

HOT SPOT

英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部



The E-Mag of the South East Section BKKS

- twinned with the :-

Issue 14
November 2007

Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society.

The Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.

The South African Koi Keepers Society.

Partners in goodwill.

HOT SPOT

is the

on-line version of the South East Section BKKS' newsletter called "Spotlight", suitably sanitised and denuded of in-house content to make it interesting for other Koi Clubs. However, it will also contain some occasional South East publicity.

"Hot Spot" will be a periodic publication i.e. it will get published when we have enough articles to fill it's 8 pages.

Copies of it will reside on the South East's website and will be distributed to other Koi Clubs who indulge us with an exchange of magazines or newsletters.

Articles taken from "Spotlight" are the copyright of the South East Section but may be used by clubs who participate in this exchange.

The original text and photos can be obtained via the editors whose details can be found on the back page.

Inside this issue:

Tsutomu Takeda R.I.P.	2
Cayman Island Koi Club pin	3
The Blue Book	4 & 5
East Midlands Koi Club photo show	6 & 7
12 Months on	7
Doitsu Goi	8
Gardner's Travels	10, 11 & 12
She's moving on	13

Koi Clubs participating in this exchange scheme are:-

- Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.
- Oregon Koi & Watergarden Soc.
- South African Koi Keepers Soc.
- Chiltern Section BKKS.
- NorCal Chapter ZNA (USA)
- Australian Koi Association AKA
- Mid Atlantic Koi Club
- Cambridge Koi Club
- ZNA Potomac Chapter
- Essex Section BKKS
- Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Soc.
- Cayman Island Koi Keepers
- Koi@Home (Belgium)
- Banana Bar Koi Society.
- East Midlands Koi Club.
-

See pages 10 - 12 "Gardner's Travels" the first of a series of articles featuring Mark Gardner on his travels through Japan.

Tsutomu Takeda R.I.P.

Mike Snadden



It is with great sadness that I heard this morning that President Takeda of Takeda Koi Farm in Hiroshima, has passed away. I have known Takeda-san since October 2000, and since learning Japanese, had developed a very good relationship with him. He was a breeder with particular charisma, whom had looked out for me a lot over the past few years. I affectionately regarded Takeda-san as being the 'Godfather of Koi'. He knew so much about the history of Koi and bloodlines from so many years ago, up until the present day, and taught me so much about this. He also knew everything that was going on everywhere in Japan, and if there was a special Koi anywhere, he knew about it!!! Takeda-san wasn't one for cracking jokes, but had a heart made of gold, and personality to match. He was very warm, and very sincere.



Takeda-san was a little unwell when I last saw him in May of this year. If I am not mistaken, he was 72 years of age. My condolences go out to all of his Family and friends.

For those of you who haven't heard of Takeda Koi farm... Takeda Koi Farm is one of the most famous farms in Japan. The only male Koi that ever won the All Japan Show, was bred by Mr Takeda. This Sanke measured some 92cm. Takeda Showa are right up there with Dainichi, and more Takeda Showa run 90cm+ than any other breeders. His Kohaku lineage is also very famous, and many breeders are using Takeda line Koi for breeding Showa, and also Kohaku. He will be greatly missed, and the Koi hobby will not be the same without him.

Update, Today (7th October), I received an email from Tomonori Yamasaki (Takeda-san's Son-in-Law). It transpired, that Takeda-san knew in April, that he didn't have long to live, but didn't want anyone to know about it. In May, he let me buy his absolute two best Showa Tosai, two best Kohaku, and his best Sanke the day before he sent his Tategoi to the mudpond. He had never ever let anyone buy them before, and I was the only one that he allowed to do so. It seems to me, that perhaps he was letting me choose them because this would be my only chance? I may never know the answer to this, but I felt privileged to buy them, and now even more so. I hope that one of these special Koi grows up to become a famous Koi in the future. Takeda-san lived just long enough to see the fruits of his Tosai harvest last week.

With respect,

Mike Snadden - Yume Koi..

