

LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

Hundred+77th Edition

THE CURIOUS
CASE OF
LUNCHEONS
& POLO

A CAUTIONARY
TALE OF
THOROUGHBREDS

—
TURNING BACK
TIME

RAJPUTANA
REGALITY



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By the early 20th century, Jodhpur had become an important polo centre, with six polo grounds, rivalling Calcutta, the oldest polo club in the world, by the sheer number of players.

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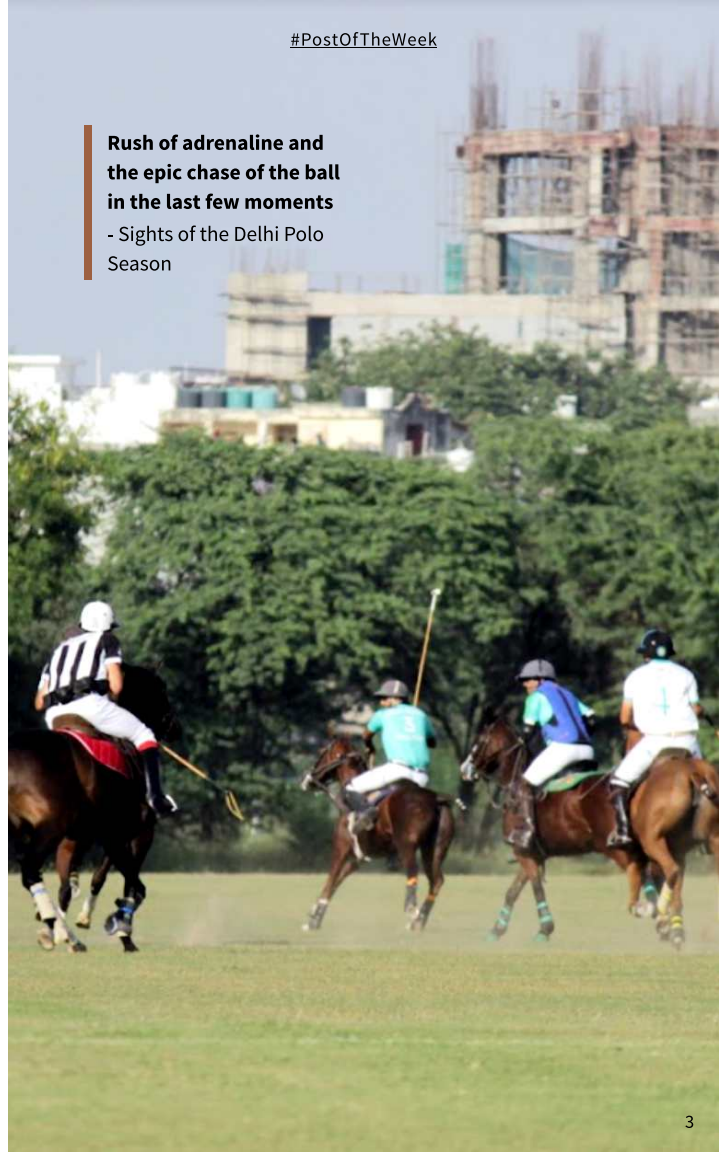
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THE FEARSOME FOURSOME

By the early 20th century, Jodhpur had become an important polo centre, with six polo grounds, rivalling Calcutta, the oldest polo club in the world, by the sheer number of players.

Sir Pratap, Col. Beatson, Harji and Thakur
Dhonkal Singh rank among the most formidable
polo players in the history of India.



Being the cradle of modern polo, India has always had a special relationship with the game.

Amongst the first and most popular Indian states or communities to play, cherish and patronise modern polo were the Rajputs (Rajputana kingdoms) and Sikhs. Besides being extraordinary horsemen, members belonging to these teams were noted for their exceptional stick work and horse controlling skills.

Prior to and during the British rule in India, most of Rajasthan comprised Rajput kingdoms. The area was known as Rajputana where the game of polo flourished under patronage of the royals.

