

2011 Edition

Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series



**out-think.
out-perform.**

May the best team win.

Threadneedle are delighted to sponsor the Dubai Polo Gold Cup for the second year. We wish all of the participants the very best of luck and extend a warm welcome to all the spectators as we look forward to an exciting and well-contested tournament.

As a leading international investment house, we appreciate and share the best qualities of a successful team: individual skill, shared ideas, and, of course, a determination to out-perform the competition.

We hope you enjoy the Dubai Gold Cup



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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai

HORIZON

@the Polo

March 11th, 2011
Dubai Polo Club, Arabian Ranches

The Fabulous Horizon Lounge at the Habtoor Grand is set to gallop over to Dubai Polo Club on final day to throw the biggest final day party!
With DJs, bars and VIP lounges right on the field.

DJ SERHAN
DJ MARK PICKUP
DJ LIL LOUDA (PLAYBOY MANSION DJ)

It's the only way to Party at the Polo

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 056 6406161 / 04 3995000
EMAIL : horizon_polo@yahoo.com

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is with great enthusiasm and pride to be hosting this premier polo event, for the second year in a row in Dubai!

We witnessed tremendous success last year with the Gold Cup Series and I am pleased to see this event become even more popular with continuous spectator growth.

The success of this tournament is a credit to all our partners as well as the Gold Cup committee for their determination and ongoing dedication. I would also like to pass on a sincere gratitude to all our other supporting partners and extend a warm welcome to all our players, officials, media and spectators who participated in 2010, and to everyone that will be participating in 2011.

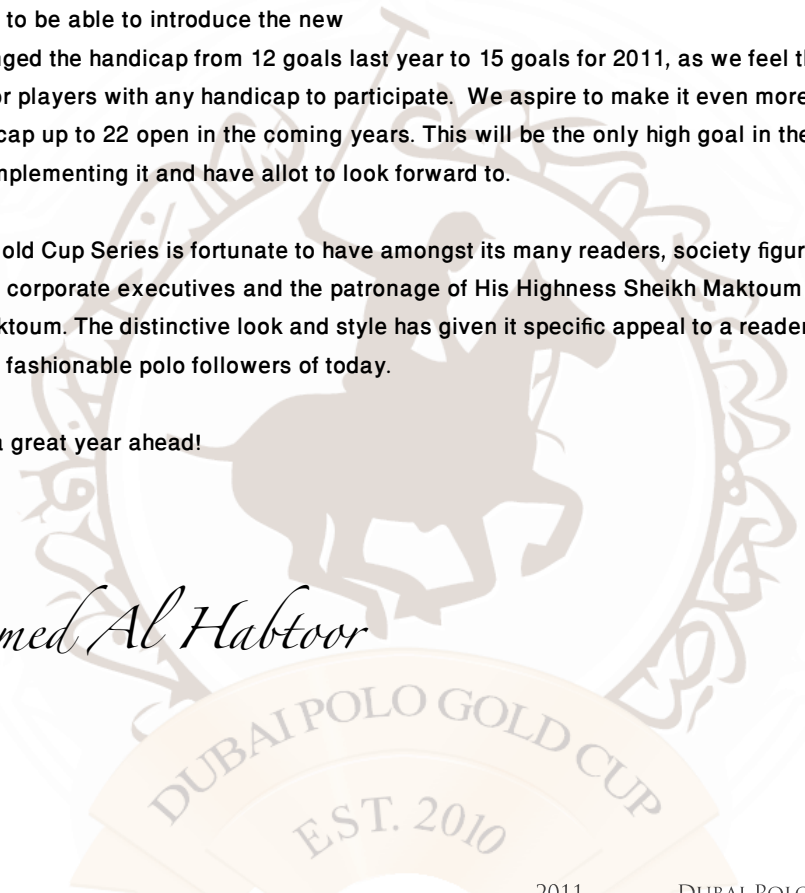


We are delighted to be able to introduce the new 15 goal. We changed the handicap from 12 goals last year to 15 goals for 2011, as we feel this will broaden the opportunity for players with any handicap to participate. We aspire to make it even more competitive by raising the handicap up to 22 open in the coming years. This will be the only high goal in the region and we are working on implementing it and have a lot to look forward to.

The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series is fortunate to have amongst its many readers, society figures, famous personalities, senior corporate executives and the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The distinctive look and style has given it specific appeal to a readership dominated by the young and fashionable polo followers of today.