After posting the above on the Yume Koi website, Mike shared the following story with me

Takeda-san was a guy who I greatly admired. He has done so much for Koi breeding in Japan. He had a reputation amongst other breeders for being expensive, but I always thought that his prices were pretty reasonable given his lineages and results. He did a lot for me, and even played a part in the 2006 BKKS Grand Champ, (see page 3) which was a funny story. I was talking with Takeda-san about big Koi that we had seen, and where we had seen them. He thought that he had a Koi with a chance for GC, but as soon as I mentioned the Takigawa Kohaku belonging to Suzuki-san, Takeda-san turned around and said, "I haven't got anything as good as that!" He then asked how much the owner wanted (I had already been lectured at for discussing the price of this Koi, with another breeder, and asking if it may be ok to try to negotiate), to which I just

grinned and didn't answer. He asked me twice more, before writing the Yen sign, and a question mark down on a piece of paper, and handing it to me with a grin on his face. At this point, I gave in, and told him the price. I then went on to mention that I felt the price was a little high. He then asked what kind of figure had we hoped for? I said, "Well, 'x' would be ok, but 'y' would be better". In an instant, he was on the phone to Suzuki-san, saying that we were at his Farm, and were willing to pay a sum of money for his Kohaku, and that he should sell it to us! John (Hellens) and Cliff (Neale) asked me what was going on, and I thought that John was going to hang me! Suzuki-san agreed to the offer, and Takeda-san then hung up the phone, looked at me, and said, "He'll accept the offer". I then explained it all to John, who was both surprised, and

pleased. The thing is, when we initially saw the Kohaku at Takigawa Koi Farm, Takigawa-san told me roughly what he thought Suzuki-san would want before phoning him. When he phoned him in front of us, he was surprised that Suzuki-san wanted double this estimated figure, but as the breeder, Takigawa-san couldn't 'de-value' his Koi to his customer, as it would have been like saying, "My Koi are good, but not that good!". Takeda-san knew Suzuki-san well, and hearing every word of the conversation that he had with Suzuki-san, was doing it simply as a favour to all parties. Takeda-san had always been this kind of gent towards me. He had previously also expressed his concerns that me trying to sell the kind of koi I was, wouldn't succeed, and that the business would be too difficult and fail. This is the kind of guy Takeda-san was.

As for Brian (Sousa).. back in the days when Brian was a dealer in the States, we used to go on Koi hunting 'expeditions' together, with me doing all the driving, usually breaking all the speed limits as we had spent too long out with breeders on the evenings, resulting in a mad dash to get back to business hotels before they locked us out!

Brian once bought a Kohaku at Takeda Koi Farm as Nisai, and left it there for growing. Unfortunately after harvesting the Koi as Sansai, the Koi was subjected to an electrical accident, resulting in the Koi not quite swimming correctly. When we got there, she was in good health, but her swimming motion wasn't as 'easy' as it should have been. Takeda-san bowled up another Sansai Kohaku, which I have to say, was far superior to the original one! Most breeders worth their salt will replace Koi, but sometimes they are arguably as good as the original, and quite often replace of the same age as the original Koi was when it was purchased, which as you can imagine, can be a big 'time set-back' if you are leaving a Koi out in Japan for many years. But, this replacement left Brian in an unquestionably better position than he was in before!

Takeda-san invited Brian down to the farm to learn about breeding a couple of years ago. Takeda-san said that the way he did things, would involve sleeping on the floor of the office, and getting up at the crack of dawn to watch the parents safely through the spawning process. Brian was intending to go along for this, but couldn't get time off from work, and this is one of his sad regrets.

He really was a true gent!

Tsutumo Takenda R.I.P.

Brian Sousa

The koi hobby suffered a great loss on October 4th with the passing of Mr. Tsutomu Takenda. Born in the city of Hiroshima in 1934, he was a survivor of the 1945 atomic bombing.

Despite not being raised in a koi breeding family, Mr. Takenda would go on to build up his farm and brand name, particularly with Showa Sanshoku and Kohaku. A contemporary and friend of Mr. Minoru Mano of Dainichi fame, Mr. Takenda would have the honor of breeding a Shinkokai All-Japan Grand

Champion Taisho Sanke, as well as many other awards over the span of his career.

Widely respected throughout the industry, many breeders sought him out for broodstock and advice. He was greatly admired for his dedication to breeding quality and size.

Survived by a daughter and son-in-law who will assume operation of his koi business, Mr. Takenda was 73 years at his passing.

Brian Sousa Koi Bito



Cayman Islands Koi Club pin.

Lee Aronfeld (Cayman Island Koi Club) has Cayman Island Koi Club pins for sale at \$10 each. TEN DOLLARS? – Yes! Because he is doing this to raise money for the AKCA's KHV research project. Lee donates 100% of the purchase to the project.

Since Lee is in the Caribbean and mail can sometimes take many weeks to get to him, Lee has entrusted payment collection to Dale Torok from Kentucky, USA a regular poster on NI and Koi Bito.

Dale reports that "There has been an excellent response so far".

