

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



JULY 2016



**Sherridan and Bill busy judging (to Nationwide Standards) at the AMGK Open Show**

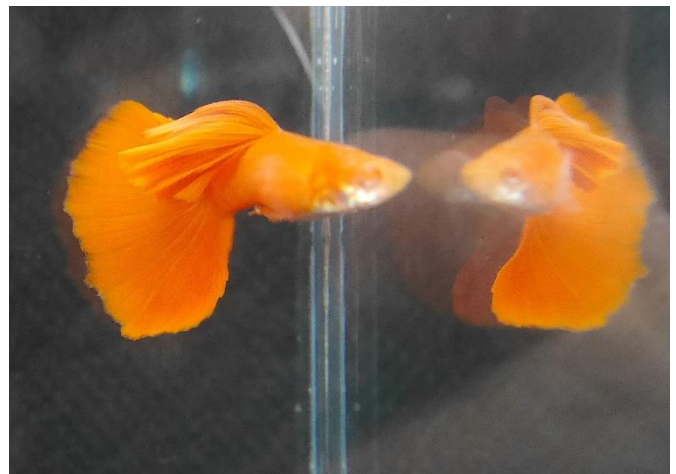
The Midland Club held a successful Open Show on the 25<sup>th</sup> June at the West Orchard Church Hall in Stivichall, Coventry. Some of their members are also with the Fancy Guppy Society so they arranged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the FGUK (Fancy Guppies UK) seven Legs to be held in the same hall.

It was interesting to see the contrast of our Goldfish Judges using paper and pencil pointing (plus judgement by experience) with the high tech judging by the FGUK. They use Touch-screen Tablets and digitized points are sent wirelessly to the main Laptop for filing and print-outs for display. But like us they have a Best in Show –

ours was a Nacreous Fantail by Andrew Barton of AMGK, theirs a 2-6-1 Delta Tail Albino Red with 82.33 points by Derrick Clayton of FGUK.



**The FGUK Judges at work with the 48 Fancy Guppies**



**The Best in the Shows!**

AMGK had 198 entries and we had Firsts by Sherridan, Richard Rizzotti, David Padfield and, of course, Alan Ratcliffe won all the London Shubunkins awards.



The two Best in Shows – this same arrangement with FGUK will take place at the Nationwide Show in Telford on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget the NEGS Annual OS at Redby Community Centre, Fulwell Rd, Sunderland on Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> (details at the end of this Newsletter).

More results and photos about the Midlands OS can be found on the NGPS website, click here:

[www.northerngoldfishsociety.com](http://www.northerngoldfishsociety.com) (scroll down page 7)



...but here are some of our winning fish too....  
Alan's London  
Shubunkin with  
that excellent blue  
background in his  
breeding strain.  
He won 1<sup>st</sup> in both  
under & over 3 inches.

Sherridan's Lionheads  
won a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Got a 1<sup>st</sup> in Bubble-eyes  
too.



The auction was  
well attended  
with an audience  
of 50. AGMK's  
Mick Smith was  
auctioneer.

## Prize Giving



Sherridan receives his certificates from Andrew Barton AMGK for his Lionheads and Bubble-eyes.



Alan Ratcliffe too for his London Shubunkins.





Richard Rizzotti wins a First with his owner-bred Nacreous Fantail.



David Padfield won a First with a matched pair of Bristol Shubunkins.

## Aquatic News



A few members will recall their NGPS Group trip (in 2007) to Aquarama in Singapore, their major show for the aquatic trade, held every two years. Started in 1989 it was

the World's largest such show and looked set to run forever...but it has been taken over by the Chinese. They held a smaller Aquatic Trade Show called 'Aquaria China' in 2004 and 2006 in Guangzhou (in the province Guangdong – near Hong Kong), but then closed it down from lack of support. With the surge in Chinese GNP it was decided to resume this trade show in 2016. Hence they made Singapore some sort of offer they could not refuse and the rights for Aquarama were obtained. There is now a gap in Singapore's important aquatic trade and discussions are underway about some kind of replacement show...I know the aquarists involved and will let you know their plans eventually.

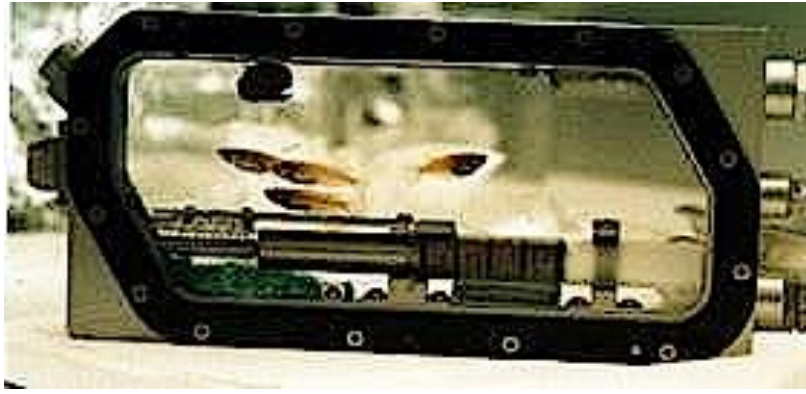
Meanwhile – the Chinese say "Aquarama is Asia's largest international exhibition for fish, invertebrates, plants and accessories. The exhibition is a communication and information platform of the ornamental aquatic animal industry and offers the exhibitors an opportunity to showcase their products and services to the interested public. Visitors can learn detailed and comprehensive information on the latest trends and technology in various fields. In the last two days, Aquarama is open for the general public. The exhibition is accompanied by seminars for trade and private visitors and has various competitions."

