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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Junior League of Memphis to host Polo Event benefiting G.R.O.W.

MEMPHIS, TENN. – September 8, 2016 – Have you ever stomped a divot? Grab your fanciest hat (or fascinator) and best equestrian dress because the Junior League of Memphis annual polo event takes place Sunday, Sept. 11 at the Memphis Polo Club. This annual fundraiser benefits the JLM’s G.R.O.W. program and tickets are \$30 each (or \$40 at the gate) and include hors d’oeuvres and drinks under an elegant tent.

The JLM’s G.R.O.W. program, which stands for “Giving, Readiness, Opportunity and Wellness,” focuses on improving programming in the areas of literacy, education, health and wellness, personal growth and development, family unit support and community empowerment – now with two locations, in Binghampton and Berclair.

Never been to a polo match? Only seen it in movies (Pretty Woman, anyone?) or on television? Not to worry, we have you covered! We spoke with Sunday’s event announcer and Memphis’ own “guru of polo” Joe Mulherin and he was quick to help novices in need.

Fact One: There are four players on each team, and their numbers (1-4) indicate their level of experience. Number 4 is the most experienced on the team.

Fact Two: A polo match typically has six 7-minute periods, called chukkers. Players change horses between each chukker.

Fact Three: Halftime is usually between the third and fourth chukker. This is when “stomping the divots” comes into play! According to Mulherin, polo ponies do a lot of fast starts, stops and turns during a match, and their hooves often dig up pieces of the turf, much like golfers do when they hit the ball in the fairway.

“At halftime, it’s a tradition for spectators to walk on the field, replace the divots and stomp them down in place,” Mulherin said. “It’s also a good time to stretch and take a walk halfway during the match!”

Fact Four: While they are called “polo ponies,” players actually ride full-sized horses. In the United States, Thoroughbreds are usually bred with Quarter horses to produce polo ponies.

Fact Five: Sports historians believe that polo is the oldest game using a ball that has been continuously played up until present day. It began at least 3,000 years ago. Polo also a women's sport – there are accounts of women playing both with and against men at least 2,500 years ago.

Mulherin strongly encourages all to come out and support the JLM Polo Event. “The Memphis Polo Club is a wonderful place to watch one of the world’s oldest games, with motivated players, on beautiful horses specially bred for the sport,” Mulherin said. “And the sideline is also a great place to enjoy a beverage, snacks and visit with old and new friends. Think of a polo match at MPC as tailgating with real tails!”

Join the Junior League of Memphis and Joe Mulherin at the Memphis Polo Club on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. (gates open at 1 p.m.) for the annual JLM Polo Event. Tickets can be purchased online at jlmemphis.org.

About the Junior League of Memphis

The Junior League of Memphis (JLM) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. As one of the largest volunteer groups in the Mid-South, the JLM is committed to revitalizing neighborhoods in and around Memphis through the development of, and participation in, programs that positively impact the environments where people live, work and play.

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