



NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



ONLINE EDITION

No.6

APRIL 2014



A not so common Goldfish

....because this fish won Firsts for Sherridan in 2012 & 2013.

This Newsletter edition contains details of the April meeting, Nationwide reports and a little comedy.....

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Report of the April meeting....

There was a good turn-out for the AGM 2014, where annual fees were paid (sent your?) and the following committee places filled:

Chairman: Sherridan Moores

Membership Secretary: David Padfield

Show Secretary: Dean Roberts

Treasurer: Vacant...please let Sherridan know if you are willing to help with this important position.

Development Officer: Richard Rizzotti

The new position of 'Development Officer' is to recruit new members – especially younger aquarists. Richard suggested this could be via Bronze, Silver and Gold Membership levels advertised on the Internet Social Sites. He will make proposals next meeting – see the Newsletter for May.

The meeting of the National Standards committee was reported by Sherridan and consequences discussed. Judge Alan Ratcliffe read out his letter of resignation from GSGB and the reply it generated. Other letters were described by Sherridan and one copy is reproduced here to illustrate the problems....

Dear members,

The Committee of the GSGB keep referring, in a very negative manner, to the standard of judging of the nacreous bubble eye at the 2013 AMGK Open Show and are linking this criticism to some strange and wholly inappropriate attempt to justify their new and unworkable judging sheets.

As I was the judge of that particular fish it follows that they, the GSGB Committee, are questioning my competence as a judge. This is a quite outrageous and totally unjustified position for them to adopt.

To explain why this is so let me put on record how and why I judged the fish this way; the following paragraphs have been adapted from a letter sent by myself to the GSGB Committee.

"As you keep referring to the incident regarding the judging of the nacreous bubble eye at the AMGK show, this class having been judged by myself, you state that this fish had virtually no blue (9 points). Maybe the Committee needs to consult their Nationwide Standards books where they will see it lists the blue / violet as maximum 9 points, red / orange / yellow maximum 5 points, black maximum 5 points, brown maximum 1 point.

Yes I agree that the fish had little blue - because it had an adequate amount of violet excellently dispersed over its body a fact the committee seem to have overlooked. Thus for

this fish 5 points was just over 50% of the points allowed for these colours, I feel this was a perfectly correct decision. For red - 5 points (the maximum), this fish had a excellent dispersion of a high intensity of red exactly what is required for awarding maximum points in the Nationwide Standards the same applied exactly to the colour black and I awarded 5 points also. I awarded 1 point for brown as the fish showed the brown colour so this was justified.

Thus the blue / violet - 5 points, red / orange / yellow - 5 points, 5 points for black, brown - 1 point - a total of 16 points.

What I find offensive is that you the Committee seem to indicate that this incident seems, in your opinion, to reflect on my abilities as a Nationwide judge and that my abilities as a judge of vast experience has been incorrectly judged by a Committee, who in this case seem to have overlooked the Nationwide standards book, I have consulted with many other Nationwide judges over this and they all agree with my pointing. "

Yours sincerely J.D. ROBERTS, secretary NGPS, Nationwide Show Judge, Nationwide Committee member, NGPS / AMGK / BAS / GSGB / NEGS member.

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The saga continues, but meanwhile the National Standards Committee continue their work and the March Meeting minutes are reproduced here.....

NATIONWIDE MEETING

Minutes of meeting held at Horsehay Village Hall, Telford, Shropshire

11.30am Sunday 16th March 2014

AGENDA

Attended by:

Andy Barton (AMGK)
Graham Bell (BAS)
Pat Davies (AMGK)
Bob Jones (BAS)
Ian Mildon (BAS)
Sherridan Moores (NGPS) Chairman of Nationwide
Dean Roberts (NGPS)
Mick Smith (AMGK)
Graham Turner (NGPS)

Agenda

Item 1

Welcome - with a quick summation of events since our last meeting.

Item 2

Withdrawal of the GSGB from Nationwide.

Item 3

Consideration of future development of Nationwide.

Item 4

Consideration of Open Show dates and possibility of Nationwide Show.

- *PROPOSAL by Dean Roberts NGPS –
"All Nationwide Societies agree to arrange their Open Shows to allow a minimum two week gap between them."*

Item 5

Update on Standards revision.

Item 6

Update on judging systems revision.

Item 7

A.O.B.

ITEM 1. Welcome by Sherridan Moores, who chaired the meeting, and a summary of events since the last meeting

1. **SM** started the meeting with apologies from NEGS delegates whose transport had just failed MOT and were unable to attend and apologies from Craig Clinton (NGPS) due to sudden family illness.

