

LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

Hundred+
33rd Edition

Polo talkies with
MISS POLO
INTERNATIONAL '19

Dewanti Kumala

Latest News

Polo to make a comeback soon

From The Magazine

The Palio Fever

Latest News

61st Cavalry: Dark clouds over a shining heritage

POLO



Image credit: elitetraveler.com

Action to soon begin at the Guards Polo Club



Vikram Rathore

Follow Up

61st Cavalry: A Shining Heritage

In a recent article published in ARBiT, Vikram Rathore, Polo Ambassador from India to the Federation of International Polo and Hotelier presented his inputs.

Here are some excerpts.

“Just over a hundred years back, as the first World War drew to close, two Indian Cavalry Regiments were tightening the girths of their horses...for a battle...- a battle between the fortified positions supported by artillery and machine guns versus man and his loyal steed, armed with lances, swords, bayonet and high spirits to fight till the end for Naam, Namak and Nishan.



The task of capturing the Turkish strategic port of Haifa and to rescue Abdul Baha...was given to the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade comprising of Jodhpur & Mysore Lancers...This unique cavalry attack was launched on the afternoon of 23 September 1918 by the Jodhpur Lancers led by their Commanding Officer major thakur Daipat Singh...Reminiscent of Tennyson's 'Charge of the Light Brigade', the Jodhpur Cavalry galloped into the valley of death overwhelming the Turkish defences by their sheer audacity, speed, horsemanship, and bravery. Haifa was won."



With steps possibly being taken to wind up the 61st Cavalry, India's only horse-mounted regiment, it is perhaps time to remind and acknowledge what led to the formation of this illustrious regiment and what have been its achievements, including its stellar role in promoting polo and other equestrian sport and performing various ceremonial duties besides participating in various military operations from time to time since its inception. During the centenary celebrations of the first World War, the President of India said: "We remember with great pride those Indian troops who one hundred years ago in Haifa displayed valour, courage, and heroism in the face of seemingly impossible odds."

An Elegy for 61 Cavalry



with a different objective in view. The Indian army's attack on the Turkish strategic port of Haifa in 1918 was a unique cavalry attack. It was led by the Jodhpur Lancers, a regiment of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade. The attack was successful, and the port was captured. This was a significant achievement for the Indian army at the time.



Haifa Attack



Haifa Attack



#HORSE-SENSE

Independently made up units of the 61st Cavalry were formed in 1918. The 61st Cavalry was formed in 1918 as a result of the merger of the 15th and 16th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigades. The 61st Cavalry was the only horse-mounted regiment in the Indian Army. It was formed in 1918 and was disbanded in 1956. The 61st Cavalry was a unique regiment in the Indian Army, as it was the only one that was formed in 1918. It was formed in 1918 and was disbanded in 1956. The 61st Cavalry was a unique regiment in the Indian Army, as it was the only one that was formed in 1918. It was formed in 1918 and was disbanded in 1956.

The Haifa attack was one of the greatest ever cavalry actions in the annals of military warfare. It was in fact the last cavalry charge probably ever to be repeated again. In recognition of their exceptional bravery and leadership, several gallantry medals were awarded to the brave soldiers including a Military Cross to Major Daipat Singh, Captain Anwar Singh Indur and posthumous medals awarded to the Indian Order of Merit.



Info. source: Rastradoot

Info. source: Dainik Navjyoti

संसद वीथी कुमारी ने भी को सीटोएस विचिन रावन से मुलाकात
कैवेलरी को बचानी आगे आर कई पूर्व खिलाड़ी



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कैवेलरी को बचानी आगे आर कई पूर्व खिलाड़ी



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कैवेलरी को बचानी आगे आर कई पूर्व खिलाड़ी

Info. source: Rastradoot

LOSING A Kingdom for a Horse

The news that 61 Cavalry, which since the time of Indian independence has been synonymous with horsemanship and valor, is slated to lose its connection with both horses and India from the back, strikes the regiment as a blow. While the regiment may be rechristened, the 61 Cavalry should remain in its original setting in the high-altitude region of Ladakh. It is a valuable part of our heritage, which is a part of our self-identity and sense of identity. These are cultural assets that should remain in their original setting.

HERITAGE

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Info. source: Rastradoot

61 Cavalry, the most prestigious, decorated and decorated horse cavalry regiment has produced the finest polo players of international repute apart from show jumpers and the President's Bodyguard is on the verge of extinction. According to recent reports, it will be reduced to tanks. For those who have slight knowledge of the regiment - the first army contingent to capture the Republic Day parade - it is the horse-mounted 61st Cavalry of the Indian Army's crown. Can we do without them?

61 CAVALRY, RIP Of Horses & Unequal Men

RIP

Latest Update

NEWPORT POLO HOPEFUL

With less than three weeks to its scheduled first match on June 6, with Switzerland, Newport Polo remains on hold and hopeful that Governor Gina Raimondo will approve its plan to re-open.

So far, according to Agnes Keating, they have not heard from the Governor.

