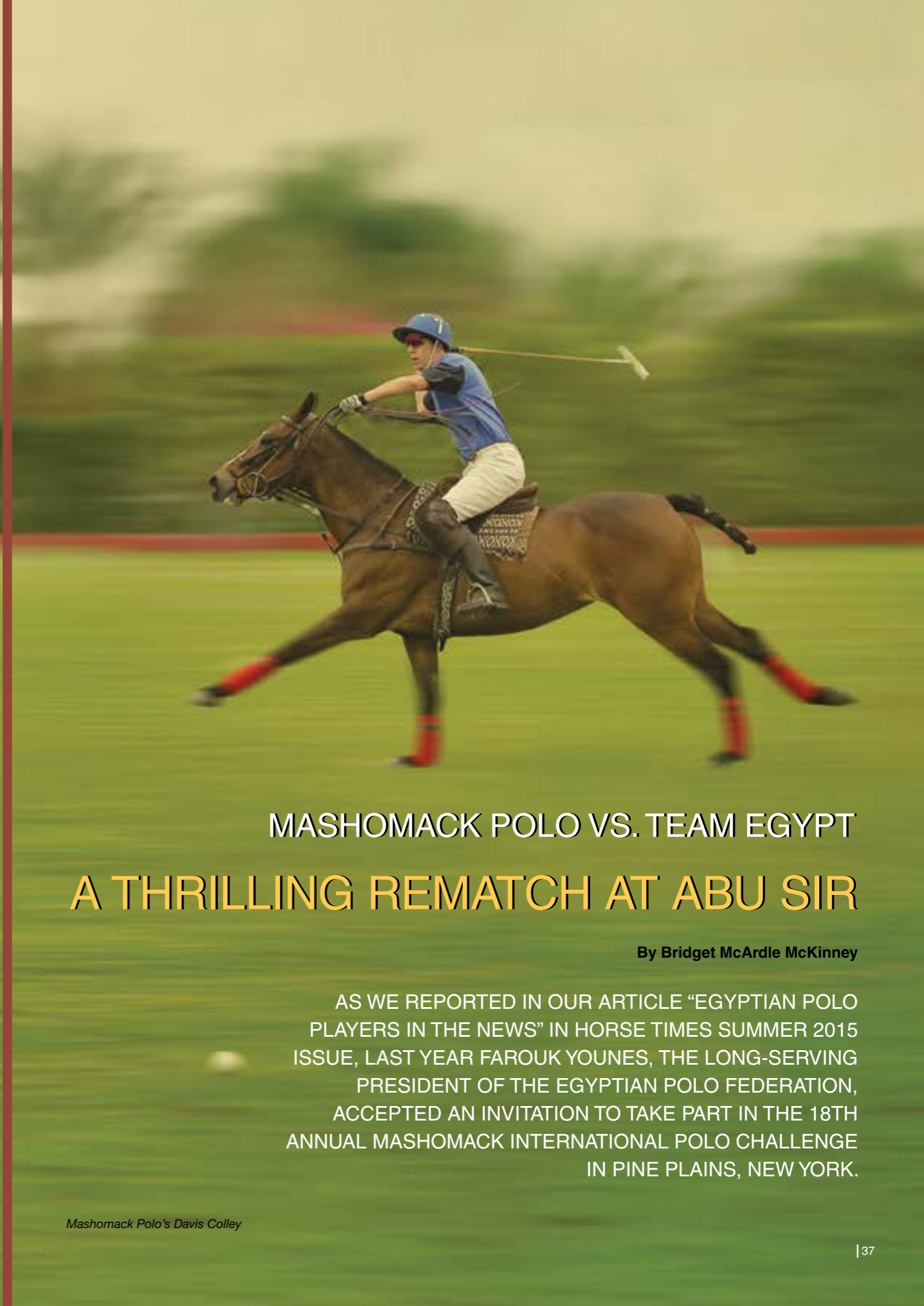




Egypt's Mohamed Bassiouni



MASHOMACK POLO VS. TEAM EGYPT A THRILLING REMATCH AT ABU SIR

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

AS WE REPORTED IN OUR ARTICLE "EGYPTIAN POLO PLAYERS IN THE NEWS" IN HORSE TIMES SUMMER 2015 ISSUE, LAST YEAR FAROUK YOUNES, THE LONG-SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE EGYPTIAN POLO FEDERATION, ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE 18TH ANNUAL MASHOMACK INTERNATIONAL POLO CHALLENGE IN PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK.

Mashomack Polo's Davis Colley



EPF President Farouk Younes



The lovely commentator Jacqueline Younes

Three local teams – Estancia Villa Maria, Beretta and Quest – competed for the trophy against the visiting Team Egypt comprising Farouk Younes – Captain, Hisham Al Gharby, Omar Younes, Aly El Kashef, Mostafa Idris, and substitute Davis Colley. In a cliff-hanging, crowd-pleasing, well-played final match Estancia Villa Maria just tweaked Egypt 2 – 1.

Well, now it was Egypt's turn to try to take back the flag in a friendly rematch on Egyptian soil. On 26 March in the beautiful setting of Younes' Abu Sir Polo Farm on a day threatened with mist and drizzle, Mashomack Polo took to the field to defend the Visitors' position against Team Egypt.

Mashomack Polo team included Bruce Colley (1), John Klopp (1), Don Langlois (1), Parker Gentry Thorne (0), Guy Merison (0), Davis Colley (0), and Silvestre Fanelli (4). The Egyptian Team included Karim Loza (0), Omar Younes (1), Mohy El Kateb (0), Mohamed Bassiouni (2), and Segundo Condesse Stanga (3). The match was skillfully umpired by Mohamed El Sewedy.



Umpire Mohamed El Sewedy





Mashomack Captain Bruce Colley



Egypt captain Karim Loza



Team Egypt

The match began well enough for Egypt as it galloped through to 3 goals to the Visitors' nil by half time. The Mashomack team was able to pick up in the next chukka putting two goals on the scoreboard but that still left them with a large task ahead of them at Egypt's 5 goals to their 2 at the end of the third. But rally the Visitors did and in style, coming from behind to tie the score at 5 all in the final chukka until the last remaining second of play when Mashomack put the ball between the goal posts for a 6-5 victory to a thrilled crowd which included many polo fans and family and dignitaries including the Spanish, Austrian and Brazilian ambassadors and officials of the Egyptian Polo Federation.

After the prize-giving, the after-match celebrations, including a mixed match the following day, and farewells to their host Farouk Younes, the winners rewarded themselves with a trip to Upper Egypt to Luxor's Winter Palace and Aswan's Old Cataract Hotel for a taste of ancient Egypt.

Next up on the polo calendar on 29 and 30 April is the exciting Salah Foda Cup, a 12-goal match hosted once again by Farouk Younes at his Abu Sir Polo Farm in which the professional players Frankie and Eduardo Menendez will be playing. 🏇

Photos by Ashraf El Mahrouky



The winners - Mashomack Polo Club