

Scoresheet_for_March_2024_Monthly_Competition - Terry

Category	Star Ra	Title			Score	Award	Comment
AS	2S	Happy Feet	wynand	lens	10	Gold	You have captured a pleasant picture of a happy runner. Picture is reasonably sharp and the colours are good. Perhaps the shadows, particularly on the face, could be lifted a bit in order to see the runner's face a bit better, and to make the picture a bit stronger
AS	5S1	No 66 at Dezis - 6349	Terry	Burne	13	Merit	Great panning image - the whites and shadows very well handled, the face and bike sharp, the wheels a delightful blur. Super image.
AS	5S5	polo action	Carol	Phillips	12	Gold	Great action shot with the ball being on the thirds and horses galloping in all directions. Well done.
NB	1S	Galah	Sandra	Comrie	8	Silver	A nice picture of a colourful bird. The picture could have done with some cropping off the top to and perhaps cropping in a bit closer to make the bird more prominent in the picture, but Unfortunately if you had cropped it in any closer it would have shown that the bird is in fact not quite sharp enough. I'm assuming that this is not a domestic bird because if it is a domestic bird then it could not be entered in nature. ***
NB	2S	Barn Swallow	wynand	lens	8	Silver	Nice picture of the barn swallows pair again unfortunately it's just not sharp enough. Ideally the picture should have been cropped in a bit closer and the space on the left of that branch in the middle could perhaps have been cropped out. Lighting could have been adjusted to bring up some of the shadow area that that's a bit dark
NB	3S	Landing gear down	Jan	Lens	6	Bronze	Sacred Ibis captured in flight. Unfortunately the lighting on this is all wrong the sky is just way too dark, and the shadows on the bird are too dark. This could have done with some selective processing so that the dark areas were lightened a bit without blowing out the light areas. There is also a significant dust spot in the bottom right hand corner that catches the eye The square format does not really work as the picture could also have been cropped and a bit off the top.
NB	3S	Sunflower queen	Jan	Lens	11	Gold	The eye and the feathers are nice and sharp, and light and colour is good. Picture is nice and sharp with Good separation from the background. For nature, that big fat border is a very strong NO - should only be 1 pixel very faint border. In seniors that border would result in score being marked down.
NB	5S0	Bee Eater	Heidi	Taylor	9	Silver	Nice story with the bird captured nicely with the eye on the 3rd, and looking into the space on the right. Good separation from the background. Unfortunately the bird itself is just not sharp enough and perhaps some selective exposure adjustment to to lift the colours on the bird.
NB	5S0	Secretary Bird in flight	Heidi	Taylor	9	Silver	An unusual capture of a secretary bird in flight - you don't see that very often. The setting is nice, but unfortunately the bird doesn't fill the frame enough and in zooming in the bird is simply not sharp enough. Nice capture for the memories but not quite good enough for camera camera club at 5 star
NB	5S1	Dust Bath	Maxi	Holder	9	Silver	Interesting shot of the ostrich kicking up some dust. Perhaps some of the foreground at the bottom and some of the background at the top could have been cropped off to fill the frame a bit more, but unfortunately I don't think the ostrich is quite sharp enough. Also - perhaps the contrast and lighting could have been adjusted more to make the picture a bit more punchy.

