



Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

May 2014

Volume 4 Issue 2

40th Anniversary

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*Photos courtesy of
Andy Barton*



AMGKs Chairman and President, cutting the cake
to celebrate 40 years of the Association

Don't forget the next meeting will be
Sunday 18th May
and will consist of the Adult fish, Bluest and Prettiest
fish table show along with a much awaited talk by
Andy Barton on Fish Colour

DISCLAIMER

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



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have to say that the Ruby Anniversary year got off to a great start with our first meeting of the year attended by members and friends from all corners of the country. The distance that some members are prepared to travel to our meetings is admirable and much appreciated by those of us 'locals' that only have to endure a mere 120 mile or so round trip!

The hall was pretty full once we were all seated, but we can only apologise for the long wait whilst we got to grips with the electrics before the power point presentation eventually got underway. After many years away from the club that he helped found in 1974, we were treated to a talk from Tony Roberts (and myself) on the Bristol Shubunkin, particularly on the history of the breed to its early beginnings in Bristol, when it was known as the Bristol Tail Shubunkin, then Bristol Blue Shubunkin right up to the present day with its much larger more rounded tail that has contributed to its present high status on the show bench.

Amongst all the positive feedback I have received by letter and 'phone calls since the meeting, a number of members have expressed some disappointment that we were hardly able to cover the important topic of rearing young fish from hatching in March/April to feeding, culling and selection of promising youngsters ready for the early autumn shows and future breeding stock. To rectify this, Tony has kindly agreed to return on Sunday 31st August 2014 to enable us both to continue the talk to cover this essential part of fish breeding, which we were unable to present at the meeting due to time restraints. (This also happened when Tony and I presented this talk in Bedford for another society last May 2013, such was the interest and interaction from the audience on both occasions).

One disappointment that I have to mention, that is a concern of a number of people that have contacted me since the meeting, related to the disturbance throughout large sections of the presentation of an incessant 'private' low level running commentary from part of the room. This was both discourteous to the speakers and off putting to others close by that had given up their valuable time to attend the meeting. I would ask that this rudeness is not repeated at future meetings. The society will always allow members to ask questions and make constructive comments where appropriate that might enhance and add to the discussion, but when much time and effort had gone into preparation by both speakers for the talk prior to the day, the constant chatter in the background was unhelpful to those in ear shot.

On a more positive note, I can report that we had a really positive Nationwide meeting on the 16th March 2014 of delegates from the other Nationwide societies. After more than 6 months of having to needlessly deal with troublesome emails and letters the Chairman was informed by the GSGB Chairman that the GSGB was withdrawing from Nationwide with immediate effect. Whilst the delegates at the Nationwide meeting noted the departure of the GSGB, we in the AMGK, that comprise the majority of current top fish breeders, pledged together with the delegates of the other three societies representing the Nationwide 'fraternity' continued support to improve the standards, add new varieties, as evidence of true breeding becomes available, and work together in full cooperation as equal democratic partners. We are currently looking at ways to improve communication within the group of specialist goldfish societies and will report back, in due course, on the progress made to date.

Our next society meeting will be our adult fish/bluest fish and prettiest fish table show with the long awaited talk given by our president, Andrew Barton, on Fish Colour. This talk will be particularly opportune as it forms a very important topic within the current fish standards debate where inconsistencies within certain varieties type test have become apparent over recent years. The meeting will be on Sunday 18th May 2014 starting at 1.00pm.

Our extraordinary meeting of members at the close of the last meeting, for those that were not present, was called to discuss the written abuse and deliberate repeated slurs and untruths that came out of correspondence emanating from a former 'nationwide' society. It was decided to leave any further rebuttal and response to published derogatory comments aimed at our society, together with the specific targeting of certain members (by persons who should know better) for the present. It was also agreed that we allow the show manager to deal with any potential problems ahead of our open show in June, should others, not committed to Nationwide, attempt to disrupt our show by actions that could be viewed as hypocritical where they have previously signed up to the unilateral view that current nationwide standards are *not fit for purpose*.

