

Aug 1967

Newport  
Aquarists'  
Society



Monthly  
Bulletin



Editor : T. G. WALL, 3 Wyeverne Road, Newport, Mon.



EDITORIAL.

AUGUST 1967.

There is further evidence this month that keeping tropical fish is becoming more and more widespread. At least one of the giant 'mail-order houses' include several items of equipment necessary to the hobby in their recently issued Autumn & Winter catalogue. These include a stainless steel glazed aquarium (one size only 24"), a ditto hood (rather expensive), a combined heater & thermostat, and a well known power filter. Furthermore a water-proof watch is shown elsewhere in the issue apparently immersed with a pair of red swordtails!

The inference to be drawn is obvious, these people are not in business for fun, it must mean that the market is growing.

'Fishy News', the monthly publication of the Plymouth Society last month celebrated its 15th consecutive birthday anniversary. Congratulations are extended to Editor Easterbrook and his 'staff'. - Lets hope we last half as long!

Incidentally we read that an ambition of the Plymouth committee is to reach a total of 100 PAID-UP members at one time. Our ambition is to get all our members to PAY UP.

It has been suggested by member John Leder, that the Society start a 'library' of aquatic publications. This would involve contributions or loans of books, magazines etc., to the Society, in order that members may borrow same, say for the period between meetings. Ideas, comments and/or contributions will be welcomed by your committee. A possible further source of such material would be ex-members and people who have given up the hobby. Do you know any?

NEWPORT AQUARISTS' SOCIETY founded 1963.

President R. Harris Esq., F.S.A.S.

Vice Presidents Roy Hughes Esq., M.P. : A.R.G. Pocock Esq., O.St.J.

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Jack Burgwin,  
22 Sutton Road,  
Newport. Tel:67361

SECRETARY

Mr. Ivor Phillips,  
34 Branquin Crescent,  
Newport.

TREASURER

Mr. Phillip Tidball,  
502 Chepstow Road,  
Newport. Tel:71133

SHOW SECRETARY

Mr. Michael Parry,  
45 Western Drive,  
Gabalra, Cardiff. Tel: 66573  
Office Hours 25626.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mr. Terry Wall,  
3 Wyeverne Road,  
Newport.

Junior REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. Colin Lewis,  
20 Walford Street,  
Newport. Tel:51784.

MEMBERS

Mr. Glyn James,  
6 St. Peters Close,  
Peterstone,  
Wentloog, Mon.  
Tel: Costleton 525.

Mr. Leo Bennerman,  
47 Groves Road,  
Newport. Tel:67395.





There is further evidence this month that keeping tropical fish is becoming more and more widespread. At least one of the giant 'mail-order houses' include several items of equipment necessary to the hobby in their recently issued Autumn & Winter catalogue. These include a stainless steel glazed aquarium (one size only 24"), a ditto hood (rather expensive), a combined heater & thermostat, and a well known power filter. Furthermore a water-proof watch is shown elsewhere in the issue apparently immersed with a pair of red swordtails!

The inference to be drawn is obvious, these people are not in business for fun, it must mean that the market is growing.

'Fishty News', the monthly publication of the Plymouth Society last month celebrated its 15th consecutive birthday anniversary. Congratulations are extended to Editor Easterbrook and his 'staff'. - Lets hope we last half as long!

Incidentally we read that an ambition of the Plymouth committee is to reach a total of 100 PAID-UP members at one time. Our ambition is to get all our members to PAY UP.

It has been suggested by member John Loder, that the Society start a 'library' of aquatic publications. This would involve contributions or loans of books, magazines etc., to the Society, in order that members may borrow same, say for the period between meetings. Ideas, comments and/or contributions will be welcomed by your committee. A possible further source of such material would be ex-members and people who have given up the hobby. Do you know any?

NEWPORT AQUARISTS' SOCIETY founded 1963.

President R. Harris Esq., F.B.A.S.

Vice Presidents Roy Hughes Esq., M.P. : A.R.G. Peacock Esq., O.St.J.

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Jack Burgwin,  
22 Sutton Road,  
Newport. Tel:67361

TREASURER

Mr. Phillip Tidball,  
502 Chepstow Road,  
Newport. Tel:71133

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mr. Terry Wall,  
3 Wyverne Road,  
Newport.

MEMBERS

Mr. Glyn James,  
6 St. Peters Close,  
Peterstone,  
Wentloog, Mon.  
Tel: Castleton 525.

SECRETARY

Mr. Ivor Phillips,  
34 Branquin Crescent,  
Newport.

SHOW SECRETARY

Mr. Michael Parry,  
45 Western Drive,  
Gabalfe, Cardiff. Tel: 66573  
Office Hours 25626.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Colin Lewis,  
20 Walford Street,  
Newport. Tel:51784.

Mr. Leo Benneman,  
47 Groves Road,  
Newport. Tel:67395.

