A magnificent busy polo season is drawing to a close in Europe. The Berenberg German Polo Masters on Sylt was one of the major highlights. Now in its 21st year, the tournament is one of the traditional annual fixtures in the German and indeed, European polo calendar. The record number of visitors together with the international line-up of teams who attended are testament once again to the increasing interest and appreciation of the sport on Germany’s northernmost island.

In Switzerland, the polo classic, Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad once again lit up the polo stage in August. At 1,050 metres above seal level, amidst the Bernese Oberland mountains, team captain Dr Piero Diller and his team: Lucas Labat, Bautista Beguerie and Juan Manuel González really showed the competition what winners look like. We can already look forward to August 2020, when this unique polo event will celebrate its 25th anniversary. With Pierre Geneveand and his team at the helm, this jubilee is sure to be a truly memorable occasion.

The Open de France is well-known to be the most important, prestigious polo tournament in France. This year, after a hugely successful international polo season in Chantilly, the Chantilly “newcomers” from the Spanish team, Marqués de Riscal were able to demonstrate their skills on the pitch. The final of the Paprec Open de France 2019 also delivered on all expectations for the women’s competition.

In Three Roses, just 20 minutes away from Sotogrande in southern Spain, we visited the Iridike Polo Club. Thanks to the ideal winter climate in Andalucía, it is an excellent year-round polo destination in which to play, learn from experienced polo professionals and accommodate the horses.

Finally, we come to Portugal, just across the border from Spain. About an hour’s drive south from Portugal’s lively capital, Lisbon, lies the Alentejo. A little-known region that is making its mark on the map as the new “place to be”, as the new “Hamptons” of Portugal. Some prominent millionaires are already there. This is the just the beginning of a project that is set to transform the small country in the far western reaches of Europe into one of the polo hotspots of the continent and indeed, of the whole world. Project developer, Stefan Maria Gast knows what it takes to make the dreams of creating the world’s best polo club in Portugal come true. We are looking forward to it.

POLO SUMMER

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POLO SUMMER

Europe had many polo highlights to offer this summer. One of them is just being built – in Alentejo, Portugal.
Tournaments and people, polo news and lifestyle – the new issue of POLO+10 World brings you stories from the whole polo universe.
The 24th Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad at the Saanen airfield saw spectacular polo matches against the breathtaking alpine backdrop. Polo Grandsigneur Dr Piero Dillier and his team could take the victory home.

CLINIQUE LA PRAIRIE WINS HUBLOT POLO GOLD CUP IN GSTAAD

The 24th Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad at the Saanen airfield saw spectacular polo matches against the breathtaking alpine backdrop. Polo Grandsigneur Dr Piero Dillier and his team could take the victory home.

With perfect weather and unforgettable alpine views it was only fitting the final be equally spectacular, and as expected, the teams boasting some of the world’s best, didn’t disappoint. Finally it was team Clinique La Prairie with Piero Dillier, Bautista Beguerie, Juan Manuel Gonzales and Lucas Labat who made it to the very top of the 24th Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad. They defeated opponent Team Hublot with Marco Elser, Marcos Antinori, Nicola Antinori and Julio Novillo Astrada by a clear 10-5.

The best amateur player of the tournament, American Marco Elser, wore his trademarked grin while explaining that despite the clear defeat (10-5) there was no place for disappointment at the awards ceremony: “Being a finalist is already a great success in and of itself, and the winner was a beautiful team which produced a beautiful game with effective team organization and very good horses.”

Lucas Labat, Clinique La Prairie’s backbone, admitted it wasn’t that difficult to win with a team which has both, talent and chemistry. “I think this team is one of the best I’ve played with here in Europe, where I’ve been playing since 1998. The team worked together perfectly, the conditions were ideal, and the organization a well-oiled machine. For me, Gstaad is one of the best tournaments in Europe. My job was to send the ball to my forwards, who could then chain the goals. This is the type of polo I believe in, and I am convinced that in the future, we must return to this kind of open game.” In the match for 3rd, Banque Eric Sturdza made good on their promise to try for the best result despite being dethroned of their title by Clinique La Prairie. In a much tighter game, they beat Gstaad Palace. In August 2020 this unique polo event will celebrate its 25th anniversary. With Pierre Genecand and his teams at the helm, the quarter century celebration is sure to amaze team.

PAPREC OPEN DE FRANCE AT POLO CLUB CHANTILO

End of a thundering international season for the polo in Chantilly: the ladies’s and men’s finals of the Paprec Open de France 2019 have kept all their promises.

The Open de France is of course the most important and outstanding polo tournament in France. This year, the Spaniards of Team Marques de Riscal confirmed all the good that was thought of them, after seeing them play throughout September in the Open de France: a thoughtful game, built, saving horses, a team in perfect symbiosis. Team captain Alejandro Aznar, playing alongside Pedro Soria, Santiago Cernadas and Juan Cruz Gregoli, could win the trophy with a final score of 7-6 against Team Marquard Medias from Switzerland. The Swiss Team captain Tommy Rinderknecht is a legend in European polo and plays in Chantilly since many years. After a backlog of 6-2 he and his teammates Nacho Kennedy, Jota Chavanne and Martin Aguerre could catch up to a final 6-7, but remained second. Spanish captain Alejandro Aznar: “This is the first time I come here with my team to play the Open de France and we are really happy. These facilities are very spectacular.” Santiago Cernadas from his team was named Most Valuable Player.

For the Women’s French Open, it was Lia Salvo and her Team DS Automobiles Saint Maximin with Lavinia Fabre, Margaux Perruchot and Charlotte Garaud, who made it to victory. With coach Dario Musso, 6-goaler from Argentina, they won against Team Byati Regency Chantilly with Alice Arveas, Naomi Schneider, Rebecca Walkers and Kristy McBride by 7-5. After leading 6-2 in the fourth chukker, Team Byati Regency Chantilly caught up again to 6-5. Lia Salvo, who will now enter the Argentine season concluding with the Palermo Open in December and has won the French Open three times now, was awarded Most Valuable Player. “On paper, we were worse than our opponents. But all the girls played above their usual levels. To win here, in this magnificent club, is always an important moment. Seriously, it gives me confidence for the Argentine season after losing two finals in Palermo. I am expecting to win this year.”

www.poloclubchantilly.com
AFRICA YOUTH TOUR

For two weeks, young polo players from Africa toured in the United Kingdom.

2019 is the 150th year anniversary of the game of polo in the United Kingdom. As part of the celebrations, the organisers of the “150Polo” invited the Poloafrica Development Trust to send a team from South Africa on tour to England. In collaboration with the U.S. Polo Assn., the two-week trip culminated in a game played at the world-famous Guards Polo Club in June, at the same day as the Royal Windsor Cup Final. The Poloafrica Development Trust was founded by Catherine Cairns, a management consultant, who made a polo destination out of the Uitgedacht Farm in the Free State in South Africa. “We are thrilled to partner with PoloAfrica,” said J. Michael Prince, President and CEO of USPA Global Licensing Inc.

