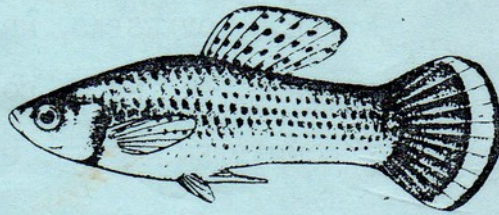


**S**OUTHERN

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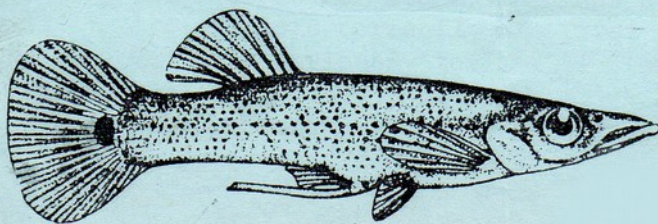
**A**QUATIC

**G**ROUP



JOURNAL 15

1982



**YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 1981/2**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Mr J. DAWES</b>	<b>(53)</b>
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<b>P.R.O. UK</b>	<b>Mr J. CORBETT</b>	<b>(118)</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	<b>Mr P. MOYE</b>	<b>(52)</b>

## FROM THE SECRETARY/ACTING EDITOR

As you will have seen from the AGM Notes I have not accepted nomination for the post of Secretary at the forthcoming AGM. as I feel that it is time someone else had a chance to do the job and may be he will get better support and less aggravation than I have had.

I have had and continue to have the best interests of SLAG first in my actions at all times, although it is obvious that some members do not believe this. I feel that SLAG has done an enormous amount in the 4 years since it was formed, but I do feel that it is time that all members gave it their full support instead of continuing to put self interest first. SLAG was formed to further the interests of livebearers not aquarists.

it is a pity that all members do not view it in this way.

If I am elected as Journal Editor I will continue to further the interests of SLAG and livebearing fishes to the best of my ability.

Have you returned your voting slip? If you have not yet done so please do. SLAG is your association and you have a right to say how and by whom it is run.

I am sorry that more members did not support SLAG in the first International Livebearer Show that we have held. Obviously such lack of support puts any future event of this type in doubt. I did not believe the critics who said we were wasting our time, but after the event I begin to wonder. We did make some mistakes in the planning of the Show, but we can only learn from these and hopefully go on to a much better event.

As far as the Journal is concerned, I hope that I have produced two that have been to a reasonable standard, and I am pleased that more members have responded to to request for items, opinions etc. If I have read the opinions correctly the first one was acceptable. You will obviously tell me if I was wrong.

Healthy tanks,  
Noble (120) .

## Chairman's Page

A.G.M time almost here again, and as you will have seen by the lists posted to you by the Secretary. We have many decisions to make, hopefully or constitution may be suitable for a few years. We have elections for two posts and require nominations for two other posts.

As an organisation that has a spread countrywide we need this to be reflected within our Committee, so please consider whether you can help. If you would like to take a part don't be shy. We have once again this year had problems, so need members who can solve these difficulties to get involved.

The magazine should now get back to normal, with two nominees we have a choice, and hopefully we should end up with a back up team.

The Slides which we were to distribute earlier this year, will now be distributed at a later date once we can liaise with our member in Germany who is handling the production for us, meanwhile we have decided to produce and distribute slides from our own resources, (10 by the AGM). The printing on the slides will be curtailed unfortunately.

Our first SLAG Open Show and BAF are imminent and will be over by the time that most of you read this, I take it for granted that both will be successful in all ways. For us these events are times when our members can communicate with one another, and make and renew friendships.

There is one matter which I am a little concerned about and this is an attitude which has surfaced which is opposed to the traditional policy of SLAG to belong to all, the main organisations within the hobby and not let the 'Politics' divide us, in fact our friendships have helped to break down the divisions within our hobby. But recently some of our members pulled out after they had agreed to put on a SLAG stand at an Open Show on 'Political' grounds, fortunately other members stepped in and saved our reputation. With this in mind I trust, whichever group stages the next SLAG Open Show bears this in mind and introduces a wider spread of Judges in our annual Show.

