

Report

Dirk Van Dyck (Zandhoven) and his ace Kannibaal become legends

Dirk Van Dyck made history when his ace cock Kannibaal became 1st National Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance in Belgium. Now that ace bird category is divided into two different disciplines: shorter middle and longer middle distance. The birds are even split into three categories according to their age: old birds, yearlings and youngsters. We can therefore say that Dirk Van Dyck's 1996 national ace bird title is highly prestigious. In 2015, Dirk Van Dyck won the 1st National Ace Bird Middle Distance in the old bird category with Queen, a two-year-old hen winning five prizes and achieving a coefficient of 0.97. In the same year, he also won the 3rd National Ace Bird Middle Distance in the yearling category with Little Queen, achieving a coefficient of 1.02 over five races.

Rambo, Kannibaal and Bourges

Dirk Van Dyck switched to pigeon racing in 1971 when bird hunting was prohibited. He received his first pigeons in 1972 and handed in his first loft list one year later. Dirk: „I was infected with the pigeon virus when I saw pigeons arrive home from a race at Jos Dillen's house, Jos being my dad's uncle. He gave me my first pigeons which I raced from Quiévrain. At the end of the 1980s birds from Gommaar Leysen (Pulderbos) and Mariën-Royberghs (Berlaar) were introduced to my loft. I started racing the middle distance in 1993 and won the series of nominated birds with four yearlings in the national race from Bourges. One year later, the bird Bourges won the 2nd National in the young bird category. Bourges was a full brother to Kannibaal, the 1996 1st National Ace Bird Middle Distance. The sire to both birds was Rambo, a descendant from a crossing of Leysen x Mariën-Royberghs bloodlines. The dam was Laatje, a hen

which had the bloodlines of many local fanciers. It was mere luck which paired Rambo and Laatje. I had a good racer from Quiévrain which was paired to Laatje but the racer was lost. I therefore put Rambo in his widowhood box and without knowing it I had just formed my stock pair.



Dirk shows the boxes in which decoy birds are present. That way Dirk doesn't have to enter his loft to catch them every time he needs them.

In the years after, quite a few fanciers from Germany visited me, always asking for inbreds. In the course of time I started breeding those inbreds for myself as well. Those birds are good for crossing but less good for racing. That is why results were lagging behind. Next to that, I had new lofts con-



Dirk Van Dyck and his daughter Natalia from Zandhoven.



A sixteen-centimetre vent in the front of the ceiling allows the loft to air well. A screen is installed if temperatures reach 25°C or higher.

structed which needed modification. One day André Roodhooft advised me to cross my birds so I paid a visit to several fanciers including Van Looy-Somers, Leo Heremans, Geerinckx, Op De Beeck-Baetens, Willy Joris-Andriessen, Leon Jacobs, André Roodhooft, Jan Hooymans, Gaston Van De Wouwer, Willy Daniels and many others. If you want to race well in the long term, you cannot sell your best breeders and racers. Furthermore, you have to breed and race as many birds as possible and set the bar as high as possible. I breed about 300 youngsters a year just for me. It is better to keep a third or fourth-round youngster which you know nothing about than a bad bird from the first or second round.”

A loft with a corridor in front of it

Dirk possesses 40 breeding pairs in which two bloodlines are woven. First the Kannibaal bloodline

and second that of Di Caprio, which Dirk bought at Leo Heremans’ total auction and which bred Olympic Niels.

Dirk’s racing team consists of 55 widowers and 45 racing hens. The breeders and widowers are paired on 6 December. However, in 2015, Dirk paired a couple of birds ear-

lier. Gaston Van De Wouwer had too many breeders, eight pairs to be precise, and brought them to Dirk. Gaston and Dirk agreed that the young cocks bred from those pairs would remain in Dirk’s loft whereas the hens would move to Gaston’s. Since Dirk paired those birds “very early in the winter sea-

Natalia shows her young birds. Last year she started with 23 young birds, won three first prizes and ended the season with 17 birds because one liberation was not a success. The birds were at the time liberated by ... her father.



Queen and Little Queen

The two star racers in the hen team were without doubt Queen, 1st National Ace Bird Long Distance in the old bird category, and Little Queen, 3rd National Ace Bird in the yearling category.

Queen's sire finished 6th Ace Bird in Union Antwerpen as a yearling and descends from a son of Kannibaal when paired to a granddaughter of Leo Heremans' Jan. One of the ancestors of Queen's dam is Rambo, crossed with birds from Paul Huls and Willy Joris-Andriesen.

