

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



**February 2020**



The Adult Best in Show Nationwide 2019  
....continues to exercise comment!

More from Alex King (see January 2020  
News for original email).

Hi Sherridan,  
Thanks for getting back to me.  
I agree that photographs don't always paint a true picture and I enjoyed reading the rest of what you had to say and would have loved to have a chat with you, but it will have to wait for now, also I have seen several photos of this fish and looked at it closely when judging for BIS and after.

I did not have any preconceived thoughts about this fish before judging as I had not seen it before. In my opinion it did not represent a true Veiltail, holding the leading edge of its caudal at rest and in motion above the horizontal, plus it never held its dorsal erect and these are its 2 main characteristics and based on existing standards, I decided not to be put it forward for BIS. I did not write the standards only judge to them.

Yes, the metallic Veiltail in question is an eye catching fish, as the colour extends into the finnage and after watching the video sent by Ian Mildon I can see why judges would vote for it, if it was swimming and deporting itself like it was in the video. Unfortunately it wasn't moving much when I judged it and when I looked at it later after it got BIS. I bred calico Veiltails for several years many moons ago and was quite successful with them, in fact I won with my adults as well as getting best breeders team when NGPS used to hold their show in Bolton, Bill Ramsden was a lot younger then, so was I, so I do have experience of breeding them. What I have noticed over the years at shows, the Veiltails that comply with standard for carriage of caudal, held like a veil, as the finnage grows their swimming becomes languid

which affects deportment, sometimes they don't want to swim at all.

Going back to the fish in question, it has a shallower dorsal contour compared to Veiltail standard, plus the caudal peduncle compares more to a Fantail, that makes the caudal sit above the horizontal and never falls below it, in my opinion it may be the reason for this fish swimming and deporting better as the trailing edge of caudal is always in a horizontal position, never a veil. I noticed that the owner of this fish also won with a baby fish and it carries its caudal above horizontal as well, although the caudal appears to have a fork in it.

That's all from me on the subject. Maybe it is something Nationwide may want to discuss at their next meeting or you just ignore my views, as I already said I am

finished with judging, just going to become critic, only joking.

I have no objections to putting any of the correspondence in the Newsletter.

*For clarity, the email exchanges between Sherridan and Alex are shown below.....*

Hi Sherridan,

I was a bit disappointed when I read the Jan. Newsletter.

It only included your response to me and not why I had raised the matter in the first place or the subsequent follow up (*Ed: original email now printed below*) and because of this it reads as if you are trying to explain to me how fish are judged and if I don't know how to do it now I never will after 30+ years of judging and 40+ years of breeding most of the standard varieties.

I am not going to change my views on

this fish as it failed the test type for carriage of caudal and still got BIS, if this is going to be the future of judging and the way new judges are going to be trained, then I am glad I have decided to give up judging.

Cheers

Alex

*Sherridan's email reply.....*

Alex, completely take your point. It would have been much better to put all these e-mails in one newsletter and members could have easily and accurately read the flow of the discussion. I think David put them in separate issues to have something of interest in each one as so little material is sent to him. I will ask him to print all this correspondence together in the next newsletter. For the record any

implications such as you mention were entirely absent, you do not need any endorsement from me as a judge but if I did give it would be of the very highest. Sherridan.

*Here is the **original** email comment Alex sent.....*

Hi Sherridan,

I read with interest the Newsletter article on Judging (David keeps sending me the monthly newsletter even though I did not re-join NGPS this year, mainly because I had become a bit disillusioned with hobby and actually thought about giving it up).

Anyway back to what I want to say about training new judges. I agree with you, that before an individual is deemed suitable to start training to be a judge, there needs to be in place a set of

criteria, they have to meet, before being considered for training, not just because they want to be a judge.

In the 1980's the late Brian Rothwell who was a senior judge at that time, without my knowledge put me forward to train as a judge and I only found out he had done this, when I was knocked back by NGPS as they considered I was not experienced enough, even though at that time I had been breeding goldfish for about 10 years and had won numerous prize tickets and special awards with several varieties.

