

POLO CHARITY TRUST
Charity No 1015923

The Polo Charity Trust was originally set up in 1992 by the late Viscount Cowdray who along with Prince Philip led the post war revival of the sport in Britain and served as Chairman of the HPA from 1952 to 1967. The present Viscount Cowdray was Chairman of the Trustees until 2021. David Jamison, one of the original Trustees, has taken over as Chairman, and the other Trustees are John Tinsley, Reddy Watt and Roderick Vere Nicoll. The Chairman of the HPA is invited to attend any meetings of the Trustees who meet formally twice a year. Applications can be made through the HPA at any time and must meet one of the objects which are summarised as follows:

- Assistance to professional or former professional polo players or others engaged or formerly engaged in professional polo activities.
- Education and training for alternative employment or self-employment of professional or former professional players.
- Assistance towards the welfare of ponies.
- Encouragement of polo amongst children and the young in full time education.
- Encouragement of polo amongst members of the Armed Services.
- Donations to other charities.

It was agreed that the primary aim of the Trustees was to build up income for the first 21 years until December 2013 and that a fund of about £1million would provide sufficient income to enable the Trustees to support polo in line with the agreed objects. The main contributor during that time was the HPA thanks to the very successful International Days at Guards Polo Club. By 2011 the fund stood at about £1.2m, since when it has been invested and grown to just over £2m in spite of no further donations of any significance. Recent income has been in the region of £40,000 per annum, rather less than was anticipated from such a capital sum back in 1992. Fines for misconduct are also donated to the Charity by the HPA.

Over half a million has been donated to individuals and charitable organisations which includes around £198,000 to some 28 players or past players, usually for an injury which has affected their ability to play for part of the season. The main charities that are supported are the Mark Davies Injured Riders Fund, which provides another source of help and advice for injured players and their families in the event of serious injury, World Horse Welfare (formally ILPH), the Animal Health Trust until it closed down in 2020, and the Air Ambulance. The latter are entirely funded by donations and provide an important service to anyone seriously injured players, on a polo ground or elsewhere. Each year clubs are requested to notify the HPA whether they have called out an Air Ambulance during the season so that donations can then be directed to those specific branches. To date donations totalling £144,500 have been made to 22 different Air Ambulances.

The Polo Charity also supports the Pony Club and UK Armed Forces Polo Association (UKAFPA), formally Combined Services Polo Association (CSPA) with a donation which is split equally between to the Army Polo Association, Royal Navy Polo Association, Royal Air Force Polo Association and the UKAFPA. Along with the HPA, it also provided assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular to those providing instruction or rentals for polo.