

Border Reivers

Record numbers soak up scorching Scots sunshine



Members of the Perth side celebrate their win (l-r: Nick Walter 2, Alistair Archibald 3, Augustin Muller 0)

Border Reivers Polo Club hosted its fifth annual 4-goal BRPC tournament in the Scottish borders over the weekend of 30-31 May. Held in aid of The Kivuli Trust, which builds and runs hostels for disabled children in Africa, the day drew more than 200 spectators, who enjoyed champagne and a sumptuous lunch in glorious weather akin. Together, the players, spectators and organisers helped raise £2,000 for the trust. Despite the recession, there were 11 Scottish teams – a record for a single tournament at the club – and a twelfth side from Toulston Polo Club in Yorkshire entered for a chance of victory. At the end of a weekend of fierce but friendly competition, Perth's George Middlemass, Augustin Muller, Alistair Archibald and Nick Walter swept to the title in emphatic fashion in Sunday's final, brushing aside Border Reivers' Charlie Swanson, Ed Bromley-Martin, Will Ramsay and Nick Hunter, 7-3½. Another 0-4 goal tournament follows this month, on 22-23 August, and the club is keen to welcome teams up for the weekend. Organisers are also happy to arrange other matches in Scotland to make the trip more worthwhile – so, who fancies a trip to the Highlands?

Cirencester Park

Power and precision as the panthers beat the bears

The promise of high-goal action between the Black Bears and Panthers line-ups brought large crowds to Cirencester Park Polo Club for the exciting culmination of the club's 18-goal championship on Sunday 28 June.

Panthers featured a line-up largely familiar to local spectators, but the excitement of seeing high-goal New Zealand internationals Simon Keyte and John Paul Clarkin on the field for Black Bears meant they also canvassed plenty of support from the large crowd. A tight contest followed, with Panthers only clinching it in an extra chukka, 11-10.

In the subsidiary, the Mansion Cup, the combination of Rob Archibald and Malcolm Borwick for Enigma proved too strong for club chairman Richard Britten-Long's Corovest side, as Enigma ran out the winners, 8-4.

On 11 July, Cirencester played host to the final day of the International SUPA Polo Festival. The crowd were treated to exciting, competitive polo, providing proof that the future of polo continues to look bright.



Satnam Dhillon (in white) and John Paul Clarkin square-off in the 18-goal final

Photograph by Tom Reynolds

Sussex

Prizes galore in swashbuckling seven-team challenge



Seven teams gathered at Sussex Polo Club in June, all looking for the chance to scoop the bespoke Square Peg Challenge Trophy. The winning side at each of the two levels would also be the recipients of an unusual added prize, a set of Scottish Basket Hilt Claymore swords – one for each player. Fierce competition was the result and supporters of the sides were boosted by prize incentives themselves, including "Golden Divot" presents awarded to children who discovered chocolate golden coins concealed by the umpires on the ground.

There were also bouncy castles and a children's activity corner, while the adults entertained themselves with luscious picnics, live music and the opportunity to witness some tightly fought polo. The resident eponymously-named Sussex team were the favourites, but Kwan Lo's Aquila team showed much-improved form at the business end of the tournament and produced an excellent display in the final to grab the Square Peg 2-Goal Challenge Trophy.

In the -2 Goal Challenge, defending champions Amicus triumphed to retain their title. Special awards of rare malt whisky were presented to Nick Clague, owner of best playing pony Lola, and to Paul Addison, patron of the Amicus team and winner of the best non-professional player prize.

Left: Champions in the 2-goal, Aquila (l-r: Patrick Furlong, Kwan Lo, Julian Mills, Telmo Maidana)