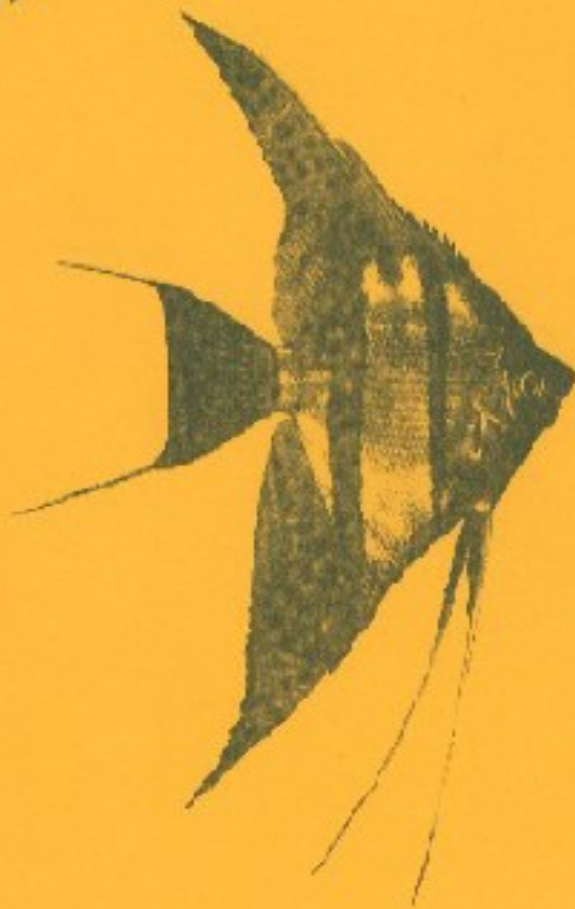


**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT**



**AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

**Founded 1935 or before**

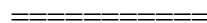
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**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL**  
**Number 48 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1973**

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**OPEN SHOW 1973** at St Clements Hall, Rectory Grove, Leigh-on May 19<sup>th</sup> .  
All details Open Show Secretary:- D.C.M. Durrant , 172, Trinity Road, Southend-on-Sea.

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**ASSISTANT TABLE SHOW SEC'**

D.C.M. Durrant.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS .**

F. Gardner

**REFRESHMENT SECRETARY**

Mrs B. Mitchell

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**EXCHANGES** welcomed, please send your exchanges to the editor.

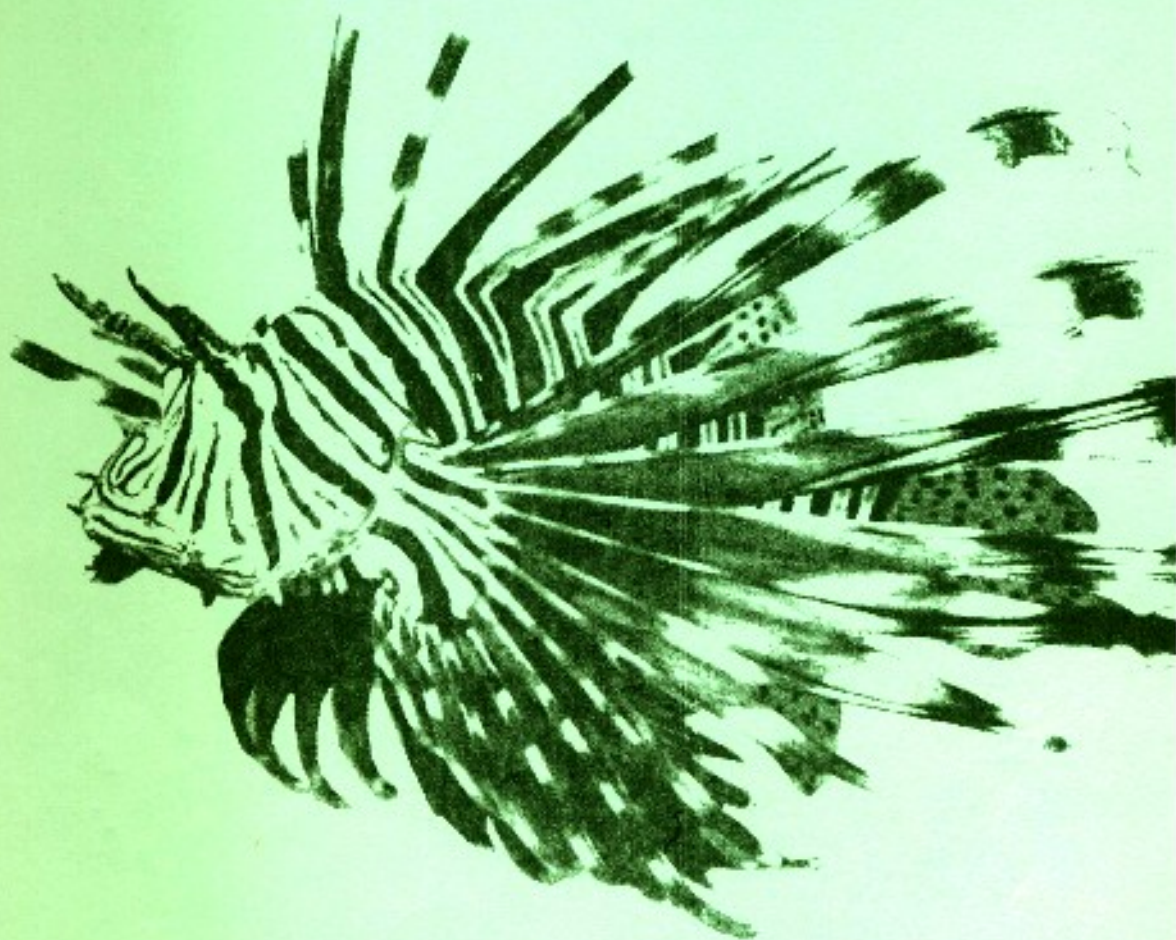
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## EDITORIAL

The start of a new S.L.A.D.A.S. year we hope even more successful than previous years. Perhaps the most important item on our calendar is the Open Show on May the 19th - check with Derek to see how you can help to make it the best ever !

Whilst on the subject of shows and showing may we remind you that S.L.A. D.A.S. is starting this year a competition for the member entering and gaining the most cards in the Open Shows .It is a little difficult for your editor to extort you to enter as many shows as possible and so spread S.L.A.D.A.S.' s name far and wide as he is the committee member who enters as few shows as possible –the current excuse is that the **JOURNAL** comes first ! (Figure that out!)

At any rate, how about entering the shows and winning an extra bonus Trophy for your efforts — .see Derek for details of the Open Show Trophy competition.

Still on the subject of shows and showing (says a lot on the subject for someone who doesn't bother to enter doesn't he !) lets not hear any S.L.A.D.A.S. member at table shows or Open Shows say that he has a fish at home that could have walked off with this or. that ticket or Gong. If it's at. home it can't win a ticket the only place it stands a chance is on the show bench.

We all know that judges, are only human (well most of them) but there is a ruling that judges decision is final so let's accept defeat with good grace and simply resolve to give that favourite fish a little more care and attention so that he won't be able to give the ticket to any other fish next time; look after it so well that it outshines all the other fish on the bench.

Most judges appear to have favourite types of fish often quite unbeknown to themselves, it pays to watch the fishes that get the cards? but beware at the next show our judge may have changed his favourite simply because so many exhibitor have presented him with them to judge. We understand for instance that Eddie Nicoll's favourite fish roar with laughter as soon as he peers into the show jar ( for explanation try reading the rest of the JOURNAL-)

Don't be afraid to enter even if you are a novice your fish may be better than you think and in our table shows it'll only cost you 2½p to find out; this charge hasn't gone up since at least 1952 !

**PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

by Dave Cheswright

Our hard-working ?? Editor tells me that I have to write notes for the **Journal** and, this being my first, drafted in a rush after Christmas, readers will have to excuse me for lack of something new. Firstly I would like to thank Dave Edwards, on behalf of the Society, for his work as President over several years. Although he is not now a committee member Dave still intends to assist where possible and has already been talked into judging the 1973 Challenge Competition. Thanks are due to Ed Nicoll (and his laughing machine) for judging this for the past two years. — he also presented a trophy for the Junior section.

Alan Chapman did a great job organising the music and dancing at the social on December the 16th, with the assistance of Dot and others — thanks are due to all concerned. The Social was a success both financially and for entertainment; it is hoped that the next one will be at the end of May 1973-

It was nice to see Mike Willis who called at the Social from up north. Mike is an Honorary member and past secretary of S.L.A.D.A.S. He hopes that any members going up the A.1. might call on him — address from our Editor.

It remains for me to remind you of our **OPEN SHOW** on the 19th of May 1973--- let us make this even more successful than 1972's show.

**BLANK SPACES ? NEVER !**

by P.F. Capon.

You never see a really large blank space in this **JOURNAL** do you? Have you ever considered why this should be so ?

Think about it — perhaps a glance at the contributors on the contents page may help.

To give you time to think the rest of the page is.....

## EXPERIENCES- WITH THE CHERRY BARB

by P. Blomfield  
(reprint S.L.A.D.A.S. JOURNAL March 1952 )

The Cherry Barb (*Barbus titteya*) hails from Ceylon and is one of the smaller types of barb, adults in full growth being from 1½" to 1¾" in length; they are omnivorous feeders with a great partiality for the soft forms of algae, and although they obviously appreciate various forms of live food, I have found that they grow sturdier and quicker if the bulk of their diet consists of good nourishing dried food - "Bemax" seems particularly suitable; they are peaceful community dwellers, although rather retiring and given to haunting the more thickly planted areas of the tank, and somewhat individualistic in that they do not normally swim in shoals.

The sexes are very easily distinguished; in the adult fish, the males are a warm cherry pink, which extends over the fins, and at time of excitation during spawning and feeding, and when they are in tip-top condition this colour deepens into a magnificent crimson, which, when the fish is at some angles to the light, reflects a faint green fluorescent glow. The females do not show this cherry colouring; they have an unbroken dark brown line running down the side from just behind the gills to the caudal peduncle, and above this is a warm rusty brown deepening towards the back, while below the line the colour pales to almost white under the belly; the dorsal, anal and caudal fins are flushed with red. In the males this central line is not continuous, but is made up of a series of rather faint brown "comma" marks, and it is this difference, which becomes apparent between the sixth and eighth week after hatching, which makes early sexing possible.

I bought my first pair of cherries in August '49 and was extremely fortunate that they were not only very good specimens but also seemed to have a strong natural affinity towards one another. They first spawned in November of that year, but no fry resulted; - however they soon got into their stride and during 1950/51 I raised the following broods ( excluding those thrown out as runts, slow growers, etc :- January -30 , March - 52, May - 70 , August - 81, March - 52, April - 95, June 74.

From this time the parents were rested, and a selected pair from the brood of May '50 were mated; they have so far given;-September - 32, December -60, January 52 - 33, and are being spoon-fed with a view to further resumption of marital bliss in the Spring.

The parents are kept together in a community tank between spawnings, and are only used when the female shows by her "keel bulges" that she is full of roe, and the male is in full colour

and paying her more than the normal amount of attention, A 20" X 9" X 6" tank ( in a cupboard) is thoroughly sterilized, a light sprinkling of boiled gravel is placed on the bottom, and four or five large clumps of Hygrophila, weighted with lead, are introduced to give a heavily planted effect, - this plant is most useful in this respect, as its fairly large leaves act excellent egg-catcher, while also allowing the fishes plenty of swimming room. The water used is half fresh tap-water and half mature from the community tank, and the fishes are placed in the tank at night with the temperature at about 76 to 78°F.

Early in the morning a fifteen watt bulb is switched on over the tank, and a single sheet of newspaper placed on the cover-glass to give a rather dull diffused illumination. Spawning invariably commences within an hour, and takes the form of the male constantly "chivying" the female from behind and below while she wriggles quite slowly around the plant stems and leaves.

At intervals varying from a few seconds to a minute or more the male comes along side the female, usually near the surface, they press their sides together and then break apart with a pronounced flick; at this moment one and sometimes two eggs are expelled and they fall and adhere to the first object they contact. Spawning usually continues for two or three hours, with occasional rests for a few minutes as if by mutual arrangement and I have never seen either parent pay any attention to the eggs whilst spawning was in progress.

The young hatch in about 48 hours at this temperature, and it is a further three to four days before they become free-swimming; during the pre-swimming stage they are found mostly lying on the bottom, although occasionally some can be seen hanging on the plants or glass in the manner of other fry. They are quite large, and as soon as they are swimming I commence feeding with dried egg powder squeezed through an handkerchief; after only three or four days they will take micro-worms and after a week to ten days brine shrimps and finely chopped tubifex. After two weeks the whole tank is lifted into a large well-planted growing on tank, and the babies gently "flooded" into their new home. In 7 - 8 weeks given plenty of space and frequent feeding, they should be ¾" long, and at this age are easily sexable..



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## LETTER ON PETFISH TABLEAUX

Sir,

Concerning the **PetFish Show** article in the last issue of the **JOURNAL**. We do not dispute the contributors right to express his personal views, but do feel that remarks made in the last two paragraphs would have best not been made.

Although it is felt within the Society that the F.B.A.S. made a harsh and arbitrary ruling, these of us responsible for the tableau do not think that a "vendetta" by any individual or group of the F.B.A.S. was responsible.

signed

F. Gardner, A. Chapman.

**EDITORS REPLY?** Point taken. Incidentally perhaps this is the point to remind readers of the fact the Society takes no responsibility for views expressed, and.. the views in the "article" complained about were those of the editor.

Further to the ruling at the Show we understand that several people at the F.B.A.S. assembly tried to raise the subject of Bracknall's disqualification under Any Other Business only to be filibustered until the time ran out on the hall booking.

## THE PASSING OF A GUPPY

By M.C. Mash reprint S. L. A. D.A.S. JOURNAL September 1953

Death -- inevitable, sombre, devouring,  
Withering all in it's trend.

Death — merciful, merciless, o`erpowering,  
No being can apprehend.

Sometimes sudden — seldom foreseen,  
Regardless of beauty or status

Death strikes at both the rich and the means  
Both *discus* and *reticulatus*

:

## EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by D.M. Cheswright.

**THE GUPPY POND** August 1972, contained part two of "Beginners Manual" , covering newly set-up tanks, filters and water conditions. This article continues in the September issue and following months and is by C. Wolf, reprinted from "**Guppy Gossip**", February 1970.

**ANCHOR** September 1972, "The Effects of Man" by R.W.Menzel, covers pollution at length. "Who Says" by M.Mc Cuckin, -deals with the breeding of the Egyptian mouthbrooder and "stripping Mouthbrooders-" by Ron Gazarek tells how the writer gets the young fry from this and other species. These fish are quite small and obviously great care is required. The object of removing the fry is to prevent them being eaten and it also enable the parent fish to begin feeding earlier than normal.

The Oklahoma **O`quarist**: November 1972, An entertaining article on "How (not) to move and set-up a Fish Room", by Doris Jackson, is well worth a read.

**AQUARIST AND PONDKEEPER** November 1972, Discus lovers should read "A Summary of Note's for Beginners" by R.H. Cooke. It is usefully divided into sections on Tank, Water, Temperature ,etc.

The Junior Aquarist section by A.Allen, covers European Reptiles and Amphibians, including the common toad.

**PETFISH MONTHLY** December 1972, a review of the **PetFish Show**, with photo's of most of the club stands, including S.L.A.D.A.S. takes up seven pages-

Roy Pinks writes on marines "Taking Stock of Results so Far". It is interesting to see that over a period of some six months a larger percentage of ordinary tropicals died than did marines — however, I hesitate to add up the cost of the marine losses of 14 out of 32. The writer has bought the cheaper Marine species which makes good sense — whilst smaller they still have the colours.

"The Fire-tailed Rivulin" — egg-laying toothcarp by S. Forster deals with the habits of *Rivulus milesi*.

=====

## NEW LAY-OUT

The new double-sided printing is Lawrence's idea because he has been able to get some different paper that saves us money - what do you think of the lay-out?

## **BREEDING THE SIAMESE FIGHTER (*Betta splendens*)**

by G. Willis (reprint S.L.A.D.A.S. Journal July 1952)

We are all familiar with these magnificent fishes belonging to the Anabantidae, all the members of which possess an auxiliary respiratory system enabling them to breathe free oxygen from the air; the majority of whom deposit their eggs in a floating nest of bubbles. Because of their pugnacious - or alleged pugnacious - tendency, they are often absent in our collection, particularly if we happen to be community tank hobbyists. It should be noted, however, that it is only when more than one male is present that their fighting spirit is aroused; in other words they are good and peaceful occupants in a community tank provided that only one male is kept therein

For breeding purposes only the best should be used, best not only as regards finage of the male but for both as regards colour, Finnage apart, the most desirable quantity in fighters is body and finnage of one colour This does not apply to the Cambodian types, where the body should be a clear creamy colour without trace of red which should be entirely confined to the fins.

Breeding can be successfully accomplished in a 24 X 12 tank and fighters are a far cheaper proposition for spawning than the adhesive egg-layers as they do not require an heavily planted tank. One floating plant such as a water lettuce or a small Indian fern is all that is required. Even this one plant isn't essential but I have found that the male when he starts to build his nest prefers to have something to which to anchor it. Any floating plant with a leaf coverage of a four inch circle suffices. Four to five inches of water suffices, a compost covered bottom and everyone is happy.

The fishes, previously conditioned entirely on live-food, should be introduced at the same temperature at which they have been living (say 75°F) and the temperature then raised to 80 to 82°F.

The male will immediately start showing off before the female who will almost certainly refuse his advances and most likely proceed to chase him away. But "don't be fright - it's all right) she's only telling him to get on with his first task of building the bubble nest.

Any thing over and above natural daylight is not needed in the breeding tank, in fact if the tank is in sunlight it could with advantage be considerably reduced

(continued on page 15)

## **BREEDING FIGHTERS--CONTINUED**

While the male is busy building the nest, the female may approach to view his handiwork but does not participate in the job. The male will in all probability start to desport himself in front of the female only to be repulsed and sent back to get on with the good work. By the time the female is satisfied with the job, he may have covered an area-up to five inches across with bubbles in patches up to half an inch thick. This is accomplished by taking in copious quantities of air which are then confined within, a mucilaginous "shell" and blown out from the mouth that stick to one another and remain as bubbles for length of time.

Spawning may take place at any time after the female is satisfied with her mates handiwork, but I have found in certain circumstances the female will play hard to get. While the stimulation of freshwater coupled with a rise in temperature is enough to set the male about his duties the female is more discerning and may not allow the male to complete the job until such time as the water has become infused with the minute life upon which the fry will first feed.

On one occasion, by judiciously siphoning off the water daily and topping up with more freshwater, I caused the male to build six different nests without the female allowing herself to be spawned, yet on introducing a fair quantity of old water, full of infusorial life, she surrendered within an hour. The act of spawning is indeed a wonderful sight. The male will begin by chasing the female all over the tank and, on cornering her, will stay motionless with all his brilliantly colourful fins extended quivering. Having enticed her under the nest the female will assume a slightly head up position just beside and slightly behind the pectoral fins of the male. He, with fins extended and quivering will sidle up to her and envelope her within his body until she has been turned upside down and the male is suspended in the water with his tail and head side by side. His fins are now completely relaxed.

They remain in this position for a second or two after which the male will release the female and in doing so turn her over onto a normal keel. She remains just under the nest stationary, as though temporarily knocked-out!! The male sinks below the female ready to catch the eggs in his mouth as they are extruded by the female above.

Fertilization of the ova must, in my opinion, take place-within the body of the female, as the eggs are not released from her body until some second or two after the embrace has been completed.

As the small white eggs descend through the water they are caught and carried to the nest and blown into the bubbles by the male. By this time the female has recovered and the whole process will be repeated. The embraces may be frequently interrupted whilst the male makes adjustments to the nest and for frequent forages to the compost to ensure that no eggs have been missed. In this latter duty I have found that the female assists and that any eggs so scavenged by her are not, as is often alleged, eaten, but in my experience are deposited; by her in the nest. Despite the apparent enormous size of the completed nest I have yet to find the eggs deposited in an area larger than could be covered by an old penny.

Spawning, depending on the size and fullness of the female, may last over an hour« Eggs at the start may be extruded as many as a dozen per embrace, but the male will eventually desist after the last few embraces have failed to produce any more eggs.

From now on the presence of the female is no longer essential, and to enable the male to devote his whole attention to safe-guarding the nest it is as well to remove her to a rest tank. She will certainly look in need of .a rest; her once complete fins are now reduced to shreds.

By the end of the third day the eggs will have hatched and the fry can be seen suspended tail down under the nest. Now the males duties are really onerous. Whereas for two days he has only been keeping the nest in trim and fanning a current over the eggs he now assumes the duties of a nursemaid. As the fry fall from under the nest he collects them in his mouth and replaces them in the nest. At this stage, and before the fry are free swimming, I insert in the tank two or three pieces of old potato (about the size of a chip) or a small ball of crushed lettuce leaves to supplement the infusoria upon which the fry will feed when they have absorbed the yolk sack, - usually by the end of the second day.

When free swimming, at which stage the male can be removed, gentle aeration is started to ensure that the infusoria is distributed throughout the tank. It also ensures that the fry expend energy swimming, as is customary, against the slight current, and while this causes maybe unnecessary expenditure of energy, it also ensures feeding to replace the energy so expended. Similarly supplementary lighting is now provided which remains on day and night, to ensure maximum activity which induces, subject the adequate food supplies, maximum growth.

When the fry are large enough, about a week after feeding on infusoria, micro-worms and brine shrimp supplement the diet of infusoria. My method of hatching brine shrimp is to float

a one pound jam-jar half full of sea water in the tank and at the tank temperature the eggs hatch in about twelve hours. Egg cases and freshly hatched shrimp are then strained in a cloth and then washed of into the tank, At the end of a week on these foods they should be able to take sifted daphnia, finely chopped tubifex and white -worm. From now on vigorous culling of the inferior fry should take place and the rejects be thrown away or fed to larger fishes.

My method of introducing the white-worm or tubifex, chopped with a razor blade on a piece of hard wood, is to fill a small tube with water from the tank, scrape into the tube the chopped mass and agitate until the particles have separated and then distributed this suspended food over the tank.

