



National Sporting Library & Museum

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NSLM ANNOUNCES PLAYERS FOR 2018 POLO CLASSIC

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – June 21, 2018 – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is excited to announce players for its 8th Annual Polo Classic, to be held Sunday, September 9, 2018 at Great Meadow in The Plains, VA. This year's event will again include two top tier matches, the Founders Cup and the Mars Cup; a parade of the Orange County Hounds; an honor guard; the St. Andrews Society of Washington, DC Pipes and Drums; and an historic carriage driven by staff from Colonial Williamsburg Coach & Livestock. Actress and avid equestrian Bo Derek will throw in the ball for both matches.

Nacho Figueras, Juan Bollini, Jr., John Gobin, David Greenhill, Bill Ballhaus, David Tafuri, Kip Hayes, and Danielle Quinn will play in support of the event in the featured Mars Cup match. "We are thrilled to have these top tier players participate in the Polo Classic. They bring excitement and expertise on and off the field, and help make this event fun and festive for attendees," says Event Chair Jacqueline B. Mars.

The earlier Founders Cup match will again see a team from Dubai, captained by Steve Thompson, veteran player and founder of the Dubai Polo Academy, playing against a British Military Team, captained by Major Mark Cann, Director of the British Forces Foundation and the Combined Services Polo Association.

Proceeds from the Polo Classic support the NSLM's mission of preserving, promoting, and sharing the literature, art, and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports. "The National Sporting Library & Museum presents the history and beauty of equestrian sports on an international stage and I am honored to again take the field in support of this local Middleburg organization!" said Greenhill Winery & Vineyards owner and returning player David Greenhill.

Funds raised in 2017 enabled the NSLM to offer over 90 public programs, host five art exhibitions, and serve more than 10,000 visitors. "The Polo Classic is a wonderful way to put NSLM's mission in motion, and allows guests to

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experience an exciting day of Polo while also supporting the full variety of exhibitions and public programs we host throughout the year,” said Melanie Mathewes, NSLM’s Executive Director.

NSLM thanks the many sponsors who have already committed support to this year’s event: Mrs. William Abel Smith, Beverly Equestrian, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley J. Bondi, Bouvet-Ladubay, Ms. Cathy Brentzel, Mr. and Mrs. B. Tim Brookshire, Brown-Forman, Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Calder, Colonial Williamsburg Coach & Livestock, Crème de la Crème, Echo Equine, Glenn and Natalie Epstein, Ethel M Chocolates, Greenhill Winery & Vineyards, Highcliffe Clothiers, Dr. and Mrs. Manuel H. Johnson, Journeymen Saddlers, King Street Oyster Bar, Dr. Sachiko Kuno, Loudoun-Times Mirror, LTS Limos, Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars, McCormick Spice, Middleburg Life, Mr. Print, Ms. Catherine C. Murdock, Museum Bees, Mystique Jewelers, NetJets, Northern Trust, Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr., Osborne Events, Ms. Claire Reid, Salamander Hotels & Resorts, Stick & Ball Co., Tri-County Feeds, TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, U.S. Polo Assn.

Tickets for the NSLM’s 8th Annual Polo Classic are available through the organization’s website, NationalSporting.org, or by calling the NSLM at 540-687-6542. All proceeds from the event benefit the National Sporting Library & Museum, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is located in Middleburg, Virginia, the heart of beautiful horse country. Founded in 1954, the renowned research Library and fine art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the organization’s general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection. The NSLM offers a wide variety of educational programs, exhibitions, and family activities throughout the year, and is open to researchers and the public. There is no admission fee to the Library. The Museum charges \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths (age 13-18), and \$8 for seniors. NSLM members and children age 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Library & Museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

HI RES IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



St. Andrews Society of Washington, DC Pipes and Drums perform at 2017 NSLM Polo Classic (Photo by Douglas Lees)



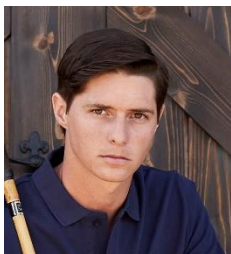
British Military Team player at 2017 NSLM Polo Classic (Photo by Douglas Lees)



Nacho Figueras and a young fan at 2017 NSLM Polo Classic (Photo by Rick Stillings)



Nacho Figueras was born in Argentina in 1977 and developed a love of horses and the game of polo by the age of nine. When he was 17, Nacho began his professional polo career playing for the hugely successful White Birch high-goal team in the U.S. From there, he has played polo all over the world. Nacho plays for the Black Watch Polo Team in Bridgehampton, New York in the summer and in Palm Beach, FL during the winter season. He returns to his ranch in Argentina during the spring and fall where he has a successful polo pony-breeding program. *(Photo credit: Headshot by Julie Napear)*



