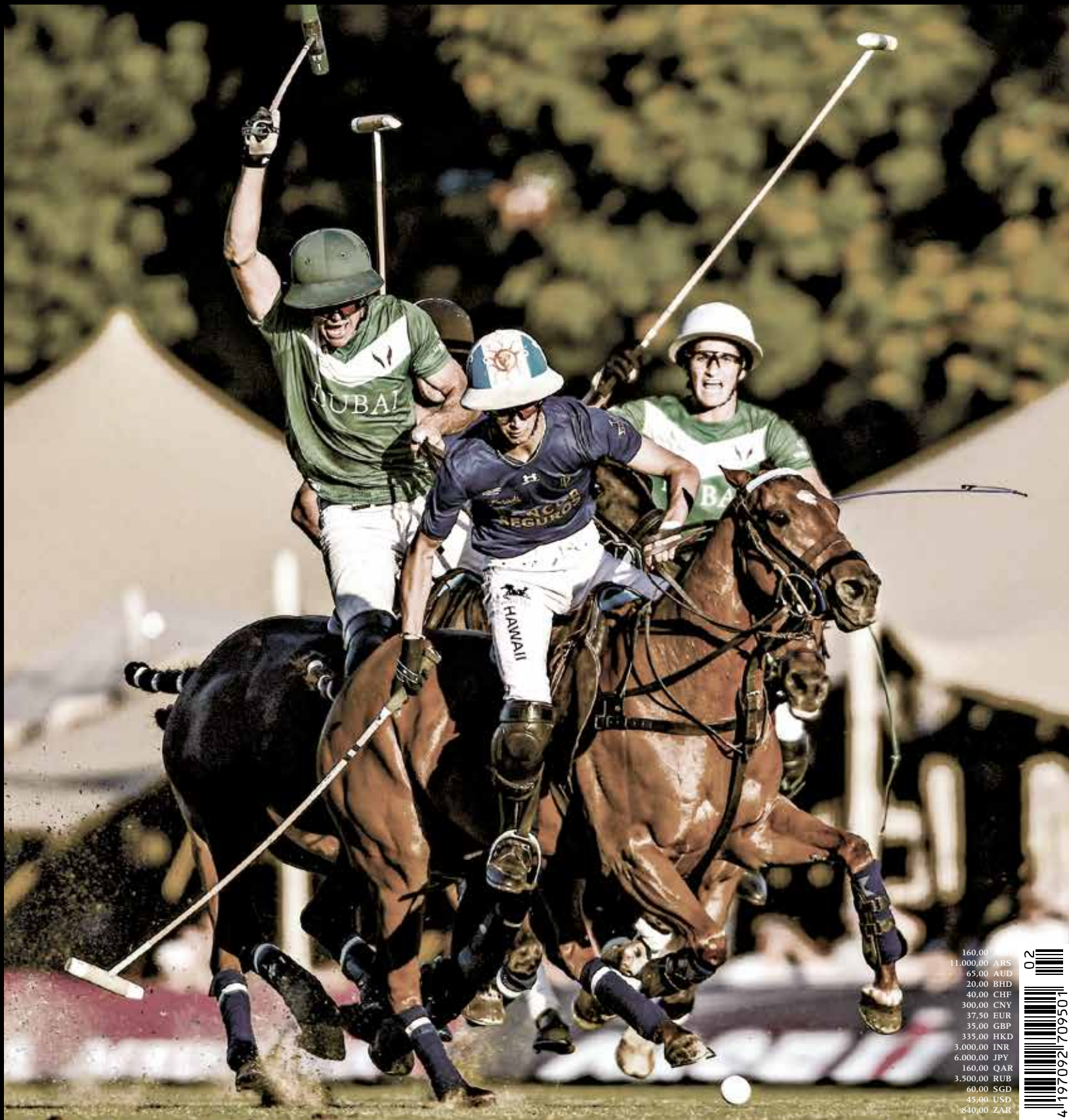


POLO

+10
WORLD
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EDITION

POLO+10 WORLD – The Polo Magazine • Est. 2004 • Published Worldwide

II/2023 Volume 20 • Nº 31



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DISCOVER THE FASCINATING WORLD OF POLO



Dear readers,

in this issue you can once again expect exciting stories and reports from the polo universe. We look at great tournaments and people, take you into the polo world, the lifestyle of the sport and let you share in the captivating events of the past season.

The 23rd Zurich International Ladies Polo Cup outdid itself, and the Polo Park Zurich is increasingly becoming the hub for women's polo in Europe. Learn more about the 129th Argentine Open, where La Dolfina Saudi formed an invincible wall with Juan Martin Nero and Poroto Cambiaso, and join us at the St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship in Aspen.

Since re-establishing the club in 2014, Marc and Melissa Ganzi have revitalized polo in Aspen and the surrounding area and made it very popular. With a number of innovative offerings, including regular tournaments, a polo school and special events, they have enriched the experience for both players and spectators. Their dedication and passion for the sport have elevated polo to a new level in this region.

In Argentina, we met two impressive young polo players. Mia Cambiaso, who graced our 2019 cover, received a copy of that issue - a beautiful memento. Another highlight was meeting Milagros Sanchez, an up-and-coming player, who we gave an issue with her interview from the previous year. Her delight was great and we look forward to keeping an eye on your further development.

In this issue, we also look at the development of polo in China in recent years and thank Cinderella von Dungern for her interesting report. In addition, you can expect exclusive interviews in this issue, such as the conversation with Pascal Renaudon, who shares his passion for equestrian sports with us.

The spring issue offers you a comprehensive insight into the exciting world of polo and its fascination. Enjoy reading and look forward to an eventful and exciting 2023 polo season.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS WIRTH
Founder and Publisher

WWW.POLOPLUS10.COM // WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/POLOPLUS10
TWITTER + INSTAGRAM: @POLOPLUS10 // YOUTUBE: POLOPLUS10TV

Cover: La Dolfina Saudi: Poroto Cambiaso (in front), La Natividad: Nachi du Plessis (left) and Jeta Castagnola (right). Photo was taken at the 129th Argentine Open, Palermo 2022. Many thanks to Nacho Corbolan, great work! @corbalannacho, by Corbalan Nacho Photography Editorial: Roberto Hegeler

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BY POLO+10

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"We are all horsemen, and it is only natural that we want to share this passion with others through the media."

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Ferenc's passion is horses and to paint horses. He works throughout the international field, often on commissions. His objects are polo, harness racing and dressage.



ITALIA POLO CHALLENGE

CORTINA 2023

Cortina and the polo snow - always full throttle ahead! The 2023 edition of the Italia Polo Challenge starts with remarkable results this time as well.

BY CATERINA VAGNOZZI | PHOTOGRAPHY IPC/DIEGO BANDION













LOVING ATTENTION TO DETAIL AT HOTEL REETHÜÜS KAMPEN



“Vacation and feel at home“ is the credo of the team at Reethüüs Kampen. Guests are pleasantly surprised and pampered with attentive service. The Reethüüs is centrally yet idyllically located, nestled between the North Sea and the Wadden Sea. Each of the 20 rooms is individually furnished with a loving attention to detail. The spacious, well-maintained garden, with its many

secluded spots, invites you to relax and linger. Start your day with a generous breakfast buffet served until lunchtime, then continue indulging in the afternoon with a freshly baked slice of cake at tea time. Those wishing to escape wind and weather can find solace in the Reethüüs sauna and indoor pool. The team looks forward to welcoming their guests in a warm, family atmosphere.





RANKING

1. U.S. POLO ASSN (+9)

Sebastien Aguetant (0)

Patrick Paillol (+5)

Matthieu Delfosse (+4)

2. NATUZZI (+10)

David Deistler (0)

Patrick Maleitzke (+5)

Clement Delfosse (+5)

3. GRAND HOTEL SAVOIA (+8)

Cameron Bacon (0)

Jules Legoubin (+3)

Gonzalo Garcia Del Rio (+5)

4. RICCIONE (+8)

Fabrizio Facello (0)

Therence Cusmano (+1)

Patricio Rattagan (+4)

5. KADERMIN UNION (+9)

Stefano Giansanti (+1)

Alexander Hauptmann (+2)

Joaquin Maiquez (+6)

5. BLUE OCEAN FINANCE (+9)

Wang Hoaw Chan (0)

Juan Clemente Marambio (+4)

Pelayo Berazadi (+5)

For the fourth year in a row, the Italia Polo Challenge has kicked off in the Dolomite pearl of Cortina. After the debut in 2020 with demonstration matches, the event then quickly took on the character of a real tournament, played every year - despite all the Covid restrictions. And the 2023 edition closed with numbers that were as impressive as they were great: six teams on the field, players from seven nations and three continents for four intense days of play, with exciting matches in the spotlight and very large crowds.

The polo event in Cortina, which is one of the most eagerly awaited sporting events of the season, hit the mark again this time, also thanks to a post-match programme that fully lived up to the expectations of the purely social part of the event. Once again it was the U.S. Polo Assn. team, title sponsor of the tournament, that entered the winners' list, this time represented by an all-French polo team. In the final, Sebastien Aguetant, Patrick Paillol and Matthieu Delfosse defeated Natuzzi Polo Team, last

year's winners, represented by Clement Delfosse, Matthieu's brother, and German players David Deistler and Patrick Maleitzke, by a comfortable margin (9 ½ /5).

Paillol was named the best player of the tournament: "This was my first participation in Cortina after having played many games on snow. I have to say that they really did a wonderful job here, with a perfect field at all times and a full programme for us every day, even before the games. A very enjoyable experience, we were even able to get out on the ski slopes. It was fun to challenge and beat my great friend Clement Delfosse in the final, but with his brother Matthieu on my team." An award also went to China's Eclair Chen, who had worked and waited two years for her first appearance in the snow of Ampezzo and then had to retire because of a knee injury, of all things (she was replaced by compatriot Wang Hoaw Chan from Team Blue Ocean Finance). The organisers therefore wanted to cheer her up with a special prize.

