



## Meet:

# CRAIG BIDDLE

This issue we feature Craig Biddle, who together with his wife Jackie has been breeding and exhibiting Gloster canaries since 2010. The couple began judging Glosters in 2018 and have since become familiar faces on the show circuit, both as exhibitors and judges.

Craig and Jackie spent their first six years showing at novice level, gaining valuable experience before moving up to Champion status in 2017. Like many newcomers to the breed, their early years were not plain sailing. Craig recalls that when he first started with Glosters, reliable information was not always easy to find and the older drawings used to represent the breed were outdated, often leading to confusion among beginners.

Today, however, the situation is very different. The growth of online resources, forums and YouTube channels has made it far easier for new

fanciers to learn about the breed and gain advice from experienced breeders.

Over the years Craig and Jackie have enjoyed judging at several CBS shows, as well as two All-Gloster events – the Yorkshire All-Gloster Show in 2024 and the Southern All-Gloster Show in 2025. Both experiences were particularly enjoyable and allowed them to appreciate the quality of Glosters being bred and exhibited across the country.

One significant moment in Craig's journey within the hobby came during his time as a novice exhibitor. He was invited by John Herring to attend a Gloster Fancy Canary Club Council as a guest. Clearly impressed by Craig's enthusiasm for the breed, members nominated and voted him onto the council. Craig believes he was the first novice to be elected in this way, something he remains

proud of. He continues to support the work of the organisation, now the GFCCI, and its ongoing efforts to promote the Gloster fancy.

Success on the show bench did not come without setbacks. In 2016 the couple enjoyed a particularly strong year, winning several specials at various shows, which encouraged them to move up to Champion status. However, the transition proved challenging. The standard of competition at Champion level was high and the pair experienced two extremely poor breeding seasons in succession, producing only 25 youngsters across two years.

Rather than attributing the difficulties to the birds themselves, Craig and his wife chose to review their breeding management and consider what changes could be made. These adjustments eventually paid off, with subsequent breeding seasons improving enough for the pair to once again exhibit birds regularly at multiple shows.

Their breeding season usually begins in mid-March, while the show season typically runs from early October through to late November. The autumn period can therefore become very busy. Last year alone Craig and Jackie attended nine consecutive weekends of shows – judging at one event, exhibiting at six All-Gloster shows and attending two CBS shows.

In the birdroom, their breeding aim is clear: to produce Glosters that are short, well-typed and with good feather quality, while avoiding birds that become too long or heavily feathered. They particularly enjoy breeding yellow birds, including yellow cinnamons, and have achieved notable success in this colour, winning Best Yellow at several All-Gloster shows in recent years.

Craig's interest in birds began long before his involvement with Glosters. At just ten years of age he was already keeping finches in a small 6x4 garden shed. In the early 1980s he exhibited at the National Show and won Best Juvenile Current Year Bred Foreign Finch with a pair of Cut-Throat Finches. At that same event his grandfather was exhibiting British finches while his grandmother was showing Gloster canaries – an experience that sparked Craig's lasting fascination with the breed.

Today Craig and Jackie remain committed to improving their birds each year and to helping move the Gloster breed forward. They also take pride in encouraging and mentoring newcomers to the hobby.

# GFCCI Website is NOW LIVE

**By Mario Zahra**

GFCCI Int. Secretary

The Gloster Fancy Canary Council International (GFCCI) is pleased to announce the official launch of its new website, [www.gfcci.com](http://www.gfcci.com)

This important development marks a significant step forward in strengthening the Council's ability to communicate and connect with Gloster enthusiasts around the world, through officially recorded documentation online.

The website has been created to serve as the central online platform for the GFCCI, providing information about the Council, its structure, and its ongoing work in promoting and safeguarding the Gloster Fancy internationally. Through the site, visitors can learn more about the role of the GFCCI, the responsibilities of its international councillors, and the initiatives



undertaken to support the development of the breed.

A key objective of the new website is to help build a stronger international network within the Gloster Fancy. The GFCCI will maintain a register of recognised Gloster clubs and approved specialist shows, allowing breeders and enthusiasts to follow important events and organisations dedicated to the breed across different

countries.

The website will also provide updates on council activities, international developments, and information relevant to breeders, judges, and clubs. By creating a central point of reference, the GFCCI aims to encourage greater cooperation and communication within the worldwide Gloster community.

The launch of [www.gfcci.com](http://www.gfcci.com)

represents an important milestone for the Council and reflects its commitment to supporting the continued growth, consistency, and international development of the Gloster Fancy.

Clubs, show organisers, and breeders are encouraged to visit the website and remain connected with the work of the GFCCI as the Council continues to expand its international network.

## The Role of GFCCI Councillors

**By N.J. Barrett**

GFCCI Chairman

The Gloster Fancy Canary Council of International (GFCCI) serves as the governing body of the Gloster Fancy. Its responsibility is to safeguard the standards of the breed, guide its development, and ensure that the interests of the Gloster Fancy are represented and protected. Central to this responsibility is the work carried out by the Council and, in particular, the councillors who serve within it.

Appointment as a GFCCI councillor is a position of trust and responsibility. It is not simply a title, but a duty entrusted to individuals who are expected to act with integrity, fairness, and commitment in the service of the Gloster Fancy. Councillors are chosen because of their experience, knowledge, and dedication to the breed, and they are expected to uphold the standards and principles upon which the GFCCI is built.

One of the most important roles of a councillor is to act as the formal link between Gloster clubs and the

GFCCI Council. In this capacity, the councillor represents the interests and concerns of recognised specialist Gloster clubs while ensuring that the policies, standards, and decisions of the governing body are properly communicated and understood at club level. This two-way channel of communication is essential to maintaining unity and consistency throughout the Fancy.

Councillors are also expected to participate fully in the work of the Council. Council meetings provide the forum where matters affecting the Gloster Fancy are discussed, debated, and decided upon. These may include issues relating to breed standards, judging, show regulations, education, and the long-term development of the Gloster canary. Councillors must approach these responsibilities with careful consideration and a commitment to the greater good of the Fancy.

In addition to contributing to discussion and decision-making, councillors are expected to bring forward matters of importance from the country and clubs they

represent. By doing so, they ensure that the Council remains informed about developments within the Fancy and can respond where necessary with appropriate guidance or action.

The role also carries with it the responsibility of supporting the work and objectives of the GFCCI. Councillors are expected to promote the aims of the governing body, assist in the organisation and development of activities that benefit the Fancy, and contribute positively to initiatives that strengthen the future of the Gloster breed.

Equally important is the expectation that councillors conduct themselves in a manner befitting their position. As representatives of the governing body, they must uphold the reputation of the GFCCI and demonstrate professionalism, respect, and impartiality in all matters relating to the Fancy. Their conduct reflects not only on themselves but also on the authority and credibility of the Council they serve.

Serving as a GFCCI councillor

therefore requires more than enthusiasm alone. It requires dedication, sound judgement, and a willingness to place the interests of the Gloster Fancy above personal considerations. The effectiveness of the Council depends upon councillors who understand the significance of the role they have been entrusted with and who are prepared to fulfil that responsibility with diligence.

Through their work, councillors help ensure that the Gloster Fancy continues to be guided by strong leadership, clear standards, and a shared commitment to the preservation and advancement of this much-loved breed.

