

A close-up, low-angle photograph of an elephant's head, focusing on its trunk and the side of its face. The skin is dark and heavily wrinkled, with a strong texture. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the ridges and valleys of the wrinkles. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# King's Cup

## Elephant Polo 2011

5 - 11 September 2011  
at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa



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**AUDEMARS PIGUET**



Dear Friends of the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament,

Welcome to Elephant Polo Week in Thailand! And to those of you returning from previous seasons welcome back!

The community of Hua Hin is excited to welcome 12 international teams to one of Thailand's most prized annual sporting events, which is taking place in the Somdej Phra 16th Infantry Division Suriyothai Camp that has thoughtfully been transformed into your elephant polo stadium, for the week.

Anantara Hua Hin feels especially proud to host the 10th edition of the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, in its coastal roots, to celebrate a decade of successful tournaments, reaching new heights each year. This year's tournament promises to be bigger and better than ever before bringing you a finely-balanced blend of must-see games, extravagant themed-dinners, memorable nights and mutual friendship and enjoyment, offering an unmissable experience that is deeply integrated into fascinating local culture.

A very special thanks to the Tourist Authority of Thailand, all our corporate sponsors most especially Audemars Piguet and members of the Hua Hin community in which we live and thrive, for allowing us to host this special event in the most remarkable of locations. Finally, special thanks to all of you for taking the time to join us for this year's King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, together with the team at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Boda".

Tim Boda  
General Manager,  
Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa



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## **Official Programme**

### **2011 King's Cup Elephant Polo Official Programme 5th - 11th September 2011**

#### **Monday September 5th**

11am Monk & Elephant Blessing Ceremonies, Grand Parade & Elephant Buffet  
2pm Thai - vs. World Elephant Polo Association Game  
3pm Exhibition & Practice Matches  
7 pm **Tournament Draw & Cocktail Party at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa \*\***

#### **Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>**

9am Soco International vs AMEX- British Airways British Army  
10 am King Power vs IBM Spice Girls  
11 am Kasikorn Bank vs PTT Visitor's Team  
2pm PWC All Blacks vs Mercedes  
4pm Blue Label vs Anantara  
5pm Audemars Piguet vs Sara Story Design  
7pm **A Night in the Wild at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa \*\***  
Till Late **Players Lounge with Live Music at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa**

#### **Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>**

9 am Anantara vs Kasikorn Bank  
10 am AMEX- British Airways British Army vs King Power  
11 am Sara Story Design vs Mercedes  
11.30 pm The Veuve Clicquot Hoteliers Cup  
12.30 pm The A.V. Jim Edwards Memorial Game by EFG  
2 pm PTT Visitor's Team vs Blue Label  
3pm PWC All Blacks vs Audemars Piguet  
4 pm IBM Spice Girls vs Soco International  
7pm **Asian Spice Market Buffet Dinner at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa \*\***  
7.45pm **TEPA Players' Night at Marriott Hua Hin Resort & Spa \***  
Till Late **Players Lounge with Live Music at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa**



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### Thursday September 8th

10 am Audemars Piguet vs Mercedes  
11 am Anantara vs PTT Visitor's Team  
12 pm AMEX- British Airways British Army vs IBM Spice Girls  
1 pm The Dilmah Mahout Championship  
3pm Sara Story Design vs PWC ALL Blacks  
4 pm Blue Label vs Kasikorn Bank  
5 pm King Power vs Soco International  
7pm 'Topsy-Turvy' Wine Dinner at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa \*\*  
Till Late Players Lounge with Live Music at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa

### Friday September 9th

10am Matches All Morning  
12. 30pm The Siam Winery – Lucaris Ladies Cup  
2pm Quarter Final One  
3pm Quarter Final Two  
4pm Quarter Final Three  
5pm Quarter Final Four  
7 pm Bubbly Reef & Beef Buffet at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa  
\*\*  
Till Late Players Lounge with Live Music at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa

### Saturday September 10th

8am Semi-Final Playoff Match  
9am 'Escape The Wooden Spoon' Match  
10am 'Fight Your Way To Mid-Table' Match  
11am 'Punch Above Your Weight' Match  
2pm 'Last Chance at Glory' Match  
3pm 'Best Of The Rest' Match  
3pm CEO High-Tea \*  
4pm Semi Final One  
5pm Semi Final Two  
7pm GRAND GALA: Blanc et Noir Auction Soirée at Anantara Hua Hin Resort  
& Spa \*\*



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## **Sunday September 11th**

8am	'Wooden Spoon' Match
9am	'Knocking on the Door' Match – 11th Place Decider
10am	'Relegation Worries Over' Match - 9th Place Decider
11am	'Look How Far We've Come' Match - 7th Place Decider
12pm	'Mid-Table Heroes' Match - 5th Place Decider
2pm	'Best Of The Rest, We'll Get It Next Year' Match - 3rd Place Decider
3pm	Arrival of the Royal Representative
4pm	King's Cup Elephant Polo Grand Final 2011
4.30pm	Prize Giving Ceremony
5.30pm	End of Tournament

