

HOT SPOT



英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部

The E-Mag of the South East Koi Club

Issue 46

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Editorial.

“Having represented fish during the revision of the Animal Welfare Act I now see firsthand how the legislation has improved animal welfare generally and the best interests of Koi specifically. **The ethos of the Act has been understood by the South East Koi Club members and well demonstrated in their Rules and Guidelines** for use at all Koi shows held under their auspices to ensure the highest possible Koi welfare standards.”

Dr P A Reynolds BSc PhD BA Consultant in Fish Medicine.
19th June 2010 .

With that commendation ringing in our ears the South East Koi Club embark on the penultimate phase of organising their 24th Open Show safe in the knowledge that their long standing processes and procedures are fit for purpose. Protecting these procedures was a large part or the reasons for taking our show outside of the BKKS Show Rules back in 2007. Having developed them under a 12 year period of supervision of a well known and respected figure in the aquatic trade we weren't prepared to discard them without explanations. Those explanations were never forthcoming and the rest as they say is history.

Having taken a step towards independence and no longer under the Society's umbrella we decided to do a create a set of show rules and guidelines of our own incorporating these processes and procedure into them. Rather than draw up one book covering all bases, we chose

the modular approach, writing separate modules for specific functions in what technical writers call a “document suite”.

When we learned that the Society was sending their show rules to Dr Reynolds for approval we decided that we'd need to do the same. On learning that the Society's discussions were in a state of impasse, we forwarded ours on the 14th June. In double-quick time 2 modules were returned “approved” straight away. One required the alteration to certain wording in line with the current vernacular of ‘welfare speak’ while another highlighted a glaring error on our part. Due to some slap-dash documenting a remedial procedure in emergency situations appeared to as a standard procedure. Such was the thoroughness of the audit that these things were quickly identified and remedied. Did I say quickly? - how about 5 days. On the 19th all docs were approved and Dr Reynolds issued the above statement, thus vindicating our original stand and validating our efforts. Roll on August.

About HOT SPOT

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.



**Grand
Champion
Owner -
John Hellens**



**Mature
Champion**



**Adult
Champion**



**Baby
Champion
Owner -
Martin
Barnett**

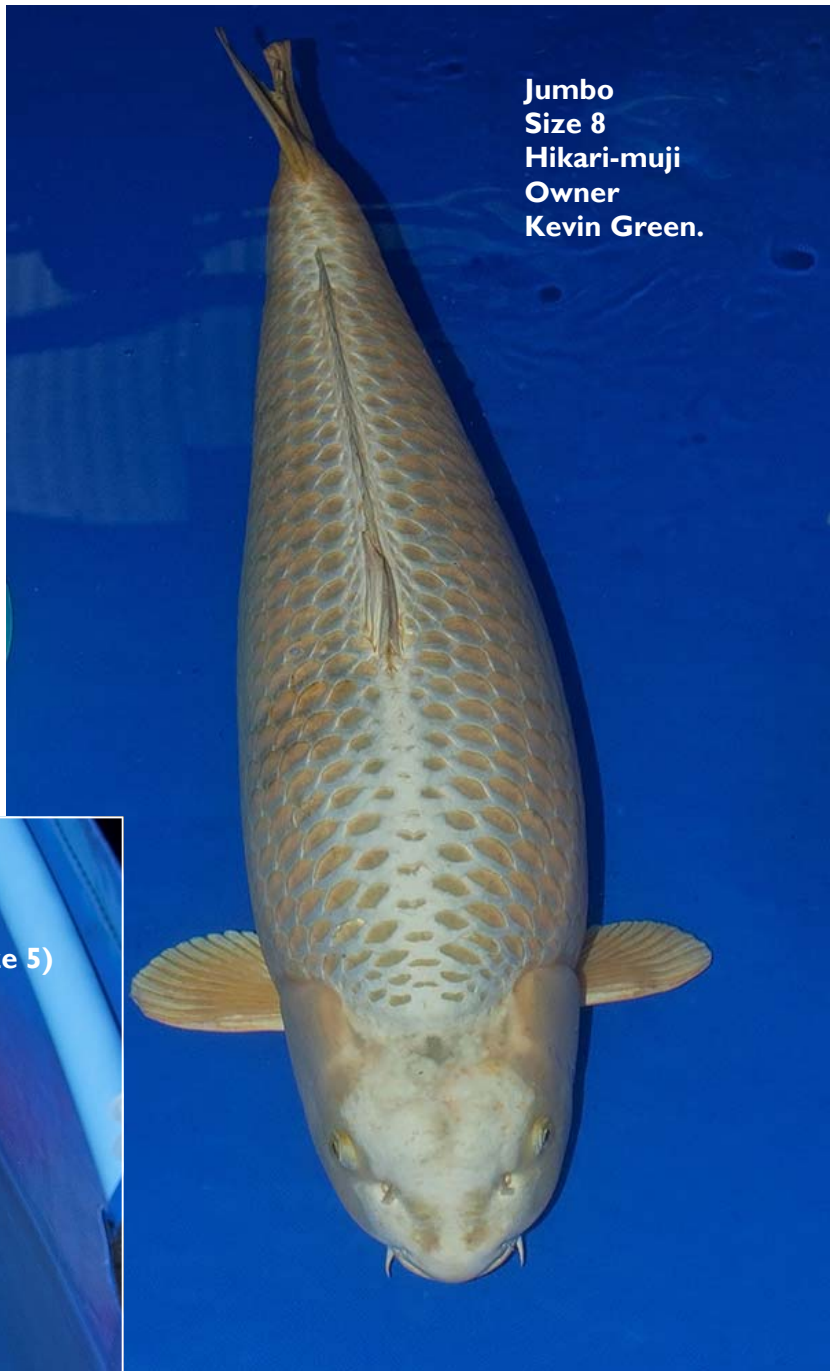


**Young
Champion
Owner -
John Fisher**





**Non Go-Sanke
Champion**



**Jumbo
Size 8
Hikari-muji
Owner
Kevin Green.**



**Everyman
Award
(Best in size 5)**

A string of firsts for this year's National, the first of those not one we want to see repeated, probably the lowest number of entries for some considerable time (298). However, the rest of the firsts are very impressive. The GC had previously won the title in 2006. It was also the GC at the South East in 2008, this was the 1st time a South East GC had taken the National. It was also the first time that koikeeper Raad Hassan had shown examples from his well known collection and he took Mature Champ, Adult Champ and Non Go-Sanke Champion. This year's Baby Champion was an English bred koi (Cuttlebrook Koi Farm) a first for the National and a first for Cuttlebrook. And lastly, a South East member, Lee Manning took the Everyman Award. The first of our crew to do that. The Everyman Trophy was donated to the BKKS by Toshio Sakai and is automatically awarded to the best koi in size 5, a size Toshio believes is within the reach of every koi keeper hence the title.

