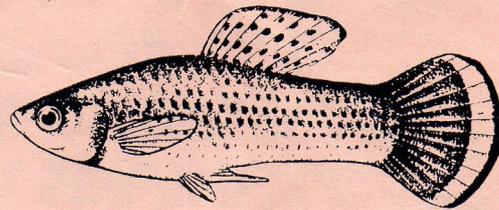


**S**OUTHERN

**L**IVEBEARERS

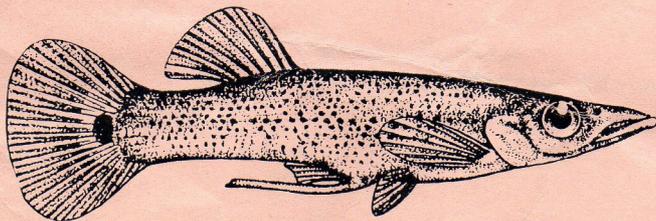
**A**QUATIC

**G**ROUP



JOURNAL 14

1982



**YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 1981/2**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Mr J. DAWES</b>	<b>(53)</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Mr J. CHAMBERS</b>	<b>(159)</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Mr M.STRANGE</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Mr C.TAYLOR</b>	<b>(95)</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Mr N.NOBLE</b>	<b>(120)</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Mr C. HOWE</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<b>SPECIES CONTROL</b>	<b>Mr M. CLARKE</b>	<b>(39)</b>
<b>P.R.O. OVERSEAS</b>	<b>Mr I. DIBBLE</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>P.R.O. UK</b>	<b>Mr J. CORBETT</b>	<b>(118)</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	<b>Mr P. MOYE</b>	<b>(52)</b>

## EDITORS NOTES

Fellow members, as Acting Editor, I must apologize for the delay in producing the Journal. The reasons are explained in the Chairman's report.

As you will see we have changed the format of the Journal. When you have read the Journal we would appreciate your comments on the style, contents, etc., please put your pen to paper and let me have your thoughts, be they good or bad. The Journal is for your benefit and we hope we are producing what you want but we cannot be sure unless you tell us. Do you like the notes on fish? Do you agree with the ideas put forward in some articles? They are the opinions of the various writers. If you do not agree – let us have your opinions. You don't have to be a literary genius, or write long or scientifically articles, to have your thoughts, suggestions and experiences printed in the Journal.

The next Journal is due for production in late October in time to accompany the A.G.M. Notices. Many successes and failures have come the way of S.L.A.G. This year and many more will no doubt come our way before the year ends. Why not let other members share your thoughts about what has or has not happened in time for them to consider before the A.G.M., then maybe we can put some of them right next year. As you will see the Editor might have changed due to reasons beyond everyone's control but the new one in some respects is just like the rest, he cannot do a good job if you don't help him. Editors don't like to moan but it is a fact of life.

May your pen not run dry,

Healthy tanks

Naizby Noble.  
Secretary/Acting Editor

## CHAIRMANS NOTES

This year we seem to be having our fair share of problems again, most of them shared with the rest of the hobby. Several things are happening that should change S.L.A.G. Of these the formation of a South/south West Group will give balance to our groupings and this emphasizes that we are a nationwide organisation with all the problems of communication that this entails.

Each member of the committee seems to have been subject to some pressure or other. I have been pressured at work, Colin by a possible house move and change of fish-house back to garage with all that that entails, Ivan who always does too much, has had to contend with a fire at home, enough to break anyone's heart, and we have lost three members of the Committee. Don Kenwood has been replaced by Peter Moye (Pete just missed being voted in at the AGM), Barry Banks resigned as Vice Chairman and the committee has promoted Colin Taylor to this position, so the V C stay North. Our biggest problem was when Bernard Meech had, due to outside pressures, to resign as Editor. The committee as a temporary measure has taken on the job of getting out the rest of the Journals out this year, and have designated our Secretary to do most of the work, and we designated Peter Moye to help with the printing.

I must apologize to members for the inevitable delay in getting this Journal "on the stocks" but we were not able to use our printing equipment due to a misunderstanding. This equipment is with Dave Cheswright and Mike Clarke was asked to collect it so we could go ahead, this was not to be and so you must judge the result for yourselves and we must trust Dave will release the equipment for the next Journal.