The 15th Aquarama takes place over 4 days, Thursday, 22.09.2016 to Sunday, 25.09.2016 in Guangzhou. *Wish you could go? So do I!*

## **Goldfish Facts – Looping**

Back in 1969 and again in 1972 Goldfish were taken for a space ride (parabolic flights) to study how they reacted to zero gravity. During the brief time (a minute) of weightlessness the Goldfish were seen to become disorientated and swim head down in tight circles. A year later fish were taken to the USA space station Skylab to study this Goldfish reaction to zero gravity. However, the chosen fish were Mummichogs (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) – perhaps because it is an American Killifish rather than a Chinese Carp. The fish swam head down in tight circles and the scientists named the behaviour 'looping'.

Not until 1992 was the experiment repeated when Carp (but not Goldfish) were used and flown on the Space Shuttle Columbia – looping was seen. The Japanese wanted to breed fish in space, but they realised a looping fish would not be interested in spawning. Hence they sent their favourite experimental fish Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) on various space flight missions and chose specimens that did not show looping. These were line bred and the specimens then shipped to the latest space station, ISS, in 2012.



This is an actual photo of the Medaka's closed aquarium (so the water doesn't float away!) in the ISS in 2012.

The fish did breed in space and their offspring are now back on Earth where Japanese scientists are still studying them. It is hoped they will show how to avoid the all too common problem of motion sickness in astronauts.

Goldfish shippers around the World are well aware that their fish can actually vomit and pollute the container water (hence, starving the fish first). They call it 'Goldfish Seasickness' – but it is really Motion-sickness, although not 'looping' behaviour. But still stressful for your fish.

*So drive smoothly when you bring your Goldfish to the Shows!*

### **This Month's Top Tip**



.... comes from Sherridan. If you need to repair or renew your pond liner, do not remove the old one. It is well bedded-in and an ideal underlay. Just make sure it is wiped clear of any debris, especially anything sharp.

As always, send your top tip to [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com)

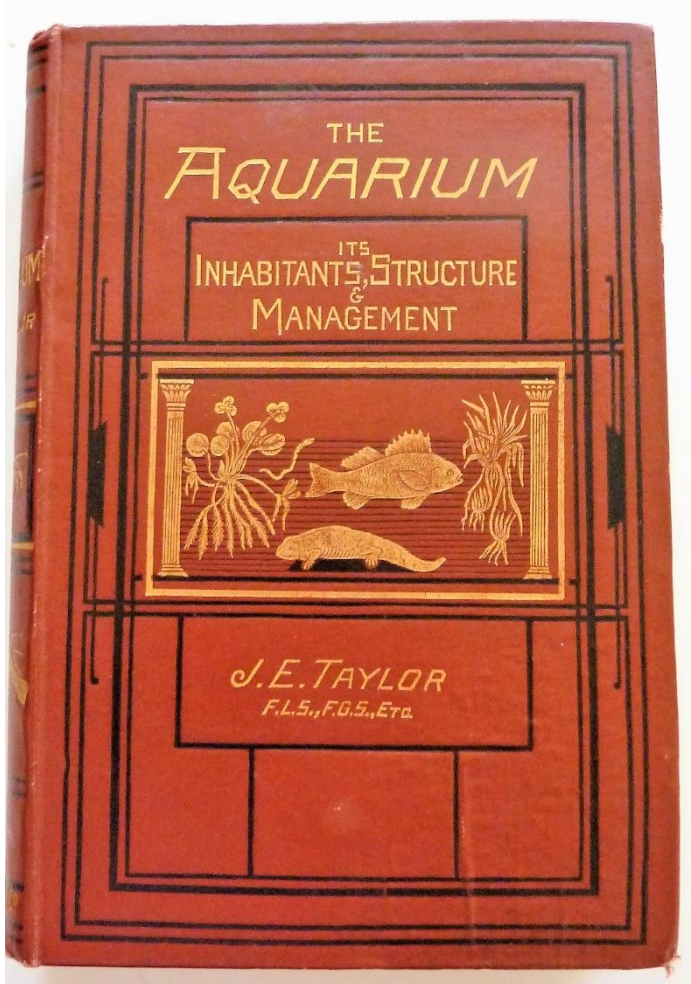
### **Minutes of the July Meeting**

Sherridan announced the sad news of the death of our goldfishy friend Don Smith. Don was well known on the show circuit with his excellent Ryukin and London Shubunkins, though in more



recent years advancing age and ill health had curtailed his ability to travel and we saw less of him, though if anything, his fish were better than ever. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

There was poor attendance at this July meeting...please make a note in your diary for our next one! There was one apology, from David Padfield who had intended to be there. Alan Ratcliffe attended and reminisced about members past. He announced a spawning with Metallic Fantails and Sherridan had spawnings of his Pompons – Calico ones.



David Ford described his day with our President Bill Ramsden...Bill will be 90 this year and he decided his files of aquatic memorabilia (over 50 years of them) needed sorting and he handed them over to David to do the job. This might take a while...but there are some classic items. For example, here is an almost pristine copy of 'The Aquarium' by J.E.Taylor published in 1901...

Certainly one to add to our club library.

The meeting ended with arrangements for members to travel on Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> to the NEGS OS. Hope you will attend too – Redby Community Centre, Fulwell Road, Sunderland SR6 9QP. Benching from 10.30am, judging from 12.15pm, viewing when completed.

**Please note: The next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is at 8pm on Tuesday August 9th, see you there!**