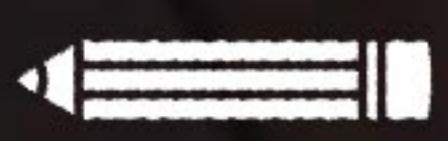




FIP
MAGAZINE
by ClickPolo

The fascinating life of Richard CALEEL

He played all over the world, has infinite stories about our sport and is an essential part of the Federation of International Polo; we talk about the life of a man with polo in his veins.

Editor's notes: FIP=family 

Content

April 2020

- 6 - 15 Richard Caleel
- 18 - 23 Welcome Ukraine
- 24 - 25 Action in Ukraine
- 26 29 Statement From Our Members...
- 30 - 33 Pakistan hosted the 104
Ambassadors Cup
- 34 - 35 The President's Bodyguard...
- 36 - 39 No Bandage for Polo
- 40 - 41 Member Polo Season Updates
- 42 - 43 - 106th Ambassadors Cup,
organized at Santa Clara Polo Club



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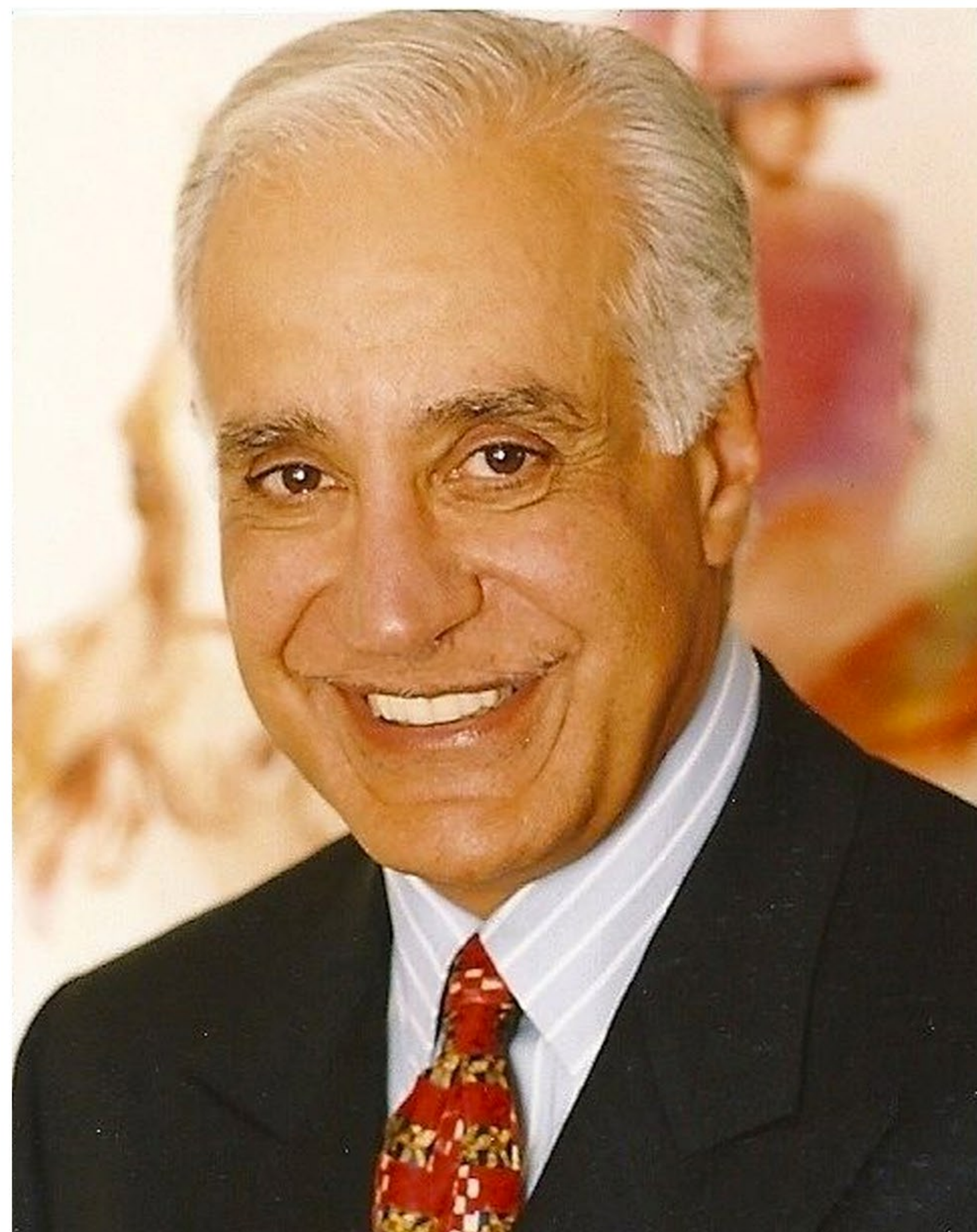
FIP=family

by Carlos Beer ”

I recommend taking a look of the FIP website, at www.fippolo.com. Not only will you find all of the issues of our magazine, but the path the Federation is taking is clearly set.

The website begins by stating that “Our Mission. FIP’s mission is to promote the practice of the sport of polo worldwide in order to defend and ensure the spirit of fair play and moral fortitude, with nthe objective of forming the sporting attitude of gentlemanly behavior during and after the game, on the playing fields and wherever polo players should meet, so as to form one great world polo family.”

