



## **Chairman's Report for the 2024 AGM 11 November 2024**

**Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-EFIAP APAGB**

It's difficult to believe that another year has sped past – especially as this AGM is slightly later than the one in 2023!

I'm very pleased to report that in the last twelve months we have awarded no less than five Dobson Henry Awards. At the Great Northern AV Festival in November 2023, Keith Scott, Tony Collinson and Bryan Stubbs were each presented the award for their work over many years running the Great Northern AV Days. This year, at the National AV Competition in Leeds Trinity University at the end of September, two further Dobson Henry awards were made – one to Alastair Taylor for his sterling work as AV News Editor and AV Group Treasurer, and one to Sheila Haycox for both helping to run AV events over many years, and for running the AV Group section of the RPS website. All of these awards are richly deserved.

It's been good to see the steady return of live events, albeit with lower attendance numbers than the pre-Covid levels. The NAVC was a case in point, with the higher audience numbers, along with 'local' judges, enabling the competition to reverse the previous trend of running at a loss.

Next month will see the final issue of AV News as a regular printed magazine, and with Alastair stepping down as editor the magazine will be re-launched as an on-line journal under the new editorship of Ian Hosker. This will enable it to adopt a fresh new approach, with multimedia links and content. I'm very much looking forward to the first issue! The intention is to also produce a printed 'annual' at the year end, with a hard copy digest of the year's content. Although this move has been driven by a need to reduce costs, the result will hopefully be a dynamic new platform that will have many advantages over the old format.

The Committee have done a sterling job over the last twelve months in keeping the AV Group running, and I should like to record my thanks to each of them for the work that they have done:

***Alastair Taylor*** – Alastair has had two roles, Treasurer for not just the Group but also the National and International competitions, and Editor of AV News. Alastair also chaired the National AV Championships in 2022 and 2024.

**Edgar Gibbs** – Edgar has stood in as de facto Vice-Chair, and provides a wealth of experience to the committee. Edgar stood down as Director of the International AV Festival last year, and discussions are in place to determine the future of this event along with other key competitions in the AV calendar.

**Sheila Haycox** – Sheila has done an excellent job in maintaining the AV Group section of the RPS website, keeping it up-to-date with regular and timely updates. Sheila also manages the various contact lists that are required to issue broadcasts and newsletters, and is an invaluable resource.

**Andrew Gagg** – Andrew has continued to bring a professional eye to our graphic design, designing logos, letterheads and Zoom backgrounds to ensure that the AV Group’s public face is both appealing and in-line with RPS policies.

**Martin Addison** – Martin is the editor of our electronic newsletter, AV News e-Extra. This has continued to be a useful fill-in between the AV News issues, providing timely information about forthcoming AV events and the results of recent competitions.

**Keith Watson** – Keith has done a sterling job as Secretary, keeping the rest of us on our toes for the various reports and agenda items needed for the Group committee meetings as well as creating all of the publicity for the NAVC.

**Malcolm Imhoff** – Malcolm joined the committee at the last AGM, and has taken on a key role in the running of the NAVC.

**Mike Pill** – Mike also joined the committee at the last AGM, and has been a valuable resource for various events.

**Adrian Battersby** – since re-entering the AV world in recent years, Adrian has been an enthusiastic source of new ideas and proposals, helping the committee take a fresh look at our hobby.

All of the committee have also been involved with a project – “Soundscapes” – with the Landscape Group, and it is hoped that the result will be beneficial to both groups. This is an on-going project and we will report back in future issues of AV News.

**Ian Bateman FRPS**  
**Chair of RPS AV Group**