



from the editor

Lucy Monro with His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Royal Salute ambassador and aficionado, at the inaugural Royal Salute Polo Gold Cup in Shanghai.

As we hurtle towards what is certain to be another ground-breaking racing season in the UAE we were privileged to see history made in China, a country similarly developing at unprecedented breakneck speed.

While polo has an ancient history in China, the sport had all but disappeared in recent decades in the country... until last month. The Royal Salute Polo Gold Cup broke ground in every way. It was the very first international polo tournament in China - EVER. It took place on ground literally dragged out of the sea, and brought one of polo's great characters, James Manclark, onto Chinese soil for the first time with a team that included three international elephant polo players and England player Malcolm Borwick.

A resounding success, the event made history and created four Chinese ambassadors for the sport. Businessmen Brian Xu, Michael Wang, Larry Lin and Tony Wang, learned, not only to ride, but to play polo to match standard in just two months - a feat that all who understand the sport will recognise as nothing short of remarkable.

FIP President Patrick Guerrand-Hermès was at Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club to make the historic throw in and His Grace the Duke of Argyll was in attendance throughout to witness China's inaugural international polo tournament.

As well as bringing you full coverage of the event, we speak to Steve Wyatt, the man who made his dream of bringing polo to China come true, about his passion for the game and his desire to see his chosen sport established at top level in the country that he has made his home. His achievement is remarkable - proven by the fact that the tournament rivalled events such as the Cartier St Moritz and Guards events and the Gold Cup in terms of glamour and attendance.

Staying in the Far East, Dara Williams reports from Malaysia and speaks to HRH Prince Abdullah of Pahang about his love of, and hopes for, the sport in his country.

Closer to home we take the opportunity of the eve of a new racing season to take a look back at the remarkable development of racing in the UAE and visit HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Kildangan Stud in Ireland.

With one eye on heritage as well as art we showcase the remarkable and rare Poitou donkeys that grace our cover - captured on camera by Tim Flach, as only the master photographer can, for his *Equus* project and, staying with rich history we visit Jordan for the Middle East Arabian Horse Championships and take a look at the wonders that the country offers to the visitor in our travel feature.

The future is always built upon the past and, as we launch into a new season in the UAE, it has been a delight to look back at both the ancient and recent pasts of the sports that are our lifeblood.

We trust you will enjoy!

James Manclark, co-founder of the World Elephant Polo Association, Royal Scotland patron and polo institution in his own right, places *Equestrio* in the Nine Dragons Hill Polo Club in Shanghai.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Dara Williams'.

Editor in Chief