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happy birds...



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*FIFE CANARY
COUNCIL
MAGAZINE*



Issue 1

Fife Canary Council Specialist Club List

The Fife Canary Club of Ireland

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Dennis Lynch Fife Canaries

Panel Judge

Breeder & Exhibitor's of Champion Fife Canaries

Quality Birds Available From September Onwards

Mobile 00353 872262685

Visitors Welcome By Appointment



Fife Canary Council

Pin Badges Now Available £4.00 inc Postage

Email Councilsec01@gmail.com



JASON HODGES FIFE CANARIES

WORLD SHOW MEDAL WINNER

Breeder & Exhibitor's of Champion Fife Canaries

Quality Birds Available From September Onwards

Email jayhodes1970@aol.com Phone 07940556558

Visitors Welcome By Appointment



You Mention the type of bird you like to breed from but is there your ideal Fife?

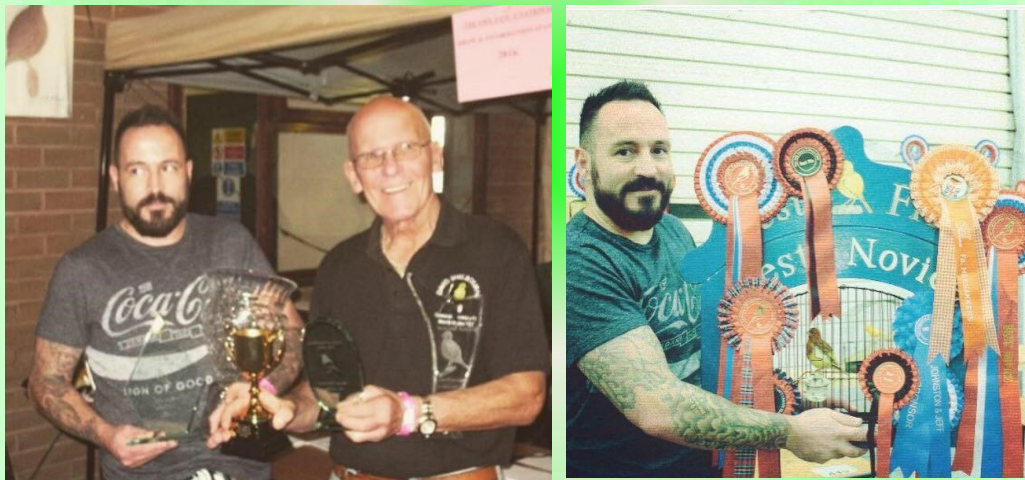
My aim to breed to the model set down by the Fife Canary Council in there Standard of Excellence , in my opinion there are experienced breeders breeding large birds which then give the wrong impression of the correct model , I also think the judges need to adhere to the model point system and maybe take some sort of a test so each judge are on the same level when judging birds , I have seen large birds take best in shows and also small birds.

Is there a particular Stud or Fancier your admire in the fancy ?

There are many breeders I respect from Gerald Spencer to the Kendall stud to terry Kelly... C&L Thomas has in particular has helped me throughout this hobby.

Any tips for the New Fancier ?

Never underestimate the importance of bird nutrition and feeding a well balanced quality diet to your birds i feed my birds verse laga gourmet seed , deli nature egg food , Haiths condition seed, soak seed ... other seeds and methods are a secret ha ha ... i don't use any medicine vitamin products (money making market), all natural through a good balanced diet.



Receiving his award for Best Fife in Show at the Federations National Exhibition in 2017 from former Fed Sec David Shelbourne with over 1100 Entries

I'm currently the Show Manager for the North Wales F.F.CC which keeps me busy at club level I also work in retail Management so I'm always on the go .i have a keen interest in football where for my sins I follow Manchester United .i would like to wish all a very successful breeding season in 2021 and hopefully we will get to have come exhibitions later in the year .

Jimmy Roberts

Fife Canary Council “Exhibitor of The Year 2021”

Fife Canary Club Of Ireland

Midlands FFCA

North west FFCC

North Wales FFCC

East of England FFCC

East Anglian FFCC

North Staff & South Cheshire FFCC

Scottish Fife F.C.C

Irish F.F.C.C

Essex & Kent Counties F.F.C.C

Walsall F.F.C.C

London F.F.C.C

Vlaamse Border & Fife Fancy Club (Belgium)

Fife Fancy Canary Club Italiano (F.F.C.C.I)

The Fife Canary Council's Exhibitor of the Year scheme will be run across all 2021 Member club shows

1. The award will be calculated on a points-based system
- 1 Point awarded for Class Wins
- 2 Points Champion class 25+ Birds Novice 15+ Birds
- 5 Points awarded for a colour special
(Best Clear / Best 10% / Best Var / Best Hv Var / Best Green / Best Cinn / Best allied –White)
- Only the 7 listed colour awards will be offered Points
- 10 Points awarded for best in section (Champion / Novice)
2. All Secretaries to submit results sheet to Council Sec before the Wednesday following the Show
3. There will be awards for both Champion and Novice Fanciers
4. fanciers can exhibit at all member club shows but only there Top 6 Results will count towards there final score
- 5.The Council Sec will compile a league table weekly which shall be published on the Federation web site
6. A Trophy and £50 will be awarded to both Champion and Novice winning Fanciers

Paul Larkin General Secretary F.C.C



1. NAME

The organisation will be called The Fife Canary Council ('The Council').

2. OBJECTS

The objects of The Fife Canary Council are:

- (a) To promote the breeding and development of the Fife Canary's in all parts of the world.
- (b) To protect the interest of breeders and exhibitors.
- (c) To support the exhibition of Fife Canary's by granting patronage to shows.
- (d) To interest the public in the objects and activities of The Council.
- (e) To be an integral part of an International organisation in promoting the Fife Canary to all parts of the World.
- (f) To encourage members of The Council to keep their Fife Canary's in conditions which are conducive to the health and wellbeing of the birds.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Council shall consist of:

- (a) Club who shall collect subscription from their membership and forward to The Council to Confirm individual membership in accordance with rule 6.

(a1) There is no direct membership with the council you must be a fully paid-up member of a council affiliated club to avail of Council Membership

- (b) A signed declaration of acceptance of the council's Social Media, Bird Welfare, GDPR policies must accompany all Membership Application

(c) A member must within seven days of vacating any address previously notified to The Council give written details of his change of address to the Council Secretary. All correspondence to any member from The Council will be sent to the address last notified by the member.

(d) Any New Member Clubs are subject to Approval at the Council's AGM and must not have its Show on the same date as a fellow member club that is within a 120-mile boundary

(e) All New Membership Club Shall Pay a once off affiliation fee of £20.00

4. CONDITIONS, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

(a) All members accept to be contractually bound by the rules and conditions of The Council.

(b)(i) On becoming a member of The Council such member shall be allocated an exclusive official Breeder number this is to be quoted in all correspondences with the Council.

Was it a easy learning curve or was there any mistakes made?

One of the most important thing I learned as a novice is the expectation of winning as it will lead to disappointment as there are so many top novice breeders about, there are many winners out there.

Early mistakes i would say is try and copy other breeders when what you do actually works and then you get worse results, like they say why fix something that is not broken.



A trio of wins at Stafford

You mention the disappointment of not winning do you remember your first special win?

I do I remember it like it was yesterday, it was in my first season as Novice. I won second best 10% novice at the Midlands F.F.C.C and I was absolutely chuffed.

The final three years as a Novice were very good for me on the show bench, with 29 Best Colour Winners, 10 best Novices and 1 best in show, MY greatest achievement to date is winning Best Fife in Show at the Stafford National which had nearly 1100 entries.

I also won the Fife Fancy Federation Novice Fancier of the Year competition in 2018 the final year as Novice before I went up to Champion.

Well now that you have stepped up to Champion what's the breeding plans ?

I would say the bloodline i have now is my own as i have developed from buying 2 pairs from Andy Rodger 5 years ago and out crosses from the Kendall stud with some added blood from C&I Thomas and my partners Elfed and Arwel of the llyn fife stud. I am now in a position where 90% of my birds are related, i bring in 2 or 3 out crosses in a year to ensure my line do not get too close, i continue to purchase my outcrosses from the same breeder as they work with my birds, now i am in a trio of partnership i don't see the need for outcrosses, I will only purchase to improve stock.

How many Hens / Cocks will you keep for your breeding team for 2021?

I try to keep the best 20 Hens and the best 14 Cock Birds, the type of birds i like to breed and will breed are small, short tail and wings, short in the body but with the roundness, enough leg to carry the bird, i am not too fussed about colour, in previous years i had always bred clear x clear, green x green etc, now i breed for quality best x best regardless if the hen is clear and the cock bird is a self green.



