

JULY 2024 MONTHLY COMPETITION SCORESHEET - WENDY FREER

Category Name	Star	Firstname	Lastname	Title	Score	Award	Comment
Action And Sport	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	old timer rally	9	S	Good technique with the panning. The rider is sharp and stands out well against the blurred background. The composition is good with there being enough room for him to move into. It is a pity the light is from behind as his face is in shadow. Try lightening just this area in postprocessing.
Action And Sport	5S2	Terry	Burne	Duzi 2024 - Mission Rapids - 4747	13	M	A moment well caught. Its's the expression of anticipation as they approach the rough water that really makes this image and lifts it above the average.The synchronization of the paddles is also a plus factor. You chose just the right shutter speed to freeze the action. Great picture. Well done.
Nature Birds Only	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Jackal Buzzard surveying the scene	9	S	I would have loved to give this a higher award as it has the potential to be a good image. It is sharp, the bird well positioned and shows up against the clear background. But unfortunately it is overexposed. All the information is on the image and as you become more proficient in Photoshop you will learn how to correct the exposure and bring out the detail.
Nature Birds Only	1S	Sandra	Comrie	Swans	13	M	Wow. This is an amazing image for a 1 star worker. It is so difficult to get detail on a black bird and you have achieved that perfectly. The composition is strong and the reflections add to the overall image. Well done.
Nature Birds Only	4S	Mags	Vosloo	Full Steam Ahead	6	B	At first glance this is a pleasing image. The ripples and the reflection are effective and there is detail on the feathers. However the head and eye are just not sharp hence the lower award.
Nature Birds Only	4S	Mags	Vosloo	On Duty	7	S	You have captured this lapwing in an alert stance. It is pin sharp and there is detail in the blacks. Some of the white are blown out, particularly on the head and neck, which is unfortunate. Although in keeping with it's environment the background is distracting. Try selecting just the background with the new masks in camera raw and reducing the highlights. This will help subdue the brightness of the reeds.
Nature Birds Only	5S1	Maxi	Holder	What Was That	7	S	The swallow is nicely positioned and shows up well against the sky. I enjoyed the colours and particularly the sheen in the blues. Although it is sharp there seems to be a lack of quality, possibly from a severe crop.

Nature Birds Only	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Cape Vulture in Flight	14	M	Wow, you must be so chuffed with this image. You have capture the vulture with the wings surrounding the head. It is sharp and there is detail in all the feathers. There are no distractions and there is a pleasing colour harmony throughout. This is definitely one to enter in a salon. Well done on a top image.
Nature Birds Only	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Ive got a what	12	G	I just love the fluffy feather on it's bill. You have chosen the correct aperture to bring out the detail in the bird while at the same time blurring the background. A great portrait expertly executed.
Nature Birds Only	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Splashy landing	11	G	You have captured the action superbly. The splash is amazing and there is detail in the bird. I wondered if it would be more effective with a tighter crop, taking a bit off the top and the right. Try it and see what you think.
Nature Birds Only	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Wet	13	M	This bird really stands out in 3D. You have such fine detail in the feathers which is emphasizes by the bird being wet. I particularly like the clarity of the eye which draws your attention. A lovely image.
Nature No Birds	1S	Kees	de Waal	Resting in anemone	7	S	An interesting scene. It is always difficult to photograph in an aquarium. The glass and the water cause a distortion and that is what has happened here. Very little is sharp.
Nature No Birds	1S	Kees	de Waal	Tender Moment	14	M	What an appealing image. I love the interaction between them and the way the youngster is licking it's mother. Maybe the background is a bit oversaturated but that can be fixed in post. A once in a lifetime shot. Definitely a keeper. Well done.
Nature No Birds	3S	wynand	lens	Bee on Lilly	12	G	Great macro picture. The bee is so sharp particularly around it's head. I enjoyed the composition where you have included stamens of the waterlily. Always good to have a different approach.
Nature No Birds	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	lazy morning	8	S	The lighting has brought out the detail of the croc well. It's just a pity that he is sleeping. If the eyes were open it would be so much more appealing. I think you could crop off some of the out of focus foreground to advantage.
Nature No Birds	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Tightrope walker	12	G	This image has such aesthetic appeal. It is so different from the usual "full the frame" pictures we associate with nature. This is exactly how we see a small butterfly in the outdoors. I like your artistic approach
Nature No Birds	5S4	Rob	Hart	Red tailed flesh fly 1290	14	M	Excellent image. You are obviously a master of macro photography. The detail is superb and the red eye and tail show up well.

