



**NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY**
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



February 2016



A historic photo! The final meeting of the Nationwide Goldfish Societies UK

Yes, they met on Sunday 24th January 2016 in Horsehay Village Hall, Telford to finalise the Nationwide Standards. All the Standards and Organisation were approved and, after a few minor corrections, everything will be published this month. Look for it on our website www.northerngoldfishsociety.com soon.

The aquarists were (clockwise from 12) Bob Jones (BAS) / Graham Bell (BAS) / Ian Mildon (BAS) / Graham Turner (NEGS) / Sherridan (NGPS) / Dean Roberts (NGPS) / Craig Clinton (NGPS) / Mick Smith (AMGK) / Andrew Barton (AMGK) / Pat Davies

(AMGK) / Dennis Godfrey (NEGS) / Keith Waters (NEGS) / Alan Race (NGPS). Sherridan is Chairman of Nationwide and voted-in for the next three years. Dennis Godfrey is secretary, Andy Barton is treasurer, Ian Mildon is Judges and Standards, Graham Turner is Show secretary with Alan Race as Show manager. What a great team!

Here they are again, hard at work making history...



The empty chair is mine – but I am just the reporter.

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Member's write – Alex Stephenson's letter is called "Sooner or Later"

This morning, I noticed a couple of my Oranda youngsters beginning to decolour. These fish are not yet six weeks from hatching, and I don't rear at high temperatures.

We all like our Metallics to decolour early, but are we wise?

The red Common Goldfish I keep are a strain I've had for many years. I have found that the youngsters which decolour early (within the first year) are not often the

best for colour. The fish which decolour as yearlings (the following Spring/Summer) can be better.

The yellow strains I keep have an even more obvious problem. The early decolouring fish sometimes keep going and lose all their colour, ending up white. Again, the yearlings rarely have this problem.

A while ago my red Orandas produced a black one. This particular fish was one of a group of youngsters which were turned out into an outside pond while waiting to decolour. Instead of going red like the others, it got darker until it was black. This fish, a fine looking male, is now five years old and, apart from slight bronze on the underbelly, it is still a good black.

All this would suggest the genetic machinery responsible for the colour is complex. It would be interesting to know if other fishkeepers have similar happenings...

(As ever, send emails to me at drdmford@outlook.com or post a letter to Sherridan, for inclusion in **your** Newsletter).

Goldfish Facts – No.3 What's in a Name



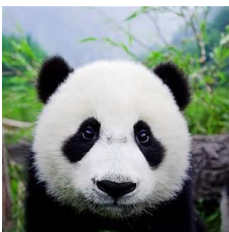
Sherridan reported that World of Water at Altrincham had some nice 'Magpie Demekins' in stock (at £5). I visited and bought this one, but it was sold to me as a 'Panda Moor'. A bit of research showed these were also sold as 'Panda Orandas', although neither a Panda nor an Oranda! The proper Panda Goldfish is Red, Black and White – because the common (real) Panda in the Far East is the Red Panda. The real one we know (only Black and White) is the less common Giant Panda. Hence Chinese Panda Goldfish are Red, Black and White. The Moor name comes from our Black Moor (but this can also be called a Black Demekin, Black Peony Goldfish or Dragon Eye

Goldfish). Years ago our Black Moors were called Black-a-Moors; but that is no longer an acceptable term.

Even more years ago, the Japanese were breeding 'Magpie Demekins'
– this is a silk print circa 1950s from Japan....



The World of Water name of 'Panda Moor' must be because of the Moor-like black coloration and (slightly) telescopic eyes and the 'Panda' name because it does resemble our ideas of a Panda's face.



Panda & Magpie Red Panda & Chinese-bred Panda Goldfish

I think mine looks more like a Panda than a Magpie. But, what's in a name....

News about Algae

The latest scientific papers about the thousands of species of algae that plague or please us in our ponds and tanks, have good and bad news.

The good news is that Canadian scientists have designed a battery that uses the electrical energy produced by Blue-Green Algae (cyanobacteria). The battery has the usual anode and cathode (+ and – connections), but at the cathode is a cell containing the algae which undergo photosynthesis in its usual explosive way, which actually releases electrons. These electrons are tapped off from the cell, which is then, of course, an electric current. Years of work will be needed but they claim the system will eventually power our smart phones and tablets. Carbon-free power!

The bad news is that Leicester University scientists have calculated that the algae in the earth's oceans produce most of the Oxygen we breathe (far more than the trees). Global warming of just 6 degrees in the oceans will stop the algae's photosynthesis working and that means the atmospheric Oxygen will drop by two-thirds. They also calculate that this will happen by year 2100, if the current warming levels continue. But we will have all suffocated before then. Oh, dear.

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Sherridan's Fish know all about algae....



Minutes of the February Meeting

It was a dark and stormy night in Prestwich...so no members turned up. But the committee did (Chairman, President & Vice President) so they had a meeting to discuss what to do about the monthly get-together. Perhaps the Tuesday dates are not convenient because of shift or late working. If so, a Sunday Meeting may be preferable. Perhaps even a Sunday Lunch for families. Another idea was quarterly meetings – or even going on-line only with the monthly Newsletter as the contact point. Personal meetings could be 'at home' in member's fish-house. All just ideas, because the decision must be by the members.

Hence, please make a note in your diary to attend the AGM where decisions can be made...this will be the April Meeting (April 12th). Bring your annual subs too!

Sherridan reported that a new member is Breeder and Judge Alex King who has already written an article for our Newsletter – see next month's issue.

This led to a discussion about members' contributions to the Newsletter – there is a wealth of knowledge that should be recorded. To this end, David Ford (your editor) is recording on tape the thoughts of your President Bill Ramsden's lifetime as a Shower.

Every member must have a 'top tip' that should be made available to everyone...send them to me, as always drdmford@outlook.com.

My top tips are already on tape...these were shown at the meeting...



These are about all petfish but some will be relevant to Goldfish, Fish-houses and Ponds and so will be used in future Newsletters. We need yours!

The Committee then went into reminiscent mode and that lasted until 10pm when we departed without room fees or prize.

We hope to see you at the March Meeting, but if not, do plan to attend the AGM in April where we can decide on the society's future meets and even venues.

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Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is Tuesday, March 8th. See you there.

