

Van Gent

Champion Morning releases 2021 of Marathon Noord introduced to readers of The Racing Pigeon

Marathon Noord is a competition in the Netherlands for fanciers with a distance further than 1030 kilometer from St Vincent. Only the first two pigeons from the entry list (assigned pigeons) count for this competition. For the midday release championship, the races St Vincent, Dax and Bergerac count. For the Morning release championship Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan count.

Marathon Noord is a fair competition. Every fancier competes with two pigeons. Further you have to register in advance. So only members can compete. In 2021 we had over 50000€ worth of prizes.

Champion Morning release 2021: R Kuijjer & Son from Maarsse

Winning this crown twice was never done before. But in 2021 Richard did it. In 2018 he was 3rd. In 2019 he won the competition. And in 2021 he won again! Even legends like Jelle Jellema, Arjan Beens, Limburg Brothers, Brugemann Brothers they did not won twice or even once.



R Kuijjer & Son.



Wim Peer with 02

This is a remarkable achievement. Richard and his dad Roel did this. They won the Morning release championship. Richard has a small loft, small team of racers but big results. It's about time we introduce him.

Richard lives in the city of Maarsse, just above Utrecht. In a small garden he has a loft of 26 feet and two small lofts for the youngsters of seven feet. In this they have room for 30 race pairs and eight breeding pairs. Father Roel had the breeders in a loft behind his home, but due to health problems he needed to stop with breeding. So Richard did some restructuring within the loft to place these breeders. He also removed some racers from the loft.

Who is Richard?

Richard is in his early 50s and has a background of competing on National level. For years he was one of the best Handball coaches in the Netherlands. He was at the top of woman's handball. In those years he



In front of the loft with the friends.



'Bikkeltje'.

already races pigeons, but five times training, a match during the weekend and travelling over 120km one way to the handball team took most of the time.

The focus is already for years on the ZLU races. These are the morning release international races. When he wants to, he also baskets the National midday releases, but this is optional. Kilometers: Barcelona 1219, Marseille 983 and Perpignan 1071.

2021

2021 was a good year for Richard, but it had its challenges. He had a major operation done on his shoulder and was not able to take care of the birds. And there was a case of bird flu in the area and he, with a lot of other fanciers, were forbidden to ship and train their birds. He or they also missed



Wim Peer with the 418.

three weeks of races. But on the night of basketing Barcelona he got word that he was allowed to basket. What to do? The birds were not prepared. He gave the four birds extra feed and peanuts and basketed them in the early Monday morning. Results were very good. International four out of four, National three out of four and he timed his second assigned first. This was a good base for the championship.

Barcelona

The hen that was his first on Barcelona has 11 flights on both sides. So she is always basketed with a full wing. She is a late bred of 2018 and was his first on Bergerac 2019. In 2020 she was within the first arrivals on Agen morning release. This hen is a product of a lot of 'Strik' lines of Ben de Kramer. From father ('Inbred Dakhaas') and mother ('Super 11je Sjaak' van de Velde, again 'Strik' lines). He timed 11:40, 14:06 and 19:24 on this race which is phenomenal.

Marseille and Perpignan

Yes...he timed the same pigeon for Marseille and Perpignan. This cock is called 'Bikkeltje'. The translation could be something like Tough Guy. This birds first race was St Vincent (81st Nat), then Marseille (115th Nat) and last Perpignan (185th Nat).

Due to the shoulder injury, Richard decided to basket St Vincent to have some entertainment during his recovery. He was not able to do anything and was a bit bored. His wife drove him to the club for basketing and his waiting was awarded by 'Bikkeltje'. Three of the six pigeons were in the prize list.

On Marseille in 09.38 in the morning, 'Bikkeltje' timed on the landing board. When it was time to basket for Perpignan, Richard consulted friends Jurrian van Amerongen and Jay Lissenberg. 'Bikkeltje' was asking to be basketed. He was in an enormous shape. He did not raise his finger to ask for basketing, but if he could, he would have. They advised him to basket 'Bikkeltje', in view of his championship and the shape he was displaying.

On Perpignan Richard timed his first bird (6th assigned) at 21.24, just before darkness. And at 02.24 at night, 'Bikkeltje' arrived in complete darkness.

'Bikkeltje' is a son of the 'Rode Barca', a top bird that already did three times Barcelona, half-brother of the 1st National Pau 2018 (Jurrian van Amerongen). Grandson of the R'ode Cramers' and of course 'Inbred Strik'. Mother of 'Bikkeltje' is a daughter of 'Super Jay' of Jay Lissenberg and 'Laura Pau', 1st international Pau 2018 (Jurrian van Amerongen) and half-sister of the 'Rode Barca'. So top lines coming from all of his close pigeon friends.

Three Musketeers

Jay Lissenberg (won Perpignan 2nd National and 1st Marathon Noord 2021), Jurrian van Amerongen (2nd National Marseille, 1st Marathon Noord) and Richard are a kind of copy of the Three Musketeers. They call each other every day during the season, they share pigeons amongst each other and sometimes some co-breeding. They keep the others on their toes, sharp and alert. They ask for advice and share secrets.

They all use products of Travipharma, specially Turbo Desinfect and Setrachol. They see that these work and in view they are natural, these do not affect the condition of the racers.

The three are already making plans for 2022. They want to make work of the automatic announcing of the racers. With this system they get on their mobile phone a message when a bird arrives. They also shared youngsters among their three out of the top birds of 2021, so that each is able to get better again.

This was for me the third time that qwe visited Richard within a few years. The rewards of hard work is paying off.

The old Ben de Kramer 'Strik' lines combined with 'refurbished' old Jan Theelen lines like 'Rode Cramers' and 'Ceasar' from Marlon Kok. With additions like the Nico Volkens lines, Van Tuyl and 'Katsu' lines he has made a modern type of Marathon pigeons. We are not surprised anymore that in the Utrecht region a lot of fanciers are in the top of the Dutch Marathon world.

Arjan van Gent