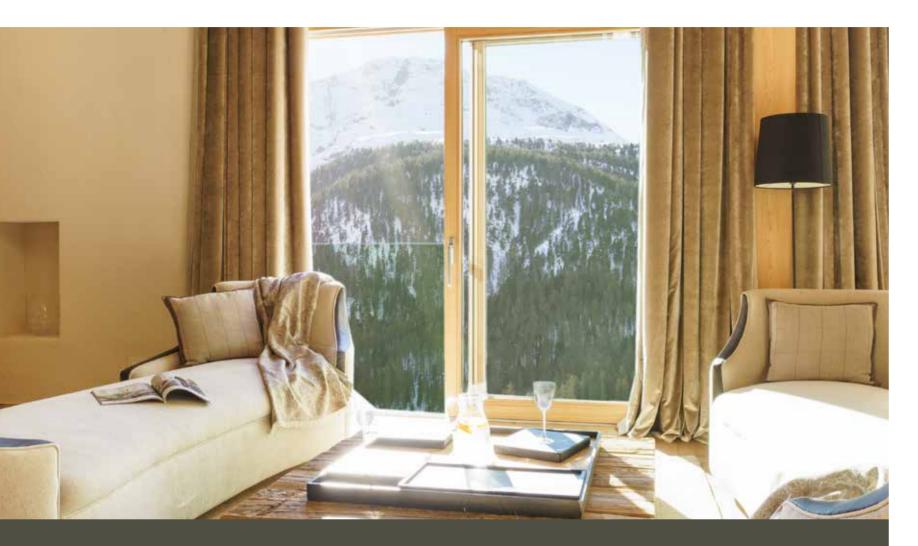
# PO TO WORLD



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Maura Wasescha

Luxury means not having to be concerned with its practical matters, but to be able to enjoy the perfect moment in the company of family or friends. Totally free of worry, knowing that in the background there is a team who will fulfill all your wishes.

This is why Maura Wasescha doesn't just have exclusive properties for sale or rent. Maura Wasescha does more. She offers the perfect luxury service, so that the magic of the moment becomes timeless enjoyment.

### 15 YEARS

15 years ago - Easter 2004 - the first issue of POLO+10 was published. Reason for a brief look back.



With the editorial staff on Hamburg's Binnenalster and the oldest polo club in continental Europe just around the corner, POLO+10 enthusiastically embarked on the great polo adventure in 2004. As horse lovers, riders and journalists for decades, it seemed to us at the time to publish a high-quality magazine for the sport, which convinces and informs with generous and excellent picture galleries, portraits and interviews, but also with many factual topics. The response

was overwhelming and so impressive all over the world that in 2012 we decided to produce an international edition of POLO+10 in English, which will be distributed all over the world with great effort and reach. Like all sports, international polo depends on sponsors and budgets. For us, our long-standing partners, companions and friends were therefore indispensable in order to be able to draw a positive and sustainable balance after 15 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the trust you have always placed in us and hope that we will be able to continue on our common path for many more years to come.

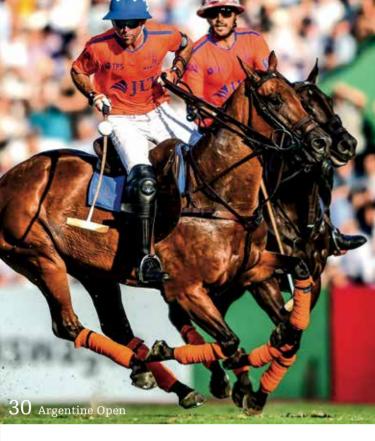
With this anniversary issue new friends are joining us and we are very happy about them. The U.S. Polo Assn. is the fashion label of the American Polo Federation and for the second time on board at POLO+10. For the first time CEO J. Michael Prince and his team supported the traditional Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup of Prince Harry, HRH The Duke of Sussex, in May as team sponsor in the dreamlike beautiful Roma Polo Club and were again there as Official Supplier at the glamorous Charity Event. This and many other polo experiences and encounters, like the one with Masedi Molosiwa, who accompanied us to the 10 "hottest polo destinations" in Africa, inspire us in a way that makes us looking forward to the next 15 years. Many thanks also for the warm congratulations and comments on the anniversary, which we publish on pages 12-15. Also in the autumn issue we will celebrate and play on the anniversary again - you can be curious.

With this edition of POLO+10 World we invite you again to an international polo tour. We wish you all the best, an eventful polo summer and look forward to seeing you again in autumn 2019. Until then you can follow all our news on www.poloplus10.com ◆

STEFANIE STÜTING
Chief Editor POLO+10 World

WWW.POLOPLUS10.COM // WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/POLOPLUS10
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### **CONTENTS**

Tournaments and people, polo history and lifestyle - the new issue of POLO+10 World brings you stories from the whole polo universe.

### **EDITORIAL** 3 **IMPRINT** 90

### **XPL POLO LEAGUE** 6

A world wide polo league is due to start in Argentina on September 21, before the start of the High Goal Season with the final at the Palermo Stadium on October 5.

### 150 YEARS POLO IN UK 7

1869 - 2019: The UK Armed Forces Polo Association (UKAFPA) celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Polo in the United Kingdom. A bunch of celebrations and events throughout the whole season accompany this jubilee.

### **GAUNTLET** 9

The "gauntlet" comes from the phrase "throw down the gauntlet", which is a physical action to issue a formal challenge. For the first time ever in the sport of polo, the GAUNTLET OF POLO trophy was played at the International Polo Club.

### **15 YEARS POLO+10** 12

Inaugurated Easter 2004, POLO+10 is celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year. Many stories, interviews and polo know-how - but more than that many friends and partners all over the world are the fabulous result. We say Thank You All!

### ST. REGIS SNOW POLO ASPEN 16

The exclusive St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship in Aspen Valley / Colorado is the only snow polo event in North America.

### KITZBÜHEL 24

The team of the Kitzbühel newcomer Cîroc Vodka with Sebastian Schneberger, Aki van Andel and Valentin Novillo Astrada wins the 17th Bendura Bank Snow Polo World Cup 2019 in Kitzbühel. Schneberger is now the second player (next to Johnny Good) to have won Kitzbühel three times.

### **ARGENTINE OPEN** 30

The multiple champion La Dolfina Sancor Seguros (40) defeated Las Monjitas (37) by 17-12 and was consecrated six times champion of the Argentine Polo Open 2018.

### **FEMALE ARGENTINE OPEN 40**

Team La Dolfina Brava has won the best and most important polo tournament for women all over the world for the second time after beating El Overo Z7 UAE.

### LIA SALVO 46

A life for the sport of polo. Lia Salvo has become a leader to make women's polo popular over the last years.

### THAI PINK POLO 50

The equestrian range at Thai Polo & Equestrian Club was recently filled with good hearted people for the 'Queen's Cup Pink Polo 2019', women adventure polo racing and charity to donate to The Queen Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer Foundation.

### **THAI HUA HIN** 56

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Beach Polo for the Princess PA's Cup in Hua Hin / Thailand.

### DUBAI 62

Fast, competitive and high class beach polo at the Tonino Lamborghini Residences Dubai – Beach Polo Cup Dubai 2018, presented by Oriental Pearls.

### **SENTEBALE POLO CUP ROME** 68

The Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup 2019 took place in the beautiful setting of the Roma Polo Club. Fast polo and fundraising for the charity project Sentebale of the Duke of Sussex.

### **AFRICA'S TOP TEN IN POLO** 78

Famous polo destinations in Africa are looking back on a long tradition, some of them are up and coming. Which are the Top Ten polo tournaments on the African continent? And how did these events develop? Let's see...

### **40 GOAL LUCCHESE** 86

Polo players and fans convened at the renowned International Polo Club Palm Beach (IPC) for the annual Lucchese 40-Goal Polo Challenge.

### **LINE OF THE BALL** 86

The rule No.1 in polo sports is the "Line of the Ball" - the so-called right of way.

6 POLO+10 WORLD • MAGAZINE MAGAZINE MAGAZINE 7

### **NEWS**

Current news and facts from the world of European and international polo.



### "EXTREME POLO LEAGUE" (XPL) STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

An eventually world wide polo league is due to start in Argentina on September 21, before the start of the High Goal Season with the final at the Palermo Stadium on October 5.

It is the Extreme Polo League (XPL) which will be administered by EBI Media Holdings Ltd founded by an Argentine, former low handicap player, Juan Zavalia. The tournament will not interfere with other major tournaments and aspires to have 10 or more stages around the world for teams of minimum 28 goal per team and minimum four handicap players.

money coming from sales of franchises, TV, marketing, attendances, etc. Some rule changes will be made to presumably make the game more dynamic and interesting to watch. Goals scored from a minimum of 80 yards will be worth double. Players can have a maximum of 12 horses per stage and teams can change players during the match. Former NBA basketball player Pepe Sanchez is

Franchises have so far been bought by La Dolfina Polo Ranch (with Adolfo Cambiaso and his son 'Poroto'), Ellerstina (possibly with two teams), Las Monjitas, La Aguada, La Ensenada, La Albertina and Alegria for the first two years, while USPA (US Polo Association) with an entirely US team and HPA (Hurlingham Polo Association) with a British team are also close to join. As in Formula One motor racing, teams will earn points at each stage and at the end of the year receive money according to their position. In the first year, Zavalia says 740,000 dollars will be distributed with the

money coming from sales of franchises, TV, marketing, attendances, etc. Some rule changes will be made to presumably make the game more dynamic and interesting to watch. Goals scored from a minimum of 80 yards will be worth double. Players can have a maximum of 12 horses per stage and teams can change players during the match. Former NBA basketball player Pepe Sanchez is Zavalia's partner and in charge of the financing. For next year, the sum to divide among the teams is expected to be 1,180,000 dollars. The general belief is that this projected tournament is purely a commercial arrangement and that it may not be successful. Zavalia worked for 20 years in an investment bank and was part of the Genii Capital Group when it owned the Lotus team when it was racing in Formula One from 2008 to 2014. "Something like the XPL could not have been done before when the media was only interested in the attendance at matches before writing about the sport. But now they have the backing of OTTs (Netflix)."



### 150 YEARS POLO IN THE UK

1869 - 2019: The UK Armed Forces Polo Association (UKAFPA) celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polo in the United Kingdom. A bunch of celebrations and events throughout the whole season accompany this jubilee.

The first acknowledged game from whence it all began was in 1869, ("hockey on horseback" as it was referred to then) was organised by officers stationed at Aldershot, one of whom had read about a form of the game in India, in a copy of The Field magazine. Etiquette, followed by rules developed very quickly afterwards, as did the emergence of polo being played at many Clubs, Hurlingham being amongst the first (1874).

