

▶ Van Gent

Marathon Noord explained

Marathon Noord is a competition for the fanciers in The Netherlands with a minimum distance to St Vincent of 1030km. Only the first two assigned on the entry list are competing for the fancier, so everyone has the same chances. There is Morning Release Championship (ZLU) with the races Barcelona, Marseille and Perpignan and a Mid Day Release Championship (NPO National) with the races St Vincent, Dax and Bergerac. Besides these two Championships we organise the Criterium of Aces, there you must have both assigned pigeons on each race, so you have to time six pigeons over three races on time. Then we also have the Supercup, that are the competitions Morning Release (ZLU) and the mid day releases (NPO National) together.

Harry Hendriks, Vinkeveen, Champion Mid Day Release Marathon Noord
 One of the top competitors to win for marathon fanciers in the North of the Netherlands is the Championship Mid Day release. This is the most honest competition in the Marathon world. Only the two first assigned pigeons on three races compete for the fancier. In a standard season that are the races St. Vincent, Dax and Bergerac. In 2020 Dax was replaced by a Bergerac release due to the weather.
 In 2020 Harry Hendriks was the best in this competition. He was the best of the best.

Wegen, Van Wanroy and Kuijpers Brothers birds from the well-known partnership Deurvaarder-Pronk from Warmenhuizen. They had a terrific breeding loft with these

Tim Hage he bought one round of eggs from the breeding loft and this was a golden purchase.

His racing loft is 18 metres and is situated



Harry and Rene in conversation.

Harry Hendriks

Fifty eight years old and working as a Facilities Manager for a big healthcare company with multiple retirement homes. You can imagine 2020 was a challenging year for him. Pigeon racing is a family sport. His brother started a few years back again with racing, but now Marathon. In the 70s, 80s and 90s they raced together with big successes. They started with Van der

strains. In the end of the 90s Harry went into a partnership with his dad. After his death, Harry took some time and in 2007 he became serious again. In 2016 he won the Criterium of Aces with Marathon Noord and the Supercup. His pigeon strain these days is a combine of the old strain from the 80s and 90s and birds from Tim Hage, Baas-Berg combine and Verweij-de Haan. With

in the middle of the fields within the beautiful natural reserve the Vinkeveense plassen.

The pigeons that did the trick

Three pigeons were responsible for winning this Championship.

The first one is the 662 of 2017. This hen won the 10th National on St Vincent. The father of this hen is a son of the Teun of Jos

Pepping. Teun won the 4th National St Vincent morning release at the Pepping loft. The mother is a Tim Hage hen, one of the eggs Harry bought. She is a daughter of the 1st NPO Tarbes paired with the mother of Tinkerbel, 1st National Cahors. All winning bloodlines.

The second pigeon is the 604 won the 30th national Bergerac (1) (replacement race for Dax). This cock is a 100% Tim Hage. Father is a son of 'Bruce', one of the top producers and racer of the Tim Hage loft. The mother is a daughter of the 'Bonte Prinses', winner of the 4th National St Vincent. Special is that the Kouters duivin of Tim Hage is three times in the pedigree of this cock. He also won the 42nd National St Vincent in 2020.

The third is the 848 of 2016. He won the 19th National Bergerac. In 2019 this cock was home from Narbonne late in the evening. It was pitch dark and the cock did not dare to land. In the break of dawn it was



Harry Hendriks.

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good for the 30th National. This blue cock named 'Miquel' is son of 'King 2' (9th National Marseille and 17th National St Vincent). Mother is 'Grace' (9th National Marseille). 'Grace' is a daughter of 'Son Milos' (Verweij de Haan) with a 50% Jacobs Brothers and 50% Verweij de Haan hen.

The 2020 season
 In 2020 Harry started with 60 racers in total. Besides this he has eight breeding couples. At the end of March the racers were mated and they had all a couple of youngsters. During Covid 19 he trained them until Oss about 65 kilometers. After this he started training them with the Federation. He did not darken them and one of the lofts he added light from the longest day until the end of the season. He did not see any difference.
 On the last Bergerac (mid August) they still had seven or eight flights in their wings. The birds are raced on the Natural system and are switched from morning to mid day release and back.

Final
 Harry Hendriks is one of the fanciers everyone is looking at during the race. He does it on the morning releases and on the mid day releases. Not only with Marathon Noord, but also in North and South Holland (Sector 2) he is the Champion assigned and 2nd Champion unassigned. 2020 was a weird season but a great season for Harry.

Jaco van Nieuwamerongen