

**Results for MAR 2025 MONTHLY COMPETITION Terry Burne**

Cat	Seq	STAR	Title	Firstname	Lastname	Score	Award	Comment
AS	1	1S	Never take your eye off the ball	Dylan	Evans	10	Gold	For a 1 Star this is pretty good. You have captured the action nicely with the ball in the picture and the batsman's eyes focussed on it. The batsmen is the subject and could be just a little bit sharper - a good sharpening tool could possibly have helped here.
AS	2	1S	Tragic news revealed	Jay	Nabbe	13	COM	What a great Photo-Journalism picture telling a very sad and moving story. You have drawn attention to the headlines of the newspaper with your 3 people facing towards it. Conversion to mono works very well. For a 1 star - very good work.
AS	3	5S2	Sunday afternoon Hockey n the park - 6707	Terry	Burne	11	Gold	Lovely example of a action shot with a photo journalism feel – the afternoon sun peeping through makes the whole image feel even colder! My only gripe is something going on behind the graffitied wall – I would suggest cropping just to the right of the graffiti, and also try cropping just the sky above the rooftops of the buildings – the whole image is then stronger and your eye goes to the action and not the bright bits in the sky...
AS	4	6S1	Goalkeeper in Training	Leon	Heyes	12	Gold	Very good action and very well captured. Colours and exposure are good, and detail is nice and sharp. Without any other players in the picture the story lacks a little bit of context, and/or excitement.
NB	1	1S	Bee-eater	Jason	Johnstone	11	Gold	Nice capture. Details are sharp, and colours are good. Nice catchlight in the eye. Possibly you could have cropped a little bit off the top and the left to fill the frame a bit better, because these area are not adding much to the story. For a 1 star though, very good. ***
NB	2	1S	Breakfast	Toni	Harley	9	Silver	Nice capture of the weaver with it's breakfast. Colours and background are nicely handled. It appears to me thought that the picture has been a little bit overprocessed/oversharpened to try and recover the sharpness, and this has resulted in a bit of a plastic or unnatural look.
NB	3	1S	Couple goals	Nyasha	Godoka	8	Silver	Lovely story with the 2 birds framed by the horns - but sadly neither the birds or the horns are sharp enough. Colours are nice
NB	4	1S	Fluffed Up	Sandra	Comrie	10	Gold	For a 1 Star you have captured this Red Bishop nice and sharp - with great separation from the background. Unfortunately there is no detail in the black which drops the score a little. AS Leon mention when he judged last month - these birds are quite difficult to capture well because of how black their black feathers are. I like that you have left some space for the bird to look into
NB	5	1S	Starter home	Lesley	Marchant	11	Gold	Again - for a 1 star this is really good. Very nice story and well captured. Colours are good, and the detail is nice and sharp, with very nice separation from the background. Sadly there is quite a lot of noise in the background which could have been removed in post processing. I also feel that if you had lifted the shadows a bit to show some of the details in these areas - this might have improved this image ***
NB	6	4S	Bush Stone Curlew	Avril	Janssen	8	Silver	Light and colours are good. I am not sure if this has been cropped extensively, but sadly the details in the feathers are simply not sharp enough, and the very busy background is extremely distracting. I note that you have used a fairly slow shutter speed (1/30) and large apperture (F6.3) - perhaps if you had used a slightly faster shutter speed, and/or a slightly smaller apperture you might have got a sharper picture. It would probably have resulted in a higher ISO, but you need to learn to process out the noise.
NB	7	4S	Endangered Australian Southern Cassowary	Avril	Janssen	9	Silver	A really interesting looking bird. Similar to my comments on the previous picture, this picture is also not quite sharp enough where it needs to be - around the bird's head and eye. A look at the histogram also shows that the picture is too dark - in post processing you could have fixed this by lifting the exposure particularly in the shadows. I also feel that the right hand side of the picture adds nothing to your story and could be cropped out to focus more attention to the bird. I have done some work on your picture - see if you agree with my comments. ***
NB	8	4S	on the move	JOAN	JUNG	11	Gold	Nice picture. The colours and detail of the bird are good, and contrast nicely with the darker water behind. The reflection in front of the bird also adds to the story. Details around the eye are reasonably sharp but could be a little sharper. Again - there is a little bit of noise in the background that could have been removed in post processing. ***
NB	9	4S	Patient King	wynand	lens	12	Gold	Really nice capture. Colours are good and details on the bird are nice and sharp. Love the separation from the background. One minor criticism is the light blob on the right hand side of the screen which is a bit of a distraction - perhaps if you had cropped just inside that, and cropped a little off on the other side to keep the bird's eye on the thirds. This would still give lot's of room for the bird to be looking into - see what you think. ***

NB	10	4S	Taking Evasive Action	Meleney	Naik	8	Silver	Great story but unfortunately neither of the birds are sharp enough - you can see a narrow band of grass that is in focus in front of the birds - but as you have used a fairly large aperture (F6.3) the fairly shallow depth of field does not include the birds. The blacks and shadows on the raven are also quite dark, and there is no detail in the shadows.