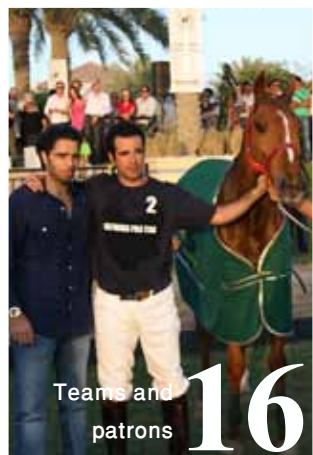
I wish everyone a great year ahead!

Mohammed Al Habtoor



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Teams and patrons **16**



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COVER IMAGE



Mohammed Al Habtoor scoring a high goal at Royal Windsor Cup 2010

CHAIRMAN

Mohammed Al Habtoor

EDITOR

Marissa Grobler

CONTRIBUTION

Mathew Maine

FASHION EDITOR

Cristina Gusita

PHOTO CREDITS:

Gonzalo Javier Etcheverry Campomar

Jennifer Eric

Fan Page - Addy

Habtoor Research Centre

TICKET SALES:

Time Out magazine

SPONSORSHIP &

ADVERTISING:

Cristina Gusita

CONTACTS:

cristina@dubaipologoldcup.com

patrick@dubaipologoldcup.com

www.dubaipologoldcup.com

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Al Habtoor Group LLC

P.O. Box 25444, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Tel : +971 4 394 1444, Fax +971 4 394 9990

E-mail: Marissa@habtoor.com

ALL ABOUT POLO

HISTORY

Considered to be the oldest sport in the world, polo originated in Pakistan as a war game around 2500 years ago to teach warriors dexterity, quick thinking and aggressive aptitude on horseback. The first documented game took place in 600 BC between the Turkomans and Persians and soon reached Constantinople and China. It was in India---during the 16th century---that the first real rules of the game were created by John Watson. Though the game faded out in the 1500s, it was restored by the Indian Prince of Bengal in 1850. By 1859, the British embraced the game, and polo finally made its way to the United States in 1876.

EQUIPMENT

There are several different types of equipment that are required for polo players. One of the central pieces is the white plastic ball, which is typically 3-1/4 inches in diameter and weighs more or less 4- 1/2 oz. Brown leather boots and a helmet---which may or may not have a face guard---and gloves to protect the hands from friction and improve grip are very commonly worn by the rider as well. The rider also plays with a mallet, 49 to 54 inches on average, as well as a jersey and whip.

RULES

Being a strategic team sport, polo is played with three players on each side when done indoors or four players during outdoor play. The purpose of the game is to hit the ball through the opponent's goal post as much as possible. The team with the most goals wins.

PENALTIES

A free hit to a goal is situated from a distance by the umpire once a foul is committed. The first penalty will be an automatic goal for the defending team. A 30-yard hit and 40-yard hit to an undefended goal is given for a second and third penalty. Penalty number four results in a 60-yard hit to a defended goal. For penalty five, a hit from midfield or from the area of infraction is awarded to the defending team.

1. The Polo field is 300 yards long by 160 yards wide - almost the size of nine football fields.

2. The mounts are called «polo ponies» although they are actually horses ranging from 14 to 16 hands high and weigh 900-1000 pounds. Most are between 5 and 15 years of age. A good horse can account for anywhere from 70-80% of a player's ability and net worth to his team.

3. The player - Each team consists of four mounted players. The number 1 is expected to score the goals and carry out an offensive position. The number 2 is also an offensive player, but must aggressively break up the defensive plays of the opposition. The number 3 is the pivot man and is usually the long ball hitter and playmaker for the team. The number 4, or back, is the defensive player. His job is to guard the goal and keep the opposition from scoring.

4. Players are rated annually from minus 2 to 10 goals (the higher the better) by The Hurlingham Polo Association or another polo association corresponding to the country. The handicap of a team is the sum of its players.

5. The equipment - Mallets are made of bamboo canes which provide flexibility and tapered heads of willow or maple. The ball is made of bamboo or widow root or more commonly, high density plastic, and weighs about 4½ ounces. All players wear protective equipment. The horses also wear protective bandages on their legs and have their tail and mane braided to minimize interference in making the various shots.

