



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

October 2005

ILFORD
AQUARIST
SOCIETY
2005

October Meeting – Monday the 10th

Last month **Dick Mills** presented his report on the latest Aquarama trade show in Singapore with some very spectacular marine displays and interesting new equipment but once again this, so-called, trade show has done the hobby and itself a great disservice by seeking to promote the export of dye injected fish. The FBAS quite rightly is taking a stand against such monstrosities and banning them from the show bench and while I am sure that none of our members would ever consider purchasing such a fish I trust that you would boycott any shop trading in such stock. This element of the show is particularly alarming since Dick also brought to our attention the pending Animal Welfare Bill, which if passed by parliament will have a serious, possibly fatal, impact on our hobby. The FBAS are encouraging hobbyists to write to their MPs with a set letter in opposition to parts of the Animal Welfare Bill (copy enclosed).

Fry Rearing - Ken Wrightson writes . . .

I would like to thank all the members who took part in our recent fry-rearing competition. The response was very encouraging with 20 entries returned for judging. I know that for some members it is not easy, as they only have a community aquarium and catching them can often disturb plants and generally create mayhem! But it is nice to see fish at our meetings. Thanks for your support and congratulations to:



1st **Gerry smith**, 2nd **Len Smith**, 3rd **Ted Liddell**



THIS MONTH - AUCTION

Our annual auction (which could be the last ever if the above bill is passed) takes place at our next meeting and once again will be ably managed by Mike Shadrack who is again on this side of the pond. Please bring bags and towels and CHANGE.

Southend Leigh and District Aquarist Society (SLADAS) celebrate their 70th year this month and extended an invitation for us to attend, alas too late for last month's newsletter, but you can wish them well at their own auction on the 1st of November at **St. Andrews Church Hall, Southview Drive, Westcliff on Sea** (Usual rules apply; No electrical goods. 20% commission to SLADAS)



Outings

About a dozen members met up at Shotgate Aquatics on the A127 one Sunday last month and then moved on to Wickford Aquatics and Swallow Aquatics. All worth a visit but leave your credit card at home. Photos next page.

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Mike Shadrack writes...

Last week in the rain I drove passed the forest pond at the top of Palmeston Road, Buckhurst Hill. It's actually at the junction of Church Road and High Road, Buckhurst Hill. I noticed a group of Forest Keepers had virtually covered the whole pond with a huge seine net. I would have stopped but it was pouring with rain and they were obviously in the early stages of the operation. I returned half an hour later. They had gathered the net to one side of the pond and put it up on stakes driven into the pond floor, so that the bottom of the net was still under water, and the two of them, in waist high waders, were sorting fish. The net was teeming with fish. Goldfish!! The keepers said that all of the forest ponds were full of goldfish and that the entire operation was designed to clear out these interlopers. Apparently the goldfish interbred with the local carp and reduce and undermine the carp population.

Many of the fish in the net were goldfish x carp hybrids. There were also tench and proper carp. No sticklebacks and little else. The tench and carp were being transferred to Connought Waters. The keepers also said that the ponds had very high nitrate levels because too many people were feeding to much bread to too few ducks. Whilst watching the operation we talked fish. Forest keepers are very concerned that what they call 'White Capped Minnows' and what we call 'Golden Minnows' might get into Forest ponds. They are not endemic, breed like Cichlids and are aggressive, especially when breeding. Keepers fear that they will decimate local fish stocks. The sale of these minnows is now banned but I know that they are several populations in the Society.

So the message from the Forest Keepers is. Please don't put goldfish or Koi in Forest ponds. Do not dispose of Golden Minnows in any open water and don't feed the ducks. We are responsible fishkeepers and as such we need to spread this word.

No time for more this month. See you on Monday the 10th

Rab

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