

**NORTHERN GOLDFISH  
& PONDKEEPERS  
SOCIETY**  
*A Nationwide Society*  
**NEWSLETTER**



Online Version

April 2015



**Graham Turner's Pompons**

Remember Graham Turner's comments in the March Newsletter "This year I am going to cross a metallic male Pompon to a female matt Pompon and a metallic female Pompon to a male matt Pompon. As I know, that you know, metallic + matt = nacreous. Hopefully these two spawnings should give a better blue and a new resurgence to my strain" More news later in 2015!

## **Minutes of the April Meeting**

The AGM took place at The Church Inn with a small table show, payment of annual subs and voting for officers. Apologies received from Tom Hyndley.

Sherridan was re-elected as Chairman with Treasurer Dean Roberts. Dean will also be Show Manager/Secretary. David Padfield had to resign as Membership Secretary, so anyone willing to take on this post should let Sherridan know. VP David Ford will continue as Newsletter/Website Editor.

The Society Accounts were declared to be healthy with a Current Account of £740, Savings Account of £1,001 and petty cash of £30.

Early spawnings were reported by Andrew Barton (4) and David Padfield (2) and David also brought two of his Veiltails. These fish are 18 months old, but are smaller than the (probably male) 9 month old Veiltail brought by Sherridan. This is due to Sherridan's fish being kept over winter in a heated tank...



Left is Sherridan's - result of a Nacreous X Metallic breeding program – Right are two of David's Veiltail spawning. All are females, so he has taken Sherridan's fish for further line breeding.

The meeting continued with discussion on how this Newsletter should be distributed. Producing a printed copy is costly, but posting it costs even more! It is best if everyone could receive it by email or by viewing on our websites. A digital form also means that the size is unlimited. However, some members are not online so the potential for home printing will be explored by Sherridan and David Ford.

The next Nationwide meeting is due and Sherridan needs one new delegate from NGPS...Richard has volunteered. Good! He (well, Abbey) won the room prize too.



## **Goldfish News**

A new magazine for Goldfish Keepers has appeared on the Web. Via Email and Facebook, it has a free subscription and minimal advertising additions. Have a look at.....(Click the photo to go to their website)



They welcome articles and photographs, with many already published – such as....



(want one....Ed)

## **Tip of the Month**

Many of you have bare based tanks to help keep the water clean. To make the Goldfish feel at home, pictures of plants are added behind the back glass. A better option is to use real plants (where 'real' means plastic!). This gives a 3D background that must help the Goldfish feel more secure. No need for ridiculously expensive aquarium shop plastic plants, the ones from the £-shops will do. Mount them on a wood or cardboard base that fits tightly between the back glass and the wall. Here are mine....



How it looks from the aquarium front



Back wall

Polyplants glued to cardboard strip

Which looks much more natural than the original 'flat' appearance of the photograph on traditional background paper



Your tips?

Send to me at

[drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com)





## **Feeding News**

Mars Fishcare have launched a new range of foods for all aquarium fish, by API (Aquarium Pharmaceuticals Inc).

Developed in the Aqualab (based at the Animal Studies Centre in Leicestershire) the new recipe has been proved to deliver 30% less polluting ammonia and hence cleaner, clearer water. The range includes Tropical, Goldfish, Marines, Cichlid, Bottom Feeders and Algae Eaters in various sizes. The food is in several forms: Flake, Pellets (Standard, Mini and Large) plus a Wafer. This new range is in addition to their popular Aquarian Range (still No.1 in the UK) which will continue to be made in Yorkshire.



## **Member News**



You will recall the report in the March Newsletter that Richard Rizzotti's new pond had sprung a leak. The problem was that the sand base under the liner had not been compacted enough. The central outlet drain was Silicone-sealed through this liner, but when first filled with water, the sand

settled a little more. The liner-Silicone seal split and the water drained away. Resealing cured the fault and the pond is now used for holding stock fish – with heron-proofing. Lesson learnt – always fill & drain to compact the base before adding any plumbing.

