



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



November 2017



AQUA 2017 - Hall 1 and Hall 2 with its 90 stands of exhibitors in the aquatic trade.



AQUA is a Trade Show where manufacturers and wholesalers in the aquarium and pond trade can exhibit their range of products to the retail traders – especially what will be available in 2018. Entrance is free (even complimentary meals) to visitors but they must be registered as bona fide traders in the aquatic business.

Held annually at the Telford International Centre, it was a two-day exhibition, Wednesday & Thursday October 18th & 19th.



There is a New Product Showcase in 10 categories where manufacturers compete to be a winner, as judged by an independent panel of retailers. The Winner's Certificate is awarded at a conference dinner (with its 700 diners) after day 1 of the exhibition. It is recognised that this can lead to the product becoming a best seller.

The winners for 2017 are: Merchandising – a Mobile Aquatic Display System by Beaver Plants. Reptile – a Terrarium by BioPod. Pond Pumps – a Pond Oxygenator by Blagdon. Pond Filters – EazyPod UV Automatic by Evolution Aqua. Pond Food, Care & Accessories – a Laser Guard by Velda. Aquariums – BioPod Aqua by BioPod. Freshwater Equipment – the ZA BLK-2 Breeding Box by Ceramic Nature. Aquarium

Foods – Corydoras Sticks by Natures Grub. Marines – ALR1 Algae Light Reactor by ITC Aquatics.



There was nothing of note for us Goldfish Keepers except perhaps the pond items – if you want some decorations!



The traditional fish food manufactures were there – from Tetra (always the biggest stand and most promotional items) to Dr David Pool with his latest additions to the FishScience range.

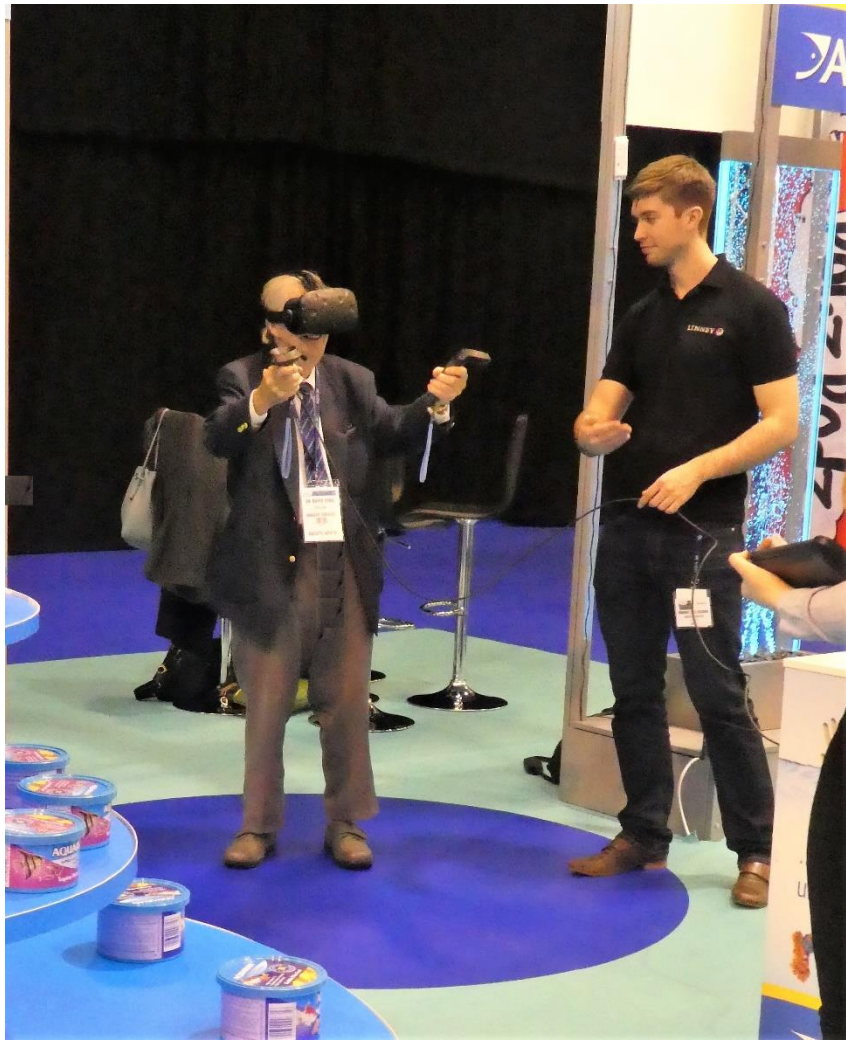


Of interest to me was the Aquarian Stand, of course, and I found that to attract customers to their stand they had a Virtual Reality system which placed the wearer in a Stand showing the whole range of Aquarian and API Products. When you removed the VR headset, you returned to a world with the same range – but real!



Me trying the VR unit
(for those who know –
it is the Oculus
System).

I never thought I would
find a Digital Range of
Aquarian Products!



