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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

MOHAMMED AL HABTOOR

“

IN a short span of years, The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series has become the highest handicapped tournament in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The tournament which started as a 10-12 Goal handicap in 2010 to a 16 goal handicap in 2014 has increased the competition even further to an 18 goal handicap in 2015. The tournament which has quickly gained popularity and found its place on the Polo World stage is the only tournament certified and recognized by the World Polo Tour in the region and made its mark in the international polo calendar. The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series is also the first to have live streaming giving an opportunity to polo fans around the world to witness all the games being held here in Dubai.

The Dubai Open has earned itself a worldwide reputation and is now firmly on the Dubai Polo Calendar. Without the support of fans, patrons and sponsors, the Dubai Polo Gold Cup will not have reached this achievement. Polo in the United Arab Emirates and Dubai in particular is going to soar to a different level in the future. It will be The Capital of Polo within the region. As we welcome the 6th Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series, I wish all the Patrons and Teams the very best of luck.

In addition to Polo in the UAE, Al Habtoor Group recently launched the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club with four new polo fields and other equestrian facilities, a 5 star hotel and high end villas.

”





AL HABTOOR

POLO RESORT

& Club

Riding enthusiasts will be pleased to discover that a new up-market equestrian world is coming soon to Dubai. The Al Habtoor Group recently unveiled a super-luxury polo resort and club complete with hundreds of stables, four polo fields, a riding school, a five-star luxury hotel and high-end villas. Joanna Andrews gives you a sneak peek into the stylish development...





We all know that polo is the 'sport of kings', and this development will exude exclusivity and luxury fit for a king! The palatial hotel, managed by St. Regis, will boast views the polo fields allowing guests to watch tournaments from the comfort of their hotel.

Some 500 stables, with vaulted ceilings, will be the base for horse lovers wanting to advance their riding skills, learn polo, show jumping or dressage. Riders can simply trot to one of the multiple cafes around this exclusive

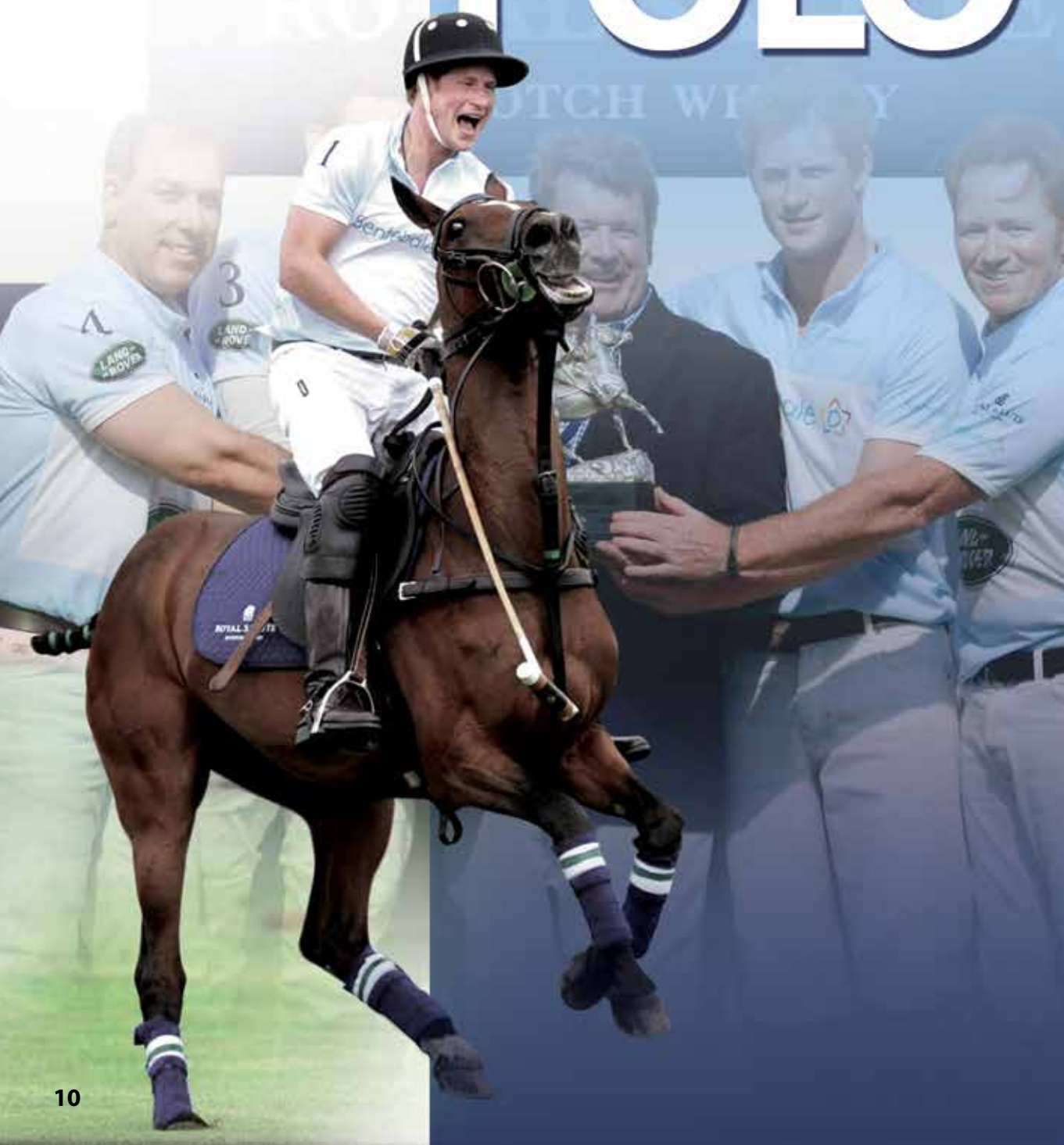
development and sit back and relax, or take a leisurely sunset ride.

