

Draft MINUTES

New South Wales Polo Association (Kyeemagh) Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Held at
The Woollahra Hotel, Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025
Monday 19 October 2015

Joe Curran opened the meeting at 10.10am.

1. ATTENDEES

Club Delegates:

Arunga	Dick Doolin	Mudgee	Andrew Williams - proxy
Ellerston	James Archibald	Riverlands	Adam Meally
Folly Lodge	Peter White- proxy	Scone	Peter White
Garangula	n/a	Sydney	Peter Higgins
Goulburn	Angus Campbell	Timor	n/a
Gundalong	Angus Graham	Town & Country	Peter White - proxy
Killarney	Leon Reardon	The Northern Polo Club	James Archibald - proxy
Kurri Burri	Peter White - proxy	Willo Polo	Tom Martin
Millamolong	n/a	Windsor	Nicola Cole
Muddy Flatts	n/a	Wirragulla	Jock Mackay

Kyeemagh Members/ and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs

Dick Rodgers	Glen Gilmore	Joe Curran	Ian McDuie
Sam Ballas	Adam Tolhurst	Beau Blundell	Steve Philip
John Wayland	Simon Walker	Jack McCullagh	Julie McIntosh
Bruno Mascart	Marlene MacFarlane	Dennis Warner	Rebecca Higgins
Lindsay Jameson			

Chairman: Joe Curran (President)

Executive Assistant: Suzie Ruse

2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES

Official Apologies received from: Amanda Jansen, Rob Davies, Eugene Marais, Mike McKechnie, Ben Osborne.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motion: Beau Blundell moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 29th October 2014 be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Peter White.

All in favour. Motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sam Ballas, NSWPA Treasurer, read his report:

Financially, NSWPA has had another good year. The 2014 profit was approx \$4000 and the 2015 profit was \$36,0000. The current position is that NSWPA has \$55,000 in cash and \$245,000 in bank bills.

In the 2015 financial year, more tournaments were run by the NSWPA partly due to Ellerston not running. Tournaments were profitable for the NSWPA with the Dudley making approx. \$5000, the Hawkesbury Spring tournament approx. \$6000, the Morton Cup approx. \$10,000, the RAS breaking even and the Test making a small loss of approx. \$2000.

The NSWPA managed to keep fixed costs minimal. The administration reduced from approx. \$22000 to approx. \$19,000 and there were no legal costs. Improved financial controls have been introduced with online MYOB. Approx \$10,000 was spent on player development / coaching and NSWPA received \$10,000 from the NSW Sport and Recreation Sport Development Grant.

Sam Ballas
Treasurer, NSW Polo Association

Motion: Leon Reardon moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Seconded: Sam Hopkinson.

All in favour. Motion carried.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Curran, NSWPA President read his report:

Welcome and thank you for coming

Firstly welcome to the 2015 NSW Polo Association AGM. Thank you all for you taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this meeting. This is a great opportunity for us to gather and put our heads together. We are in a new venue, mainly thanks to our younger Board members who suggested a venue in the East. I do hope you will stay for lunch after the meeting and use the opportunity to chat to those you may not see often.

New Clubs 2015

A special welcome to representatives from the two new Clubs that affiliated in 2015 – Arunga and the re-formed Mudgee Polo Club.

Acknowledging Members of the Polo Community who died in 2015

- I would like to remember **Lance Shepherd** who passed away in January 2015 following his terrible accident.
- **Ken Field** died in late February. A terrific character, member of the Narromine then Wellington Clubs and father to polo players Colin and Mark.
- **Jim Whitney** was a NSWPA Life Member, Wellington Polo Club member and wonderful supporter of polo. Over the Wellington tournament weekend, I would see him playing, officiating and helping with the BBQ at the party in the evening!
- Most recently **David Macintyre** passed away at the end of August. David was a Life Director of the NSWPA, an integral part of the Scone Polo Club and Councillor at the RAS.
- Mrs McKechnie died a few days ago – we are thinking of Ross and Mike.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of these men and women.

Thanks to the NSWPA Directors

I would like to thank the Board who have provided expertise and leadership in many areas:

Stephen Philip – Vice President, a former player and practising lawyer, Steve has been instrumental in pushing the NSWPA's agenda in the updating of the APF Constitution.

Sam Ballas – Treasurer and APF Treasurer, Sam is a 10 goal treasurer and I thank him for doing a great job in this thankless task. I congratulate him on this year's excellent financial results showing a profit of over \$35,000.

Dick Rodgers – Dick has led the disciplinary committee this year. I am glad to report there have been very few incidents this year. I congratulate clubs and players for this.

