

POLO +10 WORLD

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MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS

The past months offered various highlights - among others in Zurich, Berlin or China – and even more unforgettable moments of happiness.



It's a philosophy of life that has inspired me a lot. Asked in an interview with POLO+10 about his view of things in life, Sébastien Le Page, President of Polo Park Zurich, quotes from a book by Nietzsche: „Master, what shall I do to be happy? The master answers: just be happy!“ In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we unfortunately too often forget to recognize happiness in the moment and to consciously enjoy it. That's why I plan to do just that much more in the future!

The past few months have offered various moments of happiness for polo fans and players: Special highlights included the Elasten Ladies Cup at PoloPark Berlin and the 22nd Zurich International Ladies Cup, where the women once again put on spectacular competitions. Polo is also finally making a comeback in China after the enforced break - and if the plans of hotel CEO Sanjiv Ramdanee are anything to go by, guests on the dream island of Mauritius will be able to watch polo show matches in the future.

So let's all look forward to the coming season in 2022, which will unfortunately have a few planning uncertainties due to the pandemic, but will nevertheless hold various new moments of happiness in store for all of us.

THOMAS WIRTH
Founder POLO+10

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Cover: Adolfo Cambiaso (Argentina, hdc+10) himself is shown on the cover of this POLO+10 WORLD. The photo was taken at the Argentine Open in Buenos Aires 2020 by Nacho Corbalan. Many thanks to Nacho for your great work! Photography Editorial: Fedora Stoldt



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SENTEBALE ISPS HANDA POLO CUP 2021 raises nearly \$3.5 million in critical funds for vulnerable children in southern africa.

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Windsor Polo Club had a successful 2020 Spring Season after recovering from bushfires and COVID, and with events slowly returning to “normal”, everyone thought that brighter days were ahead in 2021. Boy, how we were so wrong.

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22ND ZÜRICH INTERNATIONAL LADIES POLO CUP

„Bringing in international players to mentor our youngest club members, gathering our local- and guest players to grow our polo family and celebrate our love of polo together; this defines the spirit of the Ladies Cup.“

BY JAN MARIE KIESEL
PHOTOGRAPHY GUADALUPE AZIAGA











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RANKING

Challenge League

1. JOLIES FILLES

- 🇨🇭 Shiva-Cosma Strub
- 🇩🇪 Marta Gabrin
- 🇨🇭 Sue-Ann Strub
- 🇩🇪 Gunilla Mannsdorff

2. HATO

- 🇨🇭 Anja Gutbrod
- 🇩🇪 Franziska Fuhrer
- 🇨🇭 Sibylle Grass/🇫🇷 Laure Morel
- 🇨🇭 Nicole Boss/🇩🇪 Kathrin Gralla

3. POLO PARK ZÜRICH

- 🇨🇭 Annette Fetscherin
- 🇩🇪 Belen Podesta
- 🇨🇭 Isabelle Rösch
- 🇩🇪 Claudia Ide/🇨🇭 Lea Köchli

4. KENSINGTON

- 🇩🇪 Ann-Kathrin Braendle
- 🇩🇪 Katalin Siklasi
- 🇩🇪 Katarina Donhauser/🇨🇭 Alex Roudneva
- 🇨🇭 Simone Bolliger/🇨🇭 Elisabeth Schoch

Medium Goal

1. CLINIQUE LA PRAIRIE (+11)

- 🇨🇭 Beata Dudler (+1)
- 🇨🇭 Katja Grauwiller (+2)
- 🇩🇪 Morgan Van Overbroek (+2)
- 🇫🇷 Elena Venot (+6)

2. CHAMPAGNE PERRIER-JOUËT (+8)

- 🇨🇭 Ann Meier (+1)
- 🇨🇭 Aline Haerry (+1)
- 🇨🇭 Kira Wetzel (+1)
- 🇩🇪 Polina Nazarova (+4)

3. ESTÉE LAUDER (+8)

- 🇩🇪 Laura Fass (+2)
- 🇨🇭 Sammy-Joe Strub (+2)
- 🇩🇪 Laura Steinbach (+1)
- 🇩🇪 Ulrike Gabrin (+1)



Polo Helmets and Picnic Baskets

“Well, you won’t need those,” Morgan Van Overbroek said, as I staggered into Polo Park Zürich ‘s clubhouse weighed down with rain-coat, cap and big umbrella. “Trust me,” she said, so I did.She was right. The rain held off for the final day of the 22nd International Ladies Polo Tournament on 4th July. Just as well, as Polo Park Zürich had a new concept for their spectators – reserved picnic spaces with baskets of delicious munchies, champagne and sun-umbrellas, combined with a general BYO picnic area for casual, spontaneous guests. There was to be a full day of polo with the finals of the Challenge League, followed by a spectacular competition for the winner of the Medium League.

Sunday, Fun-day

The first game started at 11:00, with friends and family present to fire on Team Polo Park Zürich vs Team Kensington. Team Polo Park Zürich comprising of Belen Podesta, Isabelle Rösch, Annette Fetscherin, and Claudia Ide sharing with Lea Köchli, produced a composed performance, hammering in goal after goal to give them an impressive tally of 11 on the scoreboard.

Team Kensington with Ann-Kathrin Braendle, Katalin Siklasi and the sharing combinations of Katarina Donhauser, Alex Weiss, Simone Bollinger and Elizabeth Schoh needed to sharpen their game. They did just that with Katalin on a brilliant little pony, Jorgi, zip-ping through gaps and putting pressure on the opposition. Ann-Kathrin broke free in the 4th chukker for a couple of clever goals. Too late, however and Team Polo Park Zürich came in at third place.

Teams Hato and Jolies Filles were next up playing for overall winner. The sister

combination of Sue-Ann and Shiva-Cosma Strub aided by Gunilla Mannsdorff and Marta Gabrin stated off brightly with a grand display of link-up play and continued their aggressive game to put 4 goals on the score-board. They were quicker, more direct and better organised than Team Hato, despite Anja Gutbrod hopping on her favourite pony,Baila, in the second chukker and driving the ball sharply towards goal, only to be constantly blocked by Jolies Filles’s superior defence. Franziska Fuhrer enjoyed playing her 6 year old home breed, Mariposa, but she, with Lea Morel, Sibylle Grass, Nicole Boss and Kathrin Gralla completing Team Hato, could not find their playing rhythm. It was Jolies Filles who took the Challenge League Trophy.

Chilled Champagne and Competitive Fire

The picnic areas were filling up and the champagne glasses were clinking as the umpires called time for the start of the Medium League. The three teams had started their round-robin tournament on Saturday. Sunday was, therefore, a continuation of those games. We were in for some confident, fast-paced polo.

Team Estée Lauder had Laura Steinbach and Sammy-Joe Strub playing at Nrs. 1and 2, both putting in a mammoth effort in attack. Laura Fass was the player with the all-round vision at 3 and Ulrike Gabrin, usually an attacking player, was competently experimenting with a spell at defence.

However, it was the Team Perrier-Jouet who snapped up second place.

Ann Meier battled hard, seizing the ball at every possible opportunity and powering

down the field backed up by Aline Haerry. Kira Wetzel relentlessly wrestled openings for her Nr. 4 player, Polina Nazarova, to break through. Both players gave short displays of brilliance but were no match for the overall winner ,Team Clinique La Prairie, who used their first two chukkers to strengthen their position as tournament favourites. Beata Dudler, always a competent Nr.1, a constantly forward-orientated player, was able to combine well with Katja Grauweiler at Nr.2 to win line-outs and start attacking moves with real efficiency. Morgan Van Overbroek was pulling the strings at Nr.3 in a typically imposing fashion, ruthlessly exploiting any open spaces left by the opposition. Team Clinique La Prairie had Elena Venot as their Nr.4, a stand-out performer and highest handicapped player of the tournament at +6. There’s no doubt that she’s extremely talented, reading the game superbly and putting players into free spaces with the timing of her passes. We were offered a master-class in pace attack combined with the ability to remain calm under pressure. With this combination of experience and expertise, Team Clinique La Prairie took home the silver at 22nd International Ladies Tournament 2021.

Prizes all round

The prize-giving was held in front of the clubhouse with MVP of the Challenge League awarded to Belen Podesta and Elena Venot in the Medium League. BPP was Lebero, played by Elena Venot and owned by Sébastien Le Page.

The level and quality of play in women’s polo is improving every year, and Polo Park Zürich is playing a major part in this providing women’s tournaments, training and support. •



“I JUST CAN’T GET ENOUGH OF THE POLO LIFE!”

SÉBASTIEN LE PAGE President of POLO PARK ZÜRICH

Sébastien Le Page with his wife Morgan Van Overbroek at French Women Open in Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly.

SÉBASTIEN LE PAGE

He is the president of Polo Park Zurich and one of the most colorful minds on the scene. At the end of the 2021 season, POLO+10 met Sébastien Le Page and talked to him about his very personal season review, plans for 2022, highlights, low points and his philosophy of life.

INTERVIEW BY POLO+10/ALEXANDER NEBE PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA, MORGAN VAN OVERBROEK, WENDY FALOURD

WHAT IS YOUR SUMMARY FOR THE 2021 POLO SEASON?

It was another successful season for Polo Park Zurich, despite the poor summer weather and the spectre of Covid. On a local level, we were able to run all nine scheduled tournaments, play over 800 chukkas, organize the Swiss Medium-Goal Championship and the 22nd International Ladies Cup, and increase our membership at all levels, both low and medium-goal. New organizations have joined us, many of our players have progressed, the polo level has increased, and we have welcomed many new horses. We reached 170 playing members this year, half of whom are women, and currently host more than 200 horses. The kids polo is also flourishing. We have had the joy of hosting the Swiss national team twice at our tournaments and many players from abroad have joined us regularly. The atmosphere of friendship and sportsmanship was excellent as always and we had a lot of fun!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A SUCCESSFUL SEASON ALL AROUND.

And it goes even further: Internationally, we were namely also very proud that the two teams from La Irenita brilliantly represented the colors of Polo Park Zurich at the Argentine Open. We are also very fortunate that we won both the Rider Cup and the Open de France Ladies in Chantilly. So, all in all, it was a great season. As for me personally, I only won one tournament during that time, even though I had wonderful horses and made good progress in my polo. So there is still some room for improvement!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON?

So far, we have planned ten tournaments at Polo Park Zurich, including the Swiss Championships (with medium or low goal ratio from -2 to +8 goals). We will organize the 23rd international Ladies Cup and we intend to defend our title at the Rider Cup in Chantilly. We will play the Gold Cup in Gstaad. At the Argentine Open we will again compete with two teams, this year with a Ladies and a La Irenita team. We are also in the process of developing more events around polo, as well as events that have nothing to do with polo at all, but for which we still use the club as a facility. This year, we hired a special event manager for this purpose, and I expect a lot from her. This will allow us to open the door to polo to people who previously knew nothing about the sport or its lifestyle, hopefully making it more mainstream. We have also signed many new sponsorships, some of which are multi-year, so we are well supported by both our sponsors and our members. Personally, I have a feeling we will be playing more than 900 chukkas this coming season. Let’s see how the weather cooperates!

PLEASE ALSO TELL US ABOUT YOUR PLANS IN ARGENTINA FOR THE REST OF 2021 AND 2022.

Morgan and I are flying to Argentina in mid-November to our farm in Lobos. Unfortunately, the uncertainty around Covid and the travel restrictions from afar make it impossible for us to organize the traditional San Eugenio women’s tournament. Therefore, we will have to forgo it again this year. Instead, we will focus on training in Lobos and of course supporting our teams at the Argentine Open! La Irenita II has yet to qualify but the La Irenita Ladies already are, so we will definitely be there in Palermo! Separately, Morgan will

“IN A WAY, POLO IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MY FAMILY.”

SÉBASTIEN LE PAGE President of POLO PARK ZÜRICH

be training for the Gaucho Derby, arguably the toughest horse race in the world, in which she will compete in early March. So we will probably stay in Argentina for two to three months, if the situation around Covid allows it.

CAN YOU ALSO TELL US ABOUT YOUR SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES?

We sponsor two teams in the Open. First La Irenita II with Facu and Tomas Fernandez Llorente, Min Podesta and Flaco Garcia Grossi. They still have to pass the qualification, but I have high hopes for this team. Secondly, La Irenita Ladies is also there with Milagros Sanchez, Hope Arellano, Izzy Parsons and Fatima Balzano. They are already qualified and I hope they will present us brilliant polo as well! Then we are also sponsoring the Snow Polo World Cup in St. Moritz, although we won’t be fielding a team there this year. We also sponsor the Swiss national polo team. On the other side we have many new interesting sponsors, including very good support from for example „Perrier-Jouët“ or „Clinique La Prairie“, but also some newcomers in polo, like the „SwissOne Smart Index Crypto Fund“. We are also in the process of building sponsorship relationships with new companies that become aware of Polo Park Zurich through our success. I will hopefully be able to tell you more about this shortly! Watch this space!



WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN THE COMING POLO SEASON?

The biggest problem we are facing at the moment is the fact that we have almost reached the maximum number of horses we can accommodate at the Polo Park Zurich or in the surrounding area. It really pains me to have to say this - but I think that in the coming season we will have no choice but to keep a waiting list. However, not for completely new beginners, but for new potential members who bring their own horses. We simply don't have the space for horses on top. But to be honest, it's a good problem to have, rather than the opposite!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE POLO SEASON 2022 – AND WHY?

In this respect, my role is a bit schizophrenic. On the one hand, as the owner of Polo Park Zurich, I have to keep my members happy and make sure they like to come back. On the other hand, I'm also a player and the head of the Los Lobos organization, and I want to win tournaments. However, the two don't always go hand in hand. This season, when we got so many new members, I focused more on making sure they enjoy polo. So I helped them with my own horses, sometimes to the detriment of my own polo and to the detriment of my own polo pros. But for this coming season, I want to be selfish again for a season, because I intend to have a 1-goal handicap by the end of the season. For this I have the right horses and the right organization. I will therefore focus strongly on this dream! Of course, I will also put my focus on the Swiss Championships and put a lot of energy into winning the Gold Cup in Gstaad. I am also considering playing a few weeks in France next year. I'm already in talks with sponsors, so we'll see what happens there. But a 1-goal handicap by

the end of the season is what I am really hoping for!

YOUR WIFE MORGAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS POLO ASSOCIATION. HOW DO YOU COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER IN WORK?

