

# HURLINGHAM

POLO



THE AUTUMN ISSUE 2018

CHARLIE HANBURY MVP:  
CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL SEASON



D. CUARTETERA CLONE B09  
BEST PLAYING PONY / US OPEN



D. CUARTETERA CLONE B09  
LADY SUSAN TOWNLEY TROPHY / ARGENTINE OPEN



D. CUARTETERA CLONE B06  
FINAL TORTUGAS OPEN 2016  
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Above: The Pony Club parade ahead of the Westchester Cup in July

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# FOREWORD

We had a wonderful, dry and sunny summer in the UK and there was a lot of outstanding polo, which you can read about in Action. Charlie Hanbury (featured on our cover) didn't win a game in the Queen's Cup, but won all of them in the Gold Cup and was named MVP. Michael Bickford has played in the final of the Queen's Cup for the past three years and finally won it, along with the Copa de Oro.

The Florida season is going to look very different in 2019, with the USPA lowering its 26-goal series to 22 goals and two patrons launching a 26-goal World Polo League. We discover both in Talk – spectators are going to be spoiled for choice!

In Opinion, Chip Campbell reflects on the challenges of running the USPA as well as the progress made in the last year. For those of you who are part of large, committee-led organisations, no doubt what he says will resonate.

What I love most about publishing *Hurlingham* is discovering what polo players do off the field. In Features, we have a look at what Édouard Carmignac has done with his art collection on the island of Porquerolles, and there is also an interesting article about Coco Chanel's connection with the game.

For all the latest polo news and action, visit [hurlinghampolo.com](http://hurlinghampolo.com)



**RODERICK VERE NICOLL**  
PUBLISHER

## CONTRIBUTORS



**THERESA HAROLD** was born in Hong Kong, but now lives in London and works as a journalist. She writes for *The Telegraph*, *Prestige Hong Kong*, and *Harper's Bazaar UK*. Her love of horses began as a child and she escapes to the stables as often as possible, but classes herself as a polo novice.



**ABI HANCOCK** is an English photographer who, coming from a polo family, is dedicated to capturing the passion, power and intensity of polo through her images. She created *The Art Of Polo* to encompass not only her style of photography but also to convey that she sees the game itself as an art.



**CAROLINA BERESFORD** has a rich family history of polo and relishes her part-Irish, part-Chilean nationality. She's travelled the globe watching her father, uncles and brothers play. After graduating from Bristol University with First Class Honours in History of Art, she moved to Argentina, where she now lives.



**ALEX WEBBE** has been a player since his teens and a regular on the polo scene for more than 50 years. He is best known as a journalist – writing tournament coverage, introductory articles about the sport and profiles of some of the game's best. He is also the polo columnist for the *Palm Beach Daily News*.



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# ONE TO WATCH

MAX KIRCHHOFF



Max Kirchhoff has taken his Snake Bite organisation from 2-goal to 18-goal in under a decade

TONY RAMIREZ/IMAGESOFPOLO.COM

Having grown up around the sport in Germany and France, Max Kirchhoff caught the polo bug at school, against his mother's wishes. Several rugby-related injuries prevented him from playing more polo during his teenage years, but a pre-university trip to Argentina set him on the polo path indefinitely. Here, he bought his first horses and his team, Snake Bite, was founded. 'Things have snowballed a little since,' Kirchhoff admits.

Based at Kirtlington, in England, Snake Bite has progressed hugely over the last decade, working its way up the ladder from 2-goal to 18-goal, and 2018 marks the team's 13th competitive season. 'This year's highlight must have been winning the Archie David,' he says. 'But personally I was extremely proud to have reached the semi-finals of the Royal Windsor, especially as we were the only non-high-goal team to make it out of the quarter-finals.'

Since quitting his job in the City, Kirchhoff travels as much as possible, be it for polo or shooting. But playing the last-ever World Elephant Polo Championships in Nepal, winning the Victor Ludorum at various levels, and competing in the Argentine Polo Tour might not be enough for the 32 year old. 'Playing the 22-goal is every polo player's dream,' he says. 'I will never rule it out but I would only enter if it was competitive.' Watch this space – Snake Bite is on the way up.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

This season has been one of two halves, a very wet start followed by a prolonged dry spell with unusually high temperatures for England. As a result, clubs without irrigation struggled, but a lot of polo was played and it was good to see considerable success for English players. The Queen's Cup was lifted by Michael Bickford and his La Indiana team, and the Gold Cup by Christopher Hanbury and his all-English El Remanso team.

A week after the Gold Cup, International Day was played for the first time at the Royal County Berkshire Polo Club and it was great to see the Flannels England team accept the Westchester Cup from Zara Tindall after a convincing win against the USA. Congratulations also to the Flannels England Ladies who achieved a comfortable win over the Rest of the World for the Thai Polo Diamond Jubilee Leopard Trophy. The only sad part of the day was that it was to be the last public appearance of Greta Morrison, who made a huge effort to be there, but passed away 10 days later.

There has been much support for the 'no blocking' rule and for the replacement of the 'throw in' with a 'hit in'. These changes helped to speed up the game considerably and improved the watching experience.

Unfortunately no England team has headed south for the FIP European 8-Goal Championships, but Ireland will be defending their title from Berlin in 2016 and we wish them the very best of luck.

*David Wood*

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**SEBASTIAN DAWNAY ART**

From gifts to dramatic equine art and quality polo equipment, Sebastian Dawnay's new venture, The Country House and Stables is well worth a visit. Located at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club, the gallery presents sculptures by Amy Goodman, pencil drawings and oil paintings by Eddie Kennedy and alluring fine art equine images by Alice Gipps (pictured below), as well as an array of Argentine trinkets and handmade polo-themed jewellery by Nicci Bethel. Hand-picked polo mallets and Dawnay's own design polo saddles are also in stock.



**EQUESTRIAN LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK**

Inspired by Lord Patrick Beresford, new photographic book *Equestrian Life: From Riding Houses to Country Estates* is an ode to a lifestyle revolving around the bond between man and horse. With photography by Mark Roskams and words by Lavinia Branca Snyder, the book puts the beauty, strength and prowess of the horse pride of place, from the beamed interior of Combe Court stables – unchanged since they were built in 1860 – to the wood-panelled rooms of Bolsover Castle, the home to the father of modern dressage, and finally to the Royal Mews at Windsor. A highlight is Curraghmore House (pictured below) and its 2,500 acres of formal gardens, woodland and grazing fields in County Waterford, Ireland – the beloved family home of Lord Patrick Beresford. Available now, published by Rizzoli International Publications



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**HOOKED ON POLO:  
CHARLIE HANBURY**

Charlie Hanbury started playing polo with the Cotswold Pony Club when he was 10 and played his first adult tournament at Cirencester Park when he was 14. He was delighted to win the Gold Cup this year

It's the horses that make polo particularly special for me. We have a breeding programme that my father started with some of his old mares in England and we also breed in Argentina, so today I'm able to play mothers and children in the same games. This year in the final of the Gold Cup I played four I bred, Ollie Cudmore played two and James Beim also played two. The perfect game of polo for me is when we win! But I love playing with my family – my brother George is a great teammate and works very hard to give you time on the ball. Playing with friends is also important as I think it gives you a connection, which teams that don't know each other don't have. My most memorable game was winning the semi-final of the Gold Cup in 2012. My brother and I played against Dubai in the torrential rain at Ambersham. I will never forget the look on my drenched parents' faces! Sadly we went on to lose the final against Cortium, but I won't forget how happy my parents were to see George and me out there together. Winning the Gold Cup this year was special as well. We were down by two goals at the start of the last chukkas and Ollie scored on the bell for the win! I play all levels from 4-goal upwards, and while I won't be going to Argentina this season as my wife is having a baby, next summer I'll see what polo I can get.



**LAWYERS POLO**

In September 2018, the Lawyers Polo Association hosted its 10th anniversary polo tournament in Morocco, bringing together lawyers from all around the world to share a week of polo and networking. The main idea of Lawyers Polo is to connect an international group of people to share their passion for law, business and horses in the most exclusive polo clubs around the world. The association currently comprises more than 350 amateur players and lawyers, and this year's Morocco edition began with a black-tie cocktail opening, before eight polo teams played a series of matches at La Palmariaie.

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**THAI POLO WIN IN MALAYSIA**

Thai Polo had an impressive season in Malaysia, winning the first and second legs of the Royal Malaysian Polo Association International League, comprising four tournaments. The RMPA International League is in its 14th consecutive season and is sponsored by Thai Polo & Equestrian Club, MiCasa All Suite Hotel, MALAYA and Zack's Tack. Thai Polo claimed a close 7-6 victory over La Sarita in the final of the Royal Selangor Polo Club Open, with Rauli Laplacette awarded Most Valuable Player, and Packet Rocket – ridden by Agustín Andrada – named Best Playing Pony. The team then went on to win the RMPA Classic 8-4.5 against Royal Pahang, with Laplacette awarded Most Valuable Player once again, and his horse Mandinga, owned by Thai Polo, crowned Best Playing Pony.

TONY RAMIREZ/IMAGESOFPOLO.COM, ALEJANDRO MOY



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### CHUKKAS

In the last 12 months, top women's player, Nina Clarkin has won three Ladies Opens. In December she will return to Palermo as captain of La Dolfina Brava playing with Mia Cambiaso and sisters Milagros and Candelaria Fernández Araujo.

Empire Polo Club has appointed former 10-goaler Memo Gracida as its new polo director. He will help to recruit teams and players, coach and watch over the 14 grounds at the club. Most weekends the club hosts 1-goal tournaments as well as 4- and 8-goal polo leagues at the start of the year.

In early September, Mariano Aguerre won the East Coast Open for the 12th time in his polo career. His first win came back in 1988 playing with Peter Brant and the legendary White Birch team. This year, he lifted the trophy after playing with Peter's son Christopher Brant.

The 54th Jockey Club Open had nine teams. Poroto Cambiaso made his debut into the high-goal – the youngest player ever at 12 years old! In 2006, Nico Pieres won the Jockey Club Open at 15 years old playing with his father and two older brothers.

The Argentine Polo Association tested some new rules in the San Jorge and Jockey Club Opens that saw teams change sides after three chukkas, fouls being counted, and players restricted to bringing 50% more ponies than the number of chukkas. The changes are being considered for the Triple Crown.

AAP president, Eduardo Novillo Astrada has announced his retirement as a high-goal player after an illustrious career. He won the Triple Crown in Argentina playing with three of his brothers, and won two British Opens and a US Open with his brothers Ignacio and Javier respectively.

### 100TH FIP AMBASSADORS CUP

Plans for the 100th FIP Ambassadors Cup at the Helvetia Polo Club first began last December, in honour of Farouk Younes (pictured below). Local families opened up their homes to receive players and lent ponies to the visitors. Carlos Mansour hosted a fantastic dinner at his house, during which team shirts were presented to the 20 teams made up of two local players and two foreigners from over 20 countries. There were five tournaments with each team playing three games of five chukkas. Vico and Mara Coutinho hosted a Brazilian-style party, where lots of fun was had by all.



### KLENTNER RANCH

After losing in double overtime last year, local Santa Barbara team Klentner Ranch claimed an 8-6 victory over Lucchese in the final of the 2018 Silver Air Pacific Coast Open. A hand injury in the semi-final game against Sol de Agosto sidelined Justin Klentner for the final, but his eldest son Jake stepped up and secured the win for his father's team, scoring the most field goals for Klentner Ranch. Remy Muller was awarded Most Valuable Player for his defensive efforts that helped secure Klentner Ranch's triumph, and the Best Playing Pony award was won by Jesse Bray's mare Venice.



DAVID LOMINSKA, ROBSON SENNE



**SADDLE UP WITH...  
BYRON WATSON**

**COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA  
HANDICAP: 5 (UK)  
AGE: 22**

**When and how did you start playing polo?**

With my father, around the age of eight, in a small town called Underberg in South Africa. There were 12 playing members.

**What makes polo special for you?**

Polo brings together my passion for ball sports and my love of horses. I enjoy learning from people and being part of a team.

**Who do you respect most in polo?**

Several important people have influenced my polo greatly: Pite Merlos introduced me to high-goal playing; Gaston Lulhe has helped improve my confidence and understanding of the game; and Pelon Stirling has encouraged me on and off the field, and gave me the opportunity to play with La Bamba.

**How many tournaments have you played in this year – and how many did you win?**

I've played in six tournaments this year with three wins, and I reached the finals of the Gold Cup (22-goal) and the Challenge (18-goal).

**What is your most memorable polo game?**

The semi-final of the Gold Cup against RH, who we beat in overtime. The feeling of winning that close game to go into the final was unbelievable.



**LOVE OF MY LIFE**

**PONY'S NAME: SALSITA  
SEX: MARE  
ORIGIN: ARGENTINA**

Salsita is an eight-year-old grey mare, bred in the UK by James Beim. She is out of Salsa, an American Thoroughbred, and by Clark (Claret x Night Opera), an Ellerston Australia stallion transported to the UK. She played with Beim's brother, Tom, in low goal, and this has been her first proper season playing high goal. 'I normally play her early as a spare and in the fourth chukka,' says Beim. 'She has a lot of power, is very comfortable, has an amazing mouth but her biggest asset is her sides at speed. I have never ridden a horse that can turn at speed like Salsita. You have to hold on!' She won BPP in the quarters and semis of the Gold Cup this year, and was also awarded the prize in the Westchester Cup. Beim is now creating embryos to breed Salsita, who already has a one-year-old mare.

