

HOT SPOT

英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部



The E-Mag of the South East Section BKKS

- twinned with the :-

Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society.

The Nishikigoi Vereniging Nederland.

The South African Koi Keepers Society.

Partners in goodwill.

Issue 5
February 2007

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.

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.**

ERRATA

On page 3 of the January Issue (Hotspot 4) we wrongly listed the previous awards of the Baby Champion as Kohaku instead of Sanke.

Please be assured that the guilty parties have been punished.

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Dainichi wins AJNPA GC.

Photos courtesy of **Nishikigoi TV**

Tipped by Mark Gardner on the Wednesday before the judging as his favourite, this 84cms 7 year old Showa was awarded the Grand Champion prize at the **2007 All Japan Nishikigoi Promotion Association show (Shinkokai)** at the Ryutsu Centre Tokyo.

Mark, recording the show for **Nishikigoi TV** was present during the voting and was able to provide us with the following record of how the verdict was reached:-

“3 rounds of voting were required before it was confirmed GC.

The 1st round of voting saw a total of 10 Koi nominated with the Showa taking 32 of the 95 votes.

The 2nd round of voting was reduced to just the top 5 Koi from the 1st round. In this round the Showa picked up 45 votes, an agonizing 3 short of the 48 it required for a majority verdict.

In the 3rd round just 2 Koi remained and the Dainichi Showa took the title, 65 votes to 30.”

This method of judging is unique to the AJNPA Show where the judges, all 95 of them are drawn from breeders, dealers and their distributors with a smattering of amateur guests.

“The Koi was originally one of a batch of 2 year old Dainichi Showa to be sold off as part of a growing competition by Narita Koi Farm.

I'm told these Koi were being sold for Y300,000 each.

At that time this Koi was almost totally devoid of any sumi which no doubt led to the fact that it remained unselected by the 'competitors'.

One of Narita's customers came in and offered to purchase the koi, but not for full price. Deal was done at Y150,000, half the original price, which at todays exchange rates comes in under £700.

7 Years later it takes the All Japan Show

“



On his death in 1998 the farm was inherited by his elder son Futoshi who along with his brother Shigeru carry on the tradition today. At the time, the rumour mill suggested that the brothers did not have the skill to repeat the success of the father. On a visit to their premises in 2000 that question was put to them by one of the party I was travelling with. I was embarrassed by the question but Futoshi didn't seem to mind and replied that it was true that they didn't have their father's expertise but they had all his broodstock and records and they were learning fast. I wonder now if he knew that they were on the way back, this GC must have been spawned shortly after, so he wasn't wrong.

Fortune must have been smiling on them four years later when the Chuetsu Earthquake ripped apart the Iwamagi & Minaminigoro villages, damaging all of the Mano Clan's premises and killing large quantities of their Koi. Clearly this one was amongst the survivors allowing the 'Boys' to bring an AJNPA GC award back to Niigata and repeat the success of their father.

Dainichi is back.

The Dainichi Yorijo (Farm) of Minaminigoro, Ojiya-shi, Niigata was established by Minoru Manu in the late 60's. Although a member of the Mano Clan of renowned Nishikigoi farmers of Iwamagi village. (Izumiya, Mano and Tamuraya farms are all run by relatives) Minoru was a late starter. However, in a short time he rose to fame for his Kohaku and Showa and at his peak was rated alongside Toshio Sakai (Matsunosuke) as one of the great innovators of the Nishikigoi world. One of his Showa – the **“Inuzuma Showa”** (see next page) must rate amongst the most photographed Koi. Bought by Masao Kato and exhibited on numerous occasions, winning GC at the 23rd AJNPA Show, the 27th ZNA Show (both in 1992) and numerous ZNA chapter shows. Its image appears on several logos (including **Gatwick Koi** and the German Koi Society **KLAN**), several Koi badges and even on a tie.



Shigeru Mano and young son - a 3rd generation to carry on the Dainichi legacy.

Dainichi wins AJNPA GC.

