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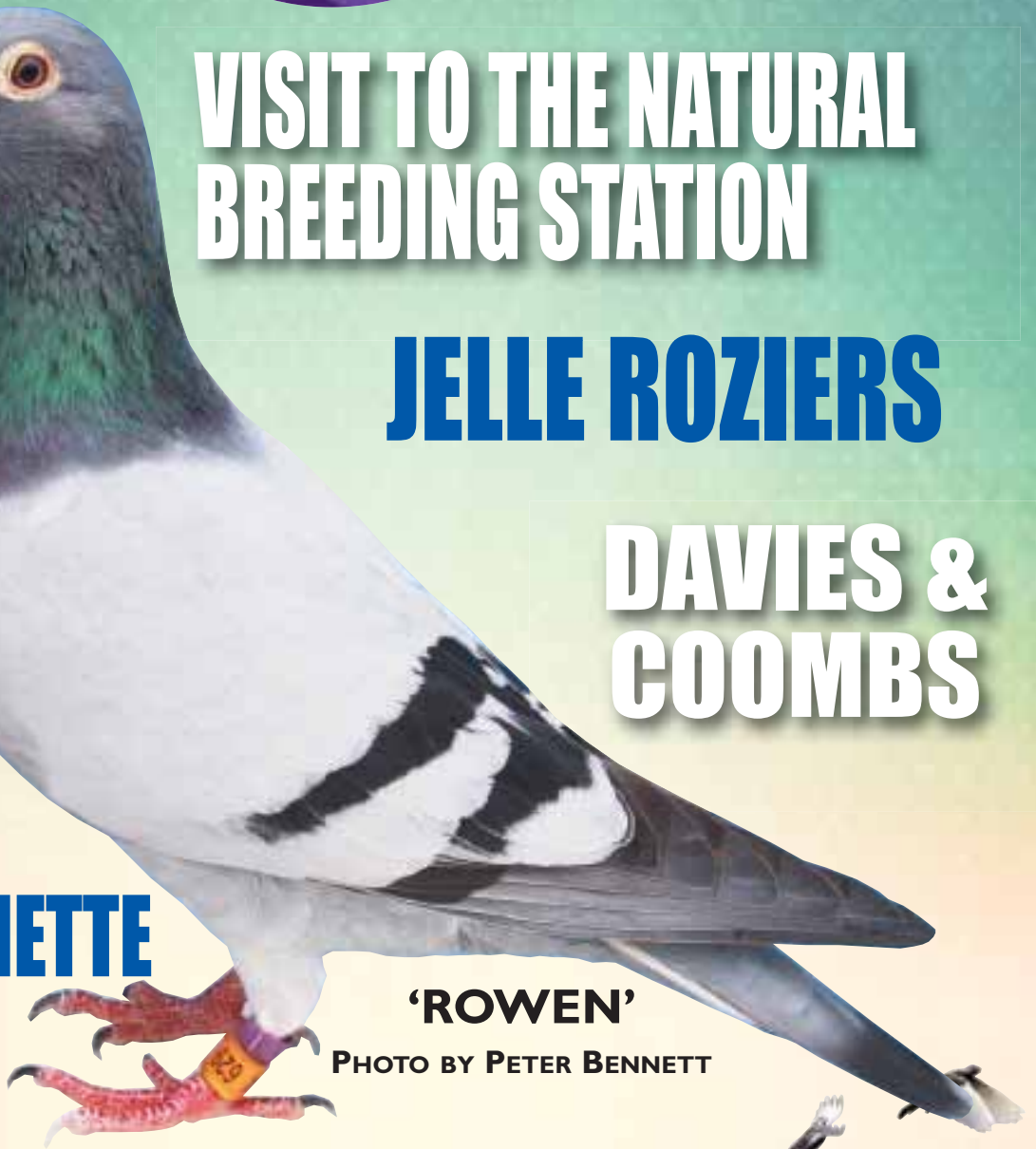
**BOWSKILL &
GASCOIGNE**

JELLE ROZIERS

**PETER
JANSSEN**

**DAVIES &
COOMBS**

**STEVE & ANNETTE
APPLEBY**



'ROWEN'

PHOTO BY PETER BENNETT

**JOHN BORG AND
ROBERT GALEA**



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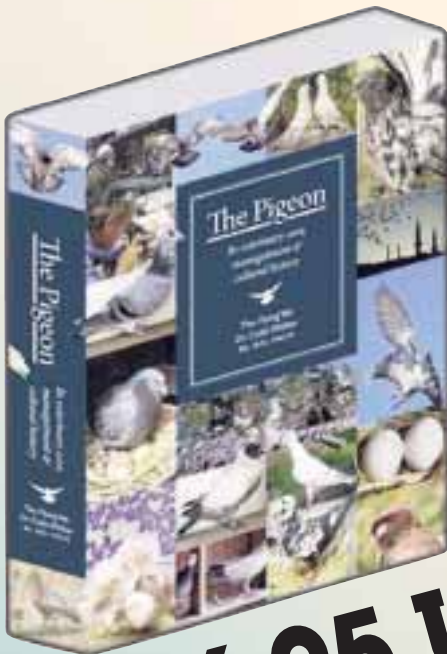
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Front Page Picture



'ROWEN'

**1ST CLUB, 1ST FEDERATION, 1ST WEST DURHAM
AMALGAMATION MAIDSTONE NATIONAL 242 MILES
6,415 BIRDS, VEL 1561.57YPM 2018.
BRED AND RACED BY JOHN NELSON (RICHMOND)
PHOTO BY PETER BENNETT.**

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One of the most well known stars of pigeon racing at present is Jelle Roziers. In this second part, Silvio Mattacchione takes a look at some of the fanciers worldwide that have achieved great results with the Jelle dynasty.

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Steve & Annette Appleby have dedicated a lot of time in to the sport over the years, Keith Mott highlights how they also continue to win at the top level.

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The winners of the prestigious Midlands National FC 2017 Combined Averages were Bowskill & Gascoigne. Mike Lakin in this article puts the spotlight on the Club Champions loft performances.

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The partnership of Davies & Coombes have achieved phenomenal success over the past three decades. Gareth Watkins revisits the partnership to report on the recent loft National performances.

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Peter Jansen has yet again started the season in fantastic fashion. Jack Van Eck takes a look at his impressive start.

Jelle Roziers

‘Queen L’ Rules!

Part 2 • by *Silvio Mattacchione BA MA*

The more I researched and communicated with fanciers worldwide the more I was fascinated to discover that without exception all of the people I contacted loved the ‘Queen L’ line but they all were, to a man taken, with Jelle’s pursuit of excellence, his uncompromising integrity, his dedication, his openness to learning new ways, new methods, new approaches, his humility, and finally his total dedication to family, Jelle, they all had concluded was the real deal, just an wonderfully honest and engaging young family man who when it came to his pigeons was without a doubt an old soul. No pompousness, no chest beating, no braggadocio just a wholesome young man at the very top of his game in the world’s most competitive racing pigeon venue.

Tony Melucci 25th January 2018

I took the opportunity to call Tony in Florida and was delighted to speak to him as I had not seen Tony personally since the fall of 1995. In 1993 Tony drove to Toronto to deliver several gift birds to the Toronto Sick Kids Charity Auction that I undertook founded and hosted at the five star, Toronto Hilton Hotel. Through his generosity and those of other great American fanciers (Horst Hackemer, Bob Kinney, and others) we donated all of the proceeds to the hospital. Tony is rightly called in many circles ‘The Chairman of The Board’. He is a gentleman, now in his 90th year and the reality is that he was and respected across Europe by the very best of the best and still is. I have enormous respect for Tony Melucci and in that regard I called to seek insight into a young Belgian fancier Jelle Roziers. Tony knows pigeons and he knows people, so what he says herein is important to take note of.

“Without question Jelle is a star, a young family man with an incredible future ahead of him. He will be a star, and his star will keep rising for a very, very long time. His future, I predict will be a great one and Jelle will one day be rated amongst the greats of our sport. I am so pleased to know him and to consider him a friend. Jelle is kind hearted person and an outstanding young man. Though, a young man his expertise with his birds is certainly that of an old soul. Jelle has incredible technical expertise in the preparation of his racing pigeons to successfully compete in top National races, but beyond this he has true insight into what constitutes a superior racing pigeon and how then to propagate that superiority through the generations. There is no doubt that Jelle’s ‘Queen L’ is the matriarch of a truly pre-potent maternal line that is set to affect the future of every fancier that has been fortunate enough to acquire descendants of this unique foundation hen. The crossing of this unique genetic package with the Houben genetics



Tony Melucci and Jelle Roziers in a 2013 visit to Belgium. Jelle has learned a great deal from Tony and continues to do so to this day. Jelle Roziers is a lifetime learner that listens so very carefully always interested in learning new methods or new approaches that he can successfully implement in Belgium.

was an inspired move that, I believe, will impact our sport for generations” – Tony Melucci personal communication.

Bill Weima, Guelph, Ontario Canada

“Anyone who follows the success of Jelle Roziers in Belgium and Geert Kolvenbag here in North America can see the value of the ‘Queen L’ family. In April I spent a week in Belgium with Jelle Roziers. It was a real treat to visit Jelle and handle his superb family of pigeons. I was very impressed to say the least. This year Jelle had an amazing season winning the first National race against 38,000 young birds in a release that included yearling and old birds totaling 52,000 birds. Jelle’s bird ‘Gust’ was



Canadian Bill Weima on his 2017 visit to Jelle Roziers, an eye opening experience, and Bill will be returning in 2018 to watch some of the National races in person.

the fastest of them all! Could it get any better than this? Yes it can and did with Jelle also winning the National Ace Bird of All Belgium and this was with a different bird he has since named 'New Queen L'. As luck would have it I have a brother to 'New Queen L' and he was in fact a gift from Jelle that came with the 'Brother Jolie L' that I purchased in the PIPA season finale. What luck! A full brother to the National ace young bird of Belgium. Now we talk about our super '770'. She was the best record racing hen that we have ever flown here at Silvercreek. She is a fantastic specimen as well. Her father is a seriously inbred 'Hercules' cock (six times) and her dam is our 'Gigi'. 'Gigi' was also a gift from our good friend Geert Kolvenbag and is one of what have become the famous three sisters. They are daughters of the super



breeding hen 'Jolie L' and are inbred to 'Queen L' herself. Geert has also had an amazing year in the one loft races and 'Jolie L' and her children are the source of it all. 'Gigi' also is the dam of our '884' who in turn bred the 4th place bird in the recent AU convention race". and it has given me great pleasure." – Bill Weima personal communication.

Sam Younan, Chicago, USA

Sam Younan may have been one of the very first fanciers in the USA to purchase Jelle Roziers pigeons and he is no stranger to winning but the Roziers pigeons are in a class all of their own.

Sam Younan – *"It's really very incredible as very few Roziers pigeons were sold in the USA yet they have all done very well."*

Gutierrez in New Mexico purchased a bird. First year I got them I bred a bird that scored three times in the Windy City. Sam crossed them successfully with HVR and he said that Geert also crossed them with HVR.

"I bought three birds from Jelle Rosier in 2010. In 2011 breeding I flew the young bird special race called Windy City 357 miles to me. Had three birds from Jelle on team, two birds were on my first drop, which I was 1st-9th place. AU 2011 WCC 565 was 6th place, AU 2011 WCC 653 was 8th place. The following week ship the third one to Open race 367 miles won 1st place. Young Bird 2012 won 4th place in special race 300 miles only entered one bird from Rozier AU 2012 CICIO 57; Old Bird 2013 AU 2012 CICIO 57 went to win AU Hall of Fame 6th place in the whole country, flew nine races. Old Bird 2014 AU 2012 CICIO 57 flew five races, he became 5th place in the Hall of Fame. Also the other birds from Rozier 2012 that were on the team contributed to winning 3rd Vhampion lofts in Chicago Combine. 2016 Old Bird AU 2015 YOUNAN 51 was 3rd equal 1st on very tough 150 mile race. 2017 Young Bird won Big Andy's One Loft race. Final race: 10th place AU 2016 MARIO 397. Nest Mate AU 2016 MARIO 398 won 31st place in South Africa. 2017 12 different states competing from Topeka, KS: Old Bird AU 2015 YOUNAN 51 on 400 miles;



Original Jelle Roziers cock named 'Gypsy King', purchased in 2010 by Sam Younan of Chicago. He is grandson of 'Queen L'. 'Gypsy King' at eight years old has a fantastic breeding record of producing winners including two Hall of Fame winners and 9 Chicago Combine Champions.



