



POLO
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33RD

Cédric Schweri welcomes Eric Sturdza

Photo: © Kathrin Gralla



23rd Hublot Polo Gold Cup in Gstaad

After the successful defense of the title
Cédric Schweri aims 2019 for the
third title in a row

'Mr Polo Gstaad' – Pierre Genecand, president Hublot
Polo Gold Cup Gstaad

Photo: © R&B Presse/Pascal Renaudon





Second win in a row for Team Banque Eric Sturdza with Marcos Riglos, Nico Lopez Fuentes, Joao Novaes and Cédric Schweri

Photo: © R&B Presse/Pascal Renaudon

What an incredible final! The Hublot Polo Gold Cup has always offered high-class polo sports, but there has not been such an exciting and highly competitive final as this year at the airfield in Saanen. In the final, the teams of the defending champions Banque Eric Sturdza with Cédric Schweri, Marcos Riglos, Nico Lopez Fuentes, Joao Novaes and Clinique La Prairie with Faris Al-Yabhouni, Agustin Canale, Hugo Barabucci, Gonzalo Bernal faced each other.



Final: Team Clinique La Prairie and Joao Novaes of Team Banque Eric Sturdza

Photo: © Arnaud Soalhat

Cédric Schveri's girlfriend
Jennifer Lenti and Christina Sturza
Photo: © Kathrin Gralla



Photo: © Arnaud Soalhat

Ranking

1 Team Banque Sturza (+14)

- Cédric Schveri (0)
- Marcos Riglos (+5)
- Nico Lopez Fuentes (+4)
- Joao Novaes (+5)

3 Team Gstaad Palace (+12)

- Marco Maximilian Elser (0)
- Marcos Antinori (+3)
- Nicolas Antinori (+4)
- Pedro Fernandez Llorente (+5)

2 Clinique La Prairie (+14)

- Faris Al-Yabhouni (0)
- Agustin Canale (+6)
- Hugo Barabucci (+5)
- Gonzalo Bernal (+3)

4 Team Hublot (+12)

- Matteo Beffa (0)
- Gerardo Cosentino (0)
- Julio Novillo Astrada (+7)
- Santiago Schweizer (+5)

Birgit Hügli-Herrmann and Chris Hügli, owner and
publisher of Polo Luxury & Country Life Magazine

Photo: © Kathrin Gralla



Game for the third place: Team Palace Gstaad against Team Hublot

Photo: © Arnaud Soalhat



"In short, in the score, this resulted in a severe 4-1 after the first chukker with two goals scored by the one who would be crowned the tournament's top scorer, the Argentine Agustin Canale (15 goals in the end, 5 average per game). Things got better in the second period, when Banque Eric Sturdza came back to 7-5. "We then started to speed up our game," says Schweri. Notably thanks to Marcelo Pascual, author of lightning accelerations, brilliantly organizing the game of his team and scoring the two goals that would put the two teams to a tie in the last chukker. All there was left to do for Brazilian Joao Novaes was to conclude by scoring a 30-yard penalty giving Banque Eric Sturdza their second title: "Two successive titles in five finals, it's true that it's great, but I promise you that I will come back for a third conquest! These victories are the most beautiful because they are at home!" The final was preceded by the game for the third place easily won by Team Gstaad Palace defeating Team Hublot, 8-4. Pedro Fernandez Llorente scored four goals for the victorious team, while in the other team only Julio Novillo Astrada managed to score.

Team Clinique La Prairie Faris Al-Yabhouni, Gonzalo Bernal, Augustin Canale and Hugo Barabucci

Photo: © Kathrin Gralla

What the players offered to the more than 2,000 enthusiastic spectators was more than a fight, it was a battle! Clinique La Prairie attacked very strongly to the point where one could wonder if the game was not going to be one-sided: "In the beginning of the game, we did not really play well," concedes the happy captain of Banque Eric Sturdza Cédric Schweri after the prize giving ceremony. "The other team started the game off very strongly and it began to look bad for us. But our team is like a good Swiss clock, it takes time to adjust, but once it runs, it runs with great regularity."

