

**MINUTES
COUNCIL
1430 MONDAY 10th MAY 2010
THE CAVALRY & GUARDS CLUB,
127 PICCADILLY, LONDON SW1.**

Present: N J A Colquhoun-Denvers Esq In the chair.

M B J Amooore Esq Lord Patrick Beresford R M Britten-Long Esq V Chua Esq S Donovan-Smith Esq G Elgar Esq Mrs C Giles J M Green-Armytage Esq R Heggs Esq O Hughes Esq D Lent Esq F Matthews Esq G P D Ormerod Esq Mrs M Owen Esq A Rhatigan Esq Col J L Seddon-Brown S G Tominson Esq S Tylor Esq R Vere Nicoll Esq Brig J A Wright CBE	H Ashworth Esq C J P Betz Esq Air Cdre Tim Brown M Darritchon Esq Brig A R Douglas-Nugent C T de M Fraser Esq R Graham Esq J Haigh Esq MBE Mrs A Heywood S de Jongh Esq A Linton Esq D S Morley Esq M Owen Esq The Lord Phillimore H Richardson Esq C Stisted Esq Mrs Claire Tomlinson Mrs N Von Bulow R Wood Esq
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In Attendance:

D J B Woodd Esq	Mrs S McPherson
Mrs L Lewis	A Rann – James Cowper

Apologies:

Y Ali Baig C P Andrews Esq H Aylott Esq D Baker Esq Miss V Ballesteros J Barber Esq A M E Barlow Esq Col D P Belcher T Bell Esq C J Bethell Esq J Boscowan Esq M Borwick Esq J Bunn Esq R E Butler Esq M Cann Esq J Craven Esq J Crisp Esq Mrs J Crisp R R Cudmore Esq Q Davis Esq Mrs E Eastwood A Foreman Miss V Grace H Hamilton Esq Maj C O P Hanbury	M Hancock Esq M Hobday Esq R Hogg Esq S Holley Esq Mrs T Hodges Miss R Hoskins S Hussain Esq S T A Hutchinson Esq D Jamison Esq Miss T Johnson G Jones Esq K Jones Esq Col S Ledger LD L Le-Ggatt Esq Miss G Lockhart Cmdr A Lustman P Perrier Esq P Piddington Esq Commodore R Mason RN M Meade Esq Major N P C Musgrave B Morris-Lowe Esq J Morrison Esq The Earl of Morton J North Esq	P Piddington Esq P Pollack Esq R Prisk Esq M Randall Esq M Roat Esq J Reeve Esq K Richardson Esq P Ronan Esq Mrs I Seth U E Schwarzenbach Esq J Sheeran Esq J P Smail Esq J Stanhope White Esq H Taylor Esq J M Tinsley J Tylor Esq T Vaux Esq The Hon M W Vestey N Walker Esq The Marquis of Waterford Miss B Zingg
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1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th November 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising (and Chief Executive's Report).** The following was noted:
 - a. **Patrons Letter.** A letter had gone from the Chairman to those patrons on the HPA database. A similar update was being circulated with the membership cards and had been posted on the website.
 - b. **Polo in the Park.** The city teams would be:

London	New York	Moscow	Paris
Buenos Aires	Geneva	Sydney	Durban

The HPA's recommendation to Polo in the Park had been that the priority should be that the teams should consist of three good players and that this format could offer a display of good polo.
 - c. **Lynt Farm Polo Club.** Inglesham had been taken on by Guy and Charlotte Verdon. They would continue to run it as provisionally affiliated club under the name of Lynt Farm.
 - d. **Herbertstown Polo Club.** This had moved to a new ground which needed to be improved but it had been agreed that the club should allowed to continue as provisionally affiliated for this season.
 - e. **Radios for Officials.** The clubs running Victor Ludorum tournaments had been notified of the requirement to provide the officials with radio communications.
 - f. **Heaton-Ellis Trust Clay Pigeon Shoot – Monday 24th May.** There had been very little response from any clubs. Any support would be welcome and details were available from the office.
 - g. **Lifetime Achievement Awards.** Lifetime Achievement Awards at the Audi Awards dinner would be awarded to the late Gerald Balding and Lord Patrick Beresford.
 - h. **Hats.** Polo Times had raised the issue of players wearing non Kite marked hats; at the same time magazine had listed elsewhere in the same issue the nine best hats, most of which were not Kite marked. The HPA rules would be kept under review but there was no evidence to suggest that the rules needed to be changed.
 - i. **OSP Status and Team Restrictions.** No feedback had been received as yet following the decision to grant players from Australia and New Zealand non OSP status and to leave the criteria for teams in non Victor Ludorum tournaments to clubs.
 - j. **Overseas Players.** The AAP had requested that the HPA should insist on any Argentine player having to be a member of the AAP before playing in England. If this became a rule, it would have to be applied to all nationalities, and include those who either did not return to their home country during the winter months or played farm chukkas only in Argentina and therefore had no requirement to join the AAP. However, it had been agreed that any overseas player should normally be a member of his national association in order to get a handicap here and this requirement had been included on the CV form.

