

Missed them Missed out!



Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik



As Official Media Partners to the Audi Polo Awards, it's always a busy day for *The Polo Magazine*, especially as it's the launch of the summer 2010 edition, but after navigating the traffic at Hyde Park Corner and flirting with the bus boys to help carry 500 copies of *The Polo Magazine* to the ballroom, it dawns that the most glamorous night in the polo calendar is here. Getting there a bit before throw-in means we can take a quick peruse of the ballroom – and we're not disappointed as the organisers have really pulled out the stops this year and everything looks incredible.

Guests from numerous pre-drinks parties across the capital in The Westbury, Parson's Green and at PJ's on the Fulham Road all converged onto the Hilton a little before seven – some in chauffeur driven Audis, others tripping out of black cabs before embracing old friends not seen since last season.

From paparazzi-type shots in front of media boards at the entrance, to lots of Pommery bubbles in generously-sized flutes; from the usual slovenly-attired polo players dressed to impress in their black tie, to evening dresses in all colours; hemline lengths and a serious amount of décolletage on show – the fifth Audi Polo Awards was going to be one hell of an evening.

Despite the – literal – cloud hanging over the event in the form of the volcanic eruption, everyone in polo seemed to be in the room that night to celebrate the real greats of the game. An evening with a terrific host in Hamish McLachlan, the wit of Rory Bremner as well as some truly incredible displays from Cirque du Soleil were all great foils to the main reason for the evening – recognizing who'd had an outstanding 2009 season.

Unsurprisingly, the Pieres boys and Jean-François Decaux featured prominently in the evening with Gonzalito winning The Audi Polo Awards Most Outstanding High Goal Professional for the second year running; his brother, Facundo making up part of The Thai Polo World Dream Team; Arnauld Bamberger presenting Jean-François with a Cartier watch as the jeweller's Most Outstanding High Goal Patron and to crown the successful evening for that camp, La Bamba won The Polofix Most Outstanding High Goal Team after their stunning 2009 win of The Gold Cup. There were lots of happy faces on the Decaux table that night.

Many were delighted to see Nachi Du Plessis win *The Polo Magazine's* Most Outstanding Medium Handicapped Player after an unbelievable season for him last year, as well as a much-deserved recognition to Luke Tomlinson in the form of The Audi Most Outstanding British Professional after captaining England and playing The Argentine Open.

The Caballus HPA Life Time Achievement Awards to Lord Patrick Beresford and the late Gerald Balding were brilliantly received by all in attendance and the Balding family's acceptance of the award on their late father's behalf was particularly poignant. Both gentlemen have done so much for the modern game.

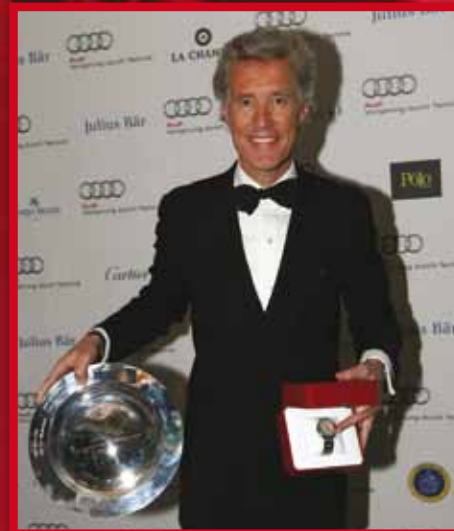
After much applause and congratulation, it was on to drinks at the Windows Bar on the 28th floor of the Hilton where yet more Pommery was quaffed and awards and titles admired over views of London. Those with stamina continued to other salubrious spots around Knightsbridge for after parties, whilst others, like Cinderella, left the ball and went home to bed in preparation for the next day's games.

Another year, and another resounding success – we've all been working extra hard on and off the pitch to see whether it will be us up on the rostrum next May collecting an Audi 'gong'. Fingers crossed.



The Longdole Most Outstanding Arena Team: **Equibuild**

AUDI POLO AWARDS 2010



The Cartier Most Outstanding High Goal Patron: **Jean-François Decaux**



The Polo Magazine's Most Outstanding Medium Handicapped Player: **Nachi Du Plessis**



The Pommery Most Outstanding Lady Professional: **Nina Clarkin**



Bruce Merivale-Austin, Ian Balding, Lord Patrick Beresford, Toby Balding & Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers



The Audi Polo Awards Most Outstanding High Goal Professional: **Gonzalito Pieres**



The Turtle Island Most Outstanding Low Handicapped Player: **Ollie Cudmore**



Victor Ludorum 15 goal winners, **Black Bears** with Daniel Gerber of Julius Baer



Victor Ludorum 12 Goal winners, **Apes Hill** with Daniel Gerber of Julius Baer



Mark Tomlinson receiving The Audi Most Outstanding British Professional from Jon Zammett on behalf of his brother, **Luke Tomlinson**



The Thai Polo World Dream Team: **Bautista Heguy, Facundo Pieres, Eduardo Novillo Astrada & Agustin Merlos**