"It's really a funny story to me how this whole thing started. Lee liked the koi pins he saw from other clubs and koi shows he attended. In fact, he started his own koi pin collection. Then Lee decided to start a koi club in the Cayman Islands so there could be a Cayman Island Koi Club Pin. This new club is comprised of 4 members made up of Lee and his wife Sheila and another couple on the island who also have a koi pond."

Along with the pin you get :-

- Honorary 'offshore' membership of the Cayman Island Koi Club, and
- The satisfaction of know that you have contributed to a worthy cause.

If you would like to have a Cayman Island Koi Club Pin of your own and help support KHV research contact Dale on dtorok@time-plus.com and he'll organize it including payments. The pins are \$10.00 each with \$1.00 to cover shipping costs.



Both articles on this page were inspired by threads on the Koi Bito Forum.



The Blue Book saga.

Koi Keepers are charitable folk. A quick search through the more popular web forums and Newsletters of the clubs that we associate with will reveal a number of ways in which Koi Clubs raise funds. Not only for the clubs themselves but for charitable projects associated both with the hobby and without. E.g. Toys for tots, the AKCA KHV project and numerous charities.

www.koichat.com is a UK based koi forum that has adopted the St Agathas Trust - a breast cancer charity as the recipient of its fund raising activities. Since adopting St Aggies as the forum's charity of choice in 2002 'Chatters' have raised an amazing £17,962 by auctioning various items mainly of a koi or koi-related nature donated by many of its members as well as several Koi businesses and Koi Clubs.

For 2007 the South East Section in conjunction with NishikigoITV set out to do something different to assist Koi Chat in reaching its next milestone the £20k barrier.

"The Blue Book"

Is correctly known as the Nishikigo Guide - and lists all the member breeders of the All Japan Nishikigo Promotion Association aka the Shinkokai.

That 'something different' eventually became the notion of sending a book around the world to several Koi shows and collecting signatures and memorabilia on the way. Mark Gardner came up with the idea of the Shinkokai Bible (aka the Blue Book) and Mark and South East members Terry Wells and Bernie Woollands took care of its transportation.

These signings kicked off with the **AJNPA Show in Tokyo** on the 20th January and the book has now been to:-

- **Ojiya Wakagoi Show** in April.
- **Koi Secrets Show** (Belgium) and
- **South Hants BKKS Show** UK in May
- **Oregon Koi & Watergarden Show** (USA) and **BKKS National** UK in June
- **MSB Show** UK and
- **SAKKS National** in July
- **The 15th NVN Show** (Netherlands) and
- **South East International Koi Show** in August
- **Birmingham & West Midlands show** UK in September.

The MSB crew at their annual closed show in July.



The South East International in August



It is currently doing the rounds of Japanese shows with **NTV** culminating in the **ZNA All Japan Show** on the 9th November.

Inside the book are six blank pages which have been divided up and shared out amongst the shows.

Each piece contains a message written at the show and signed by members and VIP's of the club in question. In addition to the book itself a small scrapbook containing photographs from the shows and the odd souvenir has been put together to accompany it.

The auction for this unique piece of Koi memorabilia will begin in early December on www.koichat.com

Glenys Cambridge South Hants Show Chair kicks off the UK's signings in May



"St Agatha of Sicily"

Martyred approximately AD250. Her memorial day is Feb 5th. Tortured by a Roman Prefect for her beliefs who eventually had her breasts removed she has long been the patron saint of wet-nurses and more recently breast cancer sufferers.

Koi Secrets show in Belgium



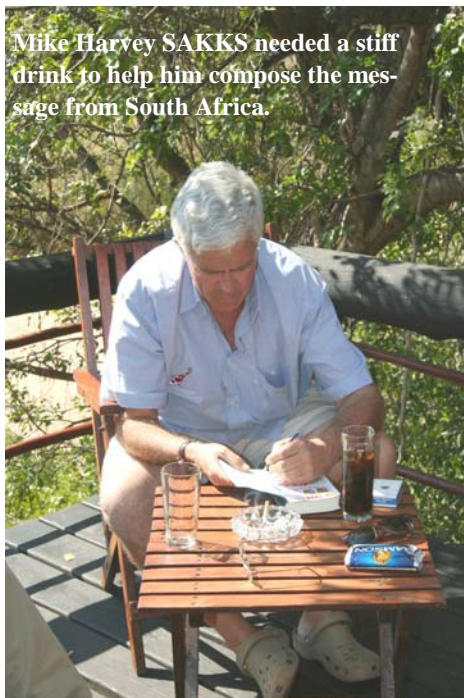
St Agatha's Trust

"Uses the funds raised by charity to provide items of comfort and support for breast cancer patients undergoing treatment, to purchase specific technical equipment to assist/enhance clinical work and to provide resources to increase the information and knowledge available about breast cancer."