- k. **Life Members.** The following had been invited to become Life Members: The Hon Mark Vestey, Arnaud Bamberger, Lord Patrick Beresford, Julian Hipwood, Howard Hipwood, John Tylor, Urs Schwarzenbach, Greta Morrison, Jeremy Barber and Peter Scott-Dunn.
- l. **Guidelines for Victor Ludorum Tournaments.** At the last meeting there had been concern that the draw for some Victor Ludorum Tournaments did not always appear to be fair to the visiting teams. The main concern of the polo managers had been that it was rarely practical to conduct an open draw given the playing commitments of the different team members. However, it had been agreed that a draw should be done if at all possible, even if teams had to be separated within the draw, and that the onus would be on the Tournament Committee to produce as fair a draw and schedule for the tournament as possible. The Polo Manager and Chairman of the club therefore should be prepared to explain and justify the draw and/or schedule. Guidelines to clubs hosting Victor Ludorum Tournaments **Annex A** were noted.

3. **Report from the Stewards.**

- a. **Licensing System.** It had been agreed that there did need to be in place a licensing system or similar for those events that are run outside affiliated clubs and wished to have HPA endorsement and branding, and legal advice was being sought. The following points were noted:
- The HPA did not want to be burdened with having to ensure that every event was licensed or affiliated. However, whether the event was endorsed by the HPA or run outside the HPA, its success or otherwise would usually reflect back on the HPA. The HPA should therefore try to ensure that events were run properly and did not bring the game into disrepute.
 - The HPA should at least be remunerated for any work that it did to assist with events that were being run commercially and there should be a charge for HPA branding or endorsement of an event.
 - It had been agreed that the licence fee should be set at an amount that would encourage events to register.
 - The HPA would need to be able to enforce any licensing system.
- b. **Restructuring and Programme for 2012.** Stewards were looking at the 2012 high goal and Victor Ludorum tournaments for the following reasons:
- There were several tournaments of the same handicap overlapping, and this did not allow proper draws to take place for Victor Ludorum Tournaments.
 - Less tournaments could allow for more fixed days of play for the different tournaments.
 - The levels for polo in England could be 24, 20,16,12 and 8. It was considered that, of the current high goal teams, most would be content to play at 24 goals and some had said that they would support a 20 goal level as they had little chance of winning in the 22 goal.
 - There could be a Victor Ludorum for all the above levels and for teams below 8 goals, either at 6 or 4 goals.
 - The kudos of winning a Victor Ludorum tournament had increased now that the presentations were made at the Audi awards.
 - Some teams seemed to prefer to play at their own club if suitable polo was available rather than to travel to play Victor Ludorum tournaments. There might therefore be merit in having only 3 Victor Ludorum tournaments at each level; this would involve less travelling and might therefore encourage teams to focus on winning a Victor Ludorum.

The following points had been made and would be taken in to account:

- The number of chukkas for medium and intermediate polo could be raised at any time but more chukkas per match would increase the time required for matches, the wear on the grounds, especially if wet, and the expense. Any change would therefore be better done at a time when Patrons and clubs were feeling more secure financially.
 - Getting feedback from patrons was always difficult and their true position was unlikely to become clear until a firm proposal had been put on the table and published.
 - 24 goal teams would be marginally better balanced than 22 goals and not significantly more expensive. However, unless the Patrons were pushing to raise the level, there was no reason to change a very successful programme and fixture list.
 - The proposed levels, each 4 goals apart, had merits but could lead to less teams at the top level and it seemed illogical to implement a rule which would reduce the number of participating teams.
- c. **Affiliation Fees.** It was reported that Stewards had agreed that the annual provisional affiliation fee would be reduced to £1,000 per annum. The following points were noted:
- The annual provisional affiliation fee of £2,500 had been introduced in order to deter individuals from forming 'private' clubs, to encourage clubs to meet the requirements and then apply for full affiliation as quickly as possible, and to reflect the fact that a club was joining a well run organisation which consisted of clubs that had invested a considerable amount over the years.
 - The HPA was much too lax in approving clubs, in particular allowing inexperienced players to handicap other players and that there should a period of time when a provisionally affiliated club's powers were more limited. The less experienced clubs should be required to have their handicap recommendations approved by a larger club, a Regional Committee as had been done in Ireland, or the Regional Chief Umpire.
 - The HPA should provide more help to clubs initially and in their early years. If clubs were not up to the required standard then the HPA needed to assist those clubs to achieve that standard and if they then failed to do so, they should have their affiliation suspended. Visits to the established clubs would also provide much needed help and experience. Help in this area could only be provided by the Regional Chief Umpires unless the office increased its number of staff.
 - The appointment of Stewards and affiliation fees was due to be discussed by the Chairman's Committee and a recommendation would be made to Stewards in October.
- d. **Home Grown Player Rule.** The Chairman's Committee and Stewards, along with Charles Russell, had looked at this in depth and as always the devil was in the detail. The consensus had been that the HPA should try to help English players to get better and that using the rules in a reasonable way to achieve that aim was justifiable. However, it was also clear that a home grown player rule that required a player to play for three seasons between the ages of 15 and 21 as per the football would include so many overseas players as to be non effective. It had then been considered that a rule based on playing three seasons in England before the age of 18 was unlikely to be challenged. However, the following points had been made:
- The cost of financing any team was considerable, especially for the high goal, and patrons should be allowed to choose their teams with minimal restrictions. The high goal in England was healthy and any restriction could discourage

teams from playing in England especially if opportunities for polo elsewhere improved.

- A rule which required every team to have a HGP could only work if there were more competitive HGPs than there were places in teams. If there were not enough such players, the HPA would be forcing patrons to employ the average players and it was not the job of the HPA to provide employment for the players. This year, (as in previous years), there were few English players on the sidelines that Stewards felt should be in a high goal team
- If the objective was to produce players of more than 5 goals then players needed to play in Argentina and the programme in Argentina should be extended and improved with players being encouraged to play the second or third strings of the top players.

There was general consensus that any rule which featherbedded English players unduly did not help them in the long run and that there were currently insufficient competitive players to provide one HGP for each high goal team, especially if one team elected to use more than one English player. However, it had been agreed that a home grown player rule should be examined further by the Development Committee and that they should make a recommendation to Stewards if they considered that a home grown player rule was workable.

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

4. Finance and Grants Committee.

- HPA Accounts 2009** The 2009 HPA accounts at **Annex B** were noted and it was reported that an amount of £165,000 had been donated to the Charity with £14,000 retained to maintain the value of the HPA reserves. The Chairman thanked Guards Polo Club for their important contribution to Cartier International Day.
- Income and Expenditure 2009 / Budget 2010.** With the recommendation of the Stewards, the budget for 2010 at **Annex B** was approved. It was noted that it was unlikely that all of the £50,000 budgeted for the FIP would be needed.
- Appointment of Auditors.** With the recommendation of the Stewards it was agreed that James Cowper be reappointed as auditors.

5. Commercial Committee.

It was reported that Stewards felt that it was likely that there would be an increasing number of commercial events run by entrepreneurs over the next 10 to 15 years and that a Commercial Committee had been formed to safeguard the interests of polo and the HPA. The long term objectives of the newly formed Commercial Committee had been identified as:

- More assistance to clubs including expertise in areas such as grounds and accounts.
- Promotion of income to the HPA through licensing and branding.
- Protection of HPA rights.

It was noted that it was apparent from recent events which had sought HPA endorsement that the various rights of HPA did have value, that this value could extend to overseas, and that these rights did need protecting. However, there was currently no platform from which to make a judgement on the value and it had been agreed that the Commercial Committee could pay up to £15,000 to evaluate the rights and how they might be best exploited once the HPA's position was clearer. Other points to note were:

- The office as it was currently manned could not pursue the possible opportunities or protect exploitation of the HPA brand by others. There was therefore an opportunity and need for someone to act on behalf of the HPA in the field of gaining and retaining sponsorship, not just for the HPA but also for those clubs that were not in a position to do it themselves.
- Any commercial operation was unlikely to produce a surplus for two or three years and seldom worked out as expected. The HPA had to be careful about committing to extra staff costs on the basis of future success.
- Although it was considered that any financial return from television was some way off, it was important to keep an eye on television coverage which was on the increase.

