



# NEWS

JULY 2004

## Editorial

Hi everyone! Sorry the newsletter is a bit late (understatement of the year), but incoming, timely news has been very thin on the ground and MGASA is very quiet at the moment too. But thanks for all your contributions, nevertheless.

Jens has excelled his busy self and sent us a comprehensive summary of what's been happening in northern Europe. It was too big for the International Roundup page, so it is a feature all of its own. There are a few hilarious comments in the Roundup, as well as some very good promotional ideas.

I have had one contribution to naming this newsletter from Bronwynne Wilton Elora from Canada – she writes, "hi there, I am an on-again, off-again 'fossils' rider in Canada (3 little kids, no pony of my own, but I love the games!) Anyway, here is a suggestion for your newsletter's name: "The Flag is Up" This is a call to attention that all games riders (and ring crew) respond to! Thanks for all of the info in your last newsletter. Cheers."

What do you think of that? I think it's quite cool – especially the reasoning behind it – call to attention!

I just realised that the area where I live has some synchronicity with Saumur – Midrand, which is part of Greater Johannesburg, has one of the largest concentration of sport horses in the world. We have racing stables, show jumpers, ponies, Western horses, games ponies, polo ponies, polocrosse horses, carting horses – you name it – most of it concentrated in a suburb called Kyalami (which means 'my home' in Zulu). But the crème de la crème of the equestrian community that is Midrand has to be the South African Lipizzaners – and they were probably the reason why Midrand has evolved into the Saumur of South Africa. Hope you enjoy finding out about these fascinating horses.

In closing, I need to know how you manage to race and do games in the snow! Here we have a panic attack if we experience a shower of rain before we go playing!

Jill

## Saumur August 2004



Best of luck to all those teams entering the championships! There are 16 teams for the 18<sup>th</sup> World Teams Champs and they are:

Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
England  
France  
Germany  
Luxembourg  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Scotland  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
USA  
Wales

What a great turnout! Wish we could be there – but South Africa will be with you in spirit (lots of it!).

## Competitions

- August 6-8 World Team Championships Saumur, France
- August 21-22 North European Championship (part 2) Nesodden, Norway
- August 22-23 International Pairs Invitational Barrie, Ontario, Canada
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- August 28-29 Northern European Championship (Part 3) Copenhagen, Denmark
- September 4-5 Norwegian Pairs Championships Fevik, Norway
- September 25-26 World pairs Championships Newark-on-Trent, England

More details are on the website.



## Communication

A Big Thank You to the Australian Mounted Games Association for including me on their email list for their newsletter – it's brilliant! I need you guys to help me improve this newsletter, too. Keep 'em coming! I can highly recommend their newsletter – so if you aren't getting it – contact them.

## Newsletters

This newsletter will be a quarterly publication for 2004. Please try to get your contributions to me before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of issue. *Photographic contributions must please be reduced to a suitable size and be in a compressed format.*

Publication Dates for 2004: 30 <sup>th</sup> September 23 <sup>rd</sup> December
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**If you produce a newsletter for your own games association, please post it to me, or if it is available on a web site – please email me with details – it will give me ideas and also help me to get to know everyone better!**

Contributors to April 2004 Newsletter:
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Rose Dunn, Jim Dunn (Canada), Burkhard W Bohn (Germany) Jens Martin (Norway), Keith Martin (International), Colin Carson (Northern Ireland)
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## South Africa's Lipizzaners



*The South African*  
LIPIZZANERS

I am sure that all of you have heard of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, and probably many of you have even had the privilege of actually visiting the school and see the famous white stallions, but it is a little known fact that South Africa has a company of Lipizzaner horses that is the only one in the world to have the seal of approval of the Spanish Riding School.

Lipizzaners are reputed to be the oldest man-made breed in the world, tracing their origins to the Carthaginian and Roman horses used during the reign of Julius Caesar. The Lipizzaner breed was established when Charles, Archduke of Austria started the Imperial stables at Lipizza. Originally bred for military service from Spanish horses, Lipizzaners have retained their attributes of strength, loyalty and courage.

