



## Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2015 (Dubai Open) 18 Goal Handicap

**Press Release**  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

### **Desert Palm II and Ghantoot will play The McLaren Cup 2015 final**

Desert Palm II and Ghantoot qualified to the McLaren Cup final after winning today's matches at the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club.

Desert Palm II defeated Bin Draï by 7 goals to 6 and Ghantoot beat Zedan 9-8.

The semifinals of the McLaren Cup brought two exciting games to the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club. Very different one from the other in terms of playing level but with the same excitement and uncertain end till the last seconds.

Desert Palm II and Bin Draï played a great match. With high level of polo and a continuous come and go. The first half was for Bin Draï but in the last two chukkas Desert Palm II, a foursome that knows how to come back into the game, put a lot of pressure on his rival and achieved to tie the game in the last minute. In the last ball of the match, Desert Palm II had a 60 yard penalty that Diego Cavanagh turned to goal for the 7-6 victory and the first ticket to the McLaren Cup final.

#### **Match Progression:**

**Desert Palm 2:** 1-2/ 2-3/ 3-4/ 4-4/ 7-6

The second semifinal of the day between Ghantoot and Zedan was a hard and tough match. Both teams battled till the end for the victory that finally achieved Ghantoot in the last action of the game after a long run by Alejandro Muzzio.

Muzzio's goal, for the 9-8 victory, put the defending title winner in the final. Ghantoot will go for his second title of the McLaren Cup after winning 2014 edition.

#### **Match Progression:**

**Ghantoot:** 1-1/ 4-2/ 5-5/ 6-8/ 9-8

### **HILDON CUP SEMIFINALS**

The Hildon Cup semifinals will be held tomorrow from 2 pm at the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club.

Abu Dhabi and Desert Palm 1 will play in field 2 the first match of the day followed by Habtoor Polo against Mahra in field 1 from 4 pm.

### **The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2015 (Dubai Open) Enters its Sixth Year**

The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series (Dubai Open) is held under the Patronage of HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, who has supported the tournament since inception.

The Dubai Open, now in its sixth year, is considered one of the most important and prestigious polo events in the region.



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Mohammed Al Habtoor, Founder of the tournament said, “The Dubai Gold Cup Series gets better and better each year. In a short space of time, The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series has become the highest handicapped tournament in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The tournament, which started off as a 10-12 goal handicap in 2010, to a 16 goal handicap in 2014, has now increased even further to an 18 goal handicap this year. This shows that Dubai is now firmly on the world map as a polo destination.”

The Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series is the fourth-largest tournament of its kind after Argentina, the US and the UK. Each year the event reaches new heights growing in tandem with the city of Dubai which has quickly gained popularity and found its place on the Polo world stage. The Dubai Open is the only tournament certified and recognized by the World Polo Tour (WPT), since 2012. And, recently the WPT raised the level of the competition for a second year running. The WPT said in a statement, "One of the polo destinations that had grown most in recent years is Dubai. The Dubai Gold Cup, the main competition, is played at Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club and will go up from Challenge Cup to WPT Cup and the winners will be awarded 60 points."

The WPT honoured Mohammed Al Habtoor with a prize for his continued support of the sport and helping raise the profile of polo in the UAE.

The Gold Cup series, split into two tournaments with five chukkas in a match. It will officially start with the McLaren Cup 2015, which runs from Friday January 23, 2015 to Friday February 6, 2015. It will be followed by the Julius Baer Gold Cup, which will commence on Monday February 23, 2015 to Friday March 13, 2015.

This year, there will be a total of 10 international Polo team participating in the 18-goal tournament:

- Mahra Polo - Patron: Rashid Al Habtoor
- Bin Draï Polo Team - Patron: Saeed Bin Draï
- Habtoor Polo Team - Patron: Mohammed Al Habtoor ~ McLaren Cup
- Julius Baer Team by Al Habtoor – Patron: Mohammed Al Habtoor ~ Julius Baer Gold Cup
- Ghantoot Polo Team - Patron: HH Sheikh Falah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- UAE Polo Team - Patron: Her Highness Sheikha [Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum](#)
- Abu Dhabi Polo Team - Patron: Faris Al Yabhouni
- Zedan Polo Team - Patron: Amr Zedan
- Desert Palm 1 Polo Team - Patron: Rashid Al Bawardi
- Desert Palm 2 Polo Team - Patron: Tarik Al Bawardi
- Edrees Polo Team ~ Patron: Sultan Edrees

### **SPONSORS**

#### **McLaren:**



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In support of the sporting spirit of the nation, McLaren UAE - Al Habtoor Motors is proud to announce the Title Sponsorship for the Silver Cup of the prestigious Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2015.

