

15th January 2019: - Pegasus Trophy. Cowdray Hall Thurrock RM20 3BJ.

Held in the large Cowdray Hall the layout consists of 6 Tables positioned around the periphery allowing each club to have two representatives. 1 Table was not used as 1 club did not turn up. Upon arrival clubs are requested to draw lots for table and position (All rather serious). Clubs are referred to by their allotted "letter" and not their name so that there is no influence towards the Judge. All Images must have a Black Background to be 1600x1200 (same as 2018) – but some clubs did not adhere to this (More about that later). Note that Loading to the stick/ejecting the stick can take more time that you expect, and some background light would be advantageous to allow easy manipulation. (Mobile Phone torch used in this case). **The Naming of the Files is not important as these are not used at any point.**

Photofold Representation: Jim Brewster (Publicity) and Dave Hussey (Ext Comp Secretary).

Judge: Paul Raddon. (Who I have met at the Club and at Steampunk events)

Results: The competition is run as a knockout over 10 rounds. Each round requires an image from one of 10 pre-selected Subject groups, Landscapes, Action etc etc. The Club winning the round can then select the Subject group to be used for the next round (Sort of Tactical Play). A Subject group cannot be selected more than three times. Thus each club requires at least 3 images available in each of the 10 Subject Groups, but at the end of the competition only a total of 10 images will be used – 1 in each of the rounds. Top Score of 10 – Last year we got 0!

The Final results for the Clubs, with the number of winning rounds in brackets were:

Club A Thurrock	(3 + Tie Breaker)	- Winner
Club B Dagenham	(0)	
Club C Benfleet	(3)	sort of joint 2 nd place but I think we got it in the end!
Club D Photofold	(3)	- 2nd Place (In my Humble View)
Club E Barking	(1)	

As you can see at the end of the main competition, we were in a three way tie with Thurrock and Benfleet which led to a Tie-Breaker round – the subject of which was "Off-Beat". We just lost out to Thurrock who were announced the winner, but it is fair to say from the judge's comments, that we came a very close second and at one point I thought we had just done enough to win it outright. So well done to all those members who supplied images to any of our competitions which allows me to select these for the external competitions. It was good to see Thurrock win, they host this every year and Benfleet had won on 4 out of the previous 5 years so it was good to see someone else grab the spoils.

We were also unlucky because I followed the rules and added a Black background to all of our images. This gave us a disadvantage in "Portrait" format images, and I will try to get this resolved before we compete again next year.

1 Action: 1st image a bucking bronco up against a Fairground Waltzer image. The Judge didn't like the advertising billboards behind the Bronco but selected the image anyway. Next was an average "White-water" canoe shot – The Judge lives by Lee Valley White Water centre so hates all the added traffic, but actually selected that image go forward. Then it was the Turn of "Photofold's" Wingwalker image to go forward. The Judge thought this occupation was the definition of Stupidity – and he personally knew the Wingwalkers – sharpness and detail good, but he throws us out. Next in an image of the Red Arrows against a dark sky which loses out. Result was that the average White-water Canoe shot won (Travesty!)

Photofold Entry: [Wingwalkers - Dave Hussey](#)
Winner: [White-water Canoe \(Benfleet\)](#)



2 Natural History: A Greib vs a Red Fox, Grieb pretty good nice eye detail, but a bit small in the frame and no little young on its back. The thin unhappy looking fox is carried forward. Next a Grey Owl (Bloody good shot!) in perfect flight with great colour – it rightly wins through. A Yellow beetle on a Purple flower is next – judge doesn't like the faint Blue line around the flower (Bad post Processing I think) – It loses. Next Photofold's Dear in tall grass - Deer captured well, definitely shown in its environment but didn't like the lighter bit at the top of the frame. OWL Wins (And it was a good shot – sorry Paul!)

Photofold Entry: [Ever Watchful - Paul Sillence](#)
Winner: [Owl in Flight \(Thurrock\)](#)

3 Landscapes and Seascapes: 1st image is a bridge with a great reflection against a misty brownish Balloon panorama. Balloon Wins. We are in next and he Judge Questions if "Seascapes" are allowed (Of Course they are – I wouldn't make that silly a mistake!). Our image is also competing tonight at Photofold as "Slow Boat to China" but it proves "Minimalist too far" and is ejected – Sorry Chris! Next a Geyser picture with geothermal activity tries to unseat the Balloons. Although Judge says a bit of a bright Sky it beats the balloons. Next a field with Nice Clouds (Pretty average to my eye) and sure enough balloons prevail and Win.

Photofold Entry: [Slow Boat to China - Chris Wooldridge](#)
 Winner: Sulphurous Icelandic Geyser - (Barking – Their only point)

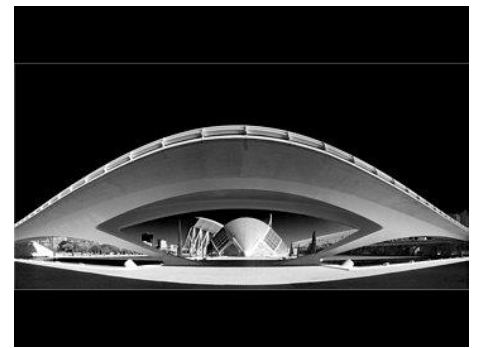


4 Flower Study: First one is a Photo of a Blue Lilly against a Vertical format (Very Big on the Screen – obviously didn't add a Black Background) Yellow Lilly. Blue Wins – next up a Chrysanthemum with sprayed water droplets – nope not good enough - next is an image of a plant in various stages of dissection – Very different and interesting format – judge likes this! – Blue Lilly is ejected. Next Photofold "Yellow Rose of Texas" also competing at the Photofold event on this same night. Commented that the lower leaf is a bit too bright, and that he couldn't quite work out why he couldn't see any of the leaves in the reflection. Dissected Flower wins"

Photofold Entry: [Yellow Rose of Texas - Tina Reid](#)
 Winner: The Dissected flower Submission - (Thurrock).

