

The British Andalusian Horse Society

The Society for the Purebred Spanish Horse in Britain

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1986



Committee Members

Chairman

John Parker

Vice Chairman

Marion Larrigan

Treasurer

Lynne Fornieles

Secretary

Jenny Bernard

Ordinary Committee Member

Marilyn Tennent

The Committee will be meeting on the 28th April and 2 more members will be co opted onto the committee.

From the secretary:

Dear Members,

Since the last newsletter the society's AGM was held. John Parker is now our Chairman.

The attendance at the AGM was very poor, only 17 members present. Perhaps before the next AGM members could let members of the committee know the best time they could attend so all members can be present and perhaps we can make it a more social event. This year 12 members got together afterwards and had a meal which was very enjoyable.

If any members have any interesting news about there horses please send it in for the next newsletter. We have a new feature Andalusian Antics which Norma McCourt thought up, this would make a nice regular feature as the Spanish Horse has such a Character and get up to so many antics, that you must have some amusing stories to tell. The deadline for the next Newsletter will be 30th June.

The next newsletter should be much better as Marilyn Tennent has very kindly offered to help with it. This will be a great help as I am not the best of spellers as some members have pointed out.

There are some good articals again, many thanks to all who contributed. We have had many compliments on Campbell Lennies excellent artical "A Matter of Dynasty's" The German society President Marion Hink hopes to include it in there next magazine. Marion has very kindly given us a copy of her account of the October Championships in Sevilla which is included in this newsletter.

Some of us are off to Jerez in early May to the Feria and also to visit some studs. If any members want us to look for stock for them please let me know as soon as possible.

Please do send in all your news as it is so interesting to hear how your horses are getting on.

Jenny.

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Spillers Show at Ardingly

The classes for the Andalusian Horses have now been set and are as follows:

Class A In Hand Reg.1 Purebred Stallion, Mare or Gelding, 4yrs and over.
Special Rosette for best mare.

Class B In Hand Reg.1 Purebred Colts, Filly's and Geldings. 3yrs and under.
Special Rosette for best foal & yearling.

There will then be a Championship for the In Hand Champion.

Class C Reg II Ridden Stallion, Mare or Gelding. 4yrs and over.
To be judged as a riding horse.
Kindly sponsored by Jenny Rossiter.

Class D Reg I Ridden Stallion, Mare or Gelding. 4yrs and over.
To be judged as a riding horse.
Kindly sponsored by De La Villa Stud. Spain.

Entry Fee £2.50 plus Vat.

Prize money to 4th place, rosettes to 6th place.

As the public eye will be on us for the first time we must all be very well turned out in English Dress.

Lynne Whiting has very kindly offered members overnight stabling facilities at her establishment which is only half an hour from the Showground. Please book your stables as early as possible so Lynne knows in plenty of time how many will be needed. Lynne runs a livery yard so needs to plan in advance.
Lynnes address is: Woodside Farm, Forest Road, Colgate, Nr, Horsham, Sussex. RH12 4TF
Tel: 029 383229. Please book before July 1st. Cost of Stable plus straw is £5 a night.

Our Judge on the day will be Tenient Coronel of the Spanish State Stud Juan Llamas Perdigo.

Sr. Juan Llamas Perdigo is the author of a very well thought of new book on the Spanish Horse, and he has offered to sign copies of his books while he is hear.

Please do support this show as it is so important for us and our breed.
If the turnout of horses is very good we will have the possibility of more classes next year.

Advertisements



Silver Fire Print

These prints are a limited Edition of 500
It is taken from the original oil painting
by Franke Wooton and each one is signed by
the artist and issued with a stamp on it by
the fine arts guild. They are not framed and
measure 12" x 12" on a sheet 17 x 18". Members
wanting more details contact the secretary.

VI Championship of the Asociacion de Criadores de Caballos de Pure Raza Espanola.

Like every year since 1980 the annual championship of the Andalusian Horse took place at the Club Pineda in Sevilla from 9th to 13th October.

D. Juan Bautista Aparicio, a professor of the University of Cordoba, functioned as judge as he had done the last three years.

There were more than three hundred horses announced, and the judging of the yearling mares started at 9 o'clock in the morning - an extreme punctuality for Spanish conditions.

In the beginning the whole group was presented to the judge in a circle. After that each horse was judged individually. In the following most of the mares had to leave the ring and the best of them were presented a second time to establish the winner. It goes without saying that the whole procedure was extremely time-consuming. It would be very desirable that the judgement of each horse was announced as it is customary in other countries. Therefore some of the decisions made were really hard to understand. Thus the owner of the mare with the best movement thought his luck incredible because his horse rather resembled a sewing machine with four legs.

Unfortunately the very large scale catalogue didn't inform about the origins of quite a number of horses. Instead it mentioned the studbook-registration, tattooing or no information at all. Of course a detailed description of the origin is very important to the interested breeder. At more than thirty degrees centigrade it is just incredibly tiresome to walk around with a stud book weighing some pounds.

The category of the yearling mares was won by the dark white mare Coqueta of the breeding of Carlos Montijano Carbonell from Cordoba. She is a daughter of the Terry-Stallion Jardinero V.

