

Mast-Scheper Pigeons (Nieuw-Amsterdam,NL) Rising star in the north of Holland

By: Calvin Gall (Marathon Masters)

calvin.gall@mail.wlc.edu

The team of Mast-Scheper Pigeons consists of a couple, Benny and Heidi. Benny had previous success in the pigeon sport and has been involved with them since he was 10 years old. Benny flew in a partnership with the late Jan Lotterman and achieved some top results and winning several championships. The new team started in 2014 and Heidi was then introduced to the sport. Now their passion is for the marathon and ZLU (international) races, although they have not yet competed in the ZLU, this will change in 2020 as they will take the plunge. Even though the team is rather new their results continue to climb as a rising star in the north of Holland. This team also caught the eye of Dr. Carlo Gyselbrecht of Belgium and Laureaat Barcelona fame. Dr. Carlo just focuses on breeding and often supplies numerous fanciers with pigeons to test that results in some great performances and now he will provide Mast-Scheper with pigeons to test beginning this year, a big honor and recognition.

Basis of their family and how they select breeders

With a completely new start in 2014, they decided to go and get pigeons from one top loft. In the past Benny bought a youngster from Batenburg v / d Merwe and he was sold by its type and behavior. Plus, they are also able to benefit from it commercially, (to earn back on their investment) and to lay a foundation to be able to take the next step in the future and possibly become professional pigeon fanciers. Since 2014 to the present they own no fewer than 25 direct Batenburg v / d Merwe pigeons. With children and grandchildren of National and International Barcelona winners, children of 1st National Narbonne and 1st International Perpignan, along with others that have the famous "Witbuik" lines of Batenburg vd Merwe. So they have definitely a good stock loft to breed from.

When choosing what comes to the breeding loft, Benny answered it pretty simply. They must have won a 1st prize.

System they fly and preparation for the long distance races

The team begins by pairing up the birds somewhere at the end of January. Once the youngsters are + - 15 days then the hens are taken away and the youngsters are left with the cocks and maybe get 1 race out of them. Normally the cocks have to care for the youngster themselves, but because it is the start of the training program it can sometimes be too difficult for them and that is not the intention so early in the season. They only train the old pigeons + - 4 times. Our yearlings will have been in the basket about 8 times. The old hens start immediately with all training flights once the youngsters are taken away and the widowers may skip the first 2 training flights because they still have the youngsters with them. From the moment that it fits within their schedule, they will have the pigeons train twice a day.

In the morning at 5:30 the hens are released and train until around 6:30. Then at 6:30 the cocks take off and train until about 7:30. After the old birds get their training in, then the youngsters are allowed out and most of them are then back in around 4:00 PM. In the evening again the cocks are out training from 5:00 until 6:15 PM and the hens take their turn from 6:15 until 7:30 PM.

They will keep this up until 2 weeks before the first marathon race. From that moment on they will increase the training a little more to an average of 1:30 hours per training. This is to be careful that the races are not too hard. They take this into account and some hens are given rest for a while and of course also the cocks and they will train only once a day for a few days or until they see that the birds can go at it fully again with the training or they might just enter them on Friday to go along with the normal race that week as a training toss. For 2 weeks before the first marathon race, the cocks are only allowed to stay in their box and loft to get some rest and to recharge, for that they can walk through all their lofts and sit in the aviary.

When the pigeons come home from the race, they are immediately separated from each other and can immediately start their recovery from the race. This is also very important to us because a day later they go out to train again and then without a flag, but they train for an average of 30 minutes and then they are allowed to take a bath and go to their own loft to rest and recover. They chose to show the pigeons on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening and they can be together for 2 hours and have fun after they rest in their sections.

Feeding for the race season

They use the All in one from Beyers and the name of the mix they use from Beyers is the Koopman mix, which seems to be very popular for the long distance fanciers. They also feed a full tray and don't limit what the birds can get.

Loft set up

Their total loft area is 6.60 x 30 meters. They decided to have a complete polycarbonate sheet (translucent) put over the loft. In total they have room for 54 widowers and in recent years they have started with a team of + - 80 old pigeons and supplement it with 15 to 20 late youngsters that they get from their best racing pigeons every year, and have repaired them after the race season. Next year they will compete with their group of + - 30 late youngsters in a separate loft on the nest. These are youngsters from September and will get every training race next year and for a finale they will basket them on the nest for Bergerac which is 977 km.

Thoughts on medication and use of it

They use the system of Travipharma. That way they can treat the pigeons separately and prepare them individually for the races they will compete in. They will only treat the pigeon when they have something, otherwise nothing else is given medically.

Top Performances

Their first full season was in 2018 and below is a list of top 10 NPO results achieved in this short time.

- 1 NPO St. Vincent '18 'Xena'
- 2 NPO Orange '19 'Rising Star'
- 3 NPO Limoges '17 "Luna "
- 3 NPO Dax '19 'Hercules'
- 5 NPO St. Vincent '18

5 NPO Bergerac '18 'Mister Bergerac'

10 NPO Limoges '17 "Xena "

10 NPO St. Vincent '19

Current top pigeon of their loft

"Mister Bergerac" is their current best racing pigeon on the team. "Xena" was their best winning a 1st NPO St. Vincent, but she went to the breeding loft.

17-1639939 (Mister Bergerac) New Laureaat x New Witbuik x Perpignan Girl

- 18 NPO Limoges 861 km
- 16 NPO Dax 1156 km
- 50 NPO perigueux 953 km
- 72 NPO Bergerac 992 km

Championships won:

- 1st Champion Pigeon (Province 10 CC South East)
- 3rd Champion Pigeon (NIC Coevorden)
- 3rd Champion Pigeon (Department 10)
- 3rd Champion Pigeon (Northern Fond Club)

As a yearling, he was basketed twice and flew 2/2

- 5th NPO Bergerac "18
- 74th NPO Perigueux '18
- 100% Prizes flown, never missed a prize in a race he was entered

Goal for the future

When asked about their goal for the future they were quite confident and said, "Our real success is yet to come" so they are always looking to get better, a true quality for a champion fancier. They think their success will be attributed to their pigeons which show quality and determination, something that Benny thinks are the 2 most important points. They also want to produce as many chain results as possible where they put numerous pigeons at the top of the results, not just one hitting, but a group of them.

Secret to their success

When asked about their secret to success and why they are a team on the rise they mentioned the fact that they are a male and female combination which gives them the best of both worlds on their thoughts and observations and a dissipated approach.

