



# Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

March 2014

*40th Anniversary*

Volume 4 Issue 1

## Presidents' Welcome

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*Photos courtesy of Andy Barton*

### 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

Dear Members,

2014 will be a milestone year for the A.M.G.K. as we celebrate 40 years since the formation of the club in 1974. We plan to have several events for our members during the year to mark the anniversary. We will also be having a commemorative open show with some of the founder members attending. This is an event that we are all looking forward to and we welcome your presence on the day to celebrate with us.

2013 gave us some wonderful meetings with some well supported open shows, including our own, and an enthusiastic engagement in our own club meetings and table shows, which saw many quality fish on the show bench along with some interesting discussions and talks. Well done to all of those who have taken part and supported the club over the last 12 months.

The end of August was the date for the President's weekend and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those people who came and took part, the response was fantastic considering that I was celebrating my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday as well. I have decided that we will again this year have another President's day in late August.

Moving on to the Nationwide Goldfish Standards. It is with some regret that I have learned that the G.S.G.B. will no longer be supporting the standards; they (the

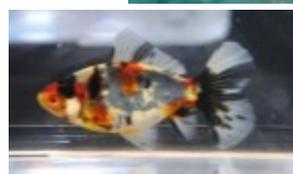
committee) have decided to finally proceed with a new set of standards of their own. However the A.M.G.K. is totally committed to the Nationwide Standards and will continue with the Standard's review to modernise the Nationwide Goldfish Standards.

The departure of the G.S.G.B. from Nationwide has not been without its problems and the A.M.G.K. has been accused of wrong doings which we, as a club, will be discussing at an extraordinary meeting at the end of the March Meeting. A statement of affairs will be issued after the meeting.

At our March meeting, along with other topics, we will be discussing the current review of the Nationwide Standards and also some of the suggested ideas for celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

Finally, I wish everyone a very happy fish keeping season and look forward to seeing you all at the various events during the coming year.

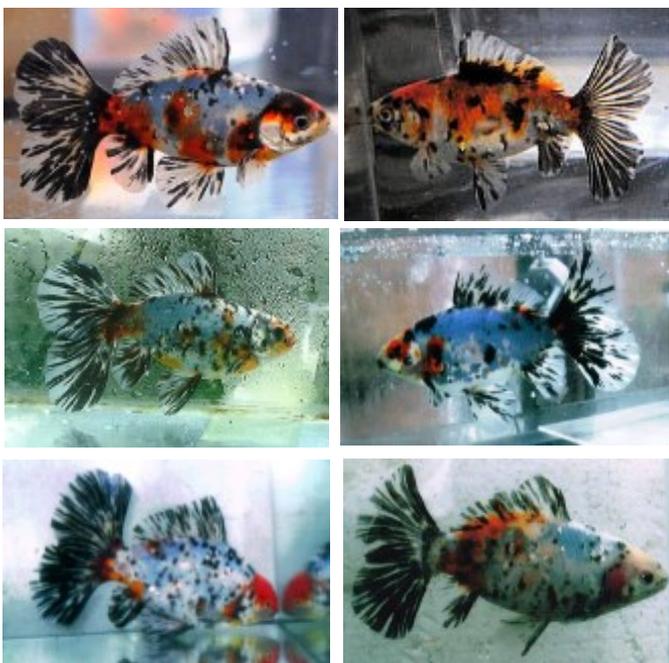
**Andrew Barton**  
**President, A.M.G.K.**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy New Year and also a successful fish breeding one. Although the Winter so far has been mild and very wet for some, I fear that we have yet to see the worst. This year is our society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and as such we intend to celebrate this achievement in a number of ways as suggested by the membership at the A.G.M. late last year.

We kick off with our first meeting in March, with a power point presentation on the Bristol Shubunkin, going into its early development in the 1930's (mainly in Bristol), its progression during the 1980's in the Midlands and thoughts as to where it might be going in the future. Also discussed will be what to look for in potential breeding and showing stock, together with pictures of very young fish looking at what to look for and what to discard etc.,



This talk was first presented to the G.S.G.B. last year and seemed to have aroused quite a bit of interest as a lot of what was covered pertains to any serious breeding of all the main varieties of Goldfish, so there should be something of interest for everyone. The talk will be given once again by Tony Roberts (one of our original founder members, who left the society many years ago) and myself with over 250 photographs of top quality Shubunkins spanning the last 40 years. If time allows, there will follow a presentation by Andy Barton (our President) on his thoughts on 'Fish Colour', having researched the subject in some depth over the last few years, spurred on by the many comments received by members of our society and others when meeting up at the various open shows around the country.

