



January 2019



Maidenhead Aquatics at Tong Garden Centre, Bradford, don't stock Pedigree

Goldfish (just pond ones) but they do have a good selection of Koi – that you can pay to feed.

Aquarama 2018 Shanghai China (continued) by Ian Mildon

Thursday 23rd August 2018. Most of the other judges went home today as the official invitation period and free accommodation had come to an end. I had already decided to stay another three nights, firstly to do some sightseeing, secondly Shanghai is a long way to go for just three nights and thirdly there was a fish farm tour on the Saturday and from past experience it was always a good day out. More on the farm tour later.

During the exhibition three other members from the Vermillion Goldfish Club of Singapore had arrived to visit Aquarama they were Alex Ng, Eng Seng and Sam Hui, Eng and Sam had also brought their partners.

The Vermillion group and I had a day in Shanghai visiting a Temple and a recreated tourist area of old Shanghai. We then walked to the Bund and arrived there at 6.30pm. The Bund was absolutely crowded with people waiting for the lights to be switched on at 7pm. As the buildings were lit up we were treated to a fantastic light show. There were also lots of river cruise boats lit up like carnival floats cruising by.

Friday Alvin Lim left for Singapore and I was treated to a visit of the Yu Yuan

Gardens, a series of Koi ponds old houses and temples/meeting rooms rockery's and bonsai trees.



Yu Yuan Gardens have a Goldfish pond

Friday evening I was taken to a Karaoke bar, totally mind blowing, dozens of rooms some holding twelve people others could hold fifty, the glitz

and the decor was fantastic. I did not do much singing as most of the songs were from China and I cannot read Chinese. There were a few Country and Western songs that I growled my way through. At the end of the evening I thanked the guys from Singapore for their hospitality and said my goodbyes as they were leaving for Singapore on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning we assembled outside the hotel waiting for our transport to take us to four fish farms. To my surprise there were only a dozen guests and a small executive coach was provided for our transport. In the past there were two or three 52-seater coaches full of visitors. On the coach I met Jodi-Lea Matheson and her friend Jeff from Australia.

They were Betta Judges, Jodi-Lea also imports Betta's and Goldfish into Australia and has also become a member of the Bristol Aquarists Society.

The first two farms visited were breeding Discus. The fish were housed in large warehouse type buildings with large concrete ponds to grow the fish on and nursery rooms full of glass tanks where the breeding pairs were kept and the young fry raised to about 2.5 cm or an inch in old money.



The concrete growth tank for the Discus



Aquariums with Discus breeding stock and fry

The third farm was Goldfish. The Hengfeng Ornamental fish farm. They specialized in Orandas, Red Caps, Black Goldfish, Calico Lionheads and Bubble eyes they also had ponds of small tropical fish like Barbs.



This farm was a direct exporter and fish were waiting to be packed. They also had a side line of sending fish by post within China. They had special bags to contain a few fish, water and fish were added to the bag and then the bag was heat sealed. The bag contained a small valve and the bag was then inflated with oxygen. Very strong; the proprietor then stood on

an inflated bag to prove it could support his weight. The bag was then placed in a polystyrene box and posted to the customer.



The fourth and final farm was Tung Hoi where I had spent my first day, it was nice to revisit this farm as you cannot take everything in on one visit.

Louis Chan was not there today but he had arranged a young lady with good English to take the guided tour this went down well with the other visitors.

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Thanks to Ian for a fascinating trip – the centre of fishkeeping business used to be Singapore, now it is China.

This last photo from Ian is of Chinese Goldfish ready to be shipped to the World's traders in Redcaps!



Members Write

Reference recent correspondence about the Bristol Shubunkin and Judging methods, Alex King (our Scottish member) wrote:-

“It appears from comments made by Bill Ramsden in last month's newsletter and from David Roberts in previous newsletter there is still concern about how Best Fish in Show is judged, but at the same time, apart from one line in September newsletter that said there was a discussion on the style of judging, especially for the best fish in show, I have not read one comment on why this was raised initially, unless it has been discussed at the monthly meetings and not included in newsletter. As a member and also a judge who is unable to attend

meetings, it would be helpful to know why this has been raised in the first instance to be able to make a constructive response”

(Editor comment: Yes, it was raised at the Church Inn meeting, but it was decided that we would ask for members’ opinions via the Newsletter).

“I agree with Bill that the current system is more than adequate, although I disagree that it should only be judges who have no entries or winning fish in the show that do the judging, simply because there will be instances where this is not possible. Why exclude experienced fish breeders who are also judges just because they have winning fish in the show, after all if you have several judges, as Bill says, conferring and agreeing based on Nationwide standards, this

should rule out any biased opinions and the fish that merits the award selected.

