

Croydon CC Newsletter – 4 July 2021

Chairman's Viewpoint

At our last meeting, we held the competition for "DPI of the Year" with members entering their favourites from those they submitted to this season's DPI competition. A welcome reprise for some of the best images we have seen over the past year. Steve Brooker won the Mees Trophy with "Siberian Jays", Emmanuel Muscat placed second with his unusual shot "Leap in the Park" and Frank Edwards was in third place with "Fairy Glen". Steve and Frank also each had an Honourable Mention, as did Bett Atherton. Congratulations to everyone on their successes.

In last week's newsletter, I wrote about photography being a two or three stage process to produce the final image. Images are seldom best viewed as shot and benefit from adjustment. A JPEG from the camera might look OK initially, but can often be improved. Changes, usually subtle, frequently reveal the potential for the transformation of an average shot into a good one. That said, if an edit is obvious, it has probably been overdone.

No photo will have a universal appeal nor is the photographer necessarily the best person to assess their work. This is where it becomes subjective. Some years ago, Mark Bauer, who was our Wratten Lecturer this season, told me how he had spent some time processing a shot. Having tired of it, he was about to press the delete button. At that moment, his partner walked in and said how much she liked it. It went on to become a best seller for him.

Judges offer their assessments and while absolute in terms of an individual competition, they are not final. During our online meetings when we have held inter-club competitions with two judges, we have sometimes witnessed some considerable differences in their verdicts. Neither is it unusual for an entry our "image of the year" contests to succeed when it had not done particularly well the first time. Judging is not a perfect process but offers something we cannot do for ourselves - gauging our work from another's viewpoint.

In last week's competition, as well as selecting the winners. our guest judge Paul Adams advised on simple improvements to some shots. This week, Marcus Scott-Taggart will be doing something similar but with live demonstrations using Lightroom. It is a good opportunity to learn more about an important aspect of our photography.

Club Matters

7 July 2021 – Image Critique with Marcus Scott-Taggart

Marcus will review our images and demonstrate suggested enhancements by editing them in Lightroom.

21 July 2021 – Barbecue

Dependent on the government's forthcoming announcement about ending Covid-19 restrictions on 19 July, we hope to hold our traditional end of season get together two days later. Further information will follow once the position becomes clear. Our thanks go to Wally and Hilary for offering to host the event.

Links for PhotoEntry and Instructions

<https://compent.photoentry.uk/compent/>

<http://croydoncameraclub.org.uk/WebSiteArchive/PhotoEntryGuidance.pdf>

Mike Farley (Chairman)