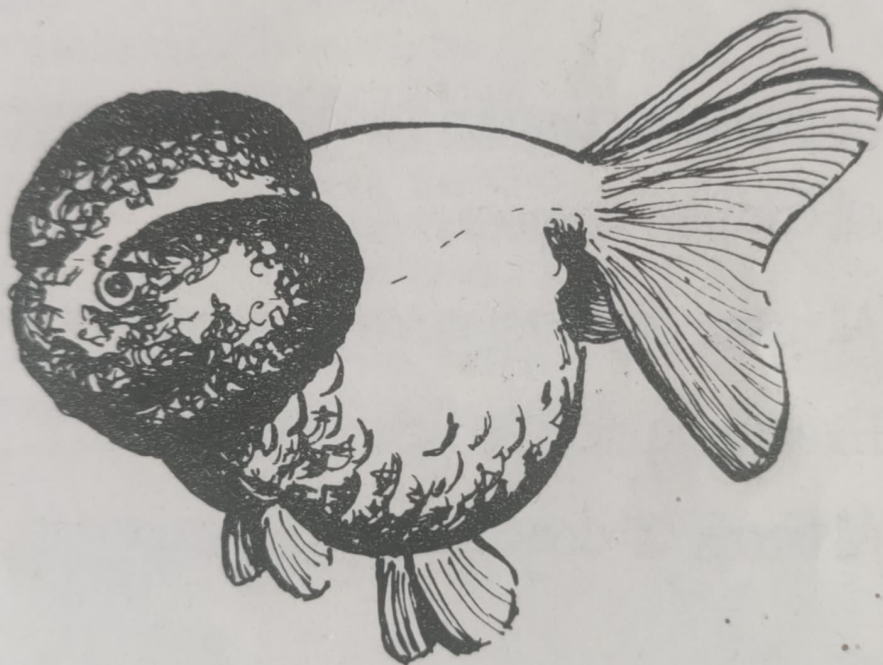


AMGK

NEWSLETTER



Association of
Midland Goldfish Keepers
(Founded 1974)

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ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND GOLDFISH KEEPERS

AMGK COMMITTEE - 1986

At the AMGK Annual General Meeting held at Foleshill Community Centre on Sunday 10th November 1985 the following members were elected to the Committee.

In welcoming new officers thanks are due to all members of the 1985 Committee for their hard work throughout the year.

PRESIDENT	Jim Amos
Vice-Presidents	Ivor Purdy Norman Giles
Chairman	Dave Southworth
Vice-Chairman	Andrew Barton
Secretary	Pamela Ratcliffe
Treasurer	Trevor Gray
Show Secretary	Elaine Edmunds
P.R. Officer	Stephen Smith
Lay Member	Malcolm Hallows

WINTER 1985/6

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMGK NEWSLETTER are always welcome, from members, non-members, and sponsors alike, on any subject related to fishkeeping and which may be of interest to coldwater fishkeepers in particular. Contributions and correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, AMGK Newsletter, "Kingyo" 112 Gorleston Road, Birmingham B14 4NP.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO AMGK MEMBERS AND FELLOW FISHKEEPERS
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO AMGK MEMBERS AND FELLOW FISHKEEPERS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dave Southworth

FIRSTLY, I must apologise for my absence at this year's AGM. As you may have heard, the entire Southworth family was smitten by the dreaded 'flu bug. So here in writing is the report I would have given you on 10th November:

WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

I think this year must be one of the shortest on record, because it doesn't seem more than a few weeks since I was writing my report for 1984!

Looking back over 1985, we have had a busy year. We have "flown the flag" at Stoneleigh, Baginton, Birmingham Library and on local Midlands radio (now, I hear, TV as well!). We have as a result gained a number of new members to swell our previously diminished ranks. I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming you all.

The AMGK Newsletter is also growing every issue; but please do help our Editor to maintain and better our Newsletter by sending him any articles, quizzes, cartoons, etc. Contributions from the membership in general have been lacking somewhat over the past 12 months (of this I feel I am as guilty as anyone for not contributing).

Table shows this year have seen a large turnout of quality fish. So much so that the judges have really been put to the task - Perhaps it will soon be time to "spread our fins" to a larger show, who knows?

Overall, it seems to have been a good year for the Association. Many, many thanks to everyone for the support they have given to both myself and the Committee in the past year.

