

▶ Van Gent

Geert Tiemes, Didam – 1st Champion morning release Marathon Noord 2017

The morning release competition races from Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan count for the Marathon Noord. Of course only the first two of the entry list will take part in the competition. So you must be on top of your game throughout the season and especially



Geert Tiemes.

with the order of your entry list. Three years ago, Geert was at pole position after the Marseille race, but he was not able to get one of his top 2 birds into the result lists on the last race from Perpignan.

The Lofts and Pigeons

Geert earned his living as a building contractor and that you can see in how the way the lofts are constructed. He has a stone brick loft of 10 meters (30 feet) with different sections. To the left of it is a wooden loft for three rounds of youngsters. The lofts are spacious and a part of it has been built into the ground. Everything is clean and you can see he has put a lot of thought into the loft while building it. All of the inside is white-washed, with lots of ventilation. The bottom loft has a heating system that is used after the pigeons have had their bath or when the weather is very humid.

The youngsters are raced partly in the young bird races, and partly in the late races and in the very popular cake races. These cake races are so called because in the early days of these the first prize was a cake. These are held after the official racing

season late September until early November. He does this in view of spreading the risks for a bad liberation or weather. He also wants to test youngsters from different rounds. He trains the youngsters by himself on short distances and he tosses them individually. So one by one. Like this he thinks that the orientation of the youngster is tested right away.

His old bird racing team contains 22 widowers and 26 couples on the Natural system from which the hens are raced the most. They train twice a day and once a week he tosses them 40km. He breeds approximately 100 youngsters. He has 12 couples of breeders, most of them are direct Jelle Jellema from Nijverdal. He bought in the years 2011 till 2013 with Peter Wanders. He went there with a list of numbers that he made after checking the result lists. He found his pot of gold, because it fitted very well with his strain he already had, mainly Nico Volkens pigeons.

The birds are all more small than big, very lively, remarkable eyes and very athletic. Geert's ultimate goal is to create a team for Barcelona, 1,208 km for this man.

2017 results

This was a very successful year, he won several championships on different levels. Especially on these distances. At Barcelona (1,208 km) at 21.52 his 2nd on the entry list hen 14-733 finds her way home. On a youngster of 5 days she was basketed. The Barcelona and Marseille pigeons are trained to take the Rhone-Valley. They are basketed

for Orange as a yearly bird, so that they know that route as well. At Marseille(982 km) in the dark at 22.10 his 2 year old widower 15-775 was there for the points. On the first race of Agen this cock came home at 22.45



Geert Tiemes, 65 years of age and a person we describe as determined and purposive.

in the dark, so Geert had confidence in this cock. At Perpignan (1,063 km) Geert gets a white feather chequer hen raced on the Natural system at 09.24 the 14-812. She was raced on a big youngster and she was alone with this for a week before basketing. At St Vincent (midday release) she was also his first and two weeks before Perpignan she was also his first on Orange. it is quite remarkable to get early birds against competition that is 100km or more closer.

There is not that much difference between a morning release pigeon and a midday release pigeon. He thinks it is more in the preparation and the experience of the pigeon. He has a pigeon vet who checks his pigeons twice a season. And he uses some elixers of Peter Boskamp, on a natural bases. Geert races the Marathon Noord races and the local marathon races. In total he basketed 65 birds and registered 38, 58% in the result list. On Agen (22.45), Orange (21.15) and Marseille (22.10) he gets a bird home when it is almost dark or is already dark. In these weeks he had a peak in the condition of the pigeons. Geert does everything to be at the top of the marathon mountain. During the season he is more than 7 hours busy with the pigeons. He is a remarkable man!



Ben van Holland & Son from Ede win the first Championship midday release, third morning release and they have the best pigeon midday release over three years of Stichting Marathon Noord

Marathon Noord is a competition for fanciers in the Netherlands with a greater distance to St Vincent of 1,030 kilometers. There are two major competitions, Midday release over the national races of St Vincent, Dax and Bergerac. The second one is the Morning release and this one is on the races Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan. Only the two first pigeons on the entry list of the fancier are in the competition. So the key is to get one of these 2 birds home early enough to stay in the competition. During the 43 years of the existence of this competition, we've never had a fancier that was able to

view of his work. Ben is retired and does almost everything. Ronald has a loft in the garden of his own home where he competes under his wife's name. Ben started in 1976 when he purchased the house where he still lives. In 1989 he changed to the marathon races. He lives in Ede, which is almost in the middle of the Netherlands.

The Pigeons

He tries to mate the birds in a way that it is good x good. The base of the strain of Ben's are the birds of Jac Steketee from Bruinisse. These originated Aarden pigeons are the

has co-bred with Jan Hendriksen from Lunteren which put the strain to a new higher level. After the death of Leo Rompelaar he got pigeons from that loft which brought lots of successes.

