

RSPC



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POLO IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

La Familia Windhorse wins **RSPC 6-8 GOAL TRIPLE CROWN 2019**



SHAIK REISMANN
*Malaysian Team Captain
shares his reflections*

**Malaysian Team
bring back GOLD
from the 30th SEA GAMES
in the Philippines**

IMRAN MOIZ:
**MY SEA GAMES
JOURNEY**

Gold Chin wins
**RSPC 2-4 GOAL
LEAGUE 2019**

Battle of the Sexes
opens the 2020 season



Super Soy Pellets

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RSPC COMMITTEE 2019/2020

SPECIAL FEATURES

- 8 Polo in the Time of Coronavirus
- 10 Malaysia victorious at 30th SEA Games 2019 in the Philippines
- 18 Interview with Malaysian Team Captain Shaik Reismann
- 22 My Sea Games Journey

POLO NEWS

- 25 The RSPC "6-8 Goal" Triple Crown 2019
- 41 Rashid Wins Tent-Pegging
- 42 Gold Chin wins the 2019 RSPC "2-4 goal" Polo League
- 49 Battle of the Sexes 2020 Opens the Season
- 54 Malaysian Teams Triumphant in Thailand 2020
- 60 Queen's Cup Pink Polo at Thai Polo

KL ACADEMY OF POLO

- 17 Congrats to the FRICsters
- 66 KLAP's POLO 101 Course
- 67 Introducing New Polo Coach Charlie Wood

EQUESTRIAN NEWS

- 68 Resuming Training & Competition after COVID-19
- 70 Most Improved Equestrian Rider

SOCIAL NEWS

- 76 Culinary Delights by Chef Johnny
- 78 Once-In-A-Lifetime

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

- 72 Riding for the Disabled Special Rider Programme Volunteers at RSPC
- 73 Special Rider Programme
- 74 Giving New Hope for the Special Needs Children

HORSE MANAGEMENT & FEEDING

- 70 Super Soy Pellets – what are they?



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CO-OPTED MEMBERS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEMBER
STABLE MEMBER

Y. Bhg. Dato' Mohamed Zekri
 Mr. Hew Kok Seng

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Jennifer Too
DESIGN WOFS.com Sdn. Bhd.
CONTRIBUTORS Peter Abisheganadan
 Hew Kok Seng
 Thulasy Suppiah
 Lorraine Bottreau
 Zack Abisheganaden
 Imran Moiz

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ON THE COVER

Malaysia's Gold Medal Winning Team
 at The Sea Games in the Philippines.
 PHOTO BY @MALAYSIA POLO

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Lot 1314, Off Jalan Ampang Hilir 5
 55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 Phone: +(603) 4256 4531
 Fax: +(603) 4257 5344
 E-mail: rspcadmin@rspc.org.my
 www.royalselangorpoloclub.com



A note from the President



Dear Members,

Even though our 2019 polo season didn't end with the high that we had hoped for and 2020 didn't start out quite as expected, we still have had a great newsletter for you!!!

In 2019, we had an extremely successful 0-4 "low" goal RSPC league followed by an exciting Triple Crown Series at the 6-8 "medium" goal level. Unfortunately, due to the haze, we were not able to play the last few games of the Triple Crown final tournament and we also had to cancel the The Ladies Pink Polo KL Tournament 2019. All the players were disappointed, but the horses were happy as they went into early "spelling" mode.

In December 2019, Malaysia sent two teams to the Philippines to play in the 2019 edition of the SEA GAMES. RSPC are proud to have fielded 6 members of the team – Team Captain Shaik Reismann, Rashid Hasnan, Dr. Azfar Mustapha, Dato Mohd Zekri, Keith Teh and the youngest member of the squad, Imran Moiz. Our boys did us so proud by bringing back the Gold in the A-Division, and the Silver in the B-Division. While polo in December was quiet in Malaysia, there was plenty of moral support for our fellow players battling it out in the fields of Calatagan as we defended the polo SEA GAMES GOLD MEDAL.

Some of our members then headed out for the Thai Polo Season to contest the first two legs of the RMPA High Goal series, hosted by Dato Harald Link at his Thai Polo Club. Amazing hospitality as always! The

second tournament, the 14-goal B Grimm Thai Polo Masters, saw two Malaysian teams in the Finals – with La Familia beating Royal Pahang to take the win; while the Queen's Cup at Thai Polo saw La Familia once again on the podium, with Datin Nurul winning the MVP award. This is my 13th year heading to Thailand for their season, and for members thinking of heading up there, it is a fabulous experience. You must try it, even if for just one tournament on borrowed horses!

As the Malaysian season commenced, we had a whole calendar lined up for the year, beginning with our season opener, the Battle of the Sexes. This saw the Ladies take the cup for the third year running, proving once and for all that polo is a game for all genders! Or perhaps the gents were just being gentlemen? No, sorry guys, the reality on the field that day just showed that the ladies taught our boys a thing or two about the game. Better luck next year guys!!!

2019/2020 also saw the "KL Academy of Polo" ponies making their debut in the RSPC Triple Crown 8-goal and the Battle of the Sexes low-goal tournaments, showing how very versatile these academy ponies are. They have also produced a new batch of polo players, itching to start once we can get polo off the ground again.

Unfortunately, we were then stopped in our tracks by the emergence of the coronavirus. Malaysia together with the rest of the world went into lockdown mode, and the RSPC followed suit.

Here I would like to commend and thank our COVID-19 TEAM led by our Grounds Member Johan Indot and comprising Shaik Reismann, Hew Kok Seng, Stanley Sinnappen, our management team led by our senior admin manager Liza and our operations manager Kay, our mandor Samsuri Ismail, assistant mandor Shariffie Hamdi and all our syces, trainers and grounds staff. They did an amazing job putting in place the proper standard operating procedures as required by the Government, to ensure the safety and well-being of all our members, staff, grooms and horses, and to do our part to prevent the spread of this deadly pandemic. Thank you so much.

We also had a health scare in the form of African Horse Sickness making its way through Thailand. Our hearts are with those who lost horses to this disease, whose origin was traced back to a batch of zebras transiting through Thailand on the way to China. We are fortunate that Malaysia has been saved from this outbreak. With this outbreak and the current COVID pandemic, all equestrian activities have been affected and the government has introduced strict SOPs for the movement of horses.

As I write this, we are finally coming out of lockdown, with the government having announced our entry into the final phase of the Movement Control Order – the RMCO, or “Recovery” MCO. We are looking forward to restarting polo at our club following the regulations set by our government and new SOPs introduced by RMPA.

We are not isolated in this experience, as polo-playing countries all around the world are similarly going through their own versions of lockdown and social distancing. The HPA in the UK have worked through a new set of rules of play to allow polo to resume there, rules more in line with the “new socially-distanced normal”.

Meanwhile, our Equestrian section through KLAP continues to thrive with a recent in-house Dressage and Jumping Show, giving our riding members a chance to show off their skills. And our 1902 Restaurant and Bar with our new Chef Johnny continues to add exciting new dishes to the menu. Our Clubhouse continues to be social distanced with fewer tables, but otherwise we are open for business as usual. We will adapt as new regulations and guidelines are released. To allow more members to enjoy our food and beverage offerings, we are also offering takeaway gourmet dining options. Do subscribe to our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram @royalselangorpoloclub to stay up to date, and meanwhile, enjoy our news as reported here. We hope you all stay safe as we emerge out of this pandemic.

Y. Bhg Dato Mohammed Moiz
President





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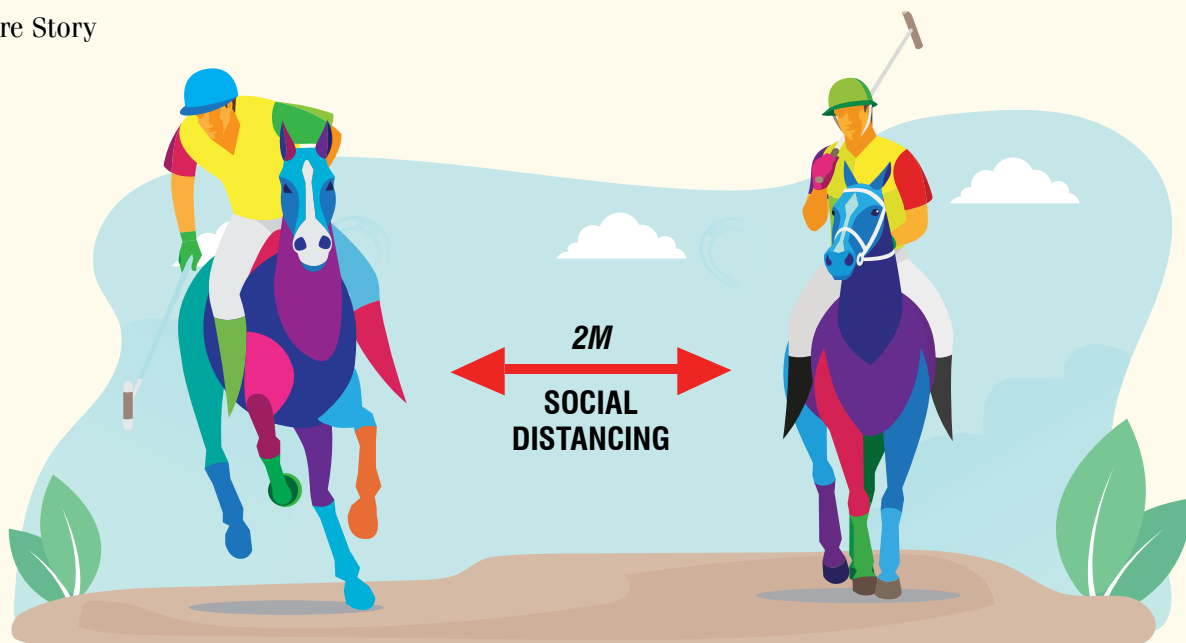
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POLO IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

By Peter Ibrahim Abisheganaden

As I write this, Malaysia is still restricted by a Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO). We have been in various stages of lockdown since 18th March, some that stopped us from even visiting our horses.

When Covid-19 hit Malaysia, all polo, horse-racing and equestrian events were suspended. Covid-19, coupled with the emergence of African Horse Sickness (AHS) in Thailand, meant that the Royal Malaysian Polo Association had no real choice but to suspend the 14-goal RMPA International League.

Malaysia was not alone. Polo was stopped in Florida and California in America. Argentina, New Zealand and Australia had the tail end of their seasons docked. Closer to home, Thailand shut down their medium and low goal tournaments. Singapore was also hit, as their Circuit Breaker meant their players have not been able to work their horses at all in May. They will probably get back to polo only in August.

As the lockdown restrictions get slowly lifted around the world, USA is playing again in Texas. Europe is about to throw-in the ball with late starts to the season at St Tropez, Chantilly and other polo clubs in France. England will play polo 'behind closed doors' with their Queen's Cup starting in mid-June and a high goal with fewer teams playing till later in the year with the Gold Cup extending till September.

Professional players have been stuck at home. Argentina has closed its borders to tourists till at least 1st September. Players wanting to leave Argentina have to apply for a special permit to be allowed to travel.

In Malaysia, we are able to ride, and stick and ball. Sooner or later, we will be playing polo again. What polo will we have? And how can we play polo? Is there socially distanced polo?

Here's what is being planned

SOCIALLY DISTANCED POLO

The government has already allowed

individual exercise and some sports to return. Polo, being a contact sport, is not one of them. But if we take away the contact, we are a small sided sport, with only eight players on a very large field at any one time.

We are already socially distanced in the clubhouse, so that isn't an issue. It is how we stay distanced on the polo field.

Looking at the game, what contact we have in polo is in riding-off and hooking. It is possible to play polo with no riding off or hooking. The only problem then is that once a good player gets the ball, no one can get it off him till it goes out of play. By instituting a 2-hit rule, similar to the walk and dribble rule, we can get players to release the ball.

2-HIT RULE

What this means is that once a player has possession of the ball, he is allowed only 2 hits. After that, he has to give up possession. If he takes a third hit, it would constitute a foul, and a penalty is awarded to the opposing team.

CONTACTLESS POLO

If the 2-Hit Rule is applied, there is no need for contact to force a player to release the ball. Players can concentrate on where they think the next play is. It will be a good exercise in anticipation, and in making intelligent runs into space to receive the ball.

RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT OF HORSES

One of the Covid-19 and AHS problems is the restriction of movement of horses. No horses may be moved from club to club without permission from the Department of Veterinary Services. We don't know when this restriction will be lifted.

There may be exemptions to this rule, and restrictions will only last while there is a ban on interstate travel (Covid-19 related) and AHS, which still remains only in Thailand and not in Malaysia.

It is therefore not possible for teams from other clubs to come to RSPC to play polo.

PLAYING WITH OURSELVES

There is a name for that, but we shall not go there! With one hand tied behind our backs, we have to make it easier to use the other hand. Looking at the players and horses that we have at RSPC, we looked at what would fit best. We studied the handicap levels, and players and their horses. The polo sub-committee came to the conclusion that the fewer horses a team needed, the more teams we could have.

THE NEW NORMAL

Socially Distanced Polo is not the new normal. It is only the new normal for now. Once restrictions are lifted, I am sure we will return to full contact polo.

But there will still be changes:

THE CASE FOR 4-MINUTE CHUKKAS AND 6-CHUKKA MATCHES

There are already many instances of tournament polo being played at less

than the traditional 7½ minute chukkas. FIP, the AAP, and the all professional XPL in Argentina already use shorter length chukkas.

As the FIP Tournament Director, I introduced our Malaysian half chukka free change system to FIP at the 2012 FIP Super Nations Cup. It was subsequently adopted by FIP, and is now mandatory for all FIP events and sanctioned tournaments, such as the SEA Games and World Championships. It is often viewed as 8 x 4-minute chukkas.

In 2019, the AAP played 4-minute chukkas in their Argentine Women's Open. FIP has already stated it will use this format for the FIP Women's World Championships, and is talking to all stakeholders about using this format in all FIP tournaments in the future.

4-MINUTE CHUKKAS

With the half chukka changes, 8 x 4-minute chukkas are already what is actually being played now in the RMPA Leagues. The way the half chukkas are done now, the horn is sounded at the 3:30 mark, and play is stopped then somewhere soon after. Sometimes it goes over four minutes, but often we are around the 4-minute mark or over, by the time play is stopped.

All rules of how the bell works remains the same as it does now. The only thing that is changed is that the first bell rings at 3:30 and not 7:00 minutes.

1st Bell at 3:30 mark 2nd Bell at 4:00 mark
--

The only thing different would be that there is no half-chukka for a free horse change.

6-CHUKKA MATCHES

The proposal, however, is to play 6 chukka matches, and not 4 full chukkas. What this means is that we would play games of 6 chukkas x 4 minutes = 24 minutes, as opposed to the current 4 x 7.5 = 30 minutes.

HORSES

Because they are only 4-minute chukkas, a 6-chukka match could easily be played with just 3 horses per player. It means teams could play with just 12 horses, and would be considered to

have more than sufficient horse power with 3+1 per player or just 16 horses per team. This is significantly better than to 20 to 24 horse average we have now for full 4-chukka matches.

HANDICAPS

Because the games are considered to be 6-chukka games, handicaps are calculated as such. If a 2-goal team was playing against a 5-goal team, it would receive 3 full goals on handicap, as opposed to 2 goals, if it were a 4-chukka match. The team giving away goals not only has to give more goals away, but they also have less time to make up to deficit.

ADVANTAGES

- Games would be slightly shorter in total time.
- 3 matches could be scheduled in an afternoon, instead of only 2.
- Less horses required per player and per team.
- Easier for players to pair up and form teams.
- Lower handicapped teams have a better chance.

THE OPPORTUNITY

I am excited to try the new format. It is more of a level playing field. Under the old conditions, a 2-goal team taking on a 5-goal team had little chance, not just on handicaps, but also on horse-power.

Playing competitive polo means we will be able to form new teams and easily join up with other members. The advantage or perhaps reliance on professionals to play the game for us is reduced. Lower goal polo means more members will have a chance to form teams. With the changes to the handicap structure, there will be more of a fighting chance.

I personally think it will get more interesting. I want to form a team at the low end of the scale. If a tournament is in the 2 to 5 goal handicap range, I think I'd like to be in a 2-goal team. I'm looking forward to a new challenge.

Polo in the time of the Coronavirus means we have to think outside the box. Perhaps even try a change of the box. ■



MALAYSIA ARE SEA GAMES POLO CHAMPIONS AGAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Peter and Zack Abisheganaden

'A' DIVISION

Polo was held at the 30th South East Asian Games in the Philippines, the fourth such time it was included as a sport in these regional games. About 4 hours from Manila, Polo was isolated from the rest of the SEA Games, with long travelling times also from official hotels to the polo grounds.

The 6-Goal 'A' Division of the 30th South East Asian Games got underway on the 24th of November 2019, with two games slated at the Inigo Zobel Polo Facility in Calatagan.

The first day of matches at the SEA Games Polo was portentous, not least the defeat of Philippines by Brunei in a very exciting opening game, but also Malaysia's slow start to the game against Indonesia.

The Philippines looked to have the edge early on as 4-goaler Augustus Aguirre commanded play in mid-field. Tommy Bitong, Ed Lopez and Santi Juban all scored exciting goals for the Philippines, but Brunei's efficiency in front of the goal kept Philippines playing catch-up and was eventually the deciding factor.

HRH Prince Bahar hit a 30 penalty with under a minute to play, to win the game 8 1/2 – 8 for Brunei. There were three members of the Brunei royal house playing for Brunei. HRH Prince



Photo by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

Mateen and HRH Princess Azemah also starred in this stunning upset of the home favourites.

In the second game, Malaysia were caught asleep at the start of the match. Indonesia started very fast and added 4 goals to their 1 1/2 goal handicap advantage. At the first half-chukka break, Malaysia went off wondering what was going on, as they trailed 1 – 5 1/2. They need not have worried. By half-time, they had caught up, and cruised past the inexperienced Indonesian side to win 11 – 7 1/2.

The Royal Pahang combination of Tengku Shazril and Amran Selamat provided the firepower from midfield, while Rashid Hasnan and Elat worked well up-front. Rashid had a good game, hitting some important penalties once he settled his early nerves. Amran got the 'GOALASSO' shout for a neck-shot goal in the 2nd chukka, but it was Tengku Shazril who was the man of the match for Malaysia.

Things were different on the second day of polo at the 30th SEA Games. The big LED display was functioning,

POLO: “A” DIVISION 6 GOALS

MALAYSIA

1	SHAIK REISMANN BIN MOHAMED ISMAIL	2
2	TENGKU AHMAD SHAZRIL EZZANI BIN TENGKU SULEIMAN	3
3	AMRAN BIN SELAMAT	2
4	ABDUL RASHID BIN HASNAN	1
5	MUHAMMAD FAIZAL ABU BAKAR (CUPITA)	1
6	SYED AHMAD SAIPULRUDIN SAYED MOHD (ELAT)	0
7	MUHAMAD SHAREIZAL BIN BASERI (EJAT)	0

BRUNEI

1	DYTM PS PM ABDUL MATEEN	0
2	YTM PS PAP AZEMAH NI'MATUL BOLKIAH	0
3	MUHAMAD FARID ADBULLAH	1
4	HUZAIMI BIN HAJI MAHARI	1
5	PENGIRAN MUDA BAHAR	2
6	MOHAMAD HUZAIMI HUSIN	1
7	ABDUL AZEEZ MOHAMED JA'AFAR	0

PHILIPPINES

1	AUGUSTUS AGUIRRE	4
2	TOMAS BITONG	1
3	ANTHONY FILAMOR	1
4	JAY DE JESUS	1
5	JULIAN GARCIA	0
6	EDUARDO LOPEZ	0
7	STEFANO JUBAN	0

INDONESIA

1	NOVEL ALVA MOMONGAN	2
2	BILLY BARCEL LUMINTANG	1
3	ACEP KRISNANDAR	1
4	GLENDY MARTINUS BUJUNG	0
5	DWIRA HARLIE RORING	0
6	FAHMI AKMAL	0
7	RICO LIANTO	0

so there was an electronic scoreboard and a countdown timer that was displayed for all to see. There was even a big bell. The display was working well, unlike the Malaysian team that went down 8 1/2 – 5 to a resurgent Philippines. With Brunei winning 7 – 4 against an inexperienced Indonesian team, it meant that while Indonesia were almost surely out, Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia all had a good chance of making it to Sunday's final. Philippines qualified first when they beat Indonesia 6 - 4 1/2. Malaysia and Brunei knew what they had to do to qualify. Malaysia had to win by at least two goals to be sure, if not, Brunei would go through.

