

Goldfish Standard



Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

Wishing
You All
A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2018 Contents of this issue

Chairman's News	2
AMGK Member Profile - Bill Galbally	3
Preparations for Early Spawning - Brian Bates	8
Plunging the depths of Goldfish History - Grahame Draper	9
Diary Dates 2018	14

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the views, opinions and individuals' comments expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the AMGK Society or its Committee and no liability will be accepted by the AMGK about the information contained therein.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Hopefully all our fish are still dormant in our fish houses and ponds and fit and well ready for the impending fish breeding season. For my own stock, at the time of writing (early January) all my fish look fit and well with only a small continuous drip of new water into all the tanks and aeration into each corner. The recent week of 2 foot of snow did them no harm at all both in the ponds and fish house.

BRINE SHRIMP EGGS

A reminder that for those members that ordered Brine Shrimp Eggs, these will be available at the first meeting of the Year (Sunday 11th March 2018 starting at 1.00pm).

FIRST MEETING SUNDAY 11TH MARCH 2018

Tony Roberts, our first Chairman back in March 1974, will be giving a talk on tips and advice on conditioning fish/spawning/growing/feeding & selecting fish for showing and future breeding stock etc., This should be very informative to new and more experienced breeders alike. Most of you know that Tony is one of the surviving founder members of the society with Dave Easingwood in Canada being the other. Frank Orme was the other founder member, a breeder of Lionhead goldfish (hence our society logo and author of Fancy Goldfish Culture - a must have book for any serious cold water fish keeper and breeder) now sadly deceased.

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

My thanks to Brian and Grahame for their articles within this Goldfish Standard newsletter and also to Bill, who is a new member, lifelong fish breeder and current Chairman of the Fancy Guppies UK and judge. Bill's article is full of interest on a wide variety of subjects and due to its length (some 15 or so pages) will be serialised – so look out for the next instalment which goes into detail on guppies. (we now have eight members who are also members of Fancy Guppies UK, so there will be plenty of interest for those who keep tropical fish as well as their goldfish in future publications.

FISH SELLING AND BUYING ON THE DAY

Don't forget that there will be some pedigree goldfish varieties for sale at the next meeting so if you want some please bring a bucket or two, and if you want to sell you may need to bring your own tank although there should be some show tanks available too.

SUBS DUE AND RAFFLE PRIZES

Finally, subs for membership are due by the meeting date and if you think that you have something suitable for the raffle, these would be welcome too. It all helps to finance the club.

Pat Davies

Chairman

AMGK MEMBER PROFILE



WHO ARE YOU?

Bill Galbally (William George Galbally Jr) Born 1956 in Hoxton, London. Married to Hilary with two grown-up girls (Rose & Angela). I joined Fancy Guppies UK (FGUK) in 2006 (when it was still part of BLA) and am current Chairman and this year I became a member of AMGK. I have kept and bred livestock all my life, including dogs (currently have 2 Czechoslovakian Wolfdogs), mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds (finches & budgies etc), amphibians, reptiles and I have shown and judged poultry & rabbits.

I am a big sports fan - especially football and I am keen on Conservation and Ecology. I am particularly interested in the history & development of show standards and why we have them. I like paying attention to detail and am a perfectionist – this is a vice, not a virtue! Hilary actually does most of the feeding and cleaning out of the fish while I am away at work – so she deserves half the credit! She has also done almost half the work on the fish house with the help of Angela and to a lesser extent Rose.



WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN FISH KEEPING?

I have always been interested in animals and nature and I inherited that from my father and his mother – my grandmother.

Luckily for me there was no resistance from my mother. I had goldfish in a bowl and then a tank from a very early age. These were bought from the local pet shop round the corner in Nile Street or won as prizes at the regular "Fairs" on the green in New North Road. Very soon I progressed to having catfish in the tank alongside the goldfish - I presume a North American temperate species that looks something like a Wels catfish - I do not know the scientific name but they were very common when I was a kid - through the 1950's to the 1970's. I presume they are still sold as cold-water fish?