Ian McDuie – former President and a great source of support and knowledge.

Eugene Marais – Eugene co-ordinated an excellent Calendar for 2015 and has been working very hard on the 2016 Calendar. Eugene brings wonderful common-sense and impartiality to what is probably the hardest job in polo. He is currently in England enjoying the World Cup. We will talk about the Calendar later in the meeting.

Beau Blundell – Beau and Andrew Williams worked hard to revamp the Junior Development Squad. The age range has been widened enabling uni students to attend. This year squad members had the opportunity to play at the Test (sadly washed out) and the RAS. Beau continues to encourage new members at the Wirragulla club. He also masterminded the import of the latest batch of polo balls.

Andrew Williams – Andrew worked with Beau on the Junior Development Squads ensuring maximum participation opportunity by the Squad members. He continues to promote polo through his coaching and events. This aspect of Andrew's work means he feels too busy to continue on the NSWPA Board and is resigning after a total of 4 years spent on the Board – we thank him for his input and know he will continue to promote polo.

Sam Hopkinson – Sam brings an international perspective to discussions. He is a great problem solver and has been an excellent tournament organiser.

Simon Walker – Simon has been assisting Eugene with the Calendar and continues to do an amazing job with the running of the Morton and Dudley Cup tournaments. He is a driver of polo in the Southern Zone.

Adam Tolhurst has also been a wonderful tournament organiser, most recently of the JK Mackay Memorial tournament in the Hawkesbury. I also congratulate Adam on the formation of the Arunga Polo Club.

Rob Davies has worked hard for the past 2 years as a Director representing the Northern Zone. With work commitments and a young family, Rob is resigning from the Board but continues as a club official as secretary of the Quirindi Club.

Thank you also to:

Handicap Committee: Dick Doolin (Chair), Angus Campbell (Deputy), James Archibald, Sam Hopkinson, Jock Mackay, Simon Walker and Andrew Williams.

Dudley Cup Committee: Simon Walker, Sam Hopkinson, Rob Archibald, Adam Tolhurst, Andrew Williams.

Amanda Jansen, Secretary of the APF. Polo player and endurance rider, Amanda has fantastic knowledge of the APF insurance, policies and procedures. This year she has been instrumental in implementing the APF Safety Testing Policy and has assisted with the World Cup bid.

Safety Measures taken since the last AGM

- **Rule Books** mailed to every player and also on the website. I encourage every player to read the rules from time to time to raise the standard of play and umpiring.
- **Safety Testing** - Through the APF, particularly Amanda Jansen, this year has seen Safety Testing in NSW and other states. I'm happy to say there were no adverse findings. The testing is there to protect the safety of players, horses and spectators. Prescription drugs are fine but when it comes to illicit drugs, we have zero tolerance – we do not want anyone taking them to be playing polo. Like road rules, the Safety Testing Policy is there to increase the safety of our game.
- **Horse Welfare** – all Clubs and Members should be mindful of horse welfare which includes the appropriate use of veterinary products and watering horses who are travelling home on trucks after polo.
- **Focus on Incident Reporting** - We all know that polo is an inherently dangerous sport. I encourage all players, particularly club official to be proactive in terms of safety. If you see something, please address it then and there – such as dogs off the leash or kids too close.
- I also urge you to **complete Incident Report Forms** in the case of an accident. This is important with regards to record keeping and insurance.

Player Registration

- It is so important to ensure all players are registered prior to taking part in a tournament or chukkas. If there is an accident, the consequences are potentially dire for clubs, the NSWPA and APF.

Player Development

- **Coaching Clinics** - several clinics were held at clubs during the year and I thank the club representatives for organising these.
- **Junior Development Squad** – with a revised format, 17 juniors and university aged players nominated for this. Coaching followed by tournament opportunities were organised.
- **Junior Polo Schools** – I would like to sincerely thank all those who donated their time to assist with the running of the Junior Polo Schools at Scone which was attended by over 80 children, Garangula in April with 20 kids, Ellerston with nearly 60 kids and the Northern Polo Club School run by Ben Osborne.

Notable Highlights

- Dudley Cup – 4 x A Grade, 8 x B Grade teams plus many more in the lower grades. Congratulations to the Garangula Club for winning a very hard fought final against Scone. I know Scone is very close to a Dudley Cup win and perhaps 2016 will be your year.
- Unfortunately the Test Match on Saturday 4 April was a wash out. The racing at Randwick also washed out.
- Congratulations to Timor on winning the Hector King.

