

## GABY VANDENABEELE

Pipa Auction





# GABY VANDENABEELE

The world's most successful pigeon breed

an you name a breed that has been more successful than the Gaby Vandenabeele pigeon family in international races over 400 to 800km? Well, we can't.

No other pigon breed has given so many successful cracks as the noble Vandenabeele line, which has bred generations of pigeons that have excelled, dominated and conquered. This is what makes this pigeon breed stand out from the others, and it explains why the Vandenabeele pigeons are in such great demand.

Pigeon fanciers from all around the world have visited the loft in Dentergem, not to take a sip from the holy fountain in Dentergem but to try and find the secret behind the Vandenabeele success story and their years of dominance, and to learn more about their pigeons.

Numerous fanciers were fascinated with the youngsters and even grandchildren of such iconic pigeons as Kleinen, Wittenbuik, and Bliksem, and the current generation of champions in Gaby's loft, including Rudy and his successful sons

Super Romeo and New Bliksem, continue to receive widespread interest as well.

#### From gero to hero

Gaby has had quite a spectacular career - his achievements are difficult to put into words. We assume almost every fancier is familiar with his enormous palmares, which has attracted widespread international media attention.

Gaby and his wife Christine moved to their current home in the Wontergemstraat in Dentergem back in 1977, and no one could have guessed that this was the start of a most impressive career in pigeon racing. The first pigeons to be kept in Gaby's loft unsurprisingly came from his father Gentiel, who used to be a successful middle distance player in the province of West Flanders. Gentiel had created a breed based on pigeons of Valère Desmet-Matthijs (Nokere), Pol Bostijn (Moorslede) and Lucien Verstraete (Deinze). These were the type of pigeons Gaby could build on. These three bloodlines were destined to play a major role in the Gaby's pigeon loft, and they were represented by stock

pigeons Kleinen, Bijter and Groten. The most important pigeon in the early development of this successful breed was 'Kleinen' BE81-3238253. 35 years later his impressive breeding qualities can still be found in today's racing team. In fact, all of Gaby's international stars are related to this pigeon, whether it be Wittenbuik, Bliksem, Rudy or the new generation. They have turned Gaby Vandenabeele into one of our sport's grandmasters, a true pigeon racing hero!

#### Daughter Ilse joins the team

This team's impressive achievements have attracted many people to Dentergem. This is the price of success. Friends, relatives, journalists, and visitors from all around the world have made the trip to the Vandenabeele loft in Dentergem. They get a steady stream of phone calls and emails, and we wonder where Gaby and his wife Christine find the energy to keep going every weekend. How does Gaby manage to maintain his level of performance despite the pressure? Fortunately, his daughter lise has recently decided to



join the team! She is in charge of the organisation and the administrative side of GabyPigeons, which means Gaby can spend more time in the pigeon loft. The next step would be to get Ilse involved in the loft as well...

## 7 x1st National, 97 x1st Provincial between 1988 and 2014

Gaby got familiar with pigeon racing at the highest level at an early age, spending a lot of time in the loft of his father Gentiel. who was a successful fancier himself. The pigeon collection and the invaluable experience that he got from his father proved an excellent starting point for Gaby when he started keeping pigeons in 1976. Gaby quickly started to dominate the local middle distance competition like a grandmaster. In fact, he did so well that many of his opponents decided to leave the region to join a different competition instead. Dentergem became a place that many neighbouring pigeon clubs stayed away from. This was of course a sad development, and eventually Gaby had no choice but to bid farewell to the middle distance competition in 1985. He switched to a different competition, aiming instead on the provincial and national races of the longer middle distance and the extreme long distance (400-800km).

The fanciers that forced Gaby to leave

the middle distance competition have in fact enabled the Vandenabeele pigeons to become an internationally renowned breed, ready to join our sport's hall of fame. His first major achievements followed soon: his spectacular racing team put in its first great effort in 1985, winning a 2nd and 10th national in the national race from Limoges in early July. The pigeon that had to settle for second place was Fideel, a son of Kleinen. It was just a matter of time before Gaby would claim a national first prize!

Gaby eventually won his first national victory in 1988, when 'Rambo' took a national first prize from Bourges against 13,154 old birds. He also was the fastest bird of the 63,176 pigeons in total on that flight. It would be the first of seven consecutive national victories. This was the starting point for a spectacular and long-standing career.

The year 1988, when the now legendary Wittenbuik hatched from its egg, marked the rise of the dynasty of the illustrious Kleinen, his son Wittenbuik and his grandson Bliksem. Together they have made history in our sport. Kleinen became the leading man in this loft and the stock sire of a bloodline with an international reputation; a bloodline with truly exceptional breeding qualities. This pigeon laid the foundation for a team that won 7 national first prizes and 97 provincial

first prizes between 1988 and 2014. The national victories can be found below:

<b>1st National Bourges</b>	13,154 olds	1988
<b>1st National Limoges</b>	8,883 olds	1995
1st National Brive	4,719 olds	1995
1st National Brive	3,970 2yr	1995
<b>1st National Bourges</b>	13,166 yrls	2002
<b>1st National Argentor</b>	7,358 olds	2010
1st National Tulle	5,731 yrls	2014

"New Bliksem
is likely to exceed
the breeding achievements
of his father Rudy and
grandfather Bliksem!"
Gaby Vandenabeele

#### Luck, coincidence or intuition?

Does Gaby Vandenabeele have something other fanciers don't? Does he know more than some of his opponents? He has really been able to push his pigeon breed to a higher level. He has always managed to find that one stock sire or top quality breeding pigeon to build a team around. Is it simply a matter of luck or does he have

a special feel for pigeons? For instance, he firmly believes that New Bliksem is capable of exceeding the achievements of his sire Rudy and grandfather Bliksem in the breeding loft. Only time will tell, but we do know that Gaby does not make many mistakes.

