

Off The Racquet

The Official
Publication
Of the
American
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Association

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March 2009

President's Letter.....Kellee Campbell

Oh, my gosh, it finally rained in Texas! Of course that rain comes with VERY cold temperatures and as I am still in the process of building shelters for my horses, I lay awake all night torn between grateful relief for the rain and miserable guilt about the fact that some of my horses were forced to stand outside in it. I'm never going to win.

YOU can win however, when you come to the APA National Championship tournament, to be held at the Busch (you know, the beverage) family estate in St Louis, on the weekend of October 2-4, 2009.

The Busch family polo grounds are beautiful, the grass will be green and the weather should average a balmy 60 degrees. Look for three days of fellowship, laughter and hard, hard play. We will be putting out more information soon- hotel/motel contact info, feed store/hay sources and the name and directions to that all-important local tack store- on the website, via e-mail blast and in print.

Don't miss your chance to learn more about our sport in one of the many clinics being offered around the country this year. We have already had umpire clinics in Florida and New Mexico, open coaching clinics for players in Texas, Florida and New Mexico (hurray for southern springs and warm weather) and more events are scheduled in your area for the coming months. Ask your Zone Rep what's happening in your world- they are ready and willing to help you out. Zone Reps know it all- where the players are, where you find horses and how you can meet traveling foreign players or travel to play yourself. Ask- you might be surprised at what you can find.

Till the next chukka—

Kellee Campbell, DVM
President, APA

APA NATIONALS DATE: OCTOBER 2—4, 2009 Busch Family Polo Grounds near St. Louis, Missouri

~~~More Info To Come~~~

Mileages: from Durango, CO: 1,088 miles; from Albuquerque, NM: 1,044; from Tacoma, WA: the farthest; from West Chester, PA: 862; from Austin, TX: 826; from Dallas, TX: 631; from Minneapolis, MN: 562; from Ocala, FL: 919; from Pinehurst, NC: 817; Pittstown, NJ: 900

### DO YOU NEED A CLINIC? DO YOU WANT TO START A CLUB?

The APA has two places you can go for help:

- 1) your Zone Representative (see page 2) can help you set up clinics at a level you need, whether they find you a clinician or go to the PDP to do so.
- 2) The Player Development Program (PDP) can also help you arrange clinics and with building your club. Contact David Brooks, Player Development Program Chair at [ddbcustoms@aol.com](mailto:ddbcustoms@aol.com)



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# ACTIVE APA CLUBS

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## GEORGIA

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# UMPIRE NEWS.....Amy Keith

The following will be posted to the APA website.

## UMPIRE PROCESS, DESCRIPTION AND CERTIFICATION POLICY

My goal in writing this is to set out the description of the umpire panel and certification policy as I envision it and as it is being carried out under my administration as Chief Umpire. This policy is not binding on any future Chief Umpires but should be used now as a guide for players and umpires and in the future as an historical explanation from which future Chief Umpires may grow and modify the umpiring program.

**Chief Umpire:** Under the By-Laws of the APA, the Chief Umpire has the sole authority and responsibility for interpreting and revising rules for play and for selection, development, retention of certified umpires.

**Tournament Umpire:** The Chief Umpire appoints a tournament umpire for each APA sanctioned event. That tournament umpire is delegated the authority to and requirement of enforcing and interpreting the rules of play.

**Match Umpires and Senior Umpire:** The tournament umpire designates one or more umpires to officiate each match including a senior umpire who will have authority to determine a call in case of disagreement between the two umpires. As a matter of practice, a tournament umpire should list the name of the senior umpire for the match first and the senior umpire should officiate nearest to the scoring table unless otherwise designated.

**Goal and Line Judges:** The Senior Umpire for a match may designate one or more persons to assist in calling goals and/or watching lines for infraction by a player or calling out of bounds. There should be no more than 2 persons at or in the goal area during a match, one with responsibility for calling the goal and catching the ball; the other with responsibility for watching the back line or 11 yard semi-circle (the "D") for infraction by a player or ball out of bounds. When a player infracts the back line with possession of the ball, a ball goes out of bounds or a player infracts the "D" while shooting, the line judge should waive his hand or racquet parallel to the ground as she would to indicate a missed goal. The match umpire may disregard the call of the line judge or goal judge as he or she sees appropriate. The line judge or goal judge is purely an aide to the match umpires.

**Scorer and Timer:** the match judge shall use the assistance of a scorer or timer. Depending on the organization of the tournament or match, the teams may be required to supply a scorer and timer or the tournament organizers may supply the scorer or timer. The match umpires are ultimately responsible for determining the final score and correct time for a game with assistance from the appointed scorer and timer.

