



英國東南地區錦鯉俱樂部

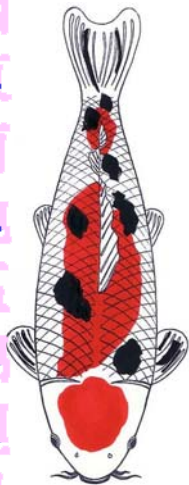
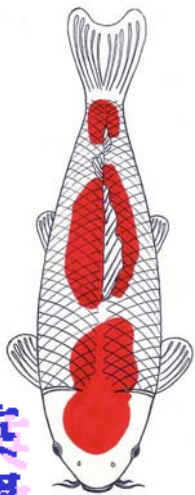


Fig 1. A complete benching team - Netter, Bowler, Photographer and Recorder.

The objective of benching is to correctly identify the Show Classification, size and eligibility of every Koi Show exhibit. To then record that information and obtain a photograph of the exhibit.

To do this an optimum team of four people is required.

The **Bench**er and the **Netter** are the two people responsible for handling the Koi and should therefore be cognizant of the South East's Benching Protocol.

Prior to commencing benching they will have removed any wristwatches, bracelets & rings and will have disinfected their hands, the benching bowl and the net in accordance with the Benching Protocol.

The **Recorder** and **Photographer** are part of the Benching Admin team and their working practices can be found in the Benching Administration documents.

The Recorder is responsible for re-recording the Show Classification & the size of each exhibit as well as filling out the Benching form.

The Photographer has to take one photograph of each exhibit that aids identification of the Koi during judging.

BENCHING. (Definition)

Benching is a process, a set of progressive tasks designed to manage the entry of exhibits into a koi-show.

With the objective of collecting & collating accurate data for the next process - Benching Administration.

Before proceeding with the physical benching of the Koi, two of the team will independently count the number of exhibits in the vat and agree on the number. That number is noted by the recorder.

Holding the bowl vertically in the water the bencher waits while the netter steers a Koi towards the bowl, avoiding physical contact with the Koi as much as possible.

The netter must have a system to ensure that all Koi are bowled.
e.g, Smallest to largest or vice-versa.

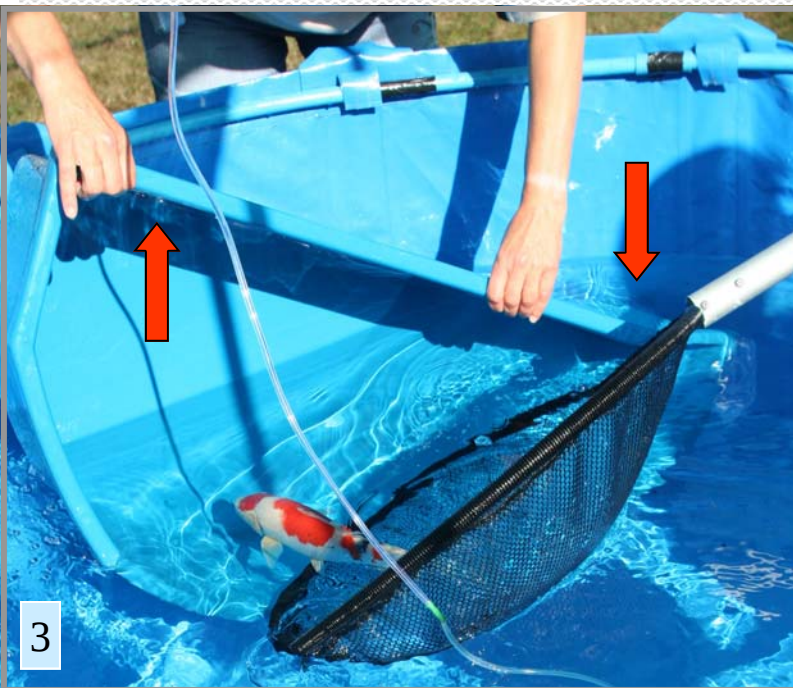


The Bencher can assist the netter by utilising the shape of the D shaped bowl to ensure the bowl is presented directly to the Koi.

The bowl was designed to enable it to be rocked from side to side to prevent a Koi from escaping by swimming under it.

This must be done carefully, always ensuring that no other Koi are underneath the bowl.

FYI —The D shaped bowl was invented by South East Member Kevin Jackson in 1992.

