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POLO AROUND THE WORLD

A-listers around the world at the polo.

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NAIL YOUR POLO OUTFIT

Polo has long been associated with the fashion elite. The game attracts everyone from stars, sports personalities to style icons. So, it is important to look your best.

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4TH MARCH

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

MOHAMMED AL HABTOOR

VICE CHAIRMAN & CEO, AL HABTOOR GROUP
CHAIRMAN, UAE POLO FEDERATION

Dear readers, polo fans and players,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to another exciting season of the Dubai Polo Gold Series (DPGCS) as we start our 14th year.

This year marks an amazing milestone for our organization and for the sport of Polo in the United Arab Emirates. Two of our most prestigious tournaments, the Silver Cup and the Gold Cup, will be played at a 20-goal handicap.

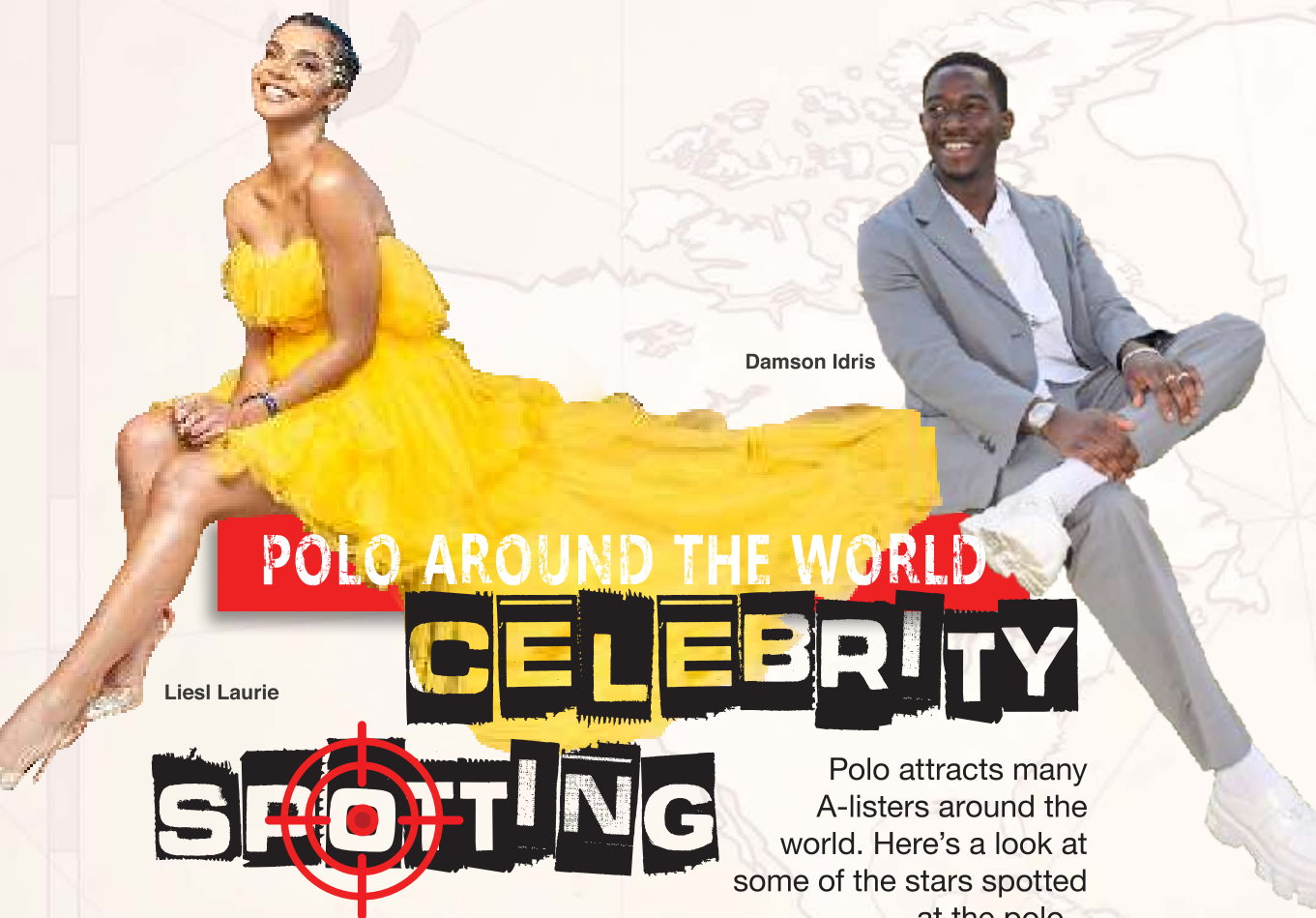
This brings the level of polo played in the UAE on par with the biggest tournaments in the world and gives our homegrown teams the opportunity to elevate their game and make their mark in the Sport of Kings.