Nature No Birds	5S4	Rob	Hart	Resplendent colours of loathful bluebottle	14	M	Another excellent macro image. Here we can see the mouthparts and the drop of liquid makes it extra special. The fluorescent green and vivid red are visually pleasing.
Nature No Birds	5S4	Rob	Hart	Spider drama underleaf 9158	9	S	A good story telling image and you have caught the action well. Macro photograph has such a narrow depth of field that it is virtually impossible to get everything in focus in a single shot. In this case the spider's abdomen is out of focus and because it is closest to us it is distracting. I think you have done the best you could under difficult circumstances.
Nature No Birds	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Battle of the Heavyweights	14	M	Such a great action image. The lighting was perfect. There are no harsh shadows to obscure any part of the action, yet there is enough light to see detail right into the inside of the open mouth. Well done. An image it be proud of.
Open	1S	Nyasha	Godoka	Is this the right way up	8	S	Well done on seeing the potential in this scene. The conversion to black and white is a bit muddy. Normally mono requires more contrast. I see you are using lightroom so you can adjust the whites and blacks to increase the contrast. Lightroom also has some preset and you may find one that is suitable. Your main subject is the buildings, the bare trees behind and the reflections. I would suggest a crop on either side to just include the bare trees, then crop out most of the blank sky and maybe just a bit at the bottom. Try it. I think you might like the result.
Open	1S	Nyasha	Godoka	Milky lake	13	M	I am amazed that this is the work of a 1 star. You have a very impressive Milky Way and at the same time have captured the detail in the cottages and trees around the lake. Well done. You can be proud of yourself.
Open	1S	Nyasha	Godoka	Serenity	12	G	Well done on capturing a mood. Because it is a misty scene you don't need high contrast. The darkest part is the boat, which is your main subject, so your eyes are immediately drawn there. The wake also shows up well against the darker reflections. Without the boat and wake the scene would be meaningless. A well seen and composed image.
Open	1S	Jean	Lens	Strutting	12	G	A pleasing street scene that has been well composed. Your subject seems totally unaware that he is being photographed. The exposure is difficult with some areas in sunlight and others in shade but you have managed to balance them competently.

Open	2S	Marisan	Victor	Die hard flame	10	G	I can't profess to know what is happening in this image nor to know why liquid (or is it wax) is being poured from a teapot over a candle so can only comment on the image itself. There is a lot of detail in the moulding of the candle and this shows up in stark relief. The light seems to come from above and a reflector might show more detail in the shadow areas. Usually the flame of a candle renders over bright in a photo but you have managed to retain the detail in the flame. I feel you have handled this image competently. Well done.
Open	2S	Marisan	Victor	Early farm mornings	9	S	You have created a pleasing mood and the sun rays are effective. When shooting directly into the sun it is usually better to position yourself so that the sun is behind a tree or similar object which I think you could have done here. Because this is in the open section I would suggest you clone out the electricity pole and wires as they don't add to the mood of the image.
Open	2S	Marisan	Victor	In my kitchen	13	M	I love it when people take an everyday object and create an amazing image. That red tomato is so dominant. It just demands attention. The dripping water adds that extra element. A creative image competently executed. Well done.
Open	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Pointing Upwards	10	G	An interesting view point taken from low down looking up. The wide angle lens has caused the trees to lean in and that helps to lead our eyes upwards. It is always difficult to photograph in a forest with dappled light but you have managed to balance the lit and unlit areas giving detail in both. A pleasing image. Well done.
Open	4S	Meleney	Naik	20 and 21	11	G	I enjoyed your graphic approach to this scene. All the horizontals and verticals are straight. Although there is a soft shadow over part of the wall you have handled the contrast in lighting well. I hope you took lots of photos of this building as there are so many possibilities. A good image, well executed.
Open	4S	Jan	Lens	First born	11	G	Wow, you have captured the detail in this iris beautifully. The colours are vibrant and stand out well against the dark background. Although mainly black there is still detail in the background. You have a good depth of field so there is sharp focus from front to back of the flower. I see you used f22. Good choice. The composition is also pleasing. Well done.

