

GRAHAM BUDD AUCTIONS TO HOLD ONLINE AUCTION DEVOTED TO POLO TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST POLO MATCH IN ENGLAND



Winston Churchill playing in a match on behalf of the House of Commons Est: £150-200

Graham Budd Auctions, the leading sports memorabilia auctioneer in the U.K., will be holding a unique auction devoted to all aspects of Polo to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the first Polo game played in England. The timed internet auction (on the-saleroom.com) will take place in the middle of the UK Polo season between Saturday, June 29, and ending on the evening of Monday, July 15, 2019. Entries for the auction will be accepted until May 31, 2019.



Four original black & white press photographs featuring the Royal Family Est: £120-180

From photographs of famous faces such as **HM The Queen** and **Prince Charles** to **Winston Churchill** playing in a match on behalf of the House of Commons through to illustrations by **E.H. Shepard** (of Winnie-the-Pooh fame) and even rare books from a **Walt Disney** Cartoon of 1936 titled "Mickey's Polo Team", the sale includes a wide range of items – all with links to, or depicting Polo. The auction comprises more than 200 lots.

Many of the items are from the collections of Nigel A'Brassard – a well known figure, historian and player within the Polo world and Iain Brunt, who worked for one of the greatest art dealers in the world in the 20th century and helped form many private art collections. He also worked with *Les Diables Bleus* who

have won many tournaments globally – with their most famous player being HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and now owns and runs one of Europe's largest antiques and art internet sites Iain founded one of Europe's largest Website for antiques and art www.antiques.co.uk.



An original pen & ink cartoon by Ernest Howard Shepard, Est: £800-1,200

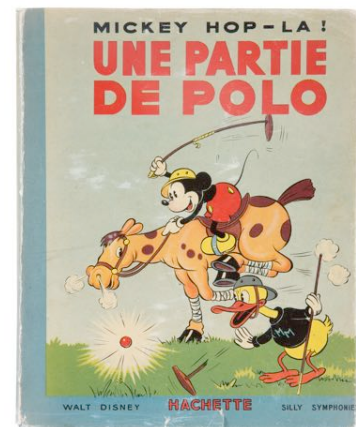
Expert in Charge, Graham Budd, said: "Graham Budd Auctions is pleased to be putting together a special auction commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Polo game to be played in England. As a Sports Memorabilia Auctioneer, it is always satisfying to be able to contribute to such an event, as was the case in 2012 when we held an auction of Olympic memorabilia ahead of the opening ceremony in London, this sparked many a new found interest in collecting! We hope and anticipate that this will

be emulated by Polo enthusiasts who will have an opportunity to acquire pieces at the auction from an unprecedented array of polo art, trophies, memorabilia, books & ephemera."

Nigel A'Brassard commented: "Polo was first played in England after Cornet Edward 'Chicken' Hartopp had read a letter in *The Field* dated 20th March 1869 in which a correspondent "N. S. S." wrote about a game that had been played by Europeans in India for some years and which he suggested might be introduced to England. After reading the letter, Hartopp and some of his chums decided to give the game a go. Mounted on cavalry chargers and using walking sticks and a cricket ball they played the new game on land by Caesar's Camp in Aldershot."

He continued: "We are delighted to be supporting the Polo community in the sesquicentennial year of the game first being played in this country and the proceeds from some of the items in the sale are being donated to Polo Clubs and their chosen charities around the world."

Among the highlights of the sale is a an original pen & ink cartoon by Ernest Howard Shepard (1879-1976) for *Punch* magazine in 1921 featuring a scene humorously suggesting that the Ashes cricket Test Match at Lord's and the Westchester Cup polo match at Hurlingham might be played simultaneously for the convenience of American visitors to the London sporting summer season. E.H. Shepard is most famous for his anthropomorphic animal characters in A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind In The Willows*. The cartoon is expected to fetch £800-1,200.



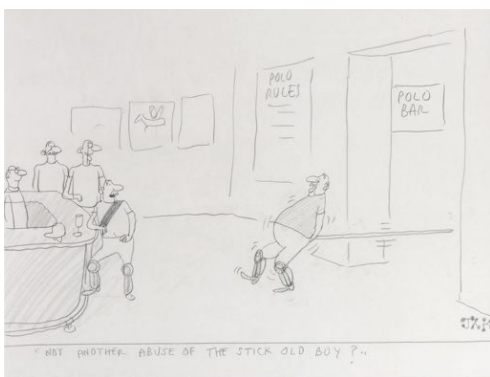
A scarce children's book in French *Mickey Hop-La! Une Partie de Polo* Est: £600-800.

A set of four original black and white press photographs featuring the Royal Family and polo are also to be included, among them: Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII, the Duke of Windsor), 1924; HM The Queen and Princess Anne at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, 1955 and Prince Charles receiving his first polo lesson at Windsor aged 13 in 1962 – they are estimated at £120-180 [See *illustration on page 1*].