'Gigi' bred by Geert Kolvenbag, owned by Bill Weima.



'770' bred and flown by Bill Weima and she was the best record racing hen ever flown at Silvercreek Loft.

9th place 315 miles. Also clocked on top 10 few times he was AU Hall of Fame 6th place all distance. AU 2016 CHI 1199 placed top in the Combine, went on to win 31st place all distance Hall of Fame. Also winning 3rd place in the 400 miles in the Combine. In 30th place in Midwest Classic 465 miles against 2,929 birds. AU 2016 CHI 1170 won 1st place in Combine special race 300 miles." – Sam Younan Personal communication.

Juan Gomez, Los Angeles, USA

"I'm glad to see that you're writing an article about Jelle, he is deserving of everything he has accomplished in a short amount of time. He is on top of his game as a Young Bird Champion. I first met Jelle at the 2012 U convention here in Los Angeles. We immediately struck up a friendship, at that time we decided to partner up in one loft races. At the convention there were some

global international 350 miles also first place semi-final winner 300 miles. 'Sunny Wall' is grandsire to '14 Skyline 140' that won for me the Coast to Coast \$30,000 1st place 112 lofts and 2,058 birds. Jelle birds excel at 300 to 400 miles as young birds, as proven by the birds that I have and others as well. Jelle is as a dedicated a pigeon flyer as you will find. His attention to every detail is unsurpassed, he has a relentless pursuit to be the best. Tremendous character and integrity, always can count on him for advice, he's always willing to share his knowledge on the birds" – Juan Gomez personal communication.

Roland Gutierrez of Ledet & Gutierrez, USA

"We (Ledet-Gutierrez) purchased our first pair of birds from Jelle the year we visited him and his dad on our trip to Europe, July 2012. We have purchased mostly direct but have picked up a couple of birds off of PIPA (like Alabama nestmate to Oklahoma). I fly Club, Combine, Federation, and futurities where the results exceeded my expectations in fact, just super. Yes we have the 'Queen L' lines. In fact we have mostly his old original lines ('Queen L', 'Eleanor', '005', Jessica & Houben crosses). Of course we have a son of 'Oklahoma'



Jelle with team of Roland Gutierrez and Dean Ledet.

representatives from the global international OLR in Mexico. Jelle agreed to send to some young birds to the race. Jelle proceeded to send me a cock, Belg 12-6301275 'Sunny Wall', a grandson of 'Queen L' and a son of 'Sonny Queen'. 'Sunny Queen' is the dam to 'Seven', Best young bird in seven National races 2013 for Jelle. 'Sunny Wall' proceeded to breed the 1st place final winner



Jelle with team of Roland Gutierrez and Dean Ledet.

as well as 'Oklahoma's' only sibling 'Alabama'. Jelle is an honest, truthful, hard worker and yet eager to learn more." – Roland Gutierrez personal communication.

"We purchased 99% of our Roziers direct from Jelle. We race in Club, Combine, and One Loft races. The Roziers have been real good to us since we purchased them, we have won or placed with them at all levels. They are superb pigeons an seem to cross well with our other birds. We have mainly the 'Queen L' lines. A son of 'Oklahoma', and the only sibling to 'Oklahoma', his sister 'Alabama', a son of 'Wall Street', and many more quality birds. The Roziers are performing well as breeders an the offspring of the originals are performing superb as breeders for us also. Jelle is a good friend, an honest an forthright person, a super guy!" – Dean Ledet personal communication.

Kolvenbag & Son USA

"I bought my first three Roziers pigeons in 2011 on line via an auction in Florida. I still have one of these three: The King of Kennett (brother to the King of Belgium) both grandsons from Shinji San and Queen L. Some of the history of getting Roziers birds is described in the article that was published in the RPD with the title "The Story of the Three Sisters. These famous Three Sisters were bred from Blauwe Jelle and Jolie L and therefore have 4 x Queen L in their pedigrees. Each sister bred one or more winner in their first year of breeding at three different lofts (Bill Weima, John Gutierrez and Kolvenbag & Son. I have five direct birds from Jelle – King of Kennett was bought in a Florida auction on line, Jolie L and Blauwe Jelle were bought directly at Jelle, Tulsa was bought in an auction at the AU Convention and Jupiler is a yearling that arrived just this winter came directly from Jelle. I only race in OLRs, I am not able to race from my home due to neighborhood restrictions I can list you many results. I attach the 2017 OLR results to this document as an appendix. One of the results I am very proud of is the 41st in the final 336 mile MDPR race, with only 43 day birds from 2161 birds shipped by the King of Blues, he came home in semi dark when there was thunder and lightning. This bird is a real smart bird with a lot of character. In his first year of breeding he already bred me an equal 1st 350 mile winner. Great, honest and straightforward person, always learning, during his visit he was checking out



Geert Kolvenbag & Son Thomas. One of the premier one loft racers in the USA cultivating the 'Queen L' from Jelle Roziers

what supplements I was giving, but also shared what he gives to his breeders. He is very easy to communicate with. Great fancier!" – Geert Kolvenbag personal communication

Appendix – OLR results

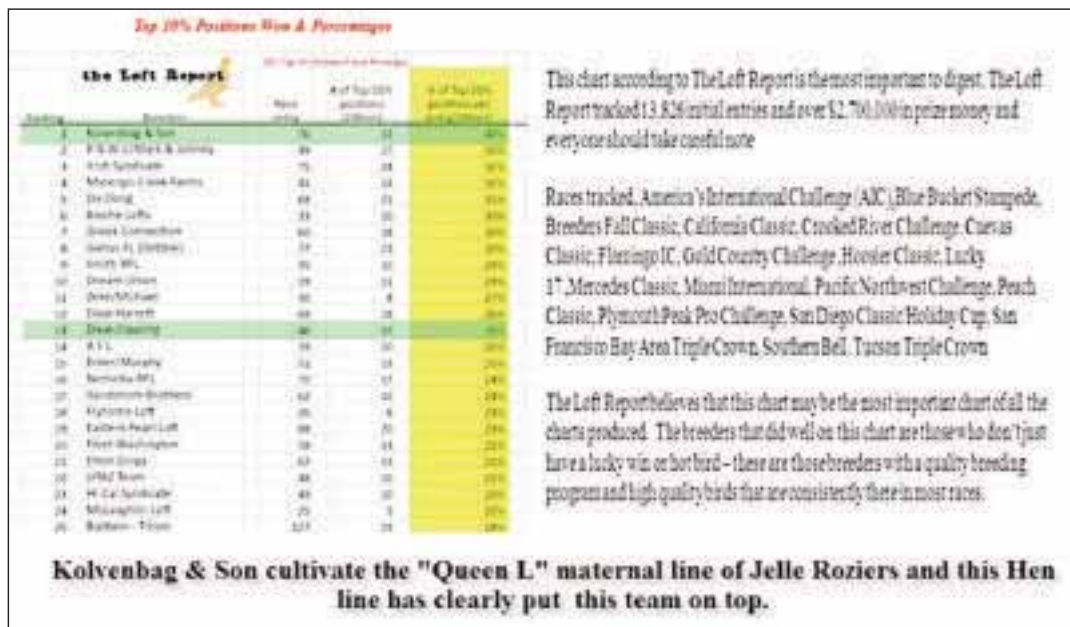
ACE Champion Birds in 2017 OLRs; Top 5% of entered birds in OLR

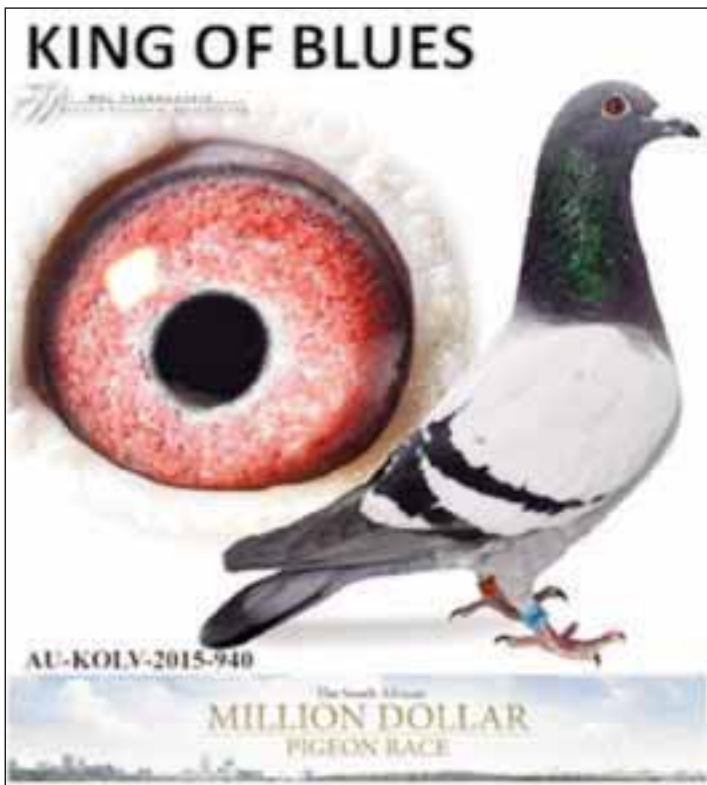
Position	Race	# Birds	Sex	Name	DOB	Parent
1	Breeders Fall Classic	448 birds	#D011252	Vague	091	Snip
4	Blue Bucket Challenge	863 birds	#D011225	Mr. Blue Sky	Leopold III	Oil Band Splash
5	Breeders Fall Classic	448 birds	#D011228	Thunder	Leopold III	Oil Band Splash
7	Mercedes Classic	425 birds	#D011254	Pais	GG	Snip
11	Blue Bucket Challenge	863 birds	#D011216	Sigma	King of Blues	Tulsa
22	Breeders Fall Classic	448 birds	#D011202			

2017 OLR results by Kolvenbag & Son

"Of the 49 top 10% positions won, 48 have 'Queen L' blood in them. Of these 46 have 'Jolie L' in them. With the arrival of 'Jolie L' a revolution has taken place in my small breeding loft. The Three Sisters, all three, produced winning young birds in their first year of breeding and the 'King of Blues' showed in the MDPR, I knew I had a good one. So decided to adjust my plan to build a loft around 'Jolie L'. I put all the children and grandchildren I had in the breeding loft. Then adhere to my principle of: 1. Breed a lot; 2. Race them all; 3. Race them all the way; 4. Select hard. I have no room to keep extras, breed for

stock or for sales. I am pure focused in breeding for OLR races. The decision to focus on Jolie L was a good one. In 2018 I have six children and nine grandchildren in the breeding loft with 18 pair. While I pay close attention to the mtDNA while choosing matings, I have also come to believe that there must be a success factor on the X chromosome that plays a role in breeding good one loft racing pigeons. In other words, 'Jolie L' is super and beyond expectation! I think that the 'Queen L' birds are very smart and are able to maintain a superb health easier than the average





Kolvenbag 'King of Blues' 2015 MDPR 4th overall, only 43 day birds, 13th Grand Averages,, 2nd US Country Challenge, 4th US Grand Averages.

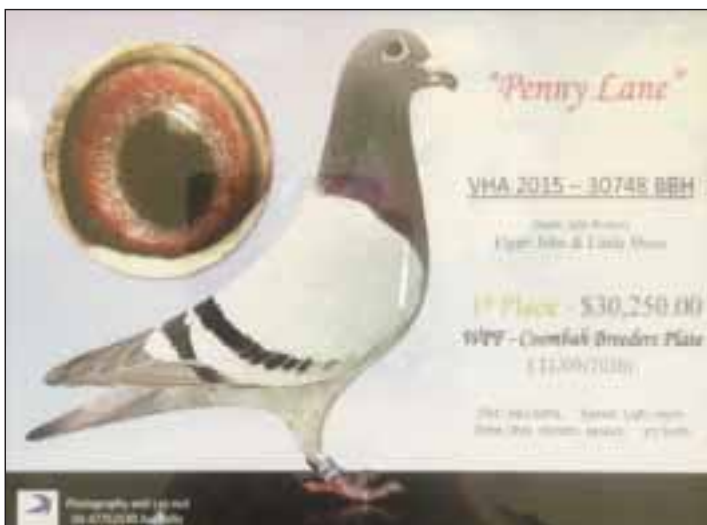
other bird. Two key factors to be successful on OLRs I think." – Geert Kolvenbag personal communication/

Norman Pottinger, Artic Loft, Yellowknife NWT, Canada

"In 2012 I bought my first hen that was bred by P&J Roziers band Belg 2010 6024129 from Fred Goodchild. this hen was bred to a Janssen cock and entered into the Edmonton Classic One Loft Race in 2013, the young hen CU 2013 1301 who scored 1st at the final. The nest mate to the 2013 winner was the grandsire to the 2016 Edmonton Classic One Loft Race winner 1st overall at the final." – Norm Pottinger personal communication.

