

Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers



AQUARAMA

2018

SHANGHAI
CHINA



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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 Report October 2018



We're now nearing the end of the current fish year, with just the AGM to be held on 21st October 2018 to decide the AMGK programme for 2019, whilst reflecting achievements and events of the past year.

New Members

2018 again saw a number of new members join the Society and all have received the customary warm welcome from existing members, at our meetings and shows. I hope that you have found your time with us enjoyable and rewarding and has enriched your own fish hobby, whether you are new to fish keeping or have spent years keeping and breeding fish. Some new members have not yet made one of our meetings but hopefully will make an appearance during 2019. We know that Sunday afternoons doesn't suit everyone. I'm sure that all new members will continue to receive support, encouragement and advice as required. We are all in the society to share knowledge and encourage each other to keep our fish healthy in the best environment and breed our fish to the highest standard year on year. It is understood that some members may only want to keep a few fish without necessarily breeding and rearing future generations but should be able to share the society's group knowledge to the benefit of their more limited set up. It is wonderful that so many of our new members have joined in all our activities with so much enthusiasm, helping with the shows, catering and entering their fish in competitions etc., it all bodes well for the future.

Meetings

Meetings throughout the year continue to be well attended, with young fish presented at this year's owner bred youngsters show in August going on to do well at all the various Society Open Shows throughout the country and the National held this year for the first time in Wyken Community Centre in Coventry.

Chairman's Open Day

Due to Andy's building work still ongoing at his house, it fell to me to have another open day at mine in Telford. We had a sunny day again this year, (someone up there always seems to keep me in the sunshine) and I'd like to thank all those members and friends that made the effort to come along for a day's treat. Next year it is hoped that Andy's home will be ready for an onslaught of visitors so that I can relax and enjoy the day without having to worry if we have enough chairs, food and drink and what happens if it rains, and is the house safe for visitors to walk through with the piles of work related items on every floor (even though I officially retired some three years ago!). Although I did not breed any fish this year, there were still plenty of fish to see, mostly bred last year.

Gratitude to those that work tirelessly all year round in the Background

I'd like to mention, as we always do, the great debt of gratitude we owe to both June and Linda for their respective sterling efforts behind the scenes that really keep the society going from strength to strength. June's Newsletter makes for a fantastic record of all our fish efforts throughout the year, and with the added photographs snapped by Andy at the meetings and shows, reinforces our current knowledge and provides a definitive record of the hobby for those that take up the hobby in future years. The website continues to have many hits and with its connection to Gary and Linda's, continues to entice new members to the society. Our own magazine, The Goldfish Standard can also be found on the website every time it is published together with all back copies.

Linda (and Gary) take on the unenviable task of being the society's first port of call for potential new members and impart much knowledge for those fish keepers throughout the country that just want a bit of advice for their own perceived difficulties.

Last month, following an emailed offer of free show tanks, both Andy and Martyn travelled to London to collect as many tanks as they could carry from the last GSGB open show in its present form. Our thanks go to the GSGB and Andy Green for their generosity in these changing times. This means that we will not necessarily have to restrict entries to our Open Show, or indeed, the National Show (should there be one in 2019)

Website Video and Publication Notes

Laurence has also continued to produce video records that are now accessible to a wider audience and our thanks to Laurence goes without saying for this excellent service to the club. A big thanks to June for putting together the newsletters throughout the year and for Nigel for his generous printing and posting of the newsletter to those members that are not cursed with possessing a computer.

Thoughts regarding the forthcoming AGM

At the AGM, we will, as always, receive a full Financial Report from Gary on the state of the Society's finances and decide what we want to do as a society for next year. We were approached earlier in the year by Yorkshire Brine Shrimp, who kindly arranged for two cases of Brine Shrimp eggs to be delivered (24 tins). The Society's finances are always such that these were able to be paid for by AMGK. Each member that ordered tins and has not already paid their dues should reimburse the Society at the AGM or shortly after.

Notes for the AGM

I have been approached by members during the year, offering ideas for next year that are now appropriate to discuss fully at the AGM. These will be flagged up in the 'Any other business' section and comprise, but not be limited to, the following listed below:-

1. Timing of the AMGK Open Show from June to later in the year to allow for same year bred fish.
2. Review of our continued involvement in the National Show.
3. Consideration of suitability of venue for, both our Open Show and that of the National.
4. Bringing more subject variety into our routine meetings, ensuring that we have a speaker at all our meetings, irrespective of whether we have a table show on the same day.
5. Review of progress on the Butterfly fish breeding and any communication from other societies on the subject.
6. Visits to other folk's fish set ups rather than just those of the president and Chairman.
7. Fish stock selling days.
8. Member's advertising in Newsletter and Website.
9. Request to be able to view all the judging sheets after the fish have been judged and to have a summary/discussion as to how the standard of fish at each show compares to previous shows. This will enable us to not only record the efforts of all exhibitors show by show but could indicate the quality of breeding over time. Previous times C1960's Judges were held to account and were made available for half an hour or so to answer any exhibitor's questions. All certificates should have the points filled in. (Nationwide and AMGK award cards have this facility). This could form part of the general discussion at our first meeting in the new year. This was not done earlier in the year, but I have received a few requests for this to be made so for next year.