Late in their third, or early in their fourth week of life, the fry start to develop the auxiliary breathing system. It is stated that at this period in their life they are susceptible to changes in air temperature which are liable to decimate broods. Maybe I'm lucky, because I have found that lifting the canopy as many as fourteen times a day has had no adverse effect on the broods.

Feeding of small quantities of live food should continue as often as practical. Naturally the food should be chopped to suit the size of the fishes mouths. What isn't eaten will only produce infusoria and add to the food reserve - so over feed rather than under feed. (The sand can always be sterilized and bleached for subsequent use. )

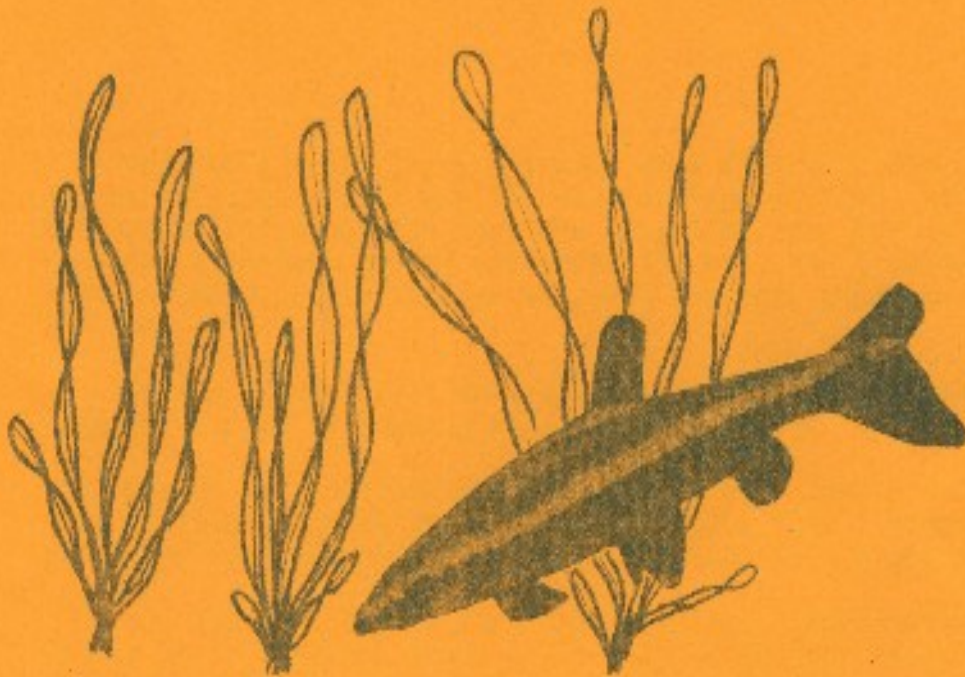
At the end of eight weeks those fishes which are males will have started fighting amongst themselves. Because of their ability to utilize free air, swim space is only of secondary importance for growth, and the males can be successfully grown-on in a two pound jam-jar suspended in the tank. Better results are of course obtained if they can be distributed singly in other tanks. Feeding on live foods should be continued at it's previous intensity and at three months the fishes should not only be adult but can be spawned. Growth to maturity will continue to round about the sixth month.

They are old at eighteen months, and past their reproductive best at nine months.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** . We personally disagree with a number of points in the article, but since this particular article was selected by the editor of the old "Water Life" as the best article in the S.L.A.D.A.S. JOURNAL for 1952 we feel it would be churlish to publish our personal correction as an editors comment.

However we feel sure another article will be forthcoming point out any errors that have come to light due to greater knowledge of recent years.

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## **CLUB NEWS**

### **Meeting November 21<sup>st</sup> THE A.G.M.**

The election of the officers to serve the Society for 1973 was conducted by John Cooper, with Tom King and Alan Staples as tellers. The election went as follow:-

**PRESIDENT** proposed D.M.Cheswright elected unopposed

**VICE-PRESIDENT** proposed B.Finch and L.Mitchell, elected D.Finch

**SECRETARY** proposed Mrs J.Norris elected unopposed

**TREASURER** proposed L.Mitchell and A. Chapman, elected A. Chapman.

**JOURNAL EDITOR** proposed P.F.Capon, elected unopposed

**ASSISTANT EDITOR** proposed L. Mitchell and H. Preston, elected L. Mitchell

**LIBRARIAN** proposed E.Joyce, elected unopposed

**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN** proposed Mrs E.Chapman, elected unopposed.

**P.R.O.** F.Gardner elected unopposed

**TABLESHOW SECRETARY** proposed H. Preston, elected unopposed.

**ASSISTANT TABLESHOW SECRETARY** proposed D.C.M. Durrant elected unopposed.

**REFRESHMENT SECRETARY** proposed Mrs B. Mitchell elected unopposed.

**OPEN SHOW SECRETARY** this post is not up for election at the A.G.M., this officer is appointed immediately following the Open Show.

The raffle winners this evening were : -

S..Cook.....a solanum plant  
Mrs Tuffin.....lamp post table lamp  
Bottle of sherry -..K. Graves  
Xmas pud and custard..Mr Sinclair  
Xmas pud and custard..Mr Truby

Actually Fred Gardner won the pudding but put it back in the raffle thereupon he won it again and put it in again. You could have always kept it with that copy of Mary Wilson's poems ,Fred !

#### TABLE SHOW MEMBERS BEST FISH

1.. K. Adams.....	oscar.. ..	83 points,
2...Mrs E. Coe.	.half banded barb ...	79 points
3.. P. Mepham.....	labuca. ....	78 points
4...S. Wood.....	guppy. .	

The judge was Ed Niccol

#### Meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>

#### CHALLENGE COMPETITION FINAL

1...S. Wood...	... pike cichlid.....	76½ points
2.. D. Little, .....	combtail.....	76 points
3...Mr G. Coe.	.....3 spot.....	75¼ points
4 . Mrs E. Coe. ....	orange chromide.. ..	73¾ points

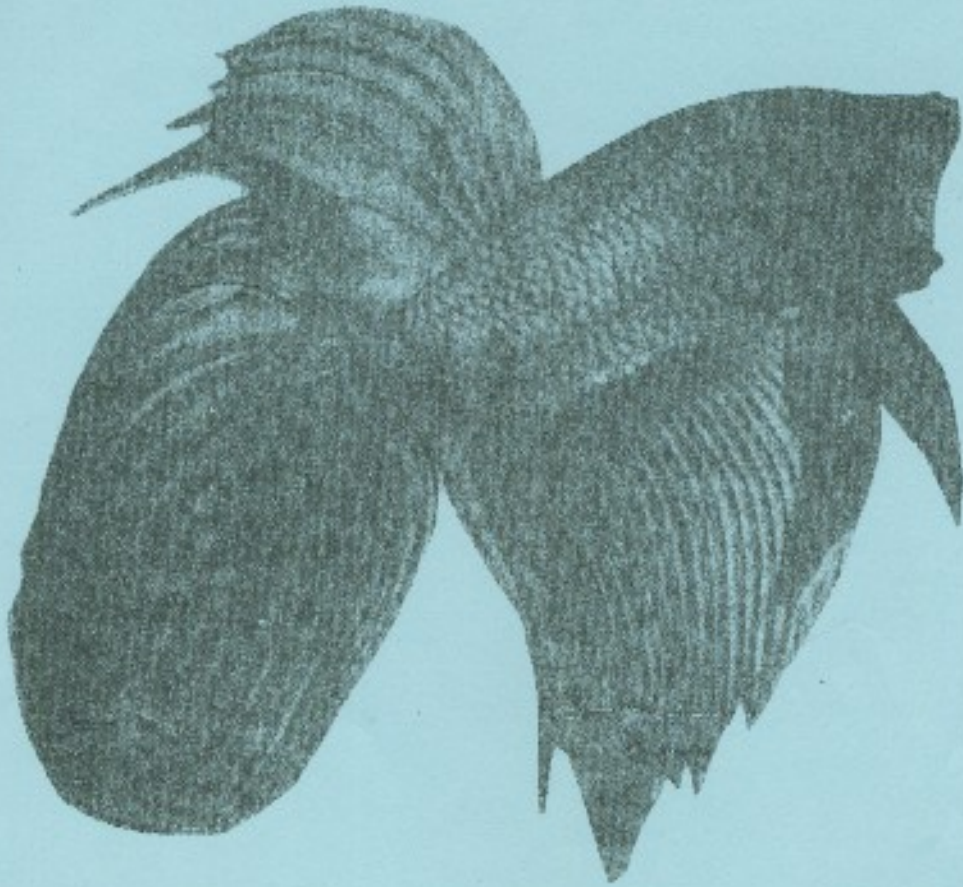
The judge was Ed Nicoll

**Best Junior..**C. Cheswright..*H.callistus*.....,72 points, this entry actually came in fifth place.

During the general discussion chaired by Dave Cheswright raucous laughter issued from Eddies bag which we thought only contained F.B.A.S. standards but which actually held a laughing machine. The machine was used on Ed himself when he came to talk on the results of the Challenge competition !.

The raffle, generously donated by Wally Wood, of a 30 X 15 X 15 tank, stand, hood, undergravel filter, heater thermostat and air pump was won by Tony Abbey (junior member).

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### Meeting December 19<sup>th</sup>

The highlight of the evening was the auction, this appeared a little slower than usual and the bidding did not reach the dizzy heights that we have come to expect in recent years. Apparently members had all finished their Christmas shopping and were rather short of the ready.

The raffle winners were.-

- D. Durrant.....aneus cats
- E. Nicoll.....flying fox
- T. King.. ..white clouds

Eddie Nicoll's prize should read flying fox, although after his laughter machine perhaps we should have awarded him a Fox what ever that might be, still it sounds nasty.

### Meeting January 2<sup>th</sup>

This evening we had a demonstration of setting up a furnished aquarium by Dave Cheswright.

#### TABLE SHOWS FEMALE PLATYS

1. .K. Graves ..	red.....	85 points
2. .K. Adams .....	marigold.....	84 points
3. .K. Adams .....	marigold.....	83 points
4..H. Preston. ....	red.....	79 points

#### FEMALE PLATYS Junior

1..M. Doulton.....	marigold,.....	83 points
2..M. Doulton .	Moon.....	82 points
3..J.Pilgrim,....	simpson.....	80 points
4..P. Nicholls .	blue.....	76 points

#### FEMALE EGGLAYERS

1..G. Coe.....	3 spot gourami.....	84 points
2..K. Adams .....	<i>Rasbora maculata</i> .....	83 points
3. .K. Adams .....	penguin.....	82 points
4. .G. Coe. .	Zebra.....	81 points

**FEMALE EGGLAYERS Junior**

1.. G. Wickman.....	blind cave.....	82 points
2.. P. Nicholls.....	three spot.....	79 points
3.. J. Pilgrim.....	silver tetra.....	78 points
4.. C. Cheswright.....	pencil.....	77 points

The judges were Lawrence Mitchell for the platys and your editor for the female egglayers.

The raffle winners were:-

- Mrs King.....set of glasses.
- Mr King.....bag of plants
- S. Wood.....bag of plants.

**AMMEND YOUR PROGI&M CARD** Please add to the items on July 17 Class C Characin table show.

**TABLE SHOW POSITIONS ( printed as a guide)**

<b>ADULT</b>		<b>JUNIOR</b>	
K. Adams.....	10	G. Wickman.....	4
G. Coe.....	6	P. Nicholls.....	4
K. Graves.....	4	J. Pilgrim.....	4
H. Preston....	1	M .Doulton.....	7
		C. Cheswright.....	1

**S.L.A.D.A.S. MART**

**FOR SALE** Rather tatty port' acara

**WANTED** Common Oscar about eight inches  
contact Tim Bently at meeting

Members may advertise their aquatic surpluses and wants for no charge

## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Meeting held at 2, Cedar Avenue, Wickford; on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1972.

Present were:- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mesdames Chapman, and Mitchell, Messrs E. Joyce, F. Gardner, D. Finch, H. Preston, D. Durrant, P.Capon, and L,Mitchell.

The meeting was called to order at 8.20 pm. The President opened by welcoming all new faces to the committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were read adjusted and approved.

Upon matter arising from the minutes it was confirmed that Alan Chapman would be raising the matter of the **PetFish** tableaux at the F.B.A.S. General Assembly on December 2<sup>nd</sup> .

Regarding the meeting of representatives to sort out the procedure for Inter-Club evenings, the rules suggested as recorded in the minutes of that meeting were approved by the committee.

Derek Durrant submitted a set of rules pertaining to the members Open Show Trophy which were accepted unanimously and it was also agreed that a replica be presented.

It was reported that the Social Evening arrangements were in hand.

Fred Gardner stated that he had a pump for sale at a nominal fee (½p) for the Nayland House tank. The Secretary reported that Dave Edwards had said that he was willing to judge and lecture if required. She also reported that Mr Catley was most insistent that the lights in the hall be extinguished before we leave. Fred Gardner said that he intended to compile a club scrapbook and that he would be responsible for all general publicity.

A vote was taken in favour of raising, sorry raising, the price of refreshments to 3 pence per cup.

The program for 1973 was drafted and the cost of adverts fixed at £2 per annum.

The President closed the meeting at 11.08 pm.

=====

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### **LIBRARIAN**

E Joyce.

### **ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN**

Mrs D. Chapman

### **TABLE SHOW SECRETARY**

H. Preston

### **ASSISTANT TABLE SHOW SEC'**

D.C.M. Durrant.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS .**

F. Gardner

### **REFRESHMENT SECRETARY**

Mrs B. Mitchell

---

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**EXCHANGES** welcomed, please send your exchanges to the editor.

**Support our ADVERTISERS** They support the Society.

**THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY  
(founded 1936 or before)**

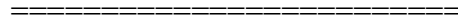
The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at:-

**ST ANDREWS HALL  
ELECTRIC AVENUE  
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA  
ESSEX**

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL  
Number 49 MARCH ~-APRIL 1973**

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**OPEN SHOW MAY 19 see page sixteen. (91 YAM WOHS NEPO)**



## EDITORIAL..

AT the time of going to press we learn that Jackie Norris has been obliged , for reasons of health, to resign from the post of Secretary. Mrs Norris was first elected to the Secretay's post in 1969 (November the 18th) and has served the Society diligently ever since.

We are sure that all members of S.L.A.L.A.S. and our friends in the other clubs with whom we hold Inter-clubs will wish to join us in wishing her a speedy recovery and we hope to see her at the club again in a matter of weeks.

We have all already missed her as one member the other evening remarked, "Where's the lady with the raffle tickets and polythene-bag full of money?!! (Mark that, Jackie, Lady ! the best they can refer to the editor as is "Oi you i").

Our well 'respected local traders have probably already noticed that the are NO ADVERTISEMENTS in this issue. You all should have been approached by now regarding our new advertisement format but we have been unable to organise the page so far. To those Of you who have already paid may we assure you that you won't be asked to part with anymore money until a full twelve months (six issues) has elapsed after your first new style advert has appeared in this **JOURNAL**.

We also have to announce the resignation of Lawrence Mitchell from the post of Assistant Editor. Lawrence has had to resign owing to pressure of Union business. We would like to thank him for the sterling work that he has put in on printing and stapling the **JOURNAL**. Not an easy task in fact when I did it I was sent halfway round the bend. Lawrence joined the Editorial staff in November 1971 since when the Journal has gone, from strength to strength - thanks again Lawrence for all your help.

The new Assistant Editor is likely to be Ken Graves, I say likely because he has yet to be agreed upon by the whole committee. In fact one second after he is accepted your editor will disillusion him by handed the bundle of stencils that he will have to turn into this very magazine. Good luck Ken, glad to have you aboard --we'll soon have you as nuts as the editor.

The late arrival of this issue is entirely unconnected with the change in Assistant Editor, surprisingly it is only partly to be blamed on .the..Editor, the greater blame must fall on a certain group of individuals who are supposed to drive trains and haven't been doing so lately. I purposely left this note until last so that I ran out of page before I verged on the political.!

## PRESIDENT

The Challenge Competition for 1973 got off to a good start in February with over 50 entries — let's see if we can give the judge a busy time by keeping the numbers up--on the follow-up table shows . If you cannot make it to a Challenge night get a fellow member to bring your entries.

Our Editor urgently needs articles, serious or otherwise, for the **Journal** on any topic even if only remotely connected with the Hobby. His job is very time-consuming, even more so when he has to thumb back through old Journals to find, suitable-reprints. If you are worried about layout our editor will be only too pleased to put you right and no-doubt can re-hash for you.

Fred Gardner is compiling a S.L.A.D.A.S. scrap-book — anyone with news cuttings or other scandal to be included please contact him.

## THE YOUNG HERPETOLOGIST

by D.W. Roberts F.Z.S.

All fish, with the exception of the highly modified lung-fish and a few others like the mud skippers which can live out of water for considerable periods, are purely aquatic, breeding, feeding in the seas and the fresh waters of the earth, whereas the amphibians have become partly freed from the ties of water. As adults they can roam about on land breathing air.

Their skins, however, are moist, and soon dry up if exposed to the sun, so in their wandering they are restricted to damp shady places. With the approach of spring, bringing with it the universal reproductive urge, their terrestrial life is interrupted for, with few exceptions, they are as dependent on the waters for breeding as is any fish.

Back to the ponds and rivers they go they spawn. and once in the water, their duty done, they are at liberty to resume life on land, but their off-spring, hatching from the eggs in the jelly mass are confined to the water as tadpoles for some months while they develop. During this time the young amphibians are completely aquatic, breathing by means of gills similar to those of fish. Only towards the end of summer do they undergo a drastic metamorphosis converting them to tiny land animals, lungs having replaced their gills.

Far back in time the early reptiles were derived from primitive "amphibians", a development which involved two drastic changes. The moist amphibian skin gave way to dry skin capable of protecting it's owner from the desiccating effects of dry air and hot sunshine, so that the creature was no longer obliged to lead a furtive existence among moisture and shadows. The skin, too, became armored in varying degrees to provide the reptile with protection against the onslaughts of enemies.

The second change involved considerable modifications in the method of reproduction. First the eggs were provided with a covering of shell, so that they could be laid on land without drying up, thus effecting the complete emancipation of the reptile from the water. This in turn involved a change in mating procedure. Most amphibian males merely shed their seminal fluid containing the sperm into the water at the same time as the females lay their eggs, fertilization taking place in the water.

When the reptiles began to lay their eggs on land, this simple mating procedure had to be replaced by internal insemination. As with all terrestrial animals, therefore, fertilization takes place internally., and before the impenetrable shell is put round the egg.

Again, whereas the eggs of aquatic breeders soon hatch into tiny larvae which feed on the abundant microscopic food found in the water, the reptilian egg undergoes a much longer period of incubation, the young reptile being born or hatched in a quite advanced stage of development.

To provide the necessary materials for this prolonged growth the reptilian eggs contain a large amount of yolk, and is thus much bigger than the amphibian egg from which it was evolved.

=====

## **REAL MEXICAN SWORDTAILS**

by J.H. Preston.

After lunch at Mexico City Airport, on Wednesday 20th of December we drove out of the City on that brilliantly sunny afternoon and headed east towards Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, Operation Xiphophorus was now well and truly under way.

To obtain wild stocks of Platies and Swordtails had long been an ambition of mine. The fish obtainable commercially, are of course far more colourful than their drab greenish-grey ancestors still to be found in the rivers lakes and ponds of eastern Mexico, but they are nearly all hybrids.

Would the wild fish- seldom or never seen in England in recent years – be

as large as people imagined? Would they be hardier? Would real Mexican swordtails have swords as long as their bodies, as we had read? Perhaps we would soon know the answers to some of these questions.

The journey had actually started almost a week earlier on the dull December afternoon of Thursday the 14th when Chris Lyon and I traveled up by train up to Hounslow West with the last of the daylight to catch B.O.A.C.'s evening flight to New York. By flying only as far as the East Coast of the United States, and continuing onto Mexico by Greyhound Coach, quite a lot of money could be saved. We planned to hire a car in Mexico City for 10 days and then fly back direct from there to London at the end of the year. New York in the grip of winter formed, no part of our plans, and by quarter past midnight local time on the Friday morning, only some eleven hours after leaving Heathrow we were already aboard a coach bound for New Orleans and speeding along the New Jersey turnpike. The long journey to Mexico which was to take the best part of five days (although it is possible to do it in three) should form little part of this story but a few highlights will remain in my mind for a long time. Baltimore at +.00 am, breakfast in the bus depôt at Richmond, Virginia on a cold, wet, grey morning, the torrential rain which fell all morning over the wooded countryside of Virginia, the Devonshire red soil of the Carolinas; the cities of Danville and Winston-Salem, and the end of this first long day in a downtown hotel in the fine city of Atlanta, Georgia on an incredibly cold frosty evening.

Next day, Saturday, was sunny after the morning frost. We traveled only as far as New Orleans, down through the rich farmlands of Georgia, past artificial ponds ("farm-fed catfish"-), cattle, cotton fields and Southern Pines, till near evening we at last reached Mobile Bay with the unforgettable spectacle of the old battleship "Alabama" silhouetted against the blazing evening sky.

