

Just a snippet of why we all should be keen to get to the Adelaide Pigeon Convention. Setting Pigeon Racing World alight, come along and find out how he does it.

Tom & Marnik Van Gaver (Moortsele, BE): Icons of Modern International Pigeon Sport



How father and son Van Gaver have performed at the very highest level in recent years is, of course, the main reason why they have gained international fame today. The many references and results in One Loft Races have added a strong extra dimension to this success.

The list of **top rankings, ace pigeon titles, and championship honours** after the **2025 season** is once again extremely long. We therefore limit ourselves to a selection of the most important achievements:

- **1st National Tulle I – 5,889 yearlings 2025**
- **1st National Zone Valence I – 443 old birds 2025**
- **1st Provincial Vierzon – 10,038 old & yearlings 2025**
- **1st Provincial Tulle II – 827 old & yearlings 2025**
- **1st Provincial Bourges II – 3,544 yearlings 2025**
- **1st National Zone Libourne – 1,118 old birds 2025**
- **1st National Zone Bourges IV – 939 yearlings 2025**
- **1st National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 (with Allround Ricky)**
- **2nd General Champion of Belgium KBDB 2025**
- **3rd National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Ricky's Ace**
- **3rd National Champion KBDB Rhône Valley 2025 (with Magic Milos in a leading role)**
- **6th National Champion KBDB Long Distance Old Birds 2025**
- **6th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Magic Allround Finn**
- **6th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Long Distance Yearlings 2025 – Ace Blue Finn**
- **8th National Ace Pigeon Long Distance Old Birds 2025 – Almost National Rita**
- **8th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Ace Blue Finn**
- **9th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Little Eye of Finn**
- **13th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Little Ace**

- 14th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Long Distance Old Birds 2025 – The Next Eye of Finn
- 16th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – Dark Blue Finn
- 16th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Middle Distance Yearlings 2025 – Always Nervous
- 17th National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround Old/YL 2025 – White Flag Finn
- 1st General Champion KBDB East Flanders 2025
- 1st General Champion VOVD 2025
- 1st General Champion FCD 2025
- 1st PIPA Champions League Long Distance Old Birds 2025

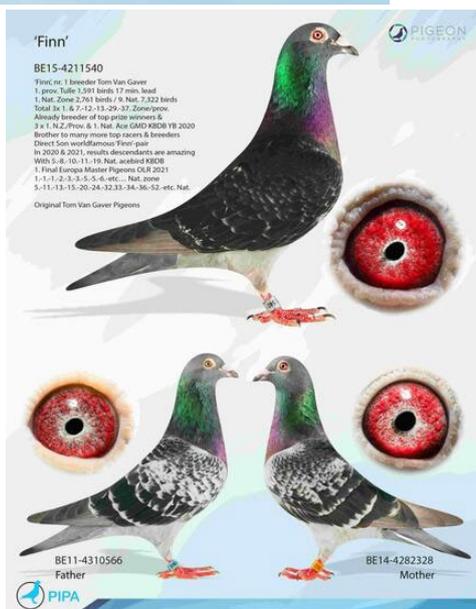
The **2025 season** thus proved to be a straightforward continuation of the previous successful years. With a **national victory**, the title of **2nd General Champion KBDB**, victory in the **PIPA Champions League Long Distance**, and—icing on the cake—the title of **1st National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**, won by the new diamond **Allround Ricky (BE24-4083431)**. With **Ricky's Ace**, Tom also secured **bronze** in this category: **3rd National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround 2025**.



Allround Ricky: 1. Nat. Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025

Ricky's Ace : 3. Nat Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround KBDB 2025

At the foundation of this success are, of course, the well-known **Van Gaver bloodlines** built around **Finn, Tetske, Ricky, and the Dream Pair**. These pigeons are now known worldwide for their exceptional hereditary power and form the basis of many success stories, both at home and abroad.



Pattaya Extra Final

One of the most recent and eye-catching achievements by descendants carrying the **Van Gaver genes** is that of **My Dream Pattaya 015 (CRO25-37015)**, owned by **Ivica Torbarina** from Croatia, who won the **1st Extra Final Race PIPR Pattaya 2026**.

In a gruelling final lasting almost **10 hours**, over a distance of **600 kilometres**, My Dream Pattaya 015 finished **1st against 4,115 pigeons**. This hen was one of only **four pigeons** to manage to return home on the same day.

