

ICE-SKATING IN LVIV IN 1869-1899

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- Physical culture,
- Ice-skating

Abstract:

Introducing the autotomy in Galicia and its consequences such as the possibility of establishing associations, contributed to sport development significantly. Lviv, as the capital city and the headquarter of regency, was the first city to initiate the formation of physical culture associations in Austrian annexation. In 1867 the Gymnastic Association „Sokol”, was established, in 1869 the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) was brought into being¹. „Sokol”, according to its status, ran a broad activity in many areas, focusing social life around patriotism, culture and sport. the Lviv Skating Association (LSA), whose first chairman was dr Zygmunt Rieger, in its first years of existence, limited to organise only skating sport. It needs to be emphasized that skating was known in Europe about 4000 years B.C. Obviously, initially it was intended to be means of transport. Over time, it started to be one of the forms of entertainment. In the 18th and in the early 19th centuries, ice-skating begun to be considered as a sport competition, mainly due to the Dutch and Scandinavians. It was gaining popularity in the whole Europe, including Poland. First organised and legitimated forms appeared in Lviv in Austrian annexation, only two years after establishing the Vienna Skating Association („Wiener Eislaufverein“)².

New associations were created by the people of upper class of Lviv society. Among them, there were many civil servants, doctor, lawyers, lecturers etc. The chairman, dr Zygmunt Rieger (born in w 1830, died in 1893) was a health advisor, a doctor in Iwonicz and Truskawiec, the author of many medical publications, guides, and the author of the article about ice-skating³. The elitism of the new association was emphasized by the fact that it was impossible to purchase skates in Lviv. In January 1870 there was an advertisement about skates in the local press, saying that they can be bought in A. Friedmann's Vienna shop⁴. On 18th December, 1870 „National Paper” included information about the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) for the first time, writing that: *the opening of the season of the newly opened Association of Lviv Ice-skaters is supposed to be today, providing the most vital condition of the rink – ice, which is unlikely to be, according to barometers*⁵. The opening of the rink was scheduled for 3 p.m. at Panienski Pond near Jürgens' paper-mill. Simultaneously, the opening

¹ „Ilustracya Polska” 1901, no 12, p. 278.

² On the basis of: „Winter Sport” 1932, no 3, p. 46-49; A. Minkiewicz, Speed skating, [w:] <http://archive.today/xmMPZ> (data dostępu 10.05.2014); <http://www.lyzwiarstwo.pl/historia.html> (data dostępu 10.05.2014); M. Wenzel, Die Olympische Bewegung in Österreich – ein historischer Beitrag aus sportlicher und struktureller Sicht im Sinne der Olympischen Idee, Wien 2013, s. 231, [w:] othes.univie.ac.at/27038/1/2013-01-29_8606162.pdf (the date of entry 10.05.2014).

³ „National Paper” 1882, no 131, p. 4; K. Estreicher, Polish Bibliography of the 19th century, years 1881-1900, volume IV R-Z, Krakow 1916, p. 37-38.

⁴ „National Paper” 1870, no 28, p. 2.

⁵ „National Paper” 1870, no 323, p. 3.

of daily free skate running course for the members, was announced⁶. However, the weather did not allow to inaugurate the rink. On the second day of Christmas there was the information about the opening of the sport facility⁷.



Dla miłośników sportu łyżwowego
Prawdziwe angielskie patentowane łyżwy
najnowszej i najpraktyczniejszej konstrukcji
w wielkim wyborze
dla dzieci para po 90 ct., 1 zlr. 20 cent.,
1 zlr. 60 cent., 2 zlr.
dla pan para po 1 zlr 50 ct., 2 zlr., 2 zlr.
50 cent., 3 zlr., 4 zlr. z przyborami.
dla mężczyzn para po 1 zlr. 50 cent., 2 zł
2 zlr. 50 cent. 3 zlr., 4 zlr. 5 zlr. z przy-
borami.

Jacques Haines patentowane łyżwy
wyrabiane podług systemu sławnego mistrza łyżwowego. Kompletne para dla
pan lub mężczyzn po zlr. 4, 5, i 6.
Rzemyki do sukien męskich lub damskich po 45 cent. i 65 cent. Ostrogi do
ochrony pantalonów para 10 cent.
Wyłącznie do nabycia w składzie fabrycznym.