Situated in Dubailand, this development will include 136 key hotel, 162 stylish bungalows, a state-of-the-art polo academy with four polo fields & a riding school.

Due for completion: **2017**



RAISING FUNDS THROUGH POLO





Polo, known as the sport of kings, has long been a favoured sport by the British royal family. Prince Harry has followed in the footsteps of his father Prince Charles, and his brother, Prince William. But he has earned himself a solid reputation on the global polo circuit. Prince Harry, the third in line to the British throne, set up the Sentebale Polo Cup five years ago. Since then it has been held in various countries – including the UAE - to help raise funds for his African charity. In 2014 Prince Harry played polo in Abu Dhabi in aid of the charity which he co-founded in memory of his late mother, Princess Diana, to help provide healthcare and education for vulnerable children living in poverty in Africa.

Prince Harry in the Sentebale Polo Cup in Abu Dhabi in Nov. 2014

Prince Harry

is an avid sportsman, and is often spotted playing competitive polo. In 2014 the British royal played polo in many parts of the world - including in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – to raise funds for his charity. Joanna Andrews gives the highlights.



www.sentebale.org

Abu Dhabi Polo Team



Abu Dhabi Polo Team is a high goal team based out of Desert Palm Polo Club in Dubai. It is the brainchild of its Patron Faris Al Yebhouni. It was formed in 2009. Since then the team has won several prestigious tournaments including the Dubai Gold Cup and the Silver Cup. With a steadily increasing team following, plans for continued growth through regular events, a dedicated merchandise line as well as charity, social and educational gatherings, the team's visibility is set to increase considerably. Abu Dhabi Polo Team is growing organically and with a firm long term vision, projected to gain regional and international presence and exposure.



**Faris
Al Yabhouini**

PATRON
Handicap 0



**Felipe Eduardo
Martinez Ferairo**

Handicap 4



Hugo Burabuchi

Handicap 6



Alfredo Capela

Handicap 7

Bin Draï Polo Team



The Bin Draï family have long been associated with polo in the UAE. They set up the first polo club in Dubai in the 1970's. Humaid Bin Draï is credited with bringing polo to the UAE. His son, Saeed Bin Draï official started the Bin Draï team in 2002.



Saeed Bin Draï

PATRON
Handicap 0



Agustin Canale

Handicap 6



**Manuel Fernandez
Llorente**

Handicap 6



Raul Laplacette

Handicap 6

Desert Palm Polo 1



Polo in the UAE has come a long way since its humble beginnings when the game was played on sand. Ali Al Bawardi, an avid polo supporter, built the Desert Palm in 1994. He started the Dubai Polo Team, which has dominated the UK high goal polo scene for more than a decade. The team consistent of his two sons Tariq and Rashid as well as professional polo player Adolfo Cambiaso. With the rising population of the sport, the brothers have created two Desert Palm Polo teams.



Rashid Al Bawardi

PATRON
Handicap 2



Martin Valent

Handicap 4



Facundo Castagnola

Handicap 6



Santiago Laborde

Handicap 6

Desert Palm Polo 2



This is the second team under the Al Bawardi umbrella at Desert Palm. The patron of the team is Tarik Al Bawardi. The family has worked effortlessly to raise the profile of the sport in the UAE. Each year Desert Palm Polo Club hosts high profile tournaments including the Nations Cup and the Cartier Cup. It is a private club, so you need an invite to attend the matches.



Tarik Al Bawardi

PATRON
Handicap 1



Tom Brodie

Handicap 2



Matías Torres Zavaleta

Handicap 8



Diego Cavanagh

Handicap 7



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Ghantoot Polo Team



Ghantoot Polo was established in 1995 by the late ruler of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The Patron of the team is Sheikh Zayed's son, HH Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The team is made up of Emirati players alongside accomplished, high goal Argentine professionals. Ghantoot were the winners of the 2013 Dubai Gold Cup Series.



PATRON
HH Sheikh Falah Bin
Zayed Al Nahyan

McLaren Cup



Yousaf Bin Desmal

Handicap 0

Julius Baer Gold Cup



Ali Al Merri

Handicap 0



Felipe Llorente

Handicap 3



Juan Gris Zavaleta

Handicap 7



Alejandro Muzzio

Handicap 8

McLaren Cup



Habtoor Polo was established at the turn of the century by Mohammed Al Habtoor just one year after he took up the sport. Fourteen years on and the team is going from strength to strength. Habtoor Polo was the winner of the 2012 Dubai Gold Cup as well as the 2013 Dubai Silver Cup. Mohammed has been instrumental in driving the sport in the UAE and making the Dubai Gold Cup Series the premier polo tournament in the Middle East.



Julius Baer Gold Cup



Mohammed Al Habtoor

PATRON
Handicap 0



Guillermo Cutino

Handicap 6



Martin Iturraspe

Handicap 6



Santiago Cernadas

Handicap 6

Mahra Polo Team



Rashid Al Habtoor has long been synonymous with Polo in the UAE. He co-founded Habtoor Polo with his brother Mohammed, and later established Mahra competing against family members. Rashid also set up beach polo in Dubai. Mahra has played many international polo events. The team won the Dubai Gold Cup in 2010.



