

Draft MINUTES

New South Wales Polo Association (Kyeemagh) Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

Held at
Ken Brown Room, Sports House, 6A Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127
Wednesday 29th October 2014

Joe Curran opened the meeting at 10.20am.

1. ATTENDEES

Club Delegates:

Ellerston	Glen Gilmore	Muddy Flatts	Ray Bruce
Folly Lodge	Mike McKechnie- proxy	Riverlands	Adam Meally
Garangula	Guy Schwarzenbach	Scone	Peter White
Goulburn	Angus Campbell	Sydney	Rebecca Higgins
Gundalong	Stephen Philip - proxy	Timor	Fiola Labron- Johnson
Jemalong	Ben Sweetland	Town & Country	Sam Hopkinson - proxy
Killarney	Shane Fagan	The Northern Polo Club	James Archibald - proxy
Kurri Burri	Sam Hopkinson - proxy	Willo Polo	Bridget Maritz
Millamolong	Angus Campbell - proxy	Windsor	Julie McIntosh
		Wirragulla	Jock Mackay

Kyeemagh Members/ and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs

Dick Rodgers	Dick Doolin	Joe Curran	Ian McDuie
Sam Ballas	Adam Tolhurst	Beau Blundell	Andrew Williams
Simon Keyte	Simon Walker	Rob Davies	Eugene Marais
Nicola Cole	Marlene MacFarlane		

Chairman: Joe Curran (President)

Executive Assistant: Suzie Ruse

2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES

Official Apologies received from: Jim Gilmore, Jeremy Bayard, Adam Marshall, Andrew Ashton, Mark Tolhurst.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motion: Beau Blundell moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 29th October 2013 be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Sam Ballas.

Carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sam Ballas, NSWPA Treasurer, read his report:

Financially, NSWPA has had another good year staying profitable and continuing to maintaining a very strong Balance Sheet. The 2014 net profit of \$ 4,054.79 was slightly less than the 2013 net profit of \$ 13,332.10.

Financial highlights include:

- continuing to maintain a healthy cash balance of \$ 264,675,
- successfully applied for NSW Government Sports Grants amounting to \$ 20,000,
- keeping fixed operating costs to a minimum working level without compromising services to the polo community.

During the 2013 - 14 financial year, NSWPA funded a number of very worthwhile projects that help promote and develop safe polo to the broader community:

1. a number of Junior Development squad training sessions
2. several junior polo training camps were conducted throughout the State
3. the supply and installation of "Safety Signs" to NSW Affiliated clubs
4. charitable donations were made to The Lance Shepherd Foundation and NSW Rural Fire Brigade

Financial Summary of Tournaments:

	<u>Revenue(\$)</u>	<u>Expenses (\$)</u>	<u>Profit / (Loss) (\$)</u>
Dudley Cup	12,739	10,287	2,452
Test Match *	11,673	18,500	(6,827)
RAS	10,700	10,700	=
Morton Cup	11,136	11,632	(496)
<u>Total</u>	46,248	51,119	(4,871)

*NSWPA has taken action to minimise any future financial risk associated with running the Test Match and has appointed an events management organisation, EPS Pty Ltd (Paul Roberts MD) to run this event on behalf of NSWPA

Player Participation Analysis:

	2013	2014	Increase/Decrease
Full Senior	268	294	Increase 26
Full Junior	34	45	Increase 11
Temp 4 week	40	41	Increase 1
Club Chukka Member	65	35	Decrease 30

Without looking at the individual player changes, the increase in Full Senior membership has come from Club Chukka Members that have moved to playing tournaments.

The significant increase in Full Junior members may be explained by the Associations work in conducting Junior Polo Training Camps.

Sam added the 2015 budget was aiming for a breakeven position and where possible funds would be allocated to development activity.

Sam Ballas
Treasurer, NSW Polo Association

Motion: Beau Blundell moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Seconded: Adam Meally.

Carried.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Curran, NSWPA President read his report:

Firstly welcome to the 2014 NSW Polo Association AGM. Thank you all for you taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this meeting. This is a unique opportunity for us all to get together and review the past year and most importantly to plan and strategise for the future of polo.

I would like to reflect for a moment for members of the polo community who we lost this year. Ken Austin's first wife Elizabeth passed away in June. Jane Ashton, wife of Bob, passed away in August. Also in August, former NSWPA Director James Simson lost his battle with cancer. James was a contributor to polo both in the north and on the NSWPA Board for 3 years.