*Due to inconsistent weather time of play may be subject to change.*

**Pitch side eateries serving favourite culinary delights all day**

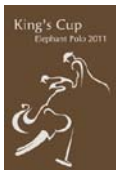
*\* By invitation only*

*\*\* To avoid disappointment advance booking is recommended*

**For Further information & bookings**

**Call: +66 (0)32 520 250 or**

**Email: [gqureshi@anantara.com](mailto:gqureshi@anantara.com)**



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## Anantara Hua Hin

### A royal seaside escape

Endeavoured as an ancient Thai Village, Anantara Hua Hin's architecture pays homage to its traditional Thai roots. Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, its 187 bedrooms, neatly tucked away in this exotic greenery, are depictive of rich Thai silks, hardwood floors and each with its private balcony. Built on 14 acres of seaside bliss, amidst a medley of traditional Thai hospitality and modern luxuries, Hua Hin has easy access to Bangkok. The gardens in the hotel are amongst the most beautiful in Thailand while Hua Hin town and its many night markets are just a 5-minute drive away. The royal town has plentiful championship golf courses to offer. Whether you choose to tee-off at sunrise, enjoy a relaxing massage at the award-winning spa or explore the many local sites with your loved ones, Hua Hin has something for everyone, imbuing a sense of laidback luxury.

The resort offers a range of high-class facilities including a freeform beachside swimming pool, tennis courts, cookery school and a choice of glorious dining options of various world cuisines to create the perfect romantic vacation.

Anantara Hua Hin key features:

Anantara Spa	Rim Nam Restaurant (traditional Thai and Thai fusion cuisine)
Bill-Bensley designed landscape gardens	Sala Siam Lobby Bar (live music every night)
Private lagoon pool for Lagoon Room and Suite guests	Loy Nam Pool Bar
Cooking school	Golf at a choice of world-class courses
Baan Thalia Restaurant (Italian cuisine)	Elephant trekking
Sai Thong Restaurant (fresh seafood, barbeque, Thai favourites)	Mountain biking



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## Anantara Group

Anantara, in Sanskrit means "without end" and evokes the freedom, movement and harmony that are the spirit of the Anantara Experience.

Each Anantara Resort draws its strength from the rich cultural traditions, historic heritage and natural beauty of its destination. As such, every experience is a unique voyage of discovery and inspiration that is distinctly Anantara.

The Anantara Experience was born in 2001, with the launch of the first Anantara Resort in Thailand's historic seaside resort enclave of Hua Hin. We sought to bring our guests closer to the heart of the rich culture and history of Thailand by surrounding them in the atmosphere of a traditional Thai village. We highlighted the experience with interactive immersions in the culture of the destination, through cooking courses, fruit carving demonstrations, a weekly floating market and even instruction in the traditional martial art of Muay Thai.

Since then, we have brought the Anantara Experience to Thailand's far northern Golden Triangle region, with the unique and world-renowned Anantara Elephant Camp experience, and to the island of Samui, offering an immersion in the rich culture of southern Thailand. In 2006, the Anantara Experience went global, with the launch of Anantara Maldives, providing guests with the opportunity to live the fantasy of a truly remote desert island getaway.

Inspired by this success and the positive feedback we have received from our guests worldwide, Anantara is proud to be bringing our unique brand of laid-back luxury, intuitive service and sense of discovery to more breathtaking destinations across Asia and the Middle East, including Vietnam, Bali, Phuket and Abu Dhabi.

Inspiring passion, personal freedom and an appreciation for the rich cultures of our world – the art of the Anantara Experience.

Anantara is a member of Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands. GHA's portfolio includes brands such as the Doyle Collection, First, Kempinski, The Leela, Marco Polo, Mirvac, Omni, Pan Pacific, Parkroyal and Tivoli Hotels and Resorts, encompassing over 260 luxury hotels with over 60,000 rooms in 47 countries. In mid-2010, the Anantara Experience will be further enhanced by the launch of GHA Discovery, the alliance's exciting new guest recognition and reward programme. (For more information please visit [www.gha.com](http://www.gha.com))

Anantara Resorts is also proud to be a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Virtuoso and the Kiwi Collection.



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## **F&B Events**

### **Daily Lunch**

**SaiThong Restaurant**  
**THB 399++ per person**

As the breeze runs through your hair & the sun shines brightly upon you treat yourself to a do-it-yourself noodle station, salad bar & much more deliciousness.

**The Elephant Polo Players' Lounge**  
**Sala Siam Lobby Bar**

Opening daily from dusk till dawn (if we know are players well; grab a quick & delicious bite or catch up over drinks & cigars – all at exceptional prices. Official opening times are from 7 am till late.

### **4<sup>th</sup> September**

**Surf & Turf Evening with Bubbles**  
**Sai Thong Restaurant**  
**THB 1500++ per person**

As the music plays & the waves dance to rejoice your arrival we bring you an evening of fine meats, fresh seafood & free flow sparkling wine. A full salad bar & the Chef's culinary delights await you while the fire show is bound to catch your attention.

### **5<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tournament Draw & Cocktail Party at Sala Siam Terrace**  
**THB 3500++ per person**

It is finally here - the day the much awaited Elephant Polo begins. As the excitement of the commencement of the tournament and team draws builds within you, we invite you to join an equally exciting cocktail party in the evening at Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa. From 7 pm onwards join us at Sala Siam for free flow wine, beer, refreshing juices and soft drinks along with savory Thai bites and nibbles. Wear your team colors and catch up with fellow players to discuss your winning strategies on the pitch! The live band is sure to keep the party mood going as the thrill of the tournament draw and opening of the elephant polo fever catches on.

