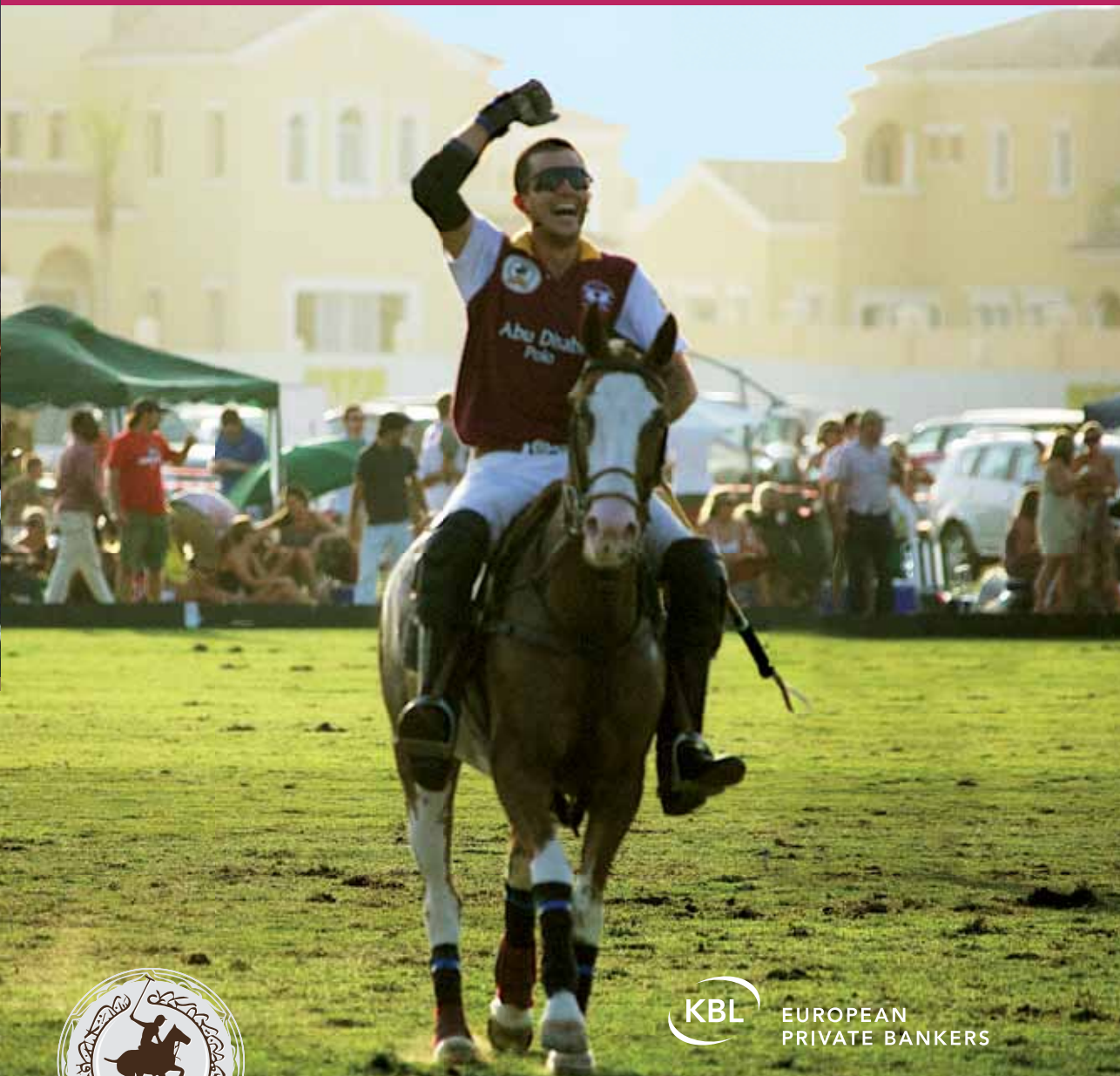


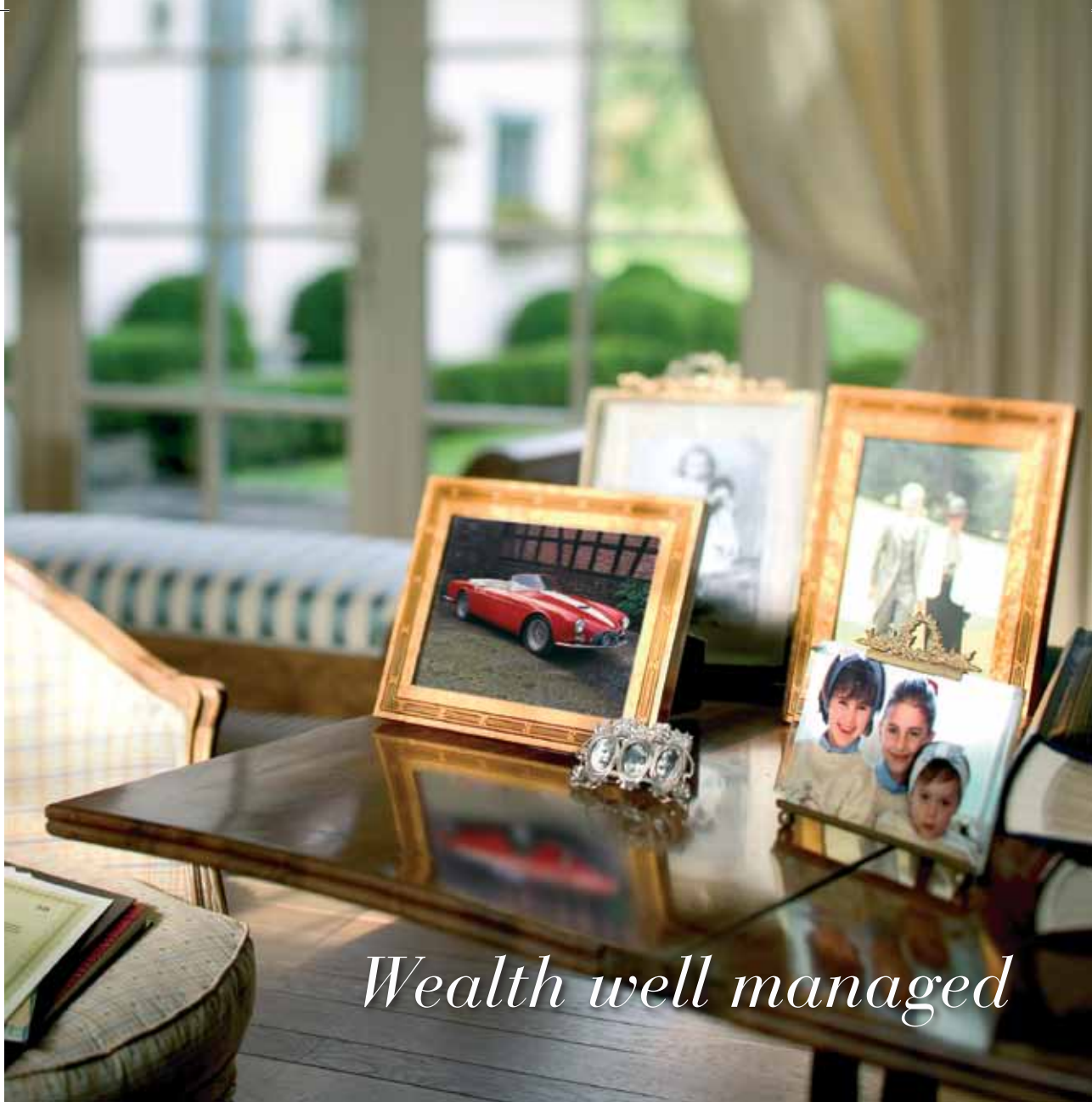
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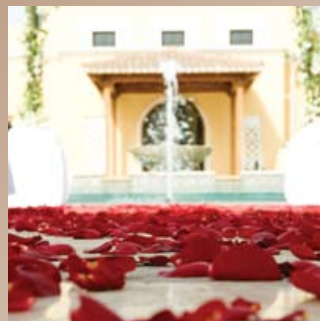


