



# Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next  
Meeting  
9th July**

## **Last MONTH**

Our AGM returned the committee virtually unchanged but we are pleased to welcome back Don Taylor after his sabbatical on charity work and pleased to welcome Pat Slater as a new committee member – making our lady members proportionately better represented than we mere men.

The only rule change agreed was a slight increase in subscriptions to:  
**Single £16.00      Family £22.00** effective immediately for new members and anyone who has not yet renewed (now 3 months overdue!!!)



After the main business we reviewed the **2007 Home Aquarium Competition** and in case you missed it the results were:

<b>First</b>	<b>Richard Barnetson</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>David stock</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>Ken Wrightson</b>
<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Len Smith</b>



## **This Month we have Andrew Smith on Anabantoids**

Andrew is the Species Officer for the Anabantoid Association of Great Britain and answers anabantoid queries in PFK. If you don't know what an Anabantoid is you will do by the end of Monday's meeting, but for the newer members they are a group of fish that have an auxiliary organ that allows them to draw oxygen from atmospheric air. The most common examples are Gouramis and Fighters.

We may have a few guests from other societies so "Best behaviour please"

## **Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping - Hayling Island – October 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>**

If you are planning to go for the whole weekend you had best get your rooms booked now before it is too late. Check the FBAS website for booking details or ring Grace Nethersell on 0208 847 3586.

If you are going for the whole weekend the club is looking for a volunteer or two to set up a club furnished aquarium – all materials supplied – ask the committee for details.



## **Fred Beach**

Sadly I received an email from Gary Beach with the sad news that his father had passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June – the day of our last club meeting. Fred, with son Gary and daughter Jacqui were keen members during the late seventies and eighties before they moved to the South Downs area and will be fondly remembered by our older members. Fred always kept in touch after the move and often sent emails with snippets for the newsletter or links for our website. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Gary, Jacqui and their mother, Diane.



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

By now the pond will be flourishing with young fish apparent at half an inch or more. The plants will need pruning. When doing this be careful to shake the plants thoroughly to release all young animals living amongst them. You can easily kill your best young fish or newt larvae if you are not observant.

The oxygenating plants will be very dense. Always when pruning leave at least one dense thicket of oxygenating plants. This will protect your fish from herons and also provide safety and food for your young fish.. You can however remove as much as 90% of any one species of oxygenating plant and it will regenerate by the end of the growing season.



Your water lilies will be in full bloom and it is time therefore to prune those, which are too large. Pull off all yellowing and damaged leaves and some healthy leaves if they are lying on top of others or are covering too large an area of the pond. To pull a leaf off, hold the stem below the water and pull in the direction of growth. Most of the stem will come away leaving no unsightly stems. Remove all dead flowers before they sink, as they rot and easily pollute the water.

Thunderstorms and close humid weather cause a lack of oxygen in the water and the bigger, faster moving fish will suffer and can die of asphyxia. A waterfall or fountain will help to replace oxygen. If not available, top up the pond with a hose vigorously oxygenating the water..

### **The Annual Pond Competition**

The judges were out a week ago and the results are in. Not many entries this year but the judges had a tough time because 5 of the six were past winners and the other has come second and they were all looking very good. I've not had time to get the pictures on the web site as yet but they will be there shortly.



#### **The result:**

<b>First</b>	<b>Mike Brill</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Gino Dallanegra</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>Rab Dingwall</b>
<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Brian Lowe</b>

Finally may I extend a warm welcome to our newest member **Mr George Bentley** from the wilds of Corringham who has an interest in Alpines as well as fish.

See you all on Monday  
**Rab**