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W O R L D C U P

St. Moritz

26-27-28 JANUARY 2018
on the frozen lake of St. Moritz

- Cartier*  **BADRUTT'S PALACE**
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-  **MASERATI**  **LAND OF FIRE**
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For the past 30 years, the global elite of polo has come together at the famous Swiss ski resort to put their skills to the test under the most difficult conditions. Four teams with a total of 16 players battle for victory over three days, in a tournament that is also known as the “Wimbledon of polo”.

Once again, we are proud to be one of the main sponsors of the St. Moritz Polo World Cup on Snow, one of Switzerland’s most prestigious sporting events. Passion, precision and dedication characterise the sport of polo. These outstanding qualities are also an integral part of our corporate culture at Deutsche Bank.

Deutsche Bank Wealth Management has been associated with polo in St. Moritz since 2012. It is the seventh time we are sponsoring the tournament, and in order to underline this commitment, we recently extended the contract for another three years. We are fostering this long-term partnership because there are a lot of parallels between polo and the way we tailor solutions for our clients. Co-operation, thinking ahead, precision, and reliability are particularly important in the game of polo and in the world of wealth management. Our mission is clear: we are here to perform – in business and beyond. Strong brands evoke strong emotions. Wealthy individuals and their families work with Deutsche Bank Wealth Management across the world. Our clients benefit from the dedication of our personal advisers who have in-depth market knowledge and the skills to manage complex wealth structures.

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Peter Hinder

CEO Deutsche Bank (Switzerland) Ltd
Head of Wealth Management EMEA

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Arnd Küchel, Member of the Board of Evviva Polo St. Moritz AG, Dr Piero Dillier, President of the Board, Reto Gaudenzi, VP of the Board and CEO.

WELCOME

TO THE SNOW POLO ST. MORITZ TOUCH

Allegra and welcome back to the unique natural arena that is the frozen Lake St. Moritz!

Here, the majestically beautiful nature of the Engadine has shown us that regardless of where we come from, we all share the basic human instinct and desire to bond with others. For all the exciting changes that technology has brought us, what remains unchanged is that we are all wired to connect.

Bringing people together from all four corners of the world is what we have been doing year after year, since 1985! Beyond being a celebration of the sport of polo at its best, the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz is indeed a celebration of friendship and cross-cultural exchange.

A passion for hospitality and a strong desire to connect with our guests is ingrained in our team of over 100 professionals and volunteers that make this event happen.

We very much hope that the moments we share together in this fantastic natural paradise – indulging in watching the superb polo as much as the social events off the field – will remind us in the best possible way that we all are not scripted, not programmed, but simply human. Enjoy!

May the best team bring home the trophy – our guests and partners will all come out as winners!

**Dr Piero Dillier, Reto Gaudenzi, Arnd Küchel – the board of Evviva Polo St Moritz AG,
Dr Thomas Rinderknecht, Peter A.C. Blum, Board Members**



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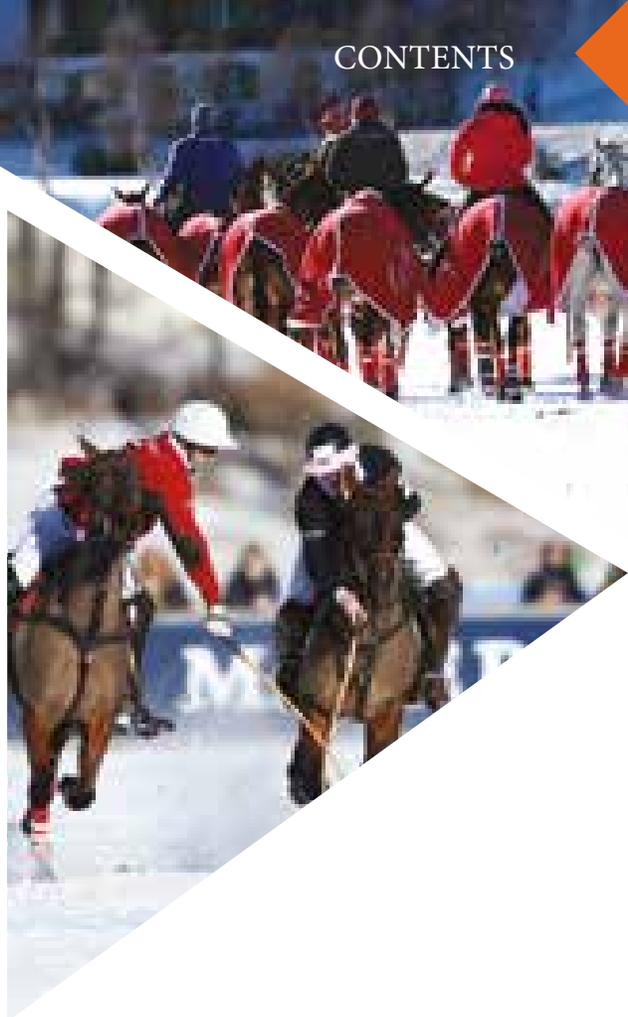
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2017 REVIEW



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**The Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz Final 2017 –
Cartier vs Badrutt's Palace**

Winners: Team Cartier, 7-4

Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz Most Valuable Player:
Chris Hyde

Polo Times Best Playing Pony: Promise, played by
Chris Hyde, owned by Jack Hyde

St Moritz sparkles as the most magnificent jewel in the snow polo crown, hosting three days of fierce competition. Snow polo here is quite simply the best of the rest, as people from the four corners of the globe converge in the beautiful Engadin Valley to enjoy alpine chic, luxury and fast, thrilling polo too – a unique and intoxicating mix that leaves the fur-clad spectators buzzing into their Perrier-Jouët champagne bubbles.

2017 was another sun-kissed affair as the wonderful weather lasted for all three days of the competition and was the answer to the prayers of the charismatic organiser, Reto Gaudenzi ‘The Godfather of Snow Polo’. Building on the experience of past years, the playing surface sparkled under the St. Moritz sun and was, in the words of Chris Hyde, “Pure perfection” with fast and thrilling polo delighting the 15,000 spectators and over 120 representatives of the world’s press in the packed grandstands.

So, as this alpine polo bonanza got underway the team line-ups were somewhat of a family affair, as Team Perrier-Jouët sported local Swiss brothers Luca and Fabio Meier, playing alongside Fabion Bolantario and Lucas Labat. Meanwhile, the Beh family from Malaysia, in the form of father James Beh and his three sons, Joevy, Chevy and Garvy, who were all new to snow polo in St. Moritz, played as Team Maserati.

Three days of fierce competition culminated in the Final for The Cartier Cup between Team Cartier and Team Badrutt's Palace. The first chukka was a goal-less affair as the teams sized each other up, but it was a different story in the second chukka which saw Cartier assert their dominance with three goals from Chris Hyde and Dario Musso and only one in reply from Alejandro Novillo Astrada for Badrutt's Palace. However, after a seemingly stern half-time talk, Badrutt's Palace came back with all guns blazing and quickly found the goalmouth twice in quick succession to equalise the scores at three all. But it was not to last, as Charlie Wooldridge for Cartier secured his name on the scorecard and at the end of the third chukka, Cartier once again took the lead. It was all to play for in the last chukka of play and it was at this crucial point that the firepower of Cartier was unleashed with three goals in quick succession. Alejandro Novillo Astrada scored in reply for Badrutt's Palace, but it was too little too late and as the final whistle blew, a decisive score of 7-4 in Cartier's favour was the result.



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COME TO WATCH POLO
20 MINUTES FROM ZÜRICH !

JUNE 2-3: ZÜRICH CHAMPIONSHIP LOW GOAL
JUNE 16-17: ZÜRICH CHAMPIONSHIP MEDIUM GOAL
JUNE 21-24: SWISS MEDIUM GOAL POLO CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 6-8: 19TH ZÜRICH INTERNATIONAL LADIES POLO CUP
JULY 21-22: GOLD CUP
JULY 28-29: POLO PARK & COUNTRY CLUB ZÜRICH CUP
SEPT. 1-2: KENSINGTON 20TH ANNIVERSARY POLO TROPHY

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The 'Voice of Polo' Jan-Erik Franck



The Badrutt's Palace 'Bell Boy' ensured everyone was on time



VIP Guests enjoyed ice-cold Perrier-Jouët



2017 winners, Team Cartier



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Luca, Gianna, Werner & Fabio Meier



The 2017 complete teams at the players' presentation with Reto Gaudenzi



Chris Hyde



Pato Bolanterio, Milli & Lucas Labat





SNOW POLO HISTORY

The Magical Mix of The Snow Polo World Cup

Just one of the many ingredients that go into the recipe that makes The Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz would be quite delicious in their own right. First, the location: St. Moritz, is the sumptuous snow glamour capital of the world. Think furs, models, champagne aplenty and piste-honed alpine athletes fresh from slopes. Then take the actual venue: the frozen lake that is home to the White Turf racing and nestles in the magnificent Engadin valley – smooth, sparkling and quite simply enchanting. Add to that, Swiss efficiency, extraordinarily lavish hospitality, a strong contingent of handsome and beautiful polo players combined with great snow polo action and you have a truly amazing spectacle.