## **Members Write**

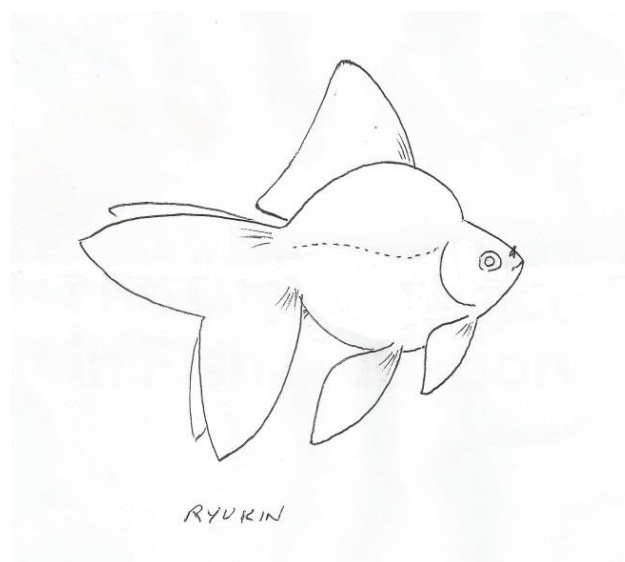
Member Alex Stephenson has prepared these thoughts about the Ryukin....

Recently, this variety has become the subject of renewed interest. Originally one of the first Twintail types to be developed by the Japanese and attributed to the Ryukyu Islands, which run South from the main islands of Japan. Incidentally, the Chinese call these the Loochoo Islands which adds further proof to this being a Japanese fish.

My first experience of Ryukin was in the early sixties when a London importer let me have some. I can honestly say that these fish were some of the hardiest Twintails I have ever kept. Unfortunately, I never bred from these fish as, at the time, I had other commitments. They did however; live in both tanks and ponds for many years. The Japanese fish were high backed and deep bodied, but quite narrow in width. I think the technical term is 'laterally compressed'. The finnage could be variable, but was almost always extensive and a major feature.

When the Chinese went into serious production with the Ryukin, they developed it in their own way and to suit their preferred style. Typically, the Chinese version has shorter finnage and an inflated body shape. The hump, on what I call the shoulders, is also more pronounced. I have heard this fish described as 'a lump of a fish with stumpy fins'.

This may sound unkind, but does describe it quite well. In my opinion, for what it is worth, the Chinese style of Ryukin has lost the elegance of the Japanese fish. Furthermore, it is possible that the hardness of the original may be compromised. In the end, it is all a matter of taste... Alex.



## **This Month's Article**

Continuing our science in fishkeeping, this month we look at aquarium volumes.

These are particularly important for posology. Once upon a time tanks were a standard size and a list of their water volume could be read from a table, such as....

Inches	Imperial		Metric	
	U.K. Gallons	U.S.A. Gallons	cm	Litres
7 × 5 × 5	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	30 × 20 × 20	10
12 × 6 × 10	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	60 × 35 × 37	60
18 × 10 × 10	6	5	80 × 35 × 41	90
20 × 10 × 12	9	$7\frac{1}{2}$	100 × 40 × 41	120
24 × 12 × 12	12	10	100 × 42 × 50	150
30 × 15 × 12	16	13	135 × 42 × 53	200
36 × 15 × 12	20	17	140 × 42 × 53	220
48 × 15 × 12	43	36	150 × 42 × 53	250

This is still useful...print it out and post it on your fish-house wall

But nowadays the Acrylic aquaria can be any shape and calculating the volume needs algebraic knowledge (e.g.  $V = \pi r^2 h$  for the popular cylindrical tanks). There is no need for mathematical skills though – just use a search engine (e.g. Google, Bing, Ask, etc.) and type 'calculate+volume+aquarium' and you will have nearly half a million choices! A good one for the non-standard tank is....

<http://www.aquaticcommunity.com/converter/volume-calculator.php>

For dosing with medicines or water treatments all the proprietary brands now use Litres for the tank and mls for the dose. These are universal units. However, working from an old aquarium book will use gallons and fluid ounces (or drops or spoonsful) and many American Books and Magazines refuse to go metric.

