

Pony Club Polo Information Pack

Spring 2022 Issue 2

To: Pony Club Branch Managers, Centre Managers (and prospective Centre Managers), Area Representatives, District Commissioners, Tournament Organisers, HPA Junior Members
cc: Pony Club Polo Committee, Centres Chair, HPA Development Committee (for HPA Clubs and Academies), Association of Polo Schools and Pony Hirers, Polo Charity, Emma Treves

From Charles Whittington, Chairman of Pony Club Polo:

Welcome to this update to the Pony Club Polo pack for Spring 2022. A lot of this information is fast moving, so please stay in touch via the [Pony Club website](#) or Facebook page @Pony Club – Polo.

To try and target information to different audiences, this pack is divided into:

Section A: New to Pony Club Polo – Welcome!

Section B: Players with one or two pony club ponies but without a Polo pony

Section C: Players with one Polo pony, and/or a pony club pony

Section D: Players with one Polo pony

Section E: Players with more than one Polo pony

Section F: General Information of interest to everyone

Section G: Standing Information

In this pack, HPA refers to the governing body of Polo, the [Hurlingham Polo Association](#). There is a concessionary rate of £50/year for Pony Club members (of less than 3 goals handicap) to join the HPA. To obtain an official handicap, which is a requirement for some competitions, you must be a current member of an HPA Club.

The playing rules are as per the [HPA Rules](#) except where modified by the Pony Club Polo [rulebook](#). This pack is NOT intended to replace the [rulebook](#). The rulebook is also available on [Amazon](#)! Please read it!



Section A: Welcome to Pony Club Polo

For newcomers, but a refresher for old hands too!

If you are new to Pony Club polo, perhaps you have been learning at school or university, have been to a polo academy, have played club polo as a junior, or are thinking of taking up polo, this section is meant to help you! Welcome to you all. Our aim is to help you enjoy polo and improve as much as possible. The first thing to say is that you probably won't make progress from this note alone, so you should contact one or all of: Pony Club HQ (polo@pcuk.org), one of the committee (see Section G), or a Pony Club Branch or Centre (www.pcuk.org) for help. There are many strange acronyms which takes a bit of getting used to!

You need to be a member of either a Pony Club Branch or a Pony Club Centre to play Pony Club Polo. Branches are all established and are searchable on the Pony Club [website](http://www.pcuk.org). **No fewer than nine Centres, all Polo Schools or Academies, are in the process of being accredited, so please keep in touch so that you know when you can join.**

It is important to remember that there is a pool system which allows Branches and Centres to combine, so you can play if you are the only member of a Branch or Centre.

In some sections, you can play on a Polo pony hired from a Pony Club Centre.

You need to come under a manager of some sort, either a Branch Manager or a Centre Manager. Those folks will receive all the communications from the Pony Club, organise teams and training, typically hold shirts and sometimes have loan equipment from their Branch or Centre, make the entries, etc. Many of the actions which appear in this Pack will be done by your manager, but it is important that you know what is going on so you can provide relevant information. If your Branch is new to Polo, you could become the Branch Manager – there is plenty of support - but this should be approved by your Branch Committee.

Each Section (Class) has a Section Manager, a committee member – see Section G for contact details - who is responsible for all the teams competing in that Section. Some Sections play three chukkas spread out through the day so one pony can play all three chukkas. Some Sections play multi-chukka matches so that more than one pony is required (which could be a combination of your own pony and a hired pony).

The Pony Club Polo year starts with winter training which generally takes place in Arenas around the country and is organised by Branch or Centre. There are sometimes arena competitions in the Easter Holidays (2022, two available). By the end of the Easter holidays, you will have to be registered as a player on the Pony Club Polo [Horse Events](http://www.pcuk.org) website. This will be done by your Branch or Centre Manager. At the end of the Easter holidays there is a Branch and Centre Managers' meeting at which Section Managers try to sort out how many teams there are, give advice and resolve placement of pool players. At Summer half term there are friendly competitions. The summer season starts with some weekend friendlies and training in July. There are two Sections which take place at the beginning of the holidays, other sections have Qualifying tournaments, culminating in the

Championships over three days in August which has a residential option. After the Championships, there are Select matches and training. And then the arena training cycle begins again.

