



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



January 2020



Happy New Year to all 70 members of the Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society.

Goldfish are the most popular pet fish in the UK.



A Social Media Post by Aquarian®

The World-wide social media advertising by Aquarian® is read mainly by Americans, that is why their latest 'most popular' petfish comment states that it is the UK where Goldfish are the winners.

In the USA the Goldfish is not the most popular – in fact it is the Betta (also called 'Siamese Fighting Fish' *Betta splendens*). The reason was that impulse-buying occurred at Walmart's 1,700 stores, who sold them in mini-aquaria for many years.



At the end of 2019, all this ended after an American-wide campaign

against Walmart, saying it was cruel.

Here's the Internet Post....



Walmart is discontinuing the sale of live **fish**. The world's largest retailer once sold live **fish** at an estimated 1,700 stores. But, in a conference call with its suppliers earlier this year, **Walmart** announced that it would **no longer** offer **fish** or aquatic plants.

It is interesting that the Social Media announcement pictured a Goldfish, not a Betta. Perhaps the Goldfish will now become the American's most popular petfish – just like the UK.

Aquarium News

There was an article about the 'Hamburg Matten Filter' in the Practical Fishkeeping magazine last year. Originating in Hamburg more than 50 years ago (hence the name) it has been adopted by the Shrimp-keeper aquarists (a small but growing hobby) because it is very gentle filtration and will last a year or more before cleaning.



A large sheet is used and, because of the longevity, the special German-made foam called Poret is used (a patented product by EMW Filtertechnik that lasts up to 10 years in water).

The whole of one side of the aquarium is used with a gentle water flow via an air-pump uplift.

With the traditional tank side about 12 inch x 12inches (30x30cm) the one and half inch (40mm) thick foam offers a massive surface area for mechanical and biological filtration.

It is claimed that cleaning is only required every year or so.

Hence I thought this might be useful in my Goldfish aquarium and bought a ready-made (the PFK article had a DIY method) unit from the Shrimp Aquarium

manufacturers – Envobee Shrimp Ltd in Leamington Spa. The Poret foam comes in different pore sizes and colours, I chose 30 pores per inch in black.

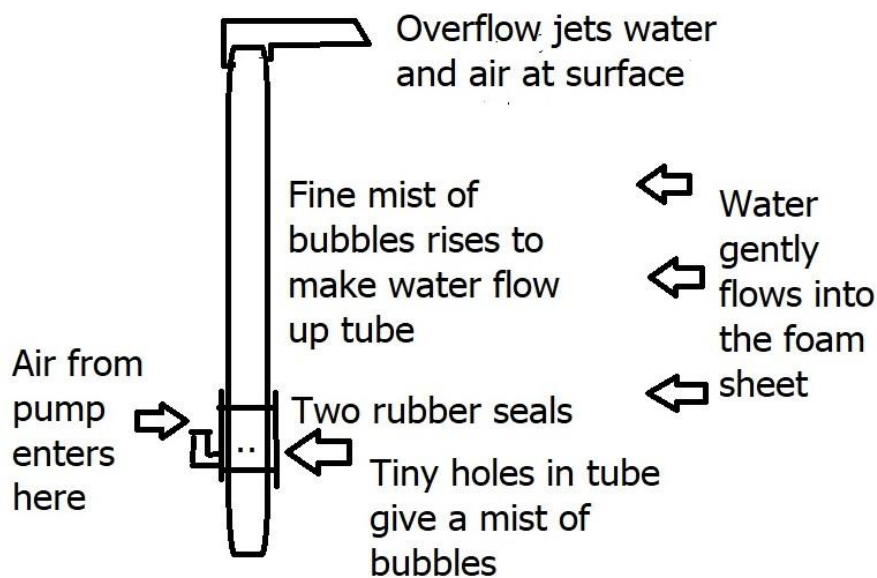
A small air pump was attached to the



lower inlet. This is a chamber with top and bottom sealing rings and the uplift tube has tiny holes drilled through so a

foam of air, rather than bubbles, gathers and lifts water up the tube. Hence it was silent too.

However, a DIY tube could use a wooden air stone with similar effect.



The original powerfilter was removed and the HMF (as it is known) was used over several weeks in a 12 Litre aquarium with two Goldfish (a Comet and Veiltail). The weekly 50% water change was

suspended and water quality checked for ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. Nitrate remained at tapwater levels of 6ppm, Hardness 30ppm and pH 7.

