



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



**January 2018**

**It is never too late to wish all our 70 members**



**Your Chairman Writes...**

Rather than revue 2017 with its mixed fortunes in breeding successes, here is a quiz to celebrate 2018. Send answers via email to David Ford at [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com) (or post). Answers will be published next month. Best answer gets a prize - careful, some are deceptively tricky.

1. What Goldfish varieties have another animal in its name?
2. What is the name of the Goldfish that appears in a Disney Cartoon film?
3. Name the artist who did several still-life paintings of Goldfish?
4. Who wrote the novel called 'Goldfish'?
5. A fat cat drowning in a Goldfish Bowl by Thomas Grey led to what famous phrase?
6. What is the scientific name of Disney's Nemo?
7. What British freshwater fish is almost mentioned in the title of a novel by Lecaré?
8. Give the English name of the street in Hong Kong called 'Tung Hoi'.
9. What is the Goldfish variety called a 'Ryukin' named after?
10. Give the correct scientific name of a Goldfish,
11. Why are Telescopic-eyed Goldfish misnamed?
12. Aquatic plants always produce Oxygen – is this true?
13. Name the sets of mini-books on Goldfish and other pets sold in most petshops in years past.
14. What insect larvae used to be sold as Goldfish food, also years past.
15. Where does the name 'Grass' in 'Grass Carp' come from?
16. When was the first 'Nationwide' Open Show held?

17. What is the name of the Manchester Leisure complex that originally held the British Aquarist Festival for many years in the last millennium?
18. Which British Prime Minister was famous for his love of a Goldfish pond?
19. What is the common name for the Yellow Iris?
20. Name the organ that regulates the swimming depth of a Goldfish.

## **The 2018 Goldfish Shows**

The Goldfish shows start with a 'Members Meeting' on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at St Matthews Hall, Chapel Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 9AJ. This is a new venue by NGPS and details will be decided at February's Tuesday meeting – hope you will be there to contribute.

The AMGK OS will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at West Orchard Church Hall, Baginton Road, Coventry CV36 6FP.

The NEGS OS will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July at Redby Community Centre, Fulwell Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR6 9QU.

The Bristol Aquarist Society hold their OS on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Hengrove Community Centre, Fortfield Road, Hengrove, Bristol BS14 9NX.

Our OS will be Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September at St Matthews Hall, Chapel Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 9AJ – don't forget to visit on Friday afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> September to help set it up.

The grand final will be the Nationwide OS on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at Wyken Community Centre, Belgrave Estate, Coventry CV2 5PY – note that this the change from Telford and is still to be confirmed, so more next month.

## **The Other Northern Shows**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April - AAGB Members Weekend, Ibis Hotel, Bramley. Guest speakers and Labyrinth fish Open Show etc. Please note that you must be a member of the Anabantoid Association to attend.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Ryedale Aquarist Society Open Show & Auction, Kirby Misperton Village Hall, Malton.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Bradford ADAS Spring Open Show & Auction, Bradford Academy.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Ashby Fishkeepers Open Show & Auction, Yaddlethorpe Village Hall, Scunthorpe.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Select Open Show & Auction, Lodge Moor Community Centre, Scunthorpe.

Sunday 1st July - YAAS Open Show, The Village Hall, Stockton-on-the-Forest, York.  
Sunday 8th July - Castleford A.S. Catfish & Loach Open Show with Catfish & Loach Auction.

Sunday 12th August - Friends of Yorkshire Open Show & Auction, The Village Hall, Stockton-on-the-Forest, York.

Saturday 20th October - AAGB Members Day, Ibis Hotel, Bramley. Guest speakers and Labyrinth Fish Open Show etc. Please note that you must be a member to attend.

Any additions or amendments? Send to [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com) Thanks.

### **This Month's Top Tip**

More from Alan Ratcliffe – we call the Oranda, Lionhead and Ranchu's headgrowth a Hood or Crown but the official name is 'Wen'.



Many Breeders believe this word is of Chinese or Japanese origin, but is in fact a medical term. It is for an abnormal growth by a sebaceous gland on the skin of a human (often in the head because it may develop in a hair follicle). It is benign and can be surgically removed. The word is Old English – originally a 'wenn'.

### **Member's Write**

Alex King found an interesting article about breeding Shubunkins in his collection of old Aquarist & Pondkeeper magazines. Although over 50 years old (and the prose is quaint) the advice is still sound and relevant today.

This may be difficult to read on mobiles so a print of the text is on the page following.

# Founding a Strain of Shubunkins

by JOHNSON H. HOOD

THE shubunkin is a great favourite with coldwater aquarists, and rightly so. It is a hardy variety of goldfish; alert, long-lived and at its best a very beautiful fish rivaling the most exotic of tropical fishes. Unfortunately it is not easy to produce really outstanding specimens with the regularity one desires, as any breeder will readily testify. Judging by my correspondence I would say there is a definite upsurge of interest in the shubunkin (after it has been almost decimated by the existence of no less than three show standards!), and it is my desire to assist and foster this interest with some practical advice on the breeding of the shubunkin drawn from my experiences.