### **6<sup>th</sup> September**

**A Night in the Wild**



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**SaiThong Restaurant**  
**THB 1550++ per person (food only)**

Re-connect with your wild side with this exclusively themed dinner offering a mouthwatering spread of thoughtfully selected wild meats and game. Leave behind the day's worries & the hustle and bustle of daily life and engross yourself in *a night in the wild* grazing on the freshest greens from our delightful salad bar. Other selected delicacies include rabbit soup, grilled venison, ostrich, veal, a whole marinated lamb on charcoal and many more surprises. As our expert George & Janes of the jungle serve you at Saithong restaurant, near the beach, be entertained by a wild and roaring fire show as well.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Asian Spice Market Buffet Dinner**  
**Rim Nam Restaurant & Loy Nam Pool Bar**  
**THB 1700++ per person**

After the exciting matches all day, savor the flavors of Thailand in an elegant market setting including a vast range of Thai food and many live cooking stations at by the poolside. Forget the time and engulf yourself in the Thai culture and ambience whilst sampling all the treasures that Thai cuisine has to offer. Enjoy traditional Thai live contemporary entertainment along with free flow wine during this evening.

**8<sup>th</sup> September**

**'Topsy-Turvey' Wine Dinner**  
**Baan Thalia**  
**THB 1,900 ++ per person (including welcome cocktails)**

After following the rules and regulations in the matches all day, we give you an unique opportunity to just break all the rules, routines and sequences and join us for a Topsy Turvy wine dinner at our award winning Restaurant, Baan Thalia. Go against the tide and traditions and experience a very unique evening. Be with us at 7 pm sharp as we prepare to go against the traditions together. The evening starts at the end and moves on to the beginning. Join this totally unusual dining experience especially designed for the rebel in you.

**9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Bubbly Reef & Beef Buffet**  
**Lagoon Pool**  
**THB 2,500++ per person (including free flow sparkling wine)**



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Satisfy all your desires for grilled crustacean and fine beef this evening at the serene lagoon area by indulging in a mélange of delicacies from Canadian, Phuket & rock lobster, and jumbo tiger prawns to Tajima & Condabari Wagyu beef, French Braman Thai Beef & grain fed New Zealand Silver Fern Farm tenderloin. The salad bar adds more delight to your meal. Enjoy unlimited sparkling wine as the moon rises over the gulf of Thailand, listen to great music and let us take you on a culinary journey worth remembering.

**10<sup>th</sup> September**

**Blanc et Noir Auction Soiree**

**SaiThong Lawn**

**THB 8,000++ per person (all inclusive)**

Revel in the pleasures of delectable cuisine, spectacular entertainment and exceptional auction pieces.

Start the evening with a Veuve Clicquot champagne reception followed by an uncompromised buffet. Dresses to impress this evening in Asian Chic influenced black tie costume and enjoy the amazingly selected live performance of the Vie Trio band.

The evening is dotted with various other performances and spectacular diversions along with an extravagant auction for a noble cause as the highlight of the evening.

Veuve Clicquot reception	7.30 pm
Firework display	8.15 pm
Lavish dinner	8.30 pm
The Vie Trio	8.45 pm
Grand charity auction	9.30 pm
Live entertainment and dancing	

Don't wait until the last moment and risk disappointment of missing out on these exclusive evenings. Send in your reservation in advance to: Ms. Sutawan at [sutawan\\_ja@anantara.com](mailto:sutawan_ja@anantara.com) or simply dial +(66) 032 520 250



## History & Rules

### The Story behind the Game

What started out as a whimsical conversation between two quirky sport lovers has evolved into the 6th largest annual event in the Thai tourism calendar. The event in question is polo, with the adventurous twist of being played on the back of elephants.

The World Elephant Polo Association established the governing rules for Elephant Polo in 1982. The association's headquarters are based at the Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in the Royal Chitwan Park in Nepal, where the World Elephant Polo Tournament is played every year by teams from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand on a grassy airfield in Megauly within a relatively small circuit.

In Thailand, the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament was first launched in Hua Hin by Anantara in 2001. In 2006, the tournament moved to the Golden Triangle and was hosted by Anantara Golden Triangle Resort & Spa.

Elephants are a key symbol of Thailand's history. Nothing but utmost respect is given to these pachyderms, with all proceeds of the tournament used to ensure their welfare, sustenance, employment, mahout training and medical treatment provision.

### Thai Elephant Polo Association

- Due to the size of these great mammals, each team is comprised of three players and their four legged accomplice on a marked pitch of 100 metres by 60 metres using a standard size polo ball.
- The game is divided into two 7-minute "chukkas", or halves, of playing time with an interval of 15 minutes. The whistle blown by the referee stops and starts the play. Both the elephants and playing pitch ends are changed after the first chukka.
- The pitch is marked with lines; a circle with a radius of 10 metres marks the middle of the field, while semi-circles arch in front of the goals with a radius of 20 metres, measured from the centre of the goal line at either end of the pitch and referred to as the D.
- The scoring system awards two points to a winning team and one point apiece to teams which draw.



