



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



NOVEMBER 2020



The Drop-Off Aquarium

The latest innovation in aquarium technology is the 'Drop-Off' design. Instead of a simple box, the tank has a

series of steps. This gives a unique shape and potential for aquascapes with different plants, as well as fish that swim at different levels.

The underside of the drop-off gives lots of hidden space for the water-life support systems.



For we Goldfish keepers, the Drop-Off tank could be a Paludarium, with the highest layer being in air, with bog plants. Virtually an indoor pond!

The nearest Drop-Off retailer in our Pennine area is Kraken Corals Limited at Accrington.

There are also quite a few videos on how to build or install the Drop-Off on YouTube – use the search icon, and skip the adverts!

More from BAS

Last month the Bristol club held another Zoom meeting but this time it included a lecture. Our (and their) member Ian Mildon gave a talk about the Aquarama Show in Singapore back in 2007. The image shows a Japanese Judge, Teruya Shemada, one of Ian's friends. Shemada also judged at the Goldfish Show in Japan in 2018 at The Aeon Shopping Mall, Yamato and Ian showed the Class Winners.



Some of the Zoom members can be seen at the side – I am at the top, member Bob Jones next, then Tommy McLean, who was at the Japanese Show and took the pictures Ian showed.

Having a Zoom meeting is one of our possible solutions to the Pandemic problem in 2021, because it looks as if The Church Inn meetings will not happen. Another option is to have a Members-only Facebook account, successfully featured

by the AMGK. *Send your opinions to me:*
(drdmford@outlook.com)

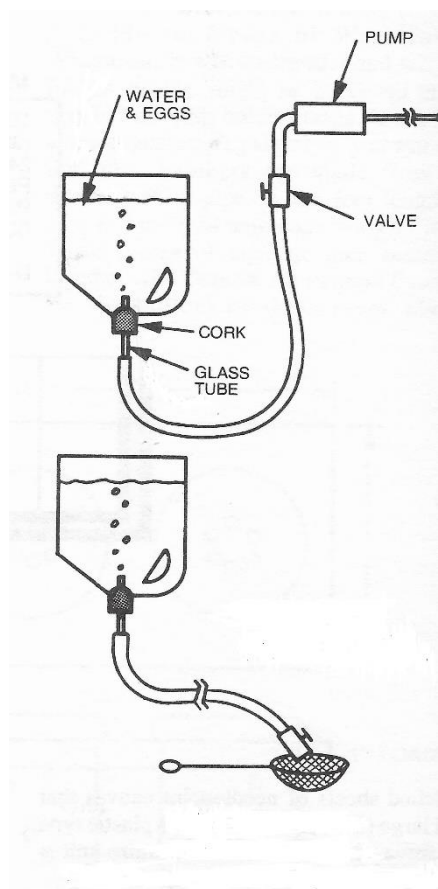
Federation of British Aquarist Societies

They have a virtual Open Show too and is ongoing into 2021, with just two Goldfish Classes: Single Tail and Double Tail.

FBAS is now 82 years old, this means the website is very complicated! View it at www.fbas.co.uk

Monthly Top Tip

This diagram is in Ilias, the newsletter of the Illinois Aquarium Society in the USA. They say take a large plastic bottle, cut off base and insert a drilled cork, then use as shown for both hatching and collecting Brine Shrimps.



What they did not include is how to support it all – perhaps another tip for future Newsletters.

Goldfish News

Our President Bill was really pleased that his Goldfish won Best in Show 2020 (as reported last month). He said it was because the Oranda had a unique face – as if wearing lipstick.

In fact, Bill is not correct in that uniqueness – there is a fish (OK, not a

Goldfish) that is called the Red-Lipstick Batfish (*Ogcocephalus darwini*).

It lives at the bottom of the sea off the coast of the Galápagos Islands, walking about on its fins!



Members Write

It was Sherridan who emailed: We know 50% protein is needed by the fry, but when should this be reduced?

The answer is, of course, it depends. The growth of fry is dependent on temperature, water quality, genetics, feeding frequency, as well as nutrition.