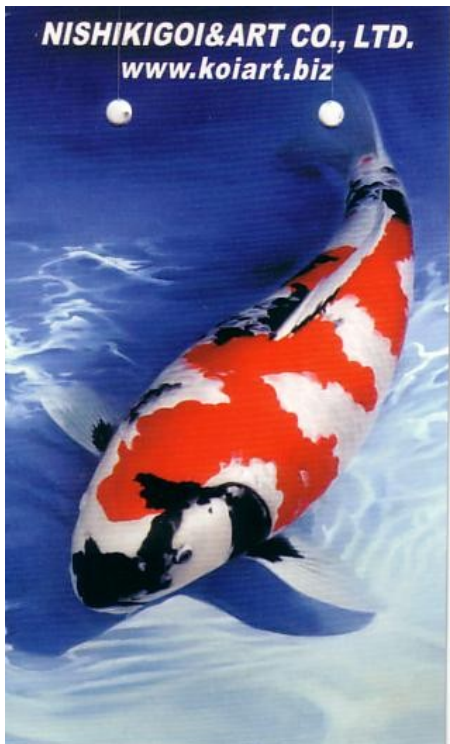
Photos courtesy of **Nishikigoi TV**



Futoshi Mano photographed within seconds of learning the result. It was immediately after this photo that Futoshi was asked for details of the Koi, age, size etc



NishikigoiTV in action at AJNPA 2007



One of the many depictions of the famous Dainichi "Inuzuma Showa" a double Grand Champion in 1992 used in the marketing of various Koi goods.

Congratulations are in order for **Mike Harvey** (extreme left) and **Harry Beckx** (extreme right) two Koi Judges from South Africa for passing their Assistant Certified ZNA Judges Exam. This exam is part of the ZNA Seminar held to coincide with the AJNPA Show. Only 5 other westerners have achieved this ranking before so Harry and Mike now join an elite club.



Further details of their achievement will appear in the April edition of **Koi Carp Magazine** in their International News section.



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

“I’ve got the Blues..” an interview with Asagi aficionado Dick Benbow.



Nothing is more American in the field of music than the blues, an expression of a musical style along with words depicting everyday trials and tribulations. Many of which are appropriate to our own life experiences.

But in the hobby of koi, having the “blues” involves a colour variety known as Asagi. The first of a long line of colour varieties, and in many cases passed over by the koi community in today’s Go-sanke mad world. In fact the Shusui, a doitsu version of Asagi was also the first doitsu colour variety ever established. This situation, of being first in something yet forgotten; goes against most modern cultures. Being number One, is what it’s all about.

To the likes of long time koi keeper, Dick Benbow, in the Seattle area of the USA, the blues are number one. “When I started keeping koi, one of the very first variety I was attracted to was Asagi”, says Dick.

During the close to 30 years of being involved, Dick spent a portion of his time seeking the perfect Go-sanke to challenge the show circuit for Grand Champion. But like all things in life came around full circle once again to the red, white, and blue of Asagi.

While it may seem that this colour variety would get pretty old after a while, there are different kinds of the pattern to appreciate and add interest to their keeping. Most popular is the Narumi colour variety but Konjo and reverse offer subtle differences. The basic Asagi really takes about 3 years to know what you have as the pattern takes that long to develop. A first class example could best be described as a blue Koi, with white head and white net pattern outlining each scale along the back and sides. Red can often be found in the tail, on the dorsal, the gill plates, peccs and like a ships bottom along the belly. Narumi blue is more aquamarine in colour, Konjo is a bit darker, while reverse is so named because the scale instead of being blue with white edge is reversed so that the scale is white with a blue edge. There are other varieties that have come

and gone during this breed’s history. Occasionally a Taki Asagi (waterfall) can be found. It is distinguished with a white stripe down the lateral line that separates the red and blue fields.

Keeping Asagi is a labour of love. The water needed to avoid the darkening of the forehead and shimmies is pretty much devoid of any hardness. Asagis are very close to the wild carp and can be very difficult to handle. So for those who wish to show them (a few have taken Grand Champion “B” for those shows wanting to acknowledge something other than Go-sanke) you must be extremely careful in handling and transport so as not to damage the net pattern.