**Tournament Committee:** The tournament committee is responsible for arranging the fields, setting the draw and organizing start times for all matches. It is not the responsibility of the Tournament Umpire to set the draw, determine what players should play in which division or which horses are appropriate for play prior to commencement of a match. However, the Tournament Umpire

has authority to rearrange a draw or put a player into a different division or require a horse to play in a certain position or division for purposes of safety. A tournament umpire may participate in setting the draw as a voluntary service to the tournament committee. The tournament umpire is responsible for setting the schedule of umpires for each match in the tournament seeing to it that an appropriate umpire or umpires will officiate the match. A tournament committee may, as a voluntary service, schedule the umpires for a tournament but the tournament umpire has responsibility for confirming or naming the match umpires.

**Umpire Certification Level:** The highest level of certification for an umpire under the APA currently is a Level 2 umpire. The intermediate level of certification is a Level 1 umpire. The lowest level of officially recognized umpires is the Associate umpire. A description of the process and requirements for each is set out below. However, it is important to note that all players are expected to perform some aspect of umpire at each tournament whether as a match umpire, a goal or line judge or a scorer or timer. No member of the APA is exempted from participation during a match and all members of the APA are expected to respond quickly and positively to a request by an umpire for assistance in officiating a match.

**Certification Process:** The steps toward certification are as follows:

1. Training through participation in clinics or by mentoring. Mentoring is asking a certified umpire to help train you and explain how to handle certain situations. You should ask a certified umpire that you feel comfortable with to be your mentor – or ask the Chief Umpire and she will assign a mentor to you.
2. Testing to show proficiency and understanding of the rules of play including advantage, safety and how to control a field and its surroundings.
3. Sponsorship by certified umpire for certification once your mentor thinks you are ready to be certified, he or she tells the Chief Umpire and other certified umpires so that they can watch you and judge ability to control games and conduct them safely. This could take a year or two but is usually over a season.
4. Certification at Level 1;
5. Repeat of steps 3 through 4 and to achieve certification at Level 2. Part of the process is to make sure that a candidate has the support of a wider range of umpires and not just a single certified umpire. The purpose of the certification process is not to develop a clique or to be exclusive but to make sure that the candidate really has the abilities, respect and support that he should have when given the responsibility that a certified umpire takes on.

### 1. Training through clinics or mentoring:

The APA sponsors umpire training through formal clinics and by individual mentoring by umpires. Each umpire panel member

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# **BOARD NEWS**

Here is condensed info from the face to face meeting the Board held at the end of January. There are some new policy changes to note. You will get a postcard in the mail, asking to let us know if you would still like to receive your newsletter by mail or by email notification when it is posted to the website. You will be seeing website updates as we try to expand pages planned for and continue to work to make the site better organized.

## Program and Committee Chair Positions for 2009:

Amy Keith was voted in as Chief Umpire.

John Jameson was named by Kellee Campbell to be the International Polocrosse Council Representative.

Liz Gleeson was voted in as International Liaison.

David Brooks was voted in for Player Development Program Chair.

The position of Chief Coach will be voted on once the Player Development Committee has discussed it.

The Zone Reps will act as Clinic Coordinators of their zone.

Kiki Pantaze was voted in as World Cup Chair.

Sarah Ferebee was voted in as USPC Liaison.

Donna Ellis and Erica Vallee were voted to be Co-Chairs of the Business Development Committee.

Kiki Pantaze was voted in to be the Communications Committee Chair.

Victoria Prince was voted in to be the Membership Committee Chair.

The 2009 Executive Committee will be: Kellee Campbell, Laura Humphreys and John Jameson.

The Executive Committee will negotiate for Nationals 2009.

Prissy Rumel was voted in as Ratings Chair.

## Policy Issues:

The By-Laws may be amended to include an allowance for the removal of a Director or Officer once the Board finishes discussing the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act inclusion already referenced in the document.

Zone Reps duties will include acting as an Assistant Coordinator for any international event that occurs within their zone. They will act with the International Liaison (IL) and the Player Development Program (PDP) to screen site selection for events and the Player Development Committee (PDC) will make the final selection. The International Liaison will act as the Event Coordinator on behalf of the APA.

Tabled until the next meeting until the Player Development Chair can answer: a) The IL, Zone Reps and the proposed team coach will decide on the venue for upcoming team tours; b) the PDC will confine themselves to the Mission Statements in the APA Manual until all the underlying programs, manuals (as in Coaching Accreditation) and job descriptions (as in Chief Coach) have been written and approved by the Board; and c) the responsibility of the PDP will not expand into the international arena beyond player development and team selection until a policy has been made clear and approved by the Board.