The funny thing is that Morgan's election as president of the Swiss Polo Association - the first woman in the history of polo to hold the office of president of an active polo association anywhere in the world - was my idea. But she also told me from the very beginning that she would only do it if I didn't interfere with her work! So we do not complement each other at all. She almost never asks me for advice, at most once in my role as owner of a polo club in Switzerland, but not as husband or even as former vice president of the SPA. But I am a busy man and I trust her completely anyway, so it kind of suits me!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR PASSION FOR POLO THROUGH YOUR WIFE?

No, Morgan and I started polo on exactly the same day in 2011 - when we attended the taster course at the Polo Park Zurich with Francisco Podesta. We got both immediately hooked.

NOT ONLY BOTH OF YOU ARE ACTIVE PLAYERS BUT ALSO YOUR SON. HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE ENERGY IN SUCH A POLO-LOVING FAMILY?

With Armand it took a little longer, because he was originally afraid of horses. Now, of course, he's long since playing better than we are! The energy in the family is very good, because playing together with his loved ones or against them is one of the best aspects of the sport. And of course, a polo-loving family means that all the ancillary aspects of the lifestyle are understood by everyone: the respect for the horses, the grooms, the asados, the mate-drinking, the endless discussions about handicaps, about



horses, the hours spent at the polo club. All this makes sense in our family. The only tensions arise when we sometimes have to decide who sits on which horse for a match. But fortunately we have always solved that well in the end so far!

POLO HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUR LIFE FOR TEN YEARS NOW. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A PARTICULARLY GREAT MOMENT DURING THIS TIME?

This question is almost impossible to answer because so many memories come to mind: the day I bought the Polo Club, the Grand Opening of the new clubhouse and stables, or winning the Swiss Medium Goal Championships. The Golden Goal at the Deauville Silver Cup and the face of Pancho Bensadon. The lunch with Facu, Nico, Polito and Gonzalito Pieres. The infamous evening in Chantilly with Pablo MacDonough. The game three against four with Min Podesta, which I lost only by a golden goal. Juan Martin Nero, who addressed me by my name even though we had never met before. Scoring a goal with a neck-shot and hearing Martin Podesta shout behind me: „THIS is polo!“. Playing with the Maharajah of Jaipur in Germany.

AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON?

Don't say I didn't warn you! (laughs) Seeing my son play polo even though he's afraid of horses. Seeing Morgan win the Open de France with the Vénot sisters. Laughing to tears together with Jorge MacDonough in London. Meeting Adolfo Cambiaso. The purchase of San Eugenio. The January 1 chukkas where three generations of Le Page played three generations of Podesta and the tears of Min Podesta who had never seen his grandfather on a horse (and Oscar scored the first goal!). The first time I ever signed an autograph as a polo player. But to be completely honest - and maybe



it sounds a bit cliché, but I swear it's true: The best moments I've had playing polo are all the evenings around the campfire playing truco, talking about polo, laughing with each other, drinking wine and just enjoying the atmosphere and the friendship.

WHEN DID THE ENTHUSIASM FOR POLO REALLY GRAB YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME? CAN YOU REMEMBER THE MOMENT AND THE FEELING?

The first day, the first lesson, the first hit with the ball - and I was immediately hooked. I was hooked! I remember that my friend Cédric Schwenker had made T-shirts in his former club that said: „If you've got the virus, we a-polo-gize“. And that's exactly what it is. Not only do Morgan and Armand see it that way and are that way, but my parents are now following polo as well. So the virus is spreading. Let's make it a pandemic!

NOT ONLY DO YOU ENJOY BEING ON THE POLO FIELD – YOU ALSO LOVE EVERYTHING AROUND THIS SPORT. WHY?

I played rugby for 25 years and this sport is famous for the atmosphere outside the pitch. I think the tougher the sport, the more respect the players have for each other. I've always loved that camaraderie in rugby; the third half, the mutual respect. And I've found the same thing in polo. I can't understand people who come to a game, play, and then quickly leave to do other things. I have to bask in the wonderful atmosphere long after the game is over. I remember Francisco Podesta telling me once two years ago: Seb, you organize too many asados in the club, the grooms need to sleep sometimes too, you know! But I just love that camaraderie, the banter, the fun, the conversations about horses, handicaps, the jokes. And I love playing Truco, of course! But it's also more than that. It also has to do with meeting people,

discovering Argentina and also many other places in the world. I just can't get enough of this polo life: Whether it's meeting kings or arguing with my gauchos on my farm. I just love it!

WHAT IS SO FASCINATING ABOUT THIS SPORT? WHY IS IT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE – AFTER YOUR FAMILY?

Actually, in a way, polo is even more important than my family. I'm aware that this is one of the most dangerous team sports in the world, so the risk of death or permanent injury is real and possible. If I wanted to put family first, I would tell my wife and son not to play. It's too dangerous! But I've made my peace with it. In the clubhouse at Polo Park Zurich, I put up a poster with a drawing of polo players that says, „Anything will kill you, so choose something you enjoy.“ And that's what polo is all about. It's fun! It's a team sport, polo is fast and furious, there are animals involved, it's glamorous! The lifestyle is wonderful, it's interacting with others, and it's a chess game, physically and mentally. And of course, in addition, it has become my main business.

WHY IS THERE A PREJUDICE IN MANY PEOPLE'S MINDS THAT POLO IS AN EXTREMELY ELITIST SPORT?

I guess it's because British monarchs have been playing polo for decades and many know the sport from that context. So it's automatically associated with the monarchy and therefore with elitism. When I invite people to watch some chukkas, they still very often ask me how they should dress. My answer is always the same: „Come like me, in shorts and flip-flops“.

16 YEARS AGO, YOU HAD TO DIGEST A SEVERE BLOW OF FATE WHEN YOUR FIRST WIFE DIED AT THE AGE OF 33. HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO



REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH, POSITIVITY, OPTIMISM AND YOUR HUNGER FOR LIFE?

Well, that's a question I could fill a whole book with the answer to! But in short, I was lucky to be surrounded by a loving family and a great son, even though he was only three years old at the time. I was working for the Glencore group of companies at the time, and everyone there was absolutely fantastic, too. But that doesn't mean it's all over today, if you want me to be frank. And I'm sure all the people who know me well can fully confirm that. But I'm ok! With Armand and Morgan by my side, I live a very happy life today.

ARE YOU A FIGHTER AND A SURVIVOR?

Not at all. I am exactly the opposite. I'm lazy, get scared easily, get depressed and anguished. I stress myself out too much and therefore stress others out too. I am good at making excuses and I try to make things easy for myself. Sometimes I suffer from impostor syndrome. But I am a thinker and I am empathetic. I am generally lucky, I am a success person and I trust people. That compensates for my negative traits quite well. And when I get a little down again because things aren't going the way I want them to, Armand is almost always there right away to tell me, „Dad, slow down, turn around and look at what you've already accomplished.“ This helps me a lot in moments of doubt. I wonder if he is not basically more mature than I am!

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE?

My life changed completely at the age of 17 when I read Thus Spoke Zarathustra. This book by Nietzsche is about a master and his disciple. The disciple asks, „Master, what should I do to be happy?“. And the master answers, „Be happy!“. And that has been my philosophy of life ever since. ●

ELASTEN LADIES CUP 2021

POLOPARK BERLIN

Team Ingo Pyko Immobilien wins the ELASTEN Ladies Cup 2021. Six ladies polo teams with over 100 polo horses took part in the ELASTEN Ladies Cup at Polo Park Berlin.

BY BALTIC POLO EVENTS GMBH
PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER SCHMIDT / WWW.OLLI-ZIMTSTERN.COM









RANKING

1. Ingo Pyko Immobilien (+9)

Anne Grossmann (+0)
 Philippa Luserke (+3)
 Jasmin Bumanowski (+3)
 Marie Haupt (+3)

2. Gothaer Versicherung (+12)

Mona Scharf (+3)
 Romy Grüner (+3)
 Dele Iversen (+3)
 Jeanette Diekmann (+3)

3. Cosmopolo (+8)

Nina Frühauf (+0)
 Ulrike Gabrin (+1)
 Svenja Hölty (+4)
 Laura Fass (+3)

4. Uhrenclub Berlin (+8)

Nicole Kleinmichel / Lupita Sunshine Fass (+1)
 Aziza Ghane (+3)
 Isabell Sobetzki (+3)
 Leah Kawamoto (+1)

5. ELASTEN (+11)

Verena Querner / Henrike Querner (+1)
 Dr. Heidi Silvey (+1)
 Fatima Balzano (+6)
 Franca Vonholdt (+3)

6. PoloPark Berlin (+5)

Romy Manow (+0)
 Uli Link / Tavita Wegner (+1)
 Jolie Lange (+1)
 Isabell Hoedemaker (+3)

Schiedsrichter:

Christopher Kirsch



Team Ingo Pyko Immobilien wins the ELASTEN Ladies Cup 2021. Six ladies polo teams with over 100 polo horses took part in the ELASTEN Ladies Cup at Polo Park Berlin. The players came from Hamburg, Nuremberg, the Black Forest, Lake Chiemsee, Berlin, Munich, Hanover, Bremen, Switzerland, the USA and Argentina. The international, professional polo player, Fatima Balzano from team ELASTEN, is one of the top players in Argentina (Palermo) and in Wellington/USA. Fatima regularly plays with players from the Cambiaso family and has a women's HCP of +6. The referee was the team captain of the

German national polo team and multiple German champion Christopher Kirsch.

Three exciting polo tournament days, played in best weather condition and having exceeded expectations, have come to an end. All polo matches were commented and visitors enjoyed full service food and drink catering throughout the event. Access to the event was possible via the LUCA app. The "Rolls Royce Bentley Enthusiastic Club" from Berlin came to the finals and accompanied the two winning teams, as they were riding into the playing fields, with 2 beautiful, vintage cars.

Ingo Pyko himself travelled to the event by helicopter.

The teams "Ingo Pyko Immobilien" and "Gothaer Versicherung by Karsten Topka" delivered a gripping match. In the end, the ladies from the team of Ingo Pyko Immobilien, were able to win with a score of 5:3.5. The event was formally closed with an award ceremony and title sponsor ELASTEN, with all organisers involved, bid farewell to all players and polo horses.

www.baltic-polo-events.de



TEAMS AND PROGRESSIONS

OPEN ENGELS & VÖLKERS

LA MAGDELEINE (+16)
Alexandre Garese (0)
Lucas Nottin (+2)
Facundo F. Llorente (+7) (6 goals)
Tito Ruiz Guñazu (+7) (6 goals)

KAZAK (+16)
Sébastien Aguetant Cap (0)
Patrick Paillol (+5)
Jero Del Carril (+7) (4 goals)
Santiago Irastorza (+4) (1 goal)

Progression La Magdeleine:
4-1 / 6-1 / 7-2/ 11-3 et 12-5

WOMAN'S OPEN

POLO PARK ZÜRICH (+16)
Morgan Van Overbroek (+2)
Pearl Venot (+4)
Lucie Venot (+4)
Elena Venot (+6)

**DS AUTOMOBILE –
DS STORE SAINT MAXIMIN (+13)**
Romane Jamet (+3)
Ambre Ploix (+3)
Sandrine Dubois (+3)
Anna- Maria Czekav (+4)

Progression Polo Park Zürich:
3-0 / 6-0 / 9-1/ 11-3

La Magdeleine and Polo Park Zürich reach their dream!

PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTINE JACQUEMOT, R&B PRESSE



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Open de France Engel & Völkers

A day of finals at the Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly is a day of celebration with a touch of nostalgia: once the winners are known, three weeks of beautiful polo, conviviality and interactions come to an end. The Argentinean professionals will take the plane back home to prepare and start the “alta temporada”, the great season, the 700 horses will gradually leave the club, the lights will go out... If, in the women’s category, Polo Park Zürich was an expected winner, in the Open de France Engel & Völkers, the result was a little more surprising.

It was not so much the name of the winner, La Magdeleine, that was a surprise, but the way in which this beautiful team, led by a luminous Facundo Llorente, logically nominated most valuable player of the game, dominated this final from start to finish. On paper, the two teams started as equals: Kazak had won all their games and La Magdeleine had only lost one... to Kazak. But today, things went very fast: 4 - 1 in the first chukker, 11-3 in the fourth before La Magdeleine lifted their foot off the gas (12 - 5 at the final bell).

The key to this domination was clearly the horses ridden by Facundo Llorente, a loan from one of the world’s best players, Pablo Mc Donough (h10). The spectacular accelerations of these Formula 1 ponies for sure made the difference today. It was one of these mares, La Irenita Loli, who was crowned best playing pony of the tournament and of

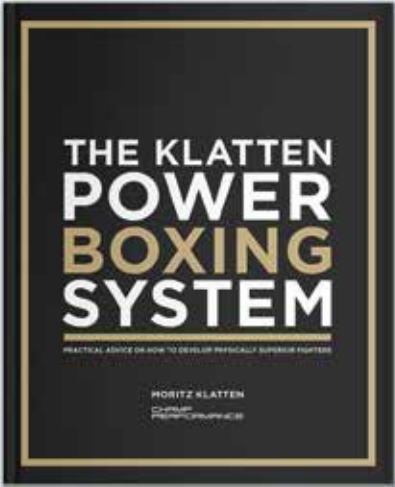
the final. After their first and only defeat in the qualifying phase of the tournament, La Magdeleine put things right: “It’s true that we were a bit worried because we had lost that first game against today’s opponents,” confirms Facundo Llorente. “Their team plays hard. But today I brought out my best mares and we clearly played our best game of the season, we quickly understood that this was our day.” This is the fourth time in his career that Facundo Llorente has lifted the Open de France Engel & Völkers Cup but he will hardly have time to celebrate this triumph as he is leaving for Buenos Aires: “Now we have to get ready and try to qualify for the Argentine Open with La Irenita.” It is the stud of La Irinita that entrusted him with these wonderful horses that delighted the dense audience that came to enjoy this sporting show under a beautiful blue sky.

French Women’s Open: Polo Park Zürich, as expected

There was no chance of a surprise in the Women’s Open, as Polo Park Zurich dominated the tournament from start to finish, and it was with a high score (11-3) that the French Venot sisters lifted the trophy for the second year running: “We were under a bit of pressure, but we had already played them in the qualifying round. At the beginning of the tournament, we had a bit of trouble because we hadn’t played together for a long time, but we soon found each other again,” says Elena, the eldest. Because the “secret weapon” of the Venot sisters... is being sisters! “We know each

other by heart and we know before anyone else what the other will do... or not do.” Elena Venot, who is France’s best female player, also has plans for Argentina as she has been invited to take part in the Abierto Feminino, the most competitive competition in the world: “It was Luisa Del Carril who asked me to join her in a new team, La Ensenada. It’s an incredible opportunity. I’m going to leave at the beginning of November to organize my horses and prepare myself to put all the chances on our side”. But the dream of the Frenchwoman, who is expected to move up to handicap 7 next season, goes even further: “The idea is that we can participate together with my sisters in this Argentine Open. I don’t know if it will happen, but it is a goal we are working on.”