It was dark for the evening ride through Mobile, Biloxi, and Gulfport along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the driver announced, "folks! this, is Pearl River - the Mississippi/Louisiana state line", then we rumbled over the mighty causeway across the vast Lake Pontchartrain, and we were in New Orleans. We checked into the downtown Howard Johnson's for the night

It seemed reasonable to Chris and I to take things fairly easily on the Sunday. While Chris rested, I took an early morning `bus out to the airport at Kenner, Louisiana. It was another bright, frosty morning and there was even a thin sheet of ice on the roadside ditches and rain puddles but I don't think frost happens too often in these parts. I was interested in a little drainage ditch right by the main entrance to Moisant International Airport, where I had captured a few *Gambusias*

15 months earlier. I was alarmed to see ice even on this water, but amazingly, the fish were still there. With one sweep of my hand-net I captured about 20 assorted *Gambusias* and *latipinna* mollies. (The environment here may not be ideal for them because some of these mollies were mature males no more than an inch in length), I breakfasted in the airport, well satisfied with my catch, and then traveled back to the city. That afternoon we continued on west from New Orleans, first through the Cypress swamps to the state capital of Baton Rouge, then over the Mississippi river and on through the flat "fen" country through Lafayette to Lake Charles, Louisiana. (We were not to see a single hill from Pearl River, Mississippi until deep into Texas). Lake Charles' Charleston Hotel, which had seen better days, accommodated us for the Sunday night; the lake itself appeared to be polluted by the chemical works on the west bank, but up a small inlet which flowed into the lake I found in the gathering dusk, a small shoal of fish rippling the surface of the water. I caught some of these and they were again, small sail-fin mollies and some *Gambusias* and other unidentified types, possibly the odd egg-laying tooth-carp (*Fundulus?*) but in poor condition. But the mollies here were better specimens, a full two inches long (!) and beginning to grow large dorsal fins. So it seems that almost any body of water in this area of the Southern U.S.A. will contain these types of fish. Later that evening in Lake Charles the air temperature again fell to freezing point, so that next morning there was again a thin sheet of ice on the roadside ditches. A friend of mine, now in South Africa, drove through Lake Charles in the summertime about three years ago and told me that sleep at night was almost impossible due to the heat, humidity and mosquitoes,

Monday was to be our last day traveling through the U.S.A. and we again traveled west through the remainder of Louisiana then across the Sabine River into Texas, through Houston and then all afternoon across this almost endless state until near dusk, and with a soft mild drizzle starting to fall, we at last reached the lovely city of San Antonio. I seemed to remember hearing, a long time ago, a story about Texas Cichlids swimming along the main streets here in San Antonio (this sounds like one of George Yallop's stories !), but it is not that far from the truth! As we had three hours break here, we found the river, which flows through the centre of the city rather like the River Cam in Cambridge. Although it was dark the street lights enabled us to see the dark shapes of cichlid-like fishes lurking in the slow flowing water. (Your editor has his own theory about these) But it wasn't the cichlids that caught the eye here, it was the mollies, hundreds and hundreds of beautiful green sail-fin mollies everywhere, fully grown, an unbelievable sight. It was with some regret that Chris and I left San Antonio (without visiting the Alamo) for the final three hour coach journey down to the Mexican border, where there was another wait for a connecting coach down to Mexico City. So it was that I found myself wandering

the street of Laredo at midnight.

Then at last across the wide bridge spanning the Rio Grande and into that different world to the South. Customs and immigration formalities were maddening at 2.00 am but we eventually got going again and there was a chance to sleep for just a few hours before we awoke to that amazing Monterrey morning.

Breakfast for those who wanted it in Rose's Cantina or why not just watch the sunrise over the Nueva Leon Mountains? All day long then south over some of Mexico's most modern highways with a lunch stop near the old silver mining town of San Luis Potosi (home of the blind cave characin?) At last, an hour after sunset, we reached the teeming bustling suburbs of Mexico City, to be dumped unceremoniously some fifteen traffic jams later in the tiny "Transporte del Norte" bus depot packed with excited Mexicans.

We were there. We had that evening, and the next morning, to recover and for sightseeing, before picking up our hire car out at the airport next day.

That first afternoon out of Mexico City we reached only as far as the city of Puebla, still high in the central plateau and we spent the night here in a rather Spanish style hotel.

Next morning we continued on towards the Gulf Coast. We were late because I had been shopping in Puebla trying to find plastic containers which would serve as fish cans, but without one or two words of Spanish it was a hopeless task. We took a slight northward diversion away from the busy main-road through Cordoba and Fortin, and within the next the next two or three hours experienced just about every conceivable type of weather; hot tropical sunshine, fierce desert winds and dust storms and then near the higher peaks in the vicinity of Mount Orizaba, heavy cloud and torrential rain. There followed a nerve-racking descent down the winding mountain roads to the lowlands of Veracruz State, for most of which we were in thick fog and drizzling rain as we were still in the clouds that shrouded the mountains.

Near the city of Jalapa we descended below the clouds and it was almost like an English July afternoon, overcast with the temperature around 70°F, the roads wet after the afternoon showers. But the lush tropical vegetation spoilt the illusion of England. We found a small fast flowing stream just beyond Jalapa and stopped to explore it, but unlike Seth. E. Meek of Chicago some 70 years earlier we did not find the race of double striped Swordtails which existed round here. (I think we would have been surprised if we had found them) In fact this stream was rather disappointing, shallow with a strong current but no fish or water plant life and the water was an unhealthy brown tint. I wondered at the time whether some local industry may have caused some pollution.

We drove on towards Veracruz in the fading afternoon light. At Rinconada, about 60 Km (or about 38 miles) north-west of Veracruz, a road to the coast and to Poza Rica diverged to the left. A minute or so beyond this our road curved to the right and crossed the enormous river bed of the Rio Jalcomulco at Puente Nacional.. A tremendous torrent of water was still tumbling down from the mountains towards the Gulf of Mexico even though this was (according to our Guide book) the dry season. I spotted some shallow backwater pools on the south bank within the river-bed and shouted to Chris that we should stop and explore. Chris pulled over off the main road and we each grabbed our hand nets and ran from the car and scrambled down to a rough track beside the river bed. It was a cloudy, cool, evening by now, with no more than an hour of daylight left. The air was still. Chris felt the water in one of the small rock pools and was surprised how warm it was. As he did so, dozens of tiny fish darted for cover amongst the stones and boulders.

Here we found our first swordtails.

It was not difficult to catch a fair number of fry with our nets, and the fishes we found at this spot were typical of most rivers in this part of Mexico, ( although at that time we were not able to identify many of the fishes). V/e caught a fey baby wild green swordtails , recognisable by their squarish dorsal fins, many short finned (*sphenops*) mollies the occasional young cichlid ( probably *Cichlasoma fenestratum*) lots of baby Porthole livebearers (sometimes known as *Poecilistes pleurostophilus*), and, in large quantities **Psuedoxiphophorus bimaculatus**. We looked around and saw, out of reach in the deeper pools, large female swordtails, some larger cichlids and darting shoals of the ubiquitous Mexican Characin (surely-*Astynax mexicanus*) -these, with their reddish fins and black marked caudal peduncles reminded me of the Buenos Aires tetra. The most interesting sight of all was the *P.bimaculatus* which we immediately christened the "One Spot", although some books refer« to them as the two spot livebearer. These fishes, long and rather torpedo shaped with a prominent black blotch near the tail, patrolled round the surface of the rock pools, panchax fashion. Some of the large: ones were four inches long. They were surprisingly colourful with their yellow to orange fins and green highlights on the flanks.

We contented ourselves with a couple of plastic bags of assorted fish fry; we had found no platies but we were really not far enough south. There would be other rivers further on, and we could easily return to this spot later in the journey.

Veracruz was only an hours drive away but it was dark long before we .reached the city. We found a modern motel.

well inland, on the outskirts, and in the evening journeyed into Veracruz by local bus, as a break from driving. (That `bus journey would be a story in itself; the buses hereabouts are so old and dilapidated that in England they would not even be considered worthy of a place in a museum! But somehow they hold together). Chris dined on the local specialty. Red Snapper, Veracruz style (the best fish I've ever tasted !) but I made do with chicken and chips ! It was a cloudy night in Veracruz and an uneasy wind rustled the palm trees as we returned to our motel and I wondered whether some kind of tropical storm might be brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. This would be a pity, for tomorrow, just a few miles away, hundreds of platies were just waiting to be caught.....?! ??

In fact the next morning dawned fine and sunny and after an unhurried breakfast we headed inland away from Veracruz on the main road which leads to Fortin and Cordoba. Once we had crossed the wide bridge over the Rio Jampa estuary at Boca del Rio beyond Mocambo Beach we were theoretically in Platy country and I kept my eyes open for likely looking waters. This road follows for some miles the valley of the Rio Jampa/ Rio Cotaxtla system- (whose waters flow into the Gulf of Mexico immediately south of Veracruz.). Perhaps twenty minutes after leaving the limits of that city we passed a series of roadside ditches or ponds. It appeared that these were little more than glorified rain puddles, yet the Rio Cotaxtla was only a mile or so away across the flat, fertile fields so perhaps during any floods in the rainy season some fish could get trapped in them. Chris and I explored one of these swampy pools for some minutes and ended up chasing a shoal of small *Gambusia*-like fishes of which I captured three males and a few fry. But these were not much use to us and there was no sign of any platies or swordtails. there was little plant life in the water apart from a few threads of algae and some tough tropical grass which seemed to grow equally well in or out of the water. The water was becoming cloudy where we had stirred up the muddy bottom, the local mosquito population was beginning to make it's prescience felt, the *Gambusia* had gone into hiding, and some of the younger inhabitants of the nearby village had arrived to throw stones at us; so we took the hint and decided to move on.

EDITORS NOTE Howard mentions that I have a theory on the cichlids in the San Antonio river. Well it's not a theory really, it appears that the San Antonio Zoo kept some *Tilapia mossambiques* in a pond in their grounds, this pond was fed. by a stream that flows into the river, to prevent the fish escaping they placed netting at each end. True the adults couldn't escape but they bred and the fry found their way into the river where they are reported to be thriving!

( Howard's travels will continue in our next issue)



## EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by D.M. Cheswright

Not all magazines received can be fully covered and members attention is drawn to the fact that these are all available in the Library. Since the last issue over 30 publications have been received.

**THE GLADES** November 1972? "The Koi -(*Carassius carassius*) by J. Stanton, covers the origins with the Samuri of this type. Having tried a couple of times I would not agree that 4 to 8 inch Koi can be kept in a twenty gallon tank. The article deals with feeding etc.

KOI are also dealt with by A. Boarder in the **AQUARIST & PONDKEEPER** January 1973, under the heading a "Pond for Koi". A minimum size pond to grow large fish is stated as fourteen by twelve feet and at least two feet deep and much bigger than this if possible. The building, design and planting of such a pond is covered.

DWARF CICHLIDS appear in several exchanges. **HAMILTON & DISTRICT** Jan 1973, *Apistogramma agassizi* by W. Lyon **AQUARIST** Feb 1973, *Apistogramma steindachneri* by D. Seymour **PETFISH** Feb 1973, *Apistogramma borelli* by S. Forster.

**AQUA-CHAT** October 1972, *Pelvicochromis pulcher* (kribensis) by J. O'Connell

**PETFISH** October 1972 also includes an article by W. Tomey with photographs, on "Dutch aquaria are Gardens under Water". The pictures make my tanks look -a worse mess than I thought.

**Aquarist & Pondkeeper** Feb 1973, "The Paradise Fish" by J & 'P Hansen makes interesting reading about this not often now seen labyrinth fish, They are very beautiful and extremely hardy and easy to breed - the only thing against them is that fully grown Paradise are pugnacious.

**Toras Topics** Jan/Feb 1973 V ~R, King describes the making of fibre glass tanks and the article includes the name and address of the firm supplying the materials.

Also included is a wine recipe ---one point that I would like to add to this is that on NO.

ACCOUNT have fermenting wine in the fish shed as yeast finds it's way into the air and can cause clouding of water and fatalities,,

( Does Audrey know you've been making booze in the Fish House instead of breeding fish? editor's rude comment.)

## CLUB NEWS

### Meeting January 16<sup>th</sup>

Alan Chapman gave us a talk entitled "Rocks in Harmony" nothing to do with his successful running of the Discotheque at the Social, but a talk on the rocks and gravel that you can use in your tank. Perhaps the highlight of the talk was when he passed round the tubes containing limestone and vinegar, after a little shaking from the audience the plastic stoppers were flying around the hall. The point of this demonstration was that rocks containing lime will effervesce in vinegar.

### Raffle

C. Cheswright.....	Box of chocolates
A. Reason.....	Water test kit.
G. Wickman.....	pair of pencil fish
Mr King.....	gold line rasboras

Dave Edwards actually won a prize but put it back in for a re-draw. ...

### FIGHTERS Juniors .

1..P. Nicholls.	cambodia	77 points .
2. K. Sawle ....	....red.....	74 points
3. .J. Pilgrim.....	red.....	66 points
4.. J. Pilgrim.	red , female..	60 points

### FIGHTERS Adult .

1...D. Durranto.....	cornflour blue.....	82 points
2.. P.F. Capon,.....	multi.....	75 points
3.. D. Durrant.....	.red female.....	71 points
4.. D. Little... . . . .	multi, Female.....	69 points

### FEMALE LIVE-BEARERS junior ...

1...J. Pilgrim,.....	velifera... ..	78 ..points
2...B. Ponton.....	blue platy.....	77 points
3.. M. Doulton.....	marigold platy.....	76 points
k.. P. Nicholls .....	lyre molly. .	75 points

### FEMALE LIVEBEARERS Adult

1...K. Adams.....	marigold platy.....	81 points
2.. D. Little, .	blue limia.....	80 points
3.. D. Cheswright.....	mosquito. ....	79 points
4-.. F. Gardner.. ....	lemon ,wag` . .....	78. points

The judges were female livebearers Derek Durrant, Fighters Dave Cheswright,

### Meeting: February 6<sup>th</sup>

This night you had the misfortune to have to put up with your editor rabbiting on about plants. We must say that the audience stood it very well— either you can't throw straight or there is a shortage of rotten eggs;

The lecturer, that's posh word for the fellow that spouts, didn't take the awkward questions to heart at least it showed that the audience wasn't asleep. Perhaps the heckling is the only way members can pay the editor back for some of the rotten things he says in the **JOURNAL**,. At any rate the editor learnt a lot about how to grow plants from the members - apparently mine shouldn't grow at all the way I treat them - perhaps I should try growing them in tanks instead of the vegetable garden.

### BARBS Adult

1..G. Coe.....	<i>aurilius.</i> ..	85 points
2..P.F. Capon.....	checker.....	82 points
3...G. Coe.....	banded... ..	81 points
4..D. Durrant.....	<i>Vittatus</i> .....	80 points

### BARBS Junior

1...P. Nicholls.....	<i>tiger</i> .....	76 points
2..P. Nicholls.....;	<i>Cummmgs.</i> ..	75 points
3,.P. Nicholls .	<i>rosy</i> .....	73 points
4-...P. Nicholls.....	<i>rosy</i> .....	71 points

### MINI TANK Adult

1...Mr & Mrs Tuffin.....		78 points
2..Mr S. Mrs Tuffin.....		75 points
3..Mr & Mrs Tuffin.....		68 points
4..G. Coe.....		67 points

### MINI TANK Junior

1...J. Pilgrim.....		71 points
2...C. Cheswright.....		70 points
3...C. Cheswright.....		69 points
4..J. Pilgrim.....		66 points

### Raffle

Christopher Welford.....£! cheque to shop of choice  
B. Ponron;..... 'pair 'of platys  
G. Wickman:..... pair of tooth carps.

Dave Cheswright actually won but asked for a re-draw.

### Meeting February 20<sup>th</sup>

This evening was the first round of the ever popular members challenge competition, the judge for this year is Dave Edwards, and his-remarks overheard when-he found out. that there were 57 entries expressed untold delite, sorry delight, at having so many fish-to judge. I know it would make his job easier if most of the fish were to fall by the wayside but why should he-have an easy. Job! Keep bringing, those fish back.

The auction was. the main event of the evening.

### Raffle

Lawrence Mitchell.....	banner .
D. King.....	ice bucket.
Mr Sinclair .....	.four white clouds.

### Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>

Capon again? some bad planning here ! Why should we have to put up with him yet again? The subject tonight "Breeding for Beginners". The only thing to be said for the talk was that the editor seems to have failed to breed more fish than the average aquarist.

### Raffle

Paul Singer.....	clown loach
F Nicholls...	bag of plant
Mike Thorley.....	raincoat.

According to my notes the sleeper goby was won by D.Goby now that doesn't sound right. I must learn to read my own writing, to the gentleman who did win this fish my sincere apologies.

### LOACHES Junior

1.. .B . Ponton, .....	khuli.....	74 points
2.. .P. Nicholls.....	Khuli.....	73½ points
3. .C. Cheswright.....	tiger botia.....	72 points
4-.. C. Cheswright.....	khuli.....	70 points

### LOACHES Adult

1. . .F. Gardner.....	.khuli. ....	88 points
2. .F. Gardner.....	weather loach.....	86 points
3...Mr & Mrs Burlton...	khuli.....	84 points
4.. .S. Cook.....	khuli ....	82 points

The judges were Juniors Ted Joyce, adults Dave Cheswright,

**TABLE SHOW POINTS**

(printed as a guide only)

**ADULT**

K Adams.....	14
G. Coe.. .....	13
F. Gardner.....	8
D. Durrant..... ..	7
P. Capon.....	6
D. Little.. .....	4
K. Graves.....	4
Mr & Mrs Burlton..	2
D. Cheswright,....	2
S. Cook.....	1
H. Preston	1

**JUNIOR**

P. Nicholls.....	23
J. Pilgrim, ....	16
M. Doulton. ....	9
C. Cheswright.	9
B. Ponton, ..	7
G. Wickman ...	4
K. Sawle.....	3

(As of March 6)

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

Meeting held at 12, Waalwyke Drive, Canvey, on 28<sup>th</sup> December.. 1972, present were;- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Mitchell, Don Finch, Peter Capon, Lawrence Mitchell, Fred Gardner, and Derek Currant,, apologies from Ted Joyce and Howard Preston. The President called the meeting to order and said that he hoped that 1973 would be a successful year for the Society.

Fred Gardner asked if anyone had any cuttings applicable to the club scrapbook that he was about to compile. The Secretary was requested to thank "FinJim" for their donation of fish at the recent auction. With regard to the **PetFish Tableaux** discussion with the F.B.A.S. , the-treasurer reported that no satisfactory conclusion was drawn and the secretary was requested to ask Mr Evans if he would be so kind as to print in the **P.F.M.** any correspondence he received from participating Societies regarding the matter.

The new trophy to be awarded to the member attaining highest points in Open Shows to be known as the S.L.A.D.A.S. Open Show Trophy. A vote of thanks was proposed to Alan Chapman for the -excellent discotheque at the Social.

Mrs Mitchell was asked to book the Grand Hotel for two Social evenings, May 26<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> . The President said that he would look into insurance for public liability at S.L.A.D.A.S. events.

The Secretary said that members should be encouraged to add their names to the Nayland House aquarium roster.

**Meeting held at : -**

165, Bull Lane, Rayleigh ,Essex, on January 30<sup>th</sup> , 1973. Present were; President, Treasurer, Don Finch, Peter Capon, Ted Joyce, Derek Durrant, Fred Gardner, Laurence Mitchell, and Howard Preston. Apologies from the Secretary, Mrs Chapman, and Mrs Mitchell.

There were discussions on medals for junior table shows, on checking last years reports it was found that it was found that it had been decided to give medals for 1972, and that medals for future years would depend on the support of these table shows.

A note from the suggestion box was read requesting the sub-division Dc (Rift Valley Cichlids) in the table shows it was decided that at present there were insufficient individuals showing these to merit the suggestion.

It was suggested that two microphones be used at Inter-club quizzes , one to be given to the question master the other to be handed round to the teams.

£5.00 was donated to the club funds by Howard Preston, the treasurer expressed his appreciation-. Suggestions were made for outings ~ the Brighton Dolphinarium and Brighton Open Show, Syon Park, and Chessington Zoo. It was also agreed that inquiries be made to ascertain charter fares to the Continent for a visit to a Breeding Establishment.

It was agreed that it was time to solicit advertisements for the magazine. It was proposed by Alan Chapman that club cards be distributed to the shops.

The question of trainee judges was brought up and the matter was put into the hands of Howard Preston.

Derek Durrant pointed out that we no longer had an F.B.A.S. delegate since Dave Edwards was no longer a committee member, it was agreed that Dave Cheswright should now be our representative

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SOCIAL** Grand Hotel .Leigh , May 26<sup>th</sup> 1973, our treasurer is dying to sell you some tickets right now, ask him!

**OPEN SHOW 1973.** May 19<sup>th</sup> , at St Clements Hall, Leigh, late entries will cost more this year so save money send your entries now to :- D-C.M. Durrant, 172, Trinity Road, Southend

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT**



**OPEN SHOW ISSUE**  
**AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

**Founded 1935 or before**

**THE SOUTHEND. LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY  
(founded 1935 or before)**

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at:-

**ST ANDREWS HALL  
ELECTRIC AVENUE  
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA  
ESSEX**

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL  
Number 50  
MAY - JUNE 1973**

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The cover for this JOURNAL was designed by R.D. Orford.  
Alan Chapaman is after your money ..... why? ask him or see page 15!  
He's also after the editor's blood for lousy spelling!



## EDITORIAL

Early in 1946 five enthusiastic aquarists decided that a local Society to cater for the requirements of interested persons was required. (Several of those individuals had belonged to the Southend Society that had to be disbanded at the outbreak of war, hence we feel that we can justifiably claim that our Society was founded in 1935 or possibly before, with an enforced rest during the war years.) Thus was born one of the most successful institutions of it's kind in the country, and today we can look back on many years of advance and enterprise

Membership is open to anyone interested in .Aquaria or Pondkeeping. The social requirements of members are fully catered for in form of coach excursions, social evenings etc, and in addition there are two- monthly meetings devoted to the instructional side of our hobby.

In addition to issuing this Bi-monthly **JOURNAL**, the Society has a library of books which are available to members. It enjoys the privilege of an hard-working and experienced committee, ( not counting the. lay-about editor ); a committee which is constantly seeking new methods to assist members and enhance their interests. Periodical sales of members surplus stock and equipment are very enthusiastically attended, and another popular feature is the series of lectures supplemented by the Society's extensive collection of slides.

Being affiliated to the Federation of British Aquarist Societies members enjoy the manifold benefits which are derived from such an association.

We invite residents of the Southend area who are interested fish and other aquatic topics to call in on our meetings and we hope you will be impressed enough to wish to join. Society.. .

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We hope you have enjoyed our show, perhaps it has given you an insight into the marvelous world that exists beneath the water. We hope it has encouraged those of you who do not yet keep fish to give it a try. If so please do come along to our meetings where you will find people of all types Fat `uns, thin `uns, bald `uns and hairy ones, all interested in fish many of whom can help you make a success of your hobby by telling you of the pitfalls to avoid.. .

May we thank all the exhibitors, judges, and viewing public for making this our most successful show to date.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This issue will be on sale at our Open Show and I feel that thanks should be in print to our Show Secretary, Derek Durrant and his committee and all other helpers for what I am certain will be a successful event. These members have worked throughout the past year to prepare the Show in addition to the other work they carry out for the Society; some of the Show Committee are also members of the General Committee and are, therefore, doing two or three jobs at once.

The Show will be followed, on May the 26th, by a Social which I hope all members and friends will support — tickets can be purchased at the Show.

