



Welcome to the PTF Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2015

We hope you enjoy the seventh issue of the PTF Quarterly Newsletter. Founded in 1967, to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth, the PTF continues this mission through its many projects.

England Exchange 2015

By Jack McLean

In July, our Junior USA Team traveled to England thanks to the Polo Training Foundation (PTF) and The Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA). It was an unforgettable experience playing polo, living with host families, exploring England, and making friends on & off the field.

This is my fourth year of playing polo. I am 15 years old, from Pittsburgh, and the only player under 19 in western Pennsylvania. I started riding when I was 6, mostly jumping & fox hunting, but I have always had a passion for working with horses. At 11, I started taking polo lessons in the arena and was hooked the first day that I played on the field. In order to play with other kids, however, I have had to travel all along. Through PTF camps, clinics and tournaments, I have met and played with a lot of incredible junior players.

It was really great when I heard that I was selected for the English Exchange and that I already knew the other three players. Petra Teixeira is from California, but we got to know each other at the PTF Santa Barbara Polo Camp run by Sunny Hale and Geannie Sheller. Petra was on the successful Central Coast 2015 Interscholastic Girls Team that went to the finals at Nationals two years in a row. Hannah Reynolds is a friend whom I met originally at the PTF Interscholastic Clinic at UVA. She is an excellent player on the Garrison Forest Interscholastic Polo Team and played in some of the PTF Florida tournaments this winter. Lastly, Tato Bollini has been a friend since my first PTF tournament when I started four years ago. Tato is a smart and experienced player like his Dad and brother, so I

as psyched that he would round out the team that was already filled with fun people and talented players.

As July began, I was very excited for the trip. I was grooming and playing in Upperville, Virginia, so the idea of going to England for polo was stoking me every day. Finally, we all met at Dulles Airport to begin our journey overseas with Hannah's Mom, Cheryl Reynolds, as our chaperone.



Upon arrival at Heathrow, we embarked on our first journey to the place everyone just loves: customs! Of course the lines were long and our already exhausted selves were struggling to stand up, but we eventually made it through. After getting a huge mini-van from the car rental, we began our voyage to Cowdray Polo Park for the Gold Cup Finals. Despite having a little trouble with the car and being a bit nervous driving on the other side of the road, Mrs. Reynolds quickly adapted to the driving conditions and, in the end, did quite well. Upon arriving at Cowdray, I was quickly amazed by the beauty of the club, the field, and its surroundings. I love IPC but it doesn't have a castle next to it! It was great to see familiar players that I had frequently watched in Florida, and the finals of the British Open were very entertaining.

At the game, I met the Beims whom I would be staying with. Jo, Tom, and their son Zac were very kind and great fun to be around. Tom is a professional polo player who

formerly played professional rugby and is a force to be reckoned with on the field. His brother James is the Captain of the English team, and I had the honor of meeting and seeing him a few times during my stay with the family. Zac, Tom's son, is a sweet kid and is surely going to follow in the polo footsteps of his father and uncle. I also met the host families of my teammates and knew they would all be in great hands for our stay. After the game, I travelled 2 hours with the Beims back to their lovely cottage. I had a nice room all to myself and quickly learned what a great cook Jo is.

The following day we went to a field in the Cotswolds and stick & balled some horses. Despite there being a pretty heavy storm as we rode, we carried on. The Beims' horses were incredible and their field was outstanding. I had the pleasure of playing chukkers with them on the same field the following 2 days, and I even got to play with some other medium goal professionals who came out to practice as well. I also got to practice with Tato while the girls were off practicing together at a different farm an hour away.

Back at the Beims yard (the English word for farm), I had lots of fun with Zac as we would play bike polo and help out with the horses. We would muck out the lorry (English for truck & trailer). In fact, I learned a variety of words that the English use instead of our American words like calling the trash - the bin, how a mallet is a stick, a sweater is a jumper, and an afternoon snack is tea. However, the most interesting thing was their version of Shark Tank which they call Dragon's Den, and just as my parents both enjoy Shark Tank, my host parents, Tom and Jo, both love Dragon's Den.



The day before our first game, the Beims and the Coids (Tato's host family) took us to a water park. Despite the water being chilly, we wore wet suits and had a lot of fun. We laughed and cheered for each other as we struggled to stay on the giant raft being dragged pretty fast along the water.

Although it was my first trip to England, I had met the previous Team England which came to Wellington last year for the PTF-HPA exchange. My friends, the Escobars and the Ganzis, were host to the English players. I had the opportunity to play in some practice chukkers at Grand Champions, so I knew to expect some experienced players. We also got to hang out together, playing soccer, foot mallet polo and football, so I knew they were a cool group of kids. It was great to see them again, this time in England. It was also really good getting to know the players we were facing on the new Team England.



Before our big match, my team developed some strategy and tactics with the help of Zac Beim so we would play smart and confidently, using each other's strengths. It was Team USA versus Team England at Longdole Polo Club. The field was beautiful and the temperature was perfect. We all got to wear our beautiful Red, White, and Blue jerseys that had our last names on them, and we felt honored to represent our country as we made our way out onto the field. I had the pleasure of being mounted by Will Lucas, the owner of the club, and he proved to have some incredible machines.

