

# MICHEL ABOU KHALIL

## A DRIVING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Michel Abou Khalil (born 30 October 1972) is a name that has become synonymous with the development and progress of the Gloster Fancy across the Middle East and North Africa.

Based in Lebanon, Michel combines a demanding professional career in chemical engineering—holding qualifications from the CNAM, the University of Balamand, and the Lebanese University—with an unwavering passion for canaries that began in 2007. What started as a personal interest quickly developed into a lifelong commitment to the Gloster Fancy in the Middle Eastern region. Michel works quietly for most of the year, and this dedication

is clearly reflected in the strength of his breeding, the quality of his exhibits, and the high standard of the shows he organises.

A member of the Lebanese Ornithological Federation (FOL), Michel qualified as an ornithological judge in 2017 under the guidance of COM judge Antonio Passeri & Diniz Pereira. Since then, his keen eye and strict adherence to the Standard have made him a respected figure both at home and abroad.

In 2018, Michel co-founded the Lebanese Gloster Club (LGC), where he served as President until 2023. Under his leadership, the

club has organised a series of highly successful All Gloster Shows, setting a benchmark for quality and organisation in the region. Behind these achievements stands a dedicated and energetic team, reflecting Michel's ability to inspire and lead.

His role as GFCCI Ambassador for North Africa and the Middle East has proven invaluable. Fluent in four languages, Michel has successfully built bridges between fanciers across at least seven countries, ensuring that clubs are not only connected but also aligned with the official Gloster standards—both in exhibition and in breeding direction.

Despite operating in a region often affected by geopolitical challenges, Michel continues to bring people together through the Fancy. His commitment to travelling, judging, and supporting fellow breeders whenever possible is a testament to his dedication.

Michel is also the driving force behind the Gloster Arab Union, an initiative that emerged from a joint educational meeting between seven countries. This union reflects a shared vision of cooperation, mutual support, and progress—especially important in difficult times.

In addition, his collaboration with the American University of Beirut on a Canary-Pox vaccination protocol highlights his broader commitment to bird welfare and education.

Today, Michel is rightly regarded as one of the key pillars of the Gloster Fancy in his region. His knowledge, leadership, and passion continue to influence not only the present but also the future direction of the Fancy across the Middle East and North Africa.

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# Steve's Corner

## Colours in Glosters

Education is the key...

Yellow Glosters should be used as a strategic tool within any serious breeding programme. The reason is very straightforward: yellow feathering represents a fundamentally different feather structure compared to the standard Buff and Green. On one hand, it introduces a more refined feather; on the other, it enhances depth of colour, as Yellow improves the expression of **Eumelanin** -

**Eumelanin** is the dark pigment responsible for black, brown, grey, and dark markings in feathers, hair, and skin. In birds - especially Type Canaries - it is the pigment that creates the darker feather patterning and markings seen in Greens, Cinnamons, and variegated birds.

In Gloster breeding, eumelanin is very important because it influences:

- Depth and richness of colour
- Definition of markings
- Feather texture and appearance
- Overall visual contrast within the plumage

In general, Yellow Glosters tend to exhibit a finer, narrower feather structure.

However, coarser feathering can still occur—particularly in the lower flight feathers—and this is a fault that should be actively avoided through careful selection.

The self-Yellow Green variety, while valuable, has a tendency to produce elongated flight and tail feathers. This can lead to a reduction in feather density, resulting in a loss of overall shape and balance. It may also contribute to shorter, weaker fronts in the corona. For this reason, many breeders favour the use of variegated Yellow consorts, which tend to offer better control over these traits.

With time, patience, and corrective pairings, these faults can be significantly reduced or eliminated. By selecting the standout offspring over successive generations, type and balance can be restored—often with notable improvements. When used correctly, Yellow Glosters play a vital role in promoting superior feather quality, enhanced colour, and the close-fitting neatness that defines a top-class bird.

From experience, pairing a Yellow-bred bird consistently on one side of the pedigree generation after generation yields excellent



*Yellow Green Consort Cock 2025, Best Champion Yellow, Southern All Gloster Show. Bred by Steve Chennells.*

results. Ensuring that a self or variegated Yellow appears within three generations on either side of the pedigree helps to correct many feather-related faults and suppress latent issues such as eye feather twist, splits or holes in the rear neck feathering, and tramlines through the legs. These are significant faults which, once established, are difficult to eliminate—making prevention through intelligent use of Yellow birds not just beneficial, but essential.



# GFCCI

APPROVED

## All Gloster Shows Worldwide

The Gloster Fancy Canary Council International (GFCCI) is pleased to announce a new initiative aimed at recognising and promoting the leading All Gloster Shows across the world.

Councillors are now invited to nominate the best specialist All Gloster Shows within their respective countries for official GFCCI approval and recognition. The objective is to create a trusted international directory of quality Gloster events that support the promotion and development of the breed at the highest level.

To be considered, Councillors should provide full details of the show, including the

official show name, the date of the next event, venue location. Once approved, these shows will be featured on the official GFCCI website, GFCCI.com, providing exhibitors and enthusiasts worldwide with easy access to important event information.

Approved shows will also be granted permission to use the official "GFCCI Approved Show" logo on their schedules, catalogues, websites, and promotional material. This recognition will help identify shows that meet the standards and values promoted by the GFCCI while encouraging greater international participation and cooperation among Gloster breeders and exhibitors.



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