

**Results for November 2023 Monthly Competition - Bev**

Cat	Star			Title	Int Ref	Score	Award	Comment
Action And Sport	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Polo	2295470	12	Gold	Excellent image for a one star. Riders and animals are sharp, visible and light well handled. I know you must always "leave space" for movement, but in this instance crop out much of the right as this will balance your image more, especially considering the rider in the top left which is adding a lot of "weight" to the left of your image. Still a great image.
Action And Sport	5S1	Terry	Burne	Duzi 2023 - Mission Rapids 6975	2290173	13	Com	Great action shot, good clear facial expression, well done
Action And Sport	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Water Crossing	2291498	13	Com	Another great action shot, spray of water telling the story, background uncluttered. Well done
Nature	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	If you wanna build a WEBSITE just DEW it	2296524	7	silver	Nicely backlit spiders web, composition letting you down here. Maybe move higher so your horizon line is not in the middle of your image, or if you can't move closer to your web so that it fills the frame.
Nature	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	The Lawn Chair	2296536	7	silver	I commend you in trying to tell a story here, to emphasize the chair which is your subject include more of it, ask yourself what's not adding to my picture. In this case the sky, crop most of it out and immediately your story becomes stronger. * This image would not be allowed in Nature in a salon
Nature	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	my mommy	2290513	7	silver	Difficult light handled nicely, unfortunately image is soft on the face of Mom.
Nature	5S1	Terry	Burne	Diederik Cuckoo - 4893	2290171	13	Com	Wow awesome image, nice and sharp, good separation from the background and great eye detail. Not an easy bird to capture. VWD
Nature	5S1	Heidi	Taylor	White browed Scrub Robin	2294457	7	silver	Good attempt at capturing a busy bird, the dull light conditions are creating noise and making your image dull, but this can be improved with editing. Try noise reduction, then increase you exposure a tad as well as your vibrance and saturation to bring out the colour more.
Nature	5SB	Maxi	Holder	Feeding Station	2296093	12	Gold	Animals are sharp, good eye detail, story telling tick, well done
Nature	5SG	Des	van Tonder	Beautiful bee	2296404	11	Gold	I like the crop here, the space on the left balances the image for me. Bright and colourful
Nature	5SG	Des	van Tonder	Flippy flappy	2296403	12	Gold	Beautiful image, shallow depth of field enhances focus on the subject, just losing detail a bit in the dark areas
Nature	5SP	Rob	Hart	Hover fly 9325	2296604	11	Gold	Eye and hairs nice and sharp, a few hot spots on the body which really draw the eye..
Nature	5SP	Rob	Hart	Pied red-eye fly	2296038	13	Com	Excellent image, detailed and the cherry on the top is the rainbow catch light on the wing. Well done
Nature	5SP	Rob	Hart	Spider eats fly 8994	2296603	12	Gold	Another great image, such patience to get these shots. Good separation from background makes your subjects stand out. Well done
Nature	5SS	Ronelle	van den Heever	Lone bee	2296444	10	Gold	Good strong angle of the surface the bee is on, it adds interest to what could have been a very simple image.
Nature	5SS	Ronelle	van den Heever	Southern Red-Billed Hornbill	2296460	9	silver	Eye detail great and face is sharp, but the overall image is a bit flat and could do with lifting of the exposure to bring out the whites. This will make your image jump out more.

