

LA POLO INTERNATIONAL

Hundred+3 2nd Edition



*To mothers
With love*

Under The Neck

Lt Gen Balbir Singh Sandhu shares memories

Deconstruction

The history of Fedora Hats

Adventure

The ancient tale of the Mongol Derby

POLO



Image credit: Cowdray Park Polo

Cowdray Park Polo all set to get in to action

Latest Update

COWDRAY'S UPDATE NO. 6

Lock down eased for England but not significantly. Earliest start date hard to predict but clear statement that there would be no team sport before 1 June (start of Phase 2) but sporting events behind closed doors could be phased in during June with further easing after 1 July (start of Phase 3).

During Phase 1 (from 13 May to 1 June):

- Everyone is encouraged to take more exercise.
- Everyone is encouraged to travel to work if they are not able to work from home.
- Quarantine will be imposed for those coming in from overseas; from when and for how long tbd.

*According to the notice dated 14th May 2020
from cowdraypolo.co.uk*

Latest Update

REGIONAL EQUESTRIAN LEAGUE CANCELLED

Owing to the lockdown extension, post May 3, the Amateur Riders' Club (ARC), a prestigious civilian horse riding and equestrian sports club in Mumbai, announced the cancellation of the Regional Equestrian League (REL) until the situation normalises. The REL is a national qualifier league for Show Jumping and Dressage which was to be held at Mahalaxmi Racecourse on May 9/10. Asian Games finalists Yashaan Khambatta and Kaevaan and Zahan Setalvad, who were eager to battle it out for the national title on home turf, were left disappointed.

According to Shyam Mehta, President, ARC: "It is unfortunate that the REL has to be cancelled.

However, at present, our priority is to ensure everyone's safety. We have amongst the best talent in the country and we would like to give them every opportunity to do well and win national and international competitions."

Cover Story

GRATITUDE ON MOTHER'S DAY



**Angad and Uday
Kalaan with their
mother**

"Happy Mother's Day to the most amazing Mum. Thank You for everything you have done for us and being there for all our victories and through our losses on and off the field."



**Ranshay Purohit
with his mother**

"Ain't a woman alive that could take my Mama's place."



**Jimbo Fewster
with his family**

"In days in and out, she always stays by your side. That's a mother. Love you Mom!"



**Toly Ulloa and his
mother**

"A mom is always there!"



**Dhruvpal Godara
with his mother**

"The reason for all that I am. Love you Mama!"



**Shamsher Ali and
his mother**

"A mother is someone who holds a family together. She is the key to heaven and the heaven lies beneath her feet."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

"When I'm with my horses, then there's nothing that could make me feel unhappy."

Mr. Narendrabhai G. Ribadiya, founder,
Gangotri Charitable Trust



Cover Story

Mother's Day: An Apologue of Love

The celebration of motherhood is traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of mother Goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the modern antecedent for Mother's Day is the Christian Festival, "Morning Sunday". Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and some parts of Europe, the celebration falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent. It was originally seen as a time when the faithful returned to their "mother church" for a special service. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American incarnation of Mother's Day in the 1930s which was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908. It became an official U.S. holiday in 1914 and the celebrations involved presenting mothers with flowers, cards, and other gifts...

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Anecdote

UNDER THE NECK

You want to hit it over the Sinhagad?

Recollecting the days of polo from my time in the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, I recall, all the cadets would put their entire might to hit the ball long. Little did they realise that mounted on a galloping horse at a speed of 40 km an hour, all that they needed was to swing their mallet through the ball at an easy pace. Our then Equitation Officer, Major RS Brar(later Col RS Brar), would give his piece of mind: 'Do you want to hit it (polo ball) over the Sinhagad Fort?' Sinhagad Fort is at least 15 km from Khadakwasla!! That was his sarcastic comment. We could never answer his question because we were always tempted to hit hard.Take it easy is the mantra. Always and everywhere!"



*Lt Gen Balbir Singh Sandhu,
AVSM, VSM (Retd)
Vice President,
Indian Polo Association*



Maninder S Sethi
Editor-in-Chief,
LA POLO

61st Cavalry: Dark Clouds Over A Shining Heritage

A nation's wealth is reflected in the glory of its sprawling heritage, and only glorious nations are capable of having a great heritage. To strip a country of its heritage is like stripping an honoured knight of the accolades he has earned, putting all at stake for the prosperity of a nation.

A similar heritage is being pushed at the ruthless gallows, to be erased out of its majestic presence. The **news to restructure the majestic 61st Cavalry** is no different than a band of reckless travellers permanently and irretrievably destroying an irreplaceable relic.