In recent years, Ivica has invested in the very best bloodlines currently available in the pigeon sport—and with success, as this result clearly shows. This performance ranks among the **most prestigious victories in pigeon racing** and is now proudly to his name.



Ivica Torbarina and Tom Van Gaver

On the **dam's side**, the winning pigeon clearly bears the hallmark of the **Van Gaver colony**. **My Dream Pattaya O15** was bred from a **son of Méchant Best Kittel** (PIPA Breeding) crossed with a **daughter of Dark Ace × daughter of Finn/Tetske** (Tom Van Gaver).

The dam, **Dark Finn Tetske 222 (BE24-4173222)**, is herself a child of **Dark Ace, 5th National Ace Pigeon GHF KBDB Young Birds 2020**, and **Finn's Tetske 54**. The latter is a daughter of the icons **Finn × Tetske**—in other words, the ultimate foundation sire paired to the ultimate performance hen. Tetske won, among others, **1st National Brive 4,238 b.**, **1st Provincial Orléans 6,154 b.**, **1st Provincial Blois 5,208 b.**, ...

In terms of pedigree, Ivica could hardly have done better. The investment clearly paid off immediately.



The grandparents of My Dream Pattaya O15.

1st National Bourges VI Young Birds 2025

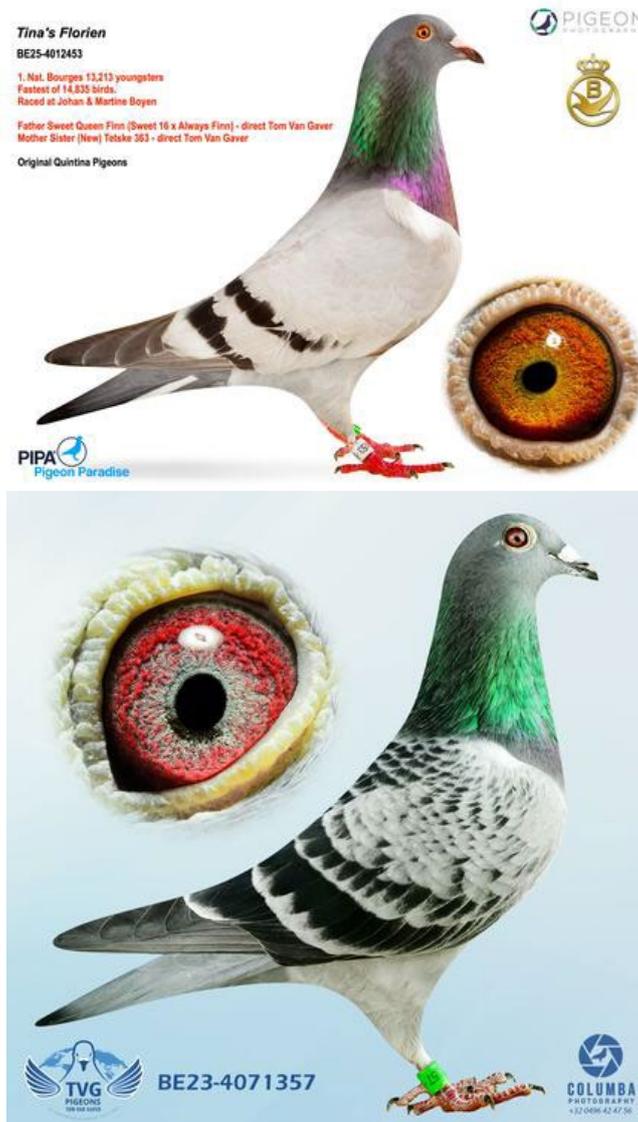
That investing in the pigeons of **Tom & Marnik Van Gaver** truly pays off was once again demonstrated by Ivica. And the national racing season in Belgium also concluded with a triumph whose foundation can be traced back to the **Van Gaver loft**...

Tina's Florien, the **national winner among the young birds** of **Quintina Pigeons**, raced by **Johan & Martine Boyen**, and at the same time the **fastest pigeon of the entire field** against **14,835 pigeons**, is a **100% Van Gaver pigeon**, bred from **Kleinzoon Finn Pair** paired to **Sister (New) Tetske**. Yet another loft achieving **immediate success** with Van Gaver racers.

