

ANNUAL BEGINNER IMAGES

I must let you know how much I enjoyed looking at your club's images. A great variety of subject matter and techniques. I especially enjoyed the beginners efforts, and as a judge I hope to be positive and helpful to this group in particular, hence the fact that all entrants (through merit), have all been awarded with commendations in some way.

Hope we all get back to some normality sooner than later, and that all members of camera clubs can get out and about shooting images asap.

Regards,

Neil

1st PLACE - W S HAMILTON TROPHY - REFLECTIONS IN THE CITY.

Highly Commended - GOING HOME

Highly Commended - HIGHLAND RAINBOW

Highly Commended - LOCKED OUT

Commended - GANNETS

Commended - MORNING REFLECTIONS

Gannets. Good example of wildlife behaviour. Well exposed image, as its often very difficult to maintain details in the plumage of white birds, but no problems here as there is no burn out at all in the birds despite the very bright sunlight hitting them. When you look closely, you can see the gannet on the left is offering a small twig or blade of grass to the other - a typical mating gesture.

Liked the out of focus grasses on the left, and the birds are both nice and sharp. Possibly try to lighten up the very dark blue of the sea just a little.

Going Home. Loved the atmosphere in this image. Great sky, and the strong silhouette of the cyclist stands out well against it. Excellent composition to place the main subject there, giving space in front of the bike. File size was smaller than normal so check on your file dimensions (96@1600)

Highland Rainbow. Well lit autumn scene- love the variety of tones and colours and the rainbow was the icing on the cake. Great viewpoint above the centre of the river giving a strong lead in to the image, then the eye is taken through to the distant hills and stormy sky. Good front to back sharpness and excellent composition too.

Locked Out. A study of colour and textures and enjoyed this image very much. The photographer has moved in really close to isolate one part of the doorway and has succeeded in showing some interesting detail and textures. Well done for seeing the potential here.

Morning Reflections. Calm and reflective image which really shows the quiet beauty of the scene. Nice detail throughout the image, and framed well between the trees on either side. The angle of light falling on the trees in the centre of the image acts almost like a floodlight, and contrasts well with the darker cloud formation in the sky. Pleasing and relaxing image, well composed, sharply focussed and well exposed. Well done.

Reflections In The City. Intriguing image - really made me look closely and dissect it in detail! Loved the concept - and the lighting, composition and exposure is excellent. Any image which makes a judge work hard to assess how it was taken is worth praising!! Loved it and was my top image in this section.

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ANNUAL INTERMEDIATE IMAGES

1st.PLACE - TOM DICKSON TROPHY - SIKH ELDER.

Highly Commended - Blue Visitor.

Highly Commended - Did You Just Take My Photo?

Highly Commended - Son Of Zulu.

Commended - Fred

Commended - Gunslinger.

Commended - River Reflections.

Commended - The Wilderness..

A Boy And His Dog Street scene with loads of interesting parts to it. Happy young boy busking with his dog. Fills the frame well and enjoyed all the bits and pieces around his feet. Only wish the wee dog had looked at the camera too! I wondered if the image had been cropped as I felt parts of the image were starting to pixelate slightly. A happy and interesting image all the same.

Blue Visitor Excellent nature image of the Blue Tit probably - waiting his turn to come into a feeder! Excellent sharpness where it should be and the details in the feathers is superb. Liked the out of focus background and would suggest a slight desaturation to take down the strong tones just a little.

Coca Cola Girl Excellent composition with the scene full of detail relating to the title. Perfect summer picnic and the saturation seems to be harking back to the days of Fuji Velvia, or Kodachrome film in full technicolour! Possibly just a little over the top for me but i see what the photographer is trying to achieve. Out of interest, I tried converting this to mono and it worked really well (in my opinion!)

Cool Reflection In contrast to the previous image, this image certainly does give a quiet, peaceful feeling as you view it. Very simple scene with little to distract from the composition and a really nice reflection. However, I felt it was a little flat in regard to the lighting, and would boost the saturation just a little to lift the green tones and darken the sky in the reflection. Also, possibly crop most of the top part of the bright sky which then makes the bridge structure the focal point of the image.

Dead Ringer. Liked the title and the coils - suits mono conversion. Not quite enough in the image to hold attention for too long. Maybe try to include more of the coils on the left of the frame.

Did You Just Take My Photo? Great outdoor/street portrait. The subject is certainly engaging with the photographer, and viewer is unsure as to the reaction of the young gentleman!! Great out of focus background makes the subject stand out really well. Eye highlights important, as this gives energy to the face.