5 Architecture: A rather weird distorted Valencia B&W goes in for Photofold, up against a rather boring "Architects Garden" shot. The Judge doesn't like Architects and especially their rather pompous "Gardens" the image is ejected forthwith! We are lucky though because he comments on our image that he can't see the "Edges" of the building and that bothers him. Next up is a very average picture of Reykjavik cathedral – straight out! Next a British Museum shot. Interesting viewpoint with figure on stairway but with a rather annoying white stripe on one edge – out! Finally a really abstract shot that no-one in the room can work out – probably the entrance to a toilet block somewhere. Out it goes, leaving only us left in! – Result!

Photofold Entry: [Valencia B&W - Dave Hussey \(Winner\).](#)



Coffee Break: 9:00 they will have to speed up for the 2nd half!.



6 Seascape Landscape: Photofold are first, we lead with Slaters Bridge which the Judge comments has been shot with the perfect Shutter Speed - Spot on (Well Done Steve!). Against a rock formation which it beats easily. Then up against a Crepuscular ray on a seascape which also gets ejected. Then it is Rock Formation with a lot of lead in (Looks like it may be a Harrington shot to my trained eye) this wins and knocks our "Bridge". Final image is a Gardenscape and a bridge through 2 trees, doesn't even trouble the scorer. Rock Wins.

Photofold Entry: [Slaters Bridge - Steve Stringer](#)
 Winner: Rock Formation (Benfleet)

7 Portrait: A bald lady with beads on her head against a gangster lit from the side a very faint Triangle in the background of the Gangster shot fails it and baldy gets it by a hair. Next an average picture of a Seek (Projected very small – obviously another club who followed the rules to their disadvantage) Out!. Then an ok Girl Studio portrait – Out. Finally Our image which is a bit of a gamble on my part. I put in a steampunk picture because I know the judge is a Steampunk. Probably not the right thing to do – we are projected very small, and sure enough out we go!

Photofold Entry: [Steampunk - Dave Hussey](#)
 Winner: Bald Bead Lady (Benfleet)





8 Street Scene: We are in the first round again – Brick Lane Guitarist against Millennium Bridge. People on bridge slightly blurred, good cloudy sky, but some people with no legs which the Judge doesn't like – we're through (And rightly so!) Next a shot from above showing a City square with cars and ant like people, not good enough – Guitarist Stays, But then the picture of a New Orleans Funeral Procession pops up, complete with pallbearers wearing sunglasses and a Brass Band in the background – we're Toast! The Final Cutty Sark picture doesn't get a look in.

Photofold Entry: **Brick Lane Guitarist – John Westwood**
Winner: **New Orleans Funeral (Thurrock)**

9 Landscape Seascape: First up Sea defences vs a church in a field. Religion wins the first round. Next a Minimalist Boat on the horizon shot – straight out. Then it's Photofold's Petrified Forrest at Sunset – Jim liked it so it's in! Religion takes second place. Finally it's a Beachscape – Photofold prevails!

Photofold Entry: **Petrified Forrest at Sunset - Dave Hussey (Winner)**



10 Child Study: In goes Paul Silences winning "Putan Smile" vs a girl in a garden playing with bubbles but looking like she is sulking. No Contest. Next A sleeping Baby – No Contest. Then a Grumpy Child – still no contest. Finally 2 Asian Children very colourfully dressed in Red and White, standing in front of Red and White flowers so they don't stand out at all. Needless to say that Putan is the class of the Field. Well done Paul, and Photofold have clawed back 2 wins in the last two rounds and we are on a Roll!! But the official competition has just finished (**\$\$*8!!)

Photofold Entry: **Putan Smile - Paul Silience (Winner)**

10 Rounds has yielded No Clear winner with a 3-Way Tie. The Decider will be between these 3 teams and the Subject will be Offbeat! Photofold Enter the Stem and 6 dewdrop shot from Steve Stringer which is really well appreciated by the judge. There is Silver Bald Woman (Seems to be a theme this year) with some coloured smoke (Possibly a Harrington from Benfleet) and finally a Street entertainer "Water Balloon Wrangler" from Thurrock.

All 3 images get some fantastic comments and they are all very good, with the Balloon Wrangler of Thurrock just pipping us at the final post. The stars (and Judge) have almost aligned for us and we have lost by the narrowest of Margins! Well done to everyone who enters our competitions and allows me the wealth of work which I then have the enviable job of selecting from, I know I used a lot of my own images this year and I will try to distribute better in future events.



Dave Hussey: - Photofold External Competitions Secretary.
16th January 2019.