**St Ives Mono competition**

**Maritime**

**11 Chinese Fishing Vessel**

Without the dock cranes and the barge in view, this image could be timeless, I am happy with the cranes in shot their softness created by the haze helps to give you some scale, the barge is a bit of distraction. I do think you could have added some contrast to give a bit more depth to the image. I always use curves first then in Preset I select increase contrast, it made a lot of difference to your image.

**12 Mono Seascape**

This image leads you around the cliff with loads of detail, the exposure you have used does help to soften the sea and helps to emphasizes the ruggedness of the cliff. Plenty of depth and loads to look at especially on the far side.

**13 Lifeboat Coxwain**

A very calm sunny day to what the RNLI is used to, a nice record shot of the Coxwain. The reflection in his glasses gives you an idea of what he is looking at, you are drawn across the image, but the cloud formation stops your eyes from going out of frame.

**14 Up in the Rigging**

Although this is a very busy image, your eye is drawn to the two blokes framed between the thick ropes, it helps as they both have dark trousers on, then you follow pole along to the main mast and then its Hobsons choice to where you wish to look. I like the slight slant of the mast which gives a feel of movement. I don’t mind the cropped mast at the top as I feel there is enough to look at to stop you from being drawn out of frame. You chose the right day to take this as the clouds have given you a pleasant soft background.

**15 Rope and Blocks**

The rope draws you into the image and around the blocks, it’s a shame you cropped the top of the image, as the rope looks as if it is returning down the pully which would have stopped your eye from going out of frame. When I have seen a load of discarded items, I struggle to see anything, you have managed to select a small area that works very well.

**16 Little Christina**

A classic image of St Ives bay, I think as the background is very busy the boats are a little bit lost they need to stand out more, maybe if you used a wider aperture to throw the buildings out of focus it would make the boats more prominent, with the title you have used it tells me, that is the boat you want me to look at first. I do like the long shadows of the boats they help to give the image depth.

**17 Retired**

Oh!!! What a shame you cropped the bottom and lost part of the book and picture frame, which I think is a very important part of the image. Yes, it’s a record shot but it tells a story about the couple and their hard frugal life. I would get rid of the ceiling down to the wooden frame and give it a small bit of vignette.

**18 Lizard Lighthouse**

What a great mackerel cloud formation, it does draw your eye away from the lighthouse as it’s the brightest part of the image, I think you were trying to use the wall as a lead in line but I do feel it is a bit of a barrier, maybe if you stood back a fair bit, the wall would not of been so dominant and allowed you to see more of the other buildings which are all linked to the lighthouse. The chimneys look interesting.

**19 Plymouth Trawler Admiral Gordon**

A similar shot to the Chinese Junk. Portrait view works for this image, the trawler stands out from the background nicely, I am glad someone was standing on deck, for some strange reason, it gives some scale to the image.

**20 Two Portholes**

I like the idea of this, no problem with the even number of holes, love the peeling paint, I think you could of gone in closer or cropped just below the cracked line, then your eyes are not drawn down to the bottom half which is not needed, keep the black bit on the top (straighten it) then give it some wellie with contrast, just experiment. I tried it at 90% contrast, it shows all the shadows under the peeling paint.

**21 Storm Brewing**

Love the dramatic storm clouds, they make the yacht stand out in the image. the sea looks quite calm but there must be some wind to blow the sail out at that angle. I am happy with the amount of space above the yacht as the clouds have loads of different shades of blacks and greys to keep you interested.

**22 St Ives Gig**

The low wide-angle view works here, you are drawn down the side of the Gig towards St Ives, then up through the clouds and back across to the Gig. I am happy with the buildings leaning in, but it is possible to straighten them up quite easily. The pattern of the stone floor compliments the image it looks as if it is creating reflections on the Gig as well. Well spotted.

**23 Beached Hastings Fishing Boats**

The low angle works on this shot, lots to look, it looks to me that Patrica could have been a more interesting boat to photograph with the ragged flags and the patterned hull, my eye keeps being drawn to her away from the others. The low angle does work, I like the incline of the shingle beach. It looks like you caught the image just as the sun came from behind those white fluffy clouds, which complement the image.

**24 Heading Home**

Looks like a brand-new boat, nice and shiny. Shows movement due to the waves, stands out from the background. Again, with the fishermen on show helps to give scale. Possibly could do with a bit more space around the boat, more so on the front to give room to move into. You caught the seagull in the right place.

**25 All Home Safe**

A lovely image, holiday makers all gone home, leaving the local fisherman/woman to secure their boats, with the empty pier in the distance. I wish you had given about half inch more on the left, so the posts could lead you up to the fence without going out of frame, which would then take you to the pier. Great cloud and tractor/boat formation, it all works together.

**26 Sr-95**

The rope leads you up to and into the boat once you have looked at the mesh pots you are drawn along the bank up to the landscape in the background. The fishing net and frame in the foreground works well to hide the bland concrete patch. I think if you were here early evening, you would have got a totally different image. I feel the image is overexposed a bit.

**27 Godrevy Gap**

I feel your eyes are drawn straight to the lightest part in the image, which is where the lighthouse stands, I think if that is the intention then the lighthouse needs to be sharp, but once you start to look at the rocks, there are lots to see in the shapes and forms, several places I can see animal heads. A slight vignette on the base of the image is needed.