Team the fantastic polo with the resort's credentials as a ski destination – double host to the Winter Olympic Games and home to the fog-laden 2017 Alpine World Ski Championships for the fifth time. Bobsleigh was invented here with the world famous Cresta Run and just one week after the polo caravan has packed up, the White Turf horseracing takes place on the frozen lake, a tradition started in 1907. All this makes for a truly unique atmosphere which should be on any polo fan's 'to do' list.

1985

St. Moritz Polo World Cup on Snow – Switzerland

1989

Cortina Winter Polo Gold Cup – Italy

1996

Megève Snow Polo – France

1997

Snow Polo Tremblant World Cup – Canada

2000

Aspen World Snow Polo Championships – USA

2003

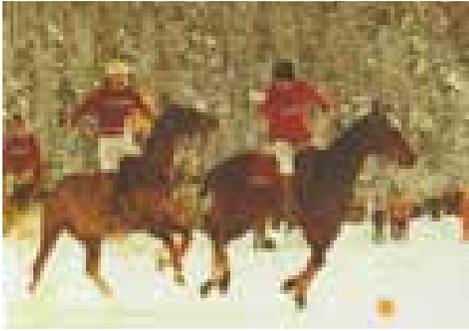
Kitzbühel Snow Polo World Cup – Austria
Moscow Snow Polo – Russia

2005

Klosters Snow Polo – Switzerland
Snow Polo Davos – Switzerland

2007

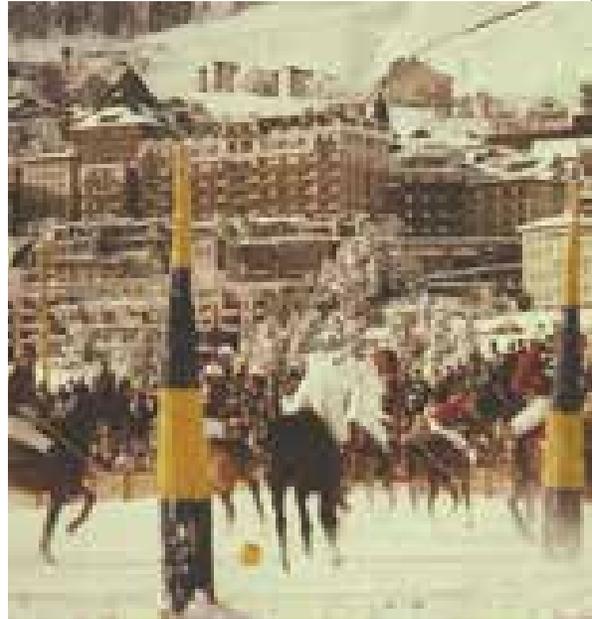
FEM Snow Polo Tournament, Bariloche – Argentina



The Birth of Snow Polo

Not only is it the glamour and setting of St. Moritz that wins so many plaudits for The Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, but it is also the 30-year-plus provenance of the event that brings its own gravitas and respect from spectators and players alike. A little known fact is that a polo field existed in St. Moritz Bad as early as 1899 when the British Cavalry would practice there. This early association with the sport was followed by Dr Peter Robert Berry founding the St. Moritz Polo Club in 1959. Between 1961 and 1964, international tournaments were held on the field, as Gianni Berry has been quoted as saying, “It was unceremoniously converted into a high-altitude training camp for athletes in the run-up to the Mexico City Summer Olympics”.

The rather unlikely route to the revival of polo in the Engadin Valley actually began in Andalusia, as founder Reto Gaudenzi was introduced to the sport in Sotogrande. Full of enthusiasm back at home in St. Moritz, he founded the Swiss National Polo Team and an ally in Hans Peter Danuser who was the St. Moritz Spa Resort Director. He was looking for a new event with a British connection to celebrate the Cresta Club’s centennial year and the idea of a winter polo tournament was hatched. The reception was rather tepid as Hans Peter recalls, “I started approaching people who had staged the summer polo tournaments in the 1960s and they just dismissed the idea... only one person really got behind the idea and that was Reto Gaudenzi with snow polo.”



As if polo in winter on snow was not enough, another rather ‘mad-cap’ idea of playing on the frozen lake was formed, and in 1984 together with Gianni Berry and Hanspeter Hörler, the first test-run was staged. The founders certainly showed ingenuity in raising funds, even auctioning off plots of ice on the lake for the first polo gala. Dividends were distributed in the form of drinks at the Carlton Hotel’s Polo Bar. The first event with Cartier added the weight of their sponsorship in 1985 and continues to do so to this day.

In their wildest imaginings, these virtuosos of snow polo vision could not have thought that their idea would catch like ice fire across the world. This magic formula has been copied across Europe – in Megève, Val D’Isère, Kitzbühel, Cortina D’Ampezzo and Klosters to name but a few. Whilst around the globe snow polo is being played in Aspen, China, Russia and more recently Argentina; make no mistake that St. Moritz wears the glittering snow polo crown, with no challenge to their sovereignty from any of the young pretenders.

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2017
Argentina Snow Cup, Chapelco – Argentina Val d’Isere Snow Polo – France S Club Snow Arena Polo World Cup, Courcheval – France	Fin del Mundo Snow Polo Cup, Ushuaia – Argentina Accord Salud Senior Cup, Ushuaia – Argentina Polo Sur Kids Cup, Ushuaia – Argentina Sierra Nevada Snow Polo Cup – Spain Alpine Polo World Championship, Åre – Sweden	International Snow Polo Challenge, Tianjin – China Ice Polo Trophy, Carinthia – Austria Snow Polo Tour, Turrach Heights – Austria	FIP Snow Polo World Cup, Tianjin – China	10th Anniversary of the Kitzbühel Snow Polo World Cup – Austria	30th Anniversary of Snow Polo World Cup, St. Moritz – Switzerland	World number one, Adolfo Cambiasso secures the Ushuaia Snow Polo Title with his son, Poroto – Argentina

Photography by Warren & Nick



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ST. MORITZ HALL OF FAME

St. Moritz has been the home of snow polo since its creation in 1985. Hundreds of players, including polo greats such as Juan Martin Nero, Chris Hyde and Pablo Mac Donough, have graced the frozen lake, nestled in the depths of the Engadin Valley, to compete for the coveted Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz trophy. The Hall of Fame winners highlight the quality of players descending on the small Swiss village each season.

2017

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Rommy Gianni
- 2 Charlie Wooldridge
- 3 Chris Hyde
- 4 Dario Musso

2016

TEAM MASERATI

- 1 Rommy Gianni
- 2 Dario Musso
- 3 Luciano Vazquez
- 4 Frankie Menendes

2015

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Jonathan Munro Ford
- 2 Max Charlton
- 3 Jamie Morrison
- 4 Chris Hyde

2014

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Jonathan Munro Ford
- 2 Max Charlton
- 3 Chris Hyde
- 4 Hissam Ali Hyder

2013

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Jonathan Munro Ford
- 2 Max Charlton
- 3 Nacho Gonzalez
- 4 Chris Hyde

2012

Cancelled for the first time in history due to insufficient ice thickness.

