

from the editor



ABOVE: Lucy Monro at the King's Cup Elephant Polo in Hua Hin, Thailand.



We have reported on, and been privileged to be a part of, many firsts in recent years. But even by the standards to which we have become accustomed this issue is packed full of some remarkable developments within the polo world and from the people linked to it.

Firstly, as we went to press with our previous issue, the exciting news that Adolfo Cambiasso would be returning to Dubai in January came through. The maestro will be accompanied by fellow 10-goaler Pablo MacDonough who played so successfully for Ali Albwardy's Dubai high-goal squad in 2010. Adolfo will play for the UAE in January and Pablo will play for Brunei, a new team to the Nations Cup under the captaincy of Prince Bahar Jefri Bolkiah with whom he played on the Richard Mille high-goal squad in 2010. That the UAE's showcase tournament should boast two 10-goalers for 2012 raises the benchmark for the sport in the country once again. ▶



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Thanks to the commitment of Ali Albwardy, who pioneered the game's development in the UAE, polo in Dubai enjoys a solid international reputation and the sport grows steadily in stature each year in the Emirates enjoying ever increasing support. 2010 has seen the development of yet another 'born in Dubai' project go global - British Polo Day.

Tom Hudson and Ed Olver first launched British Polo Day in Dubai in 2009. A resounding success from the outset, what began as an Eton vs Harrow polo match has grown in just two heady years into an international series. In our last issue we reported from the Lloyd-Webbers' Watership Down estate where the first British edition of the series saw Prince Harry and the Duke of Cambridge in the saddle and in this issue we report from Beijing on the first British Polo Day in China. Next month the team travels to Singapore for the inaugural British Polo Day at Asia's most historic club, that this year celebrates its 125th anniversary, and thereafter the series moves to Jodhpur, India's 'blue city'. Wow! And it all began in Dubai.

Something that didn't actually 'begin' in Dubai, but that is very closely linked to the Emirates is Tim Flach's *Equus* project. It was when Tim was shooting in the UAE for *Equus* that we were first privileged to work with him and to showcase his remarkable imagery. Since 2005 when we first featured one of Tim's images



on our cover we have enjoyed bringing you continual updates from his studio and this issue marks a very special occasion indeed. Tim is now hard at work on his third book project, an ambitious undertaking to explore the symbolism of the complex relationship between Man and animals. Under the working title *More than Human* the project is well underway and we are extremely excited to be able to showcase an exclusive selection of the works in our Portfolio section. *Equus* broke new ground in October when it was published in China in Mandarin, an occasion that coincided with British Polo Day that saw everyone united briefly far from home on the Great Wall.

Another 'almost born in Dubai' phenomenon is Argentine artist Eugenia Laprida's renown. Since moving to the UAE a few years ago Eugenia has established a solid reputation within both the art and polo communities. Her creativity finds yet new level this year with the release of her Desert Polo series that brings an almost 'Warholesque' element to her canvasses. Eugenia is another 'find' that we are proud to showcase regularly and her feature in this issue marks her third Equestrio appearance. ▶

ABOVE: Tom Hudson and the British Exiles enjoy a good read at British Polo Day in Beijing; Tim Edwards and Rinchen Choegyal show impeccable style at the King's Cup.

LEFT: Lucy Monro with Xia Yang, owner and founder of Sunny Times Polo Club in Beijing and (above) with Tim Flach on the Great Wall.



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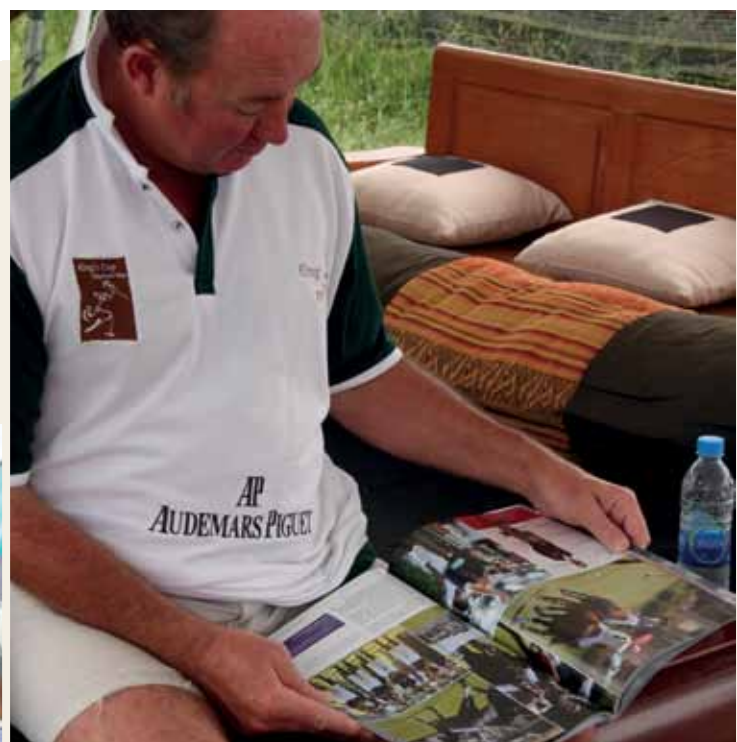
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CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: WEPA Chairman Peter Prentice knows a good read when he sees in Thailand; Lucy Monro with All Blacks Charlie Reichelmann and Robin Brooke and their team captain Colonel Raj Kalaan at the King's Cup; Prince Carl-Eugen and Princesses Anna and Yoanna Oettingen-Wallerstein enjoy Equestrio.

BOTTOM: Playing for Anantara Lucy Monro tackles Rinchen Choegyial.



Another constant in Equestrio is elephant polo. A calendar change and move back to the game's spiritual home in Thailand, Hua Hin, sees the sport make an appearance at a different time to normal this year. Yet again we were fortunate to be at the King's Cup tournament throughout as the event celebrated its 10th anniversary. My thanks go to the organisers and my hosts and to all my teammates on the Anantara team, Carolyn Syangbo, Robin Louvrantij and Princesses Anna and Yoanna Oettingen-Wallerstein. Most importantly thank you to the elephants without whom the sport could never happen, to Chris Stafford and everyone at the Thailand Elephant Polo Association and to Bill Heinicke and all at Anantara who open their doors to the elephants who so desperately need our help.

All that remains as the gates and stable doors open on a new UAE season is to wish you all every success. The 2011/12 season is set to be a thriller and we will be there with you throughout. See you there...

Publisher and Editor in Chief



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