



Eastwood vs Victoria Camera Club
2020-21
Advanced Division

Special thanks to Larry Breitkreutz
and his Scottish counterpart for
judging this competition

This friendly competition between the Eastwood Photographic Society of Glasgow, Scotland and the Victoria Camera Club celebrates its fifteenth anniversary in 2021. It was initiated by VCC former member Douglas Bain who moved to Victoria from Glasgow.

Each club submits thirty images, fifteen by novice/intermediate members and fifteen by advanced members. Each image is evaluated by two judges, one appointed by each club. The judges assign a mark out of 20 for each image and add their comments as well which adds another level of interest.

This contest has always been very competitive. Over the last fourteen years, Victoria has squeaked out victories five times, Eastwood eight times with one year resulting in a tie. It's a no holds barred competition, which means that anything goes. Here's your opportunity to submit your best two images for one of our most important and fun external competitions.

While there are no scores indicated in this document there are scores attached to each image. These scores are available to authors upon request. Please email externalcomps@victoriacameraclub.ca

There are no prizes or awards given out. It's all about club bragging rights! Don't forget to put it on your calendar for this season

The final score for 2020/21 was:
Intermediate - Eastwood 504 to Victoria 482
Advanced - Eastwood 499 to Victoria 503
Total: Eastwood 1003 to Victoria 985

Eastwood Wins! - Congratulations!



"Frog on a stick"
author: Suzanne Huot

Canadian Judge

Nice contrasting colors. Good expression. Sharp focus. Action would strengthen the image

Scottish Judge

Really liked this shot. Had a lot of impact. Closer crop so using the rules of third both eyes on vertical thirds and top horizontal third. Crop to just below feet and it becomes a very close powerful image. Toning down highlights required on the green stick on which the frog is perched Slight lightening of shadows would have helped underside of Frog. Not concerned as the background was black. Helped so Frog at its best and style was a throw back to 80's style for some nature shots



"Chilko cub"

author: Christine Hutchins Gallagher

Canadian Judge

Nice action. DOF well handled. Light drama would strengthen the image.

Scottish Judge

Another very good nature shot. Liked the water and how bear fills frame and catching the salmon was also good. I thought it was too contrasty and some annoying highlights in back ground need to be addressed. Around eye needs lightened up and lighten up shadows. Unfortunate under side of the salmon's mouth was so light. Again as pictorial competition this could have been darkened. Possible desaturate background a little. Selective highlights on rim lighting on bear and on water would have just lifted it more. still an excellent shot



"Black magic"

author: Jill Turyk

Canadian Judge

Lovely low light image. Good expression. Action would strengthen the image

Scottish Judge

I fully understood the style and what you were trying to do. I just felt I wanted more detail and sharpness in the cat. the black areas worked well. However for me the cat was not lit properly to bring out detail and therefore looked soft and lacked depth. For me a black and white has to be stunning to compete in a largely colour digital competition.



"Focussed"
author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Nice crisp focus on the biker. Good exposure. DOF challenge, grey area along the bottom is not crisp.

Scottish Judge

Well seen and timed action shot captured at the right time coming out bend. Background is a distraction so by darkening down it just makes rider stand out , Lighten shadows to get more detail in rider and bike. Lighten eyes and helmet and darken middle part of visor then selectively lighten bike as it has been over darkened. The blue and white kerb is distracting so needs darkened as does the tarmac below bike to hold us in pictures well. Very slight trim to right hand side creates more lean and puts edge of helmet on LHS vertical third. These points are all very minor. However will make difference



"Rattray Head sunrise"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Lovely light. Image would be strengthened with more dynamic composition.

Scottish Judge

Lovely shot. I like mood and general composition. I did feel the sky was too contrasty and overworked so I would have reduced contrast in top half of picture and a slight trim. Gives better balance. Otherwise a great landscape as it had lovely mood and lighting



"The weed dance"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Hilarious capture. Good action. DOF well handled. Some light drama would strengthen the image.

Scottish Judge

Another strong nature image with great composition and told a story and I liked falling weed. I felt this was again too contrasty. So lighten shadows, reduce highlights. Slight vignetting would have held us in more. Background is competing so I would have reduced and darkened background. I know with lighting the way it was then background is part of picture. However this is not a nature competition and it is distracting so you need to ensure birds stand out



"Winter grasses"

author: Kim Smith

Canadian Judge

Nice clean scene. Exposure is well handled. Image would be stronger with more DOF

Scottish Judge

Minimalist and composition good. Story told as well yet I thought lighting flat and little depth to the picture. Felt I wanted more sharpness throughout. Liked the composition. Not as strong as other pictures



"I wish I was a one man band"

author: Norman Marcotte

Canadian Judge

Graphic shadow detail, with significant story interest. Moving the figure up onto the light tile would strengthen.

Scottish Judge

Strong composition, title created the story. Different interpretation. Liked the tiling effect and shadows. Very clever and a Black and white that competed well against the colour images by using good B and W technique to its best



"Lily 1"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Lovely melancholic image. Image would be strengthened with more attention to the light.

