



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



October 2020



**The Winner for the NGPS Virtual
Open Show
This is equivalent to Best in Show
for 2020**

It was a lipstick Oranda bred by our President Bill Ramsden many years ago - you can see the fish in video at <https://vimeo.com/350902874>

The winner for **Ponds** was my triple pond system, with its two fountains and waterfall. Again historical, it was in my garden at Halifax, where it was used for test feeding the Aquarian® flake food I developed for Mars Fishcare. The fish (Koi in one pond, Common Goldfish in another) were fed exclusively on the flake for over 20 years. Proved its effective nutrition (when I moved house, the fish were given to NGPS members, 10 years ago).



In the Breeder Class Photo, our Treasurer Louise Rylett won with her collection of Fancy Goldfish destined to become line-bred....

The AOV Fish entry was from a past member Sharon Hall (who saw the Open Show details on Facebook).

Members may remember her from 5 years ago – she left to join the Tropical Clubs (plus her tortoises!).

Her entry was this magnificent Albino Oscar.



Judging was by our Chairman Sherridan – thank you.

Bristol's Virtual OS

If you can access YouTube all the entries for the BAS Virtual OS are available via this Link:

<https://youtu.be/wUHIWyB4cfw>

All 2 hours of the videos!

Goldfish News

This October the Spectator newspaper had a Twitter article by their reporter Sam Leith about 'Wokeness' (American term for Left Wing politics). He defended the term and the paper chose this image for the feature ...



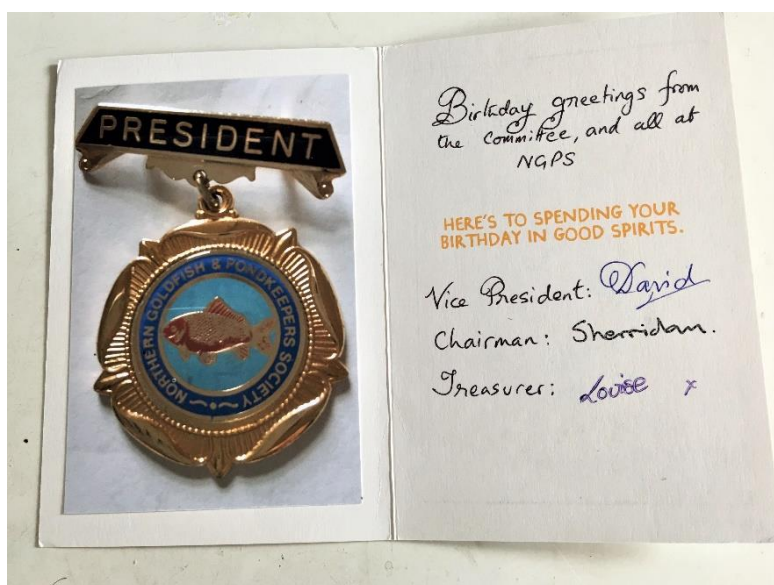
'A better life' I assume!

This Month's Top Tip

This one is from the GSA (Goldfish Society of America) – they said do not use algae scrapers or plastic pads etc. on your aquariums, they just scratch the glass or acrylic. Take two sheets of kitchen paper towels and fold together twice, then use the pad to wipe the front of the aquarium. Replace and repeat as needed. They also said only clear the front, leave the back and sides to give the Goldfish micro-foods, but we know that! Don't forget the virus! Wear surgical gloves or hold the paper towelling with aquarium tongs so you do not add traces of hand-sanitizer to the aquarium.

A Birthday

In September, our President Bill Ramsden celebrated his 94th birthday – still going strong with lots of opinions on Judging Methods, Standards and Quality of Pedigree Goldfish. More from him in future Newsletters. With the virus restrictions it was impossible to get a birthday card signed by all members, but we did manage just the Committee, on your behalf.



Finally – instead of the October minutes, here is the Chairman's message....

Chairman's ramblings from an autumnal fish house.

Here we were again in September and I should be down the road a bit experiencing the agony and the ecstasy of our Open Show 2020, alas - we all know why that couldn't be, instead I am as usual in the fish house listening to the constant knocking on the roof from the bumper crop of acorns falling from the 39 year-old, 45 foot tall, oak tree, planted as an acorn for my 21st birthday. The squirrels are running all around looking for hiding places for the extra food and a blackbird keeps hopping in through the gap where the tank drain is to peck around the floor. There are other indicators of the coming autumn, the light

levels are falling so the algae build up on the glass of the tanks isn't so severe and the green pea-soup occurrences are thankfully over until next year. The temperatures are also on the way down and three 50 watt heaters are now back on, one in each of the fry tanks, this does put the temperature up but very cold nights still easily take the fry below 'hibernation' level and they are not keen on eating until well into the morning.

I have just had all the fish on parade and they are standing easy prior to being dismissed, of course they won't actually go anywhere but they will then be free to swim about and what a pleasure it is to see them do that, especially the little calico Veiltails which are now showing their potential and beginning a life of unutterable beauty.

Because the later spawnings were all calico the extra aspect of watching the constant colour development has, as it always does, added another level of interest as the fry grow and develop. The metallic Lionheads are now looking really grown-up at pushing two inches body length and their heads growing nicely but only one has, so far, turned gold the rest are still the juvenile olive.