6. **International Committee.** The following points were noted:

a. **New Zealand Test Match.** The England team had held their own and had played well up to half time but they had been unable to compete with the opposing horse power in the second half of the game. Alan Kent had done an excellent job as coach and manager.

b. **Cartier International Day.** New Zealand had formally accepted the invitation to play for the Coronation Cup, and the British Forces Foundation had accepted the invitation to fund raise on the day. The makeup of the morning teams had yet to be decided but there was a view that the morning teams should include four 6 goal players (two per team) and the best two 5 and 4 goal players (one per team).

c. **Audi Agreement.** Audi had agreed to a total sponsorship of £160,000 which the HPA could flex between the England Team, bursaries, the Pony Club and Junior HPA as they wished. The split would be decided by the Stewards annually and for 2010 it would be as follows:

England team:	£110,000.
Bursaries:	£20,000.
Pony Club and Junior HPA:	£30,000.

d. **Cowdray Test Match – Saturday 22nd May.** The following had been selected to play in the St Regis Test Match at Cowdray Polo Club:

England		South Africa	
1. Richard Le Poer	(4)	1. Derek Bratley	(5)
2. Mark Tomlinson (Capt)	(7)	2. Tom de Bruin	(5)
3. Tom Morley	(6)	3. Nachi de Plessis	(7)
4. Chris Hyde	(6)	4. Gareth Evans	(6)
	23		23

It was noted that the England players had been selected from those not involved in the Queen's Cup.

e. **Gloucestershire Test Match – Saturday 19th June.** It had been agreed that it was important that the probable England team for Cartier International Day should play against a strong opposition and that this would best be provided by a team from the Americas which could include Nick Roldan.

f. **FIP General Assembly.** A General Assembly had taken place on Monday 19th April in Florida. The Chairman and John Tinsley had been due to attend but neither had been able to due to the ash from Iceland. Eduardo Huergo had been formally elected as the new President and it had been agreed that Argentina would host the 14 goal World Championships in Sep 2011.

g. **FIP 8 Goal European Championships.** England had not entered a team for the FIP 8 Goal in Austria. It had been agreed that the money required to send a team

(£30-40,000) could be better spent in other ways but that it was reasonable for Stewards to canvas potential patrons to see if there was interest in taking a team of young players at their cost

- h. **Nations Cup.** This had been postponed until 2011 by the AAP. The reasons had not been clear except that it was known that the AAP had had difficulty putting together what they considered to be a competitive team. The postponement had been very disappointing for the team who had put in a lot of work and had already played a practice game. In addition, the HPA had obtained the necessary sponsorship. Several suggestions had been made for 2011 but it was considered that it was a high priority to have something for a high goal England team to play in Argentina in 2011.

7. **Umpire and Rules Committee.** The following points were noted:

- a. **Crossing.** There had been clear support for the AAP interpretation of the rules that gave precedence to the player following the line of the ball over the player turning the ball and the HPA rules had been more closely aligned to those of the AAP with regard to crossing. They now read as follows:

“**33a. Crossing.** No player may cross or turn across an opposing player who follows the LOB or has a ROW except at such a distance that no risk of a collision or danger to either player is involved. A player crossing behind a player on the ROW will foul if he crosses another player following up on that ROW.”

The AAP also allowed the backhander to be hooked when the player was winding up for the backhander and the head of the stick was below the shoulder but the hand was above it. This had never been allowed in England and would not be this year either. There had been an umpires’ meeting at the Sunningdale Park Hotel which had been attended by 48 professional and Club Chief umpires and which focussed on turning across the old line. There was also a DVD which covered turning and this had been sent to all clubs and could be viewed on the HPA website. It was very important that this rule was enforced in the same way at all clubs and at all levels and if a club needed more help, they should contact the HPA.

