



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



Online Version

May 2015



The Nationwide Committee for Goldfish Standards UK

The Nationwide Committee met in Telford on May 3rd 2015 to finalise the new UK Standards for Showing Goldfish. Representing the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (Pat Davies, Michael Smith, Andrew Barton), Bristol AS (Bob Jones, Ian Mildon, Graham Bell), North East Goldfish Society (Graham Turner, Keith Waters) and Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society (Sherridan Moores, Dean Roberts, Richard Rizzotti and David Ford). Chaired by the Nationwide Chairman Sherridan Moores, they laboured for 6 hours and finalised the shapes of the Common, London Shubunkin, Bristol Shubunkin, Comet, Wakin, Jikin, Fantail, Ryukin, Pearlscale, Veiltail, Broadtail Moor, Globe-eye, Oranda, Redcap, Tosakin, Lionhead, Bubble-eye, Celestial, Pom-pon and Ranchu.

Showers' Points allocation to guide Judges was also approved. The changes will be redrawn by the technical artists and the Standards published in A5 format. The committee will proof read this document over the next few months and publish it in time for use in the Nationwide Open Show in Northampton on Saturday, September 26th 2015.

Tip of the Month

Member Pat Davies (also Chairman of AMGK) recommends the following tip. He had problems in his fish house with the wooden support frames rotting from the base up...this was due to constant soaking by spillage water on the concrete floor of his converted greenhouse.



The supports were replaced but placed on concrete bricks that lifted them several inches clear of any base water.

Read more about Pat's fish house in the next article – Pat was the host for the Nationwide Committee's meeting reported in this issue.

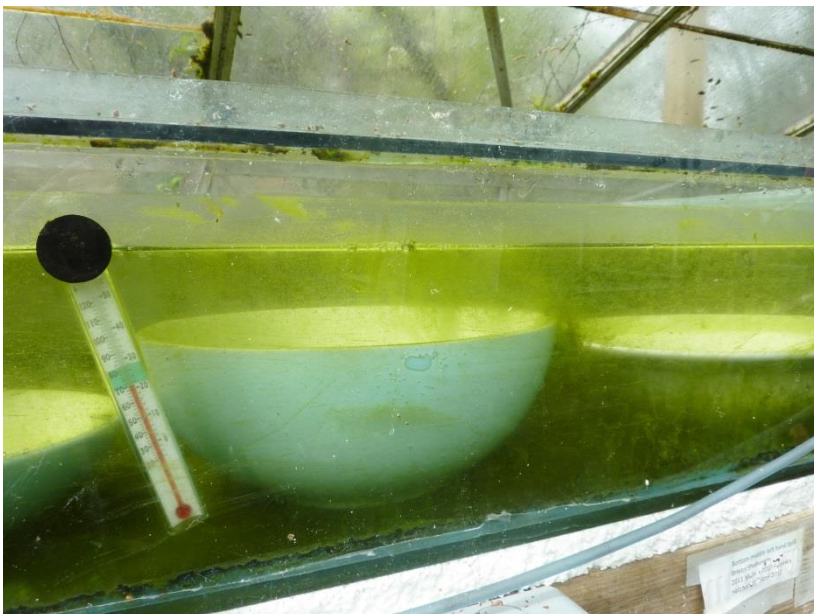
A Member's Fish House



Pat Davies lives in the lovely setting of Horsehay, Telford on the 'unnamed road' by the large village pond. His fish house is a converted greenhouse which is protected from too much sunshine by giant Birch trees.

The 2x4" wooden framework support two tiers of unusual Siliconed Quarter Plate glass tanks. They are 4 at 8 feet long and 6 at 5 feet long, all 2.5 feet wide, but

only 9 inches deep. Ideal for handling the breeding fish and maximises Oxygen content.



Pat is currently breeding Showers in Broadtail Moors, Calico Veiltails and Bristol Shubunkins. He uses hand stripping into shallow plates which are then submerged in the equally shallow tanks...

The fry's first food is freshly hatched Brine Shrimp – these are from a warm hatchery housed in a polystyrene box....



The lid has been removed to show the double jar system for a constant supply of just-hatched nauplii.

Batches are stood without aeration to siphon off the shrimp from egg shells and filtered through linen.

The water in the stock tanks is a slow trickle throughput of mains supply which means that filtration or aeration is not needed. Algae are encouraged and the brilliant colours of Pat's fish shows they thrive in these conditions.

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Minutes of May Meeting

Spawnings have been taking place...Richard reported Broadtail Moors bred even though the aquarium water was only 15°C/59°F. David Padfield's Bristols and Sherridan's Bubble Eyes, Pompons and Red Veiltails have all spawned.

Sherridan reported on the successful Nationwide Meeting (see first page). The redrawn standards will be finalised and published soon in an A5 booklet form. It is also hoped that a proposed Nationwide website will put the details online. He also revealed that the Ryukin will have a medium sized tail – something approved by all present members who breed this variety.