A. Friedmann, Wien, Praterstrase 26.
NB. Podług doświadczonej przepowiedni 100 letniego kalendarza Knauera zima
tegoroczna będzie najstrzejsza tego stulecia. 1103 11-24

Photo 1. The advertisement of skates in Lviv press, source:
„National Paper” 1870, no 28, p. 2.

The interest of the new attraction among Lviv people was quickly noticed by local traders. In 1872 the sale of skates was run by Cybulski and Weber on Mariacki Square⁸. In 1873 the new chairman of the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) was 37-year-old Zygmunt Laszowski. During that time, according to „Ilustracya Polska”, it was decided to move the headquarter of the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) to Szumanowka, as a result of the significant increase of the rent. However, according to press and the Administrative Commission of Parliament, it took place in 1875. In Stawy Panienskie, ice-skating was still cultivated, which was mentioned in „Dziennik Polski” (Polish Daily Paper)⁹.

⁶ Ibidem. In the article „Ilustracya Polska” informed that the first place where, the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) created the rink, was Pelczyński Pond.

⁷ „National Paper” 1870, no 331, p. 2.

⁸ „National Paper” 1872, no 355, p. 4.

⁹ „National Paper” 1873, no 291, p. 2. The name of the area „Szumanowka” came from Shuman’s mechanical factory, where later on, there was a veterinary school. In 1846 there was a swimming place for women. The pond was shallow and was not visible from the road. There was a building with 20 boxes for changing clothes. On the basis of: „National Paper” 1895, no 175, p. 1.



Dla amatorów ślizgawki!
4482 poleca handel towarów żelaznych 5-6
Cybulskiego & Webera
przy placu Marjackim we Lwowie,
wielki wybór łyżew angielskich, niemieckich
i sławnych amerykańskich Halifax,
zaś dla rękodziel i familijnego użytku Ory-
ginalne amerykańskie maszyny
do szycia Eliasza Howego, Weehler
& Wilson itd. itd. po najtańszych cenach.



Łyżwy

„Halifaks“ od 1:80 Merkur, Jackson Haines i innych syste-
mów. — Noże stołowe, kuchenne i wszelkie wyroby narzędnicze
z fabryk swoich krewnych w Anglii i Henckelsa z Solingen.
Wyroby z chińskiego srebra alpakowe, britania metalu: łyżki,
łyżeczki, gustowne czajniki itp. Narzędzia do robót piłeczkowych
w kasetkach i pojedynczo
poleca w największym wyborze
Antoni HALSKI, handel towarów żelaznych
Lwów, plac Marjacki l. 9.
— Cenniki łyżew ilustrowane na żądanie. —

Photo 2-3. The advertisement of skates in Lviv press, source: left „National Paper” 1872, no 355, p. 4, right „Lviv Corier” 1891, no 3, p. 8.

Wydział towarzystwa łyżwiarzy

donosi, iż od dnia 1. stycznia rozpoczyna się kurs nauki ślizgania, którą udzielać będzie p. Szytyliński, nauczyciel gimnastyki w godzinach od 12tej do 3ciej codziennie. Bilety na każdą lekcję sprzedaje kasa przy stawie po cenach: dla członków Stowarzyszenia 25 ct., dla gości po 40 centów. O czas nauki porozumieć się trzeba z nauczycielem na miejscu w powyżej oznaczonych godzinach.

Photo 4. Advertisement about learning to skate in the the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) in Lviv press, source: „National Paper” 1874, no 1, p. 4; „Polish Journal” 1874, no 1, p. 2.

The Lviv Skating Association (LSA) begun to teach ice-skating since January 1st 1874. It was run by Stanislaw Szytylinski, a member of municipal police, a gymnastic teacher in the Gymnastic Association „Sokol”, later in Edward Madejski, as well, and finally, a leader of the headquarter in Tarnopol¹⁰. Lviv press emphasized that Panienski Pond was occupied by many ice-skaters, who made use of ice-skating, accompanied by huge audience, till late evenings¹¹. Ice-skaters of Lviv participated in skating competition for the first time in 1874, as it was mentioned in „Polish Journal” by writing that: „ice racing will be held tomorrow (6th January) at Panienski Pond. The programme is as following: first run, finish line: once around the Pond, bid 50 ct, a hundred of real Cuban cigars, second run, finish line: once and a half round the Pond, bid 1 zl, prize: a bottle of champagne, third run for children, prize: a packet of sweets. Those, who withdraw from the run, loose the half of the contribution.”¹².

¹⁰ „National Paper” 1874, no 153, p. 3.

¹¹ „Polish Journal” 1874, nr 2, s. 2.