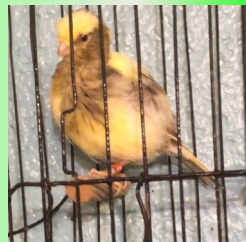
fy nhaith o ddechreuwr i bencampwr



Gwynedd is a county in Wales, sharing borders with Powys, Conwy, Denbighshire, Anglesey over the Menai Strait, and Ceredigion over the River Dyfi. The scenic Llyn Peninsula and most of Snowdonia National Park are in Gwynedd but it is also home to arguably one of the most successful Novice fanciers to ever take up the hobby Mr Jimmy Roberts, who has now progressed to been one of the fanciers that make up the Champion partnership of 'Llyn Stud. I have the pleasure of calling him a good friend as well as a top fancier and got a chance to ask him a few questions from how it all begun to the present day.

So Jimmy where did your love of Birdkeeping start?

Well, my father kept Gloster canaries, I always had a keen interest in Gloster canaries during the 90s when my father was exhibiting, once I had my own house one of my first purchases was a shed because in a sense Birdkeeping was in my blood from a young age. I kept Glosters for a couple of years, but due to family commitments I had to leave the hobby but I knew that one day I would return to the hobby so in 2013 I got back into the hobby and purchased my first couple pairs of Fife's.



Where did you get your first fife's?

The first fifes I obtained was from Gareth Jones in Porthmadog, I also had 4 pairs from Roy Brown and that was it I was back in the hobby, Gareth was a great help and was always on hand when I had a question and was full of information and encouragement and also the partnership of Jones & Williams were a great help in the early days and who ironically I'm now in partnership with. I also read Terry Kelly's book and borrowed a couple of his DVDs which cemented the decision that fife canaries were for me.

How does your first Birdroom compare to the one you have today?

Oh, there's a world apart, my first bird room was a 10 x 6 wooden apex shed with cages all around 1 window, no airflow. I now have a 16 x 8 flat roof extra height birdroom with 4 windows, airflow, 72 cages and a 4-foot aviary inside. Most important feature in my bird room are the window positions, early light, and late light for feeding etc and the airflow to keep the room airy and free from damp which is beneficial for bird health.

(b)(ii) A member may upon written application to the Council Secretary request a specified alternative code number to be allocated to him, which, subject to availability,

(c) Membership in each year shall commence on 1st January or the date of application if later and shall terminate on 31st December.

5. PARTNERSHIPS

(a) A member may only enter or remain in partnership with another member or members of The Council. The formation, dissolution or retirement from a partnership and the partnership name must be confirmed in writing within seven days to the Council Secretary by all members of the partnership.

(b) Each partner shall adopt the exhibition status of the highest-ranking partner and shall so remain upon any dissolution of the partnership

(c) All show entries must be in the name of the partnership.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription for all grades of paid-up membership shall be reviewed by its Members at the Annual AGM and set for the coming year.

(a) All Membership applications must be submitted by Member Club Secretaries, there is no Direct Membership with the Council

(b) An adult member shall be a person over the age of sixteen on 1st January and shall pay the full subscription of £5

(c) A junior member shall be a person aged between eight and sixteen will be free and will receive Membership Benefits but will not receive the right to vote on matters arising at the Annual AGM

7. ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE

(a) The election for General Council members will take place every Fourth year as from the formation meeting of 2021.

(b) All candidates must be fully paid-up members for the year of elections and must be over the age of sixteen at the date of nomination.

(c) All new candidates not being existing elected members of the Council Committee must submit their nomination form to the Council Secretary prior to 31st December of the year preceding the election. The nomination form to be signed by a proposer and a seconder who are members of The Council over the age of sixteen years.

(d) No member may propose or second more than one candidate for the Ballot.

(e) Existing elected members of the Council Committee submitting themselves for re-election must notify the Society Administrator of their intention in writing by 31st December in the year preceding the election.

(f) Ballot papers will be posted to all members of The Council who have paid their subscriptions prior to 28th February in the year of the election.

(g) Ballot papers will be posted at least eighteen days prior to the date of closure of the election and must be returned in accordance with the directions contained on the ballot paper.

(h) The candidate with the highest number of votes will duly be elected to their nominated position

8. VOTING FOR THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE

(a) All members of The Council shall be entitled to vote.

(b) A member must validate the ballot paper with his official code number and signature for his votes to be valid.

(c) The Council will engage an independent scrutineer to count the votes and report the result of the election.

9. COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Full council Committee will be made up of the following positions. Which will be Elected at the first Members AGM

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Chairperson | • Vice Chairperson | |
| • Secretary | • Vice Secretary | |
| • Treasurer | • Media officer | |
| • Club Liaison officer | • Show Secretary | • Fundraising officer |

10. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of The Society shall be from 1st January to 31st December in each year. The profit and loss accounts and balance sheets shall be prepared by the Council Treasurer and presented at the Annual Agm with a copy forwarded to all paid Council Members.

11. WINDING UP

In the event of a resolution to wind up The Fife Canary Council being passed; its funds shall be divided between the paid-up members of The Society at the date of the resolution.

12. Management of the Council1.

The council shall meet in person or online a min of 6 times per years and Minutes will be taken and available to Members.

2. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of March each year with due notice of six weeks to be given.

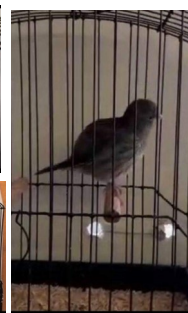
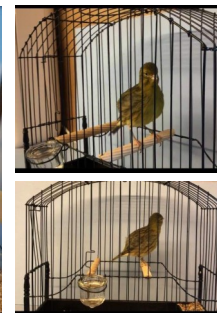
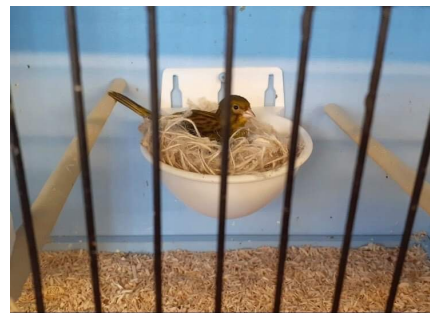
3. Matters for discussion and/or decision at the Council AGM shall be submitted in the form of mandates through member clubs from Fully Paid-up members. Any mandate must be received by the Secretary by the 31st of December. Mandates should be accompanied by a short explanatory note. The Secretary will then forward them to all Fully Paid members of the Council together with a notice of the Annual General Meeting at least SIX WEEKS prior to the A.G.M.

3. All matters shall be decided by a simple majority in voting. In the event of a tied vote the Council Chairperson will have the casting vote

4. A record shall be kept of all matters discussed and decisions made.

5. The Chairman and Secretary shall have the authority to call an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING or an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING at any time if they consider it necessary, by giving all affiliated clubs one month's notice in writing, together with details of any matter to be discussed and/or decided. A minimum of 50% of the number of affiliated clubs shall be required to be in an agreement to call an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING by giving similar notice to all clubs and the officers.

6. In the event of a need arising for an urgent decision on any matter that does not give sufficient time for a meeting to be called, the Officers and Committee of the Council shall have authority to act and make such a decision, so long as changes of Rules and Constitution are not involved.



We do use medication in this way and clear our birds out to prevent black spot and have done for years and I have to say I'm a big believer in it. Like wise we worm our birds twice a year. For me this is really the basic needs of the domesticated canary.

There's a balance to be had through medicating and I know many use the terms fresh water, good seed and good ventilation, if that system works for you then great. But domestic pets like people require help to overcome ailments at different stages of life and canaries are no different. Would you buy a puppy and not get its injections? It's a good debate but medication doesn't mask poor husbandry and like anti mite treatments - keeping your stock fit, well cared for and clean is the basic requirement whatever you choose to use.

At times it can seem like a lot of work, but just look at the whole year simply and in stages and the pre breeding season is no different. Slight changes to light and heat with an increase of soft food will give your birds the boost they require to successfully breed.

Good luck with your seasons !

Adam and Sharon Kendall



Paul Larkin Fife Canaries

Panel Judge



Breeder & Exhibitor's of Champion Fife Canaries

Quality Birds Available From September Onwards

Correspondence always welcome

plarkin74@gmail.com

Phone 00353834062793

Early Breeding Preparation is Key

Our pre breeding starts in December where we begin increasing eggfood and light within the shed. We take care to not hinder any possible show performance of our team for the East Anglian given the importance of the last show of the year in January.

Our show season lighting times are 10.00- 18.00 . This is so the shed has light even on the darkest of days and it remains on until 18.00 to allow us to box up last thing on a Saturday for a Sunday show.

Light is the key conditioner in Bringing the birds forward to breed. Increasing your light slowly and by small increments towards 14 hours ideally when chicks are hatching is a key part of any breeding season success. Clearly waiting for nature to provide this increase in light is an option but if you wish to breed in February/ early March artificially managing this will enable your birds to successfully breed in these months.

We are always asked about heat through this time and it's a simple one- if your got heaters use them. Mainly to begin with to take the chill for yourself but as the lights increase and the birds begin to go down I like the shed as solid 10 degrees to avoid egg bound hens and drastic drops in temp during cold spells we seem to get during Jan/ Feb./ March.

The whole management of your shed whether it's feeding, lighting, heating etc needs to remain constant. Keeping the variables constant for me is key during this time.

