

BENVIE Outing - Results									
CAT	Subject	SEQ	Firstname	Lastname	STAR	Title	SCORE	AWARD	Comment
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	3	Deana	Adams	1	1 - Trees or part thereof	10	Gold	I have to admit that these trees are great favourites of mine and you have captured this perfectly. I can almost smell the bark and you have caught the lilac and lime colours perfectly. Well done.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	7	Marc	Gordon	2	Trees or part thereof Rising up	8	Silver	This is a dramatic perspective with the Dutch Angle in full display. Unfortunately only a very small area is in focus and so it is lost. As always the eye goes to the brightest areas first and so that white sky and the flare on the mid-right just take you away from the subject area.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	12	Gustav	de Wet	3	1 Rooting around	10	Gold	At first I thought that this was a bird's eye view of Middle Earth and I would not have been surprised to see a hobbit or two. Its not quite sharp but hobbits never were. Well spotted on something that most would have missed.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	18	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	1 tartan tree trunk	9	Silver	This certainly is a tartan but it might have been nice to see a bit more of it. The colours are all warm but sharpness is not quite right for a four star. I see this quite often and there are some simple tricks using different focus modes to overcome it. Maybe this needs to be brought up at a studio workshop or training session.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	19	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	1 Forest Glade	13	Merit	A lovely glade with everything just right. Very well done.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	30	Paul	Naude	5	1 Coming back to earth	0	No Award	Pity about the subject as the background tree is beautiful.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	31	Heidi	Taylor	5	1 Sentinels	9	Silver	These trees are magnificent and your image shows it. I wonder why the third tree from the right is so dark. Had it taken a lightning strike and been killed? That split might point to that. In any event brightening it up a little would have lifted your score.
BV	1 - Trees or part thereof	32	Maxi	Holder	5	1 Weird Tree	9	Siler	Weird you called it and weird it is. The technical aspects of the image are good but could you perhaps have moved around the stand in order to separate the two trunks. I know that there may have been bushes there or perhapsthe direction of the light may have been unfavourable but it is often very rewarding to wander around a bit.
BV	2 - Food	6	Deana	Adams	1	2 - Food	10	Gold	Food for who? Was it predator or prey? In any event well done in getting the eyes, wings, and thorax all sharp. It would have been nice to get the abdomen as well, but these are skittish animals and it may well have flown off. Foreground and background are well separated and your exposure are is spot on. Nice work from a 1 star.

BV	2 - Food	8	Marc	Gordon	2	Food Bird Food	10	Gold	Does the food part refer to sunbirds which might come to the flower or to the mantis in the top left corner of the flower? None of that really matters as your image is very pleasing with the bright flower framed by the dark surrounds. I would have liked a little more space at the top and perhaps a thin (1 pixel) light grey frame.
BV	2 - Food	13	Gustav	de Wet	3	2 Feeding frenzy	10	Gold	This is a happy image as these little birds are always so active. As a result, much of the subject is not quite sharp. This may sound a little harsh but I will try to offset that. I feel that you could have approached the scene in two ways. The f stop you used (f6.3) and the shutter speed (1/400) could not deal with the action going on. So, if you had upped your speed to say 1/800 or 1/1000 or even more you could have stopped the action. Conversely, you could have taken the speed down to about 1/20 or less and showed the birds as action blurs so as to display their activity. Two ways of showing the same scene and either would work with the pleasing panoramic format you chose.
BV	2 - Food	21	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	2 Light Lunch	10	Gold	Magic mushrooms I have heard of. But bonkers bananas are new to me!
BV	2 - Food	28	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	2 birdie snacks	8	Silver	This is definitely birdie snacks but the picture is quite soft and has no real point of interest to capture the eye. But I do like the rich greens and browns complementing each other so well in the background.
BV	2 - Food	33	Heidi	Taylor	5	2 Apple and pap	8	Silver	Lovely warm colours in the apple but the depth of field is very shallow and much of the pap is just a mass. Unfortunately I can't get your exif data to see what change might have helped here.
BV	3 - Flowers	2	Deana	Adams	1	3 - Flowers and smaller plants	10	Gold	The main subject in this picture is exquisite with those rich greens and soft pink tips of the bud. Sadly, however, the image is let down by the relatively sharp leaves below and behind it. If you had moved perhaps just a few inches to the left you could perhaps have shown the stem and bud against a less distracting backdrop. A tiny crop down the RHS to remove that intruding bright leaf tip near the top corner would have helped.
BV	3 - Flowers	11	Marc	Gordon	2	Flowers and smaller Plants Touched by light	9	Silver	Those rich greens are just bursting out in the new spring season. The principal subject is the two lower leaves but the badly out of focus leaves at the top spoil the effect. Fairly aggressive crops at the top and down the RHS, and some darkening of the bright background leaf, would make a big difference to this image and push the score up considerably.

