

▶ Van Gent

INTERESTING AUTUMN AND WINTER STUFF...

Itchy

I get a bit itchy when I read the following: After a thorough selection, my total sale will contain 300 pigeons in three sales and in March an extra internet sale of another 100 pigeons. What were the criteria to do this selection? I think it is more like... ohh this is not good enough but will get me big money in view of the pedigree. First we had L H from V in Belgium who sold over 500 pigeons. His health was too bad and was not able to continue with the sport. Now he has again over 30 breeding couples and he is racing again! Then we had G. de W. from B. in Belgium. Known to be a medium fancier in size he sold over 300 birds last month, and he kept two rounds of youngsters. Strong marketing and a very good internet sale company was the base of this sale. Now there is a sale going on with a lot of lies in the sale catalogue. Sentences like "Due to sad family circumstances", and "he is definitely not coming back to the sport", were there. Even sales of youngsters of 25 days were in the auction, and this also of course after a thorough selection!

I like sales which are clear and honest. For instance when a fancier is 77 years old and he sells all old birds and continues with a smaller racing team and a smaller breeding team. This man cannot handle a large race and breeding team. But still very enthusiastic about the sport and wants to keep racing. Then it is normal that there is a sale and not just playing the slot machines in Las Vegas.

Interesting reading and DVD watching

In these months I try to watch some nice pigeon related DVDs. I have a nice collection. Sometimes I check old ones and also the new ones get my attention. A Dutch company called Koerier Duivenfilms have just issued a DVD about two Barcelona winners, Jelle Jellema (1st and 3rd International winner 2014) and the Van Houten family from IJsselstein who won Barcelona in 2009. Especially the Jelle Jellema part was very educational. Jelle was, and is already known in the Netherlands as a good fancier in the marathon races. He has got a relatively simple system of keeping the birds. He is a veterinarian with a busy life. A family, with young kids, also needs attention. So his system must be simple and efficient. He explains why he made choices in his system with fundamentals to justify his choices. I will give you a breakdown of the things I found interesting.

My pigeon reading is done on the internet, two hard copy Dutch magazines. One of these

is the Natural magazine called Duifke Lucht. In this magazine are articles about our nice sport from the best of the best. They are very open and every time I have an eye opening moment. Online I read The Racing Pigeon of course and other sites with lots of news. I like reading blogs of fanciers who tell what they did in the last week or month. Sometimes you can find valuable info there as well. These months are perfect to do these kind of things. Sitting at the fireplace or just in a nice chair. Better then watching the boring football or another formatted game show.

Jelle Jellema

He races his birds on the Natural system. He starts the season off with the Widowhood system. Then he calculates for the pigeons per section when he wants to mate them. He makes sure that the first race is on 10 day eggs. When they come home, he tries to get them breeding again. When this succeeds, the birds get their next assignment on youngsters. He likes to keep his birds in the normal routine of eggs, youngsters new nest etc.

Before the season starts, he wants his pigeons to be clean. So paratyphoid treatment and inoculation. Deworming of the birds is also done. He finds it very strange that cats, dogs and cattle are dewormed every year and

pigeons are not. So he does this also before the season starts.

Because he has a very busy vet practice, he likes to keep stuff as simple as possible. He noticed that the birds on the Natural system did their training better after 9pm during the summer. So he starts training them 90 minutes before it gets dark. With a flag on the loft they train for an hour. During the day his birds can go in and out of the loft and they get a forced training late at night. When they come home from a big race they are individually "cleaned" with pills against tricho. When birds come home after a longer time then he also cleans these with pills for worms, and tricho.

He made a strain of birds that do very well in the marathon races. He has no special birds for morning releases and midday releases. Birds do these races mixed. When he thinks a bird is ready, he baskets them. He has no favourite position on the nest. Eggs, small youngsters, big youngsters and eggs, makes no difference. Hard and tough selection is the basis. Youngsters and yearlings just have to return home fit and must recover quickly. As a yearling they get one or two marathon races. When the birds are two years old they must start to get in the result list and a minimum of two in the top 10%.

He likes to test new birds, these are mated to the best of the loft. Youngsters of these cross



1e Int. Barcelona 2014 • 20.669 d.



“Kleine Jade” • NL11-1292679 Jelle Jellema - Nijverdal

NPO			Nederlandsche Postduivenbond Organisatie		
Z.L.U. Middelmeer			8 juli 2014		
1. Jelle Jellema	Nijverdal	1400 m.			
2. H. van der Grinten	Nijverdal	1440 m.			
3. Jelle Jellema	Nijverdal	1440 m.			
4. H. C. Valkema	Gergeen	1410 m.			
5. Comb. Slobbe	Utrecht	1392 m.			
6. C. J. de Heide	Nijverdal	1382 m.			
7. H. Oosterlaan	Nijverdal	1372 m.			
8. A. M. van Dijk	Honkslootdijk	1360 m.			
9. A. P. Oosterlaan	Strijen	1350 m.			
10. H. de Fries	Bent	1350 m.			

Santal duiven: 20.669
Duiven geïmporteerd: 00 jaar
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Beeld: NPO
Beeld: TV Gids Mobile Fun Geldreken

Barcelona, his reputation is becoming known abroad.

Public auctions

Internet auctions are nice, but better are the public auctions. Also when you do not want to buy anything, handling top birds is always nice to do. You can always learn from it. That's why I also try to basket the birds in the club. See, feel and handle the birds during basketing is a good thing to do. So when you have the opportunity to handle pigeons, always try to do so. If needed, make notes of birds and compare your findings with some pigeon friends. And of course during the auction, a laugh or two, a few drinks and good conversation.

Bird Flu H5N8

As you are probably aware, we have bird flu in our country and our government officials take drastic measures to try to stop the outbreaks of flu. It turns out that the spreading of this flu was caused by birds living in the wild. We are not allowed to transport birds within 10km of the farms that are infected, not allowed to bring birds together in the whole of Holland and we are not allowed to get into other lofts for instance. So a lot of winter shows were cancelled or are held in another manor. They just organize a show without birds. Also public auctions are postponed or being held outside the affected areas. The national days were also without pigeons. That was a disappointment of course. Let us hope that they can stop the outbreak of this disease.

bred pigeons are tested. When the results are good, they will get a definitive spot in the breeding loft. Better a youngster from a top bird or a co-breeding with a top bird of another fancier then a youngster from brothers or sisters or from

the parents of a top bird.

So a very interesting view of this man on our sport. He is not very well known yet, but in the Netherlands they've known of him for years. But now he's won 1st and 3rd International



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