Eggfood increases continue through out this time we never stop giving eggfood all year but during the run up to breeding we increase the amount and volume. Our eggfood is a simple one suppapets eggfood with broccoli, peas, carrot and kiwi. We use a haiths condition seed with no rape both in the eggfood and as an additional seed supplement. A useful product is the garlic oil from carrs we also put in our eggfood. This will aid the digestive system but is also a natural anti mite factor.

Now a big question many fanciers speak about is the use of antibiotics on there birds . Many speak about a clear out type product before breeding begins.

There are lots of different products out there, pantex- coustell products seem very popular. My advice would be speak to those fanciers who use them and ask the question does it help and is it needed for my birds.



Rodger & Wood



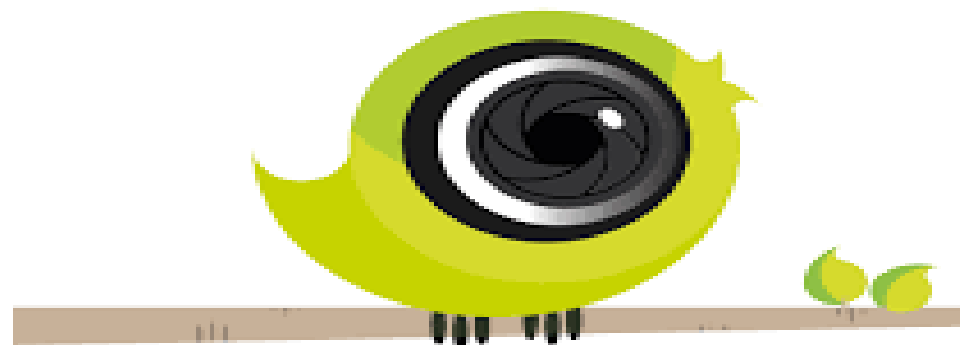
Panel Judge's

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THE
CANARY ROOM



****NEW CANARY ROOM BOOK COMING SOON****

From Father to Son, My Love of Birdkeeping

With Adam Raine

The beginnings

My passion for canaries started on my tenth birthday, when my father bought me a pair of Glosters. At the time, in the early 80s, the local CBS scene was plentiful and you didn't need to travel too far to show your birds, with Leicestershire having many clubs including the City of Leicester, the Society of Aviculture, Hinckley & Burbage, Melton Mowbray and Barwell CBS amongst many others.

Initially showing as a junior exhibitor, I had to step straight up to Champion status as my birds were in the same shed as my fathers at sixteen. This was a tough step, competing with other breeders who had been exhibiting for many years. However, I continued to breed Glosters for 25 years, having some relative successes and improving my stock by obtaining birds from a breeder in Swindon called Brian Richens, whose line had been acquired directly from Nick Barrett's famous Glenariff Stud of Gloster canaries.

My father

My father had been a breeder of Borders in the 1960s and 1970s but had taken up the Fife canary in the early 1980s. He was a panel judge and a regular exhibitor at the federation shows, with the North of England at the time being the largest and one of his favourites. The photo shows him winning Best Fife Canary at Melton Mowbray CBS back in 1985. It is amazing to see how much the Fifes 'type' has changed over 35 years!



My Father Barry Winning Best Fife
Melton C.B.S. IN 1985



Our Birdroom that I Built Myself in late 2020



Me as a 10 year old with my Gloster's

Luckily, I have never had a problem with predators. I do have a pest repellent plug in the shed fulltime whether this is the reason I am not sure. At present I am Secretary and Treasurer of IFFCC in which we run a show every year but will help out any way I can with other clubs. In the past I was Secretary and Show Secretary of Cork CBS for 20 years. I find record keeping most important especially for line breeding so you can trace your birds back.



Irish F.F.C.C Winning Team
*Denis was part of the winning
Champion Team as part of the
inter-club Competition with the
Mid-ulster in 2015*
Alongside Team Mates
*Paul Larkin ,David Garvey
& Michael Smith*

As for planned stock introductions I would like to acquire one or two good cinnamons which is a colour I like but find hard to get the right birds.

Over the years I have had good success at CBS and Fife Shows and have won most colour awards.

For the future I would love to see more co-operation between Clubs and more done to bring more to the hobby. We always talk about getting young into the hobby but you find most will leave as life changes – start dating, start a family, buying a house etc. My view would be more those mid 40 cause life is more settled for them. Also the back biting and running people down should not be given the time of day - the most important thing to remember is it is a hobby and we are all in it for the love of birds. Pull together and enjoy it and the people you get to know best. Most of all enjoy your birds

Dennis Lynch

Size is very important and its good now to see smaller birds winning judges - must keep putting down over size birds. I like to keep a mixture of colours in my stud. Some probably say I prefer darks but you must look at the bird overall and take everything into account – type and size are most important in every fife.

My Birds Diet

I use Versele laga with no rape as I found the rape seed was always left uneaten. I find it a good clean mix. For soft food I mix Quicko in equal parts with cede mixed with broccoli, pinhead condition seed, carrots and a little bit of honey and Avigold in the water.

This year I have started to use S76 as per recommendation in the water. Pre breeding all birds are treated with ivermectin and frontline. Cages are washed with clean and clear at the start of the season and are sprayed with it and Dynamite in turn on cleaning out.

I am a landscape gardener which itself causes problems as breeding time is also my busiest time and I am often gone by 7am and not back till late evening but try and pop in to change soft food during the day.

I respect all fanciers in the hobby but for consistency have been at the top you must admire Gerald Spencer and the Kendal Stud But most of all I admire the workers who behind the scene put the work into running the shows – the amount of time and fundraising some who might never achieve major wins but do it for the love of birds and the fancy. They, to me, are the most important people.



Nice 2020 Green in the Moul



Winning Best Champion Green

Mid-Ulster F.F.C.C 2017



Dennis's Daughter

Laura

Return to the hobby

I took a break for a few years when my family was young, and my work commitments made it a struggle to find the time I needed for my birds. My biggest mistake was selling up entirely, not just the birds but my shed, breeding cages, show cages and accessories, so when I ventured back into the hobby in 2013, it required more planning and investment than it should have!

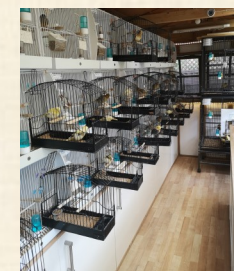
I initially decided to take up my Glosters again, visited the IGBA Show in Nuneaton and acquired some stock. However, I was disappointed in the direction the show bird was taking and I found, in my opinion, they had grown too large and were particularly lazy when it came to breeding. I suspect this is a familiar story for many breeders who have migrated to the Fife from the Borders canary!



**Best Fife
Nuneaton C.B.S 2017**



**Best Variegated Fife
international F.F.C.C 2019**



**Some of our 2020
youngsters in Training**

I had always liked Norwich canaries and, always up for a challenge, I managed to acquire a couple of pairs. It was with a little nativity, when asked by the seller what I was using for feeders, that I decided a couple of pair of Fife were in order. My wife, who I exhibit in partnership with, has always helped with the feeding and watering during the working week, fell in love with the Fife and it wasn't long before I joined her and we cleared the shed of Glosters and started in earnest with the Fife, now putting down in the region of 25 hens each breeding season.

Our first Fife

We acquired our first Fife from a reputable breeder and reared our first birds in 2013. To my earlier point, from two pairs of Fife we had managed to rear almost as many youngsters as we had from 12 pairs of Glosters they were so prolific!

We entered our Fife in our local CBS show with high optimism, having bred [what at the time we thought] were some lovely looking birds. We were somewhat disappointed then in the results, but soon came to realise that the competition was fierce with some local CBS shows attracting circa 200 Fife entries.

As we were new to the Fife scene, Dennis Whates who had judged the birds at a local CBS show, gave us some great pointers. Basically, our birds were too narrow and were missing some width. Coming from Glosters, which were primarily judged side on, I had not realised that the Dewar show cage meant the birds were assessed so rigorously from all angles!

Our birds

We subsequently set about acquiring some birds of the right type and quality, from a couple of top breeders, and have been working our line of birds from these sources now for the last four years.

Starting with getting the right back and width on the bird, to the right neck definition and positioning. We are just starting to see the fruits of our labour with successes over the last couple of years at our local CBS shows and last year our first special at a specialist Show.

Advice to newcomers

My advice to newcomers to the hobby is to 'walk before you run' – don't try to rush things. As with any livestock there will be ups and downs, so you will need plenty of patience.

Don't expect to take all the top honours at your first show, you've got to learn your trade and the type of the bird you are breeding. We all make mistakes, that's fine, learn from them, don't get disheartened.



Myself & Midland F.F.C.C members Graham Pepper and John Holmes reviewing the 2020 youngsters

The Fife is undoubtedly the most popular canary in the UK at present, so the competition is fierce, but equally so is the availability of good surplus stock – but don't expect to be able to buy the breeders best birds! You will learn more quickly, about the Fife Canary and how to develop your stud, from recognising faults on your birds that you will from anything else. The best way to determine this is by comparing your birds with others at shows, speaking to the judges and fellow exhibitors and asking for their honest opinion on your birds.