2011

TEAM FRANCE

- 1 Francois Le Barazer
- 2 Oscar Mancini
- 3 Oli Hipwood
- 4 Nacho Gonzalez



Team Cartier, Winners of The Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz 2017

2010

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Saeed Bin Draï
- 2 Rob Archibald
- 3 John Paul Clarkin
- 4 Glen Gilmore

2009

TEAM BANK JULIUS BÄR

- 1 George Milford Haven
- 2 José Donoso
- 3 Pablo Mac Donough
- 4 Richard Le Poer

2008

TEAM BRIONI

- 1 Guy Schwarzenbach
- 2 Nacho Gonzalez
- 3 John Paul Clarkin
- 4 Jonny Good

2007

TEAM BRIONI

- 1 Charlie Hanbury
- 2 Eduardo Novillo Astrada
- 3 Milo Fernández Araujo
- 4 Guy Schwarzenbach

2006

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 Adriano Agosti
- 2 Jaime Huidobro
- 3 Jack Baillieu
- 4 Jonny Good

2005

TEAM MAYBACH

- 1 Simon Holley
- 2 Chris Hyde
- 3 Nacho Gonzalez
- 4 Alejandro Díaz Alberdi

2004

TEAM LARCHMONT

- 1 Marek Dochnal
- 2 Juan Martin Nero
- 3 Alejandro Díaz Alberdi
- 4 Jack Kidd

2003

TEAM BANK HOFMANN

- 1 Piero Dillier / Thomas Rinderknecht
- 2 Lucas Labat
- 3 Ignacio Tillous
- 4 Christian Bernal



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Max Hutchinson flies through the air in 2015



Chris Hyde rides to victory with Cartier in 2013

2002

TEAM DYNERGY

- 1 John Manconi
- 2 Satnam Dhillon
- 3 Carlos Solari
- 4 Alejandro Díaz Alberdi

2001

TEAM CARTIER - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Adriano Agosti
- 2 José Donoso
- 3 Cody Forsyth
- 4 Chris Hyde

2000

TEAM CARTIER - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Adriano Agosti
- 2 Cody Forsyth
- 3 Satnam Dhillon
- 4 Marco di Paola

1999

TEAM POMMERY- GHANTOOT ABU DHABI

- 1 Nasser Al Daheri
- 2 Luis Escobar
- 3 Hugo Barabucci
- 4 Thomas M. Rinderknecht

1998

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 John Manconi
- 2 Horacio Fernández Llorente
- 3 Alejandro Díaz Alberdi
- 4 Francis-Michael Claessens

1997

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 John Manconi
- 2 Horacio Fernández Llorente
- 3 Alejandro Díaz Alberdi
- 4 Francis-Michael Claessens

1996

TEAM CARTIER

- 1 John Manconi
- 2 Horacio Fernández Llorente
- 3 Piki Díaz Alberdi
- 4 Francis-Michael Claessens

1995

TEAM TROIS POMMES - LAS LEÑAS

- 1 Piero Dillier
- 2 Adriano Agosti
- 3 James Lucas
- 4 Tomás Fernández Llorente

1994

TEAM POMMERY - LAS LEÑAS

- 1 Piero Dillier
- 2 Adriano Agosti
- 3 Tomás Fernández Llorente
- 4 Martin Ortozo

1993

TEAM POMMERY - SÃO PAULO

- 1 Piero Dillier
- 2 Adriano Agosti
- 3 James Lucas
- 4 Tomás Fernández Llorente

1992

TEAM BERNIE'S - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Reto Gaudenzi
- 2 James Lucas
- 3 Adrian Laplacet
- 4 Mario Zindel

1991

TEAM REVLON - PALM BEACH

- 1 Franco Pellegrino / Arnd Küchel
- 2 Michael Tarnopol
- 3 Christian Laprida
- 4 Vlad Antoniaide

1990

TEAM POMMERY - MILANO

- 1 Colin Emson
- 2 Franco Pellegrino
- 3 James Lucas
- 4 Martin Ortozo

1989

TEAM AUDI - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Mario Zindel
- 2 Reto Gaudenzi
- 3 Alfonso Pieres
- 4 Adrian Laplacet

1988

TEAM AUDI - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Mario Zindel
- 2 Reto Gaudenzi
- 3 Adrian Laplacet
- 4 Yvan Guillemin

1987

EUROPE SELECTION

- 1 Oliver Ellis
- 2 Orazio Annunziata
- 3 Franco Piazza
- 4 Yvan Guillemin

1986

EUROPE SELECTION

- 1 Reto Gaudenzi / Orazio Annunziata
- 2 Vlad Antoniaide
- 3 Yvan Guillemin
- 4 Paul Withers

1985

TEAM CARTIER - ST. MORITZ

- 1 Reto Gaudenzi
- 2 Orazio Annunziata
- 3 Gianni Berry / Vlad Antoniaide
- 4 Yvan Guillemin

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2017 WINNERS TEAM CARTIER

Following their win in the 2017 Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz, we spoke to Team Cartier members Charlie Wooldridge and Rommy Gianni about what made their team so successful. Rommy is back for the 2018 tournament, once again sporting the iconic Cartier red shirts, with a third consecutive win on the cards, but will he and his new team line-up be able to achieve the legendary Cartier triumvirate, last accomplished by Jonathan Munro Ford?

📷 Cymon Skinner Photography

Rommy Gianni

Q. How did it feel to win the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz in 2016 and 2017?

A. Winning the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz twice in a row firstly with Maserati and now with Cartier was absolutely amazing! It's a very competitive and spectacular event.

Q. What is your aim for this year's tournament?

A. My aim this year is to train more and to win it again. I want to win it for my family (my biggest fans) and myself. My goal is to share this sport's spirit with the team, to get the best out of all the members.

Q. Do you have a particular training schedule before the tournament gets underway?

A. Unfortunately, I'm not able to train with the horses very often, because they're based in Paris and I live in Monaco. But, I keep fit with boxing (my second passion) and training in the gym, which helps me keep in shape. Most of all gives me a positive life attitude which is so important on the field.

Q. How do you feel this year's line-up will differ from last year?

A. The fact that each team will have three professionals will make the tournament more challenging for the patrons to play. But on the other hand, it's the best way to become a better patron and to deserve your spot on the podium.



Charlie Wooldridge

Q. How did it feel to win the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz last year?

A. It was something I had always wanted to win and to have my name on the trophy was incredible.

Q. What has been your greatest snow polo memory?

A. After losing in 2016 with Cartier, walking onto the podium in 2017 and being presented with the trophy and a Cartier watch will always be a great memory.

Q. Do you prefer snow polo or grass polo?

A. Snow polo is like nothing else but as I started on the grass I will have to say the latter.

Q. How would you describe the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz?

A. The experience of a lifetime. I am just glad to say that I have had the privilege to play and win the tournament and would recommend it to any players that have the opportunity to take part.

Q. Do you play much outside St. Moritz?

A. I had a few years out of polo, but am now starting to get back into the swing of things. Hopefully I will eventually get my name on some of the bigger trophies across the world.



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An ecological connection



BAKU MORITZ POLO AWARD 2018

The Beginnings

The idea of bringing together St. Moritz and Baku during the Arena World Cup goes back to General Elchin Guliyev, President of the Equestrian Federation of Azerbaijan Republic, and Reto Gaudenzi, President of World Polo, who felt that the thread of polo that both cities shared was worth honouring. The perfect occasion was to be the 2016 Arena World Cup in Baku. Yves Gardiol, CEO of the Badrutt's Palace Hotel, joined in the collaboration, and ever since, the Baku Moritz Night has been celebrated; in Baku in the summer and in St. Moritz in the winter during the Snow Polo World Cup. Each evening is undoubtedly the social highlight of the respective event.

The Connection

Historians trace back the origins of the sport to the ancient states situated on the territory of modern Azerbaijan. According to some historians, the game of Chovqan, the precursor to modern polo, was played in Azerbaijan as long as 3,000 years ago. St. Moritz, on the other hand, is the cradle of the variant played on ice – snow polo, which was invented right here in 1985. In keeping with the tradition of the Silk Road, an ancient route starting from ancient China which traversed Asia and Europe. Today's polo plays an important role for tourism in both Baku and St. Moritz – economically and for the sport.



The Award

The publisher and owner of *Polo & Luxury Country Life* magazine, Birgit Hügli-Hermann, approached Reto Gaudenzi with the idea of creating an award to recognise outstanding achievements in polo – from the best coverage of the sport in the media to individuals, groups, organisations or institutions which have contributed significantly to advancing polo worldwide; and so the Baku Moritz Polo Award was born. The prize will be presented annually, alternating between the two locations of St. Moritz and Baku.

The Committee

The Committee that will decide on the recipient of the award consists of: Elchin Guliyev, President of the Equestrian Federation of Azerbaijan Republic; Dr Piero Dillier, Vice President of FIP, the world governing body of polo; Reto Gaudenzi, the founder of Snow Polo and President of World Polo GmbH; Birgit Hügli-Hermann, owner and publisher of *Polo & Luxury* magazine, as well as Yves Gardiol, CEO of Badrutt's Palace Hotel.