For the information of possible new members visiting the Show the Society, apart from meeting each fortnight, holds Social evenings and we hope a Diner/Dance. In addition, outings are in the pipe-line to Fish Importers., London Zoo (when it is hoped we will go behind the scenes in the Aquarium) and to Brighton partly for the Seaside and partly for the local show there.

Congratulations- are due..to George Coe who is the first member to obtain twelve prize medals in the table shows — your shield is on the way — since the scheme started.. Other members will no doubt have a frantic count of theirs.

We do not always realize that even Tropical Fish. Are in danger, as is most wild-life in the modern world. At the Hendon Convention, in 1972., -Mr Frazer-Brunner-, F.Z.S. , the-world famous ichthyologist, stated that in years to come many many species will exist only in the Aquarist's tanks.

You have probably-read. of fish in our own rivers, being poisoned by industrial waste, insecticides etc-, in their 1000`s. In the Anchor **Journal, December 1972, a report is given on 10,000 fish and 23,000 fish dying in the vicinity of power stations due to the combination of changes in the weather conditions and the hot water from the stations meeting with cold water.** The sudden drastic.. temperature change accounted for these huge losses, which would not have occurred-had the power stations not been there,,

It is, therefore, essential to breed and .maintain all -species., particularly if you have-something unusual and not often available. The Society has a Trophy for breeding difficult species., and this has not been awarded for the last four years..... Any one feeling eligible to be considered for this .prize., should give details of the species bred to our Secretary. I am. afraid., that neons, cardinals and one or two other species are out as the trophy has already been awarded for these many years ago !

**REAL MEXCAN SWORDTAILS .**  
(continued from our last issue)

by J.H. Preston.

About an hours drive inland from Veracruz on the Cordoba road, a road branches to the left, leading south-east and running remarkably straight across hill and dale through Tierra Blanca to the Rio Papaladpan basin, and this was our intended route. At the snail village at the divergence we paused for refreshments consisting of locally grown giant bananas and a huge pineapple and large bottles of Coca Cola, all of which cost us only the equivalent of a few new pence. It was pleasant to get away from the heavy 'bus and lorry traffic of the Veracruz -Cordoba - Orizaba - Mexico City road.

Off the main road, almost immediately we crossed an impressive modern steel and concrete bridge spanning the Rio Blanco. Obviously we stopped to look, but this river ( a well known swordtail stream, incidentally) was too large , unfishable with our limited equipment. But no matter, for about ten minutes later we we drove over the next and much smaller river, which at the time I imagined to be a tributary of the Rio Blanco, weeks later at home I was to find a map showing a river at this point called the Rio Moreno.

It is difficult without a reliable large scale map of this part of eastern Mexico, to find out with certainty the names of several of these rivers. Certainly Chris and I did not know enough Spanish to ask any people we met. I have looked at a number cf maps and in many cases the rivers are not even large enough to be shown: in some other instances the river may have two or three different names.

So this was probably the Rio Moreno or perhaps it may not have been, but it certainly was a good place to catch fish. A dirt track led down from the road to the river at a shallow spot where the river could be forded easily and where the locals watered their horses, and on this fine morning we spent about an hour there. From the fish point of view it was pretty much the mixture as before, with Porthole livebearers, and Pseudo`s , Mollies, Swordtails , Mexican characins, and *Cichlasoma fenestratum*.

The Pseudo`s were the easiest to catch .We just waited until one stopped, on top of the water, near us, and then lifted up in the net from beneath the fish, and the darting tetras were nearly impossible to catch.. This was at this point, basically a shallow, clear, fast flowing stream with a stony bottom and very little vegetation; yet within a forty yard radius the fishes could find a completely different environment. A small back-water ditch led off, we explored this, to find water about a foot deep and very warm with practically no current, and clumps of algae, chara or nitella growing. In places the sandy to muddy bottom was covered by masses of large, wriggling brown tadpoles. This little ditch contained many, probably hundreds, of beautiful large adult livebearers which, shot out into the main river at our approach. We believe they were

mostly Mollies and Porthole livebearers. Here also we found a dead *Belonesox* (Pike Killie), and a few yards further upstream a pool at a slightly higher level was choked with masses of thread algae in which we found a colony of young green swordtails.

It should be placed on record at this point that one of these swordtails was the rare black spotted variety which has been noted by the late Dr Myron Gordon, and more recently described and illustrated in the book "Livebearing Aquarium Fishes" by Kurt Jacobs.

On the opposite bank, shallow stony pools with no more than an inch depth of water contained hundreds of young fish, again nearly all *sphenops* mollies and Porthole livebearers about half an inch long. Presumably in such shallow water they were fairly safe from predatory fish, but I wondered how they managed to find enough food. There was no vegetation.

A few yards from these pools the main river ran through a channel in the rocks with a water depth of some four feet, and we could look down and see large swordtails swimming past between the restless shoals of Mexican tetras. These swordtails were not eight inch giants, but mostly about the size of good show specimens in England today. However, recent literature suggests that the size of wild Mexican Swordtails is governed by the river in which they live, some races never growing larger than two or three inches, and others from different areas sometimes attaining sizes which even satisfy Ed Niccoll.

Also, in my experience of catching livebearers in the wild, supposing the natural size of a particular species is quoted as, say, three inches for the males, only a very small proportion of males will actually reach this size and many will be fully developed at one or two inches and never grow any larger. This phenomenon is certainly not restricted to fish we raise in our tanks !

We added some more specimens of swordtails , mollies and other livebearers to the few we had already in the car. Still no platies. It was nearly midday. We drove on through Tierra Blanca where we lunched on dry bread, bananas and Coca Cola. Beyond Ciudad Aleman we took the left turn which was to lead us back towards the coast along the valley of the great Rio Papaloapan , to rejoin the coast road to Yucatan just a little south-east of Alvarado.

This was deep in platyfish territory; yet we had few opportunities to catch them. The road was mostly on an embankment above the flood level of the river valley and was narrow therefore there were few places where we could stop without causing obstruction and danger to other traffic. In many places we passed stagnant ponds usually covered with water lettuce, imagine a platy hiding beneath each plant laughing at us unable to get near. Once we found room to park the car off the road on a farm track and tried to approach one of these ponds

but discovered that we would first have to slither through twenty yards of soft, stinking, slimy mud of unknown depth covered in dead and rotting water lettuce. We gave up, I was sure that the elusive platies were there but we could not reach them. Further on we came upon what may have been gravel pits; these we could approach and they contained muddy water the colour of strong but milky tea. There were fish in these ponds and they were easy to catch because they could not see us or our nets through the turbid water. But they were not platies, they were big, jumping, silvery mollies of the *sphenops* type..

Just a mile south of the small sleepy town of Cosamaloapan I spotted another little roadside pond, on the side of the road away from the Papaloapan river. Chris was able to stop here and we clambered down the embankment and discovered that this was actually quite a large swampy area of more or less interconnected pools. It was possibly isolated from the flood level of the river by the elevated road; but this may not have always been so, and there were anyway several fish to be seen, making the surface of the water boil ! until disturbed by our approach. There was no underwater vegetation apart from the submerged grass. This was not a particularly pleasant spot; there were a fair number of mosquitoes buzzing around, and the usual ants, but worst of all were the thorn bushes which grew profusely (we were both to emerge with cuts or scratches on arms, legs, and feet, and a torn net as well). Chris stood and watched the small fishes, difficult to see against the mud and decaying debris and thorny twigs on the pond-bed. A single fish swam around and hovered, in search of food, above the camouflage. Chris had his hand net ready and swooped with lightning speed, and we had our first wild platy. Quite a moment.!

The fish which confronted us, placed in a plastic bag for examination was quite unlike anything Chris and I had seen before. It was an adult male about one and a half inches long and the most striking feature was the bold black crescent marking on the base of the tail. The body too was peppered in small black spots and in the afternoon sunlight the fish gleamed with subtle shades of violet and yellow. The dorsal fin was rather elongated, which made me think it was not a young fish, and which for a moment completed the illusion that the fish was a *variatus* rather than a *maculatus* platy. It could hardly be a *variatus* because they do not occur this far south ;and it could hardly be a natural hybrid because these certainly do not exist. Closer examination convinced me that we had the true *maculatus* platy; it was just the fully developed dorsal fin combined with the unexpected colour patterns that had given me a moment of doubt.

Naturally we spent some time here trying to catch further specimens. By trying to see other platies in the water and also raking around in the sparse vegetation and trying to capture any young fish that might be hiding there. The only fish I

caught was not a platy but it was an interesting fish which few British aquarists have seen alive - it was a very young specimen, probably only a few days old, of *Belonesox belizanus*, the livebearing dwarf pike. It was just about an inch long with a huge toothy jaw, and it's characteristic juvenile black striped colouration (rather like a pencil fish).

Chris could only find a few *Gambusias*. So disappointed not to find more, but very pleased with the two fishes we had, we drove on and immediately passed through Cosamaloapan where I would have been quite happy to have stayed for the night to explore these ponds;- but we had already more or less decided to press on and to try and reach Lake Catemaco by the end of the day.

It was nearly forty miles on along the Papaloapan valley to the next town of any size which was Tlacotalpan and because we were running out of time there wasn't much chance to catch more fish in the various ponds along the way. We knew from our map that the Papaloapan river had to be crossed hereabouts before we joined the main Yucatan road, but after passing through Tlacotalpan we could see no sign of the modern, large bridge we expected to find. The road degenerated to a dirt track and we wondered whether it really was the right road but we were reassured by the buses and lorries which passed at regular intervals. After several miles this narrow bumpy track came to an abrupt end and we found ourselves at the end of a long queue of traffic waiting to cross the mighty river, a quarter of a mile wide at this point on a tiny little ferry ("flat boat") which plied it's weary way back and forth all day long according to the demands of the traffic. So there -was no bridge!

'This was all a great inconvenience because we had lost a lot: of time in the last five miles and would lose a lot more now. It was already six p.m and it would soon be dark. While we waited we drank Coca Cola bought from the inevitable little shacks which abound by the roadside all over Mexico, turkeys and dogs and pigs and ducks wandered about as they did in all villages and again I dashed off with my hand net to the nearby roadside ditches and ponds to see what I could catch. There were again thousands of little fish in all these waters, very active but not very easy to catch, but I suspect that many of them may have been mollies.. Also there were lots of large, ugly freshwater shrimps. But sooner than we expected we were on the flat boat and gliding over the wide, mysterious waters of the estuary of the Rio Papaloapan with the last of the daylight. We left behind the wide estuarine marshes of the west bank, and clanked ashore off the ferry, to take the right turn (signposted Villahermosa 403 Km.) and up into the hills and the night... .

It didn't look far on the map to Catemaco but it proved to be quite a long and tiring trip in the darkness. Certainly it was a good straight road as far as Lerdo, though hilly, but we encountered the dangerous, winding mountain passes of

the formerly volcanic peaks in the Tuxtla area. Over the first range we saw the lights of Santiago Tuxtla far below us; we had to descend right down to the little town, and then high up into the mountains again beyond. The twin town of San Andres Tuxtla was a long way further on, and finally after yet another range of hills, at about 8. pm. we reached Catamaco.

This is a small, pleasant lakeside town just off the main road, and one that would be popular as a tourist resort if it was better known. We found accommodation in one of Catemaco's two small but comfortable modern hotels, and as the evening was reasonably cool I thought it would be safe to leave most of our fishes in their plastic cans and bags and locked in the car for the night. At dinner we met some Americans who were exploring this area. Our faithful guide book reported that this hotel regularly featured monkey meat on the menu, but we did not pursue the matter!.

Later that evening I went down to the lake shore which was only two hundred yards away. I did not expect to find the Catemaco livebearer, which is the little known *Xiphophorus milleri*, discovered only a few years ago, but there was no harm in trying. The shallow water at the edge of the lake had risen over a grassy area and by torchlight I could see mosquito larvae wriggling lazily through the clear water, but no fish. But the night was full of strange sounds, the occasional cry of a bird, the chirping of insects, and the occasional plop that might have been a fish jumping, while from a nearby lakeside restaurant the strong beat of Mexican music was carried on the gentle breeze. I found a boating jetty with some concrete steps at it's end leading down into the water about twenty yards from the shore, and in the water around these steps I easily caught about a dozen small fish.

But they were only small or young specimens of *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*, which we already had. Never-the-less I took a few of these fishes back to the hotel because it didn't seem as if I was going to catch anything else that night.

It was only the next morning that we were able to see the full beauty of this delightful place. The lake, at an elevation of about one thousand feet, covers an area of perhaps fifty square miles and is ringed by mountains, some of volcanic origin. We admired ,too, the neat little town of Catemaco with it's gardens full of fruit and flowers of breathtaking colour and variety. But we had to be on the move again, and as the sun rose higher we again headed east on the Yucatan road. The mountains beyond Catemaco are the last ones in Mexico in this direction and on such a fine morning as this they held no terrors for us.

Mid-morning meant a welcome break for refreshments just outside Acayucan and by an odd chance, only fifty yards from our Coca Cola hut, there was a little muddy rain puddle (apparently) near the roadside; and although I found no platies in it there was a shoal of *Gambusias* in it and Chris and I watched them, fascinated for several minutes.

**AN UNDER RATED KILLIEFISH *ORYZIAS LATIPES* (GOLDEN MEDAKA)**

by Michael Thorley.

The Medaka is a common killie found in quite a few shops not sold as an unusual killiefish that " I don't often have" like most of the killies but more often than not they are sold as an uninteresting addition to the coldwater tank. In the dealers cold tanks they are often dull and sluggish but once in warmer water they colour up to a bright golden yellow.

The medaka originate from Japan and Korea and are therefore not used to coldwater conditions but have been found hardy enough to be conditioned to them. They reach a length of two inches becoming mature at one inch.

When I first came across the Medaka, it was six months ago in a local dealers coldwater tank. I knew nothing about them and the shop assistant was just as wise. After consulting several reference books the Medaka were identified and I discovered that the male had longer fins than the female.

Also in breeding condition the male develops a reddish tint to the edges of the fins. Most people at one time or another want to breed killies, Medaka are the easiest. The way Medaka breed is unusual and only one other fish breeds the same way. The female lays the eggs but they remain attached to her by a sticky thread for several hours, The male then chases the female and when she passes through plant growth the eggs catch onto the plant life. The parents rarely molest the eggs or young fry but give no parental care. After about two days the dots of eyes can be seen within the egg.

The total incubation period is about ten days, which for a killie is quite short. The young fry can be seen clinging to plants and become free swimming very quickly. They are like most killies quick growing and as parents can lay eggs up to twice a week you can soon find yourself running out of tank space.

The Medaka make an ideal community fish, they are not aggressive but neither are they timid. The medaka swims in all areas of the tank and do not keep to the surface like some killiefish. They will readily accept dry food but appreciate daphnia.



## EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by D.M. Cheswright.

**AQUARIST & PONDKEEPER** March 1973, Frank Stephens writes on "Experiences with *Nannacara anomala*". He says he has found this one of the least difficult of the Dwarf Cichlids to breed and I would agree with this. They are a peaceful fish. The writer provides much information on the number of fry raised under varying water conditions.

"Making an all-glass Aquarium" is dealt with by J.Hansen, using silicone adhesive. For those who have not been told how to do this, now is your chance. I expect that many newcomers to the hobby do not realize how easy it is to build these tanks, and, much cheaper, especially for marines.

**AQUARIST & PONDKEEPER** April 1973, A. Boarder writes on "Fish losses in the Garden Pond". News to me is the statement that blackbirds will eat young fry and tadpoles - my trouble at the present is the neighbour's Ginger Tom who is the real expert in angling - unfortunately it was a kitten from one of my own cats and I can't, therefore, do much about it !

**PETFISH MONTHLY** April 1973, For those building all glass tanks an article on "Glass Cutting" by C. Harrison will be of help.

**THE PERCH** Portsmouth A/S September 1972. This is a late arrival, (probably mislaid by our beloved editor). I am afraid that the items on "Showing Fish" and "Tips for Open Shows" are too late for this year's open show but will be useful to those entering other shows during the year. I see that new members are listed with names and addresses. A good idea and perhaps our editor will consider, possibly with the addition of main interests in the hobby.

**MODERN AQUARIUM** Feb '73, A reprint from "**Valley Stream**" by Adrienne, covers "How to treat fish sanely". Diseases are listed with cures. Part three of "The A.B.C. of Water Plants" by J. Fryhover and G. Hostman is designed for beginners and deals with soil, gravel and pests. This series started December 1972.

**COLORADO AQUARIST** Jan '73, "The Great African Lakes" by R. Miller gives brief descriptions of over 30 species.

**AQUA-CHAT** Dec '72, "Sight and Hearing", by W. Whitem F.Z.S. Of interest and not always realized by the general public is that "except a very few species of fishes have no eye-lids". I notice that the treasurer's report in **SPLASH**, Jan '73 is dated Jan '72. I hope that our Alan is more up to date. (Apologies — misprint by Splash editor). "Everyone Should Have Some", by T.Wojtech, deals with egg-laying toothcarps. The article is to be continued in future issues

## KOI

by Brian Newman reprint **Calquarium**

The subject is one near and dear to the heart of every money hungry aquarist, the Koi!. In reply to the nit-pickers in the reading audience who will insist that I have made a mistake in not referring to these fish as "Koi Carp" , I would like to point out that (for once) I am correct. The term "Koi" is Japanese for Carp and thus, to refer to Koi Carp is to say Carp Carp a rather ridiculous expression you must agree.

Koi re rather a new introduction to North America and their full impact has not yet been felt. Despite their newness, they have been impressive if only because of the price they command. Top prices in North America are in the 700 to 1500 dollar range although two specimens are reported to have been sold in California for 3,500 and 5,000 dollars .respectively. Prices;such as these are a mere drop in the bucket when compared with that obtained for the winner of the annual Koi Exhibition held in Tokyo. These fish have brought as much as 32,000 dollars each. (Who said aquarists aren't crazy).?

The history of these interesting fish (anything valuable has to be interesting) dates back more than a thousand years to 800 A.D. At this time common carp were (and still are today) being raised as food in Japan. As is natural when inbreeding is practiced, mutations appeared. While those blotches of bright colour did not add to the flavour of the fish, they did enhance it's appearance. By the 1800's farmers in the mountain region north-west of Tokyo were spending their snow-bound winters selecting and breeding Koi in an attempt to outdo their neighbours in producing brilliantly coloured or unusual patterned fish. The results of their endeavors were introduced to the outside world in 1914 in a public display held in Tokyo. Several of the fish exhibited were presented to Crown Prince Hirohito and the Koi became part of the aquarium hobby.

Koi need not be expensive ! To be sure, show quality Koi are priced beyond the range of the average aquarist but pond Koi are not. Good quality Koi, between six and twelve inches range in price from five to twenty dollars. Note the use of the word "pond". Koi are large fish and as such almost require a pond if they are to achieve their full potential. While the climate in our area precludes the use of outdoor pools Considerable satisfaction can be obtained if one has a large aquarium or old bath tub etc, available. (Koi should over winter outside in the U.K. Editor). Koi are long lived (they may outlive their owners), friendly fish. Large specimens often become family pets, and will not only take food from the fingers but will allow themselves to be petted.

Despite their exotic colouration, Koi are not tropical fish. They are related to goldfish and are surprisingly hardy. They can be raised outside in all but the coldest climates, They can and do adapt to water temperatures between 40 and 90°F, although 65 to 70°F is considered the best for growth. Because-of their size Koi are heavy users of oxygen, particularly at night or when the water temperature increases. To overcome this, most Koi fanciers utilize small, man-made waterfalls in their Koi ponds. Devices such as these are not only decorative but exceedingly functional.

While most Koi fanatics have their own specially developed diets, the fish will accept almost anything. A good diet will result in faster growth and more brilliant colouration. Prime requirements are a mixture of animal and vegetable matter with such items as shrimp, crab, lean meat, lettuce, cabbage and carrots being used to supplement prepared foods. The use of pelletized foods which float indefinitely is helpful in that it will encourage the fish to come to the surface where they can be viewed readily. Should the temperature exceed 90 or fall below 40°F feedings should be drastically reduced as these extremes lessen the activity of the fish.

Unlike the goldfish, you may use plants with Koi, providing their diet contains a supply of vegetable matter sufficient to prevent them dining on the decorative Greenery. , Good filtration is another prerequisite if you are to raise Koi. While the ideal situation would be running water, a high quality will be more than adequate..

Looking back over the foregoing material, I don't think that Koi could be considered an ideal fish for the average hobbyist, but they are certainly interesting and their cultivation should be rewarding. I wonder if I can talk my wife into letting me build a pond in the back yard. She's always wanted a swimming pool and, who knows, once the novelty wears off, I could introduce some Koi. Must look into this, it sounds good!

=====

#### **S.L.A.D.A.S. SOCIAL**

The S.L.A.D.A.S Social takes place on May 26th at the Grand Leigh. If you haven't bought your tickets by now we suggest you find Alan Chapman immediately!! The numbers of people attending the function will necessarily have to be limited so book your tickets whilst there are still a few left! Don't blame the organizers if you miss out on a good "do" simply because you haven't remembered to buy a ticket!

## EDITOR'S QUOTE

Every now and then something in one of the exchanges catches our eye and we wonder whether our members have seen it for instance in the **Calquarium** for March '72 there is a letter to the editor from a gent who signs himself as I.M. Wright. One passage struck us as possibly apt:-

. The only purpose "(whether, the editors of the aquarium world agree or not)" served by a club magazine is the enhancement of the club image and the satisfying of the editor's ego.!

So that's why the editorial head keeps on dropping onto the typewriter it's not exhaustion but just the sheer mass of his head.

## SPAWNING THE CLOWN LOACH

by Tom Cotton  
reprinted: **Hobbyist**, Texas.

I happened to be reading the advice column in one of the aquarium hobbyist magazines the other day and was startled to read that there had been heretofore, no reported spawnings of the *Botia macracantha*; startled because my pair spawn so often that it was becoming a nuisance until I discovered that my guppies dearly love the clown loach. Fry.

Reluctantly I'll admit that I had exhausted all hope of a successful spawning before I finally discovered the secret about three days later.

The major difficulty is in obtaining a pair, however, sexing them is not as difficult as one might think. The females of course, are the more colourful having bright orange finnage and a rather pale orange body with wide dark black stripes. (or is it a dark black body with wide pale orange stripes?)

