

Jakarta, Indonesia ●

Indonesian Polo

discovers the Australian Stock Horse

Three Australian Stock Horse geldings from Bar Nine Dot Sporting Horses have been strutting their stuff on the polo fields of Jakarta, Indonesia for the last 18 months, and proving once again that our breed can excel at any sport, in any country.

Bar Nine Dot Sporting Horses is a family owned and operated stud at "Glenaladale", near Quirindi, New South Wales. The partnership consists of Robert and Jane Doolin along with their eldest daughter, Rebecca and son-in-law, James Hockey.

The Doolin family have been breeding and training sporting and working horses since the early 1920s. Robert's father, A.R (Dick) Doolin, along with Dick's brothers, Jack, Harold and Victor, were avid campdrafters and Bushmen's Carnival enthusiasts. Later they were introduced to the sport of polo, which would go on to become the family's addiction.

Robert and Jane Doolin have selectively purchased and bred from their top playing polo mares over many years. All of their

current broodmares have played in polo up to 16 goals, with some having played in International Test Matches and the 2001 World Cup held in Melbourne, Victoria.

In February 2011, Mr Rajiv Louis of Jakarta, Indonesia contacted Bar Nine Dot Sporting Horses, enquiring about "ready and made" polo ponies. Rajiv planned to start his own personal string of ponies at his local Nusantara Polo Club, a premier equestrian facility located just 30 minutes drive from Jakarta's Central Business District.

Modern polo was first played in Indonesia in the 1930s, mostly by Dutch Nationals, but was then largely forgotten. The sport was revived in the early 1990s by local Indonesian businessmen, and in 2002 the Nusantara Polo Club was established. Polo continues to grow in popularity in South East

Asia, and in 2007 polo was included in the South East Asian Games for the first time.

Rajiv flew to Sydney to trial a selection of horses from the Bar Nine Dot stud, including three young geldings—BARNINEDOT SAVVY, BARNINEDOT BOWIE and BARNINEDOT BOAG—that had already played several seasons of polo.

Rebecca Hockey of Bar Nine Dot Sporting Horses says the stud prides itself on matching horse and rider capabilities, and won't sell horses unless they are 100% certain of a compatible partnership. 'We were mindful of Rajiv's horse and polo experience, both of which were reasonably new but growing,' she said.

'We selected the horses we considered the most capable of keeping a cool head, but still with a



natural talent and enjoyment of the game, so that Rajiv and the horses would grow and improve together.'

The three geldings are by Bar Nine Dot's resident sire, NABINABAH ROCKAFELLA – HSH, and out of three of Robert Doolin's retired polo pony mares—BARNINEDOT SERENITY, BARNINEDOT BUBBLES and BARNINEDOT BRINKLEY. All three mares are by WALLARO I SMOKEY PADRE, himself bred from one of stud's best polo mares, WALLARO I PEPI, and by the Thoroughbred stallion Smokey Saint.

BARNINEDOT SAVVY, BARNINEDOT BOWIE and BARNINEDOT BOAG all started their young horse chukkas at the Quirindi



Above: Nusantara Polo Club is a premiere polo and riding facility located just 30 minutes drive from Jakarta's Central Business District. Right: Dick Doolin on BARNINEDOT BOWIE playing in Quirindi, New South Wales in 2010.



Ron Bell on Black Bess and A.R (Dick) Doolin on WALLAROI SUNSHINE in 1966 Queensland Gold Cup Final. These two mares are the foundations of two of the most prominent bloodlines in the current Bar Nine Dot herd.

Generations of Talent

The Doolin Family and Bar Nine Dot Sporting Horses

Dick Doolin and his wife Beryl were instrumental in establishing the two most predominant bloodlines in the current Bar Nine Dot herd: the S-Family and the B-Family. Today, Robert and James play many Bar Nine Dot polo ponies that are up to fifth generation polo ponies through these two family lines.

The S-Family originated from the striking chestnut thoroughbred mare WALLAROI SUNSHINE, that Dick imported from New Zealand after touring the polo circuit over there. She quickly became known in Australia as a big, powerful but easy mare, who was simply hard to beat in any sort of game.

The B-Family was founded by a little and incredibly talented mare called Black Bess, by the stallion Bridge of Oz, with bloodlines of Phalaris and Gainsborough. Black Bess was owned by Ron Bell but later attained for playing and stud purposes by Dick and Beryl.

