

Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers



NGPS OPEN SHOW BEST IN SHOW



BEST LONDON SHUBUNKIN

Bred by **ANDREW BARTON**

NOVEMBER 2019 Contents of this issue

DISCLAIMER

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2019



We're now nearing the end of the current fish year, having just held the last of the Open Shows (National Fancy Goldfish Open Show) on the 5th October 2019 with just the AGM to be held on Sunday 20th October 2019. This last meeting is held each year to decide the AMGK programme for 2020, whilst reflecting achievements, disappointments and events of the past year and a chance for everyone to discuss and suggest anything they want related to the society and fish keeping in general.

New Members

2019 again saw new members join the Society and many have received the customary warm welcome from existing members, at our meetings and shows. It would appear that not only our shows and magazine have drawn in new interest but our website, Facebook page and YouTube have been instrumental in producing such a long list of new members. My thanks to Heather, Laurence, June, Gary and Linda for making this all possible and fielding all questions as necessary and signing up the following 22 new members:- Dave Batty, Robert Cheetham, Jason Doherty, Graham Edwards, Jayne Guest, Dominic Harrington, Alan Higgins, Brian and Sarah Higgins, Bob Jones (re-join), David Marshall, Jamie Mullen, Keith Mullin, Mathew Nicholls, David Oxman (re-join), Lewis Pearce, John Pereira, Gurpreet (Andy) Sangat, Tony Smith, Lee Talson, Chris and Trish Whitehurst (re-join). I hope that you have found your time with us so far enjoyable and rewarding and has enriched your own fish hobby, whether you are new to fish keeping or have spent years keeping and breeding fish. Welcome to you all. A number of new members have not yet made it to one of our meetings but, hopefully, will make an appearance during 2020. Sunday afternoons doesn't suit everyone. I'm sure that all new members will continue to receive support, encouragement and advice as required. We are all in the society to share knowledge and encourage each other to keep our fish healthy, in the best environment and breed our fish to the highest standard year on year. It is understood that some members may only want to keep a few fish without necessarily breeding and rearing future generations, but should be able to share the society's group knowledge to the benefit of their more limited set up. It is still wonderful that so many of our newer members have joined in all our activities with so much enthusiasm, helping with the shows, catering and entering their fish in competitions etc., it all bodes well for the future.

Meetings

Meetings throughout the year continue to be well attended, with young fish presented at this year's owner bred youngsters show in August going on to do well at all the various Society Open Shows throughout the country and including the National, held again this year in the Wyken Community Centre in Coventry.

President's Open Day

Andy's home was ready for an onslaught of visitors this year, and just as well as the weather was far from kind for most of the day. Two clubs were represented on the Sunday, with other folk visiting on the Saturday. Thank you, Andy, for hosting this year and for all your efforts required to stage the event. We were glad to see that the water trouble that you and many of us around the country had experienced for most of the breeding season had ceased after a long struggle, with a good variety of fish, young and more mature on show – between the heavy bouts of rain.

Gratitude to those that work tirelessly all year round in the background

I'd like to mention, as we always do, the great debt of gratitude we owe to both June and Linda for their respective sterling efforts behind the scenes that really keep the society going from strength to strength. June's creative Newsletters make for a fantastic record of all our fish efforts throughout the year, and with the added photographs snapped by Andy (and now Phil at the National) at the meetings and shows, reinforces our current knowledge and provides a definitive record of the hobby for those that take up the hobby in future years. The website continues to have many hits. Many thanks to Laurence for his YouTube channel that continues to entice new members to the society. Our own magazine, The Goldfish Standard can also be found on the website every time it is published together with all back copies.

Linda (and Gary) take on the unenviable task of being the society's first port of call for potential new members and impart much knowledge for those fish keepers throughout the country that just want a bit of advice for their own perceived difficulties.

Website Video and Publication Notes

Laurence has also continued to produce video records that are now accessible to a wider audience and our thanks to Laurence goes without saying for this excellent service to the club. A big thanks to June for putting together the news letters throughout the year and for Nigel for his generous printing and posting of the newsletter to those members that are not cursed with possessing a computer.

Thoughts regarding the forthcoming AGM

At the AGM, we will, as always, receive a full Financial Report from Gary on the state of the Society's finances and decide what we want to do as a society for 2020.