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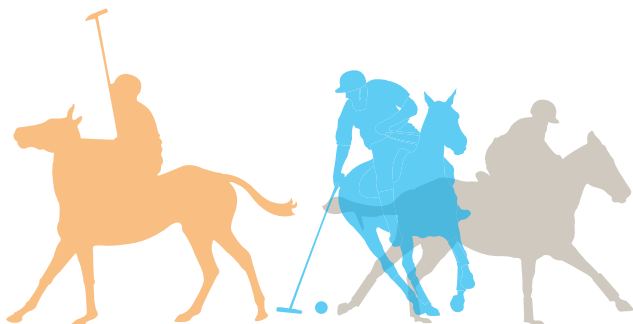
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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It's with great pride that we announce the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2012.

This is the third year in a row that we are hosting the most prestigious tournament in Dubai. We're delighted to be at the helm, once again, of a polo tournament that gets more popular each year and grows in prestige.

Every year it attracts big polo names from around the world and sees some of the best teams and patrons participating — and this year is no exception. In fact, it promises to be bigger and more exciting than ever before.

The success of the tournament is a credit to all of our partners and I'd like to thank them, as well as the Gold Cup committee, for the dedication they've shown in organising the event.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to all of our players and officials, as well as the media and, of course, the spectators. The Dubai Gold

Cup is fortunate to be under the patronage of his Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai. It always attracts a high profile audience, with many prominent members of the UAE community attending. What's more, it continues to go from strength to strength.

From next year on, the committee plans to increase the handicap from 15 to 20 goals, to make it the highest handicapped tournament in the Middle East.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy every moment of the Dubai Gold Cup 2012.

We certainly intend to!

*Mohammed  
Al Habtoor*

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It's not just the  
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Abu Dhabi Polo player Facundo Sola celebrating the victory of his team at the Dubai Gold Cup 2011.



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# ALL ABOUT POLO

**P**olo, which is one of the oldest games in the world, originated in Persia around 2,500 years ago. It is also one of the fastest games in the world as the ball travels up to 110 miles per hour.

It's complicated too – involving a partnership between a man and his horse, together vying to get the ball through the goal, while using every possible strategy to prevent the opposing side from doing the same. What happens during that quest can be brutal or beautiful, or a little of both.

## BASIC RULES

A polo game is played between two teams with three players on each side when it is indoors or four players if it is outdoors. The members of the team are designated 'attack' or 'defense' players and each has the job of furthering their own team's goal tally, while preventing the other side from scoring.

Most of the rules were established to keep the riders and the horses, which are usually called 'ponies', safe at all times.

The line of the ball is the 'right of way' established by the path of the traveling ball. The right of way occurs when a player has the line of the ball

on his right, which means that the player who struck the ball last has the right of way. Riding is allowed alongside a player when the right of way is permitted, as long as his way is not hindered. Teams change ends after each goal is scored in case of wind advantages.

## DEFENSE TECHNIQUES

A player may use his mallet to block or interfere with an opponent's swing by hooking the other player's mallet. This is only allowed when a player is on the side where the swing is occurring, or when he's directly in front of, or behind his opponent.

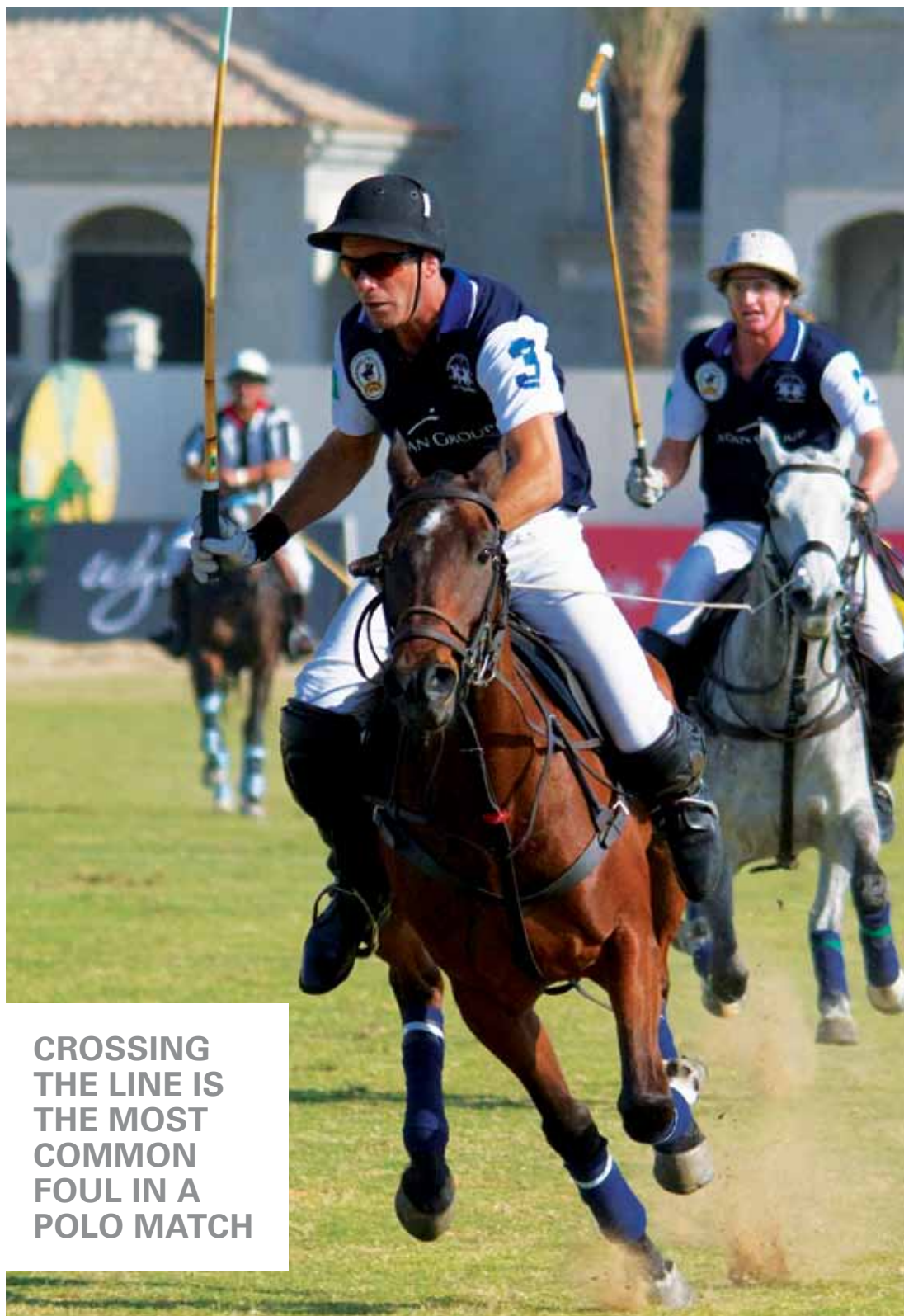
A bump, or 'ride-off', is used to break an opponent's concentration. In this case he is moved off the line of the ball, or his shot is ruined.

