

Goldfish Standard



Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

FAR EASTERN FISH TRIP TALE

HONG KONG and the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

APRIL 2018 Contents of this issue

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.

| | |
|--|----|
| Letter from the President | 2 |
| March Meeting - Speaker Tony Roberts | 3 |
| Kingyo Adventure 2019 | 9 |
| Far Eastern Fish Trip Tale - Pat Davies | 10 |
| Overcrowding - Brian Bates | 14 |
| AMGK Member Profile Part Two - Bill Galbally | 16 |
| Founding a Strain of Shubunkins - <i>article was written by Johnson H. Hood</i> | 22 |
| Diary Dates 2018 | 24 |

Letter from **THE PRESIDENT**

Andrew Barton



The new season is now upon us and due to the weather it will be a slow start for many of us, but I'm sure that by the end of the year those who have been breeding will have some nice fish to show off. It was great to hear that some of our newer members have already bred some fish and grown them on to a good size.

With the new members in mind, it was decided at the last AGM that during the next three years a coordinated effort would be made to come up with a standard for the Butterfly and Demekin/Dragon Eye varieties of goldfish.

- I shall be volunteering myself as a coordinator for this but we do have a protocol to follow in order to put together a proposal for a standard.
- This will include evidence of line breeding over several generations, by more than one breeder.
- The strain must breed true to type.
- Both adults and babies must be put on exhibition/show and a proposal for a standard must be produced.

So those people who wish to take part in this should contact me (Andrew Barton) in order that a working group can be formed in order to eventually come up with a proposal to submit to the Nationwide Committee for approval. Please note that this group will be open to all who wish to take part and it is important that we form this group as soon as possible.

Finally, at the March meeting we were treated to a talk by Tony Roberts on his fish keeping and how he raises his young fish.

Lastly, I must apologise to all those who could not attend the meeting due to it being on Mother's Day - we will endeavour to avoid making the same mistake in future years so that people are not torn between their families and their fish!

All the best for the coming season

MARCH meeting



**BINLEY
CHURCH HALL
COVENTRY**

**SPEAKER
Tony
Roberts**



experiences and anecdotes on a long lifetime of fishkeeping



Tony Roberts
THE
FAMOUS
~~**FIVE**~~
THREE

HOW WE NEARLY GOT SHOT
&
OTHER
ADVENTURES!

**Notes from first meeting of the year –
a talk by Tony Roberts: Sunday 11th
March 2018.**

Apparently, our meeting was on Mothering Sunday this year although it was booked at our last AGM with nobody thinking to mention it. Maybe everybody else had the same diary as myself with Mothering Sunday not mentioned at all (probably printed by a club member!) However, we still did manage to field some 26 members for the meeting with a good time had by all if the 'phone messages I have received since are anything to go by.

Tony's talk was originally billed as 'Hints and tips on breeding goldfish', due to the exceptionally severe weeks of winter, burst filter canisters and family illness, Tony was not able to prepare the talk in the way that he wanted. Be that as it may, his talk about general experiences and anecdotes on a long lifetime of fishkeeping was fascinating for all those in attendance, whether experienced or new to the hobby, with grateful thanks from us all to Tony for such an enjoyable afternoon.

Below are contemporaneous notes from the meeting, taken by Pat Davies, that will inform members that could not attend the meeting and as an aide memoir to those that did.

BEGINNING FISHKEEPING

1. After explaining how bad the winter had been for Tony, likened to the years 1947, 1963 and 1983, he had fish spawn in 56 degrees F on March 9th having been under ice in his fish house the week before!
2. Original Bristol Shubunkins bought from the Oxenham brothers (builders in Bristol) in 1954.
3. Although Tony has bred most goldfish varieties over the years, these days he tends to concentrate on Bristol Shubunkins, Broadtail Moors and Veiltails. He started breeding Calico Veiltails as a boy nearly seventy years ago when there were 18 breeders of them in the midlands alone. His early stock went 'telescope eyed'. Later, when working for British telecom he went to London and acquired some new stock (metallic this time) and managed to supply some to Tommy Sutton at that time. Tony kept two females that were what we would now call Lyretail/Ribbon tail although they had Veiltail type anal fins i.e., long and pointed, essential characteristics whenever considering an unknown heritage fish with a Veiltail cross. Unfortunately, like others at the time, he lost the lot in the winter of 1983.
4. Re-started a strain with a metallic (scaled) Veiltail from John Parker from London and bought a 'ribbon tail' Calico/nacreous fish from Aquascape. Together with a non-coloured metallic fish this small group formed the nucleus of his current Veiltail stock.

5. In 1952 at age 15 Tony sold all his early Shubunkin stock for £8.00p (about eight week's wages and bought new stock from Bristol through the Oxenham brothers, a pair of fish bought for £10.00 plus £2 10/- carriage transported and delivered by British Railways as it was known then. The fish chosen had no crossover on the tail lobes. This ideal has always been kept every time he chooses a pair with which to breed. Some years later, Tony managed to borrow a male Shubunkin that had been bred by Wyndam Hicks who Tony recognises as the 'father' of the modern Bristol Shubunkin. All of Wyndham Hick's surplus were sent to Bristol zoo to feed the penguins, he never allowed anyone in the hobby to buy any of his stock (quite a common trait in a number of breeders in the early fifties). However, one gentleman who was not in any society had recently built a pond and asked Wyndam Hicks if he could purchase some fish that he had seen at the shows to put into his pond. After much questioning Wyndam was satisfied that the guy was not ever going to be a future competitor and sold him 6 males. Sometime later, Tony met with the man who, it transpired, wanted to purchase some females from Tony. The man offered to loan a male to Tony for a month and had some females from Tony in return. Tony managed to breed the male with his fish twice before returning it. However, it was a few years before the benefits begun to show themselves with a broad rounded tail with a good uplift. It was this type of improved fish that has now become the standard that most Bristol Shubunkin breeders now strive for in their respective breeding programmes.
6. Colin Lowe, sometime soon after this, mentioned to a number of midland breeders including Frank Close, Tommy Sutton Snr and Jnr and Tony that he had seen high quality fish starting to be distributed in the far east and coming out of China. He warned that unless British breeders rose to the challenge in their own breeding programmes, the hobby would suffer from these potential new imports. Therefore, Tony and Frank made a concerted effort to improve the Bristol Shubunkin with Tommy Sutton taking on the Veiltail, Broadtail Moor and Broadtail Oranda. Over the years Tommy managed to shorten and broaden the caudal peduncle in the Veiltail, Moor and Oranda with the line being set as high as the Lateral line. We now have these fish healthier than often seen in the earlier years, being able to swim more easily and keep good deportment and balance for many more years of their life. They are no longer so prone to red streaking in the tail fins, which would often drag on the bottom of the aquarium and tear/rot especially during very cold weather.

