



POLO BLOG SUMMER 2014 BY GEORGI W.

The Mackenzie Cup and Dewar Cup Challenge

30TH JANUARY

Another gorgeous Hawkes Bay day to welcome us for the first day of the Dewar Cup tournament.



Johnny Hutton, Uncle Tom and Pete Dormer. The Hutton family very kindly hosted us while we were on our tour

The South Island team comprises Louis Davidson, Sam Martin, Jonny Jones and Wanstead player Dan Coddington (1). It's not long into the chukka before the crowd decided they were a team to watch soon to be nicknamed the South Island Crusaders.

Louis has the pressure on and is worried about two of his horses: Piggy and Lilly both have swollen legs. Luckily, Georgi arrives just in the nick of time and manages to track down equestrian vet Bart Thompson, who not only

sorts out the problem areas but taught Louis a thing or two about injecting horses.

With the support from Wanstead at one end, Uncle Martin holding sticks, Olly Tutthill and Guy Martin offering advice, Mary from Northumberland exercising horses, I was left to hold sweaty steeds as they prepared for half chukka games.



Pete Dormer House Rules

Georgie and Uncle Martin on tour!

Supporters Club at dinner

Near the end of the first chukka there was still no score on the board until the boys mustered all their cunningness and snuck two goals through in succession giving them a head start. A quick change of horses from the capable bevy of blonde grooms and one Brunette (Mary), meant the guys were organised, safe and feeling calm.

By the end of chukka 2 the score crept up to 3-2 still in favour of the Southerners and the guys kept the pressure on 'til the last chukka, eventually winning 6-5. The ground held up well, firm but with moisture unlike home, the boys were happy, one down 2 to go!

Back at the camp, www.trevelmond.co.nz some went to celebrate at Mamacitta with Mexican food and cocktails to thank Mary and Johnny Hutton for their paddock hospitality. Thanks for organising a great night Pete!



Sholto Matthews and Pete Dormer. Sholto was previously a member and supporter of the Ashley Club



Louis Wood Shoeing Ltd

31ST JANUARY FRIDAY

Slight change of weather and a few injuries in the morning games, Georgi Martin is playing well despite not having her South Island compatriots.

Louis, Jonny, Sam and Dan were due to kick off at 1pm the rain held off but the field was slippery and dangerous they would have to slow down the turns.

The game begins and the boys are on fire, goal after goal, clever manoeuvres and their pool playing techniques were coming to the fore.

The final score was 8-1 and the guys were playing like pros, tomorrow they would rest their horses and be ready for the final 1pm Sunday!

At 3pm the high goal South Island team (Olly Tutthill, Pete Dormer, Glen Armstrong and Neville Clarke) had an amazing game, eventually winning close but convincing 10-8 final score. The competition is between three other teams based on points so this should take them into a good position for the next two days.

Polo drinks at Diva tonight for some of the guys and grooms, it's always amazing how many grooms can fit in a sedan.

Dinner was cooked by Georgi, Andrea and Emma with boys on the barbeque, all happy!



Is that Uncle Martin??



Party in the Pink bar



Party in the House!

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

The next day we woke to heavy rain and mist even a slight southerly, unseasonal weather, games had to be postponed...

However Olly assured us there was a three hour delay and the South Island team would still play at 3.30pm. The grounds weren't actually too bad. Rain had almost drained away any effects, no wonder the Bay is so fertile!

The younger guys looked after their horses fixing loose shoes, covers, and horses' lips! Their mounts had a welcome day off and enjoyed the rest.

We were all at the grounds to watch Georgi Martin at 1pm and then the South Island team at 3pm, pressure was on and the rain meant the field was wet but quite firm.

They were playing Ash Reader's team and thought they had it nailed but a nail jerking chukka brought the Final score to 5-6!

One more game to go on the Sunday could they retain their points lead?!

With so many of us now, up to 15 plus we decided to eat at the house and enjoy some home comforts; Dancing in the kitchen, cricket on the box and endless card games. Life's "happy happy happy..."



Glenn 10 and Catherine



First Cup win outside the South Island



The winning Mackenzie Cup



Olly Tutthill getting best string of ponies



SUNDAY THE 2ND FEBRUARY

Sunday day of rest, but not for the life of a polo player, as today we are going to be winners, we are on the game and ready for the opposition.

Jonny has parked near the grandstand so we are in good spot, our Hawkes Bay friends have come to support their South Island mates and after a Georgi M's game we prepare for the final of the MacKenzie Cup.

The boys are sorting horse lists they don't want to look too confident, the horn goes they are off!

Their final game is against Hawkes Bay who are experts on this ground and pull a few tricks out of the hat. The boys are down 2-0 at the end of the first chukka. Guy helps them through they haven't been down two goals for ages. It's all about defending the No 4 player so Louis from now on sticks to him like supa glue. The game changes in their favour and the goals start rolling in.

The horses are flying around, I've never seen so many horse changes, thankfully the grooms are all helping each other out and there are calm collected riders.

Final score is 5-2 in our favour and as the last chukka bell goes the boys are elated and excited, their first cup outside of the South Island!!

At prizegiving the boys were selected and introduced, smiles all 'round. Jonny wins best pony and Olly best string of ponies.

The Dewar Cup is won by Rangitikei. The McKelvies have fast horses. This time the younger boys have made us proud and bought home the bacon, now we look forward to chapter two at Kihikihi! GO South Island!



Louis and his support team bro!



Neville Clark, Pete Dormer, Olly Tutthill and Glenn Armstrong