HEMIGRAMMUS and HYPHESOBRYCON.

Each year around Open Show time we see that there is a class set aside for fish of the two groups indicated above. These two very long group names actually apply to some of the smallest fish to be found in the aquarium. It is because these fish are so small, in a large class of fish called characins, that they are separated so that they may be judged with their equals. The classes contain some of the most beautiful fish to be found, but because of their size are seen at their best in a school. In a series of articles I will try to cover all the popular members and some of the less common ones.

Undoubtedly the most well known member is the neon tetra (*Hyphesobrycon Innesi*) so I will leave this one to the end. Instead I have chosen to start with the Serpae Tetra - *H. Serpae*. The name *Hyphesobrycon* comes from two Greek words, *Hyphes* - little and *Brycon* - tear in pieces. *Serpae* stems from the fact that the fish was first found in the town of Serpe on the Amazon. The Serpae tetra is one of the smallest characins, seldom exceeding one and a half inches in length, and is an ideal size for a 24" community tank. If kept in a well planted aquaria with strong overhead light it has a beauty all its own. As previously stated it is at its best in a school of its own species and unless completely starved of small live foods is a peaceful inhabitant of the community tank.

When in condition the whole of the body of this fish becomes suffused with brick red, and has a beautiful sheen. There is a dark spot behind the gill cover, and the anal fin has black markings. Sexing these fish when young is extremely difficult, but as they reach maturity the female fills with roe and becomes noticeably rounder in the body. In some cases the male can be distinguished by a slightly broader anal fin and more pronounced markings. Breeding is even more difficult, and some attention must be paid to pH and hardness to be successful and get satisfactory results. Courtship is sometimes started by the female, but when roused the male dances around her, fins vibrating, and making sudden dashes in her direction. She then chooses a thicket of fine leafed plants, and the male moves in alongside her, sometimes butting her abdomen with his own. The female then releases the amber coloured, semi-adhesive eggs in streams, until anything from 200-300 have been spawned. On completion of the egg laying the parent fish should be removed.

At a temperature of 80-82 deg.F. development of the eggs is rapid, the fry emerging in about 24 hours. The fry cling to the plants making slight movements until they have absorbed the yolk sac and developed swim bladders. This takes 3-4- days. The young fish then need the smallest of foods and green algae water is recommended with fresh cultures of infusoria. Even when fully grown this fish has a dainty mouth and cannot take large food, although it possesses teeth, and could tear off pieces of food. They prefer the smaller live food such as daphnia, cyclops, micro worm and brine shrimp, and plenty of this will soon bring these fish to tip top condition.

Next Month: Glowlight tetra and flame fish.

-----  
A certain London pet shop recently displayed an empty aquarium in its window. The aquarium carried this notice : - "SOLD-FISH".....from  
the Southend, Leigh & Dist, A.S. quarterly journal  
-----





SOCIETY NOTES - continued

explained that size matching was an important point with the judges. The evenings Table Show was well supported in view of the classes.

The Secretary closed by expressing pleasure at seeing so many new faces, and hoped that they had found the evenings programme of interest. Next months talk on Tropical Marines was also mentioned. The attendance was 29.

Notes on Table Shows

During last months meeting the question of entry in table shows on non-members was raised. It was agreed that there was no ruling against non-members benching fish, but it was stressed that no points would be awarded in the Trophy competition until that person became a member, and that no retrospective awarding of points would be made. The situation was rather unusual, and it was hoped that persons benching fish in such circumstances would become members within three months.

Results of Table Show for catfish & cichlids, Tues. 4th July.

- Judge : Mr. M. J. Parry.
- Catfish: 1) Miss P. Morgan (*Pimelodella gracilis*, 86 pts.)  
2) Mr. T. G. Wall (Bronze catfish, 78 pts.)  
3) Mr. A.J. Payne (*Ayatus* sp. 77½ pts.)
- Cichlids 1) Mr. L. Sedler (Brown acara, 84 pts.)  
2) Mr. J. Overland (Brown Acara, 81 pts.)
- Joint 3) Mr. A.J. Payne (*Kribensis*, 78½ pts.)  
Mr. J. Lowndes (brown Acara, 78½ pts.)

Judges Summary: The standard of fishes on the bench was very good, this being reflected in the pointings, some of which are given above. Pointings ranged from 84 to 86 in the catfish class, and from 68 to 84 in the cichlid class. The winner in the catfish class, a *pimelodella gracilis*, owned by Miss Morgan was undoubtedly the best fish on the bench in both classes, and although it could have been larger, its colouration was intense, its finnage almost perfect, with excellent condition and deportment.