The Journal is our only real means of communication, so can I appeal to members to send copy to Naizby so that we can complete the other two Journals due this year. You all have information and details that would be of interest to the rest of us, please do not leave it to the few.

The first National meeting was held at Motherwell at the Scottish Festival. As well as our Scottish members there were members from the North West, North East and Yorks. It started off a little disorganised, but it became a pleasant discussion among members with the Yorkshire Group giving details of the SLAG International Show. We discussed the.....

Production of a SLAG size list. Mr Douglas, who is also a member of the YAAS Judges and Standards, said he would provide us with the up to date details of YAAS listing subject to approval. This list has now been sent to us and distributed to all Groups and I must ask that all those with opinions and information on fish sizes please give them to your Group Secretaries or direct to Mike Clarke. Please do this as soon as possible so that by the latter part of the year we can distribute a SLAG listing to all other organisations

We already know that most organisations will accept a SLAG Recommended listing. Maybe all areas will. The meeting in Scotland was a pleasant and friendly get together.

During the Show Peter Moe and myself were invited to a meeting of the Federations and Associations. Together with the Catfish Association we were asked to provide up to date details of the fish in our ranges and provide a size list for judging purposes This emphasises the need for us to provide such a list as soon as possible. As I see it these people are paying your Society a compliment in asking us agreeing to accept what we provide please cooperate

The Nailsea Show was the scene of a second meeting. Unfortunately there was a series of hitches with a speaker and the meeting was somewhat aborted. The Show had a larger than usual list of livebearer Classes and afterwards about a dozen of us enjoyed a meeting and exchange of fish, and most of us ended up at Ivan's for the usual natter.

The next event will be our Show on 31st October and I am certain this will set a standard that will become our annual event.

SLAG from its inception has been a struggle and this year seems to be no exception. If you feel we do not achieve all we set to do, look at the distribution and knowledge gained about livebearing fishes in these four years and look to yourself. Do you send your details to Mike Clarke for species records, and other items to the journal. These are our weaknesses, and could so easily be our strength We have achieved much and can be proud of what SLAG represents.

Mervyn Strange

Chairman

## **Motherwell, 1982 Pothunter One**

Once again April was here and it was time for our annual pilgrimage to the Scottish Aquarist Festival. This year being their 10th Anniversary we were looking forward to very more jollification and hoping to meet many of our friends from past years.

I shan't bother you with the preparation details but for once things went without a hitch and we arrived at Motherwell at 7.30 pm after an easy journey and not feeling shattered before we started the hard work of getting the fish bedded in.

First call was to the kitchen for a cup of "Jack the Chef's" tea and a natter. Then back to tanking up which went well apart from the interruptions from all the people who wanted to talk while we had to work. Finally at 3.00 am we had finished and went to look round the Show. This year there were more Tableaux than usual and the standard was a credit to the hard work put in by the various Societies. We were pleased to see more sassanachs with a stand, well done you Yorkshire livebearers. The most noticeable aspect was the proliferation of livebearers, many types, breeders, pairs and single fish, most of them really high quality. It was obvious that 'Scottish Group' have worked hard with their fishes and that the "Age of the Livebearing Fishes" has arrived at last. The variety was impressive, from the old Mosquito (*Heterandria formosa*) to the new and exotic Bishop (*Brachyrhaphis episcopi*). Well done you Jocks. It's nice to see that S.L.A.G. Policy and method of spreading the species really works and that members are prepared to work on them and reap the obvious rewards, to themselves and the hobby in general.

Well after a quick look at the fish it was off to bed for a few hours sleep. Friday up early, check the fish, breakfast, and then to do our bit and help the judges out. (We're stewards again and acting as general bodies. The judges arrived and what a pleasing sight to see that we had representatives from far and wide, Scottish, FNAS, YAAS, MAAS, NEFAS (the new North East Federation), and FBAS represented by D. Lam borne with "the sword of Damocles" hanging over his head. The judging went off well and it was nice to see the judges working in tandem, two judges from different federations working together. Such a step can only be good for the future of the hobby and perhaps one day we will arrive at one set of nationwide standards at our shows.

judging finished and the results were very pleasing, Basingstoke stand once again covered in confetti. 13 firsts and many places. Our apprentice got his first 1<sup>st</sup> (he was greedy and got two). Colin had best breeders with a magnificent team of *Brachyrhaphis episcopi*. Mervyn won the Swords and Small Characins and I had a field day with 8 1<sup>st</sup> s. Best Fish in Show went to John McFall with his superb specimen of *Ilyodon furcidens* and looking at the results it was good to see SLAG men in the cards throughout the Livebearing Classes, ( a message to non-members- if you can't beat them- join them).

