

Pony Club Polo Information Pack

Winter 2020/2021

From the Chairman, Charles Whittington

Welcome to the Pony Club Polo pack for Winter 2020. We are living through some challenging times and I hope you are all well.

In this pack, 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 a fun competition and the possibility of learning more about Polo through Zoom! We hope this will encourage newcomers to “have a go”!

If you are lacking information, please contact a member of the Pony Club Polo committee. The members are listed below in Section 10 with their specialist areas. Laura in the office (polo@pcuk.org) is contactable but extremely busy.

In this pack, HPA refers to the governing body of Polo, the [Hurlingham Polo Association](#).

1. COVID19 Protocols

- a. Generally, the Pony Club advice is now that sports can operate according to the protocols of their Governing bodies. For Pony Club Polo, this means the HPA and their protocol as implemented by HPA clubs.
- b. Pony Club – Go to the [Pony Club Coronavirus Advice](#) or talk to your Branch or Centre
- c. HPA – Go to the HPA [home page](#) and scroll down to Covid-19 Update and FAQs
- d. HPA Clubs – go to the club’s own website



2. Arena Polo

There is a form of Polo to be played in arenas in the winter months 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 3 below) or indoor/outdoor arenas such as one would use for show jumping, etc (see 4 below).

3. HPA Arena Clubs by Area

The easiest way to find an HPA registered arena club is to use this link – [Find a Club](#). Put in your postcode and Arena 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:

- Vaux Park (South Petherton, Somerset)
- 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.



4. Arenas without Registered Clubs

There are many arena facilities which are not HPA clubs, but which are nevertheless suitable for training, and a travelling HPA 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 coach.

5. 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](#).

Miles Underwood is an HPA qualified instructor who is prepared to travel subject to commitments. He will be especially suitable where there is no obvious local club or coach, or for taster rallies where there is no Polo equipment available. Contact him direct on 07833 640755 or milesunderwoodpolo@hotmail.com.

6. Grants – money is available!

Grants are still available for all training, rallies, newcomers, etc under 14. The application form is available at <https://pcuk.org/sports/polo/polo-training-grant/>. Please complete it and send to Mrs Chris Eaton (U14) chris.eaton@live.co.uk 07860 395576. If successful, payment is made to your Branch Treasurer on submitting a report form (also attached).

7. Grants – New grants available for 2021!

We are also very pleased to announce that support for the Under 14s intending to play on their rally ponies will continue in 2021 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 and application form are available at <https://pcuk.org/sports/polo/polo-training-grant/>. This scheme can support training for any Branch which plans to enter Jorrocks or Handley Cross teams in 2021. The Polo Charity has also kindly agreed to continue their support for 2021, so there is lots of money available for introducing and bringing on the Under 14s.

8. Video Competition – Trophies up for grabs!

We invite you all to enter a short video of you practising on your pony. It can be riding only, penalty shots, or, if you have a suitable field, stick and ball practice. Tack and turnout will be taken into account. No longer than 60 seconds please! Any age or experience, as long as you are a Pony Club Branch or Centre Member. Please email chw@hillbarn.plus.com with a short description of the entry including the name of pony and rider and what the video shows. It could be anything interesting from the first time you manage to hit a ball, a demonstration of how to tack up a pony for Polo, or for the more advanced, receiving instruction on schooling a pony and showing improvement. I will send you a link to upload your video. Only the judge will see all the videos, but we might ask you if you would be prepared to share yours. If you win, we might award one of the Pony Club trophies to your Branch or Centre.

9. 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.

10. Event Organisation

- a. Rallies – these should be organised in conjunction with your Branch
- b. Inter-Branch competition – if you wish to invite other Branches to compliant instruction and/or competition, please contact the Branch directly or through your Area Rep. If you don't know who to contact, speak to a member of the committee and we will make suggestions. All DCs involved MUST approve the arrangements. Please let a member of the committee know where and when inter-Branch activities are taking place.



11. Looking Further Ahead

- a. As you will appreciate, it is very difficult to look ahead, but I would make two points:
 - i. We will be looking to encourage as much arena Polo this winter as possible. If it is possible, the committee will organise an arena tournament in April 2021.
 - ii. From 2021, tournaments will need to be organised by Areas and/or Branches rather than the committee and Pony Club Head Office.
- b. For the summer holidays 2021, please use the following dates as planning guide:

Prior to 2 nd August	TBD	More Friendlies
Monday 2 nd August	Tidworth	Friendly, LAN & GAN
Thursday 5 th August	Aspect Knepp	Friendly, LAN?
Sat/Sun 7 th /8 th August	Beaufort	Qualifier, LAN & GAN
Tuesday 10 th August	Cirencester	Qualifier, LAN GAN
Thursday 12 th August	Longdole	Qualifier, LAN & GAN
Sat/Sun 14/15 August	Cowdray Park	Qualifier, LAN & GAN final?
Wed 18 th August	Kirtlington	Friendly, LAN
Fri-Sun 20 th -22 nd August	Offchurch Bury	Championships

12. Committee Contact Details

For Under 12s (Jorrocks), 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 U21, one Pony (Rendell, Loriner), Brig Christopher Price ckprice@hotmail.co.uk
 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 any other queries, Charles Whittington chw@hillbarn.plus.com