Richard showed an experimental website for that Nationwide Online Page on his Laptop. All agreed it was attractive and needed, but it must be additional to member society's own websites, with effective links.



Sherridan brought samples of a new fresh fish food he can bring to meetings at £5 for a collection of 10 sealed liquid bags. These included live Tubifex, White Mosquito Larvae, Jumbo Bloodworms, White Worms and Black Worms.

Pre-order by telephoning or emailing Sherridan.

Eric Hutchinson also reported that he is downsizing his pond and has equipment for sale (at bargain prices).....

FOR SALE

SUPER POND FILTER



6FT X 2FT X 2FT FIBERGLASS 4 COMPARTMENTS

COMPLEAT WITH BRUSH FILTERS, SPONGE FILTERS, AND ALFAGROG

ALL PIPEWORK, VALVES AND FITTINGS

PLUS - YAMITSU 30 watt ALGAE MASTER ULTRA VIOLET

WATER CLARIFIER

ONLY £200

OR NEAREST OFFER

He also has a Koi High Blow Air Pump 40 @ £25.

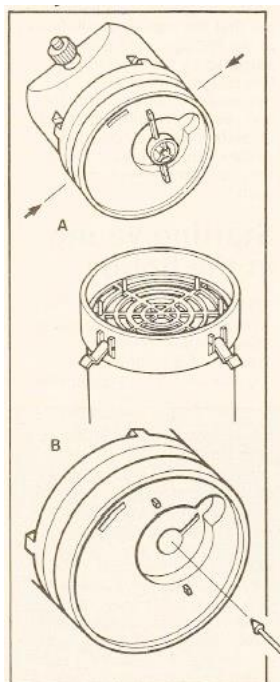
A Fluval 4 Internal Filter @ £7.

4 Kilos of Tropical Marine Gravel @ £3.

...and an Oase Pond Vacuum Cleaner @ £25.

Ring him on 01942 894969

The meeting ended with a discussion (and reminiscences) about bringing live fish back home on the aeroplane....



Motor head and gasket (A) of Eheim 2015/2017 power filters, dismantled (B) to show impeller and 'clutch'... a device to overcome inertia.

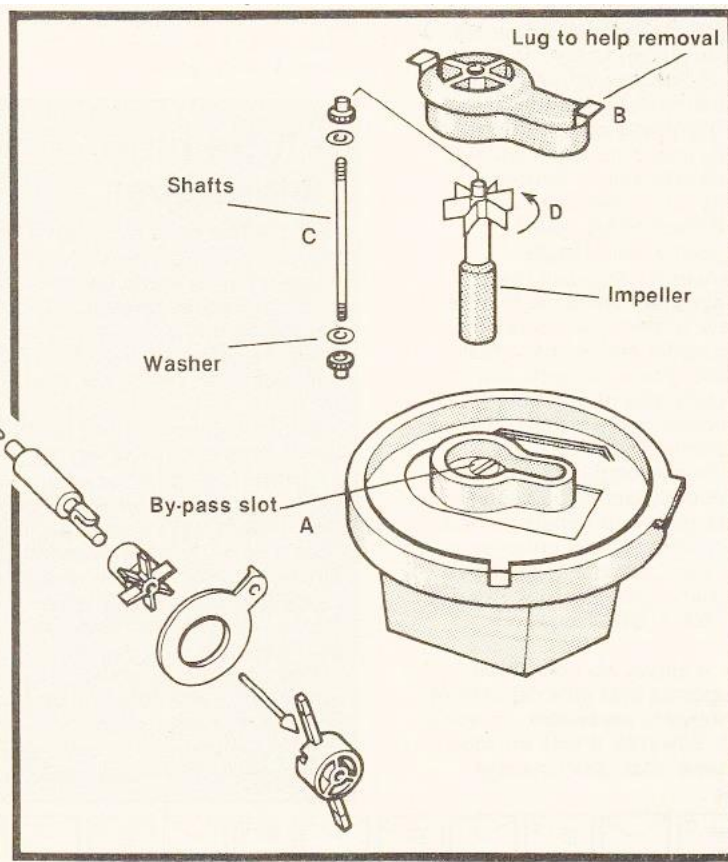
Right: The top of an Atlantis X300 power filter (A) turned upside down to show the impeller retainer (B) removed and the impeller assembly (C) dismantled. The magnet of the impeller (D) is free to partly turn before locating with the blades — the 'clutch' arrangement.

Why Won't it Go?

Continuing our 'science in fishkeeping' theme – some data on a common problem with power filters: they refuse to flow.

There are many designs but the basic functional parts are an impeller driven magnetically by a mains motor, safely embedded in a thermoset resin.