As the Chairman of the UAE Polo Federation, it is my honor to ensure the sport's longevity through various competitions, from Kids' Polo to high-goal tournaments that allow for the

development of polo athletes in the region. I encourage all the clubs in the UAE to be involved in hosting events and call for the polo community's cooperation. Both are crucial in achieving this goal.

The Dubai Polo Gold Cup organization has consistently delivered world-class polo events year after year. And I thank the Dubai Sports Council, our patrons, the sponsors, the polo teams in the region, and the city of Dubai, for their continued support. And I am thrilled to be sharing another fun-filled season with our loyal fans, friends, neighbours and guests from around the globe.

Seven teams are set to compete at the Silver Cup and the Gold Cup this year. I look forward to seeing the passion, competition, and sportsmanship resonate in each game and every victory. Good luck!



Liesl Laurie

Damson Idris

POLO AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRITY SPOTTING

Polo attracts many A-listers around the world. Here's a look at some of the stars spotted at the polo...



Yanga Chief



Mimi Onalaja



John Corbett



Maya Jama



Roxy/Riana Horner



Lady Eliza Manners & Lady Violet Manners



Jennifer Hawkins



Olympia Valance



Ashley Madekwe & Caley Cuoco



Dominic Cooper & Jeremy Piven



Robert Marawa



Britt Davis



The Duke Prince William & The Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton



L-R:
Fadhi Mohamed, Miski Jimale,
Wallis Day, Charithra Chandran,
Laura Haddock, Kimberley Garner

NAIL YOUR

Polo Outfit

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.

must haves

The gents - a pair of smart, well cut jeans (a white pair is usually a favorite) with a good quality shirt or well fitting polo shirt. A leather belt and a good pair of Brogues or a Suede Boot. If you prefer a slightly smarter look a tailored pair of chinos, polo shirt and blazer will not see you out of place. A smart dealer or Chelsea boot is ideal for cooler days. Be prepared for the weather and always take a jacket in the car with you. A lightweight wax jacket always looks more stylish and structured.



1 Louis Vuitton Twist MM bag

2 Hermès Birkin



1 DIOR
Dior Beige/Brown
Oblique Canvas
And Leather
Wedge Sandals



2 Jimmy Choo
Slingback Pumps



1 Hermès
Constance H Belt



2 Salvatore Ferragamo
Yellow Pyton Mason
Loafers



We have seen everything in Polo events from full skirt suits to relaxed, floaty floral dresses, killer 6 inch heels to boots more akin with festival wear amongst the younger generations. Should you wish to keep the sun off you then a wide brimmed hat would be perfectly acceptable. Whatever the weather, one of the favoured garments for the ladies at big matches is a dress. Ranging from maxi-dresses, cocktail, jersey or shirt, you will see them all in many a colours, patterns and silhouettes. A cropped trouser offers the flexibility of covering up in a formal style but at the same time, is not too restrictive when the sun is shining.

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Dubai Open - 20 Goal Handicap

4TH MARCH

Corona



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AM POLO TEAM

AM Polo team is spearheaded by Sheikha Alia Al Maktoum and was formed in 2017. The team has participated in numerous low and medium goal polo tournaments in which the team had taken home notable wins.

The team progressed over the years and made its debut in high goal polo by participating at the Silver and Gold Cup tournaments in 2020. A young and promising team that is making leaps in the Sport of Kings, AM Polo is a team to watch out for the coming seasons. The team made it to the final of the Gold Cup 2022 and was the runner up of the Automillennium Cup subsidiary match.