These beautiful horses made their way to South African shores in 1944 as a direct result of the Second World War. Count Jankovich Besan and his family had owned a Lipizzaner stud in Hungary. To avoid the horses being killed and eaten during the war years, Count Besan brought his horses to South Africa and settled in the Mooi River area of KwaZulu/Natal where the first South African Lipizzaner stud was started.

In 1951 George Iwanowski, a war exile from Poland, chanced upon Count Besan and his horses at the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg and was offered a Lipizzaner to train. This initiated the idea to train a team of stallions to give performances and based the team in Kyalami. This spurred the development of equestrian competitive sport in South Africa and the property Iwanowski bought is now the base of The Horse Society here.

Today there are 25 stallions at the centre. They start training at age four and they continue into venerable years with some stallions still performing in their late 20's. The oldest Lipizzaner stallion in the world is 35 years old. Siglavy Beja is retired at Piber, Austria.

The Lipizzaner stud in South African is still located in KwaZulu/Natal and has recently been expanded with a stud now in Chartwell, Johannesburg. The mares are impregnated by artificial insemination as the stallions are all too busy performing! (Seems like a bad deal to me!) Mares live outside – even during the winter (believe me it gets below freezing here), but are brought in at night during

the horse sickness season – which is summer. This is to avoid the little midges that carry the disease and bite after dark. Foals are weaned at six months and go to Touwsrivier in the Karoo which is a semi desert area where conditions are excellent for growing good bone and health. At four, the colts go straight to Kyalami to begin their training and the fillies go back into the breeding stud.

There is an organisation called “Friends of the Lipizzaners” that assists with preserving these beautiful, rare horses. There are various membership options and details can be found on their website.

The white stallions at Kyalami continue with the haute école or high school tradition right in here South Africa. Only our school has a bit of a twist – all our riders are ladies! Go girls! And we have a couple of pure black stallions performing, too. These horses survive on sponsorships and on their weekly shows held indoors every Sunday. They also earn money by doing displays at events – even inside hotels! If you don't believe me – go look at their website –

[www.lipizzaners.co.za](http://www.lipizzaners.co.za)

\*Photos are taken from the website.



## **NEWS FROM THE NORTH POLE!**

### **Scandinavium International Friendly**

As is now traditional for the International Mounted Games calendar, the Scandinavium international friendly invitational once again took place at the Gothenburg Horse Show over the Easter week-end.

This year's contenders were Norway, Sussex, France and of course hosts Sweden. The French team in particular had a very unfamiliar look about them as the team included MGA veteran Rob Lockyer and the team was trained by Colin Carson, both of whom I'm sure you will agree are about as French as fish and chips. Sussex took to the field with a bit of a new look side. No Alex Jones, Andy Gleadow or Gemma Hawes but it did still include MGA's most famous husband and wife double act of Christian Jones and Felicity Hotston-Jones.

The week's competition always starts off with a warm up event at the GFRK riding stable in Gothenburg. Sussex ran out winners of the warm up, clocking up 38 points from the 12 races. France put in a storming performance to come second with 32 and thereby edging out home favourites Sweden who finished on 29, winning just as many races as they came last in. Norway finished a little off the pace with 21.

The actual competition started a couple of days later in front of a capacity crowd of around 8,000. Sussex ran out winners on the first day with 19 points ahead of Sweden on 16, France on 14 and Norway on 11.

Day 2 was where it all went horribly wrong for Norway. Less than an hour before leaving, one of the ponies went lame and some serious reshuffling was necessary. With it being too late to bring in a reserve pony, they continued with the four that they had but with very little experience in the team it just basically turned into a very bad day at the office. Sussex however increased their lead and won the second day with 36 points to Sweden's 30 and took a 9 point lead into the last day. France however were still breathing right down Sweden's neck, posting a 29.5, only 2.5 points behind overall.

