

Draft MINUTES

New South Wales Polo Association (Kyeemagh) Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Held at
The Woollahra Hotel, Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025
Friday 27 October 2017

Stephen Philip opened the meeting at 10.10am.

1. ATTENDEES

Club Delegates/Proxy:

Arunga	n/a	Riverlands	Nicola Cole
Ellerston	n/a	Scone	Alec White
Garangula	n/a	Southern Highlands	Roger Fagan
Goulburn	Simon Walker	Sydney	n/a
Gundalong	Simon Walker	Timor	Fiola Labron Johnson
Jemalong	Andrew Williams	Town & Country	Sam Hopkinson
Killarney	Fiona Fitzpatrick	The Northern Polo Club	Chris Bowman
Kurri Burri	Sam Hopkinson	Willo Polo	Mark Maritz
Millamolong	Eugene Marais	Windsor	Luke O'Leary
Mudgee	n/a	Wirragulla	Chris Bowman

Kyeemagh Members/ and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs

Sam Ballas	Adam Tolhurst	Marlene MacFarlane	Steve Philip
Bruno Mascart	Peter White	Tim Boyd	John Kilmartin
Angus Campbell	Glen Gilmore	Garth Towan – Lander & Rogers	

Chairman: Stephen Philip
Executive Assistant: Suzie Ruse

2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES

Official Apologies received from: Beau Blundell, Dick Rodgers, Ben Osborne, James Archibald, Anto White.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fiona Fitzpatrick asked for an update on the women's committee which Stephen agreed to speak to in General Business.

Motion: Fiona Fitzpatrick moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 24 October 2016 be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Tim Boyd.

All in favour. Motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sam Ballas, NSWPA Treasurer, read his report:

Sam noted the profit after income tax of \$19,644 for the 2016-17 financial year. There is currently \$295,000 in the high yield and cash accounts.

- A NSW Sport & Rec grant of \$10000 was successfully received plus a second one of \$9000 which is specifically for the purpose of assisting to fund junior polo schools and rules/umpiring training.
- The administration costs remained constant at \$20,000 even considering the World Cup and disciplinary hearings. Super payments were also made.
- NSWPA now uses MYOB which improves financial reporting.
- There is increased expenditure to coaching/development due to more polo schools receiving grants.
- NSWPA has now financed a total of 60 yards to be built at Windsor Polo Club at a cost of \$36000. These are being written off over 10 years. The yards are primarily for non-Hawkesbury players when visiting the Hawkesbury.
- The NSWPA Tournaments aim to break even. In 2015-16 there was a small surplus and this year a small loss.
- NSWPA and APF will jointly fund Ben Osborne's initiative to have an App for polo rules with links to videos etc.

Sam Ballas

Treasurer, NSW Polo Association

Motion: Sam Hopkinson moved that the Financial Reports and year ending 30 June 2017 and the Treasurer's Report be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Angus Campbell.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stephen Philip, NSWPA President read his report:

President's Report 2017

2017 has been a full year. It marks the 125th Anniversary of the Association which is quite a milestone – and one we should be very proud of.

Vale

Unfortunately we lost some friends of polo this year. One of polo's great contributors throughout his lifetime was **Jim MacGinley** who passed away in May after a battle with cancer. Jim had a tremendous influence on polo and many of us players. He shaped and influenced the sport through coaching, developing young players and training superb horses. We were delighted to present the inaugural Jim MacGinley Trophy for Best and Fairest to Glen Gilmore at the Australian Open just before he passed away.

In June we farewelled **John Rydge**, a past President and Life Member of the Wirragulla Polo Club. Having been a member of Windsor for some years, John moved to Dungog and was instrumental in reviving the Wirragulla Club in 2003 after many years of dormancy. The club I'm sure appreciates his work and his vision.

Autumn Season – though difficult conditions was a great success.

The wet weather in March made for a slow start to the season with tournaments scheduled and re-scheduled to the driest fields. I would like to thank the NSWPA tournament committee: Sam Hopkinson, Adam Tolhurst, Simon Walker and Jim Gilmore. The Australian Open (held in NSW for the first time in many years), the Hector King Cup, Dudley Cup and Macleod Cup were all hotly contested. Congratulations to the 19-goal Ellerston team who won the Australian Open and Windsor who narrowly defeated Scone to win the Countess of Dudley Cup. Over these weekends there were around 28 or so teams playing in the high goal and lower goals. This goes to show how strong polo is in NSW and the Hawkesbury Basin. I would also like to thank Bruno Mascart, Luke O'Leary and the Windsor Polo Club for their effort to make the polo work during this time, as well as the other field owners who made their fields available so that everyone got to play, namely the Marshalls (Kurri Burri), the Tolhursts (Arunga) and Killarney.

