

Hodge and Dennis Potter flying well all season but even more so towards the end, they were 2nd Club and 9th Fed with a chequer hen and they also took 3rd etc, with the added bonus of winning the fiver nom. Alan Crook and the winners took 4th & 5th.

I've saved the best till last, for the Coquetdale Fed result shows some fantastic flying at distances from 289 miles to 309 miles with the one at the top to John Mallan and John Mowbray topping off an absolutely brilliant season for them by taking every 1st on offer, including that of 1st UNC. Now this is being knocked out prior to me heading up to Chevington Drift/Alnwick to visit the lads, so it will be just a brief mention for now, but thanks to John Jackson down in Cornwall, who he and dad Clive bred this winner, I have her breeding details. She is Heremans-Ceusters bred from 'Harry' x 'Diamond Girl', 'Harry' being from 'Harris' x 'Heart of Gold'. The dam of the UNC winner is 'Diamond Girl', daughter from 'New Diamond' x 'Dark Debs', with 'New Diamond' and 'Heart of Gold' are grandparents of both the NEHU YBOY in 2022 for the two John's and now a 1st UNC winner, now is that are proper stock pair or what? The winners velocity was 1338 at a distance of 289 miles, and this Fed had others taking top UNC turns, starting with Adam Nichol at 1st Alnwick HS flying 309 miles for a 1326yppm velocity and taking 10th UNC. A friend from way back was at 1st & 2nd Alnwick HS, 3rd & 4th Fed etc Trevor Shell being that man. Malcolm Straughan being next for 5th Fed followed by the usual suspect like Trevor again, Mallan & Mowbray, John Moore, right down the line lofts that have flown well this YB season and indeed the OB season, Murphy & Son, Elliott Bros, Simpson & Son, Wilson & Gilliard but surprised to no Amble HS fliers on it. Was talking to Trevor recently, looking to visit this area soon, a bucket list entry as me and Shirley loved it when we visited the area, so fingers crossed.

Back to the top three now and Don Gudgeon and Bobby Adamson ended a good season with one at 2nd South Shields Fed, 1st Whiteleas HS on 1332, this gave them a 3rd UNC to go with a 4th UNC, and both of these are down from P & D Stud Ceusters lines. Don got these through a third party who had bought them from P&D, paid a good price for them, but couldn't do them justice so Don got them, and a 3rd and a 4th UNC have arrived from these three pairs, so certainly heading in the right direction. At 1st South Shields Fed, 1st Raglan and West Park HS on 1333 for 2nd UNC we have Martin & Ritchie Bradley (Ali Bros), this cock being absolutely chocker with all their best 'Twin' lines, lines that win at the highest level and breed birds to win at the highest level. The 'Twin' lines came about from two siblings with 8 and 9x1sts and they had 23 times Section turns between them, a truly astonishing line of pigeons, and thanks Ritchie for the info and the photo.

I've also got Section 4's top pigeons from Dave, thanks pal and take a look at the names on it, especially the top 10 on it. All bar Don and Bobby are 1st UNC winners of 1st Fut winners, and they with a 3rd and a 4th UNC, can't be far away from taking that so far elusive 1st UNC, but an absolute class list of winners, especially Fred, Dave and Albert, another top class piece of UNC flying.

Right, time to end this, as stated I'm heading up to Alnwick where the two John's plan to fly next year, so I'll refresh the photos, and sit and have a chat with them, but I'm well versed with these lads, looking forward to it. Can I end this maybe last full UNC write up with thanks to all mentioned, plus Karen for the result and Peter Bennett, a big thank you mate, ATB everyone, well most of you anyway.

BP

Van Gent

Marathon Noord is a competition in the Netherlands for fanciers with a distance further than 1030 kilometre 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, Cahors 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 2023 we had over 55000€ worth of prizes.

Jelle Jellema is the Morning Release Champion 2023 at Marathon Noord

Jelle Jellema is already for years the man to beat on the morning release races. These are the international races which are in the Netherlands organised by the ZLU.

When they start clocking birds in the south of Holland and the north of Belgium, almost everyone that follows the race are waiting for the birds from Nijverdal at Jelle Jellema's loft being clocked.



Jelle with pigeon from Agen 2022.

In 2023 the most remarkable race was Agen Yearlings. Unfortunately for Jelle this one does not count for Marathon Noord, but nevertheless in the National result list he won 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 15th, 21st, 23rd, 58th & 63rd etc, with 77 pigeons basketed, he won 48 prizes against 5,297 pigeons.

2023 was in another way also very special. Jelle's father, Ultsje' became the 2nd Champion midday release at Marathon Noord. So this is the first time that they are going to share the podium in one of the major competitions in the Netherlands!

In our competition Jelle already was the Champion Morning release in 2016, 3rd in 2015, 2nd in 2017 and 2019. So he is very well known to being on the podium. A lot of reports are already being written about his system and the fancier Jelle. Almost everyone knows that nowadays he is a professional pigeon fancier and he left his day job as a vet.