David Hunter, Australia

"Here are three photos of birds with some of his bloodlines in them. The 1st hen was 1st Fed, The 2nd hen BCH was 6th Fed Cobar 700km only 17 birds home



David Baetens with Jelle Roziers at David's home in Belgium. Drew is the owner of The Loft Report and an avid racer and journalist and together with Joe Nemelka the originators of the Loft Report Charts tracking One Loft Race stats.

<http://theloftreport.com/the-loft-report-olr-stats-tracker-2>

on the day. The third BBH was a double Fed hen 10th Fed 400 miles and 9th Fed 350 miles" – David Hunter personal communication.

John Shore, Australia

"I sent a picture of the pigeon we call Penny Lane which won a very good money race here in Australia in 2016 (\$30,000) which is bred directly off of one of Jelle's pigeons we imported in 2014. We mated Jelle's cock bird to one of our best performing one loft race lines we call 'The Fine Blend' pigeons, they are a Houben/Gabby lines, the pair had six youngsters that year and one cock was in the top ten twice with 2,000 birds and another 15th Federation plus another hen was 10th Federation from 300 miles. 'Penny Lane's' effort is the stand out not just for the money but as we were one of the longest flyers she actually had to fly the final 60kms on her own to win by just 37 seconds and must have flown over water to make that time or she was way out in front and followed the coast line. I first heard of the Roziers when I imported a couple of birds from Luc Houben in 2012 one lovely cock bird was off of 'Luc's Comos' a son of 'Young Artiest' who was paired to a daughter of 'Queen



1st Federation winner 2016 against 2,413 birds. These birds are crossed to the Houbens.

Queen L 1st National La Soulername 16,000+ birds (Fastest against 18,000+ birds) 2004
 Near Queen L 1st National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2017
 Gust 1st Nat. Bourges 38,000+ birds (Fastest against 59,000+ birds) 2017
 Seven 1st National Ace PIPA ranking 7 national races 2013 (Father to Seven Junior)
 Seven Junior 2nd National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2016
 Oklahoma 2nd National Ace PIPA ranking 7 national races 2013 (after Seven)
 14th National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2013 (Father to Oklahoma Junior)
 Oklahoma Junior 4th National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2014
 Tempa 7th National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2016 (After loftmate)
 Beme 10th National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2017 (After loftmate)
 Helen 11th National Ace KBDB GMD Youngsters 2017 (After 2 loftmates)



August 2017 Roziers & Xiang, Itegem, Belgium – 1st National Bourges 38,455 birds. ‘Gust’ was actually the fastest of 59,243 birds. Revenge is sweet – in 2016 the Roziers & Xiang partnership lost Bourges National by 13 seconds.

L’, this was pure luck as I we were just trying to get as close to the ‘Young Artiest’ blood as we could. This pigeon we called Di Vinci and he was an instant success with his first youngsters winning good races against very good opposition. His children have also bred on so we quickly worked out that the Rozier birds put something extra into the Houben’s and once we researched their results it was obvious that we had to bring that blood into Australia.” – John Shore personal communication.

Ed Minvielle, USA

“I have come to know Jelle Roziers over some years now. I have visited with him in Belgium and been to his home and seen both his racing and breeding operation. I also spend time with him when he comes to the States. Jelle is a very down to earth individual. His success does not seem to have gone to his head. He is a very even keeled guy with a great sense of humour and I like him a lot, like spending time with him, and am glad to call him friend. I can tell that he is a thinker and obviously a hard worker with the birds. In 2017 while visiting him in Belgium I did purchase a pair of youngsters from a good young pair in his breeding loft. I just got the two birds about two weeks ago and they are very nice. I am very pleased with them. I was extremely impressed with Jelle’s birds when I visited him in February of 2017 and he showed me a good number of his breeders. My impression at the time was that he had one of the most impressive groups of birds I have seen in Belgium in some years. It is no wonder to me that he is having such great success in the race.” – Ed Minvielle, Personal correspondence.

Jelle Roziers has been visiting the United States regularly since I believe 2011. He attends the American Conventions and tours lofts across the USA both big and small operations. He is always searching to improve, and wisdom can be found everywhere, you just need to look and more important listen. Jelle loves America and Americans and has given the American flag a place of honor in his home. The

above displayed American Flag was actually flown over the United States Capitol at the request of The Honorable Lisa Murkowski United States Senator and this flag was flown to commemorate the friendship of Jelle Roziers and Drew Lesofski.

There are so very many successful fanciers that have Jelle Roziers pigeons that could have been included in this article, but it would have required a book to do so, a few that quickly come to mind are: Michael Steele of the UK, Marek Trazaska of Poland, Gero & Evelin Dijk of Holland, Peter Rembrechts of Holland, Peter Alisher of Germany, Peral Javier of Spain, Eric Alvarez of the USA, Richard Pearrino of the USA, Andy Laranzakis of the USA, John Marles of the USA and so many more. All of the above referenced fanciers are fierce competitors always seeking to improve their odds of winning and they have sourced ‘Queen L’ genetics to assist them in their efforts to top the race sheets weekly.

The most important photo of all is of Jelle Roziers the man who developed a family of world class racing pigeons, but more a man who takes the time to work hard to cultivate a very happy family with a world class mother and father and three lovely children. Jelle in my eyes you are a true Champion!





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Steve Appleby's loft.

STEVE & ANNETTE APPLEBY OF ASH

I was highly delighted when I received my Three Borders Federation result for the Kingsdown race and saw my good friends, Steve & Annett Appleby, had won 1st & 2nd in the Guildford club and 1st & 7th Federation. Steve is great worker for the sport and it is always great to see one of the workers win something good at the top level.

Steve and Annette sent six pigeons to Kingsdown and clocked five birds in eight minutes. The partners won the Federation with their yearling blue hen 'Blue Diamond' and she was raced on the celebrate system, to be 52ymp in front of the next pigeon in the Guildford club. She was very consistent racing as a young bird and was bred from Dave

Waterhouse stock birds. One minute after clocking 'Blue Diamond' from Kingsdown, Steve got his good yearling blue pied cock, 'Sky Master' and he recorded 2nd Club, 7th Federation. He was bred from a Dave Waterhouse hen and a gift Gaby Vandenneele cock from Steve's pigeon fancier neighbour, Russell Ayres. This game cock also won 1st Club,

Text & Photos by Keith Mott
www.keithmott.com

12th Three Borders Federation Blandford as a young bird in 2017. Steve told me, "It is good competition between Russell and me on race days, with our lofts being sited almost next to each other and both of us racing in the Guildford club." Steve and Annette are enjoying a very good 2018 racing season and another outstanding pigeon for them has been their two year old Dave Waterman blue cock, 'Blue Arrow' and he recorded 2nd Club, 12th Three Borders Federation Falaise this season.

I first met Steve Appleby about 25 years ago, when I first started convoying for the London & South East Classic Club and he was my race advisor. In that time we had some great fun working together, producing some good racing for the Classic and have become very good friends. Steve has a sound knowledge how forecasts work as he has studied meteorology for over 30 years. Stevie is the best race advisor in the sport and in recent years has taken the job to new higher level of excellence. I ask you, where would race advisory be in this country with out Steve Appleby? He has the best technology available and is 100% dedicated to producing the very best racing for the fanciers every Saturday, whether it be Federation or Classic. Steve is now race adviser for the British International Championship Club and works with the race controllers team of club President John Tyerman and committee member Mark Gilbert.

Steve only races a small team of 15 pigeons as he says the less pigeons you have the more you know about them. Steve's recent Bergerac winner was a yearling blue cock now named 'Sky Wonder' and he was a nice handling pigeon, complimented with quality feathering. He was sent as a single entry to the Bergerac race winning the Guildford club and chalking up

22nd Three Borders Federation with 584 birds competing. This was typical for the Appleby loft, send one pigeon and win the race. As a young bird 'Sky Wonder' was consistent always back to the loft within half an hour of the early pigeons and the year he won the longest race from Bergerac he was raced on the Widowhood system, and was prepared for the race by sending him to Kingsdown two weeks prior to the Bergerac race. After liberation from Kingsdown at 07:30hrs he arrived at the loft five hours later at 12.30hrs for a distance of 113 miles clapping round blowing out his crop.



Those five hours on the wing were to put him just right for Bergerac a distance of 445 miles to his loft. After that race he was then let out with the young birds every day and flew with them for a full hour not pulling out as most old birds do from a young bird batch. He was sent with the SMT Combine to Bergerac, being liberated at 06.10hrs and timed in at 18.09hrs, recording a velocity of 1090yph. He was in excellent condition on his return and appeared to have taken the race in his stride. His full brother was 73rd Open in that years L&SECC race from Tours and his half brother, 'Sky Supreme', was 27th Open in the

same race. The sire of this family of winners was a blue Janssen cock bred from gift pigeons from the late Cyril Luxton of Worplesdon. The dam of the Bergerac winner, 'Sky Wonder,' was another Janssen bred for stock from a pair of pigeons obtained from the good fancier Mick Chaplin of Woking.

Steve was born near Great Yarmouth in Norfolk and was the first in his family to keep pigeons, as his father was not a fancier. He has always liked pigeons since he was about 10 years of age and watching local fanciers race them fascinated

him. He often sat down at the bottom of his garden which overlooked a railway line and watched a local fancier who had a loft on the other side of the track exercising his team. The fancier was called Jim and gave Steve his first pigeons. Steve kept these pigeons in a disused railway carriage at the bottom of his grandfather's garden. His grandfather was a racing man but was only interested in horse racing. Steve always remembers the oil paintings of famous race horses hanging on his grandfather's living room wall. A friend of Steve's also kept racing pigeons and they used to cycle into the country, and let their pigeons

MR. & MRS. STEVE APPLEBY OF ASH



'BLUE DIAMOND'

2018: 1st TB Federation Kingsdown



'BLUE ARROW'

2018: 12th Federation Falaise



'SKY MASTER'

2018: 7th Federation Kingsdown
2017: 12th Federation Blandford



PHOTO BY KEITH MOTT
www.keithmott.com

go, to race them home. They were always beaten home by the pigeons.

Steve decided to join the Royal Marine Commandos at 18 years old and had to abandon the hobby he liked so much. His other hobby is playing chess and he was a serious chess player representing Plymouth Chess club on a number of occasions whilst serving in the Royal Marines. Obviously whilst in the Marines he was unable to keep pigeons as he was continually going abroad and he decided to become a silent partner when home on leave to learn about the sport with the aim of starting up when he completed his service. He served his apprenticeship with Stan Stout who taught him a great

deal about the sport of racing pigeons, most of which holds true today. Stan, who won 2nd Open NFC Pau, always said pigeon racing is common sense, but common sense is not so common.

After 22 years service Steve left the Royal Marines as a Colour Sergeant and settled down in Guildford, and now his job is a warrant officer with a major utility company. He soon went back to his favourite sport pigeon racing helped by Annette, his wife and daughter, Jennifer. They both take an interest in the sport and when required help out with any jobs when necessary. His first stock came from pigeons that were given to him from different local fanciers and believe it or

not the first race he won was from Dax, 520 miles with the Solent Federation when he was a member of the Ash Vale Club. Steve's first loft was a Kidby 12ft x 6ft, which looking back was inadequate and far inferior to his present one. His biggest mistake early on was failing to work his birds hard enough, and obviously they were not as fit as they should have been when entered into a race. He also found he had little success trying to breed and race at the same time.