Brian was more upset than I was, but I accepted their decision and it was another year before I eventually started my training, which lasted 2 years, completed at the GSGB show at which the new Nationwide standards were used for the first time and Bill Leach who was the



Nationwide senior judge at that time, also one of my tutors, gave a talk on the new standards to all judges before judging commenced.

Even after this when I was let loose to judge, at first I never considered myself the finished article, but at the same time never doubted my ability to judge a class to Nationwide standards fairly. I strongly believe one of the main factors was because I had bred and shown several different varieties for 13 years before I eventually judged on my own, I only show adults I breed myself, this I believe makes you a pretty good judge of what is required to meet the standards and I have done OK. If you look at the existing judges most of them breed or have bred fish on a regular basis for many years, and over these years gained a lot of

knowledge and experience. This does not only apply to goldfish judges it covers other hobbies where judging is required where knowledge and experience are a major factor.

This in my opinion should be one of the main criteria, before an individual is selected to start training as a judge, I think Bill Ramsden would agree with me.

Have AMGK/Nationwide really thought this through, I would question why they want or need as many individuals to be trained at present time given the disruption and delays it would cause at shows, as NGPS have rightly pointed out, but also have they considered the suitability of these individuals to be trained at this time and what criteria did they use to ensure they have the right

Individuals with the knowledge, experience, etc.

I would appreciate it if someone from Nationwide could tell me what makes an individual suitable for training as a judge.

Personally I am all for ongoing training of individuals to be judges provided they meet the required criteria and not just because they want to be judges, but personally I would train only a few at a time so that there was more focus on their training and less disruption at shows and any individuals who were deemed unsuitable at this stage, given more time to gain knowledge and experience for future training.

I don't presume to think that everyone will share my views, but I honestly believe the best judges come from individuals

who have bred fish on a regular basis over a number of years gaining considerable experience and knowledge along the way, as they are basically judging the quality of their adults and babies on a daily basis, selecting adults for future breeding projects and adults and babies for showing to Nationwide standards, one example is Nationwide Chairman Pat Davis he should have been judging years ago based on the quality of fish he has produced and I am delighted to see he is now taking the plunge.

I would appreciate some feedback.

Cheers

Alex

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In an interview with our President, Bill Ramsden, after he had read the

comments by Alex and Sherridan, he said that he fully agreed with Alex's comments on Judges. He believes that any judge must be a Breeder and Shower with years of experience. He always says: theory is fine but that is no replacement for practical knowledge.

As regards the Best in Show, he played his DVD on 'Bill's Goldfish' and pointed out it contains lots of advice on what makes a Pedigree Goldfish Variety (including Veiltails) a winner.

It is well worth looking at this again – for those Online, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/350902874>

However, he did say that the best Pedigree Varieties do need a spherical body. If you look at the Nationwide Standards for the Veiltail, Fantail, Oranda

and Moor, they have identical rounded body shapes. All worth up to 20 points when judging.

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*As before – any comments on judging and Best in Show, please contact Sherridan ([moores\\_s@sky.com](mailto:moores_s@sky.com) or send to me ([drdmford@gmail.com](mailto:drdmford@gmail.com)) for publication.*

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## **Snail News**

Snails and Goldfish are not compatible, best avoided. But they are not as terrible as *Conus geographus* which actually eat fish. They are predatory snails killing their fish victims by injecting a chemical that USA Chemists have discovered is almost the same as the insulin found in we humans. The difference is that it is

effective at seawater temperatures – i.e. unlike our insulin used by diabetics, it does not need refrigeration. The race is on to make copies so diabetics the World over can store their life-saving insulin anywhere, no `fridge needed.

## **Goldfish News**

The Japanese Competition of Goldfish Scooping....



Back in 1810 the Japanese invented a game where live Goldfish are caught in a paper membrane scoop (called a *poi*), within a given time. Over the years this became a popular game of skill at Summer Fairs and eventually a National Sport by 1995.

Based at the Goldfish Breeding centre of Yamatokoriyama City in Nara Prefecture it is held every August with thousands taking part. The 25<sup>th</sup> National Goldfish Scooping (*Kingyo-sukui*) was held there in 2019 when the Champion caught 70 Goldfish in 3 minutes.