While miniature paintings at the Mehrangarh Museum reveal that the Rathores first played polo with the Mughals, it was not until the 19th

century that polo was formally introduced into the region. In 1889, Sir Pratap, younger brother of the then Maharaja and Prime Minister of Jodhpur State, invited Col Stuart Beatson of the Bengal Lancers to help him raise the Jodhpur Lancers. Four years later, the Jodhpur Team brought home its first trophy, The Rajputana Challenge Cup of 1893. The team, under the captainship of Sir Pratap, included Beatson, Harji (Thakur Hari Singh, the great horseman), and Thakur Dhonkal Singh. It continued to shine in the field of polo in the

The emergence of polo in Jaipur eventually led to the formation of the famous Jaipur team and gave Indian modern polo some of its finest moments.



succeeding years and bagged laurels, locally and internationally. All four players rank among the best polo players in the history of India. Under Sir Pratap's leadership, the team visited London for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, being amongst the first Indian teams to travel abroad, and, for that matter, among the few foreign teams to enter England. They won matches there, at Hurlingham and Ranelagh and came back with an enhanced reputation, recognised as one of the most eminent teams of all time.

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POLO AND THE PICNIC AFFAIR

Since Polo was heralded as the “sport of Kings”, elegant picnics joined the festivities. In contemporary Polo, a renaissance has already started with novel business ideas arising around polo picnics.

Polo picnics are culturally rich worldwide and in Africa they maintain an air of exquisite luxury.

Polo, a spectator sport patronized by the aristocracy, is also famous for picnics on lush green fields. This tradition was set in ancient times, but is seen in contemporary Polo too. The history of picnics is described interestingly in a recent narrative by Alexander Lee. The word is speculated to be an amalgam of the French words piquer (to pick/peck) and nique (at a small amount/nothing). It was first used within the high-brow satire in 1649 to depict the hypocrisy of the French Revolution where a character named Pique-Nique was the gluttonous protagonist who rebelled against the French monarchy.

PICNICS AND POLO: A PERFECT HARMONY

In the Victorian Era, it was imperative that England's upper class eat food outside with tables, linens, crystals and servants. As the general public aspired to the high life, picnics became a gourmet affair (Source: *National Public Radio*). Multiple Telly Award winner, owner of JMFdeA Press and author of *Sassy Food*, Ja-ne de Abreu states polo made its way to the United States during 1876 due to its renown as a cavalry training sport. The first match in Hawaii was played in 1880. King David Kalakaua turned the Kapiolani Park into a polo field and picnics became common for



“The Polo Picnic in Dubai is fashionable and fun, and family-friendly. People sit on colourful blankets and fold-away chairs, with light bites and refreshments.”
- Leorraine Tala, Spokesperson of Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club



POLO AND PICNICS AROUND THE WORLD

Ja-ne de Abreu observes that polo has been one of the bonds between India and Hawaii. The well-established Paniolo (cowboy) culture of Hawaii led to an influx of skilled horse riders and horses, and polo became an instant favourite. Ja-ne states a nice picnic practice at the Hawaiian Polo Club called *The Picnic*: “Every year, for the last match of the season, everyone brings an unwrapped gift for an underprivileged child to be wrapped and placed under the Christmas Tree.” Along with the sweet gesture, polo picnics in Hawaii have transitioned over the years to offer a myriad of options such as DIYs, takeaways from local restaurants/ sandwich shops or elegant baskets crafted by chefs who provide a personalized touch. Over the years, polo picnics have become more easy-going. Polo picnic menus are now a standardized array revolving around a charcuterie board of opulent cheeses and fruit, or British-style neat sandwiches commonly found at Royal Ascot games.

spectators as a way to refresh themselves. Polo in Dubai took root in the 1980s, almost a decade after the formation of the UAE as an extension of the desert Arabic culture. This bedouin lifestyle was always about community and tribal spirit, which percolated well into the polo games. In Africa, polo picnics maintained the same air of exquisite luxury. A BBC historical account notes that eating under the tree was a form of recess during the hunting, shepherding and exploration phase of mankind and thus they ate such meals even before the term “picnics” was invented. Unsurprisingly, polo as a blend of hunting and horsemanship, sans violence, made picnics an easy, post-game affair.

