



**Lipizzaner Association of Australasia**

**Annual General Meeting**

**November 23, 2013**

**Venue: 36 Nolans Rd, Stokers Siding, 2484**

Meeting declared open at 2 p.m.

**Present:** Georgina Beard, Julie Brown, Lynne Curnow, Derek Billing, Michele Travers, Tony de Govrik  
Via Skype: Simmone Kalanj, Nela Kordich, Kaye Stevens

Tony de Govrik (Australian Corporate Lawyers Association) is the LAA legal advisor (pro bono) and advisor for meeting protocol. Mr de Govrik is an honorary member of the LAA with voting rights.

**Apologies:** Di Baxter, Nikki Harding, Ann Jelinek, Claudia Kaiser, Louise Kropach, Anna Melton, Alicia Waldersee

**Opening Address:**

Julie Brown, President, welcomed us to the AGM. In particular, Julie wished to publicly thank Tony de Govrik for his support and work on behalf of the LAA. We also formerly recorded for the AGM that Di Baxter was awarded honorary life membership to the LAA with thanks and gratitude for her work over many years. Di held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for a number of years and later administered DNA and microchip protocols. As of yesterday, Di has stepped down and will focus on business ventures in working equitation. We wish her well in the future.

On behalf of the LAA Julie also welcomed our new members and was delighted to announce we now have a representative in New Zealand.

Julie noted that we continue to face many challenges. Accreditation was exhausting for the committee and for the members who presented their horses. After accreditation we saw a drop-off in membership as people rested for a while. It is heartening to see our membership growing again and we welcome our rejoining and new members.

We invite all members to provide feedback and ideas to help the Association better provide services of value. Some members might be aware there is an alternate organisation for Lipizzaners and their owners. We are disappointed because we consider the breed to be best served through unity rather than division, however, these are the cards we are dealt and we need to work together to ensure the best outcomes for Lipizzaners.

The LAA is the holder of the largest Stud Book in Australia and New Zealand, and includes records for pedigree, DNA, microchip, and accreditation. In addition, we are the only recognised member for Australia

and New Zealand of the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF). The LIF is a federation of Lipizzaner breeders from Europe and includes members throughout the world. It recognises only one stud book for each country, and in Australia and New Zealand the recognised stud book is the one maintained by the LAA. Georgina Beard recently attended the LIF meeting in Europe and will be reporting to us.

Welcome to our 2013 AGM. We hope it is an opportunity to make new friendships and renew others.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Motion proposed by Derek Billing that the Minutes from the last AGM meeting be accepted; seconded by Julie Brown. Resolution passed that the minutes be accepted.

### **Announcement of Proxies**

Anna Melton provided guided proxy votes to Julie Brown.

### **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:**

Under the Constitution, there are 7 full members on the committee, with 4 office bearers. A member of the committee may hold up to 2 office bearer positions.

There were 3 nominees for 4 office bearer positions.

President: Julie Brown

Vice President: Anna Melton

Secretary: Michele Travers

Treasurer: Michele Travers

Under point 13.2 of the Constitution, Julie Brown proposed that the nominees for office bearers be accepted as elected. All members present (including Sykpe participants) supported the proposal and the nominees were deemed elected.

Given that Michele Travers holds 2 positions, there were 4 committee members to be elected.

Nominations were reviewed to verify that nominees were willing to accept the nomination: Lyn Curnow, Nikki Harding, Claudia Kaiser, and Tracey Steinhardt indicated their willingness to be nominated. Kaye Stevens withdrew her nomination as she felt it important for the committee to include relatively new members who have not served before, bringing with them a fresh perspective.

The number of nominees was equal to the number of committee positions so an election was not necessary (as per 13.2) and Lyn Curnow, Nikki Harding, Claudia Kaiser, and Tracey Steinhardt were deemed to be elected.

Tony de Govrik noted that if, in the future, we wished to increase the size of the committee, a constitutional amendment would be required.

**Committee Appointment of Registrar:** Georgina Beard accepted the invitation to continue as Registrar. This enduring role is an appointment that requires expertise, networking, and knowledge of the breed. Georgina brings to the role a standard of excellence and the committee expressed thanks to Georgina.

**President's Report:**

The President's Report was incorporated into the opening address – deemed as read.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Michele Travers presented the Treasurer's Report for the years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

(i) **2011-2012** Income and Expenditure Statement tabled.

The LAA finished the year with a balance of \$5482.15

Registration and membership income was significantly higher than the previous year (increase of \$775 and \$1762 respectively). This is likely to be a result of the accreditation.

