



RAIN CAN'T DIM POLO CLASSIC WEEKEND

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London is famous for dark skies and damp weather, so it was only appropriate that the annual Denver Polo Classic's British-themed weekend had a soggy start.

The 14th Annual Denver Polo Classic weekend at the Polo Reserve at Columbine Country Club began with an elegant black-tie masquerade ball under a big tent following a horrific thunderstorm with hail. The wet weather rolled in and out during the series of polo matches that packed in the crowds all weekend.

Hundreds of guests showed up at the ball to enjoy the spirited live auction led by auctioneer Gary Corbett, fine cuisine from Paul's Gourmet Catering and musical entertainment from Crash Landing.

Polo announcer Robert Kiger from the Colorado Polo Club and anchorwoman Tamara Banks from KWGN-Channel 2 welcomed to the polo finals more than 1,000 guests who practiced proper polo etiquette, sipping mimosas and stomping the divots between chukkers.

The organization that pulls the polo bash together features members of the Active 20-30 Foundation in Denver, a group of young professional men who raise funds for local children's charities. Members included Denver Polo Classic Chairman Craig Mills; Active 20-30 President Mark Osborne; President-elect Paul Wiesner; ball Chairman Scott Smeester; auction Chairman Mark Herzfeld; Bruce Kabat; Pat Callahan; Bill Young; Mark Bosley; Brian Whitford; Jordon Levine; Mark Day; Doug Smooke; Bob Trigg; Marc Bradac; and Reed Hoffman.

Representatives of many of the weekend's sponsors also were on hand, including David Puchi from Highline Acquisitions Group, which sponsored the ball, and his wife, Sandra; Nick DeMarco from British Airways, which sponsored the polo matches; US Bank's state president Dennis Orcutt and his wife, Michelle; KWGN Vice President and General Manager Derek Dalton and his wife, Karen; Marcel Taylor from Ruth's Chris Steak House; Arlyce Lewis from Storage Tek; Zafar Brooks and James Cook from Rocky Mountain Lincoln Mercury Dealers; Frances Koncilja from Koncilja and Associates; Nancy Willerton from University Hills Animal Hospital; and Michael Eve and polo player Matthew Shaffer from Aetna USHealthcare.

Additional sponsors were Hops Restaurant, Korbel Champagne, All-Ways Valet & Limousine, Wagner Equipment, Winfield Allen, Bedford Property Investors, Design Works, The Gray Group, Great Frame Up, Holme Roberts & Owen, Icicles Eyewear, KB Home, Shaw Construction, Sports Marketing Intl., TimberLAN, UMB Bank and Voyant Technologies.

Revelers seen milling about at the ball and the polo matches included Polo Reserve developer Kip Fuller; Sidelines polo magazine publisher Samantha Charles; Raz Gnat and Rachel Henning; Ryan and Kimber Charp; Sandee Weeks and Aaron LaPedis; and polo players from the winning team, Team Lincoln: Jeff Mero, Emiliano Blanco, Brad Brown and Molly Baldrige.

Proceeds from the weekend affair benefit four Denver Active 20-30 Foundation charities: Denver Kids Inc., I Have a Dream Foundation, Tennyson Center / Colorado Christian Home and the Emily Griffith Center.