It shows how less significant the heritage has been deemed and how ignorant we have become as to what it means to carry on a tradition that connects us to centuries of military acumen and spirit of sacrifice and valour.

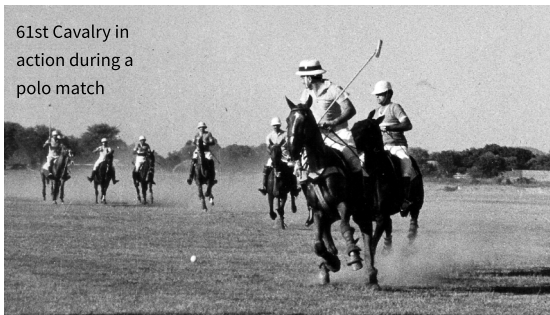


61st cavalry on the
celebration of 100 years
of Battle of Haifa



Heritage reminds us of the dignity and grandeur of our traditions, and in traditional orders being asked to surrender dignity is equivalent to a king brought down to its knees in defeat. Heritage that adds to our dignity should be valued even over life.

61st Cavalry in
action during a
polo match



The 61st Cavalry Unit single-handedly revived and kept alive equestrian sports in India. Its contribution to equestrian sports is not just limited to producing great equestrians, but if it were not for this unit, the legendary sport of Polo would not have survived in India.

Team 61st Cavalry
during a polo
match in the
Delhi Spring
Polo Season
2020



It has produced an endless number of India's greatest Polo players and Equestrians. Since Independence, under Army's patronage, a large number of Asian Games Medallists, World Cup Players, Padma Shri and Arjun Awardees have been groomed out of this unit and have also made many times to the Olympics.

Trick Riding
performed by
the officer from
61st Cavalry



In fact, its contribution is reflected in having produced 1 Padma Shree, 11 Arjuna Awards, 9 Asian Games medals, various Polo medals at World Polo championships, including the recent Gold Medal for beating Pakistan, and many successful entries into Olympics and National Games.

We look forward for your input

Email at info@lapolo.in

LA EQUUS



“It is easy to conquer the world
from the back of a horse”
– Genghis Khan



From The Magazine

Ancient Routes, Modern Trails

A participant
getting on his
horse during
the Mongol
Derby

The equestrian endurance race, The Mongol Derby, is the world's longest horse race. It traces its origins to Mongolian warrior and ruler Genghis Khan's incredibly well-connected long postal trail. For adventure seekers, it is still the benchmark of strength.

During the middle of the 13th, century, the first great Khan of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan, planned to set up an enormous postal transmission system that was to become the source of his huge empire. This long postal system connected his capital Kharkhorin with the Caspian Sea, joining the sprawling Steppe comprising almost half the planet...

[Click to read more >](#)



Participants at
the Mongol Derby

From The Magazine

TOUGH TERRAIN

The Mongol Derby prepares you to take the toughest journey of your life where the instinct to survive is your only guide. The cultural aspect of the race has a powerful ethos which intensifies the overall experience of the journey. The organisers say: “We spend many months designing and testing the Mongol Derby route, making sure it’s right for the horses and that it will deliver the greatest equine adventure in the world—high passes, huge valleys, wooded hills, river crossings, wetlands, dunes and of course, open Steppes.”



SIGN UP NOW! 

From The Magazine

STAYATHOME

While you are at home, enjoy some little-known tales from the world of Polo.

Read the print editions of LA POLO, **now available exclusively Online.**



SIGN UP NOW!



#StayAtHome

Stay home, Stay safe!

BEYOND



Although the Fedora Hats went in and out of fashion, it remains an enduring icon of fashion.



Feature

A scene from the
play by dramatist
Victorien Sardou

Fedora Hats | Unravelling the Mystique

The Fedora Hats have been an unmistakable fashion statement for almost a century. Interestingly, the trend started from a play.

“Fedora” was the title of a play by dramatist Victorien Sardou. It came out in 1882 and was first performed in 1889 in the United States. Sarah Bernhardt played Princess Fedora. In the play, the protagonist wears a centre-creased soft brimmed hat, which gained popularity soon after.

With the female character wearing the hat, the Fedora remained a constant fashion statement in women’s fashion. The hat attached a whole new meaning to itself when the women’s right movement adopted it as its symbol.

Slowly, the fashion of the Fedora Hats moved places...

[Click to read more >](#)



Feature

EVERYTHING FEDORA

The Fedora Hat has been a fashion statement for over a century. How did the trend start? And how did it become a sensation with legendary cinema icons? Have a close look on LA POLO.

The Fedora
Hats became
a fashion
statement
over the
years

[Click to read more >](#)



“

A person carries off the hat. Hats are about emotion. It is all about how it makes you feel.

- Philip Treacy

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