Mark Cann, a Trustee of the UKAFPA Charity, is the principal coordinator of Polo150 activity: "2019 is a major year for the UK Armed Forces Polo Association. During Summer 2019, we will host a series of events to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars starting polo in England and defining the modern game. The celebration of Polo150 involves events all over the world, is designed to the polo world and endorses the five key messages: Polo has a unique connection with the military in UK until today,

polo is philanthropic, men and women compete equally at the highest level, polo is a significant employer across the world and last but not least the incredible and unique polo ponies." The main UK celebrations are around the existing Chapple Cup series, 8-14 July 2019, other events will take place outside this period both in UK and globally.

Principal Polo150 activities: Golden Polo Balls will be distributed to influencers of polo, this will include top polo clubs, players, sponsors and governing bodies around the world in each polo playing nation. A Hackett Photo Exhibition in London, Poloafrica Tour to UK at Cirencester Polo Club (22 June), and Guards Polo Club (23 June), the Finals Day of the Royal Windsor Cup is traditionally attended by Her Majesty the Queen. International Matches in UK, Asia, USA and Southafrica as well as the Chapple Cup Series Matches at Sandhurst, Tidworth PC and Guards PC. www.ukafpa.org.uk



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### 1 MILLION DOLLAR FOR THE FIRST GAUNTLET OF POLO CHAMPION

The "gauntlet" comes from the phrase "throw down the gauntlet", which is a physical action to issue a formal challenge. For the first time ever in the sport of polo, the GAUNTLET OF POLO trophy was played at the International Polo Club.

The GAUNTLET OF POLO presented by the United States Polo Association is the sport's newest and most challenging tournament series in the US with an unprecedented \$1Million prize purse, and pits the world's top polo teams in a fierce competition to be crowned GAUNTLET Champion. The GAUNTLET OF POLO consists of three major tournaments. It officially began with the C.V. Whitney Cup in February, continued with the USPA Gold Cup at the end of March and finished on April 21 with the US Open Polo Championship at the International Polo Club Palm Beach (IPC) on the U.S. Polo Assn. stadium field in Wellington, Florida.

Pilot polo team with Facundo and Gonzalito Pieres, Curtis Pilot and Matias Gonzalez secured its place in history as the inaugural winner of the GAUNTLET OF POLO title 2019 with a score of 12-7 over Las Monjitas by winning the U.S. Open Polo Championship, the third leg of the GAUNTLET series. The GAUNTLET was created to increase

team participation and attendance, enhance fan experience through interactive events, build public awareness for polo, establish a hero campaign to feature some of the best players in the world, and drive event viewership on CBS Sports. "The GAUNTLET will challenge the world's top players and horses to strive for the most prestigious trophies in the United States and provide a new platform for athletes, teams, sponsors and polo fans," said Robert Puetz, CEO of the USPA."

Over the three GAUNTLET months, Pilot played against the highest level of skilled athletes and ponies and managed to clinch wins in all three GAUNTLET events "It's amazing to win, it's like a fairy tale for all of us, the whole team. I started playing polo when I was 49 years old. It's been an amazing three months and I have to give a shout-out to Mia Bray, a young up-and-coming female polo player, who covered three chukker for me," said Curtis Pilot, team owner. www.uspolo.org



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12 POLO+10 WORLD • JUBILEE CONGRATS



# COLUMNIE Edition COLUMNIE Edition

Inaugurated Easter 2004, POLO+10 is celebrating its 15. anniversary this year. Many stories, interviews and polo know-how - but more than that many friends and partners all over the world are the fabulous result. We say Thank You All!

BY POLO+10

"On behalf of the Federation of International Polo we extend our heartiest congratulations to POLO+10 on its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You have always been on the top of the list for serving the polo community with your quality information, articles and photography. We wish you all the success for many more years to come."

HORACIO ARECO, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLO (FIP)





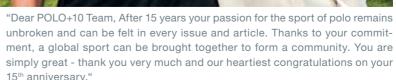
"Happy birthday POLO+10! With you in charge of our magazines' layout and publications we are sure that our members and customers all around the world will be blown away by quality and professionalism. We wish you all the best for the coming years!!"

MORGAN VAN OVERBROEK & SÉBASTIEN LE PAGE, OWNERS POLO PARK & COUNTRY CLUB ZÜRICH



"Congratulations POLO+10 and Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Having known your magazine since the start, I have seen it grow and improve over the years. It has also been a pleasure working with you on several polo events all over the World. Let's continue the good work promoting polo over many more years to come."

TONY RAMIREZ, POLO PHOTOGRAPHER, IMAGES OF POLO



JO & KIKI SCHNEIDER, POLO CLUB SYLT

"Hello Stefanie, congratulations to you and your team on your anniversary! And, above all, great recognition, because today your magazine is one of the top polo publications worldwide. You will convince the world of polo with comprehensive information and serious research, and polo fans with beautiful pictures and stories. All this is certainly a good basis for the future of your magazine. Good luck and see you soon!"

DR. PIERO DILLIER, VICE-PRESIDENT FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLO

JUBILEE CONGRATS • POLO+10 WORLD 13

NICHOLAS J.A. COLQUHOUN-DENVERS,

PAST PRESIDENT FIP

"It gives me great pleasure



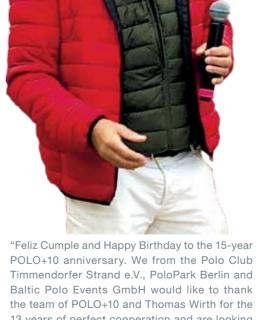
 $\hbox{``15 years POLO+10-how time passes. I still remember today the first issue that Thomas}\\$ and I launched together! POLO+10 was founded at the same time as Facebook. The reach of the American social media company has not been reached, but today POLO+10 has a similar significance for polo sports. You look forward to the magazines and are provided with the most important news online. I look forward to the coming years!" KARSTEN WEHMEIER, BERENBERG BANK



"Happy 15th Anniversary POLO+10. On behalf of Grand Champions and Aspen Valley Polo Clubs we would like to congratulate you on your first 15 years and here is to another successful 15 years. We are very thankful of what you do for polo around the world and appreciate the coverage you give our clubs, tournaments and players."

MELISSA GANZI, OWNER GRAND CHAMPIONS POLO CLUB





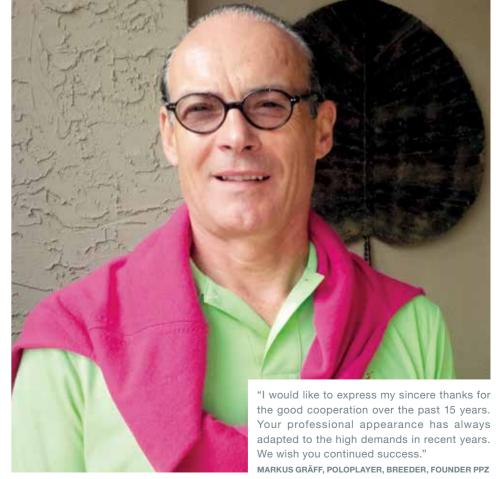
13 years of perfect cooperation and are looking forward to many beautiful issues and beautiful reports of the worldwide polo tournaments, in which POLO+10 is regularly represented. To the next 15 years!"

THOMAS STRUNCK

PRESIDENT POLO CLUB TIMMENDORFER STRAND E.V.



"There are often only just a few specialised sports publications that capture the readers attention immediately. From the iconic front cover images to the very last page, POLO+10 does just that for the sport of polo. Superb photography and gripping articles, and always something new and different. I always look forward to next issue." JAN-ERIK FRANCK, "THE VOICE OF POLO" COMMENTATOR, PLAYER, COACH



# STATE REFERENCE SINGLE SINGLE SINGLE SINGLE CHAMPION POLO CHAMPION SHIP

The exclusive St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship in Aspen Valley/Colorado is the only snow polo event in North America.

> BY SHARON ROBB PHOTOGRAPHY NICK TININENKO





### Winning teams of the World Snow Polo Championship in Aspen Valley

2018, Richard Mille (Marc Ganzi, Martin Pepa, Pablo MacDonough) 2017, U.S. Polo Assn. (Grant Ganzi, Juancito Bollini, Nic Roldan) 2016 Flexjet (Melissa Ganzi, Jesse Bray, Jason Crowder) 2015, U.S. Polo Assn. (Grant Ganzi, Nic Roldan, Juancito Bollini) 2014, Piaget (Marc Ganzi, Jeff Hall, Nic Roldan) 2013, St. Regis (Nacho Figueras, Nic Roldan, Brandon Phillips)

Above: Action shot: Marc Ganzi of Richard Mille works the near side shot with Juan Bollini of Flexjet defending. Right: 1 In the top action, Gonzalito Pieres of Blade and Bow playing the ball with Julio Gracida of St. Regis defending 2 Marc Ganzi of Richard Mille watching the action behind him 3 Aspen Valley Polo Club president and Blade and Bow player Brian Boyd with wife Karina and Cece Armstrong 4 Celebrity player Saye Yabandeh 5 Nacho Figueras of St. Regis posing for a selfie with a fan 6 The event's disc jockey kept the VIP entertained 7 Blade and Bow teammates Brian Boyd (hitting the ball) and Carlitos Gracida work together 8 Nic Roldan of U.S. Polo Assn. hits away.





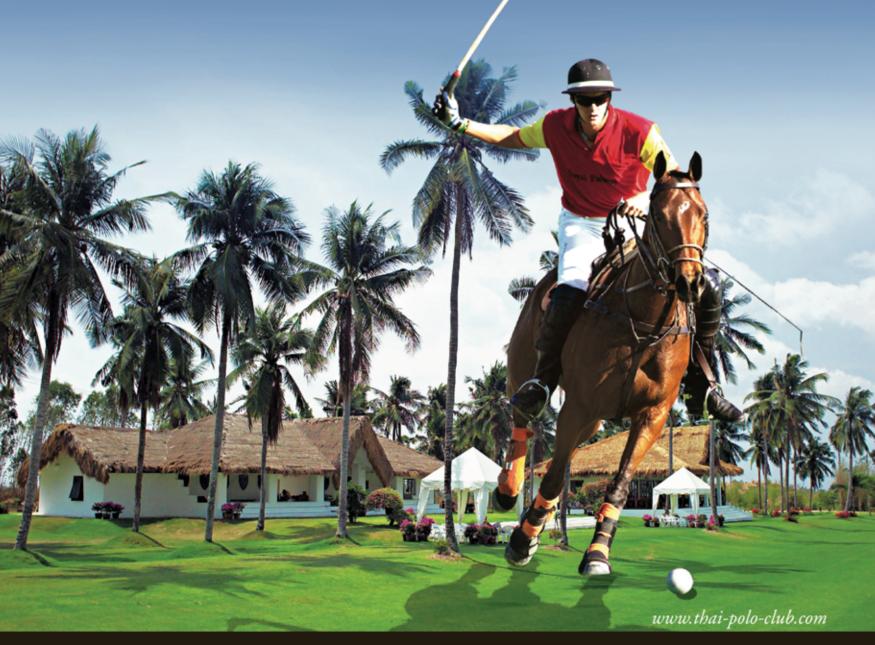






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Craig Sakin Memorial / July 6 - July 8 The USPA North American Cup Draw / July 12 The ChukkerTV Challenge Cup / July 13 - July 15 The USPA North American Cup / July 14 - July 20 The USPA Silver Cup Draw / July 20 The Basalt Handicap / July 20 - July 22 The USPA National Arena Handicap / July 24 - August 7 The USPA Silver Cup / July 24 - August 11

The Emma Challenge Cup / July 27 - July 29

The ChukkerTV Arena Challenge / July 31

The High Alpine Cup / August 3 - August 5 Arena World Cup / August 8 - August 15

The Rocky Mountain Open / August 10 - August 18

The Mount Sopris Cup / August 17 - August 19

The Carbondale Classic / August 24 - August 26

The Polo Fest Denver / August 31

The Triple Crown of Polo Trophy / September 1 - September 8



21 One of the many social dinners during the weeklong tournament 22 Marc Ganzi of Richard Mille hugs Alejandro Novillo Astrada after the game 23 Pablo MacDonough of Richard Mille works the ball downfield with Juan Bollini of Flexjet defending.