Polo is a story of dreams. That of two captains, Morgan Van Overbroek and Alexandre Garese, who saw their efforts rewarded today with this first title in the Open de France Engel & Völkers; that of the Venot sisters who are dreaming of Palermo; that of the defeated teams who are already thinking about the organization that needs to be put in place to win this beautiful trophy in 2022; and that of the great players and speedy horses who have offered the world of polo and the public pure magic during these three weeks. Now it’s time for the French Championships, which will start next week on these same grounds of the Polo Club de Chantilly, which is also the federal polo center. A great way to enjoy the thrilling French polo season just a little longer. ●



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The classical San Francisco de Asis tournament is always played after the August break.

BY PPZ PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS POLO CUP 2021



TEAMS

HAUSAMMANN (+6)

- 🇨🇭 Katja Grawiler (-1)
- 🇨🇭 Reto Hausammann (0)
- 🇨🇭 Janik Oertli (+2)
- 🇨🇭 Francisco Fucci (+5)

CHAMPAGNE DE VENOGÉ (+6)

- 🇫🇷 Sébastien Le Page (0)
- 🇨🇭 Facundo Kelly (+3)
- 🇨🇭 Thommy Gräff (+3)
- 🇨🇭 Markus Gräff (0)

G-SQUARED (+6)

- 🇨🇭 Vinicio Marciaj (-1)
- 🇨🇭 Walter Cortez (+3)
- 🇨🇭 Carlos Solari (+4)
- 🇺🇸 Richard Harris (0)

ALTARIS (+5)

- 🇬🇧 Jamal Nusseibeh (0)
- 🇮🇹 Gonzalo Ambroselli (+1)
- 🇨🇭 Miguel Amieva (+4)
- 🇨🇭 Stefan Roth (0)

BENCI BROTHERS

- 🇨🇭 A. Gutbrod / 🇨🇭 J. Spillmann
- 🇨🇭 Sammy Joe Strub
- 🇨🇭 Beata Dudler
- 🇨🇭 Konstantin Nikiteas

POLO PARK ZÜRICH RED

- 🇨🇭 Elisabeth Schoch
- 🇫🇷 Laure Morel
- 🇨🇭 Ch. Adelmann / 🇨🇦 A. Roudneva
- 🇨🇭 Remi Dudler

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

- 🇨🇭 Sue Ann Strub
- 🇨🇭 Annette Fetscherin
- 🇨🇭 Gabriel Hatzung
- 🇨🇭 Reto Gaudenzi / 🇨🇭 Michael Bagattini

POLOSSI TEAM

- 🇨🇭 G. Martinez / 🇨🇭 Claudia Ide
- 🇨🇭 Shiva Strub
- 🇬🇧 Andrew Guthrie
- 🇨🇭 Ossi Köchli / 🇨🇭 C. Schellenberg



The classical San Francisco de Asis tournament is always played after the August break. With a low- and medium goal league, it is a great occasion for all of Francisco's students to show off their acquired dexterity. Eight teams competed during the weekend including the new coming Altaris from Greenwich Polo Club in Connecticut. The low goal games were so balanced that both games ended in ties. Such a rare occasion to have all 4 teams as winners!

In the medium goal, team Champagne de Venoge secured its position as nr. 3 beating Hausammann 5 to 4 after a splendid « remontada » of Hausammann in the last 2 chukkers.

Altaris, as a new team in the club, captured all the attention of the public for the final. Unfortunately for them, the powerful combination between Tachu Solari and Walter Cortez was the key to G-Squared's success,

who won 5 to 3 1/2. Altaris showed everyone great action and promised to come back stronger in the following tournament.

After Sunday's games and prize ceremony, players, sponsors and organizers shared a very nice family style lunch, offered by Clara and Francisco Podesta. The atmosphere was amazing, and players stayed at the Clubhouse until late afternoon chatting and enjoying their time together.

POLO IN CHINA



Polo in China is getting back: Tang Polo Club China hosted the JJ International Launch Tournament in Anping.

BY DR. CINDERELLA VON DUNGERN
PHOTOGRAPHY JJ INTERNATIONAL





In ancient China, polo originated 2,000 years ago in the East Han Dynasty (207BC-AD25) when the traditional name for the game was “jiju” and peaked in the Tang Dynasty, who ruled China from 618-907 AD. Polo became the game of choice for the Chinese elite and was viewed as a form of entertainment rather than a competitive sport. Tang emperors used polo even as a tool of diplomacy.

In modern China, polo enjoyed a remarkable renaissance in the past two decades. Many clubs have opened, among them Tang Polo Club (founded 2010 by Shilai Liu, recently relocated from Beijing to Anping/Hebei), Beijing’s Sunny Times club (founded by Xia Yang), Shanghai’s Nine Dragons Club (2008) and Tianjin’s Metropolitan Polo Club (originally backed by Goldin Group, but since around two years operating on their own) with quite an active international participation, interaction and publicity. Many clubs have hosted 16-goal international tournaments with intense media coverage on

their impressive grounds, and each club has imported more than 100 ponies from Australia, Argentina and Europe. Chinese players went to polo events worldwide and the sport was undergoing a resurgence in the upper classes of China. Although there are less than 100 amateurs, China seems to develop to an interesting new destination for Polo with much attention from international polo fans.

However, due to COVID restrictions, it has been a very silent polo period over the past 20 months. Since the pandemic started, the polo sport in China has been severely affected in various dimensions. Due to travel and visa restrictions, no foreign polo professionals, trainers or grooms can enter the country since more than one and a half years now. Domestic and international travel and transportation for Chinese polo players and horses are also highly limited due to national lockdowns, long isolated medical quarantine programs and many other restrictive government prevention rules that follow a

zero-case policy. In addition to that, logistics for international horse transportation is challenging if not impossible. This is by far the most demanding part, as a good and high-quality polo pony is the basis for every player, especially if the player is just starting to learn or if experienced and wants to improve his/her skills. The horses that have been imported to China in the past 20 years are in excellent condition but of course are reaching their age limits. But importing new horses is extremely difficult since international cargo for horses to China is not easily available in times of Corona. Even if new horses were able to arrive in China, it would require professional international trainers and at least a few medium-goal tournaments in the country to keep the horse’s level high. A constant exposure to high quality chukkas and games would benefit both, horses and players. It seems that those restrictions for global commuting and visa permissions led to a temporary stand-still of the once exciting and very dynamic international polo scene in China.

Against this backdrop, it is encouraging to see that currently three active clubs (Tang Polo Club, Tianjin Metropolitan Polo Club and Nine Dragons Club Shanghai) have continued to host some internal low-goal tournaments and club chukkas and are constantly developing the national scene. Of course, quite a few Chinese players could play higher handicap games and every active Chinese player is longing to get back to international playgrounds and exposure soon, but if there is no other choice, pushing the domestic market is a valuable investment in the longer term. Early September 2021, a special private tournament was organized by JJ International company, hosted by Tang Polo Club at the club’s fields in Anping (three hours from Beijing), to launch the company founding with the vision of promoting polo sport all over China. With an impressive cultural side program and many distinguished visitors from Beijing and the Chinese equestrian society, polo was introduced to the audience in a refreshing way.

Due to strict COVID-limitations the selected numbers of players and games had to be rather exclusive. Eight players competed on two days in two teams (each game with four chukkas). Among the players were three very experienced Chinese polo players: Yanyang Li (hcp 0), chief editor of the Chinese publication “Horsemanship Magazine”, Yin Bao (hcp 2), manager of Tang Polo Club and Shilai Liu (hcp 2). Shilai Liu is the top polo player in China. Among many other passions and business activities, he is founder and owner of the Tang Polo Club and China’s first member of the International Polo Association. He has played in Argentina, Australia, the US, Europe, and Thailand and is one of the main promoters to establish a legacy for polo in China.

The game was competitive but very fair. Horses and players were in perfect shape, and despite being classified as a low-goal tournament, the level of polo was high and tight. Both teams were rather equally balanced and ambitious, hence the game

TEAMS

TANG POLO CLUB (+1)

Jiping (James) Liu (-2)
Ketu Chao (+1)
Yanyang Li (0)
Shilai Liu (+2)

JJ INTERNATIONAL (0)

La A Gu (-1)
Dr. Cinderella von Dungern (-1)
Justin Jiang (0)
Yin Bao (+2)

Umpire

Bao Er

became very speedy and sportive. The team of Tang Polo Club finally won the tournament with a 12:10 score (6:6 the first day) and received the award from the organizer Justin Jiang, founder of JJ International.



SANDPOLO

THE BRITISH BEACH POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Sandpolo returned to Sandbanks for a September weekend of beach arena polo and after parties. The British Beach Polo Championships 2021 (Sandpolo) adjusted magnificently to the later September date hosting their 14th year event over the weekend (Sept 17-18).

BY USPA



The British Beach Polo Championships 2021 (Sandpolo) adjusted magnificently to the later September date hosting their 14th year event over the weekend (Sept 17-18).

Blessed with an Indian Summer, the Blue Flag Beach with golden sand was drenched in its usual sunshine. Sold out with a capacity of 3,000 people on each day, spectators enjoyed a dynamic display of fast paced beach stadium polo.

This year was the inaugural year for the U.S. Polo Assn. as apparel partner for the event in collaboration with U.K. licensing partner Brand Machine Group.

J. Michael Prince, President and CEO of USPA Global Licensing, which manages the global, multi-billion-dollar U.S. Polo Assn. brand said: “With the U.K. being one of U.S. Polo Assn.’s most loyal and fastest growing markets, we were proud to be part of the glamorous and exciting British Beach Polo Championships. We love that there are opportunities to expose new polo fans and global consumers to the sport in such a unique and fun way as Sandpolo.”

The gripping match result was a reflection of the equal strengths of both teams but it was the success of the strong team work from team Whispering Angel (Chris Gregory, Hazel Jackson, Adolfo Casabal) that took the British Beach Championships 2021 title with a 19 -14 victory against Team Lightning Commercial Finance (Garrie Renucci, Ollie Cork, Nick Van Open).

It was the England Ladies Polo player ranked second in the world, Hazel Jackson’s first year playing on the Sandbanks beach and she said she hopes to be back in action there next year.

Most Valuable Player went to Adolfo Casabal who also won the spectacular charity race with polo pony racing across the sand against a 4 x 4. The Best Playing Pony came from Team Lightening and awarded to the mare Reggae and groom Gussie Thompson.

Andrew Spate was umpire over the two days whilst Simon Ledger kept spectators captivated with the amazing horseplay with his commentary over both days.

The after parties, always a big highlight at the event, did not disappoint and the celebratory mood was heightened after a year away. Party goers enjoyed the beach backdrop at Friday’s Boogie on the beach and there was an electric atmosphere at Saturday’s Gold closing party.

Sandpolo Director, Johnny Wheeler said: ‘It is nothing short of a miracle that all of the infrastructure supplies event staff, security and players delivered this perfect event given the initial uncertainty we always had but it all came together. A perfect finale to the Summer season’.

The British Beach Polo Championships have confirmed that the event will back to the original July dates next year July 8th – 9th 2022. ●

POLO + 10

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SENTEBALE ISPS HANDA POLO CUP 2021 raises nearly \$3.5 million in critical funds for vulnerable children in southern africa.

PHOTOGRAPHY **SENTEBALE**



This year's Polo Cup, together with The Duke of Sussex's generous donation, will allow Sentebale to operate at full scale and will mean more children and young people across Lesotho and Botswana will receive essential support, care, and build skills to be more resilient and self-sufficient in the future.

Polo Assn. Team. The Sentebale Team proved unbeatable, taking the win with a score of 3-0. The Duke scored two goals.

U.S Polo Assn. took second place honours, and Royal Salute was third.

Sentebale is enormously grateful to sponsors and partners for making the day possible; ISPS Handa, Aspen Valley Polo Club, Royal Salute, U.S. Polo Assn., Caribou Club and Long Meadow Ranch Winery. •

www.sentebale.org



100TH ANNIVERSARY OAK BROOK POLO CLUB

The year 2022 marks the 100th Anniversary since the Oak Brook Polo Club was founded in 1922 by businessman and outdoor enthusiast, Paul Butler.

BY DAPHNE ORTIZ PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL BUTLER



The year 2022 marks the 100th Anniversary since the Oak Brook Polo Club was founded in 1922 by businessman and outdoor enthusiast, Paul Butler. The Polo Club is one of the oldest in the United States that is still in operation today and one of the most legendary and recognized throughout the global polo playing community.

Paul Butler, consider by many as the Patron Saint of Polo, turned the Oak Brook Polo Club into the home of elite professional polo following World War II. It would soon become the home of the U.S. Open Polo Championships for 24 straight years (longest in one location) and other prestigious tournaments. The United States Polo Association also had its headquarters in Oak Brook.