One of the highlights of the season was the **Test Caps Presentation** made at the Countess of Dudley Cup Finals. This was after months of work by: Glen Gilmore, Jeremy Bayard, Peter White and Lindsay Jameson. Over 30 Australian representative players gathered to receive certificates and citations. This was a great initiative and I thank them all for turning a good idea into reality and recognising those players' achievements.

Spring Season

This Spring Season, the Hawkesbury has seen tournaments with 34+ teams competing over multiple grades, such as the Jamie Mackay & Winten Cup weekend and the Kurri Burri Tournament. I would like to thank the Tournament Committee for the JK Memorial: Sam Hopkinson, Bruno Mascart, Adam Tolhurst and Jim Gilmore. I would also like to acknowledge the tournament managers, club office bearers and committee members who have worked together to enable these tournaments to run smoothly enabling well over 100 players to take part and use multiple fields. Meanwhile in the North, the clubs have been running tournaments every weekend since early August with between 12-21 teams competing.

Junior Polo Development

There has been an increase in the number of clubs organising junior polo schools. All have been assisted by a small grant from NSWPA, and I would like to acknowledge the following:

1. **Scone Junior Polo School** – our longest running school, attracting around 80 children, with the committee currently headed by Alex Warner.
2. **Hawkesbury Junior Polo School** – which had several pros volunteering to coach and 15 children attending.
3. **Jemalong Junior Polo School** – the first of many we hope. Organised by the Williams family, this was a great experience for the 23 kids who attended.
4. The **North West NSW school** organised by Ben Osborne and the **North Star School** organised by Simon Doolin, both held in July.

We are also working with the APF in relation to the Mike Harley Fund which is a legacy left by Mike to be used for the development of junior players. NSW is also considering putting in place a scholarship with support of sponsors to assist up and coming players to get experience overseas to

advance and improve their polo. We will be working further on this proposal over the next 12 months. We are also looking into having a Colts match – City v Country if a Test Match is held in 2018.

Women's Polo

I would like to thank Billie Mascart and the Women's Committee for their liaison work in 2017. The annual Wirragulla Women's Clinic organised by Jenni Kennard with Jock Mackay and Beau Blundell was a great success. In March the NSW ladies were narrowly defeated by QLD at Ellerston. Riverlands held their annual ladies tournament in May and Timor Polo Club's inaugural women's tournament organised by Fiona Labron Johnson and Kirsty Sullivan in September attracted 8 teams with several players coming from interstate. We also have the Windsor Annual Ladies Tournament on 4/5 November. Good luck to all the ladies involved in that tournament.

Rules and Umpiring

I would like to recognise Anto White for all his work in taking the lead with Rules and Umpiring Clinics. We now have 160 players who have passed the rules test and 15 NSW players who hold umpiring accreditation. We will continue to invest in Rules and Umpiring, as we believe it makes polo safer and more enjoyable for all.

I commend Ben Osborne for all his work developing a Polo Rules App. The rules are being moved online. This will allow them to be accessed on mobile devices such as phones and tablets and for updates to be able to be circulated more easily. The version currently being built allows users to search for (or scroll through) rules and view notes and videos linked to the rules. It is anticipated it will ultimately link to the rules test – giving instant feedback, and while including umpiring tips etc. Having rules online will make them more accessible, always up to date and easier to communicate updates and tips (by linking in emails or social media posts). The initial version will be up and running by the end of this year.

Horse Welfare

Horse welfare should be at the forefront of our minds at this time. I encourage all clubs to be proactive with regard to horse welfare issues. As we all know, animal sports are under the microscope and will be into the future. When tournaments take place in hot, humid weather, I encourage you to look at the APF Heat Policy which gives clear guidelines on action to take in these circumstances (such as shortened chukkas etc).

Safety Testing

Thank you to the APF. Safety Testing has been operating in both the Hawkesbury and at country clubs across NSW. Polo is a dangerous enough sport as it is, without players being under the influence of alcohol or other substances. In order to make sure we keep polo as safe as possible for participants and spectators, safety testing will be continuing next year and beyond.

Discipline in Polo

There have been 2 disciplinary hearings this year. I would like to thank Richard Rodgers, Sam Ballas and Tim Boyd who have sat on the NSWPA Discipline Committee. These voluntary roles are far from easy, however they are easy to criticise. I would ask that if you witness an incident, you provide a written report to the host club, and if you are not a witness, do not cast judgement, as it is likely you are not aware of all the facts. Any comments or speculation before a matter is dealt with may

prejudice the process and result. So I ask that you not publically comment and leave it to the Committee.

Discipline Policy Review

The Association is working towards introducing a new Discipline Policy, which will make dealing with disciplinary actions more straightforward and less personal. Polo is a relatively small sport and numbers limited. Everyone knows each other and sometimes this can make judging someone else's actions difficult, awkward or personal. It makes the Committee's job that much harder.