**Sheikha Alyaa Marwan
Mohammed Hasher
Al Maktoum**

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Benjamin Urquiza

HANDICAP 6



Cesar Crespo

HANDICAP 6



Isidro Strada

HANDICAP 8

BANGASH POLO TEAM



Bangash Polo team is led by its patron, Haider Bangash, since 2017. Haider has been playing polo for many years in London and has decided to elevate his game after spending more time in Dubai by participating in high-goal tournaments. The team has made a remarkable performance at the Silver Cup 2021 by reaching the semi-finals and won the Bentley Cup at the IFZA Gold Cup final 2021.



Haider Bangash

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Federico Von Potobsky

HANDICAP 5



Ignacio Negri

HANDICAP 7



Tomas F. Llorente Jr.

HANDICAP 8

Clinova

CLINOVA NOA CAPITAL POLO TEAM

Clinova Noa Capital polo team will be playing in this years Gold Cup tournament. The team is led by the mercurial Facundo Llorente, the 8 goaler, and widely considered as one of the best forward players in world polo. Facundo won the 2021 French Open, 2021 Camara de Diputados and the 2015 Dubai Gold Cup. The team also includes the talented superstar Benjamin Panelo, who won the 2022 Camara de Diputados trophy. At the back, Clinova have the classical number 4, 'Tomas Iriarte', who reached the final of this years Emirates Cup and is one of the most in-form players based in Dubai polo. The team patron is Raja Karim.



Raja Karim

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Facundo Llorente

HANDICAP 8



Benjamin Panelo

HANDICAP 7



Tomas Iriarte

HANDICAP 4

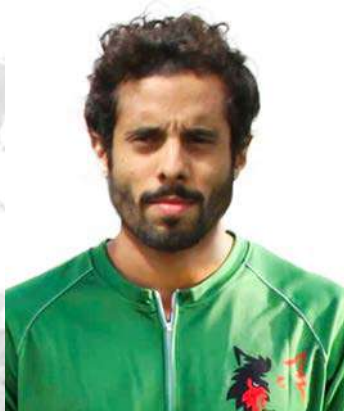


DUBAI WOLVES POLO TEAM

by CAFU

The Al Habtoor's passion for polo continues to drive through to the next generation. The Dubai Wolves Polo Team has been participating in the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series with Habtoor Al Habtoor leading the pack. They are definitely a team that steadily makes its presence known in Polo scene in the UAE.

The Dubai Wolves won the Subsidiary Final at the Dubai Challenge Cup in 2016, Bentley Cup 2018, and Dubai Challenge Cup 2019. In 2022, the pack was the runner-up of the Hildon Cup subsidiary match at the Bentley Emirates Silver Cup.



Habtoor Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 1



Carlos Ulloa

HANDICAP 6



Teodoro Lacau

HANDICAP 6



Jacinto Crotto

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 showcases its skills by developing Emirati players alongside accomplished high goal Argentine professionals and has won the 2013 and 2014 Dubai Polo Gold Cup, 2014 and 2015 McLaren Silver Cup,



Nasser Al Shamsi

PATRON
HANDICAP 1



Segundo Amadori

HANDICAP 4



Pablo Llorente

HANDICAP 6



Marcos Araya

HANDICAP 7



IFZA HABTOOR POLO TEAM

The Habtoor Polo legacy was established in 2000 by a man with a passion for polo - Mohammed Al Habtoor. Since then, the sport of polo has been driven to new heights with Habtoor Polo by its side. He established the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series which have become one of the highlights of Dubai's Sports Calendar.

The team has participated in numerous polo tournaments and has won its first Dubai Polo Gold Cup title in 2012. They grabbed the Silver Cup title in 2013 and the Hildon Cup in 2014 - 2016. Habtoor Polo were the runners-up of the Julius Baer Gold Cup 2017 and the Bentley Cup in 2020. The team won the IFZA Silver Cup 2021 and has kept the trophy in 2022.



