

FABRIZIO IOPPOLO

The Father of the Italian Gloster Fancy

For over five decades, Fabrizio Ioppolo has devoted his life to the breeding, improvement, and promotion of the Gloster Canary. Born in Modena, Italy, and now residing in the province of MantOVA, Fabrizio is recognised internationally as one of the most respected Gloster breeders and specialist judges of his generation.

His journey with birds began during the early 1970s, when, as a young boy, he spent his summer holidays caring for the aviary of a relative who managed a hotel on the Romagna Riviera. Surrounded by more than forty pairs of colour canaries, Fabrizio learned the fundamentals of breeding and genetics long before he realised that birds would become a lifelong passion.

Everything changed the day he discovered a pair of Glosters—a variegated green Corona cock and a pied yellow Consort hen. It was, as Fabrizio describes it, love at first sight. At the end of that summer, he returned home with the pair and two youngsters, leaving colour canaries behind forever to dedicate himself entirely to the Gloster Canary.

In those days, quality Glosters were still relatively uncommon in Italy. Determined to establish a strong breeding programme, Fabrizio acquired his first outstanding birds from the late Nello Lazzari, an Italian National Champion. Over the following years, he strengthened his stud with carefully selected English bloodlines and later introduced valuable stock from the late Guido Poli. A memorable visit to England in 1999



"Our Hobby is about far more than winning. It is about sharing knowledge, encouraging new breeders, protecting the breed we love, and building friendships that cross every border. Together, we can create a stronger future for the Gloster Canary."

proved another turning point, allowing him to visit several of the country's finest aviaries and significantly improve the plumage quality and ground colour of his own strain.

Throughout his breeding career, Fabrizio has relied on a disciplined programme based on line breeding

and selective compensation. His objective has always been to improve uniformity by carefully balancing type, size, feather quality, and overall breed characteristics. While acknowledging that some breeders remain cautious about intensive line breeding, Fabrizio firmly believes it remains one of the most effective methods for fixing

desirable traits and establishing consistent, high-quality bloodlines.

The results speak for themselves. His Glosters have earned countless honours across Italy and internationally, including numerous Best in Show awards at specialist exhibitions, more than ten Italian National Championship titles, more than fifty international victories, and an extraordinary six Gold Medals at the COM World Championships.

Despite these remarkable achievements, Fabrizio believes that success should never come at the expense of bird welfare. Following the heavy losses suffered by the Italian team during transportation to the 2016 COM World Championship in Matosinhos, he made the difficult decision to withdraw from competitions requiring long-distance transport. The experience profoundly affected him and reinforced his belief that no trophy can ever replace the loss of carefully bred birds or the genetic progress built over many years.

Today, Fabrizio prefers to exhibit only at shows where he can personally transport and cage his birds, favouring shorter events that minimise stress and safeguard their wellbeing. This philosophy reflects his belief that breeders have a responsibility not only to improve the Gloster but also to protect the birds they dedicate so much time and passion to breeding.

Alongside his breeding career, Fabrizio has become one of Europe's most respected specialist Gloster judges. Encouraged by many of the legendary breeders ➤



Live Arabic Translation for the GFCCI AGM

In another important step towards making the GFCCI truly accessible to the international Gloster community, the forthcoming "GFCCI Annual General Meeting" will include a "live Arabic translation service" for our many followers across "North Africa and the Middle East".

This valuable service has been kindly offered by "Michel Abou

Khalil, GFCCI Councillor for Lebanon", who will provide live Arabic commentary and translation throughout the meeting.

The Council is working closely with Michel to put the necessary technology in place to operate "two simultaneous online connections". This will allow the official AGM proceedings to be broadcast normally, while a second connection provides live Arabic interpretation for those who prefer to follow the meeting in Arabic.

With the GFCCI enjoying a particularly strong following throughout North Africa and the Middle East, this initiative will enable members of the "Arab Gloster community and representatives from several countries across the region" to follow the discussions, decisions and developments of the AGM more closely.

It is another example of the GFCCI's commitment to "international communication, inclusion and bringing the worldwide Gloster Fancy closer together".



Michel Abou Khalil

International Judge
GFCCI Councillor

who shaped the history of the breed, he accepted judging appointments based on his technical knowledge, breeding achievements, and understanding of the Gloster standard.

His judging career has taken him across the world, officiating at prestigious specialist exhibitions in England, including the IGBA, as well as Spain, Portugal, Malta, Poland, Israel, Tunisia, and soon the renowned Chris Klaes Memorial Show in Belgium. Each appointment has strengthened his conviction that the Gloster Canary is truly an international breed, uniting breeders from every corner of the world through a shared passion.

For Fabrizio, however, the greatest reward has never been the medals or judging appointments. It has been the friendships formed, the exchange of ideas, and the opportunity to mentor younger breeders. He believes that preserving the Gloster Standard and encouraging the next generation are among the most important responsibilities facing today's experienced exhibitors.

Now serving as a Councillor of the Gloster Fancy Canary Council International (GFCCI) and representing the NIGC (North of Italy Gloster Club), Fabrizio is committed to placing his knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm at the service of the international Gloster community. His vision is clear: to help build a strong, united organisation that serves as a respected technical reference for Gloster breeders worldwide while promoting cooperation, education, and the continued improvement of this remarkable breed.

AGENDA GFCCI since 2009

Gloster Fancy Canary Council International

GFCCI Annual General Meeting Agenda

Sunday, 13 September 2026

Queensgate Hotel & Conference Centre, Peterborough, PE2 8AX England
Hybrid meeting: in person and online by invitation

9:15 – Registration and Official Photograph (15min)

9:30 – Opening, Attendance and Apologies (20min)

9:50 – Election and Appointment of New Councillors (30min)

Newly elected Councillors will be entitled to participate fully and vote in the remainder of the AGM immediately following their election.

10:20 – Administrative Reports (25min)

10:45 – First Coffee Break (20min)

11:05 – New GFCCI Judges Panel Framework (1hr, 10min)

12:15 – The GFCCI Standard of Excellence

Historical Presentation of the Gloster Standard (35min)

12:50 – Unveiling of a New Three-Dimensional Gloster Model (40min)

13:30 – Second Coffee Break (20min)

13:50 – GFCCI User Manual and GFCCI Handbook (20min)

14:10 – GFCCI Recognised Clubs and Recommended Shows (20min)

14:30 – Future International Projects (10min)

14:40 – Communications (10min)

14:50 – Fundraising and Sponsorship (25min)

15:15 – Motions and Open Discussion (10min)

15:25 – Any Other Business (20min)

15:45 – Date and Location of the Next AGM (10min)

15:55 – Chairman's Closing Address (5min)

16:00 – End of AGM