

# KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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**Name:** - Neolamprologus Leleupi.

**Family:** - Cichlidae.

**Origin:** - Africa, Lake Tanganyika.

**Size:** - 9.5 cms (u.s.a show size)



This lovely small Cichlid has to be one of easiest recognised of any freshwater tropical fish. The colour is eye catching and it has an easy temperament that has made it so popular over the years for breeding and showing.

I first purchased these fish in 1996 at Harrogate garden centre, Yorkshire.

When I got them home to my newly built fish house, I set them up in a 24"x15"x15" tank with loads of rocks built in a fashion to form caves. There was a large sandy area at the front for swimming.

The tank was filtered at one end with a sponge filter and at the other end with an internal power filter to aid the filtration and to give the current and water movement that these fish enjoy.

The temperature was kept at 75f and the P.H was 6.5

The six adult fish where housed in the tank which was on the top rack in the fish house, this was to allow me to study their activities in their new environment.

After a few weeks the fish started to pair off and so I removed four fish to another tank and left the happy couple to get on with it.

The breeding pair settled very quickly and after a few days they had excavated a small hollow under a large overhanging rock.

In an occupied tank this area could have been easily defended.

The pair laid a large batch of eggs in the excavated hollow.

The eggs started to hatch after 3 to 4 days and the parents naturally protected the eggs and then the brood of fry to the point that every time I went close to the tank, the male attacked me as if I was a threat to his family.

The fry are born with an egg sack that takes approx 24 hrs to absorb. They then after another 24 hrs become free swimming.

This was at first a concern that the parents may become aggressive, but in the typical Cichlid fashion they are great parents.

At first they where fed on Liquifry for the first few days then on to newly hatched Brine Shrimp.

After a week they where fed on Brine Shrimp both morning and night, added to this I carried out small water changes every day. They started to grow very fast.

The fry where split up into several tanks and fed on Brine Shrimp and White Worm and other live feeding.

When you have a number of fry it is important to give them plenty of room and air and quality feeding, coupled with water changes to produce quality fish.

When the fish where about 1.5 inches long I sold most of them to other breeders but I kept some for show fish and breeding stock.

**Text:** - Kenny Young.

**Photo:** - Mike Dewar.