



# Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

March 2012

Volume 2 Issue 1

## Welcome to 2012

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Dear Members

This Winter has been a much better one for my fishes, with only a few days of very bad weather, which has meant that this Winter I have only lost one fish to the cold and all of the other fish have come through their ordeal in very good condition.

The fish in the main fish house have had the best conditions and plenty of heat to see them through the Winter and are already looking in good shape for breeding. To quote Gary Malpas "I feel gutted at the size you have put on the fish that I gave you". All I could do was smile.

So this year, twelve months after moving, I am looking forward to a busy breeding season. I will be trying to breed Metallic and Calico Fantails, Veiltail Orandas, Bristol Shubunkins, Tosakins and Lionheads for starters.

Plans are also in place to continue with the building of the second fish house and the completion of the four ponds with a filter system; this would then complete phase one of the project.

During the March meeting I will be giving an address to the members on the Tosakin and Ryukin standards, so if you have any questions I will do my best to answer them. We will also have to decide who is going to be the society's delegates this year as some of the delegates have indicated that they wish to stand down. It is important that we have three delegates to represent us in order for us to have a strong standing within Nationwide.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up on everything that has happened since we were last all together.

### DISCLAIMER

Please note that the views, opinions and individuals' comments expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the A.M.G.K. society or its Committee, and no liability will be accepted by the A.M.G.K. about the information contained therein

**A.P. BARTON**  
**PRESIDENT**



## Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain

31 Western Way  
Wellingborough  
Northamptonshire  
NN8 3LZ

20th February 2012

Dear Fellow Fish Keepers,

Through the period since the last Nationwide Standards Meeting, the Coordinators along with breeders of the Tosakin and the Ryukin have been working together to produce a standard for both fish. This has been met with many challenges.

Everyone involved has had a new format to follow. This has enabled breeders, judges and Coordinators to work more closely together to reach the goal of a lasting Standard. The work has involved research, breeding, showing drawing and redrawing of the fish and sorting out the type test and the application of the Standards for these fish.

A great deal of time, effort lobbying and administration has gone into the draft standards that have been produced for you all to see. Please take time to study them carefully and discuss any point points of view you may have with your delegates and in turn, the delegates can discuss the Standards at the meeting and hopefully a final decision can be made and the new Standards can be added to the Standards book.

However time is short and this part of the process needs to be completed by the end of March 2012

Have Fun

Yours faithfully

**A.P.BARTON**

**Chairman**

## Nationwide Agenda

### Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain

31 Western Way  
Wellingborough  
Northamptonshire  
NN8 3LZ

19th February 2012

Dear

There are plans to have a standards meeting on the 15th April 2012 and I am currently putting together an agenda for this meeting. If you have anything that you wish to have on the agenda etc, please could you let me know in writing before the end of March so it can be included on the agenda.

The chosen date has been booked by Pat Davies and I hope that delegates are all available.

The agenda will include but is not restricted to:

Chairman's address to the meeting.

Proposed standards for the Tosakin and the Ryukin.

The coordinators and breeders have produced a draft standard for both fish.

Draft standards are with this letter and where possible could they should be discussed between Delegates and club members. Any points that arise from these discussions can be aired at the Standards meeting by the delegates.

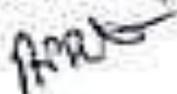
List of nationwide judges needs to be completed. Please could i have details of the judges A.S.A.P.

Discussion on judges guidance, standard of judging and assistance for show secretary's.

Discussion on reviewing all of the standards.

