

# Fancy Feathers

Official mouthpiece of the National Fancy Pigeon Association – South Africa

Website: [www.fancypigeons.co.za](http://www.fancypigeons.co.za)

December 2015 Issue



## Festive Greetings from Fadiel Hendricks

President of South African National Pigeon Organisation - SANPO

***We wait a year to celebrate Christmas; yet when we plan our celebration, we tend to forget those who serve us unfailingly. We gather around the Christmas tree with friends and family; but we forget to invite those who are alone in this world. Christmas tells us that life is not just an existence, but a wonderful miracle. Live every moment with joy and gratitude. This Christmas, bring joy to others with an act of kindness.***

***GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS*** once wrote the following and I want to share this with all the members of the NATIONAL FANCY PIGEON ASSOCIATION and SANPO,

***'Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart'.***

***May you carry this thought with you all through the year - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your Family.***

***GOD BLESS.***

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## Editorial comment

I have included a few Afrikaans articles in this issue for the benefit of our Afrikaans readers, but more importantly, I think that it is a matter of respect to the writers of these articles to publish them in the language it has been written and submitted.

Unfortunately I did not get any reports of the Tulbagh Agri Show and Eastern Cape NFPA Show, so, hopefully I will have something from someone who was fortunate to have attended these shows.

I will like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to write and who have submitted articles and content for this issue.

Finally, I invite any of our readers and members to submit show reports or any item of interest to pigeon fanciers with photos, if possible, to me to be published. Remember, if I don't know about it, I can't publish it!!

Yours in pigeons  
Anthony Thebus

## From the desk of Fadiel Hendricks



**President – South African National Pigeon Organisation, (SANPO) and the National Fancy Pigeon Association of South Africa (NFPA)**

On Behalf of myself and the entire SANPO & NFPA Board I would like to thank you all firstly for entrusting us with the responsibility to steer SANPO in the right direction.

The executive members believe strongly in organizational excellence, good communication and commitment to all clubs, federation and unions. We believe, and will actively promote, honesty, integrity, courtesy, and best sports practice in all we do.

Our mission is to promote, develop and advance the sport of racing and fancy pigeons and be recognized as the most innovative and progressive pigeon organisation in Africa.

We are committed to work in partnership with all fanciers, schools and sponsors, in order to continue to promote SANPO & the NFPA.

Your ideas and suggestion are welcome at any time and your feedback is essential for us to progress.

Congratulations to all clubs and federation champions, the winners of all the one race lofts throughout South Africa, once again Congratulations. To those that haven't done so well, I too wish you a better racing and showing season next year. Success only comes through hard and dedicated pigeon husbandry.

To all our Jewish members "Chag Sameach"  
To all our Muslim Members "Muharram Mubarak"  
Season's greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with warmth, peace and cherished memories, Be Merry, be Safe and Happy Holidays! God Bless.

## Races planned to take place in high temperatures

By Fadiel Hendricks

Feedback and general comments regarding the NSPCA letter dated 8 October 2015.

One of the most important decisions of any Union / Federation management is, if the pigeons will be liberated as per racing programme. Some of the organizations even appoint a committee to ensure the proper and safe liberation including the transport of the pigeons. These fanciers are in the sport for many years and consult various weather sites to determine weather patterns up to three week prior to a race.

SANPO as the custodian of the sport will never allow the pigeons to be willingly abused in whatever manner.

I have personally done loft visits, to get first-hand information on the condition of these pigeons that have returned from Beaufort West and Victoria West races during the racing season and my observations were as follows:

1) Our members have been racing pigeons in all sorts of weather conditions, without any adverse affects, for decades. Based on that, our members know best what conditions are conducive for racing or not.

2) Our members, who lavish great expense on caring for their birds, are not going to maltreat them.

3) We did a nation-wide check of ambient temperatures before the weekend of the races and found them to be well within the tolerance level for our birds, which fly at an altitude where the temperature is a few degrees cooler than on the ground.

4) The birds are transported at night and released just after sunrise when temperatures are cooler.

5) Reports from around the country confirm that it was a "normal to easy weekend" for pigeon racing.

6) Reports from the Free State and Northern Cape regions indicate a 98% return rate of birds at the clock out time (the end of the race). Some clubs clocked out early, because their birds would have since returned quicker. It would be normal for one or two birds to fall victim to birds of prey.

7) In the Western Cape a return rate of 98-100% was recorded and the birds were reported to be in excellent condition.

8) The Eastern Cape had excellent returns of 97% at clock out time and the pigeons were in excellent condition.

9) The SKDU (George, Mosselbaai , Outshoorn ) raced on Sunday and the first pigeons arrived at 12:40 already. The chairperson from one of the clubs clocked eight birds within five minutes - Exceptional easy race.

10) The PSWU (Rustenburg, Brits) liberated the pigeons at Strydenburg and not Three Sisters as per race programme. The transport coordinator informed me that out of his sixty pigeons only three did not arrive by 11:00 am Sunday morning.

It is a concern for the SANPO Board the number of anonymous calls received by the NSPCA. There are proper processes in all the organizations for members to raise concerns. If not dealt properly the member can appeal to SANPO for a resolution. There is a specific appeal committee to handle the matters. The NSPCA should refer the anonymous callers to the respective unions and if not satisfied, contact SANPO.

