LIF General Assembly 2008 - Szilvásvárad, Hungary
Huw Williams, Equestrian Artist
Marius Schreiner Clinic
Foundation of LANA
Huw Williams
Equestrian Artist

The cover art is courtesy of equestrian artist, Huw Williams. When Huw Williams and his wife, Jane, moved to Scotland in the late 1990s, they were the first couple ever to appear on the hit television program ‘Location, Location, Location’.

For many years Huw worked as a freelance illustrator in London, working on newspapers, magazines, adult and children’s books before returning to his first love, painting.

At their home in Scotland, Jane runs an equestrian business, their daughter has learned to ride and Huw spends his time producing large scale oil paintings. When the family acquired their first thoroughbred, his equestrian painting career took off. “Jane bought Mia in the early 1990s and I began sketching her straight away,” Huw recalls. “Then, as friends saw my work around the place requests for other horse portraits started coming in and before long I found I was busy painting all day long”.

Working in his huge old farm studio Huw has built up a serious reputation as one of the world’s finest equestrian artists. His stylish and stylized compositions hold a unique place on the market and have sold to private and corporate collectors all over the UK.

For more information, you can visit Huw’s website at www.thehorsepainter.co.uk or his publisher at www.demontfortfineart.co.uk.
Riders from around the world have once again come together as one community at the Marius Schreiner Clinic of Southern California, Winter, 2009. Mr. Schreiner of the famous Spanish Riding School of Vienna and internationally acclaimed riders from Germany, Portugal, and the U.S., work together to achieve a clear method of training that helps each rider and horse attain harmony, willingness and beauty.

Throughout the course of the three days, Marius worked with many levels of horses and riders, consisting of a number of high ranking trainers and students. Stefan Wolff, German Bereiter, trainer, and clinician, participated in the clinic multiple times with Pensamento, a beautiful and talented FEI trained Lusitano stallion. Even in the complexity of FEI training, Marius continued to stress the importance of basic riding and the proper timing of the use of aids. Stefan and Marius worked harmoniously to help Pensamento achieve a beautifully consistent piaffe, passage and tempo changes.

Clinic organizer Deanna Cummins and her Arabian gelding Shei Guy worked on the basics of training level such as moving forward in front of the aids, keeping Shei Guy focused on his rider, and working on proper transitions. Deanna said, “Marius offers so much to every rider, whether you are working on the beginning basics or the heights of Grand Prix. He works so precisely, helping the rider to achieve the most at their level. He always gives the rider a clear, kind vision of what should be worked on until his next visit”.

Jennifer O’Gara, a returning student from the 2008 July clinic and admirer of the Spanish Riding School, attended with her 3 year old Frisian filly Tesia. She said, “Last time Marius confirmed what I already knew from books about classical training and he helped me apply it to my horse”. On the lunge, Marius showed Jennifer the importance of proper movement in the three gaits to help prepare Tesia for under saddle work. He explained when and how to ask for a transition, as well as the importance of proper tack for lunging. Jennifer also said, “After 5 months of working with my filly, I felt it was time to get a checkup from Marius to see how we had progressed. We have progressed well since the last clinic and it is always a great experience to attend one of Marius’s clinics”.

Brianna Tate, another clinic patron, returned to study with Marius after riding once in his last 2008 July clinic. Brianna decided to ride all three days and found the great training benefits of back to back lessons. She declared that, “Having ridden in one lesson in the past July clinic was helpful but could not compare to the amazing benefits three lessons offered to me and my horse’s training. We improved so much with each
lesson”. Brianna hopes to continue her training with Marius each time he holds a clinic here in Southern California.

Many attending auditors watched with intensity over the three days. Malcolm Booth, an enthusiastic auditor and newly discovered fan of Marius’ teaching, watched with great enjoyment. Malcolm exclaimed, “Out of the many classical trainers I have seen, this guy is one of the best!”

Carlos Carneiro a native of Portugal and highly accomplished Grand Prix rider, participated multiple times with Unitario, a beautiful Lusitano gelding. Together they worked on the complexity of piaffe, passage and tempo changes. Marius and Carlos worked diligently to accomplish the rhythm and timing needed for Unitario to achieve an amazing performance.

(Continued Pg. 5)
Allie Burch, an eventing rider, revisited Marius’ clinic with her Thoroughbred gelding Sonny. She said, “Last year in the 2008 July clinic, just having one lesson with Marius helped me so much! Sonny is doing so much better”. This time Allie decided two lessons would be even more beneficial than one.

Throughout the course of the three days so many riders complimented Marius and one another. Numerous riders and auditors mentioned that the location Brookside Equestrian, the clinician, and the riders made this clinic a pleasure to attend. They are all looking forward to Marius’ next clinic here in Southern California. For more information about upcoming and past clinics with Marius Schreiner please visit www.equineclinics.net or contact Deanna Cummins at (909) 731-7983. dncummins06@yahoo.com.

