



Elite of Natural



View from the outside on our Elite breeding boxes. The pairs sit in separate breeding boxes to guarantee a perfect fertilisation and to exclude fertilisation by other cocks than the one the hen is paired to.

Elite of Natural

The Natural Breeding Station was founded 60 years ago with the purpose of offering 'small fanciers' the possibility of acquiring birds of good descent for a reasonable price. The Natural Breeding Station launched a new project called Elite of Natural in 2015. For that project, first-class pigeons were bought from the bloodlines of fanciers who have had a large impact on Belgian pigeon racing for many years such as Dirk Van Dyck, Gaston Van de Wouwer, Etienne

Meirlaen and De Smeyter-Restiaen. Very special birds from those fanciers now populate the new lofts of Elite of Natural.

Stephan De Scheemaecker started this project. Read more on what Stephan has to say about the "Elite of Natural".

Stephan, can you give us more information about the "Elite of Natural"?

In the beginning of 2015 we started with our exclusive breeding loft

called Elite of Natural. In 2015 we made some changes. Some very old breeds were removed from our programme while new strains were introduced e.g. Short Distance Loft and Ko van Dommelen.

The Natural Breeding Station now exists 60 years. What's new and what's exactly does Elite of Natural involve?

As written above, it is not just the new and exclusive breeding loft Elite of Natural. In the beginning

of 2016 we also introduced two new breeds: Short Distance Loft and Ko van Dommelen.

The Short Distance Loft populates birds from short-distance fanciers from Antwerp and East Flanders who perform well. We for example purchased pigeons from Roland Janssens (Beveren), De Ridder & Son (Edegem), Antoine Degraeve (Waarschoot), Stickers Donckers (Lille) as well as some offspring of birds from Karel Boeckx, Leo Heremans and Willy Gysels from Halle. We also wish to offer long-distance racers something of course. That is why around 80 pigeons from Ko van Dommelen moved to our breeding lofts through Pedro Ruigrok. The next sales season will also offer no less than 100 original Ko van Dommelen birds, purchased from the man himself, so our clients can choose from a wide range.

Elite of Natural, what exactly does that mean?

The foundation of this new exclusive loft was laid at the Olympiad in Nitra (Slovakia) in the beginning of 2014. One of the Natural Breeding Station's customers, who purchased youngsters from the Janssen bloodlines in 2008, exposed the 1st National Ace Bird Extreme Long Distance in The Best Of The Best championship in the Netherlands and the 2nd Olympiad Bird Category E (Long Distance) in the Netherlands. This pigeon was ringed in our breeding station and was now exposed at the Olympiad. We spoke with the owner and bought the pigeon back. We had to discuss how we would use and where we would put this very special bird and concluded that the best place for it was its own spot in a loft

called Elite of Natural. We then filled that same loft with birds from Wilson Dekens from Zingem who bought his stock birds at the Natural Breeding Station (the Aarden bloodlines). Later on, we continued on the same path with the purchase of the Narbonne, which won the 9th International Narbonne 12,528 birds (Delbar x De Scheemaecker). Buying top-class birds which came from the bloodlines present in our breeding station was our intention.

So we can say that at Elite of Natural only offspring from very special birds is offered?

What are very special birds? We always try to form the best pairs. In my opinion the Olympic Belg is for example a very special pigeon. We determined its genotype with



The birds in the Elite breeding boxes can sit in the aviary throughout the day to enjoy weather and wind. That is a plus for breeding strong and healthy youngsters.

A look inside the Elite breeding lofts.
Every section consists of twelve breeding boxes, of which no more than nine are occupied.



DANN and found it had the exceptional AB genotype, meaning it does not only race well (which was already proven) but can also produce excellent offspring. The best genotype is AA. Only a few pigeons in Belgium are known to have this type, including Etienne Meirlaen's Yelena. Our loft houses two of Yelena's daughters. One of those daughters is now paired to Olympic Belg because we are trying to breed birds with the rare AA genotype ourselves. That is how we try to breed exceptional birds. Furthermore, the breeding boxes also house children and a half-brother of Joost De Smeyter's Peggy, 1st National Ace Bird KBDB Long Distance. In my opin-

ion those are also highly special birds with a wonderful appearance.

From which fanciers do the birds Elite of Natural breeds from come?

As mentioned before, the breeding boxes contain a couple of pigeons which have performed outstandingly on races such as Olympic Belg and Narbonne. Next to those two, we also have birds from Wilson Dekens (Zingem), Joost De Smeyter-Resstiaen (Melden), Jos Van Olmen (Broechem) and Kristof Mortelmans (Ranst). In addition, we

have a son of Montali and two daughters of Yelena, both from the Meirlaen breed, and a son of the current stock breeder of De Scheemaecker, the 69. Last but not least, we also have our so called Elite Breeds. The Elite Breeds comprise offspring from the best Gaston Van De Wouwer birds, a full round from Etienne Meirlaen's breeders (Sint-Martens-Latem) (bought in 2015) and birds from Dirk Van Dyck (Zandhoven) (bought in 2016). The Van Dyck birds now breeding in our station are a son of Kannibaal Junior, a daughter of Kannibaal Junior and a sister of Ace, 8th National Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance.