Malaysia just managed to qualify for the final. Giving away 1 1/2 goals in handicap, Malaysia finished each chukka of the first half down by half a goal. Finishing the 3rd chukka ahead by 1/2 at 6 - 5 1/2, Malaysia then held Brunei scoreless in the last chukka to draw away to a crucial 8 - 5 1/2 goal win.

Malaysia always looked in control, once they realised they could never let

Prince Bahar go unattended. Malaysia's superior fitness also told in the last chukka.

If Tengku Shazril was the star of the show, Rashid Hasnan was the man of the match for an improved second half performance and immaculate penalty taking. Amran was the dynamo and with the inclusion of Ejat, there was better discipline and man-marking. With three teams finishing on 6 points in the qualifying league, and with the who-beat-who rule unable to be applied, it came down to goal difference. Philippines, with +4.5 goals qualified first. Malaysia was second, with +2.5 goals. Brunei, also with 6 points, were unlucky not to qualify, with a +1 goal difference.

In the end, Malaysia retained sole possession of the SEA Games Polo crown, defeating home favourites Philippines in the final of the A Division on Sunday, the 1st of December, at the Inigo Zobel Polo Facility in Calatagan, Philippines. Malaysia reversed Tuesday's qualifying defeat, dominating the final to win 7 – 5 1/2.

For once, Malaysia started quickly. Tengku Shazril was on fire, with two goals in the first chukka, showing his excellent stickwork and superb finishing to take Malaysia ahead 2 – 1/2. Philippines did not get on the board until towards the end of the second chukka. They traded goals, but at half time, Malaysia was comfortably ahead 4 – 2 1/2.

Gus Aguirre brought Philippines back into the game in the third chukka. His two goals gave them a 1/2 goal lead as Philippines held the Malaysians scoreless in the third. But it was short-lived. Malaysia's three goals in the final chukka gave them the cushion they needed, playing out the clock to win their fourth SEA Games Polo championship.

Tengku Shazril was the man of the match, but it was as much the tireless work of Amran Selamat, who created space and time for his Prince to operate. It was a surgical operation on a Philippines team that relied solely on Gus Aguirre. Rashid and Amran cut the threat of Aguirre, the 4-goaler who had dominated on Tuesday. With ►



A DIVISION: 6 GOALS GAMES SCHEDULE

- 1 Qualifying League where every team plays each other once.
- 2 Top two teams go to gold medal match, bottom two teams to bronze medal match.
- 3 The qualifying league's order of merit based on:
 - 1 Points
 - 2 Who-Beat-Who
 - 3 Goal Difference
 - 4 Goals Scored
 - 5 Goal Difference without handicap
- 5 If only three game days can be played, the qualifying league will decide final order of merit.

COUNTRIES ENTERED		Order of Draw
Brunei	BRU	1
Indonesia	INA	2
Malaysia	MAS	4
Philippines	PHI	3

DRAW:	
A	PHI
B	BRU
C	INA
D	MAS

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 7
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov	27-Nov	28-Nov	29-Nov	30-Nov	1-Dec
4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals	4 - 6 Goals
G1: A vs B		G3: B vs C		G5: A vs C			BRONZE
G2: C vs D		G4: A vs D		G6: B vs D			GOLD / SILVER

Sunday 24th November

Game	1	A vs B	PHI	vs	Result	BRU	8 - 8 1/2
Game	2	C vs D	INA	vs	MAS	7 1/2 - 11	

Tuesday 26th November

Game	3	B vs C	BRU	vs	INA	7 - 4
Game	4	A vs D	PHI	vs	MAS	8 1/2 - 5

Thursday 28th November

Game	5	A vs C	PHI	vs	INA	6 - 5 1/2
Game	6	B vs D	BRU	vs	MAS	5 1/2 - 8

QUALIFYING LEAGUE	PHI	BRU	INA	MAS	Points	Goal Difference	Order of Merit
PHI		8 - 8.5	6 - 4.5	8.5 - 5	6	4.5	1st
BRU	8.5 - 8		7 - 4	5.5 - 8	6	1	3rd
INA	4.5 - 6	4 - 7		7.5 - 11	0	-8	4th
MAS	5 - 8.5	8 - 5.5	11 - 7.5		6	2.5	2nd

Sunday 24th November

Bronze Medal Match	BRU	vs	INA	5 - 4
Gold & Silver Medal Match	INA	vs	MAS	5 1/2 - 7

- GOLD: MALAYSIA
 SILVER: PHILIPPINES
 BRONZE: BRUNEI

Mohd Shariezal (Ejat) taking his man out all day, it was left to Tengku Shazril to run the show. And that the Pahang Prince did.

Tengku Shazril and Rashid Hasnan were in tears after the win. It was so emotional because Malaysia had come here not expecting to win it. RMPA had initially not even expected to send a team, as the cost of flying horses was prohibitive. Dato' Inigo Zobel asked Malaysia to support the Philippines SEA Games Polo effort and promised us decent horses. To support polo in the SEA Games, Malaysia agreed, not expecting to be able to win on borrowed horses.

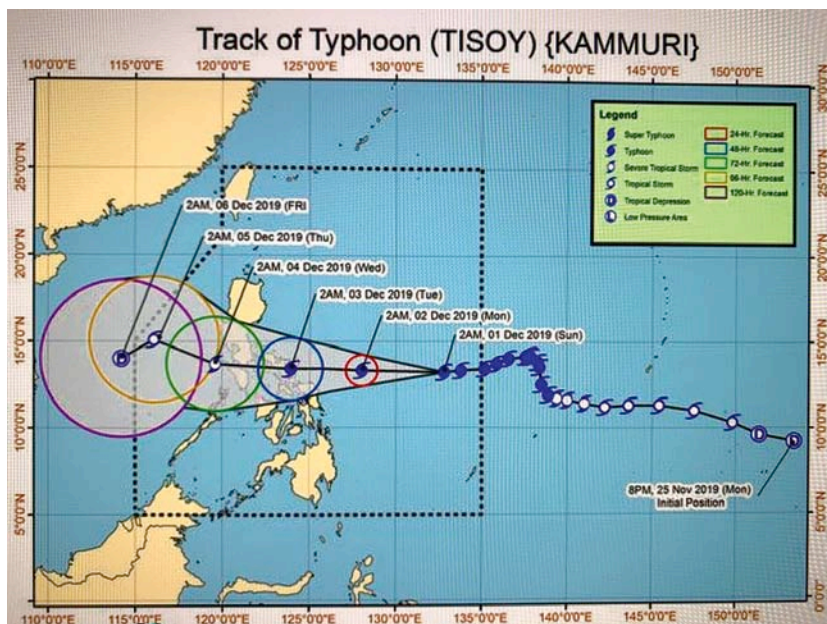
Dato' Inigo's horses were more than decent. RMPA President Dato' Mohamed Moiz thanked Dato' Inigo for his generosity and sportsmanship. "RMPA is very fortunate that YAM Tengku Muda Pahang, through his very close personal relationship with Dato' Inigo Zobel, was able to ensure that Malaysia, through the kind generosity of Dato' Inigo Zobel, got some very good horses from Dato' Inigo's string. Dato' Inigo's manager Manot Montilla was very helpful and committed to find horses that would allow them to play competitively and safely."

Still, to beat the Philippines on horses you only got to know a week earlier, while the Filipinos played their own horses, was epic.

Young Rashid will always remember his second SEA Games gold as it comes a month after his wedding. Amran was the dynamo on the field, but after the game, he hardly had words – he was spent. For Tengku Shazril, it was his third gold medal to go along with his golds from Bangkok in 2007 and Kuala Lumpur in 2017.

Shaik Reismann, for once a non-playing captain, said, "We won this time by pure determination of not wanting to let go of the title Defending Champions. The SEA Games Gold Medal belongs to Malaysia and we are still the Champions! Today the Malaysian Polo Team created history and I am so humbled and proud to be part of this team."

The proud record of winning every SEA Games Polo Gold since 1983



Typhoon Tisoy had made landfall and gate-crashed the party.

still stands for Malaysia. Regardless of the result of the 2-goal B Division, Malaysia are still SEA Games Polo champions.

THE 'B' DIVISION

Onto the B Division and disaster had already struck the country. The B Division of Polo at the 30th South East Asian Games was supposed to start on the 3rd December 2019 with four countries contesting for a second gold medal at stake. However, Typhoon Tisoy had made landfall and gate-crashed the party.

The teams had to wait, and the match schedule, which was drawn on December 3rd, had to be adjusted, while retaining the format.

The first match was delayed by two days. Malaysia struggled with discipline but did enough to win their opening match against host country Philippines as the B Division finally got under way at the Mikee Romero Polo Facility.

Malaysia got off to the better start, putting two past Philippines in the first chukka, and dominating possession. At half time, it was 3 – 1 ½ to Malaysia.

It was a different story in the second half, as foul trouble gave Philippines three consecutive 30 yarders, which

they converted to take the lead 4 ½ – 4. They got further ahead 5 ½ – 4, before they were hit with foul trouble, giving away five penalty goals to the Philippines.

Dr Azfar came off two minutes into the match. He got up and struggled on, but had to be replaced by Keith Teh in the last half chukka.

Lalo and Imran worked tirelessly, but it was Rashid who had to work hard to keep his second goal medal quest alive. Rashid put through the penalties that came in our favour, to win the game 6 – 5 ½ for Malaysia.

Brunei flew like Typhoon Tisoy past Indonesia in their first match. It was an 8 - 1 thrashing by HRH Prince Jefri's side. Their superior horse power had them rocketing past the Indonesians. The pre-match predictions were that the Indonesian professionals would give the ageing Brunei side a hard fight. Instead, it was the experienced Brunei side that taught the young Indonesians how to play polo.

Keith Teh retained his spot in the Malaysian side in our second game against Brunei. Together with young Imran Moiz, they provided the man-marking that made space for Rashid Hasnan and Lalo to do their work. The combination worked ►

POLO: B DIVISION: 2 GOALS

Thursday 5th December 2019

GAME 1: BRUNEI vs INDONESIA

BRUNEI			INDONESIA		
1	HRH PRINCE JEFRI BOLKIAH	0	1	ACEP KRISNANDAR	1
2	IDRIS SIRAT	0	2	DWIRA HARLIE RORING	0
3	HUZAIMI BIN HAJI MAHARI	1	3	BILLY BARCEL LUMINTANG	1
4	MUHAMAD FARID ABDULLAH	1	4	GLENDY MATINUS BUJUNG	0
	Team Handicap	2		Team Handicap	2
	<i>Reserves</i>			<i>Reserves</i>	
5	MOHAMAD HUZAIMI HUSIN	1	5	FAHMI AKMAL	0
6	PENGIRAN MUDA QAWI	0	6	RICO LIANTO	0
7	AK MD KHAIRUL ALIMIN PG HJ MOHAMA	0			

GAME 2: MALAYSIA vs PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES			MALAYSIA		
1	MICHLAEL ROMERO (MIKEE)	0	1	IMRAN MOIZ	0
2	BENJAMIN EUSEBIO (JAM)	0	2	DR AZFAR MUSTAPHA	0
3	ANTONIO VELOSO (TONIO)	1	3	MOHN ZULHELMIE NADZAR (LALO)	1
4	STEFANO JUBAN (SANTI)	1	4	ABDUL RASHID HASNAN	1
	Team Handicap	2		Team Handicap	2
	<i>Reserves</i>			<i>Reserves</i>	
5	NOEL VECINAL	1	5	YUDIE FAZLY JAMILI (YUDIE)	1
6	IJULIAN GARCIA	0	6	DATO' MOHAMAD ZEKRI (ZEKRI)	1
			7	KEITH TEH	0

really well. Malaysia took their time to get into gear, leading 1-0 in the first chukka, but were 4-1 up by half-time. Stretching their lead to 6-2 in the penultimate chukka, they drew away to win easily, 8-3 at the final bell. Philippines had a shocking day. They had been expected to crush the Indonesians, who were playing on horses loaned from them. Indonesia made one change of personnel, with Rico Lianti replacing Dwira Roring. Acep Krisnander went to No 4 as they reshuffled the line-up. They never looked back. Striking first, they had the Philippines on the ropes throughout the match. Indonesia ran

out 9 – 4 ½ winners.

Malaysia played Indonesia in the final qualifying game. The young Malaysian team of Imran Moiz, Keith Teh, Mohd Zulhelmie (Lalo) and Rashid Hasnan completed qualifying unbeaten in the B Division of the South East Asian Games Polo Tournament. They disposed of the Indonesia 7-2, to qualify in first place for the final.

Brunei ended Philippines dream of a polo gold medal and consigned them to the ignominy of missing out on the final. They ended Philippines misery with a 5 - 4 defeat.

It was one match too far for the young Malaysian Tigers. Despite

coming off a perfect qualifying run, the Malaysian team in the B Division fell to the hard-running experience of the Brunei team in the final of the SEA Games Polo.

HRH Prince Jefri was unable to play the final, having been injured in the collision with Santi Juban the day before. It did not matter. Prince Jefri was replaced by Pengiran Khairul. Idris Sirat, Huzaimi Mahari and Muhammad Farid were the architects of Malaysia's defeat.

Malaysia were caught flat-footed at the start. Brunei's three quick goals in the first chukka had the youngsters reeling.

Rashid converted two penalties, including a thumping 60 yarder in the second chukka to bring Malaysia back into the game. At half-time it was 3-2 to Brunei, and Malaysia looked poised to bring the game under control. But mistakes in the third chukka saw Brunei race away with four goals, to a 7-2 lead. It was all over, bar the shouting.

Malaysia pulled back two goals in the final chukka, again on penalty conversions by Rashid. But it was too little, too late. Brunei were deserving gold medal winners, 7 – 4 at the final bell.

Unable to score from open play, the young Malaysian team paid the price of their inexperience against the experienced and determined Bruneians. You can be sure this Malaysian team is the future of Malaysian polo, but it was not to be this year.

Gold: Brunei Darussalam
Silver: Malaysia
Bronze: Philippines & Indonesia

At an average age of 19.25 years, this Malaysian team is the culmination of Malaysian polo. Everything RMPA and RSPC has done has led to this. The RMPA Leagues, started in 2005, have provided a competitive foundation for these players. This is where they have learned their trade.

Shaik Reismann has mentored Imran Moiz, Keith Teh and Rashid Hasnan. It was so wonderful for him to see it happen.

The man who led us all on this journey is our club President, Dato' Mohamed Moiz. He has been the driving force behind all this. For him, the final is the culmination of an incredible journey, not only as

President of RMPA and RSPC, but also as Imran's father. He deserves the credit for Malaysia's success in polo.

Dato' Mohamed has again proposed a South East Asian association of national federations. One of the aims is to play a South East Asian Championship in the years between SEA Games, and in years when polo is not included in the SEA Games.

This is relevant as Cambodia and Vietnam are the SEA Games hosts in 2021 and 2023 respectively. Currently, no polo is played in those countries. Thailand is scheduled to host the SEA Games in 2025. Polo is expected to return to these games only then. ■



Tengku Shazril



Glendy of Indonesia versus Prince Bahar of Brunei.



Dato Mohd Moiz and Datin Nurul with the A Division Malaysia team.

30TH SEA GAMES POLO

B DIVISION: 0 TO 2 GOALS GAMES SCHEDULE 4-TEAMS FORMATS



- 1 Qualifying League where every team plays each other once.
- 2 Top two teams go to gold/silver medal match.
- 3 Bottom two teams will both be awarded bronze medals (double bronze).
- 4 The qualifying league's order of merit based on:
 - 1 Points
 - 2 Who-Beat-Who
 - 3 Goal Difference
 - 4 Goals Scored
 - 5 Goal Difference without handicap
- 6 If only three game days can be played, the qualifying league will decide the final order of merit.

COUNTRIES ENTERED		Order of Draw
Brunei	BRU	1
Indonesia	INA	2
Malaysia	MAS	4
Philippines	PHI	3

DRAW:	
A	INA
B	BRU
C	MAS
D	PHI

Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
3-Dec	4-Dec	5-Dec	6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec
0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals	0 - 2 Goals
		G1: A vs B	G3: B vs C		G5: A vs C	
		G4: C vs D	G4: A vs D		G6: B vs D	GOLD/SILVER

Thursday 5th December

Game	1	A vs B	INA	vs	BRU	1 - 8
Game	2	C vs D	MAS	vs	PHI	6 - 5 1/2

Final Score

Friday 6th December

Game	3	B vs C	BRU	vs	MAS	3 - 8
Game	4	A vs D	INA	vs	PHI	9 - 4 1/2

Sunday 8th December

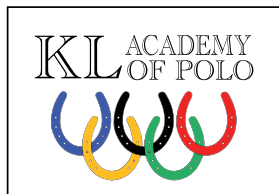
Game	5	A vs C	INA	vs	MAS	2 - 7
Game	6	B vs D	BRU	vs	PHI	5 - 4

QUALIFYING LEAGUE	INA	BRU	INA	PHI	Goal Difference	Points	Order of Merit
PHI		1 - 8	2 - 7	9 - 4.5	-7.5	3	3rd
BRU	8 - 1		3 - 8	5 - 4	3	6	2nd
INA	7 - 2	8 - 3		6 - 5.5	10.5	9	1st
MAS	4.5 - 9	4 - 5	5.5 - 6		-6	0	4th

Monday 9th December

Gold & Silver Medal Match	MAS	vs	BRU	4 - 7
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- GOLD: BRUNEI
- SILVER: MALAYSIA
- BRONZE: PHILIPPINES & INDONESIA



**KL ACADEMY OF POLO @ RSPC
IS DELIGHTED TO HAVE**



SHAIK REISMANN

**(TRIPLE SEA GAMES GOLD MEDALIST
CAPTAIN OF THE MALAYSIAN POLO TEAM)**

&

ABDUAL RASHID HASNAN

(DOUBLE SEA GAMES GOLD MEDALIST)

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INTERVIEW WITH TEAM CAPTAIN SHAIK REISMANN



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

SHAIK REISMANN, Team Captain of the Malaysian Polo Team, is no newcomer to International Polo. His experience with horses has spanned racing, showjumping, dressage, eventing and of course Polo. He has represented Malaysia numerous times on the regional and world stages, and his last 3 SEA GAMES outings saw him bring back GOLD in Thailand 2007, Malaysia 2017 and Philippines 2019.

The 2019 Philippines SEA GAMES was a little different, as this time Malaysia sent two teams for the two divisions, played on borrowed horses, and went in the “underdogs”. They did not disappoint all their home fans cheering them, and emerged CHAMPIONS once again, bringing back the GOLD in the A-Division and the SILVER in the B-Division. Here JENNIFER TOO talks to SHAIK on his thoughts on the SEA GAMES and polo in general.