Despite gaining a late lead in the game and feeling very confident that we had it in the bag, the English team proved resilient and got the tying goal that left the final score 4-4. The teams were well matched and the game was very fast. We all were proud of how we played and knew that we gave it our best efforts. At the trophy presentation and asado afterwards, I made new friends and enjoyed the great food they cooked.

We all met up on the following morning and said our goodbyes and thank you's to our host families and started the long, four-hour trip to Cambridge. Upon arrival, we received a warm welcome from the Frisby family. We were amazed by their beautiful home and great atmosphere. After settling in, we made our way to the Newmarket race track where we watched a few races and then enjoyed a great Boyzone concert that carried into the evening.



The following day, Saturday, we left in the morning and headed to Guards Polo Club to watch the Coronation Cup. It was England vs. South America and we were all very excited to watch. Upon arriving at Guards, I was very much reminded of IPC. There was a big field used for parking, lots of excellent fields surrounding, a grand stand on one side of the main field and many tents on the other. It was an honor to see the Duke of Windsor, who was in attendance for what turned out to be a match that was dominated by England from start to finish. After watching the game, we returned to Cambridge and went over to the polo club for an asado. There, we got to meet the president of the club and enjoyed more excellent steak. We were informed there that the fields were very wet and that we would be playing on a cut field that would serve as the driest spot.

The next day, we had a lot of fun playing with and against each other in what was more of a scrimmage. The horses were great and we all had an amazing time. After the game, we headed back to the house and enjoyed our last night watching movies and hanging out. The next morning after not sleeping much, we woke up at 4:30 am and headed back to Heathrow Airport.

Hannah, Petra, Tato and I would like to thank the PTF, HPA, Cheryl Reynolds and our host families for an amazing trip and the opportunity to represent the US. It was interesting to see HPA's solid commitment to youth polo and player development. This made us appreciate how awesome it is that PTF provides these experiences and youth tournaments for us, building for the future of US Polo!

Virginia Interscholastic Clinic

Eighteen junior high and high school students rolled into the Virginia Polo Center in Charlottesville, Va. July 16, 2015 for the fourth annual Virginia Interscholastic clinic and tournament sponsored by the Virginia Polo Center, home of U.Va Polo and The Polo Training Foundation. After an introductory meeting introducing the program, instructors and staff, the students tacked up a mixture of U.Va polo ponies and personally owned mounts brought to the clinic. Danny Scheraga started the entire group off with cavalry drills and was able to add a level of difficulty above those done the previous year. Students were then divided into three lesson groups and rotated through three different clinical sessions. Virginia Polo Coach Lou Lopez, Jr. worked on penalty shots. Dr. Trevor Wells improved hitting techniques. And PTF Executive Director Danny Scheraga ran sessions on riding for polo. The instructors were also assisted by Cale Newman, Hunter Jelsch, and Devon Jones. The players then broke for dinner, which was followed by a practice scrimmage in the outdoor arena, letting them practice some of their new found skills.

Friday morning at 9:00 AM, the players were again tacked and ready to rotate through the lessons. Wells and Scheraga expanded on the previous days lessons on hitting and riding and Lopez taught arena strategy. After a lunch break, students rotated through simulated labs. Scheraga discussed the rules of polo, Lopez went into further detail on strategy, and Dr. Wells discussed health and wellness of the polo pony. This session was a big hit and was even attended by several of the parents. Following a dinner break the tournament commenced. The six teams were divided into two brackets of three teams. They played round robin within their bracket to vie for a spot in the championship game. Parker Pearce, riding a very challenging Virginia men's varsity pony did a great job figuring out what plays he could make while directing his teammates Emily Wiley and Megan Drysdale to victory. In the other bracket, Brennan Wells with his super handy ponies utilized his co-players Annie Ebersold and Noah Fioravanti to win his bracket.



Saturday morning arrived and all that was left were the final games and trophy presentation. In addition to the two teams in the championship match, the outcome of the first night pitted Lila Bennet, Rachel Kelly, and Julianne Gallo against Kathleen Moriarity, Abbie Grant and Ry Koopman. Also Megan Milligan, Michael Koski, and Sophie Grant, took on Emmie Golkosky, Catie Stueck, and Ruth Burke. The games were all close. At the closing ceremonies Lou Lopez complimented the students on their desire to learn and their hard work. He also reminded them that their education was most important and that with a good education polo could be enjoyed as a hobby for a lifetime. Many of the students were already talking about coming back next year.

We hope you are enjoying our quarterly newsletters. The PTF continues its mission to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth through its many projects.

The support of polo enthusiasts such as yourself is crucial to our mission to help grow polo. The PTF is a 501(C)(3) organization with a current annual operating budget of \$600,000; of this, \$400,000 is funded by yearly tax deductible donations. Your support in any amount will be greatly appreciated by the beneficiaries of our programs.



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PRESORTED STANDARD



POLO COLLEGE FAIR

FALL 2015

THE POLO TRAINING FOUNDATION

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

12pm Polo College Fair

COLLEGE FAIR SHOWCASING THE TOP COLLEGE POLO COACHES

CORNELL, UCONN, TEXAS TECH, TEXAS A&M, UVA, YALE & MORE

MEADOWBROOK POLO CLUB, NEW YORK

5PM COLLEGE FAIR GAME

4 CHUKKER ARENA GAME

COUNTRY FARM POLO CLUB, NEW YORK

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