

## That Famous HF Convention Antenna Prize!



Mixed Feelings – Rich K2WR receiving the Venus 80 2<sup>nd</sup> prize from ML&S knowing he couldn't take it home to New York!

**W**hen ARNO Electronica, manufacturers of the world famous "EH Antennas" asked Martin Lynch & Sons to organise a raffle prize for the RSGB's 2005 HF Convention, little did they know how many twists & turns the request would encounter.

The prize offered was an ARNO Venus-80 antenna covering the whole of the 80m band in a compact length of only 248cm.

However, this wasn't from ML&S's stock, it was originally loaned to the RSGB for review in early 2003 by HR Henly, G3IHR, who unfortunately died before completing the 80 & 160m write-ups. The antennas were installed at G3IHR's premises and it was almost 2 years before they were finally retrieved by Mike G3LHZ who drove all the way from Surrey to Swindon to collect them from Mr Henly's local radio club. Mike used the antennas for tests to assist in an antenna forum held at the 2005 HF Convention.

ML&S were also approached by the Crawley ARC to see if they could borrow an 80m antenna for use during the Convention. Martin knew just the antenna....!

On Saturday, Martin was talking to a customer on his stand when, in eyeshot, he saw the 80m ARNO suddenly dive down to the ground and land with an almighty thud. One of the back stay guy wires had come adrift and the vertical installation was very definitely horizontal. (Ground wave was increased no end!)

The Crawley Club quickly re-erected the antenna and the new Yaesu FTdx9000 was up and running again on 80. To every ones surprise the antenna still worked, if not a little marked after its ordeal.

On Sunday the final day had arrived and time was soon approaching "Raffle Time" at the HF Convention. The EH antenna was still in use only 15 minutes before but the Crawley Club managed to lower the pole, (a little more controlled than the day before), stuck it back in the box for Martin to take with him to the room full of eager raffle ticket holders.

John Gould G3WKL was the master of ceremonies and had two announcements on the No.1 (an FT-897 from Yaesu) and No.2 prizes from ML&S & ARNO Electronica.

Whoever would win the FT-897 first prize would actually have to wait – because of the success of the radio from Yaesu, they had run out of stock and the box was in fact empty!

John then went on to describe the minor "accident" with the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and suggested that whoever wins it may need to invest in a pot of glue.

Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was called out. The winner? Rich, K2WR from New York! The photo says it all. Rich was very pleased he had won the EH Antenna but wondered how was he going to get a 7ft box on the plane?

Rich announced that he was very kindly donating it to the Jersey Amateur Radio Society, whom he has been a member for over ten years. The Society President, Michael Turner, GJ0PDJ, will receive the antenna on behalf of J.A.R.S. Michael works for a shipping company in St. Helier, Jersey. Fortunately they have an outlet in Dorset so the antenna only has a few more journeys to make before it finally comes to rest.

The antenna is now on its way after being glued back together by the ML&S workshop. It may look a little battle scarred but it still works very well and at least has an interesting history. Let's just hope it makes it safely to the final destination!



The ARNO EH Antenna for 80m in the "vertical position" outside the H.F.C.





Peter Hart G3SJX enjoying the sunshine looking at the Venus 80.

**Martin Lynch,**  
ML&S Chertsey Surrey.