Fly Away. The photographer has thought hard about their positioning and composition here. Liked the silhouette effect of the statue with the strong sun directly behind and so the light on the leaves of the tree contrast well against the dark figure. Good to see a photographers input working well here.

Fred. Another strong portrait - gritty and detailed. The photographer has captured the character and almost a desperation in the subject and the cold weather conditions add to this. Possibly add a little more contrast to the image to create a wider range of tones from dark to Light.

Gunslinger. A strong, well lit portrait. Liked the tight crop and the front lighting - great eye contact. Excellent detail in all areas and sharp where it should be. The inclusion of the smoking cigar interested me, does it add to the portrait or divert attention from the face? Couldn't make my mind up.

In Love. Wedding bower set in woodland. Very bright lighting on the subject - maybe tone down the highlights slider to show detail in the bright dress of the bride, and also darken exposure slider slightly. Liked the central position of the main subjects, but possibly a square crop in closer to the couple and bower would make them larger in the frame. I also liked the dark foliage around the top and edges of the frame

Morning Mist. Nice variety of twisted trees against the mist and the background recession works well. I felt the large bough in the top right corner was very heavy and maybe a crop to the more central part of the image would be compositionally more appealing. Image suited the mono conversion.

My Shop. Bright and cheerful image of a happy shop owner. Good detail in the lady and I liked the surrounding notices and boxes - she seemed a friendly person, so perhaps you could have asked her to be doing something with her pot and wares rather than standing. Liked the colour tones of reds and yellows, contrasting well with her clothing.

River Reflections. Low light photography and lots of interesting detail and colour to look at here. Taken just when there is still some light in the sky at twilight and this has given the sky a nice deep blue tone which is reflected nicely in the river. Liked the reflections and the starburst effect on the lights due to shooting at an aperture of f16 or similar. Just be careful about getting the bridge level as it seems to be tilted slightly downwards from left to right.

*****Sikh Elder. Top class portraiture at its best! Everything about this image is outstanding - great technique, impact, colour, character, and eye to eye contact. As you look into the eyes of the Sikh, you feel as though you are seeing into his soul. My top image.**

Son Of Zulu Excellent wildlife portrait. The head-on pose and position of the lion in the frame shows the animals strength and power even though he has a fairly calm expression. I liked the detail in the face and the unwavering stare. Great detail in the mane too which helps frame the face well.

The Hilton. Low light architectural image - liked the composition with the converging lines diminishing throughout the frame giving strong diagonals from left to right. The tones and colours work well too. However, the highlights are very bright and losing detail - this can be easily adjusted post processing by selecting the highlight areas and darkening with the levels slider or the highlights slider - there is detail in there. Good detail in the early evening sky too.

The Wilderness. Despite the difficult, unhelpful light, the photographer has managed to squeeze out some nice detail in this typical mountain landscape. Filling the front of the frame with some strong foreground interest, and the tree leading us into the mid distance colour of the moorland and bracken,

a well composed landscape has been achieved. Some detail in the sky has also added to the scene, so well done to the photographer for persevering and coming away with a pleasing moorland landscape.

Waiting Reflections. A candid street scene, using reflections and colour to produce an interesting image. The photographer has achieved an intriguing image which asks a question of the viewer - "How did you take that?"

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ANNUAL ADVANCED IMAGES

1st Place - Presidents Trophy - HAYLEY.

Highly Commended - LARBERT LOCH.

Highly Commended - PICTURE FROM AN EXHIBITION.

Highly Commended - SUNSET SAIL.

Commended - AUTUMN GLORY.

Commended - DISTINGUISHED

Commended - LOCH ACHRAY SUNRISE.

Commended - THE SHORELINE.

A Saunter Through the Cloisters. Well balanced composition and liked the textures and tones of the stonework. Figure in just the right place and walking into the image. The girls clothing also blends nicely with the overall scene.

Autumn Glory. As the title suggests, all the colours of a well lit autumn scene. The strong tonal range of the foreground and mid-distance gives depth to the scene and then recedes to more neutral tones into the distance. Foreboding sky contrasts well to the sunlit areas in the image. Enjoyed this a lot.

Blackmount. Classic Rannoch Moor scene never fails to impress! Nice composition and contrast between the snowy hills and autumnal tones on the island. Also enjoyed the reflections on the calm loch. I would suggest reducing the saturation a little, as the lighting is fairly harsh and perhaps bring out some details in the shadow areas of the island. I would suggest a crop just above the mountains to draw the viewer more to the reflections as in a Colin Prior panoramic!