WHAT IS A CHUKKER

Play commences when the mounted umpire bowls the ball between the players who line up opposite each other in the center field. The game consists of four, 7 minute periods called "chukkers" during which players may change mounts to give them a rest. There is a four-minute interval between chukkers and a ten to fifteen minute halftime. Play is continuous. The object is to score goals by hitting the ball between the goal posts, no matter how high in the air. There are two mounted umpires who officiate the game while a referee on the sidelines makes all the final decisions concerning penalties or infractions of the rules,

GOAL

Any time the ball crosses the goal line it is considered a goal, regardless of whether a horse or a mallet cause the ball to go through. The teams change sides after a goal is scored to minimize any wind advantage which may exist.

BUMP

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.

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; this is considered a foul.

KNOCK-IN

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

NEAR SIDE

The left-hand side of a horse

OFF SIDE

The right-hand side of a horse

NECKSHOT

The ball is hit under the horse's neck from either side.

TAILSHOT

Hitting the ball behind and across the horse's rump

OUT OF BOUNDS

When the ball crosses the sideline or goes over the sideboards, it is 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.

PENALTY

A free hit toward the goal from a set distance. The severity of the foul committed determines what penalty will be awarded. The range is as follows:

RIDE-OFF

This occurs when two riders make contact and attempt to push each other off the line of the ball so as to prevent the other from striking.

DID YOU KNOW ...

POLO IS BELIEVED TO BE THE OLDEST GAME IN THE WORLD? IT ORIGINATED IN PAKISTAN AS A WAR GAME WELL OVER 2,500 YEARS AGO. THE GAME TAUGHT WARRIORS AGILITY, QUICK THINKING, AND COMBATIVE SKILLS ON HORSEBACK.



Even watching polo can be dangerous

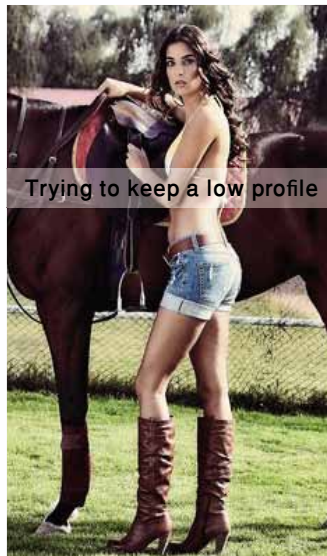


Beautiful cars, Beautiful women, Beautiful horses - Welcome to the Gold Cup!



DOING IT IN STYLE

Whether it is your first time, or your tenth time attending a match, the same problem faces men and women alike - What do I wear? Rule number one: Be Comfortable, and Rule number two: Accessorize tastefully.



Trying to keep a low profile



anyone loose a ball?



Even my dog likes the polo



nice....uhhh....trophy



Suprising moments in fashion by a few gents



Matias Vial



Congratulations Dad!



I play real sports, not tryin to be the best at exercising.



The Godfather takes some time off to enjoy a bit of polo

Ja Rule in the house!



Playing polo is like trying to play golf during an earthquake



This is what Im talkin about, a showdown!



Strong boy Richie, looking pleased with the outcome of the polo match



TEAMS & PATRONS
2011 DUBAI POLO GOLD CUP

A LOOK AT THE 8 TALENTED TEAMS
PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEARS
TOURNAMENT SERIES.

For the second year in a row we are proud to present some of the most talented polo players in the world. This year we will have a bigger party ambience and an even larger event with more polo action.





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MAHRA POLO



Within the business world Rashid Al Habtoor is well known and a much admired businessman. He is the CEO and President of Al Habtoor Trading Enterprises, which was established in the late 1990's. He has a zest for life, particularly when it comes to his family, his friends and his passion for sport, his favorite being polo. This enthusiasm for the "Sport of Kings" has led him to become the Chairman of Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club's Polo Committee. He has formed the Habtoor Polo Team in Dubai along with his brother and has participated in many International Tournaments in UK, France, Germany and Spain.

Recently, he formed the Mahra Polo Team and won the Dubai Polo Gold Cup 2010, the only Polo Tournament in the region being recognized by the Hurlingham Polo Association.