An outline of the World Cup Committee's mission, goals and duties was accepted by the Board and will be put into the APA Manual.

Reimbursements: Those who want reimbursements need to send in the proper receipts and forms within 60 days.

Cap fees from tournaments are now \$10 per player.

Sanctioning Fees: The present policy for sanctioning fees will not be changed, but will be enforced. An email blast about the club's sanctioned tournament can be done as an extra help to the club.

Membership fees need to increase as they have stayed the same for a number of years. There are also charges to the APA when membership is paid online that must be taken into account with our expenses. To cover this, membership fees will have this new structure:

Starting in 2010 membership fees will be:

\$110 Family for credit card payment/\$105 for checks mailed;

\$70 Individual Senior for credit card payments/\$65 for checks mailed;

\$40 Junior for credit card payments/\$35 for checks mailed; and

A 20% late fee (same rate we have now) will be in effect after Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

Nationals: Beginning in 2009, Nationals will be held in a geographically centralized location to attract large player numbers and the APA will consider alternate year Nationals sometime in the future. The site for Nationals 2009 should be announced by mid March.

Tabled until research is done before the next meeting: A Horse Welfare Officer, preferably a licensed veterinarian or an officer appointed by the Chief Umpire and the Tournament Committee, will have the authority to assure the health and safety of the animals used in APA events.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## APA Presidential Scholarship

The APA is pleased to announce that Victoria Prince will be receiving the Presidential Scholarship. There were 10 candidates who applied last November, and all expressed heartfelt praise for the influence the APA has had in their lives. For those of you who do not know Victoria, she has some remarkable accomplishments.

Victoria was introduced to polocrosse because of her mother, who found the sport first through Pony Club. After attending the first ever USPC polocrosse rally, held in Warwick, New York, Victoria decided that this was her sport. She began to play a bit with USPC and then in some APA tournaments in the Eastern Zone. There was no official club in New Jersey where she lives, but she played wherever she could get on a team, began to teach Pony Club teams and did demos whenever she could. She ran a 3 day sleep over camp for local Pony Clubbers in 2001 and one of those campers was Sara Cifelli, who has now represented the US twice against Australian teams.

Later Victoria became an Associate Umpire and attended more APA tournaments, but never had a consistent team. She met up with Jessie Reed from her USPC days, who wanted to get back into the sport. They set up scrimmages with a schedule and ambitiously decided to set a date for a tournament. Bucks County Polocrosse Club was formed in 2005. At this point there was a need for consistent practice schedules and coaching. With the growth of the club, she now had a team to play with in several tournaments per year...and has also been a major part of the planning, organizing and running of the Bucks County tournaments. She continues to help her club grow and to help UPSC kids with polocrosse.

Candidates for this scholarship need to show what their involvement has been with the APA. Victoria's accomplishments are many: demos, tournaments, Regionals, Nationals, and clinics as a rider. Equally important is that she has also been a clinician for 10 clinics with groups of participants ranging in number from 5 to 25. She has been the Chief Umpire at the Regional Pony Club Polocrosse Rally and USPC Championships in Virginia, umpired at most tournaments she has competed in and has given a talk at the USPC Annual Meeting. She has been published in her local equine newspaper and in the USPC national newsletter; has been the VP of her club and has run and participated in many club practices. Last year at Nationals, she was given the Essex All Blacks Friendship Cup in recognition for what she has done for the APA.

As a candidate, she has been very busy with polocrosse in the APA and in Pony Club; but amazingly, Victoria is *also* an MD/PhD student at New Jersey Medical School. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Pharmacology and Physiology. She believes that polocrosse, horses, family and friends have brought balance to her intense academic life and has allowed her to develop leadership, teaching and coaching skills.

Candidates for this award also need to present a two year plan for how they intend to give back to the APA. Victoria loves to promote the sport and plans to continue giving clinics, umpiring at tournaments and being active in

her club. She has recently been named the Membership Committee Chair and would like to bring back the idea of starter kits that have racquets, balls and pinnies that new groups could use to begin learning to play with before they buy their own.



## **THE APA WOULD LIKE TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS!**

If you are a current member of the APA, you will be getting a postcard in the mail, asking if you would like to continue getting your APA publications in the mail OR if you would only like to get online announcements and see things like the OTR on the APA website.

If you would like to continue getting paper versions of publications, you must notify the APA Secretary and give the address you would like publications mailed to.