SRS Clinic Janary 2009 (Continued)

8 Young Stallions Arrive in Vienna

On March 13, 2009, eight 3½ year old Lipizzan colts made the journey from Piber to Vienna. These still graying colts were selected out of the 20-25 colts born at the Piber studfarm in 2005. The new arrivals are:

- Siglavy Biserka II (born 4-23-05)
- Maestoso Mercurio-98 (born 4-24-05)
- Maestoso Bona-1 (born 4-27-05)
- Maestoso Malina-2 (born 4-30-05)
- Siglavy Trompeta-4 (born 5-8-05)
- Conversano Mascula II-7 (born 5-23-05)
- Neapolitano Sessana-10 (born 5-7-05)
- Pluto Biondella II-13 (born 6-11-05)

While these colts will prove themselves in Vienna, the fillies remaining at Piber as potential broodmares undergo their own performance testing, under saddle and in harness, to show their ability to pass on their positive character and performance qualities.

The dams of Siglavy Biserka and Maestoso Malina have four sons performing at the Spanish Riding School. According to the press release from the Spanish Riding School, Maestoso Bona was the lead stallion in his herd of one to three year old colts in Piber. His trainers will monitor his instinctive leadership qualities in order to give him the best possible schooling according to his character and natural abilities.

Also, Neapolitano Sessana was the little colt featured in the Children’s Adventure Path in Piber. There are 13 illustrated stations which feature the picture of N. Sessana, showing a Lipizzaner’s life from his birth in the stud to his time as a School stallion at the Spanish Riding School. He was the “template” for the Piber mascot.

According to the website, Ernst Bachinger, head of the Riding School, “The selection of the young stallions is a multistage process. Together the Stud Manager, Dr. Max Dobretsberger, and the Chief Riders of the Spanish Riding School a selection of the most promising young stallions is made. Whether or not we have made the right choice will remain to be seen – sometimes only after a number of years”.

(Left to right) Dr. Max Dobretsberger, Ernst Bachinger and Klaus Krzisch

(Stefan Wolff, German Bereiter, trainer, and clinician)
Get the best of both worlds with Decima a 12 yr old 16hh LANA registered Lipizzan by Conversano II Erica who is also approved by the German Oldenburg Verband for breeding. Decimas 2008 colt by Frohwind is full Oldenburg registered and is shown in the photo with her.

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A video of her at liberty in the indoor arena is available on youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CldC_5vT1iU

Decima is sadly for sale to a good home only as I have too many young horses to start and not enough time.

A photo of her filly “Windsong” by Welcome 082 is on the Sales Page of my website www.brambletyefarm.com

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ORLANDO, Fla. (March 19, 2009) – In a unique partnership, the University of Central Florida Alumni Association has been “adopted” by the most famous equestrian show in America – The “World Famous” Lipizzaner Stallions – whose owner White Stallion Productions, based nearby in Oviedo, is stepping in “to help create the best live mascot program in collegiate America.”

White Stallion President Gary Lashinsky said the company will provide their prize stallion for event appearances “as a gift to our hometown university commemorating our 40th anniversary.” He introduced Maluso as “The New Pegasus & The UCF Knight” to a cheering crowd of students, Trustees and alum on Memory Mall led by the UCF cheerleaders, dancers and pep band.

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Photo by Sara Stafford
In the spring of 1992, several long-time Lipizzan enthusiasts traveled to Flagstaff, Arizona to attend a clinic which featured one of the Spanish Riding School riders. John Gliege, the clinic host, generously offered participants the opportunity to ride one of his Lipizzans. As most of John’s horses were then showing in third level dressage competitions, it was a rare opportunity for attendees to have both the chance of riding a horse with training as well as work with someone from the Spanish Riding School. For once, there was no need to transport horses around the country and just as excitedly, people came from as far away as Connecticut, Ohio and Indiana.

At the Flagstaff clinic, there were quite a few former USLR directors and officers, including Melody Hull, Barbara Snyder (nee Van Dam), Sandy Heaberlin, Susan Castle, and, of course, John Gliege (who had been an officer of USLR prior to forming the LSNA). Melody, Barbara, Susan, Sandy and Lana Mayer had just finished a difficult year involving lawsuits and politics as officers and directors of USLR. After a membership election where Cathy Naugle, the founder of USLR, was replaced as registrar, she refused to release the records to either the new registrar or to the USLR Board. Despite repeated entreaties and requests, Cathy Naugle continued to refuse to turn over the records. With deep regret, the USLR Board initiated a lawsuit, in which it prevailed, in order to obtain the pedigree records. During the same time, the USLR was embroiled in the politics – both internationally and nationally – and was unsuccessful in its attempts to obtain international recognition and both the officers and financial resources of the organization were stretched thin by the end of their elected terms and fiscal year. It was nice just to be able to attend the clinic and enjoy the horses.