In this class two old favourites were exhibited, the plecostomus, and the bumble-bee catfish. The former, whilst showing good colouration, was small in size, (3½-4 ins. in length). Plecostomus grow to 18 ins. or more, for this reason the exhibit was disappointed. The same can be said of the bumble-bee catfish, though whilst not attaining such astronomical sizes it is certainly capable of doubling the size of this particular exhibit. Whilst remarking on bumble-bee catfish, it should be realized that these are predatory creatures, certainly not to be trusted with anything smaller than a full sized rosy barb. To house it with guppies etc. is courting trouble. I fully realise that there are exceptions to this rule, and no doubt I shall receive a letter informing me that someone has kept it with baby guppies, baby fighters, baby poeciliids, and baby piranhas for some time without any trouble at all. However, it is exceptions to the rule of this kind that makes fish-keeping all the more interesting.

Turning to the cichlid class, the prize list is dominated by one species - the brown acara. The first two in the class were very good exhibits, being comparable in size, finnage, condition and deportment. Mr. Sedlers fish had the edge for one reason - that of colouration. At the time of judging its colours were being brilliantly displayed,

cont/





## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

SATURDAY AUGUST 12th Barry A.S. Open Show.

Memorial Hall, Barry, Glam. Admission 1/- & 6d.

Donching by 12 noon. Open to the Public 4.30p.m.

Awards 6.30.p.m. Entry forms are available from Ivor Phillips.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14th. Llantwit Major A.S. Annual Dinner.

Crosskeys Hotel, Llantwit Major. 11/6d.

### SOCIETY NOTES

Judges summary - continued.

though it is worth noting that later these had completely faded. No doubt if the fish had been judged at this time it is unlikely that it would have attained its rightful position - winner of the class. Such is luck! Mr. J. Lowndes score was possibly younger than the others, and suffered therefore for size and colouration. All in all, however, it was a good fish, and one to be watched in the future.

The 'odd man out' in the class, the kribensis owned by Mr. A. Payne suffered through its lack of size, and the fact that it came third with this handicap speaks very highly of the fishes other qualities. For colour it was the best fish on the table.

In conclusion I would compliment the exhibitors for the high standard obtained by their fishes, a compliment which is consistent with the many awards won by members of this society during this and previous years.

### PUZZLE CORNER.

The world of the aquarium is full of colour, so the following posers are put to see if you can identify these fish, all of which have a colour in their common name. The fish come from various families, and no colour is repeated.

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) AQUIDENS PORTALISGRENSIS   | b) HYPIESSORRYCON FLAVESUS |
| c) APHYOSEMION OERULEUM       | d) CORYDORAS AENEUS        |
| e) HYPIESSORRYCON BIFASCIATUS | f) BARBUS NIGROFASCIATUS   |
| g) GASTEROPHELECUS LOEVI      | h) ETROPLUS MACULATUS      |
| i) NANNOSTOMUS ANGIOLATUS     | j) GYNOCCRYALBUS TERRETTZI |

Some of these will take a little finding and a couple have alternative common names.

A list of members sending in correct answers to the Editor will be printed next month.

STCP PRESS. The International Marine Study Soc., (formerly the Marine Study A.S.) will be presenting an exhibition of tropical & cold water marines at our Open Show, together with a display of equipment for marine fishkeeping.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. R. S. Wigg (Llantwit Major) who recently won prize cards at International Guppy Shows in Copenhagen and Berlin.

FOR SALE..... 4 track 'Fidelity Playmatic' Tape Recorder. £25.

R.Harris, 126 Shaftesbury St., Newport. Tel: 67212.

WANTED..... Members or ex-members SURPLUS show jars. Full price offered. Secretary.

FOR SALE..... Advertising space. For terms apply Editor.



lip.  
.....  
doubt  
d.  
luck!  
red  
ood  
A.  
bird  
gh  
with  
us  
.....  
ing  
we  
and

*EVERYTHING FOR THE AQUARIST*

AQUARIUMS, BOWLS, AIR PUMPS, HEATERS AND THERMOSTATS. FOOD BY ALL THE LEADING MAKERS, HYKRO, McLYNN'S, BROSIUM, TETRAMIN, etc.

FOR THE POND—PLASTIC & FIBRE GLASS POOLS AND CASCADES PLASTOLENE, JURALENE & POLYTHENE POOL LINERS, OTTER FOUNTAIN AND WATERFALL KITS.

GOLDFISH & FANCY COLDWATER FISH FOR AQUARIUM & POOL always in Stock. (Ask for our Water-Garden List)

**A. J. NORTH**  
of MAINDEE SQUARE - NEWPORT

Phone 5 8 7 5 6

.....  
ing  
we  
and

***INEREST DECORATORS LTD,***

Telephone: 51709

**Painting and Decorating  
Contractors**

.....  
.....  
.....

25 DART ROAD BETTWS  
NEWPORT MONMOUTHSHIRE



VISIT  
THE  
•  
AQUARIA  
•  
AT THE  
LITTLE ZOO  
WHITSON

Near Goldcliffe

•  
OPEN DAILY 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
•

Adults 2/6d.

Children 1/6d.