



Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

May 2012

Volume 2 Issue 2

Presidents Report

Inside

Presidents Report 1

Nationwide Standards..... 2

Chairmans Report..... 3

Unsuccessful Breeding ... 4

Report from Editor5

I'm Confused 6

Diary Dates 2012.....7

Meeting Dates for 2012 8

Your Committee 8

BRINE SHRIMP SHIPMENT 8

Profile Sharon Hall.....9

Rykin Elain Edmunds ... 10

Swim Bladder Disorders ...11

CONTACT DETAILS 12

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Dear Members

Since the March meeting I have been a very busy person indeed, the fish have begun to spawn and I now have a lot of young fish to raise. So far I have spawned the Tosakin, of which I carried out four different crosses. These were:

1, a cross of last year's baby Tosakin; 2. last year's babies Tosakin to 2010 bred Tosakin 3 2010 bred female Tosakin to 2009 bred males



All of the spawnings were successful and they have all hatched and been fed on brineshrimp for three weeks now; during the Easter week-end I have begun to sort through them for quality. My first steps that I take when sorting my Tosakin is to remove the single tails, along with any fish with twisted or deformed tails. This in turn creates a bit of space for the young fish to grown on in their tanks.

Metallic Lionheads, Metallic Veiltails and Metallic Fantails have also been spawned but as yet are not big enough to do a first sorting for quality; hopefully with some good weather they will be ready in a week or so.

The hosepipe ban has been introduced and as a result of this and at great expense, I have installed a permanent water supply right to the bottom of my garden. This of course is a must do if you are as mad about your goldfish as I am (God knows what the neighbours were thinking but I don't care). So during this Summer I am now well prepared to carry out all of the water changes that I need to do, should the need arise.

Our May meeting is the table show for the Adult, Prettiest and Bluest and Non-Standard fish. Naturally I want you to bring along your fish but in particular I would like people who own Tosakins and Ryukins to bring them to the meeting so we can have some final chats about them before the Nationwide meeting, which is now going to be held in June.

Hope to see everyone soon.

A.P. BARTON
PRESIDENT

Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain

Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain

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9th April 2012

Dear Fellow Fishkeepers

As a result of recent developments, the date for the Nationwide Standards Meeting has been moved to a new date of 10th June 2012. The change of date has come about after difficulties arose over the time frame surrounding the member clubs completing their discussions with their own members concerning the Ryukin and the Tosakin standards.

The Tosakin standard has generally been well received and there are only a few important points to sort out, after which I feel sure an agreement can be reached at the coming meeting.

However, the Ryukin standard on the other hand has not been very well received by one of the member societies and as a result of some heated debate regarding the tail and the time framed deadline imposed, it has been decided that the only sensible thing to do was to move the date of the meeting in order to give people who have an interest in this fish, time to get together to debate it more thoroughly.

Now that everyone interested in the Ryukin are fully engaged in the process of forming a standard for this fish, there will be another opportunity to debate this fish at the G.S.G.B. May meeting.

The process for these two standards was a new one and therefore, an untried one.

With the Tosakin, things went very well with people being fully involved from the start and a great deal of work has gone into this standard to get to where we are at the moment.

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line with the Ryukin standard, things have not gone so well, hence the need for more time to research and debate this fish.

As Chairman, I am totally committed to ensuring that at the end of this process we have standards that are right and will stand the test of time; therefore, it is important that we take the right steps in correctly forming these standards.

Yours faithfully

A.P. BARTON
CHAIRMAN

Chairmans Report By Pat Davies

Just a quick reminder to all members that the next meeting of the AMGK is Sunday 6th May 2012 – starting at 1.00pm. This is the adult fish show, bluest fish and prettiest fish table show meeting. (only the adult fish show is to be judged to Nationwide standards).

I have good reports about the last meeting – mainly how everyone really enjoyed the relaxed but informative meeting with a talk by Sherridan on general fish matters and an update on shows together with pictures of Dave Easingwood's ponds/set up and fish in Canada. Dave, as most of you know, was one of the founder members of the club together with Frank Orme, Dave Denny and Tony Roberts back in March 1974. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend due to a sudden illness that knocked me for six for just over a month. Many thanks for your good wishes and can now report a complete recovery.

