

Andy Pearce

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“Let’s buy Cris a tropical fish tank for his birthday.” This one sentence, spoken more than a quarter of a c

Most of my hobbies have a water connection of some sort. They started with a keen interest in angling, t

This was soon resolved with building up my first tank set up; never one to do things by halves this was a five footer.

Through Tongham Aquarists, I formed close links with the founder members of the Association of Aquarists, gained an interest in showing fish and then enlisted as a trainee judge. I was soon co-opted as Three Counties rep. Following a number of different tank projects, I developed a keen interest in keeping and propagating tropical aquatic plants. Much assistance was given to me by Ron Forder and my friend, Pete Smith. Somehow, I found time for the groundwork that formed the A of A Scientific to Common Name Index and then, after advancement to Senior Judge Status, I was invited to join the Judges & Standards committee.

This led in 1997 to a full revision of the Association Size Guide and finally, appointment as Chairman of this sub-committee. A garden pond project followed some years later encouraged by close friend and Tongham member, Dave Caesar, opened up new horizons with native and foreign coldwater fishes and plants. In 2006, I took over the post of Chairman of the Association which I still hold. Shortly after this I took early retirement from the 'daytime job'. Retirement is now a full time occupation and has allowed me to share my time between duties for the Association, fishkeeping and my other passion of competitive sailing. Somehow I manage to fit in work in our extensive garden and my other hobbies of photography and woodworking. In 2008 I was invited, along with Chris Ralph, to judge at the Malta Aquarist Show. Current projects are Size Guide updates and this new A of A website.