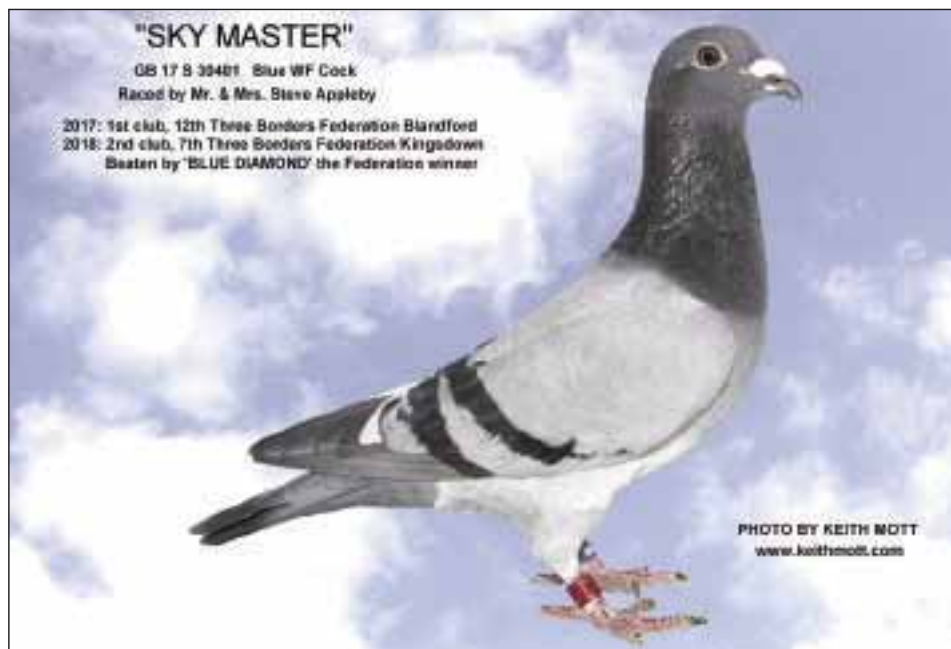
When Ash Vale was disbanded Steve raced with the Guildford club which is his club today. The club is grown in strength and the partnership of the late David May and his wife Christine were ones to beat, as

they won the Three Borders Federation three times in the 2005 season. His other club was the London & South East Classic Club, where he was a Life Vice President and committee member. Fifteen years ago Steve and his wife Annette moved from Guildford to Ash and started to race again from his new garden, and his present four section racing loft set up is a 24ft x 8ft, which includes a 2ft corridor and all clocking is on ETS. He told me he considers the most important factors when it comes to loft design is good ventilated, dryness and facing south if possible. His stock birds are housed in a very well ventilated 8ft x 6ft loft in the corner of his very well kept garden.

When Steve started in the sport the Natural system was employed but found he was not happy with it as he was not making full use of the hens while waiting for them to lay and start sitting again. Because he only keeps a small team his loft was at a distinct disadvantage not racing hens. He then changed to the

cock bird will race home just as hard to his nest box as he does to his hen. The hens will always race back to their cocks. Undoubtedly his best racers have been hens. In recent seasons Steve has raced some birds on the celebrate system,

disadvantage of racing a small team is that sometimes he can't stretch to each race, both in his club and the BICC at the same weekend. Racing a small team he can easily identify any changes in behaviour which can some times be used to his



with outstanding success. Steve keeps about eight pairs of racers which are very manageable, as he finds 16 good pigeons can just about

advantage when it comes to motivation. To do well entering just a small team gives him a great sense of achievement and usually he never enters a race unless he can be competitive.



Roundabout system as both sexes are available to race all the time. This has been a very good decision for him and has given him a fair amount of success. He believes that the

meet his requirements. He says the more pigeons you have the less you know about them and the most old birds he has sent to any old bird race have been about six. The main

When I asked Steve about the family of pigeons he raced, he said, "As you know Keith, I'm a small team man and only keep a few stock pigeons. The strain I keep and race are the Jacob Poortvliet of Holland pigeons and these were obtained from Dave Waterhouse. My good friend, Tony Adams, who is the race controller of the Solent Federation and I purchased some latebreds jointly from Dave, and these are the basis of our lofts today. David Waterhouse is well known for his outstanding performances, having won both the National Flying Club and Central Southern Classic Flying Club, and in the 2018 season won 1st Section, 11th Open Coutances with the British Barcelona Club. A fantastic pigeon racer. Tony Adams bred 1st Open CSCFC Young Birds Classic in the 2016

for Dave Waterhouse as a gesture of good will. I have only been racing the Jacob Poortvliet pigeons for a few seasons, but they are proving to be outstanding."

Steve's other position within the sport is, as I've previously written, is race advising and he is always watching the skies on his satellite system at weekends. For this reason he has named his family of pigeons mostly with the word 'Sky'. To name some of them, 'Sky Prince' was 12th Open L&SECC Nantes and won the Booker Gold Cup, as the first nominated yearling in the race, 'Sky King' won 1st SW Section, 5th Open L&SECC Vire, velocity 925, in a very hard race. At that time convoyer Doug Went on his return journey described the northerly head winds over the Channel of sledge hammer



Steve Appleby.

force. 'Sky Train' won the Three Borders Federation as a young bird from Blandford. 'Sky Girl' a yearling won 3rd Section E,


181st Open NFC Bordeaux 443 miles, in a north east wind. At that time Tom Sherwood was the man to beat in the NFC and was a tremendous National flyer, winning Section E on several occasions. On two different NFC races, one from Nantes and the other from Saintes he was just in front of Steve winning Section E. Steve's best racer was the Busscheart blue chequer hen, 'Sky Queen', never out of the first 20 in all National and Classic races she was entered. Steve told me, she was born with that natural ability to win races. She won from the word go as a young bird and never looked back recording 17th Open L&SECC Vire, velocity 885yppm, 7th Open L&SECC Angers in a north east wind, velocity 1049yppm. This wonderful hen was sent as a single entry to the Saintes National with 5,244 birds


PHOTO BY KEITH MOTT
www.keithmott.com

STEVE APPLEBY OF ASH


Telephone Number:
01252 677158

"SKY QUEEN"
THE CHAMPION RACING HEN
2nd sect E, 4th open NFC
Saintes (380 miles)
Plus other positions







"SKY BREAKER"
1st club, 4th Federation
Luhworth (2113 birds)
2nd club West Bay




"SKY SUPREME"
27th open L&SECC Tours
2nd club West Bay
Plus other positions



"SKY WONDER"
1st club, 22nd Federation
Bergerac (584 birds)
Loff's single entry



"SKY PRINCESS"
1st club, 3rd Federation
Luhworth (2180 birds)



competing. The NFC convoy was liberated in a north east wind and after 9 hours 37 minutes on the wing she was spotted racing hard over the rooftops. She folded into the loft, winning 2nd Section E, 4th Open NFC Saintes, velocity 1158 flying 380 miles.

Before it was sadly disbanded the wonderful old London Columbarian Society was one of the oldest clubs in the pigeon fraternity and reached one hundred years of age. Originally it was formed to create Wednesday racing for London area shop keepers and fanciers who had to work on a Saturday and was probably the first ever mid-week club. This old club had wonderful tradition and quality, and I'm proud to say I was Chairman and Press Officer of it for several seasons in the mid 1970's. The London Coly had a brilliant array of top quality trophies and cups, and

the 'The Brooker Gold Cup' was originally presented to the London Columbarium Society by Mr W. Brooker in the early 1900's. It was a very valuable cup, being solid gold and is now insured for £5,000. When the Coly disbanded the cup was presented to the London & South East Classic Club and was competed for each season in the Yearling Derby, and was won by the first nominated yearling recording the highest velocity. Steve Appleby first won the cup racing on the South Road from Nantes 279 miles in 1999 and his game pied cock also recording 12th Open. In 2006 the race took place from Morpeth on the North Road, a distance of 275 miles and Steve was delighted to win this cup for the second time. The Brooker Gold Cup had only been won three times before by the same fancier, Steve, Reg & Richard Maybey and Skeet & Keen, but

the Appleby loft was the only one to win this coveted award on the North Road and the South Road. His Morpeth yearling chequer hen, 'Sky Crusader', was three weeks after winning the Gold Cup turned round and sent on the South Road as a single entry to Cholet, again with the L&SECC, a distance of 289 mile. She was timed after 9 hours and 21 minutes on the wing winning recording 94th Open, velocity 947ypm in a north east wind. She was bred from a cock gifted to Steve from the late Cyril Luxton, a Guildford fancier when he retired from the sport and was paired to a hen on loan from Tony Adams of the Adams and Gilmore partnership of Fareham.

Well, I hope my readers have enjoyed this article on my ol' mate, Steve Appleby. He is a great lad and gives up a lot of his time working for our sport.

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by
**Greg
McKnight**
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“QUESTIONS & ANSWERS”

I get questions daily from fanciers around the country and some are quite interesting and my memory cells are tested to the max and I thought good reading for many of you.

Q. Just curious, I have always heard to mate different coloured eyes together but never knew why. Could you expand on that a little when you have a moment?

A. It's something that the old timers told us and without question we've carried it forward all through the years without asking why. I think in general it's the proper thing to do and establish a better stock loft overall. If you have all one color in your stock loft, I believe the gleam and colors will diminish over the generations resulting in poor performances, now if you're a good eye student then you know that the circle of correlation circle can be shaded fully or partly and even though the colors are the same in the iris the COC is different with the black shading different on the pair, with this your contrast is present and your following the rule set by the old masters.

The key in the great lofts, eyes are of

varying colors with depth and circles strong with pigment, along with movement and dilation with this your pairings become easier and your future is bright. All of this keeps your family continuing for years with success.

The old timers kept secrets from the mass of fanciers for they learned the hard way and wasn't going to make it easier for the new fellow.

Q. Why do my birds breathe with their beak open when flying around the loft, as I've treated them for respiratory medicine and don't believe the weight is a problem?

A. I can't rule out respiratory infection, but understanding you treated already with a antibiotic that may not have been sensitive to that infection, but lets say it wasn't respiratory, over the years I've found that many have a parasite and the birds have what's called an air sac mite infection and a typical cure is two drops of Ivomectin down the throat for each bird. In many cases a fever can cause an open beak when loft flying. I recommend this treatment before the season about two weeks before the first race. Now as I stated sometimes

it's not respiratory and even could be pseudo malaria and again here in S. California where the mosquitoes and pigeon flies are more prevalent a treatment with Med-Pet Primaquin is a must for a 10 day treatment off three weeks then another 10 days and continue to use a few times a week during the race season. Again I'm assuming the birds are not fat to the feel, but if so one week of just barley seed will take care of that. "I go into much more detail with the customer about his birds trying to get a better read and give him home work to view inspecting down the throat and reporting back to me".

Q. Some of my young birds just sit on the top of the roof and watch the other birds fly what can I do?

A. After you turn out the birds and you have those that want to sit on the roof and not fly, after a awhile you must chase them off, so the first thing is you shut down your landing board and board up the traps to keep them out, then go behind the loft and chase them up with a flag or rag tied to a pole, you may have to keep them up for about five minutes the first day then repeat and extend the time a little more each day, then open the landing board and traps to let them know they can come down now, remember you don't want them going over to the neighbors roof and set, so watch them and you may have a culprit in the group that will never get with it so you may have to baby train them by themselves or cull them.

Q. One of the long time fliers just had his loft burn down and I was asked what would you do to re-start your hobby after such a long time in the sport?

A. First thing is I would ask myself do I want to start completely over with a new strain of birds or try and re-purchase some of my old family. I would ask myself considering my age and health a honest question about do I want to build up a race family that takes some time or go directly into the One Loft Racing and purchase

from someone who already has a good track record in those types of races. "The one thing going for the long time experienced fancier is no one is going to pull the wool over his eyes with mediocre pigeons for you know the difference in quality" The decision is yours and you maybe so distraught with the loss you may get out of the sport, so I would re-consider flying the One Loft Races as it would be easier then building up a new family of birds to compete week to week in your backyard races and give you time for other activities.

Q. What feed to use for the breeders?

A. Wide range of grain is best about a 16% protein content and when the breeders are feeding the young at about seven days old add more peas, vetch, safflower and mung at about 30% to your base 16% mix. Increasing the protein helps promote the growing of the feathers and remember to change your grit quit often and the use of pickstones is advisable also. I sprinkle Van Hee Vita Mineral over the feed just using it dry and powder coating the grain with very good luck. When the young are removed from the nest return to the 16% with some candy seed mixed in.

Q. When do you ship birds to One Loft Races?

A. As a rule not younger than 40 days old for I've found the older the better as the young ones know how to eat and drink, also fight for their territory, in general just hold up better when shipped and at the new loft. When I move them over I give them an Ideal pill and sometimes a canker pill like Spartrix to prevent that issue. I have either garlic juice or oregano in the water containers and dunk their heads and they seem to remember that dunking. I like the smell of the water and think they remember that also. When mailed I then give them another Ideal pill and sometimes syringe with water before closing up the box, then mailed which may take a few days for arrival so I have feed in the box just in case.