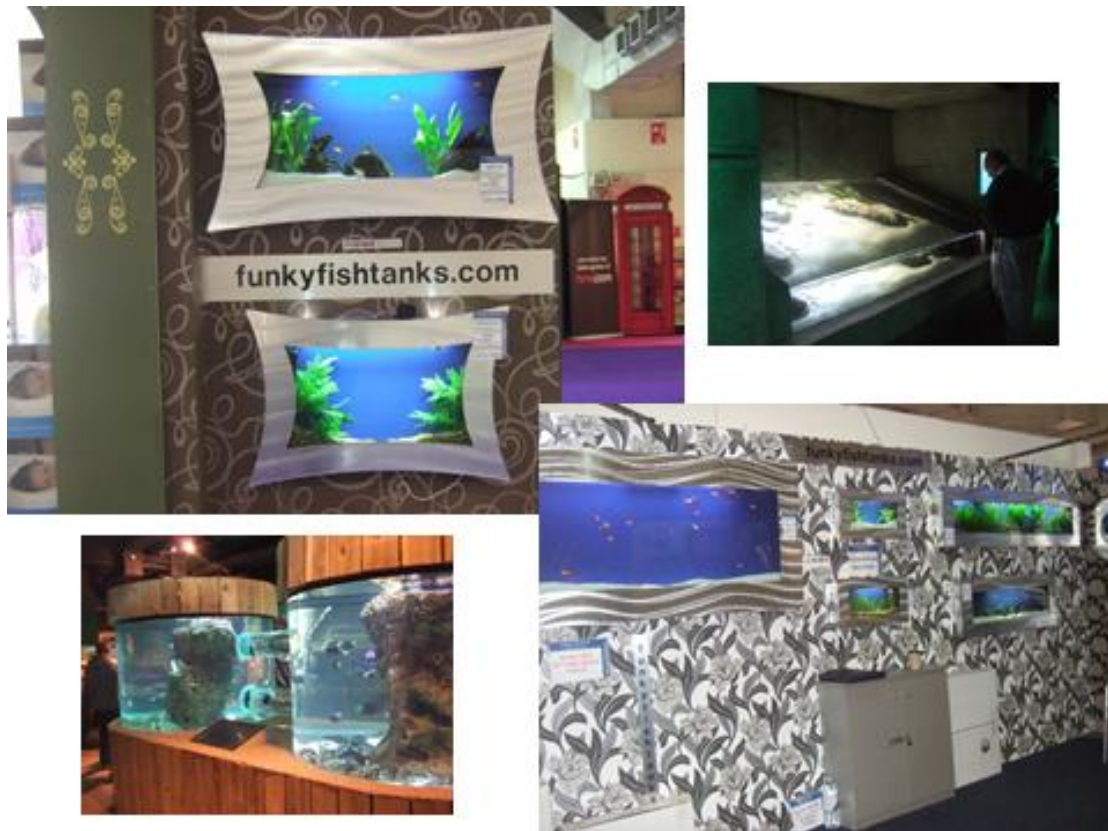
This means you must note if it is an American or a British instruction; the US Gallon is different to the UK Gallon. Just why goes back to 1066 when the Anglo-Saxon Imperial system was developed...this was taken to America, but after their War of Independence, there was no way they would continue with 'Imperial Units'. They adopted a different system that meant a US Gallon was (practically) 20% smaller than the UK Gallon and has 128 fluid ounces against our 160 fluid ounces.



So check the origins of the instructions and then multiply US gallons by 0.83 to give UK gallons, or UK gallons by 1.20 if you need US gallons.

These volumes are for the bare tanks...any show tank will have gravel or sand, ornaments or rocks and items such as pipe work (as well as fish!). It is traditional to subtract 5% for these items when calculating doses. *Note that this has been built into the table shown above.*

But for tanks like these, use the website calculators!



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Next Meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup> at The Church Inn – don't forget that if not yet paid, your subscriptions are now overdue. Please send to Sherridan: Single £15 Family £18-50p Junior £5 (under 21). Thanks... they are needed to keep the club going.