IRIDIKE POLO CLUB

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The Iridike Polo Club is located in Three Roses, only 20 minutes from Sotogrande, in the south of Spain. Thanks to Spain’s ideal winterclimate, it is a perfect place for practicing and playing polo as well as for lodging horses. Iridike Polo was founded by Luciano Irazabal and Nano Irurzun, two experienced polo professionals. Many years before the inauguration of Iridike Polo, Luciano and his wife Mariana founded the brand Iridike which was dedicated to leather goods made in Uruguay. Together, Luciano and Mariana toured Europe, taking their brand to the continent’s most prestigious tournaments. Over the years, Iridike has been developed into a well-known and respected brand and participated as a polo team in many tournaments of the Santa Maria Polo Club in Sotogrande. Today, the Iridike Polo Club offers all the requirements that make it a perfect establishment for learning and practicing polo. Iridike hosts 80 horses, from which 40 are owned by the Iridike polo school and are dedicated to polo newcomers, and players who want to improve their skills. At Iridike Polo you will find a team of professional experts who trains polo players at all levels. The three tifton grass polo fields are in good playable condition all year round and offer the great set-up for several tournaments and polo clinics held at Iridike Polo throughout the year. www.iridikepolo.com

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15 years POLO+10 not only contain a lot of information, interviews and stories, but also a lot of creativity. Again and again we have received great praise from all over the world for how different, surprising and new polo is shown on the covers of our issues. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all the photographers and creative people who have created POLO+10 with us over the past 15 years and who have accompanied us through the many creative processes.
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## Tournament Magazines (Small Selection)

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The Helvetia Polo Country Club is the epicentre of polo in Brazil.

BRAZIL

POLO IN BRAZIL – THE HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB
Christ Redeemer statue

The beach, Rio de Janeiro

Largo do Paissandú, São Paulo
Founded in 1975 by Giorgio Moroni, the Club inaugurated its new headquarters in 2014 in the city of Indaiatuba, near the Viracopos International Airport and less than 100 km from the capital São Paulo. Moroni’s idea in the 1970s had been to create a facility with both polo fields and condominiums. Two polo fields and a clubhouse formed the infrastructure of the Helvetia Polo Club in the late 1970s.

In search of support and assistance, Giorgio Moroni invited friends and acquaintances who already had experience in managing polo clubs to help him. Didi and Mauro Souza Aranha, Sylvio de Andrade Coutinho, José Luiz Herreros and Ronald Scott, José Carlos Kalil, Luizinho Matarazzo, Antônio Moroni and PG Meirelles began to contribute to the development of the club. Today, the Helvetia Polo Country Club is Brazil’s most important polo club with ten of its own fields and around 20 private courts, making it a reference region for the sport of polo and home to the country’s most traditional polo tournaments with more than 200 players and 3,000 horses each year.

In addition to the major tournaments and regular club activities, the Helvetia Polo Country Club offers its members a polo school where children and adult beginners have the opportunity to learn how to play polo.

www.helvetiapolo.com.br
CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US AN OVERVIEW ABOUT THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB?

The club was founded in 1975 by my grandfather Giorgio Moroni with the purpose of gathering polo fields together with a condominium of houses. The club started with only two fields and few partners. Today it has 10 own fields and more than 200 members. Currently the club is the main center of the sport in the country, hosting more than 20 tournaments per year, among them the Brazilian Polo Championship and the Triple Crown of Brazil. Besides all the polo fields and structure, the club has a tennis and beach tennis court, a soccer field, a polo academy, a restaurant, one bar and a playground.

WHICH ARE THE MAJOR TOURNAMENTS AT THE HELVETIA POLO CLUB?

The main Helvetia Polo tournaments in the first part of the season are the Brazilian Triple Crown, which consists of the Giorgio Moroni Cup (4, 12 and 20 goals), the Helvetia Open (4, 12 and 20 goals) and the State of São Paulo Open (4, 12 and 24 goals). In the second part of the season the Brazilian Polo Championship are played – also in three modes: 4, 8 and 16 goals.

HOW MANY HORSES AND ACTIVE PLAYERS HAS THE HPCC?

The club already welcomed until August 2019 around 200 players taking part in the tournaments. They already played more than 1,500 horses in the club this year. In whole Brazil there are around 500 players.

HOW MUCH IS A POLO LESSON AND HOW MANY DIFFERENT POLO CLASSES ARE YOU OFFERING?

The polo lessons take place here in the club and cost around USD 100 per class. Usually two to three lessons per week are offered. In the beginning, the coach works on the relationship between horse and rider. After that he begins with the stick & ball training on our wooden horse. Then the players get on the horse and into the saddle. The club coach is called Gilberto “Paietta” Rodrigues. He is an experienced teacher and a former 5-goal-player.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR TOURNAMENTS AT THE HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB?

Helvetia has 10 fields, 2 in its main social clubhouse and another 8 in a place called Helvetia Village. Besides all the polo fields and structure, the club has a tennis and beach tennis court, a soccer field, a polo academy, a restaurant, one bar and a playground.

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HOW MANY CHUKKERS ARE PLAYED AT THE CLUB PER YEAR?

Matches are usually held in 6 chukkers (2-goals tournaments are played in 4 chukkers and 4 goals tournaments in 5). 2018 Helvetia hosted a total of 24 tournaments and 308 games. And also a lot of practices matches.

HOW MANY POLO FIELDS AND STABLES DO YOU HAVE AT HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB?

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WHAT ARE YOUR AIMS FOR THE CLUB IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

It is important to maintain and try to be continuously improving the quality of our fields and tournaments in order to always be the reference and the center of polo in Brazil. And of course to attract the best players of Brazil and from all over the World. We also want to gain more players for our sport and improve our polo classes. We are also investing in the club and social infrastructure to be attractive for the polo player's families and polo fans.

IS THERE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLO IN BRAZIL AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

One of the main differences of polo in Brazil is, that unlike to some of other polo places, especially regarding Europe, we play polo throughout the year. The Helvetia Polo season runs from March to October and we still have competitions in the south of the country between November and February. Also comparing to Europe, the polo here is easier to access and cheaper to play. Another important point is that we have a lot of good amateur and professional Brazilian players playing here. This year, as an example, we held a tournament of 20 handicap goals, the Giorgio Moroni Cup, with a total of 30 teams and only two foreign players. This shows the strength and quality of our players.

POLO+10 INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIO GIORGIO MORONI, GRANDSON OF CLUB FOUNDER GIORGIO MORONI:

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US AN OVERVIEW ABOUT THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB?

The club was founded in 1973 by my grandfather Giorgio Moroni with the purpose of gathering polo fields together with a condominium of houses. The club started with only two fields and few partners. Today it has 10 own fields and more than 200 members. Currently the club is the main center of the sport in the country, hosting more than 20 tournaments per year, among them the Brazilian Polo Championship and the Triple Crown of Brazil. Besides all the polo fields and structure, the club has a tennis and beach tennis court, a soccer field, a polo academy, a restaurant, one bar and a playground.

WHICH ARE THE MAJOR TOURNAMENTS AT THE HELVETIA POLO CLUB?