Juan Bollini, Jr. was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His father is a professional polo player and introduced Juan to the sport of polo which he began playing at age 12. At 15, Juan moved to the US where he continued playing polo, turning pro after one year. Juan currently studies international business and trade at Florida Atlantic University. He has played at the East Coast Open, Herbie Pennell, and the \$50,000 National 12 Goal Tournament. Juan is a proud global brand ambassador of U.S. Polo Assn. and played in the US Open for the first time this year. *(Photo credit: courtesy of U.S. Polo Assn.)*



John Gobin grew up in Rehoboth, MA. He began playing arena polo in interscholastic competitions at the age of 15 and soon after trained to become a polo player in Argentina. He won the Camacho Cup on the American team against Mexico in 2009 and has competed on the Team USA against Argentina. Gobin has won the U.S. Arena Championships four times. He has been the manager of the Great Meadow Polo Club in The Plains, VA since 2007. *(Photo credit: Headshot provided by Great Meadow)*



David Greenhill is the Co-Founder and President of Satcom Direct Communications (SDC), serving the communication needs of military, government, and land-mobile markets. He attended the United States Air Force Academy, and earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a masters in Philosophy and Theology from Yale University. He owns two local businesses, Greenhill Vineyards LLC and Greenhill Media LLC, publisher of Middleburg Life magazine. *(Photo credit: Headshot provided by Greenhill Vineyards)*



Bill Ballhaus is a third-generation aerospace engineer by education and has spent the last 15 years leading both publicly traded and privately owned technology-oriented businesses. In 2008, he was named by Forbes as one of America's 21 most powerful CEOs age 40 and under. Bill began playing polo in 2001 and since then has played year round in Virginia, Aiken, Wellington, and Argentina. He competed in the 2015 Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup, the Veuve Cliquot Polo Classic in 2014 and 2015, and the NSLM Polo Classic in 2012 and 2013. *(Photo credit: provided by Beverly Equestrian)*



David Tafuri is an international lawyer, writer, and photographer. He frequently appears on CNN, Fox News, BBC, CNBC, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, and Voice of America to provide commentary on foreign policy issues. He appeared in an HBO Vice documentary about Libya that aired in 2016. David attended law school at Georgetown University. He has lived in Iraq, Turkey, Spain, and Greece and currently resides in Washington, DC. He is an avid polo player who played on Team USA in the 2016 NSLM Polo Classic. *(Photo credit: courtesy of David Tafuri)*



Kip Hayes was introduced to polo and Great Meadow in 2017 by friends from Middleburg. After watching his first game and falling in love with the sport, he decided to try it for himself. With no previous riding experience, it was an exciting new challenge. Kip looks forward to playing and riding as much as possible in the 2018 season and improving his game. When not playing Polo, Kip is the Vice President of Aircraft Sales and Acquisitions for AVJET Global located at Dulles Airport. *(Photo credit: courtesy of Kip Hayes)*



Danielle Quinn, a native of Great Falls, VA, has been playing polo for a year and a half. Prior to picking up a polo mallet, she competed at the top levels of eventing and show jumping, and has recently taken up riding sidesaddle. Equestrian sports have been a passion since she began riding at age 4. Danielle attended Villanova University School of Law and currently works as an attorney at Dycio & Biggs in Fairfax, VA where her primary focuses are corporate litigation and criminal defense. When not in the saddle or at work, Danielle enjoys wine tasting, clay shooting, and traveling, having so far visited six continents. *(Photo credit: courtesy of Danielle Quinn)*



Steve Thompson is a veteran coach and player on the professional circuit with more than two decades of experience. He founded the Dubai Polo Academy at the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club in 2005, where he has trained both novices and champions. The foundation of a top tier polo academy was Steve’s dream, allowing him to implement a training structure that would revolutionize how polo is taught worldwide. He captains the Anantara Elephant Polo Team annually in Thailand to bring much-needed awareness and funding to the plight of logging elephants in Asia. *(Photo credit: taken by Julie Napear Photography)*



Major Mark Cann is the Director of The British Forces Foundation (TBFF) as well as his own Events and PR Company “CU2 Limited.” He is also the Director of The Combined Services Polo Association, which like TBFF is fortunate to have HRH The Prince of Wales as its Patron. He has played in a number of exotic locations including Palermo, Palm Beach, Ghana, India, and Pakistan. He often played with HRH Prince of Wales and his two sons in both The British Forces Foundation and Highgrove teams. *(Photo credit: image taken by Crowell Hadden)*

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