After a lasting midday-rest on the same day the two-year-old mares were judged. The first prize of this category was gained by the white mare Insignia (Mariscal X / Betunera) of the breeding of Jose Maria Fernandez de la Vega from Toledo. Insignia descends from a very old lineage, perfectly presenting the demanded type, but her way of moving could not convince.

On Thursday they started with the not highly frequented category of the three year-old mares. It was won by the big framed (Mighty) white mare Opera (Vasallo II / Carrochera) of the breeding Cardenas.

Before the midday-break the judging of the more than forty announced brood-mares began, which were divided into two groups, because of the great number of participating horses.

There were no foals with the mares, they had probably been separated by then. Extraordinary quality was presented by the second group of brood-mares of the studfarms of Lovera, Rodriguez Sevillano, Romero Benitez and Sierra Brava as well as Comez Cuetara. Out of this group came the champion-mare of 1985, the grey Baturra VIII (Leviton / Mensajera V) of the breeding of Romero Benitez, Jerez. Thus the stallion Leviton provided his third Spanish Champion after Mejicano XIV and Bandolera. The mothers of the horses mentioned above belong to the breeding Romero Benitez as well. So with the years, Leviton seems to be growing into Spain's stallion number one.

The first two days had been considerably quiet, because the breeders had been more or less among themselves. But on Friday it became more crowded and the breeders got more nervous, because the young stallions were about to be judged, and a lot of money seemed to be at stake. Like every year Sevilla was much frequented by breeders from South America who already had various horses on the short list.

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The extremely numerous category of fifty three one-year-old stallions won by Cartujo of the stud farm Allozar, Toledo. Unfortunately no origin was made known.

The studfarm Cardenas provided the group of the two-year-old stallions with the winner Paladin, a son of Genil, the champion of 1980, sold to Mexico, and of Calesera V.

The first prize in the category of the three-year-old Stallions gained the studfarm Cardenas as well. The typical and beautiful Odre (Vasallo II / Guitarra III) was the winner. He is a very beautiful horse without any defects in the way he moves. An obvious contrast to a lot of horses coming from the studfarm Cardenas. It is to be hoped that this stallion will stay in Spain.

The most important category, the one of the stallions used for breeding, followed on Saturday. With only twenty stallions it was extremely poor represented compared to last year. An explanation might be that for the first time the stallions had to be presented under the saddle. Collected and long pace, collected and extended trot as well as collected and extended gallop combined to a dressage-task were required. Because of the habitual bad organisation of the Spanish Association the breeders were only informed about that requirement on the 23rd September. Therefore it was not surprising that quite a number of horsemen and horses weren't up to the comparatively easy task. In some cases unpleasant scenes occurred. Only the riders of the studfarm Guardiola, Sanchez-Barbudo and Las Lumbreras met the required performance in an acceptable way. But it was a beginning at least.

Champion became Castador VIII (Valido / Raqueta) raised by the studfarm Cardenas. He represents the type of the Andalusian horse very well, but he was neither convincing under the saddle nor in the way he moved.

Reserve Champion Educado of the studfarm Guardiola is of imposing stature, a stallion of best type with splendid movements, who also solved the dressage task in superior style with the old "Mayoral" of the house of Guardiola.

The prize for the best movements was awarded to Alegre XIX (Maceo / Alegria) of the breeding Sanchez-Barbudo, a stallion who seems to be subscribed to that award.

And again this championship has made it quite obvious that the trend is towards a clear splitting of the breeding - one group aiming at a mere show-horse and the other trying to maintain a usable Andalusian horse. It often seems that only nice heads and necks are judged, and the brand.

Horses with severe defects being offered for immense amounts of money were to be seen there. Thus a stallion was offered for 400.000 marks, a price probably accounting for the fact that he consisted of two horses. One formed the front part and the other the back - he was not able to walk three paces in an acceptable way. Experienced breeders of the Andalusian horse, mostly owners of a breed of bulls as well, often shook their heads about the awarded horses, because those horses could no longer be used for the work with bulls. So it was not surprising that some of the influential breeders with the highest show-awards very strongly opposed to the test under saddle. Fortunately there was quite a number of breeders who did not only want to put their horses in a glass case but also wanted to point out how servicable they are.

One should not forget that the Andalusian horse is the best saddle-horse in the world. And it is to be hoped that it will not be degraded to a mere show- and pet-horse as it happened to the Arabian horse.

I would like to thank Dr. Schon in particular, who undertook the long journey to Sevilla to gather information about the breeding of the Andalusian horse. We were able to carry on very interesting conversations with quite a number of breeders, the heads of the stallion-deposit and the military studfarm in Jerez and delegates for horse-breeding of the province of Sevilla- Huelva. It certainly helped to settle existing misunderstandings. After the championship we took the chance of visiting several studfarms to give Dr. Schon an understanding of the original surrounding of the Andalusian Horse.

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Dr. Scon was especially engaged in a conversation with the first general and head of Spanish Horse Breeding. He explained to the general that the horse stud book of Weser-Ems is willing to support and control the breeding of the Andalusian horse in the Federal Republic authorized by the government and observing the Spanish standards. In this way it was possible to put right the misconceptions of the leading executives of the stud-book in Madrid, which had occurred because of the change of headship.

