Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

May 2011

Volume 1 Issue 2

FINALLY A NATIONWIDE RANCHU STANDARD

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

At last after much debate and lots of passionate responses from serious Ranchu breeders and enthusiasts, the Nationwide Standards Committee has unanimously agreed the Ranchu standard which of course will be used for the first time at an open show, at our own Open Show in June, so lets see some good quality Ranchu on the bench to reflect all of the Nationwide delegates' hard work, dedication and commitment. Well done everyone and a big thank you to all involved in bringing this standard about.

Future Nationwide standards will be produced from the findings of Working Groups which will be set up for each new variety. The next fish to be considered for Nationwide Standards acceptance will be for the Tosakin and the Ryukin, should you wish to be part of either of these Working Groups, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Prizewinning Ranchu—Photo by Andrew Barton (Owner)

The next A.M.G.K. meeting will be the Adult/Bluest/Prettiest fish table show, so if you have any of these fishes or any other fish you wish to talk about, please bring them along, including Tosakin and Ryukin.

As of this meeting we are going to take photos for our own Historical Photograph Archive for both fishes and our club history. If anyone has any photos from yesteryear and would be willing to share them with us all, we would also like to archive the history up to the present day; for the benefit of the club and future generations. Let me know if you can help.

Andrew Barton
President
A.M.G.K.

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Chairmans' Comment— Pat Davies

Well we seemed to have skipped spring this year and gone from a very long and cold winter into a few weeks of glorious sunshine and heat. This has meant bringing my own fish out of semi dormancy into breeding condition in record time. First spawnings (April) were achieved after just over a week on Hikari wheatgerm pellets after starvation from the end of October 2010 – alas to no avail!

Both my Bristol Shubunkins and Broadtail Moors have subsequently spawned with very few fry despite feeding copious amounts of frozen bloodworm to the adult fish. I'm now waiting for the weather to change to see if it will trigger a new spawning of all my fish. Incidentally my last spawning was on the full moon. I can only hope that you have all faired better with your own fish as we are now in May with just under two months to go to our National Open Show on June 25th 2011.

Don't forget that our next meeting is on **Sunday 15th May 2011** and will be our **Adult Fish Show and Bluest and Prettiest Fish**. The last two categories need not necessarily conform to a Nationwide Standard but the Adult Fish category must.

Sunday 15th May 2011 will be our **Adult Fish Show and Bluest and Prettiest Fish.**

Unfortunately, I will not be joining you on the day as I will be attending a Christening at 3.00pm on the same day some 60 miles away so those have not seen my, now adult, young Ranchu bred at the end of July 2010 will have to wait for our Open Show. (See article on Pat's Ranchu).

Photo by Andrew Barton

WARNING:

In view of the fact that I will not be available for the next meeting I will include a short statement regarding my view of the recent unacceptable behaviour experienced at the last three meetings. We have, quite rightly, considered the AMGK to be a friendly society, where all levels of fish keepers and breeders are made welcome and encouraged to develop their individual passion for the hobby. Since I took up the role of Chairman at the AGM in 1997, both myself and other newly elected members of the committee at that time have ensured that this perception remains a reality. Not only has the committee carried out their responsibilities above the call of duty over subsequent years, but every member of the society has also 'done their bit'.

It is my duty as Chairman to ensure that the meetings run smoothly, that everyone is allowed to put over any point of view without constriction, listen to what is being said so that every member feels part of the meeting in the knowledge that they have made a positive contribution. Following a number of complaints from members I do not feel that I have achieved this of late, and have allowed comments to be made that have no place in our meeting and that I should have suppressed. I will not permit discussions during the meeting to proceed in this manner in the future. I am led to understand that the recent difficulties are now concluded, but should we experience future behaviour by some that adversely affect the majority of members, as Chairman, I will have to consider necessary action to restore the equilibrium. I am sure that members will appreciate the importance of this, We encourage membership equality but cannot tolerate abuse of the freedom it affords. This freedom must be tempered with responsibility, further disruption of the members enjoyment, of meetings will no longer be tolerated.