It is also worth noting that Gaby's most important pigeons are all directly related to Kleinen. The impressive legacy of stock sire 'Kleinen', his son 'Wittenbuik' and his grandson 'Bliksem' is now continued through the lines of 'Rudy', 'Super Romeo' and 'New Bliksem'. This means that their breeding talents have been passed on to future generations.

## Results that indicate top quality

Gaby has always believed that true top quality is at the heart of our sport. It is the foundation of every success story. Without it you cannot sustain a 35-year career at the top of our sport. Top quality is the result of strict selection! In fact, Gaby did not even have his own breeding pigeons in his first five years. Kleinen was the first real breeding pigeon in Gaby's collection but he was one of a kind!

Gaby does not keep pigeons in a golden cage; they first have to prove themselves. He really puts them to the test. He adopted this approach from his father Gentiel, who

achieved great results throughout his career. He was very demanding towards his pigeons: they had to be on top of their game in demanding weather conditions, with speeds of 1200 m/min or less. Those that failed to deliver were dropped from the team. Strict selectioning was the key to success and Gaby has adopted this strategy as well: his best champions were selected in races with hard weather, with speeds of 1300 m/min or less (wind still or headwind). Pigeon racing is all about prize winners, and it takes strong pigeons to win top prizes. These pigeons can only be found in races with a strong headwind, where pigeons can break away from the group to claim victory.

Gaby gives his pigeons the chance to prove themselves in the breeding loft at an early age, as was also the case with Wittenbuik (3 x 1st interprovincial), Bliksem and Rudy, and now Super Romeo and New Bliksem as well.

Gaby is always looking for possible reinforcements. He uses the same strategy when purchasing new pigeons; he looks for pigeons that can excel in tough weather conditions. In addition, they should be originating from pigeons with excellent breeding qualities. Their descendants are put to the test in different races first before being introduced in the existing breed. In addition, Gaby favours pigeons with

a soft plume, with small and elongated primaries and a medium sized shape, even though some of his best stock pigeons are called Kleinen (small one) and Groten (big one). Still, medium-sized pigeons are the best choice, as they require fewer compensation pairings.









s has been 30 years since the birth of 'Kleinen' in Dentergem, and yet his direct descendants continue to achieve great results across the globe. The bloodline of Kleinen has been bringing new generations of first prize winners and ace pigeons on a yearly basis, making Gaby Vandenabeele an internationally renowned star. Kleinen is an exceptionally talented pigeon and a world class breeder! 'Kleinen' was the very first breeder in the Vandenabeele lofts, and he was one of a kind. He was never basketed, which goes against one of Gaby's key principles. This probably had to do with the unusual circumstances in which Kleinen was born. Call it fate or coincidence.

The sire of Kleinen, het Zitterke BE80-4055428, had in fact been loaned to Gaby for a short while by Jozef Delodder. Zitterke then managed to impress Gaby by claiming a solo victory from Orleans in a strong headwind. There was one problem: Gaby could not think of a partner that would combine well with this exceptional pigeon. Fortunately a friend of his came to the rescue: his colleague Gilbert Van Parys offered him his top class breeding hen Ameyke BE77-33064419. Ameyke is a hen from the outstanding stock pair Angoulême x Ameyke, parents and grandparents of quite a few ace pigeons and national first prize winners. In fact, the new combination moved to the Norman pigeon family in Knokke-Heist after Gilbert van Parys' total auction. The pairing of Zitterke and Ameyke proved a great success, and together they bred the now world famous Kleinen! Contrary to what his name suggests, Kleinen was actually an average-sized rather than a small pigeon.

Kleinen marked the beginning of a spectacular rush to the top, in no time making Gaby one of the best fanciers in Belgium, who would never lose his place at the top.

Kleinen was paired to 'Goed Jong 76' of his sire Gentiel, which proved an excellent combination. He bred the successful 'Picanol' in his first year as a breeder, followed by 'Fideel' one year later. This was just the beginning – an illustrous list of cracks and iconic breeders were bred, with Wittenbuik being the most renowned son of stock sire Kleinen. Some of his most

renowned youngsters include:

- **Picanol** BE82-3258240: 1st Prov. Ace Pigeon Yearlings KBDB West Flanders 1983
- **Fideel** BE83-3105147: 1st Prov. and 2nd Nat. Limoges 6,911 p. in 1985. Fideel became the grandfather of Blauwe Fideel BE93-3050068, winner of a 1st Nat. Brive 4,719 old birds and a 1st Nat. Brive 3,970 two-year-olds.
- **Wittenbuik** BE88-3206112: 1st Intprov. Angoulême 2,450 p., 1st Intprov. Limoges 2,309 p., and 1st Intprov. Poitiers 2,713 p. Wittenbuik is for instance the grandfather of Bliksem!
- **Turbo** BE90-3119128: 1st Prov. Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB West Flanders 1993, 2nd Prov. Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB West Flanders 1994 (behind a loft mate). He is the sire of the 1st Prov. Tours 3,366 p.
- Other youngsters of 'Kleinen' include Dokus, Stier, Bambino, Wolfgang, Don Juan, King Kleinen...

And these are his most well-known grandchildren:

- James Bond BE01-3031007: 1st Nat. Bourges against 13,116 p.
- Neptunus BE99-3199708: 2nd Prov. Ruffec 1,600 p., 8th Prov. Chateauroux 4,221 p., and the sire of 1st Prov. Tours 2,045 p., and sire of Spy: 2nd Sun City One Million Dollar Race 2010 South Africa. He is also the grandfather of the 1st Nat. Gueret 9,754 YL in 2014 (for Bert Van Den Berghe).

Kleinen has contributed to most of Gaby Vandenabeele's major achievements!





1st	Interprov.	Poitiers	2,713 p.
1st	Interprov.	Angoulème	2,450 p.
1st	Interprov.	Limoges	2,309 p.
2nd	Interprov.	Poitiers	1,435 p.

he most famous crack and the greatest champion in the impressive career of Gaby Vandenabeele.

