



the  
**GOLDFISH**  
**STANDARD**

*Newsletter of the Association Midland Goldfish Keepers*

**SPRING 2023**



# “Hurry up and wait”

## The Bristol Adventure part 2

### by Bernie Woollands

“Hurry up and wait”.  
The Bristol Adventure pt 2.  
by Bernie Woollands.

Shortly after sending off Part 1 to Jackie all work on this project came to a halt. I had to restrain myself from tinkering any further. I had built it to a plan for its intended use and felt it would be pointless making any changes until I'd seen if they work. So I resolved to keep my hands off until the Spring and contented myself with creating the outside space for the growing-on ponds.

I mentioned in the previous article that I was going down the road of utilizing some pre-formed ponds under the cover of a fruit cage. But that hasn't worked out. The ponds that I was coveting at my local fish shop disappeared. The fruit cage turned out to be too flimsy. Thankfully happenstance kicked in and I resolved the issue with two pieces of luck. Firstly, a local garden centre closure provided a 2 x 1.5 mtr plastic greenhouse for £50. Secondly I saw mention of DuckPonds on a related fish site from a company called QPS (Quality Pet Supplies). Via them I got 3 troughs that equalled the capacity of the 2 ponds I was pursuing for just under half the price. I have to say that it is going to be cosy in there as there is very little space to manoeuvre between the troughs. *See pic below.* But it's all about space for the fry to grow and that is it for now. By the time I finish this article I hope to have the roof put on.



Aside from that it was 'do nothing' as far as the fish house was concerned. But that didn't stop my mind from wandering and pondering what lies ahead. One area under consideration is a constant-drip feed & water change system. Two of the tanks are already pre-drilled as I used this system back when I bred Tanganyikans. I have an auto top-up system on the koi pond which could easily be diverted to the shed. But, my water company is notorious for using chlo-

ramine and although there are in-line filter pods to eliminate the chloramine, the result is that the residual ammonia is then dumped into the pond. The pond has sufficient volume and filtration to cope with that. But the tanks probably won't. So I'm considering bringing in a water butt of a known volume that I can fill and then treat between the water changes. This is the first item on my 'wait for the Spring list'. I will be using a conditioning product called Fish Protect from Colombo that my koi club uses at its shows.

A friend has asked me if I will be content with breeding just one variety. I've a lot to learn and catch up on and right now so I don't think the added complication of a different variety would help. Therefore the answer to that is no. But, sometime in the future things might be different. However, once that germ was planted in my brain I couldn't stop thinking about it. Should I go in that direction in the future I'm thinking along the lines of Wakin. I don't know what the state of play is in the UK with this variety but I know a Japanese Koi judge that breeds them and it might be possible to utilize the koi import business to bring some over from him if the UK standard could do with some input. This too goes on to the 'wait for several springs' list.

While trawling the local aquatic shops before Christmas I discovered this; an 'In tank moving-bed filter' made by Superfish. *see pic below* Moving-bed filters are common in



the koi world and are known for their efficacy. However, they are also notorious for being slow to mature. My thoughts are that when I bring my potential breeding stock in from outside and house them in the two 'conditioning tanks' it might be overcrowded and require more filtration. If that turns out to be the case then this gadget might prove useful.

During this time I had two koi events to attend in Japan. One in November, the other in January. The November event was staged at a koi farm (Tani Koi Farm) on the outskirts of Tokyo. The farm has a shop where I bought several nets of different shapes and sizes to equip the fish house. See pic. During the time there I showed the koi judge that breeds Wakins the photos of the fish house and some of the Bristols I've already bought, and we discussed breeding and swapped notes. Just before I was leaving for the airport he presented me with a gift all nicely wrapped up. I opened it in the taxi and found it to contain two sponge filters. Small but very well made. See pic below.



Prior to Christmas we had a very cold spell and apart from checking on the fish in the pond and feeding them a little live food there wasn't much else to do. So I set about reading the AMGK newsletters which go back as far as 2011 and was glad I did. Eleven years of your publications yielded a number of articles that will steer me in the right direction when I can start breeding. As well as the articles there were a proliferation of Bristol Shubunkin photos.

Christmas over I had to prepare for the second Japan trip and I thought I'd visit an aquarium shop or two. A quick internet search found one quite close to the area I was staying. It even had a youtube video of its inside. It was located in the basement of a large building in a shopping area. In the video it looked quite spacious. In reality it was tiny. It was about half the floor space of the room used for the auction at last year's AMGK show. The person who took the video really made use of wide angle lenses. However, it was packed with aquariums and paraphernalia. I'd say it was a 50/50 split between goldfish and tropicals. I wanted to buy an additional sponge filter to add to the two I'd been gifted, but there were none of that size for sale. However,

there were larger ones so I settled for three of those plus a set of spare sponges, and another net.



As of March the 1st I have power in the fish house and could get on with installing the lights, pumps and other stuff in readiness for the first fish. An RCD on the feed from the house to a consumer unit in the shed and three double waterproof sockets, one with USB ports conveniently placed should satisfy my connectivity leads. A Blagdon 5-way switch box has already been wired in.