Rashid Al Habtoor

PATRON
Handicap 0



Guy Gibrat

Handicap 5



Nacho Gonzalez

Handicap 6



Marcos Araya

Handicap 7

UAE Polo Team

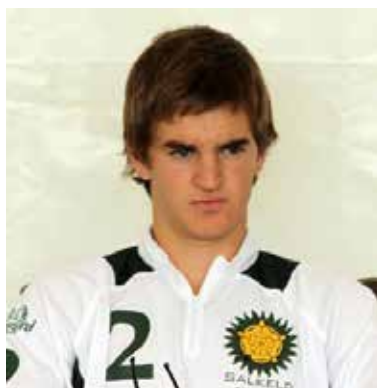


Her Highness Shaikha Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, patron of the UAE team, is the daughter of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai. Shaikha Maitha has had a successful career in martial arts and even represented the UAE in Taekwondo at the Beijing Olympics and she won a silver medal in karate at the Asian Games in 2006.



**Her Highness Shaikha
Maitha bin Mohammed
bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

PATRON
Handicap 0



Santiago Stirling

Handicap 4



Nacho Acuña

Handicap 5



Lucas Monteverde

Handicap 9

Zedan Polo Team



Amr Zedan started playing polo sporadically in 2002. However, it wasn't until 2010 that he established the Zedan Polo Team. Today it is one of the most recognised names on the Middle East polo circuit. Zedan is Chairman and Group President of Saudi Arabian company, the Zedan Group.



Amr Zedan

PATRON
Handicap 0



Martin Gandara

Handicap 4



**Facundo Fernandez
Llorente**

Handicap 4



Pablo Mac Donough

Handicap 10

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Edrees Polo Team



Sultan Edrees

PATRON
Handicap 0



Juan Pedro Chavanne

Handicap 5



Pierre Henri N'Goumou

Handicap 5



Juan Ruiz Guinazu Jr.

Handicap 7

MCLAREN CUP

2014 RESULTS

WINNER: GHANTOOT POLO TEAM | RUNNER UP: MAHRA POLO TEAM

FEB

SAT 1

TIME	TEAMS	SCORE	FIELD	UMPIRES	REFEREE
2:30	BIN DRAI	10		Ferrari	
	ABU DHABI	9	DPC	Aguerre	Torreguitar
4:00	HABTOOR	5		Ferrari	
	DESERT PALM 2	6	DPC	Aguerre	Torreguitar

SUN 2

4:00	ZEDAN	8		Ferrari	
	GHANTOOT	10	DPC 2	D. Alberdi	Aguerre

TUE 4

2:30	HABTOOR	6		Wright	
	UAE	2	DPC 2	D. Alberdi	Aguerre
4:00	BIN DRAI	7		Aguerre	
	DESERT PALM 1	6	DPC 1	Ferrari	D. Alberdi

WED 5

2:30	ZEDAN	7	DUBAI	Wright	
	MAHRA	6	PC	Ferrari	Aguerre

THU 6

4:00	ABU DHABI	6		Wright	
	DESERT PALM 1	4	DP	Ferrari	Aguerre

FRI 7

2:30	DESERT PALM 2	8		D. Alberdi	
	UAE	3	DPC 2	Aguerre	Ferrari
4:00	GHANTOOT	10		Aguerre	
	MAHRA	7	DPC 1	Wright	D. Alberdi

MON 10

4:15	DESERT PALM 2	8		Ferrari	
	UAE	4	D. PALM	Wright	Torreguitar
2:00	BIN DRAI	9		Aguerre	
	ZEDAN	6	DPC 2	D. Alberdi	Torreguitar
2:30	HABTOOR	4		Ferrari	
	ABU DHABI	6	DPC 1	Wright	TBA
4:00	GHANTOOT	7		Aguerre	
	MAHRA	6	DPC 2	D. Alberdi	TBA

SEMIFINALS HILDON CUP

WED 12

4:00	UAE	5 1/2		Aguerre	
	HABTOOR	10	DPC 1	D. Alberdi	Ferrari
2:00	ZEDAN	9		Wright	
	MAHRA	10	D. PALM	Ferrari	Wright

SEMIFINALS MCLAREN SILVER CUP

THU 13

2:30	GHANTOOT	7		Wright	
	BIN DRAI	6	DPC 1	D. Alberdi	Aguerre
4:15	DESERT PALM 2	9		Ferrari	
	ABU DHABI	8	D. PALM	Aguerre	D. Alberdi

FINAL HILDON CUP

SAT 15

2:30	HABTOOR	6			
	MAHRA	5	DPC 2	TBA	TBA

FINAL MCLAREN SILVER CUP

SAT 15

4:00	GHANTOOT	9			
	DESERT PALM 1	8	DPC 1	TBA	TBA

BENTLEY EMIRATES GOLD CUP

2014 RESULTS

WINNER: GHANTOOT POLO TEAM | RUNNER UP: HABTOOR POLO TEAM

FEB-MAR

MON 24

14:00	DESERT PALM 1	5		Alberdi	
	GHANTOOT	7	DPC	Aguerre	Ferrari
16:00	ZEDAN	4		Ferrari	
	ABU DHABI	6	D. PALM	Aguerre	Alberdi

TUE 25

14:30	EDREES	2		Wright	
	DESERT PALM 2	9	DPC 2	Alberdi	Aguerre
16:00	UAE	8		Wright	
	BIN DRAI	7	DPC 1	Ferrari	Aguerre