Any other business

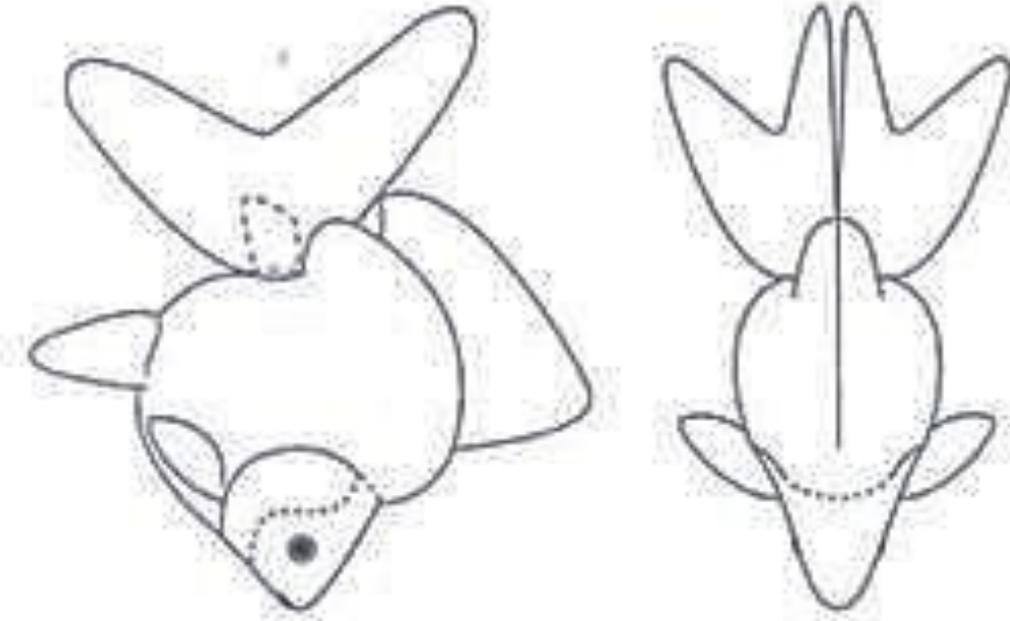
Yours faithfully



A.P. BARTON

Chairman

# Nationwide proposals for RYUKIN



## Ryukin

From head, Fin (including the top) set to evenly about twice (Dorsal fin and upper pelvic set same size to be required)

1. Depth of snout - greater than 1/2 of the body length
2. Depth to origin, or after the gills, similar to snout
3. Dorsal fin must extend and to have a prominent base using head for base
4. Extension of dorsal to be similar
5. Minimum length of body 2 1/2 inches (6.35cm)

All measurements must approximate to the following:

### APPLICATION OF EVALUATION:

Fin set to be bright and erect

Body - to have a rounded appearance and pronounced hump along back that rises above dorsal fin for base. The head should be pointed in appearance

Color to - uniform and solid, say some gold/ or blue above the back line. All sides over the surface. This set upward and straight in set the same as the dorsal

Color - blue color - on head a green line

Young fish - red, orange, yellow and white and sky appearance (blackening a young water animal on both sides)

Color to appear to be washed over extending into the fin

Color - blue background with patches of red, red - orange, yellow, brown, white and blue ground with spots.

### Points Table

Body	Color
Depth to length Ratio	Not exactly facing
Dorsal fin (including head height)	Red, Orange, Yellow, Blue, Brown, Black, white
Upper fin	1
Lower fin	2
Eye set (head)	Young fish (black, Green, Red, Orange, Yellow, Blue, Brown, Black, white)
Eye	1
Eye	2
Eye	3
Eye	4
Eye	5
Eye	6
Eye	7
Eye	8
Eye	9
Eye	10
Eye	11
Eye	12
Eye	13
Eye	14
Eye	15
Eye	16
Eye	17
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Eye	19
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Eye	36
Eye	37
Eye	38
Eye	39
Eye	40
Eye	41
Eye	42
Eye	43
Eye	44
Eye	45
Eye	46
Eye	47
Eye	48
Eye	49
Eye	50



# TABLE SHOW RESULTS FOR 2011

## ADULT FISH SHOW 15/05/11

### CLASS 1 – LONDON SHUBUNKIN

Mick Smith  
Mick Smith  
Mick Smith  
Mick Smith

### CLASS 2 – METALLIC FANTAIL

David Tuggey  
David Tuggey  
David Tuggey  
David Tuggey

### CLASS 3 – NACREOUS FANTAIL

Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas

### CLASS 4 – RANCHU

Andy Barton  
Andy Barton  
Jim Amos  
Jim Amos

### CLASS 5 – TOSAKIN

Stan Woodbridge  
Stan Woodbridge  
Stan Woodbridge

### CLASS 6 – LIONHEAD

Andy Barton

### CLASS 7 – BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN

Andy Barton

### CLASS 8 – ORANDA

Andy Barton

### CLASS 9 – A.O.V.

Elaine Edmunds  
Elaine Edmunds

BEST IN SHOW - Mick Smith (London Shubunkin)

