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POLO+10 WORLD

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DREAMS FOR LIFE

In the past polo season, some dreams of passionate players came true – among others in Zurich, Berlin, Cortina or Aspen, while others were shattered.



During the final editorial touches for the current issue of POLO+10, which you are holding in your hands right now, one quote in particular stuck in my mind. It's from the Italian ex-banker, artist and visionary Gian Franco Brignone, who died in January and whose work we commemorate from page 78 onwards: "I have given my life for my dreams and my dreams have given me life."

Isn't it a wonderful thing to have dreams in life? To hold on to previously unfulfilled dreams and goals even as we grow older - and to try to make them come true with passion and dedication? And even if we still don't succeed: At the end of life, we regret above all what we have NOT done; what we have NOT tried ...

In this context, I find the tips from mental coach trainer Kristin Grube very inspiring: She advises us from page 44 onwards, for example, that we should internalise our goals and write them down in a kind of diary. Claire Tomlinson has definitely fulfilled many of her big dreams and goals: from page 70 we remember the icon of international polo and the first woman in the world to achieve a handicap of +5.

I hope you enjoy looking back at wonderful highlights of the past season - such as the Patrons Cup 2021 from Polo Park Zurich or the Italia Polo Challenge in Cortina - and I wish you with all my heart that you will succeed in making one of your still unfulfilled dreams come true in the coming season.

THOMAS WIRTH
Founder POLO+10

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Part of the Spilanthox family: Tatjana Patitz with Sophia-Ninette, daughter of the founder Nikki Benett



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It is with profound sadness that the Brignone family announces the passing of Gian Franco Brignone, founder of Careyes, at the age of 95 years surrounded by his loving family.

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The number one rule in polo is the "Line of the Ball" – the right of way.



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POLO PARK & COUNTRY CLUB ZÜRICH

Polo Park & Country Club Zürich is the perfect place to make a halt for a couple of weeks and play some tournaments before continuing your journey towards the South or North of Europe. Two full-size playing fields and one smaller training field are used for polo every year from May until the end of September. With a wide range of tournaments and polo games played almost daily during the season, PPZ offers you many possibilities to improve your polo in a friendly and familial atmosphere. Don't get fooled by the coziness of the clubhouse; competition is roaring on the polo fields!

BY PPZ PHOTOGRAPHY MORGAN VAN OVERBROEK, KATHRIN GRALLA



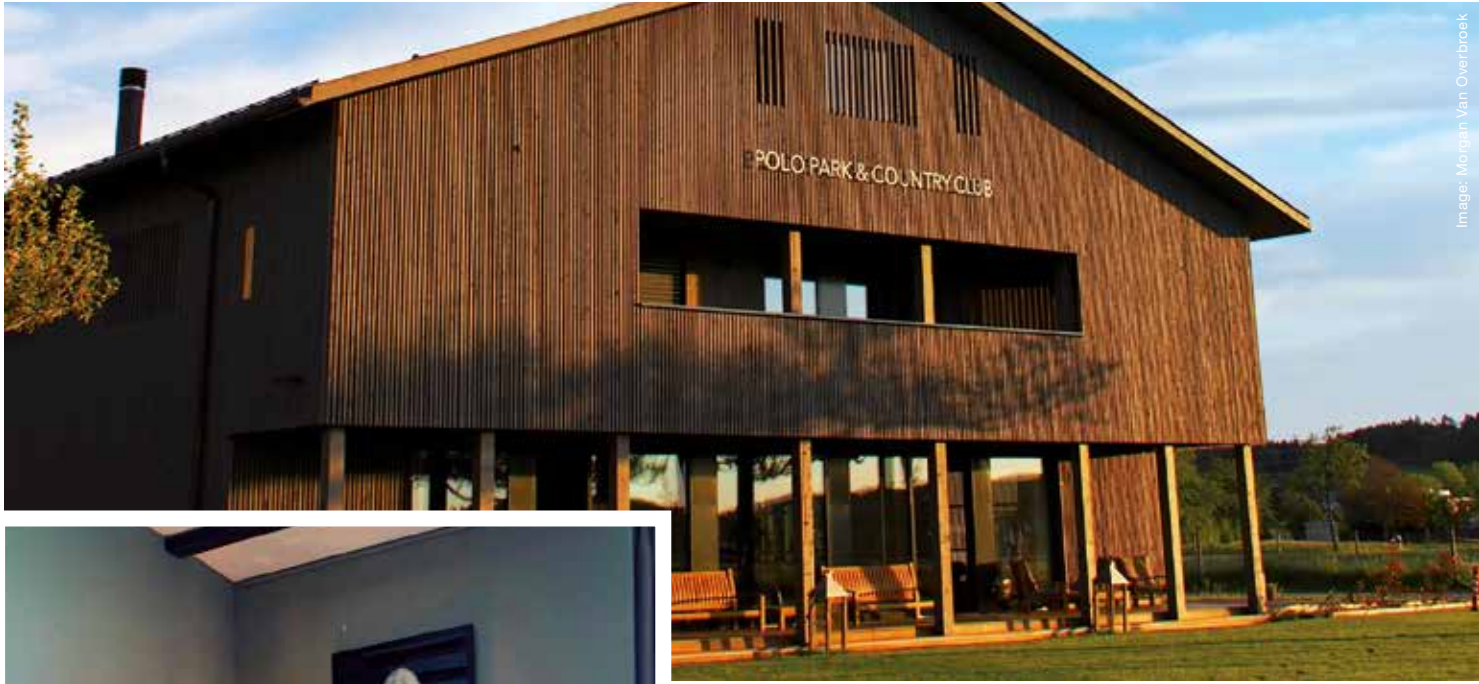


Image: Morgan Van Overbroek



Images (3): Morgan Van Overbroek



Image: Kathrin Gralla



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POLO⁺¹⁰

POLO+10 EDITION 2022/23

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Cover: Thanks to Wendy Falourd, @wldphotography for the POLO+10 cover picture (Adolfo Cambiaso himself is shown on the cover of POLO+10 WORLD & Barto Castagnola himself is shown on the cover of POLO+10). Design: POLO+10, www.poloplus10.com / Mock Up Magazine: Freepik.com



Images(2): Morgan Van Overbroek



Image: Kathrin Gralla



Image: Kathrin Gralla



Nested in the heart of Europe, the club is located at the edge of Zurich's wine region, near Winterthur (only a 20-minute drive from Zurich). Since it was founded in 1998, Polo Park Zürich has developed into the club with the most members and the most significant polo training centre in Switzerland. Since 2019, PPZ became the 4th largest polo club in Europe in term of members and activities.

It is the perfect place to stop for a couple of weeks, play some tournaments before

continuing your journey towards South or North of Europe. Two full-size playing fields and one smaller training field are used for polo every year from May until the end of September.

With a wide range of tournaments and polo games played almost every day during the season, Polo Park Zürich offers a plethora of possibilities to improve your polo in a friendly and familial atmosphere. Don't get fooled by the coziness of the clubhouse, competition is roaring on the polo fields.

Polo Park Zürich is also the training center and base of the Swiss National Polo team.

Zürich's quality of life, being one of the best in the world, the abundance of activities in the region, from famous Bahnhofstrasse to Winterthur's photo museum or the Rhein falls, will give you many occasions to discover much more than polo. We are looking forward to welcoming you at Polo Park Zürich!

www.polopark.ch

JULY 10 - 11, 2021

POLO PARK & COUNTRY CLUB ZÜRICH CUP 2021



With three tournaments scheduled in July 2021, the Polopark Zürich was highly frequented. They closed the Ladies Cup with a welcomed summer storm and got ready for the two eight goals tournaments.