Kleinen was a perfect pigeon and he proved an exceptional breeder. He died in the spring of 1995 at the age of 14, which was a serious blow for Gaby's breeding team. After all, pigeons with such qualities are quite rare. Honestly, you can call yourself a lucky man if you can come across one such pigeon in your entire career.

Still, Gaby did not have to wait long for a successor: Kleinen was succeeded by one of his very sons: the legendary Wittenbuik. This was an outstanding racing pigeon, having won three interprovincial first prizes (no doubles!). But more importantly, he was just as talented a breeder as his sire. Wittenbuik was a son of Kleinen x Flicka BE87-3008002, a direct daughter of Bijter BE80-3250688, another great pigeon in the Vandenabeele collection.

Wittenbuik bred quite a number of outstanding racing and breeding birds with different partners, and his descendants have achieved great results both in Dentergem and in lofts across the world. It is difficult to determine which of Wittenbuik's partners has given the best descendants, but we can say that he combined particularly well with 'Moriska', 'Françoise', 'Het Provinciaalke' (daughter of 'Turbo') and 'Prinsesje'.



Two direct youngsters of Wittenbuik that have contributed to the international reputation of this exceptional breeder are without doubt 'Kolonel' and 'Dolores'.

- Kolonel BE92-3233008: a son of Wittenbuik x Prinsesje (a daughter of Picanol), which means he is closely related to Kleinen. He followed in the footsteps of his sire Wittenbuik as a racing bird, having won a 1st Prov. Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB 1995, 1st Prov. Limoges 2,762 p., 1st Prov. Chateauroux 7,793 p., and 2nd Prov. Orleans 1413 p. Kolonel owes his excellent reputation mainly to Rita, which became his breeding partner in 1998. They became the parents of an iconic new pigeon in the Vandenabeele lofts: the outstanding 'Bliksem' (see below).
- Dolores BE95-3332945: a full sister of 'Kolonel'. She was paired to 'Bliksem' when she became the dam of 'Jonge Bliksem' BE01-3266512, the stock sire of Jan Hooymans and sire of the now world famous Harry, 1st Nat. Ace Pigeon One Day Long Distance WHZB 2009.
   There is one question remaining about 'Wittenbuik':

Is he the best breeder ever to have lived in the Gaby Vandenabeele pigeon loft? His impressive breeding qualities were passed on to future generations through his famous grandson 'Bliksem'.



A fantastic racing bird, and an even better breeder!

1st	Prov Poitiers	1,488 p.
2nd	Prov Chateauroux	4,662 p.
4th	Prov Ruffec	1,778 p.
5th	Prov Perigueux	1,119 p.
8th	Prov Poitiers	2,975 p.

liksem was the next pigeon to follow in the footsteps of Kleinen and his son Wittenbuik, becoming the breed's next stock pigeon. Bliksem is a grandson of Wittenbuik, and he was an excellent racing bird: he proved his value in the racing loft before being granted a spot in the breeding team. Bliksem is a son of Kolonel (a son of Wittenbuik) x Rita BE93-3354340, a direct daughter of 'Vital' BE88-3389798, first Nat. Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB 1993 of long distance champion Noël Lippens.

2000 was arguably his best season as a racing bird. His achievements easily could have led to the title of National Ace Pigeon Middle Distance KBDB but things went quite differently. Gaby did not basket Bliksem for Bourges on 30 July 2000 but for Perigueux instead, where he won a 5th provincial against 1,119 pigeons. Unfortunately, Bourges was the only race that was taken into account for the National Ace Pigeon championship Middle Distance KBDB. Still, this was a moral victory for Bliksem, who missed the national title despite having the lowest coefficient. Bliksem eventually got his revenge as a breeding bird! The achievements of his youngsters and grandchildren continue to amaze pigeon fanciers from all over the world, as the bloodline of Bliksem continues to play a major role in many international



competitions, especially in the lofts of the grandmaster himself. His son Rudy BE06-3008003 has clearly played a fundamental role in this success story. He is the new star in the current breeding team in Dentergem. Rudy has demonstrated his value in the past two seasons, thanks to two fantastic sons:

- Super Romeo BE12-3088052: 1st National Ace Pigeon Long Distance Yearlings KBDB 2013
- New Bliksem BE13-3056024: 1st National Tulle 5,731 Yearlings 2014 Besides Rudy, 'The Returned Bliksem' is also a great breeder in the lofts in Dentergem, being the grandfather of the 1st Nat. Tulle 5,976 old birds in 2014 for Baert-Debusschere. A daughter of Bliksem, Mona, is in turn the dam of Gloria, 2nd Nat. Ace Pigeon Long Distance Old Birds KBDB 2013 for Bert Van Den Berghe. Besides, Bliksem is also the grandfather of 'Gil' BE05-2143154, winner of a 1st Nat. Bourges 11,215 YL for Gommaire Verbruggen. Lastly, 'Harry' of Jan Hooymans, one of the most famous pigeons in The Netherlands and 1st Nat. Ace Pigeon One Day Long Distance WHZB 2009, is also a grandson of iconic breeder Bliksem. This is quite an impressive pedigree!

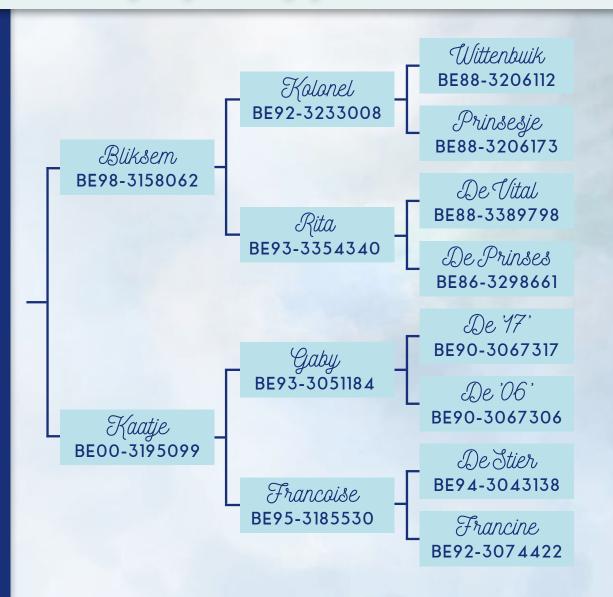
Bliksem... breeder of nationally renowned ace pigeons and first prize winners!