I have very much enjoyed my first year as President of the Board. I underestimated the work involved as President, however I am pleased to be able to give back a little to polo for all the enjoyment polo has given to me over many years. I was lucky enough to inherit the role from Ian McDuie, who had the Board's affairs in excellent order, including a new constitution, a healthy financial position and strategic plan.

In terms of finances, I wish to offer a huge amount of thanks to the Association's Treasurer Sam Ballas. He has been able to deliver a profit of approx. \$4000 for the past financial year. We ended June 2014 with cash on hand of \$264,000 and net assets of \$317,000. Sam has been the Association Treasurer for eight years and I can assure you he is a 10 goal treasurer.

I would like to thank our Vice President Stephen Philip who has been a very solid back-up and his legal background is greatly valued on the Board. Further I would like to thank for Steve's work in discipline, never an easy role.

In terms of our Executive Secretary, Suzie could be running BHP but she loves the polo and we are very lucky to have someone so enthusiastic who has a grasp of many of the polo issues and can manage the various characters in our sport. In the last financial year Suzie single handedly procured two State grants for the NSWPA totalling \$20,000. Thank you and congratulations Suzie.

We have a very functional and enthusiastic Board. I am pleased that we had a number of new and younger directors who joined the Board last year.

Thank you Sam Hopkinson for all your work with the Morton, Dudley and Jaime Mackay 16 goal Memorial tournaments.

Thank you Adam Tolhurst for your management of the Hector King and your support with polo in the Hawkesbury Basin.

Thank you Simon Walker for the great vision you had in rejuvenating the Dudley Cup; it is now back to the premier tournament in NSW, if not Australia. Thank you also for your work as a representative on the APF.

Thank you Rob Davies for your work with the northern Clubs and for the assistance you provided to Eugene in the formation of the draft 2015 Calendar.

Thank you Andrew Williams for your role in coaching, umpiring and player development.

In terms of the longer standing Directors, thank you Beau Blundell for your endless enthusiasm with player development and coaching. New players and juniors are the future of our wonderful sport. I also thank Beau for the wonderful work he did organizing the hosting of the New Zealand Colts and the match between the New Zealand and Australian Colts at the Test Match.

Thank you Eugene Marais for your work with the 2014 Calendar. It has been arguably one of the best on record. Thank you also for all the time and energy you have put into the 2015 draft Calendar and we are looking forward to discussing this Calendar later in the meeting.

Thank you Ian McDuire for the way you left the affairs of the Board at the commencement of my presidency and for your continuing support through my first year. Also thank you Ian for your work with the APF and your commentary prowess which has been heard from the RAS to Scone to Windsor (both Australia and Windsor England for the Coronation Cup), to most of the country clubs and all the way to Beijing.

Thank you Dick Rodgers for all your work with insurance, risk management and discipline.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of having every person properly signed up before they venture out to play practices or tournaments. If a player is involved in an accident without being registered the damage could be collateral and compromise the host club, the Association and the national body.

In terms of safety, polo is an inherently dangerous sport. In the last 12 months my friend Carlos Gracida was killed playing polo and Lance Shepherd has been incapacitated. With regard to safety, we all need to be proactive not reactive. I ask you all if you see something at polo that is dangerous or looks dangerous, say something, do something.

I am pleased to report that the APF has finalised the new policy regarding drugs and alcohol. It is available for everyone to see on the APF website and I put every player on notice that there will be some random testing during 2015.

I would like to congratulate the Scone Polo Club for their efforts with their annual junior polo school. It has been running for 20 years and has had a profound impact on many players from all around Australia. I am pleased that the Association was able to provide some funding this year and we hope to help again next year.

Thank you Ben Osborne who organised and ran the northern Junior Polo School in July. I heard it was very well supported and very well run.

I am thrilled that the Schwarzenbach family through the Garangula Polo Club have offered to host a junior polo school during the 2015 Easter school holidays. Details will be forthcoming on the website. Thank you Guy and Simon.

I would like to thank the various sub-committees of the Board, principally the Handicap Committee for their efforts through the year. Handicapping is never easy and I would like to thank the Handicap committee for all their time observing polo throughout the State. The 2014 Committee is chaired by Dick Doolin with James Archibald, Angus Campbell, Mike McKechnie, Jim Gilmore, Adam Meally and Andrew Williams.

A special thanks to the Dudley Cup Committee of Simon Walker, Sam Hopkinson and Rob Archibald. Thank you for all your efforts in running this fabulous tournament and congratulations to Ellerston who won the Dudley Cup in 2014.

I would like to express particular thanks to Julie McIntosh, Mike McKechnie and all the Windsor Polo Club committee for all their efforts with the Test Match this year. The Windsor No 1 field is now a world class polo venue and the Test day was a huge success; apart from South America being a little too strong for Australia.