We all know that polo is a special sport, and we know that every sport has a 'hub' organization that, sooner or later, has to show their authority. This happened recently in polo. Before the worldwide COVID-19 crisis, an online meeting was held between the Associations and, of course, Horacio Areco, the FIP's president, was the host. It is when times are tough that we have to come together, and the Federation believes that and tries to focus their work to help polo be as good as possible after this huge problem has passed.



One more thing you can do while in quarantine is help distract people. That is why, once more, we offer our readers from all over the world a new issue of the magazine. The man on the cover is Richard Caleel, a man with a fascinating life, and who has unlimited stories to tell, like the birth of polo in Ukraine.

"...so as to form one great world polo family." In quarantine, more than ever.



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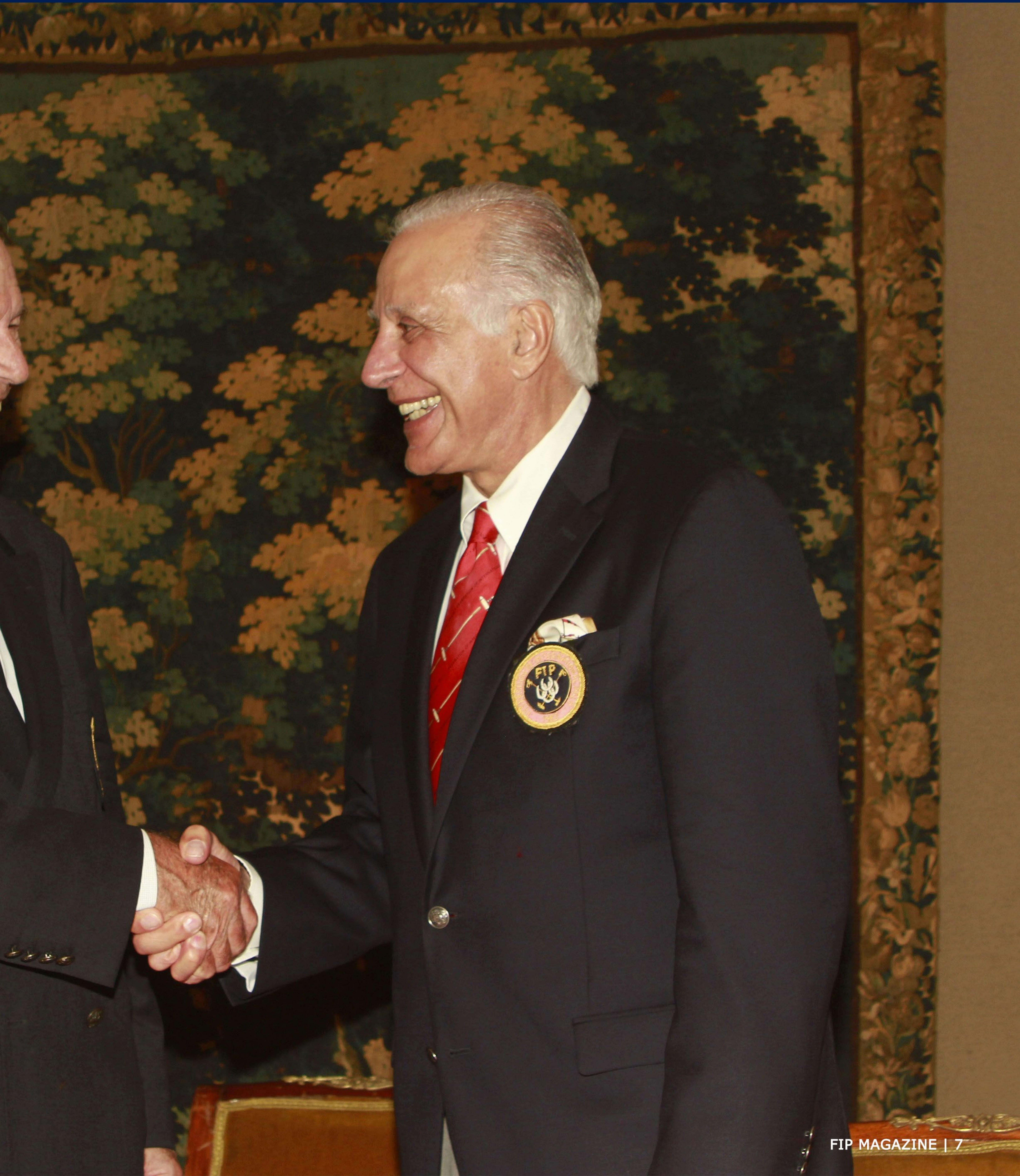
live.aapolo.com

"Polo appealed to me because it was exciting, fast-paced, challenging and dangerous"

“Boy, that looks like a lot of fun” was the first thing Richard Caleel thought the first time he saw a polo match. Little did he knew that that day in Chicago, around 1972, would be a life changing event for him. “Forget it, Richard. You could never learn polo” his friend and host chuckled. “That was absolutely the wrong thing to say to me” recalls Caleel, who was in his mid 30-s at that time.

From that day onwards polo would be a mayor part of his life. It was a journey that started at Fairlane Farms in Chicago and followed in Santa Barbara, where he retired. A trip that took him around the world: from facing off Adolfo Cambiaso in South Carolina at an Ambassadors Cup to playing elephant polo in Nepal. This is the story of Richard Caleel, the Federation of International Polo 6th President.





