

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



August 2016



**The North East Goldfish Society Open Show and Auction**

Held on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Redby Community Centre in Sunderland, the North East Goldfish Society's annual Open Show and Auction had good support by NGPS members. All the judges in the photo are members of our society – and every one had at least one First (except Bill – so he had to judge the Best in Show!).

By NEGS tradition they have two major awards, the Best in Show and the Best Owner-bred Goldfish. By Nationwide Standards Bill decided that both prizes should be awarded to the same Goldfish....



It was a Bristol Shubunkin owned by Phil Riley of BAS (Bristol Aquarist Society). He did breed the fish, which is now one year old and in prime showing condition.





Of course, this meant he received two trophies – here is Phil being presented with them by our President, Bill.

In fact, Bill presented all the prizes – which meant giving them to Sherridan, Dean, Alan and Alex....



**NEWS FLASH** Don't forget the Rizzotti's Barbecue! Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>, it will start at 2pm with edibles at 4pm – you only need to bring your own tipple. Richard needs to know numbers attending so email him acceptance at [rizzottigroup@hotmail.com](mailto:rizzottigroup@hotmail.com) or drop a note to their home: 11 Newbrook Road, Bolton, Lancs, or phone 07931160762. For your SatNav it is BL5 1EP. See you there....



.... also other winners, such as Andrew Barton of AMGK....



.... and their winning Goldfishes....





Dean's Common  
That is far from common.



Sherridan's Veiltail, he also won  
Firsts with a Celestial and Bubble-eyes.



More photos of our winners are on  
page 7 of the full website:

[www.northerngoldfishsociety.com](http://www.northerngoldfishsociety.com)

## Club News

Our sister club is Bristol Aquarist Society – devoted to Goldfish, but there is a tropical fish club at Bristol too. However, here is a news report sent to the FBAS.

### **SAD NEWS FROM BRISTOL TROPICAL AS**

Hello Everybody,

You are probably already aware that Bristol Tropical AS have not renewed our FBAS affiliation this year. I am afraid that we will not be doing so.

We have been struggling for several years. In 2015 we only had 6 memberships paid. One of those members has since died and I suffered a stroke myself last September and will no longer be able to attend meetings.

We have, therefore, reluctantly decided to wind up the club.

Please pass on our thanks to the FBAS officers for their past support and in the case of Dick Mills, for the many excellent talks he has given us over the years.

Many thanks,

Tony Hatcher (Club Treasurer)

## Dave's Aquarium

NGPS started in Bolton and most members still visit that town to see what the 'Largest Pet Supermarket in the County' has in stock, especially in the Fancy Goldfish section.



Rows of aquatic accessories



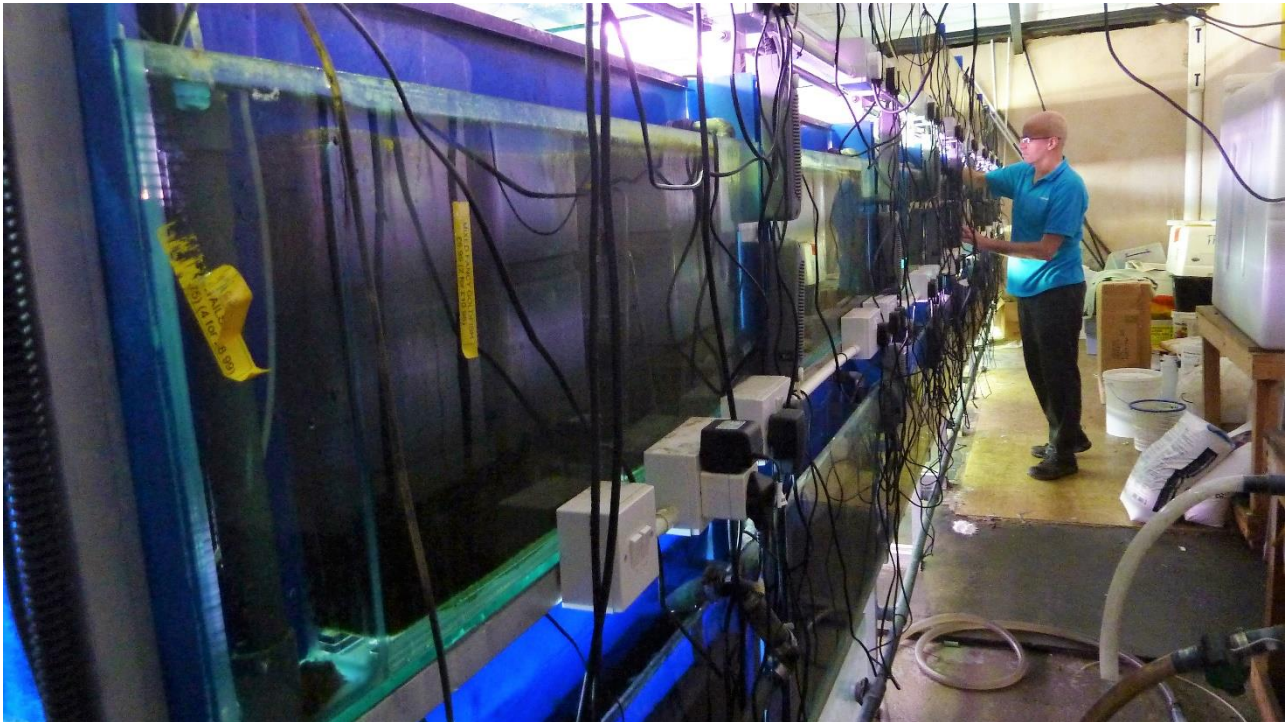
The Goldfish tanks – more than 50 (yes, that is Bill Ramsden viewing)