A limited edition facsimile letter from Winston Churchill to Sir Algernon West, dating from 18th February 1898 of polo interest will be sold together with an original black and white photograph portraying Winston Churchill dressed for polo in the kit of the House of Commons team at Ranelagh on 18th July 1925, which is expected to fetch £150-200 [See *illustration on page 1*].

A scarce children's book in French *Mickey Hop-La! Une Partie de Polo*, with three wonderful pop-up illustrations is estimated at £600-800. "Mickey's Polo Team" was a short animated film with an 8 minutes running time produced by Walt Disney in 1936. The cartoon features a game of polo played between four Disney characters, led by Mickey Mouse with Goofy, Big Bad Wolf & Donald Duck; and four cartoon versions of real-life movie stars Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Harpo Marx & Charlie Chaplin. The film was inspired by Walt Disney's personal love of the game of polo, however a fall in a polo match left him with four shattered vertebrae that would prove a health issue for the rest of his life. [See illustration on page 2].

Also of note is an important early international polo tournament gold winner's medal awarded by the Argentine Polo Association for the River Plate Open Championship played at Hurlingham in 1907 and won by Western Polo Club, which is estimated at £1,000-1,500. This medal has thrown up several questions about the results of an important Polo match in Argentina at the start of the 20th century. As engraved on the 1907 medal the tournament was won by the team from Western Polo Club made up of John Argentine Campbell, Richard Leared, Henry Howard Drysdale and Stanley Mallet. For some reason the Argentine Association of Polo records and apparently the engraving on the trophy itself show the team as Western Camps and with the name of Eduardo Lucero rather than Mallet as the fourth member of the team. Western Polo Club beat Gee-Bungs by 8 goals to 3, to win the championship. The current vendor contacted Dr. Horace Laffaye, the world's pre-eminent polo historian, and asked if he could throw any light on this discrepancy. Within days, Horace had checked the newspaper *The Standard* of 16th September 1907 and discovered that it was Stanley Mallet that had played as the No. 3 of Western and had scored four goals. So a mystery has been solved and the name of Stanley Mallet is added to the list of those players that have won the Argentine Open - the world's most prestigious polo tournament.



Among the items being sold for charity is an original JAK [Raymond Jackson, 1927-1997] cartoon artwork featuring a humorous scene in the bar of the Guards Polo Club, signed JAK, titled "NOT ANOTHER ABUSE OF THE STICK OLD BOY?". Jak was one of the best-known British newspaper cartoonists who mostly worked for the *London Evening Standard* and this cartoon is estimated at £100-150. At the request of the Guards Polo Club, the sale proceeds from this lot will be donated to the charity Polo Pastures, a not for profit organisation for the re-homing of polo ponies.

A photogravure commemorating *Cirencester Polo Club's victory in the County Cup season 1911* carries an estimate of £200-300 and at the request of Cirencester Park Polo Club, the proceeds will be donated to a charity of their choice.





The proceeds from a painting of the 1974 *Gold Cup Final at Cowdray* won by Lord Vestey's *Stowell Park* team will be given to Cowdray Park Polo Club, who are donating the sale proceeds to their chosen charity, which is St Wilfrid's Hospice. It is estimated at £250-230.

The sale proceeds of a watercolour by Carruthers of the 1936 *Westchester Cup*, estimated at £500-700 will be given by the United States Polo Association to the American International Polo Federation.



And the Hurlingham Polo Association have chosen the Polo Charity to receive the proceeds from the sale of the first book published on the game of polo: Captain George John Younghusband's *Polo in India*, which carries an estimate of £300-400. Sir George John Younghusband, KCMG, KCIE, CB (9 July 1859 – 30 September 1944) was a cavalry officer and major-general in the British Indian Army and served in several conflicts with the Guides Cavalry before being forced to retire due to wounds received on the battlefield in the First World War in 1917. In later life King George V appointed Younghusband as the Keeper of the Jewel House at the Tower of London, a post he retained until his death.

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For further information on the auction, please contact Graham Budd Auctions Ltd tel: 020 8366 2525 or 07974 113394 or visit www.grahambuddauctions.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Graham Budd Auctions Ltd holds two auctions a year at Sotheby's New Bond Street Saleroom. Graham Budd, the company's founder, gained 25 years experience in the auction business working for Sotheby's, where he was a Deputy Director and Head of Sporting Memorabilia. High profile Sotheby's auctions that Graham curated include the sale of the Lester Piggott collection, and the auction for the late Sir Stanley Matthews. However since starting Graham Budd Auctions, he has sold a 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games Bearer's Torch for £420,000 – which was a World Record price for an Olympic Torch; The Ascot Racecourse entranceway to the winner's enclosure for £280,000 and Sir Stanley Matthew's 1953 FA Cup Winner's Medal for £220,000 – which was a new world record auction price for a Football medal.

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A leaded and stained glass window panel featuring two polo players. British, 20th century
Est: £1,000-1,500



A fine polo trophy for The Pringle Challenge Shield competed for between 1922 and 1939 at the Goriajan Club on the Koomtai Tea Estate, Assam, India
Est: £600-800



A polo pin badge featuring H.R.H. Prince Charles The Prince of Wales
Est: £100-150