

Results for JAN 2026 MONTHLY														
Cat	Category Name	Seq	Firstname	Lastname	Star	Title	INTREF	Scores			Overall		Comment by	Comment
								Shirley	Ian	Jake	Score	Award		
								11.48	11.82	9.88	33.18			
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	1	Martin	Agius	1S	Daniel Zahra vs Kouji Yoshimoto	2779939	13	12	13	38	GOLD	Shirley	Excellent work for a 1 star ,conveying a strong story with a good composition and very good exposure under difficult lighting conditions. I love the facial expression, looks rather "Eina"
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	2	Deana	Adams	1S	Joyful race	2786074	10	12	10	32	GOLD	Ian	Great image for a one star, well focused and the image tells a story about the rough terrain the biker is travelling through. To take the image to the next level, use a radial gradient in Lightroom to lighter the bikers face and you might want to consider reducing the exposure on the background which will make the rider pop.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	3	Martin	Agius	1S	Melvin Fenech vs Darren Scerri	2779940	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Jake	A really good shot but a slightly faster shutter would have helped. I guess that this is from the same author as the previous fight picture but it is just not up to the same standard, As a general rule it is inadvisable to put two or more of your similar pictures into the same entry.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	4	Martin	Agius	1S	Rugby Malta vs Switzerland	2779941	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	A" bum" view indeed. The story is well conveyed by using the players on the side to frame the focal area, well done . Image sharp and well exposed
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	5	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Reflection	2786221	10	13	13	36	GOLD	Ian	A good representation of an abstract composite image where the author has gone to great lengths to obtain the mood and intregue and therefore a well-deserved score.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	6	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Determination	2785820	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	This is sharp just where it needs to be and is well composed with spot on exposure. But I think that she is about to swim,
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	7	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Having Fun	2785811	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Shirley	An image with the cute factor, showing the expression on the child` s face . Well exposed, however composition could be strengthened by showing more of what is towing the youngster and timing the shot, if possible, with the front of dingy tilted upwards.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	8	Paul	Naude	5S0	Bravery	2786108	10	12	9	31	GOLD	Ian	Lots of action in the image and the intensity is in the faces of the two players in the foreground. The image can be improved with a bit of dodging and burning especially with the two bright areas above the player with the red jersey in the foreground. As it`s a sport, you were unable to remove the one bright spot.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	9	Terry	Burne	5S2	Showjumping - 9884	2780897	12	12	13	37	GOLD	Jake	Clean, crisp, and sharp. No more need be said.
AS	Action Sport and Photo-Journalism	10	Carol	Phillips	6S1	nexus splash dash	2781942	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Shirley	Great action shot with well exposed water. Try lifting the shadows ever so slightly on the peoples lower half in the boat as detail is a little unclear
NB	Nature - Birds Only	1	Ernest	Preiss	1S	Black-shouldered Kite and Catch 5869	2783628	14	14	13	41	COM	Ian	An excellent image of the kite with what looks like a rat. There is a highlight in the eye and detail in the feathers. The exposure has been well handled and the background is exceptional.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	2	Mark	Roberts	1S	Eating time	2785268	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Jake	This certainly tells the story. Well done on your management of tonality and your choice of settings which allowed you to catch the water drops. Perhaps that leaf in the top left corner could have been cropped out.