¹² „Polish Journal” 1874, nr 4, s. 2.



Photo. 5. Stanislaw Szytylinski, an ice-skating teacher in the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) since 1874, source: H. Cepnik, 40th anniversary of „Sokol” 1867-1907, Lviv 1907, p. 17.

During the next winter season, activists of the Lviv Skating Association (LSA) introduced many changes in the rink. First of all, Christmas admissions with music of the military band were reduced, both in the grandstand of 30 to 20 ct. and on ice for 30 ct 50. In ordinary days, the using of the rink was free. Learning to skate took place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Furthermore, the Board has entrusted running the buffet with drinks and sweets to Lviv confectioner, Müller.¹³

The importance and advantages of skating were increasingly stressed by doctors, who participated in a series of meetings and conferences, exchanged comments on its impact on health. Some of their comments were printed in the press, as did include "National Paper" in January of 1876, by publishing a paper of former president of LSA, Dr. Zygmunt Rieger: "*A few words about skating from the position of health and medicine*", presented at the meeting of the Association of Physicians of Galician¹⁴.

After several years of turmoil in the activity of LSA there was a period of stabilization, by the annual custom, before the next winter season, the General Assembly of the reporting organization was held. In 1879 LSA was held in the hall of the German Society Frohsin in the famous Lviv George Hotel. The documentation of LSA activity was deposited in Stromenger trade. Three weeks later, on November 21, 1879 the new skating season was opened¹⁵. Next Annual General Meeting, which was reported in the press, was held in November, 1882. For the next period of activity, Zygmunt Laszowki was re-elected as the president. The report on the activity was announced by Dr. Edward Sumper, stressing that the Association has entered into a lease agreement with the government at Szumanowka Pond for a period of 12 years, with an annual fee of 150 zlr. There was a significant increase in the number of new members, which arrived in the number of 94 during the year. Total number of members in 1882 was 197 people. The assets of the Association, including cash, was with a value of 4954 zlr 21 ct. The new Management (Department) was selected and it consisted of Zygmunt Laszowski, chairman, his deputy, Kornel Winter, Governorship attorney,

¹³ „Lviv Newspaper” 1875, no 3, p. 3.

¹⁴ „National Paper” 1876, no 2, p. 2; no 9, p. 2; no 15, p. 2.

¹⁵ „National Paper” 1879, no 252, p. 2; „Lviv Newspaper” 1879, no 267, p. 3.

Cholewkiewicz, Jarocki, Jachimowski, Michel, Richter, Dr. Stromenger, Dr. Rumper, Dr. Sochanek, Jan Sochanek, Jan Stromenger, K. Wamek¹⁶.

In 1883, a group of Galician doctors, emphasizing the benefits of the rink, was broadened by joining of the Gymnastic Association „Sokol”. There was an article by Dr. Tadeusz Zulinski: *"rink and play on ice"* in "Sokol Gymnastic Guide", in which he emphasized the good and bad practice of skating. As befits a leading champion of gymnastic exercises, Zulinski stated that *"none of the rink will be able to replace reasonably performed gymnastics, which is not only in the winter and ice, but everywhere and always possible to have and use"*¹⁷. Contrary to the doctors' opinions in the publication in 1876, Zuliński thought that skating is not a sport intended to women, *"we consider skating for women of all ages due to hygienic reasons as improper and inappropriate at all. Women's nature and their physiological properties always require great guard in serving sudden movements, such namely, that skating requires ..."*¹⁸.

In the winter season of 1882/83 and the next one, "Health club" of the academic reading room, whose 80 members also cultivated gymnastics and fencing, joined the group of supporters of skating in Lviv¹⁹.

Still in the mid-80s of 19th century the largest and the only organiser of skating in Lviv was the Lviv Skating Association. Apart from daily active rink, usually lasting from late November until the first days of March, LSA organized great performances on the ice in the form of festivals. An example of this show was "Medieval Tournament" organized on January 1, 1884. Fun on the ice began at 4.30 p.m. with electric lights and gathered many viewers. In the middle, there was a ship set, around which skaters with torches, dressed up in medieval costumes were skating. During the rest of the performance, there was the tournament finished with huntig for polar bears. As usual, the setting of the events on the ice was a military band. According to the participants, the tournament was great and skaters were greatly applauded for their full of elegance skating²⁰.

