

# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD,  
HERTS.

Dear Fellow Members,

APRIL, 1974.

As you will see from the enclosed poster, our arrangements for our meeting in June are now completed and we are looking forward to seeing a very good attendance. Please do your best to have the poster displayed at your local pet shop or on your local Society notice board. As you well know, we must have an attendance of about one hundred to make a meeting self-supporting financially, so please do your best to encourage interested people to come. Please apply for your tickets early and thus ease the work load on the Treasurer and help us to finalise the administrative details in good time.

You will be pleased to know that Professor. R. McNeill Alexander, who was to have spoken at the earlier meeting that we were forced to cancel, will be the principal speaker at our Annual Conference in October. His subject will be 'Respiration in fishes, with particular reference to the Anabantids'. The supporting speakers will be members of the Society talking about various Labyrinths of which they have personal experience. The whole meeting thus being orientated to the ever popular Gouramis and their relatives. If you have not already done so, please make a note in your diary of the date of the A.G.M., Conference and Dinner, Saturday, 5th October.

You will be pleased to learn that our fellow member, John Dawes, has been accepted on a Ph.D. course with the Open University. His work will be on *T. labiosa* and *T. fasciata*, and I feel sure that we shall all be only too pleased to render him any assistance that we can.

The fish-growth experiment, originally planned to start last October, has still, unfortunately, not yet got under way. Dr. Gust has not yet been able to produce the necessary young fishes. It is hoped that with some help from Mike Thomas, the young fish will be available for distribution at the June meeting. As a by-product of the difficulties in the production of these fry another line of enquiry has been opened. It is suspected that the use of 'Netlon' in the making of the breeding traps used has had an adverse effect on the fecundity of the female livebearers, and it is proposed to set up some experiments to test this theory. If you would be prepared to take part in these tests please drop me a line. Meanwhile, if you have observed any effects from the use of 'Netlon' Dr. George Gust would be most interested to learn of your experiences. If you do write to him on this subject, please mention the colour of the material used as it is thought that different colour materials may have some bearing on the subject.

Your attention is once again drawn to the requirement in our Constitution for all members to submit, every two years, a paper or report suitable for publication in the Journal. There are, at the time of writing, quite a number of members whose membership will lapse before the end of this year because they have failed to comply with this rule. If you are one of these, and you are unable to comply because of some extenuating circumstances, please write to the Executive Committee so that your case may be considered.

Speaking of the Executive Committee, their next meeting will be on Sunday, 12th May. If there are any matters that you would like discussed please write to me well before that date so that they may be included in the agenda.

over.....



As mentioned in the Newsletter last month, we do not seem to be recruiting the number of new, active members that had been hoped, this is disappointing. I feel quite sure that there must be many keen and experienced aquarists throughout the country who could quite easily be persuaded to join our ranks, many in fact, would welcome the opportunity if only they were invited.

I am still waiting to hear from all those members who will be making the trip to Haslemere on July 28th. This is third Newsletter in which I have asked for names for this trip; if you wish to attend you must advise me now in order that the necessary administrative arrangements may be completed.

It may be of some interest to some of our members to have a list of our Past-Presidents, to the best of my recollection this has never been published before.

1958 R.G. Mealand Esq.	1959 Dr. F.N. Ghadially.
1960 W.L. Mandeville Esq.	1961 J.E. Edwards Esq.
1962 Dr. H. Gwynne Ververs.	1963 C. Roe Esq.
1964 R.E. Legge Esq.	1965 E.H. Riddle Esq.
1966 F. Arnold Esq.	1967 H.J. Aylott Esq.
1968 J.L.M. Judge Esq.	1969 D. Cook Esq.
1970 Dr. G. Cust.	1971 G.H. Ashby Esq.
1972 J. Cook Esq.	1973 H. White Esq.

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NEW MEMBERS

R.F. Runney Esq  
 55, Park Street,  
 St. Albans,  
 Herts.

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Please remember to use the poster for our June meeting and book your tickets early and thus help to ease the burden of the officers concerned with the administration.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook,  
General Secretary.

British Aquarists  
Study Society



NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

In this newsletter I have a most melancholy task, for I have to report the death of Mr. R.G. Mealand. Bob Mealand, a founder member of the Society, and our first President, passed away in hospital on Sunday, 10th March, and was buried in Putney Vale Cemetery on Friday, 15th. The funeral was attended by Messrs. H.J. Aylott and F.C. Tomkins and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Society. I am sure that you will all join in extending our deepest sympathy to his daughter, Beryl, in her sad loss.

Bob's interest in fishes, and particularly livebearers on which he was an unrivalled authority, extended over many, many years. He sat on the very first Committee at the founding of the Federation of British Aquarist Societies, and was, until recently, when prevented by an arthritic hip, a well known and sought after speaker by the clubs in London and the Home Counties. Whilst his disability had restricted his activities, he continued to maintain his fish-house, and to attend our meetings. Those of you who were able to attend our dinner last year will remember that he was there as a guest to mark the re-institution of this event. Unfortunately, he left no writings, so with his passing a mine of information has been lost.

We have another appeal for assistance from Scotland. This time it is from Miss Lorraine Cust. Lorraine is studying at for an Honours Degree at Stirling University. For her dissertation she is proposing a project to investigate the properties of the adductor mandibulae muscles and the general jaw suspension of Astronotus ocellatus. For this work she will require a number of fish of at least 5" or more body size. Will any member who can supply one or more well grown Oscars please contact her direct at :- 5.28 Murray Hall, Airthrey, Stirling.

Unfortunately, the growth experiment organised by Dr. Cust, and due to have started last October, has not yet started. The difficulty has been in the production of a sufficient number of young fish of the same age for distribution. George suspects that the use of Netlon for breeding traps may have been the cause and had now abandoned the use of these and hopes to have sufficient fish for the purpose by our June meeting. He would be interested to hear from any member who has found similar trouble in the use of this plastic netting or any similar material. It is suspected that some toxic matter is leached out from the plastic into the water and gives rise to lack of reproductive capacity in the female xiphophorine fishes.

I am most disappointed with the response to the request in the February newsletter for members who will be attending the trip to Haslemere to write and advise me how many will be coming. I feel quite sure that more than one member in addition to Eric Venton, who has organised the trip, will wish to come. It is grossly unfair to Eric, who is arranging the catering facilities, that I cannot yet give him any idea of the numbers likely to attend. I appeal to all who are coming to write to me at once.

