

Where there's golf there's ... polo?

Why not? Wellington, Fla.-based Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design recently broke ground on a unique renovation at Wellington Golf & Country Club that will include a polo field/practice range, and a golf course that will vary in length depending on whether or not the ponies are running that day. The facility will reopen at Thanksgiving with a new name.



This is how the 13th hole will appear after the renovation.

Houston businessman John Goodman, who owns Wellington and the nearby world-renowned International Polo Club Palm Beach, instructed [Jacobsen Hardy](#) to renovate the existing practice range into an area that could be converted easily into a polo field, as well as a ring for show-jumping competitions and other equestrian disciplines.

"Mr. Goodman's vision is to incorporate a spectator-friendly area for equestrian special events as part of the new golf course," Peter Jacobsen, PGA Tour vet and partner with Jim Hardy in Houston-based Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design, said in a press release. "It's a unique but extremely efficient use of the practice range that will provide added value to the club members and added challenge to the architects."

The golf course, which will undergo a thorough renovation in addition to its convertible practice area, closed April 15 with plans for a soft reopening on Thanksgiving as The Wanderers Club at Wellington, a private country club with membership by invitation, according to Louie Bartoletti, general manager of Wellington G&CC.

Making the polo field fit on the existing practice range required creativity, according to Jacobsen Hardy. Polo fields are typically crowned and drain to just 0.75-percent slope, explained Jacobsen Hardy Senior Vice President/Managing Architect Rex VanHoose. The minimum slope to move water off a golf course is generally 3 percent.

"But the really interesting thing is that the polo field has to tie into the neighboring 10th hole since the existing driving range is not wide enough to accommodate a polo field without encroaching onto the course," VanHoose continued. "The solution was to redesign the golf layout so that when they are playing polo, the 10th hole will change from a 420-yard, par-4 into a 180-yard, par-3."

VanHoose said the practice range will be used as a polo field about 10 times per year, meaning the course will play shorter on those particular days. Further course renovations will address playability, aesthetic, drainage and maintenance issues.

We suggest the name be changed to The Horsin' Around Club.