



## ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND GOLDFISH KEEPERS

### THE AMGK TODAY

At the time of writing (2016), the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers continues to go from strength to strength with our meetings held every couple of months from March to November regularly attended by 30 or more members. A warm welcome awaits all potential new members.

Most of our members breed goldfish, with many representing our hobby at the highest level at the various society open shows, held in Coventry, Bristol, Sunderland and Manchester with some considerable and consistent success. However, we continue to support our members, whatever their stage in the hobby, with free advice, lectures, table shows and discussions on the full range of fish keeping and breeding. The society still boasts some of the finest breeders of quality pedigree goldfish in the country; in fact, the society members currently breed all the twenty recognised varieties of goldfish bred to Nationwide Standards and make available any surplus stock in the latter part of each year at the end of the breeding season. Most of the varieties that interest breeders of quality goldfish can only be obtained from fellow breeders and not generally found in commercial fish outlets, at least not of the quality expected of show fish to the Nationwide Standards.

As a society we have, belatedly entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with an interactive web site, blog and full colour, informative newsletter **The Goldfish Standard**, published four times a year. Our year starts in early March with our first meeting in Coventry where we normally put the finer details to our programme for the year and confirm dates for the meetings and open house visits to members' houses for the year ahead that had been agreed at the previous Annual General Meeting. It is a time to discuss the breeding year ahead, swap breeding stock and arrange for delivery to members of previously ordered fish foods and equipment etc., One of the members normally provides a presentation on a topic close to their heart followed by general discussions when all members are encouraged to participate. The May meeting sees the tabling of breeding stock/adult fish with our June meeting in Coventry where we host the first of the national Open Goldfish Shows. Further shows are organised by the other societies committed to Nationwide Standards in July and September, with the National Fancy Goldfish Open Show, staged jointly by all societies at the end of September.

Over recent years the Chairman and president have opened up their fish establishments at their respective homes for an informal day out for the membership.

Our baby fish show in August has brought over 70 exhibits to the table where the current year's owner bred stock is discussed and judged in readiness for the forthcoming. This gives a chance for newcomers to the hobby or our society to see young fish of all the show varieties and often pick up surplus stock.

Our society has played a key role over the last three years in bringing all societies together to correct and improve the Nationwide Standards, by which all our fish are judged. This has proven to be rather a mammoth task with many hours expended by a number of hobbyists throughout the country with the resulting standards now being much more fit for purpose to take us all through the next decade or so.