

MINNINNOOKA POLO & RIDING SCHOOL

SQUAD INFORMATION 2026

Bridging the gap between weekly lessons and real horseman

More riding • More horses • More coaching • More opportunity

Minninnooka Development Squads are for young riders who want to progress through consistent coaching, time around horses, teamwork, match experience and responsibility. A squad place is more than a lesson slot: it is a structured development pathway with clear expectations for riders and parents.

THE MINNINNOOKA PATHWAY

Foundation → Development → Advanced → Minninnooka Teams → Pony Club/SUPA → HPA

1. Foundation Squad - £45 per month

For children who want more involvement on the yard around their weekly lesson. Riders arrive before and stay after their lesson to learn grooming, tacking up, untacking and yard routines with staff supervision. Placement is based on readiness rather than age alone.

Membership includes:

- 15% discount on lesson rates
- An initial assessment and simple individual development plan
- Priority access to squad lessons, camps and training days
- Group theory sessions and published extra-training opportunities
- Supervised grooming, tacking up and untacking before and after booked lessons
- Eligibility for Minninnooka teams and selected competitions

Lessons and activities are booked and paid for separately. Membership does not include guaranteed additional riding, unrestricted yard access or unbooked attendance. Any yard time outside a booked session must be agreed in advance.

2. Advanced Squad - Polo & English Riding

For independent riders attending more than once a week, able to complete agreed yard tasks and approved rides independently, and preparing for or starting competition. A total of 8-12 members across polo and English riding protects horse welfare, coaching quality and individual attention.

Advanced Weekend — £225 per month

- Up to one additional confirmed development ride each week on Saturday or Sunday
- One required weekly group lesson, booked and paid for separately at £40
- An individual development plan with regular progress reviews
- Priority access to teams, camps, training days and selected competitions

Advanced Full — £325 per month

- Up to two additional confirmed development rides each week during published Tuesday-to-Sunday squad times
- One required weekly group lesson, booked and paid for separately at £40
- A varied programme that may include flatwork, fitness, stick and ball, match preparation and suitable developing horses
- An individual development plan with regular progress reviews and priority access to selected opportunities

WHAT A TYPICAL WEEKEND LOOKS LIKE

An Advanced Weekend Squad rider normally completes both of the following each week, in either order:

- Additional development ride: prepare and tack up the allocated horse; complete an approved independent or supervised ride; then cool down, untack, groom and put the horse away correctly.
- Weekly group lesson: prepare and tack up the allocated horse; join the booked group lesson; then cool down, untack, groom and put the horse away correctly.

The additional ride may be independent or supervised according to the rider's assessment and staff approval.

What an additional development ride may include

- Fitness sets or conditioning work
- Flatwork, balance and collection
- Riding different schoolmasters
- Suitable young or developing horses
- Stick-and-ball or polo preparation

The allocated horse and purpose of every ride are decided by staff. A confirmed visit normally includes one allocated ride and remains subject to horse suitability, welfare, weather, staffing and yard capacity.

3. What we expect from squad riders

- Attend consistently, arrive on time and take part in at least one group lesson each week
- Attend scheduled theory sessions as well as riding sessions
- Ride a variety of horses and respond positively to coaching
- Horse preparation and care: Foundation with supervision; Advanced independently as approved
- Advanced riders contribute to appropriate yard duties under staff direction
- Treat horses, staff, teammates and other clients with respect
- Wear a riding helmet, riding boots and suitable clothing with covered shoulders
- Leave the yard and equipment clean and tidy

A squad place is earned and maintained through commitment, attendance, attitude, horsemanship, sportsmanship and a willingness to improve. These standards also provide a fair basis for awarding or reviewing any sponsored places.

4. Booking, yard access and independent riding

- Every lesson and yard visit must be requested through the app or agreed with a manager and confirmed before attendance.
- Advanced riders should give notice by 4:00pm on the day before the intended visit.
- Published opening hours do not mean riders may attend without confirmation.
- Weekend membership allows up to one additional confirmed ride; Full membership allows up to two. These are separate from the required weekly lesson.
- Independent riding is never automatic. It requires an individual staff assessment and continuing approval.
- An independent ride normally counts towards the weekly membership allocation unless separately booked and paid for, or specifically offered as an extra opportunity.

General operating hours

Period	General hours
Summer holidays	Generally 7:00am – 11am, Tuesday–Sunday
Term time	Generally 4:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday–Friday; 7:00am–11:00am Saturday–Sunday
Mondays	Yard closed

Exact lesson times and squad-access periods are published on the app and shared calendar and may change. If any squad member needs specific alterations please contact Kirstie.

5. Advanced Squad - English Riding Pathway

The English riding pathway within the Advanced Squad follows the same independence and attendance expectations. Riders develop horsemanship on different horses and work towards schooling and competing a suitable horse. Horse ownership is not required.

- Build the foundations: position, balance, feel and confidence on different horses
- Bring on a horse: learn its character, establish a routine and develop it through schooling
- Produce and compete: combine regular riding, horse care and coaching towards competition readiness

6. Essential yard rules

- Do not enter the stable area or arena without staff permission.
- Do not use phones while riding, during lessons or while handling horses.
- Do not feed horses; several have specific diets or allergies.
- No shorts, skirts, flip-flops, open-toed shoes, umbrellas, smoking, alcohol, drugs, running or shouting around the yard.
- Children who are not riding must remain supervised.
- No dogs are permitted on the premises.
- Ask permission before photographing or filming anyone other than the rider you are accompanying.
- The site speed limit is 10mph. Report accidents, hazards or concerns to staff immediately.

Safety instructions from staff must be followed immediately. All instructors are safeguarding-trained. The Designated Safeguarding Officers are Kirstie Otamendi and Josh Leiva. Complaints may be emailed to polo@minninnooka.co.uk and will normally receive a response within 48 hours.

Fundraising and sponsorship

Fundraising and sponsorship are intended to support Advanced Squad riders in both polo and English competitions. Contributions towards agreed entry fees or competition costs depend on available funds, rider readiness, participation and commitment. Support is not guaranteed and need not be an equal amount per rider.

7. Membership and lesson pricing

Membership	Monthly fee	Access
Foundation Squad	£45	Booked activities; 15% lesson discount
Advanced Weekend	£225	Up to one additional confirmed weekend ride
Advanced Full	£325	Up to two additional confirmed rides Tuesday–Sunday

Key lesson and activity rates

Activity	Standard child	Member	Advanced
Group polo lesson — 60 min	£75	£63.75	£40
Group English lesson — 45 min	£60	£51	£40
Private polo lesson — 60 min	£130	£110.50	£50
Private English lesson — 45 min	£95	£80.75	£40
Home chukka — per chukka	£55	—	£30
Home Challenge — three chukkas	£150	—	£90

Prices are per session unless stated. Own-horse, adult and off-site prices are available separately. All bookings remain subject to confirmation, suitable horses, staffing and welfare.

8. Membership terms

- A strict 24-hour cancellation policy applies. Late cancellations are fully chargeable.
- Membership fees are collected automatically and are due by the seventh of each month.
- Membership may be cancelled with 30 days' written notice.
- Lessons and activities not included in membership must be paid within 24 hours through the app or by bank transfer.
- Advanced places may be reviewed if attendance, conduct, horse availability or staffing makes the agreed arrangement unsuitable.

9. Contact

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Squad enquiries: kirstie@minninnooka.co.uk