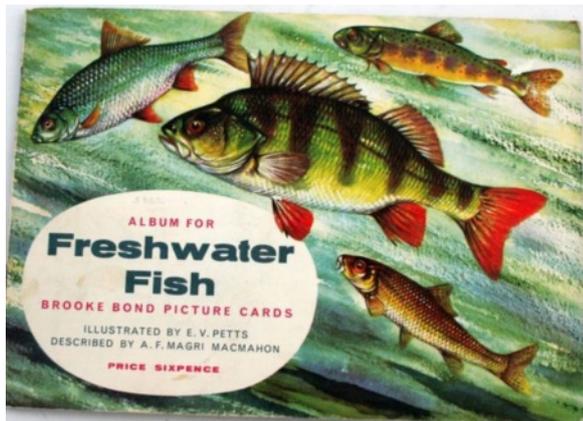
WHEN DID YOU FIRST KEEP FISH?

I've kept fish in tanks since 1958 and guppies since 1968.

I have had goldfish for as long as I can remember. The first one was won by my dad at the local Fair when it visited where we lived in Hoxton - it was before my brother was born so I was less than 18 months old. We got a goldfish bowl to keep it in. That was in London in the 1950's. How many countless other fish keepers have started that way?

AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

As more fish were won at fairs, we progressed from a bowl to a tank. A problem was the cat - which liked to try to 'fish' the goldfish out of the tank with its claws. Fortunately it was never successful. I can still remember the bags that the fish came in - small clear plastic bags but with the top open to allow oxygen exchange and with punched holes with threaded string for carrying.



Before I went to school Brooke-Bond brought out a series of picture cards with their tea packets on British Freshwater Fish - would have been the late 1950's - It was before I had learned to read but I became famous for recognising every one of the fish on the cards having once been told what it was - the family used to show me off - so I have been a fish person from almost the year dot!

By the way - I can still name every one of the fish on those 50 cards - once hooked the interest never fades!

The fish seemed to last forever but they never really grew. No doubt because the receptacles they were housed in were too small for the purpose. Later I progressed to buying fish from the pet shop. We lived close to the one in Nile Street and the proprietor always had plenty on offer. I still remember the smell of the fish-food in that shop. The recommended fare for goldfish them was dried "water fleas" (daphnia). All the fish won at the fare were the usual goldfish colour - reddish-orange. But the two my mum bought me at the pet shop were a golden yellow - picked by me as something different. They remain my favourites to this day - and we have just obtained some more at the AGM in November (given as a gift from the Club). I can't remember the name of the pet shop proprietor now, but he was an old boy with what was left of his hair being grey/white and he always wore a brown shop coat - just like Ronnie Barker in "Open all hours."

We kept the fish in an indoors tank until I was 10 years old. We then moved to South London with a bigger garden and I then kept my fish outside - and I soon expanded the collection. There were plenty of the old-style "tin baths" around then in the 1960s - galvanised metal contraptions that were very light but capable of permanently holding a large quantity of fresh water. I had about 4 of them, plus a large glass (angle iron) tank perched on top of the double coal bunker. I collected Canadian pond weed from the local park "lake" to furnish the tanks, and had smallish clay sewer pipes for the fish to shelter in. I have always kept snails with my fish - I think they serve a useful purpose as scavengers and algae removers - usually ramshorns although common pond snails usually came with the weed. However - it is not a good idea to have snails in a breeding tank as they will eat fish eggs.

AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

Soon I was catching goldfish from the local park on a hook and line, with earthworms as bait. I have always been interested in natural history and had learned all about the habits of fish and angling from books. It was much more of a challenge and great fun having to stealthily get close to a fish with just a fishing line rather than using a rod (impossible anyway in the local park). It did not take long at all to fill my four baths with goldfish of varying descriptions.. However, they looked out of place as they were much larger than my original fish that they were housed with - having come from a "lake" half an acre in extent. So I soon realised that it was in the fishes best interests to be back in the "lake" which they were adapted to and could observe them in a more natural habitat. However - it proved to be much harder to smuggle them BACK into the park and the lake than it had to catch them from it! In those days, all parks were 'guarded' by Park Keepers (I can't remember the last time I saw one of those - in their brown uniforms). It would have been very difficult to explain to a Park Keeper (or "Parkie" to use the vernacular) that I was not taking fish FROM the park if caught, but taking them TO the park! So I returned them all at dusk once the "Parkies" were safely at home and would not interfere. It took about two weeks to do the job as I only could transport one fish per night and could not be out too late or I would incur the wrath of my mother.

