



Westcroft Park
Polo Club

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP PACK

2022

Westcroft Park Polo Club
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Newsletter Summer 2022

Welcome back to Westcroft! With a better weather forecast for this summer than the last, we're really looking forward to the season starting. We've made lots of improvements and have a lot of exciting news to announce, ranging from our 4 goal league to improvements made to the facilities.

Please take a moment to look over the attached fixture list. I am happy to introduce the 4 goal league this season. Composed of 4 tournaments of at least 3 games each, this is a great opportunity to participate in guaranteed polo all summer at an accessible price point. Every finals day will have a barbecue, and the league will culminate in an end of season party on 10 September with awards. There are package deals and offers available depending on how many tournaments you would like to enter; please enquire for the information pack.

There have been several improvements made to the club that I'm sure everyone will appreciate:

- We have a new digital scoreboard and timer arriving, which will be mobile and used through both summer and winter seasons.
- Grounds 3 and 5 will also be back in use, so there will now be a designated stick & ball field and an additional field for matches & chukkas. We are also building new pony lines on Ground 3, as well as planning to do regular maintenance to the drive.
- To improve our existing pitches, we invested in a vertidrainer; this has improved subsoil aeration which will in turn improve grass growth, root strength, and sward density, supporting our fields which were overseeded in 2022.
- We have increased our grounds staff from one to two. Darren Crail is grounds manager, ably assisted by Kevin Hunt.

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We are pleased to welcome Guards Polo Club to Westcroft this season. As they are rebuilding two of their fields, we will be hosting some of their low goal games. I stress that this will not impact the quantity of polo our members will be able to play, and importantly, this relationship will give us much-needed funds to invest quite significantly into the polo fields.

We are planning to put down 600 tonnes of sand onto the grounds, which will aid grip, improve drainage, and reduce wear. We are also trialling a new piece of machinery next week on Ground 2, which we hope will significantly improve early season drainage. If successful, we will also utilise this on Ground 1. Our contract with Guards is enabling us to absorb many of the field-related price input rises, which otherwise we would not have been able to shoulder. Their matches will primarily be happening midweek.

This winter, we have also taken the time to establish a new arm of the club: Westcroft Equestrian Transport. After investing in a new articulated trailer and tractor unit, we have a three vehicle fleet ready to handle your transportation through and beyond the season.

We have spent time during covid and over the lockdowns buying and producing young horses from the racetrack. I am very excited to say that there will be an additional 22 horses ready to play this season. Producing young horses is a particular passion of mine, and I have been very impressed with the athleticism and ease of these horses.

Unfortunately, we are having to raise some prices this season. This is partly because of the investment we've made into the property: our machinery, our staff, our facilities, and our horses have all been improved.

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Like everyone at the moment, we are experiencing increased costs. We have done our very best to mitigate and avoid passing on as much as possible. Beyond just electricity, the cost of chemicals, fertiliser in particular, has risen very steeply. Additionally, the laws around the use of diesel for agricultural purposes is changing, and we will not be able to use red diesel anymore, which will double our annual fuel costs. I want to tell you this so you have a full understanding of why some costs have increased, and I assure you that we will continue to try to limit price rises wherever possible.

One way of us mitigating these price rises is through forward purchasing, which we are trying to do across feed, diesel, chemicals, etc. To help us best effect this strategy, we are offering a 10% discount for all memberships paid by 1 April. In addition to the membership discount, if you pre-pay your account with £2500 or more by 1 April, we will offer to boost your account by 10%. I.e., if you pay £4000 upfront, you will receive £4400 of credit to use for any polo-related services at Westcroft. Please email info@westcroftparkpolo.co.uk if you wish to take up any part of this offer. Thank you in advance, this will really help your club operate efficiently in these trying times.

I look forward to seeing you this season, so with ground and pony preparations underway, I hope you are as enthusiastic as I am about the summer ahead.

