

Ilford & District Aquarists & Pondkeepers Society



Next Meeting Monday 9th February

Last Month

Review of Club Competitions



The meeting started with the review of the Home Aquarium Competition, photos of the tanks were shown with Gerry commenting on the pros and cons of each tank.

Then followed the pond review, this time with Ken and Ray talking us through the different ponds.

At the end of the evening the cups and cards were presented to the winners by Len.

Breeders Cup	Aquarium	Pond
1 st Ken	1 st Ken	1 st Gino
2 nd Kevin	2 nd Gino	2 nd Mike
3 rd Jim	3 rd Dick	3 rd Gerry
4 th Roger	4 th Dave	4 th Rab
4 th Cliff		

The Committee would like to thank everyone who entered and to the judges for giving up their time to judge.



Well done to Yvonne & Dave who decorated their house, had a grotto and a Father Christmas. This all took place in December to raise money for The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. With the

£75 that we raised at last month's meeting a grand total of £400 was raised.

This Month

Ian Fuller Breeding Catfish



This month Ian will be talking about breeding catfish. All types of catfish not just Cory's. If you saw Ian's talk last year on the care and maintenance of Corydoras, then I am sure this talk will be of the same high standard.

Ian has written several books and contributes articles to many of the Aquatic magazines. I know this will be one talk not to miss and as Ian has a round trip of about **400 miles** to visit us it would be nice if we had a good turnout as we did for his previous talk.

Club Dinner



I've been told that the club dinner was a great success and that Luigi's was a good venue. The food was good as was the service. The Committee are thinking of holding the dinner at a different time of the year as this maybe more convenient for members. (Watch this space). Hopefully with a change of date more members will be able to come. The Committee would like to thank Roger and Ray for finding the venue and organising everything.

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Library Tank



Ted Liddle has for as long as I can remember looked after the tank in the Ilford Central Library. Well Ted has now moved

to Suffolk (beginning of January), so I think it is a bit much to expect him to continue doing it!

So we are looking for a member or maybe two who could look after the tank. The Library staff feed the fish (the club supply the food) and keep an eye on things.

I'm not sure of the frequency that Ted visited, but it's a case of checking that everything is working ok and do some tank maintenance, like cleaning algae off the front glass or a water change when needed etc.

If the fish/plants need replenishing I'm sure members would donate **suitable** fish/plants to build stocks up.

It must be 5 years since I last saw the tank so I'm not sure what needs doing, if anything.

Any member/members who would like to help with the tank, would they please see Ken.

The Committee would like to thank Ted for looking after the Library tank and hope he and his family enjoy their new life in Suffolk.

While I'm at it, the Committee would also like to thank Pete Riley and Jim Humphries for giving up their time to look after the Hospital tank in the children's ward of The Queens Hospital in Romford.

Polo Shirts



Some members have been asking if we could have a club polo shirt. Well Kevin has found a supplier, but we need some

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feedback from members. The shirts will be dark green with the club fish (tiger barb) and Ilford Aquarist etc embroidered (not an iron on transfer) very tastefully positioned in the chest area. There is a wide choice of sizes and the price will be £12.95.

As there is a minimum amount we can order, we need to know how many members would be interested before we go any further. Would you let Kevin know at the meeting? Thank you.

Magic Night

14th March



This meeting is your last chance to get tickets for the magic night. It's a great evening's entertainment, one not to miss.

Venue William Torbitt School on the corner of the Eastern Avenue (A12) and Aldborough Road North.

Cost £12.50 which includes the fish/chicken supper

We need to know numbers so we can order the right number of meals and work out the number of tables we will need on the night (8 to 10ish people per table). This will help everybody get a good view when the magicians do their close up magic at the tables.

You don't have to fill a whole table as smaller parties will be able to share.

Please try to support the magic night, it really is a good evening.

Don't forget to bring your own drinks. More reminders in next month's newsletter. **All monies must be paid in full at this meeting.**

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Fish Memories Last For Months



This article was e mailed to me by one of our members, Ron Ruth who thought members might find it interesting.

While it was previously believed that a fish's memory span was only three seconds, scientists now believe they can remember for up to five months. Fish trained to remember a certain sound while in captivity remembered and reacted to the same sound after months in the wild.

The research could help promote more natural, and less costly, fish farming techniques. Scientists at the Israeli Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa spent a month schooling young fish to associate a certain sound with feeding time.

They then released the fish into the wild and, five months later when they were adults, repeated the sound. To their delight, the fish returned, proving that they had remembered the association.

The technique could allow trained fish to be released into the wild to mature, with farmers safe in the knowledge they can bring them back when they are ready for the table. Reporting on their findings, the researchers said: "The new method has many advantages. The fish grow in their natural environment, without the use of cages and without environmental pollution. Feeding is more economical and is based mainly on food found naturally."

The study is the latest in a long line which have sought to debunk the short-memory fish theory. Last year, a 15-year-old schoolboy from Australia claimed to have conclusively disproved the myth. Rory Stokes, a student at the Australian Science and Mathematics School in Adelaide, placed a beacon in a fish

tank at feeding time each day and measuring the time it took for fish to swim to it to obtain food.

The time taken reduced dramatically over a three week period, from a minute to a few seconds, after which Rory removed the beacon.

Six days later, he put it back in the water and, despite not seeing it for almost a week, the fish swam to it in 4.4 seconds, showing they had remembered the association between food and the beacon for at least six days.

"We are told that a goldfish has a memory span of less than three seconds... I wanted to challenge this theory as I believe it is a myth intended to make us feel less guilty about keeping fish in small tanks," Rory said.

Water Conservation



Some ideas sent to me by Ray.

When you do a water change use the water in the garden to water your plants. If it's the winter save it to a water butt for use in the summer.

If you use a RO unit, the amount of waste can be as much as 8 gallons per gallon of RO water. This is clean water, you could use it to clean the car, top up the pond or water the garden, and if you're on a water meter this could add up to a considerable saving over a year.



I think that's all for this month. Don't tell Rab I've included an extra page this month (all that extra paper and ink). See you on Monday Barry

Don't forget your Magic night tickets