In relation the above paragraphs regarding best fish in show, I have seen several photos of the Bristol Shubunkin that won BIS at Bristol this year (Ed: 2018) and based on these, in my opinion, I don't think it merited the award although I did not see the other contenders to be fair, talk about really setting yourself up for criticism.

Based solely on photos and Nationwide Standards its proportions do not approximate to line drawing, obvious fault: the caudal is too large, the top edge of caudal should be level with top edge of dorsal, the dorsal in the pictures is uneven and the leading ray is bent and twisted and colour wise there is not enough secondary

colours in the body for me. OK, photos don't always give you a true picture, but going back to the point about judges conferring and agreeing surely these faults should be picked up and whether you agree with me or not, ponder the fact, if it had been a fantail with same faults would it have been considered for best fish in show.

I would honestly like to know, members' responses regarding above.

Alexander King"

Editor's

comment: Here is that photo of the Bristol Shubunkin BinS from December's Newsletter.



Air your views here – email me via drdmford@outlook.com (and allow publication).

More Pond News

Here is a tale from the firm JBL on their current website:



Carp frozen—dead in one night

(They report...) We don't want to frighten anyone, but the following sad story happened last year and did NOT repeat itself this year: A pond owner

unexpectedly needed to go abroad at short notice and delegated the feeding of his still active koi and carps (in moderate external temperatures of around 10 °C, in a very large natural pond) to his father-in-law. The father-in-law merrily fed the pond fish with the sort of food you can buy in any DIY store. The food had no temperature recommendations for the feeding. The last feed took place in the afternoon before the disaster occurred. During the night there was a temperature drop from about 15 °C to -5 °C. An ice cover formed overnight and, because the temperature didn't rise again, it became thicker and thicker. During the course of the following day more and more dead carp and koi could be seen floating

directly under the ice cover. In the course of time the dead animals froze in the ice. The photo shows the pond at that time. When the owner returned all his animals had perished in the pond and he rang me. From his description of the events we identified the food/feeding as the cause of death. The pond was then newly stocked with 70 koi and for low temperatures between 5 and 15 °C JBL ProPond Winter M was purchased. As the temperature dropped again a few days ago no losses occurred and the animals are still visible swimming beneath the ice. It is essential that fish in low water temperatures are given easily digestible food with a protein/fat ratio of 2:1. This way you and your fish are on the safe side!

(Of course, it is an advert for their Winter Feed product – but still a cautionary tale. Winter feed with care!).

Dubai Update

Dedicated readers of these Newsletters will recall that back in the April 2018 issue (it is online at www.northerngoldfishsociety.com) I told of a relative helping build the New Royal Atlantis Hotel in Dubai.

The first aquarium has arrived.



It has been hoisted up into what will be the Heston Blumenthall Restaurant.



I told them it can't be glass – only Acrylic could withstand the water

pressure at that size. Will report if they listened, later!

This Month's Top Tip

The government will be making you save all surplus foods for recycling. Why not set-up a Wormery, feed it with that surplus food and harvest worms for your Goldfish.

If you don't already know – a 'Wormery' is actually a 'Vermicompost', a product of the composting process using various species of earth worms, to create a mixture of decomposing vegetable or food waste, bedding materials, and the worm's vermicast (exudate).

Which worm? *Eisenia fetida* (older spelling: *foetida*), known under various

common names, such as Redworm, Brandling worm, Panfish worm, Trout worm, Tiger worm, Red Wiggler worm, Red Californian earthworm (etc.!) is a species of earthworm adapted to decaying organic material. These worms thrive in rotting vegetation, compost, and manure.

You can get these worms via the internet (Amazon have lots) and a complete Wormery with full instructions, in a range of sizes and prices.



***E. fetida* in a Wormery compost**

The Top Tip on how to clean them for feeding is in the August 2018 Newsletter (2018 Newsletters are now all online at the NGPS websites).

Minutes of the January Meeting

Sherridan was on holiday so David Ford took the Chair – not expecting anyone to attend but David Roberts and Louise Rylett turned up so the meeting did take place. David showed the latest Practical Fishkeeping magazine (February 2019) which had a full page on the benefits of Insect Meal to both the fish and the environment. Obviously written by member Dr David Pool (it is an 'Advertising Feature' for FishScience – see page 31) and interestingly reveals that the main

Meal is Black Soldier fly larvae fed on waste fruit and vegetables. (My fish like it!)

Louise is building a fish house, so we were able to advise her on the best designs – which took most of the meeting time.

No offers or ideas have been submitted for housing our Show Tanks, that need removing from the St Matthews Hall storage. Hence this the main item for the February meeting.

This will be Tuesday February 12th at 8pm at The Church Inn Prestwich, Manchester M25 1AJ.



The 2019 Show Dates for all these Nationwide Goldfish Societies will be in the February Newsletter.