The committee is constantly being approached from the ever increasing membership during the year, offering ideas for next year that are now being brought forward to the AGM. These will be flagged up in the 'Any other business' section and comprise, but not be limited to, the following listed below:-

1. Timing of the National Show.
2. Consideration of suitability of venue for the National.
3. Bringing more subject variety into our routine meetings, ensuring that we have a speaker at all our meetings, irrespective of whether we have a table show on the same day.
4. Review of progress on the Butterfly fish breeding and any communication from other societies on the subject.
5. Visits to other folk's fish set ups rather than just those of the President and Chairman
6. Member's advertising in Newsletter and Website etc.,
7. Request to be able to view all the judging sheets after the fish have been judged and to have a summary/discussion as to how the standard of fish at each show compares to previous shows. This will enable us to not only record the efforts of all exhibitors show by show but could indicate the quality of breeding over time. Previous times C1960's Judges were held to account and were made available for half an hour or so to answer any exhibitor's questions. All certificates should have the points filled in. (Nationwide and AMGK award cards have this facility). This could form part of the general discussion at our first meeting in the new year. This was not done earlier in the year, but I have received a few requests for this to be made so for next year. This was discussed at the last AGM but I bring it up this year once again to review progress.
8. Consideration of under 16 year old fish keepers to have free membership in their own right and free show entry and to consider a new special juvenile show class.

9. Consideration to be given to have recognised individual classes at the National for all 20 recognised varieties with a Standard rather than the multi variety AOV with a standard.
10. Consideration of purchase of portable microphone system for our meetings and Nationwide.

Election of Delegates for the Nationwide spring Meeting 2019

The role of Nationwide was discussed at the last AGM with the following delegates duly elected to represent the AMGK at any future meetings or reviews:- Andy Barton, Keith Waters and Phil Riley. Although I had previously decided to stand down as a delegate my name was put forward to stand for the election of Chairman of Nationwide. I was duly elected in June of this year, with my thanks for those societies that have put their trust in me. Retirement will have to wait now until June 2022!

A number of our newer members have asked how the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK works in the past, so June kindly re-issued the constitution and protocol in our last Newsletter. These documents, together with the **Nationwide: Goldfish Standards UK**, are also available on our society website.

What is important to note about the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK that it is a part of all the societies that judge their fish to the Nationwide Standards, it is not superior nor inferior to each of the societies. It is just the mechanism designed to galvanise the thought process of the standards and provide a recognised link between all the societies, when considering any new standards for new varieties that are bred by society members and any alterations that might be considered for existing variety standards. All the four societies remain autonomous.

Training new Judges

As the new Chairman of Nationwide, I have put a letter out to all the Nationwide societies asking for volunteers to train to be judges. I am pleased to say that we've received 8 responses so far with myself kicking it off with Phil Riley, Liam Roberts, Chris Whitehurst, Josh Hearne-Wilkis, Jackie Pedley, Grahame Draper (all AMGK members) and Louise Rylett from NGPS. Once qualified all of us can work to get the judging down to a fine art and completed early enough for exhibitors and visitors to have plenty of time to enjoy the shows. Suggestions as to how this might be achieved will be discussed on the agenda at the AGM.

Election of Officers and Chairman's Retirement

Finally, please be reminded that at this year's AGM all the committee positions are up for re-election by the membership, including those positions that usually stand for a three year period. This year, I will not be standing for the role of Chairman. After a nearly a quarter century in the role I feel it is time for a new Chair to carry us forward to our golden anniversary and beyond. My decision not to stand for election has not been taken lightly, as it has been a real joy to represent and help guide the society on many levels and, really, I could not have wished for more energetic and supportive colleagues both on the committee and throughout the entire membership. Although I was always taught that Pride and Boastfulness were both sins it is with some pride that I look at our society from how it started out in March 1974 to what it has become today. It has bucked the trend of many other less sustainable societies, be it fish, poultry, cage birds and the like throughout the land and we can relish in the national recognition that we are, and have been for some time, now in the top rank. I can boast a membership of the society of forty years (not of course the longest) but more importantly the acquisition of a very special group of friends, that without our common interest in breeding fish of the highest calibre I would not have. My only wish is that the membership give every support to the next incumbent to the same generous level as I have come to enjoy over the last 23 years.

Pat Davies
CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2019



This year has had a lot of highs and lows for me as President. We have seen some very well attended meetings with a healthy amount of members' fish shown. Club meetings have been lively and friendly with new members being welcomed into the club by our senior members, in a warm and friendly fashion.

