



# IFFCA *Newsletter*



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## President's Message

April 26, 2025

Dear Fife Fanciers,

I would like to wish you all a successful breeding season. For those who simply enjoy the charm of keeping these wonderful canaries, I hope they continue to bring you joy.

As some of you may not be aware, I have recently resumed the role of President, as I had previously served for 2 years from 2014-2016, following Anthony's resignation due to health challenges. I am pleased to share that Anthony is doing well and will continue to support the community as the IFFCA liaison for the New York area.

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand and promote the Fife Fancy, we aim to establish liaisons in various regions across the country. This initiative will help us share knowledge and further cultivate interest in this remarkable breed.

Additionally, we have launched our Club Affiliation program and will soon introduce Show Affiliation. Each year, we plan to select a show to receive monetary support, with a particular focus on elevating the Fife division.

On another exciting note, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Susan Bergel whose son has successfully produced 3D-printed perches for show cages.

These perches are of excellent quality, and we will soon make them available for purchase – Thank you Susan!

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Debbie Stout for her efforts in putting together this impressive newsletter!

Thank you All for your continued dedication to the Fife Fancy community. I look forward to working together to promote and support our shared passion.

Yours in the fancy,

**Jeremy Faria**

President, IFFCA

Cover Photo by Susan Bergel



### The IFFCA Newsletter

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## We Have PERCHES!!!

In the interest of our members, we have unsuccessfully tried for over two years to purchase wooden replacement show cage perches from sources in Europe. Some of the European Fife breeders had the same problem and have begun using a 3-D printed plastic perch as an alternative. Our IFFCA club president brought back a sample from the World Show for us to consider. The perch was sized for a Border show cage (since Fife are shown in Border cages outside the US) and did not fit our smaller Fife cage. It was not strong and broke easily.

We took the idea to an engineer familiar with 3-D printing with a sample of a correctly sized wooden perch we wanted him to duplicate.

These are the perches developed by the engineer and their improvements.

- 1) Stronger center has a reinforced grid inside instead of being hollow.
- 2) Twisted groove is deep and easy to grip.
- 3) Plastic perches resist soiling better than a wooden perch.
- 4) Snap in place feature allows for slight differences in cage size and insures a tight, wobble free fit.



In the same way, as a few years ago the 'D' cup was phased out and the tube drinker became the standard for Fife show cages, these plastic perches are the solution for the future.

IFFCA is selling these replacement show cage perches to interested Fife exhibitors for \$5 a pair plus \$6 shipping (1 to 10 pairs).

# IFFCA Regional Liaison

## *Non-Executive Board Position*

In addition to serving our club members, IFFCA provides encouragement and information to other Fife owners and the bird hobby community at large.

### **IFFCA Regional Liaisons**

Regional Liaisons will be IFFCA members who connect with local and regional canary clubs. Their role includes reporting on the activities of these clubs, identifying how they may benefit from IFFCA support, and passing along information about IFFCA's services that may be useful or of interest to Fife breeders and local clubs.

### **Role Overview:**

- **Representation:** As a Liaison, you will represent IFFCA to the public in your area, including local clubs and occasional inquiries received through the website.
- **Support at IFFCA Sponsored Shows:** Each year, IFFCA monetarily sponsors the Fife division at a local show, where you will serve as our official representative.
- **Communication:** You will also relay news of the local clubs to IFFCA's Board.

### **Benefits:**

As a Regional Liaison, you will receive:

- An IFFCA pin and a framed certificate in appreciation of your service.
- Personalized business cards.
- Listing on the Executive Board webpage.
- Access to promotional materials to support IFFCA and the Fife Fancy Canary.

