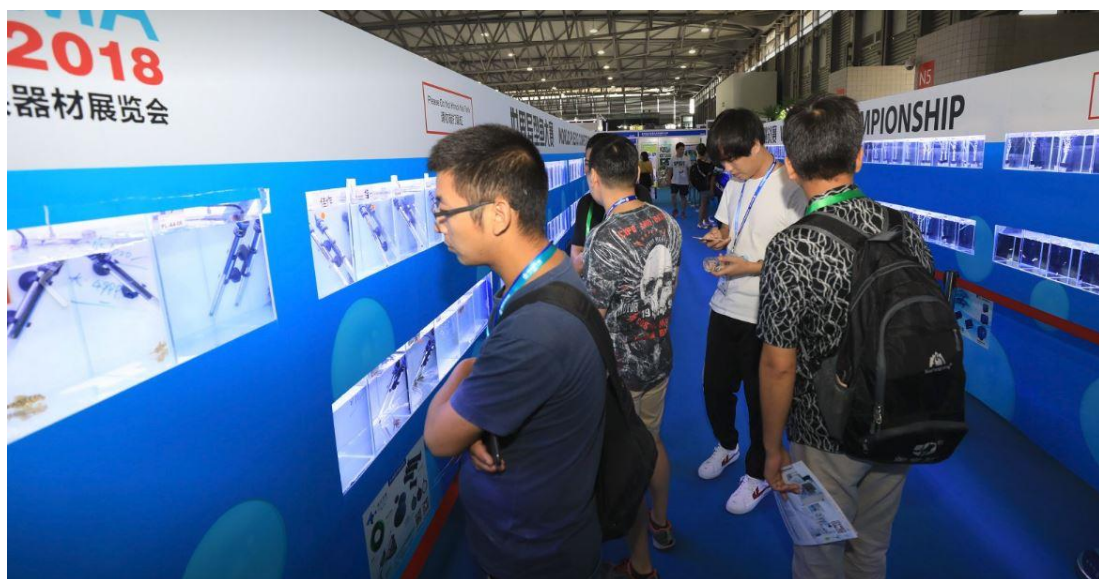


**NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY**
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2018



Aquarama used to be in Singapore, but it is now in Shanghai China - for the full story see July 2016 Newsletter on the NGPS website.

Member Ian Mildon was one of the judges at this year's Aquarama Show and his report follows the next section.

But first, the reaction to our October Newsletter.....

Members Write

Further to the Judging Style letters, our Show Manager David Roberts, wrote to Chairman Sherridan with his idea

Sherridan,
Proposed Tier System for Best in Show

- 1, Sherridan to nominate four judges.
- 2, Each judge given a small envelope with a slip of paper enclosed.
- 3, Each judge asked to go around independently looking at all section winners, putting their final choice on the slip of paper, place in envelope and hand to Sherridan.
- 4, Sherridan then to choose Best Fish in Show from the four choices.
- 5, In an event that Sherridan's fish is a chosen one, he would ask a nominated member of the committee to take over.

I think this would represent a broader, fairer reflection of the Show's best fishes.
David

Graham Turner (Nationwide Show Secretary) objected to the article about the Bristol Tail Shape – he wrote 'Peter's article on the Bristol does the work of the standards committee a disservice by portraying the modern fish as red.'

As for the idea of contacting the USA Goldfish Council, he wrote: 'The Nationwide Standards are the true standards, we are not influenced by anyone else's. We are the breeders of the fish varieties and any other society's standards are their's.'
Graham.

David Padfield also wrote to me with this interesting history:

"I note from the latest Newsletter that there is a lot of discussion about the Bristol Shubunkin and particularly about the shape of the tail. I have bred Bristol Shubunkins for over 60 years – and I was born near Bristol. I thought it might be useful to look at the history of the Standard for the fish.

The Bristol Aquarist Society was founded in 1929; the Shubunkin at this time had long pointed single tails. Members of the Society were keenly interested in this fish. In March 1934 a committee was set up to discuss the Shubunkin and a standard

was drafted. The resultant drawing was a composite of many fish – no single fish was like the draft.

In September 1934 this draft standard was put to members of the society for what became the Bristol Shubunkin eventually, and accepted. The colour was to be a blue background splashed with black, interspersed with violet, red, brown and yellow. The drawing is shown in Figure 1.

In 1979 a revision to the Standard was made mainly incorporating a tail held higher ... with more rounded lobes, as the drawing in Figure 2. Orange was added to the colour list.

The latest revision to the Standard was made in 2015 by the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK, as shown in Figure 3. White was added to the colour list.