Best wishes to all our members.

Mervyn Strange (1)

**Fish House or NOT**      Alastair Purdie. (194)

How long did it take you to progress from one tank to a fish house? — for me it took 10 years.

My interest started by seeing a tank in my cousin's fish and chip shop, which he installed to amuse the queue waiting for their cod and sixpennth. The first tank I called my own appeared in my flat in Peebles, then moved to Dunfermline in 1973 where it grew to ten tanks, I joined Dunfermline and District A.S. and was a member for about 3 years. London called me and we moved to Brentwood, Essex, — back down to one tank. After a year in that house we moved to Hornchurch, Essex, — up to three tanks.

By chance I went the East London A. and P.A. Open Breeders Show and as a consequence joined their ranks for a couple of years and regularly attended their meetings which I thoroughly enjoyed. I fondly hope that there may be some who are still members who remember the 'Jock' who came for a short time then disappeared.

After four years in the 'Smoke', which brought my total to 25 years in the 'Promised Land'. I returned to Scotland to South Queensferry, and then to Dunfermline again and back to my old club where I found a number of members who remembered me.

I have always kept livebearers and have bred them and other freshwater tropicals - Angels, Acaras, Gouramis. About a year ago George Kane (31) gave a talk to the club at Dunfermline and showed slides of Goodeidae and I decided that livebearers where the type to keep. I joined SLAG a year ago and have yet to miss a Scottish Group meeting.

After six moves in as many years we decided to stick and the desire for a fish house became strong. My garage is long, brick built, flat roofed and but for a platform six inches in level above the rest of the floor, would take 2 cars in tandem. This platform I thought was just the place for a workshop or fish house, and so fish house it had to be. It is 8' x 7.....

(Contd. Page 5)

## To Fish House or not - Alastair Purdie (194)

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## NOTES

Scottish Area.	Friday, 3rd December, 1982. 7.30pm, A.G.M. at Kirkcaldy Aquarist Club Rooms at Kirkcaldy.
Yorkshire Area	Saturday 13th November 1982. 3pm. A.G.M. Thorne Town Hall, Thorne,
Essex Area	Monday, 6th December, 1982. Social evening Phill Jones. (205)

### National Annual General Meeting.

Sandleford Hospital Social Club, Newbury, Berks

Commences 3.00 pm Prompt.

Refreshments available. To assist the caterers please let the Secretary know whether you will be attending. Hopefully as many members as possible will attend, So that a truly representative view is available.

ELECTION VOTING AT THE AGM WILL BE BY BALLOT PAPER  
for those contested posts advertised. This is to avoid confusion and ambiguity in voting.

The inner walls, have an outer and ,inner skin of marine ply with 3" of polystyrene between and a double layer of thousand gauge polythene sheeting inside the inner skin. The two brick walls and the ceiling are lined with 3 polystyrene and marine ply. Heating will be a 2KW electric fan heater thermostatically controlled and lighting a five foot fluorescent tube time controlled. Initially it will take three banks of six tanks in three sizes end on to the wall supported on a 'Dexion' frame. There is room for doubling up the tank capacity plus a bit.

I hope to be operational in about two weeks (Editors note - Now is) and do my bit to increase the world of livebearers.

I still am wondering about condensation and lighting times and temperature control, but perhaps if allowed I will let others have the benefit of my experience when it has been built up in a few months time. I have seen several fish houses, and all are different and there appears to be no standard work on the subject. If any member would like to write to me I can assure them of a reply.

### **The Brine Shrimp Bonanza Colin Howe (5) .**

Brine shrimp is to me, a livefood that unfortunately my fish have to go without. I have no doubt that it is a high quality food, but there are so many others that are far less expensive to purchase and produce, and in my opinion give results equal to those of brine shrimp.

