

DUBAI POLO
GOLD CUP SERIES
"Dubai Open"



2017 edition



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**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MAKTOUM BIN MOHAMMED
BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM
DEPUTY RULER OF DUBAI**

For grown ups, there are over ninety

KIDS CHANNELS

A photograph of a woman and two children on an airplane. The woman is in the foreground, looking out the window with her eyes closed. Two children are seated next to her, also looking out the window. They are all wearing purple headphones. The airplane window is visible on the left side of the frame.

EMIRATES ECONOMY

Your kids will be entertained for hours, with Disney classics, the latest kids movies, TV shows, and loads of games. So you can sit back and relax.

Hello Tomorrow


Emirates

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MOHAMMED AL HABTOOR

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This year we are more excited than ever about the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series. Firstly, it is being played at its new, permanent home ground – the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club. This spectacular premises offers the very best of facilities to the equestrian world, not least to the world of polo.

The 2017 Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series, held under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, is bigger than ever before. There are five cups to be won:

The McLaren Cup (18 Goal Handicap) 21st January - 3rd February

The Polo Masters Cup (14 Goal Handicap) 7th - 14th February

The Julius Baer Gold Cup: Dubai Open (18 Goal Handicap) 18th February - 10th March

The Dubai Challenge Cup (18 Goal Handicap) 17th - 31st March

The Dubai Cup (8-10 Goal Handicap) 7th - 14th April

There will be 10 teams vying for the titles, including the Al Habtoor Polo Team. I would like to thank all the patrons and teams, old and new, for their support over the years. Some have been with the event since inception eight years ago.

We are delighted that for the fourth year running Her Highness Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum will be participating in the event, as patron of the UAE Team.

I wish all the teams the best of luck and hope that the players, patrons and visitors enjoy the exceptional facilities available at the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club.



Riding School

Every rider's dream. The equestrian centre offers horse riding lessons and facilities for every disciple of horsemanship no matter your level of experience.

The School facility is set within the exclusive equestrian development boasting 54 hectare of lush green surroundings.

Catering for new riders through to experienced equestrians, the stables offer a unique experience; combining well-schooled horses within top class facilities and an expert team of fully qualified professional instructors, offering both group and private lessons. Top class facilities include 520 stables, 2 large flood-lit training arenas and 5 horse walkers. Also on offer is a year-round riding track around the park, and a cross country course as well as the desert at your door step ready to explore. Competitions will be hosted on-site throughout the winter season*, from riding club level events up to national championships in all disciplines. Competitions schedules will run on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings.

Open 7 days a week

from (6:45am - 10:00am and 4:00pm -8:30pm)

Offering the following:

Riding lessons | Desert riding | Pony club activities and camps

Stable management sessions | Clinics

GROUP LESSONS (45 MINUTES)	CHILD	ADULT
Group Riding Lesson Level 1 & 2	AED 180	AED 220
Group Riding Lesson Level 3 to 5	AED 230	AED 270
Riding Lesson - Own Horse	AED 130	AED 130
Stable Mngement	AED 100	AED 130
PRIVATE LESSONS (45 MINUTES)	CHILD	ADULT
Private Lesson	AED 400	AED 450
Private Lesson - Own Horse	AED 280	AED 280
Lunge Lesson	AED 350	AED 350
Instructor Schooling	AED 250	AED 250
Arena Hire / Horse	AED 150	AED 150
Desert Hacks - 1 Hour	AED 250	AED 300
Desert Hacks - 2 Hours	AED 300	AED 400
Stable Tour (with breakfast)	AED 195	
Stable Tour (without breakfast)	AED 135	
Cross Country	AED 100	AED 150
Track Hack	AED 100	AED 150
Assesment Lesson - 30 Mins	AED 250	AED 300
EQUESTRIAN EXPERIENCES	CHILD	
Pony Ride - 1 Round	AED 40	
Pony Club	AED 380	
Pony Club - Own Horse	AED 280	
Pony Club - Own Horse	AED 450	

* 10% Lesson packs of 10

** Discounted packages for schools, which include Riding / Stable management are in line with the internationally covered British Horse Society (BHS) syllabus.

*** Helmet rental AED 10



Polo Academy

The Al Habtoor Polo Academy provides an opportunity to enter the fascinating world of polo at the state of the art Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club under the supervision of the head instructor Alejandro Gowland, 3-goal professional from Argentina. Alejandro's team includes international polo players to provide all levels of instruction from those just beginning to ride on a fast track system for the first time, or those looking to improve and fine-tune their already established skills.

The Al Habtoor Polo Academy provides a full spectrum of bespoke services, from individual lessons to small group lessons, corporate packages and fun days with friends and family.

Introduction to Polo	90 mins	AED 850	AED 750
Group Lesson	40 mins	AED 600	AED 400
Private Lesson	30 mins	AED 850	AED 600
Stick and Ball - * With instructor	30 mins	AED 750	AED 500
Stick and Ball - Without instructor	30 mins	AED 550	AED 400
Instructional Chukkers		AED 650	AED 400
Corporate Days	3 Hrs	AED 500	AED 400
Corporate Days	5 Hrs	AED 1000	AED 500
Chukka Hire	AED 700 per chukka		
Green Fees	Weekday	AED 800	AED 400
Green Fees	Weekend	AED 1000	AED 1000

** advance only*



POLO AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRITY SPOTTING

POLO attracts many A-listers around the world. Here's a look out of some of the stars spotted on the global polo circuit...

Gwyneth Paltrow



Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky



Selena Gomez and Brooklyn Beckham



Dree Hemingway, Anne V and Julia Restoin Roitfeld



Dita Von Teese and Theo Hutchcraft



Anna Heinrich and Tim Robards



Matt Cooper and Rocky Barnes



Madonna



Scott Foley, Hannah Simone and Jessie Tyler Ferguson



Nacho Figueras, Julie Ordon, Lorenzo Martone and Delfina Blaquier



Dakota Johnson, Julianne Moore, Lupita Nyong'o, Aaron Paul, Olivia Munn, Behati Prinsloo and Busy Philipps