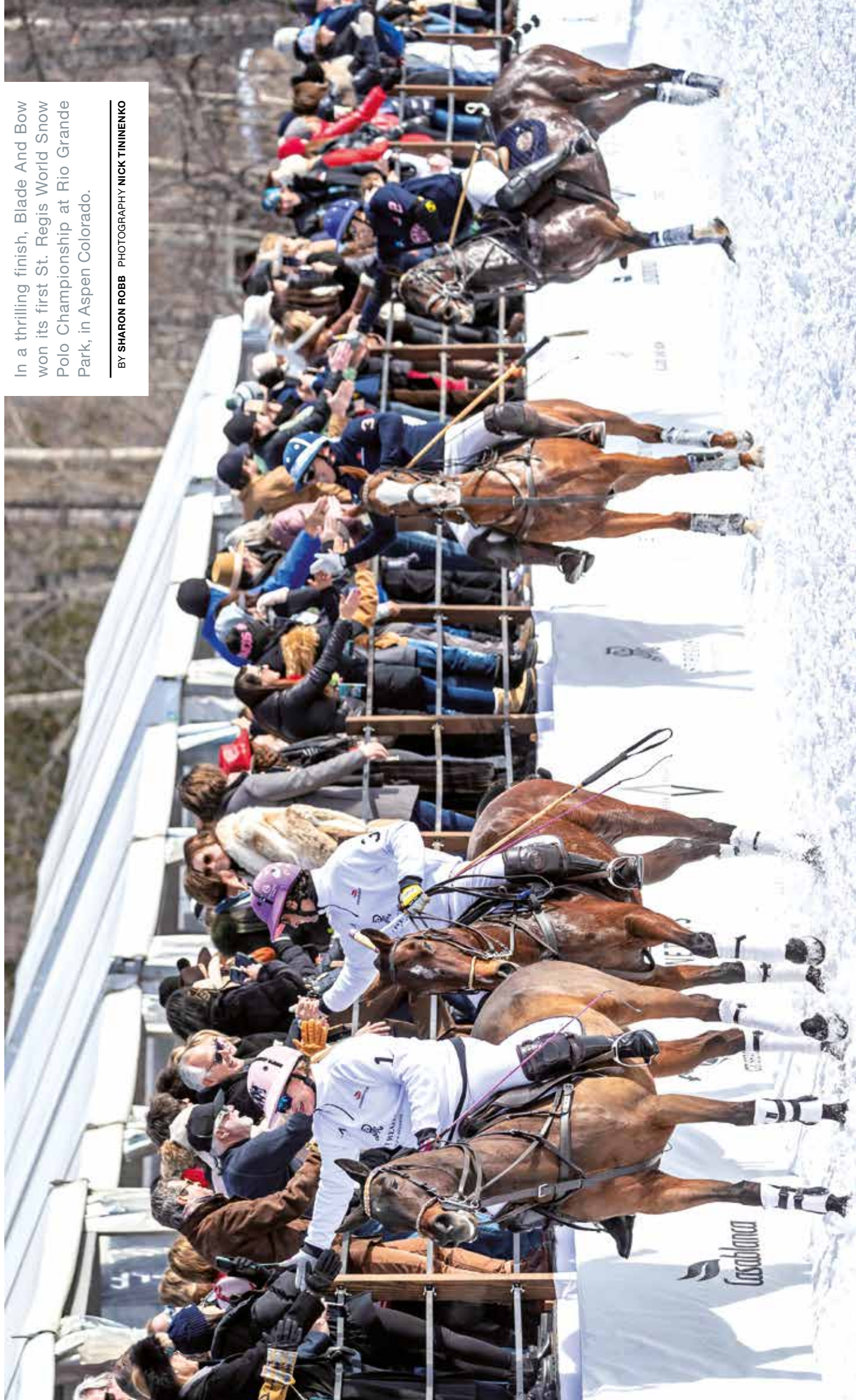
Cortina is preparing for the 2026 Winter Olympics and polo dreams of being included in the demonstration sports calendar. "The relationship with Cortina is beautiful and fruitful", stressed FISE Secretary General Simone Perillo. "Polo is a spectacular and fascinating sport that balances the values of the horse-rider combination with those of a team sport. Two Olympic champions such as former ski racer Kristian Ghedina and or curler Stefania Constantini visited us in the polo village and found wonderful words of appreciation for the horses and our sport during the tournament. This is also an incentive for us to become even better". Alessandro Giachetti, Director of Zone Europe of the International Polo Federation and Head of the FISE Polo Department, sees it the same way and emphasises: "The success of this year's tournament in Cortina is the culmination of all the efforts and hard work of the past three years - and this is just the beginning for the development of this event, which has the potential to grow even more in the future."



ST. REGIS WORLD SNOW POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

In a thrilling finish, Blade And Bow won its first St. Regis World Snow Polo Championship at Rio Grande Park, in Aspen Colorado.

BY SHARON ROBB PHOTOGRAPHY NICK TININENKO







Blade and Bow (Grant Ganzi, 3, Hilario Figueras, 6, Tommy Biddle, 9) rallied from a four-goal deficit to defeat St. Regis (Melissa Ganzi, 0, Nacho Figueras, 6, Alejandro Novillo Astrada, 7), 9-8, in front of a soldout VIP tent and worldwide ChukkerTV audience.

Biddle, making his fourth finals appearance, won the tournament for the first time and was named Most Valuable Player. "I am happy to finally win", Biddle said. "This makes it a very Merry Christmas. To be honest, I thought if we didn't win it they ought to kick me in the butt."

The former 10-goal rated arena player had the play of the day scoring a goal off a knock-in the length of the field with 16 seconds left in the second chukker.

"I got very, very, very lucky because that ball is very tough to control", Biddle said. "When I hit it I went 'what a crappy shot' because it looked like it was going to the right and going out of bounds. Then it curled back in and landed in and I went 'oh wow.'"

St. Regis, a 14-goal rated team, started with a 3-0 lead based on handicap against Blade And Bow. Melissa Ganzi made it 4-0 with a long goal just past center field. Biddle scored with 3:12 left in the opening chukker as Blade And Bow started to claw its way back into the game.

Grant Ganzi converted a 15-yard penalty to tie the game, 6-6, with 3:57 left in the third chukker. Melissa Ganzi then converted a 15-yard penalty to give St. Regis back the lead, 7-6. Hilario Figueras scored on a neck

shot with 1:53 to tie the game again, 7-7. Nacho Figueras was awarded a penalty one, for an 8-7 lead. Blade And Bow was also awarded a penalty one when Grant Ganzi was impeded with as he attempted to score and tied the game again, 8-8, in the third chukker.

In another big play, Grant Ganzi jumped on the line to draw a St. Regis foul and successfully converted a 15-yard penalty which turned out to be the winning goal for a 9-8 lead with 3:32 left in the game.

"We were clawing back the whole game", said Grant Ganzi after winning his third St. Regis title. "They got a cushion on us and then they scored a quick one, my mom scored an amazing goal. And they scored another goal. It was a lot of goals we had to make up. And I missed a couple of penalties. So, honestly, I was proud of my teammates. They fought really hard and I was happy I was able to knock the penalties down the second half when they were really important.

"I was just happy we were able to come back and not give up," Ganzi said. "It was an amazing game. Hats off to St. Regis. They played incredible. My mom played one of the best snow polo games I've seen her play in her life and Alejandro and Nacho battled their asses off to win. Kudos to them and all the love in the world to my teammates. They killed it."

St. Regis had its chances to score late in the chukker missing two penalty shots and having a goal called back because of a foul. With 48 seconds left, Grant Ganzi stole the ball from Astrada and ran out the clock.

"I knew that having to give up three goals on handicap in the snow is a lot different from playing in the arena", Biddle said. "There was no sense to get upset. Just go and keep working and working and working. I figured we would get it worked out by the end.

"We really should have gone up by two goals and there would have been a lot less pressure but then we had to hang on for dear life because they had a couple of opportunities late."

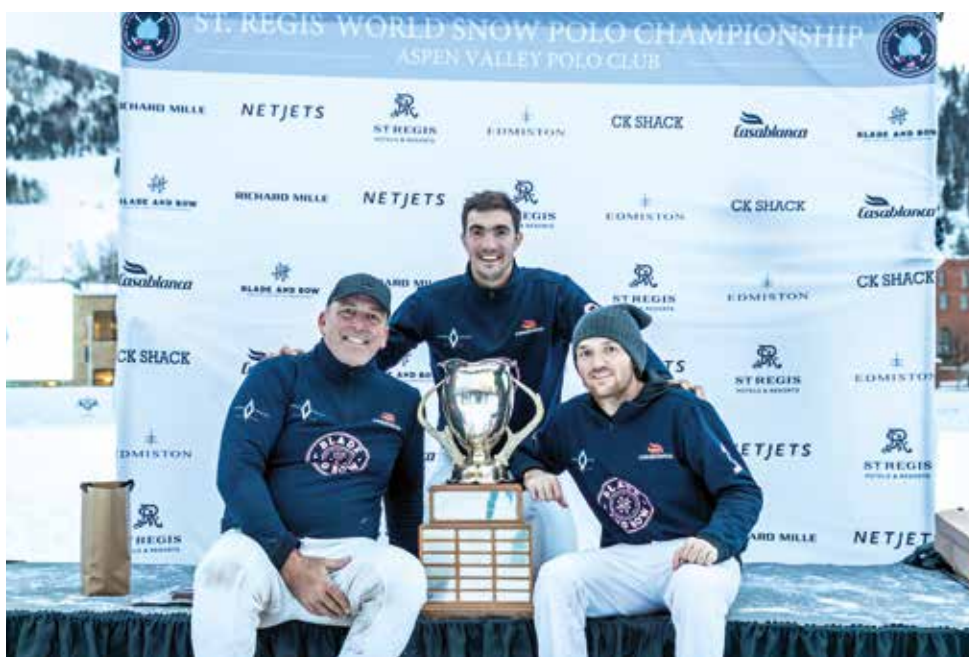
Biddle and Figueras each had three goals. Ganzi had two goals and was awarded a penalty-one.

Added Nacho Figueras, who has competed in all 10 St. Regis snow polo tournaments. "It's always fun to see the kids excel. So that was fun. But I always like to win, so I wasn't so happy about the result. But they beat us fair and square and I can't wait until next year."

In the second game of the doubleheader, Richard Mille (Sarah Siegel Magness, 1, Jesse Bray, 7, Pablo MacDonough, 10) defeated NetJets (Scott Wood, 2, Juan Martin Zubia, 9, Sugar Erskine, 7), 6-4, for the Aspen Cup. MacDonough scored a game-high four goals and was named Most Valuable Player.

In the battle for fifth and sixth place in the six-team tournament on Tuesday, CK Shack (Santos Bollini, 3, Martin Uranga, 7, Juan Bollini, 4) defeated Edmiston (Cable Magness, 1, Jason Crowder, 7, Jeronimo Del Carril, 9), 9-5. Juan Bollini was selected MVP.





In the Celebrity Polo Round Robin, Aspen Valley Polo Club (Sterling Jones, Marc Ganzi, Nacho Figueras) won the three-team round robin, 1-0, over Casablanca (Saul Sacca, Juan Bollini, Grant Ganzi). Lugano Diamonds (Joyce Bonelli, Martin Uranga, Vinny Sangaline) finished third.

Irenita Sofia, owned and played by Grant Ganzi, was the Best Playing Pony for the final.

Open Deliciosa, played by MacDonough and owned by Halo Polo, was the Best Playing Pony for the tournament.

Call of Duty, played by Zubia and owned by Halo Pony, was the American Polo Horse Association Best Playing Pony of the tournament.

The six-team event was the most competitive tournament in its 10-year history.

"You have really good players that are playing here", Biddle said. "And the patrons that are playing in the tournament play very well. The Ganzis shipped out three loads of horses to help mount everybody."

