

Goldfish Standard

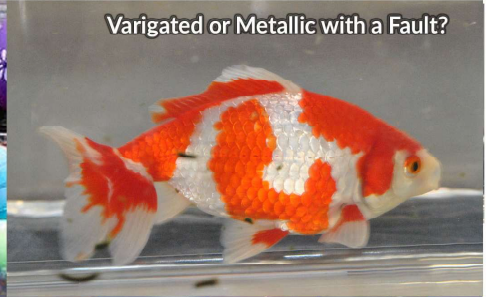


Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

Happy Easter



Varigated or Metallic with a Fault?



Climate Change

Rising Costs of Fish Keeping



Winner of the Article Writing Competiton Graham Turner,
read his views on Redcaps, Wakin and Self Colour Fish

March Meeting Summary
Greetings from Cincinnati
Butterfly Standard

April 2022



Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers



As Featured on



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DISCLAIMER

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EDITORIAL SUPPORT

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SHOW VENUE

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MEETING VENUE

St. Bartholomew's Church,
Binley, Brinklow Rd.,
Coventry
CV3 2DT

CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOLDFISH STANDARD, WRITE AN ARTICLE TODAY

*Send in your Letters and Photos
and feature in the Next Issue!*



Happy Easter



Hi Member,

Happy Easter all, I am pleased to send you the latest summary of articles and news found on the website. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our next Meeting. The 15th of May at St. Bartholomew's , this is our Adult Fish Show/Bluest Fish Show & Auction. The Table show will be judged to Nationwide Standards, and Winners on the day will be presented Rosettes for first and second. We hope to have a good turn out for members first chance to put fish on the show bench for over 2 years. There will of course be our latest silent auction for those still wanting to sell fish, so please email me in advance to reserve your tanks.

Thanks for reading. See you soon!

Jackie Pedley Hon.AMGK Club Secretary



Letters to the Club

Welcome to our letters page, where the club will attempt to answer questions about all things Fancy Goldfish.

Letter from Owner of 25 year old Goldfish
17 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam/Chairperson of the Midlands Goldfish Keepers Association,

I appreciate that you will be a very busy person, but I am writing to you as a very keen fish keeper and admirer. I have many fish, some big, some small and some I think are truly enormous and

maybe need to go on a strict diet! I wonder if you could help and advise me on the following matters. My Goldfish 'George' came to us from my late Uncle, who won him at a funfair many years ago. He could be at least 25 years old. Is this a record? I am also very interested in joining your society; I can come along with George to meet other Goldfish owners and their lovely fish. I have a suitable tank to bring him in but concerned that I am living in Norfolk and not the Midlands. Does this mean I cannot join?

I am also confused to your 'Adult Fish Show', 15 May 2022, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Bartholomew's Church Hall, Brinklow Rd, Binley, Coventry CV3 2DT advertisement on your website...does this mean the show is for adults only and not young persons. If it's for 'adult fish', then I could bring George, as he is most definitely an older fish. In the meantime, I wonder if you have an old association newsletter you could send me to read while I sit and look at George. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully, Miss T Rocket.

Dear T Rocket,

Thank you very much for your lovely letter and telling us about your goldfish dear old George.

In my role as club secretary and the Show Manager for the table show we are holding in May I can advise you the following:

To be able to enter the show, you must be a member, but you can join the club on the day and you are more than welcome to bring George. The show is free to enter once you have joined.

Even if you do not want to join the club you will be made welcome on the day if you would like to just come and chat to us and see what we do.

Please just give us a call or email if you need help or have any questions.

The best way of transporting fish is in a bucket with a lid and a small hole in the top. You can also use any fairly large container as long as it has a secure lid for transit. It is a good idea not to feed your fish the day before a show as the water they travel in can get dirty and pollute the water.

We would love to have you as a member of our club, and if you want to join you can send us photos of George and your other fish as we would love to do an article on the website in the members section about how you got interested in goldfish.

Look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please find enclosed a copy of a sample newsletter as requested.

Miss Jackie Pedley,

Hon. AMGK Secretary.

Notes from the March Meeting 2022

An Untraditional March Meeting, Sunday 20th March 2021

Apologies: Phil Riley, Andy Barton, June Kemp, Elaine Edmunds, David Padfield, Heather Carrier.

Sunday 20ths Meeting was well supported with circa 28 members, with a wide demographic from the long-standing Life members, members we haven't seen in many years to new members who were very welcome.



Breaking from the tradition of having a speaker this meeting was very much about the club getting back together. It was good chance for members to catch up with fellow keepers over a tea or coffee, and the new silent auction format was a welcome addition to this meeting.

The success of the meeting very much came down to members volunteering on the day to assist, and I thank all those that helped on the day. I feel a special mention is needed for:

- Sue Brailey who patiently filled the tanks by hose and then worked in the kitchen.
- Linda Malpas for organising the very successful raffle.
- Cecilia & Francis Chan for assisting with the raffle, and then taking on the challenge of the pond vac to empty the tanks so quickly.
- Jamie Mullen, who kindly documented the day for YouTube on his Mountain Goldfish Channel
- Ian Brailey & Ed Hine for turning their hands to anything to help out
- Pat Davies for being the floor walker and chairing the meeting

And anyone else that contributed on the day, a big thank you to everyone.

At the meeting there were a couple of announcements:

Pat Davies explained the resignation of Keith Mullin as Honorary Treasurer, and that the committee had taken the step to second Grahame Draper into the role. That lots of preparation was going on for the season ahead, and it was felt that the club was in a good position.

Pat also explained the recovery of the money for tins of Brine shrimp eggs ordered by the Club from Yorkshire Brine shrimp, who under new management was having difficulties importing stock. It was felt by the committee that it was appropriate to request a refund.

We had our first look as a club at the donated Banner Heron's Pet World, who are kindly sponsoring our shows and events this year, members were able to take away samples of Heron's Goldfish sinking pellet, a wheatgerm based pellet that is good for winter feeding.



