

The Cureghem Centre Day.

25th November 2012

I pointed out recently the vast array of trophies awarded by The British Barcelona Club, especially for its Blue Riband race, and what a glorious celebration of our racing year the dinner and Gala makes, but of course when it comes to racing from Barcelona we are not alone. The International race from Barcelona is generally accepted as the most prestigious pigeon race in the entire world involving entries from all of the principal pigeon racing countries of Western Europe. Its continued success stands as a tribute to the professionalism and care of those who organise it, the Cureghem Centre in Belgium.

The Cureghem Centre holds its own celebration and whilst the International Barcelona race occupies a central part of that event it is only a part as the Cureghem Centre is responsible for a whole seasons racing over a large part of the country. La Journée de Cureghem Centre (The day of the Cureghem Centre) was held this year on 25th November 2012 at the [Stade Constant Vanden Stock Stadion](#), Parc Astrid Park, Anderlecht which may sound familiar to those who follow football as it is of course the home ground for R.S.C. Anderlecht. This football stadium dates from 1917 when they had just one wooden stand but it has been considerably upgraded over the years. It was then completely rebuilt in 1983 and took on the name of the chairman at that time, Constant Vanden Stock, and it is still being upgraded to this day with a new tier to increase seating capacity which should be completed in the coming year.



Ready to celebrate.

(Photo courtesy of the Cureghem Centre.)

The dinner and celebration of the awards does not take place on the football pitch of course but within the spacious stadium function rooms, as you can see above and in a [video](#) on the Cureghem Centre web site. I think it is fair to say that everybody that has been able to attend over the years has come away very impressed indeed. The many awards that are made spread over a good part of the day but this all takes place within a very friendly atmosphere with hospitality second to none. The dinner menu this year, accompanied by two excellent wines and some pleasant background music, was as follows:

Menu

Smoked salmon tartare and creamy dill.

Cream of pumpkin and carrots with cumin.

Haunch of venison, sweet and sour sauce with red fruits, stewed apples with cranberries, duchess potatoes and celeriac.

Tarte tatin & vanilla ice cream.

Coffee.



An inviting main course.

(Photo courtesy of the Cureghem Centre.)

The awards spread across the whole of the Cureghem Centre's season but those for the Barcelona International race take pride of place. You will see from the list below that the awards for this race include various competitions within the one race some of which may be unfamiliar to our eyes. What they offer are rewards for various levels of performance of both single and multiple pigeons but also the fanciers ability to select his/her pigeons. In this race there are several competitors who send a hundred or more pigeons while others may only send one but the awards are designed to encompass them all and provide as wide a range of competition as possible.

The Barcelona Honour Awards

First International Old Bird

First French Bird

The Jan Dons "Memorial" prize

The prize of the "Federacion Catalana Colombofilia"

The prize of the "Pigeon Federation Tourquenoise"

The prize of "Zuid Limburgse United" Netherlands

The prize of "Engelbert Jennekens" Vice-President ZLU

The prize of "Emile Denys" - Tielt

The prize of Mr J. A. Fernandez-Iglesias - Spain

The price of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The President's Award Cureghem Centre

The Gold Medal Cureghem Centre

The International President's Award "Dr. Tereso"

Philippe DEU – Nieurlet – France



(Photo courtesy of the Cureghem Centre.)

The Second International award

The First National prize Belgium

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Silver Medal Cureghem Centre

Price "Xpert Vinum"

The prize of the restaurant "Saint-Guidon"

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

Ferdy DE SCHEEMAEKER – Ooigem – Belgium

The Third International award

The First Hen International prize

Bronze Medal Cureghem Centre

The prize of Cureghem Centre

The prize of the "Federacion Catalana Colombofilia"

Freddy DE KETELAERE – Eke – Belgium

Fourth International award

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Paul & Sven SAEYTIJDT – Nederbrakel – Belgium

Fifth International award

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Wim KERKHOVE – Torhout – Belgium

The Cup of Flanders (Award for the best from the first 10 nominated pigeons.)