On that same **Bourges young bird race**, the **entire podium in Zone A3** was in fact taken by pigeons carrying the noble **Van Gaver blood**. No words, but deeds—that is exactly what Tom's pigeons stand for!

Own successes

With **Allround Ricky** (1st National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025) and **Ricky's Ace** (3rd National Ace Pigeon KBDB Allround 2025), we already highlighted two of the standouts of 2025 in **Moortsele** above. That, of course, is only a fraction of the long list of top performers. Let us therefore take a closer look at a few more outstanding pigeons.



Almost National Rita

As is well known, **Tom is a big fan of allround pigeons**. It may even be the secret behind the strain he has built: **both endurance and speed are essential** to score in the allround ace pigeon rankings. By selecting specifically for this over several consecutive years, Tom has developed a type of pigeon that can measure itself against the very best **at all distances and under all conditions**. Whether it concerns sprint, middle distance, or long distance, **Van Gaver pigeons are always in the mix when it really counts**.

Still, it remains unprecedented how Tom manages to **completely dominate the national Allround ace pigeon competition**. Out of the **20 ranked National Allround Ace Pigeons**, no fewer than **eight (!) belong to Tom Van Gaver**—unseen. We already know the winner **Allround Ricky** and bronze medallist **Ricky's Ace**, so it is time to get to know the **other six**.

The **8th National Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB 2025** was **Almost National Rita (BE23-4071357)**, once again a descendant from the lines of **Finn** and **Dark Ace**. She also won **2nd National Libourne – 3,261 b.**, which immediately explains her name.

The sire of Almost National Rita is **Finn meets Luc**, a **Van Gaver × Geerinckx** cross. In recent years, Tom has introduced several pigeons from **Bart Geerinckx** into his breeding program—often with great success. **Finn meets Luc** is a son of **Son Luc** (Luc won **1st National Argenton – 12,446 b.**) and **Sister Finn 417**, herself a daughter of the world-famous **Finn Pair**.

The dam of Almost National Rita is **Hot Dark Ace hen**, herself a **Van Gaver/Neiryck × Mirabelle** cross. The sire of Hot Dark Ace hen is **Davy's Dark Ace**, a brother of **Dark Ace**. Her dam is **Mother Hotman** of **Adrien Mirabelle**, a super breeding hen and dam of several national top pigeons.



Magic Allround Finn

The title of **6th National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB** was claimed by **Magic Allround Finn (BE24-4173091)**, a cock that also snatched a provincial victory “en passant”: **1st Provincial Bourges II** against **3,546 pigeons**.

Both parents come directly from the line of the foundation breeder **Finn**. The sire is **Finn's Magic Ace**, a nest brother of the **2nd Provincial Ace Pigeon GHF 2023**, and himself a son of **Magic Finn** (son of Finn) and **Mother**

Hotman (Adrien Mirabelle).

The dam is **Allround Lucie**, ranked **9th Best Pigeon in Belgian Long Distance Races** with 6 prizes, and a daughter of **Allround Finn** (brother of Finn) and **Olympic Lucie** (**1st Olympiad Pigeon Cat. D** for A&P Magris).



Ace Blue Finn

Ace Blue Finn (BE24-4128117) is the next standout in the national ace pigeon rankings, but this top flyer was ranked **twice among the national ace pigeons**:

- **6th National Ace Pigeon Long Distance Yearlings KBDB 2025**
- **8th National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**

Ace Blue Finn flew **three top-40 national results in one-day long-distance races**, including **79th National**

La Souterraine – 5,288 pigeons and **16th National Zone Argenton – 829 pigeons**, clearly demonstrating her versatility. She is a true **strong leader** in one of the strongest racing teams in the country.

Her pedigree shows her sire is **Charlie's Boxter**, a cock from the **Sam Bostoën line** (Charlie – Best yearling Long Distance with 5 prizes in 2018) crossed with the **PIPA Elite Center line** (Boxster, sister of Porsche 911). The dam of Ace Blue Finn is **Etienne Hen**, a hen

from **Etienne Buyle**, bred from **Son Blue Finn** egg of Tom Van Gaver and **Almost National Marc** of Marc Van Haute.



Little Eye of Finn

With **Little Eye of Finn (BE22-4198363)**, Tom & Marnik Van Gaver claimed the titles of **9th National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025** and **3rd Olympiad Pigeon Cat I**. Yet another brilliant diamond from the inexhaustible source that is the **Van Gaver colony**.

