

Fifth Chukker

Adventures in Luxury

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A true polo aficionado

DEVELOP A PASSION FOR POLO

A spectator's guide to enjoying the Game of Kings

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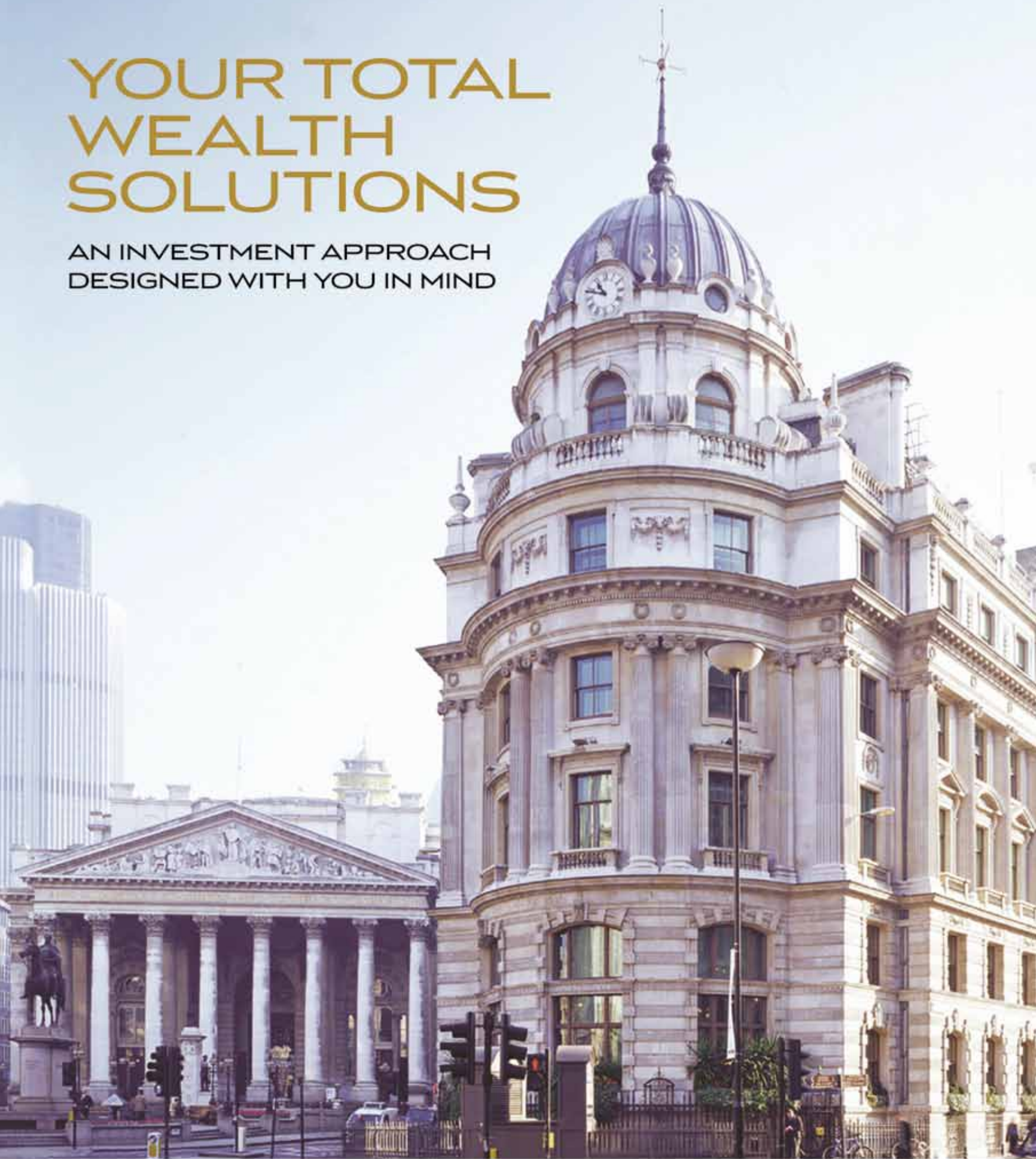
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POLO. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.



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Dansa



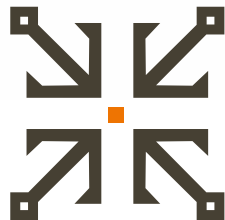
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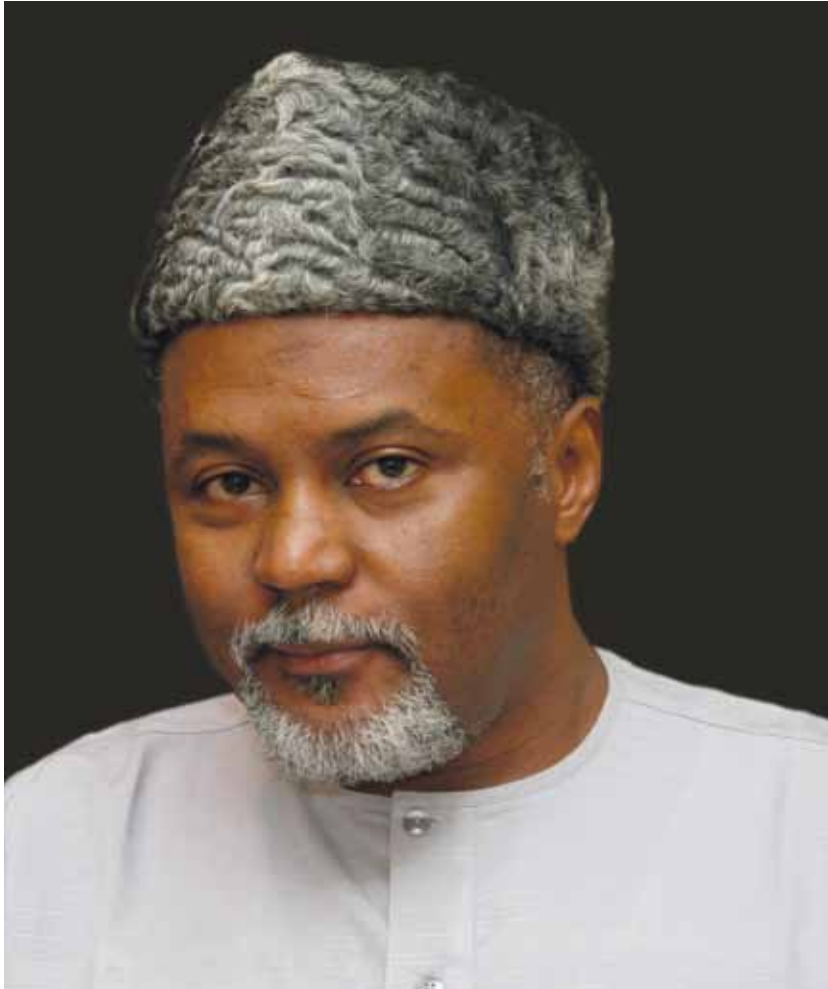
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We are proud that Fifth Chukker is fast becoming the premier polo club in Africa. We are busy forging relationships with all our international friends and fellow players, spreading our wings beyond Nigeria.

Welcome to the second edition of Fifth Chukker Magazine, our luxury lifestyle magazine. Here at Fifth Chukker we were delighted to hear how much you enjoyed our first edition, and it has sat on many coffee tables around the world. We hope you find many more informative polo and lifestyle features in these pages.

We are proud that Fifth Chukker is fast becoming the premier polo club in Africa. We are busy forging relationships with all our international friends and fellow players, spreading our wings beyond Nigeria.

This year we shall inaugurate the first Fifth Chukker polo day at Ham Polo Club in England. The Access Bank Day, London, will see seven indomitable Nigerian players pitted against the might of teams from Ham and the rest of the world, in what we hope will be the first of many such occasions. It will culminate in the highest standards of Nigerian hospitality and entertainment in the centre of London, bringing Fifth Chukker to a whole new audience.

Fifth Chukker is also expanding its relationship with UNICEF and Access Bank, supporting the establishment and ongoing operation of the Business Leaders' Initiative for Children. We believe passionately in the right of every child to have a childhood free from fear, disease and uncertainty, and we know we can make a difference to children, not just in Kaduna State but also in neighbouring states.

So take a moment to peruse Fifth Chukker Magazine and discover more about our passion for polo and our far-reaching aims. I hope that this issue will adorn your coffee table as the first one did. I wish you many hours of happy reading!

AHMED DASUKI
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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ADAMU ATTA, BABANGIDA HASSAN, UMARU ALIYU, AYO OLASHOJU, KASHIM BUKAR SHETTIMA

Contributors

HABIBA BALOGUN

Habiba Balogun is an organisational change consultant and newspaper columnist. Her insights into Nigerian life are witty, observant and sometimes hard-hitting, but her love of Nigeria shines through all her writing. For this issue she turns her pen to the vibrant social scene in Lagos.



PETER WRIGHT

Peter Wright was born into a polo-playing family. His father, Brigadier John Wright, has been chairman of Tidworth Polo Club for many years and is now about to take over as chairman of the HPA. Peter reached a four-goal handicap playing professional polo in England, but now is better known as an international umpire. He is the ideal person to write about Safety in Polo for us.



BARBARA ZINGG

Swiss-born Barbara Zingg is the creator and event manager of the Heritage Polo Cup. She abandoned England this winter to work at Lagos Polo Club where she was in charge of pony welfare. A keen polo player, Barbara plays off a zero-goal handicap. For Fifth Chukker Magazine she reveals the behind-the-scenes story of Heritage Polo.



DAPO OJORA

Dapo Ojora is the MD of Discovery Resources, a telecommunications company in Nigeria, and a member of the Lagos Polo Club. Fondly referred to as Baba Polo, Dapo has played polo for over 30 years. His love for animals and polo is well known and he was one of the highest handicapped players in the country. Here he gives us a valuable insight into pace and goal-getting.



YINKA AKINKUGBE

Yinka Akinkugbe is a businessman in Lagos with a diverse range of interests. Nearly a polo veteran ("nearly" is his word), he started playing in Ibadan in the 1960s, retired in the 1990s and keeps threatening a return to Lagos Polo Club where he earned his two-goal handicap. He has served on committees in Ibadan and Lagos clubs, and been President of the latter, as well as Secretary of the National Polo Association. He is also a member of the Guards Polo Club, UK, as well as the Accra Polo Club, Ghana.



SHEYI AFOLABI

Sheyi Afolabi is a professional photographer based in London, specialising in sports, motorsports and the automotive industry. He endeavours to cover events and commissions in a creative and artistic manner, using natural light and colour to their maximum effect. Sheyi combines his love of sport with the beautiful world of photography.



TONY RAMIREZ

Tony Ramirez is a renowned polo photographer whose work has appeared in major publications both in the UK and worldwide, including *The Financial Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Hurlingham Magazine*, *Polo Times*, *The Polo Magazine*, *El Grafico*, *Polo Mundial*, *Polo Today*, *Pololifestyle* and *Centauros*. Tony is qualified as an Associate of the British Institute of Professional Photography and covers polo in the UK, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Argentina and Dubai, to name but a few, and works with organisers and teams.



Our thanks go to David Lominska, Ana-Clara Cozzi, Leon Allen, Andrea Brand and Barrak El-Mahmoud who have supplied us with their wonderful images.

Fifth Chukker

MAGAZINE

MAY 2012 | VOL 1 ISSUE 002

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FUNMI OLADEINDE-OGBUE is co-founder and managing partner of Ancorapoint. Prior to founding Ancorapoint, Funmi worked in multinational organisations such as Abacan, Shell, British American Tobacco and Nexen Inc for more than 15 years. A graduate from the University of Manchester, Funmi is a polo enthusiast and loves to ride.



OBEBE OJEIFO is co-founder of Ancorapoint and has a Masters degree from the London School of Economics. She has played a major role in developing many award-winning marketing strategies for global 500 companies such as BP, HSBC, AXA, HP, Linde Prudential and SunStorage. Obebe began riding when she was 10 at the Ibadan Polo Club and has since maintained an avid passion for the game of polo.



AURORA EASTWOOD is a polo player (reaching a 1 goal handicap), producer of high goal ponies and freelance journalist. Over 20 years experience in the polo world give her a unique insight and depth of understanding that few other journalists possess. In addition, she has played all over the world – Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, India, Thailand, Portugal, Belgium and of course the UK.



SARAH CARTLEDGE is a well-known lifestyle and celebrity contributor, whose interviewees range from presidents and politicians to high-profile sportsmen and women. An Oxford graduate, she would like to say her own sporting achievements are similar but, having written about such amazing Fifth Chukker polo players, she realises she still has a long way to go.



LEONORA DE FERRANTI started playing polo when she was 9 and owns 10 horses in Hampshire. She plays at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club and clubs around the world. She is the sponsorship and events manager for Fifth Chukker.



LAURA BRIDGESTOCK is an Oxford graduate and experienced writer who contributes to many magazines and web-based publications. Although she hasn't played polo yet, she feels confident that she could negotiate her way through a game, though whether the horse would follow is another question.



LESLEY MITCHELL is a London-based graphic designer specialising in book and magazine design. She has thoroughly enjoyed working on a publication dedicated to such an exhilarating sport and has been particularly impressed by all that the Nigerian polo community is doing to assist those less fortunate.



YUSUF SAAB is the super-efficient representative of the Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club on the team. He is the Administrative Manager of Fifth Chukker Resorts and provides the historical perspective and information about polo. Yusuf is a graduate of the University of Leeds.

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Fifth Chukker Polo & Country Club is located in northern Nigeria, just thirty minutes from Kaduna by road, and is also accessible by air via the Kaduna national airport. The Club is located on KM2, Kaduna to Jos Road, after Maraban-Jos.

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It's been a fantastic six months since our last edition of Fifth Chukker Magazine and we have a very exciting issue for you this season. We have been travelling the world to bring you the latest and best luxury goods, along with the most up-to-date fashions and events.

But first we look back at the fabulous tournament in October, recalling every shot and every goal of the Africa Patrons Cup. What an amazing event it was! Like everyone else, I was hooked on the action, unable to leave my seat in case I missed something vital.

The events and entertainment were also first class. With couture from Stephane St Jaymes and the first bike polo tournament at Fifth Chukker, there was never a dull moment. Pink Polo Day and the Breast Cancer Tent were extremely successful, and we are very proud of the money and awareness that were raised.

In this edition we focus on women players and young players, as well as our own polo supremos. Our spectator's guide to polo will help all our guests become armchair experts, while the international fixtures list will allow them to plan their vacations.

We have exclusive interviews with Mumuni Dagazau and Access Bank CEO Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, both true Fifth Chukker aficionados. We look at our continuing work with UNICEF and announce a new partnership with them in conjunction with Access Bank. We are also delighted that Access Bank have guaranteed us a further four years of polo, so there is plenty to look forward to.

“Like everyone else, I was hooked on the action, unable to leave my seat in case I missed something vital.”

We bring you reports of the polo in Lagos to put us in the mood for Fifth Chukker, along with a round-up of major tournaments worldwide. We have an abiding passion for polo, and we bring you the best of this fantastic sport.

Also in the magazine we feature some of the brightest talent coming out of Africa, including Jewel By Lisa, artist Anthea Epelle, writer Chimamanda Adichie and Ethiopian shoe designer Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu.

In addition, our travel section focuses on Ethiopia, the hidden gem of Africa. Here you will find reports on the best hotels, spas and destinations along with the inside story on the phenomenal success of Ethiopian Airlines.

For those all-important leisure moments we have identified the most sumptuous superyachts and motoryachts. Our luxury list showcases Chatila, one of the world's most exclusive jewellers whose watches are so rare that each one is numbered. Their diamonds are magical and completely irresistible. We also bring you the world's most luxurious watches to help you measure those precious interludes.

In the meantime, enjoy all the delights that Fifth Chukker has to offer!

FUNMI OLADEINDE-OGBUE
Editor-in-Chief

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Making history at the AFRICAN MASTERS PATRONS CUP

Led by patrons Damian Duncan and Musty Fasinro, the Linetrале Delaney team made history at the 2011 African Masters Patrons Cup when they emerged as the winners for the second year in a row. The team triumphed with a nail-biting 9–8 victory over the AMG team, despite very impressive play from renowned Argentine seven-goal player Manuel Crespo and Fifth Chukker polo resort owner Adamu Atta.

Watched by a crowd of 2,000, the final game kept spectators guessing right up to the end, with play going into extra time. Everyone held their breath as Marcelo Pascual's beautifully executed shot finally sealed the victory – surely one of the most exciting few minutes in the history of the tournament.

Linetrале Delaney had already seen off competition from Kashim Bukar's Fifth Chukker team and YY Deebee, featuring South African six-goaler Gareth Evans and Nigeria's polo supremo, Dawule Baba. In the final, the team showed immaculate organisation and incredible horsepower as they continually broke through AMG's defence and shot accurately at the goal.

Six-goaler Pascual, who runs his own polo resort in Argentina, proved to be Linetrале Delaney's secret weapon as he scored penalty after penalty with ease, holding his nerve to score the winning goal. Pascual's aggression and

agility were perfectly complemented by his brother-in-law, teammate Frankie Menendez, whose power and incredibly fast reactions saved many goals and earned him the award for Most Valuable Player.

Not wanting to be outdone by their Argentine professionals, Nigerian-based Duncan and Fasinro pulled their weight, displaying accuracy in both attack and defence, and showing they were not afraid to take on the likes of Crespo and Patricio Cieza. To top it off, the Best Playing Pony award went to Correntina, a horse ridden by Duncan. The awards were presented by Senator Ahmed Markarfi, former governor of Kaduna State.

AMG were gracious in defeat. They were praised for their impressive comeback in the final chukker, and the strong fight they put up throughout the match. Most Valuable Player Menendez admitted that the victory could have gone to either side, saying, "It was tactical and we had to fight hard at the end. We had luck on our side."

Certainly none of those in the second-place team suffered any damage to their reputations. Atta defended with venom, while Risqua Muhammed showed dazzling speed in attack. The players on both teams proved their worth, and Fifth Chukker staked out its status as a world-class venue.

Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers, chairman of the HPA (Hurlingham Polo Association), said, "The quality of the ground maintenance, horse care and organisation is clearly visible. There is a natural talent in Nigeria, which can certainly be realised at an international level."

Last, but by no means least, a worthy mention must go to the many people responsible for maintaining the outstanding grounds at Fifth Chukker and the impeccable behind-the-scenes organisation of the tournament. Thanks to Adamu, Babangida, Emmanuel, Yusuf, Billy and Ciccio, to name a few, all the incredibly generous patrons and, of course, the sponsors Stanbic IBTC. ●

OPPOSITE TOP Linetrале celebrate their win

RIGHT Adamu Atta

FAR RIGHT Marcelo Pascual





Polo on WHEELS

Kangimi Resort played host to the first international bicycle polo tournament at a Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament, “Pink Polo”, in Nigeria. Hardcore bike polo players from London and Paris flew to Kaduna State to showcase the sport to die-hard pony players.

Bike polo has seen a surge in popularity in recent years, with clubs popping up in cities across almost every continent, but it was the first time that it has made an appearance in Africa. Eight hardcore bike polo players, along with their bikes were flown over from the UK and Paris to demonstrate their skills to a crowd of over 2,000 local and international spectators at the annual African Patrons Cup at Fifth Chukker Polo Club in Kaduna in aid of breast cancer.

The hardcore bike polo rules were altered slightly to closely mimic traditional equestrian polo; the match was played in chukkers and started with a “throw-in”. As the commentator revved up the crowds, the players began a high-speed, spirited game. They raced up and down the pitch displaying astonishing bike-handling skills at the same time as controlling the ball and performing effortless teamwork.

This is far from the conventional image of polo, but Fifth Chukker is not your average polo club. Since 2001, it has transformed a piece of arid pastureland into Nigeria’s leading

international sports resort, largely due to its openness to trying new things.

Commenting after the game, Fifth Chukker founder Adamu Atta said: “Bike polo shows that polo is not all about horses. It is accessible to the masses and I am optimistic that this new activity will be a success in Nigeria.” On the back of the interest the bike polo generated, the resort is looking to develop its bike polo facilities and create further tournaments in 2012 and beyond. The bikes are already owned by the resort and a flat concrete area has been unofficially earmarked.

HARD AND FAST

The sport dates back to 1891, when it was invented by Irish cyclist Richard J. Mcreedy. It became so popular in Britain that it was featured in the 1908 London Olympics as a demonstration sport. Participation declined in the following decades, but in the 1930s it was picked up and established as a national league by English cyclist Cyril S. Scott. This time interest spread to France, and from there, after World War II, to India, Canada and the USA.

Today you're more likely to see bike polo being played on a basketball court or empty car park than in a field. While the grass version generally follows standard polo rules, this new urban version is much more stripped back, with fewer rules and more in common with hockey than traditional polo.

Matches start with a "joust" – basically a head-on charge for possession of the ball. Much play is based on "shuffling" (dribbling the ball with the side of the mallet), but goals can only legitimately be scored with a "shot" (using the mallet head). If a player "dabs" (touches the ground, another player or piece of equipment with a foot), he or she must "tap out" by hitting a point in the centre of the court before continuing play.

Contact is limited to "like on like" – body to body, mallet to mallet, bike to bike. The game ends either at a set time limit, usually 15 to 30

minutes, or when one team reaches an agreed number of goals, between three and five.

LESS GLAMOUR, MORE GRIT

Miami Bike Polo founder Eric Madrid describes the game as fast-paced, passionate and "somewhat aggressive".

Madrid also highlights the strong sense of teamwork and collaboration involved in the sport, both on and off the pitch. There's a real do-it-yourself element, with team members helping each other adapt bikes and make mallets by bolting a piece of plastic piping onto an old ski pole.

"It's less glamorous than horse polo, but very exciting," concedes Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod, who started playing bike polo in the 1960s and is now president of the Cycle Polo Federation of India.

Events like the annual World Hardcourt Championship are now starting to attract bigger sponsors, and it seems only a matter of time before bike polo becomes a professional sport. But for now, it's still a firmly informal affair. Most clubs' sessions are in public venues and open to anyone – all you need is a bike, a helmet and a willingness to get stuck in.

As Oxford Bike Polo member Simon Li says: "Anyone can just turn up and play, and potentially be in a major tournament a few months later." ●



OPPOSITE The two teams lining up at the start

TOP Annie Colquhoun-Denvers presents the winning team with their trophies

ABOVE Play is fast and furious in bike polo

Breast Cancer Tent

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Fifth Chukker was proud to host Pink Polo Day, raising money for breast cancer charities. Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer deaths in women, both in Nigeria and worldwide, and affects women of all ages and backgrounds.

As part of its commitment to the cause, Fifth Chukker erected a tent dedicated to information and screening on site in order to raise awareness about the causes and prevention of breast cancer. Medicaid provided a detailed information video that ran throughout the day, while women were invited to have on-site examinations.

Many of the polo guests, the fashion show models and Kaduna locals took up the opportunity to be examined. The chances of recovery from breast cancer are dramatically increased if treatment is received in the earliest stages, and the Breast Cancer Tent was a huge step forward in breaking down the barriers and taboos that deter people from learning about prevention and from seeking help. ●



The Launch of Fifth Chukker Magazine

Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club in association with Ancorapoint Ltd is proud to announce the launch of a new luxury polo and lifestyle magazine.



Packed with informative and fascinating features, Fifth Chukker Magazine is the ultimate in polo magazines. It caters for the discerning reader, whose knowledge of polo and its lifestyle can only be enhanced by the editorial.

In its launch edition, Fifth Chukker Magazine celebrates 10 years of Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club. The club boasts a host of milestones and memories – the first ever International Military Polo Tournament, Nigeria’s first “Battle of the Sexes”, and trailblazing partnerships with charities UNICEF and Work to Ride.

In addition, it highlights the best of Nigerian talent worldwide, including the fashion phenomenon Stephane St Jaymes, who has taken London by storm.

Some of Nigeria’s best polo players, such as Sayyu Dantata, Kola Karim, Prince Albert Esiri, Mustapha Fasinro, Risqua Mohammed, Ayo Olashoju and Kashim Bukar Shettima feature in Fifth Chukker Magazine, as well as visiting professionals and respected guests, including an exclusive interview with HPA Chairman Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers.

Editor-in-chief Funmi Ogbue has assembled a worldwide team of experts to contribute to Fifth Chukker Magazine, and their combined talents bring great style and class to this new international magazine. Produced in London, but filled with Nigerian know-how, it’s a tribute to the creativity that Nigeria possesses.

For further information please contact Funmi Ogbue, Editor-in-Chief on funmi@fifthchukker.com or funmi@ancorapoint.com ●

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Yordanos Teshager and Anisa reading the magazine; Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers; Simona Ilaria di Michele, Venessa Dn, John Michel Stano and Nena Ristic Vera; Deputy Editor Obebe Ojeifo; Mariano Latorre, Hilde Kristiansen and John Michel Stano; another fan of Fifth Chukker Magazine



Fashion Phenomenon
Stephane St Jaymes
 wows Fifth Chukker crowds with an exclusive show



Models on the catwalk at the African Patrons Cup showing off some of the dazzling outfits created by Nigeria's Stephane St Jaymes

The African Patrons Cup also saw Fifth Chukker transform into a showcase for the spectacular designs of fashion phenomenon Stephane St Jaymes. Based in London but born in Nigeria, St Jaymes says his time spent living in Enugu and Lagos played a key role in shaping his identity. Both cutting-edge and classic, his creations exude glamour and style, attracting celebrity clients from around the world.