Good luck and best wishes,
Richard Blake Thomas

SUMMER FIXTURE LIST 2022

21 - 22 May	The Windlesham Opening Cup (-2 - 2)
24 May - 5 Jun	The Platinum Jubilee Cup WL (4)
18 - 19 Jun	The Bolebrook Bowl (2)
21 Jun - 3 Jul	The Summer Solstice Cup WL (4)
9 - 10 Jul	The Surrey Hills Summer Cup (6) The Ground 3 Cup (-6 - 0)
19 - 31 Jul	The Summer Championship Cup WL (4)
13 - 14 Aug	The Clubhouse Cup (-2 - 0 and 4 - 6)
23 Aug - 4 Sep	The Chobham Cup WL (4)
10 Sep	End of season party
10 - 18 Sep	The Farewell Cup (2)
19 Sep onwards	Until It's Too Wet To Play League

PRICE LIST

Membership

Full: £2000 inc. VAT - 10% discount if paid by 1st April

U18 & Student: £1000 inc. VAT - 10% discount if paid by 1st April

Pro (2+): £800 inc. VAT

4 Goal League

1 tournament + 1 practice: £2700

2 tournaments + 2 practices: £5200

3 tournaments + 3 practices: £7400

4 tournaments + 4 practices, including full membership and an asado for up to 20: £10000

4 tournaments + 4 practices including the above, for a two-patron team:
£12000

Tournament entry without a practice: £1550

Practices/Challenge Matches/Pitch Hire

Members: £1300/£650 inc. VAT per team

Non-members: £1600/£800 inc. VAT per team

If you prefer not to pay VAT, we can save you 20% by pre-paying 10 or more practices. Can be shared jointly with other members; please call to enquire. Includes timing, balls, and scoring.

HPA Membership

You must have HPA membership to participate in club chukkas, practices, or tournaments.

Please register: <https://hpa.sport80.com>

PRICE LIST

Pony Hire

Match chukkas: £150

Challenge/practice match chukkas: £120

Club chukkas (members): £105

Club chukkas (non-members): £120

Lessons

Private with instructor: £160

Private with coach: £180

Joint (2-4 people): £110 per person

Group (5+ people): £90 per person

Stick & ball: £50 per horse

All lessons include horse and equipment hire and last one hour.

Academy

Instructional/Academy Chukkas: £75/chukka

Junior Chukkas: £50/chukka

Livery & Stable Hire

Full livery: £200/week

Young horse training livery: £275 per week

Stable hire (seasonal): £1300 per stable - paid in advance

Stable hire (weekly): £45

Tack room (seasonal): £500 - paid in advance

Tack room (weekly): £30

Staff accommodation: £110 per week - monthly in advance

Please enquire to see livery and stabling contracts.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Contact address:

Home phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Current HPA handicap:

Please advise of any medical conditions that may be relevant:

In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Club's activities, I, the undersigned, acknowledge that:

1. Polo is a dangerous activity and horses can act in a sudden and unpredictable way, especially if frightened or hurt. There is significant risk that serious injury may result from polo activities.
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, and I voluntarily participate at my own risk and assume sole responsibility for any injury or property damage I may suffer that arises from my participation in the polo activities at the Club.

I understand and acknowledge the dangers associated with the consumption of alcohol or any mind altering drugs before and during any of the Club's activities and I take full responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage associated with their consumption. I agree not to take drugs prohibited by law before, during, or after any of the Club's activities.

I agree to abide by, follow, and adhere to all the HPA's Articles of Association and Regulations as outlined in the 'Blue Book' as they apply to me as an individual, and my membership within the Westcroft Park Polo Club. I agree:

1. To abide by, follow, and adhere to all the Club's rules, regulations, and by-laws.
2. To follow the directions of any event steward or official.
3. That any misconduct or refusal by me to follow any direction of any steward or official can result in the cancellation of my participation in the Club's activities and my immediate removal from my horse no matter where that may occur.
4. I accept responsibility for all my property located at the club that includes, but is not limited to, ponies, tack, and vehicles.
5. I confirm that all my employees (livery managers) are legally allowed to work in the United Kingdom and that I carry the required Employers Liability Insurance.
6. I agree to wear a helmet and protective glasses at all times whilst participating in any mounted activity while on the Club's premises and agree that I am solely responsible for ensuring that I wear a suitable helmet at all times where required under relevant HPA and WPPC rules and regulations and take sole responsibility for all my actions.

I have had sufficient opportunity to read this assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms and conditions, and sign it freely and voluntarily.