Laura Humphreys

[lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org](mailto:lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org)

# PROGRAM NEWS

## Player Development Program

The PDP is very busy right now. We spent a lot of time at the first of the year on a possible test with NSW. We found that there was interest from players but there was not a sufficient supply of horses. The PDC voted to not invite NSW because it would be detrimental to our recent success with them to host a test series when we could not count on solid horses.

John Jameson has put a lot of time and effort into putting a team together to travel to South Africa. The team will consist of Quentin Jameson, Sam Pohl, Kyle Young, Sara Cifelli, Caroline Gardiner, and Renee Hicks.

We are finishing the budget for the NSW exchange this summer. I am the Coach. I have Kelly Fisk, Nick Balogh and Shannon Molsky helping as managers. Nick and Shannon were on the team that went to NSW last year. It is a great step for the program that these 2 young people are putting time in as managers. They have also been very active in teaching clinics and helping their clubs grow. Three others from last years NSW trip have also been very active in teaching and club building. This is the vision I have for the PDP in the future. We develop players who develop players and grow their clubs.

The NSW team will arrive in North Carolina the first week of July. This is a change from the original plan but we are making it work. Plans include a July 4th parade and an exhibition match that afternoon. The tour will last until July 19th. We received 24 applications and have invited 16 US kids to attend. We are trying to get more kids involved. This is an opportunity to coach more kids and have them meet the NSW team before going there in 2010. There will be 8 varsity kids that will play 2 exhibition matches against NSW. The rest will be JV. The JV will participate in all the team activities and practices and will get to play with and against NSW in scrimmages. The group will attend Nasa, Rope Course, target shooting and camping at the Fiske Farm in TN.

We are rewriting the PDP documentation. This will reflect a more domestic direction and the continued success of the youth team program. Erica Vallee is answering some questions about taking better advantage of the APA 501 status, and are exploring the possibility of running player accounts. This could allow players to fund raise year round for future International play.

—David Brooks, Player Development Program Chair

*From Page 4:*

should conduct or cause to be conducted an umpire clinic in his or her zone no less than one time per year. Individuals may be asked to mentor or explain rules of play to anyone at anytime. It is recommended that the person who is mentoring another player report that to the panel member for the zone in which the mentored player resides. Certified Umpires are listed on the web site.

### 2. Testing:

A player should contact the Chief Umpire indicating that he or she is ready to sit for an umpire test. The Chief Umpire or her designee may administer the test from at any appropriate time. Passing grades on umpire test constitute 70% correct answers or greater. The Chief Umpire keeps a record of persons who have taken and passed the test during her/his tenure. A person may take any test as often as he or she likes at the discretion of the Chief Umpire or her designee. The written test is given at each umpire clinic and can be given by request to the Chief Umpire if you feel you are ready but haven't be able to attend a clinic and take the test.

### 3. Formal Mentoring:

This step of the training process is the most important. A person seeking to be certified must find and get the agreement of a certified umpire to act as mentor in the umpiring program. The mentor agrees to watch, work with and correct the mentee in the proper methods of calling a match, controlling the match or interpreting the rules. If you do not know who to ask to be your mentor – contact

the Chief Umpire to help find a mentor.

### 4. Sponsorship:

Whether it is the mentor or another certified umpire, a candidate must have a certified umpire recommend him or her to the panel letting the panel know what qualities the candidate exhibits and why the sponsor believes the candidate should be certified. The panel may accept the sponsor's recommendations or ask that the sponsor take certain steps toward educating the candidate before certification. The sponsor will recommend you for certification when he or she believes you are ready as a leader of our sport.

### 5. Certification:

The Chief Umpire weighs the recommendations of sponsors and the panel and ultimately determines who is and who is not to be certified at any level. The Chief Umpire is responsible for determining who will continue to be certified or should be removed from the list of certified umpires.

### Grievance Process:

If a club or player makes a complaint involving the safety of play or the equipment of a player or the quality of umpiring by a certified umpire, that complaint should be made in writing. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the Chief Umpire shall investigate the allegations, present them to the umpire panel and, upon recommendation of the panel, determine what action to take to reprimand or sanction the person, if necessary. Any formal sanction by the Chief Umpire shall be in writing or made electronically to the player (or club if that is appropriate) and a copy shall be sent to the Secretary of the APA.

—Amy Keith, Chief Umpire

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## Membership Committee

The term 'grass-roots' is often brought up when I hear about the promotion and growth of polocrosse. A national organization cannot hunt out and find individual members for individual clubs, but it can empower the membership and provide them with the skills and information to go out and grow the sport themselves.