Several of my closest aquatic friends are big users of brine shrimp, and I must say that during 30 years in this hobby I have made several attempts to justify its expense, but every time I return to my faithful worm cultures. The advantages are Many:-

- a. Cheap to set up: 50 to 70p for a starter culture.
- b. Cheap to feed of `instant` oats every month
- c. Easy to feed: no build up of salts, any 'instant oat falling into tank can also be eaten.

(contd page 10)



Livebearer Show - 31st October, 1982. - Results.

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
1.	F.S.Draycott 76 $\frac{1}{2}$	F.S.Draycott 74 $\frac{1}{2}$	G.Kane 74
2.	J&K Corbett 76	R.MacIntosh 75	P.A.Moye 74
3.	R.MacIntosh 74	P.A.Moye 72	F.S.Draycott 71
4.	R.Cutts 78	J&K Corbett 76	K.Clayton 75
5.	J.McFall 75	F.S.Draycott 72	J.Lynch 71
6.	J.Lynch 74		
7.	F.S.Draycott 74	s.Wilson 73	D.Barrett 71
8.	F.S.Draycott 73	F.S.Draycott 74	D.Thompson 70
9.	F.S.Draycott 71		
10.	A.Palmer 81***	J.McFall 80	T.Stansfield 79
11.	D.Barrett 79	Mr&MrsMarshall 78	T.Smith 76
12.	P.A.Moye 78	P.Noble 77	D.Barrett 76
13.	J&K Corbett 73	M.Strange 71	R.MacIntosh 70
14.	M.Strange 73	D.Thompson 71	F.S.Draycott 70
15.	J&K Corbett 76	P.Noble 75	F.S.Draycott 69
16.	Mrs Anderson 72		
17.	Mrs Anderson 74	M.Strange 73	
18.	Mrs Anderson 72	J.Lynch 71	M.Clarke 70
19.	F.S.Draycott 71		
21.	M.Clarke 72		
22.	D.Barrett 71		
23.	M&P Jordan 76	A.Palmer 74	D.Thompson 73
25.	J.Riley 73	T.Stansfield 71	F.S.Draycott 69
26.	J.Brackenbury 71	F.S.Draycott 69	
27.	T.Stansfield 71	J.Riley 69	
28.	A.Palmer 71	MR&MrsMarshall 70	J.Lynch 68
29.	Mr&MrsMarshall 71		
30.	F.S.Draycott 66		
31.	M&P Jordan 73	MR&MrsMarshall 72	J.Riley 68
32.	Mr&MrsMarshall 74	M&P Jordan 73	
34.	MR&MrsMarshall 69	A.Palmer 68	
35.	F.S.Draycott 73	F.S.Draycott 71	P.Lane 70
36.	M.Clarke 65		
37.	G.Kane 79	Mrs Anderson 77	F.S.Draycott 74
38.	K.Clayton 79	K.Clayton 78	T.Smith 75
39.	D&P Imbert 79	F.S.Draycott 75	P.Lane 73
40.	P.Noble 80 **	F.S.Draycott 78	J&K Corbett 77

(Figures after names indicate points achieved)

