbledygook. There's been some cracking opportunities to grab some great shots at the Winter Olympics but if you couldn't get there fear not. Here's a link to some to whet your appetite:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c78v857elp9o>

Smartphone Astrophotographer of the Year 2026

Bulgarian photographer Mihail Minkov has taken top honors at the Smartphone Astrophotographer of the Year 2026 – a global competition exclusively dedicated to images captured with camera phones. Captured near Antofagasta, Chile, the one-exposure image combines the Milky Way core rising over the Pacific coast with the towering sculpture Mano del Desierto – also known as "Hand of the Desert," shot at 20 seconds, f/16, ISO 2000. The entire image was captured on a Xiaomi 14 Ultra – widely regarded as one of the best camera phones available in the West for photographers. See the website below:



<https://skiesandscopes.com/>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c93vex4l7xvo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cde4y0z9yeeo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyzw90xnjzo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg1325gz0ro>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0zjz58nzqo>

Chairman's Challenge Part 23

Here is the twenty second of this year's photo challenge.

19 February 2026

23 Aspect Ratio Comparison

-  **Objective:** Understand framing across formats.
-  **Setting:** Change aspect ratio: 3:2, 4:3, 16:9, 1:1
-  **Assignment:** Shoot the same scene in 3 aspect ratios.
-  **Tip:** Analyse how framing changes your subject placement.

Quote of the week

When people ask me what equipment I use – I tell them my eyes.
- Anonymous

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	19 th 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 Pixaroo.

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 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 Pixaroo by the Competition close date.
7. All Prints should be handed to the Competitions Secretary by the competition close date specified in Pixaroo 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 Pixaroo. 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

	Date	Event
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 DPs
	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	Eclectic & Creative Photography
	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

All meetings start in club at 7:30 pm unless otherwise indicated