Al Habtoor Motors is the exclusive distributor for McLaren in the UAE. Excellence, innovation and technical expertise are what drive Al Habtoor Motors to its success. McLaren cars are based on F1 technology, giving drivers an unrivalled experience every time they step into their McLaren.

The most thrilling supercars are usually the most compromised: their suspension is rock solid, road noise invades the cockpit and creature comforts are removed to reduce weight. The new McLaren 650S breaks the mould: it is sensational to drive yet generously equipped and extraordinarily comfortable. It's the world's ultimate luxury sports car.

### **Julius Baer:**

**Julius Baer** was named as the sponsor of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup for the first time as the Swiss Private Bank continues its tradition of supporting key cultural events across the UAE. The bank is celebrating its tenth anniversary in the country this year. Its focus on polo stems from its recognition of the value and importance of this sport to the local community and its clients.

### **Bentley:**

Bentley Emirates, the largest Bentley Dealer in the world for 2 years running is the main sponsor of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2015. As part of the Prestige Cars Division of Al Habtoor Motors, Bentley Emirates have been the sole authorized importer of Bentley motor cars in the UAE since 1982. Driven by professionalism, quality and high standards, Bentley Emirates continues to serve with utmost confidence and is poised to scale even greater heights.

### **CO-SPONSORS**

#### **Hildon Water:**

Hildon is an English Natural Mineral Water which lies deep within the chalk hills of Hampshire, as a result it is of the highest quality. Bottled at its source on the Hildon Estate in Hampshire and Imported from the UK, it is distributed exclusively by Top Shelf Beverages in the region, Hildon Natural Mineral Water is a proud sponsor and supporter of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2014. For more information and to stock Hildon, please contact [info@ihs-uae.com](mailto:info@ihs-uae.com) or call +971 4 4531782.

#### **Diamond Lease:**

Diamondlease L.L.C, a fully owned subsidiary of the Al Habtoor Group, was established in 1996 to offer automotive rental & leasing solutions, as an alternative to owning and maintaining vehicles, to Corporate & Individual customers in the UAE. Currently we are serving more than 700 companies and multinational conglomerates operating in UAE, handling and managing their transportation requirements.

Diamondlease is an ISO 9001:2008 certified company with a fleet of over 8300 dealer-maintained vehicles. It was the first local Car Rental Company in UAE to receive an ISO certification and has proudly held the accreditation since 1999. In recognition of its sound business ethics and outstanding customer service, Diamondlease was one of the first car rental companies to have been nominated as a member of the prestigious Dubai Service Excellence Scheme (DSES) in 2003.

#### **Andreea's:**



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Andreae's is an elegant newly opened fusion cuisine restaurant, located at the beach front of Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa, in the Dubai Marina. The restaurant has already been catching the spotlight of Dubai with its alluring modern ambiance, tantalizing sights, scrumptious aromas, and heavenly flavours. Offering a unique dining experience, Andreae's proud to be joining the family of sponsors and to support the Dubai Polo Cup Series of 2015. For more information and reservations, please contact [andreeas@accentureinvestment.com](mailto:andreeas@accentureinvestment.com) or call +971 50 502 86 66.

### **CEDARS – Jebel Ali International Hospital:**

Established in 1999, CEDARS – Jebel Ali International Hospital was the only full-fledged 24-hour medical center in the Jebel Ali area and it was upgraded into a hospital in August 2004. Today it is a full-fledged multi-specialty hospital offering services ranging from Pediatrics to Occupational Health, Laparoscopic Surgery to Internal Medicine. The Hospital is equipped with ICU for medical and surgical emergencies, with two major and one minor operation theatres as well as with fully equipped Laboratory and Radiology departments.

The CEDARS Training Center is offering classes in basic life support and advanced cardiac life support through an alliance with the American Heart Association (AHA). Further attached to the hospital are 24-hour-pharmacy and Dr. Adnan Kaddaha Clinic. Projects to expand the hospital structure and add more services that enable CEDARS Jebel Ali International Hospital to become a comprehensive tertiary care healthcare provider are under way. The hospital has successfully achieved JCI accreditation in June 2012.

### **MEDIA PARTNERS**

#### **OK! Middle East:**

The exclusive official media sponsor for the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2015 (Dubai Open). OK! Middle East celebrates the A-list each week, revealing the latest news, photos and in-depth features on international celebrities and home-grown VIPs, socialites and trendsetters in an engaging and positive way; bringing the OK! reader closer to the stars than any other magazine.

With access all areas to the glamour of Hollywood, OK! features inspirational celebrity-led fashion and beauty, providing our in-the-know readers with the tips and trends to look and feel their A-list best.