BLUEST FISH - Andy Barton

PRETTIEST FISH - Jim Amos

## BABY FISH SHOW 14/08/11

### CLASS 1 – PEARLSCALE

Elaine Edmunds  
Elaine Edmunds  
Elaine Edmunds  
Elaine Edmunds

### CLASS 2 – NACREOUS FANTAIL

Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas  
Gary Malpas

### CLASS 3 – METALLIC FANTAIL

David Tuggey  
David Tuggey  
David Tuggey

### CLASS 4 – MOOR

Pat Davies  
Pat Davies

### CLASS 5 – BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN

Pat Davies  
Pat Davies  
Pat Davies  
Pat Davies

### CLASS 6 – RANCHU

Pat Davies

BEST IN SHOW - Pat Davies (Bristol Shubunkin)

## A.M.G.K. AWARDS 06/11/11

BEST FEMALE EXHIBITOR - Elaine Edmunds

HIGHEST POINTS SCORED - Andrew Barton

BEST MALE EXHIBITOR - Andrew Barton

## MEETING DATES 2012

- Sunday 4th March** - Talk / presentation by Sherridan Moore s
- Sunday 6th May** - Adult / Prettiest & Bluest / Non-Standard Fish Table Show
- Sunday 22nd July** - Pat Davies' house \*
- Sunday 19th August** - Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2012)
- Sunday 4th November** - AGM and Presentation of Awards

The Open Show will take place on Saturday 23rd June at the usual venue

\* Sandra has been offered the use of a minibus and driver for the trip to Pats at Telford for 22nd July, at a cost of £90. Think it is a 16 seater, so this divided up would cost everyone around a fiver each depending on how many are interested. Collection and return from the Church Hall. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Sandra on 024 7631 7575 and let her know



## Your Committee 2012

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## GOLDFISH AND I - CECILIA CHAN

Fish-keeping was always around when I was growing up in Hong Kong. Back then, goldfish were around 10p apiece for a probably 2" fantail, sold in tin basins on the side streets by anyone who had too many to keep. My first shopping for pets must have started at this early age of around 12 with the little lunch money I had saved up. I have no idea why I love fish keeping, it must be in the genes. My dad loved tropical freshwater fish, and at one time, had a trading company set up in one of the rooms in our living quarter for importing and exporting. I was too young to remember the actual fishes, but I do remember the rows and rows of fish tanks just like fish houses I have visited at fellow AMGK members' homes over the last few years.



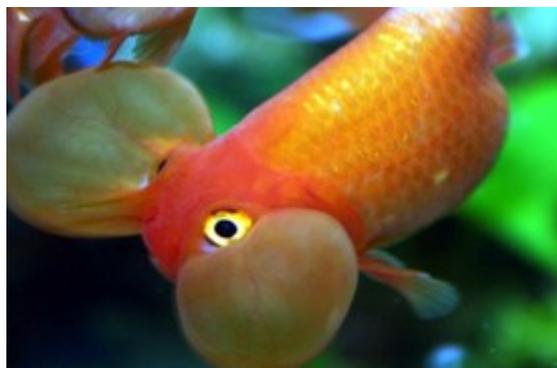
from my cat, partially shielded by floating water plants.

My only mentor was a friend's dad who had an amazingly large and sophisticated fish tank that must have been 300 litres in size, keeping large fantails alongside tropical Discus! Unfortunately, I do not remember learning much from him with regard to nitrates, nitrite and biological filtration though. The hobby went on until I left home to come to England to study.

