

## EUROPEAN NEW TALENT CONTEST, ARCO, ITALY - MAY 2018

Fourteen contestants took part in this annual competition, they had previously been selected in heats in their respective countries. Bill Hallworth of The North London Bonsai Group was selected at Capel Manor.

The competition started at 9.00am and they were allowed four hours to work their trees. All the trees were junipers of similar size and quality, about 18 inches in height with healthy and luxuriant foliage.



Three examples of the raw material.

They worked, supervised, for four hours in a well-lit room with a small but constantly changing audience.



At the end of four hours everyone, competitors included left and the judges descended. Each country competing had a judge representing their country. They worked with judging sheets and all should have been completely anonymous. Unfortunately one of the officials 'forgot' to remove the names of the competitors countries so anonymity was not achieved - we just have to hope no judges were biased in their opinions. Malcolm Hughes, judge for the U.K., felt that although the error was serious, the judged results did not suffer and that the correct tree was chosen as the winner.

### The Results

**First** – Netherlands Michal Morky



**Second** - Slovenia Aleš Zavodnik



**Third** - Italy Filippo Mazzoni



A selection of the remaining unplaced entries

