



Photography Club – Judging Report

Month: June

Date: 9 June 2026

Judge: David Barnes

Overall Winner

- **Title:** *Kalk Bay Depiction*
- **Photographer:** Peter Dewar
- **Mark:** 14/15
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Top 3 – Open Category

1. **Winner:** *Kalk Bay Depiction* – Peter Dewar 14/15
2. **Runner Up:** *Exorsized* – Hilldidge Beer 13/15
3. **2nd Runner Up:** *Honeybee on Purple Pink Flower* – Riaan van den Berg 12/15
- 4.

Top 3 – Set Subject Street Photography with a Cell Phone

1. **Winner:** *Lunch Time* – Carima van den Berg 14/15
2. **Runner Up:** *Office with a View* – Hilldidge Beer 13/15
3. **2nd Runner Up:** *Coffee and Bike* – Peter Dewar 12/15

Full List of Entries – Open Category

Silent Authority – Carima van den Berg – 12

Nice portrait of an elephant, sharp, good separation to the background on the left, depth of field well done. To improve: bring down the brightness on the animal. Give it a bit more space on the left and right edges. If you have more space below, see if it looks better with the eyes on the top third. Right now, it feels heavy at the bottom. Clone out the white spot on the right next to the ear.

Reflections – Ester Du Plessis – 12

Nice dynamic city scape. The green, yellow and blue work well. To Improve: I'm not convinced you need all the space / sky on top and bottom. See if you like it better cropped. There is a black spot just above the reddish building, I would remove that as well as the dark spots in the water. It's called housekeeping. Be careful with the contrast slider as your sky looks a bit too blue.

Windward Path – Hannes Vaa Der Walt – 10

Interesting pic of the windfarm. I like the road disappearing into the trees in the foreground. The trees are nice and sharp. To Improve: some editing issues with the sky having a blue cast as well as a halo on the horizon and behind the left tree in the sky. It would have been nice if the windmills were sharper and not so hazy. The composition feels a bit uncomfortable with the big rock in the middle and the windmills behind. The strongest part of the image is the bushes in the front, but the story is behind.

Exorsized – Hilldidge Beer – 13

absolutely love this image. The long, tall window, the stark contrast between dark and light, the small plant right at the bottom. The plant actually makes this picture, such a strong story. To Improve: Maybe pull the bottom line straight, but it's also ok just as it is.

Misty fight – ISSI POTGIETER – 11

Nice action shot captured. Great the way they are framed by the bushes. To Improve: bring down the bright sky with the highlights / brightness slider. I know you titled it "Misty", but you can dehaze the pic in post. A bit more space on the right if you have it as you have cropped his bum. Would have been stunning if that elephant in the background wasn't in the shot. Next time ask him to move. Just kidding.

Nuy landscape – Neels Beyers – 11

I really like the different shades in the mountains; the sun's rays are almost fairy tale. To improve: Try cropping out the sky just above the bottom of the clouds. The clouds have a strange brown colour, and they are detracting from the wonderful mountains. Also crop the foreground a bit, it is a nice anchor, but do you need so much.

Slangkop Lighthouse – Peter Dewar – 12

Really nice moody picture, the lights in the building are inviting, the blue cast on the building gives the impression of a moonlit night. To Improve: The blue cast looks a bit unnatural. I hate to nitpick but..... You want us to believe the building is at night, but the clouds and sky are in the daytime. Also, the lighthouse wouldn't light up the clouds like that. Instead of lightening the area to look like a light beam, rather draw the white in with a reduced opacity pen. and now to really be anal, on a clear night you don't see the light beam, only if it's a bit foggy.

Bumble bee on small flower – Riaan van den Berg – 12

Great capture, wonderfully sharp, catch light in the eye. To improve: I flipped the image 90 deg to the right, try it and see if you like it better. You can also crop a bit of the dead space on the left.

Autumn – Sandra Snyman – 9

Nice and sharp with a nice spout of water splashing on the round rock. To Improve: The picture is very busy, try a shallow depth of field to blur the background. Bring down the highlights slider to get rid of the bright leaves and sky peeking through. Again housekeeping, I would have removed the branch in the foreground. maybe added some more leaves.