During that weekend, discussions occurred around why couldn’t there be just one Lipizzan organization. In 1992, three different Lipizzan registries existed: 1) the Lipizzan Association of America (LAA), formed by John N. Iannuzzi in 1969; 2) the United States Lipizzan Registry (USLR), formed by Cathy Naugle in 1971; and 3) the Lipizzan Society of North America (LSNA), formed by John G. Gliege in 1985. Ironically, the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF) only recognized one private registry in United States; even though there were European countries with both state and private registries that were both recognized by the LIF. Because the United States had no government registries, it was limited to one representative organization — the oldest organization — the LAA. Therefore, despite very determined efforts by the USLR, only the LAA, founded by attorney John Iannuzzi in New York, was recognized by the LIF.

John Gliege indicated that he had talked with John Iannuzzi who was open to working towards forming one Lipizzan organization. One New York telephone call later, Mr. Iannuzzi confirmed that he thought the formation of one organization would be beneficial to the breed.

Unification of the LAA and LSNA progressed in part because of the presence of Tom, his new laptop computer, and his love for his wife, Melody. One of the major difficulties in unifying the differing organizations was not the unwillingness of people of the LAA and LSNA to effectuate a merger, but rather the different databases. Tom sitting off to the side during discussions, made the mistake of saying that he couldn’t understand the difficulty in merging the two registries’ records as the pedigree information was “only” data. Tom literally didn’t have a moment’s peace after that statement. He was flooded with a veritable frenzy of suggestions by Lipizzan enthusiasts. Every time someone finished their clinic ride, they bounced back to the office to offer more suggestions. By the time Tom left Arizona, he had the nucleus of what would ultimately become the first computer pedigree program for the Lipizzan horse on this continent on the laptop.

With two of the three organizations on board, John Gliege and John Iannuzzi approached the USLR Board. Unfortunately, the USLR officers and Board wanted nothing to do with the LAA, LSNA or with any merged organization for that matter. Setting aside USLR’s decision, LAA and LSNA went forward...
Foundation of LANA (Continued)

with forming what is now known as the Lipizzan Association of North America (or LANA). Thankfully, there was no politics, bickering or backbiting during the formation of LANA. The basic corporate Articles and Bylaws were simple and straightforward. With remarkable forethought, the organization would primarily run as a business. The main purpose of the organization was to register horses as well as preserve, protect and promote the breed. There would be no officers. LANA would be run by Directors who would perform all of the work of the organization – the only criteria for being a Director would be that he or she could not be averse to working for the benefit and endorsement of LANA.

Owners of both purebred and partbreds were eligible to be Directors – as were those individuals who didn’t own horses but brought skills and strength to the LANA Board. Board positions were (and still are) open to anyone, regardless of whether they own a horse or not, as long as they are willing to volunteer and work. LANA Board members include international Directors as well as individuals who bring business and legal ethics to the forefront. The original nucleus of Board members has expanded, more people added, some leaving for one reason or another, and the organization has prospered for 17 years. Each year LANA has asked its members if anyone would like to volunteer.

Because a number of key position volunteers did not succeed, volunteers are asked to prove themselves – over a period of six months to a year – before formally becoming a Director. The LANA Board worked, promoted the breed – nationally and internationally – registered horses, along with creating a series of studbooks and CD studbook programs that has made the international community sit up and take notice.

One of the most notable contributions by LANA has been the formation of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust. The pedigree data have been protected by its establishment. LANA’s prime objective is to provide members with accessible, accurate, and verifiable pedigree information, not only from American breeders, but also from reputable overseas sources. To this end, the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust was established to research and maintain accurate pedigree records of purebred Lipizzans. The Trust operates under a separate Board of Trustees and functions as a historical repository and research center. Partbred Lipizzan horses are recorded in a separate division of the Trust.

In 2003, LANA was still the sole North American representation to the LIF through its foundation organization – the LAA. Despite of USLR’s petitions to the contrary, eleven years after the formation of LANA, the USLR was still not recognized by the LIF. The LIF maintained that it would be up to the North American registries to sort themselves out because the LIF would only permit one private organization to be recognized. The LANA Board had numerous discussions and decided to make another attempt toward unification. A meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada – representatives of LANA, USLR as well as the American Lipizzan Breeders Association, ALBA, (founded by former USLR directors Leonard and June Boardman) attended.

At this October 2003 meeting, the umbrella organization, the Lipizzan Federation of America (LFA), was formed for the sole purpose of representing all North American Lipizzan organizations at the Lipizzan International Federation. The LFA was set up to be an organization of organizations – with no individual members – just 3 corporate members – LANA, USLR and ALBA. This move has been a success in regard to getting international recognition by the LIF. In addition to international representation at the LIF, the LFA also presently sponsors the USDF All-Breeds awards program.

By forming the LFA and welcoming the USLR and ALBA to join LANA within this umbrella organization, LANA offered international representation to USLR and ALBA, a unification of its own kind.

LANA’s current status and financial situation remain sound. The 2008/2009 year has had lows and highs. The death of Tom Hull, our beloved Registrar and friend, was the low point. The highlights include extensive updates to the LANA database program and the establishment of a scholarship fund in memory of Tom Hull’s many contributions to both LANA and the Lipizzan community (See Vol. 17, Issue 2 for details).