**ASPEN VALLEY  
POLO CLUB**

This year's Aspen Valley Polo Club summer marquis charity event, hosted by club owners Marc and Melissa Ganzi and Aspen Valley Hospital, raised an impressive \$537,200 for the Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation, beating last year's total of \$366,000. Held during the 12 August Rocky Mountain Open, the Chukkers, Champagne & Caviar fundraiser raised money to support Aspen Valley Hospital's construction project, plus help to



purchase state-of-the-art imaging technology and will also contribute to the hospital's ongoing daily operations. The live polo player auction was the highlight of the day; with John Sarpa of the Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation Board serving as emcee and auctioneer.



# QUEEN'S CUP WINNER 2018

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# A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Darlene Ricker gets the inside scoop on what to expect from the new 26-goal World Polo League, from its co-founder Bob Jornayvaz

The Florida high-goal season is going to look very different in 2019, with the USPA lowering its 26-goal series to 22 goals and two patrons launching their own 26-goal league to fill the gap. Until now little was known about how the new World Polo League (WPL), created by Bob Jornayvaz and Marc Ganzi, would operate.

They have finally rolled out the bottom line: this is going to be 26-goal polo like we've never seen it before. In a radical departure from association polo, team owners will be 'in control of their destiny,' says Jornayvaz.

WPL teams will vote on which rules they want to play under, selecting from a combination of USPA, HPA and AAP rules. No new rules will be created. The teams and players will also regain valuable trademark, film and broadcast rights that they are required to forfeit without compensation if they play in USPA tournaments.

'Why should we give up our rights to either a venue or an organisation governed by people who aren't actively participating in and/or paying for high-goal polo?' asks Jornayvaz. 'We bring in the top players in the world at our own expense and put on a great

show with no compensation. We have created a league to empower team owners.'

Under a unique concept, the WPL will offer an optional turnkey programme designed to foster and attract sponsors to high-goal polo by reducing the barriers to entry. It has attracted several international players who have never played 26-goal polo.

'You don't have to buy horses, find housing for your grooms, lease barns, arrange practice fields – all the things that make high-goal polo intimidating outside your home country. You write one cheque and just show up with your boots,' explains Jornayvaz.

*Previous page: The stands at Valiente This page, from left: Robert and Bob Jornayvaz with Melissa, Marc and Grant Ganzi*

Neither is it necessary to hire the likes of Adolfo Cambiaso, who is a strong supporter of the new league and has committed to playing in it, to have a competitive team. The WPL has created three 'parachute teams', each with a 10-goaler already committed. Sponsors may bring their own horses and play with that team, or rent 26-goal horses.

At least eight teams will take part and four 10-goalers have already committed to play. All teams will have equal access to

them for the first tournament: the All-Star Challenge. The 10-goalers' names will be drawn from a hat at the kick-off party on 5 February.

'We thought it would be neat for team owners to be able to play with a 10-goaler [who] they have only been able to play against before as they were all hired by other teams,' says Dale Smicklas, WPL commissioner.

The WPL will hold four tournaments in Wellington – with significant prize money

– over the 2019 winter season. The All-Star Challenge (6-17 February) is followed by The Founders Cup (20 February–2 March), The Palm Beach Open (6-24 March) and the Triple Crown (27 March–14 April). The league has 14 fields available, most of them at Valiente Polo Farm, Grand Champions Polo Club and Santa Rita Polo Farm.

Jornayvaz underscores that there is 'a lot more at stake here than just playing 26. This is about team owners having a say in how to show the sport to the world in a different way; showing its professionalism, athleticism, speed and danger'.

He says the WPL is not intended to compete with the USPA 22-goal tournaments in Wellington. 'We are very inclusive. Anyone is welcome to play in our tournaments, the USPA tournaments or both.'

The concept of a club having its own high-goal tournaments is not unprecedented. Decades ago John Oxley started the Sunshine League 22-goal tournament, which ran for two months, as well as the 26-goal International Gold Cup, at Royal Palm Beach Polo Club. Bill Ylvisaker followed with six high-goal tournaments at Palm Beach Polo Club, two of which were USPA-sanctioned and four that were not.

'John and Bill created a different concept of how they wanted to promote the sport,' says Smicklas. 'The idea was to have the highest level of polo played in a more commercial arena. The World Polo League is the next generation in that thought process.'

Jornayvaz sees it as 'a very positive thing. Our move is benefitting all polo players, not just those who are playing in our league. Had we not done this, there would not be prize money in high-goal,' he says, noting that other tournaments started awarding prize money, or increased it, after the WPL announcement last winter.

## NO NEW RULES WILL BE CREATED. THE TEAMS AND PLAYERS WILL ALSO REGAIN VALUABLE TRADEMARK, FILM AND BROADCAST RIGHTS



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# RAISING THE STAKES

Changes to American high-goal tournaments mean more teams playing for higher prize money and greater excitement all round, writes Alex Webbe



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Although it's not an historic move, the United States Polo Association has opted to lower the handicaps of the country's three top tournaments, the CV Whitney Cup, the USPA Gold Cup and the US Open Polo Championship, from 26-goals to a 22-goal maximum for at least the next three years. It should be noted that the last time the US

Open was played at the 22-goal level was in 1979. In 1980, it returned to 24-goals then back to 26-goals in 1981.

In 2018, the US Open attracted only six teams, with two of them coming from Jornayvaz (Valiente and Colorado) and two from the Ganzis (Audi and Flexjet). A fourth team was sponsored by U.S. Polo Assn. (the

official licensed apparel of the USPA) and featured two Ganzi regulars, Juancito Bollini and Grant Ganzi. The sixth team, The Daily Racing Form (Agustin Obregon, Mariano Obregon, Hilario Ulloa and Jared Zenni) under Jim Zenni, took the trophy.

With a desire to keep high-goal polo alive, Bob Jornayvaz and Marc and Melissa

*Opposite page, from left:  
The C.V. Whitney, U.S.  
Open and USPA Gold  
Cups This page, from left:  
Tommy Beresford and  
Jared Zenni in the final  
of the US Open*

Ganzi are partnering to build a non-USPA affiliated 26-goal league (World Polo League) for the 2019 winter Florida season.

On the eve of the formal announcement of the World Polo League debut, the USPA announced a financially incentive-laden New Tournament Series offering a 'Winner Takes All' prize money format for the Association's top three tournaments. The USPA announced that they would offer \$125,000 to the winner of the CV Whitney Cup; \$125,000 to the USPA Gold Cup winner and \$250,000 to the winner of the US Open Polo Championship. As an added incentive, they are offering an additional \$500,000 bonus if a team manages to win all three tournaments, totalling \$1 million dollars!

All parties are confident that this partnership platform and series format will provide an increased number of competitive teams, enhanced spectator interest, greater opportunities for American players and will lower the cost of fielding a team for owners.

Another twist to the new tournament structure will include the 'American Rule', requiring each team to have at least one registered American USPA member, other than the sponsor/patron on the team.

'A driving force to lowering the handicap of the tournaments was to increase the number of teams competing, re-engage the enthusiasm of the sport and afford more opportunities to American players to participate in these great tournaments,' said USPA CEO, Bob Puetz.

With nearly 20 teams voicing interest in the 22-goal USPA tournaments, there is a growing concern over the availability of fields and scheduling for each of the competitions.

Russian Andrey Borodin is expected to take the field with his Park Place entry as well

as Las Monjitas (Camilo Bautista and Hilario Ulloa); Jeff Hildebrand's Tonkawa line-up that will feature Sapo Caset; Coca-Cola; Curtis Pilot's team that is expected to include Facundo Pieres and Gonzalito Pieres; Maureen Brennan's Goose Creek team; Postage Stamp Farm's Annabelle Garrett will be joined by Mariano Aguerre; Joe DiMenna is expected to be joined by the father-son team of Mariano and Peke Gonzalez for Equuleus; Michael Bickford and Jeff Hall will be riding for La Indiana; Scott Wood is rumoured to have Polito Pieres joining him on his ERG team with additional possibilities that could stretch the field to ten teams or more.

A couple of the concerns facing both the USPA and the International Polo Club Palm Beach (IPC) will be fields and umpires, but Puetz voiced assurances that those issues will be taken care of.

'Jimmy Newman [IPC polo manager] and club owner Mark Bellissimo have been working with some of the private field owners to secure additional fields,' said Puetz, who expects to have 8-10 fields available. Puetz was also confident in the ability of the USPA umpires to be able to handle the added activity for the 2019 winter season.

More teams, more prize money and more polo, what could be better?



# GAME CHANGERS

APPL founder Javier Tanoira has had a huge influence on the game, but now is a time for reflection – so what's next, asks Carolina Beresford



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Love it or hate it, the All Pro Polo League (APPL) has certainly shaken things up in the polo world over the past few years. Whether recruiting young, up-and-coming players, 10-goal superstars or high-goal veterans, Javier Tanoira has proven that a different type of polo model exists. After a successful 2018 World Tour – the highlight of which was hosting the first ever 40-goal match played at Cowdray Park Polo Club (supported by Hurlingham 1875, the APPL's first official sponsor) – the league finds itself at a very interesting junction. Up to this point, no

## THE APPL HAS PROVEN THAT A MORE DYNAMIC VERSION OF POLO IS POSSIBLE

player or club has been paid for their involvement in the league; all parties have supported the project because of their willingness to improve the sport as a whole. Now the APPL has shown that a more entertaining, dynamic version of polo is

possible, it is time to figure out what's next on the agenda for the organisation.

The APPL did not have any specific objectives when it started hosting matches in 2015, but one thing was clear: polo needed a reboot. 'Our biggest achievement has been

highlighting that there is a definite need for change in polo, especially regarding the rules,' explains Tanoira. 'Before the APPL, many people believed there wasn't a problem in the sport, that nothing needed changing. Thankfully, today, not many people still feel that way. This has definitely been the biggest takeaway from this project, showing that with just a few changes polo can be more exciting and entertaining, to play and to watch.'

With everyone fighting for funding in polo, Javier took a different approach, letting the action do the talking. 'We knew that we had to go out and show the idea before anyone would want to buy in, and we have done what we set out to do,' says Tanoira. 'The 40-goal match at Cowdray Park marked the end of stage one. We have shown that this type of polo is more attractive, and that players and spectators enjoy it more.'

By organising high-goal tournaments and exhibition matches in Argentina, USA, England, France, Spain and Brazil, Tanoira was able to show how far a few rule changes could go. 'We managed to get the point across that for polo to be a spectacle we have to put the best possible players on the field. This is another misconception that is prominent in polo: that it is fine to put bad players on the field and then invite the public to watch, or persuade television channels to cover it. The APPL has made it clear that the best way to attract a paying audience is to have the best possible players challenging each other.'

The APPL has unquestionably opened the debate, be it around the economic model of polo, the sporting structure, and even about specific rules – don't forget that the implementation of the 'no over-the-board throw-in' rule was greatly inspired by the

success it had in APPL matches. But, after a formidable four years, it's time for reflection. The APPL is building a crowdfunding platform and investigating whether an ICO would be the best way forward. However, before fully diving into phase two, Tanoira has promised to publish an essay analysing the steps he has taken so far, and detailing the ways in which the project could continue. 'The essay I am writing now is a continuation of my last one, but with a difference,' tells Tanoira. 'When I wrote my first essay in 2009, I thought that would be my total contribution to polo. I thought that I could suggest new rules and other people would follow it up. It took me four years to realise that nobody was going to do anything, so I decided that I would. I am now writing about how this project was born and what we have accomplished. We have come pretty far, and we hope to go further still.'



*Opposite, standing, from left: Nico Pieres, Sapo Caset, Javier Tanoira, Hilario Ulloa, Polito Pieres. Seated, from left: Facundo Pieres, Pelon Stirling, Gonzalito Pieres, Juan Martin Nero  
This page: Nico chases brother Facundo Pieres during the 40-goal game at Cowdray Park Polo Club*



# POLO PLAYGROUND

With its natural beauty and impressive polo estancias, the coastal region between Mar del Plata and Necochea is a haven for polo players and their families, writes Coast Sullenger



## THE OCEAN AND BEACHES ARE A KEY ATTRACTION FOR THOSE WHO PREFER PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

*Opposite, top: Ponies graze by the Atlantic. Opposite, below: Casa Grande This page, right: Guests at Estancia San Martin*



Starting with the coastal city of Mar del Plata and extending down along the Ruta 88 to the large port town of Necochea, the seemingly quiet farming region – located on Argentina’s Atlantic coast to the south of the province of Buenos Aires – reads like the who’s who of old Argentine families and grand estancias.

Some of the better-known names are Bellamar, Moromar and Fray Guen, with thousands of hectares each, as well as beautiful polo facilities. Estancia Comalal, one of Prince Philip’s favourite destinations according to local sources, and neighbouring Malal-Hue, which boasts a grandiose castle. Some large estancias are now owned by foreigners, mostly Americans and Europeans, yet while most local shops are still in the old gaucho style, unchanged for many years, the area has a cosmopolitan feel and an incredibly vibrant polo scene.