Initial Notes from the AGM

A number of points, and suggestions, to improve our future meetings and shows were discussed at the AGM. These will be recorded in the minutes by Gary and Linda when producing the official record of the AGM. However, some of the points in the one to nine list above were raised on the day and the resolutions as appropriate are listed below for convenience.

1. Timing of the AMGK Open Show was discussed and agreed for now to keep the show in June and at the same location as previous years for 2019.
2. Review of our continued involvement in the National Show was undertaken and agreed to support for 2019 and that approaches be made to the other three societies to obtain a greater commitment, to avoid this being viewed as a 'second' AMGK show. A show rule to be considered encouraging all able-bodied exhibitors to empty their own tanks at the end of the day and take on more of the day's basic duties.
3. Consideration of suitability of venue for, both our Open Show and that of the National was given time at the meeting, with a conclusion that for the National the new venue with its ease of access for the majority of visitors was a good choice as it is expected that the show will continue to grow in popularity as more and more members enter the breeding and showing part of the fish keeping hobby in the forthcoming years. Moving our own open show to the venue at Wyken Community Hall to save money on the cost of hire was not discussed but would be considered at the AGM in 2019.

4. Bringing more subject variety into our routine meetings, ensuring that we have a speaker at all our meetings, irrespective of whether we have a table show on the same day etc., was discussed with only one speaker putting themselves forward after the meeting. It is expected that others would name either themselves or volunteer others to contribute to the 2019's meeting calendar at our first meeting in the new year.
5. Review of progress on the Butterfly fish breeding and any communication from other societies on the subject informed the meeting that no response or interest has been forthcoming from any other society at present but that the AMGK will pursue with developing a standard through the three AM-GK breeders already breeding this variety under the sponsorship of Andy (our President and Delegate for the Nationwide Committee).
6. Visits to other folk's fish set ups rather than just those of the President and Chairman was not discussed on the day due to time shortage. This will be left to discuss at further meetings in the New Year.
7. Fish stock selling days continued with a few members bringing surplus stock to sell with donations totalling over fifty pounds towards the Society's funds.
8. Member's advertising in Newsletter was, again, discussed and encouraged with the website being recognised as an important advertisement for the Society and its concomitant increase in new members joining our Society.
9. Request to be able to view all the judging sheets after the fish have been judged and to have a summary/discussion as to how the standard of fish at each show compares to previous shows has been discussed throughout the year, but unfortunately was not given time at the AGM but will be reviewed at our first meeting in the New year.
10. In addition to the above initial notes, it was suggested that our schedules for both the AMGK and National Shows should be modified to include a line for exhibitors to fill in requesting number of tanks of auction fish they would like to book. This was agreed by all as a fantastic idea that would enable us to avoid having to dismantle, clean and re-fill tanks halfway through the auction, when at the National we were inundated with many late entries without warning.

Special thanks have also to go to Linda, Gary, Nigel, Laurence and June

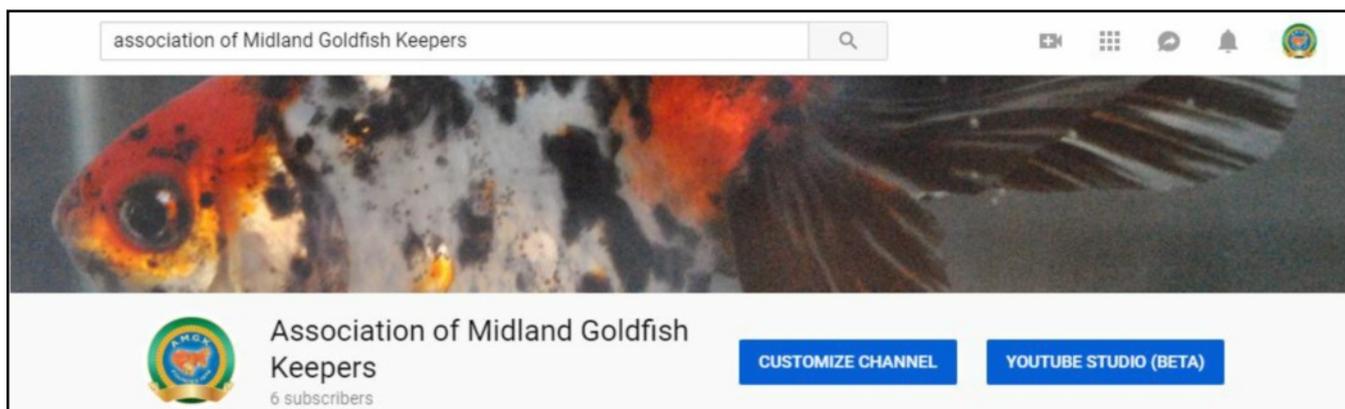
For everything they do for the club day by day. Apart from that already highlighted above, Linda and Gary provide the much appreciated snacks and tea & coffee free to the society (now often supplemented by Jackie's excellent and addictive Cheesy Fish Biscuits - see recipe page 9), Nigel's time and generosity in supplying the printed copy of our newsletter to those members that cannot receive it electronically and Laurence for filming at every opportunity and producing and editing such superb documentation of our current hobby and to June for the great effort required to edit all our ramblings and Andy's superb fish photography to produce such a great magazine four times a year.