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CAUSES OF CONCERN

Since horse racing is a popular entertainment sport, regulations are needed to ensure proper care for horse injuries, and the use of therapeutic drugs.



From just being a leisure activity of the rich and the elite, horse racing has developed into a full-fledged public entertainment business. This equestrian performance sport has witnessed changes in equipment, returns involved and scale while the basic concept has remained the same over time.

Best known for their use in horse racing, thoroughbreds are "hot-blooded" horses, known for their agility, speed and spirit. They are widely used for riding activities such as show jumping, combined training, dressage, polo, and fox hunting. They are often crossbred in order to develop new breeds as well as improve the existing ones. As this breed is involved in high intensity sports, exertion is a common phenomenon amongst them. This eventually leads to high accident rates and health issues such as bleeding from the lungs, low fertility, abnormally small hearts, and a small hoof-to-body-mass ratio.

STALLION FERTILITY

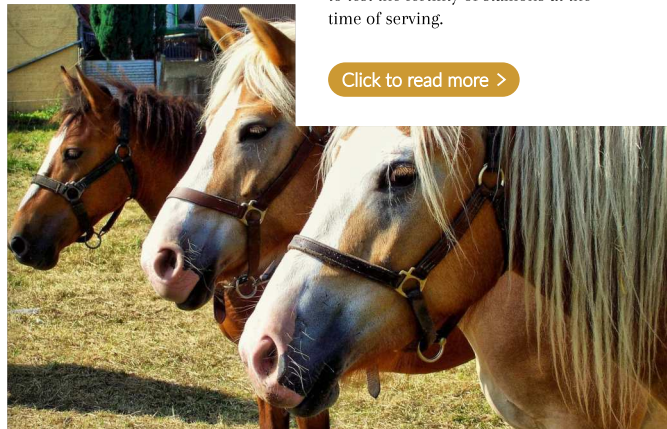
Extensive studies have been conducted to research and analyse the rationale behind increasing health problems in the thoroughbred breed. One such study conducted by The University of Newcastle's equine fertility research group has led to the development of a low-cost, reliable and hassle-free device that helps thoroughbred stallion owners to examine stallion fertility at the time of breeding. Co-developed with support from AgriFutures Australia, the device provides valuable information about indicators of fertility like motility, morphology and sperm count. Additionally, it gives a heads up about a stallion's sperm metabolic rate. Dr Zamira Gibb, lead researcher of the study, stated that "uniquely in horses, this is the most important predictor of a successful pregnancy. Metabolism is not only important for motility, but also to facilitate the energy-

Thoroughbreds are primarily bred for speed but they often face health problems and potential dangers that come with swiftness. Studies have shown that they suffer orthopaedic problems and fractures.

demanding changes necessary to allow the fusion of sperm and egg." (Ref: growag)

The booming thoroughbred industry has inspired stud masters to increase the breeding rate of their stallions. As only natural breeding is permitted, success becomes imperative, or else the mares require re-servng, which ultimately results in a financial loss for studs along with additional travel. Therefore, they are keen for their top stallions to serve as many mares as possible during the breeding season, lessening the chances of failure of mares getting in foal. Subsequently, it increases the revenue for studs. These requirements ultimately lead to the need for quick, simple, reliable, and cheap methods for the horse industry to test the fertility of stallions at the time of serving.

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THE ERA OF COMEBACKS

La Polo puts the spotlight on to top-end watches that have made a recent comeback

TAG HEUER AQUARACER PROFESSIONAL 300 NIGHT DIVER

In the mid-1980s, the avant-garde Swiss watchmaker TAG Heuer launched the first-of-its-kind Night Diver which became an instant favourite among connoisseurs. The latest TAG Heuer Aquaracer Professional 300 Night Diver has six signature features of the 43 mm TAG Heuer Aquaracer Professional 300 trademark (such as the unidirectional dial, screw-down crown and bright markings). It has water-resistance attributes, straps that are customized to the wearer's requirement and diamond-like-carbon coating for extreme conditions.



IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN'S PILOT'S WATCHES

Over 85 years ago, the Swiss-made IWC Schaffhausen launched the first Pilot's Watches collection under their military program. This 150-year-old brand has partnered with the US Navy and Marine Corps for the latest addition. Named the "Royal Maces", "Tophatters" and "Blue Angels", after their respective US Navy and Marine Corps Squadrons, are the three launches of the Pilot's Watches Chronographic Edition.



The bespoke French menswear and leather producer Berluti joined hands with Swiss luxury watchmaker Hublot five years ago for the exquisite "Big Bang Unico".



HUBLOT AND BERLUTI'S BIG BANG UNICO BERLUTI ALUMINIO

The bespoke French menswear and leather producer Berluti joined hands with Swiss luxury watchmaker Hublot five years ago under the aptly titled project, "Big Bang Unico". This project is an exquisite amalgamation of leather and titanium under deluxe aesthetic watchmaking. Combining the Berluti signature Venezia leather into a 1 mm thick bezel on top of a 1 mm thick grey titanium bezel delicately placed with sapphire glass, this 44-mm watch is a masterpiece.



JAEGER-LECOULTRE, REVERSO TRIBUTE MINUTE REPEATER

Swiss watchmaker Jaeger-LeCoultre combines their distinct 90-year-old Reverso watch and the world's first minute repeater in the limited edition Reverso Tribute Minute Repeater. In the '90s the Reverso was considered state-of-the-art technology as the traditional round movements require different geometric precision compared to this rectangular piece.

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JAIPUR POLO SEASON

The exhilarating Army CDR Cup, contested by five teams in two pools, began with the first match on September 21 between Achievers Golden Globe and Rajnigandha Achievers. Although the veterans of Rajnigandha Achievers scored 5 goals, Achievers Golden Globe took the victory with 8-5.

The second day of the Army CDR Cup brought in two matches consecutively. First, Achievers Golden Globe and Rajnigandha Achievers faced off once again.

The game was already hyped through the 3-goal advantage that the Achievers Golden Globe gained in their previous win. Daniel Otamendi scored 3 goals, along with Vandit Colechha's 2 goals for Rajnigandha Achievers, leading to a close game yet Achievers Golden Globe was victorious with a 9-5 score.

The next match between Bedla/Los Polistas and V Polo had to be called off due to an unexpected downpour, yet in a wonderful turn of events, Bedla/Los Polistas converted a penalty in their favour at 2-1.

On September 23, V Polo and 61st Cavalry engaged in a gripping match wherein the 61st Cavalry veteran Dhruvral Godhara outshone with 6 goals, Aman Singh and Shamsher Ali scored single goals. Although 61st Cavalry won with 9-6.5, V Polo played well with Padmanabh Singh scoring 3 goals along with 2 goals by Naveen Singh and a goal by Vicky Nihilani.

The next day Bedla/Los Polistas and 61st Cavalry faced off against each other wherein Col Ravi Rathore scored 3 goals, Lance Watson

scored 2 goals and there was a single goal by Kuldeep Singh Rathore. The game remained a tough call until the final chukker and Bedla/Los Polistas won 6-4.

On the sunny afternoon of September 26, Rajnigandha Achievers contested Bedla/Los Polistas. Bedla/Los Polistas led by 4-2 in the second chukker, and put up a hard fight, yet Rajnigandha Achievers caught up. The final goal by Lance Watson was wonderfully shot, and Bedla/Los Polistas won by 8-7.

The finale of the Army CDR Polo Cup was played on September 27, between Achievers Golden Globe and Bedla/Los Polistas. The champion who has been shining through the season, Andres Vial, once again scored 4 goals for Achievers Golden Globe along with Ashok Chandna's 2 goals and Hurr Ali's single goal. Nonetheless, they fell short against the 2 goals scored by Lance Watson, Himmat Singh Bedla, Kuldeep Singh Rathore and Col Ravi Rathore, each totalling at 8-7. Thus Bedla/Los Polistas took the final Cup of the Jaipur Polo Season.