POTENTIAL DANGERS OF DAPHNIA COLLECTION AND CULTIVATION

7. There followed a tale of exploits in catching Daphnia. The message behind the following anecdotes is **Always seek permission from the landowner before entering private areas to collect Daphnia!**

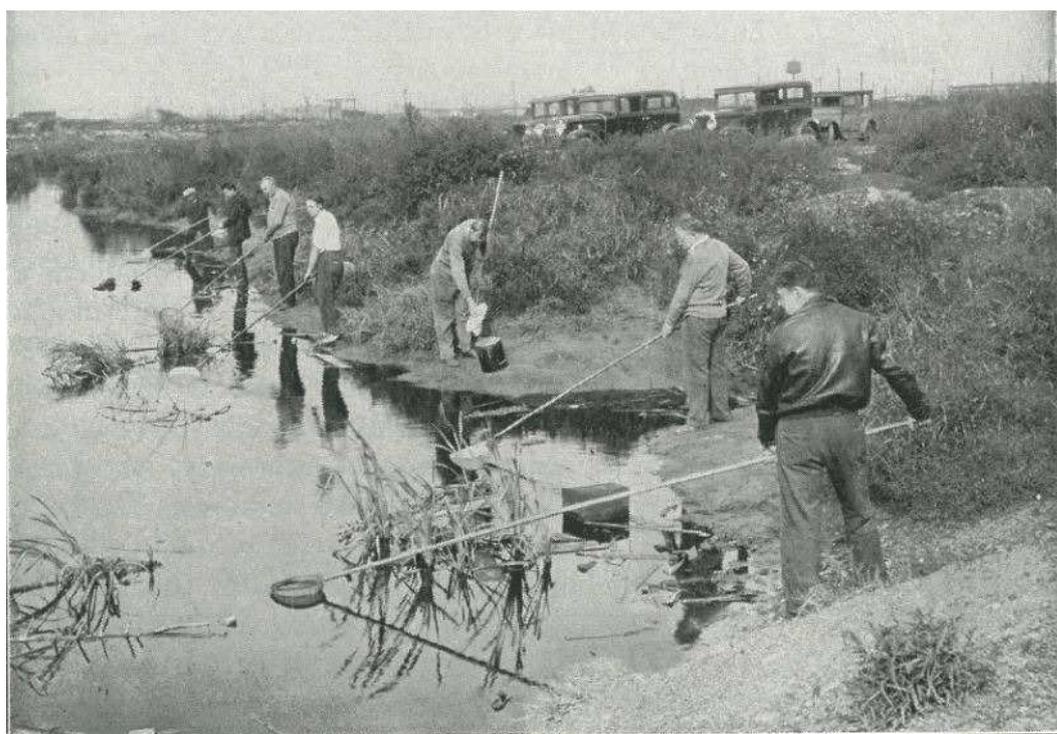
Tony was reminded that a group of fish keepers from various societies got together over the weekend where they were staging the annual large show held at Bingley Hall in Birmingham and got to telling tales of Daphnia collecting. Almost all serious fish breeders in the 1950's and 60's collected wild daphnia in those days., and stories came thick and fast during a few spare hours. The guys concluded that rather than write a book on fish keeping they had more material to write a book on the trials and tribulations of Daphnia collecting. Tony related three such exploits as follows. Firstly, daphnia collection from a small pond in a field next to a small village just outside Birmingham was Barry Hall, who used to run an excellent fish shop next to the old Winston Green Prison in Birmingham (where, incidentally I bought my first 2 foot aquarium and tropical fish in 1961) and Frank Close, who was a good friend to several members of our society over many years. One night the two of them decided at around midnight to collect some daphnia from a farmer's pond known to have a good supply. Whilst scrambling in the pitch darkness Barry fell into the pond, being a great hulk of a man and being a non- swimmer he made a great deal of noise, splashing about like a dervish, no doubt shouting a few unsavoury words to Frank and generally making quite a disturbance to

the still of the night. Dogs started to bark and farm stock became quite agitated. The farmer became disturbed by their antics (in both senses of the word) and still in his pyjamas left his house to give chase to the intrepid intruders armed with a shot gun. Barry, despite his bulk with his clothes and boots saturated managed to climb out of the pond and he and Frank ran for their lives to Barry's van and sped off unharmed except for being cold, wet and thankful that they weren't peppered by gun shot. A loaded shotgun tends to give the body an extra squirt of adrenalin when called upon!

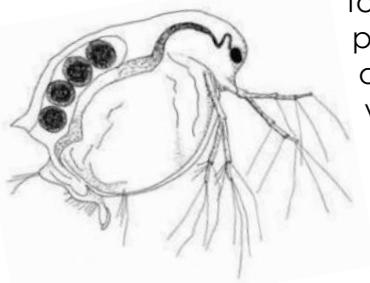
8. The second tale related to one time that Tony decided to catch Daphnia one evening. He found a courting couple in a car at the entrance to the field that housed the pool and decided to go off to the pub and wait until they had finished and moved on. After some time drinking he decided to go back to the pool and only to find another courting couple in their car had taken the first couple's place. A return to the pub was no hardship for Tony, who waited some time for them to complete the business in hand. On his third attempt another couple were courting in a Ford Consul – this time Tony decided to push past, upon recognising the lady as a member of his jazz club – a discreet placement of a Tesco bag covered most of her embarrassment, they were gone when he finished collecting enough Daphnia for his purpose. Having questioned Tony after the meeting (in order to get the detail right) it turned out that each couple were different people and not one of them being the same person each time - my mistake!

9. Colin Rowe, who used to be the proprietor of Shirley Aquatics in the 1960's told Tony that he had received a paper from Bristol through Frank Lloyd (a BAS member) about a German company that bred Daphnia commercially, however Colin later discovered that it had been bombed by the allies during the war. Tony later discovered that milk added to old water containing Daphnia was an ideal feed and the secret ingredient that the Germans had used all those years ago. 'Hard shell' Daphnia was the preferred type and used to be obtained from waterfowl ponds in Bristol Zoo,

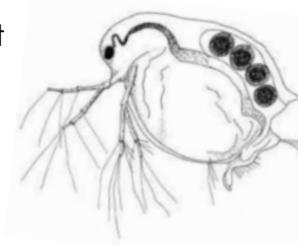
according to the older members of the Bristol Aquarist Society. Probably best these days



Collecting Daphnia from a Characteristic Pond



to buy a few sachets of live pet shop and cultivate a supply own without the risk of being shot witness to unwarranted outdoor fumbling'.