Camilla Belle, Nacho Figueras, Blake Lively and David Lauren



Lea Michele and Olivia Culpo



Jamie King, Sofia Vergara and Rachel Zoe



Ellie Goulding



Samuel Jackson



50Cent and Joshua Jackson





Flo Rida, Mohammed Al Habtoor and Zidane



Nick Mathers



Tommy Lee Jones



Kate Hudson



Camilla Belle, Ben Kingsley, Tommy Lee Jones



Jeremy Piven and Michelle Rodriguez



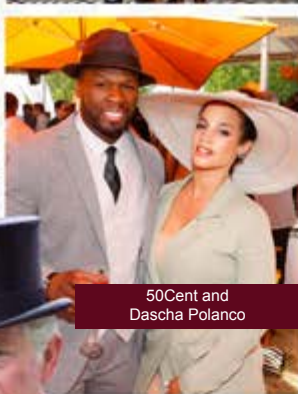
Michelle Trachtenberg



Emma Roberts



Joshua Jackson and Diane Kruger



50Cent and Dascha Polanco



Kate Middleton and Prince William



Shanina Shaik, Michael B. Jordan, Jaimie Alexander and Nadine Leopold



Charles, Prince of Wales



Drake throwing the first ball

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THE ST. REGIS AL HABTOOR POLO RESORT & CLUB

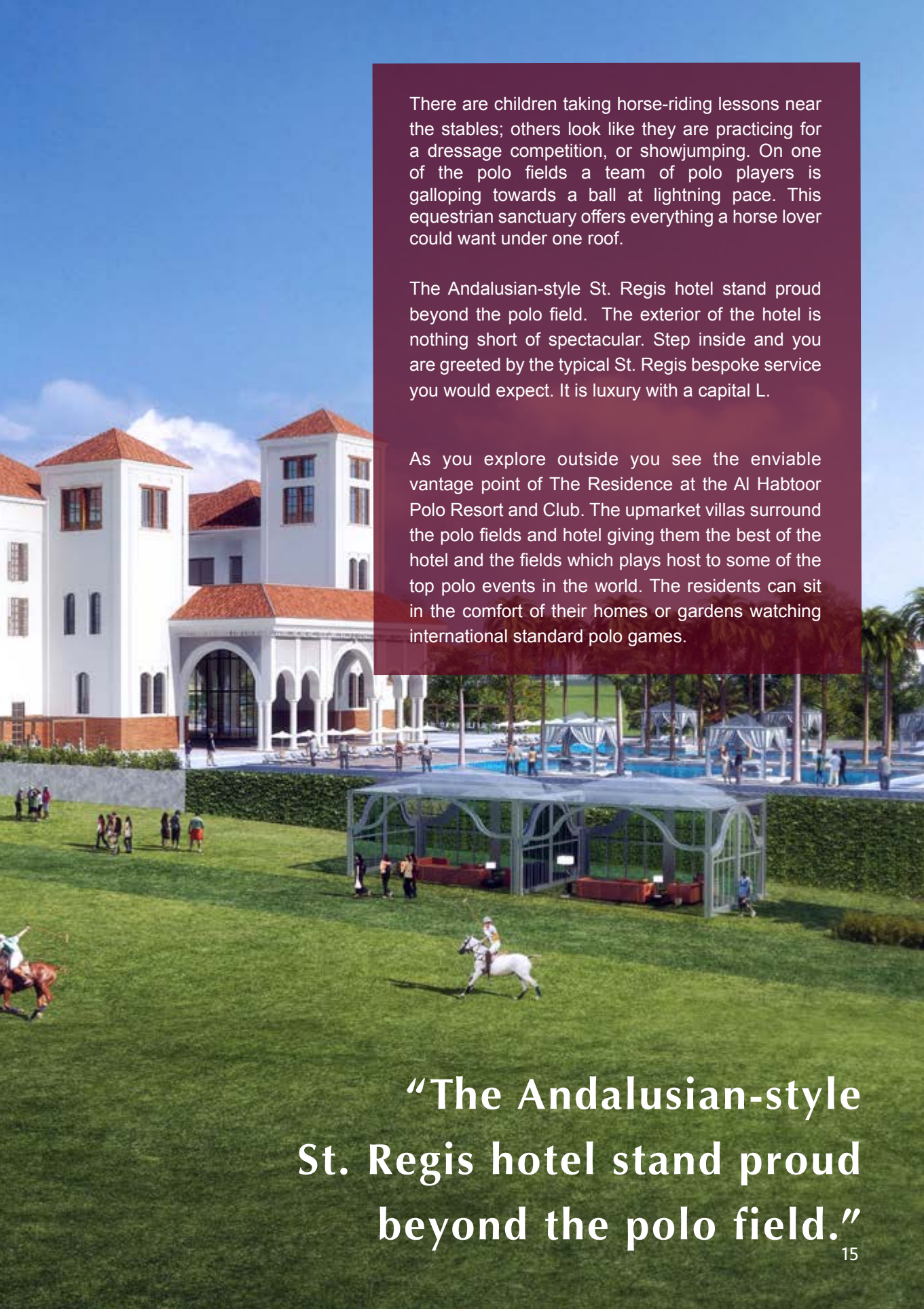
A new standard of luxury

The Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club is the ultimate destination for horse lovers. Joanna Andrews takes you on a tour of the upmarket equestrian haven in the heart of DubaiLand.

As soon as you set foot on the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club you feel like you are in an equestrian sanctuary. There is so much space to roam around. The sounds and smells conjure up feelings of being in an establish country haven. Just a couple of years ago this was desert wasteland.

Today it is an upmarket development consisting of 162 luxury villas surrounding the lush polo fields, stables for 520 horses and the centerpiece of the development – Dubai's second St. Regis hotel with 126 keys.

The six million square feet Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club is unlike the bustling centre of Dubai. It is tranquil, and there is great sense of freedom. Look around and you see pockets of life going on in every corner of the development.