Pat Davies—Chairman

My Favourite Aquatics Centre—By Sandra Witter

A5 Aquatics Centre—Nuneaton, Warwickshire

If you haven't visited A5 Aquatics, it is one of the few stores which I will say is well worth a visit. They sell everything any kind of fishkeeper could possibly want or need. A large and spacious store having a good display of Aquariums by Aqua One, Fluval, and others, The main room stocks accessories, books and foodstuffs . A separate tropical and marine fish room, stocking many favourites and a fair few rarer fish and then a huge cold water room (pictured) which contains all kind of pond fish including some huge and gorgeous koi and then many glass aquariums carrying every type and size of 'fancy' that you can think of. The tanks are looking depleted at the moment as he is waiting for his first shipments of the year to come in, but they will be worth waiting for. He carries other cold water fish too, golden danios, white cloud mountain minnows, cold water plecs, Algae eaters, Weather loach, and recently has started stocking the Spa doctor fish, the ones we've seen on TV that eat the hard skin off your feet !

Due to the increased costs of incoming fish, they've now started buying from China, Malaysia etc, and I have seen a few fish that are noticeably not the correct shapes, but if you get there soon after they're on show, you can pick up some lovely fancies

A5 is owned by Pete and Joan. Their son Lee now manages the store and I have always found them to be honest and helpful. The majority of the staff here have been here for years and all seem experienced in giving good advice.

Over 20 years of fishkeeping, I have travelled the length and breadth of this country looking for good fish, and always end up back here. This is one store that seems to specialise in coldwater and carry more stock than any other I've been to.

Their pond section, mostly undercover is also well worth a look, and I have never found anywhere else that stocks this quantity of good value for money fish of all kinds suitable for 'coldwater' Their selection of Koi from 2" to 3 foot would suit anyone's budget, though they are hand picked Israeli stock rather than the more select Japanese.

They're actually based on the A5 on outskirts of Nuneaton, quite easy to find, and well worth a visit if you're in the area. Best to wait till Easter when he'll have a good new stock in though. I can honestly say that A5 is my favourite Aquatic Centre. Where is yours?

A5 Aquatics
Meadowcroft Farm
Watling Street
NUNEATON
TEL: 024 7634 7456

Your Committee 2011

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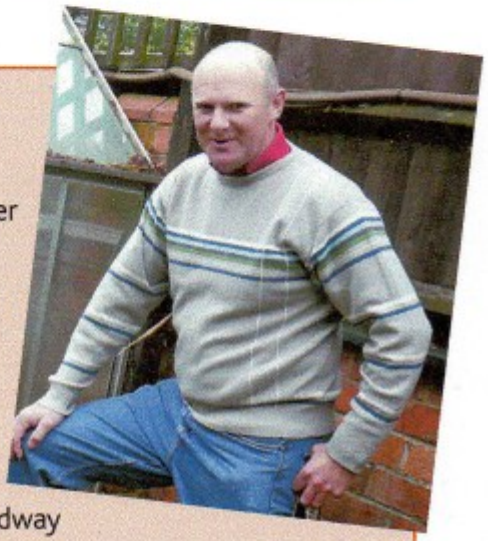
MAY 2011

NATIONWIDE Update

Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers AMGK
Bristol Aquarist Society BAS
Goldfish Society of Great Britain GSGB
North East Goldfish Society NEGS
Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society NGPS

Welcome to 'Nationwide Update'



As Chairman of The Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain I am pleased to introduce you to 'Nationwide Update', which will be published immediately after each Meeting of 'Nationwide' and between meetings.

This initiative has resulted from the desire to be more visible and accountable for the decisions we reach. It is also hoped that this will give a consistency of message throughout the Goldfish World and in turn encourage all members of Goldfish Societies in the UK to tell Nationwide what their 'ideal' Goldfish actually looks like!

The 'Update' has been produced in a format which can be easily reproduced in other Member Society Bulletins or Newsletters and can be despatched by e-mail, thereby reducing distribution times and costs. We thank Ray Rich for re-formatting our 'words' so that these final stages can be achieved.

On Sunday 10th April 2011 fourteen Nationwide Delegates and I met at Horsehay Village Hall, Telford, to discuss what amounted to a 'full Agenda'. Of critical importance was the need to discuss whether or not we could resolve the perceived or otherwise 'local difficulties', how we could work together in a more constructive way and of course resolve the issue of the 'Ranchu Standard,' as well as make some headway in determining Standards for the Tosakin and Ryukin. (The latter also becoming a pressing issue because of the growing popularity of these two varieties.)

A formidable list of issues to be discussed and resolved within the space of one day!

However, I am very pleased to be able to report, perhaps beyond our wildest dreams, that our Meeting turned out to be good natured, cooperative, constructive and very productive. I hope you will share our enthusiasm in this out-turn and consider how best you can support our objectives and ambitions hereafter.

