

THE TRIPPETTS CHALLENGE FOR THE JAMES WENTWORTH STANLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY



Photographs by Clive Bennett

Gonzalo Pieres Jr and Pablo MacDonough

Eight teams entered the 2008 Trippetts Challenge inaugurated in 2007 in memory of young Cowdray player James Wentworth Stanley who died so tragically at the age of 21 the previous year. The tournament was introduced into the polo calendar by his stepfather George, Marquis of Milford Haven, to be played as a warm-up for the English high goal season giving teams their first opportunity to try out new line-ups and combinations. The opening rounds saw some hard fought matches

with Ellerston White and Broncos making it through to the Final.

Spectators were pleased to see that Ellerston's side had re-formed to again feature the central pairing of brothers Gonzalito Pieres (9 goals) and Facundo Pieres (10 goals). Having played with the brothers in Argentina and Australia over the winter, 17 year old Cowdray player Max Routledge (2 goals), made his UK high goal debut playing at No: 1 for Ellerston. Tom Barrack from the USA (1 goal) completed the team at back.

George Milford Haven's Broncos featured Pablo MacDonough (9 goals) at No: 3, with new team players Santiago Chavanne (8 goals) at No: 2 and John Fisher (4 goals) at back, and the patron at No: 1.

Ellerston made a confident start with a swift pick-up by Facundo Pieres leading to the first goal of the match. However three fouls by the Ellerston side enabled Broncos to score twice from penalties and end the first chukka ahead at 2-1. John Fisher, playing to every inch of his

4 goal handicap, scored the first field goal for Broncos early in the second chukka. The Pieres brothers picked up a goal each, but Chavanne for Broncos, seizing an opportunity to shoot a finely angled goal through the posts, kept Broncos ahead 4-3 at the close of the second. The third chukka was hard fought with some tenacious defensive play and inevitable fouling, Pablo MacDonough responsible for the only goal of the chukka to appear on the scoreboard.

The second half saw Broncos consolidate their lead with two swift goals from Chavanne and MacDonough taking the score to 7-3. But Gonzalito Pieres quickly retaliated to pull a goal back for Ellerston and Facundo converted a penalty to end the chukka 5-7 down. MacDonough took Broncos ahead to 8-5 before Max Routledge delighted the crowd with a fine run down the field to score for Ellerston. Facundo Pieres then picked up a stray ball and took his time to carry it down the field and ensure it went straight and true through the posts, so there was only one goal difference. John Fisher put paid to Ellerston's hopes, however, with another goal for Broncos to end the chukka on 9-7.

The final chukka saw George Milford Haven, who had a very good match, score an excellent goal taking Broncos on to 10-7. Max Routledge proved his usefulness again by sending a lofted shot accurately through to Gonzalito Pieres who pushed another goal through the posts for Ellerston to 10-8. The chukka ended with no further scores on the board and Broncos claimed victory. The Broncos patron was delighted to receive the James Wentworth Stanley Memorial Trophy presented by his wife Clare.

Clare Milford Haven's Jaeger le Coultre side beat Sumaya in extra time in a closely fought Subsidiary Final, with Matias MacDonough scoring 8 of Jaeger le Coultre's 13 goals, the Sumaya side narrowly losing by one goal.

The previous evening Clare Milford Haven and Nick Wentworth Stanley. James's parents, had hosted a party at Cowdray's Lawns grounds to launch the James Wentworth Stanley Memorial Foundation. The charity aims to raise awareness of anxiety, depression and suicide amongst young people and tackle the shocking statistic that suicide is the largest cause of death amongst young men in the UK.



Broncos Polo Team with Clare Milford Haven



HRH Beatrice helping Clare Milford Haven with the trophy presentation