Being an “outsider”, what was your first impression?

Polo appealed to me because it was exciting, fast-paced, challenging...and dangerous. I didn't have any friends who played, but I did meet Playboy magazine executive Bob Preuss there and we became fast friends.

What do you recall of those first days?

I was soon playing three times a week and we purchased these first horses in the U.S., but they were sourced from Argentina. I advanced to playing at the Oak Brook Polo Club that was the center of serious polo in the region. I was now playing on a team and getting all the more dedicated to improving and winning.

As I progressed, my enthusiasm level soaring, I started to build my own facilities on our 10 acre farm at Burr Ridge (originally named Devil Creek Ranch, but we later changed the name to La Maria, to honor our first child.) We built a barn first and hired a professional trainer from Argentina, Horacio Onetto, to work with our horses. I bought scores of horses, mostly from Argentina. I had to be ever-vigilant, though, in trying to discern the absolute best horses for our team. In

absolute best horses for our team. In fact there is a saying about Argentinian horse breeders: “They’ll give you their wife before they’ll give you their best polo pony.”

Many teams at Oak Brook consisted of two or more family members competing together. This created a special bond between all the teams and led to many lifetime friendships. I played with my sons in various places around the country and around the world, and my most gratifying times playing polo were when all of us were playing together.

Was it difficult to start playing at your mid-30s?

Polo is a dangerous sport, rated second most dangerous of all sports after only Formula One racing and I did have my share of injuries. I broke both fibulas, fractured my pelvis, broke a finger, my clavicle a couple of times, got several concussions. Once at Oak Brook my horse was running at full gallop when it tripped and I was launched forward over the horse. I had to be carried off the field on a fracture board. Despite all of these incidents, I maintained my love for playing polo.



When did you join the USPA?

My polo career was progressing above expectations and in 1974 I joined the United States Polo Association (USPA). My son Thomas joined our team and rapidly progressed in his skills. Oak Brook would invite foreign clubs to send teams for special tournaments.



We invited Prince Charles' British team to play one year. There was an extra aura of excitement during that tournament and it drew a strong crowd. After the tournament, Prince Charles honored me by awarding me the club's "Most Improved Player of the Year" award. (It was voted by the club.)

Besides Prince Charles you also faced off some of the best players in the world.

We once traveled down to Aiken, South Carolina, for an Ambassadors Cup. One opposing team featured Patrick Hermes and Adolfo Cambiaso. It was a thrill to even be on the same field as the renowned Adolfo. Thomas was on our team by then

and already showing his talent. It was a tough, exciting match and we likely played beyond our skill level...but we won the match! That remains one of my greatest thrills in polo.

My other son RG came in to our team around 1988 and was a talented player, even though he was only 12 years old. As the boys matured, they progressively got better and better and our team rose to a very fine level of play. They were capable of riding the very top polo horses, which is no easy matter. We played at Oak Brook, at selected tournaments around the country and at several international events. It was a treat, all of us playing together. Over time Team Caleel played in Italy, Mexico, Germany, Jamaica and a number of other countries.





How did you join FIP?

I was introduced to the Federation of International Polo (FIP) by a friend, Henry Trione, who was a big developer in California. Through Henry I met Glen Holden, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica and acting president of FIP at the time. Holden lived in Santa Barbara during the polo season and invited me to play at the Santa Barbara Polo Club.

My wife Annette came along on the trip and it was our first introduction to Santa Barbara, a lovely area where the mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, red tile-roofed Spanish colonial style homes abound and the great Southern California coastal climate prevails. I would say it rivals any place on earth. We were very impressed by the area and started coming to Santa Barbara for several winter vacations as well as a few summers for polo. We were

spending a good deal of time in Santa Barbara and when I elected to retire, we both agreed to do so in this nearly perfect locale.

What was your first assignment at FIP?

Polo was growing as a sport and the Federation of International Polo was very active in introducing the sport to new countries and coordinating competitive details around the world. I became increasingly active in FIP and was soon appointed an ambassador. We stimulated international growth and active play in Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Spain France, Germany, India, Egypt and many other countries.



You must have many great stories.

As an ambassador, I had a special chance to visit and play in many of these countries. Annette and I took many trips together and one notable one was to Nepal – to play elephant polo. This was played on a dirt field at the airport, which was across the river from our camp, so we began by riding elephants across the river. It is an interesting way to start your day.

The mallets were extra-long and quite heavy, so we had to hold them and swing with both hands while a driver drove the elephant. The ball was oversized (about the size of a softball) and was inflatable. From time to time an elephant would step on the ball, popping it, which would require a stoppage in play so that a new ball could be substituted.

In 2014 we arranged a polo tournament in Iran and visited as guests of the government. I had meetings with the vice president and several government ministers. We ultimately had polo meetings in various cities around Iran and television coverage back in the U.S. showed one of these meetings with American flags flying in commemoration. The commentators remarked that “it was great to see American flags flying again in this hostile country.”

What is your legacy as FIP president?

My legacy as FIP president is difficult to describe. However, I believe that improving communications within the membership





of FIP was very important. Also, the organization of FIP's history and records enabled the appropriate registration of FIP with the government of Uruguay. This organization of our history also gave us the ability to publish the documentary 30 year FIP book.

We introduced polo to several new countries, including Russia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia and China, helping local enthusiasts develop the sport in their country and organize official play.