Rashid Al Habtoor
Emirati
Handicap: 0



Ignacio 'Nacho' Gonzales
English
handicap: 6



Mario Gomes Duran
Spanish
handicap: 4



Ramino Celestimo
Argentina
Handicap: 5

DCC - SUMAYA POLO



Faisal is the nephew of Ousam Abu Ghazale who is the patron of the high goal polo team SUMAYA. He started playing about a year and a half ago in Dubai. Faisal currently plays in Dubai, England (w/ sumaya during high goal season) and in Chile (Santiago) with his uncle where SUMAYA is based.He

also lived in Chile for over a year when he was very young and always visit on holidays for polo and for work. His company DCC also has a branch in Santiago. "I am currently ranked by the HPA as a 0 goal player. I will be the sole patron of DCC POLO team for this year. This is my first time playing in the Gold Cup Dubai as I didn't participate last year due to work and family obligations. Hopefully this will not be my last as I intend to participate in many more gold cups in the coming years."



Faisal Yabroudi
Jordanian
Handicap 0



Ran Mcgregor
Australian
Handicap 2



Matias Vial
Chile
Handicap 6



Alejandro "tano" Vial
Chile
Handicap 6

HABTOOR POLO



Established in year 2000 by Mohammed K Al Habtoor, Habtoor Polo has now grown to be one of Dubai's most prestigious Polo organizations. The Brothers, Rashid and Mohammed, in the last 10 years, have brought Habtoor Polo to be internationally recognized. Mohammed has participated in many tournaments worldwide and like his brother share a great passion for polo.



Mohammed AL Habtoor
Emirati
Handicap 0



Guillermo Cutino
Argentina
Handicap 6



Ignacia Tocolino
Argentina
Handicap 7



Alfonso Pieres
Argentina
Handicap 2



If there's one thing I hate, it's losing. If there's two things I hate, it's losing and getting sick.



The breakfast of champions is not cereal, it's the opposition



Rashid Al Habtoor winning the gold cup 2010

With the money I'm making, I should be playing two positions



Hey Twm...I'm a bullet proof tiger!



Just a man with a mind for victory and an arm like a cannon.

ZEDAN POLO



Amr started his career in Qualcomm in the Telecommunication on CDMA Technology in Saudi Arabia. Right after that he worked as Project Development Engineer in Zedan Consultants and subsequently he has developed Zedan Consultants into Zedan Group of today, where he acts as Group Chairman & President. Zedan Group is a specialized company actively involved in Oil & Gas, Petrochemicals, Power and Water, Trading, Mining and Earth Moving.

Amr is a Polo enthusiast playing for GCC Polo team and over the years. Amr has played an active role to further cement bridges globally among members of European and Middle Eastern Entrepreneurs and Elite families who are Polo enthusiast. Amr is also a member of Young President Organization and Young Arab Leaders.



Amr Zedan
Saudi Arabia
Handicap 0



Rodolfo Ducos
Argentina
Handicap 5



Jota Chavanne
Argentina
Handicap 5



Pato Chiessa
Argentina
Handicap 5

DUBAI FALCONS



Saeed bin Draï, who played for Zedan Polo in the last gold cup, has entered the Dubai Falcons this year. Saeed's brother Rashid was the patron of Dubai Falcons last year. Saeed plays at Desert Palm Polo Club and participates in many tournaments throughout the UAE and abroad.



Saeed Bin Draï
Emirati
Handicap 1



Nicolas Petracchi
Argentinian
Handicap 4



Tomas Iriarte
Argentinian
Handicap 4



Salvador Ullaa
Argentinian
Handicap 6

ABU DHABI POLO



Tarik has always enjoyed watching polo but never had the opportunity to learn, or to befriend animals, as he feared animals. One day Rashid Habtoor convinced him to try and learn how to ride and that's how it all began. "I owe a great lot to him for getting me started in this wonderful sport" Tarik started playing

polo in 2007 at the Polo Academy at the Dubai Polo Club. In 2009 - 2010 Tarik won the "Most Improved Player" at the Club which was a great achievement for him. In April 2010 he won the Republic Cup of Argentina with a team called Layla Polo, with Habtoor Al Habtoor, Ben and Ran McGregor. "I am honored to be playing in the Silver Cup & I am very pleased with the growth of Polo in this Country, the Gold Cup is an epic event for polo worldwide, and Mohammed Habtoor has done a great job giving us the opportunity to play in our home country at this level, and putting Dubai on the Polo map"

Faris Yabhouni, a UAE national from Abu Dhabi, is the patron of Abu Dhabi Polo participating in the Gold Cup. Faris is a prominent business man and a keen polo patron and horseman. He has been playing polo for the past 8 years and has a long family tradition with equestrian sports in the UAE. Faris and his family are very much involved in the horse and camel racing and they have their own breeding farms including 18 Argentinian polo ponies. He is a member at the Desert Palm and has been to Argentina for training in 2010.