Image credit: @instagram_lapolo

Thai Polo Cup 2021

The renowned Jockey Club Open made its 2021 debut on September 24. The first match played out between La Hache and La Irenita on the same day wherein La Hache won by two goals at 9-7. On the same day, Ellerstina Pilot and Ensenada battled out; Ellerstina Pilot won the first match with 11-8 with some incredible defensive tactics.

On September 27, La Irenita and BP Polo played a fiery match of high-strung moments, as expected, with Adolfo Cambiaso and Juan Martin Nero on the pitch. La Irenita won 7-5. Simultaneously, La Ensenada and La Dolfina battled out on with La Ensenada taking the lead by 12-8.

The qualifier matches were held on September 29 and La Hache faced off against BP Polo in an edge match wherein La Hache made their way into the finals with 10-7. Further in the day, La Dolfina and Ellerstina Pilot played off for the next spot in the finals wherein La Dolfina stole the spot in the last chukker with 13-9.



13TH FIP EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The highly-anticipated 6/8-goal championship kickstarted on September 13 at Ayala Polo Club. The first match played out between Spain and Switzerland with an easy sweep for Spain by a final score of 12-5. The second match on September 14 saw some jaw-dropping moves in a tough game between Italy and Austria. Italy won the match with a wonderful 7-5.

On September 15, two matches were played in Sotogrande, Spain, the first being Austria vs Germany and the second being Switzerland vs Netherlands. Austria won the nail-biting match filled with numerous hooking shots, at a score of 6-4.5. Netherlands won the match with 8-5.5. Germany and Switzerland faced off in a match on September 16 and through some swift action on the pitch, Switzerland won by 8-5.

September 18 saw the semi-final, played out between Austria and Spain in a thrilling match where Austria trotted into the finals with 6-5. Italy faced off against Netherlands and joined Austria in the finals by winning 5-3.

The first match on September 19 was between Netherlands and Spain for the La Reserva Cup where Spain won with an outstanding 10-4. The second exciting final match was between Austria and Italy, where Italy took the 13th FIP European Championship Cup home with a score of 8-7. The game was dangerously hard even till the last few minutes, but Italy scored in the final chukker. Miguel Lagos Marmel won Most Valued Player.

3RD FIP LADIES EUROPEAN POLO CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLAYOFFS



The championships commenced after an interesting Zoom-based draw between representatives of Germany, Ireland, Italy and England. The inaugurals held on September 23 played off between Italy and Germany, and Ireland and England. The first match began in favour of the Italian team due to their lower handicap at a 2.5 advantage and impeccable teamwork between captain Constanza Marchiorello and newcomers Camila Rossi and Alice Coria. On the side of Germany, Eva Bruhl put up a great fight yet the final chukker saw an Italian win at 6.5-6. The second match between Ireland and England also began with a 0.5 advantage for the Irish for the same reason. The Irish played a rousing game and winning against England with a 7.5-3.

On September 24, Germany faced off against Ireland and England faced off against Italy in two impressive matches. England won against Italy in the first match at a close 6-5.5 but not after a difficult fight by the Italian team and captain Marchiorello, who injured herself in the third chukker. Heloise Wilson Smith

played a wonderful game by scoring 4 out of the 6 goals for England. The next match between Germany and Ireland was filled with more excitement through the exceptional teamwork of Eva Bruhl, Hana Grill and Maria Haupt leading to the German win at 6-5.5.

On September 25, Ireland and Italy faced off in a stirring match wherein the match was neck-to-neck till the final chukker. Italy hit a notable strike deemed the "golden goal" at the extra chukker (due to the 4-4 tie) entering the finals with 5-4. Following the epic match, Germany and England faced off again, and England scored the winning goal in the last 40 seconds. England entered the finals with 4-2.