The prize of Mr Gérard De Cuyper

Alfred REGGERS - Dilsen – Belgium (9 from 10)

(460th -1168th -1452nd -1847th -2175th -2546th -2778th -2905th -5542nd)

First two Nominated pigeons International (Nominations 1 & 2)

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Henk WEGH – Lochem - Netherlands

(143rd-202nd)

Fancier winning the largest number of prizes

International Old birds - International Hens

First National Germany

The prize of the German federation

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Uwe HERMES – Hamm - Germany

44 prizes O/B. 20 prizes Hens. (First pigeon 36th Open)

The first two old birds International (Equivalent to two bird average)

The price of the Committee Euskirchen – Germany

Antoon LENAERT – Anzegen - Belgium

(25th -56th)

Fancier with the Ace Pigeon International 2002-2011 (10 years)

The price of Cureghem Centre

Pierre DAENEN – Tongeren - Belgium

5243101/00 gained 8 prizes in these years rated at 73.52%

Fancier with the Ace Pigeon International 2007-2011 (5 years)

The price of Cureghem Centre

Pierre PAULSSEN & Son – Roosteren - Netherlands

1667908/05 gained 5 prizes in these years rated at 22.36%

The first series of Hens International (1+2)

The price of Cureghem Centre

BATENBURG – VAN DE MERWE – Klaaswaal - Netherlands

(60th -66th)

Fancier winning the largest number of prizes Hens International

The price of Cureghem Centre

Paul CALLENS – Heestert – Belgium

20 prizes.

Cup of Wallonia (Award for the best from the first 10 nominated Hens International.)

The prize of Mr Gérard De Cuyper

Alfred REGGERS – Dilsen - Belgium (8 from 10)

(168th -380th -570th -667th -777th -851st -888th -1565th)

First two Nominated pigeons National (1+2)

Le prix "Memorial August Debacker"

First two Nominated pigeons Brabant

Donated by Mad. Christine Van Bael

The prize of "La Colombe Joyeuse"

Peter BOURS – Averbode – Belgium (56th – 99th)

First pigeon Netherlands

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Antoon SCHULTS – Bruinisse – Netherlands (6th)

First pigeon Great Britain (BBC)

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

TEAM RML – Romford - UK (475th)

First pigeon Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Gaston WAGNER- Luxembourg - Luxembourg (768th)

First English pigeon (BICC)

The prize of the firm "Natural" Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Mark GILBERT- Winkfield - UK (1983rd).

First Polish pigeon

The prize of the firm "Natural" - Antwerp

The prize of Cureghem Centre

Jaroslav RUTECKI – Osiecznica – Poland

First two Nominated pigeons Germany (1+2)

The prize of "Winners" G.D. Luxembourg

Marianne SCHAFFER – Oberhausen – Germany (376th – 1051st)

First set of two pigeons G.D. Luxembourg

The prize of the Committee Euskirchen – Germany

Frank ROHEN – Bivange – Luxembourg (1733rd – 2797th)

Zonal Winners

The prize of Cureghem Centre

1300km to 1500km

Dick VAN DE BERG – Tuk - Netherlands 1300km (181st)

Over 1500km

Jaroslav RUTECKI – Osiecznica - Poland 1541km

The various competitions shown above involving nominations are taken from the order that the pigeons are placed on the entry sheet, so it is always worth remembering this when completing your entry. While our objective, within the UK, is often just to get one home and while everyone's objective or dream is to get the winner you can see what an achievement it is to win something like the Cup of Flanders for the best of the first ten nominated pigeons in the race. And even those who scorn the so called "mob" flyers must surely have room to give some respect to a flyer like Uwe Hermes who sent 115 pigeons got 44 in the result that's 38% of his entry scoring within 25% of the total entry in the greatest, most competitive pigeon race in the world.



The TEAM RML Cureghem Centre Trophy

Unfortunately TEAM RML was unable to attend and receive the Cureghem Centre trophy this year but thanks to the kind assistance of Geoff Cooper it has now been delivered. I have heard a rumour that TEAM RML has already marked the date for next year's celebration on the calendar so there is the challenge to all. Who will be going to the Cureghem Centre Day in 2013 to represent The British Barcelona Club?

Nigel Lane