The 'superstore' was set-up by Dave Gizzi in the late 1960s as an aquatic shop and tank manufacturing unit. Older members of NGPS all had fish-house aquaria made by Dave and his brother John. Dave is now retired (to the Isle of Man – but still visits occasionally). It is now run by the Peter Hemingway empire and the manager is Elsa Hemingway. Looking after the 500 tanks is fish technician Adrian Moffat who has been doing this job for (almost) 40 years.

Dave's Aquarium has a lot more than fish – there is a pet section with everything from exotic Parrots to huge Pythons. Even the entrance window is a screen to the



home of a gang of Meerkats. There is also a large Angling section – plus a home-cooking cafeteria and children's play area.



Here is Adrian behind the scenes adjusting the water treatment equipment. Most tanks are 180 or 227 litres with a built-in sump – still made on the premises. Foam filters are used in coarse to fine pore-size but there is also a slow trickle of mains water giving 25% of the total tank volume changed per day.

If you visit Bolton, do make time to spend at Dave's Aquarium – you may even buy pedigree Goldfish (you can also get every popular tropical and marine fish). It is at 225 Folds Road, Bolton BL1 2TW, open 9am to 6pm every day.

## **Tommy Sutton**

We all recall Tommy Sutton and his fish farm – Tom Bell has a video cassette of his amazing fish, which he has converted to a DVD. This is now online – click/tap here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqaZF\\_0L9OI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqaZF_0L9OI) (if it doesn't work for you, go to a YouTube website and put 'tommysuttonsgoldfish' in the search box).

Tom Bell also received a letter from Tommy – which he has reproduced in the video, but may be difficult to read. So here is a copy with the story behind it from Tom....

Specialist Breeder  
of high quality  
Fancy Goldfish

T. J. Sutton

WATER ORTON  
BIRMINGHAM

ref. no.

Dear Mr Bell  
Sorry for delay  
here is rough guide to fish available  
Calico Veils £2.50 to £20  
Scaled Veils £3.00 to £20  
Veils Moors £2.50 to £10  
Veil Grandas £1.50 to £15  
Large Head Growth £8 to £20 \*  
Ornaments not young fish  
Calico Grandas £15 to £20 \*  
Celestials £4 to £6  
Bubble eyes £2 to £10 6 \*  
Chocolate Grandas £3 to £10  
Red caps £4 to £10  
Calico fans £2 to £8  
Lionheads £2 to £40  
Bristle shubs £2 to £15  
Pearl scales £3 to £2  
all fish English Bred NO IMPORTS  
the top price fish are show fish  
with you are not interested in  
T.J.S.

