

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



October 2017 – A Showtime Issue



Judging our 40th Open Show



163 Aquariums of Show Goldfish from all the Nationwide UK members

As always, the Show was at the St Matthews Church Hall – which this year is celebrating their 175 years in Stretford. Part of that celebration was a special dinner for every visitor on the very day we held our Open Show.



So, the judges got Hot Pot and assorted puddings!



We were pleased to see our President Bill Ramsden was able to attend – he helped with the judging and handed out the prizes.

He even won the Best Photograph award. Craig Clinton won many Firsts too and it was his daughter Millie (an honorary junior member) who received them from Bill. What a membership range we have - a 91-year-old and a 7-year old.....



You can read more about the Show and see lots of Photos on the NGPS website www.northerngoldfishsociety.com click/tap Entry Button, then go to page 7 and scroll way down. All the results are on page 11 (then click/tap 2017).

The 4th Nationwide Show

The final Open Show for the Nationwide Clubs was held in Telford's Village Hall on September 30th, 2017. Our four clubs, Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society, North East Goldfish Society, Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers, and the Bristol Aquarist Society, competed to find the Best in Show and Best Exhibit for this year.

This was the winner – both Best in Show and the Best Exhibit.



Owned and bred by our Scottish member Alex King. Here he is receiving both awards from the Nationwide Chairman, (also our) Sherridan Moores.





The Nationwide judges included our President Bill Ramsden – who celebrated his 91st birthday that week – with Sherridan and Dean Roberts, Andy Barton, Marty Clare, and Alex King. They judged the 166 entries in the 63 Classes.



We share the venue with the Fancy Guppy UK competitors and they held their 7th Leg of their European Competition in the hall. Here are their judges preparing to assess the beautiful Fancy Guppies. Their Best in Show....



Then all those judges were wined and dined (well, burgers, chips, and tea) as the Open Show was opened for visitors.

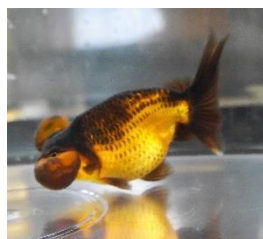
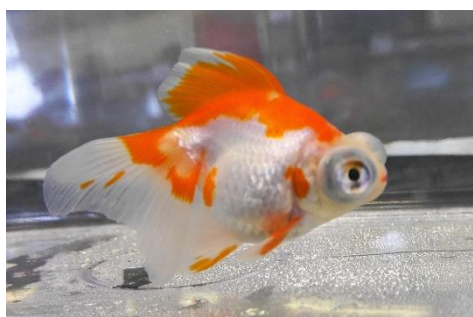


The Nationwide Show includes an auction where 57 lots of home-bred Fancy Goldfish were sold, by auctioneer Mick Smith, at knock-down prices...



The Shields and Trophies all carried the new Nationwide Logo and First Winners all received a bag of products from sponsors Aquarian, FishScience, Biffa and Vitalis.

A few of the winning fishes



More photos can be found on page 3 of the NGPS website, with full results on page 11.

Everyone agreed that the Nationwide OS & Auction was a great success. NGPS congratulates everyone involved, Show managers Alan Race, Graham Turner, Andrew Barton, and Bob Jones and Jan Ferris in the kitchen. Plus, all the judges and helpers before and after the show.



Yorkshire Shows

The Sheaf Valley Aquarist Society (SAVA) held the annual Open Show and Auction in The Rockingham Centre in Barnsley on Sunday 24th September. Usual 41 Classes, most of which were Tropical, but Class 40 is Goldfish varieties. They had several entries. At the same Show the Fancy Guppies UK Society had the 6th Leg of their European Championship Show and our member (and President of AMGK) Andy Barton was showing his Guppies there. So, he could assess the Goldfish in the SAVA OS.



The First winner in the Class was a Ryukin with 82 points ...

Andrew said the quality was very good – but not up to our Nationwide Standards.