For our next meeting at the Zoo, on Saturday, 15th June, we are organising a Symposium on Discus. It had been hoped that we should have been able to carry forward the March meeting, but unfortunately,



NEWSLETTER 2.

Professor McNeill Alexander is unable to be with us on that particular date. However, we will try and arrange that programme for a future meeting. Meanwhile it is sincerely hoped that all members who keep, or have kept Discus, will contribute to our Symposium. The idea behind this meeting is to gather together all the real knowledge and experience that has accumulated since the Discus was first successfully bred by Mr. Roy Skipper. Some of his original slides are available and will be shown, together with slides of the fish from other sources. Will any member who has experience with this species and is prepared to take part in the Symposium, please drop me a line. Please remember that reports of failure are of just as much importance and interest as those of success. It is from our failures that we learn.

Your writer is anxious to obtain specimens of Macropodus opercularis and any species of the genus Sandelia, if you know of any please let me know.

There are no new members this month, our recruitment drive seems to be falling away. I feel sure that there must be many potential members, active and interested in fish-keeping and aquatic biology, who could be recruited quite easily if they were asked to join.

May I once again remind all members of their obligation to contribute to the Journal. The Editor tells me that he is still not receiving material, despite writing personally to over thirty members. Your Executive Committee, the Editor, to say nothing of yours truly, have all put in a very great deal of hard work to make this Society a success and a unique institution in our particular field. Without some effort from you, the member, all our efforts will be in vain. You are B.A.S.S. and without your effort and support all our labours are worthless. If this Society is worth belonging to it is worth a little effort on your part.

Yours sincerely,



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General Secretary

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Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.  
General Secretary

British Aquarists  
Study Society



NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

FEBRUARY, 1975.

Dear Fellow Members,

Effort has been made to bring this newsletter into the early part of the month to give you ample time to apply for your tickets for the First Spring Meeting. This will be, as you should already know, on Saturday, 8th March, commencing at 2.30 pm. Tickets will, as usual, be obtainable from our Treasurer, Mr. A.F. Koens, and an application form is enclosed for your convenience. We have been obliged to increase the charge for admission to cover rising costs and this will be now be £1.25 per person with a reduction for members to £1.10, this includes our now usual sit-down tea and a visit to the Zoo Aquarium at the conclusion of the proceedings. It is felt that at this time this represents extremely good value for money, and it is essential if we are to cover our costs, that we have a good attendance, so please do your best to dispose of as many tickets as possible and make sure that all your 'fishy' friends are made aware of the event.

Our subject for this meeting is 'The Diseases of Fishes', and our speakers, Randolph H. Richards, Mrs. C. Somerville and Ian N. MacRae, all of the Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology, Stirling University, and Colin Anderson, of the White Fish Authority. These are actively working on Fish Diseases so that the talk will be practical and up to date and should be of great value and interest. It is very rare to have the opportunity of hearing authoritative professional workers in this field and it should not be missed.

Our Second Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, 24th May, not the 17th May as previously announced. Unfortunately we are unable to book the Meeting Room on the earlier date. The programme for this meeting has not yet been finalised, but you will be advised at the earliest possible date of the subject and speaker(s). The Committee welcome suggestions from members of subjects and speakers for meetings, so if you have any bright ideas please let us know.

Jim Murphy in Queensland writes to say that he is exploring the possibilities of sending fish to this country with a view to arranging swaps, if anything arises from his enquiries it will appear in a future Newsletter. Perhaps some members would like to write to him, he is always pleased to hear from this country and his address is in the Directory.

My appeal for an Assistant Secretary seems to have fallen on deaf ears, to date there have been no volunteers, but I keep hoping.

May I once again remind all of you that the Society still requires active new members and that no opportunity should be missed of recruiting suitable persons. Application for Membership Forms are available on request.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Zoo on the 8th March.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Cook.  
General Secretary.



# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

JANUARY, 1975.

Dear Fellow Members,

I must open this first Newsletter of 1975 with an apology to Mr. W.T. Ryder, who, due to an error, was included in the list of names you were asked to delete from the Members' Directory in the last Newsletter. Wally is still very much a member of B.A.S.S. and I feel sure that he will forgive me for this unfortunate mistake.

Over the Christmas holiday I had a visit from Mrs. Yvonne Spalding who brought with her a sample from a well that she has recently discovered in the garden of a house near where she lives. She knew that the water was soft, which was surprising as Marrow, where her house is, lies at the foot of chalk downs. On testing the water it proved to be pH 6.6 with a total hardness of 25 p.p.m.....Yvonne is now shopping for discus, some people have all the luck, I still have to put rain-water through a de-mineralising filter to keep my discus happy. It seems that at long last the secret of stabilising the pH of very soft water, containing less than 20 p.p.m. total hardness, is being solved, and if in the long term the method is successful, or even if it is not, it will form the basis for an article in the Journal at some time in the future. It would be interesting to know if any member of the Society, other than Bill Goodwin and my-self (ably assisted by my son, Peter) is doing any serious investigation into the chemistry of water, and if so, their methods and problems. Bill Goodwin is developing an ion exchange filter made out of materials easily obtainable by anyone, basically sweet jars and plastic tubing and he hopes to publish details in due course so that any member interested can construct one.

The Research Committee held their first meeting for this year on Sunday, the 12th. Mr. R. Forder has stood down as Chairman of this committee and his place is taken by Mr. John Dawes. The following points emerged as a result of their deliberations:-

Of the 14 members who took food for the Food Acceptability Experiment last October, 12 have sent in returns. Dr. G. Cust will analyse these and a report will be published in due course. It was felt that many more members could have taken part and there is still time and plenty of samples of the foods available, if you would like to participate please apply to Dr. Cust who will send the food samples and return forms, obviously the more that take part the more reliable the results will be and it is felt that it is only fair to the manufacturer who supplied his products for testing that we produce the fairest report possible. You will no doubt remember that an apparatus for testing air-pumps was built, but to date only one member has ever supplied a pump for testing. It was decided to test a number of new pumps and publish the results, Mr. J. Cook is to loan us a number of new pumps of various makes for this purpose and we hope to publish the results in the Aquarium Journals as well as in our own Journal feeling that this may not only be of value to all aquarists, but may stimulate other makers to send us their products to test.

