

1 - Results for April 2024 Monthly Competition - Conrad

| Category | Star Rating | Title | Firstname | Lastname | Score | Award | Comment |
|----------|-------------|--|-----------|----------------|-------|--------|--|
| AS | 2S | Making a Splash | wynand | lens | 8 | Silver | I like the straight on shot and the focus and exposure is good. The oranges do look a bit over saturated. I would prefer to see the paddlers face as there is always a lot of emotion in the face when they go through the rapids. |
| AS | 5S1 | Duzi 2024 - Mission Rapids 4855 | Terry | Burne | 10 | Gold | A very similar composition as the previous image, but here we can see the emotion and reaction of the paddler when going through the rapid. |
| AS | 5S1 | Duzi 24 - Mission Rapids eyes wide shut 5051 | Terry | Burne | 11 | Gold | A good image of the paddlers on calmer waters. The concentration and focus can be seen in both their faces. Image is well exposed and pin sharp. |
| AS | 5S4 | Doom looms large at Mission rapids | Rob | Hart | 10 | Gold | I like the wider composition showing more of the environment and the perils that are on the river. Exposure and focus is good. A pity about the guy in the back with his bright vest as it does draw your eye there and you wonder what his story is, when all your attention should be on the main boat. |
| AS | 5S4 | Female lead at Mission rapids | Rob | Hart | 10 | Gold | Good composition and I like the emotion of the paddlers captured here as well as the fact that you can see all their faces. Nice side light and the exposure and focus is spot on. |
| NB | 1S | ONE | Kees | de Waal | 10 | Gold | I like the simplicity of the image. The exposure and focus is good, but the snow has a blue tint to it. Adjust your white balance settings and levels to bring the whiteness of the snow back into the image. The penguin is very central in the image, cropping some of the bottom dead space out will improve the composition. |
| NB | 1S | Sunbird | Sandra | Comrie | 13 | COM | A stunning capture with beautiful colours. Sharpness and composition is spot on. I know it is allowed, but it would have been better if the bird was sitting on a natural branch but it is what it is. |
| NB | 4S | Cape Vulture 6430 | Doug | Couperthwaite | 9 | Silver | The bird is nicely lit and I like the natural framing. The exposure is good, but the image is slightly soft all over. |
| NB | 4S | White breasted cormorant | JOAN | JUNG | 13 | COM | Stunning image. Composition and focus and exposure is very good. There is great separation from the background. |
| NB | 5S0 | I wish I could fly | Heidi | Taylor | 6 | Bronze | I like the composition and the storytelling of this image. It's a pity that the image is out of focus. |
| NB | 5S3 | Lilac Breasted Roller | Ronelle | van den Heever | 9 | Silver | The composition and focus is good but the big branch in front is distracting. The background is also blown out. Any adjustment has no effect on the background. |
| NB | 6S1 | All Fluffed Up | Leon | Heyes | 12 | Gold | The exposure and focus is good. Showing this angle is a bit different but shows the feathers off nicely. The background is well handled and has good separation from the bird. The foliage bottom left is a bit distracting. |
| NN | 1S | RELAXED LEOPARD | Kees | de Waal | 11 | Gold | The composition and focus is very good. There is nice separation from the background. I like the profile of the leopard in the image. A bonus would have been if it was looking into the camera. |
| NN | 1S | Sneak Peak | Noxolo | Kheswa | 10 | Gold | An interesting shot. I like the comp and the lighting is very subtle, as is the leaf trying to peek out the hole. Well spotted. |
| NN | 2S | Wet wet wet | wynand | lens | 10 | Gold | I like the diagonal placement of the subject. The lighting is good, but there are a few very bright spots. The water drops do add interest in the image, but is bordering on distracting, especially the three refracting the background. |
| NN | 4S | Strength in numbers 6603 | Doug | Couperthwaite | 9 | Silver | This is a good image of the elephants in their environment. Although the elephants are the main subject, there are too many of them and most of them are looking away from the camera. The bull one is the exception, and the one on the right has light on her face, but is almost walking out the frame. Your eye wanders all over and does come back to the bull, but then his face is in shadow. |