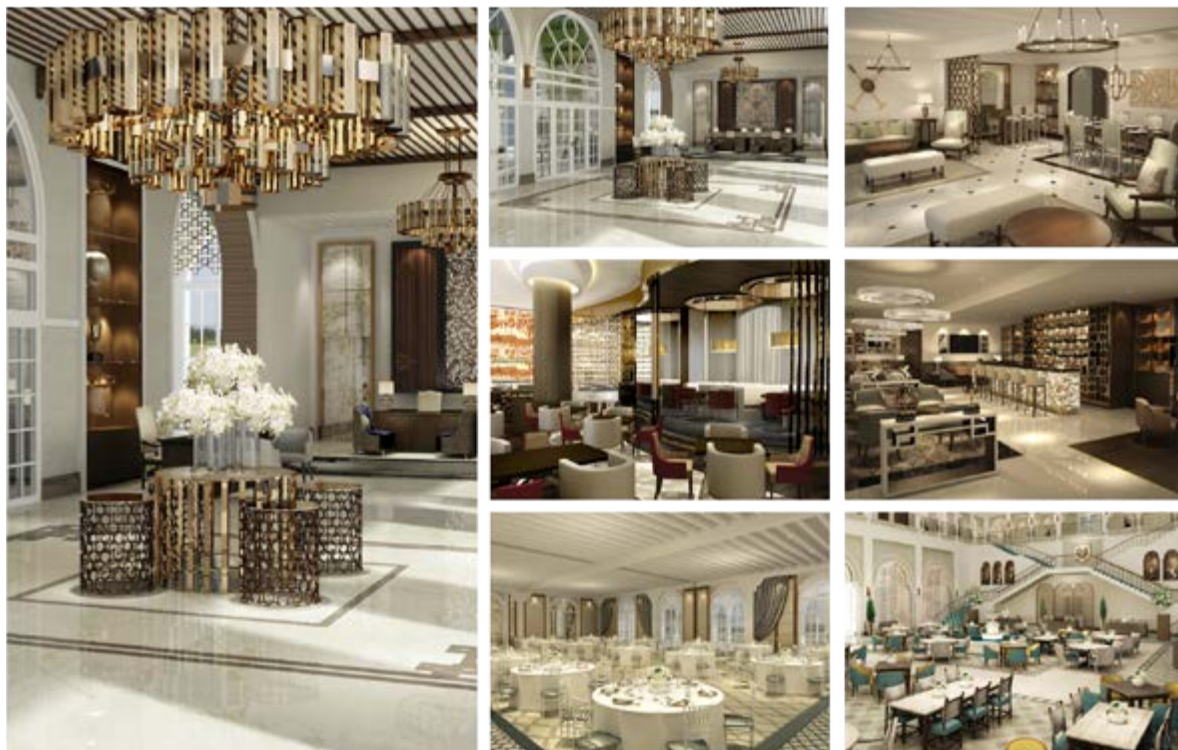


There are children taking horse-riding lessons near the stables; others look like they are practicing for a dressage competition, or showjumping. On one of the polo fields a team of polo players is galloping towards a ball at lightning pace. This equestrian sanctuary offers everything a horse lover could want under one roof.

The Andalusian-style St. Regis hotel stand proud beyond the polo field. The exterior of the hotel is nothing short of spectacular. Step inside and you are greeted by the typical St. Regis bespoke service you would expect. It is luxury with a capital L.

As you explore outside you see the enviable vantage point of The Residence at the Al Habtoor Polo Resort and Club. The upmarket villas surround the polo fields and hotel giving them the best of the hotel and the fields which plays host to some of the top polo events in the world. The residents can sit in the comfort of their homes or gardens watching international standard polo games.

**“The Andalusian-style
St. Regis hotel stand proud
beyond the polo field.”**



You may feel a million miles from the urban city of Dubai, but this stylish resort is just a short drive from Dubai's most famous landmarks, 25 minutes from the Dubai International Airport and just over half an hour from Al Maktoum International Airport.



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ZEDAN POLO TEAM



Amr Zedan is an avid and very skilled polo player, Chairman and Group President of Saudi Arabian company, the Zedan Group. He 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 recognized names on the Middle East polo circuit. The team won the 2015 Julius Baer Gold Cup. In 2016 the team won the McLaren Cup and the Dubai Cup.



Amr Zedan

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Pablo MacDonough

HANDICAP 10



Martin Gandara

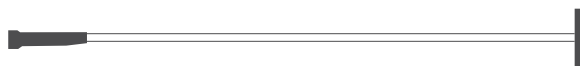
HANDICAP 5



Octavio Olmedo

HANDICAP 3

UAE POLO TEAM



Her Highness Sheikha 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. She has had a successful career in martial arts and even represented the UAE in Taekwon- do at the Beijing Olympics and she won a silver medal in karate at the 2006 Asian Games.

Shaikha Maitha put together a ladies-only polo tournament for the first time ever in the Middle East, she knew she was breaking new ground for women's sport in the UAE. In a sport typically dominated by men here in the region, Sheikha Maitha, said "that not only can women play polo, but they can play it well". For Sheikha Maitha, the start came a couple of years ago when she joined Ali Al Bawardi's Desert Palm Polo Club. It was Al Bawardi who suggested to buy a polo pony and soon after, she was taking part in the Queen's Cup and Gold Cup with her team. The UAE Team won the 2016 Julius Baer Gold Cup.



**Her Highness
Sheikha Maitha bint
Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum**

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Jack Hyde

HANDICAP 3



Matias Benoit

HANDICAP 6



Lucas Monteverde

HANDICAP 9

DESERT PALM POLO TEAM



The Desert Palm polo team is under the Albwardy family founders of the Desert Palm polo club and a family with long-lasting polo roots in the region. The patron of the team is Tarik Albwardy. The family has had a big part in raising 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 Albwardy

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Martin Valent

HANDICAP 5



Santi Laborde

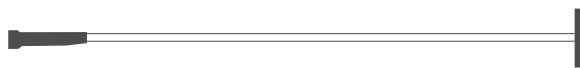
HANDICAP 6



Alejo Taranco

HANDICAP 7

GHANTOOT POLO TEAM



The Ghantoot Polo Team 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 won the 2013 and 2014 Dubai Polo Gold Cup and the 2014 and 2015 McLaren Silver Cup.



Yousef Bin Desmal

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Santiago Stirling

HANDICAP 5



Nicolas Sivori

HANDICAP 5



Guillermo Terrera

HANDICAP 8

ABU DHABI POLO TEAM



The Abu Dhabi Polo Team is a high goal team based in Dubai. It is the brainchild of Patron Faris Al Yabhouni. The team was formed in 2009. Since then the team has won several prestigious tournaments including the Dubai Gold Cup and the Silver Cup (Champions of the Gold Cup 2011, Silver Cup 2012 & 3rd place in the Gold Cup 2012). 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, it is projected to gain regional and international presence and exposure.