BY PPZ PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA





POLO PARK & COUNTRY CLUB ZÜRICH CUP July 10-11, 2021

G SQUARED

-  Morgan Van Overbroek
-  Miguel Amieva
-  Carlos Solari
-  Richard Harris

LOS LOBOS

-  Sébastien Le Page
-  John Coast Sullenger
-  Facundo Kelly
-  Martin Podestá

EQUILIBRIUM

-  Daniel S. Aegerter
-  Thomas Aegerter
-  Milos Ruszkowski
-  Francisco Fucci

GRÄFF CAPITAL

-  Eduardo Greggi
-  Thommy Gräff
-  Federico Panzillo
-  Markus Gräff

CENTRALAB

-  Reto G. Gaudenzi
-  Stephan Roth
-  Adrian Laplacette Jr.
-  Dr. Adrian Laplacette

AMADEUS

-  Katja Grauwiler
-  Robert Kofler
-  Bartolome Bayugar
-  Santiago Marambio

SWITZERLAND

-  Reto Hausammann
-  Pierandrea Müller
-  Marcos Goti
-  Tito Gaudenzi

For the first time, we happily welcomed 7 teams playing the same tournament level.

The Swiss National Polo Team was invited by Polo Park Zürich and Sébastien Le Page to play the two eight goals to prepare for the FIP European Championships in September in Sotogrande.

Games were played during the weekend on both fields and some of our visiting teams were able to play on Irenitas's polo grounds for the first time.

On Sunday, under bright sunny skies, our polo family consisting of all players and their guests, happily met around the asado fire to share tender meat and delicate salads in the cool shade of the clubhouse, which did not end until the very late afternoon. •







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PATRONS CUP September 25-26, 2021

POLOSSI TEAM

Ossi Köchli / C. Schellenberg
 Stefan Roth
 Sue Ann Strub
 K. Risveden / U. Brunschweiler

HAUSAMMANN

Laure Morel
 Sammy Joe Strub
 Belen Podestà / Sibylle Grass
 Reto Hausammann

NANA PRINCESS HOTEL

Alex Roudneva
 Beata Dudler
 Remi Dudler
 U. Erculiani / K. Nikiteas

NAOO TEAM

Christoph Adelmann
 Shiva Strub
 Thomas Wolfensberger
 N. Wolfensberger / Claudia Ide

BIO-R

Gunilla Mannsdorff
 Eduardo Greggh
 Morgan Van Overbroek
 Vinicio Marciaj / Adrian Galy

LOS LOBOS

Gabriel Hatzung
 Sacha Djafarian
 Sebastien Le Page
 J. Spillmann / A. Fetscherin

One of the most popular polo events at the club is our Patrons Cup. As the season's final tournament, it is traditionally hosted on the last weekend of September. Since the professional players have already returned to Argentina by then, this "amateurs only" competition is a great show of experienced players playing alongside real beginners.

Teams are put together by our Polo Manager Francisco, with the focus on absolute fairness; giving everyone a chance to win.

The winner will be the team using all the players' skills. It encourages our members to play every level of polo offered at the club during the season. Each team captain has a chance to evaluate his/her team mates' abilities and call on their skills on the field.

Some may reflect on the past months, trying to win one last time, others simply enjoy their team mates. Some of them played their first tournament this season, others were spectators.

The end of the season was celebrated in a festive ambiance, with plenty of gifts for our players, Champagne bubbles provided by Perrier-Jouët and elegant cocktails served by Royal Salute. Players and guests had to say their goodbyes for as while, as our next fall/winter social gatherings were not planned until November.

The two tournament days were packed with adrenaline, joy and sometimes frustration. Ultimately, we were all happy to celebrate the end of yet another very successful season. •



The premiere of the beach polo event at Berlin's Grünau lido was a complete success in every respect.

BY ALEXANDER NEBE/POLO+10
PHOTOGRAPHY GUNNAR ROSENOW

ICEGUERILLA POLO CHALLENGE BERLIN 2022

PRESENTED BY KROMBACHER









The teams of the IceGuerilla Polo Challenge Berlin 2022

LADIES' CUP

1. BERLINMED / WIRTSCHAFT+MARKT

- 🇯🇵 Leah Kawamoto
- 🇯🇵 Runa Kawamoto

2. DWB HOLDING GMBH

- 🇩🇪 Beate Pfister
- 🇩🇪 Mona Scharf

3. VON POLL COMMERCIAL BERLIN

- 🇩🇪 Daniela Röder
- 🇩🇪 Chaja-Darline Roeder

4. ARGE-HAUS

- 🇩🇪 Paulina Kreiter
- 🇩🇪 Anke Kreiter

GENTLEMEN'S CUP

1. PERFORMANCE.GROUP

- 🇩🇪 Daniel Deistler
- 🇩🇪 Philipp Sommer

2. ICEGUERRILLA/ POLAR TWIST / BENTLEY SERVICE KRAUTHAHN BERLIN

- 🇩🇪 Joe Reinhardt
- 🇯🇵 Ken Kawamoto

3. POOLWERK

- 🇨🇭 Matteo Beffa
- 🇩🇪 Bernd S. Hotz

4. MEERRAUM MAGAZIN / WINESCOUT7

- 🇩🇪 Steffen Lange
- 🇩🇪 Rainer Reimann



A beach polo event in the middle of Berlin? It's never been done before in this form. Accordingly, polo fans flocked to the Grünau lido from 29 April to 1 May, where the IceGuerilla Polo Challenge Berlin 2022 created a sparkling, glamorous atmosphere and at the same time heralded the new tournament season in Germany.

Rousing beach polo, a top organization and the best spring weather. "It was a perfect start and a more than successful world premiere," as the tournament host, former German national player and 22-time German champion Alexander Schwarz, praised.

Organizer Matthias Ludwig, CEO of Polo Riviera Germany, was beaming at the end of the three great days: "I am very happy and satisfied with the tournament and also overwhelmed by the all-round positive

feedback from players, guests, sponsors like our main sponsor IceGuerilla - but also from community representatives and tourism chiefs.

Tourism chiefs like Mathis Richter, Managing Director of the Berlin Treptow-Köpenick Tourism Association, who was also full of praise: "I am grateful that the IceGuerilla Polo Challenge has found its venue in the fine sand of the Grünau lido. I thank the organizer, Strandbad Grünau and all supporters for making this unique event possible."

The guests - including Berliners and visitors to the city who were getting a taste of the incomparable polo tournament air for the first time - were happy that Polo Riviera Deutschland GmbH had brought such a beautiful event to the city of Berlin. An event that was charmingly hosted not only

by Alexander Schwarz but also by the well-known actress Mariella Ahrens.

And from a sporting point of view? On the final day, the team from BERLINMED/ Wirtschaft + Markt beat DWB Holding GmbH in the Ladies Cup - and in the Gentlemen's Cup, the Performance.Group beat the team from IceGuerilla/Polar Twist/ Bentley Service Krauthahn Berlin.

Spreeküche Catering took care of the physical well-being of the guests and a special highlight beyond the playing field was the session by world-famous DJ Tomekk, who heated things up with his beats as part of the IceGuerilla Players Night.

In the end, happy players, guests, organizers and sponsors remain, as well as the anticipation of a repeat of this all-round successful tournament in 2023. •



"Recuperacion Equina", dedicated to the well-being of horses after the games, working hard to cool down a horse during the HSBC Argentine Open, December 2021.

WENDY FALOURD

POLO, LIFESTYLE AND TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

"Photography has always been one of the most powerful means of expression and transmission, and I feel proud to be able to use it in my own way to tell my life experiences."