Scottish Judge

Wrong title. Need to relate to the depression of looking out a rainy window. On to the image. All look a bit contrived. Model does not look engaging and hands especially right hand looks too big compared to head. An opportunity lost and does not look sharp where it needs to be.



"Left alone"

author: Richard Webber

Canadian Judge

Good exposure and DOF. More story interest would strengthen.

Scottish Judge

Another strong black and white . Treatment suits subject. Shadows need lightened to show detail of shed. Window light needs darkened down and slight vignette. Also consider a light sepia tone throughout to give more feeling of age. Lighting is good and overall composition pleasing as well a technique to bring out detail. You could almost feel touching the carriage and getting wood splinters in your hands



"Coal tit"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Nice capture. Light is very soft. Light drama and/or bird action would strengthen the image

Scottish Judge

Yet another nice nature shot. Lovely diffused background composition and technique. Someone who understands the subject. I would slightly increase highlights and trim a bit off bottom and rhs. Overall exposure just seems too dark.



"Peek a two (little grebe)"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Lovely composition. Could use a bit more light.

Scottish Judge

Nature continues to be very strong in this competition with another cracking shot. Strong lighting. I would have cropped bottom so bottom horizontal third at bottom of duck at slight trim rhs and lhs so vertical thirds on head of duck and rhs young. Also lighten shadows and remove highlights in reflections in reflection



"Just sittin and watchin"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Nice pose, great colors. Some light drama would strengthen the image.

Scottish Judge

I just loved the expression, pose and treatment along with enough space to allowed picture to breath. Treatment was wonderful and the title said it all. Just a picture that all comes together so well. Very high standard



"December in Torridon"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Good composition with interesting subject. Reduced exposure on over blown snow patches would strengthen

Scottish Judge

like the foreground trees and this gave scale. Overall I felt it was flat and needed more contrast to make image pop and some of the snow was burnt out so reduce highlights and selectively dodge and burn. Just lacked depth which could have ben easily added. No real place for eye to rest or travel through for me so compositionally not as strong as others



"Jacana on the move"
author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Crisp focus. Great DOF. Background pleasing. Good action. A bit of light drama would strengthen.

Scottish Judge

well caught, lovely background, fantastic details. Story told. Captured this type of bird perfectly



"Grizzly cubs playfighting"

author: Steve Smith

Canadian Judge

Great action. DOF is well handled. Crisp focus. Light is a bit harsh.

Scottish Judge

Another great nature shot with good lighting and a background that did not distract too much. background area between cubs needs darkened down as light streak. Lighten shadows to bring out detail on fur at bottom. Work on the highlights to bring out detail and dodge and burn round eyes on left bear to lift it more. Captured the moment very well. Also reduce highlights and then bring highlights back selectively. Water at bottom needs darkened as eye drawn to it. slightly tighter crop as well on left and Right hand side. As pictorial and not nature you can carry out all the very minor changes. Still a great shot



"Mist on golden pond"

author: Scottish

nadian Judge

Nice light with good composition. Unfortunately, the fog splits the image into two images.

ottish Judge

Nice atmosphere and mood with lead in from pier. Found the reflection To right of pier distracting and detail in the pier posts. Duck highlight and duck did not add to picture so remove. make boat house lighter and also the mist in top half, then darken bottom half highlights and lighten shadows in bottom to bring out detail in pier columns. This balances the picture more which we want in landscape. . The tree going over pier was a distraction and reeds to right hand side did not add anything a slight vignette would not have done. The pier is too big so slight trim off bottom to bring top of pier on horizontal third would have helped



"A new hope"
author: Scottish

nadian Judge

Good exposure. DOF well handled. Nice catch light in the eyes. More dramatic pose would strengthen.

ottish Judge

Lovely b and W and liked casual slightly uninterested style. touch of disinterest and tonal range which worked as story told. Had a modern fashion feel about it. A lot of work went in to the clothes as they all worked well together. Need shadows lightened slightly to bring out detail in Jersey and hair. Very Competent work



"Attack force"
author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Hilarious action. Good DOF and composition. Excellent exposure. Strong story

Scottish Judge

loved everything about this, very high quality. The middle bird at the back needs toned down or even removed. Everything else perfect for me



"Mordor airport - international terminal"

author: Mark Sicherman

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Canadian Judge | Well designed fine art image, with a lot of mood and mystery. A bit more light on the figures needed |
| Scottish Judge | Composite that does not work for me. Clever but not interesting and not well done. Photographer had tried to be too clever and it did not gel for me as an overall image. Too much going on and not subtle enough |



"New years day 3:00 am"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

It's all in the story here. Great DOF & focus. The drama is in the pose and the force of the story

Scottish Judge

Idea good and lovely model. However all too clean and badly staged. Mascara needs to have run, there needs to be spilled wine or Champagne on floor. The clothes fine if not too clean. Shadows need lightened and it needs to look as if in hotel or house rather than a studio with one piece of furniture. It is certainly not a new years day at 3am in Scotland. Needs to be thought through more. Also detail lost in hair and dress so lighten up shadows. Also not sure of the dominant above model approach either



"Dancing a duet"

author: Nick Delany

Canadian Judge

Beautiful capture. Crisp focus. Good DOF. Dynamic range is a bit of a challenge.

