

FoBBS New Talent Competition

held at

Bonsai by the Sea Show, Exmouth



This was held on Sunday, 9 June 2024, a beautiful June day. Local clubs and others from as far afield as South Wales and Cornwall put on a fine display of Bonsai.

The exhibition was organized by Brian MacKichan, Chairman of Exeter Bonsai Club. Through our FoBBS (Federation of British Bonsai Societies) administrator Nigel Wright, a Devon resident, Brian became aware that FoBBS was looking for an event to host this year's NTC (New Talent Competition). Brian offered space at "Bonsai by the Sea" and Nigel and I jumped at the offer. This is the reason why my wife and I had two very enjoyable days in such a lovely part of Britain.

For the NTC we had five very credible competitors from around Britain stretching from County Durham to South Wales with Wiltshire and Devon in between.

The competitors had three hours to style a small juniper. This year the trees were supplied by Oakfield Bonsai. We had two judges – a local enthusiast from Cornwall, Frank Reid and from South Wales, Rowly Hester.

After three hours we had five very well styled bonsai. This was emphasised by the judges deciding after much discussion, to award an overall winner and four equal runners up.

This year Barry Walker, a FoBBS committee member and wood worker extraordinaire, had made a fine walnut box topped with a carved oak leaf and a FoBBS insignia as part of the prize. I was very pleased to present this to the winner Nathan Oswin as part of his prize. The other part of his prize is the hope of Nathan representing Britain at the European Bonsai Association, (EBA), New Talent Competition in Spain in November of this year.

The other competitors were Ryan Forth (Co Durham), Matthew Griffiths (South Wales), Stephen Hill (Barnstaple), Robin Hereward-Isacc (Trowbridge) and our winner Nathan Oswin (Trowbridge)

My thanks must go to everyone for making this such a splendid event.

Next year FoBBS will be hosting Bonsai South West at RHS Rosemoor on 3 - 4 May 2025 where it is hoped to run the NTC for next year.

My very best wishes,

Peter Fielding
Chairman of FoBBS

June 2024