When looking at this koi I am reminded of 'Dream Fujiko' a well known GC on the continent. Does anyone else share my view?

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Early in the year I received an e-mail from Kate McGill asking if I would like to go to Australia to Judge their Koi Show in April 2010 – Silly question !!! Who would not go?

Wednesday / Thursday 14th 15th April.

Threw last few bits & pieces in case, had breakfast ad waited for Joanna to arrive to drive me to Heathrow. Despite radio traffic reports of problems on the M25 it was an easy & uneventful journey to the airport. Did all the usual, check in, queue through security, duty free shopping, and light lunch before boarding the plane at 14.00. This was a treat, on one of the new Airbus 380's but it was only half full – loads of room, 3 seats in a row to myself, so after supper could lay down and get a couple of hours sleep before landing in Dubai for the connecting flight at 02.00.

Smaller plane for the longest part of the journey – slept, watched film, breakfast, slept, film, dinner, and finally landed at Sydney at 22.10 on Thursday 15th. Met by 2 club members – and was greeted by “You got here then – all airports in Europe are shut” very confused – what has happened? The Icelandic Volcano had erupted and ash cloud had shut Heathrow about 8 hours after I had taken off – I knew nothing, been on a plane for 22 hours.

Friday 16th April.

A good night's sleep, and woke up normal time, found breakfast area; the portions are enormous, am I in Australia or USA??? Went for a walk round the local area, nice warm day, but a bit muggy. Found a local street market, lots of different foods, fish, fruit and veg. Quite an interesting community.

Ian met me outside the hotel at 12.15 for a trip to Darling Harbour which is part of Sydney Harbour, with a very large waterfront with so many restaurants; lots to see could have spent hours there with a camera. Walked across the Old Swing Bridge to the Aquarium, very interesting time spent there, then back to the Hotel to get ready for dinner. I must say it does get dark very early here – dark at 6 pm.

Spent a lovely evening with A.K.A. committee members, what a great group of people who made me very welcome.



Grand
Champion

Saturday 17th April.

After breakfast met by Kazuyo McDonald for a tour of another part of Sydney with wonderful views of Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, and then to Rocks, what a lovely market with some very nice items for sale, not your normal market stuff At lunch time we met Gerard, as he had had to work this morning, and went to the Fish

Market, wow what a place, so many different fish and shell fish, and all has to be labelled saying exactly where it has come from. Prawns, I think they mean mini lobsters !!!!

It was then back to Kazuyo & Gerards for a Bar B Que, meeting more members of the club, and to see all Gerards Koi and all the small Koi he has bred.

Sunday 18th April – Show Day

Up early as being collected at 8.15 to go to the Show Ground. It was going to be a hot day, clear blue skies and not a cloud in sight. Met Allan Bennet, the Judge from Western Australia, he had arrived this morning on the “Red Eye” Flight from Perth arriving in Sydney at 6.30 this morning.

Lots of Koi to be Judged about 350 in 35 Vats, I was amazed by the quality as all of these Koi are bred in Australia as they are not allowed to import.

Grand Champion and Grand Champion B (Best No Go Sanke) were easy choices.

Alan then did Size 2. and I did Size 3, no size 1, then half of size 4 and after lunch size 5 & 6 – it was very hot, lots of cold water consumed. It was very good to see that Alan & I agreed on most decisions even put a Kujaku as best in size 3. They do not do Best In Size awards just best in Variety as it only means the same people are getting the prizes and 2 or 3 trophies for the same fish.

This is only a 1 day show, Show Koi only, no dealers or trade stands, as we finished judging and the light was fading, the koi were being bagged up for transportation home and a team of workers where dismantling the vats and packing up.

This was a tiring day, lots of lovely Koi, and some unusual Koi, a great days judging with Alan, and working with a great team of people who are very enthusiastic about their Koi – true Koi Keepers.

As they breed all their own Koi they do not change hands for large sums of money, normally just a couple of hundred dollars, so they is no “Buying” the Champion, just great camaraderie in swapping and exchanging Koi that you have bred.

Evening TV News – All European Airports still shut – looks like I could be staying longer than anticipated.

Monday 19th April

Early collection this morning, being met by Heinz together with Bryce & Barbara for an Australian Pond Safari. The thing I am getting used to is, you ask “how far are we going” – “Oh just down the road, not far” - that means about 2 hours and 150 km. In UK terms, that means a journey from my house to Birmingham – Just



down the road !!!! I don't think so. We were visiting's several houses and ponds during the day together with some lovely scenery. The first was Mr Ming's, where we were welcomed with Chinese tea. What a lovely pond, all glass fronted and meticulously maintained, with some wonderful Koi. This was followed by a long scenic drive with some splendid views of the harbour to Ron Moylan, lovely pond, totally different as he had made it like a small tropical forest, with ferns and tropical trees. What a fascinating man, he is one of the most respected shell collectors in the world and was so passionate about his collecting, that we spent more time looking at this than the fish, but it was a unique opportunity to see such a collection.

I could write pages about this, but not at this time. It is now down to Manly beach for Fish & Chip Aus style. Time to go to Carl's house up in the hills. His house is built in the side of a hill and steep paths around the garden. His pond is a converted swimming pool that was no longer used. Lot of very nice large Koi. Could not stay long as we were running very late and had another pond to visit.

It was a long drive & when we got to Ross's pond it was nearly dark so did not stay long which was a shame as it was a very nice pond with great Koi.

Was meant to be back at the hotel ready to be collected at 6.15 for the Show Dinner oooops its already 6.15 back at the hotel “Lightening Change” and ready in 15 mins.

Off to Show dinner & Prize Presentation and at the end I had to give a short presentation on the Koi at last years U.K. National, as, although they have very nice Koi they do not have big Koi, nothing much over 75cm.

Had to pack tonight as up early to go to Kate & Ian's house in the morning as not staying at the hotel any more, going to stay with a club member.

Tuesday 20th April

Arrived at Kate & Ian's 7.35 and after quick breakfast and meeting back up with Alan again, the 4 of us got into Ian's 4 x 4 and took a journey through the Blue Mountains to Jenolan Caves, stopping off at Leura for coffee. This journey had some very dramatic scenery. After Picnic lunch we started on our journey through one of the cave systems, I think there are 6 or 8 in total.

Wow these caves are dramatic, the best I have ever seen, the stalactites & stalagmites and simply amazing. We were in

the system for nearly 2 hours. All I can say is, if you ever get the chance then go and see these caves for your selves, you will not be disappointed.

After the long journey back, it was to Ros & Lars Lindberg for dinner. Well what a welcome, and what a wonderful pond and Koi. Lars had also build 2 of the ponds that we visited on the Pond Safari yesterday, and his own is defiantly a show piece for his work. Really great evening with lots of laughs and wine.