Image credit: whatsupnewp.com



Polo at Newport Polo Club before the pandemic hit the world

Latest Update

CARTIER QUEEN'S CUP STILL IN RUN

The Cartier Queen's Cup, the Champions League of the polo world appeared to have fallen victim to the virus. But it has been disclosed that the organisers' determination to save the tournament, which is played at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park, has paid off. Traditionally held in June, the first chukka has now been rescheduled for the end of July.

Image credit: luxuriousmagazine.com



Polo enthusiasts getting photographed

Latest Update

POLO BEGINS AT CHANTILLY

“Since May 11, France has started its first phase of deconfinement. The practice of sport, and more particularly of outdoor riding, has been authorized under certain conditions. This is why activity at the Chantilly Polo Club was able to resume at the Pony Club and on the fields for individual and group training, limited to ten people in compliance with the strict sanitary rules in force.

A new point will be made by the government from June 2, but it has already announced the opening of the borders with Germany, Austria and Switzerland for June 15. All these elements together give us good hope of a resumption of our tournaments from June 6 with European levels (6/8 goals and 0/4 goals).”

**Quoting as reported by Polo Club
du Domaine de Chantilly*

Latest Update

VILLA A SIESTA- ALL SET FOR POLO

We have a lot of expectations about our season at Villa A Sesta, and we are adapting in the best way in order that people can be able to enjoy polo while following hygiene and safety measures. We have made a strong investment in infrastructure which include standings for our new polo ground. The three fields are in excellent condition, the weather is great and everybody at the club is ready to enjoy the sport we all love so much. In addition, we will be launching a new merchandising collection, which will be available to purchase both through our website and in the club during the whole year.”

**As reported by Villa A Sesta Polo Club*

Latest News

SUSPENSION LIFTED

“Effective Saturday, May 16, 2020, the suspension of USPA Tournaments and Events will be lifted for USPA Member Clubs in locales where hosting polo matches and tournaments is permitted under applicable state and local laws, executive orders and similar decrees. The USPA Member Clubs in these locales are encouraged to follow all such requirements of their state and local authorities with respect to polo operations. In addition, we also encourage all USPA Member Clubs to take the precautions recommended by the CDC. We are preparing a detailed list of best practices for USPA Member Clubs as they return to hosting USPA Tournaments and Events and plan to circulate these guidelines within the next week. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and will notify you if we determine a different course of action is necessary.

The USPA is pleased to share our progress as we work to make a positive impact on the polo community. The USPA COVID-19 Relief Package consists of four assistance programs: the Equine Welfare Relief Program, Distressed Club Relief Program, USPA Polo Tournament Stimulus Package and most recently the Polo Professional Equine Relief Program approved by the Board on Saturday, May 2. It is our sincere hope that you and your families stay healthy, positive and safe. Please do not hesitate to reach out to USPA staff and leadership at any time if you need any assistance.”

**Statement released by USPA*

Latest News

CORONA LEADS TO CANCELLATION

With the Corona crisis looming large, Sandfest and Sandpolo have declared to cancel their events.

Sandpolo event director, Johnny Wheeler said: "We are eternally grateful to all of our supporters who have attended this wonderful event year on year and helped it go from strength to strength, and we'd like to thank you all for your patience but it's with great regret that we have to cancel this year in the best interests and safety of our ticket holders, staff and polo players."

Sandfest founder, Ty Temel, added: "We are devastated we have to pull Sandfest year four and we're forever grateful to everyone who comes along, it would be absolutely nothing without you."

Anecdote

UNDER THE NECK

Hunger to score a goal

“This incident is dedicated to my very dear friend Lt Col Sunny Sidhu who was an extraordinarily fit and a very agile polo player. We played a lot of polo together as part of the ASC polo team, but the most memorable incidents are of the time when we were at NDA. During our first Inter Battalion polo match, Sunny suddenly received a pass with the ball lying a little distance away on his stick side, but too close to the goal to miss the chance of scoring the first goal of his polo career. Sunny leaned out so much that he scored that maiden goal with the entire battalion clapping though in the bargain, he kissed mother earth falling off the horse!! This is what we call ‘Determination the military way.’”



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

In Remembrance

POLO LOSES AN ARDENT SUPPORTER

Time and tide indeed wait for no one. Indian polo has lost one of its ardent and long-term supporters. Maj Gen K Jai Singh, a distinguished soldier and pioneer of private higher education in India, breathed his last on 20 May 2020 after a brief illness at the age of 87. His other achievements aside, he was the brain behind the inception of the Amity Polo Cup, an event hosted by the Amity Group which over the last decade or so emerged as one of the leading polo tournaments in the capital.



Married to polo legend Brigadier VP Singh's sister, he also instituted the Brigadier VP Singh Memorial Polo Cup in 2019 to keep alive the legacy of India's greatest post-Independence polo player as an inspiration to future generations. Ill health prevented him from being present at polo in the season just gone by and regrettably, we will not see him again with his mature and dignified presence at the Jaipur Polo Ground to encourage the future growth of polo in the capital.