FIP was approached by a large developer that wanted to build a huge complex in Tianjin to include a hotel, apartments, villas, shops, and offices centered around polo (as opposed to golf, which was already common) with polo facilities at its core. At that time, competitive polo had not really been played in China.

I was quite involved in aiding this effort as president of FIP and Annette and I made several trips to Tianjin to assist. We helped the new Metropolitan Polo Club purchase

horses, administer rules and playing criteria, provide training clinics for members and ultimately organize tournaments and arrange for foreign teams to come in to play.

How important has polo been for you?

I can't over emphasize how important and life changing polo became to our family. Polo has been a bigger part of my life than anything but my family and surgery. Thomas and RG stopped playing polo some years ago as other adult responsibilities took precedence. I finally gave up playing polo in 2014, admitting I was getting too old and fragile...and wanting to avoid serious injury.

I still participate in FIP, though, and in 2017 we hosted an Ambassador's Cup here at the Santa Barbara Polo Club. The year before we hosted an Indian team that included the maharajah of Jaipur. So that's my answer to the guy who said "Forget it Richard. You could never learn polo." ■



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WEEKLY LINEUP

WEDNESDAY: Game of the Week | THURSDAY: USPA Vault | FRIDAY: In Case You Missed It



WELCOME UKRAINE, FIP'S NEWEST MEMBER!

As polo continues to develop around the world more countries join the Federation of International Polo. The newest member is Ukraine, a country with a historic riding story that never hosted a polo match until last year.

With the help of FIP, the Asociación Argentina de Polo, the Hurlingham Polo Association and the hard work of local people such as Andriy Bilyy, president of the Ukrainian Polo Federation, the spark quickly turned on and the future of the sport shines bright in the country.

In this issue of FIP's magazine, we talk to Andriy Bilyy about the future of polo in Ukraine.

When and how did polo start in Ukraine?

It all started in 2019 with an exhibition polo match "Argentine Ambassador's Cup" that we jointly organized with the Ambassador of Argentina to Ukraine Elena Leticia Teresa Mikusinski. We managed to attract a lot of people, athletes, diplomats, VIP guests, as well as a lot of attention. Nobody had seen a live polo

match here in Ukraine before and in the end, this event provided a solid foundation for raising awareness about polo in Ukraine.

How was Ukrainian Polo Federation founded?

During the award ceremony after the first exhibition match, the founding of the Ukrainian Polo Federation was announced. Since then, we have been working on carrying out the strategic plan of developing polo in our country, involving significant personalities in the field of polo and equestrian sports. This institutional development was an absolute necessary step towards the growth of polo in Ukraine. And today, UPF is an official organization that pledges to develop and promote polo in Ukraine.

What's your relationship with FIP?

In December 2019, I was invited to represent Ukrainian Polo Federation at the General Assembly of the Federation of International Polo in Buenos Aires. That was an absolute

honor to be there and I am so proud that since then UPF has been an official FIP member. The FIP President Horacio Areco offered us comprehensive support for the development and popularization of polo in Ukraine, which I am extremely grateful for. We are looking towards the future cooperation and hoping to participate in one of the FIP tournaments in the future.

Are there any other organizations that help develop polo in Ukraine?

Yes. Argentine Polo Association (AAP) strongly supports development of this wonderful sport in Ukraine. In 2019, AAP President Eduardo Novillo Astrada and I signed a memorandum of cooperation and with the assistance of AAP we developed a five-year program of development of polo in Ukraine.

Recently, UPF also became a member of Hurlingham Polo Association, the governing body for polo in the UK, Ireland and many other countries throughout the world. HPA together with FIP develops





and examines the implementation of the rules of this centuries-old game and from now on, we will work side by side on the development and promotion of polo in Ukraine and in the world.

What would you need to improve and develop polo in your country?

We are starting from scratch and at this point we are only making baby-steps, but it is important to know your goals and directions. It is going to be a long process, and based on other countries' experience, I understand, that it will take me about 10 years to develop polo in Ukraine up to the decent professional level, which I am ready to do. I am very happy, that European polo community and the presidents of other polo federations have been very supportive so far. That is of course what we need, as we yet have to learn how everything should be done. And of course, as we all know, polo is an expensive sport, if not the most expensive, so what we also need is sponsors' support.

What are the next steps UPF is going to take towards developing polo in Ukraine?

We planned to open the very first children's polo school in Ukraine this April. Due to the pandemic situation in the world right now, unfortunately, we had to postpone it until further notice. The polo school will be situated at one of the private schools in Kyiv, where all children (around 300) have access to horse riding and know how to ride. We need to grow our own first generation of polo players here in

Ukraine. This is the ultimate goal. So I believe training children of our own has to be the first fundamental step. Meanwhile, we are forming a team of young ethnic Ukrainian polo-players, who are playing for their University teams in the countries where they currently live and study (for example, the UK).

At the end of May we were planning to hold out first tournament Ukraine – Argentina, dedicated to the Argentina's Independence Day.



What's your personal thought about the future of polo in Ukraine?

I believe that polo has its future in Ukraine. Polo is more than just a sport. Polo is a lifestyle, a lifestyle that will go well with the mentality of upper-class society of Ukraine. We have parents who would love their children to learn how to play polo, we have the potential audience, who can afford this kind of lifestyle and is interested in this sport. But right now we need to focus on the right foundation, and that is promoting the culture of polo among the youth and their parents and providing training facility.