NB	11	5S3	Heron Catch	Ronelle	van den Heever	12	Gold	Lovely story well captured. Details on the bird are nice and sharp and the timing captured a great pose from the bird with fish in beak and wings up. Colours and exposure are good. Well done
NB	12	5S3	Preening weaver 2	Des	van Tonder	11	Gold	Very nice - detail is sharp. Colours are perhaps a bit oversaturated. Lighting is good, and good separation from the background. Everything works to make a pleasant picture.
NN	1	1S	Bugged	Toni	Harley	9	Silver	Nice attempt at a Macro picture, with good separation between the subject and the background. Colours are good, although the exposure could have been lifted a little. Unfortunately what lets you down in this picture is the large aperture that you have used (F5.6) which has resulted in a very shallow depth of field, and only a small part of the bug is in focus and even that is not very sharp - the flower dominates the picture. Try a similar macro again and push up your aperture to F11 - F16 to get a greater depth of field. This will push up your ISO, and possibly increase the noise, so you will have to learn to deal with that.
NN	2	1S	Crucible	Jason	Johnstone	9	Silver	Quite a dramatic close up picture although I am not altogether sure what is going on here. My eye is drawn to the loop of the elephant's trunk around the tusk, so I would like to have seen the trunk not cut off at the bottom. Detail on the trunk is good and the conversion to mono shows the texture nicely. Something a bit different - and I always like that.
NN	3	1S	Hairy Harry	Toni	Harley	10	Gold	You have captured the caterpillar quite nicely on this branch, with good separation from the background. Details are sharp, and the fact that the you used an aperture of F8, and the caterpillar is at right angles to your camera meant that you have got the whole caterpillar in focus. I do feel that you could have lifted the exposure on the caterpillar and branch a bit through selectively editing in post processing. ***
NN	4	1S	Moss	Debbie	Kleu	8	Silver	Interesting picture but sadly nothing is in focus or sharp enough. Colours are also a little flat. This Photo was taken on a cellphone, so I have difficulty suggesting what could be done to improve this.
NN	5	1S	Mr and Mrs Crab Spider	Lesley	Marchant	10	Gold	Well spotted - I guess they are waiting for the next bee or fly to drop by. Details on both spiders is quite good. Exposure could have been dropped a touch. There is also some evidence of noise in the background that could have been cleared up in post processing. There is no metadata on this picture so I can't comment on the settings used.
NN	6	3S	A palate for pollen	Gustav	de Wet	9	Silver	Close but not quite - the bee is just not quite sharp enough. Colours are nice and exposure is good. Looking at the picture I can't find anywhere where the detail is sharp, so I am not sure if this was a focus issue or camera movement issue, and there is no metadata to help me out. Again there is quite a lot of visible noise in the background that could have been removed in post-processing. I also feel that this picture could have been cropped into portrait mode to remove some of the distracting detail to the left and right of the flower so as to focus attention on your story.
NN	7	3S	Sweet nectar	Gustav	de Wet	8	Silver	A fantastic picture - if you had got the focus right, but sadly nothing is in focus. Again, absence of any metadata means that I can't give any input on what you could have done differently. Colours are good and nice separation from the background, but again there is noise in the background that could have been cleaned up.
NN	8	3S	Winged Ferrari	Gustav	de Wet	9	Silver	The sharpest part of your "Ferrari" is unfortunately on the wings and not on the head where it should be. Again there is no metadata but I suspect that you have used a large aperture which has given you a very shallow depth of field. Try this again with a smaller aperture to get more of the dragonfly in focus. Nice separation from the background, but again there is quite a lot of noise that needs to be cleaned up.
