



Rene and Peter van Langen

By Tom Powers

Sat here the other night just looking at short videos from lofts in Holland and Belgium, as you do, I suddenly saw some pigeons that made me stop and look. I ran the video over a couple of times and then said to Bernie, here look at these birds. She looked over and said yes, they look like your kind of pigeons, and she was right. To me they looked a picture and this without any photo shopping or artificial enhancement. Well that was it, my interest was piqued, I had to find out more about these fanciers and the pigeons they kept. The name at the bottom of the video was Gebr Van Langen, I was now on a mission, contact had to be made. I found their website and through the contact page sent them an e-mail.

The next day they replied and discussion was underway. This is the story of Peter and Rene Van Langen from De Lutte in Holland.



Rene and Peter

It was Rene that first started with pigeons back in 1984 and he was joined by Peter in 1992, the partnership was made. From the early days it was the beauty of the Janssen brothers pigeons that excited the Rene and Peter so this is where they started. In later years this solid base has been added to with birds from Jan Van Den Pasch, Leo Heremans and Stefaan Lambrechts and also lines from the Leideman brothers. These pigeons have been blended together to become an awesome sprint based family of pigeons able to compete with the best out there. That is not to say that the sprint discipline is their sole area of success, they have also shown what they can do at the middle distance.

The original Janssen pigeons came from an auction in

Arendonck back in 1994. These initial birds went on to breed 'Magic Man' in 1996 and he is the true patriarch of the Van Langen lofts. The sire and grandsire of some of the best pigeons they have ever had. Not only is he a great breeder in his racing career he took 1st from 3008 pigeons from Heverlee in 2001 and was also champion Vitesse in his province the same year.

Probably his greatest legacy though has to be his daughter 'Magic Woman' who was a consistent racer during her career but also at stock has been the grand-mother of pigeons such as 'Fallon', 'Miss Perfect' and 'Anne'. 'Fallon' has won 1st versus 5628 pigeons from Nivelles, 5th against 6207 from Laon, 9th competing against 5544 Peronne, 6th against 1773 from Nivelles, 7th against 9111 birds also from Nivelles and the list goes on. 'Miss Perfect' took amongst others 2nd Afdeling against 27532 from Chalons, similarly 2nd against 16163 Charleville, 1st versus 1779 from Chalons, 2nd also from Chalons against 7593, 1st against 1066 at Charleville. Just two examples of the quality of racing hens that have called the De Lutte lofts their home.

'Miss Emmelie', another grand-daughter of 'Magic Woman' won 1st against 6777 from Laon and 8th against 2089 pigeons from Venlo. Another top pigeon was 'Diamant', winner of 1st Afdeling 9 from Chimay in 2013 against 29537 birds.



The present champion Magic Girl can also be traced back along the same lines.

The original Leo Heremans lines came through regular purchases from the lofts of Kas and Karel Meijers, the top lines of De Jan, Olympiade 003, Rossi, Spinneke and added to these they have Denali, daughter of the Roeper Pair that came directly from Leo Heremans.



**'Magic Girl'**

1st Vitesse WHZB-180318 2015
 1st Vitesse duif Afdeling 9-2018
 1st Vitesse duif Afdeling 9-2018
 Vitesse 9/1472
 Biceps 10/1151
 1st barillet 15/1106
 1st barillet 7/1121
 Quilcrans 5/901
 Quilcrans 1/961



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'Fallon'

Grand Daughter of the 'Magic Woman'
 2nd National Lampion Vitesse 2013
 1st Ashraf Vitesse et De Gremesbeck 2013
 1st King 2 Afdeling 8 Nivellies 2013/2018 birds
 1st National Lampion Nivellies 2014
 1st Ashraf Midfoul cc De Gremesbeck 2014
 1st Ashraf Midfoul King 2 Afdeling 9
 1st Ashraf Midfoul Afdeling 9
 Lanes 2014 50620 birds
 Pommers 905544 birds
 Nautral 1402118 birds
 Quilcrans 1062325 birds
 Nivellies 600773 birds
 Deane 100/1999 birds
 Hassell 2013 40/401 birds
 Nivellies 70/9111 birds
 Chummy 70/1006 birds
 Nivellies 10/2620 birds
 1st



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These birds have been introduced directly onto the Van Langen pigeons in the stock lofts and also raced. The Lambrechts pigeons speak for themselves at the moment. The Leideman brothers are a name that may not be too familiar to the fancy at the moment but they are fanciers not to be trifled with. They work for non-other than Gerard Koopman but are superb flyers in their own right.