Blade And Bow Blade is a brand of bourbon whiskey produced at the original site of the iconic Stitzel-Weller Distillery in Louisville, Kentucky. The original distillery closed its doors in 1992, and the company Diageo re-opened the facility in 2014. In regards to the origins of the Blade and Bow name, it represents the two parts of a skeleton key, the blade shaft and the ornate bow.

For the second consecutive day, actress and singer songwriter Kelley Jakle, sang a

beautiful rendition of the National Anthem and flag bearer Jenna Hammond carried the American flag on horseback during the pre-game ceremony.

During the awards ceremony, tournament co-host Marc Ganzi announced that \$100,000 had been raised from record ticket sales (doubled from last year) and donations for the Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation and Calaway-Young Cancer Center.

"All of you showed up this weekend", said tournament co-host Marc Ganzi. "I know a lot of you came from a long distance to support the World Snow Polo Championships and part of that support is when all of you reached into your checkbooks and you bought VIP tickets to come. We blew this out. We raised \$100,000 this weekend which is incredible. We were at \$30,000 two days ago."

Ganzi also praised the community support for the event.

"This week doesn't happen without a lot of important people", Ganzi said. "I have to give a lot of credit to Mayor Torre and the City Council. This city continues to support this event. We can't do it without the city of Aspen or without the help of Aspen Skiing Company. That's what this community does. It shows up and pulls for everyone and I want to give a great round of applause for the city of Aspen for their partnership in this event."

For the tenth consecutive year, Aspen Valley Polo Club owners Melissa and Marc Ganzi hosted the world-class event which

has joined St. Moritz as one of the world's top snow polo tournaments and one of Aspen's major international sporting events. It was the final stop on the World Polo Tour and only snow polo event in North America.

Past winners were: 2021, Richard Mille (Sarah Siegel Magness, Jesse Bray, Pablo MacDonough); 2020, World Polo League (Riley Ganzi, Hilario Figueras, Alejandro Novillo Astrada); 2019, Richard Mille (Edouard Pan, Pablo MacDonough, Louis Jarrige); 2018, Richard Mille (Marc Ganzi, Martin Pepa, Pablo MacDonough); U.S. Polo Assn.; 2017, (Grant Ganzi, Juancito Bollini, Nic Roldan); 2016, Flexjet (Melissa Ganzi, Alejandro Novillo Astrada, Juan Bollini); 2015, U.S. Polo Assn. (Grant Ganzi, Nic Roldan, Juancito Bollini); 2014, Piaget (Marc Ganzi, Jeff Hall, Nic Roldan); and 2013, St. Regis (Nacho Figueras, Nic Roldan, Brandon Phillips).

With the majestic 12,965-foot summit of Mount Sopris as a backdrop, Aspen Valley Polo Club continues to be one of the busiest and fastest growing USPA-sanctioned clubs in the nation. Aspen Valley Polo Club has become the world's destination spot for summer and snow polo.

Since Marc and Melissa Ganzi resurrected the 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.





Image: AAP / Matias Callejo

129TH ARGENTINE OPEN

A returning Juan Martin Nero and the rise of young Poroto Cambiaso meant that La Dolfina Saudi performed like a solid wall and were simply invincible. Not even La Natividad, the defending champion with its two talented brothers Barto and Jeta Castagnola, could stand up to them.

PHOTOGRAPHY NACHO CORBALAN, AAP / MATIAS CALLEJO, PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE
BY PASCAL RENAULDON / R&B PRESSE
HELENA SCHOELLER/LA TARDE POLO CLUB, JAN ZAVAZAL



Image: AAP / Matias Callejo



Image: AAP / Matias Callejo



HIGHLIGHTS FROM PALERMO 2022 THE FATHER-SON : COUSIN MATCH!

Jan Zavázal, Player and Commentator, a.k.a. "The Polo Speaker" covers highlights from Buenos Aires exclusively for POLO+10 of the 129th Abierto Argentino.

BY JAN ZAVAZAL PHOTOGRAPHY VAF PHOTOGRAPHY

Hardly any sport in the world has such a close family circle as Argentine Polo. It is quite a normal thing in polo to meet one weekend in one place in the world and then somewhere else the following week. Argentina, on the other hand, is one big family neighborhood where players from the Pilar district and Buenos Aires come together.

You could clearly see that during the Palermo Open 2022. The fact is that it is the tournament with the biggest audience. Around 30,000 spectators were able to bask in boiling temperatures as Adolfo Cambiaso together with his son Poroto put on an incredible show. La Dolfina felt they were in a clear position to take home the trophy after losing against La Natividad the year before. And with 13:9, they have fulfilled their mission more than enough.

Poroto Cambiaso, who at the age of 17 easily smashes a 60-yard penalty shot over the

fence onto the main road of Buenos Aires, was facing the final match against his cousin Jeta Castagnola. To be clear, Jeta's mother, Camila, is Adolfo Cambiaso's sister.

With this final, the great Adolfo (47) also reached his peak in his career. Why? As he said himself, his greatest wish was not only to clone super horses but to win the Palermo Open with his son. The king of the game may now pass the scepter on to his son Poroto. Though, Adolfo is very far away from retiring and has confirmed that he will continue for the 2023 season.

Let's speak about La Natividad: The two Castagnola brothers were clearly the ace in the hole for this team. Part of it was also Polito Pieres and Ignatius du Plessis, but for this 33-year-old south african polo professional, the journey with the green/white team came to an end after this thrilling final.

As they say, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Ignatius shall continue with Nico, Gonzalo Pieres, and Bauti Baguyar for Ellerstina in 2023, as this legendary team seems in need of a new setup after being criticized for not making it into the final after two consecutive years.

Let's not forget about the stunning atmosphere at the women's final. It has never been this spectacular and the grandstands were more than full. No wonder, as Mia Cambiaso, another member of the La Dolfina empire, was part of the winning team. Together with Nina Clarkin and the two Araujo sisters, they were cheered by spectators who were present after their victory against La Irenita. Not just for the prize ceremony, because the tradition of celebration at the final of the Palermo Open continues into the early hours of the next morning.



THE 129TH ARGENTINE OPEN IN NUMBERS

La Dolfina Saudi:

Adolfo Cambiaso 10 (2 goals, 1 corner), David Stirling 10 (1), Poroto Cambiaso 9 (5, 2 penalties), Juan Martín Nero 10 (5). Total: 39.

La Natividad:

Jeta Castagnola 10 (6, 3 penalties), Pablo Pieres 10, Bartolomé Castagnola Jr. 10 (3), Nachi du Plessis 9. Total: 39.

La Dolfina:

2-0, 3-1, 6-4, 8-4, 10-6, 11-7, 11-7 and 13-9

MVP:

Juan Martin Nero

Top scorers of the Open:

1- Jeta Castagnola (La Natividad) 54 goals, 2- Poroto Cambiaso (La Dolfina Saudi) 47 goals, 3 - Facundo Pieres (Ellerstina) 31 goals

Copa Lady Susan Townley, best horse of the final:

Irenita Harinosa, played by Pelon Stirling

Best product of the Raza Polo Argentino studbook

– AACCP:

Anay Sur Brandy, played by Juan M. Nero









Image: Helena Schoeller/La Tarde Polo Club



Images (3): Jan Zavazal

1 Mia Cambiaso, featured on our 2019 cover, receives that very edition 2 Rising star Milagros Sanchez receives the new POLO+10 issue, which contains a big interview with her, and is very delighted 3 Juan Martin Sarli and Helena Schoeller from La Tarde Polo Club with Vicky Fenner and Jan Zavazal, who was at the tournament for us 4 Nacho Corbalan from Pilar has been our top choice for photos from Argentina for many years. Thank you very much, Nacho!



From the start of this 129th Argentine Open final, the Castagnola brothers (and their teammates) seemed resigned to the fact that their uncle and cousin, father and son Cambiaso, had taken the lead, strongly supported by the tireless efficiency of Pelon Stirling and, above all, a simply outstanding Juan Martin Nero.

Not only was Nero tireless on defence (Jeta Castagnola, the Open's top scorer, could only manage three field goals that Friday), but La Dolfina's defence was nothing short of brilliant on attack, anticipating and enchanting to the tune of five goals, including two golazos, which is quite rare for a defender. It was already clear in the first half of the game that Nero would be voted MVP, the best man of the match: "But that's not the most important thing", he told POLO+10 modestly after the game. "The most important thing is that the team played well today. We found a great team in La Dolfina, we played the way we wanted to play. If I got this award, it's probably because I scored a few goals, but that's not the main thing today."

In any case, his return was decisive: "Yes, it's really great to be back in La Dolfina, to play with Pelon again, to play with Poroto for the first time and to win again straight away. That is something unbelievable."

The success of the man who is considered the best rider in the world is also due to the horses he has chosen, such as Anay Sur Brandy, who was named the best polo pony in the Raza Polo Argentino studbook: "She is a mare from Marcos Heguy's stud that I bought last year, and today she was fabulous. She ran three times in the field, in the second, sixth and last chukker. She did really well today."

During the press conference, Adolfo Cambiaso hinted that he might end his career, prompting an outcry of understanding from journalists. But just three days later, the polo GOAT* announced that the team will return to the Triple Crown in 2023: "I dreamed of winning this title with my son and I did it. This is an incredible day for me and I don't know what more I could have dreamed of. It is also a victory with companions who are more friends than teammates, Pelon, Juan Martin... the team worked exactly as we had planned."

With this fifteenth title in twenty-two finals, the eighteenth for Adolfo Cambiaso, and with the youngest player to win the Abierto, Poroto at 17 years and 6 days, La Dolfina has established itself even more in the history of the sport. Not to mention Mia Cambiaso's fifth win in the Women's Open a few hours earlier. What a family!

* GOAT : Greatest of all Time

UPHEAVALS

After this historic victory, peace reigned in La Dolfina, but that was not the case for the other teams. Four days after Poroto Cambiaso became the youngest player in history to win the Argentine Open, he also became the youngest 10-goal winner in history. This means that La Dolfina will have a total of 40 handicap goals in 2023!

On the other hand, there were some upheavals that did not go unnoticed: for example, the downgrading of Facundo, Nicolás and Polito Pieres' handicaps from 10 to 9, joining the young Tomás Panelo, Alejo Taranco and Juan Martín Zubía, who were raised from 8 to 9. The "demotions" of the Pieres caused a sensation in Argentina: Polito still won the Tortugas Open, where Facundo and Nicolás had been in the final, and beat La Dolfina in the Argentine Open semifinals, losing only in overtime, while Facundo dominated the U.S. and European seasons, winning the Gold Cups in the U.S., England and Spain!

But Ellerstina has not won anything this season (2022) in Argentina. Something had to be done. So Ulloa left the team to form his own team for 2023: La Hache with Sapó Caset, Fran Elizalde and Polito Pieres. So the latter leaves La Natividad together with Nachi du Plessis and is replaced by Facundo Pieres and Pablo McDonough! This means that the main team of La Irenita disappears. Nachi Du Plessis joins Ellerstina, where he is reunited with Bautista Bayugar alongside brothers Nicolás and Gonzalito Pieres.