After the announcements, we had the Q&A session. Which covered healthy debate on a couple of topics. Relying heavily on the experience of Ian Mildon & Graham Turner we discussed the judging and definition of variegated fish.

When does a metallic fish turn from a metallic fish with a fault to a variegated fish?

Take away points:

- The colour of the finnage does not contribute to the definition of the variegated fish
- The East Asian 8 or 12-point definition, an all-white fish with red finnage would be metallic not variegated.
- Variegated fish have an even balance of colour in the body, where there are 2 colours each would cover 50% of the body. Which potentially isn't obvious reading the standards
- From the standard: "In variegated metallic fish the colours should be distributed in a pleasing pattern and as similar as possible on either side"
- "The Metallic Variegated fish should show any combination of colours listed under the individual variety's standard"

We also discussed the direct conflict between our changing world and the hobby, changes in weather, rising costs of fuel.

Will Breeders Continue to attempt to raise baby fish to competition size in year one?

Take away points:

- Breeding seasons seem to be getting later, and the climate change means snow in March, the last frosts not till May. Which means artificially heating your fish for breeding
- The increased fuel costs are prohibitive in raising young fish fast at the current time
- Raising fish slower is potentially better for fish long term health
- This was caveated by a rejection of the idea you could force feed the fish, rather that a high availability of resources turns into better the growth rates.
- Breeding females should be in their third season ideally
- We will likely see fewer Baby fish on the bench this year
- It was clear the passion many felt, and the talking points gave us all plenty to think on.

The raffle was very well supported, with members being exceptionally kind in their donation of worthy prizes.



The Auction was well supported with 32 lots up for grabs, it was fair to say there was an eclectic mix as thanks to the lots from Liam Roberts a touch of the exotic was added, we saw snails and axolotls alongside the quality goldfish for sale. It was clear that members were taking the opportunity to add new varieties to their fish houses ahead of the season. It will be interesting to see the results of members purchases.





An important note, we must inform the club that unfortunately someone removed one auction lot of Calico Veiltails that they had not won or paid for. The winning bidder was refunded in full, and we regret that that individual lost their opportunity to take those fish home. We would therefore ask that if you did remove these fish in error, please contact someone on the committee.

That said, I am sure members will understand that to ensure fairness going forward removal of lots will have to be supervised as they are at the Open show. Members are asked for their patience.

The meeting over all was a meeting of firsts that hopefully made the process easier and safer for all concerned without changing the essence of our meetings.

- Formal fire register and risk assessment for the meeting, so we can demonstrate our care and commitment to safety under our insurance.
- Wet floor signs
- The first silent auction with commission, feeling out the process for the year ahead
- Successful use of a pond vac to empty the tanks, a far cry from 2019's failure. This meeting gave some credibility back to the idea, as the model used this year was not gravity feed, and pumped water out the building without leaks and spills. Leaving more hands for drying and packing and removing the need to carry tanks of water.

Thanks for all that attended, and for those that were sorely missed please check out the video from Jamie.





Pat Roberts Obituary

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Pat Roberts on Thursday The 10th of February 2022, following an earlier fall leading to complications.

Pat will be sadly missed by her husband Tony after over 60 years of marriage, her extensive family, and the wider family of goldfish keepers

She was Tony's rock and support during a lifetime of his breeding top quality fancy goldfish, attending club meetings and all the Open Fish Shows at the various venues around the country. Whilst taking care of her ever- increasing family brood, particularly in the early years, Pat's additional but equally important role for us fish keepers was to ensure the young fish in the fish house during the day when Tony was out at work were also well fed and nurtured. Hers was a real partnership.

All those fish hobbyists visiting the Roberts's family home in Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham we're always made most welcome by Pat who took the time to ask about the family, other friends, the fish and loved to join in with the inevitable humorous banter.

I still remember the first time I met Pat back in the Autumn of 1967 when choosing some of my first Moors from Tony's linebred stock in his fish house with Pat bringing in the coffee and biscuits with a babe in arms and a couple of toddlers clinging to her legs. That was dedication!

They have all grown up now, of course, and before she left us Pat got to experience the great satisfaction and pride she felt in welcoming into this world her first great grandchildren. Her kindness and interest shown to all the fish visitors that came to her home has been passed on to her family – a credit to her as a mother and partner of Tony (one of the AMGK's founders and life member).

During the last couple of years both Pat and Tony have come to rely more on their family's willing help and support through their mutual love for each other that has been fostered by Pats innate character over a lifetime, that will undoubtedly stand them in good stead during the coming months ahead.

I know that many of you will share our condolences to Tony and his family at this difficult time. Luckily for us, her family continues to be involved with the club and we look forward to seeing Tony, Craig, Liam and the girls at future events.

Pat Davies,

President of the AMGK

NATIONWIDE: GOLDFISH SOCIETIES UK



Judged to the Nationwide Goldfish



Standards of the United Kingdom



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

Responsible for Nationwide Goldfish Standards United Kingdom and Annual Nationwide Fancy Goldfish Open Show UK

Board Members

Pat Davies (AMGK) – Chairman

Graham Turner (NEGS) – Secretary/Show Secretary

Andy Barton (AMGK) – Hon. Treasurer/Principal Show Manager

Ian Mildon (BAS) – Fish Standards/Judges

Date: 22/02/2021

To the NATIONWIDE: Delegates: Sherridan Moores, Dean Roberts, David Padfield, Dennis Godfrey, Alan Race, Tom Bell, Graham Turner, Keith Waters, Ian Mildon, Bob Jones, Jamie Mullen, Andy Barton, Phil Riley, Mick Smith

Dear All,

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTED NATIONWIDE: STANDARD FOR THE BUTTERFLY GOLDFISH

Please find attached the finalised and accepted NATIONWIDE: STANDARD for the Telescope Butterfly Goldfish as agreed unanimously by all the delegates in the last round of consultation that responded (11). This new standard will now be incorporated into the revised NATIONWIDE: STANDARDS document first published in 2016, firstly on the Nationwide website and, in due course, into the published hard copy.