What's your personal story with polo?

I personally do not play polo, yet!:) But I come from the equestrian background. All my life I have been passionate about horses. I breed horses myself, and I am a show jumper. Besides, I am the Vice-President of the National Equestrian Federation of Ukraine and the President of Kyiv Region Equestrian Federation. I am truly passionate about everything connected with horses and equestrian sports, and I believe that my passion, my vision and commitment will take me far in terms of polo development in Ukraine.









ACTION IN UKRAINE

STATEMENT FROM OUR MEMBERS



The Asociación Argentina de Polo has, as of March 20th, stated the following:

Due to the facts of public knowledge and accompanying the prevention and isolation measures dictated by the national authorities, the Argentine Polo Association, together with the Argentine Polo Players Association, have decided, by common agreement, to suspend the Official Autumn 2020 Season.

We are working on the second semester calendar and will communicate the following steps as soon as possible.

If you need more information regarding a specific association please contact them directly for more information.

Events for at least the same period. We encourage clubs to follow the requirements of your local authorities with regards to your club polo operations. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we prioritize the health and safety of our players, teams and their organizations, umpires, partners, staff and everyone who helps put on polo events. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and will notify you if we determine a different course of action is necessary. Please visit uspolo.org to stay in touch with changes to the polo schedules, tournaments, programs, member benefits and USPA business. Visit GlobalPolo.com to view past games, highlights, player stories, horse features and polo news shows.

We encourage everyone to take precautions recommended by the CDC as well as your local government authorities and to take care of your families and loved ones as we continue to face these difficult times.



Statement from the United States Polo Association regarding the COVID-19 pandemic issued on March 27th

Due to the ongoing health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and the White House to continue to cease all gatherings of more than ten people, we have made the decision to continue the suspension of all USPA Tournaments and Events throughout the month of April. In addition, we strongly advise and recommend that every USPA Club suspends all Club



The Hurlingham Polo Association has several updates on their website, being the latest from April 2nd and stating the following:

It is understood that everyone is looking for certainty, but although we may have an indication of which way they are headed it is very hard to predict what conditions the Government might impose, retain or relax when the 3 weeks of lock down is up just

ERS REGARDING THEIR SEASON

after Easter. The HPA will therefore review the implications for polo as soon as the Government has set out its conditions post Easter taking into consideration the following:

- The rules and conditions laid down by Government for travel, social distancing, and gatherings.
- The medical cover required and the risk of injuries that require A&E/hospital treatment.
- What other sports are doing, eg; cricket, golf, tennis, racing, cycling, football, eventing.
- The risk of reputational damage if polo is perceived to be in breach of the conditions.

It has been agreed that players and clubs will be given at least a month's warning for the start of any competitive tournament polo so that ponies can be properly prepared by playing chukkas, players can get here and the necessary logistics and administrative support for tournaments can be put in place.

Accordingly, the earliest that tournament polo can start will now be mid-May, a month after the next HPA review following the Government's update after Easter.

The HPA and the SG are exploring the various potential scenarios which includes modifying the fixture list so that better use is made of August and September and considering how the rules might need to be altered in

order that polo can start without falling foul of any social distancing requirements.



Update of the South African Polo Association on their website on March 17th

As per the directive from the Secretary General of the SAEF, Wessel Strauss, the South African Polo Association Executive have made a difficult decision to suspend all polo tournaments in South Africa, with immediate effect, until further notice.



The Australian Polo Federation has, on March 20th, updated their COVID-19 guidelines to the ones below:

We advised members that all tournaments were suspended, but that Clubs could continue to run chukkas and games within their local zone/community provided they were carried out in accordance with the Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines.

However, things have moved rapidly and as outlined by the Prime Minister on Tuesday night, in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus, new strict directives have been issued by the National Cabinet re social distancing.

STATEMENT FROM OUR MEMBERS REGARDING THEIR SEASON

As a result, from midnight last night all social sporting based activities are prohibited. In light of these developments, APF has reassessed its position and regrettably requests that State Associations advise their Clubs that all polo activities should be suspended immediately until further notice.

The decision to suspend these activities is unfortunate, but considered necessary in the best interests of our sport and the Australian community.

We will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds and keep you up to date as new information comes to hand.



We also received updates from the Real Federacion Española de Polo letting us know that all activity has been suspended for the time being but that there are currently no updates on changes of their summer season.



The Swiss Polo Association informed that most tournaments supposed to take place in the 1st half of the season, like the Swiss Championship, are postponed until further notice. On the other hand, Gstaad has announced that the 2020 edition has been cancelled.



The Federacion Mexicana de Polo has also suspended all polo activity until further notice due to the current pandemic.



The Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri does not have an official start for the season for now but is hoping to have some tournaments take place in June.

For more detailed information please check the National Association websites or let us know if you need their contact information.

WOMEN'S NATIONS CUP 2020, CANCELLED

After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic and the Argentine Secretary of Sport decided to suspend all international competitions and/or events taking place in Argentina during March 2020, the Federation of International Polo and the Asociación Argentina de Polo have decided to cancel the Women's Nations Cup 2020 and the kids event that was also taking place between April 10th and 12th in Buenos Aires.

We regret having to take this decision after all the hard work everyone has been putting towards this new tournament but we must comply with local regulations and also consider the health issues that would arise from international travel.

Below you will find the players that were scheduled to participate in the event.

