



**NORTHERN GOLDFISH  
& PONDKEEPERS  
SOCIETY**

*A Nationwide Society*

**NEWSLETTER**



Online Version



December 2015



It is not only the Nationwide Goldfish Societies that hold Fancy Goldfish shows.

This magnificent Ryukin was seen at the 68<sup>th</sup> Bradford & District Open Show 2015 (in November)...owned by Mike Kirkham of the Anabantoids Association of Great Britain, it won a First. Of course.

**NGPS History** - Our society was established in 1959 and the first outing took place a year later...



The NGPS Members on a trip (we have identified Les Baxter and his wife, plus a lady called Sally and a Doctor 'who'). The background is Litchfield Cathedral *en route* to Birmingham for a National Fish Show. If you know more – send to [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com).

The cars they travelled in are a Morris Oxford and a Ford Consul – we think.

### **Tip of the Month**

...this continues with reactions to our President's mucous stripping recipe in the October Newsletter. Bill now replies to Steve's comments in the November's issue.

"After reading our friend's comments in the Newsletter, I feel it is my duty to try and explain a few facts. The reason we do this (Ed: that's mucous removal) is that it is only on the Moor - a problem because of their black colouring. In the Winter, when the water is very cold, or if the water is not up to standard, the top layer of the mucous dies off, it is this dead layer that the treatment removes, leaving the Moor's skin clear and clean. The treatment when mixed is not very strong and the fish are not left in it very long, and then returned to a clean water tank.

This treatment is only required on Moors. You will notice that, if you wipe the body of the Moor all the colour will come off, you will see just the scales. With nacreous Goldfish the colour is under the scales."

Bill goes on to say he believes his treatments are **practical** - meaning action rather than theory, where theory means 'supposition or assumption' (Bill explains). He also states the Moors have 'symmetry' (beauty resulting from a balanced arrangements of parts) – which his Moors had after their treatment.

**Members Write** – more from Alex Stephenson....

### **Goldfish Unlimited** - Fins and Things

*Part 3 of 4 pieces looking at some of the popular goldfish varieties.*

Today there are said to be over 100 varieties of Goldfish. Some would claim an even higher number. Whatever the actual figure, it is clear the majority of these are double tailed.

Most fishkeepers use the term "double tail", even though this is anatomically misleading. To explain this simply – the structures which form the caudal fin start from both sides of the rear vertebrae and, in a single tailed fish come together to form a strong tail fin. Whereas in the double tail, due to genetic modification, these fin rays remain separate and form two halves of a "divided tail".

Although the term 'divided tail' is more correct, this term is already widely used by Goldfish fanciers to describe a fully divided caudal fin where all the lobes are properly separated. Those which are joined along the upper edge are referred to as "web tailed", while a single upper lobe and divided lower lobes are called Tri-tails. All these terms may not be anatomically accurate, but they are so widely used and accepted, it is prudent to leave them alone.

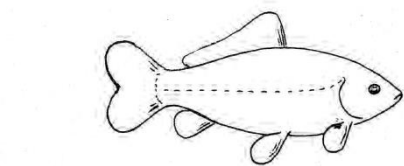
Because records are scarce we can't be sure when Twintails first appeared, however, it seems certain that they were being produced in China before 1600 AD. Fish having "two tails" must have caused much excitement at the time because, in the following years, both China and Japan produced many varieties. Which country is responsible for which types can be argued at length but, in reality, I expect much swapping and crossing went on.

The simplest form of Twintail must be the Wakin. This fish, regarded as the most common variety in Japan, was for many years, quite rare in this country. This is changing now, with some renewed interest in this long-bodied, hardy type. Apart from being a fine fish in its own right, the Wakin appears to be the ancestor of all double-tailed varieties.

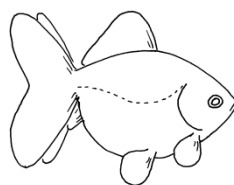
The Wakin is not the only long-bodied Twintail, there are others, but these are seldom, if ever, seen in this country. One notable exception is the Jikin. Jikins have

variety. If not, and your fish are healthy and happy, then standards don't matter. To be a good fish, it only has to please you.

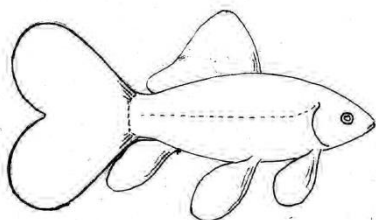
Alex's line drawings of the Goldfish he describes in his articles....



