



Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

DECEMBER 2014

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OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY



2014 was our Society's 40th year and we celebrated our Ruby Anniversary by marking the occasion in as many ways as possible!

This years Open Show was a highly special event with over 200 entries, including fish from most of the major breeders and exhibitors from the four Nationwide Societies. It proved to be an excellent start to the showing season.

The auction was also a great success with a record number of entries.

All involved seemed happy and pleased with the day and were looking forward to the season ahead.

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 it's Committee and no liability will be accepted by the A.M.G.K. about the Information contained therein.

A.M.G.K. 1974 - 2014



40TH ANNIVERSARY

This year has been a landmark year for the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers. From its formation, back in 1974, the club has steadily grown from humble beginnings to become one of the foremost clubs, specializing in this wonderful hobby for Fancy-Goldfish keeping, here in the United Kingdom.

The success of this club has come through all of the members having a common goal of keeping, breeding, showing and sharing their fish and knowledge amongst the membership, which has led to many long-standing friendships within the club, which in turn has brought many happy moments and great success when competing in shows and has created an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation which is second to none.

The club has been led over the years by some great individual people supported by a talented committee, which in turn has had the full support of the members of the club. Communication between the membership is first class and has enabled the club in many cases to set the pace for others to follow, with many good ideas put into practice with wonderful results.

This year has again been very successful in many ways, not only on the show bench but also at our own club meetings, being well supported with attendance and participation in our table shows along with some great talks, with one coming from a founder member.

The first forty years have been memorable for A.M.G.K. - lets make the next forty years just as good!

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of those people, past and present, who have made the A.M.G.K. what it is today - you are truly a credit to yourselves and this association.

Andrew Barton

President A.M.G.K.



A.M.G.K. OPEN SHOW 2014

WINNERS



NACREOUS VEILTAIL
Bob Jones



METALLIC VEILTAIL
Andy Barton



METALLIC/NACREOUS ORANDA
Graham Turner



MOOR
Richard Rizzotti



LIONHEAD
Dean Roberts



PEARLSCALE
Dean Roberts



CELESTIAL
Graham Turner



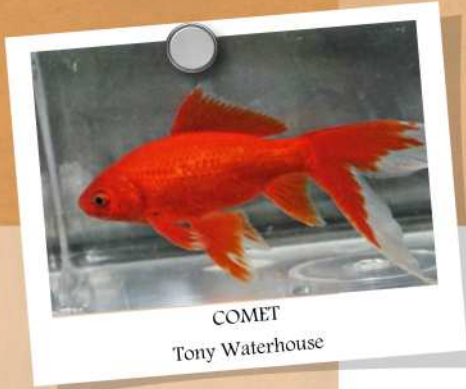
RANCHU
Keith Waters



JKIN
Ian Mildon



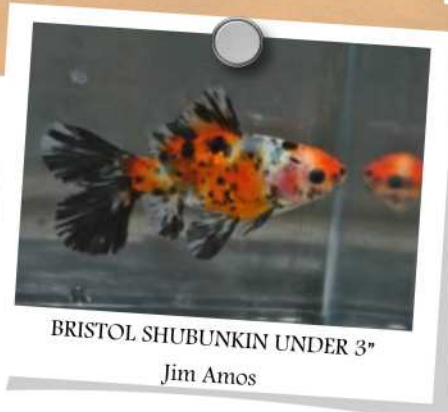
RUBY ANNIVERSARY 2014



COMET
Tony Waterhouse

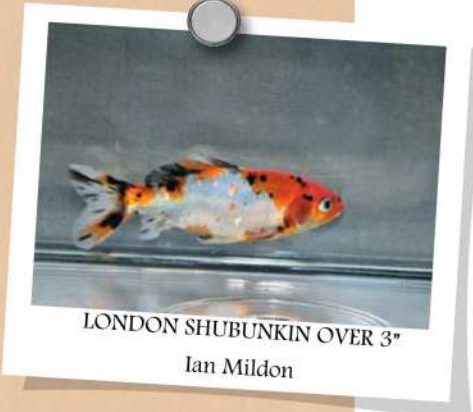


COMMON GOLDFISH OVER 3"
Sherridan Moores



BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN UNDER 3"
Jim Amos

OPEN SHOW WINNERS



LONDON SHUBUNKIN OVER 3"
Ian Mildon



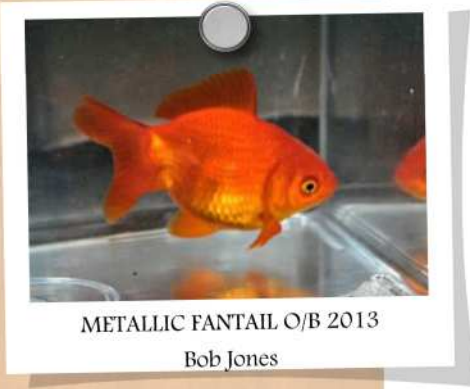
BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN OVER 3"
Phil Riley