- b. **Rule Changes.** The rules changes had been high lighted in the Blue Book and the main changes such as the no contact rule had been included in the update note which had been sent to members with their membership card and DVD.
- c. **Umpire’s Helmets and Jackets.** Black and white Casablanca helmets with the HPA logo would be provided to members of the high goal Professional Umpire Group. Long sleeved waterproof jackets supplied by Puffa were available for purchase by clubs.
- d. **DVD.** The DVD had been updated and all HPA members with a handicap (ie not ‘S’) would receive a copy. The DVD could also be viewed on the HPA website under the rules tab.
- e. **Umpire Fees.** The umpire fees had been adjusted so that there was now a differential between the 8 and the 12 goal. They were now as below:

Levels	Charge to Teams	Fee to Umpire By Grade		
		PP	PA	PB
20-22	£650	£375	NA	NA
20-22 Quarter, Semis & Finals	£650	£400	NA	NA
18	£450	£275	£200	NA
15	£375	£225	£150	£120
12 Semis & Finals	£200	£150	£125	£100
8 Semis & Finals	£200	£120	£100	£75

- f. **Assessment by Pro Umpire Group.** After the high goal games a recording of the game would be down loaded from the Project Video cameras onto an HPA laptop as soon as the game had finished. A DVD would then be provided to the umpires so that they could make a self assessment of their own performance, as was done in football.
- g. **Assessment Proforma.** A proforma for the assessment of umpires had been circulated to clubs. It was essentially for when professional umpires were used but clubs might wish to make use of it in order to try to improve the umpiring in a constructive way.
- h. **Website.** It was planned to put brief details of the members of the Pro Groups on the website so that their information was more readily available to clubs; contact details (mobile and email), date of birth, highest handicap reached and where based.
- i. **The Art of Officiating.** Guidelines on the Art of Officiating had been circulated to all clubs. They set out the HPA's position on procedures, control and judgement calls and were designed to help umpires and players to understand the principles of umpiring better. The procedures covered those parts of umpiring, (such as positioning, throwing in the ball, checking handicaps and equipment), which should be followed rigorously by all umpires and upon which an umpires performance could be rated definitively.
- j. **International Rules.** Some work had been completed in producing a set of International Rules with an Addendum of HPA rules.
8. **Disciplinary Committee.** The following points were noted:
- a. **Self Certification by Clubs.** The self certification proforma had been circulated to clubs. Its aim was to ensure that clubs were aware of the various requirements and to raise standards in the longer term. Clubs were required to return it completed to the HPA. Some returns were still outstanding.
- b. **Risk Assessment.** A suggested risk assessment proforma had also been circulated but it was only a guideline to assist clubs and each club had to assess whether it was adequate for their circumstance or whether additional factors needed to be included. It was for clubs to complete and retain. Polo was one of the few equestrian sports where there was often no barrier between the spectators and the horses and it was therefore important that spectators did receive adequate warning of the risks. This had been a crucial factor in the successful defence by Cowdray following damage to a spectator's car.
- c. **Drug Testing of Players.** The HPA would continue to test the players as in previous years.

- d. **Disciplinary Guidelines.** These had been circulated to clubs and it was hoped that they would be helpful. However, they were guidelines only and were not a replacement or substitute for the rules and regulations of the HPA. The aim of the guidelines was to make the process of holding a disciplinary hearing simpler to follow and thus provide encouragement to clubs to deal with any cases quickly and fairly; extracting the actions required from the Regulations in the HPA Blue Book could be a daunting task. The HPA would not become involved if it was considered that a penalty awarded had been excessive because the party found guilty had an opportunity to appeal if they felt that they had been unfairly treated. If it was the reverse i.e. the HPA felt that the party charged should have been either found guilty or punished more severely, there was little the HPA could do other than to go through the proceedings with the Chairman of the Disciplinary Board and express the HPA's concerns. However, it was expected that any serious offence would be referred to the Stewards by the club and that the clubs would normally only deal with the less serious offences. It was emphasised that the onus lay with the clubs and players to read and understand the rules and regulations of the HPA. In discussion, the following points were made:
- The HPA could only publish those offences that had been subject to an official enquiry, either at club or HPA level, and hence any offences which were not the subject of such an enquiry could not be circulated.
 - It was preferable that, unless it was very serious or could not be dealt with by the umpires as part of the game, clubs, which had extensive powers, should deal with any offence fairly and firmly as quickly as possible, even if the player involved was influential within the club.
9. **Welfare Committee,** The following points were noted:
- a. **Review of the Winter.** There had been few reports during the winter and, in spite of the rain and freeze up, the ponies appeared to have come in in good condition although everyone should be aware that there had been a lot of cases of lice.
- b. **Welfare Booklets.** Welfare booklets had been distributed at the Welfare AGM to those Welfare Officers attending and would be sent to the Welfare Officers at the other clubs for circulation to players and grooms as they saw fit.
- c. **Strangles Outbreak.** More than one strangles outbreak had been reported to the HPA. The following points were made:
- Strangles was more prevalent in young ponies.
 - It was wise to isolate ponies for a minimum of six days on arrival and ideally ten days.
 - Strangles could spread via contaminated water so ponies should not drink from the same trough.
 - Any outbreak should be reported to the HPA so that the HPA could help contain it.
- d. **Drug Testing.** The testing of ponies in the high goal appeared to have proved a successful deterrent and it was planned to extend the testing to other levels in the 2010 season
- e. **Vets and Farriers.** Only vets registered with the RCVS could practice in the UK, and the HPA rules made this clear. The same principles applied to farriers who had to register with the FRC, and the HPA rules had been amended to make this clear. The rules had also been included in the Chairman's letter to the Patrons and the HPA update to all members.