Fancy Guppies UK

It is hoped that the Fancy Guppies UK will be joining us again at our Open Show next year and also at the National Fancy Goldfish Open Show. This has yet to be confirmed.

Pat Davies
 AMGK Chairman
 17th October 2018

**YOU CAN FIND ALL VIDEOS ON OUR [YouTube](#) CHANNEL
 AND ALSO AT THE FOOT OF OUR WEBSITE HOME PAGE amgk.co.uk**



Election of Delegates for the



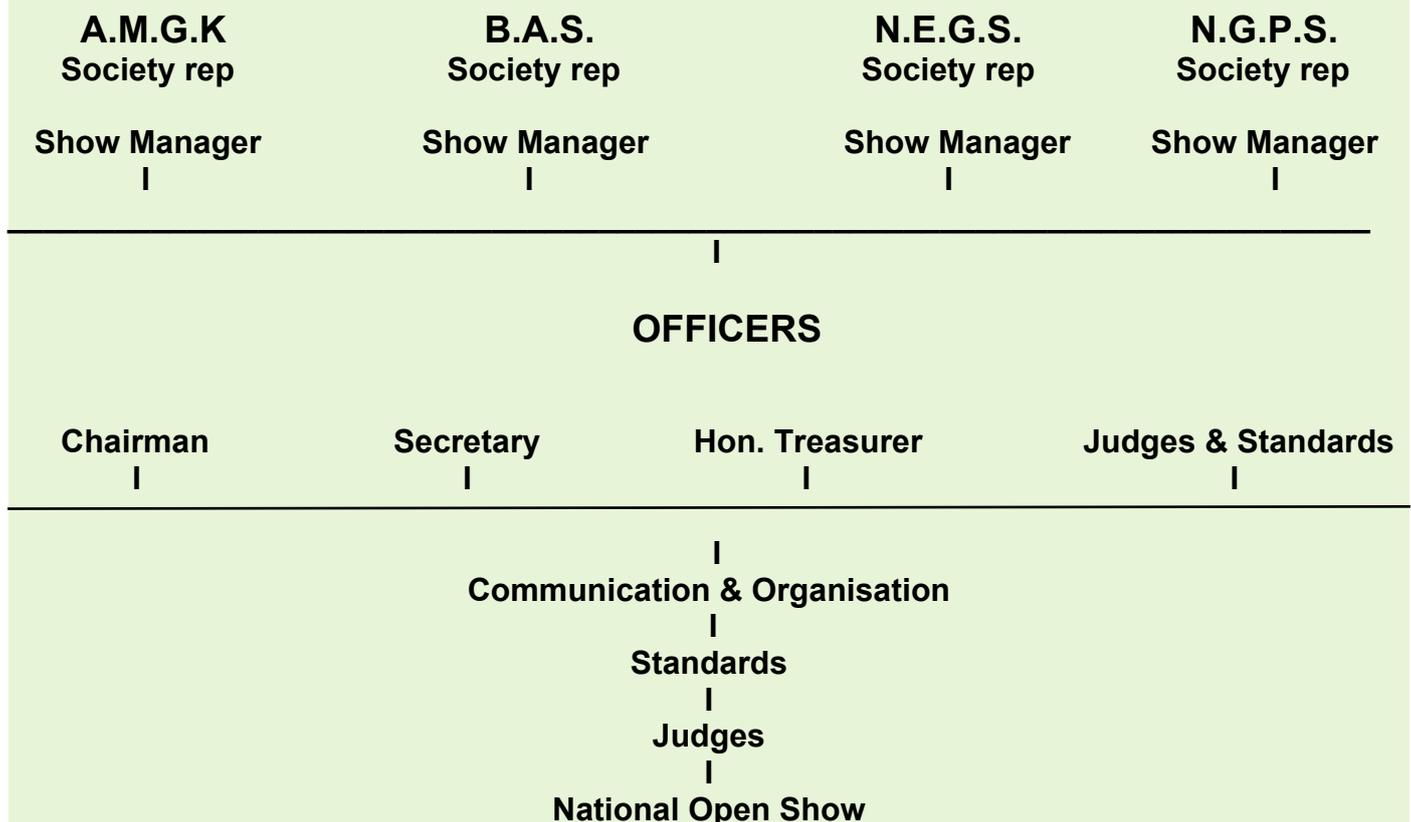
NATIONWIDE Spring Meeting 2019

The role of Nationwide was discussed at the AGM with the following delegates duly elected to represent the AMGK at the next meeting in spring 2019, where the new committee will be decided for the following three years.

Pat Davies has stood down with Phil Riley now filling the vacancy. Therefore our three delegates are:- Andy Barton, Mick Smith and Phil Riley.

A number of our newer members have asked how the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK works therefore we include a copy of the constitution and a schematic of the current structure outlined below as agreed by Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK at a previous meeting.