NB	Nature - Birds Only	3	Ernest	Preiss	1S	Flying Fish Eagle 4055	2783649	13	12	9	34	GOLD	Shirley	Congratulations on a very well composed image, capturing the essence of a FISH Eagle I full flight. Image well exposed and sharp, excellent work for a 1 star
NB	Nature - Birds Only	4	Deana	Adams	1S	Heron	2786024	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Ian	The head of the Heron is well focused and especially the eye. The black, greys and white of the feathers are also well exposed. Unfortunately, the positioning of the Heron has let you down.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	5	Gawie	van Jaarsveld	1S	In vlug	2786015	9	11	9	29	SILVER	Jake	I think that the rules would have allowed you lift the shadows under the wing a bit. It is a little soft, perhaps as a result of severe cropping.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	6	Mark	Roberts	1S	Looking	2785278	9	11	8	28	SILVER	Shirley	Sadly image appears a little soft, perhaps because of a slow shutter speed and the Kingfisher being a vey long distance away from you. With bird photography , which can be hugely frustrating, always try and attain a shutter speed of at least 1/2000 to freeze the action and try and get a little closer to capture feather detail
NB	Nature - Birds Only	7	Deana	Adams	1S	Spoonbill	2785896	9	12	8	29	SILVER	Ian	A sharp image of the spoonbill with good exposure. Unfortunately, the background is too busy and is distracting. The branch in front of the Heron's leg is also a distraction. In bird photography the birds do not make things easy for the photographer. Try cropping the image from the top and also burn the diagonal branch to be less distracting
NB	Nature - Birds Only	8	Mark	Roberts	1S	Waiting	2785276	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	These birds are not ewasy to capture but you have handled the black and especially the red very well. Separation of subjec and background is good.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	9	Ernest	Preiss	1S	White-fronted Bee-eater 4092	2783659	13	12	13	38	GOLD	Shirley	Great capture, image sharp showing all the wonderful contrasting colours and feather detail, well done. If possible Just give a tad more space below the tail.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	10	Craig	Backhouse	2S	Burchells Coucal Mkhuze - CB	2786233	10	13	8	31	GOLD	Ian	A sharp image of the coucal in its habitat. The beautiful feathers are well captured, especially with the blacks and whites which can be tricky. Unfortunately, the background is too busy and is distracting try reducing the highlights in lightroom, will improve image.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	11	Craig	Backhouse	2S	European Roller Mkhuze - CB	2786232	9	12	8	29	SILVER	Jake	Unfortunately the bird is a little soft. Perhaps raising the ISO and closing the aperturwould have helped a bit. Good use of thirds.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	12	Toni	Harley	2S	Perched up High	2785983	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Shirley	Image sharp, the plain green Lotus leaves enhance the bird without any distractions, well done. One might say a tighter crop is need however in this instance I enjoy the negative space.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	13	Toni	Harley	2S	Speared	2785984	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Ian	A great action that of the Heron. A lightening on the shadows and reduction of the highlights with a tad of contrast will improve the image and reduce the bright areas in the water. But well captured.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	14	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Kinloch Duck	2785790	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Jake	This is well exposed although perhaps a bit over-sharpened or over-cropped. Nonetheless I looked at this image for quite a long time. Those prismatic patterns in the water are fascinating and they match up with the speculum on the wing very well.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	15	Derek	Brittain	3S	More than a days work here	2786198	13	12	12	37	GOLD	Shirley	Strong story conveyed , image well composed, sharp with excellent exposure, congratulations

NB	Nature - Birds Only	16	Derek	Brittain	3S	Mr Brown on guard	2786201	13	12	13	38	GOLD	Ian	A well captured image with a great background, both the exposure and sharpness are spot. What has let you down is the perch on which the Kingfisher is standing, is dominant in the image and does not lend itself to a nature category.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	17	Derek	Brittain	3S	Pied Hovercraft	2786202	13	11	12	36	GOLD	Jake	Technically spot on, this is very well captured, perhaps better than you might realise. When hovering, these bird have to beat their wings very rapidly, but they hold their heads still so as to be able to focus clearly on the water and fish below.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	18	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Spurwinged Goose	2786363	9	11	7	27	SILVER	Shirley	The focus on the face and eye is a little soft, I think your camera has the stronger focus on the wing. Unfortunately some of the white area in the wing is overexposed with no pixels
NB	Nature - Birds Only	19	Diane	Backhouse	4S	European Roller Mkhuze - DB	2786179	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Ian	Again, a well taken image but the background has not been kind to you and is very distracting.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	20	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Hard at Work	2779660	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	Nicely exposed and sharp where it counts. The OOF leaf in the bottom left gives the (correct) impression that you are looking into the reeds. I can ever understand how these weavers, which have the thickest beaks, manage to weave with the finest nest materials.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	21	Diane	Backhouse	4S	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill Mkhuze - DB	2786188	10	12	9	31	GOLD	Shirley	Image is sharp where it needs to be, showing lovely feather detail. The branch going through the Hornbill is a little distracting
NB	Nature - Birds Only	22	Diane	Backhouse	4S	Woodland Kingfisher Mkhuze - DB	2786194	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Ian	Well done and good image of the Woodland Kingfisher. To improve part of image the author could try to crop the image from the left and remove the thorns and part of the tree trunk, also bring the crop down from the top slightly. Also use a radial gradient to increase the exposure of eye. These small changes will give you an incredible image. Well done!
