



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



MARCH 2019



A Japanese Ryukin

The All Japan Ryukin Show was held in 2018 and Alex King has been sent a copy of the Show on a Japanese DVD. For Data Protection reasons the video cannot be put online for you to see – but here are the details, explained by Alex

I am writing this article, because I sent David Ford a video of the 2018 All Japan Ranchu show and he wanted to know more about the variety and their Japanese origins and how they are judged. This article is based solely on information I have acquired over the 7 years of breeding Ranchu and if there are mistakes or omissions I would welcome any

feedback from any members of Ranchu Societies in UK as it would improve my own knowledge and would be greatly appreciated.

In Japan they recognise 3 classes for judging Ranchu.

TOSAI, fish hatched in the current calendar year.

NISAI, fish that have reached the second calendar year.

OYA, fish in their third calendar year or older.

One of the main differences from Nationwide, in the Far East Ranchu are judged in white enamel bowls from above to appreciate their true beauty.

The Japan Ranchu Association rules and standards by which they are judged, ensures they will be preserved and further improved, gathering information on how these rules are interpreted is difficult and vague as they have to be interpreted by the most experienced judges at the shows. The only Societies in UK, that judge to these rules are the Jinchu Kai, there was also the Ranchu Brotherhood, but I am not too sure if they still exist?

The Rules



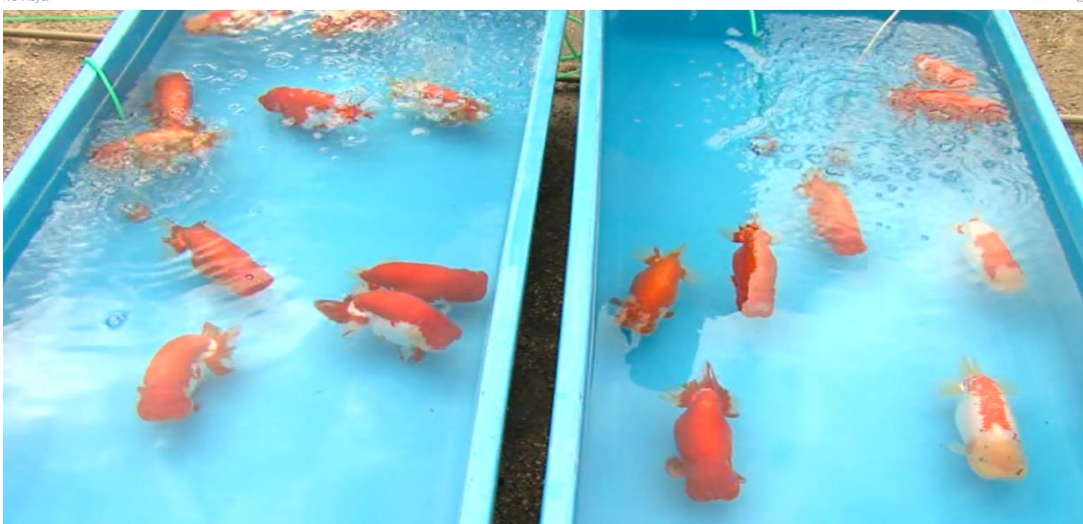
1. Overall shape is defined by the characteristic of the head, torso and tail and their balance with each other and as a whole, thicker and sturdier fish in proportion to their size to be graded as superior.
2. Fish with small neatly lined scales in proportion to body with high lustre to be graded as superior regardless of colour, red, variegated, Sarasa or white.

3. Fish movement must be graceful and elegant with light wagging of tail resulting in fluid movement regarded as superior.
4. Head to have wide mehaba (spacing between the eyes) and wide mesaki (distance between the eyes and mouth). Part of the head past the mouth, which is wider and longer to be graded as superior.
5. Back to be broad with a gentle curve with adequate roundness.
6. Stomach to be well positioned compared to back and spaced adequately from the tail.
7. Tail peduncle to be rounded and robust in proportion to the back width, there must be apparent roundness at the point where the tail joints the back.
8. Tail must be beautiful with bilateral symmetry of its tail lobes. The tail should not exceed 45 degrees angle in relation to tail peduncle, nor rise above back.
9. All fins must be uniform in movement and size. Fish to be judged whether they have a double or single anal fin.
10. Size of fish must not be taken into consideration for judging.
11. Fish must be judged according to their quality on that particular day.
12. Fish to be disqualified if the respective defects are excessive, dorsal fin, uneven broken back and tail peduncle, pinched closed or irregular tail, extrusion of anal fin, head tilted upwards or downwards, tail with one sided tilt, covered protruding or indented eyes, sick fish or obese or juvenile fish that lack grace and poise.

All Japan Ranchu Show 2018

Preparation for Show:-

The Ranchu being entered by competitors are initially housed in the blue tubs allocated to the different classes, Tosai, Nisai or Oya and only the Ranchu selected to be of superior standard will be allocated a white enamel show bowl. What this means is that there will be many top quality Ranchu that don't even make the final judging in each of the 3 categories to decide the overall winners.



