



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next
Meeting
11th June**

Last MONTH



Ken Wrightson, lectured us on his ways of encouraging his fish to breed and how to raise them and I hope you were listening because the way things are going with DEFRA and others breeding our own stocks might soon be the only way to keep this hobby going – that's if we don't all have to have a licence to even keep them.

This Month is our Annual general Meeting

There is no speaker but after the business of the AGM the judges of the Home Aquarium Competition will give a review of the entries. You will have an opportunity to look at a few prints of the finalists' aquariums in the tea break and can vote for your favourite. Looking at pictures and slides doesn't give you the best impression of an aquarium, there are always details that don't make it to film, but see if you come up with the same result as the judges.



Here's a picture of Gino's aquarium - last year's winner



Fry Rearing.

Congratulations to Pat Slater on taking the prize for rearing the Bristlenose cats. Your next challenge, following on from last month's talk, are baby Angelfish provided by Bill Baker. 4 fish per bag 50p: first come first served basis – where else are you going to get quality angels at that price!.

For sale

If you need a tank Dudley Turner has a 36 x 18 x 12 tank with hood, filter, heater and lights. A bargain at only £15.00 Ring me if you don't have his number (My number is on the programme you got last month.)



The Annual Pond Competition

Seems we have a few problems this year in getting judges for the 17th so we are considering moving the competition back a week to the 24th of June. If you fancy yourself as a judge (no experience required) then see Ken Wrightson or Cliff Tayler at the meeting on Monday. If the date is changed then entrants will be informed on Monday or by phone on Tuesday if they are not at the meeting.

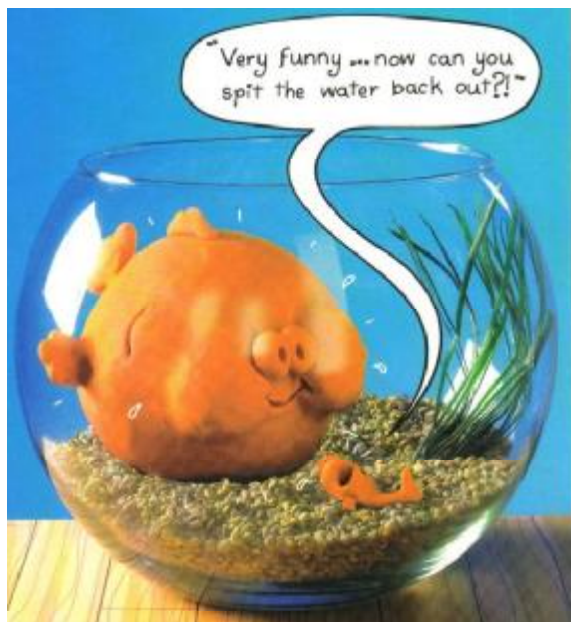


The Pond in May– by Mike Brill

Hopefully the weather is warmer in June. The plants have been growing well, including some you don't want, [Ed. – Don't I know it! Anyone want some frogbit?] so now is the time to be weeding your pond. Duckweed can cover your pond and cut out the light and kill your most desirable pond plants, so remove this regularly. Remember to look for young fish and other animals sheltering amongst it. Shake the weed vigorously in the water then put it in a container of water. Later be surprised at how much you had missed and replace all those animals in the pond. Remember streams and waterfalls and filters get blocked with excess plant, so check them regularly.

Live foods abound so if your water butt has no top, net off all the insect larvae and put them in your pond. Books will tell you horrendous tales of insect larvae eating your fish. But these beautiful animals should be encouraged as they rarely eat fish and then only sick or very small fry. The usual fish spawning is of over 1000 eggs so a few lost to dragonfly nymphs cannot matter.

Heron can be a real problem. The best solution is deep water of three feet or more and plenty of oxygenating plant cover. Fish are sensible and when the heron comes as soon as one is attacked all will scatter and hide for a week or two. Plastic herons at the side have no effect. Netting is effective but unsightly. Most herons land and walk to the edge to fish. A nylon fishing line at six inches and at one foot stretched around the pond scares them as they walk into it, and can be effective. A scarecrow standing near a pond and moved at least once a week is also effective, but the scarecrow needs to be standing. Support it on a stake that is driven into the ground.



See you all on Monday

Rab