When one player rides his pony alongside another player and physically connects with him in order to lead him away from the ball, it's called a 'ride-off'. A ride-off is permissible only at a 30-degree angle and at the level of the horse's shoulder.

## THE FIELD

Polo fields are 300-yards long and 160-yards wide. An eight-yard wide goal, marked by 10-foot high goal posts, is centered on each end of the field.

**{ ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST GAMES  
ORIGINATED IN PERSIA AS A WAR GAME  
AROUND 2,500 YEARS AGO }**



**CROSSING  
THE LINE IS  
THE MOST  
COMMON  
FOUL IN A  
POLO MATCH**





## FOULS

The umpires generally call 'fouls' when dangerous riding occurs or the mallet has been used in a dangerous manner. A penalty for a foul can be anything from a free hit to a free goal for the opposing team.

## CONTROL OF THE GAME

Two mounted umpires control each game and a midfield referee steps in whenever the umpires disagree.

A flagman is always positioned behind each goal and he indicates when a goal has been scored.

## THE PONIES

The mounts are usually full-size horses, ranging in size from 14.2 to 16 hands high at the withers, or at the horse's shoulders, (one hand equals four inches). They weigh between 900 and 1,100 lbs. Many polo ponies are thoroughbred crosses. They play for a maximum of two non-consecutive chukkas per match.

## HANDICAPS

Players are rated annually, from -2 to 10 goals by their local polo association. The handicap of a team is the sum of its players.

## SCORING

Players score by driving the ball into the opposing team's goal.

## THE EQUIPMENT

One of the central pieces in the game of polo is the plastic ball, which is typically 3 – 1/4 inches in diameter and weighs around 4 – 1/2 ounces.

The player plays with a mallet made of bamboo cane, which is flexible. A helmet is mandatory and he or she wears gloves to protect their hands as well as brown leather boots, white trousers and a jersey with the number of each player.

The horses also have protective bandages on their legs and their tail and manes are braided so as not to get in the way of shots.

## THE TEAMS

In standard polo each team has four players and each player wears a jersey, numbered one through four, indicating their position and their responsibilities on the field.

- **One** – This player is mainly concerned with scoring goals. The role is often played by the lowest handicapped player on the team.
- **Two** – This is the team's scorer. This player has greater defensive responsibilities than player Number One.
- **Three** – This player is adept at scoring, playing defense and determining the strategy of the game. The person playing this role is generally the team's best player and the captain.
- **Four** – This is mainly a defensive role.



## CHUKKAS

A polo match is approximately one or one-half hours-long. Play commences when the mounted umpire bowls the ball between the players who line up opposite each other in the centre field. The game consists of four, seven-minute periods called 'chukkas'. There are six chukkas in a high-goal match. A four minute interval breaks up the chukkas and halftime is 10 to 15-minutes long.

## PENALTIES

'Crossing the line' is the most common foul in a polo match. Penalty shots are numbered from one to 10. The most common of these are:

- **1** – means that a goal is awarded.
- **2, 3** and **4** mean that a free hit, from 30, 40 or 50 yards respectively, to an undefended goal is given.
- **5** – allows a free hit from the point of infraction or from midfield.

## GLOSSARY OF POLO TERMS

**A bump:** When this happens a player is permitted to ride into another player in order to spoil his shot. The angle of the collision must be slight, causing no more than a jar. The faster the horse travels, the smaller the angle must be.

**A hook:** A player must spoil another player's shot by putting his mallet in the way of the striking player. A cross hook occurs when a player reaches over his opponent's mount in an attempt to hook the ball. This is considered a foul.

**A knock in:** If a team hits the ball across the opponent's backline, it is an offensive drive. The defending team resumes the game with a free hit from their backline. No time-out is allowed for knock-ins.

**A near side:** This is the left hand side of a horse.

**An off side:** This is the right hand side of a horse.

**A neckshot:** This occurs when the ball is hit under the horse's neck from either side.

**A tailshot:** Hitting of the ball behind and across the horse's rump is a tailshot.

**Out of bounds:** When the ball crosses the sideline or goes over the sideboards, it's considered out of bounds and the umpire throws in another ball between the two teams. No timeout is allowed for an out-of-bounds ball.

**A ride-off:** This occurs when two riders make contact and attempt to push each other off the line of the ball, to prevent the other from striking.

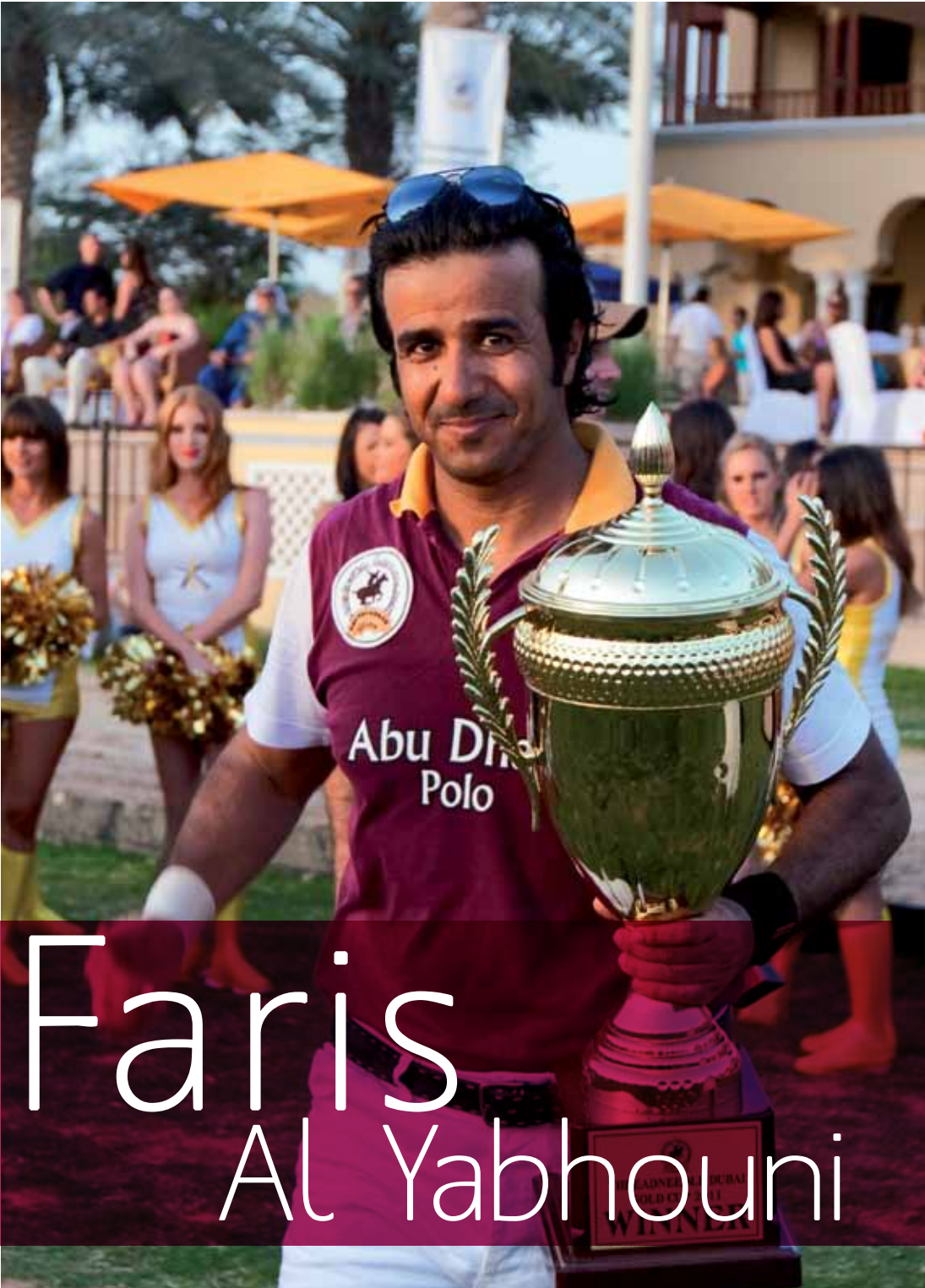
**Wraps:** These are the protective bandages the polo ponies wear on their legs.