PHOTOGRAPHY WENDY FALOURD





Beautiful “tropilla” of criollo horses during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021.



Jeta Castagnola in full swing before claiming victory of the Hurlingham Open final for La Natividad, November 2021.



Above: Facundo Pieres, playing for la Ellerstina, during a tough game of the HSBC Argentine Open, December 2021 **Below left:** Bartolomé "Lolo" Castagnola, emotional after La Natividad's incredible win of the Hurlingham Open final, November 2021 **Below right:** Alfredo Cappella hitting the ball mid-air before scoring for UAE Polo during the Copa Cámara de Diputados, November 2021.

Above left: Proud young gaucho waiting for his father during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021

Above right: Gaucho watching the “jineteadas”, an Argentine type of rodeo, during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021

Below: The great Bertil Grahñ gathering his cattle up the mountain in Mamuil Malal, Patagonia, January 2022.





Estanislao Grahn preparing his horse at sunrise to go up the mountains of Mamuil Malal, Patagonia, December 2021.



Close up of a polo pony waiting to enter the fields of Palermo during the HSBC Argentine Open, December 2021.



Above left: Alejandro Novillo Astrada in a dust of snow, playing for Badrutt's Palace Hotel, during the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, January 2022 **Above right:** Portrait of a polo pony waiting to play the final of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, January 2022 **Below:** Grant Ganzi flying towards goal, playing for Badrutt's Palace Hotel, during the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, January 2022.



Above: Impressive “jineteada” during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021

Below left: Elderly gaucho waiting for his turn to present his “tropilla” during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021 **Below right:** Friendly moment between two horses during the “Día de la Tradición” in San Antonio de Areco, November 2021.





Gaucho bringing his cattle up the mountains to look for cooler temperatures during the hot summer days in Mamuil Malal, Patagonia, January 2022.



Portrait of Wendy Falourd, covered in dust, after having followed gauchos up the mountains with their cattle in Mamuil Malal, Patagonia, December 2021.

Image: Justine Jacquemot



ONE PASSION... THREE WORLDS

POLO ♥ LIFESTYLE ♥ TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I was born in the South-West of France, near Bordeaux. Then in 2004, for my dad's work, we moved to Long Island, New York, until 2009. Those few years were life-changing as they allowed me to learn a new language at an early age and to meet many people from many different cultures. I'm sure that this is what triggered my love for travel.

How long have you been around horses?

I've been in the equestrian world since I was born. My mom used to ride cross country competitions when she was younger, and my dad used to be a racehorse trainer. Horses have always been a family affair.

I used to ride in show jumping until 2016 when I switched to polo. I have been fond of this world ever since.

Have you always wanted to become an equestrian photographer?

Not at all! Initially, I wanted to dedicate my career to events and communication. After five years of post-graduate degrees and many professional experiences in high-end firms like Peretti Communications (PR agency) in London and several at Hermès in Paris, I was sure it was the path I wanted to follow.

How did photography become your new career?

I started photography as a hobby by taking photos of my friends in show jumping competitions. Then, when I started playing polo in 2016, I also switched to polo photography. As previously mentioned, my career projects didn't initially include photography. However, as I finished my studies in April 2020, COVID had started, and it became almost impossible to find a job in events. That is when I decided to start taking photos professionally and create my company, WF Unlimited, in September 2020.

How would you describe your photography and where do you see it heading?

I consider my photos to be more lifestyle than sports-oriented. I love to take action shots during a game, but my main objective is to find those unique moments on and off the field. Getting to capture emotions from the players and from the horses themselves is one of the highlights of my job. Indeed, I truly identify myself to Destin Sparks' quote, "Photography is the Story I Fail to Put Into Words", as the emotions that I get to immortalize are the root of my stories.

As previously said, I love to travel around the world. During my two trips to Patagonia, Argentina, I got the opportunity to photograph the life of Argentine gauchos working with their cattle. At that moment, I realized how much I loved photographing these authentic people in their environment. I feel proud to have had the ability to capture their dedication to their work and share their life story with an international community.

That is why my wish for the upcoming years is to travel around the world, discover more cultures and try to honor their lifestyles with my photography.

As Steve McCurry said, "I can't imagine a better life than travelling and photographing".



@wfldphotography

MENTAL COACHING IN POLO DO WE REALLY NEED IT?

Kristin Grube accompanies athletes in the field of mental coaching. She is an enthusiastic polo player and can always be found in Argentina during the winter months.

BY KRISTIN GRUBE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIVATE





For the polo player life is always about continuous development. Perfecting the swing, training and playing better horses, increasing a handicap, getting new sponsors on board, winning tournaments are all top level priorities. However another key performance factor long appreciated by sports such as golf or tennis comes in the form of Mental Training. When most people think of this it conjures up images of blue chip company executives and not of athletes, but Mental Training can do much more and almost every sport discipline and every athlete can benefit from it. Since the mid-1980's Mental Training has been on the rise and has proved itself relevant both in the corporate and sports sectors becoming increasingly popular as it gains traction.

Here are just a few reported polo-related problem issues:

- I'm the world champion in training, but I often can't access that fabulous performance in the game! Why is that?
- My nerves fail just in front of the posts and in the last few meters I miss goals that I thought were safely in the bag - What can I do to have my full polo skills (that I KNOW I possess) ready and available when it counts?
- My performance portfolio ranges from God of Polo to Complete Beginner not able to hit a single ball straight. How can I keep my performance at a consistently high level?
- I sometimes lose my nerve in the heat of the moment. What can I do to take better control of my emotions?
- My concentration fluctuates wildly, coming and going throughout the game. How can I concentrate better?
- Just the thought of hitting a penalty shoot-out makes my hands sweaty! How can I harness my nervousness?

Every polo player probably has experience of these issues more or less first-hand.

Frustratingly, further physical training to improve the swing or riding technique does not necessarily lead to improvement. But why not? The answer is simple: because the player is most probably not lacking technical or physical skills, but mental ones!

With the help of Mental Coaching, these and other questions can be answered. The Mental Coach helps athletes to make better use of their physical and mental potential.

During the sessions personal goals are set, stress factors analyzed and hindering thought patterns identified and rephrased into more positive ones. The Mental Coach can help to build confidence, reduce nervousness and strengthen concentration. The different techniques are designed to show the player new ways to stay in the optimal performance area, The Zone, more often and for longer.

In this issue of Polo+10 we take a brief look at Pre Game Preparation. In order to further develop our skills, goal setting is key. But actually why? Well, without some kind of target we cannot judge where we are at present in relation to where we aspire to be. Whether we come out of a tournament successfully depends to a large extent on what exactly we wanted to achieve.

We need goals so as not to leave success and advancement to chance. Goals need to be defined, pursued, subjected to a reality check from time to time, and the status quo needs to be analyzed.

In general, we distinguish 5 categories: short-term, medium- and long-term, very far-reaching goals and dream goals.

Have you clearly defined these goals for yourself? Have you internalized them and perhaps written them down in a kind of diary? If not, now is a good time to start. Write down everything you plan to do and break it down into those 5 areas. Be sure to make your goals as specific as possible.

A game plan is also an essential part of preparing for any game or training session. Do you work that out for yourself and for the team before each game? It might sound trivial, but every training chukker, and every stick & ball session should have an intentional goal – not just the ones at either end of the field. What exactly do you want to practice, which shot, which strategy or move, where exactly on the pitch do you want that ball currently in front of your stick to land?

If you regularly find yourself just hitting balls all over the field then your goals are not well formulated. If you just want to walk away as a competition winner then your goals are simply not well formulated. Or indeed, if its the other way round and you just don't want to lose – then you've also not really received the memo!