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- f. **Horse Ambulance.** It was a requirement for every club to have a horse ambulance which had to be functional with a winch (or equivalent system) and contain the necessary equipment.
- g. **Flu Jabs.** The rules required all polo ponies to have received an influenza injection, and clubs were responsible for checking that their members had complied with the rule. The aim of the flu jabs was to protect the horse population in England as a whole. To date this had been effective but the Committee would be looking to see whether the rules needed to be tightened up for next year. If there was no record of a pony having received an influenza injection then a club could ban it from playing.
- h. **Horse Eye Shields or Goggles.** Initially the Welfare Committee had not been in favour of the eye shields or goggles due to the fact that they were not sufficiently secure. However, the addition of an extra strap had allayed that concern and they were now permitted for a trial period. Incidents of injuries to and around the eyes were greater than previously thought and it was important that players provided feedback. The Committee would also be looking at how to define "blind" for a pony.
- i. **Aged Ponies.** For the welfare of the pony and safety of the player, any pony over 20 should be checked thoroughly before the beginning of the season, and any aged pony that risked bringing the game into disrepute due to its poor appearance should not be played.
- j. **Club Welfare Officer.** The duties of the Club Welfare Officer had been upgraded and were set out in the Blue Book (Rule 4c and Annex B paragraph 5). Their duties had also been set out on the back of the new Welfare Booklet. Either the Welfare Officer or someone delegated with the responsibilities of the Welfare Officer should be present for all polo matches and should check ponies in the lines before and after each match. They should check that they were tied up sensibly and that headcollars were not left hanging, that they did not travel in studs and that they had water before they were loaded. They should also check the horse boxes for ventilation, space and partitions. Welfare was a high priority for the HPA and this had been well demonstrated in 2009 when a player had been fined £10,000 for using an unregistered vet. It was important that clubs supported their Welfare Officer.
- k. **Ponies Put Down.** There had been problems where ponies had been put down at a club and the bill had then not been paid. This had then resulted in the knacker man refusing either to put down the pony or to collect it. It had therefore been agreed that it was the club's responsibility to ensure that the bill was paid promptly. If the member concerned failed to pay, then the club should settle the bill and then collect the money from the player. If the club had problems getting paid, the matter could be referred to the HPA. It would be recommended that this should be included in the rules for 2011.
- l. **Passports and Overstamping.** It was now law for every horse to have a passport and to be accompanied by that passport for events, and any horse getting a passport for the first time now had to be micro chipped. Also, in order to be covered by the HPA insurance, the horse had to be registered with the HPA as a polo pony. If a horse had a non HPA passport, it was important that it was sent to the HPA to be over-stamped as a polo pony for a charge of £5. However, any

horse that was being used as part of a business needed to be covered by the insurance policy of the business.