This is Queen's list of achievements. The prizes with which she won the national ace bird championship are highlighted with an *. Since Queen had already achieved five good prizes by 11 July, she was no longer raced after that date.

2013:

16/06 Noyon (217 km): 76th/768 p.
30/06 Noyon: 148th/874 p.
06/07 Dourdan (375 km): 10th/1,773 p.
21/07 Noyon: 76th/921 p.
28/07 Noyon: 44th/1,243 p.
03/08 Dourdan: 88th/1,810 p.
10/08 Dourdan: 20th/1,974 p.
17/08 Dourdan: 78th/1,778 p.

2014:

27/04 Noyon: 19th/886 p.
03/05 Sourdun (300 km): 36th/1,186 p.
11/05 Souppes (365 km): 9th/1,101 p.
17/05 Vierzon (485 km): prov.: 418th/1,998 p.
14/06 Sourdun: 27th/537 p.
21/06 Sourdun: 1st/770 p.
19/07 Sourdun: 11th/472 p.
26/07 Gien (420 km): 4th/394 p.
02/08 Pont (270 km): 21st/125 p.

2015:

19/04 Noyon: 127th/456 p.
09/05 Souppes: 114th/2,216 p.
17/05 Souppes: 373rd/2,292 p.
24/05 Souppes: 5th/1,879 p. (*)
30/05 Souppes: 1st/1,210 p. (*)
06/06 Souppes: 2nd/1,916 p. (*)
13/06 Melun (318 km): 5th/1,250 p. (*)
20/06 Melun: 33rd/1,041 p.
27/06 Souppes: 1st/842 p. (*)
11/07 Souppes: 9th/744 p.



Queen, B 13-6122092, 1st National Ace Bird Middle Distance 2015 in the old bird category.

son" as he calls it, he did the same with the partners of his racing hens, which were paired to "spare breeding hens". That is how Dirk had 60 very early youngsters at his disposal in 2015.

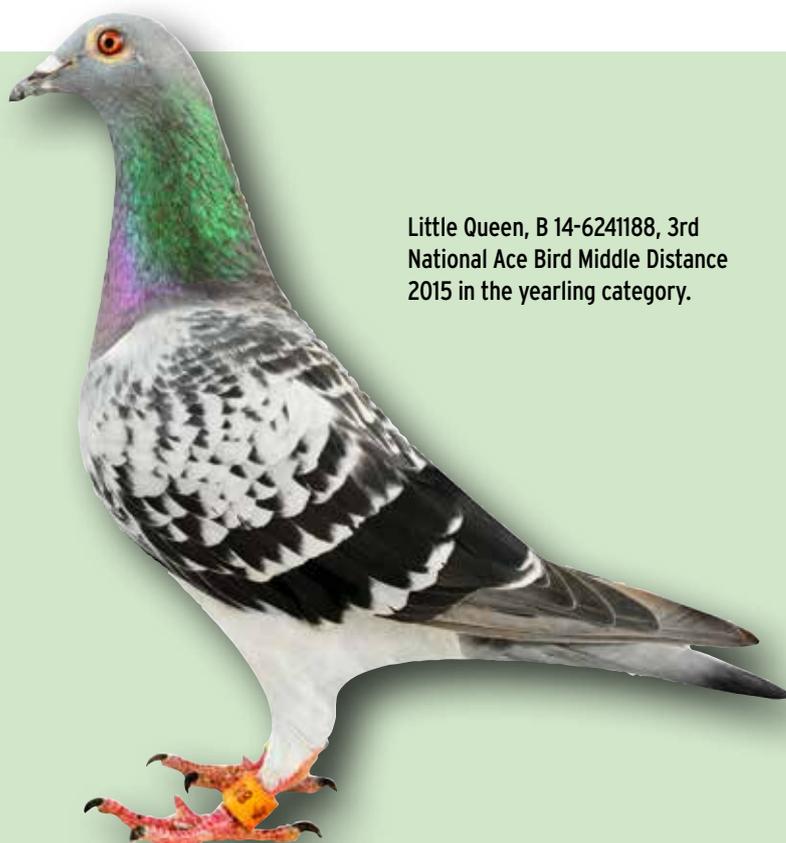
Dirk: "I try to pair my best to my best. However, I don't like pairing two birds with the same eye colour even though I know good ones can come from such a pairing. Rambo and Laetje both had white eyes and still bred Kannibaal and Bourges. Most of my birds have white eyes by the way. I also like birds with a white plumage. The