Faris Al Yabhouni

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Nathan Kian Hall

HANDICAP 2



Joaquin Pittaluga

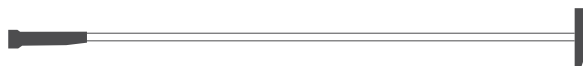
HANDICAP 7



Alfredo Cappella

HANDICAP 9

BIN DRAI POLO TEAM



The Bin Draï family has long been associated with polo in the UAE. The family set up the first-ever polo club in Dubai in the 1970s. Humaid Bin Draï is credited with introducing polo to the Emirates. His son, Saeed, officially started the Bin Draï Team in 2002. It has since won many tournaments, including the Cartier Cup in Dubai, Emirates Cup and President Cup. In 2010 the Bin Draï Polo Team won the St. Moritz Cartier Snow Polo, the most prestigious tournament on snow. Other victories include The Dubai Cup, Rolls Royce Cup and La Martina Cup, which it has won four times. In 2016 the Bin Draï team won the 18-goal Dubai Challenge Cup.



Saeed Bin Draï

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Tomas Iriarte

HANDICAP 5



Raul Laplacette

HANDICAP 6



Juan Martin Zavaleta

HANDICAP 7

BANGASH POLO TEAM



The Bangash polo team is the newest addition in the Dubai polo scene. This young team lead by Patron Haider Bangash has been formed this season. Haider has been playing polo for many years in London and since spending more and more time here in Dubai he decided it was time to elevate his game and join the High Goal. We look forward to seeing this new team in action.



Haider Bangash

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Horacio Fernandez Llorente

HANDICAP 6



Nicolas Corti Maderna

HANDICAP 6



Federico Von Potopsky

HANDICAP 6

MAHRA POLO TEAM



Rashid Al Habtoor has long been associated with polo in the UAE. He co-founded the Habtoor Polo Team with his brother Mohammed, and later established the Mahra Polo Team. The Team has played in many international polo events, including the Royal Windsor Cup in the United Kingdom, and the Gold and Silver Cup in Spain. Mahra has several titles to its name including the Dubai Polo Gold Cup (2010), the Silver Cup (2011), and the Power Horse Cup (2014).



Rashid Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Jeronimo Del Carril

HANDICAP 5



Isidro Strada

HANDICAP 6



Juan Ruiz Guinazu

HANDICAP 7

HABTOOR POLO TEAM

JULIUS BAER TEAM by HABTOOR



The Habtoor Polo legacy was established in 2000 by a man of polo passion, Mohammed Al Habtoor. Since then, the sport of polo has been driven to new heights with Habtoor Polo by its side. In 2012 the Habtoor Polo Team won its first Dubai Polo Gold Cup title, followed by the Dubai Silver Cup in 2013 and the Hildon Cup in 2015. Mohammed Al Habtoor, Patron of the team, has participated in numerous polo tournaments both locally and globally. He has turned the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series into one of the highlights of the Dubai sports calendar, making it one of the region's most prestigious polo events.



Mohammed Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Tommy Beresford

HANDICAP 4



Juan Zubiaurre

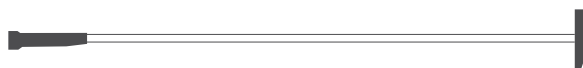
HANDICAP 5



Nico Pieres

HANDICAP 9

HABTOOR WOLVES POLO TEAM



The Al Habtoor's passion for polo continues to drive through to the next generation. The Habtoor Wolves are in the Dubai Gold Cup Series for the second year, with Habtoor Al Habtoor leading the pack. In 2016 they won the Bentley Cup at the Dubai Challenge Cup and this young team is definitely one to keep an eye on.



Habtoor Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Justo Cuitiño

HANDICAP 3



Manuel Crespo

HANDICAP 7



Ezequiel Martinez Ferrario

HANDICAP 8

how to dress for POLO

POLO has long been associated with the fashion elite. The game attracts everything from stars, sports personalities to style icons. So, it is important to look your ultimate best. Joanna Andrews looks at the trends for the season ahead.



PENCIL SKIRT

Pencil skirts are a classy option for the day. But make sure they are no longer than knee length to give you a feminine silhouette. You can pair it with a fitted blouse and belt to accentuate your waistline giving you an elegant look.



STRAPLESS DRESS

Polo is typically played on lovely hot sunny days, which is why strapless dresses have long been a firm favourite with the ladies. But if you don't want to follow the crowd, there are acceptable alternatives.



FULL-LENGTH SKIRT

If you are after a voluminous silhouette then the full-length skirt is the perfect choice. It is flattering for pretty much all body shapes, as long as you get the right cut for your body. You can complement your outfit with a fitted top.



FIT & FLARE DRESS

If it is sophistication you are after, one of the biggest trends is the flowy, fitted dress. Designers like Dior, Michael Kors and Bottega Veneta are all in on the craze... and many others.

HEELS OR NO HEELS

Leave your high heels at home for the day to prevent sinking into the grass. Opt for wedges, sandals or ballet flats instead.



MENS FASHION

For the fashion conscious men out there, a polo shirt is the safest option, or a crisp cotton shirt with a pair of chinos, jeans or shorts if you want to get your legs out! Complement your attire with loafers or slip-ons. To top it off you can bring along a wide brim hat.



ACCESSORIES It's a MUST!

how to **BLUFF** about Polo



You bought your ticket to the Julius Baer Gold Cup Final, you have mentally prepared your outfit for the day and invited your friends to come along, now all you need is to learn everything there is to know about polo so you can impress your friends. Not to worry, we have got you covered with this checklist:

The low-down

The aim of the game is to score by hitting the small, white, plastic ball through the goal posts (at any height) the teams change ends every time a ball is scored.

Polo is the oldest recorded team sport; it began in Persia about 2500 years ago (they would use their enemies' heads as the ball).

Polo Lingo

The sticks are called sticks or mallets and they have nothing to do with the croquet ones, in polo the long side is used to hit the ball.

Technically the horses are horses, not ponies, but in polo they are called ponies regardless of their size.

Handicap – the players have handicaps from 2 (novice) up to 10 (the very best, only 9 players in the world are currently rated at 10), can also be referred to as goals, so a player with 6 in handicap is a 6-goaler, but this number has nothing to do with how many actual goals they will score in a match.



