



NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2017



Where's the Union Jack?

In the July 2016 Newsletter (click/tap it on the NGPS Website) in **Aquatic News** it described how **Aquarama** has moved to China this year. Over the many years that the Open & Trade Show was held in Singapore the Thailand breeders had stands, especially showing their Fancy Goldfish. Their reaction to the move was to hold their own Open Show this year (hence the poster saying the '1st All Thailand').



The huge venue, staging and number of tanks was amazing. They also do a very nice line in oriental trophies...



No, I didn't attend, would love to, but did visit via my Virtual Reality headset.

This is possible now (if you have the right, expensive, equipment) because increasingly visitors to shows around the world take videos in 3D and put them on the internet – commercial people do it too, for advertising. Log-on with a 3D viewer and you are there and can look around, 360°.

For example, here is the 'iberzoo' pet trade exhibition in Madrid, also exhibited last March.



They had an aquatic section that the cameras visited.

Here is a Spaniard lecturing on the delights of aquascaping.

The results were spectacular – below is the winning design at the show.

(Virtually viewed in 3D, captured digitally and printed for you to view too!)



Now to Italy where biennially in May they hold the 'Zoomark International' at the huge Exhibition & Trade Centre in Fiera di Bologna, Northern Italy.



Note that they do have the Union Jack! Also, that all these International Shows have signs and advertising in English.



This year they are introducing the 'Aqua Project'. As they say in their adverts ...

The love for aquariums and tropical fish has always been popular in Italy; it is a passion that involves increasing numbers of hobbyists.

For this reason, Zoomark International has decided to focus on this sector with the launch of the **Aqua Project** area in 2017.

The area will be located in the hall 19 and showcase **aquariums of all kinds**, with a focus on technology and design, from the spectacular to the minimal. Tanks will be set up by expert aquascapers **and a unique pond** will complete the showcase.

The **main breeders and livestock importers** will be invited and the **major Italian and foreign manufacturers and distributors** will join as well as associations.

There will be **a programme of workshops and demonstrations, conferences and specialised seminars** on the aquarium industry with Italian and foreign experts and **a contest** to find the shop-keeper with the best aquarium.

This new area will provide a not-to-be-missed opportunity of visibility for the companies that have a business in the aquarium industry. It also ensures an excellent chance for professional education and new partnerships.

Must visit – if only virtually!

But we do have our own recorder – even if not in Virtual Reality – Tom Bell videos the Open Shows. His latest DVD is about the Nationwide OS last year.

Hence I have put it online – go to 'YouTube' via your favourite website and in the search box type 'Nationwide2016goldfish'. You may also be able to visit direct by tapping/clicking this link: <https://youtu.be/sysF02N4itY> The video is 24 minutes long and at 22 minutes 43 seconds it shows Bill Ramsden's 90th birthday celebrations and the cake.

Talking of Bill – here is more of his Show Fish from past years
– with his personal comments on why they were Showers



Moors: ideal tail fin with straight edge, good shape eyes.
Velvety Black free of gold scales.



Ideal Lionheads with small hoods not enveloping the eyes.
Good gently curving dorsal shape.



Veiltails with nice black streaks in the finnage. Rosy reds with ideal blue-ish background.



London's with prominent blue colour but other colours are strong too. Short finnage and streamlined body.

Members' Letters

An article by Alexander King about his method for breeding Ranchus.

Using water as a grooming tool for raising Ranchu.

To express the true potential of the Japanese Ranchu they must be kept according to the traditional methods used by all Japanese Ranchu breeders. From the beginning Ranchu were raised without filtration and if we use a bit of simple logic knowing how efficient the Japanese are and still are producing great products, why then in the face of so many newer technologies Ranchu are still raised without filtration. The water with just some simple airstones, food, environment and the skill of the Ranchu keeper working in synergy to groom and create the Ranchu as envisioned in the mind: to serious Ranchu keepers this is regarded as an art form. Water is used as a grooming tool and the norm is for a 4 to 5-day complete water changes in to help grow/groom the Ranchu. Fresh water means Ranchu swim more and thus grow in length and as the water gets foul they swim less and put on head growth and girth, this is just a basic theory and guide on why water change is necessary and that after 4 or 5 days' the water gets stale and foul and change is necessary to start the grooming cycle again. If we put a number on the composition of fresh water in a tank/tub without filtration and put its newest and freshest at 10 and as the water gets foul over the next 4 to 5 days and on the 5th day, the composition of the water is almost 0 and needs to be changed thus understanding this basic reasoning helps in the grooming of Ranchu. So basically what I am trying explain is that the swing in the composition of the water from 10 to 1 is the grooming tool that Ranchu keepers should try to harness with the other variables, like food and environment to grow/groom Ranchu. When we use filtration or

