



NORTHERN GOLDFISH & PONDKEEPERS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



A Nationwide Society

November 2014

The Nationwide Open Show 2014



The thirteen Nationwide Judges from the four members of the Nationwide group all took part in the very first Open Show on Saturday 27th September 2014 at Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Northampton.

They are (L to R) Dean Roberts, Keith Waters, Martyn Clare, Andrew Barton, Alex King, Bill Ramsden, Alan Race, Jim Amos, Sherridan Moores, Graham Bell, David Roberts, Ian Mildon and Graham Turner, representing Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society (NGPS), Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK), North East Goldfish Society (NEGS) and Bristol Aquarist Society (BAS).

The Nationwide members had 205 entries in the 57 Classes. There was also an Auction with over 50 Goldfish from the four societies' members. Hot & Cold food and drinks were available all day, plus a grand raffle.

The winners are listed via page 11 of the NGPS website and photographs from the Show are on page 3.

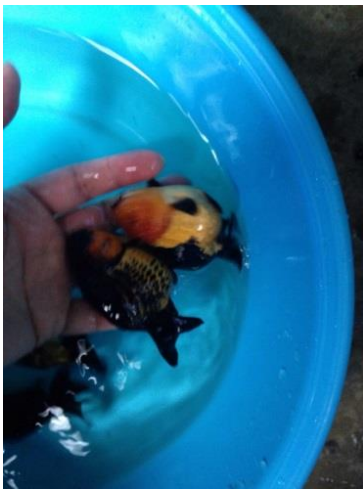
Minutes of the November Meeting

A good turnout including our President, who brought his family album of photographic prints – which turned out to be all fish. Some excellent colours and shapes too. Apologies read for other members who could not attend, which included David Padfield...who will become an octogenarian this month, so we all signed a birthday card (he doesn't look it!).

Sherridan reported the latest Nationwide news. The members discussed all this news and the comments can be read below, in the Chairman's Notes.

Craig Clinton showed more laptop photos of fish now being imported by 'Ranchu.london' from all over the Far East. Orders for specific varieties can be placed with them via Craig. The fish are much cheaper than any UK retailer but the international import and delivery is expensive – about 100 Euros - so shared costs by a consortium of members will help. **Ring Craig on 07954178895 for more details.**

Just a few of the fantastic varieties available.....





Sherridan showed a black Goldfish now available at Dave's Aquarium...this particular one certainly looks like a common Goldfish but really, they are all the 'mystery species' that has been around for the past decade or so.

Now for **The Chairman's Notes:**

Llandudno Weekend

The last weekend in October saw the second NGPS Llandudno social weekend. Seven members; David Ford, Dean Roberts, Tom Hindley, Graham Turner, Bob Jones, Jan Ferris and myself enjoyed a most relaxing and enjoyable residential hotel stay in Llandudno to mark the end of the Show season. This included a very breezy visit to the Welsh Mountain Zoo on the Sunday morning.

Nationwide News

Some up-to-date feedback regarding the Nationwide Open Show.....

Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

At the AMGK AGM last Sunday we discussed the success of the first Nationwide National Open Show etc.....

1. We had a unanimous show of hands supporting the proposal to have another Nationwide show in 2015, should the other three clubs also support the idea.
2. The show could be held in the same venue - with the addition of a marquee to house refreshments/fish auction etc., to allow for a larger entry of fish (could be over one hundred+ more).
3. Bill, one of our members, local to Northampton, has been charged with seeking out a larger venue as an alternative. (He is due to report back in our March meeting so that we can review cost implications).
4. I have been charged with seeking support for the idea of a 2015 show from all the other societies. If this isn't already on your agenda for next Monday could it be put on please - and let me know what the BAS membership have decided.
5. The first show made over £200, to be shared equally amongst the four Nationwide societies. At present this money is with Andy. We need to see what the other societies want to do with their share. Either take it now or keep it in a dedicated bank account as a fund for next year's show/Nationwide meeting and Nationwide future expenses etc.
6. Andy and I will continue to modify the typed copy of the Nationwide standards of UK (March 2014) over the next few weeks, that will then be reissued to the delegates for final review, leading to ratification at the next Nationwide meeting (April 2015?).
7. There was full support for the draft idea of constitutional reform of the Nationwide function- possibly giving delegates the right to elect a small committee to ensure progress of the standards to complete by 2015, arrange the annual show, and hold necessary funds etc. Please could this idea be put to your members to consider and let me know what you guys think?

