

# nexus and answer... waddy's story!

Many new pond products are hailed as the 'next big thing', but do they last the distance? Peter Waddington and Infiltration trialled the Nexus and Answer, so what's the verdict?



Peter Waddington relaxes at home by his pond

When Peter Waddington (world renowned koi expert) was asked to field test an Answer on his home system back in May 2001, he was sceptical to say the least. Despite lengthy talks, the best he would offer was to allow only one unit to be fitted to a mechanical vortex of his four bottom drain lines whilst he was away in Japan. On his return, Peter went straight to his filter house to inspect the work that had gone on in his absence. He was instantly amazed at the solid waste that had been captured and immediately asked for three more to be installed. He now gives his

feedback on those units, and also on the two Nexus (Nexi for the educated) he installed at Infiltration over two years ago.

"It was during May 2001 when Nick Jackson and Mike Shaw fitted an Answer 400 to each of my four prime vortex units on my pond at home. A month later saw the launch of the Answer at both Aqualife in Birmingham and the BKKS National show at Peterborough.

#### minimal maintenance

"In July 2001 my original prototype Answers were exchanged for the current 410 model and have been running my pond since then – three years in all. On the

very day I am writing this text, they are being serviced, which entails stopping the units, closing the slide valves before and after the units, removing the covers and then removing each screen. The screens are then sprayed with cleaner fluid and left for 10 minutes or so before being given a thorough spray with a pressure jet cleaner and then re-assembled. This operation usually takes place every three months or so and is the only real maintenance we carry out on the Answer units themselves. Once this periodic maintenance has been carried out, the Answer units look almost brand new again in their bright, stainless steel casings.

#### dump the debris

"However, because of the efficiency of the units in not allowing solid particles to exit the prime vortex units and pass into the biological stages, it does mean that the prime vortex units have to be discharged at regular intervals, simply to dump the significant load of mechanical debris building up in them constantly. How often this is carried out generally depends on water temperature and feeding rate. In summer it means dumping two vortex units per day, so significant is the amount of debris present. In winter it generally means that a weekly dump on each vortex unit is all that is required.

"Throughout these 36 months of running, all four units have chugged away without a single hiccup! The 16,500gallon system has remained crystal clear throughout this time and the filter mat cartridges look almost new.

"We also use Answers at Infiltration. One is installed on our main 8,000gallon pond which handles 2,200gallons per hour on a six inch bore transfer tube, and a further two units are incorporated on our 8,500gallon 'Nexus' system which comprises of two Nexus 300 units, each fitted with 410 Answers. Both these



410 Answer at Waddy's home pond with the debris it prevented from entering the next matting vortex

Kaldnes K1 looking healthy and mature



systems are on permanent display to daily visitors where water clarity can easily be witnessed. Servicing of the 'Nexus' system is carried out every week in order to remove debris from the first stages of filtration, which has built up significantly as a result of the 2,200gallons per hour flow rate on each unit. The Kaldnes media matured reasonably quickly, presumably due to an initial high stocking rate of 160 two year old koi and a daily feeding rate of some three kilos of wheatgerm pellets: growth rate was found to be quite significantly better over a two month period of the test. After initial maturing the water clarity has remained crystal clear since then.

#### amazing behaviour

"I am very surprised at the way the Nexus filters have performed as I have always been a filter mat person. The water parameters are superb, and the Kaldnes matured well and quickly. Maintenance is always essential, and I repeat again, nothing is zero maintenance. However, what I will say is that these are low maintenance with fantastic results! Customers who come in are amazed at the water and the feeding behaviour of the fish. Increased growth, health and skin quality are very apparent too.

"The Nexus units do exactly what the manufacturer says – that is to provide excellent mechanical and biological filtration to a koi pond. Installation is easy in comparison to other systems, and compactness of size is an added benefit. If fitted and maintained correctly, the Nexus is a trouble-free, high-end filtration system for all seasons. ▶

#### gallons galore!

The flow rate of water through each unit is 1,600gallons per hour, which thus equals a staggering 14,000,000gallons per year or a grand total of 56,000,000 gallons per year through all four units!

*[Peter] was instantly amazed at the solid waste that had been captured and immediately asked for three more*

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Tim Waddington helps Shintaro at Yonsai harvest



**revolutionary**

“After first testing the Answer three years ago, I hailed the unit as revolutionary; after running them daily for over three years I have to simply repeat my original statement. Every pond we are called on to design has incorporated Answers since they came on the market – in my own opinion they are as vital as bottom drains to today’s modern koi pond systems.”

**Peter Waddington**

We also asked Tim Waddington and Harvey Leeming what they thought about the performance of the Nexus units on the Infiltration display pond. Harvey spends each and every day managing the health of the Infiltration stocks, and is one of the most experienced koi professionals in the business. Tim is involved with all aspects of the business and is also hands-on, on a daily basis, so both guys are well qualified to comment! This is what they had to say:

**superb clarity**

“When we first got Nexus here, we were waiting for them to fail. We loaded the system to a very heavy stocking rate: 8,000gallons, 160 two-year old koi, and two to three kilos of food a day. We got slight readings at first but nothing compared to other ponds we had built in the past.

We looked every day and just saw very healthy, very hungry koi. I don’t know what it is with the pond, but the koi feed very well. Even now I have our best koi in there: they follow you around the pond demanding food, and they grow! One thing that struck me was the massive feeding and stocking rate, the low parameters, and superb clarity that we got back in return.

Harvey Leeming makes light work of a heavy Chagoi



Waddy at Infiltration appears happy with his filters



Two Nexus 300s on Infiltration’s 8,500gallon stocking pond



“We keep on top of the cleaning, purging the systems once a week. It takes around 15 minutes a week to keep them in top working order and with great ease and simplicity.

**recommended**

“It’s a great system, and we’re very happy with it. I would, and do, recommend Nexus to anyone keeping koi: they will not fail. I’m amazed with the behaviour and health of the koi on our Nexus system and on our customers’ as well”

**Tim Waddington**

“The systems at Infiltration have performed well for years. The Answer has changed koi keeping for the significant better; but I have to be honest and say neither of us was quite so convinced by Nexus for large koi systems. The reality is they are fantastic and outperformed by far what I had imagined. There have been no health issues, which is a little surprising as the Nexus pond is relatively new, and the condition of the koi is amazing.

**superior growth**

Normally, on matting ponds, the ‘new pond syndrome’ and associated clarity and water quality issues take one to two years to resolve themselves. With this pond we achieved great parameters in two months, and in six months the pond found its natural balance, which led to perfect readings and unbelievable clarity. Most surprising however, has been the growth rates we have seen. It is difficult to get growth out of what are essentially stock ponds, Nexus has transformed our stock pond into a high performance koi system! They are compact, simplicity itself to operate and the maintenance required is minimal. It’s not difficult to see why the koi world has taken to Nexus so well and in such numbers!”

**Harvey Leeming**