Two days later the first of the aquariums have been filled with water, followed by another a day later and the heaters have been turned on in readiness for the first arrivals. The water was treated with Fish Protect and I'm now letting it warm up. And that is it.

Next week the wife goes into hospital for hip replacement operation which happens to coincide with another appearance of the 'Beast from the East'. Before any more progress can be made I need to put both of these events behind me.

Maybe by the time of the March meeting I might have installed the first fish. I intend to be at that meeting and I'll be bringing those two Japanese sponge filters along for the raffle.

**See you there.**

## CROSSWORD

**Across**

[1] A color  
 [3] Fish ride it, water needs it (5)  
 [7] Fish need to keep the temperature steady (10)  
 [9] Fish eat these condensed meals (11) Apple : A red colored fruit  
 [10] It's underfoot for fancy fish (10)  
 [12] Catch fish with this, but don't break the mesh (3)

**Down**

[2] It neutralizes chlorine in water, for the sake of the fish (13)  
 [4] An air-rate contraction for fish (7)  
 [5] A fishy way to transfer liquid (6)  
 [6] Fish like greens in their environment (10)  
 [8] Can fish heal gutters? (6)  
 [10] A shining thing in sky  
 [11] An odd number

A	A	A	A	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
A	A	A	A	O	A	C	E	L	E	S	T	I	A	L	
A	A	A	A	O	A	A	L	I	O	N	H	E	A	D	
A	A	A	A	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	L
C	L	I	C	K	T	E	L	E	S	C	O	A	E	A	
N	A	M	A	I	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	C	
I	A	O	L	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	T	A	S
L	A	L	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	A	A	L	
L	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I	A	R
T	T	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	L	A	A
E	E	R	A	N	A	C	R	E	O	U	S	A	A	E	
M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	P

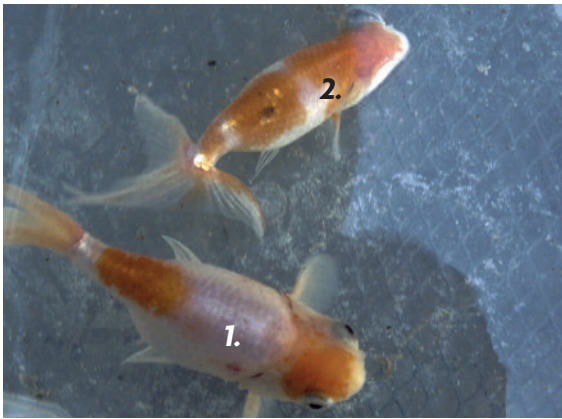
## WORDSEARCH

- TELESCOPE
- BUTTERFLY
- FANTAIL
- LIONHEAD
- BLACKMOOR
- CELESTIAL
- RYUKIN
- PEARLSCALE
- METALLIC
- NACREOUS
- BUBBLEEYE
- POMPON

# CELESTIAL PICK'N'MIX

I have been trying for years to produce a calico celestial without success so this year I have decided to take a different approach rather than just pick a pair of fish to spawn I will use the 'scatter gun' approach, crossing a lot of fish together to see what does or does not work. *One important thing to note before you think I am completely mad is that all of these fish have one parent which had celestial eyes.*

I started by putting all the prospective candidates in a tank next to a window in the fish house hoping that the morning sun would get the breeding urges come to life, then one afternoon I noticed the male nosing the female's vent a little. Oh I thought, things might be about to kick off soon and sure enough the next afternoon I had a tank full of very randy (and active) celestials. The first pair to get started were fish number 1. *(a fish which I am ashamed to say I dropped on the floor, hence the one eye)* with fish number 2. *(a cross I did years ago between a calico egg fish and a metallic celestial, its a dreadful fish that I had kept in a pond for years and it had asked for an outing).*



Rather than just let all the fish have an orgy I thought I might try hand spawning a few so I started off by spawning the fish below because they had the best eyes from last year even if they did have awful colour



Then I hand spawned the fish below (males) with the large female at the bottom



Just to cover all the bases I also crossed her with a matt fish that I had kept from last year.

I have not heated the rearing tank and so afar (about 10 days) the hatch looks moderate so its full steam ahead with hatching brine shrimp and I will also put a heter in the tank, then hope for the best.

If I dont get good results I do have a cunning backup plan which is to get bot a calico bubble-eye and a calico ranchu to cross with a metallic celestial. Right now off to play with my new camera, the last one died taking these pics at least that my excuse for the poor photography!





ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND GOLDFISH KEEPERS

MAY NEWSLETTER

ADULT FISH SHOW

This will be held at our next meeting on May 17th at the Foleshill Community Centre at 2.00pm. This event proved very popular last year, with a lovely selection of fish on display and it is hoped that this years will be even better! Entry fees are 10p per fish, one fish per tank. Please bring your own tanks.

After the judging Brian Tinkler will be giving a talk on conditioning a fish for breeding and he may be able to give us a demonstration on hand stripping.