RIP General. You will be missed.

LA EQUUS



“I had never witnessed such true
gratitude and faithful belief in the
horses than I saw at the Palio”

- Anonymous



From The Magazine

People
during the
oldest horse
race, Palio

An Amazing Tradition

The song “Sempre in alto le bandiere, sempre in alto il nostro amor...” translating to “always up the flags, always up our love...” is what the locals in Siena sing, marching down the streets with their contrada’s jockey and horse. The city’s on edge while Piazza del Campo, the town square, swells up with people of all backgrounds, hoping to catch a glimpse of the galloping glory of each contrade. The Palio encompasses all the emotions, passion and unprecedented obsession that are rare to find in any other sport.

Sieneese let go of their feelings of love for their contrada during Palio. This love has been nurtured by their grandparents and ancestors, as it’s a centuries’ old tradition.

Siena is divided into 17 contradas. The strong sense of belonging the Sieneese have towards their contrada, and the wild passions that Palio awakens every year in the city is amazing.

[Click to read more >](#)



From The Magazine

THE PALIO FEVER

“It’s an arcane world, an umbilical cord that links the Sieneese with their ancestors and they have to make sure it will be passed down to their descendants,” says Cosima Spender, director of the movie, *The Palio*

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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



Dewanti Kumala, Miss Polo
International gets candid with
LA POLO



Cover Story

Miss Polo International 2019 Dewanti Kumala talks to LA POLO

Talking to us about the events leading to her becoming Miss Polo International, Dewanti Kumala shared, "My Miss Polo journey was unexpected. I was taking part in beauty pageants. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Republic of Indonesia recruited me for the Miss Polo Indonesia 2019 event in Dubai.

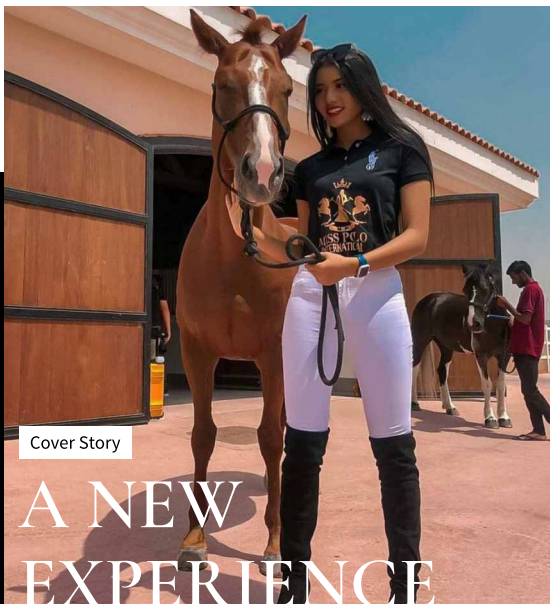
In three months, I was struggling in order to fit the requirements, mentally and physically. It gets pretty scary to represent your country at an international pageant. My team and my family were not able to accompany me to Dubai, so they did everything they could to help me prepare back home.

During the competition, I had the mission to promote my country by using cultural diplomacy. I wore traditional ensembles and materials. The first time I arrived in Dubai, I had to deal with the clothes difficulties, with my heels, and was all by myself dragging my suitcases to the hotel. I had to do my make-up and hair all by myself. My roommate, Miss Chana, helped me a lot. Miss England and Miss Netherlands helped me as well. It did not feel like we were competing with each other. We were supporting each other. All the contestants felt like sisters to me.

We were practicing hard for the grand finale and could not guess who would be the winner..."

[Click to read more >](#)

Dewanti Kumala, during her days of Miss Polo International 2019 at the stables



Cover Story

A NEW EXPERIENCE

"I've been learning how to ride a horse since I was a kid for recreational purposes. However, learning polo and walking between stables are a new experience for me. It turned out it was more fun than I ever expected. It was really cool during the competition of Miss Polo International, when we were doing a photoshoot with the horses."

Miss Polo International 2019, Dewanti Kumala, on her polo journey through fields and stables

[Click to read more >](#)

Cover Story

Rapid Fire *with* Miss Polo International



Your style icon?

I love to combine the sophisticated, sexy, chic style.

Most fashionable person you look up to?

Mostly it is Kate Middleton, Gigi Hadid and Zendaya as well.

Your favorite perfume?

Twilly d'hermès eau poivrée eau de parfume.

What is fashion?

Fashion is identity. I always express the way I feel towards my everyday style. It acts as a mirror for my current mood and is my personality reflection.

An outfit you can spend the rest of your life in?

Chic-street style, like a tank-top, pencil skirt and ripped jeans with high heel boots or sneakers.

Your favourite travel destination?

Raja Ampat and Japan.

Favourite food?

Sushi, cheese and Manadonese.



“ A lovely horse is always an experience. It is an emotional experience of the kind that is spoiled by words. ”

- Beryl Markham



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