# Rudy BE06-3008003 A new top class breeder and the star of today's breeding loft!

Rudy has only had a brief career as a racing bird. He started to show his potential as a one-year-old, in what would be his final season in competition. His father Bliksem was no longer fertile, which is why Gaby decided to transfer Rudy to the breeding loft. It proved a brilliant move by the grandmaster, who once again demonstrated his eye for talent. Rudy quickly developed into the new leading man of the Gaby Vandenabeele pigeon breed. Rudy is a son of Bliksem x Kaatje BE00-3195099, a full sister of super class hen Bieke of Cools-Blancke and 'De 100' of Rik Cools (sire of 1st Nat. Bourges). Kaatje is a granddaughter of 'De 17', a full brother of Wittenbuik (bred from Kleinen x Flicka). In other words, Rudy is directly related to stock sire 'Kleinen' through both his parents!

Rudy's breeding potential started to come through especially in 2013 and 2014, thanks to the impressive achievements of his two sons Super Romeo and New Bliksem.

- Super Romeo BE12-3088052: 1st National Ace Pigeon Long Distance Yearlings KBDB 2013
- New Bliksem BE13-3056024: 1st National Tulle 5,731 yl The two talents were promptly transferred to the breeding loft; Super Romeo and New Bliksem have become the new cornerstones of the breeding team, along with their sire Rudy. Will they become the new stars in the future? Just like any fancier, Gaby is always looking to find new reinforcements, and trying to add new champions to his collection. He is particularly fond of pigeons that come from his existing breed combined with a bloodline of another successful loft. Both Super Romeo and New Bliksem are a great example of the breeding strategy of Dentergem's grandmaster!







#### 1. NAT ACE LONG DISTANCE YL KBDB 2013



18th	Nat Brive	6,842 p.
8th	Prov Brive	1,235 p.
1st	Club Tulle	255 p.
2nd	Prov Tulle	809 p.
4th	N.Zone Tulle	2,209 p.
35th	Nat Tulle	6,972 p.
3rd	Club Fontenay	306 p.
3rd	Club Clermont	131 p.
8th	Club Bourges	209 p.
51st	Prov Bourges	1,661 p.
9th	Club Argenton	295 p.
14th	Club Gueret	264 p.
100th	Prov Gueret	2,201 p.
481st	Nat Poitiers	13,135 p.

Sire: Rudy BE06-3008003

A son of wonderboy Bliksem BE98-3158062 x Kaatje BE00-3195099

Dam: Nicky BE09-4280727

A full sister of

1st National Gueret 14,262 young birds in 2011

1st Interprov. Tours 1,670 young birds.

Nicky was a super class racing hen, having won several prizes as a young bird:

 10th Prov Tours
 2,257 p.

 14th Prov Blois
 5,142 p.

 16th Prov Blois
 4,094 p.

 64th Prov Tours
 2,045 p.

She originates from an outstanding stock pair of Geert Vanrenterghem from Deinze (a Gaby Vandenabeele based loft):

**GF:** Tsaby 1 BE08-4281576: a direct Gaby Vandenabeele from Tsaar BE02-3003538 x Betsy BE07-3199957

**GM:** Kim 1 BE08-4281517: bred from two direct Vandenabeele pigeons Tauber BE06-4377103 x stock dam Lieske BE06-4352099 (a daughter of Captain Blue, which is a son of Bliksem).

### WINNER 1ST NAT TULLE 5,731 YL IN 2014



1st	Nat. Tulle	5,731 p.
1st	Club Bourges	228 p.
5th	Prov Bourges	3,039 p.
1st	Club Tours	120 p.
10th	Prov Tours	2,964 p.
19th	Club Clermont	345 p.