**A Swing:** Hitting the ball with the mallet, using one of four basic shots – the forehand, the backhand, the neck or the tail – is called a 'swing'.

**Sudden death:** This is overtime play when the score is tied at the end of the last regular chukka. The first team to score wins.

**The Line of the ball:** The line of the ball is the imaginary line produced by the ball when it is hit or deflected.





INTERVIEW

# Faris Al Yabhouni





**T**he Patron of the Abu Dhabi Team and the winner of last year's Gold Cup tournament talks about his love of polo and how it is growing in popularity in the UAE...

**WHAT ACTIVITY GIVES YOU THE MOST HAPPINESS AND WHY?**

"Playing Polo – I love the sport because of its intensity. The adrenaline rush from riding powerful horses at extreme speeds just can't be beaten."

**IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE WOULD THAT BE?**

"Abu Dhabi. My polo team is named after the city, so I guess that says something."

**WHICH WORDS OR PHRASES DO YOU MOST OVERUSE IN EVERYDAY SPEECH?**

"I don't overuse words, but I've been known to talk about horses and polo a bit too much."

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?**

"I have many possessions but my polo ponies are my most treasured. Buying good horses is an important part of the sport we love, so a lot of time is spent by my team members searching for exceptional polo ponies all over the world."

**WHAT DID LAST YEAR'S VICTORY AT THE DUBAI GOLD CUP MEAN TO YOU?**

"Obviously we're still a young team with room for improvement, so to win this prestigious event so early on in our formation was an amazing honour and it made me feel incredibly proud. I'm looking forward to showing that we've grown even stronger this year."

**WHAT POLO TOURNAMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE MOST TO WIN?**

"The Cartier Queens Cup at Windsor in the UK. It attracts some of the best players in the world, so to compete against them and to win would be an amazing achievement, not to mention a great experience."

**WHICH POLO PLAYERS DO YOU ADMIRE THE MOST?**

"The Argentinean player Adolfo Cambiaso. He's one of the most talented polo players of our time and with a handicap of 10 since the age of 17, there's not a polo trophy that he hasn't won. You just can't help but admire his passion and dedication to the game."

**WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE YOU PLAYED IN AND HOW DO THEY COMPARE TO POLO IN THE MIDDLE EAST?**

"I've played mainly in England and Argentina. Both are very exciting but different venues. Polo in Argentina is a stronger, faster and more technical game; however the UK competes at an even higher level. Polo in the Middle East is improving rapidly."

It's a good time for the game right now and I'm sure it will continue to grow in popularity in the future."

**WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING POLO AND WHY?**

"Since I was young child, I've loved working with horses. Around nine years ago, my brother Matar introduced me to polo for the first time and since then I've wanted to be involved in the game."

It allows me to work closely with horses and there's nothing like the atmosphere and the audience at a polo match. It gives me such pride just to be part of it."



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# Abu Dhabi Polo



Abu Dhabi Polo was established in 2011 and won the Gold Cup in 2011. Its patron Faris Yabhouni has been playing polo for the last nine years.

Faris, who comes from Abu Dhabi, is also a prominent businessman. He comes from a family which has long been involved in horse and camel racing, as well as horse breeding. They have 18 Argentinean polo ponies on their farm in Abu Dhabi. Faris is also a member of the Desert Palm Polo Club.



**Faris Al Yabhouni**

**PATRON**  
**UAE**  
Handicap **0**



**Sebastian Bourgi**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **4**



**Alfredo Cappella B.**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **5**



**Patricio Neves**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **6**



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# Bin Drai Polo

Bin Drai polo was started in 2002 by its patron – Saeed Bin Drai, who has been playing polo for a total of 12 years. His three younger brothers all play for the team too and regularly participate in tournaments both in Dubai and in the UK.

The team has a total of 38 horses in Dubai and 18 in England. Unfortunately this year, Saeed will not be competing as he's been consigned to rest for up to three months due to a bad injury.



**Saeed Bin Drai**

**PATRON**  
**UAE**  
Handicap **1**



**Mohammed Bin Drai**

**UAE**  
Handicap **0**



**Tomas Iriarte**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **4**



**Nicolas Petracchi**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **4**



**Juan Jose Brane**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **7**

# Ghantoot Polo



Sheikh Falah bin Zayed al Nahyan, son of the founder of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, is the Chairman of Ghantoot Racing and Polo Club.

Sheikh Falah is a passionate polo player and patron and believes it is his duty to continue the work his father started when he established Ghantoot Racing and Polo Club in 1994. Sheikh Falah views polo, and sport in general, as a force for good in the UAE community.



**PATRON**  
**HH. Sheikh Falah Bin  
Zayed Al Nahyan**



**Nasser al Dhaheri**

**UAE**  
Handicap 1



**Ramiro Cordero**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 4



**Jorge Cernadas**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 5



**Oscar Colombres**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 5



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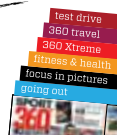
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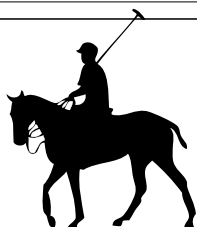
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# Habtoor Polo

Established in 2000 by Mohammed K Al Habtoor, Habtoor Polo has now grown to be one of Dubai's most prestigious organisations. The Al Habtoor brothers, Rashid and Mohammed, have worked hard over the last 10 years, to raise the profile of Al Habtoor Polo and it's now recognised at an international level.

Mohammed has participated in numerous tournaments around the world and like his brother, shares a passion for the sport.



**Mohammed  
Al Habtoor**

**PATRON**  
**UAE**  
Handicap 0



**Ignacio Acunia**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 3



**Guillermo Cuitino**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 6



**Francisco Elizalde**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 6

# Mahra Polo



As the CEO and President of Al Habtoor Trading Enterprises, which was established in the late 1990's, Rashid Al Habtoor is a well known and much admired businessman, not only in Dubai where he comes from, but across the Middle East. Passionate about polo from an early age, he has participated in many international tournaments, including high profile polo events in the UK, France, Germany and Spain. This enthusiasm for the 'sport of kings' led him to form the Habtoor Polo Team in Dubai in 2000 along with his brother Mohammed K Al Habtoor.