Yours in sport

Fadiel Hendricks

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## **Letters and announcements**

**The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, (SASCOC), wishes you Happy Holidays**



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**Letter of thanks from the Moorreesburg Show committee**



SWARTLANDSKOU MOORREESBURG  
 Tel./Faks 022 433-2461  
 022 433-1607  
 Posbus 97  
 MOORREESBURG  
 7310  
 e.mail: info@swartlandskou.co.za

21 September 2015

Beste Cassie en Marlene

Tenspyte van 'n baie winderige skoutyd, is ons Bestuur windmakerig om te kan sê dat ons 2015 weer 'n baie suksesvolle skou van 'n hoë gehalte kon aanbied.

Sonder vertoners was dit natuurlik nie moontlik nie en wil ons u van harte bedank vir u groot bydrae wat vir ons van onskatbare waarde is tot die sukses van die skou. Almal prys die Pluimvee-afdeling so baie en geniet die pragtige uitstalling – die allerhande soorte voëls ens.

“Dankie” is 'n klein woordjie, maar wees verseker ons waardeer julle bydrae en gesindheid teenoor die

Swartlandskou Moorreesburg opreg en glo dat u dit saam met ons geniet het.

Vreeslik baie dankie vir al jul insette met die regmaak en organiseer van die afdeling. Wees verseker ons waardeer dit baie.

Vriendelike groete

Ian Koch  
 Namens Swartlandskou / Skoubestuurder

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**Notice Board**

**NFPA Show Dates 2016**

For further information about shows and show dates, please contact Mariza or Nico Venter at 021 903 0613 or send an email to [ventern@telkomsa.net](mailto:ventern@telkomsa.net) with your query.

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**Birthdays**

The NFPA extends its warmest wishes those that have celebrated their birthdays recently.

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### **New Members**

The Executive Committee and all members of the NFPA welcome the following members who have joined the NFPA for the first time.

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### **Shows and related activities**

#### **The 2015 NFPA KZN Spring/Summer Show**

By Anthony Thebus

The Annual SANPO Championship Show that was to be held in Durban at the Durban Racing Pigeon Club House on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was cancelled less than three weeks prior to it taking place, due to circumstances beyond the control of the NFPA. Because the NFPA KZN Region had been commissioned to use this event to host their Regional Championship Show, this cancellation posed a "problem" for the members in KZN who had already collectively entered almost 300 birds for this event and the Chairman of NFPA KZN, Neil Raw, who had been tasked with organizing the fancy pigeon entries, show cages, sponsors, publicizing the event, etc. So; within days after an unsuccessful attempt to use the Royal Show Grounds as a venue due it having being booked for the same weekend by a political party for their annual party conference, Neil decided to host the show at his farm. This clearly was a good idea for the well-being of the pigeons because there were thousands of "fired up" political party participants arriving in hundreds of cars, resulting in severe congestion of the roads to access the Royal Show Grounds.

Neil wasted no time in advising all the exhibitors about the change of plans; and so the NFPA KZN 2015 Spring/Summer Show was "born"; but this was no ordinary show; it was combined with the AGM of the NFPA KZN as well as their Year End function.

I was privileged to be hosted as a guest of Neil and Angie Raw at their farm during this time and had firsthand experience of this unique event, as the photos that I took will illustrate.



Wynand and his daughter Karen van Wyk having a true father and daughter moment at the outside section of the display cages, little did she know that she would be the winner of the Judges Choice award in the Junior Section with her German Beauty Homer.



Christo Munnik was kind enough to do all the judging of the fifty three breeds that were on show, while Cora and Neil assisted as stewards.



Fadiel, accompanied by his lovely wife, Madenia, had travelled from Cape Town to be in Durban for the weekend for a series of high level SANPO meetings and functions and true to his nature of being "there for everybody", he took time out to visit and participate in the KZN event giving an update of SANPO/NFPA developments at the NFPA KZN Annual General Meeting. As usual, he emphasized the development and nurturing the juniors in the sport, seen here giving Karen van Wyk a complimentary cap in recognition of having won the Judges Choice award.

Unfortunately, due to the sudden change of plans in re-organizing the show at a different venue there were not many members of the general public, however exhibitors, members and their friends and family members travelled from Underberg, Wartburg, Cape Town, Richards Bay, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone and Durban to be at the show and at the braai/prize-giving that concluded the event. But before I get to that part of the day, I am sure that many of the members and visitors to the show were extremely happy to be in the presence of VIP guest, the President of the South African National Pigeon Organisation - Fadiel Hendricks, seen here in the Senior Section. His comment on the show was - "An excellent show!"



The shade of an Acacia tree provided a welcome relief from the KZN heat as Fadiel delivered his report at the AGM to members, visitors and observers seated in a circle around the tree sipping iced coldrink.



The AGM saw Christo Munnik being elected as the KZN NFPA President with Neil Raw being the Vice President, among other office bearers. In his report, Fadiel re-iterated the importance of regional organisational membership of the KZN Sports Council in compliance with the SANPO constitution. This, he said, among other things, is only way to get our activities recognized as a sport in terms of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, (SASCOC), which will give the NFPA KZN access to funding to further develop the sport, and indeed the organisation, which will enable deserving members get recognized for their achievements in terms the various sports and SANPO awards that they are eligible for.

