

Out & about

The AIRMILES Polo Challenge, Sussex Polo Club Execs fly high in Sussex club class

As a thank you to some of its most loyal members and to celebrate its 20th anniversary, AIRMILES swapped its everyday rewards business of free flights and holidays for the game of polo at the finals of the inaugural AIRMILES Polo Challenge Trophy on Sunday, 8 June.

Over 800 picnicking AIRMILES members witnessed an exhilarating afternoon of nail-biting polo as WRP Executive won the overall tournament in a flowing final against Los Diablos, securing the Polo Challenge Trophy and the grand prize of 100,000 airmiles, 6-4.

The WRP Executive team also won the sportsmanship award and were awarded their honours by Andrew Swaffield, managing director of AIRMILES, who played for one of the AIRMILES teams in the other tier of the tournament and for whom polo is a great passion: "The sport is the greatest combination of excitement, strategy and camaraderie," he said. "Thank you to all our members, their friends and family who came along and made the day so special."



Andrew Swaffield presents winners, WRP Executive, with their 100,000 airmiles



The specially-commissioned AIRMILES Challenge Trophy, by sculptress Susanne Wiggins



WRP Executive takes on Los Diablos against the boards



Victoria Norris



Neil Beckley, patron of WRP Executive, relaxes with a glass of Champagne Jacquart



Action from the lower tier of the AIRMILES Polo Challenge Trophy on Sussex's main ground



AIRMILES members enjoying the hospitality and sunshine



Doug Ross, of Square Peg polo team (in white), challenges Andrew Swaffield



AIRMILES (l-r): Patricio Furlong; Andrew Swaffield; Chon Donnelly; Anita Dennington



Left: Patricio 'Pato' Furlong of the AIRMILES team
Above: Tony Keyte discusses play with Arthur Douglas-Nugent



Sussex Polo and Amicus shared the spoils in the fifth chukka of the the -2 goal section



Stuart Frift, of the Square Peg team



AIRMILES heads to goal against AC Polo



Neil Beckley, patron of winning team, WRP Executive, holds up the AIRMILES Challenge Trophy



Andrew Swaffield, managing director of AIRMILES and patron of the AIRMILES team



Staff of 'Picnic Anywhere' serve AIRMILES members their complimentary organic picnics

Photographs by Alice Gippis, Jane Matthews and Visual Chaos