Name drop like a pro

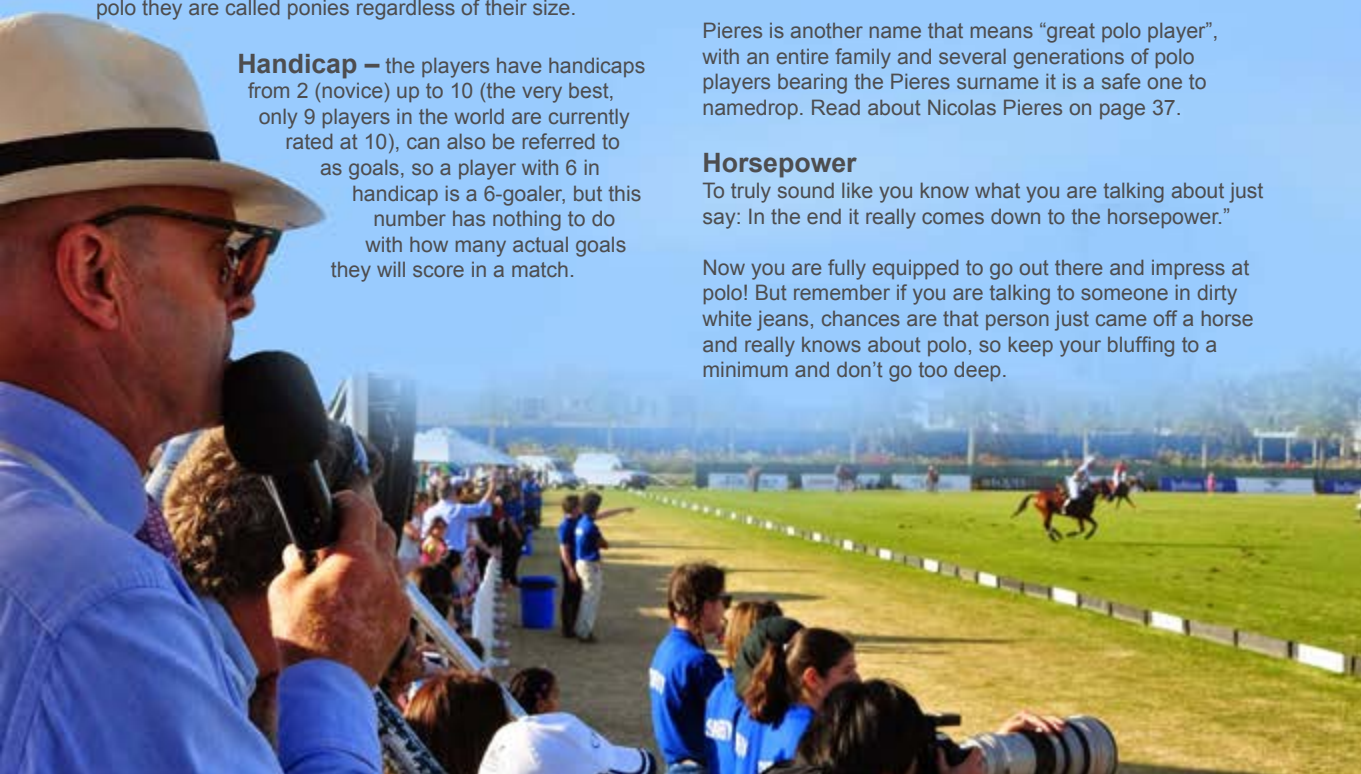
Adolfo Cambiaso is the highest ranked polo player in the world, saying something like "He's great, but he's no Cambiaso." Will have people thinking you know what you are talking about.

Pieres is another name that means "great polo player", with an entire family and several generations of polo players bearing the Pieres surname it is a safe one to namedrop. Read about Nicolas Pieres on page 37.

Horsepower

To truly sound like you know what you are talking about just say: In the end it really comes down to the horsepower."

Now you are fully equipped to go out there and impress at polo! But remember if you are talking to someone in dirty white jeans, chances are that person just came off a horse and really knows about polo, so keep your bluffing to a minimum and don't go too deep.



McLAREN Cup

2016 RESULTS

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

JAN	TIME	TEAMS	SCORE	FIELD	UMPIRES	REFEREE
FRI 22	2:00	Habtoor Wolves	9 10	DPC 1	G. Lucero / P. Wright	JJ.D. Alberdi
	4:00	UAE Bin Draï	6 8	DPC 1	J.J. Alberdi / P. Wright	G. Lucero
SAT 23	3:00	Zedan Mahra	8 3	DPC 1	G. Lucero / J.J. Alberdi	P. Wright
MON 25	2:00	UAE Mahra	8 7	DPC 1	G. Lucero / Tim Bown	P. Wright
	4:00	Habtoor Bin Draï	9 8	DPC 1	J.J. Alberdi / P. Wright	Tim Bown
TUE 26	2:00	Zedan Wolves	9 8	DPC 1	T. Bown / P. Wright	G. Lucero
FRI 29	1:30	Habtoor Mahra	6 7	DPC 1	T. Bown / JJ.D. Alberdi	P. Wright
	4:00	Zedan Bin Draï	8 10	DPC 1	P. Wright / G. Lucero	JJ.D. Alberdi
SAT 30	3:00	UAE Wolves	9 10	DPC 1	T. Bown / JJ.D. Alberdi	G. Lucero
PENALTIES SHOOTOUT						
SUN 31	11:00	1 st UAE 2 nd Habtoor 3 rd Mahra		Habtoor Club	JJ. D. Alberdi	Tim Bown P. Wright (Goal Umpire)

FEB	SEMIFINAL McLAREN CUP					
TUE 2	2:00	Zedan UAE	12 8	DPC 1	P. Wright / G. Lucero	Tim Bown
	4:00	Bin Draï Wolves	9 5	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / T. Bown	P. Wright
SUBSIDIARY FINAL HILDON CUP						
FRI 5	2:00	Habtoor Mahra	10 9	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / T. Bown	P. Wright
FINAL McLAREN CUP						
FRI 5	4:15	Zedan Bin Draï	10 9	DPC 1	P. Wright / G. Lucero	JJ.D. Alberdi

