

UAE TEAM WINS DESERT PALM UAE NATIONS CUP 2010



Winners of the 2010 Desert Palm UAE Nations Cup left to right: Musab Alwandanwi, Rashid Bin Draï, Ali Albwardy, Martin Valent

Dubai, Tuesday 2nd February 2010 – The final of the Desert Palm UAE Nations Cup took place on 30th January 2010 at Desert Palm by Per AQUUM and was won for the second year in a row by the UAE team who beat the USA 8 - 6. The semi finals were played between Nigeria and Pakistan with Pakistan gaining third place by defeating Nigeria 9 - 2.

The UAE team comprised of Rashid Bin Draï, Musab Alwandanwi, Ali Albwardy and Martin Valent. The USA team included Alan Meeker, Bob Mehm, Alan Martinez and Wilf Laugher. Playing for Pakistan was Khalid Bin Draï, Ahmed Tiwana, Matias Machado and Atif Yar Tiwana while the Nigerian team was headed by Prince Albert Esiri with Sayyo Dantata, Bashir Dantata and Najeeb Khouri.

The winning trophy was awarded to the UAE team by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan. His Grace the Duke of Argyll and Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers, the Chairman of Hurlingham Polo Association then presented the trophy for the Royal Salute International Challenge Match to the UAE team while Julien Renard, Brand Director for Jaeger-LeCoultre made a special presentation to Muhammad Asif Hafiz of Pakistan and Alan Meeker of the USA recognising them as official Brand Ambassadors for Polo in the UAE and the



Middle East. Finally the awards ceremony concluded with Lucy Monroe, Publisher and Editor in Chief of Equestrian Magazine who awarded the Best Playing Polo Pony to Yuna.

Following the prize-giving ceremony His Grace the Duke of Argyll opened the Royal Salute after-party where Alan Meeker Chief Executive Officer of The Conglomerate & Crestview Group of Companies and the Captain of the USA team bought the helmet worn by Adolfo Cambiasso in the 2009 Desert Palm Nations Cup, the proceeds of which were offered to Riding for the Disabled in Dubai. Alan and his family are strong supporters of assisting disadvantaged children and in his speech he gave the helmet back to Ali Albwardy so that it can be offered again next year.

Thank you speeches were also made to Ali Albwardy the Owner of Desert Palm and Captain of the UAE polo team for his support and patronage of the event and his commitment to highlighting international polo within the region.

The Desert Palm UAE Nations Cup is a yearly event to celebrate polo in the UAE and highlight the Middle East's leading polo estate, Desert Palm, as a principle destination in the global polo calendar. It is held at Desert Palm by Per AQUUM a boutique retreat which offers just 26 suites and private pool villas, two award winning restaurants, LIME spa, bar and four championship sized polo fields.

This event is organised each year by equus passport and the 2010 UAE Nations Cup partners were luxury brands Desert Palm Retreat (host), Royal Salute, Jaeger-leCoultre, Land Rover, Crestview and EFG Group with Equestrian, Akuma Polo and Quintessentially as support partners.



Above: Alan Meeker, Ali Albwardy, Rashid Bin Draï Above: Alan Martinez and Martin Valent

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Back row from left to right: Atif Yar Tiwana, Ahmed Tiwana, Prince Albert Asiri, Sayyo Dantata, Rashi Bin Draï, Musab Alwandanwi, Ali Albwardy, Alan Meeker, Bob Mehm, Wilf Laugher. Front row from left to right: Matias Machado, Khalid Bin Draï, Bashir Dantata, Najeeb Khouri, Martin Valent, Alan Martinez.

Partner Overview:

About Desert Palm

Desert Palm by Per AQUUM is a boutique retreat with just 26 suites and private pool villas. Set on a private polo estate the property offers two award winning restaurants – Rare and Epicure, an internationally acclaimed LIME Spa and an inviting bar which overlooks one of the four championship sized polo fields and Dubai skyline beyond.

About Royal Salute

In 1953, Chivas Brothers celebrated the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by creating a limited edition of a very special blended whisky. Only 2,500 cases were produced for worldwide distribution, and the first flagon, adorned with the royal crest, was presented to the new Queen on the day of her coronation. The name chosen was considered a fitting tribute to



the new monarch. It was called Royal Salute, after the 21-gun salute, the ultimate mark of respect, created by the Royal Navy, to pay tribute to dignitaries and nations alike.

Today, Royal Salute continues to pay homage to accomplishment, in all walks of life. It is the Ultimate Tribute and mark of respect for powerful men and women, who demand the very best. Royal Salute's regal heritage is maintained through its global association with the sport of Polo, "the sport of Kings", organising events in India and China, including China's first international polo tournament (the Royal Salute Polo Gold Cup).

About Jaeger Le-Coultre

With a long history in the sport Polo and as official sponsor of the UAE National Polo team, Jaeger le-Coultre takes great pride in being the official timepiece partner of The Nations Cup.

Since 1931, when César de Trey of Switzerland first commissioned the design of a timepiece that could withstand the pressures of a polo match, the iconic Reverso design has graced the wrists of the icons of the Polo world. With its distinguishing sliding and swivelling case, protecting the dial against hard knocks, the Reverso watch is the timepiece of choice of the world's best player, Aldofo Cambiaso.

Remaining faithful to its personality through the decades, the Reverso watch has evolved into a versatile range of timeless elegance and fine watchmaking for men and women. For more information on Jaeger-leCoultre and the Reverso watch collection, please visit www.jaeger-lecoultre.com or one of our Boutiques*

* Dubai Mall, Ground Floor - Dubai Wafi New Extension - Abu Dhabi Marina Mall '

About Crestview

Crestview holds interests in numerous companies involved in a wide range of business pursuits. Some of the fields in which Crestview is actively involved include oil & gas exploration and production, international airfreight and logistics, construction, health care, biotechnology, and syndicated television productions. Crestview actively pursues compelling business opportunities in diverse fields throughout the world. Learn more at www.cviewfarm.com

Crestview Genetics perpetuates the finest in equine genetics through proven, state-of-the-art biotechnological reproduction processes, breathing new life into the legacy of legendary horses. Learn more at www.crestviewgenetics.com

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About EFG

EFG International is a global private banking group offering private banking and asset management services, headquartered in Zurich. EFG International's group of private banking businesses currently operates in 55 locations in over 30 countries, with circa 2,400 employees.

About Land Rover

Since 1948 Land Rover has manufactured authentic 4x4s that represent true 'breadth of capability' across the model range. Defender, Land Rover LR2, Land Rover LR4, Range Rover Sport and Range Rover each define the world's 4x4 sectors, with 78% of this model range exported to over 140 countries.

- Ends -

Note to Editors:

A Universal Enterprise, **Per AQUUM Retreats • Resorts • Residences** is a specialist management and development company that offers a different kind of company ethos: one that is passionate, visionary, imaginative and naturally modern. The architecture and design of each project is inspired by the individual beauty of the property's host culture, while development is based on principles of realism, sustainability and responsibility. Renowned for creating bold, imaginative spaces and signature attention to detail the Per AQUUM name has built significant brand value within the top echelons of the travel industry. The current portfolio includes Huvafen Fushi in the Maldives and Desert Palm in Dubai. Per AQUUM is looking at additional locations in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia regions and in the Middle East.

Float Into The World Of...



A Universal Enterprise

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