Later in the year we have an open day at Andy's house where we will be able to see his Goldfish set-up with this year's youngsters and top quality adults. In addition we'll get to see his tropical fish house with his great selection of show winning quality Guppies!

Every entrant at our open show in June will receive a commemorative certificate (whether their fish are awarded a place card or not) as a show memento, with other celebratory awards given on the day and later on at our next A.G.M. Also on the agenda will be a special meal out for the entire membership with the time and date to be discussed at our first meeting in March.

Our ever improving Open Show Auction of top quality British Bred goldfish should be even better this year and I ask that members consider carefully what fish they can set aside for this to benefit newcomers and established breeders alike.

The 8-10 members who also had membership of the G.S.G.B. Goldfish Club that attended our last two meetings when Nationwide Standards were also discussed within our normal agenda, will know that the G.S.G.B. has removed itself from any further discussions on Nationwide, having now left to go their own way. Whilst some would see this as regrettable, it does give the rest of the country a chance to decide the way forward as equal partners comprising the vast majority of national quality breeders and judges etc., However, in their latest Bulletin the G.S.G.B. decided to publish false accusations against the A.M.G.K., the President and the Chairman with regard to the Nationwide standards debate. Accusations that were first voiced in an email from their Chairman to a significant group of concerned G.S.G.B. members. These members were also members of all the other societies throughout the country. As Chairman of A.M.G.K., you will recall that I was asked to respond to the G.S.G.B.'s slur at the request of the A.M.G.K. membership. Despite issuing an email to the G.S.G.B. explaining the truth and clearly outlining the errors in their original assumptions, they have seen fit to publish exactly the same accusations in the latest Bulletin 'word for word'. It is therefore incumbent upon the membership to hold a short Extraordinary Meeting after the main talk is completed at our meeting in March to allow the full membership a chance to voice opinions and decide on an appropriate response.

**Pat Davies—Chairman AMGK**

## Your Fish House—Starting up

Part 2 - by Chris Whitehurst

So you have visited several Goldfish Breeders fish houses and feel that this is the hobby for you, you have seen fish houses made from sheds, greenhouses and conservatories. You have opted for your own fish house and have planned the layout several times on paper and now know exactly the layout of your fish house, always remember to plan in your drainage before laying out the foundations. Are you on a water meter? If you are, you will have to plan in a way of recirculating the water after filtering, if not congratulations, things have just got a lot easier, waste water can be simply flushed down the drain as new water trickles into the tanks. A simple 12 foot by 8 foot Greenhouse can comfortably house 18 x 4' x 2' tanks, nine on each side with a four foot walkway in the middle.

It does not matter how careful you are, water will splash from the tanks. If you have built your staging from wood, always treat it with a good quality wood preservative. If built from metal always inspect for signs of rotting, replace any damaged timber/metal as soon as possible, prevention is better than cure.

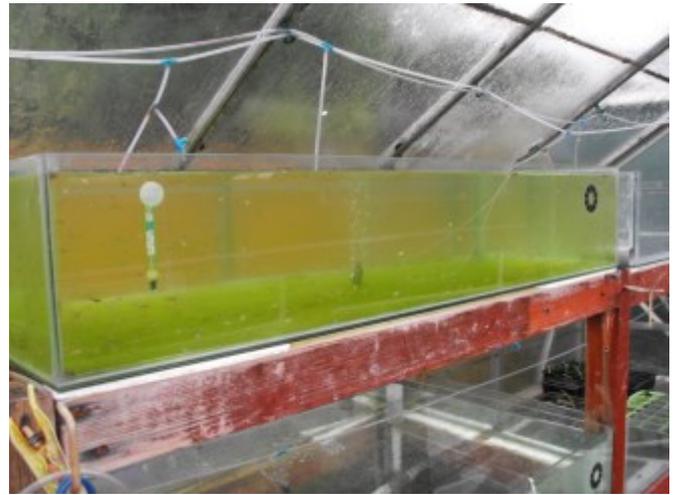


*Fish House Layout*

*(The smaller tank top right is used for sorting young fish)*

You will have to have an electricity supply to the fish house to run an air pump and heaters etc. Remember, Water and Electricity do not mix, make sure this is professionally fitted and complies to building regulations so it is totally safe.

Tanks can be custom made by aquarium manufacturers or alternatively if you are even slightly handy you can make your own. All you will need is the glass cut to size, (ask the glass supplier to grind down the edges of the glass to avoid potential cutting hazards).