Some good news regarding two of our members – I'm very pleased and relieved that Chris and Trish's daughter Libby is making good progress following a successful kidney transplant (with Trish being the brave living donor). It seems all our thoughts and prayers for all the family, who have endured a very worrying couple of years leading up to the operation have been answered and we all wish that progress to normality continues at a steady pace and that it won't be too long before we see Libby back to her old cheeky self!

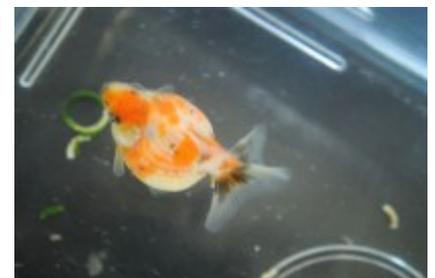
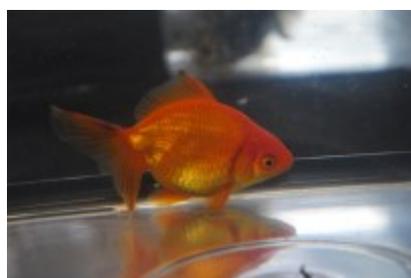
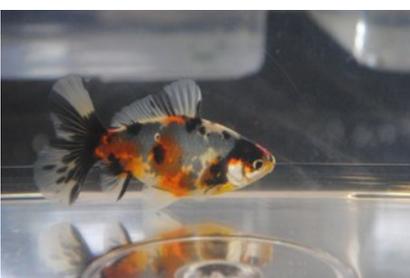
I would ask that we all bring fish along to the next meeting and that we have a good turn out on the day. Can I remind those who have show tanks to bring some along or the fish might get a little stressed being held up by the tails whilst being judged. (PC brigade ignore this last bit).

Pat Davies

Chairman



Pictures from 2011 Baby Show



Report on unsuccessful fish breeding.

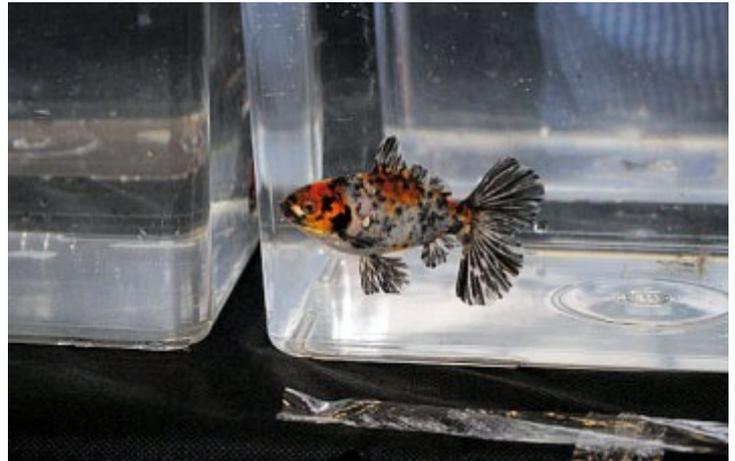
I am writing this article on a sunny Sunday afternoon (22nd April 2012) and have had, so far, nine spawnings of both Bristol Shubunkins and Broadtail Moors. The result of all this is:- 20 Shubunkin fry from one spawning, 4 from another and 10 from another!!! All other spawnings were completely infertile including my moors.



All the spawnings began naturally with hand stripping being used after they had been going for a couple of hours, so that I could attend meetings and get some work done etc., being out of action from the end of February until the end of March meant that the fish did not get enough attention or conditioning time but the females have shed eggs every 6 days. All eggs were amber with most being a good size.

Today, however three female shubunkins obliged and plenty of eggs seem to have been laid with the males being in top condition – so fingers crossed. I am determined to breed something this year for everyone to see when I have my open house in July.

If anyone else has had this trouble I'd be pleased to hear about it – and if they have the solution – even more welcome. I have had the same water supplier and a drip system since



1979 and also hand stripped for as many years so my trials have drawn a blank. For the last few years my Moors have been playing up, but last year with an outcross I had tons of youngsters. (Tried the same combination this year though and – nothing).