bird's body doesn't play such an important role even though I also pay attention to that. Birds which I am also fond of are squints with eyes pointed in a forward direction. Kannibaal has the same look as a hawk. A pigeon doesn't have to be tame if you ask me. That is impossible for me anyway because I have too many birds. I am not a fan of lofts which have a corridor in front of it. If a fancier has such a corridor, he will not make the effort of feeding his birds while being amongst them. He will just feed them and give them some-

thing to drink while standing in the corridor. As a result, is not possible for birds to bond with their fancier.

Both partners can be partially related if you use them for breeding future racers. However, nephew and niece (so two grandchildren) are too closely related if you ask me. Crossing is better. During autumn I always breed some inbreds which can then develop in the aviary for an entire year. A child of Kannibaal and one of his brother Bourges for example formed a successful pair."

B 14-6241188 Little Queen was bred from an Emiel Dillen (from Itegem) cock x a Leon Jacobs (from Tremelo) hen. The sire and dam were not paired intentionally and had the liberty of choosing their own partners. As a young bird Little Queen was paired to another young hen and raced from the nest until the race from Guéret. As a yearling, however, she never paid any attention to other hens even though she stayed in the hen's loft and was "lesbian" in her first year of age. As she had already achieved a good coefficient by 11 July, Dirk decided not to race her any longer. This is Little Queen's list of honours. The five prizes with which she achieved an ace bird title are highlighted with an * as well.



Little Queen, B 14-6241188, 3rd National Ace Bird Middle Distance 2015 in the yearling category.

2014:

- 15/06 Noyon (217 km): 57th/1,012 p.
- 21/06 Sourdun (300 km): 17th/1,214 p.
- 06/07 Noyon: 90th/781 p.
- 23/07 Quiévrain (113 km): 34th/1,763 p.
- 27/07 Noyon: 15th/1,174 p.
- 02/08 Pont (270 km): 41st/1,870 p.
- 09/08 Souppes (365 km): 48th/1,324 p.
- 16/08 Souppes: 89th/920 p.
- 23/08 Souppes: 42nd/773 p.
- 30/08 Souppes: 20th/543 p.
- 07/09 Gueret (600 km): prov.: 663rd/2,706 p.

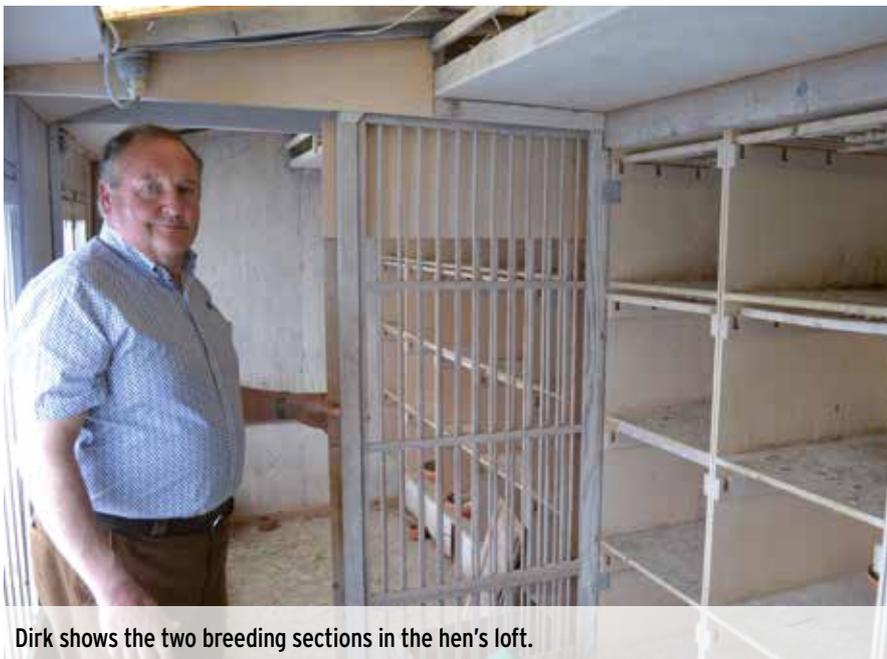
2015:

- 19/04 Noyon: 70th/638 p.
- 26/04 Noyon: 101st/767 p.
- 09/05 Souppes: 5th/2,216 p. (*)
- 17/05 Souppes: 46th/2,292 p.
- 24/05 Souppes: 10th/1,879 p. (*)

- 30/05 Souppes: 245th/828 p.
- 06/06 Souppes: 1st/1,916 p. (*)
- 13/06 Melun (318 km): 261st/887 p.
- 20/06 Melun: 1st/1,706 p. (*)
- 27/06 Souppes: 1st/622 p. (*)
- 11/07 Souppes: 25th/744 p.