Indeed, the region has a long history of polo and is currently undergoing yet another revival. At the forefront is Estancia San Martin (ESM), an enclave of polo, located a 45km drive south of Mar del Plata off Ruta 88, with its historic colonial-style main house often referred to by locals as the ‘Casa Grande’. Originally, San Martin was at the centre of nearly 60,000 hectares of cattle and crop farming in this frontier zone, and polo was a big tradition for the local

landlords and gentry. Today in ESM there are several polo fields and guest lodges, in addition to the Casa Grande that was recently renovated and which is opening a unique country club development catering to international polo families, with the main idea of offering polo players and their families the advantages of a private estancia for a modest investment.

Thanks to these large working estancias, the coastline is not overly developed and it retains its natural beauty. Farms of 2,000 to 5,000 ha are the norm, and these farms extend from the Ruta 88 all the way to the sea several miles away. The ocean and beaches, a short drive from any point, are a key attraction of the region, especially for those who prefer peace and tranquility rather than stepping over towels searching for a spot among crowds. Plus, with a range of activities including yoga, trial riding, surfing and riding on the beach, for the polo world it beats polo holidays that only offer polo and a swimming pool.

In ESM, the three professional Riglos brothers maintain a successful breeding operation and supply horses and training in the region and beyond. Rancho Tinto, owned by Swiss polo patron Cédric Schweni also offers guests a luxury experience with stunning views over the polo field and the endless pampa landscape beyond.

In addition to Estancia San Martin, there are several “open policy” polo clubs located both in Mar del Plata and Necochea, such as Polo Riglos, and private estancias are also an active and integral part of the polo scene and the community. Access is possible mainly through ESM and Rancho Tinto, and guests to the region could end up on the field with legendary Tommy Llorente, who played in the Palermo Open.

Visiting players may share the field with any number of juniors, sons of professional players who, at 14 or 16 years old, are already playing off 3-4 goal handicaps. They are training young horses, they are passionate about polo and they love the opportunity to help patrons and beginning players improve. Every level of polo can be found all over this region and several of the local clubs such as La Lechuza in Necochea and Mar del Plata polo club host annual tournaments that are open to all.

To fit in with the locals, some key terms that could come in useful before heading to Estancia San Martin are: ‘Piquata’ – an aperitif, the traditional drinks and snacks served before dinner at around 8pm; ‘asado’ – the traditional Argentine-style barbecue, sometimes with a mix of tasty lamb, beef and pork; and, most importantly, ‘golasso’ – what everyone yells when someone scores a beautiful goal on the field!

# COUNTRY FILE

Retaining its fashionable presence in both the city and at countryside polo events, Holland Cooper celebrates 10 years of its unique aesthetic



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In the world of fashion, few success stories arise as organically as that of Holland Cooper. The British label, which, as it reaches its 10th year, has made its name by tapping into a unique countryside-meets-city style, has been driven forward from the beginning by the passions of its charismatic founder Jade Holland Cooper.

Growing up on an arable farm in Suffolk – her father a farmer, her mother working as a couturier in London and Paris – the future designer rejected unconditional offers to study at Central Saint Martins and London College of Fashion, instead studying international equine and agriculture

management at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. It was after spotting a gap in the market for a contemporary take on luxury country wear that she made the decision to leave university to begin her entrepreneurial journey.

'I was 20 years old and going to lots of social events in the countryside, such as horse trials and polo matches,' explains Holland Cooper. 'My mother was a keen horsewoman, so I grew up in the pony club. As a young woman interested in fashion, it struck me that there really wasn't anything out there that was stylish for this market.' What started as selling skirts at the

Badminton Horse Trials has since grown into a £10 million business, with stores in Edinburgh, Bicester and Westfield.

'My plan was to take classic country pieces and make them more appealing for a younger, more fashionable customer,' says Holland Cooper. 'Tweed made in Scotland, cut leaner and sharper into chic jackets; waxed capes made short and neat so they look modern and work at music festivals as much as at horse trials; leather trousers that can be worn in Chelsea or Cheltenham; scarves and baker boy hats that keep you warm but look stylish.'

[hollandcooper.com](http://hollandcooper.com)



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# CHIP CAMPBELL

The chairman of the USPA reflects on the association's challenges, progress and plans for the future

ILLUSTRATION: PHIL DISLEY

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I began my service within the USPA about 10 years ago as a lieutenant governor – now I am chairman of the USPA. When you involve yourself in a non-profit volunteer position you soon realise that these entities typically take whatever they can get from a volunteer. This can detract from your own personal life and requires time and priority management. That is why there are a lot of very qualified people who will not involve themselves in volunteer positions and this is a symptom within the USPA. We have many good volunteers, but there are many more out there who have the resumé to serve, but will not. You must dedicate time and have a passion to involve yourself in this type of work.

In my tenure with the USPA, I have operated under one thesis: leave it better than you found it! Realising my tenure will come to a close in the near term, I intend to accomplish that for the benefit of the USPA and its members.

During my time with the USPA, I have noticed many things that did not make sense – mostly organisational and operational. However, there are many things that are correct and I attribute the things that needed fixing to previous management turnover, spending growth, the size of the board and its bureaucratic nature, as well as 'the many sports' within the sport of polo

that the USPA is tasked with administering. There is no way around the size of the board – I attempted to change it and it was rejected. Those are the rules we are tasked to play by in the USPA, that is the way it is. We do have a nine-member executive committee, which helps with the management of the USPA, but we are essentially a committee-run organisation with multiple committees tasked with different subject matters, each with multiple members – all volunteers. Matters are considered and vetted at the committee level and then rise up to the executive committee/board level for ultimate approval. This process can, and usually does, take months. There is an implementation period, which takes longer. These processes can be frustrating when you're used to making things happen fast, as most of us do in our own personal business.

I wrote a forward to the 2018 USPA *Bluebook* several months ago that recaps my analysis of the USPA. But, since my election in September 2017 to the role of the USPA chairman it is worthwhile to reflect on the progress we have made as an organisation:

## PERSONNEL

We've hired a new CEO and a new executive director of services. We've also eliminated and consolidated the position of executive

director of USPA Polo Development, LLC, and we continue to reorganise personnel and staff to be more efficient in relation to mission objectives.

## REORGANISATION

We've restructured the three wholly owned subsidiaries (Polo Development, Umpires and Brand/Marketing LLC) including their boards, designated powers, reporting and accountability to the USPA board. We are also in the process of aligning, updating and complying with Illinois state law and providing consistency to the USPA governing organisational documents and policies.

Awarding prize money to our three highest-level USPA tournaments has enhanced support for the authenticity associated with our brand and licensing subsidiary (USPA Global Licensing), along with substantiating polo as a 'legitimate' sport for our members, which could help for tax reporting.

The board has approved a horse-breeding registry and committee. We have also formalised, tasked and received board approval for a strategic planning committee to steer the organisation into the future.

## FINANCIAL

We passed a fixed dollar annual subsidy



**AWARDING PRIZE MONEY TO OUR USPA  
TOURNAMENTS HAS ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR THE  
AUTHENTICITY ASSOCIATED WITH OUR BRAND**

Chip Campbell (centre)  
with Gil and Skeey  
Johnston in Wyoming



limit for the USPA in April, which will encourage financial discipline and internal efficiency as pressure grows to increase spending as well as fixing the mark for an endowed organisation. We continue to make marked progress in ‘endowing’ the USPA and its operating expenses solely from a public securities portfolio; this objective should be accomplished in the next several years. Additionally, we will be proposing the earmarking of certain projected future cash inflows to fund specific items that have been ‘crisis managed’ and we are in the process of passing a two-thirds super majority voting policy for major capital expenditures and purchases.

**COMPETITION/OTHER**

We have elevated and expanded competition and participation level for American players in the CV Whitney, USPA Gold Cup and US

Open Polo Championship tournaments by lowering the handicap from 26 to 22 goals and thus reenacting the ‘American’ rule. A comprehensive three-year agreement with the International Polo Club Palm Beach has been structured; this addresses not only polo competition that includes unprecedented prize money awards, but also includes the USPA’s positioning to enhance the intellectual property and branding of the USPA marks, strengthening the promotion and awareness of the sport. Efforts continue to strengthen and broaden ties and collaboration with the leaders of the Hurlingham Polo Association, the Argentine Polo Association and the Federation of International Polo whereby we all play and abide by the same or similar rules. Efforts are also underway to revisit and strengthen interaction with the Polo Training Foundation, Museum of Polo and Hall of

Fame and other polo related charities. We are also actively seeking ways to further enhance the prestige and value of USPA tournaments by awarding them to deserving clubs and implementing a program to provide matching funds for prize money.

**FUTURE INITIATIVES**

On the agenda for the near future are the following initiatives:

- Get the USPA horse-breeding registry organised and operating.
- Continue to consult with management and executive staff to create operational efficiencies.
- Propose a matching funds program to stimulate consistent funding for international events. For example, Federation of International Polo, Westchester Cup, Camacho Cup, Cup of the Americas and

international opportunities.

- Continue to advance and monitor the policy set forth of obtaining a public securities endowment for the USPA.
- Continue to oversee the operation of our independently managed licensing company and its tangible and intangible value creation to the USPA.
- Through restructuring of the USPA Polo Development, LLC programs provide a realistic path to have more American high-goal players – this must be in conjunction with other sponsors, patrons and polo families.
- Continue to enhance the marketing push for ‘authenticity’ between our brand and sport.

The USPA has the good fortune of being very sound financially, not only with recurring annual cash flow to fund

operations, but also having a balance sheet that continues to escalate in market value. Our membership dues are too cheap in relation to the value of the association and, regardless of our financial capabilities, the membership should at least cover the fixed overhead of running the association. We have to continue to show the membership the value of being a USPA member so that one day we can politically raise the dues in order for the dues to cover the cost of the fixed overhead of running the association. We have no excuse to not be successful from a financial standpoint!

However, we are living with a membership base that is reflective of policy and decisions made or not made within the USPA years ago. Significant challenges we now face include having very few American high-goal players, costs and expenses to compete in the sport are unreachable by

most, making a living within the sport is difficult at best and patrons are in short supply.

In summary, my overall goals are to enhance USPA tournament competition at all levels, provide programs that enable sustainable player growth and development, provide a platform to legitimise polo ponies playing in America, provide means to strengthen the financial stability of our member clubs, ensure efficiency in the management and expenditures of the association, strengthen the authentic association between our brand and sport, including its worldwide reach, and increase awareness of polo by continuing to refine and develop higher standards for polo webcasts, broadcasts and social media. Although we are making significant progress toward these goals they are all a work in progress.

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LEVEL AS A LEVEL



# ARTISTIC RETREAT

Beyond the polo field, businessman Édouard Carmignac has been quietly building a unique collection of artwork. Carolina Beresford discovers the Carmignac Foundation space on the island of Porquerolles

Entrepreneur and disciple of beauty Édouard Carmignac is admired for many things, not least for being the man who made the colour pink cool for aspiring and established polo players alike. Ever the perfect Frenchman, Carmignac is charismatic, charming, and always confident in rose, and his organisation, Talandrakas, has been one of the driving forces behind high-goal polo for decades.

But beyond the polo field, he has been building an intriguing cultural project: an exquisite art collection spanning centuries.

Carmignac, now 71, became interested in collecting artwork from the moment he got his own apartment at the age of 18. His first purchase was a lithograph by Ernst, and over the decades he has acquired pieces by artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gerhard Richter, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman and Willem de Kooning.

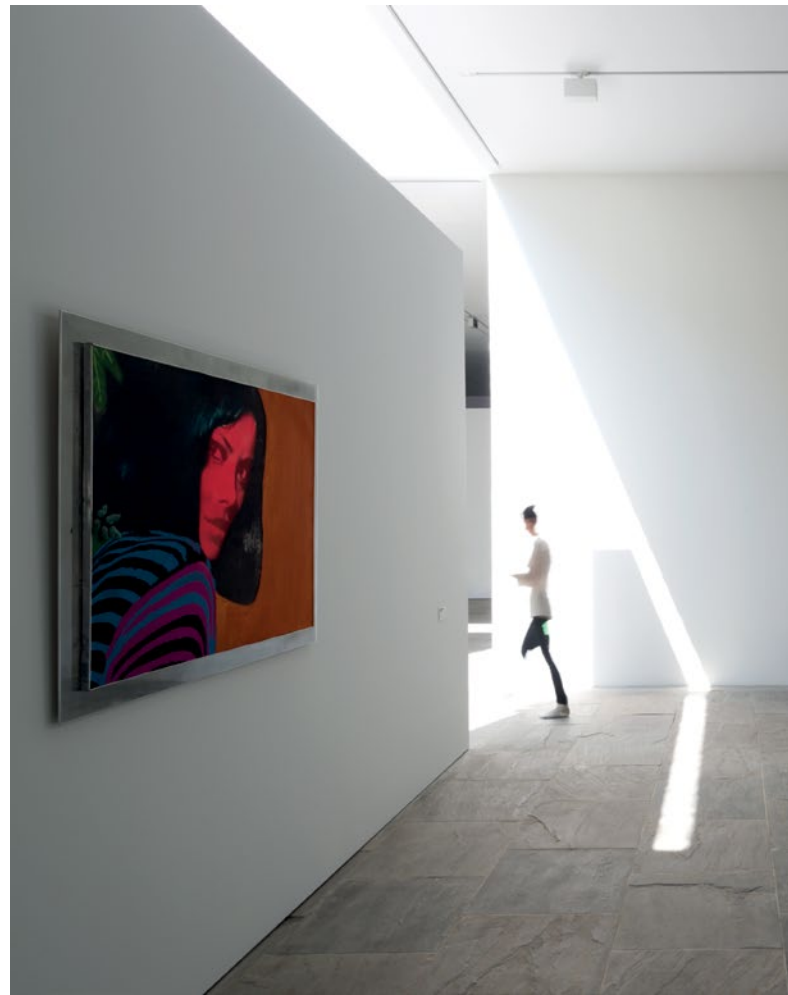
Until this summer, his collection could be admired only by those working at his company offices. However, it has always been Carmignac's wish to share his treasures with the wider world, and Fondation Carmignac was founded in 2000 to do just that. After a few false starts, the Carmignac Collection came to life in June, on the verdant island of Porquerolles, just off the southern coast of France.