- m. **Travel Regulations.** It continued to be difficult to identify who were allowed to drive what and therefore it was important that anyone who had concerns should check themselves with the appropriate government department. It appeared that more lorries were being stopped and checked by VOSA. Although it might not be acceptable in a court of law, it was suggested that, as a backstop, copies of the passports for all ponies should be kept horseboxes so that at least a copy was available in case the original was not readily available. The Freight Transport Association (FTA) had produced a guide on the transport of horses by road. Subjects covered in the guide included driving licences, operator licensing, towing trailers, road traffic rules and animal welfare in transit. The guide (Safe Transport of Horses by Road) was available at £5.00 a copy plus postage (no VAT) from Shopfta on 08717 11 11 11 or email sales@fta.co.uk The HPA was looking to see if a simplified version could be produced for members.
- n. **ROR.** Polo took a lot of horses out of racing and therefore ROR had taken a great interest in polo. For 2010 ROR would be producing prizes as follows:
Best High Goal Pony: £5000 x 1
Best Pony retrained played by a 4 goaler and below: £2500 x 1
Best Pony played by a 1 goaler and below: £500 x 5
However, ROR would only continue with such a level of awards if players registered their thoroughbreds on the ROR website. It was felt that the aim of ROR was to find second careers for any horse in the racing industry and not just those that had raced and ROR had been requested not to restrict prizes to those that had actually raced.
- o. **RSPCA.** The RSPCA should have the courtesy to request permission to visit a club. However, this might not always be the case and they might choose to visit as a private member of the public. If clubs were forewarned of a visit, they should inform the HPA as soon as possible. The RSPCA had limited powers which they often tried to exceed and to raise funds and get publicity the RSPCA needed to get involved in high profile cases concerning welfare. It was important that the HPA was informed quickly of any RCPCA involvement at club or member level.
- p. **Record of Injuries.** The aim of the record was to help a club identify any injury trends either within the club or on a specific ground and the record could be very useful as a reference from season to season.
- q. **Rental of Horses.** It was understood that clients were often dissatisfied with the ponies provided and that there was a perception that hirelings played too many chukkas in one day and were moved too quickly from one game to another, sometimes without being untacked or watered in between. The Committee was therefore looking at asking those who rented out ponies to put together a code of conduct to which they would be required to sign up. It was anticipated that the code would be self policing.
10. **Development Committee.** The following points were noted:
a. **Terms of Reference (TOR).** The TOR for the Committee at **Annex D** had been updated. The objectives were ambitious and it was important that any talented player was identified as early as possible.

- b. **Thailand – December 2009.** The match had provided an opportunity for three young players to play with a more experienced player (Andrew Hine) who had captained and managed the team. The trip, which had been part of the sponsorship agreement with Harald Link, had been a great success and the team had been very well looked after. The team had won 6 – 4 against a 12 goal Thailand team.

1. Edmund Parsons (2)
 2. Max Charlton (4)
 3. Andrew Hine (Capt) (5)
 4. Ollie Cudmore (3)
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- c. **New Zealand – February 2010.** The Young England team with the exception of Ollie Cudmore had been selected from players already in New Zealand. The team had been coached by Ben Turner, assisted at the final test match by Alan Kent, and managed by Andrew Tucker. The under 21 age limit had been extended to allow New Zealand to play a 3 goal player.

Date	Place	Opposition	Result	Players
Wed 3 Feb	Auckland	Auckland (6-8)	Lost 8-5	Lanto Sheridan, Harry White, Ollie Cudmore and Ed Winterton.
Fri 5 Feb	Wanstead	NZ Colts (8)	Lost 5-3	Ollie Cudmore, Matt Cudmore, Ollie Powell and Harry White.
Wed 10 Feb	Waimai	Waimai (8)	Won 10-8	Toby Pitts, Lanto Sheridan, Ollie Cudmore and Ed Winterton.
Sat 13 Feb	Kihikihi	NZ Colts	Lost 9-4	Nick Pepper, Ollie Cudmore, Lanto Sheridan and Marcus Beresford.

- d. **South Africa – February Half Term 2010.** This had been a successful venture. The target had been to send 6 players. Will Berner, Max Hutchinson, Roddy Seymour-Williams, Will Batchelor and Charlie Scott had been able to go and Freddie Dear, Ralph Richardson, Charlie Aprahamian and Izzy Parsons had been unable to attend. The main point made by the players was that they had played a lot of polo, 41 chukkas in the week. There was a need to follow up with clinics or 'play days' for the younger players.

- e. **Junior HPA, Pony Club and SUPA.** It was important that the better players were encouraged to play in the Junior HPA and not held back by branch managers to play Pony Club polo. It was therefore possible that the Junior HPA needed more involvement from the HPA in the putting together of teams. The handicap limits and ages for each section needed to be reviewed annually with the hope that the handicap limits would rise and the ages reduce. The Audi sponsorship was for the Pony Club and the Junior HPA as a whole. How the money would be spent had yet to be discussed with the Pony Club but the money would be passed to the HPA by Audi as part of the England team agreement and therefore would not go through Pony Club headquarters.