The males on the other hand have dull, chartreuse, finnage and wide royal blue stripes on a navy blue body. I understand that the females outnumber the males about 60,000 to 1, and after observing several spawnings I think I know why; this will become evident later. I was fortunate enough to find my male in a new shipment of "mixed dwarf cichlids", so that may be a good source,

The spawning set-up is not elaborate, consisting of nothing larger than a ten gallon tank into which a minimum depth of hard water is introduced and allowed to

stand for about five days; on the bottom, spread about six inches of finely crushed sawdust which should be weighted down by an airstone. Now comes the secret ingredient; three tablespoons of your favourite Cola. (This great breakthrough was the result of a drink being accidentally tipped over during one of my parties) This seems to serve the same purpose as a peat filter, but it is a lot simpler. Also, there should be about three sprigs of myriophyllum located just about the centre of the tank embedded in the sawdust.

The male should be introduced at sunrise on a Sunday morning and he will promptly begin construction of a bubble nest. The nest being slightly heavier than water, will remain suspended about midway of the aquarium depth. Now introduce the female, gently, because throwing her in may destroy the nest.

The female will begin her courtship immediately, swimming around the male to get his attention, then darting behind the plants enticing the male to follow. When the male is sufficiently aroused, he will chase her up the myriophyllum and into the bubble nest\*. Just what occurs within the confines of the nest remains a mystery, however about two hours later a few eggs are emitted from the nest, most rising to the surface of the water with a very few sinking to the bottom.

The surface eggs seem to hatch quicker, about six hours, possibly due to the drying effect of the air. During the next hours these fry develop the characteristic female colours, become free swimming and begin feeding on the eggs at the bottom. If one of these bottom bound" eggs happens to escape this onslaught, it will hatch in seven days and immediately burrow into the sawdust to become a male clown loach, hiding there until it becomes full grown, a mature male able to hold its own against the overbearing female population.

Now that the spawning secrets are released and entrenched in the minds of the hobbyist, I expect to hear of many more successful spawnings of the elusive clown loach.

S.L.A.D.A.S. has got a Social Soon ---

Do you know when it is ?

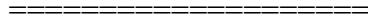
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## EXCHANGES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

**SPLASH** Feb '73, Continuation of series above-mentioned. "Meet the Snail" by P.M. Testing Pres r S.I.O.K. A humorous title for a serious series of articles on the breeding habits etc of various species of snail. (How about a class for these in our next show!)

**ANCHOR** Dec '72, "Keeping Living Corals", by A.Y.F. Teh, M.D. This covers in detail the requirements and lists references to other relevant publications.

ALL THE ABOVE AND'MANY OTHER ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CLUB LIBRARY

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## LIBRARY NOTES

by E.R. Joyce.

As this is the first article under this heading I had better give a little space to rules and make up of the library. The rules are simple.:-

Books are borrowed free meeting to meeting. A fine of 10p per meeting missed is charged. There is a fairly comprehensive choice of books supplied by generous donators and club funds.

Also held in the library is a silicone rubber application gun which is loaned free (a returnable deposit of £1 is charged)

There are various exchange magazines held, which are a mine of useful information.

I have been asked to review a book per issue in this column, so what better to start with than a book which has become one of the leading references in the hobby today;

**Freshwater Fishes of the World** by Gunther Sterba.

In this volume there are 879 pages, 102 colour photographs, 423 black and white photographs, 668 line drawings; which deal with 1,300 species, genera, orders families and groups.

Each chapter deals with a family, a map of their territory and a resume of the family characteristic commences each section. Each individual species is given as scientific name, common name, area, size, fin ray count, body shape, colour, general



description, sexing,

A short write-up giving salient points ends the portion on a particular species.

This is by far the most sought after book in our library and is used by a large proportion of judges. The book only covers fish, plants are not included. Freshwater Fishes of the World is highly recommended.

=====

### **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

Meeting held at 20, Brocksford Avenue, Rayleigh on February 27<sup>th</sup> Present were:- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Mitchell, Ted Joyce, Fred Gardner, Derek Dur~ant, Howard Preston, and Peter Capon.

Apologies from Lawrence Mitchell, and Don Finch.

The President regretfully announced the resignation of Lawrence Mitchell, who had done so much work for the club and committee over the last few years, and referred the matter of the now vacant position of Assistant Editor to any other business Secretary was requested to enquire of outings to Mickfield Aquaria, the Brighton A/S Open Show, the London Zoo Aquarium, and to various stately homes.

Under any other business the Treasurer reported on the state of the tea-box, apparently dampness is seeping in through the roof of the lobby. Ted Joyce and Alan Chapman offered to experiment with cine films of members fish if the club would supply the films. Ted Joyce mentioned that he was not happy to see the **JOURNAL** without a back and stated that the extra expense of the sheet of paper was justified. On the question of the dinner/dance the Essex Centre Hotel at Basildon was suggested. President to inform the general assembly that one visitor per committee meeting was permissible.

### **CLUB NEWS**

We have found it necessary to hold over the club news until our next issue, mainly due to having a fixed dead-line for this issue the Open Show issue.

Our next issue will of course also contain all the results of the Open Show.

-18-

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## RED SEA MERMAID ?

Dave Edwards has handed us a clipping from the Daily Mirror which purports to show a photograph of an unusual mermaid caught in the Red Sea off the Yemen.. The caption reads ..". the dishiest fish you've ever seen - a mermaid with a fish's head and the hips and legs of a fully developed woman. ....if one ever gets to Iceland it would hot up the Cod War."

The photo' is very indistinct but does at first glance appear to show what the paper states but after some literature searching we have come to the conclusion that the picture is simply of a toad, probably *Xenopus laevis*.

We are sorry to disappoint our readers, particularly Dave, but "mermaids" still look like being absent from our tanks.

Still we can always keep a few old "flames"

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT**



**AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

**Founded 1935 or before**

**THE SOUTHEND. LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY**  
**(founded 1935 or before)**

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at:-

**ST ANDREWS HALL**  
**ELECTRIC AVENUE**  
**WESTCLIFF -ON-SEA**  
**ESSEX**  
(entrance in South View Drive)

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Number 51**  
**JULY- AUGUST 1973**

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THIS ISSUE IS LATE FOR WHICH WE APPOLOGISE TO OUR READERS, BASICALLY IT'S THE EDITOR'S FAULT AS USUAL.

**OPEN SHOW 1974 Saturday May 11 th 1974** -,at St Clements Hall,Leigh.

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E Joyce.

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H. Preston

**ASSISTANT TABLE SHOW SEC'**

D.C.M. Durrant.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS .**

**REFRESHMENT SECRETARY**

T. Bentley

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**EXCHANGES** welcomed, please send your exchanges to the editor.

**Support our ADVERTISERS** They support the Society.

## **PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

We have been unfortunate this year in the cancellation of talks by visiting speakers. This appears to be part of the modern way of life with everyone rushing about and not always arranging appointments with due thought to the inconvenience caused if canceled at the last minute.

There is nothing that the committee can do to stop this especially when one speaker canceled the night prior to the meeting, one at about 6 pm on the day of the meeting and another remained silent and unseen despite the fact that he had confirmed that he was coming at 9.30 am. on the day.

I am mentioning this to explain that these speakers were booked in plenty of time and it is as much frustrating to the committee as to the members who turn up expecting an interesting talk from an expert, receiving instead a rushed fill-in by one of the regular club talkers. It has been suggested that the committee have talks prepared for this situation but this would seem to encourage cancellations and defeats the object of bringing a new face to the meetings. Any other suggestions please? Volunteers from members would be appreciated to build up a Club Panel Of Speakers.

The PetFish Show is being held on 2nd to 4th of November at the Horticultural Hall, London and we usually enter a Society tableaux. I have appealed several times for volunteers to plan, build and erect this for 1973 but none have come forward. One new committee member was willing to assist but this job requires several pairs of hands and as no further volunteers have been forthcoming we have been forced not to enter this year.

Another item not receiving much support this year is the Home Furnished Aquarium Competition - only five entries. Every member must have at least one tank so let's hope for a bigger entry next year.

You will see from your programme that another Social is being held later in the year. Please do your best to support this -previous Socials have been much enjoyed by all present but the majority have been friends and relations of only a few actual members.

## **EDITORIAL**

We have relegated ourselves to this area so that we have too little space to annoy any further readers - apparently we've surpassed our quota this year!

Seriously, it is quite possible that we may not be in a position to stand for the Editors job next year - much as we would like to, so start thinking - S.L.A.D.A.S. may need a new stirrer !

**REAL MEXICAN SWORDTAILS**  
(continued from our last issue)

by J.H. Preston.

At the slightest disturbance the fishes would vanish, then after about a minute the grey to metallic blue streaks of fish would one by one reappear on the surface. The sun still blazed down and the weather was becoming quite hot.

Past Acayucan the road tends to drop gradually towards the water shed of the Rio Coatzacoalcos, the next major river system to the east. The scenery deteriorates, Minatitlan is very industrial and dominated by oil and natural gas deposits and I suspect that the resultant pollution has taken its toll on the fish population of this area..

Between Minatitlan and Coatzacoalcos the road traverses a vast swamp, or lake, forming in effect the estuary of the Rio Coatzacoalcos. Away from the Minatitlan oil fields the waters are covered by acres of water lettuce, and they are seen again to be teeming with fish. Here we caught dozens more baby fishes and again a great many of them were sphenops mollies, gambusias in 'fair numbers, and a few porthole livebearers. We caught all these with our hand nets, just by scooping up the decaying masses of water lettuce by the shore. By climbing out on the overhanging branch of a tree I was able to catch a few larger Gambusias, but not fully grown ones. As usual the larger fish were well out of reach.. Many of the mollies at this location were of the black spotted type ( "speckled Mollies") and it is perhaps a pity that we didn't decide to keep any and try and bring them home, but we were saving our limited fish accommodation for platys and other interesting types that we might find in greater numbers elsewhere.

It is just a short journey, just fifteen miles, from Minatitlan to Coatzacoalcos (also known as Puerto Mexico) and we arrived here just about 1 p.m. By now it was a blazing hot day with the sun beating down from an absolutely clear sky.

We were still in possession of but one solitary platy and I was not really worried but there was just the awful possibility-that we might not find any more! Perhaps, I thought we should have explored the rain puddles and small ponds and streams by the rail-road sidings at the back of the town as we drove in , but we didn't do so. It was time for lunch anyway and after a short time finding our bearings we parked in one of the main streets under the watchful eye of the local traffic police, just a few yards from a restaurant which looked quite acceptable - and was. The trouble with this sort of trip was that I was beginning to worry unduly about little things that might not really be important.

For instance the car was now; being Left out in the hot sun and would our fishes die during the next half hour or so because

of overheating or lack of oxygen?

But I tried to enjoy my meal which I remember was fish soup followed by roast chicken, french fried potatoes and black beans, then ice-cream. After all, Coatzacoalcos seemed to be a more pleasant place than our guide book suggested; although it was much more tropical than Veracruz we were definitely not, for instance, plagued with hordes of flies or mosquitoes. And sure enough, when I carefully examined all our livestock after lunch it seemed to be in excellent condition.

So we drove down to the beach where Chris had just about half an hour to try and get the suntan that the folks back home would expect. As I watched the breakers rolling in from the Gulf of Mexico, it was strange to reflect that from the docks about a mile from where we were now the first ever Swordtails seen by European aquarists were shipped in the early years of this century.

Chris, who had to do all the driving, really deserved a longer break, but by moving on again at about half past two we were at least cutting out the risk of going down with sunstroke ! It was really hard to believe, in this heat and sunshine, that it would really be Christmas in two days.!

We tried to take a short cut out of town by driving through the dockland area but the roads gradually petered out in the rail-road area and nothing was gained. Back on the main Yucatan road I noticed more of those tantalizing platy ponds (?) but it might have been embarrassing to stop and fish here for we would surely have been watched by many of the inhabitants living on the outskirts of Coatzacoalcos. It would have been rather like fishing in their front garden pools ! Also we were in full view of the toll booths of the new bridge over the Coatzacoalcos river.

Beyond the bridge the natural gas and oil industry is much in evidence again and it has spoiled the area. Within a mile or two of Coatzacoalcos there are many dykes, ditches and channels containing brown water; and oily mud but no visible plant or fish life. I explored one of these adjacent to the main road. All I found was an ants nest (I put my foot on it !). But with the great Coatzacoalcos toll bridge still visible behind us, and before we started to climb the gentle hills beyond the river valley, I spotted another dyke that looked fairly free of pollution. We stopped yet again walked back to explore; and found that we could not easily reach the dyke.

But here there was a large drain-pipe passing under the road with a little pool a few feet wide at each end of the pipe; that is to say, on either side of the road. No doubt this drainage system would be connected to the dyke in the rainy season when the waters rose. In the larger of the these terminal pools there was a typical Mexican scene; a shoal of metallic blue coloured gambusia-like livebearers cruised around just below the surface and they were constantly pursued by a solitary and obviously hungry *Belonesox* (Pike killie). Chris and I watched for several minutes, fascinated. We became aware after a while, that there were other occupants of this little pool. About



about twelve inches or more below the surface, pecking away in the mud forming the sides of the pool, and merging with this mud, the well known shapes of the wild Mexican platyfish ! And they proved quite easy to catch too ! Our male from Cosamaloapan was no longer alone. Here we caught about a dozen fine specimens fairly large, resembling the commercial strains of blue platy, some with and some without the moon marking or a variation of at the base of the tail.. I found some smaller platys mostly male in the smaller pool at the other end of the drain-pipe across the road, hiding in some over hanging grass. These mostly were more or less injured with damaged fins and missing scales and, in some cases, pieces of flesh missing and I could only imagine that they had narrowly escaped from the jaws of the *Belonesox* which we had been watching.

I was very pleased ,indeed, because we now had enough platys to be able to get some home alive, even if we found no more. But we hoped to find more so as to get a better range of colours , (perhaps I should say a better range of black markings). We drove on over the gently undulating hills in the extreme east of the State of Veracruz, the countryside still beautifully green despite the heat. This was the Isthmus of Tehuauantepec, the narrowest part of Mexico, between the port of Coatzacoalcos on the Gulf of Mexico and Salina Cruz on the Gulf of Tehuantepec in the Pacific: Ocean to the south, as can be seen by reference to any map. Soon we descended again to the valley of the Rio Tonalá or Pedregal river, with it's familiar wide, modern, concrete bridge, by which we entered the jungle state of Tabasco. Our guide book told us now that the drive towards Villahermosa would be through tropical rain forest, but in fact there was nothing quite as dramatic as this; certainly a gradual increase in vegetation but rather an anti-climax really, and it remained a good, straight, smooth, fast road.

If any readers have a recent large scale map of this area they may find La Venta (a site of archaeological interest), or Laguna Del Carmen, marked to the north of the main road linking Coatzacoalcos and Villahermosa. We were a few miles beyond the Pedregal River, approximately south of La Venta, when I noticed a small stream draining apparently off a field, and passing under the road,, and flowing incidentally at this point from north to south, although the natural drainage of the Gulf of Mexico was of course to the north. This seemed worth stopping at an it was an attractive spot with wild flowers, orchids , poinsettias and the like, growing near the stream, beautiful in the afternoon sunshine.

There was the almost constant roar of traffic a few feet above us as we approached the water, but we forgot all about distractions a few seconds later when we lifted our hand-nets up through the clear brown water, trapping any fishes that might be hiding in the floating water plants adjacent to the bank. Here there was an abundance of platties ! We caught maybe six each in the first

net-full, young fishes, all sizes from new-born fry. about one inch down to newborn fry.

There were other fishes here as well, and the most numerous were small specimens of some kind of goby. They may even have been the Common Spotted Sleeper (*Dormitator maculata*). And herein lies a tale.....There were many Mexican fishes that we did not think worth catching and keeping and bringing home, and these little gobies. Were one. Yet one little tiny specimen no more than half an inch found it's way into my can of platties (we caught lots of these fishes but I imagined we had returned them all to the water). It went unnoticed for a day or two but it survived until we began our homeward journey and on arriving back home in England I found it was still with me.

It went into a 16" x 8" x 8" tank together with a number of male platies from this same location and it amused me with the way it used to bumble around the tank and then came to rest in odd positions, and I wished, of course, that I had brought more of these fishes home. It also ate heartily and by about March this year had grown to about 1½ inches long. The platies were quite aggressive with each other and it was this which I believe led to the death of my pet. One night I found it had jumped to it's doom and it was stiff and dry on the on floor of the fish-house. The tank of course had not been properly covered (I did not consider it necessary because the water was only about four inches deep), and I think my sleeper had jumped the to escape from the constant annoyance of the platies.

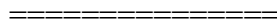
**TABLE SHOW POSITIONS**

(a guide only) (up to and July 3)

**ADULTS**

**JUNIORS**

G. Coe .....	44	P.Nicholls.....	30
D. Little .....	40	J. Pilgrim.....	21
K. Adams .....	31	C.Cheswright.....	18
D. Durrant .....	30	C.O'Dell.....	16
A. Tuffin .....	26	M. Doulton.....	9
D. Cheswright .....	12	B. Ponton.....	7
T. Bently .....	11	G. Wickman.....	5
F. Gardner .....	10	K. Sawle.....	4
K. Graves .....	13		
P.F. Capon .....	9		
P. Mephram .....	6		
H. Preston .....	2		
Mr & Mrs Burlton ...	2		
S. Cook .....	1		



**WELCOME!**

Peter Mephram has kindly agreed to take on the task- and what a task - on printing and collating the **JOURNAL**. Thanks Peter ! you know now what you have let yourself in for !

**LETTER FROM F.TOMKINS, CHAIRMAN F.B.A.S.**

Dear Mr Capon,

I was obtaining a lot of pleasure out of reading S.L.A.D.A.S Magazine for Jan-Feb 1973 until I came upon page 11, and it's reference to the PetFish Show tableaux result, 1972.

I note that you state that your Society takes no responsibly for opinions expressed. This is accepted practice where authors of articles are concerned, but when an editor expresses an opinion on such a vital issue as this, and such editor is shown on page 4 as an Officer of the Society, it is difficult for the reader to divorce the editor from his Society. However I gladly accept that you are responsible for the following quotes-

"Further to the ruling at the show, we understand that several people at the F.B.A.S. Assembly, tried to raise the subject of Bracknell's disqualification under Any Other Business, only to be filibustered until the time ran out on the hall booking !!.

It must be remembered , that the A.G.M. took up most of the afternoon, and therefor is always a short December Assembly. However, I ca state quite categorically, that there was no filibuster on this question, as questions were answered quite freely.. I would suggest sir, that this was an example of presumptuous reporting, rather than factual.

In fairness to the F.B.A.S. may I explain the full procedural for the tableaux event?

In the first place, it is not a Federation Competition, but the Sponsor's. Only the furnished Aquaria in the Tableaux are judged by the Federation. In any competition, there must be rules and these are stated quite clearly. Unfortunately, the Furnished Aquaria on Bracknell's exhibit did not conform to the size specified for it's particular class and was correctly disqualified by the F.B.A.S. judges. At this point, the Federation's responsibility ceases, and the competing Societies take over as judges of the tableaux. A competing Society must not vote for itself. Again, unfortunately,'the correct disqualification of the furnished aquaria, rendered the Tableaux ineligible, according to the rules of the Tableaux competition. Not all the competing Societies noticed this but those, who did, had obviously read the rules, before they judged the entries.

Disqualifications for the very same reason have taken place in previous years.

I cannot stress too strongly, that the judging of the tableaux Competition is the entire responsibility of the competing Societies as judges. The F.B.A.S. has no part in this, and NOT disqualify the Tableau entered by Bracknell Society.

It is not my wish to influence in any way, the policy of your excellent magazine, but in fairness to all concerned, I respectfully request you to publish this letter in it's entirety, with the hope that it may bring a silver lining of understanding, to what has been a regrettably very dark cloud to the 1972 competition.

With my very best wishes to you and Southend Society,

Yours Sincerely,

signed F.C.Tomkins Chairman F.B.A.S.

## EXCHANGE REVIEWS

by D.M. Cheswright

**ASSOCIATES OF TORONTO**. June 1973, R. Goldstein writes on "Food Anyone".. This Journal is for guppy keeper but this article would do for all fishes. Beef heart, shrimp, and eggs are among the items dealt with and an interesting "Goosey Paste" food is prepared .

**PETFISH MONTHLY** July 1973, Comments and Quotes, comments on the use of chemicals for the drugging of fish, particularly marines, when being collected. How many die for each one that reaches the dealers tanks in this and other countries. What harm is this wastage doing to the ecology of the collecting areas???? On the brighter side a report is included on the building of artificial reefs in Port Phillip Bay, built by Esso over their ethane pipeline, and constructed of iron, concrete tubes, car tyres, rock and plastic sea-weed. "Raising Tropical Fish Fry", by J. Lee. A useful item, covering "Green-water", infusoria cultures, brine shrimp, etc.

Further food, i.e. Meal-worm culture, is covered in **MODERN AQUARIUM**. June 1973, a reprint from **Valley Stream**, by K.Schulz. These are suitable only for medium to large fish, frogs , etc.

**XIPHOPHORUS** March 1973, "Kribensis"(a dwarf cichlid), by R Carpenter deals, in detail, with the breeding procedure. A ten gallon tank is all that is needed, pH 7.0, temperature 78°F, rocks so that the pair can decide on a suitable "cave" in which to spawn. **AQUARIST** July 1973, "What is Your Opinion" by B. Whiteside, a regular feature, consists of items from correspondence, and therefore covers a variety of topics. Many of the items are from letters from Junior Aquarists. "Amazon Sword Plants" are dealt with by J.& P. Hansen, in particular the "small leaved" variety.

### OPEN SHOW 1973 RESULTS

#### CLASS Aa-b CLUB FURNISHED AQUARIA FISHY BUSINESS TROPHY(1)

1...S.L.A.D.A.S.	79 points
2...S.L.A.D.A.S.	71 points

#### CLASS Ak MINATURE AQUARIA FISHY BUSINESS TROPHY (2)

1...E. Booth.....	74 points
2.. K.Appleyard.....Thurrock.....	73 points
3. ..R. Wall..... Thurrock.....	71 points
4...A. Bates..... Thurrock.....	70 points

#### CLASS Am INDIVIDUAL AQUASCAPE ALAN CHAPMAN TROPHY

1.. J. Batts.....	Ealing.....	73 points
2...June Salisbury.....	.Harlow.....	.72 points
3.. K. Appleyard.....'	Thurrock.....	71 points
4.. June Salisbury.....	Harlow.....	70 points
5..		