Mohammed Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Matthew Perry

HANDICAP 5



Juan Jaureche

HANDICAP 7



Bautista Bayugar

HANDICAP 8

MAHRA POLO TEAM

by **AIX INVESTMENT GROUP**

The team was established by Rashid Al Habtoor and has participated in many international polo events, including the Royal Windsor Cup in the United Kingdom, and the Gold and Silver Cup in Spain.

Mahra Polo has several titles to its name including the Dubai Polo Gold Cup 2010, Silver Cup 2011, the Power House Cup 2014, the Bentley Cup 2017 and the Hildon Cup 2017.

This polo season, AIX has partnered with Mahra Polo as its team's sponsor. AIX Investment Group are a top-tiered award winning international financial institution with over thirty-five years of cumulative experience in the investment advisory industry.



Tariq Al Habtoor

PATRON
HANDICAP 1



Jacinto Amadori

HANDICAP 6



Tomas Alberdi

HANDICAP 6



Felix Carlos Esain

HANDICAP 6

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 a successful career in martial arts, representing the UAE in Taekwondo at the Beijing Olympics, winning a silver medal in karate at the 2006 Asian Games. In a sport typically dominated by men, Sheikha Maitha claimed that “not only women can play polo, but they can play it well”. She started a couple of years ago when she joined Ali Al Bawardi’s Desert Palm Polo Club, and soon after she was taking part in the Queens Cup and Gold Cup with her team. The team won the 2016 Julius Baer Gold Cup and the 2017 McLaren Cup.

The team had progressed in to taking home three of the coveted trophies of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series in 2019 — the Silver Cup, Polo Masters Cup and Julius Baer Gold Cup and continued to keep the coveted trophy of Standard Chartered Gold Cup in 2020. In 2021, the team was the runner up for both the IFZA Silver and Gold Cup tournaments and had championed the Dubai Challenge Cup. In 2022, the team reclaimed the Gold Cup trophy.



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

PATRON
HANDICAP 0



Lucas Monteverde Jr.

HANDICAP 6



Tommy Beresford

HANDICAP 7



Martin Podesta

HANDICAP 7



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BENTLEY EMIRATES SILVER CUP - 18 GOAL HANDICAP

RUNNER-UP
UAE POLO



MVP
BAUTISTA BAYUGAR

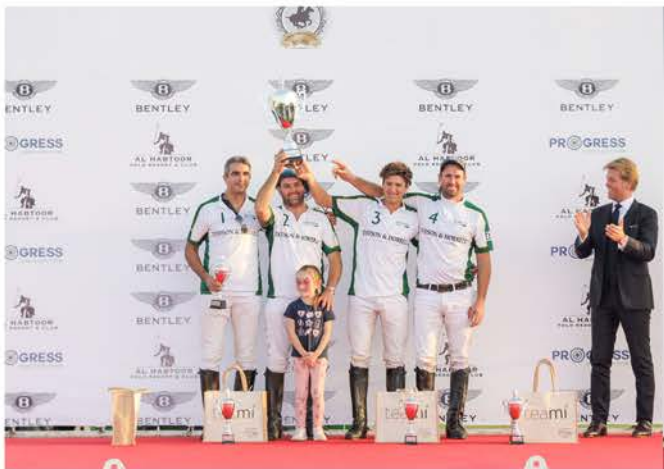


WINNER
HABTOOR POLO

BEST PONY
INUNCIADO



RUNNER-UP: DUBAI WOLVES by CAFU



HILDON CUP WINNER
BANGASH DODSON & HORREL POLO

GOLD CUP - 18 GOAL HANDICAP



WINNER
UAE POLO



RUNNER-UP
HABTOOR POLO



MVP
TOMMY BERESFORD



BEST PONY
BRILLIANTE



AUTO MILLENNIUM CUP WINNER
ZEDAN POLO



RUNNER-UP: AM POLO



THE UMPIRES

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

POLO MASTERS CUP - 6-8 GOAL HANDICAP

RUNNER-UP ANKORA POLO



MVP RICARDO GARROS



BEST PONY PICO FLOR



WINNER BIN DRAI POLO



RUNNER-UP: EL BASHA POLO



SUBSIDIARY CUP WINNER ESTANCIA LAMAR POLO

TOMAS F. LLORENTE JR.



