

Thoughts on receiving the Mike Austin award

Tony Eyre and Nick Robson were jointly honoured with the Mike Austin award for their continuing voluntary support to *Communicator* across many years. Here are their thoughts.

Tony Eyre writes:

About three weeks ago while at work, I came back to my desk from a meeting to find a PostIt bearing the message "Please ring Paul Ballard ISTC re award". Now although I am one of the two copyeditors that check articles submitted to *Communicator* and am, therefore, I suppose part of the ISTC's journal production team, I have never had any previous contact with the ISTC President so was intrigued by this cryptic request to call him. So it was with some caution that I keyed in the number and said who I was in response to Paul's hello. He went on to explain what the Mike Austin award is (an infrequent award to someone that ISTC Council deems has made a significant and sustained contribution to the ISTC over a period of time. The award, Paul told me, was to be given this year to the two copyeditors (myself and Nick Robson) for voluntary support to the *Communicator* production process over many years. As we chatted it turned out that neither I, nor Paul, nor Katherine Judge (the Commissioning Editor), nor indeed anyone else could pinpoint exactly when I started doing copyediting for the journal team, but we thought it was somewhere around 12 -15 years ago.

Paul told me that the awards would be presented at the upcoming TCUK Conference to be held this year in Bristol. If I could make it down there, I could accept the award in person, if not it would be posted on to my home



Tony Eyre (left) receiving the Mike Austin award from the ISTC President, Paul Ballard.

address. I accepted the invitation and was there at the Marriot Hotel for the Gala Dinner and presentation ceremony on the night. I have to admit I was very proud to be honoured in this way and the recognition means a lot after the many hours I have spent at the kitchen table, working away (unpaid) on my laptop editing copy sent to me for checking by the *Communicator* Commissioning Editor (Katherine in recent years, Marian Newell before that). My sincere thanks go to the ISTC Council for selecting the copyeditors as worthy of recognition.



Tony Eyre MISTC

is a full-time Project Engineer at Rolls-Royce and part-time (voluntary) Copyeditor on the *Communicator* production team. He works in Derby but when not working or editing *Communicator*, he enjoys motorcycling and might be found offering advice and guidance on advanced riding techniques to motorcyclists as part of his IAM local group Observer team.
E: tony.eyre@rolls-royce.com



An indication of how many editions of *Communicator* Tony and Nick have copyedited.

Nick Robson writes:

While having a particularly fraught morning at work, the phone rang and instead of the subject matter expert I was expecting, an unknown voice announced that he was Paul Ballard, President of the ISTC (immediate feeling of guilt on my part: was I up to date with my subs?). But far from


it, Paul went on to say that he had some good news for me, namely that I was joint recipient of the Mike Austin award for my contribution to the editing of *Communicator*.

I was very surprised and very pleased, and, as I told Paul, it quite lifted my morning.

As it happens, I do know when I started doing the editing as I still have a folder (although empty) on my PC labelled "Communicator Spring 2001". Prior to that, in late 1999, I had helped the then editor Marian Newell with the conversion of a number of items (by hand) into HTML for loading on to the ISTC website.



Nick Robson holding his award.

As I was not able to go to Bristol to receive it in person, Paul said he would arrange to have the award mailed to me. A few days later it arrived at home, along with a covering letter that I quickly photocopied and passed onto my manager: it was annual review time at work, and the timing could not have been better! 



Nick Robson FISTC

works in Basingstoke as Customer Information Manager for De La Rue, but when not working or helping to edit *Communicator*, he relaxes by playing boogie-woogie piano or by helping to look after a local herd of Shetland rare-breed cattle.
E: Nick.Robson@uk.delarue.com