Following his Fifth Chukker show in aid of breast cancer charities, St Jaymes has certainly earned some new fans. Spectators were dazzled by the collection of stunning evening gowns, cocktail dresses and tailored trousers, in luxurious fabrics and exquisite tones.

As well as enjoying the show that shot St Jaymes to stardom when it debuted in London, the Fifth Chukker audience also had an exclusive preview of the Spring/Summer collection, *OUT OF AFRICA*, inspired by films such as *Zulu*, *The African Queen* and, of course, *Out of Africa*. ●



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Seen at Fifth Chukker

1 Fifth Chukker Editor Funme Oladeinde-Ogbue 2 Nicholas and Annie Colquhoun-Denvers, 3, 5, 17, 23 Dignitaries and guests enjoying the polo 4 Linda Abia-Okon 6 Mariano Latorre and Hilde Kristiansen (tango dancers from Argentina) and Yordanos Teshager 7 Bouchra AIT Amar (Manager MIA Hotel) and friends 8 Senator Ekweremadu and Tadiwos Belete 9 Funmi Oladeinde-Ogbue with AMG and the Fifth Chukker ambassdors 10 Sayyu Dantata 11 Moyo Fasinro 12 Senator Ekweremadu, Albert Esiri and other guests 13 Galadiman Zazzau (representing Emir of Zazzau) and guests 14 Yinka Akinkugbe 15 President of NPA Dolapo Akinrele, Danmalam (Rahmaniyya Oil) and friend 16 Bashir Dantata 18 Damian Duncan 19 The Ethiopian Ambassador Ato Sulaiman Dedefo and Senator Ekweremadu 20 Ahmed Joda and Albert Esiri 21 Senator Ekweremadu, Deputy Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 22 Charles Seavill and Chris Bethell 24 Mechelle Mochali, Alhaji Adamu Atta, Danny Davis and top model Millen Magese celebrating the launch of Fifth Chukker Magazine



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25, 28, 36 Dignitaries and guests enjoying the polo 26 John Michael Spano with a friend and brother Shane 27 Patricio Cieza and Manuel Crespo 29 John Michael Spano, Lariposker King Sowe Saneo and Danny Davis 30 Yordanos and friends from Ethiopia 31 Dolapo Akinrele and bike polo players 32 Alhaji Iro Danfuloti (Sarkin Fulotin Katsina), Senator Ahmed Markafi and Alhaji Kashim Bukar 33 Galadiman Zazzau (representing Emir of Zazzau) 34 Alhaji Kashim Bukar 35 Ahmed Joda 36 Fifth Chukker brand ambassadors



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Fifth Chukker and Access Bank renew their commitment to UNICEF to fight HIV/AIDS

Through the Access Bank Charity Shield, Fifth Chukker has provided vital funding to UNICEF's children's projects in Northern Nigeria. Now it plans to step up its involvement through a new initiative, in conjunction with Access Bank.



Fifth Chukker is rightly proud of its close involvement with UNICEF's children's projects in the surrounding areas of Kaduna State, and is now looking at extending its help to other states in Nigeria. The country has the third-largest population of people living with HIV in the world, and UNICEF still requires vast resources to help it deal with the scale of the problem.

Children are often the hardest hit. Many of those affected are orphans, both parents having died from HIV/AIDS. Some are born with the disease, and are among the numbers contributing to the high rate of death in under-fives.

Following the success of its five-year National Action Plan launched in 2007, UNICEF is now implementing a second plan, which will run until 2017. The campaign highlights four key aims: to reduce primary transmission among young people, prevent mother-to-child transmission, extend the reach of

pediatric care and provide support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs).

HELPING CHILDREN DIRECTLY

Fifth Chukker's help has been vital to UNICEF's continued work in Nigeria, enabling the charity to support local organisations, families and communities in protecting and caring for OVCs affected by HIV/AIDS. Until recently, many of these communities lacked sufficient knowledge and skills to provide adequate support for these children, but now there are more than 400 OVC caregivers and community members who are closely involved in UNICEF's projects.

Successes to date have included the formation and operation of co-operative businesses, supported through micro-credits, which provide an income for communities caring for OVCs. Materials key to survival and income generation have been supplied, including farming equipment, sewing and knitting machines, garri processing machines, and rice milling and dry corn milling machines, as well as water pumps.



OPPOSITE UNICEF donations are creating jobs to help out communities

TOP Fifth Chukker's Leonora de Ferranti with UNICEF officials outside UNICEF's Kaduna office

ABOVE UNICEF Representative Dr Suomi Sakai immunizing a child at Kaukau village, one of the communities in Chikun Local Government enjoying OVC support in Kaduna State

The income generated supports the communities' educational, health and nutritional needs. The programme also provides basic services, including education, health care, nutrition and psycho-social support to children who have no close family members. So far UNICEF has provided care and support to 240 OVCs in 12 communities, in three local government areas of Kaduna State and a further three communities in Kogi State.

GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR CHILDHOOD

One of the extremely sad aspects of the children's suffering is that many of them have been left as the head of their household, due to the deaths of their parents or guardians. Levels of HIV knowledge and awareness have been found to be higher in these communities, but the children are also at a higher risk of exploitation as a direct result of the lack of adult care.

Thanks to contributions from Fifth Chukker, along with its partner Access

Bank and other stakeholders, many of these children are learning to smile again. The community support provided through the UNICEF co-operatives ensures they do not go hungry, and their emotional and physical well-being is monitored through the charity's health, nutrition and hygiene programmes.

In particular, education and life skills support is important for young girls, who can be extremely vulnerable. Often the task of caring for siblings falls on their shoulders, while at the same time they themselves are at risk because of their growing maturity. Education is considered the single most important tool for these girls, and this is being delivered through UNICEF.

TAKING THE LEAD

Fifth Chukker is keen to scale up the focus of its partnership with UNICEF, and is looking at supporting the establishment and ongoing operation of the Business Leaders' Initiative for Children (a UNICEF/Save The Children initiative).

"Protecting children's rights is a global responsibility that requires global commitment from us all, in every sector," says Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director. "This new partnership will help to establish clear principles for businesses to participate in the global effort to help all children, and especially those most in need."

The principles will be based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which spells out the basic human rights of children everywhere. These include the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

Fifth Chukker and Access Bank are already committed to protecting the rights of children in Northern Nigeria, so it seems a fitting project for them to support this new initiative, to further benefit the OVCs whose plight is increasingly being acknowledged and acted upon. ●

BELOW Dr Suomi Sakai, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria, with some of the OVCs in Kaukau village, Kaduna State, during an official visit to the community for immunization and an interactive session with the OVC care-givers



Yordanos TESHAGER

Fifth Chukker's new Charity Ambassador

A vital role for the Ethiopian supermodel



“I am honoured and privileged by this award, I am fully committed to playing my role and be an advocate for children with HIV/AIDs.”

Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Yordanos Teshager as its Charity Ambassador for 2012. This new role puts the Ethiopian supermodel at the forefront of Fifth Chukker's massive charity infrastructure supporting UNICEF and the breast cancer awareness campaign. Yordanos has built an impressive résumé in a short time to become a regular feature on international runways, advertisements and magazine covers.

As Charity Ambassador, Yordanos will visit UNICEF and breast cancer projects sponsored by Fifth Chukker. She will help promote advocacy, social mobilisation, capacity building and service delivery through television and radio appearances, as well as social media outreach. Specifically, she will interrelate and support NGOs and other stakeholders who provide care and support services to hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children in six Focus Local Government Areas and 12 Focus Communities of Kaduna State benefiting from the intervention resources of Fifth Chukker and Access Bank.

The new Charity Ambassador, who will change every year, is also expected to push for community-based action plans to improve screening for breast cancer through enlightenment and provision of self-help packs. She will also encourage women to learn self-examination techniques and undergo free screenings at mammography units where available.

“I am honoured and privileged by this award,” says Yordanos. “I am fully committed to playing my role and be an advocate for children with HIV/AIDs.”

Yordanos began modelling in her home town of Addis Ababa when she was only 15 years old. She was runner-up in the Miss World competition held in Ethiopia in 2004 and was a semi-finalist for the Face of Africa contest in 2005. Since then she has modelled for some of the biggest fashion names in the world, including Giorgio Armani, Agatha Ruiz de la Prada and Rock & Republic.

“We are certain Yordanos will both transform and save lives through her ambassadorial role,” assures Fifth Chukker captain Babangida Hassan Usman Katsina. ●





AIGBOJE AIG-IMOUKHUEDE

• Making an **impact** on society

Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede's banking career spans more than two decades and his visionary leadership has inspired Access Bank's rapid and unprecedented growth over the past eight years. He is a member of the National Economic Management Team and was awarded the prestigious National Honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, in recognition of his contributions to the development of the Nigerian economy. Aigboje is an alumnus of Harvard Business School Executive Management Programme. He is a passionate advocate of children's rights, spearheading Access Bank's collaboration with Fifth Chukker in aid of UNICEF's Kaduna projects.

In an exclusive interview he tells Fifth Chukker Magazine about his drive to improve childhood survival rates.



1. Fifth Chukker and Access Bank have had a very fruitful relationship for the past five years. How has your partnership benefited society?

Access Bank's partnership with Fifth Chukker is about making an impact on society in a positive way. The collaboration is a corporate social responsibility initiative which aims at facilitating development across critical areas of human life. This partnership has provided us with another platform to demonstrate our commitment to the development of sports, the environment and other social issues.

2. Why did you choose to sponsor polo, as opposed to another sport?

Polo has a rich cultural heritage and constitutes a part of the cultural identity of Northern Nigeria. Supporting polo, therefore, aligns with Access Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy, which supports cultural preservation. The sport is environmentally friendly and also provides a good platform for entertaining and interacting with our High Net-worth customers.

3. What are the attributes of polo players that you most admire?

Polo is a unique game. It is basically a team game in which all players must cooperate to get the ball into the opponent's goal. The need for courage and cool judgement is a necessity in this high-velocity game. The most desirable qualities for a player are courage, a high level of concentration, mental and physical strength and stamina. Many of these attributes are also needed for success in the business arena.

4. Why did you choose to sponsor UNICEF? Do you visit the UNICEF projects?

A key component of the social responsibility focus of Access Bank is the well-being of children. Hence, selecting the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as the beneficiary charity, provides us access to our target group – children.

UNICEF is also a credible organisation that has, over the years, implemented children-focused programmes, such as the UNICEF survival and early childhood care

ABOVE Children are the all-important focus of Access Bank and Fifth Chukker's association with UNICEF



programme contributing to reducing mortality through malaria control and promoting baby-friendly initiatives – especially breastfeeding, immunisation activities, HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation.

In 2011, we visited orphanages that benefited from the donations that came from the Access Bank Emir of Katsina Charity Shield Polo Tournament. Visiting these locations highlighted HIV/AIDS-related issues being faced in various communities. This has further strengthened Access Bank's commitment to curbing the spread of the disease.

5. How important is the sponsorship of the Bank to projects such as these?

HIV/AIDS is a major global public health threat that undermines development in many resource-poor countries. Globally, since the beginning of the epidemic, nearly 30 million people have died from AIDS-related causes, and this has had a substantial humanitarian, economic and social impact, which is still not fully measured.

6. Access Bank is the first indigenous Bank to have an HIV/AIDS workplace policy. How has this worked to disseminate information about the issue, and has it been successful?

Access Bank is a leading voice in the campaign against HIV/AIDS on the African continent and globally. In achieving its campaign against the dreaded disease, the Bank has evolved several initiatives that have had a significant impact on the society. One of these is the Access Bank Workplace Policy Programme, which remains the Bank's flagship initiative in the area of health. Outcomes from this initiative are:

Hosting Workplace Policy Workshops for 1,250 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia. These SMEs will assist about 6,250 of their employees and over 24,000 of their dependants

to make informed behavioural and medical choices that can help prevent the spread.

Partnering with the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership (DCGEP) on the production of a prevention and educational movie, titled "Inside Story – The Science of HIV/AIDS". This is estimated to reach about 300 million people through a comprehensive, multi-year distribution strategy.

7. Through the Charity Shield, vital funding is reaching some of the most needy and vulnerable children who are suffering as a result of HIV/AIDS. Will you continue to sponsor these projects in conjunction with Fifth Chukker?

Our support over the years stems from a commitment to give back to our society, particularly the less privileged in Nigeria. Our main target in this case is the children, as we have made it our business to be committed to their well-being, as well as ensure that the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is curbed. To this end, we intend to sustain the partnership of this project with Fifth Chukker.

8. How important is Fifth Chukker's contribution to the scheme?

Credible partnership is at the heart of every successful community investment initiative. Fifth Chukker Polo Club has demonstrated a level of credibility and commitment that has significantly contributed to the successes so far recorded in the intervention initiatives of the Charity Shield. The polo club has shown genuine concern for the increasing number of cases of HIV infection despite various interventions from the government and civil societies. Kaduna State has one of the highest rates of infection in the north-west zone of Nigeria. In the past five years, Fifth Chukker Polo Club in Kaduna State has been working in partnership with Access Bank and UNICEF to support orphaned and vulnerable children in Kaduna State. ●

ABOVE Every child has the right to live a life free from harm and UNICEF aims to provide that with the help of organisations like Access Bank and Fifth Chukker



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AMG is committed to improving the interests of all its community of stakeholders including investors, employees, customers, suppliers and local communities. It is this passion that drives our participation in sporting activities like the polo tournaments at Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club that engage and support under-privileged youths.



We have a long history with the Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club and join with its management and staff to celebrate 10 years of great polo!



Women in polo

While there is evidence of women playing polo in China thousands of years ago, it is really only very recently that women playing polo has become accepted these days, explains Aurora Eastwood.

Men have attributes that help them to play polo – this isn't sexism, it's just basic physiology. The key skills that are needed for polo, such as hand/eye coordination, strength and lack of fear, are just things that come more easily to men. This goes some way to explaining why there has never been (and probably will never be) a female 10-goal player. The closest any woman has come is five goals (both Claire Tomlinson and Sunny Hale hit this milestone); currently the highest-rated woman in the world is the British Nina Clarkin, off four goals.

Women are increasingly taking up the sport. The HPA (Hurlingham Polo Association) in the UK calculates that almost 50% of beginners are now women. In Argentina, women's polo has exploded, with tournaments every single weekend practically all year round, and the sponsors are flocking to it.

Nigeria is ahead of the game when it comes to women's polo. The original Battle of the Sexes tournament was played at Fifth Chukker way back in 2006 where two-goaler Sherri-Lynn Hensman was the star. Now, a woman on a polo field in Nigeria is a regular sight. Uneku Atawodi is an accomplished Nigerian player and is well used to playing with, and against, men.

There are some very good female players all around the world – among them Fifth Chukker's own Leonora de Ferranti and myself. Few women ever achieve a zero goal rating. Even fewer, such as Lesley-Ann Masterton Fong Yee, Nina Clarkin, Tiffany Busch, Sherri-Lynn Hensman and Heloise Lorentzen, get to one goal or



RIGHT Lucy Taylor and Heloise Lorentzen (UK)

OPPOSITE Leonora de Ferranti





above. If they do, they go in to the top 1 or 2% of female players worldwide. It is an exclusive club and one that I was honoured to have been a part of for a while.

Women tend to be more empathetic riders than men. Most have ridden before taking up polo (if they come to the sport later in life), so this goes some way to redressing the balance of skill. With good technique, women can hit an accurate ball; they just won't have the range of shots or the distance a man has. One of the beauties of polo is that men and women compete on equal terms; a handicap is a handicap, so (with the exception of the laughable Argentine women's handicaps) a zero-goal woman is no different (and in many cases better) than a zero-goal man. As good horses are 80% of the game, a well-mounted girl is a very attractive proposition to any team.

However, the sport is meant to be fun. There are enough ladies' tournaments around the world to allow a lot of enjoyment to be had, so get out there! A handicap in polo is your passport to the world. ●

LADIES' FIXTURES AROUND THE GLOBE

- UK – Cowdray British Ladies Open
- Coworth Ladies International
- France – Deauville and Chantilly
- Argentina – Copa Miriam Heguy
- Singapore International
- Thailand Ladies Tournament



ABOVE LEFT Lesley-Ann Masterton Fong Yee (Jamaica)

ABOVE RIGHT Karen Reese and Tiffany Busch (USA)

RIGHT Sherri-Lynn Hensman (Zimbabwe)

UNEKU ATAWODI

Nigerian polo player Uneku Saliu-Atawodi is one of the few African women playing polo internationally. As well as leading by example, she has contributed to raising awareness about the sport by organising West Africa's first all-female polo tournament.

Uneku Saliu-Atawodi is one of African polo's most illustrious ambassadors. She has a degree in Equestrian Studies from Brighton, in the UK, and a Masters in International Business from Regent's College, London. When not playing polo she's busy running her boutique hotel in Abuja. She found time in her packed schedule to talk to Fifth Chukker Magazine about polo, business and showing the men how it's done.

How did you get into playing polo?

I started playing when I was 15 years old. Just after I started, my uncle persuaded me it was a bad idea, but David Anderson of Epsom Polo Club soon convinced me otherwise. I dabbled in fox hunting during the winter in Leicestershire while I was studying in the UK, but mainly any spare time I had was spent playing polo.

Do you have a polo-playing family?

My parents don't play, but my little brother is an all-round sportsman, and I started teaching him how to play a year ago. He goes to Stowe School in the UK, where they play polo, so he is learning fast.

What is your most memorable polo moment?

Playing polo in Jamaica. From the day I arrived I was treated like family. The grooms kept me laughing for the two months I was there, and Jamaican professional Lesley-Ann Masterton was incredibly hospitable and made sure I had an amazing time. I cannot wait to go back one day.

What is your favourite country to play polo in?

I love to play in Argentina. Also, thanks to Ali Albwardy for spoiling me rotten, Dubai is fast becoming like home.

What are your ambitions in polo?

I would like to see polo grow in Nigeria, and to be part of the change in our passion for the welfare of the polo ponies that give us so much.

What are your experiences of being a female polo player in Nigeria?

Playing as a woman in Nigeria is always interesting, to say the least! Sometimes the assumption that women are not as good as men makes you play better; other times it makes you so nervous that you can hardly hold your stick. However, generally Nigeria is very welcoming to female players, and it is great to see clubs like Fifth Chukker working to encourage more local girls to get into the sport. The men treat me like a little sister, and they all feel like family to me.



Do you prefer playing women's polo or mixed polo?

I prefer mixed polo because women's polo sometimes feels like a bit of a cat fight! The fact that polo lets us mix is one of the reasons it is such a fantastic sport. However, I have played in women's tournaments around the world, from Jaipur to New York. International women's tours help to encourage more women into the game.

Are there gender-based prejudices in Nigerian polo?

Gender-based prejudices in Nigeria, period! Whether at work or on the polo field, there are expectations defining how women should behave, and this sometimes shows in certain people's treatment of you. Generally though, I must say the Nigerian polo players impress me, as they do not hold back when playing against a woman!

We know polo is addictive, but do you have any time for other interests?

I own a hotel called Bamboo House in Abuja. It is a quirky, nature-inspired place with a lounge, outdoor cabana and a bar. You can feel the fun, natural spirit of the place when you walk in, and it seems to be very much appreciated as something new and different in Abuja. ●



HERITAGE POLO

Continuing more than a century of tradition, this year's Heritage Cup saw teams from six nations wearing period-style clothing made by Liberty Freedom of the UK.

Inspired by a sepia photograph of British Empire Army Officer Cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1885, and a 1912 image of Louise Hitchcock, known as “the mother of US Polo”, founder Barbara P. Zingg launched the first encounter of a revival game between the British Army Officer Cadets and Pakistan in 2006. At the time Officer Cadet Wales (Prince William) just joined the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, in the same platoon as Nigerian Officer Cadet Folarin Kuku, now a captain and currently serving in the Grenadier Guards Regiment as Adjutant to the Major General in Knightsbridge. What seemed just a project idea has now developed into an HPA fixture in the UK polo agenda and is a very competitive international tournament.

Heritage Polo is the revival of polo at the turn of the 19th century, the “Rediscovery of Polo History, Fashion & Art”. For one weekend, polo history is brought back to life with a fixture of teams performing in “Old English” dress code. Gentlemen compete for the Heritage Polo Cup and play in white jodhpurs with T.M. Lewin shirt and tie, while the women vie for the Ladies’ Heritage Polo Cup, also playing in revival polo attire, as worn in the 1900s.

Six nations, fielding players from 11 different countries over four days formed this year's Heritage Polo Cup. Pololine.com South America remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. The EFG International British Army Officers came close to defeating them, but there wasn't enough time to turn the game into a victory, and they lost 6–7. This exciting game was full of suspense, and incredible skill was displayed by both teams.

The subsidiary final, played during heavy rainfall, featured a strong Indian team with well-connected Indian professionals and four-goal brothers Manupal and Dhruvpal Godara, who have both represented India in three World Championships. Along with their team, which included patrons Shyam Mehta (1) and Raj Jain (-1), they took home the third-place title, beating last year's winners EFG International British Army Officers 9–6½. EFG's team – banker Robert Mehm (1),





HERITAGE POLO





Major Matt Eyre-Brook (1) of the 9th/12th Lancers, Gaston Devrient (5), and Officer Cadet Cameron Bacon (o), the RMAS Polo Officer Cadet and rising highest handicapped player of the season – qualified for the semi-final with a half-point goal difference against the USA Patriots Polo Team. USA FIP Ambassadors Major Joseph Meyer (1) and Bruce Colley (1) were supported by patron Louis Bacon (father of Officer Cadet Bacon) and polo pro Gonzalo Garcia del Rio, an explosive and intriguing player to watch on the field.

STL Nigeria participated with three patrons – Kola Karim (o), Mustapha Fasinro (1) and Damian Duncan (o) – guided by Argentine polo pro Lucas di Paola (6). The team was knocked out on Saturday. “This tournament is fantastic and we love to be part of it,” enthused Kola Karim, while fitting his boots on before play. “We definitely want to come back next year to be part of this unique event and to play in a green shirt and tie.”

Raphael Singh (1) and Steve Rigby (-2), aided by the excellent play of their pros Matias Amaya (4) and Tomas Iriarte (4), remained unbeaten. They achieved an 8½–5 victory against the Hunters Guildford Land Rover Luxembourg Team of Yves Wagner (o), Bert Poekes (o), Martin Riglos (4) and Oliver Taylor, an outstanding playmaker. Raphael Singh was awarded the well-deserved Most Valuable Player trophy in due consideration of his effort in comparison to his +1 handicap. The Best Playing Pony award was won by a black mare owned by Tomas Iriarte.

The Ladies’ Exhibition match, in which RMAS Polo and Event Manager Barbara P. Zingg took to the side-saddle to umpire, saw international female players from Great Britain, Russia, Brazil, South Africa and Pakistan all mastering a fast-moving and skilled game.

“My dream has come true with the Indian polo team travelling out from Bombay, to finally write polo history,”



stated founder of Heritage Polo Barbara P. Zingg. “Some 126 years ago in 1885, Officer Cadets were practising the sport of kings, then being posted out to India. It has taken six long years of waiting to write polo history with a team from Mumbai.”

For 2012, a Ladies’ Heritage Polo Cup is planned to be held before the Gentlemen’s Cup at Hurtwood Park Polo Club, 1–5 August. “We are expecting an African representation, with a polo team from Ghana, Nigeria Lagos Polo Club and possibly a line up from Fifth Chukker,” she added. “An encounter between India and Pakistan will be also held in celebration of polo history during the Olympic Games in London 2012, a most exciting time of the year.”

*For enquiries, sponsorship and tickets, contact Barbara P. Zingg
Email: barbara@heritagepolo.com
Tel: +44 7999 562496 • www.heritagepolo.com ●*

PAGE 32 Tom Tailor, Team Luxembourg

PAGE 33 Charlotte Christodoulou in the new HP Fashion Collection

TOP The Shetland Pony Club

ABOVE The Gala Dinner at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, with the US Patriot Team



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

UP & CLOSE personal

We spoke to some of the men at the centre of this tournament – the team patrons. Each of them shares several things in common. They all love the game and of course the horses, and they’ve all earned accolades on the field. But as well as being hotshots in polo, they are also driving forces in business. They’ve all achieved success through the force of their own vigour, business acumen and sheer perseverance. As a result, they all have interesting stories to share, and individual insights to offer into the growth of both polo and business in Nigeria.

We are promoting good causes through polo, such as Cancer Awareness and UNICEF's programmes for HIV kids in Nigeria. I'd like to see polo being used to promote many more noble causes, and to encourage peace and harmony.

1.

Babangida Hassan

2.

I learned to play polo at Kaduna Polo Club and I've been playing ever since I was nine years old. My first competitive game was at 13 in the Kids Cup, which is a very popular tournament. But since Adamu Atta and I started Fifth Chukker, after a trip to Argentina in 2000, I have been playing here.

