

▶ Van Gent

Two Champions of Marathon Noord 2019

Combine Jan Hommes & Sons from Akersloot and R Kuijer & Son from Maarsse

Marathon Noord is a competition in the Netherlands for fanciers with a distance further than 1030 kilometres from St. Vincent. Only the first 2 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 2 pigeons. Further more you have to register in advance. So only members can compete. In 2019 we had over €45,000 worth of prizes.

combined champions of North and South Holland. In 2019 they had almost a better year. For the second year in a row champions of North Holland and combined North and South Holland. Four times within the top 10 on the marathon races and they are THE champions of the midday releases 2019 within Marathon Noord.

The Lofts

Father Jans' loft is the attic loft above the garage. He has yearlings and old birds. The lofts of Nick and Rens are in the garden. Nick has old birds and yearlings and Rens takes care of the yearlings. Together they take care of the youngsters and the



Jan Hommes & Sons.



Hommes – Bergerac.

COMBINE JAN HOMMES & SONS FROM AKERSLOOT ARE THE MIDDAY RELEASE MARATHON NOORD 2019

We are visiting the Combine Jan Hommes & Sons from Akersloot. Father Jan and his sons Nick and Rens are working with the pigeons. They had a superb season in 2018, 1st National Perigueux, 2nd International Perpignan, 1st winners of the Champions league, winners of the Cup of Flanders (1st 10 nominated on Barcelona), champions of North Holland and

breeders. They have a lot of pigeons. About 200 old bird and yearling racers. They breed somewhere around 150 youngsters for themselves. They compete on national level in all 13 marathon races. So 7 international races, 3 national midday release marathon races and 3 North-South Holland marathon races. We think that they are the best loft on all of these races. They do not specialize on international morning releases or on midday releases. Therefore they need this amount of racers. Price percentages in 2019 is 42% of which 24% 1 in 10.

2019 was the year of Jan

Father Jan recovered from a serious illness and operations during 2018. Now in 2019 he is completely healthy again and working full time. His loft was also in very good working order. For instance, the first bird from St. Vincent and the first 5 from Barcelona came from his loft. He was the main contributor to this year's results.

Some numbers

On the 3 Marathon Noord races they did as follows. All prizes named are in National Sector 2, the provinces North and South Holland. St. Vincent 29th National Sector 2, 1st assigned and first bird home. Dax 8th National Sector 2, 2nd assigned and first bird home. Bergerac 7th National Sector 2, 2nd assigned and first bird home.



Hommes – Dax.

In this report we are going to guide you through the year. With a race squad of 210 racers there is a lot of planning and standardization involved. During the winter they are also away from home a lot because all the festivities in view of their hard racing.

Season start

The new racing season starts mid November. The breeders are vaccinated with the parathyphus vaccine. The vaccination is done with a dead vaccination.

After this the breeders will be observed very closely if there are side-effects. When there are, these birds are eliminated. This vaccination is done 4 till 5 weeks before pairing the breeders.

When the weather is favourable and the guys have time, they will pair the breeders. This can be half way through December but also just before Christmas. The first 3 rounds are for their own. During these months the future yearlings are selected and divided to their future race loft so that they can get used to their environment.

In December all birds are being treated against worms. Twice with pills, 14 days apart. But these pills must be from 2 different suppliers, but always one of Belgica de Weerd. During this exercise the birds are also treated against lice with the drops and U200 spray. Of course there is a check on lice regularly during the season and if needed treated. In January the racers are vaccinated with the dead vaccination against parathyphus and they are separated.

From mid-February the racers will be trained unforced. First loft by loft to get the yearlings trained to go into the right loft. They pay a lot of attention which yearling birds are not doing this too fast. They think it is a bad sign. The racers must feel connected to their racing loft fast and need to go into their own loft. They are not forced to stay outside. This is not good for moral, health and life. When everyone is adjusted to their loft, all cocks and hens will train separately. So not longer loft by loft.

The end of March is the time that they start the forced training to build up the race condition. They start with 30 minutes. They

also pay a visit to the specialized pigeon vet. When the weather conditions are OK the racers are basketed beginning the first training race. Until they are mated halfway April, the racers are basketed for 2 or 3 times while they are separated.

When racing conditions and the condition are OK, the pigeons are basketed for 4 to 5 times during 2 weeks while they are on the eggs. So Saturday, Wednesday, Saturday, Wednesday and Saturday is the ideal scenario. The eggs will stay in the incubator. When the eggs hatch, the pigeons are basketed one at a time per couple. They scan all possibilities where they can basket. They even drive for more than 120 km to basket, the only restriction is that it is only one night in the basket/container. The first long distance race they are not basketed in the province with 2 nights in the basket, but we have an opportunity to basket in Hank, about 90 kilometers away for a 500 km race with one night in the basket. When they return from this training, they start with a cure against tricho and they visit the vet again. This is about 2 to 3 weeks before the first national race St. Vincent.

After this long distance training the pigeons are split up into teams for specific races. The yearlings and the Barcelona racers and racers that have their first race after Barcelona will get a second long distance training. After this the pigeons are almost weekly trained on 100 kilometers. A week before basketing the pigeons get their rest week. In the second part of the season the pigeons get a week for basketing and a pill against tricho. The pigeons are tossed on 50 kilometers when the weather is extremely hot and they do not train at home.

A few days after Perpignan, which is the last race, they do the selection of the birds and the yearlings will be placed on their future loft. This is midway August.



Hommes – St Vincent.

The first 2 to 3 rounds of youngsters are trained during the races for young birds. The rest of the youngsters are trained wherever this is possible. Until even late October they try to basket these youngsters to get some experience.