| NN | 5S1 | Peeping Through The Leaves | Maxi | Holder | 11 | Gold | I love this in your face shot. The giraffe popping his head out the thorn tree does also add a comical aspect to the image. The focus is spot on, pity about the harsh midday sun, but you handles the exposure in the face well. |

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| NN | 5S3 | Eye to eye with a butterfly | Ronelle | van den Heever | 12 | Gold | A great image and I love the landscape panoramic view. The butterfly's face and eyes are pin sharp and the background separation is very good. |
| NN | 5S4 | Fly in prayer 0849 | Rob | Hart | 10 | Gold | An excellent macro shot. Pin sharp, but the bright spot on the face is a bit distracting. Try and use diffusion on your flash to soften the light. (if you have not already done so). |
| OP | 1S | Bird Rest | Noxolo | Kheswa | 9 | Silver | 10/10 for creativity and looking at things with a different eye. The leaf in the water draws my eye more than the reflection of the bird does, because it is more in focus than the bird. Make sure of your focus points and use a single point and put that on your subject. |
| OP | 1S | Channel light | Jean | Lens | 10 | Gold | The exposure and focus is well handled. I like the leading lines in the image, taking your eye to the subject. However, I am not sure what the subject is. I would assume you saw the person as the main subject, but she is in darkness whereas the sail boat is bright and in the sunlight and that draws your eye away from the woman. |
| OP | 1S | Nice dinner | Jean | Lens | 10 | Gold | A nice busy street scene. The shutter is slow, but it adds to the bustle and Red Riding Hood is just sharp enough to draw your eye. The white balance is a bit to warm, so adjust it slightly to get rid a some of the yellow. |
| OP | 1S | Seaweed | Sandra | Comrie | 11 | Gold | The composition, focus and exposure is good. The small channel of water in front is a nice focal point. For some reason I love the small sunspot reflections in the sea weed. |
| OP | 1S | Urban Grazing | Noxolo | Kheswa | 9 | Silver | These must be VIP cattle as they are guarded by an electric fence... LOL. The image is sharp and the exposure is well handled. Even though the land is sloping to the left, the image is not level and is leaning to the left quite a bit. Use the fence poles as a guide to level the image. The left part of the image also has a haze over it, whereas the right side is clear. |
| OP | 1S | Watering can spout | Dylan | Evans | 10 | Gold | The placement of the water spout mouth is well thought out. The focus and the exposure is fine. The watering can as a backdrop works well as it is mostly even and clean. Tone down the bright spot above the mouth of the spout. |
| OP | 2S | Blue whirlwind | wynand | lens | 12 | Gold | Excellent action shot. Nice use of slow shutter while still having the body of the car sharp enough. There is good motion in the wheels as well. Composition and exposure is also good. |
| OP | 2S | State of the nation | Marisan | Victor | 10 | Gold | A good PJ shot that tells the story of the state of our nation. The harsh light suits the harsh conditions this lady is living in. The exposure is fine and the image is sharp. Perhaps the composition can be improved by placing her more central in the frame and not cutting her elbow off. |
| OP | 3S | Knife handles | Joan | Lindegger | 10 | Gold | The light is nice and even on the knives. The focus is also good. The image is a bit flat though and can do with some more contrast. Improve your composition a bit by leaving more space at the bottom of the frame. |
| OP | 3S | Peachy | Joan | Lindegger | 10 | Gold | A beautiful flower and colour. The condition is also pristine. The DOF fall off nicely and the centre of the rose is sharp enough. The bright area at the centre can be toned down slightly. |
| OP | 3S | Seeds of Contemplation | Joan | Lindegger | 9 | Silver | The composition is good and the focus is pin sharp. The mono conversion is quite flat and will improve with some contrast. Perhaps try a slightly different angle or perspective instead of a straight down angle. |
| OP | 4S | blue vase | Cornelia | Appel | 11 | Gold | A very pleasing table top setup with beautiful soft light. The focus is spot on. The image does have a slightly too warm colour cast that can be fixed in post. |
| OP | 4S | Cows greeting | JOAN | JUNG | 10 | Gold | I like the interaction between the two cows and it tells a small story and not just a static image of two cows. The light is nice and soft and the image is sharp. |