3.

My grandfather played polo, as well as my late father and my two brothers, and I have lots of cousins who also play. We have not played as a family yet, but we are planning to put a team together. Between us we could field an eight-goal team!

4.

At present I own six horses, which are all stabled at Fifth Chukker. During the season I play most weekends, so although we are not professionals we do play quite a lot. As the director of oil and gas company Pillar Oil, I work in Lagos and have another office in Abuja, but I spend my weekends at Fifth Chukker. Whenever the weather is good we play.

As the polo captain, it is my responsibility to organise all the polo practices and tournaments that go on at Fifth Chukker, and I also arrange horses for players when we have visiting teams. It is a privileged role and I enjoy doing it. At Fifth Chukker we are fortunate to have generous sponsors and players who lend their horses and keep their promises. This makes organising tournaments a lot easier for me.

Outside of Fifth Chukker, I play with Adamu a lot. I enjoy playing with him



because he likes attention to detail. When we play at Fifth Chukker we tend to play against each other. We enjoy that as well, and can be very competitive. I also play with Kashim Bukar at Fifth Chukker.

Occasionally I go to Kano and Lagos for tournaments. My most memorable tournament was in 1994 when I won the most important cup in Nigeria, the Georgian Cup, at Kaduna Polo Club. It is a 15-goal tournament, which was the highest handicapped tournament in Nigeria before Fifth Chukker was established. I now play in the 20-goal Charity Shield at Fifth Chukker every

year. I have yet to win it, but I would like to one year.

I like to travel and have played polo in Argentina, the USA, the UK, Ghana, South Africa and Morocco. It is good to visit other countries and absorb their knowledge of the game. Nigerian polo is developing fast, but I would like to see more interest and more people playing. We are promoting good causes through polo, such as Cancer Awareness and UNICEF's programmes for HIV kids in Nigeria. I'd like to see polo being used to promote many more noble causes, and to encourage peace and harmony.



I think the future of Nigerian polo is looking good. Now we have established the NPA and their partnership with Fifth Chukker, I think that Nigerian polo will only improve.

1.

2.

Damian Duncan

3.

4.

I started playing in Lagos in 1998 at the Lagos Polo Club and now I am a one-goal player. Initially I took it up while doing business with a polo enthusiast, John Ellis, who has sadly passed away now. He worked with Q&Q Control Services, which is an oil inspection company, and he introduced me to the game when Trafigura were doing business with Q&Q.

Trafigura has now withdrawn from Nigeria, so the name of my polo team has changed to Linetrade Delaney. Delaney Petroleum is a new company, so we hope to keep the Trafigura tradition going and to build Delaney into a world-class trading company.

As a result, I am very busy, but I try to squeeze in as much polo as I can around work and my family. I now own seven horses in England and 22 in Lagos, and I usually play at the weekends at Fifth Chukker. Through Lagos Polo Club I found out about training in Argentina, so I started going there for lessons every year for the first three or four years, but now I have a family I cannot go back as often. My wife rides and my oldest daughter also loves riding, so they both have horses, along with my youngest daughter.

In 1997 I was fortunate enough to win the Hector Barrantes Cup in



Argentina. I am also a member of the Ghana Polo Club and I have won many tournaments there, including the Open three times. I have played in Dubai but not competitively. I spend a couple of weeks every other month in Dubai, but otherwise I am based in Abuja.

I started playing in England last season at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club. I am partly based in London with my work, so it is nice to get some polo in while I am there. I also played in the Heritage Cup at Coworth Park and Sandhurst, and for Ghana in an invitational match against Ham Polo Club. I didn't play too much because it was my first season and I was trying to bed in, but I am planning to play a lot of tournaments in England

this season with Musty Fasinro. We are going to be more organised!

My most memorable polo moment was winning the Majekodunmi in March 2011 in Lagos – the biggest cup in Nigeria. I am already playing in the highest level tournaments in Nigeria, but I would like to establish myself in the UK by playing bigger tournaments, maybe one day the Gold Cup or the Queens Cup.

I think the future of Nigerian polo is looking good. Now we have established the NPA and their partnership with Fifth Chukker, I think that Nigerian polo will only improve. We are now playing proper polo; it is better organised and playing with friends makes it a lot of fun.



The involvement of international professionals allows us to bring more talent to Nigeria, and the game becomes much more competitive and exciting. The professionals also encourage the local players to grow and gain valuable experience.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Yerima Yusuf

I have ridden horses all my life in Nasarawa State. From the age of four I would ride during the festival period with my family. I took up polo in 1992, partly because of my religion. As a Muslim, one of the games I could take part in was something related to horses, so I chose polo. Secondly, I was born into the royal family and horses are part of royalty.

I learned to play at Kaduna Polo Club. Today I still play there, but I also play at Fifth Chukker, and I keep my 16 horses in Kaduna. I bought most of my horses from Selby Williamson in South Africa, and a few from Argentina.

My current handicap is one. I put the best I can into polo, but I do it for fun. I play because I love it and I put all that I can into owning the best ponies, doing the best practices and going to South Africa for the best coaching. The sky is the limit – so far, so good!

My work requires me to travel a lot, but I manage to fit in polo at the weekends. I work for a security printing company, Aero-Vote Ltd, based in Nigeria and in the UK. I used



to have my own printing company, which was sold to Aero-Vote Ltd in 1999. I go to the UK often for work, but I always look forward to coming back to my lovely country.

If I go to South Africa for business or to London, I always travel with my polo kit. I have also played in Dubai, Morocco and Miami. I enjoy playing in South Africa with Selby the most, because that is where many of my horses are from, so I know how he breeds them and I feel comfortable on them.

I have played with many different teams and players; I do not stick to a specific team. I pick my team according to the tournament – I make sure I get the guys that are going to win! Sometimes I pick the teams myself, and sometimes Adamu helps me out. He has contributed to polo greatly and I am very appreciative.

My most memorable polo moment was winning the Lagos Open in 2009, and then again in 2010 when I played with Babangida Hassan and Bello Buba.

Since the new NPA rules have been in place, Nigerian polo has very rich chances of developing. The involvement of international professionals allows us to bring more talent to Nigeria, and the game becomes much more competitive and exciting. The professionals also encourage the local players to grow and gain valuable experience.

There is no doubt that Fifth Chukker has been instrumental in developing a successful future for Nigerian polo. I think polo patrons should spend their own money to create the best infrastructure for the game. The government should be left to govern the country; they should have no business in polo.



We can learn a lot from international players, as they teach us a number of skills, such as horsemanship, how to ride and how to play. This contributes greatly to the progression of polo here.

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Osgo Giwa Osagie

I started riding in 1976, but took a break during years of studying in Nigeria and London. When I finished my education and came back to riding in 1991, I had no intention of playing polo, but a friend who challenged me to prove that polo players were not better riders led me into the sport.

I played my first polo tournament in 1992 in Ibadan. Now I play in Lagos, where I trade commodities, and I am hooked. Injuries I have endured in recent years have triggered thoughts of giving up; however my love and passion for the game has always enabled me to come back to polo. I'm addicted and I just can't give it up.

I enjoy watching and playing with high-goal professionals. This has encouraged me to improve my riding and consequently my polo ability. I am a one-goal player now and am



very happy with that. I play most of my polo in Nigeria, but I have also played in Atlanta, where the weather was beautiful and the people were charming. I went as a guest of Sayyu Dantata and we played many chukkers.

At the moment I have six horses in Lagos. My favourite is Idia because she does everything I want her to do and when I am riding her I don't worry, I just play polo. I buy young, green horses from Chad and Niger and school them for polo. When I first started, I bought ready-schooled horses because I was inexperienced, but now I know what I want, I train them myself.

I have never won any major tournaments because I try to do two things – have a good time and play

polo, but that means you can't expect to win. I enjoy myself in the evenings and as long as I have fun playing polo and do not get injured that is enough for me. One tournament I will never forget was the one I played before my accident, the Abraka International. I got shot by armed robbers two weeks later, but fortunately the only damage was to my elbow.

As for the future of Nigerian polo, I would like to see many more well-organised tournaments, like the African Patrons Cup. We can learn a lot from international players, as they teach us a number of skills, such as horsemanship, how to ride and how to play. This contributes greatly to the progression of polo here. ●





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passion for polo

Mumuni Dagazau is a regular at Fifth Chukker and has recently returned to playing polo after a 10-year break.

My late father, Alhaji Tijani Dagazau (God rest his soul), was from Maiduguri where traditionally wealth was measured by how many horses you owned. I remember as a kid we had over 70 at one time. When we moved from Apapa to Victoria Island in 1972 and my father joined the Lagos Polo Club, he brought about 40 horses with him, so it was at the club that I first started riding.

My love of animals came from my late father, who had a zoo in his office on Victoria Island, in

Adetokunbo Ademola. He had hyenas, ostriches, crocodiles, about 30 dogs and many Brazilian parrots, which he imported. He was especially close to his favourite baboon, called Dan Duniya, which literally means “child of the world”, and the baboon would only play when my father was there.

When I lived in the UK I used to have a pet boa constrictor called Imelda, after Imelda Marcos. She was 5 feet long when I got her and over 8 feet just a couple of years later, but I had to rehome her when I moved back to Nigeria.

ABOVE AND RIGHT
Mumuni Dagazau is closely involved with Fifth Chukker's evolution from polo and country club to world-class resort

My love for polo really began at Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, where my father had sent my brother Ali and me to further our education. Here I learned to play indoor polo, which has only three people a side, unlike outdoor polo which has four. Ali, who is a good horseman, teamed up with Aldo Piaggio from Peru, who was a two goaler even then. He was in the mounted troop with my brother. I was also in the mounted troop, but a year behind them. However, we teamed up and used to play for the school in the junior varsity and then the varsity team.

Indoor polo horses are trained more for turning and riding off than for speed. I remember one mare called Zebra who wouldn't stop for anything, not even the wall, but most of the horses are trained to turn fast or ride off hard. Indoor polo is much faster and played with a big leather sandball, but everything else is basically the same.

I did find out the hard way that if you are face to face on the wall, you can't swing under the neck. I got carried away in a tournament and took a really big swing when my female opponent was bending down the other way. My mallet came all the way round and cracked her nose – I'll never forget that.

When I arrived in the States in 1980, I found it a bit of a culture shock. On my first day at the Military Academy there I was, in my late 70s-style suit, open shirt, gold chain and huge Afro. That didn't last! Within 24 hours the hair and the suit were gone and my fellow cadets didn't let me forget that for a long time.

I also had a strong Scottish accent, as my father had sent us to a boarding school in Carlisle, near the Scottish border. No one could understand a word I said in America. Fortunately my room-mate was a cousin of one of the girls in Sister Sledge, and he had spent time in the UK, so at least he could understand me a bit more than the others. It took me just three days to change my accent!

My first polo tournament in Nigeria was in Sokoto in 1983. I continued to play and got to a three-goal handicap, the youngest player to achieve this at the time. Polo was great fun then. We had a lot of respect for our elders and our friends alike. We fought hard on the field, but still maintained the respect and friendship afterwards. Today it is not always like that.

I stopped playing in 1993 as it wasn't fun any more and I lost interest. Instead I took up golf, and I've been fortunate to have played at some of the most exciting courses around the world, including the UK, Dubai, South Africa and France. Many people who are fed up with polo seem to graduate to golf and tend to be quite good at it – polo players are hard-hitting golfers.

In 2003, I played the Lagos Tournament with Fifth Chukker, alongside Adamu Atta, Babangida Hassan and a six-goal Argentine pro, even though I hadn't played for 10 years. I practised at Fifth Chukker for the previous month only, but polo is very much like riding a bicycle – you never forget. Now I am trying to get back into it. I have horses with my brother and also my business partner, and I go down to Fifth Chukker as often as a can.

I'm very impressed with the developments Adamu is initiating at Fifth Chukker. He has put a lot of resources into them and I try to support him as much as I can. I am keen to exploit the potential of Kangimi Resort, so we have boats, quad bikes, jet skis and canoes to build up

the water sports. Soon we will have tracks for the quad bikes, and I'm hoping Adamu will put in a golf course.

He has done a lot for polo in Nigeria and will continue to do much more, I am sure. I like people who are committed to what they do. Adamu has already created a fantastic polo scene at Fifth Chukker, and I am convinced that the development of the other attractions, including villas and a hotel, will make Fifth Chukker a world-class resort. ●

Polo was great fun then. We had a lot of respect for our elders and our friends alike. We fought hard on the field, but still maintained the respect and friendship afterwards.





JEWEL BY LISA

NIGERIA'S HOTTEST FASHION TALENT

Lisa Folawiyo's
jewel-encrusted gowns
are revolutionising
African fashion.

It's hard to believe that Jewel By Lisa only launched in 2005. Since then, this unique fashion brand has been making waves across Africa and the Atlantic, where everyone has fallen in love with Lisa Folawiyo's texturised and embellished Ankara designs that celebrate modern African woman.

This season Lisa is celebrating the swinging 60s, inspired by the work of veteran photographer Okhai Ojeikere. Although best known for his exhaustive collection of African hairstyles, Ojeikere also has a large archive of images from his time at the University of Ibadan in the 1950s and 1960s. In an inventive twist to bring the styles up to date, Lisa has adapted many of these fashions and created a collection called Vintage Love that has brought her a host of new admirers.

She has designed beautiful print dresses with full 1950s skirts, cropped trousers, luxurious blouses and safari suits teamed with decorative Austrian lace in typically African sunshine yellow. She has also adapted the traditional male agbada and created contemporary pieces, such as the agbada blouse.

She has also taken the agbada caps or filas, normally associated with men, and placed them jauntily on female heads to create a new postmodern effect.

Her designs are very on-trend and have found a following among New York's in-crowd. Television presenters, stylists and fashionistas have been photographed in the city wearing her designs, which she sells through her showroom and boutique websites such as Eve's Apple.

ADAPTING ANKARA

Former lawyer Lisa began her iconic brand following the birth of her daughter Zeina in 2003. The time she took off work coincided with the banning of imported fabrics into Nigeria. With her love of shopping and fashion, she and a friend began to devise ways of working with traditional fabrics by combining them with couture.

"I wanted to do something that had never been done before," says Lisa. "I wanted to texturise the Ankara, turn it into something

“I wanted to allow more people to access the brand, and some of the more expensive garments can take a whole month to hand embellish. This is obviously reflected in the price, so the J label is more accessible.”

more luxurious, and that was when the idea of the embellishment came in. We added beading and crystals, which had never been done in this part of the world. Because no one had seen it, it was called innovative. People loved it and that's how Jewel By Lisa came about.”

Lisa sells through her ready-to-wear collection, preferring to design by season rather than by appointment. She also has a diffusion line, where clients can buy into the brand at a more affordable price.

“I wanted to allow more people to access the brand, and some of the more expensive garments can take a whole month to hand embellish. This is obviously reflected in the price, so the J label is more accessible.”

The fabric manufacturers are no doubt delighted with the success of Jewel By Lisa, as it has made Ankara hugely fashionable. “The Ankara fabric is loved in this part of the world. It is quite an affordable fabric and it gave me the print that I love so much. Being able to take this fabric, which everyone wears from the lowest of low to the highest of high, and to turn it into something previously unseen is what got me hooked,” she reveals. “It's beautiful and colourful and when we embellish it, it is something else. It blew me and the rest of Nigeria away.”

By texturing the Ankara fabric, Lisa was able to adapt it to the structure and form of her couture designs. “We changed the face of it,” she says. “Right now it is all about the Ankara fabric. Choosing fabric is one of the most difficult things for me, and because we all go to the same markets and suppliers I change the look of the fabric with my embellishment. So even if you see it in the market you may not recognise that it is the same fabric. I would put a line where there isn't a line, things like that.”



ABOVE Lisa Folawiyo

LEFT AND OPPOSITE Lisa's stunnings designs have captivated the world of fashion



“The best thing about what I do is seeing the people wearing my clothes in their own way”

“It’s another reason why right now we are in the process of pressing our own Ankara. For the last two seasons we have designed our own custom Ankara print, so aside from the Ankara we get here that we love, we still have our custom prints that are special to us and that you find no where else in the world except at Jewel By Lisa.

“With our custom fabrics we always go with the premium fabrics, like the most luxurious silks, and we pay for these things. All in all we are affordable, but it is all relative.

“I try not to encourage private clients, but there are always people who want special pieces for events. I concentrate on ready-to-wear because you don’t find it here like you do in any other part of the world. What happens is you go to your tailor and he makes you what you want. I wanted to break that cycle.”

INTUITIVE INSPIRATION

Lisa attributes her love of pattern to her West Indian heritage as much as her African one. Her mother is from Trinidad and Tobago, but she grew up in Nigeria and used to go back to Trinidad for school holidays.

“I am not trained as a designer, I do not have the technical know-how,” she confesses. “I am learning on the job every day, but I think that I do understand clothes and from that I am able to design my pieces and have them constructed the way I think they should be.”

In addition she has a children’s range, Pretty Precious. Her son Zachary was born four and a half years ago and her daughter Zeina, now eight, loves colour combining and putting outfits together.

Lisa admits she wouldn’t have been able to achieve such dizzy success in such a short time without the help of her team. “I design all the pieces, but I have tailors here, plus managerial and secretarial support, along with machinists and 30 to 40 embellishers.

“I am not a businesswoman so I have people doing that for me,” she says. “The best thing about what I do is seeing the people wearing my clothes in their own way. If it were down to me I would give my clothes away, just to see people wearing them. That’s what it’s all about – that is the magic for me!” ●





Lisa's distinctive fabrics are a trademark of her designs, and her clothes are instantly recognisable



Nigeria through Anthea Epelle's remarkable paintings



Until recently, Nigerian art has been a male-dominated environment, but lately things are changing. One look at Anthea Epelle's vibrant paintings, infused with colour and formatted with strong lines, reveals why she was chosen as one of Nigeria's upcoming talents at President Goodluck Jonathan's inaugural exhibition in Abuja last year.

Called *Nigeria Our Nigeria*, the exhibition was a celebration of culture, hope and identity, presenting the best images from the 51-year-old nation. Anthea Epelle's paintings, *Praise* and *Runways*, were selected from her growing body of work, which is garnering its own praise from critics around the world.

Epelle's paintings reflect the colours and sensations of life in Nigeria, but they are not the traditional scenes of villages and streets. As a trained fashion designer, Epelle's art is clearly rooted in the sense of structure and pattern she developed during her time at the London School of Fashion.

Her trademark straight lines, which create gracious curves and flowers along with more rigid motifs, have

been honed over the years and now form the backdrop and substance of glorious portraits of stylised African womanhood. This is African art in its highest form, representing both the life and the essence of the Nigerian nation.

Unsurprisingly, Epelle's works are attracting a loyal following of collectors, selling at auction for upwards of \$5,000.

A SLOW UNFOLDING

Born in London but raised in Lagos from the age of two, Epelle has been painting since she was a young child. Her talent was nurtured by her German art teacher at The Grange primary school, which had been started by British expat wives. "We were a bit more exposed to the

ABOVE *Oluwakemi* or *God Look After Me* in Yoruba

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THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP LEFT *Praise*; *Retro Girl*;
No Evil

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Untitled; *Untitled*; *Inside The Crown*;
Orange Shack

outside world,” she reflects. “My art teacher was a brilliant creative and I was very fortunate to have her influence.”

After finishing her secondary education in Nigeria, Epelle returned to London to attend fashion college. “I enjoyed the design side, but was totally lazy at the technical part,” she confesses. “I hated sewing and designing patterns, but I gained a lot from the creative side of it.”

After qualifying, Epelle stayed in England for a while, but soon returned to Nigeria, where she began work in an advertising agency. “The creative scene in Nigeria wasn’t as open as it is now. If you came back to Nigeria and said you wanted to be a fashion designer, you would end up being a tailor,” she recalls.

“Things have changed a lot and we now have a massive fashion scene, but at the time I just fell into what everyone else was doing and put everything creative to one side.”

However, Epelle continued to express her creativity, making hand-made greeting cards at home. An artist cousin who saw her work encouraged her to try painting, and bought her a blank canvas and some paint. Although reluctant at first, Epelle persevered and continued to experiment – keeping some pieces and allotting others to the rubbish heap – as she gradually developed her distinctive style.

Another sojourn in England brought her some painting commissions, mostly from friends who admired the artwork she had hung around her flat. She started painting more regularly in 2005, when she realised she was “on to something”, as she modestly puts it.

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Epelle says she takes her inspiration from the scenes and patterns around her, particularly from the Ankara fabrics that abound in the markets. Her first series of paintings, titled *Runways*, reflects the dark browns and oranges of traditional fabrics, with warm African sunshine shimmering through the bold lines. This theme has clearly resonated with art lovers; only one of the original five paintings remains in Epelle’s possession.

“I enjoy patterns and a bit of repetition, but I don’t like it to be too organised,” she says. “So it’s not exactly perfect, but it does match up.”

Later paintings, such as *Praise*, *Orange Shack* and *I Celebrate*, show Epelle’s development as an artist, experimenting with different ways of directing her mind. *Praise* is an expression of the vibrancy of churchgoers, with the strong and colourful strokes representing the passion and joyousness of Sunday prayers – arms and hearts lifting to God in thanks and praise. In *Orange Shack*, the lines are straighter as she is fine-tuning her art.

I Celebrate reveals a softer side, where lines are kept smaller, creating flowers in the Ankara style. But the jewel in the crown of this particular series is *Tiger’s Eye*, a huge picture that is an explosion of colour and pattern. At 48x60 inches, this is an impact painting, with the dark iris of the eye at its centre pulling all lines into its orbit.

Unsurprisingly, *Tiger’s Eye* sold immediately at auction, as did *Raining Season*, which depicts the delicious sensation of longed-for rain on the naked body of a girl, arching backwards in pure enjoyment of the moment.

Oluwakemi, or *God Look After Me* in Yoruba, is inspired by the finery and headdresses that can be seen at night parties after weddings. “Any good artist can paint a



LEFT *The Spin*

BELOW *I Celebrate*

OPPOSITE *Me*





This is African art in its highest form, representing both the life and the essence of the Nigerian nation.

woman and make her look nice, but I add myself to the paintings,” Epelle explains. “It was a painstaking work and quite difficult to execute, but she radiates a beauty that I see frequently around me.”

Me, one of her latest works, was inspired by a photograph of an unknown woman. “I liked her expression, calm and settled – it looked like she was all about herself,” she reveals. Another, *Going Home*, shows how her style is developing, with the haunting, weary figure of a worker on his way home to rest.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

In 2011, Guaranty Trust Bank commissioned a series of eight paintings from Epelle to hang in their new offices in Lagos. This has been a major boost to the collectability of her works, and has brought her many new clients within the finance and banking world.

This year she is putting together an exhibition that will show new works – although as fast as she paints them they find a new home. Epelle says she is dedicating herself to the project, and it seems certain that regular collectors will find themselves among new competition to acquire her pieces.

Epelle then plans to exhibit in London, where she will doubtless find more new admirers. This will mark a full circle for the artist, who says she would not have fulfilled her true potential without first returning to her African roots. ●



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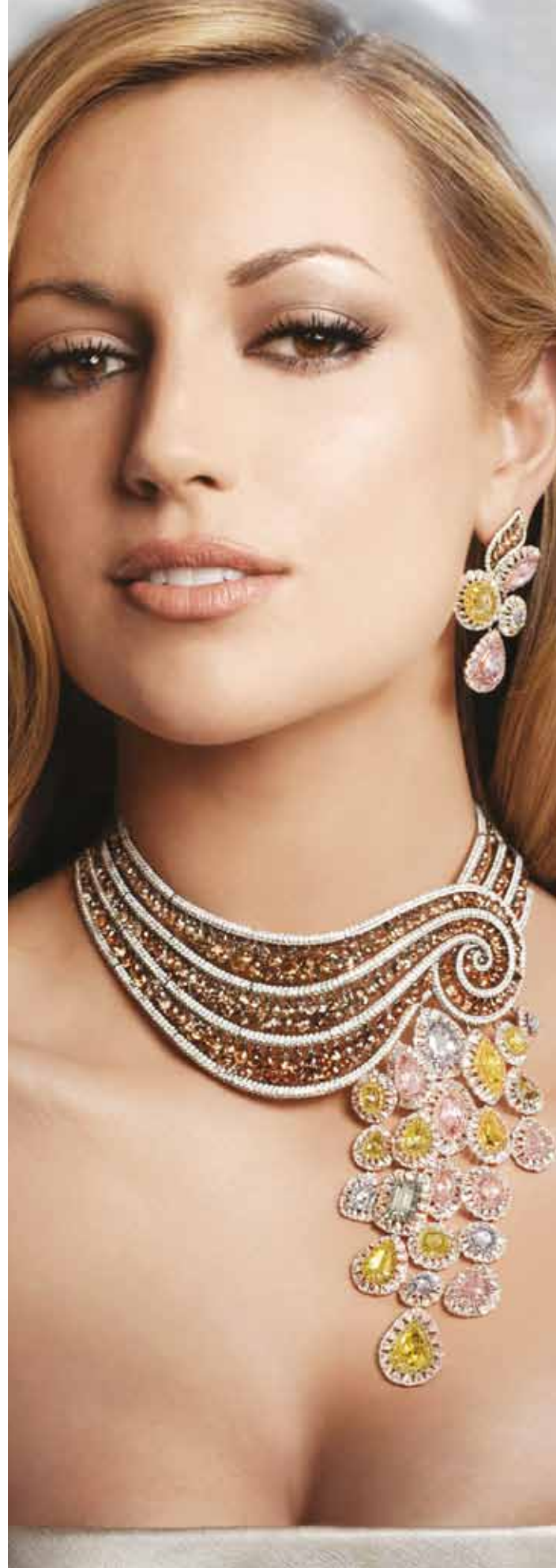
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OPPOSITE PAGE Slipstream

BELOW Cakewalk

Despite the gloomy economic outlook worldwide, the superyacht industry is still making waves. For the ultimate in style and panache, it's hard to beat one of these sleek and powerful vessels.

