

June 2017

Member's Write...



In the April issue of the Newsletter it was stated that in this year's European and Asian fish shows there is no British input. Member Ian Mildon wrote to say that our input in past years was significant. In fact, at the last Aquarama Exhibition (before it moved to China) he and Graham Turner were actual judges. Here they are (1st and 4th from left) at that 2015 show in Singapore.

Ian described his visit in the Bristol Aquarist Society Newsletter, July 2015, so part of this is reproduced here:

"A long time ago, 2007 to be precise, I was part of an organized trip arranged by Eric Hutchinson of the Northern Goldfish and Pond Keepers Society to the Aquarama fish exhibition in Singapore. I was privileged to meet Alvin Lim, President and Ng

Wee Yap, Vice President and many other members of the Vermillion Goldfish Club of Singapore. Forward to 2012, I was invited to Judge at the First International Goldfish Competition in Fuzhou China where I was reunited with the Vermillion Goldfish Club, their members were very helpful, especially in translating Chinese, I also met Patrick Tan from Kuala Lumpur, Anusorn Adirekkittikun from Thailand and Huang Hong Yu from China plus many others who share the love of Goldfish and we made good acquaintances.

Graham Turner was also invited to judge at this Aquarama, so, with the skill of a military operation on the 25th May Graham flew from Manchester and I from Heathrow, we both met in Frankfurt and joined the same flight to Singapore, arriving late afternoon on Tuesday.

Wednesday was Judging day, over breakfast it was mentioned that many entries were held up at customs, the trouble with an international show, but as they say, it was alright on the night, as these entries were released at 3.30 am!

There were just over two hundred Goldfish in the show in eight classes; they were Ranchu, Pearlscales, Orandas, Dragon Eyes, Short Tail Ryukin, Long Tail Ryukin, Any Other Variety and Pairs. The Classes were well organized and good judging sheets were supplied. Judging took about five hours with every Judge judging every class and making a committee decision about the winners.

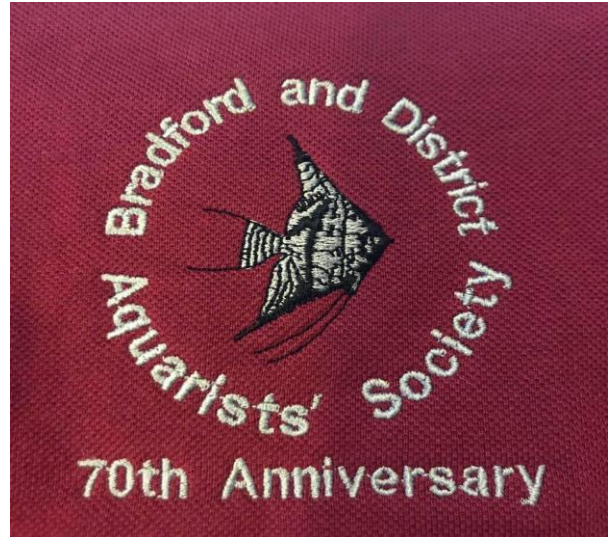
Graham and I were presented with a book produced by the Vermillion Goldfish Club titled "The Golden Decade" in celebration of their tenth anniversary although the club is now twelve. It featured the NGPS visit in 2007 and the Fuzhou Show in 2012 so I can boast of having my picture in their book four times.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the show is open for trade visitors, Saturday and Sunday it is open to the general public. Trade days are good to view the exhibits as there is plenty of elbow room. As well as Goldfish there are shows for Guppies, Catfish, Discus, Beta's Dragon fish (Arawana), Swords and Platys, Cichlids, Marine tanks, Planted tanks and the main promotion this year was Bee shrimps. The Show also has a large accessory and food exhibition with hundreds of stands promoting tanks, water treatment, fish suppliers, and government fish agency's from around the Far East. It takes a full day to get around."



British Club News

The Fish Show season always starts in Yorkshire with the Bradford & District Spring Auction and Open Show. I am a Life Member so it is a pleasure to report that they are celebrating their 70th anniversary this year. The committee are all wearing T-shirts with a special logo ...



Of course they are a Tropical club, but they do have a Goldfish Class (Common, Comet, Fancy). The Judges are all Yorkshire Association of Aquarist Societies (YAAS) and use their YAAS standards – but each has a copy of our Nationwide Standards to help them. The show was at Bradford Academy Sunday 14th May and the audience for the auction was 80 strong – among the sales were young Fantails and Moors going for about £3 each.