In an exciting finish, first-year team Richard Mille won the coveted St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship at Rio Grande Park. In front of a record crowd including a sold out VIP tent and worldwide ChukkerTV audience, Richard Mille (Marc Ganzi, Martin Pepa, Pablo MacDonough), making its debut in the prestigious six-team tournament, defeated Flexjet (Melissa Ganzi, Alejandro Novillo Astrada, Juan Bollini), 6-5. Argentine 10-goaler Pablo MacDonough was named Most Valuable Player for the tournament final. It was his second major tournament win in two weeks after capturing the 125th Argentine Open with La Dolfina Sancor Seguros for the sixth consecutive year with Juan Martin Nero, Pelon Stirling and Adolfo Cambiaso. "I am glad Pablo won, I am happy for him, he just doesn't win enough in polo, this is good for his career," joked Flexjet's Juan Bollini. Sponsor Richard Mille and MacDonough were making their snow polo debuts. MacDonough scored a gamehigh three goals and Pepa added two. The team was also awarded a game-clinching penalty-one in the fourth and final chukker. "Snow polo was amazing, just amazing," MacDonough said. "I think our team played great, and the other team, too, but we were the lucky ones to win."

Richard Mille was the official timekeeper for the St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship. Mille created the RM 53-01 Tourbillon Pablo MacDonough for its Brand Ambassador. Marc Ganzi, after outstanding defensive round robin and final games, was named the Intermix Tournament Most Valuable Player. It was the first time Ganzi made it to the final and won the tournament. Intermix is a national women's clothing store, with one based in Aspen off Hyman Avenue. "It was a great game, wide open with lots of flow, and everyone played well, but the horses were the real stars," Marc Ganzi said. Kit Kat, a 7-year-old bay mare by Lion's Quest out of Macuca, owned and bred by Wellington, Fla.-based Santa Rita Polo Farm, and played by Alejandro Novillo Astrada, was selected Best Playing Pony.

Players and sponsors were treated each night to special dinners including Thursday's exquisite Midnight Supper at St. Regis' seasonal EMP Winter House featuring vintage winter decor and classic Swiss menu, details that honor traditions that date back over a century. For the first time in event history the tournament will feature the inaugural Snow Ball to benefit the Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation at St. Regis Hotel. "Polo is one of our brand pillars," said Lisa Holladay, global brand leader for St. Regis.

With the breathtaking 12,965-foot summit of Mount Sopris as a backdrop, Aspen Valley Polo Club is one of the busiest and fastest growing USPA-sanctioned clubs in the nation with a membership increase of 75 percent over five seasons. Since Marc and Melissa Ganzi founded the club in 2014, polo has increased in popularity in Aspen and surrounding cities with the club's offerings of various weekly grass and arena tournaments, Gladiator Tuesdays and Asado, Kids Polo, The Polo School and Polo On Demand.

www.aspenvalleypoloclub.com



World Cup 2019 in Kitzbühel. Schneberger is now the second player (next to Johnny Good) to have won Kitzbühel three times.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY CYMON SKINNER, REINHARDT & SOMMER, BRANISLAV SINSIC, POLO+10

# ITZBUHEL

























### **RANKING TEAMS 2019**

### 1. CÎROC VODKA (+12)

- Sebastian Schneberger (+2)
- Aki van Andel (+3)

### 2. ENGEL & VÖLKERS (+12)

- Kutlay Yaprak (+1)
- □ Agustin Kronhaus (+4)
- Adrian Laplacette Jr. (+7)

### 3. CORUM (+10/+13)

- Eckhardt Juls (0) / Lukas Sdrenka (+3)
- Patrick Maleitzke (+4)

### 4. BERND GRUBER (+10)

- Eduardo Greghi (0)
- Grant Ganzi (+3)
- Pierre Henri Ngoumou (+7)

### 5. BENDURA BANK (+12)

- Melissa Ganzi (+1)
- Tito Gaudenzi (+3)

### 6. MASERATI (+10)

- Marc Aberle (+1)
- Caspar Crasemann (+4)
- Thomas Winter (+5)

1 The unique backdrop of the "Wilder Kaiser" at Kitzbühel in Austria 2 Polo fans and fashion 3 Team Maserati with Thomas Winter against Team Cîroc Vodka 4 Team Bernd Gruber with Grant Ganzi, Eduardo Greghi, Pierre Henri Ngoumou and Interior Designer Bernd Gruber with his wife (left) 5 Second place for Team Engel & Völkers with Adrian Laplacette, Agustin Kronhaus and Kutlay Yaprak 6 Patrick Maleitzke (Corum) and Grant Ganzi (Bernd Gruber) 7 Lukas Sdrenka and friend, Caspar Crasemann, Niklas Steinle and Adrian Laplacette 8 Melissa Ganzi (Bendura Bank) 9 Klarina Pichler 10 TV Moderator Tijen Karadag with her husband Steffen Lange 11 Alejandro Novillo Astrada, Melissa Ganzi and Dr. Andreas Insam (Bendura Bank) 12 Models from Corum 13 Photoshooting with Lukas Sdrenka, his friend and dog.

















14 Team Corum / below timekeeper Christian Dunkelberg, speaker Jan-Erik Franck and umpire Mark Holmes 15 Thomas Winter 16 Valerie Zoske and Branislav Sinsic 17 Live Entertainment at the Kitzbuehel Country Club 18 Dr. Andreas Insam and his wife 19 Marc Aberle and Caspar Crasemann.

High tension and anticipation were in the air right from the start on the final day of the 17<sup>th</sup> Bendura Bank Snow Polo World Cup 2019 and hundreds of spectators waited impatiently for the decisive matches in bright polo weather. After the glamorous Players' Night Gala on Saturday evening, everybody was curious about the final placings and who would take home the coveted 2019 trophy.

Six players from four nations faced each other with Team Engel & Völkers and the Kitzbühel newcomer Cîroc Vodka in the final. Cîroc Vodka teamcaptain Sebastian Schneberger, who has already won twice here in recent years, naturally played with his team to victory. Also the trio of E.&V. with team captain Kutlay Yaprak, Agustin Kronhaus and 7-goaler Adrian Laplacette, who lost in the final against Bendura Bank in 2018. Adrian Laplacette, who normally has to be watched very closely, was repeatedly thrown out of concept and stopped by Aki van Andel, so that Valentin Novillo Astrada always got a clear path for his team Cîroc Vodka. With a 6-3 at the end of the third chukker, a trend was already emerging. Agustin Kronhaus vehemently tried to bring his team back into the game. But at a final score of 9-5, Cîroc Vodka was able to cheer for victory at the final bell. Cîroc Vodka Captain Sebastian Schneberger: "It was a great tournament and I am overjoyed that we can take the title home with us. It was a tough match, but we played well together and did what we set out to do." In the second

match of the day for third place and the Kitzbühel Country Club Cup the teams Corum and Bernd Gruber met in fast and tight chukkers. Solid teamwork and strong defensive work on both sides led from the second chukker to scarce scores. Goal for goal it went ahead in a balanced and highly exciting game. In the last chukker finally Corum and especially team captain Patrick Maleitzke could return to the superior form of the game and realized with the decisive goal the 7-6 final score and thus the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

In the decision for the 5<sup>th</sup> place Team Bendura Bank and the "German" Team Maserati faced each other in the first match of the day. Right after the starting bell Bendura Banks team captain Melisssa Ganzi, who leaves the tournament with a remarkable number of goals, fired the first 15 yard penalty shot into the goal. Thomas Winter, Caspar Crasemann and Marc Aberle were the ones to hold out. Finally, Bendura Bank turned the score up inexorably and with a spectacular final goal from Tito Gaudenzi, the title sponsor's team secured 5<sup>th</sup> place with a final score of 13-6.5. Thomas Winter, who has played at Snow Polo in Kitzbühel from the very start and has long been a legend here: "The conditions were perfect this year, the pitch was outstanding and it was unbelievable fun to play here. A very special event, simply unique."

www.kitzbuehelpolo.com

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30 POLO+10 WORLD • ARGENTINE POLO OPEN • POLO+10 WORLD 31



ARGENTINE POLO OPEN • POLO+10 WORLD 33



Adolfo Cambiaso (left) on his way to victory at the HSBC Argentine Polo Open 2018.

