



## CAPITAL NEWS

with Woodo



Last year we planned another cruise with agents we have used before and just a few weeks after visiting our son in Spain we boarded a flight to Fort Lauderdale, Florida with brother Roy, wife Doll and Albie and Sue Stockwell. After an overnight stay in the Pier 66 Hotel & Marina, which I can thoroughly recommend we got a taxi to the Port to join the Celebrity Silhouette for a 2 weeks cruise around the Caribbean. Whilst on board, it just goes to show that we are living in a small world, I met up with this person in the early 90's whilst in Holland and it was a complete surprise to see Martha Van Geel and her husband Heinz. With over 2,000 passengers on the ship my wife Pat just happened to spot a One Loft Race T-shirt worn by Heinz and we arranged to meet Martha Van Geel later in the coffee shop.

As many will know, Martha Van Geel and her husband specialise in long distance racing from 800-1,200 kilometers with Jan Aarden based X pigeons and in 1989 a world record auction at that time was set. The world famous 'Dolle' died in Martha's loft in 1985. Heinz and Martha met in 1981 and have been married for 26 years, at first with separate lofts but eventually they combined. They start their training at the beginning of April

with Belgian clubs taking their birds which are released half hour before the others. They have 14 races which include National, International and Marathon races. I hope to do a more in-depth report on Martha Van Geel in the future. We had a fantastic holiday and it was a great pleasure as always to meet up with top pigeon fanciers.



'Beauty'.

At this time of the year we have the prize and trophy presentations for the successful fanciers during the 2018 season and I have noticed over the past couple of years the lack of enthusiasm of fanciers to support their clubs, Feds and

Combines on these occasions. I cannot understand why, after training and preparing their birds all year round, they have the good fortune to win prizes and trophies but cannot be bothered to attend these functions to collect them. I feel very proud when my birds do well and I see my name engraved on a trophy (some of which go back nearly 100 years) and it is a recognition of the pigeon. We really must try to support these social occasions by way of bringing friends and guests along to create a good atmosphere. With the decline in membership we must all pull together to celebrate our sport and these social occasions are a perfect way to do this.

I have had some calls regarding my DVD The Woodhouse Way about the success of my hens in the longer races and asked if my system works as well with the cocks. I can say it does work as well with cocks but in my own experience the hens do that bit better especially at Thurso, a 506 mile race to my loft. My results from Thurso for the past 4 years in succession have been 2015: 'La Dama Noche' 4th Open LNRC (only 4 timed on the day) 1st Fed, 1st Club. 2016: 'La Dama Noche' 18th Open LNRC (18 timed on the day) 1st Fed, 1st Club. 2017: 'Dream Girl' 1st Open LNRC, 1st Fed, 1st Club also 12th Open, 4th Fed, 2nd Club. 2018: 'Beauty' 6th Open LNRC, 1st Fed, 1st Club. All these are hens and yes within the results I have timed in cocks but every 1st has been a hen. As you can see I have won the Fed 4 times in succession, twice the only bird on the day, and obviously 1st Club. What can't speak can't lie! It is a very simple method but it works.



Albie Stockwell, Martha Van Geel, husband Heinz and Woodo aboard the Celebrity Silhouette.





'La Dama Noche'.

I have a couple of dates for your diary gentlemen. The **Barking Social Club** will be holding a Show Race from Thurso on Sunday 10th February 2019 with £200 guaranteed prize money, 3 prizes, and a top international judge will be judging the birds. Further details later. The **North London Fed** will be holding a joint trophy and prize presentation with the London North Road Combine on Saturday 9th March 2019 at the Leyton House Club, Stratford.

I have been told that in her lifetime a woman needs just 4 animals. A Mink to go around her shoulders, a Jaguar to drive, a Tiger in the bedroom and an Ass to pay for it!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. That's all for this week.



'Dream Girl'.

Woodo