1 What was most memorable for you about these Games?

The 2019 SEA Games was extra special for me because this time around, I got the chance to have three of my proteges in the Malaysian squad with me. It was definitely a proud moment for me every time we stood shoulder-to-shoulder to sing the Negara Ku, knowing that three of the players in the squad were ones that I mentored and developed. It has always been a dream

for me ever since the day they started riding at a very young age to one day see them represent Malaysia. I got far more than what I dreamed of, because I got the opportunity to do it with them. I thoroughly enjoy this journey with them!

2 In every other SEA Games, you were captaining your team from the field. How did it feel this time being a non-playing Captain?

Honestly it was very difficult because I love playing polo. It was definitely a different challenge for me to captain the team off the field. At the end of the day, it is what is best for the team on the day that's important. The decision to let Amran Selamat play instead of me was the right one.

3 How did this experience compare to your other SEA GAMES?

It was always going to be very difficult to beat the experience of the 2017 SEA Games. Playing in front of the home crowd and winning the Gold Medal is very difficult to describe. Having said that, every time you get the opportunity to represent your country is an exciting experience. From the time we leave home to meet our teammates at the airport, all dressed in our country's colours and bearing the Jalur Gemilang on our chest, we get a sense of pride and honour that fills our emotions.

4 Which do you prefer – playing or coaching?

Most definitely playing!

5 Can you tell us a little more about your players in this tournament?

This was the first time that there has been two divisions for the polo event at the SEA Games. For the 4-to-6 Goal Division, the team was basically the same as the 2017

SEA Games. We had a strong and balanced team with the experience of Tengku Shazril, Amran Selamat and Rashid Hasnan. The rookie in the team was Ahmad Saipulrudin (Elat) but with some guidance and coaching, he proved himself in the starting line-up. I felt sorry for Elat as he suffered a wrist injury and had to be replaced by Mohamad Shareizal (Ejat) in the final. It must have been nerve wrecking for Ejat to be making his debut at the SEA Games in the most important match.

The team for the 0-to-2 Goal Division was a young team. In fact, they were the the youngest team in the tournament. We were very dominant and won our qualifying matches easily, but I think that

It is no secret that horses are the ones that makes us look good or bad. Polo players are constantly on a look out for better quality horses. We are always on the hunt for that special one.

was what cost us in the Final. I got the sense that we were a little over-confident, as we were playing against Brunei and had already beaten them easily in the qualifying round. Nevertheless, the Silver Medal for Rashid Hasnan, Imran Moiz, Keith Teh and Zulhelimie Nadzar is nothing to be ashamed off. Given a chance to play the Final again, I am sure we would have not made the same mistakes of being over-confident.

Not to forget the substitute players, namely Muhammad Faizal (Cipita), Yudie Fazli, Dato Mohamad

Zekri and Dr. Azfar Mustapha whose support and encouragement off the field were priceless. We would not have made it without them!

6 How do you see the future of polo developing in Malaysia and the region?

Just like any other sport, it is vital that we have young players and new blood in the sport of polo. Malaysia has been at the top in South East Asia because of the level of polo we play here. Our next target will be the FIP World Cup, which is played at 14 Goals. With the support of the Royal Malaysian Polo Association and our local Patrons, I am confident that we will get there in the near future.

7 COVID-19 has had a debilitating impact on every sector of the world, including the world of polo. There is talk locally of a "new normal" format of polo that respects the current need for social distancing. Do you think this will work?

I personally don't like the idea of a new format of polo to abide to social distancing. Polo is a contact sport and I don't see how you can call it polo if we take away certain aspects of the game that make it so exciting and dynamic. Riding off and marking are two of the most important plays of the game, and I can't imagine polo being played without them. I may be old-fashioned in the way I feel about this, but the sport of polo goes a long way back, and it has a lot of traditions that I feel should be maintained.

8 Favourite horse of all time. And why?

I have been lucky to have had the opportunity to play a lot of good and amazing horses, so it is very difficult to pick one. But if I had too, it would be Perdiz. She possessed the athletic ▶

Shaik Reismann pictured here at the Philippines SEA GAMES 2019 with three of his proteges Keith Teh, Imran Moiz and Rashid Hasnan.



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

ability that you only find in a small number of horses. Although not super fast, her agility and flexibility allowed her to stop and turn at such an amazing speed that it always gave me an edge over my opponents.

9 Is there ONE most important tip you would give to someone wanting to improve their game?

Improving your riding ability is something that you should always work on. Being a good rider will allow you to get the best out of a horse and enjoy the game even more. Improving your game sense is another story all together. This will not only make you a better player but a better teammate. There is no short cut to this but to play more of a better level of polo with and against better players.

10 How important do you think the HORSE is in polo? A common saying

It was always going to be very difficult to beat the experience of the 2017 SEA Games. Playing in front of the home crowd and winning the Gold Medal is very difficult to describe.

is that the horse is 80% of the equation, but you guys played on borrowed horses and still brought back the gold. Is there a special trick to playing and doing well on borrowed horses?

It is no secret that horses are the ones that makes us look good or bad. Polo players are constantly on a look out for better quality horses. We are always on the hunt for that special

one. But like I mentioned earlier, your ability to ride and control them is what dictates if you can get the best out of them.

The decision to participate in the 2019 SEA Games was a last minute one. We didn't have time to prepare and train really. We knew that we were unable to bring our own horses to the Philippines and we would be relying on borrowed horses. Therefore, it was paramount that the players we selected for the games were not only good players but ones that could handle anything given to them.

All that mattered was the Gold Medal and there was no point even talking about what horses we would be provided with. We just had to go out there and do our best. Having said that, the horses provided to us by international patron Inigo Zobel were good, and we were very grateful to have had the opportunity to play his horses. So to answer your question if there is a special trick? I would say no. We had a job to do and we did it! ■



RSPC PONY CLUB CAMP

by KL Academy of Polo



Camp dates 28 - 30 July 2020
8 - 11 am daily
RM 900 for 3-day camp



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MY SEA GAMES JOURNEY

IMRAN MOIZ, at 14 years the youngest ever athlete selected to represent Malaysia in the 2019 SEA GAMES in the Philippines was a rollercoaster ride of mixed emotions. He tells here in his own words the incredible comradeship, lessons and honour of this incredible journey, where the A-team brought back the GOLD, and the B-team brought home the silver. TWO MEDALS on borrowed horses against opposition teams on their own horses is no mean feat!

“**T**he 2019 Southeast Asian Games was a long road of mixed emotions and Daliesque experiences for me from the very beginning, through to the car ride on the way back home after it all.

The journey began on 15th November 2019, the day we received our SEA Games attire. It was a dream of mine that, at the time, seemed optimistic, but I had turned that dream of mine into reality at just 14 years of age. It is still something I struggle to believe to this day. After picking up all of my attire, the ‘rollercoaster’ of emotions had already commenced. The constant thought that lingered in my mind was that in two days time, myself, along with an entire contingent, would be on a plane to a foreign country tasked with representing Malaysia in an international level competition. The days however went by in a flash and just like that, we were on our way to the Philippines!

The SEA GAMES will always be a proud and memorable moment for me. After pouring our hearts out on the field in our games, myself along with the rest of the second division boys, came home with the silver medal. It wasn’t the outcome we expected, but then again, we had no expectations of coming home with any medal at all! It was a last-minute decision to send a Malaysian team to compete. Moreover, we had no collective training and we had to play on borrowed horses as well.

Regardless of our significant disadvantage in both competitions, both teams fought to the best of their ability. One of the things that I as a young and growing player was lucky to have was definitely the support system I was surrounded by. The contingent was led by our senior players Shaik Reismann, Tengku Shazril (Along), Amran Selamat, and our Argentine coach, Fede Bachmann.

Both teams were incredibly lucky to have Fede Bachmann as our coach. His ability to bring out the

best in his players was exceptional! Furthermore, our source of inspiration and motivation, and also a fellow member of the team, our Captain Shaik Reismann who was there to push and guide us through his years of experience.

Luckily for the juniors playing in the B-Division games, the A-Division 'senior' team was up first.

Never in my life have I seen a group of people that were as determined to win something and bring back the Gold Medal as much as the Malaysian A-team. But to everyone's surprise in the end, the A-Division boys led Along on borrowed horses, fought through every game and managed to beat the Phillipines team on their home ground and on their own horses.

The amount of tears and joy that we shared after the game will forever be something that I will remember.

After watching our A-Division team bring back the gold medal, we knew it was more than possible for us to do it as well. I learned during my time with this contingent the importance of teamwork, and trust in each member of the team - that we are all capable and determined to achieve a shared goal. It showed in the field when we dominated all our games, which landed us a spot in the Finals.

With the Finals against Brunei

Darussalam, we were confident we would beat them again having already bested them 8-2 in the qualifying rounds. On the day of the Finals however, Brunei showed up with the undeniable will to win that medal. The final score was 7-4 and the final reactions of both contingents were as contrasted as day and night. Brunei however, played their hearts out and they wanted to win it more than us, so the win respectfully belonged to them.

A famous quote by the great Nelson Mandela, which gave me a new perspective on our loss, is that "the greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." This was a lesson that I learned at the age of 14. Not just in polo, but in life in general, you're bound to face stepping stones that at the time, you want it to go your way, but it doesn't end up ending the way you want it to. These moments are the moments that make you grow as a person.

One of the biggest take-aways I had from this experience was the feeling of camaraderie that the contingent shared. From arriving at the airport to playing together on the field, the feeling of being part of a team that housed such determination, such drive to achieve a shared goal was an incredible honour for me and an

The SEA GAMES will always be a proud and memorable moment for me. After pouring our hearts out on the field in our games, myself along with the rest of the second division boys, came home with the silver medal.

experience I will forever cherish.

Although the reality of representing Malaysia in the SEA Games is nerve racking in itself, I spent time turning that around and later realising that this opportunity was only given to 13 individuals and I was chosen to be a part of that team.

The Malaysian team created history and I'm so humbled and proud to have been part of a team of such caliber. It was an absolute honour to represent my country and I hope that having the title of 'youngest ever Malaysian to play in the SEA Games for polo' will encourage my fellow up-and-coming athletes to chase their dreams with the same attitude and determination!" ■

Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo





After Polo Asado fieldside.



La Familia Windhorse - Datin Nurul Moiz, Matias Vial Peres, Nacho Ithurburu and Jennifer Too.



THE RSPC TRIPLE CROWN

By Peter Abisheganaden

Feeling the loss of the passing of KDYMM Almarhum Paduka Ayahanda Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Al Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah, who was a founding father and patron of the Royal Malaysian Polo Association, the Royal Malaysian Polo Association decided to mark his passing by suspending all the games scheduled to be run by the RMPA for the rest of the 2019 season.

Almarhum Paduka Ayahanda Tuanku Sultan was passionate about the sport of polo and played an important role in the development of polo in Malaysia, the region and internationally.

As clubs were allowed to continue with their own programs, the Royal Selangor Polo Club decided to play a medium goal series instead. This was called the RSPC Triple Crown. It consisted of three tournaments held at the club, the **RSPC Classic** in July and early August, the **RSPC Open** in August and the **RSPC Triple Crown Final** in early September.

RSPC Classic - the first leg

Four teams were entered for the RSPC Classic in June 2019, the first leg of the Royal Selangor Polo Club's 8-goal Triple Crown.

Club President Dato' Mohamed Moiz played with his **La Familia** team, while Datin Nurul joined Jennifer Too in a new **La Familia Windhorse** team. The Jumabhoy family played with Agustin Andrada in the **La Sarita** team. Dato' Harald Link's **Thai Polo** made the journey from Pattaya for the 15th consecutive year.

Even at 8-goal level, Thai Polo were formidable. They defeated La Familia Windhorse in qualifying play but the team of Datin Nurul, Jennifer Too, Nacho Ithurburu and Matias Vial took the final, winning 5 - 4 in sudden death overtime.

It took a golden goal in sudden death after the teams were tied 4 - 4 at the end of regulation time. Jennifer Too bravely took the 30-yarder that sealed the fate of Thai Polo, who had played so well and fought so valiantly till the end.

In the subsidiary final, La Sarita overturned the qualifying result to beat La Familia 6 - 3 1/2.

In fact, both teams reversed their qualifying league results. Thai Polo had beaten La Familia Windhorse 7 - 5 a week earlier, while La Familia had beaten La Sarita by a half goal on handicap.

The final was a very close one. Neither team wanted to lose, resulting in a typically defensive, low-scoring final. Thai Polo's Argentine 5-goaler Carlos Pando versus Chilean World Cup winner and 6-goaler Matias Vial of La Familia Windhorse was very interesting. Both had lower handicapped pros in Juan Manual Garcia Grossi and Nacho Ithurburu to play off.

Thailand played a give-and-go offense with the interchange play between Pando and Garcia Grossi a pleasure to watch.

La Familia Windhorse relied on Matias Vial's bombs of long balls from defence. Nacho Ithurburu was smooth on the eye, and it was a very nice Malaysian debut for this young man from Manzanaras.

With the RSPC Triple Crown points decided on league play, Thai Polo actually came out on top, league-wise. ►



Matias Vial Peres of La Familia Windhorse and Shaik Reismann of La Familia.

2019 RSPC CLASSIC

1st league of the RSPC Triple Crown

24th July to 3rd August 2019



4 TEAM FORMAT

8 Matches

League with Cup Final

Teams play a league versus each other team.

Top two teams play in Final.

Other two teams play in subsidiary final.

RSPC Triple Crown points are awarded based on league order of merits.

In qualifying league, Team tied on points will be separated by:

- 1 who-Beat-Who
- 2 Penalty Shoot-Out

Draw:

A	Thai Polo
B	La Familia
C	La Sarita
D	La Familia Windhorse

RSPC CLASSIC

24 July WED	25 July THU	26 July FRI	27 July SAT	28 July SUN	29 July MON	30 July TUE	31 July WED	1 Aug THU	2 Aug FRI	3 Aug SAT	4 Aug SUN
			A vs D			A vs B				Subsidiary Final	Spare Day
B vs D	A vs C		B vs C			C vs D				Grand Final	

WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2019

TAMAN EKUESTRIAN PUTRAJAYA

4.00pm B vs D La Familia Vs La Familia Windhorse 1 - 6½

THURSDAY 25TH JULY 2019

TAMAN EKUESTRIAN PUTRAJAYA

9.00am A vs C Thai Polo Vs La Sarita 4 - 6

SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

9.00am A vs D Thai Polo Vs La Familia Windhorse 7 - 5
10.30am B vs C La Familia Vs La Sarita 4½ - 4

TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm C vs D La Familia Vs La Familia Windhorse 5 - 6
10.30am A vs B Thai Polo Vs La Familia 5 - 4½

	Thai Polo	La Familia	La Sarita	La Familia Windhorse	Win	Loss	Points	Order of Merit
Thai Polo		5 - 4.5	4 - 6	7 - 5	2	1	6	1st
La Familia	4.5 - 5		4.5 - 4	1.5 - 6	1	2	3	3rd
La Sarita	6 - 4	4 - 4.5		5 - 6	1	2	3	4th
La Familia Windhorse	5 - 7	6 - 1.5	6 - 5		2	1	6	2nd

SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

9.00am Grand Final Thai Polo Vs La Familia Windhorse 4 - 5 Sudden Death
10.30am Subsidiary Final La Sarita Vs La Familia 6 - 3½

RESULTS	TEAMS
Champions	La Familia Windhorse
Runners-Up	Thai Polo
Third Place	La Sarita
Fourth Place	La Familia
Most Valuable Patron	Ms Jennifer Too
Most Valuable Player	Matias Vial



RSPC Open - the second leg

Two more teams joined the RSPC Triple Crown for the second leg.

2019 RSPC OPEN *14th to 25th August 2019*

THAI POLO

1	Dato' Harald Link	0
2	Dato' Mohd Zekri	1
3	Carlos Pando	5
4	Juan Manuel Garcia Grossi	2
	Team Handicap	8
R	Dr Santiago Bachmann	1

LA FAMILIA

1	Imran Moiz	-1
2	Dato' Mohamed Moiz	1
3	Shaik Reismann	2
4	Gines Bargallo	5
	Team Handicap	7
R	Muhd Faizal (Cupita)	1

LA SARITA

1	Ameer Jumabhoy	1
2	Nicolas Petracci	2
3	Agustin Andrada	5
4	Asad Jumabhoy	0
	Team Handicap	8
R	Abdul Rashid Hasnan	1
R	Ali Jumabhoy	0

LA FAMILIA WINDHORSE

1	Datin Nurul Noorajala	-1
2	Ms Jennifer Too	0
3	Nacho Ithurburu	3
4	Matias Vial Peres	6
	Team Handicap	8
R	Ginesito Bargallo	0
R	Keith Teh	-1

JOGO POLO

1	Dato' Quzier Ambak	0
2	Toh Muda Rizal Ramli	1
3	Tomas Gandara	5
4	Amran Selamat	2
	Team Handicap	8
R	Khairy Jamaluddin	0
R	Yudie Fazly Jamili	1

AR + D GOLD

1	Dr Azfar Mustapha	0
2	Ali Reda	1
3	Sylvio Coutinho	5
4	Andrew Gebbie	2
	Team Handicap	8
R		
R		

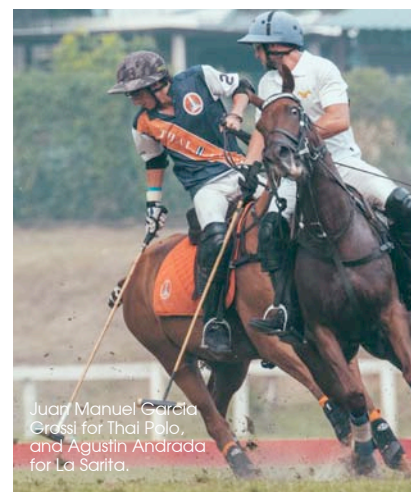
We welcomed a r + d polo to Malaysia. Ali Reda, Dr Azfar and Sylvio Coutinho combined to form the new team a **r + d gold**. Sylvio is a 5-goal Brazilian patron based in Singapore for business. They played with KL Academy of Polo's Andrew Gebbie. It was great to see the KL Academy of Polo ponies perform so well. They went like the Klappers, and held their own in top-level company in Malaysia.

And we welcomed back **Jogo Polo**, with Y.B. Khairy Jamaluddin, Dato' Quzier Ambak and Toh Muda Rizal Ramli sharing games. They brought Tomas Gandara back to Malaysia and paired him with Amran Selamat to

complete their team.

Jogo Polo was very close to beating **Thai Polo**, and it was only their lack of horsepower to play the supplementary sudden death chukka that separated them from the Thai powerhouse. It is nice to see former Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin back playing tournament polo.

La Familia Windhorse had been growing from strength to strength, and they went through this tournament unbeaten, getting their revenge, beating Thai Polo 9 - 8 in a hard fought and exciting final. Two wins in two tournaments put the team with two ladies on top! ►



Juan Manuel Garcia Grossi for Thai Polo, and Agustin Andrada for La Sarita.



Victory is sweet!



Yudie Fazly Jamili or form for Jogo Polo.



Dafin Nurul and Filza Ong



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo



Juan Manuel Garcia
Grossi, Carlos Pando
Agustin Andrada.

Team Jogo Polo emerging
victorious after their match.

Tomas Gandara, Juan Manuel,
and Dr Santiago Bachmann.

2019 RSPC OPEN

2nd league of the RSPC Triple Crown

14th July to 25th August 2019



6 TEAM FORMAT

12 Matches

Team are drawn into two zones.

Teams play a qualifying league within their drawn zone.

Points per RMPA League: Win: 3; Draw: 1 + Sudden Death 1; Loss 0.