NB	Nature - Birds Only	23	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Crab for lunch	2777178	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Jake	Well captured. The sand grains below the bird show that you focal plane was just in the right place. Composition is striking with the line of the body making a strong diagonal. I wonder how you got this shot with a 35mm focal length lens.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	24	wynand	lens	5S1	Ants for lunch	2780923	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	Great capture under difficult lighting conditions, love seeing the rain drops which add to the charm of the greedy wet bird
NB	Nature - Birds Only	25	Terry	Burne	5S2	Grey Heron preening - 1933	2780898	11	11	10	32	GOLD	Ian	Great exposure and a pen sharp image. The bright distractions in the background have brought your score down.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	26	Terry	Burne	5S2	Weaver bird nest building - 0282	2780899	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	This nicely done with the bird being pin sharp even showing the catch light in the eye. It is interesting that the bird appears to be repairing an old nest with new and unusual materials. Perhaps it is a youngster with much to learn.
NB	Nature - Birds Only	27	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Go away	2785915	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Shirley	Acrobatics in motion, such movement in the wings, the title and the wide open beak convey your story so well. Crop is a little tight above and below wings
NN	Nature - No Birds	1	Gawie	van Jaarsveld	1S	Die groot dors	2786014	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Ian	A difficult image to take as there is so much going on, and you ideally would want to focus on say the Buffalo's that are in the dust. Have a look at the bottom front of the image and the right side where you included a few twigs.

NN	Nature - No Birds	2	Kees	de Waal	1S	OPEN WIDE	2785771	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Jake	This picture has considerable potential but needs some processing. I dropped the exposure and highlights, increased contrast, and darkened the shadows, and sharpened. All by small increments. The result was hugely different but a good capture of a scary beast. Play around with this image and see what happens.
NN	Nature - No Birds	3	Kees	de Waal	1S	STALKING	2785776	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Shirley	Wonderful sighting of a jaguar in action. Sadly image a little soft on head and eyes, try sharpening slightly
NN	Nature - No Birds	4	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Face off	2780721	12	14	9	35	GOLD	Ian	Well done, a perfect image of the two Rhino's sparing against each other. The exposure of the Rhino's has been well handled as the dark skin often needs to be taken at a slightly darker exposure. To take the image to the next level up you may want to try dodging and burning the Rhino's skin and cropping out the sky or burning it to reduce the brightness. Well done.
NN	Nature - No Birds	5	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Purple haze	2780189	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	This macro shot is very well done. The front of the bee is tack sharp with every hair and droplet visible. Exposure and colour are good. A good capture of a subject which moves around a lot.
NN	Nature - No Birds	6	Dylan	Evans	2S	Ready for take off	2786085	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Shirley	The warm colours of the dragonfly pop beautifully against the soft green background and the diagonal stem completes the composition. The head needs to be slightly sharper.
NN	Nature - No Birds	7	Craig	Backhouse	2S	Shower Time - CB	2786228	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Ian	The action in the water is great and well captured. Unfortunately, the Elephants head on the left of the frame and the cropped off elephant on the right has caused distractions. The texture in the elephant's skin has been exceptionally captured.
NN	Nature - No Birds	8	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	By any other name would smell as sweet	2780399	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Jake	The front flower is reasonably sharp but that is OK. It must be remembered that many flowers are naturally soft when seen close up. However, the background is overly cluttered with similarly coloured flowers and so the front one is hidden by this. That is a pity as your exposure and colours are good.