The main Helvetia Polo tournaments in the first part of the season are the Brazilian Triple Crown, which consists of the Giorgio Moroni Cup (4, 12 and 20 goals), the Helvetia Open (4, 12 and 20 goals) and the State of São Paulo Open (4, 12 and 24 goals). In the second part of the season the Brazilian Polo Championship are played – also in three modes: 4, 8 and 16 goals.

HOW MANY HORSES AND ACTIVE PLAYERS HAS THE HPCC?

The club already welcomed until August 2019 around 200 players taking part in the tournaments. They already played more than 1,500 horses in the club this year. In whole Brazil there are around 500 players.

HOW MUCH IS A POLO LESSON AND HOW MANY DIFFERENT POLO CLASSES ARE YOU OFFERING?

The polo lessons take place here in the club and cost around USD 100 per class. Usually two to three lessons per week are offered. In the beginning, the coach works on the relationship between horse and rider. After that he begins with the stick & ball training on our wooden horse. Then the players get on the horse and into the saddle. The club coach is called Gilberto “Paietta” Rodrigues. He is an experienced teacher and a former 5-goal-player.

HOW MANY CHUKKERS ARE PLAYED AT THE CLUB PER YEAR?

Matches are usually held in 6 chukkers (2-goals tournaments are played in 4 chukkers and 4 goals tournaments in 5). In 2018 Helvetia hosted a total of 24 tournaments and 308 games. And also a lot of practices matches.

HOW MANY POLO FIELDS AND STABLES DO YOU HAVE AT HELVETIA POLO COUNTRY CLUB?

Helvetia has 10 fields, 2 in its main social clubhouse and another 8 in a place called Helvetia Village. Besides all the polo fields and structure, the club has a tennis and beach tennis court, a soccer field, a polo academy, a restaurant, one bar and a playground.

WHAT ARE YOUR AIMS FOR THE CLUB IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

It is important to maintain and try to be continuously improving the quality of our fields and tournaments in order to always be the reference and the center of polo in Brazil. And of course to attract the best players of Brazil and from all over the World. We also want to gain more players for our sport and improve our polo classes. We are also investing in the club and social infrastructure to be attractive for the polo player's families and polo fans.

IS THERE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLO IN BRAZIL AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

One of the main differences of polo in Brazil is, that unlike to some of other polo places, especially regarding Europe, we play polo throughout the year. The Helvetia Polo season runs from March to October and we still have competitions in the south of the country between November and February. Also comparing to Europe, the polo here is easier to access and cheaper to play. Another important point is that we have a lot of good amateur and professional Brazilian players playing here. This year, as an example, we held a tournament of 20 handicap goals, the Giorgio Moroni Cup, with a total of 30 teams and only two foreign players. This shows the strength and quality of our players.
Marcus Schalldach, Brazilian by birth with German roots, has been President of the Brazilian Polo Association South since spring 2019. The great polo country is divided into four associations and is home to a total of 500 active players. Helvetia Polo Club is the epicentre and host of most and most important tournaments. This is also where Schalldach came to polo when he moved into his new home on the grounds of the Helvetia Polo Club with his family around 13 years ago. "Until then, I have had no contact whatsoever with polo. It was not until Helvetia that I became aware of the horses and the fascination of polo - and started playing polo." Since then, the businessman with a handicap of +1 is not only a very active but also a very successful player. At the Ascona Polo Cup 2019, which he had already won in 2015, he was satisfied with second place this year only under the strongest resistance and was also awarded the title "Most Valuable Player" of the tournament.

Schalldach has also started in Croatia and Mongolia, but he mostly plays in his home country Brazil. His greatest success dates back to 2008, when he won an 18-goal tournament in Brazil with a handicap of -1. Two years ago, Schalldach and his son were also at the top of the podium at the 8-Goal Brazilian Polo Championship 8-Goal. As the new president of the Brazilian Polo Association South, the creative entrepreneur has set himself a special project. "Of course, it’s always about getting new players and fans, expanding the catchment area of our sport. Here in the south, we have a very large scene of gauchos and Crioulos breeders who are primarily active in livestock breeding. To inspire this clientele for polo would be my idea. After all, all resources such as riders, horses and play-grounds are already sufficiently available. During the great championship of the Cavallo Crioulos breeders at the end of August next year it could already be time. With a big arena polo event Schalldach wants to draw the attention and enthusiasm of the gauchos and breeders to polo.

At home on the Estancia Felicidade, which has been finished 4 years ago, he and his team have a polo arena and two polo pitches at their disposal. Here he will play in the second half of the season from the end of September, when the Helvetia Polo Club will be quiet. The best conditions for successful arena polo projects in the future.
Polo thriller at its best and double-digit results in almost all matches of the polo classic Ascona Polo Cup, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

BY STEFANIE STUDING, PHOTOGRAPHY KATHRIN WAGLA
Winning team Engel & Völkers with Constant Jacquot, Gerardo Cosentino and Carlos Genes

Simone Styger with Caroline Beffa

Cheerful entertainment at the “Black & Gold” Gala

Generous donation for the Styger Children’s Foundation

Final between The Winston/Hotel Maloja Kulm with Caroline Juls, Marcus Schalldach and Santiago Schweizer and Team Engel & Völkers

Matteo Beffa, President of the Ascona Polo Club

Team Ascona-Locarno

Founders & Vice President of the Polo Club Ascona Margit Sauer with her husband Jürgen Sauer & Grand Player’s Night at the breathtaking Isola di Brissago

Best mood with the American blues singer Ronnie Jones.

RANKING

1. ENGEL & VÖLKERS ASCONA (+7)
   Gerardo Cosentino (+1)
   Constant Jacquot (+2)
   Carlos Genes (+4)

2. THE WINSTON / HOTEL MALOJA KULM (+8)
   Caroline Juls (0)
   Marcus Schalldach (+2)
   Santiago Schweizer (+6)

3. CENTRI PORSCHE TICINO (+6)
   Matteo Beffa (+1)
   Frank Kirschke (+1)
   Tomi Astelara (+4)

4. CAT FINANCIAL PRODUCTS (+7/+6)
   Reto Gaudenzi (+1) / Valery Mishchenko (0)
   Tito Gaudenzi (+3)
   Adrian Laplacette (+3)

5. STYGER & PARTNER (+8)
   Stefan Lucher (+1)
   Cédric Schweit (+1)
   Joao Naves (+6)

6. ENTE TURISTICO LAGO MAGGIORE / MUNICIPIO DI ASCONA (+5)
   Vivian Sauter (+1)
   Gabriel Eckenstein (+1)
   Juan Marenda (+3)
It was a breathtaking and even final between the two finalists Engel & Völkers and Team Styger & Partner AG Wealth Management. The six players from five nations, who faced each other here, could not have been more different. The Frenchman Constant Jacquot and the Argentine 4-goaler Carlos Genes were in top form at the side of Gerardo Cosentino from Liechtenstein, who had already won the Ascona Polo Cup for sponsor Porsche last year and who now played with his team in the colours of Engel & Völkers.