There are grants available through your Branch or Centres to help with the cost of training for instructors and venue, but not with pony hire.

Please be aware of the rules on tack, hats, whips, spurs, pony vaccinations and carrying pony passports. Also, jewellery and hair, drugs, alcohol and pony medications. We will check these items randomly with no notice. You are responsible for yourself and your ponies, including hired ponies. Please don't be caught out by any of these rules. It can be a disaster for you and your team.

There are no fewer than nine Sections in Pony Club Polo, so we will try and steer you in the right direction. **Please NOTE that all ages are as at 1st January (2022 this year).**

- If you have a 13.2hh and/or 14.2hh pony club pony and are under 14, see Section B
- If you have, or have access to, one Polo pony and a 14.2hh pony club pony, and are under 14, see Section C
- If you have, or have access to, one Polo pony, see Section D
- If you have, or have access to, more than one Polo pony, see Section E

Section B: Players with one or two Pony Club ponies but without a polo pony

There are two relevant Sections, Jorrocks (JOR) and Handley Cross (HX). See the rulebook for exact qualification, but suitably qualified and mounted players may play in both of these sections with permission from the Section Managers.

Section C: Players with one polo pony and/or a Pony Club pony

If you are qualified (see rulebook) for Jorrocks (JOR) and Jorrocks on Polo Ponies (JOPP) you can play in both these sections with permission from the JOR and JOPP Section Manager

If you are under 11 with a Polo Pony only, you should play Jorrocks on Polo Ponies (JOPP).

If you are under 11, you could play Handley Cross (HX) and JOPP with permission from the HX and JOPP Sections Managers, but this is an unlikely combination. It would apply if you have a Pony Club pony doesn't meet the 13.2hh requirement for JOR but does meet the 14.2hh requirement for HX.

If you are over 9 and under 14, you can play Surtees (SUR) on your Polo Pony and HX on your 14.2hh pony.

Section D: Players with one Polo pony

Players with one Polo pony can play:

- Under 15, Surtees (SUR). If you are 14, you could play Loriner/Rendell (LOR) with permission, but you might be playing against 20 year olds, so this would be unusual; only likely if you are playing with three older players.
- Under 21, Loriner/Rendell (LOR).



Section E: Players with more than one polo pony

With more than one pony, age is less relevant than the standard.

Under 14 players with a qualifying handicap can play Hipwood (HIP), three consecutive HPA length chukka matches, with two ponies minimum. These players can then play SUR or LAN.

Under 15 players can play Surtees (SUR) and, for last year SUR players, Loriner/Rendell (LOR) with the permission of the LOR Section Manager.

Under 17 players with a qualifying handicap can play Rocksavage (ROCK), four consecutive HPA length chukka matches, with two, preferably three, ponies minimum. These players can then play GAN or LAN.

Players with a qualifying handicap of -2 and above can play Langford (LAN), two 2-chukka matches per day

Players with a qualifying handicap of -1 and above can play Gannon (GAN), four HPA chukkas per match.

Section F: General Information of Interest to Everyone

The primary source of information is the rulebook, but this section introduces the Summer 2022 programme.

Please be aware of the rules on tack, hats, whips, spurs, pony vaccinations and carrying pony passports. Also jewellery and hair, drugs, alcohol and pony medications. We will check these items randomly with no notice. You are responsible for yourself and your ponies, including hired ponies. Please don't be caught out by any of these rules. It can be a disaster for you and your team.

1. Entries

All entries, including the replaced Form A, will be via Horse Events on this form: [“Player Registration”](#) this year and must be completed by Branch Managers or Centre Managers in time for the Branch Managers’ meeting. The membership will be checked against the Pony Club database for validity until 31st August 2022. There will be a small charge. The initial entry will ask which sections you intend to play in and which training/tournaments you expect to go to. This is to help us plan, and help Sections Managers with the pool, rather than a commitment.

For Qualifiers and the Championships, Branch Managers will enter the agreed teams on a free entry and then entries for teams will be made for each Qualifier and the Championships.