NN	Nature - No Birds	9	Gustav	de Wet	3S	Watching	2786214	10	12	9	31	GOLD	Shirley	The wide open grassland gives a feeling of scale and negative space, would look wonderful on a wall. However, in a nature category I would encourage you to have a tighter crop giving the subject more visual weight
NN	Nature - No Birds	10	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Hungry monkey	2777179	12	15	11	38	GOLD	Ian	Here the author has taken the time and focused in on the real interest and has captured a wonderful result. The baby monkey has been framed perfectly by the mother's skin. The eye has a perfect catch light in them and the detail is great. What really makes this a great image is the mother's hand across the baby. Wonderful image. Well done!
NN	Nature - No Birds	11	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Rhino splash	2779529	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Jake	This is technically very good but I suggest that a horizontal flip would improve it.
NN	Nature - No Birds	12	wynand	lens	5S1	Hanging on	2783483	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Shirley	Good focus on the eye of this frog with attractive colouring. Although the shallow depth of field separates it nicely from the background, it would be a stronger image if more of the frog was in focus.
NN	Nature - No Birds	13	Jan	Lens	5S1	King of the garden	2780273	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Ian	A pleasant image but unfortunate the head of the frog is not sharp, and your eye is drawn to the brighter left side of the image.

NN	Nature - No Birds	14	Meleney	Naik	5S1	On a Spiky Perch	2786301	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Jake	This image of suicidal behaviour is perhaps a little over exposed or perhaps the agama could be given a bit more contrast. The saturation of the blue on his head could be lifted a bit. I do like that the subject and background are so well separated.
NN	Nature - No Birds	15	Jan	Lens	5S1	Red eye peeper	2780954	12	13	13	38	GOLD	Shirley	Great macro shot , a strong engaging and colourful photo. The lighter areas on the throat and fingers are a tad overexposed.
NN	Nature - No Birds	16	Rob	Hart	5S4	Dancing jewel on opiods 579	2785927	13	11	12	36	GOLD	Ian	Well capture image, unfortunately the head of the dragonfly is not sharp.
NN	Nature - No Birds	17	Rob	Hart	5S4	Red assassin bug 685	2785926	12	11	13	36	GOLD	Jake	This image appeared slightly dark but that may be due to my monitor. Otherwise it is excellent.
NN	Nature - No Birds	18	Rob	Hart	5S4	Robber fly rain dance 706	2785928	13	13	13	39	COM	Shirley	Excellent detail showing the eye texture and leg hairs beautifully. Great movement in the raised leg definitely adds to the energy. Congratulations
NN	Nature - No Birds	19	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Smorgasbord	2775804	13	14	12	39	COM	Ian	An excellent macro image with great details right across the full body. The colour in the thorax and the abdomen make this image.
OM	Open - Mono	1	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Maestro	2785743	12	12	13	37	GOLD	Jake	Excellent conversion to B/W with a full display of tonal range control. For those who want to use it is a really good example of Fibonacci Curve composition. This striking image earns the title but maybe that should apply to the photographer as well.
OM	Open - Mono	2	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Ready steady	2785745	11	12	12	35	GOLD	Shirley	Strong story , the human arm frames the dog nicely. Image is sharp especially the dogs eye where it counts. The mono conversion suits the mood and the composition gives the dog room to move into. Try not to amputate the feet of the human and tone down the watch where the light catches it .
OM	Open - Mono	3	Gawie	van Jaarsveld	1S	Tuur in die verte	2786006	10	14	10	34	GOLD	Ian	A though provoking image which is great to see in a one-star photographer. What comes to mind is the contrast between what the dog and the human are seeing or thinking. It is great to see different images when the observer needs to interpret the image.
OM	Open - Mono	4	Jay	Nabbe	2S	no lift	2781949	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Jake	The mono treatment in this image is good with no blown blacks or whites. However, I have o idea what I am looking at and my eye just wanders around looking for a subject. The human figure is small and overwhelmed by the clutter around it and the big square on the left then draws me away from that. Then the older brick work catches me, and so on.