It is intended to include this fish variety in the next programme schedule for the AMGK Open Show on Saturday the 25th of June 2022 and for the Nationwide: Goldfish Societies UK Fancy Goldfish Open Show on Saturday the first of October 2022. It will be given its own class in both schedules.

This new standard proposal has been produced primarily by Jackie Pedley (AMGK) but also by June Kemp (AMGK), in accordance with the protocol agreed by all delegates for any proposed new variety standard at our previous meeting in February 2020.

I will take this opportunity to thank all the delegates for their time and effort to finalise this standard, in particular Andy Barton the sponsored delegate, Ian Mildon, Bob Jones and especially Keith Waters for the final drawing and copy. This has not been an easy process due to the Covid restrictions that coincided with this process. Ideally agreement to this standard what have been to have conducted a face-to-face meeting with all delegates however the national restrictions laid up on all of us over the last couple of years rendered this ideal impossible. Therefore, it is particularly satisfying that we reached the final conclusions through emails and telephone calls alone.

In recent weeks I have received some suggestions that might perhaps help clarify one or two anomalies in other variety standards, together with a suggestion for the need to consider the present judging stance on variegated metallic goldfish and self-coloured when judging a relevant class. It is considered appropriate at this stage to perhaps discuss any possible review or change when we next get together, possibly during the current show season, in order to test the appetite of delegates and respective club membership before such matters be progressed formerly.

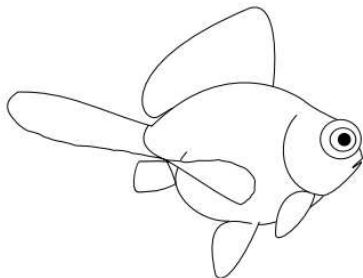
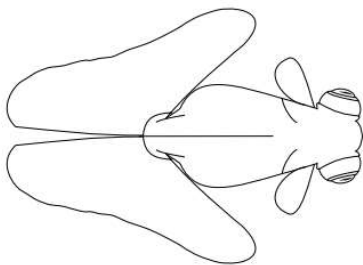
Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Jackie Pedley, June Kemp, and Jamie Mullen for their dedication to our hobby in breeding this 'new' variety to such a high standard and I'm sure we will all welcome this new addition to the Nationwide: Standards.

Yours Sincerely,

Pat

Pat Davies, Chairman of Nationwide: Goldfish Societies UK

Passed Chairmen: Bill Ramsden (NGPS) 1989 -2008; Andy Barton (AMGK) 2006 – 2013; Sherridan Moores (NGPS) 2013 – 2019



All proportions must approximate to the drawing.

BUTTERFLY

TYPE TEST:

Fish failing this test will be severely down pointed; deformities and major defects will cause the fish to be disqualified.

1. Depth of body approximately 60% of body length.
2. Caudal fin divided, well spread like the open wings of a butterfly and held almost horizontal when viewed from the side.
3. Dorsal fin single, all other fins paired and their extremities slightly rounded.
4. Eyes project outwards and slightly forward from surface of head.
5. Minimum length of body to be 2 1/4" (55mm)

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

Fish will be bright and alert.

Body to be short and rounded.

Caudal fin well divided and shaped like open butterfly wings when viewed from above, it should be at least 75% of the length of the body with the extremities being slightly scalloped shaped. The caudal rays should have the strength to support the tail spread with the lower lobes turning forwards towards the fish's head.

Eyes are large, prominent with good development and well matched.

Note: the eyes are large and spherical set within raised sockets, not the same as the Moor.

All proportions must approximate to the drawing.

Metallic group:

Self colours - as listed in points table.

Variegated - any combination of the listed colours in a pleasing pattern similar on each side.

Quality fish will have high colour intensity and metallic shine extending into the fins.

Calico groups - blue background with patches of violet, red, orange, yellow, brown, white spotted with black.

Fish should have a high intensity of colour evenly distributed over the body, with colour, especially black, extending into the fins.

POINTS TABLE

Body

D/L ratio	6
Dorsal contour (including the head).....	4
Ventral contour	4
Lateral contour	3
Eyes and mouth.....	3
	20

Fins

Contour and size of dorsal.....	6
Contour and size of caudal	9
Contour and size of others	5
	20

Colour (Metallic Group)

Self - Red, orange, yellow, blue, brown, black.....

Variegated - Red, orange, yellow, blue, brown, black, white.....

Colour (Calico Group)

Blue, violet.....	9
Red, Orange, Yellow	5
Black	5
Brown, white	1
	20

Condition and Department

Condition.....	10
Department	10
	20

Special Characteristics

Development and carriage of Caudal fin...	14
Development and matching eyes.....	6
	20

Variegated Goldfish Explained

By Graham Turner

Colour Groups for show fish

- Metallic fish are solid one colour fish, from the nose to the tip of the caudal, known as self colour fish.
-
- Variegated fish are metallic two-colour fish.
-
- Calico/ nacreous multi colour fish.

Variegated fish are two of the colours listed in the colour table for metallics. If the fish has three colours, then it is a calico fish not metallic. A breeder who has white showing up on their baby metallic fish will try and breed out the white as the fish will never win a metallic fish class carrying a second colour. Exhibitors showing variegated fish in a metallic class are inexperienced exhibitors learning the rules of showing and exhibiting goldfish.

Some variegated fish examples are.

Butterflies, Sarrassa comets & Pandas.

Butterflies are metallic solid colour fish trying to be the one colour, butterflies with three colours are calico fish, usually red and white fish with black markings in the finnage and very attractive they can be.

The Sarrassa comet is bred in the far east and are difficult to replicate here in Britain in my experience reverting to round finned red fish.

