

## Score Sheet for October 2023 Monthly Competition Pam Brighton

Category	Star Rating	First	Last	Title	Score	Award	Comment
Nature	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Baby Rhino	9	Silver	Young animals always have cuteness impact, and this one is no exception. Interesting to see the enormous claws on its hind hoof. The focus is reasonable, possibly a slight increase in contrast would improve the look of the skin texture. Always difficult with a cow and calf but some separation between the two would enhance the image. The truncated cow is also awkward.
Nature	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Butterfly	9	Silver	Butterfly is a good subject and good attempt. In future try to zoom in closer to the insect and main flower, excluding the background a bit. The better you can get the focus on the insect, the better your score will be.
Nature	2S	wynand	lens	Focus	11	Gold	The intent posture and expression of the bird are well captured. One can see the anticipation before a strike. The image is well focused and lit. Perhaps if a little more of the head was visible the image would be improved.
Nature	2S	wynand	lens	Grooming	9	Silver	The brilliant colours and wing feathers are perhaps what attracted you, which would explain your crop. They are beautiful but in Nature birds, the head and eye are very critical. The focus there isn't quite nailed and the feathers appear blown out on the head and neck.
Nature	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Genet - DB	10	Gold	What a great opportunity to photograph this animal close up. Well composed with detail in the fur. Better lighting on the face would enhance but difficult with such a skittish animal. Better focus on the face especially the eyes would elevate the score.
Nature	3S	Meleney	Naik	Getting some Roughage	10	Gold	Lovely focus on the mane , eye and eyelashes. Showing the action of the animal eating/drinking is good. If possible try cropping in closer to the head to create a portrait?
Nature	3S	Mags	Vosloo	Grazing Gracefully	10	Gold	Tranquil scene in the bush is well caught. The focus is good and good skin texture.
Nature	3S	Meleney	Naik	I am not Uppity	12	Gold	The lovely colours of the bird contrast well with the rock and create a harmonious balance. Focus is good and nice catch light in the eyes. Depth of field is well handled. The beak does give it an uppity air!
Nature	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Lanner Falcon Kill 2 - DB	11	Gold	How special to capture this moment. The feathers in the air add to the shot. The face is well lit but sadly there is a fall of of sharpness especially in the head and chest.

Nature	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Mongoose - DB	10	Gold	The mongoose has posed very nicely for you. That's a face to scare off all comers! A more blurred background would give the animal less competition in the frame and again not quite sharp on the eyes and head especially.
Nature	3S	Mags	Vosloo	Sand Bath	10	Gold	Well done to capture the sand flying. The back and ear are well lit but the face is a little dark with the light coming from the right side. Selective dodge and burn is allowed in nature, you could experiment and see if it improves the pic. Bear in mind when cropping that you need to allow enough space for the legs even if they're hidden in the grass. Also remember that square crops tend to produce static images, which you don't want here.
Nature	3S	Meleney	Naik	Stag	8	Silver	Interesting sighting makes a change from indigenous species. Unfortunately the lighting and the background are not ideal. The eye is drawn to the brightest points in the image and the repetition of trees. The stag and his friend are lost in dim light.
Nature	3S	Mags	Vosloo	The Stretch	10	Gold	There is action, with the animal stretching for the sweetest new leaves, there is also a catchlight in the eye and focus is reasonable. I would like to see better focus and light on the eye.
Nature	5S1	Heidi	Taylor	Seed head	9	Silver	Well seen , small pods are interesting for their structure and texture. A light burn on the right to darken there, as the light is falling from the left, might improve the image. Also soften the bright spots slightly with a low opacity burn.
Nature	5SB	Maxi	Holder	YBK Calling	13	COM	Well captured raptor photograph. Focus and lighting are very good. The eye is a dynamic focal point and draws the viewer's attention. The open beak and tongue give the impression that the bird is actively calling. Unfortunate about the green foliage stripes in the background, the author has done their best to blur them. The bird's expression is animated and adds to the impact.
Open	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	CappuNinos	8	Silver	The skills of baristas with the humble cappuchino are always of interest. Also the background is a peaceful setting. In a shot like this one needs to decide which is the main subject. If it is the coffee then it needs to fill the frame more, have more light and sharpness.
Open	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	Doing Some Beesness	8	Silver	The bright yellow daisy is lovely and sharp on the petals. As the bee is your point of interest you need to get much closer, either physically or with a lens that will give you a close up of the central stamens and the bee's head. Bees tend to circle and return to the same flower so be patient and wait. Also you can crop in much closer.