Gaston Van de Wouwer, Dirk Van Dyck and Etienne Meirlaen are well known fanciers in Belgium who do not just race excellently but whose birds have also had a very strong impact on other lofts. So you have acquired stock birds from those fanciers. That is just hard to imagine so tell us a bit more about that.

We bought the first birds from Gaston Van De Wouwer back in 2011, including some grandchildren of Kaasboer 690/98. Other birds we purchased: a grandchild of Rony x Geerinckx Hen (the parents of Laura, 1st National Bourges 17,061 birds), a grandchild of Torre 240/03 (one of the best sons of Kaasboer), a grandchild of Tia and youngsters from a brother of Palme D'Or (the dam of two different winners of 1st Na-

tional Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance at Casaert Sénéchal's) and last but not least youngsters from Brother Kim, 1st National Guéret 14,245 birds.

From Etienne Meirlaen we bought a full round from his breeders (70 birds), including two children of the breeding star Yelena, which at the time was paired to Superbreeder, the sire of the 11th National Pau 1,661 birds and the son of Monar, 1st International Narbonne 12,605 birds. Included in that batch were also two children of Montali, 4th National Montauban 9,091 birds and 12th National Montauban 6,654 birds, and children of Marco, 1st National Pau 1,910 birds and 7th International 8,295 birds.

We have also acquired a fantastic daughter of Monar, 1st National Narbonne 12,605 birds.

As mentioned above, our breeding loft also populates the following birds from the Dirk Van Dyck breed: a son of Olympic Niels, a son of Kannibaal Junior, a daughter of Kannibaal Junior and a sister of Ace, 8th National Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance.

You have constructed a spanking new breeding loft for Elite of Natural. Can you tell us a bit more about that new loft?

The loft, which is the centre of Elite of Natural, consists of eight breeding boxes housing eight exceptional breeding birds. They are our Elite Breeders. We began constructing our Elite breeding lofts at the end of 2015. In order to construct these lofts, two lofts of the Natural Breeding Station



A splendid health is of paramount importance to success. This photo shows the excellent shape and health our breeders are in.

were rebuilt. We hired the firm Hermes which was responsible for the construction of the breeding boxes. We now have 108 breeding boxes for our Elite Breeders but not all are occupied.

So the pairs are locked up in breeding boxes. The pairs who breed in such boxes, are they very special?

The cocks which occupy a breeding box are all paired to three different hens. Our clients can choose the pairing.

In my opinion, however, there are three extraordinary pairings.

We paired Olympic Belg to Daughter Yelena. Furthermore, we have our Narbonne Couple, which consists of Narbonne (9th International Narbonne 12,528 birds) and Daughter Monar from Etienne Meirlaen. As you know by now Monar won the 1st International Narbonne 12,605 birds.

Last but not least, we are doing heavy inbreeding on Peggy, 1st National Ace Bird KBDB Long Distance. We therefore paired Halfbrother Peggy to Daughter Peggy, a perfect couple for long distance racing.

Elite of Natural forms pairs to its liking but as you have already told your clients can also choose their own pairing.

Yes, our clients can form their own pairs with the birds present in the breeding boxes. We then discuss the client's wishes and have a look at what is feasible. We can mostly fulfil our clients' wishes.

Are youngsters from the Elite birds offered with a DNA certificate?

After the birds are three to four months old each buyer receives a DNA certificate of each of his or

her purchases, thus confirming the bird's descent. Additionally, we also try to provide each buyer with a professional photo of his or her purchase (provided the bird's age lets us).

What do I have to do if I wish to buy birds from Elite of Natural?

All birds and pairs are displayed on our Elite website: www.natural-elite-pigeons.be. Here clients can have a look at the fixed pairs of our Elite Breeds or they can tell us which pairing(s) they would like. The website also offers a form on which clients can choose their own pairings by clicking them. That form is then sent to us by email. We reply to each email as soon as possible with detailed information on the birds available and prices and provide the client with an estimation of the time he or she will have to wait for the pairing of his or her choosing.

In addition, we always offer a selection of beautiful birds of excellent descent which you can purchase. You can have a look at it by clicking Pigeons For Sale on our website. Those birds are displayed with photo, pedigree and DNA certificate and have passed a very tough selection test. If you are interested in one of those birds, you just have to fill in your contact details after which we receive an email and contact you.

Clients who do not have an internet connection or an email address can call our hotline at 0032 33830831. You can always reach us at that number for more information or to express your wishes. We are always busy with helping our clients by providing them with extensive details, by advising them and by keeping them satisfied whenever we can.