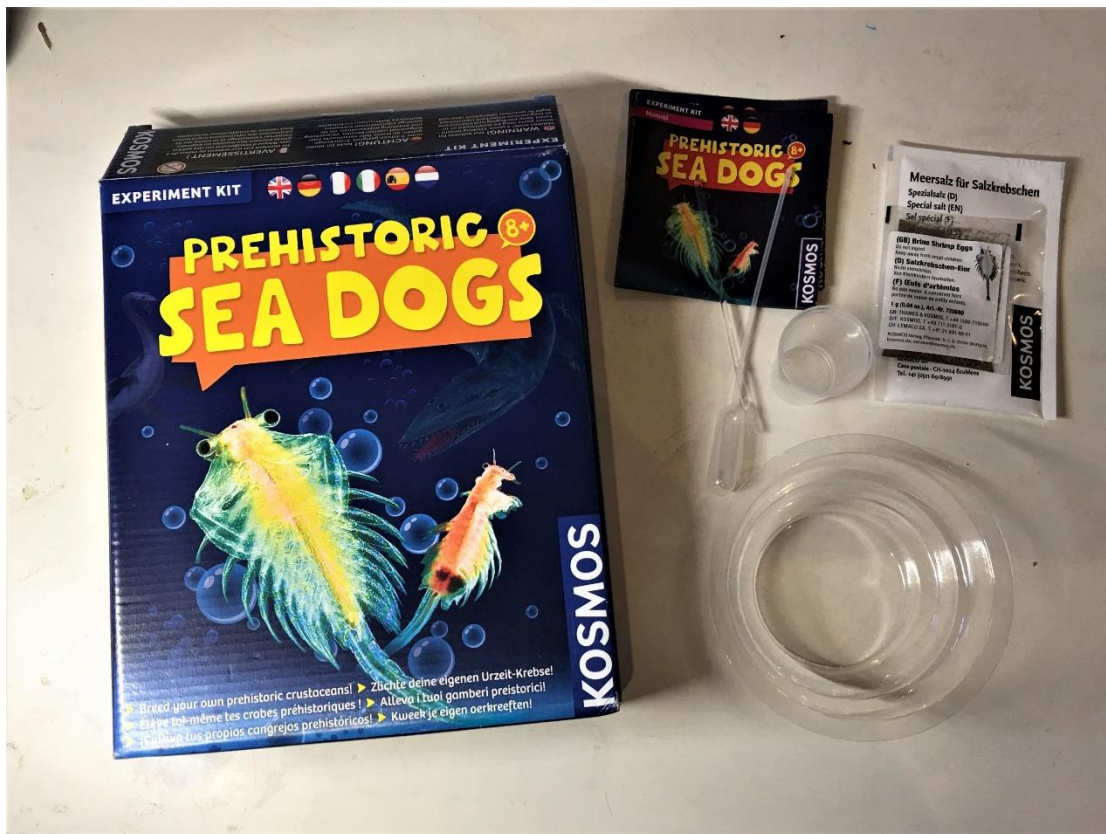
If you have a YouTube link you can see that competition at....

<https://youtu.be/al5y-jOyyeI>  
(just tap - and be amazed).



## This Month's Top Tip

If you want a small feed of Brine Shrimp, don't buy the large and very expensive Eggs on sale to breeders (about £50 per 100grams). Just get the 'Sea Dogs' kits for children. The German 'Experiment Kit' series by Kosmos is only £8.50 (post free) online - but much cheaper at Lidl (temporarily!).



# Minutes of the February Meeting

No minutes this month – Winter arrived with snow over Pennines, so the Chairman decided to cancel the Meeting.

Next meeting is at The Church Inn, Prestwich, M25 1AJ 8pm March 10<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you then and catch-up with all the club news.

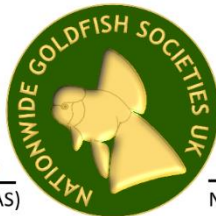
## NATIONWIDE: GOLDFISH SOCIETIES UK



Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers (AMGK)



Bristol Aquarists Society (BAS)



Northern Goldfish & Pond Keepers Society (NGPS)



North East Goldfish Society (NEGS)