## How to play

### Game Technicalities

No elephants may lie down in front of the goal mouth. To do so constitutes a foul and a free hit is awarded to the opposing side from the semi-circle in front of the goal.

- An elephant may not pick up the ball in its trunk during play. To do so constitutes a foul and a free hit is awarded to the opposing team from the spot where the ball was picked up. The defending players must be 15 metres from the spot.
- Teams are made up from the pool of elephants and balanced out as fairly as possible bearing in mind the size and speed of the elephant. Once the pool of elephants has been selected, each elephant is categorised and marked as A, B, C, D, E and F.
- Sugar cane or rice balls packed with vitamins (molasses and rock salt) are given to the elephants at the end of each match, and a cold beer or soft drink to the elephant drivers, and not vice versa!

The health and welfare of the elephants used in T.E.P.A. tournaments is of prime concern. Abuse of an elephant is considered to be the most serious offence.



### Fun Facts

- Elephants in this tournament only respond to Thai commands from their mahouts.
- The first elephant polo games were played with a soccer ball. These were quickly changed to standard polo balls after it was realised the elephants liked to stamp and pop the soccer balls!
- Some players train by sitting on top of a slow-moving jeep and swinging at the ball using the actual Elephant Polo stick!



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## Benefits for our Elephants

Every elephant attending the King's Cup Elephant Polo tournament has a unique microchip number which is required by law and means that Thai authorities know the animal was not taken from the wild.

The elephants receive no specific training to play polo. In addition, only young elephants who like to run around and enjoy themselves participate in the tournament. Such elephants tend to easily pick up the game (some better than others!) and actually enjoy themselves. Each elephant only plays two games a day - we don't want our elephants to get tired so they only play for 28 minutes each day compared with working 10 hours a night on the streets or 5 hours a day in a trekking camp.

Young elephants enjoy running around and playing games - and at the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation we have an area for the young elephants to play, which they'll do for hours at a time, participating in possession games with tyres and such.

High energy food is essential for all 'ele-athletes' and each elephant participating in the tournament is fed 20 stems of bananas, 50 sticks of sugarcane and 10 pineapple plants per day, in addition to being provided with veterinary and vitamin supplements.

The tournament's largest expense is maintaining and pampering the elephants - this is on top of the money raised at the Gala Dinner which is used for more strategic projects that benefit all of Thailand's elephants.

An elephant that does not enjoy elephant polo is immediately retired and she still gets to keep her bonuses as this is usually the only time of the year they receive regular veterinary checkups, vitamin supplements and a chance to rest in natural surroundings.

One reason we have chosen the Suriyothai Army Camp is because the surrounding natural forest is a great place for elephants. Our main concern is to take these elephants off the busy streets and tourist areas and let them be elephants for at least two weeks a year.

Each elephant receives a veterinary check before she's declared fit to play - those that fail don't get sent home, they just get prescribed rest; something often not possible throughout the rest of the year.

WE AIM TO MAKE THIS AS MUCH OF A HOLIDAY  
FOR THE ELEPHANTS AS IT IS FOR OUR GUESTS



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## Audemars Piguet Team



### Mr. Peter Prentice ©

One of the sport's most colourful characters and WEPA Chairman elect, in his 25th year now, Peter has amassed three World Championship medals and three WEPA World Series Grand Slam titles, in addition to his recent success in captaining Scotland to Olympic Gold at WEPA 2009. He holds the record or the fastest ever goal in WEPA history (2.5 seconds) during the King's Cup 2003 Championships in Hua Hin. He was also accredited with the proclaimed 'Goal of the Century' at WEPA 2007. As a man for all seasons he can play defense, midfield or attack, although arguably his best position is at the bar orchestrating tidal waves of Chivas Manhattans for any unsuspecting opposition, team mates and press alike.



### Mr. Angaad Kalaan

'The Dark Horse of Delhi' has quietly and stealthily maneuvered through the corridors of polo to become the much feted icon and pin-up of the Indian horse polo team. Angaad played for the winning Chivas Nepal team in the 2001 King's Cup. He has won the "Golden Stick" award on four occasions and is up there as one of the best players ever in the 27- year history of WEPA.



### Mr. Uday Kalaan

Uday started playing horse polo at the age of 16 and has played professionally in India for the last nine seasons. He was part of the World Cup team that played in the world championships at St. Moritz in 1995 and has played in countries around the world including the UK, France Portugal, Switzerland, the USA, Pakistan, Zambia, Kenya and South Africa.

Twice he has captained India against worthy opponents and is regarded as an impact player. He currently runs the Haryana Polo Club with his brother at his farm, near Delhi.



### Oliviero Bottinelli

Oliviero is the mastermind. Having first heard rumours of the all Kalaan Dream Tea, having watched Uday bring bring the Audemars Piguet team the brink of greatness he sought out the world's most successful manager and, with the same drive that has made Audemars Piguet the world's most desired watch, he brings together the strike force once more.



## Anantara Team



### **Ms. Lucy Monro**

A familiar face at polo tournaments around the world, as the Publisher and Editor in Chief of Equestrio Arabia and Equestrio China, Lucy, when not playing polo on elephants, or reporting on others doing the same, can be found in Dubai at her day job bringing the best of the polo and equestrian world to Equestrio readers.



