

TOM VAN GAVER

Moortsele, Belgium | International Champion Pigeon Fancier & Breeder

Tom Van Gaver is one of the most respected names in modern international racing pigeon sport. Based in Moortsele, Belgium, Tom has built a reputation for producing exceptional pigeons that combine **speed, endurance, consistency and all-round racing ability**.

Pigeon racing has been part of Tom's life since childhood, following in the footsteps of his father, Marnik. His rise to international prominence came through outstanding performances with **De Vroe-Van Gaver**, including a spectacular **1st National Jarnac against 4,559 pigeons in 2015** and **1st National Champion Long Distance KBDB in 2016**. In 2018, Tom and his father Marnik began a new chapter together, immediately winning **1st National Brive against 4,412 yearlings**.

Today, the Van Gaver loft is recognised for its exceptional all-round quality. Tom's breeding philosophy places great emphasis on selecting pigeons capable of performing across different distances and under challenging conditions. This approach has produced a remarkable collection of national champions and ace pigeons, while Van Gaver bloodlines have also made their mark in some of the world's toughest One Loft Races.

The 2025 season further demonstrated the strength of the Van Gaver colony. **Allround Ricky** was crowned **1st National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**, while **Ricky's Ace** achieved **3rd National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**. Even more remarkable, eight of the 20 ranked National Allround Ace Pigeons belonged to Tom Van Gaver.

At the heart of the Van Gaver breeding programme are outstanding pigeons such as **Finn and Tetske**, whose descendants continue to achieve major results internationally. The influence of these bloodlines can be seen through national ace pigeons, major race winners and outstanding performances in international One Loft Races.

Tom Van Gaver represents the very best of modern Belgian pigeon racing: **elite genetics, intelligent selection, proven performance and an uncompromising pursuit of quality**.

His pigeons are not simply bred to win—they are bred to **perform, reproduce and leave a lasting mark on the sport**.

Few names in contemporary Belgian pigeon racing command the respect of **Tom Van Gaver**.

From the renowned lofts of Moortsele, Tom has developed a racing and breeding programme built on one simple philosophy:

QUALITY THAT PERFORMS.

His pigeons have consistently excelled at the highest level of Belgian competition, producing **National winners, National Ace Pigeons and championship performances** across multiple distances.

Among his landmark achievements are:

-  **1st National Jarnac – 4,559 pigeons**
-  **1st National Brive – 4,412 yearlings**
-  **1st National KBDB Long Distance Champion**
-  **1st National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**
-  **3rd National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**

The depth of the Van Gaver loft was further demonstrated in 2025, when **eight of the National Allround Ace Pigeons ranked in the top 20 carried the Van Gaver name.**

THE BLOODLINES BEHIND THE CHAMPIONS

Tom's success is built not only on racing performance, but on an exceptional breeding philosophy. Legendary breeders such as **Finn and Tetske** have become important foundations of the Van Gaver family, with their descendants continuing to produce outstanding racers and breeders around the world.

The influence of these bloodlines extends well beyond Belgium, with Van Gaver pigeons and descendants making their presence felt in **international competition and One Loft Races.**

A LEGACY IN THE MAKING

Tom Van Gaver represents the new generation of elite Belgian pigeon fanciers — combining **proven genetics, meticulous selection and world-class racing performance.**

His achievements have established the Van Gaver name among the great families of modern European pigeon sport.

THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

THE BLOODLINES SPEAK FOR GENERATIONS.

HENK JURRIËNS

THE MAN BEHIND THE EIJERKAMP NAME

MANAGER • PIGEON EXPERT • INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR

For more than four decades, **Henk Jurriëns** has been an integral part of one of the most famous names in international racing pigeon sport — **Eijerkamp.**

Joining Hans and Evert-Jan Eijerkamp at just **16 years of age**, Henk has dedicated his career to the development, management and worldwide promotion of the Eijerkamp pigeon empire. In 2024, he celebrated an extraordinary **40 years with the company.**

Today, Henk serves as **Manager of the Eijerkamp pigeon business** and is regarded as the trusted right-hand man of Hans and Evert-Jan. His knowledge of the Eijerkamp pigeons, bloodlines and international racing fraternity has made him an invaluable part of the organisation.

A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE

Henk's role extends far beyond management.

He has developed an extraordinary knowledge of the **Eijerkamp breeding stock**, understands the qualities required to produce elite racing pigeons and maintains relationships with fanciers across the globe.

For generations of pigeon fanciers, Henk has been a familiar face and a trusted source of knowledge — travelling internationally, meeting breeders and racers, evaluating pigeons and helping introduce Eijerkamp genetics into lofts around the world.

Eijerkamp describes him as someone who **“knows every pigeon and every fancier”** — a reflection of the depth of experience he has accumulated throughout his career.

GUARDIAN OF A LEGACY

The Eijerkamp name represents more than 125 years of passion, vision and expertise in racing pigeon sport, with the famous Greenfield Stud in Brummen at its heart. Henk has played a significant role in helping maintain and develop that legacy into the modern era.

From the legendary Janssen foundations to the modern champions and breeding lines that continue to perform internationally, Henk has been closely involved with the pigeons and people that have shaped the Eijerkamp story.

A GLOBAL NAME IN PIGEON SPORT

Respected by fanciers across Europe and throughout the international pigeon world, **Henk Jurriëns is much more than a manager.**

He is a trusted ambassador, an experienced pigeon man and one of the people who has helped carry the **Eijerkamp philosophy of quality, selection and performance** to a worldwide audience.

40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

ONE GREAT PIGEON FAMILY.

THE EIJERKAMP LEGACY CONTINUES.