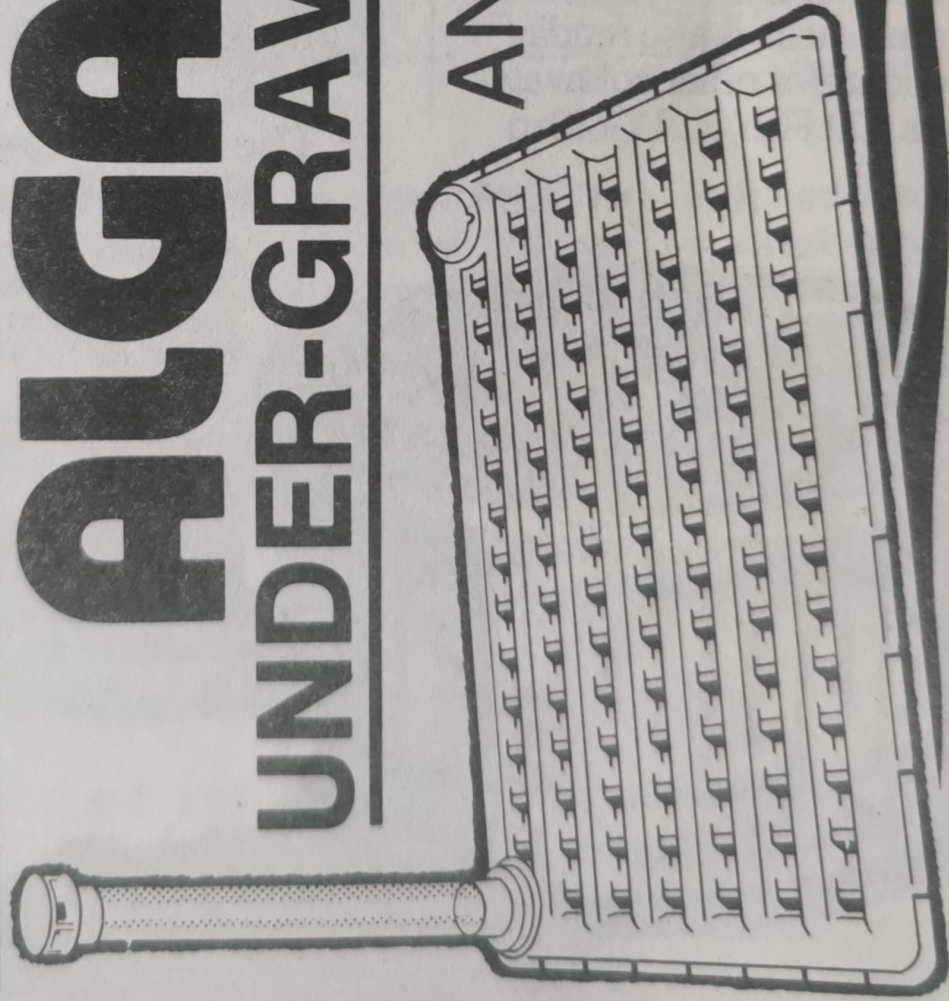
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aquarian

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Cont'd from p.4. →

I feel I must thank Personally the tea ladies as no-one knows more than Annette and myself just how welcome that first cup of tea is on Sunday afternoon. Thank you once again, and thank you to the two gentleman who have kindly volunteered to be our new "tea-Persons".

Also, I must thank all officers of the Committee for their hard work (a lot of which is behind the scenes and never fully appreciated) and welcome new officers.

My last task of 1985 is a small one but important all the same: to wish you all A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

See you all in 1986. Best wishes, Dave.

PUBLICITY REPORT - 1986

Stephen J. Smith

EMBARKING UPON our second decade, AMGK has enjoyed Probably its most successful year yet in bringing its existence to the attention of the Public in general and to fellow coldwater fishkeepers in particular.

The main theme of the Publicity campaign was Participation in a number of Public events throughout the year:

FEB 16-24 BOAT & CARAVAN SHOW - National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (In conjunction with SHIRLEY AQUATICS).