Finally, to conclude the activities of the day, members, families and friends enjoyed a delicious braai supplied and prepared by Neil and Angie Raw, with assistance from other enthusiastic helpers.



The core group of the NFPA KZN members



Fadiel with some of the NFPA KZN Juniors



Lionel Phillips, who was celebrating his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of the show, could not have hoped for a better birthday present - he won the Judges Choice award in the Senior Section.



He and his wife Carol were really happy with his English C/L L/F Tumbler, seen here with his prize.



Christo and Cora Munnik received a special award as token of appreciation and thanks for coming from all Port Shepstone to do the "hard" but skilled work of judging the winning birds.



Guests look on as two great leaders, Fadiel and Neil, in the pigeon sport casually chat about the rise and rise of the NFPA. Well, that concluded a very successful day for the KwaZulu Region of the National Fancy Pigeon Association of South Africa.

Thank you, Neil and Angie, for making my stay at your home pleasant, beyond my expectations.

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## 2015 SWARTLAND AGRI SKOU - MOORREESBURG

Die Moorreesburg skou was gehou van die 9de Sept 2015 tot die 12de Sept 2015 te Moorreesburg Skougronde. Daar was 'n total van 233 duive ingeskryf en daar was 5 Junior lede en 13 Senior lede se inskrywings. Inskrywingsgelde van duive was R6.00 per duif. 1ste Plekke het R50 prysgeld ontvang Die 5de September (Saterdag) het ek, Cassie, Majiet en Nivo V deurgegaan om die saal reg te kry vir die skou.



Ons het van die hokke geskuif om dit makliker te maak vir die vertoners asook vir die publiek. Die stahokke wat 3 rye bo op mekaar was het ons verander na 2 rye toe. Die houthokke het ons voertoe geskuif vir die verandering. Ons het gesorg dat die duive die jaar kos sowel as waterbakkies het. Die bakkies is almal vasgemaak sodat die duive dit nie kon omtrap nie.



Ons het die tafels rondom onder toegemaak met die plasties met ons logo op wat deur Majiet gemaak is.



Die Woensdag aand is al die duive gehok waarna die beoordeling plaasgevind het. Die beoordeelaars was Yasiem Khan, Majiet Rawoot en Farouk Gameeldien. Die opkoms die Saterdag was baie goed.



Daar is baie voete deur die saal en baie vrae is gevra deur die publiek. Die vertoners het hul kant gebring en op al die vrae geantwoord. Baie mense het nie geweet van die verskillende soorte rasse wat 'n mens kry nie. Die Frillbacks het baie aandag getrek. Baie mense wou weet of dit vere voor elke skou gekrul word. Hul kan nie glo dat dit natuurlik is nie. Vanaf 3uur die Saterdag middag het die lede begin hul duive uit te haal. Die skou was weereens 'n groot sukses gewees. Baie dankie aan al die vertoners wat ons daar verteenwoordig het. Sien jul in 2016 weer en ek hoop daar sal dan meer vertoners wees.

**Die pryse was as volg:**

### **Senior**

Norwich Cropper - Majiet Rawoot  
Brunner Pouter - Majiet Rawoot  
Holle Cropper - Majiet Rawoot  
Runts - Arthur Rohland  
Cauchios - Arthur Rohland

Nuremburg Lark - Arthur Rohland  
 Danish Suabians - Arthur Rohland  
 Thuringian Spots - Arthur Rohland  
 Polish Lynx - Arthur Rohland  
 Carrier - YK Lofts  
 Bokhara Trumpeter - YK Lofts  
 Jacobin - YK Lofts  
 Nun - YK Lofts  
 Old German Magpie Tumbler - YK Lofts  
 Ice Pigeon Cleanlegged - YK Lofts  
 Fairy Swallows - YK Lofts  
 Silician Swallows - YK Lofts  
 Attipans - YK Lofts  
 Rostover Tumblers - YK Lofts  
 Mookee - Attie Hugo  
 Birmingham Rollers - Attie Hugo  
 SA Toy - Mariette Burger  
 Modena - Nico Esterhuizen  
 Working Homers - Nico Esterhuizen  
 American Show Racers - Nico Esterhuizen  
 Damascenes - Nico Esterhuizen  
 Fantails - Carstens Sierduiwe  
 SA Botternek Tumblers - Carstens Sierduiwe  
 Frillbacks - Carstens Sierduiwe  
 Parlour Tumblers - Carstens Sierduiwe  
 Arabian Trumpeters - Carstens Sierduiwe  
 Satinette - F Gameeldien  
 Blondinette - F Gameeldien  
 Old German Owls - F Gameeldien  
 Chinese Owls - F Gameeldien  
 SA Distance Rollers - F Gameeldien  
 Italian Owls - Donald Bland  
 Egyptian Swifts - Donald Bland  
 Maltese - Anthony Thebus  
 Stargard Shakers - Shanaaz Rawoot  
 Lahores - Tokkas  
 Portugese Tumblers - Fadiel Hendriks  
 West of England Tumbler - Fadiel Hendriks  
**Junior**  
 Norwich Cropper - Phoenix Loft (Jnr)  
 Dragoons - Phoenix Loft (Jnr)  
 Arabian Trumpeters - Phoenix Loft (Jnr)  
 Magpies - Phoenix Loft (Jnr)  
 Brunner Pouters - First Flight Loft (Jnr)

