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# III FIP LADIES EUROPEAN POLO CHAMPIONSHIP



Press Release #2 – 27/9/2021

## INVINCIBLE ITALY WINS LADIES' EUROPEAN POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

A fantastic Italian team triumphed in the final of the third edition of the **U.S. Polo Assn. FIP Ladies European Polo Championship**, at the Polo Club La Mimosa in Pogliano Milanese (Italy). The **Italians beat England 6.5-6**, therefore also thanks to a 0.5 handicap advantage. In the final for third and fourth positions it was **Ireland** that beat **Germany 5-3** in a **penalty** shootout after the match had been cancelled due to bad conditions following heavy rain that this morning obliged the Organising Committee to postpone the match for first and second place by an hour from 9 to 10 AM. England's **Heloise Wilson Smith** won the prize for the **best player** in the championship.



For Italy this was the **second European gold medal** after winning the first edition in Chantilly in 2017 (winning silver in 2019 at Villa a Sesta, beaten by Germany in the final).

The Italian Ladies' success **follows** by just a week the Italian Men's Team win at the European Champions in **Sotogrande, Spain**.

### ITALY-ENGLAND 6.5-6

It was a very exciting final played on a field that held up in spite of the heavy rain that fell at La Mimosa earlier in the morning. **England** needed to come back after started off half a goal down and began strongly with **Heloise Wilson Smith** brilliantly exploiting a defensive indecision by the **Italians** early on in the game.

The host team reacted quickly, in particular with **Camila Rossi** scoring from 40 yards after a penalty and ending the first chukka 1-1. The English took the lead in the second chukka in which goals were scored first by **Emma Tomlinson Wood**, from 40 yards and then by **Millie Hughes**, who close to the goal posts managed to score off an amazing backhand played by **Wilson Smith**. In this fast-changing scenario Italy came back to 3-3 with two goals by **Rossi**, but it was England who was in the lead at the end of the fourth chukka on 4-3, following a penalty that **Wood** put through the goal posts. The Italians played a real leading role in a fifth chukka that will be remembered, with three goals scored by **Rossi** and the other rider of Italian origin **Maitana Marré**. England reacted strongly back at 6-4 for Italy scoring two more goals thanks to **Wilson Smith** and **Hughes**, but on 6-6 the team coached by **Franco Piazza** controlled their opponents last ditch attempts and **won 6.5-6** thanks to handicapping.



*"It has been a difficult week due to Costanza Marchiorello's injury in the first match against England – said veteran player **Ginevra Visconti**, who had contributed to winning the gold medal in 2017 in Chantilly as well as silver in 2018 at Villa a Sesta – The girls however were all brilliant, from Camila Rossi to Alice Coria and Maitana Marré, and winning rewarded us for all the problems we have had to overcome. Obviously this win is dedicated to Costanza Marchiorello, who watched all the marches live from the clinic in which she is hospitalised after breaking her left malleolus."*

**Alessandro Giachetti** is responsible for the Italian Equestrian Sports Federation's Polo Department: *"These have been two rather intense weeks for us and we are immensely satisfied to have managed to win both European titles first with the Men's Team and then with the Ladies. It sends an important signal for Italian polo, an additional stimulus to continue to work well especially with the young so as to ensure this sport becomes more popular."*

The federation's coach **Franco Piazza** who also coached the Ladies after winning gold with the Men's Team in Spain said, *"These have been two difficult wins, especially for the Ladies after Marchiorello was injured. But they all played brilliantly especially in the final against England."*

**IRELAND-GERMANY 5-3** The bronze medal was assigned resorting to a penalty shootout with two series of three shots. **Ireland** entrusted the job to **Ina Llor**, **Siobhan Herbst** and **April Kent**, brilliant in avoiding any mistakes. **Germany** instead fielded **Eva Bruhl**, **Hana Grill** and **Marie Haupt**, getting off to a bad start with a miss by Bruhl and then surrendering when Grill too missed.



## RESULTS

### Sunday, September 26th

Final 1st-2nd place Italy – England 6.5-6

Final 3rd-4th place Ireland - Germany 5-3

### Saturday September 25th

Italy - Ireland 5-4

England - Germany 4-2

### Thursday September 23rd

England - Italy 6-5.5

Germany - Ireland 6-5.5

### Wednesday September 22nd

Italy -Germany 6.5-6

Ireland – England 7.5-3

## HALL OF FAME

The championship played at La Mimosa Polo Club was the **third edition** of the FIP Ladies European Polo Championship. The first was played in 2017 in **Chantilly** (France) and won by **Italy** with a team that beat **France** 5-3 in the final. The second edition was played in 2018 at **Villa a Sesta** (Italy) with **Germany** taking gold beating **Italy** 9-4.5. The only team to have played in all three finals, **Italy** is now the only team to have **won twice** thanks to its success in this Championship in Italy.

News Equi-Equipe / Photo credits Fabio Petroni

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## Who is Who U.S. Polo Assn. - FIP Ladies European Polo Championship 2021

**Stefania Annunziata** – OC President

**Alessandro Giachetti** – Responsible of the Polo FISE Department

**Domitilla Lenzi** - Project Manager

**Federation of International Polo FIP** – FIP founded in 1982 with headquarters in Buenos Aires, promotes the organisation and dissemination of polo in the world. Through the work done by national federations, it ensures that rules are respected in all countries in which polo is played, it organises official events such as the European and World Championships as well as sponsoring courses and clinics to encourage the young to approach this sport in a spirit of sporting honesty, friendship, safety and fair play.

**Italian Federation Equestrian Sports FISE** - FISE founded in 1926, recognised by the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) and a member of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) as well as the FIP, is responsible for all equestrian sports, including training and competitions as well as recreational and educational activities. As the most ancient equestrian sport, polo is part of this vast range of activities. The Polo Department was founded in 2005.

**Mimosa Polo Club ASD** - Set in a natural oasis and surrounded by enchanting green areas, the Mimosa Polo Club ASD welcomes its guests to Pogliano Milanese, a small town close to the centre of Milan. The club provides stabling for about 80 horses with two wonderful regulation size polo fields, a sand track, a field used for arena polo, a magnificent park for hacking and a club house for its members. The club has an active polo school run by a qualified instructor so as to start the young off in this wonderful sport, all thanks to the passion experienced by its president Stefania Annunziata, daughter of the immensely famous polo player Horacio Annunziata, a legend and a pioneer for polo in Italy.

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