Fundraising also increased significantly (by \$379).

Accreditation generated \$6436 income but costs were \$6757, giving a deficit of \$321.

(ii) **2012-2013** Income and Expenditure Statement tabled.

The LAA finished the year with a balance of \$3582.69

Registration and membership income was significantly lower than the previous year (decrease of \$800 and \$2,400 respectively).

Fundraising also decreased significantly (by \$304).

Refunds were mostly related to accreditations.

Sundry expenses included renewal of domain name, web design, membership Equestrian NSW, bank fee (LIF).

**Note:** One late accreditation deposit (\$310) was made in 2012-2013. The **final balance for accreditation was -\$11.00.**

A review of the projected annual expenses of the LAA was provided:

Equestrian NSW Membership Renewal	\$205
Equestrian Australia Insurance	\$550

Australian Horse Industry Council Membership Renewal	\$220
LIF Membership Renewal	\$484
NSW Govt Fair Trading Annual Summary	\$52
Total Fixed Annual Expenses:	<b>\$1511</b>

Other expenses include sponsorship for classes at shows, website maintenance and advertising.

The LAA will continue to welcome offers of sponsorship for classes at shows.

Motion proposed by Julie Brown that the Treasurer's Report be accepted; seconded by Derek Billing.  
Resolution passed that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

### **Registrar's Stud Book Report**

Georgina Beard presented the following report:

A year ago we were all reeling from the news of the imprudent splitting of the LAA. However, the year since has brought good progress, new members and new registrations. It has seen our Stud Book rewritten into an acceptable format for the holders of the Lipizzaner Studbooks in Europe, who now hold copies of all the LAA pedigrees. Circulated today is also a copy of a letter that has gone out to all owners of purebred Lipizzaner, with some explanation about the division of the publicly available Stud Book into parts. Only fully accredited horses belonging to current financial members will go into Stud Book One, with a portrait photograph for each horse. Others will be in Stud Book Two and Three, with an Appendix book for horses pending their accreditation. As stated, there has never been a full stud book made available in Australia and New Zealand (this will be digitally produced), and will be annually updated.

Overall, the breeding of Lipizzaners is depressed worldwide. The membership of the LAA was represented at the Lipizzan International Federation meeting last month at Szilvásvárad Stud, Hungary, where the Private Breeders of LIF member countries were extraordinarily well represented.

This will be discussed later in our AGM, but it is brought in at this time to pass on to you, that in each and every country, Chile being the exception, the breeding of Lipizzaners has been at a rate of about one third of its 'normal' output because of the world economic downturn that has severely limited the market for horses. We are aware of terrible stories of what has happened to the Andalusians and PRE in Spain, where thousands of horses have been destroyed as owners cannot afford to keep them. This destruction has happened in many countries around the world, Australia and New Zealand being a notable exception because we have been far less hard hit by a poor economy, thanks to our natural resources. Here, breeders reduced their breeding activities in the light of the global financial collapse. The best news is that slowly, slowly a turnaround in economic conditions in Europe appears to be developing. Breeders in Europe have stated that they are concerned that when economies improve there will be too few horses to supply needs.

Let us however, look at our own country's situation more closely.

In the last year we had had an increase to our stud book of four purebred Lipizzaners.

We should as a Breed look carefully at our production of stock with a more careful eye, as if the market is severely limited, we should be being more and more careful about quality. We should be breeding from

mares with higher accreditation results and with the best stallions. We are limited with choice here, as there are only three accredited stallions to choose from, those being Pluto Linda, Favory Pallavicina and Conversano Juliana III. Breeders are urged to carefully select the best cross for the particular mare. Our problem has always been a limited gene pool, so for instance, the high quality Pluto Linda always had a limited number of mares that could go to him. We also urge those who wish to breed to be very careful about observing faults in their mares, and not breed from those.

Good news is that we have two potential new breeders on board, and a third person who has been waiting until her stallion is mature enough to be put forward for accreditation.

Where accreditations are concerned, we are discussing with the holders of the Lipizzaner Stud Book how we can more economically do interim accreditations. We have devised a system that has to be further discussed. What was clear at the international meeting is that we must have QUALIFIED judges with integrity that do accreditations for us. We have NO judges in this country, and there are few internationally. The LIF is addressing this. If any member would like to know more about qualifying to be judge, please ask a Committee member to point them in the right direction.

