

HOT SPOT

英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部



The E-Mag of the South East Section BKKS

Issue 30
March 2009



- twinned with the :-

Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society.

The Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.

The South African Koi Keepers Society.

Partners in goodwill.

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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.**
- **North East Koi Club BKKS**
- **ZNA Guangdong Chapter.**

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.

Welcome to the
world - Aria
Mariko Pitham.

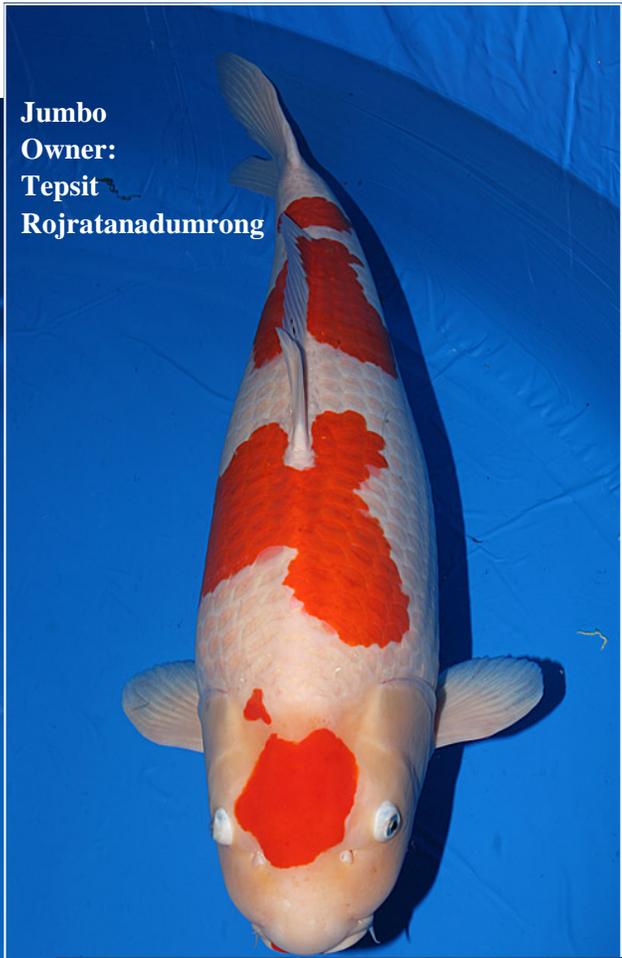
The 30th
Issue !

40th AJNPA Show winners.

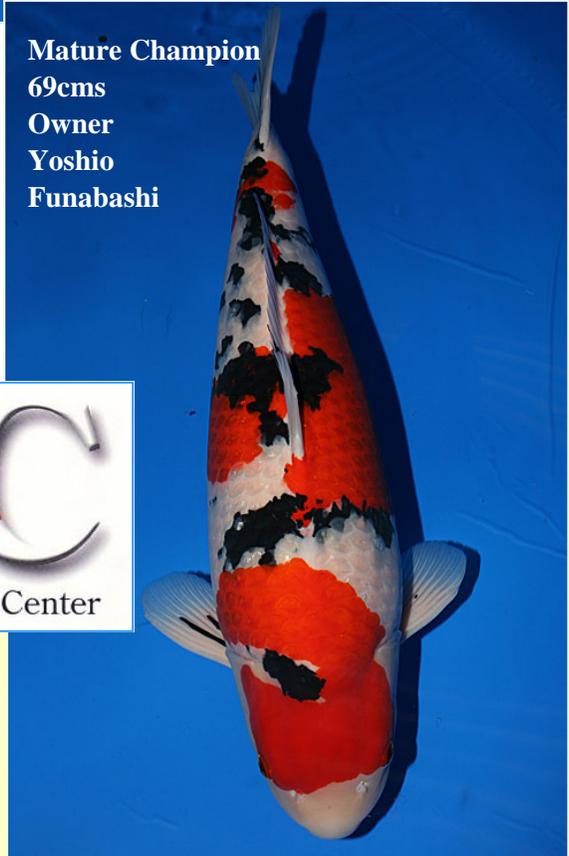


Grand Champion 93cms
Owner Fumio Fujiki

www.niigata-nishikigoi.com



Jumbo
Owner:
Tepsit
Rojratanadumrong



Mature Champion
69cms
Owner
Yoshio
Funabashi



All info and photographs for this article were gleaned from the INPC website.
www.japan-nishikigoi.org

Well worth a look.

“At this year’s show, an increase in the size of exhibited Nishikigoi seemed apparent, and many visitors were overwhelmed by their beautiful and powerful appearance. Meanwhile, the quality and popularity of Goshiki seems to continue to increase”

A total of 1447 Koi were exhibited this year..

英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部



Congratulations.....



A warm welcome to the latest addition to the Pitham family whose long association with the South East Section looks set to continue for another generation. Born within the boundaries of the Kwa Zulu Natal chapter of SAKKS, the matter of her membership is now in dispute.

Aria Mariko was born at 2.10pm on Valentine's day - 14th February weighing in at 3.95kgs and measuring 54cms (that's a size 4 in my book!, but a size 6 by KZN standards).

Proud father Tony Pitham reports that she is beautiful and has strawberry blonde hair and that both mother and baby are doing well.

Well done Saya and Tony.

英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

SAKKS Quadruple Champion

Johan Jacobs

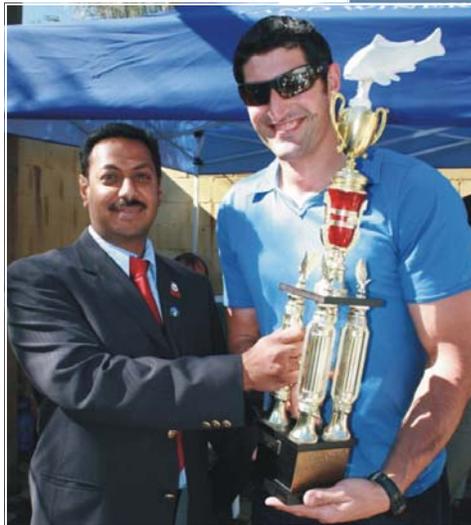


pion in wheelchair racing and hand cycling. Have a look at his website www.ernstvyd.com for a list of all his amazing achievements and read his very entertaining Beijing Blog.