Open	4S	JOAN	JUNG	gold and orange splash	12	G	You have frozen this crown splash at just the right moment. The duo tone is very effective and has good visual appeal. The two orange drops at the top stand out so well against the green. I would suggest a crop off the right to make the splash more central. There is quite a bit of grain which may indicate that it has already been severely cropped.
Open	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	musical symmetry	7	S	It's an interesting subject that lends itself to monochrome. However I do think it needs more contrast to enhance that impact. Also crop on the right to make it symmetrical.
Open	4S	Meleney	Naik	Skollie	9	S	An amusing image with a lot of appeal. The composition is good and the panning has been well handled. However there is a lack of quality and it doesn't have that crispness one would expect.
Open	4S	Jan	Lens	Waiting for the wind	7	S	I like the concept of this image, coming in close and showing the patterns of the dandelion. But it does seem overprocessed and over saturated. There is also a lack of definition.
Open	4S	Meleney	Naik	Window Boxes	10	G	I really liked this image. It is simple yet strong in design. I enjoyed the repetition of the windows. The stone walls, cobbled street and window boxes have an old world feel to them and this has been enhanced by the soft defused lighting. A pleasing picture. Well done.
Open	5S0	Paul	Naude	Its my dog	9	S	It's a pleasant picture of this young boy and the puppy. Technically it is good but it would have been better to wait for a moment when there is some interaction between them. If it doesn't happen naturally talk to the boy to get a reaction.
Open	5S0	Paul	Naude	When is our turn	8	S	Both the boy and the dog are looking out the picture and there doesn't seem much interact between them. In this type of picture it's the emotion that you should try to capture.
Open	5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Autumn Flare	14	M	What an awesome image. You have captured the mood and the rays from the sun are spectacular. I like the way you have positioned the bright sun behind trees so that it draws your attention but doesn't over power. By including branches in the foreground you not only frame the image but also give depth. I can see you have put thought into composing this landscape and it has paid off. Well done.

Open	5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Autumn Morning near Underberg	9	S	There is a lot of merit in this image. The lovely autumn colours in the trees, the mist in the background, the curve of the tree line and the overall wintery atmosphere. But the sky looks over saturated and unnatural. This can possibly be corrected by adjusting the hue and saturation in Photoshop. Pity as it soils an otherwise pleasing landscape.
Open	5S1	Maxi	Holder	Bella Of Fort Nottingham	9	S	Such a cute picture of Bella. There is tremendous detail in her fur and she is alert and bright eyed. Try using a larger aperture to blur the background. Also bend down to Bella's level to lift it from the ordinary.
Open	5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Old Bull	9	S	A powerful image because this ele is walking straight towards you. It may have been even more effective in the vertical format. There is good texture on the head and trunk and the wrinkles show up well. There are some bright areas in the background that could do with toning down. The sky has that unnatural turquoise tone. In Camera Raw move the blue and aqua hue sliders a bit to the right to get a more natural sky.
Open	5S1	Maxi	Holder	White Rose	14	M	Such a beautiful bloom expertly converted to a black and white image. The variety of tones have brought out the delicate folds in the petals so that they stand out in 3D. You have managed to retain the subtle texture in the rose as well as the smoothness of the leaves. Well done on creating such an pleasing image.
Open	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Dried curls	11	G	It is amazing how a few dried up leaves can make such an effective photo. This is because you have used your aperture creatively. By opening the lens and focusing on the leaves you have brought out all detail and texture, but at the same time blurred the background which has put even more emphasis on the leaves. Because of it's shape I think it would benefit from a 16:9 crop. Try it and see how you feel.
Open	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Sugar fall	14	M	Wow! Such a simple yet effective image. The strawberry is placed in a strong position compositionally. Being red against a black background it demands attention. There is also such fine detail on the strawberry that one feels you could almost reach out and touch it. But it is the slow shutter speed that makes this image. That flow of sugar cascading from the strawberry is exceptional. I know it has been done before but you have executed it expertly. Well done on creating an action still life!

Open	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Sweet Tooth Breakfast	13	M	This is so effective. The pancakes and fruit have been well photographed but it is that drizzle of honey that elevates this image to a merit. Well done on thinking out of the box.
Photo Art And Creative	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Graveyard 7297	8	S	The zoom technique has been fairly successful with the all the lines leading to the cross, your centre of interest. At first I felt the sky was over bright but on reflection wondered if you felt it represented a heavenly light. I must applaud you on trying something different.
Photo Art And Creative	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Ghostly tree	8	S	An interesting concept to give a negative image of this tree. The branches and twigs are detailed and show up well. I just felt I would like to see the base of the tree.
Photo Art And Creative	5S2	Terry	Burne	Water drop - 3195	11	G	It is fun to experiment with this type of photography. Your timing is just right to capture the splash and you have focused at the correct spot. I liked the two toned background reflected in the water. I would suggest cropping off the blue area on the left as it is off-putting and your image is stronger without it.
Photo Journalism	5S2	Terry	Burne	DJ Rally 2024 - 7537	14	M	Panning done to perfection. The rider and bike are pin sharp and there is detail even in the engine. Just look at how clear the writing is. The background is blurred just enough to give that feeling of speed and the rider shows up so well against the blur. Well done on an excellent image.
Portrait	3S	wynand	lens	Vic in colour		DQ	Judged before
Portrait	4S	JOAN	JUNG	sanele	11	G	A good portrait of Sanele. He has a masculine pose and the lighting shows up his toned physique well. I just found it a bit on the dark side. In Camera Raw move the shadow slider towards the right and you will see how it just pops.
Portrait	4S	JOAN	JUNG	zodwa	13	M	What a delightful portrait of Zodwa. The lighting is perfect and shows up her facial features well. She looks very natural and comfortable in front of the camera. The idea of flowers as a prop is good but just be careful they don't overshadow the model.
Portrait	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Mysterious Lady	14	M	Such a powerful image. Her eyes are so dominant I feel you are looking into her sole. The chain, facial jewellery and tattoos enhance her personality. The smoke just add to the mood and that feeling of mystery. Technically it ticks all the boxes and the conversion to black and white is excellent. Well done.