NACREOUS FANTAIL O/B 2013
Gary Malpas



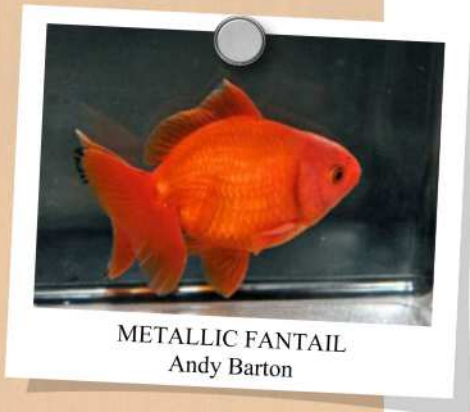
LONDON SHUBUNKIN UNDER 3"
Mick Smith



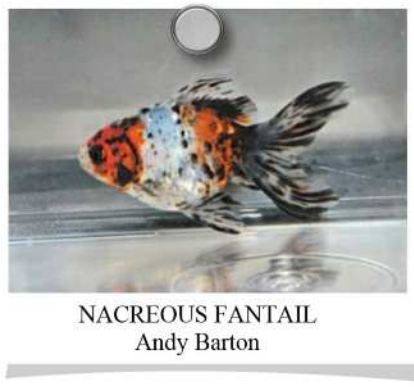
METALLIC FANTAIL O/B 2013
Bob Jones



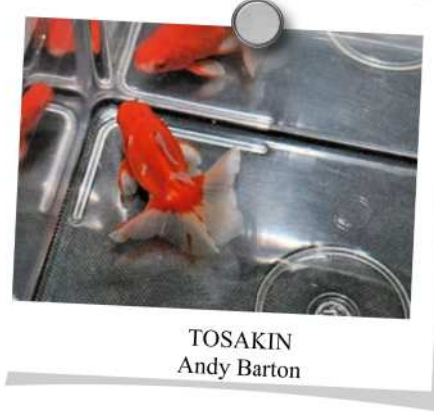
COMMON GOLDFISH UNDER 3"
Andy Barton



METALLIC FANTAIL
Andy Barton



NACREOUS FANTAIL
Andy Barton



TOSAKIN
Andy Barton

PAIRS



MATCHED PAIRS BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN
Pat Davies



MATCHED PAIRS BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN
Pat Davies



MATCHED PAIRS SINGLE TAIL
Ian Mildon



MATCHED PAIRS SINGLE TAIL
Ian Mildon



MATCHED PAIRS TWIN TAIL
Bob Jones



MATCHED PAIRS TWIN TAIL
Bob Jones



MATCHED PAIRS SINGLE TAIL O/B 2013
Mick Smith



MATCHED PAIRS SINGLE TAIL O/B 2013
Mick Smith



MATCHED PAIRS TWIN TAIL O/B 2013
Bob Jones



AOV WITH NATIONWIDE STANDARD
Sherridan Moores

AOV



MATCHED PAIRS TWIN TAIL O/B 2013
Bob Jones



NEW VARIETIES NON STANDARD
Richard Rizzotti



NEW VARIETY





IAN MILDON

BEST LONDON SHUBUNKIN



PHIL RILEY

BEST BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN



BEST

IN SHOW

- BEST OWNER BRED FISH
- BEST AMGK MEMBERS FISH
- BEST COMMON GOLDFISH



SHERRIDAN MOORES



GARY MALPAS

BEST FANTAIL EXHIBIT



BEST VEILTAIL IN SHOW
AMGK MEMBER HIGHEST POINTS



ANDY BARTON



AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Presentations were made of special Open Show class award cards, commemorating the Ruby Anniversary, together with a boxed set of drinks coasters for 1st in Class. Also every entrant in the Open Show received a commemorative certificate.



Ruby Anniversary Show Award Cards and presentation pack of drinks coasters.



Certificates of Recognition and Gratitude were awarded to original Founder Members.



Tony Roberts - a Founder Member of A.M.G.K.