daphnia from a reliable of your or being

GETTING READY FOR SPAWNING

10. Tony explained that all adult fish were brought into fish house for the winter with Bristol Shubunkins kept at normal fish house temperature that varied throughout the winter period but did keep a little very low heat on his round bodies fish to deter swim bladder issues.
11. Fish are watched carefully for a few weeks prior to getting them ready for spawning to check for signs of weakness or illness. Flukes and bacteria can often strike in early spring. (fish can carry an amount of both most of the year without much harm if kept in check, however they are most susceptible as the water warms up after a long starvation period over winter. Very few remedies work below 60 degrees, so Tony uses a weak dose of potassium permanganate, supplied from a pre-mixed proprietary bottle obtained from most specialist fish shops. Tony will use half the recommended dose and leaves it in for a week or two to assess what, if anything, may be wrong. Salt also works in cold temperatures. 'Flukesolve' was also recommended as a wide spectrum treatment for internal worms and flukes by a number of the members attending the meeting.
12. Diet for the potential spawning fish comprises 'Hikari' Wheatgerm pellets and chopped earth worms (grown in his own wormery).
13. Will select female Shubunkins for their carriage and deportment primarily with good finnage and no cross over lobes. Males need to be good chasers and have plenty of colour. Colour not considered too important, as long as the strain carries good colour, it will come through with the youngsters.
14. Watch young fish as they grow. At about 3 months old the youngsters should be getting towards three inches in body length. Look out for males chasing – even at just three months if they are fed well and given plenty of room and light. These are the fish that should be set aside for future breeding as they will give greater vigour for the next year's breeding programme.
15. In Veiltail breeding all fish should carry points, that is the pectoral, ventral and the anal. The latter fins should be very long and dropped downwards between the caudal fins (that should be as square as possible).
16. Good finnage in Bristol Shubunkins is more apparent in 'metallic' fish. These fish appear as 'mock' metallic in most spawnings. Usually identified when very young as having deep violet bellies with bronze metallic scales gradually forming from the back then over the sides until looking totally bronze with a glimpse of deep violet through the gaps in the scales as the fish turns. Suggested that once in a while one of these fish could be used in a spawning to reinforce the quality of finnage in your strain.
17. Suggested that as fish get older it's best to use more than one male with the breeding female to compensate for reduced vigour.

Finally, Tony explained that none of his fish breeding could be achieved to his noted very high standard had it not been for his son Craig and expressed his heartfelt thanks to Craig for his many years of help with cleaning out tanks, ponds, sorting out young fish for shape and double anal fins etc., and years of help with collecting daphnia. As Tony has now reached over 80 years of age he also expressed his heart felt thanks to his grandson, Liam, who has carried on the old tradition of helping him throughout the last few years, both having been invaluable to Tony's continued active and successful presence in the hobby over the last 65 years plus. Tony also expressed his undying thanks for all the support his wife, Pat, had given him over the years – I couldn't even guess as to how many cups of coffee and tea she has produced for visitors to the fish house over all the years, together with the daily feeding routine when Tony spent time away from home through work and football.

The meeting closed with Tony answering question from the floor and rounded off for some of us in the adjacent pub for a slap-up carvery to get us into condition for the long trip home.

SHOW SPONSORS RECOGNITION

In recognition of the various sponsors that support our Open Show and that of the National it is considered appropriate that we have a regular inclusion of the names in our published **AMGK Goldfish Standard Magazine** and include them in our electronic distribution of said magazine.



vitalis
AQUATIC NUTRITION



In addition, we would ask all members who use the products from our contributing sponsors to report on findings such as ease of use, fish appetite, water quality changes, growth rates of fish etc.,

This will help all our members and be excellent feed back to fish food manufacturers and distributors that support each show.

FishScience Aquarium Foods

Unique New Formula With Insect Meal

Contains cultured Insect Meal:

- Recreates the natural insect based diet that goldfish would eat in the wild
- Environmentally friendly and sustainable - reduces the use of fish meal which is taken from the sea
- Easily digested for low waste

Plus Naturally enhances the colour of the fish using Spirulina algae, paprika and krill
...and the fish really like it

www.fishscience.co.uk

KINGYO Adventure 2019

'Ian Mildon has asked that the following letter he has received from Tommy Mclean be included in our Goldfish Standard Newsletter. It invites members to join Tommy in a proposed fish trip of a lifetime to Japan in the Autumn of 2019. Should any members want to consider this wonderful opportunity and learn a bit more please contact Tommy direct'

KINGYO Adventure 2019

Following my visit to Japan I have been approached recently by Ian Mildon and Graham Turner expressing an interest in going on a Goldfish related visit to Japan. As it will take a lot of organising to set up enough Goldfish visits for a dedicated trip I have been advised by Inside Japan Tour Company it would be difficult to arrange this for 2018. If there is enough interest we propose organising a trip for any Goldfish keeper (not just GSGB members) in October/November 2019.

Although no arrangements have yet been made the current idea is to have a two week trip departing on Thursday 24th October and returning on 7th or 8th November.

The itinerary of the trip will include the Nihon Ichi Kingyo Show in Yatomi on the 27th October and the All Japan Ranchu Championship in Tokyo on the 3rd November plus hopefully one or two other shows. There will also be visits to **Commercial Goldfish Farms plus Goldfish Breeders and wholesale auctions.** There will also be some opportunities to do some sightseeing. Cities and Towns visited are likely to include **Tokyo, Hamamatsu, Nagoya Yatomi, Kyoto and Koriyama.**

At the moment it is not possible to be exact on the cost of such a trip but the Travel company have suggested it will probably be in the range £3,000 - £4,500.

If you are interested please e-mail me at t_w_mclean@yahoo.co.uk

I am sure this would be a trip to remember.

Tommy McLean

**FREEZING
SNOW IN
THE UK.....**

OR

SUN, SEA and FUN
**in HONG KONG and the
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

No contest!

A FAR EASTERN FISH TRIP TALE by Pat Davies

As some of you know I eventually undertook a return trip to Hong Kong and the Philippines earlier in the year (hoping to miss the tropical heat and moisture of my last trip, almost 30 years ago). Part of my trip was to take a look at the goldfish and tropicals that were said to be available in specialist districts.

I had heard of the famous Goldfish Street in Kowloon and seen pictures and videos on my computer in recent times.

Well the night we landed, having settled into the hotel and feasted on a selection of meats, noodles, soups and fancies, we marched round the corner to have a look at Tung Choi Street that everyone has been talking about for the last 15 years or so, (ever since the Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society (NGPS) organised a group tour around the turn of the Century).

HONG KONG'S GOLDFISH STREET

From the hotel we had to travel through the 'Ladies Market', although Hong Kong is often strange we didn't have to dress up fortunately. It was a tight squeeze with many stalls crowding the road and footpath. Nothing to buy really unless one is interested in the sort of souvenirs that the first plane loads of English tourists brought back home from the first flights to the Costa Brava in the early seventies, although I didn't see any actual stuffed Donkeys. (we may have eaten some though although unlikely – the spices used in the hotel cooking aren't that powerful!).