3ft here is a quick suggestion  
Calico fantail £2.50  
Calico Veil £2.50  
Scaled Veil £3  
or Veil Grandas £1.50  
Bubble eye £2  
Chocolate Grandas £3  
Lionhead pure silver £2 to £3 depending on quality  
Bristle shubunkin £2  
these are all much same size to  
grow together body sizes approx

if we go up a size  
to approx body  
average price £3 to £6  
depending on variety  
and quality  
the large head growth Grandas  
very good value for money about  
half price you would pay in pet shop  
you even saw this quality which  
you would NOT. But no more  
that 4 fish for a 3ft tank at  
too Big Bods → this approx  
£2 to £10 size

Specialist Breeder  
of high quality  
Fancy Goldfish

T. J. Sutton

WATER ORTON  
BIRMINGHAM

ref. no.

difficult to advise  
as no idea how much you  
wanted to spend. no single and  
left all now double and split  
tail except small lions and  
some bigger ones. now I have  
spoken to you on phone would  
be willing to send fish without  
prior payment am confident  
of my fish for price and quality  
all Best  
Tommy Sutton  
please return photos

In the early 1980s my wife & I along with our youngest son arrived at Tommy Sutton's after a holiday en-route for home. We arrived about 10.00am as arranged, with a view to seeing the goldfish that he had advertised to me via a letter. The older Tommy talked to my wife whilst I was in absolute ecstasy viewing the many varieties he had on display; meanwhile the younger Tommy was entertaining my son who was then 11 years old. The purpose of the visit was to see for myself, the fish displayed in the letter (which also included a great many 6" x 4" photos). The letter to

me showed how Tommy Jnr. was well aware of my circumstances i.e. with a young family and not a lot of money to spare.

I well remember the astonishment I felt when my long suffering wife Brenda said we will have to go it is 4.30 pm, the time having flown by... The most



vivid memory of the visit as well as the fish was when Tommy Jnr. said put your money in the kitchen where there was a large pile of pound notes on the table unattended!

### **This month's Top Tip**

Effortless tank emptying for those essential water changes. Use a long length of airline tubing. This can dip into the aquarium to the required depth and then siphoned to waste (OK to suck it to commence – you are a long way from the polluted water). This is slow (about two inches an hour in a 50 gallon/200 litre tank) but can be left unattended and no heavy buckets to carry. Until you refill!



Support such as an algae scraper (use first!) to lock the pipe into place – in this case the aquarium lid holds it firmly.

The airline pipe is held with elastic bands with the opening end set to desired depth (about a third is best for part water changes).

A long length of airline, run to the outside via a window or even through the letter box, just as long the outlet is lower than the inlet.

Don't forget – send your top tips to me in any format – [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com)

### **Goldfish News**

When the Disney film 'Finding Nemo' was shown, sales of Percula Clownfish (*Amphiprion percula*) increased dramatically – a coral fish that needs perfect quality sea water and a live anemone to live in. A most unsuitable pet for children!

Disney have launched a sequel called 'Finding Dory' with its star being a Blue Tang Coralfish (*Paracanthurus hepatus*). This fish is even more difficult to keep in captivity so the aquatic trade are worried about innocent parents of demanding children.

Hence it was decided that the trade should offer Goldfish as a better alternative for a children's aquatic pet. To explain this, Mars Fishcare have issued a global Press

Release with the reasons why. I was asked to contribute so I can reproduce it with confidence herewith!



## **Finding joy: Why aquarium fish are perfect first pets**

### **Forecast of rise in pet fish sales with release of Finding Dory**

- **AQUARIAN scientists urge families to consider freshwater aquarium fish – rather than saltwater species – as starter pets**
- **Involving young family members in caring for fish can instil a sense of responsibility**
- **Mars Petcare Pet Ownership Survey 2016 reveals there are 13.1 million pet fish with more than one in 10 UK households home to a fish friend**

Children charmed by the heroine of new family film Finding Dory will spark a wave of fresh interest in pet fish ownership, according to experts from AQUARIAN, the UK's number one fish food brand.

As cinemas welcome thousands of youngsters to screenings of Pixar's animated fish tale, the sequel to 2003's Finding Nemo, AQUARIAN scientists are encouraging families to consider the benefits of fish as 'starter pets'.

But cinemagoers eager to find their own Dory – a blue tang – or net a clown fish like Nemo are being advised to consider freshwater fish instead of marine fish as first-time pets. Keeping marine water fish successfully requires extensive knowledge and experience, although consideration and research should be carried out before taking possession of any pet.