Grand champion B
Is a new category in the States to encourage those folks with high quality non Go-Sanke to show..

Most breeders of Asagi have to hold off from birth till the babies are 60 days old to begin the culling. (compared to 3 days for Showa, Shiro-Utsuri). During the process of Sembetsu only those that show red in the peccs and tails and a few red scales at the side near the belly are retained. The area from the end of the nose up the face to about the eyes needs to show a nice white colour.

The second year, the forehead which was a greyish tone begins to whiten and again the red in the belly area is well below the lateral line. Hopefully in the fall of the second year red dots begin to show on the dorsal along the base of the back. By the third year the fukurin or white netting pattern begins to clarify and you suddenly have a very pretty koi. For those who travel to Japan to find Asagi, these finished specimens can be very hard to find and very expensive. Many of the Japanese hobbyists will buy a dozen or so tosai in hopes of finding one to turn out at the end of the third year. Another reason why owning this colour variety can make you sing the blues (My dozen babies done me wrong song!)

Asagi continues to gain red if fed colour enhancing food, so most discerning keepers I know keep away from anything considered red enhancing.

Hosokai is the breeder best known these days for popularizing the breed but there are others who have done an equally fine job of keeping this colour variety up to show standards.

Sembetsu.

is the Japanese word for culling. It means to separate and does not have the negative connotation that culling does..

Toshio Sakai, known for his Magoi Matsunosuke bloodline has also bred Magoi into an asagi bloodline. I have one of his Asagi-Magoi that I call “Kimiko”. She is a handful. I’m grateful for the inventor of sock-nets.

Asagis are probably not for everyone. But for those who have patience, and love the challenge of managing water, this variety can have you acknowledging with pride...“I’ve got the blues....”



Dick Benbow.

Is from the Seattle area in the North West of the USA. A koi keeper for near on 30 years. A member of the Puget Sound Koi Club as well as the North Idaho Koi keepers, his services are sought after both as a speaker (Tosai Selection & Water Quality and a bencher.

Then and now! - every Koi has a history.

In the first issue of 'HotSpot' we profiled our 2006 Open Show Grand Champion. A fish that already had a past i.e. being imported into the UK by Martin Plows, co-owner of the 2006 AJNPA GC, and twice winner of the FBAS GC award. *It has since added a third FBAS GC award.*

Shortly after sending out that issue I received an e-mail from Johan Leurs, MD of **Kindai** publishers of the **NVN's** in-house magazine and the former publishers of that short-lived but well-received magazine "**KoiKeepers**".

Johan assured me that he had seen the Koi before as a two year old and that he had a picture of it. However, there was a problem, Johan has tens of thousands of pictures and as it was just a promising Nissai with no show history at the time it would take him an age to find it. Well, that 'age' turned out to be no more than a couple of weeks and along with the photo he gave us the following information.

If anybody has access to KoiKeepers maga-



The South East 2006 G.C. as a 2 year old.

zine number 8 you will find an article by Johan about a seminar given by Toshio Sakai at the premises of **Paradise of Japanese Koi** in Belgium 2004. Toshio's lecture was about the development of his Matsunosuke bloodlines and the characteristics of the improvements he had been making to them over the years.

In preparation for the interview that Johan conducted after the seminar (he did the same after the seminar at **Koi Water Barn** in the UK in 2000) Johan provided a series of 10 photographs of Matsunosuke Nissai as a source of reference. Part of Toshio's lecture centred on the development of Sumi and these photos had been taken by Johan to illustrate just that. Amongst them was the photo of the future South East G.C.

Before we come to those photos, let's just reiterate what Toshio had said about how his Sumi

develops. "It appears on the tosai, then disappears often leaving remarkably bad Beni behind before returning again as high class Sumi". He took pains to explain that this development was a characteristic of a 2nd generation cross of Sanke born from an original Magoi cross. Johan photographs had been carefully selected to show Matsunosuke Nissai at various stages of Sumi development. The South East GC's photo shows it in its regressive stage.