The Award Presentation

The first Baku Moritz Polo Award will be presented at the Baku Moritz Polo Gala on 27th January 2018 at the Badrutt's Palace Hotel in St. Moritz on the occasion of the 34th Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz. The award itself is a silver and marble bust of a polo pony and player in action and is a work of art by renowned sculptor Murad Sudjadinov from Azerbaijan.

The Winner

The first Baku Moritz Polo Award goes to Maria Lia and Luis Garrahan, publishers and editors of *Polo International*, for their exceptional coverage. In the opinion of the panel of judges, *Polo International* has been the world's leading polo trade magazine for decades!



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LA MARTINA AT ST. MORITZ

WHERE SPORT AND FASHION BECOME ONE



St. Moritz is at the very heart of the Alps. Located in the Engadin region, the small village of the Canton of Graubünden is one of the most exclusive resorts for winter tourism in the world.

During the winter season, this Swiss locality becomes the meeting point for the international jet set and for all lovers of winter sports.

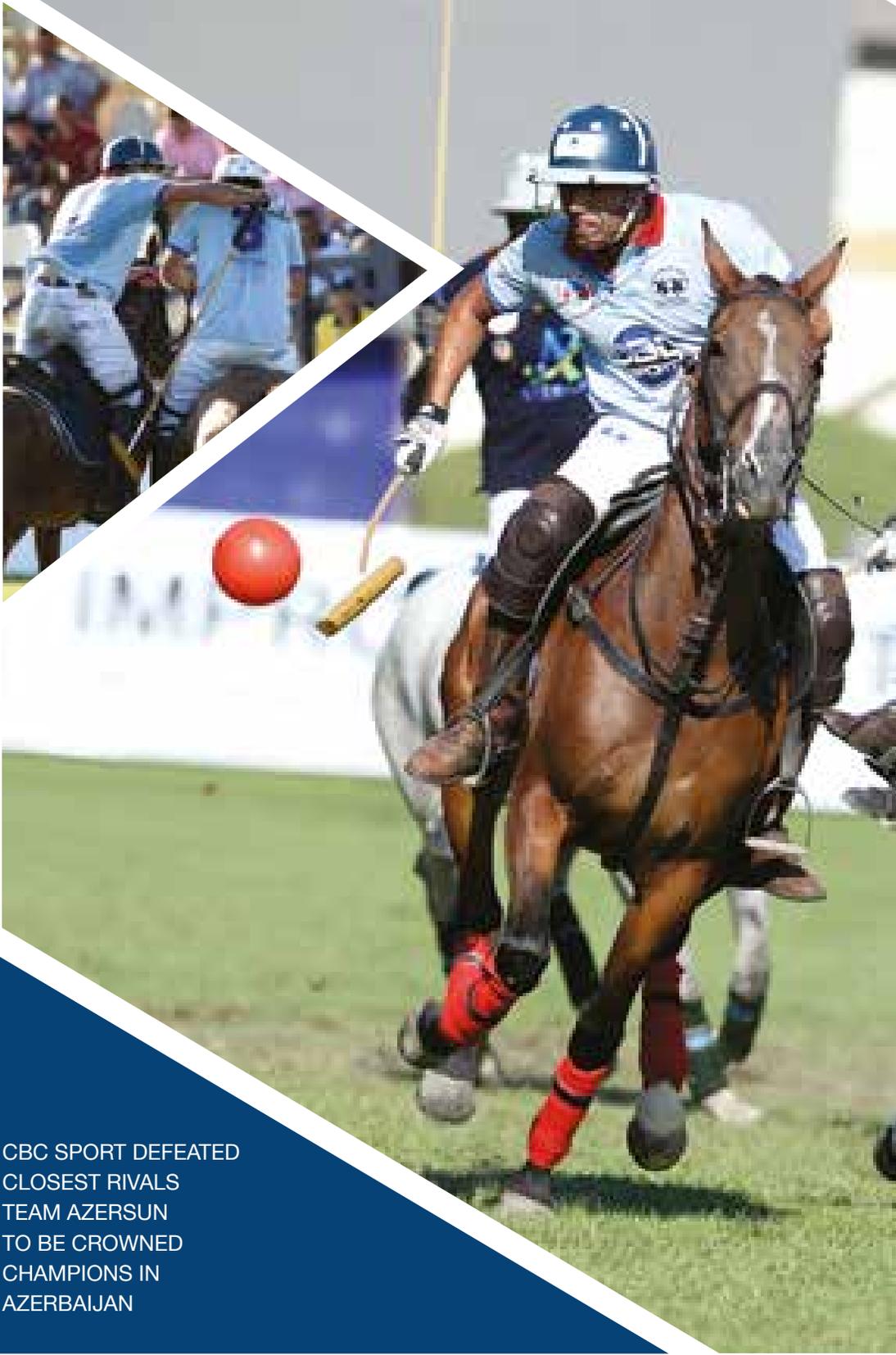
We, at La Martina, have a special link with St. Moritz, not only because the atmosphere of this special place fully reflects our aesthetic lifestyle standards, but also because every January, St. Moritz becomes the beautiful setting of the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz. In order to share this magical experience with the world, St. Moritz became the location of our advertising campaign for the new AW 17/18 collection.

Our Winter Collections presents a lifestyle clothing range perfectly suiting the chic and refined allure of St. Moritz. These pieces are true essentials to plunge into the atmosphere of this Swiss village.

THE COLLECTION

Refined knitwear and outerwear with precious details, like the bomber in our Women's Collection, or like Josh, the male outdoor bomber, which is sporty and elegant at the same time, are two key pieces. And, last but not least, the La Martina sunglasses are a real must have, as they suit the etiquette of the Snow Polo World Cup to a tee. For the casual and sporty outfits, we wanted to dedicate some of our polo collections to the teams participating in this year's event. This St. Moritz event is unique in the world, because it's played on the frozen lake, surrounded by the beautiful Engadin mountains. Polo players and spectators come from every part of the globe to participate. We are proud sponsors of the players' technical equipment and, at the same time, we have had the honour to create a lifestyle collection which reflects the style and the allure of an exclusive place, hosting a unique competition.





CBC SPORT DEFEATED
CLOSEST RIVALS
TEAM AZERSUN
TO BE CROWNED
CHAMPIONS IN
AZERBAIJAN

HOME TRIUMPH IN BAKU



If you've never ventured to Azerbaijan for the Arena Polo World Cup, then you're missing out. Unlike other arena venues around the world, Baku is topped with grass instead of sand, enabling even faster and more exciting action than its sandy cousins and this year's action surpassed all expectations. The grandstands surrounding the arena were full to bursting with local and international fans, all vying for the best spot from which to watch their favourite players compete. The internationally acclaimed tournament was created by the Equestrian Federation of Azerbaijan Republic's (ARAF) Bahruz Nabijev in conjunction with St. Moritz Snow Polo's very own Reto Gaudenzi and his Team from World Polo, expertly combining the unique charm of the Alpine tournament with the extensive polo history of Azerbaijan.

After two days of exciting and challenging play, the Final of the 5th CBC Sport Arena Polo World Cup came to a head on Sunday 10 September 2017 in front of a thousand-strong crowd. In the first match of the day, Improtex Motors took advantage of mistakes made by their rivals Pasha Private Banking, ending the match with a 6½-3 score and with it, taking bronze position. Having met earlier in the tournament, the home team and Final favourites, CBC Sport, had

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come out victorious against Team Azersun with a 7½-4 score, one that their rivals were keen not to repeat. So with renewed vigour, the two teams took to the bustling arena, packed with screaming supporters. The competition was fierce from the word go, but as the clock wound down to the final bell, it was the home team who took away the title with an 11½-5 score, to a roar from the crowd.

Speaking after the game, General Elchin Guliyev, President of the Equestrian Federation of Azerbaijan Republic said, "Due to the fact that the Azerbaijan State and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, have paid great attention to the development of sports in our country, we are now in a great position for this tournament. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all sponsors and organisational staff, who supported the tournament and worked with great energy and competence in order to present the competition at the highest level."