Last but not least we provide you with a list of excellent performances achieved in 2015.

- 26/04 Quiévrain: 350 yearlings: 1, 5, 7, 9, 64 (5/7)
- 09/05 Souppes: 2,216 old birds: 4, 5, 6, 18, 37, 51, 52, 54, 60, 67, 68, 77, 80, 111, 114, 115, 116, 151, 154, 162, 166, 181, 217 etc. (30/32)
- 17/05 Souppes: 3,350 old birds: 2, 9, 10, 20, 26, 35, 46, 64, 69, 71, 73, 75, 84, 86, 95, 100 etc. (55/70)
- 24/05 Noyon: 348 yearlings: 1, 3, 4, 15, 36, 69 (6/7)
- 24/05 Souppes: 1,879 old birds: 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 36, 50, 57, 65, 87, 96, 98, 99 etc. (51/82)
- 30/05 Souppes: 1,210 old birds: 1, 3, 4, 10, 28, 50, 64, 90, 103, 110, 115, 131 etc. (16/26)
- 06/06 Souppes: 1,916 old birds: 1, 2, 3, 9, 19, 38, 98, 108, 146 etc. (22/33)
- 07/06 Quiévrain: 167 old birds: 1, 4, 5, 6, 11 (5/7)
- 13/06 Melun: 1,250 old birds: 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 36, 42, 55, 90, 95, 101, 113, 120, 126, 130, 134, 135, 174 etc. (35/54)
- 14/06 Noyon: 163 yearlings: 1, 5, 9, 13 (4/4)
- 20/06 Melun: 1,041 old birds: 1, 8, 20, 33, 56, 72, 74, 87, 90, 92, 99 etc. (28/42)
- 20/06 Montluçon: 393 old birds: 1, 14, 16, 17, 20, 25, 31, 32, 34, 38, 50, 51, 63, 60, 94, 97 (16/19)
- 193 old birds: 1, 5, 24, 30, 38 (5/7)
- 27/06 Souppes: 842 old birds: 1, 2, 7, 13, 30, 31, 38, 48, 55, 72 etc. (18/35)
- 11/07 Souppes: 1,167 old birds: 2, 3, 13, 16, 31, 35, 42, 43, 46, 47, 63, 64, 72 etc. (18/29)
- 12/07 Noyon: 675 young birds: 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 14, 19, 24, 46, 59, 61 etc. (23/62)
- 15/07 Quiévrain: 579 young birds: 2, 6, 9, 59, 110, 182 (6/9)
- 26/07 Noyon: 847 young birds: 2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 24, 40, 44, 47, 79, 81 etc. (39/84)
- 01/08 Pont: 1,812 yearlings: 4, 5, 13, 27, 28, 38, 46, 49, 53, 58, 59, 63, 68, 79, 80, 88, 88, 99, 100 etc. (44/66)
- 02/08 Bourges: prov.: 2,228 yearlings: 1, 62, 101, 118, 123 etc. (14/23)
- 08/08 Souppes: 2,031 young birds: 1, 3, 7, 8, 16, 71, 77, 90, 94, 96, 107, 108, 154, 176, 191, 197, 197 etc. (34/64)



Dirk shows the two breeding sections in the hen's loft.

which Dirk installs a small aviary. That way the hens become acquainted with the resting section and quickly grow accustomed to it. Mid-January they are released for the first time to fly around the loft and train. They then train on a daily basis around noon. The pairing is done on 1 March. When the pairs sit on eggs, the hens are basketed about five times to be released up to a maximum of 50 km from the loft. When the youngsters reach the age of 14 days, both the cock and one young are taken away. The hens then sit on one youngster. The week prior to the start of the middle distance racing season, the hens are raced

Dirk breeds three rounds from his breeders for racing. The first laying is floated out after about one week under feeding pairs and widowers. Dirk knows very well that it is better to float out the eggs immediately but he prefers to wait till he can see if the eggs have been fertilised. After the first, the second laying follows and the breeders can then raise those youngsters. Dirk is quite strict when it comes to ringing the birds and weaning. If one youngster is smaller than the other, it is eliminated. Youngsters are vaccinated against PMV during weaning as well as about eight weeks later. In Dirk's opinion, that procedure is a way to prevent losses due to young bird sickness which in most cases can perhaps just be PMV. Last but not least, Dirk tries to vaccinate his birds against the pox (with a brush) as soon as possible.

