

The E-Mag of the South East Section

Issue 39 December 2009



- twinned with the :-

Inside this issue:45th All Japan ZNA Grand Champion2Farewell BKKKS3Swimming4 & 5North East Photographic Show6 - 8Gauteng SAKKS Baby Koi Show10 - 13International people news14International people news14

39th issue Who would have believed it? Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society. The Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland. The South African Koi Keepers Society. **Partners in goodwill.**

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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.

Koi Clubs participating in this exchange scheme are:-

- Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.
- Oregon Koi & Watergarden Soc.
- South African Koi Keepers Soc.
- 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
- Belgian Koi Society
- Banana Bar Koi Society.
- East Midlands Koi Club.
- North East Koi Club BKKS
- ZNA Guangdong Chapter.
- Southern Colorado Koi Club.
- KLAN (Germany)
- Koi Galen Sweden



45th All Japan (ZNA) Show.

The Grand Champion 107cms Owner: Nobuo Takigawa

Photos courtesy of Simon Austin

Our congratulations go to the Chairman of the Worldwide ZNA for his 9th Grand Champion winne at the 45th All Japan Hobbyist's Show. This koi a massive Momotaro bred 107cms Sanke (called Ryogin) is even more remarkable in that she had grown 4cms since January 2009 when she was exhibited at the Shinkokai All Japan show at 103cms.

For those statisticians amongst us there were 1204 entries to this years show under the Show Chairmanship of Keiichi Iwahashi.

> Takigawa's impressive ZNA Show C.V.

1994 - Scarlet Queen 1997 - Sakura-Hime 1999 - Ushiwakamaru 2000 - Benkei 2001 - Sakura-Hime 2005 - Miko 2006 - Bentley 2008 - Izumoryu 2009 - Ryugin

Kuroki Prize for Best Showa

Show Chairman: Keiichi Iwahashi

Hotspot reporter: Simon Austin (Nippon Nishikigoi) For more info :-http://www.nipponnishikigoi.co.uk

Additional information: Yuko Shirako, Greg Sutton.



Farewell BKKS.

It has been clear to us for some time that the BKKS Council would like remove the South East Section from the Society,... why?.....who knows!....the reason still remains a mystery to us, particularly as the South East Section has made its fair contribution over the last 27 years.

In 2007 we faced a dilemma regarding the new show rules and in taking the action we did we brought about change, change for the better and the end to some ill thought out show rules that weren't fit for purpose. Rule 32n prevents a section from having such a safety valve when faced with an impasse in negotiations within the Society. Therefore, as previously stated we won't be signing up for it in 2010.

Our representatives attended the meeting on 15th November 2009

where the Worthing Section put forward the proposal to suspend us. It was passed by 4 votes to 3 with 1 abstention. It gives us until 31st January to retract from our position with all our questions un-answered.

The vote shows opposing opinions which are clearly divisive and damaging to the Society. We have made our position clear from the start of this un-fortunate and unfair confrontation and our best course of action for the benefit of the Society is for us to accept our expulsion from the BKKS and allow it to pursue its primary function to promote the koikeeping hobby. To all the members of the other sections, if you supported us we thank you,...if you voted to remove us we bear no malice... that's what democracy is all about and we offer you ALL our hand of friendship when we meet at the various shows and functions throughout 2010 and beyond.

May I take this opportunity to wish the BKKS every success in the future.

Yours sincerely

David Brown South East Section Chairman

Swimming

Watching our koi glide effortlessly through the water is one of the pleasures of the hobby. However, moving through water is not as easy at it looks – for a start it is 800 times more dense than air, and 50 times more viscous. Add to this an oxygen level 95% lower than in air, and you can begin to appreciate how exhausting a life underwater can be. Just think about it - if you're not used to it, you'll know how quickly you become tired when swimming. In this article we look a little more closely at how fish accomplish such graceful movement underwater.

Reducing drag

Drag is the force that resists movement of an object through water, and is related to drag and viscosity. It is the reason why swimming is so tiring, and fish have evolved various body shapes to overcome it. There are two types of drag fish experience – frictional drag occurs between the fish's body and the surrounding water; pressure drag is caused by pressure differences resulting from displacement of water as the fish moves through it.