34 POLO+10 WORLD • ARGENTINE POLO OPEN • POLO+10 WORLD 35



### RANKING TEAMS

### 1. LA DOLFINA (+40)

Juan Martin Nero (+10)
Pablo MacDonough (+10)
Pelon Stirling (+10)
Adolfo Cambiaso (+10)

### 2. LAS MONJITAS (+37)

Facundo Sola (+9) Hilario Ulloa (+10) Guillermo Caset (+10) Santiago Toccalino (+8)

### 3. ELLERSTINA JOHOR (+40)

Pablo Pieres (+10) Gonzalo Pieres (+10) Nicolas Pieres (+10) Facundo Pieres (+10)

### 4. LA DOLFINA POLO RANCH (+31)

Diego Cavanagh (+8) Guillermo Terrera (+8) Julián de Lusarreta (+7) Ignatius Du Plessis (+8)

### 5. LA AGUADA (+31)

Alejandro Muzzio (+8) Alfredo Bigatti (+8) Alejandro Novillo Astrada (+8) Diego Araya (+7)

### 6. CRÍA YATAY WEWORK (+32)

Valerio Zubiaurre (+8) Cristian Laprida (+8) Joaquín Pittaluga (+8) Ignacio Laprida (+8)

### 7. LA ALBERTINA ABU DHABI (+31)

Nicolás Roldán (+7) Francisco Elizalde (+8) Ignacio Toccalino (+8) Alfredo Cappella Barabucci (+8)

### 8. LA ENSENADA (+28)

Juan Britos (+7) Juan M. Zubía (+7) Facundo Fernández Llorente (+7) Jerónimo del Carril (+7)

### 9. ALEGRÍA - LA IRENITA (+32)

Frederick Mannix (+9) Juan M. Zavaleta (+8) Clemente Zavaleta (+7) Matías Mac Donough (+8)

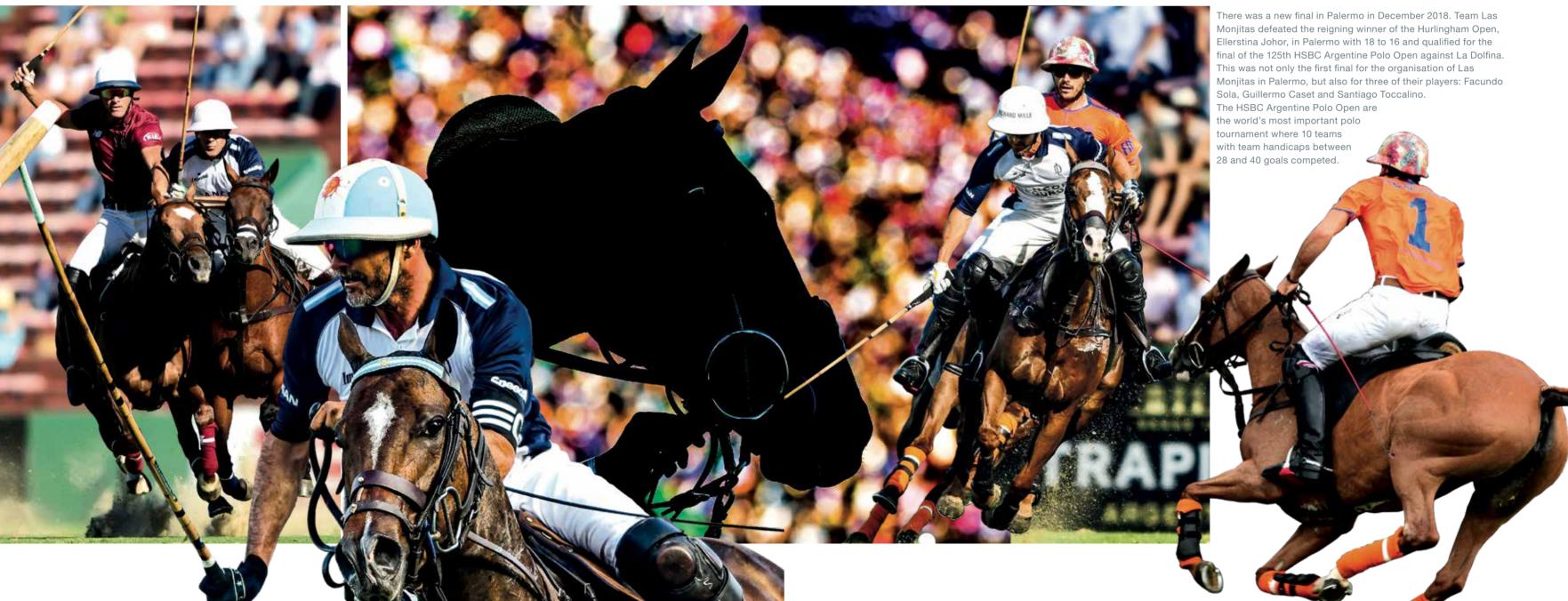
### 10. LA CAÑADA ANGIOCOR DAILY RACING FORM (+28)

Agustín Obregón (+6) Ezequiel Martínez Ferrario (+8) Sebastián Merlos (+8) Jared Zenni (+6)









# & PRIN **EDITORIAL**

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SOCIAL MEDIA

NEWSPAPER

EMPLOYEE NEWSPAPER

# E PUBLISHING **ORPORA**



1 Our photographer Nacho Corbalán 2 Maximum joy at Team La Dolfina Sancor Seguros 3 Dr. Piero Dillier, Sébastien Le Page. Thomas Winter 4 Raymond Rafool with friends 5 Federico Levi from Polo Hub 6 Celebrating fans - people and polofans from all over the world attend the Palermo Open every year.

Before, La Dolfina could already win two of the three titles of High Goal Handicap 2018 in Argentina. The team had also won the Tortugas Open – while Ellerstina Johor was left with the remaining – Hurlingham Open. La Dolfina won their 12<sup>th</sup> title in their 18th final (14 in a row) in 19 editions of the Palermo Open since the club's inception in 2000. Las Monjitas have been the unexpected opponent the final, but could not celebrate their first final victory in Palermo. La Dolfina showed its power and again managed to win the Cup. In the first chukkers Cambiaso's team was surpassed by Las Monjitas, who with two excellent initial chukkers entered the third with a difference of three goals, thanks to an effective Guillermo Caset, the great figure of his team in the day and surely in the season.

From there, La Dolfina adjusted its defense and with Cambiaso as in his best times (effective on penalties and unstoppable before the rival wings) settled back on the court and in the result. Two partial winning 3 to 0 (the third and fourth chukker, with six goals from Cambiaso) put La Dolfina in advantage. With the result in their favor, La Dolfina managed the 6th chukker with 5 goals ahead. That advantage would already be irreplaceable for Las Monjitas, even though they continued fighting until the end. La Dolfina continues to enlarge the myth and won a new title, the sixth in a row. Uncomparable!

After a speech by Eduardo Novillo Astrada, President of the AAP, the awards ceremony began with AAP Vice-President Delfín Uranga and Bari del Valle Sosa, President of title sponsor HSBC, among others. Adolfo Cambiaso was awarded the Gonzalo Heguy Trophy, which he received from Jesus Heguy, and the Copa Fomento Equino as "Best Player of the Final" and "Best Mounted Player of the Final". Guillermo Caset, who scored 45 goals during the tournament, was awarded the Javier Novillo Astrada Trophy for "Best Scorer". The Gonzalo Tanoira Award for "Best Player of the Tournament" went to Facundo Pieres, while Juan M. Nero received the Fair Play Award for the "Most Disciplined Player of the Tournament". of the tournament. In the horses category, the Lady Susan Townley Cup for "Best Playing Pony" in the final went to Dolfina B09 Quartetera, played by Adolfo Cambiaso. Dolfina B09 Cuartetera also received the award of the Argentine Association of Polo Horse Breeders as well as the prize of the Argentine Landgesellschaft. The award was presented by both presidents, Santiago Ballester and Daniel Pelegrina.

Featuring the highest number of ten-goal players in the sport, Argentina has long been home to the best polo in the world, and the annual Argentine Open in Palermo/Buenos Aires is considered the most important interclub championship going.

www.aapolo.com

40 POLO+10 WORLD • II. ABIERTO ARGENTINO DE POLO FEMENINO • POLO+10 WORLD 41



II. ABIERTO ARGENTINO DE POLO FEMENINO • POLO+10 WORLD 43







1 Great joy for the winning team La Dolfina Brava 2 Qualifying game 3+4 After La Dolfina Brava had lost once against El Overo Z7 UAE in the preliminary round, they won in the final scarcely with a goal.

### **RANKING TEAMS**

### 1. La Dolfina Brava (+31)

Mía Cambiaso (+6) Milagros Fernández Araujo (+7) Carina Clarkin (+10) Candelaria Fernández Araujo (+8)

### 2. El Overo Z7 UAE (+32)

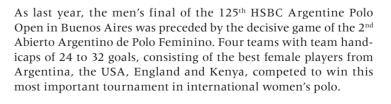
Clara Cassino (+7)
Hazel Jackson-Gaona (+9)
Lía Salvo (+9)
Sarah Wiseman (+7)

### 3. Alegría - HPA 1875 (+24) Annabel McNaught-Davis (+6) Emma Tomlinson Wood (+5)

Tamara Fox (+7) Lottie Lamacraft (+6)

### 4. Santa María de Lobos (+24)

Dawn Laurel Jones (+6)
Paige McCabe (+6)
Tiva Gross (+6)
Courtney Asdourian (+6)



On this sunny and very warm afternoon, La Dolfina Brava paid back the unbeaten El Overo Z7 UAE women for their defeat of the second matchday and won with 9-8 goals. Mía Cambiaso, Milagros Fernández Araujo, Carina Clarkin and Candelaria Fernández Araujo were at the top of the podium in Palermo for the second time.

From start to finish, the final was very close and competitive. Every goal counted. After El Overo had won the first Chukker 2-0 and was able to defend this advantage until the fifth Chukker, it was clear to the defending champions that they would have to break this lead if they wanted to win the Cup again. And so it was. In a spectacular fifth chukker, La Dolfina Brava caught up with El Overo. The last Chukker was therefore as competitive as the whole match and only shortly before the final bell Candelaria Fernandez Araujo could score the decisive goal with a backhand shot. At the same time, the El Overo Z7 UAE's women had not been able to turn two good chances into one goal in the final part of the game.

At the awards ceremony, the trophies were presented to the winners and finalists by the Chief of Staff of the Intendencia de Cañuelas, Marisa Fassi, together with AAP President Eduardo Novillo Astrada, Vice-President Delfín Uranga and others. Nina Clarkin was named "Best Player of the Final", while Clara Cassino received the "Fair Play Award". The prize for "Best Playing Pony" went to Fax Cherokee, played by Mía Cambiaso.

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46 POLO+10 WORLD • PORTRAIT POLO+10 WORLD 47



### LIA SALVO

A life for the sport of polo. Lia Salvo has become a leader to make women's polo popular over the last years.

BY ERIC WEIL PHOTOGRAPHY KATERINA MORGAN

It was due to the enthusiasm and hard will of Lia Salvo which has finally got the Argentine Polo Association to become serious about women playing the game. Now, with a women's handicap of nine she is the third best player in the world.

Lia became interested in the game as soon as she was given a horse when five years old and saw her father Hector, a six handicap, playing in America, in their small home town in the Province of Buenos Aires. But her father told her: "This is unfortunately not a game for women. I love you riding a horse, but forget about polo. I don't know any other girls playing."

But when he took her to Buenos Aires, where her two sisters were studying, she found about 15 other girls interested in the game. "Some were the daughters of high handicap players who had horses and staff ('petiseros'). Today the Argentine Polo Association has finally taken them seriously. But to become a leader to make women's polo popular was never in my mind," Lia said.

Lia is now 31, has a women's 9-handicap and is the third-best in the world. Last year she married her fiancé after eight years. She has no children yet and is traveling all over the world to countries where more women's polo is played. She was in a hurry during our interview as she had just returned from Singapore and was due to leave for the US the following week.