Climate Control Industrial architectural image and certainly comes across as such. Good range of tones and suits mono conversion. I felt there was just a little too much included in the scene and a crop of a third from the left and into the vertical pipes on the right would benefit the image.

Coffee Time. Straight-on portrait with the girl peeking over her coffee cup. I liked the colour and cheeky eye contact, but would have liked a little highlight in her eyes to really lift the eyes and bring out the character of the girl. Maybe crop just below her left elbow?

Dahlia. Nice detail in the dahlia flower head and liked the bright yellow colour which really stands out. Good sharpness throughout and especially important in the stamen. Possibly like to see some detail or texture in the black background.

Dave's Shades Trying something a little bit different here, and it works to a degree. Interesting face and character and I loved the hair. Technically, the left side of face is shaded and this could be lightened a little to balance the brighter right side. I enjoyed the reflections in the shades!

Distinguished Straight-on portrait of a characterful face. Well exposed and lighting has been spot on to prevent any burn out in the very bright hair areas - well done. Great smile and the eyes are bright and smiling too - great eye contact with the photographer and viewer. Sharp throughout.

Glenlee Image Effective lighting on the scene and good detail on the boat and the museum. I felt the composition was rather cramped, with parts of the Glenlee going out of the right hand edge and at the reflections at the base - a wider angled lens would have avoided this. Good sharpness throughout.

Goldeneye. The bird fills the frame well and good detail in the black feathers. It's always very difficult to get detail in both black and white plumage but the photographer has managed pretty well here, although I would darken the highlights just a little to show more detail in the white feathers.

***** Hayley. Top class studio/fashion shot. Perfect pose, simple lines, model looks comfortable and at ease, lighting creating beautiful skin tones, high key exposure expertly handled - my top image in the advanced category.**

In For A Heat. Another strong male portrait. Great eye contact and the slight tilt of the head helps the composition. Face sharp in all areas and enjoyed the warm light falling on subject.

Jackie. Quizzical pose and subject engenders interest in the portrait. Again, good studio technique both in lighting and composition. Suits tight crop.

Larbert Loch. Beautiful early morning or late evening landscape. This is all about subtle tones and quiet reflections. Technique of long exposure and panoramic composition makes this image one to be admired and appreciated.

Loch Achray Sunrise. Another excellent morning image taken at that special 'Golden Hour'. The three boats give the main point of interest, and the mist hanging above the water gives wonderful atmosphere. Nit-picking here, but I found the trees on the left, just a wee bit heavy.

Picture From An Exhibition. Really interesting image which I enjoyed very much - the more you look into the image, the more you see! Great tonal range throughout and the shapes and colours complement each other well. The inclusion of the figures adds scale and interest. Well seen and composed.

Reflecting On What Lies Ahead. Strong candid portrait, wonderful face and the story indicates that he is intent on getting somewhere fast, or to be meeting up with someone soon.....I didn't feel the reflection helped the image as it is quite indistinct, possibly crop to a portrait format one third into the right?

Stormy Morning. Atmospheric image of a stormy Cuilllin sky and choppy sea. The boat gives a strong focal point and its bright colours stand out well in the stormy light. good sharpness throughout and a really dramatic sky.

Street Performer. Mono conversion with a splash of colour - works to a certain extent. Great character and expression, but fussy background tends to distract from the performer. Maybe try darkening down the stonework to almost black to let the performer stand out more.

Sunset Sail. Excellent post sunset colour in this image, and this rendered the boat to silhouette while there is still some shadow detail in the industrial background scene. Liked this juxtaposition of calm relaxation against the turmoil of industry.

The Shoreline. Credit to the photographer for creating an interesting composition by getting really low down with a wide angle lens to produce a detailed and spectacular coastal scene. Wonderful sky and interesting foreground gives depth to the image. I felt the foreshore was slightly too warm and would have used the temperature slider to cool it down a little to make it more neutral. Good sharpness from front to back.

Two Cherries. Intriguing high speed flash image with the cherries dropping into water creating splashes and droplets. Well done for attempting this difficult technique, and certainly an interesting result. Possibly slightly underexposed, as parts of the cherries are in deep shadow - try lightening the shadows to show more detail. Loved the droplets and splashes though!

War Dance. Fantastic traditional robes and dress a study of colour and textures. Loved the detail in the dancer and excellent sharpness throughout.

Possibly bring the bright highlights down a little (check your histogram) and this shows up even more detail in the feathers - also maybe give the dancer a little more space especially on the left side.