CLASS 1 Common Goldfish under 3"

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd TONY WATERHOUSE
- 3rd SHERRIDAN MOORES
- 4th TONY WATERHOUSE

CLASS 2 Common Goldfish over 3"

- 1st SHERRIDAN MOORES
- 2nd GRAHAM TURNER
- 3rd MICK SMITH
- 4th IAN MILDON

CLASS 3 Comet

- 1st TONY WATERHOUSE
- 2nd TONY WATERHOUSE
- 3rd RICHARD RIZZOTTI
- 4th TONY WATERHOUSE

CLASS 4 Bristol Shubunkin under 3"

- 1st JIM AMOS
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd RICHARD RIZZOTTI
- 4th RICHARD RIZZOTTI

CLASS 5 Bristol Shubunkin over 3"

- 1st PHIL RILEY
- 2nd PHIL RILEY
- 3rd DAVID PADFIELD
- 4th PAT DAVIES

CLASS 6 London Shubunkin under 3"

- 1st MICK SMITH
- 2nd BRIAN PARKIN
- 3rd IAN MILDON

CLASS 7 London Shubunkin over 3"

- 1st IAN MILDON
- 2nd TONY WATERHOUSE
- 3rd BRIAN PARKIN
- 4th MICK SMITH

CLASS 8 Metallic Fantail

- Owner bred 2013
- 1st BOB JONES
 - 2nd ANDY BARTON

CLASS 9 Nacreous Fantail

- Owner Bred 2013
- 1st GARY MALPAS
 - 2nd GARY MALPAS
 - 3rd GARY MALPAS
 - 4th GARY MALPAS

CLASS 10 Metallic Fantail

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd BOB JONES
- 4th MICK SMITH

CLASS 11 Nacreous Fantail

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd GARY MALPAS
- 4th RICHARD RIZZOTTI

CLASS 10 Metallic Fantail

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd BOB JONES
- 4th MICK SMITH

CLASS 11 Nacreous Fantail

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd GARY MALPAS
- 4th RICHARD RIZZOTTI

CLASS 12 Metallic Veiltail

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd MARTIN CLARE
- 3rd MARTIN CLARE
- 4th ANDY BARTON

CLASS 13 Nacreous Veiltail

- 1st BOB JONES
- 2nd PAT DAVIES
- 3rd BOB JONES
- 4th DAVID PADFIELD

CLASS 14 Metallic/Nacreous Oranda

- 1st GRAHAM TURNER
- 2nd ANDY BARTON
- 3rd ANDY BARTON
- 4th GRAHAM TURNER

CLASS 15 Moor

- 1st RICHARD RIZZOTTI
- 2nd GRAHAM TURNER
- 3rd ANDY BARTON
- 4th ANDY BARTON

CLASS 16 Lionhead

- 1st DEAN ROBERTS
- 2nd SHERRIDAN MOORES
- 3rd SHERRIDAN MOORES
- 4th SHERRIDAN MOORES

CLASS 17 Pearlscale

- 1st DEAN ROBERTS
- 2nd DEAN ROBERTS
- 3rd DEAN ROBERTS
- 4th MICK BOOT

CLASS 18 Celestial

- 1st GRAHAM TURNER
- 2nd DEAN ROBERTS
- 3rd IAN MILDON
- 4th DEAN ROBERTS

CLASS 19 Bubble Eye
NO ENTRIES

CLASS 20 Ranchu

- 1st KEITH WATERS
- 2nd KEITH WATERS
- 3rd KEITH WATERS
- 4th KEITH WATERS

CLASS 21 Jikin

- 1st IAN MILDON

CLASS 22 Tosakin

- 1st ANDY BARTON
- 2nd TRACEY WHITE
- 3rd ANDY BARTON
- 4th STAN WOOLRIDGE

CLASS 23 Matched Pairs

- Bristol Shubunkins
- 1st PAT DAVIES

CLASS 24 Matched Pairs

- Single Tail
- 1st IAN MILDON
 - 2nd NICK SWALES
 - 3rd MICK SMITH
 - 4th RICHARD RIZZOTTI

CLASS 25 Matched Pairs

- Twin Tail
- 1st BOB JONES
 - 2nd GARY MALPAS
 - 3rd KEITH WATERS
 - 4th NICK SWALES

CLASS 26 Matched Pairs

- Single Tail (Owner bred 2013)
- 1st MICK SMITH

CLASS 27 Matched Pairs

- Twin Tail (Owner Bred 2013)
- 1st BOB JONES
 - 2nd GARY MALPAS
 - 3rd GRAHAM TURNER
 - 4th GRAHAM TURNER

