

## DONCASTER BORDER FANCY CANARY CLUB OPEN SHOW – 12 OCTOBER 2024 SHOW REPORT

The Doncaster Border Fancy Canary Club (DBFCC) Show, held on Saturday, 12th October 2024, at Bawtry New Hall, was a resounding success. This success was made possible by the unwavering dedication of our hardworking committee members, exhibitors, and volunteers.



It was a day not only for the enjoyment of our shared passion but also to remember someone who played an enormous role in shaping this club and the wider Border Canary breeding community. The event was named the **John Balme Memorial Show** in honour of a man who, for many of us, was more than just a fellow breeder—he was a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration.

We were privileged to welcome John's wife, Hilda, and their daughter, Joanne, to present the **John Balme Memorial Tankard for Best Border in Show**. The recipient of this prestigious award was Paul Heathcote of B & P Heathcote, whose outstanding exhibit was a fitting winner of this special accolade. Upon presenting the award, Hilda shared the following heartfelt message:

"Thank you for remembering John in this special way. He loved this club, its people, and everything that it stands for. Over the years, he took great pride in his birds, the friends he made, and the moments shared at events like this one. It's comforting to know that his passion lives on through all of you and that his contributions to the club are being honoured today. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this tribute."



This year, our committee set the ambitious goal of filling the hall with 500 entries. While we narrowly missed this target due to a combination of factors such as members withdrawing, a challenging breeding season, and late moults, we were still proud to record 442 entries, with 421 entries checked in on the day. Despite the lower number, the quality of birds on display was outstanding, with many exhibits deserving of top honours. Our esteemed panel of international judges from Ireland—Davy Somerville, Cyril Guildea, and Alan Telford—did a commendable job in

assessing the birds and selecting the finest exhibits for the top awards. The judges were faced with difficult decisions, as several exquisite birds narrowly missed the top table. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their expertise and commitment to ensuring a fair and rigorous judging process.

### Winners and Awards

This year's **Best Border in Show** title went to Paul Heathcote, whose success extended beyond just one award. Paul's journey from Newcastle was rewarded with an array of accolades. His dedication to breeding excellence was clearly on display throughout the day, as he continued to collect awards in multiple categories. His impressive lineup of birds dominated the top ranks, taking home 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Best Border, a testament to his dedication and skill in breeding top-quality birds. A. Abbott, whose birds secured 4th and 7th places had a really good show in this his first year proper with Borders, Tony already a well-known and respected man in the Fife community. M. Drew rounded out the top with a respectable 6th place finish, Martin had a lovely team of birds entered.



In the Champion Specials, Paul Heathcote continued to shine, sweeping the awards for Best Champion Flighted, Best Champion Unflighted, and various colour classes, demonstrating his exceptional versatility across different categories. A notable achievement also came from A. Kimber from Swindon who captured awards for Best Champion Cinnamon and Best Champion White, showcasing a finely honed skill in breeding birds with specific, striking traits.

For our Novice exhibitors, Eyres & Goddard proved to be ones to watch, claiming Best Novice Border as well as a number of class wins, including Best Novice Unflighted and Best Novice Variegated. Their birds showcased excellent condition and potential, indicating a bright future for this promising partnership.

Not far behind, J South had an exceptional day, also claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Novice Border section and winning Best Novice Clear and Best Novice 3 Parts Dark. His birds, particularly those with dark variegation, were a standout for their striking contrast and flawless presentation, showing excellent attention to detail in his breeding program.

P Selby secured multiple positions in the top seven of the Novice Border category, placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Selby also won the Best Novice White, proving his consistency in breeding quality birds. His Unflighted entries, particularly, impressed the judges, showing great promise for future success.

Finally, S. Hewitt rounded out the top awards with 4<sup>th</sup> Best and Best Novice Opposite Sex, ensuring the Novice section remained as competitive and engaging as ever, with multiple breeders vying for the top spots.

### Full List of Awards:

- **Best Border In Show:** Heathcote B & P
  - **2nd Best Border:** Heathcote B & P
  - **3rd Best Border:** Heathcote B & P
  - **4th Best Border:** Abbott A
  - **5th Best Border:** Heathcote B & P
  - **6th Best Border:** Drew M
  - **7th Best Border:** Abbott A
  - **Best Champion Flighted:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion Unflighted:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion Clear:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion Variegated:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion Green:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion 3 Parts Dark:** Heathcote B & P
  - **Best Champion Cinnamon:** Kimber A
  - **Best Champion White:** Kimber A
  - **Best Champion Opposite Sex:** Heathcote B & P
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- **Best Novice Border:** Eyres & Goddard
  - **2nd Best Novice Border:** J South
  - **3rd Best Novice Border:** P Selby
  - **4th Best Novice Border:** S Hewitt
  - **5th Best Novice Border:** J South
  - **6th Best Novice Border:** P Selby
  - **7th Best Novice Border:** P Selby
  - **Best Novice Flighted:** J South
  - **Best Novice Unflighted:** Eyres & Goddard
  - **Best Novice Clear:** J South
  - **Best Novice Variegated:** Eyres & Goddard
  - **Best Novice Green:** G Priest
  - **Best Novice 3 Parts Dark:** J South
  - **Best Novice Cinnamon:** No Entry
  - **Best Novice White:** P Selby
  - **Best Novice Opposite Sex:** S Hewitt

### A Day to Remember

Meanwhile, the unexpectedly high turnout of visitors to the show was a pleasant surprise, with two rounds of results reprints required to keep up with demand. The eye-catching outdoor branding and banners also successfully attracted local visitors, contributing to the day's success.



A special mention goes to our catering team, Karon and Winnie, who provided outstanding refreshments throughout the event, ensuring everyone was well taken care of.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are determined to build on the success of this year's event. There are many areas where we excelled, particularly in creating a welcoming atmosphere for our visitors. However, we are always striving for improvement, particularly being consistent with timetabling and reviewing our administrative processes.

We look forward to seeing you all next year and once again delivering an event that celebrates our shared passion with sincere hospitality and new initiatives to enhance the experience for everyone.