### **Sample Contact Information:**

**Anthony Celano**  
Regional Liaison, Northeast  
IFFCA International Fife Fancy Club of America  
Astoria, New York (917) 748-6778  
*anthony.celano@iffca.net*



**ANTHONY CELANO**  
REGIONAL LIAISON  
NORTHEAST

📍 Astoria, New York  
📞 (917) 743-6778

**If you are interested in the position of Regional Liaison, please contact Jeremy Faria at [IFFCASecretary@gmail.com](mailto:IFFCASecretary@gmail.com).**

# IFFCA – International Fife Fancy Club of America

## Annual Club Show

### SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email and Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Show Date \_\_\_\_\_

Show Location \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Show

☐

All Bird

☐

Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Judges Retained (Please list all judges for all divisions.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### **SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**

- ✓ Is your Club Affiliation Fee paid for the current year?
- ✓ Is this your Annual Show?
- ✓ Is the show open to all exhibitors and the public?
- ✓ Do you agree to allow IFFCA to promote and list your club and this show in our published literature, website and social media?
- ✓ Do you agree to place a full page ad sent from IFFCA in your show book (printed and/or electronic)?
- ✓ Please return this application to [IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:IFFCAsecretary@gmail.com) by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **One Club Show will be chosen to receive the following from IFFCA:**

- ✓ IFFCA Best Fife In Show Medal for Affiliated Clubs
- ✓ IFFCA Rosettes for 1<sup>st</sup> Best Fife, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Fife, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Fife
- ✓ A \$350 Monetary Donation as a check made payable to the club
- ✓ IFFCA's full support and promotion of the Club and the Show in our newsletters, Facebook, website, and any published literature.
- ✓ Upon request of your club, IFFCA may also assist in selection of judge, contact info for judges, the Fife Fancy model and standard, classification list, show cage and perch suppliers, and other aspects of your club show.

Check information:

Check to be made payable to \_\_\_\_\_.

Check to be mailed to address (if not the club address above) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Show Manager

OR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club President

# How To Beat The UnBeatables

-- By Brian Keenan

*This article was found on the Internet Archive version of Brian Keenan's website.*

I get asked all sorts of questions about bird keeping... The other day it was on the subject of winning at shows. How do we stop so-and-so from winning? ...it started me thinking about why I took up my hobby, and the enjoyment I get from it.

## Boyhood enjoyment

As a youngster, I enjoyed caring for my stock, and the excitements around breeding time, as the new chicks emerged from their shells and eventually fledged, before moulting out into mature birds. I enjoyed joining a CBS club, and attending the monthly meetings where I was able to meet other, like-minded people, all of whom lived locally, and whom I could visit if invited.

I enjoyed the exhibition side of the hobby too, and at all levels. Starting as a junior, I later graduated to the Novice ranks, before attaining Champion status. Over a period of time, I showed my birds throughout the country, and made many new friends.

I enjoyed a solid induction into bird keeping that was not centered around the 'must win' philosophy that seems to be prevalent today. It was more important that I continued to make solid progress, whether that was on the exhibition bench, or in the breeding room.

It was not until later that I began to notice how certain fanciers seemed to be more successful on the show bench than others.

## To win at any cost

There were the fanciers who paid kings ransoms for birds, exhibiting them and breeding with them, as they improved their studs. As a youngster, I could not afford that, and my dad thought ♦4 was a bit steep for a canary, even though he paid that princely sum for my Christmas present one year in the 1960's.

There is nothing wrong with buying the best you can afford, and of course that is good advice in all walks of life, for example, housing, cars, etc. We all make choices, and we all have to live by the results.

Overall, the more competitive shows taught me an important lesson. It was to take enjoyment from what you have, and your hobby in general, without the pressures of winning. Shows are generally over in a day, but bird keeping goes on all year round.

I learned that by helping at the various clubs, I gained even more enjoyment, although there were some weekends when I would see very little of the show, or how my own team had fared, because I was busy in the administrative side of my hobby. Overall, it put me in touch with more fanciers, and increased the pleasure I gained from my hobby.

**Back to the original question though - just how do you stop somebody winning?  
By beating them at their own game, is the answer.**

If individuals are dominating the show scene, then study their show teams and see why they are so much better than the competition. The odds are that they win because of three things, firstly preparation - clean healthy exhibits displayed to perfection in exquisite cages.



Secondly, the exhibits will have a 'touch of class' about them, glowing plumage, a jaunty action, or peerless position for example, and each bird will be thoroughly at home in the show hall, as it goes through its paces.

Thirdly, each bird will resemble its brothers and sisters throughout the owners show team, as they will all be closely related, and bred for the job. Each will resemble or some would say, exceed the ideal model, and whilst some will be better than others, overall, they will each have similar characteristics. It does not matter what the variety is, these components all go towards making the ideal show bird, and if a good showman gets it right with one bird, the chances are that he will also get it right throughout his entire show team.