In Argentina, Lia became famous only last year when she was the first women to play in a men's high goal tournament, the Jockey Club Open by the invitation of Adolfo Cambiaso and his Argentine Open champion La Dolfina team. The local media widely reported about the event and Lia was mentioned by Guiness as the first woman to play in a men's open tournament.

Since 2017, there is an Argentine Women's Open with female players from other parts of the world taking part as, for example, England's number one Nina Vestey-Clarkin and Mia Cambiaso, daughter of the world's top player Adolfo Cambiaso who was always in favour of women playing polo.

# POLO STUD SCHOCKEMÖHLE







SCHOCKE



### You are successful as a polo player all over Europe. How did the 2018

This year was very successful for us. I have played in Chantilly/France, Barcelona, England and Kitzbühel and have brought home many victories. I am particularly proud that many of our horses were awarded the title "Best Playing Pony" at

### Which bloodlines do you breed? What is special about your horses?

We breed with bloodlines of the world famous horses of La Dolfina and Ellerstina. Our horses are direct relatives of Dolfina Lapa, Dolfina Cuarteterra and Irenita Golondnina. Most of our horses have already played in the Camera de Disputados, Hurlingham, Tortugas and the Argentine Open in Palermo.

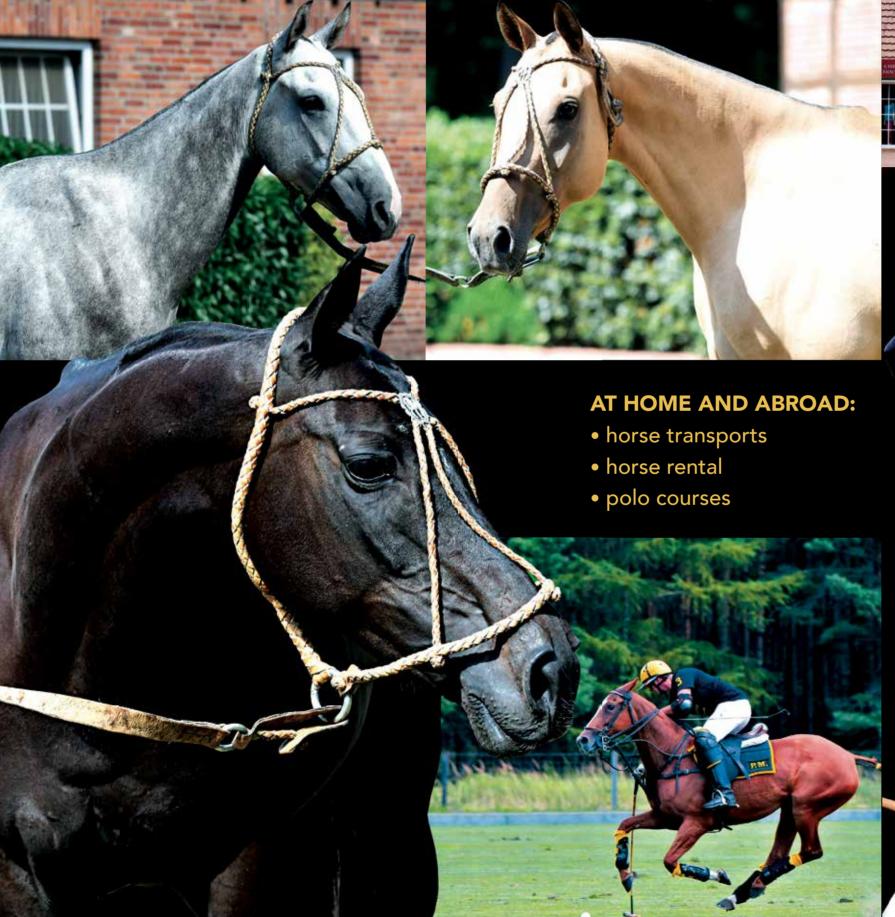
### How many horses are for sale?

There are always 30 to 40 horses for sale, so there is a suitable horse for everyone. We always have a large selection - for every player and every level.

### What does your Polo Club Mühlen offer? Who is at the right address here? At Polo Club Mühlen I offer polo courses

for beginners and advanced players. Here, polo players can train on all game levels, of course also on horses borrowed from us. During the season we organize numerous polo tournaments, during the week we play Club Chukker regularly. Many professional players are stationed in the Polo Club Mühlen with their horses and train here.

Patrick Maleitzke Training, Purchase and Sale of Horses Münsterlandstraße 53 49439 Mühlen E-Mail: vschockemoehle@gmx.de Mobile: +49 151 25 24 23 86 and +49 151 40 04 04 39 www.pologestuet-schockemöhle.de





# 













**5** Teams, sponsors and guests celebrating the prizegiving ceremony **6** The successful and renowned polo coach Rege Ludwig leads the polo school at the Thai Polo Club since many years **7** Thrilling ladies's chukkers in the wonderful setting of the club **8** Elegant VIP charity dinner **9** Harald Link (right), owner of the Thai Polo Club, has played polo all over the world since decades **10** The tournament at Pattaya is always an occasion to celebrate fashion and styles.

The Pink Polo 2019 was co-oranized by Dr.Harald Link President of B.Grimm Group and President of the Thailand Equestrian Federation (TEF), along with Nunthinee Tanner, Thailand's first female polo player and initiator of the charity lady polo tournament, together with BMW Thailand and U.S. Polo Assn.

The Pink Polo marked the 11<sup>th</sup> year of women polo match in Thailand. It was a feast for the senses. Some famous faces and many good hearted people entered to access the exhilarating sport including H.E.Georg Schmidt, German Ambassador to Thailand, Ms.Siriyos Devahastin Na Ayudhya, Lee and Pattharapol Puengboonpra, M.L.Ubolwadee Jayankura, Luckana Champa, Vee Marr, Krisna and Krittaya Thiengtham, Tommy and Mira Kittichaiwong, Siriporn Panupong and many more.

For this year, in addition to the ladies polo competition, there was a Vintage Flea Market; Lampang Horse Carriages; Fancy Dog fashion show by Yorkshire Terrier Club Thailand which was led by Khun Perfume, the pet owned by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana; and Horseback fashion show by celebrities and youth horse riders - that everyone was in fancy look, new design look and sport look supported by U.S. Polo Assn.

Then, the exciting opening match between the host Thai Polo Team and 1003 Polo Team from China began. The thrilling tournament was filled with joy amidst this paradise landscape. The match was four chukkers long. Finally, Thai Polo Team claimed the championship and won over 1003 Polo Team with scores 7-3. As an added attraction, the organizer presented the 'Best Hat' Award to Marie-Nicole Roy for the moste elegant hat and the 'Best Dress' Award to Angel Zhang. The day's activities concluded with the glittering fireworks.

www.thai-polo-club.com

ASIAN BEACH POLO FOR THE PRINCESS PA'S CUP POLO+10 WORLD 57

# 

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Beach Polo for the Princess PA's Cup in Hua Hin / Thailand.

PHOTOGRAPHY THAI POLO & EQUESTRIAN CLUB / DOMINIC JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY



ASIAN BEACH POLO FOR THE PRINCESS PA'S CUP • POLO+10 WORLD 59













1 Harald Link, playing for Team Thailand 2 The owners of the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club in Pattaya, Harald Link and Nunthinee Tanner 3 Beach Polo should of course always include a bath and water ride 4 VIP guests, sponsors and teams waving their flags 5 Elegant picnic after the polo matches 6 Great hospitality and a warm welcome for the guests 7 Prizegiving for the teams 8 These races for the locals are significant as the champions proudly show off the win.

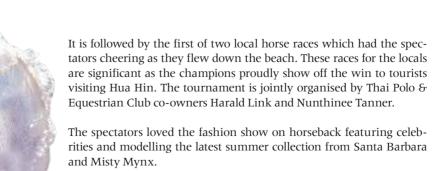
The first goal came in the second half of the first chukker from Argentine professional Diego Gomez for the China/Korea team. The second chukker saw the first goal by Justin Jin also for China/Korea followed by two goals from Thailand's Worajit Wongkraso "Ead". A break was needed to help cool the players down and fortunately, a light covering of cloud came over dropping the temperature, it was comfortable to play again. The third chukker had just one goal scored by David Ko for China/ Korea taking them into the lead on handicap. Ead, took another goal at the start of the 4th chukker, levelling the match followed quickly by a goal from Diego Gomez. Thailand responded with another goal from Ead. The spectators were cheering and getting very involved with every play encouraging the teams along.

The 5th and final chukker saw no less than five goals scored between both teams. Diego Gomez led the chukker taking them ahead, followed by David Ko and Justin Jin also for China/Korea. In the closing minutes, Harald Link for Thailand scored two goals in quick succession, but it wasn't enough to level the scores. China/Korea won 8 goals to 7.5. A very entertaining, good spirited match with tonnes of action for the spectators to watch and cheer along too.

www.thai-polo-club.com







The Beach Polo final started at 4 pm when the temperatures had dropped a little from a high of 40 degrees, Thailands hottest day this year. The two teams from Thailand and a joint team from China/Korea had been anticipating a tight match with winds coming from one end making it hard to get the ball up. As it turned out this made for some great moments when the ball either flew or was stopped making the players work hard to get goals. And there were plenty of goals to watch.







64 POLO+10 WORLD • DUBAI















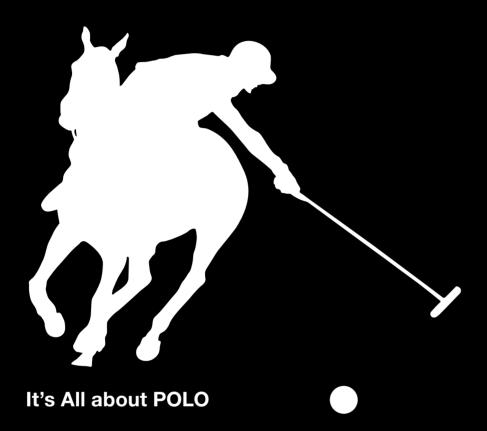




1 Satish Seemar 2 Dr Sabine Schaffer 3 Artistic riding of the flag throuh the arena 4 Venue by day 5 Sam Katiela with Presenting Sponsor from Oriental Pearls Ma Guolong and Title Sponsor from Tonino Lamborghini Residences Dubai, Tonino Lamborghini 6 Fighting for the ball after throw-in 7 From left: Nasser Aman Al Rahma (Assistant Secretary General of Dubai Sports Council), HE Saeed Hareb (Secretary General of Dubai Sports Council), HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohamed al Maktoum and Sam Katiela 8 Giselle and Dr Diedrich Haesen with Gitta Graefin Lambsdorff 9 Saki Belitsas and Yasmine Refaat 10 Venue by night 11 Anna Collins 12 Right: Patrick Aoun (Regional Brand Manager Longines ME) 13 Sabine Otto and Ramin Salsali.

