

Jac Steketee of Bruinisse 2013

Last year I wrote ***"The performance level of Jac Steketee and his pigeons carries on to this day."*** It was true in 2012 and it is still very true in 2013, so here we will have a look at 2013 but just before we do let me expand a little on 2012. I also wrote ***"Looking at the 2012 Barcelona result we find that Jac Steketee sent an entry of 10 pigeons and timed 3 in the ZLU (Dutch National) result. His first pigeon was 10th National, that is 10th from an entry of 6,392 pigeons and 1,159 fanciers and it was 27th International from an entry of 25,320 pigeons."*** That 27th International was of course an exceptional performance but what I failed to mention was the other two pigeons in the result the first being NL09-3903327 who was 513th National and 1,371st International closely followed by NL08-3802844 who was 517th National and 1,401st International.



Jac Steketee in his loft.

So we come to 2013 and one of the most successful International fanciers decided to try something new, well new for him. There is no better person than Jac to describe this himself.

"This year I have the pigeons for the first time on nest and race them on eggs and youngsters from 10 to 12 days.

After the season started they make flights from 100-300km and 500km and then they go to Pau and Barcelona.

I decided to play Pau because the pigeons were in such good condition that I was wondering if they are even good enough to go to Barcelona ?? The results from Pau were good; it was a very fast race the start was in the morning 6.45am and most of the pigeons were at home in the evening. The pigeons had a nest with eggs from 10 days and they go back on the nest.

The eggs hatched out and then they had youngsters from about 10 /12 days and then they go to Barcelona. Barcelona was a complete different race, very hard and the same pigeons as from Pau make a good race from Barcelona. It means that they don't have any problem with a fast or slow race. But in my mind I think they are best in a race like Barcelona."

This came as a bit of a shock to me, not the quality of the pigeons of course I was well aware of that, no the method. I had after all just spent the last few years not exactly copying but learning from the widowhood techniques I had heard and seen being used in Holland and adapting them to my circumstances only to find one of those who I admired most reverting to what I had come to think of as an old fashioned way. Here was a long standing master of the art completely revising his method and to great effect. Perhaps I will have to think again. What it clearly demonstrates to us all is that no matter how good you are there is always something else you could try.

So what were these results of 2013 and what were the birds?

At Pau Jac sent 6 pigeons from a total of 841 Netherlands fanciers who sent 3,124 pigeons and an International entry of 8,576 pigeons. At a distance of 986.094km or 612miles 1285.5yds he timed four pigeons that qualified for both the National and International result

152nd National 559th International NL09-3903357 Vel.1122.56mpm

378th National 1,491st International NL08-3802844 Vel.1031.101mpm

466th National 1,769th International NL08-3802843 Vel.990.85mpm

467th National 1,770th International NL00-3002744 Vel.990.85mpm

At Barcelona Jac entered 13 pigeons from a total of 1,297 Netherlands fanciers who sent 6,909 pigeons and a total International entry of 25,294 pigeons. At a distance of 1149.33km or 714miles 285.85yds he timed 6 pigeons that qualified for both the National and International result.

66th National 168th International NL09-3903357 Vel.848.947mpm

82nd National 202nd International NL08-3802844 Vel.843.01mpm

117th National 306th International NL08-3802843 Vel.829.164mpm

768th National 2,495 International NL01-3009636 (Under 800mpm) 19:10:53

999th National 3,239th International NL09-3903371 05:17:42

1,501st National 4,034th International NL00-3002720 08:14:15

NL09-3903357 also flew Perpignan in 2013 when he managed to score 534th National from 4,978 pigeons however the full International result is not yet available so we cannot be sure of his position there.

