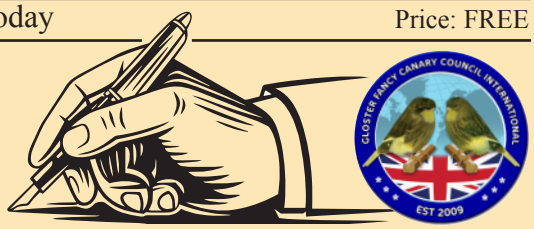
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OPEN LETTER



TO THE GLOSTER FANCIERS WORLDWIDE



Fabrizio Ioppolo
GFCCI Judges Panel Coordinator

Being a judge is a commitment to serving the hobby. A judge's title comes from the experience, achievements and abilities developed throughout their career and recognised by fellow fanciers. Membership of a judging panel ONLY acknowledges that expertise.

Dear friends and fellow Gloster fanciers,

I am writing in response to a letter that I came across on social media posted by an irrisponsible IGBA member regarding another damaging move (rule) that, if adopted, it would mean that, from the 2027 show season, an IGBA panel judge who accepts an invitation to judge at a show organised or approved by the GFCCI would lose their place on the IGBA panel. Once again another divisive proposal that is making most the Gloster fancy fed up. Enough is enough….

As GFCCI Judges Panel Coordinator, I urge IGBA members to reject this damaging proposal. The man who wrote this letter has no intellect what further harm it is going to make. It is already sad enough to see the IGBA stoop so low, running in the last minute to become affiliated with COM, because the GFCCI had a proposal on the the table. Stop please, stop this nonsense while harming the Gloster fancy. You are making your own members fedup. I know because they tell me so…..

A club invites a judge because it trusts that person's eye for a Gloster and the judgement they have developed over years in the breeding room and at the show bench. Under the proposed rule, a judge could assess every bird fairly, apply the breed standard faithfully and still face exclusion solely because of the show at which he/she judged. I believe that is unfair to the judge. It also leaves clubs with fewer experienced judges to invite and exhibitors with fewer opportunities to learn from them.

A judge should be free to accept an invitation from a club without putting their panel place at risk, otherwise you are the ones running an antidemocratic assocoation.

Many of us learned to recognise a good Gloster because someone from another club took the time to stand beside us at a show cage and explain what they saw. I want the next generation of fanciers to have that same opportunity. In my role as Coordinator, I will do my part to keep that exchange open and to ensure that judges, breeders and clubs can turn to the GFCCI for guidance wherever they exhibit.

I also wish to address the suggestion that the GFCCI adopted another club's judging framework as its own. The GFCCI Judges Panel Framework was put before our council members and approved at our September AGM 2026. It sets out how candidates are nominated and how their knowledge and experience are assessed. Anyone with a specific concern about the framework is welcome to raise it with me. I will gladly discuss the relevant provision and explain how we will apply it.

Yours in the Fancy,
Fabrizio Ioppolo

GFCCI Judges Panel Coordinator



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From Model to Shared Understanding

First GFCCI 3D Model Study Sets an Example for Clubs Worldwide







The GFCCI has received its first report of a technical study meeting dedicated to its 3D Gloster model—an encouraging example of precisely what the Council intended these educational resources to achieve.

The presentation was led by the world renowned Judge and GFCCI Councillor for Itay Fabrizio Ioppolo. The event took place on “Sunday, 25 October 2026”, during the International Gloster Show organised by “Piume Cesena”. The “North of Italy Gloster Club” brought breeders and enthusiasts together to examine the model and explore its relationship with the GFCCI pictorial standard. The meeting also welcomed “Jorge Quintas”, an international COM judge involved in the coordination of type and posture canary judging.

In his report, “Fabrizio Ioppolo” described an engaged audience, thoughtful discussion and a clear appreciation of the value of a physical model as an educational reference. The occasion demonstrated how bringing enthusiasts together around a shared standard can encourage closer observation, constructive dialogue and a better understanding of the Gloster.

“This is exactly the kind of initiative the GFCCI, as the governing body for the Gloster Fancy, seeks to encourage.” Producing and distributing models is only part of the work. Their real educational value emerges when breeders, exhibitors and judges use them together to study the breed and develop a more consistent understanding of the Standard of Excellence.

The Council therefore encourages “every Gloster club to obtain both the GFCCI 3D model and the 2D pictorial model”, and to organise a dedicated technical meeting for its members. Used alongside the written standard, these complementary resources provide a common starting point for discussion, learning and the exchange of experience.

Such meetings should welcome established breeders and newcomers alike. They offer an opportunity to ask questions, share knowledge and ensure that the principles guiding the breeding and judging of Glosters are understood more widely.

With the strong international structure the Council now has in place, this ambition is increasingly achievable. “Councillors in each country provide the link between the GFCCI and local clubs”, helping to coordinate access to the models, encourage educational events and bring reports and constructive feedback back to the Council.

The GFCCI warmly thanks “Fabrizio Ioppolo, the North of Italy Gloster Club, the organisers of Piume Cesena, Jorge Quintas and all those who participated” for making this first reported study such a positive example. Plans to continue the discussion at the North of Italy Gloster Club’s January show are particularly welcome.

“The invitation to clubs worldwide is clear: obtain the models, bring your members together and turn a shared standard into shared understanding.”

Suggestions were made in a geniune athmosphere. The report is now recorded for future discussions while the GFCCI awaits more reports from various Clubs worldwide.

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