It was not until January 12, 1885, when there were more races in Szumanowka. A small number of people took part in them. LSA Division organized three races with awards, in two of them Mr. W. triumphed, while in the third one, younger skaters competed²¹. In turn, 17 January 1886 for the first time, there was the information about LSA race for girls, in which the main prize were dolls specially brought from Vienna. First prize went to Miss B., the second to Miss L. (Laszowska), the daughter of the President of LSA, and the third to Miss S. In the race of men, Mr. W. and Mr. H won²². Racing on Szumanowka took place again in 1886 on February 2, although, there was nothing mentioned about it in Lvivjournals²³.

In the following years, racing on Szumanowka entered the calendar of events of LSA. In 1887, the first newspaper revealed the names of the winners of each race, organized on February 13th this year. As it turned out, they were practically the same people as in the previous seasons. In the first race, Siczynski won, the second place was taken by Uleniecki. In another one, Kurmanowicz won, the second at the finish line was the Horn. In the women's competition 10 girls participated. Burzynska won before Mlodnicka and Laszowska²⁴.

In the following years, only „Lviv Courier" recorded a skating competition in racing, but not always, gave the names of the winners. On January 8th, 1888 three runs were held,

¹⁶ "Sokol Gymnastic Guide"1882, no 12, p. 96.

¹⁷ "Sokol Gymnastic Guide"1883, no 11, p. 83.

¹⁸ Ibidem

¹⁹ "Sokol Gymnastic Guide"1884, no 3, p. 24.

²⁰ „Lviv Courier"1884, no 3, p. 3.

²¹ „Lviv Courier" 1885, no 12-13, p. 3.

²² „Lviv Courier"1886, no 17, p. 3; no 19, p. 3.

²³ „Lviv Courier" 1886, no 33, p. 4.

²⁴ „Lviv Courier" 1887, no 44, p. 4; no 46, p. 3.

but among the winners, it was possible to decipher only Miss Burzynska. At the end of 1888 there were four cross-country racing on Szumanowka, but the winners were not revealed²⁵.

So far, it could have been spoken about skating sport at LSA Pond only in the context of racing in time, and so it is today's speed skating, while at the beginning of the winter season of 1888/89 newspaper drew attention to the elements of figure skating. "Lwow Courier" wrote: "*Pond in Szumanowka also rang a merry hubbub around the legion of female skaters and their male satellites showing off a nimble agility performing eights and fantastic arabesques, in which elegance also plays a role. The rink in fact, like a parlour, has its own form and its assigned label. Skating sport develops here successfully, and the association gains more and more new members*"²⁶.

In 1889, there was another discussion over the values of skating, in "Hygienic Guide", the organ of the Society of Health Care, published in Krakow. "Sokol Gymnastic Guide" in Lviv posted the reprint of the article in 1890. Author, hiding under the initials W., highlighted the main benefits that the rink brought, which "*makes a man healthier, hardenes his body and gives it more resistance against various diseases*"²⁷.

In 1889, LSA organised more races at Szumanowka. There were three runs, in the first Mr Wullersdorf won, Roman Treiter Zlotshev was the second at the finish line. The main prize was a bicycle, the second was awarded with an alarm clock. In the second run, school-children competed for a bottle of wine, and in the third, the girls treated to candies.²⁸

In the next winter season of 1890/91 practicing skating took on greater importance especially for the youth. On September 15, 1890, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education issued a rescript, which was instructed to secondary schools to encourage young people to use, among others, bathing, swimming or skating rink. In Lviv, directorates of the II and IV Junior High Schools and The Real High School replied favourably to the recommendations of the school authorities. During that school year, they reached an agreement with LSA on seasonal, concessionary tickets for the ice rink for their less well-off students²⁹. Classes for students of the Real School took place on every Wednesday and Saturday under the supervision of three teachers of this institution. 147 students attended them³⁰. In the winter season of 1890/91 there were two ice races on the skating track at Szumanowka, the first one on 25th December 1890, and another one on 1st January 1891³¹.

Some Viennese schools introduced compulsory education of skating in the school year of 1890/91. Following the II and IV Junior High School, the III Junior High School in the school year of 1891-1892 popularised skating in LSA. The school organized concessionary tickets for skating for about 100 high school students³². With the regard to the growing interest of young people of learning to skate, the Board of LSA looked for a capable teacher who would teach how to skate. Depending on the needs, one could attend morning or afternoon classes³³.