\*\*\* = Best in Show. Aquarian Trophy. Andrew Palmer with a Male

\*\* = Best Breeders. Practical Fishkeeping Trophy. Pauline Noble

*Handwritten note:* 8/10/82

*Handwritten note:* 6

*Handwritten note:* Mr & Mrs Marshall

<u>Type</u>	<u>Entries</u>
Gambusia Male	4
-"- Female	8
-"- Pairs	6
Poecilia and Micropoecilia Male	9
Female	4
Pairs	1
Xiphophorus Male	8
Female	3
Pairs	1
Goodeidae Male	14
Female	?
Pairs	?
Brachyrhaphis and Heterandria Male	4
Female	4
Pairs	4
Phallichthys Girardinus and Carlhubbsia Male	1
Female	2
Pairs	3
Cnesterodon Neoheterandria Phallocerus) Male	1
Phalloptychus & Poeciliopsis ) Pairs	1
Any other variety Male	1
Female	4
Cultivated Guppy Male	5
Female	2
Pairs	2
Cultivated Molly Male	4
Female	1
Pairs	1
Cultivated Swordtail Male	3
Female	2
Cultivated Flaty Male	2
	3
	1
Breeders 'A'	?
Breeders 'B'	5
Breeders 'C'	?
Breeders 'D'	14
Total Entries	155

odon xantusi.

a team of Normorhamphus celebensis

## Filteration - Nornan Binding (55)

Over the years I have kept tropicals there has been the question of filtration. Many of us in the hobby have gone through the phases of simple corner filters, undergravel, outside, inside, you think of it, one of us has used one of these aids to try and maintain the crystal clear water that is required to keep our fish happy. Whether that is f c o r r e c t s t a t e m e n t I cannot answer as my 'inmates' do not seem less unhappy if there is some suspended matter floating around.

Anyway to come to the point I would like to offer is, 'What do you use to filter the water through to get it crystal clear?'

When I first set up a tank I used an air bubble filter on the outside. The local dealer assured me on the use of activated carbon and filter wool. This unit worked OK until one needed to clean it out. The carbon was sold loose so it was a nylon stocking to keep the carbon from floating around, which in itself acted as a trap, so it usually meant throwing the lot away. It was soon found out it became expensive so one tended not to clean so often, even to the point of trying to wash the 'wool' but. this was never successful, one usually threw it away.

Later on a green nylon matting came on the market as a spawning medium. This was a very good filter medium to go in the filter last. As this was the first trap it caught the larger suspended matter allowing the finer 'stuff' to be trapped in the wool. The matting could be washed out so there was a saving on the wool as one did not use so much.

If one was using a large filter the packing of these became an art by using fine gravel, matting, charcoal and wool.

It's not so many years ago that nylon wool became available, what a breakthrough, it could be washed out, even boiled and we had a chance to use it many more times before it was finally disposed of.

The next innovation was the 'Nylon mat'. This could be.....

Cut to shape to suit a particular filter. In my case one Nova Outside, one Hagen and 10 Corner filter boxes round and square. This filter medium seemed a fair answer for the constant cleaning one attends to with a fish house, but it was still a matter of time before it was replaced with new..

For a Christmas present I was given a Nova for my cichlid tank. The two compartments we packed with matting, nearly half a pack, cut to size 5" x 5". Now because of the turn over of water the inlet compartment was soon full of sludge that built up on the top layer of filter medium, which was forced to the bottom. Restriction of flow was soon evident and the outlet side became clogged and was pushed to the top. Again within a day, no flow. I lived with this for a year and once a week having to clean and throw away nylon matting, not a cheap way considering the amount one needs to operate this Nova filter.

Now the point I would like to make is as follows. To clean the glass sides of my tanks, as I do get an algae growth in the summer, I use the nylon kitchen cloth. They are sold as pads, usually four different colours, measure ; about 6" x 9" thick, coarse texture, pliable and hard wearing. These have been useful to clean the inside of the filters and wrapped around a rod are ideal for tubes of filters, as those brushes won't remove tough algae growth. I decided to cut up some of these to fit the Nova outlet side and see if it would work as a filter medium. Success was not the expression, a miracle more like. I now clean the Nova once a month. Because it does not pack down it maintains a very efficient filter but best of all it washes out easily, cleanly, it can be boiled and after a year still just as useful.

Since then I have adapted all my filters with these pads, cutting the shape to suit round and square corner fillers. The Hagen outside filter has three compartments, three pads to each giving 27 surface areas to trap the debris. One bonus of this filter, you can remove the filter pads I wash them out and replace them without turning it off.

