

Southern.

**NEWPORT AQUARISTS'
SOCIETY**



Monthly Bulletin

ALWAYS THE USUAL—USUALLY THE UNUSUAL



POODLE PARLOUR and AQUARIA

(D. M. Hill, S. C. Parker)

TROPICAL FISH

ALL TYPES OF EQUIPMENT, TANK STANDS & HOODS

OVER 100 VARIETIES ALWAYS IN STOCK

OPEN SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m.



**54 COMMERCIAL ROAD
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Political rationalism and regional government are subjects which although topical, have no bearing on our hobby of fishkeeping. A parallel however, does exist with the formation of an organisation covering South Wales and the West of England Aquatic Societies. Recently, representatives of the Newport Society joined delegates from most of the societies in the area at a meeting of the S.W. & W. of E. A.S. Federation held in Bristol. The meeting was very well attended under the chairmanship of Mr. Frank Brown, the well known exhibitor. Plans are well advanced for the formation of a strong panel of judges and speakers available in the region. Whether or not the Federation will supplant the F.B.A.S. in this area remains to be seen, evidence of such an intention was fairly clear, and several well known members of the latter body were absent from the meeting. Your editor feels that there is a need for a locally based 'Parent Body', since communications with, and representation at F.B.A.S. meetings has always been difficult, for obvious geographical reasons, and with the expulsion from the F.B.A.S., recently, of our delegate, not we must add, because he was our delegate, but for other reasons, the difficulties mentioned are further increased. Some months ago, your committee decided to send delegates to Bristol, and to withhold further action until such time as was deemed expedient. Further discussion on this matter will be held, and members will be informed accordingly.

Elsewhere in this issue, appears a reminder that our December meeting will be the A.G.M. Copies of the Society's constitution containing all conditions and rules governing the running of the Society will be available at the November meeting. Members wishing to make proposals must comply with the rules at present in force. See Secretary's report, this issue.

NEWPORT AQUARISTS' SOCIETY - COMMITTEE 1968.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except where specifically stated) at the R.A.O.B. Club, Havelock Street, Stow Hill, Newport, at 7.30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from any committee member.

Chairman (& Mag. Editor)
 Mr. T.G. Wall,
 3 Wyeverne Road,
 Newport, Mon.
 Tel: 74578

Secretary
 Mr. I. G. Phillips,
 34 Brangwyn Crescent,
 Newport, Mon.

Show Secretary
 Mr. M.J. Parry,
 45 Western Drive,
 Gabalfa, Cardiff.
 Tel: Cdf. 66573.

Treasurer
 Mr. J. Lowndes,
 14 Gaer Park Avenue,
 Newport, Mon.

Junior Representative
 Master A. Berry,
 81 Howe Circle,
 Newport, Mon.

Other Members:-

Mr. E. Myer, Mr. N. Newsway, Mr. J. Parsons,
 91 Constable Drive, 71 Vancouver Drive, 106 Stockton Road,
 Newport, Mon. Newport, Mon. Newport, Mon.

Mr. A. Payne, 56 St. Fagans Rise,
 Fairwater, Cardiff, Tel: Cdf. 565352

.....
 Librarian:- Mr. J. Overland, 86 Risca Road, Newport, Mon. Tel: 67669.

The tank is now ready for the happy couple. (See part 3, last months issue.) There may be variations on the set up, but here I stick my neck out on two points, water depth no more than six inches, and a temperature of 80 deg.F. I am about to stick the same neck out again. Firstly most authorities having got this far, advise conditioning the fish on live foods, etc. To me this always implies that the fish were not kept continually in condition until required for spawning. If fish are being properly kept they will be in condition. Depending on the species of fish to be bred, all that should be required is temporary separation.

Secondly is the method of introducing a pair of fighters into the breeding tank. On the face of it there doesn't appear to be any problem, but judging by the number of queries on this point I get at society meetings and from individuals I meet there is a problem. People say to me "My male killed the female before the spawning took place, what went wrong?" I usually ask them "Did you introduce female to male or male to female in the breeding tank, or did you put them in together?" The answer usually is the male went in first. When I first became interested in fighters and their breeding, I had my share of troubles, due to the killing of the female by the male. Luckily, at that time good fish of either sex were fairly easy to come by. Despite this, I began to take greater care in observing the behaviour of the fish to see what, if anything, could be done to cut down on the loss of females. Eventually I concluded that I had the answer. Nowadays when good pairs are difficult to obtain, the loss of a female can be a disaster, so perhaps my conclusions may be of some help to those who have similar trouble, due to the female coming to an untimely end as a result of the attentions of the male.