(Continued on Page 10)
Piber Has Updated Sales List

Ines Hubinger announced that Piber has updated their sales list. Piber is offering not only a number of youngsters for sale, but some older horses as well -- stallions, mares and geldings --trained under saddle and for carriage.

Visit the Piber website at www.piber.com to find a link to the sales list.

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Foundation of LANA (Continued)

In the fall of 2008, an interim LFA board was formed to work on transforming the LFA from an organization of organizations to an organization with members. LANA Directors John Gliege, John N. Iannuzzi and Gary Lashinsky are the LANA representatives to the interim LFA Board. John Iannuzzi is presently working with representatives from ALBA and USLR to complete a set of organizational Bylaws which will encompass the best parts of all three organizations – the establishment of a breeders commission for evaluations and clinics from ALBA; membership voting from USLR; and international recognition and directors, the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust and extensive database and pedigree program from LANA.

Until such time as the LFA evolves into an organization that can meet all the needs of the North American Lipizzan community, LANA plans to continue serving its membership and their Lipizzans and to continue as the premier Lipizzan registry in North America.
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Neapolitano IV LaSada Wins Carriage Horse Championship

By Linda Evans

In May of 2005, I was looking for a carriage horse prospect when I purchased my first Lipizzan, Neapolitano IV LaSada. He was an unbroke 6 year old gelding. The seller told me he was a clean slate but I could have never imagined just how clean that slate was. He wouldn’t load in a trailer, stand tied, stand for a bath or fly spray, etc. Since I had trained all my previous horses to drive I was confident this horse would be no different. What I quickly learned was Lipizzans are NOT like other horses.

Progress was slow in his training and we had several setbacks, flipping over backwards in the carriage shafts being one of them. Fortunately, neither of us were injured in the incident and I never even unhitched him. When he got back to his feet, we drove off like nothing happened, both of us a bit rattled. He came with a phobia of gates that only he know the reason for and would bolt through them. He resisted accepting the bit. He spooked at imagined goblins hiding behind every mailbox and bush. Many times I felt over faced with this horse and wondered if I should sell him. But, there was something magical about this proud white horse that kept me going. I persevered with his training taking him to driven dressage schooling shows and a couple training level driving trials. My dressage always suffered because he spooked at the judges booths, flowers and whatever else might be ringside. Recently, I began to notice a difference in his demeanor. He was becoming more confident and keeping his focus more on me.

I entered him in his first pleasure driving competition, The Florida Carriage Museum & Resort Festival of the Horse and Carriage Show February 20th through the 22nd in Weirsdale, Florida. The competition is one of the most prestigious events in the southeast U.S. so I was a bit intimidated. I was hoping to be in the ribbons in at least one class but my expectations weren’t high. To my amazement, my horse performed like he was happy to be there. He accepted the flapping flags, tents, flowers and the other horses in the class like he had seen them every day. There were 4 classes mandatory to qualify for the championship, reinsmanship, progressive cones, turnout and cross country marathon. We got two firsts and two thirds respectively garnering enough points to win the Single Horse Championship!

I was as surprised as anyone that this horse of mine with the reputation of being unmanageable won the championship at his very first pleasure driving show. The years of sweat and tears finally paid off. A dear friend of mine who breeds Lipizzans told me when she looked in the eyes of a Lipizzan, she sees kings and queens. I sure felt like a queen when I accepted the Single Horse Championship that day. I am so proud to represent the breed in the carriage driving world!
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Highlights from the LIF General Assembly 2008 - Szilvásvárad, Hungary
October 11, 2008 Minutes

Opening. Mr. Andor Dallos, General Manager of the Szilvásvárad State Stud and host of the meeting, made the opening remarks. He introduces Prof. Dr. Peter Szendrő, president of the Hungarian Lipizzaner Breeders Association, with the proposal to let him preside over the meeting in Mr. Reiter’s absence (due to personal circumstances) and with the presumption that LIF did not have a General Secretary (GS) due to Mr. Hop’s resignation. However, Mr. Szendrő did not speak English or German, which resulted in the assembly asking Mr. Hop to open and lead the meeting for the remainder of the day. Atjan Hop welcomed all the participating organizations. Representatives for Austria, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, USA as well as all the state stud farms, except Monterotondo. To facilitate the 19 point agenda, it was proposed that the proceedings would be in English and the highlights translated to German. There were several versions of the agenda; ultimately, Mr. Reiter’s last agenda version was used.

Minutes General Assembly 2007. The meeting notes from the Kelebija-meeting had been distributed in the spring, but not everyone received them. Mr. Verbic of Slovenia wanted a detail about Vucijak corrected in the minutes, #7a, - that the Slovenian Government provided money and food for the stud farm. With this addition, the meeting minutes were approved.