Sadly this early pic of our GC didn't make it onto the pages of KoiKeepers #8 but it clearly remained in Johan's memory. It was in good company too, because several of those 10 photographed Nissai went on to better things. One was sold to Toshio's brother Toshiyuki (Yamamatsu Yorijo) for breeding. Another went on to win Adult Champion at the German Show in 2005.




One of the other photographs (below) showed a Sanke displaying 'Atarashi Sumi' - the latest development by Toshio Sakai that at the time was still a closely guarded secret.

The South East Section are currently researching Atarashi Sumi with the assistance of BKKS Judge Alan Coogan with the aim of producing an explanatory article in the near future.



Showa or Sanke ?



- its Atarashi Sumi.

“Judge not, lest ye be judged” *Mathew 7:1.*

Every year up and down the country and indeed in the rest of the civilised world (*countries who don't embrace the art of Nishikigoi cannot be considered civilised*) Koi are submitted to the scrutiny of a group of individuals known collectively as Koi Judges. These individuals, highly trained by their parent organisations as they are, lack one facet in their training that is very common in other fields. I have never forgotten the first piece of advice I ever received from my Director after joining his training team, it was “Never forget what it was like to be a student. Put yourself in their place every now and again as a form of reality check”. This stood me in good stead, and now I think it is time to share that perspective with fellow judges by putting a pair of them in the position of being judged by the judging criteria that we all know and abide by.

Body Shape

Skin Quality

Colour

Pattern

Elegance

Imposingness

Department

Recognising that the world doesn't end at our cross-channel ports anymore (it used to I know) I have chosen my subjects very carefully and picked a couple from different origins but with similar characteristics, i.e. - a shoulder pattern.

For the purpose of this dissertation the Koi Judge on the left will be known as KJ1 and the other specimen KJ2. Let us begin.

Body Shape.

Clearly the classic female shape of KJ1 sets her apart at this stage, displaying near perfect conformation. Some critics might desire a little more in the upper regions but that's a personal thing (more than a handful is a waste IMO). Her elegant lines shows the streamlined shape that Toshio Sakai introduced into his bloodline to epitomise the creature of Japanese myth that conquered the currents of the Shinano river, rather than the clumsy, bulky lines of the European version that plopped about in monastic stew ponds.



KJ1

That takes us nicely on to KJ2 – a prime example of a European shape, everything Toshio Sakai thought needed changing. Although not clear, there is the suspicion of something Doitsu (“*van Duitsen bloed*”) in its lineage. Examine the enlarged belly region – a trait fairly common in food carp. Cliff Neale, the owner of the BKKS National GC in 2003 and 2005 states that conditioning is addressed with the acronym FEET (Food, Environment, Exercise and Temperature), I suggest food, environment, and lack of exercise are to blame here.

Skin Quality.

Please read this heading carefully. The term is “Skin Quality”, if it were ‘skin quantity’ then clearly KJ2 would win hands down. Starting again with KJ1 it has been said that more mature skins can occasionally do with a ‘nip and tuck’ but that isn't true in this case. I think they were getting confused with “a Nip and a f***” - an as yet untried strategy for female judges to obtain their ZNA Assistant Certified Judge qualification.

Good skin is said to ‘glow’ and that condition can be clearly seen in both specimens. Good skin will also allow the next two categories of appreciation to be seen at their best. KJ2 has a broader canvas with which to



KJ2

display our next characteristics. Elasticity is another word associated with skin. Take a look at the mid-section of KJ2 – you don't get more elastic than that!

Colour.

Here our two specimens need to be separated and compared against a norm before making any opinion over which comes out in front. KJ1 has three colours to consider, whereas KJ2 has just the two. As we mentioned under skin, both specimens exhibit a sound and even base texture onto which these additional colours are applied. Good colour must be consistent, with clearly defined borders at both the leading and trailing edges.

Sadly KJ1 is losing out here. The edges are clearly showing signs of deteriorating which leads me to believe that both of these colours are only transient and aren't likely to stand the test of time. I wouldn't be surprised to find that they have disappeared completely the next time I see this specimen in the flesh.