If they hadn't done it already, it was day three when Sussex really turned on the style. Wins for Sweden and third places for Sussex in both of the first two races gave the home crowd hopes of a final day turnaround but those hopes were soon quashed as Sussex won the last 8 races in a row and posted a final total of 91. Sweden followed in second with 74.5, France third and Norway fourth.

### **Norwegian National Team Championships 2004**

For the past 4 years, the Norwegian National Team Championships have been a one off event in the summer. This season IMGAN (International Mounted Games Association of Norway) has decided to run four separate competitions across the season with all the points counting towards the final total to determine the 2004 champions; a sort of mini league. The idea being that the increase in national competitions will lead to greater interest in the sport and prevent the focus being entirely on the National team.

With four rounds of the national championships to be contested, each team is allowed to drop their weakest score making the combined totals of their best three performances count towards the eventual championship.

So far three of the four rounds have taken place and a total of nine teams have taken to the field (a new record in Norway). These teams have been:

### **AGMGA**

AGMGA (Arendal og Grimstad Mounted Games Association) are the defending Norwegian champions having won the title in all of the previous four years that the competition has been run. This year they will be looking to make it five in a row and keep their perfect record. Amongst their ranks they have Lene Graver and Kristine Gyberg who are both on the national team for 2004 as well as Kristine Bang who is the international team reserve rider.

### **Søndre Ski**

The big challenge to AGMGA will this year come from Søndre Ski. Previously simply known as Ski, this year they have enough riders in their ranks to field two teams and have added the Søndre to differentiate them from their sister team Midtre Ski. This team is packed with international riders past and present including current internationals Kaja Lande, Nina Gran and Malin Martinson as well as former internationals Maren Lande and Ragnhild Fægri.

### **Nesodden**

Hosts of the first round of the national championships, Nesodden were newcomers to the sport last year and made an impact immediately, finishing third in the championships of that year.

### **Hurlumhei Mix**

Hurlumhei is the brain child of former international and founder member of IMGAN, Helene Therese Moe (herself a member of the Norwegian South Pacific Challenge Cup winning team earlier this year) who has started her own team this year and has managed to enlist the services of amongst other, former internationals Tina Solbakken and Lone Nummedahl as well as another member of the Norwegian South Pacific Challenge Cup winning team, Christina Johnsen.

### **Midtre Ski**

Midtre Ski, unlike their twin team is a team made up more of youth and promise than age and experience. Many members are making their MGA debuts this season.

### **Rundtomkring**

Rundtomkring are another new team for 2004 made up of a number of MGA enthusiasts from across different regions who do not have their own teams but have clubbed together to form a team for these championships. They are unique in that they name amongst their ranks the only registered Male Mounted Games rider in the country.

### **Råde**

Råde who sport a very striking orange strip made their debuts a couple of years ago and have been regular contenders ever since. Amongst their ranks they can boast probably the fastest games pony in Norway.

### **Sætre**

Sætre have been around for two years now as well. They probably have one of the most vocal supporters associations in Norway and will once again this year be entertaining the crowds.

### **Bjørgo**

The latest addition to the IMGAN family is the Bjørgo MGA team from the Norwegian Mountains. They only entered this year's competition at the third round but the bug appears to have been caught and they intend to be around for some time to come.

The Second round of this years competition that was hosted by AGMGA sadly had to be abandoned midway though the second session due to an accident suffered by Kaja Lande of Søndre Ski. Luckily she has recovered from the incident fully and is back in action but at the time the accident appeared to be so serious that the decision was made to suspend play and extrapolate results based on the action that had taken place.

During the three rounds that have taken place so far this year a distinct pattern has already emerged. As was predicted it has been a straight fight between Søndre Ski and defending Champions AGMGA. Søndre Ski however are holding a distinct advantage going into the final round having won all three previous rounds. Each time however, this has been with a reduced majority (the third round victory having been attained by only one point). AGMGA, who have as a result finished second on each occasion are showing signs of coming back to form and making life difficult for Søndre Ski but unfortunately for them it has come too late.

