



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Date: 5/27/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Brewster

Tel: 540-687-6542 x13

Email: SBrewster@NationalSporting.org

Web: NationalSporting.org

Mail: P.O. Box 1335, Middleburg, VA 20118

The National Sporting Library & Museum confirms first four players competing at its 6th Annual Polo Classic fundraiser

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is excited to announce four confirmed polo players for its 6th Annual Polo Classic fundraiser on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Ignacio “Nacho” Figueras, John Gobin, Bill Ballhaus and David Greenhill will compete at the notable event which is being held at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia. Additional polo players are being secured.

Born in Argentina in 1977, **Nacho Figueras** 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 including Spain, England, Argentina, Brazil, Singapore and the Philippines. Figueras plays for the Black Watch Polo Team in Bridgehampton, New York in the summer and in Palm Beach, Florida 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.

John S. Gobin grew up in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. He began playing arena polo in interscholastic competitions at the age of fifteen. From the age of seventeen to nineteen, he trained to become a polo player in Argentina. Gobin began his career by playing with polo patron Geoffrey Kent, the founder of Abercrombie & Kent, and then played on the Budweiser Polo Team. He won the Westchester Cup alongside Adam Snow, Owen Rinehart and Robert E. Walton at the Guards Polo Club in England in 1992. He won the Camacho Cup on the American team against Mexico in 2009 and has competed on the Team USA against Argentina. Gobin has also played on the Duck Hill Polo Team at the Aiken Polo Club in Aiken, South Carolina, and has won the U.S. Arena Championships four times. He has been the manager of the Great Meadow Polo Club in The Plains, Virginia since 2007.

– MORE –

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. Ballhaus began playing polo in 2011 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. Bill and his wife Darrin have two children and live in Northern Virginia where they own and operate Beverly Equestrian, a full-service multi-disciplinary equestrian sports farm.

David Greenhill is the Co-Owner and President of SD (Satcom Direct), serving business aviation and military government markets worldwide. Greenhill attended the United States Air Force Academy, earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a master's in philosophy and theology from Yale University. Originally from North Carolina, Greenhill has called Virginia home for over 15 years. An entrepreneur, he owns [Greenhill Winery & Vineyards](#) in Middleburg, home to internationally acclaimed wines, as well as the local publication *Middleburg Life*. Greenhill is a member of Great Meadow, Banbury Cross, and Palm City Polo Clubs, and has trained all over the world including Dubai, Geneva, Paris, and London.

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. Funds raised in 2015 enabled the NSLM to offer over 60 public programs, host seven art exhibitions, and service more than 8,000 visitors. "Our Polo fundraiser is a celebration of sporting culture and an opportunity for sporting enthusiasts to experience a very exciting part of the NSLM mission," said Executive Director Melanie Mathewes.

Tickets for the NSLM's 6th Annual Polo Classic are available at NationalSporting.org, or by calling the NSLM at 540-687-6542 ext. 24. All proceeds from the event benefit the National Sporting Library & Museum, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is located in Middleburg, Virginia, the heart of beautiful hunt 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 general public. While 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 free. Library & Museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- MORE -

PHOTOS: Higher resolution images are available upon request.



Nacho Figueras



John Gobin



Bill Ballhaus



David Greenhill