A Mars Petcare 2016 survey of UK households shows that around 12% of UK households own at least one pet fish – there are 13.1 million of them living in the nation's aquariums and ponds.

The research also reveals that the average age of a first fish owner is eight years old – much younger than those owning a cat or dog for the first time.

Caring for fish can enhance the lives of adults and children, with studies showing they relieve stress, lower blood pressure and contribute to general health and wellbeing.



***Josephine Taylor, AQUARIAN Brand Manager, said:***

“When Finding Nemo was released, we saw a rise in families keeping pet fish. Fish can be an ideal first pet and a great way to teach children about responsibility.

“With the right information on types of fish and their different needs, everyone can keep a fish happy and healthy in a home aquarium.”

***Dr Donna Snellgrove, Lead Research Scientist with Mars Fishcare, said:***

“Whilst we believe that fish are perfect starter pets, it’s vital that pet owners are informed and educated on the care and well-being of the animals they keep.

“Fresh water aquarium types such as goldfish, swordtails and platys can be just as colourful and rewarding to own as their exotic saltwater cousins. These fresh water fish are ideal for children, as they are hardy, low maintenance species.

“All pet fish require time and care, though, and the routine of cleaning and feeding can instil a sense of responsibility amongst young owners.”

**Donna’s fish facts**

It’s a myth that goldfish are forgetful. Researchers at Plymouth University discovered they have a memory span of up to three months – not three seconds – and can even tell the time

- Goldfish can live for up to 40 years – that’s more than most other pets
- Goldfish have no eyelids – so they can’t blink and can be hurt by bright light
- There are 30,000 known fish species
- Fossils suggest fish have been around for more than 500 million years
- The natural colouration of fish comes from their diets. AQUARIAN contains marigolds, which are rich in the pigment lutein to promote enhanced colour in pet fish

***Dr David Ford, inventor of AQUARIAN in 1976, said:***

“As a devoted aquarist who has kept pet fish for over 60 years, I want beginners to join me in what I think is a fascinating and rewarding hobby. Goldfish are the world’s most popular pet and can be a great choice as they are inexpensive to keep and fun to watch.”

**David’s tips for choosing fish as starter pets**

Invite your child to take part in the selection process – it will give them ownership and motivate them to participate in caring for the fish

- Let them design the aquarium environment – the fun features and gravel colours
- Choose an appropriate sized aquarium – not a bowl – and ask for advice from an expert about the right kind of filter
- Remember to buy a water conditioner to make tap water safe as the chlorine found in tap water is harmful to fish

### **Mars Petcare Pet Ownership Survey 2016**

7% of UK households choose a goldfish as their child's first pet

- The average age of a first fish owner is eight years' old
- In the UK, there are 13.1 million pet fish
- 12% of households in the UK have fish as pets



**The Press Release included this photo of the perfect pet: a Common Goldfish**

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## Minutes of the August Meeting

Sherridan sent his apologies because he has been in a car accident (he is okay – the car isn't) and VP David Ford took the Chair.

David reported that Practical Fishkeeping have launched a new website – to see the reports on our Shows you need to enter the '[practicalfishkeeping.co.uk](http://practicalfishkeeping.co.uk)' (click or tap) website page and type 'club news' in the top right search box. Then search away!

Sherridan sent a message that he has the entry forms for the BAS OS. He will bring copies to the Rizzotti barbecue (see details on page 3) but you can be sent one by ringing him at 01619697567. The Bristol show is at The Manor Hall, Henfield Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS36 2TG on Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Note that our OS follows less than a week later: Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> at St Matthews Church Hall, Stretford, Manchester M32 8HF. Collect entry forms from Sherridan at the barbecue or by phoning him.

*Please* attend to help set-up the tanks at St Matthews from lunchtime on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>.

It will be a good NGPS Show this year with sponsorship by Aquarium Home Services, Aquarian® and FishScience Ltd. Dr David Pool of FishScience will attend and give a lecture during judging.

There were no spawnings to report and the evening was mainly about show nostalgia – especially from our President.

**Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, please be there – 8pm.** Note that this is after the Open Show so please help on the Friday, attend the Show on the Saturday and then meet on the Tuesday!