HPA

Hazel Jackson-Gaona	10
Rosanna Turk	5
Holly Butler	4
Beanie Bradley	3

USPA

Hope Arellano	6
Érica Gondomar-Sachs	5
Paige McCabe	5
Dawn Jones	6
Mia Bray	5

AAP

Francesca Moretti	2
Catalina Lavinia	3
Lía salvo	10
Milagros Sánchez	7

Pakis 104th Am



istan hosted the mbassadors Cup





Between October 28th and November 3rd, 2019 the 104th Ambassadors Cup took place in Pakistan at the historic Lahore Polo Club. Over 11 FIP Ambassador's and friends enjoyed a welcome cocktail on Monday 28th, followed by the horse tryouts and a welcome dinner. Guests were invited to a handful of activities and social events during the tournament



Pakistan hosted the 104th Ambassadors Cup

such as a historic landmark tour, visiting the Mona Depot (Army horses breeding farm), attending an exhibition game at Islamabad Club and traveling in a Pakistan Air Force plane to view the northern area.

All guests were really impressed with the organization and the polo played during

the event and congratulated the Pakistan Polo Association, Lahore Polo Club and all the people involved in the organization and development of the tournament.





Champion Team for Year 2020



Best Polo Pony of Lt Col Rab Nawaz Tiwana

THE PRESIDENT'S BODYGUARD WON PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Quaid-e-Azam Gold Polo Cup for National Open Championship (14 goal) is the premier tournament of Pakistan. The National Open Polo Championship was first played at Lahore Polo Club, in 1963, and is being played regularly for last 57 years. It has gained immense popularity all over the Polo community domestically as well as internationally and it attracts foreign professional players, umpires alongside local polo fraternity.

This year, the tournament was contested by seven high goal teams and remained very competitive among Pakistani and Foreign Professional players from UK and Argentina. The President's Bodyguard Risala team won the title of National Open Championship. The team comprised of Raja Mikail Sami (1), Hamza Mawaz Khan (4), Lieutenant Colonel Rab Nawaz Tiwan (1) and Nicolas A. Reciate (6).

The Best Polo Pony award of the tournament was graced to the magnificent "Magic" of Lieutenant Colonel Rab Nawaz Tiwana.

Jorge MacDonough was a man who lived for polo. Father of high goal players Matias and Pablo, founder of one of the most important horse organizations of the world, and a qualified vet, his skills were praised by everyone in the polo community. Jorge passed away two years ago doing what he loved the most: playing polo. In this issue of FIP magazine we feature one of his articles. "No bandages for polo?"

An article by Dr. Jorge MacDonough, International Polo Vet.

What are the issues with Horse Bandages and Boots?

CONSIDERATIONS

In all equestrian disciplines where you want to achieve maximum athletic performance, even in animals of great economic value, many believe bandaging firm and booting will minimize over flexion of the fetlock, avoiding excessive strain on the tendons and ligaments. Boots and bandages combined are also used to protect horses and ponies from impact with the view of double protection! However despite the good intentions of horse owners in making these choices to protect their horses from injury during the game, there are considerations that are

No Bandages



often overlooked that can result in the risk of causing more harm than good. Detailed below are some of these considerations:

1. Interference with the horse's natural temperature dissipation.

Most leg protection limits the dissipation of heat from the skin surface.

When tendons and ligaments are in exercise, they produce heat naturally which must be dissipated immediately. Excess heat for long periods of time decrease the

es for Polo?



ability of the horse or ponies body to produce cells that contribute to the matrix of tendons and ligaments, leading to long term degradation and weakening of these structures.

A study by Vet Physio Katie Baxter in 2013 showed in a comparative study of polo horses cantering for 15 min with and without bandages that horses' leg temperatures reached 42.4 degrees in that time, and this temperature persisted for nearly 2min.

Furthermore, inflammatory mediators are produced as a response to overheating, and these are responsible for tenderness and pain, and further degradation of tendon and ligament tissue.

Heat removal by blood is inefficient on the leg because these organs have little vascularization, unlike other parts of the body. So it is paramount that this process is not limited further by covering these structures with any protection that is inefficient at dissipating heat immediately.

2. Normal joint mobility limitation.

It's been demonstrated that bandages or some boots modify the angles of flexion and extension of the fetlock in speed. This will affect accuracy of footing via such unnatural movements or positions through restriction. This restriction may result in a subsequent injury elsewhere, and a bandage or boot will not hold against the weight of a horse. The vast majority of polo horses end their career through joint injuries rather than injuries to tendons. Therefore, it is preferable to take more care of joints, as the tendons and ligaments care for themselves if kept within their natural environment. Taking care of these joints for one is to minimize concussion, in other words vibration, so not excessive pounding on hard ground, and the use of protection that can absorb vibration, such as thick soft materials, as

opposed to be a conduit for it, such as hard materials. Studies have demonstrated also that by bandaging the horse leg tightly can also result in exposing the leg to concussive injury as opposed to minimizing the effect.

3. Soft tissue compression against cannon bone.

Tendons are positioned vertically, plumbed vertically, and this positioning is designed to aid the flow of lymphatic fluid and blood up and down the leg to nourish the leg and hoof with liquid, minerals, vitamins, and oxygen, as well as remove any toxins and waste. If the tissue is pushed against the cannon bone by over tightening and over usage of leg protection, this action is limited, and the leg is starved of nourishment. This will lead to problems in the long term due to the starvation of these fluids.