NN	9	4S	Froggo	wynand	lens	12	Gold	Detail on the frog is really nice and sharp and colours are good. I feel that the leaves in front of the frog are a bit of a distraction as they are too bright, and could have been toned down a bit in post processing ***
NN	10	4S	Hovering	wynand	lens	12	Gold	Very nice detail on the bee, and colours are nice and vibrant. You have captured the bee very nicely - but I feel you have left some distractions in your picture which you could have cropped out. There is a very bright stalk on the left of the picture, as well as some bright areas on the right of the picture that you could have cropped out, and there is a lot of bright spots on the flower that you could have improved by reducing the highlights in this area. ***

NN	11	4S	Mother love	Jan	Lens	12	Gold	This is the stuff of nightmares for me - but you have captured the details well. The spider is sharp where it needs to be. The tight crop means that you fill the frame with this horrible thing, and get the important details up close. It is a bit of a pity about the very strong shadows on the leaf on the left of the picture, which are a bit of a distraction.
NN	12	4S	Red ready for take of	Jan	Lens	13	COM	Very nicely done - the details at the front end are nice and sharp with sufficient beautiful details in the wings as well. The dragonfly stands out really nicely against the black background. Very well done.
NN	13	4S	Whisker watch	Jan	Lens	10	Gold	Another spider picture that is well handled, although not quite as well as the previous one. Detail is good and sharp around the eyes but tails off - which is not a serious problem because you have got good sharpness where it really matters. Perhaps a slightly smaller aperture F16 would have given a little bit more depth of field. There is quite a lot of noise visible in the background that could have been removed in post processing.
NN	14	5S0	On the landing strip	Heidi	Taylor	9	Silver	When you are getting really up close with your macro, F9 (which is the aperture that you used) only gives you a few mm depth of field, and sadly this picture could have used a bit more. Details around the head and eyes is nice and sharp, but really needed a bit more of the dragonfly to be in focus - such as the small droplets on the body and ideally a bit more on the wings. Colours and exposure is well handled
NN	15	5S3	Blue Damsel	Des	van Tonder	12	Gold	Nice and sharp throughout - details are good from front to back of this dragonfly. Colours and exposure also good. Nice line also from the bottom left leads your eye up the body and the wings all the way to the eyes. One minor suggestion - I feel that the space to the right of the leaf is a bit wasted, and you could possibly have removed about half of this, and perhaps a little bit off the top. Just a suggestion.
NN	16	5S3	Budding bee	Ronelle	van den Heever	13	COM	Really nice picture - the details around the front of the bee are really nice and sharp, particularly around the eye. Colours and exposure are spot on. Well done
NN	17	5S3	Dragonfly resting	Des	van Tonder	12	Gold	Another good macro picture - Details around the front end of the dragonfly are nice and sharp, with the water droplets adding an interesting aspect. Colour and exposure really good. The eyes legs and body are really nice, but I would have liked to see a little bit more detail in the wings if possible. You have used an aperture of F7.1 - perhaps you could have pushed this up a bit to get a little bit greater depth of field. Still - a very good picture
NN	18	5S4	Gaudy tentacled caterpillar 9522	Rob	Hart	13	COM	Nailed it - Sharp throughout, colours and exposure are good, colours are nice and vibrant, good separation from the background - everything works. Very well done.
NN	19	5S4	Plume moth living dangerously 9977	Rob	Hart	11	Gold	Interesting story developing. Unfortunately with the 2 subjects being the story, you need quite a large depth of field to get both of them in focus - and whilst some of the moth is ok, some of the moth is not sufficiently in focus. The sharp end of the spider is nicely in focus. Colours and exposure are nicely handled.
NN	20	5S4	Success for yellow palped spider 10080	Rob	Hart	11	Gold	The spider's success has perhaps worked against you by putting it's tasty meal as an out-of-focus blob in the middle of your picture. The sharp end of the spider is really nice and sharp with great detail around the eyes. Colours are good and vibrant. You have used an F-stop of 13, so even if you had pushed this up a bit I don't think that there is a lot you could have done much different - nature can be so cruel.
NN	21	6S1	The Comfort of Mothers Milk	Leon	Heyes	11	Gold	I know that you took the picture where you found the lions, and there is not much you can do about it, but the rather busy surroundings work against you in terms of impact. The young lion is nice and sharp around the face and the eyes. Exposure and Colours are good.
