



# POLO

## MOHAMED VI INTERNATIONAL POLO CUP

By Dr. Mohamed El Shamy, President of the Egyptian Polo Federation

*AFTER THE EGYPTIAN POLO FEDERATION RECEIVED THE KIND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOHAMED VI INTERNATIONAL POLO CUP (6-GOAL HANDICAP), ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL GUARDS OF MOROCCO AND THE MOROCCAN POLO ACADEMY DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019, THE DECISION WAS MADE UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION AND ITS TERMS. AND WHAT A WONDERFUL NINE DAYS OF POLO WE EXPERIENCED!*



Selection of the team based on the handicap was then determined by the organizing committee. After thorough discussion and evaluation, the **Egyptian delegation** was as follows:

**HEAD OF THE DELEGATION:** *Dr. Mohamed El Shamy*

**PLAYERS:** *Mohamed El Sewedy*

*Mohamed Rashad*

*Mohamed Bassiouny*

*Marwan Mostafa*

*Omar El Sewedy*



General Mansoury welcoming Dr. Mohamed El Shamy.



Prince Molay Rachid with the delegations.

**DAY ONE**

The 8th of June, witnessed the arrival of the **Egyptian team** to Casablanca airport. The team was well received by the Royal Guards officials and drove directly to the city of Rabat. After settling down at the hotel, the team had the rest of the day to relax from the trip and to unwind.

**DAY TWO**

The 9th of June, started with an official ceremony at the **Souissi Polo Club** for the selection of the horses for each team. The rest of the day was free time and the team decided to go to the city of Fez for some sightseeing. The visit to the old city in Fez was the highlight of the day.

**DAY THREE**

The 10th of June, brought the official opening ceremony of the Cup and the first match between Team Morocco A and Team Nigeria. After the match, group B Team (Morocco B, Egypt, Portugal) drove up to the city of Tangier where the first matches of group B would be held.

**DAY FOUR**

The 11th of June, in the morning the Egyptian team went to Hourra Polo Club to try their horses for the first time, then back to the hotel to have some down time before their first match in the afternoon at 5 pm against Team Morocco B. The match was fast and competitive, but the Moroccan team came out as the winners.

**DAY FIVE**

The 12th of June, in the morning the team had a nice time touring the city of Tangier and in the afternoon it was polo time again as Team Portugal took the field against Morocco B and took the spectators by storm winning their first match. After the match we all drove down to the city of Assilah to the luxury polo oasis, **La Palmeraie Polo Club**, thanks to the owner and creator of such a magical polo destination, Mr. **Patrick Guerrand Hermes**, ex-president of the International Polo Federation. We were all invited by Mr. Hermes for a nice casual dinner at his beautiful Moroccan tent.

**DAY SIX**

The 13th of June, the morning was a relaxing time at the

beach for all of us as we were joined by group a teams from Rabat. In the afternoon, it was time for the Egyptians to take the field against Team Portugal that brought their highest rated player among their roster. The Egyptian team had to fight hard against such a strong team and unfortunately lost their second match as well. At night, it was time for our formal dinner hosted by Mr. Hermes at his place which showcased some live authentic folklore by Moroccan musicians and dancers.

**DAY SEVEN**

The 14th of June, it was time for our third and last match against Team Nigeria and by all means it was the best match of the Cup, as both teams had **no pressure to win**, but to put in a **good performance**. The day belonged to the Nigerian team as they came out winners of their last match. After the match we were all treated to a very elegant lunch at Hourra Polo Club before heading back to Rabat for the final day of the Cup.

**DAY EIGHT**

The 15th of June, in the morning we attended the match between Team Morocco B and Team France to decide third place. Team France played a very good match, however they lost to Team Morocco B. After the match it was time for the team to trade gifts with the Royal Guards Officials headed by **General Maymoun Mansoury** who is also the president of the **Royal Moroccan Polo Academy**. There was a special gift to King Mohamed VI that was handed to the officials of the Cup.

In the afternoon it was time for the final match of the Cup between Team Morocco A and Team Portugal at the Souissi Polo Club. That afternoon was graced by the presence of the **King's brother Prince Molay Rachid who handed out the Cup to the winning Team Morocco A** after a convincing win against Team Portugal. That night we all gathered at the hotel for a farewell dinner party given by the host country and we all traded memories and ideas about the future of our beloved sport Polo.

**DAY NINE**

The 16th of June, it was time for the Egyptian team to go home with lots of good memories and a very special experience. 🇪🇬



General Mansoury is introduced to the Egyptian team.



Mr. Jose Gara of Portugal, Mr. Patric Hermes of France, and Dr. Mohamed El Shamy at the Souissi Club



At the first match Egypt vs. Morocco B, General Mansoury, Mr. Patrick Hermes, and Mr. Farouk Younis