So I turned to more fancy types of goldfish which were not used to living in a vast expanse of water. My first fancy types were Black Moors. I bought them in the Market where I used to live in North (East London) on one of my frequent visits "back home" with my parents - it is where all the extended family lived. It was Club Row which is more commonly known by its other name of Brick Lane. You could buy all sorts of animals - especially fish - including tropical fish - from the market stalls in those days. Regulations have now stopped all of that. I can understand the reason for regulation to ensure animals are properly cared for, but I think we have now gone too far. Many conservationists from cities had their first encounter with animals as pets from market stalls.

I then got into Comets and Shubunkins and I distinctly remember a twin-tailed goldfish which was orange with a black back. This was a fish with a normal elongated body rather than the usual hunched-up shape of a twin-tailed fish. I am not keen on these as they are really deformities which struggle to swim properly. My Moors were always last to the food and I had to make sure each time that they got their fair share.

I loved my goldfish and they were very easy to care for. But I never bred any and I put that down to the copious amount of snails they were living with.

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN AMGK?

I was showing guppies at Coventry at the Goldfish show there in June 2016. I took my wife Hilary along - and she became much more interested in the Goldfish than the guppies. It was the same at Telford later in the year. In June 2017 I was helping to pack the Goldfish show away & clear the hall after we had already cleared away the Guppies equipment and I was the last Guppy person left. I got talking to Linda Malpas and it soon became apparent how very friendly the Goldfish people were as a bunch. I already knew Andy Barton well as he keeps and exhibits Guppies and always helps us out at our big international Convention. But it was Linda who talked me into joining. My wife Hilary had already gone home but I decided to join up us both to AMGK and hope that she would be agreeable. When I got home and told her - fortunately for me she was very pleased!

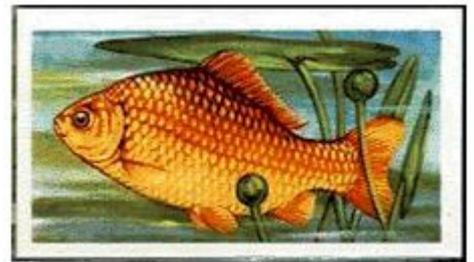
AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

Her parents have a swimming pool at their house near Sandwich in Kent that has been converted to a goldfish pond and they breed hundreds every year. But the Kingfisher is a frequent visitor and keeps numbers in check. It perches on the top of the old stairs into the pool as it's vantage point. It is such a feature of the property that my in-laws changed it's name to Kingfisher Court!

Both my wife and I attended the AGM in Coventry in November and it confirmed what an amiable and welcoming group goldfish people are - at least in AMGK and it is all so very well run. We Guppy people can learn a lot from the approach of the Goldfish folk. My wife wants me to give up Guppies and convert entirely to Goldfish! I can't see that happening but you never do know! However, it is a solid testament to the warmth and generosity extended to us by AMGK and the quality of the newsletter is a real tribute to the Club.

At the Leicester auction last December I saw some of Pat Davies' young Bristol Shubunkins which were stunning, so I bought 4 of them for Hilary for a Christmas present. I could not hide them until Christmas so she had to have them that day when I got home - she loves them! They are too young to sex but hopefully there will be a breeding pair amongst them. We have them in a tank in the bay window at the moment with the two golden yellow fish we got at the AGM (actually they are only just changing to yellow now from the natural bronze colour they hatch with). Hilary hopes to breed both types so we will have to separate them once they are old enough to breed in the late spring. So - you never know - we may be able to join the ranks of those that exhibit Goldfish by the time the showing season comes around in 2019. It involves a longer wait than with guppies which get through generations much quicker, but we think it will be worth it!

It all takes me back to those Brook-Bond tea cards I collected all those years ago in the 1950's - I still remember as one of my favourites the one of the goldfish depicted amongst the lily pads! Opening tea packets was so exciting (and educational) then!



DO YOU SHOW/JUDGE/BREED FISH?

I show fish in the FGUK Guppy League (single males or pairs) and I attend European shows. I have been to 4 World Championship shows - in Italy, USA, Austria, & Taiwan (China). Attending shows and meeting all kinds of interesting people, and observing (and sometimes obtaining) some fantastic fish is one of the highlights of the hobby.



I am a qualified judge for FGUK and judge at the Guppy League.

I have also judged the World Guppy Association World Championships.

AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR FISH?

I have two 3 foot tanks in the hall, one four foot tank in the living room as well as a 4ft x 18inch x 2ft tank (houses the Royal Panaque, the Clown loaches and copious amounts of guppies). I no longer keep fish in the kitchen - my wife has put her foot down!

Our conservatory houses about 80 tanks (actually the vast majority are tubs which can only be viewed from above) mostly of guppies but the live bearers are in here too. This is NOT to be recommended - it costs a fortune (literally £thousands) to heat a conservatory the size of mine in the winter as it is so inefficient at retaining heat.

I am building a properly insulated fish house in the garden but because I have to constantly travel for work - I never seem to get the time to do it - although when I am doing it I am like a pig in the proverbial - I get totally immersed in it and a better way of de-stressing I do not think can be found! Hilary is waiting for the house to be renovated but we can't do that while we have the tanks there - so I have been warned that this is my final year. If the tanks do not go into the Fish House this year and renovation work begun, then she goes! (Or more likely I get thrown out!). I stated up front that I am a perfectionist – but taking the time to get things perfect has been a big mistake – I could have settled for better than adequate and finished the shed in 2 years – I would have then had the last 10 years enjoying it rather than leaving it towards the end of my life!!!



In my big tank in the conservatory I keep Barbs and catfish with my guppies – plus a few tetras. The barbs breed in this community tank and in fact all the barbs I now have in there are self-bred apart from the Black Rubies. So the Rosy and the Odessa barbs breed freely - it is the first time in my life that i have had egg layers maintaining or increasing their population in a crowded 'community' tank. It is also one of only 2 tanks that I do not have snails in (the other is the Clown Loach tank - they soon make short work of snails!). So - I do not think it is a coincidence that these egg layers reproduce in the absence of snails - it may well be that snails eat fish eggs. As I mainly keep live bearers I actively encourage snails in all of my other tanks - I now have 7 different species or varieties. Snails are part of the ecosystem, consuming unwanted food including anything that dies, and keeping down algae. PS – you cannot keep snails in a tank with Botias – they are especially adapted to eat them!



PREPARATIONS FOR EARLY SPAWNING

These notes are intended for new members with limited experience, who wish to breed from their fish for the first time.

● IN EARLY FEBRUARY

- Bring the fish indoors if they are in outside ponds, with the female and male in separate tanks.
- Slowly increase the tank water temperature to 18°C - 65°F. With the increase in temperature the fish will eat more and should be fed twice a day with soaked high protein pellets, such as HIKARI GOLD MINI PELLETS, frozen adult brine shrimp and frozen bloodworm. It is important that any frozen food used is *pathogen (anything that can produce disease) free*.
- At the end of March the selected parents are put together in a tank containing new fresh water which is treated with STRESS COAT .
- A temperature of 18°C - 65°F is ideal for spawning.
- At least two males to one female is best to try and obtain a high fertility of the eggs produced. The preferred age to breed from females is at two or three years old. However, most males are capable of assessing spawning at one year old. It is recommended that the breeders are treated with FLUKE SOLVE three weeks before pairing and the treatment repeated again after five days. Each treatment is 1g of the white powder to 55 gallons of tank water. FLUKE SOLVE can be obtained from VETARK PROFESSIONAL on 01962 844316.
- White fine cotton netting can be used as a spawning medium but I allow the eggs to fall on the clear tank bottom i.e. NO GRAVEL.
- Spawning may happen on the second or third day after they have been put together. I say may because a spawning can never be guaranteed. If a spawning is not forthcoming after seven days, remove the female and males into separate tanks and try again after two weeks.
- Spawning continues for several hours, however, when it is felt that one or more fish are starting to lose interest and may start eating the eggs, it is time to remove the parents to other tanks.
- After spawning, the temperature of the tank containing the eggs should be increased to 24°C - 74°F.
- The eggs should start to hatch after three days.
- Start to feed the fry, when they are free swimming, twice a day with newly hatched brine shrimp for 18 days. Some breeders prefer to feed their fry much longer than 18 days with brine shrimp but I prefer to start other foods, such as finely crushed TETRA GOLDFISH FLAKES, soaked crushed HIKARI GOLD MINI PELLETS, frozen adult brine shrimp and frozen bloodworm - making sure such food is small enough for the 18 days old fry to eat.