The popularity of the Lviv rink was testified by the fact that on Jan. 4, 1892, Archduke Leopold Salvator with his wife, Blanche, Bourbon princesses and all his court arrived there. The visit of such dignified guests at Szumanowka did not end on a single play: "*archduchy*

²⁵ „Lviv Courier” 1888, no 8, p. 4; no 10, p. 3; no 360, p. 3-4.

²⁶ „Lviv Courier” 1888, no 351, p. 2; „Sokol Gymnastic Guide” 1888, no 12, p. 96.

²⁷ "Sokol Gymnastic Guide" 1890 no 2, p. 12-14, "Hygienic Guide" 1889, no 9.

²⁸ „Lviv Courier” 1889, no 8, p. 1.

²⁹ Jahresbericht des k.k. Zweieten Obergymnasiums in Lemberg für das Schuljahr 1891, Lemberg 1891, s. 48; The report of the Director C. K. IV Junior High School in Lviv for the school year of 1891, Lviv 1891, p 84.

³⁰ The 18th report of the Director C. K. School of Real in Lviv for the school year of 1891, Lviv 1891, p 42

³¹ „Lviv Courier” 1890, no 356, p. 3; no 361, p. 2.

³² „Lviv Courier” 1891, no 20, p. 5; The report of the Director c.k. Lviv Junior High School of Francis Joseph for the school year 1892, Lviv 1892, p. 72.

³³ „Lviv Courier” 1891, no 360, p. 3.

*intends to start practicing skating on the ice in the morning hours in the near future, because at the beginning of the learning, the afternoon crowd may not be always conducive to unhampered exercises*³⁴.

The season of 1891/92 for LSA was successful, races were held on March 6, and at the end of this season, awards were given for artificial skating, today defined as figure skating. Awards - a silver medal - was won by Miss Nachodzka, Miss Polowna and Lieutenant Rudzinski³⁵.

The youth of Lviv schools in following winter seasons still could benefit from concessionary admission cards to the skating rink. Registration for the season of 1893/94 took place in Buschak Stanislaus's canvas storehouse, located at Halicki Square. Mr Uleniecki and Mr Wullersdorf taught how to skate.³⁶

At the end of 1893, skating gained significant popularity in Lviv. Undoubtedly it was mainly due to recommendations of specific school authorities and educational institutions that enabled and encouraged young people to attend a skating rink of LSA. The popularity of skating was noticed, of course, by traders, more and more stores offered skates on sale. In addition to merchants who previously occupied the distribution of skates such as Cybulski and Weber and Antoni Halski and Stanislaw Köhler's company who sold skates in 1891, Peter Chrzastowski's company also started the business³⁷.

In 1893, the Board of LSA, ended the following year's lease period of Szumanowka, hence, it took actions to purchase the property. LSA activists used the fact that the area of a part of Szumanowka, which was designed by the government for school of forests, was not suitable for afforestation and began negotiations for its purchase. In order to purchase the land preferentially, activists presented a proposal for the promotion of physical exercises similar to the Park of Dr Jordan's in Cracow³⁸.

The land, which LSA tried to purchase, was approximately 7.5 acre and was priced for the amount of 14,000 zł. On February 9, 1894, after over a year of negotiations, the High Parliament passed a favorable decision for LSA. The Department of National was authorized to sell the part of Szumanowka for a price not lower than 10,000 zł. The distribution of the price was granted in installments, on condition that "*Skating Association will arrange there a place for gymnastic exercises for young people, similar to an institution called "Jordan's Park"*³⁹.

³⁴ „Lviv Newspaper” 1892, no 2, p. 3-4; „Ilustracya Polska” 1901, no12, p. 278.

³⁵ „Lviv Courier” 1892, no 61, p. 2; no 65, p. 4; „Lviv Newspaper” 1892, no 48, p. 4.

³⁶ „Lviv Courier” 1893, no 346, p. 3-4.

³⁷ „Lviv Courier” 1891, no 360, p. 4; 1893, no 349, p. 7.

³⁸ [Term VI, Session IV, al. 234] to the voucher shorthand reports of the Fourth Sesyi Peryodu Sixth National Parliament of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeryi with great Duchy of Cracow from the year 1892/3. 234 voucher, pp. 1-2, [in:] The National Parliament in Lviv - shorthand reports, protocols, voucher, resolutions, rules, lists of members.

³⁹ [Term VI, Session V, av 237] voucher for shorthand reports of the Fifth Sesyi Peryodu Sixth National Parliament of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeryi with the great Duchy of Cracow in 1894. Voucher 237, p 3, [in:] The National Parliament in Lviv - stenographic reports, protocols, voucher, resolutions, rules, lists of members.

