



# HUBLLOT POLO GOLD CUP GSTAAD SWITZERLAND

Crowds from across the globe descended upon the Gstaad-Saanen Airfield for the 21st edition of the Hublot Polo Gold Cup, which this year welcomed some new teams. One of the new Teams was the Hublot Chinese team lead by Shilai Liu, a keen polo player, owner of the Tang Polo Club in Beijing who was playing in Switzerland for the first time. The other new team in 2016 was Team Polo Friends who showed a force to be reckoned with right off the bat in the opening game, securing a mammoth 11-4 victory over Team Banque Eric Sturdza. The second match of the first day saw home favourites Team Gstaad Palace take on Team Hublot, the first-ever Chinese Team to compete at the tournament, and narrowly claimed a win with a score of 6-4 ½. In the first semi-final, Team Gstaad Palace, winners in 2013, faced Team Banque Eric Sturdza. Team Banque Eric Sturdza struck out an early lead in the opening chukka with a spectacular aerial shot in front of the posts by Olavo Novaes. And despite Team Gstaad Palace's best efforts, Team Banque Eric Sturdza dominated the final two chukkas and claimed their spot in the final with a final score of 7-4. Team Hublot came

out in full force to take on Team Polo Friends in the second semi-final. Team Hublot raced ahead to a 2-0 lead in the first chukka thanks to Antonino Menard. In the final chukka the drama unfolded as Team Polo Friends looked as though they were going to make an epic comeback with the score at 6-5. With 7-7 going up on the board at full time, a nail-biting fifth sudden death chukka would be played. It was all over in three seconds however, as hero of the day Marcos Di Paola fired the ball up the pitch and through the posts to clinch Team Hublot's place in the final. In between matches the spectators were able to take a breather in the luxury shopping village, which included luxury stands such as Hotspring Spas and for those with a sweet tooth, the Du Rhone Chocolatier. Fly7 treated guests to two world-class air displays. In the gripping final on the Gstaad-Saanen Airfield, owner of the Tang Polo Club in Beijing Shilai Liu's Team Hublot claimed the coveted trophy with a score of 6.5-6 over Team Banque Eric Sturdza. The sound of the Ferrari engines echoed across the valley as the match ball was carried onto the pitch in great style by Pierre Genecand, President of the

event. In the scintillating first chukka, Team Hublot stretched took the lead with 3.5-0, thanks to the nimble stick work of the tournament's highest handicapped player, Marcos Di Paola, and never let go. Team Banque Eric Sturdza stayed hot on their heels, however, as their Olavo Novaes continued to impress. In the final moments of the third chukka Team Banque Eric Sturdza were awarded a 30-yard penalty, Brazil's Olavo Novaes stepped up to the spot, as cool as ice, and hit the ball neatly through the posts to put his side in front for the first time in the game. Another goal in the fourth chukka pushed Team Banque Eric Sturdza even further ahead but Team Hublot responded fast as Marcos Di Paola scored two goals in quick succession to take back the lead with less than one minute left on the clock. There was no time for Team Banque Eric Sturdza to fight back and in a nail biting finish Team Hublot were victorious with a final score 6.5-6. Team Gstaad Palace beat Team Polo Friends in the runner-up final, heading into a sudden death fifth chukka where Team Gstaad Palace's Juan Pepa scored the golden goal to claim a narrow 7-6 victory. ■

**NAME OF EVENT:** Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad 2016 **DATE:** 18-21 August 2016 **ADDRESS:** Polo Club Gstaad, Les Arcades, PO-BOX 419, CH-3780 Gstaad, Switzerland **WEBSITE:** www.pologstaad.ch **E-MAIL:** info@pologstaad.ch **SHOW GROUND:** Gstaad-Saanen airport **SHOW PRESIDENT:** Pierre E. Genecand **SHOW DIRECTOR:** Pierre E. Genecand **SPORT DIRECTOR:** Pierre E. Genecand **NUMBER OF SPECTATORS** 6000 **MAIN SPONSORS:** Hublot (title sponsor), Gstaad Palace (5\* hotel) and Banque Eric Sturdza SA



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1. Jean-Claude Biver (Chairman LVMH watch division) and Stephane Lambiel two-time World Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist in figure skating.
2. Fly7 treated guests to two world-class air displays.
3. Polo President Pierre Genecand (President of the event) & Sybille Genecand and Bernard Nicod (Vice-President) with Ndeye Magniez at the Gala night.



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4. Mr Shilai Liu led his team to victory.
5. The final between Team Hublot and Team Banque Eric Sturdza.
6. Team Hublot emerged as the winners.
7. Jean-Claude Biver and Pierre Genecand.
8. Team Hublot on the podium.
9. The guests were entertained at the Gala Night with a Chinese theme.
10. Prince Eric Sturdza and his son Luca.
11. Trio Dora, a fantastic band resident at the Gstaad Palace night Club.
12. The players, sponsors and officials of the 2016 edition of the tournament.