"Richard"

NL09-1244606

Barcelona 2012

1st National 6,392 birds

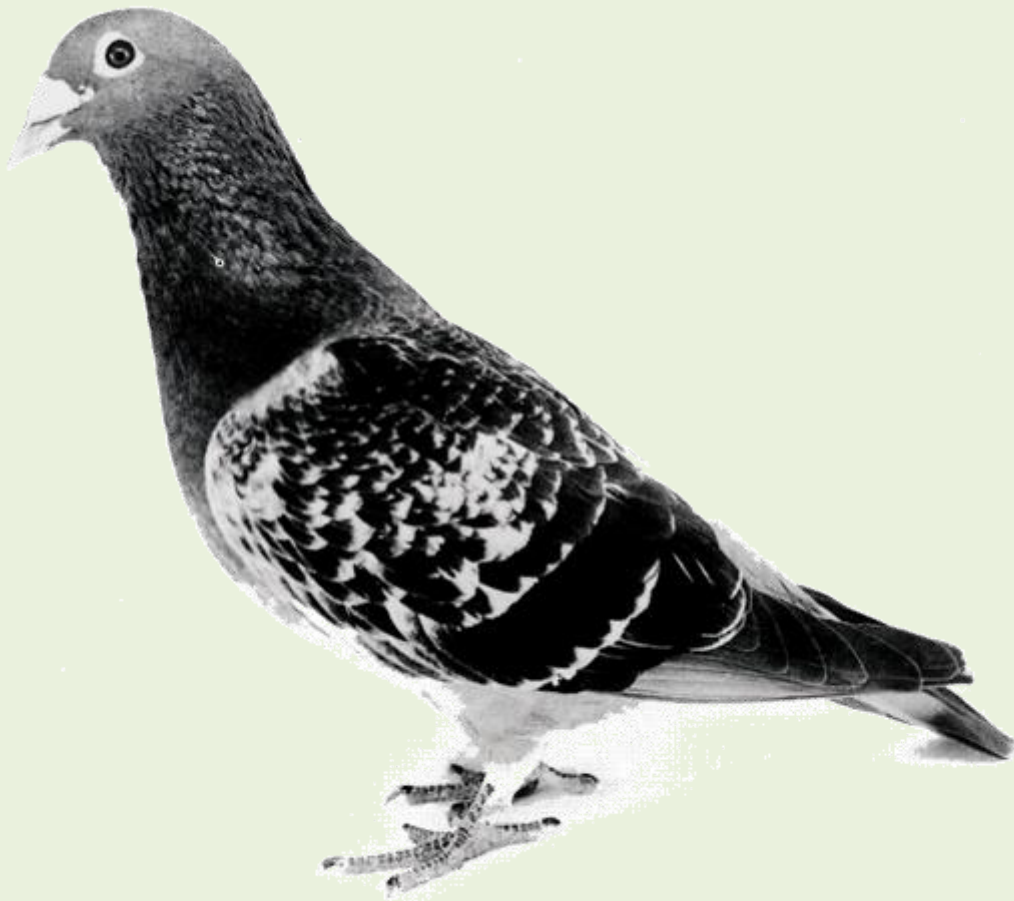
6th International 25,320 birds



[Anton Schults, Bruinisse](#)

Where do the pigeons of Anton Schults fit into the 2013 story? It was Anton Schults you will recall who with "Richard", a pigeon grounded in the Steketee strain, took 1st Dutch National and 6th International Barcelona 2012 and here with NL09-3903357, the pigeon that clearly led this set of races we see the Schults name again. As soon as you look at his pedigree you see all the mainstay pigeons I have mentioned before "De Marseille", "De Stam Doffer" and "Stayer" figuring prominently but interestingly on both the sire and dams side appears a pigeon from A. Schults which is itself bred from a Steketee cock down from "De Marseille" when paired to a hen from A. Gebraad's. Anton says ***"Adrie Gebraad got his pigeons mainly from Nipius, Th. de Groot from Steenbergen and Lazeroms. One of his top pigeons, "De 34" was a grandchild of the famous ["Zilvervosje"](#) from Bakker Meesters of the Heen. This line of the "Zilvervosje" is also a line which is found in the pigeons of Batenburg's famous Witbuik."*** So here, in NL09-3903357, we have the confluence of lines which on both sides lead back to the **["SAAR"](#)** of Oomens Brothers and the very foundation of today's Dutch long distance racing pigeons. Interestingly "Richard" was bought by Batenburg-Van de Merwe becoming the "New Witbuik" and we can perhaps see here the reason why. Louella have also invested in Anton Schults pigeons so if it is too far to go over to Bruinisse you can get some **[HERE](#)**.