Later generations of the Doolin family have carried on the breeding programme along proven polo lines. Robert and Jane Doolin were repeat buyers of Nabinabah bred horses over the years, so they jumped at the chance to buy NABINABAH ROCKAFELLA – HSH (NABINABAH CHALLENGER – HSH/NABINABAH SHADOW – HSH) as an unbroken two year old. Now 16 years old, the stallion has 31 Bar Nine Dot progeny in the Stud Book.

In 2011, the Bar Nine Dot stud purchased colt HAYDON ZANE – HSH (TECHRICO/HAYDON MOONSTRUCK – HSH) from Peter and Ali Haydon, and the colt has been put over the daughters of NABINABAH ROCKAFELLA – HSH, to further enhance their breeding programme.

‘We believe his style and conformation and also his particular thoroughbred bloodlines of Zabeel, Vaindarra and HAYDON DRAWN will complement our heritage Australian Stock Horse bloodlines to take our polo ponies forward,’ Rebecca Hockey said.

The three geldings exported to Indonesia trace back to these two prominent families. Of the S-Family, BARNINEDOT SAVVY is a great grandson of WALLAROI SUNSHINE. Both of the B-Family, BARNINEDOT BOAG and BARNINEDOT BOWIE are out of full sisters and are great-grandsons of Black Bess. 🌟

Polo fields under Robert Doolin and James Hockey, and then played a couple of spring polo seasons on the northern New South Wales circuit. Both Bowie and Savvy were also played by Robert’s nephew, professional player Richard (Dick) Doolin.

New owner, Rajiv Louis, says he is delighted with the progress of his Bar Nine Dot geldings over the last 18 months. ‘They have adapted well to the climate and are also performing well on the polo field,’ Rajiv said. ‘As with any animal, they needed time to acclimatise; they took about 3-6 months to come about into good playing condition. Savvy and Bowie shed their Australian winter coat and became conditioned rather quickly, however Boag retained a thicker coat.’

Indonesia’s tropical climate—Jakarta is only 370km from the Equator—can be an issue for some horses in the very physical game of polo, but Rajiv has taken great care to ensure the horses are comfortable in their new environment. ‘Jakarta is essentially warm and humid throughout the year. From time to time Boag would be prone to bouts of heavy breathing, typically during the hottest months and if he’s had a particularly strong workout. As a result I’m more careful with Boag’s program,’ Rajiv said.

‘I would do the same with any other horse I own, as each is different and requires different handling. Boag’s condition is improving with time as he continues to shed further coat and further acclimatise. Other than that, the boys took to Indonesia in great form and I have not had any unusual issues with them.’

Rajiv is full of praise for the performance of his Australian Stock Horses on the polo field. ‘The Australian Stock Horses are big and powerful and handle the strain and stamina of the game

‘The Australian Stock Horses are big and powerful and handle the strain and stamina of the game very well in Indonesia...’



BARNINEDOT BOAG gets a quick gear adjustment before heading on to the field at Nusantara Polo Club in Jakarta, Indonesia



Above: James Hockey playing BARNINEDOT SAVVY at Scone, New South Wales in 2010. Left: BARNINEDOT SAVVY having a washdown at the stables of Nusantara Polo Club in Jakarta, Indonesia.



very well in Indonesia, in comparison to the smaller Argentinean Polo Ponies that are more commonly used in Indonesia and across Asia,’ he said.

‘Due to their larger size they are a tad less agile than the Argentinean ponies we have at Nusantara Polo Club, but what they give up in agility they make up for in strength (great at riding off) and stability of play. In saying that, we are further training and working on the boys and Boag has already come up to speed with the opposition’s Argentinean ponies.’

Rajiv has also found a use for his Australian Stock Horse geldings away from the polo field. ‘My three Bar Nine Dot Australian Stock Horses can be used for trail riding and general horse riding. I also have a locally bred thoroughbred horse which I’ve converted to polo. However, he remains strictly a polo pony and much too temperamental for other purposes,’ Rajiv said.

‘I would definitely recommend the Australian Stock Horses to the playing public in Asia in general. Goodness knows it’s a lot better than having to go over to Argentina to bring the horses over from the other side of the planet,’ Rajiv said.

‘My experience with the Bar Nine Dot stables was absolutely wonderful and I would highly recommend them to anyone. Rebecca was particularly helpful during the first six months of their transition to Jakarta, and the entire process of documentation and shipping was flawless.’

Quality and natural talent speaks for itself, in every language. With a continued focus on producing quality horses, and being open to export opportunities whenever they present themselves, Australian Stock Horse breeders can mix it with the best in any equestrian discipline, anywhere in the world. 🌟

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