



THE 2022 WINDSOR CHARITY POLO CUP

WINDSOR

A TRIUMPH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

BY **CARRIE ALEXANDER**

SWINGING HIS MALLET with smooth precision as he galloped down the polo field, W. Galen Weston cut a dashing figure in the early days at Windsor. The amiable Canadian business tycoon seemed just as at home off the field in later years as he worked the crowds at the biennial Windsor Charity Polo Cup—always ready with a warm smile and handshake to welcome guests to the Florida residential sporting community he co-founded with his wife, the Hon. Hilary M. Weston.

Equestrian pursuits and philanthropy were two of his passions. So, it was only

fitting that the 2022 Windsor Charity Polo Cup would pay tribute to Weston, who passed away in April 2021 at age 80.

Team names for this year's event honored Weston. Max Secunda, polo player and director of equestrian operations at Windsor, explains, "Prince Charles played for Weston's team, The Maple Leafs, which won the British Open, and later revived Prince Philip's team, Windsor Park. Those two teams played our most famous match when Prince Charles visited Windsor in the early '90s. The colors have not been used since then but were brought back for the 2022

event in memory of Mr. Weston."

Presented by PNC Bank, the charity event kicked off February 18 with a players cocktail reception at Windsor's renovated Beach Club. The following day eventgoers sipped champagne, shopped at fashionable pop-up boutiques, viewed a grand display by The Space Coast Region Porsche Club of America and socialized at an elegant luncheon before cheering on the high-goal match. Picnicking tailgaters vied for the top spot in an environmentally themed decorating contest.

On the field was a roster of top-notch international players, and the crowd was



especially captivated by 18-year-old Hope Arellano, a fourth-generation polo player and the first female to play at the Windsor event. Playing for the Maple Leafs, she helped secure the W. Galen Weston Memorial Trophy with a score of 7-6 and was named most valuable player. Teammates included Sebastian Koga, Mike Azzaro, and Freddie Mannix. Playing for Windsor Park were Salvatore Ferragamo, Fefu Pansillo, Lucitas Criado, and Pedro Gutierrez.


“We were honored to have one of the most talented female polo players in the world to champion our support of two important environmental nonprofits here in Indian River County,” said Betsy Hanley, president of Windsor.

Co-chaired by Mrs. Weston and Salvatore Ferragamo, the premier charity sporting event raised \$350,000. Half will go to the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), which protects and restores aquatic ecosystems. The other half will go to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC), a nature preserve.

“ORCA is incredibly grateful to be named a beneficiary of the 2022 Windsor Charity Polo Cup. This support comes at a critical time for our organization and for the Indian River Lagoon,” said Dr. Edie Widder, ORCA president, CEO, and senior scientist.

Sponsors helped make the sixth biennial event memorable. Private Aviation Sponsor NetJets offered an interactive experience with a mock-up of the Cessna Citation Longitude business jet. Luxury Scotch whiskey producer Royal Salute mixed specialty cocktails at the players reception and gifted Ferragamo with a special bottle of their Polo Estancia edition.

Luxury Automobile Sponsor Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, and Audi of Melbourne showcased top models during the cocktail party, and, at the polo match, led players onto the field in a 2022 Porsche 911. A selection of cars drove onto the field during the half-time divot stomp.

Other signature sponsors of the 2022 Windsor Charity Polo Cup included: L3Harris Technologies, Beluga Vodka, Lanson Champagne, JUSTIN Wines, Allen Brothers, and artist Dr. Johnson Hagood. Co-sponsors Belle Cose and Paul Morelli jointly donated Paul Morelli’s one-of-a-kind dragonfly necklace valued at over \$23,000 as the feature item in the raffle. Windsor Members also generously contributed to the event as sponsors and donors.  CONTACT INFO | PAGE 106