Top tip is to write down what you intend to do and how you're going to do it – so at the end of the game or training session you can check on yourself and take to task if necessary!

Best of Luck!



KRISTIN GRUBE

Kristin Grube accompanies athletes in the field of mental coaching. She studied business administration in Germany and Italy and speaks German, English, Spanish and Italian. Kristin has worked in corporate business for over 20 years, including in Dubai and Argentina, and completed her coaching training at the International Mental Game Coach Association in the USA. She is an enthusiastic polo player and can often be found in Argentina during the winter months.

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ITALIA POLO CHALLENGE CORTINA 2022

U.S. POLO ASSN. wins "Italia Polo Challenge Cortina 2022". The U.S. Polo Assn. Team dominated the final of the "Italia Polo Challenge Cortina 2022", played on Saturday, January 8th, against the Goldspan Polo Team (14-11.5) in a floodlit arena with footing unanimously judged as perfect.













From left: Simone Perillo (FISE General Secretary), Clement Delfosse, Patrick Maleitzke, Gianpietro Ghedina (Mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo), Alessandro Giachetti (FISE Polo Department).

“Polo on Snow” has a long tradition in Cortina d’Ampezzo (first played there in 1989) and the tournament, which ended after three exciting days with four teams playing, attracted a large number of enthusiastic spectators who braved the harsh weather (-7/- 8 degrees) and enjoyed high-level sport.

The winning team, which fielded France’s Clement Delfosse (hdc +5) and Germany’s Patrick Maleitzke (hdc +5) won the day 14 to 11.5 against Goldspan which instead fielded the Argentinean players Valentin Novillo Astrada (hdc +6) and Pablo Guiñazú (hdc +3) as well as Luxemburg’s Bert Poeckes (hdc 0).

The match was really only balanced during the first chukker, which Goldspan won 3.5 to 2 thanks to a hat-trick scored by Guiñazú. After the second chukker it was practically all over. Delfosse and Maleitzke put on a real show, and goal after goal created an unbeatable gap with their opponents, 9 to 4.5 at the end of the second chukker and then 12 to 5.5 after the third.

The final chukker started with the most spectacular goal of the entire tournament; Maleitzke rode at least two-thirds of the arena keeping control of the ball to then hit it through the goal posts while an enthusiastic crowd cheered him on. In the final minutes of play the Goldspan

team tried to reduce the distance but could do no better than finish on 14 to 11.5.

The match for third place was won by Team Battistoni, fielding Argentina’s Patrio Rattagan (hdc +4), Germany’s Alexander Hauptmann (hdc +2) and Italy’s Stefano Giansanti (hdc +1), beating 8-6 the Hotel de la Poste, with players Felix Beguerie (hdc +5), Therence Cusmano (hdc +1) and Slovakia’s Martin Magal (hdc 0). Battistoni’s top scorer was Rattagan with five goals out of the team’s eight.

www.italiapolochallenge.it

CORTINA HISTORY

THE LASTING BOND BETWEEN CORTINA AND "POLO ON SNOW"

"Polo on Snow" made its debut in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1989, following the example set by a similar event organised in St. Moritz in 1985.

BY EQUIEQUIPE IPC PRESS OFFICE PHOTOGRAPHY EQUI-EQUIPE ARCHIVE



A game action from the first snow polo tournament played in Cortina (1989).







The winning Italian team in the award ceremony.

“Polo on Snow” made its debut in Cortina d’Ampezzo in 1989, following the example set by a similar event organised in St. Moritz in 1985. It was organised by three Roman friends with a passion for polo – Italo Focacci, Fabrizio Bogiankino and Corrado Pantanella – joined by Renato Manaigo, the well-known and respected owner of Cortina’s Hotel de la Poste, always in search of innovation and elegance.

The first location chosen was the frozen lake of Landro, between Cortina and Dobbiaco, where four teams challenged each other in a tournament played in front of spectators that consisted mainly of the players’ families and friends as well as polo fans. Teams from Italy, England, Holland and Belgium played in what was then called the “Presidential Cup”.

Two years later a decision was made to create a polo field on Lake Misurina, in a magnificent open and sunny position at the feet

of mountains rising to an altitude of three thousand metres. It was certainly the best playing field one could imagine!

The year 2002 marked the beginning of a totally new series called the ‘Cortina Winter Polo Gold Cup’ which was a great success.

In 2013 and 2014, due to the lack of ice formed over Lake Misurina, “Polo on Snow” matches were played at the Antonella De Rigo Sports Centre in Fiammes, bordering on the Alemagna Road.

In 2020 Cortina d’Ampezzo hosted the debut of “The Italia Polo Challenge” with the first ever “Polo on Snow” match played under floodlights, using the Arena Polo format with teams consisting of three players and played in a smaller field. Another test event was organised in 2021 before at last inaugurating the 2022 four teams tournament.

“The Italia Polo Challenge” is a series currently involving three immensely enchanting locations, Cortina d’Ampezzo, Rome’s Piazza di Siena and Porto Cervo. This challenge was an idea presented by the Argentinean player Patricio Rattagan, who has become the event manager in cooperation with the Italian Equestrian Sport’s Federations Polo Department. “Italia Polo Challenge” was officially inaugurated in May 2019 in Roma, with a quadrangular tournament greeted with great success by spectators at the Villa Borghese Galoppatoio during the Piazza di Siena international horse show. In 2020 the same success greeted “The Italia Polo Challenge’s” debut on snow in Cortina d’Ampezzo. Unfortunately this was the only event held that year due to the spreading of the Coronavirus. In 2021 instead “The Italia Polo Challenge” at last kicked into gear with three tournaments organised in Cortina d’Ampezzo, Rome and Porto Cervo. Cortina 2022 was therefore the sixth event in this adventurous “Italia Polo Challenge”. •



ST. REGIS WORLD SNOW POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Richard Mille made history at the St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship Sunday at Rio Grande Park in Aspen.

BY SHARON ROBB
PHOTOGRAPHY CANDACE FERREIRA (CHUCKKERTV)











Richard Mille made history at the St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship Sunday at Rio Grande Park.

In front of a soldout heated VIP tent and worldwide ChukkerTV audience, Richard Mille (Sarah Siegel Magness, 0, Jesse Bray, 7, Pablo MacDonough, 10) won its third title with an impressive 9-6 victory over St. Regis (Melissa Ganzi, 1, Nacho Figueras, 6, Nic Roldan, 9) on the final stop of the World Polo Tour.

Richard Mille has won the tournament three of the last four years. MacDonough, the only player on all three winning teams, was named Most Valuable Player.

"It was good to win for the third time," said the Argentine 10-goaler. "We had a very good game. We played well. The most important thing was we won many throw-ins and we scored. It was an advantage towards the end of the game."

It was the first time Bray and MacDonough played together.

"There is a reason the guy is 10 goals and one of the best players in the world," Bray said. "He is a great teammate. It's hard for players who play outdoor to go and play in the arena or only do it once a year but he just picks it up so quickly. He is super talented and it shows."

Bray earned the High Scorer Award after scoring 12 goals in the tournament. The 29-year-old scored a game-high five goals in the championship. He also scored four goals in his team's 10-7 opening tournament win over Aspen Valley Polo Club and three goals in a 3-2 win over defending champion World Polo League.

"I think throw-ins are a huge part of any polo, but especially in the arena or the snow because it's so short," Bray said. "If they throw the ball in and you win it you're half a shot or breakaway to the goal."

It was Bray's fifth snow polo tournament appearance and third final. It was also the first game his two-month old baby Dorothy Lily watched him play.