**Rashid Al Habtoor  
/Jeronimo Del Carril**

**PATRON**  
**UAE / ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **0**



**Guy Gibrat**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **3**



**Augustin Canale**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap **6**



**Ignacio Gonzalez**

**UK**  
Handicap **6**



# Rhinos



The Dubai-based polo team – the Rhinos was started last year by its current patron Stuart Wrigley.

Stuart who comes from England has only been playing polo for the last two years but is extremely passionate about the sport and has worked hard to put The Rhinos on the UAE polo map.



**Stuart Wrigley**

**PATRON**

**UK**

Handicap **0**



**Mario Gomez**

**SPAIN**

Handicap **4**



**Augustin Lorea**

**ARGENTINA**

Handicap **5**



**Manolo Fernandez -  
Llorente**

**ARGENTINA**

Handicap **6**

# Zedan Polo



Zedan Polo was started 10 years ago by Amr Zedan – its patron. Amr is the Group Chairman and President of the Zedan Group, a Saudi Arabia-based conglomerate which specialises in engineering, procurement and construction in the infrastructure and energy sectors. A polo enthusiast for many years, Amr previously played on the GCC polo team. He's also a member of the Young President Organisation and the Young Arab Leaders; and has used his role to further the profile of polo in the Middle East abroad.



**Amr Zedan**

**PATRON**  
**KSA**  
Handicap 0



**Alec White**

**AUSTRALIA**  
Handicap 2



**Rodolfo Ducos**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 5



**Nachi Heguy**

**ARGENTINA**  
Handicap 8

INTERVIEW

# Nachi Heguy







This 38-year-old polo player comes from a well-known polo-playing family in Argentina – the Heguys. One of the third generation of Argentine Open winners; he has been playing all his life. He's delighted to participate in the AMR for the Dubai 2012 season.

Argentine Handicap: 9  
International Handicap: 9

#### WHAT ACTIVITY GIVES YOU THE MOST HAPPINESS AND WHY?

"Playing polo, fishing and playing the guitar all make me happy. Polo because it's a great sport, which provides an adrenaline rush and the chance to work outdoors and with horses which I love. Fishing because it's very exciting when you catch a big fish. And playing the guitar is something that has given me great joy all my life."

#### WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?

"My family is without a doubt my greatest personal achievement, but on a professional level – the fact that I have won four Argentine Opens and a number of major international tournaments makes me very proud."

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO RELAX?

"I like to have a drink with some of my mates, in the barn on my farm."

#### WHAT IS THE BEST DESTINATION HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO?

"It has to be Los Roques in Venezuela. It is a stunning location."

#### IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE WOULD IT BE?

"On my farm in La Pampa, Argentina, where I already live."

#### WHICH WORDS OR PHRASES DO YOU MOST OVERUSE IN EVERYDAY SPEECH?

"Argentinean slang – all of the words!"

#### WHAT ARE YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSIONS?

"My guitars and my horses."

#### WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

"I would like to be a good soccer player."

#### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU IN LIFE?

"The chance of winning."

#### WHAT IS YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC?

"My strong attitude."

#### WHAT PERSONALITY TRAIT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

"My perseverance."

#### WHAT IS THE TRAIT THAT YOU MOST DEPLORE IN OTHERS?

"I try to accept people as they are..."

#### WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE AND WHY?

"My father".

#### WHICH HISTORICAL FIGURE DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?

"Muhammed Ali".

#### WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST OVERRATED VIRTUE?

"Being famous".

#### WHAT OR WHO IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

"My wife and my kids are my greatest loves."

#### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

"Nothing. I have no fear."

#### WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND?

"I am 100 per cent positive."

#### WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO IN LIFE?

"Try to be the best – always."

# 10 FACTS ABOUT POLO

**P**olo the world over is steeped in rules and tradition. But just where did these ways of doing things come from and why? Read on to find out some interesting facts about polo.

## **1. HORSES USED IN POLO ARE CALLED 'PONIES'**

A horse that is 58-inches or less is considered a pony, regardless of its breed. Originally, no horse higher than 13 hands and 54 inches was allowed to play in a game of polo.

Today there is no limitation, but naturally the smaller animals, provided they can carry the weight of the rider and are fast, are better. Thorough bred horses are usually used.

## **2. PLAYERS ALWAYS WEAR WHITE TROUSERS**

Like many polo traditions, this one can be traced back to India, where the game was played by nobility and later introduced to British army officers in the 19th century. Competing in the intense heat, the men preferred to wear clothing that weighed little and was light in colour.

## **3. THE HORSES ALWAYS HAVE THEIR MANES CUT AND THEIR TAILS BRAIDED**

Free-flowing manes and tails are a danger in polo because they can become tangled with

the players' mallets or with the reins of the horse. Manes, therefore, are shaved off and the ponies' tails are wrapped or braided.

## **4. THERE ARE SMALL BOARDS RUNNING THE LENGTH OF THE FIELD**

Polo fields can be 'boarded' or 'unboarded'. Unboarded fields are preferred where spectators are in close proximity to the field, as they keep the ball in play and protect the audience from the game.

Standing no more than 11 inches high and made of wood, the sideboards are generally painted red or green. White sideboards were fashionable at clubs until 1926, when an American player Frank Hitchcock, was seriously injured in a freak accident due to the colour of the board. The colours were changed as a result.

## **5. THE SAME HORSE IS NEVER USED FOR AN ENTIRE GAME**

Polo ponies run the equivalent of one to two miles during a seven-and-a-half-minute chukka, so they must be rested frequently. At

the high-goal level, players will ideally use a new horse every period, although many use their best ponies for a second time. And it's rare but not unheard of for a pony to be played in three chukkas in the same game.

#### **6. POINTS SCORED ARE CALLED GOALS AND THE TEAMS CHANGE DIRECTION EVERY TIME ONE IS SCORED**

Polo teams don't change field directions by periods or halves like other sports; instead they change after every goal.

One theory is that this practice originated in the days when most polo fields ran east-west (they're usually situated north-south now) and neither team wanted to play for extended periods of time with the sun and the wind on their faces.

#### **7. THE PUBLIC IS USUALLY INVITED ON TO THE FIELD AT HALFTIME**

It's customary at polo matches to invite the public onto the field at halftime to tread in the divots kicked up by the horses.

The custom has a practical value as well as being fun for the spectators. The field is repaired for the teams by the time they begin the second half of play. It's not clear who was the first club manager to realise he had an abundant and cheap grounds-keeping crew at his disposal, but the job used to be done by hired help.

In the 1920s, for example, labourers at the polo clubs tapped the divots after every period with a tool resembling an oversized croquet mallet. Between games too, wives of the polo grooms, could be found on their hands and knees cutting dandelions and other weeds from the field.

#### **8. THE OPENING PLAY IN POLO IS CALLED THE 'THROW-IN'**

In hockey, it's a 'face-off', in basketball it's the tip-in, but in polo the opening play is known



as the 'throw-in'. The umpire tosses the ball in between the two teams as they line up parallel to one another. In earlier days, the custom was to place the ball in the middle of the field and have two opposing players charge at it from opposite directions. This practice was eventually discontinued due to head-on collisions.

#### **9. THERE ARE NO LEFT-HANDED PLAYERS**

Left-handed players were officially banned from polo in the mid-1930s for safety reasons, but the restriction was relaxed after World War II when there were few polo players of any persuasion available.