This is where the mathematics becomes complicated. The current leader board looks like this:

<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Part 1 Champ. Points</b>	<b>Part 2 Champ. Points</b>	<b>Part 3 Champ. Points</b>	<b>Part 4 Champ. Points</b>	<b>Best 3 Totals Champ. Points</b>
<b>Søndre Ski</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>137</b>		<b>422</b>
<b>AGMGA</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>136</b>		<b>403</b>
<b>Hurlumhei Mix</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>122</b>		<b>362</b>
<b>Nesodden</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>98</b>		<b>345</b>
<b>Midtre Ski</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>289</b>
<b>Rundtomkring</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>Sætre</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92</b>		<b>157</b>
<b>Råde</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>115</b>
<b>Midtre Bjørgo</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>59</b>

Søndre Ski hold a 19 point lead over AGMGA going into the final round but the 422 points they now hold is also the minimum score they can finish with. Even if AGMGA score a maximum of 144 in the last round and drop their lowest score of 129, they will still only finish with 418.

So congratulations go to the Søndre Ski team squad and their trainer Alyce Lande for finally breaking the grip that AGMGA have had on national MGA over the past 4 years.

Short of being eliminated in every single race AGMGA are also sure to finish runners up. However the fight is still on for the third spot with Hurlumhei, Nesodden and Midtre Ski all still able to close the gap.

Despite the dominance of the two top teams in the competition the championships have so far this year produced some exciting competitions and by extending the format of the championships the sport has been brought to a wider audience across the country, thereby attracting a number of new members.

The championships will be rounded off with the fourth and final round that will be held in September after the hectic international summer programme has been completed. At that point Søndre Ski should be confirmed as new champions although it should be noted that the rules of the competition state that in order to be eligible for the final rankings, you do have to take part in the final round of the competition. A sudden loss of air to the Søndre Ski team lorry's tires prior to departure could yet throw the championship wide open again.

#### **Northern European Championships 2004**

The first ever Northern European Championships got underway on the week-end of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May in the village of Wielen in Northern Germany. This is a competition that is being contested between the national teams of Germany, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The idea being that throughout the season, there will be a competition in each of the different countries and the results will be added up throughout the year to find the eventual winners at the end of the season.

If the rest of the competition is as close as this first round was then it's going to be an exciting year. The Danish team are still relative newcomers to the IMGA family and as such they did struggle a little to keep up with the pace but having said that, this is a team that has already made huge leaps forward since their debut at the end of the 2002 season. The other three teams however were virtually neck and neck throughout the four sessions.

The first session was won by Germany with 29, Sweden were second with 28 and Norway third with 26. The second session was even closer with both Germany and Norway sharing the honours with 29, ahead of Sweden on 25. It was in the third session really were Germany finally started to pull away from the pack and by winning with 34 points from Sweden in second with 29 and Norway in third with 23. This gave Germany a 10 point lead going into the last session. There were still only four points separating Sweden and Norway though.

That final session, similar to the second was also jointly won by Germany and Norway on 27 points, followed by Sweden on 25.

The final results:

Germany	119
Sweden	107
Norway	105
Denmark	65

The competition will however be using the session point system for this tournament which means Germany pick up the full 4 points for this first leg, followed by Sweden with 3, Norway with 2 and Denmark with 1. The second round will take place in Norway on the week-end of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

### **Agria Cup International Friendly**

On the week-end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June, Alleby Ridklubb hosted the Agria Cup International Friendly competition for the second year. This is an open invitational competition open to both club and international teams alike. This year nine teams took up the challenge including the national teams of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, as well as a club team from Germany (Lindau-Gettorf) and five club teams from Sweden (Alleby, Naas, Halta, Landvetter and Karra).

With only three teams even qualifying for the A final, there was fierce competition throughout the week-end with the top three changing after each session. In the end it was the national team of Sweden that made it alongside Lindau-Gettorf and Landvetter. The final was quite a tense affair but eventually Lindau pulled away into the lead and didn't look back. With the title they had won the previous year seemingly slipping away, that left the Swedish national team trying to ensure they took the runners up spot. It was a close call though as after the ten races, they finished equal on points with Landvetter. Sweden did however win the resulting tie-breaker which rounded off an exciting final.