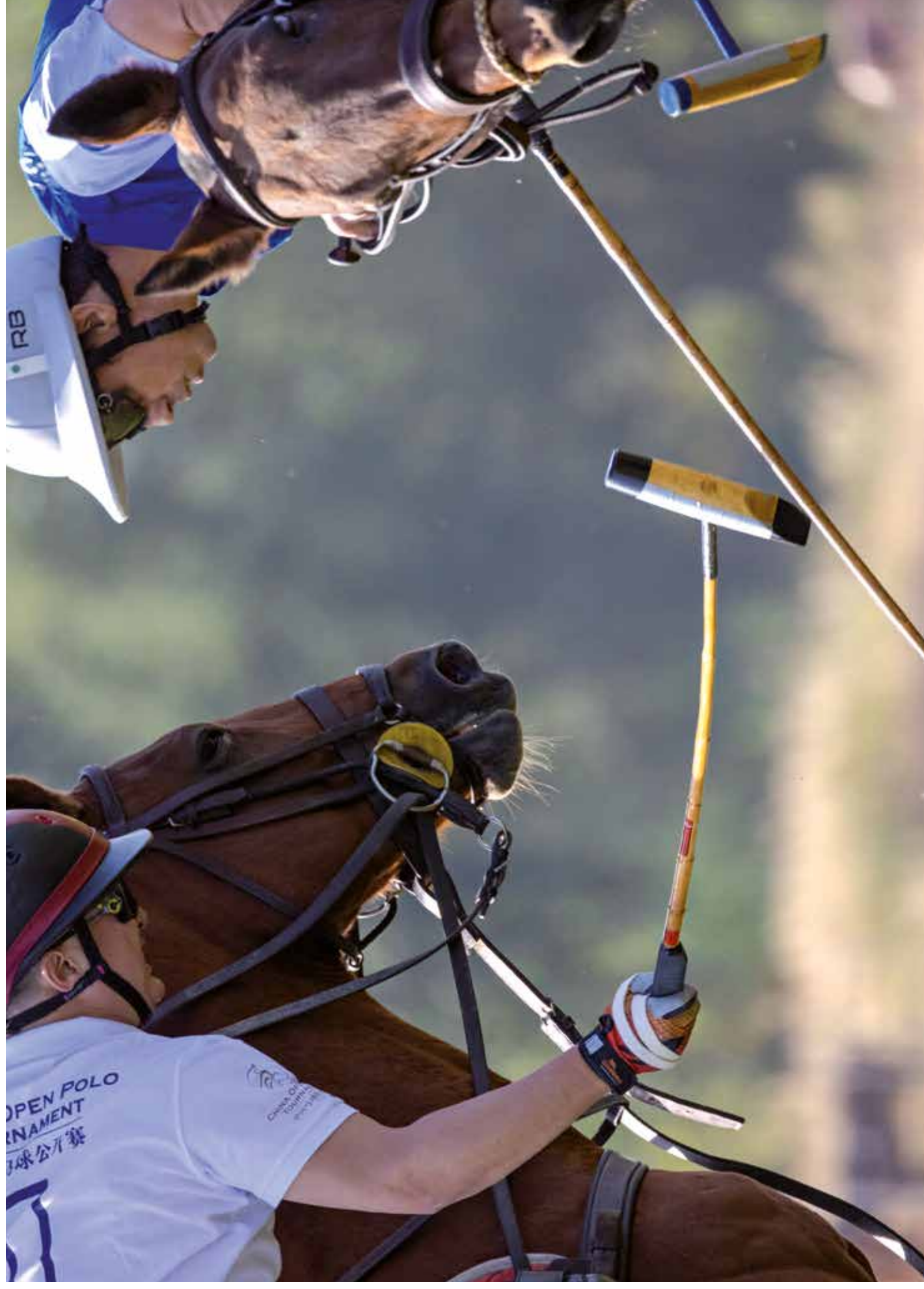
Another new team is the reestablishment of La Ensenada with Juan Britos, Alfred Bigatti, Juan Martín Zubía (the friend of Mia Cambiaso) and Jero Del Carril. Since La Hache's first team qualified for the 2023 Triple Crown by beating Copa Camara winner Tierra Nuestra, Hilario Ulloa will be able to field a second team next year consisting of his brother Tolly, Facu Sola, Tito Ruiz Guíñazu and Joaquim Pittaluga.





POLO IN CHINA '22 ANOTHER TOUGH YEAR

Although Polo in China has a very long tradition dating back to the Tang dynasty, its modern development is rather exclusive, with a small circle of a total of only under 100 active players.



Best player in China (Liu Shilai, hcp 2) in the fight against the player from Argentina (Rodrigo Bauzada, hcp 4) at the „China Open Cup“ of the Tang Polo Club in Anping (one of 2 Argentines overall).



The winner team of the Metropolitan Open 2022: Sasha Feng, Rogers Wang, Fatin Li, Cesar Hugo Palacios.



1 After a long Covid break, good polo fights were again possible in Tianjin 2 Cinderella von Dungern with the poloplayer Muqiao (Mucho) Chen in Shanghai 3 Shuhan Liu, the son of LIU Shilai, is already an enthusiastic polo fighter. Nowadays, modern polo is starting to affect China's second generation.



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4 The opening ceremony of the Metropolitan Open 2022 in Tianjin was glamorous 5 In Tianjin, many different equestrian attractions were presented to the audience 6 Due to long & hard pandemic lockdowns, the “Fast Fish Gold Cup” was actually the first tournament in the season in the Shanghai Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club. It was so much appreciated by all players and visitors.



7 Winner of the Metropolitan Polo Open 2022 in Tianjin 8 & 9 The editor of the leading horse magazine in China and national polo player Yanyang Li receives the 2021 Spring edition of the “Polo+10 World Magazine”. He strongly promotes the overall equestrian development and is one main driver behind polo in China.



The two teams of the "China Open Cup" final match: Biao Wang, Rodrigo Bauzada, Windson Rao, Yanyang Li (Team Fast Fish from Shanghai NDH Polo Club) and Shilai Liu, Nan Liu, Ketu Chao, Yin Bao (Team Tang PC).

Although Polo in China has a very long tradition dating back to the Tang dynasty, its modern development is rather exclusive, with a small circle of a total of only under 100 active players. Over the past 15 years, it became quite a vivid and determined polo place with international medium and high goal tournaments in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, impressive modern polo-clubs and some Chinese players also joining tournaments worldwide, especially in Thailand and Europe.

In the recent past, however, polo in China suffered substantially under pandemic restrictions. Compared to previous years, the imposed health and visa restrictions were further increased, effectively banning international travels, and limiting the player pool to domestic players. But even those domestic players were hardly able to play. Various lockdowns in numerous Chinese cities and severe national travel restrictions for humans and horses prevented regular polo activities all over the year. Inbound travels from international players or reliable planning for tournaments and sponsoring were once again not possible. The already comparatively small number of Chinese polo players was extremely challenged by those external circumstances.

The driving engine behind polo in China came from a few experienced players who

- before Covid started in 2020 – had travelled as active players through various polo destinations worldwide. Among those established polo promoters are Shilai Liu (China's best polo player & successful business entrepreneur), Zongming (Windson) Rao (founder & owner of the clothing company Fast Fish) and Yanyang Li (editor of China's leading horse magazine and organisator of international equestrian events). Currently the only foreigners who play in China are two Argentinian players, Cesar Hugo Palacios (hcp +3) in Tianjin and Rodrigo Bauzada (hcp +4) in Shanghai, which arrived at the very end of the season due to visa and travel difficulties.

Only in autumn, some action became more feasible & visible. The three traditional polo clubs, Tang Polo Club (Tang PC) in Anping, Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club (NDH) in Shanghai and Metropolitan Polo Club (MPC) in Tianjin somehow managed to keep their horses trained in midst of all Covid restrictions and organized small club tournaments in rather turbulent circumstances. In all three locations, some players just started to play again after a long pandemic break, so the level of the games was adjusted accordingly. The low goal tournaments were focused, with only two teams competing against each other. In Shanghai, the two teams of the "Fast Fish Gold Cup" tournament consisted of

Muqiao Chen, Ye Yang, Wawa, Jeff Su (Team NDH) and Windson Rao, Jack Ji, Sasha Feng, Biao Wang (Team Fast Fish). In Anping, the two teams that met in the "China Open Cup" involved Biao Wang, Rodrigo Bauzada, Windson Rao, Yanyang Li (Team Fast Fish) and Shilai Liu, Nan Liu, Ketu Chao, Yin Bao (Team Tang PC). In Tianjin, the two teams of the "Metropolitan Polo Open 2022" tournament were made up of Cesar Hugo Palacios, Yuan Jian Liu, Fatin Li, Rogers Wang (Team MPC) and Ya Lie Chen, Xin Li, Michael Xu, Jin Qiang Hui/ Sasha Feng (Silk Team). Everybody was so relieved to play, finally back on horses and enjoying some ambitious fights after such a long "silent season". After the games, opulent dinner parties followed. The atmosphere among riders and visitors was very joyful and enthusiastic.

Polo in China faced challenging times during pandemic, and Chinese players demonstrated strong resilience. Hopefully in 2023, they can again restart from the spot where since 2020 external circumstances had limited them. They are very ambitious and eager to learn the skills and strategy behind the game. And above all, they are good horse riders. But of course, it would be essential to involve some international players. It's encouraging to observe strong mutual efforts to keep the polo sport and spirit going. ●



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10 In Shanghai resulted a big joy and happiness among players and visitors to finally be able to meet again for the polo tournament of Fast Fish 11 Rogers Wang was especially honored in Tianjin 12 The NDH Polo Club has impressive premises and is located in midst of the resort "Nine Dragons Hills" and close to the ocean. The resort is positioned in Zhejiang, the neighboring province of Shanghai 13 The dinner ceremony in the NDH club premises after the games was glamorous and splendid 14 Game time again at MPC in Tianjin after ten months break, with only training and club chukkas 15 The two major promoters of polo in China: Shilai Liu (right) and Zongming (Windson) Rao (left).



15



Left: LIU Shilai plays polo since more than 20 years and has mainly developed polo in China **right:** LIU Shilai and Cinderella von Dungern met at last year's tournament of JJ International, hosted at Tang Polo Club in Anping.

INTERVIEW LIU Shilai, November 2022

By Dr. Cinderella von Dungern, exclusively for POLO+10

POLO+10: WHY AND WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING POLO?

LIU Shilai: This is the old story. In China, the ambassador of Jordan in China, called Mr. Anmar. He was equivalent to seeing me riding my horse in an equestrian club, and then invited me to play polo. At that time, we were in a Beijing equestrian club, and then began to play Arena Polo. At that moment, there was no polo horse in China. We put some ordinary semi-blood horses, that is half of the Mongolian horse's half-blooded horse to polo ponies through several months training. That is how and where the story began.

Around 2003, that is 20 years ago, I went to Australia to play polo. After that I went to Argentina to learn polo. Soon after, I won the 4-goal championship of US Polo Open. The polo playing process continued with tournaments in Windsor and Guards in UK as well as the 16-goal Gstaad Gold Cup.