In 2023 he went back to the system of a few years back. So all the racers began their season with raising a youngster. The racers are darkened from the end of March until the end of April. You can read a newspaper in the loft, so it is not completely dark. And there are days in this period that he forgets or is unable to darken the loft in the morning. The racers also got extra light after the longest day. So the days were just as long as on the longest day. This until the basketing of Perpignan. He does

not know if this is doing anything, but he just does it.

In the beginning of May the racers got a treatment against Trichomonas.

He begun the race season with 230 racers, of which about 100 were yearlings. The pigeons are in a loft of 24 metres, which also contains the breeders and the youngsters.

The mixtures that the pigeons get are of course the mixtures that Jelle compiled for himself at Beyers. The base is Premium Jelle Jellema and the last four days before basketing the racers get Premium Jellema Power. This mixture contains more energy and is more fat rich.

He also has compiled his own Mineral Mixture with DHP Cultura. In here are only the minerals that he finds important and no stuff that only fills the containers. The Compound: Sharp stomach gravel, carbonic feed lime, anise, carbonic sea shells (sea shells, oyster shells), seaweed lime, redstone, silex, loam, yeast, calcium, phosphorus and soy protein.

Nutritional additives/trace elements: iron, manganese, copper, iodine, selenium, magnesium, biotin, vitamin, provitamin: A, D, E and C.

When the racers do their training races Jelle looks at the numbers of hours they fly and not the distance. So like in the 2023 when the pigeons have a lot of headwind, the racers do not make extreme distances but they do race the hours. Other years he went to basket somewhere in the south of Holland so that the pigeons could do 500km with one night in the basket, in 2023 he did not, because he was able to basket locally for 300-350km with a headwind.

Every week he checks the racers for Trichomoniasis. In the racing season, before basketing and when they return home. Normally spoken all pigeons that are basketed



'New Lars'.

for a marathon race are checked. But when after 70% all are ok he stops the check for that basketing. When a racer got Tricho, he gives it a Belga Magix tablet. So the racers are individually checked and if needed treated. Not the whole loft. I can be that for instance the hens have Tricho and the cocks not. They can catch it during their period in the basket for instance.

When Jelle does not know what he must do, he visit Nanne Wolff, a very good vet with a lot of pigeon knowledge.

He does not use any extra products for the health of the pigeons. No acids or other things. The water that the pigeons are getting must be clear water. Only 5-7 days a year there is something in the water, that is in the beginning of May when they get they Tricho cure.

All vaccinations are done during the winter period. Spring is for delousing and a treatment against worms.



'Indy'.

The Championship

The Championship was won by two pigeons.

From Barcelona 'Indy' was the one who collected the points. She was the 11th with SMN in the result list and was Jelle's second pigeon returning. 'Indy' is a daughter of a son of 'Snelle Jelle' x 'Annie' of Arjan Beens paired to a daughter of 'Blauwe Benno' x 'Romee'.

From Marseille 'New Lars' was the pigeon with the points. This cock is a son of 'Lars' (father: Son 'Joe Frazier' x 'Romee', mother 'New Remy' x 'Kleine Jade') paired to 'New Rena' ('Jort' x 'Rena'). 'New Lars' was Jelle's sixth racers to return and was the 6th in the result in SMN. 'New Lars' also was Jelle's first pigeon from Pau National with a 7th National.

From Perpignan it was 'Indy' again for the points. Sixth bird of Jelle to return and in the results at SMN it was 10th.

A small recap of 2023

Below is an impressive list of prizes on a National level on the Morning release races. Or all in the first top 100, or the first racers from that race.

Pau: 7th, 78th, 94th etc, 19 pigeons basketed, 11 in the prizes.

Agen JI: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 15th, 21st, 23rd, 58th & 63rd, 77 pigeons basketed 48 prizes.

Agen Old: 172nd, 297th etc, 27 pigeons basketed 13 prizes.

Barcelona: 11th, 108th etc, 42 pigeons basketed 18 prizes.

St Vincent: 6th, 80th etc, 22 pigeons basketed 6 prizes.

Marseille: 15th, 89th etc, 27 pigeons basketed 14 prizes.

Narbonne: 221st, 222nd & 240th, 62 pigeons basketed 24 prizes.

Perpignan: 6th, 8th, 18th, 23rd, 67th, 87th, 100th etc, 77 pigeons basketed 44 prizes.

At the ZLU you get a crystal trophy when you are within the first 25. If I did my calculations correct, he can collect 16 of these at the award ceremony. A 'normal' fancier is already happy with one in his whole career.

In the weeks before Barcelona, the hawk took four of the top five assigned birds for Barcelona.

The team for Perpignan is formed by racers who did Barcelona, St Vincent and Marseille as their first races.

Closing arguments

In view of Marathon Noord we are having a very special award ceremony in the last weekend of October. Then father Ultsje and son Jelle are together on the same stage. We are going to document this for future generations to witness.

Later we heard that Jelle is going to sell all his breeders, all the racers 2020 and older and all one loft breeders with the Pipa auction. I know for sure he will be performing on the same level in 2024 and beyond. The Jellema strain is so powerful and vital that he is able to do this.

Arjan van Gent