The B final was no less exciting really. With Norway, Naas and Halta involved, the three teams just couldn't seem to separate themselves. After three races they were level on points, this was still the case after 5 and again after 7 races. Come the last race, it was still possible that all three would finish deadlocked and a three way tie-breaker was looking like a distinct possibility. In the end however, it was Halta that just managed to nudge their way into the lead, one point ahead of Naas who in turn were one point ahead of Norway.

The C final was contested between Denmark, Karra and Alleby. Denmark, who had been dogged by bad luck all week-end made a good fight of it but eventually it was Karra, trained by former Swedish international Johanna Blomberg, that prevailed ahead of Denmark and Alleby.

### **Kalnes Summer Pairs Friendly**

Over the week-end of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July, the International Mounted Games Association of Norway stages a friendly pairs competition in the town of Kalnes. This was not a championship competition of any type and did not count towards any other competition. This was just simply having some fun playing mounted games. For some of the international riders, it was also a chance to get some practice in before the World Championships that were to take place only a few weeks later.

There were only Norwegian riders taking part but with 11 pairs taking to the field, it was quite a good turn out for what was only a friendly. The winners were never really in doubt. Kaja Lande and Lene Graver have this year teamed up together.

Lene's partner in previous years, Tina Johansen has sadly had to retire due to injury whilst Kaja's long term partner, her sister Maren, is taking it easy this year so as to be able to concentrate on her studies. Kaja and Lene will be representing Norway at the World Pairs Championships later this year in England.

The new combination appears to be gelling together quite nicely so far though as the pair only dropped five points throughout the entire qualifying session (and three of those were due to a silly elimination involving the hat band on the wrong rider). Their dominance was carried over into the final as well where they only dropped two points, running out easy winners. They will now be setting their sights on the Norwegian Pairs Championships in September and then the Worlds later the same month.

Behind them in second place was the partnership of Nina Gran and Malin Martinsson, both also members of the current national team.

The final podium position was filled by, in many ways the fairy tale story of the competition, the Dingstad sisters of Silje Marit and May Torild. In many way rookies this year with new ponies but it was just one of those week-ends where everything seemed to go right as they finished higher than they could have possibly expected and all the while with an expression of disbelief on their faces.

### **Jens Martin**

Norway

\*\*Read more interesting views from Jens in his regular column on the website "Inside Lane – a personal point of view from Jens" at <http://mounted-games.org/inside/inside.htm>



## International Roundup

### Germany

#### ***“Mounted Games at the Hamburg Derby Week on the Hamburg-Horn Race Track on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June”***

Two German Mounted Games teams, namely Preetz 1 and Ahrenlohe 1 were invited to showcase our sport during the Hamburg Derby Week to entertain the horse race spectators.

The competition took place on the inner race track in front of the grandstand and telecast to a 12X 12 metre screen.

What enthusiastic “ahhs” and “ohhs” combined with animated applause when the riders remounted during ‘socks and buckets’ and when the competitors handed over equipment or placed flags in cones so swiftly. All the visitors, approximately 6000 of them were, of course, interested in horse sports, but for most this was their first taste of mounted games., and asked the organisers to repeat the games next year! Spectators could bet on the teams and in this case, Preet 1 were the winners. An amount of 1500 Euros was donated to UNICEF.

What we mounties felt and enjoyed very much was the kindness of all the people involved with the derby. The ponies were boxed next to the Thoroughbred racehorses. The riders could eat and drink in the VIP area and we had a lot of interesting talks with jockeys and visitors alike. What a difference compared to show jumping, or worse, dressage competitions – this time we didn’t feel like vermin!

(Ha! Ha! – hopefully we will soon get more respect if we get to go to Beijing – ed)

### **Burkhard W Bohn**

### **Northern Ireland**

We have had competitions at Shane’s Castle, Ballywalter, Killinchy, Omagh and have just returned from Athy Show, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland. County Down have won three times, Mid Antrim once and the Northern Ireland

team won at Athy for the first time since 1998.