Pandas are hard to find in the quality fish of the 90s they used to be bulls' blood red or a very dark metallic bronze skin, with a light blue saddle when all the black has dissipated. The ones I see today, are highly commercial fish seem to revert to white within a year.

So, to recap a red and white fish, half red half white is a poor solid metallic. Any metallic fish showing a second colour will never win a metallic goldfish class, then there are of course exceptions to the rule. One such example was an outstanding variegated fish shown by Sheridan Moores at the last National show 2019. It won the Wakin Class with the most points of any fish at the show (84 points) and yet it was not good enough for a best in show, or maybe we were not good enough for the fish.

It was a definitely a "LOOK AT ME FISH," an outstanding fish.

Graham Turner show secretary since 1996 Goldfish judge since 2003.



'Ramblings' a selection of articles

By Graham Turner, National Fancy Goldfish Open Show Secretary.

FORWARD

We are indebted to Graham Turner for the following 3 Part 'Ramblings' on various aspects of fishkeeping over the years. Graham is a long-time member of various specialist Goldfish Societies within the UK and performs an invaluable judging role at our own Annual Open Show, normally held each June. Graham works tirelessly behind the scenes organising show sponsorship for the Nationwide: National Fancy Goldfish Open Show and taking on the often thank-less task of Show Secretary each year since its inception, several years ago. Graham is also one of a small band of volunteers that travel to the National show hall the day before the show to help put everything up for the big day and staying in a local hotel overnight - we need more of such folk for this year's event so please make a note in your diaries!!

The following articles sent in by Graham tell, in his own inimitable style, of some of his trials and tribulations during his long fish keeping hobby. The many years struggle with getting white as an accepted colour (as opposed to silver) for pointing on the show bench was a particular bugbear of his. This issue was only finalised when the latest published Show Standards were drafted and accepted in March 2016. so have to be read in their historical context. Graham reminds us that he was the one being invited to the Japanese Ranchu shows where there was no silver and red fish, only red and white fish. The former main man running the Nationwide standards deliberations a few years ago was blocking white from being even discussed at Nationwide meetings. It wasn't until his society left the Nationwide Group of specialist UK goldfish societies that we managed to get white on the agenda- enjoy!

What I know about Red Caps

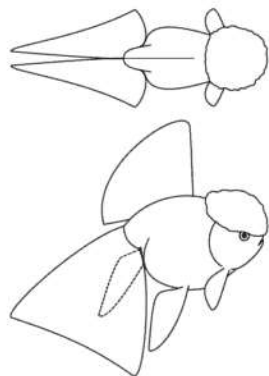
I had bred redcaps for a number of years not every year, but on and off. Redcaps in my own experience are not long lived if you can get them to three you are doing very well. The trouble with redcaps is probably our weather the temperature fluctuations. You can go to bed at night with them all looking splendid, and first thing in the morning there's one upside down on its head or floating at the top upside down, and this can be two or three mornings in a row they never recover their buoyancy. Very frustrating and annoying. If you don't breed with them every year, you could find yourself not being able to put a pair together on the third year.

There as easy to breed as any other Oranda one male one female. The fry start out white and don't develop any colour on their heads for four to six weeks which starts at a very pale yellow and over the weeks gets darker and darker to a golden egg yolk colour. Fry with no colour on their heads can be discarded. I think this stage is where novice breeders think that there are no redcaps and discard the spawning. Feeding the myth that there is a third fish needed to produce the redcap. When all that's needed is patience and more time to develop.

If you can find a good pair of redcaps, they can have a beautiful white velvety appearance similar to the Broadtail Moors Black velvety look.

Hurray for white. Let's hope so, as for wishie, washie. I think I know who that is!

My first encounter with redcaps was a N.G.P.K. show at Silver well street Bolton back when I was a mere boy, well I was young anyway. I travelled from Grimsby to Manchester Piccadilly and on to Bolton, found the street and the show, I was early, the door was open I walked in there was no one about so I walked the first row, the white bodies and long tails with redcaps took all my attention and then an old geyser collared me, Bill Cumberland, I think. Asked if I was a member, I said no and he put me out on the street. But I can see those redcaps anytime I like now once seen not forgotten. If they could put veiltails on them then, how hard can it be now. I think I might try and do a out- cross 2022.



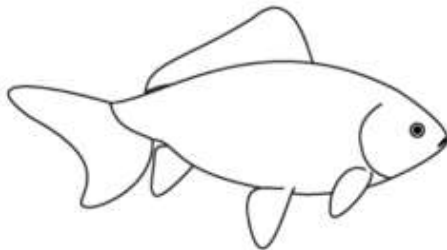
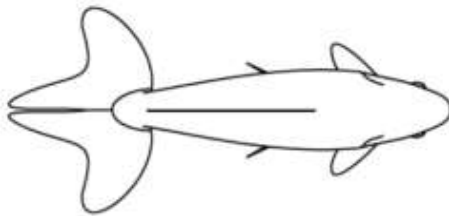
And What I know About Wakins

Wakins, The national fish of Japan. (maybe)My first Wakin were six fish I bought in nineteen ninety five/six. Half a dozen Japanese sarassas. Beautiful deep red and a pure white that didn't run into the red, Stunning fish.

Of course there was no white in the English standards, It took me about twenty years to get white recognised as a colour. The Wakins could only enter shows in the any other variety class. The North East Goldfish society were asking for a standard as early as nineteen eighty-four it did not happen until Twenty- fourteen/fifteen. I new, I would have to breed out the white if they were ever going to be excepted, which took quite a few years. In breeding out the white the red improved. I could never achieve the blood red of the parent fish but I suppose the red I have now is the best I will ever get in the British climate.