**RANKING TEAMS** 

## 



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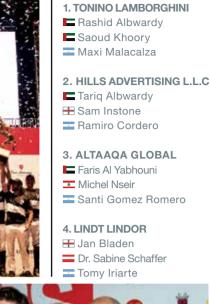
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14 Hossam Hosni and Mia Costac 15 Glamorous award giving ceremony 16 Polo competition in front of the VIP section 17 Chris Eberle and Aneta Sablik (german idol winner) with Garen Mehrabian.

It promised to be the most cracking final in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Beach Polo Cup Dubai – and it was. Rashid Albwardy, Saoud Khoory and Maxi Malacalza, playing in the colours of title sponsor Tonino Lamborghini Residences, finally emerged victorious with a tight score of 7-6 against HILLS Advertising L.L.C.

Rashid's brother Tarig and his HILLS Advertising L.L.C teammates Sam Instone and Ramiro Cordero had put the pressure on their opponents from the very first bell on and took the lead from the beginning to chukker number three, when Tonino Lamborghini Residences started to catch up to a 5-5. It was in the last round that Rashid Albwardy's team came back strong again, chasing every opportunity to turn the game - and succeeded. Maxi Malacalza was awarded Most Valubale Player of the tournament.

The match for the third place was played between Altaaga Global, featuring Faris Al Yabhouni, Michael Neisr and Santiago Gomez Romero, and team Lindt, which presented the first lady player in the tournament's history, Dr Sabine Schaffer. Playing alongside Jan Bladen and Tomy Iriarte, Schaffer delivered an exceptionally good match. In the end, it was Altaaqa Global, who secured the third place with only one goal ahead.

The 9th edition of the Tonino Lamborghini Residences Dubai -Beach Polo Cup Dubai 2018, presented by Oriental Pearls was played under floodlight at the uniquely set-up polo arena at Skydive Dubai. For the 4th consecutive year it was held under the Patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Sports

Council. The Dubai Sports Council is a long-term partner of the event. His Excellency Saeed Hareb, Secretary General of Dubai Sports Council said, "Polo has been around for more than 2,500 years, but we can proudly say that the beach version of this 'sport of kings' was born here on the sands of Dubai and we are really proud to see this tournament turn into one of Dubai's premier sporting events."

Mamemo's Managing Director and Founder of Beach Polo Cup Dubai Sam Katiela: "Dubai is on a mission to become the most active city in the world and we want to make our mark supporting this goal. We extended the public grandstand and invited the people of Dubai to enhance their polo experience and learn about the powerful action and breathtaking charisma and fun of beach polo. I thank the Dubai Sports Council for all their fantastic support and my team for a successful Beach Polo Cup Dubai 2018. We promise that the 10th edition will be yet another milestone on the Dubai Sports Scene".

Polo Commentator Jan-Erik Franck, worldwide known as "The Voice of Polo" stated: "There is no doubt that the Beach Polo Cup in Dubai ranges among the ultimately top polo events in the whole world. This 9th edition has demonstrated again, how electrifying the spirit of beach polo is and how much better and easier to watch from the grandstands, than the regular polo on grass. With the new presenting sponsor this unique event will keep its standards and we are already looking forward to the 10th Jubilee edition 2019." •

www.beachpolocup.com







74 POLO+10 WORLD • SENTEBALE POLO CUP ROME • POLO+10 WORLD 75







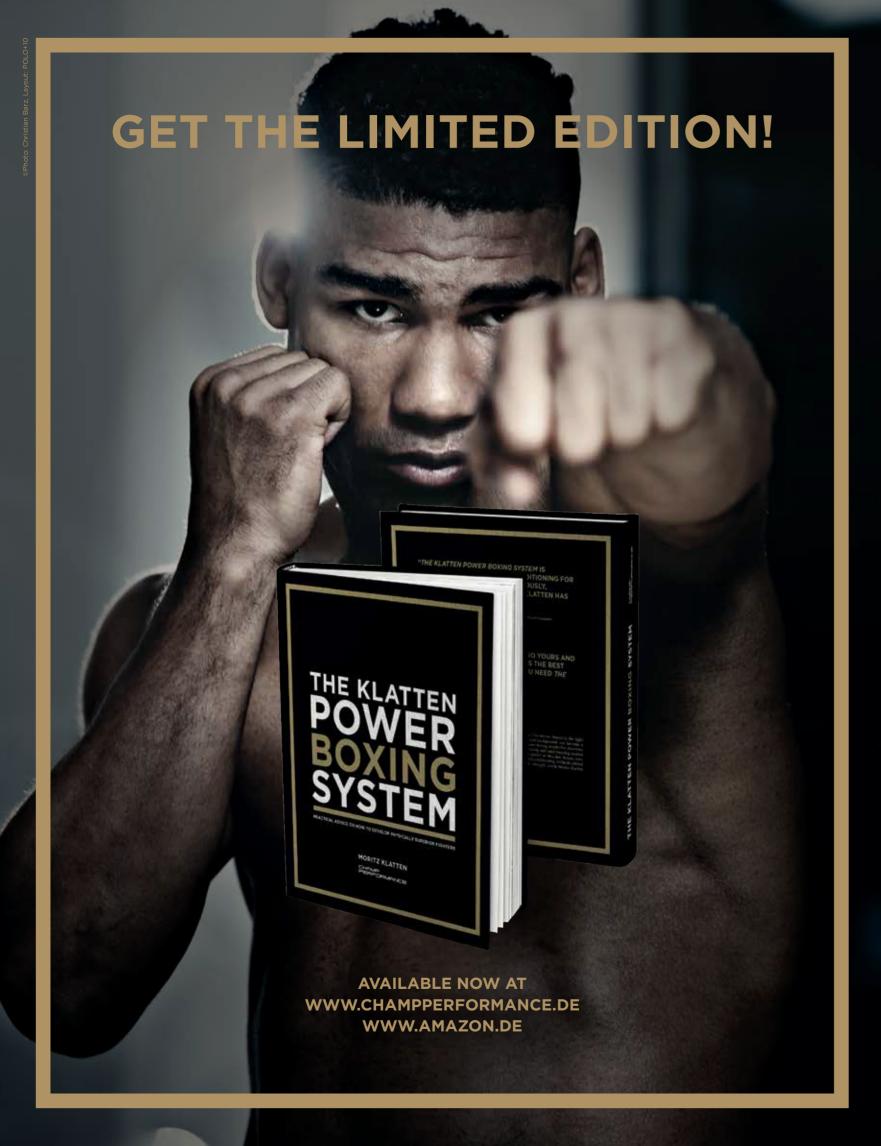
1 Team Sentebale St. Regis 2 Team U.S. Polo Assn. 3 HRH the Duke of Sussex 4 Nacho Figueras with his wife Delfina, Sentebale President Johnny Hornsby and Prince Harry 5 Roma Polo Club 6-10 The international audience enjoyed fast and fair polo matches. Team Sentebale St. Regis could defend its title from last year with a final score of 9-6 against Team U.S. Polo Assn.















Left Sarah Siegal-Magness; right 15-year old Cable Siegal-Magness.

It was in 2006 that Prince Harry, now Duke of Sussex, and Prince Seeiso established the Sentebale Foundation in Lesotho to help HIV-infected children in the South African country live a more dignified life and continue his mother's commitment to the poorest of the poor. HRH the Duke of Sussex, like his father and brother William, has been an avid polo player since childhood. With the annual Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup he promotes the work of his organisation and invites his guests to support it with donations.

After the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club of Jamie Morrison hosted the Sentebale Polo Cup last year, the two polo teams Sentebale St. Regis and U.S. Polo Assn. competed in 2019 against each other in the beautiful and world-famous Roma Polo Club. Located in the heart of the Cittá Eterna, the club is Rome's oldest polo club. In the Sentebale St. Regis team of the Duke of Sussex, the combative polo amazon Sarah Siegal-Magness and Michael Carrazza played alongside team captain Nacho Figueras. For the U.S. Polo Assn. team, this year for the first time team sponsor of the Sentebale Polo Cup, brand ambassadors Ashley Busch, Malcolm Borwick, Chet Lott and 15-year-old Cable Siegal-Magness got into the saddle, the young talent was also awarded Most Valubale Player of the tournament. After last year's victory, Sentebale St. Regis had of course started to defend his title. And with a 9-6, the team finally had its nose in front again after fast and worth seeing chukkers.

As official outfitter, the U.S. Polo Assn. was responsible for the high-quality equipment of the teams as in the previous year. The engagement as team sponsor at the Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup 2019 was a premiere for the U.S. Polo Assn. and also led J. Michael

Prince, President and CEO of USPAGL to Rome. "We are grateful and honoured that the U.S. Polo Assn. can be part of this glamorous charity polo event as an official clothing partner and team sponsor. The Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup is based on the basic values of the U.S. Polo Assn. to support the sport of polo worldwide and at the same time to support those in need through polo events." U.S. Polo Assn. is the official brand of the United States Polo Association (USPA) which was founded in 1890 and is one of the oldest sports organizations in the world. USPAGL is USPA's multi-billion dollar apparel brand with stores around the world.

The world-famous hotel brand St. Regis has been a partner, sponsor and team sponsor of the Sentebale ISPS Handa Polo Cup for 10 years. This year, the historic St. Regis Hotel in the heart of Rome, newly renovated for over 40 million euros, was the host of the traditional and glamorous Midnight Supper, where the Duke of Sussex and Nacho Figueras presented Sentebale's work to the guests.

St. Regis has always been associated with the world of polo. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the famous St. Regis founding family Astor played a leading social role in the polo games on Manhattan's Governors Island. This passion for polo has continued to this day, leaving its mark all over the world parallel to the growth of the St. Regis brand. In recent years, St. Regis has sponsored outstanding polo tournaments in Aspen/USA, Great Britain, India, Thailand, Singapore, Dubai and South America as well as other global destinations.

www.sentebale.org

78 POLICI-10 WORLD - AFRICA POLICIPEN - PO



### 80 POLO+10 WORLD • AFRICA POLO OPEN

African Polo Open in 2018 with Team South Africa competing against Nigeria.