Tarik Fatheldin
United Kingdom
Handicap 0



Faris Al Yabhouni
Emirati
Handicap 0



Ramiro Garcia Dagna
Argentinian
Handicap 4



Alfredo Capella Barabucci
Argentinian
Handicap 4



Facundo Sola
Argentinian
Handicap 6

GHANTOOT POLO



The Ghantoot Polo team is lead by patron Nasser Al Shamsi, a passionate polo player originally from Al Ain. 36-year-old Al Shamsi has his base in Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club-Abu Dhabi, where he has shaped his game for the past 15 years. With the kind support of HH Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Al Shamsi has led the Ghantoot Polo team to victory in many of the large polo tournaments in Europe and is now looking forward to compete for the first time in the Dubai Silver and Gold Cup.



Nasser Al Shamsi
Emirati
Handicap 1



Nasser Al Dhaheri
Emirati
Handicap 0

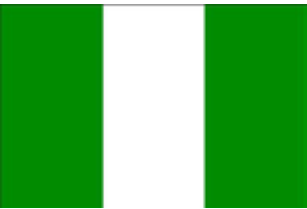


Hugo Barabucci
Argentina
Handicap 7



Gonzalo Azumendi
Argentina
Handicap 6

EL-AMIN POLO TEAM



The El-Amin Polo Team was formed in Oct. 1995. At the center is the patron and founder Muhammad Babangida (4). His vision is to have a formidable team that would set new standards in the game of polo. As such the best players available were recruited to help in achieving this vision. Ibrahim Mohammed (4) and Bello Buba, highest rated polo player in Nigeria today (5) and Aminu Alhaji (2) have been in the forefront of this campaign since inception. The Team was officially launched into the polo scene in Nov 1995 by entering the Kaduna tournament where it fielded two teams- one in the medium goal and another in the low goal category. It was hugely successful as both teams emerged victorious and that set the ball rolling for the team that has now captured the hearts of polo enthusiasts. As it stands today, in terms of composition and participation, El-Amin remains perhaps the most consistent team in the history of the Nigerian Polo Federation (N.P.F.)It has won every trophy or award available in the Nigerian Polo circuit and has remained unbeaten nationwide in the last four years.



Muhammad Babangida
Nigeria
Handicap 4



Aminu Alhaji
Nigeria
Handicap 1



Bello Buba
Nigeria
Handicap 5



Ibrahim Mohammed
Nigeria
Handicap 4



Supersports.
Extreme Bentley.

SUPERSPORTS. EXTREME BENTLEY.

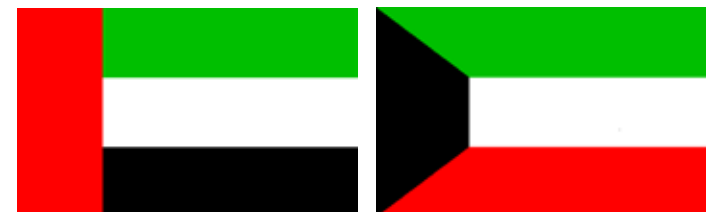
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SXC POLO



Raja Abuljebain has been playing polo for 4 seasons and was the fastest to graduate from Polo academy. Raja won the ITP consumer challenge in his first season and won 7 tournaments ranging from 0 to 10 goal and 5 exhibition matches. He has

been invited to play for Eton College for the Eton v. Harrow annual Princes Cup. Raja also participated in Polo for Peace, a UAE v. Palestine exhibition match raising 2 million Dhs. He has trained with Justo Del Carril, Guillermo Cuitinio, Steve Thompson and Henry Brett and Nacho Gonzalez in Dubai, Argentina and the UK.

'My ambitions are to play higher handicap polo and reach a higher handicap and play in top level tournaments. I would like to be involved in more 'POLO for PEACE' projects in the future'



Raja Abuljebain
Kuwait
Handicap 0



Habtoor Al Habtoor
Emirati
Handicap 0



Guillermo Villanueva
Argentinian
Handicap: 6



Juan Guevara
Argentinian
Handicap: 6

RHINOS



Stuart Wrigley, a patron from England, is new to the Dubai Polo Gold Cup series. Shipping his horses all the way from England, he shows his dedication to the sport.



