

REYNDERS and UMBERTI LOFTS

Reynders and Umberti lofts started flying racing pigeons in 1979 at the Verwoerdburg Racing Pigeon Club, affiliated under Pretoria Racing Pigeon Union. We imported 6 pigeons from Stroka Gunter who was the Champion of Munich in Germany. All 6 birds produced winners for us, the first pigeon bred out of "213" and won 1st Club and 1st Union, as well as, her sister bred a winner that same year.

Many winners were bred from these imports and we started naming them the Supremes. These German pigeons are still part of the core in our loft and they bred excellent racers by crossing and inbreeding them with various top strains in Europe and South Africa. The most successful strains for cross, line and inbred breeding were as follow:

- **Raoul Verstraete** line from Netherlands and **Grondelaars** imported by Sybrand van Dyk.
- **VAN RHYN CLOECK** bred and raced by Malcom Mckenzie
- **OSCAR, SIERENS, VERBRUGGEN** lines from **Andre Carelsen, Koos Jonck** and **Dean Jooste**. All three gentlemen are Pretoria Combine Champions.
- The **CATRY SSE** line in our pigeons is also from Dean Jooste who bred many Club, Union and Combine winners in many lofts.

Competing at the One Race Lofts we started bringing in Hardy Kruger, Ganus and Koopman birds and crossed them with our top breeders to compete at the One Race lofts, Combine and Federation level. The pigeon's achievements on Club, Federation, Combine and at the One Race Lofts level were excellent. We were **5 times Club Champions** and many times came close second or third position overall in Zwartkop RPC (30-40 participants).

In the year 2015, we were **Club and Pretoria Federation Champions** and ended 6th overall in the **Pretoria Combine**. Across 35 years only two Members in Zwartkop RPC, Dean Jooste and Reynders & Umberti had the privilege and honour to be Federation Champions, the reason being is the unfavourable Loft position in Pretoria for Zwartkop RPC members.

The prevailing winds at winter time are 70% North-West to South-West and most of the time pigeons are flying back from the East and will overshoot the loft on the eastern side of Pretoria, staying in the South Western part of Pretoria, overflight must be given and this is considered to be a BIG problem.

Why am I telling this story?

Late Andre Carelsen once said to me, you need to breed better pigeons and that is exactly what we did. Gustaf and I always strive to breed the best with the best. Strict selection on the young birds plays a major role to be a consistent contender on Federation and Combine level.

I, Eddie Reynders received my Northern-Provincial and National colours 15 years ago. Gustav Umberti received his Northern-Provincial colours back in 2017. Our pigeons perform well at the One Race Lofts where we missed out on 1st place in the “Bakkie race” at Dinokeng One Race Lofts with 6 seconds and won R50 000 with second place. We have enrolled pigeons at various One RACE Lofts in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Vic-Falls) where we have won money prizes at most of these Lofts.

I came to a point in my life where my health forced me to stop pigeon racing in 2020 and the COVID-19 virus was the final straw. Many of pigeon fanciers and friends, who I have given or sold pigeons to, reported back to me with excellent results after crossing the pigeons with their own stock pigeons.

In 2005, I bred 15 youngsters from our family of pigeons for my son Dirk Reynders, in addition, Dean Jooste also bred 15 youngsters for Dirk. He finished second in the Year-Old Championship behind Andre Carelsen in the Pretoria Racing pigeon Union. This family helped him to later end 4th in the Pretoria Combine Overall Points. He later stopped racing and some his top pigeons became super breeders for us.

Just some notes on the pigeons at auction, you will mostly see younger birds. Some of the birds are too old to put on auction.

- PWF 12 3210, bred from our family with son of Kitty, imported by Roland Brouwer for a huge amount of money. PWF 12 3210 was the father to our “Super” cock who achieved a second-place finish in the car race at both the One Race Lofts and Vic falls, furthermore, was our 3rd hot spot winner in 2022. His click hen is a product of Hardy Kruger “Car winner” and SCMDPR 3rd place winner in 2010. Both pigeons were bred at PIPA breeding station.
- PWF 10 ZA 0874 and 0875, are sons of the nestmate “ZA 06 17641” who is a SANPO Gold medal winner all round for AB Carelsen. These pigeons are Super Sierens/Verbruggen breeds which bred many winners. One of the best they ever owned.
- PWF 13 ZA 1578, Grandson of Dean Jooste’s SANPO Gold winner ZA 07 11622, a Houben Schroyens cock. Many winners were bred from this cock. Hendrik Huyser loaned this pigeon “ZA 07 11622” from Dean Jooste where he won many races with this Houben Schroyens family.
- ZA 10 1278, died this year but his children flew 3rd, 7th, 8th places in the Dinokeng lofts finals in different years and his granddaughter also flew a 10th place. This is the only cock in South Africa to have done this. A champion, bred and bought from

Ferdie Coetzer. His full sisters "Mellisa" and "Something Splendid" are just Super pigeons.

- The Ganus line IHUS 18 149930, has made a huge difference since introducing the half-brother to the 5th place MDPR and car winner for the Jackpot lofts. The Ganus line at Sun City, needs no introduction.
- Super Pigeon, Lady Marmalade, flew a 4th position at the Dinokeng final. She is the daughter of Amber, Webster lofts and Piet Steenkamp One Loft super pigeons. They sell for huge amounts and are always performing at any one's loft in South Africa.

The above pigeons are champion breeders and have been introduced in to our base line family, they have made racing pigeons, a pleasure. Look at the pedigrees of these amazing pigeons on auction and the connection they have to performance pigeons in South Africa. Sadly, some were not given opportunities to race due to Covid pandemic, they are all very well bred and can improve any one's loft.