I can say I work super hard and I am excellent team player. I give more than my 100% in the field. I believe this sets me apart from the others and I intend to keep doing this throughout my career.

You come from a family with a strong affinity to polo, when did you start playing the sport?

Yes, I come from a family who has been playing this wonderful sport for many years. I am part of the second generation of polo players in my family which I believe has now become a tradition for us and I am happy to be able to keep it going. I like that the sport has kept our family close. I can't remember the exact age when I started playing, but it would be at the time when I was 6-7 years old.

What are your polo pre-game preparations that are unique to you?

I'm not sure if these are unique to me but it's important to eat a good, carb loaded

meal on the day of the game and a sufficient warm up before the match. It's also more of a mental preparation such as watching their previous games and study them, so as a team we are able to anticipate the strength and strategy of our opponent.

What has been the highlight of your sporting career so far?

Right now I'm at the best moment in my career. The past two years have been wonderful - I've played at the Argentine Triple Crown - a goal that each polo player attempts to achieve.

Two years ago I, together with my cousin and two friends, won the Copa Camara Diputados Cup in Argentina, one of the top five tournaments in the world.

Describe yourself in 3 words.
Hard working. Easygoing. Patient.

What do you think sets you apart from the others in your field?

I can say I work super hard and I am an excellent team player. I give more than my 100% in the field. I believe this sets me apart from the others and I intend to keep doing this throughout my career.

What are your top 5 interests aside from polo?

I like to play golfing and padel. I enjoy visiting restaurants and try different cuisines. Beach time is always good and I'm happy to try any sporting activity.

What do you look forward to doing while being in the UAE?

I've been to the UAE before and my girlfriend will be with me this year. We want to visit the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and see Ferrari World which is going to be fun. We also would like to enjoy some time at the beautiful beaches, check out a few golf courses, visit some shopping malls and try the delicious food in a couple of restaurants.

You will be playing with one of the formidable teams in the UAE this season, what can you say about the team line-up? Are there any teams you look forward to playing against?

I think we are a really strong team. I'm happy to be playing with Haider Bangash and plus two of my friends which makes it easier to work together. I'm not looking forward to playing against a specific team but I have a few friends on other teams so it's going to be competitive. Hopefully the competitiveness can be enjoyable too.

Lastly, any key advice to upcoming and aspiring polo players?

My advice is to work hard and learn how to ride a horse properly. Polo gives you a lot of adrenalin and can get you really invested in the sport. Aside from hard work and understanding the game, it is important to keep improving by being consistent in your efforts, practicing and riding as much as you can.





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Matias Gonzales



Santiago Cernadas & Tomas Panelo



Habtoor Polo Team



Jacinto Crotto & Charles Cooney



Federico Von Potobsky



Jacinto Crotto & Segundo Amadori



Benjamin Panelo



Matias Gonzales



UAE Polo Team vs
Dubai Wolves by CAFU

Bautista Bayugar,
Tommy Beresford &
Matias Gonzales





Alfredo Cappella & Jacinto Crotto



Mohammed Al Habtoor



Haider Bangash



Zedan Polo Team & Habtoor Polo Team



Sheikha Alia Al Maktoum



Amr Zedan



Pablo Urquiza & Jerronimo Del Carril



Yousef Bin Desmal & Benjamin Pano



Habtoor Al Habtoor & Mohammed Al Habtoor



Ghanfoot Polo Team & Dubai Wolves by CAFU



Faris Al Yabhouni



HH Sheikha Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

THE MATCH

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





Socialites

Polo attracts the fashion conscious. Here are some of the trend-setters from last year...









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in the United Arab Emirates



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Please tell me a bit about your background, i.e. where you are from, what did you study at school, etc. I grew up in Amesbury, Wiltshire, UK about 2 miles from Stonehenge. My father was an aircraft engineer.

How did you start making art? And what or who inspired you to become an equestrian artist? I went to a grammar school in Salisbury and it was on entering the sixth form at school, that a different art teacher, introduced me to sculpture. I never had much talent in painting but working in three dimensions made so much more sense to me and I loved it from the start. I spent the next two years exploring and learning about this new medium. My obvious early subjects were what I knew best, horses.



