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# **A GUIDE TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE OPEN SHOW**

## **Booklet No. 14**

**FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES © 1980 (revised 2007)**

# **FOREWORD**

The holding of Open shows for the competitive exhibition of fishes has taken place worldwide for many years, and provides the major impetus for the continuation of the hobby at Society level.

The running of these Shows ranges in the assessment of Exhibitors, Judges and visitors, from 'superb' to 'not so good', sometimes even reaching the ultimate 'I wish I hadn't come!' Realising that with the growth of the hobby, together with the obvious wish of organisations to participate in the Open Show scene, Dick Mills offered to produce a comprehensive Booklet to assist Societies to run their Shows in the most effective manner possible.

Writing from the point of view of both Judge and exhibitor, I feel that Dick has produced a Booklet which, if due attention is paid to it, will not only make the staging of an Open Show a happy event but will help the Societies also.

So, Dick, on behalf of us all, thank you for providing what I am certain will become the authorised Show Secretary's Guide and handbook.

C.A.T. Brown,  
Chairman, FBAS Judges & Standards Committee (1980)

# INTRODUCTION

The 'Open Show' forms such a vital part of the hobby and Aquatic Society life that it was felt that some kind of examination of the system, together with general guidelines as to the running of an Open Show, might be of some benefit to Societies. Any Society setting out to organise its first Open Show will obviously benefit most from this Guide, but other Societies, perhaps more experienced in holding Open Shows may well find something of constructive use within these pages.

Within this Booklet, all sorts of information has been gathered, ranging from the purely practical to other more thought-provoking comments and views. Whatever your position in the hobby the Open Show is an established fact and it is the aim of this Booklet to help make it as successful as possible, by pointing out some of the pitfalls and some of the short-cuts along the way.

A great deal of self-help is encouraged, together with ideas to lessen the financial burden on your Society's limited resources; after all, an Open Show is not to be entered into lightly.

Thanks are due to the many aquarists from all different positions in the hobby (and with as many different views on Open Shows!) who encouraged and assisted in the preparation of this Booklet - without them it would not have been possible, or perhaps necessary!

The Booklet is divided into three Sections, Planning, Preparation and Practice.

**PLANNING** will discuss many of the questions your Society should be asking itself as it contemplates staging an Open Show.

**PREPARATION** outlines a detailed plan of action to prepare the ground for the big day.

**PRACTICE** gives a running commentary on the day's events, together with things to look out for, and many helpful tips to make your Show a success.

Subjects will re-occur in each Section as the need arises, and a certain amount of referring back will be inevitable but it is hoped that this examination of 'The Open Show' will result in many more better quality Shows attracting critical acclaim from Exhibitors, Judges and Visitors alike, wherever fishes are shown competitively.

This booklet has not been written from any one standpoint and within any argumentative sections no final decisions are arrived at. All available facts are here for you to digest and form your own opinion; whatever you decide, the Federation of British Aquatic Societies wishes you, and your Open Show, every success.

# **SECTION 1: Planning**

## **1:1 WHY HAVE AN OPEN SHOW?**

So your Society wants to run an Open Show. Has it discussed reasons for doing so, or does it assume that it is the ‘done thing’? There are many reasons for putting on a Show, but there are probably just as many against the idea too. Let us look at a few of the arguments often put forward as reasons for a Show.

*“It is the culmination of the Society’s year”*

Quite true and, if the Society has the capacity (in terms of human effort and finance) to handle a Show, it is a project in which all the Society can become involved. Certainly, unless a Convention or Conference is planned, the Open Show is the largest undertaking in any Society’s year. However, for a small Society, an Open Show may be too much to handle; in this case, maybe neighbouring Societies can get together to pool resources and stage an Area combined Show, if the urge to Show is so strong.

*“It will put our Society on the map, and bring in more members”*

A debatable view. Like some flowers, an Open Show has to be cultivated over the years. A concerted effort for a ‘one-off’ Show is not likely to stake your Society’s claim to fame; it takes a few years for your Show date to become a standard fixture in the aquatic calendar. One common way to encourage exhibitors at your Show, is to regularly support theirs. The staging of a Show does publicise the hobby in your area, but if it is just publicity and new members you are after, then an exhibition of fishkeeping may be just as effective, with much less effort and expense. An Open Show is very expensive to mount, and a considerable amount of money has to be laid out before any starts flowing back in again.

*“A Society ought to aim to run an Open Show”*

Why? A large number of Societies are quite happy not having a Show and they still keep in business, preferring to organise exhibitions and conventions rather than competitions. If your Society develops a taste for competitive activity, a local Inter-society League may be sufficient to satisfy the demands of its members.

*“You see lots of new fishes at Shows”*

More like it! There is a lot to be said for this argument; people just love showing off their new fishes. Seriously, the Open Show is the ideal place to see a very large selection of fishes at their prime, and it is also an excellent venue where you can meet other hobbyists and exchange information - but it may not be the ideal place for a newcomer to the hobby who cannot understand the pre-occupation with fishes in bare containers. However, this argument is a little more constructive amongst ideas for having a Show.

Having played Devil's Advocate so far, let us suppose that your Society has decided to have a Show; from now on all the practical aspects in doing so will be discussed.

## **1.2 WHEN TO STAGE AN OPEN SHOW?**

The choice of date is not always a free one. Local facilities may demand that only one or two dates are suitable if, for instance, you wish to combine your Show with local municipal activities such as a Town Show over a Bank Holiday. If there are other local events occurring over the same period of your Show, it is likely that your Show will benefit by attracting the 'passing trade'.

Again, if your Society is predominantly Coldwater orientated, then a Show in early or late months of the year is not usually feasible. Similarly, a Specialist Society may want their Show at a particular time of the year.

Of course, what affects the date of your Show most is the proximity of other societies Show dates, especially those of Societies in your immediate area. There are of course the larger Federation, Area or National Shows to be also considered. However, once a weekend has been chosen, you can then progress to consider the comparable virtues of a Saturday or Sunday Show.

A full list of show dates for all societies' events for the year can be found on the FBAS website - [www.fbas.co.uk](http://www.fbas.co.uk). Additionally, an updated events list, produced every three months, is available from the FBAS.

A Saturday event generally means that there are more likely to be local aquatic shops (or other attractions) for exhibitors to visit whilst judging is in progress. (Under FBAS Rules, exhibitors are barred from the exhibition hall whilst judging takes place - see Section 3.6). Against this, some of your would be exhibitors and Judges may have to work on Saturdays, but a Saturday Show may have the hidden bonus of your being able to get into the Hall the night before in order to set up the

benching, whereas a Sunday Show usually follows a booking the night before and to secure early access you may have to book the Hall for both Saturday and Sunday - an extra financial burden.

Sunday Shows are popular, as the most number of people can get to them. On the other hand, because of the lack of things to do, Societies may be forced to provide some sort of entertainment - an extra, often overlooked, possibility. Whilst on the subject of Sunday Shows, it may be prudent to point out that although some premises may be available for Sunday hire, conditions for hire may prohibit the sale of livestock (no fish shops) or the organisation of lotteries (no Raffles).

