



Press Release

## **A Royal Victory: England Crowned Champions of the Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup 2014**

*19 January 2014, Tianjin* – England, the nation that gave polo its famous moniker ‘the game of kings’, reclaimed its crown today with a hard-fought win over Hong Kong China in the final of the Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup 2014.

After a thrilling four chukkas, England trotted off the field 6 – 5 the victors, and in so doing, denied their opponents Hong Kong China a third successive championship victory. Jubilant, the English trio of Max Routledge, Jack Richardson and Max Charlton had finally settled the score against their fierce rivals Hong Kong China, a team that had beaten them on almost every occasion at the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club.

In the previous two Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cups, England had drawn Hong Kong China at the semi-final stages, and on both occasions were dumped out of the competition, with Hong Kong China going on to win the title. In last year’s Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup final, they met again, and once again, Hong Kong China triumphed, beating the English 11 – 7.

Summing up the reasons for this year’s success, England coach Alan Kent cited discipline and teamwork. “They are a young team but they bonded very well together,” said Kent, delighted with the way his side had performed. “We have got better with each game,” explained England captain Max Charlton. “Today we went out there and just gave it everything.”

Hong Kong China’s Facundo Llorente was magnanimous in defeat. “England are a great team. We played well but they played a bit better – sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.”



In front of an expectant home crowd, Dr. Richard Caleel, President of the Federation of International Polo, had the honour of throwing the ball in to set in motion the grand final of the 2014 Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup.

It was local favourite John Fisher who opened the scoring for Hong Kong China, capping off a powerful charge by Facundo Llorente. England's Max Routledge then denied Hong Kong China a second with a trademark save on the line, a let-off that spurred the English to get into the game. Clever approach play by Jack Richardson earned a 30-yard penalty, which Max Charlton squeezed just inside the post to even the odds.

The pendulum started to swing England's way, Jack Richardson adding a second to push ahead of Hong Kong China. Then, a hush of concern rippled around the polo field - Richardson, taking a nasty knock to the head, lay un-horsed and prone on the snow. After medical attention, he was deemed fit to continue, and to a round of applause from the crowd, retook the field to play out the final seconds of the chukka.

England's Richardson and Charlton linked up well to break the deadlock in a free-flowing second chukka, nosing ahead 3 – 1. Hong Kong China put themselves back in it with Facundo Llorente picking up Tererra's pass to stroke the ball between the posts. At the halfway stage of the match there was still everything to play for, England edging Hong Kong China by three goals to two.

The fearless English trio stepped on the gas in the penultimate chukka, adding three more goals to their tally, two courtesy of Max Charlton and one from Jack Richardson. Meanwhile, their efforts to shadow the pony of Guillermo Tererra were paying dividends, the eight-goal polo master having little room to stamp his authority on the match. Facundo Llorente did manage to put a goal on the board for Hong Kong China, but the home side had left themselves with a great deal to do, going into the final chukka trailing 6 - 3.



John Fisher rallied the troops with a penalty goal for Hong Kong China early in the final chukka. Then followed a let-off for the home side, as Jack Richardson's run at goal was saved on the line by the stick of Facundo Llorente. Turning defence into attack, Llorente broke through the English lines to score on the 30-second bell, but it wouldn't be enough. England clung on to run down the clock, the final buzzer after ten days of fierce competition music to their ears: signalling that England, at last, had won the Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup.

In an all South-American subsidiary final, Chile triumphed over Brazil with the narrowest of victories to clinch third place and cap a very respectable tournament of snow polo. Tied at nine goals each after a chaotic quartet of chukkas that saw Brazil come back from four goals down, the game went to a fifth sudden death chukka, with neither team able to score. Ultimately, Brazil were left to rue their wastefulness from the 30-yard penalty line, missing two chances to seal the win and instead having to contest a penalty shoot-out. Chile kept their nerve to score all three of their goals to Brazil's two.

At the tournament's closing ceremony, Dr. Richard Caleel, President of the Federation of International Polo, congratulated England on their victory, and expressed his thanks to all involved for staging such a world class event.