Describe a real-life situation that inspired you. I never thought seriously about a career in art, and had regular jobs for the next few years. After I was made redundant from a government job, I used my spare time to make some sculptures. An artist friend of my father's encouraged me to cast some in bronze, I took a part time job to pay for it and I took my first bronzes to London, where they were bought by Garrards and Asprey. That was the day I started my life in sculpture, the last day of May 1983.

What's integral to the work of being an equestrian artist? I was a pony mad child. My family weren't wealthy and my parents had no interest in horses, but I was always reading about them or hanging out with any I could find where I would spend hours just watching. I think those early days plus an ability to retain images in my mind, are the biggest factors of my understanding of horses. I have acquired a knowledge of anatomy, movement and balance, and the desire to portray their external beauty to their inner soul. I have a feel and passion for horses and all thing natural, that's impossible to put into words.



What is your most important artist tool? Is there something you can't live without in your studio? I have several, depending on what's needed. I work in clay and an oil-based clay and both require a different set of tools. At different stages of a sculpture, different tools are needed. Each sculptor's individual style will reflect the tools used. Some will cut into the clay, others will press or scoop. I make what I need and I'm sure my toolbox will be different to someone else. Obviously I use some more than others and its very distressing to lose one!

What does "being creative" mean to you? My influence is entirely the natural world and I try and bring out the beauty I see in my subjects by choosing the right pose and composition. I wish to give the piece pleasing lines or expression and the emphasis may change according to the 'purpose' of the subjects. Because my aim is to produce a stand-alone thing of beauty and my beauty is nature, I choose to portray things based on a reality, my creativity is how I portray it.

Is there a piece of artwork you are most proud of? Why? A few years ago I made an American Quarter horse, a breed I have owned for over 40 years, and I have a copy in my house. I think it's a piece I am very proud of and its very special. However, I think everything I have made over my many years of being a sculptor, mean



a lot to me as during its creation, I have put my heart and soul into making it. Currently, I'm working on another favourite breed, an Arabian portrait head in traditional bridle, and I'm really enjoying it.

What is unique about your art, process and the way you want people to interact with it?

In a long career, I have started with a very traditional style and over the years I have also developed a slightly more simplified approach where I have explored the lovely more contemporary patinas, available. I feel I have never compromised correctness, regardless of the style I work in, and my background gives me advantages over many modern artists who don't have their roots in realism. When people look at my sculptures, I want them to see a thing of beauty that is tactile, stylish and has soul. I am not a fan of art requiring explanation, I aim to create a stand-alone thing of beauty that means something to people who see it.

GILL PARKER

“I think everything I have made over my many years of being a sculptor, mean a lot to me as during its creation, I have put my heart and soul into making it.”



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RIDING LESSONS (45 mins)		
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Private Lesson	AED455	AED500
Stable Tour 45mins (min. of 4 pax) (Children under 2 years old complimentary) Slot 8:30AM and 5PM	AED60	AED110
Stable Management 45mins (min. of 4 pax) (Children under 2 years old complimentary) Slot 8:30AM and 5PM	AED80	AED110

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Discover Gonpachi - The iconic Tokyo-based Kill Bill Restaurant

Gonpachi Japanese restaurant in Dubai or Nishi-Azabu is known for being the location of former-US President Bush and Former-Prime Minister Koizumi's Izakaya Summit, and even more famously known for its scene in Quentin Tarantino's 2004 film Kill Bill. The nostalgic atmosphere brings you back to Japan of a bygone era. Gonpachi Dubai is one of your best options for authentic Japanese food in the city, serving fine food in a relaxed, unpretentious setting.

Sunday to Thursday: 12 pm - 12 am | Friday & Saturday: 12 pm - 2 am

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WOMEN in Polo

by: Zaani van Zyl

Known as the Sport of Kings, polo has a few queens on the field playing passion, determination and skill.

Polo surely has come a long way from the time when women were banned from playing in several sporting events. In the 50's and 60's, female athletes would pretend to be a man, such as Sally Hale, taking on a male appearance to compete in polo tournaments.

