

# ▶ Van Gent

## Duo Groot-Leijen Egmond aan den Hoef wins Marathon Noord 2015 Morning liberation

Marathon Noord is a competition in the Netherlands where you can enter when you are above the district line, The Hague – Nijmegen. The whole competition is for the first two birds on your entry list. So the first two birds assigned are in the competition. For the morning liberations the races are from Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan. There is also a midday liberation competition where the races are from St Vincent, Bergerac and Cahors.

### Morning liberation competition

This competition is a very hard one. You cannot win this with one bird as it is with the midday liberation. So you must have more than one pigeon who can do the trick for you. A lot of fanciers combine Barcelona with Perpignan, but for the third race you must have another pigeon at least. So for this competition you must

not a good route for the birds. Over 300 registered for this competition and only 30 of these were able to get their first or second assigned in the result list. Only one of the 300 was able to get his first AND second assigned in the result list, that was Jay Lissenberg from Utrecht, winner of the Criterium of the Aces.

### The winners, Duo Groot-Leijen Egmond aan den Hoef

With 25th Barcelona with their 12.148670 (second assigned), 28th from Marseille with their 13.1109427 (second assigned) and 11th Perpignan with their 12.1487536 (first assigned) at the Marathon Noord result list they took the title. Second were Team Vollebregt from Wassenaar (in 2014 also 2nd place in this competition) and 3rd was Jelle Jellema from Nijverdal (last year's 1st and 3rd international Barcelona winner).

John Schoenmaker live and race here. Egmond is also the home town of the club of the Pyrenees. This is a group of marathon fanciers that have a competition and their own trailer to train their birds from Achthuizen, about 90km south. Every Saturday between mid may and early August they can train their birds at 90km. So when the pigeons are not in a race, they are training 90km.

### The lofts and the system

There is a loft in the garden for the old racers of eight metres. During the racing season they do not clean the loft. When the racing season is over, the loft is cleaned and kept clean. This is to get a nice climate in the loft during the racing season. They clean the loft during Autumn and Winter because of the humid climate in the Netherlands. Twenty two old bird pairs and 30 pairs of yearlings are on this loft.

The first races are flown just separated and then they are mated mid-April. Just before Christmas all pigeons, so racers and breeders are separated. From October till Christmas the breeding boxes are closed.

The Duo have six breeding pairs. These are mated on the same day as the flyers and from both the youngsters will go to the youngsters race loft.

The 100 youngsters first fly out of the loft after the last race Perpignan. They are in an open aviary with a roof and wind break mesh at the front. Being in an industrial area has its advantages. No neighbours who can complain. They lose a few, normally three or four. The youngsters will be trained for four or five times with the trailer of the club of the Pyrenees during September and October.

During the racing season the focus is on the old birds. They have open loft from 10 till 5 in the afternoon. Then they get fed and after 7pm they must train for an hour. Flags will be on the lofts to stimulate this. When the flags are taken down, they attack the loft to get to their nests. The loft is closed until the next morning. The racers are raced on the Natural system and on this loft their top birds are cocks. Most of the time you see with others that the hens are doing better on the Natural system, here it is the cocks who do it. Only from Narbonne do they get the hens first home.



Pé Laan presenting the flowers from Marathon Noord to Martijn and Bert.

have more than two quality and proven pigeons. These are the three hardest races because of the distance (Barcelona and Perpignan) and the route from Marseille to the North. The pigeons can take the valley of the Rhone river or they can take the coastal route. They must choose, because in the middle is the Central Massif which is

Duo Groot-Leijen consists of Martijn de Groot, Bert Leijen and Ab Stam. With the three of them they are Duo Groot-Leijen. The lofts are besides the house of Martijn in the industrial area of Egmond aan den Hoef. In Egmond is a bunch of excellent marathon fanciers. Jos Pepping used to have his lofts here, also Marcel Tromp and



### The pigeons that did the trick Barcelona (1,260 km)

The 25th on the result list of Marathon Noord was 12.1486070. He was the second assigned of the five pigeons that were basketed. He was the first bird to arrive home. This cock is a product of a joint breeding with IJs Kapteijn from Akersloot. The cock was the famous 23 of IJs, which was the 10th best pigeon of Barcelona for three years and is from his Brugemann lines. The hen was the Schuwe Philipa, the mother of the Stien of Jos Pepping. The Stien was bred by Martijn and was in 2010 the best pigeon on the midday releases of Marathon Noord over three years. This hen is a van der Wegen hen.

### Marseille (1,062 km)

The 28th on the result list of Marathon Noord from Marseille is 13.1109427 he was the second assigned of eight pigeons basketed. This cock was their second bird to arrive home. It is a Willem van der Velde (Boskoop) pigeon with a bit of Jan Roelofs in it from his Montar lines. Willem van der Velde is a wellknown Barcelona racer with Brugemann pigeons. Last year as a yearling this bird won the 399th National Marseille, and this year the 125th National Pau and now the 207th National Marseille.

### Perpignan (1,120 km)

The 11th on the result list of

Perpignan at Marathon Noord was 09.1047536, first assigned of nine birds basketed. This cock was the second bird to come home. This cock is a brother of the Stien of Jos Pepping. So a half brother of the first bird from Barcelona. The father is a Cor de Heijde van der Wegen cross bred and the mother is a van der Wegen bird. This cock already flew a 8th National St Vincent, 25th National Pau, and in 2015 a 31st National St Vincent ZLU and a 110th National Perpignan ZLU. ZLU is the organisation who run the

morning release National races in the Netherlands.