The highly-anticipated finals occurred on September 26, between England and Italy where they battled even the downpour. Although England scored the first goal, Camilla Rossi from Italy converted a penalty leading to their tie in the first chukker at 1-1. This tie continued till the final chukker where Franco Piazza made the last attempts and Italy won the Championship Cup with 6.5-6. Englishwoman Heloise Wilson Smith was declared MVP for her grand game.

Kenya International Championship



The low 10-goal tournament took place at the Nairobi Polo Club between September 17-19. These spirited matches were much awaited in Kenya. Eventually, Tusker Malt Lager and Team South Africa faced off in a tough battle, wherein Tusker Malt Lager emerged victorious. Chris Lund from South Africa was declared MVP for his impeccable performance throughout the tournament and Team 24/7 were declared winners for the subsidiary Hippo Cup.

NOIDA POLO SEASON

Coming in to take away the post-season blues was the Noida Polo Season 2021. The season commenced with the 8-goal Jindal Polo Cup which was a four-day tournament among two pools of two teams, on September 28. The first match was played by Jindal Panther and Clairmont wherein Clairmont started with an advantage of 2.5 goals. Moreover, Bhavani Kalwi and Angad Singh scored 2 goals, yet the teamwork of Jindal Panther stood strong. Simran Singh Shergill scored 3 goals while the team hustled to get to 8-4.5, thus winning the first game.

The second match was a battle between Riverside Polo and Sahara Warriors. Riverside started off with a 0.5 advantage. Nonetheless, Sahara Warriors put forth such tactical teamwork that restricted Riverside Polo to score further goals. Daniel Otamendi, Angad Kalaan, IN'k Ravindra Mang and Sep Mukesh Gurjar put out tremendous performances to

reach 7-0.5 by the half-time of the fourth chukker. Through mutual consensus, the game was called off with their victory.

October 1 witnessed the third day of the 8-goal Cup that was scheduled for two cross qualifiers. First in line, Jindal Panther faced off against Riverside Polo in a match of neck-to-neck competition till the second half of the third chukker. Jindal Panther fought back hard and gained the first finalist position with 7-4. Next Clairmont and Sahara Warriors battled it out. The match was interesting to begin with as the Clairmont team got a fresh makeover with Siddhant Sharma, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, Bhavani Kalvi and Rohan Sundesha joining the squad. Sahara Warriors and Clairmont put up a tough fight, but Sahara Warriors outshone with 10-7.

As fate would have it, the Jindal Polo Cup final match on October 3 played out between Sahara Warriors and Jindal Panther. These highly competitive teams went hard on the pitch in a spectacular match, especially as Padmanabh

Singh and Daniel Otamendi, two famed teammates were on opposite sides in the match. The pressure of the match kept up. At the grand finale, neither side held back but Jindal Panther took the lead. The ace Simran Shergill kept the momentum going till Jindal Panther won the 8-goal Jindal Panther Cup by 6-4 and the first championship of the Noida Season came to an end.



Jindal Panther Shield



The second cup of the Noida Polo Season was contested by four teams and commenced on October 5. The 8 goal tournament panned out in action packed matches for four days. Sona Polo and Aravali Polo were the first two teams to kick off the tournament in a heated match on October 5. The scoreboard finally declared Aravali Polo as the winners with 10-7. The next day saw a match filled with fervor between Jindal Panther and Sujan. Although the match was in favor of Jindal Panther, Sujan put up an outstanding performance and gathered 5 goals by the last chukker. Nonetheless Jindal Panther won with 6-5.

The ground stood still during the nail biting semi-final match between Sujan and Aravali Polo on October 8. Both teams showed immense skill and finesse to tie at 7-7 until the last 30 seconds where Sujan scored the final goal with a close call at 8-7. The anxiety in the second semi-final match between Sona Polo and Jindal Panther was far more palpable than the previous one. Sona Polo came in hot and began with 2 goals and maintained a fast momentum yet Jindal Panther picked up the pace. Along with their consistent team effort the ace Simran S. Shergill showed his forte and scored a goal in the last chukker for Jindal Panther to tie at 6-6. The situation called for an extra chukker where Jindal Panther converted a penalty shot again through the golden mallet of Shergill and joined the finals alongside Aravali Polo.

