



Welcome to the PTF Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2016

We hope you enjoy the eleventh issue of the PTF Quarterly Newsletter. Founded in 1967 to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth, the PTF continues this mission through its many projects.

Miguel Torres Memorial

*World Gym Tournament
By Claudia Uretz*

Central Coast Polo Camps

Partially Sponsored by the PTF

By Megan Judge

The Central Coast Polo Club in Los Osos, CA hosted 4 weeks of summer polo camp over the summer, introducing over 24 new kids to polo.

We started with a beginning pony/riding/equestrian camp for kids ages 5-8 years old. It focused on the catching, leading, handling and grooming of the horses. We also worked on developing the 'seat' and teaching the kids about safety, tack, horse care and horse ownership. We did activities like scavenger hunts, follow the leader, grooming equipment challenges and horse painting.

The next week we increased the ages to 7-11 years old. We focused again on safety, equipment, handling, grooming, and then spent more time on riding and developing the beginner polo swing (half swing). We spent time with foot mallets, inside the hitting cage and a lot of time on the horses both in the arena and at the beach!

The following two weeks were focused on intermediate and advanced play. The camps were small, just 4-6 players. This allowed everyone lots of ride time and polo. We focused on game preparation, traveling with horses, team set up, horse maintenance and care. We played competitive field and arena polo for 6 days, and each camp ended with a field or an arena tournament.

We would like to thank Joel Baker for the use of his private field and additional mentorship to the players, and the Santa Barbara Polo Club and Uretz and Torres families for their annual tournament that is a great opportunity for the youth to play together in a fun and competitive tournament.

For the past 7 years Santa Barbara polo club has graciously hosted the Miguel Torres Memorial kids polo tournament.



In 2002 Miguel Torres planned a kids tournament enlisting the help of the Giannico, Uretz and Kronja families allowing kids to play competitive games amongst their peers. This year, PTF joined forces with World Gym Polo, Miguelito Torres, and Blanco Texas Polo to sponsor this summers tournament. Which hosted 34 kids in 4 levels of polo. The levels consisted of lead line (division 1), Canter (division 2), Gallop (division 3) and Gun N Run (division 4). Three of the winning teams consisted of players from Megan Judge's Central Coast Polo summer camp which is also sponsored by PTF.

Having both of these events sponsored by PTF this year, not only allows Kids from the West Coast to experience good polo, but also allows them to qualify for PTF Scholarships and trips abroad .

Mike and Claudia Uretz would like to Thank Danny Scheraga and the Polo Training Foundation board for this years sponsorship.



England Exchange Trip

By Pelham Hardie

I first heard about the Polo Training Foundation's trip to England when my father casually mentioned that he had received an email from the PTF regarding their exchange programs; I immediately looked into it. I was hooked, and promptly sent in an application hoping to be part of this experience. Then came the hardest part of the entire experience, waiting to hear if I had been accepted. When I heard that I was going on the trip, I was ecstatic.

When I read the email chain that was being used to organize the trip I realized that I knew one of the other players on the trip, Tenzin Tognini of Middleburg Virginia. I then asked other players at my local club (the Maryland Polo Club) if they knew the other two players, Clark Mayer and Cory Williams, who were from Texas and California respectively. I soon discovered that no one knew either of them, not really surprising given how far Maryland is from these locations. It was clear this trip was going to introduce me to players from all over the country

The day of our departure from Dulles airport I drove to Middleburg Virginia to meet up with Tenzin. There also happened to be a NYTS tournament in Middleburg on the same day in which both Tenzin and I played. Then, after the match was over, we cleaned up, left for Dulles and boarded the flight to Heathrow airport.



Tognini, Meyer, Hardie and Williams with Gonzalo Pieres, Joe Meyer and Facundo Pieres after King Power won the Gold Cup Final at Cowdray.

We landed seven hours later, around eight in the morning. After clearing customs, surprisingly quickly, Jen picked us up at Heathrow and we met up with the other players and their parents. Next stop was the Cowdray Polo Club to watch the Gold Cup Finals. The match was one of the fastest and finest that we had ever seen. In the end team King Power Foxes, featuring Facundo and Gonzalito Pieres, won the day.

We all had our picture taken with the Pieres brothers, one of my favorite photos from the trip.

It is important to mention that this trip would not have been possible without the help of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA for short). While we were at the gold cup finals we were invited to their tent and watched the game from there, a perfect place to view all the action. Olly Hughes, a leader in the HPA, was a driving force in organizing the entire trip, including the host families.



