

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



August 2019



**A London Pond**

**Pond News**

The Victoria & Albert Museum have a new exhibition about 'fresh air swimming' ("Into the Blue" V&A until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020). This is a phenomenon about swimming in natural surroundings rather than a chlorinated, enclosed, swimming pool – perhaps triggered by global warming thoughts.

Ever thought of turning your pond into a swimming pool? London's Mayor has. He has donated £40K to turn the Broomfield Park pond (shown above) into a swimming pool for community use. It will be used for 'wild swimming' the concept of outdoor bathing in natural ponds with untreated water (during future hot weather).

But what to do with the Goldfish ....

## **Members Write**

From the July Newsletter our Scottish Member Alex King wrote .....

After reading in the newsletter about Alan Radcliff's sudden unexpected loss of his fish something none of us wants to experience, but sadly it does happen, however in this instance there was no way an experienced fish keeper like Alan could have prevented it happening as there was no visible signs that his fish were anything but healthy. The same thing happened up here in Bonnie Scotland where I live near Edinburgh and I lost quite a few fish and Tommy McLean also before we found out they had introduced chloramine into our water supply. We have had chloramine in our water supply for a few years now and cannot put fish into it without treating it accordingly, both Tommy McLean and myself use Seachem Safe when we do a complete water changes and in my case, this is on regular basis, every 4 to 5 days as I keep and breed Ranchu using traditional Japanese methods. I have tried various other water treatment remedies, but would recommend Seachem Safe as I have never had any problems with this product as apart from chloramine it also removes chlorine, ammonia and detoxifies nitrite and nitrate. It is also economical to use as a ¼ teaspoon of powder treats 1250 litres.

We both also have a separate water system that allows us to run or drip feed water into each of our tank/tubs in our fish houses if required. The water supply is fed through a 3 stage filter, pre filter, chloramine and carbon, I only use it to supplement the polystyrene covers I use to shade my tanks/tubs during really hot sunny periods that we seem to getting more often these days even up here in Scotland, it must be worse further south and I only use the running water when required to keep water temperatures at an acceptable level. The upkeep of system is not

expensive as you can now buy replacement filters on E bay at a reasonable price.

Don't panic I am not saying or even suggesting that everyone should suddenly start changing their fishkeeping methods, because of what happened to us, if everything is working ok for you at present, but merely to point out that Tommy and I have had this problem when chloramine was introduced into our household water supply and we had to do something about it or the alternative was to keep losing fish. Hopefully if you can get someone from the water board to attend one of your monthly meetings it will be interesting to hear what they have to say.

David Padfield just so that you know you are not the only one, my wife complains about the taste of our water at different times and it definitely affects the taste of her cuppa tea, never notice when I put a wee drop in my whiskey.

### **Alex also commented on the AMGK report ....**

In the July NGPS Newsletter I read with interest the article about recent AMGK show where a Bristol Shubunkin in the under 3" class was disqualified for being oversized, but was deemed to be a better fish than the Bristol Shubunkin, that won Best Fish in Show. This was discussed by members present at the last monthly NGPS meeting for any thoughts on how to avoid this happening in future. One suggestion was it should be reported to show manager and exhibiter given opportunity to enter it into another class, but this is not an option as it would only apply to under 3" single tail classes, Commons, Comets, Londons and Bristols where the fish in question could be moved to the over 3" class, only if that class had not already been judged, it could also result in tanks being moved about, do we really want this to be happening during judging. For judging to be fair all round regardless of the quality of the fish in all adult classes, what if it were a Twin Tail and it was under the minimum length 2 1/4", where would you move it to, there is no alternative option, or am I missing something. Perhaps someone could answer this question. This has been a contentious issue ever since I started judging back in 1980's and my personal answer is, any fish failing the maximum or minimum body length, regardless of quality should be disqualified, except if minimum or

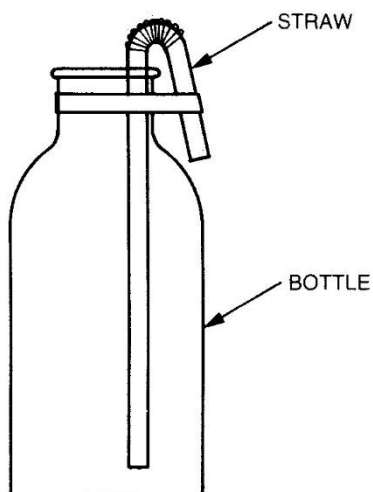
maximum body length is a really marginal decision, then it should be up to the show manager or a senior judge if appointed to make final decision.

Other topic discussed was difficulty in checking to see if a fish has double anal fins. I can't remember having ever had a problem with this, must have good glasses. I don't think judges should handle exhibitor's fish for several reasons and only if the fish had a good chance of winning a ticket would I ask another judge for a second opinion or, as a last resort if exhibitor was available, get him or her to handle their own fish.