We are hoping to be able to carry out some research work in connection with the Malawi cichlids and as a preparation for this members who have kept any of these species are asked, as a matter of urgency, to submit reports to the Research Committee of their experiences, successes and failures, both of keeping and breeding are required, so please get your pens out at once.

It is felt that any member who participated in the *Lisia* hybridisation experiment which was published some months ago should by this time have some results, if you have, will you please submit a report at the earliest possible opportunity.

The pilot experiments with the Amethyst Gourami are now well under way and some breeding pairs will be available in the very near future. Will any member who



can and who wishes to take part please apply at once. Remember that these fish are prolific and there will be a largish number of fry to raise, so adequate tank space is a prerequisite. Numbers are important because the experiment is on the genetics of the fish and sufficient numbers of fry to have a statistical significance are necessary. All the off-spring, except the oddities that do not conform, are yours to keep after the experiment.

May I remind you all once again of the dates of our meetings for this year:-

1st Spring Meeting, Saturday, 3th March. Diseases of Fishes.  
2nd Spring Meeting, Saturday, 17th May.  
Annual General Meeting,  
Conference and Dinner, Saturday, 4th October.

Details of the subjects and speakers at the two later meetings will be published as soon as these have been finalised. The principal speaker for the March Meeting will be Mr. Randolph H. Richards of the Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology, Stirling University; he will be supported by Mr. Ian H. MacRae also of Stirling University and we hope one or two other speakers. I am quite sure that this is a subject that we all want to learn more about and I am equally sure that many other aquarists will be keen to attend if they know about the meeting, so do please do all that you can to publicise our meeting to all interested persons. A poster will be prepared as soon as possible for circulation to all members and to all other Societies.

There are no new members this month, I understand that one person submitted an application some time late in December but it has apparently been lost in the post, and I understand from another member that there are about six persons who wish to join. The applications are awaited with interest. Always remember that we are keen to have active new members and should any suitable person cross your path please do your best to have them join our ranks.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.  
General Secretary.



# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

Dear Fellow Members,

As 1974 draws to a close I feel that it is a good time to look back on the year and take stock of our activities. Apart from the unfortunate necessity of having to cancel our first Spring Meeting, it has on the whole been a fairly good year for B.A.S.S. The second Spring Meeting and our trip to Haslemere were well supported and our Annual Conference and Dinner were most successful. We had first class speakers, and the extra time we booked for the Meeting Room at the Zoo, thus allowing us to carry on and not have to cut our meetings short, was well worth while.

In some other respects we did not do quite as well as might be hoped; our research programme was, to say the least, poor. This has for some years been an area of weakness and we must devote a real effort to improving this in the forthcoming year, after all as a Study Society this is the real reason for our existence. Our recruitment also fell far short of what we have a right to expect. Any member of the trade will tell you that the number of people who keep fishes continues to rise year by year, and certainly the interest in the biological sciences is probably greater at the present time than since the turn of the century. These facts being so, it would seem inevitable that there must be a larger number of people who would want to join our ranks if they had the opportunity. As the only way to join B.A.S.S. is by the invitation of existing members, the answer to our recruitment problem is in our own hands. Please do not hesitate to ask any suitable person who comes to your attention if they would like to join, and above all, if they say yes, see that they have the necessary form of application and follow it up. On more than one occasion, having spoken to someone about joining I have been met with the reply "So and so asked me to join and said that he would send me an application form, but I have never received it."

Overleaf you will find a list of names that you are asked to delete from the Members Directory, it makes me very sad to see members leaving the Society, but the Executive Committee are quite determined to ensure that the Society as a whole is active and this can only be if all the members are prepared to pull their weight and make active contribution to the aims and objects of association. It would be very easy to recruit large numbers of persons who, having paid our very nominal subscription, would be happy to sit back and receive our mailings each month, and wear our badge at their local club meetings and say "I belong to B.A.S.S.". Indeed, I am quite sure that there are many people about who would be prepared to pay a great deal more for the somewhat doubtful privilege of just belonging, these would add not a whit to the existing sum of knowledge and merely constitute so much dead wood in our Society whose purpose is the interchange of views and information.

Mr. Eric Venton is most anxious to obtain some Fighters (*Detta splendens*) of the Cambodia variety for breeding purposes, he would appreciate information as to where such stock is available. Please contact him direct, his telephone number is:- Haslemere 3537.

It is now a very long time since any 'At Homes' were organised and your Committee feel that these are most invaluable functions, getting together a few members in an informal environment just to discuss common interests. If you are prepared to hold one of these please contact the 'At Homes Organiser'.



DECEMBER, 1974.



Mr. H.J. (Dick) Aylott, and he will make all the necessary arrangements. His telephone number is Weybridge 42923.

The Research Committee are meeting on the 12th January next, so if you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to put forward please let me have them at once.

The First Spring Meeting of 1975 will be a symposium on fish diseases and will be held on Saturday, 8th March; this is one week before the Mendon Convention to which many of you will I feel sure wish to go as well. Unfortunately inflation has at last caught up with us and we are forced to increase the charge for admission, it will be £1.25, with a reduction for Members to £1.10. This increase has been forced upon us by the additional charge for the use of the Meeting Room which we now book for the evening session to avoid cutting our meeting short and the rise in the charge made for the tea meal by the Zoo Catering Department. No doubt their costs have increased and we are therefore forced to accept that we must pay more.

We are now able to advise the costs of the proposed trip to Stirling University in June. The University will charge £10 per head for three mornings of lectures, and accomodation costs within the University are:- Bed & Breakfast £3.40 per night, Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal £4.50, Full Board £5.80 per head. Wives and friends may of course accompany members on this trip. Will you please write and advise me BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER if you are interested in making the trip on these terms. You are not being asked to make a firm booking, but some idea of numbers is essential in the making of the necessary arrangements. One final note on this subject, the University will unfortunately not allow the keeping of animals, so you cannot bring dogs or cats.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Please delete the following names from your Members Directory :-

Biggs. R.G.	Cooke. G.W.
Dodkins. R.A.	Esson. R.D.
Falkus. A.E.	Howard. J.A.F.
Keep. E.R.	Kerridge. R.
Pitt. W.S.	Ryder. W.T.

The above named have failed to meet their obligation under rule 51 of the Constitution.

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In conclusion say I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.  
General Secretary.

FOR SALE

Analytical Balance in first class condition. Maker, Paul Dumpe, Hamburg.  
Price £30.00



# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

NOVEMBER, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

It would appear from the lack of response, only one member having contacted me to express an interest, that very few would be interested in a trip to Scotland next year.