STRUCTURE



NATIONWIDE: GOLDFISH SOCIETIES UK

Comprising:- Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK); Bristol Aquarists Society (BAS);
North East Goldfish Society (NEGS); Northern Goldfish & Pond Keepers Society (NGPS)



CONSTITUTION

Purpose of the Organisation:

To administer, formulate and review the **Nationwide Goldfish Standards UK**, to promote and organise the annual **National Fancy Goldfish Open Show**, and further assistance and goodwill to affiliated members.

Structure and Management:

1.1 The four founding societies comprising:- Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK), Bristol Aquarist's Society (BAS), North East Goldfish Society (NEGS) & Northern Goldfish and Pond keepers Society (NGPS)., being equal custodians of the organisation.

1.2 The administrative body of the organisation shall be known as 'The Board' comprising three representative 'Officers' elected from within each of the founding Societies. One 'Officer' from each society will be a 'Principal Officer' and will be the main representative for their society. In addition, one principle officer shall be elected as Chairman with an additional officer from the Chairman's society being put forward for the board. The other three principle officers, one from each society, will be elected to one of the following specific positions; Secretary, Hon.Treasurer and Standards/Judges.

1.3 "The Board" shall manage the organisation.

1.4 The review of existing and formulation of new standards shall be carried out to agreed protocols before being submitted to The Judges and Standards Committee for final approval.

Aims and Objectives:-

2.1 The organisation shall be known as: Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK.

2.2 The Aim of the organisation is to bring together specialist Goldfish Clubs and enthusiasts, in order to promote the general and specialist culture of the different varieties of Goldfish. To keep, breed and exhibit along with providing a standard, trained judges and endorsing the staging of shows around the country, concluding with the National Fancy Goldfish Open Show to be held annually.

2.3 The founding and member societies, have a duty to acknowledge and uphold the excellence of the established written standards, protecting the continuity, progress and preservation of all these varieties.

2.4 The main structure of the organisation has been agreed and established by the members of the founding societies comprising A.M.G.K., B.A.S., N.E.G.S., N.G.P.S.

2.5 Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK shall remain independent of all commercial organisations.

2.6 General and show accounts, to be presented annually.

2.7 All members are to be treated equally and without prejudice.

2.8 Founding and member societies are required to uphold the values of the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK organisation and its standards whenever possible. All participating societies are required to share the workload of the National Show. In addition, the founding societies are responsible for the organisation in general.

2.9 Review of the standards will be considered when the need arises, the formulation of any new standards are to be in line with written protocol for establishing a standard.

2.10 Any changes to this organisation can only be made with the agreement of the founding societies.

2.11 Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK is a “not for profit” organisation. Money acquired through staging of the National Show will be kept to a figure to be agreed by the founding societies to ensure the smooth running of the National Show with any agreed surplus being distributed to the founding societies in equal measure.

2.12 If a society or individual is found to have brought the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK into disrepute they may face any sanction deemed appropriate by the Board.

2.13 Copyright Standards and Constitution is vested with the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK.

Formulated January 2016

What is important to note about the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK that it is a part of all the societies that judge their fish to the Nationwide Standards, it is not superior nor inferior to each of the societies. It is just the mechanism designed to galvanise the thought process of the standards and provide a recognised link between all the societies, when considering any new standards for new varieties that are bred by society members and any alterations that might be considered for existing variety standards. All the four societies remain autonomous.



New AMGK Vice Chairman

At the AGM we welcomed, by unanimous vote, Heather Carrier to her new role as Vice Chairman.

Heather has been a very enthusiastic member of the society over the years she has been with us, getting stuck in from day one on a variety of chores such as helping at the open show auctions, persuading members to buy raffle tickets, setting out the room for meetings, assembling and dismantling the open show staging and contributing to the breeding programme of the Butterfly Goldfish.

Heather has brought a wealth of knowledge to the club and is full of ideas for the future. On a personal note, it would seem that we may not be able to put off the Curse of Facebook for much longer!!!. The time is swiftly approaching when our older members of the Society will have to consider putting away our quill pens and further embrace the electronic age if we are truly to reach out to a younger generation to help our society to continue to thrive as it has done, so excellently, in recent years.

Heather is a great example of the quality of membership with whom the society is blessed and it is hoped that Heather is only the first of many that will offer their services for the more constitutional roles in the Society as committee members start to think about 'retirement' in the years ahead.

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Mick Smith, for many years (over 20) has been key in his role as Open Show Secretary ensuring that schedules went out to all those that wanted to enter fish, sorting out the show layout, ably assisted by June and preparing all the award cards and trophies etc., (only passing the baton onto Linda in the last three years) and lately running an effective show auction aided by Gary. We all owe Mick a great debt of gratitude for all the hard work put in over many years and his wisdom through the years especially as a delegate for the Nationwide when refinement of the Standards was meticulously undertaken up to their eventual completion in 2016.

Although retiring from his latest role as Vice Chairman Mick will, no doubt, continue to help with the staging of our regular table shows and with the auctions at our Open Show and the National.

Very few of us get to leave our Society when age prevents us from being as active as we once were, but it would seem that fish keeping and breeding becomes hard wired in our brains and permanently infiltrates our DNA! Luckily, our Society looks set to continue to give us all pleasure and encouragement as it develops and expands its influence in the many years to come.