The USPA (the United States Polo Association) reinstated the ban again however in 1974 as the game is safer when players use the same hand to hit the ball – especially when they are coming at it from opposite sides of the field.

#### **10. THE WEAKEST PLAYER IS ALWAYS THE NUMBER 4**

The number 4 position is primarily a defensive role. It is also known as the 'Back position'. Among the great Number 4s in polo history was Devereux Milburn, a 10-goaler and one of the game's best scholars and teachers, but many others who wore the same number were unjustly denied 10-goal status.



# DO IT IN STYLE



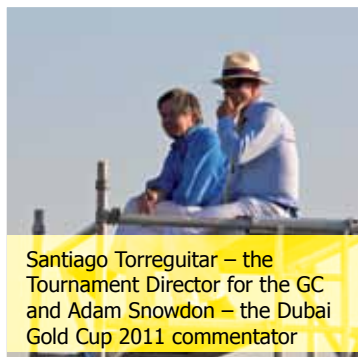
Tarik Fatheldin - a member of Abu Dhabi Polo



Abu Dhabi and Ghantoot supporters



Nasser Al Shamsi – the Patron of Ghantoot Polo team 2011



Santiago Torreguitar – the Tournament Director for the GC and Adam Snowden – the Dubai Gold Cup 2011 commentator



Rashid Al Habtoor with his teams' supporters



Mohammed Al Habtoor





# DO IT IN STYLE



Flo Rida attends the Dubai Gold Cup 2011



Mohammed Al Habtoor signing autographs



Flo Rida's backing singer – Stevie at the Dubai Gold Cup 2011



A skydiver delivering the Gold Cup 2011 trophy



Flo Rida with the Habtoor Polo team



Mohammed Al Habtoor with the Novillo Asrada bothers



DJ Serhan from XL Beach Club with some guests enjoying polo

# DIFFERENT WAYS TO PLAY POLO

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE WAY TO PLAY THE 'SPORT OF KINGS'

**T**hink there's only one way to play polo? Well think again. In fact, there's numerous ways of playing the game which is thought to have originated in Iran over 2,500 years ago.

What's more it's played in different forms in many different countries around the world. We take a look at the variations of modern-day polo...

## 1 SNOW POLO

The concept might seem bizarre, but polo is actually played on the snow in some countries.

In particular it's popular in the resort of St Moritz in Switzerland where it was first introduced in 1985.

Played on compacted snow, on flat ground or on a frozen lake,

the format of snow polo varies depending on the space available.

Each team generally consists of three players and the ball used is made of plastic so that it can be easily seen in snowy conditions. Polo played on snow is slower than polo played on grass.

## 2 ARENA POLO

Arena polo is played either outdoors on an enclosed all-weather surface or in indoors in an arena. The field of play rarely exceeding 100 yards in length.

This type of polo uses a ball which is similar to that used in mini-soccer and one which is larger than the small hard plastic ball used in the outdoor version of the game.

There are only three players on each team and matches generally consist of four chukkas.





### 3. BEACH POLO

Beach polo has become increasingly popular in recent years and especially in warm climates like that of the UAE.

The game consists of two three-player teams and there are four chukkas. Played in an enclosed sand arena, players use boards of approximately four feet in height, designed to keep the ball in play.

Beach polo employs a leather or rubber inflated ball no less than 12.5 inches in circumference.

Well known players Rashid Al Habtoor and Sam Katiela have been credited with starting the

game in Dubai in 2004 and it has grown hugely in popularity around the world since then.

### 4. COWBOY POLO

A form of arena polo played (as the name implies) almost exclusively in the west of the United States, Cowboy polo originated in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, in 1952.

It differs from traditional polo in that five riders make up a team instead of four.

Western saddles and equipment are used and the playing field is usually a simple rodeo arena which can be indoors or out.

Players use a large red rubber medicine ball and play with mallets which have long fiberglass shafts.





## 5. ELEPHANT POLO

Elephant polo was first played in Meghauli in Nepal in the beginning of the 20th century.

It has since spread to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Rajasthan (India) and Thailand.

The equipment used consists of a standard polo ball and six to nine-foot canes (similar to bamboo) sticks with a polo mallet head on the end.

The pitch employed is three-quarters of the length of a standard polo pitch, due to the slower speed of the elephants.

Two people ride each elephant, one of which is a mahout who steers the elephant. The player tells the mahout which way to go and attempts to hit the ball.

## 6. CAMEL POLO

The Sport of Sheikhs has been played on camels for centuries but was launched in Dubai as a tourist exercise as recently as 2008.

The main difference is that there are always two people on a camel, while the other plays polo.

## 7. KAYAK POLO

Canoe or kayak polo is played on water, in a defined 'field', between two teams of five players, each in a kayak.

The object is to get the ball into the opponent's goal and the team which scores the most goals in a set time wins.

The game, often described as a combination of water polo, basketball and kayaking, lasts 14-20 minutes.

**{ The 'Sport of Sheikhs' has been played on camels for centuries but was launched in Dubai as a tourist exercise as recently as 2008.**





## 8. CYCLE POLO

Invented in Ireland in 1891 by a retired cyclist, cycle polo is similar to traditional polo, except that bicycles are used instead of horses.

The game has seen a sharp rise in interest since 2007 and there are now a number of teams in different parts of the world.

It takes place in a rectangular grass field, 150 metres in length. The ball used is of circumference 12-15 inches and the mallet is one metre in length.

There are six players on each team with two being used as substitutes and matches typically last 30 minutes.



## 9. SEGWAY POLO

In Segway Polo, players ride a Segway PT (a two-wheeled transportation machine) on the field. The rules have been adapted from bicycle polo and horse polo.

Two teams of five players each hit a ball with their mallets, trying to get the ball into the other team's goal. Although not a major sport, Segway polo has in recent years gained popularity in many countries.

It is now played in the United States, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Barbados and New Zealand.



## 10. AUTO POLO

Auto polo was first played at the beginning of the 20th century using what was then a new machine called an 'automobile' with the automobile or car replacing a horse.

However the game failed to take off as not everyone had cars back then. What's more, it was considered dangerous due to the many crashes that occurred.



# Stuart Wrigley

INTERVIEW





**WHAT ACTIVITY GIVES YOU THE MOST HAPPINESS ?**

"It has to be polo. I work long hours and travel a lot so I need a means of relaxing and it's perfect. The 30 or so minutes I'm on top a horse require complete focus and allow me to switch off and concentrate on one thing which is utterly unrelated to my everyday life.

"Given how bad my riding is I need to focus completely just to stay on the horse!"

**WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING POLO AND HOW DID IT HAPPEN?**

"I started two years ago when a friend bought me a lesson as a gift. The next day I couldn't walk, but I haven't looked back since."

**WHAT IS THE BEST DESTINATION YOU HAVE EVER BEEN TO?**

"Two summers ago I spent a holiday in Bhutan – a beautiful, isolated country in the Himalayas. It is relatively untouched and restricts the number of tourists it allows to visit each year. There is no

Starbucks for example and limited internet. But it has fantastic hotels.

"It was on this holiday that I proposed to my wife. It has very special memories for me as a result..."

**WHICH WORDS OR PHRASES DO YOU MOST OVERUSE IN EVERYDAY SPEECH?**

"I call too many people 'buddy' even if I don't like them. The word makes me sound American, which I'm not.

**IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE WOULD IT BE?**

"I would be happy anywhere that had great weather, good infrastructure and where I had friends. Of course somewhere I can play polo is important too."

**WHAT PERSONALITY TRAIT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

"I am determined to achieve something if I put I put my mind to it and can be single-minded in ensuring I reach my goal."

**T**he patron of the Rhinos Polo team explains how he came to be a polo player, despite the fact that he struggles to stay on top a horse

**WHAT IS THE TRAIT THAT YOU MOST DEPLORE IN OTHERS?**

"I really dislike needless aggression. Nothing irks me more in polo than players shouting and screaming at the umpires. There are times in life when you need to be aggressive and times when you don't."

**WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST OVERRATED VIRTUE?**

"The worst thing you could call me is 'nice'. It is neither a complement, as there are much more powerful words to complement a good-hearted person, nor an insult. It's just too banal for my liking. In many ways to be 'Nice' is like saying: «He's ok, but slightly like wallpaper –i.e. boring."

**What or who is the greatest love of your life?**

"My wife, Jieun, of course."

**What is your greatest fear?**

"My greatest fear is of dying young. There's still so much I want to do and see and achieve in this world. I am going to need as much time as I can get."



# THE MATCH



Stuart Wrigley – patron of the Rhinos Polo team



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Nahyan Al Nahyan and the Vice Chairman of the Royal Jet greet Tarik Fatheldin



Abu Dhabi Polo playing in the Silver Cup







Mahra Polo Team – winners of the Royal jet Cup 2011



Ghantoot Polo team with Dima Howard of Win Las Vegas and the Vice Chairman of Threadneedle



Dima Howard of Win Las Vegas and the Vice Chairman of Threadneedle with DCC Sumaya Polo



Abu Dhabi polo team – winners of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup 2011



THE MATCH







SXC Polo playing in the Royal Jet Cup





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LAST  
YEAR  
2011  
RESULTS  
FEBRUARY

# The Royal Jet Cup

WINNER 2011: MAHRA POLO  
RUNNER-UP: DUBAI POLO

	TIME	QUALIFICATIONS	MAT CHES	FIELD	UMPIRES	
WEDNESDAY 16th	12:30	ABU DHABI RHINOS	8 4	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	TORREGUITAR
	16:00	SXC HABTOOR POLO	5 10	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	TORREGUITAR
THURSDAY 17th	16:30	MAHRA POLO GHANTOOT	9 6	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	VAN BASBANK
FRIDAY 18th	14:00	SXC ABU DHABI	5 9.5	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	VAN BASBANK
	16:00	HABTOOR POLO RHINOS	10 2.5	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	VAN BASBANK
SATURDAY 19th	15:00	MAHRA POLO ZEDAN	7 5	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	VAN BASBANK
	16:30	GHANTOOT DUBAI FALCONS	10 7	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	VAN BASBANK
SUNDAY 20th	12:30	ZEDAN DUBAI FALCONS	4 7	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS
	15:00	HABTOOR POLO ABU DHABI	4 5	DPC 1	ELLIS - SEAVILL	KEYTE
	16:30	SXC RHINOS POLO	3 5	DPC 2	ELLIS - KEYTE	SEAVILL
MONDAY 21st	15:00	MAHRA DUBAI FALCONS	6 8	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS
	16:30	GHANTOOT ZEDAN	3 4	DPC 1	KEYTE - ELLIS	SEAVILL
WEDNESDAY 23rd SEMIFINAL	14:00	MAHRA ABU DHABI	6 5	DPC 2	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS
	16:30	HABTOOR POLO DUBAI FALCONS	6 7	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS
FRIDAY 25th FINAL	14:00	ABU DHABI HABTOOR POLO	5 6	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS
	16:30	DUBAI FALCONS MAHRA	8 9	DPC 1	SEAVILL - KEYTE	ELLIS

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# LAST YEAR 2011 RESULTS MARCH

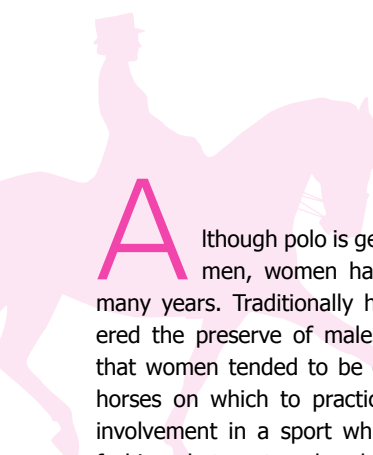
## Gold Cup

WINNER 2011: ABU DHABI  
RUNNER-UP: DUBAI FALCONS

	TIME	QUALIFICATIONS	MATCHES	FIELD	UMPIRES	
WEDNESDAY 2nd	15:00	ABU DHABI ZEDAN	6 4	DPC 2	ELLIS-KEYTE	SEAVILL
	16:30	MAHRA DCC SUMAYA	8 10	DPC 1	ELLIS- SEAVILL	KEYTE
THURSDAY 3rd	15:00	DUBAI FALCONS EL AMIN	10 4	DPC 2	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
	16:30	HABTOOR GHANTOOT	7 8	DPC 1	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
FRIDAY 4th	15:00	ABU DHABI DCC SUMAYA	9 6	DPC 1	ELLIS-SEAVILL	KEYTE
	16:30	MAHRA ZEDAN	6 4	DPC 1	ELLIS-KEYTE	SEAVILL
SATURDAY 5th	15:00	HABTOOR EL AMIN	11 1	DPC 2	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
	16:30	DUBAI FALCONS GHANTOOT	10 9	DPC 1	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
SUNDAY 6th	15:00	ZEDAN DCC SUMAYA	3 6	DPC 2	ELLIS-SEAVILL	KEYTE
	16:30	MAHRA ABU DHABI	4 5	DPC 2	ELLIS-KEYTE	SEAVILL
MONDAY 7th	15:00	GHANTOOT EL AMIN	9 5	DPC 2	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
	16:30	DUBAI FALCONS HABTOOR 8	10	DPC 1	KEYTE-SEAVILL	ELLIS
WEDNESDAY 9th SEMIFINAL	15:00	GHANTOOT ABU DHABI	4 7	DPC 2	TBC	TBC
	16:30	DCC SUMAYA DUBAI FALCONS	3 9	DPC 1	TBC	TBC
FRIDAY 11th FINAL	14:00	DCC SUMAYA GHANTOOT	7 8	DPC 1	TBC	TBC
	16:00	ABU DHABI DUBAI FALCONS	9 7	DPC 1	TBC	TBC



# WOMEN IN POLO



Although polo is generally associated with men, women have been playing it for many years. Traditionally however it was considered the preserve of males only, with the result that women tended to be given the worst of the horses on which to practice. What's more, their involvement in a sport which is grounded in old fashioned stereotyped male and female roles was frowned upon.

But all this has changed in recent years. These days, the 'fairer sex' playing polo is more accepted. They have their own horses, their own teams and now they play on their own terms.

A landmark event for women's polo took place in Palermo in 1999 when eight women played the first ever International Open Women's tournament. This marked a new phrase in the history of women's polo not just in Argentina but around the world.

Women's polo continues to grow in popularity. And it's not something to be taken lightly. It involves dedication and a great deal of endurance. Those women who play must reconcile their professional duties and personal lives with their love of the sport.

