

3rd Open Pdi 2019-20 Advanced Scoresheet

To be held on 19 March 2020

Round 1	Round 2
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ROUND 1

1	Drat..Dropped it <i>Brian Clark</i>	16	
2	Money Money Money <i>Carol Watson</i>	19	
3	A Tow in the Snow <i>Gordon Watson</i>	16	
4	The Nantlle Ridge <i>Graham Barker</i>	17	
5	From the School of Adversity <i>Kuli Virdee</i>	16	
6	Holding up the Train <i>Martin Christensen</i>	14	
7	Brimham Rocks <i>Mike Halstead</i>	17	
8	Foraging Wild Red Squirrel <i>Sheila Giles</i>	15	
9	First Light <i>Simon Ray</i>	14	

ROUND 2

10	Flying Grey <i>Brian Clark</i>		18
11	Sunrise on Podere Belvedere <i>Carol Watson</i>		20
12	Lindisfarne Dawn <i>Gordon Watson</i>		20
13	The Royal Naval College and Observatory at Greenwich <i>Graham Barker</i>		17
14	Robin on Twig <i>Kuli Virdee</i>		15
15	View from Black Fell <i>Martin Christensen</i>		15
16	Combe Gill <i>Mike Halstead</i>		14
17	Hemisferic Christmas Illuminations <i>Sheila Giles</i>		19
18	Heroes or Villains <i>Simon Ray</i>		18

Judge's Comments below:

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General Comments

As expected the standard of submissions in this section was quite high, with several outstanding images achieving maximum, or near maximum, marks. Sadly, a number of images displayed the kind of errors that I wouldn't normally expect to see in the Advanced section of a competition, but, with minor 'tweaking' these images could gain higher marks in future competitions.

(1) Drat...Dropped It!, 16 Marks

A pleasant Natural History shot of a Heron fishing (without success!). Sharpness and exposure are OK, and there is good detail throughout the image. The rock at bottom left provides a good base to the image, the background is muted and the image clearly shows the bird's habitat.

(2) Money, money, money..., 19 Marks

An excellent portrait of this coloured 'gambling man'. The image is pin sharp and beautifully exposed. We have eye contact, catchlights in the eyes and a tilt to the eyes, all of which add to the image. Presentation is generally good, but the image might have benefitted from a slightly tighter crop at the right.

(3) A Tow In The Snow

A very atmospheric, almost 'high key', snow scene. Sharpness and exposure are OK, and there is good texture and detail throughout the image. The image is also nicely presented.

(4) The Nantlle Ridge, 17 Marks

A beautiful piece of Landscape photography depicting magnificent snowy mountain scenery. Sharpness and exposure are OK, and there is some reference to the Horizontal Thirds (Two thirds land, one third sky). The figure in the image is nicely placed on the Lower Left Cardinal Point, and a strong lead-in is provided along the ridge lines. The image also has an excellent sky.

(5) From The School Of Adversity, 16 Marks

A powerful Monochrome portrait of a mature lady. Exposure is OK and the image is sharp centrally but softening at the sides. We have eye contact, catchlights in the eyes and a slight tilt to the eyes. Facial detail is very good. However, the image is let down by poor presentation – her hat is cropped at the top of the image, and there is too much empty space at both the left and right. This powerful portrait would work much better in Portrait Format.

(6) Holding Up The Train, 14 Marks

Wartime Weekend on the East Lancs Railway with the crew of 34092 'City of Wells' distracted by a female on the platform. This candid monochrome portrait is nicely presented

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in Portrait Format, sharpness and exposure are OK, and very conveniently we have the bonus of a group of 3 figures in total. For me though, it fell down because of the rear view of the lady in the image. It would have been nice to see her face, so a more side on view of the group and the loco might have been better.

(7) Brimham Rocks, 17 Marks

Excellent shot of one of the many weird rocks at Brimham Rocks. The image is pin sharp and nicely exposed, with very good detail throughout. The image is also nicely balanced with the foliage at each side creating a constrained viewpoint which leads the viewer's eye upwards to the main subject.

(8) Foraging Red Squirrel, 15 Marks

A nice piece of Natural History work. The squirrel is sharp and well exposed, with good fur details and a catchlight in the left eye. The background is muted but still slightly distracting. This image would have worked better in Portrait Format, thereby reducing the amount of empty space at the left and right.

(9) First Light, 14 Marks

Lindisfarne Castle at Dawn. Sharpness and exposure are OK, and the castle is nicely positioned on the Left Vertical Third. There is reasonable detail throughout the image, but also too much empty space at the right. Overall, the image comes over as being a bit dark / 'heavy'.

(10) Flying Grey, 18 Marks

A grey mare racehorse leaping a fence / hurdle. This is an excellent 'action' shot, pin sharp and beautifully exposed. A fast shutter speed has clearly been used to kill the motion of the horse in flight, and the clumps of turf flying from its hooves. There is good detail throughout the image, but the white barrier at the base is somewhat distracting.

(11) Sunrise On Podere Belvedere, 20 Marks

A magnificent landscape image with superb, atmospheric light. Sharpness and exposure are spot-on, and there are some beautiful shades of recession in the upper half of the image. The image also makes good use of the Horizontal Thirds (Two thirds land, one third sky). An outstanding image.

(12) Lindisfarne Dawn, 20 Marks

A very impressive Landscape image with gorgeous lighting on a cold and frosty morning. Sharpness and exposure are spot-on and there is good detail throughout the image, with the boat shed and the horizon nicely offset from the centre of the image. Superb!

(13) Royal Naval College and Observatory at Greenwich, 17 Marks

A well-balanced, and well-presented, monochrome, panoramic image of these historic buildings. Sharpness and exposure are spot-on and there is excellent detail throughout. The image also makes good use of the Horizontal Thirds. Lovely image.

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(14) Robin On Twig, 15 Marks

A pleasing Natural History image, let down by poor presentation. The bird is sharp and well-exposed with good feather detail and a catchlight in the right eye. The twig forms a good base to the image and the background is suitably muted. However, there is altogether too much empty space at the right, which is adding nothing to the image. Crop into a Portrait Format for greater impact and potentially higher marks in future competition.

(15) View From Black Fell, 15 Marks

A pleasant Cumbrian landscape image with some nice dappled lighting. Sharpness and exposure are OK, and there is good detail throughout the image, with the white cottage nicely positioned on the Lower Right Cardinal Point. For me, the main problem is presentation, as I feel that a beautiful sky, above the snowy mountain peak, has been cropped too heavily.

(16) Combe Gill, 14 Marks

A pleasant, but rather 'busy' landscape image. Sharpness and exposure are generally good, there is good texture and detail throughout the image, and the stream /beck provides a nice diagonal line through the image, from front to rear. I also feel that the lighting is somewhat harsh and cold.

(17) Hemispheric Christmas Illuminations, 19 Marks

'Bon Nadal' – Happy Christmas!. A striking and eye-catching image of this hemispherical building with lots of bold colour. The image is sharp, and a tricky exposure situation has been well-handled. There is good detail throughout the image, with only a slight hint of flare from the spotlights in the lower third of the image.

(18) Heroes or Villains?, 18 Marks

The debate about the role of Bomber Command in World War II still rumbles on, all these years down the line. This eye-catching image of Lancaster Bombers and an RAF crewman is a mix of monochrome and colour imagery, and is nicely executed and nicely presented. In my eyes those guys were heroes 55, 573 of them made the ultimate sacrifice for their King and country!. —