Stuart Wrigley
England
Handicap 0



Twm Morris-Lowe
England
Handicap 2



Manuel Fernandez
Llorente
England
Handicap 6



Agustin Lorea
England
Handicap 5

Where horsing around and inspiring events go hand-in-hand.



Ideally situated next to the Arabian Ranches, Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club spread across 68 acres of majestic desert landscape is the perfect location for everything equestrian and a lot more. The Club comprises 336 stables along with 13 paddocks and international standard polo fields, show jumping and riding arenas, a pool and a spa.

Away from the playing fields, the refined Spanish-style Clubhouse features myriad leisure and business facilities. Visitors to the Club can unwind with friends or colleagues in one of many stylish lounges, dine at an exceptional restaurant and terrace, cool off in the crystal clear pool or experience head-to-toe pampering at the spa.

Offering unique and inspiring settings that are second to none, the Club features venues which boast a delightful ambience, ideal for a wedding, meeting or social gathering.

Whether it's for horse-riding, relaxing or social events, Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club presents the ultimate lifestyle destination.



For more information or bookings please contact us on Tel. +971 4 361 8111, Fax +971 4 361 7111
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LAST YEARS RESULTS

FRIDAY 5th				QUALIFICATION MATCHES		FIELD		UMPIRES	
16:30	HABTOOR POLO	7	THE FIRST GROUP POLO	6	DPC 1	APPLEBY- WRIGHT	SEAVILL		
SATURDAY 6th									
16:30	ZEDAN POLO	3	MAHRA POLO TEAM	6	DPC 2	WRIGHT - APPLEBY	SEAVILL		
SUNDAY 7th				FIELD		UMPIRES			
15:00	THE FIRST GROUP POLO	7	GULF WINGS/SUMAYA	9	DPC 2	SEAVILL - APPLEBY	WRIGHT		
16:30	DUBAI FALCONS	6	ZEDAN POLO	8	DPC 1	SEAVILL- WRIGHT	APPLEBY		
MONDAY 8th				FIELD		UMPIRES			
15:00	HABTOOR POLO	7	GULF WINGS/SUMAYA	9	DPC 2	WRIGHT - APPLEBY	SEAVILL		
16:30	DUBAI FALCONS	6	MAHRA POLO TEAM	5	DPC 1	SEAVILL - WRIGHT	APPLEBY		
TUESDAY 9th				FIELD		UMPIRES			
15:00	FREE DAY		FREE DAY						
16:30	FREE DAY		FREE DAY						
WEDNESDAY 10th				SEMIFINAL		FIELD		UMPIRES	
15:00	GULF WINGS/SUMAYA	7	ZEDAN POLO	6	DPC 2	APPLEBY- SEAVILL	WRIGHT		
16:30	MAHRA POLO TEAM	8	HABTOOR POLO	6	DPC 1	APPLEBY- WRIGHT	SEAVILL		
THURSDAY 11th				FIELD		UMPIRES			
16:30	THIRD LEAGUE 1		THIRD LEAGUE 2		PLANT	VAN BASBANK- WRIGHT	TORREGUITAR		
FRIDAY 12th				FINAL		FIELD		UMPIRES	
14:00	ZEDAN POLO		HABTOOR POLO	9	DPC 1	SNOWDON- SEAVILL	TORREGUITAR		
16:30	GULF WINGS/SUMAYA		MAHRA POLO TEAM	5	DPC 1	WRIGHT - APPLEBY	SEAVILL		

RULES
THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE PLAYED UNDER HPA RULES
EACH GAME WILL BE TO 4 CHUCKAS

FIELDS
DPC 1&2
PLANT
Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club
Plantation

TOP SCORERS PROFESSIONALS	
GUILLERMO CUITINO	23
MATIAS VIAL	14
CHRIS HYDE	11
MARIO GOMEZ	10
JUAN SANCHEZ	9
A. CAPELLA	9
R. DUCOS	9

TOP SCORERS NON PROFESSIONALS	
HABTOOR AL HABTOOR	4
RASHID BIN DRAI	3
AHMAD ABOUGHAZALE	2
AMR ZEDAN	2
GARY SHEPHERD	1
SAID BIN DRAI	1