4 Interference with the circulation

Compression via over tightening or over use of leg protection increases venous oedema and inflammation of the distal structures, in this case the lower leg. Many injuries can be avoided when the flow of the venous blood of the foot is free and fast. Optimal blood flow will also contribute to the health and quality of the hoof.

5. Possible alteration of proprioception.

Horses ascertain the exact position of

their legs by the activation stimuli inside the tendons and ligaments, and on the skin itself. Tight bandaging and booting can potentially limit the effectiveness of these stimuli within, and leg protection that does not allow maximum air flow to the skin can potentially limit the effectiveness of the stimuli on the exterior, and therefore affect the accuracy of the horse's or pony's foot placement. This clumsiness can lead to injury. However, we do not know to what extent excessive pressure or lack of airflow would interfere with this natural function.

6. Increased weight to distal legs.

Bandages weigh about 200 grams, and conventional boots even more! And when wet as a result of sweat or water, this leg protection can weigh almost double. As a result of this added weight, horses and ponies use more energy to get off the ground. This overexertion will eventually lead to premature fatigue, resulting in clumsiness and possible injury.

7. Increase in skin moisture through sweat

Damp, wet leg protection will increase risk of abrasion and irritation to the leg. Fungus and bacteria thrive in such damp conditions also. The highest risk is then posed when the fungus or bacteria penetrates the irritated skin, leading to infection.

To note: All these problems are exacerbated on hot days, when bandages and boots are used excessively, or there is an excessive use of seals and tapes in the middle of the cannon bone to secure leg protection to the leg. Further issues arise when bandages may be put on too tightly or unevenly.

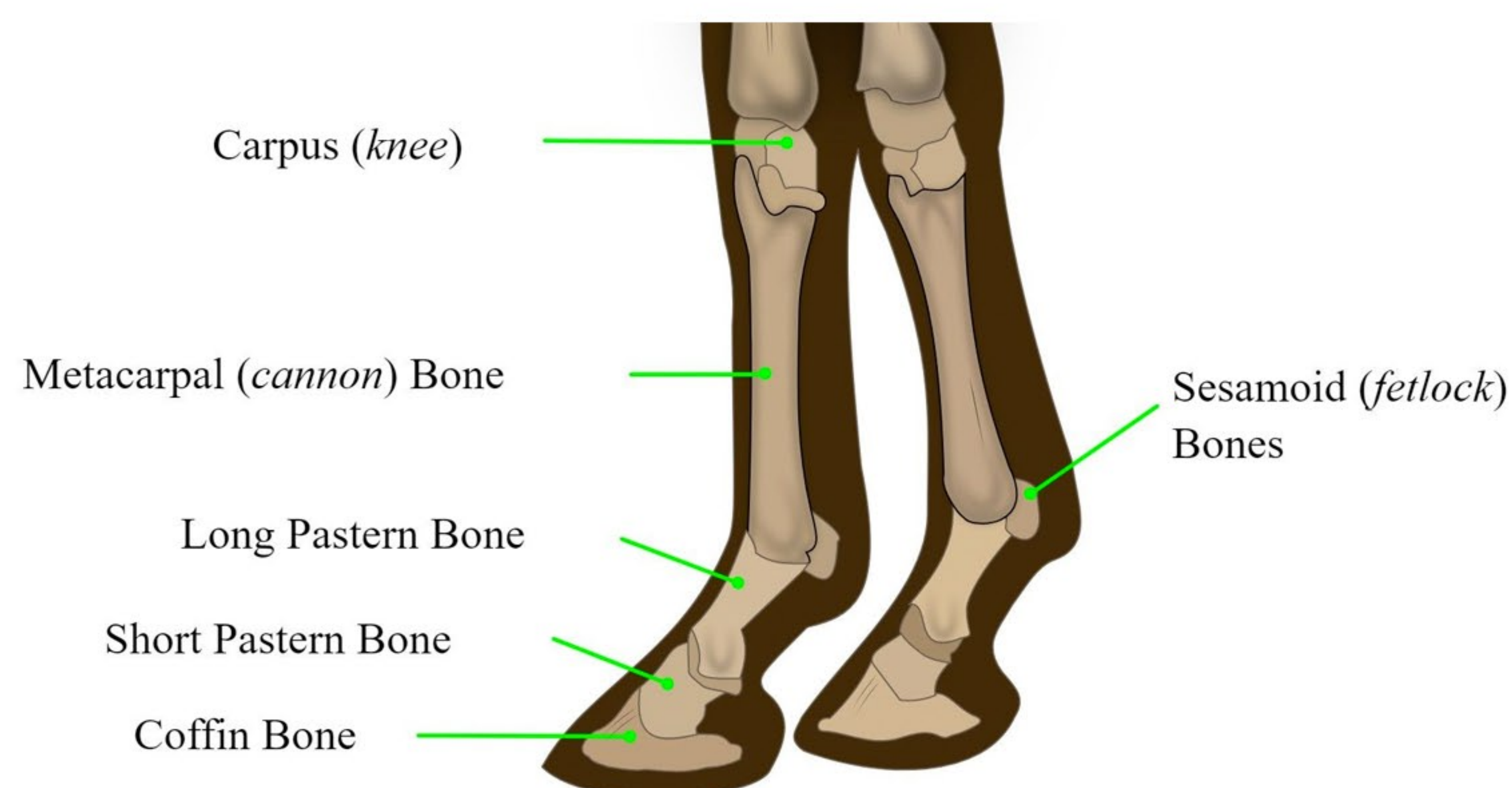
DISTAL IMPACT PROTECTION OF LEGS

The challenge is however that the considerations listed above do not take into account the risk of impact injury to horses and ponies through contact horse sports and exercises.