This concludes the year with this very successful Combine. I think this is one the top 3 lofts on marathon races in the Netherlands and probably the best that competes in all races on the Marathon, so morning and midday releases. Of course on both types of races are specialists, but not so many that compete on this high level on ALL 13 races.

Jan, Nick and Rens have a simple but effective system. They must do this in view of the size of their flog. They are not shy with introducing new strains. These are tested to the max and like this they managed to build a very divertive group of pigeons that can perform an all kind and types of races.



R Kuijer & Son.

CHAMPION MORNING RELEASE AND WINNER OF THE ACES COMPETITION 2019 TO R KUIJER & SON FROM MAARSSEN

Within Marathon Noord we have also the Aces Competition. You can win this competition if your first 2 assigned birds are in the result list. So in total 6 results (3 times 2) are added together.

Richard and his dad Roel did this. They won the Morning release championship and timed 3 times their top 2 pigeons in the top. And even better. In total they basketed 7 birds at Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan and they had 6 in the result lists. Richard has a small loft, small team of racers but big results. It's about time we introduced him.

Richard lives in the city of Maarsssen, just above Utrecht. In a small garden he has a loft of 7 metres and a small loft for the youngsters of 2 metres. In this they have room for 30 race couples and 8 breeding couples. During the winter of 2017-2018 he completely replaced his loft. He bought a secondhand loft that was 1 metre bigger and he replaced his loft. The pigeons were over 6 weeks with another fancier. During this time he adjusted his loft and early March the pigeons returned.

He had a very good year 2018 with for instance an 11th National Perpignan and a 3rd champion in or competition. In the winter of 2018-2019 he made changes to the loft, so that he had room for his breeders. The number of race couples were decreased to 30. This year was outstanding!

Who is Richard?

Richard is in his early 50s and has a background of competing at 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 already raced pigeons, but driving 5 to six times a week to training, a match during the weekend and travelling over 120 km one way to the handball team took most of his time.

The focus is already for years on the ZLU races. These are the morning release international races. Below the results of the 7 ZLU races:

Pau: 3 out of 4. Starting with the 58th National. Agen old birds: 1 out of 4, 585th National. Barcelona: 2 out of 3. Starting with the 173rd National. St Vincent: 1 out of 5. 268th National. Marseille: 3 out of 3. Starting with the 105th National. Narbonne: 2 out of 2. Starting with the 153rd National. Perpignan: 2 out of 2. Starting with the 18th National. Kilometres: Barcelona 1219, Marseille 983 and Perpignan 1071.



Kuijer - Marseille.

We concentrate in this report on the 3 races that are the races that count for these championships.

Barcelona was race number one. The Mooie Rode Cramers was his first bird to arrive at 21.12 in the evening. This red cock was 2nd assigned of the 3. Father is a son of the Rode Cramers combined with the top breeding hen 775. The son of Rode Cramers came from Pieter Woord and Louw van de Berg. The hen 775 is an inbred to the Strik of Cor Blokdijk and Ben de Kramer. This 775 is mother of more than 10 superb racers and breeders. Then, just before they went to bed, the Lielveling finds the landing board at 22.59. It is pitch dark but still she found it. Last year the 11th National on Perpignan and now home on a very hard Barcelona during darkness. They still talk about this arrival, 3 months later.

On Marseille their first bird arrived at 21.39. This hen will be one of the best Marseille birds over the last 3 years. She is a daughter of son half brother Dakhaas which was mated with a daughter of Marco x daughter Blauwe Vanoppen. At 06.13 the following morning the 2nd bird was timed with Nico Volkens and Ceasar of Marlon Kok lines.

The last race Perpignan was great again. At 10.07 the 2nd assigned was timed. This crossbred of Gerard van Tuyl x Nellie of Comb. Van Houten won the 18th National. At 11.29 their 1st assigned was timed. This hen is out of an Inbred Katsu x Ceasar of



Kuijer - Barcelona.



Kuijer – Perpignan.

Marlon Kok lines. Seven pigeons were basketed in these 3 races and 6 were timed in the final result sheet. They beat lofts in several championships that basket 4, 5, or even 6 times as many birds on these 3 races.

Facts and figures

After the Barcelona race they started tossing the racers 2 or 3 times a week. Son Youri got his driving licence and started to drive to Baarle-Nassau. They also did a few tosses in Belgium. No specific timing, sometimes early mornings, sometimes in the afternoon.

Two weeks before the basketing of Marseille the racers were tossed near Eindhoven to get them to learn the more eastern route home.

During the very hot weeks in summer 2019, the racers trained over an hour in 30 plus degrees.

Richard is not allowed to do any refurbishments to the lofts any more. His wife has hidden his tools!

He has pigeon friends that he talks to and does co-breeding with. Both sides benefit from this. Jurrian van Amerongen and Jay Lissenberg are examples.

Richard's club is the Groene Olijftak in IJsselstein. He has chosen this club because the competition is high, a lot of marathon fanciers and great facilities.

As mentioned, his first passion was handball, coaching at national top level. This dedication he now projects to his pigeons.

Richard has proven it again that you can be on national level in these races with a small loft. You need to make choices, difficult but needed.

He is very good with late bred. Last year he had a disastrous young bird season. He did some late year breeding and trained them to 30 kilometres 3 times during the winter. He basketed these late bred and on 2 and 3 nest pens, they went to Perigueux and/or Bergerac. His first pigeon to Perpignan was an October 2016 bird. You have more youngsters which do not make it, but he likes it.

This was our second visit to Richard after a good year. In 2018 we were impressed, in 2019 we were even more impressed.

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 pigeon. 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

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