STUD NEWS

News from Joan Chapman in Lincolnshire:

Joans mare Tam has just produced a super colt foal by the beautiful Stallion Saltimbanqui, who sadly passed away last July.

The colt is called Adiante and is very much his fathers son. He is bold and brave and gets great pleasure from chasing the chicken that shares his stable. He also shows his fathers outstanding jumping ability and delights in jumping all sorts of things from cones to ditches in his paddock.

Hopefully there will be a regular update on his future.

.....
News from Simone Willis:

Simones recently imported mare Centella III has just had her foal. He is a beautiful big colt. As he was born on the Queens birthday he will be called

MAJESTAD

.....
*ADIANTE VERY SADLY DIED SINCE THIS
NEWSLETTER WAS PRINTED.*

STALLIONS AT STUD

BAILAOR II Grey 16hh. Born 1979 Owned by Lyn Whiting, Woodside Farm, Forest Rd, Colgate, Horsham, Sussex. Tel: Faygate 229 Stud fee £150

JUBILOSO VI Grey 15.3hh Born 1972 Owned by Ray Saunders, Pardlestone Barton, Kilve, Bridgewater, Somerset. Tel: 027 874 368 Stud fee £110 (less £10 for members)
The stud fee also includes one months keep for the mare.

SIROCCO Grey 15.2hh. Born 1979 Owned by Rebecca Howell, Clipsham Stables, Clipsham, Oakham, Rutland, Leics. Tel: 078081 796 Approved mares only.

ULTIMADO II Grey 16.1hh Born 1975 Owned by Mike Curson, High House Farm, Little Melton, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel: Norwich 810821 Stud Fee £100 plus Vat and £10 Grooms Fee.

Please Stallion and Mare owners abide by the society rules and have your horses swabbed for Klebsiella, C,E,M.etc. This is so important to protect our valuable horses and make sure all visiting horses are also swabbed.

ADVERTISEMENT

Equus The Creation of the Horse by Robert Vavra This beautiful book is full of photo's of the Andalusian free in Spain. Price £ 15 plus £1.90 P&P
Special Spring Offer

.....
A beautiful print by John Fulton is still available . Signed by the Artist
£20 each.

The incredible fun and pleasure that I find in Trianero was just about summed up for me over Christmas time. With all of the hectic preparations for the festive season well underway poor Trianero had been sadly neglected work wise. His daily routine which had consisted of lunging and ridden schooling session had, over the last couple of months tailed off to just lunging as my bouts of so called morning sickness had progressed into morning, noon and night sickness. Even this had to be restricted when the constant rain made a quagmire of both his field and the optimistically termed "all weather" schooling area. So on the day after boxing day when the local hunt had finished their mad-cap exploits across the surrounding countryside - the coast was clear, the sky bright and blue and a thick frost sparkled all around.

Trianero tucked contentedly into his hay as I mucked out and he only slightly raised an eyebrow as I put his tack over the stable door. Having firmly bandaged his legs I retreated to the farm kitchen to "bandage" any exposed areas of my own flesh. This was definately scarf and glove weather, with the biggest anorak I could find over the lot. I was soon joined by my sister Diane and our friend Bridget both in a similar state of roly poly overdress. The three Nanooks of the north set out.

I quickly mounted my proud young stallion who by this time had gathered that not only was he getting out and about but that his companions were two very sexy black mares Clava and Magic. The latter immediately displayed to all that she was definately flavour of the month and set to with very blatant 'come and get me' seduction techniques. She might have appeared irresistible to some but her on top was saying 'Forget it Buster' and so after a few efferescent plunges Trianero proceeded down the field in an elegant display of fine, classical movements. All sparkling up from the depths of his ancestral memory and innate grace. My own ancestors, apart from one notable exception, were sadly lacking in this field but I can still thrill to such natural beauty and majesty, and delight to be his listening if not yet completely educated mistress.

The chilly winters breeze and the crisp sunshine helped to put all three mounts in very playful high spirits. Clava, the thoroughbred, put on a spectacular show of leaps and rears and I can only imagine my mothers silent trepidation as dwarfed by Moriarti the wolfhound, she pulled open the bottom gate. "Take care. Have a nice ride ... I'll have the soup ready when you return" she called as we frolicked past her.

As soon as we were through the gate Trianero met his first ever ice covered puddle. He didn't hesitate for a second but with a loud snort he smacked it with his foot and splashed onward. He was still in a prancing mood as we high stepped under the white, frost laden trees. Every inch of him "muy noble" as the spanish say.

His next encounter with ice was far more impressive and I was glad to have bandaged his precious legs beforehand. A neighbouring farmer had altered the water table by laying a wide band of chalk across the bridlepath as a track for his tractors and cows. By so doing he had caused the recent heavy rains to form a small lake effectively blocking the way ahead. Nothing daunted Trianero gave the thick ice an exploritory smack. All of his stallion instinct came to the fore as he advanced upon the frozen stretch. He systematically sent every atom of ice within his reach splashing into smithereens. He pawed first with one foot and then executing a stationary flying change he continued with the other leg. I was soon drenched with the icy torrent even if he was thoroughly enjoying himself. I should say that this was no small puddle but was belly deep at the mid point. For a Spanish horse that has certainly never met ice before he showed great perception and any concern I may have felt for him catching cold soon disappeared as he stepped out into a dashing trot once we were clear. Even my soggy knees were glowing warm before long. Maybe it was his hot Latin blood keeping us warm.