Report of the Secretary General. Atjan Hop reported on his activities in support of the Lipizzan horse as General Secretary as well as an International Jury: February 2007, visit Vienna for the inspection of the stallions; March 2007, visit Topolcianky to discuss LIF international cooperation, breeding at the studfarm & training of the horses; April 2007, preparing all the material for the Judging course; May 2007, visit Piber, regarding same issues as Topolcianky, conducting the first LIF judging course in Bad Tatsmannsdorf; June 2007, attending the General Assembly in Kelebija (the Lipik horses a major discussion point), visit to the Hungarian stud farm Mezőhegyes, which remains a cultural heritage, although no Lipizzans are presently there; July 2007, invited to judge at the national selection in Denmark and visit Lipica to discuss the International Lipizzan Registry (IRL) and the status of Lipizzan state studs, September 2007, attend the annual stud selection at Piber; October 2007, conducted the second LIF judge’s course was held at Piber; November 2007, visit the performance of the 4 Classical Riding Schools in Paris privately, an organize a small informal LIF Board meeting was arranged without the participation of Karl Reiter who was in Paris; and December 2007, spent 3 days with the Spanish Riding School during their performance in Rotterdam.

In 2007 the Lipik matter was resolved with the cooperation of Serbia and Croatia and intervention of the LIF. An auxiliary web-site for news and topics had been developed but because of lack of participation, nothing came of it. In 2007 there were 38 worldwide requests for pedigree verification which took a minimum of 1 to 2 hours of research.

In 2008 the activities were reduced, with a planned visit to Tempel Farm in the USA cancelled at the last minute. Atjan reminded the LIF-members in Europe need to remember that there is a very large population in the USA, over 1000 horses, and the LIF should involve them in activities. In February 2008, invited to Piber in order to discuss breeding issues; May 2008, attended the meeting in Vienna for the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, European project in which a cooperating plan between all state studs is under discussion; June 2008, invited as main judge and LIF-representative during the large International Championship in Topolcianky, a combined show for Lipizzaners, Shagya arabian and Husul horses; September 2008, traveling to Lipica and Piber for their yearly selections.

After this summary, Mr Hop explains the circumstances under which he was forced to take the decision to resign as Secretary General of LIF. Presently he performs the duties of General Secretary, clerk and Secretary of the Breeding Commission, attends meetings as well as represents the LIF in solving all issues within the Lipizzan world (on a local and governmental level). For the past 11 months, there has been no support from the LIF Board for his extremely demanding and stressful position. Atjan reiterated his dedication to the Lipizzan horse but can no longer perform all the duties to ensure that the LIF remains a functioning entity.

Mr. Dallos thanked Atjan for his contributions, particular in his work with the resolution of the Lipik horses and accepted his resignation. Because of the different agendas, one version of which called for voting the former General Secretary Hildegarde Gekiere to assume the vacant position, a lengthy heated discussion arose when a segment of the attendees tried to put the matter to a vote. Ultimately, a nominating committee consisting of Mr. Dallos, the Vice President Ms. Littorin and Mr. Emil Kovalcik from Topolcianky was selected. Another heated discussion arose about who was in charge of the meeting, and it was reiterated that a certain protocol must be followed and a search for additional, qualified candidates, be made.

Ms. Littorin took the floor, and stated that although she had been a Board member this year, that the Board had been totally non-functioning this year with Karl Reiter absent, despite numerous emails sent, no response was forthcoming. Ms. Littorin felt that things are happening without consulting the Board, that the position of General Secretary was too important to be ramrodded, and if that LIF was going to have an interim candidate, it should be for a fixed time, while the search is going on for a final candidate. The Board needs to function as a professional organization with duties for everybody that is elected for a position.

Another heated discussion broke out, eclipsing the assembly. A break was called and the Board recessed for discussion. Ultimately the Board decided it was that their position that although Mr. Hop had offered his resignation prior to the meeting, he was obligated to carry out his duties until a new Secretary General was selected. Atjan Hop agreed to continue his service to the LIF for at least an additional 6 months, to facilitate the transition to the new General Secretary and the restructuring of the Board. The Board committed itself to have a structure in place within 3 months for daily functionality within the LIF including a description of the actual functions and responsibilities of everyone’s job, including the President and Vice Presidents, and to take the opportunity to comment on the future direction of the organization. A second Committee was established consisting of the Board of Directors and two volunteers – Mr. Matjaz Pust of Lipica and Mr. Victor de Bruijn, Holland to have such a draft of responsibilities to the member organizations for their review and comment. It is expected that the draft should be ready for approval, by the Board, in 6 months.
Mr. Schröder pointed out that point 4 of the agenda required a vote – whether to keep Atjan Hop on as General Secretary for a continuing period, vote for Ms. Gekier (a position not acceptable to several LIF members) or to vote for somebody else. More discussion followed including calls for the resignation of Karl Reiner because of his lack of commitment to the LIF. Eventually, the attendees voted to accept Mr. Hop’s continuation as Secretary General to close the matter.