I hope the above notes will help clarify the situation and I am happy to answer any queries.

Kind regards, David" (David Padfield)

Figure 1

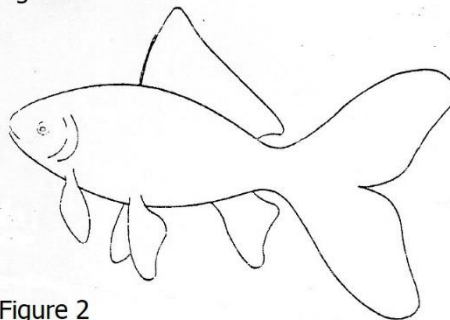


Figure 2

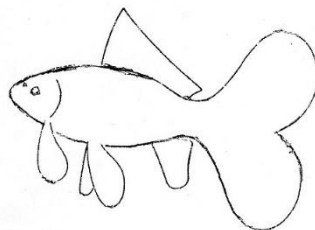
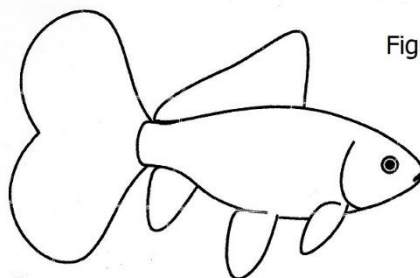


Figure 3



David actually brought four of his breeding stock Bristols to the November meeting. Here they are; and we discussed the show quality required for their offspring in probably season 2020...



Ed: So now we know! Any queries will be passed to David – and published in the Newsletters, send to me at drdmford@outlook.com or make your own comments, allowing publication too.

NGPS & BAS Member Ian Mildon's Aquarama 2018

Ian was asked to judge the Goldfish at this year's Aquarama. Here is his report on the first two days of the week he spent in China, the next few days will be in the December issue.

"Once again I was very privileged to be invited to Aquarama to be a judge in the Worldwide Goldfish Competition. I was to be a part of a team of international judges mainly from South East Asia. Patrick Tan from Malaysia could not make it due to health reasons and Kris Widjojo from Indonesia pulled out at the last minute due to business commitments. This left Alvin Lim and Ng Wee Yap from Singapore, Shimada Teruya from Japan and Tian Shanxue from China and of course the senior judge Louis Chan also from China. Louis also runs the Tung Hoi Goldfish farms in China.

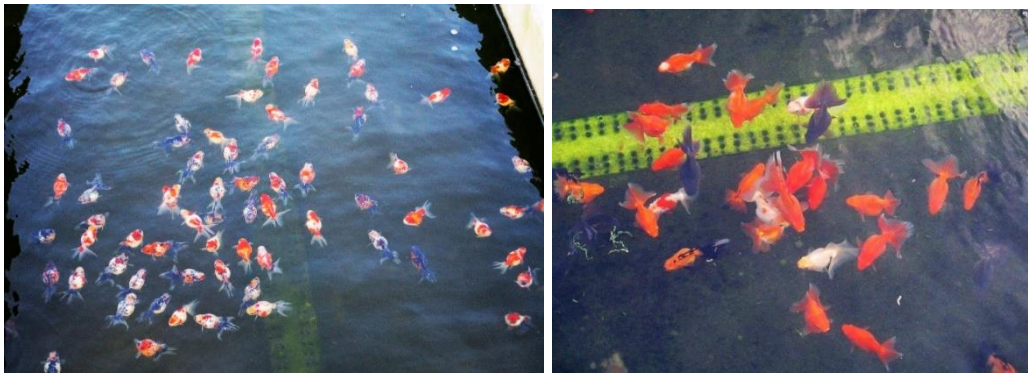
Louis was also our host for three days in conjunction with the organizing committee. Louis was a wonderful host. He looked after the Judges and me in particular very well.

Monday 20th August at 9am I was picked up at Pu Dong airport after a ten-and-a-half-hour flight from London Heathrow. A driver from Tung Hoi fish farm came to meet me along with Alvin Lim who is a great friend and also a good interpreter. Tung Hoi fish farm is only ten minutes from the airport. on arrival Alvin gave me a basic guided tour showing me the filter beds that treat river water before it is circulated around the farm. Louis and Yap joined us and we had a general discussion (sounds like a BAS meeting) with Alvin and Yap taking it in turns to interpret for me. We were taken to a nearby hotel for lunch where Shimada Teruya and Tian Shanxue joined us as their flights from Japan and Beijing arrived.