Fantails - First Flight Loft (Jnr)  
 Strassers - First Flight Loft (Jnr)  
 Lauziter Tumblers - First Flight Loft (Jnr)  
 Mookees - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 Old German Owls - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 Chinese Owls - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 Birmingham Rollers - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 American Show Racers - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 Dutch High Flyers - Lezar & Moolla (Jnr)  
 Vienna L/F Tumbler - Kische` Pigeons (Jnr)  
 Gimpels - Aneeqah Jefferies (Jnr)

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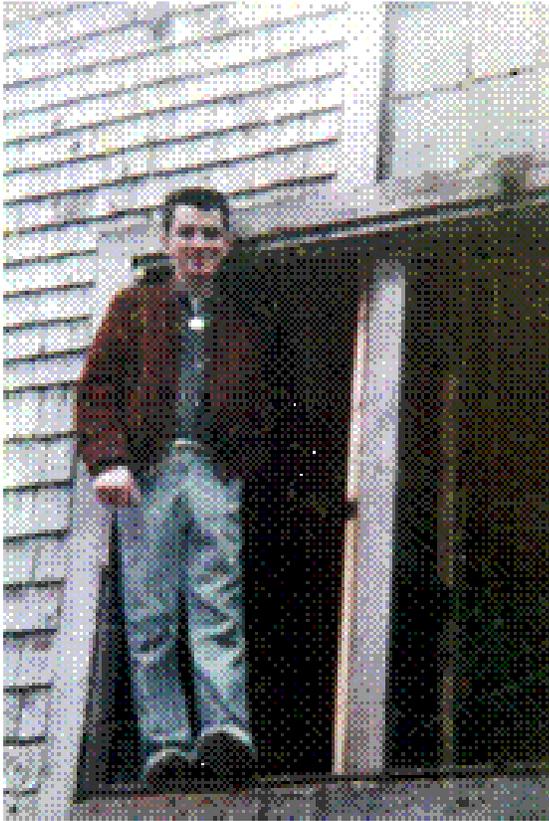
## How and Why Are Pigeons Part of My Life

By Jerry Gagne – President of National Pigeon Association, USA

Why, am I so fascinated and enjoy the keeping of pigeons? There really is no answer for me and for so many others who love this hobby. My parents' only interest in pets was allowing us to always have a dog, nothing else; until pigeons entered my life. Coming home from school one day, I was going through someone's back yard, because a couple of class mates were always looking for me to bully me. This trip through John Higginbotham's back yard was to evade the two bullies who chased

me almost every day after school. I was probably 10 years old and weighed about 70 lbs. In John's yard, I noticed a big two story building and a number of smaller buildings. In every window there were pigeons looking out and I was fascinated and stopped to check them out. That was the instant pigeons became part of my life. Thankfully John was in the loft and stopped to talk to me and allowed me to check out all the pigeons. I didn't know anything about them at that time but later learned that John had Racing Homers, Fantails and Clean Leg Tumblers, and he had been working for years to create a white side Clean Leg Tumbler. My memory is a little fuzzy here, but I am sure John gave me some birds and I took them home. My mother was the real boss in the family, and when I brought the birds home, she encouraged me to enjoy them and I built a small cage inside our barn. At some point, very early in the keeping of pigeons, my older brother Bob became interested in the pigeons too. Here we are in 2016 and what are the odds that both Bob and I would still have pigeons. The year I met John Higgenbotham was probably 1951, so Bob and I have had pigeons for over 65 years. When I started with pigeons, breeds meant nothing to me, and common street pigeons were just as much fun as any other pigeons. I grew up in Biddeford, Maine, and the city across the river was Saco. With a river between the two cities, there were of course bridges connecting the two cities. The bridges were where the pigeons were and that is where you would find the Gagne brothers on a regular basis. Now, the Saco River was no small river, it was fast, deep and dangerous. There were many cracks in the bridge foundation, and Bob and I would climb down and risk our lives to reach pigeons - God, if my mother knew what we were doing, that would have been the end of pigeons at our house! Heck, most of the time we hid under the

bridge after dark; because that was the best time to catch the adults. Another way we caught street pigeons was with a wooden crate, a stick and some string. We would sprinkle scratch feed on the ground, (scratch feed that we found under the loading docks at the train station. When they unloaded the train cars, bags would sometimes leak and fall thru the cracks, where we collected it.) The wooden crate was tilted up and held in place with a stick that had a string tied to it. We would hide behind a building and peek around the corner. When a pigeon or two walked under the tilted box, we would pull the string, the stick would fly away and the box would sometimes fall on a pigeon or two. When we caught a pigeon, we were so excited, especially if it was one with colour such as a splash or a silver! Now there was one more way that Bob and I added to our flock, and this was the most fun. We would have a long piece of string and tie a lasso in one end. The lasso would be placed on the ground and covered with a little sand. On top of the sand we would place some scratch feed. Now you didn't just place the feed in the centre of the lasso, you had to sprinkle some in a line leading to the lasso, that way; the pigeons would eat their way to the trap. Once again we would peek around the corner waiting for a pigeon to walk into the loop of the lasso. When that happened we would pull very quickly and the lasso would tighten around the pigeon's leg and away the bird would fly. Now there was a real technique to this and you could not just yank on the string hard and expect to have a pigeon, you had to be gentle and reel it in. Jerking hard would injure the bird and we didn't want to do that. What fun it was to see the bird flying away and then to see it slowly return to you. On more than one occasion we actually caught two at a time!



