

New Superstar Arrives

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Wherever pigeon fanciers gather on the Continent they now talk on only one subject, that of the brilliant racing performances of a young man from Tilburg, the one who is now dominating the racing scene, both at Provincial and National levels in the last two years he has won four Nationals. The man in question is Frank Aarts, the new sensation of the pigeon sport in Holland, his life is completely dedicated to the pigeons and their success.

Frank is a relative newcomer to the sport, starting at the age of 21. Within two years he has been 1st champion old and young birds of Tilburg (180 members). Unfortunately for Frank, and fortunately for

his competitors, his racing activities had to cease when he did his National Service. On his return in 1986 he commenced the job of rebuilding his breeding loft. He had kept some of his best breeders including

selected for its ability to reproduce and must have a background of winners producing winners. Success of this can easily be gauged by the fact that at 24 of Franks breeders, out of the 25 pairs housed are

RESULTS

1989 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Dutch National Orleans 320 miles (8,109 birds)

1990 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Dutch National Chateauroux 365 miles (8,996 birds)

1991 - 1st, 3rd and 4th Dutch National Orleans 320 miles (20, 800 birds)

1991 - 1st and 2nd Dutch National Chateauroux 365 miles (9, 108 birds)

"Bange", "Brother Bange" and "Blauwe Pieterse" whilst he was away, to form his base on his return. At this point he decided to renew his lofts and knowing of a local fancier who was to finish in the sport he made an arrangement with him to take his range of lofts in exchange for Frank's motor car!

The base breeders of his now established lofts are Janssen, Meulemans, Horemans and Van Loon, each breeder has been



85-1651688 "Rooie Van Gompel", "the Red Van Gompel", fantastic breeder. A 100% Janssen A foundation cock. Responsible for winners in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation (on every level). Until 1989 he was a good racing widowhood cock.

Now on the breeding loft: 85-1651688 "Rooie Van Gompel"; sire 1st National N.P.O. Trilogierace Chateauroux 1990 against 8996 pigeons (semi national race) and the grandsire of 1st National Orleans 1991 Section 1A against 9207 pigeons entered. Complete Section Selection I (A + B + C together) 1st position against 20,845 pigeons.



84-2013825 "Louis Van Loon cock". Super breeder, fantastic producer responsible for winners on every level in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation. Just some examples: 84-825: sire 1st National N.P.O. Trilogierace Chateauroux 1991 against 9108 pigeons (semi national race) 580 kilometers. Grandsire 2nd National N.P.O. Trilogierace Chateauroux 1991 against 9108 pigeons (semi national race) No. 1 and 2 arrived together! Sire 86-1373647. Fantastic hen. Won 2 x 1st position. Provincial Pont St. Max. Won alot of early positions.



H80-847802 "Jan", Born in 1980, a 100% Janssen-A breeder. In his pedigree the famous old cock Janssen Arendonk "Jan" is a fantastic breeder. He is sire: 2nd National Orleans 1989 (Sect. 3) after loft mate arrived together. Sire: 3 Ace Pigeon Provincial 1989 (after loft mate) against 2350 members. Sire: "Super 663" 87-8732663; won 4 x 1st position and alot of early positions. Sire: 1st position Etampes 1991 against 1410 pigeons.



90-9021999. 1st Ace Pigeon 1991 and 1st position Provincial Creil 1991. 1991: 14 races entered 13 prizes. 1990: 10 x entered 9 prizes. She is granddaughter from "Dikke Blauwe" a 100% Janssen. A super breeder. 9021999 won: 1st Creil Provincial, 2nd Orleans 347 pigeons, 1st Creil 1236 pigeons, 6 Etampes 683 pigeons, 2 Creil 1659 pigeons, 3 Creil 3133 pigeons, 4 Orleans 821 pigeons, 7 Chantilly 393 pigeons, 7 Etampes 1410 pigeons (after 4 loft mates), 15 Chateauroux 1101 pigeons (after 9 loftmates), 13 Creil 2101 pigeons (after 11 loftmates), 18 Provincial Creil 4933 pigeons (after 11 loftmates). 9021999 is sister: Dam 6 National Orleans 1990 (section 1) 2454 pigeons.

and she flew with great success winning Wherever pigeon fanciers gather on the Continent they now talk on only one subject, that of the brilliant racing performances of a young man from Tilburg, the one who is now dominating the racing scene, both at Provincial and National levels — in the last two years he has won four Nationals. The man in question is Frank Aarts, the new sensation of the pigeon sport in Holland, his life is completely dedicated to the pigeons and their success.