BV	3 - Flowers	14	Gustav	de Wet	3	3 Clivia vivia	10	Gold	The warm reds, yellow, and greens make this image very pleasing to the eye. Focus and composition are good but you do need to get rid of some distractions. These include various bright patches scattered around the place and some darkening of the leaf on the RHS border. The leaf in the lower left side could also be removed and then you could perhaps change the composition to include all of the flower bottom centre.
BV	3 - Flowers	20	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	3 beauty in the making	9	Silver	I think that the beauty is already here. Just darken down the out of focus background
BV	3 - Flowers	23	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	3 Starting to Flower	8	Silver	The yellow flowers are gorgeous with that light, and the focus is sharp enough to reveal the spider web and a number of insects in and on the right hand flower. But there is far too much distraction elsewhere in the image. Crop off nearly half of the left hand side and possibly try to work the framing into a square format. Then the image should get the score that it is potentially worth.
BV	3 - Flowers	34	Maxi	Holder	5	3 Opening Bud	12	GOLD	Beautiful subtle colours. Nicely separated from the background. Well done
BV	3 - Flowers	36	Maxi	Holder	5	3 Pink Azaleas	13	COM	Another beautiful picture with lovely colours - love the water droplets. Good separation from the background
BV	3 - Flowers	37	Heidi	Taylor	5	3 The pollinator on pink	9	Silver	As with some other images I this collection , the pinks and greens complement each other really well. Sadly the overall sharpness is not too good and there is a substantial amount of noise right across the frame. I suspect that this image may have been made with a heavy crop which has left unfortunate artifacts. A pity as the flower and the bee are nice.
BV	4 - Water	5	Deana	Adams	1	4 - Water	9	Silver	I have seen many bird's eye view pictures but never before a frog's eye view. Well spotted and well done. The field of focus is a little shallow but perhaps that is how frog's eyes work. Your f (for frog) stop was 5.6. Going up to f/10 would have given you more depth so that at least the far side of the pond would have been sharper. A fairly soft vignette would take out some of the OOF areas around the edges and help concentrate the viewers eye onto the interesting lily-covered foreground. Gribbit
BV	4 - Water	9	Marc	Gordon	2	water Lilly pad	9	Silver	This image was not taken on the day of our visit to Benvie and so should be given a DQ. However, since the points are not being counted for personal scores I am letting that go by. It really pulls the viewers eye into the core of the subject which is the tiny puddle in the centre of the leaf. None of it is fully sharp and there is a lot of noise. Composition is good but I suspect that it may have been cropped considerably.
BV	4 - Water	15	Gustav	de Wet	3	4 Splash	13	Merit	Not much to say about this other than very well done.