Open	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Beach Bonfire	2295471	10	Gold	Fires are exceptionally difficult to take as they have very very bright areas and very dark areas. You've handled this very well, the bits of glowing wood add interest .
Open	2S	wynand	lens	Green Orchid	2295999	7	Silver	You've managed to get your flowers sharp, but what's letting you down is your composition and light. Either go in really close or further away so as to get all the flower in or just a part of it. The whites are blown out losing detail. Try taking in natural light on a tripod, this usually allows for a more delicate image.
Open	2S	wynand	lens	Starwars Cat	2295523	11	Gold	Lovely sharp image with good eye detail.
Open	3S	Jan	Lens	Alloe against stormy sky	2288497	7	silver	Gorgeous light and colours and for that you are sneaking into a silver. Your background behind and next to the aloe is cluttered and distracting therefore overpowering your subject. A crop from the top would also help.
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Checking you out	2296012	9	silver	Well spotted story telling here. You have a nice triangle between the lifeguard, surfer and the board. Unfortunately two of those are out of focus which are key elements in your story, otherwise this would have definitely earned you a higher score.
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Misty morning Kalk Bay	2296010	10	gold	A solid image with lots of difficult to handle "whites" Having one boat dominating your frame stops your eye from wandering.
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Swan Lake	2296014	6	bronze	you've spotted a parallel here to the ballet, but it's getting lost in translation. One of the biggest reasons is the positioning of your blooms. Your eye goes from the front to the back ones and out the frame. Sometimes less is more, and maybe try just two blooms next time. It's never good to have subjects "clinging" to the perimeters of your image, like the two blooms at the top. Try also having the varying the light only on the front bloom and back bloom..
Open	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Durban Harbour before Dawn 5674	2292410	10	Gold	Well composed sunrise, sharp boats considering they would have been moving. Next time remove the white "floaters" in the water. A minor detail but as you go up the star rating attention to detail counts.
Open	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	dusty contrajour	2290515	10	Gold	The great appeal in this image is the story telling which is well captured. I like that you have included the pinkish colour of the bag in what is a very colourless image.
Open	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	james bond girl	2290514	8	silver	interesting lighting, but your main subject which is the lady needs some attention. The face is too dark, therefore making the eyes lifeless, some post processing would help.
Open	5S1	Tracey	Rhodes	Anniversary rose	2296573	10	Gold	Nicely focused rose, well lit. Maybe next time try the rose at more of angle, (corner to corner) , which will create more interest. Also watch these highly reflective surfaces as there are a few dust spots that needing "cleaning" post processing
Open	5S1	Heidi	Taylor	Cosmos	2294464	6	bronze	Whilst you have the flower in focus the B & W conversion has not worked as the image is flat. Far too many midtones. Try correcting in your levels and increase your lights.

Open	5S1	Tracey	Rhodes	Pastel Pink 1	2296571	12	Gold	Beautifully presented image. Colours and focus enhance the soft nature of a flower. You would have earned a merit had your droplet been in focus as that's where my eye goes. Little details that make the difference.
Open	5S1	Tracey	Rhodes	Pastel Pink 2	2296572	13	Com	Gorgeous, colour is soft and delicate, I appreciate the white background which is not fighting the image but in fact helping the overall softness of the flower. Great work.
Open	5S1	Terry	Burne	Sunset paddleboard - 2505	2295954	9	silver	soft pastel colours are pleasing. I normally don't mind a long landscape format, but placing subjects at the far left and far right is making your eye do the dreaded "ping pong"
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Giants Castle from the Kamberg Valley	2293570	10	Gold	I'm going to assume that it's a creative effect added to the image to give it an overall "softness". The colours are lovely and the scene is very pleasing, maybe crop just a bit off the top.
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Into the Dust	2296202	10	Gold	Nice conversion to B & W, person and dust add interest and story. Darkening the perimeters of the image direct the focus to the subject nicely
Open	5SB	Stephen	Pryke	Kenmo Lake	2296336	13	Com	Wow powerful image, Strong bright colours balanced well in the composition and are complimentary to the blue of the sky. I don't have a problem with no clouds, in fact in this image it gives it an almost minimalist quality. VWD
Open	5SG	Des	van Tonder	Splishy splashy	2296402	13	Com	Well done, great capture, loads of action with the big splash down and the long landscape format accentuates the whole image.
Open	5SS	Ronelle	van den Heever	Night stalker	2296445	12	Gold	Beautifully sharp with an interesting angle, lighting well done
Portrait	3S	Mags	Vosloo	Gentle Gaze	2295323	10	Gold	A pleasing portrait, nice engagement of subject and viewer, shadows need lifting just a tad.
Portrait	3S	Mags	Vosloo	Lady in Green	2295325	9	silver	Whilst your subject is nice and sharp and studio lighting good, you have lost light in the eyes which is so important in good portraits. Try lifting in post processing. Lifting of the shadow slider would help.
Portrait	3S	Mags	Vosloo	Midnight Mood	2295324	10	Gold	Side portrait works well here, colour is pleasing, just losing sharpness on the edge of the face, but great attempt
Portrait	5S1	Paul	Naude	A Bit on the Side	2295194	6	bronze	You have detail on the hair on the right and studio lighting is good, but harsh use of post processing has made your model look very "doll like" and unnatural. Use a mask and exclude the softening process from the eye.
Portrait	5S1	Paul	Naude	In the Limelight	2290825	9	silver	An engaging portrait, lighting is good. Arm placement is stiff and looks unnatural. Attention to detail makes all the difference.
Portrait	5S1	Heidi	Taylor	Samwise	2295421	7	silver	I like the side pose and catch light in the eyes. Move your shadow slider and your whole image will come to life.
Portrait	5S1	Paul	Naude	The One and Only	2290827	10	Gold	Always enjoy these types of low key images. Having just a bit of light on the zip is a great detail, sharpening is adding to the grungy masculine side of the story.