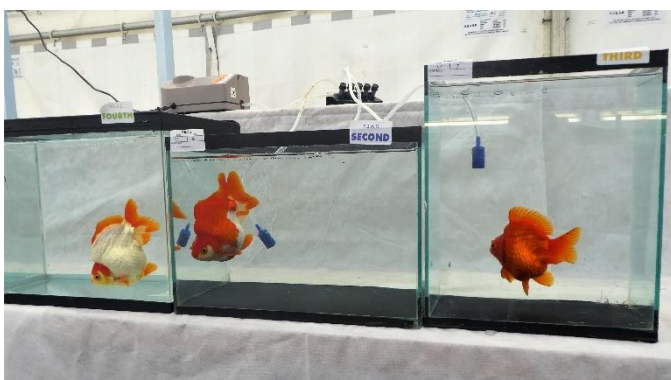


A London Show

The Federation of British Aquatic Societies held their 31st Weekend Festival of Fishkeeping at the Hounslow Urban Farm (for the fourth year at this venue). This year is also the 79th since the FBAS was formed. Which means 2018 will be an 80th celebration. The committee that control the annual Festival are of similar age too – and so they have decided to retire next year. Hence the Festival of Fishkeeping 2018 will be the final one – at least in this Farm venue. Where and how it will happen in 2019 will be up to a new, younger, committee!



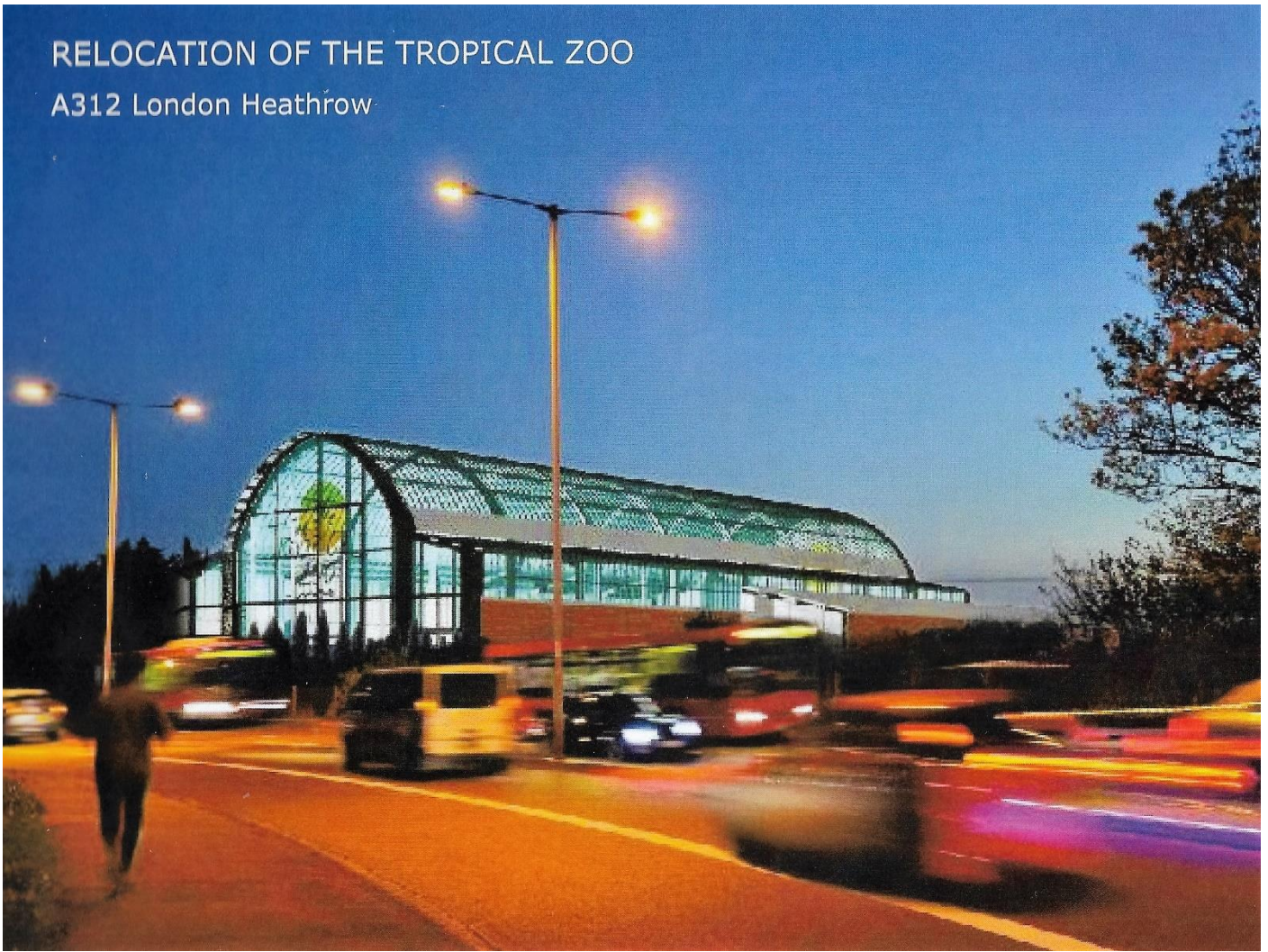
It is mainly a Tropical Fish competition but they do have a small Goldfish Class, plus a few Fancies on show ...