Around 300 artworks belonging to the Foundation are now housed in 2,000 sq m of bright exhibition space in a Provençal villa bound between rugged cliffs and translucent beaches in the heart of the island's nature reserve.

Building constraints forced the galleries to exist below ground, but natural light, filtered through an aquatic ceiling, illuminates every corner. What's more, visits are limited to 50 people per half-hour, making the experience even more leisurely.

Outside, the striking exhibits continue in the sculpture gardens. Designed by renowned landscape architect Louis Benech, the space is home to a collection of pieces from commissioned projects or artist's residencies, and the forest is full of installations, temporary artworks and performance art. The natural drama of the landscape serves to accentuate the beauty of the pieces on display, which are flanked by olive trees. Closer to the house there is a small vineyard, alongside jacarandas, eucalyptus and mimosa trees for an exotic twist.

The thing that is particularly alluring about Carmignac's artwork is that it is his own personal collection. Having grown up between Peru, Paris and New York, his eclectic pieces relive and reference fascinating periods of his life, such as his time spent hanging out at Warhol's New York City studio, The Factory. He even had his portrait done by Basquiat. The portrait hangs proudly in Porquerolles near works by



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Previous page: Edouard Carmignac at The Foundation. Opposite, from left: Jean Michel Basquiat's *Zing* (1984); *Les Trois Alchimistes* (2018) by Jaume Plensa  
Main: *Untitled* (1962), Martial Raysse (left) and Gerhard Richter's *Evelyn (Blau)* (1964). Left: Edouard Carmignac with Prince Harry after winning the Queen's Cup

## HIS FASCINATION WITH BOTTICELLI RELATES TO THE ARTIST'S NOTION OF BEAUTY AND HOW THE ITALIAN'S SET THE STANDARD

Carmignac's favourite artist, Roy Lichtenstein, making it the most important private collection of pieces by the American Pop Art icon in France.

The Foundation is also home to photography and photojournalism, another interest of Carmignac's, with a €50,000 cash prize given to the winner of the Carmignac Photojournalism Award each year. The prize enables them to carry out an in-depth reportage on human rights violations, which are not covered in traditional media outlets.

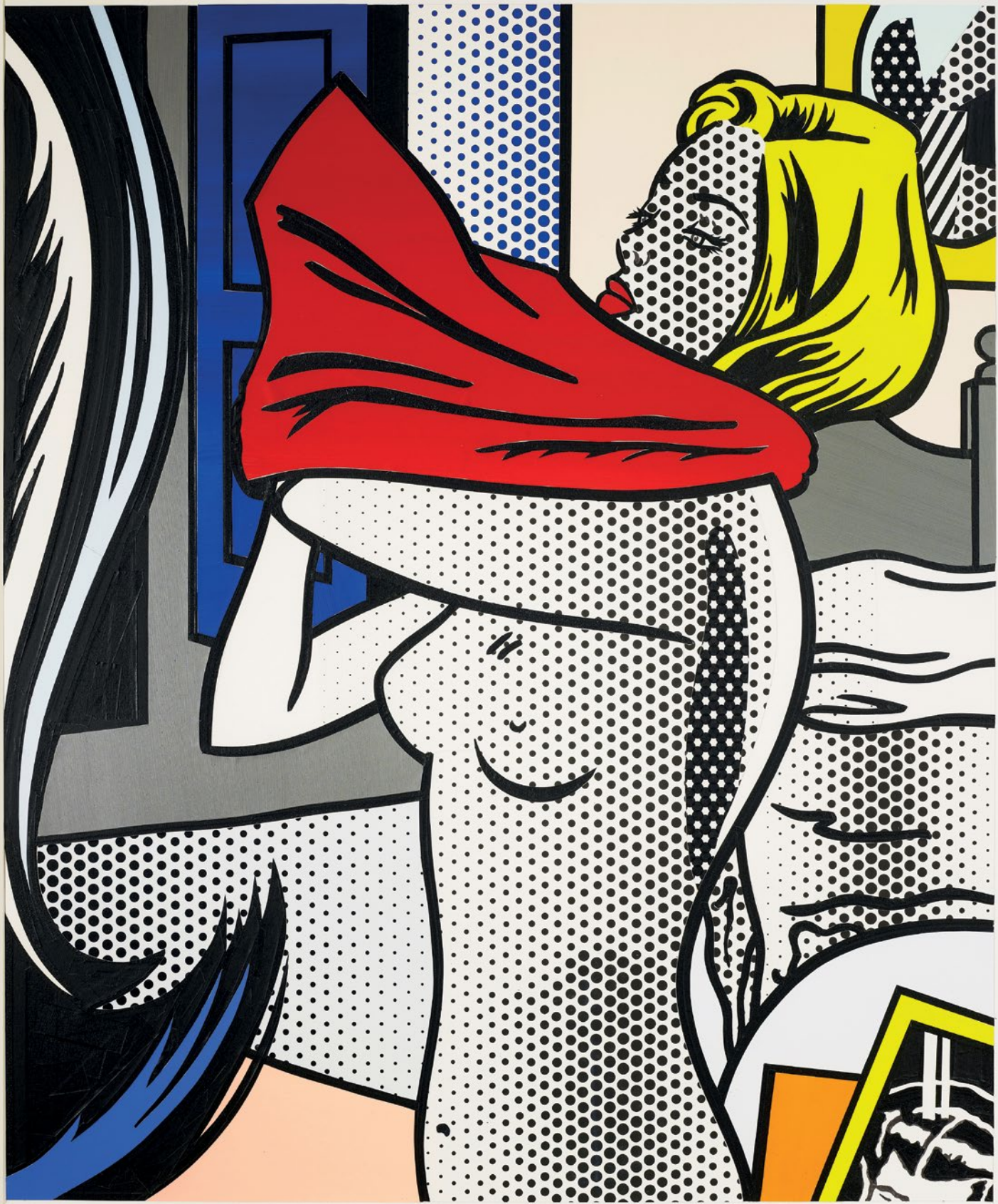
Among all the contemporary acquisitions, however, are two jewels by Sandro Botticelli that profoundly shift the tone of the collection: one is a Madonna and Child, the other, a Venus. Carmignac has declared he is not interested in other Renaissance artists or Old Masters, but his particular fascination with Botticelli, he explains, relates to the artist's notion of beauty, and how the Italians set the standard for centuries to come.

While Lichtenstein keeps Carmignac's heart, Botticelli incites his desire.

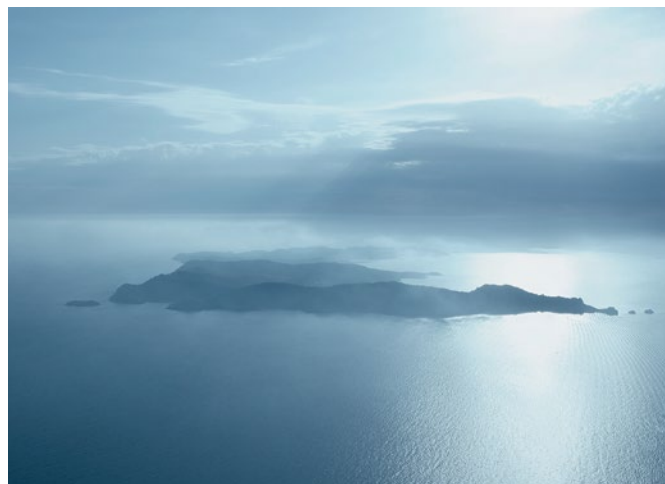
The concept of gathering a coherent body of art, stylistically or otherwise, was clearly far from Carmignac's objective when he began buying pieces. 'I don't necessarily like the concept of owning a collection,' he says. 'The works I have bought over the years are more like a "cabinet of curiosities" of my life – traces of my experiences, thoughts and emotions.'

Intimate as it may be, Carmignac has now set his flock free. Fondation Carmignac's inaugural exhibition, *Sea of Desire*, opened on 2 June, 2018, and displays 70 works from the collection. But Carmignac doesn't just want to share his trove; his wish is to suffuse new meaning into his collection by handing the keys of the Villa to a different curator every year.

'I want an outside eye to look at the works we have, and use the space to pass on his own message,' explains



IT'S INTERESTING TO  
HAVE SOMEONE ELSE  
LOOK AT YOUR COLLECTION  
AND FIND NEW LINES  
OF MEANING THAT YOU  
HAVE NOT FOUND



Opposite: Roy Lichtenstein's *Collage For Nude With Red Shirt* (1995). This page, clockwise, from left: Charles and Edouard Carmignac; a bird's-eye view of Porquerolles; an exhibition space in the Foundation's garden

Carmignac. 'I think it is very interesting to have someone else look at your collection and find lines of meaning that you have not found, and unravel them. This endeavour reflects my deep desire to make a bigger commitment to contemporary art – to engage with artists by exhibiting them in a preserved and unique environment, and to engage with the public by creating the ideal conditions for encounters and explorations.'

It is clear that Carmignac wishes the public to play a central role at Porquerolles. The Foundation aspires to encourage visitors to shed the rigid form maintained by traditional art admirers, and adopt the posture of adventurers, seekers and revellers.

'I hate museums,' proclaims Carmignac. 'I want a living Foundation.' His son, Charles, who has been appointed director of the Foundation, echoes his sentiment. 'Porquerolles can't just be a place where you hang a collection,' he says. 'It has to be a place for creative exchange. We want to invite artists and scientists, turn it into a place where artworks are created, and have residencies where artists will get inspired by the island.'

This enthralling collection, created by one man guided by a sharp vision, and brought to life by a cooperative unit of believers, represents everything the cultural experience should be: an open invitation to join the spectacle.



# CHANEL AND CAPEL

Corinne Cleary explores the influence Coco Chanel's love affair with the polo player Boy Capel had on the designer's revolutionary fashions and iconic double 'C' logo

*This page Polo player Arthur Capel.  
Opposite Gabrielle Chanel and Arthur  
Capel by the cartoonist Sem, 1913; the  
Capel Cup polo trophy*

The legendary Parisian fashion designer Coco Chanel was famed for her unique sense of style and innovative designs, which introduced a new trend for comfortable and practical, yet eminently elegant clothing for women. Chanel's insouciant style was both groundbreaking and controversial when she came to success in the early 20th century, with clothing that rejected the restrictive and over-elaborate female fashions of the day. She believed 'simplicity' to be 'the keynote of all true elegance', and that 'luxury must be comfortable, otherwise it is not luxury'. These convictions are largely attributed to Chanel's rebellious nature, love of active pursuits and desire for freedom, however a look at the designer's personal life, during the early stages of her career, reveals another profound influence on her creations: a romance with the polo player Arthur 'Boy' Capel, referred to by Chanel as 'the love of her life'.

Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel was born in Saumur, France in 1883, into inauspicious circumstances as the daughter of a laundress and an itinerant salesman. Upon the death of her mother, Chanel's father abandoned his five children, placing the two boys on working farms and the three girls at Aubazine – an orphanage run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Arriving there aged 12, Chanel remained at Aubazine for seven years and, while there, developed an appreciation for austerity, and the purity of black and white, that would later manifest in her designs. Upon leaving Aubazine at 19, she began working as a seamstress by day and a singer by night at La Rotonde – a cabaret in Moulins frequented by the Tenth Light Horse infantryman regiment. It was there, performing a song about a Parisian lady who loses her dog Coco at the Trocadero amusement park, that she acquired her nickname 'Coco'. It was also here that she met her first lover and business partner, the French aristocrat and infantryman Étienne Balsan – a close friend of Boy Capel.