Oak Brook Polo organizers are working on a number of projects to celebrate this historic occasion from special events to further developing its event and tournament schedule to include more teams and game action. ●

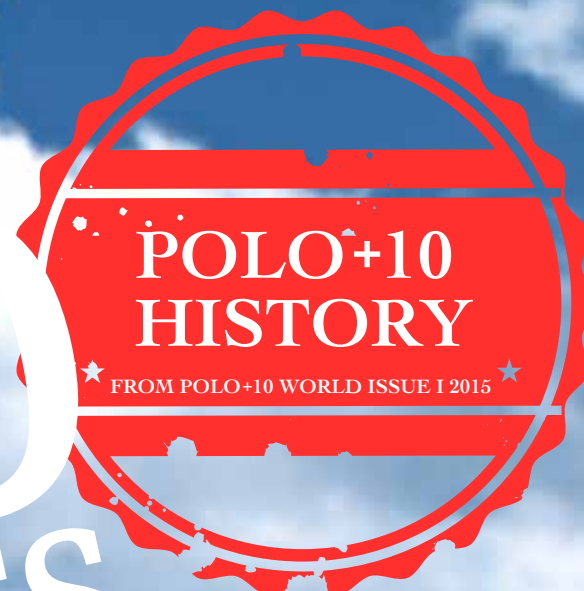
ARGENTINA'S

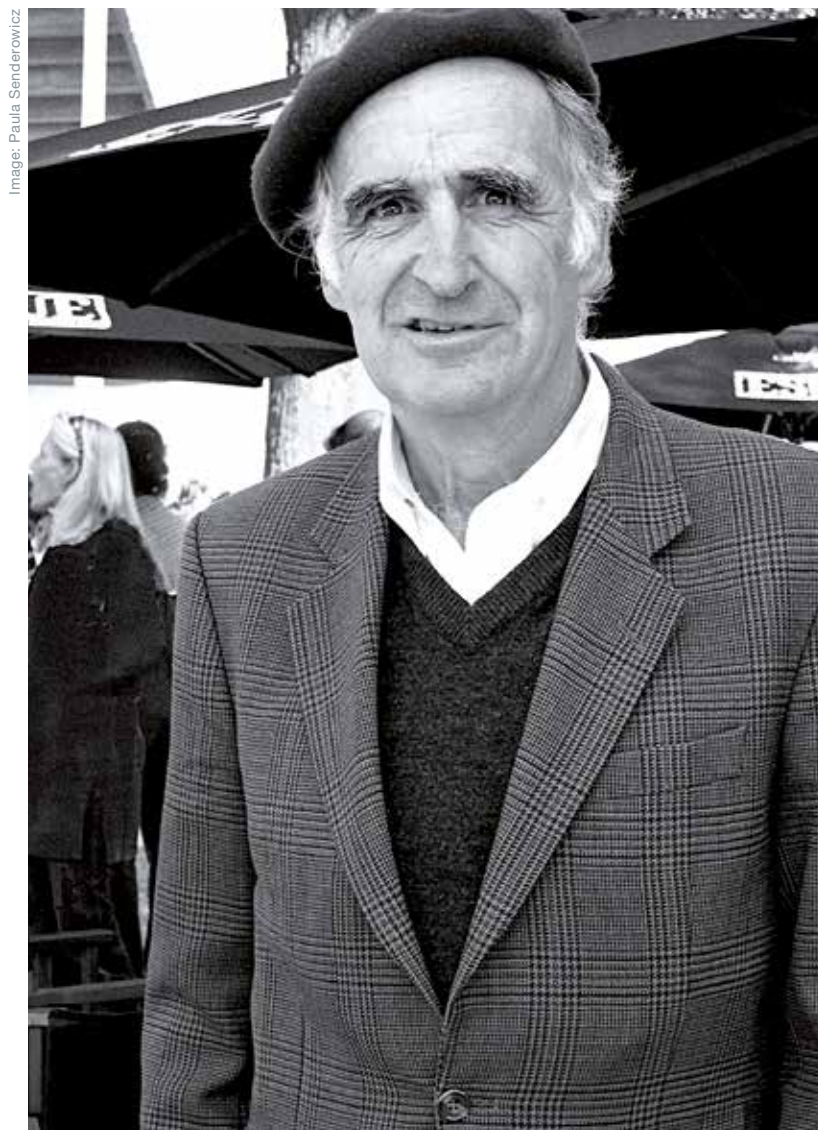


POLO DYNASTIES

The best polo players in the world come from Argentina. POLO+10 takes a look into the history books and presents famous Argentine polo dynasties.

BY CHRIS ASHTON





Alberto Pedro Heguy won the Argentine Open 17 times, playing for the team Coronel Suárez.



To name all the “gladiators” in the coliseum of Argentine polo, that is to say, each of those who cut a dash in his own time, would be a daunting task. Who to include and who to cast aside? But what of Argentina’s polo dynasties, defined as “a succession of rulers of the same line or family”? When I sought advice from the world’s foremost polo historian, Dr Horacio Laffaye, he provided a list of more than twenty families. The limited space afforded me here to write about so many families could not possibly do them justice. My solution was to focus on a handful of such families since elevated to legendary status in the Argentine polo world.

Let us go back 140 years to when Argentina first embraced the game, courtesy of its Anglo-Argentine settlers. From the late 19th century to the 1920s, Argentines of

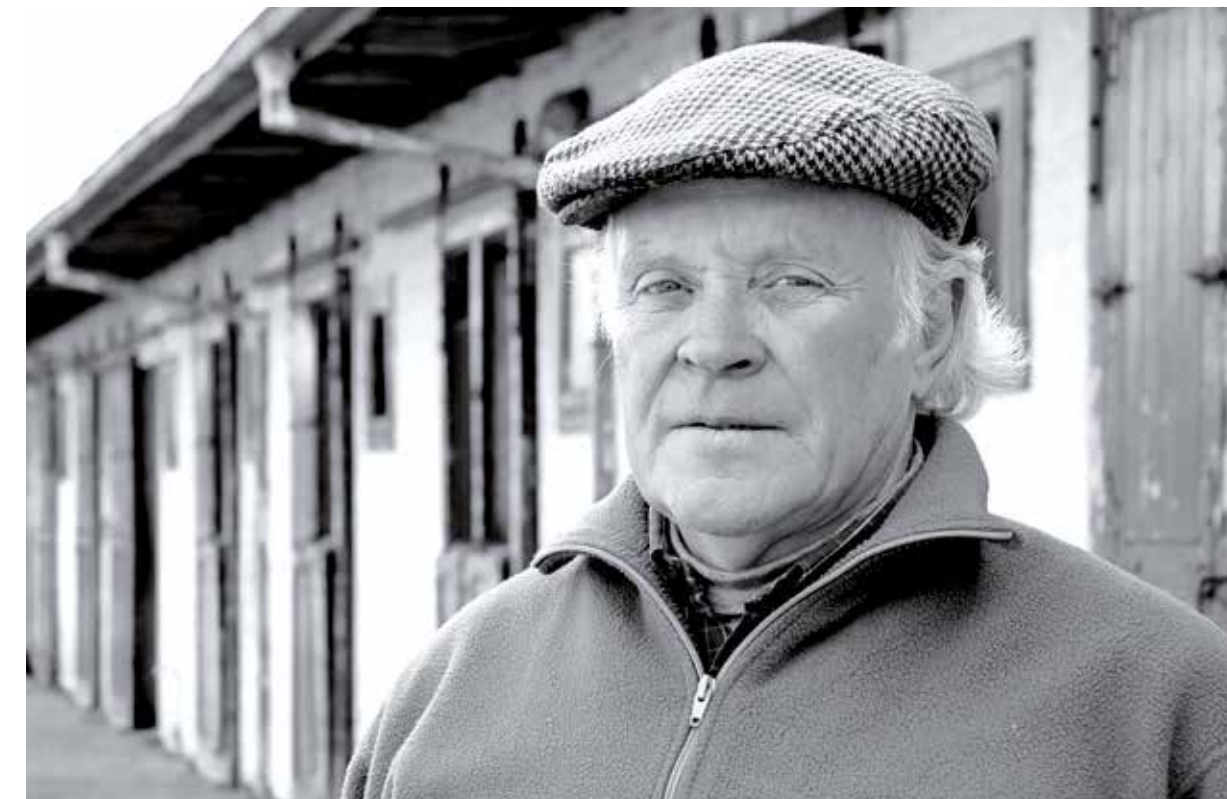
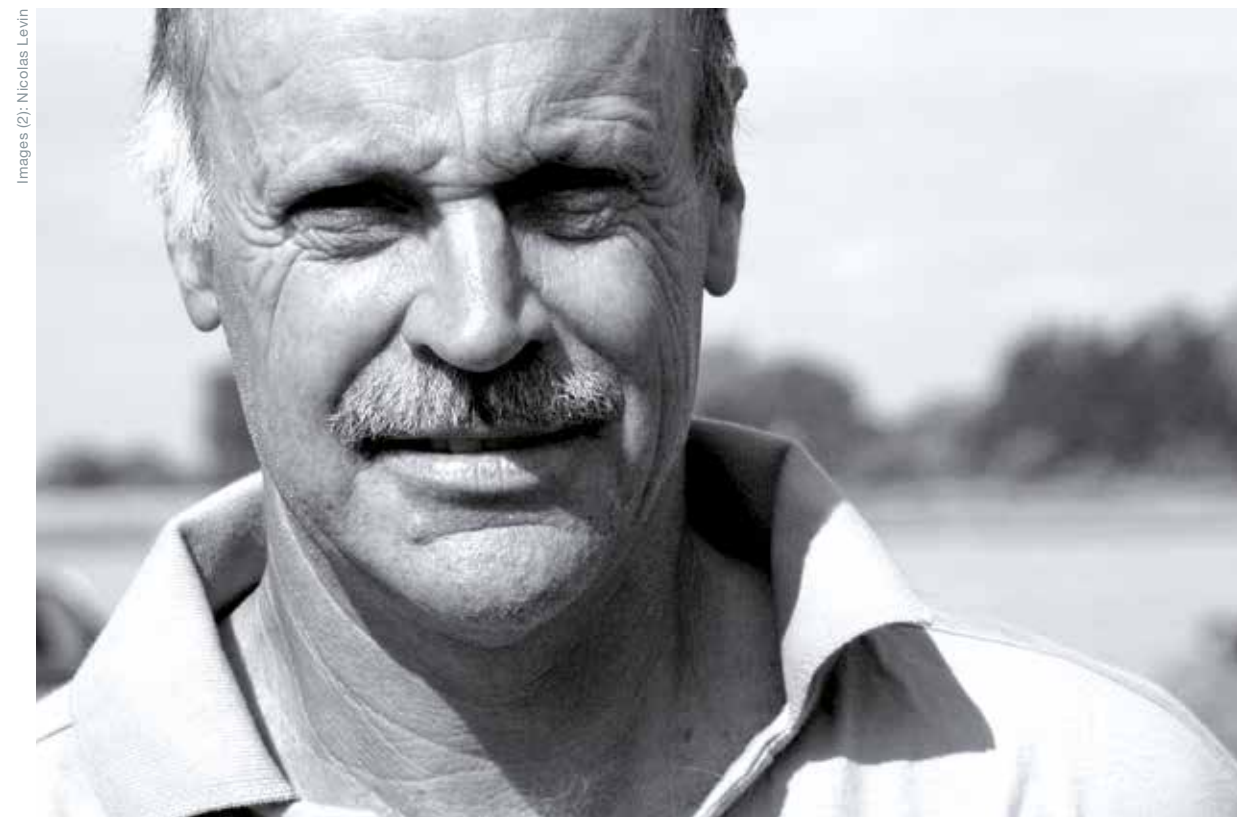
British descent (in 1914 numbering 28,000 in a total population of 7.8 million) enjoyed respect out of all proportion to their number, whether socially, commercially or in introducing hitherto unknown sports.

No public record survives of the date or venue of the first game of polo in Argentina but in 1875 the English-language newspaper “The Standard” reported two polo events in the Province of Buenos Aires: the first in January comprising three matches at Estancia La Buena Suerte, and the second in August, a six-game polo carnival hosted by a Scottish cattle baron, David Shennan, at Estancia Negrete.

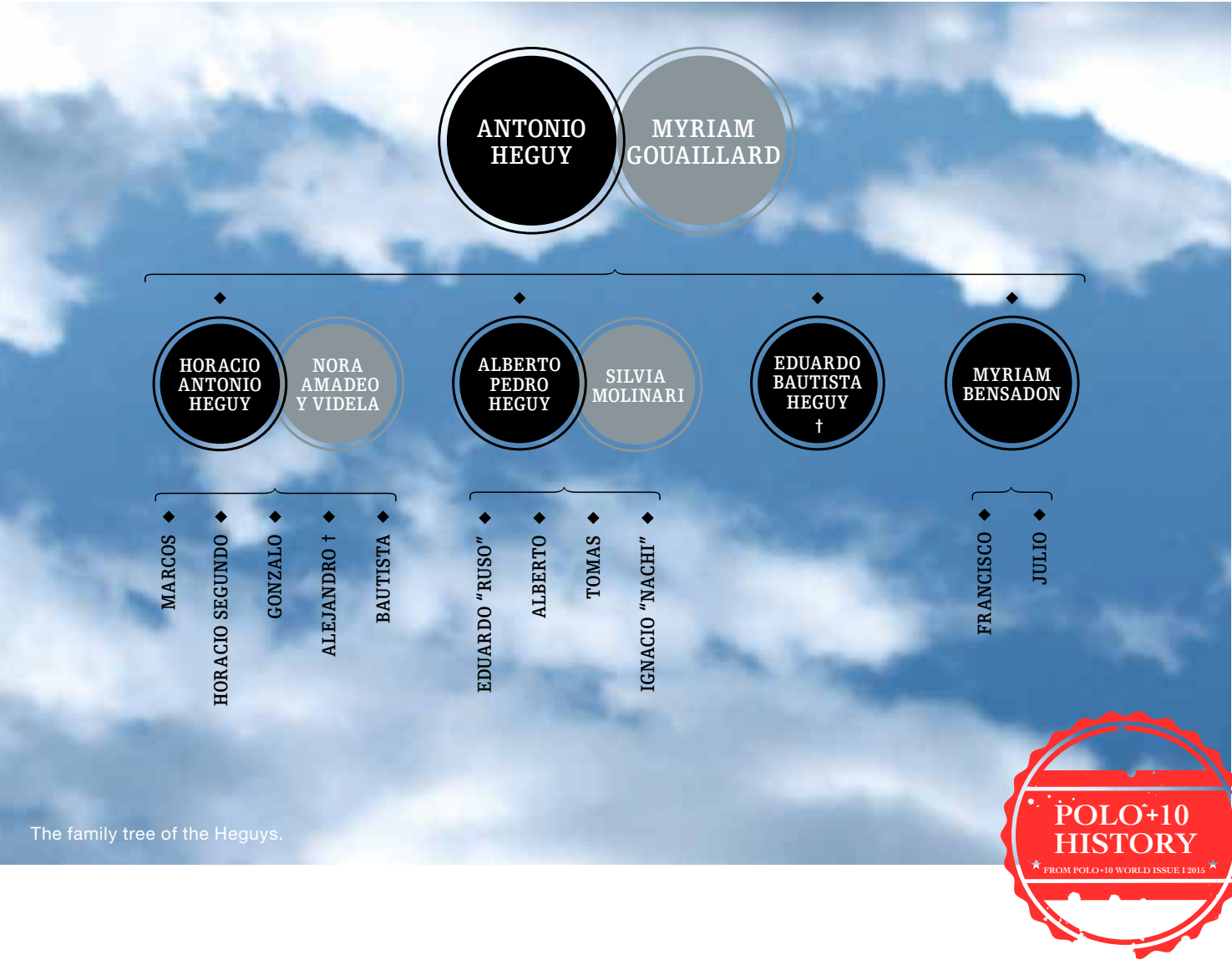
In that same era another cattle baron of Scottish descent was Hugh Scott Robson, arguably Argentina’s first polo patriarch, supported by

his three brothers, also gifted players, and his only son, Hugh Noel. Born in 1891, following schooling in England, Hugh Noel Robson enlisted in the Royal Scots Greys, which led to a polo career that saw him playing at home and abroad with an 8-goal handicap at his peak.