Getting coloured matts is difficult at least I find it so, and I cannot think what to do to get coloured matts. Pure white matts no problem coloured matts no. But I have no problems achieving calico using the white matts and a red metallic fish. The first spawning is back to sarrasa with the odd bit of black in their tails/caudels, these fish you need for the second spawning the ones with the black that is. So I would put a fish with white red and black, back to the matt fish producing calicos. I had a spawning of calicos three years of more ago, I culled them down to around twenty four fish and decided to keep the best twelve, the other twelve were going to the auction at the National Show.

I separated them into two tanks, so as not to mix them up, but thats exactly what I did in my haste to get to Coventry and the best fish went in the auction, but I got to know the second twelve better. With one thing and another I am down to halve a dozen, so there on the list for breeding in twenty-two. I also only have about six white matts knocking about in various places. But plenty of beautiful red metallic fish. As for the standard, well who breeds wakins anyway.....ME.



The White Choice

Goldfish and Self colour

I have bred common goldfish for many years, and there are only two colours you can win with on the show bench. Red and Yellow (Lemons)

When Alex Stephenson won best in show at the London Show with his superb yellow common, everyone wanted the very pretty variegated white and yellow fry from his consequent spawning. Oh yes, they where yellow and white there were no silver fish in this spawning.

Now scale groups are being better understood, new colour patterns are emerging.

I myself spawned a red male common goldfish to a red matt female in 2009 resulting in red and white fry.

Among them where a lot of redheads with pure white bodies, (tancho) I entered a team of four in the London show. I thought they were a breath of fresh air. The judge however

had never seen the like before and remarked on the judge's sheet that the fish were wishie washie. " What a Dope". There is no silver in my fish never has been.

Unfortunately goldfish judges were white blind in 2009, during training they are told there is no white in goldfish only silver. " Doh!"

These same teaching judges who belong to a specialist goldfish society with Japanese Masters can see white at their own meetings, because tell a Japanese master his fish are Red and silver and he would take your head off with his Samari sword. Talk about wearing two hats! As long as you keep your head.

Nationwide shows the fish were silver, kai shows the same fish were white. The same judges.

So there was no white in the Nationwide Standards or at least there wasn't, even the redcap was described as redcap, silver/white. Silver /white WHAT!

Then we had a Jikin standard brought in by the main man blocking white, the colours, red fins and white body, Hurray suddenly the judges can see white. Although a judge asked me, if I could define white for him, can he define red for me! Can you see silver on this white page, I have to say the white issue was very frustrating for me.



Greetings from Cincinnati !! An article by Gary Hater

Intended for the previous newsletter, a welcome late addition

So, nice to have this opportunity to tell you all about my fish hobby. I started with Tropicals in the early 1960's and bred my first Red Cap Orandas in 1980. About that time, I joined the Goldfish Society of America (GFSA). I was very active in that great organization to almost the end, somewhere around 2000. During that time, I was co-chairman for some years and developed a relationship with many of the goldfish history makers in the US. Al Foster, in Sauk Rapids MN, was my mentor. We talked several hours per month, hashing out issues and genetics, I still talk to Al occasionally. As the GFSA folded, my wife and I focused on an annual Breeders Social at our house (for the most part). It is still active most years. Even today, Goldfish Breeders from all over the US, Canada and historically England spend 3-4 days competing, drinking, talking, doing swaps and show and tell and making friends.



Breeders Social 2006 (notice John Parker and Dudley Turner)

The interactions of all these breeders, with special inputs from John Parker and Andrew James resulted in New Standards for The Goldfish Council for top view Ranchu and Bristol Shubunkins.

If you have enough beer, you can get 8-16 hours of stories about judging, grooming and rules for top view Ranchu. Oza, Tail shoulders, peduncle and funtan all became ingrained into the North American Ranchu culture. John Parker and Dudley Turner were able to start most of us with Bristol Shubunkins that were added to by later by Glenn Wachner which I purchased when he left the hobby. Also, a set from Tisbury through Dave Mandley and Barry Sperling were added to the gene pool. Lastly, John Barcelona brought back fish from several breeders in the 2016-2018 era. These are just now being added to the gene pools. Sad, but in the US, the modern tail that Glenn had imported have regressed to some degree. The North American Standard for the Bristol Shubunkin allows for both the classic and the modern tail.



Gary Hater stock from 2021

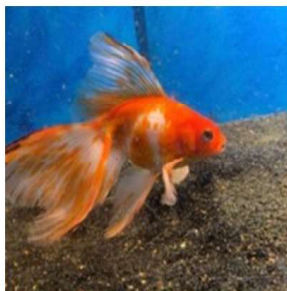
Parts of my breeding program also includes (currently) English Veiltail, Philadelphia Veiltail, Broadtail Moors (black, blue, honey), Tokais, Tamasaba, Hayashi Ranchu, Chinese Ranchu, Wakin, Blue, Red, and Calico Phoenix and Calico, Red and Blue Fantails. We have basements in much of the Midwest United States, so my year-round hobby is primarily focused on the 60 plus tanks in the basement. I have a combination of glass tanks and tubs. Also have about 40 glass tanks in the 80 liters to 120-liter range for most growing fry and intermediates. My hobby also has 14 tanks and tubs over 450 liters, half are glass tanks. Additionally, I have about 14 glass tanks and tubs that are 200 liters to 300 liters. This fish room has humidity control, and is heated to 66F in winter and cooled to 72F in summer. Seasonally, I heat fry and young fish in winter months. All but about ten tanks /tubs are drilled and city water is added by a drip (tiny stream system). All tanks get at least a 50% water change weekly. Fry get large water changes at least three times a week. City water is hard, pH 7.8 to 8.2, and has residual chlorine.



English male, Reserve Grand Champion, TGC Virtual Show2021



3/4 English X 1/4 Philadelphia Veiltail



Philadelphia Veiltail (above fish bred by Gary Hater)



Shonka Broadtail Moor



Tokais F1, (American), Pseudomatte English Veiltail X Jikin. We are now working with F2.