- Ellerston Spring Tournament back on the Calendar – congratulations to the Ellerston Club and 5 x 16 goal teams and 10 x 8 goal teams.
- Just yesterday the Sydney Polo Club hosted their Gold Cup – they had 10 x 12 goal teams and a score of teams in the lower divisions. Congratulations to Peter, Bec and everyone at Sydney Polo for putting on a world class event. They also had a 2 star show jumping event at the same time.
- I'd like to thank & congratulate all the clubs in NSWPA for all the work they are doing to promote our wonderful sport. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mike McKechnie and Andrew Williams in particular who introduced sub zero polo – designed for beginner players to play in an environment where they learn as they play.
- Not all clubs have razzle dazzle of some of the patron clubs, but every club and every tournament is as important as each other.
- On the basis of a good financial year, the Board have committed \$30k to build some community horse yards on the Windsor grounds. This will provide accommodation for visiting players from outside of the Hawkesbury. I thank Sam Hopkinson, Adam Tolhurst and Ray Bruce for getting this going.
- We have 373 paid up members (comparable to last year) of which 290 are senior full players. I note over 20% of our members are women and this trend has been increasing over the last 4-5 years. This is very positive for polo and if it were not for the wash out at Easter, a women's match was scheduled for international day. I am extraordinarily embarrassed that a Board I am presiding over has no women directors, in the past Julie McIntosh, Jenny Herz and Marlene have done a fantastic job. The NRL have Cathy Harris – I would hope that in future years we have a number of women directors.

Communication

NSWPA tries to keep its members and the wider community well-informed of news and events. This is done through Player Bulletins, Club Bulletins, Friends of Polo newsletters, a website kept up to date and a Facebook page.

Suzie Ruse

On behalf of the polo community I'd like to thank Suzie the NSWPA's Executive Assistant for all the work she does. She has run the office now for 11 years, so know the ropes and the personalities. She makes my job very easy in terms of being President. She manages the Polo role along with a similar role at the Harvard Club of Australia, in between running marathons, organising fundraisers and being a mother of 3!

World Cup Bid

As you probably know, Sydney Polo Club are putting in a bid to host the Polo World Cup Finals in October 2018. Peter Higgins has been meeting with government officials to source funding for this event. Peter will update us later in the meeting.

My last year as President

I have enjoyed the last 2 years as President and am keen to stand for another year if elected. I have a focus for this final year as President on the improvement of the standard of umpiring and correct interpretation of the rules. To that end, the Board have committed to bring in a professional umpire next year to cover the Morton, Dudley and Test. This is similar as to what is happening in other developed polo countries, such as England, USA and Argentina. The aim would be to educate, create greater consistency with umpiring and improve the safety aspect of polo. I would like to retire from polo administration feeling I have assisted in bringing greater knowledge and therefore enjoyment to the players and spectators and knowing I have done everything in my power to make polo as safe as possible.

And if any of you have any thoughts on this, or any other initiatives, please do speak to me either later today or by phone or any other Director on the Board.

Thank you.

Joe Curran
President, NSW Polo Association

6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & DIRECTORS

President Nomination received from: Joe Curran
No other nominations were received.
Joe Curran elected as President for 2015-16.

Southern Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Eugene Marais.
Eugene Marais elected as Southern Zone Director 2015-2017

Northern Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Glen Gilmore.
Glen Gilmore elected as Northern Zone Director 2015-2017

Hawkesbury Zone Director – one vacancy. Two nominations received from Rebecca Higgins and Bruno Mascart.

A vote took place of the delegates of the Hawkesbury Clubs.

Bruno Mascart elected as Hawkesbury Zone Director 2015-2017.

Rebecca Higgins was thanked for her nomination and ongoing contribution to polo in the Hawkesbury.

7. HANDICAP REPORT

Dick Doolin read his report:

In 2014 there was a large amount of change across the whole of NSW handicaps, starting at the top; a change that didn't come without its fair share of criticism. Many of those handicap changes were on players who were on the brink of going up. Where we have previously been conservative and given them another year, we instead, have pushed them to the next level and in nearly every case they have stepped up to the challenge.

2015 has seen little change in the higher percentage of handicaps. We have seen close results in many tournaments that indicate to us, as a committee, that we are handicapping fairly and reasonably.

Something that is very exciting to note is the number of very young players coming through the handicap ranks. In coming years, we will see many of them develop into seriously good players. As Chairman, I am extremely pleased with the job the handicapping committee is doing. They are independent in their decisions and I believe they represent the players well. With half of the committee replaced last year, I would like to see this committee remain unchanged for at least another year.

I would like to thank the handicappers for their hard work and honesty throughout the year and look forward to working with you in 2016.