Elsewhere in this edition of the Goldfish Standard is an unabridged letter from Dean Roberts that we have been asked to print explaining the pointing of a particular fish at our last open show. Instead of questioning the judging on the day through the normal channels i.e., contacting the show manager and show secretary, certain individuals from another

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ... *Continues*

ex- nationwide society decided to make mischief by criticising a judge's decision in their own newsletter without the common courtesy to contact our society first. This, together with a genuine mistake on another judging sheet, has been bizarrely used to 'justify' a whole society's departure from Nationwide. The letter speaks for itself and is printed without editorial in accordance with our society policy. As our show schedule states the judge's decision is final, however protocol does allow for genuine concerns to be dealt with on the day.

I have to thank Phil Riley, once again, for spending the time and effort in sourcing brine shrimp eggs, which have now been distributed to all the breeders that required them.

Finally, we have been asked to leave the hall promptly at 5.00pm after each meeting as, with our extraordinary meeting at the end of the last session, we overran and stopped the hall cleaners from starting on time. We are normally pretty good at this, but with the short extraordinary meeting last time we were caught out.

Good luck to all with this year's fish breeding and look forward to seeing the results at our August meeting.

Pat Davies

AMGK Chairman

NATIONWIDE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held at Horsehay Village Hall, Telford, Shropshire
11.30am Sunday 16th March 2014

Attended by:

Andy Barton (AMGK)
Graham Bell (BAS)
Pat Davies (AMGK)
Bob Jones (BAS)
Ian Mildon (BAS)
Sherridan Moores (NGPS) Chairman of Nationwide
Dean Roberts (NGPS)
Mick Smith (AMGK)
Graham Turner (NGPS)

Agenda

Item 1

Welcome - with a quick summation of events since our last meeting.

Item 2

Withdrawal of the GSGB from Nationwide.

Item 3

Consideration of future development of Nationwide.

Item 4

Consideration of Open Show dates and possibility of Nationwide Show.

PROPOSAL by Dean Roberts NGPS –

"All Nationwide Societies agree to arrange their Open Shows to allow a minimum two week gap between them."

Item 5

Update on Standards revision.

Item 6

Update on judging systems revision.

Item 7

A.O.B.

ITEM 1. Welcome by Sherridan Moores, who chaired the meeting, and a summary of events

since the last meeting

NATIONWIDE MEETING MINUTES

1. **SM** started the meeting with apologies from NEGS delegates whose transport had just failed MOT and were unable to attend and apologies from Craig Clinton (NGPS) due to sudden family illness.

ITEM 2. Withdrawal of the GSGB

2. SM gave quick summary of stance taken by Nationwide following 6 months of discussions with former member (GSGB) with regard to their determination to complete their own standards ready for the GSGB Open Show in September 2014 and resignation from Nationwide. Also pointed out that last two emails (sent from Chairman of Nationwide and GSGB) inviting the GSGB to this Nationwide Meeting and their notice of withdrawal, were not included in GSGB's publication of all correspondence and that SM, as chairman of Nationwide, would ask that this is rectified by the GSGB publishing them in their next Bulletin.

3. A discussion covered the appeal by one GSGB Judge (AB) to convene a meeting, independently of Nationwide, to allow the instigators of the proposed GSGB Standards to explain their reasoning to anyone within the hobby that had concerns about the GSGB current policy. The concerned members of the GSGB (28 in number) had written on numerous occasions to the GSGB committee expressing the concern that the GSGB were determined to go ahead with their own standards, to no avail. GSGB agreed in principle to a meeting, but insisted on a specific location and that room hire and public liability insurance would need to be paid by those people requesting the meeting (over £100.00p) together with full expenses for the four GSGB committee members that have worked to produce the proposed GSGB Standards.

Agreement to meeting therefore declined by GSGB Judge as no appetite from goldfish breeders to expend anymore time and money on this matter.

4. The meeting discussed whether the Nationwide had any responsibility to the ordinary members of GSGB, regarding explanation as to what has been going on over the last 6 months and their general interest in the hobby as a whole. It was decided that in principle this may be desirable but for the present, at least, there was no practical method of pursuing it.

5. The meeting raised the question as to the need for a reply to GSGB in view of their resignation from Nationwide. SM suggested letter to Chairman of GSGB to be short and sweet and to include, but necessarily limited to:-

Acknowledging resignation

Profoundly disagree with reasons for leaving and development of the GSGB standards and if they wanted to consider re-joining sometime in the future, nationwide would talk to them.