*4' x 2' x 8" Tank*

*(This tank is currently housing 500 x 3 week old Lionheads)*

Also at this time it may be worth asking them to drill the overflow hole for you), a tube of clear silicone, (there is no need to go to the expense of buying dow corning silicone, general clear bathroom silicone sealant purchased from DIY stores is just the same thing only a fraction of the price). Masking tape or Sellotape to hold the tank together till the silicone 'goes off' and a glass drill, this is to cut the hole for the bottom drain on the tank, If your glass merchant is unable or unwilling to drill the glass for you, (these can be purchased online at TA Aquaculture, based in Redditch). Only drill the tank once it is glued together, you will need a small amount of water in the bottom of the tank once you start drilling the hole to prevent the glass heating excessively and cracking, (Your glass merchant can do this flat as they have specialist water cooled equipment).

### Starting Up

During your visits to Goldfish Breeders fish houses, you have seen fish that you could just stare at all day in all colours, shapes and sizes. Where to start? What type of fish to keep?

My advice would be start out with the simpler single tail fish types, Common Goldfish or London Shubunkin, these are by no means easy fish to breed to the standard but being simple torpedo bodied single tails are easier to get nearer to the standard than the more fancy types of single tails, Bristol Shubunkins and Comets, and the round bodied fish, such as Fantails, Veiltails, Ryukin etc. After you have gained some experience breeding with these types of fish you can then move on to the more exotic shaped and tailed fish and even try your hand at

## Your Fish House — Starting up

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twin tailed varieties. As previously stated, this is a guide, some breeders have successfully gone straight in and kept only one of the fancier types and have been most successful at breeding and showing them. With Fancy Goldfish the shapes and types are endless.

The types of single tail Goldfish that are currently recognised by the Nationwide Standards are:- Common Goldfish, London Shubunkin, Comet Goldfish and Bristol Shubunkin, all single tailed fish have a single anal fin.

**Twin Tailed with torpedo shaped body:-** Jikin or Peacock Tail.

**Twin Tailed fish** (short squat fish with round bodies):- Fantail, Pearlscale, Veiltail, Broadtail Moor, Globe Eye, Oranda and Red Cap.

**Twin Tailed fish without a dorsal fin:** - Lionhead, Bubble Eye, Celestial, Pom Pon and Ranchu, all twin tailed fish have twin anal fins.

At the present time, one further fish has had its standards discussed and finalised by delegates from the National Clubs that form the Nationwide Standards Committee. This fish will be classified separately being a round bodied fish but the caudal fin (tail) is not split but forms a complete graceful apron flowing behind the fish, this is the **Tosakin**.

When purchasing your initial stock always try to get the best fish that you can afford and buy all your particular type from one single breeder for the basis of your strain. A mix of Males and Females should be acquired, do not worry if the fish you purchase are not the best in the fish house, you are buying the blood line of fish, many breeders have spent years developing their particular strain and the fish you are getting are capable of breeding fish of an equal quality to the best that particular breeder owns.

Once you have bred this strain of fish for a couple of years you will know what to look for when you are looking for an outcross to strengthen that particular strain. Always try to breed from the fish you have bred, either son back to mother, daughter to father, or brother to sister, never be tempted to just breed the same fish year after year, you will never improve on the fish you bred the first year, with an outcross you are now well on your way to developing your own strain of fish.

Never be tempted to take on too many varieties of Goldfish too soon unless you have acres of glass and the amount of tanks necessary to house and raise the fry from every spawning, too many people become disillusioned with the hobby after spending a small fortune on fish and equipment only to find that they do not have the time or room to rear the amount of fish necessary to breed that show stopper.

Do not be disillusioned at your first show if you do not pick up that elusive prize card, the classes are judged by one single judge, after judging ask the judge what he thought of the fish, and then get the opinions of several fellow competitors, opinions are freely given, take on board what is said, many lasting friendships have arisen from friendly rivalry.

The top breeders of Fancy Goldfish only keep 2 - 3 varieties of Goldfish and maintain these lines of fish to regularly pick up the top honours at the specialist Goldfish Shows up and down the country. The more types of fish you keep the less time you have to dedicate to individual spawning's, for sorting and growing that show stopper you will need as previously mentioned, tank space and a good quality, varied diet for the fish, neither of which is cheap.

Many thanks to Chris Whitehurst for his series of articles which are much appreciated by members.