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881-602031 "Taxi" is a son of Belgium Antwerp Union Kring William Geert's No. 1 breeding pair, Buffel x Sister Kilo. Taxi is a brother to several Olympic pigeons for William Geerts. Taxi on my loft is a fantastic breeder, especially in the 2nd generation. Taxi is grandsire: 3 National Orleans 1989 (53) after 2 loftmates. Grandsire: 6 National Orleans 1989 (53) after 4 loftmates. Grandsire: 1 Ace Pigeon 1989 (160 members). Grandsire: 1st position Chantilly 1099 pigeons, 2nd position Provincial Pont Max 4331 pigeons. Sire: 1st position Melun 809 pigeons, 2nd position Provincial Melun 5803 pigeons. Sire: 8732673: 2 x 1st position and many early positions. Sire: 8732651: 1st position Pont Max. Grandsire: 9021963: Won four Etampes, 1410 pigeons (after 3 loftmates).

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six of the top prizes including 1st Chantilly, 1st Provincial, 1st Bourges, 2nd Provincial, 6th National, 450 miles (6,772 birds). Such results by just one bird, prompted Frank in 1991 to take more youngsters and this time three were raced, one won seven prizes from 10 races, the second also won seven prizes but from nine races and the third youngster was entered in 10 races to win eight prizes including 2nd Chateauroux National arriving with and beaten into the clock, by a loftmate, after nine and a quarter hours on the wing covering a distance of some 365 miles. So it can be seen why Frank is even more optimistic about the future successes of this new pairing.

He is openly proud of his previous successes which are now, in such a short time, known world wide. Within an hour of winning the Orleans National this year a

H90-9022099: (50% Meulemans x 50% Horemans). Won in 1990: 1st Ace Pigeon Club 160 members. 2nd Champion 1st nominated bird long distance club 2350 members. 5 Golden Ace Pigeon. Long distance club "Golden Ring club". Southern Netherlands (100,000 young birds ringed with Golden Rings). 9022099: 12 x entered: 12 prizes! Worst result was 1/10. Every race (12 races) 12 x into the first 10%!

Japanese fancier bid a very substantial sum for the three winning youngsters. No decision has yet been made as to whether or not these winners will follow the path of the 1989 and 1990 National winning birds which were purchased for large sums within days of their successes by the Japanese. I know from speaking to him it was not an easy decision to make and since that time he has repeatedly been made massive offers from all over the world, including the UK, to part with his actual breeders. The bids, however big, have been turned down. Despite his great wins he is still hungry for success and has no intention of parting with the birds responsible for putting him at the very pinnacle of the sport.

The breeding pairs are housed in a 28 feet long loft at the home of a close friend, due to the shortage of space at the rear of Frank's terraced house. An aviary runs the entire length of the front of the loft with a mesh bottom, raised some two feet off the ground with the concrete underneath washed down daily.

All birds, breeders and racers, are paired around Christmas Day, following almost three months of separation. The eggs from the top producers and racers are moved under the yearling racers and feeder pairs when around 10 days old, thus ensuring there are at least four youngsters to race off all the extra special birds. In addition to this the very best breeding cocks are paired

with four or five different hens during the year. Throughout the year Mariman breeding mixture is fed and vitamins are added to the water each Wednesday.

Since Frank's return to racing in 1986 he has quickly returned to the very top. In 1987 he was declared 2nd champion overall — old birds and young birds — provincial union Tilburg 550 members, again in 1988 he had the same position. However for the three years since 1989 he has been 1st champion overall — old birds and young birds — provincial union Tilburg against 550 members, an outstanding achievement. Detailing winners would be a long task so without wishing take up too much space I have recorded the most important championships won during the last two seasons.

1990: 1st Champion young birds provincial Midden Brabant" (2,350 members), 1st Champion long distance young birds Provincial "Midden Brabant" (2,350 members), 2nd and 3rd pigeon young birds provincial "Midden Brabant" (2,350 members), 1st champion old birds union Kring, Tilburg (550 members), 1st champion young birds union Kring, Tilburg (550 members), 1st champion middle distance Tilburg (450 members), 1st champion overall — old birds and young birds - club (160 members), 1991 until August, included: four first prizes provincial and 2nd champion overall - old birds and young birds provincial "Midden Brabant" (2,350 members), 2nd champion overall - old birds - provincial "Midden Brabant" (2,350 members), 1st champion young birds provincial union Kring, Tilburg (550 members), 2nd champion old birds union, Kring, Tilburg (550) members. 1st champion middle distance Tilburg (450 members), 1st champion overall-young birds - club (160 members), 1st ace pigeon old birds-with a natural hen.