Dick Doolin

Chair, Handicap Committee

8. ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2016

After discussion it was agreed to keep a Handicap Committee comprising of 7 – two representatives from each State plus a Chair.

The current handicap committee were prepared to stand again. There were no further nominations.

Glen Gilmore moved that the **Handicap Committee 2016 is:** Dick Doolin, Angus Campbell, James Archibald, Sam Hopkinson, Jock Mackay, Simon Walker and Andrew Williams.

Seconded: Adam Tolhurst

All in favour. Motion carried.

ACTION: The Provisional Handicap List to be circulated to Clubs in the next week.

9. PROPOSED 2016 AFFILIATION FEES

Proposed Affiliation Fees for 2016, including APF Affiliation Fee & Insurance (Sam Ballas)

Full Player Senior	\$375
Full Player Junior (19 years and under)	\$165
Full Player Senior 4 Weeks from date of registration	\$245
Club Chukkas member (no tournaments or handicap)	\$120
Coaching Clinic / Polo School Participant (insurance only)	\$33
Proposed Club Affiliation Fee	\$1000
Social Member Fee	\$55

Note: these are same as 2015. Fees increased by 10% on the APF portion as APF now registered for GST.

Motion that Affiliation Fees 2016 remain same as 2015

Moved: Peter Higgins

Seconded: Beau Blundell

All in favour. Motion carried.

10. INSURANCE UPDATE

Dick Rodgers said the national insurance policy was well publicised on the website. It includes:

- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity
- Directors & Officers
- Personal Accident

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

Dick Rodgers reminded everyone:

- To ensure all players were registered on the national player database.
- To ensure an Incident Report Form is completed in the event of an accident or incident.

11. APF UPDATE

Draft APF Constitution

Steve Philip updated the attendees on the draft APF Constitution. He focussed on two issues:

- a. Proportionate representation for NSWPA, given that nearly 50% of the players come from NSW
- b. APF allowed to set fees without consulting State Associations

Steve explained the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) has governance principles and APF has moved away from these in some cases.

Proportionate representation for NSWPA: Steve explained the APF Constitution currently has 2 Directors per State plus 2 additional 'appointed' Directors. The draft new Constitution proposes 5 State Directors (1 per State), 4 appointed Directors and 2 additional Directors with special skills. It proposes one Delegate per State, however NSWPA would gain an extra Delegate, making 6 in total, if it has 40% or more of the membership.

There was discussion about this. Overall, attendees thought this was the best outcome NSWPA could hope for.

APF setting of fees: Steve said NSWPA was concerned APF had total control of its fees, however governance principles recommend states should not control national finances. The draft new Constitution proposes if APF want to increase fees by 20% or more, this must be put to the State Delegates.

ACTION: Steve to check with this requires 50% or 75% of the vote.

APF Finances

Sam Ballas, as APF Treasurer reported that in 2015 APF made a profit of approx \$4000 however is expected to show a loss of approx \$13,000 in 2016. APF is now registered for GST so able to recover GST. He said admin costs were gradually decreasing, however APF does pay for items such as a website and national database. Income from the Snow Polo is no longer there. Sam said although APF could ask for a licence fee from commercial polo enterprises, extracting the money was problematic.

12. WORLD CUP BID 2018 UPDATE

Peter Higgins updated the attendees. His three goals are to win the bid, put on the best FIP finals and for Australia to win the competition. This would take place in October 2018, after Ellerston and before the Melbourne Cup.

In a change to previous years, Nicholas Colquhoun Denvers has approached three patrons in China, USA and the Higgins in Australia and asked them to bid. In another change, the host nation should provide horses and accommodation for all players and officials. FIP takes greater control of managing the tournament.

Peter said he is working with Destination NSW and Stuart Ayres, Minister for Sport and a group will travel to Argentina to pitch in December this year.

Peter said NSWPA and APF will have no financial exposure, so he is currently providing the finances and applying for a grant from Destination NSW.

13. TOURNAMENTS CALENDAR 2016

Simon Walker presented the Draft Calendar 2016. Joe thanked Simon and Eugene Marais for their time spent on this. There was discussion about sharing tournaments in the Hawkesbury.

It was agreed that the Easter Test Match would not be held in 2016.

The general feeling of the meeting was that Draft #11 of the Calendar 2016 was acceptable.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

Glen Gilmore asked the NSWPA's position on helmets and said some players are wearing old and ineffective head gear. Joe responded that last year, NSWPA put out the following recommendations, and could do this again:

- 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.

This matter will be followed up at a future NSWPA Board Meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm. Attendees stayed on for lunch.

Signed

Joe Curran
NSWPA President