I hope that all of you have had better luck.

Pat Davies

Chairman



All Photos on this page are from the club archives and not necessarily belonging to Pat

Report from your Editor—By Sandra Witter

I must admit to being very disappointed in the response from our members, for articles, info and photographs for inclusion in this Newsletter.

For this last issue, I waited and waited until I couldn't wait any longer to put it to bed. I was given instructions from our committee, that Association information needed to go in first, then to be filled up with other info and articles from members. So I waited.

I didn't receive any committee stuff until the Sunday BEFORE our first meeting, and then had problems trying to put it in, in a legible format. I also then had to work out just how many pages were needed for the final production, and fit the relevant info into the correct places for it to look right. Luckily on this occasion I had only two other items from members to go in. Then I had printer problems, which with a lucky dash over to Birmingham on Saturday morning, between hospital visits, managed to resolve.

Hence I am disappointed all round. The quality of the Newsletter wasn't up to my usual standards, the printing was awful, but didn't have the time to try and resolve it with the lateness of the issue.

On top of all of the above, my mother was due to go into hospital for the first of possibly 3 life threatening operations. The main blood vessel down the body was ballooning in her tum, and if it burst, she would die. Whilst they were doing all the necessary pre-op tests we discovered she also now has 3 primary forms of Cancer, so the consultants were arguing amongst themselves, which op had to take priority. The aorta balloon won. She had the op on the Thursday prior to our meeting, and has come through that in one piece, but it was doubtful at the time that I would even get to the meeting, As I write today, she is now in again recovering from a lung op and has been in ICU for over 7 days.

As I had promised to bring my projector for Sheridan's talk and picture show. I did manage to get there, and apart from a few problems with the slide show advancing on its own, I think Sheridan's talk went down very well.

In all honesty, with everything that is going on in my own life at the moment, I am fast losing interest in producing a Newsletter for the club. If no one else can be bothered, then why on earth should I be worrying about it. I have much more important things to be worrying about at this time.

So this MAY just be my last attempt to produce

something good for the Club. My final attempt to give something that will monitor and keep alive the history of this marvellous Association of Goldfish Keepers, to show the progress, to show the experiences of those who have gone before, to try and prevent those new to the hobby, from making the same mistakes that we made in our early days in the hobby. To show pictures of our fish in the year 2012 for those in years to come, to see how our fish were developed.

Don't you think this is worth remembering and passing on to newcomers. Is our Association worthy of a history, worthy of an Archive of all that has gone before. I believe so, because exotic goldfish are going to be around for many, many years to come, and people in the future will want to know how we kept our fish, what we fed them on, how we treated their illnesses. (*I was reading a book from the 1950's a few days ago, and was amazed at how they treated their sick goldfish! I'm amazed we've still got fish left to treat, but still learnt things from that book*)

The combined ages of all our members, produces several hundred years of experience and memories that should be preserved for the future. Let's pass on our memories for those to read in the future.

I'm not asking anyone to write their memoirs, just the odd article on something relevant to the hobby, so that newcomers can learn from OUR Association on best practice, what to do and more importantly, what not to do with our precious fish.

This Newsletter is fast becoming just the messenger for the Nationwide Standards group. I don't want that and I'm sure you don't either, It is OUR Associations Newsletter, no one elses, so lets put all OUR stuff in here

I can only sincerely apologise for getting my irate thoughts off my chest in the first pages of this Newsletter, I can only hope that some of you will read it and it give you the shove up the backside to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. Let's make this Newsletter a REALLY good source of information.

Sandra Witter—Editor AMGK Goldfish Standard

I'm confused, can you help? - By Gary Malpas

I have just been made aware, along with millions of others by the water company covering my area (East Anglia) along with other water authorities in the south east, that they will be imposing a hosepipe ban beginning at the start of April. I am told that apparently East Anglia region has effectively been under severe drought conditions for some 18 months. Who knew! This is being caused I am told, by the exceptionally dry winters with the rainfall being dramatically less than the average expected, for the last 2 years.