I observed that it was unnecessary for a female to be present to trigger off the breeding instinct of the male. Sometimes a rise in temperature, a change of water or tank would be enough to start him building a bubble nest. On other occasions, no such stimulus was necessary, the male would start building his nest for no apparent reason whatsoever. The female, on the other hand, would take some time to settle down when transferred to the breeding tank, and if the male had already been transferred to the tank, the chances are that he had already started building the bubble nest, indicating his readiness to spawn. It is at this point that trouble can start. The male is settled in, and the physiological and biological sequence leading to spawning has already begun. This is not so for the female, she may take longer to settle down and may need time for the sequence to begin. Should this take a long time it can lead to frustration on the part of the male, and unless the aquarist is watching she may be killed.

I reasoned therefore, that the best idea would be to transfer the female to the breeding tank first, and let her settle down and get used to her surroundings. Sometimes I would put other fish in with her, when I had reached the stage later, of having several females available for spawning. I would put them all in together for a day before spawning, and then when I was ready, I would remove all but the one I had selected as being most suitable. Then, and only then, would I introduce the male, and using this system I lost no more females, providing the female was mature and ready for spawning. I emphasise this, as no matter what system is used, it is doomed to failure if the female is too young, and not filled with reserves. Other variations of the system I used are to partition the tank and place male on one side and female on the other, so that they can see each other,

/continued on page 4

Dear Sir, Many thanks for the current Newport A.S. magazine, and also for mention of our Marine Show, Inter-Aqua '68. In your 'Questions for the Forum' (Oct.68), a 2% solution of copper sulphate is said to be effective in removing spots from clown loaches - it most certainly would - and it would remove the loaches too - only much faster than it removed the spots! I would suggest that the solution should be at the MAXIMUM 0.00005%, or 0.5 parts per million.

Clown loaches are even more susceptible to copper than most other fish and then even they cannot stand higher concentrations than .0002% or 2 parts per million, for any length of time.

In your reported results of the Newport Open Show, the points quoted for the Tropical Marine Class were incorrectly stated as 82, 80, & 79. They should have read 89, 88 & 79½ pts. respectively.

Yours etc. (signed) Gerald Jennings.

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The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Richard Wigg.

17 Ham Lane South,
Llantwit Major, Glam.
CF6 9RP.
3.10.68

T.G. Wall, Esq.,
Chairman, Newport, A.S.

Dear Mr. Wall,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and your members, for honouring me at your Annual Show, like you did, by making me an Honorary Life member of your Society.

This was such a surprise to me that I was taken back for the right thing to say in response, but I do appreciate this so much, and thank you again for this kind gesture.

Yours sincerely,
(signed) Richard Wigg.

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THE SIAMSE FIGHTER (part 4) continued from P.2.

or to keep the male floating in a jar some time before releasing him. If you use this method, be careful not to let him start building a bubble nest in the jar. May I draw an analogy here? That is fighter males are like human males, and fighter females are like human females, in regard to courtship. With one it is 'Any time - any place' - with the other it is 'Coax me a little' !

We will assume now that all is well, and that spawning is about to take place. This follows the, by now, well known anabantid pattern of the male enticing the female below the bubble nest. He embraces her, and the eggs are released and fertilised. Both fish appear to be dazed at this moment, but it is the male who recovers first and gathers the slowly falling eggs and ejects them into the nest. Spawning may take place over a couple of hours, and during each embrace up to a dozen eggs may be released. When the actual spawning process is complete it is better to remove the female immediately, she takes no further part in the hatching and rearing of the fry, and if she ventures too close to the nest she may be killed by the male. At a temperature of 80 deg.F. eggs will hatch in 48 hours, during which period the male will constantly repair the nest and clean the eggs in his mouth, and return any which fall. Incidentally, at the moment I have in front of me the notebook in which I kept a record of events as they happened. I am referring to notes on one typical spawning. Cont.next month.
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Many aquarists, not familiar with current published data on Killie keeping and breeding, often shy away from them, as do dealers who are not familiar with the simple techniques of displaying them for public viewing. Many aquarists will hesitantly admit in public that they would like to have killies, and after consulting their standard reference, whatever it may be, will eventually lose all enthusiasm. This is due to the fact that most of the standard references refer to them (killies) as though they were still in their natural habitat. Basically, the standard publications always stipulate that to keep them alive they must have soft, acid water and live foods only, and that they are not suited for community aquaria; these texts, having been written in the 'Good Old Days' have not been revised to conform to current proven facts on maintaining killies far removed from their wild ancestors. Unfortunately they remain to be tagged as 'touchy' and anyone associated with them is some kind of a 'nut' who spawns fish different from the norm.

Having a rather limited amount of space (apartment dweller) and a strong desire to possess and spawn every 400 plus species known to science, I limited myself to a dozen species, these pairs are housed permanently in aquaria ranging in size from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 gallons, most of these species are also spawned in these aquaria and will remain in them until they eventually die. Within these four walls there is usually a spawning mop, floating plants, sand or peat moss, depending upon the spawning habits of the individual species. Plant spawners not having a reputation of eating their eggs will have floating plants while the egg eaters will have a nylon spawning mop to control egg safety.