The report of this Festival in 2016 included details of a planned Tropical Zoo at the Farm and it was hoped this would be ready for this year. However, building is still underway – perhaps it will be ready next year?

RELOCATION OF THE TROPICAL ZOO

A312 London Heathrow



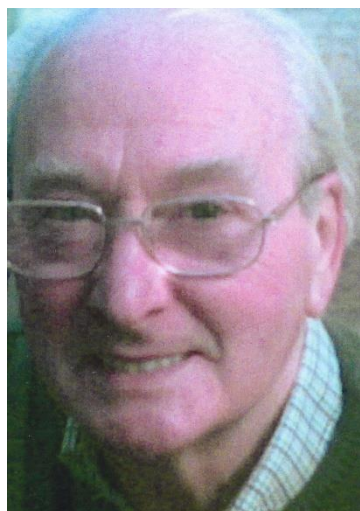
This is the planned structure with its tropical aquariums therein.

This the current state



Hopefully built in time for the Ultimate Festival in 2018. That will be the 2nd & 3rd of October. Note that although entry to the Festival is free, you need to pay for the Farm experience – this is around £8 per person (unless you are a Shower when conditions apply – check with the FBAS website).

Sad News



Sorry to report that a long-time member of our Club has died, Ronald Duckworth. He passed away no less than 2 years ago (after a short illness in September 2015) but we did not know this until we tried to contact him about the latest NGPS Open Show.

Ron was an NGPS Judge and bred Veiltails and Orandas. He once owned an aquarist shop in his home town of Accrington and it was known for high quality fish. He attended many Open Shows by the Nationwide clubs and he was well-known by them too. It is sad that we did not know until now that we have lost him.

Memories of Ron by Sherridan

Although I had attended the Open Show for several years, I came to my first NGPS meeting in the early nineties having phoned Ronnie Duckworth and arranged with him to bring some of his Veiltails for me to buy. I went home that night with some excellent fish, a membership of the Society and several new friends, including Ronnie.

Over the years I came to realize just how deep Ronnie's knowledge and experience was in breeding Veiltails. He was always soft spoken but if you asked him he would have the answer to any question. His fish house was probably the best I have ever seen and actually built as another room in his house, to the same standard of construction as you would expect in your living room. He was a respected retailer in Accrington, knew everyone in the trade and sold large quantities of his stock to all the major shops.

In the army he had been in the catering corps and always took a keen interest in feeding his fish. At one meeting I asked him what he had fed his fish on that night and a smile of supreme satisfaction spread across his face as he said, "One of their favourites – Petite Pois".

Ronnie was a small man but never travelled light, whenever he went off to a show

or a visit, he brought spare vests, socks, sandwiches, flasks, bananas, etc., with him and you would find this luggage for weeks after in your car where he had secreted it and then forgotten. One of our favourite places to visit was Tommy Suttons and many was the time I acted as 'lookout' at the door of Tommy's Veiltail house while Ron squeezed all the fish to establish their sex prior to buy; if Tommy had seen him he would have wanted him to buy every fish he handled!

Rest in Peace Ronnie.

Minutes of the October Meeting

Our Open Show & Auction was discussed and all said that there were only good reports from everyone attending. Sherridan (as Treasurer) gave a breakdown of the costs and receipts. The grand totals showed a deficit of £207, which will be subsidised by club funds. It was agreed that the annual show should not generate a profit, but must at least break even. Various ideas on how were offered – these will be considered at the AGM 2018.

The club's annual trip to Llandudno at The Broadway Hotel is fully booked now for October 28th & 29th. If you want to come and will accept an alternative hotel nearby, ring Sherridan (urgently!) on 01619697567.



Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is Tuesday November 14th

Please be there and have your say!