

The 22nd South East Show

Another year, another show to be proud of. Bernie Woollands highlights the ongoing success of the South East Show

About the author:



Bernie Woollands bought his first koi in 1969. He is a member of the South East Section and a BKKS and NVN Judge, having had articles published in Australia, Holland, Japan, South Africa, USA and the UK.



Grand Champion, inset: John Hellens receiving the Grand Champion award

Photos by Des Harris, Peter Marvel and Bernie Woollands

... distance is no disadvantage to showing, providing the correct care is taken

A somewhat cooler, cloudier and occasionally showery weekend weather-wise accompanied the South East Show this year, but it didn't put off too many visitors. Those that did make it didn't spend as much time or money at the bar as last year, however!

We've always put a lot of thought and effort into the social side of the show and the

large seating area near the catering stalls and bar was extended further to provide more facilities for socialising. Our bar team brought along an additional tent to provide an undercover area for those who prefer to prop up the bar, rather than sit. We also provided more activities for kids young and old with additional entertainment such as an inflatable assault course, rodeo bull, coconut shy, a more sedate milk-churn game and a magician ▶



Adult Champion. Inset: Paul Williams receiving his award



Baby Champion. Inset: Stuart Toms receiving his award



Mature Champion. Inset: Frank Collins receiving his award



Young Champion. Inset: Jason Taylor receiving his award



Koi UK let their success be known



One of the international judging teams – UK, Australia and Holland



Maurice Cox and Stuart Toms, breeder and owner of the Baby Champion

called Balloonatic who thrilled the crowds making balloon sculptures on demand. However, it was clear to see that the DIY hill-slide game that the kids invented themselves several years ago was still as popular as ever.

measure of success

Our Chairman David Brown always measures the success of the show by the amount of smiling faces and he wasn't disappointed. In fact he must have felt vindicated when John Hellens took the microphone at the prize-giving to compliment us. It went something along the lines of: "On behalf of all the competitors I'd like to thank Alan and all his team for a professional and very friendly show. Maybe next year the lads from the north will also bring their whippets." I've no idea what the whippet remark was referring to, I thought they all kept pigeons up there!

John has been a regular visitor to the show over the last few years enduring a 660-mile-round trip from the north east. However, this year he became an exhibitor too, a supreme logistical feat that he shared with Robert Robson, aka 'Bob a job', the all too often overlooked doyen of the National Show. These two weren't alone as there were several other long distance exhibitors from Cheshire, Somerset and Leicester, to name just a few. As some of these prove, distance is no disadvantage to showing, providing the correct care is taken.

Our koi related dealers came from the length and breadth of the country too, Clearwater Koi from York, Yume from Bristol and Dock Koi, a newcomer from Grimsby, as well as 27 others plus ten arts and craft stalls from within those boundaries. One of the many benefits a koi show can provide is bringing so many dealers together in one place, thus saving all that petrol required to visit them all. I was glad to hear that they all

had a good show too, indeed several immediately rebooked for next year.

In as much as the dealers came from far and wide, the koi on sale came from even further afield. Alongside the Japanese koi for every budget were koi from South Africa, Taiwan and home grown specimens from the UK, one of whom you will hear more about later on. Our judging panel were equally well travelled hailing from Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, South Africa and the UK.

stars of the show

Providing judges, a choice of food, adequate seating, an array of dealers and arts and crafts are an important part of any show, but the real stars are always the exhibits in the centre ring.

This year our exhibits were down by approximately 50 koi which was disappointing as we had all of our 40 exhibition vats booked by the end of August. However, this situation was short lived and within a week the first of a series of cancellations arrived. They quickly outstripped the waiting list and we resorted to permitting some of our exhibitors to take a second vat. One final cancellation in the week before the show weekend meant that one vat remained empty. Having only 35 different exhibitors this year gave us our worst exhibitor statistic since we adopted our 'One man, one vat' policy.

Nevertheless, what we lacked in quantity we gained in quality, a fact remarked upon by several of our regular visitors including Bernice Brewster who provides our Water Management Team with professional advice. Bernice actually left early on the Monday as she felt her services weren't required; our team's proficiency "rendered her redundant", her words – not mine. And so on to the koi...

There were 259 koi spread over the 13 show classes in seven sizes exhibited this

With all those 'foreigners' taking this year's awards it was great to see the Mature Champion go to home-grown Frank Collins



Gregor Meijer airbrushing tattoos at the South East Show

year, with size 2 being the most populated with 60 entries. Even though the numbers were down, the trend of increased numbers in sizes 5, 6 and 7 continued, as did the decline of size 1. Koromo maintained its fourth place in popularity behind the Go-Sanke classes, keeping Utsurimono in fifth place, thus following on from the trend noticed last year.

Baby Champion

Our Baby Champion this year was a size 2 Kohaku exhibited by Stuart Toms, one of our long distance exhibitors from Somerset. Judged the best of 92 entries, this koi was even more remarkable as it didn't have a Japanese passport. It was bred in the UK by Maurice Cox's company Koi UK. Born in May 2007 from a nine-year-old Takegawa female from the Donguri line and a two-year-old Matsue male and purchased by Stuart in May 2008, this koi was first shown at the National Show in June and measured 27cms. When benched here just two months later it had grown to 34cms.