Not enough time really, and then off to Terry & Wally McNeil's where I was staying for the rest of the trip.

Wednesday 21st April

News – All European airports still shut.

Today was going to be an education. For anyone who knows Terry he loves his wine, and has a considerable collection. Well today was a day visiting the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, a very well know wine growing in New South Wales. Visited 6 vineyards, the "Smelly Cheese" Shop and lunch at a vineyard. Wonderful day, finished off with dinner at Terry & Wally's complemented by a bottle of wine from his collection – very nice indeed.



Thursday 22nd April

Picked up by Dianne for a day out on her and Carls boat in Sydney Harbour together with 2 other club members. Lovely day, again the weather was very hot and no shade. Anchored up and caught some squid which

Carls cooked for lunch – cannot get fresher than that. Chill out day, with some lovely sights of the scenery & wildlife from the seaward side.

Friday 23 April

This was my last day in Australia, and airports are now opening so looks like I will be going home on time.

Today was a trip out to the wildlife park to see the local Aus Wildlife with Dorothy, Ron & Max, very interesting to see all the wildlife, then off into the blue mountains to see a spectacular view point called The Three Sisters, where we also had lunch, it was then a long journey back and then back to Ron & Max's house and guess what coffee is

served in? – Yes a S.E. Section Mug – how did that get there?

As well as their Koi Collection and Koi breeding, Ron as the most amazing collection of Orchids and Bromeliad which he also shows at the respective Society Shows.

Another very enjoyable day.

Saturday 24th April

3 am – that's a rude time – off to the airport.

On the TV News and also checking on the internet, my flights are scheduled to take off on time at 6 am, the first flight out of Sydney in the morning.

Checked in and yes all was on time, this was a long flight home arriving at 8 pm and gaining 12 hours time ouch, but had time to reflect on what an amazing 10 days this had been.

An exceedingly good Koi Show, wonderful people who are so enthusiastic about their Koi keeping, and the "Whistle Stop" tour of the Sydney , Hunter Valley and Blue Mountains area of New South Wales

My thanks to you all for making it such a memorable and enjoyable rip and hope to see you all again in the near future somewhere in the world at a Koi Show –

It's a great circle of friends.





Hikarimoyo
Size 6



Metallic Matsuba
Size 4



Sanke Size 3



Shusui Size 3



Many of the pond calls I get with Koi in need of assistance, I can relate the cause back to a stressor. Something or someone weakened their immune system causing the pendulum to swing too far one way for their immune system to handle and the fish became ill. We all know the obvious causes like (environmental) poor water quality, parasites, bacterial or adding another fish that had not been quarantined, but what is often not talked about is the activity of us as pond owners and how this can affect or add stress. All ponds have bacteria and parasites but why do some ponds get sick fish repeatedly and others don't? Many factors weigh in and I believe much of it has to do with balance. So the question becomes how we can affect balance when we believe we have a proper environment. I happened to be studying the ethology of animals – which is the study of instinctual behavior and this led me to research the ethology of fish. I then began reading that fish farms know all about instinctual behavior and how the actions of the farmers around the ponds play a role. Their profits depend on healthy fish and they have it down to a science so to speak.

Here's some of what I have learned that I'd like to share with you. Every pond has an Alpha, Omega and followers in it. The Alpha is the bold one and the inspector. It can either be male or female, usually a large koi and dark in color. The Alpha is not a bully or aggressive, just the opposite, he/she is very calm, wise from experience, an incredible teacher and very brave for a flight animal. The Alpha is the first to get fed so it is the strongest/healthiest. You can tell who it is in your own pond as the Alpha will be the first to go over to the edge of the pond to see if the intrusion into their area is safe. The Alpha's job is to protect the others from predators.

During the inspection, the Alpha can immediately detect danger and will release pheromone signals to the others to either stay away or signal them that all is well. He/she detects danger by receiving positive or negative energy from the approaching predator and also by the body language or facial expressions of the intruder. We can actually help de-stress the Koi in the pond by being very gentle with the Alpha and making sure he gets fed first when hand feeding. Feeding the Alpha first is an acknowledgement of the Alpha's status to the others and a praise to the Alpha at the same time. It also sends a great message to the entire group that you get how important his/her role is. The followers are the rest of the school, they

are always in a state of learning because you never know when the Alpha may get injured or killed. In all our ponds there is a pecking order that they have established which can change in a heartbeat to replace the Alpha on a moment's notice. Instinctually our koi know exactly what to do as a group for the species survival. Pretty amazing!

“The Omega is the one that gets picked on, is usually small in size, often a butterfly koi if you own one and usually light in color. The others use the Omega to gain the strength, courage and skill that's needed to ward off a predator. He has a hard time getting food and tends to not grow much. We often call this the canary in the pond and because they get picked on, they have a weakened immune system. It's a tough life for the Omega, so make sure he gets enough food. Sinking pellets help him to get food as they are often pushed off to the side in a large group. If he gets sick, it may be a signal all is not well so check your parameters of husbandry esp. water quality.

“The concern of this species (Koi) is survival because without it the species withers away. They continually work as a cohesive group for survival using pheromones, sight recognition, sex and stress bacteria. Their first priority is food because without it they die. If you've ever seen a tank full of koi in a pet shop almost leap out of the tank hoping to be fed, it's because they are starving. Being a flight animal, they would never do this in a natural setting. When your koi are being fed the right amount, you will notice the Alpha cautiously approach to see if it's safe, the others will follow and all this will happen in a pretty calm manner until they start eating, then it can get frenzied. The second concern of koi is predators. Our large wide glaring eyes are a physical signal that can send a stressful message to them if our energy is wrong. A heron actually knows to approach quietly and lower his gaze if he wants to catch a koi. If a heron has recently bothered the fish, they know this and will signal to each other to stay down. They can stay down for several days in hopes the heron moves on to another pond. An interesting side note is that one of the common attractions to domestic Koi is what scientists have coined “the baby bird affect”. This is their large eyes and mouth open waiting to be fed; it churns up our maternal instincts initiating loving feelings and wanting to feed them. They naturally do this when they feel safe. In spring time the koi are weak, they haven't been fed, water quality is usually poor, water temps fluctuating and here come the

humans, running around, messing with leaves on the bottom, cleaning filters, changing water etc. What we are doing is pushing the pendulum too far to one side during their most vulnerable time and they can break out with something from this activity that may not affect them as much in warmer temps.

