



Vignettes 305

March 19th, 2026

Contents

Club News	2
Competition Secretary's review	2
Print Panel Challenge 2026	4
Programme Secretary's Review	5
Battle Secretary's Review	6
External Exhibitions and Competitions	7
BBC pictures	8
Chairman's Challenge Part 27	9
Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026.....	10
Definitions of Set Subjects	10
CCC Annual Competition Categories.....	11
Club Competitions from September 2025	12
Competition Rules from 1 st September 2025	14
Club Programme 2025-26.....	16

Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Another excellent night on Monday, showcasing our talent in stepping up to the mark for quite a difficult set subject. Personally I think this season has shown a marked step in the quality of our images in competitions not to mention inventiveness. It bodes well for the future. I thought the judge did a very good job. Here's Fin and Dave with their round ups:

Competition Secretary's review

Hi everyone, Fin here. Monday night saw the final General Competition of the 2025-2026 Season with the Set Subject - "In the Kitchen". Although entries were lower than average the Judge, Doug Lodge LRPS, a first time visitor to the club, commented on the high standard of all 14 Prints and 22 DPI entries that he had been invited to critique. He was able to give a detailed summary of each image highlighting minor enhancements and changes where he felt necessary to make an image stronger and go from near miss to award contender. Again he highlighted a couple of small areas for improvement that unfortunately seem to have become recurring theme with judges this year - random items around the edges of images drawing attention away from the main subject and print frames encroaching over the original print image. Overall though a highly successful evening with a thank you to all who took on this subject so creatively and particular congratulations to all 11 winners some of whom may have ventured "in the Kitchen" for the very first time!

I've reprinted below, after the competition results, the format and rules for the print panel challenge

*Thanks,
Fin*

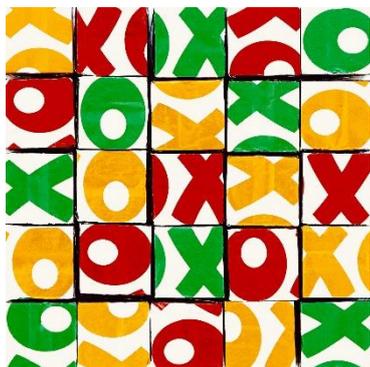
2025/26 COMPETITION F RESULTS

SET PRINT – IN THE KITCHEN



FIRST	Kitchen Foil Kandinsky	Mike Cheeseman
SECOND	Cereal Killer	Steve Kirby
THIRD	The biscuit thief?	Celia Watson
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Miss Scarlett with the revolver	Nigel Rogers
COMMENDED	Cutlery Wharf Tube Station	Patrick Barker
COMMENDED	What’s Cookin’	Martyn Smyth

SET DPI – IN THE KITCHEN



FIRST	Stock Photo	Steve Kirby
SECOND	What’s Lurking behind the Lurpak	Dave Cahill
THIRD	Busy work feeding 100,000 daily	Daphne Neale
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Chefs in the Spotlight	Martyn Smith
COMMENDED	Butter Paddles	Lawrence Wilcock
COMMENDED	Salad Dressing Prep	Fin Simpson
COMMENDED	Take a Break	Andy Dipper

Print Panel Challenge 2026

Fin has reminded me that with quite a few members this year, it would be a good idea to include details of the Print Panel Challenge and the rules so here they are:

*Following last year's successful **Print Panel** challenge where members submitted a huge variety of themed images from plants, cars, buskers and exotic holidays displayed as a panel on A1 board we will be running the challenge again this year.*

Members vote for their top three panels (not including their own!) and the winners will be announced during the evening— please see below for all the rules.

The Print Panel Challenge

General rules

1. This challenge is open to all current CCC members.
2. Your task is to produce a **Panel of Prints on** a theme of your choice.
3. The title of the panel must be clearly displayed on the front.
4. Creativity, thought and variation are encouraged, with the complete panel showing a balanced and engaging view of your chosen theme. The images should work well together and either share a theme, tell a story or complement each other in some way. They should all create a pleasing image as a whole. Humour and light heartedness can be shown.
5. Images can be in colour or black and white or monochrome.
6. DPI (max 1600x 1200) of finished panel to be uploaded to Pixoroo – Challenge Competitions - Print Panel Challenge by **midnight 13th April 2026**.
7. Your panel should contain between 7 — 10 images on your chosen subject and be presented for assessment by members on the evening of **20th April 2026**. If you are not going to be there on the evening but would still like to submit a panel please contact Fin Simpson, Comp Sec to arrange collection/delivery of your printed panel. (competitions@cirencestercameraclub.org).
8. Images do not have to have been taken within this season but must be less than 5 years old. If using images which have been submitted to Club Competitions, a maximum of two may be used.
9. The images must be all your own work.
10. Presentation of the prints on the physical panel will be taken into consideration in the final assessment.
11. All entries will be assessed and marked by the club members who are present on 20th April, with First, Second and Third places being announced on the evening.
12. An award will be presented to the winner of the Print Panel at the Awards Evening.

