



Lawrence Geung: “Horses are the ultimate comrades”

A horse saved his father's life, so it is no wonder that he is so fond of this noble creature. Lawrence Geung is forever thankful to horses and loves them back. He turned his passion towards the sport of polo, although his roots have little to do with kings or monarchy.

Lawrence Geung is from Hong Kong and he is of Chinese heritage. His grandfather died when his father was three years old. Before the age of ten, during the Japanese invasion, he was sold to replace somebody else's son in the army. After escaping from Japanese captivity he, like many Chinese people, ended up following one of the many long marches. One Chinese officer on horseback took pity on him because he was so small, picked him up, and they rode together for a long part of the journey. “Therefore, I am always thankful for that and have been aware of the significant role of horses,” Mr. Geung said.

“What I like the most about polo are the horses. They are magnificent animals and I have learnt to communicate with them. I am trying to see things from their perspective,” said Lawrence Geung, now a patron in England. “Having a connection with your horses is wonderful, and even better when combined with the speed, skill and rules required in order to play in a team. One has to trust horses and give them the greatest of respects. Therefore, their welfare is of my utmost concern. Polo is unlike any other competitive sport as you need specific skills: commitment, fitness both physically and mentally, team spirit - all together with horses who are the ultimate comrades.”

LAWRENCE GUNG

Joerg Pyta





HONG KONG/ CHINA





“My dream is to make a mark as a Chinese player”

📷 Joerg Pyta



-How did your relationship with polo start?

"I was born in Hong Kong and at the age of 14 was sent to the UK to attend boarding school, followed by university. After moving out of London to Surrey, the opportunity presented itself to realise my childhood dream of riding horses. After a few conventional riding lessons at a local stable, my - very petite - riding instructor, an ex-jockey, told me that she thought this was not for me and that I should try polo. With no previous connection to this particular equestrian hobby, I took a one-day introduction course in 2012 at Ascot Park and joined Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club the same year. I have also had training in Argentina. I have not looked back since and am totally hooked on the sport. " ▶▶







-Where and with whom have you taken lessons in Argentina?

"I played at the Pilará Country Club near Buenos Aires, where I was trained by Carlos Pando. I have only played club chukkas. Most team members were high-goal players, I even played with one of the Argentine female ten-goalers. My first two ponies are from there too."

-Who have you played with?

"There are so many I have had the pleasure of playing with, but, to name just a few: Carlos Pando, Philip Elliott, Patrick Furlong, Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur, Antonio Menard, Jamie Morrison, Roddy William." ▶▶





-Who taught you the most?

"Philip Elliott, who has also played with Prince Charles by the way. Philip also manages my string of ponies."

-Where do you enjoy playing the most?

"Argentina. Wonderful fields, grass and horses. I've also played in China, Singapore and India, apart from the UK."

-What other hobbies do you have?

"Skiing, classic cars, vintage HiFi systems, painting, golf, going to the theater."

-What other businesses do you run?

"My main business is data integration within IT, but also classic car and property investments. My passion for cars in general stems yet again from my father. He was one of the earliest street racers at the end of 1950s or early 60s in Hong Kong. What started with a passion of mine gave me the excuse to continue it as a business in which I share my enthusiasm for beautiful classic, sometimes exotic, cars with investors."

-What does polo mean to you?

"Respecting horses in their capacity of herd animals, friendships, lifestyle, discipline coupled with freedom."

-What dreams do you hope to achieve in polo?

"To become at least a two-goaler and to make a mark as a Chinese player." ■

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