Scottish Judge

Captured the moment well, back ground not distracting and highlighted water captured well. Can lose 25% left hand side, so vertical third on the upper eye of top mammal . Water under the lower mammal burnt out so get more detail into this area and lighten up shadows and reduce contrast slightly to get more details on skin. Again as pictorial you can do this



"Hummingbird 3"

author: Gordon Griffiths

Canadian Judge

Crisp focus on foreground. Getting the second wing in focus would strengthen.

Scottish Judge

Yet another cracking nature shot, certainly well caught as a difficult bird to photograph and the position of beak is excellent. background well diffused. Light background around wing to top left corner is very unhelpful and if toned down or replaced with the non distracting green background helps the picture. This would take time . However it does work if you do it and it is a pictorial competition so allowed to make these improvements



"Broken dreams"
author: Steve Lustig

Canadian Judge

Good exposure and DOF. Some light drama would strengthen the image.

Scottish Judge

lovely executed picture with subtle detail and colours. A female or male nude positioned in bath facing away from you or or even someone reading paper with suit and bowler hat on would have lifted this picture for me as it is a very good background for a picture. even without person a strong image which tells a story with apt title



"Too wild in the sand"
author: Leah Gray FCAPA

Canadian Judge

Great capture of this magnificent animal. Image could use a bit more exposure.

Scottish Judge

Another strong B and W. Liked the position and movement of horse. Would have liked more space below horses feet and dodging and burning throughout to bring out detail and depth in picture as presented tonal range is not there. lighten up horses head and neck, lighten up grasses and trim bit off left hand side and remove stray strand that is highlighted. Slight vignette as well. At the moment sky too heavy so dodging and burning will help balance the picture



"Atlantic puffins billing"

author: Mike Wooding

Canadian Judge Good capture of these puffins. Image would be strengthened with more DOF, sharp foreground.

Scottish Judge nice picture of puffins. Feels a bit soft and lacks detail in areas although eyes pin sharp. Background fine and not distracting although composition not strong
Tighter crop just allows you to focus more on birds so crop all round. Just not as strong as other nature shots in this competition



"Jellyfish"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Very interesting subject. Great composition. DOF is a touch too shallow, bright light in the foreground distracts

Scottish Judge

Really strong image and compositionally strong. Lighten shadows brings out more blue and gives depth to the water which is a bit too black at the moment. Reduce highlights shows in main area shows more detail as well. Selectively lighten up area of tentacles would help as well as the vignetting has been too strong. Still a great shot



"Morning mist at loch Ard"

author: Scottish

Canadian Judge

Tranquil image. Would be stronger if some of the background were a bit more distinct.

Scottish Judge

modern house kills the atmospheric morning does not work for me. Sky too light and no interest in foreground or middle. Compositionally weak in a vertical format with too many areas competing so image does not flow for me



"San Francisco"

author: Joseph Finkelman

Canadian Judge

Interesting idea with this fine art image. Image would be stronger with a more developed story line

Scottish Judge

interesting but nothing telling me its San Francisco and not really understanding what it is all about. Dummy looking out, highlights at edges and dominated by uninteresting brown. I do like abstracts. This however tested me



"Synchronicity"

author: Kathryn Delany

Canadian Judge

Good capture of this action. Image would be stronger with a bit more DOF to sharpen second actor

Scottish Judge

not as strong as other similar shot as top third needs removed as not at all interesting. Once that is removed good capture of moment. Same things apply to make image stronger as other one we saw earlier. Lighten shadows reduce contrast and highlights. Slight vignette. not always good to put similar shots in as they will be compared in a competition

A big thank you to all our members for their participation and their fantastic images!

Images sorted alphabetically by image title

Mike Wooding	<i>Atlantic puffins billing</i>
Jill Turyk	<i>Black magic</i>
Steve Lustig	<i>Broken dreams</i>
Nick Delany	<i>Dancing a duet</i>
Suzanne Huot	<i>Frog on a stick</i>
Steve Smith	<i>Grizzly cubs playfighting</i>
Gordon Griffiths	<i>Hummingbird 3</i>
Norman Marcotte	<i>I wish I was a one man band</i>
Richard Webber	<i>Left alone</i>
Mark Sicherman	<i>Mordor airport - international terminal</i>
Joseph Finkelman	<i>Sanfrancisco</i>
Kathryn Delany	<i>Synchronicity</i>
Leah Gray FCAPA	<i>Too wild in the sand</i>
Kim Smith	<i>Winter grasses</i>