



April/May 2010 (E)

## April/May 2010 (E)



Gicara



Miss Lang Ping



Backside of the loft



Front side of the loft



### Start

It is spring in The Netherlands, last week we had the best of weather ... Ideal for pigeon fanciers and – not too forget – the pigeons themselves.

Last Saturday we raced our fourth race and up to now we faced no serious problems.

Preparation has been a bit different than other years.

We paired up our racers a bit earlier this year and therefore we were able to train them slightly sooner in the season.

Up to now they get the standard food-mixture with some barley (10%), paddy (20%) and carrot. These carrots give the best indication of the pigeons need to be fed some more ... still carrots in the tray means no new food.

On the second race of the season (Boxtel 169 km) '[Gicara](#)' won 1. prize from 9,525 birds and '[Miss Lang Ping](#)' grabbed third place ... click on their names to view photo and pedigree.

Since a week they train round the house in the morning and in the evening; by now they easily fly 1 hour. In a month the first group will train around 5.15. Furthermore I plan to give my racers an extra training flight of about 300 km next week. In combine they also can be entered for races from Haasrode (256 km) and Menen (330 km), before the first One Day Long distance classic. I believe that is enough preparation for the first NPO race covering 497 km.

The partners (from the widowers as well as the widowhood hens) we never showed before the races, the first two races we did not even show the partner when they arrived home.

Next 14 days the barley, paddy and carrot will disappear from the food and the pigeons get to eat 100% All-In-One mixture, as much as they want to eat. Before all is eaten, the food is refreshed twice a day.

### Lofts

The front side of the lofts is supplied with a stroke of glass of about 1 meter. Together with the total isolation and the possibility for the pigeons to – when they like – get some fresh air in the aviary, this

Bjarne



Golden Energy

creates an optimal climate for the pigeons. The loft is warmed up quickly and the temperature is pretty stable. Because on the inside there is a stroke of glass too! (space between inner- and outer-glass is 15 cm). Last autumn all ceilings were removed and the roof was completely isolated and covered again with board. On the backside skylights are situated that can be opened to ensure enough ventilation. The ceiling consists of steel board with a mesh width of 5 cm. In the week the widow hens sit on perches before their breeding box. This prevents pairing up amongst each other and possibly this own spot motivates them extra.

Last week all sections were cleaned. All breeding boxes were taken out, attics, floors, windows cleaned, etc. All was scrubbed ... nice and clean and it smells all fresh and new. All together it took us a week to fix that. Before the pigeons went back in the end of the day, all walls, breeding boxes, perches, etc. were treated with Tugon 80 (Bayer). This is a very effective product against flees, lice, maggots of flies, etc. Hopefully we get none of these further in the season ...

#### Youngsters

The first group of youngsters is from the earliest pairing possible. For now they do just fine and maybe soon we start tossing them. They look good, the darkening – about 9,5 hour per day – will remain until about two weeks.

Darkening hours are from 18.00 up to 08.30 o'clock. The second group is from 20.00 up to 10.30 o'clock. The main reason for these times is to give the old birds the opportunity to train in groups over the day and to make the day of the youngsters a bit 'longer'.

With the first group we start ending darkening in about two weeks ... Darkening will than be from 20.00 up to 24.00 o'clock. Like this they can witness the natural sunrise ... this phase we remain 4 weeks. Afterwards it will be natural day- and night rhythm. With youngster too we choose for a method that enables us to finish preparation for the races a bit earlier... For instance; we now already had them a night in the basket. Hopefully it will all help us to perform top on the most important young birds classics.

At the moment the youngsters get All-In-One mixture with 20% barley and 20% paddy.

#### One Loft Races/International

Since 2008 we exclusively participate in the One Million Dollar Race in Sun City, South Africa. Before we send our youngsters, they are pretty much independent and old enough to find their way through the quarantine period (about 2 months). The

injections against paramixo and pocks they have had by than.

I will send the pigeons in two groups. Up to now I never discovered if the time of sending pigeons influences the final result. Some fanciers tell me they sometimes send pigeons that already fly around the loft before being send ... Maybe we will try it next year.

116foto (Taiwan) recently visited us to shoot photo's of some pigeons that will soon be published in their book, Top Collections International 8. Really recommendable for fanciers who like top quality photo's. Check their website for the results: [www.116foto.com](http://www.116foto.com) Besides, not only pigeons can be seen on the website, you will find enough impressions ... very professional.

#### Pedigree

On our website you can find several examples of the pedigrees as we used it from 2007 up to 2010. Unfortunately this is really necessary, as we faced some fraud pedigrees in the past. In case of any question, do not hesitate to call us. For the original characteristics, check <http://www.gerardkoopman.com/34/original-pedigree.html>

#### Congratulations!

To Pieter and Gea Veenstra with their super season 2009. As sportsman you do not only enjoy successes at your own lofts, you also appreciate when others race top! It is nice to see that their 'Chanel' (NL-2007-5719711) is bred from a brother to 'Golden Energy'. She was crowned 1. Nat. acebird late tour WHZB 2009.

Very interesting for me, as 'Eus', winner of the Belgian Masters on the final race and in the acebird competition, is a grandson to this same 'Golden Energy'. In May he can be admired under the heading 'pigeon of the month'.

#### In conclusion

The NPO classics are coming up and for the first time in my life my father will not be there to see the arrival ... Without a doubt, on this moment the thoughts of my 'steady team of spectators' will go to him. He left us January 11th.

I am very happy my mother is still very involved, and not only about the wellbeing of the colony in Ermerveen. Almost every Saturday we pick her up so she can see the arrival of the pigeons ....

I like to wish you all a very successful pigeon season and when there are any question, do not hesitate to send me an e-mail ....