#### CLASS B A.O.S. BARBS D.EDWARDS TROPHY

1.. S. Mason.....	aurilius .....	Roehampton.....	79 points
2...G. Coe.....	semifasciolatus..	S.L.A.D.A.S.	78 points
3.. B.C .Fry.....	.tiger.....		.77 points
4...June Salisbury.	Trispilos.....	Harlow.....	76 points

#### CLASS Ba Large Barbs STUDIO I TROPHY

1..Mrs R Coyle...	chola.....	Independant...	77 points
2...Mr & Mrs Hubert,	lemon f in..	S.L'A.D. A.S...	76 points
3..Mr & Mrs Hubert,	filamentosos'.	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	75 points
4...J.M. London.....	filamentosus	Thurrock....	74 points

#### CLASS C A.O.S. CHARACINS B.BURLTON TROPHY

1. D .Dare. ....	Dist' lussoso....	Independant.	85 points
2...P. Coyle.....	Chalceus....	.Independant..	83 points
3.. B. Peacock. . .	headstander.....	.S.L.A.D. A.S. .	80½ points
4...D.C.M. Durrant.	Penguin.....	.S.L.A.D.A.S..	80 points

#### CLASS Ca P. TURNER TROPHY

1...P.O!Bryan....	bleeding heart...Thurrock.....	79 points
2. .F.H. Gillham.	H.pulchripinnis. ....	76 points
3...June Salisbury..	black neon... Harlow.....	75 points
4.. P. Coyle.....	beacon..... independent	74½ points..

**CLASS Cb S.NORRIS TROPHY**

1.. J.M. London.....	N.marginatus . .	Thurrock.....	80 points
2.. K. Adams. ....	N.marginatus ....	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	79½points
3.. K. Adams.....	N.espi.....	.S.L.A.D.A.S.,	79 points
4.. K. Adams.....	N.anomalus . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	78½ points

**CLASS D A.O.S. CICHLIDS, K.ADAMS TROPHY**

1..J.Batts.....	Tilapia mariea. .	Ealing.....	90 points
2..K.Graves.....	Golden Oscar...	S.L.A.D.A.S.	83 points
3...Mr & Mrs Burtles..	salvini.....	Mid-Sussex...	81 points
4...C.J.			
Lyon... ..,	.convict.....	S.L.A.D.A.S..	80 points

**CLASS Da ANGELS IRIS AQUAPETS TROPHY**

L.. E. Booth.....	Marbled.....		75 points
2.. Mrs B. Keen.....	Bicolour... .	Bury-St-Edmunds. .	74 points
3...Mr & Mrs Martin..	marbled.....	North Kent.....	73 points
4.. J. Batts.....	marbled.... .	Ealing.....	72 points

**CLASS Db APISTOGRAMMA NANNACARA & PELMATQCHROMIS E.JOYCE TROPHY.**

1...A.C. Tuffin	A. ramirezi.....,	S,L.A.D.A.S..	80 points
2.. V.C.Green.....	A. ramirezi.....	.Suffolk A.P.A.	78 points
3.. F. Vicker. ....	A. agassizi.....	East London..	77 points
4. ..V.E.Vallely.....	P. pulcher.....	.Ealing.....	76 points

**CLASS DC RIFT CICHLIDS F.B.A.S. TROPHY**

1...D. Dare.....	L.fulleborni....	Independant..	82 points
2.. V.E.Valley . .	.P.auratus.....	Ealing.....	79 points
3...Mr & Mrs Burtles. .	P.microstoma....	Mid-Sussex..	78 points . .
4...V.E.Vallely..	P.auratus.....	Ealing.....	77½ points

**E A.O.S. LABYRINTHS W.WOOD TROPHY**

1. .,S.Hedges,.....	Ct` kingsleyi.. .	Bethnal Green.-	83 points
2...P.Coyle.....	.Ct` ocellatum..	Independant..	81 points
3.. J.London.....	combtail.....	Thurrock..... .	79 points
4...D.E.Little.....	combtail.....	S.L.A.D.A.S...	78 points

**CLASS Ea BETTA SPLENDENS S.ORSLER TROPHY**

1.. D.C.M. Durrant.....-	.red. ....	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	79 points
2.. G. Wickman.....	.red.....	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	77 points
3.. T.L .Wooley. ....	red.....	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	76 points
4... June Salisbury... .	.red.....	Harlow.....	75 points

**CLASS Eb G.COE TROPHY**

1.. J. Batts, .....	moonlight. . . .	Ealing .....	76 points
2.. S Jordan .	Thichlip. . . .	Harlow.	74 points
3.. P. O'Bryan . . . . .	thicklip .....	Thurrock .....	73 points
4.. B. Goddard . . .	moonlight .....	Harlow .....	72½ points

**CLASS F. EGGLAYING TOOTH CARPS F. GARDNER TROPHY**

1 . K. Adams .....	American f lag. .	S.L.A.D.A. S. .	82 points
2...D. Dare. . . .	A. lineatus. . . . .	Independant. . .	81 points
3.....K.Adams . . . .	American flag. . . .	S.L. A.D.A.S. .	80½ points
4....B.L. Wright.	A.spilauchcna .....	Thurrock .....	80 points
4...			

**CLASS G TROPICAL CATFISH THE TROPICAL SHOP TROPHY**

1...Mrs P. Lambourne.	C.callicthys . .	Roehampton. . . .	84 points
2...B Wright . .	micro parahydae.	Thurrock .....	83 points
3...B. Wright. .	plecostomus .....	Thurrock .....	82 points
4. .B. Wright.	T.fisher. . .	Thurrock .....	81 points

**CLASS H CORYDORAS & BROCHIS D.ORSLER TROPHY**

1...P Lambourne. .	C.graffi .....	Roehampton. .	83 points
2 ... J. Batts . .	C.arcuatus . . . .	Ealing .....	82½ -points
3...W.F. Sutton.	.C.arcuatus . . .	Freelance. . . ,	81½ points
4. . .W.F. Sutton. .	C. arcuatus. . .	Freelance. . .	81 points
5.			

**D.CHESWRIGHT TROPHY**

1. . S. Mason	.R.rasbora. . .	Roehampton. . . .	80 points
2. . K. Adams	.jacobsoni. . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S. .	78 points
3. . P.O!Bryan.	, .harlequin .....	Thurrock. .... .	77 points
4. . W.F. Sutton .....	pauciperforata.	Freelance .....	76 points

**CLASS K DANIO & W.C.M.M. FIN JIM TROPHY**

1. . P. O` Bryan .....	zebra. . . .	Thurrock. . . . .	80 points
2. . P.O` Bryan. .	pearl .....	Thurrock. .... .	79 points
3 .. ,G. Coe .....	zebra. . . . .	S.L.A. D.A.S. .	78 points
4... D.C.M. Durrant. . . .	W.C.M.M .....	S.L.A.D.A.S. . .	77 points

**CLASSL. LOACH K.GRAVBS TROPHY**

lo...Mr. & Mrs Martin..	.weather loach	North Kent.	80 points
2... W.S.Sutton.....	sidthimunki..	Freelance.....	78 points
3.. D.Keen.....	.B.locachata. .	Bury-St-Edmunds.	77½ points
4...Mr & Mrs Martin, .	weather loach... .	North Kent.	77 points

**CLASS M A.O.S. TROPICAL EGGLAYER A.TUFFIN TROPHY**

1...S. Hedges.....	obsurus.....	Bethnal Green...	85 point
2...Mrs R Coyle.	.flying fox.....	Independant.....	81 point
3...J.M. London..... ,	Aust` Rainbow.. .	Thurrock.....	80 point
4. .S. Mason, . . . .	L.laubuca .. R	Roehampton... .	79 point

**CLASS Nb-m PAIRS EGGLAYER HIGH STREET PET SHOP TROPHY**

1...J. Salisbury.	.pigmy sunfish	.Harlow.....	81 point
2. .D. Lambourne....	C. callichthys	Rochampton. ...	80 point
3...J. Batts..	P harrisoni....	Ealing.....,	79 point
4. .B.Eright .. .	R. dorsiocellata.	Thurrock.. ....	78 point
5.			

**CLASS No-t TROPICAL PAIRS LIVEBEARER D.CHESWRIGHT TROPHY**

1. .A. Heath.....	H.formosa. ....	Lewisham.....	81 point
2.. J. H. Preston.. .	P.bimaculatus...	.S.L.A..D.A.S.....	80 point
3...B. Robinson ..	L.vittata.....		79 point
4....J.M. London....	.G.metalicus.....,	Thurrock.	.77 points

**CLASS O MALE GUPPY S.NORRIS TROPHY**

1....Mr & Mrs Murphy.		Greenford.....	80 points
2...B.C.Fry. ....			77 points
3...K.Graves..		S.L.A.D.A.S.....	76 points
4...V.E.Vallely .....		Ealing. ....	75 points
4..			

**CLASS P FEMALE GUPFY S.WOOD TROPHY**

1...A.C/ Tuffin		S.L.A.D.A.S	77 points
2.. .P. Coyle.....		Independant.,	76 points
3. .D.C.M. Durrant ....		S.L.A. D.A.S....	74½ points
4...A. C. Tuffin		S.L.A.D.A.S	74 points

**CLASS Q SWORDTAILS ALAN CHAPMAN TROPHY**

1...P. O'Bryan....	black.....	Thurrock.....	77 points
2...D. Livermore.....		Thurrock.....	76 points
3...P. O'Bryan.,	black.....	Thurrock.....	75 points
4.. .J.M. London. .	Tuxedo.. ..	Thurrock... .	74 points

**CLASS R PLATYS H. PRESTON TROPHY**

1...K. Adams.....	marigold.....	.S.L.A.D.A.S.....	78 points
2...T.L. Wooley..	sunset.....	Harlow. ....	77 points
3...P. O'Bryano ...	blue.....	Thurrock....	76 points
4.. .J.M. London ...	black, .....	Thurrock. ...	75½ points



**CLASS S MOLLIES D.LITTLE TROPHY**

1...B. Robinson.....	gold vellifera.....		79 points
2...J.M. London .....	molly.....	Thurrock.	78 points
3 . D. C.M..Durrant.....	vellifera.....	S.L.A.D.A.S.	77 points
4...B. Robinson..	.vellifera... ..		76 points

**CLASS T A.O.S. LIVEBEARER T.KING TROPHY**

1.. J.H.Preston.....	merry widow;.	.S.L.A.D.A.S.	82 points
2.. B. Peacock... ..	half beak. ....	S.L.A.D.A.S.	81 points
3. . D Cheswright.. .	P.bimaculatus... .	S.L.A. D.A.S.	80 points
4...D.Cheswright..	mosquito. ....	S.L.A.D.A.S.	78 points

**CLASS U SINGLE TAIL GOLDFISH MEMBERS TROPHY**

1...S. Hedges .....	common g/f .	Bethnal Green..	78 points
2.. K. Adams .	common g/f.....	S.L.A.D.A.S. ...	76 points
3...S.Hedges ....	shubunkin....	Betbnal Green.	75 points
4... I. Fleming... ..	comet. .	G.S.G.B..... ..	74 points

**CLASS V TWIN TAIL GOLDFISH MEMBERS TROPHY**

1...Mr Lavman.....	twin tail.....	G.S.G.B.....	74 points
2...D.Cheswright		S.L.A.D.A.S....	72 points
3...Mr Lanman....	twintail	G.S.G.B.....	71 points
4...T.L. Wooley . .	moor . .	Harlow.....	68. points

**CLASS W. A.O.S. COLDWATER R.D.KINGSMAN TROPHY**

1...R. Parker..	biterling.....	North Kent....	74 points
2..S.Hedges .	Gibbosus .. .	Bethnal Green.	72 points
3...B.C. Fry.	.sunfish.....		71 points
4...P. Mepham.. .	Rhodeus sericeus	S.L.A.D.A.S.. . .	70 points
4...			

**CLASS Xb-m BREEDERS EGGLAYER D.CHESWRIGHT TROPHY**

1...G. Coe...	Schuberti .....	S.L.A.D.A.S...	82 points
2.. Mr & Mrs Burtles .	P.microstoma.	Mid-Sussex.. .	81 points
3.. F. Vickers	A.beaufordi... .	East London... .	80. points
4.. T.L. Wooley . . .	bicolour angels. .	Harlow .	... 79 points

**CLASS Xo-t. BREEDERS LIVEBEARERS D. CHESWRIGHT - TROPHY .**

1...T.L.Wooley . . . .	black lyres .....	Harlow.....	76 points
2.. R D.Orford...	variatus .. .	S.L.A.D.A.S.	75 points
3...K.Appleyard...	black sword.....	Thurrock.....	74 points
4...M.J. Wall	guppies ..	Thurrock... . .	73 points

**CLASS Ya TROPICAL MARINE LAGOON AQUARIUM TROPHY**

1.. T. Tuffin..	Clown.....	S.L.A.D.A.S. . .	78 point
2.. T. Tuffin.....	Clown.....	S.L.A.D.A.S. . .	77 point
3.. T. Tuffin. . .	lineatus .....	S.L.A.D.A.S	76 point
4.. . T. Tuffin.....	clown.....	S.L.A.D.A.S... .	75 point

**CLASS Za ROOTED PLANTS HYDES AQUARIUM TROPHY**

1.....D.C.M. Durrant..	C.nevilli.....	S.L.A.D.A.S....	77 point
2.. P.O'Bryan. .	dwarf crpt' . . .	Thurrock. ....	75 point
3...D.Keen.....	V.torta-	Bury-St-Edmunds.. .	74 point
4.. D. Finch. . .	C.nevilli.	S.L.A.D.A.S... .	73½ point
5..			

**CLASS Zb-c CUTTINGS & FLOATING PLANTS P.F.CAPON TROPHY**

1.. A. Tuffin. .	cabomba.	.S.L.A.D.A.S.	74 point,
2...A. Tuffin.....	cabomba...	S.L.A.D.A.S...	73 point
3...D.C.M .Durrant.	.ludwigia..	S.L.A.D.A.S....	71 point
4... D.C.M.Durrant .	Limnophilia... .	S.L.A. D.A.S... .	70 point
5...			

**SPECIAL CLASS JUNIOR TROPICAL V.BURLTON TROPHY**

1...R. Wylie..	schuberti.....	S.L.A.D.A.S....	78 point
2...T. Coyle.....	C.multimaculps.	Independant....	76 point
3 .C. Cheswright. .	J.floridae.....	S.L.A.D.A.S... .	75½ point
4. .T.Hedges .....	C.undulatus ... .	Bethnal Green..	75 point

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

**BEST IN SHOW S.L.A.D.A.S. TROPHY, AQUARIST GOLD PIN** J.Batts , Ealing; Tilapia mariae 90 points

**BEST LIVEBEARER D.DURRANT TROPHY**, Mr& Mrs Murphy,Greenford, male veil guppy 80 points

**BEST JUNIOR D.FINCH TROPHY**, Trudy Hedges,Bethnal Green, Leopomis 72 points

**BEST W.C.M.M. F.Gardner Trophy**,D.C.M. Durrant, S.L.A.D.A.S. 77 points

**CLUB CHAMPIONS (bar S.L.A..D.A.S. )** Thurrock A/S

**BEST CULTIVATED BREEDERS LIVEBEARER R.ORFORD TROPHY** , T. Wooley, Harlow, black lyre tail mollies, 76 points

**HIGHEST POINTED EXHIBITOR SHOW COMMITTEE 1973 TROPHY**, joint, P.O'Bryan, Thurrock & A. Tuffin S.L.A.D.A.S.

**BEST.COLDWATER FISH STANS AQUARIUM TROPHY** R.Parker, North Kent Bitterling, 74 points.

**HIGHEST POINTED S.L.A.D.A.S. EXHIBITOR** A.Tuffin.

**BEST CLUB FURNISHED** SUBSCRIPTION TO AQUARIST , S.L.A.D.A.S.

**BEST MINIATURE FURNISHED** SUBSCRIPTION TO PETFISH MONTHLY, E. Booth

**BEST AQUASCAPE** SUBSCRIPTION TO PETFISH MONTHLY, J.Batts, Baling.

**OUR THANKS ARE DUE TO :-**

**THE JUDGES** B. Baker, C.A.T. Brown, E. Cannon, R. Esson,  
P. Ginger, E.R. Nicoll, K. Nutt, & F.C. Tomkins. all F.B.A.S. NATURALLY.

**THOSE WHO DONATED PRIZES**

**THOSE WHO WORKED FOR THE SUCESS OF THIS SHOW** ( too numerous to mention)

**PARTICULAR MENTION** of Derek Durrant and his Committee who worked so hard to produce our most successful show to date.

**THE PRIZE-GIVING**

The presentation of awards at the S;.L.A.D.A..S, OPEN SHOW were made by the Pearly Queen of Finsbury (Mrs M. Rackley)

For the benefit of our overseas readers here is a short history of the Pearly Kings and Queens- The history of the Pearly Kings and Queens dates back to the 14th century, when Frenchmen, who ventured across the English Channel to sell vegetables and "Coster" apples decorated their clothes with sequins and so began a fashion amongst their English counterparts, "Costermongers" as they subsequently became known originally sewed smoke buttons to their clothes, but with the turn of the seventeenth century the vogue for mother of pearl buttons began, and has continued to the present day.

The forming of the Street Traders Federation in 1927 marked the end of the original "Costermongers", although families kept their costumes handing them down from generation to generation, and becoming known thereafter as the Pearlies.

Mrs Marriot, Pearly Queen Mother of the Pearlies was borne in 1902 and spent her early life as a costermonger, selling tomatoes, lettuces, cabbages etc from a stall she had with her husband in Islington for many years. She became Queen Mother of the Pearlies. Her family from her daughter to her great-grand-daughter have carried on the Pearly tradition, attending all over the country functions to raise money.

**Meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> INTER-CLUB at Southend**

**TABLE SHOWS**

**CLASS H Corydoras & Brochis**

1...P. O'Bryan	metae	Thurrock	81 points
2...D. Little	schwartzi	SLADAS	80 points
3...Mr & Mrs Tuffin	arcuatus	SLADAS	79 points
4...Mr & Mrs Martin	brochis	N. Kent	78½ points

**CLASS E A.O.S. Labyrinth**

1...J. London	combtail	Thurrock	79 points
2...B. L. Wright	ctenopoma	Thurrock	78 points
3...F. Gardiner	thicklip	SLADAS	76 points
4...G. Coe	thicklip	SLADAS	75 points

**CLASS M A.O.S. Tropical Egglayer**

1...Mr & Mrs Martin	tyre track eel	N. Kent	79 points
2...K. Graves	r/f shark	SLADAS	78 points
3...D. Cheswright	sidthimunki	SLADAS	76½ points
4...J. Parker	goby	N. Kent	76 points

**CLASS S Mollies**

1...J. London	green	Thurrock	78 points
2... J. London	green	Thurrock	76 points
3...G. Dare	velifera	Thurrock	75 points
4...H. Preston	sphenops	SLADAS	74 points

**CLASS G Tropical Catfish**

1...B. L. Wright	microglanis	Thurrock	81 points
2...M. Pearson	pimelodela	E. London	80 points
3...K. Appleyard	B. keni	Thurrock	78 points
4...J. London	Platydoras	Thurrock	77 points

**BEST FISH P. O'brien , Thurrock**

The Judges were:- Rodger Bowles & Stan Cowle F.B.A.S.

The club points were:-

Thurrock 27, SLADAS 14, North Kent 6, & East London 3.

The lecturer for this meeting failed to turn up, he claimed to have been locked in by an anti-social computer, in case any other club is thinking of booking him his name is Morris.

The raffle winners were-all S.L.A.D.A.S. members bar one:-

Mary Wilson's-collected Poems.....	H. Preston.
Oil lamp.....	Rodger Bowles (judge)
Bottle of sherry.....	D. Cheswright
Bath cabinet.....	.J. Pilgrim.
Filter.....	Mr White
Box of- chocolates.....	.J.Pattain.

### Meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### CICHLIDS Seniors

1. .K .Adams.....	Severum.....	78½ pts
2...D. Little.....	blue acara.....	78 pts
3. .K. Graves.....	oscar.....	76 pts
4.. .T. Bently.....	T.mariae.....	75½ pts

#### CICHLIDS Juniors

1.. .P. Nicholls.....	marbled angel.....	76 pts
2. .J. Pilgrim.....	.dempsey.....	75½pts
3...J Pilgrim.....	severum.....	74pts
4.. .B. Ponton.....	Spirilium.....	73 pts

#### PLANTS Adult

1.. .D. Durrant.....	C.nevilli.....	89 pts
2.. .P.F. Capon.....	.ludwigia.....	87 pts
3. D Little.....	cabomba. ....	85 pts
^4..D. Cheswright.....	malayan sword.....	79 pts

The raffle winners were:-

J. Wylie.....	decanter.
.H. Preston.....	tetramin.
J. Pilgrim.....	tetramin.
K. Adams.....	three thomasi

### Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>

This evening were were entertained to a talk on water chemistry by Nigel Latham of Brentwood A/S.

#### AQUASCAPE

1... Dave Little.....65 pts

Well done Dave we reckon the others were too windy !

### SWORDTAILS Adult

1.. G. Coe. ....	green.....	75½ pts
2.. D. Durrant.....	.black.....	74 pts
3. . P. Mephram.....	red.....	72 pts

### SWORDTAILS Junior

1.....C. O'Dell.....	green .....	72 pts
2.. C. Cheswright.....	red.....	67 pts
3 . C.Cheswright.....	tuxedo.....	66½ pts
4. .K.Sawle.....	red Lyre.....	66 pts

The raffle winners were:-

C.Cheswright.....rubber plant  
Plant holder.....G. Wickman  
Alan Chapman.....pair red swords.

### Meeting-May 1<sup>st</sup>

This was-to-have been the Inter-club Quiz but the other clubs cried off at the last minute, Instead we had to put up with: one of Capon's fiascoes (he calls them quizzes !)

The table shows that would have been held for the Inter-club were-still-hold for our own members.