The Brazilian Marcus Schalldach played together with the German Caroline Juhl and the 6-goaler Santiago Schweizer from Argentina for the new sponsor The Winston/Hotel Maloja Kulm, who took part in the tournament as team sponsor and catering partner for the first time. Fighting stakes in the first two chukkers brought Engel & Völkers, who had started with one goal ahead because of the team handicap, in the first round to a 4-1 lead. But Marcus Schalldach and his team held against it and caught up with powerful defensive and cleverly used scoring chances to 4 – 4, before they took the lead themselves. Marcus Schalldach had already played in Ascona and won here. In the jubilee year he was now awarded as the “Most Valuable” player of the tournament. Cosentino turned several penalty into goals. The last regular chukker seemed to end in a draw when Carlos Genes shot the 11-10 for Engel & Völkers just a few seconds before the final bell. Fast-paced, exciting, acclaimed – a final that did credit to the anniversary tournament at the only Swiss Polo Club south of the Alps. These polo highlights were even crowned by the breathtaking Player’s Party on Friday at the Isola do Brissago. The teams CAT Financial Products and Porsche Ticino faced each other in the “small final” in the game for the third place. With Reiss Gaudenzi and Valeriy Mushcheyko on one position, Tito Gaudenzi and Adrian Laplacette “old polo champions” met the tournament organiser and president of the Polo Club Ascona, Matteo Beffa, who played together with Frank Kirschke and the 4-goaler Tomi Astelara. After Tito Gaudenzi had already delivered a sensational game on Saturday, he was also the powerhouse of the team together with Astelara on Sunday. Only very close with 10-11 (the same score on the scoreboard as in the final), Beffas team finally had the nose in front and secured third place.

Arena polo is particularly worth seeing at the old Ascona airport. A treat for the spectators, who can watch the games from a height. In addition, the special flooring makes the matches close with 10-11 (the same score on the scoreboard as in the final), Beffas team finally had the nose in front and secured third place.
PORTUGAL CALLING
NEW POLO CLUB & RESORT

Portugal is on a world championship course. The “Best Polo Club in the World” will be established in Alentejo, Portugal. The spectacular project is being planned by the same visionary developer who also built the legendary World Cup area, Campo Bahia for the German football team in Brazil in 2014.
PORTUGAL’S FIRST INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB.

COMING SOON

CONTACT: INFO@STEFANGAST.COM
Aljezur, Portugal
1. Açores, Portugal
2. Agueda, Portugal
3. Piodão, Portugal
4. Horse stables
5. São Miguel Island, Portugal
6. Algarve, Lagos, Portugal
7. Ponte 25 de Abril, Lisboa, Portugal
8. Travel, Portugal
9. Açores, Portugal
10. Lagoa das Sete Cidades, Portugal.
There’s this almost magical moment when you realize that a new dawn is breaking, a new story is unfolding that you really yearn to be part of. South of Lisbon, in the beautiful region of Alentejo, plans are afoot to build the “Best Polo Club in the World.”

About an hour’s drive due south from colourful, vibrant Lisbon, a region that so far has escaped the hectic crowds of sun-thirsty beachgoers and loud party people is just waking up. Comporta is more commonly associated with “Herenda de Comporta”, the 43-kilometer-long strip of land on the Alentejo coast with its seemingly endless sandy beaches languishing under an azure blue sky and traditional white-washed cottages dotted around the unspoilt countryside. With around 3,000 hours of sunshine per year, Comporta has retained its vast, quiet, untouched beauty, unlike the international jet set destinations on the Côte d’Azur, Costa del Sol and Ibiza.

The potential of this Atlantic west coast region was first discovered by José Manuel Espírito Santo, descendant of a wealthy Portuguese dynasty, who first laid eyes on it from his yacht. He went ashore again, the visionary Gast is realising his dream about constructing concrete goals from dreams, of creating the world’s best polo club with great thought and precision. It is first and foremostly about harmony, tranquility and beauty; nature and the very essence of the land he builds on.

Gast was the brains behind and project manager of the legendary DFB World Cup area Campo Bahia for the German national football team and later World Champion of Brazil in 2014. Gast and his team are currently in the process of developing the remarkable Alentejo region for polo. Once again, the visionary Gast is realising his dream of creating the world’s best polo club with great thought and precision. Gast knows what it takes to make the dream of the world’s best polo club come true. We have clearly defined ideas that are already alive in our minds. As alive as the world championship title we dreamed of in 2014, Gast’s experienced team includes renowned employees and consultants who also include pioneers and legends from international polo. They play a pivotal role in the sport. Nature and horses are our partners and advisors, and both are treated with the utmost respect and sympathy when it comes to the planning and making our dream come true. They have clearly defined ideas that are already alive in our minds. As alive as the world championship title we dreamed of in 2014, which also became a reality. The completion of this project will transform the small country in the far west reaches of Europe into one of the top polo hotspots of the continent and the whole world is already behind it. Gast knows what it takes to make the dream of the world’s best polo club in Portugal come true. We are looking forward to a great new address on the map and a new vision for European and international polo.

A whole new trend is emerging here. And we are seeing that a previously hidden secret will also be of great interest to the polo world.

Gast’s experienced team includes renowned employees and consultants who also include pioneers and legends from international polo. However, a deep respect for nature is always the driving force for this experienced project developer. Gast knows what it takes to make the dream of the world’s best polo club come true. We have clearly defined ideas that are already alive in our minds. As alive as the world championship title we dreamed of in 2014, which also became a reality. The completion of this project will transform the small country in the far west reaches of Europe into one of the top polo hotspots of the continent and the whole world is already behind it. Gast knows what it takes to make the dream of the world’s best polo club in Portugal come true. We are looking forward to a great new address on the map and a new vision for European and international polo.

The mild year-round climate, the people, the unique natural landscape and sympathy when it comes to the planning and making our dream come true. We have clearly defined ideas that are already alive in our minds. As alive as the world championship title we dreamed of in 2014, which also became a reality. The completion of this project will transform the small country in the far west reaches of Europe into one of the top polo hotspots of the continent and the whole world is already behind it. Gast knows what it takes to make the dream of the world’s best polo club in Portugal come true. We are looking forward to a great new address on the map and a new vision for European and international polo.
The Polo Classic: From 19 May to 14 June 2020 the legendary Queen’s Cup at Guards Polo Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Of course, huge festivities are coming up next year. But the 2019 edition was also a breathtaking polo event.
Scone Polo vs. Park Place, Cartier Queen’s Cup Final 2019.

RANKING

1. SCONIE POLO (+22)
   David Paradice (0)
   James Beim (+7)
   Nic Pieres (+8)
   James Harper (+6)

2. PARK PLACE (+22)
   Andrey Borodin (0)
   Juan Brito (+7)
   Hilario Ulloa (+10)
   Byron Watson (+5)

3. TALANDRACAS (+22)
   Hugues Carmignac (0)
   Francisco Elizalde (+6)
   Julian de Losarreta (+7)
   Alejandro Muzzio (+7)

4. LA BAREA DE AERCO (+22)
   Jean-François Decaux (0)
   Kian Hall (+3)
   David Stirling / Pablo Pieres (+9/+9)
   Juan Martin Nero (+10)
1 Scone Polo with HM The Queen, Laurent Feniou of Cartier and Brian Stein, Chairman of Guards Polo Club. 2 Scone Polo patron David Paradice with Facundo and Gonzalo Senior Pieres. 3 Band performs on The Queen’s Ground. 4 Hollywood actor Susan Sarandon. 5 Cartier Queen’s Cup 22-goal action. 6 View from the goal on The Queen’s Ground. 7 Clubhouse Lawn. 8 Nico Pieres (+9), TEAM Scone Polo.
9 Prince Charles and the Les Diables Bleus team winners of the Queen’s Cup 1986. 10 HM The Queen and HRH at Guards Polo Club.