Laffaye draws a clear distinction between Argentine settlers of English or Scottish descent and their Irish counterparts, who fled Ireland in their tens of thousands in the 1840s to escape its infamous famine, and sought throughout the 19th century to improve their lot in New World countries. Without the family trusts which so many English and Scottish settlers enjoyed, but with their undoubted farming skills, Irish immigrants to Argentina established working partnerships with Latino ranchers,



Top: Today Gonzalo Pieres manages team Ellerstina, composed of his sons, Facundo, Gonzalito and Nicolás Pieres, as well as their cousin Pablo and assorted other team-mates. Bottom: Jorge Mac Donough is the founder-owner of the polo-pony stud La Irenita Embriones.



The family tree of the Heguys.

managing their livestock until they accumulated sufficient capital to buy their own land.

In *The Evolution of Polo* (2009) Dr Lafaye writes that “the overwhelming majority of Irish immigrants were Roman Catholics which made assimilation through marriage into Argentine society much easier...if the Scots boasted good polo players, the Irish claimed many more”, and he cites Argentine polo families of Irish descent like Cavanagh, Duggan, Garrahan, Kearney, Kenny, Lawler, Mac Donough, Nelson and O’Farrell, all of whom became “... large landholders and polo players around the turn of the [20th] century, and remain so into present times”.

He singles out one family in particular, the Lalors (the Latino abbreviation of Lawler), as arguably Argentina’s most eminent polo dynasty. And not only for players (he lists 16 Lalors in his *Polo Encyclopaedia* (2004) of whom five have played with handicaps of between 7 and 10 goals, but equally for what they gave to polo administration,

contributing three presidents of the Argentine Polo Association, Alfredo (1969–1972) and his brother Luis Alberto (1975–1981) and from the next generation, Luis Eduardo Lalor (2009–2013).

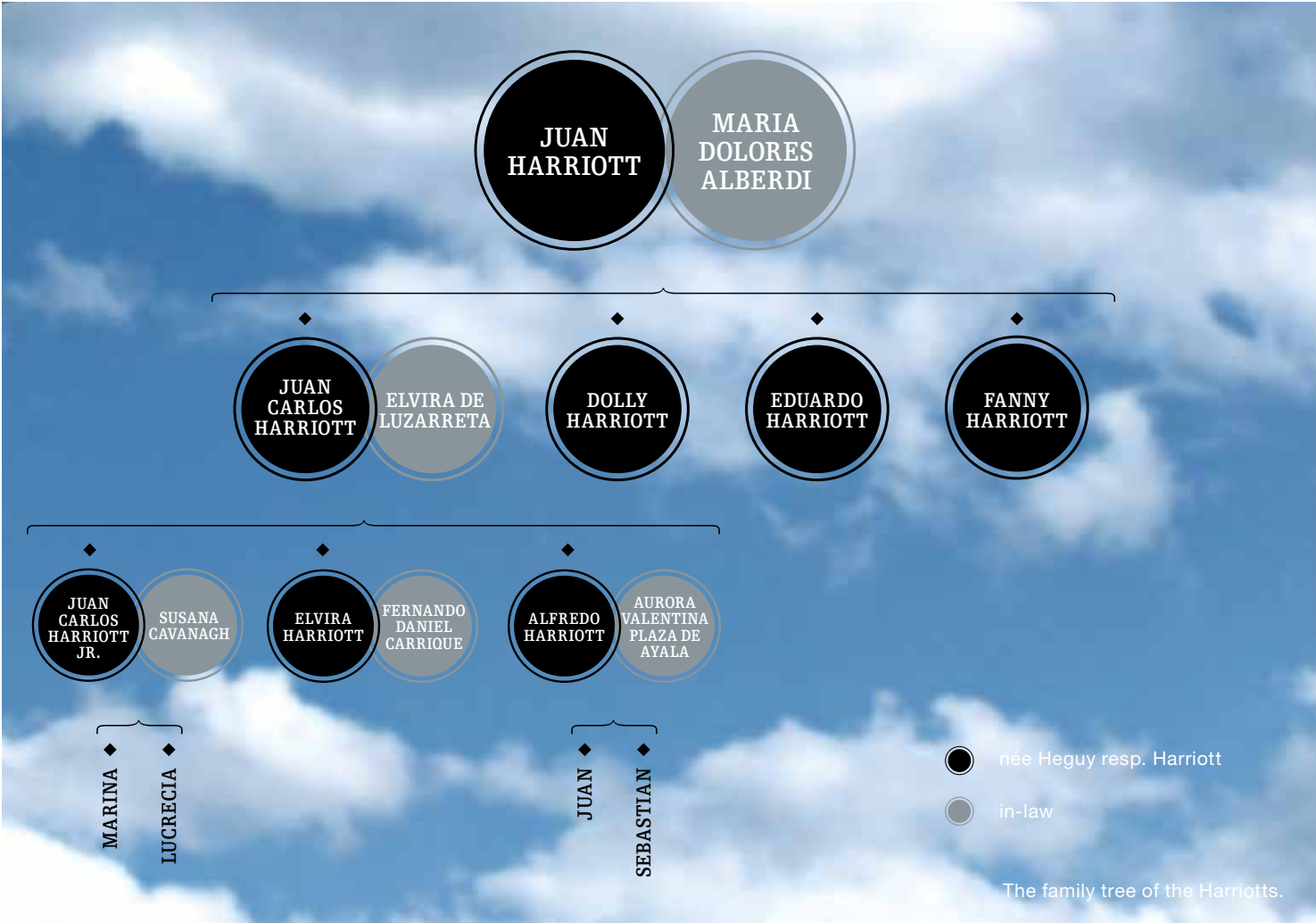
More than 500 kilometres south-west of Buenos Aires in the vast Argentine pampas, the small market town of Coronel Suárez had a polo club bearing its name and boasting some of Argentina’s most illustrious polo dynasties. At the very apex of the club was Juan Carlos Harriott Jnr., (Juancarlitos) supported by his younger brother Alfredo, both 10-goalers at their peak.

In the early 20th century their grandfather, a doctor indifferent to polo, had settled there, and his son, also Juan Carlos (Snr.), playing at 9 goals at his peak, won the Argentine Open nine times, while he and his brother Eduardo bred superb polo mounts to support Juancarlitos and Alfredo.

The other local family elevated to Argentine polo folklore was descended from an early

French Basque immigrant, Bautista Heguy, who fathered ten children, some of whose descendants would be central to the fortunes of Coronel Suárez Polo Club. One of his sons was called Antonio Heguy (1907–88) and he fathered two sons, Horacio Antonio and Alberto Pedro. The two Heguy brothers were each father to four sons, Horacio Segundo, Gonzalo, Marcos and Bautista in Horacio Antonio’s case, while Alberto Pedro was the father of Eduardo, Alberto, Tomas and Ignacio, almost all of whom rose to achieve 10-goal handicaps.

Between 1957 and 1981, with Juancarlitos Harriott as captain, and with varying combinations of players, Coronel Suárez won the Argentine Open 20 times, a record unlikely ever to be equalled, while also winning other Argentina high goal tournaments such as the Jockey Club Open, Tortugas Open and Hurlingham Open. Playing different combinations with various teams, leading Coronel Suárez players in other teams also won high goal tournaments in England and the USA. Eventually the sons of Horacio



The family tree of the Harriotts.

Antonio and Alberto Pedro Heguy forged their own teams, Los Indios Chapaleufú I and II, which would compete in – and equally make a mark on – Argentine high goal polo in later years.

Born in 1941, Alberto Pedro Heguy was 13 when he won his first polo trophy, a high-school tournament. Aged 22 and with a degree in equine veterinary science, he won his first Argentine Open in 1963, the first of 17 he would eventually claim. In his words, “My father and uncles, my cousins and sons were all raised in an environment of superlative polo. They were all good horsemen, and unless you’re a good horseman, you cannot hope to compete at the top”.

A more recent Argentine polo dynasty is the Pieres family. Four sons, Alfonso, Pablo, Alvaro and Gonzalo, were born to Alvaro Cesar (“Bary”), a lawyer, amateur player and respected umpire, based in Lobos near La Espadana Polo Club, founded in 1938 by two other polo-playing families, Louis and Tomas Garrahan

and their cousin, Carlos Buchanan. When “Bary” Pieres retired from his law practice he bequeathed his eight polo ponies to his sons, all of whom had set their hearts on playing as professionals.

The youngest, Gonzalo, born in 1956, served his polo apprenticeship with two of Argentina’s greatest polo mentors, Eduardo Moore and Hector Barrantes. Thereafter he played professionally, first with White Birch in the USA, then with the Australian media magnate Kerry Packer, whose team Ellerston Pieres led and managed for many seasons of English high goal polo. Such was the personal rapport which Gonzalo Pieres established with Kerry Packer, that Packer founded Ellerstina and which Pieres managed and eventually acquired. Nowadays it is also a stud farm that breeds polo ponies, whether naturally or using embryo transfer, and these ponies command some of the world’s highest prices. Pieres combines this with managing a new Ellerstina team composed of his sons, Facundo and Gonzalito (both +10), Nicolás (+9) and their cousin

Pablo (“Polito”, son of Pablo “Paul” Pieres), and assorted other team-mates.

In 2007 Facundo and Gonzalito invited their Mac Donough cousins, Matias and Pablo, also high goal players, to join Ellerstina to compete in Argentina’s three most prestigious high goal tournaments, the Tortugas, Hurlingham and Argentine Opens, the so-called “Triple Crown”. Ellerstina won the first and second but lost the third and most important to La Dolfina. The following year Facundo, Gonzalito, Nicolás and their brother-in-law, 40-year old former 10-goaler Mariano Aguerre, playing off 9 goals, won the Argentine Open. The Pieres and Mac Donough brothers are second cousins thanks to their grandmothers, sisters Ines and Laura Garrahan, the mothers, respectively, of Gonzalo Pieres and of Jorge Mac Donough, the founder-owner of another leading polo-pony stud farm, La Irenita Embriones. All the Argentine Garrahan associated with polo, Ines and Laura included, are descended from one Patrick Garrahan who migrated from Ireland to Argentina in 1829 at the age of 24. ●

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

- 01 ARGENTINA Clubs 270 | Players 6,000
- 02 AUSTRALIA Clubs 41 | Players 750
- 03 AUSTRIA Clubs 2 | Players 30
- 04 AZERBAIJAN Clubs 2 | Players 12
- 05 BAHAMAS Clubs 0 | Players 1
- 06 BARBADOS Clubs 5 | Players 38
- 07 BELGIUM Clubs 2 | Players 18
- 08 BOLIVIA Clubs 2 | Players 27
- 09 BRAZIL Clubs 25 | Players 500
- 10 BRUNEI** Clubs 1 | Players 25
- 11 CANADA Clubs 13 | Players 173
- 12 CHILE Clubs 17 | Players 600
- 13 CHINA Clubs 5 | Players 65
- 14 COLOMBIA Clubs 5 | Players 280
- 15 COSTA RICA Clubs 1 | Players 32
- 16 CZECH REPUBLIC Clubs 4 | Players 28
- 17 DENMARK Clubs 2 | Players 25
- 18 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Clubs 5 | Players 70
- 19 ECUADOR Clubs 6 | Players 60
- 20 EGYPT Clubs 5 | Players 98
- 21 ENGLAND Clubs 70 | Players 2,757
- 22 FINLAND Clubs 1 | Players 10
- 23 FRANCE Clubs 35 | Players 1,003
- 24 GERMANY Clubs 35 | Players 400
- 25 GHANA Clubs 1 | Players 25
- 26 GUATEMALA Clubs 3 | Players 130
- 27 HONG KONG Clubs 0 | Players 50
- 28 HUNGARY Clubs 5 | Players 116
- 29 INDIA Clubs 40 | Players 397
- 30 INDONESIA Clubs 1 | Players 63
- 31 IRAN Clubs 5 | Players 151
- 32 IRELAND Clubs 7 | Players 120
- 33 ITALY Clubs 10 | Players 160
- 34 JAMAICA Clubs 3 | Players 55
- 35 JAPAN Clubs 0 | Players 30
- 36 KAZAKHSTAN Clubs 5 | Players 90
- 37 KENYA Clubs 3 | Players 124
- 38 KOREA Clubs 1 | Players 40
- 39 LIECHTENSTEIN Clubs 1 | Players 28
- 40 LUXEMBOURG Clubs 1 | Players 26
- 41 MALAYSIA Clubs 11 | Players 261
- 42 MALTA Clubs 1 | Players 25
- 43 MEXICO Clubs 15 | Players 300
- 44 MONACO Clubs 1 | Players 25
- 45 MONGOLIA Clubs 4 | Players 56
- 46 MOROCCO Clubs 6 | Players 65
- 47 NETHERLANDS Clubs 4 | Players 72
- 48 NEW ZEALAND Clubs 22 | Players 416
- 49 NIGERIA Clubs 12 | Players 377
- 50 NORWAY Clubs 1 | Players 20
- 51 OMAN Clubs 1 | Players 22
- 52 PAKISTAN Clubs 21 | Players 436
- 53 PANAMA Clubs 1 | Players 16
- 54 PARAGUAY Clubs 4 | Players 44
- 55 PERU Clubs 1 | Players 50
- 56 PHILIPPINES** Clubs 7 | Players 60
- 57 POLAND Clubs 6 | Players 30
- 58 PORTUGAL Clubs 0 | Players 25
- 59 RUSSIA Clubs 4 | Players 30
- 60 SAN MARINO Clubs unkn. | Players 6*
- 61 SINGAPORE Clubs 1 | Players 100
- 62 SLOVAKIA Clubs 2 | Players 27
- 63 SOUTH AFRICA Clubs 33 | Players 430
- 64 SPAIN Clubs 25 | Players 646
- 65 SWEDEN Clubs 3 | Players 32
- 66 SWITZERLAND Clubs 9 | Players 179
- 67 THAILAND** Clubs 4 | Players 80
- 68 TUNISIA Clubs 0 | Players 6
- 69 TURKEY Clubs unkn. | Players 15*
- 70 UGANDA Clubs 1 | Players 12
- 71 URUGUAY Clubs 11 | Players 100
- 72 USA Clubs 300 | Players 5,300
- 73 ZAMBIA Clubs 4 | Players 85
- 74 ZIMBABWE Clubs 3 | Players 43

NORTH AMERICA

72 USA 🇺🇸

300
POLO CLUBS
5,300
PLAYERS

SOUTH AMERICA

01 ARGENTINA 🇦🇷

270
POLO CLUBS
6,000
PLAYERS

EUROPE & ASIA

21 ENGLAND 🇬🇧

70
POLO CLUBS
2,757
PLAYERS

EUROPE & ASIA

23 FRANCE 🇫🇷

35
POLO CLUBS
1,003
PLAYERS

AFRICA & AUSTRALIA

02 AUSTRALIA 🇦🇺

41
POLO CLUBS
750
PLAYERS

AFRICA & AUSTRALIA

63 SOUTH AFRICA 🇿🇦

33
POLO CLUBS
430
PLAYERS

POLO

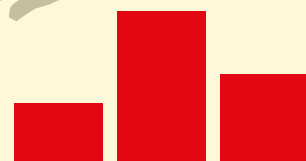
IN NUMBERS

Argentina, USA and Europe are the big polo nations. More than half of all clubs and players can be found here. But what about the other countries? And how many clubs and players can be found worldwide? POLO+10 did some research and presents the polo universe in terms of numbers. Many thanks to everyone for the great support!