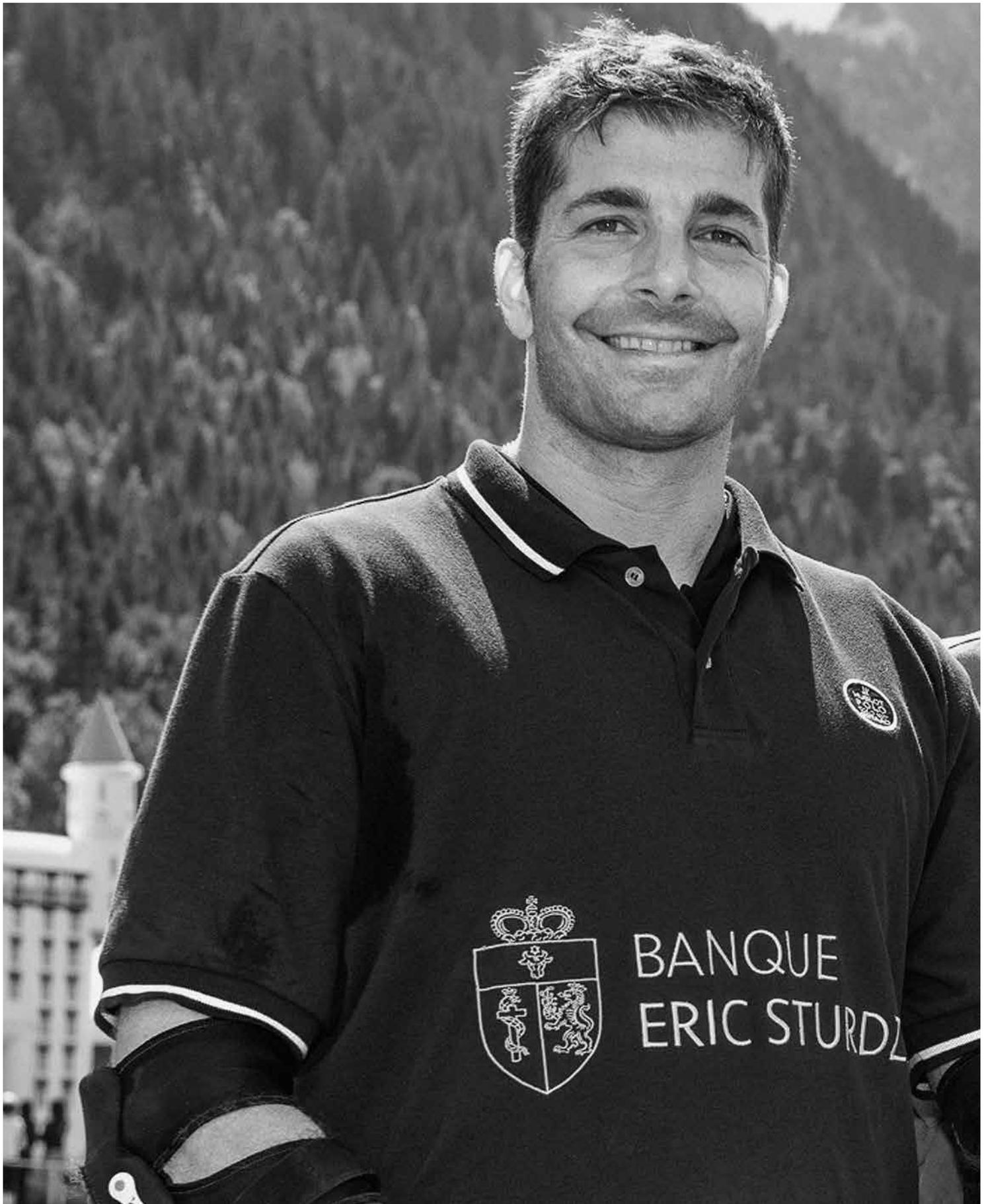


Team Banque Eric Sturdza's Nico Lopez Fuentes

Photo: © Arnaud Soalhat

Interview with Cédric Schweri – polo player, business entrepreneur and philanthropist

“To have my own polo team with my sons and daughters is a dream of the future”



Cédric Schweri lives on the sunny side of life. The charming sunny boy with residences in Cancún/Mexico, Argentina and Switzerland is just as successful in the polo saddle as he is as an entrepreneur. But the Denner grandson also has a big heart for people and is therefore involved in social projects in a variety of ways. The best known is the Foundation 'Polo with heart' (Polo mit Herz), which helps children with cancer and their families. We met the proud father of two sons in Gstaad for an interview and talked to him about his sporting and business plans. By the way, we learned that Cédric Schweri dreams of a polo team consisting of his sons and daughters. Family planning does not seem to have been completed yet.

