

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



OCTOBER 2018



Our annual Open Show and Auction at St Matthews Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8HF on Saturday 15th September – 150 tanks for the 150 entries in the 80 Classes. Here are the seven judges – President Bill Ramsden (who is 92 now), Chairman Sherridan Moores, members Craig Clinton, Andy Barton, Graham Turner, David Roberts and Ian Mildon.

The Auction was quite small this year, but there were 10 Lots of home-bred Fancy Goldfish and all were sold (at bargain prices).

There was a giant Raffle (has become a tradition for our Club) with no less than 100 items ranging from a video camera to a pair of plant pots. Tickets at £1 each, but with special offers (15 for a fiver!) meant every visitor and Shower got something.



Instead of the usual lecture there was a display of 'Historical Aquarian' with products and promotional items from the last 40 years of production by Mars Fishcare.

With Japanese, German, French and Flemish Aquarian and the USA version, plus audio tapes, videos and booklets.



More photos are on the website www.northerngoldfishsociety.com - enter the site, go to page 7 and click 'second page'. This is a new page – because the website is now 5 years old, there is so much data that the page will no longer elongate. Also, over those years members no longer have computers, they rely on their smart phones for web browsing. The traditional fonts for computers are not visible on the small screens of smart phones without magnifying, which spoils image viewing. Hence the 'New Page' has a simpler format and a large font (Tahoma 30 point for those in the know). The whole site needs changing to this style really, but the work involved is just too much!

Nationwide

Just two weeks later it was the 5th annual Nationwide Fancy Goldfish Open Show and Auction. At yet another new venue: Wyken Community Centre on Belgrave Estate, Coventry CV2 5PY. NGPS judges attended – President Bill Ramsden, Chairman Sherridan Moores, Show Secretary Dean Roberts, Show Manager David Roberts and Craig Clinton. (Me to report it all too).



There were 266 entries in the 63 Classes – a new record. The Auction too had 81 Lots of pedigree Fancy Goldfish sold at bargain prices – another record.



Pat Davies auctions to an audience of 40.



The results and more photos will be on the NGPS website (soon!), the highest award being a double one for Tony Roberts with Best Team of Four and Best Exhibit.

Tony's Four Bristol Shubunkins and Best in Show (now called the 'Best Adult Fish' under Nationwide rules} was won by NGPS's Gary Malpas with a Nacreous Fantail.



At the end of the Show the Chairman of Nationwide (our Sherridan) asked Showers and Visitors to let him know what they thought of the new venue or should the Nationwide move again. Email him at moores_s@sky.com.

Members Write

Last month it was mentioned that members discussed judging techniques. This prompted Alex King (our Scotland member) to offer his opinion. Quote:-

1. Only adult fish should be considered for this award. It's nice to see quality single youngsters, but at this stage they are not fully developed, they have smaller bodies and finnage, colour especially in nacreous fish is not fixed and they tend to show less faults. In my opinion the youngster classes represent the quality of fish being bred and the real skill is developing them into show quality adults.
 2. When selecting the best fish in show, do we need to consider the difficulty in producing show quality fish from the different varieties, their special features and is it more difficult to produce good colour in matt and nacreous fish. Basically what I am saying is it easier to produce a quality common goldfish than a quality nacreous Veiltail if they score similar points.
- A) Do we use judging sheets and select an agreed number of the highest pointed fish in adult classes and then based on above do several judges who do not have fish in these classes select the eventual winner. One comment I would make it that the highest pointed fish in my opinion should not automatically be made best fish in show based on comments above in section 2.

B) Or do we forget about judging sheets and basically as has been done over the years, that I been involved in judging get several judges to look at all the winners and then eliminate all fish not considered to be good enough and then finally make the final selection from the ones left.

C) Or does the Principal show manager or show secretary nominate judges beforehand and regardless of whether they have winning fish in classes trust their knowledge of all varieties, integratory and experience to pick the winner.

At the end of the day it boils down to the how the standards are interpreted, knowledge and experience of the judges and I include myself in this and if any members are not happy or has any questions with how fish are being judged, this is an ideal opportunity to air their views or come up with a better system.

What you also need to remember is that it is not just the best fish in show, it is also best single breeder and team that have to be judged to whatever system is used, plus any other awards, not including highest pointed exhibitor.

What do you think? Email me at drdmford@outlook.com

More Members Write

Last month's Newsletter also carried an article about the shape of the Bristol Shubunkin's tail. Bristol Aquarist Society (many are also members of NGPS) are obviously the experts – here are the comments by their webmaster Peter Brokenshire

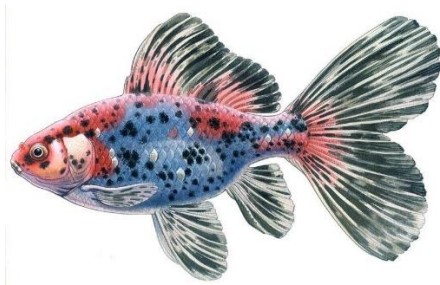
Threat to the Bristol Shubunkin standard

Thank you for the chance to comment on the information from David Ford about the view in America that there are two distinct forms of Bristol Shubunkin, the heart-shaped tail or "Classic" and the "B" shaped tail or "Modern". The view is presented as a translation from a Japanese website about the Sierironisiki (which is the Japanese name for the Bristol Shubunkin).