Hens in power

2016 is the fourth year in which Dirk raced hens. The racing loft for hens consists of three sections: one resting section and two with widowhood boxes. After the racing season the hens are moved to the resting section in front of



Dirk shows his hen's loft which consists of two breeding sections and one resting section. A "nostalgic" loft but can it be more efficient?



Interior of the resting section in the hen's loft.

from Noyon. When they return from the race, they are welcomed by their cock but their youngster is gone. The hens only train in the morning around 9.30am because no other widowers are up in the air around that time. They train for about an hour. If necessary, the flag is used. When basketed, the hens are just removed from the loft without showing them their cocks. In 2016, Dirk wants to try to participate in longer middle distance races with his hens. It is his intention to race them in the longer middle distance every two weeks and to basket them every other week for a release about 70 km from their loft on Saturday morning. Upon arriving, their cocks will await them. After being raced in the shorter middle distance the cocks and hens remain together till late in the evening whereas on the longer middle distance they are not separated until the next day.

Dirk provides his birds with a racing mixture when they arrive home from a race. The next day the hens are given an easily digestible mixture up to and including Tuesday morning. Dirk always supplies his birds with sufficient feed. On Tuesday evening the racing mixture is once again given whereas on the last two days a mixture rich in fat is supplied, along with peeled sunflower kernels and hemp. After arrival as well as on Monday and Tuesday a protein prep is added to the feed. The drinker then contains electrolytes. Every day the hens are also supplied with some vitaminised minerals and grit. As Dirk says, the hens do not lay that many eggs. If there is a lesbian pair among the hens, Dirk puts a cardboard box in the resting loft under which those lesbian hens are given some privacy to lay their eggs. Afterwards, they are raced on the nest.

The hens are raced up to and including the race from Argenton in mid-August. That is not a prob-



View from the outside of the widowhood loft consisting of five sections.

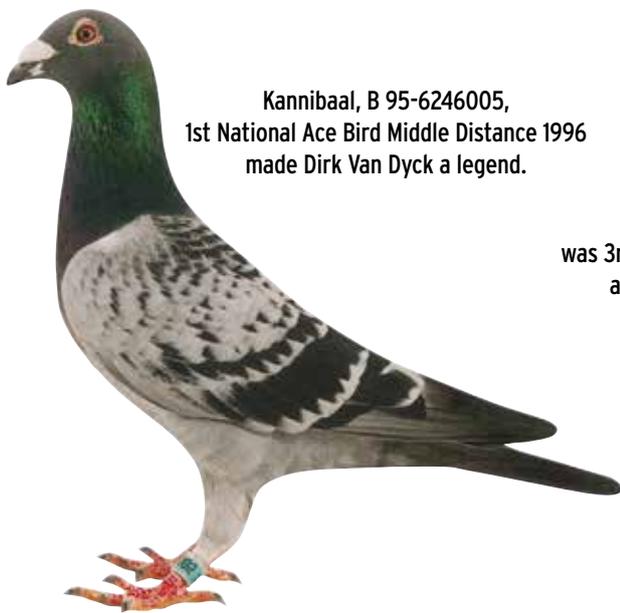
lem because they are lightened like youngsters. Afterwards, the hens do not return to a nest. Dirk: "Racing hens is very easy because they recover quicker. I wouldn't know what to do without them. I started racing them on Gaston Van de Wouwer's and Bart Geerinckx' advice but a bit late, unfortunately." The results in the first three years of hen racing were satisfying. He won the 2nd National Châteauroux in 2013 for example, the 1st National Bourges in 2014 and the 1st and 3rd National Ace Bird Shorter Middle Distance in 2015.

