



**Date:** 15th March 2026

**GLOSTER FANCY CANARY INTERNATIONAL  
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Long Clawson Village Hall  
Long Clawson, Back Lane  
Melton Mowbray LE14 4NA  
Sunday 15 February 2026

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, who welcomed the members who had travelled long distances to attend the EGM, including those who had travelled from Malta and Italy. The Chairman explained the format of the meeting and confirmed that all members would have the opportunity to express their views when the agenda allowed.

For the benefit of new representatives, the structure and role of the Council were explained. It was noted that the strong attendance demonstrated a shared commitment to the future of the Gloster Fancy.

Members present were then invited to introduce themselves.

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**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Steve Webb  
Brian Durrell  
Phil Durrell  
Sam Guy  
Richard Lumley  
Sue Roome  
Mervyn Osborne  
John Richards

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### 3. NO REPLIES RECEIVED FROM

Bob Mortimer  
Sandy Hay  
Aubrey Crowe  
Steve Cook  
Tim Hilton

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### 4. REPORTS FROM CURRENT OFFICERS

#### 4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary thanked all members present for attending the EGM and noted that their participation demonstrated a strong commitment to the future of the Fancy.

Members were reminded that the Council must continue to move forward with a clear vision. The meeting provided an opportunity for constructive discussion regarding the direction of the Council.

While recognising that differences of opinion exist within the Fancy, members were encouraged to set aside past divisions and work together respectfully in order to strengthen the Fancy.

Attendance statistics were presented:

30 invitations issued  
17 confirmations to attend  
8 apologies received  
5 no replies

A financial balance sheet was also present for viewing. Members were informed that Council funds are currently limited and that subscriptions and future financial planning may need to be reviewed.

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The Secretary concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the International Secretary for their continued work on behalf of the Fancy.

**Clair Osborne**  
Secretary

See the full Report attached

#### **4.2 International Secretary's Report**

The International Secretary provided an overview of the Council's current position and the wider challenges facing the bird fancy within the United Kingdom.

It was noted that declining membership numbers, fewer new breeders, and an ageing participant base are affecting many areas of the bird fancy.

However, in several European and international regions the Gloster Fancy is experiencing renewed interest, particularly among younger breeders.

The Council's role is therefore not only to preserve tradition but also to guide the Fancy responsibly through changing circumstances while safeguarding standards.

Recent achievements of the Council include:

- Worldwide distribution of educational material
- Production of a documentary translated into eight languages
- Support for emerging Gloster clubs internationally
- Creation of the updated pictorial model of the Gloster

The updated model has been widely adopted and displayed at shows as a reference to the official standard.

Members were reminded that international cooperation and constructive engagement remain essential for the long-term future of the Fancy.

**Mario Zahra**  
International Secretary  
*See the full document attached*

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## 5. ADDRESS FROM MICHEL ABOU KHALIL

An address from Michel Abou Khalil was presented to the Council. Due to visa restrictions he was unable to attend in person but confirmed his continued support.

Updates were provided regarding developments in the Arab Gloster Union and the growth of the Fancy in several regions including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran and Lebanon.

The address emphasised the importance of:

- Strong governance
- High breeding and judging standards
- Support for emerging clubs
- Unity across regions

**Michel Abou Khalil**

*See the full document attached*

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## 6. FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL

Members discussed possible future developments including:

- Re-establishing a Council presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and the World Wide Web
- The possible use of online meeting platforms including Zoom and Google Meet

A general discussion followed regarding the importance of focusing on the future development of the Fancy. Some members suggested that there is still confusion worldwide regarding how the Council operates, with many fanciers believing that the IGBA is the governing body.

One member pointed out that a major reason for this misunderstanding may be that judges are currently appointed through the IGBA. Following this comment, it was noted that the Council had previously stopped issuing an updated Judges' List due to growing concerns regarding the appointment and qualification process.

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It was also mentioned that there are currently more than 100 judges in existence, with limited oversight regarding judging standards, performance, and credibility. Concerns were raised that in some cases judges are being appointed despite having no Glosters at all resulting in no involvement in exhibiting birds at specialist shows. In other instances, appointments were perceived to occur through personal connections or reciprocal arrangements (Friends of friends).

