

AIS Awards – Fall 2016

Another year with no major catastrophes. In other words, a success.

There was a few problem with the 2016 ballot. 1) My system confused 1997 SDB Skydancer with 2010 Spuria Sky Dancer. When the latter won its HM, both iris were marked as winners in my database, and Skydancer incorrectly appeared on the ballot. It did not win, and its situation has been fixed. 2) I did not catch the change in classification for Fred Kerr's PRECIOUS HALO from BB to TB, and it appeared on the ballot as BB. The class has been fixed, and it will get its three years on the ballot as a TB. Paul Black's DEAL OR NO DEAL (a TB) and CREATIVE ACCENT (an IB) were registered as each other, and appeared on the ballot in the wrong classes. Each will now get its three years of eligibility in the correct class.

This year, for the first time, more judges voted on-line than using the paper ballot. Every increase in on-line voting further validates the effort put into setting it up. There is no expectation or intention of getting rid of the paper ballot at any time in the foreseeable future. At some point there may be an option for judges to request not to receive a paper ballot.

I set things up so that Apprentice Judges could go through the whole voting process, but their votes would not be counted. Four investigated the system. Not a large number, but good candidates for on-line voting in the future.

A draft of the 2017 ballot has been prepared, and has been sent to the usual suspects. No problems have been reported, and so it will be sent out to the general AIS public (which in the past has made suggestions about cosmetic issues but has not found errors). The previously approved increase in one page has been used to reformat the ballot to be three columns for all awards that do not have exactly four candidates, where four columns are used. This leads to almost all names fitting in one line, and a nicer-looking ballot. (A comment from the public a couple of years ago requested the move to three columns, but this was not possible without the page increase.)

I am examining local options for printing next year's ballot, and for doing the Wister Medals after this year. This year's Wisters have been ordered from Capitol Medals (in High Point NC, originally selected by Roy Epperson way back when he became Awards Chair).

I look forward to setting up the list of 2017 judges when it is available.

Gerry Snyder
Awards Chair