

# Van Gent

## ROBIN BAKHUIS, WESTERHAAR, CHAMPION MID-DAY RELEASE MARATHON NOORD 2022

*There are Championships that everyone wants to win. In the pigeon marathon world the Championships within Marathon Noord are the ones that are in the top three, together with for instance National Champion and the ZLU Championship. Why? Because it is one of the fairest competitions there is in the Netherlands. Only the first two of the entry list count for this competition. And only fanciers can take part when they live above the line Den Haag – Wychen.*

*The Mid-day release Championship is won by a fancier with a magnificent breeding pair. One of the best pairs that I've seen until now. The owner of this breeding pair is Robin Bakhuis from Westerhaar.*

### The winning fanciers

The fanciers that are behind the name Robin Bakhuis are Robin (34 years old) and his uncle Gert (62 years old). Robin is a carpenter and that craft is shown in his house and at the lofts. His nephew Joey was also involved, but he races now on his own and there is still a very tight collaboration.

Robin started with pigeons when he was five years old. He saw the pigeons at his uncle Gert's, who lived just one street down the road. He started racing when he was 11. Uncle Gert and Robin are neighbours. So this makes it easy to race the pigeons together.



The cock of the Super Pair.



The hen of the Super Pair.

loft and the ceilings in the lofts are open. There is no draft at all in the lofts.

They started with pigeons from AP Overwater and Wim & Mart Derksen from Almelo. Now they mixed their strain with the descendants of the Super Pair – Wiersma cock and a hen from Appe Pas. Also from the Milos strain of Verweij-de

sister were a nest pair, the '69' and the '70'.

The '69' is a hen and was Robin's first pigeon on Libourne (25th National) and Bergerac (10th National). The '70' is a cock and was his first from Cahors. The '70' won also the 1st National from Cahors against 3675 birds.

The '70' is a three year old cock. Until 2021 he was raced on Widowhood and from Cahors he was basketed on a six days old youngster. The '70' was the 2nd National winner out of the Super Pair. Harold Zwiers got Robin on a voucher and there he won the 1st National Bergerac as a yearling.

The cock of the Super Pair is from Wiersma & Son from Sibulco. This cock won the 3rd and 28th National and is

also go on youngsters of 5-6 days. They need to break-up the nest.

The week before basketing the racers are trained on 30km. They are not darkened, but they get extra light from 05.15 until 23.00 beginning the end of May. They stop this after the last marathon race. The pigeons were in excellent condition all year. From the beginning in April until the end in August the results were good. During the season the pigeons get Beyers feed, the Long Distance mixture. When the pigeons are on Widowhood in the beginning of the season they get the Widowhood mixture.

They also get a mixture of minerals and three days before basketing a mixture of small seeds and TOVO. On the Monday

called the 'Nachtvlieger' (Night Flyer). The hen of the Super Pair was bred by Appie Pas out of 'Mr Gijs' with daughter 'Mr Gijs'.

### The season

The pigeons were mated middle of February, breeders and racers. They start

and Tuesday they get Beute LTW in their drink water.

They are cyred against Trycho three weeks before the first Marathon Race. Every 3-4 weeks the pigeons are checked by the Vet. When they need a cure, they will get it.

### Experiencing the pigeon sport

Every morning before going to work Robin is at his loft with his pigeons. At lunchtime he is at home to feed the pigeons extra and when he comes home at night he is busy again. So during the racing season pigeon-racing is very intense.

Westerhaar is a village where there are a lot of fanciers. The competition is on a high level on the sprint, middle distance but also on the Marathon. They train the pigeons together on the short distances.

He loves racing, seeing the pigeons returning.

### Looking back at 2022

National victory, 1st at Marathon Noord, a better season is almost not possible. The '69' and '70' are going to the breeding loft, but they hope that half-brothers and sisters of these two will take their place. Of course, they want to win more races and Championships. Especially Barcelona is one of their goals. In the future they will not race the main races on the Widowhood system. The Natural system is a better system for them, this was proven in 2022.

Looking back at the Cahors arrival he tells us: My boss was visiting me and there were no arrivals yet on a National level. He was just opening the loft for the arriving birds from Quievrain, a training race. Then out of nowhere the '70' came as bullet from the sky. Robin and his boss were like struck by lightning. They both will never forget this moment.

Writer **Jaco van Nieuwamerongen**.



'69' and '70', these are the two super pigeons from the Super Pair.

Their loft is 30-35 meters (90-100 feet), six meters (18 feet) for 30 pairs on the Natural system. These were raced until 2021 on the Widowhood system. Then two lofts of five meters for the Natural system pairs that always were raced on this system. One loft both cocks and hens are raced, and one loft only the hens. Then there are two lofts for the youngsters of 3.5 meters. There are aviaries in front of the

Haan came successful additions.

### Top Performers and the Championship Mid-day release

The top four of the Championship were very close together – Martien van Houten (2nd), Jan Bruins (3rd) and Jay Lissenberg (4th) were within 10 points.

Robin won the 1st place with two pigeons from the Super Pair. Brother and

with 85 racers and 12 breeding pairs. They breed 100 youngsters for themselves. The loft on which they only race with hens, the hens are raced on their first nest.

In the beginning, the racers are weekly basketed until the first 500km race. This is done on Widowhood. For their first planned marathon race they are mated in a way that they can be basketed on 5-6 days old youngsters. The second race they



Robin Bakhuis.