11 Prince Philip and Prince Charles walk to the pony lines.

12 Park Place patron Andrey Borodin with HM The Queen. 13 Scone Polo vs. Park Place, Cartier Queen’s Cup Final 14 Guards Polo Club Clubhouse entrance. 15 Scone Polo’s James Beim with the Cartier Queen’s Cup.
Scone Polo added their name to the Cartier Queen's Cup at the first time of asking! David Paradice’s team delivered a strong performance on The Queen’s Ground at Guards Polo Club in the second half of this final – playing their crowd-pleasing four-man polo – to win the match and the trophy 9-5. The popular Australian patron not only received the coveted cup from HM The Queen and Laurent Feniou, Managing Director of Cartier UK, but a huge cheer from the crowd too.

Their opponents, Andrey Borodin’s Park Place, were runners-up for the second successive year and, on paper, were favourites to lift the trophy. The game started in Park Place’s favour – they were 2-0 up after the first chukka and although Scone Polo got themselves on even terms in the second (3-3) Park Place seemed to be in the driving seat.

Scone Polo’s story through this year’s competition has been incredible and this final was no exception. Many people had written off this new team after they lost their first two games. Things changed in the third league match of the tournament – they suddenly found a winning way of playing and have not looked back since. Some great teamwork had put this team in the final and it won them the Cup too. Park Place struggled to counteract Scone Polo’s increasing confidence – failing to score at all in the fifth – and all of sudden, with just seven minutes left to play, this was Scone Polo’s game.

Winning player, Englishman James Harper, who had a brilliant game at back for Scone Polo, was named the Cartier Most Valuable Player. He also received the Cartier Best Playing Pony Rug for Twitter – a Jim Gilmore-owned, seven-year-old chestnut mare. HM The Queen also presented the subsidiary final prize, the Cartier Trophy to Hugues Carmignac, patron of Talandracas, one of 12 teams that had entered this year’s Cartier Queen’s Cup competition. They beat Jean-Francois D caux’s La Bamba de Areco 11-8 in an earlier match on this day. There was little air between these two teams at half time – 7-6 to Talandracas. Things only changed when La Bamba’s David Stirling retired after the third chukka – he had been injured in the second and although he continued to play until half-time it was clear he was in some pain.

Pablo Pieres subbed for him but a change of personnel always upsets a team’s dynamics and La Bamba failed to score in the next two chukkas. Talandracas, meanwhile, put four more goals on the board. La Bamba got back into the game in the sixth but it was too late and Talandracas won the sub final by three goals. The winning team’s Alejandro Muzzio was later named The Most Valuable Player, receiving his prize from HM The Queen.

www.guardspoloclub.com
THE HPA IS THE OLDEST AND ONE OF THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT POLO ASSOCIATIONS IN THE WORLD. HOW MANY POLO CLUBS IS THE HPA RESPONSIBLE FOR, OR CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER ITS CONVINCING BODY?

We have approx. 26 International associations affiliated to us as a body of independent clubs.

HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS THE INauguration OF POLO IN THE UK?

It is difficult to cover the development of the game and its origins over 150 years. Up to the 1930s World War, polo was really a game played by the military and the rich. Grounds and ponies were very different today but it attracted large crowds for the major games. The HPA as the governing body was then as now focused on handicapping, the rules, discipline and the fixtures list. Post the war with restart of polo it began to attract players from around the world and by the time we have about 3,000 players within the UK.

POLO CLUBS - WHEN WAS IT SET UP AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Including university students we have about 3,000 players per year.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE APPROACH OF JAVIER TANORIA AND HIS CRITICS ON PATRON POLO AS IT IS PLAYED ON THE HIGH GOAL LEVEL TODAY?

Polo is a wonderful game to play and it is sometimes wonderful to watch, but like many sports and other activities it is not always great for the spectators however who is playing. The filming of it is getting better but it is on a big field and fast so it is difficult to pick up the tactics television. A tennis court, rugby and football all lend to see Argentina fielding teams in other countries. An international when England faces Argentina led by Facundo will often disagree and genuinely believe that it was the other player. It is improving but umpires are often badly treated.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND YOUNG TALENTS CONTINUOUSLY GROWING?

The number of players generally reflects the financial climate so for the last few years the membership has been fairly static. The number of talented players tends to go in batches as a group of talented players tends to raise the standards of their peer group and whilst the number of players is quite small behind tend to struggle to break through.

ENGAND HAV THE BEST REPUTATION FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PONY CLUB - WHEN WAS IT SET UP AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Pony Club has been a great ‘nursery’ for polo. It was established 90 years ago with polo introduced at a Pony Club sport 10 years ago in 1959. With the very rare exception every member of the England team has played Pony Club polo and that is certainly the case this year.

THE HPA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OR CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER ITS CONVINCING BODY?

The Hurlingham Polo Association is the governing body for polo in the UK, Ireland and many other countries throughout the world. In November Stephen Hutchinson will have completed his 4 years as Chairman of the HPA and will be putting forward Nick Wiles for election as his successor.

THE HPA IS THE OLDEST AND ONE OF THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT POLO ASSOCIATIONS IN THE WORLD. HOW MANY POLO CLUBS IS THE HPA RESPONSIBLE FOR, OR CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER ITS CONVINCING BODY?

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Maserati wins the 21st Berenberg German Polo Masters Sylt 2019 against last year’s winner König Immobilien Sylt. After five breathtaking match days, the legendary polo event attracted more visitors than ever before in beautiful island weather.
Left: Patricio Gaynor for Team Gogärtchen Right: DPV President Oliver Winter for Team Lanserhof & Dunkelziffer.
RANKING

1. MASERATI (+8)
   - Marc Aberle (0)
   - Giordano Magni (+1)
   - Tim Ward (+3)
   - Micky Duggan (+4)

2. KÖNIG IMMOBILIEN (+8)
   - Cedric Schweri (0)
   - Stefan Locher (0)
   - Joao Novaes (+5)
   - Thomas Astelerna (+3)

3. POLO CLUB SYLT & TRANSGOURMET (+8)
   - Matthias Grau (0)
   - Christian Grimm (0)
   - Eduardo Anca (+5)
   - Tuky Caivano (+3)

4. BERENBERG (+8)
   - Jo Schneider (0)
   - Sven Schneider (+1)
   - Santos Anca (+5)
   - Christopher Niffy Winter (+2)