An extended Show, over a complete weekend or even longer, will demand extra



effort - more Stewards to cover the overnight periods, and perhaps extra heating to safeguard the entries too, over this period.

### **1.3 WHERE CAN YOU STAGE A SHOW?**

Well obviously the hall should be large enough, not only to house the exhibits but also your expected number of visitors! Car parking facilities and ease of access to the Hall are also important factors; remember to steward the parking area. Are there enough toilets? Be sure that they can be reached at all times without the need to go through the judging area, that they are clearly indicated and clean.

Ensure that there is adequate lighting by which the fishes can both be judged and

viewed afterwards. If there is not enough natural light, make sure extra artificial lighting is available. If you intend to include furnished Aquaria and Aquascapes in your Show Classes ensure that these exhibits are lit uniformly (see FBAS Show Rules) with normal tungsten bulbs or fluorescent tubes - no colour-enhancing lamps to be allowed. If exhibitors are allowed to supply their own tank hoods then have a supply of identical wattage lamps ready with which you can replace the exhibitors' own lamps.

The Hall should also have a separate room for refreshments, 'shops' and Specialist Societies' display stands, and it is also recommended to have a secure room for the sole use of the organising Society's Stewards and the Judges who, of necessity have a certain amount of paperwork to do and will appreciate a private place in which to sit.

In the interests of safety, as well as convenience, any exhibiting area which can only be reached by a staircase should be seriously discounted, except as a last resort in which case, great care should be exercised during benching and de-benching.



Equally important are the facilities for the disposal of water after the Show; in this respect, the organising Society **MUST** consider the risk of DRAIN BLOCKAGE and consequent OVERFLOW, should gravel be disposed of with the water. It is IMPERATIVE that you draw the exhibitors' attention to the permissibility, or otherwise, of the use of gravel in show tanks.

Likely venues can be Town Halls, Factory Canteens, Church Halls or Community Centres - all worth exploring but all should have the facilities you require, you cannot suddenly 'make do' on the day. A Hall with no heating may look just perfect when you book it on a sunny Spring day, but come November there is going to be some criticism from cold exhibitors worrying about their even colder fishes! Whatever venue you use, the problem of spilt water and its effect must be considered, and advised to the hall owner before booking. Consideration should also be given to the provision of adequate insurance Third Party claims in respect of loss or damage, unless a disclaimer for responsibility for the safety of exhibits is published in the Show Schedule. Of course, you can go the whole hog and insure

against bad weather low entries or even cancellation of the Show if you are that pessimistic!

As mentioned earlier, the chance of getting into the hall the night before your Show should be explored, even if it means waiting until after the previous user has finished (sometimes in the early hours of your Show day) - it is well worthwhile to get the benching set up and tank spaces allocated well in advance of the first exhibitors' arrival. On a more 'gamesmanship' note, it also gives your own Society's members who want to enter a Furnished Aquarium exhibit a head start over their rivals!

#### **1.4 HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?**

Very rarely do clubs offer perpetual trophies these days but, if your club wishes to do so, there is the initial cost of these to consider. You may choose to just rely on the food and goodies contained within the FBAS Open Show pack provided for all societies who hold an Open Show and who fulfil the requirements governing the issue of this pack. Or you may want to provide a small trophy or award in addition to the place card. This could be sponsored by a manufacturer, local businesses or others but, if not, there is the cost of this to consider.

Then there are the other expenses which include hire of the hall, printing costs of the Show Schedule and Show Award Cards, judges fees, postage, advertisements in the local Press and aquatic magazines, hire of public address system, Refreshments, Raffle Prizes, Fees for any Celebrity who might be engaged to present the Awards, FBAS Engraving Fee (should a Championship Trophy be allocated) and so on. A formidable total, likely to give your Treasurer nightmares, and not at all offset to any extent by the Entry Fees, although profits generally do come from the Raffle and Refreshment income. There are ways and means to reduce the final bill, and ingenuity on the part of your Society's members can play no little part in this.

Trophies can be 'home-made' or sponsored by local traders or larger aquatic equipment and food manufacturers. A substantial saving on the cost of conventional Trophies can often be made by collecting them directly from the manufacturer, or by choosing 'end of lines'. Refreshments are often donated by the Society's 'fish-widows', so a good proportion of the takings can be regarded as pure profit. Public address systems might be borrowed from the local radio Society or Hi Fi Shop in return for a mention in the Schedule. Raffle prizes may also be obtained from local Traders on a similar basis. Aquatic magazines will often donate subscriptions as prizes. Postage can be cut down by distributing Schedules at other

Societies' Open Shows (see Section 1.1) or at FBAS General Assemblies. Printing costs can be offset (pardon the pun!) by carrying advertisements paid for by local Traders in the Show Schedule.

If municipal premises are to be used for the Show, or it is to be run in conjunction with a municipal event, then you may be able to get a grant to help towards costs - especially if you can convince the local Council that the event is educational. Again, a local Company might agree to sponsor the whole Show if its premises are being used. When you are desperate or broke, you will try anything!

Finally, if having discussed all the previous mentioned points you have found a venue and can see your way to being able to afford to run a Show that will not clash with any other Society's Show date, then you are now ready to go on to the next stage of the game - PREPARATION.

## **SECTION 2 : Preparation**

At this stage, it will be assumed that the arrangements for the hire of the hall have been finalised, and the subsequent Sections of the Guide will concentrate on matters more pertinent to the hobby.

### **2.1 THE SHOW SCHEDULE**

Before preparing the Show Schedule, your Show Committee / Secretary should thoroughly familiarise themselves with the FBAS SHOW RULES as contained in FBAS Booklet No 5. This vital document can save many an embarrassing, or grievous moment later on.

Check that you have all the amendments which may have been passed at General Assemblies during the past year (FBAS Rules currently run from 1st January to 31st December each year). Any amendments made will be listed in the Federation's Minutes of General Assemblies which your Society receives every quarter; the onus is upon you to keep up to date, it saves time and tempers in the long run, so badger your Secretary to keep you informed of any changes.

Information the Show Schedule MUST carry is the Name, date and venue of the Show, Competitive Classes to be shown, Benching - de-benching times, Entry Fees, Judges in attendance and, of course, the Show secretary's name and address. Naturally, the host Society will want to add other enticements - Trophies, Prizes and Awards to be won, things to do whilst judging takes place, a map how to find the venue etc. List the following under 'Information' if applicable:

- a) Whether or not gravel may be used in show tanks or containers.
- b) Whether or not Furnished Aquaria / Aquascapes can be brought ready set up.
- c) Permitted size of Furnished Aquaria / Aquascapes.
- d) Permitted type and wattage of lighting for Furnished Aquaria.
- e) The number of fish to be shown in a Breeders' entry.
- f) Entry Fees.
- g) Any other information pertaining to your Show.