NB	5S3	Balancing act	Des	van Tonder	10	Gold	Interesting pose of the bird I guess it's just landed. The bird is almost sharp but not quite particularly around the eye. Nice separation from the background.
NB	5S3	Female White Bellied Sunird	Ronelle	van den Heever	13	COM	Now that's really nice and sharp - all the feather detail is sharp, the eye is sharp, the beak is sharp. Lighting and colours are good. Very nicely separated from the background - well done
NB	5S3	Sushi breakfast	Des	van Tonder	13	COM	Really nice and sharp the details around the the bird's eye and the fish - the feathers on the bird really nice and sharp. Colours and detail superb. The eye of the bird is nicely on the 3rd, and with the beak being a diagonal down to the fish, which is almost on the 3rd
NN	1S	ELEPHANT SEAL	Kees	de Waal	8	Silver	I don't know where this is, but it makes for an interseting story. Unfortunately nothing in this picture is sharp. The seal is definitely not sharp. Unfortunately absence of any metadata means that I can't make recommendations of what you need to do to fix this picture.
NN	1S	MUM AND CUB	Kees	de Waal	13	COM	Lovely picture of a mum and a cub together. The cub in the front looks nice and sharp but unfortunately the the 2nd cheetah in the background is a bit soft. Because there is no metadata I can't see what your aperture settings were but possibly if you had gone for a smaller aperture you may have got both of the two in focus. For a 1 Star though, this is very nice.
NN	1S	Two Zebbies	Jean	Lens	9	Silver	Lovely example of 2 zebras watching each others back. The picture would probably be more balanced if the zebras were placed centrally in the frame to make it a symmetrical image - I don't know if there would have been enough on the right hand side of the picture to crop it slightly differently. Unfortunately the exposure is not quite right, and the zebras are slightly out of focus - both of these could have been fixed in postprocessing to some extent. This could have been converted into a high key image or perhaps even into mono. ***
NN	3S	Black Jacks	Mags	Vosloo	7	Silver	The blackjack in the foreground is reasonably sharp but the other two in the picture are sharp enough to see that there are black jacks, but not sharp enough for the picture. Perhaps if you had used a smaller shutter to get a greater depth of field, this picture might have be in a bit better but as it stands unfortunately it doesn't really make the cut. The background is also quite busy and bright and detracts from what you're trying to show.
NN	3S	On the Lookout	Mags	Vosloo	DQ	Gold	Wrong Category - unless I am very much mistaken, this looks a lot like a bird
NN	3S	Ostrich	Mags	Vosloo	DQ	Gold	Wrong Category.
NN	4S	Gentle Touch 6375	Doug	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	pleasant picture of two ellies being all touchy feely. Colours are good and the details are fairly sharp. The close proximity of the trees in the background, are part of the bush story so you have to just accept them, as does the dappled light - but they do distract a little bit from the story, which results in the picture lacking a bit of punch. Unfortunately there's not a lot you can do about it.
NN	5S1	Cape Cobra Raiding The Nest	Maxi	Holder	10	Gold	Interesting story of the Cape cobra raiding. Cobra is nice and sharp, and Colors of are nice. I don't think the square crop enhances this picture - I believe that the picture could have been improved by cropping off the top and the bottom to to make the cobra bigger in the story. Another picture with no metadata so it is difficult to offer improvement suggestions ***

NN	5S1	What Has Horns And Flies	Maxi	Holder	8	Silver	Nice separation from the background - but the time of day has not helped. What also hasn't helped is that the focus is on the nose which is relatively sharp, but the eyes, ears, and horns, are all a bit soft. You have used an aperture of F5.6 - Perhaps a slightly smaller aperture would have given a better result.
NN	5S3	Macro Bee	Ronelle	van den Heever	12	Gold	Really nice and sharp with stunning colours. Good separation from the background. Perhaps this could have done with a very fine 1-pixel light grey border
NN	5S4	Bristly red eye 0598	Rob	Hart	12	Gold	Well captured macro of a fly. The eye and body are in nice sharp focus and colours on the fly are good - although perhaps the highlight spots on the fly could be toned down. Also - the bright areas of the background could also be toned down a touch as they are a bit distracting
NN	5S4	Red eyed fly frontal 0470	Rob	Hart	10	Gold	This picture is all about those eyes, and the detail on the eyes is great. The rest of the fly is not as sharp, but that doesn't worry me. Perhaps the bright flower in the foreground could be toned down a bit as it is competing for and almost taking over for attention - and the attention needs to be on the eyes. Background is nice with clear separation from the subject, but it is showing a lot of noise. At this level, that noise needs to be addressed.
NN	5S4	small bee on red berry-0339 NW	Rob	Hart	11	Gold	Detail on the bee is nice and sharp, although again the highlight spots on the eye and berry could be toned down slightly. There are some signs of halo around the bottom of the berry and the front feeler, that are probably as a result of the post processing. Nice separation from the background, but again the background is starting to show some noise
NN	5S5	i have an itch	Carol	Phillips	8	Silver	Sadly the light behind the animal has resulted in the colours being fairly flat, and nothing is truly sharp in this picture. As a result, nothing really holds my attention. Again, there is no metadata supplied so I have no idea what settings were used. Possibly this was a cell-phone picture that looked great on the phone but hasn't quite transferred to the bigger screen - but that is purely a guess.
NN	6S1	Golden Dragon at Rest	Leon	Heyes	12	Gold	Colours and sharpness of the insect are great, and with the body parallel to the stick which cuts across the diagonal. I like how the wings appear to wrap around the dragonfly's body with only part of the wing being in focus. Nice separation from the background, but again I am seeing some signs of noise in the background
OP	1S	Camp red	Jean	Lens	10	Gold	This picture was originally submitted under the 'Scapes' category, but it has been moved to the 'Open' Category. The reason for this is that the Human element in the picture is stronger than the landscape that they are in - i.e. the subject of this story is the campers and not the landscape that they are in. As it stands, it makes for an interesting story with the campers out in the bush at sunset. To enhance the story of isolation, perhaps you could clone out the lights on the horizon. Perhaps also you could tone down the very bright areas of the campers. For a 1 star, you have told this story well.