They have regularly sent letters of thanks and marvel at the generosity and continued support that a bunch of internet based fish keepers provide.



Mike Harvey SAKKS needed a stiff drink to help him compose the message from South Africa.



The BKKS JSC at the BKKS National in June.



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

Or “How the East Mids was won”

The photo show has been a long-standing event in the EMKC calendar. It even rose to the heights of having a professional crew film it and produce VHS videos for a few years in the mid-nineties. A decline in the Club's membership, however, meant it was not held in 2005. Indeed, there were times when we wondered if the Club itself would continue as only a few stalwarts kept the flame alive. The adoption of a new Committee managed to turn things around and numbers crept back up again. Last year we were determined to revive the show. Ten members elected to take part and entered 60 fish. There were four main classes: Junior and Adult in Go-sanke and Non Go-sanke plus a Members' Choice, to be selected on the night from all the photographs.

A novel idea for an award emerged from a Club in-joke. One of our members had seen a dead koi in a breeder's pond on a Japan trip and asked, tongue in cheek, whether it was tosai, nissai or some other -ai. It was christened cod-ai and it developed into an award for the “Cod-eye Woofer” or the worst fish in members' ponds.

The whole thing nearly came to a grinding halt almost before it had even got off the ground. The first weekend of the 2006 competition arrived with dreadful weather and I got a phone call a few days later from one of the lads, who was really down in the dumps. “It's a shambles! We took 500 photographs and only about three are any good.” As it happened, I'd been loaned a couple of the old VHS tapes and been impressed by the video aspect. “Why not video the fish as well?”, I suggested, “That way we must be able to get a decent image, even if it's a screen grab.” So, quite by accident, the photo show took on its new form. Each owner introduced their pond and fish on video and still photos were taken as well. The two were incorporated in a DVD that was played at the presentation night. It was received with typical levels of bantering between the members and the woofers were truly horrific. Gilly's “The Kipper” was described by the judge as being “so ugly I can't decide if it's a fish or a southern-fried chicken leg”. Let's put it this way – it beat a fish that had lost its tail to fin rot..... The DVD was given to each entrant and we also put it on sale, which attracted a few more members into the fold. We were back – and with a bang!

This year we decided to keep the same, successful format. Eighteen members joined in and a total of 102 fish were entered. As it was, three people who'd expressed an interest had withdrawn. That gave us a considerable headache because our now-doubled membership meant ponds were entered that were outside our obvious area: Chesterfield in the north to Northampton in the south and even west to North Wales! And, yes, rather amazingly the latter is a regular attendee at our mid-week club-nights. The organisation was back in the capable hands of Martin ‘Mushio’ Barnett and Darren Turner, who covered well over 400 miles to visit everyone. Darren also produced the DVD while Mushio bullied the rest of us

Grand Champion. 68cms



into helping wherever he thought we could (or should)!

The Club suffered the loss of a long-standing member in 2007. Colin Shaw was a quiet man with a dry wit, whose deep chuckle was often heard. His popularity was such that it was unanimously agreed to rename the Members' Choice Award the Colin Shaw Memorial Trophy. We were thrilled that his widow, Thelma, and son, Stephen, were able to be there, with Thelma presenting the prizes.

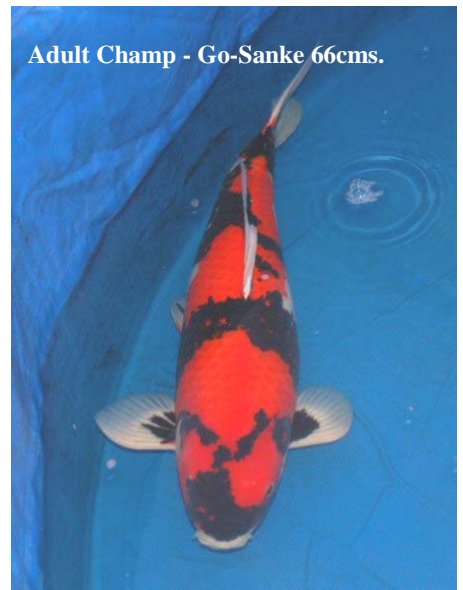
The presentation evening took place on 27th September and a record number of people crowded into the room. The atmosphere was buzzing long before we started things properly

and the opening scenes of Darren's latest DVD were greeted with a mixture of boos, cheers and gales of laughter, setting the mood for the evening. Did I mention we're all a bit mad? At the end of the first part of the DVD – showing all the ponds and fish that had been entered – we made the award presentations. Again, this was the trigger for a lot of comments from the floor but there was no doubting the pride we all shared, whether we won anything or not, in seeing the awards go to so many different people. It was also a great encouragement to the members who can't afford to buy large fish to see quite a few awards go to fish that had originally cost under £100.