Pat Davies
Chairman



Cheese Biscuits Recipe

I thought that as people really liked my cheese biscuits I would publish the recipe in the next newsletter, especially with Christmas coming up.

Jackie Pedley

100g plain flour
100g salted butter (real butter not spread!) at room temperature.
50g grated parmesan cheese (and extra for the top of the biscuits)
50g grated cheddar cheese
1 heaped teaspoon of mustard powder
pinch of salt
1 egg beaten

1. If using a blender or similar, cut the butter into small squares for easier blending. Combine in a mixing bowl Flour, Butter, Parmesan, Cheddar, salt and mustard powder.
2. Blend to a soft dough and chill in a plastic bag or cling film for 30 minutes.
3. Roll out the dough to about 4 mm thickness and cut out the biscuits using a cutter of your choice (mine is a fish shape)
4. Place on a non stick baking tray (don't use oil as they will be too greasy).
5. Then brush the top of the biscuits with beaten egg and sprinkle some grated parmesan or cheddar on the top of them.
6. Bake at 200 C until light golden brown (so keep checking them as times vary)!!

Enjoy!

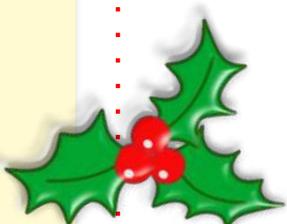
**THE
COMMITTEE**

**WOULD
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**ALL OUR
MEMBERS**

**A VERY
MERRY** 
CHRISTMAS

**AND A
FABULOUSLY
FISHY**

NEW YEAR! 

AQUARAMA 2018 Shanghai China

by Ian Mildon

Once again I was very privileged to be invited to Aquarama to be a judge in the Worldwide Goldfish Competition.

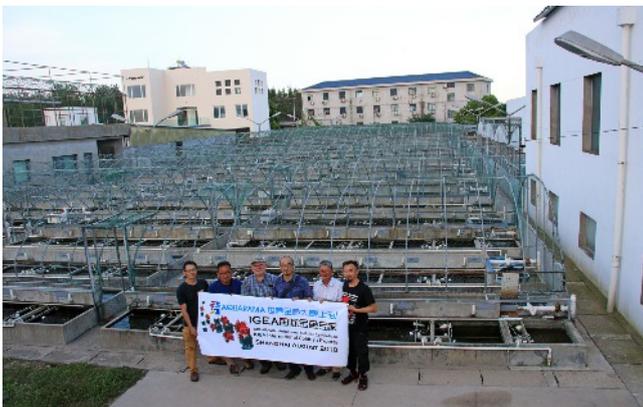
I was to be a part of a team of international judges mainly from South East Asia. Patrick Tan from Malaysia could not make it due to health reasons and Kris Widjojo from Indonesia pulled out at the last minute due to business commitments. This left Alvin Lim and Ng Wee Yap from Singapore, Shimada Teruya from Japan and Tian Shanxue from China and of course the senior judge Louis Chan also from China. Louis also runs the Tung Hoi Goldfish farms in China. Louis was also our host for three days in conjunction with the organizing committee. Louis was a wonderful host. He looked after the Judges and me in particular very well.

Monday 20th August at 9am I was picked up at Pu Dong airport after a ten and a half hour flight from London Heathrow. A driver from Tung Hoi fish farm came to meet me along with Alvin Lim who is a great friend and also a good interpreter. Tung Hoi fish farm is only ten minutes from the airport. On arrival Alvin gave me a basic guided tour showing me the filter beds that treat river water before it is circulated around the farm. Louis and Yap joined us and we had a general discussion (sounds like a BAS meeting) with Alvin and Yap taking it in turns to interpret for me. We were taken to a nearby hotel for lunch where Shimada Teruya and Tian Shanxue joined us as their flights from Japan and Beijing arrived.

In the afternoon a formal meeting took place between the six judges and included Kris Widjojo in Indonesia via WeChat. The object was to amend the scouring on the judging sheets; this was achieved with relative ease considering the language barriers. This meeting took place in Louis' office and trophy room, it is full of trophies and Goldfish related memorabilia including an NGPS key fob.



Louis in his Trophy Room



A banner was produced with the logo and name of the International Goldfish Expert Association IGEA. Many photographs were taken with the judges holding this banner. The judges from East Asia have been saying they are members of the IGEA for just over two years but this was to be the first public debut. I must thank Alvin for using his photograph.

Launch of the International Goldfish Expert Association at Tung Hoi L to R, Ng Wee Yap, Shimada Teruya, Ian Mildon, Louis Chan, Alvin Lim and Tian Shanxue.



When the meeting ended we had a comprehensive tour of the fish farm conducted by Louis. Fish here are mainly of pet shop quality although there were some high grade breeding stock. No space was wasted as the roofs of the packing shed and office block were covered with concrete ponds.

Judges and ponds on roof of office



Goldfish



Pearlscales



Wakin



Wakin

Early evening we were driven into Shanghai, The hotel was in a suburb but only one and a half miles from the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC).

Next to the hotel was a large shopping complex with many restaurants, we were taken to one of these where the other judges were dining. These were judges for Discus, Bettas, Guppies, Arawana and Catfish.

