



## **Arden Selection Policy**

Arden Polocrosse club operates a selection policy that has been in place since the club was founded in 1996 and at a recent committee meeting where other options were considered, it was agreed that the current policy should continue albeit with a number of changes.

Arden does not have a selection committee. The elected Club Captain is responsible for picking the teams for tournaments. The Club Captain takes advice from carefully selected playing and non-playing members as he sees fit and takes the final decision on the selection of teams.

In order to improve the general understanding of the whole selection process and make it as open and transparent as possible it is now published for all to see. Furthermore, in order to create an effective feedback loop a Player Representative is appointed to act as a conduit between players and the Club Captain.

The overriding principle of selection is to make it as objective as possible and completely devoid of emotional factors. An element of subjectivity is inevitable in any process that assesses an individual's qualities and characteristics, but this is minimised.

### Key Selection Criteria

- 1) Playing ability
  - a) basic stick and ball skills
  - b) ball retention
  - c) safe conduct in play
  - d) tactical thinking
  - e) thinking ahead
  - f) working to an agreed plan
  - g) respecting and following the team captain's instruction
- 2) Horsemanship
  - a) horse preparation and fitness
  - b) riding competence
  - c) consideration to horse
- 3) Horse ability
- 4) Team contribution
  - a) reliability

- b) timekeeping
  - c) giving positive, constructive input
  - d) putting team before personal needs
- 5) Club contribution
- a) attendance at practice
  - b) helping at tournaments (setting out, goal judging, etc)
  - c) supporting other members
- 6) Appearance
- a) horse and rider well turned out
  - b) correct tack
  - c) correct rider clothing
- 7) Availability
- a) number of times the player makes themselves available for matches
  - b) support of home club tournaments
  - c) support of training and practice sessions
- 8) National squads
- a) need to support players selected for squads
- 9) Player preference
- a) some players make it known that they only want to play at a certain level, or with particular players
  - b) player preference will always be taken into account, however not at the expense of effective team selection
- 10) Player age
- a) applies to juniors and PJ
- 11) Team/group dynamics
- a) Some teams work better with certain groups of players

When making team selections from the list of names given for each tournament, the club captain will try to produce the best team selection based on the above criteria. The above list is not in order of preference, but the list shows the range of criteria that is considered for each player, for every team.

Whilst every player will have their own opinion of their own as well as other player's ability, sending abusive texts or emails or any other form of abuse to the captain or other committee member is not acceptable. However the club captain is willing to receive any constructive comments about team selection which will be shared with the Player Representative.

Please remember Polocrosse is a team sport and as such every player needs to work as part of a team, putting aside any individual considerations if they conflict with the ability of the team to function effectively and to the enjoyment of all participants.