Amidst laughter and good spirits we continued on up onto the Downs. The springy turf crackled crisply beneath us as we let them canter on, to relieve them of the last of their fizziness. Trianero remained calm and collected as his two exuberant lady friends raced hell for leather passed us.

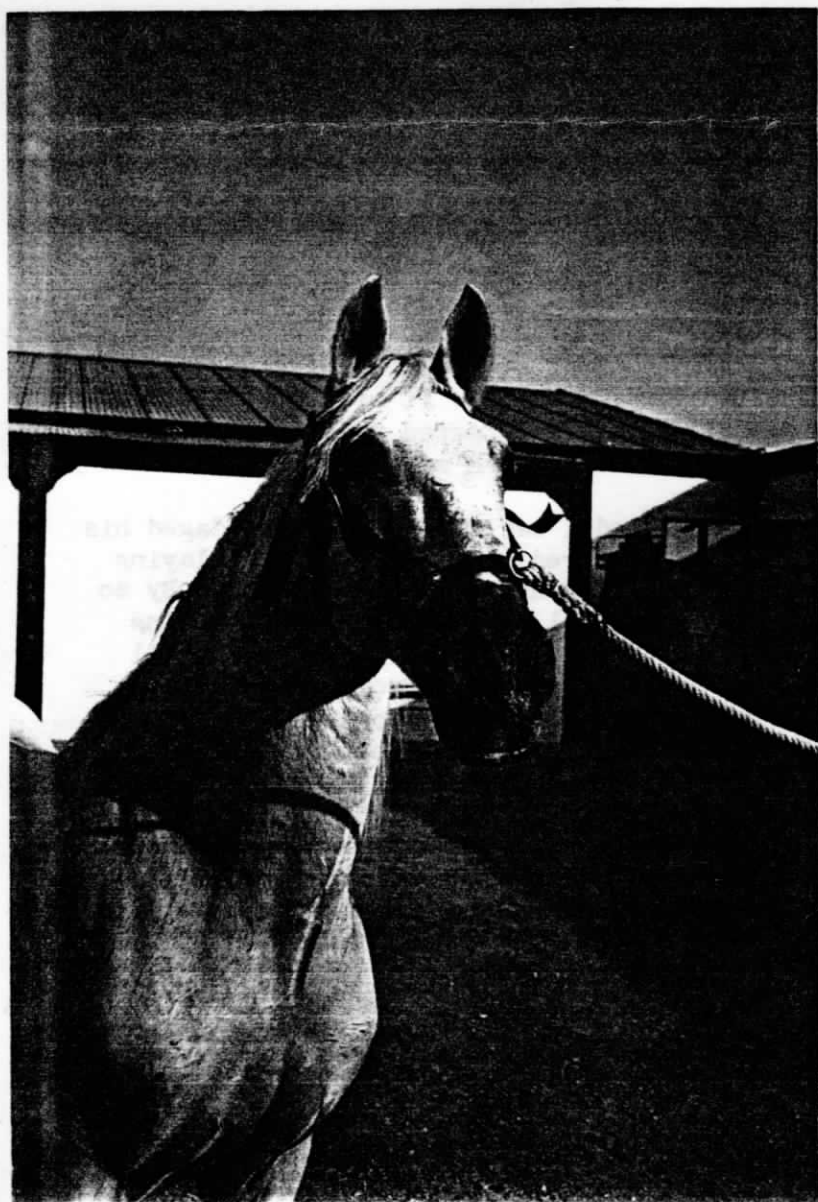
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The cold wind was by now whipping their manes and tails into froth and it was with some relief that we found our way onto the track down. It was even too freezing to raise a chorus of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.

Magic was still trying to lure Trianero into her wicked ways as we approached Trianero's next initiation into a new experience. His rider was to suddenly and unexpectedly part company with him. We were attempting to skirt round another nasty white puddle when a tree took hold of my leg, ripping into my trousers, causing me to remain in its embrace while Trianero walked quietly on. As I slithered in a truly ungainly manner down into the awaiting puddle he looked enquiringly back at me as if to say " Now, what do you think your doing? " Luckily I landed on my feet albeit in ice up to the top of my boots. My long suffering mount stood stock still as I swung aboard again. What a good fellow he is, not for a moment did he try to leave me and join the mares. I wonder how many young stallions would show such reliability and good temper.

We reached home safely and I felt very pleased with my noble Spanish horse. The ride had been a testament to his generosity of spirit and sensibility and what is more it had been so much fun.

Back in his warm stable with a deep bed he happily buried his head in his feed bucket. I left him to his own reflections on the day and it is with great eagerness that I look forward to the summer when I hope to continue with both our educations.