Lastly, I have access to a small portion of a commercial greenhouse with four ponds about 500 liters each. This is kind of an overflow area where fish are often stored to spring.

Locally, I share most of my lines with Joshua McWilliams and Greg Rau for catastrophe insurance and genetic line diversity. Fry and breeders flow in and out of our facilities (houses) to each other several times a year, and we often share fry early on, to prevent loss of quality stock. In the US, we also have a formal Breeders Circle Program where breeder members share genetics of key lines to prevent in-breeding and line loss. Currently, Phoenix, Philadelphia Veiltails, Fantails and Tokais are shared. Members agree to return shared lines in part, in the event of fish line failure.

Some notes on US breeding Efforts:

The Philadelphia Veiltail continues to prosper and Calico, Blue, Uncolored, and Red fish are popular. The number of breeders is expanding to some degree. A fairly serious effort to shorten the tail but keep the long body. Brian Rhodes, Greg Rau and I have been playing with albinos for a few years now. When you breed these Philadelphia Veiltails you get a fair number of chop tails/ fantails. With renewed efforts to make Fantails more show worthy and popular we have started using these fish as part of our breeding program also. Fantails are commercially grown in the US by farms in New York state and in Arkansas. Breeders like Joshua McWilliams and Gage Harford are working with several people to bring the Fantail back to the mainstream. The Philadelphia Veiltail does have the blue belly gene in the active mix. Lavender metallic are likely to become mainstream along with albinos in the next few years. With the paucity of English Veiltail stock, we have seen some half English/ half Philadelphia Veiltails in development. We have several new Philadelphia breeders in the US which have some nice stock.



Calico Philadelphia Veiltail



Shonka Broadtail Black Moors



Blue Philadelphia



Black speckled variant of a Bristol Shubunkin

Shonka **Black Broadtail Moors**, were started from pet store stock more than ten generations ago. Amy Sims-Shonka created this line in Topeka Kansas in the early 2000's. The line has tiny telescope eyes and a very square tail. Some inbreeding experiments has led to a blue and a honey colored variant. The line is quite vigorous and is typified by large spawns. The fish is quite cold hardy.

Bristol Shubunkins are very popular in North America and we only have the classic or heart shaped tail now. While the red head stamp and blue fish with black speckles is very popular, ghosts (matte), mostly black heavily speckled and blood red and black are popular. We are occasionally seeing some Bristol-like fish from Asia being imported. All of us in US would love to have modern Bristol tails, but we struggle to make that happen.



English Pseudomatte male (FO) parent of Tokais



Ghost Bristol (matte)

In Japan, there is a beautiful breed called a Tokais. Here in the States, I created metallic and calico Tokais by crossing a Jikin to a (Pseudo Matte) English Veiltail. While this fish is a provisional variety and is still undergoing standardization, people see some key improvements over Veiltails and Jikin; It has a streamlined body and swims very well. The tail is square and the dorsal erect. We have Tokais in both metallic and calico. The fish is different than Japanese Tokais as they were created by crossing a Jikin to a Butterfly. We are not sure where these fish end up, but members of the Breeders Circle and a few friends really like them.

English Veiltails in the USA are going extinct or will be outcrossed unless we can get new blood/genetics from the UK. The clear majority of our stock is pseudo matte and the colors are becoming muddier. The fish is dearly loved in North America. This year, 2021 a beautiful male won Reserve Grand Champion in The Goldfish Council national virtual show. We think when COVID goes away, that there is a small chance we can bring in new stock. Bryan Rhodes, James Alderson, Greg Rau, and myself presently have most of the remaining breeding stock.

Tamasabas and **Wakin** are becoming more popular in North America. Part of the reason is that they are very hardy, another component of the increased interest is that Koi keepers look at the red/white varieties and chase the concept of a Kahaku Tamasaba or Wakin. If grown in a pond they can get massive and easily weigh > 700 grams. The Tamasabas easily acquire humps much like a prized metallic Ryukin. The fish are generally large enough to live with koi or inhabit their koi bob filter. Many US koi ponds are 5,000 to 20,000 US gallons, so lots of room.

Over the last two years, calico Tamasabas and Wakin have been introduced to the market by importers. Many hobbyist are keeping with these new varieties.



Albino Philadelphia Veiltail

North American Status of the Hobby

In 2015, **The Goldfish Council®** was formed as an educational non-profit. So, not a club but a nonprofit charity (501C3) designed to promote the education in the keeping and breeding of goldfish. **TGC®** has several activities on going to promote its' educational goals;

- Facebook pages.
- Breed Standards (revised coming out 1st quarter 2022), illustrations by Merlin Cunliffe.
- Web site (TheGoldfishCouncil.org), loaded with educational aids.
- Shows and lectures in the US and Canada.
- A large board of directors with voting and nonvoting members.
- A judging and scoring procedure that has been tested for several years now.
- Certified Judges.
- Virtual shows and grow out competitions that utilize Facebook and Instagram.
- Relationships with koi clubs and their goldfish shows.
- Patrons are donation driven.

In North America, the goldfish hobby appears to be on the upswing. We have a couple of fancy goldfish commercial breeders in addition to the pond and more common growers continuing to produce fish. Furthermore, we have numerous new importers bringing fish from unique farms in China and Thailand. These imports have upped the availability of high end fish for hobbyist breeding and competitions. At the same time, several vendors have started selling collections of smaller fish in groups and some are offering free postage. Orandas are now available with several tail types; Rose tail, Peony Tail, Orchid Tail and Broadtail. Orandas are also available in new colors and scale types; Black, Red Cap Orandas, Kirin scaled and short bodies. The Yuan Bao (a provisional breed in NA) continues to change shape and colors. Short finned Yuan Bao, Ryukin, and Ranchu continue to enter North America through importers.