Medical treatment

Dirk: „I usually treat my birds with Baytril for about ten days in October. My birds are examined before breeding and, if necessary, given a treatment against trichomoniasis. I did not have to treat my birds against worms or coccidiosis in the last 30 years. Before the racing season all racers are given a treatment against trichomoniasis while they are sitting on eggs. They are then also given a five-day treatment against respiratory diseases. I try to have my birds as healthy as possible at the start of the season so that they can take



Dirk shows us one of the aviaries installed in front of the young bird loft. The young birds don't have access to them during the racing season.



Kannibaal, B 95-6246005,
1st National Ace Bird Middle Distance 1996
made Dirk Van Dyck a legend.



Olympic Niels, B 08-6338005,
was 3rd Olympiad Bird Cat. A in Nitra (Slovakia) in 2012
and the best son of Di Caprio, B 05-6045015.

a few setbacks. No treatments are given during the racing season unless there is a problem. My young birds are treated as well before the start of the racing season but not afterwards.

After I built my new lofts, it took a while before my birds were in perfect shape again. Especially the respiratory tract caused problems. In my opinion, when

you enter a loft and it is windy outside, you must not feel the draft. The late Louis Van Laer helped me in achieving that. A sixteen-centimetre vent in the front of the ceiling allows the loft to air well. I install a screen when temperatures reach 25°C or higher. A pigeon can face much heat. However, it is important that the trucks which transport birds to a

liberation site allow for a good circulation of air.”

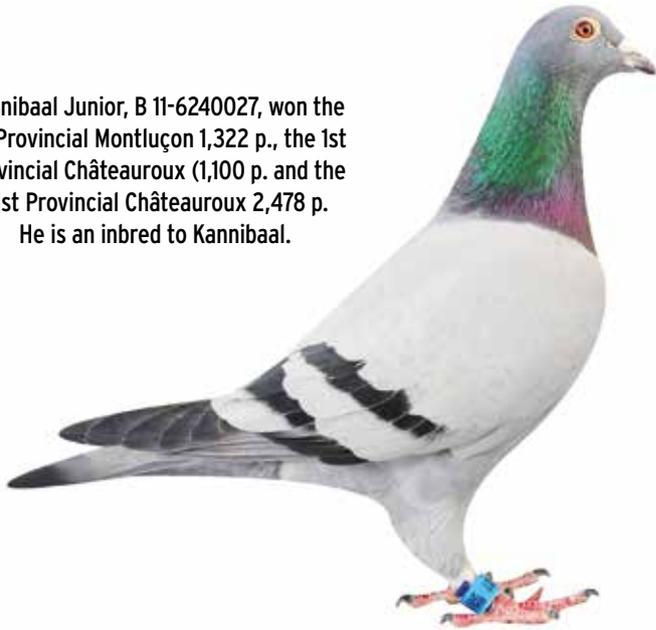
Having to find your way back for too long gets you down

“As said, I have a team of very young birds this year. I will pair them to old partners and race



The typical aviaries in front of the breeding sections at Van Dyck's.

Kannibaal Junior, B 11-6240027, won the 1st Provincial Montluçon 1,322 p., the 1st Provincial Châteauroux (1,100 p. and the 21st Provincial Châteauroux 2,478 p. He is an inbred to Kannibaal.



earlier and ends fifteen minutes later to stir them even more.

In the middle of the racing season the young birds are privately trained once a week. If the weather is good, they are liberated in Quiévrain on Wednesday. If the weather is bad, they are released closer to home. I drive till I can find good weather to release my birds. After all, training should be pleasant for young birds. If they have to look for the way home for too long, they end up getting discouraged. They are all liberated at the same time and can stay together for about two hours after arriving home. That way, there is no need for me to give the cocks and hens some quality time before basketing.”

That concludes the report on Dirk Van Dyck, which shows that he isn't afraid of rolling up his sleeves and going the extra mile to reach his goal. Congratulations!

Patrick Philippens

them on the widowhood system. I will let the young cocks brood for five days with their old hens before basketing them for a race. The young hens on the other hand need to be separated from their partners before they lay eggs. I will participate in the national races with that team. I will race the other young birds from the first and second round on the sliding door system. The young cocks from the first round will race the middle distance - some only from Quiévrain and Noyon, however - and the young hens will participate in national races. The young cocks from the second round will only race from Noyon to spread the risk of bird losses whereas the hens from the second round will race the nationals just like the first-round hens. All third-round young birds remain together and will be raced on the nest from Quiévrain in September and October. That way I can enjoy participating in all races to some extent. Darkening starts during weaning and ends at different times. The 15 cocks and 10 hens which race Noyon are for example only darkened until 15 May. They are also paired to old partners. The other young birds are darkened until the beginning of June or mid-June and

the third-round young birds even until the beginning of July. Afterwards, the young birds are lightened. I usually start lightening two weeks after the longest day of the year. At first from 5:15 a.m. till 10:45 p.m. After one month, darkening starts fifteen minutes

Behind these openings a basket is put so young birds can enter it. Very convenient during training.



