

SOHS Polo Taster Session – Saturday 30 November, 2024 11am

Attington Indoor School. Testworth. OX9 7BY

The polo taster session will consist of sessions covering:

- Polo Riding/Arena stick & ball
- Basic Polo Rules
- Polo specific kit - tack, bandages, etc
- 2025 dates

We are fortunate to have access to grants for pony club polo training:

- The Martin Treves Training Grant, for beginners on “fluffies”, £25 for a first taster session and £15 thereafter, for members who intend playing Jorrocks or Handley Cross on their own ponies
- The Polo Charity Grant, for members in their FIRST YEAR of training on Polo ponies, £25 for a first training session and £15 for a second.

The grants will be repaid to the card making the booking using the Horse Events booking system.

Please wear normal rally riding kit and have your ponies tacked up in their normal tack. To play long boots or chaps have to be worn, but not required for this taster session. Likewise there is certain tack that has to be used to play, but is not needed for this taster session. Bandages & tape will be provided for your ponies, as well as polo mallets & balls.

Pony Club Polo is a lot of fun! Combining team work, riding & ball skills. It is founded upon the principle of one player, one pony, making it widely accessible. It is possible to play polo starting at 6 years old and finishing at 21 with only one pony. It is also possible to hire polo ponies for each of the tournaments if you want to play on a polo pony, though as a branch we do not have access to hire ponies for our branch activities.

Pony Club Polo is played in teams of three in the arena and teams of four in the summer on grass. This is the only pony club team sport where teams can be made up from different branches, so if you are interested in playing this year, it does not matter if there are no other SOHS members in your section – you will be matched up with other team mates & it is a great way to make even more pony club friends (as my son has done). The only crucial part is that once you commit, **you can not change your mind**, as your three other team mates will be dependent on you turning up to play in their team! Names have to be submitted by mid April for the season – so please let Tara Glen know if you are interested (tara@slade-farm.co.uk or 07778184666).

There are different sections depending on member age and size of pony:

Section	Age (1 st Jan)	Pony
Jorrocks (JOR)	6-10	<13.2hh
Jorrocks on Polo Ponies (JOPP)	6-10	Trained polo pony
Handley Cross (HX)	9-13	<14.2hh
Surtees (SUR)	9-14	Trained polo pony
Loriner, Langford, Gannon	14-20	Trained polo pony

2025 Rules

These are currently being updated. It is likely that all Surtees players & above will have to have their rules test

Oxford Polo Sunday Training

Every Sunday at Weston-on-the-Green, in the arena through the winter.
Contact: charlotte@oxfordpolo.co.uk

There are some arena tournaments coming up, as well as the summer season. Ponies will play no more than 18 minutes on a day (either 3 x 6 minute chukkas or 4 x 4.5 minute chukkas):

Easter Dates

April 2025 - Beaufort Training Day tbc

21 April 2025 - Beaufort Arena Tournament

April 2025 - Tidworth Arena Championships tbc

May Half Term Dates

May 2025 - Cotswold Polo Academy Training Camp tbc

May 2025 - Beaufort Friendly tbc

Summer Dates (**only the qualifiers are mandatory if you wish to qualify for the finals at Cowdrey*)

Either 14/15 or 21/22 July 2025 - Vaux Polo Training Camp, Somerset (stay away for one night camping on site with stabling available for ponies & play the next day)

15 or 22 July 2025 - Vaux Polo Friendly

17 July 2025 - Oxford Polo Friendly

19/20/22 July 2025 – Frampton Friendly (date tbc)

24 July 2025 - Black Bears Qualifier*

29 July 2025 - Cirencester Qualifier*

31 July 2025 - Longdole Qualifier*

4 August 2025 - Tidworth Friendly (*spare qualifier if needed)

8-10 August 2025 - Championships at Cowdray Park (arrive 7 August & camp 3 nights with ponies in temporary stables – a privilege to play on such hallowed ground & great fun!)

14/15 August 2025 – Offchurch Bury invitational friendly (date tbc)