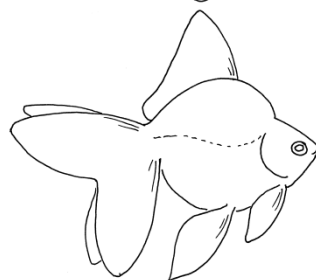
**A**



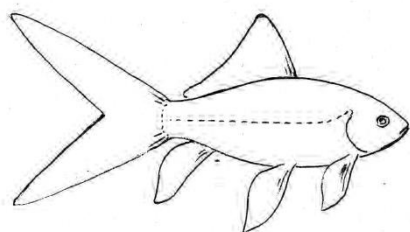
**D**



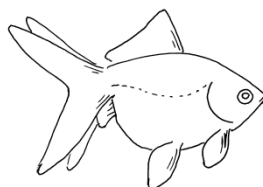
**B**



**E**

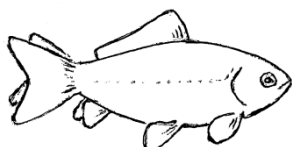


**C**



**F**

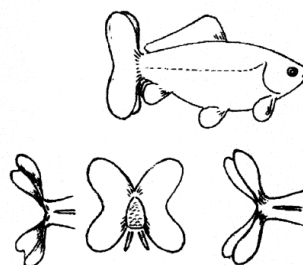
**A** -The Common (or Primary) **B** – The Old Style Bristol (the new style has a more vertical tail) **C** – Comet **D** – Fantail **E** - Ryukin and **F** - a Commercial Fantail



**G**

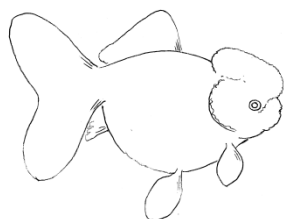


**H**

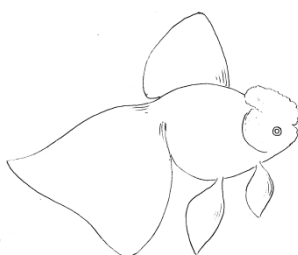


**G** – Wakin and its caudals

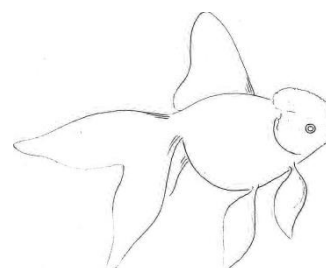
**H** – Jikin and its caudals



Orandas – a Fantail type



a Broadtail type



a Ryukin type

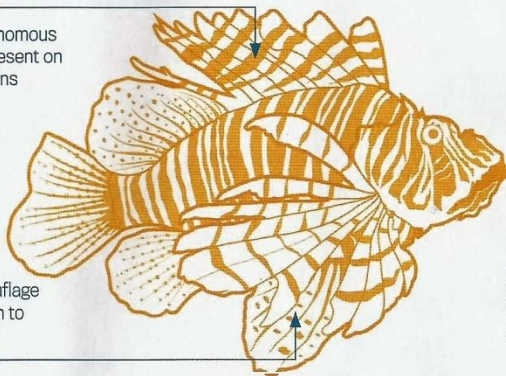
Alex's line drawings are not Show standards – for them, see the Nationwide publications – when available!



## KNOW YOUR ENEMY

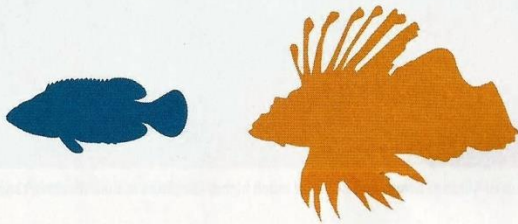
Around 18 venomous spines are present on the animal's fins

Clever camouflage allows lionfish to ambush prey

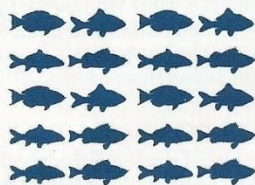
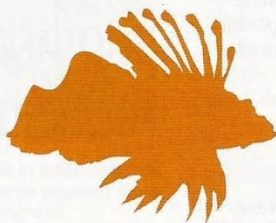


Lionfish eat as many as 70 different species

**ONE FEMALE CAN RELEASE UP TO  
30,000 EGGS  
EVERY 4 DAYS**



A lionfish can eat prey measuring two-thirds of its body length

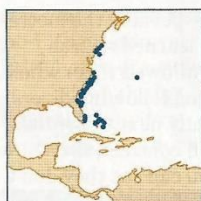


One lionfish can consume 20 fish in half an hour

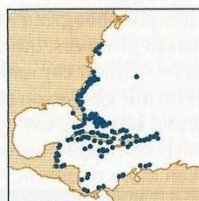
### LIONFISH SPREAD



1993



2005



2010

So glad we keep Goldfish and not Lionfish!

Apparently some aquarists released less than a dozen of these popular marine petfish into southern Florida waters back in the 1990s.

They flourished in the warm waters, eating all the local species and are now a threat to every Floridian fish.

Near the Bahamas between 2008 and 2010, surveys showed the local fish population crashed by 65%.

In their native Indian Ocean the sharks eat them, but Florida sharks are wary of their poisonous spines and avoid them – unfortunately.