POLO IS
PLAYED
IN ABOUT **90**
COUNTRIES
AROUND THE
WORLD

300
CLUBS IN
THE USA



THE "BIG 3"
**ARGENTINA, USA,
ENGLAND:**
58.6% OF ALL PLAYERS
&
55.3% OF ALL CLUBS

TOP 10 RANKING NUMBER OF CLUBS

#01 USA: 300
#02 ARGENTINA: 270
#03 ENGLAND: 70
#04 AUSTRALIA: 41
#05 INDIA: 40
#06 GERMANY: 35
FRANCE: 35
#07 SOUTH AFRICA: 33
#08 BRAZIL: 25
SPAIN: 25
#09 NEW ZEALAND: 22
#10 PAKISTAN: 21

TOP 10 RANKING NUMBER OF PLAYERS

#01 ARGENTINA: 6,000
#02 USA: 5,300
#03 ENGLAND: 2,757
#04 FRANCE: 1,003
#05 AUSTRALIA: 750
#06 SPAIN: 646
#07 CHILE: 600
#08 BRAZIL: 500
#09 PAKISTAN: 436
#10 SOUTH AFRICA: 430

6,000
PLAYERS IN
ARGENTINA



50 %

OF THE PLAYERS IN DENMARK AND
NORWAY ARE
FEMALE – THIS IS A RECORD

UNDER **18**
SHARE OF YOUNG PLAYERS
RUSSIA: 90 %
MONGOLIA: 80 %

ONLY
0.0003 %

OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
ARE POLO PLAYERS
=
95% OF THESE ARE
UHNWI+HNWI

APPROX.
90 %
LOW GOAL
WORLDWIDE

WORLDWIDE

23.974
PLAYERS

1.158
CLUBS



These numbers were given to POLO+10 by the national polo associations. In addition to this, there are clubs and players, which are not affiliated to the associations. Multiple memberships in various national polo associations are possible. In the countries, which are not listed, no polo is being played or POLO+10 has no information at hand.

All information is supplied without guarantee.



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THE BIG POLO HALLS STORY

Playing technique, speed and team spirit – the fascinating sport of polo is attracting more and more people all over the world. An insight into the world of polo.

BY POLO+10 PHOTOGRAPHY JACQUES TOFFI



Image: Grenavitar/Wikipedia

The beginnings of polo

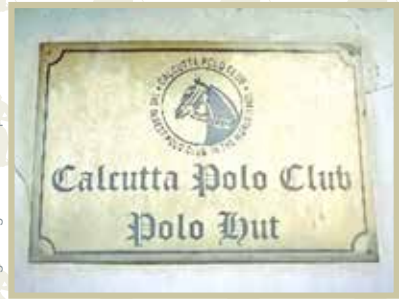


Image: Gaganz712/Wikipedia

First polo club in the world



Polo rules are written down

+10

Introduction of handicap system



Image: Designed by freepik.com

Polo at the Summer Olympics



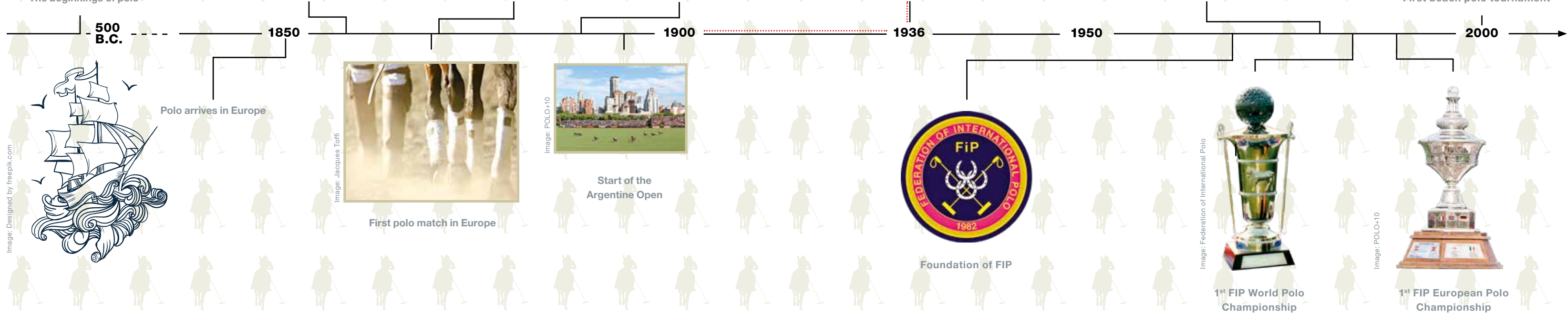
Image: POLO+10

First snow polo tournament



Image: Beach Polo Cup Dubai

First beach polo tournament



Persia is the birthplace of polo. According to ancient sources, Persian rulers were hooked on playing polo as early as 600 B.C. Today polo is known to be the oldest team sport in the world. Long before polo was even known on the European continent, the lightning-fast game was already hugely popular across Asia. British officers stationed in India towards the end of the 19th century were infected by the local enthusiasm for the sport, leading them to found the world’s first polo club in Silchar in 1859. Back in their homeland, the British wanted to carry on enjoying their new leisure pursuit. This led them to set up the Hurlingham Polo Club in 1876, the first place where the rules of polo were set down in writing. These rules are still applied in international matches the world over. The British then took the sport to America, which helped to develop the handicap system that was adopted by the British and Indians in 1910. It was also the

British who took the sport to South America. Once it arrived on these shores, there was no stopping it. The Argentinians fell in love with this sport on horseback. No other country in the world has as many 10-goal players as Argentina. In addition the best polo ponies come from the South American country.

Today, polo is played in over 90 countries across the world and the sport continues to enjoy enormous popularity round the globe. Polo is played not only on horseback, but also with other animals such as elephants and camels, as well as on bikes, in canoes and on Segways. It is not just played on grass, but also on snow and sand. One of the reasons for the growing fascination for the sport of polo is its attractive mixture of playing technique, speed and team spirit. Teams are made up of four players each. Each of the four players is assigned a position numbered from 1 to 4. No. 1 is the attacker,

no. 2 is a midfielder, no. 3 is the team’s tactical link, and No. 4 (also known as the “back”) is the defender in the rearmost position. While no. 1 and no. 2 play forward, 3 and 4 take on the defence. All players are equipped with a mallet, also known as the stick. is usually made of bamboo or willow and may only be held in the right hand. Depending on the height of the pony played, and the rider, the mallets are between 122 cm and 137 cm long. Each player is individually ranked on a handicap scale that ranges from -2 (beginners) to +10 goals. There are only a handful of players worldwide with a 10-goal handicap. The handicaps are defined by the respective national polo associations. All handicaps of the players of one team add up to the team handicap.

The protagonists of each polo match are always the horses. The attributes of a good polo pony: quick, agile and with strong-nerves. In recent

years crosses of Thoroughbreds and Criollo horses from Argentina have become popular. Today, most polo ponies stand around 63 inches (160 cm). They can reach a speed of 60 km/h in the minimum of time. Safety of the horse is paramount in polo. If, for instance, a pony’s bandage comes undone, the whistle is blown to stop play. While players are expected to play the full game without substitution, polo ponies may not be played in consecutive chukkas. In short: a polo player entering a tournament must have at least two polo ponies. Four ponies is a professional number, while five are ideal just in case. Some players even bring along six ponies or more. This makes the sport of polo one of the most expensive and dangerous forms of sport in the world. In addition to the money paid for each horse there are also many expenses for things like the accommodation of the horses and the transport to tournaments. A lot of

polo players employ one or more so called grooms. The grooms are responsible for training the horses for tournaments, to care for them during the tournaments and to prepare them for each match. The two most important rules for newcomers to the sport of polo: the change of sides after each goal and the line of the ball. The line of the ball and the right-of-way make up the fundamentals of the game. The line of the ball is the imaginary path the travelling ball is expected to take. This line may not be crossed by the opponent. Another very important rule: after each goal the teams change sides. This rule stems from the hot and sunny colonies in India, where polo was played in the evening due to the high temperatures during the day. As the sun is low in the evening, it was a considerable disadvantage to play against the sun. Because of the frequent change of sides both teams have an even chance to win the match.

From 1900 to 1936, polo was an official Olympic sport in five Olympic Games: 1900 in Paris, 1908 in London, 1920 in Antwerp, 1924 in Paris and 1936 in Berlin. There are currently concerted efforts in place to get polo recognised as an Olympic sport again. The most important protagonist in this is the Federation of International Polo (FIP), which was founded in Buenos Aires in 1982. FIP also organises the World Polo Championship and the European Polo Championship. Today 59 nations are full members of the FIP. Further functions of the FIP include: enhancing the image and stature of polo on an international level, promoting the practice of the sport worldwide, uniting the polo associations all over the world, promoting the sport to FIP members through coaching clinics and tournaments for children and promoting the concepts of friendship, team spirit, equality, respect, integration and embrace the idea of fair play and safety.

POLO RULES

FOULS

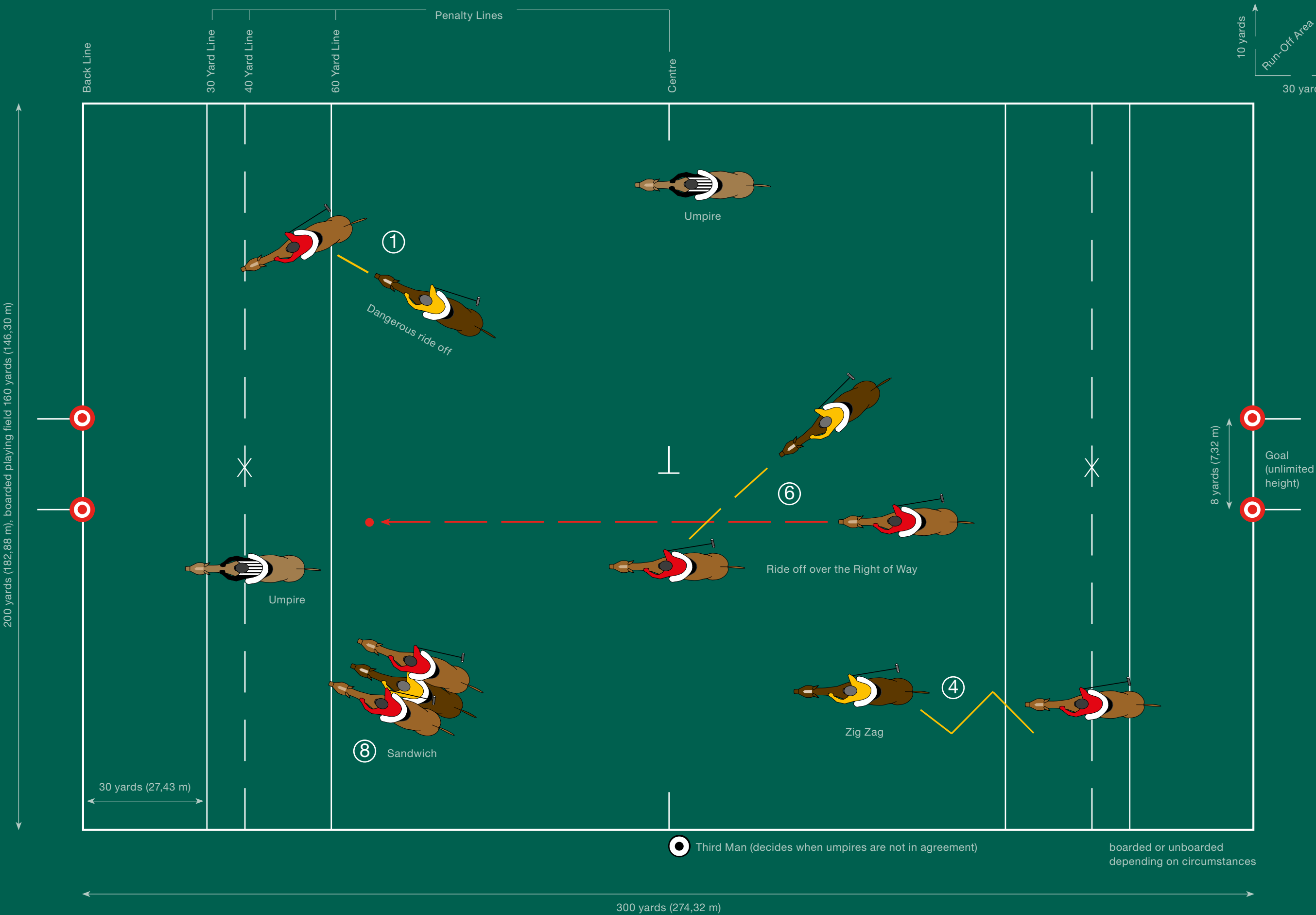
As in other ball games there are a variety of penalties for fouls in polo. It is important to understand these so as to better follow a game. POLO+10 explain the different foul-situations according to the official rules of the German Polo Association.

It is important to bear in mind the following: ROW – Right-of-Way and LOB – Line of the Ball are not identical or interchangeable. A player on the line of the ball always has the right-of-way.

The following are forbidden and constitute a foul:

1. Playing at an angle that could be a danger to the pony and player.
2. Playing at a higher speed than the opponent is riding.
3. Riding into the opponent's horse from behind the saddle. Opponents may only play as high as the pony's shoulders.
4. Riding criss-cross in the way of a galloping player in an attempt to force him to reduce speed.
5. Sideways parrying, pulling the opponent's horse, or other similar acts that put the pony at risk of tumbling.
6. Infringement of the right-of-way.
7. Galloping head-on towards an opponent so as to intimidate him or force him into parrying or missing the ball even without fouling or crossing the line of the ball.
8. Creating the so called "sandwich" whereby two teammates force a player of the opponent's team into the middle.
9. Intentionally riding into the opponents backhand or forward hit.
10. Riding outside the sidelines or goal demarcation lines. Riding in a manner that could harm the referee.