Opera House – Wynand Muntingh – 10

Nice and sharp capture, well done, sky works with the random clouds. What a wonderful building to photograph. To Improve: Not sure you need the tree on the right. Also, the tree right in the middle. It would have been so much better if you had walked in front of the tree and steel post. Sitting on the stairs with a wide angle would produce some amazing shots. Time of day is important as well. The cone is getting a bit lost in the roof / wall behind it. Sitting on the stairs would also get rid of the white buildings behind trying to steal the show.

Shattered but Strong – Carima van den Berg – 12

Nice arty pic has impact. The overlay is well done as is the cracks and the background. To Improve: I would try bringing back some detail in the hair. I'm not going to comment much more because it is an arty pic and that's what you wanted to show us. It irritates me when I send in an arty pic and the judge applies photographic rules to it. Does it work or not, each viewer will have his or her own opinion.

Building material – Ester Du Plessis – 12

Nice capture, well done to get the bird in flight, and with stuff in its mouth. Nice and sharp. To improve: blow up the pic after editing to make sure your selection got all the spots. Between the legs and claws there is dark blue spots.

Tranquility – Hannes Vaa Der Walt – 12

You can actually feel the tranquility in this image. So nice and peaceful. A wandering road also has a calming effect. Lighting well handled. To Improve: I would have cloned out the small white rectangle in the middle of the trees. What would have raised the pic a notch is if you had a person or a bicycle on the road.

Just in case – Hilldidge Beer – 10

The life ring is nice and sharp and there is drama in the sky, no blow outs in the whites. To Improve: The life ring is quite dominant in the photo, and it becomes the centre of attention instead of the story of the sea and the life ring. Maybe if you had taken a step back to also show a bit more of the sea. I like the story, just maybe a bit too close up. There is a white halo on top of the buildings, especially visible on the tower in the middle. You can pull the buildings straight on the right.

Baboon spider snack – ISSI POTGIETER – 12

Nice story here. Blacks well handled, lighting is good and you can see the eye. Yes, I know, judges harp on about seeing the eye. I like the crop as well. To Improve: The story is in the beak, the spider and the legs. A larger depth of field would have had both legs in focus. The spiders' legs are blurred which is fine as it shows he was trying to escape.

Rainbow near Worcester – Neels Beyers – 9

Interesting story, cars driving in the rain with a very vibrant rainbow. Did you find the pot of gold? To Improve: I feel the contrast was pushed a bit too much as the colours look unnatural. If you have more space on the right, I suggest leaving more road in the crop so that the car has somewhere to drive into. As is, the composition is weighted to the right. A crop on the left at the start of the rainbow would also help balance the picture. There is a halo around the trees in the middle. Not sure if that's from darkening the sky or lightening the trees.

Kalk Bay Depiction – Peter Dewar – 14

I absolutely love this pic, well done on a great composition. Love the effect on the boats and buildings behind. They almost look like they have a spider's web over them, the dark shade adds to the intrigue. To Improve: I don't have much to add. Just one thing, try flipping the pic horizontally and see if you like it better that way. People think I'm nuts when I say this, but we read from left to right and when the boat is facing right, it allows your eyes to look at the houses, then the boat and then flow out of the pic to the right. With the boat facing left, it blocks your eyes going behind to the houses. This is your pic and I really don't want to tell you what to do with it but try it and see if you agree with me.

Honey Been on Purle Pink flower – Riaan van den Berg – 12

Great capture of the honeybee. Nice and sharp on the face and wing. It doesn't bother me that the other wing is out of focus because it is dark and not prominent. To Improve: I'm not convinced you need all the flower on the left. Try cropping it where it starts losing focus so that the bee is still on the right. I suggest toning down the very bright purple petals, it will help the bee stand out more.