Having walked quite a way we got to a road junction where we should have crossed over to reach our goal only to find a building right in the way where the road should be. Realising, that the building was at least a few years old we double checked the map and found that we had been reading it up side down. Nothing new discovered on our return trip although the street vendors thought that their luck was in, thinking that we had come back for a second look.

Avoiding most of the harassment as best we could, we eventually found the street we were looking for. In a word – disappointing! There were goldfish alright, no better quality than anything seen commercially in the UK except for masses of short finned red Ryukin about 120 mm in body size absolutely crammed into long aquariums just inside many of

the shops. It seemed that they must have been from the same source judging by their uniformity of colour, size and shape. Their cost was around \$111 Hong Kong Dollars (£11.00p Sterling) so quite good value considering the high cost of essentials like food and drink elsewhere in HongKong!



It did not matter which shop we looked in, most of the fish looked the same with goldfish being mainly twin tails with a few comets and three bubble-eyes. (That's three fish not three-eyed fish). There were hundreds of small water- filled plastic bags hanging in rows to the front of most shops containing mainly male Siamese Fighting Fish - constantly displaying to each other but no females for sale anywhere. The rows of fish shops were occasionally interspersed with shops selling single very young puppies and full-grown cats in smallish cages with the odd glass cage/dry tanks full of patterned mice, chicks and reptiles. I didn't get to ask if the last three were to be sold as pets or were to be sold as food for other animals. What was interesting for me in particular was the size of red and green swordtails in the bags; they were large enough to have been bred in the 1950's and 60's and far more sturdy than ones often seen today at the tropical fish shows. I have included a number of photos of the area, although not as good as I would have liked owing to a little trouble with my camera shutter.



Hundreds of small water-filled plastic bags



OCEAN PARK AND THE NATIONAL GOLDFISH COLLECTION



The second day we manage to visit, using the excellent but crowded underground, Ocean Park where we managed to see amongst other attractions Giant Pandas (who knew they could move around almost running at times, play with a ball, swing on play apparatus and pose for the camera!) So much more rewarding for the visitor than trying to spot the creatures in a cold and damp Scotland. They moved so fast that one could easily imagine that they were actually human athletes dressed up in Panda costumes. Temperatures in Hong Kong at night were down to about 10 degrees centigrade with the daytime in the sun around 17 by early February. The tropical fish, therefore, were having to subsist in cooler temperatures than we would normally keep them back in the UK.



My reason for going to Ocean Park primarily was to see the National collection of Goldfish. The park itself was huge, and fairly quiet as it was a school day, but once through the entrance barrier was fairly relaxed. We passed through the ocean aquarium where there was a fantastic display, at least two stories high with a plastic glass front about a foot thick – very impressive and full of hammer head sharks and giant Rays. The actual goldfish display pavilion was fairly close to the Giant Panda enclosures, dark inside with illuminated aquariums displayed around the room like a secret art gallery. Some of us had previously sent some of our stock to this display as gifts to the people of Hong Kong. These fish having travelled to Hong Kong some years ago as part of an organised trip to Hong Kong by some members of NGPS.

To my surprise some remnants of that earlier shipment were still alive although they had lost most of their early colouration with finnage now outgrowing they body by some measure. This is a common fault in the Bristol Shubunkin when grown in too warm a temperature with restricted feed. I could not find any attendants so just left a few of my Chairman of AMGK cards on top of the tank, hoping for a message on my computer upon my return to the UK – alas nothing has been forthcoming. I had a contact name and number in my address book, but only found out where I had mislaid said book upon my return to England. It was lying on my computer key-board still waiting to be packed into my suitcase for the trip!

Some remnants of that earlier shipment were still alive!



FISH HUNTING QUEST IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

After a few days and a two and a half hour midnight flight we arrived in the Philippines for the long awaited reunion with old friends from my residency in Saudi Arabia back in the 1980's and to visit god children and swim on the Coral reefs whilst island hopping etc., A proper holiday.

The first couple of days were spent swimming amongst the coral reefs found in the turquoise lagoons around the steeply wooded mountain coastline of Coron Island (a forty minute flight from the capital). We hired a boat, cook, pilot and guide for two days with the highlight being shown the only resident fish amongst the drifting shoals - a pair of Clown fish living in the only live soft coral I found after hours of searching. Why the corals looked exhausted and colourless I never found out. Previous fishing practices have involved the use of dynamite in some local waters but this could be just from visitor numbers and their attendant pollution or global warming. I enjoyed myself anyway – great fun and highly recommended. The corals were not a patch on those I had enjoyed exploring for five years in the Red sea off the west coast of Saudi Arabia back in the 1980's where clown fish were found in pairs every few metres or so along the coral coast with many more trying to take over the best spots. That must rank as some of the finest in the world being so pristine and well protected and monitored by the Saudi government.

The Philippines is visually very different from the tall narrow buildings that are the hall mark of central Hong Kong, with the capital Manila comprising three or four-story buildings interspersed with galvanised tin shacks and wood sheets, sometimes a few stories tall with each floor precariously placed on top of an earlier construction -all well inhabited. A lot of the newer shacks that line the pavements were built by refugees from the decimated areas caused by recently active volcanoes that wiped out whole communities. The survivors were told to re-locate by the government, but many chose to make the capital city their home in order to find work. All the city is 'decorated' with miles and miles of intertwining cables attached to timber poles carrying all the electric power from street to street. How they sort out which cable carries who's power will remain a mystery to me.

With the pace of life being much slower than the cities and towns this was much more to my liking

Outside the city and along the coastline the views tell a different story, free of the 24 hour daily hustle and bustle. It displays a very tranquil country side, with acres of rice fields, woodland, Banana plantations dotted with the occasional Nippa hut and family settlements and occasional big humped cow. With the pace of life being much slower than the cities and towns this was much more to my liking. After a day or two climbing up forested mountains, relaxing in natural hot springs under the stars whilst the UK was bathed in snow we organised a trip to Pasay City to the south west of Manila where I was told by Andy, before I went, that there was a Goldfish street similar to that in Hong Kong.

GOLDFISH AT CARTIMAR MARKET PASAY CITY

It took us nearly three hours to cross Manila and travelled to Pasay City to the south west to Cartimar Market. (only a relative few miles but traffic being almost at a standstill from 5.00am to almost midnight every day in Manila – even worse on Fridays when we witnessed the continual Catholic services at the large semi open air Churches dedicated to a myriad of Saints previously unknown to me) but eventually we found it. The majority of the shops were under permanent cover but had a real busy market atmosphere. Shop after shop were displaying a mixture of goldfish and tropicals with the goldfish mainly confined to tanks about two-foot long with most of the tropicals displayed in water filled plastic bags in much the same way as found in Hong Kong.