So, rather than ask how do we beat him, it is more important to ask yourself, what have his birds got that does not exist in your own stock - then work hard to improve. You need to work harder than he does - he already has all the elements to continue his or her success, whilst you have to try to obtain the missing X factor - and then have to blend it successfully into your own stock in order to beat the opposition. The 'king' only needs to repeat the same and similar pairings to maintain his progress, so you can see that success will not be easily come by, and it will not be quick.

### **Professional winners**

There is another element to the equation, and that is the dedication of the fancier

It is no coincidence that consistently winning fanciers are sometimes termed 'professionals.' Those using the phrase may not know it, but it is a huge complement to apply a term that points to dedication, ambition, drive, and the businesslike pursuit of a hobby in a non-amateurish manner. Most importantly, to be able to recognize, and therefore to set trends at an early stage, means that the leading fanciers are working hard to stay that one jump ahead. In short, they are developing their favourite breeds, and backing their own judgment by leading from the front. And to get past them, in the first instance you need to grab onto their coat-tails.

So make time to discuss birds with the leading fanciers of your favourite breed. In particular, ask them to discuss your own birds, rather than theirs, and suggest what is missing, and how to improve. You will learn a great deal, but the truth may hurt. Listen to what they say, then make your own judgments. If they have a bird that may help you, ask to see it, or at least get onto their list for next year. And look around the show hall. Excepting the dedicated workers, the people not paying any attention to the birds are there to be beaten, whilst those only interested in their own birds are the ones to avoid: they can see their own stock any day, and unless they already have the best birds in the show, they are missing the point that others too have something worthwhile to contribute.

Of course, there is an element of luck.

### **Keep on going at the top**

It is always harder to judge an early show than it is to judge at a show later in the season. This is because all the birds are unknown, some are perhaps not properly trained, whilst others have not quite finished their moults. Nevertheless, a winning bird at an early show will often continue to win at later events throughout the season. Why? Firstly because it has been 'recognized' by other judges, who may subconsciously be tempted to give it the benefit of the doubt against other unknown birds, and secondly and more importantly, because it has 'been there before', and knows exactly how to behave whilst the crucial judging process is going on. That is down to show temperament, and that too, needs to be bred into your stock, as much as any other quality. Again, the proven winner has it, and the 'wannabee' does not.

So how do we finally beat the unbeatables? With great patience, and a lot of luck. Meanwhile, why not admire their birds, and enjoy their company and your hobby - that is what you are in it for, after all. ■



## 2025 IFFCA Officers

President – Jeremy Faria

Vice-President – *vacant*

Treasurer/Membership – Susan Bergel

Secretary – Debbie Stout

Director – Jay Bunker

Director/Affiliate Liaison – Deb Whidden

Regional Liaison – Anthony Celano

Regional Liaison – Daniel Antonio

Regional Liaison – David Benites



## Looking for Softfood Recipes?!

Don't forget the [Links page on our website](#), for information and articles of interest, many written by our members.

[internationalfifefancyclubofamerica.com/links](http://internationalfifefancyclubofamerica.com/links)

## Fife Chat

**SUNDAY, June 15th**  
**6:30 p. m. Eastern**


zoom

Members will receive an email with dial in/log in details on **Friday** before the Chat.

### PERCENTAGES IN SEEDS

	<i><b>WATER</b></i>	<i><b>PROTEIN</b></i>	<i><b>CARBOHYDRATES</b></i>	<i><b>FAT</b></i>
CANARY SEED	15%	14%	52%	5.5%
RAPE	7%	22%	20%	40%
MAW	9%	19%	18%	45%
MILLET	14%	15%	57%	4%
LINSEED	9%	23%	23%	24%
HEMP	11%	16%	25%	30%
NIGER	12%	21%	22%	40%
LETTUCE	95%	1%	2%	0.2%
DANDELION	84%	2.4%	10.6%	1.0%
CARROT	87%	1.2%	9.6%	0.1%
APPLE	83%	0.5%	15%	NIL
EGG YOLK	47%	15%	NIL	33%
EGG WHITE	87%	10%	NIL	0.25%

Episode 1- Seed and Percentages | With Andy Constantine | Interview

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