Towarzystwo łyżwiarskie we Lwowie, pragnąc utworzyć instytucję podobną do istniejącej w Krakowie a znanej pod nazwą „Parku Dra Jordana“, któraby służyć mogła w ciągu całego roku do rozrywek i pożytecznych ćwiczeń dla młodzieży szkolnej, w celu rozwijania sił fizycznych, a dowiedziawszy się o zamierzonym projekcie sprzedaży gruntu wspomnianego, wniosło jeszcze w lutym b. r. prośbę do Wydziału krajowego o odstąpienie na własność gruntu tego za cenę 9.300 zł.

Z uwagi jednak, że podobna sprzedaż bez zezwolenia Wysokiego Sejmu dokonana być nie może, ponawia obecnie Towarzystwo łyżwiarskie prośbę swą do Wysokiego Sejmu, a starając się wykazać, że adaptacja gruntu tego na cel zamierzony, jako to: wystawienie niezbędnych zabudowań, założenie betonowanego rezerwoaru, sztucznego nawodnienia tegoż, urządzenie boiska, przyrządów i t. d. potrzebować będzie znacznej kapitału, przewyższającego środki Towarzystwa, prosi, by cena kupna mogła być rozłożoną na raty.

Photo. 6 The description of the proposal of LSA from 13th May 1893 concerning organizing game and fun park for youth similar Dr. Jordan's Park in Krakow in exchange for preferential purchase of Szumanowkai, source: [Term VI, Session IV, al. 234] to the voucher shorthand reports of the Fourth Sesi Peryodu Sixth National Parliament of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeryi with great Duchy of Cracow from 1892/3. 234 voucher, [in:] The National Parliament in Lviv - reports, protocols, voucher, resolutions, rules, lists of members.

On February 2, 1894, during the next festival of LSA, the best female and male skaters were awarded for their "stunning skating." Silver medals were given to Captain Reymann, Charles Hillisch and Ms. Zofia Jałowiecka and Jadwiga Stromenger⁴⁰.

Another season was full of speed skating competition. On the track of LSA, races for female and male skaters were held twice, on 13 and 27 January 1895. The first competition consisted of three races. Merunowicz, Uleniecki, the younger of Długoszowski's sisters and Bischof won. The next races on the ice were reserved only for young people under the age of 14⁴¹.

A new winter season of 1895 was mentioned in Lviv press by describing the new skating facility where skating races were organized. On February 17, 1895 at Marionowka, above Sobek Pond, racing games on the ice with numerous audience participation were carried out. There were four races: two for men, one for women and one for youth. In the biggest competition - master race - six athletes competed, Mr. Baz won, who received the grand prize - a diamond ring. The organization of competitions was favourably commented in "Lviv Courier": "*beauty and good maintenance of the track, convenient arrangement of the canteen, dressing room and covered porches should be improved, as well as a new plow horse track while cleaning snow blizzard and communication horses of the gendarmerie barracks*"⁴².

The same "Courier" mentioned another event related to skating in Lviv. It is reported that in Norwegian Hamar, on 23-24 February 1895, races of European importance would be held. Today it is known that they were the third official Quick Skating Championships, to which all skating societies in Europe and America were invited. Among the players, there were missing skaters from Lviv, though the editors had hoped for their appearance, questioning: "*whether any sportsmen from Lviv will go?*"⁴³.

The mentioned before sale of Szumanowka of LSA was not completed despite of the fulfillment of all requirements. Probably, Zdzisław Marchwicki, former vice-president and member of the Lviv National Parliament of Galicia, also tried to purchase the land. The confirmation of this fact was short and extremely laconic information in the press. It was reported

⁴⁰ „Lviv Newspaper” 1894, no 27, p. 3.

⁴¹ „Lviv Courier” 1895, no 13, p. 3; no 17, p. 4; no 26, p. 4.

⁴² „Lviv Courier” 1895, no 50, p. 5.

⁴³ Addition to „Lviv Courier” 1895, no 8, p. 3.

on July 24, 1897 that the Department of National passed the sale of the 8-acre part of Szumanowka to Marchwicki for 38,000 zł⁴⁴.