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Christian Dunkelberg & Ilgar Guliyev



Zhanna Bandurko & Raya Sidorenko



Chris Hyde



General Elchin Guliyev



Rommy Gianni on the drums



Irina & Reto Gaudenzi



Tito Gaudenzi



Jürg Reinger



Guests enjoyed a plethora of Azeri entertainment



Marcelo Garrahan in umpiring action

2017 5th CBC Sport Arena Polo World Cup Results:

1st CBC Sport

- Elchin Jamalli (4)
- Rashad Hasanov (2)
- Ali Rzayev (1)
- Amil Namazov (1)
- Tarlan Gurbanaliyev (2)

2nd Azersun

- Zhanna Bandurko (1)
- Raya Sidorenko (1)
- Martin de Estrada (4)
- Santiago de Estrada (7)

3rd Improtex Motors

- Melissa Ganzi (1)
- Juan Bollini (7)
- Tito Gaudenzi (3)

4th Pasha Private Banking

- Rommy Gianni (2)
- Chris Hyde (9)
- Giles Greenwood (1)

Land of Fire - Azerbaijan

Roman legion soldiers and travelers bore witness to the astonishing rock carvings of Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape throughout the ages. There, one can find more than 6,000 rock engravings date back 5,000 to 40,000 years.



Azerbaijan embraces the shore of the largest inland lake on Earth, Caspian Sea. Baku, its capital, is the largest city on the Caspian seaside out of the five littoral states.



Azerbaijan enjoys a very diversified and delicious cooking. Despite some curious mixing of influences from many nations and countries, yet it has remained specific and unique.



Azerbaijan is a fully committed member of the World Expo movement. Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, offers to host the World Expo 2025. The selected theme is “Developing human capital, building a better future”. Baku Expo 2025 will be a wide introspection on the way human abilities, in all forms, can be at best applied to all aspects of society for everybody's benefit.





The Heydar Aliyev Center, designed by the world-known British architect Zaha Hadid, became the nerve center of the nation's cultural programs and turned to be a symbol of modern Baku.



Chovqan – a horse-riding game considered as a forebear of modern polo game. This game was used to be widely played in Azerbaijan in ancient times, but also nowadays.



Naftalan – a unique health resort, is the source of naphthalan healing oil. It has been known since ancient times as a powerful solution to treat the musculoskeletal system, skin, urological and gynecological diseases.



During the course of the last few years, Azerbaijan hosted numerous international high-level events such as the First Baku European Games, the Islamic Solidarity Games, the Formula 1 racing street circuit, the Eurovision song contest, and the 42nd Chess Olympiad.

HELMET All players must wear a safety helmet, players can choose the colour of their helmet, and some customize with initials and pictures.

LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS Usual polo shirts have short sleeves, but to increase player warmth all of the La Martina team shirts for snow polo have long sleeves.

MANES Polo ponies' manes are 'hogged' – this is when they are shaved using clippers to a low stubble. This is done to stop the manes getting in the way of sticks, reins and other objects.

GLOVES
A necessity for the chilling temperatures of playing snow polo, the gloves not only keep players' hands warm, but can also help make gripping the stick and reins easier. Some gloves have inbuilt carbon fibre for added protection.

BRIDLE This is worn around the head of the horse and is usually made out of leather. They cannot have any sharp components and must not obstruct the pony's vision. Polo bridles tend to be made of heavier leather than other equine disciplines.

BIT The most common polo bit is a 'gag' as illustrated. Pelhams are also used. 'Softer' bits are not considered suitable for polo matches.

REINS Polo bridles have four reins for extra control and traction to the bit. Often 'draw' or 'running' reins which are connected at one end to the girth are used for extra stopping power.

MARTINGALES Standing martingales are used to stop the ponies throwing their heads back and potentially hitting the players as they lean forward to take a shot.

STICK The cane is usually made out of bamboo and the head which is used to hit the ball is usually wooden. The length of the stick varies depending on pony height and player preference.

GIRTH/SURCINGLE A girth is a piece of equipment used to keep the saddle in place on a horse whilst a surcingle is put around the saddle to help stabilise it and as a back up in case the girth breaks.

BANDAGES It is compulsory for ponies to wear bandages on all four legs during matches, this is to help protect them from injury if they are accidentally hit with balls or sticks.

TALKING TACK

If you are new to polo, then the kit that players and ponies wear can be pretty baffling. To those who are used to other equine disciplines, the amount and type of tack that is used can seem unfamiliar and alien. As you will have witnessed, polo is a fast and potentially dangerous contact sport – often referred to as “rugby on horseback” – so the kit is strong, durable and is there to protect both the horse and rider. Unlike racing, weight is not so much of a consideration and the overall weight of polo kit can be remarkably heavy, but on the plus side it is also very strong.

BREECHES Players must wear white breeches or jeans when playing matches.

SADDLE A saddle is put on the horse's back. In polo the saddle doesn't have knee rolls and the pommel is lower to allow the rider to position themselves forward on the horse.

WHIP This is held in the player's left hand along with their reins, the whip cannot be longer than 48 inches and isn't allowed to be broken.

TAILS The ponies' tails are plaited and tied up with tape, this is to prevent them from getting caught around the sticks – it is compulsory for a polo pony to have their tail tied up.

KNEEPADS Players have to wear these during matches to protect their knees from being damaged during ride-offs. Recently some players are opting to wear elbow pads as well.

BOOTS Polo players' boots are brown or black, made of leather and must be worn during matches.

STIRRUPS These are similar to those used in other equine disciplines, although polo stirrups tend to be heavier and wider to allow for a more stable hitting platform, as the players stand up in their stirrups to take shots.

TENDON BOOTS These are worn on the legs of the pony and are made out of strong hardened plastic. They are designed to protect the pony's tendons from damage, as these are vulnerable parts of their legs.

STUDS Two studs are fitted to both front and rear shoes to add traction. This is different to outdoor polo, where a single stud is fixed to the outer side of the rear shoes.

SHOES To avoid the snow balling up on the ponies' shoes they are fitted with snow shoes which have a special rubber tubing to funnel the snow out of the back of the shoe.



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PLAY BY PLAY



In polo there is a zero tolerance rule from umpires on players whom disagree with a call that they have made. If a player 'chats back' to an umpire then the umpire is likely to increase the severity of the penalty. This can result in the ball being moved up the field, in favour of the opposition.



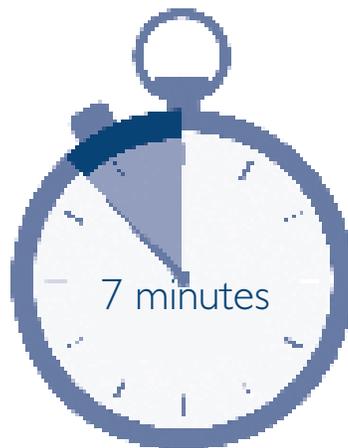
Polo ponies tend to measure from around 15 to 15.2 hands high – there are four inches in a hand. Due to the nature of the sport, polo ponies are required to stop and turn on a sixpence, go from standstill to top speed as quickly as possible, be able to face oncoming horses, tolerate flying sticks and balls, and ride-off other horses. In these matches, each player will on average bring five or more horses, and many players credit their horses for at least 80% of their game.

-2 to 10

Polo players are rated using a handicap system, with beginners starting with a -2 handicap, and only the world's very best reaching the ultimate 10 goal rating. In snow polo, each player's handicap is calculated by adding 1 goal onto their standard handicap.



Polo is one of the only contact sports in which both men and women can play competitively alongside each other. There is no discrimination and the women play just as hard as the men! In recent years, female-only polo has gained momentum as a separate area of the sport, with women's handicaps introduced by the UK's governing body, the Hurlingham Polo Association, in 2015.



Polo is a unique sport and the way the game is divided is no different. Polo matches are split into between four to eight chukkas, depending on the handicap level of the match. Each chukka has a duration of seven minutes, after which a bell is rung and 30 seconds of 'overtime' remain. If there is a penalty, goal or the ball goes out of play during these 30 seconds then the chukka ends. There are breaks in between each chukka for the players to change onto fresh ponies.



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More Infos





4 IN SNOW POLO THERE ARE FOUR PLAYERS ON EACH TEAM



1

Most attacking player and goal scorer. Often marks opposing Number 4



2

Mid-attacking position. Often marks opposing Number 3



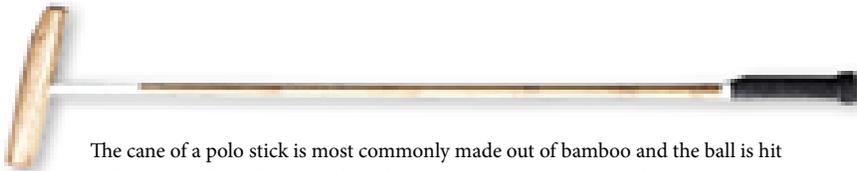
3

Mid-defending position. Often marks opposing Number 2



4

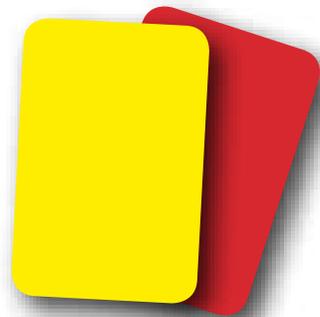
Most defensive player. It is beneficial if they have a good, strong backhand. Often marks opposing Number 1



The cane of a polo stick is most commonly made out of bamboo and the ball is hit with the wide face of the stick in polo, not the end as in croquet. Most professionals tend to use a stick measuring between 51-53 inches and they may alter the length of the stick depending on the height of their pony.