ANDALUSIAN ANTICS

From Norma McCourt:

Let us know the amusing (or otherwise) Antics your horses get up to. Hopefully this will be a regular column. Like Fedra who on seeing the laundry basket used for skipping out will present you with her bottom and drop a load into the basket while you hold it. "Note to owners of premises who have offered to hold shows-DO NOT leave your laundry basket out" Fedra who's owners apprehensive about biting her for the first time, when the bit was tied to one side of her headcollar, swung her head, caught and held the bit in the correct position in her mouth with a very superior look on her face.

Please let us hear about the Antics your Purebred and Partbred Andalusians get up to.

ZALAMERO VI Sire of Norma's
 beautiful silver filly
 FEDRA

PRINCIPE - THE SPANISH UNICORN

The film LEGEND is now on general release, and hopefully many members will be able to get to see it - and the Andalusian horses who feature as unicorns in the story of the conflict between darkness and light. Five horses were bought in Spain by the Legend film company, and travelled to England in early 1984. The oldest of them was the pure-bred white stallion "Principe", bred by Don Fernando de la Camara Galvez near Sevilla, and it is he who is featured in nearly all the unicorn scenes in LEGEND. The film is a timeless fairy-tale, quite scary in parts, with elves, goblins, a beautiful princess, the evil Lord of Darkness, and of course the unicorns.

The horses working on LEGEND were trained by a Spanish and an English stuntman. They worked with fire and with wind machines, in deep "snow" and in streams and rivers, in forests and in dungeons - and all within the huge artificial set built for LEGEND at Pinewood Studios. It cannot have been easy to have loose stallions galloping around amongst all that multi-million dollar equipment! Principe's special abilities of rearing and lying down at the spoken command were used to the full, and as his natural mane is pure white and falls to just two inches above his knee he did not need any special adornments - except his magic unicorn's horn of course. He is totally people-orientated, loves his work, and always tries terribly hard to please. He has a charisma that comes across well on film, and particularly well on stills. I have worked as assistant to the American author and photographer Robert Vavra for several years, and I knew instantly that he would be perfect for our photographic books and videss. However, more important was the fact that when I first saw Principe working on the set at Pinewood I promptly fell in love with him, and despite his age and some obvious unsoundness I checked with my colleagues in Spain and established that the horse is from Terry bloodlines and is beautifully bred, and in everyone's opinion a magnificent example of the classic Andalusian. As I was at that time only back from Spain on a temporary basis and hoping to soon return and continue working with Mercedes Gonzalez and her horses, buying a Spanish stallion here in England was something I had not included in my plans. But I was also fully aware that to own Principe was the sort of opportunity one only gets once, and so when the filming was completed I took a deep breath and bought him. I believe two of the younger stallions were bought by the Chipperfield family, and the others kept by the stuntman who had worked with them on the film.

We brought Principe home in March 1985, far from sound, and very much on his best behaviour. I have not regretted it for a minute. Principe is indeed a marvellous example of the breed. He is gentle, forgiving and kind, courageous and willing, and above all immensely noble. As the weeks went by he relaxed, and demonstrated more and more strongly his incredible character, great personality, and a definite sense of humour.

Acquiring a "trick-trained" horse when you do not know the commands he answers to, (both stuntmen had by this time gone to work in South America), cannot be without incident in the early days. Attemptst to lunge Principe at first only resulted in his folding up like a pack of cards on the ground because he thought that was what I wanted, and on one occasion I stood horror-struck as I saw his white bottom bustling out of the yard gate and off down the lane after he had removed his headcollar and opened his own stable door. However, a shriek of "Whoa" resulted in a screeching halt, and he promptly turned round and trotted right back to me! Luckily we soon learnt to understand each other, in both English and Spanish. But Principe is no ordinary horse.....

After consultations with both vet and blacksmith, we worked out a system of feeding, work, shoeing and care to try and get the stallion's laminitis-damaged feet back into shape and to ease his tired old joints and muscles. I was not at all hopeful that we would be able to achieve very much with an obviously very overworked fourteen year old horse, but as the year went on he did steadily improve and the very careful programme that we had worked out for him has certainly paid off. He is now virtually sound, and very well and happy. He hacks out regularly and is very well mannered in either his Spanish vaquera saddle and bridle, or a dressage saddle and pelham bit, and he also has the occasional "training session" when I work him loose and put him through all his party-pieces to make sure he stays in practice, but not often enough to overstrain him all over again. It has been a joy to watch him steadily improve, and now only the horrendous spur scars along his belly and flanks remain as reminders of the hard life that he has obviously had. However, they also serve as reminders of the extreme generosity and nobility of his nature, that he is still so trusting and kind, a marvellous example of the best qualities of his breed.

I spent some time at my home in Spain in the autumn, and with the help of friends there I was able to trace the last owner of Principe, in Sanlucar de Barrameda, and I also visited the cortijo where he was bred and talked at length with the mayoral who helped me to trace most of his life. I am so grateful to a very good friend, Javier Garcia Romero, who is the lead rider at the Escuela Andaluza de Arte Ecuestre in Jerez, and whose ranch adjoins that of Camara. He provided me with the most valuable of introductions and so much practical help. There are still about four years I have not been able to trace, but matador and rancher friends near Jerez are working on this for me and I hope to complete the picture when I return in the Spring. The plan is to then produce a book about Principe's life, and he will also be used for forthcoming photographic books by Robert Vavra, for paintings by John Fulton, and you may see him on BBC TV later in 1986.