Andrew Barton

Chairman of The Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain

Ranchu Standard Agreed

The trials and tribulations of trying to determine an acceptable Ranchu Standard over the past two years or so has been well documented. Our objective of producing 'something' that made the distinction between the previously agreed Nationwide Lionhead Standard and a 'Ranchu' was well intended. However, mindful of the fact that we hadn't 'quite got it right' this resulted in the release of an 'Interim' Standard, intended to give us all more time to continue the necessary research.

We are grateful to Dean Roberts, who at the time, must have felt as though he had been given the equivalent of a poisoned chalice for taking on the role of Coordinator for the Ranchu Standard. Dean's task was to gather information, from the AMGK Open Show and all others that followed during 2010, in respect of Ranchu benched at each of these events and to elicit the views of both the owners of these fish and from other Ranchu breeders.

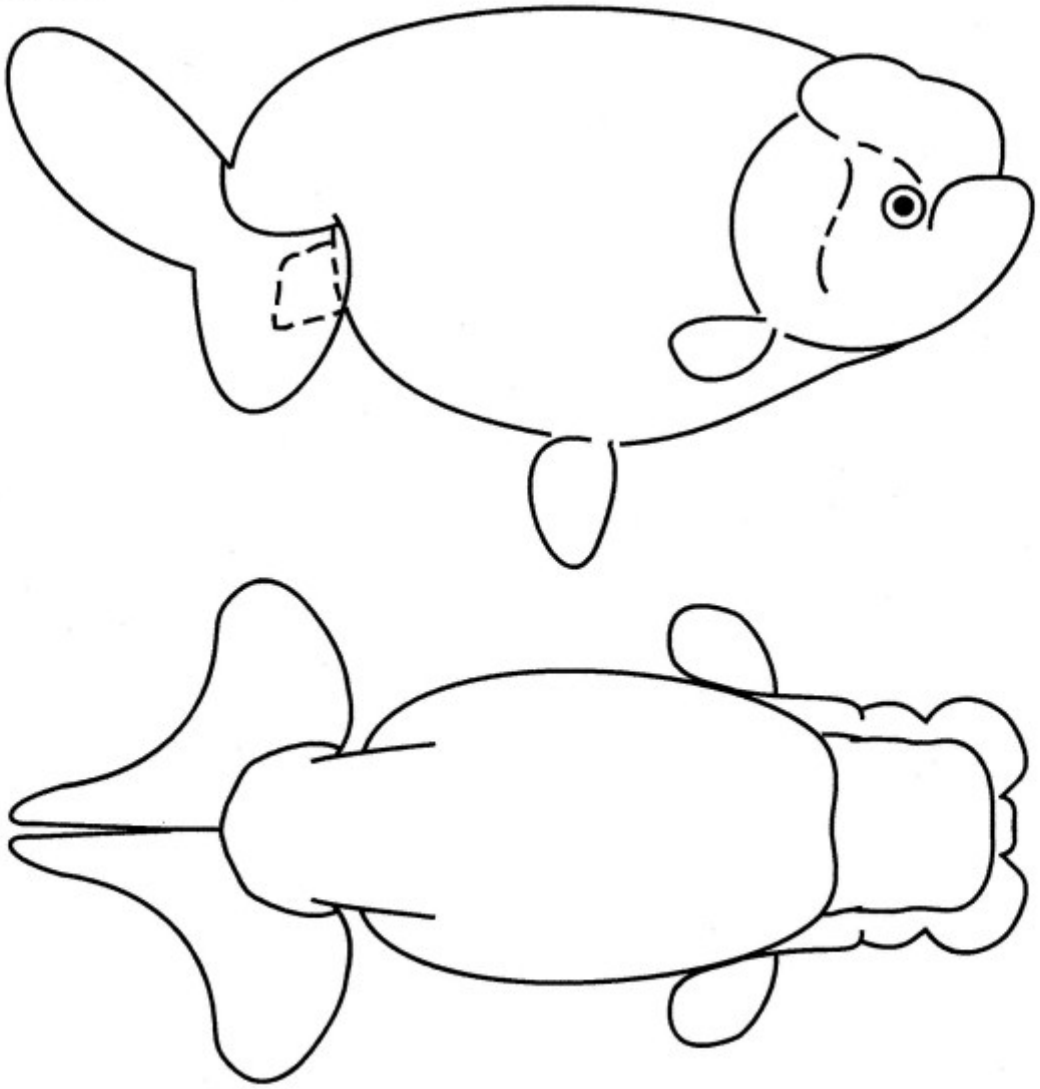
We are also grateful for the fact that the GSGB managed to gather together nine GSGB/Nationwide Judges and several Members of the specialist Ranchu Clubs, namely the Jinchu Kai and The Ranchu Brotherhood, to its dedicated 'Ranchu Day' held during March this year.

