

▶ Van Gent

Cees Nijdeken, Rijssen, wins mid day liberation marathon Noord 2015 and wins the Hans Eijerkamp trophy (best pigeon on the noon liberation races)

Marathon Noord is a competition in the Netherlands where you can enter when you are above the line The Hague – Nijmegen. The whole competition is for the first two birds on your entry list. So the first two birds assigned are in the competition. For the mid day liberation (liberation between 12-14) competition the races St Vincent, Bergerac and Cahors make up the competition. Every year a lot of championships can be won with racing pigeons, but there are some that you have on your bucket list. Or they are very difficult to win, or it is very special to win.

One of these bucket list championships is the mid day liberation of the Marathon Noord. There is a huge amount of competitors and the competition itself is very difficult. The championship celebrations of the Marathon Noord are very special. Literal walking in a spotlight to the podium, hearing the National anthem when you are on the first spot on the podium and afterwards there is a queue with competitors and rivals who congratulate you on your win. Everyone who experienced this, tells the board of the foundation that it was the best experience ever. The champ of 2015 had a very special year. His bird, 'De Late Blauwe' (10-1237284) won this championship by itself. It is also the best pigeon of the Netherlands in 2015 on these races.

Cees Nijdeken

Cees started with pigeons as a teenager and is now in his 60s. First he just raced the 'normal' races and from 2001 he started with the marathon races. He got pigeons from Jac Steketee, Theo Streefkerk and Klaas Sturis. Nowadays his loft is occupied with pigeons from Jelle Jellema, Arjan Beens and the combine Verweij-de Haan.



Cees Nijdeken.



'De Late Blauwe'.

He got advice from these suppliers of good pigeons and has a lot of contact with them.

'De Late Blauwe'

'De Late Blauwe' was born in October 2010. With a lot of fanciers, the late youngsters do not get enough opportunities, but with Cees this is not the case. He lets them grow and will start racing them in races the year after they are born in the months August and September. In the year after they will be raced on the marathon races.

It is a deep blue pigeon from two Jelle Jellema pigeons. His father is 'Jonge Storm', a son of 'Storm' x 'Iris'. 'Storm' is a son of het 'Zwart Goud', the foundation cock of Jelle Jellema. The mother is a

daughter of 'Kristen', sister to the 2nd National St Vincent 2011 winner in Sector 4.

'De late Blauwe' now has 10 prizes in the marathon races. In 2015 he won Section 9, 1st NPO St Vincent (119 km), 2nd NPO Bergerac (938 km) and 52nd NPO Cahors (977 km). It is a bird for all distances, because he was also 12th in Strombeek against 2,452 pigeons and 60th Boxtel against 2,233 pigeons.

2015

The racers (22 couples) are mated early April. After breeding for a couple of days they were separated and raced on the Widowhood system. For the St Vincent race they were mated in a way that they were breeding 10-12 days on the day of basketing. For Bergerac (three weeks later) fresh eggs and Cahors (again three weeks later) just born babies.

Every winter Cees makes a schedule for his loft, what to do and when for which race. So when he must mate, take away the eggs, to get the couples on the right position for an important race. He got this system from Arjan Beens. He races the birds on the Natural system and only on eggs the first races to minimize the chance on trichomoniasis and hexamitiasis.

What stood out during the 2015 season is that the pigeons immediately came home very good. Also the training at home was very good. After consulting Jelle Jellema he trained his birds one time a day for 75 minutes after 21.15 in the evening. Normally they only did their training in a normal matter, but now they were like fighter jets. They were fed around 6pm and then trained later. He was also very lucky that there were no bad races in the beginning of the season, so he was able to keep the birds on a very high level. Once a month Cees visits a vet to check his birds. Normally they do not have anything problems.

As far as medicines, regarding his birds, Cees does the following. On the day before basketing they get Belgica de Weerd WN in their drinking water. When he picks his birds for basketing, they get Belga Magix pil and a Vitaboli of Belgica de Weerd.



Blue Evil Eye, hanging on the door of Cee's loft.



When they return from a race, he gives a recuperation tablet of Beute. He has carried out this scheme now for years. The racers get a Koopman all in one mix of Beyers as feeding. As a supplement he prepares a mix of Tovo, hemp seed and peanuts for humans, non salted.

Why this performance in 2015?

It's always nice to know what the fancier thinks about the year 2015 and why this was a superb year for his pigeons. Cees did not have an immediate answer. He separated the cocks and hens in the winter of 2014-15, and added extra perches in the nestbox departments. These stayed for the racing period of 2015. Maybe these caused an extra motivation for the birds. Everything else stayed the same, the feeding, the extra products and other stuff as well. For example the daylight lamps were also on after the longest day from 0500-2300. Before a Marathon race the pigeons were not basketed for two nights in the transporter. When there was no race with one night transport the pigeons were tossed from Twello (30 km). The only thing that did change was the Blue Evil Eye his wife and daughter brought back from Turkey and that is hanging on the door of his loft.

Final remarks

The performance of the birds of Cees were outstanding in 2015. On every level he has to climb to the highest position on the podia. Local, regional or National he is everywhere number one. Not only with the 'Late Blauwe', but also the hen 'Brenda' which is the champion bird locally, regional and in his province, or 'Zilverpenne'.

Cees is never going to forget 2015. "Everyone should have a year like this. It is not possible of course, but it is good for the sport of racing pigeons and a lot of fanciers to keep being motivated to continue. You dream about it and when it happens it is a blast".

During the winter Cees is very busy with all the festivities. When he is being honoured by the Marathon Noord he is also celebrating his 35 year wedding anniversary. So it will be a very very special day!

Arjan van Gent