PREPARATIONS FOR EARLY SPAWNING

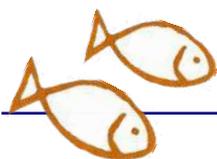
SELECTION OF FRY

● WHEN TO START SELECTION OF FRY

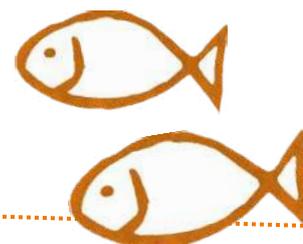
- Selecting fry to keep is carried out when necessary. I say when necessary because sometimes the fry are so numerous it will be necessary to carry out selection at 18 days old.
- The tail contour of my Bristol Shubunkins, for example, can be predicted at 18 days old and is the main feature I am looking for i.e. *as near vertical as possible*. Other varieties will have other features to look for as required by Nationwide Standards.
- The selected fry should be fed little and often, as much as they will eat, with the food previously listed.
- Depending on the size of the tank and the number of fry contained, it is important to maintain good water quality as required. A 25% water change, with mature water treated with STRESS COAT, at the same temperature as the fry tank, may be necessary every day. Alternatively a drip system can be used if the system includes an overflow to drain.

Finally, an early spawning is an option, but I prefer to spawn my fish late APRIL or early MAY.

Brian Bates
AMGK Member



A Tale of Years Gone By Continued.....



The **2007** Open Show saw another slight drop in numbers, but only by a few. Nonetheless every class had good quality entries and the show was well supported by all the goldfish societies.

Bob Jones (BAS) taking **Best In Show & Best Owner Bred** with a Bristol Shubunkin.

In **2008** we had a fantastic show, breaking the record with 182 entries and classes of 20 or more fish, giving the judges quite a task, but sort them out they did.

Yet again **Bob Jones** won **Best in Show & Best Owner Bred** with a lovely Metallic Fantail - well done Bob!

Plunging the depths of Goldfish History

with Grahame Draper

This is the second article which has been kindly extracted by one of our members, Grahame Draper, who wanted to share some of his current reading with other members on the history and techniques of Goldfish keeping from a Chapter found in copy of 'Japanese Goldfish, their Varieties and Cultivation' published in 1908. The book has good provenance having been written by or draws on the knowledge of the then director of Imperial Fisheries Institute Tokyo, Shinnosuke Matsubara. Grahame will be supplying more information on different goldfish varieties in due course.

Incidentally, the book mentioned was written by Hugh Smith and has now been made available as a special re-print edition with a contributor – Jackson Chambers, and published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016. ISBN 1540694739, 9781540694737

Excerpts from

JAPANESE GOLDFISH

THEIR VARIETIES AND CULTIVATION

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE JAPANESE METHODS OF GOLDFISH CULTURE
FOR AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS

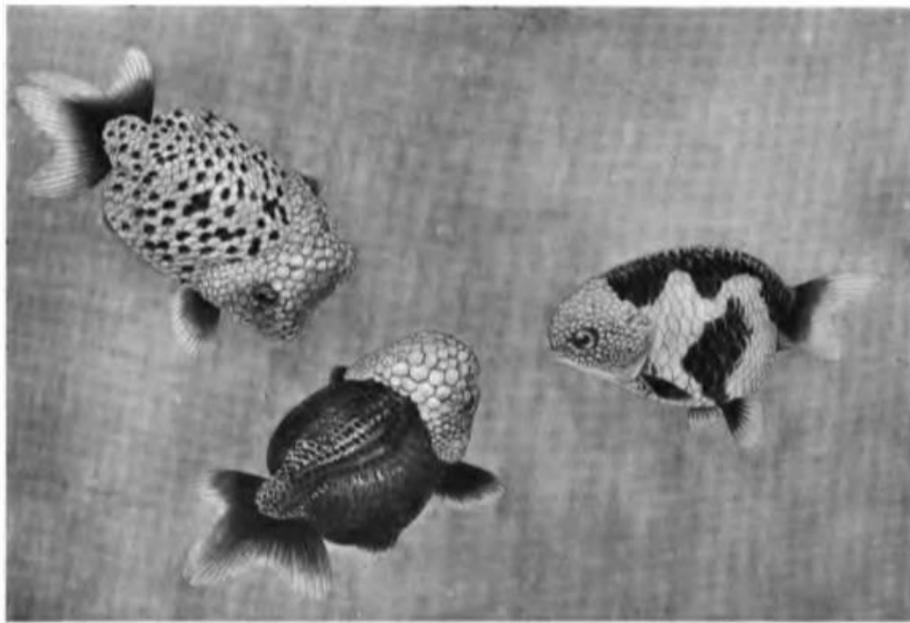
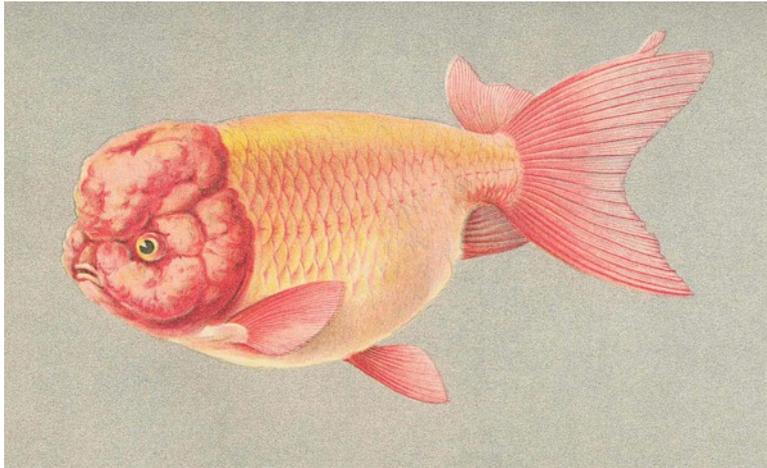
The Ranchu

MARUKO. SHISHIGASHIRA. KOREAN GOLDFISH

Literally translated, the name ranchu means Holland worm. The significance is not apparent, except in the fact that in early times any new or strange animal or plant or production was regarded as of Dutch origin and named accordingly. Another and a later name in very general use is maruko, meaning round fish. This variety is called also Chosen, or Korean, goldfish, in allusion to a possible origin or a possible route from China to Japan. There is usually a peculiar growth or wart-like protuberance on the head, and this gives rise to other names-shishigashira and shishigashira ranchu, lion-head and lion-head ranchu.

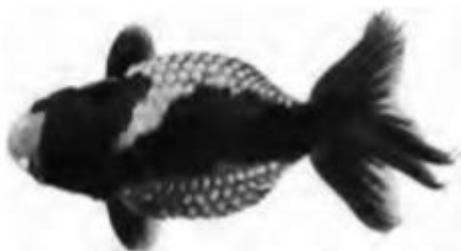
The wide departure of the ranchu from the original form suggests that the parent stock must have been a very early offshoot of the wakin stem, probably earlier than the ryukin and the demekin, which are the other more primitive types now grown in Japan.

The ranchu is easily recognized by its short, rounded body, broad head, short caudal fin, and deficient dorsal fin. As the length, depth, and breadth of the body are about equal, and as the back and belly are broad and rounded and the caudal peduncle very short, the form of the body proper is almost globular and a median cross section would be a nearly perfect circle. The head is short and as broad as deep, and the snout is broad, short, and rounded. The back is nearly straight or only slightly elevated and shows no trace of a fin. The caudal is short and three-lobed, with the lobes rounded and the two lateral ones having a tendency to spread horizontally. The pectoral and ventral fins are small and present no peculiarities. The anal is short and double. A curious sickle shaped appendage sometimes appears on the dorsal edge of the caudal fin.



TYPES OF THE RANCHO OR MARUKO VARIETY OF JAPANESE GOLDFISH
From a water-color painting from life, made for the author in Tokyo, by K. Ito. One-half natural size

Up to the time the fish is two or three years old, the head does not show any peculiar features, but it then begins to develop a mass having the appearance of a warty tumour. In some specimens the warts are of uniform size and very regular distribution, in others they are irregular in size and shape. The warts are soft to the touch, and represent simply the enlargement of the normal papillae of the skin of the head; and so far as known the mass does not take on any malignant character.