This top-class pigeon also hails from the **Finn dynasty**. His sire is **The Eye of Finn**, a son of the **Finn Pair**, which has already proven itself extensively in the breeding loft. The dam of Little Eye of Finn is **Tikje Patriek**, winner of **2nd Provincial – 1,947 pigeons**, and herself a daughter of the pair **Tikke × Daughter Patriek**.

[View the pedigree of Little Eye of Finn here.](#)





All in one Finn

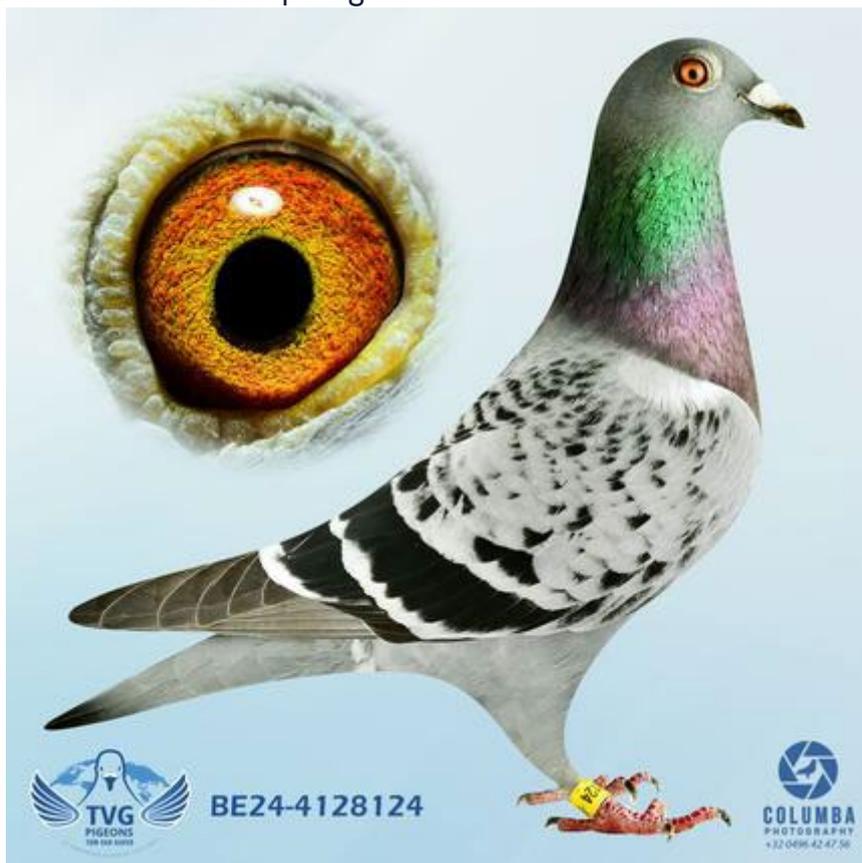
All in One Finn (BE21-4201750) is the sixth pigeon to be ranked in the Allround section. She achieved **13th National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025** and is a granddaughter of both **Ricky** and **Finn**.

Her sire is **Ricky's Gladice**, a son of **Ricky** (8th National Ace Pigeon KBDB and winner of **1st Provincial – 2,027 pigeons**) and **Geschifte Fantasy** (daughter of **Gladiator** from Bart Geerinckx). The dam of All in One Finn is **Finn meets Raf**, a daughter of **Finn × Mother Spikkel Finn**.



Dark Blue Finn

The remaining two national ace pigeons in the Allround rankings are **Dark Blue Finn (BE24-4128127)** and **White Flag Finn (BE24-4128124)**. Once again, these are **true Van Gaver pigeons**, as can be seen from their pedigrees.



White Flag Finn



Next Eye of Finn

The "Ace Pigeon Loft"?

Of course, **Tom & Marnik** achieved even more ace pigeons in other categories... so much so that the list seems to grow longer every year!

One example of such an ace pigeon is **Next Eye of Finn (BE22-4198353): 14th National Ace Pigeon Long Distance KBDB 2025**. There are no surprises in the pedigree of this outstanding performance pigeon. His sire is **The Eye of Finn**, a brother of Finn and thus a son of the legendary **Finn Pair**. On the dam's side, we again see **Tikje Patriek**.