### **Ms. Robin Lourvanij**

Robin, half Australian, half Thai, interior designer, established Kuppa Tea & Coffee Traders Co. Ltd., Bangkok's popular restaurant / coffee house in year 1998. A co-owner of Polo Escape, she is also one of Asia's most active lady Patrons, as well as the Vice President of the Thailand Polo Association. Robin has participated in many International tournaments including Australia, Argentina, Germany, UK and Singapore. She also participated in the Royal Salute Maharaja of Jodhpur Golden Jubilee Cup, Jodhpur in year 2009. Robin and her team also won the 12 goal Dubai Cup at Ham, England, August 2010.



### **Ms. Carolyn Syangbo**

The lady behind the success of WEPA polo is making her debut at the King's Cup. Carolyn is a gem and watch her sparkle as one of the top 3 elephant polo players in the world.



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**Mr. Geoffrey Dobbs ©**

The founder & president of the Ceylon Elephant Polo Association, a man who's Churchillian defence has been cited by numerous WEPA pundits as the foundation behind CHIVAS Scotland's 2005 WEPA Grand Slam, and yet the 'Tunku of Tupropane' remains a modest and unassuming part of the WEPA furniture, until that is, he has had a couple of bottles of white wine – when he can become irrepressibly vivacious. To see him at his brilliant best – be sure to go to one of his bohemian balls on Taprobane Island – one of the ultimate experiences known to 'party man'.

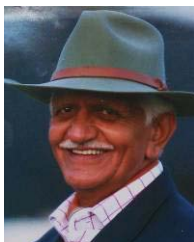


**Princess Anna Wallerstein & Princess Joanna Wallerstein**

The history of the Princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein dates back almost 900 years. The family stems from one of the oldest noble lineages in Germany. Today, the Princely House of Oettingen-Wallerstein is among one of the oldest existing noble houses in Europe and has had close economical and cultural ties with the Bavaria "Ries" region for centuries. Prince Carl Eugen, the first born, is in charge of the Wallerstein company holdings.



## PricewaterhouseCoopers WEPA Legends Team



### Col Raj Kalaan ©

Known as the Silver Fox, Col Raj Kalaan is a legend of both the horse and elephant polo worlds. Having played horse polo for India in the 1970s and 1980s, Raj turned his skills to the pachyderm variety in 1987 captaining the Oberoi team to victory in WEPA 1989. He has won 6 championships and the coveted King's Cup twice. The Silver Fox and his wife Sunny are both recognised for their selfless dedication and commitment to the development of this great sport.



### Mr. Tim Beaumont

Tim is CEO of The Beaumont Partnership - an architectural, interior design and landscape firm based in Bangkok. Tim's extensive experience and understanding of the Asian business environment, together with this enviable network of specialist consultants and advisors, offers clients a level of intelligence highly sought after in today's competitive commercial environment. Tim's lust for the unusual brought him to the King's Cup in 2007 and as a mature player he seeks new heights on bigger elephants.



### Mr Charles Reichelmann

Charles Riechelmann is a Tongan-born New Zealand rugby union player. He played for Auckland, the Blues and the All Blacks at international level. He played six test matches (in all cases as a reserve) for New Zealand in 1997, scoring three tries. He was also a part of the Blues 1996 and 1997 Super 12 winning teams.



### Mr Robin Brooke

Robin played representative rugby for Auckland, and made his All Blacks debut in 1992 against Ireland. Robin captained the Blues in the Super 12 of 2000 and 2001 and was in the Auckland NPC sides in those two seasons before retiring at the end of the 2001 season. As of 2010 he is the proprietor of the New World supermarket in Warkworth, New Zealand.



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## Johnnie Walker Blue Label Team



### Mr. Christopher Stafford ©

Famous for bringing Elephant Polo to Thailand as VP & GM of Anantara Hua Hin, he has spent time practicing his skills around the world including a stint in the Maldives experimenting with shark polo. He first played short stick horse polo in Ethiopia during Emperor Haile Selassie's reign. Later in Singapore he took up the reins again at the Singapore Polo Club studying with Pakistan national captain, Sattar Kahn. Swedish-born, British-educated and at home wherever he lays his hat, Chris has played in every King's Cup tournament. He carries a handicap only eclipsed by his bar tab.



### Mr. Bjorn Richardson

Vice-president and co-founder of TEPA (Thailand Elephant Polo Association), Bjorn captained the Thai team to a silver medal in the 2003 WEPA championships. In the 2008 WEPA event he swears he witnessed the goal of the century (though no one else can recall the morning. Bjorn, who works for Oakwood, is also an avid golfer, which allegedly causes serious problems with his polo swing!



### Mr. Rinchen Choegyial

The younger of the famous Chogyial brothers, rumour has it that Rinchen was conceived on an elephant – his mother having foresworn a pachyderm back birth after her first experience – believing it best for their future both brothers were raised by a herd of wild elephants in Chitwan National Park, Nepal but Rinchen, being the younger, went un-rescued by Four Seasons, a decision that has allowed him to concentrate fully on his elephant polo development (a development only partially hampered after he found his Thai drinking coach under a Bodhi tree in Sri Lanka).