Étienne Balsan came from a wealthy family distinguished in the textile industry. As a boy he attended boarding school in England, where he developed a passion for horses and dreamed of breeding

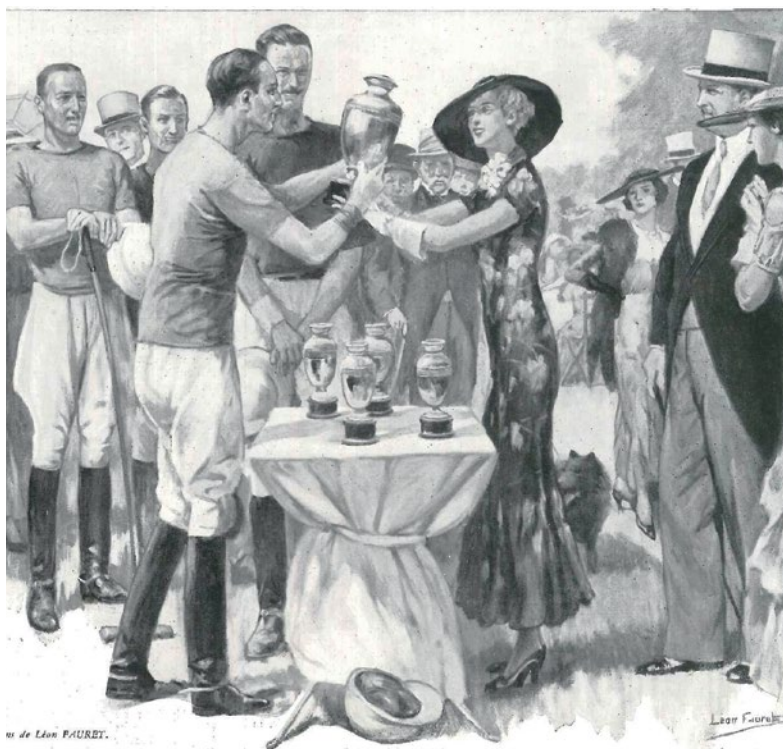
thoroughbreds upon completion of his military service. Chanel soon became Étienne's mistress and, in 1907, moved into his Château de Royallieu located in Compiègne, north of Paris – a pedigree location for thoroughbred breeding – where she pursued equestrian sports and was ensconced in the chic thoroughbred-racing world of Longchamp. In 1908, after expressing her desire to become financially independent by selling her millinery designs to the society ladies, Étienne offered Chanel his bachelor apartment in Paris to use as a studio and, in 1910, financed her first millinery boutique at 21 Rue Cambon, helping to establish her independent reputation.

By this point, though, Chanel and Balsan were friends rather than lovers as Chanel had already begun an affair with Balsan's friend, the English aristocrat, and accomplished polo player Boy Capel. The pair had met during a fox hunting trip together with Balsan in the Pyrenees region a few years before and Chanel soon after began to accompany Capel to polo matches at both the Paris and Deauville Polo Clubs. Before long the pair fell deeply in love, to the dismay of Balsan who nevertheless remained a loyal friend to Chanel for the rest of his life.

While on holiday with Capel in Deauville on the Normandy coast – a chic seaside resort, and the epicenter of thoroughbred racing during the Belle Époque era – Chanel could not find comfortable clothing to suit her needs and resorted to fashioning outfits from the garments she discovered in Capel's wardrobe, such as a dress she made from an old jersey of his. Her self-styled creations – made from Capel's sartorial polo clothing, feminised with her impeccable touch – caused a sensation among other women, who kept asking where her outfits were from, inspiring her now iconic designs and encouraging her expansion from millinery into clothing.

The heir to a coal and shipping fortune, Capel also helped to finance Chanel's early business initiatives, funding a boutique in Deauville where she launched her first women's clothing collection in 1913. The sportswear-inspired garments were created from unconventional fabrics such as polo jerseys, knits and flannels, and featured feminised striped and marinière sailing shirts, loose pants, sweaters and collarless blazers – offering her clientele an alternative to prominent couture designers of the time, such as Lanvin, Doucet, and Poiret.





de Léon FAUREY.

Après le match, une dame remet la coupe de la victoire au capitaine de l'équipe gagnante.  
Chaque joueur recevra ensuite une petite coupe personnelle.

Chanel's masterstroke was in bypassing her competition by focusing on summer sportswear that provided elegance and ease of movement – discarding the corset, and superfluous decorations, to transform the female silhouette and liberate women's fashion. She staged catwalk shows along the Deauville boardwalk and around town to advertise her dress designs, which attracted much attention and success. Chanel would later attribute her success to that one fortuitous moment in Deauville – rummaging through Boy Capel's wardrobe, looking for something to wear – telling her biographer, Paul Morand, 'My fortune is built on that old jersey that I'd put on because it was cold in Deauville'.

Chanel's Deauville boutique flourished and, with additional financing from Capel, in 1915 she opened her first couture house, in Biarritz, followed by another in Paris, in 1918. It was here, at 31 Rue Cambon – the maison where Chanel established herself as the epitome of Parisian high fashion – that

she also achieved her much sought-after independence, earning enough money to no longer require financial support.

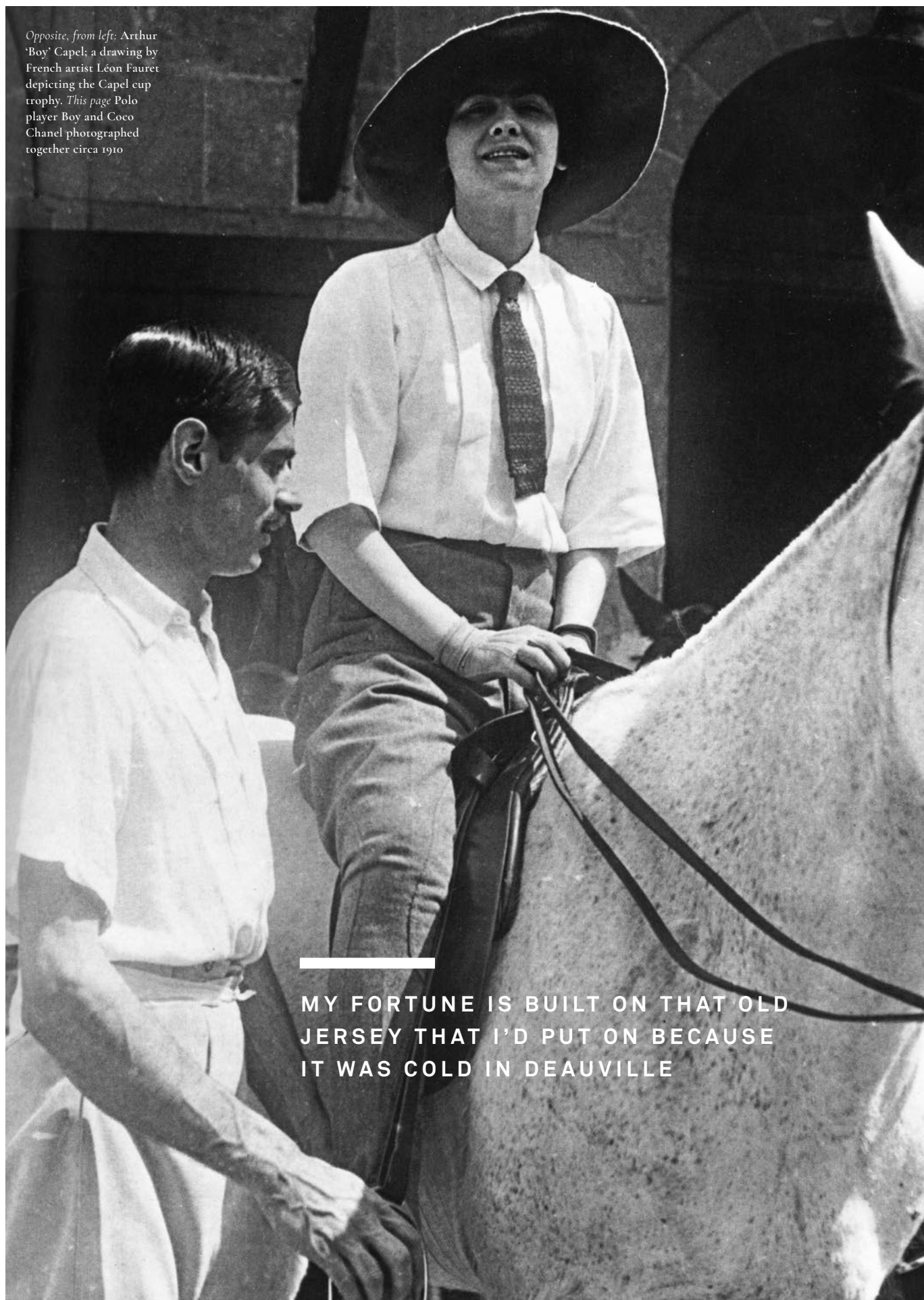
Capel married Lady Diana Wyndham in 1918, but his affair with Chanel is said to have continued until 1919, when he was tragically killed in a motor accident en route from Paris to Monte Carlo. Bereaved and devastated, Chanel proclaimed: 'I die as well or I finish what we started together'. She chose to go on, and it is said that Chanel's first fragrance – the iconic Chanel No.5 – was inspired by Capel, born out of her great love for him.

Shortly after his death, Capel's sister Bertha donated a silver trophy to the Polo Club of Paris where Capel played frequently, inscribed 'Coupe Arthur Capel' in his memory. In her book *Chanel: An Intimate Life*, biographer Lisa Chaney states that the cup was created 'almost certainly in collaboration with Gabrielle [Chanel],' and describes the design of the cup as featuring 'a most unusual form of decoration on a polo trophy for the

period – a relief band of intertwined circles, or back-to-back Cs'. Chaney interprets this as the first depiction of the Chanel logo: 'With Arthur still uppermost in Gabrielle's mind, it could well have occurred to her to suggest this decoration to Bertha. Representing Arthur's and her own name: Capel and Chanel. If not in actuality, in a symbolic fantasy Gabrielle and Arthur would be conjoined.'

The origin of these interlocked Cs, which officially became the Chanel logo in 1925, has been hypothesised about for decades. Theories about their inspiration range from the geometric forms of a stained glass window in an Aubazine chapel, to the insignia of the Château de Crémat in Nice, which Chanel used to frequent, to an inversion of her own initials. However, given their early appearance on the Arthur Capel Cup, it may well be that they were created as a symbolic homage to Chanel and Capel's great romance, and immortalised by Chanel's continued creativity and success.

Opposite, from left: Arthur 'Boy' Capel; a drawing by French artist Léon Fauret depicting the Capel cup trophy. This page Polo player Boy and Coco Chanel photographed together circa 1910



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MY FORTUNE IS BUILT ON THAT OLD  
JERSEY THAT I'D PUT ON BECAUSE  
IT WAS COLD IN DEAUVILLE



# IN GOOD HEALTH

Malaysian healthcare magnate Dato' Beh Chun Chuan is a force of nature both on and off the polo field, writes Carolina Beresford

*Above: The Beh family on their home ground.*

*Opposite, from top: Joevy Beh and Gonzalito Pieres in St Tropez; Loy Beh in St Moritz*

Polo has its fair share of personalities. Many are hard working, some are interesting, and a few are funny. Dato' Beh Chun Chuan, founder and chairman of BP Healthcare Group and owner of BP Polo Club in Malaysia, is all three. A quick chat with him on the sidelines will leave you in stitches, and his views on polo will certainly get you thinking. But his notion of family and discipline is perhaps what is most admirable of all.

Having learnt to ride at the late age of 30, Dato' Beh was keen to get his sons and daughter involved in the game as soon as possible. 'I started playing polo in the late 1980s in Malaysia, almost 30 years ago,' he says. 'A customer of mine invited me to support the club and from there I got an interest in riding and signed up for a two-week course. Before I completed it, I was invited to play chukkas, and you can imagine the passion I had to join them. Luckily, I survived. Imagine how desperately the club needed more new players. Myself, my daughter Lovy, and my son Chevy, all learnt at the same time. My other sons Joevy and Garvy started riding when they were four and two, respectively. I then bought some small horses from Argentina and the kids started playing the Copa Potrillos there. After that, all my kids became addicted to polo and Argentina.'

From then on, the Beh family has travelled the world competing in tournaments together. For Dato' Beh, family and polo are inextricably linked. 'My most memorable polo match was in St Moritz, in January 2017,' he says. 'We had played snow polo in Tianjin, China, and Aspen, Colorado, but not St Moritz. I played with my three boys, and my daughter as a reserve. My wife was also



there supporting.' The highlight of the tournament? The post-match buzz. 'The best thing about polo is that after the game we talk rubbish, we drink, we talk about controlling the world, and we say bad things about everyone's president. In St Moritz, the community becomes part of the game. We came last in the tournament, but we enjoyed it so much as a family.'

Dato' Beh is very much a family man, but don't be fooled into thinking he doesn't hold his own on the polo field. 'I am very competitive. Now that I am 61 I try to slow down, but when I get out on the field I forget my age. They always say that I seem to be 18 inside. Polo is something that you continue seeking to be better at everyday. Learning the skills is never-ending, there is always something you haven't accomplished – that is why I love polo. I still want to continue improving everyday. But my eldest son keeps trying to change my mindset and convince me that polo is not about winning with friends. When you want to win, you have no friends! Now I try not to think about winning but about having fun.'

While he loves the kick of competitive polo, Dato' Beh admits that the sport as a whole is not quite as enjoyable as it once was. 'Polo has improved so much, but that drives up the cost. Before, polo was fun, but today the standard is so high. Patrons pay so much that they don't have fun and that is where the polo dilemma is. My friends in the Gold Cup and Queen's Cup always invite me to play, but I watch



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**I ENJOY IMPROVING MYSELF,  
WHEREVER THERE IS AN  
INVITATION TO PLAY, I WILL GO**

them and they look like Mickey Mouse on the polo field. I don't want to be running around and not touching the ball. I want to play a level where I am like Bautista Heguy, with a minus two and a zero.'