For Arena and Friendly tournaments, all four (three for arena) players must be entered on the form. This is because teams for friendlies frequently differ from qualifying teams.

2. Easter Holidays

There are three Arena tournaments, various training days and the Branch Managers’ meeting. Teams have three players.

Sun 3rd April at Beaufort Polo Club – Arena Training
 Mon 11th April at Sliver Leys – Arena Tournament
 Thu 14th April at Tedworth Park – Arena Tournament
 Sat 16th April at Longdole – Starter Training
 Mon 18th April at Beaufort Polo Club – Arena Tournament
 Sun 24th April on Zoom – Branch Managers’ meeting

Anything open to all Branches will be on [Horse Events](#). Search for Category Polo. A further tournament might be arranged on Tuesday 19th April.

3. Summer Half Term

There is a Junior Tournament at Longdole Polo on Sat 28th May. This is not technically a Pony Club tournament so contact the club for information. There is a friendly tournament at the Beaufort Polo Club:

Tue 31st May Cotswold Academy Training day
 Wed 1st June Beaufort Polo Club – Friendly Tournament.

There might be more, so keep in touch at [Horse Events](#) for details. Search for Category Polo.

4. Summer Programme

The schedules for all these tournaments will be on Horse Events and entries will be made there by Branch or Centre Managers. Search for Category Polo. Note that for HX, SUR and LOR you have to play the same team at **all three Qualifiers** to qualify for the Championships. For JOR and JOPP, you have to play at two Qualifiers, one in the team you are entering for the Championships. If you are not intending to enter the Championships, you may still play at Qualifiers. For GAN and LAN,

matches will be at Qualifiers if possible, but other days and venues might be arranged by mutual convenience, especially if Qualifier days are expected to be full.

Note: To be eligible to play in the summer programme, Branches and Centres MUST complete Player Registration (old Form A) on [Horse Events](#). This is particularly important this year as the Branch and Centre Managers' meeting on 24th April will be virtual and Section Managers need as much notice of intentions as possible.

Please note also that all entries for Friendlies and Qualifiers, as well as the Championships, will be via [Horse Events](#) website. All Tournaments are organised by volunteers who invest a lot of time, so please enter in good time and try and avoid last minute changes.

The summer programme currently looks like this. Follow [this page](#) for updates. The Qualifiers are listed in **Bold**.

Assistance will be given to long distance travellers to find somewhere to camp/stable during the qualifiers.

4th July to 17th July (approximately) Hipwood and Rocksavage matches, various venues
 Sun 10th July Frampton Friendly (West)
 Mon 18th July Vaux Training (South West)
 Tue 19th July Vaux Training
 Wed 20th July Vaux Friendly
 Mon 25th July Knepp Training (provisional) (South East)
 Tue 26th July Oxford Polo, Kirtlington Friendly (Central)
Thu 28th July Black Bears Qualifier (Central)
Tue 2nd August Cirencester Qualifier (West)
Thu 4th August Longdole Qualifier (West)
 Mon 8th August Tedworth Friendly (Central)
 Fri 12th August to Sun 14th August Cowdray Championships (South East)
 Tue 16th and Wed 17th August Select matches subject to availability and selection. Various Venues including the main Pony Club Championships at Offchurch Bury for under 14s (to be confirmed) (Midlands). The HPA organise the Stag's Head, Whitbread and Memorial matches. These dates will be added here when agreed with clubs.

Additional training and tournaments may be added. The HPA Development Committee will also be organising some training days.

5. Vaux Training Camp and Friendly

By very kind permission of Tim Vaux, Vaux training camp and tournament has moved to 18th to 20th July with training on the Monday and Tuesday and a Friendly tournament on the Wednesday. Many thanks to Deborah in Area 15, Trini Stanhope White, Bethan Hitchman and Tim Vaux who have put this programme together. It will be huge fun. More information will be on [Horse Events](#).

6. Arrangements for the Leagues

There will be league competitions in all sections. Detailed arrangements are yet to be finalised and will be circulated in due course.

7. Oxford Polo School Centre camp

The arrangements and date of the Oxford Polo School Centre camp are to be confirmed.