The hobby resumed again in my twenties when I was newly married and had our own home. My husband was not interested in the hobby, but he would see a nicely kept tank as a great piece of home decoration. By now, I am rather biologically minded and had become receptive of advice on nitrogen cycle. We had a little tank, probably only 25 litres, and decided to keep a pair of Ranchu and a pair of comets with only a little internal canister filter! Looking back, I do wonder why they could survive four years in that environment and in such combination. We moved to a much bigger house and felt that our four fish would appreciate a larger home too, so we bought a 150 litres display tank. If I knew what I know now, these poor fish would have



My first tank was for keeping 2 small catfish I caught from an outing to the streams. It was a simple plastic basin. While the catfish were nothing but slimy and rather dull, I immediately got hooked onto the hobby. My dad bought me my very first fish tank. It was a simple affair of no more than 10 litres as I recalled. I hadn't looked back since. I quickly went on to keeping goldfish, the fancier the better: Ranchu, bubble-eyes, Orandas, and black moors as I know them now. Interestingly, the only time my fantails reproduced and the one baby fish survived to a decent 1" size was at that time when I had my 2 fish tanks stood out in the open air, exposed to the sub-tropical climate and rain, without any element of filtration. The tanks did not even have lids. The poor fish were constantly subjected to the visiting paws





survived. They did not get through the new tank cycling time. The constant battle with getting new fish, fear of disease and loss of many fish continued throughout the next few years. We had a few years' break as I was busy working and bringing up my young children, but the hobby could not stay away long. By the time my youngest child was 4 years old, I bought a new smaller tank to make a fresh start again.



My only passion is with fancies. The odder looking they are, the better. The tank size gradually grew from the 30 litres to 50 litres and then 150 litres. Scouring through all the aquatic shops I can find locally, I began to learn from my mistakes. Survival rate improves with more thoughts on biological filtration. By now I can afford the cost of better fish. I was still making many mistakes, and not knowing where they were going wrong. A friend who was into koi keeping mentioned to me about koi clubs he



belonged to, which led me to search on the internet for similar hobby clubs for goldfish.

AMGK came up along with a few other societies. Thanks to Linda Malpas, my initial contact was welcomed, and before long, I plucked up the courage to attend the first meeting. I have now been a member for a few years, and have been to a number of fish shows, both in-house and national, as well as one or two educational talks. I have learnt



many ideas from various veterans of the hobby, ranging from knowing what to look for when choosing fish as well as inspiration on how to improve my water quality. After all, I realise that my poor survival rate in the past was caused first and foremost by poor water quality, rather than diseases or feeding. There is no substitute to frequent water changes. It was simple, but the best advice!

I have now extended my interest further into marine fish and seahorses, but goldfish still has a special place in my heart. I am enjoying goldfish keeping now more than ever before and better still my fish do seem to be healthier than ever. Although neither of my children are likely to take up the hobby as their own, they have certainly taken interest. Who knows what they may do in future! Thank you, AMGK!



**Many thanks to Cecilia for her lovely insight into her fishkeeping and the gorgeous photos**

## BEGINNERS PAGE *By Elaine Edmunds*



### First Foods

To get ready for spawning and hatch you will need to have ready the food you will give to the fry.

The above picture shows the equipment I use.

1. Liquifry Number 1 For Egglayers.
2. 1lb tin of Brine Shrimp Eggs.
3. Tank
4. Heater.
5. Thermometer.
6. Pump.
7. Airhose.
8. Air Stones.
9. 2 glass sweet bottles.
10. Jug for sieving brine shrimp.
11. Handkerchief for sieving brine shrimp.
12. Measuring jug (3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pints).
13. Salt (unadulterated)
14. Long handled tea spoon.
15. Lid for Brine Shrimp once the tin has been opened. (Searched the supermarket for a similar tin that sported a plastic lid).

On the same day that the spawn has been placed in my 4ft glass tank I start adding a few drops of **Liquifry Number 1** to the water on a daily basis. These uneaten drops will stimulate infusoria to form; infusoria being the first food that fry will need.

By the time the eggs hatch you will have a culture of infusoria in the water for the fry to take up as soon as they have filled their air bladders and are hunting for first food. They will also take the Liquifry food drops before it has had time to develop infusoria. However, they will quickly need more substantial but still very small live food. And that is where the Brine Shrimp comes in.