Julius Baer Gold Cup

2016 RESULTS

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

FEB	TIME	TEAMS	SCORE	FIELD	UMPIRES	REFEREE
FRI 19	2:00	Bin Draï Julius Baer by Habtoor	9 3	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / G. Lucero	P. Wright
	4:00	Zedan Abu Dhabi	11 10	DPC 1	P. Wright / T. Bown	JJ.D. Alberdi
SAT 20	2:00	Mahra Wolves	11 6	DPC 2	JJ. D. Alberdi / G. Lucero	Tim Bown
	4:00	UAE Ghantoot	11 7	DPC 1	P. Wright / T. Bown	G. Lucero
MON 22	2:00	Zedan Edrees	8 2	DPC 2	P. Wright / G. Lucero	JJ.D. Alberdi
	4:00	Bin Draï Abu Dhabi	7 11	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / T. Bown	P. Wright
TUE 23	2:00	UAE Julius Baer by Habtoor	6 9	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / P. Wright	Tim Bown
	4:00	Mahra Ghantoot	5 6	DPC 1	T. Bown / G. Lucero	P. Wright
FRI 26	2:00	Zedan Wolves	7 6	DPC 1	T. Bown / G. Lucero	JJ.D. Alberdi
	4:00	Bin Draï Edrees	11 4	DPC 1	JJ.D. Alberdi / P. Wright	G. Lucero
SAT 27	2:00	UAE Abu Dhabi	10 9	Habtoor Club	G. Lucero / JJ.D. Alberdi	P. Wright
	4:00	Mahra Julius Baer by Habtoor	7 6	Habtoor Club	P. Wright / T. Bown	JJ.D. Alberdi
MAR TUE 1	2:00	Julius Baer by Habtoor Ghantoot	11 10	Habtoor Club	P. Wright / G. Lucero	Tim Bown
	4:00	Wolves Edrees	7 10	Habtoor Club	JJ. D. Alberdi / T. Bown	G. Lucero
FRI 4	2:00	Zedan Ghantoot	7 6	DPC 1	T. Bown / G. Lucero	P. Wright
	4:00	Bin Draï Wolves	10 4	DPC 1	JJ. D. Alberdi / P. Wright	G. Lucero
SAT 5	2:00	Mahra Abu Dhabi	8 7	Habtoor Club	JJ. D. Alberdi / G. Lucero	Tim Bown
	4:00	UAE Edrees	9 8	Habtoor Club	P. Wright / T. Bown	JJ.D. Alberdi
SUBSIDIARY CUP SEMIFINAL						
MON 7 TUE 8	3:00	Ghantoot Abu Dhabi	7 8	Ghantoot	P. Wright / G. Lucero	Tim Bown
	12:00	Julius Baer by Habtoor Edrees	9 8	Habtoor Club 1	T. Bown / JJ. D. Alberdi	P. Wright
SEMIFINAL GOLD CUP						
TUE 8	2:00	Bin Draï Mahra	6 8	Habtoor Club 3	P. Wright / G. Lucero	JJ.D. Alberdi
	4:00	Zedan UAE	11 12	Habtoor Club 1	T. Bown / JJ. D. Alberdi	P. Wright
FINAL SUBSIDIARY CUP						
FRI 11	1:30	Abu Dhabi Julius Baer by Habtoor	7 8	DPC 1	T. Bown / G. Lucero	P. Wright
FINAL DUBAI GOLD CUP						
FRI 11	2:00	Mahra UAE	7 10	DPC 1	T. Bown / P. Wright	T.Bbrown

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WHAT MAKES A POLO HORSE?

Polo horses are magnificent creatures, poised, agile and powerful. In polo firstly the players make their horses on the farms and then the horse makes the player in the match.

Polo horses are not a breed, rather a type of horse made from several breeds and bloodlines though predominantly thoroughbred for today's fast-paced game. When polo players are choosing horses to buy they look for certain attributes:

How do they move, do they turn quickly and sharply, do they have great acceleration, are they light on their feet?

How sensitive they are, to touch and instructions. In polo you steer with your legs by applying pressure and with your left hand holding two sets of reins touching the horse's neck and bit in their mouth.

How nice they are; temperament is important, polo is a social sport, horses travel and live together and a calm horse will be a plus in the string.

If they are sound, horses can have hidden injuries and should always go through a thorough vet check before being bought.

Horses can cost anything and some are absolutely priceless for the mere fact that they will never be sold. The most expensive horse was a high goal mare bought in an Argentine Auction for 500.000 USD, her name was Fina Pepa bred by the Neuss family.

Breeding is a very important part of polo. The best playing mares usually go for breeding once their polo career is over, now due to new technology of embryo transplant

it is possible to use the bloodline of a good mare, with a surrogate mare actually carrying the foal, allowing the good playing mare to continue playing.

Cloning has also started to become popular in polo. The best player in the world Adolfo Cambiasso has seen amazing results after cloning his best mare Cuarterera. Recently he played on 6 of these clones in the Argentine Open, the highest handicap tournament in the world.

There will always be the debate of "nature vs nurture" in what makes a polo pony great and in the end it comes down to the connection the trainer and player have with their horse and thinking of a polo string as a whole, with some ponies being faster, some being more agile, some having more stamina in the long run and then using each horse to their best ability in the game.

FUN FACT
DUE TO EMBRYO TRANSPLANT IT HAS BEEN SEEN THAT 3 GENERATIONS OF HORSES ARE ON THE FIELD AT THE SAME TIME. SO MOTHER, DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTER RUNNING BESIDE EACH OTHER AND WITH ONLY A FEW YEARS APART.



McLAREN CUP 2016 WINNERS



McLAREN Cup Winner, Zedan Polo Team



MVP Pablo McDonough



Best Playing Pony: Zedan Polo Team



McLAREN Cup Runner-up, Bin Drai Polo Team



Hildon Cup Winner, Habtoor Polo Team



The Umpires



Hildon Cup Runner-up, Mahra Polo Team

JULIUS BAER GOLD CUP 2016 WINNERS



MVP Lucas Monteverde



Julius Baer Gold Cup Winner, UAE Polo Team



Best Playing Pony: UAE Polo Team



Bentley Cup Winner, Julius Baer by Habtoor



Julius Baer Gold Cup Runner-up, Mahra Polo Team



Bentley Cup Runner-up, Abu Dhabi Polo Team



The Umpires

DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP 2016 WINNERS



Dubai Challenge Cup Winner, Bindrai Polo Team



MVP Raul Laplacette



Best Playing Pony: Bindrai Polo Team



Dubai Challenge Cup Runner-up, Habtoor Polo Team



Subsidiary Cup Winner, Habtoor Wolves Polo Team



Subsidiary Cup Runner-up, Edrees Polo Team

The Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club is a new polo destination on the world map. What do you think of the new home ground for the Dubai Gold Cup Series?

Its gonna be my first season here at Al Habtoor polo club so I am really looking forward to this season and tournaments. I heard a lot of good things of Dubai.