5. GOGÄRTCHEN (+8)
   - Reinhold Hoffmann (0)
   - Patricio Gaynor (+4)
   - Cristobal Durrieu (+4)
   - Alexandra Ott (0)

6. LANSERHOF & DUNKELZIFFER (+7)
   - Jan-Hendrik Tibbe (0)
   - Thomas Winter (+3)
   - Agustin Kronhaus (+4)
   - Oliver Winter (0)

That’s what winners look like: Marc Aberle, Tim Ward and Giordano Magni.
More than 10,000 enthusiastic spectators watched the exciting matches in the qualifying rounds and at the final weekend on the grounds of the Polo Club Sylt in Keitum. In addition to the polo matches, the 3rd Sylt Horse Show and the largest number of exclusive exhibitors to date in their white pagodas at the edge of the field were real crowd-pullers. The ground seems to tremble when the polo horses thunder along the spectators at 60 kilometres per hour and the teams fight for every goal on the over 28,000 square metre playing field. Fair play and the well-being of the horses are the highest priorities in polo. And if you know the most important rules as a spectator, you are right in the middle of the action as a polo newcomer and cheer on your favourites. Together with the English referee Mark Holmes from Cambridge, presenter Jan Erik-Franck explained the Little Polo 1x1 to the visitors in an equally expert and entertaining manner and explained the dos and don’ts of the fast sport to the audience.

Team Maserati finally took the lead 9-8 after a breathtaking final against Team König Immobilien Sylt. König Immobilien Sylt had won all matches of the Berenberg German Polo Masters which had been running since Wednesday.

In the first game of the day for the 5th place won team Gogärtchen with 7-5,5 against team Lanserhof & Dunkelziffer. In the match for third place, Team Polo Club Sylt & Transgourmet secured 3rd place with a final score of 9-4. Team Berenberg reached the 4th place.

Karsten Wehmeier, Head of Communications at Berenberg, Germany’s oldest private bank, is delighted about the successful tournament: “Berenberg and Polo, Polo and Sylt - they simply belong to each other. Never before so many visitors have followed the tournament. We are very happy about this great encouragement and about the high interest of the teams to play on Sylt.”

Organizer Stephanie „Kiki“ Schneider: „After last year’s anniversary event, the 21st Berenberg German Polo Masters were once again a real highlight in the tournament calendar of international polo sport. A summer in Sylt without the important polo tournament on the Keitumer playground can no longer be imagined. It has become a tradition that we don’t want to miss in the future. Of course we also owe our success to all our partners and sponsors, to whom I would like to express my sincere thanks once again for their many years of friendly cooperation and joint success. Special thanks also go to the local authorities, helpers, islanders and the Petersen and Franzen families for their unique support. They make the tournament what it is today, next to the great spectators."

In addition to the games, visitors could marvel at the stands of various exhibitors and let themselves be inspired. The converted aluminium Airstream caravan from Sigma, which presented highly professional lenses and cameras, caught the visitors’ eye. The Italian sports car manufacturer Maserati was not only represented as a team at the tournament, but also exhibited the new Maserati Levante Trofeo with a powerful V8 engine and 580 hp. Visitors also had the opportunity to see classic Maserati cars such as the rare Ghilbi SS from 1972 and a Maserati Indy 4.9 from 1973. La Martina, which has been an integral part of the polo spectacle for many years, provided the teams and visitors with trendy polo clothing.

As in previous years, catering in the VIP area also offered the highest culinary delights. For the ninth time already, it will be hosted by Hamburg’s Nobelbrasserie „Die Bank“, which is known far beyond the borders of the Hanseatic city for its first-class and unusual cuisine.
Visitor record and heartbeat final at the German Polo High Goal Championship at the Berlin Maifeld: Team Riller & Schnauck wins the championship title.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Top Scorers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Riller &amp; Schnauck (+12)</td>
<td>Maximilian Singhoff (0)</td>
<td>Maxim Bosch (+3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maxim Charlton (+6)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Engel&amp;Völkers (+10)</td>
<td>Caesar Craseman (+3)</td>
<td>Caspar Crasemann (+3)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Heinrich Dumrath (+3)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Carfactory (+12)</td>
<td>Robert Kofler, TC (+1)</td>
<td>Alexander Hauptmann (+2)</td>
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<td>Santiago Marambio (+6)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Hotel Gaijin (+12)</td>
<td>Clarissa Marggraf (0)</td>
<td>Nico Wollenberg, TC (+1)</td>
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<td>Manuel Elizalde (+6)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Allianz Kundler (+12)</td>
<td>Mathias Grau, TC (0)</td>
<td>Goffredo Cutinelli (+2)</td>
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<td>Gaston Marquez (+7)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Getränk Lehmann (+11)</td>
<td>Kutlay Yayrak, TC (0)</td>
<td>Agustín Kronska (+5)</td>
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<td>Adrian Laplacette (+6)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Perrier-Jouët (+12)</td>
<td>Ivan Weiss, TC (0)</td>
<td>Thane Schröder (0)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Horacio F. Llorente (+6)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Plusquadrat (+11)</td>
<td>Vanessa Schockemöhe (0)</td>
<td>Patrick Maleitzke, TC (+3)</td>
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<td>Joaquim Copello (+3)</td>
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At the end of August, eight international teams again competed for the title of the German High Goal Championship on the historic Maifeld in front of the Berlin Olympic Stadium. After exciting qualifying matches on the polo grounds of the Prussian Polo & Country Club in Phöben, Team Riller & Schnauck and defending champion Engel & Völkers finally faced each other in the final.

Engel & Völkers with Daniel, Caesar and Caspar Crasemann as well as Heinrich Dumrath had already delivered strong matches in the qualification and secured their entry into the final by a golden goal in the match against Team Hotel Gaijin of Caesar Crasemann on Saturday. Maximilian Singhoff, Max Bosch, the Englishman Max Charlton and Christopher Kirsch started for Riller & Schnauck. A team that could combine great experience with speed and great talent. With the 6-goaler Max Charlton and outstanding teamplay by Christopher Kirsch, Riller & Schnauck worked their way up from a 4-1 deficit to a 5-5 tie in the third chukker, which was considered impossible. In the fourth chukker, the Englishman brought his team into the lead. Engel & Völkers was two goals behind, in the last minute Caesar Crasemann caught up to 7-8 as the final score so that Team Riller & Schnauck claimed the championship title 2019.

Third place went to Team Carfactory with Robert Kofler, Alexander Hauptmann, Santiago Marambio and Moritz Gädeke. After a 4-4 equaliser by the Argentinian Manuel Elizalde from Team Hotel Gaijin in the fourth chukker, Moritz Gädeke, co-organiser of the tournament and German national player, scored the 5-4 for Carfactory in the fifth extra-chukker with a golden goal. Clarissa Marggraf from Team Hotel Gaijin was awarded as Most Valuable Player of this year’s Engel & Völkers Maifeld Cup.

Oliver Winter, President of the German Polo Association (DPV), presented a special tribute to his brother Thomas Winter in front of the tournament audience. Thomas Winter was honored for his achievements and outstanding commitment to the sport of polo. The multiple German Champion plays with the highest German handicap, is co-founder of the Hamburg Win Polo School and is active as a youth trainer, trainer and referee. His long-time supporter and friend Albert „Atti“ Darboven personally gave the laudation on Thomas Winter’s successful polo career and his great commitment to the sport.

