



Press Release

1st FIP Arena Polo European Championship Azerbaijan: The perfect coup

Team Azerbaijan is the winner of the 1st FIP Arena Polo European Championship at the Elite Horse and Polo Club in Baku. The German team remains second after a very close 6-5 result.



Photo: POLO+10 / Stefanie Stüting

Baku (POLO+10 – 12/09/2015) – In an incredibly exciting final, polo team Azerbaijan won the title of the 1st FIP Arena Polo European Championship. In the first chukka the strong team of Azerbaijan started a very precise play and scored two goals. But the German team with Patrick Maleitzke, the two brothers Philipp and Oliver Sommer as well as the young Niklas Steinle did not lose the thread. In the second chukka the Argentinean professional and teacher of the Azeri players, Silvestre Garros, fell off his horse but could get up again very fast. With a +6 handicap Garros was the highest rated player of the tournament. During three months he had coached the Azeri players. On the other side Patrick Maleitzke also suffered a fall-down but could stand up immediately and scored the lead for his team for the first time in the match. The enthusiastic local audience supported their team overwhelmingly. At the end of the third chukka team Germany worked out a lead of two goals to 5-3. In the fourth and final chukka some discussions about penalty shots and valid goals created a tense atmosphere. Both teams were a breath away from victory: 5-5 one minute prior the final bell. The deciding goal of the tournament was scored by the Argentinean professional Silvestre Garros. A



perfect coup for the Azeri team and a gorgeous victory. The quality of this final was simply outstanding. Polo at its' best in Baku.

Italy against Switzerland was the first pairing of the day, Switzerland started with one and a half goal advantage. Tito Gaudenzi, Cedric Schweri, Fabio Zindel and Fabio Meier, who suffered a shoulder injury yesterday, put the turbo on and lead already 4.5-0 at the end of the first chukka. And they could keep control of the game which ended with a 7.5-5 and the fifth place for Switzerland.

In the second game of the day Ireland faced Spain with Marcos and Alvaro Álvarez Talegón and Antonio Ayesa Guix. The Irish team with Patrick Ephson James Connolly, lady player Siobhan Herbst and James Kennedy Jr. got half a goal advantage. After a 30 yard penalty in favour of team Spain, the game remains without any score until the third chukka. Ireland managed to clear some dangerous situations and could stop the offensive game of Spain. Despite of the little number of goals, the match kept being fast and competitive. James Connolly and his team left no doubt that they really wanted to win the decision about place number three of the tournament. And with the close result of 4.5-4 Ireland did.

This 1st FIP Arena Polo European Championship was a historic tournament indeed. Reto Gaudenzi and the World Polo team in cooperation with the Equestrian Federation of Azerbaijan Republic (ARAF) and the Elite Horse and Polo Club Bina organised a memorable venue. The organizers provided a pool of 72 argentine polo horses from the Alegría Polo Farm and Garros Polo Farm Argentina. Since its successful first appearance at the Grass Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan in 2013, the host team from Azerbaijan has made tremendous progress. Today they could win the European Championship: Congratulations! For the national team from Germany, the second place at a European Championship is one of the biggest successes ever.

Boulevard Hotel Baku

The Boulevard Hotel Baku, located in Baku White City district, is named after the eponymous seafront walking promenade. The hotel offers 818 comfortable rooms and is the largest conference hotel in Azerbaijan. It provides perfect accessibility to all major business and cultural sites of the city as well as the finest facilities that are designed to suit a wide variety of occasions and functions. The architecture of Boulevard Hotel Baku was designed by world-renown and award-winning Reardon Smith Architects practice based in UK. Guestrooms at Boulevard Hotel Baku boast floor-to-ceiling windows with unobstructed views of the Caspian Sea, contemporary furnishings and comfortable bedding to provide maximum comfort for business and leisure travellers.

Boulevard Hotel Baku is designed to host large events of various formats, where the number of participants can reach 1,000 people or more in a magnificent 1,300 squaremeters pillar-free ballroom filled with natural daylight. The ballroom can host weddings for as many as 700 people and gala dinners for as many as 700. This facility is complemented by the stunning inner garden, pre-function foyer and six



smaller breakout rooms on the same level. The smaller function rooms are suitable for board meetings, training sessions, presentations, interviews and private dining.

For more information on Boulevard Hotel Baku, please visit www.boulevardhotelbaku.com

RESULTS:

Friday, September 4th

GERMANY vs. AZERBAIJAN 7 – 9

SPAIN vs. ITALY 10 – 4.5

SWITZERLAND vs. IRELAND 6.5 – 9

Saturday, September 5th

□ ITALY vs. AZERBAIJAN 6.5 – 12

SWITZERLAND vs. SPAIN 3.5 – 8

IRELAND vs. GERMANY 2.5 – 5

Sunday, September 6th

SWITZERLAND vs. ITALY 11 – 1

GERMANY vs. SPAIN 8 – 5

IRELAND vs. AZERBAIJAN 4.5 – 7

Thursday, September 10th

AZERBAIJAN vs. SWITZERLAND 11 – 6.5

ITALY vs. GERMANY 3 – 5

IRELAND vs. SPAIN 8.5 – 6

Friday, September 11th

GERMANY vs. SWITZERLAND 7 – 4.5

SPAIN vs. AZERBAIJAN 3 – 9

ITALY vs. IRELAND 5 – 3.5

Saturday, September 12th

ITALY vs. SWITZERLAND 5 – 7.5

IRELAND vs. SPAIN 4.5 – 4

AZERBAIJAN vs. GERMANY 6 – 5

RANKING:

#1 AZERBAIJAN

#2 GERMANY

#3 IRELAND

#4 SPAIN

#5 SWITZERLAND

#6 ITALY



TEAMS:

TEAM AZERBAIJAN



AZ - Handicap 1
Elchin Camalli



AZ - Handicap 1
Tarlan Qurbaneliyev



AZ - Handicap 1
Hasanov Rashad



Handicap 6
Silvestre Garros



Coach
Juan Ruiz Guinazu

TEAM IRELAND



IRL
James Connolly



IRL
Siobhan Herbst



IRL
James Kennedy Jr.



IRL
Keelan McCarthy



IRL
Patrick Ephson



Coach
James D. Kennedy



TEAM SPAIN



ESP
Marcos Álvarez Talegón



ESP
Alvaro Álvarez Talegón



ESP
Antonio Ayesa Guix



ESP
Luis Benjumea Llorente

TEAM SWITZERLAND



CH
Luca Zindel



CH
Cedric Schweri



CH
Tito Gaudenzi



CH
Fabio Meier



Coach
Dr. Adrian Laplacette

TEAM GERMANY



GER
Patrick Maleitzke



GER
Oliver Sommer



GER
Philipp Sommer



GER
Niklas Steinle



Coach
Dirk Baumgärtner



TEAM ITALY



IT
Franco Piazza



IT
Oscar Caronna



IT
Giordano Magini

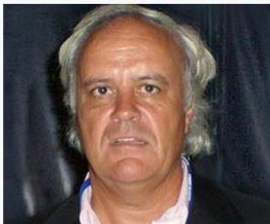


IT
Gianluca Magini



Coach
Alessandro Giachetti

POLO SPEAKER, UMPIRE, DJ



Umpire
Marcello Garrahan



Umpire
Oliver Ellis



Polo DJ
DJ Ray Douglas



Azeri Polo Speaker
Ilgar Quliyev



Polo Speaker
Jan-Erik Franck



Photo: POLO+10 / Stefanie Stüting

For more information visit: www.worldpolo.com

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