### Mr. Jamie Seward

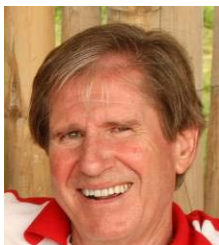
The James Bond of Elephant Polo is coming to you via Dubai with love! This smooth gentleman of polo will challenge everyone at the field this year. Jamie is making his debut at the King's Cup after many successful campaigns at WEPA Nepal.



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## SOCO International PLC



### Mr. Ed Story

Southeast Asia is a core area in Ed Story's SOCO International oil exploration business, and has been Ed's home base for over 40 years. Ed's business now requires that he spend time in West Africa, London, Mongolia and occasionally a brief stopover at the Texas ranch where he and his wife, Joey, have a menagerie of livestock but, unfortunately, no elephants. This year is Ed's fourth time to participate in the King's Cup. He is joined by his daughters Katie and Sara of the Sara Story Design team. Perhaps a legacy has begun as his grandson, Story Kimura, at the age of nine had a team in the Four Season's Elephant Day Tournament in March, 2011 where he had a hat trick and propelled his team to the novice category championship.



### Mr. Jason Friedman ©

One can ask how the scion of the famous Friedman family of New York came to be such an accomplished hotelier and elephant polo player. Unfortunately, we are not able to disclose that part of his history less this biographical sketch fall into the hands of the authorities and perhaps, more importantly, his investors. However, everything this man has done has been with complete gusto, passion and total disregard for convention.

From a more recent career disclosure perspective, Khun Jason transformed the Four Seasons Tented Camp from a bit of bush jungle in the Golden Triangle to one of the most highly regarded hotels in the world. It was there that he made his bones in the hotel business and cobbled together what became the SOCO team.



### Khun Taweesak Keereekaew

Rumour has it that Khun Taweesak, Thailand's native son and number one ranked Elephant Polo Player, was nicknamed Wee by the behind-the-goal crowd for the unique whistling sound of the polo ball passing between the posts high above their heads – Born in Chiang Rai, Khun Wee has grown up with elephants and is locally known as the "Elephant Whisperer".



### Mr. Paul Linder

Definitely refining the edge to this swash-buckling team, Paul Linder is a veteran of the King's Cup since the Hua Hin days. GM of the famous destination spa Chiva Som (not to be confused with Chivas Om) he will not only add flair to the team's play but is charged with keeping them healthy and un-intoxicated.



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**Khun Prakorn Saejaw**

Khun Seng, as he is known to his friends, is famous for his knowledge of elephants and hill tribe young ladies. Despite the similarity of his name, he is not related to the notorious Golden Triangle warlord, Khun Sa. Nonetheless, there are some similarities, in that beneath that quiet exterior, is a ruthless, determined competitor. His survival skills were developed on the Thai/ Burma/ Lao border which makes Hua Hin look like a vacation spa in comparison.



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## Mercedes-Benz Thailand



### Mr. Tim Edwards

Tim made the bold decision to change from left to right handed play under the supervision of a personal coach, scrutinizing his every stroke and swing, without the slightest improvement. Tim is Director of Operations in the Tiger Mountain Group and he has a new venture called Fish Nepal.



### Mr. Kristjan Edwards ©

Kristjan Edwards is a world class tobogoner, but when he's not riding head-first down an icy slope at 93 mph he runs the Tiger Mountain Group, including the renowned Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in Chitwan, Nepal. Kristjan is a real animal lover with 6 dogs, 2 cats, fish and turtles at his home. His heart beats for conservation efforts through the International Trust for Nature and Conservation as well as Tiger Tops.



### Mr. Rickard Hogberg

Former captain of the Singapore Polo Club and a native of Sweden, Rickard now resides in Singapore and has a +2 goal handicap in horse polo. He represented Sweden in the FIP European Championship in 1995 and 1997; and Singapore in the FIP World Cup Qualifiers in Lahore in 2003. In 2004 he acted as coach, manager and escort for the super glamorous DBS ladies team.



### Prince Carl Eugen Wallerstein

The history of the Princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein dates back almost 900 years. The family stems from one of the oldest noble lineages in Germany. Today, the Princely House of Oettingen-Wallerstein is among one of the oldest existing noble houses in Europe and has had close economical and cultural ties with the Bavaria "Ries" region for centuries. Prince Carl Eugen, the first born, is in charge of the Wallerstein company holdings.



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## King Power Duty Free



### Mr. Tom Claytor ©

Tom is from Philadelphia, USA. He is a member of the infamous Black Dog Horse Polo Team, and has previously been on two championship King's Cup Elephant Polo teams (Chivas in 2001 and Thailand in 2004). He has often been compared to Murlu Murlitharan not only for his playing genius but also for having perfected the controversial 'Claytor Move'. Tom travels with two polo sticks in the back of his plane & he loves commentating from the sidelines. Africa is where he learned polo. Nepal where he learnt to play polo on elephants & in Thailand he realised polo on elephants could raise money for elephant conservation.



### Mr. Apichet Raksriskasorn

Khun Top is a member of the Thai National Polo Team. He started playing polo when he was in High School and was one of the leading scorers in the 24th SEA polo games in 2007. He first played Elephant Polo in Hua Hin for the American Express team, and has now been promoted to Captain of the King Power Elephant Polo Team.