“Here's what fisheries know- always work quietly and slowly around them, gaze down or sit sideways and never a predatory stare standing still. No dark sunglasses. Plenty of food for all of them and if possible, feed them when approaching or leaving them. Always feed them after a stressful event like netting or after adding a new fish. Stress causes their cortisol levels to rise. The longer they are raised, the more taxing on their immune system. Feeding them can immediately lower the cortisol levels. Scientists have found that during the first 6 months or so of their life, good food is most important because it is during this time that if not fed enough, they will always be a weaker smaller fish. It can't be made up later. It's a good idea to teach others how to behave around your fish and encourage them to feed them in a calm quiet way or feed them yourself after the visitors have left. The larger the school of fish, the happier they are because there is more safety in numbers and they know this. Providing an area for them to take cover or hide is a good thing for flight animals because they can naturally lower their own cortisol levels by feeling calm there. Spawning also causes stress so while changing water do so calmly. Taking our koi to a Koi show can be a stressful event so it's important to keep the stress as low as you can before the show and after for several weeks, possibly leaving the Alpha and Omega in the pond. When the Alpha is taken out and brought back, they will then have to reorganize each time (stress) which includes challenging the Alpha when he returns, all at a time when he may be stressed from the show. Feeding them as soon as you get home and unbag them helps. Don't save that for later because you are tired.

Your Alpha should be revered and respected for the position he holds, so the less stress to him/her, the better as this in turn affects the rest of the group like a chain reaction. Every action or move we make around our ponds is all happening under the watchful eyes of our Koi and affecting them in some way. So the next time you walk over to greet your koi, think about the type of energy you are putting out to them. We want to be positive and Zen like which in turn is good for our health too. Enjoy your Koi!

Information about the ISA Koi Farm in English.
<http://isakoifarm.com/english/index.html>



日本語 English 中文



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Keith Siddle.

"Having painted and been fascinated by wildlife since childhood, when I first became a professional artist I initially decided to concentrate on one subject and chose for their power, grace and colour variations the oriental and beautifully ornamental fish, Koi (Nishikigoi).

I've embraced the same work ethos that the most eminent Japanese Koi breeders use in nurturing their Champions: Dedication, patience, detail, enthusiasm and passion.

These skills have enabled me to expand and experiment with my subject matter, from Tropical Marine fish and other Sealife inspired by my scuba diving experiences to Food Art, inspired by.....eating!"

Keith has studied and painted Koi since 1992. A self-taught artist, he initially decided to specialise in one subject to establish his name in the artworld. As a qualified scuba diver, Tropical Marine fish could have been the obvious choice, however Keith was drawn to Koi by their power, grace and majesty.

"In 1991, I travelled to Israel to dive and get inspiration from the sealife, but on my return I saw Koi at a garden centre.

The impact was instantaneous, I realised Koi were the perfect subject for my style of painting, so I studied their shapes, colours and markings."

The very start of his art career was a rocky one as in 1985, after a one-year foundation course at Maidstone Art College, Keith was turned down by 5 Art Colleges.

"Drawing and painting had always been my passion since childhood, so the rejection was hard to take. It was a case of rebuilding confidence in my work and proving the colleges wrong has been a big incentive to me, in fact I'm glad it happened as I don't think I would have been so driven otherwise."

Before becoming a professional artist, Keith worked at a Fine Art Silkscreen and Etching print studio with an assembly of internationally renowned artists. He started as an apprentice technician, qualifying 2 years later as a Master Fine Art Screen-printer and then became the Studio Manager. After 7 years he was made redundant so decided to try and make it as an artist.

From 1992 the first 6 years was like an-

other apprenticeship for Keith, teaching himself the necessary skills and techniques, in fact his initial Koi paintings were very abstract. Abstraction turned to realism as whilst attending many Koi shows, Keith learnt how important body shape and markings were to the Koi enthusiast.

Soon his reputation began to grow and Keith was commissioned to create 12 new paintings for Tetra's 1997 calendar. A year later he travelled to the Niigata prefecture of Japan to meet some of the world's eminent Koi breeders. This allowed him to see first hand some of the most beautiful Koi in the world, inspiring some of the paintings on view.

"The landscape was breathtaking, lush green with hundreds of glinting mud ponds. I was invited to witness the Koi harvesting, the air was filled with anticipation and excitement. It was a great honour to see some of the world's most beautiful Koi lifted from the mud ponds and meet the people responsible. I saw how much patience, knowledge and dedication to "their art" is involved and that to do justice to these magnificent fish I needed to use the same methods in my paintings."



As well as the many British Koi shows, Keith has exhibited at the Holland National Koi Show and in America at the Mid Atlantic Koi Shows including; Philadelphia, Denver and Virginia. It was at the 2008 Virginia show where Joe Zuritsky, President of quality Koi Company Inc, New Jersey, U.S.A, commissioned 5 paintings (each a 12" x 30" on box canvas) to accompany a previously bought painting to hang in his 6 sided summer house.

Commissions are popular enabling Keith to work closely with the client to their specifications i.e: background colour and style, Koi varieties or layout. He has painted a plethora of clients' fish from Goldfish to Koi Grand Champions or the client can dictate the size and a made-up image based on Keith's previous paintings. After an initial pencil design is approved, on request the client can have emailed digital photo updates.

Keith paints with acrylic on canvas or paper. Every painting is carefully researched and often takes months to complete. Each scale is hand-embossed, then painted 7 or 8 times to create a 3-Dimensional effect. In addition to the anatomical correctness of the Koi, for a contemporary, dynamic look Keith uses either realistic or abstract backgrounds, emphasising composition and design.

"There is no greater feeling or accolade to an artist than to sell work, but sometimes it is hard to part with a piece you have dedicated so much time and belief in. Recently my favourite painting (so far) was sold - "Centripetal", a 5.5' x 3.5' painting depicting 17 Koi in a pond scene - however I know it is now hanging in a very splendid place."

Keith is also very proud of his "The Fry & The Circle" painting (28" x 41" unframed) which combines illusion, movement, detail and composition. From a distance the first impression is of a dark circular shape surrounded by a mass of red and white. Closer, layers of more than 140 red and white Kohaku Koi fry head in the same direction...but why? Look closer still and you will find 8 white bodied fish with red dot mark-

ings on their heads (Tancho Kohaku) strategically placed to lead you around the painting. To contrast with the rhythm of the mass of fish, a single "blocker" fish darts across the composition, bringing chaos to a world of harmony. From design to finish this painting really was a labour of love.

His favourite Koi variety is the "old style" Showa (more red and black than white) and he likes to add either a Yamabuki or Orenji Ogon to a group painting to contrast the other Koi.

Keith has recently launched his latest series of paintings, "Living Jewels", each a 30" x 40" (approximately) original on box canvas (32" x 42" framed), which have been very well received at the Art Gallery exhibitions with "Living Jewels I, II & III" already sold. "Living Jewels IV & V" and "Oriental Jems I" have also just been completed.