Get involved, support your local CBS and find local breeders you can talk to and get help from. Join your regional Fife Federated Club. For me this is the Midland Fife, who are a great bunch, lots of banter, plenty of help for fellow fanciers and a friendly sense of competition!

Adam & Michelle Raine

So what about getting better quality birds. After looking at results over a year or two I got in contact with Sam Barkly in Northern Ireland to know if he would be able to fix me up with a few pair which he did and they were the bases of my stock along with the best of what I had. These two lines are still running through my shed and I use to cross over so as not to go out for birds too often only bring in a cock or two every couple of years.

One thing I have learnt is when showing is to make sure your labels are right and never leave it for others to label them at a show. Many years ago as a novice at a CBS when labels never arrived, I sent birds and at the time birds would be entered in show and you could put a price on same. I had 2 birds entered in a class for sale cages marked as to be checked for sale wrong label put on cage bird wins and is sold so always label cages yourself.



Special Winner Waterford C.B.S



Irish F.F.C.C 2019



Mid-Ulster Chairman Mr Alan Castles

My first bird room was a storeroom in my mother's - God bless her she put up with a lot as no way would I be left put them in with my dad's budgies. Nowadays I have a 16x8 brick build with 2 windows and door with glass panel (tile roof with insulation, gets sunlight first thing in morning and like everybody would like bigger but would end up keeping more). In it I have 52 breeding cages with 14" fronts, 7 cages per length which when slides open make flight cages.

Within the shed I have a sink, fridge and the most important things for me is the dimmer as I go early in the morning for feeding its only used for that and as soon as mornings are bright enough it is turned off.

Breeding

I keep between 12-16 hens and 8 cocks and might not use all the hens. I aim to have hens sitting by first week of April and try to get all sitting together. I line breed my birds and any cross brought in would be kept test mate with 2 hens to see and I would only keep the best 2 from it if good enough and if I don't like and then the outcross and young will go.

My Time in Fifes

With Dennis Lynch

I started in birds over 40 years ago with natives. My father used to breed and show budgies and dogs so animals were always a part of my life.

At the age of 12 I bought my first canary. I attended the Cork Show and was looking to get a cock to try and breed with a bullfinch. There I met the late Michael O'Brien RIP who for the next 20 years would be my mentor. He had 2 birds for sale in the border section and as a young lad he asked me was it a singing bird I wanted so telling him my story he said with that interest he would give me the better bird. I was delighted with myself thinking I would be bringing my bird home until I was told I had to leave the bird there until the end of show on Sunday which was a problem as I could not be there. So a plan was put in place to collect it Monday from him - this was my chance to visit his bird room. So on Monday I rushed home from school to get a box for my visit. I collected my bird with an open invite to call anytime. Little did I know that I would be back again in a couple of weeks to get a hen and so starts my journey in breeding and showing under his watchful eye. His help and advice over the years I will never forget and he instilled in me what the hobby is all about. At the time he was at the top of his beloved border section and took the time to help and train me in the art of bird keeping.

My first fife stock I bought birds off a novice over 15 years ago first to use as feeders for my borders but as everyone know they were getting very hard to breed and the cost of them was gone mad. So ended up breeding more fife than borders and I decided to change over to fife completely.



Judging in Belgium in 2019

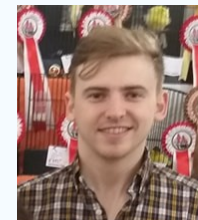
Special Winner Mid-Ulster F.F.C.C

YSS WINNER 2018



Fife Canary Council Officers

CHAIRPERSON
CAIN THOMAS



At 26 years' of age Cain provides much needed youth and enthusiasm in "Leading the way forward" with an exciting future the Fife Canary Council will offer. Introduced to the Fife in 2005 by his Father and Grandfather he has been a Champion breeder since 2012 and appointed to the Judging Panel in 2017 and currently showing in Partnership with Brother Luc. Extremely popular amongst fellow breeders he has along with Luc supported many shows across the Country and is very much in demand to place the awards at many shows. Cain is also very much involved in the running of the North Wales FFCC who stage one of the best supported shows on the Fife circuit. His vision is to ensure that all fanciers have their voice heard and to enjoy the hobby regardless of how successful they may be on the show bench.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
RYAN WOOD



Ryan joined the fancy in 2001 in the successful Partnership of Junner and Wood. On the Panel Judge list since 2006 Ryan has officiated at top specialist Clubs in Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and Malta. For the past 5 years' he has been in Partnership with Andy Rodger who together have been credited with pushing on the required quality in head and neck of the Fife Canary. On his decision to Join with the FCC he feels that the Fife Fancy was stagnating with very little information forthcoming. He further added that with your involvement with the FCC, no matter what level you are, your opinion will count. The FCC opens up new avenues and can allow overseas' Clubs to be more than a distant relative. Their vote using post and/or opinions via Zoom meetings can be heard. It is known that in previous years' prior to the FCC those that could not attend an AGM had no opportunity to vote as proxy voting was not allowed. Our open approach will further the reputation of the Fife and increase it's popularity.

Water Quality How important is it really ????

While technically not food, water is one of the most critical elements in your canary's diet. You must clean your drinker and give your Fifes completely fresh water daily. The quality of the canary food and water plays an immense role in the health of your birds.

You've probably heard the expression, "You are what you eat."

But perhaps just as important is the quality of water that is consumed. Water—clean, fresh and in ample supplies—is essential to nearly every process of your pet bird's body. "Water is probably the most important overlooked nutrient of any animal,"

"A bird can live a lot longer without food than it can without water."

Approximately 75 percent of a bird's body is made up of water. Each day, an adult bird needs to drink enough water to make up 5 percent of its body weight to replace the water lost from waste removal, respiration and evaporation. Water performs a number of important functions.

"The insides of cells are water, so if a bird doesn't drink enough water, then the water that's inside of those cells leaches out because the body needs to use it, and then the cells dry up like raisins and die."

Water is also needed to flush out the Bird's body, remove excess minerals and other wastes, to transport nutrients throughout the body and to help regulate body temperature. Without enough water, the blood volume will drop and the kidneys, liver and heart will not function as efficiently as they should.

Clean Water is Important

But for Exhibition birds in particular, often the bigger issue is not so much being provided with enough water as it is making sure they have clean water. An fancier may get busy and forget to change the bird's drinker in a couple days. Meanwhile the bird may have defecated in the water, taken a bath in it, shredded newspaper from the bottom of the cage and put that in the water, rinsed its beak in the bowl after eating, dunked seed in the water to soften them, or perhaps a fly flew into the water dish and is now floating on top.

Any of the above-mentioned "debris" in a bird's water drinker can create an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. "Bacteria love to grow in filthy water," These organic materials feed the bacteria and cause them to grow even faster."

Bacterial growth is measured in doubling time—the time it takes for bacteria to double in number. Doubling time for many bacteria is two to three hours. In practical terms, this means if you put a clean water dish in the cage at 8 a.m. and at 9 a.m. the bird takes a drink, any food material that was on its beak—any bacteria—gets in the water. "By noon, whatever amount of bacteria that's in there has doubled, and that doubles again and doubles again



Breeding season 2021

well underway for some member's



**One of Kendall Studs
Hens Sitting Pretty**



**Things are well underway in
Ballycastle Co Antrim with
Emmett Mc Ateer**



**Good Start in Ireland for
Fancier Paul Larkin**



**Busy in East Anglia with
Chris Wilding**



**Busy in Belgium for Council Member
Luc Serraris**



**Leading the way in Scotland
Nelson Rato**



**Kurt
Pilsson
Belgium**



15. Would you breed from a fife with a fault. ?

Same as selecting birds to keep I compare birds to there nest mates if one has a split in front or dropping a wing or any small fault I would use it but if most of the nest mates carry the fault I don't use any of them.

16. Do you like showing or judging the most.

I prefer showing to judging. I enjoy preparing for shows, picking team out, sorting cages and getting birds ready and of course the show itself.

17. What would you say was your biggest mistake over the years of fife keeping. ?

Swapping Gerald Spencer a variegated cinnamon hen for a tpd buff cock as Gerald won north of England with a youngster from her, only kidding bird Gerald gave me produced best tpd at same show and was grandfather to a variegated white hen that won two shows.



18. What are your pet hates when birds are presented for you to judge. ?

There's a few faults in birds I don't like, split in front, blunt feathers, split tails and birds that are to big. Also there's nothing worse than seeing a good bird that's dirty or in a dirty cage.

19. What would most improve the hobby in your opinion. ?

Although I don't use Facebook or any social media I'm aware of some of the stuff that's goes on that's not helping the fancy in any way. We don't have a lot of young people coming into the fifes with the exception of Woody and the Jed ward twins from Wales so Facebook and fife forums should be used to promote our hobby and encourage each other and new fanciers.