Goldfish food types continue to evolve. Prepacked gel foods like Repashy® continue to make headway into the hobby. It is great for small to mid-sized hobbyist that want superior food quality that avoids swim bladder issues. Many of these newer foods are using Soldier Fly larvae instead of fish meal, this is likely the future ingredient of fish food in the hobby as fish meals are becoming cost prohibitive. If you are feeding pellets the trend is to feed 1-1.5 mm sinking pellets as the main diet. Most breeders and many general hobbyist are now making steamed chicken eggs for fry at three weeks of age and all adults. Recipe is simple and chicken eggs are generally inexpensive.

Steamed Eggs

- 3 eggs
- Water (same volume as eggs, likely 2 ounces per egg)
- Garlic powder, preserved garlic or fresh garlic (1/4teaspoon)
- ½ teaspoon of spirulina or flake food
- Instructions

- 1.: Crack 3 eggs in a liquid blender and note the volume. Add an equal volume of water the garlic and spirulina. Pulse blend for a few seconds, two or three times. Too much blending will result in a foamy mess.
- 2.: Place 3-4 coffee cups in a steamer over high heat. Be sure the water will not bubble and touch the top of the cups during steaming. Once the water boils, divide the egg mixture into the cups.
- 3.: Cover the steamer, turn up the heat to high, and steam for 6-7 minutes. Then let rest with the lid still on but the heat off for 30 minutes. Once cool, I cover with plastic wrap and keep in the refrigerator of up to ten days.
- 4.: I scrape the gelatin with a spoon to get tiny pieces for the fry to chew on, for larger fish I tend to throw in large pellets sized pieces. The fish tend to pick at it for hours at first, but once used to it daily they charge through it.



Shavings for fry tanks



1.5 cm fish eating steamed eggs.

Hope you enjoyed this little tour of my fish world.

Author: Gary Hater

Retired Biologist, historically worked in bioremediation, waste water treatment and air pollution monitoring. Married to Jane for 47+ years. Weekly pictures updates on Instagram @Gary Hater, or on Facebook at The Goldfish Council-Chat.



Blue/black fantails



Gary Hater 2022

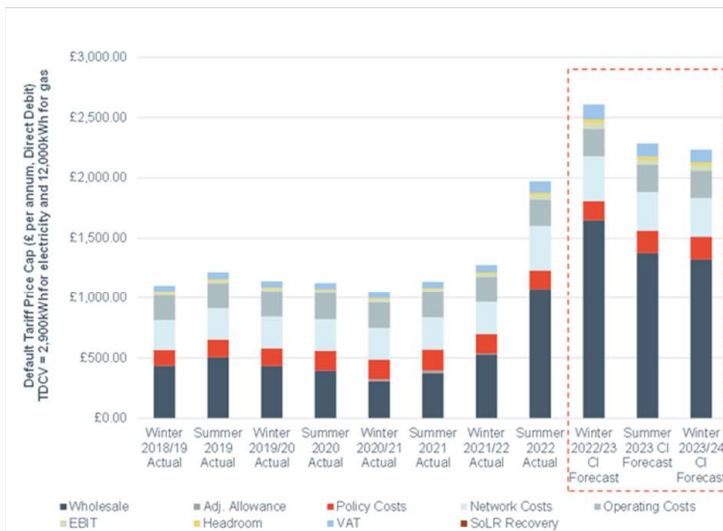


Climate Change

Rising Costs of Fish Keeping

Many conversations amongst breeders lately are dominated by the increasing challenges of the cost of energy to run a fish house, and effect of climate change on the breeding season.

It feels like winter has extended into April this year, which means a slow start to the breeding season, unless we can afford the cost of using the energy to heat our fish houses for spawning and bring up fry. Cornwall Insights, one of the UK's leading consultants on Net Zero targets and energy tariffs*, predicts that though the price cap will drop next year, it will not drop below an average of £2000.



*Source from the Guardian Newspaper

Alongside the energy crisis we have the effects of Climate change. The Met Office predicts across the UK, that we expect to see:

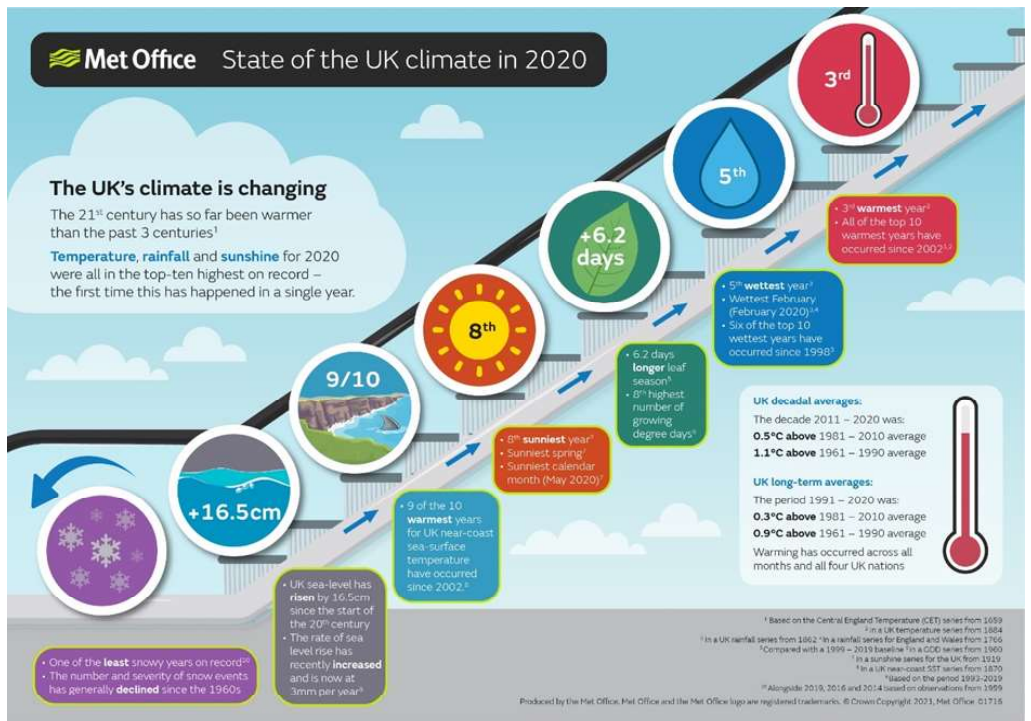
- Warmer and wetter winters (Leading to needing to feed our fish in winter)
- Hotter and drier summers (increasing growth rates, but requiring ways to cool our fish houses)
- More frequent and intense weather extremes (Such as the storms and snow in April)

Climate change will make these conditions more likely. The UK's weather will continue to be variable, but we will see more of this type of weather.

