



June 2012



The 'Inner loft' of the partners (hens)



GeVo company at work



Slowly it gets along



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June

Now it's June and the second long distance race just ended; the season is really on the road now. We are very happy to be spared of too many problems like losing pigeons, birds of prey, injured pigeons, et cetera. Things you can never get used to as a pigeon fancier.

Luckily the condition of the pigeons is very, very good at the moment.

Next week, when about all breeding birds are placed on the website, I shall tell more about the racing season and tell you of which breeders the top prize winners descend. It will then be easier to search for the parents of the top racers on the website yourself.

Partners

On the way to the introduction of the top racers, it is maybe interesting to know how the partners of the racers are housed and how we treat them.

The hens are situated in an open aviary (no roof) 23 of 24 hours a day. Once a day we let them in to eat and drink. The 'inner loft' of these hens is divided in two sections. The first is to eat and to drink; the floor here is made of wooden grids. The second part is lockable and can be darkened completely by a dividing door. That makes it easier to put the pigeons in the basket. In the 'inner loft' there are no perches for the pigeons to sit on.

The cockbirds are housed behind the loft of the racing hens and by means of a bolt on the bottom side they can go to their partners.

Whole week these pigeons get a mixture of about 70% Barley and 30% All-In-One. Because I never show the hens to the racing cocks before a race – maximum once a year – the hens get to eat All-In-One as much as they want on the racing day. So they are not too hungry when their partners return home. For the racing hens; they get to see their partner from the fourth or fifth race every week. These cocks naturally get to eat enough before they are shown to the hens.

The dividing walls are also supplied with layers



A total picture



3 very important persons in my life; L. van Loon, my father and J. Ryckaert

New aviary

The aviary for the 'new loft' is tuned some more. Because this loft is faced in south-western direction, we tried to dress up the aviary more as a 'loft'. It is roofed, the sidewalls are covered and also the connections are supplied with plastic layers (not entirely transparent). The more pleasant condition in the aviary sends out to the loft. My first impression is we made the right move; however practice must show the real effect.

Farewell

With pain in my heart I recently had to say goodbye to my friend and tutor Louis van Loon from Poppel in Belgium. Almost every day I realise that the way I home pigeons is according to the philosophy of Louis. His farewell was entirely in style of the way he lived his life; no nonsense.

Via the reports in sports magazine 'De Duif' and Koos Tjeerdsma from Almelo I met Louis in 1975/1976. In all those years Louis always stayed the same man. Like no other he lived pigeon sport. He woke up with pigeons, what means when the sun came up in the summer he went to the pigeons and when it got dark he too went to bed. Louis learned no wisdoms in books – he observed his pigeons with hawk eyes and tried to transform this observations in words ... what the pigeons wanted to tell him as their 'manager'. During summer I try to do just like Louis van Loon and that is only possible when you are in a good condition yourself. Last years of course many pigeon-journeys came on my way and about 3 to 4 months I am away from Ermerveen. Louis used his method non-stop for over 40 years; I believe that made him to the most talented pigeon fancier I ever met.

One of the many examples of Louis's 'no nonsense' policy I always keep in mind. He told me once a very good pigeon raced in his area. When Louis heard this man was about to sell his total colony, he went to have a look at the crack. He checked the pigeon and believed he was not good enough, so there was no deal. Some years later an unknown fanciers started performing very good; with descendants of the pigeon Louis believed to be not good enough ... Louis was flabbergasted. He made an appointment with the fancier and he had to conclude that this man's top breeder was the pigeon Louis did not want.

Descendants of this pigeon made the man a true champion. For Louis the signal theory is not always practice; in pigeon sport you cannot force a thing ... I always remembered this anecdote.

After a short sickness, our Chinese colleague Pei Jun He (Louis) had to say goodbye to his father. For Louis

as well as his family this came very unexpected ... we wish Louis and the He family much strength in this period.

As I said, next week I shall say more about the racers with their results and an impression on our journey's in wintertime. Until than!

Gerard & team

U ontvangt deze nieuwsbrief omdat u zich hiervoor heeft aangemeld.
U kunt zich [hier afmelden](#).