Our Open Show was, again, a very successful one with a large number of entries in both the Show and Auction. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their continued support, without which putting on such great events would not be possible.

I was saddened to learn that one of our 'founder members' Dave Denney had passed away this year. Dave, despite the challenges that he faced on a daily basis, did whenever possible attend our meetings and shows and played an active part within the club. He will be sadly missed.

July saw the staging of the President's Open Day which was very well attended, despite the awful weather, which was avoided by everyone gathering in the newly built conservatory to enjoy the afternoon.

This year, unlike any other, has seen many of our members, me included, have issues with the 'fresh water' from the tap which resulted in fish health issues and even deaths. This has become a 'hot topic' and during 2020 we hope to look at water quality in more depth to help avoid any occurrence in future years.

Despite all of these problems with the water our members are finding ways of coping with these issues and have produced some lovely baby fish to the highest of standards which have brought a lot of success at the major showing events.

This year it has also been very pleasing to see the work that has been carried out with regards to the development of the strains of Butterflies and also the work towards the Butterfly Standard. We are now seeing some really nice fish on show in classes that have been well supported.

Once again, the AMGK membership have put a large amount of effort into the National Fancy Goldfish Open Show, which this year was a huge success with the biggest show so far - but more help is needed from some of the other societies within Nationwide, as it is not an AMGK Show. Hopefully encouragement will be given to get a better involvement from the other societies going forward to next year.

Finally, I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to Pat Davies, who is retiring as our Chairman this year. He has served the AMGK for many years helping to make it the lively and successful club that it is today. A club that everyone can be proud of and the leader in the goldfish hobby.

Many thanks Pat and all the best for your future endeavours!

Andrew Barton
PRESIDENT

NGPS

OPEN SHOW

14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

DIAMOND
JUBILEE



A number of our members made the long journey to Manchester and arrived to place their various exhibits in plenty of time ready for judging.

A few of the classes were supported by single class entries only, with some varieties that traditionally cater for a number of breeders, only one exhibitor entered Moors and only two put in Bristol Shubunkins although both had adults and this year's bred young fish. Despite this there were some wonderful fish on show, only to be expected on this the **NGPS's 60th Anniversary** and it was great to see them and to be welcomed so well by members of the host Society. What particularly caught my eye above all the other varieties were some 'blue' metallic Bubble-Eyes created and developed by NGPS's own Craig Clinton. A gun metal colour in these young fish which apparently turns a darker blue with age and very distinctive yellow bubbles either side of their head. Looking from above at two tanks of 'team of four' they were a site not witnessed by myself in 40 years of showing, so congratulations to Craig for his breeding efforts in bringing to the show a 'new fish' of such unusual beauty. Incidentally, two teams of the same quality were available at the auction on the day that means that the development and further breeding of such an unusual colour variant can be spread further round the country.

AMGK members did exceptionally well at the show, with Phil Riley taking Best under 3" and also over 3" Bristol, myself Best Single Bristol bred this year and Best Team of Bristols and Moors (although the last two classes were only single entries!), Gary with his highly coloured Calico Fantails, and Jackie and Grahame collecting awards like there was no tomorrow. Mick being awarded Highest Pointed Exhibitor with Andy winning Best in Show with a strikingly coloured London Shubunkin made our contingent a runaway success yet again! Apologies to the host club for our, now traditional, over exuberance when cheering Jackie every time she has to collect an award for her classy Butterflies (we can all blame Gary, apparently). You don't have to win each time you enter you know Jackie but it looks like you'll have to continue to put up with our more excitable members being determined to embarrass you out of respect for your breeding and rearing prowess whilst you keep winning. It looks like it's become a habit now, that thankfully, will no doubt continue for years to come!!(some of us don't get out enough it would seem).