Cédric, the polo season 2018 could not be better for you. You rush from success to success. You have just won the Berenberg German Masters on Sylt and now you won the second title in a row with your Team Banque Eric Sturdza at the Hublot Polo Gold Cup in Gstaad. What's next on your agenda?

I have been playing the last thirteen weekends. This was a lot of exercises, now we played the Hublot Polo Gold Cup in Gstaad and then Villa Siesta before the European Championship in Italy then the season is over. The horses have many matches in the bones, they are tired, and we are tired, too. Living out of a luggage piece for two months is all right but now it is good to have a break.

Do you bring new horses in from Argentina for the next season?

Yes, I will do. If you play so many tournaments, you need a lot of horses. Also to have the opportunity to give the horses regeneration time in between.

You have a farm in Argentina, do you breed your own horses at the farm?

No, my neighbours and very good friends, have their own breeding. They breed very good horses, so I have the most horses from them. But sometimes I buy horses at auctions in Argentina, too. For example, the Heguy's or Cambiaso or Pieres they have so many clones. They usually





choose the two best horses and then bring the others to the auctions. Therefore, you have the chance to get excellent ponies, bred from horses that have played high-goal tournaments in Argentina at a reasonable price.

Why don't you breed your own horses in Argentina?

I am not a farmer. I have my 50-hectare farm, which is a recreation area with hotel, polo fields and polo horses, but breeding is not my preference.

Do you have new projects in the pipeline?

Wine is my latest project. I realize that the winery will take a lot of my time. It is time to reassemble all pieces and make them work together. I have nine restaurants, a night club, a hotel and a brewery, it is all in the same business segment, because in my restaurants I can sell my own wine and beer.

Do you think it is an opportunity for the future for you to produce your own meat like Dieter Meier from the music duo Yellow it does at his farm Ojo de Agua in Argentina? You have enough land and Argentine beef is very popular in the market.

In the food industry in general, work with livestock, is a very volatile issue. In Argentina you have five-year cycles. The female animals reach their breeding maturity within two years. Then it takes another three years to produce cattle. If there is not enough cattle around the prize will go up and then everyone wants to sell the cattle and then the price goes down. It is gambling like with potatoes. With potatoes you can become a millionaire, or you can lose a lot of money.

As I have no idea of farming, I concentrate on wine, which I know very well from the management school and from my sommelier education. Wine is something which is closer to me, it makes a lot of fun and it is a future project. So, when I get old and don't play polo anymore I can pick my own grapes in the wine yards.

You have two lovely kids, are your kids playing polo?

Henry, the older one, is 7 years old. He is playing polo. Raül the younger one wants, too, but he is only four years old. But he rides every day with the stick in his hand.

You are a real friend of children and you engage in the social area for children with cancer and their families with your Foundation 'Polo with heart'. Please introduce us the work of your foundation.

We have a charity organization called 'Polo with heart'. We support families with kids who have cancer. The most projects are for the families not for the kids because they are usually covered by the health insurance. What we do is an extra if they have special support. For example, they are in need for a car if they want to go on a holiday or if they want a nanny. And we make a child musical together with Gunvor. We gave the kids in the Kinderspital the CD and the book of the musical and we have our wood horses in every hospital. Then we have three therapy horses in the Kinderspital and we pay the whole equestrian rehabilitation therapy for the kids in this hospital.

We work together with the Paul Scherrer Institute. At this institute they offer proton therapy which is much better for young cancer patient as to chemo therapy. Because chemo therapy not only destroys the tumor, but also stresses the whole body. The proton therapy, on the other hand, exclusively attacks the tumor and destroys it.