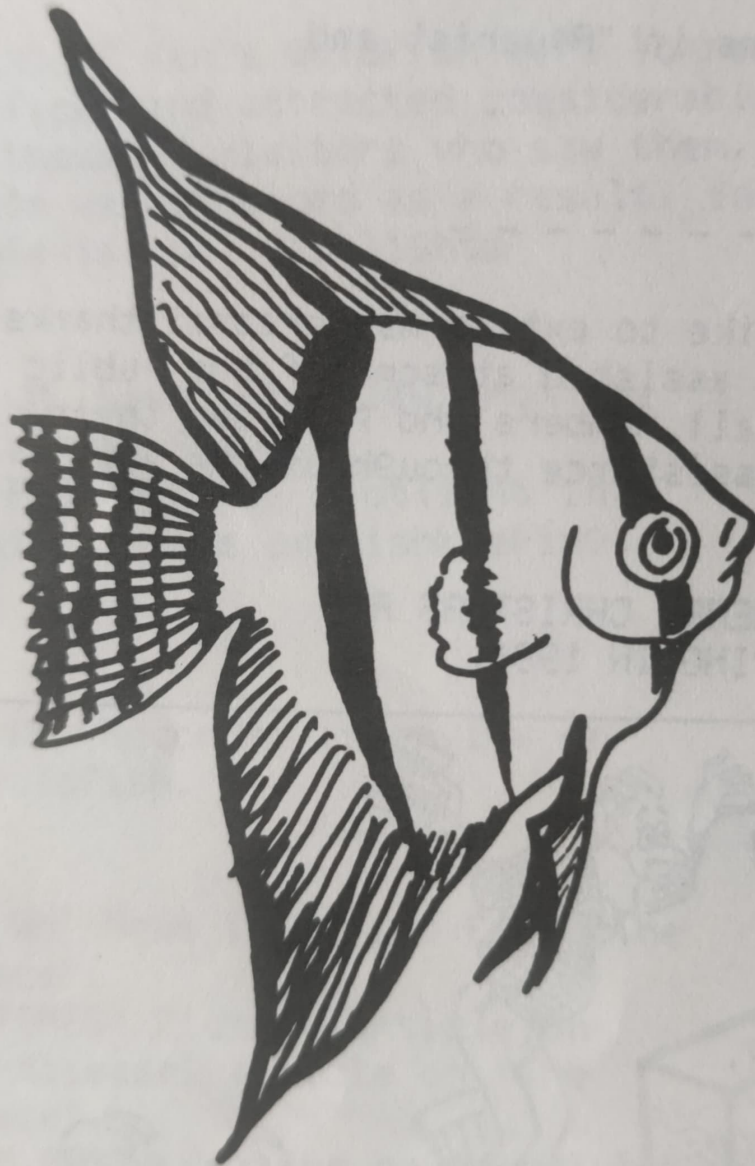
MAY 26-27 NATIONAL PET SHOW - Stoneleigh, Warks.

JUL 29 MIDLAND KOI ASSN OPEN SHOW - Baginton, nr Coventry.

SEP 30-OCT 24 WORLD OF WATER: "THE WATER PALACE" - Birmingham Central Library.

Cont'd overleaf →

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Colin Whittock.

"We got the new design through with a bit of help from the Goldfish Keepers' Association!"

SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pamela Ratcliffe

There has been a splendid turnout on the show benches this year with a vast number of excellent specimens being exhibited. The adult show in May had a total of 27 exhibits and gave an opportunity for novice Judges to test their skills under the watchful eyes of Tommy Sutton Snr and Norman Giles.

The Most Attractive Fish show in June with 13 exhibits was won by Jim Amos with one of his Bristol Shubunkins.

The largest show of 1985 was the Baby Fish Show in September. A staggering total of 38 fish spawned during 1985 were put under close scrutiny and provided an opportunity to compare the results of different rearing methods.

Results of 1985 Baby Fish Show

29th September 1985.

FANTAIL

ORANDA

MOOR

1. S. Smith

1. S. Rogers

1. J. Tinkler

2. J. Tinkler

2. S. Rogers

2. J. Tinkler

3. J. Tinkler

3. J. Tinkler

4. S. Smith

4. S. Smith

BRISTOL SHUBUNKIN

LONDON SHUBUNKIN

1. N. Baker

1. T. Gray

2. J. Amos

2. T. Gray

3. J. Amos

3. T. Gray

4. N. Baker

4. T. Gray

Cont'd on page 13

Cont'd from previous page →

1985 LEAGUE TABLE

MALE

1. Stephen Smith	19 pts
2. Trevor Gray	17
3. Brian Tinkler	13
4. Andrew Barton	11
5. Roy Field	10
6. Steve Rogers	7
=7. Jim Amos	5
=7. Norman Baker	5
=9. Glen Field	3
=9. John Moore	3
11. Ivor Purdy	2

FEMALE

1. Jennifer Tinkler	14 pts
2. Pamela Ratcliffe	4
3. Elaine Edmunds	3

CONTINUING OUR series which started in the Summer edition of AMGK Newsletter, JOHN DAWES - senior consultant to Aquarian - looks further into the question:

WHAT IS A GOLDFISH?

THE ONLY other species which could conceivably be confused with the Goldfish, Gibel and Crucian Carps is the Common Carp, '*Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus)'. However, this fish can be easily picked out even when small, by the possession of two pairs of barbels around the mouth. Since the Common Carp can grow to one metre in length, large specimens can never be confused with the other, smaller, species.

'*Cyprinus carpio*' has been intensively bred in captivity giving rise to a number of forms such as the Mirror and Leather Carps and the strikingly beautiful Koi.

Cont'd on page 14. →

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All these fish belong to the family Cyprinidae which contains about 275 genera, e.g. Carassius and Cyprinus, with a total of approximately 1600 species, e.g. 'Carassius auratus' and 'Cyprinus carpio'.

Other well-known fish belonging to this, the largest of all the families of fish, are the minnows ('Phoxinus'), Roaches ('Rutilus'), Gudgeons ('Gobio'), Bitterlings ('Rhodeus'), Tench ('Tinca'), Chub and Orfes ('Leuciscus'), Rasboras ('Rasbora'), Barbs ('Barbus') and "Sharks" ('Labeo' and 'Balantiocheilus').