There is no need to do more than list the simple Class letters of the proposed Classes on the Schedule; should you want to include a description with each Class letter, keep this to a minimum - the information contained in Booklet No 5 will suffice. Do not group different types and sizes of Furnished Aquaria and Aquascapes together.

If in any doubt as to what to include in your Show Schedule, a specimen Schedule is included in this Booklet for your Guidance, and any further information can be obtained from the FBAS Trophy and Brooch Officer, whose address appears in the Minutes of each General Assembly and in the current FBAS Year Book (Booklet No. 7).

Classes must be listed correctly, including all sub-divisions if an FBAS

**HOW TO FIND US**



**WE ARE HERE**

FOLLOW THE ROAD, TURN LEFT AT THE LIGHTS, AFTER A MILE AND A HALF, TURN RIGHT THEN TAKE THE FIRST LEFT. WE ARE HALF A MILE DOWN THE ROAD ON THE RIGHT

**THE OLD CHURCH HALL, CHURCH ROAD,  
FISHAMPTON, LONDON, NW15 8PL**

**THE LOCAL  
FISHKEEPERS' CLUB**  
PRESENT THEIR

**2007  
OPEN SHOW**

ON  
**SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2007**  
AT  
**THE OLD CHURCH HALL,  
CHURCH ROAD, FISHAMPTON, LONDON**

**FBAS CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES**

**E<sup>a</sup> (Fighters)**

**Q (Xiph. Swordtails)**

Above: Sample of a show schedule front cover (right) and map and directions (left) showing the kind of information that would be useful in each instance. In this case, when printed, this would form the outside cover and the map and directions would form the back page - they could just as easily appear elsewhere in the schedule, as long as they do appear somewhere.



Championship Trophy and Best in Show Trophy is to be allocated. A rough draft of your Schedule should be sent, together with your Trophy application form, to the FBAS Trophy Officer as early in the year as possible after affiliation, or re-affiliation, has taken place. The required engraving fee will be charged upon allocation of the Championship Trophy and this **MUST** be paid before the Trophy is despatched to you. Three final copies of your Schedule should be sent to the FBAS Trophy Officer 5 WEEKS before the date of your Show, and do not forget that these copies also ensure that you obtain your FREE issue of Tank and Award labels.

The question of late entries should be discussed. Human nature being what it is (similarly Society Treasurers!), no-one likes turning away entries but late entries (or 'entries on the day' as they are sometimes called) can be awkward. It is a practical idea to have someone on the day of the Show to deal just with last minute entries (see PRACTICE - Section 3.6).

Late entries should not be confused with late arrivals, another delicate subject. Remember, the majority of your Exhibitors, judges and visitors will expect your Show to run to time as published in your Show Schedule, and you should try to start the judging off on time. Of course, you may have to deal diplomatically with an exhibitor who has had genuine difficulties on the journey, but persistent latecomers (they are not only well-known but tend to bring most entries too) should be discouraged.

Whatever you decide about Late Entries, the Schedule should state your intentions quite clearly. The Schedule is your formal statement of intent, so do not make any ambiguous rules - a general guide is that anything is allowed unless stated otherwise! Make up your mind as to what you want and do not want, and say so on the schedule.

STATE ON THE SCHEDULE AND ON THE ENTRY FORM that the Show will be run to FBAS Rules, display a copy of Booklet No 5 within the hall, and print no other Rules in the Schedule.

It may seem to be an unnecessary reminder, but remember that you need to print the Entry Form twice; one copy is used as a receipt and tank allocation sheet for the Exhibitor (being returned to him/her on the day of the Show), the other copy is retained as a record by the Show Secretary.

The Entry Form should show the Exhibitor's name, address and Society, together with details of Fishes, Plants, Furnished Aquaria / Aquascapes entered, tank sizes required (or to be used by the exhibitor), date of birth in respect of any Breeders'

Teams entered, and the total entry fees paid. The entry form should also carry words to the effect that the signing of the entry form by the exhibitor implies acceptance of the Rules of the Show. This is your safeguard against possible problems at the actual Show, and should not be omitted from the entry form.

## **2.2 JUDGES**

It is never too early to start booking Judges - many other Societies will be after their services as well. Allow one Judge/hour per 50 entries when assessing how many Judges you will need. For example, 500 entries can be judged by 5 Judges in approximately 2 hours. Also, you are required to use a certain proportion of 'B' Class Judges (if available) at your Show. NEVER deliberately over-book Judges - you may well be depriving other Societies of their services over the same date.

When originally booking a Judge, it is imperative that you include a pre-paid return envelope for his/her reply, and also enquire what fee will be required. It may be a useful tip to try and engage Judges that live near each other; in these days of escalating costs, they could share the journey's expenses by using one car instead of two, but obtain their agreement to this when booking them - otherwise you could end up with no judges, they would all be at home waiting for the other one to pick them up! Remember too, that some Judges like to be accompanied by their wife or husband, and refreshments should be available for these extra guests.

### **MAKE SURE THAT YOU BOOK JUDGES WHO ARE GRADED TO JUDGE THE CLASSES YOU INTEND TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SHOW.**

When selecting Judges, use the current FBAS Judges & Speakers List (available in the current FBAS Year Book, Booklet No. 7); it will contain all the latest additions and resignations, and again your Society will have received up to date amendments of these changes. If your Society is geographically near another aquatic Federation or Association, you may wish to use some of their Judges at your Show.

In order for your Society not to contravene the FBAS Show Rules (and thus disqualify itself from obtaining a Championship Class Trophy or Trophies, Best in Show Trophy, FBAS Open Show Support, and admission to the FBAS Brooch Scheme), you should inform the Judges & Standards Committee of your intentions to use these Judges **and obtain the permission of the J&S prior to booking such judges if a judge exchange agreement does not exist between the FBAS and the organisation in question**. You should make it clear to any such Judges used, that they will be expected to Judge to FBAS standards and Rules.

As mentioned previously (Section 1.3), the Judges will appreciate a private room

in which to do their paperwork; in addition, you may be asked if your Show can be the occasion at which an FBAS Judge can take an upgrading test and again, in this case, a quiet room will be welcomed where this can take place.

A reminder to the Judge of his/her engagement at your Show nearer the date is again more than a polite gesture; with this reminder enclose a copy of the Show Schedule, a map and detailed instructions as to how to find the Hall if necessary. In these days of Satellite Navigation systems, it is always useful to provide the Post Code, both on the Show Schedule and to the Judge.

## **2.3 TROPHIES**

Trophies take a finite time to manufacture and should be ordered early, so that in addition to getting them in time for the Show any errors in the engraving can be rectified if necessary, and your Society's badge can be fixed on if you've planned things that way.

