

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Polo for Heart

## June 18-20 and June 26-27

### Polo lesson 101

*There are six chukkers in a game and a tailshot is when you hit the ball behind the horse's rump*

The following is a list of rules and terms of the game of polo.

**Positions** — each of the four team members play a distinctly different position. Since polo is such a fluid game, the players may momentarily change positions, but will try and return to their assignment.

Number one is the most forward offensive player.

Number two is also on the offensive, but plays deeper.

Number three is the pivot player between offense and defense and tries to turn all plays back to offense.

Number four or the back is the defensive player whose main role is to protect the goal.

**Chukker** — also called a period. There are six chukkers in a polo game (four in arena polo), each lasting seven minutes, plus 30 seconds in overtime.

If, during that 30 seconds, the ball hits the sideboards or goes out of bounds, or if the umpire blows his whistle, the chukker is over. There is no overtime at the end of the sixth chukker unless the score is tied, at which time a seventh period will be played. A player returns to each chukker on a different horse, although he may rest one for a chukker or two and play him again.

**Goal** — any time a ball crosses the line between the goal posts, it is considered a goal, regardless of whether a horse or a mallet causes the ball to go through. In order to equalize wind and turf condition, the team changes sides every goal scored.

**Bump** — a player is permitted to ride into another player to spoil his shot. The angle of collision must cause no more than a jar. The faster the horse travels, the smaller the angle must be.

**Handicap** — all registered players are rated on a scale of -2 to 10 (the higher, the better). Although the word goal is often used after the digit, it bears no relation to the number

of goals a player might score — only his ability. The handicap of the team is the sum total rating of its players and in handicap matches, the team with the higher handicap gives the difference in ratings to the other team. For example: A six-goal team will give two goals to a four-goal team.

**Hook** — a player may spoil another's shot by putting his mallet in the way of the striking player. A cross-hook occurs when the player reaches over his opponent's mount in an attempt to hook — this is considered a foul.

**Knock-in** — should a team, in an offensive drive, hit the ball across the opponent's backline, the defending team resumes the game with a free hit from its backline. No time-out is allowed for knock-ins.

**Near-side** — the left hand side of the horse.

**Off-side** — the right hand side of the horse.

**Neckshot** — a ball which is hit under the horse's neck from either side.

**Ride-off** — this occurs when two riders make contact and attempt to push each other off the line of the ball to prevent the other from striking. The horses are supposed to do the pushing, although a player may use his body, but not his elbows.

**Tailshot** — hitting the ball behind and across the horse's rump.

**Throw-in** — a chukker begins and many plays resume with the umpire bowling the ball between the two ready teams.

**Third man** — the referee sitting at the sidelines. If the two umpires on the field disagree, the third man makes the final decision.

### More than just polo

*Polo for Heart also offers skydivers, kitefliers, the canine unit, boutiques and more*

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the fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

Brian Dicenzo, a member of the team, cannot remember what first attracted him to what looks like such a risky sport.

A diver for 29 years, Dicenzo said he must have seen it on television. He then joined his local club — his advice for aspiring parachutists.

Dicenzo now dives at several events throughout Ontario, and is a member at clubs in Coldwater and Simcoe.

Dicenzo and Guido Robert, the core members of the Rainbow Skydivers team, have participated in the Canadian National Exhibition Air Show, the Hamilton Air Show and many other events, including jumping through the open roof at the grand opening of SkyDome.

The group has also participated in parachuting competitions, winning several for parachutists over 40 years old, and winning the provincial awards in 1982 and 1983 in Grand Bend.

The Toronto Kitefliers are a group of kiting enthusiasts ranging in age and levels of experience, with members from not only the Toronto area, but other countries as well.

The club has run many festivals in and around the



Toronto region, and has aligned itself with regional kite clubs in Ottawa, Kitchener, Port Colborne, Windsor and Buffalo. Toronto Kitefliers are known around the world as one of the key kite making clubs, and many of the members pride themselves on their homemade creations which have appeared at demonstration tours in various parts of the world.

#### CANINE UNIT WILL BE AT POLO FOR HEART

The York Region Police Canine Unit first went into action in 1990, after the Newmarket Lions Club donated four dogs to the force. In its first year, the canine unit attended 1,220 calls, resulting in 168 criminal charges and 71 arrests. The unit was so successful, a narcotics dog and

handler were added the following year.

Polo for Heart will also feature a silent auction of more than 150 treasures, including vintage wines and trips.

Raffle prizes include two round-trip business class tickets to Hong Kong and three nights' accommodation at the Regent Hotel, Hong Kong.

Boutique tents feature unique artisans, crafts people and licenced clothing. Tickets are available at the gate, and are \$10 per person, with children under 12 free. Gates open at 10 a.m., and the polo starts at noon and 1:30 p.m.

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