8. Entries for Training days and Friendlies

Individual entries will be allowed for training days. If you want to play in Friendly tournaments and don't have a team, please contact the Section Manager well in advance so players can be put in teams.

9. Entries for Qualifiers and Championships

Entries for Qualifiers and Championships must be complete unchanged teams agreed with the Section Manager.

10. Changes to players or teams

If your potential players change at any time, please update your entry on [Horse Events](#). This is the only way we can plan effectively.

11. Championships

A pack on the Championships will follow, but here are the main points:

We are pleased to announce that due to some generous financial support from the HPA, the Championships will return to Cowdray Park Polo club this year. We are still arranging the details, but be aware of the following:

- **All ponies must be vaccinated in accordance with the Pony Club rules, be microchipped, and have their passports with them when entering the Championships stabling area.** This will be independently checked and there are no waivers in any circumstances. Please ensure you are compliant with both the Pony Club and HPA rules.
- *Stabling will have to be booked and paid for separately to the Polo entries via [Horse Events](#)*
- *Camping will be separately and independently organised. Entry to the campsite will be by wristband which will have to be entered on [Horse Events](#) and paid for.*
- There will be day parking for those not wanting to camp or stable.
- There will be very limited stick and ball facilities near the polo grounds.
- It will be essential that Branches and Centres have a nominated representative available at all times from one hour before play to one hour after play, and that all players under 18 in the campsite have a nominated adult in a supervising role

Further updates will be given when arrangements are better finalised nearer the time. It is planned that all Sections will play on all three days this year.

The Gannon final will be at Cowdray Park Polo Club on Sunday 14th August at 2pm

12. Table of valid combinations of Sections to play

It is the intention that all players with suitable ponies available should be able to play in more than one competition in these combinations:

GAN + ROCK
 LAN + ROCK
 LAN + HIP
 LOR + SUR (14 year olds with permission from LOR manager)
 LOR + ROCK (unlikely)
 SUR + HIP
 SUR + HX
 HX + JOR (with permission of HX and JOR Section managers)
 HX + JOPP (with permission of HX and JOPP Section managers)
 JOR + JOPP (with permission of JOR and JOPP Section managers)

If your desired combination doesn't appear on this list, it probably isn't valid. Seek advice.

Section G: Standing Information:

In this section, there is information on COVID protocols, where to find facilities, coaches, and clubs. Also, how Branches and Centres can get funding for teaching under 14s, information about the 2022 Championships and where to find information on the rules and competitions.

If you are lacking information, please contact a member of the Pony Club Polo committee. The members are listed below in Section G with their specialist areas. Laura in the office (polo@pcuk.org) is contactable but continues to be extremely busy. If all else fails, read the rules!

COVID19 Protocols

- Generally, for Pony Club events, the Pony Club guidelines will apply. Sometimes, at HPA regulated venues, HPA regulations will also apply. It is very important that everyone abides by the rules and neither Polo, nor the HPA, nor the Pony Club attracts any adverse publicity
- Pony Club – Go to the [Pony Club Coronavirus Advice](#) or talk to your Branch or Centre
- HPA – Go to the HPA [home page](#) and scroll down to Covid-19 Update and FAQs
- HPA Clubs – go to the club's own website

Arena Polo

There is a form of Polo to be played in arenas in the winter months and/or when there are no suitable grass grounds. It is played with a ball which is like a small football, and, although not all arenas have suitable walls for competition, almost all arenas are suitable for instruction and practice at riding and hitting an arena ball. The options for practice and competition are HPA Clubs (see below) or indoor/outdoor arenas such as one would use for show jumping, etc (see below). Teams are of three players.