SOLUTION

It is important when making the decision to boot or bandage your horse to think carefully about the need for protection vs the risk of using the protection to start with. Sometimes leg protection can be used when the risk of using outweighs the risk of injury, and it is important that we stop to ask ourselves this question before we apply, rather than applying through habit or fashion. In addition, we must take into account the issues highlighted above, and choose leg protection that meets the following conditions:

- As light as possible so that the horse perceives the leg protection as little as possible when applied.
- Resistant to the most common external shocks.



- To not hold water, sweat, or dirt - neoprenes, foams, felts for example harbour these constituents even after washing due to their density for example.
- Fully permeable, giving the leg immediate access to air with no delay and no buildup of heat over time.
- Easily placed and removed, with no elasticity to the body of the leg protection to result in over tightening.
- Not to limit joint mobility naturally (flexion, extension and lateral) - for example hugging the fetlock joint, or hard materials coming up close to the base of the knee.
- Not easily detached - good strapping quality and long lasting velcro.

It is also very important to note that no leg protection will protect from the weight of a horse or pony in the event of an unforeseen incident, they can minimize risk, but not prevent it.

Over the last four years HUSK have been working on the creation of the La Irenita Air Polo boot with the above considerations in mind to deliver the polo world the ultimate boot, and we thank Jorge for his fantastic insight and dedication to the welfare of horses, particularly polo horses and sharing this with us. This article was given to us by Jorge in 2016 and has been the consistent foundation of our work and expectation for our leg protection

MEMBER POLO SEASON UPDATES

On Monday 13th of April, organized by the Argentine Polo Association, representatives of Hurlingham Polo Association, United States Polo Association, French Polo Federation, Spanish Polo Federation and the Federation of International Polo held a digital conference call with regards to the Covid 19 pandemic and their respective polo seasons.

The idea is that the we will all work together and will cooperate in order to help that all associations are able to have the best possible polo season, while minimizing the effects of the pandemic and prioritizing the health and safety of the players, umpires, grooms and everyone who helps put on polo events.

As the situation is rapidly changing it has been agreed that digital meetings will be held regularly, and information will be sent to all polo associations via FIP's communication channels.

THE XIII EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP, POSTPONED

FIP has been working alongside the Equestrian Sports Federation of Azerbaijan Republic (ARAF) and World Polo regarding the XIII European Championship 2020, that was set to take place this year in Baku, and had to be postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health of the players, horses and staff is of the utmost importance for us and taking into account recommendations and guidelines from WHO we have agreed with ARAF to postpone the date until we have a clear understanding of the situation and the travel restrictions are lifted.

Once all is settled, we will establish the most appropriate date for the tournament to take place. We are very sorry that this has happened considering the enormous amount of work that ARAF has put into the event, but we are very confident that once this situation is solved, we will have a great tournament.

106th Ambassadors Cup, organized at Santa Clara Polo Club



106th FIP AMBASSADORS CUP, SANTA CLARA, PALM BEACH



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Between March 4th and 7th, 2020 the 106th Ambassadors Cup took place in Wellington, USA. The tournament was organized and hosted on Santa Clara Polo Club, from the Escobar family. Some games were also played at Port Mayaca, from the Orthwein family, Iconica from Maureen Brennan, Patagones from the Avendaño family and Horseware from Tom McGuinness.



Over 10 FIP Ambassador's and friends enjoyed a welcome cocktail on Thursday, with other social events such as a dinner hosted by the Klopp's, a BBQ at Port Mayaca by the Orthwein's and also another BBQ by Tom McGuinness and the closing dinner and award ceremony organized by the Escobar family and the USPA. Players were also invited to the Women's US Open presentation party at the IPC and the finals of the prestigious Ylvisaker Cup on Sunday 8th.



The winning teams were Patagones, Canada, Iconica and Port Mayaca/Horseware.

We thank all the resources and time put into this Ambassador's Cup by the Escobar family, everyone who lent their horses, fields and organized social events and the involvement of the USPA and US Polo Assn.

Teams

Patagones: Bruce Colley, Gonzalo Avendaño, Ricardo Mihanovich, Joel Baker.

Port Mayaca: Charles Schrager, "Timmy" Sharma, Stevie Orthwein/Whistler Uys, Luigi Cosenza.

Santa Clara: Francisco Escobar, Eloy Vallina, Luis Escobar, Federico Escobar.

Palm Beach: Joe Meyer, Carlos Mansur, Bruno Donato, Tommy Biddle.

4: Charles Muldoon, Lindsey Ebersbach, John Klopp, "Pato" Gracida.

Stone Pony: Ted Brinkman/Dennis Fitzpatrick, Benjamin Crowe, John Gobin, Syed Aon Rizvi.
Iconica: Maureen Brennan, Mili Sanchez, Jason Wates, Bob Puetz.

Horseware: Craig Callin, Gonzalo Moretti, Tom McGuinness, Hugo Llorett.

Canada: Mike Egan, Rob Yackley, Christopher Trudeau, Nico Escobar.

**See you
on the next issue**

photo by @miladpayami