Open	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	SDG 12	7	Silver	I'm afraid your abbreviation has me confused. The bright blue against the sky works well as do the bokeh and the point of view is interesting. Unfortunately the image is very bright.
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Diverse activity Kalk Bay	9	Silver	This busy beach scene has much to look at. Colours are bright and cheerful. There are several photos within the photo. The beach huts, or the bathers at the pool perhaps. The tracks seem to form a barrier between the viewer and where its at. Perhaps a closer or different point of view or select an one nteresting aspect next time?
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Fallen beauty	9	Silver	The colours of the frangipani contrast well with the muted blues and grays of the deck. Perhaps the flower fell in the rain as it seems a little sad and battered? I know I seem obsessed with sharpness of focus and filling the frame, but it does a lot to improve the score for floral pics.
Open	3S	Andrew	van den Berg	Food Fight	11	Gold	Quite the decisive moment! Well seen, lovely soft colours and reasonable sharpness. Seems to be a little blow out in the whites. Try reducing the brightness a tad. Pity the lower bird didn't fly to the left just a little bit!
Open	3S	Andrew	van den Berg	Long Journey	10	Gold	A good try at more creative wildlife. Good capture of the giraffe but the post processing appear little heavy. Again the giraffe seems to have had an amputation of all four legs, allow space even when the legs disappear into vegetation!
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Misty morning exercise	10	Gold	Soft colours and light convey a tranquil mood. The sheepdog's activity contrasts well with the more stately Labs! The lady and her dogs are the story, the other walkers could be removed.
Open	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	burning sun	11	Gold	The colours contrast well and good focus. The bright sun is well handled. Well seen
Open	4S	Cornelia	Appel	Mc Thor	9	Silver	The tractor is a good subject. Showing it against the derelict house is a good idea. If possible take another look at your mono conversion. It appears a bit muddy and flat. It looks like the pic was taken through the leaves of a tree which has led to a strange effect on both sides.
Open	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Red Roof 4301	11	Gold	The ornamental red roofs of a Thai temple are so evocative. The bells and gold add to the sparkly, colourful effect.. Try to straighten the "steeple" thingy if you have enough pixels. A little luminosity will add to the sparkly gold bits if you're into postprocessing.
Open	4S	Cornelia	Appel	Sun down Flower	8	Silver	I guess you are wanting to show the end of this flower? It has really reached its "sundown" If you showed it at an angle or flat on a surface with petals falling you might convey the idea better.

Open	5SI	Terry	Burne	Bridge to the cottage	10	Gold	Interesting bridge and shed. In open pictorial a lot more can be done in terms of post processing to enhance the bridge and forest behind it.
Open	5SI	Paul	Naude	Budding	11	Gold	Clean, sharp image of this tree magnolia bud. Colour is lovely. Experiment next time with various degrees of open and closed buds for a more dynamic composition.
Open	5SI	Terry	Burne	Cart at Hampton Court	11	Gold	The old barrels, lead glass windows and small bricks add to the image of age as does the cart. Pity about the sandbags!
Open	5SI	Heidi	Taylor	Iridescence	11	Gold	Beautiful colours of this peacock have huge impact. Reasonably sharp.
Open	5S1	Heidi	Taylor	Pink	11	Gold	The vibrant pink of this image is very impactful. I would like to see one or two stamens much sharper to add to the good attempt.
Open	5S1	Terry	Burne	Temple of Augustus - Leptis Magna Folly 8305	12	Gold	Good symmetrical capture. The crop enhances the effect, well done. Try a little contrast which might add to the effect.
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Enough Electricity to make Eskom jealous	12	Gold	Very dramatic capture, well seen. The storm clouds and the colours all add to the mood. Pity you don't show in landscape format with a little more foreground, that might enhance the effect.
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Frosty Morning near Underberg	12	Gold	Autumn colours contrasting with the burnt out field and frost work well. The light is also well handled and again, a good crop. The image does appear a little oversaturated.
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Wild Flowers of the Western Cape	11	Gold	The flowers have been remarkable this year as this image shows. The mix of colours against the green work well.
Open	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Eating Stompies	13	COM	Three not so wise monkeys! So well captured and processed. The triptych format adds interest and impact. Well done.
Open	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Twins	12	Gold	Nicely portrayed flower study. The composition and background work well. Focus and lighting work well Good effort. Perhaps a tiny border?
Photo Art A	5SB	Maxi	Holder	Reaching For The Light	13	COM	Clever creative flower study. The soft colours and diffuse flowers are dynamic and arresting. The "cloud effect" over the image is well handled and not overpowering for the delicate flowers.A pleasure to view.
Photo Art A	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Buffalo Pseudo-Painting	12	Gold	the central composition and symmetry are very effective. The creative technique is well applied and tastefully rendered. I especially like the moisture on the nose and retention of the whiskers. A nice touch.