POLO+10: HOW DID POLO DEVELOP OVER THE TIME YOU ARE PLAYING?

LIU Shilai: I returned to China in 2009 and founded the "Tang Polo Club" in Beijing. Before that, it was about 2008, there was a polo club founded near Shanghai,

the "Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club". It was created by a local listed company investor called Qinfu Li and operated by GM Steve.

However, there was no polo field in Beijing at that moment. Therefore, I returned to Beijing to establish the first club - Tang Polo Club. The second club in Beijing was the "Reignwood Club". A bit later, another polo club in Tianjin emerged - the "Metropolitan Polo Club". Last year, I built another club facilities in Anping (Hebei province) because the rules how to use land which "Tang Polo Club" initially used in Beijing, were changed by government. So currently in total, we have four clubs in China.

Regarding the number of players, in the beginning, it was also only 4 polo players in total. After a few years play with the Ambassador Anmar, we went to Argentina to study polo and how to improve our skills. Two of those initial players do not play anymore, only Nan Liu and I have been insisting until now. That was the earliest 2003 situation. To this day, there should be dozens of people who play polo in China. In the early ages in 2008, only I went to play the tournament in Nine

Dragons Hills Polo Club Shanghai. Few years later in Tang Polo, we could have five teams with a total of 20 players in our own club, with all Chinese players. This has developed in the past 20 years. Now, the total number of Chinese polo players should be more than thirty or forty probably, but it is just an estimation. In the Polo Association, there should be about 50 players with Handicap.

POLO+10: WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW, ESPECIALLY DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS?

LIU Shilai: The Covid pandemic still has an impact on us, because the pro of Argentina can't come. So, for Shanghai's horses, there is no good training. But there is no problem for Tang Polo, because we have cultivated our own professionals, with a 2-goal and 1-goal pro. And we also have own veterinarians, horseshoeing masters, all of them trained in China by ourselves through many years. Therefore, Tang Polo Club is not affected by the pandemic, it also serves as training base for the China national polo team. But Covid is still affecting Shanghai and Tianjin a lot. Anyway, as the economy grows, the polo sport will be better and better in China in the future. •



SLOVAKIA'S SNOW POLO

Slovakia's Snow Polo: Glistening snow magic meets adrenaline-charged polo in the scenic mountain landscape of Oravská Lesná.

BY JAN MELICHAR
PHOTOGRAPHY JAN MELICHAR





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TEAMS

 **Team Green (-1)**
 Barbara Rárbovská (0)
 Lucia Simásková (0)
 Lukás Zátka (-1)

 **Team Red (-1)**
 Alexandra Benčíková (1)
 Ladislav Kollar (-1)
 Tibor Horvath (-1)

 **Team Blue (-1)**
 Marianna Olbrych (1)
 Jacek Baranowski (-1)
 Kasia Baranowska (-1)

 **Team Yellow (-1)**
 Pawel Olbrych (1)
 Pablo Ribeiro (-1)
 Grzegorz Zawada (-1)

In early March, the small mountain village of Oravská Lesná in Slovakia's north-western corner, a mere hour's drive from Žilina, hosted what was likely Europe's last snow polo event of the season. While smaller than the established glamorous winter tournaments in the Alps, it brought this highly attractive and dynamic game to the Slovak countryside, where it is rarely seen - and it was a thorough success!

The captivating winter spectacle was staged directly on the slopes of the ski resort Orava Snow - Oravská Lesná. As soon as the skiers completed their fun, the polo games could begin. Altogether, four polo teams from Slovakia and Poland vied for the winter trophy.

"Tournaments are typically held in Slovakia and surrounding areas mainly in spring and summer. So, we decided to organize such an event in winter, bringing something new to Slovakia once again", explains Ladislav Agárdi, president of the Slovak Danube Polo Club, an active player, and organizer of numerous polo events during the summer polo season.

Given the unpredictable weather these days, and the rarity of snowfall in most of Slovakia,

finding a location with consistent snow cover was crucial. Oravská Lesná is the coldest municipality in Slovakia, where nearly 1.5m of snow had fallen just a month before the tournament.

The timeline from the original idea to its realization was just a few weeks, as the organizing team was unsure if temperatures would remain low enough for the games. This unique snow polo tournament got the "green light" after carefully examining the weather forecast just a week before the actual event. Two teams from Poland accepted the invitation and competed against two Slovak teams.

"Our primary goal was to bring something new to this beautiful mountain environment in Oravská Lesná and to have a good time with our friends from the club and abroad", says Agárdi. Polo enthusiasts and local residents collaborated to provide an enjoyable experience for numerous spectators. "Neighbouring countries regularly organize snow polo tournaments, and we'd like to introduce the tradition of winter chukkers in Slovakia as well", Agárdi adds.

"In this splendid sport, one forgets the existence of the world around and focuses solely on their horse and the game on the field", says

Alexandra Benčíková, often referred to as the queen of Slovak polo, describing her connection to the game of polo as she dominated the snow arena.

"We met Ladislav and Alexandra during a snow polo tournament in Bukowina (Poland). When the opportunity arose to play together again, we couldn't refuse", shares Marianna Olbrych from the Polish Buksza Polo & Racing Club. According to her, snow polo holds an irresistible charm, with all the snow and mountain scenery around. "Certainly, there are many differences compared to games on grass fields, but experiencing snow polo is a must for any polo player", Olbrych adds.

The Villa Erdődy Snow Polo Cup 2023 took place from March 3-5, 2023. It was organized by the Danube Polo Club in cooperation with the HBH Group, directly on the slopes of the ski resort Orava Snow - Oravská Lesná. In March 2005, the first Slovak Association of Polo Riding - SAPR was registered, and the Corporex Polo Club was founded in Hrubá Borša, which is now the Danube Polo Club - the only active polo club in Slovakia with a full-size grass field. The founder and initiator of horse polo in Slovakia is Ladislav Argádi.



Polo Park Zürich was topping itself last year and is fast becoming the hub for female polo in Europe.

BY JAN MARIE KIESEL
PHOTOGRAPHY GUADALUPE AIZAGA,
CLICK POLO

23RD ZÜRICH INTERNATIONAL LADIES POLO CUP





**RANKING
CHALLENGE LEAGUE**

1. BLACK HOUND SPORTS

 Kathrin Gralla /  Katharina Donhauser
 Antonia Sturzeis
 Janique Spillmann
 Kira Wetzel

2. JOLIES FILLES

 Lea Köchli
 Claudia Ide /  Annette Fetscherin
 Shiva-Cosma Strub
 Belen Podesta /  Ann Meier

3. POLO PARK ZÜRICH





 Franziska Fuhrer
 Marta Gabrin
 Rafaela Semedo /  Katalin Siklosi
 Sue-Ann Strub

4. HATO


 Leonie Oeschger /  Anna Scherr /
 Valeria Sprungli /  Romina Quimey
 Alex Roudneva
 Sibylle Grass
 Laure Morel

MEDIUM LEAGUE





1. ARCHIES (+8)

 Aline Haerry (+2)
 Ulrike Gabrin (+2)
 Polina Nazarova (+2)
 Viviane Sauter (+2)

1. CLINIQUE LA PRAIRIE (+11)

 Beata Dudler (+2)
 Katja Grauwiler (+2)
 Morgan Van Overbroek (+2)
 Rosanna Turk (+5)

3. CHAMPAGNE PERRIER-JOUËT (+8)

 Sammy-Joe Strub (+2)
 Leah Kawamoto (+2)
 Lorena Penggli (+2)
 Anja Gutbrod (+2)



1 Aline Haerry on the ball 2 Morgan Van Overbroek 3 Lea Köchli 4 Ulrike Gabrin and Sammy-Joe Strub and Viviane Sauter in the back
5 Polina Nazarova 6 Sue Ann Strub on the ball 7 Lorena Renggli and Beata Dudler 8 Lea Köchli and Shiva Cosma Strub.





9 Romina Quimey 10 Guests 11 Team Archies, winners 12 Marta Gabrin.



Girls Galore at Polo Park Zürich

Polo Park Zürich was topping itself this year and is fast becoming the hub for female polo in Europe.

33 female players arrived at the field in Seuzach for a 2-day tournament, with 7 teams: a Challenge League with some very young players direct from the Kids Polo in Polo Park Zürich, Leonie Escher and Anna Scherr, and a Medium League, giving the higher goal players a stiff competition and a chance to show off their skill and speed.

Saturday gave us two games for the Challenge League with teams jockeying for their position. In the Medium League it was a round robin with the results being carried over to the Sunday.

The heat is on

The Sunday had Polo Park Zürich showing itself from its glamorous side – sponsors setting up their stands around a huge hospitality tent, with Fruitmix.ch providing a suitably Mediterranean lunch, fitting to the surroundings and the temperature which was creeping up above the 30° mark. Guests could stroll around the pop-up stands providing products as wide-ranging as Manuka honey from New Zealand Swissmanukaenthusiasts, to a touch of Argentina by Pampa Origine, cigars from ZigarrenKurier or Italian fashion by KA/NOA. The first two games were for the Challenge League Trophy and here Team Polo

Park Zürich defeated Team Hato and took third place. The fight for first place between Team Jolies Filles and Team Black Hound was close, but the final minutes of the last chukker saw Black Hound slice in the deciding goal for a 4-3 win with their team of a strong Kira Wetzels, a hardworking Janique Spillmann, Antonia Sturzeis and Kathrin Gralla who shared with Katharina Donhauser.

And it gets hotter

This was proving to be the hottest day of the summer but, while the clinking of glasses was soothing, spectators were turning their attention back to the field as the Medium League was about to begin. Team Archies with Aline Haerry, Vivi Sauter, Uli Gabrin and Polina Nazarova, had shown attacking intent from the start, entering each game with the kind of focused ferocity associated with that determination to take home the trophy. The big question was, could they get the job done? Team Clinique La Prairie, Beata Dudler, Katja Grauwiler, Morgan Van Overbroek and Rosanna Turk, were ready to take on the challenge. It was a fast and physical game with some solid ride-offs and Rosanna Turk's sprints to goal running smack into the defensive pairing of Polina Nazarova and Uli Gabrin. Aline Haerry was not just a link player but a finisher – the goal-getter for Team Archies. Vivi Sauter's hammer shots down the sideline were real crowd pleasers. With the win against Clinique La Prairie, Team Archies were on their way to victory. But there were

more games to come, with Team Clinique La Prairie up against Team Jouët, Sammy Joe Strub, Leah Kawamoto, Lorena Renggli and Anja Gutbrod. Despite the international group of lively supporters for Lorena Renggli firing her team on and a brave defence put up by Leah Kawamoto, Morgan Van Overbroek kept her composure and combined with Rosanna Turk to get the better of this game.

It was now up to Team Perrier-Jouët to put a spanner in the works as they took on the formidable Team Archies. They certainly pulled out all the stops and had a good go at it, but Team Archies's game just seemed to get better and they could push Team Perrier-Jouët into third place.