The problem is that the Paul Scherrer Institute is not a hospital, therefore we have no social workers or psychologist to take care of the parents and children. For the parents it is really hard to see their child is leaving every morning, crying and suffering. So, we came to an agreement with the Paul Scherrer Institute. We fully employ a psychologist as many hours as are needed to support the families.

If this trial will be successful, the Bundesamt für Gesundheit will include it in the catalog of the treatments which are paid by the health insurance companies. This will be the biggest target for us, when the trial works, well then, all the people can benefit. In Europe there are only four hospitals who can do proton therapy, because one chamber costs 80 million dollars.

Birgit Hügli-Herrmann, owner and publisher of Polo Luxury & Country Life Magazine

What were your reasons to start the Foundation 'Polo with heart' together with Thomas Fedier?

Well, I think when you are lucky and blessed and you don't have to worry about when you get your next peace of bread, then probably you should do something good and give something back. My grandma died of cancer and my father died at the age of 62 of cancer. I have seen the problems involved. The whole chemo therapy is still medicine from the seventies. There is no interest to change it, because there is too much stock of it which has to be used up.

In Japan you get different remedies, in the United States you get better medicine but not in our health system, our health insurance doesn't pay for proton therapy. You have to pay 50,000 Dollar for one shot. For many people treatment is not possible, because they can't pay so much money. Therefore, we should find a way to get it cheaper. This would need a lot of research, but this research will be way over my budget. We need someone who is interested like Novartis or Hoffmann-La Roche who says, "yes, we do it".

Let's take a look into the future. What are your business plans?

That's a great question, let's see. Businesswise I think I am where I want to be. Keep the good ones, maintain them and get rid of the bad ones. I have to, because there is always something new and there is always something better coming up. Sometimes you have to reflect on it and decide about is what I have good enough and most likely, I am happier with less. This is my biggest target for the next twenty years to have less businesses, be more effective and happier.

I have founded a water project in Tanzania with solar panels that power the pumps, so that the local people have access to drinking water. Until now, the women had to walk 15 km to the next borehole. To control it and check that the water comes where it has to come an nobody takes money and benefits is the biggest challenge at the moment. I'm convinced this project can help to make the life better for many people in Tanzania. I live a very good life everywhere I live. So, I want got give something back. If everyone would contribute only 10% from what they own, we would have no more poor people in the world.

And what do you want in private in the future?

I have two lovely kids, and I hope to have some more. For one year I am together with my new girlfriend Jennifer. A relationship is never easy especially if you travel so much as I do, and an intact family life is very important to me. I am now 41, and a polo team needs four players, I have two boys, so we will see when I just want to be the coach ...

It was destiny, when I played the first time in Argentina some weeks ago with my son Henry and he was riding in front of me, I had to cry. It was so emotional, I thought when I could have my own polo team with all my sons and daughters, then I will flip the page, look up to my dad and say we made it. A big dream and a big vision.