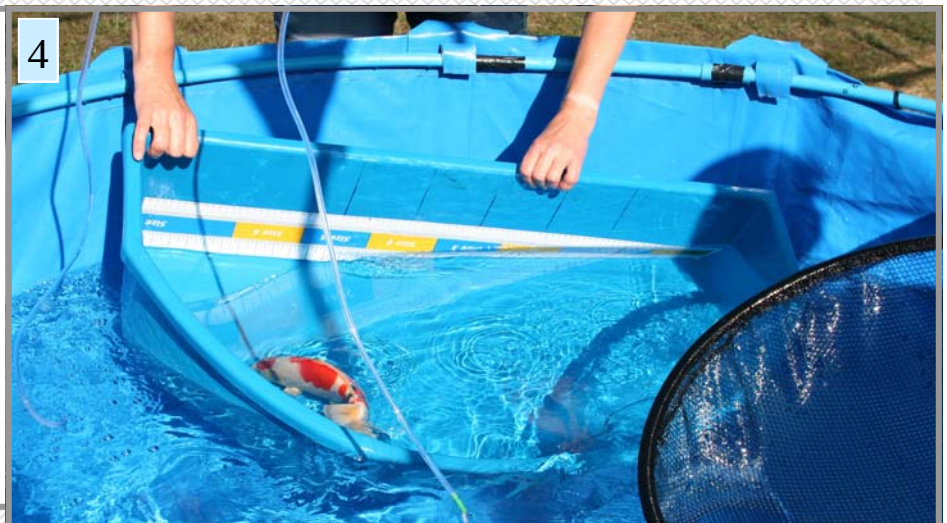


Once the Koi is in position the leading edge of the bowl can be tipped up to trap the koi.

During this operation the Netter should have the net positioned to cut off any escape.

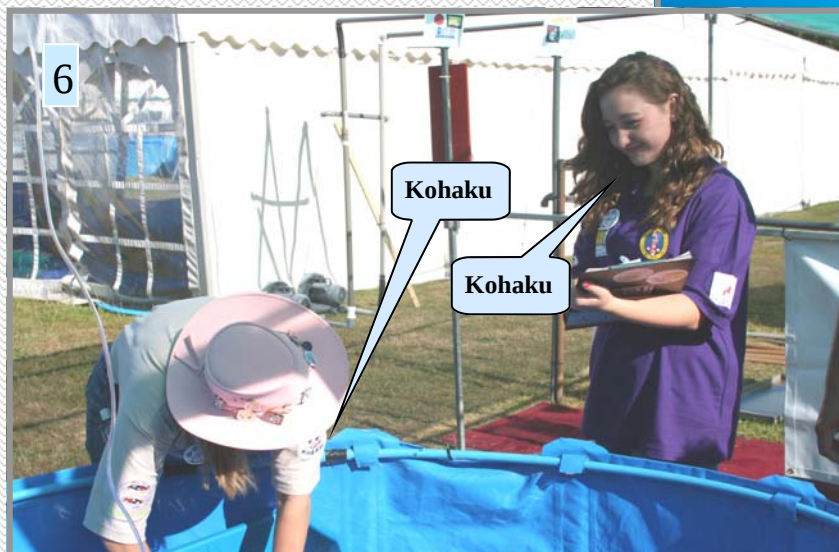
The mere presence of the net is usually enough to deter a Koi from leaving the bowl.

When the bowl is close to horizontal the Bencher should allow water to leave the bowl ensuring that there is enough to cover the Koi.



Once the Koi is safely bowled the first step is to give the Koi a visual appraisal. Observing the swimming motion, the pectoral fins, tail, dorsal and the flanks of the Koi. Looking for any signs of visible parasites and infected wounds.

Once the visual checks are complete the Bencher runs his hands down the underside flanks of the Koi from mouth to tail lifting slightly to examine mouth and anal fin, and then feeling along the belly for any signs of damage or infection.



At this point (health checks complete) a decision regarding the classification can be made.

The decision should be announced loudly to ensure the Recorder hears. The Bencher should ensure that the Recorder acknowledges.

During this part of the operation the remaining benching staff should refrain from making any comments until the Bencher has measured and stated the size.

SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

KOHAKU

SANKE

SHOWA

UTSURIMONO

BEKKO

ASAGI/SHUSUI

KOROMO

KAWARIMONO

HIKARI MUJI MONO

HIKARI MOYO MONO

HIKARI UTSURI

TANCHO

KINGRIN

EMPHASISE THE UNDERLINED WORDS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

And don't use the words in green.

The D shaped bowl was designed to aid the manipulation of the Koi for measuring, examination and photography.

Skittish Koi can be calmed by being turned in the bowl.

