



# Polo del Sol

Winter 2009

'Hooked on Polo'

## A MESSAGE FROM ALI ABIDI ....

Welcome to Polo Del Sol at the Jerez Polo and Country Club, Jerez, Andalusia!

Polo Del Sol was established in 2007 with the aim of bringing a world class experience to polo players and their non playing family and friends. Our focus is to provide a challenging yet fun polo environment with players improving their skills and game whilst experiencing the authentic and vibrant Andalusian lifestyle.

Situated in 170 hectares of beautiful countryside the Club is just 15 minutes drive from the exquisite city of Jerez, 20 minutes from the beautiful beaches of the Costa De La Luz and a little over an hour from Sotogrande, Malaga and Gibraltar.

There has always been a rich tradition of polo in Jerez. Since the early 1900's the Domecq family, pioneers of sherry making, has produced a number of great professional high goal polo players. Indeed three members of the family recently competed in the Brandy de Jerez Team in the V Copa Jerez.

2009 promises to be an exciting year for Polo del Sol. Our covered all weather arena nears completion becoming one of the largest indoor arenas in the world and the Clubhouse and leisure facilities are due for completion in the spring. Our string of ponies continues to grow with the arrival of foals from the breeding programme and a number of our 4 year olds are already playing chukkas.

I very much hope that I will be able to introduce you to the delights of Polo Del Sol and I look forward to extending a warm Andalusian welcome!



Ali Abidi

## V COPA JEREZ

Brandy de Jerez were proclaimed champions in the keenly fought V Copa Jerez, organised by the Jerez Polo Club and played out on the grounds of Polo del Sol.

Lorenzo Diez, Luis, Patricio and Nacho Domecq combined superbly to take the title by 7 goals to 4 against Kia (Arnando Jimenez, Gonzalo Ignacio, Francisco Siles and Rafael Gimenez). The Subsidiary Final was won by Equipment Garvey (Charles Martel, Gonzaga Ibanez, Fernando Mora Fuguera and Titi Ibanez) who defeated Woodchester (Paul Knights, Richard Fagan, Craig McKinney and Tim Bowen) by 6 goals to 4 in an exciting and tight match.

Eight teams competed with players from Spain, England, Uruguay, Argentina and Iran ensuring a truly international flavour to the tournament. Congratulation to all who took part!



## POLO DEL SOL SUPPORTING SUPA



Polo del Sol is delighted to announce that it is supporting polo at the grass roots level with its involvement in the Schools and University Polo Association.

This year the SUPA Arena Polo Championships will take place at the Hand Indoor Equestrian Complex near Bristol and another record entry of more than 70 teams is anticipated.

Good luck to all competitors!

## VISITORS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Polo del Sol is delighted to play host to a number of Swedish polo players who migrate south to escape the depths of the Scandinavian winter. Per Jacobsson, Goren, Anders Thulin and Soren Hullberg have enjoyed their time at Polo del Sol.

We have also had a number of guests from Ham Polo Club including Graham Phillips and Tony Lynch who have visited on a number of occasions.

Tom Benson, Regional Coach for the Pony Club and the 2008 Coach for Enfield Chase Hunt. has also visited and Warren Scott from Knepp Castle and his son Charlie Scott who played Hipwood for Cowdray Cherokees have experienced the unique atmosphere of our Spanish Club!



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### PONY CLUB VISITORS TO POLO DEL SOL

What our visitors say . . . . .

What to do with polo mad children at half term? Following a chance meeting with Polo del Sol co-owner Mike Robinson, Sarah Styler along with four other adults set off for Spain with eight children ready for a week's polo training.

As the accommodation is not quite finished we stayed in a beautiful Hacienda a short drive from the Club. Totally immersed in the



Spanish environment but with tuition in English, our coach was former four goal professional Ali Abidi. The daily instruction included polo riding, tactic sessions and talks as well as stick and ball opportunities and afternoon chukkas.

The ponies were plentiful and well schooled and were matched carefully to each rider's ability. This was only part of the impressive levels of safety, other aspects being the compulsory wearing of helmets and that in Spain under 18's must wear goggles.



Polo del Sol's impressive polo facilities are matched by a huge Clubhouse with en suite rooms due for completion by Spring 2009, a fitness suite, swimming pool and tennis court. For those not wanting to play polo the local area of Jerez has plenty to offer with Bodega visits and top class shopping, and the world renowned Equestrian Museum and School. The beaches of the Costa de La Luz are half an hour drive away and a little further the delights of the Costa del Sol.

Asados, tapas and paella lunches are the order of the day and Ali's wife Mahasti looked after the non polo aspects of the holiday beautifully.

Both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Jerez not only the polo but also the authentic Spanish lifestyle. Already several groups from Pony Clubs and Schools have discovered Polo del Sol and with the added involvement in SUPA's University Polo, will no doubt become very busy as word spreads.

### SOME OF OUR PONY CLUB & SCHOOLS VISITORS

Annie Styler, Issy Styler and Emma Boers of the **North Cotswold Hunt Pony Club**, Frankie Dent, Tim Pearce-May and George Letts of the **Old Berkshire Hunt Pony Club**, Jack, Will and Isabelle Berner of the **Grafton Hunt Pony Club** and Freddie Letts of **Oxford Brookes University**. It has also been a thrill to welcome young team players from **Stowe School**, **Cheltenham College**, **Cheltenham Ladies College**, **Radley College**, **Marlborough College** and **University College London**.

The advantages of a superb polo training facility, short haul flights and therefore possibility of long weekend breaks speaks for themselves . . . . . we look forward to welcoming you!!

For reservations please call : Mike Robinson +44 (0) 7786 001001  
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Limited availability for Easter and May Half Term 2009



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