

2023-2024 SEASON >>>

Roger's report

The review

Rules, rules, blah, blah, blah.....

Competition news

Federation & FIAP news



"Dock reflection"
- Gordon Hart

A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club

STROUD CAMERA CLUB



Contacts >>>

Welcome to Stroud Camera Club

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter. If you want any help with matters relating to the club, or your photography in general, we are here to help.

Chairman: Roger Matthews

Secretary: Trish Bloodworth

Treasurer: Leslie Holmes

Competitions: Richard Atkinson

Publicity: René Cason

Programme: Ali Garrett

For more information, including contact emails for all the committee please go to www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk



"Milk marketing towers" – Gerry Chance

Roger's Report

With summer (if we can call it that) in the rear-view mirror, it is time to look forward to an exciting new season of Club Nights ahead of us. We have already got off to a great start with a very well supported evening of members' macro/still life images, images from the WCPF Print Exhibition and the Cheltenham International Salon of Photography, and our first competition of the year. Lots of images to feast your eyes over and to provide inspiration for our own photography.

Looking forward, we have a veritable smorgasbord of speakers, competitions, members' nights and Back-2-Basics sessions to keep you entertained throughout the year. Keep an eye on the programme for the themed members' nights so you can submit images for these fun evenings. I will soon be announcing the theme for this season's Chairman's Challenge so you all have plenty of time to prepare your entries. Is it too much to hope that you will use all the time available rather than panic with two weeks to go?

I sometimes hear members say that they could not achieve the standard seen in other people's images or that they wouldn't be able to successfully replicate certain techniques or perhaps develop their own style of photography, but I disagree. Even the most accomplished of photographers started at the

beginning with images that they would not share now.

Although far from being an accomplished photographer, I know my photography has definitely improved over the years, in part as a result of paying attention to feedback on images (both my own and those of others) and through taking the time to enjoy and be inspired by, the work of others and taking the time to acquire new skills to create images that others might enjoy. Basic technical photographic skills, great composition and care taken in post-processing are key to producing great images - all three require constant attention and we should never stop learning. Club photography is a great way to support that learning and development process and we are fortunate in having a Club that caters for and supports photographers of all levels.

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER

The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice (Brian Herbert)

WCPF Travelling Print Exhibition

First week back of the new season – about 30 degrees in the Club room – and a hot selection of images to share. 26 members and 4 visitors split into 6 tables and spent 12 minutes on each selection of 12 prints.

The standards were of course high as this is a Federation level exhibition and our programme secretary set us the task of selecting our most enjoyed image from each set of 12 images – not an easy task with so much quality on offer. Images across all genres from stunning portraits, misty seascapes, fine art architecture, street, sport, creative and nature all represented. Ultimately members selected 2 beautiful nature images as the overall most popular across all tables – with well-handled exposures, sharp in the right places and no distractions being key points, plus good use of compositional techniques and with both being excellent behavioural images.

Ali confirmed that 7 of the 74 images received votes; Print 7 Courting Dippers by David Shaw (Kingsbridge CC) received four votes; Print 14 Siskin Tussle by Graham Pears (Bristol PS) received 4 votes - The remaining 5 Prints received two votes each.

Each table reported informed, constructive discussion about the images, with some having a relatively unanimous opinion of the imagery on display and others having very diverse views – it just goes to show how subjective photography is and that we all see something different in each image.

The review >>>

Speaker – Cheltenham International Salon

The welcome return to SCC of Aleks Gjika, who always brings his own sense of humour to this amazing evening. The evening consists of a well-constructed AV of the five sections of the Cheltenham International Salon, with Aleks opting to start with “Travel”, “Mono” and “Creative” before the break and following up with “Nature” and “Open Colour” after the break. There were so many inspiring images on display – but nothing that our members cannot aim to achieve.

Indeed, it was fantastic to see a number of SCC members represented during the evening, each receiving the customary round of applause as their image projected. Jeff Wilson with his two portraits we have seen at Club nights, Annie’s beautifully toned “Quiet time”, Ian Peters’ “Sea Dogs”, Leslie Holmes’ scene of twilight in London, Francis Mridha’s landscapes and Trish’s dogs. A highlight of course is the point at which the “Awarded” images project and thus many congratulations must go to Richard Atkinson and Leslie Holmes for both achieving salon gold medals in the “Nature” section. Richard’s well captured starlings squabbling, and Leslie’s tragic nature kill scene (which also made the front cover of the salon brochure!)

A super night of entertainment, showcasing some of the world’s best photography in 2023. The next Cheltenham Salon will likely close in the Spring 2024 – so watch out for details in forthcoming bulletins. In the meantime, why not try entering a salon – it is quite addictive and a thrill to get an acceptance. One day even our Chairman may see his name in a salon brochure!