THU 27

14:30	HABTOOR	8		Aguerre	
	ZEDAN	5	DPC 2	Ferrari	Wright
16:00	ABU DHABI	8		Wright	
	DESERT PALM 1	7	DPC 1	Alberdi	Aguerre

FRI 28

14:30	MAHRA	6		Alberdi	
	UAE	7	DPC 2	Ferrari	Wright
16:00	BIN DRAI	5		Wright	
	EDREES	2	DPC 1	Aguerre	Ferrari

SAT 1

14:30	ABU DHABI	4		Alberdi	
	HABTOOR	7	DPC 2	Aguerre	Ferrari
16:00	GHANTOOT	13		Ferrari	
	ZEDAN	10	DPC 1	Wright	Aguerre

SUN 2

14:30	BIN DRAI	8		Aguerre	
	MAHRA	5	DPC 2	Wright	Ferrari
16:00	DESERT PALM 2	4		Ferrari	
	UAE	2	DPC 1	Alberdi	Wright

TUE 4

14:30	GHANTOOT	7		Alberdi	
	ABU DHABI	6	DPC 2	Aguerre	Wright
16:00	DESERT PALM 1	8		Wright	
	HABTOOR	6	DPC 1	Ferrari	Alberdi

WED 5

14:30	DESERT PALM 2	6		Wright	
	BIN DRAI	5	DPC 2	Aguerre	Ferrari
16:00	EDREES	3		Alberdi	
	MAHRA	7	DPC 1	Ferrari	Wright

FRI 7

14:30	ZEDAN	4		Ferrari	
	DESERT PALM 1	6	DPC 1	Aguerre	Alberdi
16:00	HABTOOR	8		Wright	
	GHANTOOT	6	DPC 1	Alberdi	Ferrari

SAT 8

14:30	UAE	10		Alberdi	
	EDREES	4	DPC 2	Ferrari	Aguerre
16:00	MAHRA	5		Wright	
	DESERT PALM 2	7	DPC 1	Ferrari	Aguerre

MON 10

15:00	ABU DHABI	5		Ferrari	
	MAHRA	8	DPC 2	Aguerre	Alberdi
16:30	DESERT PALM 1	4		Wright	
	BIN DRAI	6	DPC 1	Aguerre	Ferrari

TUE 11

15:00	HABTOOR	7		Alberdi	
	UAE	5	DPC 2	Wright	Ferrari
16:30	GHANTOOT	7		Ferrari	
	DESERT PALM 2	6	DPC 1	Alberdi	Wright

POWER HORSE FINAL

FRI 14

14:00	MAHRA	8		Ferrari	
	BIN DRAI	7	DPC1	Wright	Alberdi

BENTLEY EMIRATES GOLD CUP FINAL

FRI 14

16:00	GHANTOOT	7		Aguerre	
	HABTOOR	5	DPC1	Alberdi	Wright

THE MATCH

Here are some of the highlights from the McLaren Cup and Bentley Emirates Gold Cup in 2014.



Mahra Polo Team



Ghantoot Polo Team Winners of McLaren Cup 2014



Mohammed Al Habtoor & Faris Al Yabhouni in action



Habtoor Polo Team fighting for the Bentley Emirates Goldcup 2014



UAE Polo Team vs.
Habtoor Polo Team



Mohammed Al Habtoor, Chairman of DPGC with Ali
Al Bawardi Chairman of Desert Palm Polo Club





HH Shaikha Maitha Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in action during the Bentley Emirates Gold Cup 2014



HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, hosting the trophy ceremony of the Bentley Emirates Gold Cup 2014



HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Khalaf Ahmed Al Habtoor, Chairman of Al Habtoor Group and Ahmed Al Habtoor, CEO of Habtoor Motors



Desert Palm Team Winners of Subsidiary Final McLaren Cup 2014



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SAEED BINDRAI



I decided after university that I needed a new challenge and polo was the sport. Since we had the Dubai Polo Club and my father was the Chairman I decide to pick up the sport.

The rest is history.

SAEED BIN DRAI is a well-known face on the global polo circuit, and plays with some of the highest-ranking players. His father Humaid Bin Draï – an avid polo fan – bought the sport to the UAE in the mid-1970s. Now Dubai has developed into the centre of equestrian world with a high demand for top tier tournaments.

Joanna Andrews catch up with Saeed Bin Draï ahead of the Dubai Open.

How has Team Bin Draï evolved since inception?

How did you personally get into polo?

My father was the Chairman of the Dubai Polo Club, which was set up in 1974. So I had been introduced into the sport at a young age. But it was Alex Ebied that got me interested and hooked on the sport. When we visited him playing the Gold Cup in the UK and winning it on various occasions that stuck with me.

What is your biggest achievement to date?

Internationally, I guess the biggest achievement was winning the last high goal St. Moritz World Cup on ice. It was an amazing experience!

What was your hardest match?

All polo games are very close, and all patrons are highly competitive, which is clearly reflected by the scores. A hard game to lose was last year's President Cup especially as we won it the year before. We were leading throughout the game and in control of the game, but due to silly mistakes when you think you have it, you simply lose focus. Games are lost that way.

What are your hopes for your team for the upcoming polo season?

The hopes are always high. I am pleased with last year's performance, we won two out of the five tournaments and lost in the final of one.

How do you pick your players?

We shortlist a number of polo players with my polo manager. Then I decide, based on performance, nature of the guy; how good he is with horses, and if the player appreciates our organisation. We take all these factors into consideration. We take into consideration the position he is playing. It has to be a right balance for the team and not just based on performance.

