

## THE MAGIC HAPPENED AGAIN!

The culmination of some four months planning and organisation peaked on Saturday 29th April 2017.

Entry to the hugely popular WCPF Members' Exhibition which opened in December last year, and saw selections take place at Burnham on Sea in March - concluded with the opening and award presentations on the above date.



*Ralph Snook (left) and Sandy Cox (Right)  
Assistant Exhibition Secretaries.*

*They book the judges, organise the AESs, Order the Medals, Ribbons and the engraving of the trophies.*

*Print the certificates. Book the centre, and overnight accommodation for the Executive who travel from afar for the day.*

*And generally oil the wheels the whole shebang runs on!*

*Who could deny them a trip to Costa Rica for the opening of the Exhibition?*



But like a graceful swan gliding down the river, there was a lot of frantic paddling going on beneath the surface!

The first problem was learning that the popular Buckfastleigh centre, the focus of the exhibition for the past few years, was going to be a problem. Only the top floor of the Medieval Barn was going to be available for use. Various permutations for remaining at this venue were considered - but eventually, it was felt that a new site was needed.

But where?

Venues suitable for an exhibition - with good lighting, good parking, as centrally located as possible and available for two consecutive weeks, is like sourcing that pot of gold at the rainbow's end!

But gold we did strike - thanks to the dedicated searching and sourcing of our Treasurer, Chris Marsham.



'His' Golf Club seemed on the surface, to be a good location. But would they be amenable? Chris approached the management, and after negotiations, it was confirmed they would be interested. The Executive paid a visit - and all thought it had a lot of promise.

Top of the agenda for sorting out - were new stands. The old ones, made for the Federation by Brian Galbraith several years ago, were a massive step up from the ones we'd used previously. However, after many years of hard use for the Members' Exhibition, the Knightshayes and the Kingswood competitions, they were beginning to show their age. So, the search was on for new stands.

At first, Fotospeed, our sponsors, seemed to have the answer. Examples of some wooden stands they sourced, seemed to be suitable. However, because they were to be made by an individual, and not a carpentry firm, time was going to be an issue.

So - back to the drawing board.



*Eddy and Pam Lane - Left and Right.*



*Bill Aven - below.*



Eddy and Pam Lane and Bill Aven then visited several clubs who had responded to the sample stands shown at one of the Federation's events - so, after "cherry picking" the best bits from all the stands they viewed, a design was settled on.

All that was now needed, was a carpentry firm to undertake the job - at an affordable price!

Time was now getting close for this April's Exhibition! Chris Marsham to the rescue once again! He found a local firm of carpenters near Newton Abbot who were willing to take on the challenge! And so the sawdust flew! Anxious enquiries were regularly made: would they be ready in time?

Well - as you will see when you visit the Exhibition between now and 14th May - not only were they made on time - but they were really easy to assemble! A task which normally took most of one day was completed in little more than two hours!

We then had the luxury of taking our time setting up the room at the Golf Club ensuring the prints could all be viewed in good lighting. 190 prints were displayed in all - 40 more than in previous years!

The projection room also proved to be much better than in previous years. All on one floor - with comfortable seating and a good standard of projection!

One final, quite small problem, was once more sorted out by the resourceful Mr Marsham! It was felt the lighting above the Medal Winners' stand was not the best - but a 1.4 metre LED strip light answered this problem! We managed with just one on the day - but will invest in another for future use!

So - thanks to the dedication and persistence of the Executive - the Exhibition finally came together very well.

*Ann Owens : Publicity Officer*