There are already a number of individuals out there doing a great job, but it can be a tiring and thankless job and we need more people to take up the task. As Member-

ship Chair, I hope to provide information and ideas to clubs and individuals looking to promote polocrosse in their local areas, attract more spectators to their tournaments, and attract new members to their clubs. If you are interested in helping draw up such information or have any constructive ideas about how to empower individuals to promote polocrosse or ideas on how to promote polocrosse, please e-mail me at [vlprince@gmail.com](mailto:vlprince@gmail.com).

—Victoria Prince

## Ratings Committee

We are going to continue with the 0-20 point scale that is currently in use. There will be some changes on how the ratings are done and the responsibilities of players, raters and tournament committees.

Each zone has a rater. Central – Tina Hutcherson; Eastern – Victoria Prince; Western – Seth Alcott; Mountain – Al True.

Those zone raters will be responsible for all the players from their zone. They will also have input on changes to players in other zones.

The ratings are designed for one purpose....to seed teams at tournaments. They are NOT designed to let you know how well you played. Lots of things must be taken into consideration by the raters and ratings will probably not be changed because of one outstanding performance or one horrendous performance. They are used to help the tournament committee seed teams and as long as your team is in the appropriate division at the tournament, things are going well.

If a rating is used as a criteria for some event, it should only be a suggestion and able to be overruled if deemed appropriate by the person in charge of the event.

Small tournaments where mainly in zone players attend: The zone rater will ask some club representatives to help make sure that all new players or non-rated players get a rating and that any obvious changes be made.

Large tournaments where several zones are in attendance: Each zone rater will have their player list with things they would like changed or watched. They will meet on Friday, before play begins to discuss those and then meet Saturday before dinner to go over any questions and make changes. There might be a few others that need attention on Sunday also. The raters will not need to watch players from other zones like they have in the past. As they are watching their own zone players they will see the competition to compare. The zone rater is responsible for making sure the players in their zone are rated appropriately on the National scale.

### Zone rater responsibility:

- 1) Rate at all sanctioned tournaments that any players from your zone are attending.
- 2) If any of your zone players are attending a sanctioned tournament and you are not attending, you are to delegate someone from your zone to represent your players there.

- 3) At tournaments in your zone, you are to organize 2-3 others to help if no other zone raters or representatives are attending.

- 4) Keep a master list of players in your zone updated.

### Player responsibility:

- 1) Advise zone rater if you are attending an out of zone tournament.
- 2) If a player has a question or concern about a rating, they must contact the ratings chair (Prissy Rumel) [pris-syr@hotmail.com](mailto:pris-syr@hotmail.com)

### Tournament committee responsibility:

- 1) Have 4-6 copies of player lists and current ratings available to zone raters by Friday afternoon of your tournament.

### Questions or Appeals:

If a player would like to question a rating or has some sort of concern about the ratings, they must contact the ratings chair. The chair will forward the concern so that at the next tournament the concern can be addressed. The chair will receive the information and get back to the player who initiated the concern or question either with the change or with reasons why the change did not take place.

We are going to give this a try for 2009 and see if it's any easier for the raters. I firmly believe that the ratings have done their job for the past several years because teams have been appropriately seeded at large tournaments. It has become too difficult for the raters to watch all the players at all the tournaments so we are changing their responsibility.

Prissy Rumel

## Need an updated membership form?

Go to the APA website:

[www.americanpolocrosse.org](http://www.americanpolocrosse.org)

and look under 'Forms'.

Check the box if you want your publications in the mail...don't check it if you don't.

# CLUB NEWS

## Bucks County

Bucks County Polocrosse recently held its annual members meeting, and is looking forward to an exciting 2009 season. Many thanks go out to our outbound club board members Patti Cifelli and Sharon Stroh, and congratulations are wished to our new club board members Graham Gill and Bonnie Shriner. On February 14-15 BCPC hosted a weekend of clinics with Ryan Murphy and Dori Wiseman. The weekend was a huge success, with basic skills and tactics covered on Saturday and more advanced skills and tactics covered on Sunday. Each day drew about 25 participants, and all gave rave reviews.

BCPC has scheduled its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Play-Day series and 6<sup>th</sup> APA sanctioned tournament. The Play-Days will take place the third Sunday of the month starting in May and continuing through September (though the September date will be rescheduled as it coincides with the Tarheels Classic), with the June event being replaced with our sanctioned tournament (June 20-21<sup>st</sup>). This year's tournament will be held in a new (soon to be announced) location with two fields to accommodate even more players (and a slightly more relaxed schedule!). Hope to see you there!

The membership at Bucks County continues to grow and spread, and we are excited to think what the future holds for polocrosse in our area. If you're ever in the NJ/PA area, or fancy coming for a visit, we'd love you to stop by!