20. Do you have any tips or advice to help other fanciers or novices. ?

Think for novices starting up to try bring in stock for a fancier that's consistent on show bench, also don't be afraid to ask for advice as most fife breeders will help as much as they can. An-other point is don't be disheartened with a bad show result as judges have different opinions and we're seeing a lot of big birds winning keep your birds small as majority of judges will go for the proper size of fifes.

Gary Wilson

Probably the most common water-borne bacteria is Pseudomonas. Other types of bacteria, such as E.coli, Klebsiella, Giardia and Salmonella, can also grow in water. Any of these can cause diarrhoea or other digestive tract disturbances, as well as more serious infections.

Whether or not a bird becomes ill from ingesting bacteria depends on the quantity that is taken in. "We and our birds consume bacteria that could cause disease every day But the reason it doesn't make us sick is we're taking in very limited numbers—we're only drinking five or 10 organisms. But if we drink contaminated water, we may be drinking five billion organisms, and that probably would be too much for our immune system to handle."

For instance, a normal amount of Salmonella exposure might be 10 organisms a day something your Fifes body can handle. But if Salmonella is proliferating in the water your bird drinks, it might take in 10 million organisms in one swig of water, and it would probably come down with a Salmonella infection as a result.

Oftentimes, it's pretty obvious that your bird's water dish is dirty: You can see the crud floating on top of the water. But even without any obvious debris, the water may very well be contaminated. The way you can tell, "if you rub your finger on the inside of the water dish and it feels slimy, that means bacteria is growing in there. Or, if you see discoloured areas in a plastic dish, that's probably bacteria as well." so good husbandry is essential to help maintain your birds health

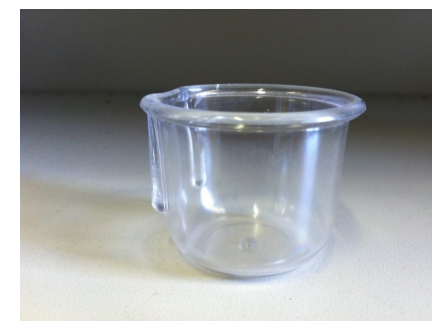
Commonly used drinkers



Standard Tube drinker



**Aviary Style
Drinker**



Top Hat Drinker

Midland Fife Fancy Canary Club *Est 2007*

In the year 2007 a number of fife fanciers were concerned that there was no fife fancy canary club in the midlands.

On the 29th of October at 7-15pm a meeting was held at Bagworth W.M.C. in Leicestershire those present were :- Charlie Adams John Holmes Keith Henton Terry Cashmore Ian Morton Ivor Davies Pete Holland Brian Bocock

The above agreed to form a new canary club based in the midlands area the name chosen was The Midlands Fife Fancy Canary Club.

The election of officers were :- President:- Charlie Adams

Chairman:- John Holmes Secretary:- Brian Bocock

Treasurer:- Terry Cashmore Press Officer:- Ian Morton

Show Manager:- Charlie Adams Assistant Show Manager:- Keith Henton

Committee Members:- Pete Holland & Ian Davies

All members agreed to donate £100 as funds for the club the bank account was opened by Treasurer Terry Cashmore. The venue of the 1st and all of the consecutive shows is The Gresley Old Hall in Swadlincote Derbyshire the show date chosen was the 29th of November 2008, the entry fee for the first show 70p per cage membership subscriptions Adult £5, Joint £8, OAP £4. An application had been made and passed at the Federation A.G.M. On the morning of the first show the members had to make a very early start 5am as the hall could not be used on the day before.



Impressive 1623 Birds Entered in 2016



D Ashton Best Novice 2018

11. What is your opinion on inbreeding and out crossing.?

As I explained with my preferred pairings I do mostly inbreeding but bring in the odd bird from time to time , think this is needed to freshen up stud or to improve on something.

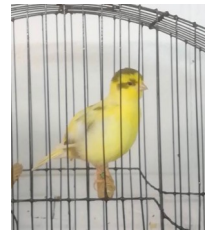
12. How many pairs of fifes is ideal to breed from. ? I used to keep 30 hens and breed over 100 each year but now I'm down to around 20 hens and 12 cocks aiming to breed around 60.

13. Describe your ideal bird room. ?

The way I have my shed now is ideal for what I want. I used to have wall to wall cages but now have 21 double breeders, 9 larger cages that can hold around 8 birds and my flight I use for my hens after breeding. Cutting back on cages I now have two shelves for my 18 training cages, my mini fridge and dartboard it's a proper man cave.

14. What does a young bird have to do before you consider it for stock. ?

I look for what I described in my ideal fife but also like to look at my youngster's with there brothers and sisters for a bit of consistency, I've bred and kept one off birds in the past that produced poor birds like there nest mates.



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Meet the Fancier

Mr Gary Wilson

1. How long have you been keeping birds? I first kept birds in 1977 when I was 12 years old, keeping a few pairs of budgies and zebra finches till I was about 17 when I got 4 pairs of borders.

2. How long have you kept fives? I started keeping fives in 1991.

3. How long have you been a panel judge? I went onto panel in 1997.

4. Favourite hobby not bird related. I spend my holidays in the Scottish highlands where I enjoy the wildlife and my other hobby pike fishing.

5. If you could pick one person dead or alive to have dinner with who would it be?
I would have to pick two Ally McCoist and Gary Macbeath, there both legends.

6. Favourite football team? Glasgow Rangers.

7. Where did you obtain your original stock?

Jim Kelly from Shotts and the late Davy Bradford from Muirkirk. I had reasonable success with these birds but when I obtained a few birds from Andy McEwan that's when my stud took off, in particular a variegated yellow hen Andy let me have this bird was the foundation of my fife stud.

8. If you had to begin again where would you go for fresh stock. ?

There is a number of excellent breeders nowadays but for me the two that stand out are Gerald Spencer and Paul Gillott over the 30 years I've had fives they've been the most consistent on the show bench. I've also had a few birds from Gerald and Paul over the years and done very well with them.

9. Describe your ideal fife. ?

Size is a big thing for me I like to see fives small with plenty shoulder, well up on legs, good rise on head, good wing carriage and a nice piped tail.

10. What is your ideal mating. ?

Because of hours I've worked and shifts over years I've always give my best 2 cocks 3 or 4 hens each and straight paired the rest, I find this method works for me but if I had time I wouldn't keep as many cocks, Gordon Murdie my partner and I don't bring many birds into our stud so birds are close bred, half brother/sister, father/daughter, mother/son and birds going back to there grandparents breeding this way keeps uniformity in our stud.



Wayne Morton Judging in 2018

The judges booked where Mr H Snoeren from Holland, Mr G Spencer, Mr W Banister and Mr S Cook, birds entered was 812.

Prize moneys Best in Show £100 plus a rosette, Best Champion and Best Novice £25 and Best colours £10 each the winners on the day where Best in Show and Best Champions Hembury & Whates, Best Novice Mr G McBeath.

At the following club A.G.M. Mr Q Hembury, Mr D Whates and Mr J Ball became committee members Mr Hembury made a donation to the club along with a trophy for the best in show the Brace force Trophy.

At the end of the 2016 show season Brian Bocock retired from the secretaries position due to his wife's failing health and Graham Pepper was voted in as his replacement, at this point it must be noted that there are two people without whom our show would not run as smooth as it does and they have been with us from day one their names are Pat and Mick Major a big thank you to both you.

Brian Bocock



**Charlie Adams
Memorial Trophy**



Midland F.F.C.C Role of Honour

Year	Best Novice	Best Champion	Best Fife In Show	Total Birds Benched
2008	Gary Mc Beath	Hembry & Whates	Hembry & Whates	812
2009	Gary Mc Beath	Gerald Spencer	Gerald Spencer	960
2010	L Fyfe	Gordon Murdie	Gordon Murdie	1389
2011	T Campbell	G Northern	G Northern	1623
2012	R Weir	Gerald Spencer	R Weir	1515
2013	T Campbell	F Sanderson	F Sanderson	1340
2014	T Warman	Ashton & Goodwin	Ashton & Goodwin	1509
2015	J Hoof	Clarke & Gillott	Clarke & Gillott	1476
2016	F Mc Cartney	Carline & Morton	F Mc Cartney	1623
2017	J Holvey	Gerald Spencer	J Holvey	1230
2018	D Ashton	Clarke & Gillott	Clarke & Gillott	1374
2019	A.B.F Fifes	Kendall Stud	Kendall Stud	1347



