

# BCC E-News

Basingstoke Camera Club E-mail Newsletter

Issue No.2 January 2007

[BCC Website](#)



Welcome to the second edition of BCC E-News, the Basingstoke Camera Club E-mail newsletter.

This E-Newsletter will be published half way through each month which, combined with the paper BCC News, will give you a twice-monthly roundup of what is happening in the club.

It will also include helpful articles on such important issues as colour management, digital photo editing, composition and so on which are designed to help you understand and improve your photography.

Each month there will be a series of links to articles about the monthly theme. This month this is **Digital Black and White**. These articles are already available on the web, the links are provided to hopefully take the work out of browsing for suitable information.

*Peter Malcolm, Editor*

## Links to Digital Black and White articles

<http://www.betterphoto.com/forms/QnAdetail.asp?threadID=9482>

<http://dpfwiw.com/b&w.htm>

<http://www.ephotozine.com/articles/>

<http://www.photos-of-the-year.com/articles/>

<http://photography.about.com/b/a/257781.htm>

[http://www.northlight-images.co.uk/digital\\_black\\_white.html](http://www.northlight-images.co.uk/digital_black_white.html)

<http://www.ddimages.co.uk/photoshop%20tutorials.html>

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

There was a small, but pleasing, submission for Photo of the Month.

Even then it was a difficult, if not long-winded decision, to choose the POTM, but here it is. The others are also published.



Southwold Pier by Mike Farrow



Christmas Cards by Cath Farrow



Two Pines by John Buttress

If you would like to submit a photograph for Photo of the Month please use the Feedback button above and send in your image.

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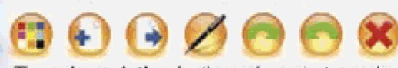
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**WANTED - Your photography for the club website!**

The BCC website offers all members the chance to publish their photographs on the internet absolutely free. So why wait, do it now! If you don't like the current format it can all be changed. Contact your friendly editor for more details.

**Contact details:**

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As a parting shot, a few thoughts, compiled from musings of one or two members, after the last print round.....

## In Defence of Judges

Whilst we are contemplating the meaning of the latest “6” our new masterpiece has just received in tonight’s competition, it must be remembered that without judges the camera clubs of the land, or indeed, the world, just could not function.

We owe judges such a lot. These brave souls come to places far from home, usually alone, to find themselves amongst strangers, who may, or may not, be friendly (but always civil), in the certain knowledge that only a few people will remember them fondly after the evening is over.

Yet without them we couldn't progress as amateur photographers. Is it not judges who point out our faults? Who tell us we should have taken just a part of the scene, or should have moved six inches to the left, or should have cropped out “all this bit”....?

But surely they must be daft. Don't these people realise how much effort it took to photograph that lamp post, how much the missus was trying to hurry me up, or how well I'd done just to get any shot of the dog/cat/budgie as the little wotsit just wouldn't keep still!!!

.....

Hold on a minute! I know you, dear reader, will sympathise with the above. I'm sure we've all had bad thoughts about the poor old judge at some time, but just take a minute to consider this.

The judge, whether male or female, young or old, and with however many letters after their name, are just one human being doing a job. Yes, they may know lots about photography, but they are only human. They can have bad days. They may hate sunsets. They may love photos of one subject to the exclusion of all else. We've had judges who were colour-blind, who hadn't taken a photograph for years (due to their work as a judge!), or even who have never used a computer.

We've had judges for a Nature competition who didn't do that sort of photography, but they were the only one free on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when the competition was held.

Now what this all means is that judges have a difficult job to do, faced with 50 or 60 images per session. Is it any wonder they say some daft things? But why, knowing this state of affairs, do we, the humble entrant, take what they say so much to heart? Why, when we can clearly see that the judge has made a mistake on one photo, do we believe every word they say about our own precious image?

Yes, we know that a lot can be learnt about the niceties of composition, balance etc by listening to the judges comments, but it may well be a mistake to take it all too seriously, to get hung up on one thing they criticise, and to forever avoid that one circumstance.

Surely we should be concentrating on the photography we enjoy. By all means learn all you can from judges, but don't hang on their every word. Your views on the artistic side of photography are just as valid as theirs. They may know more about the technical side, or not as the case may be, but don't let what one person says, on one evening amongst all the mists of time, change the way you approach your hobby. If you do you may become a slave to the “rules” of composition, or lighting, or whatever. Listen, evaluate, and discard as required. But don't stop learning. Most of it is good and worth hearing, but plough your own furrow!

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