OK! Middle East is the only magazine to be invited into the homes of the rich, famous and influential, and is always on the guest list for the glittering red carpet events, hot openings and invite-only launches that are synonymous with our region.

Welcome to your exclusive entry into the world of stardom, glamour and celebrity life... welcome to OK! Middle East.

#### **Sport360:**

As the leading sports information and news provider in the Middle East Sport360 is proud to be associated with the Dubai Gold Polo Cup. With its daily newspaper and Weekend edition, Sport360 reaches out to all sports fans in the UAE and provides them with all the latest news and results, as well as key lifestyle and business of sport features. Its daily qualified circulation as issued by BPA Worldwide stands at 36,762 with an estimated 151,000 readers per day enjoy a depth and breadth of content unmatched in the region, which is assembled by a team of specialists in football, cricket, golf, tennis, motorsport, horseracing, sailing, and much more.



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Sport360's digital platforms have also attracted sports enthusiasts from around the GCC and MENA region, thanks to the [www.sport360.com](http://www.sport360.com) website, social media channels and smart phone applications.

### **Equestrio Arabia:**

Equestrio Arabia is the media sponsor. EQUESTRIO changed the face of equestrian publishing when it launched in Switzerland in 2003 and set new standards for the genre in terms of quality and content. By showcasing and celebrating the lifestyles surrounding equestrianism in all its forms, while at the same time providing expert and informed editorial illustrated with the finest photography, the title won instant appeal, both at home and abroad.

EQUESTRIO Arabia became the second title in the series when it launched in Dubai. EQUESTRIO France followed in 2006 with EQUESTRIO China and EQUESTRIO Italy taking up the reins in 2008.

Now published in five countries, in five languages, on three continents, EQUESTRIO is to be found at the heart of equestrian communities worldwide. A delicious melange of informed sporting editorial, fine art, luxury travel and lifestyle features.

### **PoloLine:**

PoloLine is the leading global provider of news, information and services about polo, offering up to the minute news from all the major polo events around the world. With over 100,000 unique visitors from more than 80 countries. PoloLine offers unprecedented reach to the highly desirable target market of Polo enthusiasts.

## **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

### **Dubai Calendar:**

**Dubaicalendar.com** is your single, reliable, bi-lingual source for the best events Dubai has to offer throughout the year, helping you plan and make the most of your stay, and making sure there is always a reason to visit and revisit Dubai. Highlighting Dubai's festivals, exhibitions, cultural and sporting events, dubaicalendar.com is the official point of reference on events and promotions in Dubai, keeping business and leisure visitors, and residents informed about the multitude of events that the city offers.

Dubaicalendar.com is the key information channel managed by Dubai Calendar, an initiative born out of the vision for a more dynamic events industry for the Emirate of Dubai. Part of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM), Dubai Calendar helps bring together the government, consumer and industry to establish Dubai as a world-class events destination. Since its inception, Dubai Calendar has become an enabler for the local community, events industry, tourists and government bodies alike.

### **Dubai Sports Council:**

Dubai Sports Council is the official government body responsible for the development of the sport sector in the Emirate of Dubai. Under the Chairmanship of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and its 12 Board Members; the Council supervises the work of nine local clubs in Dubai, six of which practice a variety kinds of individual and or team sports, such as football, handball and archery; in addition to the chess club and a club devoted for those with special needs.



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Since its inception in 2006, with the vision of creating a unique sporting community, the Council organizes various annual major sports championships and conferences, in cooperation with multiple International/National sports bodies and Dubai Government Entities, such as the Dubai International Sports Conference, Samsung Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup and the FINA Diving World Series; in an attempt to enhance the culture, knowledge and expertise of professionalism in all aspects of the field; from the overall preparation and/or execution of the event.

Dubai became the first Arab and Middle East city to host the SportAccord International Convention in 2010, and stages the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award, the most prestigious Award of the Middle East Region. Though the Council works on various major international sports events, it does not overlook the importance of spreading the awareness of a healthier, more active lifestyle locally; and in order to achieve such objectives, physical activity programs and initiatives, such as the Dubai Pulse Physical Activity program, the Furjan District Championships and the Dubai Beach Soccer League, have all been designed to target the various communities within the Emirate.

Mohammed Al Habtoor, who is also Vice-Chairman and CEO of the UAE conglomerate, the Al Habtoor Group, recently announced that work is underway on a new polo development in Dubai with four polo fields. The Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club, situated in Dubailand, will also feature state-of-the-art stables, a five star hotel and high-end villas. It will become a new destination for horse lovers, and offer multiple disciplines from traditional horse-riding, polo and dressage.

He said, “This helps with our aim to provide first class sporting facilities and to train the next generation of polo players.”

### **Cristina Gusita**

Polo Coordinator General

Dubai Polo Gold Cup

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