



NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



A Nationwide Society

June 2014

Chairman's Notes from a glass fish house.

After many trials and tribulations it looks like the new-style Newsletter is up and running, it's not perfect yet but we will work towards that happy state. Many thanks again to David Ford for all his remarkable and indispensable help.

I have had, probably, my best ever breeding season which is very pleasing but also incredibly time consuming when I don't have enough of that particular commodity anyway. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the ultimate results of the calico x metallic crosses in Lionheads and Veiltails that I have done.

Please send in your subs for this year to me or David Padfield, or give them to one of us at one of the shows, as soon as possible.

Meeting Minutes May 13th 2014

This meeting was a live fish show&tell and Tom Hindley brought some unusual Calico Wakins, plus one Calico Fantail he had discovered at Dave's Aquarium, Bolton. Richard Rizzotti also brought some Black Moors but no aquarium – they were in a black bucket, so no photograph – impossible to see them! Eric Hutchinson reported that he was changing his pond and fish house design and so had some equipment for disposal – details of the pond gear on request. Currently he has two 4 foot tanks (either 15 or 18 inches deep) that are free if collected – ring him on 01942 2894969. Some good Orandas were seen at the World of Water, Altrincham and (genuine) Black Goldfish at Amazon Aquatics in Leigh.

Member Bill Nolan is moving from Sale to Bolton and cannot take his basement Fish House – so it will be dismantled and if you want any equipment or tanks please contact him on 0161 9738259.

Spawnings were reported to be very good. Sherridan had day-long activity with Veiltails, Lionheads and Pompons. Richard also reported spawnings of Black Moors and Ranchus but then lost all over two days.

Discussion of this catastrophe revealed that the system was new and had a drip-feed into just two tanks (for many hundreds of fry). Hence the problem could be residual chemicals from the installation, chlorine from the drips, overcrowding, or even disease from the live foods used. David Roberts insisted that high-tech equipment was not effective for raising fry. Lots of tanks for dividing fry into small lots (or early rigorous culling) with just bubble-up foam filters and hand siphoning with just airline tubing, with top-up via aged water was best. Lots of min-feeds with freshly hatched Brine Shrimp followed by ground flake were best. Richard hoped for more spawnings and will apply all these ideas....

Meeting Minutes June 10th 2014

It was a crowded meeting at The Church Inn where discussions ranged from National Standards to Spawning tips.

Sherridan opened the meeting with a collection of letters from members on the topic of GSGB resigning from the Nationwide Standards, but it was decided that this subject was now historic. The future is now all about plans for the Nationwide Standards and its four member clubs.

These will be revealed before the July meeting, where they will be discussed and published – attend on 8th July! On that date our Development Officer, Richard Rizzotti, will reveal his plans too for the Club's future.

Sherridan then distributed the new printed version of our Newsletter. These have been sent via the Post Office to members who do not have Internet access. The format is very good from our new Printer, with glossy paper and four pages in A4 size – as this very issue!

Alan Ratcliffe brought a pond fish for inspection – this was one of the Carp Fishes that spawned in his natural pond last year and is now a lively, three inch yearling:-



The fish is a Mirror Carp – which, as Alan explained, is the species developed by Monks as a scaleless Leather Carp. The Carp was eaten as part of religious ceremonies (and is the origin of our 'fish on a Friday' tradition) and the Mirror species reduced scale removal preparations.

The genetically few scales remaining on his fish can be seen in the photograph.

Members reported excellent spawnings – Sherridan said his were the best ever, with many fry from Red Veiltails, Calico Fantails, Lionheads and Pompons.

Richard described successful spawnings too with his Ryukins, using the techniques discussed at the May Meeting.

