

# Polo Ponies - Ninety Percent of the Game



## Laoche

15 hh 14 year old bay mare from New Zealand. She was bought from David Morley in 1998.

## Azafata

15.1 hh 6 year old bay mare. New from Argentina but Lolo played her in America this year. The American patron lent her to him to play here. She will go back to America.

The ponies are photographed with Bartolome

## Bartolome Castagnola

talks about Azafata and Laocha to Alice Gipps and Sarah Wiseman

### Have they ever won best playing pony?

No they haven't.

### Do you school them yourself?

I have people to school them but I play practice chukkas.

### How do these two ponies stand out from the rest of your string?

I have a very good string but these two are my favourites. I always play them in the first and second chukka and if the game is close then I'll double them. I have confidence in these two horses.

### Do you prefer a particular breed or build of pony?

No, I like the good ones I don't care where they're from!

### So what do you look for in a horse?

I don't choose a horse by its looks, I have to try them. In order to play at this level they have to be tough and do what you want of them on the field. They have to be good.

### How do these two compare to your ponies in Argentina?

The best horse I have ever played was here but that's finished now and has gone back to Argentina for embryo

transfer. I've never ridden another horse like that one. She's played the Open and everywhere.

There's a black mare in Argentina which is also very good called Jumping which is one of my favourites. She's so nice.

### Which horses do you use for embryo transfer?

The ones in Argentina and when you have a very good mare here we send it over for embryo transfer.

### What stallions do you use for breeding?

We use thoroughbred stallions and also

we make stallions from good polo mares and use them for breeding when they are old enough.

### Do you have different strings around the world?

Yes.

### Do you prefer mares or geldings?

Mares, but when a gelding's good it's very good.

### Do you make polo ponies?

Yes, I make a lot of my own.

Happy Christmas  
 From all the team at Polo Times  
 Margie • Cara • Sarah Kate • James • Linda