Here is one YAAS Judge assessing the Goldfish entries – it is David Marshall who is editor of The Aquarium Gazette (a digital magazine).



... and the winner of the Fancy Goldfish Class was a Fantail by Mr & Mrs Nelson of Ashby AS.



More Club News

The UK Goldfish season will start this month. Here are the details for your commitment diary!

Saturday June 24th AMGK at West Orchard Church Hall, Baginton Road, Coventry CV3 6FP

Sunday July 16th NEGS at Redby Community Centre, Fulwell Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR6 9QU

Sunday September 3rd BAS at The Hengrove Community Centre, Fortfield Road, Bristol BS14 9NX

Saturday September 16th NGPS at St. Matthews Church Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8HF

Saturday September 30th Nationwide (with all the above Societies) at The Horsehay Village Hall, Bridge Road, Horsehay, Telford TF4 2NF

Archives

All the hundreds of historical Newsletters (from 1959) are being scanned (before scrapping) to save them for posterity. During this process items of interest are found and will be reported in this section. For example – back in 1983 when Pauline Hodgkinson was the secretary she discovered a new club that formed that year called "Northern Coldwater & Pondkeepers Society"! So she wrote to their secretary pointing out the similarity of our names.

He was a Mr Kennard who wrote back saying that the problem was brought to members' attention and they voted to change their name to "Northumbrian Coldwater & Pondkeepers Society". Which both societies agreed solved that problem. They used to meet alternate Fridays at the Mission to the Deaf, Gloucester Terrace, Newcastle.

There is no longer any record of the Society or the Mission where they met.

The Monthly Top Tip



A Turkey Baster is available for about £5 from most cookery stores. The opening is too small for Goldfish fry culling but a useful gadget for collecting debris, faeces, mulm, excess food, etc. from the base of an aquarium.

It will also collect live food from a culture and squirt it into the aquarium. This can be targeted to fish that usually miss out on the daily feed.

The suction is more powerful than a simple siphon, so it will selectively remove infertile eggs.

If you do have tropicals it will collect hiding fry, to move them to new tanks, often saving them from becoming a meal.

More from Alex King

Reference the May 2017 Newsletter (see page 7) with two photos of Alex's Ranchu spawnings. Alex has sent the following update ...

"The first spawning was from a Nisai (1year old) female from my own strain X 2 Nisai males from another spawning, that were bred from a X using a Suzuki male to introduce new blood into my strain. I wouldn't normally use a year-old female, but I really liked how she had developed, plus the fact that she had come into breeding condition. Now culled down to 35.

The second spawning was from an Oya (2-year-old) female from my own strain X 2 Nisai males from same spawning as males used in 1st spawning. Now culled down to 25.

Both of these spawnings were planned, but the 3rd was not. What happened was a female I bred 3 years ago, which I had presumed was a non-breeder as she had never come into breeding condition in the last 2 years, started throwing eggs, so I did a hand strip to a young male and about 250 fry hatched out, which I have now culled down to 20. To be honest I should have basically pulled the plug on spawning once I knew how many fry had hatched, but I really wanted to find out what she would produce, even though they were taking up tank space as I don't have a large setup, plus putting a strain on my brine shrimp supply. Time will tell if I made right decision."



The Ranchus at 8 weeks

Here is a close-up of an individual showing a good body shape is developing





The Second Spawning at 6 Weeks

Alex is also carrying out an experiment with Brian Parkin of NEGS to see how the fry develop under different conditions. To date, Alex reports his fry have been culled to 47. They are housed in a black 6ft tub in 4" of water, temperature 22°C with no filtration, or running water, only an airstone and getting regular complete water changes, plus being fed the same as my Ranchu babies.

Brian's setup is completely different - glass tank, filtration, running water trickled in and he has a different feeding regime. It will be interesting to find out how they develop under different conditions, or not. See later Newsletters for the results.

Minutes of the June Meeting

A good turn-out despite a few apologies, not listed – see you next time. That time will be one week earlier than usual. Chairman Sherridan cannot attend due to unavoidable commitments, so he has arranged with The Church Inn for us to meet

on Tuesday July 4th (so cancel July 11th on your diary). Let him know if you cannot make it.

David Padfield reported Bristol spawnings, Richard Rizzotti has also had spawnings of Calico Fantails.

Sherridan gave an update on his collapsing aquaria shelving – the replacement will be steel, not wood. This led to a discussion on the difficulties with wooden support and some problems with Dexion too. See later Newsletters for Sherridan's solution.

