

# THE TEAM OF FRANK AARTS AND PETER REMIE

## NATIONAL ORLEANS 93,000 BIRDS: 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th

### THE BEST RESULT IN THE HISTORY OF ORLEANS

As a writer, one must always be careful not to exaggerate when making a story about a champion. The reason is simple. You want the reader to read your article. Therefore, it should not be too dull. Moreover, when one wants to write how good somebody is, one is not in a very strong position. Every writer wants to do the same. When I say Aarts Remie had the best race result ever, I realize I'm sticking out my neck and I must have very good reasons to be convincing. Let me explain.

#### ORLEANS

The foreign reader may have heard about the National Orleans race in Holland. Two years ago, more than 220,000 pigeons were entered. Imagine that: 220,000 birds released at the same time.

Orleans is rightly called the greatest pigeon race on earth. For some mysterious reason, however, it seems that the 1989 race will be the last. Nobody understands but the National Homing Union has other plans for Orleans. In any case, the 1989 race was a spectacular one, made spectacular by those two young guys from Tilburg: Frank Aarts and Peter Remie.

In their section they won against almost 9,000 birds; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. A result never achieved before by anyone. The whole country had gathered 93,000 birds. Of this immense amount of birds they took 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th place! Indeed, it is as unbelievable as true. At the end of that memorable day the results of this Orleans race were on TV (see how advanced pigeon sport in Holland is) and the whole country was dumbfounded. They felt humiliated. "How was such a result possible" was on everyones lips.

#### YOUNG GUYS

We realize quite well that Mr. Aarts and his partner Mr. Remie are quite unknown abroad. But this is mostly the case when we introduce a champion in pigeon racing. It is common knowledge that fanciers get famous in other

countries when they are history here. Or even more so: **THEY BUY THEIR FAME ABROAD THROUGH PUBLICITY.**

The two young guys from Tilburg, not even 30 years old, have been in the pigeon sport for about 8 years. No longer. But from the very beginning it was clear, that they were "born winners". From the moment they took pigeon racing they were successful. In 1984, when they were no more than novices in the sport, they were already the best in their Federation, but not good enough when they had to race against the fanciers in the surrounding places. And as we said, Frank Aarts and Peter Remie are born winners. They got rid of all their birds and got others. Being an ambitious man, Frank Aarts decided to make a new start. A new start with birds which were superior to those of their strongest competitors in a wide area.

#### NEW START

With this new start, they showed how smart they really were. Aarts and his partner did not have thousands of dollars to spare for quality birds. They considered this an advantage though! They would not fall for names only. *Better than anyone else they realized that having a great name is quite another story than having quality birds.*

Pigeon magazines and race results were studied. A winning pigeon did not mean much to them and a fancier who regularly wins first prizes even less. **THEY WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPETITORS.** Winning a first prize in a strong area is quite different from winning a first elsewhere.

Pigeons were preferably bought from fanciers with few birds who race in a very strong area. Certainly not the so-called sellers were visited. The result after two years of buying would be spectacular. Especially with youngsters it became an exception that they did not win the first prize. It even happened more than once that they won the first

five and once they even won 21 first prizes. It was then that many fellow fanciers decided to stop racing if...Aarts and Remie went on that way. **SECRET?**

It is no wonder that the competitors of the Federation have questions. "How is it possible that those two young guys clean up race after race?" Do they have bad pigeons or ... do Aarts Remie have wonder birds or perhaps... something else.

Well the real secret of Frank Aarts and Peter Remie is that they are not dumb. They, even at such a young age, realize that the pigeon sport is full of nonsense. **WHAT DO THEY CONSIDER NONSENSE?**

a) Breeding couples! They do not exist. There are couples which give a good bird now and then but there are no breeding couples which only give good youngsters. And if a couple has given two goods birds there is no guarantee at all that the third bird out of such a couple is also a good one.

b) They do not believe in fanciers with an old own family. Fanciers who claim never to have imported other birds for many years are poor racers or great liars.

c) They especially hate the specialized pigeon press, believing articles are written about fanciers who are not champions but are instead friends of a reporter or good advertisers. They think it is ridiculous that there are writers who tell you how to race but who themselves prove the whole year round they know nothing about pigeons at all. Frank Aarts only listens to people who are good racers themselves and only reads articles written by good racers. Unfortunately there are very very few of these. Moreover, smart racers, great champions year after year are not the great talkers.

d) The biggest mistake others make is that they think too soon they have a good bird. It must be said that pigeons which are used for breeding

**THE PIGEON CLASSIC**



purposes by others are not good enough to stay alive in the lofts of Aarts Remie.

