

“The Spirit of Racing” by Jim Emerton

In my perception, both birds and humans have an inner or spiritual nature.

A fancier in a heightened state of consciousness can know the “oneness” of man and pigeon. This is racing at it’s very best and most rewarding state; it is a spiritual experience, a journey of the soul.

Writers give credence to the mystical and for example, if you clock at Barcelona International, the fact should elevate the ego.

When we start at say Club level, if we are ambitious we want to win and win, irrespective of the quality of races, I may add. We then set out to be top prize winner at Club level, beating the local “Experts”.

Now to the initiated and on an esoteric level, racing is a larger playing field than this. We can see the wisdom in testing and building a strain, we can test the outer limits of endurance of our birds. I can say that I did this as a modern pioneer at 687 miles, Dax International into Yorkshire and to verify 3 out of 6 birds at Barcelona International 879 miles. Now ponder the actual flying distance of those endurance athletes that would dogleg around the Pyrenees.

My strain of birds are fit and well after 33 years, this is true testament to the “Spirit of Racing”