What are the main challenges you face in polo?

There are many factors at play. The polo field in some cases, plus the competitive nature of the players and the similar levels of ability. Sometimes it is the silly mistakes that can cost you the game.

What advice would you give to young polo enthusiasts?

Don't get too carried away with the adrenaline rush. Just enjoy the game.

You recently played with Prince Harry in the Sentabale Polo Cup in Abu Dhabi. Tell us about that?

I have been fortunate to play with the Prince on several occasions and it has been a pleasure and a great experience. The Prince is a good horseman and polo player for the amount of polo he can play. The Abu Dhabi event was great, well organised and the cause is a very noble one, so I was proud to be part of it.

Have you played beach polo?

No, but I have played at the old Dubai Polo Club that had a sand field. The experience was great and fun. But polo on grass is a different experience in itself.

What is your favourite tradition about the game of polo?

Mannerism of the sport of polo. I hope that good mannerism will continue to be enforced since polo is the sport of kings, and requires the best.

How expensive is it running a team?

Very. As you can imagine, even more so than in Europe! Believe it or not Europe and the USA are much cheaper.

What other sports do you play successfully?

I like all sports, so it is wide ranging from waterskiing, snow skiing, football, volleyball, tennis, and shooting.

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NEW RULES & REGULATIONS

This year the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series has earned the accolade of being the highest handicapped tournament in the region. But what does it mean for the rules and regulations of the event?

UPPING THE ANTE

Now the Dubai Polo Gold Cup is an 18 goal handicap after the World Polo Tour (WPT) raised its profile from a Challenge Cup to a WPT Cup. This means that this year's winners will walk away with 60 points – instead of 50 points previously. The tournament will be played under Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) rules.

RULES FOR THE MCLAREN SILVER CUP

- Teams will be selected in a draw and divided into three 'zones'.
- Zone A: Made up of four team who will play each other.
- Zones B and C: Made up of three teams each – will play across.
- After three rounds of qualifying matches four teams will go through to the semi-finals.
- All 10 teams will go on to a table numbered 1-10. The top four teams will advance to the McLaren Cup semi-finals. Teams 5-8 will play in the subsidiary semi-finals.
- To determine the eight teams to advance to the semi-finals, the following methods will be used:
 - If two or more teams are tied on points and they are all qualified for the semi-finals their position will be determined by goal difference first, goals scored second and finally a draw.
 - If two or more teams are tied on points and they have NOT qualified for the semi-finals, it will go to penalty tshoot-out.
- The criteria to determine what team(s) go through to the semi-finals:
 - The eight qualified teams will be put in order from 1st to 4th and 5th to 8th according to points first, followed by goal difference, goals scored and a draw. This will determine who plays who in the semi-finals.
 - McLaren Subsidiary: 1st vs 4th, 5th vs 8th, 3rd vs 2nd, 6th vs 7th.

RULES FOR THE JULIUS BAER GOLD CUP

- Teams will be divided into two zones of five teams.
- Each team will play all the teams in the zone.
- After four rounds of qualifying matches the best two teams of each zone will go through to the Gold Cup semi-finals.
- The 3rd and 4th team from each zone will play the Subsidiary Cup.
- The order of merit of each zone will be determined by points. However, if two or more teams are tied on points and they have qualified for the semi-finals of one of the Cups, their position will be determined by, goal difference, followed by goals scored. If there is still a tie it will be determined by a draw
 - If two or more teams are tied on points and they have NOT qualified for the semi-finals, there will be a penalty shoot-out to determine which team advances to the next stage.
 - Once two teams have qualified to go through by this method, their position will be decided by points first, followed by goal difference, goals scored and a draw.
 - The semi-finals will be as follows:
 - 1st Zone A vs 2nd Zone B
 - 1st Zone B vs 2nd Zone A
 - 3rd Zone A vs 4th Zone B
 - 3rd Zone B vs 4th Zone A

Wishing all the teams the best of luck!



MAHRA POLO TEAM 2010



HISTORIC WINS

THE DUBAI GOLD CUP SERIES IS NOW IN ITS SIXTH YEAR. HERE'S A LOOK AT THE WINNERS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

ABU DHABI POLO TEAM 2011



This year the winner has something extra to smile about. The WPT recently upped the ante – it announced the winner of the Dubai Gold Cup will win 60 points, instead of 50 previously. We are glad to announce that the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Tournament went up from Challenge Cup to World Polo Tour Cup. Congratulations!

Who's going to take away the prize this year? It's anybody's game!



HABTOOR POLO TEAM 2012



GHANTOOT POLO TEAM 2013-2014

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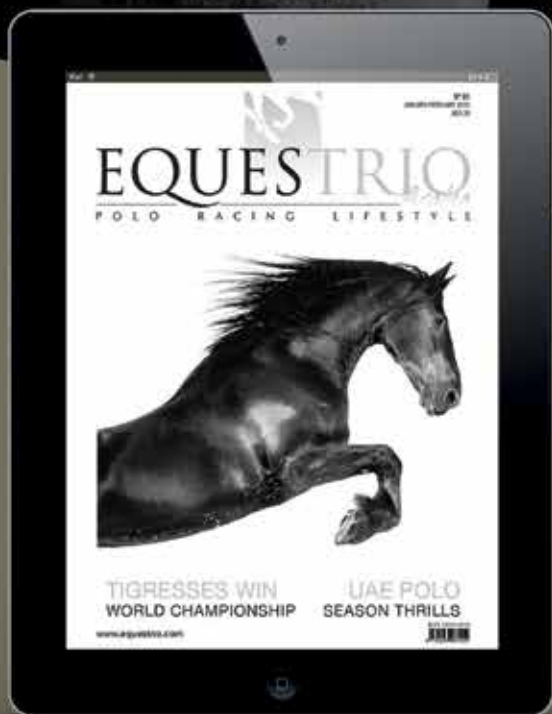
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fashion flair

TURNING HEADS AT POLO

Polo attract the most stylish of ladies and gents in town. After all, it is the game of kings, so it is important to dress the part. Joanna Andrews looks at what the polo elite should wear to get people to turn their heads.

