Celebrities Nacho, Walsh, and the British Military Team heighten excitement at the National Sporting Library & Museum’s 6th Annual Polo Classic benefit

MIDDLETOWN, Virginia – More than 800 spectators surrounded the Sheila C. Johnson Polo Field at Great Meadow on Sunday, September 11 to watch the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) 6th Annual Polo Classic. While local and regional players received a great deal of admiration, it was the British Military Team, John Walsh - former producer and host of the long running TV show America's Most Wanted, and global face of Ralph Lauren Nacho Figueras who brought heightened excitement to the event.

During the first match, the British Military Team (Maurice Ormerod, William Hector Fair, Oscar Churton, and Mark Cann) fought hard for the Founders Cup. Team USA (David Tafuri, Whitney Ross, Doug Barnes, and Juan Salinas-Bentley) scored the first goal of the game which kicked the Brits into full force. This created a fast-paced match with big hits and long runs down the field. The score was tied throughout the entire four-chukker match until Juan Salinas-Bentley scored a penalty shot in the last chukker to take the lead. Team USA won the match 5 to 4. “The British Military Team came here to compete,” said Great Meadow Polo Manager John Gobin, “and the crowd cheered them on just as much as the US players.”

Second match teams were competing for the Mars Cup, in honor of the NSLM’s Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Jacqueline B. Mars. Throughout the six-chukker match, Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards (David Greenhill, Cristina Parr, John Walsh, and John Gobin) and Team Beverly Equestrian (Ashley Van Metre, Bill Ballhaus, Isabella Wolf, and Nacho Figueras) rallied for control, each team making several attempts for goal. Nacho Figueras garnered the most cheers, however, for his consistent take overs and powerful hits. Team Beverly Equestrian ultimately won the Founders Cup match 8 to 6, but all the players received high fives from spectators as they took a
celebration lap around the field. “All the polo players performed so well; the match was so exciting to watch,” said Event Chair Juliana E. May. “Having Nacho and John Walsh there was icing on the cake.”

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.

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.

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MATCH 1 - FOUNDERS CUP

Team USA vs. British Military Team

**Caption:** The British Military Team’s (BMT) Maurice Ormerod (left) and Team USA’s Doug Barnes vie for control of the ball during the National Sporting Library & Museum’s 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. *Photo courtesy of Chris Weber*
Caption: Players charge the field for control of play during the National Sporting Library & Museum’s 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Pictured left to right are Mark Cann, Maurice Ormerod, and Juan Salinas-Bentley.

Caption: Team USA celebrates their win over the British Military Team at the National Sporting Library & Museum’s 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Pictured left to right in back are Team USA’s Juan Salinas-Bentley, Whitney Ross, and David Tafuri, and British Military Team’s Oscar Churton, William Hector Fair, Maurice Ormerod, and Mark Cann and announcer Ray Regan. In front are Team USA’s Doug Barnes, Harleigh Humphries and the Best Playing Pony named Batman. Photo courtesy of Chris Weber
Caption: Mark Cann (left) of the British Military Team accepts his player’s gift from the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) Treasurer of the Board of Directors Claire Reid at the NSLM’s 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. The British Military Team lost by one goal to Team USA. Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees

MATCH 2 – MARS CUP

Team Beverly Equestrian vs. Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards

Caption: On the awards platform following the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Pictured left to right are announcer Ray Regan, John Walsh, Cristina Parr, David Greenhill, Nacho Figueras, Delfina Blaquier (wife of Nacho Figueras), Ashley Van Metre, Isabella Wolf, Darrin Mollett (wife of Bill Ballhaus), Bill Ballhaus, event Chair Juliana E. May, Jim Davis of DAVIS Construction, NSLM’s Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Jacqueline B. Mars, and Great Meadow Polo Manager John Gobin. Team Beverly Equestrian won the Mars Cup beating Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards eight goals to six. Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees
Caption: Nacho Figueras of Team Beverly Equestrian edges out John Walsh of Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards to gain control of play at the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. *Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees*

Caption: Team Beverly Equestrian hold up the Mars Cup in celebration of their win over Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards at the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Pictured left to right are Ashley Van Metre, Isabella Wolf, Bill Ballhaus, and Nacho Figueras. *Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees*
Caption: David Greenhill (left) of Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards accepts his “Most Valuable Player” gift from the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) Treasurer of the Board of Directors Claire Reid at the NSLM’s 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees

Caption: John Walsh of Team Greenhill Winery & Vineyards (left) poses with friend Nacho Figueras of Team Beverly Equestrian at the National Sporting Library & Museum’s (NSLM) 6th Annual Polo Classic on Sunday, September 11 at Great Meadow. Photo courtesy of Douglas Lees

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