Pat Davies
Chairman AMGK

ADULTS

CLASS 1	Common Goldfish Under 3"
1 st	Ian Mildon
2 nd	Ian Mildon
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 2	Common Goldfish Over 3"
1 st	Sherridan Moores
2 nd	Ian Mildon
3 rd	Ian Mildon

CLASS 3	Comet Under 3"
1 st	David Ford
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 4	Comet over 3"
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 5	Bristol Shubunkin Under 3"
1 st	Phil Riley
2 nd	Phil Riley
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 6	Bristol Shubunkin Over 3"
1 st	Phil Riley
2 nd	Phil Riley
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 7	London Shubunkin Under 3"
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	Mick Smith
3 rd	Mick Smith

CLASS 8	London Shubunkin Over 3"
1 st	Andrew Barton
2 nd	Mick Smith
3 rd	Mick Smith

CLASS 9	Calico Veiltail
1 st	Craig Clinton
2 nd	Craig Clinton
3 rd	Andrew Barton

CLASS 10	Metallic Veiltail
1 st	Andrew Barton
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 11	Calico Fantail
1 st	Gary Malpas
2 nd	Gary Malpas
3 rd	Gary Malpas

CLASS 12	Metallic Fantail
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	Mick Smith
3 rd	Nick swales

CLASS 13	Moor
1 st	Pat Davies
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 14	Oranda
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	Sherridan Moores
3 rd	Sherridan Moores

CLASS 15	Lionhead
1 st	Sherridan Moores
2 nd	Andrew Barton
3 rd	Sherridan Moores

CLASS 16	Celestial
1 st	Craig Clinton
2 nd	Craig Clinton
3 rd	Tom Bell

CLASS 17	Bubble-Eye
1 st	Craig Clinton
2 nd	Craig Clinton
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 18	Pom-Pon
1 st	NO ENTRY
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 19	Pearlscale
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	J D Roberts
3 rd	J D Roberts

CLASS 20	Ranchu
1 st	Nick Swales
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 21	Ryukin
1 st	Michael Kirkham
2 nd	Grahame Draper
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 22	Wakin
1 st	Sherridan Moores
2 nd	Ian Mildon
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 23	Tosakin
1 st	Andrew Barton
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 24	Jikin
1 st	Ian Mildon
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 25	AOV Goldfish
1 st	Jackie Pedley
2 nd	Jackie Pedley
3 rd	Jackie Pedley

TEAMS OF 4 BRED THIS YEAR

CLASS 28	Team of 4 Bristol Shubunkin Bred 2019
1 st	Pat Davies
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 31	Team of 4 Fantails Bred 2019
1 st	Gary Malpas
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 32	Team of 4 Moors Bred 2019
1 st	Pat Davies
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 45	Team of 4 AOV Twintail with Dorsal Bred 2019
1 st	Jackie Pedley
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

SINGLE FISH BRED THIS YEAR

CLASS 50	Bristol Shubunkin Bred 2019
1 st	Pat Davies
2 nd	Phil Riley
3 rd	Phil Riley

CLASS 51	London Shubunkin Bred 2019
1 st	David Roberts
2 nd	David Roberts
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 52	Veiltail Bred 2019
1 st	Craig Clinton
2 nd	Craig Clinton
3 rd	Craig Clinton

CLASS 53	Fantail Bred 2019
1 st	Gary Malpas
2 nd	Gary Malpas
3 rd	Gary Malpas

CLASS 54	Moor Bred 2019
1 st	Pat Davies
2 nd	Pat Davies
3 rd	Pat Davies

SINGLE FISH BRED THIS YEAR

CLASS 58	Bubble-Eye Bred 2019
1 st	Craig Clinton
2 nd	Craig Clinton
3 rd	Craig Clinton

CLASS 67	AOV Twintail with Dorsal Bred 2019
1 st	Jackie Pedley
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY



CLASS 70	European Pond Fish
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 71	Non - European Pond Fish
1 st	Sherridan Moores
2 nd	Sherridan Moores
3 rd	Sherridan Moores

BEST COLOUR

CLASS 75	Best Nacreous Colour
1 st	Gary Malpas
2 nd	Gary Malpas
3 rd	Mick Smith

CLASS 76	Best Red Colour
1 st	Ian Mildon
2 nd	Mick Smith
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 77	Best Lemon Colour
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

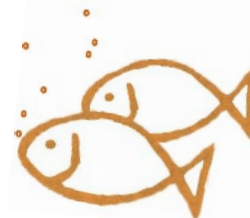
CLASS 78	Best Black Colour
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

CLASS 79	Best Variegated/Metallic Colour
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

PAIRS

CLASS 72	Matched Pairs Single Tail
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	Mick Smith
3 rd	Ian Mildon

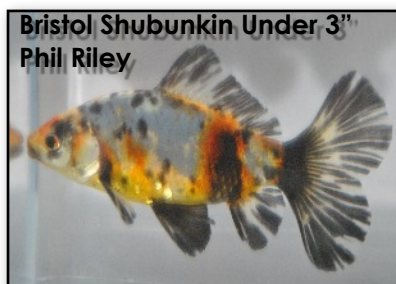
CLASS 73	Matched Pair Twin Tail
1 st	Mick Smith
2 nd	Ian Mildon
3 rd	Gary Malpas