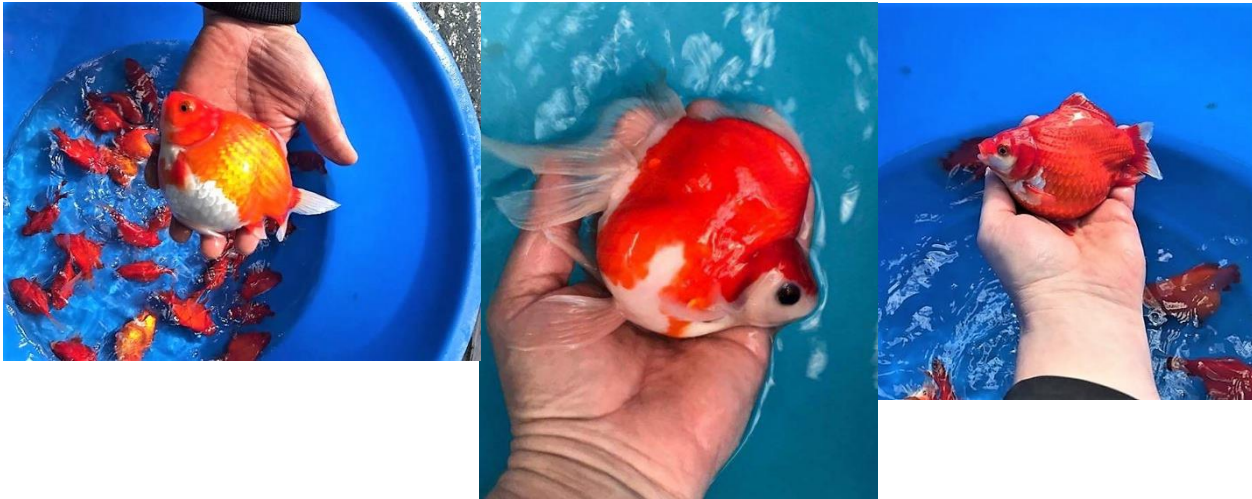
running water do they give this composition variable, I reckon it maybe stays around 6 to 7 on the scale of 10, it keeps the water clean in a static range. Can you raise Ranchu using filtration or running water, of course you can, but the range is tight at 6 to 7 and end results will show in Ranchu development.

The aforementioned holds a lot of weight and we must try to understand and expand on it from time to time so that we stay on the right track, because water gets soiled when fishes start swimming and excreting faeces and urine in a nonfiltered environment, fresh water will get dirtier and water quality will deteriorate and eventually if nothing is done it gets foul and fish get sick. There is a saying amongst Ranchu keepers that s--t is gold, because as Ranchu start s—ting it changes the composition of the water and it is this dynamic change in the water that helps mould the Ranchu. Dirty water is still good water and it is only when dirty water becomes foul that fish start to show signs of illness. Understanding the dynamics of your tank/tub water goes a long way in improving your skills as a Ranchu keeper. Every day you should spend a few minutes just checking the state of the water in all your tank/tubs as certain days just because of experience even water just 2 days old you know is foul maybe due to hot weather, overfeeding or just some Ranchu looking ill, you need to do a water change and don't feed for rest of day.

Obviously there are other factors like environment, size of tubs/tanks, temperature of water, depth of water, most Ranchu breeders raise their black baby Ranchu (BBR) in 4" of water and lastly food which comprises mainly high protein sinking pellets and bloodworm, fed on a regular basis, but water is still considered to be the main grooming tool. The only drawback is we don't all have large setups like the Japanese breeders and time it takes to do regular water changes, plus if your water is metered it could turn out to be quite a costly exercise. I don't have a large setup and now that I am retired I have time on my hands and thankfully our water is not metered, so if you are interested in breeding Ranchu give it a try as I have found it does change the way your BBR/CBR develop.

(Thanks Alexander – please send any information you can offer for all members to read via me at drdmford@outlook.com)

Goldfish News



Member Jeremy Gay – now at **Evolution Aqua, Evolution House, Kellet Close, Wigan, Lancashire WN5 0LP** reports that Tamasabas are now in stock. They are from the Matsunosuke bloodline. Not (yet) in our Nationwide Standards, but members may be interested, says Jeremy.

Minutes of the April Meeting

The AGM was completed with no issues raised and no changes in committee. These are: Chairman - Sherridan Moores, Secretary - David Ford, Show Secretary - Dean Roberts. There were no nominations for Treasurer, so Sherridan has agreed to continue with this post. If anyone is willing to take on this responsibility, please let Sherridan know. We really need one because, although the funds are in the black we have again lost money at the 2016 OS. This needs quantifying to allow changes to be agreed.

We had a few apologies but there was a quorum - one was from Dean who is in hospital recovering from a (successful) open-heart operation. We all send our good wishes to Dean and hope to see him back soon. We welcomed a visitor, Tom Power who came for help with a Shubunkin that was suffering floatation problems (seen on a mobile video).

Everyone offered traditional treatments, but then discovered Tom had already tried them all. The consensus was to let nature take its course, especially as the fish was still feeding.



David Padfield brought some of his no-breeding Goldfish for David Ormondroyd to stock the new aquarium at St. Matthews Church Hall.

We will see these fish again at the NGPS OS on September 16th.

The email that Alan Race sent explaining the difficulties that NEGS were having with membership involvement, was read out by Sherridan and the problems discussed. David Padfield said that we all would support the NEGS OS if it takes place in 2017. David Ford suggested that their members should become Internet-only contacts, pointing out we only have an average of 6 members attending monthly meetings but we have over 60 members (world-wide) that keep in touch via the Internet. Sherridan said that if meetings fail, they should be discontinued, but the annual OS should be their main feature, where they all meet once a year - and we visit.



We all hope that the Nationwide family continue

Next meeting at The Church Inn will be Tuesday May 9th at 8pm.

Let Sherridan know if you can't make it. Please.