ITEM 3. Consideration of the development of Nationwide

6. Agreed that remaining specialist goldfish societies convinced on the positive benefits to breeders and judges alike of continued support of Nationwide and confirmed that all would continue to cooperate fully with each other to support society open shows, and share knowledge through their respective newsletters etc.,

7. The suggestion that all 4 societies would produce a single joint newsletter was rejected in favour of each society producing their own but freely sharing items of interest, as current informal agreement.

8. Agreed that all society newsletters recognise that each society is part of a loose affiliation with three other specialist goldfish societies working to Nationwide standards. Although all societies have national and international membership, it was considered desirable to have society connections printed within each newsletter, that clearly lets new members and interested parties know where a more convenient society might hold its regular meetings should they be looking for a more hands on and beneficial relationship with more local breeders and greater social intercourse etc.,

9. In order to cut down on travelling expenses for Nationwide meetings and general discussions it was

NATIONWIDE MEETING MINUTES

agreed that Dennis Godfrey (NEGS) would investigate video links (such as SKYPE) and act as Nationwide's Video coordinator.

10. Agreed that nationwide should continue to develop as Goldfish 'parliament' reflecting the interests of all its member societies while allowing them to retain their individual identities.

ITEM 4. Consideration of all Open Show Dates and possibility of a national 'Nationwide' Show

11. Agreed that after this year all societies will work towards ensuring that a minimum of two weeks be given between any Society Open Show to protect welfare of exhibition fish. DR's proposal that this become the case this year was withdrawn as it would not be practical as the dates fall this year.

12. All delegates voted unanimously for a NATIONAL Nationwide Show to be supported by all four Nationwide societies for 2014.

13. Agreed that for this year it ought to be held in early autumn after the society open shows

14. Members agreed that show should be held centrally. A number of suggested venues were discussed, with a hall in Northampton proving the most central and favourite for all travelling exhibitors but need to check for availability and report back to the chairman.

15. A number of possible names for a national show were offered with a final decision being:-

The UK National Goldfish Open Show

Sponsored by:- Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK); Bristol Aquarist's Society (BAS); North East Goldfish Society (NEGS) & Northern Goldfish & Pond Society (NGPS)

Judged to

NATIONWIDE STANDARDS

16. AB volunteered to act as show manager for this first show and stated that all societies should nominate a deputy show manager for their own society to ensure commitment to the open show and that all costs and profits be equally shared amongst each society. The managers would work with MS, who agreed to act as the show secretary. Once a venue and time and date is secured then the coordination would begin, with the show secretary and all the managers to ensure everything is covered.

ITEM 5. Update on Standards revision

17. Agreed to continue to modify those standards, both drawings and written descriptions etc., that the consensus of breeders and judges felt required attention. This would be done on a rolling programme, without undue haste, to ensure as wide an agreement as possible.

18. Various delegates brought to the table proposed modifications to the Goldfish/London Shubunkin, Bristol Shubunkin and Fantail. Additional modifications were agreed with a promise by SM that these would be undertaken on the electronic images presented and, once completed would be distributed to each society for comment/ratification.

19. SM explained that Keith Waters (AMGK) had questioned the protocol for sub-committees for new varieties. Explained that this did not apply to the existing standard varieties. It was agreed that responses to the Chairman's earlier appeal were based on sound knowledge of the breeders and judges working within Nationwide. Sub committees would continue for the 'new' varieties as agreed at the last Nationwide meeting.

20. During discussions on the drawings for those varieties named above SM questioned whether all fish fins could be seen from above. Agreed that earliest opportunity members would seek to verify this with every variety. To help with accuracy of drawing. AB informed meeting that most drawings (including the existing standards) of twin tailed fish were incorrect in respect of the top view of the caudal fin, and provided photographs of show winners with transparent overlays to point out discrepancies. Agreed that more work needed to be undertaken, and reported back.

21. Several options for change were discussed but agreed unanimously to continue with 5 x 20 pointing

NATIONWIDE MEETING MINUTES

system for judging.

22. DR explained system of judge training adopted by NGPS that allowed for training at all the shows under different judges. This is to be written out and issued to delegates for referral to member societies for consideration. The benefits of breeding both twin tail and single tail varieties leading to success on the show bench for both adult and baby classes was unanimously recognised as essential before a candidate could be considered ready for training as a judge. Also agreed that a trainee judge needed to be monitored and reported on at least 6 national open show events (2 years), before being considered for acceptance as a qualified judge. The experience of training should include all varieties. The ability of a new judge to refuse a variety for personally judging would no longer be acceptable.