Frictional drag is affected by the smoothness of a surface, and the total surface area. It is therefore linked to fin and body shape, and is reduced by the mucus that covers the body of koi and other fish. Pressure drag is linked to speed, increasing as the fish moves faster through the water.

Fish that swim quickly, especially over long periods of time, have evolved more streamlined body designs to reduce drag. For example, they will generally be round in crosssection, with a maximum width equal to 25% of their length (e.g. 24% in swordfish, 28% in tuna). The thickest part of their body is located approximately two fifths of the way along the body from the head end. Streamlined fish are often 'negatively buoyant', which means they sink if they stop moving. Wing-like pectoral fins give them lift as they move through the water, and they may be able to retract some of their fins to reduce drag even further.

Swimming

Not all fish are super-streamlined or designed to swim constantly for long periods. As you would expect, the habitat of a species will, over time, shape its body form through natural selection. Scientists have devised different classifications to describe how a fish swims, based on the parts of the body that are involved and how they are used.

Some of the more important categories of swimming style are:

Anguilliform – 'eel-like' swimming behaviour that involves most of the body. Large waves are sent from head to tail, which 'push' against the water and generate forward motion. The faster the waves, the faster the fish goes. Although not particularly quick, anguilliform swimmers have a greater ability to move through complex (e.g. heavily vegetated) environments, and can even move backwards.

Subcarangiform – Movement during swimming is confined to the posterior half of the body, with the front half thicker and less flexible. The caudal (tail) fin is usually short and wide, and is important for changes in direction, bursts of speed, and fine control such as hovering. Speed is increased by more frequent undulations of the body and tailbeats. Koi fall into this category, along with fish such as cod, trout and goldfish.

Carangiform - In this group, the back third of the body is flexible and used to generate power. Often the caudal peduncle (tail 'neck') is thinner, and the tail more forked. Examples include herring and jacks.

Thunniform – the real swimming specialists, these fish are the most highly adapted to constant swimming, often at very high speeds. The body is rigid, with the caudal peduncle and caudal fin used to generate all of the propulsive forces. The caudal fin is also tall and thin, which helps to sustain swimming speeds by reducing drag. Examples include tunas and billfishes.

The undulations of the body that generate movement in most fish are produced through muscular contractions. To create a wave, muscles on one side of the body are contracted, whilst those on the other are relaxed.

Muscles

Around 50% of a fish's mass is made up of muscles used in locomotion, divided by sheets of connective tissue (myosepta) into blocks called myotomes. You will have noticed these blocks when cooking fish fillets. The myotomes are folded so their outer edges resemble a letter 'W' laid on its side.

If you take a cross section of a fish's body, you will see that the muscle is divided into four areas. A vertical septum (partition) divides the muscle into left and right halves, whilst a horizontal septum divides it into upper (epaxial) and lower (hypaxial) portions.

Most of the muscle is made up of 'white' muscle fibres, with smaller quantities of red

Rupert Bridges

and, in some fish including koi, pink fibres. The amount of each type of muscle fibre depends on the lifestyle of the fish.

White muscle fibres are used for bursts of speed, and their use is not sustainable. They derive their energy from anaerobic respiration, which involves the release of energy from glucose without oxygen. The glucose is eventually converted to lactic acid, which accumulates in the muscle and is responsible for the burning sensation you feel when doing strenuous physical exercise. Eventually this lactic acid stops the muscle from working, which is why white muscle can only be used for short bursts of activity. It can take some time for the lactic acid to be removed from the body. Because white muscle does not rely on oxygen, it has a poor blood supply and low levels of red-coloured myoglobin (an oxygen carrying protein); hence it's lack of colour.

Red muscle receives a much better blood supply, is rich in myoglobin, and relies on aerobic respiration for energy release. It uses a mix of proteins, fats and glucose for fuel, and does not tire in the same way as white muscle. It is therefore important for sustained swimming at lower speeds. Pink muscle is intermediate between red and white, and is used for some sustained swimming activity.