Next a 'thank you' to Keith Waters for his impressive research and reproduction of drawings, that actually replicated real Ranchu, and for his presentations to both the GSGB and then the Nationwide Committee.

And finally a thank you to those who are just passionate about this variety, who have been either sufficiently motivated, or in some cases, outraged enough, to let us know how it really is!

The culmination of the above has helped Nationwide finally agree upon a Ranchu Standard that best matches the Japanese legacy of this fantastic variety.

Ranchu



Ranchu

Type Test *Fish failing this test will be severely downpointed, deformities and major defects will cause fish to be disqualified.*

1. Depth of body – greater than $^1/_2$ body length.
2. Hood – well developed.
3. Dorsal fin – absent.
4. All other fins paired, caudal fin divided.
5. Caudal fin – forked.
6. Extremities of fins having a rounded appearance.
7. Minimum body length $2^1/_4$" (55mm).

Applicaton of Standards

Fish will be bright and alert and well balanced.
Body not elongated, with smooth contours and no sign of a dorsal fin.
Caudal fin to be well divided between $^1/_3$ and $^2/_3$.
The Hood will be well developed in all 3 separate areas, i.e. cranial, infra-orbital, and opercular, to give a pleasing appearance.

Colour Metallic group – self colours as listed in points table.
Variagated – any combination of the listed colours in a pleasing pattern, and similar on each side. Colours to appear as burnished metal extending into the fins.
Calico group – blue background with patches of violet, red, orange, yellow and brown, spotted with black.

All proportions must approximate to the drawing.

POINTS TABLE

Body	
D/L Ratio	6
Dorsal contour (including nasal septum)	5
Ventral contour	3
Lateral contour	3
Eyes and mouth	3
	20

Fins	
Contour of trunk (in dorsal fin region)	7
Contour and size of caudal	8
Contour and size of others	5
	20

Condition and Deportment	
Condition	10
Deportment	10
	20

Colour	
Metallic Group	
Self – red, orange, yellow, blue, brown, black	**20**
Variegated – red, orange, yellow, blue, brown, black, silver	**20**
Other Groups (Calico)	
Blue, violet	9
Red, orange, yellow	5
Black	5
Brown	1
	20

Special Characteristic	
Hood	
Development in cranial region	5
Development in infra-orbital region	10
Development in opercular region	5
	20

Delegate Representation

It has been unanimously agreed that NEGS shall forthwith be entitled to three Delegates, in parity with all other Member Societies. An earlier suggestion that Delegate numbers should be reduced to two per Society has been 'shelved' for the time being, given the outstanding work to be undertaken. However, in the event of 'extenuating' circumstances and the inability to arrange a substitute at short notice, so long as a Member Society fields two Delegates at a formal Nationwide Meeting then they will be entitled to three votes. The Chairman must be kept informed of the justification of such requests.

Appointment Of Chairman Extended to 2013

Andrew Barton was initially appointed to the post of Chair for a three year period. At the April meeting of Nationwide it was unanimously agreed that Andrew Barton's appointment be extended until the conclusion of the April 2013 Nationwide Meeting, and that all appointments of Chair should in future be for a five year period.

Delegates also agreed that future appointments of Chair should be appointed from within the Committee and without the need for any pre-arranged rotation by 'Society'.

A new Protocol for the Agreement of Goldfish Standards

Nationwide has decided that it should build upon the approach recently adopted in its search for an appropriate standard for the Ranchu, by ensuring that any future exercise is conducted 'across all Societies' and through the encouragement of participation of the more committed breeders of the variety(s) under consideration.

In outline, the Protocol will involve the following stages and considerations:

(i) The Member Society requesting either a 'new' standard (to those currently agreed) or a 'revision' to an existing standard will be required to appoint one of their Delegates as a Lead Coordinator.

(ii) The Lead Coordinator will be responsible for contacting each Goldfish Society to ascertain the names of the known breeders of the variety in question.

(iii) Information of desirable characteristics will be gathered from Open Shows, where a competitive class is held, through the staging of special exhibitions or through arranged visits to breeders. Contributions will be invited in the form of written 'evidence', drawings and photographs. The Lead Coordinator and fellow Delegates/Judges will be looking for evidence from first and second generation youngsters.

(iv) Information and evidence will be presented to the Nationwide Committee by the Lead Coordinator and one or more of the breeders providing evidence.

