

PIPA Beach Polo ProAm European Championship presented by A. Quechua and Jacques Lemans

The European Beach Polo title goes to Switzerland

The unique setting of the arena located on the beautiful beach of Lignano Sabbiadoro provided the perfect backdrop for a breathtaking European Championship weekend. All the effort of the organizers under the direction of Dr. Uwe Seebacher (PIPA World President) ensured a successful start for this event.





Photos: © Kevin Kuehnl

On Friday afternoon the opening chukkers were played and drew a large crowd of unexpected beach-goers. The beautiful Polo Ponies quickly became the crowd's favourites. Little did the spectators know what they were about to witness. The opening game between Swiss I [Matteo Beffa (0) and Emanuel Grauwiler (-1)] against Italy with Eduardo Giovanetti (-1) and Giuseppe Baldarini (-1) very soon showed the outstanding form of the later tournament winner.

By Gianmarco Merlini

On Saturday Team Austria [Dr. Uwe Seebacher (+2), Nikolaus Lasser (-1)] beat Team Swiss II [Janik Örtli (-1) and Reto Lendemann (0)] in a fast paced match. Eugenio Arburo was the official PIPA umpire who did an outstanding job to ensure fast, fair and attractive chukkers.

On Sunday the finals were played in front of an incredible scenery and a full arena, which Beach Polo has never seen in the world before. The small final was played between Italy and Austria ending 12:4 for Austria. The big final was won by Team Swiss I 10:8 and therefore Swiss I is the official PIPA Beach Polo ProAm European Champion 2013.



All in all the event was first class, the audience fascinated and wanting more, the community eager to start preparations for next year's event. Vico Meroi, Vice Major of Lignano Sabbiadoro: "We intend to have the 2014 event at the end of August with the games played in the evenings!" Matteo Beffa, Technical Director and PIPA Swiss President: "Beach Polo has been played at many locations worldwide but never before in an arena on a beach plus sand as fast and well prepared like here!" Dr. Uwe Seebacher adds: "Due to this overwhelming positive response of host town, audience and players, we are definitely working on expanding the PIPA Beach Polo ProAm Tour evaluating potential locations!" More infos at www.pipa.com and www.beach-polo.org