Many Nigerians enjoy summers in the Mediterranean, where they can take advantage of the pleasant weather, knowledgeable crew, excellent food and historic destinations. While some own one of these magnificent vessels, others charter them to sample the Med's unique lifestyle. Distances are short, ancient sites are plentiful and the nightlife is vibrant.

It's in complete contrast to the boating scene in Nigeria. In Lagos, most owners tend to buy 25- to 50-foot boats, including Sunseeker and Princess yachts. They use them to visit their beach houses or to travel to luxurious destinations such as the Ibeshe Beach Club on Lagos Island. This stretch of coast is known to its fans as the Lagos Riviera and is famed for its beauty and charm.

It compares favourably to Miami, where owners use their boats to visit each other and to travel along the coast at leisure. It's a way of life, rather than a holiday in itself.

If you are planning on travelling to the Olympic Games in London this summer, why not charter a superyacht? Burgess Yachts have a handful of exclusive berths adjacent to the ExCel Centre at London's Royal Docks, right alongside the hottest sporting event this summer.

ExCel's five massive exhibition areas will host a variety of Olympic events, including boxing, judo, fencing, taekwondo, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. This is an ideal venue for entertaining clients with an after-party on one of the most prestigious yachts in the world.

Whether you purchase or charter a superyacht for the summer months in Europe, it's a perfect way to increase business profile and contacts.





RECESSION-PROOF INVESTMENT

In the Mediterranean, however, it's as much about the investment as the location. In the current climate, superyacht sales are still surprisingly buoyant. "These days, though, the price has to be realistic," says Alev Karagulle of Burgess Yachts.

"We have some beautiful yachts on our books, and they are selling at the right price. However, in the charter market it's the clients who can dictate the deal. There are some very good opportunities to charter the most luxurious yachts at a time and price that's right for you."

These objects of desire are the ultimate in luxury living. Burgess are offering for sale the magnificent Cakewalk, which captured the attention of the entire superyacht world when she was delivered in the USA in 2010.

The largest volume yacht ever constructed in the USA, the distinctive exterior styling with its flowing lines is by renowned designer Tim Heywood. The classical interior, styled by Elizabeth Dalton with the grandeur of a country mansion, is nevertheless supremely comfortable.

In contrast, the largest yacht in Nigeria is 108 feet, reflecting the difficulties of owning such vessels. Aside from the obvious issues of delivering large boats successfully, there is a shortage of parts and skilled technicians to service and repair them.

CRUISING THE MED

In the Mediterranean and the Caribbean skilled crew and technicians are plentiful. The key to successful cruising lies in the staff. Most yachts carry a crew of 18–20 and a knowledgeable captain is the key. Summer

is the busiest time, so plan ahead. Choose an itinerary and stick to it, rather than changing plans at the last minute as berths can be difficult to secure at short notice.

Distances on the Riviera are quite short, but for guests more used to travelling by private jet it can be quite a surprise. Just remember that cruising is as much about relaxing as it is about networking, so choose your guests and your destinations with this in mind.

For the best holiday, allow a minimum of two weeks so you can see all that the region has to offer. Whether it's the Monaco Grand Prix, the nightlife in Sardinia or the ancient monuments in Turkey, it's the journey as well as the destination that counts.

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4–9 June	Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta, Porto Cervo
20–23 June	Superyacht Cup, Palma
4 August	Monte Carlo Red Cross Ball, Monaco
29 August–8 September	Venice International Film Festival
19–22 September	22nd Monaco Yacht Show
29 September–7 October	Voiles de Saint-Tropez



STEP ASHORE

The latest luxurious high-performance yachts are perfect for arriving in style.

SUNSEEKER 28M YACHT

Impress your guests with unique uninterrupted floor-to-ceiling panoramic views and an extraordinarily bright interior in this new design, boasting unusually full height and pillarless glazing. Perfect for parties and martini cocktails. Price range £4,628,000–£5,610,000.

James Bond had more than one Sunseeker, so join the ranks of the ultimate daredevil.



SUNSEEKER PREDATOR 53

Launched at the London Boat Show in January, the Predator 53 has a sharp sporty design and offers more interior space than most in her class, plus a fantastic sky view, just one of many cutting-edge features. 007 would be impressed. Price range £783,000–£1,023,600.



Entertain at leisure with adaptable space. The vast flybridge area of the Manhattan 73 provides great flexibility, with two back-to-back areas offering space to dine outside, or to sit back and enjoy the view. Providing accommodation for eight guests, it performs at speeds in excess of 32 knots. Ideal for the supreme getaway. Price range £2,078,000–£2,506,800.



SUNSEEKER MANHATTAN 73



PRINCESS V57

Elegant, exhilarating and incredibly spacious, the new V57 is set to be the ultimate sports yacht for versatility, fun and sociable cruising. With a spacious layout, flexible accommodation and a performance capable of 36 knots, the new Princess V57 also has a tender garage for a 3.2m Jet-RIB.



The sleek and stylish Ferretti 620 is ideal for lazy weekends, thoughtfully equipped and thoroughly luxurious. With a huge entertaining space and two large guest cabins, it is tailor-made for socialising. POA.

FERRETTI 620



Pearl Yachts have fused their expertise and craftsmanship with the renowned interior style of Kelly Hoppen to create understated luxury in the new Pearl 75. The largest of the Pearl fleet, the Pearl 75s 1250h engines combine joystick manoeuvrability with sports' boat performance. Price range £2,844,000–£2,877,600.

PEARL 75



AQUATIC SPLENDOUR

Lagos rightfully calls itself “the state of aquatic splendour”.

Yinka Akinkugbe is a big fan.

It runs east–west, parallel for the most part to the Atlantic, and its heart rests on islands that open out directly through the port to the sea. From the heart of Lagos you can literally stand in the surf at Bar Beach, which after years of erosion has been beefed up with a protective rocky border and is being filled with sand to what we are told is where the shoreline was a hundred years ago. On that reclaimed land will rise a new 21st-century neighbourhood to be called Atlantic City.

From Bar Beach, running east, the coastline is sandy, and for around 30km the golden sand flanks Lagos down to the sleepy town of Epe. There is an inner lagoon for the same distance, but the land separating lagoon and ocean is substantial in parts and forms the strip known as Lekki. Going west from the marina, the sandy coastline runs a similar distance, but with narrower strips of beach keeping the Atlantic from the mainland areas. If you hopped on to one of the many speedboats that sail east from such luxury watering holes as the Lagos Motor Boat Club, you would head out through the harbour, with the Lagos Marina on your right and Bar Beach and the entrance to the harbour on your left. Having navigated the waters of Apapa port, which is notoriously choppy, due partly to constant marine traffic and the changing tide, you eventually come to the serene waters of the lagoon, heading west towards Badagry. Around 20 or 30 minutes after leaving the heart of Lagos Island you come to Ilashe village.

Ilashe is on one of the fingers that form the peninsula going west. It is a small village with a few hundred inhabitants who supplement

their traditional occupation of fishing with a fledgling hospitality industry. For decades a few people have built simple cottages on the sandy beachhead just beyond the village and have benefited from the hospitality of the permanent residents.

There are no electricity pylons with dangerous wires overhead and no water pipes running under the sand. There is a pipeline that lies buried deep in the sand taking imported gasoline to the tank farms of Apapa and occasionally the foolhardy tamper with it. Those who rent the land and build their cottages, usually with simple timber frames and thatch roofs made of palm fronds, can enjoy the serenity and peace of the village, punctuated only by the sound of the occasional small generator running pumps and lighting.

Well, that was the picture until a few years ago, when those who love the beauty of sand and sea decided that Ilashe was the new destination for weekend beachbums. Just a 30-minute boat ride from Lagos, it meant that those wanting to spend a day by the ocean could travel to and fro in an hour leaving the rest of the day to have a barbecue, listen to loud music and run around on quad bikes.

Gradually the beach houses in Ilashe have grown from very simple affairs into architectural masterpieces, in some cases. For weekends, a small well used to be sufficient to supply the water for a toilet, shower and cooking facilities. Now the wells have to be deeper to cope with filling a small swimming pool, and since most pools are simply extra large bath tubs, the water needs to be pumped out and replaced every weekend. The village has no municipal electricity, so locals and visitors



have to provide their own, usually with small petrol generators. In some cases these have been replaced by small diesel ones to power air-conditioners for weekenders insisting on city comforts.

Ilashe now has close to a hundred weekend retreats. Pools abound and, while you might not be run over by the quad bikes, there are certainly lots of them about, ferrying beachcombers back and forth between the boats and beach houses. Some visitors come early to enjoy the peace and quiet while they prepare their barbecues, walk to the ocean and play and sunbathe by their pools. Others arrive midday to party on the beach. These revellers are generally more interested in an afternoon of loud disco music, accompanied by plenty of rice and chicken and, inevitably, plenty of beer, wine and champagne.

All beach users are escorted by an attentive group of young villagers in their teens and mid-20s who carry their food and drinks to the beach houses and attend to their myriad needs. A healthy symbiotic relationship exists between them: the visitors pay for these temporary services and the villagers keep them safe and happy. No harm is allowed to come to anybody or the village would be in danger of a total exodus by the fun lovers and the loss of this extra income.

Sadly the state of the beach has declined. Some visitors leave their rubbish behind, but the beach is spoiled mostly by the tide continuously dumping city rubbish. This is so extensive that it completely overwhelms any efforts the villagers might make without municipal help. The result is that they make no effort at all. If the oceanfront is marred by flotsam, the lagoon at least is a lot cleaner. However, the lagoon's muddy bottom means that, aside from jetskiers and fishing folk, most people want to hang about the Atlantic seaboard.

In recent times, a few pioneering entrepreneurs have sought to create beach properties catering for those who do not wish to build their own. Notable among these is the well-organised Ibeshe Beach Club, which faces the lagoon. It has a sizeable swimming pool, with proper pumps, surrounded by a beach house with several rooms. Beach toys abound, and the club will transport revellers on request to Ibeshe, which is adjacent to Ilashe and where the entertainment can be tailor-made. A 5-minute boat ride from Ibeshe, in Ikare, is another facility with a set of exotic beach structures and a pool to match. Pictures say a lot more than words can about what there is to enjoy at both these jewels in the sand.

OPPOSITE Enjoying the bracing Atlantic surf

ABOVE AND BELOW A quiet moment at Ilashe before the weekenders arrive to party



This idyllic lifestyle is soon to be available at Kangimi, where a new development will include an aquatic centre for water sports and entertainment. Serviced villas, an 18-hole golf course, a horse-racing track, hotel and spa will be set against the magnificent backdrop of the vast Kangimi Lake, adding another dimension to the delights of Fifth Chukker.

It might not quite equate with the beach delights of Lagos yet, but it's still early days. Already the quad bikes are in place at Kangimi, a vital ingredient of a day by the water. Soon the jet skis will arrive and then there will be a touch of Lagos in Kaduna, although the pull of Ilashe and Ibeshe will always be there. ●



1



2

On time, in style

So much dazzling jewellery is crafted for women, but what about the men? These beautiful timepieces more than make up for the rest, but don't forget the ladies.

Over the years, the art of watchmaking has seen many changes: new materials, technologies, styles, innovations and manufacturing processes. But since the 16th century, one thing has remained constant; Geneva, Switzerland, has retained its renowned position as the world's watchmaking capital.

Today, collections from brands such as Urwerk, Greubel Forsey, Audemars Piguet, Backes and Strauss, Franck Muller and Quinting continue to show why those coveted two words, "Swiss Made", still hold such a powerful appeal worldwide. Technical perfection combines with aesthetic brilliance to make each design a masterpiece of both science and art. Whatever your style or preference, there's a perfect watch for everyone – but choose carefully, because these are built to last. They are also the perfect investment, as proved by Quinting, whose timepieces have tripled in value in the last decade.

You could, of course, treat yourself to several – perhaps Quinting's Eternity, the first transparent watch in the world or, for daily business, Greubel Forsey's Invention, an eye-catching fusion of modern style and classic appeal. ●



3



4

1. Quinting Arabesque Telescopium
2. Quinting QPGG
3. Greubel Forsey Invention Piece 1
4. Quinting QGLBS Chronograph
5. Franck Muller Master Square 6002
6. Quinting Eternity
7. Greubel Forsey Secret



6



5



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16

- 8 Franck Muller Giga Recto-Verso
- 9 Backes & Strauss Berkeley
- 10 Audemars Piguet Openworked Extra-Thin Royal Oak
- 11 Quinting Mysterious Steel QSL51
- 12 Quinting Mysterious Cardinal
- 13 Backes & Strauss Piccadilly Princess
- 14 Backes & Strauss Prince Regent
- 15 Backes & Strauss Royal Regent
- 16 Backes & Strauss Piccadilly Baguette

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAGOS SEASON

MTN Lagos Tournament



LAGOS TOURNAMENT, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012
 The MTN Lagos Tournament has long been a highlight in the Nigerian polo calendar. Some 30 matches were played over 10 days as 32 teams competed for the Dansa Cup, Lagos Low Cup, Lagos Open Cup and the Majekodunmi Cup. It also included one female team, marking the first time women have competed in the event.

A record number of teams entered into the 2-4 goal Dansa Cup, which was eventually won by Lagos Decline and Fall who beat Kano Seamans Energy. That same afternoon Lagos Ironclad defeated Albert Esiri's Asbert Raiders in the 6-8 goal Lagos Low Cup – a highly competitive section featuring 12 teams with players coming from far and wide.

The second half of the tournament saw teams compete for the 12-14 Lagos Open Cup. After some dazzling displays of polo throughout the week, the final was a close-fought battle between Fifth Chukker's YY Ibako and Lagos Tavia Trojans. Watched by a heaving crowd, featuring Air Vice Marshall Abubakar Hassan Nashehu and Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Tavia Trojans emerged triumphant.

The grand finale of the tournament was the nail-biting Majekodunmi Cup final between Fifth Chukker and Linetrade Delaney. The four Nigerian and four Argentine players fought hard and entertained the crowds with speed and ability until Linetrade Delaney walked away with the trophy for the second

year in a row. After coming back from a 4-goal handicap difference, Fifth Chukker managed to keep the score level until the sixth chukker, when Linetrade Delaney's accurate goal shots and solid defence put them in the lead by two goals. Speaking after the game, Linetrade Delaney's patron Mustapha Fasinro commented: "It is an honour and a remarkable achievement to win the Majekodunmi Cup for the second year in a row."

On the social front, Lagos Polo Club did not disappoint. They laid on a full spectrum of social events that included a beach party, a fashion show, a black-tie dinner at the Civic Centre and an evening of comedy with the legendary Bovi.



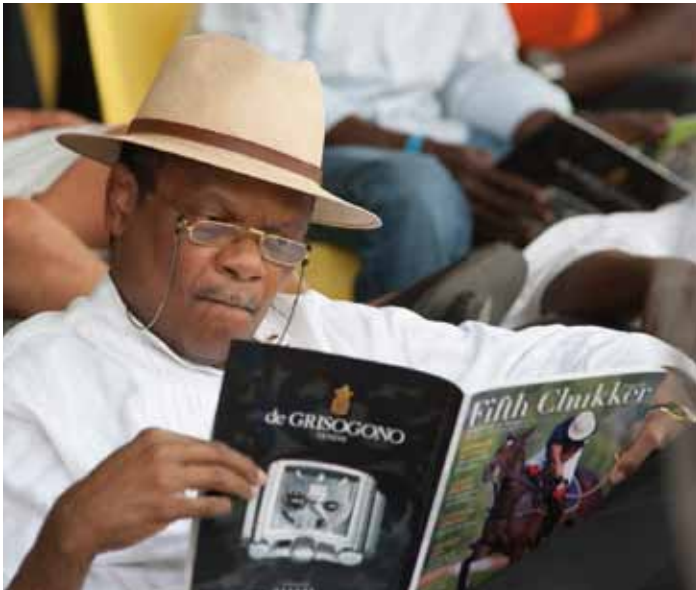
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OPPOSITE Linetrale Delaney, winners of the Majekodunmi Cup

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Julio Novillo Astrada (Ironclad); Linetrale Delaney; the Ironclad team; Lance Watson (YY Ibako); Frankie Menendez



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OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT Prince Malik Ado-Ibrahim; Fifth Chukker winning the President's Cup; Damian Duncan; Hakeem Muri-Okunola; Mr and Mrs Ayo Olashoju; Temi Phil-Ebosie; Aliko Dangote; Alhaji Adamu Atta; Sani Dangote; Dapo Ojora, Funmi Oladeinde-Ogbue and Alhaji Adamu Atta

THIS PAGE FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT Obebe Ojeifo; Funmi Oladeinde-Ogbue; Francesco Fiorilla and Yordanos; Atedo Peterside; Dolapo Akinrele and Leonora de Ferranti; action at Lagos Polo Club

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NIGERIAN POLO



FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT Players from Ericsson Polo Team; Babangida Hassan and Bashir Dantata; international DJ Jerome; a spectator enjoying the action; Tajudeen Saro after winning the Owen's Cup; Yordanos, Risqua Mohammed and Landre Olashoju; Lagos Polo Club



OPPOSITE Kano Titans, winners of the Ibadan Cup



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IBADAN SEASON

The Ibadan Polo Tournament



IBADAN POLO TOURNAMENT

Ibadan Polo Club celebrated its 75th anniversary with a fiercely fought and highly commendable polo tournament. As is tradition, the emphasis was on skilful polo, family fun and friendship, which has spawned a long list of polo dynasties and legends and distinguished the club as an excellent showground for budding Nigerian talent.

The 2012 NPA (Nigerian Polo Association) tour opened on 8 February with the Ibadan Polo Tournament. The five-day event attracted 17 teams from Lagos, Kano, Kaduna and Ibadan, contesting for the three major prizes – the Ibadan Cup, Rotimi Cup and Ade Alakija Cup.

In keenly contested match-ups, Kano Polo Club dominated the headlines with their fast open polo, which thrilled the large crowd. Kano fielded six teams and also came out tops by claiming two of the three trophies.

In the low-goal Ade Alakija Cup, Lagos Tastee Pot Riders beat Ibadan Datade in the final to keep the home club without a trophy. The teams failing to make the final from the seven-team field were Kano Susplan, Kano Bompai and Kano Ibah Oil & Gas. Others were Ibadan Eleiyeye and Ibadan Moriola.

The medium-goal Rotimi Cup was completely dominated by the Kano teams, who produced the two finalists from a five-team

field. Kano BUA ultimately won, beating Kano Bompai 10–8. Lagos Machine, Ibadan Lead City Reform Sports and Ibadan NFL all missed out on the main prize.

In the top-goal Ibadan Cup, Kano Titans defeated Lagos Linetrade Delaney 8–5 in the final. Both teams had earlier victories against Lagos Shoreline and Ibadan Dream Team respectively to make the play-off from the four-team field.

The 2012 Ibadan Polo Tournament was a hugely enjoyable experience for all, as indeed it has always been since polo was first played at the club in 1937. It was also a fitting curtain-raiser to the Nigerian polo season.



There was plenty of exciting action on the field at the Ibadan Polo Tournament, including Kano BUA, winners of the Rotimi Cup (top right) and Lagos Taste Pot Riders, winners of the Ade Alakija Cup, with Musty Fasinro (centre right)

AfricArise

Nigeria's hottest
catwalk show
showcases the best
of African fashion

Africa is finally making its mark on the world fashion stage and this was ably demonstrated at the Arise Magazine Fashion Week in Lagos. With 77 designers showcasing their work, international fashion editors flew in from London, New York and other fashion capitals to see the best that Africa has to offer.

Drawing on traditional African fabrics and costumes, the collections cleverly embraced both the old and new. New York-based designer Loza Maleombho gained inspiration from the Sahara Desert's nomadic Tuareg people, while animal-influenced stripes were a big story.



LEFT Design by
Sunny Rose

ABOVE Design by
LaQuan Smith

NIGERIAN HIGHLIGHTS

Lagos's own Lisa Folawiyo, of Jewel By Lisa, showed sparkling cocktail dresses, 1950s inspired day dresses with coats and a stunning tutu dress and train over satin pants. South Africa's Gavin Rajah teamed flowing pants with a chiffon blouse and a sequined waistcoat, but his pièce de résistance was an exquisite off-the-shoulder leaf design dress in soft cream that fluttered like feathers.

Nigerian designer Maki Oh offered a youthful but refined collection, with whimsical prints and a hint of naughtiness at times. Tiffany Amber showed glamorous fringed evening wear, and Sandra Muendane tantalised everyone with her shimmering silver and colourful stripes.

Ozward Boateng, the British couturier with Ghanaian parents, presented a formal masculine collection, mainly in black and white but with some loud shouts of colour. He was greeted with a standing ovation, along with South Sudanese supermodel Alek Wek, who modelled for Tiffany Amber.

Boateng received a Lifetime Achievement Award, while Nigerian designer Maki Oh and South African Kluk CGDT were awarded Designer of the Year. Designers heading to New York for the ARISE show in September were named as Boateng, Maki Oh, Tiffany Amber, Tsemaye Binitie and Gavin Rajah – worthy winners all. ●

Africa's designers definitely have something to shout about when it comes to fashion, and their style and inspiration have put the continent firmly on the world fashion map



THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Designs by Mustafa Hassanli (modelled by Millen), Gavin Rajah and Lanre da Silva

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT Designs by Re Bahia, Maki Oh (modelled by Alek Wek), LaQuan Smith, Jewel By Lisa, Sunny Rose (modelled by Oluchi) and Tiffany Amber



Let the good times **roll!**

The Chinese curse “May you live in interesting times” was never truer for us than this year. 2012 started with a bang, a real shocker. The fuel subsidy removal announcement resulted in Occupy Nigeria protests and a nationwide strike, crippling business and trade. On the social scene, we hung in there. Some low-key weddings took place, but most events, seminars, conferences, cocktail parties and funerals were postponed.



Recovery has been excruciatingly slow but, as evidenced by the high jinks (mostly by the horses) at the first weekend of the MTN Lagos Polo Tournament on 3 March, it looks like we finally threw off the fuel subsidy blues, and the good times are here again.

This year is the 108th year of playing polo in Lagos, the 75th anniversary of the Open Cup, and the 50th anniversary of the Majekodunmi Cup. A record 32 polo teams competed, drawn from Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Fifth Chukker and Abraka, with professional players from Argentina, South Africa, France and the UK. Polo is an exciting, fast-paced, very physical, skilful and exhausting game. It is also a visceral game that carries its spectators along with the emotions of the players, and the heaving sides of the horses.

The audience is so close to the action. Only a low-rise wooden fence separates the stands from the field, and the action is riveting. The challenge is at several levels – team against team, player against player, rider against beast. And when man and beast stop battling each other and become a team, charging up and down the field, veering away from the fence when they get too close, it is beautiful to watch and be part of.

Riders in helmets, white jeans tucked into riding boots skilfully guiding their mounts to block opponents in defensive action, while simultaneously keeping their eye on the ball, swinging their mallets and striking for goal. Talented and strong sportsmen and women riding, defending, attacking, striking, strategizing, galloping, playing as a team in their trademark “Polo” T-shirts. Ralph Lauren’s Large



Polo brand was very much in evidence, very much appropriate and very much at home.