CLASS 28 Novice Class

- For competitors not having won 1st in show
- 1st NO ENTRIES

CLASS 29 AOV WITH

- NATIONWIDE STANDARD
- 1st SHERRIDAN MOORES
 - 2nd GRAHAM TURNER
 - 3rd GRAHAM TURNER
 - 4th NICK SWALES

CLASS 30 NEW VARIETIES

- NON STANDARD
- 1st RICHARD RIZZOTTI
 - 2nd RICHARD RIZZOTTI
 - 3rd IAN MILDON
 - 4th TONY WATERHOUSE

AMGK MEMBER HIGHEST POINTS (43)	ANDREW BARTON
BEST COMMON GOLDFISH	SHERRIDAN MOORES
BEST LONDON SHUBUNKIN	IAN MILDON
BEST BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN	PHIL RILEY
BEST FANTAIL EXHIBIT	GARY MALPAS
BEST VEILTAIL IN SHOW	ANDREW BARTON
BEST AMGK MEMBER FISH	SHERRIDAN MOORES (Common Goldfish)
BEST OWNER BRED EXHIBIT	SHERRIDAN MOORES (Common Goldfish)
BEST IN SHOW	SHERRIDAN MOORES (Common Goldfish)

Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers



Chairman's Report November 2014

Finally, the fish keeping and breeding and showing year is over. What a year it has been - with this being our Society's 40th Anniversary and seeing the launch of the highly successful birth of the first Annual National Show sponsored and organised by the four specialist goldfish societies judged to the Nationwide Standards of the United Kingdom.

The society has grown from strength to strength over the last 40 years with many peaks and troughs over the period, but yet today boasts a formidable group of the highest quality keepers and breeders of fancy goldfish that have led the field in reaching the standards of today's English bred goldfish stock. This has been reflected in the hoard of top awards gained at the various Nationwide committed society open shows culminating in the first National Show held in Northampton at the end of September.

Ruby Anniversary Celebrations

You will recall that at our last AGM it was decided that we would celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of our society in as many ways as we could. These comprised:-

- The issue of commemorative certificates to all those entering fish in our own Open Show in June.
- Special re-design of Show Award Cards commemorating the Ruby Anniversary.
- Presentation and Awarding original Founder members with Certificates of Recognition and Gratitude for their foresight.
- Celebratory presentation pack of drinks coasters, depicting the specially modified Ruby Anniversary club logo for all Open Show Class winners.
(thanks to June and Mick)
- Ruby colour coordinated membership cards and show canteen napkins
(thanks to Linda)
- Open Day at the President's house.
- Celebratory inscribed Chocolate cake *(we couldn't get a Ruby encrusted one due to funding!)*
- And finally we have a free roast dinner in the pub over the road following the AGM for all members that have indicated their wish to partake.

PLEASE NOTE - This had to be postponed until our first meeting in March 2015, due to refurbishment.

All the above was not achieved without considerable time, effort and skill being expended and I would like you all to join with me to thank all those concerned, who made it possible.



Meetings and Open Show

All our meetings were extremely well supported with most of our established members together with a number of new members attending and enjoying the fun on the days. New members who joined us this year are, Laurence Tressler, Andrew Metcalf, Ivor Cheshire (re-joined after a long absence), Keith Waters, Robert Jones, Bob Jones and Ian Mildon.

To all the new members – welcome, and hope that you get out of the society all that the other, more long-standing, members do.

We had our usual table shows with some of the best fish in the country on show, especially the baby fish show in August with over 50 exhibits. Many of these went on to do the breeder's and the club proud in the National Open shows held in the north and South West during September. Congratulations to all those that received recognition for their efforts.

Other meetings were devoted to the Bristol Shubunkin and selection and developing of both breeding stock and showing presented by myself but mainly Tony Roberts over two of the meetings. Tony was invited to the first meeting as one of the Instigators and Founder Members of the AMGK (back in 1974) and is universally recognised as a major breeder and developer of a number of fancy goldfish varieties. In my lifetime of keeping and breeding goldfish since 1967 (*after 10 years of first breeding fancy guppies*) he is arguably the premier goldfish breeder of the last 40 -50 years. Tony has a wealth of knowledge which we hoped he would impart and was pleased to return to finish off the talk in August after we ran out of time at the earlier meeting. (David Padfield kindly wrote a review/summary of these two meetings that will be published in the next full Goldfish Standard Magazine.