OM	1	1S	Miriam 3.	Minky	Goodbrand	13	COM	You have used the hands and the cord to frame the eyes to very good effect - It draws attention to the eyes, and the detail on the face is really nice and sharp. Conversion to mono is good. For a 1 star - this is a really good picture. Well done. Note: There is no metadata on this picture - so please sort this out going forward.
OM	2	2S	Little round mouth	Marisan	Victor	9	Silver	Interesting, but I am not really sure what I am looking at. If I were to guess, it is possibly 4 stones on a railway line, but only 1 of them is in focus - but I cannot be sure because the depth of field is very shallow. Unfortunately the picture is lacking in anything of real interest. Again, there is no metadata on this picture, so I cannot begin to suggest what you could have done to improve it.
OM	3	4S	Black and White Study 7839	Doug	Couperthwaite	9	Silver+	This is obviously a studio or table-top type shot - but I see that no flash was used. I find the whites are very white, and the blacks are very black - with not much subtle variation in shadows, which makes the picture quite harsh. There is also a bit of a problem with the black background which is possibly too close to the subject, and it is picking up some creases or smudges in the background.

OM	4	550	Perfect petals	Heidi	Taylor	9	Silver+	These flowers are great to photograph as they have so much interesting detail. I feel that you have let yourself down here by using a shallow depth of field (F6.3), so only a few of the petals are in focus, but more importantly you have some harsh shadows on some of the leaves which draws the attention away from where the eye should be directed.
OM	5	552	Waiting for summer - 4365	Terry	Burne	10	Gold	Nice minimalism image, the snow handled well, the composition is good.
OP	1	1S	Castle in the Desert	Nyasha	Godoka	11	Gold	Well taken night time shot showing the stars and the castle - your 15 sec exposure has captured the stars pretty sharp without showing any star-trail movement. There is enough light on the castle to bring out the detail, which adds nicely to the story. It may just be an optical illusion, but to me the castle appears to be not quite horizontal, and a slight tweak on the "transform" function would make it appear straight. ***
OP	2	1S	Faith	Marc	Gordon	9	Silver	The harp is nice and sharp, and the wood of the instrument makes a nice subject. Nice idea but a little bit spoiled by the strong mottled shadow on the wood of the harp where you have alternating dark and bright areas - as well as the very bright area on the floor at the foot of the harp. This effect could have been mitigated to some extent by selective processing in photoshop. The very bright and thick white border is also a major distraction - try to limit the border to 1 or 2 pixels and perhaps 70% opacity so that it doesn't distract from your subject.
OP	3	1S	floating away	Marc	Gordon	10	Gold-	A pleasant abstract type of image, that has quite a soothing peaceful affect. Because of the abstract nature of this image nothing needs to be totally sharp, and that softness adds to the peaceful effect. Colours are nice without being oversaturated. Very nice abstract image for a 1 star.
OP	4	1S	Lanterns in Valletta	Jay	Nabbe	12	Gold	I love the story here - and the timing of the person walking across the skyline gives a nice silhouette and adds to the mystique. The lanterns strung up across the street add a beautiful splash of colour. I wonder if you lifted some of the shadows in the buildings on the right hand side to show just a fraction more detail would add to the story, or perhaps detract from the mystique. Try it and see - but very nice as it is.
OP	5	1S	Lotus Bud	Sandra	Comrie	11	Gold	These lotus blossoms are truly great to photograph. You have captured this nicely and the fine patterns and detail of the flower are nice and sharp. Colours are good and vibrant, and there is good separation between your subject and the background. Perhaps you could have cropped off a bit on the right hand side of the picture because it doesn't really add anything to your story. ***
OP	6	1S	Marsaxlokk	Nyasha	Godoka	11	Gold	What a lovely scene, and it looks so peaceful - warm sun, blue skies, a few clouds, white buildings, and lots of boats in the water. If anything this picture suffers from the fact that there is just too much detail, with no one detail standing out as being the main subject - but I don't want to criticise this too much because it all looks so nice that I wish that I was there. All of the boats in the foreground are nice and sharp, and the colours and exposure are good. Perhaps if there had been a few people on one of the boats in the foreground it might have given a focus point.