Pelham Hardie, Cory Williams, Clark Meyer & Tenzin Tognini at Cawdor Castle

After the game was over we had the pleasure of staying the night with the Wiles at their family farm. They generously hosted us at their amazing farm in the country, where we played foot mallets with their son until long after dark. The next morning we hopped in the car and headed to the Bristol Airport to catch a flight to Inverness Scotland. Hard to imagine we had done all this in just one day.

We arrived in Inverness and went promptly to Darnaway Castle. When we first arrived at the house Lord John & Lady Cathy Moray warmly greeted us on their front steps. They then treated us to a tour of their fantastic estate, which included hundreds of years of their family's history. Then we had a lovely dinner and afterwards played soccer with their three energetic boys in the front garden until dark.

The next day we participated in a polo clinic with the local pony club. After we herded the sheep off of the Cawdor's



polo field, we had riding and hitting drills. Later in the day we played chukkars with the Scottish kids in the clinic. We were properly tired, after an entire day of sheep herding and riding. After a rest, we drove up to Loch Ness and that night we were hosted by Alex and Gina Baillie and stayed in Dochfour House, which was around 100 meters away from the loch.

Then, on Wednesday, our fourth day in the country, we played polo at the Scottish club, but unfortunately this lasted only a half day due to rain. Next, we went up into the hills to the Colin & Isabella Cawdor's estate. We arrived there around one o'clock and spent the afternoon watching polo tapes and going swimming in a frigid river. The next day we played chukkars in the pony club clinic and then flew back to Bristol. That night we split up and stayed with two different families. I stayed with Clark at the Jodrell family's house while Cory and Tenzin stayed with the Fuller family. Mr. Jodrell prepared a delicious barbeque for us, which included grilled sausage and lamb. The next morning Jen came to pick us up for our big match against the English team.



Team PTF at the Ascot Races Friday Afternoon courtesy of Richard Frisby

It was time for us to play our match against the English team, and I was very nervous. Thankfully we had been preparing and talking strategy since we had left Inverness. Unfortunately one member of their team could not play so they had a substitute. This set their team back quite a bit. The final score was 6-1 in favor of the United States. Even though the score was a little lopsided they really made us work for each and every goal. I had the opportunity to ride a chestnut mare that was incredibly handy. My next horse was a bay gelding who was quite fast! This was a fantastic match and I am grateful to all of the horse providers, especially Grainne and John Horswell and Charlotte Sweeney as well as the other players for hosting us.

That night we stayed in a lovely hotel directly across from Windsor castle. The next day we traveled to the Windsor Great Park to watch an international polo match. This was an exciting game in which an English team faced off against a team representing the Commonwealth. We ended up talking and hanging out with some of the players from the previous day, which was great fun. That was the last day that both teams were all together because sadly, it was time for most of us to fly home.

This trip was tremendous and I feel so fortunate to have been part of the group. The rest of the team and I would like to thank the PTF and the HPA for this amazing experience. Also I would like to give a special thanks to Jen McLeavy who organized this trip, and also drove us to all of the matches and the homes of the different host families. We would also like to thank all of the host families, without whom this trip would not have been possible.

PTF Career Mentor Program

The PTF Career Mentors is a new program under the Mack Jason Leadership Program at the PTF. The concept is to bring together the PTF Polo Community by creating a venue for College Alum to interact and utilize Polo Connections for career advice, career placement and relocation. The PTF Career Mentors Committee is chaired by Five prominent Polo Mentors from across the USA. These Chairs will help connect College Alum with local Mentors that have expertise in the College Alumni's career

- Western Chair: Lynn Jason Cobb
- Western Vice-Chair: Lynn Thompson
- Southern Chair: Jesse Pruitt
- Hawaii Chair: Raymond Noh
- Eastern Chair: Vicky Collins
- Southeast Chair: Anthony Coppola

If you are interested in participating in this program for further information, you can contact your local Chair directly or contact Jennifer McLeavy : JenniferAnnPoor@yahoo.com

Support the PTF

The support of polo enthusiasts such as yourself is crucial to our mission to help grow polo. The PTF is a 501(C)(3) organization with a current annual operating budget of \$600,000; of this, \$400,000 is funded by yearly tax deductible donations. Your support in any amount will be greatly appreciated by the beneficiaries of our programs.



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PRESORTED STANDARD



POLO COLLEGE FAIR

FALL 2016

THE POLO TRAINING FOUNDATION

Saturday September 24

10AM COLLEGE FAIR

COLLEGE FAIR SHOWCASING THE TOP COLLEGE POLO COACHES

Colorado St., UConn, Cornell, Texas Tech, Texas A&M, UVA, Yale & more

2PM COLLEGE FAIR GAMES

4 CHUKKER GAMES

COUNTRY FARM POLO CLUB

200 BELLPORT AVE. MEDFORD. NY 11763

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER,
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