| OP | 4S | Daisy | Meleney | Naik | 9 | Silver | Well composed, sharp and a beautifully lit daisy. A pity that the focus seems to be on the outer edge petals instead of the centre of the daisy, which seems just too soft. |

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| OP | 4S | ice alley | Liesl | Couperthwaite | 12 | Gold | I love this image and the mood it conveys. The mono conversion works well. Perhaps a step to the right would have made the image more symmetrical. |
| OP | 4S | Kaleidoscope Drink | Meleney | Naik | 12 | Gold | I love the colours and patterns in the image. The reflections on the glass was kept to a minimum. All the lines converge on the subject thereby drawing your eye to it. |
| OP | 4S | kicking the can | Liesl | Couperthwaite | 9 | Silver | An interesting image, though it is quite busy. There is not a main subject to focus on. The light is good, as is the focus on the shoes. The image does have quite a warm colour tone that can be fixed. |
| OP | 4S | maths teacher | Liesl | Couperthwaite | 9 | Silver | The image is quite colourful and the subject does stand out well with the bright cheerful colours. My eye does keep bouncing around the image looking for a main subject which it does not find. Perhaps if one of the flowers was bigger than the rest it would have drawn my eye. |
| OP | 4S | Sunrise Durban Harbour 5706 | Doug | Couperthwaite | 10 | Gold | A beautiful sunrise with good strong colours. The image does lean a bit to the right. You can use the buildings as a guide to level out the image. Although we can identify the yachts, they are very dark and they do blend into one another. |
| OP | 4S | yellow beauty | JOAN | JUNG | 9 | Silver | Beautiful colours with good leading lines to the centre of the flower. Unfortunately the image does look soft all over. |
| OP | 5S0 | Orange Lily stamen | Heidi | Taylor | 11 | Gold | Well composed with nice soft light. The subject is very sharp and stands out from the petals. The exposure is a bit dark and can be a bit brighter. |
| OP | 5S0 | Pretty in pink 2 | Tracey | Rhodes | 12 | Gold | Beautifully lit and exposed. The droplets are pin sharp and the light is perfectly diffused thereby not showing bright hotspots on the drops. |
| OP | 5S1 | A Mixed Bag Of Tourists | Maxi | Holder | 10 | Gold | This really is a mixed bag. They all have different expressions and interests. The exposure and focus is good. What would have made the image better was if they driver had more speed and the water was spraying up from the wheels. LOL. |
| OP | 5S1 | Bamburgh Castle - 2889-90bw | Terry | Burne | 9 | Silver | This location is stunning. The mono conversion is well done and the sky adds that extra bit to the image. A pity that the image is leaning so much to the left. |
| OP | 5S1 | Bearded Vulture | Stephen | Pryke | 9 | Silver | This is a nice profile shot of the vulture. The exposure on the dark and light feathers is well controlled. Unfortunately the generative fill where you extended the image is showing up at the top of the image. Make sure that you blend the fill area to match the rest of the image. |
| OP | 5S1 | March Lily Reflection | Maxi | Holder | 10 | Gold | A nice clean reflection and the exposure is also good, but perhaps a bit bright on the curved edges of the petals. Diffusing the light may get rid of that bright spots. |
| OP | 5S1 | Rays of light over the Malutis | Stephen | Pryke | 6 | Bronze | I love the depth and layers in this image. The light rays are also stunning. Unfortunately the processing has let you down in this image. I'm not sure if it was done one purpose, but it seems noise reduction was heavy handed in the image. There is also a distinct white edge along the top of the mountains. |
| OP | 5S1 | Storm Brewing over the Rhino | Stephen | Pryke | 8 | Silver | This image seems to been given the same treatment as the previous one. This one seems more painterly and is more pleasing to look at. If it was the intention of the author to use, what looks like too much noise reduction to achieve this look, then its fine, but otherwise be aware of what it does to an image. |
| OP | 5S3 | Barely a road runner | Ronelle | van den Heever | 10 | Gold | Well done on seeing this little guy and going down low to photograph it. The exposure is fine and the focus on the chameleon is good, but it seems the surround area is over sharpened as there are small artifacts on the tar. |
