

## **“International Race Preparation - Thinking Ahead” by Jim Emerton**

Wise fanciers with foresight know the future; it is coming and zooming into the present. Yes Barcelona and the other top races are imminent. Future years will cement the names and reputations of the GREATS from the sport of pigeon racing.

You could all be one of those GREATS just dedicate to the cause and do it, send your best distance/marathon birds. I hope to be around to write about you, especially the first to crack the Barcelona International race at over 800mls on the second day into the UK. It gets no harder except winning the International at this distance.

**That’s enough hyperbole and rhetoric; my preparation is as follows;** Some top men like Gordon flag their birds and specialise in widowhood cocks. I like an open loft and natural for Barcelona, exercise, let your bird’s range the skies at will. If they are not bang on then you will need some road work, yet as little of this as necessary. Use one of the three big National clubs for training i.e. BICC/BBC/NFC. These are nice and competitive and will help to orientate and condition your birds.

My Barcelona birds were sent to 466mls with the NFC that was at Nantes but more recently Cholet. After this when your birds will be on the day or the second day give them a rest. Follow this with a short race at say 120mls just before basketing for the Barcelona race. At all times the birds should feel muscular and with a lining of fat, believe me they will call on this energy reserve at some time during the flight. The birds will have had 2 x 200mls before the 466mls toss and in stages to this point.

### **Feeding;**

Gerry Plus with peanuts, Hormoform, Red Band, and hemp all mixed with Beyers Yeast in a cake. Garlic oil on Saturday to Tuesday, then two days before basketing for the race they have mixed oils on the food. I want these birds to be laden with fuel like rockets. They also had layers pellets in the hopper 24/7.

### **Important feeding;**

5 days before basketing AD LIB peanuts/Homorform/Red Band in their boxes where you hand feed for tameness. The corn for the cake mix in with Versela Laga “Superstar Plus”

### **Water;**

Before basketing, Friday, Saturday Mycosan ‘T’ ccs, Sunday Vydex Super Six (Probiotic etc), Monday Mycosan ‘T’ ccs plus Chlortetracycline + from Chevita GMBH, Raiffeisenstra 2-4 Vet Abt Pfafenhofen 85276 Germany. Tuesday/Wednesday experiment with Blitzform, Rohnfied in the water. At this stage your birds should be in a Physiological high and blown up with fat and muscle.

### **Normal weekly water regime;**

Wednesday, Bovril with ‘E’ Plus,  
Thursday to Friday, Aviform Ultimate,  
Saturday or race day Chevita Multivit in the water.

**All the best in 2009 for your National/International objectives and don’t leave the preparation too late.**



**Photo is of my great “Diabolos” (The Devil) Champion racer (retired at 2) son of my number one Pair. His progeny have been successful from 71 to 879mls and counting from club to International level. My inbred family is alive and well. Be Lucky in 2009 Jim Emerton.**