I am sure you will agree that these winners are impressive to say the least, although they give no indication to the extent to which the race team performs overall. Perhaps these few race results will throw some light: Pont St. Max 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th (1,099 birds); Creil: 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th (4,933 birds); Etampes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th and 9th (1,410 birds); Melun: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th (813 birds). These are just four, week in and week out there are always similarly devastating performances both with his widowhood cocks and on the natural system. He also has a highly successful young bird method to win up to 450 miles.

The widowhood lofts that total some 25 feet in length are on the top story of his double decker lofts situated in the small rear yard behind his terraced house. They have a pantiled roof fitted with lights to ensure the maximum amount of sun enters the lofts at all times, a fact that Frank considers very important to bring the race birds into form and to hold that form for as long as possible. The 24 widowhood cocks, yearling and older cocks, are housed together and treated virtually the same. They are paired at Christmas, the best performance cocks rear their own youngsters while the yearlings are mainly used to rear youngsters taken from the best breeding pairs.

When the youngsters are about 17 days old they and the hens, are taken out of the widowhood lofts and placed in the young bird section where the hens alone finish the rearing. The widowhood cocks are left on their own now until around 1st April when they are re-paired but are not entered in the early races.

The 24 natural hens are paired in early March and prepared especially for the first five races, which every hen must fly. Once these races start the hens are not trained but are shut out of the lofts for one hour exercise both morning and evening. The same method is used for the widowhood cocks. After the fifth race it's the turn of the widowers, they are entered for their first race feeding a single youngster, the other and the hen having been removed a couple of days earlier. The youngster is removed at 25 days old and the cock will now fly the remaining eight or nine races on the traditional widowhood method.

On basketing night the cocks are shown their hens for two to three minutes before being basketed for the race. On their return the cocks are left with their hens for at least half an hour and after their sixth or seventh race they are left together overnight and separated in the morning. One must always be on the lookout to avoid the widowers getting bored and one trick is Frank uses each season, with some outstanding results is to allow the cocks and hens together for one whole day before the last race and finds this an ideal way to keep the cocks motivated. The feeding system for both the natural hens and the widowhood cocks when racing is identical. In the early part of the week they are fed depurative with a little Mariman Super M widowhood mix added and this is changed over the week to 100 percent Super M to build the race birds up to a peak on basketing day. On Wednesdays all the birds have vita-

mins added to the water — as can be seen everything is the traditional widowhood method.

However the same cannot be said of Frank's very successful young bird system, which I am sure will raise one or two eyebrows in the UK by the young bird specialists. For Frank, three points which he considers of great importance before you can even start to think of having young bird success are, firstly that youngsters must have natural health and must always look good. If any young bird doesn't look right for more than a few days it is called. Secondly, it is important never to overcrowd the lofts, this is a big mistake many fanciers make. Good health and success will not come in these conditions. Lastly and certainly not least is that the young birds must be able to love their loft and their manager. Once the youngsters are about four weeks old they are treated against Trichomoniasis using Ridsol S, and this is followed up by vaccination against both Paramyxovirus and Pigeon Pox. They are by now exercising round the lofts and this is built up one hour morning and evening and are fed on a mixture consisting of 50-50 Mariman depurative and Mariman Super M - light feed in the morning and as much as they can eat in the evening. Two or three weeks prior to the first race they are given five or six tosses up to 30 to 40 miles and they then receive no more training at all during the remainder of the season, but are expected to compete in all the races in the program. For the first two or three races the sexes are kept and exercised separately. After these races they are let in together and paired so that they are all racing to a nesting condition and to youngsters in the nest. This is the condition Frank favors for his young birds when racing in the Nationals at distances up to 450 miles. At the end of the young bird program only youngsters that have won at least eight prizes are considered or natural loft - all others are disposed of. A very harsh selection method some may feel, but one that has to be adhered to because of the small amount of room available in the racing lofts.

Maybe this is the real reason for the super performances of Frank Aarts! It must certainly play a large part in the huge success he has enjoyed over the past four seasons and I am certain that having spent several hours in the company of this very likable and very dedicated Dutchman, we shall certainly be hearing a lot more in the coming years about Frank Aarts of Tilburg - a champion among champions.