More articles by Chris to follow



40th Anniversary

## 2014 Meeting Calendar

- Sunday March 23rd - Presentation by Pat Davies & Tony Roberts "The Bristol Shubunkin"  
 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	OPEN SHOW
Saturday Sept 7th	Bristol Goldfish	OPEN SHOW
Saturday Sept 13	Northern Goldfish	OPEN SHOW

The next Nationwide meeting will be held in the village Hall in Horsehay, Telford on Sunday 16th March attended by the four specialist Goldfish Societies comprising NGPS., NEGS., BAS and AMGK. Our delegates for this meeting are Andy Barton (President), Mick Smith (Show Secretary) and Pat Davies (Chairman)

## 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

<b>PRESIDENT / OPEN SHOW MANAGER</b>	ANDREW BARTON	01933 222642
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<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	PAT DAVIES	01952 504280
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<b>SECRETARY/CATERING MANAGER</b>	LINDA MALPAS	01604 451515
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<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	SANDRA WITTER	024 7631 7575
Email: just4friends@virginmedia.com		

## Open Day at Andy Bartons house

Last year all club members were invited to our President Andy Bartons' Open House over the weekend 24 and 25 August. It was ostensibly a celebration of his 50th year. Having moved house and arranged his new garden and ponds, all was in order for us to enjoy the day or days. He didn't quite manage the weather, for although August was the only good month I can remember from last year, we did get some rain. A pavilion had been provided so we snuggled in for the shower to pass.

I took some photos of the day which you may enjoy.

Regards to you all. Hope you have a good 2014 season and don't get too upset (or bored) by the current Nationwide argy bargy.

### Elaine Edmunds



## 2014 Subscriptions now due



**Subscriptions (£12.00) are now due and can either be paid at the first meeting on 24th March or cheque can be sent (payable to A.M.G.K.) to the Treasurer Gary Malpas, 15 Rosgill Place, Eastfield Estate, Northampton NN3 2RQ.**

# Baby Fish Show 18th August 2013



**CLASS 1** Bristol Shubunkin - Pat Davies



**CLASS 6** Tosakin - Andrew Barton



**CLASS ?** Lionhead—Sherridan Moores?



**CLASS 3** Pearlscale - Elaine Edmunds



**CLASS 5** Ryukin - Elaine Edmunds



**CLASS 7** Veiltail - Andrew Barton

# Baby Fish Show 18th August 2013



**CLASS ?** Veiltail - Andrew Barton



**CLASS 2** Nacreous Fantail - Gary Malpas



**Class 2** Nacreous Fantail - Gary Malpas



**CLASS 1** Bristol Shubunkin - Pat Davies



**CLASS 1** Bristol Shubunkin—Pat Davies



**CLASS 3** Pearlscale - Elaine Edmunds

*The following is a letter from Elaine Edmunds, sent to the GSGB outlining her concerns regarding their last Bulletin Newsletter (reference to the Nationwide Standards debate). In view of the letter's content Elaine has asked that this letter be published in our own Goldfish Standard newsletter so that AMGK members, some of whom are also members of the GSGB, 'get to know what she has been up to'. In accordance with club policy this letter is published in its entirety without editorial comment. Elaine is one of our longest serving members and also a long time member of the GSGB.*

My first Goldfish Club was the GSGB. I believe that I joined sometime in the 70's. Getting to and home from the meetings basically took all day, having lunch at the YMCA when I arrived. I only ever managed a couple of meetings a year so I was happy to find out about another club which catered for enthusiasts in the Midland area and to which I could drive instead of taking trains. This club was meeting based and didn't have a newsletter at the time. I was pleased to continue membership of the GSGB and thereby keep in touch with people I had met and those that I hadn't. The Open Show was a delight and accessible by car although the route/roads were not as easy as today.

In those days each club had its own Goldfish Standards which I suppose meant that their own club members stood a better chance at winning classes at their own Open Show, in theory anyhow. To my unskilled eyes (except for the Bristol Shubunkin), the best fish usually won although I often wondered about the other placements. I personally had no objection to different Standards. I enjoyed the differences within a variety. However I suppose it was a bit pointless entering fish into someone else's Open Show if they had different Standards. Confusing for judges too I would imagine.

I still regard the GSGB as my club although I don't go to meetings or the AGM. For that I go to my more convenient Midland Club, the AMGK. Sometime during this period I became aware of the formation of the Nationwide Standards. All I knew about them at the time was that they were time consuming and a lot of compromise was made by the clubs on their cherished Standards. My own favourite, the Bristol Shubunkin had the tail changed considerably from what the Bristol boys had aimed for (and succeeded with). I remember a GSGB friend saying that he considered the Bristol tail too heavy to be correctly carried in an adult fish. I suppose there was a lot of that sort of thing going on.