The traditional style of polo attire is clean, elegant, simple and light, both in fabric and in colour. Gentlemen should be suave and sophisticated, while ladies should put on their Sunday best. The look you should be going for is elegant, light, floaty, and ladylike. But, it's important to remember that it is not a day at the races. Pretty floral dresses are a staple for polo matches, or maxi dresses in vibrant colours. Complement your attire with a wide brim hat and stylish sunglasses – the bigger the better!

As for
are
match, but
Especially when it
the divots. Opt

footwear, high heels
acceptable at a polo
stilettos are a big no no!
is time for stomping
for summer wedges,
or sparkly sandals to finish off your outfit.

For the gents, a nice shirt, blazer, chino and loafers does the trick. Or simply put on a polo shirt. Popular choices are white, black and navy. However if you are feeling bit more daring you could choose brighter colours such as yellow or pink!

Aside from the horses, the biggest attention puller will be the fashion. So pull off your best look, have fun and enjoy the matches.





FASHION PARADE



Polo is a sport for all to enjoy, and when the polo elite come out, so too does the polo socialites who are always dressed to impress!



Starting young!



FASHION PARADE





HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

TIME TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF POLO. ARE YOU A FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE OR A BIG PRETENDER?

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH...

1. What are the horses in a Polo game called?

- a. Polo Mounts b. Polo Ponies
- c. Polo Horses d. Polo Jumpers

2. What are the responsibilities of 'Number Two' player in a Polo game?

- a. To get hold of the ball
- b. To score goals
- c. Maintaining a solid defense
- d. To prevent scoring

3. Where does the oldest polo club in the world exist?

- a. Chicago, USA
- b. Chantilly, France
- c. Calcutta, India
- d. Melbourne, Australia

4. Can you play polo left handed?

- a. No
- b. Yes
- c. Maybe

5. How long does a chukker last?

- a. 6 minutes b. 7 1/2 minutes
- c. 7 minutes d. 6 1/2 minutes

6. During which years was polo an Olympic sport?

- a. 1900, 1908, 1920, 1924, and 1936
- b. 1900, 1910, 1914, 1928, and 1940
- c. 1896, 1904, 1912, 1932, and 1936
- d. 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016

7. How many teams are participating in Dubai Gold Cup?

- a. 5 b. 4 c. 10 d. 6

8. Who is the patron of Habtoor Polo?

- a. Mohammed Al Habtoor
- b. Rashid Al Habtoor
- c. Habtoor bin Mohammed
- d. Ahmed Al Habtoor

9. In which year was Dubai Polo Gold Cup series founded?

- a. 2012
- b. 2009
- c. 2010
- d. 2011

10. How many players TOTAL are on a polo field during a game?

- a. 6
- b. 10
- c. 8
- d. 12

APPROVED

Answers:

- 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. A 5. C
- 6. A 7. C 8. A 9. B 10. C

HOW TO PLAY POLO



INTERESTED IN TAKING UP POLO? IT IS ALL VERY WELL 'LOOKING THE PART', BUT TO SERIOUSLY TAKE UP THE SPORT DOESN'T JUST REQUIRE 'THE LOOK'. POLO IS A HIGH SPEED EQUESTRIAN GAME WITH MANY COMPLICATED RULES AND DIFFICULT MANEUVERS. THEREFORE, IT REQUIRES A LOT OF COMMITMENT AND DETERMINATION.

Polo is one of the fastest – and most exiting sports in the world. Here are our top 5 tips to succeed in the sport 'fit for kings!'...



1. FIND A CLUB

Most people see the sport as fast and glamorous... but be warned, it is hard work and time consuming. First you need to find a club that offers lessons. Speak to the polo manager of the club and see if they can offer you a complete course for beginners through to experienced. Polo schools use seasoned polo ponies, to ensure a safe and fun experience. Once you have mastered the basics of riding you can then learn how to swing a mallet and be introduced to the rules of the game.



2. WALK BEFORE YOU JUMP

You don't need any riding experience to get started in polo. Many new players come into the sport with little to no riding experience. You can learn how to ride horses and play polo at the same time. Don't rush... beginners must hone in on the basics first before galloping full stream down a field. Before you even get on a horse, it is important to do some stretching exercises so you don't pull a muscle.



3. EQUIPMENT

You will need to purchase either a pair of polo boots or a pair of short jodhpur boots to wear with chaps to protect your legs and a riding hat or polo hat. It is also advisable to wear a pair of gloves.



4. PLAY SAFE

Imagine you've got a half-tonne animal running at 25-30 miles per hour and a ball flying through the air much faster – at speeds of 110 miles an hour. Safety is very important in polo. It is not just about wearing the required safety equipment, but playing safe too.



5. BE A TEAM PLAYER

Polo is a team game, so it is important to be a team player and trust your teammates.