None of the fish looked stressed although it was difficult to take photographs as the owners, having seen the camera, kept asking me to stop filming. The fact that some of the shops also sold underage puppies and full-grown cats could have been part of it. The animal rights brigade are known to act in most of the Asian countries these days, and continue to try and get their message across, bringing inevitable suspicion of strangers to the otherwise (as I've always found) friendliest nation on earth.

I did not get to find any breeders of fish either cold water or tropical on this trip, but shall make every effort to go back before it gets too late for me to

make the journey - which was an horrendous 24 hours all told one way! Temperatures in the Philippines during my visit were mainly in the 20's during the day with only a little lower at night. The seas were lovely and warm so one could stay in the water without any discomfort, but the day we left the summer came two months early with temperatures rising to 32 degrees with a very humid air quality. It would seem I left just in time. The accompanying photos should give you some idea of how the fish are displayed for selling – but how they manage to keep them alive the way they do is really a mystery. At the back of some shops I could make out a jumble of large diameter pipes that I assumed was some sort of filter system but did not try my luck in asking too many questions whilst even just carrying my camera!

OVERCROWDING - PAYING THE PRICE

OVERCROWDING

Many experienced breeders have been guilty of overcrowding in the past and paid the price with fish not developing properly and losing condition or worse dying.

I for one admit to this short coming but most of us learn from our own mistakes. Goldfish need a lot more space than tropical fish.

These notes are for those who are inspired to breed their own exhibition quality goldfish for the first time. My advice is to just concentrate on one variety, particularly if tank space is limited.

The varieties I have bred during my 33 years of breeding fish include calico and metallic **Orandas**, calico and metallic **Fantails**, lemon **Goldfish**, **Bristol** and **London Shubunkins**. Finally only breeding Bristol and London Shubunkins.

- To be successful breeding exhibition quality fish it is important to obtain the best genes available from the best breeders of your chosen variety. Having said that, about 5 years ago I did spot a very good male London Shubunkin for sale at a local outlet with deep blue and red, which I'm sure went on to enhance my line of London Shubunkins. But I never found a good Bristol Shubunkin in this way.
- After selecting the fry to keep it is recommended that no more than 5 fish are housed in a 3ft x 1ft (900mm x 300mm) tank for the first 6 months to ensure their full potential development. When the fish are 3" (75mm) long this number should be reduced to just 3 fish.
- My breeding tanks are 6ft x 2ft (1800mm x 600mm) and therefore will support 20 fish for the first 6 months. Again when the fish are 75mm long this number is reduced to 12 fish.
- There is no need for the tank water to be more than 10" (250mm) deep. Goldfish will stop growing in a 3ft x 1ft tank for years, only to start growing again when they are given more space, in a pond for example.
- Good husbandry will include regular 25% water changes which includes syphoning fish excretor from the bottom of the tank, which is replaced with mature water at the same temperature as the fry tank. New water should be treated with stress coat. Aeration should always be provided. All my breeding tanks have a clear bottom i.e. no gravel.
- Contrary to the advice given by Tony Roberts at a recent goldfish meeting, regarding never feeding his fish bloodworm, I have no problem feeding bloodworm providing it is stated to be sterilised by gamma irradiation. Otherwise I would not risk feeding it to my fish.
- My selected breeders are fed frozen, adult brine shrimp as part of their diet which I believe helps my fish improve their condition for spawning. I no longer use chopped earthworms for this purpose.
- I have had problems feeding wild gathered daphnia to my fish in the past, as explained in a previous article. Feeding wild gathered daphnia is not without risk - apart from upsetting the land owner if permission is not given in advance!

OVERCROWDING - PAYING THE PRICE

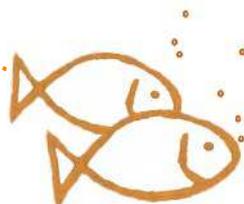
OVERCROWDING

- However I was interested in Tony Roberts' advice regarding cultured pond daphnia in your own garden, which he said was fed with milk. The original stock daphnia should be obtained from a pond that does not contain fish. A cultured daphnia supply is too late for me because my exhibiting days are at an end due to my ongoing breathing problem.
- Since 2012 I have managed to rear my fish without them ever seeing live daphnia. What is important is that this has not stopped my fish being successful at both the GSGB and AMGK open shows. I acknowledge that feeding live daphnia has contributed for years to Tony Roberts' young fish development but the skill of the genetic selection of his breeding stock is the main component for his remarkable success at the open shows with his fish.

Best of luck with your breeding!

Brian Bates
AMGK Member

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



The **2009** Open Show proved to be yet another record year, breaking the 200 barrier with 205 entries. We also added two new classes to the show with the splitting of the Lionhead/Ranchu into their own classes and also introducing the Jikin class. (All having their own Nationwide standard.)

Yet again, **Bob Jones** taking **Best Owner Bred** with his **Metallic Fantail** and **Andrew Barton** winning **Best in Show** with his **Ranchu**.



The **2010** Open Show saw numbers around the 200 mark with all classes well supported.

This year marked the **35th Anniversary since the formation of AMGK** and we were honoured to have the Lord Mayor of Coventry Councillor Jack Harrison as our guest and have him present the awards to the winning exhibitors.

Ian Mildon taking **Best in Show/Best Owner Bred** with his **Common Goldfish**



AMGK MEMBER PROFILE



Bill Galbally (William George Galbally Jr)

PART TWO

Hooked ON TROPICAL FISH

Some of my goldfish tubs were situated beyond the back gate and the Postman used to see them whenever we left the back gate open. He turned out to be Jim Cobden, a very popular fish and bird keeper in Bellingham (SE London) in the 1950's and 60's - most famous for his Velifera mollies that he showed (he kept them in an 8 foot tank) and churned out thousands of emperor tetras for the local pet shops. He implored me for ages to come round and see his tropical fish in his fish house in the back garden - but I was never interested - I was too keen on my cold-water fish.

Eventually I caved in and went round to his house (just around the corner from myself on the Bellingham estate) to have a look. This was some time before my 12th birthday and I was not expecting to be impressed. However, walking into his fish house I found myself in a paradise I could not previously imagine - and I was instantly hooked!

I was besotted by Jim's fish house and my parents got me my first tropical fish tank for my 12th birthday - a week after I started Secondary School at Sedgehill. It was a standard 24x12x12 inch tank (not sure what that is in metric cm's for you younger people, 12.5 imperial or 15 US gallons = 57 litres) This is small but the standard start tank for those days (1968). It was a pressed steel plastic coated tank (white) which in those days was considered superior to the more commonly used angle-iron tanks. All glass tanks were a thing of the future - no one dreamed at that time that a little smidgen of silicone would hold a tank full of water together! I used 2 x 100 watt incandescent light bulbs at first but they turned out to throw out too much heat so had to change them for 60 watts after a few months. In those days the heater and thermostat were separate - I had an internal thermostat but for my second (larger) tank I got an external thermostat.