Our President, Andy Barton gave a talk and led the discussion on fish colour which helped galvanise our thoughts on this complicated subject to inform the current Nationwide Standards review that the other three societies, dedicated to the continuation and development of the Nationwide Standards are currently undertaking. We still have a fairly long way to go on this subject but will be sorting out a programme for this at the AGM with the aim of draft agreement leading up to the show season in 2015.

Our Open Show, again, was well received by all that attended who were dedicated to the Nationwide Standards, with surprises for some when the awards were presented with recognition certificates issued to all exhibitors together with special awards going to a chosen few for services to the hobby.

Thanks and Appreciation

As a society we are blessed with a large core of members and volunteers who rally to the cause on the day of the open show and especially June and Mick, Linda and Gary and Andy who work tirelessly behind the scenes for many weeks before the day to make it happen. Those of you that managed to obtain best in class at the open show will appreciate the work entailed in preparing the award coasters in their hand made presentation box, which was down to June's time and skill. Linda and Gary continued to provide tea and biscuits at all our meetings and the open show refreshments. An important aspect to their positions of Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, respectively, is to field all enquiries regarding the club and possible new membership etc., this can be very time consuming but as the public face of the club and the first contact it is important and much appreciated.

Thanks to you all.



Nationwide Development and National Show

After six months of, sometimes intensive, work behind the scenes involving all the societies to a greater and lesser degree, progress has been made on the Nationwide Standards Review with draft wording being made earlier in the year available to all Nationwide Societies through their delegates to enable further review by breeders, exhibitors and informed judges with a view to agreement to modifications and corrections next year. The need for intelligent and informed changes to the existing Nationwide standards were recognised and discussed as issues during the NGPS Open Show in 2013. This led to the idea of holding a Nationwide Standards National Show, confirmed at the Nationwide delegates meeting held earlier this year. Progress and the next step forward will be discussed at the AGM. together with confirmation of who our delegates will be, should a nationwide meeting be called prior to our first meeting of 2015.

First National Goldfish Open Show judged to Nationwide Standards September 2014

This was held in Northampton and sponsored and organised by AMGK, BAS, NEGS and NGPS although it was agreed that some members of the AMGK would lead the preparations for this initial show. It was a long hard slog to be honest, over six months, with uncountable hours spent by a number of us to secure the hall, design and prepare award certificates, schedules and programmes, sorting and agreeing the show rules, catering, sponsorship etc., special thanks go again to the usual suspects – Mick, June, Linda, Gary and Andy (for initial payment to secure the hall) with special thanks to Graham Turner for securing sponsorship from BIFFA and Jim Amos for finding and booking the show venue in the first place. Some of you may already know that once all expenses were paid and reimbursements satisfied the whole enterprise gave a profit of over £200.00p to be shared with all participating societies. I have to say that the day went extremely well with good attendance with a relaxed and happy atmosphere. The quality of the fish was exceptional, in part I feel, due to the numbers restriction placed on all exhibitors. Over 200 exhibits was a great achievement for a first show and should we agree with our Nationwide Society colleagues to hold another show next year we have the means to enlarge the show next time.

Posters, Programmes and Award Cards need to be kept as souvenirs to celebrate this initial experiment that turned out so successfully.

The AGM will need to discuss the future of this show and which society will 'volunteer' to lead next time. The hard work has already been done so that distance next time need not be an issue.

Finally I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and productive New Year

Pat Davies
Chairman



TABLE SHOW RESULTS



ADULT FISH SHOW 18/05/14

CLASS 1 Bristol Shubunkin

1st Andrew Barton
2nd Bill Bucksell
3rd Andrew Barton
4th Pat Davies

CLASS 2 London Shubunkin

1st Mick Smith
2nd Mick Smith
3rd Mick Smith
4th Mick Smith

CLASS 3 Metallic Fantail

1st Mick Smith
2nd Andrew Barton

CLASS 4 Nacreous Veiltail

1st Pat Davies

CLASS 5 Moor

1st Andrew Barton
2nd Lorna Buckseall

CLASS 6 Nacreous Fantail

1st Gary Malpas
2nd Gary Malpas
3rd Gary Malpas
4th Gary Malpas

CLASS 7 Lionhead

1st Andrew Barton
2nd Andrew Barton

CLASS 8 Common Goldfish

1st Andrew Barton

CLASS 9 Oranda

1st Andrew Barton

CLASS 10 Metallic Veiltail

1st Andrew Barton

CLASS 11 Tosakin

1st Andrew Barton

CLASS 12 Ranchu

1st Elaine Edmunds
2nd Elaine Edmunds
3rd Elaine Edmunds

CLASS 13 Pearlscale

1st Elaine Edmunds

BEST IN SHOW - Elaine Edmunds (Ranchu)
PRETTIEST FISH - Andrew Barton (Oranda)
BLUEST FISH - Pat Davies (Bristol Shubunkin)