CLASS 1005	Any Fish
1 st	J D Roberts
2 nd	NO ENTRY
3 rd	NO ENTRY

SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST IN SHOW	LONDON SHUBUNKIN	ANDREW BARTON
BEST LONDON SHUBUNKIN		ANDREW BARTON
BEST BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN		PHIL RILEY
BEST BREEDER	BUBBLE -EYES	CRAIG CLINTON
HIGHEST POINTED		MICK SMITH



A selection of some of the winning fish

Best Black
Mick Smith



Best Lemon
Mick Smith



Best Red
Ian Mildon



Best Nacreous
Gary Malpas



Matched Pair Twintail
Mick Smith



Matched Pair Single Tail
Mick Smith



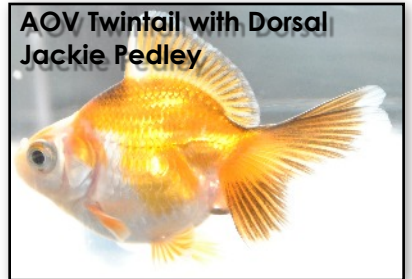
Moor Bred 2019
Pat Davies



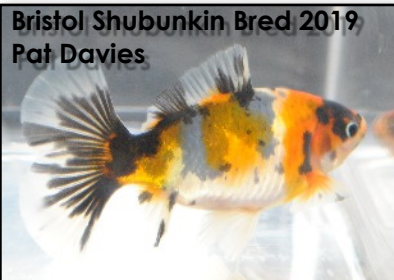
Bubble-Eye
Craig Clinton



AOV Twintail with Dorsal
Jackie Pedley



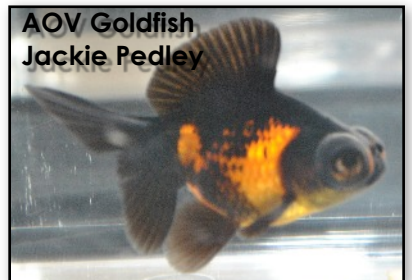
Bristol Shubunkin Bred 2019
Pat Davies



Veiltail Bred 2019
Craig Clinton



AOV Goldfish
Jackie Pedley



Team of 4 Fantails
Gary Malpas



Team of 4 Moors
Pat Davies



Ranchu
Nick Swales



Ryukin
Michael Kirkham



Jikin
Ian Mildon



Common Goldfish Under 3"
Ian Mildon



NGPS OPEN SHOW 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

DIAMOND JUBILEE



Celebrating 60 years

BEST IN SHOW
Bred by Andrew Barton



**BEST
LONDON
SHUBUNKIN**

NGPS

OPEN SHOW

14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

DIAMOND
JUBILEE



**AWARDS PRESENTED
BY THE
PRESIDENT
BILL RAMSDEN**

Andrew Barton taking

**BEST IN SHOW &
BEST LONDON SHUBUNKIN**

Craig Clinton taking

**BEST BREEDER
FOR HIS BUBBLE-EYES**



A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE
6TH NATIONAL FANCY GOLDFISH OPEN SHOW
CAN BE FOUND IN OUR **GOLDFISH** STANDARD OCTOBER
SPECIAL EDITION



Goldfish Visit to Japan 2020

An invitation to members to join Tommy McLean in a proposed fish trip of a lifetime to Japan in the late Autumn of 2020. Should any members want to consider this wonderful opportunity and learn a bit more please contact Tommy direct.

I am still interested in organising a trip to Japan in October/November 2020 which will have a major focus on visiting Goldfish Shows, Goldfish Breeders and Farms.

I have identified a draft plan although (from the experience of my previous trips) the details on visits to breeders and Farms can only be made much nearer the time. If the trip is to go ahead, to get the best flight prices etc, bookings will need to be made in November this year.

General Information

The trip will be organised through Inside Japan Tours who I have travelled with on my previous tours and therefore they have built up a number of Goldfish contacts.
Thursday 22nd October Depart UK –
Friday 23rd October Arrive Japan (Travel to Nagoya) –
Sunday 25th October Yatomi Goldfish Show.
Tuesday 3rd November All Japan Ranchu Championship Show – Osaka
Sunday 8th November (Date to be confirmed) Koriyama (local) Goldfish Show
Wednesday 11th November – Leave Japan

Visits to Breeders and Farms are likely to be in following towns/cities Koriyama, Yatomi, Hamamatsu and Tokyo.