Sylvia Gädeke, President of the Prussian Polo & Country Club Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. and organizer of the Engel & Völkers Maifeld Cup: “We would like to thank the numerous committed partners and helpers for a great tournament experience. We thank the players for their great commitment and fantastic polo moments here on the Maifeld and of course also the numerous spectators. The anticipation of the Maifeld Cup 2020 is already great.”

www.maifeldpolocup.de
In the final of the King Power Gold Cup 2019 at the Cowdray Park Polo Club the teams VS King Power of Top Shraddhana-prabha and Ali Albwady’s Team Dubai faced each other.
To commemorate their beloved patron Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who died in a helicopter crash at Leicester City FC Stadium in October 2018, Team King Power put the VS addition in front of his name. For VS King Power, Vichai’s son ‘Top’ Srivaddhanaprabha played alongside Polito Pieres, Marcos di Paola and Juan Martin Zubia. Team Dubai started with 16-year-old Camilo Castagnola, team captain Rashid Albwardy, Bartolomé Castagnola and Ignacio du Plessis.

After VS King Power took the lead in the first chukker, the brothers Camilo and Bartolomé Castagnola scored three goals in the second run. With only one goal from Polito Pieres for VS King Power, the chukker ended with a 4-3 lead for Team Dubai. A fantastic goal by Top Srivaddhanaprabha and a 30-yard penalty by Polito Pieres brought VS King Power into the lead 8-6. VS King Power also remained dominant in the fifth chukker and extended his lead to 10-7. But in the sixth round, the tide turned and Team Dubai passed their opponent 11-10 after scoring four goals. From now on, Rashid Albwardy and his team-mates did not let this lead be taken away.

In the fourth chukker, VS King Power was able to follow through with some successful actions to equal the score of 6-6. Another fantastic goal by Top Srivaddhanaprabha and a 30-yard penalty by Polito Pieres brought VS King Power into the lead 8-6. VS King Power also remained dominant in the fifth chukker and extended his lead to 10-7. But in the sixth round, the tide turned and Team Dubai passed their opponent 11-10 after scoring four goals. From now on, Rashid Albwardy and his team-mates did not let this lead be taken away.

With 13-12 Dubai finally won the King Power Gold Cup 2019. Jon Rudkin, director of Football for Leicester City FC, presented individual prizes to all players, referees and commentators before handing over the coveted Gold Cup to Rashid Albwardy.

www.cowdraypolo.co.uk
A total of eleven teams entered the British Ladies Polo Championships at Cowdray Park, running concurrently with the final phase of the King Power Gold Cup. Six teams were eligible for the 18 goal British Ladies Open Championship and five were entered into the 12 goal British Ladies Handicap Championship.
The 18 goal British Ladies Open Championship concluded with HH Sheika Maitha at Makhsos’ UAE team and Lila Pearson’s Cowdray Vikings reaching the final. Playing alongside Sheikha Maitha were Milly Hine, Hazel Jackson and Catalina Lavinia at Back. Hannah Parry-Jones took the number 1 position for Cowdray Vikings with Lila Pearson, Lottie Lamacraft and Sarah Wiseman at Back.

First mark on the scoreboard came from Sarah Wiseman for Cowdray Vikings. Wiseman won the ball from the next throw-in but a good clearance from Hine turned into attacking play from UAE. Lamacraft for Cowdray Vikings finally steered the ball away from UAE and raced away but her shot at goal missed. A whistle brought a free hit for Cowdray; Wiseman tapped the ball on but Milly Hine pounced on it giving Hazel Jackson the chance to charge forward and equalize as the chukka bell sounded. In a pacey second chukka, there was plenty of action but little in the way of goals. Milly Hine finally saw the ball between the posts to take UAE 2-1 ahead at half time.

Catalina Lavinia raced away to score for UAE in the first minute of the second half. Sarah Wiseman failed to score from a 60 yard penalty and a good cut shot from Hazel Jackson also went wide but she didn’t miss on her next attempt and UAE were 4-1 ahead by the close of the third chukka. In the final chukka, Hine kept up the pressure on Sarah Wiseman who found it difficult to play her usual strong game. A 10 yard penalty awarded to UAE enabled Sheikha Maitha to increase her side’s score to 5-1 and a lovely run to goal by Hazel Jackson gave UAE a final score of 6-1.

Mrs Diana Wiseman presented the winners’ silver salver to Sheikha Maitha and prizes of luxury leather bags generously sponsored by Aspinal of London to the players. Kala—owned and played by Hazel Jackson—was awarded the Best Playing Pony prize and her pony Farsons picked up the WoW award for Best re-trained racehorse. The prize for Best Horsemanship, presented by Aurora Eastwood, went to Lottie Lamacraft.

In the 12 goal British Ladies Handicap Championship Final, Coombe Place met Carlton House. Sophie Kenna played at 1 for Coombe Place with Sammy Luff at number 2, Dayna Warthier at 3 and Lottie Lamacraft at Back, making up an 11 goal team. Carlton House’s line-up comprised Rebecca Servers at number 1, Hannah Parry-Jones at 2, Alice Servais at 4 and Stephanie Haverhals at Back, making a 12 goal team and giving Coombe Place a half-goal advantage on the scoreboard to start the match.

Hannah Parry-Jones scored for Carlton House in the first chukka. Alice Servais went on to make two field goals for her side in the second chukka taking them to a 3-½ goal lead. However a 40 yard penalty gave Lamacraft for Coombe Place the chance to recoup a goal and the first half ended with Carlton House ahead 3-½. Fortunes changed in the second half with Lamacraft making a great field goal and another from Warthier taking Coombe Place into a half goal lead of 3½-3. Try as they might Carlton House could not pull back and a lovely third goal from Lottie Lamacraft gave the victory to Coombe Place on 4½-3. Sehr Ahmad presented the prizes generously sponsored by Aspinal of London, the Best Playing Pony of the match was judged to be Yonkie owned and played by Stephanie Haverhals who also picked up the prize for Best Horsemanship presented by Aurora Eastwood.

www.cowdraypco.uk
When a horse senses danger, behavioral patterns based on vital and ancient instincts emerge. The ancestors of domesticated horses were prairie animals. Over the centuries, their body has evolved and adapted to the threats posed by predators by developing various anatomical and physiological features.

Already the physical appearance of the horse indicates its high specialization as an escape animal. Horses have a compact trunk and long, slender legs that are carried by hooves. They are so-called toe-walkers, which means that they bear their bodyweight on the part of the foot that corresponds to the human’s tip of the toe. In evolutionary terms, this adaptation has led to an elongation of the limbs and stride. In a sprint the horse can reach top speeds of up to 60 kilometers per hour.