Partnership of Grimmer & Hornby



2018 Best Fife in Show



Clarke & Gillott



2019 Best Fife in Show



Kendall Stud



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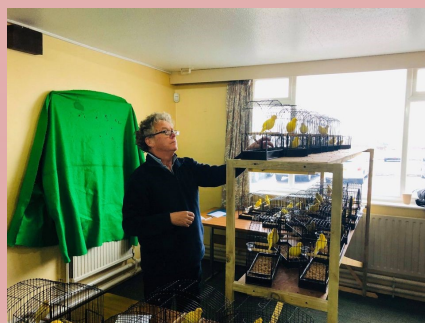
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struggled to find anywhere it wasn't , twist perches, behind seed hoppers, even under the number labels on the cages. I cannot emphasis strongly enough, if you have red mite you will not rear chicks, or at least, nothing like the number you should. People can use all the Powders, and sprays, to put under the felt, in the nest, spray the birds, spray the cages, but, it must be remembers Red Mite live on BLOOD. without it, they must die. If chicks don't look a healthy Pink colour, if they are not lifting their heads to be fed, rest assured, it is already too late, if red mite have been sucking blood for their soft, baby skin, they are doomed. Whatever you do now, it is too late for this nest. Therefore, it is clear that it is pointless to try to deal with Mite, it is preventative measures that are far more important. I was told a few years ago now, by my great friend Jack Nicholson, to use Front line, the pest treatment for dogs, available on line. Jack was treating his birds, twice a year, Early spring, and again in the Autumn, and didn't see a Red mite. Once I switched to this, Neither have I. Obviously, you need to take care. I pour it into a small container, and using a cotton bud, run it along the skin on the underside of the wing, sometimes blowing the feathers out of the way. I still change the nest Pan , in its entirety, when the chicks are 10 days old, never leave it too long, or you will have early jumpers, and they are a real Problem to get to stay back in the nest. Always use A similar pan, some don't take kindly or a switch from a white pan, to say, an orange one! dealing with red mite is the one, most important thing if you wish to be successful.



Richard in his impressive Birdroom



Judging at Midlands F.F.C.C in 2018

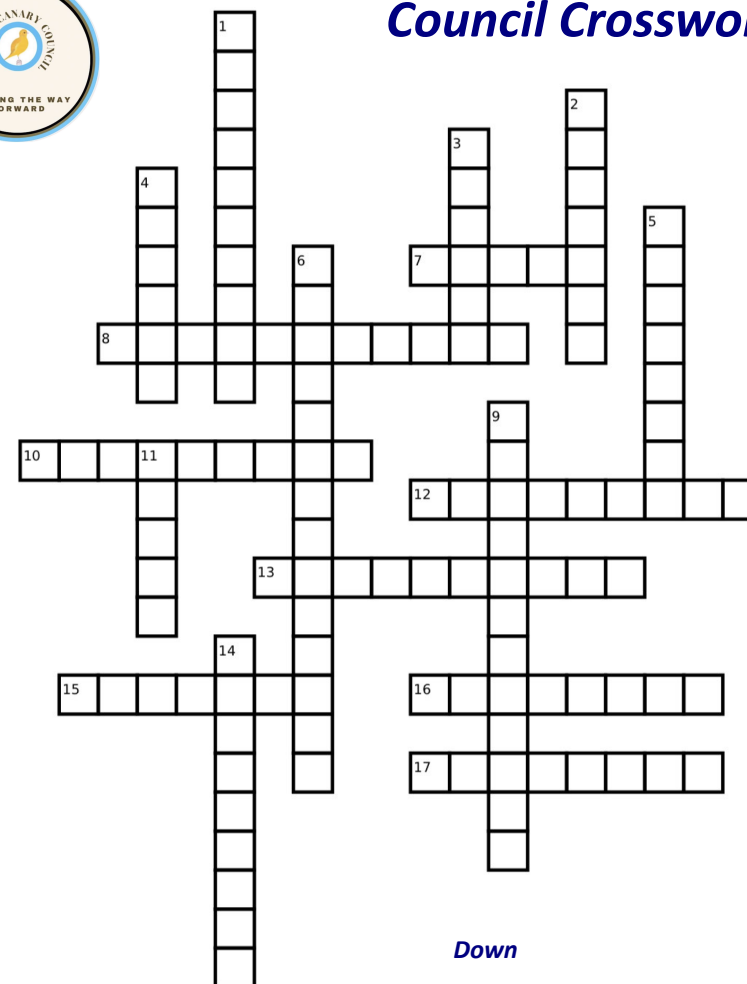
Effectively, I am saying, there are a 100 ways to breed Fifes. They all work, because the bird is keen and wiling, and a simple bird to breed. If you are having Problems, have a good look in the Mirror, because you will see the culprit. They are in an enclosed space, and can only react to how you treat them. The conditions YOU give them will Provide either success or failure, It is down to you. Many beginner's are so urgent to get on with their breeding season, they start before the birds are ready. So always consider, are they bouncing , are they TRULY ready.

I realise most readers will be well aware of all that I have written, but if one or two beginner's read and glean anything useful, and remain in the hobby, then it is worth my time writing

Richard Knowles



Council Crossword



Across

7. Country were the Mayors name is Wood
8. Seed supplier who has the Councils back
10. The dreaded Mite fear it
12. Fife Club that's caught in the Middle
13. Worlds Best Judge
15. Its & McGuire
16. It's no ordinary size show
17. Location of a Show Ground

Down

1. 5th in Class
2. Mcbeaths Reborn club
3. Another Breed of Canary
4. A Mate of Murdie
5. Inserted into a Pan
6. More than just a seed supplier
9. A part of the CANARY ROOM
11. Winter Seed
14. Alfred

Life in my birdroom

by Mrs Brenda Kettle

Before I begin my article I would like to offer my 'sincerest thanks' to my husband, Steve, who helps me so much throughout the year in every aspect of my bird-keeping hobby at home, and also helping out so much at the shows. There are also 2 colleagues, who, without their help in the past few years, I wouldn't be where I am today, they themselves, know who they are!

I have written this article, initially, with Novices, in mind, as they appear to be the breeders who have many questions, and some are shy to ask, but, there are maybe some Champion breeders who may also be keen to pick up tips along the way. We all care for our birds differently, no right or wrong way, but when you find a method that works for you, I can only say, STICK with it! It's very sad to think that breeders of today do not meet up like they used to, chatting about birds on a Sunday morning.



Couple of Photo's of my Birdroom Cage's and Flight

I am very fortunate to have a somewhat large 'L' shaped bird-room, 17' long x 8' wide for the main area, holding 43 single cages which can be turned into 'flight' cages. The extended area is another 6' deep x 17' wide, housing another 6 single cages (opened to trebles), this area also houses an indoor flight measuring 6' wide x 2' deep x 6'-7' high. Once the birds have finished breeding they are put into the flight to moult out and remain there if they are being retained for breeding the following year. Young birds are kept in flight cages, until the show team is sorted, thinned out, and surplus birds are disposed of. After the last show, all show birds are also placed into the flight giving them 2-3 months good exercise enabling them to get fit. I don't normally start pairing up until Easter although everything is all 'set and ready to go', plus, by then the weather is starting to warm up a little as well.

We are all aware mite can be a big problem in many bird-rooms, in early 2020 I took a lot of advice from various breeders and made the decision as to which products I was going to use to help keep mite down as much as I could. After careful consideration I decided on the use of the following :- Green 7, Mil Ban, Clean & Clear Check Mite, Diatom powder (brown grade) & Red Stop, all of which I will go into more detail.

It has to be remembered that the one driving force of these delightful, active birds is to reproduce, rear as many of their chicks that they can. It is their driving force. Yet I hear the same things ever season;

"When I let the cock through , he just chases her mercilessly, I think he would kill her if I didn't take him out!" She is patently not ready, not fit enough, give her a pan , and nesting material, when, and only when, she has built a good nest, let him through. If she doesn't squat, shut him off. If she is never ready, so be it.

She squashed her chicks ! No the chicks were already dead, and they simply flattened out in the bottom of the pan. Is it possible that the cock will not let her leave the nest to feed? Thus she is sitting too tight



Couple of Yellow Hens that Richard will be retaining this for the 2021 season

They got Fed up feeding; / Tired of feeding ! No they do Not get "fed up" they do not have that human weakness! Were they Fit enough in the first Place? How is your feeding regime? are you sticking to the same foods.

No, I don't have any red mite, I am sure! I have visited Novices this year, who have confirmed on the phone that definitely no red mite in my Shed!!

60 Years and Counting

I guess I am the unusual one, I started keeping, and exhibiting canaries as a child, and apart from a year or two, always have for the last 60 years. In fact, my first red ticket at the National was at Olympia, in 1964. I often wonder who is still exhibiting now, who had a winner at that show? By the time I was 17 I was showing Champion borders. In 1969 at the St Neots AS open show, a CBS with 3000 exhibits, my father was working, so I couldn't get the birds to the show, so I put a box of two, on to the back of my Lambretta LD 125 cc, and off I went. Upon arrival at the show on the Sunday morning (two day shows in those days) I was met by Alec Atkin (only The older amongst you will remember him) He won everything, everywhere, a Forerunner to the Great Phil Warne, Dressed immaculately in his black suit, bow tie, in his new white rover, me in my scruffy clothes, to congratulate me on best in show!! I phoned my father later, who couldn't believe it!