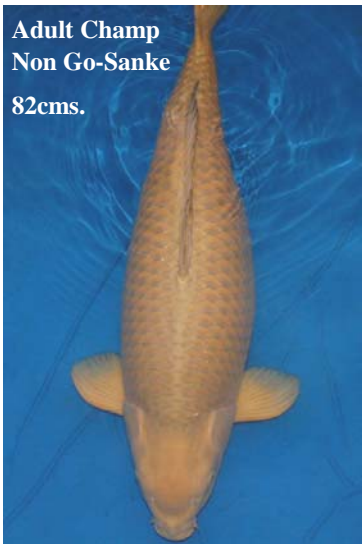
The finale came with the showing of the remainder of the DVD. In another change from last year, we had not only videos of the winning koi but a section of out-takes of various members struggling to sound professional on camera. One lady member constantly collapsed in fits of giggles, I had been caught mentally between describing one of mine as sumi-goromo or budo-goromo so called it a pseudo-goromo and yet another, probably an angler, managed to more than double to size of his fish when he said it was 43 inches long. In the out-take, Mushio can be heard saying “Centimetres, you idiot!”, followed by another round of giggles.

The Show could not have taken place without the considerable hard work of Mushio and Darren, plus our judge – Greg Sutton – who stepped in at short notice and did a fantastic job of pulling us out of a very deep hole. Our grateful thanks also go to Richdon Koi, who

Adult Champ - Go-Sanke 66cms.



Adult Champ
Non Go-Sanke
82cms.



Junior
Go Sanke



Junior
Non Go Sanke



Baby Go Sanke



Baby Non
Go Sanke



Chairman's
Choice 44cms

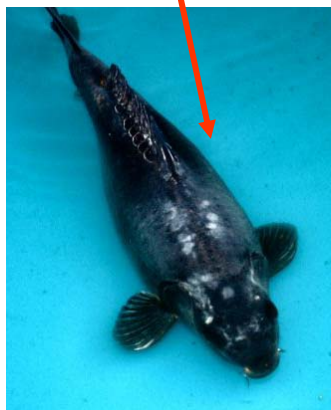


Most Unique 56cms



"COD-EYE WOOFER AWARD"

For the worst fish in a members pond!



12 Months on...

When Hotspot was first mooted we gave it a six month trial to see whether the notion would prove worthwhile. Well here we are one year on, and in our 14th issue which must say it all. Looking back at issue One; 8 pages and a lot of that pure South East Section PR, and comparing that with more recent issues where we have had photos and details from some of the major Koi Shows around the world including Japan its easy to see how it has grown. From the original half a dozen clubs that got us started our distribution has risen to fifteen and in addition to them we have a number of National Society magazine editors on our distribution list as well.

Obviously thanks are due to the editors and contributors of the newsletters in the exchange programme but in addition we have non-aligned contributors like Alan Coogan, Mark Gardner, Jim Reilly, the men of Nippon Nishikigoi and now Mike Snadden who have considered the project worthy of their support. Christina Evatt the departing editor of Koi Carp Magazine has been very supportive in both her own contributions and in furthering the cause of international koi keeping by giving the Hotspot community national coverage within the Koi Community pages of her magazine. *Read more about her on the back page.*

Old copies of Hotspot are available via the South East's website and it is interesting to see where they are being downloaded to on a regular basis. China and the Czech Republic being two places. When they see this I hope they will get in touch and let us know about the hobby in their locations. I wonder what the next 12 months will bring us.

Bernie Woollands



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

Doitsu Goi

Bernie Woollands

A recent query on the NVN's internet forum set Mike Harvey, Toën Feyen and I rummaging through the textbooks to rediscover the definitive definitions regarding Doitsu-goi.

The question that triggered it off was regarding a particularly interesting picture of a black and white Doitsu Karasugoi.



The photo from the NVN Forum.

22/9/2007 18:14

I think the original poster's question was "What variety is it?" but the three of us were more fascinated by the scalation and somewhere during our e-mail exchange the question of whether it could be classed as fully scaled arose. My response was a classic British one, i.e. 'When in doubt, blame the Germans' and I cited the breeding of food carp by them as the birth of all non-wagoi like scales and used the angling terms Armoured, Linear and Leather to describe the various types of Mirror Carp that we in the Koi world refer to as Doitsu.