Signature of Member:

Dated:

RULES

General

- Members and visitors are asked to assist in maintaining the general appearance of Westcroft Park Polo Club by placing any litter in the bins provided or taking it home with them.
- Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Dog owners must put their dogs on leads, if requested to do so by a member of the Westcroft Park staff.
- Facilities offered by Westcroft Park Polo Club will be available for use subject to weather conditions and availability.
- It is a condition of use of the Club facilities that each and every person agrees to being photographed and/or recorded by film, video, television cameras, and sound equipment at all times when present at the Club and agree to surrender all rights in respect of such photographs and/or recordings.
- Horses to be taken at a WALK in all places where there is a risk of blind collision.

Parking & Driving

- No cars or trucks to park on the playing fields, for however short a time, unless instructed to do so by Westcroft Park staff during events.
- Vehicle speed limit of 10mph on ALL Westcroft Park premises.

Security

- Please ensure vehicles are locked and valuables kept out of sight. Report any strangers who you think have no reason to be on the premises to a member of Westcroft Park staff.
- The Clubhouse will be locked at 19:00, however the Marquee remains open at all times. Please make sure your belongings are removed from the clubhouse before 19:00.
- Westcroft Park will not be held responsible for any personal property left or damaged on the premises at any time.
- Professionals and grooms using the Club grounds after 18:00 must take responsibility for closing and locking the Grounds gate.

Bookings

- You must call the polo office in advance to check availability of grounds and arena.
- Pony hire bookings for stick and ball, lessons, challenges, and matches should be made at least 48 hours in advance.
- All chukkas MUST be booked by 16:00 the day prior. Late bookings may not be accepted.
- Challenges, practices, and ground hire bookings must be made with at least 48 hours notice.

Tournaments & Matches

- Abusive or obscene language, unnecessarily rough riding, or dangerous play will not be tolerated at Westcroft Park Polo Club. The umpire or instructor's decision will be final in all disputes.
- Tournament entries will be accepted only on receipt of full payment of entry fees, including any umpire pony hire and match chukka hire.
- Tournament entries including payment as outlined above must be received by the deadline as set for that specific tournament.
- Challenge entries must be confirmed with the polo manager no less than 48 hours prior to play. Unconfirmed or incomplete teams after this deadline will be asked to re-schedule for a future date, therefore enabling the polo office to confirm polo schedules for other players and clients.
- All players should be available to umpire or referee other matches in the tournament if asked to do so by the polo manager. All teams are required to provide umpire ponies, tacked as for polo, for the matches that they play.

RULES

Cancellations

On own pony:

- Please try to avoid cancelling from club chukkas on the same day. In unavoidable circumstances, you may be asked to find a replacement for your place in the chukkas and allow them to ride your ponies if necessary. You may still be liable for chukka fees.

On Westcroft Park hired ponies:

- Cancellations need to be made by 17:00 the day before.
- Cancellations on the day will incur a 50% cancellation fee. No shows will incur a 100% cancellation fee.

Equipment & Dress Code

- Polo helmets **MUST** be worn at all times when on a horse. **NO** exceptions.
- Those not wearing a helmet will be asked to dismount and retrieve their helmet.

Club Chukkas:

- Players must wear whites, appropriate polo boots, and knee pads.
- Players must wear the appropriate coloured shirt as indicated by the chukka list. Those who show up in incorrect colours may be fined £40.

Horse & Welfare:

- Horses should be correctly turned out for polo, and be in a fit condition to play the level of polo required of them. Welfare issues and concerns to be reported to the polo manager.

Polo Grounds

- Please contact the polo manager to see which grounds are available for stick and ball or lessons.
- Horses must not be schooled on any of the polo grounds.
- **DO NOT** go onto a ground that has been designated as **CLOSED**.

Damage to Westcroft Park Property

- Report any breakages or repairs needed to the polo manager. Where appropriate, the patron or professional will be charged for the repairs necessary or for negligent breakage.

Penalties & Fines

The following system is in place to penalise those failing to respect the rules:

1. First noncompliance of any rule results in verbal request by Westcroft Staff to adhere to the rule.
2. Second noncompliance of the same rule results in a £10 fine.
3. Third noncompliance of the same rule results in a written warning and a £50 fine.