All tanks are bare on the bottom, except for the bottom spawners. Attempting to keep the fish in good health, a variety of foods are fed:- frozen brine shrimp, live newly hatched shrimp, fresh frozen beef heart, fresh frozen chicken liver, live wingless fruit fly, and white worms make up the mainstay of their diet. Although controls are used in the preparation of the beef heart and chicken liver to eliminate fouling of the water, there is still a touch of cloudiness when the frozen foods are fed, this could be eliminated through the use of filtration, but being lazy and believing that killies prefer still water, all filtration was discontinued in the breeding tanks, and sponge filters used primarily in the rearing tanks, this has proved to be effective, and has not created any problems envisioned at the time I decided to discontinue filtration.

So far, disease has been non-existent, egg production acceptable and general development good, the water is usually changed twice a week, but never less than once weekly. This is normally accomplished with 24 - 48 hour aged water of 7.4pH and 8 DH (German). The amount changed varies from 10% to 80% depending upon the individual condition of each tank, this same procedure also applies to the rearing jars and bowls in which the fry live before going to a rearing tank, in this case, the fry get a 100% change of water weekly, using the same water as previously stated.

So, for those who have been hesitant in getting their first pair of killies, because of their 'touchy' requirements, do not hesitate any longer, they are no different from any type of fish, and all they require is a little care and affection, and will present you with many young in return.

Re-printed from the Horsforth A.S. Magazine, July '68.

(See editor's note overleaf.)

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"A Guide to Tropical Fish", compiled and edited by N.H. and S.K. Mager.

There are, nowadays, many more publications dealing with all aspects of fish-keeping than ever before. The reason for this is obviously due to the continuing increase in popularity of our hobby. Most of us are familiar with the more expensive hard covered works, and also with the smaller, cheaper, and usually more restricted types. The title above, however, is both cheap and comprehensive. It is on American's eye view, sized only, it would seem, at the American market, since all references to statistics etc, make no allowance for 'foreign' weights and measures. As an example, the weight of a gallon of water is given as 8 lbs. (An imperial gallon, of course, weighs 10 lbs.)

Notwithstanding this occasional need for 'translation', the book is a more or less complete treatment, useful for tyro and old hand alike. There are 23 chapters dealing with everything from a potted history of the hobby since the orientals first kept ornamental goldfish, to classification and catalogue of species. The book is profusely illustrated in black and white, and very well indexed. As far as I can tell, the information in general is accurate, but there are one or two places where a non-American can be misled. As previously mentioned, there is the weight of water, and also the authors inform readers that many species can be easily kept in unheated aquaria, at room temperatures. This is puzzling, until one realises that in the U.S.A. central heating is the rule rather than the exception.

The co-authors are not expert fishkeepers, they have drawn heavily on the expertise of several professional aquarists and have merely put together a well-knit framework of other peoples efforts.

Also by the same 'authors' - "The complete Letter writer", "Household" and "Office" Encyclopedise, and a "Complete Guide to Home Sewing"!

Price - 50 cents. (Price in U.K? - don't ask us, my wife got it for 1/3d. in a super-market, and they had only ONE!)

Published by Washington Square Press INC. New York.

T.G.W.

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SOCIETY NOTES (Continued).

BIRTHS: To Mr. & Mrs. Wally Chapman, on Wednesday October 2nd.
 a son, Mark. (7lb.15oz.) Another winner for Wally!

MARRIAGES: PARRY - BROWN
 On Saturday 19th October, 1968, at All Saints Church,
 Llandaff North, Cardiff. Michael to Beverly.
 Congretulations and Best Wishes for the future.

LOST At the OPEN SHOW - One Neon Tetra in show jar, apply John Lowndes.
 (Small daughter grieving)
 Also three blue and white tea-clothes. Apply Editor.

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KILLIES (Cont.) Newport Editors Note.

At the conclusion of his article, Mr. Anascavage appealed to any interested aquarist (Killie-nuts or otherwise) in the U.K. to contact him by letter (or tape) at:-

P.O. Box 17351, Lockbourn A.F.B. Ohio 43217, U.S.A.

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Are you aware that nearly all fishes wear clothes? Usually of a scaled design with a background of spots, stripes, triangles, etc. overlaid with a fine mucous slime, and are always an excellent fitting garment, allowing for complete freedom of movement, especially in the dorsal and caudal regions, combined with splendid wearing qualities, which serves to remind you that you also can have clothes with all the desirable attributes, by consulting your fishy friend :

RALPH

**126 SHAFTESBURY STREET, Newport, Mon.
Telephone : 67212**

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