

Peet Solleveld (Maasdijk, NL) A long distance champion, but also a hockey fanatic!

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Peet Solleveld has been racing at a high level on the long distance races for a number of years now, but his passion is not only for racing pigeons, Peet is a huge hockey fan. He often records and watches NHL games and has even interviewed players for Dutch television. Peet even names some of his best pigeons after his favorite hockey players.

His family of pigeons and the bloodlines in his loft

The main bloodlines that Peet Solleveld has been working with for a number of years are the Jan Aarden, Braakhuis, Brasse and Florizoone lines, successfully crossing them with each other. He has recently added new pigeons to his breeding loft from Eric Limbourg, Bert Saarloos, Piet de Vogel, Paulssen and Son and Marlon Kok.

The old lines from Jan Aarden, Braakhuis and Brasse were a little too old for the modern long distance pigeon. Peet said they were not fast enough, so he decided to bring some new stuff in. So in 2001 a complete round from Mr. Roger Florizoone's breeders were brought in and that was immediate success.

Peet is a believer in linebreeding and inbreeding. He will pair father x daughter for example or uncle x niece to the main lines. His base bird is "Rooie Willem," followed by his son "Rooie Willem 2" and then the "Red Chief" etc. He will then use these to cross with different lines to breed with, but he is very selective in what he adds to the family.

The pigeons he gets from other people must be from his same line or the best there is. The following new additions were obtained without having to buy them. From Erik Limbourg he got a couple eggs from his famous "Barcelona Triple 5," one of the best long distance pigeons currently in Europe, unbelievable and here is how. A couple of years ago one of Erik's young birds landed on Peet's loft and he called Erik to let him know. Erik was happy about this and told Peet that everybody who does that can pick up at the end of the year a couple of eggs as a thank you. So at the end of the year Peet went to Erik and he gave him a couple of eggs from one of the best birds in Europe ever, "Barcelona Triple 5." Peet said "I'm really a lucky man. By the way, I left his loft with 3 couples of eggs!!!"

The other pigeons are friends of his. So they will swap something with each other. Peet says the birds from Piet de Vogel are really amazing. In the next couple of years they are going to make an impact in his loft. He got youngsters from his famous "Cahors" (base Florizoone), "Vleermuis," "Wijnands," "Levi," "Super Agen," "Son Zwarte As," "Son Mr Gijs" etc.

With Piet's "Cahors" they did some co-breeding together. Peet's best hen "Lucia" was paired with the "Cahors." The first results came this year with a 39e and 69e National Cahors, with two yearlings bred from this couple.

His team and some supplements used

Peet only races with widowers. The system is not very difficult. 15 days before the International races start he will give his racers for 5 days Belgafox. Its based on Baytril and comes from Belgica de Weerd. After a couple of days he treats with Fungi from Schroeder. That's for the fungi/mold in the crop, so he hopes to clear them of that. He repeats the fungi treatment 2 times in a season.

He also puts drops on the neck for the parasites (lice)

Every Sunday he will give them oil with protein from Herbots.

Also all mixes that are available is mixed together and he will give that every 2 days.

Peet's feeding system in preparing the birds

Peet's feeding schedule is as follows and he only uses Beyers as he thinks they are the best.

Short distance:

¼ Superdiet 24

¾ VDAB Vandenabeele

Middle distance:

1/3 Superdiet 24

1/3 Galaxy Light

1/3 Galaxy Energy

Long Distance :

Long Distance

Elite Energy 47

Peet believes that how you feed your pigeons is very important. He says to first keep your focus on the weather. When they expect an easy race, then you must act accordingly. Also with a hard race. In the Netherlands, when they are basketed they get only corn. These are sugars!! Which means you must have put enough fat in them to act as a good fuel. After every training when he calls his birds inside he will give them some candy seeds. The last couple of days before basketing he will start to add peanuts.

When they return from a race, no matter which race it is, he gives them breeding feed to help them recover quicker and on Sunday the proteins with the oil.

It might not be necessary every week but it's being busy with your birds. You must be smart and clever. Peet says to pay attention to the smell in your loft. You can smell when they are ready!!!!

Thoughts on medication

Peet gives them the things you must give. If you refuse then you can't race.

Youngsters are injected for PMV and pox on the legs.

The old pigeons only for PMV.

He will try to do something for paratyphoid, but not every year. When he does treat for it he gives them something during the moult.

If he sees something he will go to the vet with them. His last visit was 2 years ago. Everything was OK then. He hadn't gone there for maybe 10 years. Now every year he tries to go and let them research his birds. This also means being busy, busy, but that not a excuse. Peet can also say I don't want to, but wants to be the best!!