England's Jack Richardson was the proud recipient of the Most Valuable Player Award, a testament to the skill and courage the young polo star had exhibited throughout the tournament. As is the polo tradition, the ponies had their deserved moment in the limelight, with the Best Pony Award given to Negro, ridden by Hong Kong China.

With the Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup 2014 concluded, polo fans in China and around the world can now look ahead to an exciting programme of events coming later in the year at the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club, including the

Metropolitan Polo Classic 2014, the Metropolitan Intervarsity Polo 2014, and the FIP Super Nations Cup 2014.

**The results so far:**

***Wednesday, 8 January 2014***

Results: Hong Kong China vs Spain 6 - 4  
Australia vs Chile 0 - 4  
England vs Mexico 5 - 1

***Thursday, 9 January 2014***

Results: New Zealand vs USA 3 (4) - 3 (3)  
Canada vs France 3 - 5  
Brazil vs South Africa 3 - 2

***Friday, 10 January 2014***

Results: England vs Australia 4 - 3  
Hong Kong China vs Chile 5 - 4  
Mexico vs Spain 4 - 3

***Saturday, 11 January 2014***

Results: South Africa vs France 1 - 2  
New Zealand vs Canada 4 (1) - 4 (2)  
Brazil vs USA 4 (2) - 4 (3)

***Sunday, 12 January 2014***

Results: Chile vs Mexico 3 - 4  
Australia vs Spain 4 (1) - 4 (2)  
Hong Kong China vs England 5 - 3

***Monday, 13 January 2014***

Results: Canada vs Brazil 1 - 2  
France vs USA 3 - 4  
New Zealand vs South Africa 3 (3) - 3 (2)

***Wednesday, 15 January 2014***

Results: Hong Kong China vs USA 7 (2) - 7 (1)  
Brazil vs Mexico 6 - 5



**Thursday, 16 January 2014**

Results: New Zealand vs Chile 6 (2) – 6 (3)  
England vs France 4 (3) – 4 (2)

**Saturday, 18 January 2014**

Results: Hong Kong China vs Brazil 9 – 7  
Chile vs England 4 – 6

**Sunday, 19 January 2014**

Results: Chile vs Brazil 9 (3) – 9 (2)  
England vs Hong Kong China 6 – 5

**Information on Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup 2014**

Gate opens: 12:00 noon

Match Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Address: 16 Hai Tai Hua Ke Ju Lu Bin Hai Gao Xin Qu, Tianjin 300384, China

Enquiry: (86) 22 2372 8877 or email [enquiry@snowpoloworldcup.com](mailto:enquiry@snowpoloworldcup.com)

Official website: [www.snowpoloworldcup.com](http://www.snowpoloworldcup.com)

You may wish to catch the matches:

- Live in Hong Kong on now TV, Channel - Sports Prime 630
- Or catch delayed telecasts online at <http://www.hurlinghampolo.com>

Enclosed: Score Sheets

**Team List**

**AUSTRALIA**

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Edward Goold	4
Player 2	Kelvin Johnson	5
Player 3	John Baillieu	7
		16
Reserve	Dirk Gould	5



### BRAZIL

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Gustavo Garcia	4
Player 2	Willian Rodrigues	6
Player 3	Renato Junqueira	6
		16
Reserve	Luis Roberto Ribeiro	1

### CANADA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Brandon Phillips	5
Player 2	Marcelo Abbiati	5
Player 3	Todd Offen	5
		15
Reserve	Robert Stenzel	3

### CHILE

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Ignacio Vial Mazieres	4
Player 2	Juan Eduardo Jaramillo	6
Player 3	Matias Vial	6
		16
Reserve	Maximiliano Silva	4

### ENGLAND

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Max Routledge	5
Player 2	Jack Richardson	5
Player 3	Max Charlton	6
		16
Reserve	Richard De La Poer	5

### FRANCE

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Clément Delfosse	4
Player 2	Pierre-Henri N'Goumou	5
Player 3	Brieuc Rigaux	5
		14
Reserve	Edouard Pan	4

### HONG KONG CHINA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Facundo Fernandez LLorente	4
Player 2	John Fisher	4
Player 3	Guillermo Terrera	8
		16
Reserve	Ramon Castilla	3