- f. **Young England Programme.** The young needed to play at as high a level of polo as they were ready for and it was only worth them playing in a high level of polo if they were being used as 'players' and not just blockers and spoilers. The Committee was looking at putting together players on a regional basis for 'play days' or tournaments with a more experienced player so that they could play 4-man polo. This would give them exposure and help them to learn to play in all the different positions. Young players needed encouragement and direction rather

than being shouted at. The 'play days' would consist of five or six chukkas with each chukka being reduced to 5 or 5½ minutes so that there was no requirement to change ponies and so that the high goal player could play his less fit or young ponies.

The following draft programme had been agreed:

- **Play Days.** The first play day had been held at Trewsbury on Sat 1st May for two teams. It was planned to hold 'play days' in May in the Cowdray and Windsor area.
- **Clinic.** A Clinic would be run as a follow up for the younger players. It could include a play day using 4 or 5 goal players.

f. **Young England Matches.** As below:

- Saturday 12th June, Ham: v New Zealand U25 (12 goals).
- Saturday 19th June, Beaufort: v England Ladies (9 or 10 goals).
- Sunday 18th July, Cowdray: v New Zealand U25 (13 goals)..
- It had been agreed that it would be acceptable to allow New Zealand to field players under 25 in order to provide a competitive opposition.

g. **Tournaments.** Consideration was being given to entering an HPA team in club tournaments, probably at the 6 or 8 goal level with an older more experienced player and possibly at the 12 goal level if funds were available. This could help to pick up those players that had been left out of teams due to being raised in handicap.

h. **Inward Teams.** There had been plans to host an inward New Zealand Colts team but this would not now happen. SUPA were due to host inward teams from Italy and Eastern Europe in early July.

i. **Coaching.** There were now 169 qualified instructors and coaches and the HPA had brokered a group insurance policy as part of the membership for those instructors and coaches who required cover.

11. **Handicap Committee.** Oliver Ellis had joined the Committee as a Guards member.

12. **Arena.** The following points were noted:

a. **Bryan Morrison Trophy.** The standard of the match had been excellent and the best display of arena polo to date. The players had shown great support for the event, willingly covering their own expenses. It had therefore been agreed that although it would increase the loss for the day, each player would receive £500 to cover their costs with the proviso that this did not set a precedent for future. The Arena Test Match had cost in the region of £12,000 but it was an important event for arena polo and the annual arena budget was unlikely to be overspent. There had been no event sponsor and gate numbers were down, probably for a variety of reasons; the day followed closely on from the Nationals and Gold Cup, the weather (although in the event the rain had held off), no overseas team with new players, a rival party run at Fifield on the same day, and the fact that Hickstead was viewed by many as being far away.

b. **02 Arena (Sand Polo, Johnny Wheeler and Mark Cann).** Sand Polo would stage an arena test match in the 02 arena on Thursday 24th February. The size of the arena would be 85m x 35m. It was planned to be a joint venture with the HPA and hoped that this would provide an income stream for the HPA in the long term.

- c. **Overseas Tournament.** It was hoped that an England team would be invited to play for the Townsend Cup in America in 2010.
- d. **Rule Changes.** Various rule changes had been agreed in order to speed up the game.
- e. **Handicaps.** Brackets had been introduced to flag up players whose handicap might have been incorrect and therefore subject to change at short notice. They had worked well.
- f. **HPA Club Tournament.** The HPA sponsored National Club Tournament had made a small loss of £170 but had been a great success. For next season it had been agreed that there would be three levels; 6 and 12 goal plus 15 goal to enable teams entered in the Gold Cup to play in the HPA Club Tournament as a warm up. The 15 goal level would also allow the highest handicapped players to take part in more balanced teams.
- g. **Subscriptions.** Club affiliation fees had not changed for arena clubs for some time but it had been agreed that it was not a good time to increase subscriptions given that there were fewer patrons and that the amount of polo played was generally down on previous years although membership levels had remained fairly level over the last few years.

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting should take at 1430 on Thursday 18th November 2010 at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Confirmed this.....day of.....20.....

.....Chairman

Annexes:

- Annex A - Guidelines for Victor Ludorum Tournaments.**
- Annex B - HPA Accounts 2009.**
- Annex C - Income and Expenditure 2009 / Budget 2010.**
- Annex D - TOR – Development Committee.**