Friday night and the dance. What a night. Many jars with many old and new friends. The Dalkeith mob particularly celebrating in style. Mervyn and myself did the night stewarding and managed a few hours sleep.

Saturday morning and in came the public. Visitors from far and wide appeared with much chin wagging ensued. Jack English arrived from Tyneside and after a little arm twisting from Number 1 was recruited to join our ranks. Another new member recruited was Jim Makin from Stirlingshire, welcome lads.

Saturday afternoon and a meeting of C.UK was held. Mervyn and myself were invited to represent SLAG at the meeting, along with Derek Lambourne and Terry Cruikshank from C.A.G.B.. We were asked to compile a list of sizes for livebearing fishes, that they will be prepared to use. Once again its good to see common sense prevailing, Federations making use of specialist societies knowledge is a good step in the hopes of getting nationwide standards.

Saturday night we stayed with "Sassanach" friends of Stuart, our apprentice, now living near Glasgow. A pleasant evening of food, chat and drink, and a good nights sleep.

Sunday and once more in came the visitors. Attendance seemed to be very good this year. A just reward for the hard work put in by all the SAF members.

Sunday afternoon and a meeting of SLAG was held hosted by our Scottish Group. No 1 gave a small speech and then the floor was opened for what turned out to be a very lively discussion. Over 40 members were in attendance, most of them taking an active part in the proceedings. It is good to see that meetings held in regional areas proved to be a successful and productive idea.



## **Annual General Meeting**

Will be held at Sandleford Hospital Social Club, Newbury, Berks, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1982, commencing at 3.00 pm. prompt .

All nominations for the Committee, signed by a proposer, seconder and the nominee, must be received by the Secretary, Naizby Noble, no later than Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1982.

Proposals for consideration by the meeting, that is for amendment of the Constitution etc., must be signed by two members and received by the Secretary by above date.

Would members please note that the following committee post are due for election – All posts other than the Chairman and Treasurer.

Details of proposals and nominations received will be published to members on the 24th October 1982.

### **Area Groups – Forthcoming Meetings**

- Scottish area            Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1982 Annual General Meeting at:-  
Kirkaldy Aquarist Club Rooms at Kirkaldy. Commences 7.30 pm
- Yorkshire Area        Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1982 at:- Thorne Town Hall, Thorne. Annual  
General meeting commences 3.00 pm.
- South & South West Area    Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1982 at:- Highcliffe Hotel, Clevedon, Avon.  
Speaker John Dawes. Commences at 2.30 pm.
- North West Area
- Essex Area

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ANY AREA GROUP MEETING-**

If you are in the area, come and join us.

This Gar-like 'PikeHead' is listed in some books and size listings as a livebearer, and looks very much like some of the Gar Fish (Listed in T.F.H. looseleaf – F.382.10).

First of all warning, the mouth at first glance appears to be small almost tube-like but if you see one of these swallow a fish a quarter of its own length you will see the mouth is more like a crocodiles and reaches almost to the eye, quite large fish will disappear if you keep this fish in a mixed tank.

Last year I purchased some of these from Queensborough at Wraysbury (Ne. Staines) and Gerry had saved what was thought to be a fry born the livebearer way. At the time I thought it looked odd but how else did you explain the fry fully developed. The fry did have a slight pop-belly look about it (remnants of a yolk-sac), anyway I took them home. The fry died, so I pickled it in diluted White meths. The fish settled down, were very shy and didn't seem to eat -but the 2 inch Captivus in the tank did seem to disappear at night. Unfortunately they were subject to a peculiar fungus which was persistent. I lost two and preserved them as above. Colin took an interest and we still intrigued with these fish, were they livebearers, were they not. The body fungus persisted despite all efforts but Colin kept one for quite a while, it had a monster appetite but eventually it decided to jump into a marine tank, it did not survive this experience.