"The pressure was on, it wouldn't have been good if I lost the first game she watched," Bray said. "I'm really happy with the win. I knew it was going to be a hard game, that was a really good team. I knew we had a good chance once we got to the snow."

The victory avenged last year's 11-10 overtime shootout loss to WPL (Riley Ganzi, Hilario Figueras, Alejandro Novillo Astrada). Bray, Siegel Magness and Jason Crowder played for runner-up Royal Salute.

"Jesse Bray is a machine at this kind of polo," MacDonough said. "This was the

toughest tournament so far because there were so many competitive teams. I remember the last time I was here the field was good, but this time the quality of the field was even better so we could run more. It was outstanding and that made the polo a lot better and the final much more exciting."

It was Siegel Magness' fourth snow polo appearance.

"I think it is the biggest win in my career just because it's nearly impossible to make that final," Siegel Magness said. "This tournament is won in the arena in the qualifying. It's so hard. There are so many good teams and so many good players. And everybody wants to win."

"You think about what it's going to be like when you win. Honestly, the only thing I could think about was 'I wish I had played a better game.' That's how polo is. Every day you just try and get better. Even winning, I think what do I need to do to get better next time."

"I felt like I played much better in the arena. I think I was really, really extremely nervous and really wanted to win. My teammates came alive which I knew would happen. I'm very appreciative of winning just because maybe next year I can relax a little bit."



Best Playing Pony was homebred Centauros, played by Bray and owned by Wellington-based Santa Rita Polo Farm. Father Heckle, an American thoroughbred out of Hennessey and grey Argentine mare Juana.

It was the most competitive final in the nine-year history of the biggest snow polo tournament and fitting way to kick off the holiday social season in Aspen.

"It's arguably two of the best finals this tournament has ever seen," said tournament co-host Marc Ganzi. "A huge thanks to the Aspen Ski Company's whole team! Great preparation and incredible effort by the whole staff; all our great sponsors and to everyone that came out in the city of Aspen, Mayor Torre, the City Council and everyone that made this part of a great tradition. It's official, the holidays have begun in Aspen and Snow Polo 2021 is in the books."

After a fast-paced 1-1 opening chukker, Bray scored a quick goal off the throw-in to give Richard Mille a 2-1 advantage. Richard Mille's physicality and domination of throw-ins (90 percent) were the reasons they never trailed for the remainder of the four-chukker game. Bray scored again for a 3-1 lead and Ganzi closed the gap with a 15-yard penalty conversion to trail by one at the half.

Richard Mille outscored St. Regis, 6-4, in the second half. Bray scored back-to-back goals early in the third chukker to give Richard Mille a 5-2 lead with. Figueras scored a goal off Ganzi's pass to trail by two. Siegel Magness and Ganzi each converted 15-yard penalty attempts to end the chukker at 6-4.

Throughout the fourth chukker, Richard Mille led 7-4, 8-4 and 9-4 before St. Regis scored the final two goals.

In addition to Bray's five goals, MacDonough added three and Siegel Magness had one. Ganzi scored a team-high three goals, all on penalty conversions, for St. Regis. Figueras had two and Roldan one goal.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Casablanca (Grant Ganzi, 3, Juancito Bollini, 4, Juan Martin Zubia, 8) captured the Aspen Cup with a 7-5 victory over ChukkerTV (Vinny Sangaline, 1, Martin Pepa, 4, Tommy Biddle, 9) to finish third in the seven-team tournament.

Zubia scored a game-high three goals, including one from center field and 40-yarder through horses' legs to earn Most Valuable Player honors.

The hardfought game was close for three chukkers. The teams were tied 1-1 after the first chukker. Biddle's goal with 33 seconds left gave ChukkerTV a 3-2 halftime lead. Casablanca came alive in the second half outscoring ChukkerTV, 5-2, including a 3-1 final chukker.

Ganzi added two goals and Bollini had one. There was also a penalty-one awarded. Hometown favorite Sangaline and Biddle each had two goals and Pepa, outstanding on defense after a two-year snow polo hiatus, added one. The tournament featured four women team captains, a first for the tournament, helping to inspire more women to play snow polo.

For the second consecutive day, actress and singer songwriter Kelley Jakle, sang the National Anthem and flag bearer Hannah Hayden carried the American flag on horseback during the pre-game ceremony.

Richard Mille, the official timekeeper of the tournament, is a luxury Swiss watch brand. Founded in 1999, the brand applies a three-part philosophy: the sharpest cutting-edge technology, three-dimensional constructions shot through with pure mechanics, and hand-finishing. MacDonough is Brand Ambassador for Richard Mille and wears his specially-designed RM 53-01 Tourbillon in every polo game he plays.

During post-game festivities, tournament co-host Marc Ganzi presented President and CEO Deborah Breen with a \$15,000 check benefitting Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation and Calaway-Young Cancer Center. The tournament was a fundraiser for the Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation, the designated philanthropic charity.

Since Marc and Melissa Ganzi resurrected the Aspen Valley Polo Club and polo in 2014, polo has increased in popularity in Aspen and surrounding cities with the club's offerings of various weekly grass and arena tournaments, Arena & Asado Nights, Kidz Polo, Kids Wheely Polo, The Polo School headed by former 8-goaler Juan Bollini, and Polo On Demand. In addition, the club offers practice sessions for teams competing in the club tournaments.

IN MEMORY: 1944-2022 CLAIRE TOMLINSON

She was the first woman in the world to achieve a handicap of +5 and has helped to establish one of the most important polo locations in the world: the Beaufort Polo Club. In an interview with POLO+10, Claire Tomlinson explained why she spent a lot of her time training young horses and why she felt that umpiring could be improved in many respects.

BY STEFANIE STÜTING PHOTOGRAPHY CLAIRE TOMLINSON



INTERVIEW FROM 2015

CLAIRE, YOU ARE AN ICON IN INTERNATIONAL POLO AND REACHED AS FIRST FEMALE PLAYER AN HANDICAP OF +5.

I was really more than lucky to reach the +5 handicap. When I was young I did a lot of riding and had the best instructors. I used to ride show ponies for these people. In a way I was their jockey, that started me using a horse properly. My parents, who were deeply involved in polo, supported that and so I grew up with good standards. You have to respect that a horse works very hard in a chukka. I'm fanatic about that the horse feels well. When I got to +5, most of the horses I played, were homebred.

TODAY YOU FOCUS ON TRAINING YOUNG HORSES. WHAT IS IT THAT INSPIRES YOU IN THIS RESPECT?

Yes, I do not actively play any competition polo. I am 70 now and feel quite fit. If there is a team in need for support, I would probably help out and play. Working with young horses is fantastic and is just unbelievably enjoyable. I start working with them when they are weaned. Then they are first ridden when they are about three-and-a-half years old. We take our time and do not rush into it. To get a horse ready for top-flight polo, we normally have to train them for between three and four years. It's important not to overstretch or overburden the horses. If you do that and expect too much too quickly, they'll either be driven mad or lame.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WHEN TRAINING A HORSE?

The most important thing is patience to give the horse confidence. A firm trust that you won't injure him or involve hitting him or spoiling him. Once a horse has this trust, it will follow you everywhere. I talk to my horses a lot and touch them – this is how you get a close connection to them.

YOU ARE ONE OF THE BEST POLO COACHES IN THE WORLD AND YOU WERE THE TEAM CAPTAIN OF THE ENGLISH NATIONAL TEAM FOR A LONG TIME, PLUS YOU CREATED A TRAINING SCHEME FOR THE HPA. WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL THING THAT CHARACTERISES A GOOD POLO PLAYER?