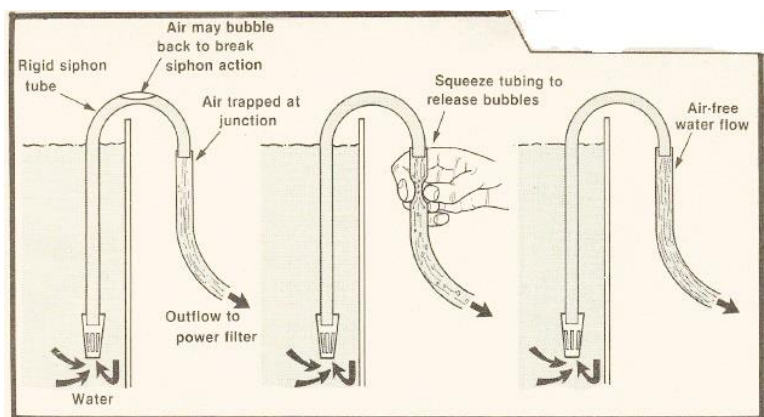
A new power filter will have been shipped from Italy, Germany or China and the impeller may have become dislodged in that long journey.



Always remove it (as per the instructions!) and refit it before the first run.

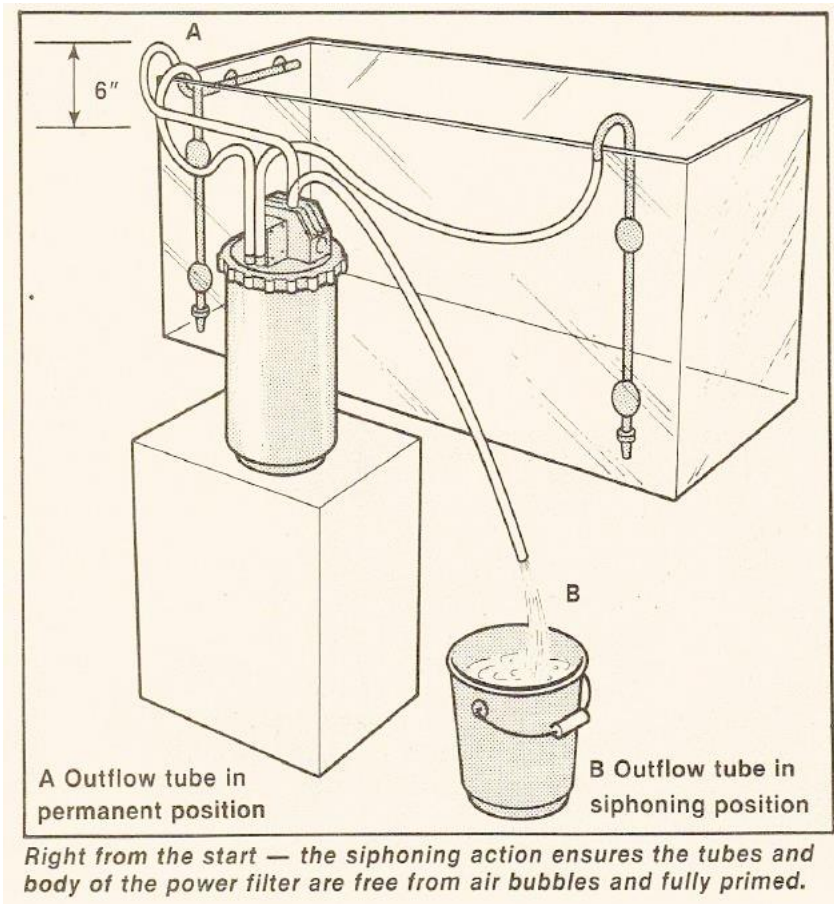
During this fitting, check that the clutch is operating – just like a car, the impeller cannot start directly from switch-on. The blades have to kick-start before spinning freely...there should be a slight movement of the blades independent of the magnet

base. Just a wiggle will free it, if it is sticking (which may happen later too, when clogged with algae). The next common problem is airlocks. To impress, the manufacturers always colour their tubing, which makes them opaque, so you cannot see air bubbles – which form and coalesce to



Air bubbles may form in the tube carrying water from tank to power filter. By pinching as shown, you'll correct this potentially infuriating problem.

eventually stop any siphon action at the input end. Squeeze the tubing to break-up the main air bubble, as shown in this diagram. The siphoning restarts, sweeping away the mini-bubbles.



Many new power filters claim some patented self-priming system (rarely works!). The best way is to start a natural siphon before switching-on. Set everything in place, then disconnect the outlet pipe (B in the diagram) and suck (or preferably use a siphon bulb) to start the flow (the canister needs to be prefilled). Let water flow into the bucket until there are no bubbles of air. Thumb over the end to stop the flow and re-insert into the spray outlet (as A). Switch on.

The canister needs to be below, or at least level with, the surface water in the aquarium. The quoted 6 inch outlet tube is a maximum, above this there is extra lifting power needed by the impeller, reducing the throughput. Repeat all this after routine maintenance. Clean and check the impeller, being careful not to lose the tiny washers where used.

Power filtration is good for the show tank because it polishes the water and removes the copious excretions of that underwater cow, the Goldfish.

However, never rely exclusively on it to maintain water quality...*the solution to pollution is dilution.*

Next Meeting is June 9th at The Church Inn – see you there.