Judging

Six judges judge each individual fish in the class and they each have 6 markers numbered 1- 6, 1 being bad and 6 being exceptional, they only have 10 seconds to make a decision on the points they want to award, therefore the judges need to be experienced with a great deal of knowledge of standards and rules.



One of the Ranchu being judged, with examples of Judging sheets and points allocated to individual Ranchu in one of the classes.

親魚の部							
出陳者	審査員						
東部	田家 淳	1	4	5	6	2	3
東部	鈴木貴光	1	6	2	3	4	5
中部	伊藤弘之	2	4	5	1	3	6
中部	鎌田芳男	1	2	3	5	4	6
西部	村岡祥行	1	2	4	3	6	5
西部	樋口豊勝	1	3	2	6	5	4
合計点		7	21	21	24	24	29
役 柄		東大関	西大関	主行司	東取締	西取締	東関脇

Unfortunately I am unable to read Japanese to be able to translate individual columns, but it lets you see an example of how each individual fish is scored. Fish that have identical scores, I assume they revisit these entries the same as we do, when judging to Nationwide standards. 56 fish were judged and placed accordingly 1-56 in the Oya class. Same would apply to Nisai and Tosai classes, although number of fish judged could vary.

The winner in each class.

OYA



Nisai



Tosai



One thing I would love to know is how they keep track of which fish belongs to each competitor considering the number of entries. Entries into our shows are allocated class and tank numbers, but the way they are judged in Far East, they are only allocated a white show bowl once selected from the blue tubs, plus many Ranchu don't even make final selection. Perhaps there is simple answer; maybe there is someone who could answer this. I spoke to Tommy McLean who has been to the Show but he didn't know.



Crowds view the winning Ryukins

..... and the winners collect their prizes



Ed: Thanks Alex – if you have any comments or advice for him, send to me at drdmford@outlook.com and I will pass them on.

Aquarium News

Dedicated readers of the Newsletter will recall I revealed that a relative is the engineer helping to build the New Royal Atlantis Hotel on the Palms, Dubai (see April 2018). An update in the January 2019 Newsletter reported that one of the giant aquariums had arrived – I said I would find out if it was Acrylic (impossible to be glass!). Well, since then a dozen more have arrived, by sea



....and that they were made in Italy from 2 inch thick Perspex



Each has been hoisted up 3 stories to the restaurant



Only in Dubai! If you or friends plan a holiday there (it is now a British favourite), make sure they visit the Grand Mall with its giant aquarium – here is an article I wrote about this amazing tank back in the NGPS Newsletter of July 2010 (pages 7 to 13) attached as a PDF with this email (and re-written for smartphone viewing). The report also includes the original 'Atlantis Hotel', that created the 'New Atlantis Hotel', now being built, with many more aquariums.

Minutes of the March Meeting

Having overcome computer programs Sherridan arrived with a meeting agenda – Apologies (quite a few, but many of our members work evenings, or live too far away), Storage of Show Tanks, Nationwide Meeting, Quarantine & Acclimatization, Spawnings (none reported) and AOB.

Letters to and from St Matthews Church Hall did not solve our problem with storage of the Show Tanks. In fact there was an instruction to remove them by the end of March. There has been no response to the Newsletter request for storage space in the Manchester area, so they have to be moved to Sherridan's garage and he will let the committee know the day (before end of March!) for their help.

Trust with St Matthews Hall has been lost and so there was a discussion on where to move our annual Open Show (September 14th). The Village Hall at Great Budworth (CW9 6HL if you can visit to view) is top of the list. That list will be considered at the AGM in April.

Emails and letters about the proposed Nationwide Meeting were read out; the majority were not in favour of an attended meeting for cost and time reasons, but Sherridan, as Nationwide Chairman, was asked to organize the Nationwide Agenda via email and phone. It was hoped candidates for the Nationwide Committee can be offered via the four Club Meetings and choices made by votes.

Sherridan reported that 50% losses from two bought lots of young Lionheads were traced to a fluke (Argulus – the Fish Lice) – treated eventually by Waterlife’s Parazin P. Which proved that quarantine was essential. The discussion then moved to acclimatization and that the quarantined Goldfish needed frequent, small, feeds (plus water changes of course) unlike Tropicals, who are best left unfed after introduction.

David Roberts added that Winter was also a bad time to buy new imports – the Goldfish may have been imported from semi-tropical waters, the temperature drop and flight stress will give losses.

For AOB David Ford played the DVD on a Laptop, where the All Japan Ryukin Show was shown, as described above. Script and audio was all in Japanese so difficult to view, but the number of people – and Ryukins – involved was amazing.

Hope to see you at 8pm at The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN on Tuesday 9th April. Note that it will be the AGM, please try to attend - and bring your subscription for 2019/20.