Photos: © Kathrin Gralla

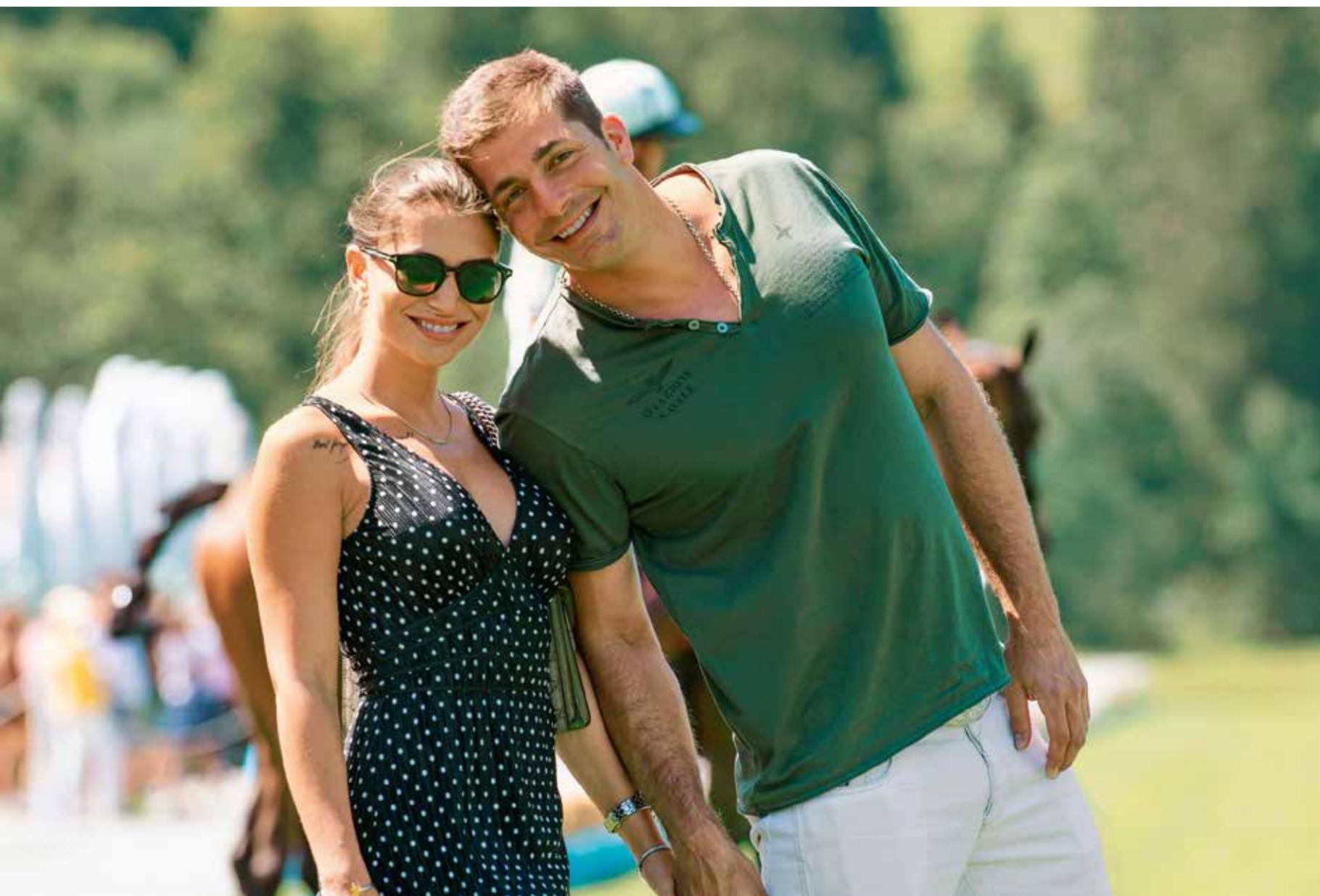


Cédric Schweri and Christina Sturdza (Banque Eric Sturdza)

"Cédric is a great ambassador for our bank"

What is the reason that you are involved in polo sport? And especially now sponsoring Cédric Schweri?

Christina Sturdza: We started sponsoring polo teams about three year ago, as we were fascinated by the game. Through the organizer we had the possibility to meet Cédric. So, this was the opportunity for us to build our own team. And now year after year we come back. Cédric is a great ambassador for our bank. It is a privilege to have a person with such a special personality as an ambassador. I hope we will see Cédric in the final on Sunday, and I am sure we will be back in Gstaad with Cédric next year.



Cédric Schveri and his girlfriend Jennifer Lenti

You have played a lot of tournaments with handicaps between 10–15 this year with great success. Are the 20-goal tournaments a challenge for the future?

That is not an alternative for me. The financial effort at this level is many times higher than at 10–15-goal tournament. You need three professionals and even more and better horses. In the 10–15-goal tournaments I can play together with my professionals and have a lot of fun, but on handicap 20 or more only the three professionals are playing, and I can not contribute much to the game. I would like to have fun

playing polo and I will stick to handicap 10–15. High-goal tournaments would also cost a lot more money, I can use this money more meaningfully in my charity projects.

Thank you very much for the interview Cédric, and good luck.