(v) The task of the Committee will be to receive the evidence and ensure that it is sufficient to stand scrutiny from Goldfish Judges and other breeders of the variety. The Committee will have the right to call for further information or seek broader consultation within the Nationwide Societies.

Keeping Costs to a Minimum

Nationwide has adopted a 'pay as you go' policy whereby minimal costs of communication, mainly through e-mail, and meeting facilities will be shared as and when they happen.

2012 Venue and Dates Agreed

As the location of best access for the wide spread of Delegates, Nationwide will continue to use the Horsehay venue for its next meeting, on Sunday 8th April 2012. That is, so long as Pat Davies is happy to continue the provision of Bacon and Sausage Butties for breakfast!

Nationwide Judges and Training

As the body responsible for the setting of Goldfish Standards in the UK, Nationwide has agreed that it should be more proactive in ensuring that these standards are understood and administered in the way in which they were intended.

That requires an examination of how judges are trained and an examination of the need for refresher training in the event of new standards being adopted.

There has also been a call to both simplify and improve the current allocation of points so that key characteristics are better rewarded.

With these issues in mind a Working Party of Delegates and Show Secretaries is to be formed to examine the priority of issues to be tackled and to share current good practice.

If anyone has concerns regarding Judging matters these can be raised in confidence with the Chairman of Nationwide who will ensure that the particular issue is examined by the Working Party.

Do You Breed Tosakin and/or Ryukin

If so then please let this fact be known to your Society's Nationwide Delegate(s) as a matter of urgency!! We need your help and views as to the most desirable and sustainable characteristics for these two varieties, in time to report to the April 2012 meeting of Nationwide.

The agreed Joint Lead Coordinators for these two varieties are as follows:

Tosakin – Andrew Barton, Alan Race and Keith Waters

Ryukin – Keith Waters and Graham Turner

Contact Details

Chairman:
Andrew Barton
07770 411419 or 01933 222642

Secretary:
Michael Pepper:
pepper@fishnflowers.freeserve.co.uk

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Breeding—How it starts— Elaine Edmunds

1. Enlarged photo of a fertile goldfish egg near to hatching. The eyes and backbone are visible. For size comparison the weed to which it is attached is a strand of blanketweed and at the back is a water flea, probably Daphnia.

2. Enlarged photo of hatched egg (alevin) hanging from the glass of the tank. The grainy bits are algae. I dare not clean off the algae until all the alevin become free swimming. For size comparison there is a water flea to the right.

3. Now it's a free swimming fry (enlarged photo). It's still transparent and you can see the gulp of air it has taken to fill its air bladder. Once the air bladder is filled it can swim after its prey; in this case brine shrimp. The eaten brine shrimp shows as the pink.

4. What a difference a few months make. It's a Pearlscale!

I am also including my notes on events covering the last three winters.

Two winters ago has been the latest that I had fed my pond fish. In the last week of November I still had some bedraggled summer flowers but the climbing Nasturtium was in glorious bloom and the fish were active. I refused to feed the fish despite them gathering hopefully at the feeding areas. I worried about the long mild winter ahead when it would be to cold to feed the fish but to warm for the fish to be properly dormant, like the year before when they came out of winter very thin.

Even when the first sharp frost finished off the summer flowers on the last night of November/first morning of December, I had no idea what lay ahead.

By mid January I hadn't seen the fish since before Christmas due to the ice and snow, which even during a bit of a thaw never fully left the ponds ice free. However I didn't lose any fish over winter. I've not been so lucky this winter.

I was once a Bristol Shubunkin only fishbreeder but after a fellow AMGK member gave me some baby Lionheads I became entranced and secured some breeding stock. Then I included Pearlscales, then Ryukin. Then I cast a covetous eye on other varieties when I didn't really have room to grow on breeding stock with what I already had. I had to reduce numbers kept over winter which I did for my twin tailed fish. However I may have over done it because after the snow and cold of this winter I have lost two young females that I had intended to breed from this year; Ryukin and Lionhead. I am now wondering which fish to try to breed. Will they be mature enough etc.

Good luck to everyone during the 2011 season. In the Midlands (AMGK) area we have some of the best UK amateur breeders but I suspect that I wont be one of them this year.

May Update:

The indoor overwintering Pearlscales gave a small spawn on 6th April. They were free swimming on 13th April. It was only a young female spawning for first time and only gave a few eggs, 300-400 fry perhaps. At 17 days after free swimming, I still cannot identify the bronzes.