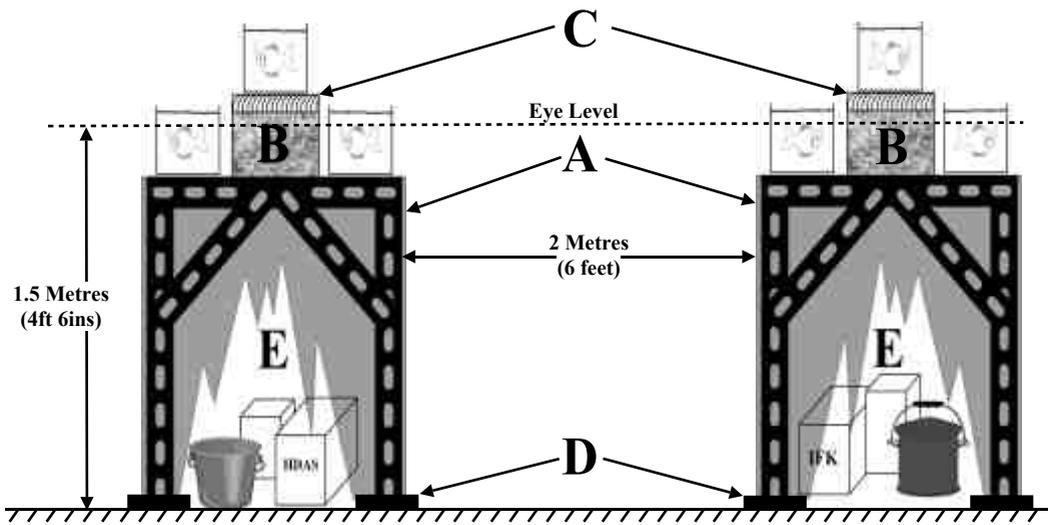
If the Show is not your first, then Trophies won at last year's Show will have to be reclaimed from the winners (if your society is giving perpetual trophies); you did keep that list from last year, didn't you? This takes time too, especially if any of the winners have moved, changed Societies, or even given up the hobby in the meantime.

Once the Show Schedule is complete, you should send a copy of it to the FBAS TROPHY OFFICER together with the FBAS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY APPLICATION FORM so that your Show may be allocated a Trophy. Obviously at this time your Schedule will not be entirely complete (you'll want to include details of FBAS Championship trophies in it) so you are at liberty to send in a 'draft copy' at this stage. The final Schedule must be sent in five weeks before the date of your Show in order to comply with the FBAS Trophy Rules.

Through its good relationships with Aquatic manufacturers, the FBAS is able to supply Show Packs containing worthwhile prizes donated from the Trade.

It is becoming common practice to split this up between all exhibitors, rather than give the relatively small number of actual prize-winners all the materials. Dividing the material up into the required number of 'Goody Bags' is yet another task to be done, but it does mean everyone supporting the Show is rewarded for their efforts even though they may not have won a Card or Trophy.

Another idea that is catching on, is that of giving out each exhibitor's total Award



**A** - Flame proof or plastic sheeting draped over staging. Note that it ends short of the floor.

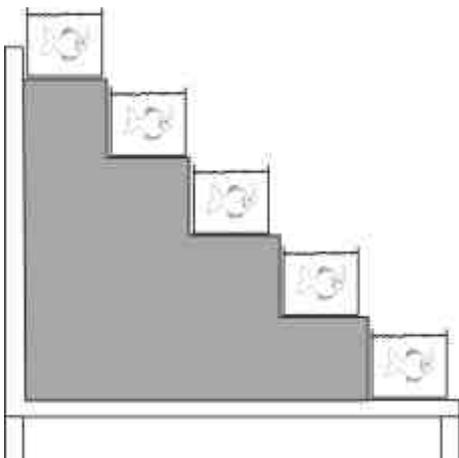
**B** - Optional centre top row of tanks can be supported on scaffold boards resting on 'Thermolite' building blocks. Use blocks on edge at 90cm (3ft) spacings. For shows of several days duration, tubular electric heaters can be accommodated in this 'hollow' section.

**C** - Scaffold Board.

**D** - Protective blocks to prevent damage to floor by metal staging 'legs'.

**E** - Under bench space can accommodate exhibitors' fish boxes tidily and with some degree of security.

**NOTE** - Although not shown in the diagram, staging must be well braced (in *all* directions) to maintain stability.



This 'tower block' of show tanks may look impressive, but from the judging point of view it looks a bit hazardous. The top tanks are going to be awkward to get to, or maintain, should the necessity arise.

And pity the small visitors who may want to see every entry in detail!

What height would you set it up at anyway?

Cards in one presentation. This cuts down prize giving time quite dramatically.

## **2.4 TANKS AND STAGING**

With some of the paperwork out of the way, attention should now be turned to the hardwares; some Societies may be fortunate enough to have their own staging and show tanks, whilst others have to build up the staging from scratch and have to accommodate all the different shapes and sides of tanks brought by exhibitors. Societies often complain of difficulty in obtaining staging for their Shows but there are several sources that can be drawn upon.

Other Societies may be willing to loan their staging and tanks, providing of course that you don't want it on the same date as their own Show! Cage Bird Societies often use very similar staging for their Shows; if there is such a Society in your area why not get in touch, it is very unlikely that they will want to use it every weekend of the year.

If 'do it yourself' is considered then those two Pillars of Society builders and brewers, can be contacted for the loan or hire of scaffolding and boards, and beer crates - all useful materials for D.I.Y. benching. A mention in the schedule might even help you obtain such materials for free. For the more temperance-minded Societies, milk crates also make good bench supports. In addition, staging can easily be built from angle iron, Dexion, Handi-Angle etc., and a lot of Society members' participation.

Rolls of plastic sheeting are very useful in protecting floors against water spillages and for hiding unsightly staging. On the subject of floor protection (see also Section 1.3), remember to guard against damage by metal staging 'legs' - fish tanks can be very heavy.

The ideal height for benching is approximately 4 feet 6 inches (1.5 metres) and remember to leave a 6 feet (2 metres) gap between rows of benching. This is usually a mandatory rate where public buildings are hired, to comply with local Fire Regulations.

If multi-tiered displays are planned, arrange Classes of bottom-swimming fishes on the lower rows; mid and upper water species can still be seen by the Judges and the public when benched in higher tanks, but Catfishes cannot! The actual disposition of Classes around the Hall is best left to personal taste and physical circumstances, but some care should be taken not to discomfort the fishes. Coldwater Classes should not be staged under a bright, sunny window in high summer, nor near a hot radiator during autumn months; some tropical Classes will not thank you for being

near a draughty door, but bear in mind that the Killifish Class (F) will not mind a cooler position at all. Additional consideration should be given to 'traffic flow' around the Hall and entrances and exits to and from the Hall should be unobstructed.

Indication boards are a blessing at Shows - 'WATER HERE', 'CLASSES XYZ', 'BOOK IN HERE' are just a few of the very necessary guidances needed by an exhibitor struggling with his tanks and fish boxes, often against the clock, as well as being in unfamiliar surroundings. Make sure that the notices are LARGE ENOUGH and displayed HIGH ENOUGH so that everyone can see them, even when the hall is full of people.