ITEM 2. Withdrawal of the GSGB

2. SM gave quick summary of stance taken by Nationwide following 6 months of discussions with former member (GSGB) with regard to their determination to complete their own standards ready for the GSGB Open Show in September 2014 and resignation from Nationwide. Also pointed out that last two emails (sent from Chairman of Nationwide and GSGB) inviting the GSGB to this Nationwide Meeting and their notice of withdrawal, were not included in GSGB's publication of all correspondence and that SM, as chairman of Nationwide, would ask that this is rectified by the GSGB publishing them in their next Bulletin.

3. A discussion covered the appeal by one GSGB Judge (AB) to convene a meeting, independently of Nationwide, to allow the instigators of the proposed GSGB Standards to explain their reasoning to anyone within the hobby that had concerns about the GSGB current policy. The concerned members of the GSGB (28 in number) had written on numerous occasions to the GSGB committee expressing the concern that the GSGB were determined to go ahead with their own standards, to no avail. GSGB agreed in principle to a meeting, but insisted on a specific location and that room hire and public liability insurance would need to be paid by those people requesting the meeting (over £100.00p) together with full expenses for the four GSGB committee members that have worked to produce the proposed GSGB Standards.

Agreement to meeting therefore declined by GSGB Judge as no appetite from goldfish breeders to expend anymore time and money on this matter.

4. The meeting discussed whether the Nationwide had any responsibility to the ordinary members of GSGB, regarding explanation as to what has been going on over the last 6 months and their general interest in the hobby as a whole. It was decided that in principle this may be desirable but for the present, at least, there was no practical method of pursuing it.

5. The meeting raised the question as to the need for a reply to GSGB in view of their resignation from Nationwide. SM suggested letter to Chairman of GSGB to be short and sweet and to include, but necessarily limited to:-

Acknowledging resignation

Profoundly disagree with reasons for leaving and development of the GSGB standards and if they wanted to consider re-joining sometime in the future, nationwide would talk to them.

ITEM 3. Consideration of the development of Nationwide

6. Agreed that remaining specialist goldfish societies convinced on the positive benefits to breeders and judges alike of continued support of Nationwide and confirmed that all would continue to cooperate fully with each other to support society open shows, and share knowledge through their respective newsletters etc.,

7. The suggestion that all 4 societies would produce a single joint newsletter was rejected in favour of each society producing their own but freely sharing items of interest, as current informal agreement.

8. Agreed that all society newsletters recognise that each society is part of a loose affiliation with three other specialist goldfish societies working to Nationwide standards. Although all societies have national and international membership, it was considered desirable to have society connections printed within each newsletter, that clearly lets new members and interested parties know where a more convenient society might hold its regular meetings should they be looking for a more hands on and beneficial relationship with more local breeders and greater social intercourse etc.,

9. In order to cut down on travelling expenses for Nationwide meetings and general discussions it was agreed that Dennis Godfrey (NEGS) would investigate video links (such as SKYPE) and act as Nationwide's Video coordinator.

10. Agreed that nationwide should continue to develop as Goldfish 'parliament' reflecting the interests of all its member societies while allowing them to retain their individual identities.

ITEM 4. Consideration of all Open Show Dates and possibility of a national 'Nationwide' Show

11. Agreed that after this year all societies will work towards ensuring that a minimum of two weeks be given between any Society Open Show to protect welfare of exhibition fish. DR's proposal that this become the case this year was withdrawn as it would not be practical as the dates fall this year.

12. All delegates voted unanimously for a NATIONAL Nationwide Show to be supported by all four Nationwide societies for 2014.

(Item 13 – this has Show Date Proposals, which will be reported when all Nationwide Clubs agree on the date).

14. Members agreed that show should be held centrally. A number of suggested venues were discussed, with a hall in Northampton proving the most central and favourite for all travelling exhibitors but need to check for availability and report back to the chairman.

15. A number of possible names for a national show were offered with a final decision being:-

The UK National Goldfish Open Show

Sponsored by:- Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK); Bristol Aquarist's Society (BAS); North East Goldfish Society (NEGS) & Northern Goldfish & Pond Society (NGPS)

Judged to

NATIONWIDE STANDARDS

16. AB volunteered to act as show manager for this first show and stated that all societies should nominate a deputy show manager for their own society to ensure commitment to the open show and that all costs and profits be equally shared amongst each society. The managers would work with MS, who agreed to act as the show secretary. Once a venue and time and date is secured then the coordination would begin, with the show secretary and all the managers to ensure everything is covered.

ITEM 5. Update on Standards revision

17. Agreed to continue to modify those standards, both drawings and written descriptions etc., that the consensus of breeders and judges felt required attention. This would be done on a rolling programme, without undue haste, to ensure as wide an agreement as possible.

18. Various delegates brought to the table proposed modifications to the Goldfish/London Shubunkin, Bristol Shubunkin and Fantail. Additional modifications were agreed with a promise by SM that these would be undertaken on the electronic images presented and, once completed would be distributed to each society for comment/ratification.