Two mounted umpires monitor each game. The umpires wear black and white shirts and will blow their whistle when a foul occurs. There is also a 'third man' who referees on the sidelines and is called upon if the two umpires disagree.



An umpire can present a player with a 'yellow card' for misconduct at any time and the player will be sent off for two minutes for their first offence. If a second yellow card is awarded then the player will automatically be sent off for a further two minutes. A red card means the player is sent off for the rest of the match and may only be substituted after two minutes of playing time.



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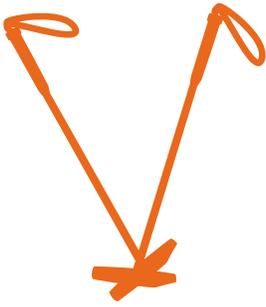


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One of the most common defensive plays is hooking. This is when a player can block their opponent's swing by using their own stick, however a player can only hook if they are on the side that the swing is being made or are directly behind their opponent. A player cannot hook across a pony or above shoulder height.



In 1875, a Hurlingham Polo Committee created the Laws of the Game, which were adopted by all international polo playing countries apart from the USA who adopted their own rules. The Hurlingham Polo Committee was the precursor to the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) which took its current name in 1925.



Federation of International Polo (FIP)
FIP is the international federation representing the sport of polo. It was created in 1982 to enhance both the status and image of the sport internationally, collating together the world's polo playing countries into one body.



Two of the most important elements of polo are the line of the ball and the right-of-way, these can also be two of the most confusing parts for polo newbies to understand.

When the ball is hit, the direction it is travelling in automatically creates a 'line'. If a player is following the line of the ball they have the right of way and if another player crosses the line this is a dangerous foul. When two players are approaching the ball from different angles to the line, the player approaching at the smallest angle to the line of the ball has the right of way.



If a player wishes to take possession of the ball without crossing the line of the ball, which would create a foul, then the player must push the opposing player off the line of the ball. This is achieved through a ride-off, and is the most physical part of polo for both the players and ponies.



All players must play with the stick in their right hand: it is illegal to hold the stick with the left hand. Therefore players who are left-handed, such as HRH The Duke of Cambridge, must learn to play with their right hand.



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Penalties

1 A rare penalty where the offensive team is awarded an automatic goal with a throw-in 15 yards from the goal.

2 A hit 30 yards from the opposition's goal. Defenders cannot defend this penalty.

3 A hit 40 yards from the opposition's goal. Defending players may run from the sides of the goal and try to stop the travelling ball.

4 A hit 60 yards out from the opposition goal. The player taking the penalty must only take one shot at goal. Opposing players can defend the goal but must be at least 30 yards from the ball.

5a A hit from the spot where the foul was committed. Opposing players must be at least 30 yards from the ball.

5b A free hit from the centre of the field. As with a penalty 5a, opposing players must be at least 30 yards from the ball.



The first recorded game of polo is believed to have taken place in 600 B.C. The sport was originally introduced as a cavalry training exercise – surprisingly the game has changed very little since then.

The name of the game supposedly originated from the Tibetan word

‘Pholo’
meaning ‘ball’ or ‘ballgame’

600BC

Persia is the birthplace of the sport of polo. According to ancient sources, Persian rulers were hooked on playing polo as early as 600 B.C. From Persia, polo spread across Asia as far as India. In 1857, Colonel Joseph Sherer, of the British Army, was sent to learn polo from the Indian Officers. At the time, the sport was used as a cavalry training exercise for all Indian cavalry regiments. Following the success of the sport amongst the British Army, Calcutta Polo Club was founded in 1859 by Colonel Sherer, and still exists today.



10 goaler Adolfo Cambiaso, one of the world's best polo players, played a cloned polo pony in the 2013 Argentine Open for the first time in the sport's history. Embryo transfer is also common in polo.

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PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2018

- 13.00 – 16.00 Polo training on the lake or on stables field
(small catering on the lake)
- 18.30 Players' and sponsors' presentation with cocktail party
(by invitation only) at Sunny Bar, Kulm Hotel
- 20.00 Fondue Night at Hotel Steffani
(by invitation only, limited tickets available)

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2018

- 10.30 Press conference in VIP lounge on the lake
- 11.00 Polo Village opens
- 11.30 VIP tent opens
- 12.00 Polo Game 1**
- 13.00 Prize-giving ceremony
- 14.15 Polo Game 2**
- 15.15 Prize-giving ceremony
- 16.30 Polo Village and VIP tent close
- 19.30h Individual Sponsor Dinners in St. Moritz (by invitation only)

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

- 11.00 Polo Village opens
- 11.30 VIP tent opens
- 12.00 Polo Game 3**
- 13.00 Prize-giving ceremony Maserati Cup
- 14.15 Polo Game 4**
- 15.15 Prize-giving ceremony Deutsche Bank Wealth Management Challenge
- 15.30 Trois Pommes Fashion Surprise
- 16.30 Polo Village and VIP tent close
- 19.15 Cocktail Reception "Baku Moritz Night" (black tie) in the Badrutt's Palace Hotel lobby
- 20.00 The Snow Polo Night Gala Dinner "Baku Moritz Night" at Badrutt's Palace Hotel
- 23.30 Polo After Party at King's Club, Badrutt's Palace Hotel (open end)
- 00.00 La Martina Youth Night (tickets available)

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2018

- 11.00 Polo Village open
- 11.30 VIP tent opens
- 12.00 3rd place Final: La Martina Cup**
- 13.00 Prize-giving ceremony La Martina Cup
- 14.15 Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz Final**
- 15.15 Prize-giving ceremony: The Cartier Trophy
- Prize-giving ceremony: The Best Player presented by Cartier
- Prize-giving ceremony: The Best Playing Patron presented by Deutsche Bank Wealth Management
- Prize-giving ceremony: The Best Playing Pony presented by *Polo Times*
- 17.00 Polo Village and VIP tent close for 2018
- 19.00 Farewell Party (by invitation only)



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ARTISTS

Introducing the seven artists providing the acoustic backdrop to the action on the snow this year

ANNINA CAMPELL



Swiss Television host Annina Campell will be hosting Saturday evening's entertainment. Annina grew up just a few kilometres from St. Moritz and hosts shows on Swiss national TV and Red Bull TV. Speaking about the snow polo event, Annina said "The Snow Polo World Cup is a true gem with the broad spectrum and exclusive event line-up St. Moritz offers to its guests every winter... It is an honour to be part of it!"

DANCERS FROM AZERBAIJAN



From the fast-paced Averi dance to the more subtle Turajy, performed solely by women, the Azerbaijani dances are used by the people of Azerbaijan to show the characteristics of their nation. The fast footwork and lower body movements are something to behold, as Azerbaijani dances differ from others in the region due to their speed, mirroring the nation's apparent rapidity in the way they go through life. Those lucky enough to have attended the CBC Sport Arena Polo World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, will have seen these amazing dancers sashaying and stomping through the arena to the intoxicating music, and if you weren't, then you're in for a treat.





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DJ CRUZ



DJ Cruz was born and raised in Zurich, Switzerland to a Swiss mother and American father. Starting at 15-years-old on an old turntable, DJ Cruz has won many major awards and has taken the international circuit by storm in cities such as Paris, London, Dubai and New York. With the support of big name DJs such as Avicii, Tiesto and Cedric Cervais, and his mixture of Electronic Dance, Hip Hop, Rock 'n' Roll, Trap and Twerk together with his indefatigable energy, makes DJ Cruz one to watch on the St. Moritz snow this year.

HUW LEWIS DUO



The dynamic duo of Huw Lewis and Oliver Deedario are truly unique. As multi instrument performers focused on Soul, Blues and Classic Rock, Huw and Oliver have the ability to fluidly flow from a dramatic Rock 'n' Roll band to a gentle acoustic rock duet. With a musical background playing to party crowds in Ibiza and ski resorts across the Alps, these two musicians certainly know how to start a party.