Sire: Rudy BE06-3008003

A son of wonderboy Bliksem BE98-3158062 x Kaatje BE00-3195099

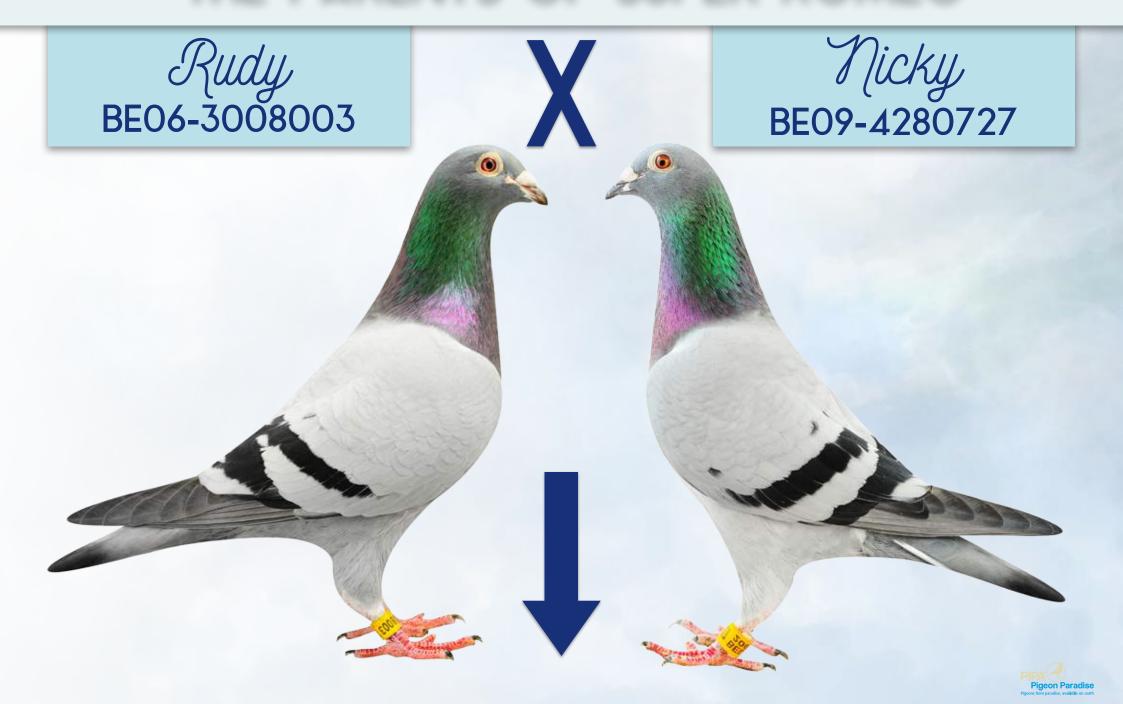
**Dam:** Kiana BE09-3095175

A hen from a joint breeding of Gaby Vandenabeele and Raoul & Xavier Verstraete.

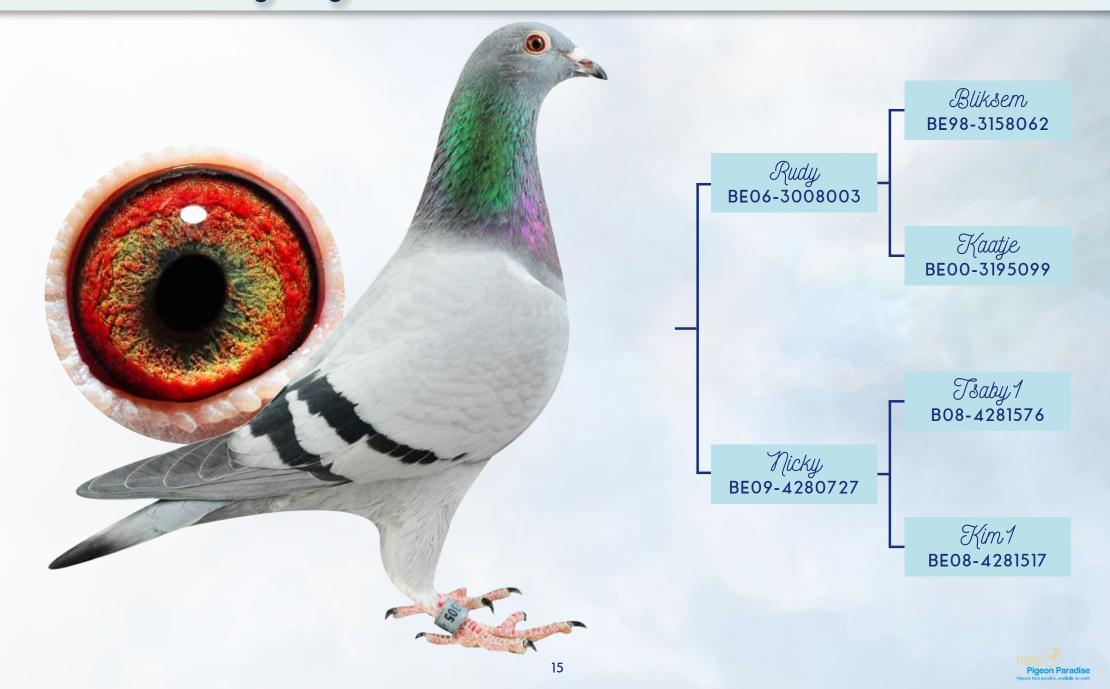
**GF:** Topstar BE03-4343129: the wonderful stock breeder of Verstraete, and winner of a 1st club and 77th Intnat. Beziers 6,702 yearlings, as well as a 1st club and 77th Nat. Montauban 7,303 p.

Topstar is the sire of Xtra (1st Nat. Cahors 2008) and grandfather of Monar (1st Intnat. Narbonne 2011) and Black Magic (1st Intnat. Perpignan 2014) **GM:** Lisa BE04-3069722: a daughter of iconic breeder Bliksem BE98-3158062 x Frieda BE99-3103770, an excellent breeding damd of Cools-Blancke.