—Victoria Prince

## Developing a Club: A Worthwhile Journey

By Ryan Murphy

The purpose of this article is to encourage my fellow polocrosse community to take the time and energy to develop clubs by telling my story. Ask not what the APA can do for you, but rather what you can do for the APA. The more we invest locally, the stronger we'll be as a national association. It's called grass roots. Some strong examples on the east coast are Bay Area, Bucks County, Orange County and Charlie Horse just to name a few. In just a few years, the East coast has become a force. My Carolina polocrosse club is just one example.

I'm extremely proud of my club's accomplishments. Many players are representatives on US National Teams, tremendous horsemen (which I contribute greatly to Pony Club), and people of passion and integrity. I must say that even though I'm so proud of them, I don't take credit for their accomplishments and I also don't take credit for their mistakes. It's like I'm a frequency on a radio station. They chose to listen and be coachable and had faith in me. It took the work of everyone to get to where we are today.

I started playing polocrosse when I was nine in 1990 in pony club. I simply enjoyed just going fast and throwing the ball around. I had encouragement from my parents and reliable horses. The years that followed consisted of many practices and pony club events in Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania. I then had opportunities to start traveling to Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

My first A grade tournament was in Huntsville, TX in 1998 with Orphan Ranch. In college, I was fortunate to win many games as a member of Lone Star and started

traveling abroad to learn more about polocrosse. The theme here is the coaching I received. I was given tons of knowledge and developed strategies. The way I play now was greatly refined by Joy Poole's World Cup Team coaching. I couldn't argue with fifty years of polocrosse experience. I submitted to the fact that I had a lot further to go. Even at this moment, I feel that there are many more mountains to climb, with hundreds of better players than me across the world. In the beginning, it was all about me and my growth. I was fortunate to have great teachers and people that pushed me up. At some point, though, I realized that I had to help grow a young club to give back. I couldn't win internationally on my own. The ME years were put on hold and the THEM years had to begin.

Life put me in the great state of North Carolina after college. I fell in love with the attitude and commitment of the players. I started coaching and umpiring. I impressed upon them my principle about clubs that I learned from Lone Star, which required accountability and democratic processes. The next thing I wanted them to understand was that they had to be really bad before they could be good and then good before they could be great. This takes time. There is a key to being bad, though. It's important to be well turned out and prepared while maintaining a positive attitude. Lone Star is a great example of this. They were just a great group of people that loved the game. Their club fundamentals made growth in player skills inevitable. They used to lose quite frequently, but look at them now.

I could have quite a few more belt buckles if I'd stayed in Texas and played for Lone Star. I could have experienced much more competitive practices and become a better player. I am fortunate now to play with my club in A grade. I'm in the WE years. I've successfully duplicated myself and they now make me a better player. They also can bring others up through the club. This club building process took five years and some wonderful people.

How can you avoid the biggest club destructive pitfalls? Firstly, continue to grow from the bottom up. If a club becomes top level heavy and we forget how we became A graders, we're doomed to suffer from club breaking politics. It's the same way we feel as humans. The more we focus on ourselves, the more frustrated we can get. "I shouldn't have eaten that or said that or should've worked out today." It's actually easier to focus on others and less politics can take over. Put as much energy into new players as your personal growth as a club member and you're truly helping it grow.

Here is another strategy to help avoid club back breakers: be democratic. Make sure there is an elected club board and designate team selectors. Understand that if you allow teams to be picked socially, there will be resentment from the passive members. Competition is the fairest team selection process. I find that the workers will work and whiners will whine. The workers will reap the rewards; the whiners will point fingers and some will leave.

The ultimate keys to personal and club growth are: encourage competition, making sure that you're having fun and staying positive. Also, you have to speak greatness into fellow members. *Continued on Back Cover...*

# TOURNAMENT NEWS

## US vs. UK Test Match 2008

The first ever mixed international polocrosse test match in the US took place on October 17th and 18th, 2008 at Camp Stewart for Boys in Hunt, TX. It was a hard fought match between the United States and the United Kingdom Presidents Team.

Before getting into the details of the game, let's start from the beginning. Liz Gleeson, the APA International Liaison along with the Player Development committee planned the international exchange so that the UK could come and play with US clubs on club provided horses at the Waldemar tournament on the weekend prior to the test match weekend, which also took place in Hunt, TX. Once the invitation to the UK was complete, the administration was selected by the Player Development committee with Ryan Murphy as coach, Susan Johnson as manager and Kiki Pantaze as horse manager.