Scapes	1S	Kees	de Waal	Drake Passage	11	G	Such an interesting scene. I love the colour of the ice and flow of water into the sea. The rocks on either side form a V-shape composition holding our attention in the centre of the image. A pleasing image. Well done.
Scapes	1S	Sandra	Comrie	The Wild Sea	14	M	Wow! You have captured the force and power of the sea. The lack of any vivid colours makes the scene even more ominous. You have pressed the shutter at just the right time get the rising spray on either side. The subdued and cloudy sky adds to the mood of the image. Have you thought about having this printed on canvas? I think it would look amazing on the wall.
Scapes	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Building on the rocks	11	G	It's amazing where people choose to live. This seems such a harsh environment. You have photographed the scene well. The house is in a strong position and your eyes are immediately drawn to it. I like the inclusion of the leaning tree which indicates a prevailing wind. The baron rocks and retaining walls show it is on the coast. Each element in your image has a story to tell and makes us curious to know more.
Scapes	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Combe Martin beach late afternoon	8	S	An interesting scene but the light has not been in your favour. Half the scene is in sunlight and half in shadow. There is more of interest in the shadow side and there is still enough light to bring out the detail. It would have been better to use a longer lens and concentrate on the right side including the boat and the man with his canoe. I think you recognized the potential but just included too much.
Scapes	3S	wynand	lens	Whalebone Pier Sunrise	13	M	This is interesting for me because I was on the beach the same day as your club had an outing to Umhlanga. This is one of the nicest pictures of the Whalebone Pier I have seen. Photographing before the sun rose has brought out the beautiful orange tones of the dawn. Added to that, the wispy clouds have given interest to the sky. The silhouette of the whale bones and the people stand out well and the blue lights are effective. I particularly like the water overflow from the pier. The 3 boats on the right help to balance the image and give interest in that area. All 'n all a very pleasing seascape. Well done.

Scapes	4S	Mags	Vosloo	Autumn Splendour	9	S	An interesting scene with some lovely autumn colours. The composition is not great especial with the road leading in and out of the picture. You may have been able to move to the right to eliminate the road. As presented I would suggest cropping off the base at the wall. This will give a simpler composition with just the trees and the mountains behind. I know the reflections are what probable attracted you to the scene but that road is just too distracting.
Scapes	4S	Jan	Lens	Breaking through the clouds	6	B	Something has gone wrong with this image. It is very pixelated and there is a nasty edging around the pier. Pity, as it has the potential to be a great picture. The composition is strong, the morning colours pleasing and the wide angle lens has given drama to the sky. I see the image size is just 179KB which would explain the quality.
Scapes	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	On the Beach 7610	8	S	There is lovely early morning light on the beach area but the sea and rocks seem dull in comparison. You have placed the two worshippers in a strong position and their brightly coloured clothes draws our attention. I would be inclined to clone out the other beach strollers as they don't add to the image.
Scapes	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	The Pier at Dawn 7591	10	G	Well done on taking a different approach to a well documented pier. You have cleverly placed the sun behind the upright so that it doesn't distract. Such lovely rich early morning colours. Well done on a pleasing image.
Scapes	5S0	Paul	Naude	Kamberg	9	S	The light has just caught the trees and grass, making them stand out against the duller mountains and sky. The white plastic is distracting and it would be worth your while removing it. This can be done by setting the clone stamp tool to darken so that only pixels that are lighter than the sample area are affected.
Scapes	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Let there be light	10	G	What a beautiful sunrise. By underexposing you have brought out the rich early morning colour and emphasized the light rays. It is those radiating rays of light that make this picture. Compositionally, it is good that you have placed the sun off centre and by including a slither of sea you have given your image a base. Well done on creating a lovely moody picture.

TOP JUNIOR
Scapes

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The Wild Sea

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