This bowl can easily manage size 6 and small size 7 Koi but beyond that use the larger 1mtr bowl.





The Bencher then proceeds to hold the Koi gently but firmly against the flat side of the bowl where the measuring tape is positioned.

The Koi's nose is positioned at the beginning of the measure with the nose lightly touching the corner of the bowl.

The tail is then held still against the side of the bowl in its normal swimming position and the measurement taken.

Like the classification this should be clearly stated to the recorder.

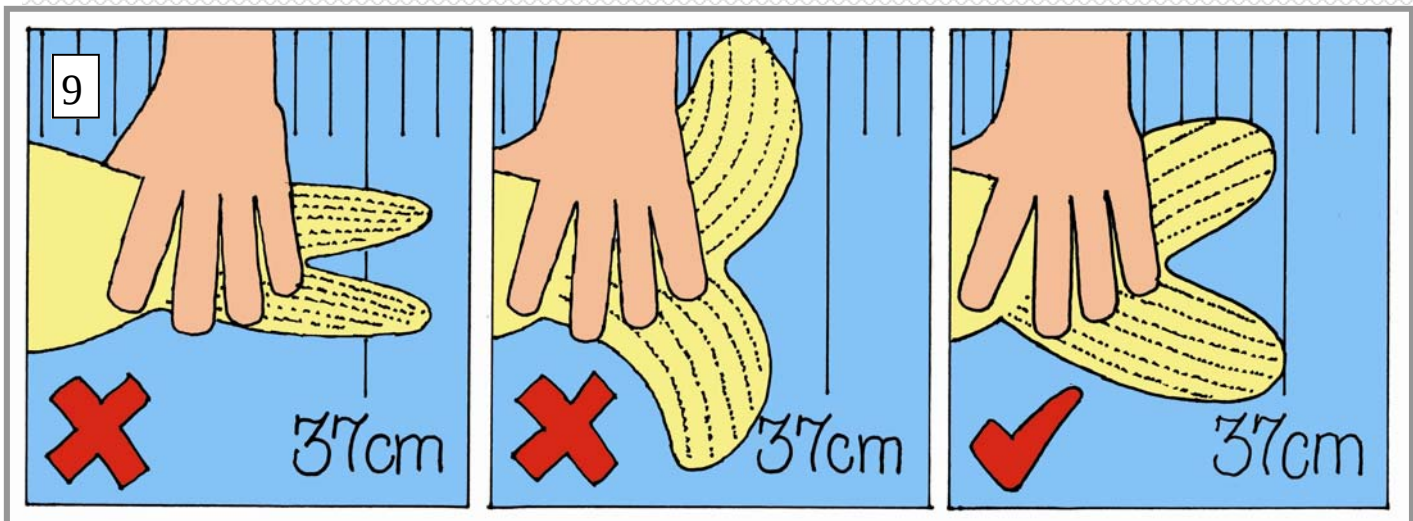
DAMAGE, DISEASE & DODGY DECISIONS.

An unhealthy koi should be receiving treatment, not be on display at a koi show. Koi displaying infected wounds or carrying visible parasites are to be excluded from the show.

On detection, summon the Koi Welfare Officer for an official decision.

Transit damage, bruises etc. are to be noted on the Benching Form.

For a 2nd Opinion regarding a benching classification make a separate note and bring to the attention of the Senior Judge before judging starts. Ensure that Judges paperwork is amended accordingly.



The tail should always be held in the natural swimming position.

No manipulation of the caudal lobes are necessary. The measurement is taken from where the lobes touch the line.

Once the Koi has been successfully checked, classified and measured the Bencher stands back and lets the photographer take a picture.

At this point the team should double check the details of the Koi benched and identify the next Koi to undergo the process.

Photographers are reminded that if the vat contains more than one Koi of the same class and size then the photographs must clearly display any detail that assists identification for the judges.

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JUMBO

The Jumbo award is given to the longest koi in the show.

Therefore make a note of the exact measurement of every size 7 Koi.

The Bencher then releases the Koi by tipping the bowl forward, below the surface of the water thus allowing the exhibit to swim free.

This whole process is then repeated for every exhibit in the vat.

Once Bencher and Recorder are satisfied that every Koi has been benched the Recorder presents the the Benching Form to the owner for signature.

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Cartoon - John Tagage. Graphic - David Brown. Photos Des Harris, Bernie Woollands & Joop van Tol.
Text - Bernie Woollands.

Benching team - Christine Woolger (bencher) Bernie Woollands (netter) Hannah Fisher (recorder) & Des Harris (photographer)

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