I wrote an article for the Japanese magazine Aqua-Life, which appeared in their August 2006 edition, in which I described the Bristol shubunkin's tail as "heart-shaped"; the Japanese use the term "fan-shaped", after a ladies' dancing fan. I also wrote an article for the Chinese magazine Oriental Goldfish, which appeared in their June 2010 edition, again describing the Bristol shubunkin's tail as heart-shaped. Neither article introduces the term "B" shaped for the tail; if this term did originate in the Far East, then I cannot find reference to it because of the difficulty in searching sites in Chinese and Japanese.

But a search on the Internet reveals that goldfish keepers in America are discussing a shift in the Bristol Shubunkin standard and questioning whether there are two variants; this blog entry is typical: "It seems to me that the major difference is in tail shape. The 'classic' Bristol has a bit more of a sideways heart shape, and a bit longer body. Whereas the 'modern' standard has [a] more capital letter 'B' shaped tail and a shorter body." The above was retrieved from <https://goldfishkeepers.com/community/threads/bristol-shubunkins.6007/> and a number of websites in America, such as Pure Goldfish, describe the Bristol shubunkin as having a "B" shaped tail; see <https://puregoldfish.com/types/>

Now this is interesting: there is an organization called the Goldfish Council, which was "founded in 2016" and is "an international community of goldfish fanciers". Its website is at <https://thegoldfishcouncil.org> and their Bristol shubunkin standard at <https://thegoldfishcouncil.org/2016/09/bristol-shubunkin/> indeed has *two* variants of the type: you can see that the "Modern Bristol" has the correct tail shape, and they describe it as "B" shaped, and the "Classic Bristol" has an awful, collapsed-looking tail.



“Classic Bristol”



“Modern Bristol”

Someone on behalf of BAS or the Nationwide Standards organization, with knowledge of the history of the Bristol Shubunkin standard, needs to contact this Goldfish Council and point out (kindly, in such a manner as to win them round) the erroneous view they are promulgating that there are two variants of the Bristol Shubunkin – British breeders need to come to the rescue of our fish in the international arena! Their contact form is at <https://thegoldfishcouncil.org/contact/>

For anyone who may care to know, the Chinese and Japanese names for the Bristol Shubunkin are given by:

Chinese: 布鲁斯顿朱文金 Bùlǔsītūō zhūwénjīn = Bristol shubunkin.

Japanese: 寿惠广锦 ((or 壽惠廣錦)) Sierironisiki = fan-shaped tail.

Copy the Chinese or the Japanese into Google or YouTube and you will get lots of photos of oriental versions of the Bristol Shubunkin.

The Festival has Ended

The Federation of British Aquatic Societies is 80 years old this year. They have organised their end of season competitions as a ‘Festival of Fishkeeping’ over a weekend at various venues (the best was at Holiday Camps such as Weston Super Mare and Hayling Island). This has happened annually for 30 years – the last six at the Hounslow Urban Farm at Heathrow. I have attended (almost) every one with a stand or as a reporter, but this year’s show was the last one! With fishkeeping clubs closing and the high cost of travel, the Festivals lost too much money. Photos from the ‘Final Festival’ will be shown at the NGPS Social Weekend in Llandudno.

(This will be from Friday 16th November to Monday 19th November at The Grand Hotel, Happy Valley Road, Llandudno LL30 2LR. You can book a room through Sherridan for one or more of these nights, email him at moores_s@sky.com or ring 0161 969 7567).

Minutes of the October Meeting

Seven members at this meeting, where the above Shows were discussed. Our Show was considered a success, the presentation attractive and information effective. However, the finances were not so good. Sherridan reported:

Cost of the hall, meals, insurance and prizes totalled £460, the income from the raffle and entry fees totalled £280 giving a loss of £180. Society funds will subsidize this loss – as it has done for a few years now.

However the meeting agreed that this could not continue – the Open Show needs to at least break even. Hence it was proposed and unanimously agreed that the entry fees will be £1-50 per fish from 2019. To offset this increase, the popular free breakfast for early arrivals will continue, but end at 10am, thereafter drinks and snacks need to be bought. The Judges' meal will also be organised by the Club rather than the St Matthews Church (which is now expensive).

We also need more members to attend on the Friday to help build the Show. Dean Roberts, the Show Secretary, does such an excellent job that if ever he is unable to attend, the Show will collapse – hence it was proposed that an assistant should be recruited to help, and step-in if needed. Pleased to report that new member Louise Rylett has agreed to be the Show assistant.

The Nationwide show was also agreed to be a success (best one yet for entries and auction) and Graham Turner's secretarial work with awards and prizes outstanding.

The only problem was the fact that everything happened in the one room, sometimes making judging difficult. Sherridan (as Nationwide Chairman) was asked to raise this issue at the next Nationwide meeting. He is also expecting all members to let him know if the venue is acceptable for 2019 forward – send him an email as described earlier.

The style of judging, especially picking the Best in Show was also discussed – something else that can be aired via letters to this Newsletter (send to me drdmford@outlook.com as quoted earlier).

The 'Best in Show' has been chosen by aquatic societies for decades and is the fish of choice for publication by the aquatic press. At the Nationwide Show this was changed to 'Best Adult in Show' with the 'Best Fish' being 'Best Exhibit'. This has caused confusion and again Sherridan, as Nationwide Chairman, was asked to raise this issue at the next Nationwide meeting.

Alan Ratcliffe announced that he has several lengths of rigid plastic pipe, in two diameters, available to members who may need it for their fish-houses etc. For details ring him on his landline: 01282420097.

Hope to see you at the November Meeting, 8pm at The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN on Tuesday November 13th.