19. SM explained that Keith Waters (AMGK) had questioned the protocol for sub-committees for new varieties. Explained that this did not apply to the existing standard varieties. It was agreed that responses to the Chairman's earlier appeal were based on sound knowledge of the breeders and judges working within Nationwide. Sub committees would continue for the 'new' varieties as agreed at the last Nationwide meeting.

20. During discussions on the drawings for those varieties named above SM questioned whether all fish fins could be seen from above. Agreed that earliest opportunity members would seek to verify this with every variety. To help with accuracy of drawing. AB informed meeting that most drawings (including the existing standards) of twin tailed fish were incorrect in respect of the top view of the caudal fin, and provided photographs of show winners with transparent overlays to point out discrepancies. Agreed that more work needed to be undertaken, and reported back.

21. Several options for change were discussed but agreed unanimously to continue with 5 x 20 pointing system for judging.

22. DR explained system of judge training adopted by NGPS that allowed for training at all the shows under different judges. This is to be written out and issued to delegates for referral to member societies for consideration. The benefits of breeding both twin tail and single tail varieties leading to success on the show bench for both adult and baby classes was unanimously recognised as essential before a candidate could be considered ready for training as a judge. Also agreed that a trainee judge needed to be monitored and reported on at least 6 national open show events (2 years), before being considered for acceptance as a qualified judge. The experience of training should include all varieties. The ability of a new judge to refuse a variety for personally judging would no longer be acceptable.

23. A name for the revised Nationwide standards was discussed such as:-

The UK Nationwide Goldfish Standards of the United Kingdom

The Nationwide Goldfish Standards UK etc.,

However it was agreed to give this matter further thought and report back once all the standards had been checked/modified as appropriate and ready for publication.

24. Suggested that once changes are completed to the standards then a seminar could be arranged to go over the changes to ensure that all judges are up to date, and as far as possible, judge with consistency.

25. Proposed by AB and agreed that by end of the standards review process that all the societies are given equal ownership of the New Nationwide Standards.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm

Minutes taken by Pat Davies

.....End

Newsletter notes: ref. item 23: if you have any ideas on the name for the Nationwide, please send them to Sherridan.

The NGPS meeting then ended with a video film of 'The Goldfish' by David Attenborough from the BBC archives.

It is requested that live goldfish are brought to the next meeting – Tuesday May 13th.

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Now for that comedy section.

I (VP David Ford – your editor too) developed Aquarian Fish Foods and toured America back in the 1990s to promote the brand (and help exports). I used fresh ingredients for the recipe (rather than the 'meals' of competitors) and one was a vegetable content: peas. Since the product was made (still is) in Yorkshire, I used their local supply of 'Yorkshire Mushy Peas'. When I mentioned this fact in lectures to many American Aquarist Societies they all started laughing (why? It is delicious).

By the year 2000 it was time for me to retire and at the party an American aquarist called Paul Speice 'The Aquatic Maestro' (he had a regular programme on US TV) was invited. He gave me a signed copy of a poem he had written for the occasion. It was all about those Mushy Peas (note: the American for 'arse' is 'ass'...and that I am rather small compared with the average American)....

Ode to a Giant

Though I travelled the world over
Not 'till I found England's shore
Did I reach my personal Holy Grail
....Pure scientific law

And when I reached the Island
I got my just reward
I met that leading scientist
Dr David Michael Ford

I spoke to him at length
About my life's ambition
To learn everything I could
About animal nutrition

So I asked him pointedly
Tell me if you please
The secret of perfect diets
He said "Yorkshire Mushy Peas"

And protein and lipids?
Live food and those they freeze?
He said to forget about all
"Use Yorkshire Mushy Peas"

And all the herbal wonders
On which the world agrees
What is your advice Doctor?
"Use Yorkshire Mushy Peas"

Well how about those vitamins?
Like A and all those B's?
"The only thing you need" he said
"is Yorkshire Mushy Peas"

Many friends have allergies
They'd cough and cry and sneeze
I cured the entire lot
With Yorkshire Mushy Peas

My 97 year old mother
Has arthritic knees
I fixed her up in three weeks
With Yorkshire Mushy Peas

I don't use petrol anymore
My radiator won't freeze
Since I switched my automobile
To Yorkshire Mushy Peas

The substance is amazing
Cures all anomalies
It's great for bats and rats and mice
And does away with fleas

So now I've turned the world around
By one's and two's and three's
People the world over
Use Yorkshire Mushy Peas

Meanwhile the clever doctor
With all his P.H.D's
Now has the largest
Of all monopolies

He bought up half the country
He cut down all the trees
He has half a million acres
Of Yorkshire Mushy Peas

PS...

I propose this toast to his past
Here's to Doctor David Ford
A business man first class
Who's spent his life in water
That reaches to his....knees
(This doesn't rhyme now, but it will when the tide comes in)

.....
Yes, fishkeeping is fun.

More next month.....

