

**DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU:** All club meetings and time-sensitive club news must reach us by **10.30am on Tuesday** at the latest for inclusion in the issue on sale on **Wednesday of the following week.**

# A new Gloster standard

## GLOSTER FANCY CANARY COUNCIL UK (GFCC-UK)

AS MANY of the Gloster canary fanciers know, the origins of the present-day Gloster canary date back to 1925, when Mrs Rogerson of Cheltenham exhibited some miniature crested canaries at the Crystal Palace National Show, writes *GFCC-UK international secretary Mario Zahra*. Since then general acceptance of drawings by Mr C.E. Minjoodt (reproduced) were a great asset in helping newcomers to the hobby to visualise the ideal Gloster fancy canary, enabling them to set their sights on a definite goal.

In recent years a cry for an update of the pictorial model echoed not only in the UK but also in Europe and in other places across the world. Many tried to define the latest transformations or evolution of the breed, but obviously, without the final say of the governing body (GFCC-UK), nothing could be deemed official.

This is where the great mechanics of the GFCC-UK come in handy. During the third biennial general meeting held in Leicester, a couple of illustrations were presented to the council. After a long and technical discussion, and with great input from our masters, the set that is displayed in this article was chosen. Everybody, without exception, agreed that the

new pictorial is a balanced interpretation of the standard and should last for many years to come.

If one is to examine the new model, he or she will quickly discover that all the main features presented in the original standard of excellence are still there with a slight difference in roundness better known as "type".

### To the diminutive it is

It was also decided that the length of the Gloster shall remain exactly the same "to the diminutive". Lately we have seen some shocking exhibits across the Continent with some exhibitors claiming that it is not possible anymore to keep the Gloster short with good type and feather quality.

Well, my friends that is exactly what the challenge is all about. If you hear any statement of this sort, it is only because one is not capable of taking up the challenge and accomplish the desired result. It is incredibly beautiful to see Glosters benched with good type, excellent feather quality and natural colour. That is exactly what the best in show should look like and it will also determine the level of livestock benched in the current show hall.

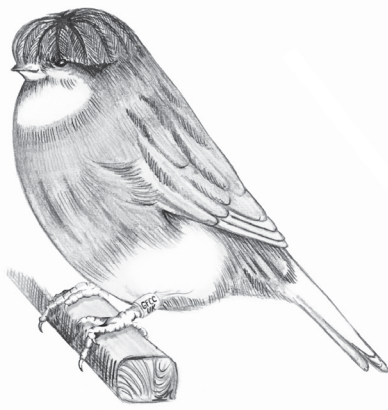
### The points system

Although much of the judging around the world takes place by comparison, the council decided that the point system remains exactly the same as it was in the beginning. If one looks carefully through the list displayed, he or she quickly discovers that all the ingredients listed give a very clear guideline as to what the ideal Gloster canary should look like (see right).

### The judges

In the past and on more than one occasion, reports came into the council saying that the judge appointed in the relevant show said that we should breed and exhibit Gloster the way we like them. The GFCC-UK now hopes that such comments will not be repeated, and furthermore that we can put statements like this behind us once and for all, while looking ahead. A panel judge has the responsibility of evaluating every exhibit at a given time, for each and every bird to settle down, be looked at both from a distance and closely, and finally decide how to move forward. The result






<p><b>Corona:</b> Neatness, regular unbroken round shape, eye discernible with definite centre <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Body:</b> Back well filled and wings laying close thereto; full neck. Chest nicely rounded without prominence <b>20</b></p> <p><b>Tail:</b> Closely folded, well carried <b>5</b></p> <p><b>Plumage:</b> Close, firm, giving a clear appearance of good quality and natural colour <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Carriage:</b> Alert, quick, lively movement <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Legs &amp; Feet:</b> Medium length, no blemish <b>5</b></p> <p><b>Size:</b> Tendency to diminutive <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Condition:</b> Health and cleanliness <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Consort:</b> Head broad, round at every point with good rise over centre of skull <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Eye:</b> Heavy showing brow <b>5</b></p> <p><b>Body:</b> Back well filled and wings laying close thereto <b>20</b></p> <p><b>Tail:</b> Closely folded, well carried <b>5</b></p> <p><b>Plumage:</b> Close, firm, giving a clear appearance of good quality and natural colour <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Carriage:</b> Alert, quick, lively movement <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Legs &amp; Feet:</b> Medium length, no blemish <b>5</b></p> <p><b>Size:</b> Tendency to diminutive <b>15</b></p> <p><b>Condition:</b> Health and cleanliness <b>10</b></p>
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**STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AS APPROVED BY THE G.F.C.C. UK**

**Above: the new pictorial model and points allocation. Left: Mario Zahra drew the new pictorial**

of all class winners will be sending messages to the novice exhibitor and, if we are not careful, confusion will take its toll and the exhibitor will be out of the fancy in no time. Every appointed judge should take this into account and choose only Glosters that closely match the standard of excellence presented by the GFCC-UK.

This will give its owner a good future by breeding more good birds.

### Copyright

The model artwork is solely the property of the GFCC-UK. All rights have been forwarded by the artist to the GFCC-UK. If any fancier, club member, committee or judge should make use of it

in a commercial way, they have to notify the general secretary and pay royalties according to the merchandise being produced. If for any reason one wishes to display the artwork for educational purpose only, no fee will be applied.