All of these top lines are housed in a loft that is 17 meters long and 3 meters deep. The loft is divided into 9 sections, 3 for the racing cock birds, 1 for the hens, 2 for the youngsters and 3 for the breeding team. They normally keep 60 pigeons as the race team and 25 stock pairs. All of the sections have access to the aviaries that run the length of the set up. The breeding programme normally realises a young bird team of 60 so no overcrowding in these lofts. The birds are raced on the double widowhood system, both old and young pigeons and they are put to test in the vitesse races, natour and young bird racing. Results will show that they have also conquered the middle distance races with some aplomb. Feeding is not over complicated, they feed Mariman fly and breed food, Snoepzaad, Tovo, P40 pellets and Omega enz. All of the birds, stock, racers and youngsters are fed the same mix of food. Supplements from Herstelpower and Prange are also added through the week.

Peter and Rene believe that the best performances are

achieved with birds that are 1 or 2 years old. After this the majority seem to lose that winning edge, those that have earned it can keep their contribution to the success going in the stock lofts. All of the pigeons, racers and stock birds are paired together around the 15th of January. The first round of eggs from the stock birds are under laid to the racers which enables the stock team to quickly go down on their second round. Those birds that have performed well are given the opportunity to go down on eggs again once the racing season has finished. You will quite often find that the eggs from these late couplings are offered back to the fancy each year.

There have been numerous champion performances every year but highlights include being 1st Middle Distance champion in 2014 for the whole of Holland, and fast forward to 2018 when the loft achieved 1st Vitesse WHZB – TBOTB with 'Magic Girl', NL 17 - 1741529. 'Magic Girl' is heavily weighted with the Leo Heremans pigeons when crossed with the original 'Magic Man' line.

Looking at some of the best pigeon performances, you will see that some of the best have been put up by the hens. Peter said that if a hen is performing really well then he will try and keep her cock bird at home, thus she will always have that motivation to return home as quickly as she can. Speaking to Peter Van Langen he says that one of the most important things that is needed in a racing loft is

FINDING YOUR OWN WAY AND CREATING A SYSTEM

After years of dedicated study to the sport, you may realise the dream and create a winning system with your birds, which is so hard to do.

Well bred birds bought in do not ensure success on their

own-knowledge and skill are essential. Wise to start at the bottom as a novice and go from there, till the results start coming through in racing and breeding.

The ultimate is the creation of a distance/marathon strain of birds to your own loft or elsewhere. Some fanciers make it their dream and life to do so.

Jim Emerton



motivation. The birds must have a good reason to want to come home whether it be the widowhood factor or jealousy.

You have to couple this motivation with good food, a happy and healthy environment, observation and consistency to have any chance of getting consistent performances out of your loft.

One sign of a good breeding programme is the results of other fanciers with your pigeons and there have been with the Van Langen family of birds.

You can visit the website at <http://gebroedersvanlangen.nl> for a fuller picture on what they are about.

I know that I have raved about these pigeons of Rene and Peter Van Langen but I think you have to agree that we may have turned up a real golden nugget family of pigeons that deserve the opportunity to show what they can do racing in the U.K.

Tom Powers

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Bartosz Morel
Poland

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Written for www.featherselitepigeonauctions.com

Bartosz Morel is currently a hugely successful professional Polish fancier who studied Psychology at the University of Silesia in South Poland. Within two years his focus reoriented to business and this resulted in the opening of a retail pigeon feed, supplements and supplies shop. Within a few short years as his feed shop prospered Bartosz founded a one loft race in Kuźnica, which soon became the largest and most respected one loft race in Poland that he operated until a tragic fire devastated the lofts in 2017.

As he established his retail feed enterprise it required all of his attention so he stopped racing for three years but eventually returned aggressively and professionally to racing in 2015 with a collection of superior racing pigeons that were acquired, with no expense spared, between the years 2010-2014. His contacts within the highest levels of the European racing pigeon scene ensured that he gained the most up to date practices from the most successful fanciers in Europe. Bartosz is successful, young, enthusiastic and always willing to share and mentor his clients. His focus obviously has been to create his own "Brand" or line of birds that do compete with the best performance pigeons in the world.