In the afternoon a formal meeting took place between the six judges and included Kris Widjojo in Indonesia via webchat. The object was to amend the scoring on the judging sheets; this was achieved with relative ease considering the language barriers. This meeting took place in Louis office and trophy room, it is full of trophies and Goldfish related memorabilia, including an NGPS key fob.

When the meeting ended we had a comprehensive tour of the fish farm conducted by Louis, fish here are mainly of pet shop quality although there was some high-

grade breeding stock. No space was wasted as the roofs of the packing shed and office block were covered with concrete ponds.

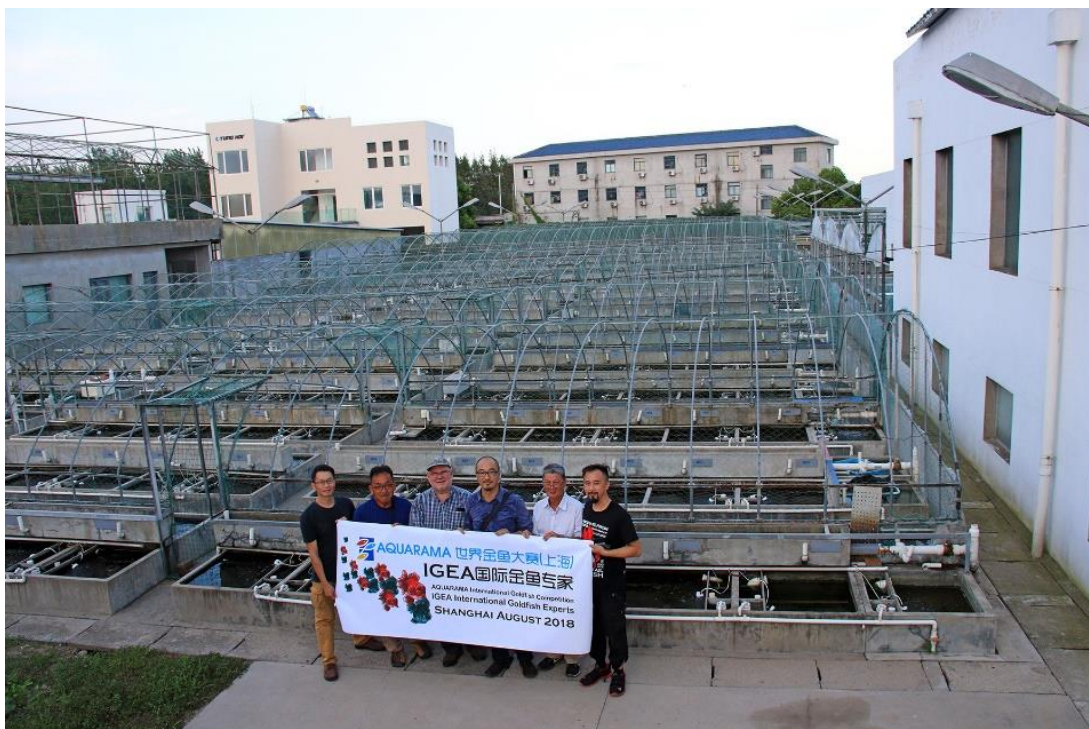


Some of the Fancy Goldfish in the roof top ponds

A banner was produced with the logo and name of the International Goldfish Expert Association IGEA. Many photographs were taken with the judges holding this banner. The judges from East Asia have been saying they are members of the IGEA for just over two years but this was to be the first public debut.

Below is the Inn Tong Hoi - on the roof of the complex where Aquarama is held. These are ponds and the judges (L to R) Ng we Yap, Shimada Teruya, Ian Mildon, Louis Chan, Alvin Lim and Tian Shanxue.

(I must thank Alvin for using his photograph.)

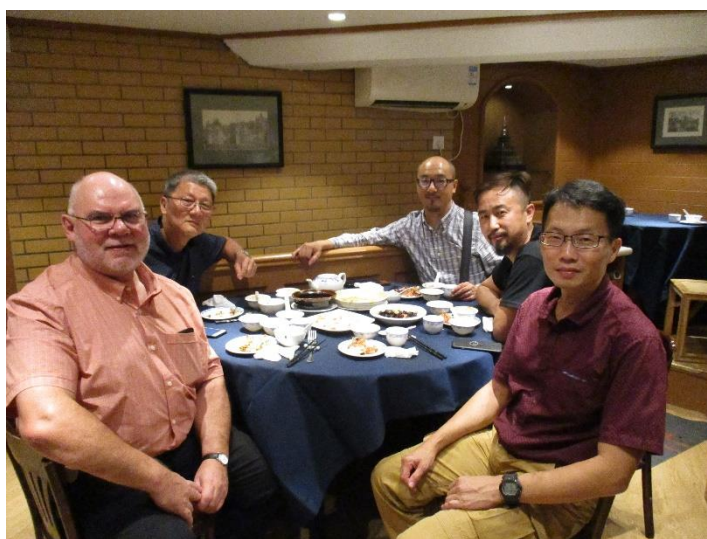


Early evening we were driven into Shanghai. The hotel was in a suburb but only one and a half miles from the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC).