Penalties and free hits are taken at a distance of 30, 40, and 60 yards.



*The outdoor polo pitch is the largest pitch of any organised sport. The proportions shown here are not true to scale.



Image: Freddy Dowling



2021... "UNPRECEDENTED" EVENTS

Windsor Polo Club had a successful 2020 Spring Season after recovering from bushfires and COVID, and with events slowly returning to "normal", everyone thought that brighter days were ahead in 2021. Boy, how we were so wrong.

BY KIM MCDUGALL PHOTOGRAPHY FREDDY DOWLING, ERIN MEALLY, WINDSOR POLO CLUB

Windsor Polo Club had a successful 2020 Spring Season after recovering from bushfires and COVID, and with events slowly returning to "normal", everyone thought that brighter days were ahead in 2021. Boy, how we were so wrong.

2021 kicked off, horses were brought back in and the Autumn Season was underway. It was Windsor Polo Club's 50th Anniversary. Celebrations and parties were planned and we were also set to host the Countess of Dudley Cup - There was a buzz in the basin.

Then on the 20th March an "unprecedented" one in thirty year flood hit NSW and greatly impacted the Hawkesbury Basin. It was devastating and heartbreaking to see. Many friends, family and much of our community were impacted by floodwaters that you had only ever heard stories about or seen in old photographs. It was surreal to see it happen right in front of our eyes and made the stories told by parents and grandparents about the flooding in the area in 1964, 1986 and 1990 come alive. Cue the series of "unprecedented" events in the history of Windsor Polo Club:

- Unprecedented community spirit
- Unprecedented generosity
- Unprecedented optimism

For that week when our fields, clubhouse and outbuildings were underwater all we could do was sit and wait to see what damage had been done. In the meantime, the Countess of Dudley was to be relocated to Garangula. When the floodwater finally receded all we could see was the mud, the mess and that smell... Oh that smell. The clean up was swiftly underway with multiple flood working bees organised. Members, friends of members and family members showed up to get Windsor Polo Club tidied up. It was the most wonderful unprecedented show of community spirit we had ever seen.

Even though everyone was thinking that the rest of the Autumn Season in the Hawkesbury wouldn't go ahead/shouldn't go ahead - It did.

The fields were inspected and deemed safe. The basic things like toilets and electricity were fixed. The Windsor Polo Club was back, albeit in a limited capacity with basic amenities. On the 24th April polo was once again played in the Hawkesbury after Kurri Burri Polo Club gave the all clear for Windsor to run a tournament on their weekend, as they weren't ready just yet to host a tournament.

9 teams across 3 grades competed and the positive atmosphere was infectious. We were back playing polo. We even had Allan serving lunch and refreshments outside under a little marquee using a BBQ for some hot food and eskies to keep the drinks cold, as our clubhouse wasn't operational. The post flood season highlight was even managing to get crowds back at the Off the Track Thoroughbred Event, which was run by Thoroughbred Events Australia. Thank you Sharon Lenton for organising such a successful event.

This led us to our next chapter in the series of unprecedented events. The Windsor Polo Club Flood Relief GoFundMe page and the unprecedented generosity of the polo community Australia-wide.

Even though we were back playing polo there was still a massive damage and clean up bill. Things like the electronic gate motor, pumps for the irrigator, AV equipment and clubhouse fridges that still needed replacing. A GoFundMe page was set up with an original aim of \$50,000. This was quickly surpassed and just kept on rising and rising. We ended up raising \$120,000! The Windsor Polo Club Committee was blown away and still is in awe of the amazing generosity from the Australian Polo community.

A plaque is currently being commissioned with everyone's name that donated. It will be hung proudly in the clubhouse. The Windsor Polo Club Committee would like to acknowledge and say thank you to one and all, especially the following:

The Windsor Polo Club Committee. Left to right: Kirrily Smith, Andrew Bridson, Julie McIntosh, Kim McDougall, Adam Meally, Jessica Sprenger, Adam Buchert. Absent: Nick Wayland.



Image: Erin Meally

Firstly as some are aware Windsor Polo Club has gained a major sponsor in the past year - The Royal Richmond Hotel. We like to thank Karen Anderson, Peter Wynn and Todd Garratt for their unwavering support of the club through all these unprecedented times we've faced. We can't wait until we're out of lockdown so we can return and show our support. The best times were spent at The Royal after polo to celebrate, commiserate, laugh and tell stories about what happened on the field, off the field and across the weekend over a beer or two.

Next, we would like to personally thank Johnny Kahlbetzer. Johnny single handedly managed to get our donations to above \$100k by matching everyone's donations once he heard about Windsor Polo Club's cause. It made a massive difference and the donations literally doubled overnight. Thank you Johnny.

The Windsor Polo Club Committee would also like to send a whole-hearted thank you to everyone else who donated to our Flood Relief. Every single dollar made a difference. You made a difference.

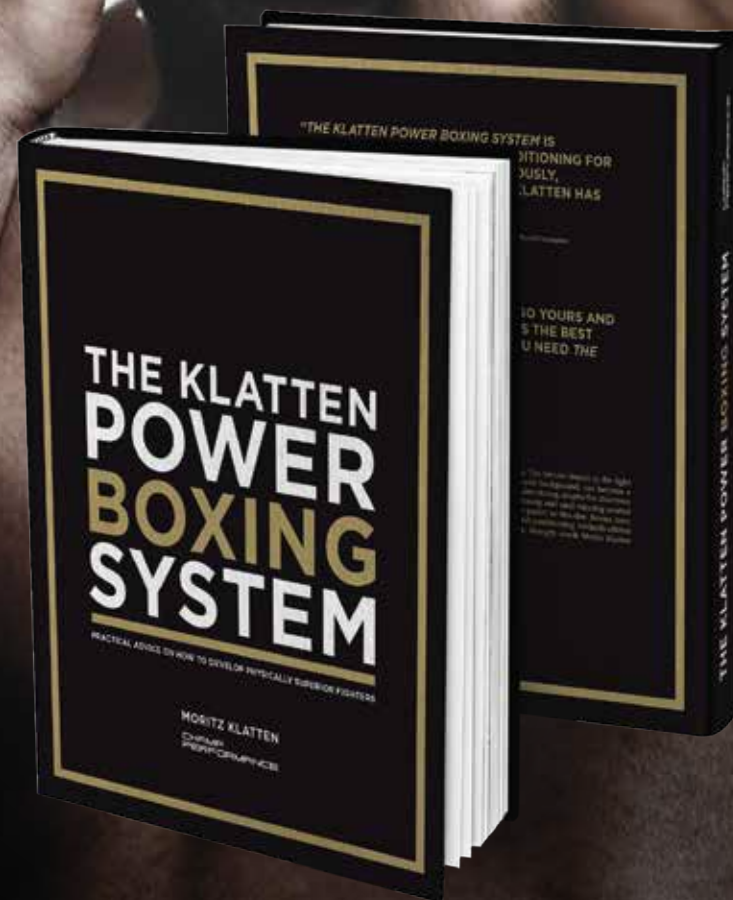
Windsor Polo Club has now found ourselves in a unique "unprecedented" position allowing us to conduct major capital and maintenance improvements around the club and complete projects that were always limited due to funding. The flood in some respects was a blessing in disguise and it has allowed us to make the club a much better facility because of it.

The biggest capital improvement of note was installing a new bore and pump, which has just been completed. This means we can irrigate our fields more effectively and efficiently, always keeping them in the best condition possible for everyone to enjoy.

Even though all of NSW is currently in lockdown there still is unprecedented optimism at Windsor Polo Club. Yes we might be facing another season cancelled but do you know what? After everything that everyone has gone through together - droughts, fires, floods and now COVID the little spark of brightness that we all share is this amazing sport of polo. No matter what, we shall always reinvent new ways to play within restrictions or pivot in a new direction to find a way to play the game we all love. At the moment a revised spring calendar is being worked on. The Windsor Polo Club Committee is optimistic that we can play some sort of Spring Polo.

Even if that doesn't happen, and we get out of lockdown after the official season is over, Windsor Polo Club is flagging the idea of playing twilight polo. Why not enjoy those balmy summer evenings playing polo even though polo isn't traditionally played that time of year. Watch this space.

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6 TIPS... ANIMAL PHYSIOTHERAPIST AND -OSTEOPATH JULIA GREB

...how to improve your horse's health
 in everyday life!

BY JULIA GREB

Many horse riders only think about how to improve their horse's health when it is already suffering from injuries and diseases. Julia Greb explains that horse owners would be much better advised to act proactively and contribute something to the health of their horse every day. Julia speaks from her own experience as a physiotherapist and osteopath for horses. She knows the aspects that owners have to consider in order to have a healthy horse by their side for many years. In this article the horse expert reveals six tips horse owners should follow every day in order to keep their animal in good shape for as long as possible.

Tip 1: Cleaning as a massage

What many horse owners do not know is cleaning the horse is not just about removing superficial dirt. It also has important animal health benefits. With a rubber curl you can achieve a massage effect by doing circular movements and thus improve the blood circulation in the horse's muscles.

Tip 2: Mental training

Horses enjoy games and intellectual challenges as much as humans do. The mental work not only improves the horse's attention, but also its physical perception, as Julia Greb knows from her years of work with the animals. Pylons and poles are a great way to change things up and improve a horse's coordination.

Tip 3: Pay attention to the diet

When it comes to nutrition, not all horses are the same. A horse that is ridden little or irregularly has a different energy requirement than a high-performance horse. Accordingly, you should adapt the basic and additional feed to the training and figure of your horse, says Julia. Otherwise, a long-term "malnutrition" of the animal can lead to serious health problems.

Tip 4: Keep moving

Regardless of whether you own a younger or an older horse - movement keeps them mobile and mentally fit. Regular exercise should therefore take place at any age. Even if the horse's first steps may be difficult at an old age, a walk is good and important for health and does not harm the animal.

Tip 5: Daily figure check

As Julia Greb knows, obesity and the associated consequences are becoming more and more common. Obesity can also result in various metabolic diseases. If you have an easy-to-feed horse, it makes sense to ration the feed into several small portions. At the same time you should make sure that the animal gets enough exercise.

Tip 6: Fresh air and grazing times

Fresh air in the pasture is not only good for a horse's physical health, but also has a positive effect on the animal's psyche. Therefore it's not just your horse's lungs and the immune system that will thank you in the long run. ●



ABOUT JULIA GREB:

Julia Greb helps horse owners to improve their horse's health and has made it her business to provide clients with intensive one-on-one coachings. Thanks to more than ten years of experience as an animal physiotherapist and osteopath, she knows horses' particularities perfectly and can foresee which steps have to be followed in order for them to become healthier.

“WE FULFILL
ALMOST EVERY
WISH YOU HAVE,
WHENEVER YOU
HAVE IT.”

“PRIVACY IS OUR USP.”

Timeless luxury on the Indian Ocean: The „Maradiva Villa Resort & Spa“ on Mauritius stands up to even the highest demands. A conversation with „Maradiva“ CEO Sanjiv Ramdanee about hotel highlights, breakfast in the afternoon, polo plans and new markets.

BY POLO+10 / ALEXANDER NEBE PHOTOGRAPHY MARADIVA VILLA RESORT & SPA



“EVERYONE FEELS WELCOME AT MAURITIUS AT ANY TIME.”

“WE ALWAYS WORK WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE.”

INTERVIEW WITH SANJIV RAMDANEE

CEO OF „MARADIVA VILLAS RESORT & SPA“, MAURITIUS

MR. RAMDANEE, WHAT MAKES MAURITIUS SO SPECIAL FOR YOU?

The island is one of the places in the world that exudes a very special magic. A magic that every guest should simply experience for themselves. In addition, the Mauritians are known for their hospitality and warm-heartedness. Here everyone feels warmly welcome at any time. This fact also makes every visit so unique.

YOU WERE BORN IN MAURITIUS AND YOUR FAMILY IS THE FIFTH GENERATION TO LIVE THERE. WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE AND LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME COUNTRY TO THIS DAY?

Definitely the great diversity of landscapes and the Mauritian culture. We have a microclimate here and that's why, for example, the region in the south is completely different from the one in the north. Every region offers its beautiful attraction and nature. And I would also mention the harmony among people.

YOU ARE THE CEO OF THE „MARADIVA VILLA RESORT & SPA“. WHY IS YOUR HOTEL ONE OF THE BEST ON THE ISLAND?

I don't like to praise the „Maradiva“ myself - but judging by the very positive feedback from our guests, we seem to be doing quite well. (laughs)

FOR EXAMPLE?

Let me describe it this way. When it comes to the concept of luxury in the hotel sector, two factors are particularly essential in my eyes: space and temporal independence. And that's why we offer our guests a particularly large amount of space. Our Luxury Suite Pool

Villas and Beachfront Suite Pool Villas are 163 square metres, Exclusive Suite Pool Villas are 220 square metres and Presidential Suite Pool Villas are 345 square metres. To note also that all our villas (65 in total) have a private pool.

WHAT CAN YOU OFFER VACATIONERS WITH PARTICULARLY HIGH DEMANDS?

For them we have the Luxury Suite Pool Villa or the Presidential Suite Pool Villa with a size of 345 square meters and a 56 square meter infinity pool in the portfolio. Whatever the size of the villas, privacy is our USP.

YOU WANT YOUR GUESTS TO FEEL ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE THEY ARE AT HOME? Exactly! With us, everything is designed to be extremely spacious and airy - regardless of whether it's about the bathroom, bedroom or the walk-in closet in XL format. And the concept runs through the entire hotel complex. We offer only 65 villas on 27 hectares. So if you are a guest going to the beach, spa area or restaurant, it will almost always remain familiar quiet and private. And it will almost never happen that anything is overbooked or guests will have to wait for a certain offer.

AND WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE LUXURY FACTOR OF TIME?

We offer a full service in case you don't want to leave your villa for a day. You feel like enjoying your breakfast only at two o'clock in the afternoon? No problem! You can book a massage in your villa or a private dinner. We can fulfill almost any wish, whenever you want. There are no fixed time slots, where



Sanjiv Ramdanee

sometimes in other hotels certain services are offered. No one has to worry about missing out on anything with us. You alone determine the program! And this is very relaxing!

A VERY SPECIAL GEM IS THE SPA AREA, RIGHT?