### Mr. Nattapong Pratumlee

Khun Nat is a member of the Thai National Polo Team. He is also a veteran Elephant Polo player, having served on the first King Power B team in 2002 and on the Mullis Capital elephant polo team with his father Khun Omsin.



### Mr. Thanasin Chuawangkhram



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## Kasikorn Bank



### Mr. James Manclark ©

Honorary Life President and Co-Founder of WEPA, James celebrated his 70th birthday at the WEPA World Championships in Nepal 2009. He drove a bobsleigh for Britain for ten years, competing in the Olympics in the bobsleigh and luge, and won a World Championship power boat race. He also built one of the balloons competing to be the first to circumnavigate the world non stop. Committee member and Ambassador of FIP (Federation International de Polo), he has played horse polo in 36 different countries, works as a property developer and is now starting to invest in oil.



### Mr. Alistair Archibald

3 goal horse player extraordinaire! One of Scotland's best elephant polo men is a veteran of the King's Cup. This debonaire, yet calm and collected Scotsman is a dynamo on the field.



### Mr. Michael "Pele" Godwin

Freshman from Scotland, delightful young man touted as the new "Pele" of elephant polo, Michael is a charming young man with a great future in elephant polo.



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## IBM Spice Girls



### Ms. Chitra Hepburn

Chitra Hepburn made her ele-polo debut for the Audemars Piguet team at the 2009 King's Cup and has discovered a new passion for this noble sport. Chitra's off-pitch career as an investment banker has given her some experience in competing in a male-dominated arena, not unlike ele-polo, but she feels nothing beats the thrill of a well-fought chukka. Chitra lives in Shanghai and is presently on a sabbatical doing a degree in Chinese characters and intends to study Pachydermology thereafter.



### Mrs. Samantha Prentice ©

Sam Prentice returns with her 22 years of rich experience on the WEPA circuit, starting off with the International Tigresses during her tenure as PR manager at Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge. WEPA 1999 marks her famous 7 goals in 7 minutes performance. Sam has become a mainstay of the much feared Spice Girls, earning a reputation as a top female player in the world, putting the fear of God into many unsuspecting male teams. When not playing or rock 'n' rolling late into the night with the Spice Girls, Sam is the mother of Ben and Anoushka.



### Ms. Sharona Hurmuses

One of the world's most skilled and determined elephant polo players and a fitness guru off the pitch Sharona is surely too young to have inspired the famous song but her on pitch moves and off pitch charm have inspired many a late night rendition (of the chorus at least).



### Sharlyn Stafford

Author, sportswoman, business coach and corporate trainer Sharlyn can only add punch and tactical nous to this impressive line up, her skills in imaging for women will come in handy helping the team lull the opposition into a false sense of security and who knows? They may end up branding the men.



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**Ms. Ravini Perera**

Effervescent, charming, Ravini is a global traveller, a master & connoisseur from the Atlantis Dubai, and one of the world's best ladies players with a strong ability in strategic elephant polo.



**Yupa Chongpattiyut**

Delightful, senior architect, jovial, entrepreneurial Yupa is the added spice of the Spice Girls. Bangkok's best interior designer and married to outstanding elephant polo player Tim Beaumont of the Beaumont Partnership in Thailand.



## Sara Story Design



### **Ms. Sara Story**

Sara Story Design returns to the King's Cup tournament after a one year break for Sara to have a lovely daughter and further develop her successful design business in New York. Her design firm has been recognized in numerous print and television media as the premier interior design establishment for high profile international commercial and residential projects. Despite Sara's demanding travel schedule, she has been able to accommodate frequent visits to the Four Seasons Tented Camp to further hone her elephant polo skills.



### **Ms. Katie Story ©**

Katie joins her sister, Sara, in returning this year and serves as Team Captain. Katie is based in Dallas, Texas where she has recently become Business Development Manager-West Coast of Shopper Trak, the world's leading provider of information products and solutions to the retail, gaming, mall and shopping center industries. A career change did not deter Katie from a series of elephant polo excursions. She distinguished herself in the March, 2011 Four Seasons Elephant Day Polo Tournament with a hat trick in the first chukka of the final match. Katie has installed GPS tracking devices in all of the elephants to be in the King's Cup.



### **Ms. Jennifer Coffindaffer**

Jennifer is a new addition to elephant polo. She is formerly from Dallas, Texas and is currently the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation Senior Supervisory Special Agent for the U.S. Virgin Islands and a member of the San Juan Swat Team. Folks you have not experienced anything as difficult as playing elephant polo with a group of tough, Texas girls and one of whom is required to pack heat while carrying the old 007 license. Actually, the more formidable weapon is Jennifer's martial arts capability which she assures us she can perform on the back on an elephant.



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**Mr. Todd Joyce**

Todd joins the Sara Story Design team to provide a further touch of New York and add some muscle to the feminine charm. Although Todd has never seen an elephant and does not play polo, he is quite keen to relieve the ladies if they tire in the heat of the game. Moreover, as a continuous traveler, Todd has never suffered from jet lag as his days and nights are a complete blur. He is a successful marketer of media advertising on Madison Avenue.