Q. My birds have pox with the lesions in the mouth and eye lids what can I do?

A. If you can't get the Pox vaccine, so then follow this recommended treatment. Don't give the birds a bathe. Use CRD product Jedds code #1159 in the drinking water for 10 days, then use VBG004 Avian Solution continually until you see no more lesions, also use Jedds Flowers of Sulphur on the feed everyday at about 1tsp per 3lbs. You can purchase a product called pox dry to help with drying up the lesions by applying directly onto that area this will help with a drying up effect. Remember no baths for about six weeks. All should be good after a month or so.

Q. I have a bird with a growth on its beak and wattle can you tell me what it is?



Yes I can, its called old age like me and many of our old families had that look with age. When I was a kid many of the racing pigeons of the day were like this old fellow. By the way this bird is from the old line Van den Bosch/Janssen with Bekaert. "This picture was taken at 14 years old".

My experiences with these flying wonders is so enjoyable and rewarding for all these years with all the ups and downs of winning and figuring it out for the next race. Your learning curve is life long and your friendships cherished forever. Thank you to all the past greats of our sport teaching us some of their tricks and secrets.

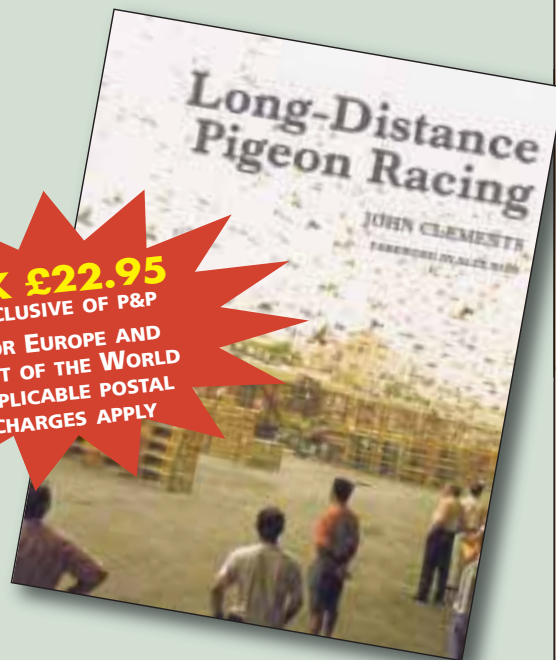
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A VISIT TO THE NATURAL BREEDING STATION



The Natural Breeding Station.

by Mike Lakin

Recently whilst in Antwerp and staying at a hotel close to the Scheemaecker Brothers famous Natural Breeding Station I decided to take advantage of one of their 'Open Days' and pay a visit.

I must admit that I believed that it was only in existence to produce and sell birds to interested fanciers in Belgium and beyond and to this end I must say it was like a massive 'who is who' of pigeon racing with virtually every major family of Belgian

based pigeons from both yester year right up to the present day. These various strains are kept separately in purpose built breeding lofts. The design is well thought out enabling birds to be well looked after but keeping cleaning and day to day maintenance to a minimum with all of the sections having food hoppers and direct water troughs and grit and minerals. Every section sits on top of deep floor grills and generous space below the grills that are under each of its spacious nest boxes.

What I found though personally to be of even greater interest to me was the new museum in honour of many of the past masters in the history of the pigeon sport. The main attraction being the Janssen Brothers front room containing all of the furniture and fittings that have been transferred from their home at the world famous address of 12 Schoolstraat Arendonk, which has been a pilgrimage for so many pigeon fanciers from countless countries. I must say that I have visited their home on several

occasions and on each visit as I stood outside the hallowed address the hairs on my neck would stand on end to think that here was the home of the most famous and historic strain of racing pigeons, the Janssens. One of, if not the biggest thrill ever was to be beckoned into the yard belonging to the brothers by the last surviving brother Louis who let us look around and he signed my copy of the famous Janssen Brothers book that was written by Ad Scharlaeckens and allowed us to take a couple of photographs with this icon of the pigeon sport. Whilst viewing this reconstituted room at the Scheemaekers breeding station brought all of these memories come flooding back. It is assembled exactly as it was at the brothers house right down to Adriaan's cap which is perched on



Inside the Janssen Brothers front room at the museum. Note Adriaan's cap on the back of the chair.



A montage of the Janssen Brothers and some of their famous pigeons.

the back of the old well-worn and world famed settee where so many visiting fanciers had their photograph taken with the brothers.

There is also a photo and the story along with a medal in memory of the heroic American wartime pigeon 'GI Joe' who saved hundreds of British Troops

lives when his 60mph dash averted the Italian town of Colvi Veccia being blown to bits by the US Airforce along with the Allies soldiers who had just driven the Germans out of the town. In appreciation 'GI Joe' was awarded the Dicken Medal by the British which is the highest honour that can be bestowed on an animal. It really is a humbling

experience to read about the many successful missions that our pigeons achieved during the wars and there are mini parachutes that were dropped behind enemy lines containing pigeons so that the people in the occupied countries could take the risky decision to inform the allies about where the German forces



A mini parachute which was used to drop pigeons behind enemy lines.



More wartime memorabilia.

were situated. These people were real heroes as death would have resulted if the enemy had known of their brave actions. There are also two mobile lofts that housed the war time messengers and when you take a peep inside them you can picture the birds in them even though it was over 70 years ago since the Second World War and a century since the 1st one finished. For anyone who

likes nostalgia I fully recommend a visit.

On the walls are framed photographs of many legends of the last century including the much fated Cattrysse Brothers with montages of their many World famous pigeons that made them the names on the lips of all long distance enthusiasts and their name lives on into the 21st

century. A huge montage and massive silver hand engraved trophy won by Gerard & Michel Van Hee the partnership that were considered to be the best in the World in the 1960's-70's. Gerard's National wins both on his own and latterly with his son Michel were truly record breaking with no less than 16 National victories between 1949 and 1982. Truly mind boggling! Ever likely their good friend the Welsh auctioneer Charlie Miller proclaimed Gerard to be the best long distance fancier that ever lived and who could really argue with him?

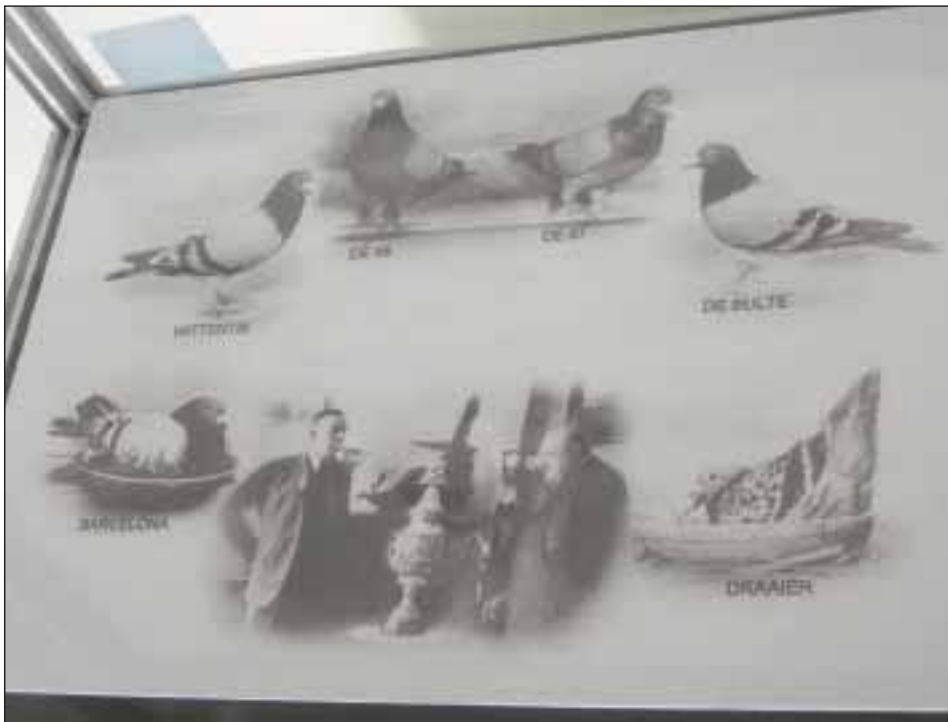
The picture though that I was most interested in was the montage of Huyskens-Van Riel with their team that simply obliterated the opposition in 1949 from Libourne 530 miles when the partners sent 14 birds to the race and they took 1-2-3-4-6-8-9-13-18-42-46-82-97 in the Provincial (458 birds) and 3-7-8-10-15-24-25-44-74-208-237-434-503 (2,331 birds) and at International level where only five birds could be nominated their team finished 4-5-15-27-565 against 2,341 birds the very cream of Western Europe.



The magnificent trophy won by G & M Van Hee in their heyday.



The fabulous Van Hee's and many of their champions photographed by Anthony Bolton without a doubt the finest ever pigeon photographer.



Some of the great pigeons raced by the incomparable Cattrysse Brothers.

when Joosen skilfully blended them with Van der Wegen marathon pigeons.

Jef van Riel in fact had been ultra-successful long before the war but had become very disenchanted because so many club's in his area including the Antwerp Union had decided to 'close their doors' to him and he was forced to race his excellent team of pigeons only in organisations where he was at a massive disadvantage and though his still flew well he fell out of love with the sport and the decision was made to sell up with the birds in the winter of 1937-38 with 60 going to Scheemaker Brothers and others to Cois Huyskens who had in fact already purchased youngsters off Jef's best pigeons. The rest I am told were consigned to the 'dining table'. Shortly after Jef was once again missing pigeons and so he was often found at Huyskens loft and in fact suggested that his friend purchase birds off Frans Nuyens of Mariaburg which was resulted in a complete round of babies being bought in 1939 when Cois Huyskens performed brilliantly. The war though brought the sport of pigeon racing in Belgium to an abrupt halt.

Please note that this was not the only wonder performance put up by the partners because for many years their pigeons were the scourge of the then mighty Antwerp Union the 'College of Belgian Middle Distance pigeon racing' when it did have a massive membership before and after the end of

hostilities post the Second World War. I have taken the trouble to read all about the partnership of Huyskens-Van Riel, mainly because my good friend Jos Joosen's colony of present day National and International winning pigeons descend down in a significant proportion from the HVR's



The Scheemaekers racing loft back in business.



The montage presented to Huyskens-Van Riel after their superlative result in the Libourne National.

As soon as Belgium was liberated after the War the partnership of Huyskens-Van Riel was formed and as Cois Huyskens had managed to keep hold of his team of birds over the years of occupation the tandem were ready from the word go. Though Jef Van Riel wasn't the most forthcoming person it is widely believed that

his birds were largely bred down from bloodlines obtained from the super fancier Vincent Marien via Van Wetteren of Antwerp and other birds came from Fierens of Deurne. The great Jos Van den Bosch of Berlaar claimed to have sold Van Riel a round of youngsters, Van Riel denied the claim but Van Den Bosch had a letter in 'black &

white' stating that the sale did in fact take place. The birds that had been introduced from Nuyens also blended brilliantly with the base family and they produced handsome birds of medium size with shining eyes that were rich in colour and muscular bodies and all in all



Freddy de Prins the studs new Loft Manager making a point.

they were birds of top class appearance which proved the old saying correct that



'T' Zotteke' ('Little Fool') a super racing pigeon for HVR.



The tribute to honour 'GI Joe'.



'Super Ben' one of the finest Barcelona birds ever owned and raced by Robert Ben.

'handsome is as handsome does' to be very accurate judging by the amazing performances of the post war Huyskens-Van Riel's.

I am told that the double decker loft which was situated in Cois Huysken's large garden was designed close to perfection being spacious and with plenty of fresh air but no drafts. For 11 years between 1945 until 1956 which must have seemed like an eternity to the competition the birds belonging to Huyskens-Van Riel terrorised the Antwerp Union and beyond before the decision was made to sell their team. The bidders at the sale dispersed birds to many countries

around the globe.

After leaving the museum I was introduced to Freddy de Prins who has recently been selected to re-introduce racing from the old Scheemaecker loft site. I must admit that I thought it rather sad when on my previous visit a couple of years earlier to see the lofts lying empty. While chatting to Freddy it was clear that he has big ambitions and plans for the future and I will watch out for the name Scheemaecker in the forthcoming years.

For anyone visiting Antwerp I can recommend a trip over to Sint Antonius but before you go there make sure that it is open.

