

# CATEGORY: CUTE AND/OR WICKED

1ST PLACE

Sam Wharton



## Judges' Comments:

*It's the knees that do it!! We often see pictures of sleeping foals, the combination of charm, vulnerability and innocence is irresistible – but this one is something else, it presses the laugh button and tugs the heart strings at the same time. A lovely photograph. For publication it would be wise to take the time to get in there and take out the fence behind – an irritating process but worth it.*

## CATEGORY: CUTE AND/OR WICKED

### 2ND PLACE: Jenna Payne

*Judges' Comments:*  
Another classically cute picture, but also it is so well framed and the photographer has (we hope deliberately) positioned himself to get the right angle and include the tree branch which mirrors the line of the pony's head. For perfection crop quite a lot from the bottom, in order to anchor the picture more firmly.



### 3RD PLACE: Natasha Anderson

*Judges' Comments:* What can one say really? It's wickedness personified. Any pony who shows it's yellow teeth and sticks its tongue out, and any photographer who grabs the moment definitely deserve a prize. Do nothing to change it!

## CATEGORY: FREE-LIVING

1ST PLACE

R. Aldridge



### Judges' Comments:

*This is a beautiful study of colour and of passive movement. The light catching the very slightly windblown forelock and the similar movement of the tail give life to this tranquil scene. For perfection crop the top just to where the heather starts, to give the impression that the heather is infinite, then balance that by taking a bit off the bottom and right hand side as well.*

## CATEGORY: FREE-LIVING

2nd PLACE: Gay Seguro



Judges' Comments:  
A lovely example of the 'landscape with ponies' variety. Again colour and tranquillity are the essence and the little bit extra comes with the pony determinedly walking in the opposite direction to all the others. It's our version of the African Water Hole picture. Nicely framed, it takes your eye right into the picture.

3rd PLACE: Sally Nicholas



Judges' Comments:  
Everyone wants to take a really good picture of an Exmoor in the snow – it sums up so much of what we love and admire about the ponies. And this one is a goodie. The pony seems so alone in this bleak blurry landscape, yet he has seen something off to the right – to hold his interest, and ours. The fact that he is just slightly off centre adds strength and form to the image.

# CATEGORY: PERFORMANCE

## 1ST PLACE

### Raymond Tratt



#### Judges' Comments:

*Well, we loved this picture, so full of enthusiasm and exuberance on the parts of both pony and rider. It rings so many bells, from one's first gymkhana onwards. The comment here is that you don't always need to have the whole of your subject in the picture and surrounded by extraneous objects. Showgrounds are notorious for terrible backgrounds. Here you could crop right in to the pony's backside from the left and about halfway along the wing to the right. Then crop about half of the grass from the bottom and you have a really good action and character shot.*

## CATEGORY: PERFORMANCE



2nd PLACE:  
R. Keyser

Judges' Comments:

*This is such a good photograph of a driving turnout, could be published anywhere really. The angle and framing are perfect, technically very good indeed and clever or lucky to catch the ideal moment, off fore and near hind off the ground – very nice indeed – we cannot suggest any improvements, it's a great record shot.*

3rd PLACE: Sam Wharton



Judges' Comments:

*Another good record shot. The pony and rider are so concentrated and the elevated near fore gives a good feeling of movement. If you crop in from the right, just enough to cut out the red flag, you remove a distracting object and avoid having the pony plonked right in the centre of the picture, which rarely works well. But, that done, definitely one for the mantelpiece.*

# CATEGORY: PICTURESQUE

## 1ST PLACE

### Gay Seguro



#### Judges' Comments:

*The first two in this section were so difficult to separate, we love them both but we had to choose, so*

*This study got the ribbon mainly because water, when well observed and photographed is just perfect. The reflection and the gentle movement of ripples give a wonderful feeling of serenity. Very well planned and executed.*

## CATEGORY: PICTURESQUE

2nd PLACE: Sam Wharton



### Judges' Comments:

*This is such a well framed photograph – the basis for a watercolour perhaps. Ponies moving away into such a charming landscape cannot fail to appeal. A very nice picture indeed.*

3rd PLACE: Jackie Churchill



### Judges' Comments:

*This one is such a clever idea and well done too. We love the idea of looking past the pony to the buildings in the background. Would have been even better without the headcollar.*

# 2009 E.P.S. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## CHAMPION Sam Wharton



### Judges' Comments:

*This is always the most difficult part to judge, often because the photographs appeal in such different ways and create different emotional responses. Clearly they need to be technically competent and well framed, also we need to feel convinced that the photographer has either thought carefully about the photograph OR has acted fast to capture a perfect moment. Beyond that we feel that we should judge it like a Mixed Mountain and Moorland Class, the winner must be 'the best amongst equals', the most representative of its category.*

*When we sat in Sue's kitchen pondering this, we did actually look at each other and say 'Are you thinking what I'm thinking' – and we were. Thus this year's Champion is the winner of Class 1 CUTE AND WICKED.*

**RESERVE CHAMPION:**  
Gay Seguro for 1st Place Picturesque