OM	Open - Mono	5	Marc	Gordon	3S	Stepping In From The Light	2783352	10	12	10	32	GOLD	Shirley	A moody shot , the grainy mono conversion gives a documentary fell . The highlights are unfortunately very blown to the point where the entering person has lost detail. Try pulling back the highlights just enough to hint at detail in the doorway keeping it bright but not obliterated
OM	Open - Mono	6	Marc	Gordon	3S	The Lotus Flower	2783414	11	12	12	35	GOLD	Ian	A well-handled black and white conversion. The detail in the Lotus flower is so delicate and has varying scales of grey. A central crop might improve the image.

OM	Open - Mono	7	Paul	Naude	5S0	Connections	2786112	9	11	10	30	GOLD	Jake	A well spotted scene which many, myself included, would have missed. There is a line (connection) between the two human figures and their dogs. You see the higher figure first and then slide along to the second. But then the bent and broken tree, which is on one of the thirds, points you back up again. Then there is a symmetry between the dark bottom left and the bright top right. In between is a burned and shattered landscape. Lots to look at here.
OM	Open - Mono	8	Paul	Naude	5S0	Daily Despair	2786111	9	12	11	32	GOLD	Shirley	A moody scene creating a strong story, however, the overall image has been darkened a little to much. The fisherman lacks detail, try lifting the shadows slightly on him and lifting overall levels just a tad .
OM	Open - Mono	9	wynand	lens	5S1	Jump	2780917	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Ian	A good action/sport image which captures all the movement and forms a leading line from the left up to the rider's face. The whites could be toned down a tad.
OM	Open - Mono	10	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Rocker Chick	2775802	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	No shortage of energy and movement here. The attention is drawn straight to the rocker and her flying hair. while the rest is hidden away. My only complaint is that bright overhead light but not much can be done to take it down even if just a little.
OP	Open - Colour	1	Alexandra	Davey	1S	A feathery find	2786497	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Shirley	Wonderful detail and textures in this image, with a strong composition , well done. Try removing the few very distracting bright spots in the background and giving a little more room on the right lower end of feather
OP	Open - Colour	2	Laura	Smit	1S	A Moment of Stillness	2784385	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Ian	A difficult picture to take as bee's keep on moving. The bee needs to be sharper, and the image needs to be cropped so as to show that the bee is the subject. A shallower depth of field will help you in the future.
OP	Open - Colour	3	Alexandra	Davey	1S	Bongi back home	2786496	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Jake	This picture tells a wonderful story about an old dog. Sharp where it needs to be but with the background suitably soft. Nicely done all round.
OP	Open - Colour	4	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Carmine	2786131	14	15	11	40	COM	Shirley	What can I say but wow, such an awesome capture and processing, everything is technically correct, huge congratulations!
OP	Open - Colour	5	Laura	Smit	1S	Fleece Navidad	2784387	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Ian	Good focus on the main subject and a good exposure. The image would be improved by a tighter crop.
OP	Open - Colour	6	Laura	Smit	1S	Natures Perfect Pairing	2784391	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Jake	This image might have been better in a portrait format as there is just too much greenery on the left. The flower and the bee are on a vertical third but the rule has not served well here. The key parts of the image are a little soft.
OP	Open - Colour	7	Dylan	Evans	2S	Green veins	2786087	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	Wonderful textures and lines, especially the strong diagonal line of the main stem which leads ones eye from bottom to top. Image is sharp throughout and well exposed , well done.
OP	Open - Colour	8	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Sunset at Gordons Bay	2782186	11	9	8	28	SILVER	Ian	Beautiful light on the harbour. There seems to be editing problems if you look at the mountains. Try a re-edit the image using the highlighted and shadow sliders and don't over sharpen
OP	Open - Colour	9	Toni	Harley	2S	The Hunter	2785985	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Jake	Nicely done with the sharp focus on the face. Stepping through the sticks adds a nice sense of movement but I suspect that this hunter is not too fearsome.