The Print Panel – info

1. Panels can be Portrait or Landscape.
2. Images should be no more than 7" x 5" (un-mounted), and one of your images may be enlarged to 10" x 8" (un-mounted).
3. Images can be placed in small mounts if desired.
4. You should mount your images on a board no larger than A1 in size. This is 841 mm x 594mm. The board should be sufficiently rigid to allow being displayed vertically on a tabletop. Thick mountboard / Foamex are ideal.
5. The print panel mounting board can be any colour.

6. A1 Boards and thick cards can be purchased for a few pounds from outlets including Hobbycraft, the Range etc.

7. Your panel must be clearly labelled on the reverse side with your name.

Last Year's Winner



The Morgan Experience by Brian Champion

Thanks Fin, here's Dave:

Programme Secretary's Review

Well done to everyone who picked up an award in the Competition F judging this week. After enjoying the sometimes surreal images at the college last week we were firmly back in our real competition world. 'In The Kitchen' was a challenging set subject and I though we produced some very creative images with a good amount of humour thrown in. That creativity and humour were appreciated by the judge, Doug Lodge, but at the end of the day it came down the usual judging benchmarks when he chose his winners. Immediate impact, originality, composition, leading lines, rule of thirds, odd numbers, use of corners, 'border patrol', cropping, paper choice and titles were key factors. I was pleased to get a

second place for my What's Lurking Behind the Lurpak shot. The answer was my Samsung phone. No way was I going to put my Sony in the back of the fridge!

Next week we have more judging but this time in an inter club battle context as we host the annual three way event versus Cheltenham and Stroud. This is always a tough one! Each club will submit 10 prints and 10 DPs, with no more than 3 from the same author. The images will be critiqued and scored by an external judge, with the club amassing the highest total score being declared the winner.

Expect some great photos and some high scores – these are the best images from the three clubs.

It will be the usual prompt 7:30pm start.

*Cheers
Dave*

*Paul has been in touch regarding next weeks battle against Cheltenham and Stroud
Hi Martyn. As promised a summary article. I will do a full one after the competition next week.*

Battle Secretary's Review

Our annual battle is scheduled for next Monday. Jay Hallsworth will be our judge in what looks like another high quality competition. I have received all the entries this morning and can confirm that all 60 images are varied with a common theme of quality and originality.

Our selected images are as follows:

Agreed Prints – 10

- *Drips of Tangerine – Ruth*
- *Reflections of the Divine – Ruth*
- *First Home – Martyn*
- *Panes and Pants – Martyn*
- *Black and Light – Mike*
- *Hands – Jean*
- *Oxford Wedding – Gary*
- *Generations – Gary*
- *A Moment without Gravity – John S*
- *Finely Balanced – John H*

Agreed DPs - 10

- *Tinned Salmon – Tricia*
- *Family Life – Billy*
- *Polo Action – John H*
- *Breakaway – John H*
- *He's behind you – Colin*
- *Looking in on the Takeaway – Colin*

- *Tri-light – Steve K*
- *Here's looking at you Kit!– Gary*
- *Autumn Fungi – Steve C*
- *Not this time Mr Owl – Paul N*

I will share copies of the images when I do a full report next week but am pleased to confirm that we have a wide variety of authors and subject matter. Good luck to everyone with their images.

Please remember it is the usual start time of 7.30pm and we can expect a number of guests from both Stroud and Cheltenham!

All the best

Paul

External Exhibitions and Competitions

British Wildlife Photography Awards.

Captured from a unique floor-up perspective, this striking monochrome photo has won one of Britain's most prestigious wildlife photography awards. Photographer Paul Hobson's striking monochrome toad image – shot from a hidden, floor-up perspective and recorded with a DSLR that turns 14 years old – just took one of the UK's top prizes, and was crowned the Overall Winner at the British Wildlife Photography Awards.



Check out the website and winning images:

<https://www.bwpawards.org/>

LCE Photographer of the Year 2026

Amateur photographer Sophia Spurgin has just been crowned the overall winner of the LCE Photographer of the Year 2026 competition live at The Photography & Video Show. The portrait captures a genuine slice of local life – authentic and unposed – emerging from a photography session that was drawing close. In a spontaneous and playful exchange, retired teacher Spurgin engaged with a fisherman, who responded by lifting two caught fish in front of his face.



And the image, *Teamwork*, just won the Macro category



Check out the winning images here:

<https://poty.lcegroup.co.uk/>

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/czx4zpxpewro>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjrqqw5lln2o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr73d1xj44yo>

Chairman's Challenge Part 27

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

27 Flash Exposure Compensation

-  **Objective:** Learn to fine-tune flash power.
-  **Setting:** Adjust Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC)
-  **Assignment:** Shoot with +1 and -1 FEC and compare lighting.
-  **Tip:** Great for indoor portraits with bounce flash.

Quote of the week

Today everything exists to end in a photograph - Susan Sontag

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