I got my first set of fish from Jim, as he had connections with the wholesale trade and used to sell fish from his fish house to help pay for the electricity bill. I will never forget the excitement of choosing those fish - the tank had been set up for a week with plants first - that thrived under the extremely strong lighting. An Amazon sword as a centerpiece, and vallisneria, hygrophila, water wisteria, bacopa, and ambulia or cabomba (not sure which now - I prefer ambulia but Jim Cobden was famous for growing cabomba which he used to supply the local aquatic shops with). I think my first tank set up consisted of neon tetras, harlequin rasboras, zebra danios, red wag Xiphophorus swordtails, red platies, black mollies (sphenops), tiger and black ruby barbs, lace and opaline gouramis and of course, 2 pairs of guppies.

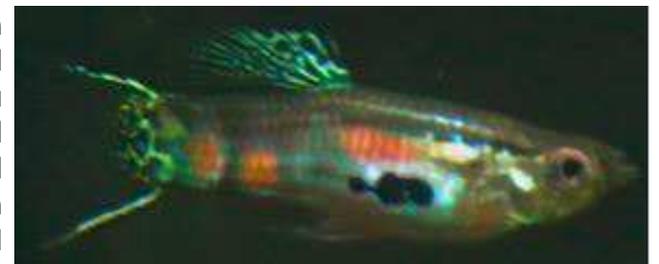
I remember reading from cover to cover every book in the local municipal libraries and also the school library on tropical fish before I got the tank - so I would not be a complete greenhorn (in fact I felt quite the little expert).

AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

Jim Cobden was older than my father and had fought in the war in the RAF in the Near East. He was a well-respected member of the tropical fish community in the UK back then. He was a genial person who was more than willing to share his enthusiasm and unbounded knowledge and I became a disciple of his. He always had fully planted tanks and that helped with the fascination. I still remember the smell of the fish house and the moisture - in later years when I went round in the winter my spectacles would steam up and I could not see anything for ages! Jim used to have a massive and brightly coloured fire eel for which I used to dig for worms in the garden - it ate nothing else and would not even take a tiger worm (brandling) from the compost heap. It was about 18 inches long and used to poke out of its "tunnel" both head & tail. Jim would proudly state that it was worth "a pound an inch" - a fortune in those days!



Guppies back then in the 60's were a vastly different animal from what is on sale in the aquarist shops today. They were relatively small but came in infinite colour variety and patterns and were extremely lively - and hardy. They were everyone's starter fish. I chose a red tailed male with lots of spots, and a blue lyretail - the likes of which I have never seen since. They were prolific and I soon had plenty more. It took me ages to choose them and it turned out that that was the point that Jim Cobden most liked about me. He said that most kids that came round just asked for a pair of fish and then let him get with catching them. Although Jim would always pick out the best available fish, and always ensured a pair - even when egg-layers were chosen - he admired the fact that I always specifically wanted to choose individual fish - even if they were zebra danios. I just could not understand why people would allow someone else to choose their fish for them (and still don't) and Jim told me that although I often stretched his patience, he was really pleased that I was discerning with fish.



I soon grew out of the standard common guppies when the first delta tails started to appear - they were originally developed in the USA but Jim got his from Singapore then Bangkok (via wholesalers). The trouble was, everyone else in the country shared the same fascination and the other varieties of guppies soon disappeared. Gone were the lyretails, topswords, roundtails and pintails - to be entirely replaced by massive deltas. I used to like the snakeskins listed as "Green Cobras" but I grew tired of deltas because they could not swim properly - they were nothing like the extremely lively little fish that took great delight in darting around their females showing off their jewel-like colours - which were intensified in those moments just to impress the intended mates. So I ditched the Deltas (which were pretty weak fish - although they may have looked large, they certainly were not robust or disease resistant! And although there was plenty of tail to display their colours - these were never as intense as on the little fish they had replaced.



AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

So I went back to keeping the originals - or so I thought. Do you think I could find any anywhere? They were totally defunct in all shops and the closest I could now get to them were the German three-quarter black roundtails that Jim Cobden still kept (in the same tank as his fire eel - which seemed to live forever - he also used to have a large spotted puffer fish that he had acclimatised to fresh water which was a very interesting character - he used to shift it from tank to tank so that it could eat all the snails (not the Malayan Burrowing snails that Jim said every tank should contain - to aerate the substrate. He lost that fish by someone known to him stealing it while visiting his fish house while his back was turned!)

So - the little dazzling jewels that were so lively that had helped to hook me into tropical fish were no more. Miss Blay - Chemistry teacher at Sedgehill had 3 tanks of them (green fish, you never see real green now hardly, except on an Endler) but she was an old stick-in-the mud and would not let me have any. They survived all year without a heater - she had incandescent bulbs to light the tank lid and that was all the heat they got - but they absolutely thrived as all 3 tanks were crammed full of guppies. Maybe one day I will be able to recreate them - real green fish - far more intense bottle green than that exhibited by Viennese Emeralds of today.



So - I had to go a fair few years without my beloved lively guppies (it seemed so long then when I was a school kid but was probably only 3-4 years). Then, one day I was in Bradgate Road aquarist shop (Catford) when I saw a brightly coloured (mostly red & white with black spots) little fish swimming around in a tank on its own near the floor. I knelt down to take a closer look - and sure enough, it was an original style male guppy. It had a very large long dorsal fin with an amazing pattern but unfortunately there was no colour in the caudal. The body was

full of spots and splashes of various colours. The proprietor was an old man from Birmingham with a bald head and massive pork chop sideboards (or sideburns) who spoke in a funny Brummie accent. I asked him how much he wanted for it - being prepared to pay whatever price he demanded. He just said - oh that thing - someone brought it in - you can have that for nothing!

So that was the re-igniting of my guppy keeping underway. I went to brick lane and bought six "superba" females for him (they were all adults and probably already gravid) - I discarded all young males from them but kept the young females so that my treasured find could mate with them when mature enough. I moved the superba original females on once I had young females developing. These my male mated with, and I managed to raise females from these litters which again I raised to be mature enough for my fish to mate with. The offspring from this generation were fabulous - some were like their dad, but one in particular had a dorsal fin which had very intense colour of red white and black, and although the colours were not strictly correct, it reminded me of the Union Jack flag! Never seen the like since. But now the fish were breeding true ie no trace at all of any delta tail fish traits such as over large size inducing sluggishness, lack of vitality, and susceptibility to disease. Unfortunately, they did not have much colour or pattern in the caudal either. But they were just like some of the fish from previous decades and I became determined to keep them going. And I succeeded - many of my guppies today are descended from that single fish. In those days I did not have a camera capable of taking a photograph of a fish in a tank, let alone a little dynamic one that was constantly on the move and displaying to his females. But what I did do was draw him. I took a long time over it to get it accurate. Hopefully I still have that drawing somewhere in the attic.



AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

WHAT FISH DO YOU KEEP TODAY?

I keep mostly guppies and most of the guppies that I have are not really "Fancy" ones, but are all descended from that lone fish that I found in Catford around 1976. I do keep and show some "Standard" guppies – see later . I also keep Livebearers - mainly Xiphophorus. I have X sigma and



X. montezuma, with some wild X helleri from Belize (location unknown). I also have some X. helleri guentheri but they are running low! I have some X. helleri red-eyed red crosses (I don't like pure albino fish – they are an aberration). I also have some wild-caught green mollies from Tampa (Florida). I have some wild-caught unidentified Cichlids from Florida (2015). I love catfish and keep various species of Synodontis and Corydoras. I also have a largish dull-eyed Royal Panaque in a tank with guppies and 8 Botia macracantha (I know the scientific name has now changed) - commonly known as Clown Loaches, these are some

of my favourite fish and all are easily identified as individuals (and indeed have names - Big Mama, Belly Spot, Spot (the only clown loach I have ever seen that has an identical, symmetrical spot in the centre of the body on both sides - and I have looked at a lot of clown loaches over the last 50 years) Thick Stripe, Thin Strip, Little Thick Stripe, Back Stripe, and Little Head (just because it is the youngest and smallest).

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!



AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

HOW & WHAT DO YOU FEED YOUR FISH?

I feed Tetramin tropical flake. I also feed FishScience small granules (now made from insect protein) to the larger fish such as Clown loaches, Corys, Barbs and Xiphophorus - and I swear by it - a fabulous food.

I understand all the warnings about feeding live food but I have water butts on my allotment in which I keep daphnia which any fish adore. I supply these with green water from water changes from the conservatory in summer as it is impossible to stop green water developing in many of the tanks - despite competition from vascular plants. At least it gets put to good use - the daphnia grow tremendously fast on it!

I have never had a setup for brine shrimp and as a consequence my fry grow very slowly. I keep almost all of my fry in with the parents. The vegetation means i do not lose them - and I suspect there is a generic background to it too. I have just had a small drop of X. signum and fry are doing well in with the parents in a heavily planted tank (myriophyllum or hornwort - growth of which slows up dramatically during midwinter).

Herman Magoschitz gave me a copious amount of "guppy food" in Vienna this August asking me to try it and then feed back. It is small enough to feed even to fry and all guppies feast on it - they find it scrumptious! The only problem is - I have absolutely no idea what it is or how to get hold of more - I hear it is only available in Germany.

I have used Sak (Czechoslovakian) in the past and found it is very good - especially as you can pick granule size - but it is expensive and also hard to source.

I feed the occasional worm to my Synodontis - especially if I have injured a worm while digging in the garden.

WHAT TYPE OF GUPPIES DO YOU KEEP?

Mostly old-fashioned vigorous types that unfortunately have little caudal colour.

I also keep a few round tails and I have some lovely Viennese Emerald double Swords from Malcolm Short. I have other Double Swords from Europe and I have bottom swords - which are a throwback from Double Swords which is why I consider a bottom sword to be an inferior fish to a Double sword (sorry Alan). I think it is far harder to maintain a strain of Double Swords than bottom swords.

Some of my old-fashioned fish have developed swords - but they are not show quality and would need considerable work to get them to show quality - but I am happy with them as they are. No-one else seems to have them so I am keen to keep them going!

I have been trying to develop my own strain of top-swords from my old fashioned originals - and the results are promising. When I mentioned this out in Vienna at the World Championships, both Alan Bias and Markus Hackl independently gave me some top swords. They are fabulous fish and I intend to combine the American and Austrian fish into one strain. Unfortunately they are throwing off a high percentage of golds (I am a grey fish man - I would certainly NEVER keep albinos - monstrous aberrations are quickly culled in nature). Golds are lovely fish, but I do not think the colour of a wild grey can be bettered. So - it is these fish that I will be concentrating on this year for showing.

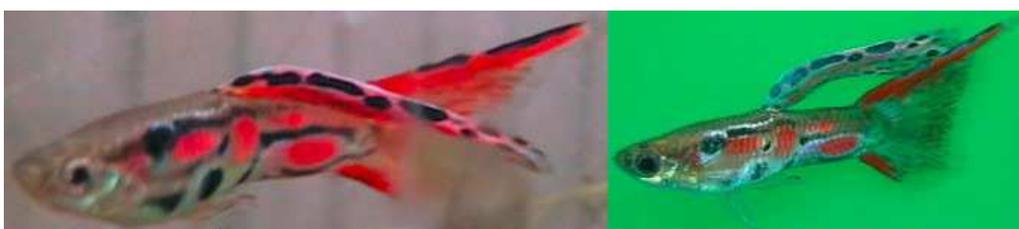
AMGK MEMBER PROFILE

I also purchased some French roundtails in Vienna - they were doing really well with lots of fry but suddenly I lost the lot and am down to 3 small juveniles. I am particularly upset by this as the male was a grey with a particularly striking pattern - I think patterning on a fish is as equally important as colour.



I like top-swords best - because I had some when I was young. They are lively and vigorous and rarer than double or bottom swords.

I also like pintails - because they are such a challenge - but can result in a perfect fish. I greatly admire the people who take up this challenge and maybe I will join in if ever I get my Fish House. The best I have ever seen were in Italy some time back - exhibited by Nicole Thierry - the crazy French woman! She is the best in the world with pintails - no doubt about it. She has kept them going and now all the good strains descend from her fish. However - I have seen a new strain from Asia that is an excellent filigran round-tail line that very rarely throws off an 'aberration' ie an extension to the tail that results in a near-perfect pintail. This strain won the World Championships in Vienna 2016 (where it caused much controversy and accusations - which proved false - of gluing on an extension!). The same strain came 2nd in the World Championships in Vienna in 2017. When I get my fish house I will definitely have pin tails - I recall one of Nicole's winners at the World Championships in Italy in 2009 mesmerised the Russians (only time I have ever heard of the Russians competing at the World Championships) and one of them bought the pair in a bidding war - 150 Euros (£130). A good price for 2009.