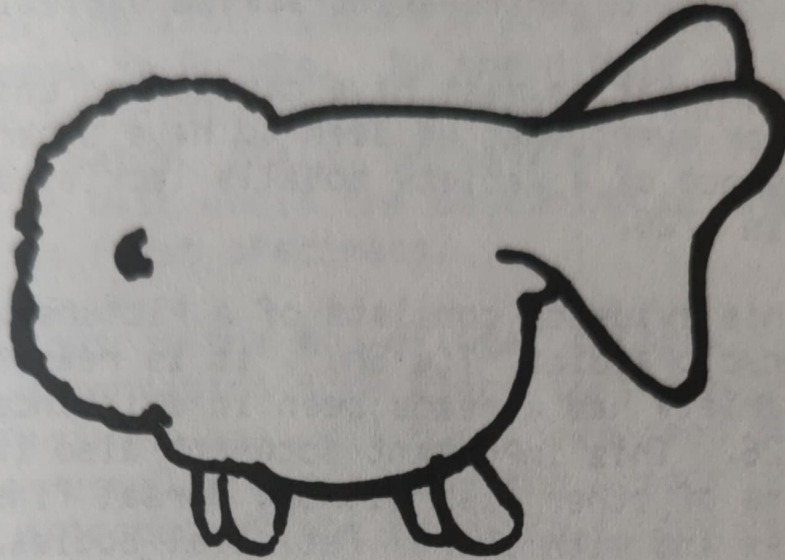
Tracing the history of any fish, even "modern" varieties of exotic fish, such as Guppies ('Poecilia reticulata'), is fraught with difficulties. Details of experiments, chance observations and other forms of documentation often prove impossible to find. It will, therefore, come as no surprise to learn that the history of the Goldfish, which spans more than 1000 years, is strewn with complications, speculations and other distracting elements.

At times it is difficult to tell fact from fiction. However, the story is all the more interesting precisely because of these uncertainties and the mystery that surrounds them.

There is a suggestion that several red-scaled fish were first observed at some time between 265 and 316 AD during the ancient Chinese Tsin Dynasty. If so, then the first steps towards the development of cultivated Goldfish varieties had already been taken sometime between around 1500 and 1700 years ago. However, since there seems to be no irrefutable evidence of this, we can only speculate on the matter, albeit, perhaps, with a certain degree of justification.

The first real piece of documented evidence we have comes from the Sung Dynasty of China (960 - 1729 AD) with records of Goldfish kept as pets in ponds. At some stage during this period, there was also a 'Goldfish Pool' in Peking where fish were bred commercially. Various coloured varieties, including combinations of gold, silver, red, black and mottled were already in existence by 1276 and, by the time the Ming Dynasty (1369 - 1644), with its famous pottery masterpieces, was in full swing, large numbers of these coloured fish were being kept in clay "aquaria".

fishponds



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Cont'd from page 14 →

Although selective breeding undoubtedly gave rise to many combinations of colour, finnage and body shape, there is a gap of around 300 years before we find the first record of a twin-tailed variety, a Fantail (circa 1590), closely followed, in 1621, by transparent-scaled varieties.

Again, experimentation must have carried on unabated, but the next major event that we seem to have direct evidence of is the emergence of a variety totally lacking a dorsal (back) fin in 1726.

Seeing as this evidence consists of a picture in the Chinese Imperial Encyclopaedia, "T'u Shu", it is reasonable to assume that this variety had already been in existence some years prior to 1726. This important document also includes illustrations of other fish without dorsal fins, with upturned eyes and with short, fat, oval bodies. All this may be taken as strong evidence, barring extreme artistic licence, that the foundations for many of the later varieties had already been laid.

So far, all the data I have presented concerns the development of the Goldfish in China. However, many significant parts of the story have taken place in Japan. Although the Goldfish had been imported into Japan by 1500, it seems to have taken close on 200 years for breeding experiments to expand into a major activity.

The first commercial enterprise that we know of is a breeding establishment set up by Sato Sanzaemon in Koriyama between 1704 and 1710.

Since then, though, Japan has played a major role in the development of numerous Fancy Goldfish from the few varieties (probably no more than five) that were originally imported. Although the list is extensive, the best-known varieties are undoubtedly the Lionhead and the Shubunkin. Yet, even here, there are signs of some Chinese influence in that a "Lionhead-like" fish is included in a series of drawings from China dating from around 1429.