"In the Living Jewels series, motion becomes still as they are like a snapshot of a Koi scene, but unlike my earlier works, I have left out ripples and other distractions so that the focus is purely on the Koi."

Another of his popular series is the "East meets West" limited edition print collection, inspired by the Japanese prints of Hokusai and Kuniyoshi. Incorporating the influence of the Orient and in collaboration with a graphic artist, Keith's painted Koi have been placed over classic Eastern de-

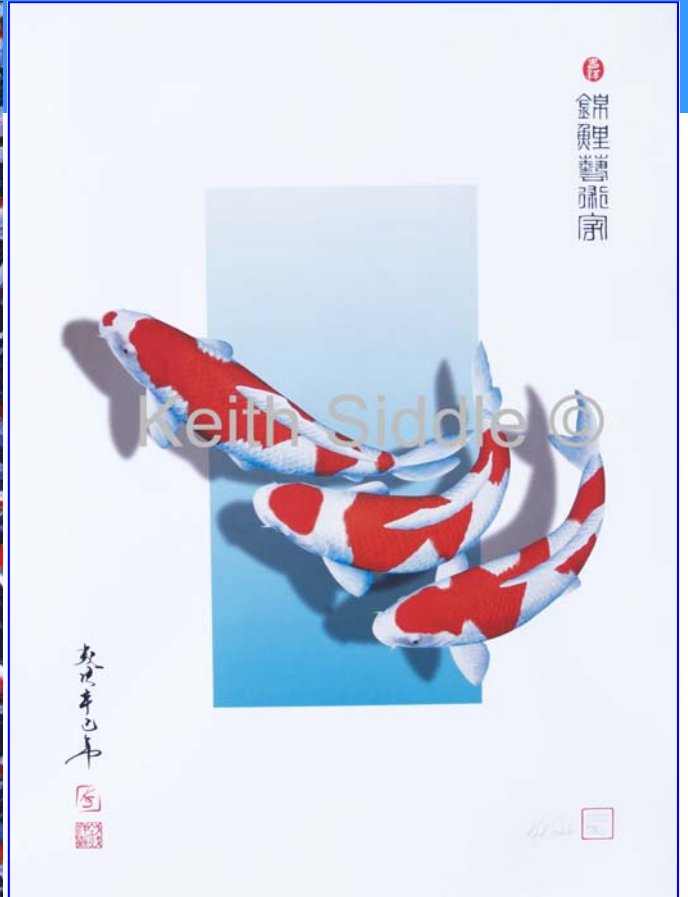
signs with carefully researched and executed early-seal and free-flowing calligraphy to embellish the design of every print. The Yin Yang images, describe harmony and balance, an equilibrium which has been promoted through the popularity of Feng Shui and which remains a recognisable symbol of the East. Each print is individually hand signed, numbered and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity plus a History of Koi sheet.

Keith offers a range of Koi Art products from Koi Art greeting cards and even Christmas cards, limited edition prints to large original paintings. His international reputation has grown and his work is highly sort after. As well as selling direct to the customer via his website, he is now represented by 6 Art Galleries in England.

Keith will be exhibiting his work at the National Koi Show 2010, Stafford Show Ground, Bingley Hall, Stafford, England on 26th & 27th June. He lives near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England with his wife and children and works from his "Shedio" (studio) at the bottom of the garden. Check out Keith's website to see him at work or scuba diving with Jellyfish on his promotional 4 minute film.

For further information email: info@keithsiddleart.com or visit: www.keithsiddleart.com





Keith mentions many of his paintings in this article but one that is missing is the one below "The Circle" the painting that gave focus to our International Koi Community - "the circle of friends."



Book review - Water Testing a beginner's guide to Aquaculture and Koi

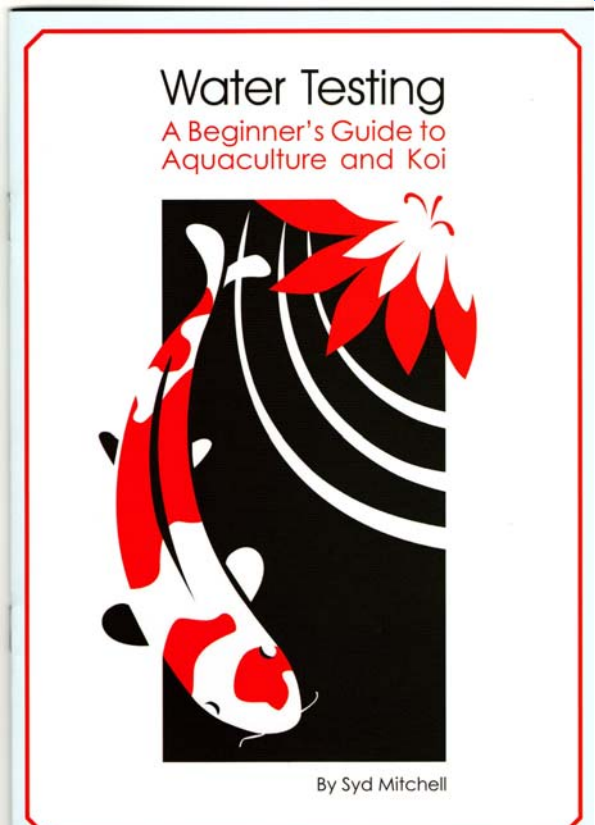
Did I say book review? It's an enhanced pamphlet! but it's written by the South East's Syd Mitchell and like all of Syd's writing it keeps things simple and explains the complicated stuff very well.

Syd's approach is both typical and predictable for those of us that know him. It's thorough, covers all the bases and has a repetitive approach to each element that quickly induces familiarity which takes away the fear from what may appear a complicated subject.

For the most part each example of a chemical encountered in fish keeping follows a format where he explains how to measure, the effects of either too high or too low a level, and how Koi may appear when affected by the related symptoms. Most have a margin notes outlining "Early warning signs" which again are concise and informative.

In Summary,
14 pages of well explained information supported by clear illustrations and step by step instructions for £1.95.
Published by Hanna Instruments
ISBN 978-0 9565806-0-3

People familiar with the South East's show protocols (read our editorial) will experience a sense of déjà-vu when looking at some of the tables and diagrams. But as our editorial states, those protocols have received an endorsement from non other than the MD of a well known fish pathology laboratory who work for DEFRA, a British Government department responsible for animal welfare in our islands.



6 Key Parameters



Early warning signs

Major effects

The effects of long term exposure to 'free ammonia' are almost too many to list but the major effects include gill irritation and erosion. Together these can cause great stress and even suffocation.

- Irritation of the gills causes them to produce excess mucus which causes the gills to become clogged. For a fish this would be like when we try to breathe through a severely blocked nose.
- Eroded gills cannot effectively take up oxygen.



