Northern Region Newsletter

Well not long to go now before the start of the 2009 season. We hope everyone is well rested and raring to go.

The northern region has not been resting too much with the launch of three (yes three) new clubs and two polocrosse academies. The new clubs are The White Horse based near York, Lanquestian Diamonds near Morecombe and the Kingfield Rustlers in Yorkshire. All three clubs will be hosting their own tournaments this year and we hope as many clubs as possible will support them to help them on their way.

We have also seen the opening of the two Academies, the first based near Easingwold, North Yorkshire. The Yorkshire academy opened its doors on 18th February after having the launch postponed due to not inches but feet of snow. The first taster day proved very popular with 14 participants enjoying a packed day of on foot and mounted training. Horses were provided by the academy which enabled the riders to get a feel of a real polocrosse schoolmaster. Training was provided by Guy Robertson with some help from students working towards their coaching certificates.

The Lancashire academy opened its doors just 2 days later which again proved popular with new players. Sarah Dernie coached the beginners and they had a brilliant time! They are now having practices every Wednesday night. You can read more about their day at [www.lanquestrianltd.com](http://www.lanquestrianltd.com).

 More taster days and camps are planned throughout the year at both venues, the taster days are free of charge for people new to the sport. We wish to encourage mature as well as young riders into the sport so come on kids lets get the parents on horseback! The camps will be open to existing players as well as new comers If you know of someone who may be interested in attending please contact Christine Stansfield on 01944 738714.

At the other end of the playing scale we would like to wish our squads the best of luck as they travel to Oz for the Quadrangular series. The Northern Region is particularly proud to have 4 of our Northern players in the squads in Guy Robertson, Martin Brookes, Debbie Harris and Charlotte. Good luck guys.

The winter has also been an exciting time for some other Northern players. Our congratulations go to Shelley and Charlie on the news of their expected new arrival, unusually for Shelley not of the four legged variety.

We also wish the best of luck to Beth Peaker who has made the decision to live in New Zealand and Hannah Watkin who has moved to Western Australia, obviously both have decided playing polocrosse in the mud and rain just aren’t fun anymore can’t think why!!

FOR SALE Shelley’s horsebox is for sale ( obviously because she needs to buy a pram) it carries 5 horses easily, excellent living space, not sure the bar will still be stocked though. For more details please log on to the UKPA website.

So as we move forward to April and look forward to what we hope will be a drier and warmer 2009 season make sure you book yourselves into the first Northern training weekend and practice chukkas hosted by the Kingfield Rustlers at the Northern Racing College, Doncaster 11th/12th April. For a schedule check out the UKPA and Polocrosse extreme website at [www.polocrosse.org.uk](http://www.polocrosse.org.uk) or [www.polo-x-treme.com](http://www.polo-x-treme.com)

Or email c\_stansfield@btinternet.com

The highlight of the season for the Northern region will be of course the Great Northern Tournament to be held at the Northern Racing College, Doncaster on 3rd/4th July. This tournament also includes the European Challenge which will give players graded 4 and below a chance to play for the UK against our visitors. Please email gail4polox@hotmail.com

if you are interested in playing

**EVENTS IN OUR REGION**

Due to the credit crunch we have worked very hard to arrange events that are nearer to home for all of us. Why travel down South if we have a tournament in our area? The more people who support these events the more successful they will be, it would be great to see all divisions represented!

April 11th/12th Northern Training weekend, Bawtry

 26th YPA Taster day, York

UKPA Training, York

May 17th LPA Taster day, Morecombe

 23rd/24th Pennine Tournament, Bawtry

 26th/27th/28th YPA Taster day

UKPA 2 day camp (hosted by the Rustlers PX club) and one day Tournament, York

June 6th/7th Rustlers Tournament, venue TBC

 13th/14th LPA Taster day and 1 day Tournament

July 4th/5th Great Northern Tournament, hosted by the Rustlers, incorporating the European Challenge, Bawtry

 25th/26th Rustlers camp and Tournament ‘Battle of the Roses’

Aug 15th/16th UKPA Training, York

Sept 12th/13th Northern Tournament, hosted by the Rustlers, venue TBC

**We are constantly looking for new venues to host tournaments and training events, please contact either Gail or Christine if you know of anywhere.**

We wish all our Northern clubs success for the forthcoming season and look forward to welcoming you all at Easter.

PS pray for good weather.