

Kokugyo (Best in Size)

Prize Winners From The All Japan Show 2008...

About the author:



Mike Snaden is the proprietor of Yume Koi in Bristol, specialising solely in very high end koi. He has supplied three out of the last four BKKS Grand Champions. Mikes' specialised field is water and growing koi to their maximum potential, as a Japanese breeder would. This approach has given him considerable insight into koi.

Variety: Kohaku

Prize: Kokugyo 90bu

Owner: Mr Shigekatsu Takahashi

This wonderful Kohaku has an excellent body and graceful pattern. The hi (red) plate appears youthful and has good kiwa (sharpness of the rearward edges of the pattern) and tight neat sashi (the blurry line between the front of a hi plate or sumi and the shiroji) that you would expect in a koi of this size.





Variety: Kohaku
Prize: Kokugyo Male 90bu
Owner: Mr Nobuo Takigawa

Perhaps not the most refined koi but not many males can get to this size! This koi is likely to be older than its female counterparts, so the odd bit of stray beni (red) should be forgiven. The pattern is attractive though and the body is simply superb! A very worthy winner of its class. ▶




Variety: Sanke
Prize: Kokugyo 85bu
Owner: Mr Yukio Omachi

This Sanke has perhaps a slightly uninspiring pattern but the maruten head marking (a crown or round hi pattern on the head) and sumi (black) placement make up for it. I personally prefer more breaks of white in the pattern, so that the sumi can appear to add more interest. The shiroji (white ground or background colour) appears to be of a very high quality and the hi quality also seems pretty good.



Variety: Sanke
Prize: Kokugyo Male 85bu
Owner: Mr Togo Kanayama

This Sanke isn't one that appeals to me greatly but if you look at it in terms of its qualities it is easy to appreciate. Firstly, the body is excellent and on a par with many female koi. The hi quality is very good. The pattern, although a little lonely towards the tail, is balanced by its sumi placement. The sumi on the shoulder is a nice touch. 



Variety: Sanke

Prize: Kokugyo 80bu

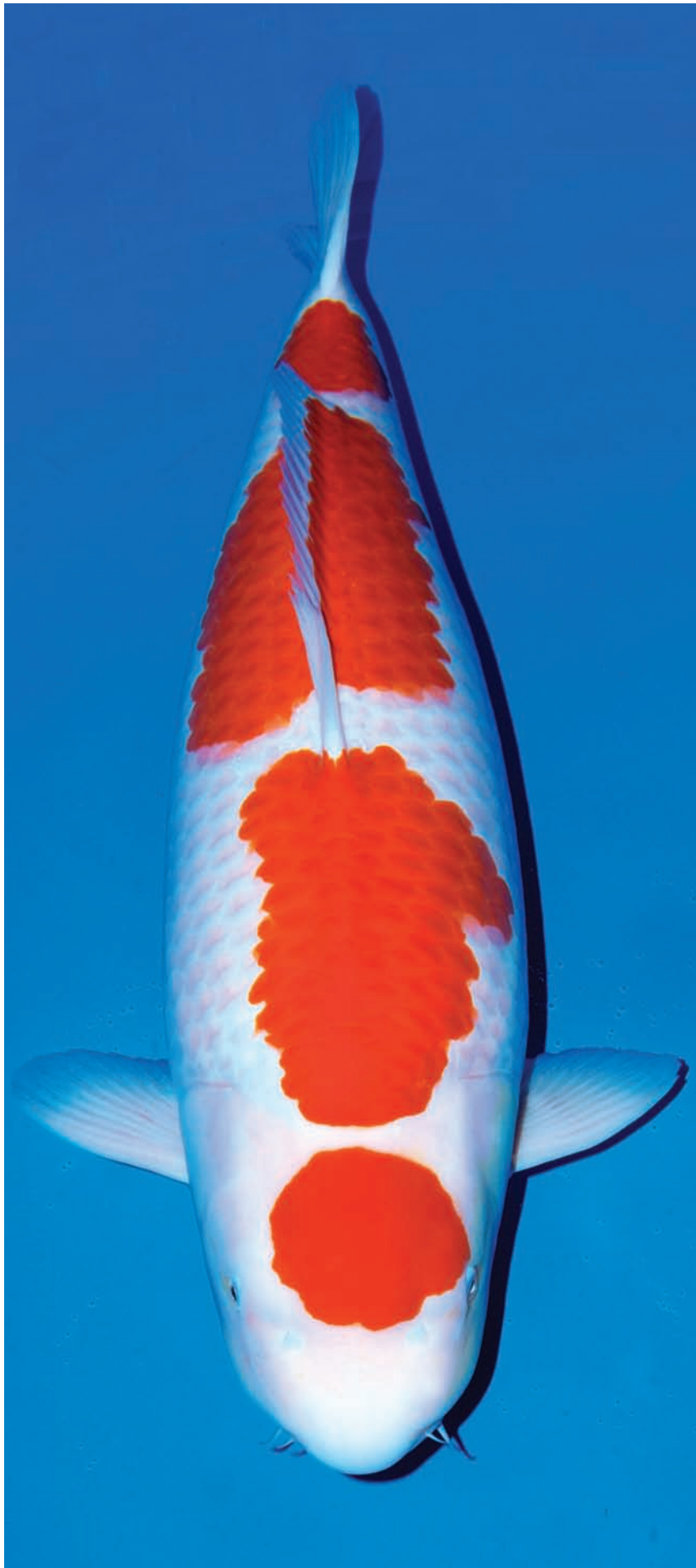
Owner: David & Kelvin (Singapore)