The amount of surface covered by the growth varies, and this, together with differences in the warts themselves, gives rise to several sub varieties. In the lion-head proper the entire head except the lower jaw is covered with large red, pink, or white warts, and the head and snout are thus, greatly broadened. In the form known as the token, or capped or hooded goldfish, there is on top of the head a mass of warts projecting one-half to three-fifths of an inch above the surface and sharply defined all around. The warty growth is sometimes entirely white, and may contrast strongly with the colours of adjacent parts. Fish thus coloured are called hiragashira, or white-heads. As white warts are nearly always smaller than red warts and the growth is thus less prominent, these fish are known also as hiragashira, or flat-heads.

The colour of the ranchu is quite variable. Originally the colour seems to have been more or less uniform, and at present the most popular fish are those with a uniformly golden or red body and a bright red head; about twenty years ago, however, examples with variegated backs began to be produced, and such are now cultivated in large numbers. A striking colour phase sometimes met with is a white fish with individual, regularly distributed scales of the back and sides bright red, and with the head pink. An otherwise white fish may have bright red fins and red head. A full-grown ranchu is 6 inches long, including the caudal fin. The largest size attained appears to be about 7½ inches.

The ranchu is a clumsy fish, with swimming powers reduced to a minimum. The absence of dorsal fin combined with the neatly globular body has resulted in a loss of ability to maintain a normal position, and in consequence the fish often swims upside down or vertically with the head downward. The variety is weak, delicate, and difficult to keep: and although very extensively grown in Japan has rarely been exported to foreign countries. Limited numbers have been brought to the United States from Europe or directly from Japan, but the fish is known to very few people in this country. Its cultivation should be more generally undertaken both on account of itself and because of the opportunities afforded for producing new forms by crossing with other varieties.



Shinnosuke Matsubara Director of the Imperial Fisheries Institute, Tokyo in a paper presented to the fourth international fishery congress in 1908 had this to say on the Raising of Ranchu.

This fish is chiefly cultivated in concrete ponds. When the culture is carried on upon a small scale, the usual number of parent fish is five, two of which are females and the other males, but when it is carried on upon a large scale, the number of parent fish is over fifty, one half of these being male and the other half female. The eggs are laid during the period between the beginning of April and the middle of May, and the utmost attention should be paid to the fish during the three months of September, October, and November of the preceding year, when the food should be given them in sufficient quantity, without their being overfed. The males of the parent fish are separated from the spawners some time before the latter deposit their eggs. When the spawning season approaches, the water of the pond is not renewed, but the fish are kept amply fed with the larvae of mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens*) or earthworms (*Limnodrilus* or *Tubifex*) for about ten days, at the end of which time the eggs are laid when the temperature of water in the pond rises or when it rains. As, by experience, this can be known beforehand, the water of the spawning pond is changed the day before and the parent fish are removed thither. The spawning bed is then made with "kingyomo" (*Myriophyllum verticellatum*), on which the eggs are deposited on the following morning.

When the number of parent fish is 5, the proper size of the pond is 4 by 3 shaku (1.2 meters by 91.0 centimetres) with a depth of 5 sun (15 centimetres). With 50 parent fish, the area of the pond should be 7 by 6 shaku (2.1 by 1.80 meters), the depth remaining the same as before. In a pond of the latter size, a circular concavity with a diameter of 8 sun (24 centimetres) to 1 shaku (30 centimetres) and with a depth of 1 sun 5 bu (4.5 centimetres) from the bottom of the pond, is made around the outlet for the water. This concavity is intended to prevent the fish from being driven, when the water is drained off, against the walls of the pond. When the spawning is over, either the parent fish or the eggs are removed to another pond to prevent the eggs from being devoured. For a few days after the eggs are hatched, the fry do not move about, but stick to their bed or the bottom of the pond. During this time no food need be given, as every individual of the fry is provided with a yolk sac in its abdomen; if forcibly fed, their health would be impaired. In three days or so, they begin to swim about in the pond, and are then fed once every day in the morning, with the yolk of hen's eggs boiled. This food is administered by straining the yolk, mixed with water in the proportion of 2 eggs to 5 sho (9. 1 cubic centimetres) of water, through cotton or silk gauze, this mixture being then completely stirred up until it is yellow, when it is put into a watering pot and poured all over the pond as food. The belly of the fry becomes yellow by taking this food, and the shade of the abdominal yellowish colour shows whether or not the fry have got sufficient food. After being thus fed for seven days, they are given the small crustacea, "mijinko" (Daphnia, Moina or Cyclops), which have been cultivated and kept in a separate pond, the crustacea being caught with a gauze bag and then sifted, in order that any injurious insect, etc., may not remain mixed in them. After fifteen days thus nourished with mijinko, the tender fish are fed with the larvae of mosquitoes or earthworms cut in small pieces.