Hand spawning was discussed with the advice that milt from males should be expressed and dispersed prior to egg removal from the females. Feather agitation rather than stirring is recommended – stirring can give circular zones of fertilization rather than the near 100% desired. Inspection just a few hours later will show viable eggs (when the water needs changing to remove spent milt). The fertile ones have a sheen; unfertile are dull. Why they also develop clear, pearly white, or an orange colour was not known. Within a few days the eyes (or even faint black spines) can be seen, to confirm fertility. The best water temperatures members' use ranged from 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Feeding was all agreed to be freshly hatched Brine Shrimp, followed by ground Aquarian® Tropical Flake and frozen worms or Daphnia etc.



The Post Office commemorative stamps issue of 5th June were passed around – there are ten photographs of 'Sustainable Fish'.

They should do Fancy Goldfish.

Members' News

Sherridan reported that Jeremy Gay – who was an Editor at Practical Fishkeeping monthly magazine for many years – has applied to join NGPS. Hope to see him at a meeting soon.



It was reported that our President was out of hospital and had even managed to visit London – see the following report. His DVD of his Fish House and breeding techniques was distributed (if you want a copy, email me, VP David Ford, at drdmford@outlook.com with your postal address).

Readers of last month's Newsletter will recall we were asked to send 'Get Well' cards to our President, Bill Ramsden, who was hospitalized with Pneumonia. He actually left hospital just days before May 28th (despite their doctors' advice) because he was determined to visit London for the 'Presentation of the Standards' ceremony of his old regiment The Household Cavalry.

His son Peter drove him down to London and took these photos of Bill at Buckingham Palace where the Colonel-in-Chief (Queen Elizabeth) and the Colonel of the Blues & Royal (Princess Anne) carried out this ceremony. It only occurs once every 10 years and as a member of the Household Cavalry during World War II, Bill was determined to attend.



This is Bill *inside* the Buckingham Palace Courtyard!



After the Presentation and March Past there was a garden party in Buckingham Palace Gardens



He didn't actually meet the Queen, but he did stand within two feet of her, which we only wish we had photographed...but it wasn't allowed!

No visit would be complete without a photograph with the Palace Guards...but this one was at the 'front door'....



Welcome back home Mr President and we hope your recovery continues.

Member's Letters – here is a relevant one from Alex Stephenson

The Independent view...Well! Now that the GSGB has declared unilateral independence, I suppose the rest of us can get on with some satisfying fish keeping. To be honest this is what I've been doing since I stopped showing six or seven years ago. At present I am still a member of the GSGB , although my decision to continue this year was in the balance. I have written to the GSGB to explain my reservations. Independent ideas are a good thing, what is not acceptable is imposing those ideas on other people. Fishkeeping has always enjoyed healthy argument about everything to do with fish. What I like may not suit many of you; likewise I sometimes have doubts about some of yours. I see nothing wrong with that. If you are going to show fish you need standards as a yardstick by which to judge them. However these standards need to be flexible enough to allow for variations. You might call this selective evolution, which is how all our present varieties came into being. The late Bob Esson was right when he said, "All the standards ever created never produced a single fish". With bio-technology advancing rapidly one day breeders in the far-east will decide what the ideal fish is and then they will clone it. Which do you think will come first, cloning or genetic engineering? The hobby as a whole is not in great shape. We have restrictions on what we can keep and on what we can import. We have retail outlets closing and clubs struggling or failing altogether, it is a depressing picture. I can remember when you were spoilt for choice deciding which shows to attend during the season. The number of amateur breeders, particularly on the tropical side, is only a fraction of what it was. The trade is partly responsible for this because they prefer to buy in cheap farm bred imports rather than pay a little more for better home bred stock. This, together with the spiralling cost of breeding fish in our climate is causing people to find other interests. This is not a good time for our Societies to be falling out and throwing our toys out of the pram, this will achieve nothing. If elements in the GSGB consider the rest of us as unworthy there is nothing to be done except wish them well and hope the hobby is not noticeably harmed. All of these comments are just my personal opinions and your views, if different, are every bit as valid as mine. Alex Stephenson. P.S. My old Granny, who was a very wise woman, once told me, "People who Know all the answers are asking the wrong questions!".