Scapes	1S	Dylan	Evans	Cobham Sunrise	2296605	10	Gold	Pretty scene with good colour in the sky. Some detail is captured in the foreground but this is soft. Usually as a result of lifting the shadows too much in processing. Always watch your image as you move your sliders in processing because you will forfeit clarity if you go too far.
Scapes	1S	Dylan	McIntosh	Hout Bay	2290703	6	bronze	A pleasant holiday scene. When taking holiday shots try and look for a leading line, a strong focal point, great light somewhere for the viewer to focus on.
Scapes	1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	It just dawned on me	2296521	8	silver	A pleasing image with the mist adding interest and mood. Trying cropping much of the sky and a bit off the left as it is not adding to your image. This will also shift your tree from the centre to balance the image more.
Scapes	1S	Dylan	Evans	Umlalazi sunset	2296613	8	silver	I do like the minimalist quality of the image as it gives a feeling of serenity. The figure adds interest and a focal point. Just watch having so much of your foreground out of focus. Depending on your lens experiment with diffent focal points in your image to ensure sharpness throughout.
Scapes	3S	Meleney	Naik	Engine 2685	2294443	10	Gold	Good balance through the tonal range, composition well placed
Scapes	3S	Meleney	Naik	Free State Escarpment	2294425	6	bronze	You've spotted a lovely scene. But to have a good landscape needs careful planning. Always do a wander around the edges of your image and crop out distractions. The trees on the far right on the edge of your image crop them out. Crop out much of your sky its not adding to your image and move the centre trees to the right "third". This makes a much stronger composition.
Scapes	3S	Meleney	Naik	Mono Chrome	2294441	9	silver	Great subject, sharp well focused. But your very bright background is "photobombing" your subject. Try cropping much of it out from the right and toning it down.
Scapes	3S	Jan	Lens	Route 62	2288496	9	silver	I like the idea of the long solitude of the road, to enhance this more lighten the grass on either side of the road as it's a bit dull and lifeless. This will also strenghten the direction you want the viewer to go which is along the road.
Scapes	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Huisie Onder Die Berge	2291503	12	Gold	Great landscape, loads of delicious moody light, inclusion of the house as a focal point well placed. Great detail in the clouds. Lifting the shadows in your foreground would have made this a merit.
Wildlife	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Looking at you	2295537	10	Gold	Nice and sharp with catchment light in the eyes. As you go up the star rating you will have to watch out for very bright backgrounds
Wildlife	2S	wynand	lens	Lookout	2295998	10	Gold	Excellent attempt, not easy getting those rosy eyes of this bird. To make for a better image you can crop out some of the left. You don't need to leave that much space for him to fly into.
Wildlife	3S	Jan	Lens	nice snack	2288495	10	Gold	Always good to capture a bird "doing" something. Pleasing light with enough detail on the feathers, focus just falling off on the face
Wildlife	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Lilac Breasted Roller 6242	2292408	6	bronze	Colours are bright but the overall focus is soft with almost no detail in the wing feathers

Wildlife	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Mothers watchful eye 6210	2292409	8	silver	Pleasing story with harsh light well handled, It's a pity the mother and baby were not closer together as they have almost become two subjects.
Wildlife	5SB	Maxi	Holder	Ooh Eina That Hurt	2296096	7	silver	Just sneaking in a silver as your image has strong story telling merits. But your focus is letting you down. It is soft around the face.
Wildlife	5SB	Maxi	Holder	That Was A Tasty Warthog	2296094	10	Gold	That "agh cute" factor. Subject uncluttered with a nose that tells a story
Wildlife	5SD	Leon	Heyes	Ou Groot Neus	2291501	13	Com	Great portrait of a hornbill. Pin sharp with great colour. Background colour is soft and adds to the image. Well done.