OP	1S	ME TOO	Kees	de Waal	11	Gold	You have captured an interesting story - with the photographers shooting the penguins, and one of them coming to investigate. Colours are good. Your story is a little bit distracted by the 2 people in the background - as this is in open you could have easily removed the from the picture in post processing. Still - for a 1 star, well done. ***
OP	1S	Seaweed	Sandra	Comrie	11	Gold	Well spotted - some interesting art created by nature. I don't know if this was how you found it and took a picture of what you found, or if you deliberately placed it there to photograph. If possible, I think it would have improved the picture if there was some sound around the right border so the seaweed was fully within the frame. Still, for a 1 star this is a good effort.
OP	1S	Sunset at Kinloch	Sandra	Comrie	12	Gold	This is another picture which I have moved from Scapes to Open because the human element story is stronger than the landscape. Great story and nicely captured with the people in silhouette. For Open, and Landscape, you are allowed to remove elements that are a distraction from your story - like the buoys. Take the out. For a 1 star this is a very nice picture. ***
OP	2S	Racer 1	wynand	lens	12	Gold	A really great panning shot - the head and shoulders are nice and sharp and the background is nicely blurred. You could possibly have lifted the shadows a bit. Panning shots always work better if there is slightly more space in front of the subject than behind. As this is in open, you could have easily cropped a bit off the back and added some road in front of the cyclist - either by cloning or content aware filling. Good work. ***
OP	3S	Brown company	Joan	Lindegger	10	Gold	I am not quite sure what to make of this story with a piece of rusty equipment in the middle of a flower garden. Sharpness, colour, exposure, texture are all well managed without there being enough of a story here. Perhaps if you included a bit more of the garden to put the story more in context.
OP	3S	Old windmill	Joan	Lindegger	9	Silver	Windmills always make for an interesting subject. Unfortunately in this case, you have the working part of the windmill set against a bright sky, and the detail and rust is largely lost, which is a pity. Also, the great big dust spot on the right of the picture needs to be cleaned up. The picture could have been improved by lifting the shadows a bit. ***
OP	3S	On the lookout	Joan	Lindegger	11	Gold	I love the story, but I wish there was just a bit more of the garden visible on the right so I could see more of what he or she was looking out for. I also like that you have captured a bit of the house in the background. Perhaps if you had taken a step or 2 to the left, and captured it in landscape mode ??? but as someone looking at your picture I don't know if that was possible
OP	4S	All Clogged Up	Meleney	Naik	12	Gold	Another lovely story - well spotted and well presented. You have kept it simple and clean, and the colours are perfect. I wonder what happened to the other shoe
OP	4S	Golden Ripples 6900	Doug	Couperthwaite	8	Silver	A pleasant setting, but I feel that the picture is missing a subject to tell a story - i.e. a person walking a dog coming into the picture. Without that, the story here does not have enough interest. The brightness of the reflection could also be taken down a bit in post processing