**See News, Page 2, for more details on the new model**

# Club roundup

## Show reports, dates, club notices

interested in birdkeeping will be made most welcome.

**KENT & SUSSEX FIFE FCC** open show, December 11, Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8PL. Judges are: Dave Tanner and Mary Durrant. Please direct all enquiries to M. Holmes (tel: 01227 769 426) or H.G. Arnold (tel: 01634 235 329).

**MID ULSTER FIFE FCC** open show, December 10, Magheralin Parochial Hall, Magheralin, Craigavon. The judges are Gary & Jonny Archer (Co. Durham). It is their first judging engagement in Ireland. Enquiries: 07595 895 321.

**NORTHERN IRELAND BORDER FCC** open show, December 10, St Patrick's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Newtownards, Co. Down BT9 6DJ. The club is hoping that this will be a spectacular event with great prizes. It will have judges from Belgium. Enquiries, contact the secretary Norman Courtenay, tel: 028 9188 3914 or 07971 317 464. The club is hoping to get a great turnout of birds for this super event.

**NORTHERN IRELAND YCC** members' show, December 10, Methodist Church Halls, Commercial Road, Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Birds to be entered on the morning of the show and judging will commence at approximately 9.30am. The judge is M. Anzacki from Italy and the show will open to the public from 2pm. There will be an auction of Yorkshires, which have been donated by exhibitors, prior to the prize giving at about 3pm. All welcome. Enquiries to Alan Doak, tel: 07739 401 209. This is a show for all fanciers over Ireland who breed Yorkshires.

**NORTHERN YORKSHIRE CC** open show, December 10, Hambleton Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 2UZ. Judges are: W.J. Mayne and A. Johnston. Tel: 01653 696 376.

**RIPON CBS** open show, December 18, Coronation Hall, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire YO51 9BL. For more information, please tel: 01765 603 794.

**TALKE PITS BRITISH SOFTBILL SHOW** December 11, Talke Pits Village Hall, High

Street, Talke Pits, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST7 1PX. The judge is Dave Henderson. Enquiries, contact Chris Atkinson, tel: 01792 368 069 or email: skyblues@talktalk.net

**WEST WALES BORDER FCC** open show, December 10, Pontardawe Leisure Centre, Parc Ynysderw, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4EG. For details, please tel: 01792 773 717.

**WEST WALES FIFE FCC** 26th anniversary all-Fife open show, December 11, Mozart Community Centre, Mozart Drive, Sandfields, Port Talbot SA12 7TY. The judges engaged on the day are Harry Clarke and Jack Show. Prizes will include £100 for best Fife, £50 for best champion, £50 for best novice, £20 for the reserve champion, £20 for the reserve novice and £10 for all colour sections.

Schedules were sent to last year's exhibitors. For a copy or for more details, contact Jim Watkins, tel: 01656 745 037 or email: wwfccjim@hotmail.com. Please note this is a postal entry show and no entries will be accepted on the day.

### SHOW REPORTS

**AYR & PRESTWICK CBS** held its successful open show on October 15 at Claude Hamilton Hall in Coylton, Ayrshire. **The main winners were:** best Norwich, best British, J. Steven (Darvel, Ayrshire); best Gloster, David McLean (Ardrossan, Ayrshire); best Border, Anthony McGreechin (Glasgow); best budgerigar, Thomas Campbell (Minnigaff, Dumfriesshire); best new colour canary, Kevin Falls (Girvan, Ayrshire); best Fife, Barry Caldwell (Stewarton, Ayrshire); best zebra finches, Jim Francey (Kilmarnock, Ayrshire); best junior, Lauren McGreechin (Glasgow).

**BIRMINGHAM BS** open show was held on August 13 at St Mary's Church Hall in Birmingham. It was a very successful show with 481 birds entered and 438 benched. **The principle winners were:** best in show, best young bird, best any age, best opposite sex any age, A. & D. Woan; best opposite sex young bird, Peter Hickton-Collins. The club would like to thank the judges who all had to travel a long way to get to the show: Ian Ainley, Harry Hockaday,

Geoff Corser and Dave Sturzaker.

**CHICHESTER CBS** recently held its members' show, which was a great success with 140 birds on display. It was nice to see so many exhibitors turning out on such a cold and wet evening.

**The results were as follows:** best canary in show (Gloster), J. Collins; best Fife, M. Mead; best Border, best new colour canary, best Australian, Holloway & Oakley; best British (greenfinch), J. Taylor; best budgerigar, best budgerigar any age, best budgerigar young bird, V. Silvester; best softbill (zosterop), T. Sayers; best foreign, best seedeater (silverbills), R. Denyer; best parrot-like (splendid), best Java, best Bengalese, M. Woods; best zebra, R. Moulard. The judges were: British, Fifes, J. Miles; AOV canaries, B. Durant; foreign birds, G. Brooker; budgerigars, T. Sayers.

**HAVANT CBS** held its annual members' show in conjunction with the October club meeting. There was a fantastic turnout of 51 members in attendance. The show itself was a great success with 83 exhibits on show from 16 exhibitors.