| OP | 5S3 | I find you quite ribbiting | Vicki | Street | 13 | COM | A great pose with stunning light and background separation. The eyes are pin sharp as well. Perhaps tone down the bright area at the top of the stem and clone out the pieces of grass to clean up the image. |
| OP | 6S1 | Flapjack Heaven | Leon | Heyes | 9 | Silver | The setup of the items work great. The lighting and the focus is spot on. What brings the mark down for me is that there is an overabundance of sugar in the image. Its piled too thick on top and the way it has melted into the berries and honey makes it look unattractive. The Honey looks granular and we all know honey is supposed to be smooth and golden. Next time sprinkle the sugar sparingly. |

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| OP | 6S1 | Spring Chicken | Leon | Heyes | 9 | Silver | The subject has beautiful light on it. The composition is also good, with enough room on the left for the chicken to look into. The head a eye of the chicken is quite soft though and that's what brought the mark down. |
| PJ | 4S | Idube Racetrack Tony Kart 213 | Meleney | Naik | 10 | Gold | The photo is well composed and pin sharp. The exposure is also handled well with no blown out areas. Next time try and slow down the shutter speed so that you get some morion in the wheels. Also try some panning and it will take these kind of images to the next level. Another tip is to, if possible, position yourself to get an uncluttered background. |
| PO | 4S | be my Valentine | Cornelia | Appel | 9 | Silver | I love the setup and the expression on the girls face. The lighting is good and the central composition works well. The girls eyes are quite soft though, if they were sharper then it would have scored much better. |
| PO | 5S3 | Dennis with feathers in his cap | Vicki | Street | 12 | Gold | A great mono conversion with nice tones. The textures in the image are great as well. Perhaps give a little bit more space at the bottom of the frame. |
| PO | 5S3 | Portrait of La May | Vicki | Street | 12 | Gold | A nice clean well put together portrait. The colour toning works great. Lighting and focus is spot on. The girls right foot looks slightly awkward, like its floating in mid air. Maybe resting it on top of the blue case may look more natural? |
| SC | 1S | Fiji rainbow | Kees | de Waal | 10 | Gold | The composition is good and the light is stunning. The shadows create depth in the island. The rainbows always add that extra pop to an image. Watch your edges of the frame, as the white piece of ships railing catches your eye. |
| SC | 1S | La Ciotat rocks | Jean | Lens | 9 | Silver | A nice leading line taking your eye to the runner. The exposure and focus is good. Perhaps clone out all the other people in the image besides the runner. The fisherman crouching down is adding nothing to the image. Also. Watch your horizon level as the image is leaning to the right. |
| SC | 3S | Berg Serenity | Mags | Vosloo | 9 | Silver | There is good foreground and background interest. The image is quite flat and the mono conversion can do with some work. Adding more contrast makes the dark areas pop and lowering the highlights bring loads of texture out of the clouds. |
| SC | 3S | Sterkfontein Dam | Mags | Vosloo | 10 | Gold | A serene scene. The composition is fine and the exposure is ok. The clouds do not have blown out areas. The light is quite harsh due to the time of day it was taken. |
| SC | 3S | Tree with a View | Mags | Vosloo | 10 | Gold | It truly is a tree with a view. I appreciate that your composition includes the shade of the tree. You do have competing points of interest though. The tree and the bell. Perhaps having a person sitting on the bench looking out to the mountain would add a better focal point to the image. |
| SC | 4S | Hilton Forest | Cornelia | Appel | 10 | Gold | A pleasing rural scene and the inclusion of the small dam adds that extra point of interest. I do not think the road adds any value to the image, as it is small in the frame and takes you out the frame. Perhaps standing on the other side of the road would improve the composition. |
| SC | 5S0 | Baling Hay | Heidi | Taylor | 11 | Gold | I love the light in the image. It highlights the trees just enough for them not to blend into the background. The tractor and hay bales add the point of interest. The tractor could do with a bit of extra sharpness and leave a bit more space on the right as the tree in the corner is very close to the edge. |
| | 1S | Sunbird | Sandra | Comrie | 13 | COM | |
| | 5S3 | I find you quite ribbiting | Vicki | Street | 13 | COM | |