OP	4S	Just Chilling	Avril	Janssen	8	Silver	A pleasant picture of a smiling child on a swing. Exposure on the face could have been lifted a little. There are a lot of distracting elements in the background, and the dappled lighting does not really help. I feel that this picture would benefit of being cropped much tighter, but as it stands, this is more of a record shot of a family member or friend. ***
OP	4S	low notes	Liesl	Couperthwaite	10	Gold	Good composition with the body on the thirds and the neck of the banjo going up on the diagonal. I would like to have seen a bit more light on the body of the banjo, specifically on the wooden rim, and also on the neck and head. I would also have liked to see the bright wall and the shiny part of the stairs toned down a little. 2 comments - Sheet music and banjo? Resting the banjo on a tuning peg? ***
OP	4S	rain drops	Avril	Janssen	9	Silver	The raindrops have been caught nicely on this Arum Lilly, but it could have been a little bit sharper. There is also too much distracting detail in the background. You could have dropped the exposure a bit in the background in order to bring more attention to the subject. I have taken your picture and done some processing to demonstrate this. ***
OP	4S	Resting	Avril	Janssen	8	Silver	Well spotted and dragonflies can make for great pictures. Unfortunately there are a couple of things that work against you here - the fact that the dragonfly is on a flat surface with a strong light, means that there is a very distracting shadow. Ideally, this picture should have been cropped in a lot tighter, but the dragonfly is just not sharp enough to do that. There is also a lot of distracting sand on the rock surface that also distracts.
OP	4S	Strawberry Cascade	Meleney	Naik	13	COM	Great picture and really well handled. Light on the sugar cascade and the colour on the strawberry are really well handled. If I have any criticism, I would like to have seen a very fine border, particularly on the Right hand side so that the half-a-spoon doesn't appear magically from thin air.
OP	4S	Sweet Temptations	Meleney	Naik	12	Gold	Very nice studio shot - who's for tea and macaroons. Colours are good and the composition works. Well done.
OP	4S	the colour is dripping	Liesl	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	Nice attempt at this studio shot. Colours are nice, and the reflection of the pencils in the droplet is a good idea. Unfortunately you have used a very shallow depth of field (F2.8) which has resulted in much of the pencil and droplet being out of focus - and that's the most important part of this story. Try this again with a smaller aperture, and make sure that you get the point of the pencil, the droplet, and the reflection in focus.
OP	4S	the flower lives	Liesl	Couperthwaite	7	Silver	Without reading the title, I could not make out what story the author was trying to tell. Unfortunately, the flower was not what I saw in the story. If the flower is intended to be the subject of the story, perhaps you could have cropped the picture more to make it more obvious, but again the dappled light and shadow on the flower, and lack of sharpness do not help.

OP	4S	Waiting for a bite 6871	Doug	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	Another picture that was submitted in Scapes, but should have been submitted in Open instead because the human element of the story far outweighs the landscape. The picture itself could have benefitted by using the dehaze in camera raw, to make the colours of the sea pop a bit more. The horizon is also not straight. I also feel that the last fisherman and his kit on the right of the screen is half in and half out of the picture - it could have been cropped just before that fisherman and his stuff. ***
OP	5S0	Curled petals	Tracey	Rhodes	9	Silver	Good attempt at something a bit different. The curls are interesting, but my eye keeps being drawn to the bright yellow stamens of the flower, and these are out of focus. I like that the petals on the right are blurred, but I would have liked the bright yellow stamens to have been sharper (they either need to be totally blurred, or sharp). I note that you have used a very large aperture (F2.8) giving a very shallow depth of field - perhaps a smaller aperture would have helped this.
OP	5S1	Bamburgh Castle - 2909bw	Terry	Burne	8	Silver	Its always lovely to see different scenes - the castle is the story, but my eye keeps on going to the strip of sand in the bottom left - try crop this out, and the castle is much stronger in the image. The castle also seems slightly pixellated, a little off sharp - perhaps playing with textures and clarity would help this...
OP	5S1	On the Web	Stephen	Pryke	13	COM	Superb - very well done. The web and droplets are nice and sharp, and those droplets paint an interesting pattern. If I have one criticism, it would be that with the webs appearing to stop in mid-air, in this case I would like to see a very faint 1 pixel border just to designate the edge
OP	5S1	Plantation	Stephen	Pryke	13	COM	I looked at this picture for a long time, and the more I looked at it the more it grew on me - lovely story. You can almost hear the silence in the plantation, and then suddenly this little buck comes leaping across the clearing. I don't know if this was lucky timing, or if the buck was photoshopped in, but as this is in open, it doesn't matter. Nicely done.
OP	5S1	The Cascades at Royal Natal	Stephen	Pryke	10	Gold	Overall this picture is well handled, and the colours are vibrant and both foreground and background are nice and sharp with vibrant colours - not sure if this is HDR, but it is well processed. The only area of concern is the blown out part of the sky (middle and left). This is open category - you could have cloned the sky to fix this
OP	5S1	The stairwell - 0899bw	Terry	Burne	12	Gold	Beautiful shapes and textures, and an unusual angle make this a very interesting image and story. The background has been processed well, with the busy elements darkened so that you can just see them to add interest, but they do not detract. Good mono conversion.
OP	5S3	Mono Waterfall	Ronelle	van den Heever	12	Gold	Very well captured, and the conversion to mono works well. There are a few distractions to the story that I feel you could take out - the light-coloured branches on the left of the picture, the stick at the bottom left, and the reed or grass stick on the right of the picture. This is Open - so you could easily remove these.
OP	5S3	Voices from yesteryear	Vicki	Street	11	Gold	I doubt if that phone is as old as it is meant to look, but still an interesting picture. Colours, exposure and saturation are good. Nice picture.

