

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY POLO CLUB

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I join/renew membership?

Please follow the instructions on the Members' Area page.

Do you need to be able to ride to join?

No, we offer lessons for people of all levels from those who have never ridden before to experienced players.

Is there a weight limit for lessons?

Yes, 15 stone.

What lesson level should I book?

Absolute beginner: no riding experience or polo experience.

Beginner: some riding experience but no/little polo experience.

Novice: 1+ year of polo experience.

Intermediate: 2+ years of polo experience.

This is an indicative guide only, and people may progress faster or slower than indicative based on who regularly they play and natural playing abilities. It remains at the CUPC Coach and Polo Manager's discretion to move people up/down lesson levels. Please only book the lesson level that you have been cleared to play at by the Coach and/or Polo Manager; CUPC reserves the right to cancel any bookings made at an unapproved lesson level. Any questions about moving lesson level please ask the coach in your lesson.

How much do lessons cost?

Lesson costs vary depending on the club you play at and your level of play, typically ranging from £35 to £65 for student lessons. CUPC is in the process of tendering for new services, and prices for the 2020-21 will be confirmed when the new contract is signed.

Why are polo lessons so expensive?

Polo lessons are expensive because there are a number of costs that are involved, including pony hire, grooms, coaching and facilities. Playing polo as a student, including through CUPC or privately, is considerably less expensive than if you are playing as a non-student.

Where are CUPC lessons held?

CUPC holds its lessons and home matches at nearby professional polo clubs. CUPC is in the process of tendering for new services, and the successful 2020-21 will be confirmed when the new contract is signed. For the past 5 years, CUPC was based at Cambridge County Polo Club (CCPC, CB25 9HF), which is around 25-30 minutes' drive from the centre of Cambridge, and prior to that CUPC was based at Cambridge Polo Club (Haggis Farm, CB3 7AT), which is 15 minutes' cycle from the centre of Cambridge.

How do I get to my lesson?

CUPC is in the process of tendering for new services, and the successful 2020-21 will be confirmed when the new contract is signed. When CUPC was based at Haggis, members made their own way to lessons (e.g. by cycling). When CUPC was based at CCPC, members were provided with organised transportation via taxi, which left from St John's Chophouse around 45-50 minutes before the lesson, or alternatively members with their own car could drive to the lesson and receive a reimbursement if carpooling other members.

What do I wear to my first lesson?

CUPC provides ponies, tack and a limited range of polo mallets. It is your responsibility to provide a suitable riding helmet (that must be BS kitemarked and certified to the PAS standard of the most recent HPA Helmet Regulations, e.g. <https://hpa-polo.co.uk/download/2020-Helmet-Rules-for-HPA-website-v13.pdf>, and in good condition; any other helmets will not be accepted), riding boots and clothing, as per the Terms & Conditions. You must provide CUPC with a photograph of my helmets kitemark/certification, which must be approved by the Polo Manager before you can book into any CUPC activities. If you are not safely attired upon attendance at a lesson, you will not be allowed to ride and will still be charged for your lesson.

What other equipment do I need for polo?

Kneepads and playing whites are required to play in matches, but are not mandatory for lessons. CUPC provides playing shirts for matches, though many people prefer to buy their own playing shirt from our stash range. However, we recommend using them if possible since polo is a contact sport and knee pads reduce the risk of bruises and other injuries. While CUPC provide a limited range of polo mallets, you may wish to purchase your own and CUPC officers will gladly provide recommendations if you are not sure what type to buy. Some people prefer to attach a face guard to their helmets; there are various pros/cons and safety trade-offs to consider in doing this. Some people also wear polo-specific safety glasses; this is highly recommended for the grass season.

Where can I purchase polo equipment?

CUPC offers stash and some playing equipment on our Members' Store. High quality fashionwear and technical equipment can be purchased from our sponsor, La Martina: <https://www.lamartina.com/lm/gb/en>. Our members often buy their polo equipment from RJ Polo (<https://www.rjpolo.com>) and Polo Splice (<https://polosplice.co.uk>). Second hand equipment can also be purchased on facebook groups, like chukkout polo, or ebay; however, we do not recommend purchasing second hand helmets since they may have been damaged by their previous owners and will not provide effective protection.

I have booked for the wrong lesson/can't attend the lesson?

Please email membership@cupoloclub.com. This must be done at least 24 hours before the lesson otherwise no refunds will be issued, or changes made.

How are teams selected?

Please refer to our Selection Policy document, at the bottom of the Members' Area page.

I am keen to help out with CUPC, how do I get involved?

We are always keen for people to help, please get in touch through: membership@cupoloclub.com.