

Van Gent

FRANK HAGE, WOERDEN, THE NEW CHAMPION MORNING RELEASE MARATHON NOORD 2022

The Morning Release Championship contains the races Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan, and only the two first assigned are counting. This is a very prestigious Championship, because it is very hard to register one of the two first assigned in the top of the result lists. You must have experienced racers, you must put the right pigeons on the first two spots of the entry list and each of the races are tough and hard. You almost cannot race a pigeon twice on the three of the races.

Barcelona is always hard and tough, Marseille has the challenges with the Mistral winds and the Rhone Vallee. And Perpignan is late in the season and still a very long race in kilometers.

About Frank

We know Frank already since 2018. He won Barcelona with Marathon Noord with the Jim. He won the 14th National and the first in Marathon Noord. So on our way to Woerden we drove through the Green Hart of Holland, a countryside which is flat, just below sea level and green.

He races pigeons on his own at this address since 2014. Before 2014 he raced together with his father Jan on the program races and the marathon races. When Frank was going to race on his own, Jan went back to the program races.

The racers are in and above the garage, which is attached to his house, 25 pairs are on the ground floor and 17 in the Attic of the Garage. The youngsters and breeders are in a loft in the garden with lots of air.

The daily routine is simple and efficient. Frank has a high demanding job and he already leaves home around 0700 in the morning. During the season (one week before the first long distance race of 500km) the racers are trained starting 05.45. The traps are open and the feeders are filled up. During the day the traps are

closed by Frank himself when he is in the neighbourhood, or by his girlfriend. In the evening the racers are trained again.

The feeding is also very simple. The first 4-6 weeks this is Gerry Plus with a 1/3 of nutritious mixture. After this Gerry Plus is replaced by a race mixture. The feeders are always filled. After 3-4 days the feeders are emptied and the remainder will go to the youngsters and/or the breeders.

Four till five days before basketing of a Marathon race, the racers that are due to go get an extra mix of peanuts, Tovo and a sneaky mixture in their breeding box.

Besides the vaccination against Paramyxovirus and Pox the Vet does not get rich on the account of Frank. When he does not trust a pigeon, he keeps an eye on it and separates the bird from the rest. And when it does not recover, it is removed from the loft.

When the racers return from a race, from the first until the last, they get on the day of return Travipharma Provibac (recovery) and a day later Travipharma Turbo Disinfect (to disinfect). During the week they also get one day Travipharma Forte Vita and one day Travipharma Setrachol. This is a system that is used by a lot of Marathon fanciers in the



Frank Hage.

Netherlands and it saves a lot of cures against Tricho and other diseases. Some also switch the first two days, so on return day first disinfect and then the second day Provibac.

The racers are darkened in the beginning of the year and get extra light after the longest day, from 0600 till 2300.

The lines that are successful are – minimum 50% of the racers are from the Willem van der Velden, Boskoop lines. The others are from uncle Tim Hage, the Baas-Berg partnership, Verweij-de Haan partnership and the old lines from before 2014 when marathon was raced with father Jan.

The Championship Performers

For Barcelona Frank basketed 10 pigeons, six of these were in the result list at National level.

First arrival was the second assigned, '701' of 2019. He was registered at 14.58.43 and is a 100% Willem van der Velden pigeon. Basketed on eight days old youngsters. This was Frank's worst race of the season, he started with the 164th National.

Marseille was a better race. He basketed 10 pigeons and again six in the National result list. The second arrival was the second assigned at 07.58.58, the '011' of 2017. This was her second race, first race was Pau (liberated in Bordeaux) with a 28th National. This hen is a half-sister of the 4th National Narbonne (same father) and the mother is a hen from the 'Martine' lines. 'Martine' was one of the top racers before 2014 in the loft of father Jan and Frank.



'994'.



'011'.



'701'.

Marseille started with a 64th National and a 119th National.

At Perpignan again 10 basketed and six in the National result list. The '994' of 2019 was his fourth arrival of the day and first assigned. The first three birds were 16th, 22nd (1st yearling of the whole race) and 52nd National. The '994' was 264th National. This cock is a son of 'Vino' of Baas-Berg with a sister of the 'Heilige Geest' (1st National St Vincent ZLU for uncle Tim).

On the other morning release ZLU races Frank performed as follows:

Pau/Bordeaux – 28th, 113th, 247th etc 10 basketed six prizes.

Agen Yearling – 11th 260th, 475th, 23 basketed seven prizes.

Agen Old Birds – 43rd, 118th, 652th, 18 basketed eight prizes.

St Vincent/Tarbes – 36th, 519th, 8 basketed two prizes

Narbonne – 39th, 190th, 344th, 20 basketed eight prizes

Closing

Frank is delighted with winning. His fellow fanciers reactions telling him that it is a very special Championship. Not many top fanciers win this one. After winning Barcelona his son Jim was diagnosed with cancer, but Jim is already clean from cancer over two years and the future looks very good. With this in back of his mind this victory is even better.

If the birds get top priority the coming years, is the question. He took over the business from the previous owner, so the focus will be a bit more on the business and the pigeons could suffer. But with his dedication and his very simple and effective system it will not surprise me that he will keep performing on a high level.

Arjan van Gent

Legends of Pigeon Racing – Frank & George Bristow

With a lifetime experience of pigeon racing Frank Bristow is one of Britain's outstanding flyers. Winning from every race point on the North Road including Lerwick. In 2007 Frank also started flying South Road and has

swept all before him with outstanding success in the Midland National and local Federations. To crown 2012, Frank won the John Tranter loft nomination in Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee races run nationally – winning a superb Tranter Loft. In this DVD Frank tells Richard Green his methods and thoughts on how he manages to win from the first race to the longest race during the racing season. Frank is one of this sports gentlemen who has set the standard for every fancier to try and achieve. Subjects covered in this film are: Breeding, Racing Methods, Training, Sexing Young Birds in the Nest, Loft Management, Feeding Methods plus much more.

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