Best Senior

OP	6S1	From the Spice Box	Leon	Heyes	11	Gold	Interesting story and well told. Colours and textures are good and the use of a small aperture (F25) has meant that you have got everything nice and sharp. The speckled countertop doesn't really enhance the story and perhaps if this had been on a wooden chopping board, or a less distracting surface this might have bumped the score up.
OP	6S1	The Inevitability of Death	Leon	Heyes	13	COM	Very nice and slightly different story taken from the back of the flower rather than the front - although the title should perhaps be the inevitability of ageing, as it doesn't look dead yet. Lovely soft colours. Again - a very small aperture (F32) has meant that the details on the petals are all nice and sharp. In this case, the absence of a border works because there is no need to see the edge of the picture - it owns the entire screen.
PA	5S5	hydrangea painting	Carol	Phillips	12	Gold	Lovely soft mood created with the colours gently painted to the edges, makes a very tranquil picture. Well done.
PO	4S	Biddy	JOAN	JUNG	11	Gold	Biddy looks like she does not want to be messed with. The picture is nice and sharp, but feels a bit 'hard'. I feel that if the light on the left side of here face (right of the picture) was a bit less bright, it might have softened her look a little. I also feel that bright border adds to the harshness of the picture, and perhaps if this was toned down to a light grey, or use 50 or 70% opacity, it would also tone down the harshness a bit.
PO	4S	spoilt cat	JOAN	JUNG	8	Silver	Looks like the cat is saying "What are you doing pointing that thing at me?" as cats do. Pretty cat, but I don't know if the fact that the picture was taken on a cell phone, and perhaps cropped has resulted in the picture being not quite sharp enough. I don't know how this was processed - the eyes appear sharp, but the fur around the face and nose is smudged. Something about that face does not look quite natural.
PO	4S	Tp	JOAN	JUNG	10	Gold	Nice smile and nice light in the eyes. The natural light has worked well on the skin tones. A very nice portrait. I would have preferred to see a little bit more separation from the background which I find a bit distracting.
PO	5S3	Be My Valentine	Vicki	Street	12	Gold	Lovely portrait of a pretty young model. exposure and lighting on the face are good. Lighting on her left arm is a bit bright and could be toned down a bit in post-processing so that the arm and machine gun do not distract from her face.
PO	5S3	Posing cutie	Des	van Tonder	13	COM	Really nice - colours are good and nice separation from the background. The eye, the beak, and the feathers are really sharp, with nice catchlight in the eye. The little bit of grass in the corner of the beak, and the droplets on the back just complete the story.
PO	5S3	Tracey	Vicki	Street	11	Gold	Another really nice studio portrait. Light on the hair and face is really well handled, eyes are nice and sharp, but there is still a pleasant softness about the picture because of the light and shadow from right to left. I feel the arm in the foreground could have been toned down a bit in post processing
SC	1S	Ex rock NYC	Jean	Lens	10	Gold	A nice skyline, that could have been enhanced by using the dehaze in Camera Raw in order to recover a lot more detail of the skyline. Perhaps also some of the sky could be cropped off and make this more of a panoramic picture ***

SC	1S	Lisbon Bus Station	Dylan	Evans	13	COM	Well spotted and well captured -with nice symmetry around the vertical centreline - and conversion to mono works well. Exposure is a bit on the light side, and would be enhanced by dropping the exposure slightly and increasing the contrast. This is one of the pictures that I have done some correction on. ***	Best Junior
SC	3S	level with the clouds	Jan	Lens	DQ	DQ	Picuire has been previously submitted and judged in Feb	
SC	5S0	Looking up in the Pearls Hotel	Heidi	Taylor	8	Silver	An architecture picture that fits into our 'Scapes' Category. Good attempt at an interesting shot, and I notice that you used quite a small aperture in order to try and get the depth of focus, but unfortunately on the opposite side of this equation you have used a very long shutter speed of 0,6 sec. I am assuming this was hand-held rather than on a tripod, as unfortunately there is nothing sharp in the picture.	