Having qualified for the South African Paralympic team, Ernst set off at the end of August after the Western Cape Koi show for Beijing with the SA Paralympic team, focusing on hand cycling as the sport best suited for him to achieve a gold medal in. On 14 September Ernst's hard work paid off and he was first over the line to receive a Paralympic gold medal for Hand Cycling. Still recovering, three days later Ernst crossed the line in 3rd place in the Wheelchair racing event, taking a bronze and his second medal at the games.

What is a "quadruple champion you ask". Well that is an extremely rare achievement and one that no other person in South Africa and perhaps elsewhere in the world has ever managed to achieve - until this year that is. It started with a Koi show, the Western Cape Koi Show to be more exact, where Johan Jacobs held the Supreme Grand Champion and Reserve Grand champion titles for 2006 and 2007. Having already won the coveted Supreme Grand Champion title in the Garden Route in 2007 and in 2008 it seemed as if there was little to stop him taking top honours in the Western Cape for a third year in a row. That was before the Western Cape Show, held at a great new venue, the Cape Garden Centre.

At a show that was sporting the best quality Koi ever seen in the Western Cape, Ernst van Dyk, the Vice Chairman of SAKKS Western Cape Chapter, took top honours and not only walked away with the Supreme Grand Champion A trophy, but also received the Supreme Grand Champion B trophy making him a double champion. In addition to the incredible feat of taking top honours in A and B, Ernst also took three other Supreme prizes, the prize for the best South African Bred Koi, 9 x 1st place medals, 4 x 2nd place medals and one 3rd place medal. Overall not too bad a performance for somebody that lost almost all his prized Koi after the 2007 Western Cape Koi show due to chlorine contamination.



This article first appeared in the SAKKS' own magazine KOISA

The second part of this amazing feat continued in Beijing at the Paralympic Games. Ernst, if you did not know, is a world cham-

Another Fishy Tale

A wonderful part of being a koi judge is the opportunity it affords to attend and be part of shows all over the world. There is always something new to learn in this amazing hobby of ours, and what better way to achieve that knowledge? All clubs are a little different in how they organise their shows and overcome the problems involved. You also see koi from different backgrounds and breeders so there is more of a chance to keep up with the evolutionary development of many varieties and koi hobbyists and professionals met at these events

usually have information to share.

This year I was delighted to be asked to return to Seattle, to judge the Washington Koi & Water Garden Society show. Originally, I had been scheduled to judge this show in 2006, but a last minute cancelled flight put paid to that visit. No alternative flight was available that would get me to Seattle in time for the show. It was a horrible let down, at the time, for all concerned.

On this occasion, travel was uneventful, just lengthy. It is a fourteen-hour flight

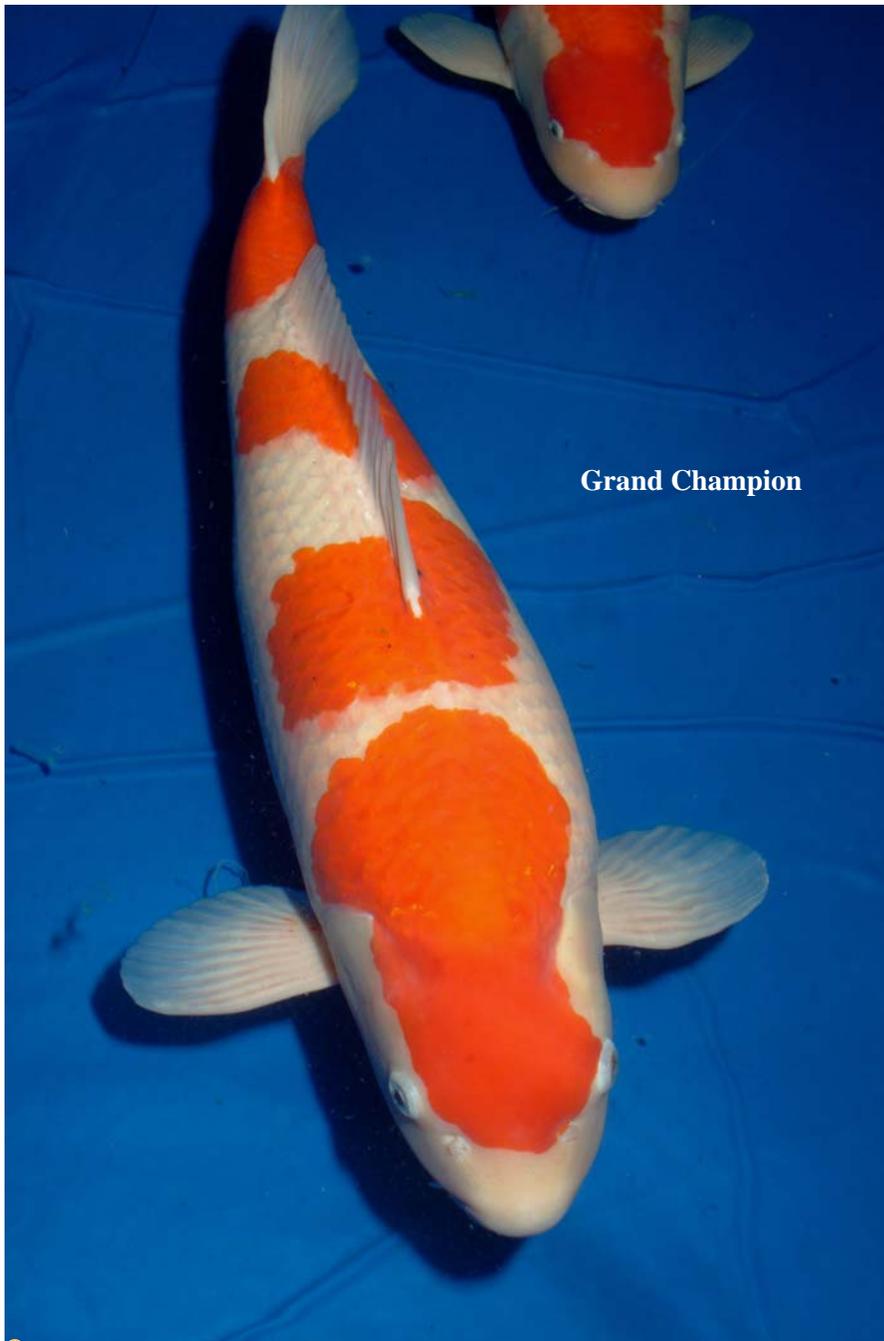
Kate McGill

between Sydney and Vancouver, our first stop. Unfortunately there are no direct flights to Seattle. However, Vancouver to Seattle is a very short hop of only forty minutes and Ian and I arrived without incident on Thursday morning, giving us a couple of free days before the show, although, in reality, we lost some tourist time - catching up on very much needed sleep! A fourteen-hour, overnight flight is no sinecure.