Next to the hotel was a large shopping complex with many restaurants, we were taken to one of these where the other judges were dining. These were judges for Discus, Bettas, Guppies, Arawana and Catfish.

We arrived at the hotel at 10pm Chinese time 3pm BST I had been up 33 hours apart from a couple of hours rough sleep on the plane, I was shattered.

Lunch and dinner gave great entertainment to my fellow diners when I tried to master the use of chopsticks.



Judge Louis Chan in his trophy room.

The Trophy room with more of Judge Louis Chan's trophies.



Tuesday 21st was Judging day, yes all day. We left the hotel in a deluge of rain to travel to the exhibition centre. The fish were benched the night before and were in two-foot tanks with a foam filters. However the traders were still setting up their stalls so there was noise and hustle and bustle going on, loading bay doors to the hall were open, back to the rain it was a lot cooler whilst it was raining especially as the air conditioning would not be turned until the exhibition was open to the public.

There were seven classes Ranchu, Pearlscale, Oranda, Dragon Eye Ryukin, Butterfly and Open Any Fancy Variety.

Firstly judges were given coloured stickers mine was orange. We looked at each class and had to select three fish we thought had potential from each class and placed our sticker appropriately. This could have resulted in fifteen fish being selected but several judges elected the same fish so the number selected averaged six or seven.

The fish with stickers on their tanks went on to round two of the judging, this time they were pointed. Five judges pointed every class so each class was judged five times. The scores were then put onto a spread sheet the lowest score was dropped and the highest score was dropped and then the average of the remaining scores was taken for each category was worked out, this then decided the winning positions. Some fish ended up with the same number of points so the judges led by Louis re-examined these fish, each judge arguing which fish he preferred until there was a majority to select a winning fish.

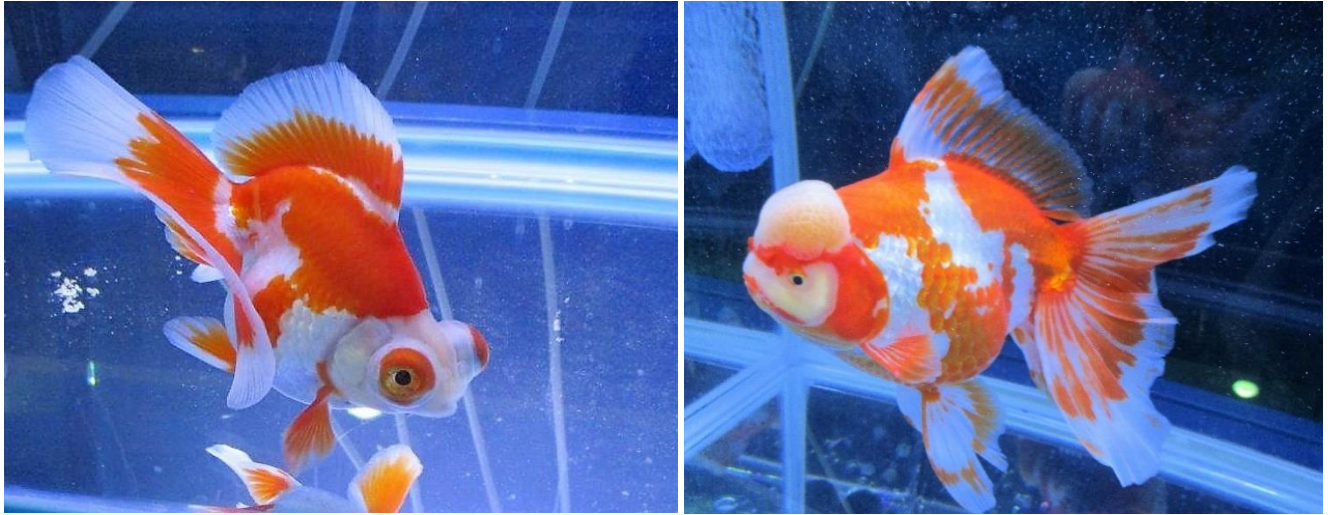
Then there was round three of the judging to select the special awards. This was achieved by the judges working together debating which fish should win. Special awards were Grand Champion, Silver Champion, Bronze Champion, Champion, First runner-up and second Runner-up.



