**Heijnen & Son: a century of pigeon sports**

**History**

In 1908 Henri Heijnen from Heer (Maastricht) was introduced in pigeon sports: he started his loft with the species from Liege. Being an ex-miner, he got lots of contacts with fanciers in Belgium. His 3 sons: Wim, Giel and Bèr went on with the loft. It was the youngest son Hubert ( Bèr) who became the founder of a splendid pigeon colony. After the Second World war contact were made with Fabry in Liege. This became the basis of the Heijnen & Son loft.

After finishing his studies in Nijmegen, his son Gilbert took over in 1982. The successes came and the Raket, Toekomst 50, Plato and Bordeaux 666 brought them European fame.

In 1996, after Bèr’s Death, Gilbert continued on his own by the name of G. Heijnen & Son. His sons Rud and Paul started to show interest in pigeon sports in 2005. So in 2008 we can speak of a landmark: 100 years of pigeon sports to the name of G. Heijnen & Son.

**Strains:**

The present loft is built of the strains:

For the **sprint and middle distance:** For the **long distance**:

**\* Fabry \* Fabry**

**\* Dr. Linssen \* van der Wegen**

**\* Janssen A. \* M. Braakhuis**

**\* Heinz Meier \* W. Molin**

**\* Lindelauf \* Wijnands & son / Hausoul**

**The loft’s toppigeons *(Ace-pigeons)***

**De Gehamerde** **De Bordeaux ‘82**

Stock bird of the loft Schalie en 1e nat. Bordeaux ‘82

Fabry strain Top Duif

1st Provincial Beaune

**De Raket** **De Bordeaux 666**

1st Ace pigeon NL middle distance 1st national Bordeaux ‘93

winner 4 X 1st prize Superkweker

stamvader

**Toekomst 50**  **De Plato**

1st national Ace pigeon Z.L.U. ’93 2nd national Ace pigeon Long distance ‘94

1st international ace pigeon ’93 4 times 1st prize 16th, 23rd 33rd, 43rd and

1st international long distance 44th national

Champion De Duif ’93

Best European Long Distance pigeon

**Kleine 22** **Raket 771**

1st  Ace pigeon yearling long distance 1996 1st ace pigeon middle distance 2001

1st St. Vincent Super middle distance pigeon

winner criterium der Azen

**De Pau** **De Limoges 65**

1st Euregio Pau 2000 1st provincial Limoges 2002

Fastest pigeon national Pau 1st international Limoges 2002

 son of 1st national Bordeaux ‘93

**Miss Willy** **Miss Craotia**

1st ace pigeon yearlings Wefo 2006 1st ace pigeon one loft race Croatia

1st champion Havens 1st Bosiljevo

**Miss Bordeaux ’07** **Miss Narbonne ‘07**

1st provincial Bordeaux Z.L.U. 1st national Narbonne ‘07

Fastest pigeon Limburg winner Italian extra prize

**Highlights Highlights National**

1st provincial Beaune ’72 1st national Bordeaux ‘82

1st provincial Bordeaux ’83 1st national Bordeaux ‘93

1st provincial Hof ‘ 86 1st international Limoges ‘02

1st provincial Reims ’89 1st national Narbonne ‘ 07 (hens)

1st provincial Argenton ‘ 96

1st provincial Pau 2000 **Bourges 167**

1st provincial Limoges ’02 1st Bourges Fondclub Heuvelland 2010

1st provincial Bordeaux ’07 1st Bourges semi-provincial 2010

1st provincial Bordeaux ’08

1st provincial Bourges ’12 **Meier 566**

 1st ace pigeon middle distance 2010, 2011

 **Speedy 74**

1st NPO Bourges 2012

 1st provincial Bourges 2012

 1st Bourges Wefo

 1st Bourges Limburg Total

 1st Pithiviers 2011

**Titles**

1st provincial ace pigeon De Raket 1986

1st provincial champion CLBVP 1989

1st international long distance champion De Duif 1993

1st international ace pigeon Z.L.U. 1993

1st general champion 1996 - 2007

1st, 2nd, 3rd ace pigeon ZLU Fond 2011

1st ace pigeon middle distance 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

2nd best loft one day races Fondclub Limburg 2012

1st General Champion Regional 2008 - 2012