.Thursday evening saw us enjoying a spectacular view across the harbour to a backdrop of downtown Seattle from the famous "Saltys" seafood restaurant. Here, Vik Nair gave us the good news that we had a trip booked the next day to visit Victoria and the world-famous Butchart gardens on Vancouver Island the next day. Having heard about these gardens many years previously, I was very keen to see them and the spare day before the show provided the opportunity. There was a ferry, which would get us over Puget Sound to Vancouver Island and back in one day, which we duly caught at 7am the next morning. The boat was packed, every seat taken. We were at a table with a couple from Dallas and another couple from Las Vegas, which made for interesting conversation the whole trip. Lifestyles and experiences can be so different and, as is generally the case, our 'table mates' were fascinated to learn about the koi hobby - previously an unknown quantity to any of them.

Following our arrival at the ferry terminal in Victoria, we boarded a pre-arranged shuttle bus to the gardens. Given the time, in retrospect, it would have been a lot better not to be part of this organised tour, because actual time at Butchart gardens was only a couple of hours and you need days probably, to fully appreciate them. I have seen a lot of formal gardens over the years, but this one definitely takes the biscuit. I have never seen anything to approach it for sheer artistry. Everywhere you turned, the displays took your breath away. The main feature is an enormous old quarry, which has been spectacularly landscaped with perfect rock work offset by an incredible mix of trees, shrubs, flowering plants and water features. Other areas of the garden each have their own designs, for example the Italian garden, a rose garden and a superb Japanese garden featuring magnificent maples, conifers intermixed with tumbling streams and still pools covered with water lilies. Any gardener would find this place the paradise that we did. It was a wonderful time and we really did not want to leave!

However, the bus was waiting, so on with the tour. We were dropped off in Victoria centre and enjoyed a few hours wandering around this rather



Grand Champion



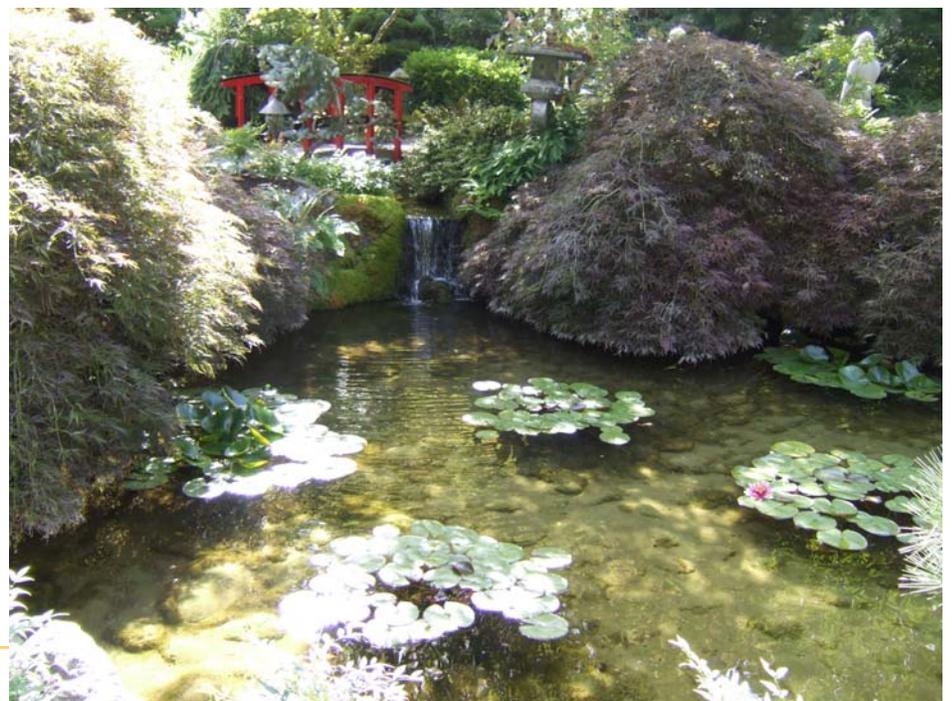
half, if we could catch one of them. Alternatives were hiring a car, if the hire shop was open, hitching a ride or finding a taxi. Ian tried haranguing other passengers for a ride, without success – most of them seemed not even to understand him, strangely. Perhaps our request was too unusual to register. Driving back to Seattle in the dark, on the wrong side and on unknown roads did not really appeal, so we put all our cards on being able to hire a taxi. I shudder to think what my blood pressure was doing, during that ferry ride; Ian was suffering too, but keeping very calm on the surface, for my sake. The thought of not making it in time was pretty awful.

Port Angeles was very quiet when we arrived, after 9pm. No visible taxis; very little traffic at all, in fact. Hearts in mouths, we made our way to a Holiday Inn and finally struck lucky. The receptionist gave us the number of a taxi firm and they were happy to organise a driver to take us the hour's ride to Kingston to catch the regular ferry to Edmonds, just north of Seattle and close to Bothel, where we were staying. The last ferry was at 11:10 and by this time it was 10pm. Needless to say, it was an uncomfortable drive, constantly watching the time, willing the driver to go faster! But, we finally arrived and caught the ferry. We could have hugged our taxi driver; he really entered into the spirit of the evening, even speeding a bit when he could do so. The police

quaint old town, finally, at about 5pm finding our way into a small restaurant offering interesting sounding seafood which, in fact, turned out to be absolutely delicious, particularly the Alaskan King Crab! These crustaceans are so large, that a generous portion is in fact just a piece of one leg – hard to credit, but true.

Unfortunately, this is the point at which our superb day went pear shaped in a big way. We had to be at the ferry terminal to catch the ferry at 7pm, no problem; we were just around the harbour and could actually see the boat from where we were sitting. There we were, enjoying the meal, Ian's arm on the table, wristwatch at 6pm, no hurry. I didn't look at my watch; I could see Ian's. Disaster – it had actually stopped at 6pm. When I next glanced at mine it was 6:45pm! We leaped up, paid the bill and sprinted round to the ferry terminal in total shock – only to see the boat pulling away from the dock – we were too late, and that was the last ferry to Seattle. The next one in the morning would get us there far too late – judging was scheduled for 8:30am. There was no float-plane, they had finished for the day, no apparent way of getting back. The panic was indescribable, as you might imagine. I had missed the last show in 2006 and now looked at missing this one, stuck in Canada. Before I had total heart failure however, another official came out the back office and suggested we ran round to the next dock and caught the regular ferry going to Port Angeles.