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PIGEON CRAZY FANATICS OF MALTA

John Borg and Robert Galea

Birkirkara, Malta



Andy Trumpeter, Robert Galea, John Borg and Paul Walters.

I have always regarded myself as being a bit of an eccentric, a pigeon fancier, ferret connoisseur, collector of old bottles, walking sticks, etc. My mind will always be thinking about racing pigeons, pigeon genetics and how to breed and race champion pigeons. So when I met Robert Galea and John Borg, Birkirkara, Malta, I realised that my addiction to pigeon racing was still in its infancy, as compared to these two pigeon fanatics.

Now we all know of those pigeon fanciers who are a big fish, in a small pool, ie champion of their club, with less than a dozen fanciers, but these

guys are phenomenal, together with their racing partners, they are Champions Short Distance in the second biggest club in Malta, Birkirkara Homing Union, Club 03, with some 80 members. I repeat 80 members. Fantastic by any standards. So who are these guys?

Robert Galea is a young and dedicated fancier, who has raced pigeons for over 30 years and has always flown in this extremely competitive Birkirkara club. John Borg has raced pigeons from ten years of age, also in the Birkirkara club and was always interested in the long distance racing. In 2012, John and Robert decided to form a

by Tony Harte



The trapping system and racing loft, at the house of Robert Galea.



Pigeon Crazy – John Borg has a special car registration, Birkirkara Homing Union (Club 03).

partnership, this would help with their working hours and domestic responsibilities. In Malta you are only allowed to race a maximum of ten pigeons each race and this was not going to be enough to satisfy these fanatical fanciers, so they decided to race in a total of four separate lofts. Loft 123, Angelo & John Borg (Angelo being the name of John's son). Loft 107 (now Loft 100), Andy Trumpeter, Robert Galea & John Borg. Loft 111, Lawrence Galea (father), Robert Galea & John Borg. The first three aforementioned lofts, are all located in one property, a complete house dedicated to housing racing pigeons, located in the centre of Birkirkara. The last loft is located at

Roberts, parents house. Loft 70, Robert Galea, Andy Trumpeter & John Borg.

The house in Birkirkara, has been completely taken over and adapted for the pigeons. Lofts, 123, 111 and Loft 107 (now loft L00), plus the stock loft are located here. Completely unconventional, pigeon wise, but cosy, wind protected and well insulated thick walls. Robert has designed the lofts, individually. For example, so that the nest boxes can be taken out once breeding has finished, this creates extra space and contentment. As the partners 'fly together' in practical terms, then all lofts share the stock, as required. In Malta the losses can be quite high, eg Loft 123, started season 2016 -2017 with 115 pigeons and finished the season with 70, Loft 107, started with 65 pigeons and ended with 20, Loft 70, started with 40 and finished with 16, Loft 111, started with 55 and had 25 remaining, at the end of the season.



Robert Galea outside the loft located at his father's house.



Aerial view of how the racing and stock lofts have been created at Birkirkara.



Photo of Robert Galea with his lovely daughter, Jade, in the loft at his own house.



View of one of the racing lofts of Robert Galea & John Borg.

John Borg will usually spend around, some three hours each morning, caring for the pigeons. Anti Cocci litter is used as a floor dressing and John will clean the droppings every day. The regular contact with the pigeons has helped to make them very steady and tame. The bedrooms have been converted into racing lofts with both Robert and John coming up with innovative ideas, to provide ideal conditions for the racing pigeons. The emphasis in racing is for the short distance races, ie 60-180 miles. John will send some for the long distance, so as not to miss out waiting for the pigeons on race day.

The families kept at stock are made up of Andy Trumpeter Busschaerts, Marcelis,



Wildemeersch, Van den Pasch, Van Dyck ('Kannibal' lines), Anton Reynart, Figo, Bosman-Leekens grizzles, as well as Geerinckx and Van den Bulck, from the 'up and coming' pigeon stud, made up of Paul Walters & Darren Catterson (P & D Racing Stud). An example is that a pigeon gifted from this stud won 3rd National from 7,896 pigeons, this season.

Andy Trumpeter, silent UK partner, has provided proven stock that have been an instant success, racing in Malta and Andy is a regular visitor to Malta. Andy has also been able to give great advice and inspiration, plus Andy's links with the P & D Stud, have proved beneficial to the partners. Andy has now been in the partnership for three years and has



helped to provide some of the best stock, both for themselves and others. These have provided two, Best Bird Short Distance in the club and also Best Bird Short Distance for two other fanciers. Robert's father, Lawrence also helps out, waiting for the pigeons returning on race day.

The pigeons are raced on the Natural system (eggs only) and are loft trained for 45 minutes, early each morning and are flagged, if necessary. The pigeons in Malta are raced with young and old birds together, given one training toss from Malta, followed by some six training tosses from Gozo (20 miles), then given as many training tosses from Pozzallo, Sicily (60 miles/90km), as and when the Federation arrange them. The racing season in Malta is from mid November until mid May and the partners do not like to start training until the pigeons have completed their moult. The feeding is made up of standard depurative (a mix of Vanrobaeys, Versele Laga and Teurlings), for Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, with standard racing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. During the breeding and moulting season the pigeons are given a mix of breeding and Leigois. Supplements of grit, minerals, probiotics are also given, plus a heavier mix and condition seed for the longer races. As for medication the partners normally rely on observation and or, if results are not good then they will have them tested. Normally they will not treat routinely for cooci or respiratory, but will treat for canker on a monthly basis. The



Robert Galea demonstrating the unique method to trap the pigeons at the loft in his father's house.



View of one of the trapping entrances.

pigeons are vaccinated against paramyxovirus, paratyphoid and pox, before the racing season. The stock birds are treated before pairing, which is usually not until April, when there is more sun on the loft and also as the partners will then have more time to concentrate on the breeding. The stock pigeons are allowed to pair, 'on a love match basis'.

The success of the pigeon fanatics, Andy, John and Robert, has been outstanding and in the super strong Birkirkara Homing Union, Club 03, from some 80 members the partners achieved Loft 123, 1st place Best Fanciers Short Distance, 3rd place Overall Distance, Loft 107, 2nd place Best Fanciers Short Distance, 4th place Overall, Loft 111, 3rd place Best Fancier Short Distance, and Loft 70, 5th

place Best Fancier Short Distance, Season 2016-2017. 'Putting the icing on the cake', the partners also won Best Bird Short Distance (Old Birds) with their pigeon named 'Andy Mix' ring number Malta 03-1545-2015, 1st Best Bird Club, 1st Section A (515 members) and 4th Best Bird Short Distance National 2016-2017, flying 4,565km in two seasons. Their pigeon, Malta 03-1417-2014, won 1st National Belvedere (180 miles), from 8,070 pigeons, 2016-2017.

These fanciers eat, sleep and drink pigeons. See also the photo of John's registration number on his car, which typifies this statement. To succeed in such a hotbed of pigeon racing, you need to work hard and these fanciers deserve their success – "Malta Pigeon Fanatics!"

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Putting the spotlight on **BOWSKILL & GASCOIGNE**



The partners with
their first timer
from Ancenis.

The 2017 Midlands National Champions

by Mike Lakin

The MNFC's 2017 Combined Averages winners and so earning the title of the Club's Champions were Chris Bowskill & Steve Gascoigne of Mansfield. It will become very evident as you read about the lads and the methods employed at their 'Corner Lofts' that these are two very dedicated gentlemen and though they have limited time available every minute that is spent is used very wisely.

Let's now look in greater detail at the methods that have proved to be so successful. The partners joined forces in 2009 due in no small measure to the previously mentioned time restrictions. They race in two clubs Mansfield & Clipstone and also the Midlands National and Northern Classic.

The racing lofts are at one location and consisted of five sections with three being used for the old birds and the other two for the team of young birds. The breeders are housed at a different location due no doubt to the restrictions on space at the racing

lofts. The breeders are mainly Van Loons and Gaby Vandenabeele's with recent introductions from J P S Lofts of their Parker & Ian Stafford lines. Though the partners enjoy competing at all distances there main interest lies in the middle and long distance events and as 2017 proves they are pretty good at it.

The hens are their favourites for the longer distances and to this end they employ a team of 20 of the fairer sex which are coupled to old retired racers and stock cocks. The reason for this is to ensure that their mate is always at home awaiting their mates return. This is a belief that I totally agree with because what an anti-climax it must be for the first bird arriving back to find an empty loft. For the sprint, club races a team of 12 Widowhood cocks are used. These cocks are only allowed into their mates after they return home for approximately 30 minutes. A further team of 10 pairs of yearlings are raced on the natural system during their apprenticeship. The best are then removed on into either the cocks or hens sections at the end of the season. This is



Bowskill & Gascoigne's Corner Lofts.



Collecting their MNFC Combined Average trophies from Libby Harrison.

another thing that many of the more experienced fanciers believe in to prevent them getting over excited on the Widowhood method in their yearling stage.

Breeding

At the moment the breeders are coupled in mid-December and the racers at the back end of January. That said the lads are wondering in view of the current sparrowhawk situation whether it is really worth the trouble of pairing up in the winter. This is another topic that a growing number are in total agreement with. Already this year the loft has been hit by peregrines with four birds going AWOL during the first two weeks of exercising this coming season.



Bowskill & Gascoigne show off two of their star birds, with Steve's grandchildren Harry and Maizey.



The 'Champions' with their full haul of MNFC trophies.

Training & Exercise

The race teams are exercised for 45 minutes each twice a day but when the birds are road trained that day's home exercise is cancelled.

Medication

On the subject of medication the birds are vaccinated against paramyxovirus and treated against worms, canker and coli at the beginning of the season. They are then treated against canker and respiratory problems prior to the Channel race season.

Feeding The birds are fed a mixture of Allround mix, Gerry Plus, pellets and conditioning seeds. Which hand mixed and vary depending on both weather conditions

and the distances to be flown. The sprint cocks receive a measured amount while the hens can eat as much as they want at feeding time though any leftovers are removed. At the end of the season the inmates are fed moulting mix and plenty of seed and extra linseed.

Young birds

The youngsters are put on the darkness system until the middle of June. In the main they are simply raced to the perch but if some couple themselves this is in no way discouraged.

By adopting these outlined methods Chris and Steve clocked up the following results during 2017 in the MNFC

Coutances 62nd NE Section
Fougeres 14th NE Section, 68th Open
8,122 birds
Ancenis 4th NE Section, 24th Open
4.331 birds
Poitiers 4th NE Section, 32nd Open
985 birds
Vire 1st & 2nd NE Section, 24th & 46th
Open 4.027 birds
Chale 45th NE Section, 174th Open
3,901 birds
Coutances 19th NE Section, 56th Open
3,651 birds

I think that it is well worth adding that these performances were won with an average of nine birds per race.

Finally I would like to thank John Woof for his great assistance in putting this report together and to the partners for such a fine set of results during a very searching race programme.



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100 Birds
250ml £9.95

COXEDEX

Coxedex is a natural equimolar mineral feed supplement that can be added to the drinking water to help maintain the pigeons own natural management of the internal digestive balance during times of stress and 'light' pigeons.



200g £11.75

CANKEX

Cankex can be used regularly to help maintain natural crop health, particularly after a hard race, dehydration or at times of natural stress such as the breeding and moulting seasons.



100 Birds
250ml £9.95

Y40

Crop Health

Y40 can be used to help maintain the pigeons own management of the crop and digestive system. The crop is essential for temporary food storage, the start of the digestion process and the production of pigeon milk. Any stress or imbalance caused by aggravation or illness in this process can seriously upset the nutritional uptake of food and supplements.

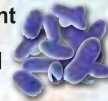


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200g £7.95

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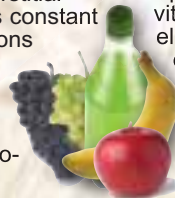


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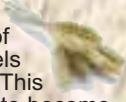
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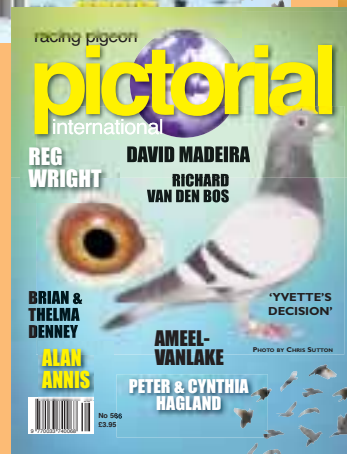


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David & Kim with two cracking Frans Zwols latebreds.

***OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES FOLLOWING THREE
DECADES OF SUCCESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL***

BY GARETH WATKINS

first visited this successful partnership a couple of years ago following on from their highly successful season's racing with the Welsh North Road Fed and National. This phenomenal success has continued right up to

the present day when, during the 2017 young bird season, the partners won a further two National races from Maidstone and Folkestone when racing with the Welsh NRNFC. As a result I contacted Kim Coombs to see if he could provide me with the partners' 2017 racing results. These are appended later in this article and are, I'm sure you will agree, quite outstanding. So we'll start this report with a recap of the loft report I completed in 2016.

The above partnership was formed in 1993 when David Davies and Kim Coombs decided to pool together their extensive experience and knowledge of the sport. In the intervening twenty three years their partnership has achieved many memorable performances including National and Combine wins and in addition many other



fanciers have also gained success with their pigeons. This fact certainly isn't surprising as the partners' knowledge of the Continental racing scene and their ability to identify the top fanciers and select the "best from the best" before they become household names is uncanny.

On a recent visit to the partners' very impressive set up I was immensely impressed with the

loft set up, the pigeons housed therein and also David and Kim's in depth knowledge of the top European fanciers, their pigeons and their families background. In short, Dave and Kim are "walking encyclopaedias" with regard to the top bloodlines available in Continental Europe.

During my visit I handled what must be one of the rarest pigeons in the UK – a magnificent chequer cock (see



Davies & Coombs' YB loft.



OB racing loft and stock loft nearest, then YB loft and at the far end the second stock loft.

photo) a direct son of the immortal Kanibaal of Dirk Van Dyke. The stock team must have cost the partners a small fortune as there were direct children of all the very best of the new sensations – the Dr Frans Zwols including children of Eagle Boy, King and Queen of Rekkem, Amor, Prince of Rekkem etc, etc. It really was a feast of superb pigeon flesh with pedigrees and physiques to match. The Zwols pigeons were all of a type, just on medium sized with good muscle development but certainly not “muscle bound” as in many sprint pigeons. In fact they handled more like middle distance 350-500 milers and I feel sure that they will do 500 miles on the day in good conditions. Almost exclusively they were blues with some being on the dirty side of smokey with slight pencilling to the feathers and excellent long wings with narrow end flights.

Also housed here, as they have been for the past 20 or so years,

are the best of the Leen Boers. I can tell you they were perfect specimens with looks and handling properties to match their prepotent ability to breed top class prize winners in successive generations.

As I mentioned in the opening paragraphs, both David and Kim have been fanciers for many years. David competed initially in partnership with his father, flying under the banner of R Davies & Son. At the same time



Son of ‘Kanibaal’ with his hen (see text).



A view inside the YB loft.



Boxes in the YB loft.

Kim flew in partnership with his good friend Robert Quirk. Kim told me that one of his earliest mentors/motivators in the sport was the late, great David (Dai) Evans of Penpedairheol, Cascade.

The partnership of Davies & Coombs was formed in 1993 and they moved to their present location in 1999 and began racing in earnest in 2003. In the years since settling at the present site they have built an extremely impressive range of lofts set around a lawned area and surrounded by trees. You would think it an idyllic setting if it wasn't for the ever present birds of prey which include sparrowhawk, goshawk and peregrine falcons. As the partners said to me "We breed around 120 youngsters each year – 80 for ourselves and 40 to feed the local birds of prey". Readers of this article who race their pigeons in other areas of the UK might well think it an exaggeration – I can assure you it is not, such is the level of predation by BOP in the South Wales Valleys.

THE LOFTS

The main racing loft is a two storey structure measuring 24 ft long by 12 ft deep. The top sections house the Widowhood cocks and hens, whilst the bottom section houses the main stock loft along with a kitchen area. The stock section is fitted out with just twelve extra large

(4ftx3ftx2ft) nest boxes and has an aviary running along the front. This has a concrete floor which is cleaned twice daily throughout the year.

Next to the main racing loft is the 55ftx12ft young bird loft and this too is fitted out with an aviary that runs the full length of the loft front.

The youngsters roost in large boxes that have grid floors incorporated for ease of management but this loft, as with all the other lofts, is cleaned from top to bottom twice each day so the impression is one of extreme cleanliness with excellent ventilation and

without a hint of dampness or "smell of pigeon".

Finally, we come to the second stock loft and this too is a substantial structure measuring some 30ftx12ft and purchased from Clydesdale Lofts. Once again an aviary has been added to the loft front and metal grids cover the concrete floor with an 18 inch gap beneath to allow the droppings to fall clear. This is cleaned out every weekend throughout the year.

The two stock lofts have accommodation for 40 pairs of stock but only 28 pairs are allowed to rear, the other twelve pairs are used as feeders. All



lofts could quite easily house double the number of pigeons currently housed so there is certainly no overcrowding problem here.

THE SYSTEM

The old bird race team usually amounts to between 30 and 40 and both cocks and hens are raced on total Widowhood. In addition, for the 2016 season, an additional 12 cocks were raced Celibate. The young bird team usually amounts to between 60 and a 100, depending upon the level of predation by the local BOP. Stock birds and racers are mated on the weekend of the Blackpool Show in mid to late January. This allows the partners to float eggs from the racers under the feeder pairs as they like to race the old birds "dry".

Once their domestic duties have been completed the racers are got into trim for racing by regular daily exercise in good weather. Once they are doing 45



Kim Coombs feeding the YB's in their aviary.

minutes voluntary exercise at each session they are then put in the training basket and ideally Dave and Kim would like them to have between six and eight trainers out to 25 miles before

the first race. However, this is not always possible because of the ever present threat from the BOP.

In the early part of the season, when the weather is often cold



Davies & Coombs' second stock loft.

and wet, they only go out once per day. Once the weather improves and warms up then they start to go out twice daily but are never forced to fly. During the season the racers may also get one or two mid week tosses depending on the weather. However, the partners are often reluctant to train as the threat from the birds of prey is now too great to risk. All thoughts are on getting the team in tip top condition for the short and middle distance National races so the work load and hopefully the fitness of the birds comes to a peak in time for these special races.

YOUNG BIRDS

These are raced on the Darkness system and at the time of my visit in mid June they had just been taken off the Darkness and were allowed normal daylight hours. When on Darkness, the youngsters are allowed an open loft apart from the times when the old birds are at exercise. This is done to try to make the babies more "street wise" to hawk attacks.

The young bird team have as many preparatory training tosses before the first race as is possible to fit in depending once again on the weather. Once



Some of the nest boxes in the second stock loft.

racing begins they are kept at it and Dave and Kim like them to have as many races as possible in the year of their birth as they have found that those youngsters that have been raced to the "bitter end" have made the best old birds in later life.

FEEDING

The stock birds are hopper fed on Starter Plus and Breeding Maxi whilst the youngsters are fed by hand on a Versele Laga mixture and the feeding stops

once three or four go to the drinker. The old bird racers are fed according to the weather on a variety of Versele Laga mixtures. If the weather is cold then they get a little more at each feed. Once racing is over and the moult completed then all birds go onto Marimans Standard Mix.

BLOODLINES

The main bloodlines housed are Leen Boers and Frans Zwols plus some Van Dyke, Van Rhijn and Olympic Stallion lines. Recent introductions have come via the outstanding Pontypool partnership of Ron Scammell and Paul Peplow as Dave and Kim have exchanged young birds with Ron and Paul in recent years. The usual practice is to inbreed and line breed individuals for the stock loft and outcross these lines for racing. Dave and Kim have, over many years, developed a very close friendship with Leen Boers and his lovely wife Thea, to such an extent that Leen and Thea have visited Dave's home on a number of occasions. Much knowledge has been passed on from Leen to the partners as well as some outstanding pigeons and the partners acknowledge the influence that Leen's advice and his pigeons have had on their



Racing cocks' nest boxes.

success. This can also be said of Frans Zwols who is in regular contact with the two Welshmen and has advised them on the best of his family bloodlines.

PERFORMANCES

There have been many great performances achieved by the partners' pigeons in recent years and probably the pick of these were:- 2003: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Club, Section and Fed Open, National & Combine Maidstone YB's 9,302 birds. 2004: 1st & 2nd Club plus 1st Section, 1st Open Fed; 1st

pleasure of racing, both Dave and Kim immediately came up with "The Taffy Bowen Sprint Trophy" winner. This trophy is awarded annually by the WHPU to the pigeon with the best series of performances in Wales in races under 300 miles. The partners' pigeon, a lovely chequer cock, achieved the following performances as a yearling during the 2004 old bird season:- 1st Club, 1st Section, 1st Fed, 1st National & 1st Combine Maidstone 14,500 birds; 1st Club, 2nd Section, 2nd Open Fed, 6th

Fed Open 1,090 birds; 2nd, 6th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th etc Open Welsh NRNFC, beaten for 1st National on a decimal point. Folkestone: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 13th Open in Fed and National with a number of other birds well up in the result. Hythe (Welsh SENFC): 22nd, 33rd, 46th etc Open.

Only a very limited race programme was undertaken with old birds as a result of persistent attacks by BOP. However, despite this, the birds achieved a highly creditable result from Ramsgate finishing at 1st & 6th Open Fed and 2nd & 5th Open Welsh NR National. The winner of 1st Open National Maidstone with young birds proved to be a pure Frans Zwols containing the bloodlines of Blue Prince and Pepsi, whilst the Folkestone National winner was bred from some new introductions of Van Rijn and Hardy Kruger.

As far as medication and the use of supplements are concerned, the partners administer Parastop against paratyphoid once the moult is finished and give the annual jab against paramyxo virus and that's about it. In their opinion it's a case of the less medication the better. With regard to supplements, Dave and Kim swear by the use of cider vinegar and Orego Stim. And that's yer lot. It was a pleasure visiting the Davies & Coombs set up and spending a couple of hours talking to the lads about their experiences in the sport. After listening to Dave recite the top continental lofts that he's visited over the past 40 or so years it's little wonder that the partnership has been so successful. Congratulations both on your well deserved successes and my thanks for letting me handle some of your superb team of birds. It was an absolute pleasure. Good luck for the future.

My thanks to Chris Sutton for the portraits of the partners' two 2017 YB National winners that accompany this report.



Large nest boxes in the Davies & Coombs stock loft.

Open National & 1st Open Combine Maidstone OB's 14,500 birds; 1st Club & 1st Fed Epsom 6,101 birds. 2006: 2nd, 3rd & 6th Open National and Combine Ramsgate with over 5,000 birds competing, losing 1st National on a decimal point; 1st National Lillers 2009; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Club, Section Fed and WNR National Maidstone. In addition the partners have been placed in the R/U berth on two occasions in National races.

This season thus far, the Davies & Coombs old bird team has topped the Fed and also topped the Section in the National to add to their already impressive list of wins. When asked about the best pigeon they had the

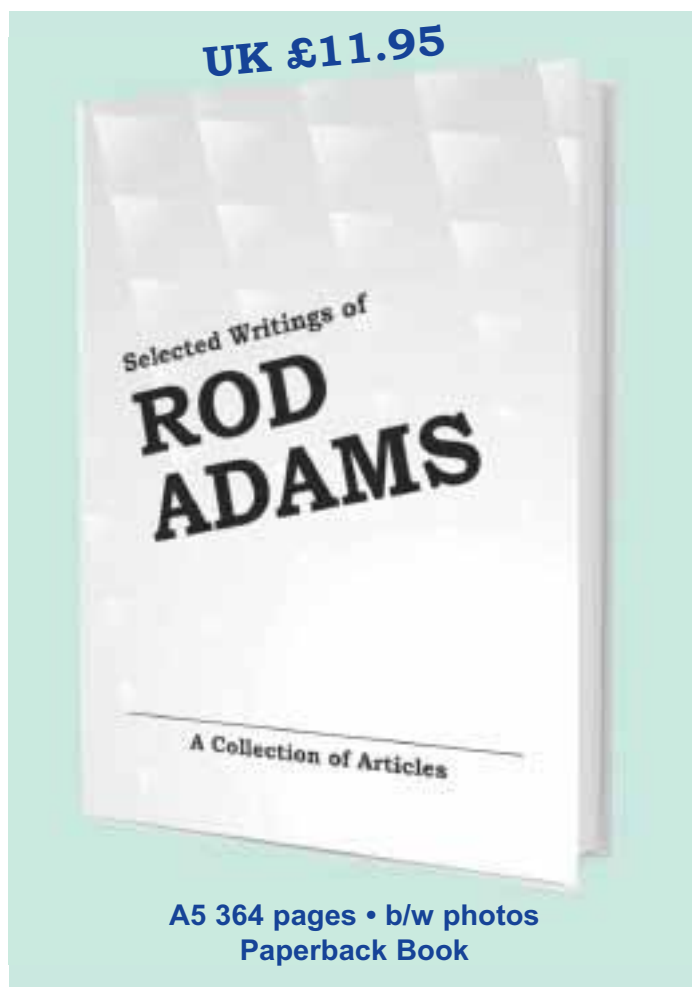
National, 6th Combine Ramsgate 12,800 birds; 2nd Club, 7th Section, 9th Open Fed, 23rd Open National & 31st Open Combine Lillers.