No other corrections for the Members' Directory having come to hand I assume that all the entries are correct as printed. There are two amendments to make as follows:-

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CUST. Dr. George,  
99, Whitehill Road,  
Hitchin, Herts.  
Hitchin 50137 (home)

CUST. Lorraine.A.  
7, Park Lane,  
Stirling,  
Scotland.

There is also an addition, we welcome the following new member:-

### NEW MEMBER

TAYLOR. Winston. J.  
29, Ballin Street,  
Ellerslie,  
Auckland 5,  
New Zealand.  
596-189 (home)

Many of you you will know Winston Taylor of whom I wrote in the last Newsletter, for the benefit of those who do not have that pleasure, Winston was responsible for the aquarium at Belle Vue before his retirement in February 1973. In April of that year he sailed to New Zealand to join his son. His successful work on tropical marine fish-keeping is too widely known for me to add any further useful comment and I am quite sure that you will all join with me in welcoming him to our Society. I am sure that he will be delighted to hear from any member who can find time to drop him a line.

Will all those members who took fish-food and are taking part in the food experiment please send in their returns at the earliest possible time. To date only two returns have been received and it is felt that by this time all the experimental work should have been completed and therefore the results should be to hand.

You will no doubt recall that in the last Newsletter mention was made of Mrs. Hugh Parrish being unwell, it is with regret that we now learn Hugh himself is now also on the sick list, having trouble with his legs. I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing them both a speedy return to good health.

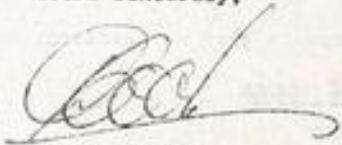
A letter has come to hand from Jim Murphy, our member in Australia, who tells me that in the climate of Queensland tropical fish can be kept out of doors, and if they want to keep a few more fishes they just construct a box on the ground out of timber or bricks or any suitable material, line it with a sheet of polythene and that is that. He does send a photograph of one of these ponds but unfortunately it is not suitable for reproduction.



As you are probably aware, the duties of the Secretary of our Society are fairly onerous and time consuming albeit offering considerable interest if you have a bent towards organisation and methods. There exists in the Constitution the Office of Assistant Secretary but this has not been filled for a number of years. I feel that the time has now arrived when once again we should have an Assistant Secretary to spread the work load, and, perhaps allow me to spend rather more time with my fishes. Over the past two years had it not been for the continual support of my son, Peter, who has devoted all his time to the fish-house, either my fishkeeping would have declined to virtually zero or the Society would have suffered from lack of administration and communication. I would very much like to be able to visit some local clubs, as it is I am forced to confine my outings to two a year, I would like to be able to devote more of my time to some of the many interesting problems of fish-keeping, notably the Chocolate Gourami, the Discus and my continuing but difficult field of fish diseases. I am therefore appealing for a volunteer to undertake some of the duties associated with the efficient running of B.A.S.S., someone who is prepared to devote a few hours of their time regularly to maintain our society in the best possible way.

In conclusion may I once again appeal to all members to keep in touch, unless I receive news it is virtually impossible to write a reasonable Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook,  
General Secretary.

P.S. A report on the recent show in the Horticultural Hall and the one at Belle Vue would make interesting reading if any member visited these functions.

## Zoologist has high hopes for aquarium

Napier's new aquarium should be very successful, especially if reptiles were kept, a visiting zoologist, Mr W.B.M. Taylor, said in Napier yesterday.

Mr Taylor was formerly superintendent at Maidstone Zoo, Britain's biggest private zoo. Following that he was curator of the aquarium and reptile house at Manchester Zoo for 10 years.

Since coming to New Zealand 14 months ago, to retire at Auckland, Mr Taylor said he has been busier than when he was working, giving lectures and advising on aquariums.

Last night he spoke to members of the Napier Aquarium Society and showed films and today met members of the aquarium building committee and Martineau board.

Looking at the site of the new aquarium on Marine Parade, and discussing plans with the aquarium curator Mr Gordon Dine, Mr Taylor said people must be introduced to the "hobby of fish."

Describing himself as "coral fish fanatic," Mr Taylor said he was trying to start an interest in fish in Auckland.

There were many restrictions imposed on the types of fish allowed into the country, and he said he would look into the matter further. As these fish were very expensive, he said it was unlikely that people would set them free.

Mr Taylor is patron of the Auckland Tropical Fish Club, and vice-president of the Macarua Fish Club.

# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

OCTOBER, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

Another Annual Conference has come and gone, the eighteenth to be held at the Zoo, and a very successful event it was. Over ninety people were present for the afternoon's meeting, and fifty-four at dinner.

The day started as usual with the Annual General Meeting in the morning, when 29 members were present at the commencement, one or two more arrived during the course of the proceedings. The meeting went in accordance with the agenda except that the Chairman called for those present to stand in silence for one minute in remembrance of the two members who had passed away during the year, Bob Mealand and Mick Bottom. Your new Executive Committee will be in accordance with the previously published recommendations, no other nominations being received. The amendments to rationalise the Constitution were passed unanimously. A full copy of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be made available in due course to any member who applies for a copy. The meeting closed at 12 noon when some of the members present gave assistance in preparing for the afternoon's meeting and others made a beeline for the cages to see the new Pandas.

At 12.45 we re-assembled in the Cafeteria for lunch and, having demolished ham salad etc., went back to panda gazing and so on until 2.15 when we once again re-assembled in the Meeting Room to see our President for the forthcoming year installed. Mr. F. Tomkins was duly installed in this office in the customary manner by his predecessor Mr. J.H. Williams.

The floor was then taken by Professor R. McNeill Alexander, who, from the cover of the most luxuriant growth of whiskers, gave us a most interesting and informative talk on the respiration of fishes and in particular the labyrinths, illustrating his talk with slides.

At 4.00 pm we again adjourned to the cafeteria, this time for Tea, and on reassembling at 4.45 we heard John Daves talking about the Amethyst Gourami, and his line of research in breeding this fish. Again this was accompanied by slides, showing the fishes, their nests and their breeding behavior. This was followed by yours truly showing a few slides of the Chocolate Gourami and the eggs of this species. Finally, the 'Any Questions Panel', whose time was all too short rounded off the afternoon in the Meeting Room, and at a little after 6.30 a visit was made to the Aquarium.