### MEXICO

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Julio Gracida	5
Player 2	Valerio Aguilar	5
Player 3	Carlos Gracida	6
		16
Reserve	Diego Solorzano	4

### NEW ZEALAND

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Angus McKelvie	5
Player 2	Christopher Brooks	5
Player 3	Sam Hopkinson	6
		16
Reserve	Tom Hunt	5

SPAIN

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Mario Gomez	4
Player 2	Pascual Sáinz de Vicuña	6
Player 3	Martin Iturraspe	6
		16
Reserve	Ignacio Domecq	3

SOUTH AFRICA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Chris MacKenzie	5
Player 2	Leroux Hendriks	5
Player 3	Gareth Evans	6
		16
Reserve	Bradley Mallet	4

USA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Del Walton	3
Player 2	Pelon Escapite	6
Player 3	Thomas Biddle Jr.	6
		15
Reserve	Joel Baker	2

**Partners of Fortune Heights Snow Polo World Cup 2014:**

**TITLE SPONSOR**

Fortune Heights <http://www.fortuneheights-tj.com>

**HOSTED BY**

Federation of International Polo <http://www.fippolo.com>  
Chinese Equestrian Association <http://equestrian.sport.org.cn/>

**ORGANISED BY**

Tianjin Sports Bureau  
Tianjin Polo Association  
Hong Kong Polo Development and Promotion Federation





**CO-ORGANISED BY**

Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club

<http://www.metropolitanpoloclub.com>

**OFFICIAL GLOBAL MEDIA PARTNER**

Equestrio China

<http://www.equestrio.com/china>

**OFFICIAL LIVE BROADCASTER**

now TV

<http://www.nowtv.now.com>

**OFFICIAL JERSEY SUPPLIER**

La Martina

<http://www.lamartina.com>

END

**About Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club**

Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club currently features two standard-size polo fields, stabling for over 200 horses, all-weather training facilities, a riding school and a luxurious Club House and 167-room resort-style hotel. The state-of-the-art equestrian facilities are used and maintained by professionals from all over the world.

Apart from being the host venue of the 2012 and 2013 FIP Snow Polo World Cup, major international fixtures on the Club's annual calendar include various spring and autumn tournaments and matches for different levels of play from youth to professional.

Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club was opened in November 2010 as the sporting and social flagship of "Goldin Metropolitan", a mega-development by Hong Kong-listed developer Goldin Properties Holdings Limited comprising three zones: a Central Business District, home to the 117-storey Goldin Finance 117; the 898,000 square metre (222-acre) Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club and Fortune Heights, a low density luxury residence.

**About Federation of International Polo (FIP)**

The Federation of International Polo (FIP), founded in 1982, is the international body governing the sport of polo recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and includes 59 National Federations as full members. Polo has been played in the Olympics and is growing in popularity all over the world. Polo is a sport of horse and player. Men and women compete together in this contact sport as players are handicapped and games have a handicap range. While polo has primarily been played outdoors on a large green field, variations of the sport such as snow, beach and indoor polo are emerging and gaining popularity. FIP aims to develop rules for the safe conduct of the sport for both horse and player. Competition, sportsmanship and compliance with international rules of fair play are at the core of our sporting ethos.



For more information or high-resolution images, please contact:

**Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club**

**Trina Teo**

Director

Marketing & Communications

Tel: (86) 22 8372 8888 ext. 7908

Mob: (86) 150 2240 9312

Email: trinateo@metropolitanpoloclub.com

**Fiona Gu / Grace Fu**

Assistant Manager/Executive

Marketing & Communications

Office: +86 022 8372 8888 ext. 7902 / 7793

Mobile: +86 138 2053 3909 / 136 1117 0167

Email: fionagu@metropolitanpoloclub.com

gracefu@metropolitanpoloclub.com

For more information on the Federation of International Polo, please contact:

**Federation of International Polo**

Sinclair 3139, 6th "C",

Capital Federal, Argentina

ZIP Code: C1425FRE

Telephone: +5411 47761431

[www.fippolo.com](http://www.fippolo.com)