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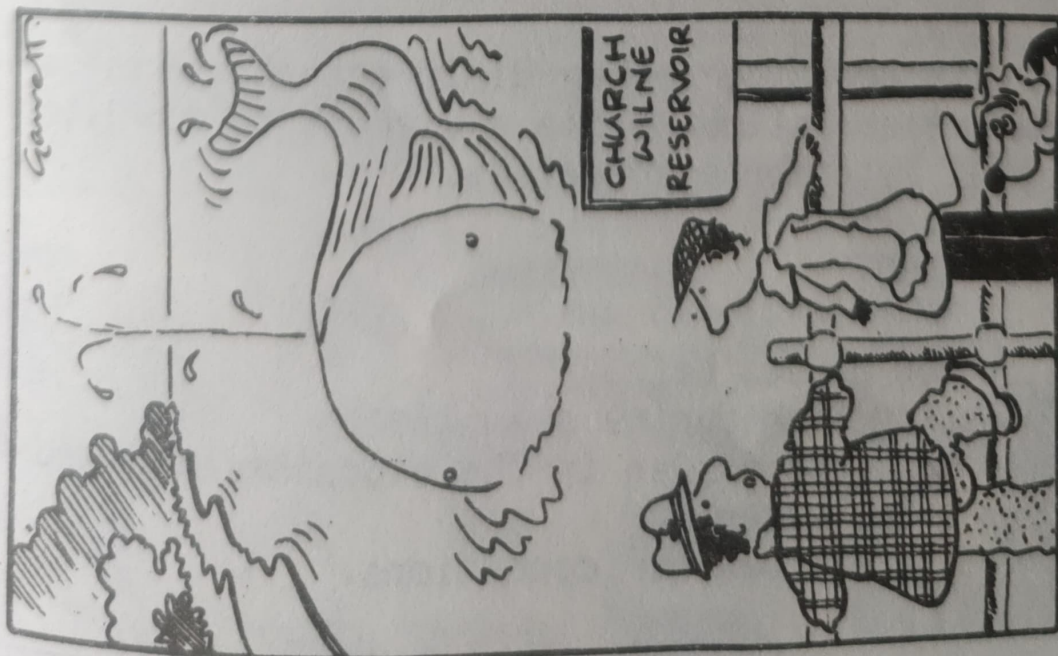
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Moving further afield, we know for a fact that the Goldfish had become widespread in the Far East by the end of the 17th Century. However, little or no selective breeding seems to have taken place here.

The early part of the 17th Century also saw the arrival of the first specimens in Europe. By the middle of the century the Goldfish was well-established in England and had been introduced into France, Italy, Germany and Holland; while Scandinavia had to wait until the beginning of the 18th Century to see its first specimens.

Russia followed towards the end of that century. In America the first major importation took place in the mid-1870's although some specimens may well have been seen there earlier. The man usually accredited the honour of being responsible for introducing the Goldfish to the American continent is Admiral Ammon, who is reported to have obtained his fish from Japan.

JOHN DAWES continues his look at the Goldfish with observations on different strains and colouring, in the Spring edition of AMGK Newsletter.



BEGINNERS' PAGE
BEGINNERS' PAGE
BEGINNERS' PAGE

It is rare for any fishkeeper not to encounter problems from time to time so, as ELAINE EDMUNDS explains, it is wise to find a place for...

THE MEDICINE CHEST

CONTENTS:

Aquarium salts
Pontox
Liquitox
Sterazin - Pond
Sterazin - aquarium
Bact-erad
Dettol

1) STERILISATION OF TANKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

Disinfect with Dettol or other disinfectant and rinse with fresh water. Also, allowing the equipment to completely dry out will kill waterborne organisms.

ii) FUNGUS/FINROT

The most common causes being:

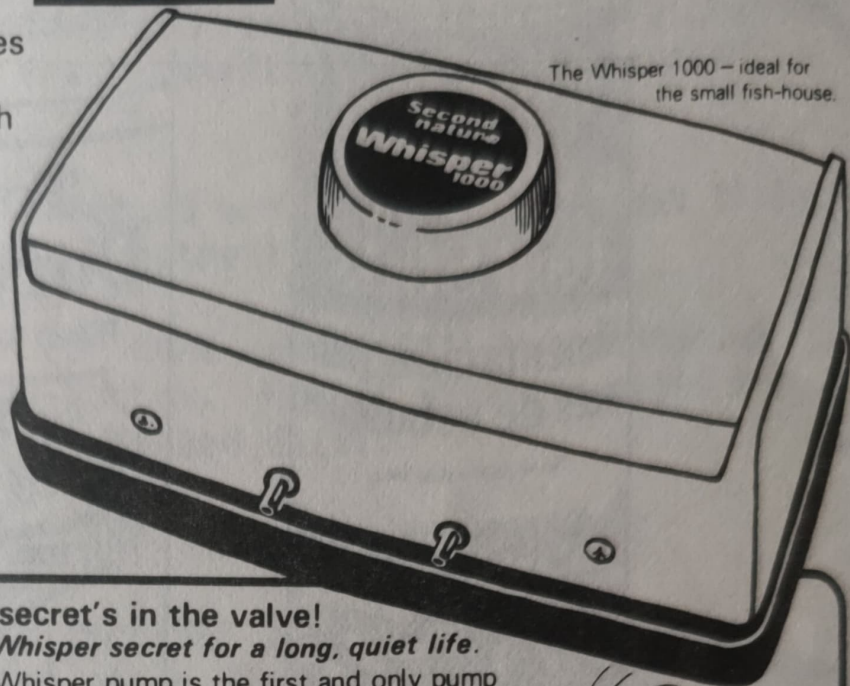
- a) Damage to the fish during spawning;
- b) Embolism - excess oxygen in the bloodstream caused by sunlight on green water;
- c) Overcrowding/bad weather conditions.