**28 Pully Block**

Love the contrast between the black and white ropes, slight angle of the block works well, there has been a lot of hours wrapping the black rope, such a shame you cropped it, I would like to have seen about an inch or two more on the top. The two ropes are linked where the rope on the right goes around the block and through the black rope, I guess it comes back down where the two are joined by the piece of string. The out of focus sea has enough detail to know what it is. Well seen.

**29 Not Seaworthy**

Lots of peeling paint creating different shapes, it does look as if it is overexposed slightly, but it can be sorted out, add some contrast and BANG what a difference it makes, (as you can guess I tried it). I like the angle you have used, and the number 23 is nice and bold, lots of texture all over the image.

**30 St Ives Coast Watch**

Let’s get the annoying bit out of the way, why didn’t you straighten up the left-hand side, you don’t need to see the door as it draws your eye away from the action, In Photoshop, I select image (Ctrl A) Select edit click on free Transform (Ctrl T) right click on image then click warp, then top left corner drag to the left until door has gone, then the point that is still connected on middle left drag that left until the arial post is straight. I like the position of the coast guard, looking up to the helicopters, not sure if there were six in the air at the same time, even if you added some in, I don’t mind as it occupies the dead space in the sky. Captured well.

**31 Safety First**

The barrier is the lead in line to the life belt, then you loop over to the bell down to the tassel, then it takes you to the rope which is cropped off (shame), or you come back to the life belt. The triangular link with the ring, bell and lighthouse are all to do with safety. I would have preferred the lighthouse to be sharp, at first, I thought the clouds were a bit heavy, but I think it is the smoke out of the funnel instead of clouds. I like the shadow of the bell it gives you something different to look at.

**32 Dutch Barge**

This is how it works when you get everything correct in the camera. Yes, it’s busy in the centre of the image, but that’s only when you look at the rigging. The dark black hull keeps you interested and makes you look around the barge then you are drawn to the tall building then along to the houses in the background and you are stopped from going out of the image by the trees. Love the cloud cover with the dramatic part covering the empty space top left. The image has a silky look to it, which enhances it. great shot.

**33 Mullion Cove**

A chocolate box Cornish Scene. The chain takes you across the image allowing you to inspect each boat, the path and bank take you to the stone hut and then to the jetty, even the cloud shape takes you down to the hut. There are 3 people on the jetty which gives the scale to the image. You have lost some brownie points for not straightening the horizon. A nice pleasing image.

**34 Grey Seal**

A very close up shot, I think the water droplets on the whiskers of the seal make this image they draw you up to the nose then up to the head and then to the eyes, which you can see what is behind you. The wet fur has almost created a look of movement. Bottom left looks like a load of bubbles which is a little distracting, but you couldn’t do anything about it.

**35 St Ives Registration**

While I was wondering what I was going to say, I googled the SS226 it came up as one of the Fruit of the Loom Sweatshirts. Now back to the picture as you read the number it automatically draws you into the image up to the Cornish flag. The blacks are black the whites are white, and the greys are grey, correct exposure. Sorry I can’t think of anything else to say.

**36 River Fal**

Looks like an ideal day to go sailing, you have got the yachts in the correct position, once you have looked around the first yacht it makes you go to the second yacht and then you are taken across to the trees, sky, and fields then back to the first yacht. Exposed correctly. A lovely image

**37 Gone Fishing**

Such a different interpretation of Maritime, well seen. the two mates dominate the image with lots to keep you interested in, I think the gap between them is needed as you are led along the fishing rod across to the island, making a triangle. The sun is quite high on the right allowing the shadow to fill a bit of the middle space. You can just see the chap on the right has a cigarette in his mouth. Totally different types of characters.

**38 Leaving Plymouth**

Bang in the middle of the image is the lighthouse, which I think makes this image work as you are lead along the breakwater passing the fort and on to Jennycliff and Bovisand, two of our favourite places to go to. I’m glad you included the pilot boat and the yacht it gives a balance to the image. great cloud formation which are like the shape of the landscape. A very pleasing image.

**39 Onboard Anchor**

Love the patina on the chain, its so bright you are drawn straight to it, then you follow around the anchor and the slats of the boat, when you come down to the small chain it sends you under the anchor and along the shadow, (thank you for not cropping that bit). The sun is quite high in the sky giving a slight bleached look on the anchor.

**40 Sennen Harbour**

A lovely day to be on the coast, Loads of detail and items around the building of interest, then you follow the steps down to walk around the boat, but you are not able to get past the boat as you have cropped the bottom too much, once you have climbed over the boat (Ha Ha) you are lead down to the jetty, then to the distant land and sky which has also lots to look at. I’m guessing the flags in the water are identification of where the lobster pots are.

**HC 28 Pully Block**

**HC 38 Leaving Plymouth**

**3rd 21 Storm Brewing**

**2nd 32 Dutch Barge**

**1st 22 St Ives Gig**

Hi all, thank you for allowing me to view your images, as you will have noticed not a mention about sharpness in any image as there was no need to because they were all sharp where needed to be. I hope I have not offended anyone, with my comments, it is only my view but where I have tried to give some sort of guidance please try it, it only takes a minute to see if you agree with me.

Hope to see you all at the Charles Hosken competition next month.

Ian