OP	Open - Colour	10	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Flaming moonshine	2780404	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Shirley	The complimentary colours do this image such justice, the flame is perfectly exposed. Not sure if the glass shattered from the flame, however the jagged edges create the texture. Image a little noisy , try denoising in post processing . Image could be even stronger had you extended the blue background to the top
OP	Open - Colour	11	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Gladiolus in the veld	2786324	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Ian	A tighter crop could improve the image, but the real issue is that the background needs to be blurred to separate the Gladiolus from the grass background.
OP	Open - Colour	12	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Lotus bud	2786306	13	12	9	34	GOLD	Jake	This shows a nice mix of warm and cool colours. The flower is tack sharp but is unfortunately rather engulfed by the background.
OP	Open - Colour	13	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Lotus flower opening	2786303	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Shirley	Beautiful lotus flower displaying all the petals. The soft pink works well against the green background. Overall Image a little bright, by reducing the curves slightly the contrast and impact would improve.
OP	Open - Colour	14	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Niewoudtville Falls	2786362	12	9	8	29	SILVER	Ian	The movement in the upper part of the falls has been well captured using as a slow shutter speed. The full falls should have given you a better perspective for the image. A small amount of straightening would also improve the image.
OP	Open - Colour	15	Liest	Couperthwaite	4S	heron on log	2778952	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Jake	The bird is sharp and well exposed but unfortunately those large shiny leaves in the background distract the viewers attention. Using a wider aperture might have softened them down a bit. Another suggestion is that you crop (if the original allows for it) to show a bit more of those interesting lumps on the log.
OP	Open - Colour	16	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Infinity	2779662	13	11	9	33	GOLD	Shirley	Beautifully executed, , you have nailed the long exposure without blowing the highlights. Composition is strong displaying the energy and drama, well done.
OP	Open - Colour	17	Liest	Couperthwaite	4S	misty moment	2778951	10	9	8	27	SILVER	Ian	A beautiful landscape taken in the mist. Unfortunately, there are colour aberration issues and banding. The one blade of grass should be removed in the foreground and the tree in the foreground can also be removed.
OP	Open - Colour	18	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Shades of Pink	2779661	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	Tack sharp and (mostly) well separated from the background. Those buds(?) in the two top corners could perhaps be blurred out a bit so as to make them visually weaker.
OP	Open - Colour	19	Liest	Couperthwaite	4S	the light at the end of the path	2778953	9	11	7	27	SILVER	Shirley	The strong leading lines show image has rhythm and repetition, leading ones eye into the frame. Composition could be improved by cropping or removing the stump which appears dominant and visually blocking the path. Try not to over saturate especially the yellows, man image worth retouching.
OP	Open - Colour	20	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	artichoke flower	2786245	11	12	8	31	GOLD	Ian	A unusual image showing the intensity of the flowery parts of the plant. The bracts are beautiful and you might want to show more of the bracts in the next image you take.
OP	Open - Colour	21	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	colourful play	2786244	13	13	9	35	GOLD	Jake	For a 5 star I think that you could have made more of this very appealing image. Some more of the reflection would definitely raised the score into the Gold category.
OP	Open - Colour	22	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	Low sat sunflower	2786264	9	9	7	25	SILVER	Shirley	Attractive use of low saturation which enhances the textures. Unfortunately your depth of field is a little too shallow with more of the wood in focus than the sunflower where it counts

OP	Open - Colour	23	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Rollin rollin rollin on the river	2780223	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Ian	Both the dung beetles' contrast well with the dung ball and the depth of field used is well chosen. What could improve the image is to reduce the exposure of the background and crop the image from the right side.
OP	Open - Colour	24	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	Sunshiny day	2786265	12	12	13	37	GOLD	Jake	A beautiful image which is well composed and exposed. Perhaps a little less brightness in that central area might have lifted the score even further.
OP	Open - Colour	25	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Umbrella	2780222	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Shirley	So many umbrellas! Clever idea drawing attention to the one red one, perfectly placed on the third, which creates a focal area and a place for the eye to rest. Pay attention to the small bright area on lower left
OP	Open - Colour	26	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	wild daisy	2786243	12	10	9	31	GOLD	Ian	The daisy is well positioned in the frame, and the petals give the viewers strong leading lines to follow. There seems to be a lot of black spots on the petals. Bracketing the flower will give you a greater area of the flower in focus.