Cont'd on page 21 →

THERE'S A WHISPER AIRPUMP JUST FOR YOUR TANK!

Because there are 10 sizes of Whisper Airpump you can choose a model which almost certainly will satisfy your *exact* requirements. Now it is not necessary to have a pump which is too small so that you don't have adequate air. Equally important, you don't have to have a pump which gives *too much* air!

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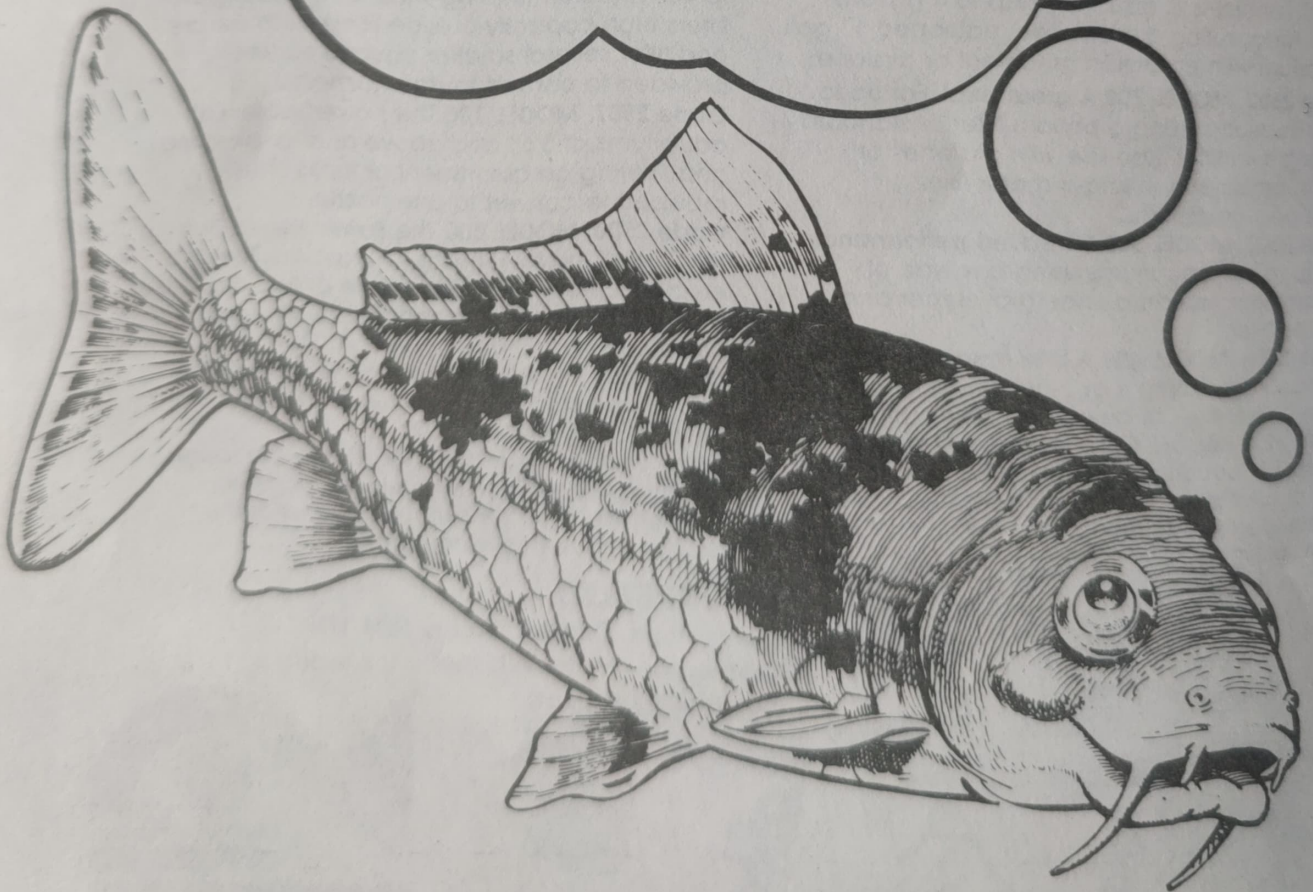
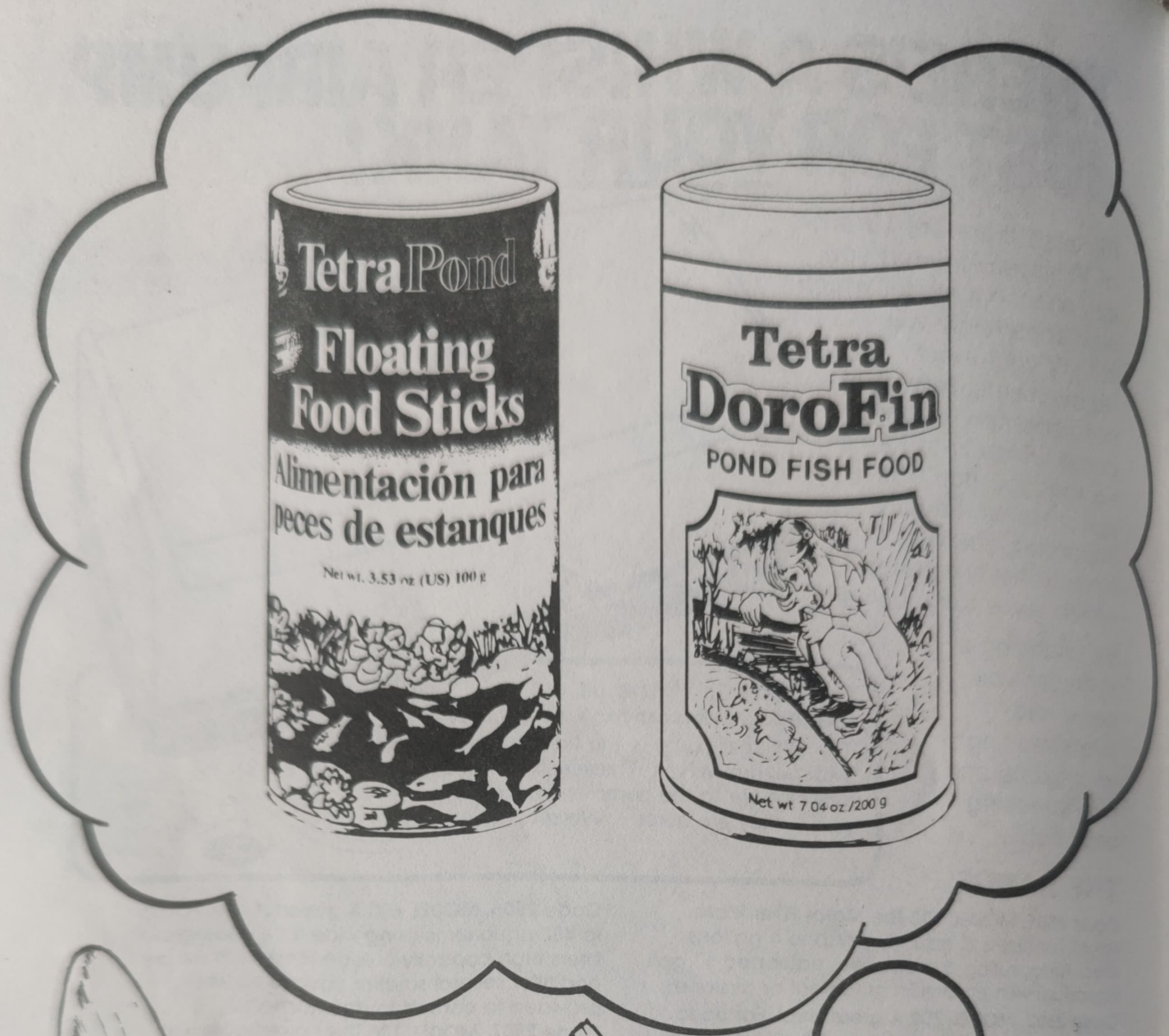
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What could be more natural?