*“Mark Halling photographing on behalf of SCC for the Nelson Trust Golf Day.”
Shared on Facebook by René Cason*

Facebook

Why don't you view some of the member images on our Facebook Group?

If you are not yet a member, simply click the link within Facebook and answer 3 very simple questions.

Upload your image to the group – ideally for an image post use 2048px on the long side (either height or width) to get the best resolution for anyone viewing.

Please “like” and “comment” on members’ posts.

For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

Members' Night >>>

Still Life & Macro

Our first members’ evening showcased images on the theme of still life and/or macro. Plenty of members brought in their USB sticks to share their interpretation of the subject.

Images ranged from close-ups of flies (including on dung!) through to moths, dragonflies, damsel flies, spiders and flying bees, Roger gave a good insight into how images can be stacked easily using Affinity. Paul Martin and René Cason both use in-camera stacking with their Olympus cameras, although Paul also commented that he uses Helicon and Photoshop as options.

It was good to see some still life within the mix as well. Annie didn’t disappoint with her well seen and executed captures, including some well-presented rust; Brian Dinnage’s melted chocolate was an inspired piece of work – but we were concerned when he won the chocolate

biscuits in the raffle! Gary Canning used full scale for his still life, and came up with some very well thought out images – including a shop front which as he told us was here today and gone tomorrow – and a Gormley statue on top of a building in Oxford with an exquisite use of negative space to really pull us in to the image and look up!

A thoroughly enjoyable opening member evening. Get prepared for the next one very soon!



*“Josh Brookes on fire” –
Richard Sellwood*

RULES, RULES, blah, blah, blah – but yes important!

With the new Club competition season having started and lots of “chatter” about Artificial Intelligence it is probably a suitable time to remind you of some of the main rules and guidance within our club.

Importantly, as we use images from our monthly competitions for our entries to the Federation (WCPF) competitions, we do also need to abide by their rules as well as setting our own.

Our rules are fully laid out, including an extensive preliminary guidance section about use of AI on our website. If you go into the “Club” tab, you will find a document on the right-hand side entitled:

- [Stroud Camera Club Competitions - Terms and Conditions - Amended August 2023](#)

As a basic overview remember that all images must have been taken by the entrant. All image manipulation processes and techniques are eligible (unless otherwise stated eg. For nature, and use of AI) provided that:

i. *All images* originate **from a photographic process** and not computer-generated graphics.

ii. *No elements or material from other sources* such as royalty-free material and clipart are allowed.

iii. entrants **own the copyright to every element** of their submissions.

h) If *a person and or property* are included within an image, the photographer accepts responsibility for ensuring that any **necessary permission** has been obtained.

What does this all mean?

In practice, the most important thing is **your personal integrity**.

Plus understanding what is **not** owned by you, and often this is where there is some misunderstanding.

As an example, a 1 – 5 pixel straight “stroke line” around an image created by the computer is acceptable. However, a “frame” or “border” created by a programme such as DXO/Nik, Topaz, Snapseed, Luminar, Photoshop etc is not acceptable. Someone else has created that border – not you. Of course, there is nothing to stop you creating your own decorative border and using it as an overlay.

The same applies to textures; if you have photographed the texture yourself, you can of course use it over your image however you wish. If, however, it is a **texture provided within a software programme** such as Topaz, Luminar, Snapseed, Nik, Photoshop etc **then you cannot enter this into a club competition**.

Creative brushes are another area where caution must be applied. If you are using any brush other than the standard round brush to actually add an element to your image eg. Splatter, or grass, or clouds, then this **brush must have been created by you – you cannot use the brushes (or actions that create such effects) if you have not created this all yourself**.

Sorry to “harp on” we just do not ever want to fall foul of Federation rules and be disqualified – **we are reliant upon YOU and YOUR INTEGRITY**.

Federation News

WCPF Kingswood Salver

Selected images for our panel on the theme of “The Cloth Mills of the Five Valleys”

1. *St Mary’s – Annie Blick*
2. *Belvedere Mill – Mark Halling*
3. *Lower Mills Reflections – Trish Bloodworth*
4. *Dunkirk View – René Cason*
5. *St Mary’s Mill – Roger Matthews*

Judging takes place Saturday 11th November 2023 at Bovey Tracey

New Members

Let’s extend a very warm welcome to all our new and returning members:

- **Paul Martin (returning)**
- **Carol Barchou**
- **Brian Dinnage**
- **Malcolm Marner**

We look forward to seeing your work over the coming months.

Small Reminder about image sizes

1) Competition

Just a quick reminder that competition images need to be sized at max 1600px wide x max 1200px tall. You can go to any size within these parameters. *Please upload to the correct section you are entering – either print or digital. Read the instructions.*

2) Club nights

Again, images ideally sized at 1600px wide x 1200px tall.