I also mentioned that I had seen references to these different scale types in a Koi book at some stage in the past.

It took Mike Harvey to track this down and he eventually informed us that the source of reference was Kuroki's "Modern Nishikigoi", Mike's reply was :-

On page 19 he writes: " Scales on other than the dorsal ridge and lateral line are distracting. Koi with such scales are called either "Yoroi (armour)-goi" , "Yoroi Doitsu", or "Ishigaki-rin" (stone wall scales). They are valueless, even if their colours and patterns are beautiful. For the Doitsu-goi the neat rows

of scales are the most important factor..... Nishikigoi can rightly be grouped into two types, " fully scaled or ordinary koi" and "Doitsu- goi"according to the scale difference...."

NOTE the use of the words " fully scaled" - Wagoi are fully scaled koi. Also earlier in the text he says "There are two types of Doitsu-goi" - the leather carp which has no scales and the mirror carp which usually has large scales along both sides of the dorsal fin and lateral line. The latter is the original Doitsu-goi.The moment that the scales are larger than the normal wagoi the koi is effectively " doitsu-goi" and if the scales are on areas other than the dorsal ridge and lateral line then they will be "Yoroi Doitsu"

So there we have it - described, named and rated 'valueless'. I can't say I ever recall seeing or hearing the Japanese term for 'armoured' Koi before. However, all three of us were familiar with the other terms for the various Doitsu-goi. So to recap :-



Wagoi - fully scaled Koi



Kagamigoi - the Mirror Carp



Kawagoi—the Leather Carp

...and finally the

Yorigoi - Armoured Koi.



Axelrod went as far as to suggest that the Armoured scalation was due to a rogue gene combination that would lead to the fishes early demise. But the picture taken at an angling lake in France would discredit that.



A Doitsu-goi of the Kawagoi sort. worthy of the term Nishikigoi .

Doitsu Goi - the final word from Mike Harvey SAKKS.

One of the frequently asked questions is why a Doitsu variety invariably lose out at shows to it's fully scaled equivalent? The answer lies in the fact that judges take into account that good quality deep colouration, be it hi, sumi or shiro, and good sharp kiwa, is more difficult to achieve on a fully scaled koi that it is one a Doitsu variant. I'm sure many enthusiasts will recall having seen at some time one or other kohaku or showa which has such thick hi or sumi that one cannot discern the individual scales except on really close inspection. This is indicative of really good quality thick hi or sumi. And when one combines this quality with good sharp kiwa on a fully scaled koi one has to accept that this is

harder to achieve than on a Doitsu koi where the absence of scales makes it that much easier to achieve thick consolidated hi or sumi with sharp kiwa.

Another factor which often pulls down a superb Doitsu koi is the odd individual "floating" scale - often found somewhere along the lateral line of an otherwise scale-less lateral line. This leads one to ask then what is the ideal scalation in Doitsu koi. A neat row of equally sized small scales along each side of the dorsal fin with no scales anywhere else, is most desirable. If there are any scales along the lateral line - which is less desirable than having none - the scales must again be of equal size, in a neat even

row along the entire length of the body. This in itself is not often found as for some reason these scales are often different in size and positioning.

It is for these reasons that organisers of Koi Shows have more recently introduced separate Doitsu varieties/ classes in which only Doitsu are judged. In most instances where Doitsu classes are introduced there are two classes - Doitsu A for doitsu gosanke and Doitsu B for all other varieties."

Bagging with Brewster.

This year we were happy to be able to recall Bernice Brewster into the ranks of the South East show personnel. Bernice, BSC, FLS, MIFM, CBiol, MIBiol had been instrumental in setting up our water management protocols between 1989 and 2000. We had recalled her so that we had a proficient Fish Health Specialist to cover every eventuality as well as have her monitor our processes and procedures and give them a health check too. I am happy to say we passed.

However, she made one observation to Tim Fisher one of our centre ring team leaders concerning the bags the Koi were brought in. She noticed that many exhibitors took them away and stored in their cars whilst still wet. To Bernice's mind this could lead to a problem. Damp bags subjected to the kind of temperatures prevalent at the show could become an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. Although not all bacteria is harmful there aren't any guarantees as to which sort might bloom under these conditions. To her mind it posed a risk that can so easily be avoided. Apart from the obvious - 'Dry them out before packing away' a simple solution that isn't always practical at a Koi show, she also came up with a couple of easy alternatives (right).