### PLATY

1. .K. Adams ..	marigold.. .....	81 pts
2 . D. Little.....	moon.....	80 pts
3.. Mr & Mrs Tuffin; .	Black.....	77 pts
4. .Mr & Mrs Tuff in. ...	.marigold.....	76½ pts

### A. 0. S. LIVEBEARER

1. .D.C.M. Durrant...	.mosquito....	83 pts
2.. D. Little.....	blue limia.....	.81 pts
3. .D.C.M .Durrant.....	gambusia.....	.80 pts
4. . D. Little.....	blue limia.....	79 pts

### CORYDORAS &: BROCHIS

1.. Mr & Mrs Tuffin..	.arcuatus.....	79 pts
2.. Mr & Mrs Tuffin.,	.arcuatus.....	78 pts
3... D. Little.....	schwartzi. ....	77 pts
4,. K. Adams .....	brochis.....	76½ pts

**DANIO & W.C.M.M.**

1..G.Coe .....	zebra .....	90 pts
2... G. Coe	pearl	82 pts
3...K. Adams	pearl	81 ptsj
4.D. C. M. Durrant	pearl	80 pts
4.DI.		

Judges Platy, H. Preston, A.O.S. LIVEBEARER & DANIOS D.Cheswright , CORYDORAS D.C.M.Durrant.

**Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> ITNTER-CLUB AT EAST LONDON**

The entertainment this evening was introduced by Henry White chairman of Hendon - Keith Purbrick with a slide talk, on Characins.

**DWARF CICHLIDS**

1. . A.Tuffin. . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S.
2. ...G. Green. . . . .	. .East London.
3 . . D .Durrant . . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S.
4...F. Vicker . . . . .	...East London.

**CICHLIDS A.O.S..**

1...K. Graves	S.L.A.D.A.S.
2.. Mr & Mrs Martin .....	North Kent.
3...Mr & Mrs Martin. . . , .....	North Kent.
4...J. Dempsey .... ..	East London.

**PLATY.**

1. ,:K. Saxby, .... ..	North Kent.
2. , P. O' Bryan. ... ..	Thurrock.
3...R. Parker..... ..	North Kent.
4..K. Adams	S.L.A.D.A.S.

**DANIO RASBORA & W.C. M.M**

1. P. O'Bryan . . . . .	Thurrock
2., J Boss	.East London.
3 ..K . Adams . . . . .	S. L .A. D A. S .
4. G.Coe . . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S.

**SWORDTAILS**

1. . D. Livormore. . . . .	North Kent.
2.. P.O' Bryan.	Thurrock
3. . G. Coe . . . . . - . . . .	S.L.A.D.A.S
4 . J. London. . . . .	Thurrock

The judges -were P. Ginger and K. Yates (all the way from Cambridge)

.. The points for the clubs were:-

East London 8, North Kent 11, Thurrock 15, Southend 16.

Giving a grand total to this stage of:-Thurrock 42, Southend 30, North Kent 17, East London 11.

**Meeting May 15<sup>th</sup>**

An auction, need more be said; also the Members Challenge Competition.

Raffle winners were:-

P. A. Sinclair. .... .	lamp
Lee Scarisbrick .....	limia vittata
Mr White .....	hardness test kit.

Both Dave Edwards and Don Finch drew winning tickets but put them back in.

**Meeting June 5, INTER-CLUB QUIZ**

The quiz master was Ron Dodkins , assisted by Mike Pearson & Benny Newman of East London. Witham A/S failed to turn up, which was rather unfortunate since they are holding the shield.

The results were:

Billericay 33, S.L.A.D.A.S. . 26½, Brentwood 24½

The raffle winners were:-

Tim Bently .....	glasses
Benny Newman. ....	food .
G.Coe .....	food
Steve Underwood. . . .	food .
I. Armstrong. ....	food
D. Durrant .....	clock
D. Chapman .....	lamp
Mr Wiley .....	filter
Mr White. . . . .	filter.
J. Poyton .....	water test kit.



**A.O.V. LIVEBEARERS**

- 1... D. Little ..... blue limia ..... 79 pts
- 2...D. Cheswright, , ..... mosquito. . . . . 78 pts
- 3. ..D. Little ..... blue limia ..... 77 pts
- 4 . .D.Durrant ..... gambusia ..... 76½ pts. .

**CORYDORAS & BROCHIS**

- 1...D. Little ..... schwartzi ..... 78½pts
- 2. .T. Bently ..... species. . . . . 78 pts
- 3. D. Durrant ..... myersi ..... 77 pts
- 4 . D.Durrant ..... schwartzi. . . . . 76½ pts

**PLATYS**

- 1. ..G. Coe. .... black ..... 77 pts
- 2...G. Coe. . . . . black, . . . . . 73½ pts
- 3. .K. Adams ..... marigold. . . . . 73 pts
- 4. . .D. Little ..... moon. . . . . 72 pts

**DANIO & W.C.M.M.**

- 1. . .G. Coe ..... zebra ..... 81 pts
- 2. . .D. Durrant ..... pearl ..... ; ..... 80 pts
- 3...G. Coe ..... white cloud..... 79 pts
- 4. . K. Adams ..... pearl. .... 78 pts

Best Fish in show G. Coe  
Judge Eddie Nicoll. . , . . . . .

**Meeting June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Another visiting lecturer who failed to arrive. The raffle winners were:-

- ..... Master Wiley. . . . . set. kitchen knives...
- G. Wickman ..... food.
- Master Wiley ..... food.

**SINGLE TAILS, Junior**

- 1 . . . . C. O'Dell. . . . . goldfish. .... , . . , 84 pts
- 2.,, . C. O'Dell. . . . . goldfish..... . . . 82 pts
- 3. ....C.O'Dell ..... goldfish ..... 79 pts
- 4 . ....G. Wickman .....goldfish.. . . . . 75 pts

**SINGLE TAILS Adult**

- 1.. D. Little..... goldfish..... 77 pts
- 2. G. Coe. comet 48 pts

**TWINTAILS Adult**

- 1...D.Cheswright..... twintail..... 70 pts

**AO.S.COLDWATER Adult**

- 1...P. Mepham..... .. bitterling..., ..... . . 78 pts

In the .absence of a permanent Refreshments Officer Dave Little and Lawrence Mitchell made the tea without any arm twisting!

**Meeting July 3<sup>rd</sup> .**

Fred Clarke was supposed to have been our lecturer this evening but he didn't turn up; instead Dave Cheswright .soldiered valiantly on without any notes at all.

..  
The raffle was won by:-

- P.F. Capon.....,.... thermal tea pot.-
- J. Wiley..... aquarium cable tidy.
- Chris Cheswright. .. whitespot cure.

Derek Durrant was elected as **OPEN SHOW 1971** Secretary. Tim Bently offered to take on the post of Refreshment & Social Secretary. \_\_\_>\_

**MARINES Senior**

- 1,...T. Bently.....blue damsel..... 52 pts
- 2...T,Bently.....yellow tail damsel..... 39 pts

**TROPICAL PAIRS Junior**

- 1.. ,C. Cheswright..... australe..... 77 pts
- 2.,P. Nicholls..... .. blue acara..... 76 pts
- 3...C.O'Dell..... blind cave..... 75 pts
- 4.. .C.O'Dell..... pearl danio..... 74½ pts

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**TROPICAL PAIRS Adult**

- 1. .G. Coe..... pearl danios..... 86 pts
- 2.. .D. Cheswright..mosquitos..... 81 pts
- 3.. .H. Preston... .X. variatus..... 80 pts
- 4...D. Durrant..... fighter..... 77 pts

The judges were Dave Edwards for the marines, Derek Durrant for the junior pairs, and Ted Joyce for the adult pairs.

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

These have had to be held over until our next issue owing to the large amount of material resulting from our Open Show.

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT**



**AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

**Founded 1935 or before**

**THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
(founded 1935 or before)**

The Society meets every first and third Tuesday in each month at 8.00 pm, at:-

**ST ANDREWS HALL  
ELECTRIC AVENUE  
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA  
ESSEX.**  
(entrance in South View Drive)

**BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL  
Number 52  
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 1973**

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**OPEN SHOW - MAY 11, 1974-**

Open Show Secretary D.C.M.Durrant,  
172. Trinity Road, Southend for details.

**SOCIAL** at Grand Hotel, Leigh December 8, Alan will accept cheques but since it's only 60p cash is easier!

**S.L.A.D.A.S. OFFICERS FOR 1974**

**PRESIDENT**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**HON: SECRETARY**

**HON:TREASURER**

**JOURNAL\_EDITOR**

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

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**TABLE SHOW SECRETARY**

**ASSISTANT TABLE SHOW SEC'**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS .**

**REFRESHMENT SECRETARY**

---

**OPEN SHOW SECRETARY** this post is appointed immediately after the previous show.

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**EXCHANGES** welcomed, please send your exchanges to the editor. at 9, Locarno Avenue,  
Runwell, Wickford, Essex, England

**Support our ADVERTISERS** They support the Society.

## EDITORIAL

With a little bit of luck and a great deal of handle turning on the part of Peter Mephram this issue should reach you on the night of the A.G.-M. You should be attending to the business but if past experience from our spies is anything to go by the chances are that you will be browsing through this **JOURNAL** - - so for those of you at the A.G.M. but reading because the proceedings are rather boring and unfishy here is a little message — the jobs that are appointed this evening are going to decide how the Society is run for the next twelve months. Vote - not just because the person seems a nice fellow nor because he has given you some good fish nor because he's your best friend but because you honestly think he will do a good job in running the club and so make it an enjoyable , interesting, and enlightening club to belong to!

The future of S.L.A.D.A.S. depends on **YOU**; now is the time to make, your voice heard next meeting will be too late.

=====

Once again we appear to be threatened with power-cuts through strikes or in modern lingo "industrial action". Perhaps a few tips on how too keep your fishes warm might be in order- ( you can accuse the editor of strike-breaking if you like but his first concern is the fishes who have never heard of an Union, nor Phase III ).

The simplest method of keeping the heat in the tank is to cover it completely with an eiderdown, or blankets etc, but do not forget to turn off the lights or when the power does return you may have a fire on your hands. It is surprising how much heat you can put into a tank with a hot water bottle but be careful of. rubber or metal ones they could affect the water. A polythene bag or Kilner jar full of nearly boiling water can be very effective-Never, never pour boiling water from a kettle straight into the tank, if you don't break the glass you'll kill any fish that swim into the stream. If the room is at all chilly it is best to refrain from feeding the fish or servicing the tank until temperatures have stabilized again. For those of you with a fish-house leave it alone if you heat by electric -whatever you do don't keep popping in and out to see if they are warm enough every time you open the door you probably loose a quarter of all that nice warm air. If you decide to press a paraffin heater into service take care the one that has been in the loft for umpteen years could. be a fire hazard ( of course that's if there's any oil to-burn !)

=====

According to the. Echo three very elderly ladies were evicted from their home in Basildon, under compulsory purchase order, to make way for a Zoo. ! Much as we favour more Zoos this was diabolical. Basildon Corporation and AQUATELS are the culprits; do you want to. visit their Aquarium??

## **PRESIDENT'S' NOTES**

Another year has gone by and A.G.M. time is here again. Your new committee will be going hammer and tongs to produce a program for 1974 - a task which usually goes almost into the small hours. The compiling of a program is extremely difficult as the tendency is to follow the previous years subjects and new ideas are hard to come by. Suggestions are always: accepted from members so please put on your thinking caps NOW and let the new committee know what you want; Is it slide shows, visiting-speakers, quizzes, auctions or ???

We have just completed judging the home furnished competition There were only six entries to start and two dropped out on the second visit. Standards were low and there was a surplus of plastic plants in some tanks. Well done the few who took part and thanks from Ted Joyce, Don Finch and myself for the tea, etc, provided. I hope the next years entries are more in number - give the judges some work to do.

We no longer have a gavel and block to bang at meetings, the Inter-club at North Kent brought us from nineteen points below Thurrock to only three and the prize was handed over with reluctance. It looks as though North Kent will drop out of the competition next year as they are tied up with six other clubs in Kent in a similar competition.

Corringham A/S have suggested an Inter-Club - perhaps they could join in, with ourselves Thurrock and East London?

I would like to thank all committee members for their work in 1973 - individual members of the committee cannot be specified as this is a team effort. Ron Mann, Tim Bently, Peter Mephram and Grahame Wickman were co-opted in the year to replace lost committee members, the rest of the "shower" had been there, I think, all the year.

=====

### **REMEMBER?**

**S.L.A.D.A.S. SOCIAL DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> AT THE GRAND HOTEL LEIGH -**  
TICKETS FROM Alan Chapman 60p each telephone Canvey 62686 HURRY !only a total of one hundred tickets are available don't complain if Alan is sold out !

**OPEN SHOW 1974** -Saturday May 11 1974, at St Clements Hall, (the same hall as last year).  
Details from Open Show Secretary D.C.M. Durrant, 172, Trinity Road, Southend-On-Sea, Essex.

### **THE BEST SHOW IN ESSEX !.**



## REAL MEXICAN SWORDTAILS

by J.H. Preston

(this article is copyrighted)

(continued from our last issue)

The afternoon sun was still bright but sinking low in the western sky as Christopher and I spent an enjoyable half hour pulling platies out of this little stream; but ever conscious of the approaching dusk we reluctantly piled our gear back into the car, together with twenty or thirty of the best of our catch, and continued on heading east towards brash, bawdy Villahermosa on the banks of the Rio Grijalva. Driving at night would not be so good. So we made good time over the straight thirty miles or so to the outskirts of Cardenas, our only worry during this time was whether or not we would run out of petrol in this wilderness. For "Pemex" stations were non-existent along this highway; there were no large towns, only scattered villages of adobe-style mud huts, and as far as the eye could see, plantations of bananas and coffee and sugar and tobacco and beans won back from the rain forests.

We reached Cardenas as the sun was setting behind us and we decided not to travel any farther that day. This was a bustling little city of some three thousand souls, an agricultural centre, just to the south of the main road to Villahermosa which we had been following, and the maps showed that the Rio Grijalva was close by a little way to the southeast, beyond the city. Right on the edge of town, behind some bushes, I noticed some stagnant ponds and I went through the routine of taking a few sweeps with the net in case there were any fishes there, but there was no sign of life apart from some snails and mosquito larvae.

We drove through the little city and there were three or four hotels so we didn't expect any trouble finding accommodation, and with this in mind we carried on out of town and along the country roads beyond, maybe four or five miles beyond, until the banks of the mighty river came into view across the flat fields. A convenient dirt track, very bumpy, led towards the river, to what may have been a sugar refining factory, or so we imagined, and we stopped here and climbed to the top of the embankment and in the gathering dusk we saw the huge stream before us, probably a quarter of a mile wide at this point. There was nothing we could do about fishing such a waterway but in the morning we might find some nearby ponds or some small streams flowing into the muddy river which we could explore. Indeed, as we drove back towards Cardenas with the very last of the daylight I did see one or two small ponds in the low-lying fields.

We had no trouble at all in finding a room near the centre of the city, very close to the main square. It had been a very warm day but the evening was pleasantly cooler, and I judged

that our large plastic can of Rio Coatzacoalcos platies would come to no harm left inside the car, but most of the other fishes we had to discreetly carry upstairs to our room, where I would give them an inspection and a partial water change. I did these water changes, straight from the tap, on many evenings in several hotel rooms, and the fishes seemed to come to no harm from them,

Cardenas was a lively place on this Saturday evening., just before Christmas. All the shops were open late, at least until 9 p.m. and the streets were crowded. At a Church a few doors from where we were staying a wedding was taking place. All around, fireworks were exploding at frequent intervals. We found, a few blocks away, a place where we could eat and drink that was open day and night., and where they even spoke a few words of English. (Some of the smaller hotels in Mexico do not serve meals).

But back in our room later that evening we were listening to an American radio station broadcasting in English and we heard the sobering news of the disastrous earthquake which had devastated Managua in Nicaragua, which suddenly seemed uncomfortably close to Southern Mexico. The streets had become quieter after the shops shut, except for the crashes of the exploding firecrackers which went on well into the night.

Next morning I thought we might perhaps change our plans and that we already had enough platies, since we had good catch from the Rio Coatzacoalcos and the Rio Tonalá systems , plus our odd one from Cosmamaloapan and any more that we ought to find on the return trip. Really was there any need to get more fish from the Rio Grijalva?

If we turned back now, and headed for Veracruz again, there might be the chance afterwards to find the Montezuma swordtail and the purple spike tail (*X.xiphidium*) platy much further to the north. Christopher seemed happy enough to make an early start and drive .back the considerable distance to Veracruz, so we set off immediately after breakfast. We did stop again at that little stream near the Rio Tonalá and we found a few more nice young platyfish and just one single specimen was marked with a pattern of black spots all over the body.

Otherwise: it was more or less non-stop travel, back over the Rio Tonalá bridge taking us back into Veracruz state, then over the hills to the next, (Rio Coatzacoalcos) river bridge and, by-passing the town this time, back along that causeway road to Minatitlán past the acres of water-lettuce-covered estuarine swamp with it's teems of mollies and other livebearers.

Up into the hills again and past Acayucan and the beautiful lake Catemaco and over the mountain ranges surrounding San Andrés Tuxtla and Santiago Tuxtla, and lunch up in the mountains in a roadside village restaurant. We were making very good time, and although it was now a cloudy afternoon after a sunny morning

it really was more pleasant than the previous day when the heat had been a little uncomfortable. This time we took the direct road from Lerdo, past Alvarado, near to the Gulf Coast, and this was to save us many miles compared with our route on the outward journey through Tierra Blanca and Cosamaloapan. The new Papaloapan bridge near Alvarado was probably even larger than the others we had crossed, and of course saved a great deal of time compared to the old flat boat or ferry which it had recently replaced. The stretch of road from Tuxtla to the Rio Papaloapan bridge we had only covered at night before, so we watched carefully for likely streams and ponds along the way, but although there were one or two which we stopped and looked at, we did not succeed in adding to our fish collection. There was a little stream or canal west of Lerdo where we saw a number of hungry and very active Bolinesox, dwarf pikes, patrolling around the surface, apparently in pairs, but it was utterly impossible to catch them, nor could we catch the few other fish we saw here which I think were probably mollies. I did, however, repeat my usual trick of finding that I was standing on a nest of red ants! (One becomes aware of a prickling sensation spreading up from the feet the instant on looking down and seeing the cause of the irritation is to run like mad and then stop and beat off the little blighters) There was a surprising lack of rivers flowing down to the Gulf between Alvarado and Veracruz but we crossed at least one which perhaps might have been part of the Rio Blanco system but at this point it was remarkably empty of fish, although inevitably there were a few *Pseudo' bimaclatus* and one or two Gambusias of some sort. Also some nice bunches of Cabomba, the only place I saw this plant anywhere in our travels, but plant growth in most rivers seemed sparse at least at this time of year.

And it was not really evening when we reached Veracruz again. This time we could look round for a while in daylight for accommodation and we found a much better bargain than before an older hotel literally just across the road from the beach, about two miles south of the port and city centre, which we could easily reach by bus or tram as a change from driving. Our room was anything but luxurious but there was a bed and a wash-basin and a shower which didn't work very well! but it was cheap and provided peaceful accommodation for the fishes -which all had to be carried in again from the car and installed in their temporary home on the table, in plastic bags, and in Woolworth sandwich boxes and in plastic gasoline cans.

At this time a minor disaster struck we opened our can containing the Rio Coatzacoalacos platies from near Puerto Mexico to find them nearly all dead. What had gone wrong? I had not bothered to inspect these fishes at all since we had caught them early in the afternoon of the previous day, but I was sure that they were not too crowded and that the water had been fairly clean.

Nor had they been exposed to very high temperatures any more than our other fishes. I reflected that some of them had not been in the best of condition when we caught them and I remembered the statement by the late Doctor Myron Gordon that platies taken from waters free of plants were often in poor shape, which seemed to be borne out in this case. No doubt two or three had died and polluted the water sufficiently to kill the others. There was eventually one survivor, a young female, which we did in fact get home to England.

This unfortunate incident was destined to have a considerable influence on my plans for the rest of the trip. We had done a lot of motoring since leaving Puebla and we had been reasonably successful in collecting the wild stocks of maculatus platies and the helleri swordtails which had been my primary aim. It would have been quite spectacular if we could have also collected the montezuma and pigmy swordtails and the Purple platy and taken these back to England as well, for these were unknown fishes to most British aquarists. But to try and do so would involve a great deal more traveling in the next few days and I anticipated further losses among the fishes we already had if we had to drive around all day., every day. To find the extra fishes we would have to explore the quadrilateral Tamazunchale - Tampico -Cuidad Victoria - Cuidad Del Maiz and even then we might be only partly successful. Perhaps it would be better to stay here in Veracruz for a few days so that our fishes would not be subjected to constant movement and extremes of temperature.. That way I didn't think we would loose many.

We could still make shorter excursions from Veracruz to find, perhaps, other fishes in the vicinity. After all, I didn't yet have any "ruby throat" marked platies (the original fore-runner of the Bleeding Heart strain); which I wanted. It was a very difficult decision to make but in the end it seemed best not to be too greedy, and to concentrate our efforts on the fishes we had been lucky enough to find already. The other species would have to wait for a possible return visit to Mexico, if the chance ever arose again.

Next morning was Christmas day. I awoke early, about 7 a.m., but by 8.0`clock the dawn sunshine had given way to torrential rain showers sweeping in from the Gulf of Mexico. However, we needn't have worried too much about the weather because within the hour the rain had stopped as suddenly as it had started and was followed by hot sunshine. We spent Christmas morning on the beach and I personally found the heat very uncomfortable as the day warmed up but it was certainly to Christopher`s liking.

At lunch time we drove out of town and we stopped on the way to enjoy a cold beer at a bar. For lunch we purchased some groceries from a store, to have a sort of picnic up-country..

We decided to explore part of the Rio Jarapa system, which would not involve us in much mileage, Leaving Veracruz by the main road leading to Jalapa, by the industrial estate on the outskirts of the city, we found the road to the villages of Medellin and Jamapa; the total distance to Jamapa being no more than about seven miles.