OP	Open - Colour	27	Vicki	Street	5S3	Pennywise	2786508	14	12	10	36	GOLD	Jake	Technically very well done
OP	Open - Colour	28	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Dancing petals	2785913	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Shirley	Lovely movement in the pretty petals, the vertical crop creates a strong composition. Shadows on lower left petals could be lightened slightly.
OP	Open - Colour	29	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Make a wish 2	2785914	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Ian	The lighting has been well done and has made the image pop. The detail and colour are exquisite. The only issue are the two stems. Try remove the one stem and give it a little more light and you'll have a winner.
PA	Photo Art And Creative	1	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Apparently inanimate	2780405	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Jake	I get what the photographer was aiming for here but the whole image is soft. The figure's head and face at least should be sharper. But otherwise technically well done.
PA	Photo Art And Creative	2	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	More Free	2780221	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Shirley	Lovely warm colour palette in this image which conveys a strong story, the hair and dress adds to the motion. Subject could be more prominent with a little dodging on the highlights and a touch more contrast would help her pop.
PA	Photo Art And Creative	3	Carol	Phillips	6S1	the soft edge	2781943	12	14	9	35	GOLD	Ian	A beautiful gentle image focusing on lines and various shades of green. This could be placed on somebody's wall and will give them great pleasure.
PA	Photo Art And Creative	4	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Mystic Motion	2777921	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Jake	These soft and sensuous shapes are really well done but sadly my eye is repeatedly drawn out of the frame in the top left corner since the curves form strong leading lines. In my personal view, placing the exit point in the lower right hand corner make a huge improvement.
PO	Portrait	1	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Resting with a Smoke	2781729	11	12	8	31	GOLD	Shirley	You have managed to convey the warm character of the model, one that draws you in. Good mono conversion. Try not to crop close to any limb joints, the crop is too close under the knees and always try and make the model turn the legs slightly to the side to avoid such a dominant look of the hands and knees. Image well worth reworking
PO	Portrait	2	Marc	Gordon	3S	Deana	2786270	13	13	10	36	GOLD	Ian	A strong portrait where the colour in both the dress and hair have worked well. The colour of the eyes works well with the orange. The highlight could be toned down a tad.

PO	Portrait	3	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Peaky Blinders	2786321	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Jake	This is nicely composed and monochrome is appropriate. Unfortunately the girl's face and arms are very blown out while the male figure is well exposed. Perhaps she just got included in the background toning but she needs to be brought back.
PO	Portrait	4	Jan	Lens	5S1	Street vendor	2783267	12	13	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	Delightful portrait with huge impact in street photography scene, well done. Pay attention to the light areas around the hat at the top of your picture
SC	Scapes	1	Kees	de Waal	1S	FOZ FALLS	2785769	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Ian	A pleasantly landscape where the author has clearly shown the foreground of the image which has most of the interest. The saturation could be reduced slightly and the highlight reduced and shadows lightened with a slight increase in contrast.
SC	Scapes	2	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	You said it was a short walk	2786358	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Jake	This beautiful image could appear in any of a number of categories such Wildlife or Negative Space. However, it is well placed here and it shows the wideness of the desert landscape which dwarves the animals. However, there appears to be a clutter or halo all along the skyline above the dunes so perhaps this is a sharpening artifact. That bird(?) above the LH gemsbok could have been removed.
SC	Scapes	3	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Kgalagadi Moon	2786330	9	11	9	29	SILVER	Shirley	Lovely colour contrast between the moon and the cool blue sky, however the moon looks very saturated and rather cut out, The landscape is a little soft and dark compared to the sky, try slightly lifting shadows contrast. A stronger composition could be attained by placing the moon on the third.
	Best Junior		Ernest	Preiss	1S	Black-shouldered Kite and Catch 5869	2783628	14	14	13	41	BJUNIOR		
	Best Senior		Rob	Hart	5S4	Robber fly rain dance 706	2785928	13	13	13	39	BSENIOR		