No Draws. Play on in Sudden Death. If still no goals, then penalty shoot-out.

Top two teams from each zone advance to the Semi-Finals.

Zone 1		Zone 2	
A	Jogo Polo	D	ar + d Gold
B	La Sarita	E	La Familia
C	Thai Polo	F	Axus

In qualifying league, Team tied on points will be separated by:

- 1 who-Beat-Who
- 2 Penalty Shoot-Out

14 Aug WED	15 Aug THU	16 Aug FRI	17 Aug SAT	18 Aug SUN	19 Aug MON	20 Aug TUE	21 Aug WED	22 Aug THU	23 Aug FRI	24 Aug SAT	25 Aug SUN
	A vs B		E vs F	D vs F			SF1			Grand Final	5th/6th
	D vs E		B vs C	A vs C			SF2	5th/6th		Subsidiary Final	

WEDNESDAY 14TH AUG 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm A vs B Jogo Polo Vs La Sarita To be continued on 15th August

THURSDAY 15TH AUG 2019

TAMAN EKUESTRIAN PUTRAJAYA

4.30pm D vs E ar + d Gold Vs La Familia 3 - 6
3.30pm A vs B Jogo Polo Vs La Sarita 8 - 7

SATURDAY 17TH AUG 2019

TAMAN EKUESTRIAN PUTRAJAYA

9.00am E vs F La Familia Vs La Familia Windhorse 4 - 6
10.30am B vs C La Sarita Vs Thai Polo 6 - 7

SUNDAY 18TH AUG 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

9.00am D vs F ar + d Gold Vs La Familia Windhorse 5 - 8 Jogo conceded and did
10.30am A vs C Jogo Polo Vs Thai Polo 6 - 6 not play Sudden Death

ZONE 1	Jogo Polo	La Sarita	Thai Polo	Win	Loss	Points	Order of Merit
Jogo Polo		8 - 7		1 + *1		4	2nd
La Sarita	7 - 8		6 - 7		2	0	3rd
Thai Polo		7 - 6		1 + *1		5	1st

ZONE 2	ar + d Gold	La Familia	La Familia Windhorse	Win	Loss	Points	Order of Merit
ar + d Gold		3 - 6	5 - 8		2	0	3rd
La Familia	6 - 3		4 - 6	1	1	3	2nd
La Familia Windhorse	8 - 5	6 - 4		2		6	1st

WEDNESDAY 21ST AUG 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm Semi Final 2 Thai Polo Vs La Familia 8 - 5
10.30am Subsidiary Final 1 La Familia Windhorse Vs Jogo Polo 7 - 5

THURSDAY 22ND AUG 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

6.00pm Tent - Pegging Clinic

SATURDAY 24TH AUG 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

9.00am	Semi Final	Thai Polo	Vs	La Familia Windhorse	8 - 9	
10.45am	Subsidiary Final	La Familia	Vs	Jogo Polo	5 - 6	Jogo Polo beat La Familia
2.30pm	Plate Final 1	La Sarita	Vs	ar + d gold	7 - 3	in Sudden Death overtime
5.00pm	Tent-Pegging Cup					
6.30pm	Prize-Giving					
7.30pm	Hookahs Charity Quiz Nite					

RESULTS	TEAMS
Champions	La Familia Windhorse
Runners's Up	Thai Polo
Third Place	Jogo Polo
Fourth Place	La Familia
Fifth Place	La Sarita
Sixth Place	ar + d gold
Most Valuable Player	Juan Manuel Garcia Grossi
Most Valuable Patron	Dato' Mohamad Zekri
Tent-Pegging Champion	Abdul Rashid Hasnan



RSPC Triple Crown Final - the second leg

Five teams remained for the Triple Crown Final, with a r + d polo unable to continue. Leaders La Familia Windhorse, Thai Polo, La Familia, La Sarita and Jogo Polo met to decide the 2019 Triple Crown.

The Triple Crown table showed there was still everything to play for.

2019 RSPC TRIPLE CROWN

Rank	Team	RSPC Classic 2019						RSPC Open 2019						RSPC Triple Crown Final						Grand Total
		G1	G2	G3	Bonus	Final	Total	G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	
1	La Familia	3	0	3	3	2	11	3	3	3	3	7	19						0	30
2	Thai Polo	0	3	3	5	1	12	3	2	3	0	5	13						0	25
3	La Sarita	3	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	3	1.5	2	6.5						0	13.5
4	La Familia	0	3	0	2	0	5	3	0	0	1	3	7						0	12
5	Jogo Polo						0	3	1	0	2	4	10						0	10
6	ar + d gold						0	0	0	0	1.5	1	2.5						0	2.5

RSPC Triple Crown League Standings V3

If Thai Polo could have won every match, including their final match against La Familia Windhorse, they would have drawn level. There was still everything to play for.

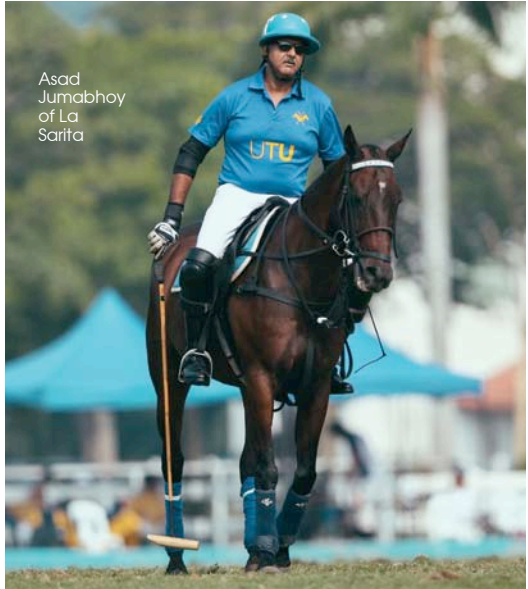
Unfortunately, that game was not played as rain and haze conspired to disrupt the tournament. As the API reading shot past the unhealthy level of 130 up to the 200 level, games were cancelled out of concern for the horses and players.

In the end, it was Jogo Polo that won the shortened tournament. La Familia Windhorse had done enough and were the winners of the Triple Crown ►





La Familia Windhorse - Winners of the RSPC Open 2019



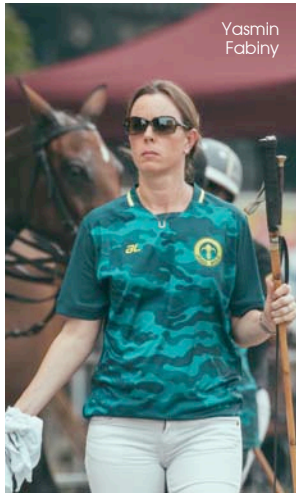
Asad Jumabhoy of La Sarita



Tomas Gandara for Jogo Polo



Umpire Steve Evans



Yasmin Fabiny



Quzier Ambak of Jogo Polo; Ali Jumabhoy of La Sarita



Dr Santiago Bachmann, Julian Sagama, Juan Manuel Garcia Grossi



Kids joining in the fun



The La Sarita squad



Ariff and Giancarlo Ghio



Dato Harald Link



Nacho Ithurburu

Photos by Chris Yeo



Jennifer Too, Most Valuable Patron, R&PC Classic with Lillian Too and Natasha Mustapha.



Imran Moiz and Rashid Hasnan.



Bubbles at the 1902 Bar.



Our club President, Dato Mohd Moiz.



Dato Mohd Zekri,
Most Valuable
Patron, RSPC Open



Juan Manual
Garcia Grossi Most
Valuable Player,
RSPC Open.



Matias Vial Peres
Most Valuable
Player, RSPC
Classic.



Carlos Pando



Rashid Hasan



Shaik Reismann
with family and
friends.



Gines Bargallo



Ginesito Bargallo



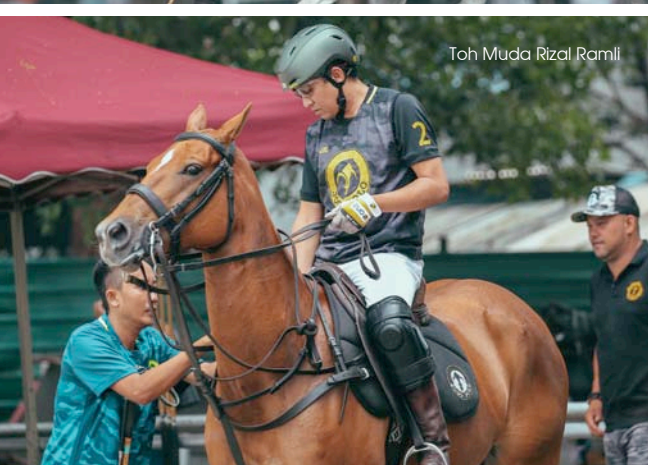
Dato Quzier Ambak, Most Valuable Patron and Tomas Gandara, Most Valuable Player, RSPC Triple Crown Final.



Tomas Gandara



Y.B. Khairy Jamaluddin



Toh Muda Rizal Ramli



Sylvio Coutinho



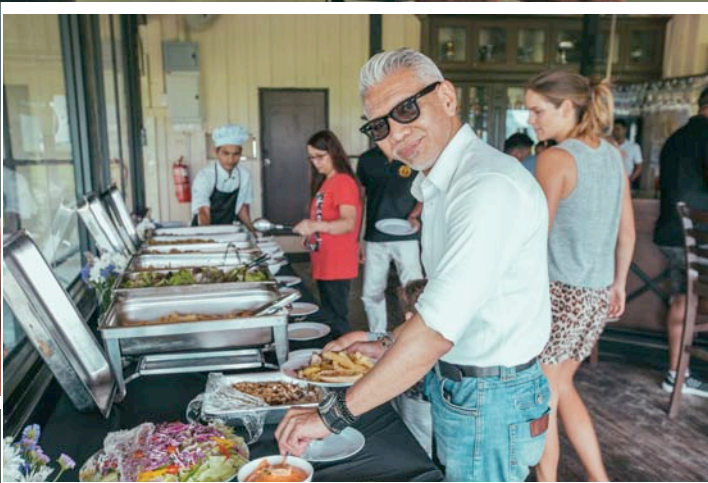
Ali Jumabhoy



Shaik
Reismann



Dr. Azfar
Mustapha



Jennifer Too



2019 RSPC CLASSIC

2019 RSPC TRIPLE CROWN FINAL

4th to 14th September 2019



5 TEAM FORMAT League

Teams play a league versus each other team. RSPC Triple Crown points are awarded based on league order of merits.

10 Matches

Team tied on points will be separated by:

- 1 who-Beat-Who
- 2 Goal Difference
- 3 Goals For
- 4 Goals Difference less handicap goals received.

Draw:

A	La Sarita
B	Jogo Polo
C	La Familia
D	La Familia Windhorse
E	Thai Polo

4 Sept WED	5 Sept THU	6 Sept FRI	7 Sept SAT	8 Sept SUN	9 Sept MON	10 Sept TUE	11 Sept WED	12 Sept THU	13 Sept FRI	14 Sept SAT	15 Sept SUN
A vs B		B vs C		A vs D			B vs D			D vs E	Spare Day
C vs D		A vs E		B vs E			C vs E			A vs C	

THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

9.00am	A vs B	La Sarita	Vs	Jogo Polo	5 - 9
10.30am	C vs D	La Familia	Vs	La Familia Windhorse	5 1/2 - 9

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm	B vs C	Jogo Polo	Vs	La Familia	9 - 8 1/2
4.30pm	A vs E	La Sarita	Vs	Thai Polo	4 - 7

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm	A vs D	La Sarita	Vs	La Familia Windhorse	4 - 6
4.30pm	B vs E	Jogo Polo	Vs	Thai Polo	7 - 5

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm	B vs D	Jogo Polo	Vs	La Familia Windhorse	6 - 6
4.30pm	C vs E	La Familia	Vs	Thai Polo	Not Played: Shared Points

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL SELANGOR POLO CLUB

3.00pm	D vs E	La Familia Windhorse	Vs	Thai Polo	Not Played: Shared Points
4.30pm	A vs C	La Sarita	Vs	La Familia	Not Played: Shared Points

	La Sarita	Jogo Polo	La Familia	La Familia Windhorse	Thai Polo	Win Points	Draw Points	Sudden Death Points	Loss	Total Points	Order of Merit
La Sarita		5 - 9	-	4 - 6	4 - 7		1	0.5	(3 x 0)	1.5	5th
Jogo Polo	9 - 5		9 - 8.5	6 - 6	7 - 5	9	1	0.5		10.5	1st
La Familia	-	8.5 - 9		5.5 - 9	-		2	1	(2 x 0)	3	4th
La Familia Windhorse	6 - 4	6 - 6	9 - 5.5		-	6	2	1		9	2nd
Thai Polo	7 - 4	5 - 7	-	-		3	2	1	(1 x 0)	6	3rd

RESULTS	TEAMS
Champions	Jogo Polo
Runners-Up	La Familia Windhorse
Third Place	Thai Polo
Fourth Place	La Familia
Most Valuable Player	Tomas Gandara
Most Valuable Petron	Quzier Ambak



2019 RSPC TRIPLE CROWN

Rank	Team	RSPC Classic 2019						RSPC Open 2019						RSPC Triple Crown Final					Grand Total
		G1	G2	G3	Bonus	Final	Total	G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	Bonus	Total	
1	La Familia Windhorse	3	0	3	3	2	11	3	3	3	3	7	19	3	3	1.5	4	13	43
2	Thai Polo	0	3	3	5	1	12	3	2	3	0	5	13	3	0	1.5	3	9	34
3	Jogo Polo						0	3	1	0	2	4	10	3	3	3	6	16.5	26.5
4	La Familia	0	3	0	2	0	5	3	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	1.5	2	17	17
5	La Sarita	3	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	3	1.5	2	6.5	0	0	0	1	16	16
6	ar + d gold						0	0	0	0	1.5	1	2.5					0	2.5

RSPC Triple Crown League Standings

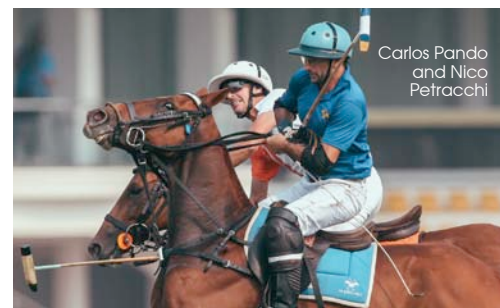
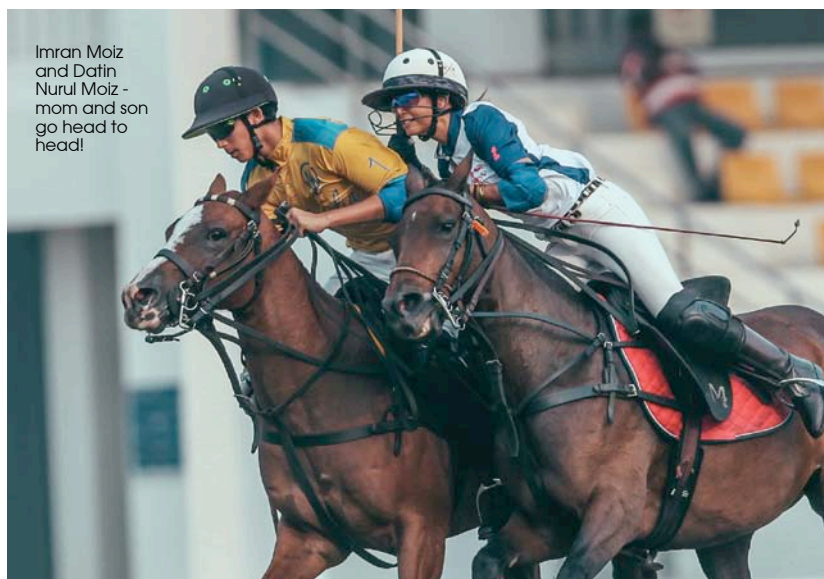




Photo by Chris Yeo



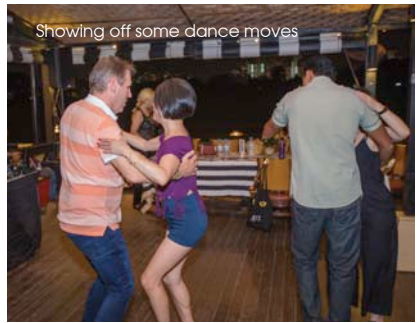
Photo by Chris Yeo



Matias and his beautiful family



Asado time!



Showing off some dance moves



Augustin Andrada



Post-game BBQ by Burnin Pit



Dancing the salsa



Ladies in white

RASHID WINS TENT-PEGGING



The ancient war sport of tent-pegging made a modern-day comeback at the Royal Selangor Polo Club. Organised by KL Academy of Polo and sponsored by Zack's Tack, a tent-pegging competition was held during the RSPC Open on 24th August 2019.

Eight players sportingly took up the challenge to gallop at tent pegs made of coconut husks, embedded in the ground 80 yards away. Failing light or perhaps failing eyesight was not even helped by the occasional lightning strike, which meant the runs were cut short after two rotations.

Rashid Hasnan overcame last years' winner Imran Moiz, to win the Tent-Pegging challenge, with a carry and a strike in his two runs. ■

GOLD CHIN WINS 2019 RSPC POLO LEAGUE



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

The final tournament of the 2019 RSPC Polo League was played from 18th to 23rd June 2019. Four teams took part in the final league tournament at 2-goal level.

The first league tournament, held in March at the -2 level was won by Gold Chin. The second league tournament in April was won by Kelantan Polo Riding Club, setting up a 'winner-takes all' scenario at the final.

Shaik Reismann paired with his protege, Abdul Rashid Hasnan, reprising their 2017 SEA Games partnership in the Gold Chin team. Playing with Simon Chin and Dr Azfar

Mustapha, Gold Chin scored an emphatic 9 - 6 1/2 win over Kelantan in their opening game.

Their second game was a closer one, winning 6 - 4 over Windhorse AT6 TU Jogo, who still managed second place in the tournament.

Kelantan had to settle for third place in the tournament.

Toh Muda Rizal Ramli of Windhorse AT6 TU Jogo was named **Most Valuable Player** of the tournament.

The final day of the league was



rained off, but it did not prevent the Gold Chin celebrations of winning the tournament and the 2019 RSPC League.

Kelantan Polo Riding Club had led the league into the final tournament, but failed to sustain their good results at the 2-goal level, dropping behind Gold Chin in the final rankings. ■



2019 RSPC LEAGUE 3

18th to 23rd June 2019



4 TEAM FORMAT

6 Matches

Teams play a qualifying league versus each other team.
Top two qualifiers go through to the Grand Final; Other two teams go to the Subsidiary Final.
Points are awarded based on the finals, per RSPC League Rules.

Team tied on points will be separated by:

- 1 who-Beat-Who
- 2 Goal Difference
- 3 Goals Scored
- 4 Goals Scored without handicap goals received.

If games are not able to be completed because of rain, and are unable to be rescheduled for completion, the final score will be taken at the point of stoppage, providing more than half the match is played. In the event that the Finals cannot be played, the Order of Merit of the qualifying League shall be used to determine league points.