South East Chairman David Brown with his arms full Christine Woolger (Benching), David & Bernice.
Lurking behind is Tony Pittas owner of this year's Young Ch.

- 1 - Discard the bags and bring extras.
- or
- 2 - Use the original outer bag as the inner one and vice-versa i.e. turn the pair inside out.

Bernice is MD of ACS Aquatic Consultancy, and a Fellow of the Linnaean Society, Chartered Biologist, Member of the Institute of Biology, Member of the Institute of Fisheries Management and Chartered Environmentalist has an IdQ in freshwater fish and undertaken PSYM training for pond and lake survey work.

The Saiki Hiroshima Auction,

Arriving on 8th October the first event was the Sakai Hiroshima Koi Auction one of the most prestigious and largest in Japan.

Day one was the Open Sale where Koi were sold in bagged lots and others from vats for individual prices.

Day two was the main auction of very select Tosai, Nissai and Sansai.

Amongst the bidders were Tony Pitham (UK) Danny de Schriver (Belgium) Michele Dumalin (Belgium) Max Ng (Singapore), Mr Tepsit (Taiwan), and Toshio Sakai - Isawa Nishikigoi Centre.

Among the auction lots were siblings of many famous AJNPA winning Koi.



The Sakai Hiroshima Auction.

Is recognized as the largest and one of the most prestigious auctions in Japan. Buyers from all over Japan, both trade and Hobbyist as well as from the Far East, USA and Europe attend every year.

Most expensive Koi on Day 2



The most expensive Koi on day 2 was the above Sanke. It's price was known by all that were there but part of the agreement between S.F.F. and NTV was that prices were not broadcast. However, as a ball-park figure Mark compared it to the price of a top range Ford car. A reader of Koi Chat queried whether that included some Indie-car specials



Right: To illustrate the point about how prestigious this auction is, Toshio Sakai was amongst the many renowned customers.

Above: The bidding board, where an S.F.F. member of staff keeps you advised of the current price.

英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

or just the UK range. He also questioned some of the Koi features as they appeared in the photo. Mark replied

“Yes, the UK range. The body is skewed by a pretty crap picture of the Koi to be honest so we'll have to discard that as a point of assessment at this stage. The skin is sublime on this Koi, it truly glows. The beni is excellent, the sumi likewise is of excellent quality. As the sumi develops it will become incredibly imposing. The lack is sumi stripes on one pec is of minor consequence.

As to why it's so expensive? Well someone was prepared to pay it is the bottom line, it's probable that this Koi will next surface at the All Japan, more likely the Wakagoi, where it'll be in the running for GC.

To understand the price/value also requires an appreciation of the mentality, for want of a better word, that exists in Koi in the East. There is honour at stake in acquiring the 'best' Koi at the auction. When people are purchasing 'potential', the title of 'best' can, I guess, be rightly acquired by that Koi which commanded the highest value.

This is a pic of my favourite, (Below) it commanded less than a third of the amount of the most expensive. The pic does it no justice.”

More of Mark's travels will feature in Hotspot #15



It now measures 85.5cms

Narita Koi Farm.

After the S.F.F. Auction finished Mark moved off to Nagoya to the Narita Koi Farm which he says is “The biggest Koi dealership in the world”. Whilst there he was privileged to have the famous Maruten Kohaku purchased by Martin Plows bowled. A short two minute FREE video of this Koi can be obtained via:- www.Nishikigoi.tv/maruten.mov use right click and the “Save target as” option.

This Koi was also chosen by another Hotspot writer Gregor Meijer for the subject of one of his paintings. (Right)



Gardner's travels—last minute addition



23rd October - Stop Press

Having done some work this morning decided to pop out for a quick drive around.

Went out through Shiodani and took a turning that appeared to lead down into the valley below with some nice mud ponds. After about 1/2 mile or so the well made concrete road turned to gravel, not uncommon, quite often it'll suddenly be concrete again. Alas, not on this occasion, a couple of bends later and the track came to a screaming halt with a tiny turning into a paddy field and a drop of several hundred feet to the stream in the valley below. OK, no problem, a simple 3 point turn with getting too concerned about the drop below and I'll be out of here. Midway through execution and suddenly I've got no traction, the wheels just spinning in soft mud and gravel and one 6 inches in the air - OOPS!!!

Half hour later and i'm still going nowhere! Decide I'm going to have to walk up to the town and try to get some help. As I climbed the steep winding road memories of Fuji came flooding back!