With Bristol Shubunkins, I would now be well on the way to completing identification of the bronzes, but Pearlscales are more difficult in that respect

Elaine Edmunds

Pat Davies on Ranchu

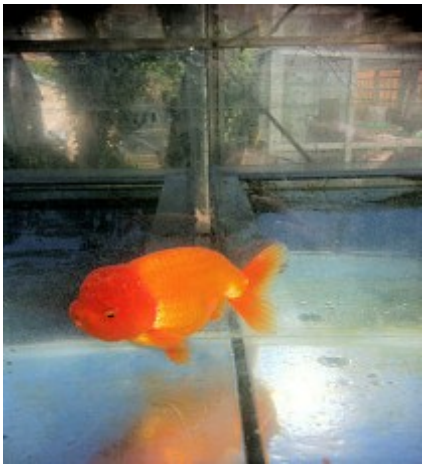
You will see from Andy's report on the last Nationwide meeting that we have at long last agreed on a Standard for the Ranchu. Like all the standards in nationwide it will act as a guide for breeders and Judges alike and should serve us well for the forthcoming years. Like the interim standard of last year the AMGK will be the first national goldfish society to incorporate the standard into the open show in June.

First of the parents

Photo by Pat Davies

As members will be aware since April 2008 there has been, in my view, a totally disproportionate amount of time spent on agreeing a standard for a fish that I don't think of as being top rank like the Broadtail Moor, Metallic and Calico Veil tail, but is complex enough and a far enough variant from the common goldfish to warrant serious attention from skillful fish keepers to achieve the very highest standard of perfection (as deserved by all goldfish varieties).

Having successfully bred, shown and won classes (and some best in shows)



Another of the bought in parents

Photo by Pat Davies

with Bristol Shubunkins, Broadtail Moors, Common Goldfish (Lemons), Metallic Orandas and Calico Veiltails I thought I'd try my hand at Ranchu to see what all the fuss was about. Not willing to spend a months salary on a specially chosen pair of fish from a particular Japanese breeder, with the very real risk of subsequent death that we all risk when bringing new fish into our collection I trotted off to a number of commercial outlets around the midlands picking up the

Pictures of the fry

Photos by Pat Davies

odd individual for less than a fiver whenever I spotted one in a tank that took my fancy. I was looking for solid gold colouring, good curvature to the spine, square head and double anal fins if I could see them. Ability to swim was paramount as was a check on the good health and conformity of style of the rest of the tank inmates. By buying over a period of time and visiting a number of outlets I was

pretty sure that I would end up with

More Fry

Photos by Pat Davies

fish that would not be too closely related (this latter point was proven in the spawn vigour). The fish were all about 20 -25mm in length at time of purchase and have only just been placed out of quarantine (two years after purchase) to breed the fathers back to their daughters in order to start a double line breeding programme.

The purchased fish turned out to be three pairs and grew rapidly on a diet of frozen bloodworm and 'Hikari

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Gold' pellet. Still only 35mm in length when bred the females carried an enormous amount of egg with the males able to chase vigorously for a number of hours. Hand stripping finished off the spawning as I had to get to work!

Very high hatch rate (unlike my current breeding Moors) with youngsters being fed on Liquifry, Brine shrimp and after a month on chopped bloodworm. My Ranchu have proven to be the greediest variety of goldfish (and tropical) that I have encountered in my breeding experience since October 1961 (I know I look younger but inside is an old person hiding!)

Although Sherridan's excellent bloodworm is a good price, the amount they consumed daily cost me a small fortune. Ranchu are definitely not a few flakes per day breed, unfortunately.

After a month I could remove all the youngsters with top fins, top spikes and crooked backs – which were the majority and those that were single tailed also being culled out of the spawn. A month later when they had themselves reached an average of 25mm I was able to remove all those with single anals. By now I had culled down from an initial 500 – 600 to 80 reasonable specimens. Basing my logic on the very informative Ranchu Brotherhood talk we had at an earlier Society meeting I chose youngsters that were both long bodied and short bodied for growing on. Early short bodied fish have grown at a slower rate with one now quite happy to head stand in the feeding corner of the tank until food arrives – nearer the bottom I suppose – Darwin might consider it a genetic advantage for survival but to me it's a nuisance and has spoiled an otherwise promising young fish.

None of the youngsters have very square heads looking from above – but I'm hoping this will develop more with time. Nearly all coloured up by end of October to a good uniform deep orange body and redder head; unfortunately not in time for the show at Hayling Island at the festival of fish keeping.