There will also be some days set aside for sightseeing and individuals on the trip do not need to attend all/or any of the goldfish visits.

It is difficult to put a price on the trip until we know the number of people in our group but is likely to be in the £3,500 to £5,500 range. This will also be subject to the exchange rate at the time (and we will be booking after Brexit)

If you are interested please e-mail me at t_w_mclean@yahoo.co.uk

I am sure this would be a trip to remember.

Tommy McLean

YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS



YOU!

Goldfish Standard

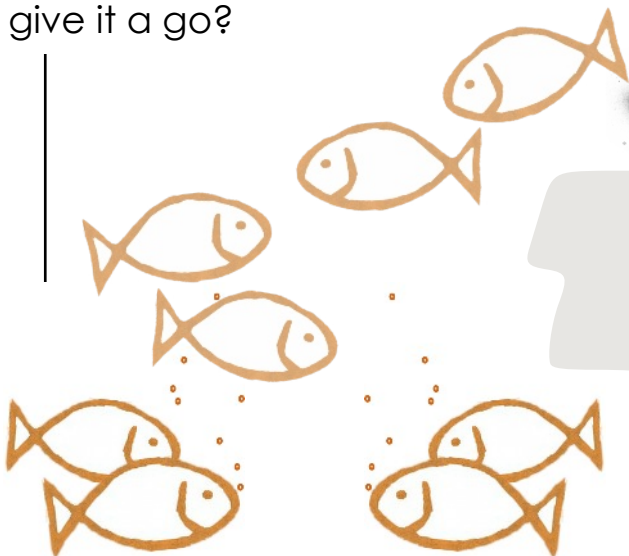


Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

Gardens, Ponds & Fish Houses

Several members have written short articles for publication in our newsletter on their particular set-ups and how they became interested in the fish keeping hobby. At last years' March meeting some gave a short talk with slides on the subject.

Either way it would be of great interest to the rest of our members - so why not give it a go?



Not on line?

*NO PROBLEM -
Good old fashioned
pen and paper will be
fine!*

ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please send to: **8a Howard Road Stafford ST17 9EW** or email amgkblog@gmail.com

What is wrong **FISH?** with my

In this, the second of a short series of articles on fish health, we will look at some clues that can be used to diagnose what is wrong with your fish.

The majority of fish and pond keepers will experience problems with unhealthy fish at some stage. Sometimes the cause of the poor health is obvious and it is relatively easy to treat the fish. However it can also be more difficult to get a good diagnosis despite looking at books, magazines and relevant web sites.

David Pool

Fish disease and the importance of the immune system

The word parasite causes tremors of concern among many fishkeepers. Fish with parasites are thought to be unhealthy and require treatment immediately, with all of the issues that this can create.

In fact all fish are diseased. They all have bacteria, viruses and possibly much larger parasites in and on them – but most fish look and are perfectly healthy. This is because fish have a very effective immune system, which is able to keep parasite numbers at very low levels and prevent them from debilitating the fish in any way. Exactly the same is true for us. We all have cold viruses, flu viruses and perhaps more serious infections, but for most of us our immune system keeps on top of the disease organisms and ensures that we remain healthy.

Disease problems start to occur for fish when either their immune system isn't working efficiently, or the fish are exposed to a parasite that the immune system doesn't recognize as such.

White spot (*Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*) provides a good example of this. Whitespot can occur in an established aquarium that has had no fish added and no problems for several years. A sudden drop in water temperature following a water change or heater malfunction, or perhaps an over enthusiastic filter clean which has resulted in elevated levels of ammonia or nitrate, can stress the fish and adversely affect the immune system. This leaves the fish less able to control parasite numbers. The whitespot parasite multiplies as normal, but the new spores are not controlled by the immune system and very quickly we see the parasites on the fish, causing irritation, flicking and gasping.

Alternatively a new fish could be added to the aquarium that was 'carrying' whitespot. If the fish was healthy it would only have a very small number of parasites present and would show no signs of the infection. However the whitespot parasite could be 'new' to the other fish in the aquarium and would rapidly spread before their immune systems recognized the problem and responded. Again we would quickly see the parasites on the fish and the resultant irritation, flicking and gasping.