Dato' Beh has a very effective way of putting the costs of polo into perspective. Once again, his wicked sense of humour shines through to drive the point home. 'A friend of mine said to me one day, "When you play the high goal, you play five games and it costs you millions of pounds. If you give an open cheque to a beauty queen, a Miss Universe, and tell her to fill in the cheque in exchange for a night of fun with you, it would be cheaper than one chukka of polo'. Once they realise that, it makes the patrons want to give up polo. Many patrons want to do what I am doing. I don't worry about those things. I have my own organisation and I employ resident players. It should be about reciprocation. I come to your country, you come to mine, and when you come to my place everything is free.'

Generosity is certainly a dominant trait in Dato' Beh, and he is well-known around the world for supporting several charity events. 'Whenever someone organises a charity match, I support them. In fact, at this age I often like playing charity games. It is more fun. I have played the Laureus Sport match at Guards Polo Club, and

subsequently at Ham, in England, for the past four years. We always sponsor a team, with two 10-goalers. There are fundraising auctions after the matches and I always buy the watches. I have bought four IWC limited watches! They are the most expensive, so I buy them. I have also bought paintings, and a polo lesson with Ruso Heguy in Argentina. Ruso has been very nice to our family. My two sons trained with him in La Pampa. For the past five years we have also sponsored both the Tolo Polo and the Indios Potrillos MVP awards, known as the Beh Family Cup. It is my duty to give back to Argentina, to thank the country for training my children.'

'Giving back' is a phrase Dato' Beh uses often in our conversation. Whether sponsoring a charity event, a junior tournament, or commissioning a clubhouse for his children's university, he does so with pride and humility. In reference to the now famous Beh Building he donated to the University of Virginia, he says, 'The students needed a place to study, and for meetings and socials. Before that they just had a locker room. The Beh Building is a place for polo people to go and hang out. There are a couple of rooms for visiting players to stay as well. I commissioned it two years ago, after my children graduated, as a way of giving back to the school. My





Previous page: Dato' Beh (left),  
 Joevy, Poh Lay See, Lovy, Chevy  
 and Garvy. This page from left:  
 Dato' Beh in St Tropez; Joevy  
 Beh in St Moritz

children loved UVA. When they were at school in England, at Wellington, it was very regimented. The schoolmaster was tough on them, which I thought was good as they learned discipline. Then they went to America and had total freedom. That is when you are being challenged, when you are totally free. The kids are exposed to many activities and they have all the resources. When you have money, you can have everything, but it is about how you control yourself. And I am watching to see how they control themselves.'

Lovy, Chevy, Joevy, and Garvy Beh have followed their father's footsteps in business and are all hard-working in their own right: Lovy is the founder of Lovy Pharmacy and senior vice president at BP Healthcare Group; Chevy is the founder of BookDoc, the first online healthcare platform to connect patients and healthcare providers; Joevy is deputy chairman of BP Healthcare; and Garvy is the CEO and founder of Doctor2U, a one-stop healthcare app, with services such as doctor home visits, telemedicine, electronic medical health records, ambulance and medication delivery.

Work and business are fundamental pillars of the Beh household, but polo is not far behind. Dato' Beh assures us that the family will travel to the furthest corners of the earth if polo is involved, as was

the case when they played the Genghis Khan Cup in Mongolia. 'I played with my three sons,' he says. 'In Mongolia, it is five degrees in the summer, and -40 in the winter. The water was so cold, but we still jumped in after playing. We beat all the professional teams. I don't think they had as much experience as my sons.'

Ice baths and Mongol horses aside, Argentina is still the family's favourite polo destination. 'Argentina is the best,' says Dato' Beh. 'There are a lot of players, polo fields, and polo horses, so it is very competitive. When you play at places that are predictable, then it is no fun. When you come to Argentina, you do not know the other teams, and there are always new fixtures. In many countries, and in mine, too, we know who is playing and we know their horse power. But it is always a surprise here. We have to go in and fight.'

Speaking to Dato' Beh is as refreshing as it is entertaining, and one is struck by the attachment he and his family have for the sport. 'I love everything about polo. I enjoy improving myself, improving my horse string, and improving my whole family's polo experience. This year I played in St Moritz, Malaysia, Thailand, England, France, Hawaii and Argentina. That is my usual circuit, but wherever there is an invitation to play, I will go.'

# GRASS ROOTS

With an increasing number of polo clubs in the UK, more and more newcomers are picking up a mallet. Theresa Harold discovers a sport in rude health

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*This page: players at Dorset Polo Club. Opposite: Thijs Povel of Alumni Polo in perfect form*

There is a quiet revolution taking place on polo fields up and down the country. No longer the preserve of the Hooray Henry set, polo is shedding its elitist image (not an easy task, granted, when Prince Harry and George Spencer-Churchill are two of the sport's biggest names in the UK). But with events such as Chestertons Polo in the Park drawing ever bigger crowds, and charities such as Power Of Polo ([powerofpolo.org.uk](http://powerofpolo.org.uk)) reaching inner-city youth, there is a distinct feeling of change in the air.

'The press prefers to sell polo as an exclusive sport for royalty and celebrities, or "Argentine demi-gods",' says Nathaniel McCullagh, COO of London Alumni Polo Club ([alumnipolo.co.uk](http://alumnipolo.co.uk)), whose film *The Polo Kid* aims to bring the sport to a wider audience. 'They don't talk about the reality of the tens of thousands of active polo players around the world who come from ordinary backgrounds.'

'Books such as Jilly Cooper's *Polo* describe a rarefied world that you have to be born into, or win the lottery to buy your way into. We need to dispel these myths and get as many people as possible to come and watch a polo game, or better still, to participate.'

But how, or more specifically, where do you begin? Well, as with so many things in life (some more ill-advised than others), university seems to be the place to start dabbling. In fact, the Schools and Universities Polo Association ([supa.org.uk](http://supa.org.uk)) lists nearly 60 participating establishments on its website.

Founded in 1991, SUPA organises and runs national tournaments at all levels, as well as hosting international teams at the annual SUPA International Festival in early July. Last year, the organisation celebrated its 25th anniversary by launching a programme called 'Introduction to Polo' comprising three to four group sessions to encourage newcomers to take up the game.

The key thing about university polo is that it's open to any student and requires no previous riding experience. Clubs take part in friendly chukkas against other universities in mixed teams and also compete in larger SUPA league tournaments. Crucially, there is no need to own your own string of ponies as The Association of Polo Schools and Pony Hirers ([apsph-polo.org.uk](http://apsph-polo.org.uk)) can rent you a ride.

## YOU CAN BECOME A STRONG AMATEUR PLAYER WITHOUT OWNING HORSES

'In clubs like Alumni Polo, no one owns their own horses,' explains McCullagh. 'You can work your way up to being a really strong amateur player – up to say, one or two goals without owning horses, and for many players this is enough. However, many Alumni Polo members do, in time, go on to become members and patrons of the larger clubs.'

So with horse ownership no longer a barrier to entry, what's stopping every Tom, Dick and (non-royal) Harry from joining in the sport? Cost is the answer that comes up again and again.

As McCullagh points out, 'When you are learning, and for the first few years afterwards, polo is not any more expensive than, say, playing golf. And as a spectator it offers incredible value for money. What

other sport allows you to watch some of the best players and athletes in the world, in a beautiful setting, for £5 per person? After you have bought a couple of drinks and some food, you get a full afternoon's entertainment for about £25 – much cheaper than going to watch a football game. You can also bring a picnic to make it even cheaper.'

And if, after watching a few chukkas with a glass of champagne in hand, you fancy giving it a go, then many smaller clubs around the country are more than happy to show you the ropes.

Two hours' drive from London, Dorset Polo Club ([dorsetpolo.co.uk](http://dorsetpolo.co.uk)) offers special packages including the Polo Starter Package, which is aimed at those who have had a go and want to take their love of the



Below: Victoria Pendleton in a celebrity match at Gloucestershire Festival of Polo. Opposite: A Power of Polo charity match

sport further. For £575, the west country outfit offers 12 sessions ('a combination of one hour lessons, instructional chukkas and club chukkas dependant on progress') and a full playing membership. Consider the fact that one upmarket gym in London charges £350 a month – not including the joining fee, and personal training sessions at £130 per hour – and suddenly playing polo to keep active doesn't seem quite so out of reach.

As well as complete beginners with no riding experience, there is also a growing

number of established riders who are engaging with the sport. Take Olympian Victoria Pendleton, for instance. Admittedly, the double Olympic cycling gold medallist turned jockey is not your average rider, but she joined the King Power polo team in 2016. Attendees at this year's Gloucestershire Festival of Polo ([beaufortpoloclub.com](http://beaufortpoloclub.com)) will also have seen the athlete participating in a celebrity match.

'I think the way to [tap into the wider market] is to embrace different, more

bite-size versions of the game where the rules are simple to follow, it's easy to watch, and the play is continuous and fast, such as Chesterton's Polo in the Park ([polointheparklondon.com](http://polointheparklondon.com)), or the All-Pro Polo League ([allpropoleague.com](http://allpropoleague.com)), which recently put on a 40-goal game at Cowdray with eight of the world's best players – all 10-goalers – playing short, fast chukkas on one horse,' says McCullagh.

Perhaps unsurprisingly in this day and age, social media has also proven a valuable tool when it comes to recruiting new entrants to the sport. Big names such as Nacho Figueras (137k followers on Instagram) can reach a wider demographic of potential players than many traditional polo outlets. 'Media coverage of polo has traditionally been very limited outside of the dedicated polo channels and press,' says the 21-year-old Instagrammer Polo Days (@polo.days).

'Since [my account's] inception just under 18 months ago, it has continued to grow, which I believe is a reflection of the increasing popularity of the sport internationally. The public are becoming increasingly exposed to polo through great events such as Polo in the Park and the beach polo at Sandbanks. The brilliant marketing of these events attracts a wider audience by encouraging people to include the sport as part of their social calendar. Exposure to the sport and witnessing polo at a professional level can also inspire members of the public (riders and non-riders) to experience the thrill for themselves. As players, we all know that once you hold a stick for the first time there is no looking back.'

'In Argentina, the sport enjoys huge television coverage and has an incredible following, which is yet to be reflected elsewhere in the world. From marketing the sport myself, it is clear that there needs to be more awareness of the sport and my hope is



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## MEDIA COVERAGE OF POLO HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN VERY LIMITED



that my efforts with @polo.days will help attract more people to polo,' she concludes. Some would argue that the risk in broadcasting chukkas would dilute the inherent appeal of watching live matches. After all, you can't have your very own *Pretty Woman* treading-in moment from the comfort of your sofa, no matter how fluffy your carpet. As it stands, a great number of polo spectators go along for the atmosphere and unofficial fashion parade as opposed to any real knowledge of handicaps and ride-offs.

'I really don't think televising polo would detract from the sport at all,' says McCullagh. 'In fact, it would raise awareness

and engagement. However, I think there is a reason it has not happened yet. That is, not enough people care about the sport and traditional broadcast models rely on large audience numbers. A lot of polo is already filmed really well, for outlets such as the Polo Channel online ([polochannel.com](http://polochannel.com)).

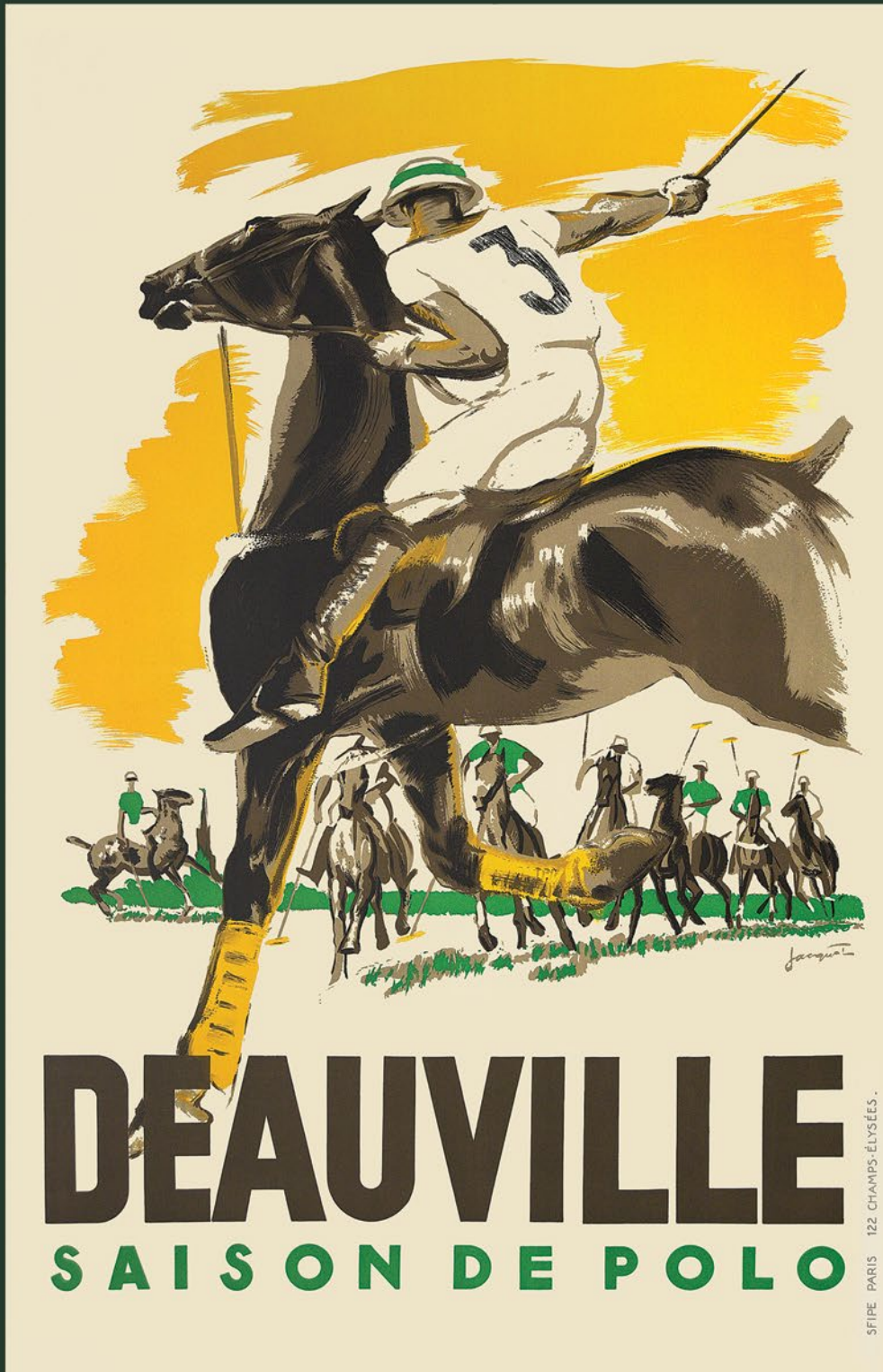
The main challenge is getting traditional broadcasters to air polo and even in the US, where the sport has more of a following, broadcasters such as ESPN ([espn.co.uk](http://espn.co.uk)) only show the largest games of the season. It might be possible to create a dedicated polo channel that is supported by advertisers, or to have regular games being shown on

specialist channels such as Horse and Country TV ([horseandcountry.tv](http://horseandcountry.tv)). As we see more changes in the way that TV is consumed, for example as it becomes more and more personalised, I believe there will be a much bigger place for niche sports like polo.'