HPA Clubs by Area

The easiest way to find an HPA registered club is to use this link – [Find a Club](#). Put in your postcode in the Search by box. You will find many arena clubs in Ireland, Scotland, the North, and South of England and even the Isle of Man, but we have contacted some and these have given us positive replies for indoor and outdoor facilities and polo schools:

- Vaux Park (South Petherton, Somerset)
- Beaufort Polo Club (Gloucestershire)
- Tedworth Park (Tidworth, Wilts)
- Druids Lodge (Salisbury, Wilts)
- Longdole Polo School (Birdlip, Gloucestershire)
- Oxford Polo School (Kirtlington or Henley, Oxfordshire)
- Westcroft Park Polo Club (Chobham, Surrey)
- Rugby Polo Club (Rugby, Warwickshire)
- Royal Berkshire Polo Club (Ascot)
- Stewarton Polo Club (Edinburgh www.karina-bowlby.squarespace.com)
- Haggis Farm Polo (Barton, Cambridgeshire)

This is only a sample list. Some of these have floodlit and/or covered facilities which is very useful for winter evenings. Most have ponies for hire and give lessons with HPA instructors or coaches.

Arenas not at Registered Clubs

There are many arena facilities which are not HPA clubs, but which are nevertheless suitable for training, and a travelling HPA instructor or coach can be used who can provide equipment. There are unlikely to be ponies for hire, though, so best suited to Under 14s on rally ponies (see also 6 Grants below). If you want to know whether an arena (covered or outside) near you is suitable, please contact a member of the committee or an HPA instructor or coach.

HPA Instructors and Coaches

It is not very easy to find HPA instructors and coaches by area. First, find your nearest HPA Club using [Find a Club](#), then use [Find a Coach](#) using the filter on that club. Most, but not all, HPA instructors and coaches are also registered as Pony Club instructors.

The Association of Polo Schools and Pony Hirers (APSPH) are all accredited by the relevant Local Authority and are a good choice if you are older and need to hire a Polo Pony for lessons or competition. The membership directory is [here](#).

Grants – money is available! Even more money in 2022!

Grants are available for all training, rallies, newcomers, etc under 14. In fact there are now two sources of grants (see below), so you



should be able to organise Polo instruction for this group at reduced cost! Grants are only available when using HPA accredited instructors and coaches.

Thanks to your wonderful reports from previous years, we are very pleased to announce that support for the Under 14s intending to play on their rally ponies will continue through to 2023 with the Martin Treves grant scheme. This scheme is very generously supported by Emma Treves in memory of her father, Martin, who trained his own ponies and horses to play polo. More details are in the attached note and application form. This scheme can support training for any Branch or Centre which plans to enter Jorrock's or Handley Cross teams in 2022. The Polo Charity has also very kindly agreed to continue their support for 2022, so there is lots of money available for introducing and bringing on the Under 14s.

Please complete the [Application Form](#) and send to Mrs Chris Eaton (U14) chris.eaton@live.co.uk 07860 395576. If successful, payment is made to your Branch or Centre Treasurer on submitting a report form (also attached).

Share your Polo Rally! Watch a Polo Rally!

Would you share your rally with Branches or Centres who don't know about Polo? We would like a few Branches to share their rally on a Zoom call which would be advertised to others to give them an idea of what Pony Club Polo is like. If you are willing, please email Charles at chw@hillbarn.plus.com giving dates and format. Thank you.



If you are new to Polo and would like to watch a Polo rally on Zoom, please contact me. Remember that all Polo rallies will qualify for a tick as long as they are open to all Members.

Head Office Contact

- Laura Armstrong polo@pcuk.org

Committee Contact Details

- For Under 11s (Jorrock's and Jorrock's on Polo Ponies), Mrs Jenny Blake Thomas jennyjblakethomas@gmail.com
- For Under 14s (Handley Cross), Mrs Chris Eaton chris.eaton@live.co.uk
- For U15 on Polo Ponies (Surtees), Mrs Joanna Whittington jmw@hillbarn.plus.com
- For U14 on Polo Ponies (Hipwood) and U17 on Polo Ponies (Rocksavage) Mrs Jilly Emerson jgemerson03@gmail.com
- For U21, one Pony (Rendell, Loriner), Brig Christopher Price ckprice65@hotmail.com
- For U21, two Ponies (Langford), Mrs Bethan Hitchman bethanhitchman@aol.com
- For U21, three/four ponies (Gannon), Brig Justin Stanhope White jstanhopewhite@aol.com
- For Centre Membership and general tournament enquiries, Mrs Bev Nicholls, beverlynicholls@outlook.com

For any other queries, or when all else fails, Charles Whittington chw@hillbarn.plus.com