



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN, ANGLING AND FIELD SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE 9/19/2013

FROM:
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Caption: Photo by Douglas Lees captures the excitement of the game!

NSLM Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon Highlights Country Life

MIDDLEBURG, VA – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) hosted the Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon on September 15, 2013, a spectacular day at the Virginia International Polo Club in Upperville. This popular event was expanded to include a number of activities celebrating country life. B. Tim and Michelle Brookshire served as Event Chairmen; Jacqueline Mars, as Honorary Chairman; and Ann Nitze, as Host Committee Chair.

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VIPolo Club Field *Photo: Douglas Lees*

The festive fund-raiser included an elegant luncheon under the tent catered by Occasions, a Ladies Hat Contest and an exciting NSLM Polo Cup match. Event planning was facilitated by The Webster Group Inc. of Washington, D.C. The afternoon also featured a performance by the Washington Scottish Pipe Band and a parade of the Piedmont Fox Hounds. Excitement prevailed on both sides of the field with several carloads of people tailgating during the game.



Parade of Piedmont Foxhounds *Photo: Douglas Lees*

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Washington Scottish Pipe Band (left). Thirteen year old Jack McLean from Pittsburgh (right) who plays at VIPolo and in Maryland and Florida sang the national anthem. *Photos by Douglas Lees*

The game began at 2:30 p.m. with avid horseman and polo player Neil Agate announcing. The teams were Beverly Polo represented by Bill Ballhaus, Doug Barnes, Juan Sanchez and Cote Zegers and Right at Home with Wendy Andrews, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Tano Vial and Fernando Asenjo. Beverly Polo won 12 – 10. Juan Sanchez was named Most Valuable Player. Five year old Pasarela was awarded Best Playing Pony and delighted the crowd by munching carrots and apples while being presented the winning blanket. Excellent photographs of the match by Douglas Lees can be seen on www.nsl.org.



Beverly Polo vs. Right at Home (left). Announcer Neil Agate (center). Board Chairman Manuel H. Johnson Congratulates Beverly Polo. Best Pony Pasarela (below). *Photos by Douglas Lees*



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The winners of the Ladies Hat Contest were Cora McGowan, Texas, first place; Elizabeth Clyde, Texas, runner-up; Queenie Kemmerer, Virginia, third place. A gorgeous Anna Weatherley-designed cachepot was the award. The judges were internationally prominent designer Anna Weatherley, Hunt Country's well-known jewelry maker Elizabeth Locke and Ann Nitze.



Ann Nitze, Anna Weatherley, Elizabeth Locke (left). Michelle Brookshire, Event Chairman; Nancy Lewis, Texas; Cora McGowan, Texas, winner of the Ladies Hat Contest (right).



Barby Allbritton and George Contis (left). Robert Duvall (center). Elaine and Childs Burden (right).



Elliott Spooner, Alma and In Situ wines, and Cory Sellgren (left); Kelly Sullivan, Philip Bermingham, Sonya Bernhardt, The Georgetowner (center); Rose Marie Bogley and Robert Heggstad; Mike Orfini of Northern Trust (right).

Pre-Match Events

This special NSLM weekend began with a public lecture and book signing by Brough Scott, MBE, a jockey and writer whose latest book is *Henry Cecil: Trainer of Genius*. Scott is the grandson of General Jack Seely, author of *Warrior: The Amazing Story of a Real Warhorse*, whose portrait hung in the Museum as part of the NSLM exhibition *Munnings: Out in the Open*.

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Brough Scott and Munnings painting of General Jack Seely (left); *Munnings: Out in the Open* drew nearly 5,000 visitors in six months. (center); Cora McGowan, Nancy Littlejohn, Mary K. Peltier, Nancy Lewis and Elizabeth Clark, all from Texas, participated in a tour of Huntland (right).

Several wonderful weekend events were organized for sponsors and premium ticket holders leading up to the game. There were visits to private estates, including a working Thoroughbred farm, and a special tour of the NSLM Munnings exhibition which drew close to 5,000 people during its six month run. Highlighting the special events was a private reception with a performance by the Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Choir.



Huntland tour of renovation project (left); B. Tim Brookshire, Elizabeth Clyde, Michelle Brookshire and Rose Marie Bogley on the Bogley veranda (center); a fostered pony at the Bogley farm (right).



Arabian Heraldic, an endurance race champion shown by Jeff Crandall at Trappe Hill Farm (left); S. Bruce Smart, Jr. autographs a copy of his latest book about the region called *A Community of the Horse: Legacies*.

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A strawberry and Bouvet-Ladubay reception at the NSLM (left);
the Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Choir (right).

“We are pleased to be able to provide these exciting opportunities,” said Executive Director Melanie Mathewes as the group toured the Thoroughbred barns and listened to experts talk about breeding and raising the beautiful animals. There was a guided visit to early hound kennels undergoing restoration and a lovely luncheon on the veranda and lawn of another historic estate. Event Chair Michelle Brookshire described these estates as “some of the most beautiful and extraordinary properties in Virginia’s horse country.” The special events leading up to the Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon supported the major fund-raiser by celebrating country life through the warmth and hospitality of NSLM members.

Photos and captions: courtesy of the National Sporting Library & Museum

The National Sporting Library & Museum is dedicated to preserving, promoting and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European animal and sporting fine art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.

Admission: free.

Library Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

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