Palace – Wynand Muntingh – 12

Nice record shot of the palace. The picture is sharp and I enjoyed the colours. To Improve, bring down the brightness a bit. The building is leaning to the right. It's OK if you don't want to straighten the building on the left and the right, but then the middle must be vertical. I think you can crop the tree in half on the left as it makes that side quite heavy. I would also crop out the flowerpots on the bottom. They look a bit uncomfortable the way they have been cropped. As Alta Oosthuizen famously comments "Hulle is Ookie in nie, Ookie Uit nie". Don't ask me to translate that. When taking building pictures, try from different angles instead of just straight from the front.

Set Subject – Street Photography with a Cell Phone

Lunch Time – Carima van den Berg 14

Great example of street photography. Wonderful moment captured. To improve, maybe cut off a bit on the left, like halfway through the second window. It will make the lunch time sleeper more prominent.

Selling my Food – Ester Du Plessis 12

Also, a nice street capture, tells a story. To improve, try cutting the top off just above the pole that holds the red cloth, the white squares above are quite bright and pull your eye up there.

Office with a View – Hilldidge Beer 13

Wonderful street scene. Love the boats and the people walking around. The tone of the picture has a lovely mood to it. The coffee cup, laptop and writing pad all tell a story. What do you see in the picture? I see her looking down at her phone, reading a WhatsApp message from her Italian lover, her coffee getting cold. To improve: Again, I would cut off the left building, your story is the lady on the balcony, you don't need all the space on the left and you have cut the people in half in the left corner. Crop just after them, and down from the top under that heavy black beam. The pic could do with a bit more contrast, but I actually like the mood as it is.

Visitors in BoKaap – Neels Beyers 9

Wonderful vibrant colours with lots of activity going on. To Improve: For street photography, it would be nice to have a single subject doing something. The colours, although very vibrant, look a bit unnatural. Careful of the halo in the sky around the buildings.

Coffee and Bike – Peter Dewar 12

I see a nice and peaceful Sunday morning coffee on the pavement. The picture is sharp and has nice lighting and colours. To Improve: I would have liked to see a bit more on the left as the umbrella is cut off. The composition feels a little bit uncomfortable which is aggravated by the white vignette. Try reducing the vignette and see if it works being a bit more subtle. Street photography benefits from a story and I don't see a story in this one. Someone sitting there drinking coffee would have been great.

People Walking – Wynand Muntingh 10

Interesting harbour with a lot of expensive yachts. To Improve: As with the previous one, lots of people walking around is not a strong subject. Look for one individual doing something different. Straighten the horizon, it is leaning down on the left. The trees and the lamppost are blocking you going into the picture, try a different position to get a clear view of your subject. The picture is a bit bright, try adding some contrast or reduce the brightness.

The Uber is Here – Ester Du Plessis 11

I wonder if they got to eat the ice cream before it melted. Interesting story though. To improve: It would have been nicer to see more of his face, maybe from the side even. There are some editing issues in his clothes where you have lost detail.

Street in BoKaap – Neels Beyers 11

I enjoyed this one as the colours jump out at you and are vibrant. The pic is nice and sharp front to back. To Improve: Be careful with the editing as the buildings have a halo above them in the sky. Maybe a bit more space on the right so that the car is not propping up the border. I don't feel the people are a strong enough story in the picture.

Domestic Arrivals – Peter Dewar 11

The lighting on the subjects is well handled, and the pic is sharp in the front. It has a story as well. To improve: The bright areas behind them and on the left are demanding your attention. You can darken them a bit and that will make the two people stand out more. For a more dynamic pic, take the pic from a lower angle instead of at their eye level, which would have given you stronger leading lines from the floor as well.

Middle of the City – Wynand Muntingh 11

Nice pic of a city scene. Sharp throughout. It is a good example of an urban documentary image about the relationship between people and the urban environment. To Improve: Try to focus on one specific subject. Wait for someone to do something interesting. The building in the middle is straight, but the left and right ones are pulling in. This can easily be straightened in post processing, but in this instance, it is not bothering me too much. Time of day has the sun overhead, so it is a bit bright. Morning or afternoon shots have softer lighting and interesting shadows. Looking closer, there is something happening on the right with the woman in the white dress and all the pigeons, maybe there was a story there. Your picture did get me wondering why pigeons are the dominant birds in a city. Like how they got domesticated.