The “real action” began after the “main action” – the match –ended. That was when the social scene and society action got started – the social mingling, business schmoozing, fashion parading, people watching, champagne sipping, canapé nibbling, drinking, posing, flirting, laughing, chatting and gossiping. There was, of course, serious talk about horses, players, teams and resources

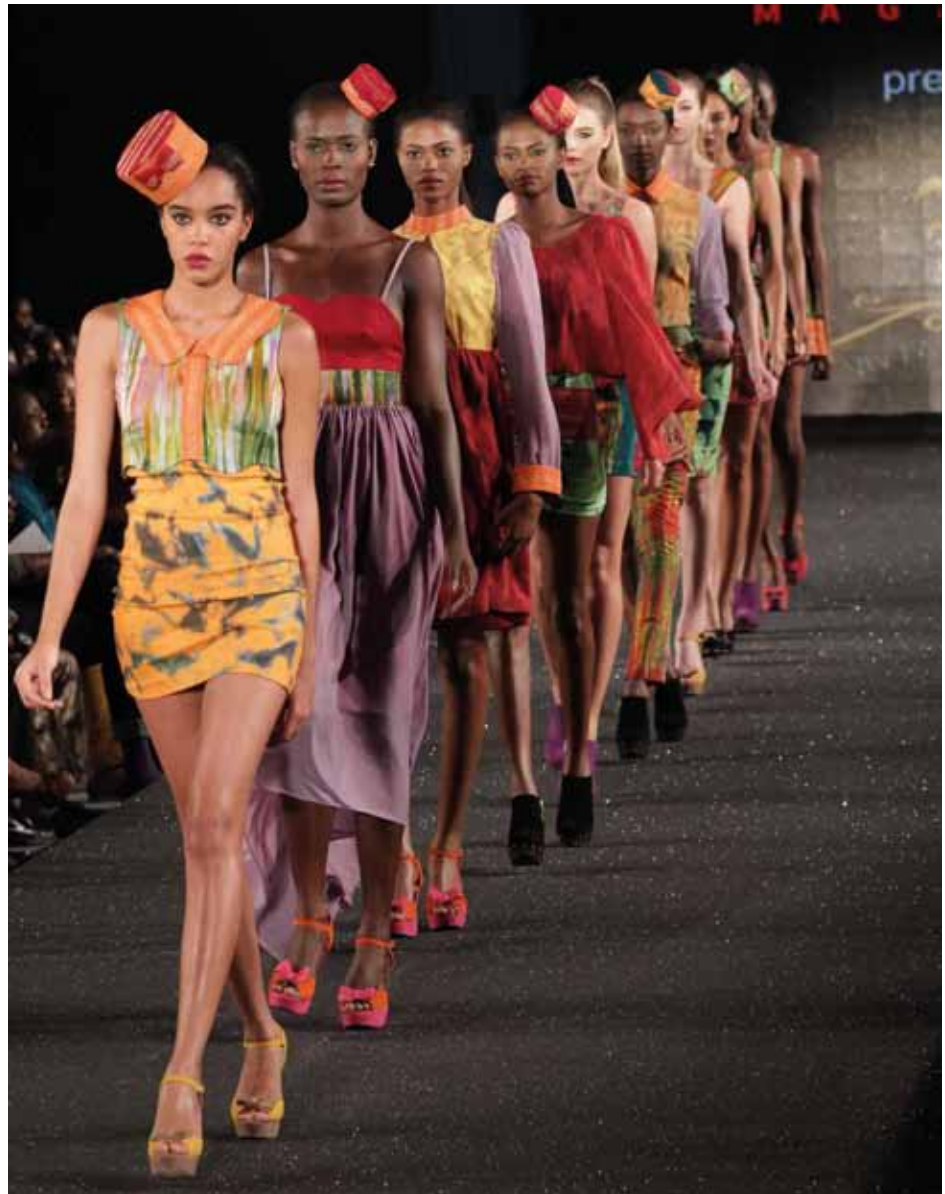
Brands dominated the scene, most notably MTN, who were the main sponsors of the tournament, yet other brands were not to be outdone. For starters, the Lagos Polo Club decided to bring the beach to town. Guests walked on white sand past the main bar and clubhouse to enjoy glasses of champagne on low cushions at the Veuve Clicquot tent while watching the action on the field. Right at the entrance, Albert Esiri's black tent provided entertainment in the form of a jazz trio, along with champagne, Ashton Wells water and piping hot puff puff served on a tray. Dansa ushers distributed bags with a selection of Dansa Products. UBS Bank from Switzerland dominated the clubhouse.

At the entrance, stands selling Oando Products and MTN solutions greeted guests as they walked in. Seated in comfortable armchairs in the main VIP section, they enjoyed themselves as plates of the Polo Club's famous suya (barbecued meats served with a dried pepper mix and sliced onions) made the rounds. The barbecue guys pulled out the stops – chicken suya, beef suya, shaki, kidney, gizzard...they kept it coming.

More than any other event, this tournament kicked off this year's social calendar. At a black-tie dinner held at the Civic Centre on Saturday 3 March, three of the oldest members received lifetime achievement awards for services to polo – Dr M. A. Majekodunmi OFR, Dr Oladele da Rocha-Afodu and Major General Hassan Usman Katsina. Donations were raised for several charities. Other events included an evening with hip-hop star Whizkid, and a concert by Wande Coal. And what is polo without fashion? The sport of kings must have a court graced by royalty and courtiers who dress the part. Queen of “blinged-out” Ankara, internationally acclaimed fashion designer Lisa Folawiyo, and US-based Morales showed the way to the uninitiated as part of the tournament's week of activities.

The dress code throughout was cruise-casual, nothing extravagant. Members and guests made their statements with their handbags, watches, shoes and other accessories. Birkin and Louboutin spotters had an exciting time!

Other social events in the first half of the year in Lagos included the highly successful Arise Magazine Fashion Week held at the



Federal Palace Hotel. Oswald Boateng received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Winning fashion designers Tsemaye Binitie, Maki Oh, Gavin Rajah and Tiffany Amber won slots at New York Fashion Week. Look out for them. On 9 March, it was Bobby Brown and New Edition in concert at the Eko Hotel, and the following weekend, the 2012 Sugar Wedding Fair and African Kings of Comedy show.

I hope you enjoyed the festivities at Easter, the Lagos Carnival around Lagos Island and Tafawa Balewa Square; the Lagos Water Regatta: Splash the Excitement, viewed from the newly rehabilitated Waterfront at Queen's Drive, Ikoyi.

Our very own foremost artist Ndid Dike held a showcase at the National Museum on 16 March; and TerraKulture kept the art and drama scene pumping with exhibitions and a Joke Silva production of *Little Drops*, every Sunday in March.

Let's not forget Valentine fever, which gripped the country and brought it to a

standstill on 14 February. Abuja got in early on the act with a Champagne, Chocolate & Rose party held at GROTTTO Fashion Club on 11 February. There were too many events, dinners and balls in Lagos to mention.

Remember, even with the day-to-day challenges we face, to enjoy the good times while you can. There are new hang-outs and old favourite places to visit to see and be seen. There are art exhibitions, fashion marketplaces, film premieres and so much more to attend.

Until the frenzy of summertime planning arrives, don't let the tiredness of a hard day's work rob you of pleasure. There is lots to do, see and experience. “There is enough time to rest when you are dead” (smile). ●

ABOVE Models on the catwalk at the prestigious Arise Magazine Fashion Week in Lagos

OPPOSITE General Hassan Usman Katsina at the Lagos Polo Club during the early polo years in Nigeria

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GHANAIAN SEASON

The Ghana Open



GHANA OPEN, ACCRA POLO CLUB, DECEMBER 2011

The African Polistas took the Ghana Open at Accra Polo Club, beating GT Bank Ranch in the final by a whopping 10 goals to 1.5.

Even before reaching the final, African Polistas (Amadu, Eric Gene, Travis and Darko Agyemang) had enjoyed some convincing victories, trouncing Eagle Pharaohs of Egypt by 12 to 1.5 early on in the tournament. On the other hand, GT Bank Ranch's early victory over Port Harcourt of Nigeria (13-4) proved a false prophecy for the final.

It's fair to say that as well as winning overall,

African Polistas took the lion's share of the individual prizes. Most Valuable Player went to the team's Travis, Most Valuable Professional Player to Amadu, Best Amateur to patron Harold Awuah Darko, and Best Playing Pony went to the team's Christiana.

Eric Gene was pleased with how things went, to say the least. "I'm very happy because we trained for this tournament – it's the most important competition here and we are glad to win. I had good teammates who played well, with good team spirit and organisation. I also have to thank our patron, Harold, even though

he could not play himself today because of injury. Next year, we'll be here again."

The year had been a great success for Accra Polo Club, said club captain Harold Awuah Darko. "It's been an eventful year where we played and won against Nigeria and France. We've had teams from Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria here at the Ghana Open, and I'm glad that a team from Ghana won."

This year will see Accra Polo Club host the first African Ambassadors Polo Tournament, comprising two players from each of the eight polo-playing African countries.



OPPOSITE African Polistas, winners of the Accra Polo Open 2011

THIS PAGE African Polistas and GT Bank Ranch battle it out on the field while guests celebrate



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SEASON

The Veuve Clicquot Masters



**VEUVE CLICQUOT MASTERS POLO 2012,
VAL DE VIE**

The second annual Veuve Clicquot Masters Tournament, set against the backdrop of Val de Vie's breathtaking views, is a highlight in the annual South African polo calendar. The event attracts guests from every part of the world.

Surrounded by the Simonsbert, Groot and Drakenstein mountains, it's one of the most beautiful resorts in South Africa and the most idyllic spot for polo. Val de Vie Estate has been voted one of South Africa's premier addresses,

with its elegant French Provençal/Cape Colonial-style architecture.

As expected, the ladies added to the glamour of the day in all their finery, and the men certainly matched the standards set.

The day started with a fantastic lunch and included an Elizabeth Arden pamper lounge, where a variety of free makeovers and consultations were offered by skincare experts. A best-dressed competition was held, along with a petanque bowls tournament, and the day ended with a fabulous after-party held in the Equus Lounge.

The polo also lived up to expectation. Team members Adamu Atta, Joseph Bronn, Jannie Steenkamp and Johan du Plooy played a fast and furious game against the Veuve Clicquot team, but lost by one point in a final score of 6-5.

The star-studded event included a live performance by Goodluck, and a fashion show by Viyella and Jenni Button. South African celebrities who enjoyed the day included South African gold medallist swimmer Ryk Neethling, models Natalie Becker and Roxy Louw, and Ryan Botha, model and international soccer star.



ABOVE Adamu Atta's team playing at the Veuve Clicquot Masters

LEFT Ryal de Waal, Francesco Fiorilla, Adamu Atta, Maureen de Waal and Ryk Neethling (Olympic gold medallist swimmer)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARGENTINE SEASON

The Triple Crown



TORTUGAS OPEN, OCTOBER 2011

The first of the big three tournaments in the Argentine high-goal season is the Triple Crown. Back in 2010, Ellerstina became one of the few teams to have won all three tournaments. In 2011 they were clearly out to have another go.

However, things were rather different this year. Both La Dolfina and Ellerstina featured radically different line-ups, each having undergone 50% changes in team members. Pablo MacDonough and Juan Martin Nero had moved to La Dolfina, while Lolo Castagnola and Lucas Monteverde were out.

Anything was possible, but that La Dolfina and Ellerstina would meet once more was as sure as night follows day. And meet they did. In an incredibly close final, Ellerstina just managed to keep ahead, winning by a single goal. This, of course, was a massive boost for the team, nurturing their hopes of taking home the Triple Crown once more.

Final result: 14–13 to Ellerstina

MVP: Facundo Pieres

BPP: Open Cibernetica (owned by G. Pieres)

HURLINGHAM OPEN, NOVEMBER 2011

As the tournament opened, it was obvious that La Dolfina had finally gelled; losing to Ellerstina in Tortugas had clearly galvanised them.

Despite once again ending with a La Dolfina–Ellerstina final, Hurlingham saw some very close polo. The semi-finals were only a goal or so apart, and the final itself was won in extra time, just as a Triple Crown tournament should be.

Final result: 19–18 to La Dolfina

MVP: Adolfo Cambiaso

BPP: Open Tarantula (owned by F. Pieres)

ARGENTINE OPEN, DECEMBER 2011

As in the first two rounds, this was less a case of a game of two halves and more a tournament of two teams. Once again, the action was dominated by Ellerstina and La Dolfina.

In effect, the other teams were resigned to battling it out against one another as none realistically had a chance of making the final. There were some very exciting qualifying games, and several players and formations certainly stood out. Estancia Grande, featuring the indomitable Merlos brothers, was always good to watch, as was Hilario Ulloa's team.

Unlike previous years, the final was not an extra-chukker, heart-in-one's-mouth type of game. Rather, La Dolfina never looked in danger of losing their ever-increasing lead, and a disconsolate Ellerstina could do nothing to stop them. Without question, 2011 was La Dolfina's year, winning by a healthy 6-goal margin.

Final result: 16–10 to La Dolfina

MVP: Adolfo Cambiaso

BPP: Dolfina Buenaventura (owned by A. Cambiaso)



OPPOSITE La Dolfina

ABOVE Adolfo Cambiasso

LEFT Jaime Huidobro and Gonzalito Pieres

BELOW Nicolas Pieres





© Tony Ramirez

ABOVE Facundo Pieres

RIGHT Gonzalito Pieres

BELOW Spectators cheering at Palermo



Prints, canvases, event coverage, books, commissions, greeting cards,
Media consultancy... and everything related to polo photography.

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IMAGES OF POLO

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DUBAI SEASON

The Royal Salute Nations Cup



ROYAL SALUTE NATIONS CUP, DESERT PALM POLO CLUB, DUBAI, JANUARY 2012

This 12-goal tournament was rather unique as it featured three 10-goalers! Adolfo Cambiaso, Juan Martin Nero and Pablo MacDonough had hopped on to a flight from South America to take part. There must be some deep pockets out there...

Aside from these three 10-goalers, Martin Valent, Rodolfo Ducos, Nicolas Petracci and Alfredo Capella (who is currently enjoying a meteoric rise) joined the flock of migrating Argentines taking part.

© Ana-Clara Cozzi

The tournament attracted six teams in total, and as the action unfolded it became clear that 10-goalers can't win games alone. Pakistan (featuring Juan Martin Nero) lost both their opening games to Hungary (featuring Martin Valent) and Rest of the World (with Nicolas Petracci) respectively.

Adolfo Cambiaso, playing with long-standing patron Ali Albwardy, got his UAE team off to a good start with a win over Great Britain, and led UAE to victory in the final against Hungary, 6-5. The MVP award went to Rashid Bin Draï.



OPPOSITE Adolfo Cambiaso

ABOVE Rashid Albwardy

LEFT Alfredo Capella

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE US SEASON

Palm Beach



JOE BARRY MEMORIAL CUP, INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB, PALM BEACH, JANUARY 2012

After having been badly affected by the global financial crisis, the US high-goal season is back on form – great news for polo. Thirteen teams entered the Joe Barry Memorial Cup at the International Polo Club, with some very famous surnames appearing in the listings: Novillo Astrada, Merlos, Ulloa, Monteverde, Stirling and Andrade. This set the stage for some very competitive polo indeed.

© David Lomniskis

Semi-finals were held to gain a place in

either the main final, or the subsidiary final. Audi beat Heathcote in the first semi, 12–5, and then Valiente 2 lost by five goals to an on-form Luchesse, 11–16. The second pair of semi-finals were closer affairs. Coca Cola, lady patron Gillian Johnston's team, took a narrow 12–10 win over Circa, and then in the last semi-final Piaget (with another lady patron, Melissa Ganzi) lost by a single goal to Orchard Hill, 12–13.

The grand final between Luchesse and Coca Cola was incredibly close, with Coca Cola scraping the narrowest of wins.

Final result: 11–10 to Coca Cola
MVP: Santiago Torres
BPP: Optima (owned by Sugar Erskine)

HIGHLIGHTS

OPPOSITE Gillian Johnston's team Coca Cola being presented with the Joe Barry Memorial Cup

LEFT Gillian Johnston

BELOW Miguel Novillo Astrada



International Fixture

JUNE 2012

NIGERIA

Kano International Polo Tournament

UK

2 – 9 JUNE

Prince of Wales Trophy
Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club

3 – 24 JUNE

Royal Windsor Cup
Guards Polo Club

4 – 17 JUNE

Eduardo Rojas Lanusse Cup
Beaufort Polo Club

5 JUNE – 4 JULY

Archie David Cup
Guards Polo Club

16 JUNE

Beaufort International Test Match
Beaufort Polo Club

18 JUNE – 1 JULY

Apsley Cup
Cirencester Park Polo Club

18 JUNE – 8 JULY

Queen Mother Trophy
Cirencester Park Polo Club

19 JUNE – 15 JULY

Gold Cup
Cowdray Park Polo Club

26 JUNE – 7 JULY

Eduardo Moore Tournament
Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club

30 JUNE – 15 JULY

Phoenician Cup
Guards Polo Club

JULY 2012

UK

8 JULY

Access Bank Day, London
Ham Polo Club

3 – 15 JULY

Duke of Beaufort Cup
Beaufort Polo Club

7 – 21 JULY

Prince of Wales Cup
Beaufort Polo Club

7 – 21 JULY

Julian & Howard Hipwood Trophy
Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club

10 – 28 JULY

Coworth Park Challenge
Coworth Park

20 JULY – 5 AUGUST

Holden White Cup
Cowdray Park Polo Club

21 JULY – 4 AUGUST

Harrison Cup
Cowdray Park Polo Club

23 JULY – 12 AUGUST

Warwickshire Cup
Cirencester Park Polo Club

AUGUST 2012

UK

3 – 7 AUGUST

Heritage Polo Cup
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

5 – 19 AUGUST

Duke of Wellington Cup
Guards Polo Club

13 – 26 AUGUST

County Cup
Cirencester Park Polo Club

21 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER

Duke of Cornwall Cup
Guards Polo Club

27 AUGUST – 9 SEPTEMBER

Cheltenham Cup
Cirencester Park Polo Club

SPAIN

Sotogrande Gold Cup, *Santa Maria Polo Club*

FRANCE

Deauville Gold Cup, *Deauville Polo Club*

SEPTEMBER 2012

UK

1 – 16 SEPTEMBER

Autumn Nations
Guards Polo Club

USA

Pacific Coast Open
Santa Barbara Polo Club

OCTOBER 2012

NIGERIA

24 – 28 OCTOBER

African Masters Patrons Cup
Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club

ARGENTINA

Tortugas Open
Tortugas Country Club

NOVEMBER 2012

ARGENTINA

6 NOVEMBER

Hurlingham Open Final

Ellerstina Gold Cup
Ellerstina Polo Club

DECEMBER 2012

GHANA

The Accra Open
Accra Polo Club

ARGENTINA

Argentine Open Final
Palermo

Camara de Diputados Cup
Palermo

List 2012–2013

JANUARY 2013

NIGERIA

Ibadan International Polo Tournament

SWITZERLAND

St. Moritz Polo World Cup on Snow

USA

Herbie Pennell Cup
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

Ylvisaker Cup
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

SOUTH AFRICA

1 – 8 JANUARY
South African Open
Plettenberg Bay

DUBAI

Royal Salute UAE Nation's Cup
Desert Palm Polo Club

FEBRUARY 2013

NIGERIA

Lagos International Polo Tournament

DUBAI

Silver Cup
Desert Palm Polo Club

Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge

USA

40th Goal Outback Challenge
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

USPA C.V. Whitney Cup
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

Inglehart Cup
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

SOUTH AFRICA

25 FEBRUARY
Veuve Clicquot Exhibition Match
Val de Vie

MARCH 2013

USA

USPA Piaget Gold Cup
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

US Open
International Polo Club, Palm Beach

DUBAI

Gold Cup
Desert Palm Polo Club

SOUTH AFRICA

26 – 31 MARCH
Plettenberg Bay Polo
Plettenberg Bay

APRIL 2013

NIGERIA

Abraka International Polo Tournament
Abraka Turf and Country Club

JAMAICA

Jamaican Open
Kingston Polo Club

MAY 2013

NIGERIA

Access Bank UNICEF Charity Shield
Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club

UK

5 – 20 MAY
Queen Mother Centenary Cup
Guards Polo Club

8 – 25 MAY
Indian Empire Shield
Coworth Park

12 – 27 MAY
Dollar Cup
Cowdray Park Polo Club

15 MAY – 3 JUNE
Gerald Balding Cup
Cirencester Park Polo Club

15 MAY – 10 JUNE
Queen's Cup
Guards Polo Club

29 MAY – 10 JUNE
Twelve Goal Challenge
Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club

SOUTH AFRICA

4 – 6 MAY
East Griqualand Championships
Swartberg

11 – 13 MAY
Underberg High Goal
Underberg

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President Adedolapo Akinrele SAN

Kano Polo Club (Established in 1930)

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Alh. Bashir Dantata

Ibadan Polo Club (Established in 1960)

Latmuack Barrack, Eleyeile Road, Eleyeile, Ibadan

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Mr 'Labi Adeyemi

Fifth Chukker Polo and Country Club (Established in 2001)

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POLO SUPREMOS

As polo supremos, these men are professional polo players who dedicate their lives to the sport. Their impressive careers are an inspiration to us all.



Francisco “Frankie” Menendez

Nationality: Argentine
 Handicap: 7

Polo has been in Frankie’s blood since he was a child. Alongside his brother and three sisters, he grew up playing polo with their father in Argentina. He has now achieved a seven-goal handicap and has featured in many tournaments in his native Argentina.

He attained particular success in 2005, when he won the Camara de Diputados, the most prominent tournament in Argentina after the Triple Crown, playing alongside his brother, six-goaler Eduardo. He also competes annually in the prestigious Copa Republica, again with Eduardo and two of their cousins.

On top of success in Argentina, Frankie has played many tournaments in Tuscany, Belgium and France. He has visited Nigeria

four times – twice to Lagos Polo Club and twice to Fifth Chukker – and is fast making a reputation for himself as a tough competitor on the pitch and a fiercely talented horseman. His talent certainly did not go unnoticed in the 2011 African Patrons Cup, where he was named Most Valuable Player.

When not playing polo, Frankie is a football, tennis, skiing and water-sports fanatic. In January, after a hectic polo season, he escapes to the beach in Uruguay with his family to hone his waterskiing technique and rest aching muscles. He also owns a farm in partnership with fellow teammate Marcelo Pascual, in San Miguel del Monte, 70km south of Buenos Aires. Although he lives in Buenos Aires with his wife and two children, Frankie visits the farm daily to ride and perfect his stickwork. He hopes one day to teach his sons to play there.

His return to Fifth Chukker in 2012 is one to watch out for, as he stands a strong chance of winning the African Patrons Cup for the third year running.



Marcelo Pascual

Nationality: Argentine

Handicap: 6

Marcelo's energy is contagious – both on the field and off. When not playing, he is constantly organising horses and team lists, as well as single-handedly running his polo clinic and resort in Argentina. A regular competitor in Nigeria since 2000, he has a great relationship with the local players, although each visit only lasts a fleeting seven days before he moves on to the next challenge.

Marcelo went to school in Buenos Aires, but after getting married in 2006 he moved to the farm in San Miguel del Monte where he and his wife still live with their two children. He runs a polo clinic and hotel at the farm, where he invites friends from around the world to stay and enjoy the generous hospitality and first-class coaching on one of the three fields. He also has an exceptional string of ponies and a great reputation for selling top-end ponies to players in Europe, Argentina and Nigeria. Correntina, whom he sold to Damian Duncan, won Best Playing Pony in the 2011 African Patrons Cup.

Marcelo is a stickler for detail and organisation. He takes every tournament very seriously and firmly believes that preparation is 90%

of the final result. For the 2011 African Patrons Cup, he arranged for grooms and horses for his team to be flown over from Argentina and Europe two months before the start of the tournament. This forward planning was rewarded when his team, Linetrade Delaney, ran out the winners for the second year in a row.

This year Marcelo, currently a six-goal player, will compete in a number of important tournaments in Argentina, including the prestigious Camara de Diputados.

Amongst his greatest achievements he counts reaching the final of the Copa Republica (an extremely competitive 0-40 goal tournament) in 2009 with Frankie and Eduardo Menendez.

As well as playing in Argentina, Marcelo played in the UK from 2003 to 2008 at Cowdray Park Polo Club, competing in the Gold Cup and the 12-, 15- and 18-goal Victor Ludorum tournaments. He plans to return to the UK in 2012 with patrons Damian Duncan and Musty Fasinro to play in the high-goal circuit. He is also a regular on the Italian polo scene, having played there since 2008.

Whilst polo is his greatest passion, Marcelo also takes pride in rebuilding classic cars. He owns a Ford F150, which he built himself. He is also a secret performer, aspiring to be the next Mick Jagger – once he gets over his stage fright!





Dawule Baba

Nationality: Nigerian

Handicap: 4

Polo has been in Dawule's family for many generations. His father used to play and he was brought up on a farm playing in practices since a young child, but he did not take part in his first tournament until 1981, when he was at school. Having once reached a five-goal handicap, Dawule is one of Nigeria's greatest players.

Dawule lives in Kaduna, and keeps his horses at his farm just north of the city. Deebee Farms, buried in the bush, is one of Kaduna's hidden gems. Dawule has created a courtyard of stables full of glistening thoroughbreds, with a field shaded by mango trees. This is home for Dawule and where he likes to spend time training new horses and playing practices with his family. He was taught by his father, along with his two brothers, and is now teaching two of his four children to play, with successful results.

Not one to sit still for long, Dawule travels extensively and has played

polo in 22 different countries. This year he is going to Kenya to play, and to China to sell horses.

He spends a large majority of his time in Argentina sourcing and buying horses. He chooses them individually, and takes them back to Deebee Farms where he schools each horse and plays polo on them until they are good enough to sell.

Dawule plays most of his polo in Argentina, in tournaments up to 22-goal. However, he never misses a tournament at Fifth Chukker or Lagos Polo Club. He also enjoyed five years of polo, from 1985 to 1989, at Guards Polo Club in the UK.