Well, shortly people were saying I was simply showing my Fathers birds (he didn't keep any) so he promptly bought a few Glosters to dispel that theory. I Kept borders for many years, as eventually, after I left home, my Father did too, and in Fact my Father in Law. One Cambridge show, Probably early 80's when there were still good sized classes, I was 1st & 2nd in a class of 28 clear Yellow cocks, My Father, Father in law and Myself won almost every Border class, save for whites and blues, we didn't have a good white ground bird between us!! In the 90's all birds were disposed of as I was divorced, and life began again shortly afterwards with Fifes, with Help from the Late Roy Fox. Such a Lovely Man

Fifes seemed Such an easy bird to reproduce, with none of the Problems of the larger, heavier breeds, but it seems to me many beginner's with canaries have so many wrong assumptions with breeding fifes.



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Diatom. My nest pans are the plastic type mounted into a block which sits on the cage front, thus enabling me to see easily what is happening inside the nest during breeding. The underside of the pan, rim and mounting block are painted generously with Mil Ban, and allowed to dry. Nest felts are smothered both sides with Diatom, then secured with a round head, two prong paper clip which is easily pushed through the felt, the prongs being opened out under the pan. When I set the eggs, the hens' nest is removed and another generous layer of Diatom is applied to the felt and underside of her nest. After setting, more Diatom is applied all around the top edge. The reason being, when she settles, the powder will be absorbed into her feathers, thus giving further protection. My cages have trays, that are generously sprinkled with Diatom before covering with a thick layer of bedding, at least if any chicks fall out of the nest they'll have a soft landing! A very generous layer is also sprinkled underneath the trays.

Mil Ban. This was painted in cage corners, top and bottom, along the runners and upright posts for the divider boards, although we have now cut the divider boards so they don't reach the top runner. We now hope to eliminate any mite breeding in the runner 'dark areas' where they do like to hide/breed.

Red Stop. I have used this for about 4-5 years, administered in the drinking water, initially given for 10 days, then once a week thereafter. Many breeders use Ivermectin, Frontline (or), but I find Red Stop a lot easier as they do have to drink. In the past whenever I used Ivermectin the birds would shake themselves after, so I never knew where it finished up! Also, I did not like handling birds to administer whatever was being used, BUT, that is my choice. (Note: Aviform have also now introduced a water soluble mite protection).

Green 7. A liquid product I highly recommend to destroy mite. It can be used full strength for cage cleaning, then later reduced to a 50% mix with water for general maintenance. I do use it to spray into the cage front holes, another mite breeding ground, being careful to wipe up residue that may 'run'. When it comes into contact with mite, Green 7 changes colour from mid green to dark green/red-black, you know then you have dead mite! If left too long at full strength, on paintwork, it can tend to stain, but, it does its job, which is important. I **MUST** emphasise it is **NOT** for use on the birds.

Clean & Clear Check Mite. A clear liquid that can be used at various strengths to kill mite, it CAN be used on the birds, but NOT on eggs. I am a 'stickler' for clean perches in my cages, and EVERY DAY they are removed, mite checked, washed in boiling water, then dipped in a solution of Clean & Clear, any offending area on the cage front is also sprayed with Clean & Clear. Time consuming, yes, but, I have my reason for that daily task. Birds can tend to rub their eyes along a perch, if maybe, they have an irritation in it. Unclean perches could lead to eye problems, which could be difficult to treat, and is also stressful for the birds. Think about it, what/where is the dirt from, on their perches?

Supplements: My birds have Aviform Avigold Advance, once a week, but for some unknown reason they prefer to bath in it before drinking! All year round the birds are supplied with a mixture of 1/3 of each of grit, charcoal and seaweed granules. Grit + coral (Verse Laga), charcoal (Haiths) and seaweed, bought locally, is of equine quality from Ireland. Cuttlefish is also given during the breeding season. Green food, offered all year round, ranges from broccoli, kale, spinach, cress, Brussel sprouts and apple, which is always devoured earnestly. (NOTE: Seaweed can be bought at any 'animal feed' shop that sells horse & poultry food etc, and contains natural vitamins / minerals).

Egg food: Supablend is my chosen brand, mixed with soak seed, chopped broccoli and mustard & cress, to which I add a sprinkling of Pinhead Oatmeal during the breeding season. Pinhead is used during the winter months if I'm unable to buy Groats as a winter 'warmer'. As we are both now retired, food is changed 4-5 times a day, thus encouraging parents to feed themselves as well as their chicks. We notice, when we enter the birdroom with the bowl, the majority of birds are jumping across the cage front waiting for fresh food. Even during the winter months egg food is given at least once or twice a week, especially if the weather is severely cold, never having caused any problems with my birds.



Myself & Steve



Staging Area in the Birdroom to assist in Show train-

Seed: This can vary between Verse Laga mix, Johnston & Jeffs mix or James Bavister mix, no rape, depending on availability, as I purchase locally to support nearby shops. I also use Cultivated Wild Seed (Verse Laga) and Siskin/Bullfinch mix, both given in preference to using condition seed. White millet sprays are given to weaned youngsters with a few being hung up in the flight for the adults.

My cages and flight are cleaned every week with products that I have mentioned, although the flight has certain areas which are cleaned every day. This includes the shelf area and training cage, whereby the paper is changed 4-5 a day, plus the 2 racks within the flight. One item I have yet to mention for the flight and plastic cages cleaning regime, is the use of a steam cleaner, which is worth its weight in gold. It isn't used on wooden painted cages as it can tend to 'blow' the paint if there is a small hole. Now it probably becomes pretty clear to you all as to how much time is spent within the bird room! At the end of the day I like my birds to be kept in a clean condition, again, that is **my** choice and decision. The floor covering for both my flight and cages, which I have used for a long time now, is 'Aubiose' horse bedding, mixed with 'Gold Chip' to add a little bit more weight, both purchased locally.

Zoom room



Interviews

Follow the Fife Canary Council on Facebook to catch up on all the Zoom Room Activity over the coming months ,We have a monthly catch up meeting over zoom and plenty of fanciers lined up to interview .Its a great way to meet and chat with fellow members to ask and share opinions



T&B.A.Fifes

Solent Stud Isle of Wight

Panel Judge

Breeder & Exhibitor's of Champion Fife Canaries

Quality Birds Available From September Onwards

thomas.rush1936@yahoo.co.uk



"Congratulations to all winners and all involved. A mammoth task under such unusual circumstances which has kept so many interested" - Wil O'Donovan.



Emmett Mc Ateer



Adam & Michelle Raine



Adam Whetton

A special mention has to go to first time novice exhibitor Matt Dando who took 6 class wins, sure to be a name to look out for at the 2021 shows. "This was going to be my first proper year showing, it's been great to get involved. I'm over the moon with my results, still plenty of room for improvements but shows I'm on the right path" - Matt Dando.



Graham Davis



Eurwyn Jones



Luc Serraris



Awards

Full list of class results and videos of all the special and class winning birds can be found on our North Wales FFCC Facebook Page. This year's North Wales FFCC show is scheduled for Sunday, November 14th, and will be held at Coleg Llandrillo, Conwy. For more information or if you'd like to receive a schedule, please get in touch.

northwalesffcc@gmail.com

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Cain Thomas

Secretary - North Wales Fife Fancy Canary Club.



2020 Youngsters enjoying the morning sun



2020 Bred Blue Hen

As there may be members who may not have access to the internet, the following information might be of use as to where you may be able to purchase products mentioned in this article, via post delivery:-

Green 7 (from bavisterspetcentre)

01268 544336

Mil Ban

01239 698351

Red Stop & Seaweed (from SPR Centre)

01243 542815

Clean & Clear Check Mite (cagefronts.co.uk)

07752246157

Diatom (brown grade from Natures Grub)

01485 517177

Aviform

01953 528008

Round head 2 prong paper clips can be bought from Ryman's or Wilkinson's (there may be other shops).

The website of seaweed granules I purchase locally is – (equushealth.org.uk)

I would like to finish up by wishing everyone 'Good Luck' for the next breeding season, let us all hope that our shows will be able to resume once again in 2021. If they do, I sincerely look forward to meeting up with friends old and new once again, and see some of the newly bred 2021 exhibits on the bench.

Best wishes, Brenda Kettle (and Steve)

The Cinnamon King

Mr Tony Abbott

Peterlee is a town in County Durham, England, it nestles between its neighbours of Sunderland & Hartlepool. It is one of the few places in the British Isles to be directly named after an individual, and unique among the post-Second World War new towns in having its existence requested by local people through their MP but it's also home to what I feel is one of the many studs of quality fives that fly under the radar, it's a stud of fives that has consistently won colour specials and has taken the Best Fife in Show and some of the biggest Federation Shows on the circuit. I had the pleasure of catching up with Mr Tony Abbott and getting an insight into where it all began and his thoughts on building a successful stud and the hobby in general.....

Well Tony so when and how did the love of birdkeeping start?

My uncle kept budgies and fancy pigeons so I was around birds from a early age to be fair and also a gentleman who lived around the corner from my house had an aviary with budgies and I pestered my father that much that I finally got me one in 1975 at the age of 6. My father and I also raced pigeons in the mid 70's. I owe a lot of my knowledge on bird keeping to my best mates John & Jack who are still involved in racing pigeons to this day and without there help I probably wouldn't be in birdkeeping today. I got my first Glosters in the early part of the 1980's but unfortunately my bird shed was broken into and my entire stud was stolen.