Draw:

A	Cassidy & Co
B	WHAT6TUJO
C	Gold Chin
D	Kelantan

Cassidy & Co
Gold Chin
Kelantan
WHAT6TUJO

18 June THU	19 June WED	20 June THU	21 June FRI	22 June SAT	23 June SUN
A vs B	Spare Day	B vs C	Spare Day	A vs C	Subsidiary Final
C vs D		A vs D		B vs D	Grand Final

TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2019

3.00pm	A vs B	Cassidy & Co	Vs	WHAT6TUJO	4 - 6
4.30pm	C vs D	Gold Chin	Vs	Kelantan	9 - 6 ¹ / ₂

FRIDAY 21TH JUNE 2019

3.00pm	B vs C	WHAT6TUJO	Vs	Gold Chin	4 - 6
4.30pm	A vs D	Cassidy & Co	Vs	Kelantan	7 - 7 ¹ / ₂

	Cassidy & Co	WHAT6TUJO	Gold Chin	Kelantan	Win	Loss	Points	Goal Difference
Cassidy & Co		4 - 6		7 - 7.5		2	0	-2.5
WHAT6TUJO	6 - 4		4 - 6		1	1	3	0
Gold Chin		6 - 4		9 - 6.5	1		6	4.5
Kelantan	7.5 - 7		6.5 - 9		1	1	3	- 2

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2019

3.00pm	A vs C	Cassidy & Co	Vs	Gold Chin	Cancelled
4.30pm	B vs D	WHAT6TUJO	Vs	Kelantan	Cancelled

RESULTS	TEAMS
Champions	Gold Chin
Runners-Up	Windhorse AT6 Tu Jogo Polo
Third Place	Kelantan
Fourth Place	Cassidy & Co
Most Valuable Player:	Toh Muda Rizal Ramli



GOLD CHIN Winners of the RSPC League 2019.



Lim Siu Tin



Simon Chin and friends



Windhorse AT6 TU JOGO



The Kelantan Polo Squad



RSPC LEAGUE 2019

Rank	Team	RSPC LEAGUE 1						RSPC LEAGUE 2					RSPC LEAGUE 3				Grand Total
		G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	Bonus	Total	
1	Gold Chin	3	2	0	3	6	14	0	3	3	4	10	3	3	6	12	36
2	Kelantan	3	3	3	0	4	13	3	0	3	6	12	0	3	3	6	31
3	Cassidy & Co	0	1	3	3	3	10	3	3	0	3	9	0	0	2	2	21
4	Windhorse AT6 Tu Jogo Polo	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	4	7	11

The four participating teams were:

2019 RSPC LEAGUE 3 TEAMS

CASSIDY & CO

1	Stanley Sinnappen	-1
2	Ameer Jumabhoy	1
3	Peter Abisheganaden	1
4	Asad Jumabhoy	0
	Team Handicap	1
R	Mohd Shariezal (Ejat)	-1
R	Mohd Amirul Farhan	1

GOLD CHIN

1	Simon Chin	-2
2	Dr Azfar Mustapha	0
3	Shaik Reismann	2
4	Abdul Rashid Hasnan	1
	Team Handicap	1
R	Imran Moiz	-1
R	Keith Teh	-1

KELANTAN POLO RIDING CLUB

1	Dato' Seri Razak Khan	0
2	Zamani	-1
3	Nelson Guevara	0
4	Mohd Aizam Bin Muhsin	2
	Team Handicap	1
R	Mohd Izhan	-2
R	Khairul Azman	-2

WINDHORSE AT6 TU JOGO

1	Ms Lim Siu Tin	-1
2	Ms Jennifer Too	0
3	Nicolas Petrachi	2T
4	Toh Muda Rizal Ramli	1
	Team Handicap	2
R		



Filza Ong, Rashid Hasnan and Dato Haniff



Rashid Hasnan



Apres polo



Dato Azfar and Pete Abishegenadan fight for the ball

Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo



Celebrating June birthdays



Dato Quzier Ambak and Ali Jumabhoy



Dato Mohd Moiz, Pete Abishegenadan, Shaik Reismann



Three distinguished gentlemen

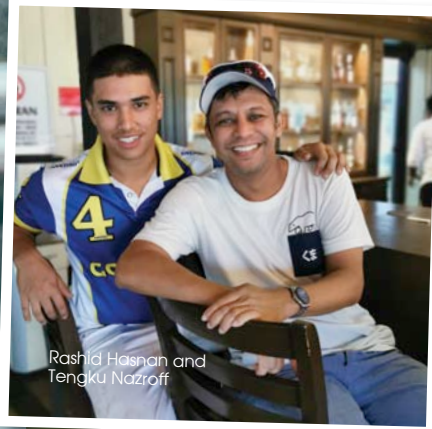


Tasha and Imran



Most Valuable Player RSPC League 3 Mohd Alizam bin Muhsin.

Amirul & Rashid



Rashid Hasan and
Tengku Nazroff

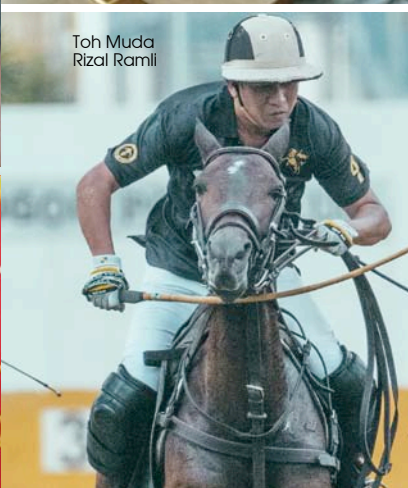
Shahida Hasan



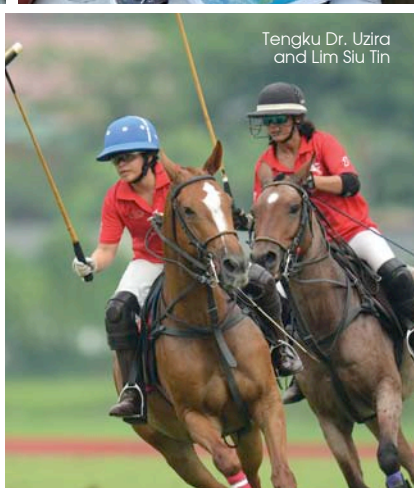
Lorraine and
Giancarlo



Tan Sri Mahadevan
and Simon Chin



Toh Muda
Rizal Ramli



Tengku Dr. Uzira
and Lim Siu Tin

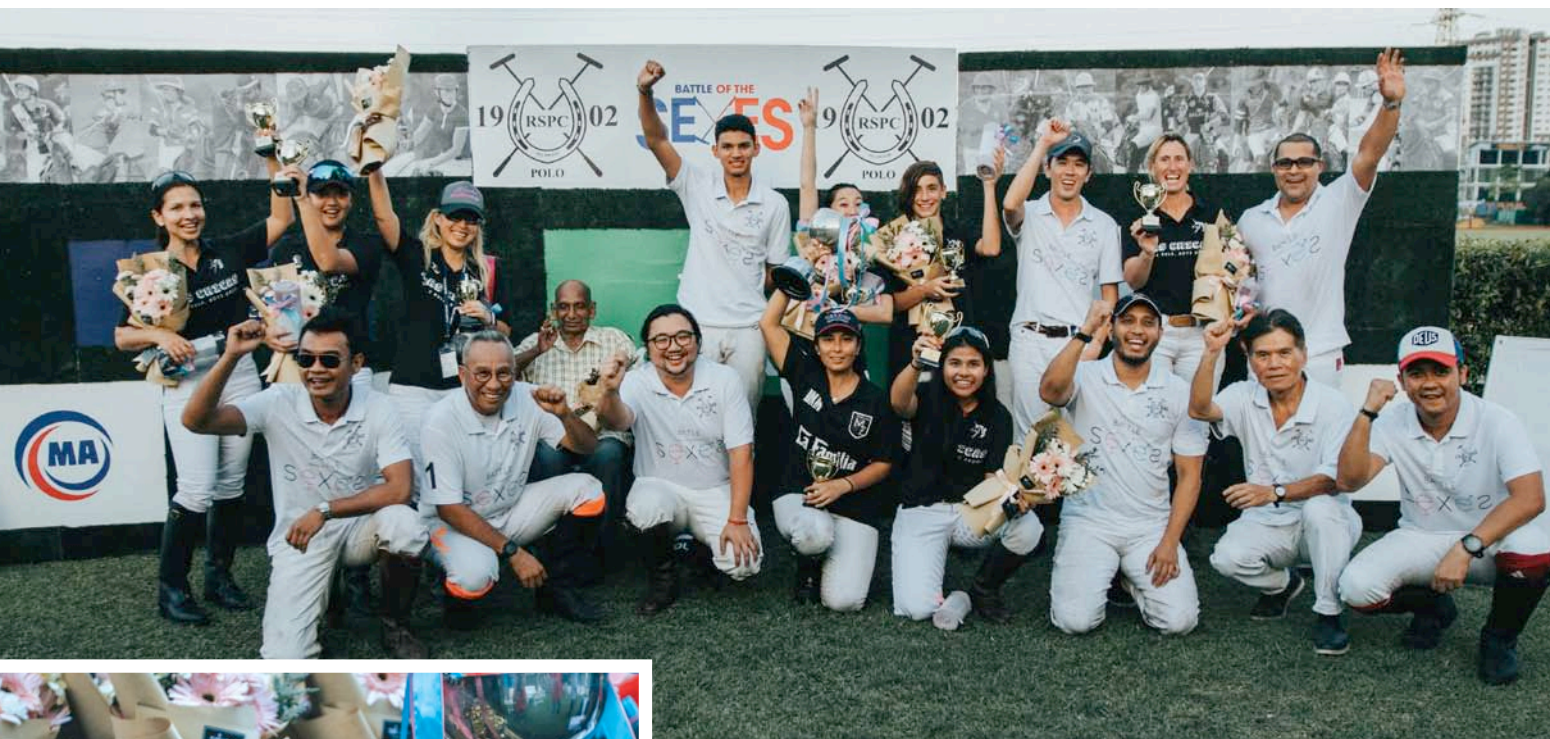


Lalo



Samsuri
Ismail





Everything to play for!



Hew Kok Seng



Dato Muadzam and Datin Nurul



RSPC BATTLE OF SEXES 2020

BATTLE OF THE SEXES 2020 RECAP

RSPC'S now famous season opening tournament BATTLE OF THE SEXES returned for its third consecutive year on 12th and 14th March 2020. It was a fabulous first tournament of the year for our club, before the world was unfortunately interrupted by the Coronavirus. Here our Stable Member and BOTS Tournament Organiser HEW KOK SENG recaps the affair, bringing back loads of good memories and laughs.

2020, a new year and a new instalment of the “Most Stressful” tournament of the year!

Battle of the Sexes this year went into its third year of play. This time around was a little bigger and a little better. 2020's BOTS saw the entry of Title Sponsor **Heineken Malaysia** team up alongside **Aria Construction**, **Mitavite Asia**, **MTF Foundation** and team apparel sponsor **Lululemon** spicing things up. There was everything to play for, the **Battle of the Sexes Trophy**, as well as the **Most Valuable Player** and **Best Playing Pony** awards.

Organisers elected to maintain the same format of game play, with the **Las Chicas** team mounting up for the third time albeit with new blood in the line-ups. The girls this year brought in two exceptional players from Singapore Polo Club, Karen and Grace Cariss.

The gents squad of **J.M. Polo** altered their plans, roping in 2019 Sea Games players Imran Moiz and Dr. Azfar Mustapha. With spirits high, both squads went forth with renewed vigour and hope of a coveted trophy to call their own. With higher stakes at play, the tournament went underway after months of preparation.

Day 1 saw J.M. Polo's A-Squad take the win over Las Chicas A by a healthy margin, with Imran Moiz being a key asset in their set plays and team dynamics. The B squad however went up against the ladies' powerhouse of Jennifer Too, YM Tengku Dr. Uzira Uzir and the Cariss superstars. J.M. Polo's B squad captained by Dato' Shaiful had no answer and emerged un-victorious over the ladies team.

Much team discussion and some courage of the liquid manner saw teams re-bolster up for Finals Day.

The season opening party went

underway with clubhouse packed to the brim, lovely canapés from the **RSPC 1902 Bar**, and with free-flowing **Heineken's** and **Llao Llao Frozen Yoghurt** making for a perfect Finals afternoon. Tension running high, the teams took to the field once again.

During the first game, superstar player Imran Moiz fell prey to an injury early on, severely handicapping the A Squad, but they hung on and chipped away. Alas, to no avail. Las Chicas B Squad took the win, so all hopes for the boys lay with Dato' Shaiful's team.

J.M's B Squad came out of the gates charging, taking an early lead and doing their best to keep the ladies at bay. The gents needed a 7-goal advantage over the ladies to comfortably have the win and lift the ever sweet B.O.T.S Trophy. Screams of joy and sighs from the crowd sounded as legendary commentator Stanley Sinnappen called out the plays in the ▶





Yummy
Pebble
Burgers

Amazing Llaolao frozen
yoghurts for everyone!



Muhd Effi and Dato
Daniel Lee



Thank you to our
umpires Rashid Hasnan
and Samsuri Ismail

closing chukkas. But sadly, as the final bell rang, the gents came short, able to only deliver a 5-goal spread. Not enough.

The Las Chicas girls lifted the 2020 trophy once again. Their game, valiantly played with precise strategy, made all the difference. The gents will have to hold their hopes and dreams in check for another year.

Grace Cariss and **Dato' Shaiful** took the Most Valuable Player awards with chants of handicap increases in the background, while **Dr. Azfar Mustapha's** exceptional mare Mandarin won the Best Playing Pony prize from **Mitavite Asia's Greg McLaren**. At the prize giving, KL Academy of Polo saw the initiation of several new players to the ranks, with the hope that they will in the near future participate in the many upcoming tournaments hosted by RSPC.

All in all, another lovely year of season opening madness with players, guests and friends, who then retired post tournament to some delicious **Pebble Burgers** and lots of **Heineken!**

Till next year, 2021 begs the question of who will come out victorious once again! Stay tuned! ►



RSPC BATTLE OF SEXES 2020



Las Chicas team lifts the cup for third year running!

RSPC BATTLE OF SEXES 2020



Guests and supporters

RSPC BATTLE OF SEXES 2020



Jennifer Too and Imran Molz



Datin Nik Sarina



TEAMS FOR THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES 2020

LAS CHICAS A

1	LIM SIU MIN (CAPT.)
2	DATIN NURUL MOIZ
3	DATIN NIK SARINA
4	SHAHIDA HASAN

J.M POLO A

1	SIMON CHIN (CAPT.)
2	DATO' DANIEL LEE/MUHD.EFFI
3	DATO' WAN MUADZAM SHAH
4	IMRAN MOIZ

LAS CHICAS B

1	KAREN CARISS (CAPT.)
2	YM TENGKU DR UZIRA UZIR
3	GRACE CARISS
4	JENNIFER TOO

J.M POLO B

1	DATO' SHAFUL (CAPT.)
2	DATO' HANIFF BORHAN
3	KOK-SENG HEW
4	DR. AZFAR MUSTAPHA



Karen and Grace Cariss, our new friends from Singapore!



Lim Siu Tin cheering on cousin Lim Siu Min



JMPolo Team Talk



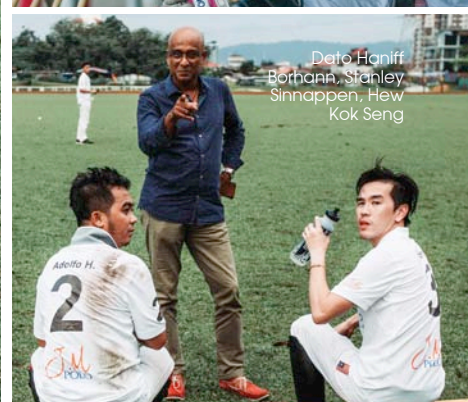
Fieldside glamour



Tournament Organiser Hew Kok Seng about to play



Las Chicas Team Talk



Dato Haniff Borhan, Stanley Sinnappen, Hew Kok Seng

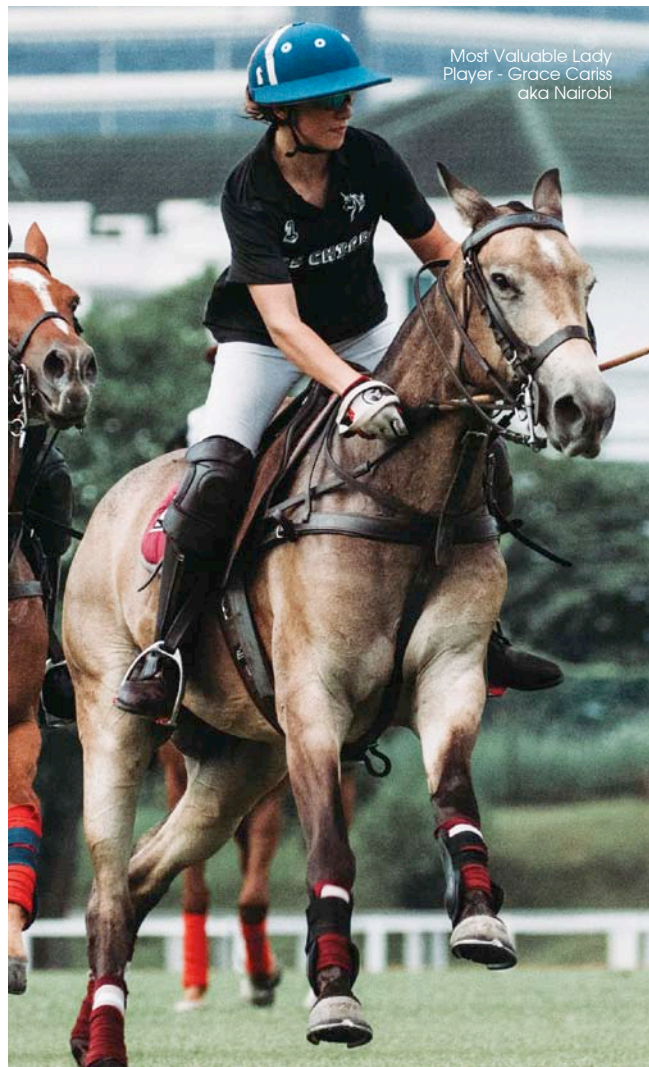


Dato Haniff on the ball, Tengku Dr Uzira in pursuit.

RSPC BATTLE OF SEXES 2020



Lim Siu Min and her cheer squad!



Most Valuable Lady Player - Grace Cariss aka Nairobi



Most Valuable Gent Player - Dato Shaiful

MALAYSIAN TEAMS TRIUMPHANT *IN THAILAND*

By Peter Abisheganaden



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

Thai Polo Open

The Thai Polo Open was played in January 2020 with six teams, three of which had made the trek from Malaysia. Thai Polo were joined by Dato' Mohamed Moiz's La Familia, YB Khairy Jamaluddin and Dato' Quzier Ambak's Jogo Polo and Royal Pahang (HIS Polo). This was the 15th year that Malaysian teams have made the three-day road trip to Pattaya with their horses.

22 BR and Tang Polo were the two non-RMPA International League teams that were included in the Thai Polo Open.

The qualifying games at the Thai Polo Open were very good, close matches. Only Thai Polo managed to score three straight wins, and even then, never by more than two goals. They led the qualifications with nine points from their three wins. La Familia scored six points from two



Two Malaysian teams La Familia and Royal Pahang contested the Finals of the Thai Polo Masters this year.

outright wins but had a crucial loss to Tang Polo.

Jogo Polo started brightly, beating 22 BR in sudden death overtime, but it was to be their only win in the qualification matches. They beat 22 BR again in the 5th/6th play-off.

Royal Pahang and La Familia both qualified for the semi-finals but fell to their opponents at that stage. Royal Pahang went down to Thai Polo, as

they did in the qualifiers. La Familia lost again to Tang Polo.

In the Subsidiary Final, the two Malaysian teams fought it out evenly and were tied at the final bell. It took a goal in sudden death to separate them.

Dato' Mohamed Moiz had given his place in the subsidiary final to his son, SEA Games silver medallist Imran Moiz.