BRING AND BUYS

There will be no bring and buys at any of the meetings this year. In the March newsletter I said that there would be bring and buys at all meetings but the AGM but this was incorrect. Sorry for any confusion caused.

VISIT TO GARY LEWIS

During the last meeting the membership discussed the pro's and con's of visiting Gary Lewis in Kent. 25 people expressed an interest in this trip but this was not sufficient to fill a coach. Several members preferred to make their own way there and it was suggested that a minibus could be hired but these can be uncomfortable on long journeys. Tom Moore has agreed to contact Gary Lewis to see what varieties of fish will be in stock during July/August and a final decision will be made on May 17th. So please have a think about this now so that a quick decision can be made.

RAFFLE PRIZES

Calling all members .....Raffle prizes are needed for the Invitation Show on 21st June. Anyone who can make a commitment please see Elaine, the membership secretary. We don't need many items, just the sort of thing that YOU would like to win in a raffle!! Such things as bottles of drink, chocolates, plants, cakes, cuddly toys etc. One year someone donated a beautiful boxed orchid, can we beat that??

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a word of thanks to all of those who promptly paid their subs ~~at the March 29th meeting or have since sent their cheques by post.~~ Your receipt is attached to this newsletter. If your receipt is not attached to this newsletter then it is possible that you have overlooked payment or that your payment has been received after May 1st, in which case your receipt will follow. If the former is the case then perhaps this subtle reminder will jog your memory. The fee at the moment is £4.50 for individual membership or £6.00 for family membership.

# Long held Ambition

This year with a little luck I shall be able to realize an ambition I have held onto for half a century, let me explain. . .

There I was a pimply school boy at a GSGB meeting held in Red Lion Square, London. I was listening in fascination to a talk given by Joe Linale who was one of the society's wise old men. He was showing a moor which he had produced by a crossing a broadtail moor with a mock metallic veiltail. The moor was as black as newgate's knocker! It was as black as black could be even when you turned it upside down to inspect it's belly (which normally shows a tiny bit of gold colouration, this fish was truly completely and utterly black from top to bottom. It even has matt eyes.

I have always wanted to see if I could produce one but never really had the opportunity (or fish) to do so That changed last week when Brian Young gave me a mock metallic female veiltail, I had a fantailed male moor which I had bred and put in the pond about 10 years ago (when I



used to breed broadtail moors I always kept the strongest fantailed fish when culling the youngsters (just in case of problems with the broadtailed fish) at least that was my excuse as the real reason being that I have always liked fantailed moors.

So I now plan to cross the two fish and hope for the best

## Forthcoming Events

### AMGK Open Show

24 June 2023 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

AMGK Open Show/ Guppy Show/Auction  
Wyken Community Centre, Belgrave Estate, Coventry  
CV2 5PY

### AMGK Baby fish Show & meeting

20 August 2023 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

St. Bartholomew's Church, Brinklow Rd, Binley,  
Coventry CV3 2DT  
<https://goo.gl/maps/hjdxenjW2aS5FCM18>

## We also have this passage from Graham Turner on the Table show:

"Today's event featured the Adult Fish Show and Auction, which showcased a total of eight fish varieties and had seven exhibitors in attendance. Here are the details of each class entry:

**Class 1: Bristol Shubunkin**, entered by Pat Davies with four fish. Pat Davies First, second, third and fourth.

**Class 2: London Shubunkin**, entered by Mick Smith with four fish. Mick Smith First, second, third and fourth.

**Class 3: Veiltails Metallic**, entered by Pat Davies with two fish. Pat Davies First and second

**Class 4: Celestial**, entered by Graham Turner with one fish. Graham Turner First

**Class 5: Calico Fantails**, entered by Gary Malpas with



four fish. Gary Malpas first, second, third and fourth.  
Class 6: Ryukin, entered by Mike Kirkham with three fish, and Grahame Draper with three fish. Mike Kirkham secured the first and second positions, while Grahame took the second and third positions.

**Class 7: Bubble-eye**, entered by Graham Turner with one fish. Graham Turner First.

Class 8: Butterfly Telescope, entered by Jackie Pedley with two fish. Jackie Pedley First and second.h four fish.

**Class 6: Ryukin**, entered by Mike Kirkham with three fish, and Grahame Draper with three fish. Mike Kirkham secured the first and second positions, while Grahame took the second and third positions.

**Class 7: Bubble-eye**, entered by Graham Turner with one fish.

**Class 8: Butterfly Telescope**, entered by Jackie Pedley with two fish.

During the auction, Pat Davies and Tony Roberts facilitated the bidding process for the fish, namely Bristols, Ryukin, Fantails and Butterfly.

The meeting welcomed some new attendees, providing an opportunity to finally match faces to their names. It was a pleasant day, and I want to



congratulate everyone for their participation.  
**Well done!**

Graham Turner , AMGK Chairman"

Oase

Explore our **PondoVac** range today



PondoVac 3



PondoVac 4



PondoVac 5



**SPONSERED**

**BY**



**FREE  
DELIVERY**