As our President often says, it is practical experience that's needed, not theory.

Artemia is the best first feed and the Shrimps have up to 50% protein, depending on quality, hence the good growth, providing other factors are optimal. One of these factors is feeding frequency – lots of mini feeds are best for growth.

Experience shows that screened Daphnia can be included in their diet after 2 weeks, then Microworms at a month. By then fry should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19mm) when the more convenient commercial foods can be included. However, it should be 6 months before their growth rate slows and a lower protein level is needed to stop the fish using protein as an energy source, excreting ammonia.

Some commercials have 50% protein level and are sold as 'Growth Foods' but after 6 months the best choice is the about 35% protein foods. These will also supply the necessary vitamins and minerals – but variety remains the ideal.

Chairman's Minutes: Ramblings from a locked-down glass fish house

There has been a change of plan and the Altrincham 'World of Water' will not now be closing and moving to Wilmslow Garden Centre. I have no information as to what effect, if any, this may have on the aquatics department at Wilmslow Garden Centre. However the giant gorilla statue in the car park was sold off before this was decided so it no longer greets you in the car park.

As promised last month we are having a virtual Society holiday in Llandudno, the largest resort in Wales and one of the classic British sea-side resorts, I know this will be extremely popular with members.



(A member states; what's he on about now, we are all sick of Llandudno, can't we go somewhere else?)

No, we are going to Llandudno, you know you like it really. What about the penguin parade at the zoo? When we went to see the magnificent eagles free flying display,

but it was too windy, so they got the penguins out and the seagulls came down to pinch the penguins food and the penguins duffed them all up. Glorious !



(Well yes, that was alright. But we are all sick of Llandudno, we want to go somewhere else.)

Or the bracing sea walks along the prom, or the classic 1930's coach ride round the Great Orme - six and a half miles - or the ambrosial *Eggs Benedict* in the Orient Express restaurant. Sublime!



(Well...yes but....we want to go somewhere else.)

Or the evenings in the British Legion, I even let you watch football.

(Yes but the match was rubbish and I got sea-sick on that ferry you kept taking us on.)

That was in Hong Kong, not Llandudno, and stop slouching at the back!

(A baby Veiltail states : will you all stop moaning and do as you are told. What I

want to know is what level of protein we should have in our food, most commercial 'growth' food state around 50% and when and to what percentage this should be reduced as we grow. Would you mind asking Dr Ford, Sir?)

Good question, did you hear David?

(David Ford states: Depends on the quality of the protein! Will elaborate in reply within the November Newsletter.)

General applause. (*Editor: see above article !*)

That reminds me, as I think I have said , I understand JMC have gone out of business and their products including the hugely popular high protein granules, used by many members as a fry food, is no longer available. JMC high protein listed it's analysis as ; oil 18%, protein

54%, ash 9%, fibre 1%, phosphorus 1.2%, copper 1.2 mg/kg, vitamin A 2500 iu/kg. vitamin D3 2000 iu/kg, vitamin E 250 iu/kg.

Many food retailers buy in their foods and have it re-labelled as their own. I don't know if JMC did this or if they actually manufactured their foods. Do any members have any information on this or have been using other products with the same analysis stated.

(A baby Veiltail asks: Maestro, why is it so breezy in here?)

Because, you know that line in 'The Italian Job' about the door ? Yes, well it's happened here during one of the recent gales, the nice new glass I fitted about a month ago has all been smashed, I'm going to replace it with polycarbonate

which will not break nearly so easily. I suppose it's inevitable that a fish house door gives trouble, look at Tommy Sutton's Veiltail house door, I never saw it working it was always jammed half open, but I suppose it was stopping the roof collapsing.

(A nervous Wakin stutters: Did you say the roof is collapsing?)

No, no everything is sound except for the door and I'll soon have that mended.

(A cheeky Lionhead thought of saying: We've heard that before, looks like it's going to be a cold, windy winter. { But thought better of it and kept quiet. })

There are still a number of members having not paid their subs for 2020, please do so if you can, thanks to those who have done. Stay safe.