The Annual Dinner, which this year was in the Fellows' Restaurant, was followed by an entertainment of slides and commentary arranged by Mr. Henry White, showing Presidents and Members, past and present, in a lighter vein, this continued until about 10 pm and it was after this time when we finally called it a day and dispersed to our homes.

The Editor, George Cust, tells me that he received no less than four contributions for the Journal during the course of the meeting. Let us hope that this is setting the standard for Journal contributions for the future.

Many of you will know Mr. Winston Taylor, who was until he retired, in charge of the Aquarium at Belle Vue. On his retirement Winston sailed away to New Zealand and it was not until this month that we heard from him. He has rather been in the wars, having been in and out of hospital for some months and is still not 100% fit. Nevertheless he has been active in the fish-keeping world, lecturing and judging at shows and has been made 'Patron of the Auckland Tropical Fish Society'. He has been asked to advise the Napier Town Council on the planning and building of a large new aquarium.



He asks if any member has any slides of fishes that they can send to him as the aquarists in New Zealand do not seem to be aware of what good specimens of tropical fishes look like. He also asks for some Judging Standards as such things do not exist in the Antipodes. If any member can help I will be pleased to forward these things, or you can send them direct to:-

Winston Taylor Esq.,  
29, Ballin Street,  
Ellerslie,  
Auckland 5,  
New Zealand.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of our new, 1974-1975, Members Directory. This has been prepared from the most up-to-date information in the files, I shall be grateful if any errors or omissions are drawn to my attention as soon as possible so that the records may be corrected. Some thought was given to sending out a questionnaire so that we might publish not only names and addresses, but current interests as we used to in the past. It was felt however that this would give rise to a long delay in the publication and, in the light of past experience of returns not being received, be incomplete. However in view of the value of knowing what other members are currently working upon it may well be that we will circulate to establish this and prepare a separate list of these details at a later date. If any member would like to volunteer to undertake this task their services will be much appreciated.

You will be sorry to learn that Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Parrish were unable to attend the A.G.M. and Conference as the Medical Men would not pass Mrs. Parrish as fit after a spell in hospital; I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Please note the following dates in your diary for our meetings next year:-

1st Spring Meeting	Saturday, 8th March.
2nd Spring Meeting	Saturday, 24th May.
A.G.M., Conference and Dinner	Saturday, 4th October.

We are asked to advise you that the Hendon Convention will be held on Saturday, 15th March, 1975.

Our First Spring Meeting will be on the Diseases of Fishes, and Mr. Randolph Richards will be coming from Stirling to talk to us on this subject.

Efforts are being made to arrange a trip to Stirling University, probably in June for about a week. Any member who would be interested in participating in such a trip is asked to let me know as soon as possible. You are NOT being asked to make a firm booking at this stage, but only to signify an interest if such a trip can be arranged. At the initial discussion of this matter there was talk of visiting such interesting fishy places as the local distilleries and bottling plants...perhaps we shall come across some rare species - like Usquebaugh spiritus, which I understand is poisonous.

Like the Bedouin who are always on the move, George Cust is at it again, and in our next Newsletter we shall publish his new address, for by that time he should be a resident in Hitchin. Meanwhile I can hardly get into the fish-house - his swordtails were producing young even as they arrived, if his Discus and Malawis follow suit I shall have to build an extension. It just occurs to me to wonder if there is a name for a fish-boarding house?

From the Balance Sheet enclosed you will be glad to note that the financial state of the Society remains sound, the Treasurer did however issue a warning in his report that in the light of current inflationary trends it may well be necessary to raise the annual subscription in the forthcoming year.

Here are details of another experiment in which all members are invited to participate.

Obtain some coras of the Madagascar Lace Leaf plant (any species, but note the species if it is known.) and grow them in unwashed gravel with no fertiliser. Use light aeration and the softest water obtainable. Grow under artificial lighting or subdued daylight. Start with sufficient water to just cover the corn and top up as necessary to keep the leaves just submerged. Maintain a temperature of 65-70° F, not higher.

Please advise Mr. R. Forder at 2, Field Heath Avenue, Hillingdon, Middlx. if you are participating and send all reports direct to him.

We have received two requests for help from members. The first is from Mr. R.B. Fenwick who is anxious to obtain some specimens of Astyanax mexicanus (Filippi 1853) (synonym Astyanax fasciatus mexicanus (?)). These he proposes to attempt to hybridise with Anoptichthys jordani to show that they are related genetically.

The second is from Mr. D.J. Anderson who is having difficulty in obtaining Barbus ticto (Hamilton-Buchanan 1822).

Both of these young men require these fishes for project work in connection with their 'A' levels and if any member can help by advising of a source of supply of either species will they please write to them direct. Their addresses are:-

Mr. R.B. Fenwick,  
10, Maple Avenue,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Hertfordshire.

Mr. D.J. Anderson,  
Howe Green Cottage,  
Great Hallingbury,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Hertfordshire.

Write  
18/3/75

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member:-

Robert Andrew LANG,  
20, Deroran Place,  
Torbrea, Stirling,  
Scotland.  
Stirling 61032 (home)

#### DIRECTORY AMENDMENT

Please amend the telephone number of Mrs. Y. Spalding to read:-

Guildford 33598 (home) Esher 66711 (bus: am only)  
\*\*\*\*\*

John Wiley & Sons have advised that they are sending for review a new book on Tropical Marine Invertebrates. We shall be pleased to hear from any member who is prepared to undertake to review this book.

The Editor, George Cust, wishes to advise that as from January next the pages of the Journal will be numbered consecutively and a volume number assigned. This should enable an index to be created so that reference to any particular subject or article is easily possible. Efforts will be made to issue a new cover at the start of this new volume.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.



# British Aquarists Study Society



## NEWSLETTER

48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOMMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD, HERTS.

SEPTEMBER, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

This will be the final Newsletter before the Annual General Meeting, Conference and Dinner on Saturday, 5th October, and you are reminded to send for your tickets now. The timetable will be as follows:-

11.00 am	Annual General Meeting
12.45 pm	Luncheon in the Cafeteria
2.15 pm	Installation of the New President for 1974/5
2.30 pm	Professor R. McNeill Alexander
4.00 pm	Tea in the Cafeteria
4.45 pm	John A. Daves Esq. - The 'Amethyst' Gourami.
5.15 pm	'Keeping the Chocolate Gourami'
5.30 pm	'Any Questions Panel' with Dr. Ethelwynn Trewavas and Dr. H. Gwynne Vevers.
6.30 pm	Visit of the Zoo Aquarium, by kind permission of Dr. H. Gwynne Vevers.
7.30 pm	Assemble in the Tavern Room for
8.00 pm	Dinner.