At least it was in America although at this point in time we had no idea where exactly Port Angeles was, in relation to Seattle. This we duly did, spending the hour and a half trip wondering what we were going to do next. Port Angeles, we discovered was about 3 hours away from Seattle by road, because of all the fjords in that part of the world. Following a very rapid improvement in our knowledge of the geography of the area, we discovered that there were a couple of possible ferries across to Seattle, making the journey around an hour and a



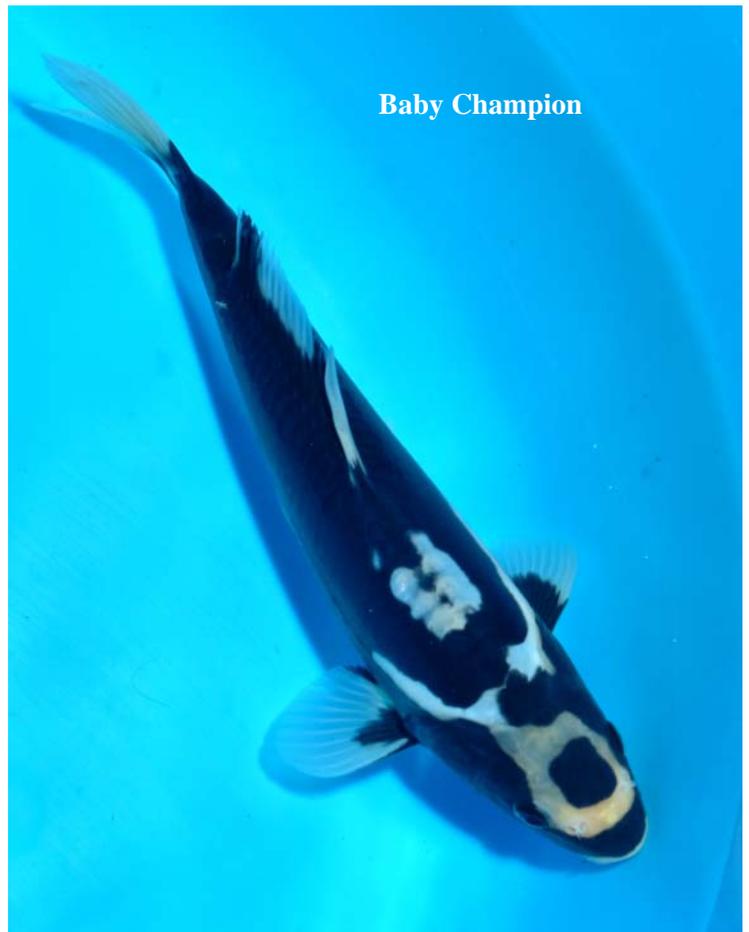


The Judges: Grant Fujita, Kate McGill, Toshiya Amemiya, Takahiro Omosako.

over there are just as strict as they are here, so he had to be very careful. The fare was astronomical, but we would have paid anything to get back that night! Vik met us at the other end and took two very stressed out and weary travellers home to our hotel. I have never been so delighted to get anywhere, as I was to finally fall into bed that night.

The show the next day was almost an anticlimax in comparison, but proved a lovely event. Perfect autumn weather, warm and still, lovely koi, old friends to catch up with and introduce Ian to. Judging began promptly and went like clockwork, organisation at most American shows is superb. Smaller koi are bowled, within the tanks and ready to view, speeding up the process. Under the circumstances, this proved invaluable because Seattle being a generally wet place, the show was under cover and rather dark! The tanks near the centre of the tent were quite difficult to see early on, due to an overcast sky which luckily, cleared through the day. Grant Fujita, our head judge, was actually presented with a miner's head-lamp at one point, which everyone found very entertaining.

Quality of the koi was high and both Ian and I enjoyed seeing them. Ian had the task of awarding the AKA friendship trophy and happily picked out a lovely Kumonryu as the winner. Grand Champion at this show went to a superb four step, 80cm Kohaku and Baby Champion was (unusually) won by another top quality Kumonryu with a most memorable maruten sumi head pattern. The Japanese judges were quite excited over this very rare koi. Perhaps the most interesting koi at the show however, was a size four Omosako Shiro Utsuri. Conformation was superb, skin



Baby Champion

incredibly white, but sumi definitely in a minus quantity! Judge Omosako san seemed quite confident that the sumi would appear at some point, but there were a lot of raised eyebrows! Hard to credit that it would happen. I will definitely be asking Vik over the next year how this koi is progressing. Winning koi were announced as soon as they were selected, adding interest for hobbyists and public attending the show. Because the area immediately around the tanks was closed to all but judges, show officials and Ian as photographer, during the judging, the commentary given during the morning allowed some participation for everyone else there. . At all shows I have judged in the USA, there has been a lot more in the way of engaging visitors in the show process, than anywhere else in the world. All the judges are asked to comment on the koi selected, often immediately following the decision and always at the end of the judging process. Question and answer sessions are also popular.

Judging over, Ian and I were free for the rest of the day, to chat to old and new koi friends, photograph and discuss the koi.

A high point for Ian was a visit to Pan Intercorp's koi facility; current home of the Shinkokai All Japan trophy won in early February by an American entry this year. Ian enjoyed having his photograph taken holding this magnificent and very heavy silver cup – the closest anyone in Australia has yet come to this (probably) most prized koi award in the world today.

On Sunday, following a discussion session on each of the winning koi at the show ground, one of Ian's long-term "bucket list" wishes came to fruition. We were taken to a baseball game featuring the Seattle Mariners against the New York Yankees, his favourite team! Unfortunately (for Ian) they lost to the Mariners on this occasion, but it was a fast, high scoring game so very entertaining. It was so very good of the Society members, to organise this for us. Hospitality throughout the weekend was superb.

Monday was our last day. Our flight out was at 8pm that evening, so we had some spare time. Vik took us first to visit a very beautiful pond and garden created by a landscape gardener, Don Shimono. He and his wife Elaine also joined us for lunch that day and we very much enjoyed their company.

