



Westcroft Park
Polo Club

WINTER MEMBERSHIP PACK

2022 - 2023

Westcroft Park Polo Club
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Newsletter Winter 2023

As summer draws to a close, I wanted to look back on all of the highlights of the grass season before turning attention to our preparations for winter.

The greatest success of this past season was undoubtedly the introduction of our 4 Goal League. Thanks to the excellent level of play and sportsmanship of all who participated, it really exceeded my every hope, and I offer the warmest congratulations to Minninooka Polo for their victory. Because of their performance, they've won the prize pot of £10,000. We look forward to see all the challengers to their title next year which I know they will be defending with all their might. Our other tournaments were also a highlight, and I particularly applaud the players who played their first tournaments this season with us. As always, it's a pleasure to see newcomers to the sport take their first competitive steps, and has been great to see them progress through the Westcroft Academy and onto the competitive field., I hope they enjoyed not only the polo, but the camaraderie and spirit of Westcroft too.

In another success, I'm very proud to feature the results of our young horse programme. Our hard work, breeding and development of the horses has lead to a strong number of homegrown talent that played in the Queens Cup and other external competitions in the medium and high goal under a range of different professionals. I look forward to watching our next crop of young horses develop over the winter and into next summer. If you are interested in buying any horses, do reach out when the time is right, there will be around 20 for sale from 5 to 9 yr olds next season.

As we enter the winter season, I would like to highlight our upcoming winter tournaments. We would like to further the success of the 4 goal league by introducing an 8 goal arena league, with a similar structure and prize incentive. I would also like to draw attention to the replacement of the 15 goal VL fixture before Christmas with an 8 goal league fixture. In order to support these fixtures, we will be closing the arena in October for 10 days to renovate the drainage system, as well as other maintenance to our facilities. Our arena season is sure to be a busy one, and I look forward to seeing you at Westcroft soon.

Lastly, I would like to mention our recent entry into the 10 goal arena masters tournament held in Amsterdam. After three days, Will, Archie Dunn, and myself finished second, narrowly missing out on winning by one point. It was a fantastic experience and an incredibly well put-together tournament, and I'd like to highlight the hard work of everyone involved. There are many similar opportunities across Europe to play in exciting tournament as well as opportunities for coaching and instructional weekends in Spain; please don't hesitate to get in touch if it's something you may be interested in.

Wishing you all a very happy and relaxed October, and I look forward to seeing you in the arena at Westcroft very soon!

Best wishes,
Richard Blake Thomas

WINTER FIXTURE LIST 2022 - 2023

19 - 20	Nov	The Opening Cup (0 - 4)
26 - 27	Nov	The Clubhouse Cup (2 - 6)
3 - 4	Dec	The Winter Trophy (0 - 6)
13-18	Dec	The Cheeseplatter Challenge WL (8)
7 - 8	Jan	The New Year Trophy (10)
14 - 15	Jan	The Wine & Whiskey Weekend WL (8)
21 - 22	Jan	The January Bowl (10)
4 - 5	Feb	The Surrey Hills Winter Trophy VL (10 - 12)
6 - 12	Feb	The Vino Tinto Tournament WL (8)
11 - 19	Feb	The Westley Green Farm Plate VL (4 - 6)
25 -26	Feb	The Academy Cup

PRICE LIST

Membership

Full: £800 + VAT

U18 & Student: £600 + VAT

Pro (4+): £400 + VAT

Practices/Challenge Matches/Arena Hire

Members: £200 + VAT per team

Non-members: £250 + 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 per chukka

Challenge/practice match chukkas: £130 per chukka

Club chukkas (members): £100 per chukka

Club chukkas (non-members): £130 per chukka

Club Chukka fees members £15 inc vat, non members £25 inc vat

Lessons

Private with instructor: £160

Private with coach: £180

Joint with instructor (2-4 people): £120 per person

Joint with coach (2-4 people): £140 per person

Group (5+ people): £90 per person

Stick & ball: £60 per horse

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

Academy

Instructional/Academy Chukkas: £75/chukka

Livery & Stable Hire

Full livery: £210/week

Young horse training livery: £275 per week

Stable hire (seasonal): £720 per stable - paid in advance

Stable hire (weekly): £55

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

Tack room (weekly): £40

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.