

JOHN HERRING



Few individuals have contributed to the Gloster Fancy over such a long period and in so many different capacities as John Herring. Breeder, exhibitor, judge, administrator, mentor, and advocate, John's journey within the Fancy spans more than four decades.

Before discovering the Gloster Canary, John's interest in animal husbandry began during his school years when he exhibited Himalayan Fancy Rabbits. In 1955, he joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice radio engineer. During a distinguished military career that lasted until 1979, he served in Belgium, Germany, Oman, and Cyprus. While stationed overseas, he also helped introduce and promote the keeping of tropical fish in Cyprus.

John's introduction to the Gloster Fancy came quite by accident shortly after leaving the RAF. While visiting Stapeley Aviaries, he noticed the remaining birds from the famous stud of Gordon Adamson, one of the most successful Gloster exhibitors of the 1970s. What immediately attracted him was not only the distinctive crest but also the lively character of these charming little birds. By the time he returned the following week to purchase some Glosters, they had all been sold.

Determined to acquire quality stock, John sought advice from respected fancier John Bullock of Willington, near Burton-on-Trent. Their friendship remains strong to this day. Bullock had acquired much of Gordon Adamson's stock after his departure from the Fancy and became an important influence on John's early development. In 1981, John joined the Stafford Cage Bird Society, where he met renowned Colour Canary breeder Peter Finn, from whom he learned many of the management techniques that would shape his future success. He also



"Now is the time when we should all be working together to safeguard the future."

joined the International Gloster Breeders Association (IGBA), beginning his formal involvement in the Fancy.

John bred his first Glosters in 1983 and quickly experienced success. His first major achievement came when he won Best Novice Consort at the Walsall Cage Bird Society Show. The judge on that occasion was the legendary Gerry Wolfendale, who generously spent several hours sharing his knowledge and introducing John to many of the finer points of Gloster breeding and exhibition. At the time, John kept Glosters, Borders, and New Colours, but a visit to respected breeder Nick Barrett later that year proved decisive. Barrett advised him to focus entirely on the Gloster Fancy, believing John had a natural eye for the breed.

In 1984, John was honoured to

become Show Secretary of the Gloster Fancy Canary Club, the oldest All-Gloster club in England. Together with his younger son Carl, he progressed rapidly through the exhibition ranks, achieving Champion status in 1986. Having decided to concentrate exclusively on Glosters, father and son soon enjoyed considerable success, including winning Best in Show at the prestigious Birmingham All-Gloster Show during only their second season as Champions.

John's administrative contributions to the Fancy have been equally impressive. In 1990, he became Show Secretary of the IGBA at a time when its annual show attracted more than 2,000 entries. Recognising the demands placed on officials, he successfully proposed converting the event from a one-day to a two-day show. During this period, he also worked

closely with Bob Hall in the Gloster Fancy Specialist Society (GFSS) and later assisted in the production of the IGBA Handbook, helping prepare material for publication during the early days of computer-based publishing.

In 1991, John was accepted onto the IGBA Panel of Judges. His judging career has taken him throughout England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Belgium, and he twice had the honour of judging at the prestigious IGBA Show itself. For many years, he regularly judged all varieties at cage bird society shows throughout the Midlands. Unfortunately, in 2017, his wife's declining health required him to reduce his judging and exhibiting commitments, including turning down an invitation to judge at the American National.

Soon after the formation of the Gloster Fancy Canary Council International (GFCCI), John became an active member, motivated by a desire to help safeguard the future of the Gloster Fancy. His commitment to the breed has never wavered. For approximately thirty years, he served as Show Secretary of the GFSS and later assumed the role of Treasurer following the passing of Bob Hall.

Reflecting on his long association with the Fancy, John speaks most fondly of the friendships he has made and the opportunity to help fellow breeders whenever possible. Although the COVID pandemic brought an end to GFSS shows, he remains optimistic about the future.

John believes that the Gloster Canary remains one of the finest breeds for fanciers to work with and that the responsibility for protecting and promoting its future belongs to all of us. His lifetime of service, dedication, and enthusiasm stands as an example to Gloster breeders around the world.

GFCCI Newsletter Goes Global

The success of the GFCCI Newsletter continues to exceed all expectations, demonstrating the growing strength and unity of the international Gloster Fancy community.

Since its launch, the newsletter has been warmly received by fanciers, clubs, and breeders around the world. What has been particularly encouraging is the fact that several countries have taken the initiative to translate articles into their own languages without any request from GFCCI. To date, we have seen editions and articles translated into French and Arabic, allowing the information and knowledge shared through the newsletter to reach an even wider audience.

This spontaneous support highlights the value that breeders place on the content being published and reflects the global interest in learning, sharing experiences, and promoting the Gloster Canary.

The response on the GFCCI website has been equally impressive. The newsletter has generated a remarkable number of downloads and shared across Facebook, helping articles travel far beyond their original readership. Every share extends the reach of the GFCCI message, promotes international cooperation, and strengthens connections between breeders from different countries and cultures.

The GFCCI Newsletter was created to inform, educate, and unite Gloster enthusiasts worldwide. Seeing breeders translate, share, and discuss its content is a clear indication that the publication is fulfilling its purpose and making a meaningful impact within the hobby.



We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who reads, shares, translates, and contributes to the newsletter. Your support is helping to build a truly international platform dedicated to the advancement of the Gloster Canary and the exchange of knowledge among breeders worldwide.

Together, we are proving that the passion for the Gloster Canary knows no borders.

GFCCI APPROVED All Gloster Shows Start to Roll in...

The first three GFCCI Recommended All Gloster Shows have now been approved, marking an important milestone in our collective efforts to promote and strengthen the Gloster Fancy on an international level. Even more encouraging is the fact that additional entries are currently being processed, demonstrating the growing enthusiasm and support for this initiative.

To further enhance the visibility of these events, GFCCI is introducing a FREE uniform promotional poster design that will be used across all GFCCI media. This common identity will help establish greater recognition for participating events while promoting consistency across our website and social media platforms.

The positive response from our followers across the globe has been



extremely encouraging. Their commitment and willingness to work together clearly demonstrate what can be achieved when we share a common vision for the future of the Gloster Fancy.

These Recommended Shows are more than just exhibitions and competitions; they represent collaboration, friendship, and a shared commitment to promoting excellence in Gloster breeding worldwide. By supporting one another and working collectively, we can create opportunities for breeders, encourage the exchange of knowledge, and strengthen the international Gloster community.

This initiative is still in its early stages, but the foundations being laid today are already showing great promise. The message is clear: when we come together, we can achieve more, support one another more effectively, and continue building a stronger and more united future for Gloster enthusiasts around the world.

We thank all Councillors, Clubs, organisers, Judges, and Exhibitors who are helping make this vision a reality. Together, we are proving that cooperation is one of the greatest strengths of our global Gloster family.