### The Advantages of a duo or trio

The competition leader Mike Freriks called Martijn at his holiday in Austria to tell him that they were the winners of this competition. In the week before Perpignan Martijn went cycling for four days with his wife and children. He can divide his time much better between running a successful building company, his family and his hobbies because he has two friends with whom he competes with the pigeons. That is the nice thing about doing this together. They share the work load and they all have time for their families and other hobbies. During the season they spend their time on observing, training, basketing and bringing the ETS and clocks to the club. They only compete in the morning release races and the National race from St Vincent (midday release).

The best result of Duo Groot-Leijjen was from St Vincent ZLU. They registered pigeons after 187 km on 08.48, 09.19, 09.24, 09.27, 09.49, and 10.03 with their 2nd, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 11th assigned and the 11th, 31st, 35th, 36th, 73rd and 100th National.

We are very happy that this competition is won by an outstanding trio with exceptional birds.

Arjan van Gent



Bert Leijen and Ab Stam with two top racers Duo Groot-Leijjen. Ab was there when the flowers were presented.

## NEW NORTH ROAD FED

On 29th August the birds at Wakefield were liberated at 7.45am into a light SW wind. The winner was Peter Tannetta, Roath on 1180. A Buttigieg Jnr & Sons, Pill Phoenix were 2nd & 3rd on 1178 and 8th on 1176. In 4th, 5th & 6th was B Davies, Homeguard on 1178. J Rogers, Ely Social was 7th on 1177 with W T & B J Paton, Ely Social 9th on 1175 and M Regan, Oakdale 10th on 1168.

At **Barry Town**, Chick, Debono & Andrews were 1st on 1113, F W Rogers was 2nd also on 1113 and Walters & Walters were 3rd on 1103. In **Ely Social**, J Rogers was 1st & 3rd on 1177 & 1142 with a chequer cock and blue hen. W T & B J Paton were 2nd on 1175 with a chequer hen. At **Homeguard**, B Davies took the top three on 1178. In **Oakdale**, M Regan was 1st & 2nd on 1168 & 1166 with peds with M Hopkins & Son in 3rd on 1098 with a grizzle cock. At **Pill Phoenix**, A Buttigieg Jnr & Sons took the top three with two on 1178 and one on 1176. In **Pontypridd**, M Rees was 1st on 1038 with H Wood 2nd on 1030 and S Dennett 3rd on 990. At **Rhymney Gwent**, P N Jones was 1st & 2nd on 1038 & 1006 with D Edwards 3rd on 1002. In **Roath**, Peter Tannetta was 1st & 2nd on 1180 & 1155 with Mr & Mrs Bridle & Son

3rd on 1139.

At **Ross**, Carl Williams was 1st & 2nd on 1107 & 1102 with chequer hens with Phillip Burford 3rd on 975 with a blue hen. In **Severn View**, Reed & Devlin were 1st on 993 with a chequer w/f hen. Ian Emms was 2nd & 3rd on 903 & 900 with a blue cock and red hen. P Coles won the money again in 6th place. At **St Albans**, Munkley & Son won the top three on 1129, 1125 & 1113. In **Trebanog**, David Davies was 1st & 3rd on 856 & 766 with blue cocks. Brian Samuel was 2nd on 810 with a chequer cock.

The Ripon birds were liberated at 11.10am into a brisk NW wind which would result in a fast race. Mr & Mrs Bridle & Son, Roath were 1st & 2nd on 1806 & 1805. A Buttigieg Jnr & Sons, Pill Phoenix were 3rd & 5th to 7th on 1802 & 1801. In 4th were Chick, Debono & Andrews, Barry Town on 1802. J Rogers, Ely was 7th & 8th with Sterio Bros & Ellaway, Homeguard 10th, all on 1801.

In the Open, Ken Darlington, Barry Town was 1st on 1793, 5th & 6th on 1779 and 8th & 9th on 1777. Peter Tannetta, Roath was 2nd on 1793 and 7th on 1778. J Rogers, Ely was 3rd & 4th on 1781 & 1780 with B Davies, Homeguard 10th on 1775. In **Barry**

**Town**, Chick, Debono & Andrews took the top three on 1802, 1800 & 1795. At **Ely Social**, J Rogers also took the top three on 1801 with a chequer and blue w/f cocks and a chequer hen. In **Homeguard**, Sterio Bros & Ellaway were 1st on 1801 and 2nd on 1800 which was also the 1st Gold Ring Scheme bird. In 3rd was S Hood on 1777 with the 2nd Gold Ring bird. At **Oakdale**, M Regan also took the top three on 1797 with a pied, 1754 with a blue pied and 1746 with a chequer, all hens.

In **Pill Phoenix**, A Buttigieg Jnr & Sons took the top three on 1802. At **Pontypridd**, M Rees was 1st on 1670 with S Dennett 2nd on 1618 and H Wood 3rd on 1566. In **Rhymney Gwent**, P N Jones also took the top three on 1651 and 5th Gold Ring, 1649 & 1648. At Roath, Mr & Mrs Bridle & Son were 1st & 2nd on 1806 & 1805 with Peter Tannetta 3rd on 1793. In **Ross**, Carl Williams was 1st & 2nd on 1541 with a red cock and 1404 with a chequer hen and Philip Burford 3rd on 1380 with a blue hen. At the **Severn View**, Rob Harrison was 1st & 2nd on 1635 & 1633 with a red and chequer. Reed & Devlin were 3rd on 1525 with a chequer pied, all hens. In **St Albans**, Munkley & Son also took the top three on 1756, 1711 & 1670. At **Trebanog**, David Davies was 1st on 1496, Brian Samuel 2nd on 1196 with Jones & Williams 3rd also on 1196, all chequer hens.

Cora Warner