Hence the only predator is humans – Florida restaurants are asked to serve them and collectors earn prizes for how many they catch (latest winner was 1,204 Lionfishes).

The scuba fishermen use three pronged spears because the fish may slide down a single spear and the spines can inflict stings that cause 'extreme pain'. These are removed before cooking!

(From FOCUS Dec.2015, p49)

## Minutes of the December Meeting

Sherridan reported that the 2016 Nationwide OS will take place at Horsehay Village Hall, Bridge Road, Spring Village, Horsehay, Telford TF4 2NF. It will be held as usual on the last Saturday of September – that's the 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meeting of the Nationwide Standards committee in January, which should be the final one before publication.



He also brought two Demekins that he had discovered in a Wigan Aquashop. All agreed they were Swallowtails – and Metallic Reds. He bought them because they resembled Sherridan's wood-carving models.

Expect to see them in AOV next year!

This led to a discussion on fish names. Family members who had Goldfish as pets always named them – such as Bubble & Squeak or Nemo (of course!) or Goldie. Breeders did not name them – it was usual to say "that one" when visually choosing. However, one NGPS member, who consistently won the Best Moor award, called his fish Muhammad Ali (because he was black and a champion).

Your editor (David Ford) then showed the latest range of heaterstats being advertised by Tetra. Called the Proline Heater it is a plastic block and so shatter-proof (unlike glass tube heaters). Controlled by a micro-chip, the range is 18<sup>o</sup> to 36<sup>o</sup>C (and so aimed at the tropical fish market, not us). An interesting addition to the electronic circuitry is two "Auto Shut Off" devices to prevent over-heating if the unit failed in the 'on' position.

The reason is most probably due to the marketing of 'Capricorn' back in the 1980s. When working for Mars Fishcare at that time David developed this product with the (then) new micro-chip and (just invented) LED lighting (the on-off warning light). Due to cost factors, a fail-safe device was not included and when market researched some did fail 'on' and the plastic split as it overheated (I did warn them!). The



product was withdrawn but the whole Aquarian® Equipment Range was then replaced by the Atlantis® models and Capricorn became history.

This is the new Tetra Proline....



**Tetra**

## Tetra unveils brand new unbreakable aquarium heater range

It's become apparent in the aquatics industry in recent years that there is a need for innovation in aquarium heaters. Many heaters prove unreliable, easily breakable and subsequently unsafe. With this in mind, Tetra set themselves a challenge: to launch a new aquarium heater that has outstanding safety and durability at its heart.

Tetra's ProLine Heater range offers high quality function and design, and is packed with features to enhance the fishkeeping experience and make it as stress-free and enjoyable as possible, enabling the fish keeper to enjoy a hassle free hobby. The shatterproof construction guarantees outstanding durability, and safety is further guaranteed with its unique double "Auto Shut Off" technology provided by two extra temperature detectors.

The ProLine Heater's Ultra-Flat-Design offers various positioning options without being obtrusive, and semi-electronic Triac technology allows easy, accurate

temperature regulation and even-spread heat distribution. The temperature of the heaters can be easily adjusted between 18°C and 36°C.

Dave Hulse, Tetra's Technical Consultant comments; "Many of the traditional heater designs on the market typically use glass to encase the electrical element and, more recently, resin, however breakage is a danger factor. "Now with the ProLine Heater Range this risk has been eradicated with the shatterproof construction and without the need to compromise on function, design or ease of use."

Tetra's ProLine Heaters are available for aquariums between 20L and 400L in size and are priced at £20.50 - £31.50

For more information about any products in the Tetra range, and the app, please visit [www.tetra.net](http://www.tetra.net) or email [info@tetra-fish.co.uk](mailto:info@tetra-fish.co.uk)

**Advertising feature**

**Heater 50 ProLine**

- Shatterproof Aquarium Heater
- Branches into Aquarium Heater
- Changeable & adjustable
- Breakdown & replacement
- Riscaldatore ultrapiatto per acquari

- Reliable
- Consistent reliable
- Easy to use

- Reliable
- Shatterproof construction
- Adjustable
- Easy to use

- Reliable
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- Reliable
- Shatterproof construction
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- Easy to use

20 - 60l

...and the original Capricorn....



Here is the original packaging...

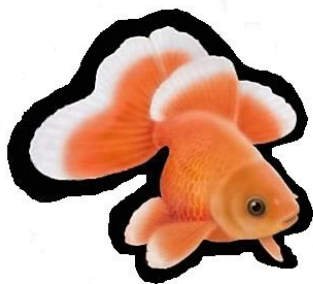


It has taken 30 years for someone to copy it!

Room prize was a bundle of Practical Fishkeeping magazines won by Alan Birchenough...everyone then departed with Xmas handshakes and wishes for a Happy New Year.

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**Meet again January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 8pm at The Church Inn in Prestwich  
– see you there...next year! Until then....**



**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year**

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