Esther Noorderijk is a highly prominent figure in the international pigeon racing sport, was part of the Eijerkamp team. Esther is now NL co-ordinator for numerous one loft races around the world and races with her partner Henk Jurriëns a young bird team and also in the Dutch "Ladies League"

JIM MARAFIOTE

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTANCE RACING LEGEND

Jim Marafiote is one of South Australia's most accomplished and respected racing pigeon fanciers, with a reputation built on **consistency, endurance and exceptional breeding.**

A specialist in the demanding South Australian long-distance racing scene, Jim has achieved outstanding results from races extending to **900–1,300 kilometres**, competing successfully against some of the toughest distance pigeons in Australia.

His record includes multiple major SAHPA performances, including **1st SAHPA Marla, 1st SAHPA Border Village and 1st & 2nd SAHPA Cobar**, demonstrating the depth and quality of his racing team.

Perhaps his greatest achievement is his extraordinary consistency. Jim has now won the **SAHPA Aggregate Points eight times — an incredible association record**, proving that his success is not based on one exceptional pigeon, but on a team capable of performing at the highest level throughout an entire season.

Jim's breeding programme is founded on proven South Australian families, with influential **James Bond/Janssen, Van Loon, Eitzen and Goodger lines** playing important roles in his modern loft. His philosophy of **“breeding winners to winners”** has produced generations of successful racers and breeders.

A LOFT BUILT ON CONSISTENCY.

A BLOODLINE BUILT ON WINNERS.

A TRUE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTANCE CHAMPION.

LEN VANDERLINDE

QUEENSLAND RACING PIGEON LEGEND

FANCIER • BREEDER • SPORTSMAN • AUTHOR

With a passion for racing pigeons that began in childhood, **Len Vanderlinde** has become one of Queensland's most respected and accomplished pigeon fanciers.

Len began competitive racing in **1964 at just 15 years of age**, beginning a lifelong journey that has seen him compete successfully at the highest levels of Queensland pigeon racing.

His results speak for themselves. Len has been a **multiple Queensland Federation champion**, winning the QPF averages in **2017, 2018 and 2019**— an extraordinary achievement that demonstrated his ability to produce consistent winners across different bloodlines and racing conditions.

A specialist in **long-distance racing**, Len has developed and raced pigeons capable of tackling the demanding Queensland distances. His breeding stock has become highly sought after, with his champion pigeons continuing to influence successful lofts throughout Australia.

Len is also a passionate historian and student of the sport. His extensive knowledge of Australian racing pigeon families is demonstrated through his research and writings on the famous **Old Brisbane Strain and Uncle Sam bloodline**, helping preserve an important part of Australia's pigeon-racing heritage.

Beyond his own loft, Len has given many years of service to the sport. He is a **Life Member of the Queensland Racing Pigeon Federation**, has served in key federation roles and continues to contribute to the organisation and promotion of pigeon racing in Queensland.

60+ YEARS IN THE SPORT.

MULTIPLE QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS.

STEVAN GAZZOLA

A MODERN FORCE IN AUSTRALIAN PIGEON RACING

FANCIER • BREEDER • ONE LOFT RACE ORGANISER

Stevan Gazzola is one of Australia's prominent modern racing pigeon fanciers, with more than **30 years of experience** in the sport. Winner of the 2025 VHA Averages.

Based in Victoria, Stevan has built a substantial racing and breeding operation and is the driving force behind the **Meadow One Loft Race**, which has grown into one of Australia's significant One Loft Race events.

His commitment to the sport extends beyond his own loft. Through Meadow One Loft Race, Stevan has created an opportunity for fanciers from across Australia to compete on an international-style platform, bringing together hundreds of pigeons and competitors each season. The 2026 event lists almost **2,000 pigeons from more than 220 fanciers**.

Stevan is also a strong advocate for the future of pigeon racing. He believes in professional management, progressive training and careful attention to pigeon health and welfare. His operation has worked closely with veterinary professionals to establish high standards of health management for One Loft Racing.

His passion for the sport is matched by a willingness to invest in quality genetics. Stevan has actively sought proven long-distance bloodlines, including purchasing leading South Australian pigeons to strengthen his breeding programme.

30+ YEARS IN RACING.

MEADOW ONE LOFT RACE.

PASSION. INNOVATION. PERFORMANCE.

STEVAN GAZZOLA — HELPING SHAPE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AUSTRALIAN PIGEON RACING.

LUKE SIENKIEWICZ

A RESPECTED NAME IN AUSTRALIAN DISTANCE RACING

FANCIER • BREEDER • LONG-DISTANCE SPECIALIST

Luke Sienkiewicz is a respected name in Australian racing pigeon sport, representing the **Central Cumberland Federation (CCF)** and establishing a reputation for his involvement in competitive racing and quality long-distance pigeons.

Luke and the Sienkiewicz loft have been associated with the Australian racing pigeon fraternity for many years, including participation in fundraising initiatives supporting the national sport and involvement with major long-distance racing activities.

His name has also featured prominently in the **East Coast Long Distance Racing Combine**, an organisation dedicated to promoting and developing extreme-distance racing along Australia's eastern seaboard. Luke was involved in the administration and operation of the Combine's Liverpool basketball centre, demonstrating his commitment not only to racing but also to the organisation and advancement of the sport.

The Sienkiewicz loft has also attracted attention for its breeding quality, with pigeons associated with Luke being sought after by other Australian fanciers. His involvement in the sport extends beyond simply competing on race day — it reflects a commitment to **breeding, competition and the long-distance future of Australian pigeon racing.**

CCF REPRESENTATIVE.

LONG-DISTANCE COMPETITOR.

A LIFETIME IN AUSTRALIAN PIGEON SPORT.

LUKE SIENKIEWICZ — PASSION, DISTANCE & QUALITY.