I am now down to 30+ good fish for growing on and appear to be about 50/50 male /female. (Normally my Moors and Bristol Shubunkins have a high proportion of females). The fish are the fastest growers I've ever had, due in part to added 'hybrid' vigour by mating non related fish but no doubt to good breeding back in Japan/China. The fish have all come from good stock as whatever one might think of our normal commercial imports, it would make sense for the original breeders to only use top quality fish to allow us mere westerners to pick up such good quality 'cullings' from time to time.

I will endeavor to have all the fish photographed and images sent electronically as soon as practicable to keep as a breeding record. So far however I have found them to be an obliging fish, of medium difficulty to select good youngsters. Two funny things that I have noticed is that all seem to have the anal fins very closely aligned making checking for double anals quite difficult and that none of the males show tubercles on their pectoral fins to anywhere near the extent of a Shubunkin or Moor even though they are full of milt and chasing anything that moves!.

I will put some into the open show and have some for sale in the auction no doubt.

Pat Davies

Matched pair of Bristols by Pat Davies

Obituary—Ron King

It is with much sadness that we announce the recent passing of Ron King. Both he and Margaret were regular visitors to our open show and most of the other national goldfish society's Open Shows throughout the country. Indeed Ron was a former member of our society back in the 1990,s as part of the spirit of inter- club cooperation and friendship instigated by the new committee back in 1997. I used to make a point of visiting Ron and Margaret on my near annual visit to South Devon and always looked forward to seeing his fantastic young Veils and developing Broadtail Moors that both Ron and Margaret shared with just as much passion as their garden and collection of tropical water lilies. Ron will be sadly missed at the shows but we hope to see Margaret at the Bristol Open Show when some of Ron's fish hope to be part of the show. I am indebted to Bob Jones for allowing us to publish an obituary first shown in the BAS Newsletter and to Sherridan for the photograph of Ron in his fish House.

Pat Davies

RON KING

It is with great sadness that I must report the death of Ron King, a man that was much admired by

every fish keeper and breeder in the Country. He passed away at home on Sunday the 30th of January with Margaret, his wife, by his side. As most of

you were probably aware, Ron had been battling cancer for several years. Throughout this time he retained a very positive attitude and showed great fortitude towards his illness.

He started his fish keeping in 1955 with a pair of calico Veiltails that he paid £15 for. At the time he lived in a public house and this is where he started his breeding career. He bought his first bungalow in Kingsteignton on the outskirts of Torquay, where he built his first fish house in 1966. It was about this time that he first came to Bristol. He attended

our show to compare his Veils with those on the bench. The rest, as they say, is history.

Over the years he bred and had success with many varieties, Bristol Shubunkins, Lionheads, Moors, and lately, Metallic Veiltails, to name a few. But, undoubtedly, his favourite and the fish he will be remembered for, will be the Calico Veiltail. I believe he was the best breeder of this variety in the country and was always the man to beat on the show bench. He also had a love of water lilies, both coldwater and Tropical, and grew these for many years with great success.

He became a member of BAS and over the years was a regular speaker at our monthly meetings.

For many years he judged at our annual fish show, the majority of these when I was the show secretary, and I believed him to be one of our best judges. He was a wonderful man to work with and I will really miss him at the shows.

In 1998 he married Margaret, and moved into her bungalow in Torquay, where once again he build another fish house and a conservatory where he grew his tropical lilies and water hyacinths.

Both he and Margaret were enthusiastic gardeners, and Jan, on many occasions was the grateful recipient of numerous seeds and plants from them.

Our thoughts are with Margaret and the family at this sad time. Ron will be greatly missed by everybody in the fish world. On a personal note. I will miss him, not only as a fellow fishkeeper, but also as a very good friend.

His memory will live on through his Veiltails.

By Bob Jones

Don't forget to send in your articles and photos for the next issue. We need your input to improve the Goldfish Standard

Cloudy water—Sandra Witter

There is no single answer, because there is no single cause. However based on the colour and circumstances under which cloudy water appears, it usually can be pinpointed to a couple of basic causes.

Gravel Residue—If the water is cloudy immediately, or within an hour or two of filling the tank, it's probably due to insufficiently washed gravel. Drain the tank and rinse the gravel until the water runs clear. That should solve the problem.

Dissolved Constituents - If washing the gravel doesn't solve the problem, the next most likely cause of cloudy water in a newly filled tank is a high level of dissolved constituents such as phosphates, silicates, or heavy metals. If you test the water, you'll no doubt find the pH is high (alkaline). In these cases, treating the water with conditioners will often solve the problem. Another option, that has many benefits beyond resolving cloudy water, is to use RO (Reverse Osmosis) water. Your local fish shop may sell it, or sell units capable of making RO water.