Always Nervous

The **16th National Ace Pigeon GHF KBDB 2025** also went to the **Van Gaver** family. **Always Nervous (BE24-4083454)** claimed this title, and this pigeon is once again a **Geerinckx x Van Gaver** cross.

His sire is **Son Super Yearling**, a son of the top flyer and breeder **Bart Geerinckx**, paired with **Sister Acy**. His dam is **Always New Drinker**, from the old **Den Drinker** line.



Magic Milos

The **allround character** of the **Van Gaver colony** is undeniable. And although it is not his main goal, Tom even scored on the **long-distance races** last season. With **Magic Milos (BE20-4037290)**, he achieved **22nd National Ace Pigeon Heavy Long Distance KBDB 2025**.

For this, Tom strengthened his loft with pigeons from the **Verweij-De Haan Combination**, specifically from the line of their **Milos**, winner of **1st Montauban – 1,862 pigeons**.

The sire is a direct **Bart Geerinckx line: Magic Boy**, a son of **Fast Boy** × **Miss Magic**. The dam is **Daughter Milos**, from the breeding pair **Milos** × **Chanel Messi** of Verweij-De Haan.

National Success

Before we conclude, we cannot overlook **one more pigeon**—the national winner of the past season for **Tom & Marnik Van Gaver!** **National Rita (BE24-4083430)** won **1st National Tulle I** against **5,889 pigeons**.



This yearling hen was therefore the **national winner at Tulle**, where she was flagged as the **second fastest of all 11,801 pigeons** in the race. **National Rita** is a sister of **Almost National Rita**, the winner of the **8th National Ace Pigeon Allround KBDB 2025**.

Their sire is **Finn meets Luc**, and the dam is **Hot Dark Ace** hen.

Hybrid Auction by Tom Van Gaver turns into overwhelming success

By PIPA 09 Feb 2026 · 08:44



Today the Meeting Lab in Ghent became the epicenter of the Int. pigeon sport. In a first-of-its-kind event, Tom Van Gaver and PIPA organized a well-attended hybrid auction, where bidding took place both online and live in the auction room on 112 carefully selected young pigeons.

With an astonishing average of **€10,358 per pigeon** and a total turnover of **€1,116,040 (including premiums)**, the Tom Van Gaver pigeons from his only sale of this auction season proved to be in exceptionally high demand. Both online and in the room, fierce bidding unfolded as buyers competed to secure one of the young pigeons bred from the stars of the Van Gaver loft.

For an entire afternoon, the international pigeon world was given the opportunity to acquire reinforcements of truly exceptional class—perfect to give their own breeding loft a major boost. The two seasoned auctioneers, **Martin Martens and Les Green**, kept the momentum flowing smoothly throughout the afternoon, much like the public auctions of the “old days.” This time, however, the door was wide open to the entire world through online bidding.

That international dimension was clearly reflected in the wide range of nationalities among the buyers. More than ever, pigeon racing has become a truly global sport.

Most Expensive Pigeon: Sister (New) Tetske (€110,000)

At **€110,000** (excluding premium and VAT), a sister to **Tetske** and **New Tetske** emerged as the most expensive pigeon of the entire auction. After an intense bidding battle in the room, this top-class hen was eventually secured by **Erik Limbourg** and his partner **Patrick Draye**. She will undoubtedly be given a prominent place in the breeding loft in the period ahead.

Notably, the most expensive pigeon of the sale remains in **Belgium**—a statement in itself. Belgian pigeon sport continues to be fought at the highest level, not only during the racing season but also in the auction halls, where competition is just as fierce.

BE25-4173426

Sister (New)Tetske

Full sister to wonder hen 'TETSKE'

1. Fast. Nat. Brive 7,994 birds 2020

1. prov. Orleans II 6,154 birds 2019

1. fast. prov. Blois II 6,046 birds 2019

Full sister to wonder hen 'NEW TETSKE'

1. Nat. Ace LD KBDB & 2. Olympic Cat C. 23

9. Nat. Ace KBDB Allround Old/YL 2023

2.-3.-10.-50.-67. Nat. winner, Full sister

(mother) 1. Nat. Bourges 15,835 b. '25

Full sister winners/breeders: 1.-2.-3.-4.-5.-8.

-10.-11.-14.-16.-19.-20.-23.-24.-27.-27.-30.