Some members therefore suggested that the GFCCI should consider establishing a recognised panel of judges who genuinely meet the required standards and deserve proper accreditation, rather than relying solely on the existing qualification of five years exhibiting at champion level.

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## 7. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

A presentation followed reviewing all items within the Council's Constitution.

Each section of the original Constitution (established in 2009) was read and compared with the proposed revised version.

Amendments were considered individually and voted upon.

All amendments were carried unanimously.

The updated Constitution will be circulated to Councillors and published online later this month.

*See the full document attached*

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## 8. ELECTION OF UK COUNCIL MEMBERS

### **Chairman**

Nick Barrett

Proposed: John Herring

Seconded: Jeff Crunkhorn

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**Date:** 25th February 2026

**Vice Chairman**

Steve Chennells

Proposed: Mario Zahra

Seconded: Nick Barrett

**General Secretary**

Clair Osborne

Proposed: Mario Zahra

Seconded: Nick Barrett

**International Secretary**

Mario Zahra

Proposed: Fabrizio Ioppolo

Seconded: Dave Thomas

*All appointments carried unanimously.*

**Additional UK Council Members:**

• Keith Baker - Kent Gloster (Resigned after the meeting), • Paul Reay - Northern GFCC, • Richard Lambert - Yorkshire GCC, • Dave Rands - Humberside GC, • Mark Goodwin - East Anglian GC, • Dave Thomas - S. Wales & Bristol, • John Herring - GFSS, • Steve Webb - IGBA (Resigned after the meeting), • John Cronin - West Midlands GC (Resigned after the meeting), • Brian Skeffington, • Alan Hayward, • Craig Biddle, • Dave Hobart, • Neil Burton, • Trevor Goddard, • Jeff Crunkhorn, • Malcolm Lowe, • Maria Osborne

**9. ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

• Fabrizio Ioppolo — Italy, • Andrea Sghedoni — Italy, • Michel Abou Khalil — Lebanon, • Joel Cordeiro — Portugal, • Bruno Chetta — France, • Yassine Dridi — Tunisia, • Hatim Souadka — Morocco, • Javier Morilla — Spain, • Luis Zanchetti — Brazil, • Mateusz Terczyński — Poland, • Hamid Abdollahi — Iran

*All appointments carried unanimously.*

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## 10. ADOPTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION

The proposed new Constitution was circulated and reviewed section by section. Following discussion, a motion to adopt the new Constitution was proposed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Copies of both the previous and updated Constitution will be circulated to Council members and clubs.

## 11. ADOPTION OF NEW RULES

The proposed updated rules were presented and reviewed. Following discussion, a motion to adopt the new rules was proposed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Copies will be circulated to Council members and clubs.

*See the full document attached*

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Judges Framework

A copy of a proposed framework was circulated to Members at the table and due to the complexity and limited time left it was agreed that the new Judges framework document would be discussed further at the next AGM.

See the full document attached

Keith Baker asked the Secretary to acknowledge a letter that had been received from the IGBA. The letter, the author of which remains unknown, contained a proposal regarding the establishment of the IGBA as a governing body for the Gloster Fancy.

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Although legal advice had been given to the Council not to read correspondence from non affiliated clubs, the letter received from the IGBA dated 16 January 2026 was read out following requests from several members who wished to understand its contents. Keith Baker was invited to read the letter to those present.

Following the reading, an open discussion took place which lasted approximately 30 minutes. At the conclusion of the discussion, the International Secretary requested a show of hands in response to the question: "How many members present believe that this proposal holds any substance and a constructive way forward for the Gloster Fancy?"

No members voted in favour of the proposal.

Twenty-two members present agreed that the direction and work proposed by the Council during the meeting represented the best way forward.

A vote approving the development of a new Council website was also carried.

Members further voted unanimously to continue the work of the Council.

### 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 4:30 pm.

SIGNED

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12th March 2026

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