

# The Dave Pogson Memorial Award 2007

I was delighted to again be asked to judge this (to me) quite unusual event. The Dave Pogson trophy is presented for a group of ten yearling koi which demonstrates the best potential for the future. In general terms, koi judging at shows is directed more towards fully developed, or 'finished koi', on the day.

The show was held on a regular meeting night, the 4th April 2007. Fourteen groups of koi were presented, including mainly Go-Sanke, but with some others—Kin-Gin-Rin, Asagi/Shusui, Utsurimono, Koromo, Goshiki and metallic varieties.

As with all koi, the basic conformation, or proportions of head, body and fins, was considered, along with general health and deportment—always important factors in koi judging. One bin in this competition contained koi with questionable health. Their fins were clamped and they were reluctant to move.

Since a finished pattern, pattern edges and colour presentation cannot be judged in a competition like this, focus instead was made on general skin quality, for example sheen on metallic koi, clarity/depth of colour, including white



**Members and display bins on judging night.**



## **Kate McGill and John Rhodes assessing entries in this year's Dave Pogson Breeders trophy.**

skin, on non-metallic koi. Good skin basically glows and is very recognisable. Also considered was general placement of pattern elements with a view as to how they would probably develop. It must always be recognised however, that huge changes can occur, which are completely unpredictable without knowledge of parent koi and previous results of breeding them. Lastly, the overall impression of the group was considered, a well-matched, high quality group with respect to size, variety and presentation consistency (colour intensity, etc.) definitely has a higher impact.

After several rounds of careful observation two bins of koi stood out, a group of Koromo/Goshiki and another of fairly well matched (size and quality) Go-Sanke, including Kin-Gin-Rin and a Tancho. The Koromo/Goshiki group were small koi, but the most consistent, good quality group overall, with what appeared to be good future colour, pattern and reticulation development potential. After a further critical appraisal of the two shortlisted bins, I finally awarded the 2007 Dave Pogson award to the Koromo/Goshiki group. Although at the time of judging I did not know the breeder of each bin, I later discovered it belonged to Lex Rayment. Congratulations Lex—I will be very interested to follow their progress and very much hope that their potential is realised.