

BACK TO THE ROOTS

Now, with the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan, the sport of polo will be taking the Republic of Azerbaijan by storm. The slogan of the tournament in Baku is “Bringing Polo Home”.

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Baku is the largest and most populous city in the entire Caucasus region.



Venue of the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan is the Elite Equestrian Centre in Baku; M. Ahadpur Khangah is bringing polo to Azerbaijan.



Image: Milla

Polo has its birthplace in Central Asia. But while ‘Chovgan’, the original form of polo that dates back thousands of years, is still played in Azerbaijan, the modern version of the sport has never yet managed to gain a foothold in the land on the Caspian Sea. Now, though, polo is going back to its roots and Azerbaijan is celebrating a polo first. With the slogan “Bringing Polo Home”, four teams of international players will be meeting for the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan from 6th to 8th September 2013. The venue is the new Outdoor Polo Arena at the Elite Equestrian Centre in Baku. The event’s highlights will include a friendly game between the Azerbaijani team Chovgan and one of the competing teams, to commemorate the roots of the sport of polo in Azerbaijan. The three-day tournament is being presented by the Azerbaijani food company Milla, with World Polo GmbH and local partners responsible for production and organisation.

The aim of the Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan is to establish the sport of polo. It is the great vision driving one man, M. Ahadpur Khangah, a 60-year-old engineer and businessman, who discove-

red his passion for polo while studying in Newcastle upon Tyne in England. He has been gripped by the sport ever since. Now M. Ahadpur Khangah, also a great fan of Manchester United, has made it his task to see that polo enjoys the same boost in popularity in Azerbaijan that football is currently experiencing. “Our visions are really ambitious,” he says.

“We need polo players who can represent Azerbaijan on the world’s playing fields and teams that can compete at national and international level. We are also working on expanding polo’s infrastructure so that we can hold tournaments all year round. Since Azerbaijan has a lot of days of sunshine, we think that the prospect of that happening are really good. Polo also gives us the perfect opportunity to promote our famous Karabakh horses. The Karabakh horses are famous for their stamina, endurance and sure-footedness, and they have won a lot of prizes and medals already. Now at last it’s time to make these excellent horses better known outside Azerbaijan as well.