



Photograph of Alois Stichelbaut

Modern Evolution of the Stichelbaut Strain
by Jim Emerton

Alois Stichelbaut, the creator of the famous strain died in the 1940's. It is well known that Michael Descamps Van Hasten inbred to the originals and is still well known for keeping the strain alive. He also swapped birds with Frans & Daniel Labeun, who has a nucleus of the old genes.

The birds were regarded as being versatile pigeons, reaching over 600 miles into Belgium from Barcelona International. However, across the channel and into the United Kingdom, certain fanciers, through close breeding to the original lines, have kept the genes going into the 21st Century.

The Emerton Strain, formed post 1976 used 4 D.V.H Stichelbaut pigeons and a Denys Cock (Remi of 54 line). Now these birds have been tested from 71 to 879 miles (Barcelona International).

York's Brian Denney has also created a lovely strain of birds around some of the old Van Hees and the great Dark Peron (Noël Peiren Stichelbaut based). The fancier and birds make Tarbes (748 miles NFC) look easy with unique results into England.

Of significant importance is the fact that the Emertons and Denneys are used, both pure and crossed by genuine national fanciers today. The good old Alois Stichelbaut genes live on! I also mention Ken Hanby, winning 13 sections K, National Flying Club with his Desmet Stichelbaut based birds.