And so we had a winner. Team Archies. Vivi Sauter's pony, Cumbia, won BPP and for the Medium League Polina Nazarova was MVP. Lea Köchli won MVP for the Challenge League. But at Polo Park Zürich everyone gets prizes. The players were weighed down with gifts from sponsors and vouchers for restaurants and hotels.

After-Polo

It was a splendid afternoon and the polo field was the perfect place to be. DJZoe was pumping out the music, the field-side bars were still open and umbrellas and sun-hats gave us the shade needed. The after-polo party was on! •

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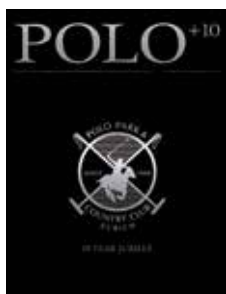


Morgan Van Overbroek & Sébastien Le Page Owners of Polo Park & Country Club Zürich.

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BY ALEXANDER NEBE PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN GRALLA



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"POLO+10 stands for the highest quality and is the largest and highest-reach polo magazine in the world. That's why our club publication for POLO PARK ZÜRICH is in the best hands with Thomas and his team", says club president Sébastien Le Page.

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20TH BENDURA BANK SNOW POLO WORLD CUP KITZBÜHEL

Intocast won the battle of the unbeatens to capture the 20th Bendura Bank Snow Polo World Cup.

BY SHARON ROBB

PHOTOGRAPHY REINHARDT & SOMMER FOTOGRAFEN

Intocast (Matthias Normann, 1, Micky Duggan, 5, Martin Juaregui, 5) rallied in the third chukker for a 10-7 victory over Bendura Bank (Philip de Groot, 1, Adrian Laplacette, 7, Tito Gaudenzi, 3) in front of more than 3,000 fans including 750 in the soldout VIP tent on Sunday.

Argentine Martin Juaregui swept both the Most Valuable Player and Best Playing Pony honors. Juaregui played in the World Polo League for Pampa Norte Biotricity and U.S. Open for Santa Rita and tournaments at Grand Champions. Batucada won the Kitzbuhel Country Club blanket for BPP.

Bentley Berlin (Melissa Ganzi, 0, Alfonso Pieres, 5, Alejandro Novillo Astrada, 7) won its second game of the tournament with a decisive 8-4 victory over Bodvar (Daniel Deistler, 0, Clemente Delfosse, 6, Patrick Maleitzke, 6) to win the Kitzbuhel Country

Club Cup as fifth-place finisher. Ganzi, the only woman player in the tournament, scored three more goals to bring her two-day total to six.

Mackage (Hugo Baldwin, 1, Hernan Pieres, 4, Oli Hipwood, 6) edged World Polo League (Peter Cromm, 0, Agustin Wagner, 4, Patricio Neves, 6), 9-8.5, in the Casablanca Cup game for third and fourth places.

Engel & Volkers (Henrique Schalldach, 2, Marcus Schalldach, 2, Leonardo Rodrigues, 7) defeated Veuve Clicquot (Sebastian Schneeberger, 1, Martijn van Scherpenzeel, 2, Valentin Novillo Astrada, 7), 7-5.5 in the Bodvar Rose Cup game for seventh and eighth places.

The players had one final social event with the lavish polo gala that attracted 700 guests in the VIP tent, fine food and drink and entertainment provided by Cookies and Cream.

Founded in 1979, team sponsor Intocast took over the business activities of Eugen Schwarz GmbH, who since 1922, had been supplying the German and European steel industry with consumables for iron and steelmaking.

The industry leader has a network of 12 German and 19 foreign sites.

The snow polo tournament was started in 2003 by Tito Gaudenzi and his father Reto with four teams and 1,000 fans. It has grown into one of the country's major sporting events, eight teams and attracts more than 10,000 fans over three days including a soldout VIP tent of 750 spectators. This year's event attracted 10,000 fans over three days.

"What we have created here together with the Kitzbuhel Tourist Association and Bendura Bank despite the conditions is a true sign that we can achieve anything together and that we are an incredible team", said Tito Gaudenzi.

"We are happy to have celebrated 20 years of polo in Kitzbuhel and look forward to the next 20 years. We are also in full planning for the first summer tournament in Kitzbuhel."

Ganzi was the first woman to win the 2018 Bendura Bank Snow Polo World Cup. She was the first woman to win the 35th Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz in January, 2019. She was also the first woman to compete in the St. Moritz Snow Polo Tournament in 2016 and first woman to make the final in 2017. She is



the first woman to win the St. Regis World Snow Polo Tournament for Flexjet in 2016.

Ganzi will now compete in the Jan. 27-29 St. Moritz event along with her son Grant and Astrada for World Polo League and husband Marc, Nic Roldan and Freddie Mannix for Team Clinique La Prairie.

Jan-Erik Franck, the voice of polo who also announces during the winter season at Grand Champions and Santa Rita Polo Farm, handled the always entertaining announcing in Kitzbuhel and also heads to St. Moritz before heading to South Florida for the 26-goal World Polo League that begins in February in Wellington.

During the winter polo season, Grand Champions, the nation's largest and most innovative USPA-sanctioned polo club, nestled in the heart of the world's winter equestrian capital, is hosting tournaments: 6, 8, 12, 20, and 26-goal leagues, WCT Finals, women's weekly league play and 26-goal World Polo League tournaments at both Grand Champions.

Grand Champions tournaments attract a large international field of players from all corners of the world including Argentina, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Canada, Ecuador, Brazil, Switzerland, France, England, Germany, Uruguay, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Venezuela, Chile, and England.

Season highlights for 2023 are the Sterling Cup, \$50,000 National 12-Goal Tournament, Sieber Memorial, John T. Oxley Memorial, the inaugural Richard Riemenschneider Memorial Cup and \$100,000 World Cup Tournament, a unique 0-40-goal, winner-take-all single-elimination tournament and special events including World Polo League Polo Pride and Sunset Chukkers and Cocktails.

The biggest highlight of the season is the fifth season of the World Polo League, the nation's only 26-goal league featuring some of the

world's top players and team sponsors at Grand Champions. The WPL has been filling the void created when the U.S. Polo Association, the sport's governing body, announced it was lowering high goal polo to 18-22 goals and would not have 26-goal polo.

Grand Champions, the nation's largest polo club celebrating its 16th anniversary, and Santa Rita Polo Farm is the largest and most unique private 102-acre polo facility in Wellington with 212 stalls in nine self-contained barns, two tracks, five climate-controlled tack rooms, vet room, staff quarters, guest house and four polo fields with state-of-the-art underground irrigation and short work arena. The club has 13 well-manicured fields including nine world-class fields at GPCP and Santa Rita Polo Farm.

The winter season will be live-streamed locally and worldwide on Wellington-based ChukkerTV (CTV).

Grand Champions Polo Club caters to men, women and youth polo players at all levels. Its' expert staff can customize a complete playing experience including horses, pros and certified umpires in addition to lessons and practice sessions as part of its' Polo On Demand program.

The Polo School, now located at the former Pony Express facility, operates in Wellington January through May and September through November. The stand-alone USPA-sanctioned polo club, is thriving. It is dedicated to teaching polo to all ages, particularly grass roots youth. Its mission is to provide individuals opportunities in polo at every economic and ability level. The Polo School has nurtured several junior, men and women polo players now playing in the pro and amateur ranks since its inception.

For more information on leagues or Polo School contact Director of Operations Juan Bollini at 561-346-1099 or Cale Newman at 561-876-2930.

RANKING

1. Intocast (+11)

-  Matthias Normann, TC (+1)
-  Micky Duggan (+5)
-  Martin Juaregui (+5)

2. Bendura Bank (+11)

-  Philip de Groot, TC (+1)
-  Adrian Laplacette Jr. (+7)
-  Tito Gaudenzi (+3)


3. World Polo League (+10)

-  Peter Cromm, TC (+0)
-  Agustin WagnerG (+4)
-  Patricio Neves (+6)

4. Mackage (+11)

-  Hugo Baldwin, TC (+1)
-  Hernan Pieres (+4)
-  Oli Hipwood (+6)

5. Bentley (+12)

-  Melissa Ganzi, TC (+0)
-  Alfonso Pieres (+5)
-  Alejandro Novillo Astrada (+7)

6. Bodvar (+11)

-  Henrik Deistler, TCR (-1)
-  Clemente Delfosse (+6)
-  Patrick Maleitzke (+6)

7. Engel & Völkers (+11)

-  Henrique Schalldach, TC (+2)
-  Marcus Schalldach (+2)
-  Leandro Rodrigues (+7)

8. Veuve Clicquot (+10)

-  Sebastian Schneberger, TC (+1)
-  Martijn van Scherpenzeel (+2)
-  Valentin Novillo Astrada (+7)





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Image: Kai Küken

PERFORMANCE GROUP BEACH POLO WORLD MASTERS BERLIN 2023

This year, the Grünau lido once again was the venue for the Beach Polo Masters.

BY POLO+10

PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK ALTMANN / UNITED IMAGES, KAI KÜKEN, POLO RIVIERA DEUTSCHLAND







RANKING

PERFORMANCE

1. PERFORMANCE GROUP (+1)

- Leah Kawamoto (0)
- Ken Kawamoto (+1)

TRANS GOURMET Krombacher

2. KROMBACHER / TRANS GOURMET (+1)

- Bea Pfister-Leibold (0)
- Mona Scharf (+1)

polwerk JUSTCONNECTED

3. POOLWERK / Justconnected (+1)

- Marie Luise Haupt (+1)
- Sarah Schretzmair (0)

Whispering Angel GASTROFABRIK TV BERLIN FANCY

4. WHISPERING ANGEL / GASTROFABRIK / TV BERLIN / FANCY TV (+2)

- Steffen Lange (0)
- Hèctor Alvarez (+2)

VP VON POLL IMMOBILIEN BENTLEY SERVICE KRAUTHAHN

5. VON POLL IMMOBILIEN / BENTLEY SERVICE KRAUTHAHN (+3)

- Henrik Deistler (+1)
- Estelle Wagner (+2)

ARGE-HAUS

6. ARGE-HAUS (+2)

- Aziza Ghane (+1)
- Rainer Reimann (+1)





The pop art painting created by polo player and painter Sarah Schretzmaier was auctioned off for €2,600 to the Performance Group for a charitable cause. Sandy Katzer, a founding member and sponsoring partner from BerlinMed, came up with the idea.

The proceeds will benefit the Eichhof Akademie e.V. equestrian sports association, which was established in April 2023 to promote equestrian sports, animal welfare, nature conservation, and youth welfare. The association is located at the Eichhof Academy near Potsdam and Berlin, where riders and horses are trained and supported based on the classical principles of horsemanship, in addition to species-appropriate husbandry.

The Grünau lido has once again been transformed into the venue for the Beach Polo Masters, following on from last year's successful premiere. Despite the current crisis, the event was held with enthusiasm and optimism, although it was an enormous challenge due to the circumstances.