BV	4 - Water	24	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	4 ram pump	9	Silver	The old ram pump. The beating heart of so many water schemes. Your exposure is good but the image is overall a little soft. It's a pity that the top of the pump has been cut out. A few of the highlights on the pump are blown out and should be darkened down a bit. The other white highlights are all water-related and are not so significant.
BV	4 - Water	25	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	4 Twin Streams	12	Gold	The colours in this image are wonderful and the use of flash really gives it all a sparkle. There is so much fine detail that my eye wandered happily all over the place. As a wetland ecologist I admit to some bias but in this friendly event that does not matter. Very well done.
BV	4 - Water	35	Paul	Naude	5	4 Where there be ducks	9	Silver	I see no ducks. The principal subject here seems to me to be the clumps of gree Irises and the water in front where there is a mix of lily pads and reflections. For this reason I suggest that you try fairly drastic crops on both sides but more on the left. Then crop the foreground to just above the yellow flower reflection. The next step would be to bring a little more contrast into the water area and perhaps a bit more vibrance. I photographed the same spot but think that you probably did it better.
BV	4 - Water	39	Heidi	Taylor	5	4 Dew droplets	12	Gold	Wow. Just wow. My only grizzle is that some of the specular highlights, especially the one in the black area on the right, are too bright and may be blown out. The rainbows in some of the water drops are, however, a bonus.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	1	Deana	Adams	1	5 - Birds or bugs	13	Merit	Your closeup capture of the bee is amazing. I feel as though I was almost riding on its back. Nothing more to be said.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	10	Marc	Gordon	2	Birds or Bugs New life	12	Gold	A great macro shot. Who would even think that the insect which crawled out of this skin became a gaudy dragonfly. Not quite sharp but still pretty good.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	16	Gustav	de Wet	3	5 Buzzing by	15	Merit	Sets a benchmark for all of us.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	22	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	5 fuzzy butterfly	8	Silver	Exposure and colour are very good but just too much out of focus. Use of f/2.8 did not help. That's a pity.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	26	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	5 Remains of the bird	13	Merit	A sad picture but it tells the story. Well composed and your focus and exposure are spot on.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	38	Paul	Naude	5	5 Damset fly	12	Gold	Well done on getting ALL of the damset fly in sharp focus. Many wannabe macro photographers should pay attention to this. The fern frond is not quite sharp but at f/4 that is not surprising. I wonder why you chose such a wide aperture. Perhaps this was a surprise opportunity which you took before the insect could fly away again or is there some magic in that lens? Either way it does not matter as it is the insect quality that counts. Perhaps the pink background could have been toned down a bit.

BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	40	Maxi	Holder	5	5 That Orange Job	8	SILVER	Bird a bit small in the picture and not very sharp
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	41	Heidi	Taylor	5	5 Sunbird song	8	Silver	I like the composition and especially the large amount of negative space which says to me that the bird is in a forest glade and can fly away freely. Perhaps the brightness could have been raised a little bit and the shadows are very dark. Unfortunately the image is very noisy and that should be addressed by a 5 star level worker.
BV	5 - Birds or Bugs	43	Maxi	Holder	5	5 Spot The Bee	8	SILVER	Th bee is a little bit small in the picture and not very sharp.
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	4	Deana	Adams	1	6 - Old farm and workshop implements	9	Silver	This picture is a mirror image of an earlier one and so I wonder which way round the pump is - not that it matters at all. Your camera settings look good but the B/W conversion is little harsh with extreme black and white areas. Try dropping the contrast and lighten the shadows and/or blacks. If you use Photoshop, Levels will help. As a general suggestion, it is often good to try and separate elements of the scene in front of you if possible. If you had taken the shot from a lower vantage point and to the left a little you could have separated the two pump chambers so that the front one did not hide the back one so much. Of course, I am assuming that you could get in there.
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	17	Gustav	de Wet	3	6 Grounded gears	10	Gold	The B/W conversion is well handled and the gears are nicely framed. A little deeper depth of field would have been nice to just include a bit in front of the gears but not the triangular frame. You could also consider a bit more contrast and perhaps some more texture as well.
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	27	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	6 loose nut	8	Silver	You had a good idea here but it didn't quite come off. The image is soft all over and the bright area round the bottom is a powerful attention magnet. A crop would have helped to get rid of that and any remnant parts could be darkened.
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	29	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	6 Natures Tool Shelf	9	Silver	Your exposure and focus on the toolbox part of the image are spot on and very pleasing. But unfortunately the large dark area on the RHS is just too big. More of the stones on the left would have brought interest so either taking the pic from further back, and cropping appropriately, or changing your position, would have helped. However, that looks like water on the right so the second option may not have been a good one.
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	42	Maxi	Holder	5	6 Leftover From The Iron Age	11	GOLD	Nice picture of some old machinery with lichen growing on it. Nice light and exposure, and good separation from the background
BV	6 - Old farm or workshop appliance	44	Heidi	Taylor	5	6 Exploring the cog	9	Silver	This was well seen but didn't quite come off. I think that the composition, including the dark background is well done but much of the image, including the principal subject, is soft. That bright bokeh spot on the right is a strong distraction.
BV		16	Gustav	de Wet	3	5 Buzzing by	15	BJUNIOR	

BV		26	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	5 Remains of the bird	13	BSENIOR	
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