In our early years we had to raise money to buy feed, especially when very little was found under the loading docks at the rail yard. I started earning money by picking blueberries and strawberries. Bob and I also collected scrap metal anywhere we could find it. This was during the Korean War, and scrap metal paid quite well. Luckily we had a little wagon and the junk man had a place within walking distance. Collecting newspapers was another thing all together. Now this was before Bob and I took over the whole upstairs of the barn. We would collect newspaper from everywhere and trudge up the stairs to stack it in the barn. The barn was really big, I guess it really wasn't a barn, but that is what we called it. It was really a two story garage and had to measure 40" X 50'. We actually filled that barn from floor to ceiling, and when full, we would call Mr. Zaitlen, the junk man, and he would bring his truck to our house and we would fill it with our collection of newspapers. The problem with collecting and selling all this stuff was that we made more than enough to

pay for the feed for the pigeons we had, so our answer to that problem was to of course get more pigeons. At one time Bob and I must have had over 1000 pigeons. As we got into our teen years, Bob took a job at a shoe store and when he graduated from high school, he went into the Air Force and I took over the shoe store job and that is how we continued to fund the hobby. After I graduated, I also went in to the Air Force and that put a short end to the pigeons. When Bob got out of the Air Force he took up pigeons again. After my stint in the Air Force, I returned to Maine, and back to pigeons I went. This is the point that Bob and I became pickier about the pigeons we kept and started raising pure bred pigeons. I especially remember my love of the Clean Leg Tumblers, and travelled to Worcester, Massachusetts to buy pigeons from Joe Curran and to Medford, Massachusetts to get birds from Jim Fonseca. Mr. Fonseca was a very prominent pigeon person and was S/T of the American Pigeon Club and a very proliferate writer for the American Pigeon Journal. Mr. Fonseca was also in the pigeon supply business, on a small scale, and I think this is what planted the seed that you could actually make money in the pigeon supply business. While in our twenties, Bob and I decided to have a pigeon show in our home town. We found a small hall to have the show, located cages we could use, ordered trophies, advertised by word of mouth and the Maine Pigeon Classic was born. Our very first show was held on a Sunday, and it was the Sunday that the first Super Bowl was held. We had a black and white television in the hall for those who didn't want to miss the Super Bowl. The show was a success and lots of work and; it was lots of fun. We had the show for a number of years and we met many of the fanciers from around Maine and New England, and among the people we met was Ray LeBlanc. Meeting Ray turned out to be the

meeting that changed my life forever. Ray operated LeBlanc Pigeon Farm, selling pigeons as well as pigeon supplies. We travelled to the LeBlanc Pigeon Farm on a number of occasions and got to know Ray. I told Ray that I would like to be in the pigeon supply business and it wasn't long after that Ray decided that his job and family require a lot of time and if we were interested, he would sell the pigeon business to us. Our first response to Ray was that we could not afford to buy the business and were too young to borrow money from a bank. God bless Ray, for making an offer we could not refuse, he set a price, gave us the business and said pay for it over time, as we got established. My memory is a bit vague as to how we moved the business to our home, but we did it and a small company called Gagne Bros. Pigeons was started. Bob was a carpenter by trade and he made all of the products that could be made of wood. I did the catalogues, advertising and general ordering, we both packed orders. Gagne Bros. Pigeon supply was a part time business, and a few years after getting into the business, the company I worked full time for was sold and I was offered a position with the new company. I accepted the offer and had to move to the Pittsburgh, Pa. area. It was at this point that my brother Bob and I had to make a decision, close the business or, one of us had to take it over. It ended up with me buying out Bob, and him; taking the pickup truck we owned. I moved to the little town of Clinton, Pa. and worked full time as well as operating Gagne Bros. Pigeon Supply. Isn't it a funny that the first town I operated the business from was Clinton, and Foy's pigeon Supply business was being operated from Clinton, Iowa? Oh, I just remembered that I wanted to mention that while in Maine, I had a big old Cadillac come up my driveway. It turned out that Mr. Charles Foy, of the Foy's Pigeon Supply Company was touring New England and wanted to visit