We arrived at the hotel at 10pm Chinese time 3pm BST I had been up 33 hours apart from a couple of hours rough sleep on the plane, I was shattered.

Lunch and dinner gave great entertainment to my fellow diners as I tried to master the use of chopsticks.

AQUARAMA 2018 Shanghai China

Tuesday 21st Judging day, yes all day. We left the hotel in a deluge of rain to travel to the exhibition centre. The fish were benched the night before and were in two foot tanks with a foam filters. However the traders were still setting up their stalls so there was noise and hustle and bustle going on, loading bay doors to the hall were open, back to the rain it was a lot cooler whilst it was raining especially as the air conditioning would not be turned until the exhibition was open to the public. There were seven classes Ranchu, Pearlscale, Oranda, Dragon Eye Ryukin, Butterfly and Open Any Fancy Variety.

Firstly judges were given coloured stickers, mine was orange. We looked at each class and had to select three fish we thought had potential from each class and placed our sticker appropriately. This could have resulted in fifteen fish being selected but several judges elected the same fish so the number selected averaged six or seven.

The fish with stickers on their tanks went on to round two of the judging, this time they were pointed. Five judges pointed every class so each class was judged five times. The scores were then put onto a spread sheet the lowest score was dropped and the highest score was dropped and then the average of the remaining scores was taken for each category was worked out, This then decided the winning positions. Some fish ended up with the same number of points so the judges led by Louis re-examined these fish. Each judge arguing which fish he preferred until there was a majority to select a winning fish.

Then there was round three of the judging to select the special awards. This was achieved by the judges working together debating which fish should win. Special awards were Grand Champion, Silver Champion, Bronze Champion, Champion, First runner-up and second Runner-up.

Grand Champion received 5000 Yuan about £600, Silver Champion 3000 Yuan about £360 and Bronze Champion 2000 Yuan about £240.

Judging over, time to relax. The banner for the International Goldfish Expert Association IGEA was produced again and more photographs of the judges were taken holding this banner in front of the Goldfish show bench.

Gold, Silver and Bronze was awarded to each class winner, these were presented at the end of the day with the judges taking it in turns to present these awards.

Earlier in the day the judges were given an invitation to attend a VIP Cocktail and Dinner party at the Kerry hotel which is next to the exhibition centre. Dress code Black Tie. Not that I took a black tie or suite to China. We never even had time for a wash and brush up after our day of judging. There were at least five hundred people at this event, many presentations and speeches took place during the evening and also some song and dance shows. The meal itself lasted about three hours with about ten courses with crab and lobster on the menu also a course of Pigs intestine, what a contrast.

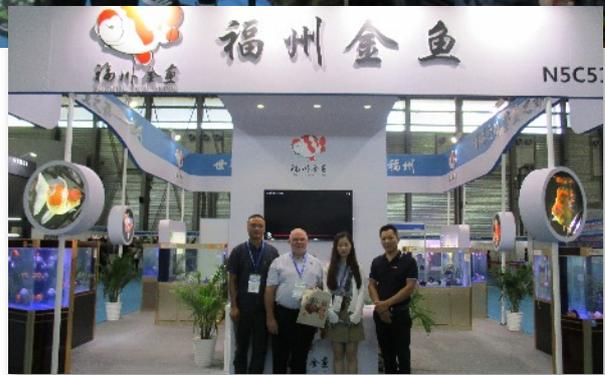
Grand Gala Dinner



SHOW HALL



Alvin Lim with Mr Wang Aimin the top fish breeder from Fuzhou, China



Fuzhou Goldfish Stand



Traders Tank



Dragon Fish



Butterfly



Ryukin



Pompon



Ranchu



Oranda



Oranda

AQUARAMA 2018 Shanghai China

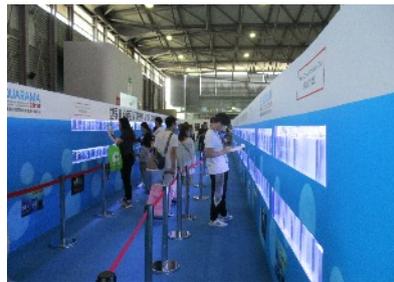
Wednesday 22nd August. The exhibition is open to trade people only on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning and the Public Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Wednesday started with the official opening ceremony, various people gave speeches and then they declared the event open. The Judges were invited on stage and presented with an engraved glass plaque for their effort. Then the Grand Champion Goldfish winner was presented with his award. I was honoured to be asked to present this.

The rest of the morning I enjoyed looking round the other varieties of fish on display also many of the trade stands had some interesting displays of fish, frogs and equipment.



Modern goldfish bowl



How many Guppies?



Trouble with frogs!

I was introduced to several Goldfish Masters and had a long chat to the people on the Fuzhou Goldfish stall who I had met six years ago when I visited the First International Goldfish Competition in 2012.

At 2pm I gave a talk to about two dozen people (I was glad it was not two hundred). I was asked to give a view of keeping Goldfish in Europe, but I kept it to the United Kingdom. I started by explaining my involvement in the hobby showing pictures of my set up, The origin of the Bristol Shubunkin and the foundation of the Bristol Aquarists Society also the other society's in the UK. I also covered the development of the Nationwide Standards and explained that the hobbyist control the Goldfish scene in the UK unlike China where commercial breeders control the scene. The talk went very well until my interpreter Shena was asked to translate a very technical question from a Pearlscale breeder. Never mind. The talk lasted about half an hour and the rest of the afternoon gave me more time to enjoy the rest of the exhibition.