The UK's climate is changing

The 21st century has so far been warmer than the past 3 centuries¹

Temperature, rainfall and sunshine for 2020 were all in the top-ten highest on record – the first time this has happened in a single year.



Ultimately these factors will both cause Fish keepers to give up the hobby or change the design of the fish house to cope with these factors. This idea led me to start looking around at what could be included in Fish houses of the future.

Our base design for most hobbyists is to use an outside building that is either a greenhouse of very similar (Poly Carb roofed wooden building, or poly tunnels) in other words repurposed from Horticulture, and it is fair to say that there are plenty of ideas on how to be carbon neutral and self-sufficient when growing food in greenhouses. Here are some I have found.

Ground to Air Heat Transfer (GAHT®) system

Building a fish house with a Ground to Air Heat Transfer (GAHT®) system, sometimes referred to as a 'climate battery' or a Greenhouse Heatsink. The basic principle would be to use a fan to draw warm humid air below ground where energy would be stored, returning cooler dry air to the fish house. Then when temperatures drop above ground the flow of air would draw the heat stored below ground back into the fish house.

During the first series of BBC2's It's Not Easy Being Green, Richard Strawbridge put together a greenhouse heating system using a 10-Watt Solar Panel, a 12V battery, a small fan, some PVC waste pipe, and 1 cubic metre of crushed glass. The Solar Panel was used to power a PC fan in a greenhouse heatsink system, moving the air through the static mass buried beneath the greenhouse, preventing the house getting too hot during the day, and warming it at night.

Solar Power

Many question the feasibility of solar energy in the UK, however it not as bad as you would imagine. With the UK receiving an annual insolation of between 750–1,100 kilowatt-hours per square metre (kWh/m²). While its obviously not Spain, the changes in climate can only benefit Solar energy in the UK.

Derry Newman, chief executive of Solar century, argues that the UK's "famously overcast weather does not make it an unsuitable place for solar power, as solar panels work on daylight, not necessarily direct sunlight. Some solar cells work better in direct sunlight, others can use more diffuse light. While insolation rates are lower in England than France and Spain, they are still usable"

Of course, a fish house isn't ideal for supporting traditional solar panels, however over the coming years we will see Solar Energy Film technologies surfacing. Solar Film is light enough to go on windows and blinds and therefore suitably light enough to go on any roof. One such example is PowerRoll which opened its pilot manufacturing plant in the Northeast, in February this year. PowerRoll have created a lightweight photo-voltaic (PV) film at a minimum of 10% efficiency, with a manufactured cost of about £8 per sq. m [10 sq. ft].

They expect retail prices from partners who use the product to be as low as 10-12p per kWh over 10 years, which is a big challenge to existing energy suppliers.

Another interesting option is the The Solivus Arc. Aiming to supply an average of 1,000 kWh a year in the UK, Solivus will guarantee the £3,500 Arc for 20 years, Solivus plans to let buyers pay in instalments at a cost that would be the equivalent of 21p per kWh locked-in for 20 years... then, after that, it's free.



Solivus Arc

Solar Water Heating

Other possibility is to use Solar energy to increase water temperature in the fish house. Traditionally we bring on fry in a tank that is exposed to sunlight, or we use aquarium heaters. To take the burden off the heaters, by exposing the water to solar energy in a more efficient manner might be the answer. Either inline with a drip system, or as part of recycling water from filters. Allowing the water to pass through coils of pipes to warm the water, mixing back in to raise the overall temperature of the water in our tanks.



Check out this DIY project here:

DIY Solar Water Heater! - Deluxe "Aluminum Backed" COPPER COIL Solar Water Heater! 175F Full Instr. : 4 Steps (with Pictures) - Instructables

Or perhaps something more commercial evacuated tube system, designed for heating water for the household.



Reclaiming Energy

All these processes so far rely on the fundamental law of nature that energy cannot be made or destroyed, just transformed from one form into another. More and more we are going to see devices designed to harvest even the smallest amount of energy we are wasting. So, thinking along these lines I guarantee (that as a fish keeper) we transfer energy through water flow. One idea would be a small Turbine on that water flow, such as the one pictured below.



This would be ideal just before a 3 stage HMA filter, where reducing the flow rate is no bad thing, giving the filter a better chance of doing its job. While at the same time this turbine could be producing 10w of power, good enough to run an air pump or run lighting in the fish house perhaps?

Wind Power

I thought a word on Wind Power would be appropriate given the UK weather. I was disappointed to find three distinct problems.

- Most DIY kits do not perform as sold, and people should be careful of their expectations
- The upfront cost of a wind turbine that works is high: a pole-mounted system that generates about 6kW could set you back between £23,000 and £34,000.
- They're not suitable for every home: home wind turbines just don't work for everyone. You need to have the right wind speed to power them, which means you need lots of unobstructed space – which is usually only the case in rural homes

Overall, I think the next few years will be challenging for anything consuming electricity, let alone Fish Breeding. As a result, we will either lower our expectations, growing fish slower and only showing adult fish.

Or find ways for our fish houses to be more energy efficient. Hopefully some of the ideas above give you good reader food for thought.

By Grahame Draper

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