Everything in polo is about the right balance and the relationship between horse and rider. If the balance is right, so will the energy be. A lot of players don't understand that: to be able to hit a ball precisely, I don't need to hit it with a lot of force and brutality. Strength doesn't come from the arm finally, but from the legs and the feet through the whole body.

AS AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, YOU ALREADY WENT TO ARGENTINA FOR WORK WHEN YOU WERE VERY YOUNG...

Yes and that's where I got really involved in polo. My brother John was already playing with a +6 handicap. I was very lucky that my father knew a lot of top players including Indians and Argentines and so did my brother John. Luckily I got to know all of them and learned a lot about polo from them. I still travel twice a year to Argentina as I have got a lot of friends there.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO, YOU HAD SOME HARSH WORDS TO SAY ABOUT UMPIRING. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PROBLEM?

If I want to go out on the road, I'm required to obey traffic laws. That's how simple it is. There are a lot of umpires in polo who don't implement the correct rules. People who are new to the sport often aren't correctly trained. It is very important when people are new to the sport, to teach them how to help their team and how to keep to the rules. Even hooking a stick correctly can help your team. •

www.beaufortpoloclub.co.uk





Claire (with green helmet) was team captain of the English national team for many years.



Patience is the most important attitude towards young horses.

“IT’S ALL ABOUT
FINDING THE RIGHT
BALANCE AND
THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE
HORSE AND RIDER.”

CLAIRE TOMLINSON Chairman Beaufort Polo Club

SANTORINI

THE HOTSPOT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Admittedly, Santorini is one of those travel destinations that is the opposite of an insider tip.

BY CORNELIUS MÜLLER
PHOTOGRAPHY KARSTEN WEHMEIER











Admittedly, Santorini is one of those travel destinations that is the opposite of an insider tip. Just recently, the Greek island was named the number one hotspot in the Mediterranean by Vogue magazine. Especially among influencers and wedding couples from Asia, however, the Cyclades island has long been highly rated - because of the photos. There's a reason for that, too. Blue sky, the dark blue sea and the clear, snow-white architecture of the houses with their blue domes. And then there are the picturesque churches. Plus the sunsets - spectacular.

The crescent-shaped island, 120 kilometers north of Crete, is actually just the steep rim of a crater, the rest sunk into the sea. The common people used to carve their houses into the steep walls of the cliffs. Today, hotels advertise these cave rooms, most of them have no corners or edges, are very individually cut, and are blessed with fantastic views. The most spectacular hotels can be found in Oia. They overlook the caldera, the submerged volcanic cauldron where eruptions have created two small islands. For those not staying directly in Oia, a hike along the

volcanic crater is recommended: From Oia to the traditional village of Imerovigli and on to Fira. And also in Pyrgos with its labyrinth of alleys around the medieval castle, there is something new to discover around every corner.

The season is from mid-May to October. Then every horizontal spot on the hillside is used by the hospitable Greeks to give visitors a box seat to the sunset. Light blue wooden chairs wherever you look, buzzing voices everywhere. Not an insider tip, but definitely worth a visit. ●

Bravo bellezza! The legend at Lake Como celebrates its birthday. Glamorous personalities, influential politicians and illustrious people – the guest list of Villa d'Este is long and 2022 will be a birthday season full of surprises.

BY VILLA D'ESTE

ABOUT VILLA D'ESTE

Villa d'Este, which belongs to The Leading Hotels of the World, houses 152 rooms and luxury suites as well as four noble private villas and is located directly on the shores of Lake Como, which with its impressive landscape is considered the most beautiful lake in Italy and stands for a lot of glamour. The legendary residence impresses not only with its extraordinary atmosphere and listed architecture, but also with its extensive park, the famous Nymphaeum with its numerous fountains and water features, and the floating pool on the lake. Villa d'Este is about 40 minutes by car from Milan Malpensa airport. For more information, visit:

www.villadeste.com

150 YEARS OF VILLA D'ESTE











On March 3 it was hoisted – the flag in front of Villa d'Este. This traditional ceremony heralded the 150th season of the luxury hotel on Lake Como. For 150 years now, discerning travelers and gourmets, royals, jet set and legendary Hollywood stars have resided here. They can choose between the Cardinal Building, once built as a summer residence for Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio, the Queen's Pavilion, named after Caroline of Brunswick, Princess of Wales and Queen of England and four private villas spread across the extensive estate. Three of them – Villa Cima, Villa Malakoff and Villa Garrovo – are ideal for families and friends and the Mosaic House is the romantic hideaway for couples. To celebrate its grand anniversary, the luxury hotel will be open for the first time over the Christmas season until January 2023.

Villa d'Este is a place that has always captivated travelers. Once the noble summer residence of Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio, the stately home is now a legend. In 1873, a group of Milanese businessmen bought the property and turned it into what it remains today: one of the most extraordinary luxury hotels in the world. Not only the location directly on the lake, but also the special atmosphere of the magnificent, ten-hectare park, which extends to the water, make the five-star hotel so special. The guest list is also legendary, from George Clooney, Robert de Niro, Naomi Campbell to Madonna, John Legend, Lady Gaga or Alfred Hitchcock – they all already went through the revolving door to happiness at Lake Como.

In the 150th season of Villa d'Este, guests can expect, in addition to the big birthday party on June 28, 2022, a mix of events, exhibitions and culinary highlights. Since 1873, the luxury hotel has been considered the chosen destination for distinguished events of. Once again, annual events known far beyond the country's borders will take place, including the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este (May 2022, 2022), Villa d'Este Style one lake one car (May 1, 2022), Villa d'Este Style Vintage Yachting (June 12, 2022), Villa d'Este Style Electric Yachting (September 17, 2022) and grand gala dinners (July 4 and August 15, 2022). All of them are dedicated to the 150 years and are a tribute to the traditions as well as the historical anecdotes of the hotel.

That is also reflected in the menu. During this special season, Chef Michele Zambanini will create special menus featuring traditional dishes from 150 years of Villa d'Este. He personally harvests the ingredients, often early in the morning, in the hotel's own kitchen garden. A small green paradise that many call the garden with the most beautiful view of Lake Como. Instead of eccentric creations, he relies on understatement in perfection: he spoils his guests with classic, authentic Italian dishes and thus remains true to his credo "authenticity instead of extravagance". As delicate as the food is, as unparalleled is the panorama that guests enjoy in the restaurant La Veranda. The evening is perfectly rounded off with a refreshing signature cocktail. Five in

number have been created especially for the anniversary season, each one dedicated to a famous owner of Villa d'Este.

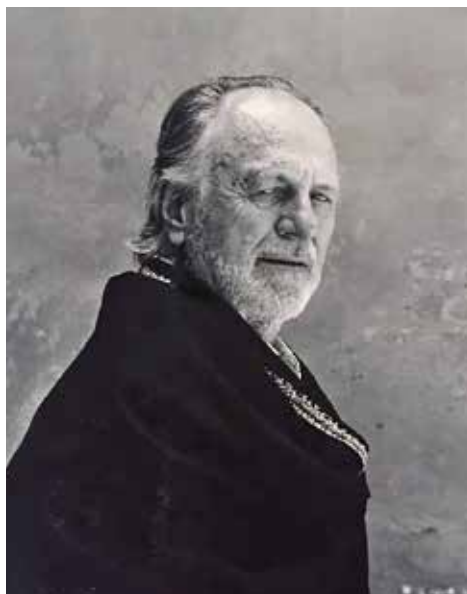
Tradition and innovation have always defined the character of Villa d'Este. When guests arrive, they will find three charging stations for electric cars in the garage of the historic palace and a charging station for electric boats on the shore. In an exhibition organized especially for the anniversary season, travelers discover the historical roots of Villa d'Este from today's perspective: "Then and Now" is the motto of the exhibition, which is spread over several stations throughout the luxury hotel and features pictures and notes steeped in history. Historical anecdotes are also promised by the themed evenings in collaboration with the Teatro Sociale di Como, which will take place on April 14 and September 22, 2022 and where culture lovers will spend an interactive evening with the actors. After numerous highlights throughout the year, the icon is pleased to welcome visitors for the first time also during Christmas season and for an unforgettable New Year's Eve on Lake Como. And for those who also want to experience a piece of 150 years of Villa d'Este at home, a limited collection of noble accessories and travel companions can be found in the on-site store as well as in the online boutique of the luxury hotel.

