EVOLVING SPRINTERS INTO MARATHON PIGEONS

By Jim Emerton

This may sound unusual and paradoxical, yet I have achieved it with my 7 original foundation pigeons. With much hard work and dedication I won through from 71 to 879 miles.

If your management is correct, with optimal nutrition, the key is to race at all available distances, as each bird is unique in its performance value from any family, since the genetic ancestry is diverse-thus no two pigeons are the same.

The experiment takes time and many birds will fail in the process of attempting to produce versatile pigeons.

I like a good looker, particularly the ALOIS STICHELBAUT-based birds of MICHEL Descamps Van Hasten origin - my birds are inbred back to those genes.

Nowadays we concentrate on Barce Int genes - from these a percentage of birds with sprinting ability will emerge, since it is a sweeping generalisation to assume distance levels from any named pigeons.

The limiting factor remains, and that is to send all your birds at intervals right through the programme.

The genius lies in this simple RACE REALITY or the old clichés ‘the proof of the pudding is in the eating’ and ‘beauty is in the eye of the beholder’. Hope you like my existential approach to the sport.

March 2015