The landscape at first was flat, estuarine marshland in fact, and there were a number of dykes and one or two shallow muddy ponds by the roadside. We did of course make tentative attempts to find fishes here but the dykes may have contained a percentage of sea-water being so close to the Jamapa and Cotaxtla rivers. A young Mexican was netting out large numbers of shrimps and he was quite pleased to show us his catch; but we decided not to go into competition against him as it didn't look as though we would find any freshwater fish there. Instead I climbed through the barbed-wire fence to try one of the smaller ponds, and we could see even from the road that there were fish here, from the frantic ripples on the water surface. The mud around this water-hole was filthy black and stinking but the water was so full of fish that all I had to do was scoop up some mud in the hand net from the bed of the pond and nearly every time there would be a netfull of sphenops mollies. But no platies. As I suggested earlier in this article, we didn't really appreciate the beauty of these mollies at the time. (it wasn't until I saw them in a clean aquarium back home in England that the males showed their yellow edged caudal and dorsal fins and the females displayed their metallic blue bodies.): and to Christopher and I at that time they were just plain silvery grey "mud pussers" and not worth keeping. We thought they were rather a nuisance, they were like the Liberty mollies we already kept at home.

All the way to Jamapa we only passed one more stream which was a small river, probably a tributary of the Rio Jamapa. I climbed down to explore it near the point where it passed under road but I didn't see any fish. The water was so clear above the gravelly bed that probably any fish that were there saw me coming. I didn't stay there long though, for Christopher, suddenly shouted. about a snake. I was back in the car in about ten seconds and I never did see that snake !

There was nearly another awkward moment in the village of Medellin when a dog strayed out into the road just ahead of us, but we missed it by inches .

This little expedition was proving rather unsuccessful, we returned to the main road and it was still quite early so we turned towards Jalapa and drove further inland, past Veracruz airport, to the next turning which was about twelve miles from Veracruz. This led to the village of Sledad de Doblado where we again met up with the Rio Jamapa, and at this point both road and railway are carried over the river on a high bridge. We could

have followed this road further inland towards Cordoba but our map suggested it deteriorated to a dirt track. Clearly the Rio Jamapa at this point was not the best environment for platies for it was still a very wide stream with a strong current in the middle of the huge river bed, but we explored at some length many of the little shallow pools at the edge, using the boulders as stepping-stones. It was disappointing but not really surprising that we did not find any new species here but at least there were many fishes of the types that were common in this area mainly Psuedos. and porthole livebearers and swordtails, and a few cichlids and enormous shoals of Astynax tetras. It was a golden afternoon but our peaceful exploration was disturbed eventually when gradually most of the local villagers gathered up on the bridge above us and again one or two stones began to land around us.

( to be continued)

**NOTE** any person wishing to reprint this article should apply to the author for permission to-

J.H.Preston,  
60, Hawkwell Road,  
Hockley,  
Essex,  
England.

**TABLE SHOW POINTS as at OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

(printed as a guide only)

G.Coe.....	70	P.F. Capon .....	9
D.Durrant.....	.62	H. Preston .....	8
K.Adams.....	55	B.Dunn .....	8
D.Little.....	51	P.Mepham .....	6
D.Cheswright...	29	T.Blackmore .....	4
A.Tuffin.....	26	Mr & Mrs Burlton. ..	2
F.Gardner.....	13	S.Cook .....	1
K. Graves.....	13	R.Mann .....	1
T.Bently.....	11		

**JUNIORS**

C.Cheswright..	40
P.Nicholls.....	30
G.W'ickman.....	28
J.Pilgrim.....	21
C.O'Dell.....	17
R.Wiley.....	.12
G.Mann.....	.7
B. Ponton.....	10
M.Doulton.....	.9
K.Sawle.....	.4
N.Bently.....	4

## EXCHANGES

by ~ D.M. Cheswright

A detailed explanation of -the uses of "Ozone" by S. Davis appears in the **CALQUARIUM**, October 1973. This includes a plan of a do-it yourself system,

The **-COLORADO AQUARIS.T** , September 1973, contains "Trout in the Home Aquarium" by Dr D Schlever. A six inch fish was kept in a twenty gallon tank, a brown trout which the writer states are the- easiest species to keep. Your reviewer has hatched trout eggs .in a 36 x 12 tank and raised several to a size of around three inches. Unfortunately they died on transfer to a small garden pond - temperature rose on sunny days and cut down the oxygen supply. Dr Schlevrr states a maximum temperature of 75°F I would recommend no more than 65°F. This issue also lists' thirty species of fish in danger of' extinction according to the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries ;the list- is. continually growing.

**AQUARIST** October T973', Following the S.L.A.D.A.'S'. talk on Aquarium Building readers are referred to "All Glass Aquaria" by K.G.Russel. Also an "Introduction to Barbs" .by K. Walsh covers feeding, conditioning and breeding of the barbs in a general way.

**AQJJARIST** September 1973, for -the following livebears J.& P. Hansen deal with line-breeding "Lyretail and Hi-fin Swordtails".

**PETFISH MONTHLY**, September 1973, the "Overhaul" of Hy-flo piston pumps is explained by Cliff Harrison. This is a very easy process and well worth doing with any piston pump, say once a year, Howard Preston please note !!. (Editor will not follow this one ask Howard ! ) (Bditor's notes does the article suggest oiling them occasionally so that they don't stop dead when you are on holiday? - Howard will not follow this one ask Dave ! )

ALL THE EXCHANGES ARK AVAILBLE IN THE SL.A.D.A.S LIBRARY.

**HOME FURNISHED AQUARIUM COMPETITION** The results were:-

1. .T.-Benfrly.---.....	442 points
2.. .F.-Gardner.-.....	439 point's
3. .C. Cranfield.....	383 points (jnr member)
4...Mr & Mrs Mitchell.	324 points

## CLUB NEWS

### INTER-CLUB MEETING AT THURROCK JULY 16<sup>th</sup>

What is happening to the Society world my notes tell the story that is all too familiar to S.L.A.D.A.S. members; persons booked failing to turn up - this evening Thurrock's judges failed to materialize. Two persons from each of the participating clubs valiantly stood in !

The speaker did, however, turn up; it should be placed on record that C.A.T.Brown is one hundred percent reliable! Cyril spoke on "cats", no those are his initials not his knick- name, a most interesting talk illustrated with slides of corydoras that he has kept and noticed at Shows and in aquarists tanks.

### A.O.S LIVEBEARER

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. .D. Cheswright..... | S.L.A.D.A.S  |
| 2. .J. London.....     | Thurrock     |
| 3-. P. Cottle.....     | North Kent.  |
| 4.. .D. Durrant. ....  | S.L.A.D.A.S. |

### CHARACINS A.O.S.

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1.. J. London.....   | Thurrock      |
| 2.. K. Adams.....    | S.L.A.D.A.S.  |
| 3. G. Coe.'.....     | .S.L.A.D.A.S. |
| 4.. .D. Durrant..... | S.L.A.D.A.S.  |
| 5..                  |               |

### CHARACINS ab

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1...P. Cottle.....   | North Kent   |
| 2...M. Wall.....     | Thurrock     |
| 3. K. Bishop.....    | Thurrock     |
| 4. . D .Durrant..... | S.L.A.D.A.S. |
| 5.                   |              |

### GUPPY MALE

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1.. J. Martin.....  | North Kent   |
| 2.. J. Martin.....  | North Kent   |
| 3... J. London..... | Thurrock     |
| `4.. R. Corby.....  | East London. |

### EGGLAYING TOOTH CARP

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1..Mrs J.J'.Arrow.....' | East London  |
| 2.. K;Apple/arc!.....   | Thurrock     |
| 3... J. London.....     | Thurrock     |
| 4.. L. Baker.....'      | East London. |



The total of points for this round were:-  
Thurrock 61, S.L.A.D.A.S. 42, North Kent 30, East London 17.

The points gained at this meeting were:-  
Thurrock 19, S.L.A.D.A.S. 12, North Kent 13, East London 6.

\*

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## MEETING July 17<sup>th</sup>

### CHARACINS

1..	.D. Durrant.....	.black neon.....	87 pts
2..	.D.Durrant.....	penquin.....	85 pts
3..	.G. Coe.....	Chalceus.....	83 pts
4..	.G..Coe.....	B.A. Tetra.....	76 pts
5..			

### CHARACINS JNR

1..	.G.Wickman...-.....	blind cave.....	87 pts
2..	.C.Chc-swright.....	`blind cave.....	86 pts
3' -	.G.Wickman.	.anomolus.....	85 pts
4..	C. O'Dell...	blind cave.....	82 pts

### DANIOS & W.C.M.M.

1...	G. Coe.....	zebra....	82½ pts
2..	.G .Co.e...-.....	white cloud .....	82 pts
3..	.D. Durrant-.....	pearl.....	81 pts
4..	.D.Cheswright.....	f rankii.....	77 pts
5..			

### DANIOS & W.C.M.M. JNR

1..	.G. Wickman.....	white cloud.....	78 pts
2.,	.R. Wiley.....	pearl.....	77 pt s
3..	G. Wickman.....	zebra.....-	75½ pts
4..	R. Wiley.....	zebra.....	75 pts

Raffle winners were:-

D. Wiley.....	heater.
C. Cheswright....	.cures.
D. Willis.....	cures.
R. Wiley.....	show jar.

The program says a talk on Characins but the editors notes are non-existent, so what exactly took place we cannot say — if you are reading this during the A.G.M. you have the answer ---get a new editor!

**MEETING August 7<sup>th</sup>**

Raffle winners were:-

Ted Joyce.....	set of glasses.
Howard Preston.. .	cures (no good for Mexicanosis!
Chris Cheswright.... .	cures.

**TOOTHCARP**

1.. .B. Dunn.....	Riv' holmanii.....	77 pts
2.,B. Dunn.....	Aph` . Gulare.....	76 pts
3.. .D. Durrant.....	blue fin.....	75 pts
4. ..B;Dunn.....	A.lalberie.....	72 pts

**TOOTHCARP JNR**

1. . .C.Cheswright. . . australe .....	81 pts.
2. . .C.Cheswright. . . australe. ....	80 pts
3- . .C.Cheswright. . . australe .....	79.pts

**A.O.S. LIVEBEARERS**

1. . .D. Cheswright ..... mosquito .....	86 .pts
2. . .D. Cheswright ..... P.bimaculatus .....	85 pts
3. . .D. Durrant. .... mosquito. . ....	84 pts
4... .D. Little. . . . ' . . .L.vittata .....	83 pts
5...	

The judges were Alan Chapman for the liyebearers and Junior toothcarps and D. Cheswright for the adult Toothcarps .

The "entertainment "for the evening was if memory serves us right, and it rarely does, one of your editor's infamous quizzes the results are a bit obscure but we think that the juniors won with the team of, members in the club for less than a year coming second, the team of members having been in the club for over a year coming third and the committee limping in a sluggish fourth.

**MEETING August 21<sup>st</sup>**

The raffle winners were:-

Mr King .....	filter.
Lee Scarisbrick.	bag of neons.
Mr King.....	bag of tigers.
Mr Kilmaster....	bag of platys.

Dave Edwards came along this evening to judge this round of the Members Challenge Competition, the results of course will not be known until December the fourth when the last round of the judging takes place.

The other event of the evening was the ever popular auction some items went at exorbitant prices others were genuine bargains.

- -----  
**MEETING September 4<sup>th</sup>**

This evening we were pleased to welcome back our ex-President Dave Edwards-who talked to us on Diseases and Cures,.Dave stressed that prevention was better than cure and that a well kept fish was less likely to succumb to diseases.

The raffle winners were:-

Neil Bently.....£1-50 voucher.  
Mr White.....bag of guppies.

**MOLLIES -**

- |                       |                  |        |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|
| 1.. G. Coe .....      | velifera.....    | 83 pts |
| 2.. D .Little.....    | black sail.....  | 82 pts |
| 3.. D. Durrant.....   | .velifera.....   | 80 pts |
| 4. .T. Blackmore..... | albino sail..... | 79 pts |
| 5.                    |                  |        |

**A.O.S.TROPICAL EGGLAYER**

- |                   |                      |        |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 1..G. Coe.....    | Aust' rainbow.....   | 74 pts |
| 2.. K. Adams..... | butterfly.....       | 72 pts |
| 3..G. Coe.....    | R.T.Black shark..... | 71 pts |

**A.O.S. TROPICAL EGGLAYER JNR**

- |                      |                    |         |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1...N. Bently.....'  | African Knife..... | 70 pts  |
| 2.. G. Wickman.....  | butterfly.....     | 69½ pts |
| 3.. C. Cheswright.,. | Aust' Rainbow..... | 69 pts  |
| 4..                  |                    |         |

The judges were Ted Joyce for the Mollies and Derek Durrant for the A.O.S. egglayers.

=====

Don't forget the **Social December 8<sup>th</sup> Grand Hotel Leigh**, see Alan Chapman now - this year we have limited the number of tickets to be sold. !

=====

**MEETING September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BREEDERS EGGLAYERS**

1...D.C.M.Durrant....pearl danios 9/3/73.....79 pts

**BREEDERS EGGLAYERS JNR**

1.. .C. Cheswright.. .	Paradise,	9/6/73.....	82 pts
2. ..G. Wickman.....	zebra. .	24/4/73.....	77 pts
3.«G. Wickman.....	zebra. .	7/8/73.....	75 pts
4...C. Cheswright...	australe.	7/12/72.....	73 pts

**BREEDERS LIVEBERERS**

1. ..H. Preston... .	wild platis,	13/4/73.....	82 pts
2...D. Little.....	blue limia	.6/5/73.....	79 pts
3...H. Preston,	Pseudo' bimaculatus,	5/5/73	78 pts
4. .D. Cheswright,	Pseudo` bimaculatus	26/6/73...	77 pts

**BREEDERS LIVEBEARER JNR**

1...R. Wylie.....	platys	2/9/73.....	73 pts
2...B.Pontoon....	platys,	16/6/73.....	62 pts

The judges for their sins were:-Dave Cheswright Adult egglayers and junior livebearers, your idiot editor adult livbearers and junior egglayers.

The raffle winner were;-

Don Finch.... thermostat  
R. Wylie.....food  
D. Wylie.....food  
DI.

**MEETING October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The raffle winners were:-

D. Durrant .....	fishy playing cards.
R. Wiley.....	methylene blue
Ted Joyce.....	food (no remarks please !)
Ron Mann.....	food.
Ian Armstrong....	bag of wild variatus

**MALE GUPPIES**

- 1.,,K. Adams.....79 pts
- 2 ..K.Adams 78 pts
- 3...T .Blackmore..... 77 pts
- 4.. .R. Mann..... 76 pts

**MALE GUPPIES JNR**

- 1... Gary Mann..... 76 pts
- 2...Gary Mann..... 72 pts

**DWARF CICHLIDS**

- 1...K. Adams..... 90 pts
- 2.. .D. Durrant.....82 pts
- 3...G. Coe..... .81 pts
- 4.. G. Coe..... 78 pts

The main event of the meeting was a quiz compiled and run by Dot Chapman and Ted Joyce, Ted was a retiring violet and made Dot act as Quiz master (shouldn't that be quiz mistress?) you wrapped your tongue round the names very well Dot!?

**MEETING October 16<sup>th</sup>**

The raffle winners' were;-

- D.Wylie..... set of glasses.
- Wally Hadkiss... box of Christmas cards.
- Peggy Roome..... box of Christmas cards.
- Dot Chapman..... rubber plant.

**FRY REARING COMPETITION**

- 1.. G. Coe...."..... 81 pts
- 2...R. Wylie..... 75 pts
- 3...D. Cheswright..... 67 pts
- 4.. .T. Blackmore.....65 pts

The judges were P.Roome and M. Sargent who donated the fishes

**LABYRINTHS**

- 1...D. Little..... combtail..... 79 pts
- 2.. .F. Garner..... .honey gourami..... 78 pts
- 3...G.Coe..... three spot..... 74 pts
- 4.D.C.M. Durrant.,.. honey gourami..... 73 pts
- 4.D.C.MI.

**LABYRINTHS JNR**

- 1..R. Wylie..... thick lip ..... 77 pts
- 2.. .C. Cheswright..... paradise..... 74 pts
- 3. .G. Wickinan..... three spot..... 73 pts
- 4.. ;G. Wickman..... . Opaline... ..... 72 pts

The judges were Dave Cheswright.for.the adult labyrinths and Dereck Durrant for the junior labyrinths.

The talk this meeting was given by Howard Preston on live-bearers after talking generally-on-these. fishes he. started to show us slides of 'his expedition to Mexico, unfortunately he ran over his time (very unusual for a speaker most dry up) and we were unable to hear and see all we would have liked. Lot us hope that Howard can be persuaded to continue his talk on another evening.

**INTER-CLUB MEETING AT NORTH KENT October 30<sup>th</sup>**

The talk was by R.C. Mills on either water chemistry or how to get "nicked" for speeding with a load of lime-free gravel in the boot.

**FIGHTERS**

- 1.. .B. Woodward..... North Kent
- 2.. .Mrs P. Hunter..... North Kent
- 3.. .D.C.M. Durrant....., . S.L.A.D.A..S.
- 4...Mrs P. Hunter..... North Kent.

**BARBS**

- 1.. .D. C.M. Durrant..... S . L.A. D.A.S.
- 2. ..B. Fry..... North Kent
- 3...B. Fry..... North Kent
- 4... J. Boss,, ..... .East London.

**SINGLE TAILS**

- 1.. .K. Adams..... S.L.A.D.A.S .
- 2. .K. Adams..... S.L.A.D.A.S.
- 3...Mr Brett..... North Kent.
- 4.. .H. Pearson..... Thurrock
- 5..

**TWIN TAILS**

- 1.. .D. Cheswright....., ,,. . S . L. A.D.A.S.
- 2 . ;Mr Noe. .... North Kent.
- 3. ..Mr Woodward..... North Kent.
- 4. ..Mr Noe..... North Kent.
- 5.

**AO.S.**

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1..Mr Woodward.....    | North Kent. |
| 2. Mr Woodward.....    | North Kent  |
| 3.. .B. Fry.....       | North Kent  |
| 4. ..B. Fry.....-..... | North Kent. |

BEST FISH IN SHOW D.C.M.Durrant,

The judges were Bill Grant and P. Cottle of North Kent; we believe another judge had been booked but failed to turn up, (mm -wonder whether C.U.K..U. judges welsh as well?)

The points to the Societies for this leg were:-North Kent 27, S.L.A.D.A.S 17, East London 5, Thurrock 1.

Giving the final points for the whole year as :-  
Thurrock 62, S.L.A.D.A.S, 59, North Kent 57, and East London 22.

=====

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

MEETING held June 26, at Locarno Avenue, Runwell, Essex. Present were;- President, T. Joyce, F. Gardner, D. Durrant, H. Preston, P. Mepham and P. Capon. Apologies from D. Finch, A.Chapman, D. Chapman and K. Graves.

The President proposed the co-option of Peter Mepham onto the committee, the proposal was accepted. The President brought up the vacant committee positions and stated that K. Gaves wished to resign; Mr Mepham offered to take on the. post of Assistant Editor. On the question of the Social Secretary Mr Preston suggested that meeting be held in the smaller room to enable whom-so-ever made the tea to hear the talks, the general consensus was that there were too many members to comfortably fit the small room. The President then brought up the matter of the 1974 Open Show, Mr Durrant stated that he was willing to stand, it was decided to put the matter to the general meeting, Mr Durrant said that he-could arrange for more angle iron stands for the show, he was authorized to spent up to £15. The President brought up the suggestion from the Secretary of Billericay Society that Dunmow join the Inter-club quizzes on n "Knock-out" league basis. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain the feeling of the other Societies. There was a discussion on the merits of free **JOURNALS** or visiting cards to be left with the Shops to publicize the Society. The cards were thought to be more suitable Mr Durrant agreed to get a quote for the cards. Mr Preston remarked that there was an urgent need for prize cards. Mr Joyce announced that Dave Little now had twelve medals. Mr Capon brought up a

members suggestion for a wants board. The President reported on the F.B.A.S. meeting; there is to,be a Dinner/Dance on the 7th of September 1974 at. Barkers, Kensington High Street.

=====

MEETING held at 2, Cedar Avenue,, Wickford, on August Present were:- President, Messrs Finch, Capon,Preston, Joyce, Durrant, and Bently. Apologies from Secretary, Treasurer, and P. Mepham. There being no minutes from the previous meeting the President suggested we pass onto matters arising. The President stated that regrettably we would have to decline to enter the PetFish Show tableaux as there had been no offers to construct it other than from T. Bently. T,Joyce stated that he had had new keys cut for the hall, but he had been unable to find a suitable bookcase. Mr Durrant raised the matter of the Open Show Trophy it was decided that he should purchase it.

=====

MEETING held at 94, Beech Road ,Hadleigh , on September 25<sup>th</sup> . Present were:- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Messrs Durrant, Joyce, Bently, Mepham, Capon, Preston. Visitors:- K. Graves, R. Mann, G.Wickmah.

The meeting was opened with the co-opting onto the committee of Ron Mann as P.R O. , and G. Wickman as Junior representative and assistant Librarian.

R. Mann offered to get-the Open Show. Trophy. D. Finch mentioned that the Nayland House tank was looking good when he visited it recently. Mr Mann had his duties as P.R.O. explained to him at his request, and was told to obtain a club scrap-book. Mr Capon pointed out that the screen for slides was in need of repair. Mrs Chapman stated that the Train used at the PetFish Show 1972 had been donated to the model railway club at King Edward VI Grammar School at Chelmsford, the Society had been thanked on the Schools behalf by Paul Dipper. The coach to the PetFish Show 1973 was mentioned. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from Billericay as to whether the trophy for the inter-club quizzes had been obtained from Witham.

D. Durrant made the following statement regarding the Open Show 1974 He said he had distributed forms asking people to fill them in stating how they would help with the Open Show. Of all the returned forms only one person was willing to help prior to the show, he said that if a lot more members did not come forward the show would cost more than last years.

=====

**OPEN SHOW Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
(Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> for setting up)

St Clements Hall,Leigh

**Note:** Number 53 which should have been the November- December Issue was held over until January-February 1974



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## RON NICHOLLS

It is with great regret that we have to announce the untimely death of Ron Nicholls, President and past-chairman of Thurrock Aquarist Society. Ron died on the 16th of July whilst on his way home. The news was greeted with dismay at the Inter-Club held at Thurrock that very night; it was decided that Ron would not have wished the meeting to be canceled.

Thurrock have lost a very able member in Ron, he was always able to arrange a fill-in program at a moments notice usually one of his well-beloved light-hearted quizzes,

Southend, Leigh and District Aquarist Society sent a floral tribute to his funeral