Marathon Noord Midday release

As already mentioned, Ben and Ronald had a great year, 13-1810954 and 14-1772155 are just two of the pigeons who did the job; **13-1810954** was 4th St Vincent SMN (7th National against 3,093 birds), 2nd Dax SMN (4th National against 2,573 birds), 248th Bergerac SMN, 1st champion pigeon over 3



Ben & Ronald



14-1611005

be on both podiums. Ben and his son are the first who achieved this. It was a difficult year for the racers on the Marathon races, but it looks like this was not the case for the racers of Ben and his son Ronald.

The Partnership

Ben is in partnership with his son Ronald, but the latter has little time for the pigeons in

base. He visited Jac almost every year from the year 1989. For instance he has got a son of the famous Marseille of Jac. He cross bred this strain with a cock from Sam de Jong from Heemskerk, Jan Polder pigeons (also Steketee based), Gerard van Tuijl, Leo Rompelaar and Wout van den Houk from Putten. And the last five years he also got the Bennie Homma pigeons. Since 2014 he

years (2015-2017) of Marathon Noord. Among prior years the results 197th National St Vincent against 3,278 birds, 129th National Cahors against 5,028 birds and 129th National Albi against 3,814 birds. This cock ('De Leo') is a cross bred from Steketee x Leo Rompelaar. **14-1772155**, this cock ('De Jan') won the 40th Bergerac SMN (177th National against 6,219 birds). This is



13-1810954



14-1772155



a cross breed of Jan Hendriksen x Steketee. (SMN is Stichting Marathon Noord)

Pigeon Friends

When the pigeons are due to arrive Ben is very relaxed, does some jobs, reads the paper. One of the friends that always stops by is always nervous and on edge. He tried to explain more than once that making yourself nervous before the arrival of the birds does not make the pigeons return faster. But this year they have witnessed more than one early arrival!

Third Champion Morning release SMN

Finding 6 pigeons for 3 races ok, but to find 12 pigeons for 6 races that produce, that is outrageously good. Ben and Ronald did this, because they also ended 3rd in the Morning releases competition. And the races Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan were not exactly walks in the park so to speak.

Ben specially focused on the 6 races of Marathon Noord. It was a few years back that Ben basketed for the morning release races, that part was difficult. For each race he picked 2 pigeons from the Midday release squad. On each of the 3 races he only basketed 2 pigeons, and he registered a bird early on each of the 3 races.

The following three pigeons contributed to the championship: **12-1240751**, this hen got

the 37th Barcelona SMN (244th National against 4,504 birds); **14-1611005** won the 7th Marseille SMN (81st National against 2,528 birds), this hen is a cross bred Leen Broeks x Gerard van Tuijl; **14-1772144** won the 18th Perpignan SMN (229th National against 4,789 birds), this cock is a cross bred of a Jan Hendriksen x a half sister of De Leo, the best pigeon over 3 years on the Midday releases. As a yearling this cock flew to Den Helder on a long distance race and a few weeks later he landed in Hilversum. Ben did not give up and a few weeks later he returned home from Bergerac. Then the compass of this cock was right again.

Difference between Morning release and Midday release

Ben and Ronald are the perfect fit for the question if there is a difference between the two. Ben thinks there is no difference. For instance the 2nd on the entry list of St Vincent came back too late, but was basketed for Perpignan and there he produced. Of course there is a difference between the distances. When you race the Midday releases of 750-800 kilometers you must have a different kind of pigeon that the 1000+ races.

Day to Day

Ben uses the mixtures of Matador, Natural,

Beyers and Wielink. During the winter time the pigeons get a lot of garlic in the water. He tries to use as much as possible of natural products and as little as possible medication. He uses Bony SGR and Bronchovital. Also the pigeons get twice the yellow drop of Jaap Koehoorn during the season. This drop is not given before a certain race, but when they are breeding when it is a simple job. Besides the products mentioned they also use DuoKruiden, Usneagano and Blitzform from Röhnfried.

Every February the droppings are checked by Vincent Schröder, but over the last few years he hasn't found anything disturbing.

Ben is calm when the pigeons are due to return, he is also relaxed when he has bad results. He does not panic and tries to do nothing special with medicines.

Closing statement

This year Ben started to train his youngsters one by one. He saw the Koerier DVD of Tim Hage and he started with this. Now the youngsters need to orientate themselves and not follow the leaders of the group. He thinks he will benefit from this method in the near future.

A remarkable partnership with a tremendous achievement.

Van Gent



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