Killinchy and Omagh saw an exciting watershed as a Scottish county team, East Ayrshire joined us in Northern Ireland for the first time. We actually had three competitions open to teams from Great Britain and our friends from the south, this year, however, so far only East Ayrshire has made it, although we are expecting Barrow Valley and the M&M’s up for Castelewellan this weekend to join our three teams.

### **“Call to Great Britain”**

Next year it would be great if any more GB teams would like to make the trip it would help to promote MGA here, and, as we have made many numerous ventures over there since 1984, we would like to return the hospitality. Anyone interested – please contact yours truly. We sincerely hope East Ayrshire will join us again. **If we are going to have a chance to grow, we need the support of our bigger and more established neighbours!**

Preparations are in full swing for Saumur and we are looking forward to seeing everyone.

### **Colin Carson**

### **Canada**

I hope you are covering the Fossil’s competition in England. Our local paper has run a great story with two pictures on it. Our Canadian team arrived a few days ago. In their last practise, our oldest rider Maureen Lalonde (**60**) fell off and broke her ankle in three places. Being the trooper she is, she asked for the opinion of no less than SIX doctors before she would believe it was broken. Maureen has been replaced by Debbie Davies and now Maureen is the official team coach! (Sounds like an amazing lady! – ed)

Jamie Dunn’s knee is finally improving. We were beginning to get worried that she would have to have another operation because she wasn’t pushing her recovery exercises. She is doing well now.....on the other hand....Barb Bent retired as a physiotherapist and they had a party and presented her with a tennis

racket. The first lesson, she swung the racket so hard she tore Anterior Cruciate Ligament and will now have to have the operation that Jamie had. Barbie is now a patient of the physiotherapy practice she retired from!

(Get well soon, Barb – I think we may have to start a club for ACL victims! – Ed)

### **Rose Dunn**

#### **South Africa**

Our two little boys never managed to raise the sponsorship to go to the pairs event in Germany. Never mind, the Rand is strengthening so perhaps we will be able to think about going overseas again next year!

We take this opportunity to wish all those competing in Saumur the very best of luck! We look forward to following your progress on the website. Particular good wishes to our special friend – TEAM CANADA!

### **Jill Masterton**

#### **From the Chairman's Mouth**

Suddenly August is no longer somewhere in the distant future, but right here and only a few weeks away. Switzerland will take part for the first time this year, joining 15 other teams to make the biggest ever World Team Championship.

The beautiful Loire valley may never be the same again after the summer of 2004 and the friendly invasion of the gamers!

But we also have our sights set further into the future. Following Jim Dunn's representations to the Olympic authorities in Canada, we have a golden opportunity to present a Mounted Games demonstration in Beijing in 2008, and the members of IMGA have backed Jim to go for it.

There's no doubt that we're aiming high, very high (some may say too high), but if we're ever going to turn

Mounted Games into a respected equestrian sport, enjoyed and well known all over the world, then this is our chance.

We will have to work hard for the next four years, and then twice as hard again after that to keep going, but if we're timid and let this slip by, then we'll never get another chance, and neither would we deserve one.

It won't be easy, and there will have to be changes in the way we do things, but this challenge will channel our efforts towards an achievable goal. It will shape the way Mounted Games and IMGA develop in the foreseeable future. And the rewards will be great.

Meanwhile, back to 2004 and Saumur, and good luck to everyone. I look forward to seeing you all there.

### **Keith Martin**

#### **STOP PRESS – OLYMPIC NEWS!**



Jim Dunn officially tells us that we have been given verbal approval to show case Mounted Games at the Beijing Olympics in 2008! Written approval is due to come through early August. He suggests that we dedicate a whole day to this subject at our get-together in November.

#### **Next Edition**

Please distribute copies of this newsletter to your members. You are their representative and as such you are the pipeline between them and IMGA.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter, please send your contribution for the next edition to [Jill Masterton](mailto:Jill Masterton).

The next edition will be published at the end of September 2004 – deadline for copy is 15<sup>th</sup> August 2004.