Photo Journ	3S	Jake	Alletson	Killed by energy prices	12	Gold	Good commentary on the sad state of our electricity. The image is well captured and sharp. Conversion to black and white is good with a fair spread of tones. Try a touch more contrast it might add to the effect. In this instance the static square crop is part of the story.
Photo Journ	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	have a treat pup	10	Gold	I'm unsure what the PJ significance is here, other than the child with an obviously cared for dog. Sorry to be obtuse. Image itself is well handled in terms of lighting and focus.
Portrait	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Rosie	10	Gold	The model has an infectious smile and dimples. In the interest of a simpler portrait which might have more impact, remove the jewellery. The rose is more than enough. Also the background is very bright and detracts from your image. A muted neutral background would work well.
Portrait	2S	wynand	lens	Serving Hatch	9	Silver	Skin tones work well in the conversion and the hair is well handled.. The tattoos and grazes on her elbow are possibly a portrayal of her character and the casual setting but they are distracting. It would be good to see a bit more of the model and less of the hatch.
Portrait	3S	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Dimples	13	COM	Well handled portrait, lighting is good including the top of the head Texture detail in the black hair is good plus the wind blown effect and shine, skin tones are very good. Well done.
Portrait	3S	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Mommy and Me	12	Gold	Classic studio portrait, well handled re lighting costume and makeup. I understand that perhaps the chair arm and leg are needed to create some separation between the identical fabric of the two dresses, but the bright white seems a bit intrusive.
Portrait	4S	Cornelia	Appel	Sunellie	12	Gold	Good character portrait of this little waif.It reminds me a little of the Margaret Keane "Big eyes" paintings only better. The author has handled the colours so well, from the eyes and hair to the clothes. The soft lighting is effective. Please tell me you have the original without the hands cut off!
Scapes	1S	Craig	Backhouse	Augrabies Scenery - CB	9	Silver	This scape has potential, the light from the side is moulding bushes and rocks nicely and could be enhanced to greater effect. The image needs a focal point, a bird , animal or human figure . Also you could try cropping out a lot of the dead sky.
Scapes	1S	Craig	Backhouse	Augrabies sun rise - CB	8	Silver	Good colour in the sunrise but the fore ground is without detail. So not enough to hold the eye of the viewer.
Scapes	1S	Craig	Backhouse	Destressed Tree - CB	10	Gold	Well seen, interesting little tree hanging in there against all odds. The black rocks and white dead wood have a ominous look re the fate of the little tree.

Scapes	3S	Jan	Lens	Red not blue	9	Silver	That damn moon that had us all waiting about trying to catch a photo! This one is certainly red. The effect of the moon over the lights is good but the lights need to be sharper. Please revisit the crop and add a small border.
Scapes	3S	Jan	Lens	summer showing yellow	11	Gold	Interesting roadside shot of canola. The dry grasses and plants in the foreground contrast with the bright yellow canola. Try cropping the sky above the sharp bottom row of clouds and some of the long grass in the foreground for a panorama look?
Scapes	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Kruger Sunrise 6299	12	Gold	Typical bushveld sunrise in all its glorious colour . The rising mist adds to the image and the delicate vegetation detail is good. Very familiar to Kruger visitors.
Wildlife	3S	Jake	Alletson	Gotcha	11	Gold	Nice action shot, the trail left in the water and then the shadow on the water add to the feeling of movement. The bird seems reasonably sharp and his catch is clearly visible. The image has a slight yellow colour cast, if the water was slightly less yellow the Hammerkop would feature more prominently.
Wildlife	3S	Jake	Alletson	Pumba and Pal	11	Gold	The warthog looks almost blissfully happy with the sun on it, Difficult shot with the bright light. The oxpecker is well captured and looks very attentive.A slight reduction in exposure might improve the image.
Wildlife	3S	Jan	Lens	Ready for my bath		DQ	Good shot of this robin. Eye and beak are in focus and there is a catchlight, so light well handled. However the image includes a manmade element and cannot be entered in wildlife.
Wildlife	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Chilly Morning 6460	12	Gold	Excellent shot of the coucal. He's feathers are so sharp they look electrified by the cold! His expression too expresses discomfort with that staring red eye. It is unfortunate that one of the hazards of bird photography is the trees they perch on! This many branches is a bit of an unavoidable problem.
Wildlife	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	hey sis wake up	11	Gold	Fun shot of the little elephants at play. The main subject is nicely in focus with good skin texture. Unfortunately the light from the left falls on his back and his face is dark. Light direction is integral to wildlife photography and often frustratingly on the wrong side.
Wildlife	5SB	Maxi	Holder	Mrs Rockjumper With Spider	12	Gold	Busy little bird has been captured well. The sharpness of the feathers and the shrp red eye are good. The fact that she has her insect catch is a bonus. The bright rock in the background is a problem
Wildlife	5SP	Rob	Hart	Sibling confusion	12	Gold	Very confused indeed, maybe the heard about the Avian flu. All the heads, eyes and feathers are good and sharp . The knobby knees stand firm. There is just a hint of a protective mother looking on. Well done image appeared a little bright.

Wildlife	5SP	Rob	Hart	Sunbird splendour	12	Gold	Multicoloured pin sharp feathers are splendid.As is the little eye. The background blur and diagonal perch are good compositional elements.With the rest of the bird so sharp the out of focus tail is not an issue but the fact that the bird is static does tend to lower the score.
Wildlife	5SP	Rob	Hart	Thirst quenched at Msinga hide	11	Gold	These birds amuse me, I have seen England rugby players with precisely that hairstyle! Good detail and background and well seperated from the birds, if not from each other!