POLO⁺¹⁰



MUCH MORE THAN A POLO MAGAZINE

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“I HAVE GIVEN
MY LIFE FOR
MY DREAMS AND
MY DREAMS HAVE
GIVEN ME LIFE.”

GIAN FRANCO BRIGNONE

(1926-2022) IN MEMORIAM OF GIAN FRANCO BRIGNONE

It is with profound sadness that the Brignone family announces the passing of Gian Franco Brignone founder of Careyes, at the age of 95 years surrounded by his loving family.

BY COSTA CAREYES PHOTOGRAPHY COSTA CAREYES

We honour his vision, creativity, passion and perseverance which allowed for Careyes to develop into one of the most important architectural wonders of the pacific coast, resonating for all times to come: the true Magic of Careyes!

He is survived by his children Emanuela, Giorgio and Filippo and the younger generation who will in unison honour respectfully his legacy.

Born in 1926 in Turin (Italy) and one-time banker, Gian Franco flew over the jagged cliffs

and jungle hills of Careyes on the Pacific Coast of Jalisco in 1968, and immediately decided to make this unique place his own personal frontier and utopia. Careyes was blessed to meet Gian Franco and he was, in return, exceptionally privileged to discover Careyes.

Deploying some of the world's most talented and imaginative architects beginning with Marco Aldaco, Alberto Mazzoni, Diego Villaseñor and Jean-Claude Galibert — together with summoning skilled local artisans — in harmony enthusiastically embraced and realized his vision with the pivotal obsession that the landscape is essential and to be preserved: 'I am not an Architect, but a framer of Nature'.

He developed many important architectural landmarks such as the houses Mi Ojo, Tigre del Mar with its Casa del 3000, together with the mirroring houses Sol de Oriente and Occidente amongst many others, always designing without any straight lines, as they don't exist in the environment and utilizing mathematical measurements based on the number twenty-seven.

'One eye to see and one to feel' he once said and, on this hue, he designed and built beautiful land interventions such as the Ojo de Venado, Arbol de Corazón, and Copa del Sol of which images have circulated all over the world as a result of their strength and vibrancy.

For over 50 years, Gian Franco has closely guarded and preserved the 15km of coastline and beaches of Careyes, which encompasses a wild, virtually uninhabited area, stretching along the Pacific shoreline, and includes about 2000 hectares of jungle, mangroves and cliffs.

Together with the Careyes Foundation established to catalyse innovative programs in education, sports, ecology, and the arts to improve the well-being of local communities along the South Pacific coast of Mexico. The Sea Turtle Protection & Conservation Center was opened in 1983 releasing over 1.9 million newborn sea turtles safely into the ocean.

Careyes has now become one of the rare sustainable and socially responsible communities in Mexico counting more than 42 different nationalities and 287 "Caballeros y Damas del Sol". Gian Franco's son Giorgio created the Costa Careyes polo club in 1990, probably the best two polo fields in Mexico which has been in operation since and offers numerous tournaments like Agua Alta, clinics and horse rental from November to April.

In September of 2006, he was honoured the "Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca" from Mexican President Vicente Fox, the highest achievement for a foreigner in recognition his work over the years.



POLO RULES

LINE OF THE BALL

The number one rule in polo is the “Line of the Ball” – the right of way.

Viewed from the virtual sidelines, tactic and technique become obvious. After a few moments of observation, it becomes clear that a successful strike is only possible with a “safe” ball. Otherwise, the next teammate is better placed to play the ball as a spectacular top-speed-attack could only end up in a fruitless race to nowhere. Polo is therefore always played “in line” from no. 4 at the back to no. 1 in front of the opponent’s goal and vice versa. No.3 is the captain and usually the team’s best player. He coordinates the game, no.1 concentrates on the area around the opponent’s goal, and no.2 takes care of matters mid-field, while no. 4 takes charge of defence. This set-up is consistent throughout the game.

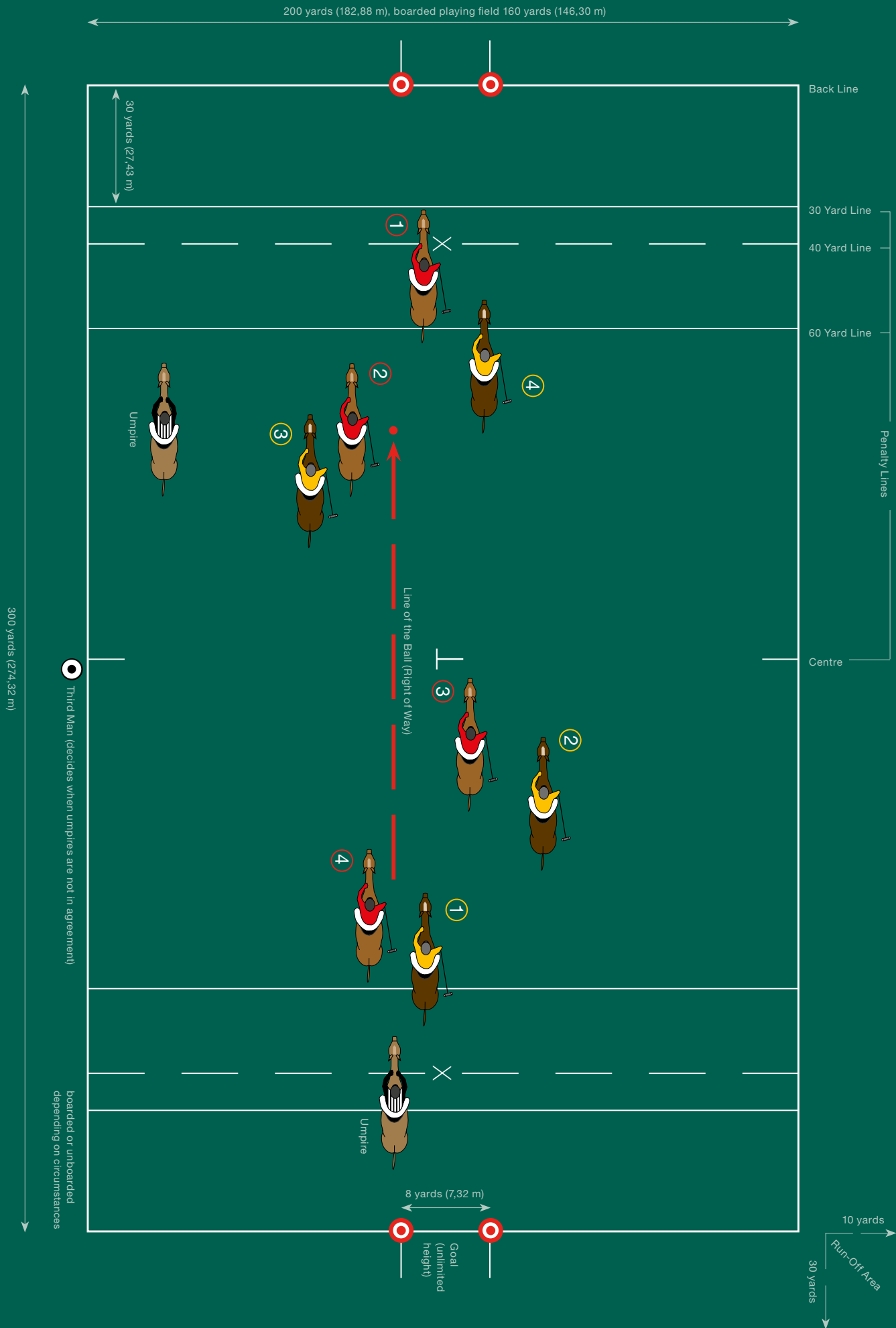
A game will turn out to be good and exciting if the opponents are equally matched and cover each other closely. The line of the ball and the ensuing right-of-way are the deciding and most cited arguments that govern the game and what constitutes a foul. An opponent’s hit can be foiled by way of a “hook” or a “ride off”, which very unlike the “block” in football (soccer), is similar to the body check in ice hockey.