### LEGEND:

### **AON Inanda International Polo**

Club: Inanda Polo Club State: South Africa, Sandton

### Cell C Inanda Africa Cup

Club: Inanda Polo Club State: South Africa, Sandton

### **Nedbank International Polo**

Club: Johannesburger Inanda Polo Club State: South Africa, Johannesburg

### Africa Polo Open

Club: Rosefield Polo Club State: South Africa, Johannesburg

### **Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo**

Club: Val de Vie Estate State: South Africa, Cape Town

### Plettenberg Bay Polo

Club: Polo Plettenberg Bay State: South Africa, Plettenberg Bay

### Access Bank UNICEF Charity Shield

Club: Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club State: Nigeria, Kaduna State

### African Patron's Cup

Club: Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club State: Nigeria, Kaduna State

### **Brightwater Polo**

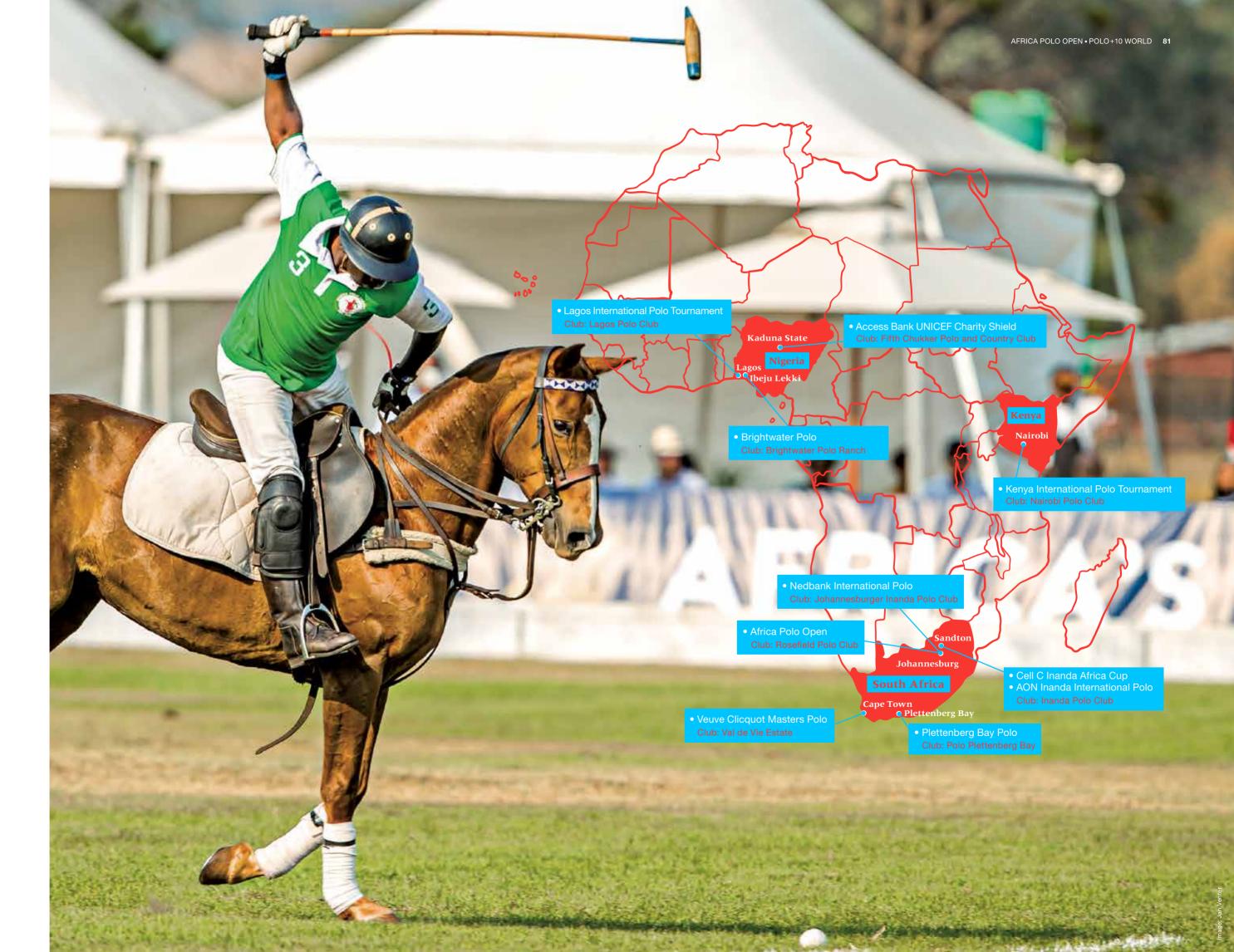
Club: Brightwater Polo Ranch State: Nigeria, Ibeju Lekki

### **Lagos International Polo Tournament**

Club: Lagos Polo Club State: Nigeria, Lagos

### Kenya International Polo Tournament

Club: Nairobi Polo Club State: Kenya, Nairobi



AFRICA POLO OPEN • POLO+10 WORLD • 83



In 2018, for the first time ever, South Africa duelled continental rivals Nigeria in a 12 goal match.

The mere mention of Africa is an unfettered invitation for nostal-gic stories and sometimes embellished accounts of safari trips to see exotic animals. A safari trip is without doubt a bucket list of sorts for many across the world. This should come as no surprise because Africa is after-all the world's number one safari destination. Europeans comprising of French, British, Germans and Portuguese citizens together with Americans constitute by far the biggest tourists to the east, central and southern regions of Africa. And the reason for this is rather simple. Africa is endowed with a staggering variety of biomes that contribute to the breathtaking abundance of wildlife that is on offer. For instance, Chobe National Park which lies between the Chobe River and the Okavango Delta in the north-eastern Botswana is home to the biggest concentration of elephants in the world – all 70 000 of them at the last count.

For someone who has never been on safari, what is on offer is an enticing opportunity to be starry-eyed and be captivated by embellished stories. Invariably, exotic animals of Africa will be about the Big Five; the towering African elephant, the bulky rhinoceros, the horned buffalo, the majestic African lion and the evasive African leopard. The creatures of beauty are named the Big Five by big-game hunters because they are the most difficult animals to hunt on foot. You can be assured of some beguiling tales peppered with some near-death inducing experience on a lion track in the dark of night. It isn't the visitors alone to Africa who are enchanted by the Big Five. They are so revered that they are featured in denominations of the South African rand banknotes. Everyone is enchanted.

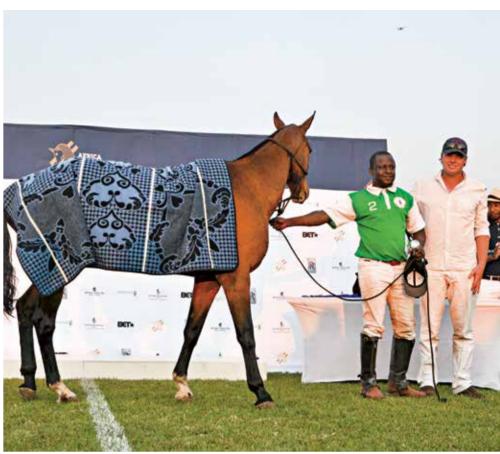
Polo enthusiasts on the other hand have an enchanting discovery awaiting them to make in the growing polo fixtures across Africa. Polo is played in over 17 countries in Africa namely; Gambia,

Egypt, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi, Benin, Botswana, Nigeria, Lesotho, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania Kenya, Sudan and Morocco. What is not in doubt is that polo is gaining increasing popularity as a premier spectator sport across the continent. Polo might be a sport synonymous with luxury, but that doesn't mean that it is only the well-heeled that have come to love the game. In much the same as there are way more than five animals in Africa, the same holds true for polo in Africa where there is an array of polo tournaments to visit as a way to discover magical Africa - the Big Ten in Polo.

The contemporary polo scene is a far cry from October 1874 when the Cape Mounted Rifles played against the 75th Infantry of the Line Regiment in the first recorded polo match in Africa at the Parade Ground in Cape Town, South Africa. Forty years later in 1914 the British Naval Officers played polo on an air strip that was to become Lagos Polo Club in Nigeria. Three years later, in 1917 was founded the oldest polo club in East Africa in Nairobi. These three matches have come to define the tapestry of continental polo in Africa. It follows, for historical reasons that South Africa has the most developed infrastructure. The next country is Nigeria that is followed by Kenya. These three countries comprise of the top tier in polo across the continent.

The Big Ten, is much like the Big Five safari. Only double the pleasure where a discerning tourist would know that only a handful of safari visitors are ever fortunate enough to be able to see all the wild animals in one game drive. To see the Big Ten also requires much more than one visitation. This is not simply because the continent is vast and the polo seasons vary across the continent. It will take up to eleven months, almost a year to work through them.





Africa Polo Open is a continental match that pits the South African national polo team against another African polo playing countries.

A tour of the continental fixture – the Big Ten comprises of the AON Inanda International Polo, Cell C Inanda Africa Cup, Access Bank UNICEF Charity Shield, Kenya International Polo, Nedbank International Polo, Africa Polo Open, African Patron's Cup, Brightwater Polo, Lagos International Polo and Veuve Clicquot Cape Town Masters hosted from Johannesburg/South Africa to Kaduna/Nigeria to Nairobi 7 Kenya to Lagos/Nigeria and Cape Town/South Africa.

The itinerary of The Big Ten would have visitors first arriving in Johannesburg, South Africa. Many first-time visitors to Johannesburg are always pleasantly surprised to discover a cosmopolitan city abundant in richness and diversity. What is even more fascinating about Johannesburg is that it is the only major city that was established away from a river. The first match in touring the Big Ten would have the keen explorer to polo arrive in May to the Aon Inanda International Polo set in the heart of Africa's economic hub at the Inanda Polo Club in Sandton. The match harks back to the 1950's when South Africa and Argentina had a working relationship with Lalor playing the Goodmans at Inanda and later with the Araya playing with Coronel Suarez in the 1970's in South Africa.

The annual match is between a team of the highest handicapped players from South Africa taking on polo players from the legendary Lalor and Ayara families of Argentina. The two families are reputed to be amongst the most eminent polo dynasties in Argentina. The Lalors are prominent figures in Argentina have contributed three presidents of the Argentina Polo Association and have five members listed in Dr. Laffaye's Polo Encyclopedia. The match is now held under the patronage of the Ambassador of Argentina in South Africa and coincides with the Argentine celebration of Revolution Day, marking the anniversary of the independent government in Buenos Aires. The players representing Argentina in

the 2019 contest comprised of Diego Araya (Captain) (7 goal), Juan Augustin Garcia Grossi (7 goal), Ernesto Juan Lalor (5 goal), Benjamin Carlos Araya Snr (6 goal). The South African team was made up of – Tom Paul de Bruin (Captain) (7 goal), Lance Watson (6 goal), Gareth Evans (6 goal) and David Evans (5 goal). The 2019 rated as the pinnacle of polo played in Africa because of the 25-goal level – the highest level of polo that has ever been played in Africa.

A few weeks later in mid-June, is the Cell C Inanda Africa Cup that is also hosted at the Inanda Polo Club. Inanda Polo Club is unique for being one of the few polo clubs in the world that is located in the middle of the city providing full amenities. The tournament is a knockout format between teams from many polo playing countries in Africa. To date, players from countries such as Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have participated in the closely contested tournament. Polo teams participate in the knock-out tournament. Guests include a mix of celebrities, media personalities and influencers.