In most fish, white muscle accounts for the majority of the total muscle mass, with red muscle only accounting for 0.5 - 10%. However, in some specialised swimmers, such as tunas, it may account for up to 30%. In koi, the red muscle mass is low, and they are not able to sustain high swimming speeds for long periods of time. They are however capable of some rapid bursts of speed, which anyone who has tried to catch their fish will know.

Swimming speeds

Body design and muscle physiology are key to the speeds that fish are capable of. Some of the fastest fish are large, open-water species such as tunas and billfishes. Top speeds include a Wahoo measured at 2,100cm/s (75km/h), and a Black Marlin measured at 3,600cm/s (130km/h). Burst speeds recorded in carp (koi) are much lower, with a 13cm specimen recorded at around 160cm/s (5.75km/h). Although this seems slow, this fish would have been travelling at a speed equivalent to over 12 body-lengths per second. A larger fish travelling at this sort of ratio could really give you the run around! The fastest speeds seen in carp occur when they are startled. They react with what is termed a 'C' start or an 'S' start, referring to the way the body is curved prior to accelerating away. Spierts and Van Leeuwen (1999) measured fast starts in carp (koi), measuring acceleration from a C-start at 54m/s/s. Although only occurring for a split second, such rapid movement allows them to duck out of the way of predators, or indeed pond owners with nets!

References:

Bond (1996), Biology of Fishes, 2nd edition

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

Heap, Watt, Goldspink (1986), J.Exp Biology 123, 373-382

Spierts & Van Leeuwen (1999), J.Exp Biology 202, 393-406

www.fishbase.org

In summary,

The speed at which a koi can swim is affected by the temperature of the water. In warm water, as a result of the increased temperature of their body, they can maintain higher cruising speeds, and faster bursts of speed. In winter, their swimming speed decreases, however not completely in line with temperature. They employ special physiological adaptations to ensure they are still capable of avoiding danger, even when their body is being slowed down by the cold weather. Heap, Watt, & Goldspink (1986) showed that in colder water (10°C vs 18°C) the activity of ATPase in the muscle increased. This enzyme is responsible for splitting apart ATP (adenosine triphosphate) to provide energy for muscle contraction. Increased levels allow some adaptation to the cold, ensuring the fish is still able to swim at a reasonable speed. Importantly, they noted that starving the fish, even for just a few weeks, prevented this acclimation, with AT-Pase levels remaining relatively unchanged at 10°C. This indicates that providing a good diet, even at lower temperatures, is important for keeping koi in top condition.



For more information on koi & koi keeping:

www.koiexcellence.co.uk

Show Dates for 2010

Be sure to send us your show dates for next year.

If you have a poster send it in jpeg form and we'll endeavourer to run it for three months providing space permits.

We'll be featuring a list of show dates from the January issue which will also be published on the South East's website.

2009 North East Koi Club Photographic Show.

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Grand Champion

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Grand Champion:

Reserve G.C.:

Best Mature:

Best Tategoi: Best Non Go Sanke:

Judges Merit Award:

Best Adult:

Best Baby:



Trevor Holmes receiving his trophy from a young lady the NE's want to keep secret.



Hot Spot Issue #39

Trevor Holmes & Judith Moult.

Anthony Grey.

Anthony Grey.

Anthony Grey. Robert Robson.

Robert Robson.

Paul Slingsby.

Michael Hall.





On the correct side of the country (the East) but at the wrong end, the North East Koi Club hold an annual Open Show around the same time as the South East. This year it was a week later and therefore many visitors will have met some of their members, including Anthony Grey, son of their PRO Stephen..

Anthony has contributed to Hotspot before on several occasions by providing excellent photographs of koi events that he has attended. In fact we referred to him as our junior reporter. But that's now a thing of the past. Shortly after sending me these photos of their photographic show, I learned that Anthony is a junior no longer, so belated birthday greetings and thanks once again.

Anthony can be seen below left wearing a Circle of Friends pin and as we can see from the table on the previous page he did well with Reserve GC, Young and Baby Champion.



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Hot Spot Issue #39



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Gauteng SAKKS Baby Koi Show

Kevin Harrison



Sibusiso Norrie receiving his award from Harry Beckx for his Showa

What a show!!!!! Cresta Shopping Centre was the sole sponsor of this show which certainly went a long way in making it the show that it was. Cresta allowed us to use the amphitheatre which is an ideal venue for the Baby Koi Show. The Dros went out of their way to cater for our needs, orchestrated by Mary-Ann Harrison.