Further effects

Dropsy or pine cone disease:

'Free ammonia' impairs the osmo-regulatory system. This causes excess water to be retained in the body which then swells up to resemble a pine cone. This effect is often referred to as pine cone disease.

Fin rot and degradation of the brain or central nervous system:

Behavioural symptoms include fish gasping at the surface, flicking or scratching and clamped fins with streaks of blood on the body and fins.

Ammonia

Measuring ammonia

Ammonia in water splits into two forms: 'free' and 'ionised' ammonia. The % split is dependent on the water pH and temperature – but it is only 'free' ammonia that is harmful to koi. As manual and digital test kits cannot distinguish between the two, it is the level of the two together ('total ammonia') that is measured. The amount of 'free' ammonia present in the 'total' value is then calculated using the method given on pages 12-13.

Getting the level right

The ideal value of ammonia in a koi pond is zero. In practice this is impossible to achieve with fish in the water, so ammonia levels should be maintained as near zero as possible. See the table on page 13 to help you check your limits and to take into account the effects of pH and temperature on toxicity levels. Note: the values given are absolute limits, not target levels.

What happens when levels are too high or too low

Too high

When levels are raised for a short time – for example during transportation – the excess 'free ammonia' will not cause any harm. Long term exposure to levels above those given in the ammonia table on page 13 will cause a range of symptoms. These can include excessive mucus, dropsy, gasping at the surface, flicking or scratching, clamped fins with streaks of blood on the body and fins.

Too low

Levels of ammonia can never be too low for the fish. The ideal level is zero. As this is difficult to achieve and maintain, the aim is to keep levels as close to zero as possible.

To correct the levels

If levels are above allowable safe values, stop feeding, check the biofilter and implement water changes. See table on page 12.

What parameters should be tested and why?

Getting the right level of ammonia, pH, oxygen and nitrite is crucial to the health and welfare of your fish.

The level of nitrate is less important to their health but if the level builds up, the risk of blanket weed or green water is increased.



pH

Getting the level right

Koi can adapt to any pH in the range 7.0 to 8.5 but it is important that the actual value is kept stable. Maintaining pH values close to 7.0 will usually require more attention to water chemistry. Maintaining a pH below 7.0 is possible, but requires specialist knowledge.

Sudden or regular variations in the value that are greater than 0.2 per day will cause the koi to become stressed by continually readjusting to a changing level. The stress will degrade their immune systems and put them at risk of succumbing to bacterial or parasitic infections.

In practice, maintaining pH values close to 7.0 will usually require greater attention.

What happens when levels are too high or too low

Too high

If it rises significantly above the recommended range, the koi will suffer from alkalosis. Alkaline water also causes gill erosion.

Too low

If the pH falls significantly below the recommended range, koi will suffer from acidosis.

Acidic water causes skin irritation and prolonged exposure will erode gills and other delicate surfaces leaving the koi at risk of fungal or bacterial infection. Haemoglobin in the blood carries oxygen around the body from the gills and this process becomes less efficient in acidic water. Lower levels of haemoglobin in combination with damaged gills will mean that the koi could be slowly suffocating, even in well-aerated water.

Within range but fluctuates

The koi will become stressed. Stress causes the "fight or flight" hormones to be released into the bloodstream which, under normal circumstances, would allow the fish to either fight off an aggressor or quickly swim to safety.

Koi do not fight; they try to swim away so they can calm down and return to normal. However, if koi are continually stressed by their environment but are unable to escape, their colours will fade and their health will suffer.

To correct the levels

Depending on the reading, you will need to increase the carbonate hardness and increase or decrease pH. See table on page 12.

Recommended range:
7.00 – 8.5



Maximum variation:
For healthy koi, variance in pH should be no more than 0.2 per day.



Early warning signs

The symptoms of acidosis or alkalosis are similar:

- Koi become skittish - often with a tendency to jump out of the water.
- Normal respiration will be difficult so they may gasp at the surface or crowd around waterfalls or air stones where oxygen levels are slightly higher.

Even if the effects of acidosis or alkalosis are not severe enough to cause immediate death, the immune system will be impaired and lead to health problems.

Koi notes

- Some koi keepers keep their water just below 7.0 pH to replicate conditions in Japanese mud ponds.
- Effects of acidosis are not felt until the pH is well below 7.00 so it is not cruel or harmful to the koi.
- However, levels must be closely monitored to ensure the pH does not suddenly crash and kill the fish.
- Not recommended for the inexperienced koi keeper.





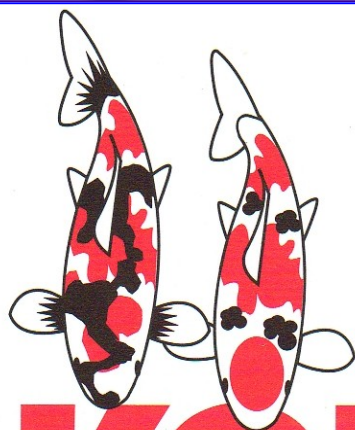
Dealers attending so far:-

A4KOI
 Aquadistri
 Birmingham Koi
 Dock Koi
 Garden Crafts
 Isle of Ely Koi
 Koi Carp Magazine
 Koi Water Barn
 Kusuri
 Nippon Nishikigoi
 Rhino Rock
 Show Koi
 South Coast Koi

Allandale Practice
 Aqua Koi
 Brunel Microscopes
 Fuji Fish & Foods
 Healthy Koi
 Keith Siddle
 Koi Collections
 Koi Waterlife Centre
 Maple Koi
 Peter Waddington
 Rodney Firmin
 SMF Landscapes

Sussex Koi
 Ultimate Koi
 Walcott Koi
 Wildlife art UK
 Wooden Koi Co
 Worthing Koi
 Yume Koi

With a few more still to complete the formalities.



SOUTH EAST KOI CLUB
29/30 AUG

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SUN & MON

PARKWOOD HALL SCHOOL

BEECHENLEA LANE, SWANLEY, KENT

Admission **£5.00**

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS FREE – IF ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

KOI
OPEN SHOW

ENGLISH STYLE



UK's LEADING KOI DEALERS

ARTS & CRAFTS

During this weekend there will be displays by The British Reptile and Amphibian Society

You are invited to join us at our 24th Open Show, which promises to be an outstanding event.

There is ample free car parking and a licensed bar.

The venue is 5 minutes from junction 3, M25.

Show open: 9.30am-5pm, Sunday & Monday.

Benching: Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 8am-10.30am.

Judging: Sunday 1pm.

