

Pony Club Polo Information Pack

Summer 2021 Issue 1

From the Chairman, Charles Whittington

Welcome to this update to the Pony Club Polo pack for Summer 2021. A lot of this information is fast moving, so please stay in touch via the [Pony Club website](#). So you don't have to read the whole thing again, this is a summary of the changes:

1. Vaux training camp and tournament has moved to 19th/20th July with training on the Monday and Friendly tournament on the Tuesday. Many many thanks to Deborah at Area 15, Trini Stanhope White, Bethan Hitchman and Tim Vaux who have put this programme together. It will be huge fun. Please contact Trini or Bethan in the first instance.
2. There will be league competitions in all sections. To be eligible for points, players must be entered on final Form A by 31st May. The Branch with the most points in each Section will be awarded the league trophy. Detailed rules will follow, but for now, note that you must enter a team at Kirtlington to qualify for the trophy. There are some lovely trophies – The Pat Langford and the Bank of Ireland for example. We will redeploy some trophies for Surtees, Handley Cross and Jorrocks leagues.
3. The Cowdray qualifier will be on Sunday 15th August, and the GAN final will most probably be on this day as well.
4. Enfield Chace are hosting a rally and taster day at Silver Leys Polo Club (Hertfordshire Polo Academy) on Tues June 1st. Contact Katrina Midgley in the first instance.
5. The date of the Heythrop camp is confirmed as 19th - 23rd July. Places outside the Heythrop are limited, but worth applying to Iliane.
6. Entries for Qualifiers and Championships must be complete teams agreed with the Section Manager. Individual entries will be allowed for friendly tournaments and training camps but please contact the Section Manager well in advance so players can be put in teams.
7. Please claim your training grant for under 14s – first come first served - and send a report of the session. Emma Treves, who lives in Australia, would love to see the results of her generous contribution in her father's memory.
8. If your potential players have changed, please update your Form A and send to polo@pcuk.org. This is the only way we can plan effectively.
9. A pack on the Championships will follow, but please note, while you still have time to do something about it, the vaccination requirements for ponies to be allowed on site for the Championships. Please inform anyone from whom you might be hiring ponies – you are responsible for ensuring any pony you play complies with the Pony Club and HPA rules.

I do hope you have good weather for half term, and you are able to bring your players and teams on.

Standing Information:

We have been through some challenging times, but the future looks a bit brighter with outdoor sports resuming as I write. I do 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 the 2021 Championships and where to find information on the rules and competitions.

If you are already familiar with facilities, instructors, coaches and grants, please skip to the Summer Programme section.

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 continues to be extremely busy.



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

1. 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.

2. 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 3 below) or indoor/outdoor arenas such as one would use for show jumping, etc (see 4 below).

3. 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.



4. 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.

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, areas where there are arena facilities but no Polo Club, 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 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 for next to no cost! The application form is attached. 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 or Centre Treasurer on submitting a report form.

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 are in

the attached note and application form. This scheme can support training for any Branch or Centre which plans to enter Jorrocks or Handley Cross teams in 2021. The Polo Charity has also very kindly agreed to continue their support for 2021, so there is lots of money available for introducing and bringing on the Under 14s.

8. 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.

9. 2021 Summer Programme

Note: To be eligible to play in the summer programme, Branches and Centres **MUST** complete Form A which is attached to this pack.

We have an ambition to have a section for novices on Polo ponies (first year of competitive playing), but the practicality will depend on enough to make teams So you must declare these players on your Form A.

Please note also that all entries for Friendlies and Qualifiers, as well as the Championships, will be via Horse-Events website, and will be organised by Branches and Centres rather than centrally. So please enter in good time and try and avoid last minute changes.

The summer programme currently looks like this. The Qualifiers are listed in **Bold**, and to qualify for the Championships teams must play in at least three of the four and preferably at least one friendly.

DATE	VENUE/CLUB	COMPETITION	ORGANISER
Tues 1 st June	Silver Leys Polo Club	Taster Day	Enfield Chace Hunt
Mon 19 th & Tues 20 th July	Vaux Park Polo Club	Training Camp & Friendly	Area 15
Mon 19 th – Thurs 23 rd July	Oxford Polo School	Training Camp	Heythrop Hunt
Thurs 29 th July	Frampton Court	Friendly (not GAN)	Berkeley Hunt
Sat 31 st July / Sun 1 st Aug	Cambridgeshire Polo Club	Training / Friendly	Cambridgeshire Hunt
Mon 2 nd August	Tedworth Park Polo Club	Friendly	Royal Artillery

Thurs 5 th August	Aspect Knepp Polo Club	Friendly	Crawley & Horsham Hunt
Sat 7th / Sun 8th August	Beaufort Polo Club	Qualifier	Beaufort Hunt
Tues 10 th August	Cirencester Park Polo Club	Qualifier	Cotswold Hunt
Thurs 12 th August	Longdole Polo Club	Qualifier	Cotswold Vale Farmers / North Cotswold Hunt
Sun 15 th August	Cowdray Park Polo Club	Qualifier & GAN final	Cowdray Hunt
Wed 18 th August	Kirtlington Park Polo Club	Friendly	Heythrop Hunt
Fri 20th – Sun 22nd August	Offchurchbury	Championships	

10. 2021 Championships

The arrangements for the Championships will be different this year, as we have committed, for this year only, to combine with the main Championships at Offchurchbury on 20th - 22nd August. We are still arranging the details about how this will work, but be aware of the following:

- All ponies must be vaccinated and 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.
- Stabling will have to be booked and paid for separately to the Polo entries.
- Camping will be separately and independently organised.
- There will be day parking for those not wanting to camp or stable.
- There will be limited stick and ball facilities near the polo grounds.
- It will take some time to travel between the stables and the polo grounds, so timing and communications will be very critical.
- 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.

Further updates will be given when arrangements are better finalised nearer the time.

The Gannon final will either be at Cowdray on 14/15th August or at Offchurchbury depending on numbers and availability.

11. 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, 1 Pony (Rendell, Loriner), Brig Christopher Price ckprice@hotmail.co.uk

For U21, 2 ponies (Langford), Mrs Bethan Hitchman bethanhitchman@aol.com

For U21, 3/4 ponies (Gannon), Brig Justin Stanhope White jstanhopewhite@aol.com

For any other queries, Charles Whittington chw@hillbarn.plus.com