BABY FISH (BRED 2014) SHOW 31/08/14

BABY FISH (BRED 2014) SHOW 31/08/14

CLASS 1 Bristol Shubunkin

1st Pat Davies
2nd Pat Davies
3rd Pat Davies
4th Pat Davies

CLASS 2 Moor

1st Pat Davies
2nd Pat Davies

CLASS 3 Moor Team

1st Pat Davies
2nd David Padfield

CLASS 5 Tosakin

1st Stan Woolridge
2nd Stan Woolridge
3rd Stan Woolridge
4th Andrew Barton

CLASS 6 Pearlscale

1st Elaine Edmunds

CLASS 7 Ranchu

1st Elaine Edmunds
2nd Elaine Edmunds
3rd Elaine Edmunds
4th Elaine Edmunds

CLASS 8 Nacreous Fantail

1st Gary Malpas
2nd Gary Malpas
3rd Gary Malpas
4th Gary Malpas

CLASS 9 Metallic Veiltail

1st Andrew Barton
2nd Andrew Barton
3rd Sherridan Moores

CLASS 10 Oranda

1st Andrew Barton
2nd Andrew Barton

CLASS 11 Lionhead

1st Chris Whitehurst
2nd Andrew Barton
3rd Chris Whitehurst
4th Sherridan Moores

BEST IN SHOW - Pat Davies (Bristol Shubunkin)



NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR TWO OF OUR MEMBERS IN THE FANCY GUPPY LEAGUE

Many of us started with keeping tropical fish as children with fancy guppies, in particular, being a first introduction to the fascination and delights of keeping and breeding these utterly charming and variable little live-bearing fish. Some of us have periodically returned to keeping a few (in my case for something to enjoy in the long winter months).

A greater dedication to breeding of some very beautiful fancy guppies has paid off for Andy Barton who topped the National Fancy Guppy League in the pairs class with a fantastic score of 337.33 points (accumulated over a number of national open shows) with Phil Riley being runner up in the Single Male Broadtail Class with 247.00 points, just three points behind the winner. Our many congratulations to you both.

1st NATIONAL GOLDFISH OPEN SHOW



Judged to Nationwide Goldfish Standards UK

This year, 2014, has seen the first National Show organized by all the member societies of The Nationwide Goldfish Standards of the United Kingdom. A brave step for all the clubs to take, having never organized a show of this type and on this scale before. The show was staged in the spirit of cooperation, which has been long standing within the nationwide standards and all those concerned with them.

For many years there has been a show judged to the nationwide standards at the end of September, so 27th September was chosen to be the day of the show. We chose to have four show managers, one from each member society with a principal manager to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Volunteers were forthcoming from all the member societies, also funding was made available should the need arise from all of the societies but in the end the show made a healthy profit, which far exceeded anyone's expectations.

The day of the show went extremely well with members working the evening before setting up the major staging and filling of tanks, a task which was completed the following morning. Many other volunteers turned up early the next morning to help with the finishing touches, which ensured that everything was completed in plenty of time, ready for the show to begin.

As it was our first year we restricted the number of exhibits, per exhibitor, per class to ensure the highest possible standard and quality of fish, which made the judges task very difficult indeed but it did produce a dazzling display of top quality, truly exceptional goldfish!

There were 57 classes covering all the Nationwide Standard Fishes and those fishes with standards under consideration also had classes where they could be exhibited. These classes were broken down into three sections: Adult, Single Baby and Teams of Four.

I am pleased to say that despite the restrictions on the number of exhibits per exhibitor per class, we still had 206 quality exhibits and without restrictions we may have had many more.

A. P. BARTON
Principal Show Manager

BEST EXHIBIT IN SHOW AWARD



Pat Davies

Team of Four Broadtail Moors



Bacon sandwiches, pies and cups of tea and coffee kept people going, along with a well supported raffle.

Our first auction had two auctioneers, Pat Davies and Elaine Edmunds, who between them managed to sell the lots of fishes available.

While the auction was taking place, judges from all of the participating societies, were on hand to do the extremely difficult task of judging the fish. Considering the high standard of exhibits, they all did a professional and comprehensive job, of which we owe them a vote of thanks.



