

Cartier

MAYBACH



Brioni

Julius Bär

## 29 January 2009 – First qualifying round for the 25th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow in St. Moritz

### All to play for

The sun rose on the dawn of the 25th Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow to illuminate a beautiful clear Alpine sky with a fascinating day's polo in prospect.

### Brioni – Maybach, 3:2

So it proved. Game one showcased the tournament's two unchanged sides from last year, Brioni and Maybach - the winners of the final and the subsidiary final in 2008 respectively. Despite their comparative youth, defending Champions Brioni have seven winners medals between them and, even without playing well, they once again displayed their resilient nature as they ground out what at times looked like an unlikely victory against a rapidly greying Maybach side.

The game was played fairly and in a good spirit but began mainly as a see-sawing battle for possession in midfield. The swelling sun-drenched Thursday crowd didn't see any goals until the third chukka, when Ignacio Tillous made up for the poor finishing thus far with the goal of the day, an offside backhand through a crowd of players from fully 40 yards out. "Arriba!" Their supporters enjoyed that one, and so did he, celebrating wildly. "It was a long way out but you never know on the snow, so I just hit it," Tillous explained afterwards. His joy was short-lived as Johnny Good fired home an equaliser late in the chukka. The sides exchanged two more goals - through Pablo Jauretche for Maybach and Nacho Gonzalez for Brioni - to make it 2-2 going into the final period. The teams couldn't be separated at full-time, as Pablo Jauretche took a nasty fall, so the game went into a sudden-death extra chukka, in which Johnny Good became the hero after two minutes when he struck home the winner, 3-2.

### Bank Julius Baer – Cartier, 6:4

The second game brought five Cartier World Polo Cup on Snow debutants to the lake, and so picking the winner of this one would surely be anyone's guess. With 10-goal recent Argentine Open champion, Pablo MacDonough, Julius Baer certainly looked like they had potential, but including three players who have never played here before was undoubtedly something of a risk.

Team Cartier meanwhile this year features far and away the tournament's two most successful players: Adriano Agosti and Alejandro 'Piki' Diaz Alberdi - each of whom has already won the World Cup on Snow on six occasions. Joined by Gaston Lauhlé and Australian captain, Glen Gilmore, they looked the likely victors. However, Julius Baer's George Milford Haven and young Richard Le Poer were the surprising stars of this, their opening encounter. Both were heavily involved and Pablo MacDonough certainly seemed to adapt to playing on the snow much more effectively than last year's first ever 10-goaler, Lolo Castagnola. As such, Julius Baer matched Cartier's superior experience in the first three chukkas, before pushing on in the fourth and putting together some good team combinations to win it convincingly in the end, 6-4.

**Thursday, 29 January 2009: 1st qualifying round**

**Dr. Berry Memorial Trophy**

**Brioni - Maybach, 3:2 (0:0, 0:0, 1:1, 1:1, 1:0)**

Brioni: Guy Schwarzenbach, AU/CH; Nacho Gonzalez, UK (1 Goal); John Paul Clarkin, NZ; Johnny Good, UK (2 Goals)

Maybach: Philipp Maeder, CH; Federico Bachmann, AR; Pablo Jauretche, AR (1 Goal); Ignacio Tillous, AR (1 Goal)

Best Player: Ignacio Tillous

Best Pony: Tequilla

**Niarchos Trophy**

**Bank Julius Baer - Cartier, 6:4 (1:1, 2:1, 1:2, 2:0)**

Bank Julius Baer: Richard Le Poer, UK (2 Goals); José Donoso, CL (3 Goals); Pablo MacDonough, AR; George Milford Haven, UK (1 Goal)

Cartier: Adriano Agosti, CH (1 Goal); Gaston Laulhé, AR (1 Goal); Alejandro Diaz Alberdi, AR (1 Goal); Glen Gilmore, AU (1 Goal);

Best Player: George Milford Haven

Best Pony: Kappy