



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



JULY 2019



An AOV Goldfish!

(seen at AMGK's OS & Auction in Coventry June 29th 2019)

Sexing Goldfish

Last month there was an article about this subject. Dean Roberts sent this comment

“We all know it is quite easy to sex male Goldfish, especially in the breeding season, by the Tubercles along the leading ray of their pectoral fins and sometimes on their gill plates, plus they are constantly chasing (driving) the females around the tank or pond. However, after many years of observation I have found that, if you then introduce food into the tank (or pond), you will find the behaviour will be reversed and the females will start to chase the males around (regardless of size). If you have two females together you can observe them chasing each other - thus they end up spinning in a circle.

This only occurs during feeding and many times I have stopped a driving male chasing a female with the introduction of food and seconds later the same female is chasing the same male.

This behaviour happens all year round and I strongly feel could be used as an aid to sexing female Goldfish outside of the breeding season.”

By J D Roberts.

Pond News

In the Trade Paper ‘Pet Product Marketing’ (June 2019) there was good advice for the Pet Shops to pass on to their Pond Owner customers.

They printed that Climate Change is happening and that pond water will be warmer this (or future) Summers. Warmer pondwater holds less Oxygen and yet the fish are more active – hence aeration is essential. Achieve it via fountains, waterfalls or even an airpump.

Shallow ponds (or areas) are susceptible to higher temperatures and owners can recognise problems if the fish are surface gasping.

Any biofilters will suffer too – the essential bacteria need Oxygen to convert ammonia and nitrites to nitrates

They say: do not rely on ‘oxygenating plants’ – only effective in daylight; problems will become worse on warm nights.

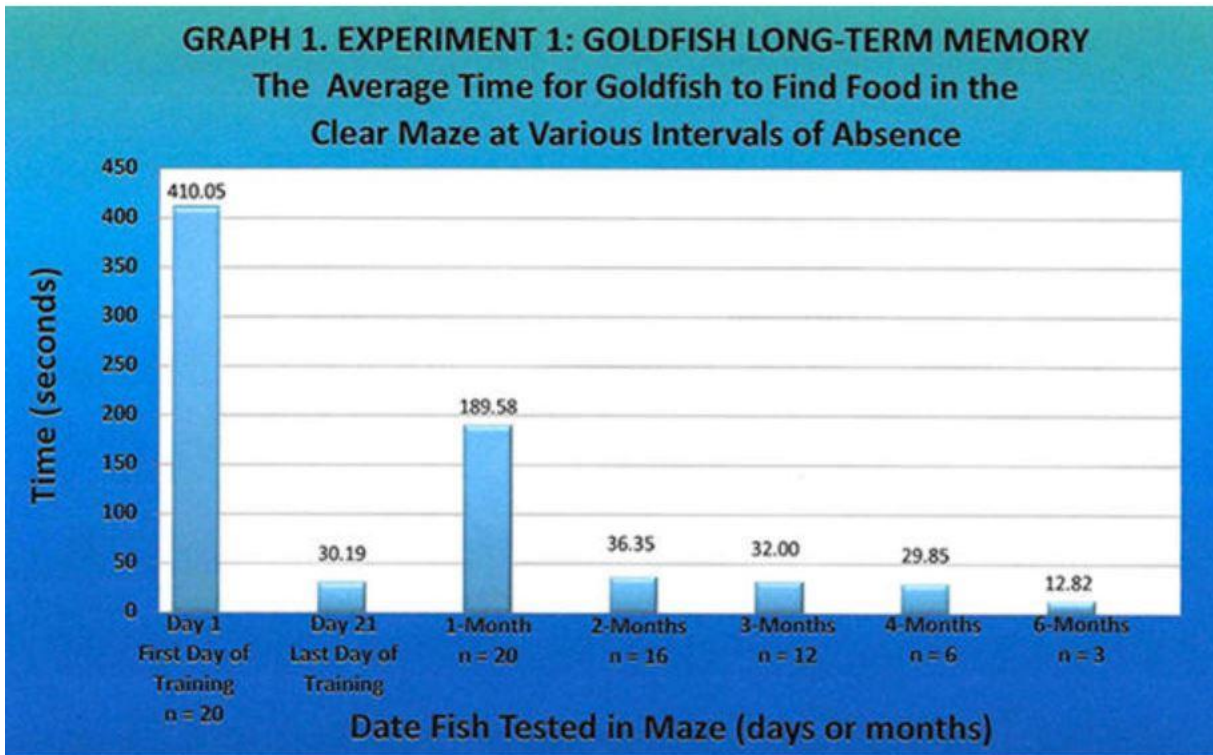
They recommend selling Ammonia and Nitrite-testing kits (of course – but true).