Maybe what is needed to lift polo from being a niche sport is the opposite of what the tabloids are doing. Maybe instead of focusing on the Duchess of Sussex's dress at the Sentebale SPS Polo Cup, we could celebrate the winning Sentebale St Regis team instead. That way, we could recognise the skill of polo players, and encourage a generation – not of spectators – but players, instead.

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Charlie Hanbury (left) and Polito Pieres in the final of the Gold Cup for the British Open

ABI HANCOCK / THE ART OF POLO

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# THE ACTION

## 52\_QUEEN'S CUP

The three-week, 22-goal tournament culminated in an exciting match between La Indiana and Park Place, with the former taking home the prestigious trophy

## 55\_GOLD CUP FOR THE BRITISH OPEN

A crowd of almost 10,000 was treated to a gripping final between La Bamba de Areco and El Remanso at Cowdray Park Polo Club, which saw El Remanso storm to victory

## 58\_WESTCHESTER CUP

Spectators braved windy conditions to watch the United States Polo Association and Hurlingham Polo Association fight for national victory in this historic match

## 60\_BRITISH LADIES POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Cowdray Park Polo Club hosted a record number of women's teams who played an exciting and fast-paced tournament that thrilled spectators

## 62\_ROYAL WINDSOR CUP

Adolfo Cambiaso junior – aka Poroto – joined his father in the line-up, going on to win Royal Windsor honours in the toughest medium-goal tournament in the world

## 64\_COPA DE ORO

La Indiana continued their winning streak at Sotogrande's Santa Maria Polo Club, after going head-to-head with Lechuza Caracas in an incredibly close final match that resulted in victory once more

# CARTIER QUEEN'S CUP

After an exciting tournament, beating several very worthy opponents, a deserving La Indiana won Cartier treasure at last, writes Diana Butler



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Michael Bickford and his La Indiana team collected the Cartier Queen's Cup at Guards Polo Club at the third time of asking. In a 22-goal tournament that had delivered great sport throughout the previous three weeks, this final did not disappoint either. La Indiana fought back from a 6-4 deficit at half-time to win this most prestigious polo trophy 9-7.

Their opponents, Andrey Borodin's Park Place, were in their first season of high-goal polo. They had impressed everyone with their spectator-friendly, four-man polo leading up

to this match but could not find fortune in the final. Eleven teams had taken part in the 2018 Cartier Queen's Cup and the evenness of the teams was highlighted in the concluding matches. No team had stood out head and shoulders above their peers in the league games and this level-playing-field had delivered some superb, competitive polo, much to the delight of players and spectators alike. Incredibly, despite the closeness of many of the scores, not one game had gone into extra time.

The final itself however, was pretty eventful from the first whistle. Park Place's Hilario Ulloa found himself on the floor in the first couple of minutes following a collision with La Indiana's Alec White. Fortunately, Ulloa returned to the saddle and play resumed – with White spending the next two minutes in the sin bin. Meanwhile, Juan Britos, the tournament's top scorer converted the penalty awarded for dangerous play only for Pieres to convert a penalty before the end of the chukka.

Things did not improve in the second chukka with Andrey Borodin leaving the field in an ambulance after a collision with La Indiana's Nic Roldan, to be substituted by Charlie Tighe. This change in personnel did not seem to disrupt the Park Place team too much, although they could not take advantage of a three-man La Indiana side while Roldan sat out his two-minute penalty. Another penalty conversion by Pieres and a quick goal by Ulloa after the first bell saw the teams all tied 2-2 going into the third.

This chukka was dominated by Park Place. Britos converted a penalty and then produced a lovely run to goal for the subsequent throw in. With goals from

team-mates Ulloa and Tommy Beresford to only two in reply from La Indiana – one off the stick of Bickford who received a lovely pass from Roldan – to make it 6-4 at half-time.

It was all change in the fourth though, with Pieres and Roldan firing through a couple of goals to none in reply from Park Place. With the scores back level once again, this remained anyone's game. A goal apiece in the fifth failed to produce a clearer picture – although it should be noted that the Park Place goal came off the stick of Charlie Tighe.

So with the score all square at the start of the sixth, the many spectators wondered if this final would be the first match of the tournament to go into overtime. Man of the

match Pieres had other ideas and not only saved a Britos penalty but fired through two goals to secure victory for La Indiana and earn himself the Cartier Most Valuable Player Award in the process. Pieres's very talented pony Cube received the Cartier Best Playing Pony prize too, an honour she also received on this day in 2015.

The Cartier Queen's Cup Finals had started with an equally thrilling game for the subsidiary Cartier Trophy. James McCarthy's Emlor defeated Hugues Carmignac's Talandrakas 12-9 in a finely balanced game. At 8-8 going into the final chukka, the balance shifted, with Agustin Merlos, Diego Cavanagh and McCarthy all scoring for Emlor to only one in reply from Francisco Elizalde. This was enough to win the match for Emlor. Patron James McCarthy was later named Most Valuable Player and stepped up to receive both this accolade, and the Cartier Trophy, from Her Majesty The Queen during the afternoon's main match presentations.

**SPECTATORS WONDERED IF THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST MATCH OF THE TOURNAMENT TO GO INTO OVERTIME**



*Opposite: Michael Bickford of La Indiana accepts the Queen's cup from Her Majesty the Queen. This page: Charlie Tighe (left) and Michael Bickford*

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# GOLD CUP FOR THE BRITISH OPEN

Almost 10,000 spectators watched El Remanso storm to victory at Cowdray Park in one of the most thrilling finals of recent times, says Liz Higgins



The Hanbury family's popular El Remanso team of all English players, based locally on the Cowdray estate, had come through the league phase of the British Open without losing a game and went straight to quarter finals along with Park Place, La Bamba de Areco and Valiente. An innovative penalty shoot-out and draw determined the remaining quarter finalists.

Once more, success came for El Remanso in the quarter finals sending them

through to meet tough opponents La Indiana in the semi-finals. Both semi-final games gave spectators a feast of polo with the El Remanso-La Indiana match going into a nail-biting seventh chukka, ending with a brilliant pick-up by El Remanso's Ollie Cudmore, which saw him shoot the winning goal for a thrilling 14-13 victory. Jean-François Decaux's La Bamba de Areco side outgunned RH Polo in their semi final and so it was game-on for the final.

El Remanso played to the same close-knit line-up of Charlie Hanbury (4 goals) and 6-goal players Ollie Cudmore, James Beim and James Harper as in 2017 when they lost the Gold Cup final to King Power. Jean-François Decaux's La Bamba de Areco had 3-goal player Byron Watson, with Polito Pieres substituting for an injured David Stirling and 10-goaler Juan Martín Nero at Back.

Charlie Hanbury, playing the match of his life, stormed away from the first throw-in to

Previous page The crowd at half-time.  
This page: Ollie Cudmore (left),  
Charlie Hanbury, James Beim and  
James Harper

make the opening goal. His second goal gave El Remanso a 3–2 lead to close the first chukka. They went into the third with a lead of 4–2, and 6–4 by half-time.

The second half opened and a neat backhand shot from Harper secured the goal, which took El Remanso on to 7–4. However, the tables began to turn as brilliant action from Watson for La Bamba de Areco, strong attacking play by Pieres and the gift of two 30-yard penalties expertly converted by Juan Martín Nero saw La Bamba ahead at 12–10 by the close of the fifth chukka.

El Remanso fought for every ball in the sixth and never lost focus. Awarded a 30-yard penalty, Ollie Cudmore sent the ball between the posts to make just a one-goal difference. Great teamwork enabled Harper to coolly level the scores on 12–12. Then, a chance for a goal by La Bamba de Areco went wide. Harper brought the ball in and sent it to Beim who calmly turned it and found Cudmore. As he had in the semi-finals four days earlier, Cudmore drove it home for El Remanso and a 13–12 win as the final bell sounded. The crowd went wild.

A new prize for the Best Playing Patron's Pony was presented on behalf of sponsors King Power by Marcos di Paola to Charlie Hanbury's pony Lovelocks Sex. The award for Best Playing Pony of the match, presented by The Hon Lila Pearson, went to Blanco Nieve, owned by Pelón Stirling and played by Polito Pieres. Jon Rudkin, Director of Football for



Leicester City Football Club, presented generous individual prizes on behalf of King Power to all players as well as the four umpires who had refereed the whole Gold Cup tournament. Charlie Hanbury was voted Most Valuable Player of the final with four brilliant goals to his credit. Corinne Ricard, on behalf of Pernod-Ricard, presented a Jeroboam of Perrier-Jouët to the El Remanso Patron and finally Jon Rudkin handed the Gold Cup to a proud Charlie Hanbury, who

shared the moment with his parents Christopher and Bridget.

James Beim summed up on behalf of El Remanso: 'To win the King Power Gold Cup with three friends was an incredible experience. We have put so much into the sport and our horses for so long, and this moment fulfilled all that we had strived for. The dramatic fashion in which the Cup was won was amazing – a moment of complete joy and emotion and something I'll never forget.'

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# THE WESTCHESTER CUP

With both teams hungry for victory, England pressed the home-ground advantage to emerge triumphant over the USA, writes Carolina Beresford

The Westchester Cup unites everything polo represents: history, international tradition, and fierce competition. The trophy, played for by teams representing the United States and United Kingdom, has been highly regarded since the end of the 19th century. Last played in 2013, the event underwent a major renaissance, resurfacing at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club on a windswept Saturday in July. The United States Polo Association (USPA) presented a 28-goal team, captained by Nic Roldan, while the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) selected James Beim to lead their 25-goal national team. England were sponsored by Flannels and outfitted in Hurlingham 1875, both on

and off the field, while USA team members donned US Polo Association apparel.

The competition has varied in length over the years, from a single game to the best of three. Although America had lost the last three encounters (1997, 2009, 2013), they still lead the series overall, with 10 wins to England's seven. This year's Westchester Cup marked the 18th clash between the two

superpowers, and both national teams were as hungry as ever to prove their superiority. Roldan recruited Jeff Hall, Julio Arellano, and youngster Peke Gonzalez, and the USPA worked hard to secure the best horses on offer. England not only had the advantage of playing on home soil, but of harbouring a type of familiarity that is rare in international polo. Fresh from their Gold Cup win with

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**THE DAY MARKED THE BEGINNING OF  
A NEW ERA OF INTERNATIONAL POLO**

El Remanso, champions James Beim, Ollie Cudmore and James Harper certainly benefitted from playing the high goal together over the last three years. Twenty-two year old Tommy Beresford was chosen to complete the line-up, becoming the second Beresford to play the Westchester Cup (the first was Capt. Hon. John Beresford, who won the trophy in 1900).

The event was spectacularly British, with sporting fans flying in from around the world to watch the contest. An intensely competitive match was anticipated as eight world-class players rode onto the field. Due to the handicap difference, England started with a goal on the board before the USA equalised with a goal straight from the throw to draw level at 1–1. But the USA's high was short lived. Cudmore scored a hat-trick before the end of the first and set the tone for chukkas to come. The game started unravelling for USA all too soon. By the second half, Roldan

and his men were trailing by five. While the fourth was the USA's best chukka of the match, England were merciless, maintaining an admirable discipline throughout. They took a comfortable 12–6 win to keep the Cup on home turf. 'This is massive for us,' shared Beim, who received the MVP award and BPP prize for his mare Salsita. 'The Cup has been going for more than 100 years so there is a huge amount of history behind it.'