We then head north to Kaduna State in northern-Nigeria to attend the Access Bank UNICEF Charity Shield tournament. The tournament is held at Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club in Kaduna. Fifth Chukker it started off as a cattle ranch and was acquired by one of the most prominent polo patrons and players – Alhaji Adamu Atta. The extent of financial commitment to upgrade the facility has been staggering as it has required investment in the construction of roads, electricity and provision of running water. Fifth Chukker is without doubt the number one polo destination in Nigeria with the tournaments attracting more international attendees than any other sporting tournaments in Nigeria. The facility comprises of three professional polo fields and over four hundred thoroughbred polo ponies stabled in a three thousand hectare resort.



Team South Africa is celebrating victory at the Africa Open



For historical reasons, South Africa has the most developed infrastructure. The next country is Nigeria that is followed by Kenya. These three countries comprise of the top tier in polo across the continent.

The tournament consists of up to 15 teams with players from Argentina, South Africa and top Nigerian players with three finals in the low, medium and high-goal categories. It is attended by high ranking government dignitaries and business personalities. A ten million naira donation by Access Bank was handed over to UNICEF. It was inaugurated in 2003 as the first ever charity polo tournament geared to alleviate the plight of vulnerable children. The funds are used to support projects in aid of the education and well-being of vulnerable children in the Kaduna.

Later on, the intrepid traveler will fly east to Kenya in September to attend the Kenya International Polo Tournament in September. The tournament attracts some of the best polo players from South Africa and Argentina who are matched with local players. The format of the tournament mixes top Kenyan polo players with international players to make up high-goal teams. That in turn provides the best playing polo possible in east Africa.

The trip will then continue down south to where you started in Johannesburg to the Inanda Polo Club for the Nedbank International Polo also in September. The Nedbank International Polo is the longest running polo test match with a history of over 30 years. South Africa has the most developed infrastructure in polo which has resulted in a higher number of players. The South African national polo team has played against Chile, Australia, India, United States of America and United Kingdom national teams.

You would stay over in Johannesburg to attend the Africa Polo Open in October, billed Africa's Grandest Polo Tournament. Africa Polo Open is a continental match that pits the South African national polo team against another African polo playing countries. In 2017, an 11-goal South African team took on the Kenyan polo national team at the expansive polo field overlooking the picturesque Magalies mountain in the background, the oldest mountains in the world, almost 100 times older than Everest. In 2018, for the first time ever, South Africa duelled continental rivals Nigeria in a 12 goal match.

The return leg to Nigeria will become necessary to attend the African Patron's Cup in late October and early November. The African Patron's Cup is a high goal tournament comprising of patrons with local players and international professional players from Argentina and South Africa. Patrons in Nigeria have a more central role in the development and increasing role than anywhere else in Africa. The one postulation is that it has much to do with Nigeria's post-colonial transition and the enduring role of the military.

A visit to Brightwater Polo a privately owned and fully self-managed ranch located in the heart of Ibeju Lekki in the newly developed Lekki Freetrade Zone merit a visit because it stands apart as an offering in polo in Africa. Brightwater has organized numerous polo test matches, special cups and in-house tournaments over the past three years to a select crowd. It has established itself as preferred location for the elite polo lover. Brightwater Polo Ranch has invited world renowned international polo professionals from the United Kingdom and Argentina to play alongside passionate Nigerian Patrons for a medium-goal league style tournament over two weekends.

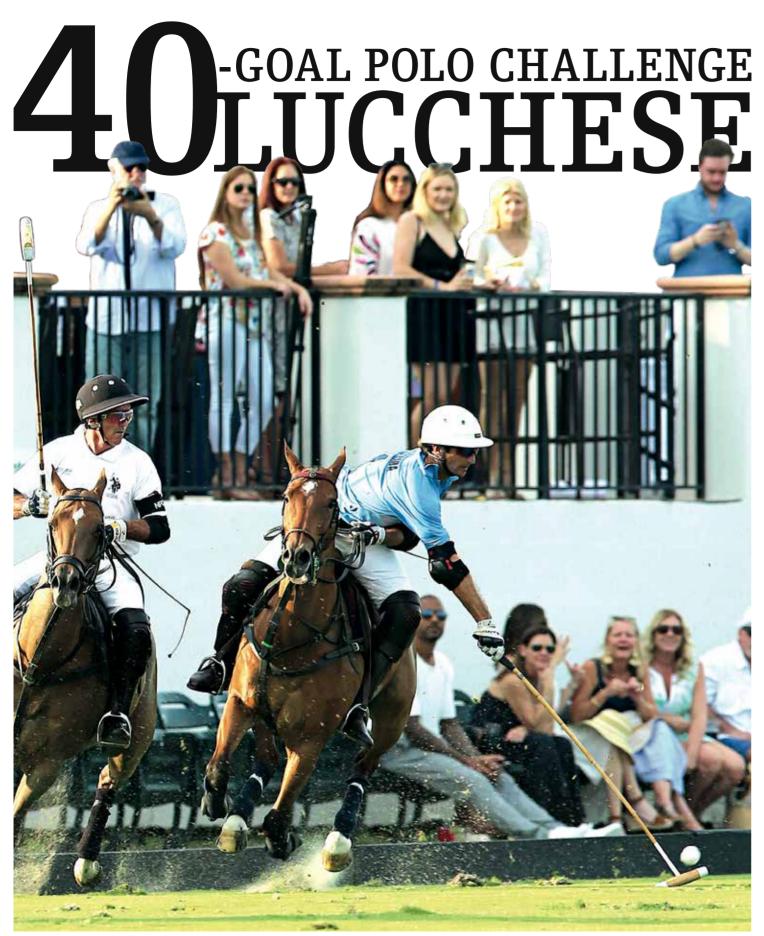
The Lagos International Polo Tournament is held in February over two weekends. As many as thirty-four teams compete for four main cups, namely: Silver Cup, Open Cup, Low Cup and Majekodunmi Cup. In the first opening week, teams contest for the Silver Cup battle. The Open Cup. The most coveted prize in Nigerian polo is the Majekdunmi that was presented to the club in 1962 by then Administrator of Western Region Dr. Moses Majekodunmi.

Finally, there is the Veuve Clicquot Masters Polo Cape Town at the picturesque Val de Vie Estate in early March. The majestic field is set against the spectacular backdrop of the Paarl-Franschhoek mountains. Val de Vie would win hands down the cup for the most beautiful polo setting in Africa. The stylish social event marks the beginning of the South African polo season – the weather is always sublime, the guests glamorous and, as always, there will be plenty of equine

The beauty of the Big Ten is that it really does not matter where to start or the order that your schedule permits you to take up. What is encouraged however is that you attend at least one in each country because that will leave you with a nuanced sense of the polo season.

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86 POLO+10 WORLD • LUCCHESE • POLO+10 WORLD 87



Polo players and fans convened at the renowned International Polo Club Palm Beach (IPC) in February for the annual Lucchese 40-Goal Polo Challenge.

BY CATHERINE ZACHARIADIS/CALLIE CLEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX PACHECO



The Lucchese Polo Challenge serves as the marquee fundraising event for the Polo Players Support Group (PPSG) - an organisation that provides financial support for seriously injured and ill polo players and grooms. The event raised \$375,000 which will be used to help those members of our polo family in need.

2019 was a particularly unique year, as there were two star-studded lineups. The opening act, the Future 10s match, was a 4-chukker display of the future of the sport of polo. Junior polo players with familiar surnames such as Hope Arellano, Miki Novillo Astrada, and Antonio Aguerre were joined by young Americans such as Jack Whitman and Aiden Meeker. The youngsters impressed the crowd with masterful moves you usually only see at the top level of the sport, validating the name of their match as true future 10-goalers. U.S. Polo Assn. (Antonio Aguerre, Finn Secunda, Jack Whitman Hope Arellano) slid past Port Mayaca Polo Club (Florencio Lanusse, Miki Novillo Astrada, Aiden Meeker, Milly Hine) to end the match 4-3.

The high-goalers had a tough act to follow behind the Future 10s, but they were able to deliver. Four 10-goalers and four past 10-goalers made up the Airstream (Nacho Novillo Astrada, Polito Pieres, Sapo Caset, Miguel Novillo Astrada) and Pilot Catastrophe Services (Agustin Merlos, Mariano Aguerre, Hilario Ulloa, Facundo Pieres) teams. Play throughout the first half remained open and fast, giving 40-Goal spectators the unique opportunity to view an impressive high level of polo. The final score of the game settled with Airstream winning 8-6. Best Playing Pony, sponsored by 5-Star Builders, was awarded to Pucho, played by Sapo Caset.

Despite Airstream's repeat victory, players from both teams were happy to donate their time to play in this vital fundraising event. "Playing in the 40-Goal Challenge is a great opportunity to help others and I think that anybody in our situation would do the same thing to help out", said former 10-goal player Mariano Aguerre, who has played in the 40-Goal Challenge nine times. Ulloa, a 10-goal player, also enjoyed playing for a good cause, "I like playing the 40-Goal Challenge because it's a way to help people that need our support," Ulloa said. "It's a great way to raise funds for people that need help."

In addition, all participating players jerseys were auctioned off throughout the evening. Continuing the momentum of the games on display throughout the day, the highest jersey bid was not from a 10-goaler's jersey but from junior player, Hope Arellano, whose father 8-goaler Julio Arellano received financial assistance after a traumatic polo-related accident in 2018. Her jersey was won by superstar show jumper Ashlee Bond, winner of the \$72,000 NetJets Classic at the Palm Beach Masters that day at the Palm Beach Masters just next door at Deeridge Farms.

The Polo Players Support Group is eternally grateful to the sponsors, players, donors, ticket and table purchasers, donors, volunteers and more. Thanks to the annual 40-Goal Polo Challenge and its supporters, the PPSG has awarded over \$2.5 million to 80 different seriously injured and ill polo players and grooms.

www.polosupport.com.

88 POLO+10 WORLD • LINE OF THE BALL • POLO+10 WORLD 89

## Penalty Lines height) Line of the Ball (Right of Way) Third Man (decides when umpires are not in agreement) boarded or unboarded depending on circumstances 300 yards (274,32 m) \*The outdoor polo pitch is the largest pitch of any organised sport. The proportions shown here are not true to scale.

### "LINE OF THE BALL"

The rule No.1 in polo sports is the "Line of the Ball" - the so-called right of way.

The rules of polo and penalties can appear to be very complicated. Generally the rules of polo are intended to keep ponies, players and spectators safe and as players and umpires keep this in mind, they aim to experience safe and fast polo. The principal rule and the rule most frequently broken at the same time, is the right of way: very simply, the player and horse that are following the exact course of the ball with the ball on their right hand side and moving in the same direction as the ball has the right to safe access to play the ball. Therefore any other player who attempts to play the ball by putting themselves or their horse in the space the first player needs to play the ball would commit a foul.

There has been a move within polo globally to speed up the game and to encourage positive play and prevent players manufacturing fouls or trying to create fouls to win penalties from less experienced players.

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N° 23

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