The Andalusian horse has been my great passion and consuming interest since I first lived in Spain in 1973, and I had known when I first saw Principe that he is a good horse of the now

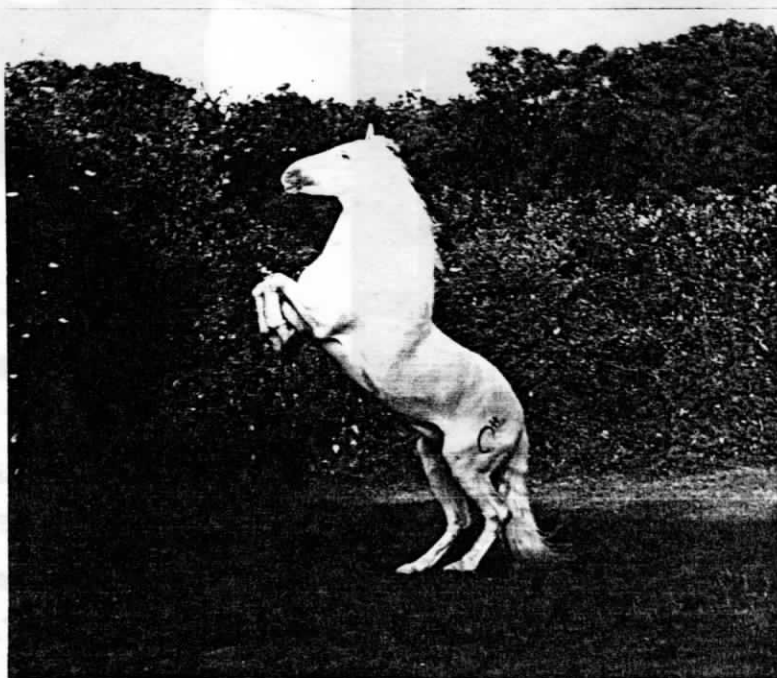
considered old-fashioned but classical type that I particularly admire. I feel very privileged to own him, and though I now plan to bring other Andalusian horses over to England in the future, for me there will never be another Principe. A true product of the harsh but beautiful land of Andalucia that I know and love so well, and one of the few horses in England that were fully vaquera trained and actually worked for many years in the bullrings and f rias of southern Spain, Principe is now enjoying the semi-retirement he so much deserves here in the English countryside, and I will never part with him.

Please go and see him and the other lovely Andalusians in LEGEND, and look out for Principe's books in the future. I hope that by his appearances, and his contributions to photography and art, he will help to bring the breed even more publicity and recognition, and that he will long continue to bring beauty and pleasure to as many people as possible.

Marilyn Tennent

Footnote:

As members are probably aware, there are several Spanish breeders who - though members of the Breed Association - do not show their stock nor feel it necessary to advertise them. Camara horses are in this group, and so you will not find examples listed in the show results from Jerez and Sevilla. However, the family has for many generations bred fighting bulls and excellent horses from pure and uncrossed Terry and Osborne bloodlines that are held in high regard in Andalucia. It is rare and very interesting to see a Camara horse outside Spain.



STOCK FOR SALE

EL PRIMO Grey Stallion Born 1981 15.1hh Kind Temperament. Broken
Sire: Ultimado II Dam: Convenida

Contact: Norma Crimes, Lower Blackshaw Farm, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Bridge, Yorks.
Tel: Hebden Bridge 843138

Stock available in Spain

Stallion. Grey.

TIRANO II Pure Cartujano. Sire: Hacendoso IV Zenina 14 years old.
Bred by D. Joaquin Buendia Pena. Asking price is 1.500.000 pesetas

Euclides Grey Stallion Champion 2yr old of Expovicaman 1984 4years old.
Ridden and going forward. Fully State Registered and approved for Breeding

Mare. Bay

More details from the Secretary

GARZA 3years old 600.000 Pesatas

Colt Bay

This stock is the property of
Jose Ignacio Jimenez Montecui

CALOPE 3years old 800.000 Pesatas

For more information
please contact the secretary.

Colt Grey

AVENTURERO 2years old 600.000 Pesatas



AVENTURERO { JARDINERO
 { MANDITOS
 1984



GARZA { TECNICOLO
 { ROGERA II
 1983
3 PREMIO FERIA DEL CABALLO
JEREZ 1984

HORSES ALWAYS COST ME MONEY

by Jenny Rossiter

The English Dictionary describes "Caprice" as: Unaccountable change of mind or conduct, tendency to these, work of sportive fancy in art.

My description is a four legged furry monster that eats its way into my heart and through my husband's bank balance.

Unaccountable change of mind? - Yes, simply explained by my husband with "she's a female". Why is it that when I said I was going to write about Caprice my husband said don't involve me and then promptly sticks his metaphorical oar in - men!!.

Conduct - Yes, she does suffer from an artistic temperament like her "not today, thank you" attitude when she doesn't want to work.