I know that the Nationwide delegates are trying to do their best for the hobby but of course reporting back the news to their clubs and passing on the information to club meetings for democratic assessment then reporting back again is going to be very time consuming, otherwise you are left with some sort of dictatorship. This frustrating process is reflected in the Newsletter and overall I got the impression that we, the GSGB were trying to bulldoze the other clubs into accepting that which they didn't agree with. Then I got the impression that we were saying, accept our changes in a hurry or else! It wouldn't be surprising if other clubs started to wonder what was going on. At the AMGK a club meeting was scheduled for discussing Standards and the GSGB also asked me to comment on their proposals. I didn't want to do this twice, perhaps naively, so I responded that I would be going along with the decisions made at the AMGK meeting which was a review of the Nationwide Standards as we would like to see them not a review of GSGB Standards. I later received a phone call from Pat Davies asking if I would put my name to a letter of complaint. I'm not on the internet so I couldn't check out the complaint in full. I did want to complain about how the GSGB were going about things and knew I would be putting my signature to more than that. OK so I should have written in separately. I eventually saw this letter and the response which appears to accuse Pat Davies of being personally responsible for all GSGB problems, which is silly as well as rude. Whatever emotional undercurrents we have we should all keep it civil.

On reading the January 2014 newsletter it seems that things are out of control. I suppose I'm not surprised. The GSGB feel that they are victims of their own success with the newsletter and that the club should only be catering for the London/south catchment area for people who can attend meetings. I don't disagree with that, after all, the specialist clubs have sprung

up in the different areas for that very reason. Bristol was the first one I believe but the rest of the country doesn't want to travel there for a club meeting. I don't think the root of the problem is a large membership based on distant/Bulletin members whose first loyalty is to other regions. Their loyalty is to the hobby. I think the problem at the last AGM was that GSGB have managed to upset everyone. I'm thinking that they wouldn't have attended the AGM otherwise as these were not meeting based members?

Nationwide members have never been able to tell any club what to do. I don't remember the details but someone tried to tell the AMGK that we couldn't do what we wanted to do at our Open Show because it wasn't covered by Nationwide Standards. I understand that we politely pointed out that indeed it wasn't a Nationwide Standards matter and therefore none of their business.

To sum up on the Nationwide issue. To have an open show with your own clubs standards is your own business I believe, however, with so many enthusiasts currently following the Nationwide Standards, the delightful London Show is in danger of becoming a glorified member meeting table show. I will still attend, assuming you don't cancel it. I really don't think it was necessary to withdraw from Nationwide to be able to do your own thing, or is there something in the Nationwide agreement that restricts us? In my opinion there isn't.

Now for Don Smith's Alternative View letter. I thought that for an opposing view it was well thought out and presented (whether I agreed with it all or not). Then I turned the page and read comments on Don's article. Words like total disgust and character assassination. Surely this is also a sheer frustration reaction?

I would like to comment on Don's judges decisions paragraph. No matter how diligent the judges are, they will not be right in many exhibitors eyes. It's an established fact so much so that when I was crowing to some Bristol boys that all my fish had been placed in their classes, I added of that "of course they should have been first" (I know why they were not first). This was greeted with a chorus of 'of course' followed by laughter. It was taken in the way intended. However, I have seen bad decisions and I'm under the impression that if a group of judges are of the same opinion then that judge is taken aside for a word in his shell like but the decision must stand. Right or wrong he is the judge. I do agree that any complaints should be recorded for the consideration of the host committee. They may not want to invite that judge again, or if they don't want to do anything about it, that's their business. I also think that it's good practice to have the judging sheets available to the public if requested because this is just as much an education tool as the Standards themselves. Again, it's for the individual clubs to decide. I had thought that Don's proposal of Senior Judge/referee was already in place, at least at AMGK.

In response to David Gays Nationwide voting considerations, will members of another club like myself get to decide who has my vote? Otherwise, I could be instructing my meeting based club to vote one way whilst the GSGB are using my membership to vote the opposite, not that I think you would, but the suggestion does open a can of worms.

Oh dear I suppose this only scratches the surface, but the irritation needs a scratch or two whether or not my opinions are considered full of inaccuracies.

**Elaine Edmunds**

## AMGK Contact Information

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### Goldfish Standard

**'Goldfish Standard' AMGK**

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

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

#### **BY COMPUTER:**

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

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

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

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

#### **BY HAND:**

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