While sorting the baby Veiltails it was noticeable, as it often is, how similar 'standard' faults could be seen in many of the culls, there can be faults with every aspect of the fish and any that are observed mean the fish must be culled, if the faults can be seen at that size they will only grow bigger and become more apparent as the fish grows. It is important that new breeders become familiar with

recognizing these faults, they will make mistakes at first, no doubt, but should aim to learn from everything they observe.

As well as the 'standard' faults many individual spawnings throw their own unique recurring faults, the last big spawning of Bubble-eyes I did had over 200 shark-like single tails, which, if they had not been removed, would have ruined the spawning as they could swim much faster and therefore got more of the food and grew much bigger more quickly threatening to push the 'shark' characteristics to an alarming degree by eating their smaller, correctly shaped, brethren. This year's Veiltail babies have had a lot of individuals with a single rod-like dorsal spike and a saddle shaped depression just behind it, very

reminiscent of the seating arrangement of carousel horses. If I thought that was a desirable shape I could raise on those fry and breed them together to produce a new variety.

This is, of course, the method that all our modern varieties have been produced by and in its subtler application how we attempt to improve our strains.

Occasionally breeders have exhibited AOV class fish with such novel characteristics the most prominent recently probably being the single-tailed Veiltails in unfortunate throw-away nacreous colours - while the breeders seemed to think these were new and interesting they were in fact old, but admittedly interesting for a different reason, being what were known as nymphs - once a recognized variety. Nymphs also occasionally turn up,

sometimes in Koi establishments labelled as Sabaos or Tamasabas



Usually they are single tailed Ryukins, with the unattractive hump back but undoubtedly they are being bred as a distinct variety.

One of the best known historical AOV fish was undoubtedly the so-called Meteor, which was featured in the authoritative

Hervey and Hems ' The Goldfish' of 1948, being a goldfish with the shortened body of a twin-tail but actually having no tail (figure 1). The inclusion of such a fish in the varieties section of 'The Goldfish' is rather curious as the authors must have realized that this fish was a unique sport or mutation rather than a representative of an established variety. It is just possible, of course, that it could have been a short lived attempt at establishing a true variety as with the 'retro nymphs' described above. Whatever the case it is certainly true that such a fish could turn up, there have been infrequent reports of specimens occurring over the years and indeed there is a photo of one on the internet at present (figure 2).

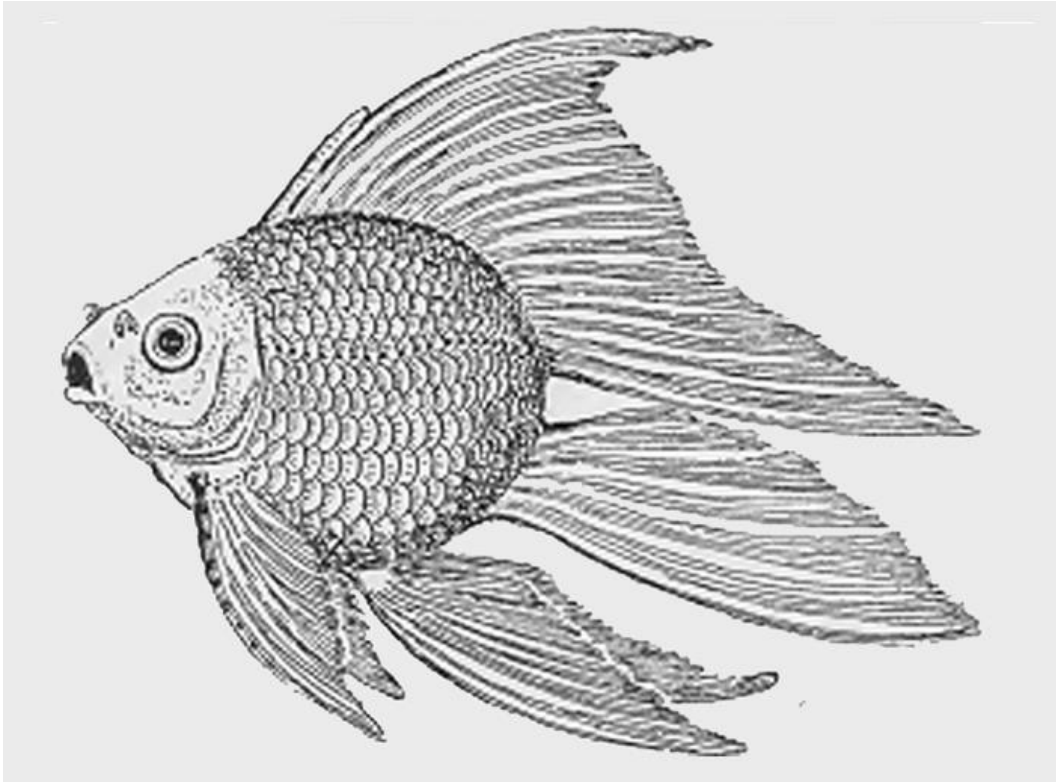


Figure 1



Figure 2

Needless to say our plans to re-establish the monthly meetings have had to be postponed, as has our annual members' holiday but we can have a virtual trip to Llandudno next month!

Stay well.