Alex king

Well done to all the prize winners and a special well done to Brian Parkin with his Adult London Shubunkin, Alex King with his Single Baby Ranchu and special congratulations to Pat Davies with his Team of Four Broadtail Moors, which also went on to win The Best Exhibit in Show Award.

Well done everyone!



Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have supported this 1st National Goldfish Open Show, to Nationwide Standards, because it is you and your fish that have made it such a success and with your help we can build on this success and do it all again next year.



Brian Parkin

Last, but not least, and on behalf of all of us from the Nationwide Standards and it's supporting societies, I wish to thank Biffa Waste Management Services for their sponsorship of our show with some fantastic sheilds and rosettes, which were given to our prize winners on the day.

Wishing everyone every success for 2015 and look forward to seeing you all again on 26th September at the 2nd National Goldfish Show.



Regards
A. P. BARTON
Principal Show Manager

Obituary for Tommy Sutton (Young Tommy!)

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the recent death of Tommy Sutton who passed away shortly before last Christmas. Tommy was known to all serious breeders of top quality goldfish with most of our strains of all the Nationwide Standard British bred fish carrying some of Tommy's blood lines. All of us who visited Tommy's business at his home in Water Orton have been impressed with the exceptional quality of his fish and came away with a full understanding of his perfected water drip feed system, obsession with cleanliness to deter infection, his use of clean and shallow ponds for rearing previous bred fish and overwintering etc. that informed our own decisions when designing our own establishments.

Tommy, together with his father (Tommy senior), were always welcoming to the serious fish keeper and breeder and would readily impart tricks of the trade and insights into breeding top quality fish. This was particularly true in the early days of my own goldfish breeding efforts in the 1970's when many of the established breeders were reluctant to tell anyone how they did things to reach championship standards –or even let on where they sold surplus fish!). These days of secrecy have, fortunately, long since gone.

It would not be untrue to say that Tommy's fish establishment, once seen, would fill any visitor with envy. Following Tommy's redundancy as a lorry driver from Toogoods Plumbers

both Tommy and his father decided to turn their hobby of fish keeping into a business, specialising in the breeding fancy goldfish of the highest standard. With the combination of bespoke fish houses, the purchase of a large part of next door's garden and the installation of numerous long, narrow, shallow plastic lined ponds and the added bonus of perfect water quality trickling through the massive purpose built tanks he had everything needed to realise his early ambitions. However, the most important asset was Tommy himself. A truly instinctive fish breeder who had a great knack to see the potential in any fish before him and understand how that fish might perform to improve and maintain the breed standard – and in great numbers. Most of us can't do that now after many years of trying!

On a personal note, having known Tommy since the 1970's I found him to be a modest yet extremely knowledgeable man, kind and always ready to help anybody who was serious about the care and breeding of goldfish. I started my own strains of Bristol Shubunkins and Broad-tailed Moors from his lines and knew how quietly proud he was when I rang him every year to let him know how his lines were doing at the national open shows. He was always gracious enough to say that once the original fish had left his premises the future breeding was in the ownership of the new breeder. Although all of us clearly owe him a great debt for where the hobby is today.



Tommy's love of fish keeping was only matched by his enthusiasm for fishing, and spent much of his time indulging in this pastime as his goldfish breeding gradually dwindled in his later years. His love of all things fish no doubt came from conversations and time spent with his dad, Tommy, who was a lifelong fresh water enthusiast and passionate about all of Britain's wildlife. Indeed Tommy senior's reserved occupation as a sheet metal worker allowed him to breed a number of tropical fish breeds and sell to the aquarist section of Lewises department store in Birmingham during the war years. It was inevitable that this passion would rub off on the young Tommy.

It is probable that Tommy was the only person to breed all the Nationwide varieties most years plus others like the Jikin (when the fish were red and white and not orange and white!), that him and his father personally ordered and brought in from the far-east. This was always going to be a risk bringing in foreign stock to his British establishment. However Tommy's obsession with cleanliness paid dividends by removing the parent fish from his establishment once the fish had spawned and running fresh water through the fertile eggs for a number of days to ensure they were clean. I can still remember his worried expression when the fish refused to free swim upon hatching but fed on the bottom for a number of days. Thankfully they all made it to be strong fast growing fish like all his other British stock.