Contd from page 18 →
TREATMENT

Change water and ensure fish are not overcrowded (fungus infection can be avoided with embolism if fish are changed from green water to fresh immediately the bubbles are noticed).

If a single fish is affected you may wish to remove it to a separate container for treatment.

Suggested medication for tank use: Liquitox or aquarium salts. For Pond use: Pontox. NB: If aquarium salts are used the water must be changed daily.

iii) PARASITIC ORGANISMS/MISCELLANEOUS INFECTIONS

Symptoms: Regular 'scratching' against objects, sudden darting movements when other fish are undisturbed, bloodshot and/or closed fins. Also watch out for any fish which suddenly changes its habits, for instance, becoming agitated or the opposite, sulking by itself.

TREATMENT

Change water and ensure that fish are not overcrowded. Isolate a sick fish to prevent problem spreading. Feed live food if possible.

SUGGESTED MEDICATION

Sterazin for aquarium use. For Ponds use Sterazin Pond or Bact-erad.

iv) Your local aquarium supplier should be able to provide a range of products and advise on new products coming onto the market.

WARNING: READ INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN WITH THE PRODUCT BEFORE BUYING. Instructions may usually be found inside the presentation box and may not suit your requirements if, for example, they are harmful to plants or certain species of coldwater fish.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 1986

- 16th March Talk by Malcolm Hallows on Koi
- 11th May Adult Fish Show and A Talk for
Novices by Jim Amos
- 22nd June Most Attractive Fish Show and a
talk - Speaker yet to be arranged
- 28th September Baby Fish Show and a talk -
Speaker yet to be arranged
- 9th November Annual General Meeting and a
talk by Andrew Barton

All of the Meetings start promptly at 2.00 pm at our regular venue the Foleshill Community Centre, Foleshill Road, Coventry. The central location makes it easy to attend, just leave the M6 Motorway at Junction 3 and head towards Coventry on the A444 (Foleshill Road). the Community Centre is found on the right hand side after approximately two miles, adjacent to the Ansell's 'Heath' Public House.

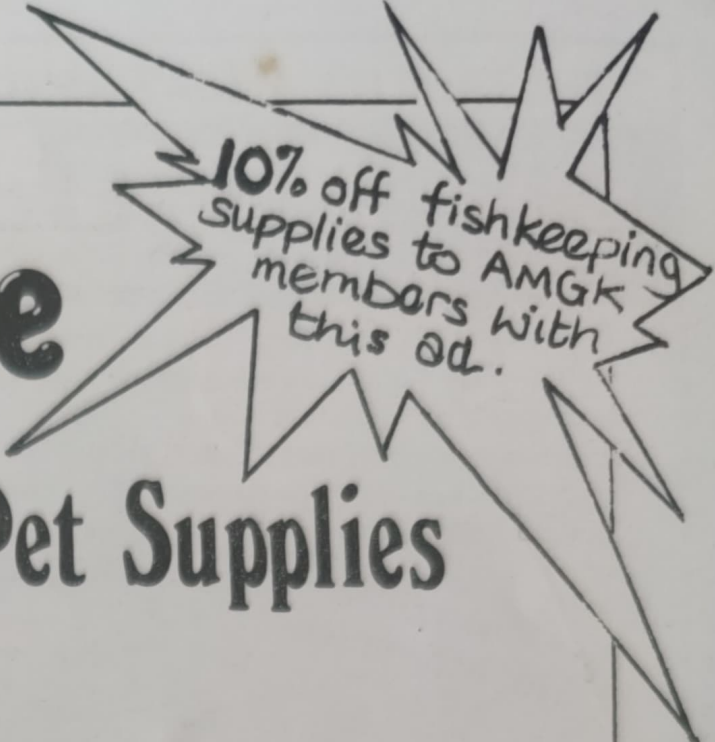
At each of the meetings we hold a raffle (any donations of prizes gratefully received) and at the AGM in November the annual 'bring and buy' to help swell the society funds.

Subscriptions for 1986 will remain at at £4.50 for single and family membership.

-- SEE YOU AT THE MEETINGS --

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**Society
News**

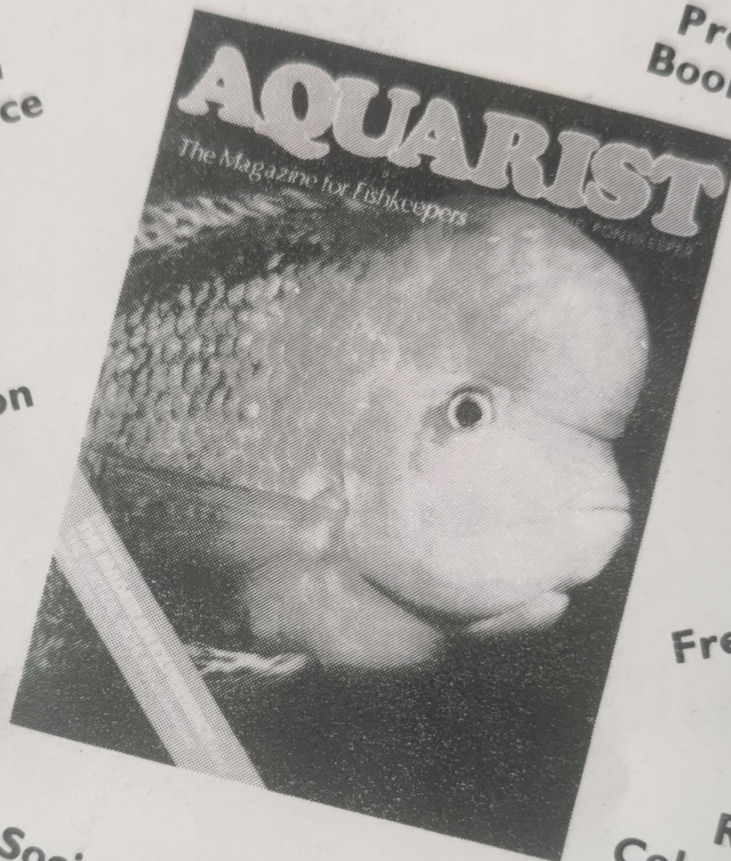
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