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## British Airways British Army Team



### Col. Felix Gedney OBE ©

Felix Gedney was born and raised on a farm in the southeast of England. He was educated at school and at Durham University. Unable to think of a more meaningful job, Felix joined the Army in 1986 for a few years. Twenty-five years later he is still a soldier. In the Army, Felix has served in UK, Germany, Northern Ireland, Canada, Norway, Cyprus, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and will deploy on a second tour of Afghanistan next year.

Felix is married to Polly, an artist, and they have 3 boys. His interests include equitation, ornithology, cabinet making, motorcycling and rugby; and he is keen on, but equally bad at, a large number of other sports. He enjoys new and exciting challenges, which in the past have included marathon running, swimming the channel, and motorcycling across the Hindu Kush.



### Maj. Charles Valdes Scott

As a young man and having run out of money after three years travelling, there was no way of putting off the inevitable any longer and Valdes-Scott returned home to become the third generation in his family to join The King's Royal Hussars - the finest Cavalry Regiment in the British Army. As a dashing young Cavalry Officer, he has spent much of his Army career enjoying the finer things in life. The Regimental polo team was sponsored by Pol Roger Champagne, the downhill ski team by Warre's Port. As an experienced free-fall sky-diver, a Cresta rider, a langlaufer and having competed internationally in a bob-sleigh, V-S barely had time to be a tank commander before re-rolling as a helicopter pilot. He has served in many conflicts overseas, and played polo on most Continents. Having ridden all his life, his polo career culminated in taking on the Chilean Army with fellow (now ele-polo) team-mate Cameron Humphries - and winning! He is married to Portia, has two young children, a dog and a small brown rabbit called Wibble.matrc



### Maj. Cameron Humphries

Since being the same height as his toy action-man Maj Cam Humphries wanted to join the Army. Despite over 20 years service in The Highlanders - the finest Infantry Regiment in the British Army - and having completed numerous operational tours he is still most renowned for being that mad British Officer who practised his bicycle



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polo on the streets of Baghdad in full body armour and helmet whilst under fire from snipers and mortars! A retired "Hooker" (rugby player not street walker!) he took up polo some years ago with the intent of bringing the dark arts of the rugby front row to the polo pitch and is now commonly referred to as the "Gallopig Major" mainly for the reason when not at work he is normally found on horseback. As the only Infantry player in the British Army team he is only tolerated by his fellow Cavalry Officers as he is used to carrying heavy weights (and hence their kit bags) and is a close combat specialist making him particularly useful for melees on and off the pitch!



## PTT Visitors Team



### **Mr. Marc Spiegel**

Marc is a senior business executive working for a European multi-national corporation here in Thailand, hailing originally from Brooklyn, NY. He is also currently Vice Chairman of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce Thailand (JFCCT), as well as President of the Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce and a Director of the Board of Trade of Thailand.

Growing-up Marc had a strong passion for equestrian show-jumping and even had the opportunity to play polo a few times. This year he will try his skills out playing elephant polo.



### **Mr. David Wildridge**

Former Tornado Fighter Pilot David is known for his tactical play and his witty and informative commentary. An experienced amateur horse polo player, he has played in many countries. Although he calls Oxford home he is presently an Airbus Airline Captain in Spain and is joined in the team by his son William.



### **Khun Mo**



### **Mr. Prabsharan Thakral**

Visionary entrepreneur owner of the Boutique Hotel Company is one of the new entrants into the world's top 100 elephant polo players. Watch this man who is sure to climb up the rankings this year.



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## **Welcome to the 10th anniversary of the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament held at the Suriyothai Army Camp in honour of His Majesty the King.**

This tournament is held on the property of the Royal Thai Army and to maintain a level of decorum appropriate to the setting the Military Police are on hand to assist you at all times.

### **Spectator Regulations**

- No flags or banners are permitted on the grounds without the permission of the organiser
- No whistles or horns are allowed at any time as they may scare the elephants
- Smoking is not permitted in the restaurant or public areas
- For your own safety, please do not approach the elephants
- No gambling or betting of any sort is permitted on the premises
- Please do not litter; use the conveniently located garbage cans
- Elephants must always be given right-of-way and at no time shall unauthorised personnel enter the elephant area
- Selling of goods or services is not permitted without prior approval of the event organisers
- Please use the public facilities which have been made available on the grounds
- Do not leave children unattended at any time
- Spectators under the age of 18 must be under adult supervision and are not permitted to consume tobacco or alcohol
- Adults are requested to consume alcohol responsibly
- For your safety, please refrain from crossing over or sitting on the field fence and maintain a safe distance from the pitch
- Do not try to feed, touch or throw things at the elephants
- No firearms or fireworks of any kind are permitted on the grounds
- The tournament welcomes the public from 9am to 6pm, guests are not permitted on the grounds at any other time
- Please note that by attending the tournament, guests may have their picture published in media outlets or on internet news sites
- Complimentary parking is available at guests' own risk in designated areas
- Please respect the 20 km per hour speed limit at all times when driving in the camp grounds.
- Please respect and abide by the rules of the Som Dej Phra Suriyo Thai Military Camp. The army and event organisers reserve the right to refuse entry or request guests to leave the grounds at any given time