The finnage of what seemed to be females did not look different to those that were more intense colour which we presumed were males.

On a trip to see Jim Chambers at the Natural History Museum I took the bodies, fry and 5" to 6" adults (Collins became 7½") and both Jim and Colin Howe's namesake at the Museum were very interested and went to a lot of trouble digging out details from books and records and the result was a decision that this fish is a mouth brooder. That is how it stands at the moment, Jim will let us know if any other information is obtained.

It may not be a livebearer but still remains fascinating fish, but what you need is an inexhaustible supply of 1" to 2" fish to satisfy a ravenous appetite.

## International Show

Sponsored by 'Aquarian' to whom we are most deeply indebted for their generosity and consideration.  
Organised by the Yorkshire Area Group for SLAG.

To be held at the Shire Hall, Howden, Nr Goole, South Humberside, on, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1982.

Benching 11 .30am to 1.30pm. judging commences 2pm Prompt.

Prizes, Cards, Pins, award by Aquarian.

s

Raffle, Auction. /HOT.MEALS AND SNACKS ALL DAY. .

40 fish classes only. Comprising 8 sections for wild strains

a. Gambusia; b. Poecilia and Micropoecilia; c. Xiphophorus; d. Goodeidae; f Brachyrhaphis and Heterandria; g. Phallichthys, Girardinus, and Carlhubsia; h. Cnesterodon, Neoheterandria, Phallocerus, Phalloptychus. and Poeciliopsis; i. Any other species not listed. .4 sections for Cultivated Guppies, Mollies, Swords and Platies. Each of the 12 sections will be subdivided into Males, Females and Pairs. 4 Classes for Breeders which will be subdivided into YAAS difficulty of breeding A. B. C. and D.

Yorkshire 'A' Class Judges,: Mr. John SCARLL, Mr. Wilf BLUNDELL,  
Mr. Trevor DOUGLAS, Mr. Geoff ANDREWS, Mr. Brian CHESTER.

.Show Manager - Colin Taylor. Show Secretary - Naizby Noble.

Catering Manager – Tony Smith .

Schedules will shortly be sent to all members of SLAG. If you or any other persons require farther copies they may be obtained from the Secretary on receipt of a stamped 7" z 9" envelope. Keep your schedule - P of it by the first  
500 people will receive free tin of Aquarian, second 500 other Aquarian product.

We trust that have organised what is going to be the first of an Annual SLAG Show and that it will be successful. If you have any comments to make on the organisation or running of the show please write to the Secretary after the Show so that your views may be considered when the next one, which we hope will be run on Convention lines, is being considered.

### **Show rules ..**

- 1 / Single fish to be shown in clear (4) slab sided containers .No jars will be allowed other than large and small Sweet jars
- 2 . A container with one division only may be used in Pairs and Breeders classes.
- 3 . Containers may have coloured bases, alternatively natural or coloured gravel may be used.
- 4 . Gravid females will be down pointed
- 5 . All entries to bear scientific and/or common name of the exhibit.
- 6 . Any fish shown in a container detrimental to its well being, or any diseased fish, will be disqualified.
- 7 . No artificial colourants to be used.
- 8 . Breeders classes. An entry shall consist of four (4) fish. Minimum age two calendar months. The date of delivery must be clearly shown on the container. All fish to be the property of and have been bred and raised by the exhibitor.
- 9 . No entry shall be de benched or removed from the Show hall unless allowed by the Show Manager. Failure to comply with this rule will lead to disqualification. (The Show hall doors will be closed during de-benching and no exhibits leave until de-benching is complete).
- 10 . No person engaged as a judge at the Show may exhibit fish.
- 11 . The judges decision is final.
- 12 . The placing of an entry will be deemed acceptance of these
- 13 . Any disputes involving these rules, or any matter not covered by these rules, shall be referred to the Show Manager whose decision shall be final. -

The organising committee will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and security of all exhibits but neither they nor the sponsors shall be held responsible for any loss or damage.

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