OP	7	1S	Sobek	Jason	Johnstone	8	Silver	I am not altogether sure what I am looking at here - but because you have used quite a large aperture (F5.6) you have only a small section in the middle of the picture that is in focus. The foreground is out of focus, and the detail in the background is also out of focus. You get points for trying something different, but in the eyes of this judge it hasn't quite worked - but full marks for trying.
OP	8	1S	The color in grass	Marc	Gordon	14	COM	WOW - what a lovely colour combination you have found in the grass. Very well spotted, and very nicely captured. Beautiful shapes and swirls and spiky bits. In this case the shallow depth of field (F5.6) has really worked for you with the blurry background, and nice sharp details of the grass in the foreground. Colours and exposure are great. Lose the thick white border! As a 1 star, I did not mark this down - and in this case, your image is strong enough that the border doesn't ruin the picture, but that won't always be the case
OP	9	1S	Turbulent waters	Lesley	Marchant	9	Silver	You have managed to get reasonably sharp detail from the foreground through to the dam wall - I think cellphone cameras do that quite well, although the details in the metadata are confusing to me (Focal length of 4 mm? Aperture F1.8?) Your colours are quite nice on the grass and the sky, but the exposure on the water coming over the dam wall is a bit overexposed and there is a loss of detail. Use the histogram when editing to make sure that you don't overexpose areas of your picture.
OP	10	1S	When you expected sun..	Jay	Nabbe	13	COM	Really well spotted and nicely captured. I love real-world photos, and you have captured this story superbly - with the umbrellas framing the subject's face nicely with different colours. Some might complain that there is too much red umbrella in your face, but I think that the combination of these colourful umbrellas draw your attention to the framed face that is nicely on the thirds. Colours are great and exposure spot on. For a 1 star - very nice work.

OP	11	2S	Angel descending	Marisan	Victor	12	Gold	You have captures a nice pose and movement. The light from the left hand side with shadows on the right has worked nicely to give a lovely soft feel to this image, although you could perhaps have toned the brightness on some of the skin down just a little. I am noticing a little bit of a crinkle of the backdrop on the floor below the ballerina which you could have taken out in post processing - but for a 2 star this is a lovely picture. The absence of any border here works well because the black background just merges into the rest of the screen - this gives the ballerina total freedom and does not box them in. This picture has no metadata.
OP	12	2S	Fussyfemaleslivinhere	Marisan	Victor	7	Silver	I get that you wanted to tell the story of all of the nests on the ground - but photographically this has not been well executed. The picture is dominated by the big tree which is not in focus, and casts quite a big shadow, and the light coming from behind the tree means that there are quite a bit of blown out sky. I can't give you any pointers because there is no metadata.
OP	13	4S	Buds	Cornelia	Appel	9	Silver	Well "Bud" actually! Lighting is good and the colours are nice, with good separation from the green background. You have chosen to present an image of a tightly closed bud that is all green - but having seen some other pictures where the buds are more open, this comes across as just a bit uninspiring. The picture is nicely in focus and the colours are good, so technically this is OK - but the image is just a bit lacking in interest.
OP	14	4S	catching the sun	Liesl	Couperthwaite	10	Gold	Technically you have got most things right - the exposure is good, and the colours are nice and vibrant, against the blue skies and white clouds. The details of the sunflower seeds and petals are good. It's just a pity that the one leaf on the left of the flower just runs out of the picture - you could have just included all of the leaf because against the white background this stands out.
OP	15	4S	Firework Cascade 8278	Doug	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	As firework displays go, this looks a bit tame with just the one burst in the sky - as such it is lacking a bit in the excitement and interest from a bigger fireworks display. There is also no link with the ground or any background building which could add a bit of context to this story. The single burst is shown quite nicely, with the light trails in the sky - but the story needs a little bit more.
OP	16	4S	Milky Way	Meleney	Naik	9	Silver	I am not an expert in astro-photography, but you have captured an amazing night sky with millions of stars visible. I can imagine that this must have been quite amazing to view in real life. For me the problem is that there is just too much to take in with no real point of interest, and my eye just keeps roaming around the picture - just a massive display of stars throughout the picture.
