

SPORTING LIFE



WEST RIVALS GET TO WORK TOGETHER...

● FULHAM forward Erik Nevland (above) and QPR defender Wayne Brown showed off their skills and encouraged players from Fulham and QPR Down's syndrome team during a practice session at the Whites' Motspur Park training ground.

They organised coaching, and a penalty shoot-out, as part of the work the clubs do towards supporting youngsters with disabilities.

Polo money will help the future of Hurlingham Park

- ▶ New tournament will lead to improvements such as long jump pit
- ▶ Free and discounted tickets to be made available for residents

JON WEISGARD

HURLINGHAM Park in Fulham is set for major investment after the deal struck by H&F Council to bring international polo competition to the site in June next year.

The agreement means World Polo Ltd, the sport's first franchise based polo tour, will plough an initial £200,000 into the park so that it is continued to be enjoyed by the community the whole year round.

As well as being looked after by the council's award-winning grounds maintenance contractor, Quadron, the grass area of the park will be renovated for the polo by the same company that looks after Chelsea FC's pitch.

A brand-new long jump pit and shotput area will also be built after the tournament and an enlarged grass athletics track installed.

This means that schools and clubs who currently use the park will benefit from improved facilities the



BACK TO THE FUTURE: Polo is coming to Fulham next summer but there has been a long tradition of hosting matches at Hurlingham Park, as this picture from H&F Archives (left) of a scene in the 1930s demonstrates



This is an excellent deal for residents who regularly use the park

whole year round. H&F councillor Paul Bristow said: "This really is an excellent deal for residents who regularly use Hurlingham Park.

"We have negotiated hard with World Polo Ltd and are pleased that they have agreed to invest such a large sum of money."

The competition has also received a warm welcome from residents. Caroline Scott, 60, of Hurlingham Road, said: "I think this is a terrific idea. People often see polo as an elitist sport but I think it will be really

fun and it will make this area known for something."

The council is also working to ensure that all clubs who may be inconvenienced during the week of polo are rehoused. There will be no disruption to school sports days.

As part of the launch, H&F Council will be giving away 100 free tickets for local people and another 250 tickets at a discounted price of £15. Details on how you can claim your free or discounted tickets will be announced in the near future.

The competition will take place from Thursday, June 4, to Saturday June 6.

The event will feature a minimum of six teams, representing cities across the world such as London, Paris, New York, Sydney, Buenos Aires and Mumbai.

A special community event will also be held on Sunday, June 7, where local people will be able to learn more about polo.

More details on this will be announced soon.