One of his favourite polo memories is the first time he visited the USA, where he played as an equal with the great Pita Merlos. They played together off the same handicap for three years, with the inevitable competitiveness and camaraderie that comes with polo.

With individuals like Dawule supporting polo in Nigeria, the future looks very good. Dawule is a charming and talented man who has a passion for the Sport of Kings. ●

Haile Gebrselassie's ETHIOPIA



The world's most famous runner gives us an insider's guide to Africa's hidden gem.

PROFILE: HAILE GEBRSELASSIE

Haile Gebrselassie, a long-distance runner, was born on April 18, 1973 in Asella, Arsi Province, Ethiopia and currently lives in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. He is regarded universally as the greatest distance runner of all times. With a career that sees him breaking records as they are made, Haile has built an extraordinary reputation as an exceptional athlete who is setting new levels in long-distance running.

In 1992, Haile made his presence felt in the international sporting scene by winning the 5,000m and 10,000m races at the 1992 Junior World Championships in Seoul, and also won a silver medal in the Junior Race at the World Cross Country Championships. In the following year, he won the World Championships title in the Men's 10,000m. In 1994, he set his first world record by running 5,000m with a time of 12:56.96 minutes.

1995 is regarded as Haile Gebrselassie's milestone year when he ran the 5,000m in an astonishing 12:44.39 minutes at Zurich, in Switzerland, and broke the world record. This meet in Zurich was voted "Performance of the Year" by *Track and Field News* magazine. At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he won his first Olympic gold in the 10,000m race.

A couple of years later, in Hengelo, Netherlands, Haile set a 10,000m world record. With this success run, he entered the 2000 Sydney Olympics and became the third man in history to successfully defend an Olympic 10,000m title. In 2005, Haile went undefeated in all of his road races, which includes a British All-Comers record in the 10K at Manchester. He started 2006 on a promising note by beating the world half marathon record, which he broke on American soil. In 2007, he made his running debut in New York City by winning the New York City Half Marathon.

More recently, in 2011, Haile Gebrselassie led Ethiopia to victory in Angola at the 55th edition of the Sao Silvestre 10km road race, finishing in 28:04. He is scheduled to take part in the 2012 Tokyo Marathon.

Haile continues to participate at major events around the world, training twice a day in his home city of Addis Ababa. He owns a popular hotel resort by the beautiful Lake Awasa in Ethiopia, called "Haile Resort". He is married with four children. He starred in the movie *Endurance*, which was based on his life and career.

Haile Gebrselassie is arguably the most famous living Ethiopian. As the fastest man in the world over long distances for decades, his name is synonymous with Ethiopia. He has run in every major city across the globe, and has won huge awards and accolades for his awe-inspiring achievements.

At home in Addis Ababa, he is everyone's hero. Young Ethiopian athletes want to emulate him, and others just want to meet him. Wherever he goes, crowds turn out to absorb some of his magic. His trademark wide smile is always present, and he lives up to his reputation as a man of the people.

He's not just an athlete, though. His smile shines out from billboards all across Africa as the face of Ethiopian Airlines, celebrating its induction into the Star Alliance. The man who grew up as one of 10 children on a farm in Asella, in Arsi Province, and ran 10km to school and back every day, is an astute businessman who has a beautiful resort in Awassa in the south of Ethiopia.

He is also involved in numerous other businesses, including real estate, cinemas and motor vehicles, ploughing back his international earnings into his homeland. This makes him more than qualified to give Fifth Chukker readers a personal tour of this most fascinating country.

ADDIS ABABA - AMHARIC FOR NEW FLOWER
Ethiopia is a vast landlocked country with few of the natural gifts that endow other African countries, but what it lacks in resources it makes up for with its varied and beautiful landscape. With an area of 1,112,000sq km, it has huge wildlife reserves in the south, and ancient cities and monuments in the north.



ABOVE Haile Gebrselassie

THIS PAGE The Blue Nile Falls

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa. It is the second-most populous nation in Africa, with over 82 million inhabitants, and the tenth largest by area, occupying 1,100,000 km². It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. With its capital at Addis Ababa, it is also the most populous landlocked nation in the world.





ABOVE The impressive Palace of Fasiladas, also known as Fasil Ghebbi, in Gondar

“It is so difficult to decide which area I prefer the most, as there is so much to choose from,” says Gebrselassie. “But I will start with Addis Ababa, because it is such a vibrant city, a boom town. In the last six years there has been a huge change in the city and there are many new properties under construction. I myself have five buildings in Addis, and four more outside Addis, plus two schools as well.”

Much of the boom is due to the return of the diaspora, bringing their skills and expertise to invest in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, which was founded just over a century ago, is the home of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the headquarters of the African Union, as well as the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). As a result, there is a huge expatriate population and thousands of businesspeople who travel regularly to the city.

“Here in Addis you have everything – rich, poor, cheap, expensive. It can accommodate everybody. Here people all live together, the rich next to the poor,” Gebrselassie says. “We are very lucky, too, that we have beautiful lakes and countryside just half an hour from the capital, which we can all enjoy.”

The third-highest capital city on earth, Addis Ababa is built among beautiful hills, and the views towards the mountains are spectacular. It boasts some stunning buildings, including the Trinity Cathedral, which houses the mausoleum of the great Emperor Haile Selassie. His former home, now the Ethnological Museum, offers a fascinating glimpse into the country’s rich past.

The Ethiopian National Museum is home to Lucy, the oldest upright-walking ancestor of humans ever to be discovered. A replica of her 3.5-foot skeleton is lovingly displayed in a glass case, emphasising how far back into history Ethiopia’s people go.

AN ANCIENT CIVILISATION

There are 72 tribes in Ethiopia, some of them descendants of the ancient civilisation of Abyssinia, whose legendary Queen of Sheba, it is said, bore King Solomon a son. All around lie the monuments of this bygone age, and tourists come from all over the world to see them.

Lalibela is one of the most spectacular sights in the world. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, its 13 monolithic churches were carved into the red volcanic rock in the 13th century. “Lalibela is very beautiful,” says Gebrselassie. “It is often called the eighth wonder of the world, so it is definitely one of the most important places to visit in the north of the country.

“Another special place is Gondar, the site of another magnificent civilisation and the 17th-century capital of Ethiopia. It has many castles built between 1632 and 1855 by its emperors and it is known as the Camelot of Africa.

“In the very north is Axum. It is Ethiopia’s most ancient city and capital of the glorious Axumite Empire, which dates back 3,000 years. It has magnificent carved stelae, the tallest of which is 24m, and it is said the Queen of Sheba lived there. There is also Harar, believed to be the fourth holiest city in Islam, with 99 mosques.”

Amidst all this history, the natural wonders of the north must not be forgotten. The spectacular Simien Mountains are another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Close to Gondar are the Blue Nile Falls, known locally as Tis Isat or the Smoke of Fire, which drop over a chasm of more than 45m, and whose plumage of spray is visible from a mile away.

LAND OF CONTRASTS

Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, lies in the northern part of the Ethiopian Highlands, which are divided by the Rift Valley. In the south, the ranges are no less spectacular, and the peaks of the Bale Mountains are nearly as high as those of the Simiens.



ABOVE White pelicans on Lake Awasa

The south-west Omo region and the Omo Valley has been called Africa’s last great wilderness. The many wildlife parks in the south protect species that are in danger of dying out, like the Ethiopian wolf, but they also maintain a way of life for the 200,000 tribal people who live in the area. More than 45 different languages are spoken in the south, and the tribal people are diverse and fascinating.

SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE

No matter where you travel to, everywhere in Ethiopia the people are smiling. Haile himself is famous for his big smile, even when he is running a race. For him there is a simple explanation. “In Ethiopia we have 13 months of sunshine, as we say, and we always have nice weather, even in the rainy season, so the people are always smiling,” he says. “Our traditional food, such as injera, which is my favourite, is delicious. We have fantastic restaurants in Addis Ababa where you can see our traditional dancing and coffee ceremony.

“My favourite place is Yod Abyssinia, and this is where I take all my clients. Habesha Cultural Restaurant is also very good. I always have doro wat, a chicken stew with injera, our sourdough flatbread – delicious!”

www.haileresort.com.et ●

“In the north the tribes play a game that is similar to polo. Called gooks, it is a chasing game where someone gallops ahead and he is chased by another with a stick. It used to be a spear and they killed each other, but now it is just sport. It is a wonderful game and if we trained the horses, we could play polo.”

Cultural Ethiopia



CULTURAL TOURS:

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia's capital (right), is located at an altitude of 2,440m (8,000ft) in the central highlands. Places worth visiting include the National Museum, the Menelik Palace, the Jubilee Palace, the Meskal (Revolution) Square, Lion of Judah statue, St George's Cathedral and the Ethnology Museum.

AKSUM, the ancient royal capital of the earliest Ethiopian kingdom, is renowned for its multi-storeyed ancient carved granite obelisks, its archaeological remains and its church, which claims to house the Lost Ark of the Covenant.

Famous for its 12th-century, rock-hewn churches (left), **LALIBELA** is a must-see. At an altitude of 2,630m (8,629ft), Lalibela also remains a very isolated place, and a centre of pilgrimage. Bete Medhane Alem is believed to be the largest monolithic church in the world.



GONDAR is the ancient capital of Ethiopia (1632–1855) and site of many ruined castles, including the grand Fasil Ghebbi – home to the country's emperors during the 17th and 18th centuries. Hosting the most vibrant ecclesiastical artwork in the nation, it's the ceiling that captures the imagination of most visitors.

The **BLUE NILE FALLS** are one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Northern Africa. They are situated about 35km (22 miles) from Bahr Dar.

EXPERIENCE KURIFTU TODAY!



KURIFTU RESORT & SPA, LAKE TANA

Located on the shores of Ethiopia's largest lake, just 10 minutes from Bahir Dar Airport, Kuriftu Resort and Spa – Lake Tana offers the best accommodation and hospitality in the land. Designed with a clever blend of native Ethiopian architecture and decor, our lakeside resort boasts 28 guest rooms in individual bungalows facing either the expanse of Lake Tana or set among some of the loveliest tropical gardens.



BOSTON DAY SPA

Experience some of the most unforgettable Spa treatments and dining options in one place – Boston Building, Addis Ababa. Watch your body relax, your mind unwind and your cares melt away with our specially distinctive Ethiopian Classic Spas. Boston Building is home to three of the most popular restaurants in Addis Ababa. Spend the day with us and give us a chance to pamper you!



KURIFTU RESORT & SPA, DEBRE ZEIT

Surrounded by Lake Kuriftu on one side and beautiful tropical gardens on the other, the slice of paradise you are looking for lies only 45km or a short 40-minute drive from the capital city of Addis Ababa. The elegant Kuriftu Resort and Spa – Debre Zeit offers 37 guest rooms in four categories of accommodation, all located in stylish rustic bungalows: 2 Executive and 4 Junior Suites; 8 Deluxe Lake View, 10 Top Lake View, 6 Garden View and 7 Standard Classic Bungalows.

KURIFTU RESORTS, ETHIOPIA

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10 things to do in Ethiopia



1. CITYBREAK

After the cultural tour, chill out at the Lime Tree or Diplomatic lounge in the Boston Building on the famous Bole Road where you can also treat yourself to the best spa in the city. There is also shopping in the Dombel building and the Mercato market. Don't miss the high tea experience at the Sheraton Hotel, or forget to enjoy the local cuisine of Injera, followed by the traditional tea ceremony while you watch the highly entertaining traditional dance.

2. CAVING

Go underground at Dire Dawa where there is evidence of prehistoric habitation. Bask and frizzle under the hot sun in the Danakil Depression and bring home a lifetime of memories at this lowest point of Africa, 116m below sea level, with a mean temperature recording around 35 degrees Celsius.



3. CLIMBING

The Simien Mountains, the Bale Plateau and many other areas are perfect for the sport. Many tour companies offer memorable experiences across the Simien Mountains, where an abundance of wildlife and flora await the traveller.

4. SAFARIS

Ethiopia has 14 major wildlife reserves. Safaris are usually in 4-wheel-drive vehicles, but walking safaris (with a guide) or travelling by mule are also possible.

5. FISHING

The rivers and streams of the Bale Mountains and the many lakes in the Rift Valley are full of fish. Local fishermen offer trips in their own boats. Dugout canoes or traditional papyrus boats can also be hired.



7. HIKING AND PONY-TREKKING

Great areas to explore include: the Simien Mountains National Park, with its spectacular views and large variety of wildlife; the moorlands of the Bale Plateau; and the countryside around Lalibela. Riding through the Simien Mountains allows visitors to reach remote areas not accessible by car. Horses and mules still play an important part in transportation, and horse riding can be practised in most parts of Ethiopia.



8. SWIMMING

Lake Langano has a resort offering windsurfing and waterskiing. Natural springs in the Awash National Park and at Sodere Filwoha create pools highly valued for their therapeutic purposes, though they are not fully utilised.

9. MEET THE LOCAL TRIBES

Meeting the south Ethiopia tribes with their simple, yet vibrant lifestyle is another of the 10 things you should not miss out on.



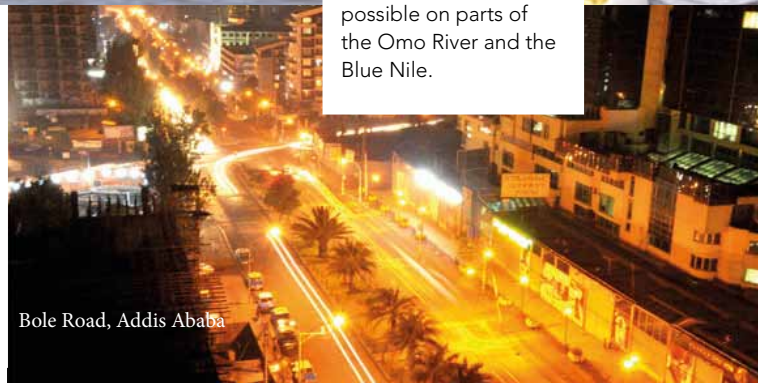
10. WATERSPORTS

Sailing and organised boat trips are available on Lake Tana, Ethiopia's largest lake, which contains 37 islands complete with numerous monasteries that can be visited. White-water rafting is possible on parts of the Omo River and the Blue Nile.



6. WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER

Animal enthusiasts can have a gala time in North Ethiopia spotting a plethora of wild animals such as the gelada baboons, the walia ibex, Ethiopian wolves and spotted hyenas.



Bole Road, Addis Ababa

REBEL with a CAUSE



The list of accolades stacking up against the name of Ethiopian entrepreneur Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu is becoming overwhelming.



There are far too many to list here, but an indication of her success is given by the fact that in 2011 she was selected to head the World Economic Forum's Key Youth Leadership Initiative, and became the first Ethiopian and youngest ever winner of the Outstanding African Business Woman award. She then kicked off 2012 as the youngest individual included in *Forbes* magazine's list of Africa's 20 most successful women under the age of 45.

Still only 30, Alemu certainly is not one to waste time. In 2004, using capital invested by her husband and other family members, she founded soleRebels. Eight years on, the company is now Africa's fastest-growing footwear brand, and the first ever international footwear brand to emerge from a developing country.

In fact, soleRebels now boasts an honours list even longer than Alemu herself – including becoming the first private company in Ethiopia to receive a visit from a World Bank President, and the first and only footwear company worldwide to be accredited by the World Fair Trade Federation.

LOCAL COMPANY, GLOBAL MARKET

The company's shoes are now sold around the world, through outlets in more than 30 countries and also online, and soleRebels is looking on course to hit the \$10 million mark Alemu has estimated for 2016. But despite this international success, it remains very much grounded not only in Ethiopia, but in



the Zenebework area of Addis Ababa, where Alemu herself was born and raised.

Almost 100% of the materials are sourced or made locally, and the shoes fuse modern designs with artisan craftsmanship and a long indigenous tradition of recycling. All of the company's operations, including product design, production, recruitment, training, sales and marketing, continue to be based in and around Zenebework.

This is clearly important for Alemu. "By maintaining our location here we can actively participate in the further uplift of Ethiopia on multiple levels," she says.

"Not least of these is providing many more hundreds of creative, dignified and well-paying

jobs, while also preserving and promoting the incredible and vast inventory of artisan talents that exist here."

She adds, "Our location has served and continues to serve as a living and breathing symbol, showing that from the deepest deprivation can emerge the most incredible and successful things. That is a crucial point of symbolism, I believe, and one that has resonated widely, not just here in Ethiopia, but across Africa and indeed around the planet."

CHANGING THE FACE OF DEVELOPMENT

Alemu believes this artisan, hand-crafted-based approach has also been central to the company's success. "In a world of faceless, production-line assembled, made-in-who-knows-where shoes, soleRebels proudly stands apart and offers a much desired alternative. The final result is that when our footwear is bought, the purchaser can see, feel and enjoy all the elements of heart, soul and creative craftsmanship that have gone into their construction."

Her own success, she says, should be seen as part of a "historic and vital shift" which is letting people across Africa "take control of their own destinies by rising up the value chain". According to Alemu, this growing trend is based on "rejecting the ineffective and damaging model of aid dependency, and replacing it with the proactive idea that countries like Ethiopia are rich in physical, cultural and intellectual resources".

This, she says, is "development done right", and the best way of creating shared prosperity. It is also the example she hopes soleRebels will set for other budding entrepreneurs, by showing that developing nations are more than capable of creating "innovative, world-class products" that can compete in the global marketplace.

What advice would she give to others setting out on this path? "Have a clear vision of what you want to achieve and the path to get there. Then work hard, and then work extra hard. Seek advice and counsel from diverse places – don't just stick to one 'voice' or source for input. And never ever be deterred, no matter the obstacle or the setback. It is how you overcome those obstacles that will make you a great person, no matter what endeavour you choose to devote yourself to." ●



Sheraton Addis

– *the art of living*

Luxury and style in Addis Ababa's most prestigious hotel



A lot of hotels around the world believe they are 5 star. The Sheraton Addis was an amazing surprise; the atmosphere, service and luxury are far ahead of the pack. So says a glowing review on a travel website, giving the Addis Ababa Sheraton a full 5 stars.

It's easy to see why. Built in the grand style, with sweeping courtyards and vibrant gardens, it evokes the splendour and importance of one of Africa's most historic nations. The Sheraton, set in the hills above the city, with far-ranging views over the Entoto Mountains, is an ideal base to visit this fascinating city.

It was built 14 years ago, and is one of the most established hotels in the capital. This favoured choice for visiting dignitaries is also a family hotel, popular with both locals and visitors alike.

The Sheraton's beautiful interiors are filled with light, reflected in the abundant glass, high arches and

sweeping staircases. Its vast size radiates a calmness that is enhanced by the soft neutral walls. The exotic wrought-iron banisters and railings are highly decorative, and stunning works of Ethiopian art add to the majesty of the building.

Surrounded by palm trees, the musical fountains in the central courtyard are a focal point of admiration. At night the water is bathed in blue light, creating an ambience reminiscent of the Arabian nights. During the day, the Fountain Court is a busy meeting place, where high tea is served at weekends.

Many of the rooms overlook the courtyard and each has a balcony from which guests can enjoy the spectacular Addis sunsets. There are 58 Executive Rooms and 20 Classic Suites. The Junior Suites and the Executive Suites on the top floor benefit from panoramic views, while the three-floor, self-contained villas in the grounds are the pinnacle of luxury and privacy. Each villa has a private pool, gym, sauna and Jacuzzi, with private butler service.

OPPOSITE The magnificent musical fountain in the central courtyard

ABOVE The entrance to one of the hotel's self-contained villas, the pinnacle of luxury and privacy



Built in the grand style, with sweeping courtyards and vibrant gardens, it evokes the splendour and importance of one of Africa's most historic nations.

The Sheraton's swimming pool is truly spectacular. The vast 720sq m pool features soft underwater music and is beautifully illuminated at night. The pool temperature is a comfortable 29°C throughout the year, as is the children's pool, which is only 30cm deep and perfect for children from the age of three. The Simba Club welcomes toddlers to pre-teens with fun, supervised activities, including a climbing wall, spring rides, an elf house and a pirate ship.

The Baywatch Bar sits in the centre of the pool area, under a traditional thatched roof. Here guests can order poolside drinks or snacks and relax under umbrellas in the heat of the day. The Aqua Club offers sauna and massage therapies and is currently undergoing expansion to include more treatments.

A Luxury Collection hotel, the Sheraton Addis has the largest and most prestigious banquet and conference facilities in Ethiopia, providing over 1,500sq m of meeting space. The nine main meeting

ABOVE LEFT The entrance to the Sheraton Addis

ABOVE RIGHT The spectacular heated outdoor swimming pool is ideal for relaxing any time of day



ABOVE LEFT Rooms are unusually spacious and tastefully decorated

ABOVE RIGHT The stylish bathrooms come with a luxury collection of amenities



rooms can be subdivided into 12, and include the magnificent Lalibela Grand Ballroom with a capacity for up to 1,500 guests. The hotel's business centre offers a full range of executive services, and Internet access is also available.

The hotel has five restaurants: Italian, Indian, French Gourmet, a pool restaurant specialising in barbecue, and an all-day dining room. The Gaslight Night Club is the most popular in town. Within the hotel is an elegant shopping arcade, featuring beautiful local fabrics, gold jewellery, traditional coffee pots and flowers, along with a bank, travel agent and newsagents.

Many people visit the hotel to enjoy the gardens, designed by renowned British landscape gardener Randle Siddeley. The brief included creating a unique oasis in the capital of Ethiopia. The materials for both inside and outside were sourced from all corners of the world. Specially selected olive and citrus trees were flown in from Pisa, Italy. The vegetation alone cost

over £1 million, and in order to sustain such an exotic landscape, specialist craftsmen spent several months on location overseeing the initial installation phase and provided training for local maintenance staff to take care of the plants in the long term.

This oasis is a perfect starting point for exploring the city, and is conveniently close to the key attractions and historic sites, including Ethiopia's National Palace, the National Museum, St George's Cathedral and the Merkato, Africa's largest open-air market. And where better to relax with a cool drink afterwards than amid the breathtaking beauty of the award-winning Sheraton Addis?

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Boston Day Spa

The brainchild of Ethiopian entrepreneur Tadiwos Belete, the Boston Day Spa is Addis Ababa's ultimate luxury day out.

When Ethiopian-born Tadiwos Belete lived in Boston, Massachusetts, in the USA, he owned the first black business on high-end Newbury Street, and was named Man of the Year by *Fortune* magazine. But Belete left his successful business to return to Ethiopia and fulfill his dream of participating in the country's regeneration.

Now the owner of five luxury resorts, Belete achieved his first success in Ethiopia with the Boston Day Spa. Located in the centre of Addis Ababa, the building houses seven floors of spa treatments, restaurants and even Moroccan baths – guaranteed to ensure that every one of the 12,000 to 15,000 guests who visit each month leaves refreshed and invigorated.

The spa's users are a mixture of locals and expats, many of whom work in the city's embassies and UN offices. All are united by a shared appreciation of being thoroughly pampered and taken care of.

NEW LEVELS OF LUXURY

Conceived and designed by Belete himself, the interiors of the spa were created using local craftsmen and resources, resulting in a fresh take on traditional Addis decor.

The women-only spa area has a huge mosaic in the relaxation area, which took 18 months to create – the same length of time it took to erect the building itself. Stone and wooded walls create a pleasing rustic feel, as do the carved furniture and local artisan craftwork.

Offering more than 300 treatments, the spa specialises in Thai and Swedish massages, mud wraps and facials. There are two body-scrubbing rooms and two Moroccan baths, bringing the ultimate in North African luxury to the east of the continent. The huge sauna has room for 12 people, and the manicure and pedicure stations can also easily accommodate up to 12 people at a time.

Not content to stop there, Belete has expanded the spa's offerings to include a luxurious "home away from home". The upper floors of the building house the 5-star Kuriftu Diplomatic Restaurant, the more informal

Lime Tree Café, and a lounge area where guests can relax on the balcony and enjoy views across this beautiful city.

There are also six meeting rooms, each with their own balcony and amenities, and on the top floor another huge lounge where guests can find additional peace and quiet.

In a further innovation, Belete themes the menus at the Diplomatic Restaurant, inviting guest chefs from around the world to bring a taste of their own cuisine to Addis. This month has been the turn of Brazilian chefs, who have introduced some of their classic national dishes to the menu. During their time at the restaurant, visiting chefs also pass on their knowledge to local chefs, broadening their repertoires.

ETHIOPIA'S "CLUBHOUSE"

The restaurant itself has a bar in the middle of the room, with an open kitchen area that gleams with bright blue tiles and ornate patterns. Tables are carved from wood and twine in the shape of barrels, with large comfortable leather seats.

"As Ethiopia was never a colony, we do not have the traditional British clubs that other countries have, so we created our own," explains Belete. "In the lounge, people can bring their own drinks and sit all day, or hold business meetings if they need to."

The Black Rose Bar on the first floor of the building is the busiest bar in town. It caters for the international community, and guests could easily imagine they are in London, Rome or Lagos. Its sumptuous elegance is enhanced by velvet chairs, cushions and ottomans, with Venetian masks and outstanding works of art on the walls.