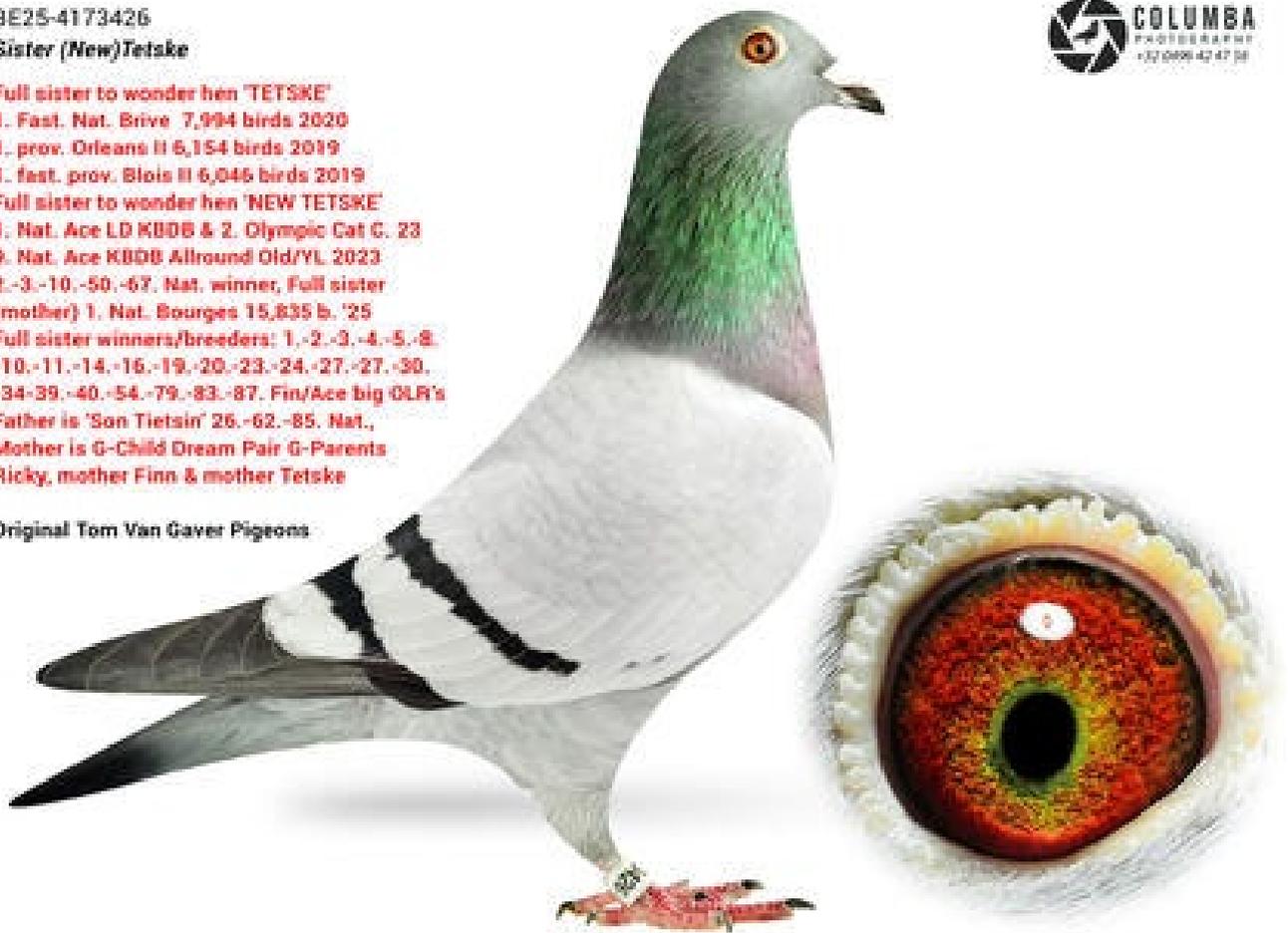
-34-39.-40.-54.-79.-83.-87. Fin/Ace big OLR's

Father is 'Son Tietain' 26.-62.-85. Nat.,

Mother is G-Child Dream Pair G-Parents

Ricky, mother Finn & mother Tetske

Original Tom Van Gaver Pigeons



Sister (New) Tetske moves to the loft of Erik Limbourg and Patrick Draye for €110,000.