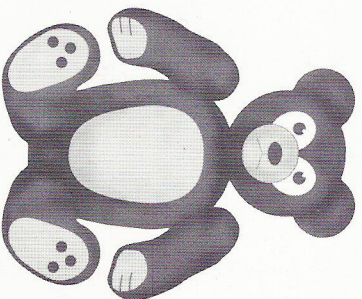


Welcome
to the

Macmillan
cancer relief



Family Fun & Polo Day

25th June 2000

Cowdray Park
Midhurst, West Sussex

A Pioneer for POLO

The origins of Polo are lost in the mists of time, though evidence suggests that Polo was first played in Persia more than 2,000 years ago. The modern game originated in India where British tea planters challenged their local counterparts in what was then a very primitive sport. The British Army then adopted the game and introduced it to the far flung corners of the empire and beyond where it is still played today.

Cowdray Park Polo Club

The late Lord Cowdray, who was passionate about polo, resuscitated the game after World War Two, and today Cowdray Park is considered the major centre for polo in the UK. The Cowdray family's love of the game continues both in active participation and constant support.

Cowdray Park Polo Club is a non-profit making concern. Monies from membership, entry etc are all ploughed straight back into their superb grounds, staff, facilities and to improve the standard of British polo.

Rules of the Road

Polo is like driving. In order to keep everyone safe only one person can have right of way at any one time. So no matter who hits the ball, the person closest to the direct line of the ball has the right of way UNLESS he can be safely intercepted by another player, closer to the ball, WITHOUT causing injury or distress. Thus the endless refrain of 'my line, my line' and the succession of penalties (30 yard, 60 yard, free hit etc) as the two mounted umpires who stay with the game at all times (easily identifiable by their black and white striped shirts) confer with the land-side 'Third Man', to ensure that players conform. Umpires are players and everyone takes their turn at umpiring, graded as to ability and experience.

Players are graded annually in the UK by the Hurlingham Polo Association, the governing body of polo, and are handicapped from -2 (perhaps because they are felt to give 2 goals to the opposition) to 10, which is perfection. Since teams are rated on aggregate handicap, the mix is very important. Polo is played at different levels ... 12 - 15 goal (medium goal), and 17 - 22 goal is High Goal and the fastest, most exciting game on earth.

Each match is between 4 and 6 chukkas and of 7 minutes duration. A bell or horn is sounded at start and end of play and teams change ends after each goal. Ponies are changed every chukka and may also be changed after the umpire has blown the whistle to stop play at any point in a match. Draws are played out into extra chukkas until a clear victor has emerged.