Sportive fancy in art - never. The only artistic fancy she has is, when I have slaved for hours bathing and grooming to make her a perfect picture, to find the nearest dirt - preferably cloying, stinking mud - and roll and plaster herself from head to tail in it, then get up, stick her nose in the air and, with a flick of a haughty tail, belt up the field like a bat out of hell looking nothing like the well schooled brought up lady she is supposed to be.

Caprice was purchased to increase my knowledge of dressage and to improve my "seat". (My husband's comment is unprintable). She suffered me, taught me, bit me (we don't talk about that), ran off with me, refused to be caught - the catalogue of her warped sense of humour was endless in the first six months but, once having come to terms with each other, she allowed me to think that I was boss.

Life settled down Piaffe, Passage, flying change, levards - wonderful. I learnt and she tolerated me. Then disaster struck. Caprice damaged her foot and the vet bills began to mount. We lost a year - all those muscles let down. In about July of the following year we started gently working her and after about two months the plum pudding on four legs began to resemble a nicely rounded dumpling!.

One delightful Sunday morning my 18 year old daughter Sophie was as usual sitting talking to her mechanical umbilical cord (telephone) when the words "Yes great, okay, Mum won't mind" filtered through. "Won't mind what?" I said with that sinking feeling. "If I borrow Caprice and ride over to see Sara". Well alright, she is fine now and fit enough I thought.

So off she went - boots, bandages, etc., bounding down the road full of the joys of spring. Some time later Sophie and nag came bouncing back and, if a horse could grin, you could have hung Caprice's on her ears. "You look happy" I said. "Happy" replied my ecstatic daughter, "she was absolutely brilliant and she jumped everything". "Oh good" - "JUMPED, what do you mean jumped - she's never jumped anything before!!". To say the least I was stunned. "Now don't get your knickers in a twist Mother" (such respect for one's parents!). "She's fine, you know the back wall, well she cleared the drops and all".

By this time my shock had turned to complete disbelief. There was my daughter who is a nervous jumper at the best of times, telling me that she had jumped 3'6" - 4'0" stone walls, some with drops that seem to go on for ever, on a horse that had never been over anything higher than a trotting pole!.

It transpired that while out with her friend, they popped a stone pile and it just went on from there - Sophie and Caprice had clicked. Enthusiastic - well from then on anything that could be jumped was. High School - forget it, Caprice had decided life had taken off with a bang and this was far more fun.

Whilst I was thrilled that my daughter and Caprice got on so well it didn't do much for keeping her sane and sensible for me.

So, I gave in - I bought another horse.

By this time my long suffering husband had retreated to his office to - as he put it - "work to pay for those *!#!*! horses".

The days became shorter, there was a definite nip in the air, Winter was approaching fast. Out came the rugs and clippers, and two fluffy hairy horrors were transformed into gleaming beasts. "Oh very posh, very swish" was Sophie's comment that evening. The horses, knowing this of course, treated us to a show, pulled themselves up to their full height and paraded around the stables.

I was sitting in the bath later that evening soaking all the horse hair off me when a knock came at the door. "Mum, can I speak to you for a minute". Not even my precious bath is sacred. Is there no peace for the wicked I thought, and besides which, there was a note in my daughter's voice which meant something was going to cost me money. "Can't it wait till I come out?" I replied with a trace of nervousness in my voice. "No I've had this brilliant idea". Now I knew it was going to cost me a lot of money - Sophie's brilliant ideas usually do.

"Sara and I have decided we're going hunting". "Caprice will be brilliant and My daughter was in full flight and there would be no stopping her now. ". . . . and if you wouldn't mind getting her fit because as you know I can't because I'm at College all day" and on and on she went. So, not only was it going to cost me a fortune but I had to get the damn thing fit as well!!

Both Caprice and I underwent training for six gruelling weeks. I worked, sweated, polished, rode and paid for corn, shoes, etc., the list was endless and, at the end of six weeks the dumpling on four legs that was, had been transformed into a gleaming English Hunter oozing health and vitality and steam coming out of its ears, and I had a glossy coat too!!.

My daughter's enthusiasm was at a low ebb on the morning of the hunt. Its all very well planning, etc., but you have in the end to go through with it - after all the hard work I had put in she was hunting come hell or high water.

The day dawned clear - how did Caprice know - we had not changed her routine at all but she wouldn't eat her breakfast, she just stood there

with eyes out on organ stops and quivering. By the time we arrived at the meet Sophie looked green and sick with nerves. However that was easily cured so she headed for the bar.

Sophie had improved a little once she climbed on board, she was only slightly green now and all the "dutch courage" she had consumed had only made a slight difference - now she shook and the horse quivered. Other than that Caprice was as cool as a cucumber. She acted as though she had done this all her life, hounds were barking and milling around her legs, the noise of clinking glasses, laughter and the general hubbub and the Secretary's outstretched hand waits for my money. Then came the horn - this stirred her and the quivering turned into a full scale earthquake!.

Her brand caused great interest, she was obviously not an English breed. "What is it?" I was asked and felt like answering "a Horse!". However, I explained patiently "Oh one of those that does the twiddly bits". Well I thought - that's one way of putting it!.