In closing the NSWPA Board are here to represent all the Clubs and all its members. We have directors from all over the State and we seek open lines of communication about all matters relating to polo. We look forward to a fruitful and productive AGM today and following the meeting we welcome any input, feedback or concerns for the 2015 season.

I hope you can join us for a sandwich lunch at the end of the meeting.

Joe Curran
President, NSW Polo Association

Motion: Peter White moved that the President's Report be adopted.

Seconded: Dick Rodgers

Motion carried.

6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & DIRECTORS

President Nomination received from: Joe Curran
Ian McDuire nominated Joe Curran as President
Joe Curran elected as President.

7. HANDICAP REPORT AND ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2014

Dick Doolin, NSWPA Handicap Chair, read his report:

2014 has seen significant changes to the handicaps of many players.

The discussions within the polo community in previous years have mostly surrounded the large compression of the lower handicaps.

We have previously been hesitant in moving the top players handicaps, which we see has been the major cause of this compression. We have always taken into account their handicaps overseas and it is widely argued that the handicaps of the majority of players in Australia are affected by the few professionals who travel to play, starting at the top.

Our decision to move these players this year was made easier by the turmoil we faced at the end of 2013 and early 2014 surrounding the handicap of Max Charlton. Max arrived here on a 6T handicap, albeit not to play but to try horses, and ended up substituting Glen Gilmore in the 16 goal at Ellerston and going on with that team to win the final. At the end of the tournament we raised his handicap to 7 effective immediately. We received a letter from the head of the HPA requesting/demanding/threatening that we leave Max on a 6T handicap due to his commitments in the English team for the Snow Polo World Cup in China. With much deliberation we agreed to a deal with the HPA to leave Max on a 6T rating but should he return to Australia he would immediately be raised to 7 goals. England went on to convincingly win that tournament and Australia were ejected and have not been invited back. Max returned to Australia earlier this year and was immediately raised to 7. Once again we were being bombarded with accusations that we had breached rules within handicapping policy, only this time not from abroad but within. Following an exchange of emails and legal advice it was proven that we had acted within the rules of the policy and his handicap stood. Max was raised to 7 in England at the end of their season.

From this point on, the APF, NSWPA and Clubs were notified that we, the handicapping committee, would strictly adhere to the rules, no deals would be struck and our decision would be final.

We have faced criticism here and abroad at the top level for what we see is fair to the 98 percent of our players that play domestically. What most of them fail to see is the effect that raising the top end has had on all the players in the lower handicaps that have moved because we now have the room to do so.

We believe we have acted in the best interest of Australian polo and I say Australian because we have the most playing members, the most clubs, we hold the highest goal tournaments and most of the states look to us for guidance, and it's not a role that I or the my committee take for granted.

I have pushed for total transparency within the committee and seeing the huge change this year I believe we have achieved this.

There will be appeals against some of these handicaps but as I have reassured my committee, I will stand by their decisions, as I believe we have acted in the best interest of New South Wales and ultimately Australian Polo.

Dick Doolin
Chairman NSWPA Handicapping Committee

Following the report, Dick answered questions from the floor and James Archibald read comments he had prepared.

Discussion was held on the composition of the Handicap Committee, including international experience.

Motion: Mike McKechnie moved there should be a **Handicap Committee of 7** comprising two from the northern zone, three from the Hawkesbury zone and two from the southern zone, with the option to co-opt a member of the Benchmark Committee, as per para 3.4 of the APF Handicap Policy.
Seconded: Angus Campbell

Election of the Handicap Committee
Nominations were received as follows:

North: James Archibald, Mark Barber, Glen Gilmore, Jock Mackay
Hawkesbury: Dick Doolin, Jim Gilmore, Sam Hopkinson, Mike McKechnie, Andrew Williams
South: Angus Campbell, Simon Keyte, Simon Walker

The following were elected to the 2014 NSWPA Handicap Committee:

North: James Archibald and Jock Mackay
Hawkesbury: Dick Doolin, Sam Hopkinson and Andrew Williams
South: Angus Campbell and Simon Walker

Current Handicappers retiring were thanked for their contribution:

Adam Meally 2004 – 2014
Jim Gilmore 2009 – 2014
Mike McKechnie 2013 - 2014

8. PROPOSED 2015 AFFILIATION FEES

The proposed 2015 Affiliation Fees were listed in the Agenda. They include portions for APF Affiliation Fee, an insurance contribution, NSWPA Affiliation Fee.