POLO IN india A REGAL STATUS

POLO IS A SPORT THAT CONJURES UP IMAGES OF ARISTOCRACY AND STYLE. IT SIGNIFIES POWER, BEAUTY, ELEGANCE AND TRADITION. NOT SURPRISING THEN THAT INDIA HAS A LONG HISTORY AND TRADITION WITH POLO. THE SPORT IS BELIEVED TO DATE BACK TO THE 1850'S WHEN BRITISH TEA PLANTERS DISCOVERED THE GAME IN MANIPUR - ON THE BURMESE BORDER WITH INDIA, OR PERHAPS EVEN EARLIER...

Manipur, considered the antiquity of polo, is shrouded with myths and rituals of the sport. There are accounts of the first recorded polo match organised between royal friends of King Nongda Lairen Pakhangba as early as 33AD.

Years later Babar, the founder of the Mughal dynasty in the 15th century, was said to have helped establish the popularity of polo in India. Polo was a popular sport with the Emperors, who called it 'Chougan'. Emperor Akbar, who made it popular in Agra, which was then the capital, was the first of the Moghuls, to introduce certain rules and regulations for this game.

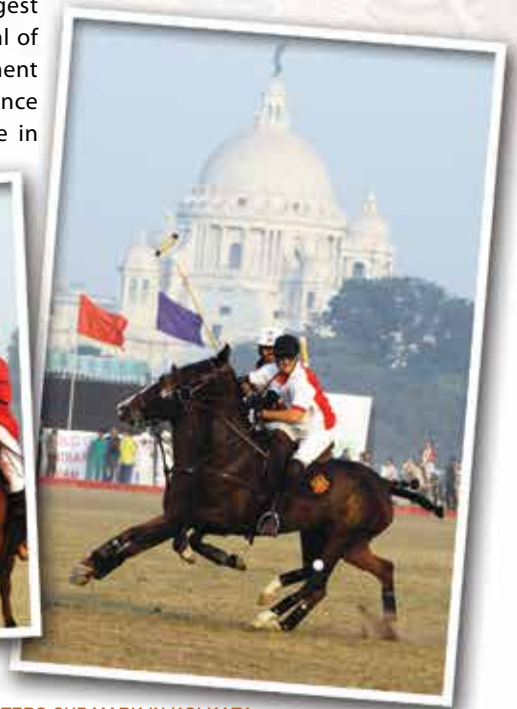
However, the period between the decline of the Mughal dynasty and the rise of the British Imperial rule, meant polo almost vanished from the country – apart from in remote mountainous enclaves of the subcontinent... Gilgit, Chitral, Ladakh and Manipur.

It wasn't until 1862 that the first polo club was formed by the Brits at Silchar, west of Manipur. Polo is known locally as 'Sagol Kangjei' in Manipur. It is a freestyle game that does not have a goal post and is played by seven players each side on a small pony. Also handling the ball is permitted in the game. India is believed to be home to the oldest existing polo club in the world - the Calcutta Polo Club, which dates back to the 1860s.

**LET OTHER PEOPLE
PLAY AT OTHER THINGS;
THE KING OF GAMES
IS STILL THE GAME
OF KINGS**

J.K. STEPHEN,
ENGLISH POET (1859-1892)

The popularity of the sport in India has waned – and risen many times since. It was, however, British influence and initiative that gave it global popularity. There is recorded evidence to suggest that modern polo in India was introduced following the arrival of the British Army in India – by officers of a British Cavalry Regiment stationed in the country. Over the past decade or so, the emergence of privately owned teams in India has ensured a renaissance in Indian polo.



A "REST OF THE WORLD" PLAYER IN A WORLD MASTERS CUP MARK IN KOLKATA

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Julius Baer sponsors the Dubai Polo Gold Cup 2015



Affirming its longstanding affiliation with the world of polo, Julius Baer is the title and a team sponsor of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup for the first time this year. This event is considered to be one of the most prestigious in the international sports calendar, being the fourth-largest polo tournament of its kind after Argentina, US and UK. Taking place at the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club, the Julius Baer Gold Cup will be held between 23rd February and 13th March 2015.

At the tournament, the bank will be involved in sponsoring some of the best and most fierce equestrian competitors from around the world, while having its own team participating. Among the featured professional players from the global polo circuit will be Alejandro Muzzio, Pablo Mac Donough, and Lucas Monterverde.

Known to be a high-calibre sport that is both elegant and competitive, polo continues to be associated with the wealthy and the influential. As such, polo has been the main focus of Julius Baer's global sponsorship activities since 2006. Indicative of its commitment, the bank has previously supported high-profile events such as the Audi Polo Awards held in London and the Ascona Polo Cup, Switzerland. Julius Baer is also title sponsor of the Julius Baer Beach Polo World Cup in Sylt, Germany.

In the Middle East, the bank previously sponsored the Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge from 2010 to 2012, and was the title and team sponsor of the Julius Baer Beach Polo Dubai Cup 2013 and 2014. Not only does this showcase the bank's commitment to excellence, innovation and consciousness of tradition, but it also reaffirms its strong commitment to promoting the Middle East on the international polo scene. Daniel Savary, Head of Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East & Africa, Julius Baer, talks more about the bank's commitment to the region and his personal interest in polo.

Daniel Savary, Head of Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East & Africa, Julius Baer, talks more about the bank's commitment to the region and his personal interest in Polo

Why are Dubai and the Middle East such important markets for Julius Baer?

Since Julius Baer's core strategic priorities are rooted in capturing strong wealth creation dynamics in growth regions around the world, the Middle East is a key pillar in the bank's long-term plans. The strong results and growth that we have achieved over the past ten years are indicative of our strong understanding of the local and regional HNWIs as we endeavour to always meet their requirements.