Congratulations go to James and Sibusiso Norrie who took a clean sweep with Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion with two magnificent showa's from sizes three and four. Mario Wilken took Baby Grand Champion from sizes one and two with a shiny bright Yamatonishiki. The Chairman's Award went to Kevin Harrison for his beautiful Ochibe Shigure. The KZN Friendship Award was awarded to Imraan Osman for his lovely Tancho Sanke who was also a first time entrant. Supreme size 1, 2, 3 & 4 went to David Coetzee, Mario Wilken, Arthur Aucamp and Trish MacIntosh, respectively.

Thanks to Harry Beckx (Head Judge) and Mike Harvey who came up from KZN, along with Raj Laloo and Jim Phillips who were the judges at the show. Oosie Strydom and Rene Schoenmaker were responsible for the benching assisted by Maria-Anna Botha.

Many thanks go to the dealers who

supported the show - Loolilocks, Golden Dragon and Naurtic Koi Farm. It was extremely satisfying to see the extremely pleasing prices of the koi on sale. Good koi were sold at very reasonable prices which is a definite breath of fresh air in the present economic climate.

Ron Casey was the Show Chairman for the first time and he did a splendid job in getting the show sight to look the way it did. Maria-Anna and Ronnie Botha also spent much time at the grounds to ensure that all ran smoothly. Thanks to all who were responsible in some way for the success of this event. Take a look at the collage of photos which depict that all and sundry had a good time.



Trish MacIntosh receiving her award from Mike Harvey for her Sanke

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Supreme Champion Size 3 Right

Arthur Aucamp receiving his award from Mike Harvey for his Shusui







Show Chairmans Award Right

Kevin Harrison receiving his award from Ron Casey for his Ochibe Shigure





Supreme Champion Size 2 Left

Mario Wilken receiving his award from Mike Harvey for his Goshiki

Mario Wilken also received awards for Baby Grand Champion 1-2 Best Potential Size 2



First Time Entrant

David Coetzee receiving his award from Raj Lalloo for his Kohaku

David Coetzee also received awards for Supreme Champion Size 1 Best Potential Size 1 Tategoi





News from Down Under



Congratulations go to Kate McGill, who at the recent ceremonies held right round Australia became an Australian citizen.

Of course this now means we can call her "our own" and she now also gets to barrack for the Auusies in the next Ashes Series, so hopefully we might be able to regain them...?

Kate's colleagues at St Vincent's Hospital showered her office with yellow & green balloons, stubbie holders and lots and lots of koalas and kangaroos. As well as celebrating with the customary cake.

It's nice to haver here to stay....

Congratulations Kate!

Paul Miglionico

The Tony Price award.



Every year, it falls on me to nominate the recipient of this award, I have no criteria other than what I read, see, or otherwise hear about as I am remote from the NVN and

therefore have no outside influence whatsoever. This year it was not a difficult decision to make, it goes to THEO VAN BLADEL

Over the years since I have known Theo, his dedication to the Koi hobby is unsurpassed,

his knowledge of water quality in relation to Koi keeping is beyond reproach as ably

demonstrated in the articles he writes for everyones benefit. At the annual show in Arcen he works tirelessly, or so it seems, within the water team, often without thanks, rarely with any recognition, after all, where would we be without quality water for our beloved Koi? Arcen is I believe the only Koi show in the world where water is "imported" and stored in vast containers, purified and maintained suitable for Koi and is supplied to both the show vats and the vendors as required. a logistical problem of immense magnitude considering the size of the show, all done with efficiency and in all weathers. This year particularly, has been a difficult one for Theo with the sad loss of his beautiful wife Annemie shortly after the 2008 show yet I hope this award gives him encouragement to continue and to recognise his work for the NVN.

I am proud to call him a friend, not only personally but also I am in admiration of his dedication to the well being of our Koi.

Tony Price

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 So-

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www.niigata-nishikigoi.com

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 northwest.

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.

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