PEPE LIENHARD BAND



Swiss legends Pepe Lienhard Band are Switzerland's answer to The Beatles. Starting their music careers in the late 1960s, whilst at university, the sextet has toured the world over the past 50 years with their plethora of hits including their Eurovision sixth place winning 'Swiss Lady' and 'Buglar's Holiday'. They've even toured with Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra! Since then, Pepe has been touring with Udo Jürgens, playing to hundreds of thousands of avid fans and was recently awarded a lifetime achievement award by the Kongresshaus Zürich. These guys are sure to put the pow in pop, bringing 70s rhythm to the modern generation.





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SHAHRIYAR IMANOV

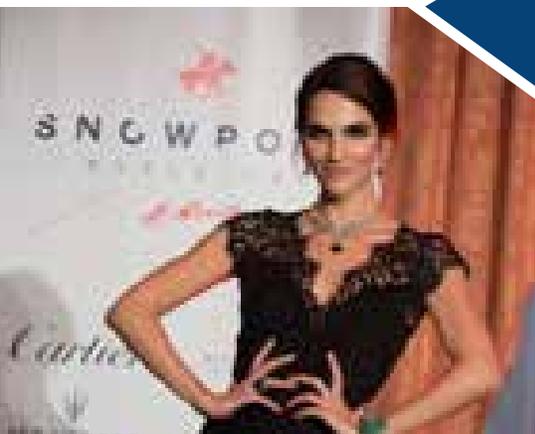


Born in Baku, Shahriyar was encouraged to follow his love of art, music and culture by his father – an artist, and his mother – a music teacher. Having attended the prestigious Music College #4 in Azerbaijan he achieved early success and in 2001, he gave his first solo concert accompanied by the State Symphonic Orchestra directed by the People's artist, Rauf Abdullayev. Further success followed and in 2011, he started a master's degree at the Azerbaijan National Conservatoire. He has performed in Switzerland, France, Israel, China, Italy and Greece, the Czech Republic, Australia, Austria, Ukraine, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, Cyprus and South Korea as well as other countries. As a professional tarzan (musician playing tar), Shahriyar Imanov now teaches at the National Conservatoire and also performs in concerts.

ISFAR SARABSKI



Born in Baku, Isfar Sarabski is an Azerbaijani pianist and composer who is also the great grandson of Huseyngulu Sarabski, the Azerbaijani opera singer, actor, playwright, tar player, and one of the first operatic performers in the Islamic world. Isfar Sarabski is the winner of many awards including the Solo Piano Competition at the 43rd 'Montreux Jazz Festival' in 2009 and Honoured Artist of Azerbaijan in 2010. He graduated from the Baku Music Academy and has been a recipient of a scholarship to study at the prestigious Berklee College of Music, US. He has also played in festivals across Switzerland, Norway, France, Russia and Georgia, as well as in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris for the 'International Jazz Day' in April 2012. Having also founded the 'Isfar Sarabski Trio' with the Moscow-based musicians Alexander Mashin (drums) and Makar Novikov (bass), they have performed in many festivals and concert venues across North America and Europe. Isfar Sarabski is currently performing with the oud player and composer Dhafer Youssef during his world tour, as well as working together on further cross-cultural collaborations.





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FAREWELL...

Polo is a team sport; and beyond that, snow polo is very much a family affair. In the past months, the snow polo family has lost two members, who played a particular role in forging the bonds between us.

We are deeply saddened by the recent loss of Peter Märky and Antonio D'Aurelio.

We will be paying our respects to Peter and Antonio by holding a minute's silence on the lake at the start of the Snow Polo World Cup 2018, on 26 January, at 12:00 noon.



Peter Märky, who passed away in May 2017



Antonio D'Aurelio, who passed away in November 2017

Peter was a part of snow polo since from its very beginning. With his open-mindedness, he took to the novel idea like a fish to water. The St. Moritz native had been at our side as a friend and hotelier for 34 years. The Hotel Steffani, built by his grandfather in 1869, has been – and continues to be – a staunch ally of the Snow Polo community. For many years, he ran the public catering on the frozen lake during the snow polo tournament. Together with other local partners, he contributed much to everyone leaving the polo village after the games happy and satiated. His knack for coming up with an amicable solution to almost any issue was an invaluable asset in his work during many years on various organising committees. He was an active supporter of summer polo too. During the summer of 1995, he presided over the organising committee of the FIP Polo World Championship; an event that was televised from St. Moritz live to the world.

Peter passed away on 24 May 2017, at the age of 62, having battled a ravaging illness for a long time. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family. We will remember him fondly.

Italian by birth, Antonio D'Aurelio had made Berlin his home. Despite being a natural with horses, he only started to play polo relatively late in his life, at the age of 50. For 20 years, Antonio helped shape great polo events around the globe with his role in the organising team of world polo. Not speaking a word of English did not stop him from opening the hearts of people he encountered in so many places all over the world, his empathy eclipsing his lack of the English tongue. Interestingly he was the first ball judge in the history of arena polo. His initiation to the Snow Polo World Cup was in 1996. Later on, in 2015 and 2016, he became a member of the organising team of the St. Moritz polo games.

Antonio passed away on 17 November 2017, at 70 years of age, after losing a brave battle against cancer. We will forever remember his great-heartedness.

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THE UMPIRES



OLIVER ELLIS



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Having played professionally for over 30 years, reaching 6 goals with wins in prestigious tournaments throughout the UK such as The Gold Cup, The Prince of Wales Trophy and Warwickshire Cup to name but a few. After filling the positions of Tournament Director and Chief Umpire at Cowdray Park Polo Club, Oli went on to become Polo Manager at Guards Polo Club for over 10 years. Oli is also a regular face in the umpire line-up in St. Moritz, his experience and fair judgement is always key to the tournament's success.

“Having been to St. Moritz from the start, it's still the best organised and most spectacular snow polo there is

TIM KEYTE



Courtesy of The Polo Magazine

New Zealander Tim Keyte has been a familiar face at the St. Moritz Snow Polo World Cup for many years. Tim won the 1983 Savile Cup, New Zealand's oldest trophy and went on to take the UK by storm with wins in tournaments across the country. In 2012, Tim became Executive Polo Manager at Cirencester Park polo Club. Tim loves umpiring in St. Moritz, “The Snow Polo World Cup is very unique, four high goal teams competing on the top of the world and playing on a frozen lake – you have to see it to believe it. Reto Gaudenzi is one of the most charismatic and driven men in polo, he and the organisation he has put together to run this amazing event is second to none. It is both exciting and a privilege to be part of this great spectacle.”

“St. Moritz is one of the most beautiful places in world in the winter, and combining polo and that beauty can't be a bad thing.”

MARCELO GARRAHAN



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Marcelo Garrahan comes from an impressive polo family, who together have succeeded in not only claiming some of the most prestigious titles in the world, including the pinnacle of polo, The Argentine Open, but five Garrahan's also achieved the illustrious accolade of 10 goals. Having reached 4 goals, Marcelo has gone on to carve a name for himself as an umpire, umpiring in over 20 countries and on snow, grass and arena polo, and is a regular both in St. Moritz and at other international Polo World Cup events, such as Baku, Azerbaijan.



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THE VOICE OF POLO

How did you begin polo commentating?

I was approached eight-years-ago to commentate because of my experience as a teacher and a player, but mostly because of my knowledge of European languages, which means that I can commentate in English but also other languages such as German.

Where have you commentated, and which place was your favourite?

The list of places is more than 30 long, from Azerbaijan to Zurich, I have commentated across the globe. As for my favourite place, it would be hard to mention just one – but of course St. Moritz is up there and Azerbaijan is always a great experience. Commentating The Gold Cup at Cowdray and Dubai Beach Polo is also a highlight, to name but a few.

What is it about snow polo in St. Moritz that you love?

The setting, the scenery, the whole flair of the event and way polo takes over St. Moritz when polo is in town is truly unique. There is also an amazing atmosphere, the people are wonderful and topped off with the great level of play. It's the best display I've seen and of all the snow polo in Europe, St. Moritz is a must see.

What are your top tips for winning over a tough crowd?

My top tip would be to engage with them as much as you can and every now and then it helps to be a bit tongue in cheek, as the entertainment value is very important I find. Keeping spectators engaged tends to be the catalyst to create an atmosphere to get the crowd going in my experience.



JAN-ERIK FRANCK

Can you tell us a bit about yourself, including playing polo, how you got started in the sport etc.

