

five minutes with...



Gabriel Donoso

Gabriel Donoso, 43, will lead Chile against England at Guard's Polo Club on Cartier International Day, having led his country to victory over England on Cartier Day in 1997.

By Gareth A Davies

Coronation Cup. Good memories?

Certainly very good matches. We played England on Cartier Day in 1993 and we were beaten by England. In 1997 we beat them in the last second. Should be another good game this year – England have a good side. To be captain of Chile is a great honour and every country feels privileged to be invited to play on Cartier Day.

Greatest player ever?

I didn't have the chance to see Juan-Carlos Harriott, but of the current era, Gonzalo Pieres and Memo Gracida are the two most successful players. Nor can you discount them still as great players. Today, the super-talented, super-genius is Adolfo Cambiaso. He is the tough guy to beat on the world circuit, there is no individual who is a better player than him. The only way he gets beaten is by other teams working against him.

Most memorable moment?

Amongst others winning the Queens Cup in 1988, with Broncos, and the Gold Cup in 1993.

Worst moment?

Breaking my neck in 1990. I fell off in my first practice session for Royal Pahang and missed the whole season. Luckily I have stayed on my feet, but I was really close to being in a wheelchair for the rest of my life. Sometimes you realise how lucky you are.

Most embarrassing moment?

Oversleeping when I was due to play in an exhibition game with Prince Charles. I was having a siesta and woke up in a panic when it was almost 3.00 pm. I was screaming. Luckily the club was only 15 minutes away. When I got there Charles was waiting. Very embarrassing.

What is it time to get rid of in the English game?

What I don't like is that you have to work on the basis of matches, instead of working on a tournament basis. Professionals today try to get as many games as possible to earn a living – whereas a much better way of having a strong high goal level is to develop a group of strong teams, together for some time, in which the players get used to playing together. Chopping and changing seems to happen here in England because handicaps change all the time. Not having regular teams makes a big difference with the sponsors and does not help with consistency and continuity year after year.

Least favourite player to play against?

Cambiaso, because of his extraordinary abilities. I have never felt embarrassed when he makes you look silly because he does it to all the 10 goal players. He is one of the toughest players to mark.

Greatest change in polo?

The greatest change which has come about in the last five years is that patrons are not planning as they did in the past. The focus has changed and pros have changed in the way that we have to deal with that.

Hottest babe in polo?

Africana, my best mare. She is ten years old.

Pony Club Polo Finds New Sponsor

This year the Pony Club celebrates its 75th anniversary and has received an anniversary present in the form of a leading sponsor for Pony Club Polo, one of the fastest growing disciplines in the organisation.

City Capital Corporation has signed a three year agreement which will cover all seven divisions of Pony Club Polo and the Championships at Cowdray Park, which this year will run from 13 - 15 August. The championships will be known as the 3C Pony Club Polo Championships.

"This is a hugely important sponsorship for us and we are very grateful to City Capital Corporation Limited for its support. It will allow Pony Club Polo to continue its work in including as many children as possible in polo and assist in providing the maximum number of



David Cowley, Chairman of Pony Club Polo, is delighted

opportunities to play," said David Cowley, Chairman of Pony Club Polo. A spokesman for 3C said "This is our firm's most important sponsorship and one that we hope will lead to a long and successful association with polo in the UK and abroad."

FIP World Championships Finalists

The scene is now set for the FIP World Championships with Mexico and the USA having qualified from Zone A. They join France, the host nation, England, Australia, Pakistan, Chile and Brazil, defending champions, for the finals in Chantilly which will take place from 9 - 19 September of this year.

Royal Show Ticket Winners

The Polo Times Reader Offer winners for tickets to the Royal Show in July are Derrick Chow, Jo Dyde, Delyth Batchelor and Brian Perry.

Eurostar Sponsor England Team

Eurostar have announced that they are to sponsor the England team for the World Championships in Chantilly at the beginning of September. As well as transporting the team 1st class to Paris they will also be offering HPA members special rates to Paris during the event. Information on how to claim the discounted tickets will be available in next month's issue. For further information please contact Andrew Tucker 01666 505 574.

50 Years Ago

Horace Laffaye

- Alan Budgett revives Kirtlington Park Polo Club.
- Argentinian Roberto Cavanagh reaches a 10 goal handicap.
- El Trebol, with Bob Skene in the lineup, wins the Argentine Open.
- The Kay family's Kihikihi team takes the Savile Cup.
- Col William Llewellyn Palmer, member of the formidable 10th Hussars team, dies.
- Meadow Brook wins its last US Open.
- Ottawa takes the Beresford Cup in South Africa.
- Birth of Argentinian 10 goaler Alfonso Pieres.
- Pointe-Noire wins the Gold Cup at Deauville.
- Queensland takes the Australasian Gold Cup.

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Pony Club Polo gets new sponsor

23/06/2004

Pony Club Polo has secured a major new sponsor in the shape of City Capital Corporation Limited, who have signed up for the next three years

In its 75th anniversary year, the Pony Club (PC) has secured a major new sponsor for polo, one of its fastest growing disciplines. City Capital Corporation Limited (3C) has pledged its support for the discipline for the next three years.

More than 500 Pony Club members play polo through the club, in teams from Orkney to the West Country, participating in the game throughout the year in arena polo and summer tournaments, with the season culminating in the Pony Club Polo Championship at Cowdray Park in August.

Members as young as six play polo through the Pony Club, playing on their own shaggy ponies until they reach the upper echelons of the organisation. 3C's support will ensure that the tradition continues, and that young riders can make a successful transition to a faster-paced game.

Chairman of Pony Club Polo David Cowley said: "This is a hugely important sponsorship for us and we are very grateful to City Capital Corporation Limited for its support. It will allow PC Polo to continue its work in including as many children as possible in polo and assist in providing the maximum number of opportunities to play."

The significance of PC Polo made itself particularly clear last summer when three out of four members of the winning Gold Cup side were former Pony Club polo members. Henry Brett, who is debuting this season as England Captain is also a graduate of Pony Club Polo.

David Meacher, a founding Partner of City Capital Corporation Limited said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to be the lead sponsor for Pony Club Polo and help support the development of children's polo across the UK and going forward other countries around the world, the lifeblood of the sport for the future.

"With our business spanning from the UK to Argentina, it is fitting that our most important sponsorship is in the exciting sport of polo. We look forward enormously to our first season with Pony Club Polo and to a long and successful association with polo in the UK and abroad."



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