These values did not change over the weeks but the water kept going misty, although no ammonia or nitrite was detected, so part water changes were resumed. Then it was noted that faeces were lying on the fine sand base – these were either swept into the power filter or broke down to mulm and were also swept into the filter in the older system. The mistiness persisted – probably a bacterial bloom, fed by the HMF not acting as a mechanical filter.

By 2020 the water has not cleared although chemically it remains satisfactory. The fish are not stressed, but I still decided to end the test and

revert to a normal power filter. The HMF system is ideal for the delicate Shrimp aquarium and may even cope with the small tropical fish, but it cannot cope with Goldfish appetites. After all, they are known by biologists as 'underwater cows'.

Which creates this month's Top Tip

Heavy Powerfilters cause plastic suckers to fail and replacements are impossible to find. An alternative suspension device can be made from an automatic toilet bowl cleaner.

The typical cleansing device sold in all supermarkets for the toilet bowl have a strong plastic clip which can fit over the top of the aquarium glass. (After removing the detergent soap, of course,

and washing the device) the plastic holder can be cut to size and lashed to the Powerfilter. Plastic rubber bands, or black nylon sewing thread for invisibility, is used to hold the filter.



The unit has ideal foam insert – cut from the Poret sheet!

January Notes

There was no January Meeting to avoid bad weather, but the December Meeting Report did bring comments this month – mainly to Chairman Sherridan about the Nationwide Proposals and Best in Show choice.

To member Alex King, Sherridan said “I was very interested in everything you had to say and, as I think you can probably tell from what I said in my earlier e-mails, I am broadly very much in agreement with you about the training of new judges.

I was no less interested in your views about the choice of Best In Show in general and the choice made at this year's

Nationwide show in particular. You raise some fascinating and pertinent points; however I do wonder how well some of them fit in the bigger overall picture.

I suppose I should qualify my remarks by saying that I too did not vote for the particular Veiltail, though I have chosen it as BIS on other occasions and consider it an excellent fish, at the Show I voted for what I considered an even better fish - I will not reveal which so as not to embarrass the owner.

I can well see how you can justifiably point out the deviations from the standards of the Veiltail from the photograph, however I would argue that this is chiefly faults with the photograph. It is very hard to get a really accurate photo of any fish, this one is actually quite good, well focused and good colour but the pose of the fish is poor and does not represent the actuality of the

conformation of the fish well. The shape and carriage of the caudal and dorsal are very much better in real life. Having said that, they are not perfect - but a perfect fish is a very rare beast indeed, I suppose a perfect fish would be awarded 100 points and I have yet to see one. I think determining the BinS depends more on the relative merits of any fish as compared with the other exhibits, in other words we can expect and allow a BinS to have faults - but require it to have fewer than the others. Actually I don't think it's even that straightforward, non-judges often assume that BinS is easily found by looking for the fish with most points, as judges we know that is a simplistic view; some judges score relatively high or low, some varieties lend themselves to high or low scoring, there is the rarity factor, the WOW! factor and so on but we are

getting back to how important training and experience is.

As a side issue I would certainly agree that many modern Veiltails do possess finnage that is too short and tails held too high - both bad points requiring the deduction of several points and, as you imply, if taken to extreme turning the fish into a Fantail.

I think many members would be interested in this discussion so will print it in the Newsletter. Sherridan.

Above duly printed – any comments, email Sherridan or me for publishing in the Newsletters. Sherridan is moores_s@sky.com and I am at drdmford@gmail.com .

For interest, that Adult Best in Show at the 2019 Nationwide Open Show is

reproduced below. The comments on Judges can be read in the December 2019 Newsletter – all that year's newsletters are now on the website:

www.northerngoldfishsociety.com

Ian Mildon has a video of this Goldfish, which you may be able to see if you have the right programs....here is the link:

<https://vimeo.com/382755772> (click/tap)

There has been further comments – see next month's Newsletter.

Note that the NGPS Website now includes the 2019 Newsletters in the Smart Phone

format – this is because practically all our members have an iPhone or Android Phone etc. Some use an iPad but very few have a Desktop PC these days. Hence the dual option for Newsletters (pc or phone) ends with this issue. From now on all Newsletters will be Smart Phone friendly. If you *really* prefer a PC version, let me know at drdmford@outlook.com. Thanks.

Next meeting is at The Church Inn,
Prestwich, M25 1AJ 8pm February 11th.