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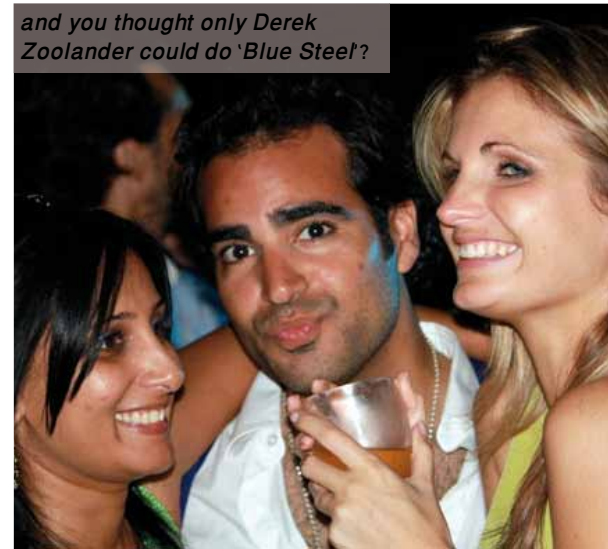
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Live For Today...Plan For Tomorrow...Party Tonight!



and you thought only Derek Zoolander could do 'Blue Steel'?



HORIZON AT THE POLO

The champagne was flowing, the sun was shining and the celebrations was in full swing at this chic outdoor hang-out



Saeed & Rashid bin Draï fighting over the ball



WHAT BREED IS A POLO PONY?

Although they are not recognized as a distinct breed, polo ponies are truly unique horses that combine the traits of a number of breeds. Next to a player's skills, the polo pony is the most important factor in polo. And, many times, the pony is the single greatest determinant of the outcome of a match.

The equestrian sport of polo demands the quick burst of speed seen in Thoroughbred horses. The



complexity and strategy of a polo match requires the intelligence of Arabian horses. And the rapid turn of play in pursuit of the ball necessitates the agility of Quarter horses.

The English have documented



Bartini
Restaurant and Lounge

Now Open!

Savor the most exquisite exotic fusion
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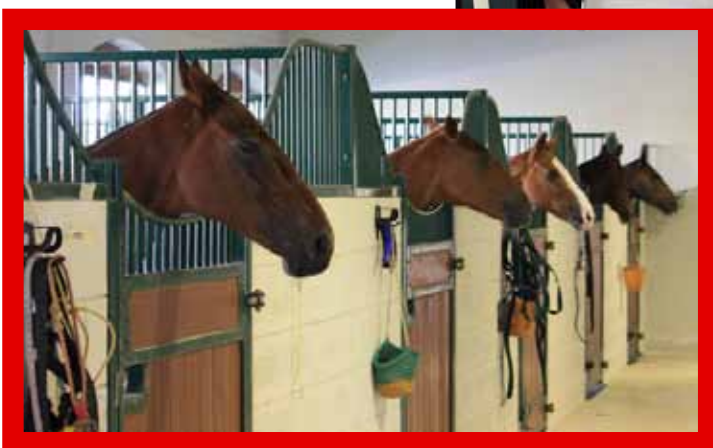
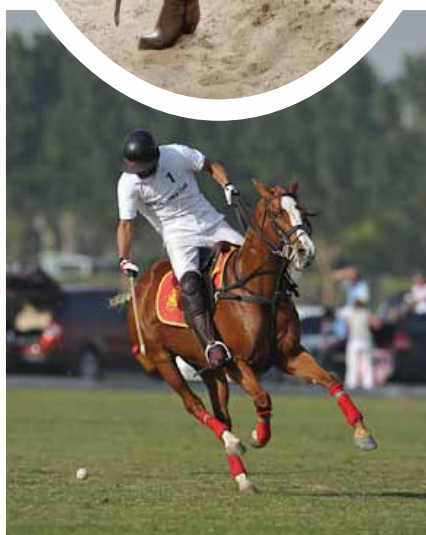
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the breeding of polo ponies since 1893. A small thoroughbred stallion named Rosewater holds the title of "foundation sire" for most English ponies.

In the United States, Thoroughbred horses are usually bred with Quarter horses to produce polo ponies.

Since 1930 some of the best polo ponies have been produced in Argentina. The Argentines cross Thoroughbred horses with their local Criollo horses.

It takes time to produce a made pony that loves to play the equestrian sport of polo.



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ROYALS & HORSES



HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH FALAH BIN ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN

His Highness Sheikh Falah bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the son of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who passed away on the 2nd of November 2004. He is a member of the Royal ruling family of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi & the half brother of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He is the Chairman of the Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club and has a particular passion for Polo.