Therefore, LSA, for the needs of skating and summer sports, entered into a lease agreement of the Pond in Pelczynska street for 12 years. The agreement with Mr. Jurgens was signed on September 3, 1895 and was applied from 1 November, 1895. LSA tried to install electric lighting over 2-acre skating track before the season. During the General Assembly new Division of the Society was elected. The president was still Zygmunt Laszowski, his deputy Francis Gilareinera was elected to be his deputy. In addition, the Board consisted of Wladyslaw Deryng, Marian Hamerski, Bruno Hryniewicz, Frederick Koerber, Tadeusz Malsiz, Mentschel Ernest Joseph Padua, John Sad, Jan Stromenger, Aloysius Wallek⁴⁵.

In the season of 1895/96 skating learning in LSA was conducted before noon by Charles Domiczek. In the afternoon there were group lessons of 4 people per hour. In the following season, apart from Domiczek, Uleniecki also taught how to skate⁴⁶.

The first season of speed skating events of LSA was held at Epiphany - on January 6, 1896. Four runs were conducted at various distances. In the course of the first in the 400 meters (one lap) Arthur Bischof, among six players, turned out to be the best, the second at the finish line was John Merunowicz. The winner's time was 46 seconds. In the second run over a distance of 1200m seven athletes were involved. The three fastest laps were conducted by John Dolinski for 2 minutes and 7 seconds, who won over William Hofmokl. The third run at 400m was with difficult obstacles with a height of half a meter. Among the three participants, Stanisław Rudy reached the finish line first with 38 seconds and beat Artur Kriser. The consolation run, called the run of the defeated, was a success for Tadeusz and Stanislaw Zubrzycki. The judges of the competition were Zygmunt Laszowski, Dr. Charles Engel, Dr. Ernest Till and Boguslaw Longchamps⁴⁷.

Apart from the racing on ice, on 2 March 1896, LSA carried out the selection of the best skaters in figure skating (artificial). Among the approximately one thousand of participants three ladies: Boberska, Chmielowiczowna and Gostynska were distinguished⁴⁸.

In the spring of 1896 LSA realized their plans from a few years by starting summer sports season. This important moment in the history of the Society, and the entire sport of Lviv was recorded in "Lviv Newspaper": "*behold the day of tomorrow (June 1, 1896) Society opens summer season Panienski's Ponds (next to Pelczyński Pond), where you can get by the electric train very easily. Mainly boat sport will be cultivated, a pleasure, which in Lviv only people endowed with a very vivid imagination could cherish, because, in fact, sailing boats was quite unknown. Apart from that, there will be croquet, lawn-tennis, football, bowling and other social games*"⁴⁹.

The following season of skating activities of LSA was directed more towards competitive sports. Of course, traditionally during local holidays and days off numerous festivities were held on the ice with military music, topped with a fireworks display. On December 26, 1896 youth racings on the skating track were planned. On 24 January and 7 February 1897 the national competition of the artificial skating was arranged, first for men, later for women⁵⁰. This time figure skating competition was a better success. Shows lasted up to 5 hours, and 8 people took part in them. The jury awarded three gold medals for Irena Polowny, for

⁴⁴ "The Polish Word" 1897, no 171, p. 2; „Free Voice” 1898, no 1, p. 3.

⁴⁵ „Lviv Newspaper” 1895, no 204, p. 3; no 250, p. 3.

⁴⁶ „Lviv Newspaper” 1895, no 289, p. 3; 1896, no 273, p. 3.

⁴⁷ "The Polish Word", 1896, no 4, p. 4; no 5, p. 3; Addition to „National Paper” 1896, no 7, p. 1.

⁴⁸ Addition to „National Paper” 1896, no 62, p. 1.

⁴⁹ „Lviv Newspaper” 1896, nr 124, s. 3.

⁵⁰ „Lviv Courier" 1896, nr 348, s. 3.

Witold Lozinski and Sophia Kubalowny. Silver medals were given to Emilia Kowalska, Doczkal and Adam Hebenstreit. Bronze medal was given to H. Lozinski⁵¹.



Photo. 7. Pelczyński Pond from the period of 1895-1905,
source: <http://www.lvivcenter.org> (entry 24.05.2014).

Traditionally, on January 6, 1898 LSA planned to organize a racing on ice for youth aged 12 to 18 years old. After racing, a figure skating competition for an honorary award was scheduled. Everything indicates, however, that competition was moved to January 17. In the first race of 200 meters, Zajaczkowski won with the time of 30 seconds, the second place was taken by Fuch. In the second run girls competed, Zofia Dlugoszowska was first by doing the distance of 200 m within 36 seconds ahead of Wanda Balko. In the longest, third run of 450m, Dlugoszowski won with the time of 58.7 seconds, before Zajaczkowski⁵².