There was considerable talk of them both coming out to Australia one day, so we may be able to return a little of the generous hospitality



Ian Andrews with the AJNPA Trophy

shown to us in Seattle. Afterwards Vik took us on to see the famous Pike Place markets, home to the TV featured "fish tossing" exhibition given by one of the seafood stalls. They really do toss the fish selected by customers from the front of the stall, for packing at the back! The whole market was a wonderful experience, overflowing with flowers, fruit, fish and thousands of curios. We both very much enjoyed our afternoon there. All too soon it was time to head for the airport – surprise, surprise, we were both a bit paranoid about the time! No problems getting home though, just strange, losing a day in the process. We got back to Sydney on Wednesday morning. Tuesday just vanished.

It was only a short break and a very long way to travel, but well worthwhile. It remains to offer our grateful thanks to Vik Nair (President), Helena Hileman (Show Chair) and all the Washington Koi & Water Garden Society members, for entertaining us so generously. We hope to be able to reciprocate at some time in the future.

**Omosako's Choice.
Tategoi !**



The nervous system

The nervous system of fish, like humans, consists of the Central Nervous System (CNS) and the peripheral nervous system. The CNS is comprised of the brain and spinal cord, whilst the peripheral system consists of a range of nerve cells (neurons) that transmit messages to and from various organs, muscles and sensory systems.

The nervous system can also be divided into the somatic and autonomic systems. Somatic activity is generally under voluntary control, and includes the sending of messages from sensory receptors, through the CNS and back to skeletal muscles (which make up a large part of a fishes' mass). The autonomic system is involuntary, and is involved in the regulation of internal organs and general maintenance of bodily functions. It also innervates black pigment cells (melanophores) in the skin, and is responsible for causing rapid colour changes under different conditions.

Central Nervous System

The CNS of fish is a little like a computer, bringing together nerve cells from all over the body, processing the information they carry, and sending instructions back out again. It can be thought of as having four main parts:

1. Somatic afferents – nerve cells that bring in messages from sensory receptors and skeletal muscle.
2. Somatic efferents – nerve cells that send messages from the CNS to skeletal muscle.
3. Visceral afferents – nerve cells that bring in messages from the internal organs.
4. Autonomic efferents – nerve cells that send messages from the CNS to glands, internal organs, and smooth (involuntary) muscle.

The relative size of the brain is small compared to mammals and birds, although different areas may be enlarged depending on the specialisations of the species. The bony fishes with the largest relative brain sizes are the Mormyrids, or Elephantnose fish, from Africa. Their brains are approximately 1% of their bodyweight, and are required for managing their exceptional electrosensory and hearing ability. Different parts of the brain may vary in size depending on a fish's reliance on vision, smell, hearing etc.

How the nervous system works

The coordination of information received from the peripheral nervous system, and its processing by the CNS into an appropriate action is very complicated and sophisticated. Not only does it involve the nervous system, but information from other sources, such as hormone levels, also have to be integrated in. However, a basic idea of how the nervous system works can be got from an explanation of the reflex arc.

The reflex arc comes into play when the body needs to react quickly to danger, without wasting time thinking about an appropriate response. A good example would be touching a hot plate and letting go, before you even know what's happening. Fish have a variety of sensory systems they use to gather information from their environment. When one of these systems is stimulated, it is the job of sensory neurons (nerve cells) to pass information to the CNS. Once the message arrives in the CNS, connector neurons will pass the information to an effector neuron. This takes the message from the CNS to the relevant muscle that needs to be stimulated in order to escape the danger. In the case of a human hand touching a hot plate, pain receptors send messages to the CNS, which then instructs muscles in your hand to pull it away from the heat.

Mauthner cells

Fish are capable of extremely rapid responses to danger – termed the 'startle' response. This is possible because of special nerve cells running from the brain down the length of the spinal cord. When stimulated, these 'Mauthner' cells cause the fish to flex away from the source of the danger, resulting in what is called a 'C-start' reflex. The 'C' simply refers to the shape the fish flexes into, before swimming off. The Mauthner cells originate in the brain, but cross over to opposite sides of the body before descending along the spinal cord. This means that when a Mauthner cell on the left side of the brain is stimulated, it causes the muscles on the right side to contract, bending the fish to the right and away from the source of the stimulus. The C-start response is extremely rapid, and usually takes less than 100 milliseconds. Bending of the head and tail away from the stimulus takes less than 20 milliseconds, with rapid tail beats to move the fish away taking around 80 milliseconds. Carp have been recorded accelerating away from a C-start at 54m/s/s, which explains why they are so hard to catch! The Mauthner cells are well designed for initiating such rapid movement, with a large diameter and excellent insulation. In fact, they conduct

Rupert Bridges

nerve impulses faster than any other vertebrate nerve cell, at 50 – 100m/s.

Nerve cell structure

Although they differ in appearance, the basic structure of different nerve cells is similar. The key elements are:

Cell body – contains the cytoplasm and nucleus of the cell

Dendrites – extend from the cell body and make contact with other nerve cells

Axon – part of the nerve fibre that transmits impulses away from the cell body, usually only 20µm in diameter. Some animals, such as squid, have giant axons that may be 1mm in diameter.

Schwann cell – separate cells that wrap around the axon, insulating it with a thick, fatty layer called the myelin sheath

Nerve impulses

Messages are carried along the axons as electrical impulses. In an inactive axon there is an electrical potential difference between the inside and outside of the cell of around 70mV. The inside is in fact negative to the outside. This is called the resting potential.

The resting potential is maintained by actively pumping positive ions (charged atoms) across the cell membrane. This is done by a sodium-potassium pump. Basically, by pumping two potassium (K⁺) ions into the cell for every three sodium (Na⁺) ions out, a lower number of positive ions are maintained inside the cell, creating an electrical gradient.

When a nerve impulse passes through the axon, it makes the membrane temporarily much more permeable to sodium ions. Because these are around ten times as concentrated on the outside of the cell, they naturally diffuse in. This causes the resting potential to be reversed, and the inside of the cell becomes positive. This effect only lasts for around a millisecond, before the resting potential is restored. However, it's enough to ensure the impulse continues along the axon.

Like a set of dominos falling, reversal of the resting potential causes the next part of the membrane to become permeable, allowing the impulse to pass all the way along the axon.