(by Pat Davies.)

Bristol Aquarists Society

We had a really good meeting last night with a very entertaining talk by Dave Meadon.

We discussed your email at length and the members voted unanimously to hold another show in 2015. We also voted to keep the £200 with Nationwide as a fund for future years.

As you might know I have always been an advocate of smaller committees, and it appeared our Society as a whole agreed with this idea. It was also suggested that if a treasurer was elected, he or she should come from Bristol (or NEGS but that might not be possible).

It was felt that responsibilities like this, could be done "outside" of the Midlands to make the running of the the Nationwide Show fairer and more countrywide.

(by Bob Jones)

North East Goldfish Society

As far as NEGS is concerned we go along with what BAS have agreed and suggested.

As to the position of treasurer I think it would be a good idea to offer the position to a member of BAS as I am finding it difficult to motivate my members to take up positions in NEGS

NEGS offers full support to the Nationwide and will help in any way we can, on a more positive note I am actively trying to "reboot" NEGS and hold our Show as usual next year to complete the Nationwide four show format. Progress is been made but help from member society's may be required on the day! I am sure from all the positive comments I have received that will not be a problem.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped stage and took part in the Nationwide Show, as it was a credit to all concerned and is THE way forward to the future of Goldfish-keeping.

(by Dennis)

Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society

At the NGPS November meeting we discussed at length the following items and decided how we would like to proceed with the Nationwide Show.

1. Both the principle and the practical realization of the new Nationwide Show and it's continuation in the future, on the same date, have our full and enthusiastic support.

2. We do consider that, if possible, another hall in the same general area but also offering sufficient extra room space for auctions, cafe etc. should be looked for. We would not rule out halls with their own catering services, while this would mean any profits from same would not come to Nationwide it would release members from a time consuming task that takes them away from the actual progress of the Show.

We do not consider the option of a hired tent or marquee is a viable option.

3. We are happy for Nationwide to form a sub-committee to handle the running of the Open Show if the other Societies wish to do this but do not see that this would be of much importance or practical advantage.

4. We are happy for the profit from the 2014 show to be retained physically or in a bank account by a nominated Treasurer, a member of BAS would be quite acceptable, for use at future Nationwide Open Shows. We would however like an agreed limit calculated for the holding of any such funds so that if this was reached, surplus be distributed equally to the Societies or used in some other agreed way; we would not wish to see this as an ever increasing 'savings bank'.

(by Sherridan Moores)

Our President Writes

....another article by our President, Bill Ramsden. This follows on from his article 'Preparation and Spawning of Goldfish Varieties' in the Online August 2014 Newsletter (and the printed July & August 2014 Newsletter). It was written some years ago when he had a busy Fish-house and a long-suffering wife....

Goldfish - Mutations And Line Breeding

Mutations

The vast majority of people when confronted with the question: "What do you know about Goldfish?" would most probably answer: "A gold coloured fish which is normally kept in a round bowl." They are not aware of the advances made over many years to create a large variety of Goldfish, most of which would not be recognised as originating from the common Goldfish.

These different varieties are created by a number of mutations which have been developed until they become a norm and will reproduce at a reasonable rate. (Mutation means change, especially in Genetics).

Some of the mutations developed in the Fancy Goldfish are as follows. The body may be round instead of elongated. Fins may be paired instead of single, or be very long and broad rather than short. (Fish can also be produced without certain fins). Telescopic eyes can be of four types. Fish are produced with a hood growth on the head and cheeks. Even scaling may be different, for instance with a raised scale resembling a pearl. Colour can be very different. It may be Nacreous in blue, red, purple, orange or black or it could be self-coloured in red, gold, silver, black, blue or chocolate. There may be variegation of any two colours.

At this point I should like to take the opportunity to explain that I am not trying to put people off the hobby, but trying to make them aware of some of the difficulties they may encounter and help them to overcome them.