As you will have seen it was a trio of pigeons that stood out at Pau and Barcelona so what about the other two. Well the first remarkable thing about them is that they are a nest pair. To have two pigeons that make the top 500 of the Barcelona International is one thing but for them to be a nest pair is really quite extraordinary. Frankly I do not know if this has ever been achieved before but if it has I would be very interested to know. Again when we look at the pedigrees we see the familiar mark of "De Marseille" and "De Stam Doffer" but on this occasion again on both sides of the pedigree another very famous name "De Parel" of van der Wegen.



NL78-7876458 "De Parel"

As I said before Jac is aware of the need occasionally to bring in some fresh blood and here we see two examples of it but the other thing to note is that the blood is of an equivalent quality. Here in this introduction we see not only "De Parel" who had a magnificent racing career including some outstanding performances from Barcelona in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984 but also "De Stephan" who had perhaps an even more impressive record through those same years mainly from St Vincent and Bergerac.

This is not the first time these two pigeons have flown Barcelona of course they have both flown the race each year since 2010:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nat. Birds</u>	<u>NL08-3802844</u>	<u>NL08-3802843</u>
2010	7,016	645 th Nat. & 2,268 th Int.	1,063 rd Nat. & 3,276 th Int
2011	7,046	68 th Nat. & 115 th Int.	489 th Nat. & 904 th Int.
2012	6,392	518 th Nat. & 1,401 st Int.	Not placed
2013	6,909	82 nd Nat. & 202 nd Int.	117 th Nat. & 306 th Int.

While I do not suggest that any old bird can put in a good performance from Barcelona, because clearly it takes an exceptional pigeon to do it even once, it takes a really exceptional pigeon to make multiple performances like these and here we have it from a nest pair. Just to illustrate the multiple performance angle in a little more detail if we look at 2012/2013 some 1,615 pigeons gained places in both results, and NL08-3802843 was one of the very many that missed out on this particular score as he was unplaced in 2012. His nest mate, NL08-3802844 however was 74th on this aggregate score with a position total of 1,604; you can see the top 100 [HERE](#). When we go back and look at 2011, 2012 and 2013 we find there were 450 pigeons that gained places in all three results and here NL08-3802844 was 9th with a position total of 1,718, you can see the top 50 [HERE](#). Finally looking back at 2010, 2011, and 2012 and 2013 we find that just 135 pigeons managed to gain places in all four results and NL08-3802844 was placed 6th with a

position total of 3,986, you can see all 135 [HERE](#). It was this series of top performances that led to NL08-3802844 being crowned **ACE Barcelona Pigeon 2010 to 2013** by the Z.L.U. in 2013. With a total entry in excess of 25,000 pigeons in each race and conditions varying from one of the toughest races to one of the fastest to put up consistent performances like these is quite exceptional and with a nest mate not far behind makes is really quite extraordinary.



NL08-3802844

378th National 1,491st International Pau 2013

82nd National 202nd International Barcelona 2013

ZLU ACE Barcelona Pigeon 2010 to 2013.

It seems to me that we can learn several lessons from all this and the first of these is that you must have a family of pigeons that can perform in the races in which you wish to compete. This has been the mainstay of Jac Steketee's successful racing career over decades. Secondly you must not be afraid to introduce new pigeons to that family but you must look carefully at their origin and the contribution they can make and then monitor their effect over time. This again is something that Jac has managed to do very successfully. Finally you must not become so tied to your method that you cannot consider trying something new and here again we have seen a compelling example from Jac Steketee.

When we look around it is very easy, I think, to become dazzled by the claims and sales talk that comes from many fanciers and the commercial organisations they support. It is very easy to think if I buy this bird or this strain because of the name alone success will automatically follow. It is nonsense of course but it is an easy line to fall for. The truth is you cannot achieve great things without great input and this can mean hard work, knowledge, money and always that essential element "lady luck". Lady luck alone is not likely to make you a winner but however good you are and however good your pigeons are you still need her on your side. So if you want to be a winner you have to be prepared to put in the work and if you are prepared to put in the work you need to know that the materials you are working with are capable of producing the results that you want. If Barcelona is your aim then I think you can see that the pigeons of Jac Steketee could provide you with the right materials, so if you are interested he normally offers young pigeons for sale by auction during the winter months via www.top pigeons.nl/ , but please don't get carried away with bidding as I shall be looking to add to my stock as well.

Nigel Lane