Gagne Bros. In the course of talking with Mr. Foy, he mentioned that he was thinking of retiring and would I be interested in buying his company? I told Mr. Foy that we were not in a position to buy anything, as Bob and I were just getting by with our personal responsibilities and our growing families. Who could have ever imagined that decades later, I would end up buying the Foy's business from Clair Hetland, the man who bought it from Charles Foy. I operated Gagne Bros. Pigeon Supply for a number of years until, like Ray LeBlanc, working full time, a family with four kids and all the responsibilities, I decided to sell Gagne Bros. and that temporarily ended my journey in the pigeon business. I worked for a number of years for a home improvement company, as a salesman. One day I was on a roof, checking out a job, and from that vantage point, I looked over into the neighbour's yard. I noticed a pigeon loft and that rekindled my interest in keeping pigeons again, but I resisted the urge to visit the neighbour's loft. The next day, I was visiting the job again and as luck would have it, the neighbour came over and asked if I would give him a bid on his roof. I did go over and I did sell him a roof, but in the process we got to talking about pigeons and he gave me a tour of his Racing Homer loft. Well, another one of those things in life was happening and I ended up buying two pairs of birds. Now my wife, Vickie, never even knew I was interested in pigeons. I had no loft, no cage, no equipment and no feed, but I did have four pigeons. I had the pigeons and built a loft and added more pigeons. There was a pigeon club within fifteen minutes from my home and I joined. I raced pigeons for 5 years and in the course of enjoying pigeons, I decided, what the heck, I have pigeons, why not start a pigeon business a way to help defray the cost of racing and training. I formed a small company and called

it Jerry's Pigeon Supply.



I subscribed to pigeon magazines and looked at what was currently being sold in order to create an inventory. Jerry's Pigeon Supply was fun and a challenge. I remembered that many years earlier I sold metal feeders and drinkers that were made by a company in Massachusetts named Felker's. I did everything I could to track the company down, but they were not in business. I really wanted to sell the line of fountains and drinkers, so being determined to find them, I knew they were still being made because I saw ads by Foy's, advertising them. I forgot to mention that while being the owner of Gagne Bros, in Clinton, Pa., and I made all of the wood products for Foy's, which was then owned by Clair Hetland and operated from Golden Valley, Minnesota. Building these wood products created a friendship with Clair, so I called him and asked if he knew where the Felker's company had moved to? Clair was very gracious and gave me the contact information. I started to buy products from Foy's to resell; and a year or so later, I mentioned to Clair that if he ever wanted to sell Foy's, I would be interested. Clair called me less than a year later, and due to health issues, he was going to sell the company. It took over a year, but with the help of banks and cashing in

all my savings, I bought the Foy's company. I am still on the journey of life, and am so lucky to be doing something I love to do. When my brother Bob and I purchased LeBlanc Pigeon Farm, never in my wildest dreams did I envision owning the oldest pigeon supply company in the U.S. I am just the third family to own a company that has been in existence, without interruption since 1883. I started out my pigeon club association by serving as President of the Maine Pigeon Association, becoming a strong supporter of the National Pigeon Association and then becoming the President of the National Pigeon Association. At present, I have 5 lofts and they are set up for flying birds. I have Rollers, Tipplers and Racing Homers, and do not show my birds. I keep a pair of Jacobins, a pair of Iranian High Flying rollers and two pairs of White Fantails, these are for my personal enjoyment, but of my 500 pigeons, 98% are flying breeds.



Wow, what a great life the pigeon hobby has made possible for me. Jerry Gagne.

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## KORT OORSIG OOR DUIWESPORT NA 40 JAAR

Goeie dag vriende, duiwefriende en publiek. Dankie vir die geleentheid om deel te kan he aan u kosbare tyd en om van my wonderlike ervaringe van die wedvlug duiwesport met u te kan deel. Ongelukkig is vanoggend se gesprek

baie oorhoofs en indien daar in die toekoms weer geleentheid is, sal ek graag in meer diepte wil gesels oor spesifieke aspekte wat vir u belangrik is.

Die duiwesport is n wonderlike manier om intens met die natuur betrokke te raak en om van die grootste uitdagings van die natuur te kan ervaar, terwyl dit u vermoeg as afrigter en persoonlikheid beproef. Dit vereis n goeie balans tussen die duiweboer en die duif om suksesvol te wees. Die duiweboer moet n liefde vir die duif het, die duif verstaan, kundig wees mbt die verskillende aspekte van teling, voeding, afrigting, motivering, energie opbou en herstel na n wedvlug. Dit vereis n bepaalde kundigheid (kennis is mag), deursettingsvermoeg, waarnemingsvermoeg, geduld en veral n passie vir die duif. Om kompetender te wees is dit belangrik dat die duiweboer hom/haarself op die hoogste sport van die duiwesport moet kry om die beste uit die duif te kan kry. Aan die duif kant moet die beste genetiese materiaal verkry word, dit reg benut word ten einde opwaarts in die sport te beweeg. Baie duiweboere kry die beste duiwe, maar weens n gebrek aan geduld, kennis en vaardigheid word die top duiwe gereduseer na die gemiddelde, hetsy deur swak teling, swak versorging, swak afrigting en/of swak waarneming. Vir n duif om met die bestes te kan kompeteer is dit duidelik en logies dat so n duif sodanig toegerus moet word met net die beste behandeling, voeding, afrigting en motivering dat dit n regverdige kans het. Die goue reëls in die verband is:

1. Die beste genetiese materiaal.
2. Die beste gesondheid. Hiermee bedoel ek nie oor medikasie nie. Balans is die woord. Hou die duif gesond van die basiese bedreigings soos kanker, wurms en koksidiöse. Ent vir pokke en Paramixo. Gee konserwatief vitamienes en maak seker dat duiwe se waterbakke

skoon is en minstens in die aand leeggemaak word.

