



Dear Member,

Following my recent appointment as Chairman of the HPA I wanted to write to you at the start of my term to ensure everyone is clear as to what we hope to achieve over the next four years and to encourage members to engage with the HPA with feedback and comment.

Firstly, I want to thank Stephen Hutchinson on behalf of all HPA members for his hard work and dedication over the past four years. With the support of David Woodd and the Executive team he has done a great job in a number of areas of our sport, including steering us through our discussions with the Home Office regarding visas for both overseas players and grooms, encouraging the development of the sport at all levels and supporting the commercial ambitions of the HPA through the development of the Hurlingham brand and relationships with our important sponsors. Stephen has also given me good counsel over the past few months during our handover period and I know I can continue to rely on his support as we move forward. I would also like to thank Simon Tomlinson and Richard Britten-Long for their huge contribution during their tenure as Stewards. For many years Simon chaired the Development Committee and was a regular feature at the side of the ground watching and encouraging young players in the game. Richard, in his role as Chairman of the International Committee has done a terrific job over many years supporting the England team and representing the HPA around the world. In addition, their guidance and wisdom as Stewards has also been much appreciated during their time with the HPA.

At the moment, as I am sure most Chairmen feel at the start of their time, it feels like there is a lot to do. Already I am hoping you will have seen some of the plans that, following our consultation over the summer, we have started to put into action.

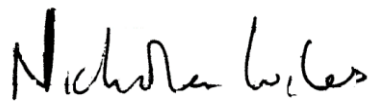
Firstly, we published the final 'Vision for Polo' document, which has sought to set out a longer term plan for the sport and our key priorities over the next five years. It's clear that we need to listen harder to members and seek to modernise our sport in a way that delivers benefits for everyone. From the feedback we had over the summer, it feels that we have three different constituencies within the sport today - High goal, Victor Ludorum / polo at bigger clubs and regional polo. While each of these constituencies has different requirements to flourish there are some important and common themes which are relevant to all levels. As we set out in our 'Polo Vision' document these are centred around the need for fairness and consistency in overall handicapping policy and tournament conditions; a better central HPA strategy to bring more people into the game, particularly at the grassroots level; to better support young players in the game and better equip those coming into the game to manage their careers and beyond; to improve the standards of conduct and behavior; to raise standards of horse welfare; to strengthen our relationships with leading international polo associations; and to modernise the governance and decision making processes in the sport. This is not an exhaustive list but certainly enough for us to focus on and seek to make progress in the next period for the sport.

Already we have made a number of changes to the leadership of committees for the coming year. Will Lucas has been appointed Vice Chairman of the HPA and Chairman of the Handicap Committee. Andrew Barlow has agreed to Chair the Development Committee and Sean Donovan-Smith has become Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. In due course the Chairman of each committee will publish their own terms of reference, consistent with the overall vision and plans we have laid out for the sport. In addition, Antony Fanshawe has agreed to chair the England Selection Committee as part of a plan to reinvigorate the England squad and our annual fixtures list.

It is my intention to update members regularly on the progress we are making in taking the sport forward and our delivery against the vision we have laid out. Naturally we are not going to get everything right and constructive feedback from members will be greatly appreciated - if we need to make changes as we move forward then we will not be afraid to do so. There is no desire in the plans we have to impose greater restrictions, make change for change sake, endanger the livelihood of professional players or discourage patrons but our focus is to make the sport fairer and more enjoyable for everyone and support the British game and its development.

I hope this brief introductory note is helpful to members and I look forward to seeing many of you during my time as Chairman of the HPA.

Nick Wiles

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Wiles". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style. The first name "Nicholas" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the surname "Wiles" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The ink is dark and the background is plain white.