It's telling in fact that while women used to be the ones on the podiums handing over the prize for the silver medal to the men, they are now the ones



receiving it. Also and especially in low-handicap matches, some of the women players are actually better than the men.

Indeed some are fast making a name for themselves and especially in South America and Europe. One of these is Victoria Tor Grace who is one of Britain's top female polo players. Her sister Pippa Grace, not only set up but is the president of the international Women's Polo Association.

In Europe many of the female players come from a horse training or dressage background. In Argentina however they tend to be born into polo playing families.

Although the rules of the game are the same for both men and women, women are at a distinct disadvantage in other regards. Not only is there a lack of professional referees for the women's matches, women's polo teams find it much harder to secure sponsorship, given that their matches do not re-

ceive the same amount of publicity as men.

From a technical point of view, women's polo is a smoother game and generally less aggressive than men's. Women typically have less contact with the ball. In fact it is generally said that women play more with the horse; while men play with the ball.

But while their style of playing may be different, they're just as passionate about the sport as the men, as all those who play it seriously will testify. There's no doubt that women playing polo is set to grow in popularity in the future.

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## INTERVIEW

# Annemieke Goos

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FEMALE POLO PLAYER

### HOW DID YOU BECOME A POLO PLAYER AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING?

"I was looking for an equestrian club in Dubai, having always loved horse riding, when I came across polo. I decided to give it a go. That was four years ago and I'm still playing."

### IS POLO SOMETHING YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

"Yes, I love horses – I love being around them and riding them too. I enjoy the adrenaline of the game. And it's a socialable experience."

### DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WOMEN ARE JUST AS GOOD AS MEN AT PLAYING POLO?

"I would say that overall men are better at playing polo. They are usually faster and tougher, but I think women know how to compensate for the lack of those skills and are probably strategically better players."

“A landmark event for women's polo took place in Palermo in 1999 when eight women played the first ever International Open Women's tournament.”



Age: 39

Nationality: Dutch (Netherlands)

### HOW DO PEOPLE USUALLY REACT WHEN YOU TELL THEM THAT YOU PLAY POLO? ARE THEY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ABOUT IT?

"I'm from the Netherlands where polo is not popular and is considered an elite sport. People think it's 'posh', but in general they find it interesting to hear about a woman playing polo."

### DO YOU THINK POLO IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR WITH WOMEN THESE DAYS?

"I think so. More females are playing the game and more are coming to see other women play it. What's more, there are more and more women's tournaments in the UK and Argentina."

### WHY SHOULD MORE WOMEN PLAY POLO?

"It would be great to have better female players with higher handicaps - like in England and Argentina. It's a fun sport and there's no reason why more women shouldn't be involved with it."

HORIZON AT THE POLO







Habtoor Polo supporters



Sebastian from Polo Line Argentina  
with Guillermo Cutino – Habtoor Polo player



The Dubai Polo Gold Cup  
2011 official books



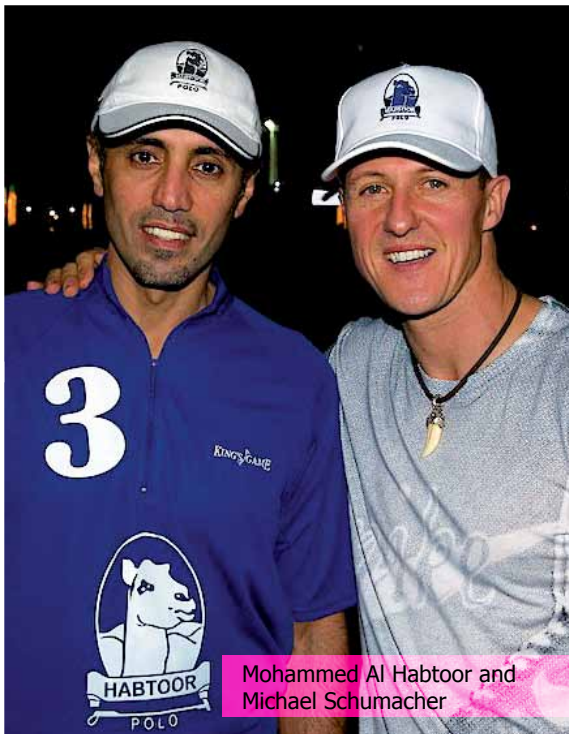
Nasser Al Dhaheri and Faris Al Yabhouni



Us singer Ja Rule with Mohammed and Rashid Al Habtoor



# HORIZON AT THE POLO







Habtoor Polo grooms with Michael Schumacher



His Highness Sheikh Majid Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum presenting a trophy to Rashid Al Habtoor



Hugh Grant and Fidelio Cavalli



The Dubai Falcons polo team





# EVALUATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF POLO

**THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT POLO?  
WE'VE GOT A FUN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS QUIZ TO TEST  
YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Test your knowledge of polo by answering the following questions.

**1.** Can a substitute player enter a match because one of the other players is not performing well?

- a. Yes, but only when another player has been injured.
- b. Only after three minutes of the game has been played.
- c. Yes, anytime.

**4.** Where are the safety areas of the field and how big are they?

- a. There are laterals which span 10 yards and which behind the lines are 30 yards in length.
- b. There is no security area.
- c. There are laterals which span five yards and which behind the lines are five yards in length.

**2.** Can you play a match with just five players?

- a. No, never.
- b. Yes.
- c. Yes and in that case the score will play 5-5.

**5.** When does a chukka finish?

- a. When the umpire stops keeping score
- b. After 30 seconds of the first notice.
- c. After the first goal has been scored.

**3.** If a substitute player has a lesser handicap than the player he replaced, what happens?

- a. The other side is given a goal advantage.
- b. It will change the score of the match at the time he enters the game.
- c. His handicap must be adjusted to that of the player he replaced

**6.** If a penalty is given with just a few seconds of the game left, what happens?

- a. Nothing.
- b. Another chukka is added to the game.
- c. Five seconds is added so that the penalty can be taken.



RESULTS: 1.a, 2.a, 3.c, 4.a, 5.b, 6.c, 7.a, 8.c, 9.a, 10.b, 11.b, 12.c, 13.a, 14.c, 15.a.

If you got more than seven answers right – congratulations! Your knowledge of polo is very good. Seven answers mean that you have an average knowledge and well anything less than that and you need to get yourself to a polo game fast!

7. Where did polo originate?

- a. Persia
- b. Pakistan
- c. Spain

8. Can a player zigzag in front of another player?

- a. Yes, but only if it is in the same direction as the other player is travelling.
- b. Normally yes.
- c. Never.

9. If a player's stirrups break should the game be stopped?

- a. No
- b. Yes
- c. Only if he is unable to continue playing.

10. Can players use spurs?

- a. It is up to individual players.
- b. Never. It is not allowed.
- c. Only if the horse is slow.

11. Can a player hold the stick with his left hand?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. If he is left handed.

12. When can a player change a horse during a game?

- a. When there a whistle is sounded.
- b. At the end of a chukka.
- c. Anytime.

13. What happens when a goal is scored?

- a. The teams go back to the middle and change ends.
- b. The other team is given a hit.
- c. The game ends.

14. How many horses is each player allowed to ride during a match?

- a. Five
- b. Eight
- c. As many as he likes.

15. If the ball goes through the goal above the height of the goal post, what happens?

- a. The goal is given.
- b. The goal is disallowed.
- c. A penalty is given to the other side.



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