Maintaining a healthy immune system

Ensuring the fish have a healthy immune system is obviously important if we are to prevent disease outbreaks. The immune system can be affected by a wide range of factors within an aquarium or pond including:

Food

Ensuring the fish receive a nutritionally balanced diet is essential. A poor diet will not allow the immune system to work efficiently with the problems that this can cause. Certain ingredients in the food are also able to boost the function of the immune system. Garlic, Beta Glucans from yeast and omega oils are all known to help.

Water quality

Prolonged exposure to poor water conditions, or a sudden change in water quality can have an impact on the fish's immune system. In the previous article we looked at the signs to look for which suggest a water quality problem. The impact on the immune system is not immediately obvious, but you will very often see disease outbreaks following poor water conditions – in part because the skin and gill tissues of the fish have been damaged by the poor water but also because the fish are weakened and not able to defend themselves from attack. Opportunistic parasites such as fungi and 'fin rot' bacteria are great examples of parasites that are on the fish all of the time, but suddenly multiply when the fish is weakened.

Stress

Stress can occur due to a wide range of factors, ranging from poor water conditions, and bad handling to bullying by other fish.

Identifying the parasite

There is a wide range of effective treatments for the parasites that can affect aquarium and pond fish. However it is important to select the right treatment for the parasite that is causing the problems, which, of course, means identifying the parasite correctly. Whilst this may sound daunting, in most cases it is only necessary to identify what 'type' of parasite is affecting the fish in order to select the correct remedy. Fortunately there are some clues which will help to narrow down the possibilities.

In the first article in this series we looked at how to identify an unhealthy fish and provided clues which would direct you to the cause. For diseases there were two options:

Infectious disease – a small number of fish affected initially, but the number increasing from day to day

Non infectious disease – 1 or two fish affected, with the number not changing.

Identifying which parasite is responsible can then take 3 stages:

1. Behaviour of the fish

The behaviour of the fish can give a good indication of what part of the body is being 'attacked' by parasites. It is not always accurate, but can give a good idea of where to look more closely. Look for unusual behaviour that you haven't seen before with the fish in question. This may be gasping at the water surface, rubbing against underwater objects or sulking in a corner.

As an example, gasping at the water surface indicates that the fish can't get enough oxygen into its body,. Assuming you have ruled out poor water quality, a parasite in or around the gills is the obvious cause. It is possible that gill flukes or whitespot is damaging the gill tissue and preventing it from functioning effectively. However it could also be parasites on the gills, or on the body close to the gills which are irritating the fish causing it to produce excessive mucous, which is in turn making oxygen uptake more difficult. Internal parasites such as Sanguinicola can also cause gasping, by taking oxygen from the blood of the fish.

2. Visual inspection of the fish.

In many cases the parasites on the skin, fins and gills, or more commonly the fishes reaction to them, is visible to the naked eye. Larger parasites such as leaches, fish lice, black spot and anchor worm are visible on the fish when mature. Many other parasites group together making their identification easy. This includes white spot cysts, fungus, oodinium and bacterial infections. If you look in a good fish health book or put 'aquarium fish diseases' into the search engine on your computer there are many illustrations of these parasites.

A fish's reaction to having raised levels of parasites on the body can include:

Reddening of the skin, due to physical damage of the blood vessels either by the parasite or the fish rubbing to try and remove them

Excess mucus. The fish produces excessive mucus to try and protect its skin from the irritation caused by the parasites. This can be seen on dark areas of the body or against the pupil of the eye as a pale coating.

Open wounds. Sores or ulcers can be a result of a bacterial infection, but can also be a secondary infection that has invaded a wound caused by larger parasites such as leaches or argulus.

3. Microscopic examination

To identify the smaller parasites correctly it is usually necessary to use microscopy or more advanced laboratory techniques. They need to be conducted by experienced personnel who have the appropriate equipment.

Taking a skin scrape from a living fish (generally larger species) allows you to view the mucous coating of the skin. At higher magnifications it is possible to find skin parasites such as flukes, protozoans and fungi. Great care has to be taken when obtaining a skin scrape to ensure that the fish aren't further harmed.

Microscopes are also invaluable for conducting postmortem investigations on an unhealthy fish and identifying if there are parasites present in sufficient numbers to have killed the fish. Such investigations need to be undertaken immediately after the fish has died. If it is left for more than 30 minutes at tropical water temperatures finding the parasites can be very difficult.

