**How I started in Irish Fancies?**

I started out in Irish Fancies in 2012 with 2 pairs of birds, not great quality but I didn’t know any better at the time. It was only when I went to my first few shows that I started to see the difference in quality of the birds I had towards what was on the bench. This made me do my homework and enquired who it would be best to obtain good stock from. I then contacted 2 of the top breeders at the time and bought 2 pairs of birds from each breeder and that is where it all started for me and it was all about improving each year then up until now.

**Why should people starting in birds choose them?**

When anyone tells me, they are going to start out in birds then I recommend the Irish fancy as to me they are a lovely bird and once looked after in the correct manner and healthy then they will go about their business and unlike some of the other breeds at least they will rear their own chicks and not need feeders. The Iris Fancy is wonderful looking bird with great type and very eye-catching sight on the show bench when you walk into a show hall.

**Tips to Do and Not Do?**

My best advice to newcomers to this wonderful hobby is to straight away source good stock and not to be picking up birds here and there from everybody. A poor-quality bird will cost the same time & money as a good bird.

Join your local bird club for starters and go to as many shows as it is possible for you to attend, this is more than likely where you will meet many new friends and make good contacts and obtain valuable information

**How I progressed my line of Irish Fancies from when I started as novice until I moved into Champion section?**

When I first started out in Irish Fancies it was the colour birds (E.G., greens, blues, cinnamons) that I liked but as I started to improve and learn I found that to be competitive for the top awards I would need to concentrate a bit more on my clear birds (yellows/buffs) In the IFCS you got 5 years (it has now been increased to 7 years) as a novice before having to move up champion. My first couple of years did not bring much success and it was only until maybe my 3rd year that my line of birds started to come good. In fact, it was in my 4th year as novice that I took Best Irish Fancy in Show at the 90TH Anniversary Cork show with a Self Blue hen. It was my first major achievement and the same bird went on to win Best Novice & 2nd Best Irish Fancy in Show at the IFCS National show in Arklow the same year.

**Achievements with Irish Fancies so far.**

**Ireland Awards**

Best Novice Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Cork 2015

Best Novice Irish Fancy and 2nd & 4th Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2015

Best Novice Irish Fancy and 3rd & 4th Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2016

Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Midleton (IFCS Cork Branch) 2017

Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2017

Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Cobh 2018

Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCCU 2018

Best Champion Irish Fancy Swords 2019

**UK Awards**

Best Champion Irish Fancy in Show 2017 English National Stafford

**World Show Awards**

**Gold Medals x 7**

**Silver Medals x 6**

**Bronze Medals x 6**