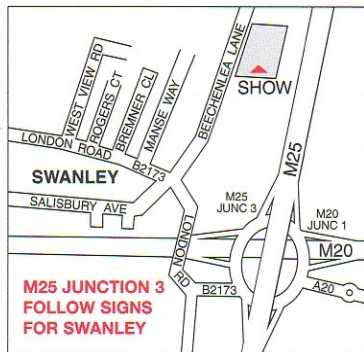
Presentations: Monday 3pm.

For further information:

Tim Fisher: 01322 276335
07973 327887

For Vat bookings:

Bernie Woollands: 01344 626001



VAT SPONSORS to date,

Louis van Reusel (2)
 Church of the FSM
 KwaZuluNatal SAKKS
 Banana Bar Koi Society
 Danny's Koi Café (10)
 Gary Pritchard
 Jeroen Dregmans
 Peter Waddington
 Aquadistri (6)
 Koi Consult DK
 Pinpoint Promotions
 Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society
 Connoisseur Koi(2)
 Empress Litho (2)
 Promopin NL(2)
 Domburg Sportsprizen

Only 6 remaining!

18th Holland Koi Show the European National



For the 1st time ever -
**The Sakai Hikari Fancy
Goldfish Exhibition!**

20 aquariums each containing one
very special hand-picked Goldfish.

And lastly, especially for Carol
- **the Holland Bonsai Show**
+ **2 Bonsai dealers.**

Features:-

160 Vendor booths
9 Market stalls.

**The Holland
Aquarium Show**

- including

**The Holland
Shrimp Show**

**The Holland
Beta Show**

**& The Holland
Aquarium
Exhibition**

**The Japanese
Cultural Club**

Taiko Drums
Tea Ceremony
Martial Arts

HOLLAND KOI SHOW

Nishikigoï
Vereniging
Nederland

Proudly presents edition...

18

20, 21 & 22
AUGUSTUS 2010
9.30-18.00u

Kasteeltulnen Arcen
Lingsforterweg 26
5944 BE Arcen

www.hollandkoishow.nl
THE BIGGEST KOI SHOW ON EARTH!
Info: +31 (0)6-55130289 eMail: info@hollandkoishow.nl

On the 20th of June the following announcement rocked the UK Koi World.

Planned, publicised any provided by Alan Coogan as a private function for koi keepers, take a look below for the pertinent details.

One of the joys of koi keeping is the people it attracts. They say monkeys see further from the shoulders of giants and this monkey has seen further standing on the clavicals of one man, he has always been there to anchor my maverick Koi spirit, dragged me back when passion has taken over from reason. He courts no favour, receives pretence with disdain, he is the rock that has sustained the BKKS and J S C over many years. A summer breeze to honest endeavour, a hailstorm to deceit, he stands alone with his contribution to koi keeping in the British Isles, he is a man I am honoured to call friend, he is of course Mr Gary Pritchard, I would very much like to dedicate the upcoming koi weekend in December to him by calling it the "President's weekend."

On the 4th and 5th December God willing there will be "The Presidents Weekend" in Newmarket at the Rutland Arms Hotel in support of breast cancer. World-famous Koi breeder Masaru Saito of Shintaro Koi Farm will fly over to be with us.

There will be lectures and talks from several leading hobbyists on health, water quality, Judging. question and answers session with Shintaro, Saito San will be around all weekend it will be a great opportunity for people to get to know one of the great masters of Koi.

There will be a dinner disco in the evening for those staying at the hotel, sandwich lunches on both days, plus coffee and tea freely available.

On the Sunday morning I will put the majority of my Koi on exhibition in the courtyard of the Rutland hotel. This year I plan to bring back 25 Koi that have been living in Japan for several years they include some of the best tategoi ever produced by Shintaro, Yamamatsu, Toshio Sakai, Marudo, Kazuto, Hoshikin, Nogami, Jinbei.

it promises to be a great weekend where we can hang out together and learn from each other. These are the bare bones of the weekend, several Nigatta breeders are very keen to help. The governing bodies in the Newmarket area are excited at the prospect of this pilot.

Newmarket is synonymous with Horseracing, the sport of kings, the Queen is a regular visitor, celebrities from all across the world are seen strutting there stuff in this small market town. For most of the year, while racing and the sales are in progress, you cannot buy a hotel room for miles around with gold bars. On the 3rd December the worlds multi-will disappear and we can move in. The weekend package will cost £96 there will be a strict limit on numbers governed by the three lecture rooms available.



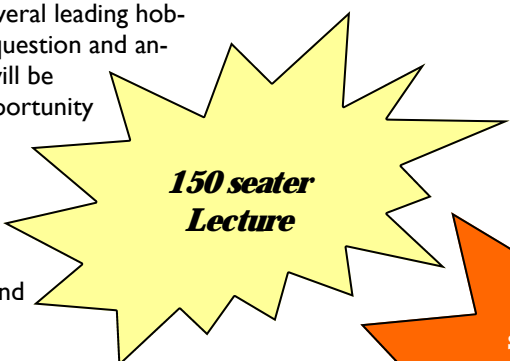
**Masao Shintaro
Q & A
Session.**

Any hobbyist interested should contact me on 01353721673 or e-mail me at jacentan@aol.com

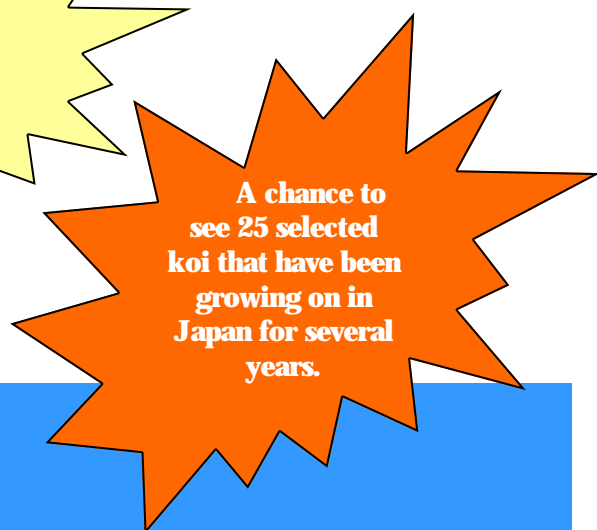
Bill of fare.

**£96 complete weekend package.
£65 without accommodation.
£5 for the Sunday morning exhibition.**

Profits to a breast cancer charity.