Royal Pahang started the better ►

TEAMS

THAI POLO

1	Harald Link	0
2	Manuel Garcia Grossi	3
3	Facundo Fernandez Llorente	7
4	Martin Joaquin	4T
Total		14

JOGO POLO

1	Khairy Jamaluddin	0
2	Luciano Tattoni	0
3	Bautista Ortiz de Urbina	6
4	Isidro Strada	7
Total		13

22BR

1	William Zhao	1
2	Claude Haberer	0
3	Agustin Garcia Grossi	7
4	Pedro Fernandez Llorente	5
Total		13

HIS POLO

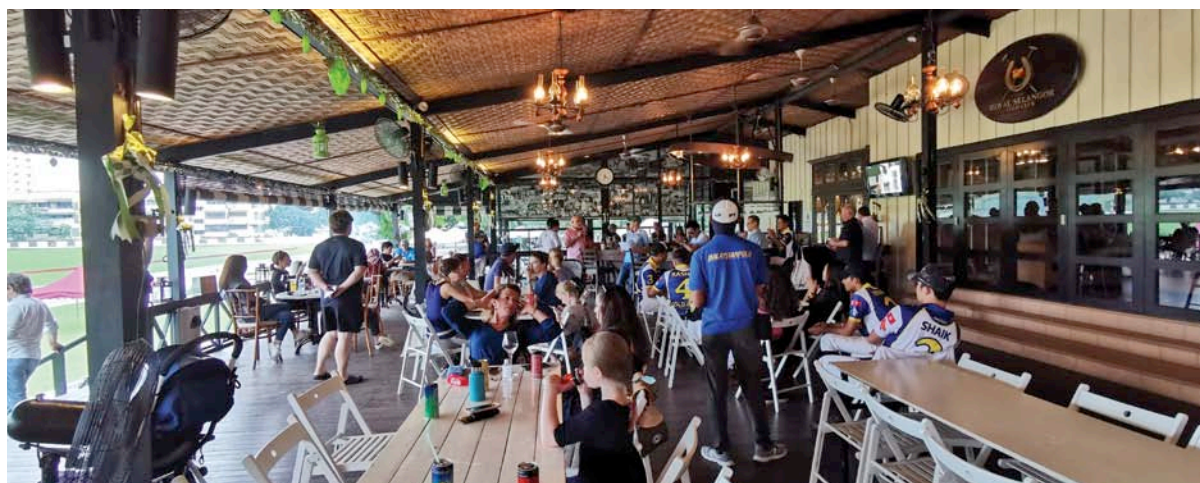
1	Amran Selamat	2
2	Tengku Uzira	0
3	Tomas Fernandez Llorente	7
4	Tomas Gandara	5
Total		14

LA FAMILIA

1	Dato Mohamed Moiz	0
2	Ignacio Ithurburu	3
3	Andres Vial	5
4	Matias Vial	6
Total		14

TANG POLO TEAM

1	Liu Shilai	0
2	Carlos Maria Ullloa	5
3	Diego Gomez	4
4	Dario Musso	5
Total		14



Meet at one of the oldest bars in town!

RSPC 1902
RESTAURANT AND BAR

with two goals in the opening minutes, but La Familia came back to tie and then lead. The lead changed hands every chukka. La Familia seemed to have the advantage with a two-goal lead going into the final three minutes on the back of excellent penalty shooting by Matias Vial. Royal Pahang never gave up and they tied the game just before the bell. It went into sudden death overtime, before La Familia finally overcame Royal Pahang 10-9.

In the final, Thai Polo patron Dato' Harald Link scored a game tying 30 yarder with seconds left in the Thai Polo Open Final. With the game tied at 7-7 at the first bell of the final chukka, the game went on for an additional 30 seconds. It was Tang Polo that broke away to score in this

period, to win the Thai Polo Open 2020.

Although Chinese patron Liu Shilai had played at Thai Polo before, this was the first time he played the Thai Polo Open as Tang Polo. His team of Carlos Ulloa, Diego Gomez and Dario Musso got off to a slow start, losing 8 - 6 to Thai Polo. It



was their only loss of the tournament, as they grew from strength to strength, winning their next four games and avenging the loss in the final.

THAI POLO OPEN 2020

TEAMS	Tang Polo	22BR	Royal Pahang	Thai Polo	Jogo Polo	La Familia	Win	Draw/ Sudden Death	Loss	Points	Order of Merit
Thai Polo	8 - 6	9 - 7.5	7 - 6				3			9	1st
Jogo Polo	6.5 - 8	8 - 7*	7.5 - 11					1*	2	2	5th
La Familia	6 - 8	10 - 5.5	6 - 3				2		1	6	3rd
Tang Polo				6 - 8	8 - 6.5	8 - 6	2		1	6	2nd
22BR				7.5 - 9	7 - 8	5.5 - 10		1	2	1	6th
Royal Pahang				6 - 7	11 - 7.5	3 - 6	1		2	3	4th

G1:	Thai Polo beat Tang Polo	8 - 6
G2:	Royal Pahang beat Jogo Polo	11 - 7 ¹ / ₂
G3:	La Familia beat Royal Pahang	6 - 3
G4:	Jogo Polo beat 22BR	8 - 7 in Sudden Death.
G5:	Tang Polo beat La Familia	8 - 6
G6:	Thai Polo beat 22BR	9 - 7 ¹ / ₂
G7:	Thai Polo beat Royal Pahang	7 - 6
G8:	La Familia beat 22BR	10 - 5 ¹ / ₂
G9:	Tang Polo beat Jogo Polo	8 - 6 ¹ / ₂

Semi-Final 1:	Thai Polo beat Royal Pahang	6 - 3
Semi-Final 2:	Tang Polo beat La Familia	10 - 8
5th/6th I:	Jogo Polo vs 22BR	
5th/6th II:	Jogo Polo beat 22BR	9 - 8
Subsidiary Final:	La Familia beat Royal Pahang	10 - 9 in Sudden Death.
Grand Final:	Tang Polo beat Thai Polo	8 - 7

Most Valuable Patron: Dato' Harald Link

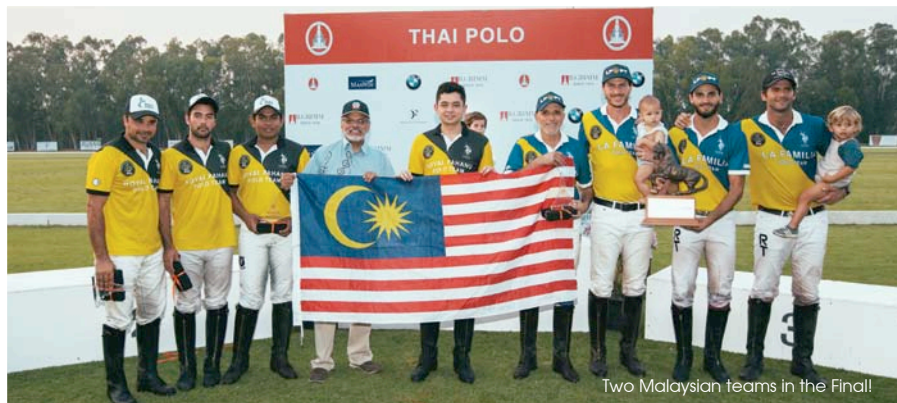


Champions - La Familia
First Runners up - Royal Pahang
Second Runners up - Tang Polo

Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo



Team Royal Pahang



Two Malaysian teams in the Final!



Fieldside family fun.



Team Jogo Polo.

Thai Polo Masters

The second 14-goal RMPA International League tournament, the Thai Polo Masters had the same six teams that took part in the Thai Polo Open playing this tournament.

Team line-ups changed slightly. HRH Crown Prince Hassan Shah, the regent of Pahang played for a revamped Royal Pahang team that also included Muhammad Sharifuddin, otherwise known as Mentega. Tomas Fernandez Llorente and Tomas 'Negro' Gandara helmed the Royal Pahang team.

Dato' Quzier Ambak played most of the matches for Jogo Polo.

Dato' Mohamed Moiz gave his son Imran a few more starts in the La Familia team.

The draw yielded different qualifying matchups. Thai Polo, 22 BR and Tang Polo were drawn in Zone A. They played 'across', versus the teams drawn in Zone B, which were Jogo Polo, Royal Pahang and La Familia.

Tang Polo were the winners of the Thai Polo Open, but being drawn in the same group, Tang Polo and Thai Polo managed to avoid each other in the qualifying matches.

However, the qualifying matches yielded the same semi-final match-ups as the Thai Polo Open, held earlier in the month. Thai Polo faced Royal Pahang, while La Familia played their nemesis, Tang Polo. These two teams met twice in the Thai Polo Open, with La Familia losing 8 - 6 in qualifying

and 10-8 in the semi-finals.

What was interesting is that La Familia finally defeated Tang Polo 11 - 9 in their qualifying game of the Thai Polo Masters.

Thai Polo was taken to sudden death before they overcame a determined Royal Pahang team.

As expected, the semi-finals were cracking good matches.

La Familia defeated Tang Polo again, to take their place in the final of the Thai Polo Masters for the second consecutive year.

Royal Pahang overturned Thai Polo, to make it an all-Malaysian final in the Thai Polo Masters.

La Familia turned on the style to beat Royal Pahang 10 - 8 in the final of the Thai Polo Masters. Dato'

B GRIMM THAI POLO MASTERS 2020

TEAMS	Jogo Polo	Royal Pahang	La Familia	Thai Polo	22BR	Tang Polo	Win	Draw/ Sudden Death	Loss	Points	Order of Merit
Thai Polo	7 - 6	8 - 7	7 - 6				1	2*		7	1st
22BR	7 - 5.5	6.5 - 9	6.5 - 9				1		2	3	5th
Tang Polo	8 - 6.5	8 - 7.5	9 - 11				2		1	6	3rd
Jogo Polo				6 - 7	5.5 - 7	6.5 - 8			3	0	6th
Royal Pahang				7 - 8	9 - 6.5	7.5 - 8	1	1		4	4th
La Familia				6 - 7	9 - 6.5	11 - 9	2	1		7	2nd

G1:	Thai Polo beat Jogo Polo	7 - 6
G2:	La Familia beat Tang Polo	11 - 9
G3:	Royal Pahang beat 22BR	9 - 6 ¹ / ₂
G4:	Thai Polo beat La Familia	7 - 6 in Sudden Death overtime.
G5:	Tang Polo beat Jogo Polo	8 - 6 ¹ / ₂
G6:	Thai Polo beat Royal Pahang	8 - 7 in Sudden Death overtime.
G7:	La Familia beat 22BR	9 - 6 ¹ / ₂
G8:	22BR beat Jogo Polo	7 - 5 ¹ / ₂
G9:	Tang Polo beat Royal Pahang	8 - 7 ¹ / ₂

Semi-Final 1:	1st vs 4th qualifiers	Royal Pahang beat Thai Polo 8 - 7 in Sudden Death overtime.	Champion:	La Familia
Semi-Final 2:	T2nd vs 3rd qualifiers	La Familia beat Tang Polo 9 - 7	Runners-Up:	Royal Pahang
5th/6th I:	22BR vs Jogo Polo		Third Place:	Tang Polo
5th/6th II:	22BR beat Jogo Polo	8 - 7	Fourth Place:	Thai Polo
Subsidiary Final:	Tang Polo beat Thai Polo	5 - 4	Fifth Place:	22BR
Grand Final:	La Familia beat Royal Pahang	10 - 8	Sixth Place:	Jogo Polo

Best Playing Pony: RAYULEA, 7 year old bay Arg mare, owned by La Sarita and played by Matias Vial.
Most Valuable Patron: HRH The Regent of Pahang, Prince Hassan Shah.

Mohamed Moiz's team were the better of the teams in this Thai Polo Masters. Royal Pahang fought hard, but had only one lead, 3-2 in the first chukka. Other than that, La Familia always looked in control.

Matias Vial was the architect of the La Familia victory, smoothly turning from strong defence to sharp attack. Nacho Ithurburu provided a quickness up front that Royal Pahang struggled to cope with. Andres Vial showed his familial understanding with brother Matias with some excellent passing.

Dato' Mohamed had a good game, running hard, and working for the other players. As a team, La Familia showed few chinks in their armour. They played excellent defence, and

broke quickly into a hard-running offence, whenever they had a chance.

Royal Pahang fell afoul of the umpires Matias Baibiene and Pepe Araya in the third chukka. Three unanswered goals turned the game firmly in La Familia's favour. Then, it was a matter of defending their lead and playing out the game, which they did very well.

Tomas 'Negro' Gandara was the livewire of the Royal Pahang team led by HRH the Regent of Pahang, Crown Prince Hassanal Shah. Muhd Sharifuddin (Mentega) was nullified by Dato' Mohamed, and with Tomas Fernandez Llorente hampered by a groin injury, Pahang could do little to break La Familia's strong defence.

La Familia kept a two-goal cushion

till the last chukka as they strode out to a 10-6 lead, before easing up for a second consecutive Thai Polo Masters win, and a nice move to the top of the RMPA International League table.

It had been two years since Royal Pahang played in a final, and many years since they faced their old friends and rivals, La Familia. HRH Prince Hassanal was deservedly awarded the Most Valuable Patron prize of a Franck Dubarry timepiece.

Rayulea, a 7-year-old Bay Argentine Mare, played by Matias Vial, was adjudged the best playing pony. It was selected for La Familia by Gines Bargallo from Michael Taylor, and is owned by La Familia.

Tang Polo defeated Thai Polo 5 - 4 in the subsidiary final. ■

With their superb Thai Polo Masters performance, La Familia have taken pole position in the RMPA International League standings, with 32 points. Thai Polo are only four points behind. Royal Pahang have 18 points and will need a brilliant summer in Malaysia's three tournaments to catch up.

RMPA INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE 2020

Rank	Team	Thai Polo Open 2020							Thai Polo Master 2020						
		G1	G2	G3	SF	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	SF	Final	Bonus	Total
1	La Familia	3	0	3	0	2	4	12	3	1	3	3	3	7	20
2	Tang Polo	0	3	3	3	3	7	19	0	3	3	0	3	4	13
3	Thai Polo	3	3	3	3	0	5	17	3	2	2	1	0	3	11
4	Royal Pahang	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	3	1	0	2	0	5	11
5	Jogo Polo	3	2	0	3	3	2	10	0	0	0	1.5	0	1	2.5
6	22BR	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	1.5	3	2	9.5

Rank	Team	RMPA Classic 2020						RSPC Open 2020						RMPA International League Final						Grand Total
		G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	G1	G2	G3	Final	Bonus	Total	
1	La Familia						0						0						0	32
2	Tang Polo						0						0						0	32
3	Thai Polo						0						0						0	28
4	Royal Pahang						0						0						0	18
5	Jogo Polo						0						0						0	12.5
6	22BR						0						0						0	11.5



The 14-goal 2020 RMPA International League will resume in Malaysia with:

1. RMPA Classic - Wednesday 24th June to Saturday 4th July
2. RSPC Open - Monday 20th July to Saturday 1st August
3. RMPA International League Final - Monday 10th August to Saturday 22nd

LA FAMILIA WINS THAI POLO'S QUEEN'S CUP PINK POLO 2020

Team La Familia emerged champions of Thai Polo's Queen's Cup Pink Polo 2020, with patron of the team Datin Nurul Moiz earning Most Valuable Player honours.



Pink Polo, founded twelve years ago, seeks to give women the chance to compete at a high level while enjoying a unique social scene and raising breast cancer awareness via the **Queen Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer Foundation**.

This year, four 14-goal teams (women's handicap) took part in the action.

Many people gathered around the field to watch the action and enjoy the amazing event, which included a delicious lunch, parades, afternoon tea and of course, the best polo.

La Familia and **Marengo** went head to head in the Championship match on the Final Day. Thanks to great teamwork, efficiency and strong performances from Lia Salvo, Nurul Noor Ajala, Olivia Jauretche, and one of the best up-and-coming players of the circuit, Beanie Bradley, La Familia secured the 7-5 victory. ►



Yorkshire Terrier Parade



Rebecca Walters of Team Marengo on the ball.



Sonia Couling



Pink Polo, founded twelve years ago, seeks to give women the chance to compete at a high level while enjoying a unique social scene and raising breast cancer awareness.



THE FINALS OF THE QUEEN'S CUP PINK POLO WERE PRODUCED AND STREAMED LIVE BY POLOLINE TV.

FINAL QUEEN'S CUP PINK POLO: LA FAMILIA 7-5 MARENGO

La Familia: Nurul Noor Ajala 0, Olivia Jaureche 2, Beanie Bradley 3, Lia Salvo 9. Total: 14 goals.

Marengo: Sonia Couling 1 (Rosie Lawrance 1), Marie Godenir 0, Milagros Sánchez 7, Rebecca Walters 6. Total: 14 goals.

Umpire: Alex Roldan.

Score La Familia: 2-3, 3-3, 5-3, 7-5.

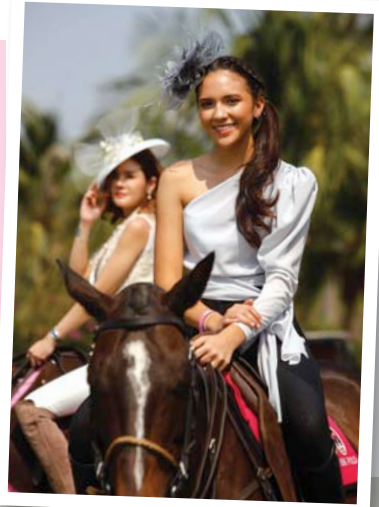
BPP: Facha. Played by Lía Salvo.

MVP Patron: Nurul Noor Ajala.

SUBSIDIARY FINAL THAI POLO 4-3.5 ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

Thai Polo: Anne Krag 0, Tengku Uzira Uzir 1, Milly Hine 6, Clara Cassino 7. Total: 14 goals.

Ethiopian: Victoria Rueda 1, Daryl Yeap 3, Maitena Marre 4, Verónica Magnasco 4. Total: 12 goals.