#### THE PARENTS OF SUPER ROMEO



## Gaby's Favourite BE15-3025305



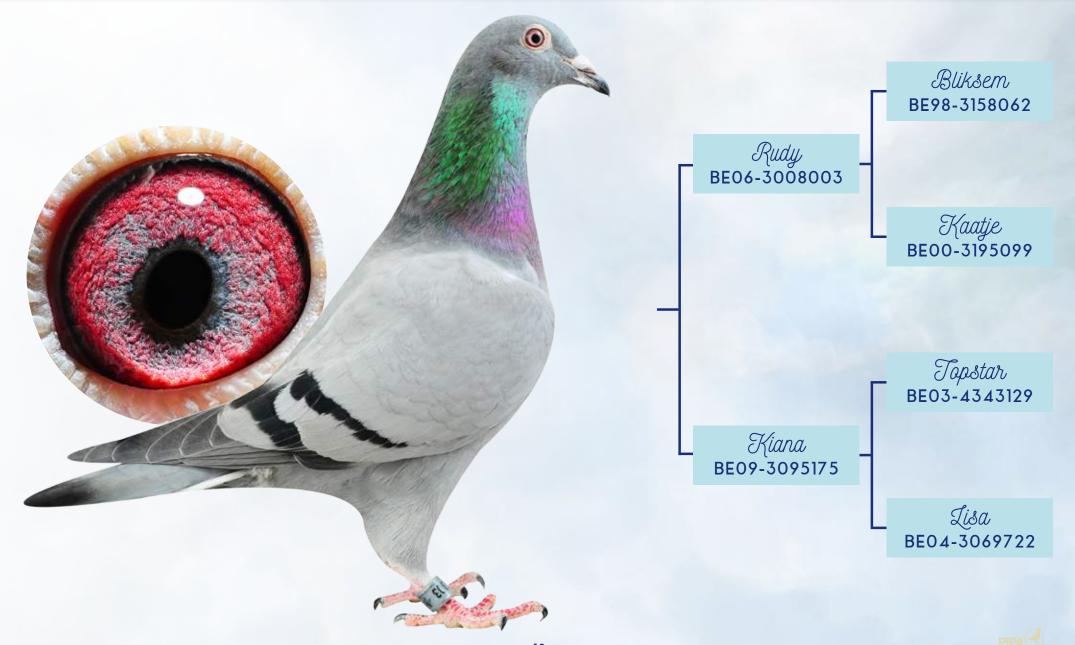
## Sister Super Romeo 307 BE15-3025307



#### THE PARENTS OF NEW BLIKSEM



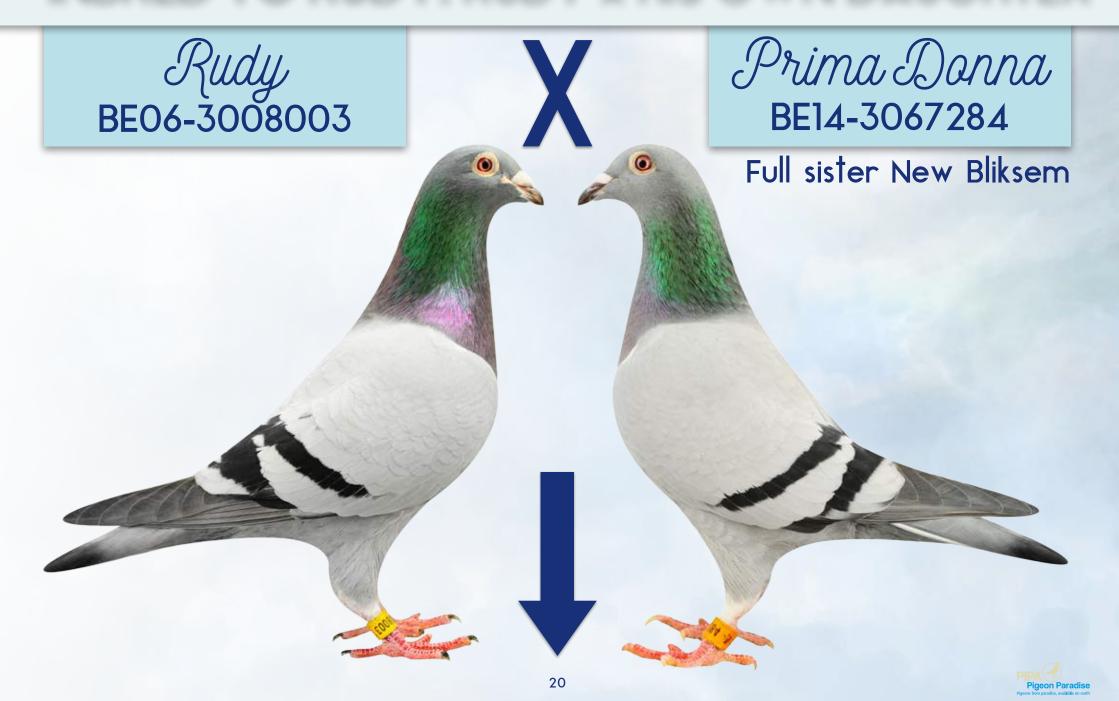
## Sister New Bliksem 303 BE15-3025303



## Sister New Bliksem 304 BE15-3025304

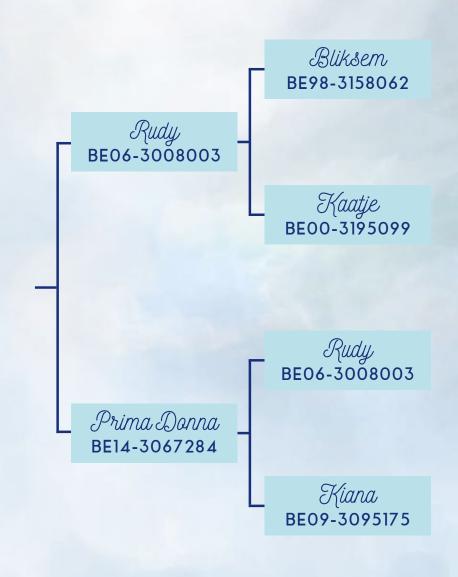