On August 8-10, a very competitive selective tryout took place at the Lone Star field in Coupland, TX with 6 men and 8 women competing for 5 men and 5 women spots (4 men/4 women playing spots and 1 alternate man and woman spots). Each person trying out had to keep track of their fitness, horse fitness and racquet work for weeks leading up to the tryouts. At the tryouts, Ryan M. did a great job instilling into all of us the basic strategies that were taught by the World Cup coach, Joy Poole.

After taking a year off being pregnant, I was very impressed with how much these young players had improved since the spring of 2007. I almost didn't make the cut. The top 5 men and 5 women were chosen that weekend. They were Rahul Desai, Quentin Jameson, Derek Rumel, Ryan Strider, Rob Shuttles (captain), Rachael Gayler, Stephanie Shuttles, Erin Smoyer (vice captain), Taylor Smith, and Dori Wiseman.

Seven weeks later, a second team practice took place at the North Texas tournament at the Johnson's in Whitesboro, TX. Our players made up 4 sections including Prissy Rumel, who offered to fill in an open spot and support us in our offensive and defensive patterns on the field. It was obvious to me that everyone on the team had done their homework over those 7 weeks. By the end of the tournament weekend, everything seemed to be coming together nicely. Ryan M. struggled to pick the alternate man and woman after that weekend. It was a tough decision, but ultimately Quentin and Taylor were named as the alternates. These two players were still as much a part of the team as the 8 playing members throughout the entire exchange.

Two weeks later, the UK players arrived. Their team consisted of Guy Robertson (coach), Richard Chapple (manager), Alex Bull, James Davidson, Daniel Duhig, Jono Keen, Caroline Kelly, Vickie Metcalfe, Beth Peaker, and Charlotte Pykett. They spent the first few days at Amy Keith's and John Jameson's in the Hill Country before playing at Waldemar the weekend prior to the test match. After the Waldemar tournament, 28 test horses remained at the Waldemar field during the week leading up to the test match. Nineteen out of the 28 horses were generously do-

nated by polocrosse players who were not on the US team. Jan and Sunni Valencia drove out from Colorado to help Kiki manage all 28 horses. During the week before the test match, the UK and US players, coaches and managers stayed in the cabins at Camp Stewart and ate breakfast and dinner at the Camp Stewart dining hall, with the exception of two evenings. One evening, the US team was hosted by Gordon Duff at the beautiful Lone Hollow camp located 40min. down the road. On Thursday evening, Si and Kathy Ragsdale hosted the US and UK teams at their home for a lovely evening and a nice dinner.

The US and UK teams flipped for their pool horses on Monday night, which they rode and cared for the rest of the week in preparation for the test match and throughout the test matches on Friday and Saturday. The US and UK were allotted 2 hours to ride the horses each day from Tuesday through Thursday. The majority of the horses held up well throughout the exchange. Only a couple of the UK horses got vetted out due to minor injuries.

The week leading up to the test match found the US team doing a lot of racquet and strategy work, team building, and pennis (that's a mixture of polocrosse and tennis). When Friday arrived, we were ready and it showed. Rachael, Stephanie and Dori started the test match as the #1, #2 and #3 respectively and came out strong, shutting out the UK with 3 goals within the first 5 minutes. Unfortunately, there was a dangerous crossing penalty about 5½ minutes into the first chukka, causing the UK player, Vickie Metcalfe, and her horse to fall. Vickie was flown via AirLIFE helicopter to University Hospital in San Antonio (after a few weeks in the hospital, Vickie made it back home to the UK where she is recovering nicely). The daylight was slowly fading, so it was decided to cancel Friday's test match and start a new match on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday's game was umpired by John Jameson and the UK's Rob Jenkinson (Amy Keith was the chief umpire for the game) and commented by Phil 'Baby' Granger. It consisted of 8 6min chukkas. Rachael (#1), Stephanie (#2) and Dori (#3) started the game once again and Rob (#1), Ryan S. (#2) and Derek (#3) started the second chukka. The women and men alternated chukkas throughout the rest of the game with Erin and Rahul coming in to play in the 3rd and 4th chukkas as #2s. The scores for each chukka and the total score are shown below.

The score was close through the 3rd chukka with the UK slowly increasing the gap as the game continued with the US down by 7 going into the last chukka. The US men fought back with a heart-pounding final chukka, but it wasn't enough to take the lead, leaving the final score at UK 24-US 22. According to the statistics that Paul Johnson provided for the game, the US players touched the ball 95 times with 37 total losses, while the UK had 79 touches with 36 losses.