We thank you for your support in upholding the Breed in this country, and we ask you to nurture it carefully. Breeders are holding a legacy of years and years of careful breeding and deep appreciation of the fine points of both the Breed and of its individual horses, and they should tread thoughtfully and with care into the future. *We are here to support and will do our utmost to uphold the best internationally accepted practices.* We encourage you to progress with us, keeping the deepest integrity.

Georgina also presented the following items:

Georgina received a reply from Amanda Klaassen (ALR Director), in response to the letter sent to owners of purebred Lipizzaners regarding the Stud Book (see report above). Ms Klaassen indicated that the ALR had written to the European Commission, Health and Consumers Directorate-General, seeking clarification on the position of the EU regarding the LIF and Stud Book. The EU replied that it does not recognise the LIF in any official capacity.

Georgina noted that this information does not tell us anything new and is irrelevant. The LIF is an umbrella organisation and not part of any government authority. It works under Piber guidelines.

The LIF is an organisation that clearly has credibility. Georgina noted that this year 2 new countries joined, and every member country was fully paid up.

Julie Brown thanked Georgina Beard for representing the LAA at the LIF meeting. Georgina attends at her own expense and her commitment and expertise is greatly valued.

#### **Life numbering:**

UENL is relevant in Europe where horses cross borders quite often with passports.

We have been requested to supply microchip numbers by the Australian UENL representative – we refused.

Julie Brown rang all other Australian Associations listed on UENL website. These Associations confirmed that while not particularly advanced in the UENL process, none planned to provide microchip numbers even

if requested. One Association confirmed it issues UELN numbers only when preparing passports for horses to be exported.

Georgina Beard checked in Europe and they are not required to supply microchip number.

Austria has advised us not to issue any new UELN that the ALR may have already allocated. We are not allocating numbers for those horses that may have been done by the ALR. It is of no consequence; it is just a number.

### **Fund Raising/Promotion Report**

\$160 has been raised during the last financial year.

Julie Brown raised the need for us to increase our promotion of the LAA and encourage people to provide us with information for Aweber and Facebook.

Julie Brown noted that Nikki Harding has worked hard at providing us with a new website. This has provided a strong platform that we can continue to improve and refine. Georgina Beard suggested we explore colour, visual presentation options, and the use of more images. A number of members suggested the LIF website as a good example of a site. We welcome all contributions and suggestions for the website.

### **High Point Competition**

The winner for 2012-2013 is Nikki Harding with 232 Favory Fecske II. Congratulations for their third consecutive win.

Lynne Curnow is coordinating the Hi Points and will revise the documentation.

The Hi Points competition will be changed to incorporate the financial year, rather than the calendar year. It will run from July to June each year so we can announce the winner at the AGM.

### **ROM**

Julie Brown noted the need for greater promotion the ROM. There have been no entries for a long time and a relaunch is required.

### **Other business**

Issue of registration certificates: will retrospectively reissue and replace papers with our name 'LAA'.

Tony de Govrik clarified that 'ALR (Inc)' is not the same name as 'ALR (A.L.R.)'. This is a legal issue: that is, they are 2 entirely different legal entities with 2 different names. Holding the same ABN is totally irrelevant. ABN is simply a number issued by the tax office and it carries no weight in proving that it is the same legal entity.

The ALR (A.L.R.) no longer exists.

Simmons Kalanj noted that she had heard of changes to the judging classification, that the required size of the cannon bone will be reduced and that there is to be no pass or fail.

Georgina Beard responded that there was a required minimum size of cannon bone for accreditation, and that from her observations there won't be any changes to pass/fail grades.

Julie Brown stated that the LAA standards must be consistent with, and guided by, the best studs in Europe and in accordance with LIF and Piber guidelines. Julie has no problem with the 19 cm cannon bone requirement as long as it is an international standard supported by the LIF and Piber. If the 19 cm standard no longer applies then it means we are out of step and we need to make some changes.

Georgina Beard will monitor any changes to accepted standards and provide us with feedback.

Georgina Beard reiterated that if any members wish to come to an LIF meeting, we are welcome to have more than one person there. It is held in a different country each year (Europe so far). Next year it will be held in the Czech Republic at a private stud and in Rome the following year.

#### **Next AGM**

Decisions regarding date, time and place deferred to a committee meeting. The AGM has been held in the Northern Rivers District in NSW for a few years because we have a number of members in this area. Julie Brown noted that we hope to have the AGM in a different location next year.

Under the constitution, 6 weeks notice of the meeting is required.

Meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

**Chairperson:** Julie Brown

**Signature of Chairperson:**

**Secretary:** Michele Travers