Bacterial Blossom - Often cloudy water doesn't appear the instant an aquarium is set up. Instead it appears days, weeks, or even months later. In these cases the cause is usually due to bacterial bloom. As the new aquarium goes through the initial break in cycle, it is not unusual for the water to become cloudy, or at least a little hazy. It will take several weeks to several months to establish bacterial colonies that are able to clear wastes from the water. Over time that cloudiness will resolve itself. Decaying plants or excess food that remains uneaten can also cause the milky water seen in bacterial bloom. Regardless of the cause, don't panic over bacterial blooms.

Keeping the aquarium very clean by removing debris such as decaying plants and uneaten food, vacuuming the gravel regularly, and performing partial water changes, will quickly resolve most cases of bacterial bloom. Cut back feeding to every second or third day, which will cut down on excess food decay.If there are particles of debris in the water that you are unable to remove via water changes and vacuuming, a flocculent may be used to clear them away. Flocculates cause particles of debris to clump together so they can easily be removed by the filter (be sure to clean your filter so it's working at peak efficiency). Flocculates are generally marketed as water clarifiers, and may be found at your fish shop.

I have tried two different ones recently, one recommend, called Clarify, which did help, but didn't clear the water, and the other by pure chance I tried GreenAway by Interpret. This is designed to clear green water, but I found it cleared my 210 litre tank of really foggy white water in only about four hours.

I can also recommend putting a very fine filter wool into your filter to remove the fine particles

Photo by Andrew Barton

Photo by Andrew Barton

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Subscriptions are now due and should either be paid at the next meeting on 15th May or at the latest, at our Open Show on 25th June;

Cheques for £12.00 should be made payable to A.M.G.K. and sent to Mr G W Malpas, 15 Rosgill Place, Eastfield Estate, Northampton NN3 2RQ.

GOLDFISH STANDARD REVIEW:

"Dear Pat ....Just a short line to congratulate you and the editors of your new Newsletter on an excellent first issue. I think it a very good start.

I will try and do an article for you in due course! Hope to meet up with you again at the Coventry Show this year. Best regards, David Padfield, Yorkshire"

A,M.G.K. Diary Dates for 2011

Sunday 15th May	-	Adult Fish / Prettiest & Bluest Fish / Non Standard Fish Table Show
Saturday 25th June	-	**Open Show**
Sunday 24th July	-	T.B.A.
Sunday 14th August	-	Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2011)
Sunday 6th November	-	A.G.M. & Presentation of Awards

IMPORTANT — Do you Breed Tosakin and/or Ryukin

If so then please let this fact be known to your Society's Nationwide Delegate(s) as a matter of urgency!! We need your help and views as to the most desirable and sustainable characteristics for these two varieties, in time to report to the April 2012 meeting of Nationwide.

The agreed Joint Lead Coordinators for these two varieties are as follows:

Tosakin – Andrew Barton, Alan Race and Keith Waters

Ryukin – Keith Waters and Graham Turner

Our Nationwide delegates are:

Mick Smith , Chris Whitehurst Pat Davies

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A.M.G.K Contact

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'Goldfish Standard' AMGK

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A Brief History of A.M.G.K.

In 1973, three Goldfish enthusiast, Frank Orme, Tony Roberts and David Easingwood, met to discuss the possibility of forming a specialist society for Goldfish keepers in the Midlands.

At the inaugural meeting, which was held at Foleshill Community Centre, Coventry on Sunday 24th March 1974, many enthusiasts turned up to support.

At that meeting the constitution was agreed and the group given the title of ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND GOLDFISH KEEPERS.

The present committee continues to work hard to make the A.M.G.K. a successful society that welcomes members from a wide area of the Midlands. These members range from the beginner to some who are very experienced goldfish breeders. It has always been a feature of the A.M.G.K. that all members treat each other as equals; The more experienced always happy to advise and pass on their knowledge.

Meetings are kept as informal as possible and the business of the group, got through as speedily as possible so that the main part can be devoted to matters of interest to members. In this connection , one of the most popular type of meeting has been found to be table shows of members fish. Early in the season, members bring along adult fancy goldfish. Later in the year, young fish that have been raised that season are displayed. These miniature shows invariably provoke much discussion from which newer members can pick up many worthwhile tips.

Lectures, talks, videos and slide shows are arranged throughout the year, which cover all aspects of cold water fishkeeping including, pond breeding, fish spawning, raising baby fish and showing. The Association has three nationwide judges available to give advice on showing.