3) Galleries

If you post to any of the Club galleries via the website these are limited to 800px wide x 800px tall. This is a restriction set by the website not us. Richard is trying to get this changed, but it is all about storage capacity.

Within the sizes above you can have any size you want. So as an example, an image of 1060 x 1200 would be perfectly fine for a competition. Etc.

Question corner>>>

Q: Can I use Generative AI in my photography?

The simple answer is what are you using your photograph for? If it is for **Club competition** then it is a resounding “No” however, if it is **purely for your own use**, then of course you can.

A: For Club competitions, Richard Atkinson has added an extensive guidance note within our competition terms and conditions, so you may wish to familiarize yourself with that before editing any image that you may use in competition. Please also note this document may alter as our Federation (WCPF) and the PAGB (National body) update their guidance and rules further.

Open no 1 – Judge’s Choice Print



“The profile” – Jeff Wilson

Open no 1 – Judge’s Choice Digital



“Wet qualifying” – Richard Atkinson

*“Imagination makes you see all sorts of things”
— Georgia O’Keeffe*

2023 competitive thoughts...

The new season starts – Open 1 was well supported with 25 print entries and 58 digital. Graham Walton from the Midland Federation was our judge for the evening and provided some excellent, thought provoking critique. Congratulations to the high scorers and thank you to all who took part.



“Neville Staple” – Glyn Heskins

OPEN No 1

Kerrin Malone - Slot Canyon

Prints

Judge's choice – Jeff Wilson – The profile (20)

Scores of 18 - Digital

Trish Bloodworth - Please look back

David Hunt - Twin Burners

Roger Matthews - Breakwater Break

Jeff Wilson - I would give you my heart

Digital

Judge's choice – Richard Atkinson – Wet
Qualifying (20)

In addition to the above:

Don't forget you can view all the entered images on our website, and if you are logged in using your member log in you can also leave comments should you wish to.

Scores of 19 – Prints

Roger Matthews – Bow Fiddle Rock

Richard Atkinson - Sula

Scores of 18 - Prints

Guy Bryan - Textures

Roger Matthews – Llansteffan Castle

Take a look at the Programme on the website for the upcoming deadlines for the next competitions. Remember to be selected for “DPIC 24” you need to have an eligible entry in the competitions before December 2023.

Scores of 19 – Digital

Gary Canning - Follow the Leader

David Hunt - I'll be collecting pollen

coming up >>>

October 2023

5th October – Member night “Frame within a Frame”

12th October – ZOOM Meeting “Minimalism with Tony Worobiec FRPS”

17th October – Back to Basics – Image Critique

19th October – Speaker Ashley Franklin –

“From Pursuit to Passion to Profession” 26th

October Competition – Nature

Full details appear on the website under Programme

Next Competition

28th September 2023

NATURE

Hand in and enter by 5th October

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International or National (BPE) Photographic Salons/Exhibitions!

Mark Halling – India (including Diploma)

Trish Bloodworth – Malmo & Pacific Atlantic

Francis Mrhida – Pacific Atlantic

René Cason was shortlisted in the Outdoor Photographer of the Year competition

CONGRATULATIONS

Please send details of your acceptances or other external “wins” to secretary@stroudcameracub.co.uk
Apologies if you are missed here – please let me know so you can be added next time.



“Scottish Loch” – Malcolm Marner

ADVANCE WARNING

- IMAGES YOU WILL NEED! ○
 - Monthly comps
 - Member nights:
 - Frame within a frame
 - Nature but not “Nature”