I hope you have found this of interest and I am sure that any of you that try this will find it a very good filter medium.

Good fishkeeping. Norman Binding. (55)

Can you Brine shrimp addicts beat that, I doubt it? I am confident that I can produce fish of good quality, at a far lower cost than when using brine shrimp.

Prove me wrong if you can.

---

### **The Bellyslider Syndrome** - Colin Howe (5)

Once upon a time there used to be female livebearers that gave birth to good healthy fry. Now the common phrase is 'All I get is belly sliders'. Time and time again I hear it, yet I fail to see what the fish are doing wrong. Could it be that we the aquarist fail to understand the basic requirements?

The first reaction of a newborn fry must be to make that vital first trip to the surface, in order to inflate the swim bladder. Bearing this in mind, let us now 'backtrack'. The majority of aquarists whose tanks I have seen maintain gravid females in considerable depths of water (6" plus). I have for some time advocated that this is too deep, and try to keep my females in 2" maximum. It is my opinion that a greater depth than this, enhances the risk of a high proportion of fry suffering from swim bladder deficiencies.

Imagine yourself to be a new born baby!! Would you? Could you? manage to climb that 12' wall made famous on 'SuperStars'? Yet you expect your fry to make such a leap!!

Take advice from the greatest aquarist of them all, - Mother Nature. She doesn't expect gravid females to drop in 'mid stream', but provides them with shallows and thick vegetation. Follow her example, Lower your water level and increase your viable fry.

-----

Editors note: Do you agree? Drop me a line with your opinion, whether it be about this or any other subject.

**'Amarillo'** -- Dave Cheswright (2)

I refer to Ivan's (4) article 'Lights & Limnurgus' in J.13, March, 1982 and the Editors comments below it,

In September, 1981, I was informed by Melvyn (1) that according to Dr. Radda (221) the correct name, for this specie was *Girardinichthys innominatus*. This tied up with the verbal opinion of J.Chambers (159). given to me on more than one occasion. Mervyn also mentioned at that time the name of *Girardinichthys viviphorus* as being a possibility.. We now have a heading of G`... viviparous.

Is it not time that efforts were made to obtain, the correct name for this specie and to have some definite procedure to be adopted in SLAG as regards the acceptance and publication of any name changes? Can I suggest, as an example^that the name of this specie be correctly stated, together with the authority for accepting whatever name is decided on as being the correct one?

Surely it is prime importance for us to be scientifically correct and to inform Members accordingly. This specie is still referred to by some as *Limnurgus innominatus*. The common name of 'Amarillo' still appears to be current in usage.

I therefore plead that Members be given a procedure to be adopted throughout SLAG regarding changes of scientific names and authorities therefore.

EDITORS NOTE:

In defence of the previous Editor and myself would say that if time does not permit the the checking- both the author and reliable authority as to correct names the Editor must publish the spelling used by the author. However I do agree that we should all make efforts to use correct names. '

## MEMBERS WANTS AND OFFERS

G. Seddon (201)

Wanted from someone who is also learning to breed true strains and show guppies, and willing to correspond with me, two trios (1 male, 2 female) blue or black delta tailed guppies of a true Strain. - -

D.Lambert. (103)

Offers. Surplus stock of:-

Carlhubbsia stuarti,  
Poecilia melanogaster,

Poecilia versicolor  
Poecilia vittata,  
Poecilia vivpara,  
Poeciliopsis gracilis,  
Xiphophorus helleri guentheri.  
Xiphophorus helleri catemaco'

D.Cheswright. (2.) H.Preston. (21).

Are anxious to receive information as to members who still have fish of H.Preston`s 1979 collection of Xiphophorus maculatus (Rio Tonala) M6. They have only one female and a few males and feel unless other members who have had these are still maintaining them the strain may be lost.  
Replies with information/offers of fish to either of the above.

This advertising service is free to members, but commercial advertising will not be accepted

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