Once again, pre-show access to the hall will prove to be advantageous in laying out the floor plan of staging - it is a good idea to draw up a scale plan of the Hall's floor area so that you do not waste time wondering if the benching will fit in or not: Benches can be marked out with tank allocation and the notices can be up ready to guide even the dumbest exhibitors.

## **2.5 DISPLAY STANDS**

These are welcome focal points at any Show, but they should be given an area well away from the main exhibition. This is so that the visitors can have access to them throughout the duration of the Show and not be interrupted through judging. The people manning such display stands will require refreshments throughout the day - apart from the organising Society's members they are probably at the Show for the longest period - and often the condition of booking these stands is that refreshments will be provided. Like Judges, these stands are in great demand, so early booking is advised.

## **2.6 ENTERTAINMENTS**

An often neglected aspect of Open Shows is the provision of entertainment for exhibitors whilst judging is in progress (it is a feature of FBAS Shows that exhibitors are barred from the Hall during Judging).

A large-scale map of the area showing fish shops (and other places of interest) will be most useful for visitors who may well be strangers to your locality. Your Society might well wish to provide something itself for exhibitors - a Tape/Slide Presentation or Video, an aquatic lecture, even a rented colour TV in a separate room (especially on Cup Final days) is better than nothing.

How about entertainment for the youngsters? Perhaps a conjurer or a Punch & Judy

Show? Films can be hired (often at very low cost) and a few cartoons soon keep the restless children amused. The whole point is to make people want to come to your Show and feel that you care enough about them to keep them occupied; then they will remember your Show and want to come back next year.

Although entertainments, Raffles and shops bring in welcome revenue for your Society, do not overdo things and allow your Show to get a reputation as a catchpenny Show - you are running a Fish Show not a Benevolent Fund. Visitors will not return if they think you are only after their money.

## **2.7 REFRESHMENT AREAS**

Like display stands, refreshment areas should be sited away from the main exhibition area, but do not forget that judging is thirsty work, so remember the occasional cup of tea for the Judges!

Everyone appreciates refreshments at some time during their visit to the Show, but like the entertainments comment (Section 2.6) try to keep prices realistic, otherwise attendances at any future Shows that you run may well be jeopardised.

## **2.8 STEWARDS**

Although there is not a general shortage of helpers at a Show, it is to the host Society's advantage if everyone knows in advance what jobs they are supposed to be responsible for; make a point of giving people specific jobs to do rather than have a gang of helpers hanging around waiting. Tasks that spring to mind is a 'Car Park Attendant', 'Water Steward', 'Judges Runner', 'Notice Boards', 'Tank First Aider', 'Emergency Air Supply', 'Information', and so on.

Crowd control is something that thankfully is still relatively unnecessary in our hobby, but Stewards should be on duty at all times, particularly at Benching, Prize Giving and De-benching times.

As long as visitors are told what is going on, they tend to be cooperative (and even sympathetic) but when kept in ignorance of the reasons for delays, then they become restless and angry.

## **2.9 PUBLICITY**

Spreading the word about your Society's Show can, and should, be undertaken by all your members. Schedules should be distributed at any other Society Show you

visit, if one or two of your members are Judges or Speakers give them a few copies of the Schedule for them to take on their travels; advertisements placed in local and aquatic Press (do not forget the FBAS Bulletin either!) often bring extra attendances in visitors if not in entries. Articles in the local press and on the local radio station will help remind people of the up coming event (new members?), especially if you have a Celebrity to present the Awards.

Make full use of your society's own website (if it has one) and do not forget to send details of your show (Date, Venue, POST CODE) to the FBAS for use on its website Show Information pages.

If you are fortunate enough to have a Celebrity to present the Awards (even the Mayor might be considered), there are one or two points to bear in mind. Celebrities are busy and much sought after people, so try to engage them early on; if they have an Agent use him. Try to photograph the occasion and make use of the photographs to get more publicity for your Society in the local Press and the aquatic magazines. A complimentary copy of the photograph to the Celebrity will be appreciated.

Although a Celebrity may well be expensive, the attention it will bring to your Show in the way of extra (money-spending) visitors is often worthwhile.

Publicity of a different nature is also worth considering from the appeals point of view. Many aquatic dealers and manufacturers will supply posters and samples; some are more generous than others and may even donate Trophies and Raffle prizes. Magazines may donate subscriptions as prizes. The 'Gold Pin' and Trophy for Best in Show and the awards for FBAS Championship Classes are sponsored by Tetra.

Whatever you manage to get from outside sources in the way of donations, remember to acknowledge the donors in the Show Schedule or Programme or have a notice of thanks displayed at the Show. In any event, a note of thanks should be sent to the donor immediately after the Show.

## **2.10 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

This part of the Show tends to drag on and, unless very well organised, is likely to be the most boring part of the day. To facilitate matters a raised platform (which is easily approached) is ideal, and the use of a public address system is helpful too. Do not neglect the P.A. system during the Show, it can be used for all sorts of purposes - Raffle Draw, Lost Children, advertising the Society's next meeting, announcing the results as soon as the Class has been judged etc.

It is usual for the host Society to display the Trophies during the Show, but the Trophies should be made secure or have a Steward keeping a watchful eye on them. Another reason to have a separate, secure room available at the Hall.

## **2.11 SHOW SECRETARY / MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Before getting on to the actual operation of running the Show ‘on the day’, this might be as good a time as any to take a look at the responsibilities of the Show Secretary or Show Manager. Once these are clearly defined, then plans can be made to implement them with the least amount of strain.

To put it bluntly, the Show Secretary is in total charge, and is the ultimate authority (he will probably keep telling you this during the build up to the Show anyway, just to remind you!). Any problems concerning the Show, both during the run up to it and during it, should be dealt with through the Show Secretary. This is particularly the case should disagreements over judging arise, and the procedure to follow in this instance is clearly set out in FBAS Booklet No 5. (see also Section 3.6 (e)).

It is the Show Secretary’s responsibility to see that all the Award Cards are signed and starred by the Judges and signed by himself (or another authorised person) on behalf of the host Society.

Pre-signed Award Cards should not be easily available to non-authorised persons and the practice of pre-signing Cards is not to be recommended.

The Award Cards are the exhibitors’ qualifications to the FBAS Brooch Scheme, and should be guarded with as much security as the most expensive Trophy.

The numerous duties of the Show Secretary at an Open Show include:

- 1) Booking and utilisation of Judges.
- 2) Drafting, and arranging printing and distribution of Show Schedule.
- 3) Applying for FBAS Championship Trophy or Trophies.
- 4) Booking in entries and filling out judging sheets.
- 5) Checking that entries on the bench are labelled, placed in the correct Class and are awarded the correct ‘Place’ sticker. Some Show Secretaries also take it upon themselves to identify by name each entry on its show tank.
- 6) Ensure that a copy of the FBAS Show Rules is displayed in the Hall, as are the completed judging sheets.
- 7) Organise prize giving, obtaining a receipt for any host Society Trophy

awarded (and getting it back next year!).