At the same time Anglia Water, my regional provider, has written to households in my area informing us that they will be carrying out extensive maintenance on the water pipes for my area this coming week. On completion of that work I am informed I am not to be alarmed if I see gallons of water being flushed down the drains as they remove any impurities from the newly serviced pipes. This water they tell me, is re-cycled via the sewage treatment works and actually helps support the river networks.

Now I am not an intelligent man and after being turned down for a place at both Oxford and Cambridge and subsequently finding out my local college did not offer evening classes in gynaecology or beer tasting for enthusiastic amateurs, I decided that I would probably not be the sharpest tool in the box for the rest of my life. I could perhaps have become an M.P. but in applying failed the selection process as I had a heart, a soul and half a brain.

Now perhaps you can help this idiot because I am confused. Why is it that when the water authority flushes the pipes down the sewer, that water can be used again, yet if I wash my car with a hose it can't be, apparently? Why is it that I can't fill my Olympic size swimming pool (if I had one) with a hosepipe but I can fill it with buckets; surely the swimming pool would still hold the same amount of water?

What could the water authorities have done to prevent this state of affairs?

Given the fact that here in Anglia region, we are traditionally one of the driest areas in the country, as well as being one of the largest consumers of water, with over 70% of all ground crops grown by farmers are grown in this region. Couple that with the population of the whole country dramatically rising over the last few years due to immigration, with many of these people settling and making their homes in the south and south east, I would have thought somebody far clever than me would have

done a bit more about trying to alleviate the water shortage than getting on their knees and praying that the heavens open with a torrential downpour consistently from mid-October until March. So I ask again, what else could they have done? Well, they could have employed people to repair the thousands of leaks in the piping network that are leaking hundreds and thousands of gallons of water down said sewer every week. When I watched on the news last year that flash floods were causing rivers to burst their banks and flood many homes and in some cases, whole villages, I thought they could have perhaps diverted some of that water into the depleting reservoirs to top them up.

They could of course, have built a network of pumping stations across the country from Wales, Scotland and the North West, where they have an abundance of water and no restrictions apply. They could also, with a bit of fore thought, extended the capacity of existing reservoirs. Or indeed, built new ones. They could even have built de-salination plants and used the water from the sea that surrounds this tiny island of ours. After all, 90% of the earth's surface is covered in it.

Water, after all, is a basic requirement of all life on earth (as well as goldfish keepers) and if they were to do some or any of these measures listed above, it would alleviate the crossed fingers gambling aspect of waiting for the wet stuff to fall from the sky. Indeed, I am sure the Government would be well pleased as it would also create much needed employment and improve the economy of the country.

Whoops, sorry, just had a thought, to invest in any of these projects would cost money and that would mean less profit, less bonuses for executives and less dividends for the shareholders; and of course, if there is one thing that is more important than water, it's MONEY so I cannot see them using any of the 3.2 billion pound profit water companies made last year, any time soon.

Perhaps they are waiting for global warming to melt the polar ice caps and flood the country and then we will be awash with water as we embark on a flood of biblical proportions. If so, they are more optimistic than me and although my son is a carpenter, I have not asked him to build me a large ark yet !!

So I am confused. What do you think they could have done? As we keep getting told we are all in it together, how can we help to alleviate and conserve water for more important things such as watering

golf courses and bowling greens.

Here is a list of things that I am currently implementing to help conserve water.

1. I no longer wash my car (although to be truthful that's probably because I am just lazy).
2. Linda is no longer going to use the washing machine – who needs clean clothes? I asked her if she is going to get rid of the old tired useless grumbling dishwasher; and yes you guessed it, she said she will keep me for a little longer !
3. We are only flushing the toilet once a week; yes, that does take a bit of getting used to, but persevere.
4. We no longer drink cold water from the tap; instead we have found a cheap alternative at the local supermarket; I think they call it lager. Very refreshing and so much tastier than water. Our 4 year old granddaughter loves it.
5. Like Queen Victoria I have resigned myself to bathing twice a year, whether I need it or not.
6. For implementing daily hygiene procedures, instead of showering I have taken to rolling naked in the dew on the front lawn early in the morning. Anyone else? No, just me then.