And so we come to the phenomenal racing results achieved by the 2017 young bird team. Newbury: 24th, 25th, 35th, 37th, 38th, 39th Open 3,036 birds. Guildford: 1st, 33rd, 34th, 36th, 39th, 40th etc 2,235 birds. Maidstone: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th etc Fed 1,304 birds; 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, etc Welsh NR National. Maidstone (Welsh SENFC): 2nd, 6th & 14th Section; 3rd, 6th & 45th Open 1,558 birds. Battle: 2nd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th etc

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Sprint racing lost out to distance racing by 1971 when he became obsessed with winning the Up North Combine from Bourges, its longest race. Pursuing this goal, and only this goal, it took him a mere 20 years to achieve it!

His chosen career was laboratory technology and he spent 42 years working in this field retiring early as Departmental Superintendent from the Physiology Department of Newcastle University in 1966 which gave him the time and money to see a bit of the world travelling around Europe, South America, South Africa and briefly to Asia in pursuit of his twin hobbies of pigeon racing and bird – watching.

Writing about pigeons and his life in general began in the early seventies in his pre-computer days for which he blames Dr Richard Asher, the father of Jane Asher. A man much admired by Rod his advice to would-be writers was to write about what they knew best, hence Rod has always written about himself and how pigeons have shaped his life and where they have led him.

Now retired from the racing scene he maintains a loft of about 30 pairs of breeders the produce of which go to others race, to one man in particular a close friend of over 60 years.

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Lee Fribbins, Editor

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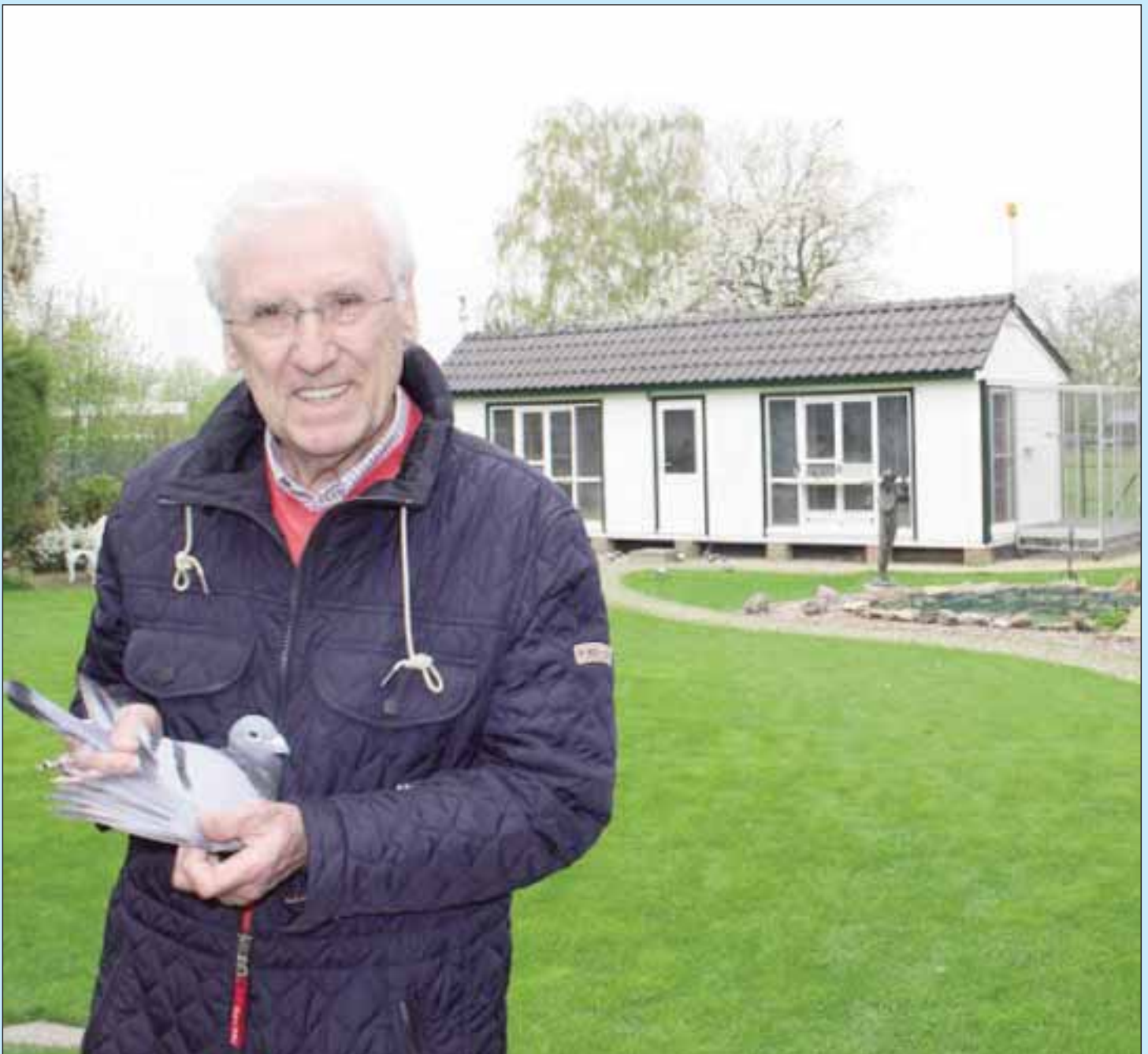
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PETER JANSSEN

(KLEVE, DE)

HAS ANOTHER FANTASTIC START TO THE EARLY SEASON

by Jack van Eck



We have the first NPO races coming up, and Peter Janssen has already made clear that he has plenty of talented birds in his racing team. He won a 1st & 3rd Charleville from 22,503 pigeons and a 3rd & 8th Laon from 20,235 pigeons, and these are just a few of several top results in recent weeks.

Peter Janssen leading the race, it is starting to become a common sight, but that does not make his achievements any less impressive. He amazes his opponents time and time again with marvellous results, and he has had some very successful races again this season. We take a look at the first six races of 2018, taking into account only his very best results.

14/04/18 Heusden-Zolder Prov 9, 138km 24,560 birds, 2-3-20-21-41-47-71-etc (34/66)
21/04/18 Bierges Prov 9, 161km 26,032 birds 1-4-9-17-18-25-32-51-53-69-etc (33/68)



NL10-1274919 'Euro Junior', a son of the renowned 'Euro'.

28/04/18 Charleville Prov 9, 249km 24,437 birds 10-35-36-56-etc (31/60)
05/05/18 Laon Prov 9, 299km 20,235 birds 3-8-35-79-81-82-etc (46/56)
12/05/18 Charleville Prov 9, 249km 22,503 birds 1-3-13-23-25-31-46-etc (37/50)

19/05/18 Chalons-en-C Prov 9 (Distr 3 cc 3) 342km 1,570 birds 1-2-3-4-5-6-9-17-18-21-30-31-36-44-55-69-72-etc (43/50)

We think there is a lot to be expected from this team in the upcoming middle distance and one day long distance races. We now take a closer look at the pigeons that have had their share in the team's most recent top results. These are just a few examples; we expect this list to become longer and longer as the season goes on.

NL15-1451880, 1st Bierges 26,032 pigeons and 3rd Laon 20,235 pigeons

The 880 won a 1st from Bierges from 26,032 pigeons, and a 3rd from Laon from 20,235 pigeons two weeks later. The sire of the 880 is 'Euro Junior', a direct son of 'Euro' of Heremans-Ceusters. 'Euro Junior' (a son of 'Euro' x 'Mysterious') follows in the footsteps of his illustrious sire here in Kleve: he is the sire of NL14-0147131, 5th National Ace Pigeon YBs NPO 2014, and of NL15-1451972 (1st Rethel 4,803 birds). The dam of the 880 is a daughter of 'Bender', winner of 7x1st prizes.



BE13-5108638 'Daughter Bender', the dam of a 5th National Ace Pigeon YBs NPO 2014.



NL16-1288821, 1st Charlesville 22,503 pigeons

The 821 has not missed a single prize this season, which means he has already six prizes to his name, including a 1st Charlesville from 22,503 pigeons. The sire of the 821 was inbred to 1st As-Vogel (D-1274-10-272). This 272 became 1st National Ace Pigeon Middle Distance in the Nitra Olympiad 2013. The dam of the 821 is a super class breeding hen and a direct daughter of 'Lord Lohengrin'. Grandfather 'Lord Lohengrin' became 1st Ace Pigeon National One Day Long Distance Fondspiegel 2013 and he won 2x1st prizes NPO in the one day long distance, along with a few other top results: 1st NPO Bourges 2013 3,073 birds; 1st NPO Salbris 2014 7,138 birds; 7th NPO Bourges 2014 5,132 birds; 19th NPO Châteauroux 2013 3,778 birds; 20th NPO Salbris 2013 5,946 birds.

NL17-1032925, 2nd Heusden-Zolder 24,560 pigeons and 4th Bierges 26,032 pigeons

The last pigeon worth taking a closer look at is the one year old hen NL17-1032925. She won a 2nd from 24,560 pigeons in the opening race from Heusden-Zolder on 14th April, as well as

a 4th from Bierges with 26,032 pigeons competing the following week. The dam of the 925 is B16-6220902, and she is a



breeding hen that comes straight from Dr F Marien (Tielen, BE). The sire of the 925 is the NL15-1451962 (from 'Best Kaasboer Son Ever'), and he is a full brother of 'Müller' (1st National Ace Pigeon Fondspiegel 2013-2015).

Breeding bird BE09-6358797 can be rightfully considered the 'Best Kaasboer Son Ever'. He is the sire of the following prize winners in Peter's breeding lofts:

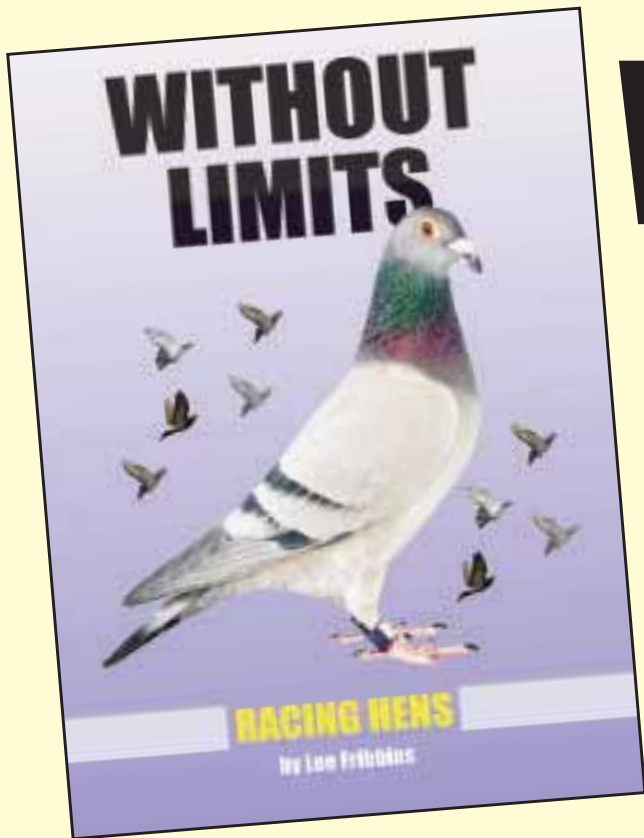
1st Ace Pigeon National One Day Long Distance Fondspiegel 2013-2015

- 1st NPO Sens 6,636 birds
- 1st Morlincourt 8,520 birds
- 1st Isnes 7,623 birds
- 2nd Laon 8,387 birds
- 2nd Sourduin 1,609 birds
- 3rd Reims 1,393 birds
- 3th Charlesville 1,374 birds
- 4th NPO Blois 4,413 birds

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