OP	17	4S	Red flyer	Liesl	Couperthwaite	10	Gold	I am assuming that because this picture is in Open and not Nature, that some editing must have been done - and that is fine. Colours are nice and the red of the dragonfly contrasts nicely with the green of the leaves and the background. The light would appear to be coming from the top right which leaves the body of the dragonfly just a bit dark (note - not the tail which is fine - just the body) - you could possibly have done some selective processing to lift the shadows here. The detail on the wings is also quite nice and sharp. Composition wise - I feel that the dragonfly is stuck up in the top right corner with the bulk of the picture at the bottom showing the leaf and dominating the picture. I wonder if it would be better balanced if you cropped off some of the leaf at the bottom. Of course you would then have lost that lovely curve of the leaf - but maybe worth a try.
OP	18	4S	Soft colours	Meleney	Naik	9	Silver	I am not altogether sure what is happening in this picture - it has a nice soft light appeal, but I don't know if it is vaseline smeared on a filter, but there is something which is too visible and distracting at the bottom of the picture. I think this is supposed to not be visible, but perhaps the F22 apperture has resulted in it being too visible. The 3 bottles and flowers give a pleasant soft almost antique type picture - not quite high-key. Perhaps you could rework this in photoshop to make this into a high-key image.
OP	19	4S	sunken church	Liesl	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	This looks like it might be an interesting story, but the view that you have chosen means that all we are seeing are plain walls of this partially buried church. I think the picture might have had more interest if there were windows or doors to add some interest, or perhaps taken from a different angle showing some of the details of the partially buried doors or windows.
OP	20	4S	Wait for Me 8504	Doug	Couperthwaite	8	Silver	The colours on this flower against the green background is really pretty. I know that you wanted to include the bee flying in on the right of the picture, because that is really your story - that bee flying to the flower. Sadly that bee is not in focus and as a result the story doesn't quite work. There are also far too many distractions with goggas everywhere, and most of them are not in focus. Nice try, but it didn't quite work this time.

OP	21	5S0	Lean on me	Heidi	Taylor	11	Gold	I know that many judges will comment about there being 2 lotus buds in the picture, and that there should always be an odd number - i.e. 3 etc. .... but I think that is just bollocks. I can't stand cliché judging - to me this picture works just fine with the 2 lotus buds. I like how you have captured these with the one leaning slightly on the other one - almost like a daughter to a mother. There is a nice story here and these 2 buds are a little bit more interesting than the previous single bud because the pink colours are coming through making them much more interesting and pretty. Nice sparation from the background. Nicely captured.
OP	22	5S1	A view of the Amphitheatre	Stephen	Pryke	7	Silver	This is a very pretty scene, but there is something in the way this picture has ben processed which has given it a very plastic look and feel. I am not sure - perhaps it has been cropped too excessively, or something has happened in the processing that makes it look unnatural. The scene itself must have been very pretty at the time, with the dramatic clouds in the sky, and sun breaking through. It's just a pity that the processing has let you down.
OP	23	5S1	Raindrops	Stephen	Pryke	9	Silver	The concept is great, and those drops on the spiderweb must have been quite wonderful to see. Sadly the drops are just not quite sharp enough - and for this picture to work they need to be pin sharp. The other thing letting you down is the spider web that truncates in mid air at the edge of your picture. For this picture to work, you really do need to have a fine border so that the spider web has something to attach to on the edges. I also wonder if less is more for this picture - you have 2 competing big drops and I also feel that the picture is a bit busy on the right - You could crop the picture just inside the big drop on the right, and a bit off the bottom, and you have a picture that is a bit less busy with some nice leading lines. See what you think ***
OP	24	5S1	Still getting the hang of this nest building	Stephen	Pryke	5	Bronze	I am not totally sure what has happened here, but all of the detail in the birds feathers have been lost, and it looks a bit like plastic. I suspect that this picture that was submitted has been cropped excessively so that it is a very small part of the original, and all of the detail has been lost. If it had been captured this close originally, it would have made a loveley story - but sadly this is not the case.
OP	25	5S2	The cycle-path in Autumn - 4165	Terry	Burne	11	Gold	Gorgeous autumn colours, wonderful leading line – and I cant help notice the lack of litter! I do feel it's a little bright, I did take it into PS and adjust the levels ever so slightly and it really popped, but I do appreciate the naturalness of the image.
OP	26	5S3	Dreamy ballerina	Ronelle	van den Heever	13	COM	Dreamy indeed - very nice picture. The lighting is spot on, and the colours are pleasantly soft for this beautiful little ballerina - skin tones are good. Detail on the face is lovely, and the eyes are nice and sharp - Pose is great. Very nicely done.