I played for BMW in 2014 in St. Moritz, which was an honour and privilege I will never forget. I got into polo through Champagne Pommery, and our team won in St. Moritz back in 1999 and after I left my roles as UK Manager for Champagne Pommery, I joined The Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club in the UK. This is where I learnt how to play polo with the Club's Polo Manager Michael Amooore. Following this, I spent many years both teaching and playing polo. In 2004, I set up MIG Polo and Après Polo, and it been snowballing ever since, my commentating has also increased with more destinations and more tournaments, year upon year. Last year I did 30+ tournaments all over the world; this year I have already been to Miami for the Beach Polo, which was a new event for me, followed by the Snow Polo World Cup in Kitzbühel, and then of course here – and it is only January!

What is so special about St. Moritz?

It's of course glamorous and what's so nice about St. Moritz are the people, because as much as they go there for the entertainment and hospitality, they also have a real interest in the sport. The crowd in St. Moritz is one of the biggest and most enthusiastic crowds that I have as an audience.

Which players would be in your polo dream team?

Chris Hyde would have to be on my team when it comes to snow/arena polo; Chris really is 'The Prof', he's a magician, a maestro. He's amazing at anticipating the game, and he's also a dear friend. Secondly, Nacho Gonzalez – again one of my long term friends. For me Chris and Nacho are up there being the top arena and polo players I've seen and had the pleasure of playing with and both are really cool guys. Thirdly, Ned Hine as he's a young, up-and-coming player and a big polo name of the future.

Matthias Gruber



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3 PIAZZA OPENING HOURS
Friday - Saturday 11.00 am - 4.30 pm
Sunday 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

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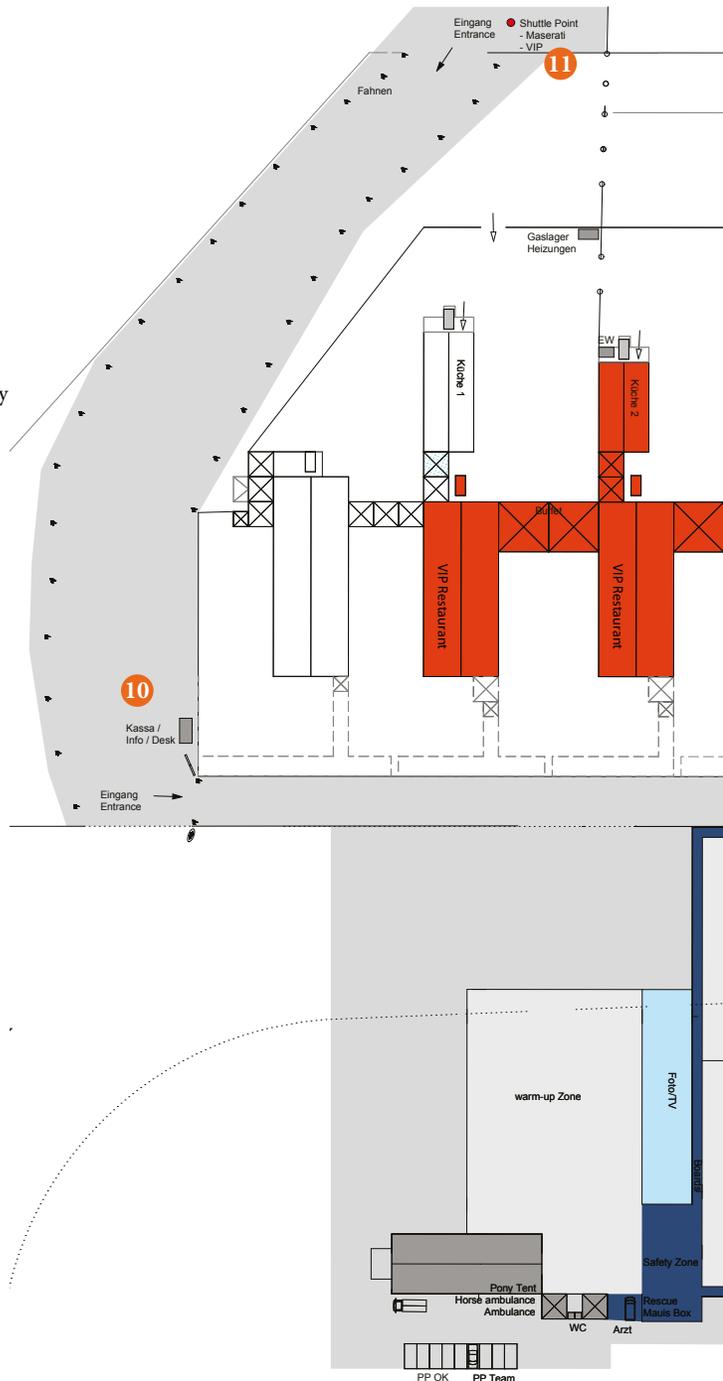
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TEAMS

Everything you need to know about the teams playing in the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz 2018

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TEAM CARTIER

16



	1. Rommy Gianni	1
	2. Chris Hyde	5
	3. Dario Musso	7
	4. Jack Hyde	3

Last year, Rommy Gianni was once again crowned champion of the tournament, having also graced the podium in 2016 with Team Maserati. With a change to this year's line-up, father-son duo Chris and Jack Hyde will be teaming up for the first time on the St. Moritz snow, as the team look determined to secure another victory in the red shirts of Cartier. Previous cup winner Dario Musso will once again sport the number three shirt, looking for a third consecutive win with leader Gianni.

TEAM AZERBAIJAN LAND OF FIRE

15



	1. Elchin Jamalli	3		Ali Rzayev	0 (Reserve)
	2. Andrés 'Lala' Laplacette	4		Amil Namazov	0 (Reserve)
	3. Adrian Laplacette Jr.	6		Tarlan Gurbanaliyev	1 (Reserve)
	4. Rashad Hasanov	2			

Fresh from his 11½-5 win at the 5th CBC Sport Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan, talented young Azerbaijani Captain Elchin Jamalli has this year brought a team to represent the strength and might of Azerbaijan polo. Having had a strong cultural representation at the 2017 St. Moritz tournament, this year's team has winning in their sights. Supporting Jamalli will be world-class Argentine brothers Andrés 'Lala' and Adrian Laplacette Jr as well as CBC Sport regular and Azerbaijani international, Rashad Hasanov at back. After victory in Baku, perhaps this is the year for an Azerbaijan victory?

TEAM BADRUTT'S PALACE HOTEL

16



	1. Melissa Ganzi	0
	2. Tito Gaudenzi	2
	3. Juan Bollini	6
	4. TBC	8

Melissa Ganzi will take to the snow for the 2018 Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz for the third time, fresh from the Snow Polo World Cup in Kitzbühel. A snow polo stalwart, she has plenty of experience, spending winters in Aspen, Colorado and St. Moritz. The team lost out to Team Cartier in the 2017 Final, with a 7-4 score, so this time around there are grudges to settle. St. Moritz resident and snow polo pro, Tito Gaudenzi will be supporting at number two whilst the Argentine Triple Crown super-sub Juan Bollini will use all his attacking might at number three.

TEAM MASERATI

16



	1. Zhanna Bandurko / Raya Sidorenko	0
	2. Gerardo Mazzini	6
	3. Hissam Ali Hyder	6
	4. Robert Strom	4

2018 will see a completely fresh line-up for the 2016 champions Team Maserati, as Russian born Zhanna Bandurko makes her premier at St. Moritz in the number one shirt. She is no stranger to healthy competition, having played grass polo across Europe for the past decade. Her team is made up of an international mixture of players, with GT Bank Commonwealth team member and Pakistan international Hissam Ali Hyder attacking at three (and hopefully bringing his renowned family of supporters!) and Argentine stalwart Gerardo Manzini at two. Frenchman Robert Strom will bring up the rear with his plethora of snow polo knowledge, having reached the Finals in a number of tournaments in Megève and China.

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ADVERTISING: Sasse & Schockemöhle Communications, Maximiliansplatz 9, 80333 München

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PUBLISHER: Publishing House: The Polo Magazine, Hill Farm Studios, Wainlodes Lane, Bishops Norton, Gloucestershire, GL2 9LN United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1452 730770 E-mail: polo@hinemarketing.co.uk www.thepolomagazine.com
Publisher: Nicholas Hine, Editor in Chief: Richenda Hine, Editor: Rosabella Hine, Art Direction: James Morgan

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