#### INBRED TO RUDY: RUDY x HIS OWN DAUGHTER



# Inbred Rudy 301 BE15-3025301

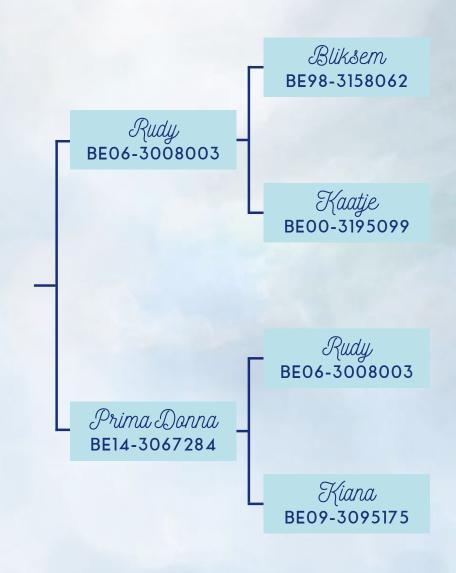






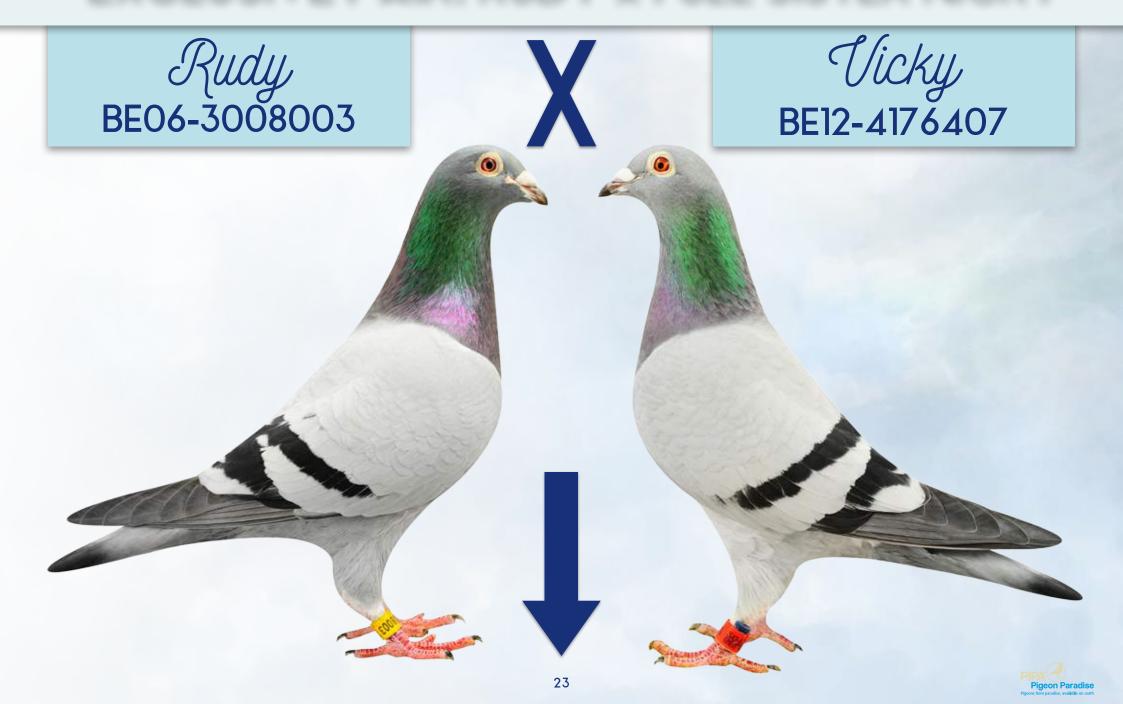
## Inbred Rudy 302 BE15-3025302



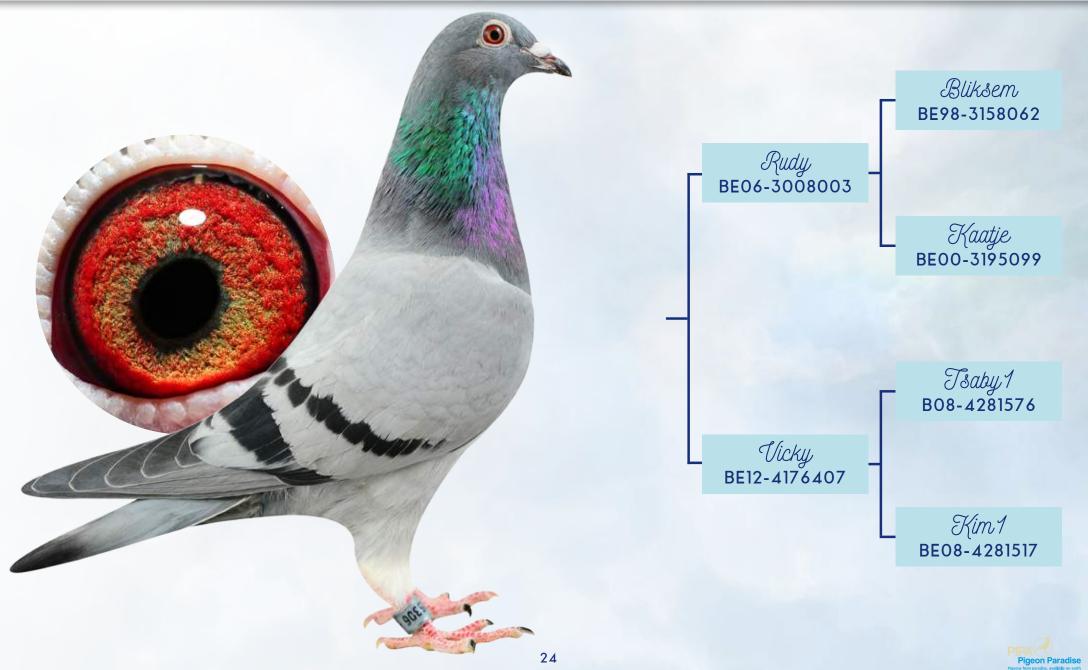




#### EXCLUSIVE PAIR: RUDY x FULL SISTER NICKY



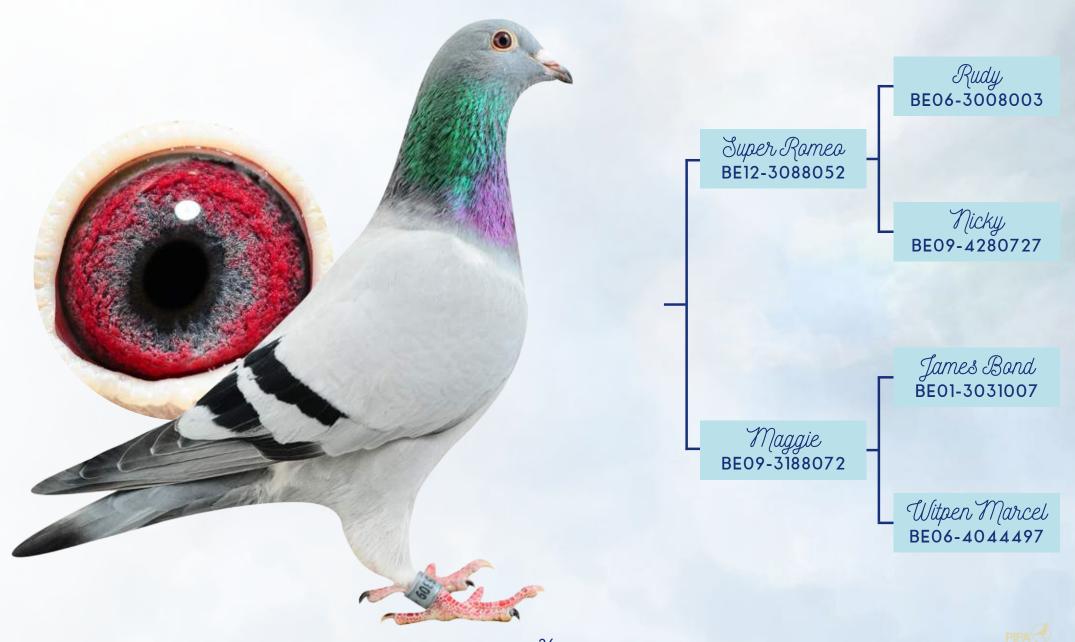