However KJ2 is almost exactly the opposite. The colour here is in its first bloom of youth and although slightly over the top at this

time, it should in short while settle down into the sort of consistency we want. Look too at the colour, this is real *Ai-zumi* (the black of Indian Ink) that will penetrate the deeper levels of the skin and be a feature of this specimen forever.

Pattern.

Position is very important where pattern is concerned and here KJ1 demonstrates the tsubo-spot high on the shoulder. It should now lead the eye downwards to the direction of the tail but unfortunately this photo inhibits that degree of perspective. You need to get ‘down-under’ for a good look. For KJ2 the pattern is more centrally located and in itself far more intricate and covering more of the skin in this particular region. Combined with the intensity and consistency of colour KJ2 is the clear winner in this particular area.

Elegance.

Elegance isn’t a word that can be used in relation to KJ2. However, KJ1 is renowned for it.

Imposingness.

KJ1 is imposing in a calm, refined, regal sort of way. Her subtle presence in a pool with her peers is a model of quiet dignity. KJ2 displays imposingness in a completely different sort of way. Seen frequently at Koi shows around the world, KJ2 looms large, clearly a leader in his home pond.

Deportment.

I am reliably informed that KJ1 was deported on November 11th 2006. KJ2 deportment status is currently under review.

Conclusion.

At this point the presiding judge has to give a verdict. In my case I go for KJ1 over KJ2. As we say, “It’s all about getting the right decision on the day” and right now any promise that KJ2’s pattern might have is sheer speculation.

But in the spirit of fairness I now call on some respected International Koi Judges and a Health Officer to obtain some second opinions.

My vote certainly goes to KJ1. Look at that elegance and overall appearance! It’s a pity that there is no better photo to see the complete body shape but the piece I can see looks very promising. The finishing touch in my humble opinion is that the elegant kuchibeni gives it just that little bit extra. I can be short about KJ2. To be honest I don’t have a clue how this freak made it through the culling. The breeder must be blind or at least suffer mental disorientation.

Joop van Tol. Koi Health Officer NVN.

Before casting a vote (and being a ZNA Local Certified Judge with a responsibility to act ethically) I must declare a personal interest - the fact that these two wonderful specimens are very well known to me and are champions in their own right.

I have taken account of all the comments and the assessments in the article and generally agree with much of what has already been said. However I would like to make a few further observations. In the past koi with kuchibeni (red lips) were considered by the Japanese in particular to be unattractive and likened to the red lips so characteristic of the " ladies of the night". Whilst this was often considered a demerit in the past, this would seem not to be so serious in more recent times. However KJ1 certainly has this marking, which is absent in KJ2.

The overall impression of a healthy youthful appearance should not be forgotten when assessing our two candidates.

KJ1 looks youthful and a picture of health and I’m sure if we saw KJ 1 in a vat the swimming motion would be gracious and " poetry in motion". On the other hand KJ2, in this photograph anyway, appears to be rather lethargic, sluggish and is probably stressed was this taken at the Nederlandse Koi Dagen? that would explain why this entrant is in this condition - but as Bernie always warns the readers- photographs can be deceptive and misleading.

Barbels are an essential feature of every koi and in terms of ZNA Judging Standards, the absence of barbels would result in a disqualification of that entry. I have studied the photographs of our two entrants carefully and notice that KJ1 most definitely has no barbels, whilst KJ2 seems to have an abundance of these above the lips!! I haven’t been able to find any authority for disqualification of an entry with so many barbels and consequently

I have to reluctantly disqualify KJ1 (notwithstanding the superb beauty of this specimen) and award first place to KJ2 (despite the other demerits). I would add that KJ2 does not display the typical slender male body shape and draw your readers’ attention to the volume of this entry and the nice rounded pectorals!!

One thing I always say to koi hobbyists is they should always choose a koi that they would want to have swimming in their own ponds. I have to say that despite the absence of barbels on KJ1, and her disqualification on this basis, I would love to have her swimming in my pond any day!