Families are also welcome, particularly in the Lime Tree Café, which offers a bookstore, free WiFi and, of course, the wonderful mixture of Ethiopian and international cuisine that Belete champions.

There is a welcome inscribed on the wall above the buffet table, which ends: "We hope you are happy and your dreams come true." It's difficult to think of a better way to sum up the philosophy of the Boston Day Spa, or its runaway success. ●



Tadiwos Belete with the Brazilian Chefs at the Diplomatic Restaurant



KURIFTU ECO RESORTS

In Africa. For Africa. By Africans.

These luxurious eco resorts showcase the very best of Ethiopian conservation and design

One of the most successful resorts in Ethiopia is Kuriftu Resort and Spa Debre Zeit, just 45 minutes from Addis Ababa by road. Surrounded by Lake Kuriftu on one side and lush tropical gardens on the other, the resort is a true taste of luxurious Ethiopian living.

The town of Debre Zeit itself was the favoured weekend retreat of the Emperor Haile Selassie, who built a palace here called Fairfield, named after his wartime home when he was in exile in Bath, England. Known for its five crater lakes, it is destined to become even more popular once the eight-lane highway from the capital is completed, making the journey time around 15 minutes.

The philosophy of the Kuriftu Resorts is to be at harmony with nature. At Debre Zeit, the resort is a series of gazebo huts built into the rock and covered with plants and flowers so they blend into the scenery.

Each of the 37 rooms is furnished with traditional Ethiopian grand beds made of highly polished wood. The doors, decorated with local fabrics and colours, are hand crafted from local wood, and there is a huge walk-in wardrobe. The bathroom is carved into the rock, keeping the room cool in the heat of the midday sun. Each room also has a terrace with a bed and a fireplace, so guests can sleep in the open air overlooking the lake.

Lakeside alfresco dining is the real luxury at this resort, a chance to enjoy the nature in beautiful surroundings. Seating 500 people in a vast palaver hut under a huge chandelier, the room is decorated with local art.

Guests have included presidents and prime ministers of several countries, as well as various international stars such as Chris Rock, Beyonce and Jay Z.

INSET Tadiwos Belete, Ethiopian entrepreneur, and his wife Lili and son Abnar at Lake Kuriftu





Guests here have included presidents and prime ministers of several countries, as well as various international stars such as Chris Rock, Beyonce and Jay Z.

Visitors can kayak on the lake, as well as go mountain biking and walking in the countryside. It's a perfect getaway for families, with a swimming pool, swimming lake, quad bikes and clubhouse with a gym, tennis and ping-pong. There is also a 500-seat cinema.

The spa is housed under massive domes surrounding the garden with its magnificent waterfall. The treatment rooms are hewn out of rock, lit with relaxing candles and offer high-quality therapies.

Not only is the design original, but so is the construction. It took six years to build, with Ethiopians from all over the world involved in the work. More than 83% of the labourers and artisans who built the resort are still employed there in different roles – as receptionists, porters and waiters. They have a commitment and loyalty to the resort that has brought so much tourism and income to the area.

At neighbouring Lake Hora, work is under way to complete the next Kuriftu Resort. A large part of the construction has been carving the road leading to the top of the hill where a state-of-the-art golf club will be ready by next year.

Like Debre Zeit, Kuriftu Hora is built into the surrounding hillside, blending into the environment. Not a single tree has been cut down. Instead, they have been incorporated into the fabric of the rooms. In one bathroom a tree soars up to the open skies, its branches bursting out of the room, giving a feeling of showering in the open air. Another bathroom is built into the rock, creating the effect of showering under a waterfall.

A huge acacia tree provides shelter for the main seating area, with its large outdoor fireplace and marvellous view of the lake. Lake Hora is a base for water sports, many water birds and an annual festival, and when the resort is complete it will no doubt be the first choice for both Ethiopian and international visitors to the area.

Kuriftu Resort and Spa

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www.kurifturesortspa.com ●



ABOVE Debre Zeit is surrounded by Lake Kuriftu and stunning tropical gardens



ABOVE The resort at Lake Tana offers some of the best accommodation and hospitality in the land



ABOVE Kuriftu Hora is located on Lake Hora, an excellent base for watersports



ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES – get there in style

Africa's historic airline is reaching for the skies

There's a certain romance associated with Ethiopian Airlines. It's one of the oldest in Africa, and it flies to exotic locations such as Lalibela and Cairo. From the airline's very first days, when it flew decommissioned US World War II aircraft, it has maintained a reputation for reliability and safety that is unrivalled in the region.

Indeed, it's difficult not to be impressed by Ethiopian Airlines. In 2012 it will start flying the latest generation of passenger aircraft, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner,

which boasts an innovative interior of wider seats and aisles, larger windows and an all-round improved flying experience.

Ethiopian is the first African carrier to operate the 787, and a new 787 aircraft flew into Addis Ababa airport in December for a few days, ahead of the official arrival for service in June.

When this investment in new aircraft is coupled with Ethiopian's impressive record on service and safety – recognised in awards, including the 2011 Airline Reliability

ABOVE Ethiopian Airlines' cabin crews are renowned for their hospitality



Performance Award from Bombardier – it's clear that the airline has passenger comfort and satisfaction at the heart of its operations.

This is further shown by the fact that Ethiopian Airlines is only the third African carrier to be a member of Star Alliance. The sole airline to fly east-west across Africa, and with current destinations to 64 cities in five continents, it is well on its way to being the premier African carrier in all respects.

CONNECTING AFRICA

"We are very passionate about Africa, because we claim ourselves as a truly African carrier, owned, managed and operated by Africans for the last 60 years," says CEO Tewolde Gebremariam.

"Ethiopian Airlines has served the continent in good and bad times. It still has its challenges, as there are more competitors, so now we are more efficient and the customer has better choices. Nevertheless, our growth has been remarkable in the last six or seven years and we have grown five times in size in all aspects."

The success of the company's previous five-year plan, Vision 2010, has led to a new 15-year plan, Vision 2025. This is a scaling-up of the previous plan, which surpassed all expectations. The aim was to make the airline a \$1bn company by 2010, but in fact, in June 2010 it registered revenue of some \$1.3bn.

"We assessed the potential for growth in Africa, taking into account its relationships with Europe, Asia and the Middle East," Gebremariam says.

"In the last decade economic growth in Africa has been 5–6%, and in some countries like Egypt up to 11%. So we have positioned ourselves in terms of resources – pilots, airplanes, conditions, marketing. This was witnessed by the vote of confidence shown by

our customers, and we are now carrying five million passengers, up from one million."

In addition to the 10 Boeing 787s on order, Ethiopian will also add to its fleet with 12 Airbus A350-900s and 10 Boeing 737-800s, along with an additional six dedicated cargo Boeing 777s.

The company has identified Addis Ababa as the best gateway to the continent, as well as a hub for the Middle East, Asia and the United States. "We believe that the fastest growing economies are those of China, India and Brazil, and if you draw a line across the globe, Addis Ababa is right at the heart of those," says Tewolde Gebremariam.

"We planned our network around Addis in such a way that passengers do not stay more than two hours in Addis, so the connection is very quick."

Ethiopian is the only airline to operate a direct flight to Washington, giving business travellers the ability to have lunch in DC one day and lunch anywhere in Africa the next day, thanks to the rapid connections out of Addis.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The airline has always had a far-reaching vision. Established in 1945, it began operations with five former American C47 Skytrains, running a weekly service between Addis Ababa and Cairo. Further routes were then added, and four more C47s purchased to meet demand. These ex-military planes offered little in the way of comfort – just folding benches along the sides and a clear area for cargo in the centre.

In 1947, three more Skytrains were purchased, and fitted with forward-facing seats. The Ethiopian Airlines livery was incorporated, and a new era had begun.

Today's Bole International Airport at Addis Ababa is a far cry from such humble beginnings. This ultra-modern terminal was inaugurated in 2003, and is the busiest in East Africa, handling more than 19 million national and international passengers each year.

EYES ON THE FUTURE

As part of its vision of becoming the leading aviation group in Africa, Ethiopian Airlines is expanding rapidly. The main driver in this is the fleet expansion, which is introducing the next generation of planes with new technologies that are more environmentally friendly.

Other plans include a new cargo terminal, a state-of-the-art maintenance hangar with advanced maintenance capabilities, the expansion and upgrading of the Ethiopian Aviation Academy, and the construction of a simulator building for training. In addition, a new 5-star hotel is in the pipeline, along with a parking building, a modern HQ and a new catering facility.

The first phase of the airport expansion is complete. Parking for 20 planes is now available and was used extensively during the last African Union meeting for VIP flights. The second phase will introduce 19 more spaces, and the third will upgrade the terminal.

"We knew that it would be a challenge to reach our 2025 goal of \$10bn annual revenue with our current structure," says Gebremariam. "So we came up with a business model with seven units under the holding aviation group. Central to this is the expansion of the Aviation Academy, which will qualify thousands of pilots and technicians for the whole continent.

ABOVE Ethiopian Airlines aims to be Africa's premier carrier in all respects



“We are very passionate about Africa, because we claim ourselves as a truly African carrier, owned, managed and operated by Africans for the last 60 years”

“At the moment we are training many people from Chad, Nigeria, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The Aviation Academy has been in service as long as the airline, and it was a far-reaching vision to establish this at the same time. We have always trained our own people and had enough to fill the roles.

Similarly, the maintenance hangar will be extremely important, as it is one of the few on the continent. Our maintenance is approved by the FAA and IATA, and big carriers come here for maintenance. Our safety record has been applauded by safety editors around the world, and our own staff is wholly Ethiopian.”

It’s clear that the staff are proud to work for the national carrier and that they feel well recompensed for their efforts. Most employees have worked their way up in the business, including Gebremariam, who started as a checking agent at the airport. He moved on to become a cargo agent, and then manager of cargo with overseas postings in Mumbai, Jeddah and New York.

Every time the airline makes a profit it shares it generously with the staff, and they have seen a 400% salary increase.

LEGENDARY HOSPITALITY

Ethiopian hospitality is legendary, and the cabin crew, in their brightly coloured uniforms, ensure that all passengers experience this. The traditional coffee ceremony takes place on every flight, and the new 777s have flat beds in “Cloud Nine”, the combined business and first-class area.

“We used to have three classes, but we don’t think that is necessary or the right business model for us,” Gebremariam explains. “So now it’s an upgraded business class, essentially first class. It meets all global standards, and for the target market it is the right product.”

The rewards programme is known as Sheba Miles, named after the legendary Ethiopian queen who captured the heart of King Solomon, and who was believed to be very generous.

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT

Ethiopian Airlines has turned profits for nearly every year of its existence, and two years into Vision 2025 it is still on course. Last year’s growth was 40%, but this year is forecast to be lower, due to world events affecting oil prices.

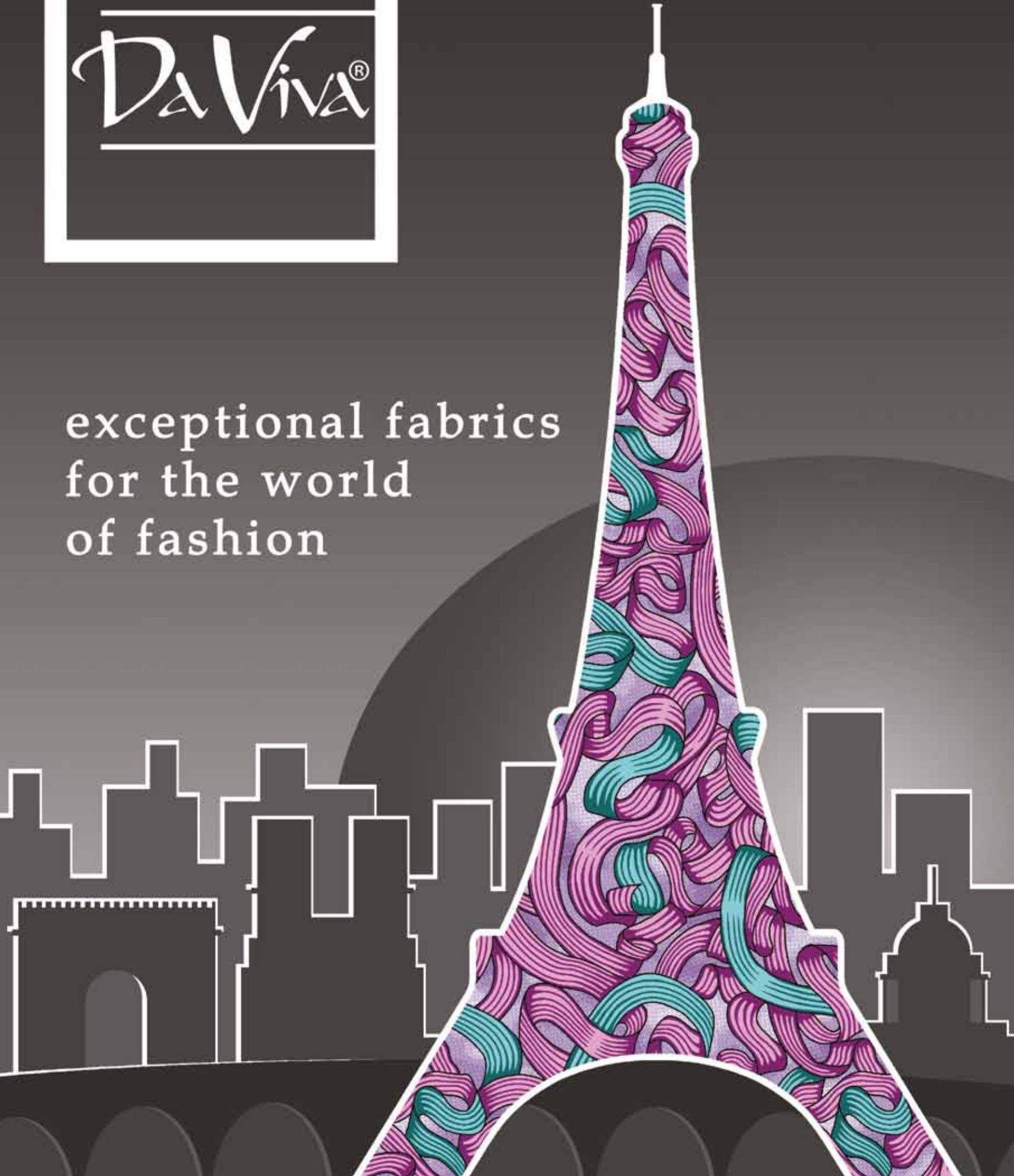
“Of course there will be some adjustments because it is a very dynamic environment. We are learning from the East, especially China, which plans for 50 and 75 years,” concludes Gebremariam. “They have taught us it can be done and it is the right thing to do, because you should always know your direction and destination wherever you go.

By 2025 you will see a sub-Saharan African airline with an annual revenue of \$10bn. I think it’s great for all of us as Africans. The mainstream western media always talk about war, famine, deprivation and all the bad things. We are trying to show the rest of the world that there are also success stories in Africa.” ●

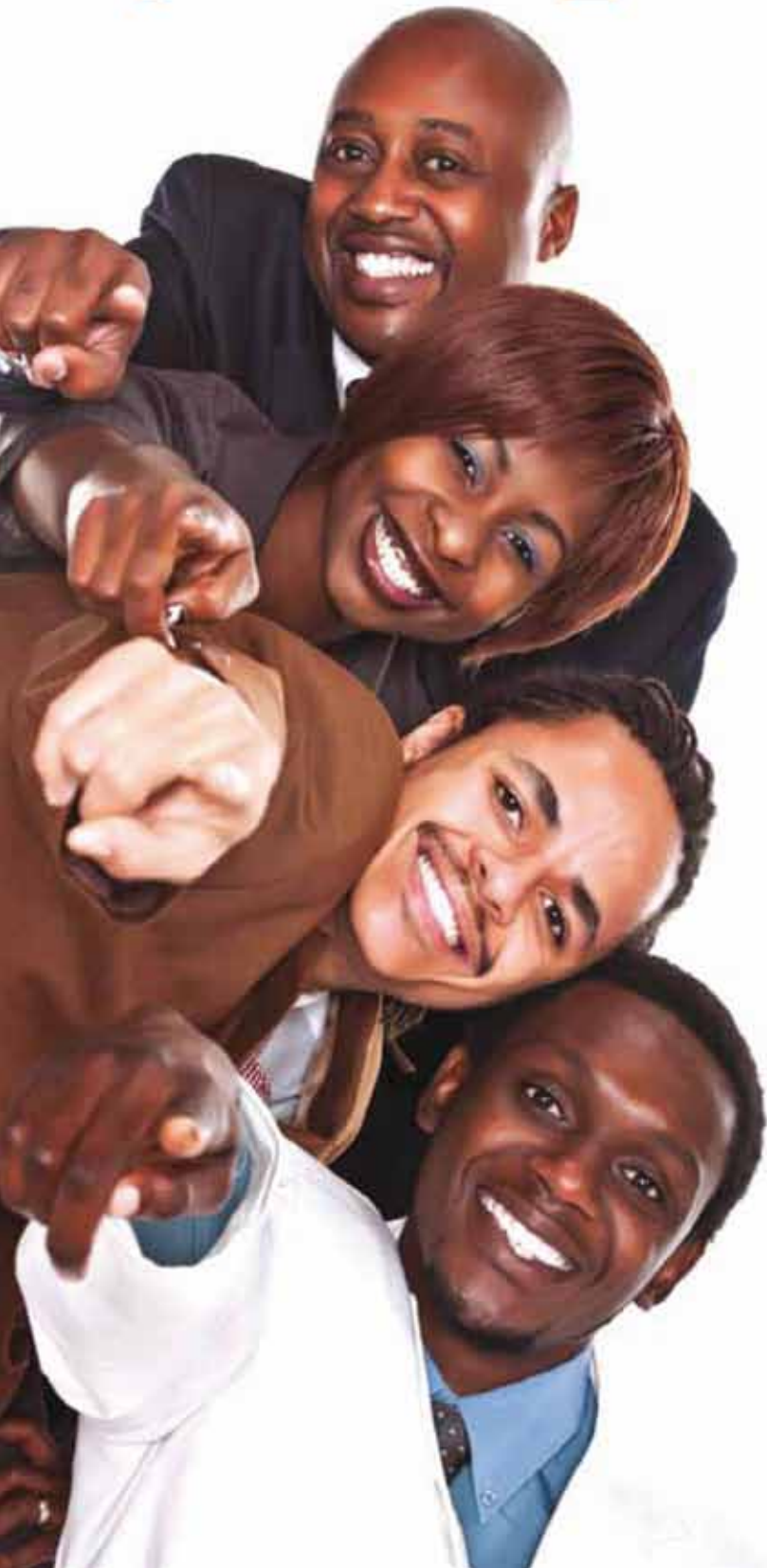
ABOVE Tewolde Gebremariam, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines



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Refining Organisations

Two wheels are just as much fun

Ever fancied viewing Nigeria from the back of a Honda Fireblade? If not, spend a few minutes chatting to Osa Coockey and you may well change your mind.



The throbbing of motorbike engines is not the first sound you might think of at a polo club, but at Fifth Chukker you're bound to hear it – shortly before you see the bikes themselves, roaring up the road towards the field.

At their helm will be Osa Coockey, polo player and motorbike enthusiast, followed by at least 10 or 15 fellow bikers who travel for miles across Nigeria to attend or participate in polo matches.

Parked alongside the BMWs and Mercedes, the bikes are a sight to behold. Despite the stains accumulated from hours of travel, they stand out proudly. Crowds gather around to admire them and Osa can be found

explaining the intricate mechanics that make the machines such a joy to ride.

Motorbiking is still a young sport in Nigeria, but its enthusiasts are growing. They are a tight community, bound together by their shared interest. Although there are only a few power-bike clubs across the country, their members are both passionate and conscientious.

There are plenty of mopeds and small bikes in Nigeria, most commonly the Okadas, but these big machines are the elite. Like most car lovers, motorbike fans don't just have one bike – they have several. Osa owns at least seven, including a Triumph Rocket, a Honda Fireblade and a Ducati Moto Strada, and he rides them regularly.

ABOVE Life on the open road is becoming a passion for many motorbike riders and is gaining in popularity



TOP AND RIGHT Motorbikes are a regular sight at Fifth Chukker and always attract an interested crowd

SENSE OF COMRADESHIP

Osa is the founder of Hard Ridaz, the popular motorbike club in Port Harcourt. Their base is opposite the polo club, but the fields have not been open on a regular basis for the past three years, so Osa has little opportunity to indulge his love of polo.

Instead he organises regular long-distance bike tours, sometimes to countries such as Burkina Faso and Niger, where part of the adventure is the unknown territory. The Hard Ridaz are becoming a familiar sight across West Africa –although there is, of course, still plenty of unexplored territory where their fast machines are as yet unknown.

The Lagos bike club is called, quite simply, Bikers. They ride every Sunday afternoon, usually to destinations such as Eleko Beach, Epe, Ikorodu, Ibadan and Benin for trips of up to 300km. For weekends they head out to Jos, Abuja, Kaduna or Port Harcourt, where they hook up with the Hard Ridaz.

Most of the bikers are professionals – lawyers, bankers, industrialists, pilots; anyone who has the income to buy one of these luxury machines. It's unsurprising that many of them also play polo.

RISKY RIDING

With a head for business often comes a passion for fast sports, and like polo, motorbike riding is not a hobby for the faint-hearted. Unlike their counterparts in Europe and America, Nigerian riders can't count on smooth and easy riding. The very nature of the roads in the country means that bikers have to have more than peripheral vision – almost eyes in the back of their heads. Large potholes are a regular hazard, their depth and width a potentially lethal combination. Added to this are the drivers of other vehicles, who often travel at high speed, leaving only a whisker of space for the rider on two wheels.



Having said this, the rewards are huge. How better to see and experience all the beauty of Nigeria than on a motorbike? The sounds, the smells, the feel of the wind on your face. That sense of liberation and a life well-lived.

Nevertheless, road traffic accidents are on the increase in Nigeria, both as a result of poor infrastructure and of bad habits. The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) was established in 1988 to inform Nigerians of the dangers of travelling by road, but so far the number of accidents has yet to diminish.

In Port Harcourt, for example, most accidents have been found to occur in the rainy seasons and at weekends. Reckless driving is also a leading cause of accidents, so motorcycle riders have to be doubly aware of the high numbers of so-called ICD ("I Can Drive") people, who do not know the rules and regulations of the highways.

Similarly, mechanical faults and poor fuel quality can lead to incidents, but the Lagos and Port Harcourt clubs always provide an accident repair vehicle on their long-distance trips so they can continue safely.



BIKES AT POLO

General motorcycle laws, which apply to Okada riders as well, state that all bikes should be registered and only those over the age of 18 can ride them. Bikes should be roadworthy and have two side mirrors so riders can see all oncoming traffic behind them. All riders should wear helmets and observe the law at all times.

For Osa and his friends, this is not a problem. Power-bike owners are particularly careful to observe all safety precautions, and they generally wear full protective leather suits, despite the heat.

“On a recent trip to Niger we had temperatures of close to 50 degrees, and with the protective clothing it feels worse than being cold,” Osa recalls. “I have travelled to some beautiful places, such as the Yankari Game Reserve in north-eastern Nigeria, where a baboon took great interest in my Goldwing and ignored all the other bikes!”

Osa’s whole family share his passion for motorbikes, including his nine-year-old daughter Boma, who is a familiar sight at the Port Harcourt polo club where she rides around the field regularly. “She takes part in Carnival in Rivers State, and I’m sure when she’s old enough she’ll join us on long-distance rides too,” Osa says.

His wife Carol also rides, but it’s still early days for female motorbike riders. The family ride out together, visiting Abraka every April, where Osa played polo for the first time for many years. It’s a nine-hour ride from Port Harcourt to Kaduna to reach Fifth Chukker Polo Club, and Osa relishes every minute of it.



“For those of us who love motorbikes, we see a great similarity with polo,” he says. “The Nigerian game is fast and furious, and you have to think quickly and have an intuitive understanding of strategy. It’s the same with motorbike riding – you have to do a lot of self-training in hazard perception, and anticipate well. When I was younger I used to take a lot more risks, but these days I am keen to promote responsible riding for the good of everyone.”

So, if you are keen to learn the finer points of motorbike riding, head for the gleaming chrome machines as they roar up to Fifth Chukker. Osa will be there, happy to impart his 30 years of knowledge and infectious passion for such a thrilling way of life. ●

ABOVE Kashim Bukar shows an interest in the motorbikes

BELOW Fifth Chukker welcomes bike riders, and they are always ready to discuss their passion for this sport





Two important principles of polo: PACE AND GOAL GETTING

Dapo Ojora reveals his inner secret to winning tournaments.

PACE: FAST AND FURIOUS

However good a team might be in stickwork at a slow pace, they cannot win games and ultimately tournaments unless they can play fast polo. Most, in fact nearly all, tournaments are played at a fast/full pace. This particular principle applies to both low-, medium- and high-goal polo.