OP	27	6S1	Pollen Fingers	Leon	Heyes	12	Gold	Lovely close up of the flower, showing the stamens and the pollen - with the stamens providing leading lines from top left to guide your eye through to the pollen in the middle. Much of the picture is deliberately soft and this works well for this picture - pictures don't always have to be pin sharp, and in this case the softness works. Although the picture is predominantly white, the whites are very well handled and there is no hint of overexposure. Very simple and very nicely done.
PA	1	1S	Swing.	Minky	Goodbrand	10	Gold	This is another picture where there is no metadata. The picture itself is intriguing, and I presume that it is a composite of multiple images - I trust that all components of this image are the work of the author and no AI was used to generate this submitted image. That being said - kudos to the author for something interesting and different. In Photo-Art anything is permitted - and this is ..... definitely different. My only negative is that the light and the shadow on the bird don't really match where the sun is in relation to the picture behind, so it is a little but unnatural - but in this genre I guess anything is possible. Good work, and keep the imagination going.
PO	1	1S	Happiness	Sandra	Comrie	10	Gold	A pleasant happy face - suits the title. Details on the face are nice and sharp, but the effect of the flash is perhaps a little too noticable with some bright spots, and some shadow behind the subject. I also feel that this could probably have benefitted by cropping to the portrait mode. ***
PO	2	4S	Ballerina getting ready.	Cornelia	Appel	13	COM	Lovely soft lighting captures the subject very nicely. There is the faintest hint of reflection or perhaps ripples in the backdrop off the floor, which adds a bit of texture to the black. Composition works nicely and conversion to mono works really well. Lovely soft gentle feel to this picture - Very nice.
PO	3	4S	happy tunes	JOAN	JUNG	12	Gold	Nice High-Key image - and the impact is good. In a High Key image, it's the darker bits that tell the story - and so it does in this image. The violin and bow, the hands, the face and the hair is what draws your eye, because they are darker, but the histogram also reveals that none of the whites are blown out - so well done. There are also no shadows behind the model, so your lighting has worked really well. I am not sure if she really does play the violin, but with those nails I am guessing not. Still a nice happy pose, and nice conversion to a mono high-key image.

PO	4	4S	peaceful	JOAN	JUNG	12	Gold	You have cropped in quite tightly, with a little bit off the top of the head, a little bit off the back, and a little bit off the bottom of the elbow - and this has worked quite well with your almost square composition to bring you up close to the model. Skin tones are really good and your lighting has emphasized the muscles nicely. A very nice picture. One minor quibble - you could have made your border about 50% opacity so that it is a bit more subtle against a dark picture and not quite as white.
PO	5	4S	Sad Clone	Cornelia	Appel	10	Gold	Those eyes are stunning and really draw your attention, and the detail in the face is really sharp and clear - however the lighting in this picture and the conversion to mono has made the face look very flat and a bit unnatural, almost like a mask - and with those hands where they are it adds to that illusion. I am no studio lighting expert, so I would hesitate to offer you a solution in this regard.
SC	1	1S	Malongane Sunrise	Dylan	Evans	10	Gold	You have captured a pleasant morning sunrise on the beach. Colours are pleasant, and there is enough detail in the waves to give that feeling of peace. By using an aperture of F16, you have got a fairly good depth of field showing the waves from close in to the middle distance - nothing is very sharp but also nothing is badly out of focus. What would have elevated this picture is something of interest in the frame - a ship on the horizon, or some rocks close inshore, or a seagull flying across the sky - anything. As this is in the scapes category, you could even have added something in in post processing - as long as it was all your own work. Still - you have captured a pleasant sunrise, and for that you deserve a gold.
SC	2	4S	Golden Gate	Avril	Janssen	7	Silver	Colours are nice and vibrant, although parts of the cloud look as though they are blown out, and have lost any detail. The metadata shows that this focal length of the lens was at 28 (24-105 lens) so I think that the original image was more wide angle - so I suspect that this image has been cropped quite a bit, and you are left with an image that has lost a lot of the detail. When you look at the rocks on the cliff face, where there should be detail, they are quite smooth almost plastic looking.

Junior Winner		The colour in Grass
Senior Winner		Budding Bee