Elite of Natural- Dirk Van Dyck

We now have two ace pairs of Dirk Van Dyck at our disposal. These two pairs are permanently mated together so you can only buy youngsters from them as paired. We are planning to buy new birds from Dirk in the future and will inform you about that on our website in due time.

PAIR 1

B 15-6091448 – Cock "Son Olympic Niels"

Sire is "Olympic Niels", B 08-6338005, 3rd Olympiad Bird Cat. A in Nitra and son of "Di Caprio", B 05-6045015, Leo Heremans, with "Dam Olympic Niels", inbred to "Bourges", a brother of "Kannibaal".

Dam is "Nest-Sister Ace", B 12-6142233, nest-sister of 234/12, 8th National Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance and daughter of "Blauwe Gaston", an original Gaston Van De Wouwer and "Granddaughter Kannibaal".



B 13-6122703 – Hen "Kannibaal Orléans"

Sire is "Kannibaal Junior", B 11-6240027, 1st Prov. Montluçon (1,322 p.) and 1st Prov. Salbris (1,100 p.). He is a son of "Grandson Kannibaal" with "Dam Kannibaal Junior", inbred to the world-famous "Kannibaal", 005/95. Dam is "Laat 211", B 07-6363211. She descends from "Late Goede Jaarling", a brother of "Rambo" (= sire "Kannibaal", 005/95), with "Orleanske", 1st Prov. Orléans (10,034 young birds).



PAIR 2

B 14-6241734 – Cock “Olympic Kannibaal”

Sire is “Kannibaal Junior”, B 11-6240027, 1st Prov. Montluçon (1,322 p.) and 1st Prov. Salbris (1,100 p.). He is a son of “Grandson Kannibaal” with “Dam Kannibaal Junior”, inbred to the world-famous “Kannibaal”, 005/95. Dam is “Daughter Di Caprio”, sister of “Olympic Niels”, 3rd Olympiad Bird Cat. A in Nitra and daughter of “Di Caprio”, B 05-6045015, Leo Heremans, with “Dam Olympic Niels”, inbred to “Bourges”, brother “Kannibaal”.

'OLYMPIC KANNIBAAL'

Original Dirk Van Dijk, Zandhoven
Father: "Kannibaal Junior" 6240027-2011
1./1322 Prov. Montluçon
1./1100 Prov. Salbris
21./2478 Prov. Chateauxoux
Mother: "Daughter Di Caprio" 6242240-12
Sister to: "Olympic Niels", 3. Olympiad pigeon 2013 Nitra Cat A
2. Ace pigeon Union Antwerpen

♂ BE14-6241734
www.pigeonphotography.nl

Elsie of Natural
Raymond Delbekestraat 165
2060 St. Antonius Zoersel
Tel. 0032-39830831
info@natural-elsie-pigeons.be

B 15-6091182 – Hen “Sister Ace”

“Ace” was 8th National Ace Bird KBDB Middle Distance. Sire is “Blauwe Gaston“, B 10-6031701, an original Gaston Van De Wouwer from the bloodline of “Kaasboer 690/98”. Dam is “Granddaughter Kannibaal“, B 07-6363197, and she descends from “Son Kannibaal” with “Blauw van Lichte Jacobs“.

'SISTER ACE'

Original Dirk Van Dijk, Zandhoven
Full Sister to 234/12, winner of:
8. Nat ace pigeon KBDB Middle Distance
Father: "Blauwe Gaston" 6031701-10
Gaston Van De Wouwer, winner of 1./2189 Dourdan
Mother: "Granddaughter Kannibaal" 6363197-07
Winner of 5. National Gueret

♀ BE15-6091182
www.pigeonphotography.nl

Elsie of Natural
Raymond Delbekestraat 165
2060 St. Antonius Zoersel
Tel. 0032-39830831
info@natural-elsie-pigeons.be