On October 10, both teams played a spirited final and for the second time this season Jindal Panther took home the trophy. The quartet wonderfully scored 7-5 against Aravali Polo and are now headed to dominate the Bhopal Pataudi Cup.



Bhopal Pataudi Cup

The fall Delhi Polo Season has made its grand 2021 comeback with the 8 goal Bhopal Pataudi Cup with three matches. The victors of the past two cups Jindal Panther and Achievers DB Realty played the opening suspenseful match on October 14. Both sides galloped into goals maintaining a tie until the umpires called a favorable penalty for Achievers DB Realty at the last chukker. Here the veteran Daniel Otamendi converted it into the winning goal with 6-5. Later Col. Girdhari Singh/ASC played the second match at an advantage of 0.5 goals against Kara Polo-Cavalry. One unmissable element of this high-strung match was the wonderful defensive play on both sides yet, Kara Polo-Cavalry took the final win at a close 5-4.5. Saving the best for last, Sujan and Aravali Polo faced off once again in a neck-to-neck match. Sujan came in ready to replicate their last season victory against Aravali Polo but once again the last few seconds turned the tides. Aravali Polo scored the last goal at 6-5.

Centaur on the field in their focused chase

- Simran Singh Shergill and Pablo Jauretche on the sunny match of October 6



Gear up for the Qatar Equestrian Federation 2021



On September 24, the season kicked off with the Show Horse Auction held at the Qatar Equestrian Federation Modern Pentathlon (QEFMP) and more features are expected till May 20, 2022. At this auction, 50 Arabian Purebred horses and Thoroughbred horses were up for sale. Almost 23 were sold with the highest bid at QR 40,000. The fifth Qatar Equestrian Tours will begin on October 15, with an expected run of 14 tours while the prestigious FEI World Dressage Challenge will be held on February 21, 2022. Later that year, the 2nd Katara International Arabian Horse Festival will take place and the Al Nashaab Championship will have three tours in the new season. Traditional equestrian sports will be the main attractions. The jam-packed season is one you do not want to miss!

Image credit: @instagram_qatar_equestrian

The Retired Racehorse Project Mega Makeover 2021

Make way for the final entries to the Kentucky Horse Park Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, presented by Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). About 573 Thoroughbreds were registered in 2020 and 454 in 2021 and on August 15, 525 horses were chosen. These retired horses, from 10 different states and less than a year of retraining have shown impeccable skill, determination and tactfulness to be able to re-establish their life, post-racing. This institution has saved multiple horses from going into auctions/kill pens (down to less than 1% throughout America) while reinstating them into their post-racing home safe and sound in less than 100 days. The final makeover will take place on October 12-17 at Kentucky House, Lexington Park.

| THE RED WINE | | THE STAYING TOGETHER | | 1970 HALF BRED PROGRESS | |
|---|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| 1 | 1000 | 2 | 1000 | 3 | 1000 |
| 4 | 1000 | 5 | 1000 | 6 | 1000 |
| <p>1 JULY WALLY</p> <p>2 JUST FOR TRIX</p> <p>3 SOMETHING PINK</p> <p>4 ILLUSIONAL</p> <p>5 TOP RANK</p> <p>6 THE WINNERTAKEALL</p> | | | | | |

Image credit: @instagram_kyhorsepark

MAJOR LEAGUE SHOWJUMPING 2021

On September 27, the long-awaited Major League Showjumping Competition CS15 began with 8 incredible teams: AIM United, Blazing 7s, Lucky Charms, Crusaders, Otomi Warriors, Eye-Candy, Desert International Horsepark Roadrunners and Diamond Devils. Eye-Candy bagged the gold with an impressive performance of the Irish Paul O'Shea while AIM United won silver and Otomi won bronze. Further that day, the Santiago Lambre won the first CS15 Grand Prix with their team BFL Canada Equine. The silver was taken by Shane Sweetnam, and the bronze by Francois Lamontagne.



Image credit: @instagram_majorleaguejumping

FEI JUMPING NATIONS CUP 2021

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