The only
Goldfish Tank
had this display
– seen last
year too, but
still amusing.

Latest Gimmick!

The trade (especially Tetra) are always dreaming up something new to sell to us Aquarists. Here's their latest. You buy (new recipe) Tetra tablet food ('FunTips') and stick one on the front glass – at Pets at Home they advertise them with this plastic sheet on the outside glass. No, it doesn't magnify – just a gimmick.



Goldfish News (well, Guppies)

Scientists from the University of Exeter studied how Guppies behaved in various situations, and found complex differences between individuals. The study, published in the journal *Functional Ecology*, examined the "coping styles" of Guppies in conditions designed to cause varying levels of stress. The paper is entitled: "*Testing the stability of behavioural coping style across stress contexts in the Trinidadian guppy.*" (dated 25 September 2017).

The conclusion was that the Guppies had differing personalities – which even made the BBC News where it was reported that 'fish have personalities, just like us'.

As usual, we know these facts – not just Guppies, Goldfish have individual

personalities, which we could have told the scientists and saved them a lot of research!



My Metallic Veiltail greets me every morning, dashing to the tank front looking to say 'hello – where's breakfast?'.

Whereas the Fantail hides behind the ornamental stone and only ventures forth if it sees the Veiltail feeding.

Different personalities.

Minutes of the November Meeting

As Chairman of Nationwide, Sherridan asked members to vote on two proposals.

A new venue for the Nationwide OS in Coventry has been found – did we want to investigate this or are we happy with the Telford facilities?

Of the nine members present all liked the Telford venue and voted to stay there. Hence the NGPS voted to stay at Telford in 2018.

The second proposal was whether to change the three affected Nationwide club OS dates around September 2018 to be both two weeks apart, or the second gap to be three weeks apart (this would have the coincidental effect of not clashing with GSGB OS).

Of the nine members present, four voted to stay with two weeks between all the shows, four to change the dates to two weeks and then three, so the Chairman had a casting vote: to stay with two weeks. Hence the NGPS voted to keep the dates as previously arranged at two-week gaps in 2018.

Sherridan also stated "I am pleased to report another superb Open Show for 2017, a huge thank you to everyone who helped in putting it up, taking it down and everything in between. We had 161 entries, with a very good overall standard, this number was down a little chiefly because several of our usual exhibitors either couldn't attend or couldn't exhibit this year, however an entry around this number is more manageable with the helpers we now have.

Our new policy of providing free hot food for our visitors in the morning was very much appreciated as was our truly magnificent raffle, the auction continues to grow, with an ever better standard of fish being sold, thanks to our auction team of Richard Rizzotti, David Padfield and Mick Smith and as always David Ford's presentation was a highlight for many. I heard nothing but highly positive, complimentary comments from visitors which was most pleasing showing that our aim of putting on an effective show and giving everyone, a good fun day out too had been met.

However, there is a longstanding problem with our Open Show and that is that we have consistently, for well over the last ten years, been losing money on it. This year was no exception. Here are the figures:

Show Expenses

Purchase sandwich toaster	£20.00	
Food	£85.00	
Judges dinner	£50.00	
Hall rent.....	£110.00	
Insurance.....	£56.00	
Trophies.....	£198.13	TOTAL.....£519.13

Show Income

Entry Fees.....	£161.00	
Raffle.....	£63.00	
Catalogues.....	£9.00	
Auction.....	£32.00	TOTAL.....£265.00

Income minus expenses = MINUS £254.13

We made a loss of £254.13 on the cash figures, if donations of food and printing from members and manpower sponsorship from Aquarium Home Services were taken into account this would be even higher.

We have tried several strategies over the past few shows to address this loss, this year we hoped that giving free hot food and an emphasis on excellent raffle prizes would lead to a higher raffle take but the raffle brought in much the same as last year.

At our last meeting, when we were planning the show, we discussed several ideas to reduce the loss - most of which had been discussed many times before - the majority involved cutting back on some aspect of the show, but these were all felt to be undesirable and would lead to a diminished Show an effect nobody wants. When we agreed to try the free hot food this year, which did in the event prove very popular, the idea was raised that this could become a permanent feature and coincide with an increased entry fee to pay for it and to reduce the yearly loss. It

was felt that this was probably the fairest way of doing this as the entry fee is the one aspect of the show finances directly relating to the showing of the fish, it was thought that an increase of entry fee to £2.00 each fish might achieve the desired aim. What do members not able to attend the meetings think?"

The above was read out to members at the meeting and Alan Ratcliffe proposed, seconded by David Padfield that when a decision is made it should be that the free hot food be provided for one more year without a rise in entry fee to see if that had any effect on the raffle take.

Sherridan asked: Would members who were not at this meeting let me have their comments and any other ideas on how to make the Open Show break even.

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The meeting ended with comments about the social outing – a long weekend in Llandudno in October. A report with photos can be seen on Page 8 (scroll way down) of the NGPS website: Click/tap: www.northerngoldfishsociety.com

Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is Tuesday December 12th