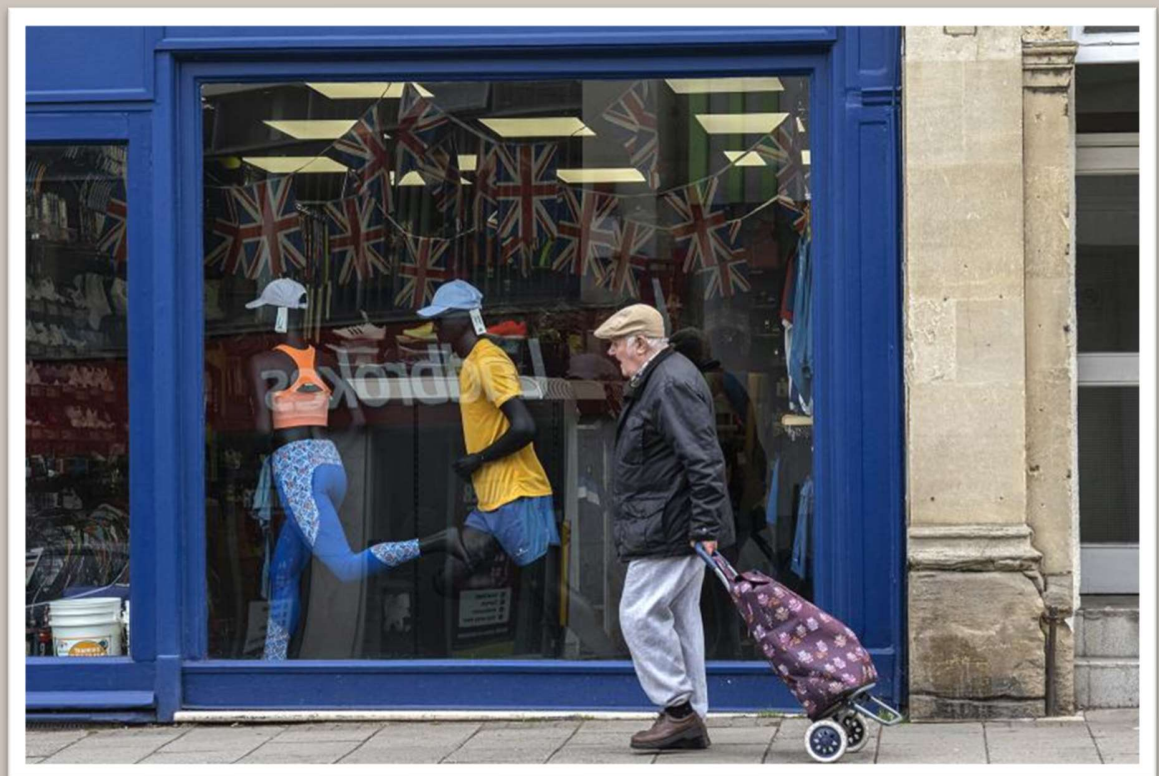
UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

High Scoring print



“Textures” – Guy Bryan

High Scoring Digital



“Follow the leader” – Gary Canning

*“It’s one thing to make a picture of what a person looks like, it’s another thing to make a portrait of who they are.”
— Paul Caponigro*

More High Scores from Digital



"Twin burners" – David Hunt AFIAP



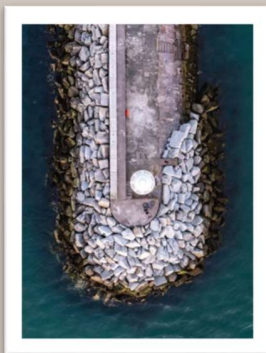
"I'll bee collecting pollen" – David Hunt AFIAP



"Slot canyon" – Kerrin Malone



"Please look back" – Trish Bloodworth EFIAP



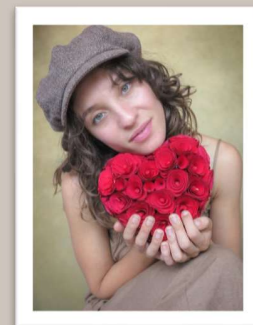
"Breakwater break" – Roger Matthews



"Leading the trail" – René Cason AFIAP



"Stormy weather" – Francis Mridha



"I would give you my heart" – Jeff Wilson

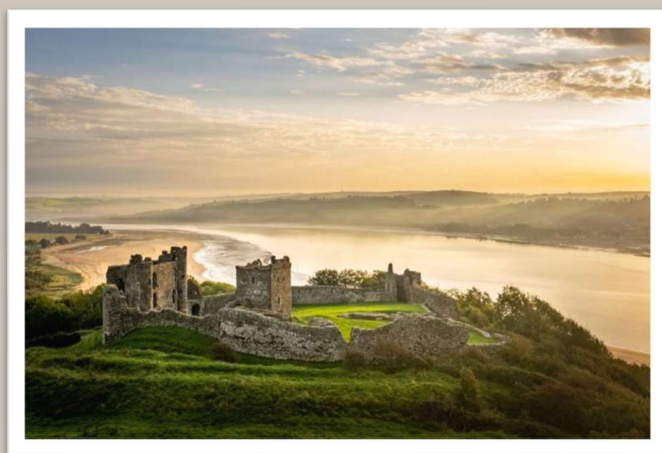
High Scoring Prints



"Bow fiddle rock" – Roger Matthews



"Sula" – Richard Atkinson



"Llansteffan Castle" – Roger Matthews

See more on our website: www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk

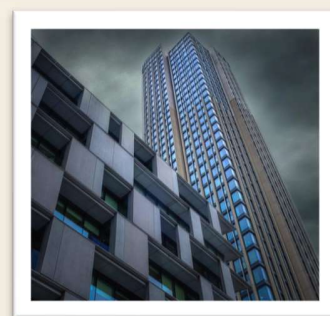
More from the competition



"Mother & Cubs" – Leslie Holmes



"Pandora" – Geoff Perrett



"South Bank Cyan" – Amie Blick



"Sinking sand" – Steve Vines