



# Sabah Polo Association

Although unheard of to some, there is a Polo Association in Sabah that has been around for more than two decades. The sport dubbed by many as the 'game of kings' was first introduced to the country by the British settlers. The first polo club in Malaysia was formed in Port Swettenham (now Port Klang) in 1902. Although horse-riding was not foreign to Sabah, the sport did not catch on until the early 1980s.

Sabah Polo Association, (SPA) was first established on the 9th August 1982 after two good friends and pony lovers, David Wang and Vernon Skinner found that there was an interest for the sport in the state. What started as two riding friends eventually developed into a full-fledged association that now competes in inter-club tournaments, friendly tournaments and test matches, national and international tournaments besides doing visits to overseas counterparts.

2007 marked their 25th anniversary which was celebrated at Mosaic, Hyatt Regency on the 16th December and Had Dato' Seri Tengku Zainal Adlin, Chairman of the Sabah Tourism Board as their guest of honour. A competitive and spirited tournament was held the day before. Mr. Wang, the clubs' current Chairman, recalled the humble beginnings of SPA and said he looks forward to having polo as a highly recognized sport in the state. At the end of the night, he quipped, "In Sabah, polo is not the game of kings but the king of all games."

The SPA members, who come from all walks of life, convene every Saturday after noon for riding and a few chukkas (games) from 2.00pm – 4.00pm at their club field in Tuaran, 20 minutes from Kota Kinabalu.

The club also offers riding sessions at their Tambalang stable every Monday to Thursday from 8.00am to 4.00pm. For further information, please contact Simon Chia at 013-8639707 or e-mail [sabahpolo@yahoo.com.my](mailto:sabahpolo@yahoo.com.my)

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