Yes, the spa alone is 1200 square meters and we offer many new and innovative treatments there. The fitness area offers the same amount of space.

WHAT KIND OF GUEST MIX IS VISITING THE „MARADIVA“?

Our guests come mainly from European countries like England, France, Germany or Switzerland. But we also have guests from the Gulf States, Russia, China or South Korea.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2020, YOU OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT YOU WANTED TO HOLD A POLO TOURNAMENT IN MAURITIUS. THEN THE PANDEMIC INTERVENED... ARE YOUR PLANS STILL GOING AHEAD?



Arvind Bundhun

We quickly realized that it would not be possible to organize a complete tournament. For this, it would be essential to fly about 200 polo ponies to Mauritius, which would then have to be quarantined. But that would be too complicated and costly. That's why, for the first attempt last year, we actually considered the compromise of organizing polo show matches over a period of two to three days. This would be logistically not so difficult and expensive to manage and still a good opportunity to present this sport to the Mauritians and their guests. But then the pandemic stroke and we had to postpone.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE MAURITIUS EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR GUESTS IN THE FUTURE?

Absolutely! Together with the MTPA, it's an important goal to keep offering visitors activities and attractions that they won't find in other similar destinations. ●



INTERVIEW WITH ARVIND BUNDHUN

DIRECTOR OF THE „MAURITIUS TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY“ (MTPA)

“SAFETY IS THE NEW LUXURY.”

WHICH PART OF MAURITIUS OR WHICH PLACE DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?

This is like choosing a favorite child... But if I had to choose, I would say hiking up Le Morne Peak, a spectacular mountain overlooking an ocean that has as many shades of blue as you can imagine. It's so peaceful, and you have a breathtaking view of the interior and the water. Le Morne is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a great source of pride for Mauritians. Also, Bel Ombre on the south coast is a beautiful place where I love to spend time.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD GUESTS VISITING MAURITIUS FOR THE FIRST TIME DEFINITELY NOT MISS?

The Chamarel rum distillery is a must, as is the nearby panoramic restaurant „Le Chamarel.“ A fascinating insight into the rich history of Mauritius is offered by the museum „L'Aventure du Sucre“, a former sugar factory, where exhibits about the cultivation of sugar cane are displayed - by the way, the most important crop on Mauritius and a key factor for the economic development of the country. And if they dare to make an early start, they should definitely go swimming with our dolphins.

AS HEAD OF MTPA, WHAT STRATEGY ARE YOU PURSUING TO MAINTAIN OR EVEN EXPAND MAURITIUS' STATUS AS A HIGH-END TOURIST DESTINATION?

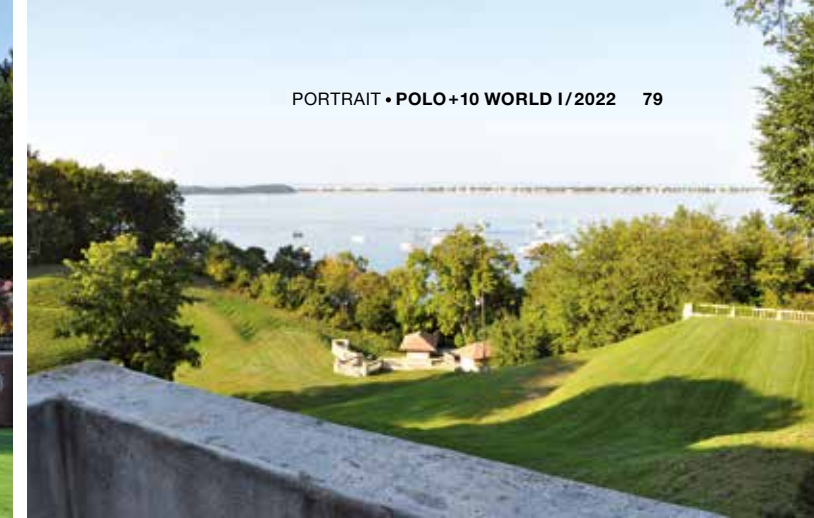
We always work with an eye to the future. The pandemic was a real shock to global tourism and will have a lasting impact on people's travel behavior. We therefore believe that safety is the new luxury. Consumers are choosing vacation destinations like Mauritius that have responded robustly to the pandemic; places they can be sure will stay open and won't be red-listed in their home countries.

DOES THE PANDEMIC ALSO PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES?

The pause in global tourism caused by Corona has certainly been an occasion for the industry to reflect on some of its unsustainable practices, and the fresh start now provides a good opportunity for a fresh start. Mauritius has long been a regional leader in sustainable tourism. We are determined to step up these efforts immediately and quickly. This is the duty of the tourism industry to our planet. But we also expect this to become a commercial necessity as more and more consumers prioritize sustainability in their lifestyle choices.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN YOU AND SANJIV RAMDANEE?

We both grew up in the tourism industry and share the same vision of positioning Mauritius as a luxury destination. ●



LONG ISLAND

Long Island allows you to travel back to the golden 20s.

PHOTOGRAPHY **DISCOVER LONG ISLAND**
/ STEFEN TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Just a few miles away from New York City is the “Sylt of New York”: Long Island known for being a hideaway for the rich and beautiful. In the popular Hamptons, New York’s upper class spends time at the beach, surfing and kayaking, or in one of the numerous restaurants. The island’s rich history is marked by American celebrities.

Immerse yourself in the world of Great Gatsby

Long Island’s Gold Coast allows you to immerse yourself in the glamorous era of the Great Gatsby. The author of the novel with the same name, F. Scott Fitzgerald, lived on Long Island from 1922 and is today considered one of the essential U.S. writers. Surrounded by magnificent gardens, the opulent mansions he describes in his novel were built in the elegant style of the 1920s and are now partly open to tourists. On guided tours through the magnificent estates with luxurious furnishings, visitors experience a journey back in time to the roaring 1920s and feel a real “Great Gatsby feeling”.

A Hollywood scenery you can touch

One of the impressive stately homes that also opens its doors to visitors is the “Old Westbury Gardens” estate. The formerly

private country estate is not only as a museum in the midst of colorful show gardens but is also a popular location for cultural festivities or private parties. Some Hollywood celebrities also know and appreciate “Old Westbury Gardens”: Nicolas Cage and Joaquin Phoenix shot the film “8mm” here. But the tranquil estate is also used as a backdrop for productions such as “American Gangster” and “Gossip Girl”.

Oheka Castle – The second largest mansion in the USA was built by a German. The majestic Oheka Castle is considered one of the most impressive buildings in the Hamptons. With its 125 individually decorated rooms, it is now used as a hotel. The French chalet was commissioned in 1914 by German banker and entrepreneur Otto Hermann Kahn, who used the property as a summer home. He organized glamorous parties in what is now the second largest mansion in the U.S., where heads of state and celebrities were welcome guests – very much in the style of the Great Gatsby.

Relaxing time out in nature

For those who do not want to think about the wild parties of the 1920s but looking for a relaxing time-out far away from the urban jungle, Long Island offers countless

recreational opportunities. The bright sandy beaches are known as the most beautiful in the world and invite you to sunbathe or stroll along the boardwalk. The well-kept parks and idyllic forests of Long Island provide a unique place for extensive hikes and adventurous bike rides followed by picnics in the open air. A popular destination in the region is the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. Located near the town of Easter Bay on Long Island. The Park pleased visitors with several thousand species of plants planted in impressive formations. History buffs can visit the park’s Coe Hall Historic House Museum to learn about the history of the house and the families who once lived there.

About Discover Long Island

Discover Long Island was founded in 1979 under the name Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau & Sports Commission as an official agency to promote the regional travel and tourism industry. The organization contributes to Long Island’s economic development and quality of life by promoting the region to the public as a top-rated destination for tourism, meetings and conventions, trade shows, sporting events and other major events.

www.discoverlongisland.com

SIX SENSES

Within just a few hours of the US, Belize is known for its warm and turquoise water, incredible snorkeling and diving, and active and vibrant culture. Guests and residents at Six Senses Belize will experience something out of this world as the team has worked tirelessly to strike the perfect balance between vivacious beach life and small-scale, secluded island bliss so that residents can enjoy either or both, any time they wish.

Exhilarating Adventure and Isolated Bliss

The resort and residences are uniquely set across two areas. The sun-drenched stretch of secret beachfront on Ambergris Caye, the most sought-after destination in Belize, offers an abundance of watersports, adventure and wild nights in equal measure. A five-minute boat ride away, or swim for the sporty, offers private island bliss for the secluded overwater villas, spa and wellness facilities.

This means, after hopping on a short flight, guests can check in to their desert island abode, enjoy a swim or massage in paradise and sundowners on the deck and then get dressed up to head over the water for a fun night out with family and friends all on their first day.

“Throughout, the emphasis has been placed on sensitive integration of landscaping to connect guests with nature and allow for greater privacy and coveted ‘desert island’ appeal,” says Neil Jacobs, Chief Executive

Officer of Six Senses. “We’ve drawn inspiration from local craft and Belizean life, capturing the spirit and history of Mayan architecture and local heritage. Everything has been done to embody a new generation of travelers, eager to make memories, while preserving the island for future generations.”

Secret Beach

Secret Beach is the main activities hub for Six Senses Belize. This 18-acre (7-hectare) part of the resort boasts a pristine stretch of private beachfront and is just up the coast from lively San Pedro on desirable Ambergris Caye. It offers an eclectic mix of daytime and nighttime amenities, anchored by the Experience Center. There are plans for organic gardens complemented by a labyrinth, mushroom hut, cooking school, food market and teens’ club. Another outdoor pool, ice cream parlor, overwater restaurant and Cinema Paradiso offer nightlife, socializing and Belizean culture galore. Secret Beach will also be the main location for watersports with a dive center, Marine Discovery and a wide range of activities on offer. Secret Beach is home to 24 residences, ranging from two-bedroom to seven-bedroom, available to purchase.

Island Life

There will be 45 resort villas and a handful of residences for purchase also located on a 10-acre (4-hectare) private island, 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers) across the water from Secret Beach. During the short boat ride, guests pass a large sandbar, with unimaginably turquoise waters. This also belongs to

the property and will be the setting for private picnics, reconnection experiences and “I do’s”. The current arrival to the southeast of the island is like entering an untouched, mysterious paradise and Six Senses Belize will maintain this sensation. It also stages the first glimpse into the island, where its inner wetlands and mangrove forests are at their most pristine. This landscape will be sustainably protected as a natural preservation area for the existing flora and fauna and will be made accessible to connect to the island’s biotope. The south of the island also enjoys unspoiled horizon views, which will be shared by an overwater sunset bar, All-Day Dining Village, BBQ Hut serving freshly cooked seasonal catches, communal outdoor pool, and children’s club.

Along its Eastern and Western shores, there will be 44 one- and two-bedroom resort villas and a three-bedroom retreat villa, most of which will be overwater bungalows accessed by jetties. Blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living, they offer a place to reconnect that’s totally in tune with the mangrove reserve, sea, wildlife and nature all around.

Built around the natural lagoons to the north of the preservation area, the Six Senses Spa and Wellness Village will be the beating heart of the resort. This offers inward-looking, healing experiences among the existing mangroves at the edge of the wetlands. Initially, it will feature an Alchemy Bar, Holistic Anti-Aging Center, fitness center, indoor and outdoor

Six Senses Belize to Open with Secret Beach and Private Island.

PHOTOGRAPHY SIX SENSES

treatment areas, Temazcal lodge and outdoor yoga pavilion. Spa treatments and wellness programs will focus on natural healing, energy medicine and traditional Mayan practices. Nestled within the organic gardens to the north is the plant-forward Leaf restaurant and a raised viewing lounge, offering a completely different experience, high in the canopy and framing the pure night sky.

Residences

An exceptional opportunity for a handful of owners, the island is also home to a collection of three, four, and five-bedroom residences, available for purchase. Organized along a central breezeway, and rising organically in and around natural foliage, the buildings allow for an indoor-outdoor lifestyle that is typical for Belize and the Caribbean climate. Loosely dispersed, they eliminate any sense of boundaries to form a continuous landscape experience as a barefoot sandy beach community while existing flora will protect privacy and shield the structures from each other.

Here “feet in the sand” has evolved into an architectural concept, living within the sublime landscape, protected and shaded in a casual yet refined way. Passive design strategies are employed to reduce energy consumption. Each residence is placed between the precious mangrove forest and estuary on one side and its own expansive stretch of beach on the other, framing wide views to each. The design sets the stage for diverse experiences of the landscape, ocean

and balance of community and seclusion. The western residences have ocean views from most rooms and beach access with a lifestyle that engages with the ground. The structures further east provide raised living rooms with access to wide horizon views and connecting to the pool gardens below. In addition to the generous master suite, there is a separate lock-off villa, which may be rented out separately at the owner’s convenience.

Sustainable Development

With longevity and low environmental impact in mind, renewable wood is the principal material used in the facades and buildings are modular and prefabricated to keep on-site construction to a minimum. Buildings are orientated to maximize passive solar strategies for energy efficiency and to capture cooling breezes. Green roof areas will provide an extra layer of insulation and thermal mass, while other areas will be covered with discreet solar panels.

The natural vegetation along the beach zone will be left intact, preserving this natural barrier and there are plans to re-vegetate red mangroves and plant species to further preserve the beach and serve as a roosting and foraging habitat for birdlife. The overwater structures are built in such a way as to provide a benthic habitat to enhance productivity and biodiversity as well as fish life.

Design Principles

The resort and residences are the result of a design collaboration between architects

Studio Caban, interior design house Maed Collective, landscape designer Maat Handasa, and sustainability experts XCO2.

The choice of materials and interior finishes is inspired by an understanding of the cultural and natural local resources, exuding a contemporary and casual island vibe. The soft materials and harmonious blending with the surrounding nature invite guests to intuitively unwind and become fully enveloped by the island.

John Turley, a member of the development team says: “Welcome to Six Senses Belize, a world more magical than you could imagine. You’ll be struck by the stunning 81-degree turquoise water, the laid-back vibe, and genuine smiles that greet you off the plane. Belizean hospitality is second to none, and you will not find a broader array of activities, experiences, and memories to be had in a smaller package! Our world has changed a lot, and increasingly we all crave an escape. Six Senses Belize offers a select number of families the chance to start a new legacy in a spectacular, safe, and accessible place. This project is unlike anything you’ve ever experienced, and it’s right on your doorstep.”

Six Senses Belize is targeting an opening by mid-2025. Belize is just 1.5 hours from Miami and 5 hours from New York. There are several onwards transfer options including via boat or helicopter.

www.ihgplc.com

POLO⁺¹⁰ WORLD

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