It was possession to goal percentage that lost us the game, mixed in with some nerves and a few basic mistakes with our racquets. The male MVPs and horses for the test match were Rob Shuttles and his horse Lizzie for the US

# TOURNAMENT NEWS (continued)

and Daniel Duhig and Cricket (owned by Paul and Susan Johnson), the horse he played for the UK. The female MVPs and horses were Dori Wiseman and Sonic (owned by Kristi Johnson), one of the horses that she played in the test match for the US and Beth Peaker and PT (owned by Jeeper Ragsdale), the horse that she played for the UK.

Overall, I feel that this was the most talented team that I have ever played on and I think that this test match

against the UK was a great opportunity for all of these players to grow as individuals and as a team on the road to World Cup 2011. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the US and to those who donated their time, money, facilities and horses.

Erin Smoyer  
US team Vice-captain

|     | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | Total     |
|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| UK  | 2               | 3   | 3   | 5   | 3   | 2   | 4   | 2   | <b>24</b> |
| USA | 1               | 4   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 7   | <b>22</b> |

APA Team Members  
for the UK Test  
Match:

Rahul Desai, Quentin Jameson, Derek Rumel, Ryan Strider, Rob Shuttles (Captain), Rachael Gayler, Stephanie Shuttles, Erin Smoyer (Vice Captain), Taylor Smith, and Dori Wiseman

Coach: Ryan Murphy

Not all were present below.



## **APA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT DATES**

### **April 4-5, 2009**

S—Waldemar Classic 2009 . Hunt, TX  
Liz Pohl . 830.329-2920 . [lizpohl@hotmail.com](mailto:lizpohl@hotmail.com)

### **April 18—19, 2009**

S—Jon Weber Classic . Coupland, TX  
Dori Wiseman . 301.346-7418 . [doripolox@yahoo.com](mailto:doripolox@yahoo.com)

*Comments:* Men's Sectional and Women's Sectional in upper divisions. 6 player teams in all others except possibly Juniors.

### **May 2—3, 2009**

S—Spring Fling . Hurdle Mills, NC  
David Brooks . 919.949-0351 . [ddbcustoms@aol.com](mailto:ddbcustoms@aol.com)

### **May 9—10, 2009**

S—Redneck Mother's Day Tournament . Cypress Mills, TX  
Amy Keith (830) 825-3603 . [amyk@hts-law.com](mailto:amyk@hts-law.com)

### **May 30—31, 2009**

S—Rocky Mountain Tournament . Hesperus, CO  
Britt Lovelace . 970.588-3381 . [rockymtnpolox@wildblue.net](mailto:rockymtnpolox@wildblue.net)

### **June 20—21, 2009**

S—Bucks County Summer Tournament . Pipersville, PA  
Jessie Reed . 267.246-7482 . [buckspolocrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:buckspolocrosse@yahoo.com)

### **July 4—5, 2008**

S—Abajo 4th of July Tournament . Los Lunas, NM  
Kendra Veit . 505.280.6510

*Comments:* Come and join us for some New Mexico sun and New Mexico fun.

### **July 12—13, 2009**

S—Tennessee Valley Polocrosse's Summer Under the Lights Tournament . Harvest, AL  
Marianne Kearns or Tim Fisk . 256.653.0245 or 256.527-6692 . [tennvalleypolox@gmail.com](mailto:tennvalleypolox@gmail.com)

*Comments:* This is our 5th tournament, and it gets better every year. Come and meet the group visiting from NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. We know it is summer and it is hot; we will play under lights. We promise you a well organized tournament, A GREAT VENUE and a very pampered field! So fill in your entry forms early, pack your bags, and join us for the FUN!!! We look forward to seeing everybody soon.

### **August 8—9, 2009**

S—Spring Valley Tournament . Felton, PA  
Lynn Thompson . 717.244.7573 . [LTEasyrider@aol.com](mailto:LTEasyrider@aol.com)

### **September 19—20, 2009**

S—Tarheel Classic . Pinehurst, NC  
Sarah Ferebee . 336.254.1477 . [poloxangel6@bellsouth.net](mailto:poloxangel6@bellsouth.net)

*From Page 9: Developing A Club by Ryan Murphy:*

Please help the APA by growing from the ground up. Don't ever blame the APA for your lack of local growth. Develop large, prospering clubs and then put members on the board. At that point, you've earned the right to speak up and debate the high level work of the APA Board. It's like with your parents: you have the right to have heated arguments and tell them when you're upset, but nobody else better say anything poorly about them. Also, keep in mind that this is a hobby sport. Be relaxed about people coming to practice. Don't force members to attend and the ones that show up the most need to be encouraged and rewarded with top team spots. This great sport offers many things to horse owners across America. It's middle income America. There are limitless riders that need to learn about polocrosse. Make it happen.



**American Polocrosse Association**  
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Bonneau, SC 29431