Mike Harvey SAKKS & ZNA Judge.

Well what can one say KJ1 and KJ2, your comments are very interesting and open to all sorts of interpretation. If I was judging and both were at the same show, there would be no contest KJ1 has to be the clear winner in all aspects.

Body shape, well that goes without saying, skin quality more youthful and clear than you would expect at this age, but how will the hotter climate suit this, it could start bringing out the “shimmies”, and this new “pond” will certainly alter the colour. Elegance, Imposingness and deportment, is all in the breeding and if you have it then flaunt it.

KJ2 Body shape, definitely kept in an environment that is static and little to encourage exercise. Skin quality, seems to be reddening behind the gills – this could indicate there may be other problems or has been to too many shows this season already. Colour and pattern, the pattern is dark and complicated, personal preference is for simple, plain and uncluttered pattern and colour combination. Elegance - ???? Imposingness, yes KJ2 is imposing just by sheer volume, you just have to look at it. This example should now live in his own pond and enjoy life, and not be bagged up and dragged around the shows, it is definitely affecting the quality of this specimen.

Christine Woolger BKKS Judge.

Final Score

KJ1 = 3 KJ2 = 1

The lady wins.

This article was first printed in the
December edition of Spotlight

KOI TREK goes Asia—again..

4 members of the NVN Board of Directors conducted a fact finding mission to Taiwan, China and Thailand between the 31st October and 16 November as a follow up to the one conducted last year in Taiwan and Japan. Dealers in the Netherlands import Koi from all of these countries and many outlandish claims are made both for and against, so the NVN decided to see for themselves.

We arranged the trip directly with the breeder or with local hobbyists to make sure that the trip was not influenced by middle men.

Taiwan. Last year we established that the majority of Taiwanese breeders were breeding for quantity even though they were using Sakai, Dainichi and Isa stock so this year we just concentrated on those aiming for quality. One of these is now specialising in breeding excellent Kujaku, and trying to breed Asagi. One would think that breeding Asagi would be easy but it isn't so, although he is improving he still has a way to go. But, one thing in their favour is the climate, which allows them to grow Koi all year round and breed more than once.

However, the main reason for visiting Taiwan was the farm of CF Kao, a regular visitor to the **Holland Koi Show** and an excellent host. Kao had promised us the opportunity to harvest some of his mud ponds. On the 1st day we emptied a pond containing tosaï of an average size of 35-40 cms. The following day we were allowed to participate in the harvesting of his number one pond where the Koi were on average 65cms but also included a Chagoi of over 95cms. I liked it so much I gave it a kiss.

China. Here we visited several hobbyists and just the one breeder. However, some times it was hard to see any difference, the hobbyists had their own mud ponds and their facilities looked similar to that of the dedicated breeder. Summing up, we found that most Chinese hobbyists were fanatical Sakai and Momotaro fans and they all seemed to enjoy buying large amounts of small Koi and growing them on themselves. At the pond of hobbyist Hong Man Chung we helped him harvest a pond and then we were treated to a whole grilled pig for lunch.



The breeder we visited was the Gary Koi Farm where we found excellent quality Koi and the sales ponds were all filtered by Bakki Showers. The proprietor also happened to be one of the largest producers of sand filters in China.

Now that we are home we are all compiling our memoirs for a succession of articles in our own magazine called 'Koi' – the first magazine of this name, not the one you have on your island. I have just completed my first article, it contains 8,340 words and that only covers Taiwan!!!! I do not have the time to translate all of that so I will use lots of pictures in case you get to see it.

Have a happy Christmas and New Year.

Jeroen Dregmans PRO - NVN



Itinerary

Departed Holland 31st Oct

Taiwan (4 days)
visiting 2 breeders, 1 hobbyist
+ 1 dealer.

China (5 days)
visiting 1 breeder, 4 hobbyists
+ 2 dealers.

Thailand (7 days)
visiting 2 breeders, 1 hobbyist
+ 2 dealers.

Returned on 16th Nov.

