

FBHU 2017 Champions

Ruan Louw & Boet Troskie

‘Feeling Thankful’

A New Partnership Success Story

By Thomas Smit (Part 1 of 2)

Competing against +-512 active racing pigeon fanciers, the partnership of Ruan Louw & Boet Troskie are the undisputable 2017 Truck Champions of the Federated Board of Homing Unions (FBHU) in Cape Town.

To achieve this Title they had to score the most consistent with their first pigeon home from 24 Race events. They also clinched the Short Distance Championship Title. They also won the title of Club Champion of the Paarl East Racing Pigeon Club for the past two seasons. High Class Pigeons, hard work & dedication mixed with a little bit of common sense gained from experience, made miracles happen in this new partnership loft formed only 3 years ago.

What made their performance so remarkable is their quickest known rise to success in South African Pigeon racing after both Partners had a lay-off from active pigeon racing due to Boet Troskie’s relocation & business commitments and Ruan Louw having Auctioned off all his Pigeons in 2013.

The Partnership was formed in 2014 when Boet Troskie realized he needs a confidant to put his high-class stock pigeons to good use in the racing its off-spring due to his limited time schedule. A friend of Boet suggested Ruan Louw was an ideal candidate and as result Boet’s +- 220 price stock pigeons soon graced Ruan’s pigeon Loft in the Paarl. No time was wasted and Ruan made his selections of which pairs to match and soon broody pigeon parents were protective of the eggs & babies that would become the race team for the 2015 season. Success was instantaneous with the team scoring categorically 9

th & 5th within the FBHU Points Championship of the 2015 & 2016 pigeon seasons. Their loft also produced the Champion best bird within the Federation of the 2016 Season – as well as winning the fastest race in the FBHU at a velocity of 1,847metres per

minute against 8,780 Pigeons. The partnership names also counted in the 7th position within the Top 10 best birds on the FBHU Truck. Both Boet Troskie & Ruan Louw’s introduction to pigeon racing can be followed at different time frames since age 12 in Cape Town Ruan Louw’s footprints to Success in pigeon racing can be followed since 2007 age 12, when he was introduced to pigeon racing by his Headmaster Henrico Fourie, of ‘Slot Van Die Paarl Primary School’ in the Western Cape. During a humble beginning as a member of the ‘Paarl Vallei Posduif Vereniging’, the scoreboard seemed elusive to reach in 2007. However, Ruan’s passion kept growing instead. In 2008 Dad Nickey assisted him to upgrade his lofts & also build a new stock loft. Ruan quickly began to learn the demands of pigeon management and as a reward his race team reached the results sheet. In 2010 he scored his first Union win; rounded the season of

with 2 more Union first (4X 1st On Club level) and clinched the Title of 2010 Short Distance Point's League Champion of the Boland Pigeon Union (8th ALL Distances to count). Ruan also won 2x 1st 'Truck races' of the Western Cape Pigeon Transport Association (WCPTA) against an average of 7,500 pigeons. Ruan also took the 'Speed trophy' home for winning the fastest race of the 2010 season. Consequently Ruan is awarded the meritorious award of best Junior in SA by SANPO & the Paarl Post honours him as the May 2011 Let's Play Sport star. In 2011, after a handful of races were already flown, Ruan decided to join the Paarl and District Homing Union PDHU (Est. since 1930) under the banner of the Federated Board of Homing Unions. Ruan scored 5x within the top Ten and 13x within the top 20 of the PDHU, for the 2011 season. In 2012 Ruan was in a nasty Motor bike accident when he was hit by a car. In response to the devastating news that the amputation of his leg was considered should the wounds not heal, Ruan re-dedicated his life to God. Being part of a supportive Christian home Ruan trusted God with his parents for a miracle.

The Louw family's prayers were answered for Ruan's recovery; you may follow the story at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppCfQ3VcK1g>

Despite being bedfast and spending time in a wheelchair for a long time, he could still manage to participate in the 2012 pigeon racing season with the help of friends and family and finished off in the 49th position of the 2012 Points League Championship within the PDHU. At the Cape Town based Klapmuts One-Day Loft final race he Scored 5

th, 12th, 18th and 46th and 6th at the South African Prestige Invitational Race based at Alberton, JHB.

Ruan Louw Racing Pigeon Season 2013 At age 18 Ruan Louw became the youngest achiever of the Title of Club Champion 'Bergrivier Posduif Klub', Union Champion Paarl and District Homing Union PDHU (60 Members) & Board Champion - Federated Board of Homing Unions (580 Members). Competing against up to an average of +-7,500 Pigeons, Ruan scored the most consistent in the top positions of 8 Board racers to earn the FBHU Championship title.

Ruan Louw 2013 FBHU Board Champion Price Giving,

Follow the link here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_VwJVj3kjs