Times have changed and women are now actively participating in tournaments, forming their own teams, and achieving notable firsts. Sunny Hale became the first woman to compete in the US Open in 2000. Nina Clarkin played in a team that won the British Cup in 2003 and won two national 8-goal tournaments in England. In women's polo, Nina played in teams that won the British Women's Open, the Argentine Women's Open and the French Open. Lia Salvo from Argentina learned to play from her father, Hector Salvo, started to compete when she was 12 years old and now carries a 2-goal handicap. Designer Rinaa Shaw from India fell in love with polo after watching a live game, and did not stop until she learned to play it professionally.

The first ever ladies only polo tournament in the Middle East took place in 2013 at the Dessert Palm Polo Club in Dubai, that was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Ten years later, we continue to see women tournaments rising – from Pink Polo in Ghantoot Polo and Racing Club to the Ladies Charity Cup of Al Habtoor Polo Club.

Melissa Ganzi the first woman to win the Monty Waterbury Cup, made



Petra Spanko

Playing the game is a very special moment – a little time capsule – when engaged in the game, absolutely nothing else exists. – Petra

history by becoming the first international woman to play polo in Saudi Arabia when she galloped out onto the field at Richard Mille AIUla Desert Polo in March 2022.

Such developments in changing the standards of the sport come with its own challenges. Petra Spanko, a female player originally from Prague who had competed in various polo tournaments in the United Arab Emirates, France and in USA, views polo as a sport of commitment and discipline. "In polo as a woman you don't have any given advantage like in golf. But I guess that's what makes us sometimes fight even harder on the field. Here in the region, we are very lucky to have some incredible women polo player role models paving the way. This sport is about constantly challenging yourself. It's about team spirit and camaraderie, love for the horses and sharing all this with likeminded people. I believe that having your own passion or hobby is very important for every woman, something that is feeding our

soul, that makes us tick. Playing the game is a very special moment – a little time capsule – when engaged in the game, absolutely nothing else exists."

Kim Roche, a New-Zealand Female Polo player and the frontrunner for Hesketh Polo team never really thinks about the fact that sometimes she is the only female player on the field amongst men. "When I'm on the field, my focus is on how the horses I am on are feeling and playing to the best of my ability on my handicap. All the guys out there are used to playing alongside women and we have some amazing women here in the UAE who have been playing for a long time as role models and there are a lot of us playing here now than 2-3 years ago. There are also some really exciting younger girls coming through the academy which is awesome to see! I would encourage any women interested in polo to book a lesson and get involved and not to be put off by the gender ratio."



Kim Roche

Polo in the Middle East has a bright future. With the governance of the UAE Polo Federation, the enthusiasm of team patrons and players through their consistent participation in tournaments, will inspire and encourage future female equestrians to come forth and take on the sport.



Melissa Ganzi

Sources: Hurlingham Polo | La Polo India | About Her | Feminina

SAVE THE DATES

The Most Awaited Tournaments of the Season

IFZA® SILVER CUP 2023

20 Goal Handicap

4th February



DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP 2023

8-10 Goal Handicap

18th March



POLO MASTERS CUP

6-8 GOAL HANDICAP

8th April



DUBAI CUP 2023

6-8 GOAL HANDICAP

29TH APRIL



SATURDAY Polo Picnic

Winter is the best season to be outside with your family and friends, so why not have a picnic?

Al Habtoor Polo Resort and Club is a perfect spot to have a picnic with its lush surroundings. Spend a beautiful day outdoors and treat each Saturday as a fun day out filled with activities, surprises and chances to win amazing prizes during the day.

Pack a picnic basket or buy some tasty treats from Half Time Food Truck and sit under a gazebo as you watch polo from the sidelines. A dedicated Kids Area is set with free pony rides, a huge bouncy castle, kids coloring area, and several games that will surely keep the little ones entertained.

So the next time a beautiful day comes around, drive down to Saturday Polo Picnic - Dubai's most stylish and fun picnic!



*AED 100 will be charged if you would like to park in the picnic area.
There is free public parking available if you do not wish to park in the picnic area

For more info call: 04 436 2222

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