Financial Report. Wim Doove, Treasurer, indicated that the investments for LIF had done well despite the current financial situation. EUR 6,000 are receivable in membership fees. A short term of EUR 15,000 loan is outstanding for which EUR 1,000 in interest was received. The expenses were operational and traveling costs for the secretary, and additional costs for web domains, medals and promotional goods. There is still quite a lot of money left in the Copernicus project to be spent for the printing and distribution of the final publication. LIF has a total of EUR 41,000 on hand. In the help funds, there is a total of EUR 7,689 in the Croatian fund and 11,451 and remaining in the Vucijak fund is 1,184 after 10,266 has been paid out. The budget for 2009 shows that nine studfarms will pay EUR 450 each, 14 private breeders EUR 300 each and 4 observers at EUR 150 each for a total of 8,850. Only half of the members had paid their fees at the time of the meeting, but expects all to be paid up by the end of the year. Mr. de Bruijn (NL) was surprised about the outstanding amount of unpaid fees but no invoices for 2009 had been mailed. The report was approved.

Breeding Committee. The Breeding Committee had been held the previous day. Dr. Max Dobretsberger presided over the very long meeting regarding marketing.

- The basic structure of Federation and the basic purebredness which is not a genealogical but an organizational issue. The background of this discussion is the acceptance of horses registered of horses in non-LIF studbooks. All agreed that this structure should be maintained although there were some practical issues with this rule to be solved, with examples from Austria and Australia.
- An international project, the South Eastern European Transnational Cooperation, which is an EU project specifically to help develop southeastern Europe through state organizations. The stud-farms have submitted a proposal to this project, particular in view of the Lipizzaners being considered a cultural heritage, particularly in that region, and need to be supported. There are 800 proposal and only 60 can be approved, however it is assumed they will have a good chance.
- INCO-Copernicus Project: the final version is residing with Dr. Brehm in Vienna for the final blessing, it will take about 4-5 weeks to print and then it can be distributed.
- The issuance of new versions of studbooks: the Hungarian studbook was distributed this morning, the Croatian private breeders studbook will be discussed later and the expected studbook from Holland will not be available until next year.
- The horses from Stud Lipik returned home. Dr. Dobretsberger visited the stud-farm, which was in very good shape and the horses in very good condition. The issue was the progeny of the Lipik horses which are currently with the private breeders in Serbia and throughout Europe. It was recognized that those horses were registered by a Serbian state organized stud book in Novi Sad. Assuming that this organization is taking care of a modern studbookekeeping, including DNA-checking, those horses can be added to the accepted breeding pool, if the owners are member of the Serbian Lipizzaner Breeding Association.
- Events: The cooperation between the stud-farms have created several marketing opportunities including a large dressage event in Budapest on December 5, 6 and 7 that was an expected 30-40,000 will attend. The Lipizzaner stud farms will fill in a large show program. For 2009 there are several exhibitions and competitions not only in driving but also dressage. Szilvasvarad had a very large international event this year. In 2009 there will be an international driving competition for pairs in Topolcianky and it is expected that 60-70% will be Lipizzaners. In 2010 the combined international Lipizzaner and Shagya-arabian championship and show will take place in Piber.
- Activity of the Breeding Committee: The breeding committee, like the Board, was not as active as it should have been. This has to be improved in the coming year.

Marketing of the Lipizzaner Breed. Dr. Karl-Heinz Kirsch (Germany) presented well-received overview of a marketing research project, initiated by his association through their website. He showed statistics about desires in the market field, according to the results of the inquiry. However, his statement that State Studs like Lipica and Piber made “sell-offs” which depressed the market with cheap horses raised many irate comments. Mr. Pust, Mr. Rus (SL) and others did not appreciate Dr. Kirsch’s comments that Lipica and Piber dumped their horses on the market, influencing pricing, and that Dr. Kirsch apparently was not fully aware about the stud-farms direction and breeding programs. Mr. Gollar (H) stated that a good horse sells himself. Mr. Pust (Lipica) stated that marketing is a very important issue in Lipica. Lipica pushes marketing at fairs, at social events or at occasions as the Budapest show and the stud and riding school performs at the International Horse Show in Avignon. These professional presentations make people think differently about Lipizzaners when they can see them in competition and other ventures. Mr. de Bruijn (NL) stated that it is very important that we use the web-site for marketing.

Update of the Home page www.lif.eu.com - www.lipizzaninternationalfederation.eu.com. Mr. Hop stated, that he agreed with Mr. De Bruijn that the website is a very important part of the marketing of the Lipizzaner. It is also a good instrument for internal information. He indicated, however, that the maintenance of the website should not be part of the Secretary General duties. It was agreed that the website is very important point of communication and a major marketing tool and could be used for the distribution of a newsletter for its members.

Lunch Break – Visiting of brood mares – Film about Lipizzaners in Szilvásvárad

After the break, all delegates returned except those from Germany and discussion continued on the LIF website. The current website is hosted by the British National Lipizzaner Studbook Association in exchange for no payment of their LIF fees. Discussions centered around professionalizing the website, including improvement in visualization and layout design, removing it from the hands of a
LIF General Assembly (Continued)

single member, sponsorship, suggestions that it contain information about the breed, the events and topics, have link to the International Lipizzaner Register (ILR); better links to the member organizations. Atjan Hop reiterated that a new design will cost a lot of money to professionally create and maintain it. A small committee of Dr. Alex Jong (B), Mr. Victor de Bruijn (NL) and Mr. Alex Gollar (H) was nominated to work out a proposal, including financial information, to be presented to the Board.