Synapses

The points at which nerve cells join together, or where nerve cells join to muscles, are called synapses. Between the end of one nerve cell and the beginning of the next is a small gap, around 20nm wide, called the synaptic cleft. When a nerve impulse arrives at the end of the nerve cell, it changes the properties of its presynaptic membrane, allowing calcium ions to move into the cell. This causes small, synaptic vesicles in the end of the nerve cell to move to the edge of the membrane, and release a neurotransmitter into the synaptic cleft. The neurotransmitter diffuses across the synaptic cleft, and binds with proteins on the postsynaptic membrane of the next nerve cell. This alters its properties, allowing sodium ions to diffuse into it, reversing its resting potential and triggering a new impulse.

Synapses are useful because they can only carry a signal in one direction, thereby preventing impulses from travelling in the wrong direction. One of the most important neurotransmitters is acetylcholine. Once the signal has been passed on to the next neuron, acetylcholine must be cleared up to prevent repeated stimulation. This is done by an enzyme called cholinesterase. Some chemicals, including organophosphates, can inhibit cholinesterase, allowing acetylcholine to remain in the synaptic cleft and causing repeated stimulation of the nerve cells, and uncontrollable muscle contraction. Organophosphate based treatments used to be available for treating koi and other fish, but are now heavily regulated. This is a positive move, as they can be quite harmful to certain fish species, as well as invertebrates and other pond life.

References:

Roberts, Reiss & Monger (1993); Biology, Principles and Processes

Bone, Blaxter, Marshall (1996); Biology of Fishes

Jobling (1996); Environmental Biology of Fishes

Helfman, Collette, Facey (1997); The Diversity of Fishes

For more information on koi & koi keeping:
www.koiexcellence.co.uk



The Price prize - “The prijs is right”.



The 2007 NVN Show was supposed to be Tony Price’ last Koi show in a judging capacity (See report on China in last month’s Hotspot) and as a way of ensuring that Tony continued to attend the show, the NVN created the Tony Price Prize, a trophy that he has to award every year. I asked Tony to elaborate and explain his choice for 2008.

The award may be given annually to a person, Koi, for services, in fact for anything of note.

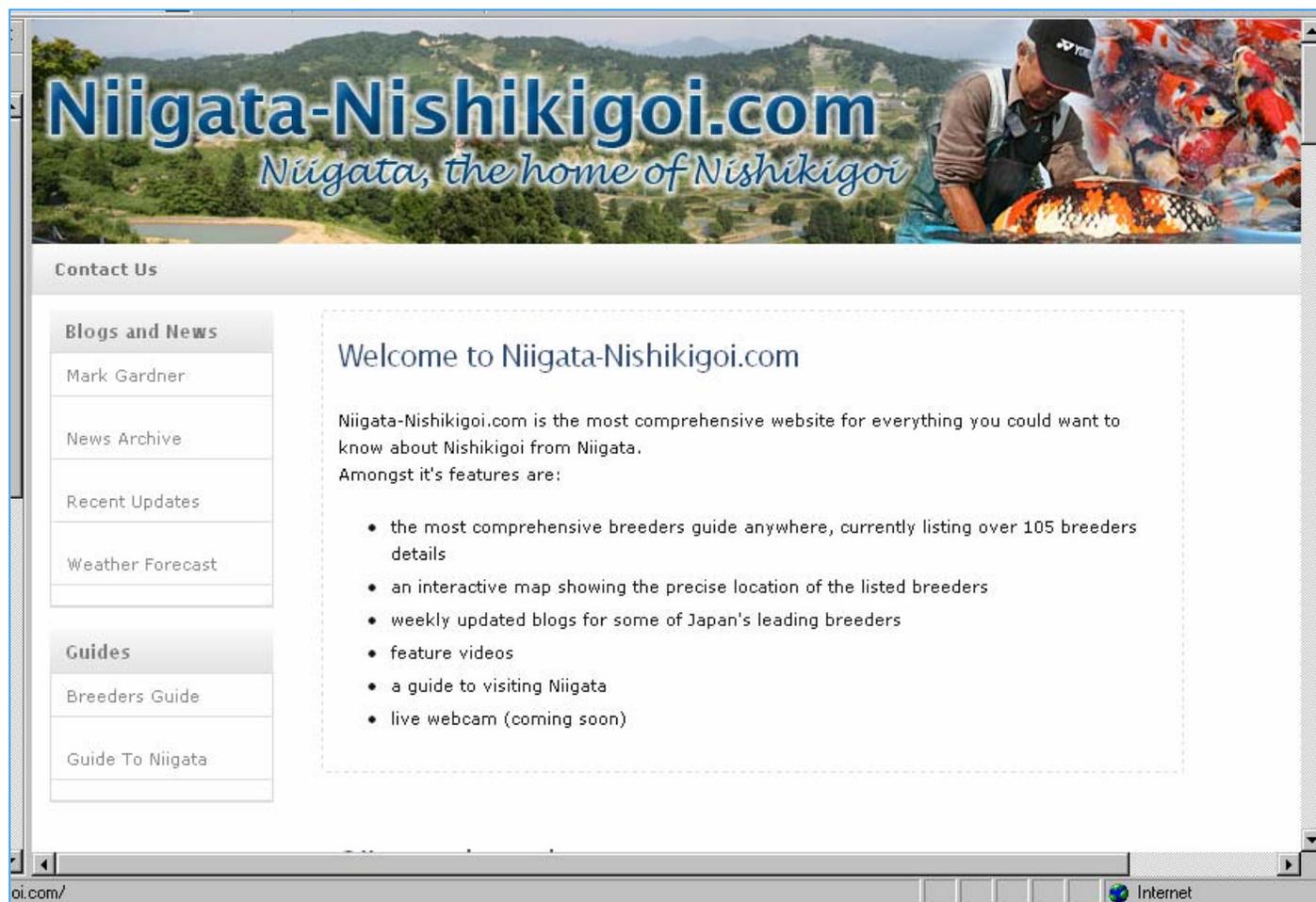
The Tony Price trophy awarded to Fred Ernsting 2008-9 for his dedication to the Koi hobby, currently on the NVN judges training course and doing well, he has an insatiable thirst for Koi knowledge, a good “eye”, and speaks

speaks well and forcibly to argue his pinion when he is judging. Also he excelled when volunteering his time during the show period driving and looking after the International guests.

In any event who would argue with a man of 2 metres stature and with a black belt in Judo.