Please do your very best to bring to the attention of your friends and acquaintances who are interested in fishes, our meeting, to which all are welcome. Your Committee have done their utmost to ensure that the meeting will be a success and now look for your support and encouragement. Please send for your tickets early and so assist us in making the catering arrangements. People arriving at the door without tickets will be charged £1.00 for admission and even then we cannot promise that they will have tea, we are forced to make this ruling as we have to advise the number for the meal in advance.

Some advance information of an experiment to study the genetics of gouramis is enclosed. Members who wish to take part will be given a pair of fish and asked to breed them and count and classify the fry. It is hoped that many members will participate in this experiment, the more the better as the greater the number of fish involved the more accurate will be the significance of the result. Members wishing to take part should notify me as soon as possible. Do remember however that there will be large numbers of fry to accommodate and rear so that adequate tank space is a prerequisite. The fish involved are the 'Amethyst' gourami which should tell you who is organising the experiment - John Daves.

A further experiment in which you are invited to take part, also from John, is concerned with hybridisation. Obtain one each of Limia melanogaster and L. vittata, either species can be the male of the pair, and breed from them a generation of hybrids. (The fish produced so far are quite attractive) You will have to note which way round the cross is made and count the fry. Then interbreed the offspring, noting the viability of the fish, the number produced per brood and their appearance. For those who have never bred Limias before, this is best done by keeping the fish in very shallow water, not more than four inches deep, very heavily planted with such floating vegetation and where it will receive a good light. If you propose to take part in this experiment, please let us know.

I must thank a number of members who were kind enough to respond to my

appeal for information and experience on the Chocolate Gourami, particularly two who sent me copies of T.F.H. containing what purports to be a picture of the eggs. Having now seen the eggs for myself I can at least say that whatever is shown in the photograph in T.F.H. it is not the eggs of S. ophrosenoides.

I have also received a long letter from Mike Shadrack who tells us that he is organising the members of his local Society (Ilford & District) to carry out some experimental work; we look forward to seeing any results obtained published in the Journal some time in the future. Mike is also busy preparing a lecture on Fish-houses and asks if he may visit other members and take photographs of their fish-houses, please contact him direct, telephone number 01-505-4978. He extends an invitation to all members to visit him at home (please telephone first) where in addition to many tanks of fish he keeps rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks, stick insects, frogs, toads and children, to say nothing of his wife. He also invites any member to visit the Ilford Society who meet on the second Monday in the month, at 7.30 pm. in the Hainault Room, Fulwell Cross Library, Barkingside.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:-

Duncan J. Anderson,  
Howe Green Cottage,  
Great Hallingbury,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Herts.

Richard B. Fenwick,  
10, Maple Avenue,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Herts.

Michael R. King,  
54, Maze Green Road,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Herts.

Our old friend, Dr. F.N. Ghadially, paid a flying visit to London this month, arriving on Saturday, 31st August. Regrettably he only stopped for about a week to attend a medical conference. It would have been nice if it had been a month later so that he could have attended our October meeting and dinner. Many of us have happy memories of listening to him talking about fishes in his inimitable manner. Let us hope that at some time in the future we shall see him again.

George Cust reports that he has heard that Randolph Richards is unwell, we understand that he is suffering from some disease that usually affects cattle, being a vet he should know how to treat himself. Seriously, I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

You will be pleased to know that John Cook is out of hospital, and while he must take things very easy for a bit I think that we can look forward to seeing him in October.

Will any member who can provide a specimen of the following species for exhibition on October 5th please contact me.

Macropodus cupanus, cupanus and/or dayi. Macropodus chinensis.

Ctenops nobilis

Anabas testudineus

Betta spp (other than splendens)

Ophronemus goramy (a small one)

Parosphronemus dreissneri

Helostoma temminckii

Any Ctenopoma spp. Luciocephalus pulcher or Snakehead, Channa or

Ophicephalus, and/or Sandelia spp.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Cook.



British Aquarists  
Study Society



48, PEPLINS WAY,  
BROOKMANS PARK,  
HATFIELD,  
HERTS.

JULY, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

The longest day has come and gone and we are now in the season of midsummer, to me the time seems to fly and I can seldom find the time for all the many things that I want to do. Nevertheless I can always find time to carry out this pleasant task of writing the monthly Newsletter. Many of you no doubt, will be thinking of holidays, either those that you have just had, those that you are enjoying, or looking forward with eager anticipation in those that are soon to come. Do not forget that if you visit any interesting 'fishy' places your fellow members will be pleased to hear about your experiences. I am sure that we can look forward to hearing something from Peter Bird, who has just returned from California. When I saw him, the day after he returned, he looked as if he needed a good, long holiday to recover!!

I am looking forward to seeing some of you at Haslemere in a couple of weeks time, and before that I shall see the Committee Members when we meet the previous weekend. It has been a great pleasure to me recently to have visits from Mrs. Yvonne Spalding and John Dawes. Any member is welcome to call to see me and my fish-house, a telephone call to fix a date is all that is necessary. My more regular visitors are, as is to be expected, more local members, Peter Bird, Charlie Withers, Bill Goodwin and George Cust, the latter bringing his daughter Lorraine with him on his last call.

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of Mick Bottom. Mick had been a member for many years, but we had not seen him of late as he had had a stroke about four years ago and was unable to travel from his home in Inverness. He died quite suddenly a couple of weeks ago. I am sure that you will all join with me in extending our sincerest sympathy to his wife Aileen.

A fine paper by John Dawes on the Competitive Spawning behaviour of *Colia fasciata* is included this month for the Journal. Also with this Newsletter comes the formal notification of the A.G.M. in October. May I take this opportunity to remind you that I asked last month for those who hoped to be attending the annual dinner to drop me a line as this would be a great help in making the arrangements. I have not, to date, heard from anyone. May I also remind a number of members that they now have only three months left in which to make a contribution to the Journal, or apply to the Executive Committee for exemption, if they wish to remain in membership.

We have received a supply of two different fish foods for trial purposes and it is proposed to conduct these trials on a blind basis, that is, the person carrying out the test will not know which food is being tested. The test will be very simple and purely on a comparative basis. If you would like to take part in this experiment drop me a line.