Whilst this is not my style of Sanke, you have to admire its imposing qualities. This koi's shiroji is snow white and it displays thick fukurin (the cuticle of the skin which appears as a line drawn in a ring around a scale). Its beni quality is precious and the sumi appears to be a deep glossy black! I wish there was more pattern towards the rear, or that its absence was filled with more sumi. The body being so thick across the shoulders makes the koi look a little delicate in the tail tube. She is still an extremely high quality Sanke and very pleasing nonetheless. The sumi in the pectoral fins adds a nice finishing touch to this koi. ▶



Variety: Kohaku
Prize: Kokugyo Male 80bu
Owner: Mr Shigeki Yamagishi

This is another example of a male koi with a fine, strong body. The head shape of this koi is also very attractive. The pattern is reasonable, with good kiwa. The sashi lacks a little refinement, although you have to remember just how few males will get to this kind of size.



Variety: Kohaku
Prize: Kokugyo 75bu
Owner: Mr Eisaku Kato

This Kohaku has a wonderful body and hi plate. The body is strong, with perfect weight distribution. The kiwa is exquisitely refined, with every scale being perfect maruzome (kiwa that follows the scallop-shape of the scales). The sashi is perfect and very consistent. It may seem that I am more enthusiastic about this koi but you have to remember that a 75bu koi is much easier to raise than a 90bu one. ▶



Variety: Sanke
Prize: Kokugyo Male 75bu
Owner: Mr Izumi Mori

This is a very handsome male Sanke. The pattern is pleasing, balanced and the body is reasonably good for a male. The shiroji and beni are of the highest class. I would prefer more sumi, although the sumi that is present is very refined and of a good quality. ▶



Variety: Kohaku
Prize: Kokugyo 70bu
Owner: Mr Mitsuzo Kaneko

In my opinion, this koi has an interesting future. Its skin and beni are very youthful, so I think we will see her at the show again next year. The body and head type are very pleasing and a further indication that this koi still has some growing to do. The pattern is both graceful and interesting, with each step of pattern being an individual pattern of its own, perfectly in keeping with the next step. The teri (shine of the skin) in the last couple of scales before the tail appears a little weak but with good keeping skills I think this will fix up. ▶



Variety: Sanke
Prize: Kokugyo Male 70bu
Owner: Mr Masaru Fujita

This Sanke has a more typical male body, but it is still good. The pattern is extremely pleasing and is complimented with almost perfect sumi placement, with this sumi being of a wonderful quality. The hi quality, kiwa and sashi are also first rate. But, like I said before, we have to expect more with smaller sizes as they are easier to produce. A stunning Sanke nonetheless. ▶



Variety: Shiro Utsuri
Prize: Kokugyo 65bu
Owner: Ms Yoshiko Miyagawa

This Shiro Utsuri has been a favourite of many people. She has a perfect checker board pattern with wonderful sumi and magnificent clean shiroji. The sumi sashi is very refined and neat, which adds greatly to her appeal. Her body is also very good, though perhaps not destined to get to jumbo proportions.



Variety: Kohaku

Prize: Kokugyo Male 65bu

Owner: Murata Nishikigoi

This Kohaku has a very interesting and exciting pattern. The kiwa and sashi are perfect and the koi has a stout body for its size, with a very thick tail tube. ▶



Variety: Showa
Prize: Kokugyo 50bu
Owner: Mr Kotaro Yamaguchi

This Showa is incredibly beautiful. The pattern is attractive, the sumi placement is good and of a high quality. The balanced motoguro adds in terms of balance and beauty. This koi will need very careful raising in the future though as the beni is slightly hard, with one or two areas of weak teri which can be seen on the shoulder, just behind the sumi and down towards the lateral line, near the dorsal. I would very much like to see this koi at the show again in the future. I am sure that with careful raising, we will see her once again! ▶



Variety: Sanke
Prize: Kokugyo 45bu
Owner: Mr Saburo Izuka

The smaller sizes in the koi show are very interesting. There are so many exceptional koi in these sizes, possessing excellent patterns. When it comes to big koi you are faced with genetic size limitations as well as all the mishaps that occur during the growing years. Can you imagine this Sanke as a big koi? Aside from perhaps the distracting red eye this koi has absolutely everything! This is an excellent koi, which is full of good qualities and stands up to every area of scrutinisation.鯉