Finally if large Goldfish were entered, instead of using our standard show tanks could a larger tank be used? In my opinion NGPS should not even consider using larger tanks and agree with Nationwide a maximum size limit for all fish to be shown in standard tanks, after all it is all about quality, not size, and we as fish keepers/breeders have a duty of care to look after the health of our fish. I have several large Ranchu of show quality 7" in length, that I could still show, but won't, purely because I consider the health of my fish first, bigger tanks and bigger fish is not the way forward, not when you have a large distance to travel to shows.

**Thanks Alex – what do you think? Email me [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com) to publish here.**

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



To use bottle top-ups without splashing water everywhere (the glug-glug effect) take a bendy plastic straw and attach as shown with an elastic band. When pouring, the replacement air flows smoothly inwards.

Mind you – plastic straws will disappear soon!

## **NGPS Websites**

As warned several times, the two NGPS websites have gone. However, a new one has replaced them, designed for your smart phone, but will still be OK on a PC or Laptop. Go to [www.northerngoldfishsociety.com](http://www.northerngoldfishsociety.com) .

The video of 'BillsGoldfish' is still there, via 'YouTube', but as described, a better version can be seen via 'Vimeo' (a similar platform, but less crowded). The problem is that there is another Bill Ramsden and his videos are interfering with our Bill's original. Hence it is now 'Goldfish by William Henry Ramsden' (his real name!).

I have placed two more videos on Vimeo, if you are interested. One is the History of Aquarian (all 40+ years) and my TV work to promote the hobby of fishkeeping (back in the last century). The Link for all three videos are ....

BillsGoldfish – <https://vimeo.com/350902874>

DMF on TV – <https://vimeo.com/344132561>

History of Aquarian - <https://vimeo.com/349210515>

Each can be viewed or downloaded to view later, offline too. The History of Aquarian is a PowerPoint presentation with 10 seconds to read each 'slide', but you can 'pause' if too fast, according to whatever system you use.

The DMF on TV is of interest to beginners in the hobby: towards the end is one example of the lectures I used to give to the Fish Clubs (300 in those days). The Madeiran Swordfish Story is interesting – move to 50 minutes and 20 seconds to see/hear it.

## **Nationwide News**

Thanks to AMGK for their posting about the Nationwide changes – here is what they reported ....

### **A Change to the Nationwide Standards Committee.**

Some of you may already know that following a belated election and volunteering process this year for the committee we now have a new

Nationwide Secretary in Graham Turner (NEGS) and a new Chairman, in Pat Davies (AMGK) for the next three years.

Our grateful thanks to Dennis Godfrey for his tenure as secretary and, in particular his organizing and securing public liability Insurances for our meetings and the National Show. Many thanks must also go to Sheridan Moores (NGPS), the outgoing Chairman, for his early work in attempting to reconcile the various differing factions within all the societies at that time, when it was considered prudent by the majority in the committee to rectify and correct known anomalies within the standards, that had been previously agreed after very protracted discussions back in the 1980's.

In Sheridan's 6 + year tenure as Chairman, the review was undertaken and completed by two (AMGK) delegates (Pat Davies and Keith Waters) with the periodic help, advice, clarification and suggestions on five formal occasions by the other delegates throughout the intensive 18 month period. These revised standards published in January 2016 now form the basis for judging for the foreseeable future.

Pat Davies, in his new role as Chairman of Nationwide will be issuing a formal letter to outline a programme of initiatives for the next three years of his tenure in due course. The remaining committee board comprises Ian Mildon (BAS) Standards/Judges Training, with Andy Barton (AMGK) Hon. Treasurer.

## **Minutes of the August Meeting**

A good turnout for the August Meeting – discussions ranged from the danger of Herons to the low spawnings this year.

Sherridan said that on Wednesday & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 the annual AQUA exhibition at Telford International Centre will show Aquatic Manufacturers from around the World. It is a Trade Show, general public not allowed, so if you would like to attend, let Sherridan know and he can prebook you as his guest. For details visit [www.aquatelford.co.uk](http://www.aquatelford.co.uk) .

He also asked anyone wishing to be taken to Bristol for the BAS Open



Show (1<sup>st</sup> September) can be in car share by contacting him (now) at 01619697567.

There was a discussion on where to visit for the annual Social Weekend in November. A London Zoo bus tour was suggested, or The Deep in Hull, again anyone wishing to join us should contact Sherridan.

Alan Ratcliffe brought a 1999 Practical Fishkeeping magazine which featured him, his fish-house and garden. This will be shown in the September Newsletter.

It was agreed that the plans for our Jubilee Open Show (September 14<sup>th</sup>) were on track, with free breakfast for Showers and a Grand Raffle with special prizes. A repeat publication of the Show Schedule will be sent to everyone later this month. Postal versions will be sent on request (to [drdmford@outlook.com](mailto:drdmford@outlook.com) via email or 26 Clare Hall, Prescott Street, Halifax HX1 2HQ by post).

Help with setting up is requested – Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> after midday at St Matthews Church Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 8HF. Please.

Our next Meeting is before then so bring any Raffle prizes with you. Please.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 8pm The Church Inn, Church Lane, Prestwich M25 1AJ.