There are now new members this month, nor any changes to report so here I will close.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Cook.  
General Secretary



# British Aquarists Study Society



48, Peglins Way,  
Brookmans Park,  
Hatfield,,  
Herts.

JUNE, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

The writing of this Newsletter has been held back until after our meeting so that news of it may be included. It was a very successful event, with 65 attending. We had hoped for a few more, but as we are now into the holiday season, and with the attraction for some of the world cup on television, this number is very satisfactory. Unfortunately our President was unable to attend because of pressure of business, his lady however did make the trip. Our Chairman, Peter Bird, being on holiday in California, was another absentee. Charlie Withers, who was one of the speakers, arrived home from Guyana on Friday in time to be present.

There is a most important correction to make in the Journal material included with the last Newsletter. The Author of the paper 'Experiences with Symphosodon discus' should be shown as Mr. M. Pearson B.A.S.S., not F.H. Vicker. This error is entirely mine in preparing the typescript, and I must ask Mr. Pearson to accept my sincere apology.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the sudden death of Mrs. J. Barrie Evans, and I am sure that all members will join in sincere condolences to her husband on his sad loss.

Those members who have advised that they wished to attend the meeting at Haslemere Museum on Sunday, July, 28th will, no doubt be wondering if the arrangements have been overlooked. Let them be reassured, they have not. The arrangements are to meet outside the front of Haslemere Museum at 2.15 pm, where Mr. Eric Venton, who has organized the trip will be waiting. Efforts are being made to obtain a local map, and if these are successful a print of the map will be sent out. Haslemere is in Surrey on the A296, about 12 miles south-west of Guildford on the Winchester road.

In order that the necessary arrangements may be put in hand, will members who wish to attend the annual dinner at the Zoo, in October, please advise me in the near future. This is not a firm booking that you are asked to make, only expression of a desire to attend. This at least enables some idea of the likely attendance to be estimated, and helps us with our negotiations with the Catering Department. Those members who attended last year will remember that it was an excellent meal and a most agreeable evening. Everyone who spoke to me at that time, and since, have said that the event must be kept up, and the booking was made for the occasion last October; now it is a question of numbers, so please help by just dropping a line.

You will be pleased to know that John Dawes is having some success with his work on Colisa fasciata; he is however having great difficulty in obtaining males of this species. He is also looking for any information on fish hybridization. If you can offer any assistance, please contact him direct at:-

27, Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.  
John has promised us some articles on his work and we are looking forward to seeing them in print in the Journal. Some of you will no doubt have seen some of his work in the Aquarist.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:-

R.H. RICHARDS Esq.,  
Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology,  
University of Stirling,  
Stirling,  
Scotland.

Mr. Richards is a Research  
Fellow and his speciality  
is Fish Diseases.

H.J. SHADRACK Esq.,  
61, St. Barnabas Road,  
Woodford Green,  
Essex.

12 Tanks, Cichlids & Live-  
bearers.  
Also interested in Orchids.  
Secretary, Ilford & Dist:A.P.K.S.

C. OLLEY Esq.,  
157, Janstead Park Road,  
Cranbrook,  
Ilford,  
Essex.

12 tanks, freshwater and  
marine.  
Also interested in Cacti.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please note the following new addresses:-

W. RYDER Esq.,  
202, Kirby Road,  
Petersmouth,  
PO2 0JB.

F. TOMKINS Esq.,  
25, Kings Wear Road,  
London,  
NW5 1EU.

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In conclusion I will once again remind members that the  
Editor, Dr. George Cust, is still waiting for material for the Journal,  
and that there are a good many members who have not fulfilled the  
requirement of the Constitution, to make a contribution every twenty-  
four months. If you are one of the laggards, NOW is the time to make  
the effort.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.  
General Secretary.

British Aquarists  
Study Society



NEWSLETTER

48, Poplins Way,  
Brookmans Park,  
Hatfield,  
Herts.

MAY, 1974.

Dear Fellow Members,

You should, by the time that this Newsletter arrives, have already received an Application for Tickets form for our forthcoming Symposium on Discus. I was most gratified to learn from our worthy Treasurer, Fred Keens, that he had received six applications for tickets before the forms were even distributed. Our arrangements for this meeting are now all completed and I am quite sure that you will not be disappointed with the proceedings. All we now look forward to is good support, and we can be quite sure that the meeting will be a great success.

I have been asked to repeat my appeal on behalf of Miss Lorraine Cust for specimens of Astronotus ocellatus, Oscars, 5" body size or over for use in her researches.. If you can help, please contact her direct at:- 5.25 Murray Hall, Airthrey, Stirling, Scotland.

Better news about the growth experiment, it is now firmly established that the fish for this experiment will be distributed at our meeting next month. If you have already put your name down to participate, make sure that you are there to collect your fishes, to accomodate those who have not put their names down there will be a supply of extra fishes and forms available. Do not forget that there will be prizes for the biggest growth of fish, one for male and one for female and the only condition is that you return your results for analysis by the Research Committee.

The Research Committee are also trying to arrange some experiments with plants, if you would be prepared to participate, please put your name forward. This Committee are also always pleased to receive reports of any work that you may have carried out, either on your own, or in cooperation with other members or other fish-keepers.

You will be pleased to know that Professor McNeill Alexander will be the principal speaker at our annual conference after the A.G.M. on October 5th. We shall take the opportunity to bring the whole of the programme that had been planned for the the March meeting, which we were unfortunately forced to cancel, to life for this October meeting. The programme will therefore be a 'Workshop' on Anabantids. It is hoped that we shall also be able to arrange an 'Any Questions' Panel, and by booking the Meeting Room for a later session, and having our tea a little earlier, we shall not have to cut it short as unfortunately happened last year. Booking the Meeting Room for a further session, does I regret, cost us more money, but we hope that this can be offset by larger attendances, for this your cooperation is earnestly sought. Please publicise our meeting as much as you can, and sell as many tickets as possible.

Having just had a count up, I find that since January, 1973 we have published 59 pages of Journal material, largely printed both sides, not counting the material included in this mailing. This is probably as much as we have ever been able to publish in such a time, nevertheless, I am sure that we can do better. A good deal of the material is reprinted from other sources and is not, as it should be, original material from our members. We are holding some material ready for publication, and have promise of more on the way, if you have not written your piece yet, NOW IS THE TIME.



