

# STEVE CHENNELLS

## A Quiet Strength Within the Gloster Fancy



Many fanciers who have spent time in the Gloster Fancy will already know Steve as a quiet and dedicated man whose work speaks for itself. For decades he has been involved in the fancy, steadily building a reputation **not through self-promotion**, but through commitment, knowledge, and genuine passion for the breed. Those who know him well understand that behind his modest character lies a wealth of experience and an unwavering dedication to the Gloster.

Since being elected to the Council of the the GFCCI in 2023, Steve has proven to be one of its strongest assets. His calm approach, thoughtful opinions, and deep understanding of genetics have already contributed greatly to discussions within the Council. His expertise is particularly valuable at a time when the fancy is witnessing increasing debate around experimentation with new colours in the Gloster Fancy.

The Council firmly believes that Steve's knowledge and balanced perspective will help shed light on these discussions and provide guidance rooted in both science and tradition.

Steve's journey in the bird fancy began at the age of nineteen, shortly after joining his local caged bird society while still living with his parents. His first birds were not canaries but foreign finches, including Cordon Bleus, Orange Cheeks, and Green Singers. Like many enthusiasts, his early years were filled with curiosity and learning, laying the foundations for what would become a lifelong passion.

His introduction to the Gloster Canary came two years later, when a local breeder introduced him to the breed. It did not take long for Steve to develop a deep admiration for these charming birds. Remarkably, by the age of twenty-one he had already achieved a significant milestone,

winning Best Gloster at the Essex All Gloster Show — an early success that confirmed both his dedication and his natural ability as a breeder.

During those years, particularly in the late 1970s, the Gloster was admired for somewhat different qualities compared to today. Fanciers valued birds with clear buff bodies, dark crests, and even wing markings. Steve himself had a particular admiration for the Self-Greens, especially those displaying a vivid depth of green colour. These early influences helped shape his appreciation for the balance of beauty, structure, and colour that defines the breed.

Over the decades, Steve's involvement in the fancy has expanded far beyond breeding. He has become a well-travelled and respected judge, officiating at shows throughout the United Kingdom and across Europe. His reputation has grown steadily through his participation in major Gloster shows and the consistent quality of the birds he has exhibited over the years.

In addition to judging, Steve has also given a great deal of service to the organisations that support the fancy. He previously served as Club Secretary of the Herts & Essex Gloster Society, and today continues to play an active role within several societies. He is currently Co-Secretary of the Southern Gloster Canary Society and also serves as Secretary for the Dagenham & District Caged Bird Society.

Now, some forty-seven years after he first discovered the Gloster, Steve's enthusiasm remains as strong as ever. His ambition to improve his birds and his enjoyment of the fancy have never faded. It is this enduring passion, combined with his quiet dedication and wealth of knowledge, that makes Steve such a valued member of the GFCCI and a respected figure within the international Gloster community.

visit [www.gfcci.com](http://www.gfcci.com)

# Official Documents in the News Pages now in Seven Languages

## ...thanks to our International Councillors

The GFCCI is pleased to report that its official documents have now been translated into seven different languages. This has been made possible thanks to the valuable assistance and cooperation of our international councillors.

This initiative reflects the Council's continued commitment to building upon the rich history and traditions that have shaped the Gloster Fancy over many decades. By making important information more accessible to fanciers across different countries, we are extending the Council's long-standing role in bringing the international Gloster community closer together.

The positive feedback received from around the world has been extremely encouraging and confirms that the work being carried out at international level is moving in the right direction.



As a result, the section on our news page containing the full information about the successful Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is now available to read in seven different languages.

## GFCCI Engagement on the Rise



Following the Extraordinary General Meeting in February 2026, the Gloster Fancy Canary Club International (GFCCI) has seen a significant increase in engagement across its platforms. The launch of the new website, together with the introduction of the Council's newsletter, has created renewed enthusiasm among Gloster fanciers worldwide.

The response on Facebook has been extremely encouraging, with readers actively engaging with and sharing the latest updates, articles, and news published by the GFCCI. Many are enjoying having access to fresh, well-presented information from a

reliable and trusted source within the Gloster Fancy, at least that is what the messages received say. 😊😊😊

March alone saw the addition of **120 new followers**, bringing the total audience to **4,285**. This steady growth highlights the strong interest within the community and reflects the value of keeping fanciers connected and informed.

The Council looks forward to building on this momentum and continuing to deliver engaging content during what promises to be an exciting period for the GFCCI. 🌟

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Councillor in Issue

No. 7

## 3 New Nominations for the GFCCI

The GFCCI is pleased to report that three nominations for Council membership have recently been received from three different countries, highlighting the continued international interest in the work and development of the Council.

In one instance, the nominations have resulted in an election being required, as more than one nomination has been received from the same country.

Further details regarding the nominations and the election process will be presented to members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Council welcomes the willingness of fanciers from different countries to contribute to the future development of the GFCCI.



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