# Victory BE15-3025306



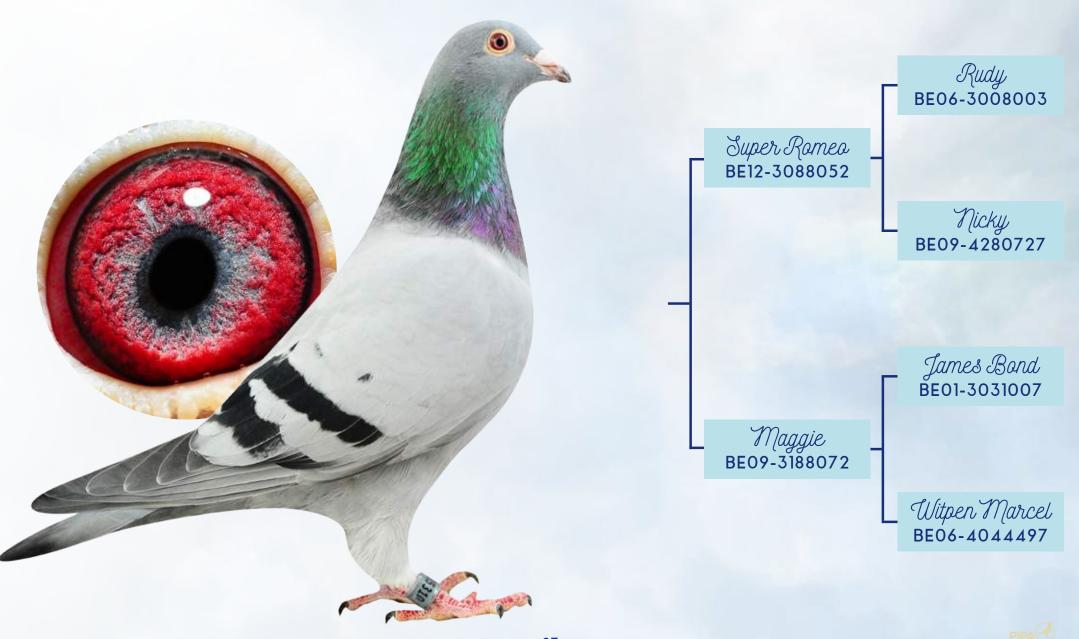
#### THE CHILDREN OF SUPER ROMEO



## Jan Juper Ramea 309 BE15-3025309



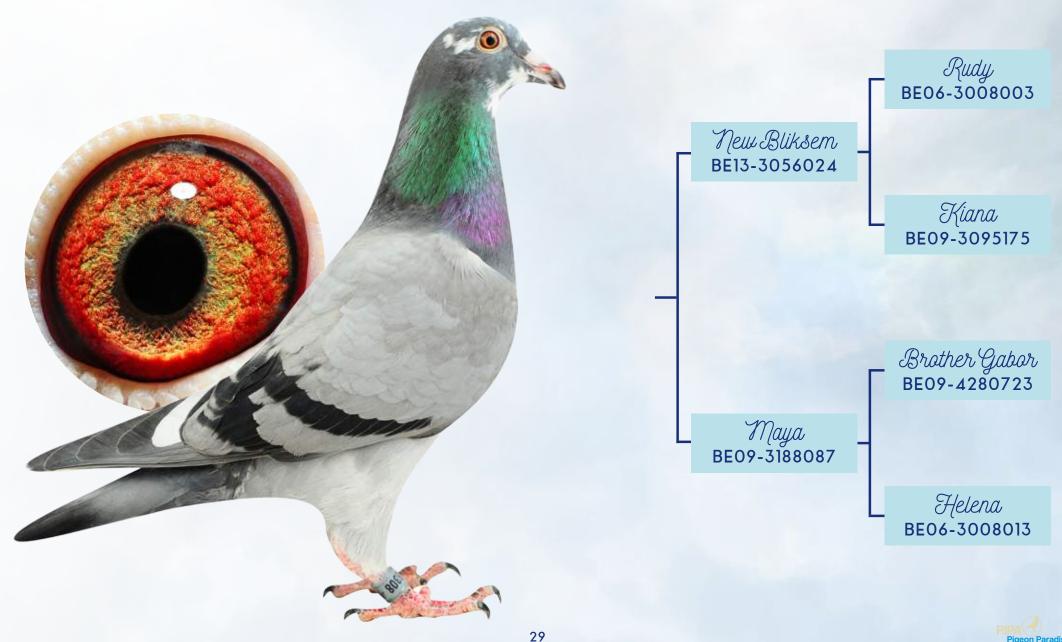
## Jan Super Rameo 310 BE15-3025310



### THE CHILD OF NEW BLIKSEM



## San New Bliksem BE15-3025308











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