Photos by Dominic James



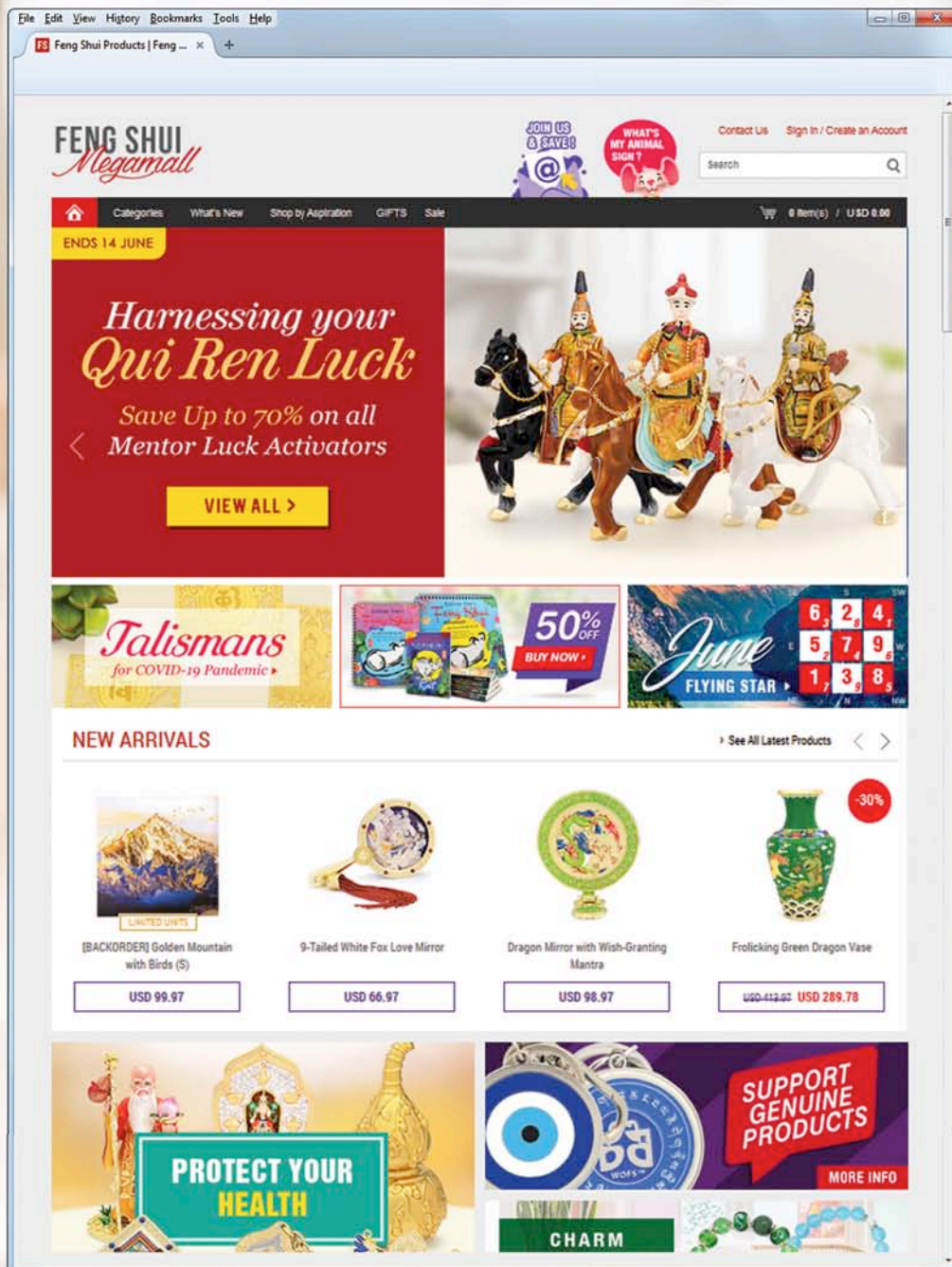


Photos by Thai Polo



Nunthinee Tanner and friends.

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KL ACADEMY OF POLO'S POLO 101 COURSE

Eight riders signed up for KL Academy of Polo's POLO 101 course, a 16-lesson introduction to polo for intermediate and advanced riders. The course ran over two months, from January till the end of February.

Twelve of those POLO 101 lessons were mounted. These included Riding for Polo and Stick and Ball lessons on the field.

Three lessons were on "Woody," the wooden horse, learning the polo strokes. One dismounted lesson was held on Saturday 15th February on the rules of polo, player roles and positioning on the field.

The eight who took the course were:

1. Aisha Sterk
2. Angela Zhang
3. Muhd Asif
4. Maryam Razak
5. Michelle Wakefield
6. Raphael Azman
7. Tunku Abang Mustapha
8. Zoe Scott

Some of these riders have now graduated on to join the Friday Instructional Chukkas.

Michelle Wakefield said, 'Polo 101 course delivered all the basics plus more. I'm so excited and grateful on the next phase participating in FRIC. This is the perfect platform to learn from highly successful players in the rules and developing the tactical sense of team strategy.'

The POLO 101 lessons are conducted on KL Academy of Polo's specially imported Argentine polo ponies. It is taught by triple SEA Games gold medallist and Level 1 instructor, Peter Abisheganaden. Guest instructors are Charlie Wood and Rashid Hasnan.

THE FRICSTERS

POLO 101 led onto FRIC - Friday Instructional Chukkas. As the better beginners started hitting,

little scrimmages were played: 1 on 1 and 2 on 2 games. Eventually, KL Academy of Polo got permission from the club and started an official practice.

On Friday 28th February, six new players took to the #2 field for the first day of Friday Instructional Chukkas (FRIC). They were coached by Peter Abisheganaden and Rashid Hasnan, who each helmed a team.



These newbies, dubbed the FRICsters, were:

1. Aisha Sterk
2. Hritvik Chigurupati
3. Michelle Wakefield
4. Nik Aryssa Ghani
5. Raphael Azman
6. Terese Vikse

Other members loved the idea of instructional chukkas and the ranks of FRICsters has grown, with Thulasy Suppiah, Noreen Jelani and Isabelle Sayeed joining the group.

Norwegian show jumper Terese



Vikse had this to say about FRIC: 'I immediately thought it was great idea and jumped at the chance to join. We had a lot of fun and learnt plenty during the first FRIC session. It was less scary than I imagined so will look forward to joining as many as I can. A fantastic way to practice what we learn in the lessons and theory with others at the same level - and also an opportunity to make new RSPC friends!'

'FRIC is a really good experience that I think anyone who aspires to be a polo player should take. It's a thrilling experience that I am really grateful to have. Playing with people at my level allows me to learn and grow as a player.'
~ Nik Aryssa Ghani.

FRIC will be held every Friday that the field is available and open. A number of guest instructors will do the FRIC coaching. In addition to KL Academy of Polo's coaching director, Charlie Wood, MD Peter Abisheganaden we will also have, on occasion, the Polo Captain Shaik Reismann, Agustin Andrada, Rashid Hasnan, Samsuri Ismail and other visiting professionals. ■



VISIT BY CHARLIE WOOD

International polo coach Charlie Wood visited the KL Academy of Polo at the Royal Selangor Polo Club in January. He spent three days coaching students enrolled in KL Academy of Polo's POLO 101 course, and playing polo at the club.

Charlie has taught polo at the Ham Polo Club in UK, at his own polo school in Christchurch, NZ, and has also taught in Canada, Iran and Nigeria. Here are some photos of a great three-day visit.

Charlie has signed a contract to take up the position of Coaching Director of KL Academy of

Polo. He will come as soon as the Covid-19 lockdown permits.

CHARLIE WOOD

Charlie is from Christchurch, New Zealand. He holds a 3-goal outdoor handicap. Importantly, Charlie is a Hurlingham Polo Association certified instructor, the only such instructor based in Asia.

Charlie spent eight years in England, where he was coaching at Ham Polo Club in London. He also rose to become Head Coach and assistant polo manager of the club. In addition to his home country of New Zealand where he runs the Christchurch Polo Club and his



Charlie Wood

own polo school, Charlie has also coached and played successfully in Canada, Iran, Nigeria and Malaysia.

For KL Academy of Polo, Charlie will handle polo coaching, training of local polo coaches, schooling and playing of ponies, and is available to play tournaments professionally. ■

RESUMING TRAINING & COMPETITION

OUR FIRST EQUESTRIAN EVENT ON JUNE 14, 2020

by Lorraine Bottreau

We understand the desire from members to return to group activities and competitions as soon as possible. As restrictions were eased by the government for outdoor non-contact sports in Malaysia in June 2020, the Riding School and KLAP organised the first Equestrian Training Event on 14th June 2020.

Respecting social distancing, the event started early on a lovely Sunday morning. It was incredible to see the smiling faces of the arena crew, the officials, the competitors, the grooms and the guests, all hiding their smiles behind protective masks and waving at each other keeping the required distance after months of lockdown and restricted movement meant all riding activities were cancelled.

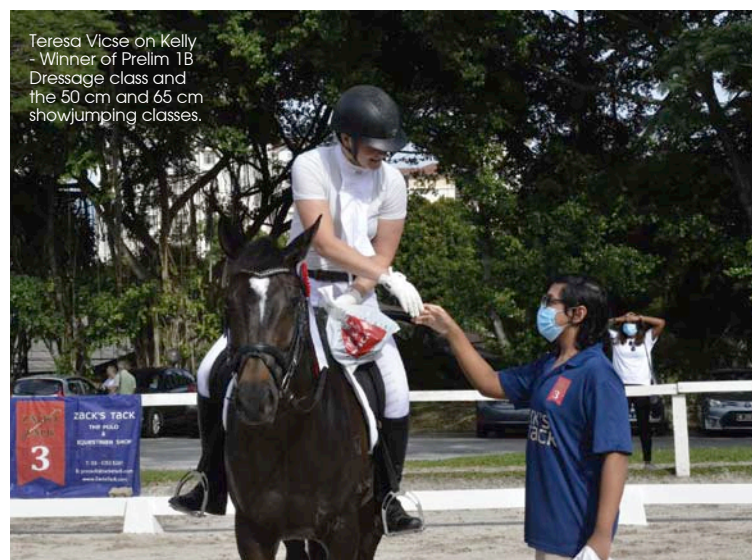
It was a "soft" start to our regular monthly equestrian activities.

The Riding School and KLAP are committed to ensuring the health and safety of our members and community. We continue to remain engaged with all levels of government and Management of RSPC directives for the COVID-19 situation and how it translates to our equestrian activities. We thank all our members for their cooperation during these difficult times and abiding to our precautionary health and control protocols put in place for this show.

We congratulate the winners and participants.

Main Class in Dressage Preliminary 1B: 1- Teresa Vikse riding Kelly, 2 -Deborah Henry riding Consagrado, 3- Julian Lancia riding Ethan and 4 -Ernee Zolkafle riding Cherry

Main Jumping Class 85 Cm winner Clara Sergeraert riding Consagrado (the pair were also second in the 65 cm Class, won by Teresa Vikse riding Kelly)



Teresa Vikse on Kelly
- Winner of Prelim 1B
Dressage class and
the 50 cm and 65 cm
showjumping classes.

Deborah on Consagrado
concentrating and into a
well-ridden corner with a
great test that fell short of
¼ percentage for a winner,
although she was happy
with her ribbon for runner up.
"If only I hadn't made that
error at the end..."



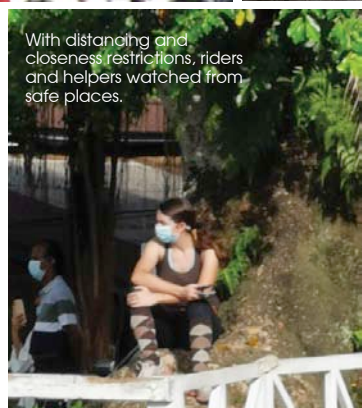
Julian concentrating on his performance



Clara jumping Consagrado
Winners of the 85cm
Showjumping Class



Plaiting Consagrado for
both the Dressage and
Showjumping classes



With distancing and
closeness restrictions, riders
and helpers watched from
safe places.



Anna jumping Diabolo

Rewind to Christmas Show December 2019

In view of the hiatus due to the Lockdown and Movement restriction, our only other Equestrian Show was the Christmas Show in December. Here are some images of a closer together event! ■



Prizewinner Bianca riding
Cherry in the Dressage



Spectators



Diabolo jumping

Deborah Henry

Most Improved Equestrian Rider

(June 2019 - June 2020) | By Lorraine Bottreau

Developing a passion for riding, former model and beauty queen Miss Malaysia World 2007 - Miss Malaysia Universe 2011, World Vision Child's Rights Advocate, and co-founder of Fugee School Deborah Henry showed us that her expertise on the catwalk can be transported to the Dressage arena! In only her second dressage show since she started riding and for the first time in a test with canter requirement, which she only recently mastered in the safety of the enclosed arena, is proof of her determination and resolve to succeed in all realms she sets her mind to. Aboard the riding school horse Consagrado, the pair placed second. A particularly good debut indeed!

Every summer we feature an equestrian rider that has shown the most improvement in the last 12 months, and considering that the sport was at a standstill for three months, this is a comeback in style. We wish Deborah Henry a continuous climb in the equestrian achievements ladder, and hope to see her strutting her stuff not only in the dressage arena but maybe soon in the Show Jumping ring as well! ■



Riding the EA Prep Test on Cabana in Dec 2019



Riding the Dressage EA Prelim 1B Test on Consagrado in June 2020



Deborah Henry with coaches Deborah and Lorraine Bottreau after the prize-giving.

Pictures by Klap and Rider Fans

SUPA SOY PELLETS

Supa Soy Pellets are a scientifically formulated Super Fibre Pellet suitable for all types of horses. They have no additives and are 100% Soybean Hull from human grade soy beans. This product is a highly digestible fibre with a low glycaemic index, meeting energy requirements yet reducing diet-related digestive issues.

Its low starch content makes it ideal to feed all types of horses and will improve digestive health by being readily fermented in the hindgut, producing volatile fatty acids which provide a steady stream of slow release energy.

Effective for superior coat gloss and assisting muscle tone and repair.

Always introduce into your horse's diet gradually.

Designed to be soaked before feeding and to be ready in 5 minutes it will expand in volume – 1kg dry weight of Supa Soy soaked in warm water will expand to double its weight.

As a forage (roughage) extender or where pastures and grasses are nutritionally poor, this product is a valuable



alternative to help replace portions of the roughage component in the diet. The Equine Micro-Biome (the gut health) has exciting potential in both preventing and treating disease and super fibres look likely to play a more important role in the future of this topic in equine nutrition and potentially improving horse health in the future. ■

INTERN: JULIAN LANCIA

KL Academy of Polo @ RSPC has taken on an intern for the summer. Julian Ashby Lancia, who turned 13 years old in March, is interning at KL Academy of Polo, in exchange for polo lessons. Julian is no stranger to the club, having ridden here since he arrived with his family here three years ago. Both his parents, Alex and Dawn, are teachers at ISKL.

Julian first started riding in Ethiopia, where he was born.

Moving to Kuala Lumpur in 2017, Julian enrolled in dressage and jumping lessons at RSPC.

Expressing an interest in polo lessons before the MCO, and unable to go overseas because of the lockdown, Julian was lucky enough to be accepted as a polo intern at KL Academy this summer.

Julian will resume studies in Grade 8, when ISKL reopens in August. ■



Pictures by Kamnan Baba

Riding for the Disabled Volunteers at RSPC

by Lorraine Bottreau

Riding for the disabled started off with an array of activities in 2019, with what seemed to be an increased number of volunteers and intense training sessions. RDA in RSPC operates with the dedicated passion of enthusiastic volunteers, and the support of the RSPC/KLAP Riding School that loan their horses.

Volunteers are essential in every aspect of RDA and is an extremely rewarding activity. They make a difference carrying out a fulfilling activity that brings so much happiness to children with disabilities, impacting our society and at the same time making friends and being part of a team that enjoys being outdoors and around horses. They are involved in several different activities that support the RDA programme and assist coaches and therapists. Volunteers prepare the equipment and help ensure horses are ready. In each session, a horse is led by a leader volunteer the Lead Walker, and two Side Walkers. Sessions are held after regular riding hours. At times, RDA conducts internationally recognised training for the volunteers.

The Royal Selangor Polo Club thanks all the volunteers that help make a difference in the life of these children and their leaders that guide them through these therapies with horses. ■



POLO TRIVIA



The tradition of wearing white pants dates back to the nineteenth century when Indian royals played in the heat, hence the preference for fabrics that were light in colour and weight.

Special Rider Programme

It is quite factful to say that being involved in therapeutic horse riding may improve rider's social participation in home, school, and community settings.

Our Freelance Coach Lorraine Bottreau has set out to enhance the development of young persons with disabilities with skill development in equestrian sport. This program is part of a systematic approach that takes into consideration not the disability but the ability of the learner. The focus is not on what the learner cannot do or his/her impairment, but what he/she can do.

These riders are benefiting tremendously from joining mainstream riding. Discovering their hidden abilities not only puts a smile of achievement on their faces but prepares them for the other activities such as learning, studying and socializing. Self-confidence is a great booster and horse riding taken in a progressive, safe, goal-setting manner, at each rider's pace, does just that.

Some riders with slight disabilities after experiencing the enjoyment of a short RDA session can take on full riding sessions catered for them. This is an integrated program for riders with either a disability, or experiencing trauma from a previous bad experience, or a keen rider that wishes to add a motor skill or become a leader in a riding session for persons with disabilities.

Horse riding is a non-weight-bearing activity which develops physical benefits. The three-dimensional movement of the horse that is transmitted through the rider's body softens their joints and makes them more supple and relaxed, helping stability and core balance, reducing spasms and allowing for better posture and coordination. The exercise of stretching, trotting and guiding is part of the lesson content that has recreational and psychological benefits and a sense of bonding with



Mariam and Cabana



Team session in progress



Muhammad on the lunge

their partner "the horse". The after-riding care of the horse and giving them carrots seems to be as important as the riding session itself.

Riders with congenital disabilities discover a sense of freedom in the movement. They feel they are doing something often denied elsewhere and this sense of achievement is greatly beneficial both physically and emotionally. Enjoyment during the lessons is paramount - they improve balance, posture, confidence, self-esteem while having fun! The

exhilaration when they achieve the rising trot is awesome, and the satisfaction of simply controlling the horse in circles, keeping a straight line, walking to trot or trotting to walk and halt, helping their fellow riders by leading their horse as well... it is the participative activity of riding together on the horse, leading the horse, developing these communication skills with their friends, the horse and their coach, and the discovery of what they can do while forgetting for a while what they cannot do. ■

Giving New Hope for the Special Needs Children

by Dato Malek Jeremiah

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Malaysia has been busy through the year, with RDA rides held three times a week. The RDA is a voluntary, non-profit making organization providing opportunities for children and young adults with various disabilities. Any school wishing to participate in the programme should apply through the main coordinator at the Royal Selangor Polo Club, who aids and oversees all six branches through Malaysia, and is also

the main organiser for competitions, further training, fundraising and future development.

RDA Malaysia is a member of the governing body The Federation of the Riding for the Disabled International, and aims to raise awareness. RDA Malaysia was registered as a charitable organisation in October 1994 under its Royal Patron YAM Raja Dato Seri Azureen Sultan Azlan Shah. Horse-riding has been known to be a beneficial form of therapy in achieving

a positive state of independence and worth, while improving physical and mental state in both children and adults.

Presently, RDA Malaysia has six active branches:

1. The Royal Selangor Polo Club
2. Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort
3. Perak Turf Club & Equestrian Centre
4. Penang Turf Club
5. Malaysian Armed Forces
6. Equestrian Centre

RDA Malaysia is always looking for volunteers to help differently-abled children in getting the therapy they need, for FREE. Training will be given. No experience is needed. Only your time, energy and smile. Please contact the RDA Office at the RSPC for more info. ■

SPECIAL CHILDREN CELEBRATION



Mr. Muthusamy, Johari Le, Mr Mike, Mrs. Noor, Y.T.M Raja Dato' Seri Azureen Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah, Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Rahman.



Y.T.M Raja Dato' Seri Azureen Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah greeting one of RDA riders.



RDA Committee Members with parents, riders and carers.

HARI RAYA CELEBRATION



Colouring activity with riders and carers during Hari Raya celebrations



Y.T.M Raja Dato' Seri Azureen Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah giving out duit raya to rider.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Rahman (center), Mr. Muthusamy (right) with RDA Committee Members.



SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE



From right: Ms. Susan and Mr. Muthusamy with participants.

RDA CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



From right: Ms Susan Ng, Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Rahman (RDA Chairman), Y. Bhg. Hannah Yeoh (Deputy Minister of Women), Dato' Michael Suet Yin Jeow



Tan Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman, Dato Seri Dino, YB Hannah Yeoh, YB Dato Md. Roshdie.



RDA Committee Members, riders, parents and carers.

COURSE FOR VOLUNTEER (HOW TO HANDLE BLIND RIDERS) BY MDM KAREN ASPRAY, AUSTRALIA



Madam Karen Aspray briefing volunteers on how to handle blind riders

RDA RIDERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



From right: Mr Johari Le, Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Rahman, Y. I. M. Raja Dato' Seri Azureen Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah, Sara (rider), Sara's mother, Ms Susan.

PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS FROM MEDAN, INDONESIA & THE RDA GYMKHANA



From right: Ms. Akma (from National University of Malaysia, UKM clinician) with students from Medan, Indonesia.

GYMKHANA



From left, Mr. Mike, rider, volunteer, volunteer



Volunteers helping out the Shaun during Gymkhana

RDA ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

MOU BETWEEN RDA MALAYSIA AND UPM



From right: Mr Muthusamy, Ms Susan, Dr. Kamal, Ms Noor, with students and riders from the RDA.



Culinary Delights

by Chef Johnny

AT THE 1902 KITCHEN AT RSPC



The RSPC Signature
Nasi Lemak.



Text by Thulasy Suppiah;
Photos by Lorraine Bottreau and Emil Teo

The age of COVID-19 brings with it new rules of social engagement and outdoor dining etiquette - but that has not stopped our Clubhouse kitchen from getting right back into action as soon as the MCO rules were relaxed. Chef Johnny is back and the 1902 kitchen is his domain. If you are in need

of respite from your daily routine, a meal overlooking our field and track with the occasional horse-and-rider trotting by at an idyllic pace, drop in. As our House Member, Stanley Sinappen would say: "Come support your club! Food is good, safe distancing between tables and a green landscape to go with your meal."

'1902 serves breakfast, lunch and dinner - all your usual favourites from

Malaysian classics such as Nasi Lemak and Fried Beehoon to Chef Johnny's variation and localised takes on a European breakfast favourite – Eggs Benedict.

Or if you're watching your calorie-intake and in need of lighter meal, try one of 1902's sandwiches with a filling of your choice and made with Chef Johnny's own homemade baked breads, or an omelette or scrambled eggs made to order.



“Congrats on the homemade bread at the club. It is very good. And the current chef makes perfect poached eggs.”

~ Camilla Sugden



Eggs Royale over house beetroot cured salmon

TAKE AWAY AVAILABLE!

The 1902 kitchen has been trying to revive its services and can only do so with the help of its members. In its efforts to do so, it has introduced take-away roasts that are made to order. Choose your protein and select from a number of sides to go with it. The Chef is also happy to cater to private functions at the club or organise larger

take-outs for a party you might be planning at home.

Our prices will be reasonable and the 1902 staff are only too happy to be back in the thick of action after a 2-month long shutdown and don't forget to follow 1902's updates on Instagram and Facebook @royalselangorpoloclub. ■



“Our kitchen has outdone itself. You must try our new chef's team's delights.”

~ Lorraine Bottreau



Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME

By Peter Abisheganadan

*The **Royal Tour of Chitral** and the **Shandur Polo Festival** really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, made more so because some of my dearest friends were with me on this tour.*

Asad Jumabhoy, his wife **Feryal** and two of his children, **Ali** and **Sara**, were there. Asad's brother **Iqbal Jumabhoy** also flew in for this tour. I've known the Jumabhoy's since the 70's and they were the family that really got me started into polo. I have ridden on many teams with them, not just in polo teams but also in show jumping, dressage and eventing teams. I rode in two Inter Pacific Exchanges, the first in New Zealand with Iqbal and the second in Western Australia with Asad. My 1995 SEA Games gold medal

teammate **Sumana Rajarethnam** confirmed early that he would join us on this trip, even though he doesn't play polo anymore. He was based in Toronto a few years ago. When he went to Canada, I introduced him to my best friend and housemate from my university days at the University of Western Ontario. He became good friends with **Stew Taylor**.

Imagine my surprise when I got a message from Stew to say he had read about the tour on my timeline and asked if he could come along. He said he had toured Pakistan once before, and considered he had 'unfinished

business' with Pakistan as there were areas he had been denied access to during his first trip, that we were going to this time. I hadn't seen Stew in 35 years, so this was quite the reunion.

John and Lyndie Fischer are great friends that I have had the pleasure of doing quite a bit with over the last few years. John assisted me greatly as Chief Steward when I was Tournament Director of the FIP Snow Polo and Super Nations Cup series in Tianjin, China. I was able to return the favour when John TD'ed the 2017 South East Asian Games Polo in Malaysia and the 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

Camilla Sugden signed up very early for this trip. She had been to Shandur before, and was looking forward to going again, this time for the polo festival. She was joined by a good friend of hers, **Caroline Townsend**.

Qubilai Alam and his lovely wife **HRH Princess Zainab** put this whole tour together. Qubilai has played in Malaysia, and did some professional umpiring and stewarding at the FIP Snow Polo in China and in our leagues in Malaysia. He is also coach of the Pakistan national team.

Princess Zainab is the daughter of HRH Prince Siraj Ulmulk, the hereditary ruler of Chitral. I've had the pleasure of meeting HRH Prince Siraj a couple of times, in Malaysia, with his enchanting wife, Ghazala. Prince Siraj regaled us with tales of when he played for the famous Pakistan Airlines Polo Team in the 70's and 80's.

ISLAMABAD TO CHITRAL

The journey began the day before we left Kuala Lumpur, when John and Lyndie Fischer arrived in Kuala Lumpur. We celebrated my eldest son Zack's birthday with an Italian dinner at Porto Romano in Taman Tun Dr Ismail. The next evening, we grabbed to KLIA and got on Qatar Airlines QR849 to Doha. We had three hours to wait in transit there and had a nice Chardonnay before catching QR914 to Islamabad.

Camilla Sugden and Caroline Townsend joined us on that flight. The entire journey from KL to Islamabad took 14 hours. It would have been a

lot faster, and better, had Thai Airlines not stopped their service to Islamabad via Bangkok!

Going through Pakistani immigration and customs was a breeze. The tour organizer Shah Qubilai Alam was at the airport to meet us. As it was very hot, around 40° c, we bundled our luggage into the awaiting cars and sped off as soon as we could.

Our first day was spent in the comfort of a boutique hotel called Serai. It had a lovely lounge and rooftop, which we enjoyed in the cooler evening. Asad Jumabhoy and family, and his brother Iqbal joined up with us later that day, which was spent sampling their wonderful local cuisine. For me, it was a real pleasure catching up with Stew Taylor, my college housemate, that I hadn't seen in over 30 years.

There were so many highlights the next day. The flight to Chitral done in a propellered ATR, through the mountains, was spectacular. At 4,900 ft up in the mountains, we had to fly through the ranges to get there. Our descent and landing at Chitral was expertly handled despite a 30 km/hr crosswind.

Prince Siraj came to Chitral airport to meet us. Then it was a quick drive up to his Hindukush Heights Hotel. Overlooking the valley, the view from

his hotel was spectacular.

Once we were checked in, there was time for tea before heading off to try to see the Makhor species of mountain goats. These Makhor are so valued that a hunting license for one of them costs US\$100,000, not that any of us wanted hunt them, just shoot them with our lens. We drove to a bend in the Garam Chasma River (which means hot springs river) and there they were. We tracked a family of three for about an hour.

Then it was to Prince Siraj's dam, which he built to power the Hindukush, for pre-dinner drinks. On the patio we could see the confluence of the Garam Chasma and Mastuj rivers.

Dinner was back at the hotel. It was a wonderful dinner with biryani and many meat specialties. Because I had requested for a Pescatarian diet, they had a fish for me. Prince Siraj and Ghazala hosted after-dinner drinks at their house a few meters from the hotel.

DAY 2: GOL NATIONAL PARK & BUZKASHI

The second day started with a visit to Chitral Fort. We saw the cannons and guns used to protect the land by the Mehtar of Chitral, Prince Siraj's ancestors. Chitral was a land of its own, that only joined Pakistan upon ►





Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo



separation from India. Till then, it had been a Princely State that fell within the confines of the British Empire. The visit to Chitral's museum showed us more of its cultural heritage, with musical instruments, saddlery, mixed in with the less cultural swords and guns.

After that, we took the 4WD vehicles to their limit as we climbed to 9,650 feet up, to visit Gol National Park. The drive was as scenic as it was dizzying. Definitely not for the faint of heart. We could see the snow-capped mountains of Pakistan and Afghanistan around us.

Lunch was a beautiful picnic at the top. **Natasha Qizilbash**, a renowned Foodie who uses the Instagram handle

if.natcancook, handled all eating arrangements for the tour, something we can tell you was quite spectacular. The drive down was as exciting an event as I have ever been on. The roads are so narrow that when we met an on-coming car, we always had to find a suitable place to pass. Some of the switchbacks had to be done as three-point turns. You never wanted to contemplate what would happen if you went off the road down a mountain ravine.

We made it safely back to Chitral; though at 5,000 feet, we were still a long way up.

We went straight to a Buzkashi game that Qubilai had organised for us to watch. It was to be played on the Chitral Polo Ground. The villagers had heard about the game and the whole village turned out to watch it. If you have reservations about Buzkashi, stop reading here!

Played with a headless carcass of a goat, it is a traditional Central Asian game. It isn't really a Pakistani game, but the Afghans here play it.

The Afghan players and their horses were very good practitioners of Buzkashi. The game itself is brutal with players happy to flog each other with their whips. They work as a team and while blocking is a tactic, I saw them sometimes also whip their teammates' horses into action.

There was an incident when a player came charging through and in lowering the carcass to score, the horse stumbled over it and fell. The horse rolled but the rider was pinned under it. It couldn't stand up without treading on its rider, so it lay still till the rider was pulled out. Such is the bond between horses and riders here. We were allowed to play if we wanted, but the state of the ground combined with the fall we saw put us off. It was not a novice game that we could try our hand at.

They played a second chukka and when it was over, the winner made off with the goat. He threw it up on the wall, clambered up and raised his fist in triumph. Then he jumped down the other side and made off with the suitably tenderized goat to feed his tribe.

MASTUJ AND SHANDUR TOP

Day 3 saw the tour head to Mastuj. We followed the river for 150 km from Chitral to Mastuj, climbing to 9,000 feet above sea level. The drive was full of spectacular scenery. Ravines, gorges, snow-capped mountains, running streams and always the Mighty Mastuj racing down.

Along the way, we stopped for a very nice lunch at Khoragh. We sat in the garden and enjoyed a beautiful

local meal of chicken, beans, and vegetable and fish cutlets.

The roads were challenging, so when we finally got to Mastuj, it was a relief to find Prince Siraj's six villas, and luxury tents waiting for us in a beautiful garden by Mastuj Fort. It was a happy hour in a picturesque garden setting.

The Minister of Sport and Tourism **His Excellency Muhammad Atiff Khan** joined us that night, for dinner. Dinner was a roast turkey, with an Arrabiata pasta and some local breads. The next morning, we set off very early for Shandur. It was a three-hour drive taking us up another 3,000 ft up to the roof of the polo world. The roads were slightly better than the roads from Chitral to Mastuj.

We got to **Shandur Top** at 11 in the morning. At 12,500 feet up, Shandur Top is the highest polo field in the world. It is breath-taking not only because of the magnificent views, but also because the air is rare. Many of us found ourselves gasping for air if we did any exercise.

Shandur Top was teeming with thousands of people who had gathered there for this polo festival. A whole festival village of tents had risen on the side of the hill - this village that springs up every year for just three-days during the Shandur Polo Festival. There was trade in everything from jewellery, sunglasses and clothes to live chickens, fruit and other produce.

Below them, the army had camped by the polo ground. They had five helicopter landing pads. Security was tight as a visit by Prime Minister **Imran Khan** was expected to Shandur for the big game. We had our own camp at Prince Siraj's campsite just beyond the Shandur Top field.

In the afternoon we watched our first freestyle polo match. It was the match between the Chitral and Gilgit B teams. For the record, Chitral B won the match 9-5.

LONG & NARROW

It was interesting to observe the differences between freestyle mountain polo and modern polo. The field is 220 x 60 yards, so while

it is quite long, it is very narrow. Goal posts are set only 4 yards apart.

Six-a-side, this polo is much more of a team game. There is almost none of the tiki-tiki type polo of one player carrying the ball.

With no umpires, there is a total absence of appealing. It doesn't cross their minds to raise their sticks as it is pointless - they just get on with the game and go to the next play. As with modern polo, anticipation is everything. In mountain polo, there are no whistles, no hit-ins, no penalties. It is non-stop action.

If the ball goes out of play, it is immediately thrown back in, either by the crowd if it goes over the sides, or by the goal judges, if it goes over a back line. If a goal is scored, the ball is given to the scoring team. A player carries it to the centre line. Before he crosses the line, he must throw the ball in the air and hit it or hit at it. This is called a 'tumbuk' and is used to restart the game after a goal.

It is all action for the full duration of each of the 25-minute chukkas. While it was clear that some horses tired, none were flogged on. While it was frenetic action all the time, it isn't as fast paced a game as we play. There isn't much galloping.

NO 'RIGHT OF WAY'

Having said that, it isn't slow polo either. With no line or right of way,

there is almost no stopping on the line that we see in 'modern polo'. Instead, we get a fast-flowing free-form polo unrestricted by lines. While there is no right of way, might is right and a player galloping hard at the ball is hardly ever hit at a bad angle.

Without a player 'on-the-line' having a right of way, the mountain game is played with strategic interceptions. Defenders prefer to meet the ball, placing themselves where they could best intercept a pass, rather than turning onto the 'line'. As the field is only 56 meters wide, they spread themselves to cover the width. With no rules on hooking, the hooks come in from everywhere. High, low, behind your back, across the legs, anything that works. There is no anger when a player is 'foul-hooked' - they just get on with the game.

NO BLOCKING

Interestingly enough, there was none of the blocking we get in our so-called modern polo. If a player was in front of a hitter, he was not really doing much worthwhile. Players would only hit and hardly ever tapped the ball. This meant the blocker was out of position for a bump or a hook to spoil the shot. It was great to see a game without blocking.

Like the modern game, horsepower plays a major role. The Chitrali team was lamenting their lack of funds to ►





Photos by Malaysian Polo @malaysianpolo

buy new horses, while the Gilgit team, with state support, had bought a new string of taller horses.

Some players had helmets and modern polo mallets, but just as many preferred to use their Shandur-made mallets. I've never seen to many broken mallets in a game before. Players would have their stick-man run onto the field to hand them another mallet.

You could tell which players also played conventional polo. They were the ones who tried to tap round a turn or check and go inside other players. It didn't always work.

Mountain Polo is a different breed of polo. It is certainly a forerunner to the modern game. As a tournament director and umpire, it was refreshing to see it played. In modern polo, we make rules based on safety and danger. Many of these are a modern construct that work in theory. Watching polo in Shandur has made me see that some of these theories do not work in practice.

THE BIG MATCH

The day of Shandur Polo Festival's big match began early. Everyone was up early, possibly because it had been a cold night for camping. The

temperature got down to about 2 centigrade.

Breakfast was at 6:00 a.m. because we had a big day ahead. Again, Natasha Qizilbash and the Hindukush Heights Hotel crew were outstanding, with a hearty breakfast of sausages, eggs, cheeses, and some local fare as well.

We got to meet Prince Sikander before the match when he visited our campsite. I presented him with an RSPC polo shirt.

There had been some politics before the game. The District Commissioner had tried to get Prince Sikander removed from the team for personal reasons. It wasn't his call to make, as a selection committee had already named the teams. Instead, it was the District Commissioner who was himself removed. There is 'Polo-tics' everywhere, even in Pakistan's freestyle polo.

As soon as breakfast was over, we broke camp and loaded the 4WDs. Thousands more people had arrived in Shandur

overnight for the big match. It was teeming with people.

With as many as 20,000 people touted as the attendance, it was packed to the rafters. Prime Minister Imran Khan was supposed to come but didn't make it. With the Corp Commander of 11 Corp, Gen. Mazhar Shaeen and many ministers there, security was tight.

We fought our way through the tent village to the grandstand, where Prince Siraj had arranged a row of seats



for us in the VIP area. It would have been impossible to have had such a good view of the game, if not for the special arrangements made for our tour.

By 8 a.m., the festivities started, first with traditional dancers, music, bagpipers and military bands. There were paragliders and parachuters falling from high altitude. There was a very nice flag dance done by school children before the start of the game, creating a huge Pakistan flag out of many individual pieces.

The Gilgit-Baltistan team arrived first and headed to their side of the field. A huge cheer went up when the favourites Chitral finally made their entrance.

The game started fast and furious. This was the big one. Nothing that had gone on in the days before counted.

Chitral started the quicker and had Gilgit under pressure with their aggressive passing game. Chitral had three decent chances, but it was Gilgit who broke away on a counterattack and scored first. Chitral didn't waste many chances after that and poured

it on. When Prince Sikander scored to give them the lead, the crowd went wild.

By half-time, Chitral was looking comfortable with a 5-2 lead. But one of the Gilgit players was injured and could not continue. The traditional rule is that when one team is down a player, the opposing team should have a player step down. Even though he was captain of Chitral, Prince Sikander magnanimously stepped down to level the players on both sides. All the spectators appreciated his gesture, knowing it might be the last they saw of this Shandur legend.

His absence gave hope to Gilgit. They pressed hard in the middle of the second chukka and finally drew level. With only a couple of minutes remaining, and extra time looming, Chitral went ahead again with their only score of the second half. Chitral held on for a hard fought and nerve-racking 6-5 win.

As soon as it was over, we made a mad dash for our cars. With 20,000 people headed down the one-lane track, we wanted to be one of the first

cars going down the hill and not stuck behind traffic. It was a good move. We made it down to Mastuj in just under three hours.

Back at our base camp, there was plenty of time at Mastuj Fort to reflect on what a great tournament and what a fantastic game we had seen.

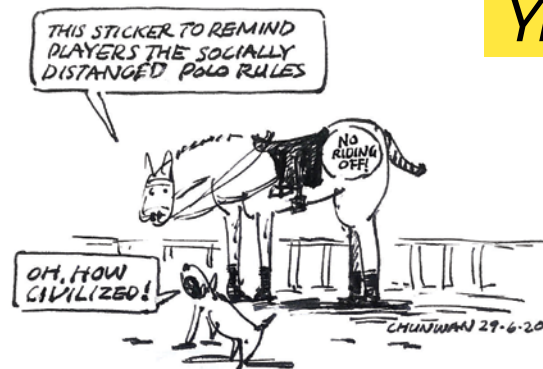
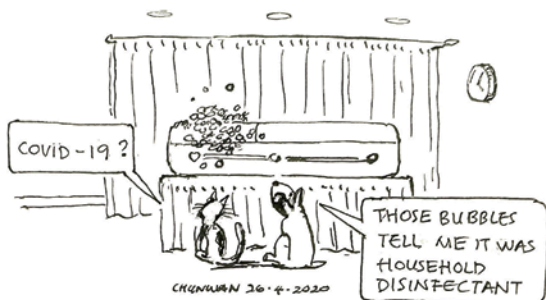
SHANDUR HOPE

The aftermath of Shandur was incredible. I was on a high for days. This was a trip that will stay with us for life. The events we witnessed, the sights we have seen, the old friendships renewed and new friendships made, all lifted us to a higher plane. It is what we live for.

Within it all, we have seen polo played in its purest, oldest form. It is a game played without rules, yet a game that, while lawless, requires both teams to play with a respect for their opponents, and their horses. It is a game with its origins in conflict and war, yet played with the power to heal. Played with one horse - one man. Tribal polo.

We are but one tribe. ■

I have been with this esteemed club, riding horses and playing polo since the early 80s. But nowadays, whenever my work schedule allows, I have fun drawing social and political satirical cartoons. By the way, the protagonists in my cartoons are the dog and cat from my handmade pet soap and oils label, Zenbar. What better way to tell a story through the eyes of a cat and a dog!



YES

I am honored to have my cartoon featured in RSPC Mag. And may many more cartoons be on its way! Thank you and let's chukka! ■



A GRIP AHEAD



ZT TECHNICAL
POLO JEANS
WITH
SILICONE
GRIP STRIPS

ONLY AT

