

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FBAS AND THE 40TH FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING



Interpet's Neville Carrington
looks back with pride

The FBAS was founded 80 years ago and since that time the organisation has been a very important influence on the keeping of ornamental fishes.

Very much of the credit for this success must be due to the enthusiasm of the Council of which I understand that Dick Mills is the longest serving member, followed by Joe Nethersell who has held various important posts including Chairman for a total of 18 years and others such as Trevor Butler and Bob Esson.

I inherited my interest in fishkeeping from my father, who had kept fish since the mid-1930s. We were much encouraged by local aquatic clubs and by ASLAS, the Association of South London Aquarist Societies and consequently the FBAS.

We started making Liquifry as a kind of hobby in 1952 and about 1954 the FBAS started a product approval scheme and we were successful in getting a seal of approval for Liquifry. This was our first real contact with the FBAS and our association with them continued as our original hobby grew into Interpet which I sold in 1995.



I think the idea of a Festival of Fishkeeping was hatched up by my colleague Michael Clarke with the FBAS and was hosted by the Mid Sussex Aquarist Society [MSAS] which is still very active. The first Show was at the Corn Exchange in Brighton in 1988 and it attracted about 10,000 visitors.

In 1989 the Festival was held under the auspices of the FBAS and in its heyday it developed into a major weekend event at a holiday camp, organised by Joe Nethersell since 1991.

Unfortunately the emphasis in fishkeeping has changed in recent years and this 40th Festival is only a shadow of those a few years ago.

I do hope that it is possible to continue with the Festival and I wish the FBAS many more years of service to aquarists.

Neville Carrington