

Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst – Heritage Polo Cup

# South Americans succeed at Sandhurst

Six nations, players and umpires from 11 different countries and four days of play formed this year's Heritage Polo Cup, hosted by Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) Polo Club, writes *Elisabeth Gansterer*. Qualifying games were, for the first time, played at Coworth Park, with the subsidiary final and final played on the Round Ground at RMAS.

Dressed in traditional outfits of shirts and ties, supplied by TM Lewin, India – featuring four-goal brothers Manupal and Dhruvpal Godara from Bombay – took on last year's winners, EFG International British Army Officers, in the first game on finals day for the third and fourth place play-off.

Despite the heavy rain, India secured a 9-6½ win over the British Army Officers, which featured OCdt Cameron Bacon, who is



The winning South American side of Raphael Singh, Steve Rigby, Matias Amaya and Tomas Iriarte. now in his intermediate term at the academy. Unfortunately the game was marred by a broken leg to one of Bacon's ponies, which had to be put down, delaying play by an hour. Pololine.com South America remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, mainly

due to excellent play by four-goalers Matias Amaya and Tomas Iriarte. They faced a strong eight-goal Luxembourg team, sponsored by Hunters Guildford Land Rover, in the final. Despite the latter looking like the stronger team on paper, South America proved too good, winning 8½-5

One-goaler Raphael Singh, playing for the winning side, was named most valuable player. The best playing pony prize, a rawhide head collar decorated with fresh flowers – a tradition of the tournament – went to Cheeky played by Tomas Iriarte. Following the final, the Four Nations Invitational Polo Team beat the Ladies of the British Empire, 6-0, in the Ladies Exhibition Match. RMAS polo manager Barbara Zingg umpired in side saddle, while the ladies wore traditional, yet fashionable, attire during the game.

Photograph by Tony Ramirez

New York, USA – Monty Waterbury Cup

# High-scoring Biddle beaten by White Birch in Waterbury Cup

White Birch defeated Heathcote 16-8 in the final of the Monty Waterbury Cup at Bridgehampton Polo Club in the Hamptons, USA. Starting on 23 July, the 20-goal tournament concluded in a hard fought final on Saturday 13 August, writes *Alex Webbe*.



Photograph by Alex Pacheco

White Birch patron Peter Brant rides clear of Nico Taverna during his side's Monty Waterbury Cup win

The 17-goal Heathcote team, featuring the tournament's highest scorer Tommy Biddle, came up against a strong 20-goal White Birch team, so received a three-goal handicap advantage at the start of the game.

Heathcote managed to retain their lead in the first two chukkas but Peter Brant's White Birch flexed their muscles and, with goals from Fred Mannix and Marianno Gracida, White Birch moved one-goal ahead at half time, 6-5.

There was little in it during the fourth and fifth chukkas, with Heathcote only trailing by one goal. However, all of a sudden in the second half of the fifth chukka, White Birch broke away scoring three goals to Heathcote's none.

With Heathcote failing to get another goal on the scoreboard, a pair of goals by Mariano Aguerre in the final chukka and two more by Gracida and Mannix, secured a comfortable win for White Birch.

"We played them hard throughout most of the game and only trailed by a single goal at half time, and again in the fifth," Biddle, who was part of the winning team in 2009 and 2010, said. "We've had a good season and there is no shame in losing to a team like White Birch."

West Wycombe Park – Sponsors' Weekend



Verity Roberts with Victoria and Nicki Williams Gray

# Sponsors first

West Wycombe Park hosted their Sponsors' Weekend on 13-14 August, at Sir Edward Dashwood's private field, where both days were rounded off with a dip in the lake.

Five games took place on each day, with local companies sponsoring the teams including Amazing Retreats and Causeway Software. Clark Betz's side, Bloodshot, named after his new drinks company, won the 0-goal league.

Member Rebecca Clare celebrated her 20th birthday on the Saturday with friends and her father Mike. As well as dinner and dancing, there was also a live auction. Will Savage, a club member and a contemporary artist, provided pieces for the auction and Greenpoint Polo donated polo lessons.