Thailand. We visited several dealers, who all sourced their Koi from the bigger breeders in Japan, buying them small and growing on. With a average water temperature between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius it is something that isn't hard to do. The prices here were very competitive. One common factor in all countries was the popularity of the Go-Sanke varieties at both the breeder and the hobbyist's establishments.



KOI TREK goes Asia - Pictorial review.



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

KOI TREK goes Asia - Pictorial review.



Koi Trek goes Asia



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

Furin - Japanese Wind Chimes.

Furin are thought to have been inspired by the Buddhist Temple Bells known as Futaku in China during the Kamakura Period (1185 - 1333), becoming popular in Japan during the Muromachi Period (1333 - 1568).



Furin are generally made of iron and consist of a ornamented house, a bell and long strip of paper attached to the clapper bearing a blessing.

During the Edo Period (1600 - 1868), sales of Furin by peddlers spread the custom across the nation

These days, Furin are not always welcomed because of the dense urban housing conditions, but the distinctive sound symbolizes summer, and during the hot humid season the sound indicates a welcome breeze.

It is estimated that there are at 650 different Furin and there are now collectors fairs spreading across the country with the largest i.e. The Furin National taking place at the Kawasaki-Daishi temple in Tokyo on the 20th July every year.

It was always said that the sound of the Furin heightened awareness and stimulated the brain.



Recently scientists have discovered that sound frequencies of 3,000 hertz or higher (well within the range of Furins) can stimulate our brains to secrete stress-relieving hormones.



FURIN

are also called
FU LIN or FOO LIN

Depending on the region and/or dialect.

Something to share with your non-participating readers.

A koi keeper walks into an antique shop in London and takes a fancy to a bronze statue of a rat. "How much?" he asks.

"Twenty five quid for the statue, another hundred for the story" the shopkeeper replies.

"I'll take the statue, I can do without the story".

The man leaves the shop and after a while he has feeling that he is being followed. The feeling persists and eventually he sees that he is being followed by a number of rats. As his journey progresses more rats join the procession until eventually he is walking alone as every other pedestrian runs and hides.

Eventually he is surrounded by rats and he is left with nowhere to run except the river. Seeking evasion via the Thames he jumps in and is immediately followed by all the rats who drown.

The next day he revisits the shop.

"Come for the story have you?" asks the shopkeeper.

"No I've come to see if you have a bronze statue of a Terrorist or better still one of any of those b*****ds that won't share their experiences via their newsletters".

FLEECE DOGS.

Information for this article was supplied by Christina Evatt editor of **Koi Carp** magazine.

There is a new craze in Japan that may soon take off over here. It's called Fleece Dog where you make mini replicas of your own dog from their real combed off dog hair. The craze is catching on fast and there is already a book out about it in English. The author Nobuko Nagakubo aka Sinco reported to be the founder of this craze originally made animal topiaries before coming up with the idea of making Fleece Dogs using sheep wool and dog hair in 2003.

To launch the idea in the UK she has also made mini celebrity dogs and sold them

via an eBay auction to raise money for Battersea Dogs Home. Amongst these celeb-dogs are the Queen's Corgis, Paris Hilton's Chihuahua Tinkerbell, Geri Halliwell's Shit-Tzu Harry, Zara Phillips' Boxer and the Blue Peter Labrador.

More info can be found on <http://www.sincoweb.com/>

See picture on page 11

Sinco and her dog CJ a Petite Basset-Griffon barely larger than some of her Fleece Dog examples

Fleece Dogs – the photo.



Dates for your 2007 Diary.....

- Oregon Koi & Watergarden Society Koi Show. **9th & 10th June** at Roseburg, Oregon, USA.
- The SAKKS National hosted by the KwaZulu Natal Chapter, **21st & 22nd July** at the Gateway Theatre of Shopping, Umhlanga Rocks near Durban, South Africa.
- The 15th NVN Koi Show (The European National) **17th to 19th August** at Kasteltuun, Arcen near Venlo, The Netherlands.
- The 21st South East BKKS Open Show, **26th & 27th August** at Parkwood Hall School, Beachenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent, UK.

Working for an International Koi Community



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

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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