I got my fife fives in 2011 from fancier Gary Archer, Gary was a great help in getting me started and was always on the end of the phone if I needed some advice.

How does your first birdroom compare to the one you have today? My first birdroom was only 7ftx5ft and I managed to cram in 20 breeding cages whereas today I enjoy a 16ft x 8ft with 60 breeding cages its 7ft7" at front all doubled glazed windows fully automated heating, lighting and extraction system to make life easier mostly 14in x 12in stock cages and 5 4'x 16" flight cages

How many stock birds would you normally keep going into a breeding season?

I always try to keep the best 20 hens and 10 stock cock birds

With modern technology around lighting and heat do you breed early?

In preparation for the breeding season from New Years day I start to increase the light in the birdroom by 20 mins a week and set the temp in the room to 7 degrees so I don't get caught out with a bad frost or snow. The Birds will always tell me with there ready to breed and that said I normally start breeding in early March which I feel is time enough.

It took a long time to categorize all the videos into their correct class. We are grateful to the exhibitors for their patience during this time and we'd also like to thank fanciers who had to resend their videos after some technical difficulties. The classes were divided up between the two judges and the videos were sent to them by the class. Once the classes were judged the class winners were sent to both judges using a WhatsApp group chat.

"It was fantastic to be involved in such a progressive idea, in what has been unprecedented times for the hobby" - Paul Larkin (Judge).

Difficult decisions were made and a lot of discussion took place over which birds would take the top honors. Ultimately it was down to two birds, best Fife in show went to champion exhibitor David Zahra from Malta with a beautiful green yellow hen, just edging out Henry Cooper's clear yellow cock who took the runner-up award. In the novice section, once again we saw the familiar names of Emmett McAteer and Anthony O'Donovan battling it out for best novice, both with two colour specials to their names. This time it was 2019 novice fancier of the year runner-up Emmett McAteer's clear buff hen that came out on top.

The special winners were as follows:

Best Fife, best champion, best champion green and best champion cinnamon – David Zahra (Malta).

Runner-up best Fife and best champion clear – Henry Cooper (England).

Best novice, best novice clear and best novice variegated – Emmett McAteer (Ireland).

Best champion variegated and best champion white or allied – Kendall Stud (England).

Best champion heavily variegated – Graham Davis (England).

Best novice heavily variegated and best novice green – Anthony O'Donovan (Ireland).

Best novice white or allied – Adam Whetton (England).



***Best in Show Winner
David Zahra from Malta***



North Wales Fife Fancy Canary Clubs' On-line Show Becomes International Event



The second wave of the Covid pandemic resulted in the cancellation of all 2020 shows. But it didn't mean that nothing could be done to give fanciers something to compete for and the chance to have their birds looked over by expert judges.

Seeing all the great photos and videos posted by many fanciers on Facebook the committee of the North Wales FFCC came up with an idea. Why not run a virtual show, where fanciers would record their birds in the safety of their own birdrooms, enter them into classes and have a chance to compete against fellow fanciers? The idea was quickly developed and a set of rules and information on how to enter was released. We recruited the expertise of Fife Canary Council secretary Paul Larkin and creator of the Canary Room Matt Eld to judge the birds for us. Birds had to be in their show cages and entered into the correct class by the exhibitor, videos needed to be between 30 seconds and 1 minute in length, showing the bird from the side and from above to give the judges a view of the birds from as many angles as possible, a very important requirement when judging Fifes.

"This is what the fancy can aspire to be, fanciers pulling together for the greater good. Well done to the North Wales FFCC on their endeavor to put on a new innovation" - Emmett McAteer.

from the club could have predicted the number of fanciers who wanted to get involved, as we received entries from all over the UK and Europe. Filming the birds individually, trying to catch them at their best proved to be a very frustrating and time-consuming process for many of the exhibitors. We expected a small number of entries from a few exhibitors who regularly post videos on-line, but that wasn't the case. We received 315 videos from 14 champion and 12 novice fanciers. The time and effort that the exhibitors had put into entering the show was very humbling, and we are extremely grateful to every exhibitor who entered. We'd like to thank both our judges for their time and expertise, to Fred Grimmer, Shaun Hornby, Wil and Anthony O'Donovan for their kind donations to the club, and also to Emmett McAteer for donating a beautiful trophy for the show winner.

"Well done to all organizers and judges who made our hobby possible for this year" - David Zahra.

Do you keep a specific colour or type for your breeding selection?

I try keep birds that are as close as possible to the Federation Standard of Excellence & over the past few years it's been mainly Cinnamon and Allied/White ground birds.

Any Mistakes you felt you made in your days as a novice?

I think winning Best in Show so early on as a Novice contributed to me taking my eye off the ball and not concentration on the good points of quality stock and doubling up on good points



Best in Show at Cleveland 2019



Birds in Training



Tony's Stunning Birdroom

Any tips for a Novice fancier starting out today?

Don't keep too many birds for different from different lines and breed your birds around successful birds. Keep good breeding records, I use breeding cards ,A breeding book & computer breeding records

Do you still have your original line from Gary Archer or a new line?

I still have some of my original line but most of my performance line is from Jack Nicholson

Fancier you admire most in the hobby?

There are plenty of top fanciers and partnerships in the hobby but for me you cant look any further then Gerald Spencer its not only the fact that he's a Top fancier but for the number of years that he has been at the top.

Anything you would like to see change in the hobby?

Yes, I'd like to see a stop to all the backstabbing and back biting that goes on in the fancy and for people to remember it's a hobby and something to be enjoyed.

Tony has been a consistent winner of colour specials since he burst on to the show scene in 2012 with some of the highlights below

2013 Best Fife in Show North Wales F.F.C.C

2015 2nd Best Novice in Show North Wales F.F.C.C

2019 Best Fife In Show Cleveland Border & Fife F.C.C



Fife Canary Council Officers

SECRETARY

PAUL LARKIN.



Paul has been a Champion breeder since 2005 and currently on the Panel Judge list. Paul will need very little introduction to the Fife Fancy as his major contribution over the past 3 years' has been widely acknowledged and commented upon. We are pleased that that with his drive and determination within the FCC he will promote the Fife fancy in the interests of all breeders and Exhibitors. The Council is for every type of fancier whether you keep 5 hens or 50 hens we want to hear your opinion and ideas ! We want to build a more inclusive fancy and communication ,Transparency and accountability will be at forefront of achieving this.

TREASURER

DAWN WILDING



Married to Essex breeder Chris Dawn has considerable experience in dealing with Club finances and is currently Treasurer of the East Anglian FFCC. having served for over 20 years', and more recently asked to look after the finances of the East of England Border and Fife Club. With experience and training in accountancy Dawn will provide an efficient and clear set of accounts which would be available to any Member upon request. Dawn is aware just how important it is to keep accounts up date and will ensure that will be her priority. Having been employed in the banking industry for over 30 years' prior to retirement she will be of great assist and she looks forward to her involvement with the Fife Canary Council.

'Leading the way forward'

New to Fife Fancy- by Lee Westerman

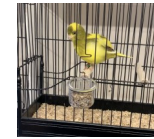
My name is Lee and I've recently started keeping Fife Canaries. Many of you may know me from Facebook as I am pushing the Hobby forward in my own way on the Social media platform with my page '@newtoficcanaries' where i post weekly about my journey.

I started my hobby in September 2020. . Which has quickly escalated from my first 8 x 8 Shed with 48 cages, and I'm now in the process of having my 2nd shed built which is a lot bigger (to the delight of my wife as you can imagine) which will house over 72 cages! Some folk Piled on the lbs in lockdown, I lost the pounds and gained lots of feathered friends

When I was a young my Dad always used to keep livestock, initially Racing Pigeons, and progressed on to many varieties of Canaries and British. I think sometimes it's in my blood to Keep and Breed Birds! When I decided I wanted to take up the Hobby I was looking for show standard Canaries in my local area of West Yorkshire. I came across 'The Canary Room' YouTube Channel. I contacted Matt from the Channel who gave me some names of fanciers local to me.

I sent a message to them all, and got a response from Gerald Spencer, who has since If anyone is thinking about keeping Fifes I would say "Go For It!" The fife is a lovely small bird with great shape and Colour. If you're a novice just starting out Listen and Learn from the best fanciers and you will soon be on your feet.

At the moment there is plenty of information out there from knowledgeable breeders, Q&A sessions where novices can get help from the more experienced breeders, so it's been a good time to start my Facebook page and try to help other novices by passing on things I'm learning. I can't wait to breed my first Fifes and show the Birds later in the year, here's to my first Breeding Season



Abbott & Nicholson



Panel Judge's

Breeder & Exhibitor's of Champion Fife Canaries

Quality Birds Available From September Onwards

Mobile 07703 348978

Visitors Welcome By Appointment