23. A name for the revised Nationwide standards was discussed such as:-

The UK Nationwide Goldfish Standards of the United Kingdom

The Nationwide Goldfish Standards UK etc.,

However it was agreed to give this matter further thought and report back once all the standards had been checked/modified as appropriate and ready for publication.

24. Suggested that once changes are completed to the standards then a seminar could be arranged to go over the changes to ensure that all judges are up to date, and as far as possible, judge with consistency.

25. Proposed by AB and agreed that by end of the standards review process that all the societies are given equal ownership of the New Nationwide Standards.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm



[See more pictures from our first meeting on page 9](#)

2014 Meeting Calendar

Sunday May 18th - Adult/Prettiest & Bluest/Non-Standard Fish Table Show

Saturday 28th June - Open Show

Sunday July 27th - Open Day at Andrew Barton's

Sunday August 31st - Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2014)

Sunday November 2nd - A.G.M. & Presentation of Awards

2014 Other Clubs' Open Shows

Sunday July 20th	North East Goldfish Society	OPEN SHOW
Saturday Sept 7th	Bristol Aquarist Society	OPEN SHOW
Saturday Sept 13	Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers	OPEN SHOW

2014 Full Moon Calendar

16 Jan	04:53	12 Jul	12:25
14 Feb	23:53	10 Aug	19:10
16 Mar	17:09	9 Sep	02:38
15 Apr	08:43	8 Oct	11:51
14 May	20:16	6 Nov	22:23
13 Jun	05:12	6 Dec	12:27

Your Committee 2014

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An unabridged copy of Dean Roberts' letter to GSGB

Dean Roberts has asked AMGK to print, in full, his letter to GSGB . An example of GSGB's rudeness, in criticising another society's Open Show judging without the common courtesy of talking to the judge and show manager on the day. One more example of arrogance on behalf of a very small minority within the GSGB Committee that erroneously believes that it has the right to interfere with the management of other societies by public censure rather than having a quiet word during the show, when the GSGB objections could have been sorted out.

Dear Members,

The Committee of the GSGB keep referring, in a very negative manner, to the standard of judging of the nacreous bubble eye at the 2013 AMGK Open Show and are linking this criticism to some strange and wholly inappropriate attempt to justify their new and unworkable judging sheets.

As I was the judge of that particular fish it follows that they, the GSGB Committee, are questioning my competence as a judge. This is a quite outrageous and totally unjustified position for them to adopt.

To explain why this is so, let me put on record how and why I judged the fish this way; the following paragraphs have been adapted from a letter sent by myself to the GSGB Committee.

" As you keep referring to the incident regarding the judging of the nacreous bubble eye at the AMGK show, this class having been judged by myself, you state that this fish had virtually no blue (9 points). Maybe the Committee needs to consult their Nationwide Standards books where they will see it lists the blue / violet as maximum 9 points, red / orange / yellow maximum 5 points, black maximum 5 points, brown maximum 1 point.

Yes I agree that the fish had little blue - because it had an adequate amount of violet excellently dispersed over its body a fact the committee seem to have overlooked. Thus for this fish 5 points was just over 50% of the points allowed for these colours, I feel this was a perfectly correct decision. For red - 5 points (the maximum), this fish had a excellent dispersion of a high intensity of red exactly what is required for awarding maximum points in the Nationwide Standards the same applied exactly to the colour black and I awarded 5 points also. I awarded 1 point for brown as the fish showed the brown colour so this was justified.

Thus the blue / violet - 5 points, red / orange / yellow - 5 points, 5 points for black, brown - 1 point - a total of 16 points.

What I find offensive is that you the Committee seem to indicate that this incident seems, in your opinion, to reflect on my abilities as a Nationwide judge and that my abilities as a judge of vast experience has been incorrectly judged by a Committee, who in this case seem to have overlooked the Nationwide standards book, I have consulted with many other Nationwide judges over this and they all agree with my pointing. "

Yours sincerely **J.D. ROBERTS**, secretary NGPS, Nationwide Show Judge, Nationwide Committee member, NGPS / AMGK / BAS / GSGB / NEGS member.

Photos from our first Meeting of 2014



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Goldfish Standard

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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 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. Leave that to me

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** and please reduce them in size to 6"x4" and 72 dpi resolution where possible

If you are scanning a document or a photo, then please set the resolution to 300 dpi to scan it, and 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