- 8) Completing a Show Report Form (showing winners of Classes and number of entries) and returning it to the FBAS Trophy Officer.

Of course, he may wish to delegate some of the above tasks to other Stewards on the day, but the Show Secretary takes full responsibility just as if he (or she) had done all the jobs personally. Well, that is what the rest of the Society will say!

By now, you are too far down the road to turn back, enquiries have begun to come about the Show, which is looming on the horizon. The next Section will deal with events during the final week or so leading up to the Show, and how to deal with the Open Show in PRACTICE.

## **2.12 MODERN PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

In the modern Open Show scenario, things are not so relaxed or as carefree as when this Guide was first produced - some 27 years ago.

As the Animal Welfare Bill becomes law this year (2007) the emphasis on the care and well-being of fish wherever they are kept and exhibited is much to the fore.

Societies usually post a Disclaimer in the Show Hall (and in the Show Schedule) as to the possible adverse effects on the fish as a result in placing them in 'local' water, available at the Show venue. Fortunately, most aquarists bring their own water with them to prevent stressing their fish.

The Federation's Codes of Practice for exhibiting fish recommends that a treatment area is set aside for any fish found to be diseased on the day of the Show; treatment, other than emergency aeration, can only be administered by the owner of the exhibit. Naturally, any diseased fish is removed from the Show bench as a matter of course.

Large Show tanks may be fitted with internal filtration systems where the sheer size of the fish warrants it.

Finally, recent legislation means that certain coldwater species (usually those from North America) require a Licence to be kept. It is the responsibility of the EXHIBITOR to ensure that such Licences are available for scrutiny at the Show and is not the responsibility of the Show Secretary or show organisers to police such requirements.

## **SECTION 3: PRACTICE**

### **3.1 REMINDERS**

Judges' engagements should be re-confirmed (see Section 2.2), as should anyone invited to the Show as a Guest. Trophies, Prizes promised by Traders should be collected or chased. Staging should be ordered, collected/delivered and checked. Your FBAS Trophy should have arrived (or you should have been told how it was to get to you, maybe a Judge is bringing it - check) unless you forgot to send you Show Schedule to the FBAS Trophy Officer five weeks before you Show date? The FBAS Tank and Award labels should also have arrived - you did not forget to order them as well? Start putting up posters in local shops. It is a good idea to inform the Police that you are holding a public Show (where and when), and obtaining their permission to erect signs showing visitors the way to the hall.

### **3.2 REGISTRATION OF ENTRIES**

You will have received your first postal entry by now, and soon every postal delivery brings more.

The wise Show Secretary will not leave all the paperwork until the night before the Show, but begins to arrange his books, in which he cross-references entries with owners' names and Classes. Naturally, as entries are booked in and the tank Class labels are prepared, the information about the entry is also transferred on to the Class's judging Sheet(s); remember to number the Sheets correctly if you need to use more than one Sheet in the Class. The Judge's time is valuable, they will not take too kindly to being presented with a blank Judging sheet and being told to 'do it yourself'!

A handy tip is to prepare two copies of each Judging sheet, use a sheet of carbon paper to do this; the top copy is handed to the Judges, the bottom copy can have the exhibitor's name written in against each entry and provides an instant reference sheet.

It is general practice to number Classes separately, as far as entries are concerned i.e., begin each Class at '1'; some non-FBAS Shows number consecutively from the first entry regardless of Class. This can lead to confusion, as Entry no 637 could be, say, a late entry in the Characin Class of 35 fishes, which are haphazardly numbered anyway depending on the order of receipt of entries. Each Judge has to check the total number of entries in each Class that he or she judges; how much

simpler it is if each Class is numbered separately.

As each Class fills up, the bench space required for it can be updated also, so that at any one time an overall total of entries and benching needs can be seen. It is an excellent plan to put each exhibitor's receipts entry form, together with the relevant Class labels, in an envelope (with the exhibitor's name and Society on the outside) which can be filed alphabetically with all the other exhibitors' entry forms until the day of the Show.

When assessing the amount of bench space for each Class you must leave a certain amount of space in each Class to accommodate the exhibitor who may arrive with a larger tank than stated on the entry form (he may have had a breakage on the journey to the show), and for any substitutions or 'entries on the day'.

### **3.3 TROPHIES**

Trophies should be checked for flaws, incorrect engraving (it does happen), and then re-polished. A Trophy Receipt Book should be prepared, as well as a list of donors of Trophies to whom a letter of thanks should be sent after the Show. (It is all too easy to 'forget' a Trophy once it has been won and taken away from your area).

### **3.4 REFRESHMENTS**

A trip to the local 'Cash & Carry' should be made to provide basic materials for the refreshments for Judges, exhibitors and visitors. 'Volunteers' should be asked to start making sandwiches, cakes etc. which can be stored in a freezer in advance of the Show to avoid last minute rushes.

### **3.5 PUBLICITY**

A well-timed 'news release' to the local Press can help stir up interest in the Show; how about a Furnished Aquarium in the local library for the week before the Show as an advance advertisement? Such publicity, of course, need not be restricted to just the time around your Open Show, your Society can do with publicity at any time of the year.

### **3.6 PLAN OF OPERATION**

Wouldn't it be nice if, by some magical process, the whole Show could be set up,

run, and be broken down without any of the hard work, short tempers, possible broken friendships and disappointments which in some way seem to be attracted to such an event as an Open Show?

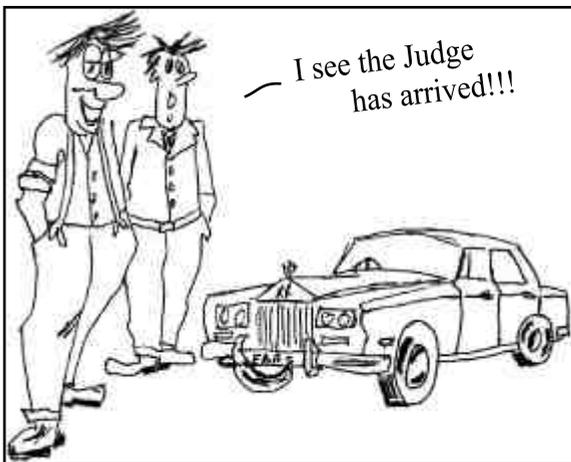
Unfortunately, no one has yet found a way of achieving this and yet there may still be some of your society's members who, although they voted for an Open Show, will expect it just all to happen without too much effort on their part. As pointed out, way back in Section 1.1, the Open Show is very much a combined effort by the whole Society.

In this, the final and most detailed Section of this Booklet, the whole operation of the great day is examined; providing enough attention is paid to the suggestions, there is a good chance that your Society will end your Show day having actually enjoyed it and, with any luck, they will think there was a bit of magic about it after all.