Reached the top of the track and a elderly gentleman was tending his crops. With a variety of gestures and movements I man-

aged to get the message across what the problem was. With that we walked up the road, I think he was trying to find someone who spoke English but can't be sure. Anyway, eventually he found another elderly chap who got some ropes and gestured for me to get in his little Daihatsu 4x4 truck, the same as the Koi breeders use.

As we drove down the windy track to my stricken car I could feel and read his glances at me saying, 'what you mean you drove further down than this!'. The best efforts of these 2 chaps were sadly to no avail and at this point I started to hope that they weren't about to give up their efforts and abandon me. One of the chaps got in his little truck and made off up the track again.

Whilst he was gone a couple more abortive attempts were made to move the car. We also managed to establish that I wasn't American but English, the car was a 'rent a car' and the it was from Nagaoka and not Ojiya, but I was staying in Ojiya. I think he also said that the other chap had gone to get 3 more people - what I really wanted him to say is that his mate had a tractor that would pull me out in no time at all!

Suddenly a group of people came around the corner, 7 men and 1 girl, it was though the

local sight seeing bus had stopped at the top to see the crazy gaigin. The girl snapping away with her camera! Within minutes the situation had been surveyed and it was decided that the blokes could lift the rear of the car and turn it round so it pointed straight back up the hill with all 4 wheels on the ground. 2 lifts later and they were happy it was in the right position. One of the men asked if he could drive, another pointed to him saying 'professional', I'm not sure exactly what sort of professional he was but twas fine by me!! As everyone made their way up the hill the girl gave me here business card with her website address, proudly telling me she was going to put the pictures on it.

Anyway, all's well that ends well, to say I was a little worried this afternoon is an understatement.

Posted on www.koichat.com on 23rd October 09.41BST



She's moving on.....



Christina knows all about the use of attention grabbing photos to illustrate a point, so I make no apologies for this one. Besides who's to say it's not her.....I'm not telling.

Yes it's an upheaval for the UK Koi media but not a complete break!

Christina Evatt the editor of Koi Carp is moving on to pastures new. Her husband Anton has moved from the wholesale Koi business at Evolution Aquatics to a retail venture called Kingdom Koi and Christina considers that the family ties could pose too much of a conflict of interest and therefore she handed in her notice on 17th August. A locational move at the end of October means the last issue of Koi Carp she is editing will be the December 2007 issue.

However, Christina will not be leaving the Koi community. She intends to assist Anton in the business using her journalistic skill to the full and branching out into public relations and promotion.

She will also remain at Koi Carp as a freelancer editing the Koi Community pages, a feature that she started in the July 2007 issue dealing with publicising koi hobbyist's activities world-wide. Christina comments: **"I have been overwhelmed with the positive response for the Koi Community pages in the magazine. With technology the way it is now there's no reason why the hobby of koi-keeping can't be truly global. Koi clubs from the UK, Europe, South Africa and**

Australia have already been making great use of the pages as a 'voice' to the koi community and I would like to thank them for their support."

Christina has been very supportive of Hotspot and its aims and therefore I am going to use this opportunity to plug the Koi Community.

If you would like to get maximum free publicity for your Koi club or society in Koi Carp's Koi Community pages please contact Christina on:

christina@christinaevatt.wanadoo.co.uk



About the South East Section.

The South East Section was founded in 1981 by a break away group from the London Section. It obtained Section status from the BKKS in 1982 and serves the counties of Kent, East Sussex, Surrey and Berkshire and the southern boroughs of London.

It's neighbouring Sections are the South Kent to the south, Essex to the North, Worthing to the west and the MSB (Middlesex & Surrey Borders) to the north-west.

The South East has a pretty stable membership generally numbering about 85 families.

Almost since it's founding the SouthEast has participated in information exchange with overseas Koi clubs and continues to do so today.

Every year the show attracts an increasing number of overseas visitors and through them a number of useful connections have been made which enhances our appreciation and understanding of the hobby.



The show is always held on the August Public Holiday which generally falls on the last weekend of that month. Details can always be found on our web-site -

The South East meets on every 4th Sunday of the month with the exception of December. Our meetings start at 2pm and we endeavour to have a speaker for 2 out of every 3 meetings. Those speakers generally cover Koi related subjects but occasionally we have one that diversifies a little e.g. Bonsai.

Our current membership fees are £15 per family and details as well as a schedule of speakers can be found on our web-site.

South East contacts in regard to this E-Magazine are :-

Bernie Woollands - bernie@koipin.com

And

Brian Edwards - brianedw@hotmail.com