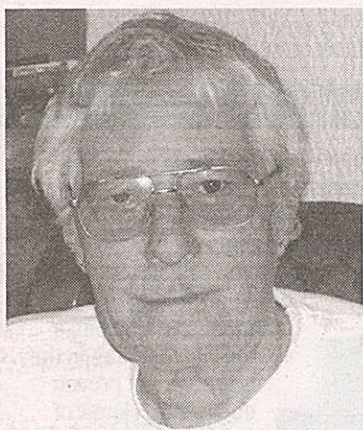


60 second INTERVIEW



TISH HARNETT IS a retired electrician and lives in Ramsgate, Kent. At six years old, with the help of his father, he began keeping members of the crow family - jackdaws, magpies and jays. He began breeding British hardbills in the late 1940s. After visiting the first and second World Shows in the early 1950s - both staged in Ramsgate by the International Ornithological Association [IOA] - he began to breed canaries. He has bred most British and numerous Continental canary breeds. His current stud encompasses 10 different breeds.

He has been secretary of Isle of Thanet Bird Club for many years and is secretary of the South East Canary Club. He has served as secretary of the IOA and chairman of Ramsgate Junior Bird Club. He won several best-in-section awards at the National Exhibition with old variety canaries. Judging engagements have included three World Shows and two Nationals, and have taken him all around Europe.

He has many friends in many different countries and regularly keeps in touch with them. For him, this is what the hobby is about. When a virus destroyed his stud, his friends rallied around and restocked his birdroom with birds of good quality. Tish says that the feeling this brought him is above price.

Tish Harnett

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TIME IN THE BIRDKEEPING CALENDAR?

I enjoy every moment of every month, all the year round. Being able to do that is what makes birdkeeping such a great hobby.

WHAT'S THE REASON FOR YOUR SUCCESS?

By listening to knowledgeable bird breeders. From when I was lad right up to the present time, I have been learning all the time.

“At Reggio Emilia, the events were superb and the camaraderie outstanding

WHAT'S YOUR BEST MEMORY?

The international shows in the mid-80s at Reggio Emilia, in Italy. The events were superb and the camaraderie was outstanding.

AND YOUR BIGGEST BREAK?

There has been no turning point in my birdkeeping life. I have always been the same.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

Charlie Smith - a great birdman and friend.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

Last year, a virus killed most of my birds and destroyed years of work.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO CHANGE

THE FANCY?

Get as many people as possible into local bird clubs - the base of the hobby.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SHOW?

Dompfaff Koln (Bullfinch Cologne) is so well presented. When I attend it, every year, I meet many friends.

IF YOU COULD KEEP AN ALTERNATIVE BIRD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Bantams. I've had them before and they are easy to manage.

WHAT'S YOUR ALTERNATIVE HOBBY?

Collecting bird club badges. They represent the history of the fancy and evoke many pleasant memories.

NAME ANY PET HATES:

Greed, know-it-alls and "me-me-me" characters.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?

Nature programmes. *Yellowstone* is good.

FAVOURITE MUSIC:

I enjoy Country & Western music, particularly Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson.

FAVOURITE FOOD?

Curry and fried rice.

FAVOURITE DRINK?

Red wine.

WHAT DO YOU DRIVE?

I don't have a car because I do not drive.

WHAT'S YOUR BIRDKEEPING AMBITION?

Just to continue in the hobby for a few more years. I'm not looking for anything else.

NEXT WEEK:

A world-class Border man who started out by accident