Many companies acted cautiously and were unable to fulfill their commitments, making the support of long-standing partners and sponsors crucial for the success of the tournament. Special thanks were given to the

Grünau lido, the Hennigsen horticultural company, and the roofing company Rostock, as well as to the polo players, some of whom traveled long distances to attend. They were wished much success in the team games.

The fascinating sporting event thrilled everyone involved and showed great potential for future growth.

The PERFORMANCE Beach Polo World Masters Berlin 2023 were hosted by Victoria Herrmann, one of the most likeable and

influential personalities of MDR/RBB television, and Alexander Schwarz, a 22-time German champion, European vice-champion, World Cup participant, former German national player, and professional polo player. Referee Octavia Campbell-Davys, who began her polo career in New Zealand in 2003 and has since officiated at numerous tournaments in various countries, ensured that the rules of the game were observed on the polo field.

kontakt@polo-riviera.de | www.polo-riviera.de





AMERICA'S GREAT HOPE:

SUPER-STAR HOPE ARELLANO WILL RISE TO 10-GOALS BY THE END OF 2023

20-year-old Hope Arellano has taken the world of polo by storm. With a myriad of titles, championships and notable victories on her trophy shelf; Arellano's dominance and dedication to the sport is an inspiration, especially for other young women.

BY UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
PHOTOGRAPHY ©UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION BY MICHELLE VANTINE PHOTOGRAPHY

A fourth-generation player, Arellano knew at just nine years old that she wanted to be a professional like her father, Hall of Famer Julio Arellano. Her first adult tournament at the age of 11 served as the catalyst for her polo career, and since then, the phenom is yet to slow down.

At 14 years old, Arellano was rated 3-goals in Women's Outdoor. Now, six years later, she will achieve the ultimate mark of a professional with the coveted 10-goal handicap in both women's outdoor and arena handicaps. Set to rise to 9-goals in May and 10-goals in December, Arellano's achievement also marks a significant accomplishment for American polo. Arellano will be the first American woman to achieve a 10-goal Women's Outdoor Handicap since the legendary Sunny Hale, and the first American to achieve any 10-goal status since Polito Pieres in 2015. She is also the youngest American to reach a 10-goal women's handicap.

Arellano's handicap raise came fresh off of her win in the U.S. Open Women's Polo

Championship. Competing with La Fe, Arellano's stellar performance contributed six goals in the final and earned her recognition as the Most Valuable Player. Arellano also won the prestigious tournament in 2017 with San Saba. Just 14 years-old at the time, she is still the youngest player to ever win the tournament.

Arellano also made headlines last fall with her participation in the XII FIP World Polo Championship, making history as the first woman to compete for the United States in the international contest. Her addition to the starting lineup continued USA's forward momentum, allowing the red, white and blue to emerge with an electrifying 9-8 overtime win against defending champions and competition favorites, Argentina, to advance to the final. Hope's contributions also helped the USA put forth a strong effort in the final, forcing the game into overtime. While they fell in a narrow 11-10 loss to Spain, the USA's silver medal finish offered a great deal of hope for the future of American polo on the global scene.

Arellano is also quickly becoming a mainstay in the Women's Argentine Open, competing the last two years in the prestigious competition. In 2021, she played with La Irenita Libra Seguros, placing third and receiving the Revelation Award for her performance. In 2022, she played with La Irenita E-Movility and advanced to the final, falling to La Dolfina in a hard-fought match. In 2023, she will compete with El Overo Z7 UAE, one of the strongest women's polo organizations in the world.

A shining beacon of hope for the advancement of American polo, Arellano's accomplishments pave the way for many other young professionals, showing that hard work and determination can flourish into a successful career in the sport. With a long career ahead of her, the USPA commends Hope Arellano on her soon-to-be 10-goal handicap and looks forward to watching her continue to break barriers and records in the years to come.



THE BALANCE

RehabClinic

The Balance launches the world's first offshore RehabClinic program on Superyachts.

BY LINDA MYBURGH AND ZAK WILLIAMSON
PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH SAVAGE



Each one of us has at some time in our lives felt the healing power of the ocean. The vast expanse of the sea has a calming effect on our minds, providing a respite from our hectic lives. The power of water and the sea is profound and humbling, its effects are not merely sensory but scientific, with studies reporting that negative ions produced by the churning ocean waves have a revitalizing and calming impact on depression, addiction and overall mental health.

Such is the healing prowess of the ocean that it has inspired the future of luxury healthcare. The advent of experiential yacht-based treatment programs combining cutting-edge medical technology with the science-backed therapeutic properties of the sea marks a significant shift in the approach to mental health wellness and addiction treatment.

Known as the World's premier luxury rehab centre and mental health clinic, The Balance has already gained a reputation for excellence. Providing leading rehabilitative and mental health services in dedicated centres in Mallorca, London, and Zurich with affiliations in New York. Now to meet the needs of its strictly confidential clientele, the facility is now ready to launch something new – superyacht-based clinic for the ultimate in privacy and luxury.

Offering top-rated recovery treatment programmes to support a wide range of emotional, physical, and psychological issues, The Balance off-shore rehab programmes include a comprehensive medical check-up – including external health assessments – and the creation of a tailored unlimited treatment plan, which can include one-client only exclusive hospitality. The Balance approach treatments will be configured to tackle the root causes of individual health concerns and will feature a holistic approach to any problems. Including biochemical restoration, 24/7 access to a live-in personal manager, a personal chef and diet plan, and the latest technology-based therapies.

As a luxury rehabilitation centre, The Balance is known for specialising in the treatment of substance abuse and behavioural dependencies, but it also offers far-reaching support for mental health conditions, eating disorders, trauma and complex PTSD, dual diagnosis, and other mental health and psychiatric conditions, including ADHD and OCD. Family and couples therapy is also available, and an entourage can be accommodated.

These unique offshore programs provided by The Balance Luxury RehabClinic, blur the line between luxury travel and healthcare. They transform the traditional concept of rehabilitation, creating a tranquil space aboard a yacht to provide an unparalleled environment for recovery. As Dr. Sarah Boss, Clinical Director

at The Balance, explains, “A holistic approach is critical in recovery as it acknowledges the complexity of human beings. We are not just physical bodies; our mental, emotional, and spiritual states play a crucial role in our overall health.”

Embracing the idyllic and serene environment of the sea, these programs provide a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation. While traditional healthcare approaches have yielded results, this innovative blend of luxury, experiential therapy, and scientific research adds a new dimension to the recovery process in both their rehabilitation and medical retreat programs.

Maria Alekseenko Magan, founder of The Experiential Yachting Forum, a platform advocating the future of human potential onboard superyachts, affirms, “Traditional methodologies for approaching mental and physical health are in the process of evolving.”

This evolution of healthcare, where the ‘water world’ plays an integral part in the treatment process, represents a shift into an era of the Experience Economy. “We are entering a new era where the sea, the floating facilities, and the activities conducted on it can play a much more important role in a holistic approach to healthcare,” Magan continues. Here, the ocean becomes an immersive element of recovery, demonstrating the transformative power of experiential healthcare.

As we look ahead, this fusion of luxury, science, and nature illustrates the evolving face of top-end healthcare. With The Balance leading the way, the future of recovery and rehabilitation could indeed be at sea, capitalizing on the healing power of the ocean and advanced technology. This revolution not only provides transformative experiences to those on the journey to recovery but also creates a paradigm shift in how we perceive and approach healthcare.

“This evolution marks a transformative moment in top-end healthcare, revolutionizing the way we view recovery. Within these innovative experiential yacht-based recovery programs, the importance of a personalized approach cannot be overstated. As every individual has unique needs, past experiences, and challenges, treatment should be tailored accordingly. This emphasis on individuality is a key feature of these programs,” says Abdullah Boulad, founder and CEO of The Balance.

Moreover, these yacht-based programs prioritize privacy and discretion, allowing individuals to focus on their recovery without fear of public scrutiny or stigma. This discreteness, coupled with luxurious accommodations and amenities, ensures that every aspect of the individual's journey is as comfortable as possible. Boulad continues.

It is a bright dawn for these experiential yacht-based recovery programs, underscoring the growing recognition of the interplay between physical surroundings and mental health. The merging of luxury, technology, and the therapeutic properties of the sea provides a template for the future of top-end healthcare. ●

www.balanceluxuryrehab.com

ABOUT THE BALANCE:



THE BALANCE is a luxury retreat in Mallorca specialising in exclusive and discreet rehab care. The founder and managing director of THE BALANCE is the Swiss entrepreneur Abdullah Boulad (43).

With a multidisciplinary team of around 30 doctors, psychotherapists, physiotherapists, case managers and a whole range of complementary therapists, he has created one of the most renowned therapy facilities for addiction problems, mental illness and health issues in the world. Here he offers his clients individually tailored cures in luxurious surroundings.

The offer comprises the three pillars of addiction therapy (alcohol, drugs, medication, sex etc.), mental illness (anxiety disorders, burnout, depression, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder) and health treatment (stress, anti-aging, chronic pain, sleep disorders etc.).

A focus of THE BALANCE's evidence-based medical concept is also on the use of the latest scientific and technology-based therapy approaches, such as neuro- and biofeedback systems or transcranial direct current stimulation, for which the company permanently invests large sums in new technologies and medical equipment.

The medical director is Dr. Sarah Boss. THE BALANCE is exclusively for private patients.





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- THE SCIENCE OF BREATHING
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MORITZ KLATTEN



- STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH
- FITNESS AND BOXING TRAINER
- BOOK AUTHOR
- BREATHWORK FACILITATOR

PRACTICE:

- BREATHWORK MEDITATION
- OUTDOOR WORKOUTS
- WALKING MEDITATION
- ICE BATHING

NICO AIRONE



- BIOHACKER
- BOOK AUTHOR
- FITNESS TRAINER
- NUTRITIONIST

GUEST SPEAKER



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THE BEST FOR BODY AND MIND!

At the first Biohacking Retreat on the island of Sylt, we can learn in two days how to unleash our full genetic potential. Co-organizer Moritz Klatten reveals in an interview what exactly is behind the biohacking trend.

BY ALEXANDER NEBE / POLO+10 PHOTOGRAPHY CHAMPPERFORMANCE

WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT FROM THE FIRST BIOHACKING RETREAT ON SYLT?

The event is intended to provide an introduction to the topic of physical and mental self-optimization that is as inspiring as it is motivating. It is important to me and my co-organizer Nico Airone to offer all participants a good mix of theory and practice. In the theory part it concerns among other things a nutrition cut to the individual needs of humans. And in the practical part it goes then completely concretely around experiencing - as for example by learning special breath and Meditationstechniken or by ice bathing.

ICE BATHING? MY TEETH CHATTER JUST HEARING THE WORD....

Oh, it's not that bad if you try it under professional guidance. (laughs) And the positive effects are really impressive. On the one hand, the metabolism and fat burning are boosted - and on the other, your own immune system is strengthened enormously.

CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE?

You bet! I have not been sick once in the past nine years. Any questions? (laughs)

WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE WORD BIOHACKING MEAN?