As soon as I see that the first alevins have filled their air bladders I start the Brine Shrimp Cultures.

I use 2 Glass Sweet Jars filled with 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pints of water each from my Measuring Jug.

I add 4 fully heaped teaspoons of Salt to each jar using my Long Handled Teaspoon.  
(Sea Salt for Aquariums is good but more expensive than cooking salt which is more commonly used. Whichever salt you choose you must be sure it does not contain additives such as those that help it to flow etc. Definitely do not use table salt).

Add a small amount of Brine Shrimp Eggs to the first jar. You will probably need less than an eighth of a teaspoon of eggs. I use one jar of shrimp per day increasing the amount of eggs according to uptake.

Place the jars into a Tank and fill the tank with water to the same level as that of the jars.

Add the Heater and set the temperature to 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit or whatever is recommended on the Brine Shrimp tin. (It's a good idea to have an armoured or otherwise protected heater to avoid possible damage from the glass jars. Although I have never broken a glass heater in that way, they always seem vulnerable to me).

Pop in a Thermometer and keep a check on temperature and water level.

Decide where you are positioning the Air Pump. Connect appropriate lengths of Air Hose to the pump and Air Stones to the other end. These latter add weight to the hose and keep it at the bottom of the jar. It is essential to keep the eggs in movement if they are to hatch. I sometimes use 3 glass jars for a large spawning, splicing in another air line.

Quality Brine Shrimp takes 24 hours to hatch, starting at about 12 hours. Other shrimp may take 48 hours, be of lower fertility and stain the water, or not hatch at all.

The salt water can normally be used on several or more occasions. If the hatch ratio drops or the water discolours, then pour the water away and start again.

When the shrimp have hatched take out the bottle and leave to stand/settle.

Take a Jug and lay a Handkerchief over the top.

The hatched egg shells float on the top of the settled jar and should be avoided.

Take another piece of air hose and syphon some of the shrimp into the hanky. Rinse the hanky into the fish tank and watch out for pink stomachs which indicate that the shrimp are being taken by the fry, or simply watch them eat once they have discovered what it is.

When the fish are a little bigger they will also eat the un-hatched brine shrimp eggs, which settle on the bottom of the jar, although I understand from others that if these are transferred to the next jar they will eventually hatch.

Whilst by preference I use old glass sweet jars to hatch the eggs, it is normally recommended to use a cone shaped hatcher so that it is easier to keep the eggs in continuous suspension. Different ways suit different people and you will find your own preferences.

The important things are:-

- Heat
- Unadulterated salt
- Good quality eggs
- Keeping the eggs in suspension
- The very first meal should be infusoria

A trial run is a good thing to do to check that you have the right salt and high quality eggs. I was quite happy with a particular brand of cooking salt but when it disappeared from supermarket shelves I bought a different brand and despite checking the information (I thought) the Brine Shrimp eggs did not hatch.

## AMGK Contact Information

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### 2012 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Subscriptions (£12.00) are now due and can either be paid at the first meeting in March or a cheque can be sent to Andrew Barton (the new Treasurer). Renewal form will be enclosed with this issue of Goldfish Standard

### How to submit Articles and/or Photos for publication

Several people have asked recently, how to send in their articles and/or photographs. So here is a quick description of how to go about it:

#### **BY COMPUTER:**

Type your article using WORD if you have it, save it to MY DOCUMENTS, then ATTACH FILE to an email to my NEW email address. OR, just type the article IN your actual email. Easy! All I ask is that you please use ARIAL as your font, and size 11 as your font size. And don't use any fancy formatting

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** If you are sending photos with your article, please attach them **separately** to the email, otherwise I will have problems extracting them to use in the Newsletter. Just use INSERT and select PICTURE, then chose your photo(s) and click on them then click OK

PICTURES should be saved in a recognised picture format, preferably JPG

If you are scanning a document or a photo, then make sure to save it as JPG and NOT as a PDF file as this won't copy into my pages on all occasions.

#### **BY HAND:**

Just hand write your article and post it to me, address to left of this section. Proper photos too can be posted, but please ensure your name and address is on the back so I can return them to you