List of achievements and it is quite the list

Only first prizes are listed!!

5 x Emperor champ	NIC 1536
6 x ZLU champion non-nominated	NIC 1536
4 x ZLU champion nominated	Afd 12
3 x NPO champion non-nominated	Afd 12
3 x NPO champion nominated	Afd 12
3 x ZLU champion non-nominated	Afd 12
4 x ZLU champion non-nominated	NIC 1536
3 x ZLU champion non-nominated	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
3 x Emperor champ	Afd 12
3 x Emperor champ	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
2 x West-Netherlands-Marathon Champion	
2 x NPO champion non-nominated	NIC 1536
3 x ZLU champion nominated	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
WESM	
Emperor	ZLU
Super Prestige	ZLU
NPO champion non-nominated	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
NPO champion nominated	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
Keizer general non-nominated	Fondclub de Glazen Stad
Super long distance champion	Afd 5
NPO champion nominated	NIC 1536
Keizer NPO races	Samenspel Noord-Zuid-Holland
Super Prestige	S-N-Z-H
NPO non-nominated	S-N-Z-H
NPO nominated	S-N-Z-H
ZLU Cup	S-N-Z-H
Keizer ZLU Cup	S-N-Z-H
ZLU Nominated	Kring Westland
1e Dutch Fancier Europa Beker	
1 ^e Dutch Fancier of Flanders	
1 ^e National Ace Pigeon St Vincent (Jordan Staal) ZLU over 4 years	
Several times Ace - pigeon	NIC, Afd 12, S-N-Z-H and Fondclub de Glazen Stad

Remember these titles listed are only first prizes that he has won, anything less is not mentioned!!!!

The following is a list of prizes on the National races in the first 25 positions

1^e Nat Bordeaux

4^e Nat Barcelona
4^e Nat Albi
5^e Nat Cahors
6^e Nat Tarbes
7^e Nat Dax
7^e Nat Marseille
8^e Nat Cahors
9^e Nat Tarbes
9^e Nat Agen
9^e Nat Bordeaux
12^e Nat Bordeaux
13^e Nat Pau
13^e Nat Marseille
14^e Nat Bordeaux
14^e Nat Bordeaux
15^e Nat Bordeaux
17^e Nat Dax
19^e Nat Carcassonne
20^e Nat Bordeaux
21^e Nat Bordeaux
22^e Nat Bordeaux
22^e Nat Montauban
23^e Nat Dax
23^e Nat St Vincent
24^e Nat Dax
25^e Nat Bordeaux
25^e Nat Barcelona

Current superstars

When I asked Peet to pick out his current superstar or one to watch in the future he said that was very hard for him to pick just one, I guess that just goes to show the depth of the quality he has. The success of his team does not just rely on one pigeon. He first wanted to mention a couple of yearlings.

The first being NL18-1603956. His name is "Vale Zeppel."
Bred from a son 1e Int Narbonne x daughter 1e Int Perpignan
"Vale Zeppel" raced this season:

27^e Nat Cahors 2864 pigeons National Sector 2
49^e Vierzon 1088 p.
62^e Blois 1841 p.
129^e Issoudun 613 p.
1733^e Argenton 7284 p. National Sector 2

Next is NL18-1068888. "Fighter Cahors" Son of Cahors x Lucia
69^e Nat Cahors 2864 p. National Sector 2
83^e Blois 1841 p.

88e Issoudun 613 p.
203e Argenton 7284 p. National Sector 2

Third is NL18-1603932 "Frenkie" Bred from son Triple 5 x Granddaughter 1e Int Perpignan.
Also from Limbourg.

25^e Argenton 476 p.
54^e Vierzon 1088 p.
103e Nat Cahors 2868 p. National Sector 2
409e Nat Argenton 7284 p. National Sector 2

He raced all of his yearlings as celibate cocks and his Cahors result was amazing with these yearlings!!

From the old birds his pick was NL16-1458321 "Witoog Roger"
This past season with 3 good prizes on the International races

Goal for the future and his secret to success

Peet's goal for the future is to continue to enjoy the pigeons. He also thinks that's his secret. Every day when he finishes work he can go out by the birds which makes him happy. Peet says, "I hope that they're also happy to see me."

It's amazing to see your birds coming home. Peet is able to recognize the birds in the air and this is one of his skills in the sport. During the season he is really focused on getting a great result. Not every year is good, but don't start to panic right away.

Peet suggests doing a lot of stuff in your club. His wife sometimes says, "You are a bird!!" He thinks that says enough.

Peet has won practically everything, so to continue on this track is difficult, but when you're one of the best since 1991 you must always pay attention.

Peet's finally words for this article were these, "I love my birds."