

Message from Justin Stanhope White, PC Polo Chairman,

"Welcome back! It was an exciting but challenging summer for Pony Club Polo. The intensely hot and dry conditions made running tournaments and ensuring the well-being of both ponies and people a herculean task for our organisers. Despite, this, Pony Club Polo managed to continue throughout, adjustments were made and endless risk assessments carried out, but as a result we only lost one date to the extreme conditions. This was in no small part due to the amazing generosity of the Polo Clubs that hosted us, allowing us use of their irrigated pitches and other facilities. It is the Clubs support of youth polo that is enabling us to train the next generation of players and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them here on behalf of you all.

It was a busy summer, amazing polo was played and fabulous memories were made, but with Autumn approaching there is now lots more to look forward to. The arena season beckons and many training sessions are planned, please see overleaf for more details and other news.

A Summer to Remember

But first here are a few 'off the pitch' memories to share with you from the long hot summer. To buy photos of your own performances visit <https://hwhorsephotos.pixieset.com/> (we kindly ask that you do not screenshot the watermarked photos). For more follow up Polo Times did a wonderful 16 page magazine spread on the PC Polo Championships which contained all the results and lots of photos.



News--News--News

Handley Cross - Area 9 are planning to host a Handley Cross (HX) rider and pony introduction at Longdole Polo Club as a test session. Flyers will go out to local pony clubs to encourage children who currently don't play to have a go on their PC ponies. For those who are new to PC Polo, Handley Cross is the PC Polo section for under 14 year olds on Pony Club ponies which are 14.2hh and under and regularly take part in other PC disciplines. They can be polo ponies but they must be the right height and not have played in HPA competition for 2 years.

Initiative Updates - we launched a number of initiatives in 2026/27 including girl's polo, the PC Polo Handbook, the senior training squad and put more emphasis on 'come and try' days at polo centres. There have been some huge successes to celebrate but we don't want to stand still, so over the winter, the PC Polo Committee will be looking at these to see what we can make even better for 2027. We will keep you updated.....

Looking Ahead - PC Polo Dates 2026/7

Autumn Half Term Friendlies and Training

Sunday 11th October 2026 - Beaufort Pony Club Training

Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October 2026 - Oxford Polo PC Training Days

Tuesday 27th October 2026 - HH PC Arena Training Day

Thursday 29th October 2026 - Tedworth Park Polo Arena Friendly

Sunday 22nd November 2026 - Beaufort Arena Friendly Tournament

Saturday 28th November 2026 - Beaufort Pony Club Training Dates

Monday 29th March 2027 Beaufort Easter Arena Tournament

Qualifier and Championship Dates for 2027

Thursday 29th July 2027 - PC Qualifier Black Bears

Tuesday 3rd August 2027 - PC Qualifier - Cirencester, Aston Down

Thursday 5th August 2027 - PC Qualifier - venue tbc

Friday 12th-Sunday 15th August 2027 - PC Polo Championships at Cowdray Park Polo

Full details and booking/entries will be on Horse Events. Search 'Polo' under Events and Rallies



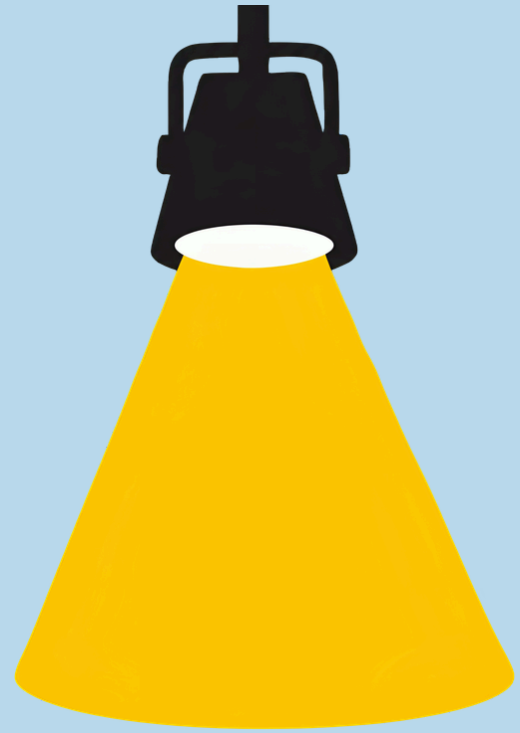
Spotlight on Polo Branch Managers

Everyone playing Pony Club polo will have come across Branch Managers (BMs), these are the often frazzled individuals from your Pony Club who run around at tournaments checking you are in the right shirt, with the right team, in the right tack at the right time.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg, did you know that behind the scenes they do all of the following (and much much more)...

- Make sure that all important information, news eg dates, rules changes, new opportunities is shared with you and your parents and are there to answer your questions
- Make up your teams for the Qualifiers and Championships and more often than not, your teams for all the friendlies too. This often requires endless networking with other BM's to try to make sure everyone gets a suitable team place
- Arrange your branch training sessions, including arranging venues, finding instructors and handling entries
- Make sure you are safe by being compliant with PC rules when you practice and play
- Hand hold or arrange buddies for new starters learning the PC Polo ropes
- Provide endless, encouragement, support and advice to both parents and children

These are all volunteers so next time you see yours, take a moment to say thank you.. Here is a latest list of BM's and the Pony Clubs' they cover. Pictured is Jemima Brockett, being awarded Branch Manager of the Year 2027 - congratulations!



Charlotte Sweeney - Ash Farm and Bisley & Sandown Chase

Leanne Brown - Beaufort Hunt

Georgina Daly & Sarah Clifford- Berkeley Hunt

Jane MacDougall - Cambridgeshire Hunt

Victoria Lovatt - Cambridge & Newmarket Centre

Zahra Lucas - Cotswold

Olivia Lamphee - Cotswold Polo Academy

Anna Hunt - Cottesmore Hunt

Oli Jackson & Charlotte Verdon - Cowdray Hunt

Rob and Jemima Brockett - Dorset Polo

Alex Priest - Druids Lodge Polo

Olga Dean - Enfield Chace

Caroline Grayson - Grafton Hunt

Eliza Bell - Hampshire Hunt

Charlotte Earnshaw - Heythrop Hunt

Emma Conway - Meynell Hunt

Jenny Hill Minchinhampton

Kirstie Otamendi - Minninnooka Polo Centre

Nicky Williams - New Forest Hunt

Bethan Hitchman - North Cotswold Hunt

Tessa Collett - North Warwickshire

Lorna Broughton - Longdole Polo Academy

Steph Haverhals - Lord Leconfield

Melanie Pejkoovic - Old Berkshire Hunt

Claire Maldonado - Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt

David Ashby - Oxford Polo School

Nigel Barnes - Poole & District

Edward Whittington - Royal Artillery Hunt

Georgina Rowan Hamilton - Scotland

Roddy Williams & Zoe Williams - South Oxfordshire Hunt (South)

Jeff Picksley - West Hants

Jemma Phillimore & Chiara Evetts- Woodland Hunt

Tim Vaux - Vaux Park Polo

Kate Bandey - Vine