I hope I have given you some ideas and if you can think of any other ways for us all to save water, or are able to answer any of the questions that are keeping me awake at night, please write to the Editor and enlighten us all on your thoughts.

Gary Malpas

(Confused and simple)



MEETING DATES 2012

- 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**



Brine Shrimp Eggs for 2013 Breeding Season.

We are considering a new order for Brine Shrimp Eggs for next season. If anyone would like some please let Gary know at the next meeting. Initial enquiries indicate that each tin, due to a bad harvest will be in the order of £55.00p each! It is unknown if the price will drop in the future, but the trend over the last few years is for it to go up further with time. We will need to purchase a minimum of half a case to keep costs down, so think on and let Gary know if you are interested.

Your Committee 2012

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OPEN SHOW MANAGER	GARY MALPAS	01604 451515
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR	SANDRA WITTER	024 7631 7575

Member Profile—Sharon Hall



Hi my name is Sharon Hall and I have just become a member of the Midland Society . I am currently a member of the NGPS Society and wanted to broaden my horizons. I have sent some pics that I hope you can put in your publications . I hope you like them.

Our thanks to Sharon for sending in her pictures of her own collection. Now it's your turn. Let's have your pics. Either in JPG format by email, or just post your photos to me and I promise to return them as soon as scanned.—Ed



Comments from Rykin breeder Elaine Edmunds

As a breeder of Rykin I was asked by the GSGB to comment on the proposed Rykin Standard.

Having had time to consider the proposed Rykin standard, it appears that quite a bit of thought has gone into ensuring that it looks totally different to any other of our recognised varieties, hence specifying a pointed head and a tail that does not look like a fantail.

What about other short tailed fish. Should it not look like a Pearlscale or Lionhead tail or are these to different in the body to be confused with a fantail?

The thing about the Rykin is the body shape. The hump. Even a failed hump shouldn't look like a fantail, but I think that is what the specification of face and tail is about.

Personally, as I have previously stated, my preference is for a short tail to give the fish a butch look. The longer tail in the proposed standard detracts from butch and looks pretty pretty feminine.

The Judges may need guidelines but I should prefer to play with this fish for a while longer before deciding on what they should look like. Perhaps the standard should be loose for the time being.

As for colour, I have always considered white on a metallic fish to be a fault. Silver is the reflective scale on a metallic fish. Silver on a calico fish is normally a reflective scale, to be discouraged. White is the matt colour on a calico fish.

Sometimes a calico fish such as a shubunkin shows what I have heard described as a mother of pearl sheen. I don't think of this as either white or silver but lacking in colour.



Spring Warning—Elaine

Early March. Checked on my ponds. Something looked odd. On inspection the odd thing focused into a male frog clasping a Lionhead.

They were easy to net out but it was not easy to remove the front arms of the frog from under the gill plates of the fish. I would describe it as a death grip.

As I paused to consider my options the frog jumped out of my hand taking the fish with it. Fortunately they landed on soil not concrete.

Although I thought that the fish was dead before I took them out of the pond I freed fish from frog and let the frog hop away to, hopefully, find a lady friend of the same species. Then I tried swishing the fish in the pond water and was rewarded by a gill movement. I tried more swishing. The swishing appeared to work and the fish showed a little movement. A week later it was still surviving.

I have been told that a dab of salt on the back of a frog will make it unclasp but I didn't think of that at the time.



Paddy goes to the vet with his goldfish.
 "I think it's got epilepsy" he tells the vet.
 The vet takes a look and says "It looks alright to me!"
 Paddy says, "I haven't taken it out of the bowl yet!"

Swim Bladder Disorders

Overview:

Names: Swim Bladder Disorder, Floating Disorder, Swim Bladder Disease, SBD

Disease Type: Environmental, Bacterial, Parasitic

Cause: Multiple causes

Description:

Swim Bladder Disorder refers to issues affecting the swim bladder, rather than a single disease. Although most commonly seen in [Goldfish](#) and [Bettas](#), it can strike virtually any species of fish. In this disorder, the swim bladder does not function normally due to disease, physical defects, or mechanical / environmental factors. Affected fish will exhibit problems with buoyancy. Interestingly enough, not all fish possess a [swim bladder](#), most notably sharks and rays.