In the evening Louis Chan in his thanks to the Judges took us to Jesse Restaurant, a very nice traditional restaurant in the old part of Shanghai only thirty covers with three sittings a night, ours was the last at 9pm. We arrived twenty minutes early and waited on the pavement our order was taken whilst outside so the first course of our meal was ready as we sat down. This was a traditional Chinese meal with many course's, luckily by now I had re-mastered the use of chopsticks and could even pick up peanuts.



Fine Dining

After the meal we were taken to the Bund to see the Shanghai tower and many other buildings that are all lit up until lights out at 11pm, although they are still well lit after that time.

AQUARAMA 2018 Shanghai China

Thursday 23rd August. Most of the other judges went home today as the official invitation period and free accommodation had come to an end. I had already decided to stay another three nights, firstly to do some sightseeing, secondly Shanghai is a long way to go for just three nights and thirdly there was a fish farm tour on the Saturday and from past experience it was always a good day out. More on the farm tour later.



Buddhist Temple

During the exhibition three other members from the Vermillion Goldfish Club of Singapore had arrived to visit Aquarama they were Alex Ng, Eng Seng and Sam Hui, Eng and Sam had also brought their partners.

The Vermillion group and I had a day in Shanghai visiting a Temple and a recreated tourist area of old Shanghai.

We then walked to the Bund and arrived there at 6.30pm. The Bund was absolutely crowded with people waiting for the lights to be switched on at 7pm. As the buildings were lit up we were treated to a fantastic light show. There were also lots of river cruise boats lit up like carnival floats cruising by.

Friday Alvin Lim left for Singapore and I was treated to a visit of the Yu Yuan Gardens, a series of Koi ponds old houses and temples/meeting rooms rockery's and bonsai trees.

Friday evening I was taken to a Karaoke bar, totally mind blowing, dozens of rooms some holding twelve people others could hold fifty, the glitz and the decor was fantastic. I did not do much singing as most of the songs were from China and I cannot read Chinese, There were a few Country and western songs that I growled my way through. At the end of the evening I thanked the guys from Singapore for their hospitality and said my goodbyes as they were leaving for Singapore on Saturday morning.



Yu Yuan Gardens

Saturday morning we assembled outside the hotel waiting for our transport to take us to four fish farms. To my surprise there were only a dozen guests and a small executive coach was provided for our transport. In the past there were two or three 52 seater coaches full of visitors. On the coach I met Jodi-Lea Matheson and her friend Jeff from Australia they were Betta Judges, Jodi-Lea also imports Betta's and Goldfish into Australia and has also become a member of the Bristol Aquarists Society.

The first two farms visited were breeding Discus, The fish were housed in large warehouse type buildings with large concrete ponds to grow the fish on and nursery rooms full of glass tanks where the breeding pairs were kept and the young fry raised to about 2.5 cm or an inch in old money.



Indoor ponds to raise Discus



Discus fry tanks

The third farm was Goldfish. The Hengfeng Ornamental fish farm. They specialized in Orandas, Red Caps, Black goldfish, Calico Lionheads and Bubble eyes they also had ponds of small tropical fish like barbs.



General view of fish farm



Hengfeng Ornamental Fish Farm



Fish waiting to be packed



Bag of fish ready for posting after being placed in polystyrene box

This farm was a direct exporter and fish were waiting to be packed. They also had a side line of sending fish by post within China. They had special bags to contain a few fish, water and fish were added to the bag and then the bag was heat sealed. The bag contained a small valve and the bag was then inflated with oxygen. Very strong - the proprietor then stood on an inflated bag to prove it could support his weight. The bag was then placed in a polystyrene box and posted to the customer.

The fourth and final farm was Tung Hoi where I had spent my first day, it was nice to revisit this farm as you cannot take everything in on one visit. Louis Chan was not there today but he had arranged for a young lady with good English to take the guided tour this went down well with the other visitors.

Ian Mildon
BAS

New AMGK Vice Chairman

I was honoured to be recently appointed Vice Chairman at our recent AGM, so I thought I would tell you all a little about myself.

I live in Leicester but was born and raised in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. I have been keeping fish of some description for most of my life. It all started when I was a very little girl, nearly 50 years ago, my Mother and Father took myself and my three sisters to the local fair and of course we all came back with a goldfish each. We didn't even have a fish tank, so in the bath they went overnight. Next day myself and Dad went down to the local aquarium shop (where I understand that Andrew Barton worked for a while) and bought a very small fish tank, nowhere near adequate in size, but we didn't know any better in those days. Eventually, as you would expect, they all died one by one. After that we had a small pond in the garden and that was the beginning of my love for fish.



I currently have two greenhouses, one being a small 6ft x 4ft and a larger one 10ft x 8ft. The small greenhouse has 6 fish tanks in there and the large one houses my Tosakin pond and a couple of other tanks housing Wakin and some baby Demekin.