The title of the trophy - “The Price Prize” is a bit of an in-joke. In Dutch, the words price and prize (it used to be ‘prijs’) share the same spelling even though they have a different meaning. This has led to some confusion in the past when engraving trophies for the UK market. But whatever you call it and however you spell it, the Price prize is here to stay.

Introducing www.Niigata-Nishikigoi.com



The long running blog of Mark Gardner, the source of much information within our pages throughout 2008 is now superseded by [Niigata-Nishikigoi.com](http://www.Niigata-Nishikigoi.com). Mark's blog continues where it left off, detailing life within the Koi communities of Niigata as well as some of the Koi activities in the rest of Japan but the new site contains additional information in the form of guides, a great source of reference material for those venturing to Japan as well as those studying the area from afar.

Introducing Koi-Links (UK)

Welcome to Koi Links (UK)

sponsored by South Hants Koi Club

This site aims to provide the most up to date information that is available on the world wide web, with respect to koi and koi keeping. We hope to achieve this simply by redirecting people to sites that are already maintained on a regular basis by their own contributors and webmasters. Committee members, diary dates and contact details are good examples of where an organization cannot hope to keep up with the constant changes that occur in clubs and businesses.

Hence we do NOT aim to reproduce a lot of information that will be out of date within just a few days . You can search for any specific site by using one or more of the four drop down lists and clicking on **Go**. Each website has, where possible, been allocated to a region within the British Isles mainly using COUNTIES, although some areas are more specific if there are county boundary anomalies, generally they follow the areas defined on Wikipedia for clubs and societies the location is normally based on where they hold their regular meetings i.e. their club house.

The Koi hobby: post critical mass

Jim Reilly

There had been a lot of extremely negative and non constructive speculation on the UK forums about the effects of the credit-crunch on our hobby. It was all doom & gloom with not one glimmer of hope.

The SouthEast committee had agreed to focus on ensuring that the club and its show was still in business in 2012 even to the extent of using our own reserves to pick up any shortfall. But we felt we were alone.

And then Jim posted this.

There is no question that the koi hobby currently suffers on many fronts. Cost of koi, shipping issues, disease threats, cost of the electricity, too many professionals chasing too few customers and even real estate wows and lack of home equity loans slowing pond building. And don't discount real estate down sizing and retirement of the baby boomer population. All very real. But perhaps the single greatest threat is the maturing of the hobby? At a time when all the above has come together to form the perfect storm, it seems they have all acted more as final 'push' for an already matured hobby then a crushing blow in and of themselves. This downward turn started in Japan after the end of the 'Great Japanese Miracle' of the 80s and 90s. That was the golden age of koi in Japan fuelled by a great rising economy. Today, koi is a dying hobby in Japan.

Meanwhile in the west, Long gone are the days when trips to Mecca koiland were rare and deserved feature articles in the one or two koi magazines in existence. Indeed, long gone are the limited sources of 'secret' details of how to keep these wondrous and mysterious fish alive. Most people know what koi are now. There was a time when only those who went to Hawaii or Disney world, had a clue as what these giant colourful goldfish were called.

And maybe the worst turn in the bend came when koi clubs became focused on 'bigness' and over the top trade shows? Add into mix the inclusion of goldfish and longfin carp and the broth began to watered down towards a soup that would offend no one's taste buds. But weaken the focus and drain the volunteers' energies all the same. Then the InterNet-- what can I say? The most popular trend in 'the hobby'. Unfortunately

not actually the koi hobby. Nope, more a social outlet linked to the general ponding hobby amongst warring factions. Mix in magazines, many many magazines. Many many koi boards. The result---- excess exposure. Limiting ad potential as every budding back yard dealer and breeder in the trade descends on Ebay in order to troll for customers there or on the newbie boards. Not quite the water garden world but rather some alternate world of reasonable 'facsimile koi' for the masses. Those who have been in 'fish hobbies' (or any hobbies for that matter) know that there are rises and falls of interest in species or topics. African cichlids, bettas, marine fish, discus, etc, all come to great heights of interest and then fall. And this has happened with koi now after a remarkable 20 year run. Even the once truly great All Japan show is being held together with clear plastic bags, bailing wire and hollow, over the top, marketing hype. Truly a said state of affairs.

What can be done? Is there anything that 'can' be done? As a market, and an industry, the shake out has begun. As pointed out by others, very few business will survive 2009-10. There just aren't the margins or critical mass of intense driven customers to justify the investment at the obsessive levels of the late 80s and 1990s. That's a fact.

“clubs must refocus on the fundamentals that created their need to begin with.”

I think the good news is, the 'hard crunchy centre' of the hobby will always be there. Those dealers who have tapped into it via AKCA and ZNA will survive here in the states. As will the ebay pirates who specialize in picking off the water gardeners with fool's gold. But in-between? Not many.

As for education? There will always be the inaccurate and wacky internet education. I recently saw a Chinese website that said koi were 'invented' by the Chinese! Can the North Korean sites be far behind in this claim? 😊

I don't really consider that the koi community so I guess it's harmless (in a harmful sort of way). Certainly the AKCA and ZNA will survive and continue to education in an orthodox way based on decades of accumulated information and experience. But commercial efforts and sources will likely die on the vine along with most small dealers and larger dealers with sub-

stantial overhead. The backyard dealer has already made a comeback but for how long? The more things change, the more they stay the same. What I mean specifically is, clubs must refocus on the fundamentals that created their need to begin with. And chapters and organizations need to merge if necessary and support local dealers. Instead of platitudes about 'supporting local dealers', members should ONLY buy from dealers that advertise in club magazines and support club shows. This is what the koi community is. It is not 'Internet' based. And it is not on the scale of General Motors! It is truly about the local club with local dealers all linked into a National organization. The 'Balkanization' of the hobby and it's organization has just about peaked, I think? **It maybe be time to reverse the fragmentation process and regroup again with strong individual clubs along with their local dealers, moving towards a smaller more focused point of view, I.E. Koi.**