Providing everything has been updated all along the line (an Assistant show Secretary who lives nearby is a very valuable asset), come the morning of the Show all that should be needed are the exhibitors and Judges.

We will assume that staging has been erected and Classes signposted, and tank spaces have been marked off. Water, particularly hot water, should be readily available, and exhibitors know where to 'book in' their entries.

A temporary supply of hot water can be obtained by installing a 3kw immersion heater into a glass-fibre cold water storage tank; ensure a good 'earth' by bending an iron rod or bar over into the water, and earthing this via the heater connection fitting.



### **3.6 (a) ARRIVAL OF ENTRIES**

As each exhibitor arrives, he or she is given their envelope containing the receipted entry form, bench space allocation and tank Class labels. At this time, Just to

complicate matters, there may well be substitutions and cancellations. (“My fish has died!”, “It has developed split fins, can I put this one on instead?”).

It may be wise to allocate a separate Show Officer to deal with these last minute amendments, to avoid holding up a growing queue of other exhibitors trying to ‘book in’. This Officer could also deal with any ‘entries on the day’ if they are to be allowed.

It is usual nowadays to allow exhibitors to bench their own fishes, but in some areas, benching is done only by the host Society’s Stewards.

### **3.6 (b) AFTER BENCHING IS COMPLETE**

The Hall is cleared (mandatory at FBAS Shows) and, armed with his books, the Show Secretary will inspect EVERY entry for correct Class, correct Class number and, where possible, correct name. This information should tally with the prepared judging sheets.

Although it is an FBAS rule that no unauthorised persons shall remain in the Hall during judging, there are exceptions to the Rule; it does not apply to the host Society’s Stewards on duty, nor to members of the FBAS Council. Anyone else in the Hall must have written permission from the FBAS Judges & Standards Committee.

Keep the number of Stewards in the Hall during judging to a minimum, no more than two or three are needed, and the Stewards’ real job is out with the exhibitors keeping things moving, not hanging around the Judges (to see how their fish have done?) Members of other Societies who offer to Steward at your Show may be an asset on the day, but they will not be needed in the Hall during judging, and this should be made clear to them from the outset.

By the time all the entries have been checked, the Judges will have been provided with refreshments and will soon be ready for action, although there is another school of thought (whose argument is shared by many Judges) which prefers that Judges are fed after judging is completed.

There is some sense in this, as after a meal the majority of people like to sit down with a cup of tea and chat for a while; another reason is that bending and stretching to judge fishes is hardly conducive to good digestion immediately following a meal!

At the beginning of judging, the Show Secretary will hand the prepared Judging sheets to the Senior Judge present, who will then allocate the Classes to the other

# AN FBAS JUDGING SHEET

Categories listed down the left hand side give pointing details for each type of class, e.g. Single Fishes, Pairs, Breeders, Furnished Aquaria, etc.

## SHOW INFORMATION

**Type** - Open, Closed, Table, Inter-Club.

**Date**

**Class** - Class Letter

**Sheet Number** - if more than one sheet is necessary remember to number them

## FEATURES POINTED

e.g. Size, Body, Colour, Fins, Condition & Deportment

Judge's quality assessment of the class

Details of Exhibits and Tank Numbers

Points awarded in each category and total points

Judge's Signature

The all-important result

Remarks Column  
Constructive, of course.

judges, giving the 'B' class Judges preference of choice wherever possible. The reason for this is simple, a 'B' Class Judge should be given a reasonable Class to Judge not Just the leftovers - which may be a very 'difficult' Class on one hand, or 'Floating Plants' (Zc) or Aquascapes (Ak) on the other!

As soon as judging starts, your Show is really under way with the correctly classified entries all benched to allow judging to be performed as efficiently as possible. No Classes in rows one behind the other on an old table somewhere! Bear in mind that your first Show might also be some Judge's first show too, so give them a fair chance to do their best.

### **3.6 (c) DURING JUDGING**

At no time during judging will judges be approached unless they are called for. Some Societies outside the FBAS allow exhibitors to remain within the Hall during judging, but try do maintain a physical gap between Judges and exhibitors either by the 'Three Foot Rule' or by partitioning off each Class as it is judged. Neither system is entirely satisfactory from the Judge's point of view.

As judging each Class is completed, the relevant Judging sheet is returned to the Show Secretary for verification. Sheets should be checked by the Show Secretary for arithmetical mistakes and other errors and the results then recorded by the Show Secretary. The sheets should have been signed by the Judge (or Judges, as occasionally occurs in the case of Furnished Aquaria / Aquascape Classes), have the Award places indicated together with the assessment of the quality of the Class. It is then usual practice to display the final judging sheets as soon as they are available - it helps keep the waiting crowd quiet and interested.

Everyone will want to see the results and a large notice board display should be prepared on which to display the judging sheets; this is a feature at every FBAS Show and is a practice much envied, if not followed, by Societies outside the FBAS. 'Place' points, which go to make up the totals for the 'Highest Pointed Visiting Society' can also be featured on the results board and must be updated as each new Class result comes in.

It might be a novel idea to provide almost a 'running commentary' over the P.A. system as the final results come in and each Society waits to see who is going to be the best visiting Society. No matter how large or small the Show is, everyone will be able to see how each fish, plant or Furnished Aquarium / Aquascpae fared in the competition and it is the duty of the Show Secretary to see that this information is

displayed in the most effective manner. The FBAS prides itself on ‘pointing every entry’, so do not keep the exhibitors in the dark.

### **3.6 (d) AFTER JUDGING**

The Judges will retire to their room to sign and ‘star’ the Award Cards, but before they leave the Hall they will select the ‘Best Fish in Show’ by a process of mutual elimination of the candidates put forward from the Class winning fishes. When this has been achieved, it is still not time to throw open the doors to the waiting exhibitors; it is usual practice to allow a little time for the Judges to view the Classes again (particularly the Classes they did not Judge) and for them to take photographs if they so wish. During this time, the Show Secretary makes his own final check on the Classes to verify that the correct Place award stickers have been allocated to the correct tanks. Many Judges prefer to stick on their Place award stickers personally - it helps them to double-check their decisions and also eliminates the possibility of errors by the Stewards.

### **3.6 (e) GUESTS OF HONOUR**

If a Celebrity is engaged to present the Trophies, a tour around the exhibits in the relative calm before the doors are opened to the public is often appreciated rather than to expect the ‘Star’ to Join in the jostling crowds; of course, the public will want to meet the ‘famous’, but this can be arranged to take place outside of the main exhibition area.

Visiting dignitaries’ time is also limited, and visits should be as streamlined as possible. A suggested timetable should be provided for all special visitors, in advance of their visit, for their guidance, and remember that some of them may not have been to a fish Show before, so allow time for lengthy explanations! Once more, the golden rule is keep everyone informed and then you will not get too much adverse criticism.

### **3.6 (f) AWARD CARDS**

Award Cards are not valid unless they bear the signature of the Judge, the correct colour ‘Star’ and an authorised signature on behalf of the host Society; Judges carry their own stars and the correct colours for the various range of pointings is explained fully in FBAS Booklet No 5. The security of the Award Cards and the perils of pre-signing them were discussed in Section 2.11.