The large greenhouse was going to be one side for fish tanks only, but my other hobby of tropical plants took over a bit and I needed to scale the tanks down to house the tropical plants over winter. Most of my tanks have external canister filters on them, except the Tosakin and fry tanks that have sponge filters. Next year I hope to concentrate on breeding Tosakin and Butterfly.

I have added one or two photos of my set-ups. I also run a Facebook group called Leicester Fancy Goldfish, with over 1000 members and I hope shortly to start a Facebook group for the AMGK.



Heather Carrier
Vice Chairman



The Season of Recovery

Why have I used this title?

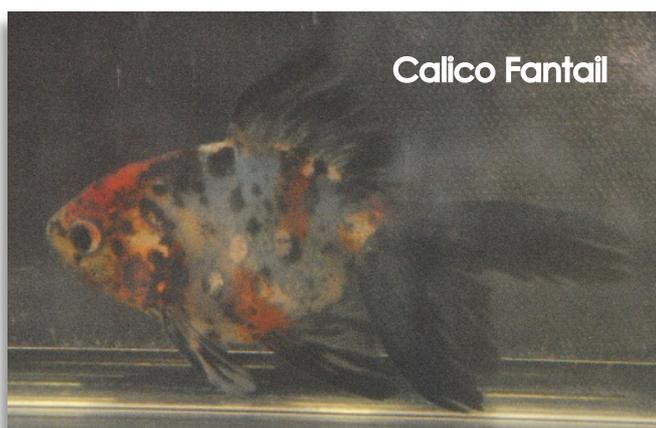
Well it's because, as those of you who can remember back to this time in 2017 well know, I was having a horrid time with a chemical in the mains water supply called chloramines, which caused an awful lot of losses amongst my fish stocks that were kept in the greenhouse.

A particularly devastating time for myself, considering the types and quality of the fish.

However, not being the sort of person to be easily defeated and with the advice gained at the club's meetings and some deep conversations between fellow fish keepers, I set about getting on top of the situation with a change in set-up and also a change in the way the fresh water was treated when it was to become part of the water changes.

The first big test was for the previous years baby fish that had survived and grown on to adult size. These were entered into the Bristol Show, where to my surprise, one of the fish won Best in Section B and I also achieved Firsts in three other classes as well.

A real step in the right direction!



Calico Fantail

This was coupled with the selling of surplus stock, which was the first time in twelve months that I had sold any fish but I had to ensure that they were fit and healthy first and my problems with chloramines were behind me.

Then I entered the Northern Show where again I had a successful day, coming home with several First places but the BIG TEST was yet to come.

All through the spring and summer I had set the seemingly impossible task of producing as many good quality baby fish as possible.

All this was going on while I was trying to build a garage and conservatory onto the side/rear of the house - I must have been mad! Still, it was absolutely imperative in my mind that I replaced as much of my stock as possible, so that I could continue with my strains of fish.

Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers



PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES

By post to:

June Pons, 8a Howard Road, Stafford, ST17 9EW

or by email to:

amgkblog@gmail.com



The Season of Recovery

My goal was to show as many different types of baby fish as possible, to the highest standard, at the Nationwide National Fancy Goldfish Show and my hard work was not to go unrewarded.

By the end of a very long day I had been awarded seven Firsts for my baby goldfish which was a fantastic reward for such a lot of hard work!

Now the challenge is to grow the baby fish onto adults ready for the 2019 season, when it is hoped that I can complete the recovery which was caused by the chloramines and continue to produce many more quality goldfish.

1. **Metallic Fantail Bred 2018**
2. **Metallic Veiltail Bred 2018**
3. **Moor Bred 2018**
4. **Team of Four London Shubunkins Bred 2018**
5. **Team of Four Metallic Fantails Bred 2018**
6. **Team of Four Metallic Veiltails Bred 2018**
7. **Team of Four AOV With Standard Bred 2018**

Andrew Barton

President



DIARY DATES

FOR 2019

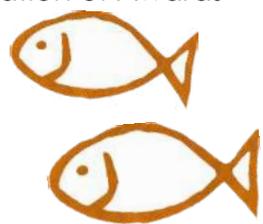


Dates for meetings at Binley Hall starting at 1.00pm

Sunday 10th March	1.00pm - 5.00pm (Subject & speaker to be agreed)
Sunday 12th May	1.00pm - 5.00pm Adult Fish Show (Speaker to be agreed)
Sunday 18th August	1.00pm - 5.00pm Baby Fish Table Show Bred 2019 (Speaker to be agreed)
Sunday 20th October	1.00pm - 5.00pm AGM & Presentation of Awards

Other dates for 2019

Saturday 29th June	AMGK Open Show
Saturday 20th July	NEGS Open Show - TO BE CONFIRMED BY NEGS
Sunday 28th July	AMGK President's Fish Houses & Garden Open Day 10.00am onwards
Sunday 1st September	BAS Open Show
Saturday 14th September	NGPS Open Show
Saturday 5th October	National Fancy Goldfish Open Show



ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

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Vice Chairman	Heather Carrier	07549 526622
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Treasurer	Gary Malpas	01604 451515
Open Show Manager	Andrew Barton	01933 222642
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