International Lipizzaner Register. Dr. Marko Marc gave a presentation. There are approximately 9,500 horses entered, the site has been upgraded so that pictures can be added with the pedigrees. The next step will be to develop the module for calculating inbreeding coefficient and this is now in its final stage of testing. There will be names associated with these calculations to show were the horses are connected. The program should now be ready for all member organizations to enter their own horses going forward.

Dr. Marc would like for each organization to name the person (or Registrar) who will be responsible for entering this data and to invite them to a training seminar at Lipica. There they will get a password for the data base that will allow them to enter data in specific fields. The next step which should look at is the promotion of the IRL to promote the horse where a potential buyer can verify that they are buying a Lipizzan and not just a white horse. Dr. Marc feels that the Registry includes 90% of the breeding stock. The individual organizations are going to have to work directly with Dr. Marc regarding there entering and any revisions of the data.

Studfarm Vucjak – Bosnia-Hercegovina. Mr. Mato Cacic from Croatia gave a presentation on the current status of the horses at Lipik, which appeared to be good. He provided a history of the previous situation of the horses and their conditions and how this had come to a resolution, which has effected in October 2007. He thanked everyone who played their role in the final solution of this problem. He also invited the LIF to hold the G.A. at Lipik and requested that the stud farm of Lipik become a member of LIF. The last item will not be addressed until next year after Lipik proves to LIF that they are a national organization and the studbook keeping need to be checked. Mr. Rus asked, as they presented proof of National ownership, now maybe the process could be expedited, according to LIF rules. Mr. Hop indicated if this was so, they could vote on giving Lipik observer status while they waited for the remaining documents. This was voted on and approved unanimously. The Croatian Stud Lipik has now an official observer status within the LIF.

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LIF will once again call on the Government of the Republic of Srbska and particularly the Council of Prnjavor – current conditions are almost a criminal in nature and the condition of the horses create a very bad reputation for the country. Last year there were 88 horses, now there are 80, and no one knows what happened to the 8. The horses are not in good condition in spite of money provided to them for feed are the efforts of Lipica and Fiber sending hay and oats. As the Studfarm is not a public institution; there is no money budgeted for it, so the monies received are from private institutions, bartering etc., there is no regular income nor is it expected in the near future. The LIF will issue a letter to the Government. He asked if Mr. Verbic, from his position in the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovenia, could put some pressure on them, as Lipica had offered two breeding stallions to Vucjak. Mr. Verbic knows the Minister of Agriculture in the Republic of Srbska personally and is going to meet with him next week and hopes to have a letter from both LIF and the Slovenian Government to put pressure on them. In the past LIF has been very effective when dealing on official and Government matters as could be seen in the case of the Lipik horses. The main issue is that the horses cannot stay there for ever under these conditions. This situation must come to an end, in favor of those horses.

Education and supporting of national Lipizzan judges and registrars. Dr. Peeters (B) stated that she supports this initiative completely, but proposes that there should be a substantial change in the goal, not only inviting aspirant judges but also experienced judges. Exchange of experience, common sense about judging and examination are items to elaborate. Mr. Hop indicated that at the first course at Bad Tatsmannsdorff, (May 2007) Mr Franz Schröder had provided the initial outline, and at the time it was thought to provide this type of course only for aspirant judges. Mr. Cacic (Croatia) suggested to compose a working a group and find a coordinator who could lead this effort. He proposed Dr. Rus (SLO) to be this coordinator, to work on a formalized program for the education of the judges. Mr. Rus reacted positively and requested volunteers to assist with this endeavor.

Over the last decade Mr. Hop has noticed that the education of the national registrars, mostly with the private breeder’s organizations, has declined. In most cases, these people are appointed by an organization, without necessarily having a suitable background. The people that participated in the earlier training programs have disappeared, and a lot of the knowledge is not transferred to the successor. This is showing up by more issues coming into the General Secretary’s office. So, in addition to the Judges’ course it is needed to provide a registrar’s course for those people who register horses for the National stud books. We should think about this and plan it for a future agenda as it is clear that we need to profession this function. For example some registrars still do not know how the Hungarian and Romanian horses are named and registered, which principal is already in use since the 18th century. Dr. Marc indicated that this could be done in conjunction with the one day course at Lipica for the registrars for IRL in the spring.

General Assembly 2009. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the next General Assembly would be held October 9, 10 and 11, 2009 in Romania (near Brasov, Transylvania), hosted by the private breeders organization as well as the state stud farms.

