



# Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next  
Meeting  
2nd April**



## Seems like only last week we had a meeting.....

Probably because, as I write this - it was. The April meeting is a week earlier than usual because our normal night falls on Easter Monday. So mark your diary now.

### Last MONTH

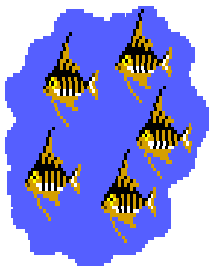
**Dick Mills**, provided an interesting evening on Angel Fish complete with video, which certainly adds another dimension to these evening lantern shows. Bob Esson then gave us a brief rundown on how recent and proposed legislation could affect our hobby. More details can be found on the FBAS website including a (long) list of the species for which you need a licence. These are mostly species that, if released in to the wild in the UK, could conceivably survive and threaten our native species. <http://www.fbas.co.uk/Licence1.html>

### This Month – April

We can look forward to Gino's long awaited talk on aquarium plants. We had a sneak preview of his slides last November and knowing Gino's enthusiasm and determination in all he does I am sure that we are in for a very instructive and worthwhile evening.

### Next Month – May

Ken Wrightson will deliver a talk on Breeding Fish and will show you how he sets up his breeding tanks. Ken maintains the "Breeders book" for the society and requests that you let him know each month of any breeding success and will pass the details to me to publish in our new "Breeders Corner".



### Breeders Corner

Successes so far this year (well those that Ken has reported to Ken) are:

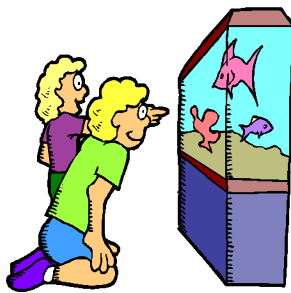
- January: Galaxy Barbs (New import)
- February: Giant Danios and Blue Turquoise Discus
- March: Stolickz Barbs and Red Turquoise Discus

I am sure Ken is not the only one breeding fish so LET HIM KNOW

### Home Aquarium Competition

The first round will take place on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. We are fortunate to have a good number of entries so as in previous years we have split them into two groups and the two judging teams will select the best (in their opinion) from each group to go through to the final on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. This year we WILL get photos of ALL entries and they will all be included in the review that will be presented after the normal business of our AGM in June.

Its still not too late to enter.



**The Pond Competition** will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June (not enough entries to need two rounds). Some "regulars" have not yet put their names down Names to Cliff Tayler ASAP please.



### **The Pond in April – by Mike Brill**



The weather should be warmer now. Frogs and toads have already spawned. The water is turning green. Don't worry about this. The natural small animals will eat a lot and provided you have plenty of oxygenating plants these will use up the nutrients and the green water will clear in May. Any algaecide added to the water will spoil this natural cycle and leave you with algae problems most of the year.

The other algae to cause a problem are the thread algae such as blanket weed. April is the time to remove the blanket weed regularly from the sides of the pond by winding it around a stick and pulling it out. Oxygenating plants such as Hornwort, Curled Pondweed or Nitella die down in winter and will sprout again in May free of blanket weed. Canadian Pondweed and other related plants tend to collect blanket weed.

Fish cannot digest food below 5 degrees Centigrade and only limited amounts between 5 and 10 deg.C so still be careful in your feeding. May is the time to feed freely when the weather has really warmed up. April is also a good time to construct a new pond. Before starting make sure you know what you want to keep in your pond and build accordingly. Different inmates need different ponds so seek advice before starting if you are not sure

Finally please extend a warm welcome to our newest member:  
**Mr. Derek Alan Farr of Wanstead**

**A taster  
of the next  
meeting...**



See you all on Monday

**Rab**



## AN EXPERIMENT IN AQUARIUM LIGHTING

### Part II – The “New Way” by Ron Ruth

When low energy lamps arrived upon the scene an idea was born, one standard lamp holder per lamp, only one twin lead per lamp, they can be individually fed and switched if desired, and afford flexibility in siting. Experiment number one was launched and soon after went down like a cast-iron lifejacket, four of the first low energy 20W (100W equivalent) lamps turned out to be quite bulky but still an advantage over the tube, however, the intensity of light proved to be insufficient to promote plant growth and the experiment came to a halt, albeit temporarily.

Currently, experiment number two is under way and looking very promising. Initially I discovered a new type of low energy lamp offered in one of those junk mail booklets that frequently arrive with the post. The Daylight LE lamp, 20Watt spiral, instantly full on, no warming up period, and brighter than any standard LE lamp. Price: £24.99 for 4+4 working out at just over £3 each. They are now installed in practically every room and I started off with two above the corner tank to supplement the one 16” T5 compact that was insufficient alone. A new parcel of plants put in there grew steadily for a month or so and has now been transferred to a four-foot bow front tank desperately in need of some plant life. Two three foot fluorescent tubes above that have been replaced with four 20W Daylight LE’s and plants are growing well so far.

There had to be a downside to this which came when going back to buy replacements, I found the junk mail shop no longer stocks them. However a Google search (how did we live without it?) revealed a number of sites although the prices are considerably higher. The best for price of all those I viewed offers Pro-Lite Daylight helix compact fluorescent in either 18W or 25W at £3.99 and £4.50 respectively, discounted for an order of ten. Eleven, fifteen and thirty-watt lamps are also available in either ES or BC fitting and priced accordingly. All prices plus VAT of course. An order for six 25W placed on Friday online arrived standard mail on Monday. There’s no minimum order but postage at £3.50 for six makes it expensive for one only.

These lamps are supposedly effective for people who suffer from SAD (Seasonal Adjustment Disorder) and certainly cheaper than some treatment lamps I have seen advertised. I have yet to install these in place of the 20W, and juggling with a combination of 20’s, 25’s and possibly 18’s is all a part of this ongoing experiment. So far, the possibilities look very promising and if successful in getting rid of the dreaded tubes it will be the best thing since frozen fish (food). Maybe a follow up should be waterproof lamp holders and a few ideas on mounting them for manoeuvrability and independent of the lid.

I know there is at least one other member experimenting with lighting, although he’s going backwards, not sure if its incandescent, gas or candles! (Don’t knock it till you know it doesn’t work). In case anyone else should fancy having a go, here are a few details about Pro-Lite helix compact fluorescents (Do they deteriorate as quickly as tubes I wonder?)

Model: 6400K Helix Voltage: 220-240V/50Hz Base: BC Wattage: 25 Overall length 148mm. inc BC. Diameter at the base app. 60mm. Average life 8000 Hrs.

Added blurb on the box: Even distribution of 6400K light 360Degrees. Integral rapid start electronic circuit. Long Life: 8 times longer than standard light bulb. Suitable for indoor and outdoor enclosed light fittings. Unsuitable for use with dimming circuits.

My source of supply: Ricam Store Limited, The ‘Manse’ Balnald, Kirkmichael, Near Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7NA [www.ricamstore.co.uk](http://www.ricamstore.co.uk) Service Excellent, also many PC leads, connectors and interesting gear available here. Managed to find a 6.3mm. adaptor jack to 3.5mm. socket here so now I hope to convert my collected LP’s to CD (While the lighting does its bit)