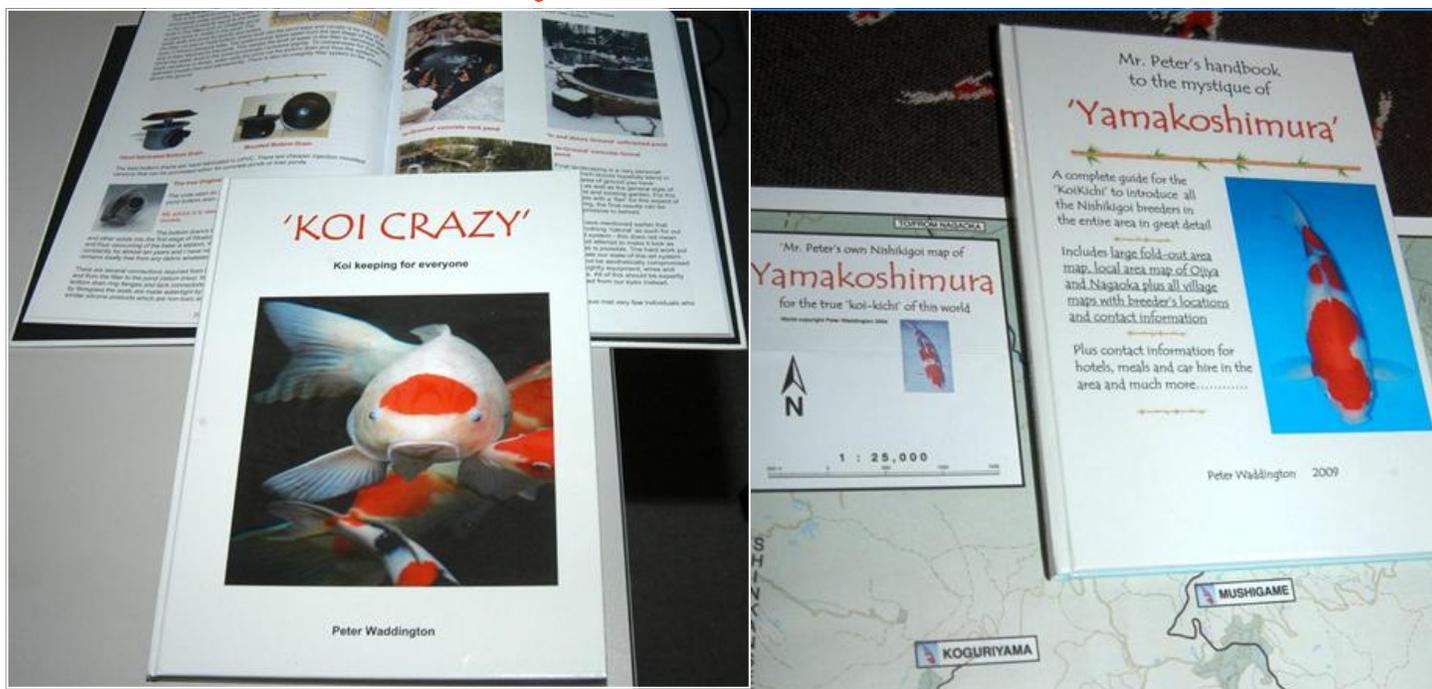
Send us your Koi show adverts and time and space permitting we will endeavour to run them for at least a couple of months before the show date.

We have three examples on the next page, but the more the merrier.

Equally, we would like to see a show report after the event, be it just a pictorial review or a full blown article.

Let the International Koi Community know what awaits them somewhere else in the world.

New books from Waddy



Koi Crazy

A4 hardback book

Price £27.50 plus £2.50p+p – total £30.00

Description by the author:-

'This book was written between 2005 to 2008 and the information within is as up-to-date as is possible for the hobby of keeping Koi in 2009. The contents page of the book gives a brief outline of all topics covered and the 11 chapters have been written to detail, in full, every aspect of each topic.

I have written the book in mind of ALL classes of Koi enthusiasts, ranging from absolute beginners right through to those who are very experienced. Some pertinent information has been transferred from my first book 'Koi Kichi' in 1995, some has been transferred from my second book 'Koi2Kichi' in 2004 and the majority is new material I have prepared since then.

In order to be able to retail this presentation at a very economical price today, I chose not to take up valuable pages with entire wasted pages, whole page photographs, oversized graphics and other embellishments which only serve, in my eyes, as very expensive padding. Instead, each of the pages in this book contains only 'easy-to-read, black-on-white text and relevant photographs' thus, as you will see upon inspection, every single page is full to the brim with accurate information.

For further details see:-

www.koikichi.com

Mr Peter's handbook to the mystique of 'Yamakoshimura'

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'This handbook, produced in 2008, is intended to be a very comprehensive guide to all Koi enthusiasts worldwide if they are considering visiting this area. It is also written to give vital information on every page to those who have already made their first visit/s and may be still confused in some areas. For others, who do not intend to visit, it gives vital details of many famous and not-so-famous Nishikigoi breeders throughout this area which is the undisputed birthplace of Nishikigoi.

I produced this book in A5 size to make it easily fit into one's pocket whilst in Japan. The fold-out map (sold separately at £7.75) is included inside together with all the very detailed village maps are not available anywhere else in the world.

Very little of the information in this handbook has ever been available before and it is the first book of its kind to be published

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英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

Partners in goodwill.

This sentiment and it's logo were the product of Norman Call's (our representative in the Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society) imagination. It came about in an organic sort of way that has a lot to do with the relationship between our two clubs, our two countries and our hobby.

Our Spotlight newsletter had USA/UK logo that was getting a bit faded & jaded after years of photocopying etc. Knowing that Norm was a graphic designer I asked him to give it a makeover which he did. It has adorned our newsletter ever since. It was delivered in October 2001 at a time when the atrocities and the aftermath of 9/11 were still current news and fresh in peoples minds.

That month, we were invited to attend a fund raising 'Barn Dance' by the governors of the school where we hold our Koi shows. The school was at one time in its history (WWII) a training school for fire-fighters of the London Fire Brigade who still support the school, as we do now. I forget the details now, but the heroics of the New York City Fire Department were mentioned in relation to the dance.

As a gesture of support Teresa Lambert one of our members printed off Norm's logo, laminated them and produced brooches which we wore to the dance. I sent one to Norm, who is an avid pin collector, who in turn turned the concept into a pin. The logo next appeared on the OKWS' own newsletter "[The Tall Fish Story](#)" underlined with the sentiment - "[Partners in goodwill](#)" an ethic we have since adopted and spread. Our partners are now the OKWS, The NVN (Dutch Koi Society and the KwaZulu Natal chapter of the South African Koi Society SAKKS.

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.

Our 'Open' show is both an attraction to the UK Koi scene as well as Koi keepers from abroad.

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 -

www.koi-clubs.com/SouthEast

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 :-

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And

Brian Edwards - brianedw@hotmail.com

2009 SOUTHERN CAPE CHAPTER
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