She jumped everything, never thought about it. She gave leads over difficult jumps, waited her turn, and, oh yes, she decided to break the land speed record!.

My friend and I were on a vantage point watching for the field and, as they came into view, I remarked "so far so good". Too late - this white streak whizzed past at a great rate of knots. "Turn her Sophie" Sara yelled. "I'm *!?!*! trying to" came the speedy reply. (I didn't know my daughter knew such words!). It seems that it had all got too much for Caprice but after that everything was fine - enthusiastic - but fine.

I departed to the pub to await their return. The sight on their return was quite something. Mud - mud, and more mud. There were no bays, greys or chestnuts, just mud coloured horses, their riders could have performed adequately in the black and white minstrel show without requiring any more make up.

We left and headed for home with one muddy but much slimmer horse, one very squiffy daughter who had been celebrating surviving the day, and a mountain of dirty tack to be cleaned.

"Oh dad" my daughter sighed "she was brilliant" and continued to relate a blow by blow, or should I say splash by splash account of the day. "I can't wait for next week" she said "she will be even better, she'll know all about it then". This I might add was the first I knew about any "next week". Next week came, and so did the Secretary's outstretched hand for more money. Sophie was right - she was brilliant. Someone wanted to buy her and was firmly declined. The whipper-in commented how well the mare was going and, with tongue in cheek, said "she hasn't overtaken me this week!!".

Whilst I was waiting at the lorry for Sophie to return I mused to myself how varied my high school horse's life had become. I was brought sharply back to reality by "I've been thinking Mum" - I was tempted to add that it's a very dangerous occupation but thought better of it. "Let's breed a foal from Caprice" said my ever helpful daughter, "and it won't cost you too much". I gulped, "Have you any idea just how much it would cost and anyway, what do we want another horse for?". "Simple" came the reply "I want an Andalusian for eventing"

"I knew it" I wailed "horses always cost me money".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welcome to our New Members :

Tina Barnett 3, Oxford Place, North Road, Combe Down, Bath, Avon BA2 5HD
Christine Davies, Arcadia, Wheel Road, Alington, Norwich NR 14 7NL
Peter Hogan, 36, Kew Bridge Court, Chiswick, London, W4 3AT
Sylvia Lane, 259, Shakespeare Road, Herne Hill, London. SE24 0QD
Mrs Ody, The Trooper, Froxfield, Nr, Petersfield, Hampshire.
Mrs K Perryman, Garden House, Priestlands, Sherbourne, Dorset.
Mrs Sherene Rahmatallah, El Bustan, The Drive, Ifold, Billingshurst, W. Sussex.
Rosemarie Sidney, 4, Station Road, Teynham, Kent. ME9 9TB
Caroline Spence, "Shady Bower" 17, College Road, Ringwood, Hampshire. BH24 1NU
Zoe Lindop, Holly Bank, Duddon Common, Nr, Tarporley, Cheshire. CW6 0HC
Mrs Sandra Young and Miss Selina Young, Rowdene Cottage, Greendene, East Horsley, Surrey

The Knights of Arkley, Ian & Penny Hard & Joe Raboni have rejoined us.
Penny has written to say they have now moved to Wales. Their new address is
Glyn Sylen, Five Roads, Llanelli, Dyfed SA 15 5BJ. Tel: 0269 861 001
Penny would welcome any members who would like to visit them.
Sadly their Part-bred Andalusian Fabiola broke his leg while turned out on his own.
It is such a loss and Penny had been working on him for 6 months in Dressage with
great promise.

Mandy Sarsam has found a very nice temporary home for her Lusitano Colt Castico.

Rebecca Howell's super stallion Sirocco has been chosen for the Western Team who
will be doing a display at the Norfolk Show. Becky says that her partbred colt by
Sirocco is growing into a super yearling.

Mary McBryde has sold her Grey mare Bandera.

Marion Larrigan has sold her Mare Eleanor and also the Gelding Destello. Both have
been sold quite locally to Marion. Eleanor has done very well in her first show.
Eleanor is now owned by New Member Mrs Sandra Young.

Lynne Whiting's stallion Bailoar has been doing very well in cross country, coming
1st out of about 25 entries.

Yasmin Smart has purchased the beautiful striking bright bay Stallion Despierto.
Despierto is from Linda & Joaquin Rodriguez De La Villa Stud. He is State Registered.

The Chairman of the Lusitano society, Sylvia Hawkins pointed out that the horse
Opus owned and described by Alvaro Domecq as a Hispano is in fact a Lusitano.



EXPOVICAMAN 86

Open National Championships 27th May - 2nd June

Members are invited to attend this Show in Albacete.
over 10 top breeders will be attending as well as other
breeders.
There will be a hospitality room available for members.
The nearest Airports are Alicante and Valencia.
Accommodation easily arranged.

There will be over 300 competitors.
In Hand classes also Dressage classes.

Members will be able to attend a Dinner and the Evening show display of an
Equestrian Ballet.

Riding lessons can also be arranged.

Anyone interested please contact the Spanish Delegate, Linda Rodriguez. or the
Secretary.