It often happens that the enthusiast visits a show and sees an outstanding specimen. He is enthralled by the grace and beauty of the shubunkin and is fired with the ambition to breed fish like that specimen. The next step, of course, is to acquire some stock. He can either buy a breeding pair or buy young stock to grow on, and from which he would select his breeders. Very often our shubunkin enthusiast experiences the first of his disappointments—the fish are nothing like as good as the specimen which caught his imagination. Naturally not; that outstanding specimen is almost certain to be the result of years of patience, careful thought and hard work. However, there is no need for despair; if the fish obtained came from a breeder with good stock the newly purchased fish will have the same "blood" and some potential, and it is almost a certainty that these fish will produce a proportion of youngsters superior to their parents.

When mating shubunkins the breeder must take into consideration several factors, such as body shape, finnage, colour and pedigree, but as show standards differ on body shape and finnage, I will deal only with colour and pedigree. Often the beginner fondly imagines that if he mates two richly mottled fish together he will produce many fine fish at one stroke. It is possible he might produce a few good specimens but my experience has been that if this plan is continued the fry from such a mating policy will progressively become darker and darker through succeeding generations. Again some breeders use parents showing as much blue as possible. This also is a mistake as blue is a form of black lying deep in the tissue of the fish. The resultant fry are usually very dark or very pale in colour.

## Results of Experiments

After experimenting for many years to increase the proportion of good youngsters per spawning, I have come to the conclusion that red is the most important factor. At one time I always followed the practice of insisting on blue being visible in both parents but the proportion of good fish per spawning never increased from year to year; indeed, the fry rarely had the brightness of the parents. Several years ago I mated a bright-red, black-spotted male, displaying no blue, but of known parentage with a heavily mottled blue female. To my surprise a high percentage of the fry were very good and, not only that, the proportion of blue youngsters increased. Later, I mated two red, black-spotted fish, without visible blue, but of known pedigree, and produced as good a proportion of youngsters displaying blue as from a blue x blue cross, but with a brilliance delightfully pleasing. Greatly interested in this result I followed up the experiments by crossing this red type with a metallic fish (uncoloured bronze) and also with



Photo: W. J. Hines

At its best the vivid colouring of the shubunkin can rival that of exotic fishes.

a matt (a pink uncoloured fish) with excellent results.

However, I must stress one point. The fish I used in these spawnings had excellent pedigrees extending over many generations. Since then I have overcrossed to good-type females with the deliberate intention of producing red fish. After choosing about eight of the most brilliant-red fish the rest of the spawnings were destroyed. Later those "half-breed" fish were crossed with "full-blood" partners and again excellent results were achieved. It will be noticed that when "half-breed" fish were used I made sure that the resultant fry were of only 25 per cent. diluted "blood." I regard that as being very important. There is little doubt that the strain was revitalised by the introduction of new "blood," and this was proved by later spawnings between brothers and sisters producing large, quick-growing youngsters of amazing vitality with an excellent percentage of richly coloured fish.

## Points to Observe

In conclusion I think the following points are worth stressing and will assist in the founding of a good strain of shubunkins.

1. Do not make haphazard spawnings between fish of different "blood".
2. Always work to a plan and keep careful records.
3. Do not, as a policy, mate fish together that are predominantly blue.
4. Make sure that one parent, preferably the male, is rich in red.
5. Mating red to blue is a good plan.
6. Mating a uncoloured fish with a metallic or a matt can produce excellent results, but it is wise to know the pedigree of such fish beforehand.
7. If your fry take a long time to colour you need an injection of new "blood"—preferably from a strain of red!
8. Do not expect to achieve your "ideal" in one season.
9. If your slim-bodied shubunkins produce even a few twin-tailed fish they are too closely inbred.

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## Fish Food News

Insects as food was legalised in Switzerland last year and they are marketing Meal Worms, Locusts and Crickets in human food items. Their grocery chain (called Coop!) sell burgers with them added, with a legally-binded label 'insects inside'. How this will develop is in the far future, but for now the main output is for commercial fish food. The Swiss have combined with the Dutch firm Protix to produce Black Soldier Fly larvae in bulk as a fishfarm food replacing Fish Meals and Soya Meal diets. The larvae (who will eat anything) feast on scrap foods that used to be sent to landfill, they are cooled to anaesthetise, washed and then ground up to form frozen slurry or cooked to form a meal. It has higher protein than Soya and ideal Lipids (oils) content plus 80% digestability (only 40% of beef cattle or 55% of chickens are actually digested by us). In China there are several factories that now take waste food to feed to insects rather than burying it – in fact Protix have based their plant in China. The UN's FAO have predicted that insect meal production will reach a billion tons per year before 2050.

Before then however, our member Dr David Pool, already adds insect meals to his FishScience diets. Read all about it at <http://www.fishscience.co.uk/>

## Minutes of the January Meeting

Apologies from most members, with just three of us at the Church Hall, where David Ford reported that our President Bill Ramsden was back in Hospital. He had a health emergency on Xmas day and David will visit the hospital the day after our meeting and deliver a Get-Well Card from all of us.

The main discussion was about the problems of members attending the Church Inn venue, especially on a dark, cold January night! We planned a potential weekend meeting, perhaps combined with a table show. Hence the 'Members Meeting' scheduled for next April, as detailed above.

**Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich (M25 1AN) is on February 13<sup>th</sup> where we hope you can attend to discuss and finalise the Members Meeting in April.**