3. Die duif gemotiveerd is, Hier is die basiese reëls van Maslow ter sprake. Dus voorsien aan die basiese behoeftes van kos, slaap, veiligheid/sekuriteit (geskikte hok met voldoende spasie en ventilasie) en die behoefte om aan te behoort en te versorg. (Oppaar en kleintjies)
4. n Goeie verhouding met die baas.
5. Fiks en voorbereid vir die taak van wedvlugkompetisies. Balans tussen oefening, voeding en rus. Om die balans te optimeer vereis aanvoeling en kundigheid gekombineer met n fyn waarneming.
6. Rus is baie keer die beste medikasie. Die duif is n lewende wese en nie n masjien nie.
7. Tydens die afrigting en voorbereiding van die duiwe vir wedvlugte is daar ook n paar goue reëls.
8. Geduld. Maak seker dat die duiwe fisies in staat is om die stress van die oefening en wedvlugte te kan hanteer. Dit beteken dat hulle klaar verveer moet wees, want indien nie sal die verliese onnodig hoog wees. Hier wil ek sommer noem dat ek regtig glo dat ons jaarliks te vroeg begin en dan die duiwe dwing om met halwe vere dekking te vlieg. Dit gewoonlik wanneer die seisoen onstabiel is met baie mis. Gevolglik lei dit tot onnodige verliese van jongduiwe. Ons kan met gemak die 1e wedvlug vlieg na die seisoen gedraai het, dus 21 Jun wat beteken die duiwe hoef eers na die verveerseisoen dus begin Mei geoef te word. Die wedvlugte kan dan maklik strek tot einde Okt. Die enigste vereiste is dat wedvlugte verder as 650km nie in Okt gevlieg word nie.

9. Die oefening moet egalig opgebou word , dit sluit ook in die afstande vir oefenvlugte. Hier kan ons baie by die natuur leer. Kyk bietjie hoe roofdiere hulle kleintjies beskerm en leer om te jag. Netso kan ons met geduld en hulp van die ouer duiwe die jongduiwe leer. Ek glo nie aan skok behandeling van jongduiwe nie, byvoorbeeld n eerste oefenvlug van 100 km, want baie goeie jongduiwe word so onnodig verloor.
10. Duiwe moet gesond wees. Medikasie , veral kanker medikasie kan soms tot groot verliese lei, omrede dit die balans en orientasie van die duif kan aantast. Dus is dit belangrik om duiwe gesond te hou, maar wees versigtig watter medikasie wanneer gebruik word. Ek het al self my erg in die voet geskiet met medikasie op die verkeerde tyd, byvoorbeeld sulpha middels wanneer dit warm is en in die week van mandjie. Die stress wat dit op die duiwe se niere plaas is net te veel om kompetender te wees.
11. Die duiwe moet deur drie fases in n week geneem word, naamlik skoonmaak, heelmaak en opbou. Met skoonmaak bedoel ek nie n oordosis purgeermiddels nie, maar wel om die duiwe te help om van oortollige melksuur en moontlike infeksies ontsaem te raak. Met heelmaak bedoel ek spier opbou met proteiene, pro-biotika en aminosure. Die opbou het ten doel om die energievlakke op optimum vlak te kry vir die spesifieke wedvlug. Dit vereis n fyn balans tussen koolhidrate en vette. Ons het sulke wonderlike sade in Suid-Afrika, by mielies, sorghum, sonneblom, grondboontjies edm. Alles wat ingevoer word is nie altyd beter nie.
12. Deesdae het ons uitstaande weervoorspelling informasie beskikbaar

op die internet. U kan werklik dit gebruik om te beplan vir die wedvlug, terwyl bestuur ingeligte besluite kan neem oor loslatings van die duiwe al dan nie. Die doel is om aan wedvlugte deel te neem waar die kompetisie optimaal is, terwyl onnodige verliese beperk word.

### **Opsommend**

Met die Genade van Bo het ek die voorreg gehad om met die duiwesport vir meer as 40 jaar betrokke te wees. Ek het ook die geleentheid gehad om meer oor duiwe te lees as wat ek gelees het om verskeie Unieversiteitsgrade te voltooi. Ook was ek bevoorreg om duiweboere in Belgie, Nederland, Hongarye, Engeland, Australie en Amerika te besoek. Steeds kan ek noem dat tsv al die blootstelling ek nog steeds nie die sport bemeester het nie en is dus nog steeds n goeie student is wat graag meer leer. Nogtans wil ek graag die volgende slotgedagtes uit my ervaringe van die duiwesport met u deel.

1. Duiwesport is uitdagend, wonderlik en vereis vele dissiplines soos voeding, teling en afrigting. Bestudeer die verskillende dissiplines, maak dit jou eie en met jou gesonde verstand, geduld, goeie oordeel en deursettingsvermoe sal jy beloon word.
2. Die sport is n terapie en dit is wonderlik om te sien watter waarde dit toevoeg tot lewens selfs tot op n gevorderde ouderdom. Duiwesport is harde werk 365 dae van die jaar, maar glo my vry dit sal u brein besig hou en u jonk hou. Ek onthou nog hoe wyle Monty van der Burgh op 80 jarige ouderdom onder die broeikas ingedui het om my die goeie teeldui te wys.
3. Daar is meer goeie duiwe as goeie duiweboere. Telkemale soek ons die fout by die duiwe ipv by onself. Wees regverdig met u duiwe end it is nie

nodig om elke jaar u stoet te verander nie, veral as hulle hulself reeds in die verlede bewys het.

