

# **Jacky de Bruine (Nieuwerkerk, NL) The new Barcelona Master of the Netherlands**

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Whenever anybody thinks about long distance racing and where the elite compete and prepare their best birds for competition it is for the classic race from Barcelona. When the pigeon world hears the name “Barcelona” they think long distance champion, endurance, heart and determination, all characteristics needed for the top pigeons. These are special birds that cover extreme distances and often deal with tough circumstances with the summer heat of Europe. Barcelona champions are some of the most sought after pigeons in the world and there is a reason for that, they are special! In 2018 and 2019 Jacky de Bruine had stormed the podium for National Barcelona from the Netherlands winning 1<sup>st</sup> National in 2018 and 2<sup>nd</sup> National in 2019, an incredible feat and one that should not go unnoticed. To put up this kind of performance in back to back seasons from this classic race against the best long distance fanciers in Europe is something extremely special and so I am highlighting Mr. de Bruine for this edition.

## **Intro to Jacky de Bruine**

Jacky de Bruine lives in Nieuwerkerk in the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands and races pigeons together with his dad and their main focus is the marathon races. For a long time his dad raced pigeons in the entire race program in their club, but in 2011 when Jacky moved to his current residence they bred, raced and tested the pigeons for the marathon races.

## **Basis of his family of pigeons**

Jacky received birds from his good friend Walter vd Meulen who is also very successful in the marathon races. Walter is the one who bred the 1<sup>st</sup> National Barcelona winner of 2018 and Jacky was the one who raced him. Walter also won 1<sup>st</sup> National Bergerac in 2019 with a yearling cock, so there is definitely quality in this loft. Jacky’s family of birds is based on the old lines of Ernest, Heasoul and Wim Kooreman. Jacky sold his national winner, but still has 3 sons and a daughter in his breeding loft and is excited to see what they will produce in the future. His 2<sup>nd</sup> National Barcelona winner, “Mr. Fit Barcelona” is currently in the breeding loft and he plans to make a good mix of these lines together. When asked about racing “Mr. Fit Barcelona” again he said, no I need more of that kind of pigeon so he is for breeding only now. He can become a good tree and he hopes in the future he will produce some good apples.

## **Preparation for breeding and long distance races**

Before the breeding season starts in March the birds are vaccinated for PMV and Paratyphoid. In the middle of February Jacky goes to the vet to make sure they are clean of cocci, canker and worms. If they are ok and healthy then no treatment is given and they are paired up in March.

The first round of eggs from the breeders goes under the yearlings so that he is able to have more to try and test. When the babies are about 14-20 days old he takes the hen and one of the babies and puts them in the young bird loft and the other baby stays with the cock. When the babies are ready to be weaned by themselves then the parents are put on widowhood for training and the short distance races. Jacky chuckles and says he is much too late to compete against the “speedy boys” (short distance specialists).

When the national races begins he races the cocks on widowhood and their mate stays home and his hens he races to the nest with the cock staying home. His goal is to send the hens on 6 day old eggs or youngsters that are 6-10 days old. Both ways seem to work well for Jacky. For example, in 2018 the 1<sup>st</sup> National Barcelona winner was on 6 day old eggs and in 2019 the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Barcelona winner was a widowhood cock, his second arrival which won 26<sup>th</sup> National was a cock driving his hen and his third arrival which finished 155<sup>th</sup> National was a hen on a youngster.

His youngsters he only puts in 6 races and only up to a maximum distance of 330 km (204 miles). The yearlings are basketed every week in order to learn and put miles under their wings. They will then be entered in one or two marathon races depending on the weather. His old birds that will compete in the big national races will also enter training races, but only go a maximum of 400 km (248 miles) in these races and will enter three of these races to ensure that they get enough distance under their wings. Nine days before basketing for Barcelona the birds last training race is 130 km (80 miles). In those days before basketing, the birds are treated for 3 days with a 4 in 1 product to ensure that they go to the race clean.

### **Feeding and training**

For feeding Jacky says he uses normal seeds that are readily available in the shop to purchase. The birds are allowed to eat what they want. Hard training, good feed. Jacky uses a flag to try to get them to train an hour. He builds them up over the season from training 15 minutes up to 1 hour.

### **Top performances**

Below is a list of his best performances and these are only national results over the past 5 years:

1<sup>e</sup> Barcelona 2018

2<sup>e</sup> Barcelona 2019  
18<sup>e</sup> Marseille 2016  
26<sup>e</sup> Barcelona 2019  
34<sup>e</sup> Pau 2014  
52<sup>e</sup> Perpignan 2018  
62<sup>e</sup> Agen yearlings 2015  
68<sup>e</sup> Agen Old 2018

### **Current top pigeon of his loft**

Jacky said his top racer was “Mr. Fit Barcelona,” but he is now in the breeding loft. His favorite for Barcelona 2020 is “Laagvlieger” who won 26<sup>th</sup> National and 51<sup>st</sup> International Barcelona in 2019.

### **Goal for the future**

Jacky’s goal for the future is to win the race of all races again, National Barcelona, which is 1152 km (715 miles) for them.

### **Secret to his success**

When asked what his secret to success was, Jacky simply said, “good pigeons is the answer.” For example, in 2019 from Barcelona he entered 20 pigeons and won 11 prizes with a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> etc. National with 14 of the 20 returning home on a very, very difficult race. Only good pigeons can do this.