Grand Champion received 5000 Yuan about £600, Silver Champion 3000 Yuan about £360 and Bronze Champion 2000 Yuan about £240.

Judging over, Time to relax. The banner for the International Goldfish Expert Association IGEA was produced again and more photographs of the judges were taken holding this banner in front of the Goldfish show bench.

Gold, Silver and Bronze was awarded to each class winner, these were presented at the end of the day with the judges taking it in turns to present these awards.



Winning Goldfishes



Earlier in the day the judges were given an invitation to attend a VIP Cocktail and

Dinner party at the Kerry hotel which is next to the exhibition centre. Dress code, Black tie. Not that I took a black tie or suit to China. We never even had time for a wash and brush up after our day of judging.

There were at least five hundred people at this event, many presentations and speeches took place during the evening and also some song and dance shows. The meal itself lasted about three hours with about ten courses with crab and lobster on the menu also a course of Pigs intestine, what a contrast.”

Visitors touring the Show.

The next Newsletter will continue Ian’s report with more photographs.



Minutes of the November Meeting

Sherridan reported that JMC were offering a new Fancy Goldfish: Lemon Sarasas. It was decided these are contradictory names! We hope to see them soon. The state of GSGB was also discussed but the news seems to be – no news. We await their next, possibly final, Bulletin.

David Roberts proposed that with perpetual motorway diversions and predicted bad Winter weather, the January Meeting should be cancelled. The counter argument is that The Church Inn might then offer the room to other clubs – our booking has always been the second Tuesday with exclusivity. If Sherridan can get their approval, what would members prefer? Cancel the January Meeting for climate reasons or should the current 12 meets a year be maintained, even if only one or two can attend. Email me drdmford@outlook.com for a decision at the December Meeting (better still, turn up!).

Sherridan reported his attendance at the funeral of member George Alexander Stephenson (Alex), born 15th August 1938 and died 8th October 2018. Sherridan

and Tony Barnard (who lives near Alex in Norwich) took possession of Alex's best Commons and Bristols with plans to continue the Alex's breeding line.

Sherridan has written this obituary on Alex's Fancy Goldfish Breeder life.

"I am very sorry to report the sad passing of one of our greatest goldfish breeders and a great personal friend, Alex Stephenson, of Norfolk.

Alex had been interested in all aquatic life and particularly keeping and breeding fancy goldfish from an early age and developed and honed his skills all his long life while he worked as a jockey, in pet shops (he initially met Jill, his future wife, when she came into the shop as a customer), in the military, in security and before his retirement, a national messenger.

Having lived in several parts of the country Alex settled in Dereham and began establishing his extensive fish house and ponds, at one time breeding and growing six-inch rosy barbs in them during the summer. For many years he wrote the 'Coldwater Queries' column in 'The Aquarist and Pondkeeper' magazine.

Alex became a keen and loyal member of Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society many years ago and frequently attended our Open Shows and British Aquarist Festivals, though in recent years he had not travelled to any of the shows as he couldn't leave Jill alone because she developed health problems, and he became her full-time carer.

I have seen many outstanding and memorable exhibits at the various shows over the years but I can say without doubt that the very best one I have ever seen was benched by Alex at the GSGB Open Show probably twenty years ago now, it was a breeders team of four, just perfect lemon common goldfish. Each fish was exactly to standard in all respects and an intense glowing lemon colour (a 'lost' colour Alex had somehow managed to resurrect) with literally identical black residual decolouring markings. This exhibit had been given 'Best in Show' and a couple of years later Alex won another 'Best in Show' at the GSGB with what was undoubtedly the best common goldfish I have ever seen.

When he was ill Alex asked me and another of our mutual friends and our other member in Norfolk, Tony Barnard, to continue breeding his established blood lines, which of course, we agreed to do.

Tony and myself were proud to attend Alex's funeral in King's Lynn and we send all of our love and best wishes to Jill and her family."



Alex Stephenson 15th August 1938 to 8th October 2018

We plan to print some of Alex's contributions to The Aquarist & Pondkeeper in future issues of the Newsletter. With his lifetime of experience with Fancy Goldfish breeding we are sure it will be informative.



Hope to see you at the next Meeting, 8pm at The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN on Tuesday December 11th – hope the weather will be ok too.