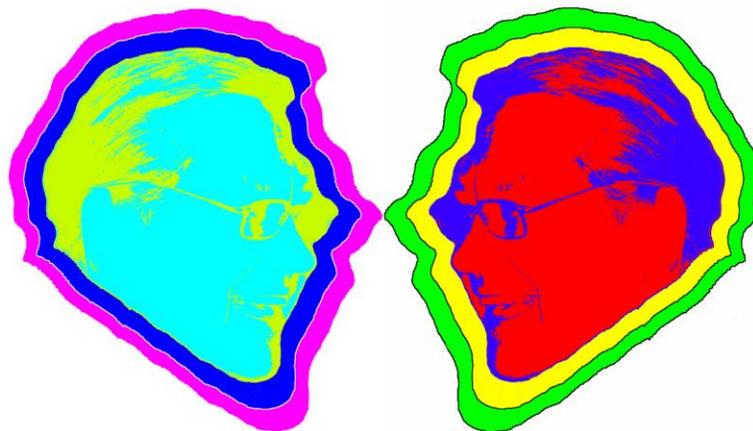


Tom at Large



artwork by Nick Wade

Well, he was.

For many of us who work in vision science, when we look at the work of our competitors we see this:...



My emphasis here is not on the Gainsborough, but on the fine brush work. Actually, for most of us, our metaphorical artwork looks more like this. But when ever I talked to Tom about this sort of thing – no matter how fine the brushwork – no matter who was holding the brush – what he actually saw was this. Tom was never going to be won over by fine detail
He preferred a BIGGER BRUSH

Getting to the European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP)...



Tom's **LARGE** array of transport

But one place where he never brushed over the detail was his meticulous timetabling and route planning for ECVP.

These journeys are legendary and he used all manner of transport, all of these being genuine examples.

But there are several vehicles I would have liked to see him drive but never did

Aircraft tractor



A **LARGE** tractor

We used to admire these while cuing in the airport on the way to ECVP. Very Tom – with the thick set wheels and everything. He was very keen to drive one and thank god we never got him down onto the tarmac.

Italian 3-wheeler



A not so **LARGE** whatever it is...

These are great – you will have seen them tootling about the streets of Italy. The diminutive size of these was very un-Tom – you have to imagine it front on with his big smiley face beaming out of the window. Tom saw the Joke as well and we had wanted to contrive a photograph, but sadly the opportunity never arose.

But of everything, the vehicle I wanted to see him in most

The Mole



A **LARGE** mole

Was this.

Its perfect for him – a big machine that goes in straight lines.

I'd always imagined him arriving at ECVF in one of these...

ECVP: Perception lecture



A **LARGE** stage

This is John Mollen's Perception lecture – he's seen this before – I don't think he was offended by what's about to happen

ECVP: Perception lecture



A **LARGE** arrival

You have to imagine the noise and the splintering wood as comes up through the floor boards – I've arrived. Perfect.



APCV: Hong Kong, 2011

Tom's **LARGE** grin

photograph provided by
Chia-huei Tseng

In 2011, Tom arrived in Hong Kong. He very much saw the Asia Pacific meeting as a new horizon and was keen to support it in every way that he could.

His companion there – was this a long time collaborator, someone whose paper he'd been handling at Perception, or someone he had met just 10 minutes ago – you just never knew with Tom

Like poles repel



ECVP: Utrecht,
2008

Tom's **LARGE** dancing

photographs
provided by
Daniel Baker

Of course, every conference ends with a Dance. This is Laura, and like Tom she has polish origins. And you now what they say about like poles.
Let's see...

Like poles repel



ECVP: Utrecht,
2008

Tom's **LARGE** dancing

photographs
provided by
Daniel Baker

Actually, there are two jokes for one here – though the other action was happening off the ball and you might not have spotted it. Take a look at this guy in the background – Tom seems to take exception to him and Prescott's him in the jaw – the guy seems quite happy about it though...

Bristol: Oct 14th 2011



(Applied Vision Association)

Tom's **LARGE** gift

photograph provided by Hiroshi
Ashida's 5 year old daughter

This was the last time I saw Tom. Hiroshi was visiting Bristol and he took us both to this pub just outside the city. I was there because I'd stayed the night after an AVA committee meeting. Which brings me to Tom's large gift. Being the generous soul he was – Tom has left a legacy of 20 thousand pounds to the AVA to support vision science in whatever means it sees best fit. The committee has still to decide, but if we could fund someone to arrive at ECP by Mole...



photograph provided by
Carol Laidler

My theme has been Tom's large presence – and we tend to think of him as a big guy. But there was a small impish side to Tom as well, which we shouldn't forget.

Big Tom



photograph provided by
Carol Laidler

Little Tom

Goodbye Tom.

So long, Tom...



Image source: Google images

A few that didn't make the final cut...

AA



2003

Tom Mk II



photograph provided by Peter Thompson



ECVP: Paris, 2003



ECVP: Paris, 2003



APCV: Hong Kong, 2011

photograph provided by Lesley Sackett