Bacterial and viral infections of a fish cannot be correctly identified using a microscope. Tissue samples or swabs need to be carefully taken and sent to a specialist laboratory for culturing and identification.

Which treatment?

If you have a look at the range of disease treatments that are commercially available you will notice that most treat a range of parasites – which is the reason that it is not necessary to identify the exact species of parasite. Treatments are available for fungi – which treat the majority of fungal species that grow on fish; or skin protozoan parasites, which will control the many species of *Costia*, *Chilodonella* and *Trichodina* which cause irritation and mucous production when present in large numbers.

There are more specific treatments for the harder to control parasites that affect our fish. Hexamita (hole in the head disease), Anchor worm and Pleistophora (Neon Tetra Disease) are good examples of this.

Treating fish for diseases

Effective treatment of a parasite can be greatly improved if you recommend that your customers follow a few simple guidelines:

- Read the instructions – and follow them to the letter. Disease remedies vary in the way that they should be applied to have the best effect without harming the fish.
- Don't over or under dose. Disease treatments kill living organisms and if added in sufficient quantities, will also kill your fish or other aquarium/pond life. Most disease treatments have a good degree of tolerance, meaning that over dosing slightly will not be too harmful – but 'adding a bit for luck' may have the opposite effect to that which you are hoping. Under-dosing can also be problematic. It will kill the weaker parasites, leaving the strong ones to multiply and, eventually, create a population that is resistant to that particular treatment. This is exactly what is happening with antibiotics and has happened with Warfarin and rats.
- Conduct a partial water change and remove any organic debris that would otherwise absorb some of the treatment.
- Remove chemical filter media such as charcoal which will absorb the disease treatment.
- Turn off lights. Some of the dyes used to treat fish diseases are adversely affected by light. The instructions will advise you if this is necessary.
- Turn off UV and ozone if used. Both can denature treatments making them ineffective. It is very important to leave the filter functioning.

- Carefully feed the fish. Continue feeding the fish during treatment, but make sure they are not overfed. Using live foods can be useful at this time, as the movement can tempt reluctant feeders.

Summary

This short series of articles was intended to provide some guidance on what was wrong with the fish. Whilst it is impossible to cover all scenarios, the information provided will hopefully guide you through the process which should be followed.

David Pool

We note from the Bristol Aquarist Society (BAS) the following:-

The passing of Clive Weeks on the 10th September 2019. A long standing member of BAS which visitors to their popular open Show, normally on the first Sunday of September, will remember Clive's ready smile and warm welcome to all visitors at the entrance to the show over the last few years and ".....it is also with sad regret that I have to announce the passing of Rita Waterhouse on October 1st. The Society offer Tony, Clive (also an AMGK member) and Louise our deepest sympathies". A card was kindly sent to the Waterhouse family on behalf of AMGK by Linda and Gary.

BRINE SHRIMP EGGS AVAILABILITY

Just to remind those members that have pre-ordered tins of brine shrimp, these will be brought to the AGM for distribution. Your Chairman will be collecting the ordered case from Yorkshire Brine Shrimp on Thursday prior to the meeting with the price per can being £65. Payment to the society will be expected on the meeting day.

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Need any help? - please contact Heather Carrier on 07549 526622

In recognition of the various sponsors that support our Open Show and that of the National it is considered appropriate that we have a regular inclusion of the names in our published **AMGK Goldfish Standard Magazine** and include them in our electronic distribution of said magazine.

In addition, we would ask all members who use the products from our contributing sponsors to report on findings such as ease of use, fish appetite, water quality changes, growth rates of fish etc.,



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Our grateful thanks go to Heather Carrier for setting up our Closed group Facebook page which currently has 37 members.

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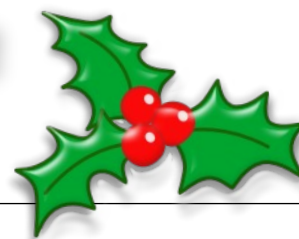
DIARY DATES

FOR 2020

DATES FOR NEXT YEARS SHOWS AND MEETINGS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT OUR AGM TO BE HELD AT BINLEY HALL ON SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2019 STARTING AT 1.00PM.



**AS THIS WILL BE OUR LAST
NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR
WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH
YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please send to: **8a Howard Road Stafford ST17 9EW** or email amgkblog@gmail.com

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