

# JEFF CRUNKHORN

## A LIFETIME DEDICATED TO THE GLOSTER CANARY



Few fanciers can claim a lifetime of dedication to the Gloster Canary quite like this distinguished breeder, exhibitor, judge, and club official, whose contribution to the fancy spans more than six decades.

Having spent most of his working life as a Production Supervisor and Manager within the food processing industry, his passion outside of work was always firmly rooted in the bird room. Although he initially kept foreign birds, his journey with Gloster Canaries began in 1963 when he purchased his first pair from W. Footit

and F. Bryant. One of these birds, from F. Bryant, included a White Corona hen — a bird that would leave a lasting impression. From that point on, Whites and Blues became a particular passion, featuring prominently in his breeding programme over the years.

His first venture into exhibition was at his local Spalding CBS. Although success did not come immediately, determination soon paid off. A few weeks later, after travelling 25 miles by bus to Kings Lynn CBS, he secured his first major success by winning Best Novice Gloster. It was

there he also met Nick and Annalain Barrett, beginning associations that would prove significant throughout his Gloster career.

His novice status was short-lived. Under the rules of the day, three wins in classes of seven or more elevated a fancier to Champion status, a milestone he quickly achieved.

His commitment to the fancy extended well beyond exhibiting. In the early 1970s, he served as Secretary of Spalding CBS, during a golden era when the club staged impressive two-day shows attracting up to 1,500 exhibits, with many birds arriving by rail on Friday evenings — a practice that was entirely normal at the time.

In 1967, he judged his first show, marking the beginning of a distinguished judging career. Since then, he has judged extensively throughout the East Anglian region and at numerous All Gloster shows nationwide. His expertise also earned him the honour of judging at the prestigious National Exhibition of Cage Birds on three occasions: 1987, 1993 — the 50th Anniversary Show — and again in 1999.

His judging career has also taken him overseas, with appointments in Bologna, Italy (1987, 1994, and 1998), Miami, USA (1986), and Boston, USA for the National Gloster Show in 1995.

As an exhibitor, he competed at every venue of the historic National Exhibition of Cage Birds, from Olympia and Alexandra Palace to Bingley Hall, the NEC Birmingham, and Telford.

His association with the IGBA Club stretches back to its earliest days. He was selected to judge the very first IGBA Show at Selston, Nottinghamshire, in October 1986 alongside G. Wolfendale, A. Brown, and H. Prater. He later returned as a seminar speaker in 1993 and judged the event again in 1998. ➤

# gfcci.com Articles kick off

The response to our very first contributor article, written by Hatim from Morocco, has been truly encouraging. Since its publication, the article has attracted significant attention online, generating excellent engagement and positive feedback from Gloster enthusiasts across different countries. It has demonstrated just how valuable it is when members of our worldwide Gloster community come forward to share their experiences, insights, and practical knowledge.

Hatim's contribution has not only enriched our newsletter but has also added real value to the Council's online presence, helping strengthen the GFCCI website as a growing hub of information, education, and shared expertise for Gloster fanciers everywhere.

This is exactly the kind of contribution that helps our community thrive.

We would like to encourage more members, breeders, and exhibitors to follow Hatim's example by sharing their own experiences, breeding methods, exhibition insights, historical perspectives, and practical tips. Every breeder has knowledge worth sharing, whether gained through years of experience or through a specific lesson learned along the way.



By contributing your articles, you help preserve and expand the collective knowledge of the Gloster Fancy Canary fancy. Your input will help enrich the Council's website, provide valuable learning opportunities for fellow fanciers, and strengthen the spirit of collaboration that makes our community so special.

If you have an experience, idea, or subject you feel would benefit others, we warmly invite you to come forward and contribute. Together, we can continue building a richer and more informative resource for Gloster enthusiasts around the world.

◀ That same year, he made history by becoming the first person to judge the show twice, as noted by the late Robbie Wright. Remarkably, he also won the IGBA show in 1988 with a Blue Corona Hen, having won the same class the previous year.

One of his most enduring contributions came in 1967 when, together with Nick Barrett and five fellow fanciers, he helped establish what is now the East Anglian Gloster Fancy Canary Club. He served as Chairman from 1967 until 1989 before becoming Secretary, a role he continues to fulfil today. He has also served as Show Secretary for the club's All Gloster Show, working tirelessly to maintain a strong Gloster presence in East Anglia despite the increasing challenges facing the hobby.

A steadfast believer in governance and unity within the fancy, he was an active supporter of the original Gloster Convention established by Cliff Harris at Headington, Oxford. Following the Convention's closure, he recognised the need for continued structure and representation.

It was this belief that led to the formation of the GFCC UK by chairman Nick Barrett, then Convention secretary Fred Osborne, and Mario Zahra — providing clubs and individual fanciers with a unified voice for the future of the Gloster Canary.



## The East Anglian All Gloster Show

The East Anglian All Gloster Show, has been recommended by Jeff Crunhorn.

Under the GFCCI recognition guidelines, clubs may be listed as recognised when they are confirmed by a GFCCI Councillor as actively promoting the Gloster Fancy within their club or country. Recognition is intended to support and highlight organisations that contribute positively to the development and promotion of the Gloster Canary on an international level.

In addition, shows that include Gloster classes may be granted recognised show status when approved through the appropriate councillor, allowing them to be included in the international show calendar and followed by breeders and enthusiasts worldwide.

The aim of this recognition framework is to encourage international cooperation, promote the established Gloster standard, support clubs and breeders globally, and celebrate the Gloster Fancy through well-organised exhibitions.



**GFCCI**  
APPROVED

The East Anglian All Gloster Show, scheduled for Sunday 15th November 2026 at Leziate, Ashwicken and Bawsey Village Hall and judged by Craig Biddle, is therefore being noted as a potential candidate for recognition pending review through the appropriate GFCCI channels.



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