Sam Ballas made the following points:

- APF will make a small loss this year
- Australia has not been invited to participate in the Snow Polo in China 2015, so will lose approx. \$30,000 due to this.
- APF may fall below the GST threshold without the Snow Polo income and this is being investigated.
- Sam anticipates the Affiliation Fees remaining at the same level in 2015.

Ian McDuie updated the attendees on the Snow Polo. The practice up until now has been to drop the bottom 2 teams from previous competition. From 2015 onwards there will be 16 countries recognized as potential participants and Australia are amongst that 16. Of the 12 teams to compete in the World Championships Snow Polo, the 4 teams which do not make the quarter final will be dropped and the 4 teams not included will compete the next year. So Australia could be invited in 2016 to compete or if this is phased in it may be 2017. Whatever the case, unless you make the top 8 you will be out the following year.

Sam reminded the attendees that the full player affiliation fee had remained at \$350 for the past 8 years (since 2006) and it now includes personal accident insurance cover.

Motion: Stephen Philip moved to accept the proposed 2015 affiliation fees based on the information to hand and subject to APF needing to pass on minor increases.

Seconded: Jock Mackay. All in favour.

Motion Carried.

9. INSURANCE UPDATE

The Insurance Report was included in the AGM papers. Dick Rodgers

Safety Checklists: Attendees asked for clarification on whether the checklist had to be completed before every practice. Dick advised it should be completed when other teams or the public were involved.

Insurance Report

Insurance Included in All Players Affiliation Fee:

INSURANCE	Yes/No	Cost of Premium	Level of Cover	Who is Insurer
Public Liability	Yes	\$74,700	\$20 million	Liberty International Underwriters
Professional Indemnity	Yes		Included in <u>liability policy</u> for coaches/umpire trainers @ APF endorsed events.	
Directors & Officers	Yes	\$2300	\$5 million	QBE
Personal Accident	Yes	\$53,100	Benefits: medical max \$5k, teeth & bones \$1k max,	Lloyds

			capital benefit \$100k max, LOI 85% wage max \$250pw for 26 weeks.	
--	--	--	--	--

In addition, NSWPA pays for Players to be covered by **NSW Sporting Injuries Insurance Scheme** which provides significant lump sum benefits for serious injuries (permanent loss of use) and death.

More info: www.sportinginjuries.nsw.gov.au

Who is insured?

Australian Polo Federation (APF) including all State Associations, Clubs, committees and members and APF sanctioned events.

Where are we covered?

At events, social functions, meetings, fundraisers and working bees anywhere in Australia, which have been **sanctioned** by the Australian Polo Federation. Events listed on the APF National calendar are sanctioned events. In addition the APF will endorse practice chukkas and stick & ball practices by affiliated members that occur at an affiliated club on nominated grounds. Other club events such as polo school/coaching clinics, working bees, umpire training etc are also included if notified to the APF & State Association.

Private lessons and coaching (where it is not a club event and with participation by non members) is not covered. Coaches who offer these services should seek their own individual liability insurance (contact Affinity).

e.g. A club offers lessons & contracts an individual to run the lesson. This is an individual's event not an APF/State endorsed event. In this situation clubs should require a certificate of liability insurance from the contractor.

Optional Upgrades to Higher Levels of Cover:

Membership Plus premium \$297

Membership Pro premium \$687

More info: www.australianpolo.com.au/rules-and-policies/insurance.asp

10. EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

Eugene Marais presented the 2015 draft Calendar and thanked the zone Calendar reps who had assisted in its formation: Rob Davies, Simon Walker, Mike McKechnie.

Eugene Marais informed the attendees of some changes to the draft Calendar tabled.

Hector King 8 goal Championships, the following was agreed:

- the handicaps of the two middle players should not total more than 9 goals
- the date should be moved from the Easter weekend to 16-17 May 2015

Morton and Dudley Cups
Leave format as it is.

Rebecca Higgins said Sydney Polo Club has offered to host a final of an NSWPA Tournament, but would like more notice, should Sydney be awarded one.

Motion: Peter White moved that the Calendar with changes as noted by Eugene Marais be adopted.
Seconded: Fiola Labron Johnson. All in favour.
Motion Carried.

11. PROVISIONAL HANDICAP LIST

This was discussed in point 7.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Helmets

Peter White asked for recommendations re. Helmets and said it would help him as a Club representative encourage safety amongst players. There was discussion on this topic. The following recommendations were agreed:

- Players wear a helmet less than 5 years old, it has a 3 point strap and is replaced after a fall
- Players are recommended to wear a mouthguard and goggles/glasses.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm

Signed

Joe Curran
NSWPA President