Events, selections and shows. Fiber and Lipica have indicated that they will try to coordinate activiteis so that events do not overlap. Mr. Kovalcik (Topolcianky) notified that Topolcianky will have in 2009 have an international competition for 4-in-hand and in 2010 the so called Donau-Bokal. They also plan to compete not only in driving but also ridden dressage. Dr. Jong (B) stated that this information should be posted on the new web-site for all to see. Many activities for the coming year have already been brought up in the earlier discussions and these will all be included on the Web-site.
Mr. Strohmayer (A) asked how the United States, where there are so many Lipizzaners, could participate in European activities in Europe and vice versa. And how can news be exchanged? And how is the current situation in the USA? Ms. Littorin stated that there were three large main organizations in the USA, which worked very hard for several years on combining these into a single organization. This is almost achieved by founding a federation (LFA), putting aside old issues and bad blood between some individuals, only looking into the future. Once this issue of combining the organizations has been resolved, she thinks that more active interest in LIF and the activities in Europe will occur. Currently a lot of the Spanish Riding School riders giving clinics in the US and at least three were there this summer. There has always been a big interest in the US for activities in Europe from the point of view what is happening with the Lipizzaners. Every year Mrs. Littorin reports in regards to the LIF meeting which is published in both the Lipizzan newspapers and usually also give a verbal presentation at the annual meetings and there is always a big interest in that and many questions. Over the years there has been an increased interest from the members to participate more in the LIF community. In the future, she expects that US might send horses to the International shows but not in the immediate foreseeable future.

Presentation of the Croatian stud book. Mr. Cacic mentioned that the Croatian studbook, volume 2 from the state stud farms, can be expected this year. Dr. Jong from Belgium raised some practical issues regarding renewing the website, according to budget, coordination of combined marketing and selling list, participation of the Board in this.

Mrs. Krutzler (AUS) stated that recently the Australian Lipizzaner Registry has increased to change their working area, and therefore also changed its name into the Lipizzaner Association of Australasia (LAA), which also includes New Zealand.

Ms. Littorin responded that one of the improving subjects within LIF should be that there should be quarterly Board meetings. The Breeding Committee has already discussed having more meetings during the year. If any of the new committees come up with questions, results and finalizations that this can be addressed at the quarterly Board meetings. If LIF has money in the budget to expand the website, a decision can be made after a cost estimate is received. One of the things that have become clear throughout the meeting today is that marketing is one of the biggest issues in front of LIF at the moment and it has also been made clear that the website is one of the best marketing tools.

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Closing. The meeting was closed by the Secretary General. He thanks everybody for their effort and cooperation. He thanks Mr. Alex Gollar and Mr. Andor Dallos for their special hospitality, including the invitation for the Friday-night dinner.

BREEDING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS
Vienna – January 21, 2009

Present: Prof. Dr. Johann Soelkner – President, Mr. Atjan Hop – secretary, Dr. Thomas Druml (A), Ing. Pavo Sabolski (Djakovo), Mr. Christian Manz (ass. Djakovo), Mr. Zoltan Egri (H), Mr. Matjaz Pust (Lipica), Dr. Marko Marc (Lipica), Dr. Ivan Urban (Lipica), Ing. Nidal Korabi (Lipik/HR), Ing. Domagoj Tadiæ (Lipik/HR), Dr. Max Dobretsberger (Piber), Mag. Dusan Kramberger (Slov. Gov.), Dr. Janez Rus (SLO) Mr. Alex Gollar (Szilvasvarad), Ing. Michal Horný (Topolcianky), Excused: Dr. Gheorghe Mohanu (RO), Dr. Karl-Heinz Kirsch (D), Ing. Mato Cacic (HR), Dr. Henk Merkens (NL)

The primary discussion of the meeting continued to be the discussion on purebreds as the current LIF statutes are causing the loss of valuable breeding stock because the originating studbooks are not recognized by the LIF. The phraseology of the English and German versions are different and the question has arose as to how or should horses be accepted by LIF from non-LIF recognized stud books. The Commission continues to try to balance the possibility of the loss of breeding stock, while not undermining the basic principal of existence of the LIF.

For example, there are 600 horses registered in France. The French chose not to join LIF and that country’s studbook is not recognized by the LIF. When these horses are sold to other countries, issues arise, if the horses do not meet LIF criteria. The Committee drafted a plan to submit to the LIF Board and General Assembly for review.

International Lipizzaner Register (ILR). Dr. Marc stated that the register was officially handed over to LIF in 2007. A task is waiting: the LIF-member organizations should start to insert their yearly foals. He proposes to organize a seminar for studbook registrars, scheduled 13-15 March 2009 in Lipica. Lipica will take care over the general code of the data base (intellectual property and assurance of maintaining the system). The LIF Breeding Committee should take over control of the system and Atjan Hop was asked to coordinate the project once his duties as Secretary General are done.

Education of Judges and Registrars. Mr. Hop reported on the developments of the three judging seminars in Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Piber and Szilvasvárad, (2007-2008). It was been suggested that the national registrars be educated as well.

INCO-COPERNICUS Project. The final publication of the Inco-Copernicus Project should occur in the middle of 2009. The book is 450 pages.