By now, the results board will be filling up rapidly, and if your Society is presenting a Trophy for the 'Highest Pointed Visiting Society' (or 'Highest Pointed Society', if you are feeling confident!), the Place points have to be totalled; remember in this respect that certain Classes carry double pointings - (Furnished Aquaria, Aquascapes, and Breeders' Classes).

### **3.6 (g) PHOTOGRAPHY**

It is customary for the Show Secretary to grant permission to photograph the exhibits as soon as Judging is completed and the public allowed into the hall. Some Societies ask for exhibitors' permission in this respect on the entry form, but this seems to be hardly enforceable, as once the camera flash gun has gone off it is a bit late to do anything about it! There is also the problem of what to do if someone does not want their fish photographed, but the owner of the exhibit in the next tank has not got any such reservations. The main objection, by some exhibitors, is of course the effect on the fish of the flash gun, obviously anyone using high-speed film (colour or monochrome) will not need the use of a flash gun and so will not run the risk of upsetting the fish in this case. However, no matter how discreet or undisturbing the photographer should be, there is still the generally respected rule that **NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED UNTIL JUDGING IS COMPLETED**, and certainly under no circumstances whilst Judging is actually in progress (see Section 3.6 (b)).

### **3.6 (h) DISPUTES**

No matter how well organised a Show may be, there is always the possibility of a difference of opinion arising somewhere.

It may be over such a simple human error, such as an arithmetical slip in totalling up the points on a Judging sheet (such is the risk of publicly displaying the judging sheets), it may be a query over the mis-identification (or non-identification!) of a 'new' fish - exhibitors do try to catch the Judges out from time to time.

Much more serious is the manner in which such disputes are raised and settled. The proper procedure for dealing with any dispute is clearly laid out in Booklet No 5.

Judges want to give a full, constructive service and it has come to be expected of them by the exhibitors, but over the recent years they have felt less inclined to enter into discussions over their decisions due to increasing aggressive attitudes adopted by some exhibitors. However, it is still possible to chat to Judges, after all, they

have as much to learn from exhibitors as exhibitors have from them, particularly in respect of new species. The thing to bear in mind is to be well mannered and courteous in the initial approach, and try to talk to the Judge in private; not necessarily behind locked doors, and do not include the rest of the world in your discussion. A tip for easily ‘wound up’ characters might be, “If I was a Judge, would I like to be approached by me?”

### **3.6 (j) RAFFLE DRAW**

The Raffle draw is usually made at the commencement of prize giving - it serves as a magnet to get all the exhibitors together in one place. Whilst this rather lengthy process is taking place, the Judges will be completing the signing and starring of the Award cards in their own room; at this time it is a convenient moment in which to reimburse the judges expenses and fees for their services. It is the height of bad manners to allow a Judge to leave your Show without settling his account and without thanking him.

### **3.6 (k) PRIZE GIVING**

Although no-one begrudges the winners their moments of glory, try to keep prize giving as short as possible. At the outset, thank all the exhibitors, Judges and visitors for their support and then introduce the person who will be presenting the Awards.

It is not a bad idea to make the presentation for ‘Best Fish in Show’ right at the start; the winner at least gets the maximum applause rather than the minimum. If someone has won more than one Award in a Class, say so, and present their Awards in one go - after all, everyone will know who has won what by the time prize giving occurs, so you are not surprising anybody.

Some Societies only present the main Trophies, whilst others go the whole hog, but whatever procedure you intend to adopt, plan it well beforehand. Have the Trophies laid out in correct order of presentation and work through them systematically; remember to obtain a receipt for your Society’s own Trophies.

At the end of prize giving, thank the person who presented the Awards, make a presentation if appropriate and then announce that de-benching is permitted.

### **3.6 (l) DE-BENCHING**

During prize giving allocate stewards to keep an eye on exhibits; not everyone will be collecting Awards, some people will be looking at the exhibits, some taking photographs, whilst there may be some others there with more ulterior motives.

**UNLESS PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE SHOW SECRETARY,  
NO DE-BENCHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED UNTIL  
PRIZE GIVING HAS ENDED**



Obviously some exhibitors will be given special dispensation in view of any extra-long journeys home, but otherwise this rule should be RIGOROUSLY enforced, not only for the exhibitors' protection but also for the sake of the integrity of your Society's Show.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

No one likes clearing up, but in the interests of the good name of the hobby and bearing in mind future Shows (you do want to do it all again, don't you?), ALWAYS LEAVE THE HALL IN A CLEAN AND TIDY STATE, you will probably have to mop the floor anyway.

Any hired equipment should be returned at the earliest opportunity, swiftly followed by letters of thanks to Judges, celebrities, donors of Gifts, Sponsors, Display Stand organisers etc.

Any photographs of the Show, together with written reports should be sent to the local newspapers and aquatic magazines to further publicise your Society's activities (do not forget the Bulletin!).

Despite morbid interest, it is better not to have an instant, on-the-spot post mortem on the Show, and its financial success or failure the instant the last exhibitor has gone out of the door. Tired aquarists often say things in the heat of the moment, and this particular moment of time is not the best in which to apportion credit or blame. Once all the bills have been paid and the receipts are in, then is the time to assess the overall view of your Show which, if you have taken notice of this Booklet, should have been one of the best around!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR OPEN SHOW.



*For information about the FBAS and its many services, please write to:*

FBAS General Secretary - Address and details available in the current FBAS Year Book (FBAS Booklet Number 7) or on the FBAS Website - [www.fbas.co.uk](http://www.fbas.co.uk).

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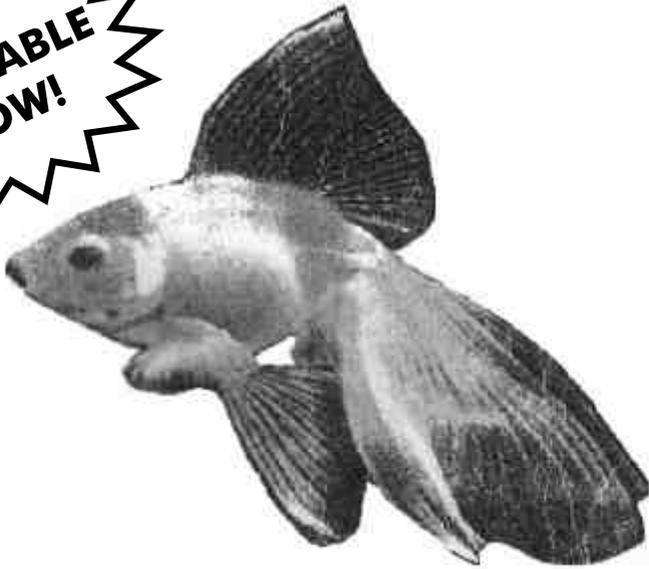
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