In 1898, the skating was still the only winter sport cultivated in Lviv. Its advantages became so obvious that ice skating was treated as an extremely beneficial part of gymnastics. "The Polish Word", as another Lviv newspaper, represented the values of the local skating rink "it has gained many supporters of both sexes and of all ages and has become such a need of the population during the winter months that it can not be silent about, the more that many doctors and educators are against it"⁵³.

LSA after the end of the winter season, in the middle of April 1898 inaugurated the summer season at the Panienski Ponds. As in previous years, places to play tennis, cricket, archery were prepared. The novelty was the introduction of learning to ride a bike, which was conducted by Karol Domiczek, the owner of the workshop and the storehouse of bicycles, known Lviv electrician, who also did nickelling and sharpening skates in winter⁵⁴.

In November 1898, before the start of the new winter season, LSA during the General Assembly announced their intention to join the Austrian Society of figure skating⁵⁵. At the end of 1898 the information was found in the press that the next year, known for many years

"The Polish Word" 1897, nr 38, s. 2.

⁵² „Lviv Courier" 1898, no 6, p 5; "The Polish Word" 1898, no 14, p. 3.

⁵³ "The Polish Word" 1898, no 32, p. 4.

⁵⁴ „National Paper" 1898, no 103, p. 3; "The Polish Word" 1899, no 34, p. 8.

⁵⁵ „Lviv Newspaper" 1898, no 243, p. 3.

Pelczynski Pond would be half covered, because there is nowhere to store sludge, and swimming absolutely required cleaning⁵⁶.



Photo. 8. The management of LSA, source: „Ilustracya Polska” 1901, no 12, p. 278.

January 8, 1899 the next racing in the rink of LSA took place. In four races only girls competed. In their victorious starts they went as following: Olga Schuster, Anna Gall, Ida Immerdauer and Sophia Panasiewicz⁵⁷.

The season of 1898/99 seems to be groundbreaking in the development of skating in Lviv. LSA encroaching on the 30th anniversary of its activity has taken several important initiatives. First of all, it acceded to the Austrian Society of skating, accepting its rules, and clearly singled racing on the track, known today as fast skating and artificial skating synonymous today with figure skating. The beginnings of organized skating in Lviv dated back to 1869, when LSA was set up. Obviously, before the inhabitants of Lviv benefited from the numerous rinks on local ponds but it was done in a spontaneous way. Only LSA organized a skating movement and provided it for broad masses of the public at Pelczynski Pond and Panienski Pond. In 1873, the president of the LSA was Zygmunt Laszowski who promoted skating by organizing numerous festivals, masquerades and competitions, topped the first racing on skates. Skating in Lviv gained a great popularity since the mid-80s of the nineteenth century, mainly due to Szumanowka Pond, which regularly held competitions. All this took place on holidays, in artificial light, and with the participation of the military band, creating a unique atmosphere. The breakthrough to increase the attendance at Szumanowka turned out to be the winter season of 1890-1891. Then, according to the famous rescript of the Ministry of Religions and Enlightenment of September 15, 1890, the Lviv schools collectively allowed young people to use the LSA rinks. Lviv skating found additional propaganda in hosting the family of Archduke Leopold Salvator in town, who willingly took part in the skating rink. In the 1890s LSA more efficiently organized skating competitions. Seeing the great interest of young people, it took the effort to purchase Szumanowka and organise games park similar to Dr Jordan's Park in Cracow. As a result, Panienski Pond was for the purpose of skating, and

⁵⁶ „National Paper” 1898, no 321, p. 2. In fact, Pelczynski Pond ceased to exist in 1915, when soldiers drained it, it was covered in 1921 when Pelczynska Street was rebuilt:

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/pl/uid/picture/?pictureid=1384> (data dostępu 24.05.2014).

⁵⁷ "The Polish Word" 1899, no 10, p. 5.

in 1896 summer sports season started, initially introducing croquet, lawn-tennis, rowing, football, bowling, and later cycling. In the Lviv press, information about skating outside LSA were intermittently mentioned. During this time, Marionowka Pond (later known as Goplo) on Sobek Pond was also popular. "Sokol" watched the development of skating in Lviv quite favourably, supporting it in the press (Zulinski, Wallek), without engaging in organising own rinks, although its members (Szytylinski, Domiczek) taught how to skate in LSA and organized competitions (Wallek).