4. Ten spyte van al die teorieë oor hoe goeie duive lyk, is dit nog steeds moeilik om die wiskrag van n duif met hantering te bepaal. Daarom die leuse : THE BLOOD WILL TELL:
5. Onthou: hoe meer n duif wen hoe mooier word hy/sy.
6. Agv die risiko's langs die pad sal jy later eventueel alle duive verloor as jy hulle lank genoeg vlieg. Dus moet nie oorgretig raak en jou duif uitbuit/misbruik en aanhou vlieg en eventueel verloor nie, terwyl jy met gesonde oordeel en verstand n goeie teelduif in die broeihok kon gehad het.
7. Dit is wonderlik om die sport te help groei. Dit word gedoen deur beginners en vriende te help. Van die lekkerste lekkerte is wanneer iemand jou terugvoer gee oor besondere prestasies wat hy/sy behaal het met duive waarmee jy hulle gehelp het. Kompetisie is gesond en belangrik om die sport aan die lewe te hou.
8. Die Liewe Vader het ons gesonde verstand gegee, kom ons gebruik dit. Moenie teen die natuur kompeteer met swak besluite soos om te vroeg te begin oefen, onnodige roetes oor berge te vlieg of deur onoordeelkundige loslatings nie.
9. Die kompetisie in die sport is goed en stel standarde. Geniet dit , maar onthou jou familie en vriende is netso belangrik. Kwaliteit tyden balans is wonderlik.
10. Duiwesport vereis baie tyd , 365 dae van die jaar, baie waarneming en baie geld. Die beloning is egter groot wanneer jy die sukses van jou harde werk beleef met goeie resultate. Dus:

GENIET JOU DUIWE, JOU VRIENDE,  
JOU FAMILIE EN DIE DUIWESPORT  
SE UITDAGINGS!!!!

ANTONIE VISSER: 082 781 6790

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## The Doctor's Corner

### Immunity in pigeons

By Onorio Catenacci

At the moment of birth, a newborn leaves behind its safe protective environment and enters a world teeming with bacteria, parasites, viruses, and infectious agents of all sorts. However, the babies do have one trump card: antibodies and immune compounds passed across the placenta from their mothers. These short-lived molecules can dip into mom's immunological experience to protect the newborn until the immune system gets up to speed. Now, a new study in pigeons suggests that some baby birds owe their early immunity not just their mothers, but to their grandmothers as well.

The specifics and mechanism remain unclear, but previous research has suggested that these early maternal immune compounds may have “educational effects” on the newborn’s developing immune profile—that they may somehow be priming the system to be on the lookout for common local diseases or parasites. If this is the case, a team of scientists from the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences in Paris reasoned, individuals may be inheriting some immunological memory not just from their mothers, but from all their maternal ancestors: A grandmother’s immune system educates the mother’s, and those modifications are preserved as the mother then instructs the third generation. Pigeons provide a nice model for testing these hypotheses because they have short generation times, and researchers can easily test eggs for the presence of inherited antibodies.

To find out whether older generations could indeed pass along immunity, the researchers injected 60 urban pigeons with haemocyanin—a protein that transports oxygen in some invertebrates, including keyhole limpets. They then injected another 60 pigeons with a saline solution. The birds injected with haemocyanin responded predictably: Before long, they developed antibodies that attacked the foreign proteins. Soon after, a second generation of chicks hatched, and the researchers injected the offspring with haemocyanin. Two years later, the second generation—88 birds in all—was old enough to mate and produced 33 eggs. All members of this third and final generation were injected with haemocyanin.

All of the birds in the third generation showed an immune response to the foreign protein, but the chicks that descended from

maternal grandmothers who had also been injected mounted a significantly larger response, they report today in *Biology Letters*. The results suggest that if both the mother and maternal grandmother have encountered a foreign molecule, the inherited immunity to a given foreign protein is stronger than if only the mother had encountered it.

The results are intriguing and call for further work, says Thierry Boulinier, an immune ecologist at the Functional and Evolutionary Ecology Center in Montpellier, France, who was not involved in the study. “The pigeon is a very nice model for that and the study was well designed. It has potentially strong implications linking ecology and evolution.”

But the researchers are still having trouble explaining the elevated immune response in chicks descended from haemocyanin-injected grandmothers. They originally hypothesized that the antibodies sent from mother to offspring somehow primed chicks’ immune systems to be on the lookout for the foreign proteins. If this were the case, the team reasoned, the second generation of pigeons would produce eggs with more antibodies if their mothers had been exposed. However, testing did not support this hypothesis: The concentration of antibodies in eggs laid by the second generation was unaffected by whether or not the grandmother pigeon received the real injection or a sham injection.

Now, the researchers posit that the immune systems of the second and third generations might be “trained” by a molecule other than maternal antibodies—perhaps a hormone or nutrients that are transmitted from mother to egg. They say more studies are needed to determine how the grandmother’s immunological memory is transferred across two generations. But if the results can be confirmed, they carry implications for how

scientists think about the role of ecology and genetics in the immune systems of individuals.

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