Translated very loosely into German, it means something like trying to get the best out of your body and mind and thereby unleash your full genetic potential.

DO YOU HAVE A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF A BIOHACK TRICK THAT YOU HAVE PERSONALLY HAD GOOD EXPERIENCES WITH?

I got into the habit of always wearing special glasses that filter out blue light when I watch TV in the evening. This has improved my sleep enormously, especially my deep sleep phase. One of our guest speakers is Daniel Sentker (Founder of Lichtblock,) who will talk about this topic. And every retreat participant will get a Biohacking Starter Pack including these glasses.

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT ALL ABOUT?

By blocking blue light, our melatonin levels can rise normally; just as nature intended when it gets dark outside. And then we automatically sleep much more deeply and accordingly more restfully. Of course, the best thing would be not to watch television at all in the evening, but in reality this is hardly feasible. It's a no-go to spend a lot of time on the smartphone in the evening before going to bed. This has the same negative effect as watching TV - and not just because of the blue light.

WHAT AGE GROUP IS THE BIOHACKING EVENT FOR?

Basically, everyone from the age of 12 to 80 can participate; although it would definitely make sense to get confirmation from the family doctor beforehand that there are no health restrictions. Then, for example, ice bathing is no problem for participants aged 60 plus. In my eyes, it is never too late to deal with the topic of self-optimization and to start turning the right screws.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS?

No more than 45, because it's important that there's enough time for me and the other seminar leaders to be able to respond to people's individual questions.

AS A FITNESS AND NUTRITION EXPERT, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ULTIMATE SPORTS PROGRAMS AND MIRACLE DIETS THAT CAN BE FOUND ONLINE ALL THE TIME?

Very little! There is no secret recipe for fitness and vitality that can be applied to all of us, because we humans are far too different in terms of our genetic makeup alone. That's why there are people who eat a less than optimal diet and hardly do any exercise, but still look young and fit well into old age. Especially on the subject of nutrition, we have Nils Schulz-Ruhtenberg (specialist in general medicine, nutritional medicine and sports medicine), a top guest speaker, who will talk in detail about this topic.



WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INSIGHT YOU HAVE GAINED OVER THE YEARS IN TERMS OF SPORTS AND NUTRITION?

That it is incredibly important to respond to people's individual needs, bodies, prerequisites. In order to find the sport and nutrition that really suits you, so that you stick to it. What and how you train is also an essential factor for success. In my eyes, for example, prolonged aerobic training is overrated.

INTERESTING! AND WHY IS THAT?

In the past, we Stone Age people didn't run after a hare for two hours, but with a lot of luck we killed it with a stone after a short sprint. People who jog many kilometers every day may be slim, but they usually look older. This is because long runs cause adrenaline and cortisol levels to go up, while testosterone and growth hormones go down. This means stress for the entire organism.

WHAT WOULD BE A BETTER ALTERNATIVE?

Interval training. This is the best for heart health, metabolism, blood pressure or blood lipids due to maximum oxygen uptake. That's why sprinters look so much fitter and more vital than long-distance runners. •



Bathing of Adèle's polo horses in Deauville.



INTERVIEW WITH PASCAL RENAULDON

"We are all horsemen, and it is only natural that we want to share this passion with others through the media."

BY JULIA RIEWALD
PHOTOGRAPHY RB PRESSE

The RB Presse Agency, which was founded in 1994 by Pascal Renaudon (the R), journalist, and Sophie Bienaimé (the B), equestrian and artistic director of the Grandes Écuries de Chantilly and well-known personality in the world of polo. RB Presse oversee the press releases for prestigious tournaments such as the Hublot Gold Cup in Gstaad, Switzerland, the Gold Cup in Deauville and the French Open in Chantilly, France. The agency also partners with various publishers, like POLO+10, and provide reports and PR articles, including stunning photographs, to promote their clients' events, clubs or businesses; in this issue of the magazine they produced the Argentine Open coverage.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUSINESS SECTOR?

Really by chance. I'm a journalist at heart. But in 1991, after meeting ATP officials at Roland Garros, I created the world ranking of show jumpers, which I was able to develop and launch with a Dutch marketing agency, BCM, who asked me to promote it to the press. BCM also organized several showjumping competitions and oversaw the press offices for the biggest equestrian event in the world, the CHIO Aachen, and asked me to join the press team as an editor. Then the Jumping de La Baule was organizing the European Championships that year and asked me to run the relations with foreign television stations, which were numerous at that time for equestrian events. Then, in 1994, I came back to France and met my wife, Sophie Bienaimé, who was a rider but also press officer for the Musée vivant du Cheval (Living Museum of the Horse) in Chantilly and we created R&B and very quickly the clients came by themselves, first of all the very prestigious Jumping International de Bordeaux of which we are still in charge of their press relations 28 years later.

YOU CREATED R&B WITH YOUR FUTURE WIFE, TODAY YOU WORK WITH YOUR DAUGHTER ADÈLE, WHO IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR AGENCY: IS R&B A FAMILY BUSINESS?

TOGRAPHER FOR YOUR AGENCY: IS R&B A FAMILY BUSINESS?

Yes, today I work with my two daughters (Adèle and Sophie Jr. who are both communication graduates) and Sophie, my wife, keeps a keen eye on the agency. Having had several employees, I can tell you that it is much more pleasant and productive to work as a family because everyone is really involved and takes initiative (and ownership).

DOES YOUR AGENCY ONLY SPECIALIZE IN THE EQUESTRIAN SECTOR?

Essentially, yes, although we do touch on tourism, arts and entertainment with the activities of the Grandes Écuries de Chantilly. We are all horsemen, and it is only natural that we want to share this passion with others through the media.

ARE YOU ALSO A POLO PLAYER?

Yes, this is probably my last „life“ as a rider. I started with a first career in eventing thanks to a stable that my father had set up in Normandy and which enabled us to reach the best national level in France. Then I went to live in Germany between 1983 and 1993 where I did a lot of show jumping up to „S“ level (highest level in German show jumping). I loved competing in Germany, it was both very



1 Sophie Bienaimé, wife of Pascal Renaudon, artistic rider and director of the Grandes Écuries de Chantilly 2 Interview with Gonzalo Pieres after a match in Deauville between La Dolfina and Ellerstina 3 Adèle Renaudon, Pascal's assistant at RB Presse and polo player.

competitive and very friendly and the system allowed me to compete with great German riders like Ludger Beerbaum or Franke Sloothaak. One day, in 1984 I think, I found myself in a class with three World Champions: Hans-Günther Winkler, Norbert Koof and Gert Wiltfang, it was impressive. Then I came back to France and continued showjumping a bit, but it was less fun than in Germany. As I was in Chantilly, I went to the club which offered me to run the media relations for the French Open which took place in 2000 for the first time. That's how I gradually got into polo. But it is in this discipline that I am clearly the least brilliant and the least successful. Adèle is following my footsteps and she is doing much better than me, fortunately. She was silver medalist at the first European Women's Championship in 2017 and won the Ladies Cup in Deauville with Lia Salvo.

IS YOUR WIFE ALSO A RIDER?

Of course, she is a rider in the Compagnie équestre des Grandes Écuries de Chantilly. As their equestrian and artistic director, she writes and runs 2 big shows every year which attract over 60,000 spectators across the in 140 performances under the dome of the Grandes Écuries which can accommodate 600 people at a time.

Sophie also manages a team of 8 riders with various artistic talents (singers for example) who star in the shows and 4 grooms and she is responsible for the purchasing and training of a stable of 40 horses. She even brings on some of the horses herself from a novice to high school levels.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT POLO?

The same thing as in show jumping: the 'polo spirit' of performing at high riding standards and the presentations and shows it offers; the constant search for excellence, the rigor, and the work of the breeders behind it all and seeing the quality of the horses constantly improve. And then the adrenalin of sport: an undecided game that is decided in an extra chukker or the jump-off of a Grand Prix that is decided in a few hundredths of a second. I was lucky enough to live in the era of Adolfo Cambiaso, who is surely the greatest player of all time. My job allows me to be in contact with these great players like him or the Pieres, the Heguy or these great riders like Nelson Pessoa, Marcus Ehning, Ludger Beerbaum who are legends of their sports. This all excites me.

And what I like the most, is the ability to spend time with my daughter around the horses. For us, taking good care of our horses, training them, caring for their

well-being and the relationship with them is almost more important than the game itself.

SO, YOU GO TO ARGENTINA EVERY YEAR TO FOLLOW THE ABIERTO?

Absolutely, since 2001. That year I started to take an interest in polo. My wife always looks for inspiration for her shows and uses our trips to gather specific, authentic materials, like props, riding gear, costumes, to give her shows originality. Thanks to horses and polo, we have been able to go on fabulous trips and meet fantastic people in India, Mongolia, China, Africa or Russia. In 2001 we went to Argentina because Sophie wanted to put on a show called 'Polo Tango'. That year, when we arrived in an Argentina it was in the middle of the big Argentine Crisis, but we were still able to attend a game of the Abierto, my first match in Palermo with the Chapa Uno. I was fascinated and vowed to return to Buenos Aires every year. Over the years I was able to approach all the great players, interviewing them for different magazines. I remember being invited to a private asado by the Heguy of Indios Chapaleufù II and shared only by them, Pepe, Ruso and Nachi, their parents and Milo Fernandez in the emblematic club of Los Indios. A great memory. That year they won the Abierto against their cousins.





FERENC FLAMM

Ferenc's passion is horses and to paint horses. He works throughout the international field, often on commissions. His objects are polo, harness racing and dressage.

EQUINE FINE ART

PHOTOGRAPHY FERENC FLAMM



Ferenc Flamm grew up in Budapest and from an early age fell in love with the horses that are so much a part of the Hungarian noble traditions. His interest continued to mature during his education at The Fine Art College of Budapest and The Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts where he closely studied the horse's anatomy, muscular structure and movement. He often visited the Hungarian countryside and the classical horse breeding farms so he could study his favourite objects in their genuine and natural habitat.



In 1976 Ferenc moved to Sweden, married and formed a family, while at the same time finding his feet as a graphic designer and artist. Over the past ten years he has returned increasingly to his artistic roots; painting portraits and accomplishing his own art projects. His work has been displayed at art galleries on Broadway, in Soho and in the City Hall, New York, at the U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., in Orlando and Fort Lauderdale in Florida, at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and on Long Island. He also participated with his paintings in the Annual Exhibitions of The Society of Equestrian Artists at the Mall Galleries in London.

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Volume 20, N° 31

POLO+10 World – The Polo Magazine
POLO+10 GmbH
Wexstraße 39, 20355 Hamburg / Germany

Phone +49 171 335 89 82
wirth@polygo.de / www.poloplus10.com
ISSN 1614-2810

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Frank Altmann / United Images, Guadalupe Aizaga,
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ADVERTISEMENT PRICE LIST
No. 29, last updated 1 February 2023

COPYEDITOR AND TRANSLATOR
75,- EUR including shipping charges for two issues a year.
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