About twenty days after the fish are hatched, the first selection is made, for which purpose the fish are put into a white earthenware plate. As they are still very small at this stage of development, it is difficult to select those which are satisfactory in every respect, and only those furnished with the better caudal fins, such as they are, are picked out. Ten days later the second selection takes place, when those having any irregularities on the back are thrown into a mud pond and put aside. Again, ten days later, the third selection is made and the fish are grouped together according to their size. And yet, about ten days after this, the fourth and last selection comes, when particular attention is paid to the form of the caudal fin. The fish are for the first time put up for sale when the third selection is over.

After the first selection the young are put into two concrete ponds, each of which is of the same size as the former one, and in the second selection they are distributed into three ponds of this same size. The area of these ponds would not be large enough for the original number of fish, but the number has been reduced as the inferior breeds were eliminated. To every twenty of the fish hatched in the beginning of May is given a space of one tsubo (3.3058 square meters), and when the cold weather comes they are removed either to a mud pond or to a hibernacle (i.e. wintering pond). The latter, which is made entirely of concrete and has a depth of 6 to 8 sun (18.2 to 24.2 centimetres), is provided with a lid, and the whole is again covered with an inclined roof opening toward the south, with one end coming down to the north edge of the pond. When the weather is warm, the lid is partially lifted up so as to admit the sun's rays into the pond from the south. The water sometimes becomes foul through the putrefaction of fish food and from other causes, in which case a basket having its lower part covered with gauze is immersed into the concavity of the pond and by means of a rubber siphon put into the basket the foul water is drawn out, to be replaced by fresh water. The fish in the second and third years should have a space of one tsubo at least for every twenty of them. In the first year the fish attain in eight or nine months the size of 2 sun 5 bu (7.5 centimetres) from the snout to the extremity of the tail; in the second year they attain in the same length of time the size of 4 sun (14 centimetres); in the third year, 5 sun (15 centimetres); in the fourth year, 5 sun 5 bu (16.5 centimetres), and in the fifth year, 6 sun (18.2 centimetres). The fish that are kept four or five years are the only ones fetching a very high price in the market.

PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO : 8a Howard Road, Stafford, ST17 9EW
or by email to amgkblog@gmail.com

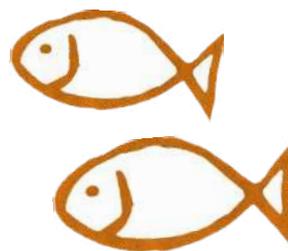
DIARY DATES FOR 2018

Dates for meetings at Binley Hall

Sunday 11 th March	Tips & advice to start the new Breeding Season
Sunday 6 th May	Adult, Prettiest and Bluest/Non Standard Fish Table Show
Sunday 19 th August	Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2018)
Sunday 21 st October	AGM & Presentation of Awards

Other dates for 2018

Saturday 30 th June	AMGK Open Show
Sunday 15 th July	NEGS Open Show
Sunday 22 nd July	Open Day
Sunday 2 nd September	BAS Open Show
Saturday 15 th September	NGPS Open Show
Saturday 6 th October	National Fancy Goldfish Open Show



SUBS DUE AND RAFFLE PRIZES

Finally, subs for membership are due by the March meeting date and if you think that you have something suitable for the raffle, these would be welcome too. It all helps to finance the club.

PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO : 8a Howard Road, Stafford, ST17 9EW
or by email to amgkblog@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET - All of our newsletters, show dates and meetings information can be found on our website amgk.co.uk

Your Committee Members

President	Andrew Barton	01933 222642
Vice President	Phil Riley	01538 383550
Chairman	Pat Davies	01952 504280
Vice Chairman	Mick Smith	01785 251974
Secretary	Linda Malpas	01604 451515
Treasurer	Gary Malpas	01604 451515
Open Show Manager	Andrew Barton	01933 222642
Open Show Secretary	Linda Malpas	01604 451515
Table Show Manager	Phil Riley	01538 383550
Show Catering Manager	Jackie Pedley	07752752241
Newsletter/Website Editor	June Pons	01785 251974