Young Champion

Our Young Champion, an approximately three-year-old Yamatoya Kohaku, was selected by its owner Jason Taylor at A4Koi before Christmas, but not collected until earlier this year. It, too, was exhibited at the National where it was awarded the Young Champion award. Our award therefore gives Jason the satisfaction of getting a second opinion and having his earlier award endorsed by a panel of International Judges. Our Young Champ came first out of 103 entries.

Adult Champion

Our Adult Koi was drawn from the 36 size 5 entries and was a star even before arriving at the show. Paul Williams' Nogami Tancho Showa has always been a popular exhibit wherever it's been on show, and has a remarkable show history. Paul discovered this

koi in February 2002 on the Richdon Koi website and put a holding deposit on it. A few days later he went to see it in the flesh and coughed up the rest on the spot. It was first shown at the Manchester and District Show in 2003 where it won the Unique Koi Award. Since then it has been a regular exhibit at other shows including the National where it has picked up several first and second awards in Class, a Best in Size, a Best Non Go-sanke and, back in 2006, the NVN's Friendship award at the National.

Mature Champion

With all those 'foreigners' taking this year's awards it was great to see the Mature Champion go to home-grown Frank Collins, one of our members. Frank's Showa from Sakai Fish Farm took this prize last year and returned to reclaim it this year. It also picked up two votes for the Grand Champion award in the process. Even though there were reduced numbers at this show, they weren't to be found in sizes 6 and 7, in fact the Showa had increased competition. Frank was talking about retiring this koi (called Harvey) after it took Grand Champion at the South Hants show in May. We were glad to see he forgot that idea.

Grand Champion

That leads us on to this year's Grand Champion, a size 7 Takigawa Kohaku imported in 2005 via Yume Koi and known as 'the Duchess' and exhibited by John Hellens. Bought as a two-year-old and grown on in the UK at John's own pond, this koi also had the distinction of being our 'most travelled' Grand Champion ever, having been transported 330 miles to be crowned the best of the 259 exhibits that graced the show.

see you next year!

Last year the weather at the show was ▶



John Hellens is congratulated whilst celebrating at the bar



Bio security is taken very seriously at the South East Show

Several of our exhibitors have stated their wish to return, as have several of the dealers



The Grand Champion in the Koi Carp sponsored GC vat

considered as evidence that global warming was a reality. This year we've had to revise that opinion, but whatever? The South East Show will continue come rain or shine. In fact improvements are already being planned for next year.

Several of our exhibitors have stated their wish to return, as have several of the dealers. Our 2009 show dates have been synchronised with the NVN to ensure that they are conducive to our yearly exchange visit, as well as being supplied in response to queries to other koi societies abroad.

So if you are at a loose end next August Bank Holiday, come down and share the experience at the 2009 South East Show.

the judging team

Thanks go to the judges who included: Gerard and Kazuo McDonald (Australia), Local Certified ZNA Judges Dr Dirk de Witte (Belgium), Assistant Certified ZNA Judge Dr Jim Phillips (South Africa), SAKKS Certified Judge Toen Feyen (Netherlands), NVN and Local Certified ZNA Judge Doug Raby (UK), BKKS Judge (retired)

And the trainees:

Anja Albertsboer, Jeroen Dregmans, Willem de Graaf, Guus Roijen, and Joop van Tol (Netherlands), Terry McNeil (Australia). 鯉

What we lacked in quantity we gained in quality, a fact remarked upon by several of our regular visitors...

Results

Grand Champion	Size 7 Kohaku	John Hellens
Mature Champion	Size 7 Showa	Frank Collins
Adult Champion	Size 5 Tancho	Paul Williams
Young Champion	Size 4 Kohaku	Jason Taylor
Baby Champion	Size 2 Kohaku	Stuart Toms
Jumbo (98cms)	Kawarimono	Alan Archer
Selected Variety Awards (Kinginrin)		
Best Go-Sanke	Glenn Corkery	Size 4 Kohaku
Best non Go-Sanke	Gregg Harris	Size 3 Koromo
Runner up	Phil Maxey & Beryl Knox	Size 3 Bekko
Friendship Trophies		
Australian Koi Association	Gregg Harris	Size 3 Koromo
Banana Bar Koi Society	Andy Baker	Size 7 Hikarimuji
Koi@Home Best Tategoi	Mick Preston	Size 2 Kohaku
Koi Society of Australia	Paul Williams	Size 5 Tancho
NVN	Frank Collins	Size 7 Showa
NVN Trainees	Paul Williams	Size 5 Tancho
Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society	Pete Marvel	Size 4 Kawarimono
South African Koi Keepers Society	Mick Preston	Size 2 Kohaku
KLAN (Germany)	Alan Archer	Size 5 Hikarimoyo

A complete list of results can be found on the South East's website www.koi-clubs.com/SouthEast