Have you been able to display the poster for our June meeting? If you would like another there are a few spare copies available, just drop me a line or give me a ring, and you will have one by return of post. For those who have no record of my telephone number.....

Daytime. 01-272-7744      Evening. Potters Bar 54415

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Member:-

D.J. Soper Esq.,  
Havelock,  
31, Park Road,  
Burgess Hill,  
Sussex.

60 tanks, Tropical and Marine  
Chairman, Mid-Sussex A.S.  
also Member of F.G.A.

-----  
RESIGNATION

D.R. Lelliott Esq.,  
19, Prospect Road,  
St. Albans, Herts.

-----  
In conclusion I would remind you once again to apply for your tickets for our meeting on Saturday, 15th June as soon as possible, at least ten days before the event, so that we are able to advise our friends at the Zoo of the numbers that they will be required to cater for at tea. Tickets paid for at the door on the day of the meeting cannot be guaranteed the tea meal.

The meeting will assemble at 2.00 pm, break for tea at about 4.00 pm, and continue again after tea. Looking forward to seeing you there,

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cook.  
General Secretary.

# British Aquarists Study Society



NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 1978

Dear Fellow Member,

Hands up all those who didn't get their free sample of Promin. I had naturally written and printed last month's newsletter before putting the samples into your envelopes and although on the face of it there appeared to be enough to go round I ran out after half way. I have written to Carnation Foods and explained my problem but, so far, no more samples.

Once again the Society has been asked to test a newly introduced item of aquarium equipment on behalf of the Design Centre. I believe that this is one of the most important fields in which we must promote the Society and the undoubted skill of its members. Perhaps we should test, evaluate and report upon various aquarium accessories before the manufacturers seek our comments. Perhaps this should be one of the roles of the Research Committee. I see it as a gap in the promotion of our Hobby generally that needs filling and it may just be that a Society such as ours is the organisation most fitted to fill it. Your comments on these verbose thoughts of a Secretary hunting for news are eagerly, if sceptically, awaited.

I have scanned to no avail the deaths column in the Times for the entry relating to the Showing of Fishes in small glass boxes that I thought must surely follow the announcement of the cancellation of the only major fish show south of the potteries. Perhaps at last the hobby will think of a proper way to bring our interest and pastime to Joe Public, his wife and kids.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting is hereby given and if its not exactly sixty days in advance please do not complain because I mentioned the fact in passing in last month's letter. 11am is the time, the small meeting room at the Zoo the place and Saturday 7th October 1978 the date. This meeting is not the boring old AGM that one associates with the Cheam, Aldgate and Hertford Building Society and the like but a friendly and often lively meeting of friends and aquarists discussing topics and interests as diverse as subscriptions and Mike Williams. Lunch is at 12.30pm and members then get an opportunity for a sneaky look at the zoo before taking their places in the large meeting room for what promises to be an excellent afternoon's entertainment.

Two speakers who have both proved extremely popular in recent years return on the same bill to give separate talks on completely different subjects from the two ends of the spectrum of our hobby.

Dr Humphrey Greenwood should need no introduction to members of our Society but it has been some time since he was described in print and many new members have joined our ranks since last he spoke to us. Dr Greenwood is Head of the Fish Section at the British Museum, Natural History, and it is he and his staff who examine and report upon the hundreds of specimens that are sent to the



Museum each year. He is author or co-author of several aquatic books including a definitive work and he has appeared on television and radio. Dr Greenwood has for some time been an Honorary Member of our Society and he as always shown great interest in our work and given much assistance to our members. The Committee have invited Dr Greenwood to talk to us on the classification of species and he has agreed to tell us all the facts surrounding the identification of a fish from its capture in some dank savannah swamp, through the jar of formalin at the museum to the glossy pages of the latest over-priced American glossy probably to be called 'Everything you didn't want to know about every fish' (Looseleaf). This is a subject rarely understood by aquarists and I am confident that Humphrey Greenwood will be able to put it across in a very acceptable manner. Lets face it, its like getting Ron Greenwood to give a talk on Football or Richard Nixon on Investigatory Journalism.

When it was agreed that our second speaker should be approached with the suggestion that he should come south and talk to us several Committee members actually smiled and stopped trying to talk while I was. Eli Hemmingway lives in Batley in Yorkshire and, although a practicing member of the B.K.A., he has previously addressed the Society on the subject of Characins. He is a recognised expert on this subject and this time he will be speaking to us about the Tetras in general but more especially the breeding and rearing of the Neon Tetra and the production of a new and simple fry food.

Once again BASS brings you two of the big names in Fish Keeping. Ticket application forms will either be included with this letter or will be sent under separate cover in the very near future. Please, this time, lets all do our best to bring the contents of this meeting to the attention of all the Societies and other fish keepers with whom we associate.

The Annual Dinner will be held in the Members' Restaurant at the Zoo during the evening of the 7th October. In fact, their will be just time to collect our wives from the Oxford Street shops and get them back to the Zoo after the afternoon's proceedings are concluded. The price of tickets for the Dinner have been kept as low as possible and it is hoped that as many people as possible joining us for the Conference will remain and enjoy the evening that follows. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

There are two new members for inclusion in the Members' Directory:-

John Gilbert Esq.,  
1 Highfield Cottages,  
Street End,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

David Hensman, Esq.,  
1 Windmill Meadows,  
Aythorpe Roding,  
Dunmow, Essex.  
Tele. White Roding 275

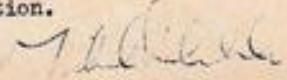
Mr Gilbert has twenty tanks in a fish house and is interested in cichlids and other large fishes. He also grows and cooks his own vegetables.

Mr Hensman is the latest member of the Harlow A.S. to join us. He has fourteen aquariums in a fish house and keeps cichlids, barbs and, recently, marines.

Ron Forder has written me a long letter stating that he wishes to resign his membership when his current subscription runs out. Its a great shame that a recognised expert in a particular field leaves our ranks, but as Ron explains, so few of our members appear to be interested in aquatic plants and their propagation that Ron feels he is on his own. Despite his withdrawal from our Society, Ron states that he is still very willing to assist any plant growers with problems and we can't have any fairer than that.

Well thats all for another month. Please do your best to sell hundreds of tickets for the meeting on 7th October. I'm sure that two such worthy speakers will never be together again at the same function.

yours sincerely

  
Michael Shadrack, General Secretary.