

Al Habtoor Polo, Publication : Gulf News
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Teaming up

The Al Habtoor Polo Team came up with a fine display to secure a hard-fought 10-9 victory against Talandracas in the opening game of The Queens Cup.

Al Habtoor Team begin campaign with victory

Rashid scores two while Alberdi strikes the winner in extra time

Staff Report

Dubai Rashid Al Habtoor scored two, but it was a last-gasp goal from Alejandro 'Piki' Diaz Alberdi that proved the gem as Al Habtoor Polo Team secured a hard-fought 10-9 win against Talandracas in the opening game of The Queens Cup 2009 at the Guards Polo Club.

Played under challenging weather, which fluctuated from pouring rain to sunshine throughout the chukkas, it was Alberdi's goal at the very last gasp that saw the Dubai-based team emerge the winners.

Al Habtoor entered the

final chukka trailing 7-9, but fought well to equalise 9-9 with two minutes remaining. Going all out for the winner into extra-time, Alberdi powered his way through the rival defence to secure the winner.

The Queens Cup is one of the longest-established polo tournaments, and is played annually at the Guards Polo Club. The Queen first presented the trophy in 1960 and it has remained one of the most high-calibre competitions in the world.

Previous holders of the trophy include The Prince of Wales, with the Diables Bleus team. Urs

Schwarzenbach and his Black Bears squad, and Adolfo Cambiasso, who won the title five times. The late Kerry Packer's Ellerstun team, now run by son Jamie, are the current holders, having won a total of three times.

The tournament attracts the world's leading teams and internationally renowned players; household names from the world of polo jet in just to play for their patrons in The Queens Cup.

Since last year, Al Habtoor has sponsored the highly-competitive Royal Windsor Cup, also held at the Guards Polo Club.

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POLO

AL HABTOOR TEAM ENTER QUEEN'S CUP QUARTERS

Dubai Alejandro Muzzio pumped in four goals, while Piki Alberdi and Nacho Gonzalez scored three apiece as Al Habtoor Polo Team secured a pulsating 12-11 win against Les Lions II to enter the quarterfinals of the Queen's Cup polo tournament being played in England. Played on the scenic Guards Polo Club ground, it was eight-handicappers Muzzio and Alberdi dominating with their scoring prowess throughout the six chukkas of the game. This was the second win for the Dubai-based team being led by Rashid Al Habtoor for their first year at the Queens Cup.

Al Habtoor Team enter Queen's Cup quarters

Rashid Al Habtoor-led Dubai team beats Les Lions 12-11 to move ahead

By ALABDI GOMES

Senior Reporter

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six chukkas of the game.

The Dubai team was down 0-2 at the end of the opening chukka. However, they managed to score three in the second, but let in three more goals to trail 3-5 by the second chukka.

Draw level

In the third chukka, the Dubai team managed to draw level at 6-6, but let in two goals in the next to trail 7-8 and then 8-9 at the end of the fourth and fifth chukkas respectively.

However, the Al Habtoor Team had a bit of a setback

in the fourth chukka when Gonzalez had to leave the field with an injury. Joaquin Pinaluga came in as a substitute for the Dubai side and they battled valiantly.

The sixth and final chukka proved to be the crucial one as Al Habtoor Team pumped in an amazing four goals compared to only two managed by their opponents to squeeze home 12-11.

This was the second win for the Dubai-based team being led by Rashid Al Habtoor for their first year at the Queens Cup.



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Charging through

Al Habtoor Polo Team secured a pulsating 12-11 win against Les Lions II to enter the quarterfinals of the Queen's Cup polo tournament.