What do you like most about this tournament?

This tournament is the most important of the series because is the Gold cup, its like the Argentine open for us in Argentina.

How much do you rely on your team-mates in tournament like the Dubai Gold Cup Series?

I really like my team and it's a young team with lot of power and good organizations of horses and polo fields and that is one of the keys for this polo.

Who is the team to beat in The Series?

All of the teams are good and competitive but I think teams like Zedan, UAE that won last year are some of the teams to beat because they have 10 goaler in the team and really good horses, but I think most of the teams are good!

Why do so many Latin American players come to Dubai for the sport of Polo?

Dubai is a new destination that is growing a lot and many patrons are making this possible and this is important for the sport of Polo, they are building some really good polo clubs with amazing polo grounds.

What attracted YOU to Dubai?

What Attracted me the most is that its gonna be my first time in Dubai and I heard a lot about this place and how good it is with so many things activities to do like playing Golf, restaurants, horse racing and others things.

What benefits does the UAE offer over any countries – if any?

I dont know, its my first time here

You come from a family of polo players. How competitors are you with your siblings?

We grow up watching and playing Polo so for us is really important and we like to win always when we get on a polo field.

“Dubai is a new destination that is growing a lot and many patrons are making this possible and this is important for the sport of Polo.”

When do you start playing Polo?

I been playing this sport since I was 3 years old and I remember playing my first tournament when I was 6. I played for my first time in Palermo field when I was 11 years old with my father.

What are the highlights of your polo career?

For sure winning Palermo with my brothers was the best thing, also we won the 4 pieres the Jockey Club Open when I was 15 and my father 44 so that was really nice too. And this year is special for me because my first son was born and I reach 10 goals in Argentina.

What are the skills required to play polo?

Polo is a special sport that you need to be really concentrate and be as fit as you can to control the horse your body at the same time and in fast speed.

What advice would you give to aspiring polo players? It is a fast-paced sport, what are the risks involved?

I will recommend to start riding on a horse as young as you can that will make this easier and by the time you get the polo mallet, riding will be natural and easy, That is the main thing of the sport, ride as better as you can and the rest will come along.

Chatting with

**NICO
PIERES**





Sheikha Maitha



Matias Torres Zavaleta



Mohammed Al Habtoor



Manuel Elizalde &
Valentin Novillo Astrada



Valentin Novillo Astrada



Rashid Al Habtoor and Sheikha Maitha



Matias Benoit



Jack Hyde

THE MATCH

Here are some of the highlights of last year's action-packed event...





Julius Baer Gold Cup MVP,
Lucas Monteverde



Bentley Subsidiary Cup Winner,
Julius Baer by Habtoor



The Trophies



Matias Torres Zavaleta,
Facundo Fernandez Llorente



Polo Family



Julius Baer Gold Cup Winner, UAE Polo Team



The Julius Baer Polo Team by Habtoor



Jota Chavanne



Matias Torres Zavaleta



Sheikha Maitha and Lucas Monteverde



Manuel Elizalde



Jubilant Mahra Polo Team

Mickey Mouse Polo

The sport of polo has long attracted the rich and famous. In the 1930s it was a much-loved pastime for Walt Disney, the founder of Disney. Joanna Andrews takes a look back in history to the 1930s.

It may have been the time of the Great Depression, which started in 1929 and lasted for nearly a decade, but that didn't stop the Hollywood elite who used polo as an excuse for social networking. The famous Beverly Hills Polo Lounge was packed with Hollywood A-listers as the sounds of swing and jazz music belted from the wireless – at a time when Billie Holiday and Glenn Miller topped the charts.

Walt Disney, founder of Disney and creator of Mickey Mouse, was enticed into the game of polo by the actor Will Rogers and film producer Darryl F. Zanuck who were big fans of game. Spencer Tracey was also a polo enthusiast. Walt's doctor told him to take up a sport to relieve the stress of work. He tried everything from boxing to golf but eventually found his relief in horse riding before expanding into polo, which he once joked seemed just like "golf on a horse".

Walt threw himself into the polo whole-heartedly and became somewhat obsessed with it. He would practice at the crack of dawn and recruited a few of his Disney Studio personnel including his reluctant brother Roy. He even built a polo cage at Disney Studio so that the group could practice at work by sitting on wooden horses while hitting a wooden ball into a goal. The Disney Polo Team would often be seen playing at the Riviera Club in Brentwood.

Walt's interest in the sport kept growing along with his competitive spirit. One of Disney's writers, Bill Peet once said that Walt's competitiveness as a polo player and his competitiveness as a film maker were intertwined. He wanted to win in the box office, just as he wanted to win on the polo field.

Walt Disney even took his love of polo to the silver screen by developing a short cartoon starring Mickey Mouse called "Mickey's Polo Team". It was a polo game between Mickey, Donald, Goofy and the Big Bad Wolf, and a team of Hollywood stars, Harpo Marx, Stan Laurel, Charlie Chaplin and Oliver Hardy. The spectators included the likes of Shirley Temple, Clark Gable and Edna May Oliver and the Three Little Pigs.



Painting in detail right here in Dubai

Dianne Breeze graduated from Liverpool Polytechnic with a first class Honors degree in Graphic Design. She then worked for the Liverpool Museum before returning to John Moore's University to take a PHD research post, studying the history of ornithological illustration. A monograph of her work during this time has been exhibited at the London Barbican Centre.

Dianne has a great love of horses and has been schooling horses since the age of 10. Combined with her artwork, Dianne also finds time to work as a Dressage trainer and coach. She has trained horses successfully at all levels up to GP and competed internationally in Spain.

Dianne has taken a big part in building the dressage world in Dubai over the past 9 years. She is one of the UK's most popular equestrian illustrators and her work can be seen in many equestrian books and magazines.



Photo credit: Dianne Breeze

Dianne Breeze painting



Taking HOOF PRINTS from TURF to WALLS

Photography all over the world

Philippa Davin is an accomplished photographer from Sweden. She travels the world following the Show Jumping and Polo circuits to capture her next astounding motif. Philippa's PD Fine Art is printed in a truly unique manner, which makes the art pop and creates a spectacular depth in the picture making it come alive.

Horses are truly a spectacular species, being both graceful and powerful at the same time, which makes it no mystery that the horse is the muse for countless artists and a favorite art subject for many when choosing how to decorate their homes. Here we collect a few artists who have grabbed our attention, from near and far.