To be successful in creating a strain that will conform to show standards and win a prize at one of the major shows is an ultimate aim of this hobby. To help you achieve this there are three necessities: Patience, dedication and a tolerant wife (for any who are attached like me!).

Patience and Line Breeding

It is said by some people that to develop these mutations is cruel. But bear in mind that whatever shape or condition you are born into, to you that will always be the norm. You do not know any difference. If, for example, you had never seen or heard of an elephant and I introduced you to one, what might your first reaction be? "Is that long thing on its face a nose?" My reply would be yes. Your next comment might be: "That is cruel, to develop it so long." Then someone explains that the trunk of an elephant is one of the most versatile organs known to nature. It has the capability of picking up anything from a peanut to a very large tree. It can draw several gallons of water at once into its Proboscis.

There is a difference between breeding Fancy Goldfish and many other types of fish. Native fish, for example, that live in the wild in rivers, lakes and ponds, or in the sea, reproduce and, in most cases, are like peas in a pod. It is difficult to distinguish one from another. This is simple reproduction - in the wild or in an aquarium or a fish farm.

But in the case of Fancy Goldfish it is an art where one is trying to develop a particular shaped body with finnage that will enhance the body and colour that will draw attention to itself. A Bristol type Shubunkin is a fine example. It has a long, sleek, torpedo-shaped body with beautiful lace-like finnage and colour which should consist of blue, violet, red, orange and black. Bringing all these characteristics together takes many years and is only achieved by patient line-breeding and developing your own strain.

Dedication and Line Breeding

Dedication is the most important necessity one requires to become successful in life. This means, for example, putting your interest before most other things in life. When I was a foreman at an Engineering works it was my responsibility to ensure that the workmen stopped at twelve o'clock for lunch and restarted at twelve thirty. During this half-hour period I would get in my car and drive three miles home eating a sandwich on the way. This was just to make sure my young fish were fed and then return able to see that the men started work on time. At the end of the shift (5.30pm but it was usual to work overtime until 7.30pm). After checking that the works was secure my next objective was to drive a round trip of thirty miles to collect a couple of buckets of Daphnia to feed my young fish the following day.

My evening meal was 9.30pm. The fish must come first. It is very important that fish are fed at regular times each day. Every meal you fail to give them can never be recovered in future. This dedication, on every working day, is only a small part of what you have to give if you are sufficiently enthusiastic about this hobby.

The Importance of a Tolerant Wife.

It may not be recognised in the early stages of this hobby but as time passes, more space is required, more time and more money. This is when you become aware whether or not you have a tolerant wife. One of my learning experiences came when I could not find room to put another twenty fish. All my twenty five tanks were full. The only space available was a spare bedroom.

So I purchased a child's paddling pool, measuring six feet square and one foot high. This was an ideal solution for several weeks. Then, one morning, I came downstairs to find the kitchen ceiling on the floor and all the electrics fused. (I am happy to say that my wife and I have now been married for fifty six years and we are still living together.)

Aspects of Line Breeding

Line Breeding and creating one's own strain are very important in this hobby. It is possible to recognise some breeders' fish just because of certain features they have bred into their strain. It can take ten or fifteen years to develop a strain, depending on what type of fish you are creating and the number of mutations it contains. At present I am in the process of developing a strain of Broad Tail Moors which I was very successful with many years ago. I had let this go for a while as I tried other things.

You must start with the best quality of fish possible. The pair I started with was moderate, with a lot of details that could be improved. After spawning this pair I culled the young fish down to the best twenty fry and fed them on for the next twelve months. In the meantime I bought two Chinese imported fish which had very good eye development and an exceptional black colouring, features which came out in my next cross-spawning. The Chinese fish were then discarded, never to be used again.

My search then went on for fish with long, broad finnage and deep bodies. Eventually I found just the right fish and the results of my latest cross arc very good, the fish with the good finnage having also been discarded. The next move will be to do a sibling cross to enhance the strain.

Be warned - it is not easy. A lot of the aforementioned patience and dedication are required.

Sometimes the wrong features will be produced and one must start again.
But what satisfaction when you achieve what you want!

Finally - It is hoped that a Christmas Dinner will be our next such event and that we will discuss when and where at the December Meeting.

This will be at the Church Inn, December 9th, 8pm – see you there.