Sherridan also told the tale of one of his customer's Black Goldfish(?), which have grown to 12" or more. But are they Goldfish. This led to a discussion on Black Fish and the revelation that judges looked for the possibility of dyeing Black Moors for more points. It was claimed that Methylene Blue was used, but this is not believable, we all decided.

A 1939 (July, so pre-war) edition of 'Water Life – incorporating Aquarium News' edition was viewed. It contains an article by once famous aquarist R.J Affleck on 'Breeding Prize-Winning Goldfish'. Sherridan read out the piece, which showed that little had changed over the almost 80 years. Read it yourself (it is attached to the end of this Newsletter). It is free now – back then it would cost you 3d.

Alan Ratcliffe told the story of his lost Goldfish that made him suspect an electrical fault in the submerged power filter. Not poor water – possible electrocution. The debate was then whether fish are affected by an electrical short. It was thought not in aquariums – but commercial fishing use electrical stunning. The debate will continue next time (July 4th!).

As temporary Treasurer, Chairman Sherridan gave his financial report -

Bank is Barclays and our Business Account has £1,257 – 98

The Business Savings Account has £1,032 – 60

There is an extra Savings Account but only has 35p

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Remember - next meeting at The Church Inn will be Tuesday July 4th at 8pm.



WATER LIFE

JULY 4, 1939

INCORPORATING AQUARIA NEWS

TUESDAY

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Is pH Vital?—F. R. McQuown

The Dwarf Gourami—Tom C. Saville

World's Strangest Amphibious Animal

—Ewen K. Patterson

Tips for the Pondkeeper—Arthur Derham

Field Notes on the Eyed Lizard

—John Armitage



Breeding Prize-Winning Goldfishes

By R. J. AFFLECK

LAST November I bought a pair of Blue Scaleless Orandas and decided that I would spawn them this year. They had good colours, but were not particularly fat, so I decided to see if I could improve their figures. Accordingly, they were placed in an unplanted tank, the temperature was raised gradually to 70 degs. by day and 65 degs. by night, and they were given as much food as they could eat. With such heavy feeding the water had to be changed at least once a week. This continued until the beginning of January, when their colours had improved considerably, and their bodies were almost unrecognizable. Instead of their heads being larger than their bodies, when viewed from the top, they now resembled a sausage (*i.e.*, parallel sides with semi-circular ends). By this time the male was showing some interest in the female, and so the temperature was reduced, over a period of three weeks, to that of the unheated tanks, and the fishes were separated.

I decided to spawn them at the end of May, so, three weeks before, the temperature was raised to 70 degs. by day and 65 degs. by night. One Friday night a 24 x 15 x 15-in. concrete tank with glass sides was set up with tap water, and bunches of *Myriophyllum* were placed at one end. The fishes were introduced about 8 p.m. with a temperature of 70 degs., and a 100-watt bulb was placed above the tank for illumination, as the tank was in a dark corner of the room.

The next morning the fishes had spawned, and in two and a half days the fry had hatched, while two and a half days later they were swimming. The temperature after spawning varied from 65 degs. to 74 degs., and I am unable to account for the short period of incubation, as the temperature was taken at the surface

and at the bottom of the water, in different parts of the tank, and the thermometer was tested to see if it was registering properly.

The benefit of care and attention given to the parents was shown by the spawning, because out of several thousand fry that hatched, only fifty-nine were infertile. The fry were fed on yolk of hard-boiled egg, and a non-stop catering service was set up. In a fortnight's time, tummies were beginning to bulge nicely, and some of the fry were much larger than others.

I believe in raising a few hardy exhibition fishes every year rather than a lot of rubbish, so now I decided to kill off some of the stragglers. An old tablespoon was used to catch those that were not very active, while a greater fluctuation in temperature found out other weaker ones, and they were destroyed. At the end of three weeks the fry were picked out one by one and examined under a powerful magnifying glass. Those with double tails, double anals, good dorsals, etc., were picked out from the larger ones, and after another culling at four weeks my thousands were reduced to eighteen fish. All others were destroyed.

Many aquarists will criticize me for such drastic treatment, and say that I ought to have kept them as long as possible in the hope that some of the smaller ones might have developed into prizewinners. If I had had an unlimited supply of tanks, then I might have kept a few more, but a 36 x 15 x 15-in. tank is not large enough for more than eighteen fry when they are a month old and over half an inch long. The ones that were destroyed would have eaten good food and restricted the growth of the good fry. I shall be satisfied if I have four good fishes from this spawning at the end of the season.