Symptoms:

- Fish sinks to the bottom, struggles to rise up
- Fish floats to the top, often upside-down
- Swims with tail higher than head (Note: this is normal in headstanders)
- Swollen belly
- Fish may have curved spine

Fish suffering from Swim Bladder Disorder exhibit a variety of symptoms that primarily involve buoyancy, including: floating upside down, sinking to the bottom of the tank, standing on their head, or struggling to maintain a normal upright position.

Other physical signs such as a distended belly or curved back may also be present. Affected fish may eat normally, or have no appetite at all. If severe buoyancy problems exist, the fish may not be able feed

Cause:

- Compression from surrounding organs, such as: Enlarged stomach from overeating, or gulping too much air Enlarged intestine, due to constipation Enlarged liver, generally due to fatty deposits Enlarged kidney, generally due to cysts Egg impaction in females
- Bacterial or parasitic infection
- Mechanical injury from fall or other hard blow
- Birth defect

Swim Bladder Disorder is usually caused by compression of the swim bladder. The most common cause of swim bladder compression is a distended stomach from rapidly eating, overeating or gulping air. Eating freeze-dried or dry flake food that expands when it becomes wet often leads to an enlarged stomach or intestine. Low water temperature can slow the digestive process, which in turn can result in an enlarged intestine. The result is pressure on the swim bladder, and potentially Swim Bladder Disorder.

Less common causes of compression on the swim bladder are other organs becoming enlarged. Cysts in the kidneys, fatty deposits in the liver, or egg binding in female fish can result in sufficient enlargement to affect the swim bladder.

Treatment

- Do not feed for 3 days, then feed skinned peas
- Increase water temp to 80
- Lower the water level to make it easier to reach the surface
- Hand feed during treatment, if needed
- Use broad spectrum antibiotic if indicated

Because an enlarged stomach or intestine is the most common case of Swim Bladder Disorder, the first course of action is to not feed the fish for three days. At the same time increase the water temperature to 80 F and leave it there during the course of treatment. On the fourth day, feed the fish cooked and skinned peas. Frozen peas are ideal for this, as they can be microwaved or boiled for a few seconds to thaw them, resulting in the proper consistency (not too soft but not too firm). Remove the skin, and then serve the pea to the fish. This course of action resolves many cases of Swim Bladder Disorder.

While treating the fish, it often helps to reduce the water level to make it easier for the fish to move around within the tank. In tanks with a strong water current, it will help to reduce water flow while treating the fish. If the affected fish floats with part of its body constantly exposed to the air, applying a bit of stress coat to the exposed area will help avoid development of sores. Hand feeding may be necessary if the fish has significant issues with movement.

If fasting and feeding peas does not relieve the problem, and the fish is having normal bowel movements, the problem is probably not due to an enlarged stomach or constipation. The fish may exhibit signs of infection such as clamped fins, shaking, and lack of appetite. Treatment with a broad-spectrum antibiotic may help in these cases.

When it is suspected the fish has Swim Bladder Disorder due to a fall or injury, time is the only treatment. Keep the water clean and between 78-80 degrees and add a small amount of [aquarium salt](#) to the tank. If the fish does not recover and is unable to eat, the humane resolution may be [euthanasia](#).

Prevention:

- Maintain good water quality
- Keep water temperature at 78 or above
- Soak dried foods before feeding
- Thaw frozen foods before feeding
- Avoid overfeeding, feed only small portions

Growing evidence indicates elevated [nitrates](#) may have a part in Swim Bladder Disorder. It is well known that poor water conditions cause fish to be more susceptible to infections. Keeping the tank clean and performing regular water changes will go a long ways towards preventing Swim Bladder Disorder. Keeping the water temperature a bit higher will help digestion, and possibly avoid constipation, another major cause of swim bladder problems.

Using high quality foods will help, and soaking [dried foods](#) for a few minutes before feeding will help prevent constipation. Always thaw frozen foods thoroughly before feeding. For fish that frequently gulp air when feeding at the surface, try switching to sinking foods. For all fish that have had Swim Bladder Disorder, it is wise to cut back on overall feeding. [Feed smaller portions](#), so they can't overeat.

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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