Goldfish News

The American Museum of Natural History in New York (who are celebrating 150 years since it opened!) encourage research by young members. One of the annual winners was about Goldfish Memory using a learning maze



The Goldfish is introduced to the simple maze, the food is in the smiley-face area. Repeated over and over with different Goldfish, a statistical pattern of behaviour is recorded.



The researchers repeated this work a year later and reported that Goldfish have a spatial memory of at least six months, and reinforcement of the task at the one-month period appears to be critical to establishing long-term memory.

(So it is 6 months – not 3 minutes!)

More Goldfish News



The latest BAS Newsletter reports an interesting free online magazine (from Canada), find it at www.about-goldfish.com

Tip of the Month

If your ornaments or plastic plants get covered in brown algae, place them in the sink and pour a kettle of boiling water over them – the brown turns instantly to green! It becomes loose and can be scrubbed away with a nylon brush.



Before (in the sink)



After (returned to tank)

AMGK OS & Auction

A successful show, despite Coventry being 32°C (90°F) in the shade (aquarium water temperatures were 18°C (64°F), so not a problem). There were 10 Judges for the 211 entries – including our Sherridan Moores, Dean Roberts, David Roberts and President Bill Ramsden.



All results can be seen on their website <http://amgk.co.uk/>

Minutes of the July Meeting

Good attendance at the meeting that had to end at 10.30pm without the full Agenda (no spawnings data). The first item was a subscription review by the Chairman and Treasurer which revealed about half the members still owed the 2019 subs. A warning that they will no longer receive Internet or postal Newsletters will be issued in August.

The AMGK OS & Auction was then discussed and a report (attached as a PDF) was read out by Sherridan. The fact that the Best in Show was not given to another (better) Bristol Shubunkin was due to it being disqualified because it was over the 3" size. This is a problem for the Judges and perhaps a new rule could be agreed that oversized fish should be reported to the Show Manager and the Breeder given the opportunity to re-enter it in a different Class. Another problem is that it is difficult for a Judge to check if a fish has a double or single anal fin. Perhaps the Show Manager could ask the Shower for permission to handle the fish. Something for discussion and perhaps approval at future Shows at Club and National level.

Our Open Show was then discussed. Some Raffle prizes were delivered - hopefully there will be more at the August meeting. In view of the 32 degree Celsius at Coventry the subject of Climate Change was considered. It was thought that we would not have a problem in September, but future years may bring high water temperatures. Several members offered air-pumps to aerate the show tanks and it was suggested bags of ice cubes could be made available. Another idea was that if large Goldfish were entered, tanks greater than our standard show aquaria could be used.

Next was Water Quality and Alan Ratcliffe reported a supply problem in his drip-feed through-flow system. A dozen Fantails and three Black Moors were found dead.



Alan said that there was no Chlorine odour so he suspected odorless chloramine poisoning; telephoning the Water Company brought the reply that all chemical analysis is now declared online and so no-one would discuss the values verbally. Members confirmed that extra Chlorine (or chloramine) is used at the weekend for safety as the water authorities work a five day week (Alan discovered the problem on a Saturday). David Padfield noted that he queried a sudden change in flavour with his tea and a Water Worker said that with the grid network throughout the UK the water could change from soft to hard according to origins. This would affect Goldfish, not just tea, so Sherridan was asked to see if a Water Authority person could visit us to explain the current situation with tapwater supply.

Sherridan suggested a visit to Andy Green's Star Fisheries one weekend. If you are interested, please let him know. Our traditional Social Weekend is still under review (numbers attending have reduced from many to just two, over the years). This should involve a visit to aquarium shops plus public aquaria - if you would like to attend and offer suggestions of where to go (not Llandudno - been there, done that) please let Sherridan know. Usually an October weekend.

Note from your webmaster: This is the last month you can see the information and photos on the NGPS full website. Any you wish to keep, download and file them from <http://www.northerngoldfishsociety.com>

From August there will be only one website in Smartphone friendly format. It will have the same website address. The current <http://ngps.webplus.net> will disappear forever (not my fault!).

Hope to see you at 8pm at The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN on Tuesday 13th August.

Bring any Raffle things!