Slow practice games are necessary and, in my opinion, vital for the training of young ponies and young or new players. In theory, teamwork cannot be taught except in slow chukkers, so that aspect of polo cannot be neglected. However, all other practice games should be played at a fast pace. Matches cannot be won unless teams are accustomed to playing "all out". So many games are won and lost on account of this. There are some really good players who stand out in low-goal polo, but find it impossible to compete and fade in fast games, thus never reaching their full potential handicap. Usually they remain below five goals. Players seldom realise that fast polo is essential for winning tournaments.

LESS IS MORE

It is obvious that for teams to perform well in fast polo, they must learn to do so in practice chukkers. The usual excuse players give is that they have so few horses they can't afford to lame them. This is quite understandable, but since fast pace is the only way to win, fast pace must be practised.

One way round this is to play four fast chukkers a week instead of six slow- or medium-pace ones. The advantage to the team is immense and the stress is no greater on the horse. The best and most efficient way of quickening the pace of the game is for the

number two to be able to hit at speed and for the number three to race down the middle and call for long passes instead of "backing up" his number two.

The modern game has been "slowed" due to the advent of the dribbler. Although some are particularly gifted and skilful, it is a recent and, in my opinion, selfish method of playing a team game, though I am as guilty as anyone else and maybe more so. But I do not advocate or teach it.

GOAL-GETTING: SCORE, SCORE, SCORE

Though a team may be good at "keeping" the ball amongst its players, and however fast the pace it can play, success depends on the team's ability to score goals. In spite of the importance of this aspect of a team's training, it is incredibly strange how much it's neglected. When you visit a football training ground, you will leave convinced of the importance placed on scoring goals. In comparison, polo teams and individuals rarely spend any time at all on the same necessary training, especially in this modern age when games are often won by the odd goal.

When we consider the amount of thought, time, effort and expense involved in putting together and training a polo team, the disappointment of losing by the small margin of a single goal makes the neglect of this specific training incomprehensible.

When you watch any good level of polo and count how many times the ball crosses the back line, and compare this with the number of goals scored, the proportion is remarkable and in some cases as much as 4 to 1. What is even more incredible is the number of missed attempts at the goal from the 60-yard line.

GOALS WIN MATCHES

I have seen many polo matches won, not because the winning team played so well, but because they steadily and systematically scored goals, having engaged in the practice of "goal getting" prior to the tournament.

Any team practising this art will increase its aggregate handicap by several goals. This *must*, however, be done consistently for a number of weeks. Last year in Britain, during one of the matches in the Gold Cup, I watched a game that ended 17-9, where the losing side had the lead in the first half of the game, but lost due to their poor goal-scoring performance.

The team and their supporters put it down to bad luck. I disagree – they just didn't convert their chances. ●



Frankie Menendez racing to goal and being pursued by Patricio Cieza

Safety FIRST



Polo: a game we all love, but apart from the obvious threat to our bank accounts, is it safe out there? Peter Wright outlines the risks and regulations.

From the grassroots Pony Club child to the 10-goaler in the Argentine Open, we play under a set of rules that have remained fundamentally unchanged for an entire century – as constant as the passion felt by those who play this incredible game.

This passion arises from our love of the ponies, the excitement and the competition between friends and foes both old and new, as well as the speed and danger that all this generates.

So how do we keep everyone safe in what can often be a heated and tension-filled game? I'm sure all you players out there read your rule book regularly (yeah, right), but for the one or two who might have mislaid their copies, let's take a closer look.

- The two umpires and the referee on the sidelines are responsible for making sure that all players and ponies are kitted out correctly on the field. Ponies must have bandages on all four legs to prevent knocks and scrapes, and the tail should be tied up to avoid getting tangled with the stick.

- The saddle and bridle must also be in good condition. No one wants a rein to break while galloping at 30mph, or a stirrup to come loose while leaning out to reach that elusive little white ball.
- Players need to have suitable boots and knee pads to protect their legs, as well as a helmet to safeguard the head from the inevitable tumbles. This should be of the highest quality affordable and replaced regularly, especially after a hard fall.
- More and more players are also using eye protection, and elbow pads to guard against stray balls or mallet heads. As in all things, prevention is better than cure.
- Once the game is under way, it is up to the officials and senior players to ensure that the field of play is safe for both teams. A great deal of polo is now played with a mixture of pros and amateurs on each side. This gulf in experience can lead to increased risk if players do not take care to remain within their own capabilities.
- It is not only the players who need to stay alert, but the spectators too. A polo ball travelling at close to 100mph is certainly not to be taken lightly, so those on the sidelines need to keep their eyes on the game at all times. No one wants a nice relaxing day, full of good champagne and even better company, to end up in the hospital.

Polo is fast and furious, and there will always be accidents. It is a credit to all clubs, players and officials that serious injuries remain rare.

And, of course, the polo field is still a safer place to be than the roads in Kaduna! ●

OPPOSITE Marcelo Pascual takes a tumble, illustrating why protective clothing and safety equipment is of paramount importance





The SPECTATORS' GUIDE to Polo

Everything you need to know when attending your first polo match as a spectator.

ATTIRE

Polo is an outdoor sport watched by people of all ages and social positions, so dress according to the weather. You really can't be over- or underdressed. Spectators at polo matches wear everything from jeans to high fashion, but if the match you are attending is a major tournament, charity benefit or special event, you may want to dress up.

HALF-TIME

Divot stomping is a long-standing tradition at half-time. Spectators wander all over the field stomping down the turf torn up by the horses. It's good fun and a chance to meet new people as you wander around the field.

VIEWING

Polo matches are fast and the playing field is large. Keeping your eye on the ball is difficult at the far end of the field, so bring binoculars if you have them.

Often your best bet is to focus on the main group of players, clustered loosely around the ball.

SEATING

Seating arrangements may vary between different clubs and on different occasions, but generally you can enjoy a match played by some of the greatest athletes in the world right from the sidelines. ●

INTERESTING FACT

Polo can only be played right-handed
"Lefties" were officially banned from polo in the mid-1930s for safety reasons, but the restriction was relaxed after World War II, when polo players of any kind were scarce. The rule was reinstated again in 1974, so today there are no left-handed polo players.

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The COMMENTATOR

Commentating comes naturally to Dapo Ojora. Having played polo for 42 years, reached a five-goal handicap, and played for Nigeria in five different countries, he is a dab hand at knowing what is going on on the polo pitch. Since 1985, Dapo has commentated in Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and the UK.

Here Dapo shares some of his tricks of the trade for Fifth Chukker Magazine.

What is it about commentating that attracts you to it?

I enjoy getting to know the players and horses. From the commentary box you get a great view of everyone on the pitch and over the course of a tournament you study individual players and their horses.

What makes a great commentator?

Anticipatory knowledge. You have to be able to think fast and be one step ahead of the game or you will get lost. Also, one should never assume the spectators know what is going on; by having a wide polo vocabulary and being specific you can create a mental picture for the part-time spectator.

How do you keep the crowd entertained?

By being ancillary to the game and not biased towards one team; this keeps all the spectators on their toes irrespective of which team they are supporting. Although jokes are essential, it is important to remember that polo is a serious sport and should be treated accordingly.

Is your future in commentating on polo or playing polo?

Commentating. I love carrying the crowd through an exciting game. The commentary can make or mar the game – I hope I achieve the former. ●

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Adebayo Karim

When your father is one of the most well-known polo players in Nigeria, it might be quite intimidating to follow in his footsteps, but 11-year-old Adebayo “Ade” Karim is not particularly worried about this. In fact, the signs are that he is going to be even better than his father, Kola, who is a one-goal player.



Ade is already taking the British Schools and Polo Association by storm. He is clearly extremely talented, and his skills are very honed, even though he only started playing four years ago at the age of seven. When it comes to riding, he says he started before he could walk. Horses have always been part of Ade’s life as his father keeps ponies at the Lagos Polo Club, Nigeria and also at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club, in the UK.

Ade was born and lives in London, and he visits Nigeria during the school holidays. He became interested in polo when he would walk around the grounds of Lagos Polo Club, watching his father and uncle play. He now plays at the Lagos Polo Club junior tournaments with other young Nigerian talents.

However, just playing in the holidays is not enough for Ade, and he also plays polo as a school sport. Six boys from his school, Bruern Abbey in Oxfordshire, are allowed out of school every Thursday afternoon to perfect their polo skills – and have some fun – at the Kirtlington Park Polo School. Melissa Wadley, owner and manager of the polo school insists that Ade plays for fun and would be happy to reach a three-goal handicap. “Despite being a key player, and the youngest, in the winning team of the National Junior Schools Tournament 2010 in England, Ade is very modest about his ability,” Melissa says.

An all-round, able sportsman, Ade also excels in cricket and football at school. “I love football,” he says. “I support Fulham Football Club and would like to play professionally one day.”

Fortunately, polo is a game with great longevity, so even if Ade fulfills his dream of playing football for Fulham, he will still be able to play high-goal polo. With his excellent horsemanship, an inherent understanding of the game and impressive natural ability, he certainly has the potential to go far.

In fact, while Ade’s favourite polo player, Adolfo Cambiaso, won his first tournament at the age of 13, Ade was just nine when he achieved this feat. He is certainly one to watch out for! ●

With his excellent horsemanship, an inherent understanding of the game and impressive natural ability, he certainly has the potential to go far.





A story-teller for Nigeria

Award-winning Nigerian author Chimamanda Adichie has a global readership, but her stories are very much rooted in Nigeria.

This was a story Adichie had been trying to tell since she was 16, when she wrote a play about the conflict, followed by a series of short stories. It was clearly something that meant a lot to her; both of her grandfathers were killed in the war, and she grew up listening to her parents' memories of that period.

Extensive research ensured the book's factual accuracy, but it was its emotional power and human focus that made it the winner of the 2007 Orange Prize for Fiction – quite an achievement for a second-time novelist who was not yet 30.

COVERING NEW GROUND

Adichie's most recent publication is a short story collection called *The Thing Around Your Neck* (2009). Despite being set in the USA, where Adichie now spends much of her time, she says these are still very much "Nigerian stories", focusing primarily on the experiences of Nigerians living in America.

She admits, however, that writing about America felt different, as the usual "artistic removal" was accompanied by "the more mundane sense of removal that comes from writing about a place that you like but that is not your own".

Despite her own awareness of this "artistic removal", there's certainly no sense of artificiality in her stories, and she says writing has always come naturally. "The need to write is innate, something I was born with – but the subjects I write about depend on what interests me, what moves me, what puzzles me."

She is conscious that the nature of her writing means that, for many readers, her books are "not just literature, but also history", and are likely to prompt political interpretations. But this does not affect her writing, she says. "In the end, what matters to me is that I write what I genuinely care about, and that I write it with as much emotional truth as I can."

THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTIPLE STORIES

Adichie's stories may be very much "Nigerian", but they are more than anything stories about individuals, exploring individual experiences and feelings. She does not attempt to generalise, or to speak for an entire nation (or continent) of people – which may sound obvious, but is an issue she has had to contend with.

She recalls an American professor who once said her novel was not "authentically African" enough. By this he meant that

it did not match his own preconceptions of Africa and Africans; Adichie's characters were middle class, drove cars and were not starving.

Similarly, when Adichie left Nigeria at 19 to study in the USA, her American roommate was "shocked" that she could speak English so well, and asked to borrow some "tribal" music. She was disappointed to learn that Adichie listened to Mariah Carey. "Her default position towards me, as an African, was a kind of patronising, self-meaning pity," Adichie explains.

The narrowness of expectations shown by both the professor and the roommate was, Adichie says, the result of only having heard one kind of story about Africa – "a story of catastrophe". She is herself a strong advocate of the importance of multiple narratives, "Because we will never fully comprehend a person or a place until we have many stories of that person or that place."

She believes that the number of African stories available, both within Africa and beyond, is growing. She names Kenyan writer Binyavanga Wainaina as someone she particularly admires, but says, "There are many others who are writing African stories, different kinds of African stories, and I think this will only improve."

Personally, she would like to see more detailed stories about how people lived in precolonial West Africa, as well as more contemporary urban stories set in sub-Saharan Africa. As for herself, she is currently finishing her next novel. Definitely one to look out for. ●

Speaking at a global conference in 2009, Nigerian author Chimamanda Adichie recalled that when she first started writing stories (aged seven), all her characters were "white and blue-eyed". They played in the snow, ate apples and talked about the weather a lot.

Yet Adichie grew up in the university town of Nsukka, Enugu State. Unsurprisingly, she'd never seen snow, she ate mangos rather than apples and hardly ever mentioned the weather, "because there was no need to".

She attributes the difference between her own life and the stories she wrote to the fact that almost all the books she had read were written and based in the UK or USA. With the discovery of authors such as Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye came the realisation that "girls with skin the colour of chocolate, whose kinky hair could not form ponytails" could also appear in literature.

NIGERIAN STORIES, GLOBAL SUCCESS

In contrast to those early stories, Adichie's international success as a writer has been based on her powerful connection to the rich narrative possibilities of her native soil. Her debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), depicted postcolonial Nigeria through the eyes of 15-year-old Kambili, whose family breaks down in the midst of her father's physical and psychological abuse.

The novel immediately secured Adichie a place in the limelight, and a series of awards, including the 2005 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. It is now included on school literature syllabuses around the world.

Even greater acclaim was in store for *Half of a Yellow Sun*, published in 2006, which focused on the experiences of two sisters in the years before and during the Biafran war of 1967–70. A film adaptation, starring Thandie Newton, Dominic Cooper and Chiwetel Ejiofor, is on course to be filmed in Nigeria later this year.





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D'BANJ

Style with substance

The hottest name in Nigerian music is on his way to global superstardom

Fresh from his concert in New York City, top music artist D'Banj is reflecting on his performance. He's en route back to Nigeria from his sell-out gig in the legendary Irving Plaza, and it's clear that he can hardly believe he's cracking the States.

"It was very humbling," says the singer/songwriter who was born in Zaria, Kaduna State. "When I went to do a sound check beforehand, I saw the names of all the great people who had played there in the past, like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Bay City Boys, and I got the shivers."

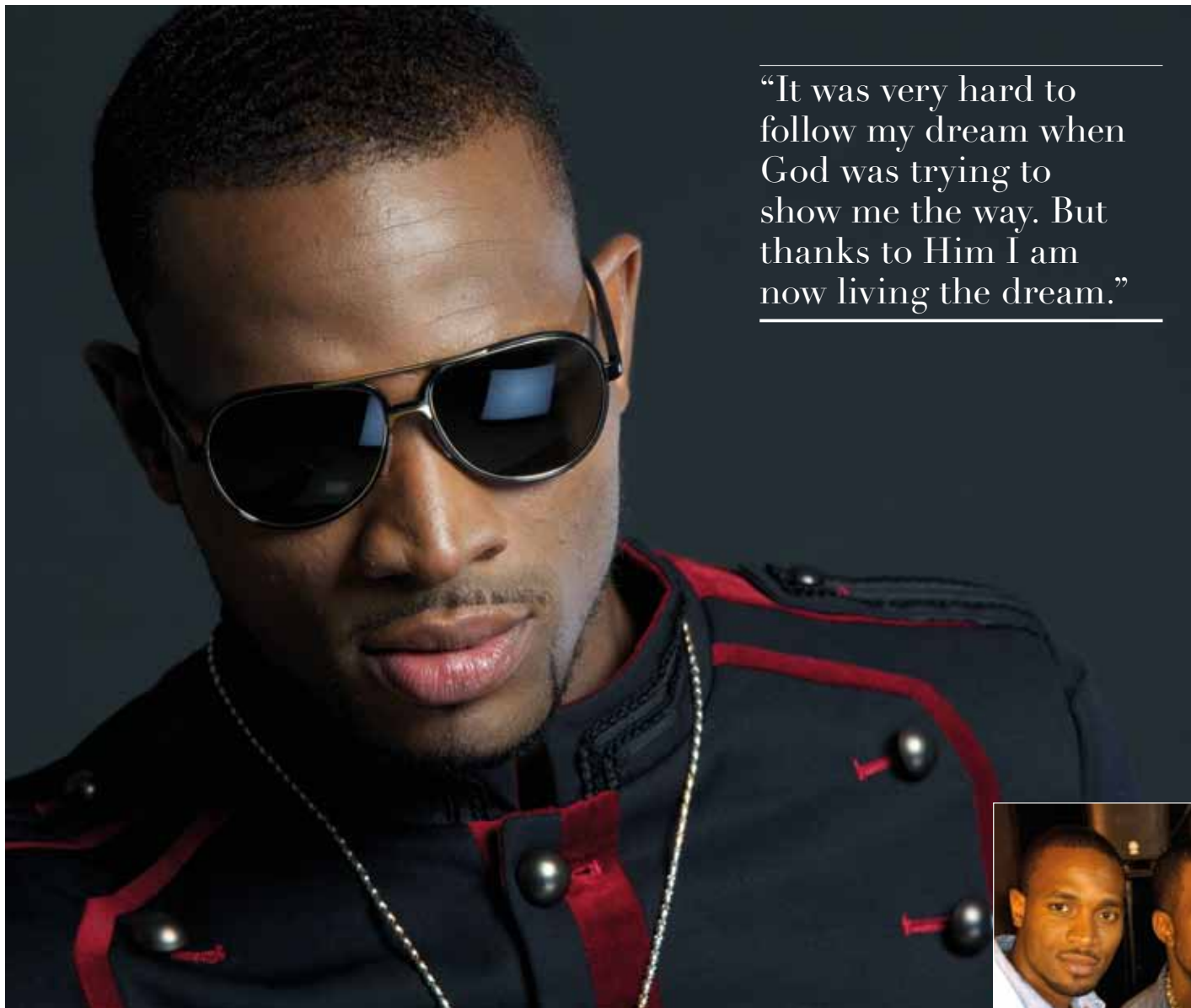
An audience of 2,000 saw D'Banj make his American debut, ahead of his US tour this summer. Many of them were African Americans, but the rest of the crowd was a cultural variety illustrating that D'Banj's music is reaching the mainstream. D'Banj calls it Afropean and he draws his inspiration from many musical traditions.

This summer he is also on stage in the UK at the Hackney Weekend, one of the events to launch the London Olympics. He's appearing alongside Will.i.am, Tinchy Stryder, Taio Cruz and Leona Lewis, among many others.

But this confident young man is not fazed at all by the illustrious line-up. He's already won many awards, including Best African Act at the MTV Europe Music Awards in 2007, and Artist of the Year at the MTV Africa Music Awards 2008 and 2009, along with Best International Act for Africa in the BET Awards last year.

"I met Will.i.am at the MTV Awards in 2007 and he gave me some very good advice," D'Banj recalls. "He was the first musician to tell me not to pay anyone else to

Born Dapo Daniel Oyebanjo, the popular singer/songwriter adopted the stage name D'Banj and hasn't looked back since



“It was very hard to follow my dream when God was trying to show me the way. But thanks to Him I am now living the dream.”

collaborate, and that I should let people appreciate me for what I have got. I reminded him of this when I was in London to record the *Good Music* album last year.”

D'Banj has also been signed by Kanye West's record label in the US, and his single *Mr Endowed* has been remastered, featuring Snoop Dogg. D'Banj is already up there with the big names, so his star can only go higher.

The singer is also a founder of the Koko Foundation for Youth and Peace Development and Nigeria's first United Nations Youth Ambassador for Peace.

Not content with making a success of his songs and albums, D'Banj is also a canny businessman. He has developed his Koko brand, taking the name from the kokolets or beautiful women in his songs. His mother manages the brand with a business partner, and it includes two entertainment lounges in Lagos, a breakfast cereal, bottled water and the TV show *Koko Mansion*.

Born Dapo Daniel Oyebanjo in 1980, D'Banj never expected to become a musician. “I wanted to go into the military like my dad, who thought I should become a mechanical engineer. I did try, but my love for music was much greater than my love for the military.



“It was very hard to follow my dream when God was trying to show me the way. But thanks to Him I am now living the dream.”

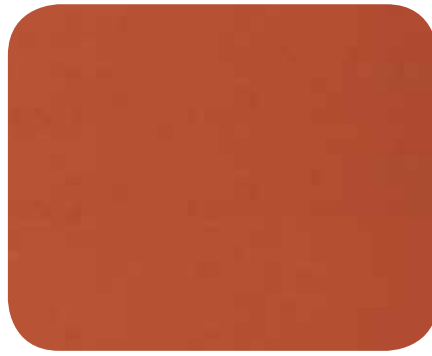
Described by the media as an energetic, charismatic and infectious live performer, he makes every stage appearance memorable. No doubt he will be driving a new audience wild in the US this summer, as they see “the African Michael Jackson” in person. ●



TOP D'Banj – the “African Michael Jackson”

ABOVE D'Banj and Kanye West

LEFT D'Banj has a great following among the young



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The players at Fifth Chukker Polo & Country Club

NAME	COUNTRY	HANDICAP
Agustin Merlos	Arg	10
Alejandro Novillo Astrada	Arg	8
Julio Novillo Astrada	Arg	8
Silvestre Donovan	Arg	8
Justo Amuchastegui	Arg	7
Manuel Crespo	Arg	7
Pablo Heurette	Arg	7
Juan Ignazu	Arg	7
Ezekiel Martinez	Arg	7
Frankie Menendez	Arg	7
Tomas Pieres	Arg	7
Agustin Von Wernich	Arg	7
Guillermo Wellington	Arg	7
Diego White	Arg	7

NAME	COUNTRY	HANDICAP
Santiago Allaria	Arg	6
Benjamin Araya	Arg	6
Facundo Castagnola	Arg	6
Santiago Cernadas	Arg	6
Gareth Evans	SA	6
Francisco Fucci	Arg	6
Francisco Irastorza	Arg	6
Luis Lalor	Arg	6
Francisco Lanusse	Arg	6
Buster Mackenzie	SA	6
Eduardo Menendez	Arg	6
Gaston Moore	Arg	6
Rafael Pando	Arg	6
Marcelo Pascual	Arg	6
Rompo Roman	Arg	6
Benjamin Uigiza	Arg	6
Alejandro Villosa	Arg	6
Selby Williamson	SA	6



NAME	COUNTRY	HANDICAP
Santiago Novillo Astrada	Arg	5
Jorge Cernadas	Arg	5
Patricio Cieza	Arg	5
Martin Pasqual	Arg	5
Juan Roman	Arg	5
Bello Buba	Nig	4
Bruno Cipponeri	Fr	4
Gonzalo Diz	Arg	4
David Evans	SA	4
Agustin Lorea	Arg	4
Martin Marlton	SA	4
Marcos Rooney	Arg	4
Brett Watson	SA	4
Lance Watson	SA	4
Adamu Atta	Nig	3
Dawule Baba	Nig	3
Hamisu Buba	Nig	3
Sayyu Dantata	Nig	3
Sbu Duma	SA	3
Babangida Hassan	Nig	3
Ed Judge	UK	3
Yusuf Katako	Nig	3
Ibrahim Mohammed	Nig	3
Castor Ocampo	Arg	3
Martin Roman	UK	3

NAME	COUNTRY	HANDICAP
Muktar Adahama	Nig	2
Kashim Bukar	Nig	2
Bashir Dantata	Nig	2
Sherri-Lynn Hensman	Zim	2
Erin Jones	SA	2
Facundo Llorente	Arg	2
Lesley-Ann Masterton	Ja	2
Jamilu Mohammed	Nig	2
Abdulmalik Badamasi	Nig	1
Musty Fasinro	Nig	1
Gambo Mohammed	Nig	1
Lado Mohammed	Nig	1
Suleiman Sani Bello	Nig	0
Usman Dantata	Nig	0
Damian Duncan	Nig	0
Bashir Hadeja	Nig	0
Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada	Nig	0
Shuaibu Zakari	Nig	0
Sherif Shagaya	Nig	-1
Mustapha Sheriff	Nig	-2





ABOVE June Ambrose

LEFT Victoria Beckham

BELOW Pierre Hardy Hermes \$1.9 m

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It's the million dollar question – how to get a Birkin bag? It should be easy really, just nip into your local Hermes shop and hand over the cash, but it's not that simple. Just because you want one doesn't mean you can have one; you have to put your name down on the waiting list.

For Nigerian women with a sense of style, this is highly frustrating. It's not as if these are cheap items. Prices start at £4,200 for the basic model, while crocodile and ostrich bags can command up to £42,000. The rare Silver Himalayan, with a 3-carat diamond, is valued at £80,000.

Hermes is unable to help desperate shoppers, apart from telling them to check back regularly. In London the three main stores receive three or so bags each week, and they never know which colours or styles will arrive. The bags are equally as scarce in other capitals, leading to many frustrated clients who have to order them specially and face a two- to three-year wait.

If you can't live without a Birkin, why not splash out on a Pierre Hardy miniature Birkin, made from rose gold and studded with 2,712 diamonds. There are only three of these beautiful bracelets, at a cool £1.25m each.

If you still want a handbag, we hear on the grapevine that New York is the place to grab your bag. So next time you're in the Big Apple, hotfoot it down to Madison Avenue or Wall Street to see if you're in luck. ●

ABOVE Petra Ecclestone

LEFT Jennifer Love-Hewitt



ABOVE AND LEFT
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