Bill Galbally
AMGK
Member

Founding a Strain of Shubunkins

by Johnson H. Hood

First published in the Aquarist and Pondkeeper magazine (Page 150, March 1960) and subsequently in the Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society(NGPS) January 2018 Newsletter

The Shubunkin is a great favourite with coldwater aquarists, and rightly so. It is a hardy variety of goldfish; alert, long-lived and at its best a very beautiful fish rivaling the most exotic of tropical fishes. Unfortunately, it is not easy to produce really outstanding specimens with the regularity one desires, as any breeder will readily testify. Judging by my correspondence I would say there is a definite upsurge of interest in the Shubunkin (after it has been almost decimated by the existence of no less than three show standards!), and it is my desire to assist and foster this interest with some practical advice on the breeding of the Shubunkin drawn from my experiences.

It often happens that the enthusiast visits a show and sees an outstanding specimen. He is enthralled by the grace and beauty of the Shubunkin and is fired with the ambition to breed fish like that specimen. The next step, of course, is to acquire some stock. He can either buy a breeding pair or buy young stock to grow on, and from which he would select his breeders. Very often our Shubunkin enthusiast experiences the first of his disappointments – the fish are nothing like as good as the specimen which caught his imagination. Naturally not; that outstanding specimen is almost certain to be the result of years of patience, careful thought and hard work. However, there is no need for despair; if the fish obtained came from a breeder with good stock the newly purchased fish will have the same “blood” and same potential, and it is almost a certainty that these fish will produce a proportion of youngsters superior to their parents.

When mating Shubunkins the breeder must take into consideration several factors, such as body shape, finnage, colour and pedigree, but as show standards differ on body shape and finnage, I will deal only with colour and pedigree. Often the beginner fondly imagines if he mates two richly mottled fish together he will produce many fine fish at a stroke. It is possible he might produce a few good specimens but my experience has been that if this plan is continued the fry from such a mating policy will progressively become darker and darker through succeeding generations. Again, some breeders use parents showing as much blue as possible. This is also a mistake as blue is a form of black lying deep in the tissues of the fish. The resultant fry are usually very dark or very pale in colour.

Results of Experiments

After experimenting for many years to increase the proportion of good youngsters per spawning, I have come to the conclusion that red is the most important factor. At one time I always followed the practice of insisting on blue being visible in both parents but the proportion of good fish per spawning never increased from year to year; indeed, the fry rarely had the brightness of the parents. Several years ago, I mated a bright-red, black-spotted male, displaying no blue, but of known parentage with a heavily mottled blue female. To my surprise a high percentage of the fry were very good and, not only that, the proportion of blue youngsters increased. Later, I mated two red, black-spotted fish, without visible blue, but of known pedigree, and produced as good a proportion of youngsters displaying blue as from blue x blue cross, but with a brilliance delightfully pleasing. Greatly interested in this result I followed the experiments by crossing this red type with a metallic fish (uncoloured bronze) and also with a matt (a pink coloured fish)) with excellent results.

However, I must stress one point. The fish I used in these spawnings had excellent pedigrees extending over many generations. Since then I have outcrossed to good-type females with deliberate intention of producing red fish. After choosing about eight of the most brilliant-red fish the rest of the spawnings were destroyed. Later these “half-breed” fish were crossed with “full-blood” partners and again excellent results were achieved. It will be noticed that when “half-breed” were used I made sure that the resultant fry were of only 25 percent diluted “blood”. I regard that as being very important. There is little doubt that the strain was revitalised by the introduction of new “blood” and this was proved by later spawnings between brothers and sisters producing large, quick-growing youngsters of amazing vitality with an excellent percentage of richly coloured fish.

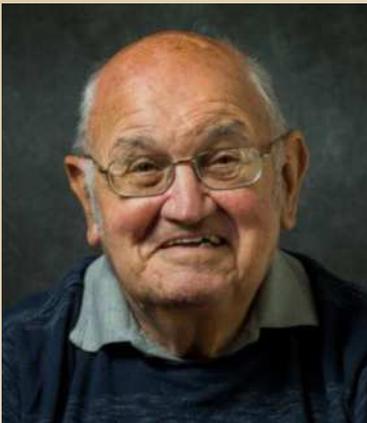
Points to Observe

In conclusion I think the following points are worth stressing and will assist in the founding of a good strain of Shubunkins.

1. Do not make haphazard spawnings between fish of different “blood”.
2. Always work to a plan and keep careful records.
3. Do not, as a policy, mate fish together that are predominantly blue.
4. Make sure that one parent, preferably the male, is rich in red.
5. Mating red to blue is a good plan.
6. Mating a coloured fish with a metallic or a matt can produce excellent results, but it is wise to know the pedigree of such fish beforehand.
7. If your fry take a long time to colour you need an injection of new “blood” – preferably from a strain of red!
8. Do not expect to achieve your “ideal” in one season.
9. If your slim-bodied Shubunkins produce even a few twin-tailed fish, they are too closely inbred.

*Please Note: This article was written by Johnson H. Hood for publication in 1960 and refers to three recognised standards for the Shubunkin as the different societies had their own goldfish standards at that time. The Nationwide Standards were devised and agreed after some ten years of debate during the 1970's by all the various goldfish societies in England and Scotland to rationalise and galvanise the regional 'discrepancies' by the early 1980's. There are now only two standards for shubunkins today, the London and the Bristol. Both are depicted in detail in the current **Nationwide Goldfish Standards of United Kingdom** published by **Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK** (available from your society secretary).*

Pat Davies



Derek Mills

A well known breeder of Calico veiltails died on the 16th of December in hospital. Derek had been suffering from dementia/Alzheimer's for sometime. In early December he was admitted to hospital as Ena was finding him a handful and while he was there he caught an infection which took him down hill rapidly from which he could not recover from.

Derek was a well known breeder of Veils but also bred Pearlies as older fisher folk will know, and he competed with Arthur Marshall, until Arthur died and then soon after Derek stopped doing the Pearscales. Derek could be a grumpy old man when he wanted to be and would try to impress his ideas on to you and if you didn't agree he would get the hump. We had some very good times with him at Hayling Island and those thoughts will be how I will remember him.

Graham Turner

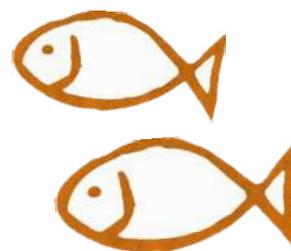
DIARY DATES FOR 2018

Dates for meetings at Binley Hall starting at 1.00pm

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 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 |



SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Membership subscriptions are now due (£12.00); these can either be paid at our next meeting in May or by post to:

Gary Malpas, Treasurer, 15 Rosgill Place, Eastfield Estate, Northampton, NN3 2RQ

ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please send to: **8a Howard Road Stafford ST17 9EW** or email amgkblog@gmail.com

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 | 7752752241 |
| Newsletter/Website Editor | June Pons | 01785 251974 |