A game has four to eight periods of play called chukkas. One chukka is seven and a half minutes long with the clock being stopped every time there is any interruption. In Germany there are usually four chukkas a game. The breaks between each chukka are about three to five minutes long and this is when players have to change ponies. Sides are changed every time a goal is scored – which can be rather confusing for first-time polo spectators.

The game is not stopped if a player falls off his horse but is not injured. However, play is stopped if a horse injures itself, the bridle gets entangled, or a horse’s bandage comes undone.

A penalty shot (a hit taken at a specified distance from a manned or unmanned goal) is awarded to the team of the fouled player. Most high-goal players, just like basketball players, manage to convert almost all their awarded penalties. Today, technical directors or coaches, who observe and coordinate the game, are just about the most important people on the sidelines. Before a game, the coach gets together with the players to plan the game to the minutest detail. All players, including those on the opponent’s team, are rated in regard to their abilities, horses played, position, strengths, and weaknesses.





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

THE POLO HANDICAP

In polo, every player is awarded an individual handicap depending on performance. Handicap commissions of the national associations meet several times a year to decide players' handicaps. There is no uniform system worldwide. POLO+10 clarifies the details.

BY POLO+10 / KATRIN LANGEMANN

History of the polo handicap

British officers who were stationed in India towards the end of the 19th century brought polo to Europe. The Hurlingham Polo Club, founded here in 1876, was the first to set down the rules of polo in writing and these are still used in international sport today. The British also took the sport to North and South America. The polo handicap, however, did not originate with the English, but rather from Henry Lloyd Herbert, the first president of the United States Polo Association (USPA), who introduced a handicap system when he founded the USPA in 1890. From then on, the abilities of individual players could be compared and teams could be put together in a way that made them even despite individual differences in performance. In 1910, the English and Indians also introduced handicap systems. However, there is still no globally homogenous and all-encompassing system. The handicaps of players are determined by the respective country associations.

From beginner to professional: the scale

A handicap is not determined by goal and tournament success alone, but many other factors are also taken into account, such as sportsmanship, team play, knowledge of polo, strategy and horsemanship. The highest possible handicap is 10 goals. Not even a dozen people worldwide have this ranking, and it is primarily Argentinian polo families who dominate this top category. Of the nine 10-goalers currently playing, eight are from Argentina. The majority of the players does not achieve the upper end of the scale: two thirds of all players have a handicap of 2 goals or less. The exact division of the handicap scale is different according to each country.

Argentina: 0 to 10
USA: C (-2), B (-1), B+ (-0.5), A (0), A+ (0.5), 1.0, 1.5, 2 to 10
England: -2 to +10
Germany: -2 to +10

The team handicap in a tournament is calculated from the individual handicaps of the players. For reasons of fairness, teams with lower team handicaps are given a so-called goal advantage.

The best of the best: the 10-goalers

There are currently only nine players across the world who have the highest possible handicap of 10 goals. As each country determines its own handicap, players in Argentina may play at 10 goals in Argentina, but they would be playing at just 9 goals in the USA. The differences are sometimes even greater than this.

Go ladies: the women's handicap

In polo, it is usual for men and women to play together in mixed teams. The number of female polo players is rapidly increasing and over the past few years, more and more ladies' tournaments have been established. In order to increase the appeal of ladies' tournaments, the Asociación Argentina de Polo (AAP) introduced special handicaps for women in 2012. The women's handicap only applies to women-only tournaments – if women play together with men, the normal handicap applies. During the season, the women's handicap commission observes players in the ladies' tournaments and meets twice a year to discuss performance and possible handicap changes. At the end of 2011, the Fédération Française de Polo (FFP) adopted the Argentinian system. Since the start of 2014, a special women's handicap has also existed in the USA. This year, the United Kingdom has caught up and introduced ladies' handicaps in April 2015. In all other countries there is no special handicap system for women, and women-only tournaments are played with normal handicaps.

Arena, Beach and Snow Polo

There are also separate handicaps for arena tournaments in the USA and United Kingdom. The best arena player in the USA is Thomas Biddle with an arena handicap of 10 goals. He plays at 6 goals on grass. In the United Kingdom, Chris Hyde was recently promoted and now also plays at 10 goals (outdoor 6 goals).

For beach and snow polo, there are no separate handicaps, but the normal handicaps are usually raised by one level.

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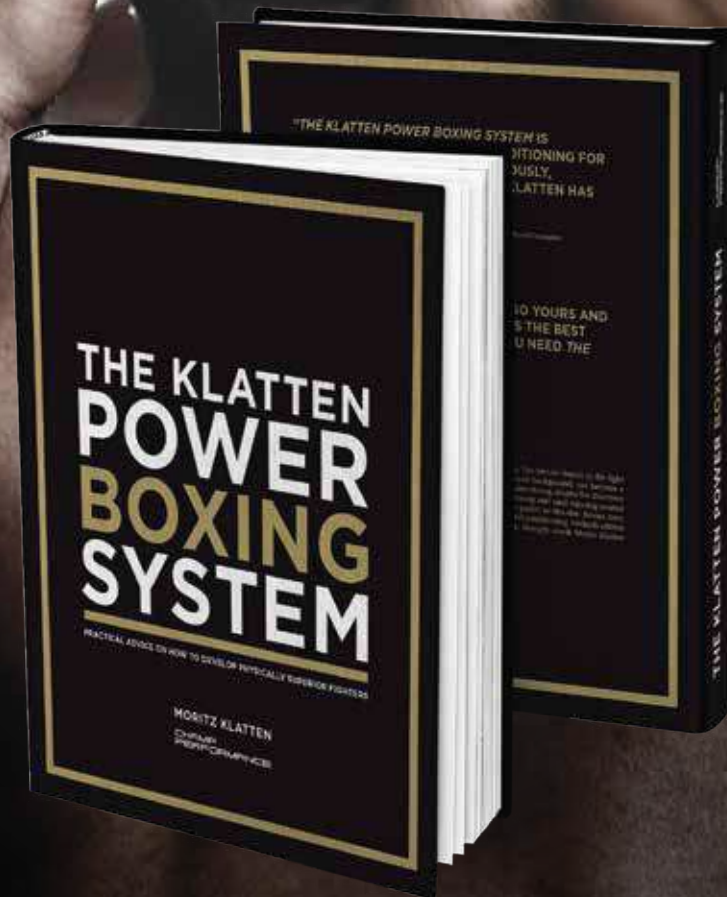
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