With the rising number of HNWIs, we aspire to only deliver high quality private banking services as their requirements become even more sophisticated. We are proud of our exceptional relationships with our clients as we invest heavily in developing our capabilities and endeavour to exceed their expectations. We are a pure private bank committed to advising clients to preserve and grow their wealth across generations which is a main necessity for wealthy individuals in this region.

What do you think about the polo scene in the UAE and how it has grown in recent years?

In the past years, we have seen Dubai emerging as a serious rival to other traditional 'polo capitals', namely, Argentina, the US and the UK. Indicative of its success in this area, the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series is recognised as a premier tournament in the Middle East and attracts some of the finest international polo players.

The UAE also offers several significant advantages for polo enthusiasts including a well-developed organisation that manages this sport, world-class horses, a large audience and, most importantly, great locations and the capacity to invest in the sport. Additionally, the country is home to a number of excellent players that are gaining worldwide recognition and often play alongside and compete with some of the most seasoned and respected international players.

Furthermore, Dubai has a long history with polo and hosts many prestigious events throughout the year attracting a large pool of polo socialites and celebrities. In light of these factors, polo is definitely a sport that will continue to develop strongly in the UAE, we are committed to raising the Emirate's profile in the international polo scene.

Why is polo so important, in the UAE and globally?

Polo is one of the oldest organised sports in the world which encompasses a rich heritage stretching back over 2,500 years. It promotes discipline and team spirit, and is one

of the few sports that can claim to offer a unique mix of top-class sportsmanship and glamour.

Not surprisingly, it is known as the 'Sports of Kings' and it continues to attract a large affluent and influential spectator base.

Polo also embodies the exceptional qualities of high quality performance and finesse, traits that we value and are important to our clients. At Julius Baer, we have carefully chosen to sponsor polo as part of our global sponsorship strategy because of its dynamics, innovation and its rich heritage

How long have you personally been interested in polo?

Polo has always been an important part of my life. It is simply a fascinating strategy game which couples speed with strength and balance and requires significant determination and commitment. I started riding when I was just three years old, and it has been a passion and a hobby since then. Over the years, as my interest in the sport grew, I developed my focus on jumping.

Due to my passion for horses and having been around them for more than 20 years, I have regularly been following polo and horse racing tournaments around the world. I even spent some time training as a beginner, but never participated in any tournaments.

I enjoy riding regularly for leisure, as it is very relaxing and, at the same time, a great form of exercise. Watching big tournaments across the world is also a passion of mine and I am very excited to watch the action unfold in this year's Julius Baer Gold Cup.



CHASING ANSWERS

2014 was a momentous year for Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club, one of the UAE's most prestigious clubs – and the country's only royal club. It not only won the 'Dubai Open' for the second year running, but it also marked its 20th anniversary. Joanna Andrews caught up with Ahmed Al Nuiami, the Managing Director of the club.

Ghantoot is synonymous with the polo circuit in the UAE, and you recently celebrated your 20th anniversary. Tell us how the team has evolved?

Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club conducts various championships every year, including HH President of UAE Polo Cup (18 hcp), Emirates Open Championship, Ghantoot Family Charity event, Pink Polo Charity event and British Polo Day. I think only Ghantoot is conducting such events in the UAE. In my view Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club is the best Polo Club in the UAE. We recently celebrated our 20th anniversary, where four teams participated in the anniversary polo tournament. Our team played well and was the runner up.

Ghantoot is the reigning Champion of the Dubai Gold Cup (winning in 2012, and 2013), what are your hopes for the upcoming season?

We have a good team for this year. We hope to win the Gold Cup again. Thank you for conducting a wonderful polo tournament, we are very happy to play in this year's McLaren Cup and Julius Baer Gold Cup.

What prize have you got your eye on for the future?

I am very happy that His Highness Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan is giving me the chance to play for the Ghantoot team. I hope my team will be the best team in the future.



How do you select your team?

Each year our club picks world class players as per the instruction from His Highness Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

What is your biggest achievement to date?

I have had many chances to play with His Highness Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and many professional players. These are my biggest achievements.

How did you get into polo?

When I was child I had a passion for riding horses, then I started playing polo with my friend and I got a chance to play for Ghantoot. I never looked back.

What advice would you give to young polo enthusiasts about the sport?

The best advice I can give is to have the passion for the sport, and then practice and get experience from professional polo players.

How would you like the polo scene to evolve in the UAE?

I would like to see more UAE polo clubs, start polo schools, conduct different championships with UAE teams and international teams, and participate in world polo championships outside the UAE.



Britain's Prince Harry recently played at Ghantoot Racing and Polo Academy in a charity match in Abu Dhabi. Tell us about that?

On behalf of His Highness Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of Ghantoot Racing & Polo Club, it was our pleasure to welcome Prince Harry. This comes in association with his vision to serve the community.



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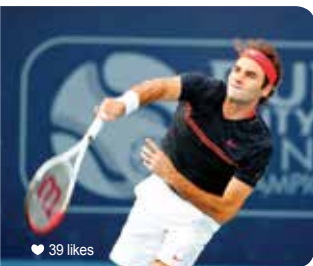
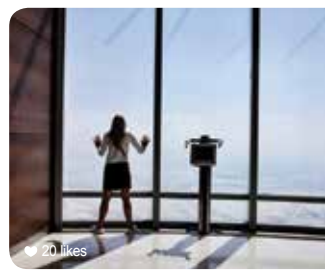
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