A good sense of smell, big, very movable ears, and eyes located laterally on the head, allowing the horse to have almost a 360° angle of view – only a 10° range directly behind them, so to speak between their ears is not covered – allows them to perceive their environment. When danger is eminent or an enemy approaches an instinctive cascade, called the “fight or flight response”, takes place in the horse’s body. The brain frees messenger substances that promote the release of excitatory hormones (epinephrine and norepinephrine) from the adrenal gland into the circulation pathway. This leads to a vasoconstriction in the peripheral circulation and to a depletion of the spleen (in this organ the horse stores red blood cells which can be released into the bloodstream, for example in the case of imminent danger and stress) resulting in an increase of the blood pressure and available blood volume. More blood is available to the horse’s powerful lungs resulting in a higher available oxygen supply of the muscles and organs needed to escape. Through the release of stimulating hormones the cortisol content in the blood also rises leading to higher blood sugar levels. This stress reaction of the body, which is needed for the flight response, also has negative metabolic effects. The immune system is affected, and temporarily other vital processes are neglected.

A further adaptation of the body is the special stay apparatus in the hindquarters of the horses. A temporary fixation of the knee-cap allows the horses to sleep without physical and energetic effort while standing and thus always be ready to escape. Horses also need significantly less sleep than, for example, humans. 2 hours a day are already enough. These usually consist of short deep phases of about 15 minutes, which can be achieved while standing. However, every horse needs to lay down in order to experience deep sleep phases.

The digestive system of the horses has also adapted to the threatening dangers of the prairies. In contrast to carnivores, the so-called predators, they have a small stomach and continuously feed on small amounts of roughage. No digestive nap after a big meal will hinder the flight if danger is eminent.

When we handle horses in every-day settings, work with them and prepare them for the demands of competing in sports at a top level we should always keep in mind the high degree of specialization of these flight animals.

If a horse is frightened or panics the mechanisms of the “fight or flight response” inevitably starts running. Since horses, unless they are cornered or a mare defends her foal, rarely respond to threats by attack, they will usually try to escape. This can create dangerous situations for the rider, groom and also for the horse. Many horses are frightened by unusual stimuli and situations and often react headless. They try to escape and no longer perceive their surroundings. We all know these situations. The lead rope is suddenly pulled through our hand, the horse spooks and jumps aside, rears up, turns around, takes of in a wild gallop and so on. It is important to counteract this behavior with calm and patience and to build a basis of trust between man and horse. When we prepare horses from day to day for their mission it is important to teach them through positive reinforcement and targeted training that although they can rely on their instincts, they can also rely on us humans at their side. This way we will always have a great four-legged partner and good performer in the barn.

In addition, we should always make sure that our horses can come to rest, can lay down on a soft bedding of straw and have the ability to continuously feed on roughage.
Marriott International's St. Regis Hotels & Resorts brand has been working with Delfina Delettrez Fendi, the founder and designer of the Delfina Delettrez brand, since this year. Inspired by the recently completed 40 million renovation of St. Regis Rome, Delettrez presents an exclusive limited collection of three selected gold jewelry pieces: an exquisite open necklace, earrings and a double ring with refined details. The Capsule Collection has been available since mid-June and the pieces cost from 1,050 euros.

Jenni Benzaquen, Vice President Europe for Marriott International’s luxury brands, said: “Delfina Delettrez has an extraordinary aesthetic sense of how past and present can be linked by combining traditional Italian craftsmanship with her modern, unique style. As part of its collaboration with St. Regis, its Capsule Collection perfectly embodies the recent redesign of St. Regis Rome. Delettrez’s passion for her native Rome and its everlasting esprit has also been incorporated.”

Delettrez is among Forbes Magazine’s “30 under 30” and has been nominated for the “Business of Fashion 500”, a list of people who are changing the international fashion industry. The designer is part of the Fendi family in the fourth generation and founded her company in 2007. Since the launch of her brand, she has developed a unique aesthetic that combines classic goldsmith techniques with innovative, contemporary materials. The result: modern, futuristic jewellery. A lot of heart and soul goes into every design. The designs are implemented in artistic handwork by masters of their trade.

“Rome is a city where contrasts from the past and the present coexist in a unique and harmonious way,” explains Delfina Delettrez. “The renovation of St. Regis Rome demonstrates the duality of this city by combining an angular, modern look with historical architecture. To usher in this new era for St. Regis Rome, I wanted to create a classic shape with a new, modern twist. I love the idea that each piece can be worn in two different ways - as an expression of the dual character of the house.”

A new highlight on the Adriatic coast: The Ritz-Carlton heralds a new era with the construction of a luxury hotel and elegant residences and villas on the Luštica peninsula in Montenegro. 2020 is the sales start for the noble properties.

The hotel and residences are part of a mixed-use complex of spacious villas, well-kept gardens, a yacht club and a spacious beach bay. The hotel will comprise 120 rooms and suites, the residences part 180 apartments and 48 villas. The first section is expected to be completed in 2023 and the final section in 2028. The properties are scheduled for sale in 2020.

“Montenegro has quickly become a popular destination in the Mediterranean region thanks to the breathtaking views of the Adriatic coast,” said Carlton Ervin, Chief Development Officer for Europe at Marriott International. “The agreement to open The Ritz-Carlton, Montenegro is a clear sign that our luxury brands are in demand in this beautiful region. The combination of the impressive nature of the country and the legendary service of our brand makes Montenegro the perfect destination for The Ritz-Carlton guests”. The Ritz-Carlton Montenegro is to be built in a prime location on the western tip of the Luštica peninsula with panoramic views of the Adriatic. The journey to the Tivat International Airport takes about 30 minutes, to the international airport of Dubrovnik two hours. Alternatively, the facility, which is located directly on the coast, can also be reached in style on board a yacht via the planned hotel’s own boat landing stage.

The designs for the elegantly designed rooms and suites foresee feel-good refuges, designed in a simple, typical regional style and discreetly equipped with modern technology - each with the focus on highlighting the natural beauty of the destination. Low-rise buildings that blend seamlessly into the landscape and provide guests, residents and visitors alike with an optimal view of the sea and sunset also contribute to this. The impressive Adriatic scenery also skillfully sets the scene for the other planned offerings, including a main and two specialty restaurants, a beach bar, indoor and outdoor pools, a saltwater lido pool, a first-class spa and fitness room, as well as well-equipped Ritz Kids and Teen Clubs.

Spacious outdoor areas with views offer ideal venues, complemented by creative and flexible catering options. Activities such as mountain biking and hiking are also planned. In addition, there is the educational, interactive programme “Ambassadors of the Environment”, jointly developed by Jean-Michel Cousteau’s Ocean Futures Society and The Ritz-Carlton, which focuses on the exceptional nature reserves surrounding the site. Guests of all ages will be encouraged to explore the conservation of natural resources for future generations.

“The success of this project, which brings the legendary The Ritz-Carlton brand to Montenegro, is the result of the strong commitment of all stakeholders - from our company, Marriott International and the Government of Montenegro,” said Mohamed Al Sager, Chairman of Al Yasra. “This is not only an economic success, but also a personal one. I immediately fell in love with the natural beauty of the country during my first holiday here and knew that I wanted to be involved in the future development of Montenegro. What once began as a dream is now a great project that takes shape and form.”
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