HRH THE SULTAN OF PAHANG

"Playing with HRH Prince Phillip, HRH Sultan Johor and HM Sultan Brunei; Lord Beresford, Lt. Col. Jeremy Railton, Zabelle Vijay Lukshumeya and Skrin. "We won against Singapore with a team led by my father. I played with Talha and Cik Ismail. In Brunei I was with my two sons, Tengku Mahkota and Tengku Muda, and Tengku Asmawi. In 1973, we won in Manila. My father was the guest of the President."

BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

The British Royal family has been involved in equestrian activity such as racing and polo for a very long time. With both of the Queens Grandchildren, princes William and Harry being keen polo players, the sport of polo is in high regard in England and the Queen herself attends various tournaments including the Al Habtoor Royal Windsor polo tournament annually.

Al Habtoor Group hosted UAE's first equestrian show in 1983. Amongst the guests were HRH Princess Ann below with Mr. Khalaf Al Habtoor.



H.H.SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

"A love for horses runs in my blood. Don't forget that horses have been bred for centuries by Arabic tribes, they were used for hunting and fighting and they symbolise our history. Horse riding is more than merely sitting on a horse's back. It is nobility and chivalry."- Mohammed bin Rashid

THE LOVE FOR HORSES IS SHARED

The association between Arabia and horses has been recognised worldwide for many centuries. The Arabian horse has beauty, endurance and speed and is believed to have been in existence in this part of the world for well over 3,000 years.

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

Show jumping and Dressage are equestrian sports, which has seen maximum progress in the Emirates within a short span of time. The UAE has ensured the all-round development of this attractive equestrian sport.

In 1983 Al Habtoor Group organized the first annual Dubai horse show. This was a particularly successful event in the history of show jumping and dressage in the UAE. Princess Anne inaugurated the show and she herself competed in the Dressage Event. Later years the event became so popular that teams from countries around the gulf and Europe would take part in the competition. It was a major event in the Dubai social calendar. Local, regional and international competitions are held regularly at the leading equestrian centers in the UAE. The Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, the Abu Dhabi Police Centre, Dubai Equestrian Club, Sharjah Equestrian Club and Sharjah Police Club are among those, which host these competitions.

The Emirates Equestrian Federation was established in 1992 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council. The Federation supervises the organization of equestrian and racing activities in the UAE to build a large base for this sport and to help the current generation of riders to retain the forefathers' equestrianism and keep pace with the developments of the sport in modern times.



MODERN FACILITIES

Desert Palm Polo Club, with humble beginnings more than 10 years ago, has grown into the high-quality facility that it is now. Its patron, Ali Al Bawardi, has been successful not only here in Dubai, but he has also created one of the most successful polo teams to ever hit the UK polo scene. This year his team won both the Queens Cup and The British Open, the Gold Cup. The prestige that this brings to Dubai is immeasurable.

The newly opened Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club at Arabian Ranches hopes to carry on the development of polo, show jumping and riding lessons. The club is now playing polo four days a week and is offering an independently operated Polo Academy. Further plans for the club include the development of 65 luxury homes, the best of which will overlook the polo fields. Owners will have automatic membership to the club.

Show jumping commenced last November, with two days of competing by more than 350 competitors. There are seven federation-appointed competitions to be held at the club this season.

Plantation Polo Club is still in the embryo stage but work has begun on its new polo grounds. The club will feature, in addition to polo, show jumping, private livery and a riding school. The whole project is to revolve around the development of a

community of luxury homes.

All of the equestrian activities in Dubai are well served, with many of the world's top manufacturers of saddlery, feed and bedding easily available.

In fact there are two major equestrian trade fairs held at the World Trade Centre every year, featuring all of the best products from around the world.

RICHEST RACE

The eyes of the world's racing aficionados have already been set on Dubai for some time now as a result of Shaikh Mohammad's sponsorship of the sport and because Dubai features the world's richest race, the Dubai World Cup.

Show jumpers and polo players around the world are also watching with keen eyes the development

of these sports in Dubai with a view to broadening their sporting opportunities.

This is great not only for the visitors but, more importantly, for local riders who will get more and more exposure to the international standards of competition.

There are many local riders already competing in show jumping competitions and polo successfully and with this increased exposure the chances of finding a future equestrian superstar from the UAE are looking good

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