#### METHOD

The magic word for success in the pigeon sport, especially with youngsters is MOTIVATION. Racing from the perch is completely old fashioned - not that the pigeon sport is so advanced, but the difference between winning and

losing is only a matter of seconds. It is motivation which counts, motivation which will make the bird leave the liberation station immediately, motivation which prevents the bird from making that last-fatal round around the loft when arriving from a race. How to motivate birds? Well, the tricks are numerous - most based on sexual drives or jealousy. The basis is the fact that birds, animals, any living thing, pigeons included, love their own territory. They try to defend the area which is theirs. They will fight or even die for it. Certainly they long to be there. This love for the territory, the nest with a baby, the partner, etc. should be taken use of. A pigeon they have to look for in the loft is a dead pigeon. It will be eliminated. A good bird can be found in the same place from the age of 6 weeks old. A good bird can be found in the dark. The formula to success is to encourage the love of territory. Jealousy is a good weapon, two hens mated together, two hens mated with the same cock, etc.

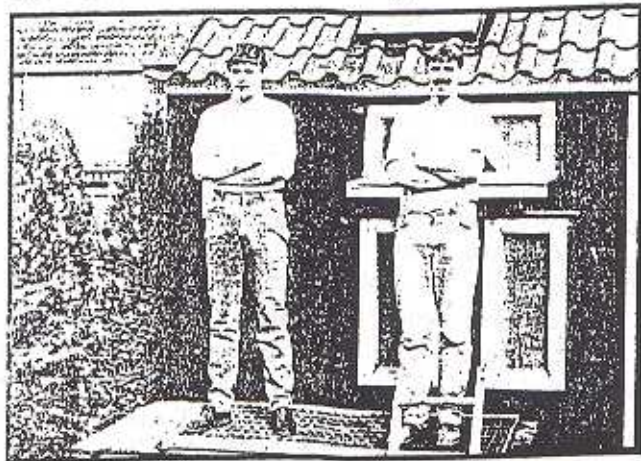
babies because they will want to be on the nest at the same time! With a mated couple (hen and cock) this will be different. Such a couple is motivated, but not enough.

Of course, there are numerous other tricks to motivate a bird. It stands to reason that it involves much spare time. A fancier who is unable to spend some hours of the day in the loft of the youngsters can forget it. Moreover one should not forget that the quality of the birds is important. But this looks like a subject which is not interesting. People here do not talk about quality. They talk about the magic bottle, the needle, etc. They seek it where they should not seek it.

Of course, there is also the loft. This is very, very important. In America I saw several lofts. Some of them were no good because the fancier did not have the changing climate under control. When it is very hot, very windy, very humid, the fancier should react. He should be able to do something with the loft. Some lofts are good by certain weather conditions. If the weather changes, other lofts are good. The smart fancier tries to have a loft which is good in all circumstances. They have means to close off or to make the loft more open.

Finally, we can tell you that all the winners of Aarts Remie, even those four first National prizes, are products of crossing. This, however, is something some fanciers might not like to read. They believe in families. When buying birds they go for the pedigree. They buy a pedigree and get a bird as well. Frank Aarts and his partner are different. The quality of the bird counts. Always a product of crossing, this bird should be in a good loft and motivated as much as possible. In young bird racing, there are many more tricks and secrets which can make you a winner or a so-called specialist. That will be something for later.

AD SCHAERLAECKENS



FRANK AARTS & PETER REMIE

Two hens mated together is the secret of the Belgian Wizzard Christiaens. When two young hens are mated together, success is nearly guaranteed when they come on eggs or