His legacy will continue to live on whilst we still have a goldfish breeding hobby, with more of his distinct caudal peduncle alignment development in the veiltail, for which he had a particularly and sound passion now on the show bench. His clever realignment of the caudal peduncle, to allow the tail to fall backwards at a near horizontal angle, helped his fish to swim more easily and prevent dragging of the leading edge onto the aquarium floor subjecting the fish's tail to infection and fin congestion. His lifelong work created an all-weather fish, rather than the earlier style that often sulked in the corner of the aquarium due to its difficulty in swimming due to excessive finnage, that will now be considered for adoption as part of the ongoing review of the Nationwide Standards.

Although Tommy senior was an active member of the AMGK, until his death over twenty years ago, young Tommy took the sensible view that to stay in business with all the nation's society membership he should work outside such allegiances to avoid any possible discord. The societies used to be far more independent of each other in the early days (some would argue they were practically rivals!) Since early January 2014, however, we have witnessed a strengthening of camaraderie - with much closer ties between the societies within Nationwide, with the focus firmly put on the breeding and showing quality fish that truly owes so much to Tommy's legacy.

Our condolences go to his brother Colin and Val Sutton and the rest of the family. Should any members wish to donate to a fund in his memory to go to the hospital ward that looked after him so well in his last days you are welcome to do so at our next society meeting.

Pat Davies

DIARY DATES FOR 2015



Dates for meetings at Binley Church Hall for 2015 as follows:

- Sunday 22nd March** - General Discussion/fish film presentation and society meal.
Sunday 10th May - Adult / Prettiest & Bluest / Non-Standard Fish Table Show.
Sunday 16th August - Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2015).
Sunday 1st November - A.G.M. & Presentation of Awards.

Other dates:

- Saturday 20th June** - A.M.G.K. Open Show, West Orchard Church Hall.
Sunday 26th July - Open Day at Pat's house.

Meal at The Carvery (opposite Meeting Hall)

The celebratory meal originally planned to take place last November, will now hopefully go ahead after the meeting on Sunday 22nd March 2015. **Can you please confirm to Linda or Gary** if you will be attending the meal, so we can let the Carvery know the amount of people to cater for. Thank you.

Subscriptions now due

Subscriptions are now due (£12.00); these can either be paid at the first meeting in March or can be forwarded to:

Gary Malpas, Treasurer, 15 Rosgill Place, EASTFIELD ESTATE, Northampton NN3 2RQ.

NEGS Open Show

We are pleased to announce that the NEGS Open Show will be on Sunday 19th July 2015 at their usual venue in Sunderland. This is really good news following their last minute cancellation last year. All members are encouraged to support this friendly show to make it a special day.

For Sale

We are now in possession of some of the late Tommy Sutton Jnr's fish equipment. It has been agreed that heaters and air pumps etc., are to be brought to the first Society meeting in March in order for members to purchase; thereby, contributing to his memorial fund with all proceeds going to the Hospital that cared for him so well during his final weeks. The heaters comprise low wattage (50/100w) without thermostats, with some multi outlet air pumps and glass jars for hatching brine shrimp - with more details on the day. (If anyone would like to book anything prior to our meeting please contact Pat Davies on 01952-504280).



Goldfish Standard

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The Goldfish Standard can also be viewed on amgkblog.blogspot.co.uk

Trip to Star Fisheries



During late July, Phil Riley, Tony Roberts and myself took a day out to visit Andy Green at his fish importation establishment Star Fisheries. Very deceptive from the front with an entrance along a narrow driveway off the main road. However it opens out into a vast fish holding area with filtered troughs holding hundreds of the finest fish quality, mainly from the far-east. Further display tanks are in abundance for visitors to view the many varieties Andy normally has in stock with some of exceptional size (a trade mark of Andy's establishment!). Although waiting for a new shipment during our visit, all the fish viewed were bright and alert, in top condition and full of colour. We were met with a very warm welcome from Andy and his staff with the added bonus of coffee and very fine biscuits!



If you are looking for very good quality goldfish you couldn't do better than arrange a trip to Star Fisheries by calling Andy on 0208 9150455

Pat Davies

Recognition of contribution of Sandra Witter to our society

We owe a huge debt of gratitude and a very big thank you to Sandra for her sterling work in creating and putting together our previous newsletters under the title of 'The Goldfish Standard' over the last few years. As soon as Sandra joined our society she did not hesitate in volunteering for the often daunting task of producing a regular newsletter that helped to promote our society and record our fish breeding efforts and current standard of achievement. Her publications clearly surpassed all previous attempts throughout our previous forty years and it is with regret that Sandra's change in circumstances and relocation has meant that she can no longer fulfil this duty. We all wish Sandra well in her new home and future endeavours.