After the game, Roldan was realistic about what lies ahead for the American squad: 'I think we have a lot of work to do building up the international team and finding time for us to play together.' Arellano agrees: 'They beat us forward and backwards. I knew it was going to be really tough and it didn't work out for us today. I will be remembering this one and thinking about challenging them next time.' Despite the loss, Arellano shared his joy at having represented his country alongside his daughter, Hope,

who won the Junior Westchester Cup the day before in an electrifying final.

The result of the Westchester Cup was tough for American polo fans to digest, but the day marked the beginning of a new era of international polo, with associations and players working to raise the level of junior, male and female polo. USA has already invited England to play stateside in 2019, and strategic talks have begun. England may be current Westchester Cup winners, but how will they fare on foreign soil? The United States still lead by two wins in the general ranking. Will England be able to keep their cool and make it 9–10?

Opposite: Peke Gonzalez (far right).  
This page: James Harper (right) moves through traffic



ABI HANCOCK / THE ART OF POLO

# BRITISH LADIES POLO

A record number of teams entering the championship proves women's polo is on the up, says Liz Higgins



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Women's polo is on a roll worldwide and proof came in abundance as Cowdray Park Polo Club welcomed a record entry of 14 teams for the 2018 British Ladies Polo Championships in July. Keen to join the momentum, the quality UK clothing brand Hurlingham Polo 1875 became title sponsors in what is hoped to be a long and fruitful association.

To manage the high number of entries, Cowdray Park set two handicap levels, The British Ladies Open Championship played at both an 18- and a 12-goal level. An exceptionally high standard of polo was seen throughout the tournaments, which ran through the final week of the King Power

Gold Cup for the British Open Polo Championship, the ladies' finals being played at the Lawns grounds on the same weekend as the men: another first for Cowdray Park.

In the final of the 18-goal championship, Dodson & Horrell with Jenny Doherty (1 goal) at number 1, Saffron Hutchinson (3 goals) at 2, Hannah Henderson (4 goals) at 3 and the world's top female player, Nina Clarkin (10 goals), at back, met Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's UAE Polo Team, the patron taking the number 1 position with Catalina Ayerza (1 goal) at number 2, Milly Sanchez (6 goals) in place of Mia Cambiaso at 3,

and Candelaria Fernandez-Araujo (8 goals) at back.

Nina Clarkin was first to mark the scoreboard for Dodson & Horrell within the first minute of play. A penalty to Dodson & Horrell, which Clarkin sent between the posts from 40 yards made it 2-0. Fernandez-Araujo replied for UAE before the chukka ended at 2-1 in favour of D & H. By half time Dodson & Horrell were 4-2 ahead.

Fast free-flowing action continued through the third chukka, although UAE failed to score and Dodson & Horrell's only goal came from a 40-yard penalty. The fourth chukka opened with the ball coming



*Opposite:* The winners, from left are Nina Clarkin, Jenny Doherty, Saffron Hutchinson, Hannah Henderson, with Simon Hawkins. *Above:* Nina Clarkin and UAE patron Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

in from the back line and UAE showing increased determination. A super goal came from Catalina Ayerza. UAE won the ball from the throw-in, Milly Sanchez blazing away to the opposite end to score her second goal of the match, and UAE were within a goal of Dodson & Horrell's lead.

With the pace still high, Clarkin sent a mighty shot forward from a free hit, but the ball went out. In possession once more, she passed it forward, caught up and tried again, but missed. Desperately, Dodson & Horrell fought off any advance from UAE and held onto their lead to win with a score of 5-4.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Hurlingham Polo 1875, presented the handsome silver salver to captain of Dodson & Horrell, Nina Clarkin, and generous prizes of leisurewear to all players. The Best Playing Pony award went to Milly, owned and ridden by Candelaria Fernandez-Araujo.

In the 12-goal British Ladies Handicap Championship, Ibiza, including Elicia Murphy at number 1, Angela Walker at 2, Rebecca Walters at 3 and Sarah Wiseman at Back met Aveda with Ann Marie Cavanagh playing at 1, Angela Robb at number 2, Lucy Coddington at 3 and Rosie Ross at back. Lucy Coddington (formerly Taylor) was first to score and Aveda finished the first chukka half a goal ahead. Thereafter Ibiza gained and retained the lead, finishing a lively match with no fouls, ahead by 6-4½.

Simon Hawkins presented gifts from Hurlingham Polo 1875's leisure range to all players and Rebecca Walters' Baronessa was named Best Playing Pony.

The players were unanimous in their appreciation of Cowdray's running of the tournament, the move to the Lawns 1 ground, its excellent condition despite the heatwave, and the support of the sponsors.



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# ROYAL WINDSOR CUP

In his first major UK polo finals appearance, Adolfo Cambiaso Junior teamed up with his father to win Royal Windsor honours, writes Diana Butler

There were several notable firsts at the final of Guards Polo Club's oldest tournament, the Royal Windsor Cup. It introduced us to new sponsor, Japanese firm Out-Sourcing Inc, who brought a flavour of the east with prizes that reflected the ancient traditions of the Samurai warrior. In another first, the commentary was signed for the deaf spectators watching live – highlighting Out-Sourcing's work with deaf charities.

Although the most important first, no doubt, was the appearance of Adolfo Cambiaso Junior – aka Poroto – in a major

polo final in the UK. Many in the grandstand would have watched his father's first games at Smith's Lawn at the age of 16, playing off a 7-goal handicap. Poroto is four years younger than his dad was on his debut – playing off a 1-goal handicap – but he has clearly inherited the family's talent. Playing under the La Dolfina/Valiente banner, this incredible polo duo – brilliantly supported by English players Kian Hall and Josh Cork – went on to win the first edition of The Out-Sourcing Royal Windsor Cup Final in style. They defeated the previous holders of

the trophy, Andrey Borodin's competitive Park Place, 11–7 in a lively game on Guards Polo Club's number one field.

Although much focus was on the Cambiaso boys, La Dolfina's Kian Hall had an equally strong game. Playing in the number two position, he scored six goals for his team. Meanwhile, Park Place, who were eager to retain this trophy, especially as this final came just seven short days after their Queen's Cup defeat to La Indiana. This team, based around the young South African star Chris Mackenzie, put up a strong opposition,



*Opposite: Adolfo Cambiaso speaks with Her Majesty The Queen  
This page: Adolfo Cambiaso in flight.  
Below: Poroto Cambiaso turns the ball*

much to the delight of the packed grandstands and the new sponsor's VIP guests. Jeronimo del Carril in particular had a strong game for Park Place on this day – but La Dolfina led 2–0 after the first chukka and never relinquished this advantage.

This is the second time Cambiaso Snr has won the UK's leading 15-goal trophy – he was a member of Ric Stowe's victorious Geebung team in 2000. No stranger to the big occasion, he was more than happy to share the limelight though. Firstly, he encouraged Valiente patron Bob Jornayvaz, who had watched this final from the sidelines, to step forward to receive the historic trophy from Her Majesty The Queen and Mr Haruhiko Doi and Mr David Matsumoto of Out-Sourcing Inc. Then Cambiaso Snr watched the tournament's top goal scorer Poroto (with 34 goals) receive the Most Valuable Player prize – an impressive model of a suit of Samurai armour – from HM The Queen. Meanwhile, Cambiaso Snr's Cruiser, a seven-year-old mare, which had been owned by Ros Packer, was named the Out-Sourcing Inc Best Playing Pony.

Earlier in the day a sprinkle of Hollywood glamour was added to the subsidiary Mountbatten Cup Final. Actor Susan Sarandon, a guest of Out-Sourcing for the day, joined Lady Tatiana Mountbatten and Out-Sourcing's Mr Kazuhiko Suzuki to present Andrés Tombor's Bardon with this prestigious subsidiary cup. Bardon had beaten Romilla Arber's Four Quarters Black 11–6 in another fast-paced match.

As is tradition, the day concluded with an elegant carriage-driving parade on The Queen's Ground. HM The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, the President of Guards Polo Club and a former carriage driver himself, presented rosettes to the winning partnerships.

**ALTHOUGH MUCH FOCUS WAS ON THE CAMBIASO BOYS, LA DOLFINA'S KIAN HALL HAD AN EQUALLY STRONG GAME**





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# COPA DE ORO

After an exciting and closely fought final game, La Indiana continued their winning streak by taking home another trophy, writes Carolina Beresford

Opposite: Santiago Gómez Romero (left) was the standout player of the month. This page, right: Michael Bickford in the final

The Spanish high-goal season saw two teams rise above the rest: La Indiana and Lechuza Caracas. On paper, these two organisations had an equally successful season – both teams secured eight wins and suffered two losses, and each took a trophy home. But not all titles are made equal, and in the end Michael Bickford's boys were the ones who knew when to push the tempo to take the most prestigious title in Spain: the Copa de Oro. Victor Vargas' Lechuza Caracas started the season in style at Santa Maria Polo Club, winning four consecutive matches to comfortably secure the Silver Cup. For a moment, it seemed the Venezuelan organisation, with its two 10-goalers (David 'Pelón' Stirling and Juan Martín Nero) could not be breached. But La Indiana did not recruit 10-goaler Facundo Pieres, who won the Gold Cup in 2017 with Ayala, to be pushed down and lose. Expectations were high, and after a quick rejig of the line-up, which saw Santiago Gómez Romero join the squad, La Indiana took on the Gold Cup with a renewed sense of determination.

Five consecutive wins later and La Indiana were a mere six chukkas away from glory. Only Lechuza stood in their way, and with three 10-goal players on the field, a close final was expected. The first half saw both teams fight for possession, with Lechuza attacking consistently, but inaccurate shooting, which saw them convert just two of their first nine shot attempts, prevented them from gaining a substantial advantage. In the third, La Indiana tightened their defence and found spaces to take back control before the half-time bell (5-4).

The fourth determined the fate of the final. Pieres worked well with Santiago Laborde, scoring goals and crafting a superb cadence. A monumental strike by the 10-goaler from midfield found goal to take them 7-4 up. Lechuza, however, fumbled,



## LA INDIANA DID NOT RECRUIT 10-GOALER FACUNDO PIERES TO BE PUSHED DOWN AND LOSE

missing penalties and struggling to control the ball. They were exposed – any mistake made by Stirling and Nero was taken advantage of by their opponents, and they finished the fourth 5-9 down. Lechuza heaved themselves upright in the fifth, clawing back a few goals, but Pieres pushed back harder in the sixth, refusing to leave anything to chance. La Indiana's hard work paid off: the prestigious high-goal Gold Cup was finally theirs.

Post match, Pieres declared that the final was his team's best match of the season. 'We were up against the Silver Cup champions, and they had been playing really well,' he says. 'But we were on point, too. We had a great fourth chukka and we managed to keep our advantage. All four of us played well. Winning in Sotogrande makes me happy, the Gold Cup is important for any player, and it is not easy to defend any of these big titles.'

Facundo, who scored 10 of his team's 13 goals, was named MVP of the final, while his mare Azúcar was chosen as BPP. But Gomez Romero was the name on everyone's lips, having won the medium-goal Triple Crown with Ayala and the high-goal Gold Cup with La Indiana, all in one season. 'This year will be hard to top,' beams the 28 year old.

The end of one season marks the start of another, and with the closing of the Gold Cup the international polo community turn their heads, lick their lips, and prepare to devour the decadent gateaux that is the Argentine Triple Crown. This year, there's a twist: Ellerstina will now be playing off 40 goals, meaning that, on paper at least, they will be meeting rivals La Dolfina as equals. Of course, Cambiaso and co have been victorious in the Argentine Open Championship since 2013, but Pieres intends to finish the year as he started it: a winner.



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## BRONZE AGE

Georges Malissard's famous sculptures were among the first to capture the energy of the Game of Kings, says Edward Horswell

Polo was first played in Europe around 1869, and racing subjects in sculpture were popular and plentiful at this time, but there are only two or three sculptures representing polo that predate 1900. Examples from the beginning of the 20th century are also very rare, but French sculptor Georges Malissard – who worked between 1910 and 1940 – was known chiefly for his equestrian portraits. His sculpture *The Backhand*, depicting the polo manoeuvre, is impressive both in scale and quality, with wonderful movement stylishly capturing the energy of the game. Around this time, Malissard also modelled a portrait of Alphonso XIII riding off the

polo ground, and *The Backhand* could be a companion piece, albeit on a larger scale.

Malissard was born in Anzin, near Valenciennes, northern France in 1877, and according to contemporary sources, he was inspired by the work of leading late-19th-century sculptor Emmanuel Frémiet. In 1908, Malissard exhibited at the Salon des Artistes Français and received his first commission to sculpt two thoroughbreds belonging to Kaiser Wilhelm II in Berlin. He soon settled in Paris, and, after briefly sharing a studio with animalier sculptor Arthur Comte du Passage, settled in his own atelier at rue Pergolèse. He was highly connected in the

horse-riding milieu – a regular guest at hunting parties, he also rode every morning at the renowned Howlett's stables in Neuilly. His monumental portrait of Marshal Foch on horseback can be seen today beside Victoria Station in London.

The rare *The Backhand* bronze is undoubtedly my favourite polo sculpture – it stands out for both its large size and fluid movement, setting it apart from all other 'vintage' polo sculptures, most of which are half the size and generally much more static.

*The Backhand*, circa 1925 by Georges Malissard, French, 1877–1942



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