Philippa graduated from Specs Photography Institute in London in 2013. In 3 short years she has already been invited to exhibit her Fine Art photography across the globe.

Photo credit: Philippa Davin



"Running wild, Running free"
by Philippa Davin

Her passion for photography started early on in life along with her love for equestrian sports, so it was only natural that she would combine the two in her art. Recently Philippa has started her second brand PD Deco, incorporating her photography with painting and graphic design to create home décor products.

"VELVET"
by Philippa Davin



They say that there is no secret as close as the one between rider and horse. The bond which can be created between a person and a horse can be very tight and special, but you need to start with small steps:

1. Horses are by nature very wary and frightened, sudden and fast movements will scare them. When approaching a horse do it slowly and from the front and side by the shoulder (never from behind) so they can see you properly.

2. Check the body language of the horse. Ears up and forward means he is interested and paying attention, ears pinned back or flattened back means he is alert and scared or angry. If the ears are forward, slowly let the horse sniff your hand. If he keeps sniffing, he is interested and you can slowly move your hand to give him a scratch.

3. The neck and shoulders is the safest place to scratch the horse, a soft touch will just tickle them, a clap might frighten them, so a good scratch is the perfect way. Some horses don't like their faces touched, some love a scratch behind the ear, it depends on the horse.

4. Once a relationship has been established you can get closer to the horse with grooming. Horses show each other affection by grooming each other with their teeth, we thankfully have brushes for this and a good brush will make the horse relaxed and creates a bond. Just always remember to brush with the hairs, more scratching will also do the trick if it is a short encounter.

5. Snacks! The way to any horse's heart is through their tummies, horses love snacks, especially sweet fruits and vegetables. When feeding a horse smaller chunks are better, like ¼ apple instead of a whole one and open your hands completely and with the fingers together so the surface is flat, don't get scared when the horse seeks out the food with its lips and touches you.

Horses are big animals and even the most docile ones can get scared and accidents can happen, so always be precautious and aware of your surroundings when near horses and do things slowly. With time a real bond and mutual trust will be created, allowing for beautiful moments.



5 Steps to get closer to a Horse

GOLD LOUNGE



Julius Baer Gold Cup 2017

Friday, March 10th



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Socialites

POLO attracts the fashion conscious. Here are some of the trend -setters from last year's event...



Watching polo or posing for pictures?



Esterra Georgescu



Strike a pose!



Roxane Nutu



Monochrome is in



Caro and Naomi



Tom Urquhart keeps the guests entertained



Elvira Ghilas & Basel Shakra



SMILE!



Say PEACE OR TWO?



Ekaterina Gera in old school glamour



Lovely ladies arriving at the Gold Lounge



Gary Stanton & Claire Stantone



Something for the kids



Malin Johansson



Beauties in BLUE



Mohammed & Raja at the Habtoor Polo Camp



Skydive Dubai with Mohammed Al Habtoor



Raja Abuljebain



Models during the fashion show



Andreea Sandu, Madalina Cioabano & Silvia Hurezan





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POLO

SPECIFIC TRAINING

by Martin Perez

“A successful program needs to be designed with balance and a goal in mind.”

EXERCISE 1

This exercise works the back of the body, which is essential for preventing lower-back injury. Assume an all-fours position. Extend your right arm forward and your left leg back behind you. Lower your arm and leg to the ground to return to the starting position. Repeat on the opposite side and continue, alternating sides, for the specified number of reps.

Sets/Reps: 2x20 each side



EXERCISE 2

Targets your upper abs, lower abs and obliques all in one movement.

Lie on your back with your legs bent, feet flat on the floor and arms spread out to the sides. Lift your left leg up and touch your foot with your right hand. Lower your leg and arm to the starting position. Repeat with your opposite arm and leg, and continue, alternating sides, for the specified number of reps.

Sets/Reps: 2x15 each side



EXERCISE 3

Targets your abs, obliques, lower back and even your hip flexors.

Assume a push-up position with your body in a straight line. Flex your right hip and touch your right knee to your left elbow. Extend your leg behind your body to return to the starting position. Repeat on the opposite side and continue, alternating sides, for the specified number of reps.

Sets/Reps: 2x10 each side



EXERCISE 4

Increases oblique and ab strength, engaging adductors as well.

Lie on your back with your legs bent and your arms spread out to the sides. Place a ball between your knees and hold it tight. Lower your legs to one side until your knees are about a foot above the ground. Hold for two seconds. Go back to the starting position. Repeat on the opposite side and continue, alternating sides, for the specified number of reps.

Sets/Reps: 2x5 each side



Polo specific training is simply fitness and performance training designed specifically for polo performance enhancement.

Training programs for performance enhancement could include such areas as strength, speed, power, endurance, flexibility, mobility, agility, mental preparedness (including goal setting), sleep, recovery/regeneration techniques and strategies, nutrition, rehabilitation, pre-habilitation, and injury risk reduction.

A successful program needs to be designed with balance and a goal in mind. A program that is too general will not properly prepare the polo player, and a program that is too specific will also not properly prepare them (and additionally runs the risk of overtraining certain movement patterns which increases the risk of injury). If you are not doing a balanced program, you need to re-evaluate what you are doing.

Following are some great exercises that will help develop a strong core, one of the pillars of fitness for polo. They can be added to any workout two to three times a week. Remember always to warm up properly and to stretch after every training session or competition.

For more information please visit our website, www.fitnessforpolo.com

Until then, stay active and keep healthy!



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POLO CALENDAR

January 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MCLAREN CUP

HCP

18 GOAL

February 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MCLAREN CUP

18 GOAL

POLO MASTERS CUP

14 GOAL

JULIUS BAER GOLD CUP
(DUBAI OPEN)

18 GOAL

March 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP

18 GOAL

BRITISH POLO DAY

April 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DUBAI CUP 2017

8-10 GOAL

POLO CLOSING FESTIVAL
(Exhibition Cup)

October 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEASON STARTS

HALLOWEEN CUP

HCP

10 GOAL

November 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LADIES POLO CUP

HABTOOR CHALLENGE CUP
(Exhibition Cup)

UAE NATIONAL DAY

10 GOAL

START AHRPC FINAL DPEC

December 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SIR WINSTON
CHURCHILL CUP

10 GOAL

ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL
POLO CLASSIC

14 GOAL

CHRISTMAS CUP

NEW YEAR CUP



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