**150 seater
Lecture**



**A chance to
see 25 selected
koi that have been
growing on in
Japan for several
years.**

Cambridgeshire Koi Club CLOSED SHOW 2010

Over 20 vats of high quality koi
Ample free parking
Dealer stands
Craft stands
Raffle and Tombola
Refreshments

Opening Times:
10:00am - 4:00pm
Presentations - 3pm

Admission Prices:

£3.00 Per Person*

Under 16's - FREE

(*Refundable when taking out CKC membership)



Saturday 2nd October 2010

Mudds Drove, Threeholes, Cambridgeshire, PE14 9JU
Just 7 miles from both Wisbech and Downham Market
www.cambridgeshire-koi-club.co.uk



1st Koi Show Open

Sept. 20

to

Sept 26, 2010

at

White Gold Club

Reclamation Area Cebu City

Open to all Koi Breeders & Hobbyist

Come, JOIN and Be a part of this event!

for sponsorship and koi application/entry look for:

Dane Marquez
0933-525-9314

Ramil Dy
0917-623-5822

Kenny Tiu
0922-891-7773

Sponsors:



Mid Staffs Koi Keeping Society

24th Annual Closed Show Sunday

8th August 2010

at the

Hollybush Garden Centre

Just one minute away from junction 11 off

M6 Warstone Road A462 Shareshill, Nr.

Wolverhampton. WV10 7LX



Admission for Adults £2.50, Children and OAP's £1.50

Doors open to the public at 10.00am

For more details contact

Mark Chetter Show Chairman

Tel: 01902 897149 or mobile 07949 610274

or

email markchetter@tiscali.co.uk

News from around the world.

Grab a Granny season starts here!

No you are not imagining things, that's a picture of Christine Woolger disrobing in public. Despite my chivalrous efforts to keep the cameras at bay, (and cop an eyeful) some South African Scoop caught it on camera and now in hindsight, it was the right thing to do.

Because the Christine we know, that fun-loving, interesting, 'one of the boys' girls that we've come to love, has just become a Grandmother for the first time.

The happy event occurred just before midnight on the 2nd July. Mother and baby (a boy) are both well.

If you've never grabbed a Granny before - now's the time! Soon it'll be cardigans and Grand-brat-pics at every opportunity. Grab her now while there's still some fun left in her. She can be found at Arcen and Swanley. You might just get her before "Granny-mode" becomes a permanent part of her psyche.



SAKKS AGM

The AGM of the South African Koi Keepers Society was held on the 20th June 2010 at Kyalami Koi.

Raj Laloo was voted in as SAKKS National Chairman. He will appoint a vice chairman in due course.

Chris Neaves, Andre Bryns and **Daleen Bryns** were nominated for election and accepted,

and **Kevin Harrison** is the new Editor of **KOISA**.

No they haven't been Tangoed. It's SAKKS Judges Mike Harvey and Rene Shoemaker supporting Holland at the World Cup.

At the time of going to press Holland have booked themselves into the final.

HUP HOLLAND HUP.



JULY

16th Midwest Pond & Koi Society Koi Show, 9-11th July, in Darien, Illinois (15 miles from Chicago). USA

Essex Section BKKS Koi Show, 17 & 18th July, at Barleylands, Barleylands Road, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2UP. UK

MSB Section BKKS Closed Koi Show, 17 & 18th July, at North Cheam Sports & Social Club, 658 London Road (A24) North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. SM3 9BY UK

SAKKS KwaZulu Natal Chapter Show, 24-25th July, Parkade C, Gateway Theatre of Shopping, Umlanga Rocks, Durban. RSA.

AUGUST

Scottish BKKS Koi Show, 7-8th August, at the Klondyke Garden Centre, Falkirk, Scotland, UK.

SAKKS Eastern Cape Chapter Show, 14- 15th August, East London, RSA.

18th NVN Koi Dagen (Holland Koi Show), 20-22nd August at Kasteltuun, Arcen nr Venlo. The Netherlands.

26th PNKCA Convention, 27-29th August Hosted by the Idaho Watergarden & Koi Society, Boise, Idaho, USA.

North East BKKS Open Show, 28 & 29th August at the Federation Brewery's Lancashire Suite, Dunston, Gateshead.

South East 24th Open Show, 29 & 30th August at Parkwood Hall School, Beechenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent. UK

SEPTEMBER

Midland Koi Association Closed Show, 11 & 12th September at Garden Organic, Ryton. UK

Koi Philippines 1st Koi Show, 20 - 26th September, at White Gold Club, Reclamation Area, Cobu City, Philippines.

Birmingham & West Midlands Closed Show, 25 & 26th September at Highdown Nurseries, Sugarloaf lane, near Stourbridge DY10 3PA. UK

OCTOBER

1st Ever Cambridge Koi Club Closed Show, 2nd October. At Mudds Drive, Threeholes, Cambridgeshire PE14 9JU UK.

18th annual Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Society Koi Show, 8 - 10th October in San Antonio, Texas. see www.texaskoi.com

NOVEMBER

4th ZNA NorCal Koi Show, 13th & 14th November, at Holiday Inn San Jose, 1740 North First Street, San Jose, California, USA.

Thailand Koi Show, 27 & 28th November, venue TBD.

DECEMBER

46th ZNA All Japan Nishikigoi Show, 3-5th December, at Kochi Castle Park Area, Kochi City, Shikoku District.

Guangdong Koi Show, 4 & 5th December, < venue TBD..

Taiwan Koi Show, 11 & 12th December, venue TBD..

2011

FEBRUARY

2nd East Midlands Koi Club Winter Koi Show, 19-20th February, at The Bretby Conference Centre, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire. UK

If your Koi Show is not found on these pages...
... Don't blame us.

We are only an e-mail away.

Adverts welcomed too.

Scottish Koi Carp Show

- Quality Fish for sale •
- Fish keeping advice from The Scottish Koi Club

August 7th and 8th
10 am - 4pm
£2 entry

Klondyke Garden Centre
Beancross Road, Polmont, Falkirk
Tel: 01324 717035 **Klondyke** GARDEN CENTRES



If it can happen in Guangdong (Hongman's Chapter) why not Swanley?

The brainchild of the "Modern Department Store" in Guangzhou in southern China, eight female volunteers, disguised with masks, were recruited to reveal their bra fastenings to the waiting contestants. Each contestant then enjoyed a minute (or less) of bra clip-snapping but with one catch... they could only use one hand. The winners received a shopping voucher.

The South East Koi Club are looking at ways to incorporate this into the 2010 show.

About the South East Koi Club.

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 was expelled in 2009. It serves the counties of Kent, East Sussex, Surrey and Berkshire and the southern boroughs of London. It's neighbouring Koi Clubs 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.

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

Bernie Woollands - bernie@koipin.com
and
Brian Edwards - brianedw@hotmail.com

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 UK
- Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Soc.
- Cayman Island Koi Keepers
- Belgian Koi Society
- Banana Bar Koi Society.
- East Midlands Koi Club.
- North East Koi Club UK
- ZNA Guangdong Chapter.
- Southern Colorado Koi Club.
- KLAN (Germany)
- Koi Galen Sweden
- ZNA Viet Nam
- Midwest Pond & Koi Society (USA)