We are looking at a system whereby a range of offences would be put in a table with each offence carrying an appropriate penalty (for example verbal abuse of an umpire - \$500 fine). If you don't accept the fine/penalty you may elect to have your matter heard. However, rather than it being heard by a Disciplinary Committee made up of NSWPA Directors as it is now, it would be heard by an external committee made up of a panel of people from outside the polo community with expertise in sporting disciplinary tribunals (usually legally trained). This panel would include a person with polo knowledge who could explain the technical aspects of the game. The panel would decide the appropriate penalty or suspension in each case. This would make the system more objective.

Social Media Policy

We have all seen the email exchanges this year, relating to events in polo. I strongly believe that these emails are not good for the game. They are divisive and often personally driven – and they need to stop. I implore all of you to think carefully before sending out an email, which is damaging to our sport or someone else's reputation. To this end, the Board is implementing a new Social Media Policy. Under the policy any communication (Email, Facebook, Messaging etc) which is offensive, inappropriate, defamatory or harming to the reputation of a member or the NSWPA (i.e. brings the game into disrepute) will be subject to disciplinary action. A draft of the policy is available here for those who wish to see it. I envisage it will be finalised and formalised by the Board at the next meeting in November '17.

XI FIP World Polo Championship, Richmond NSW

Having spent some time at the World Cup this week, I think everyone will agree that Sydney Polo Club have done an amazing job putting on this event. The fields and facilities look amazing. Every aspect of this tournament has been well planned and executed.

I would like to give credit to the Higgins family for their work and perseverance in organising this international event. As we all know it hasn't been smooth sailing but the professionalism, huge amount of effort, expense and dedication put in has been worth it. It really is a world-class event that Australia should be very proud of and again I congratulate Peter, Rebecca and Georgia for achieving such a great outcome. A massive thank you also to Fiona Turney, Tournament Director who has worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the polo such as logistics for the players, horses and grooms has been meticulously planned.

A special mention must go to the Horse Procurement Team: Anto White, Jim Gilmore and Pat MacGinley. Without horses there is no World Cup. These guys have made an enormous effort to secure the horses for this event, covering many hundreds of kilometres, talking to many horse lenders and procuring 280 horses. Congratulations on doing such a fantastic job. Watching the games and seeing the standard of polo shows just how good a job you have done. That leads me on to the NSW Polo members who have generously lent horses for the event – a huge thank you. Your horses

are a credit to you. I would like to express our gratitude all the NSW Polo Members who volunteered to act as officials and carry out duties in various capacities during the tournament – from horse team managers, game officials, horse welfare officers and much more. Many of you have taken time off work to do this and we thank you for your contribution.

The NSWPA Board

Finally I would like to thank the current Directors for all their work and effort over the last 12 months. I believe we have an extremely good Board at the moment, with a good balance of talent and skillsets. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I look forward to working with you again in 2018.

I would also like to express my personal gratitude to Suzie Ruse for her help and the untiring effort that she puts in. I could not imagine being able to do this job without her, so Suzie – thank you very much.

Thank you

Stephen Philip
President, NSW Polo Association

Glen Gilmore, Director, agreed with Stephen on his acknowledgements of the NSW polo community's involvement with the XI FIP World Polo Championship. However he added special thanks and admiration for the tremendous contribution Anto and Tina White had made to ensure the success of the tournament.

Peter White, Vice President, added his thanks to Stephen Philip for his leadership during his first year as President of the NSW Polo Association.

6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & DIRECTORS

Peter White, Vice President took the chair for the election of the President:

President Nomination received from: Stephen Philip
No other nominations were received.
Stephen Philip elected as President for 2017-18.

Stephen Philip, as President, took the chair.

Southern Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Simon Walker
Simon Walker elected as Southern Zone Director 2017-2019.

Northern Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Glen Gilmore.
Glen Gilmore elected as Northern Zone Director 2017-2019.

Hawkesbury Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Bruno Mascart.
Bruno Mascart elected as Hawkesbury Zone Director 2017-2019.

Auditors: Tim Boyd moved to continue with Samuel Skurnik & Co Pty Ltd as the auditors of NSW Polo Association.

Seconded: Sam Ballas

7. HANDICAP REPORT

Angus Campbell read his report:

Firstly I'd like to thank the other six members of the handicap committee: Vice Chair James Archibald, Dick Doolin, Andrew Williams, Sam Hopkinson, Simon Walker & Jock Mackay for their hard work getting around this vast State to diligently prepare for our end of year handicap review which will be held on Monday. I believe, with this group, we have had a good balance representing the interests of all players in NSW; City, Country, Amateur & Professional. We may not always see things the same way, which has led to some very robust discussions at times but I will say the clubs & players of NSW can have complete faith that this committee follows the policy strictly & makes every decision in a fair & unbiased way, free from any agenda. I would encourage the clubs to continue to show faith in the current group should they all choose to stand again & I would encourage them to stand.

The year for us got off to a disappointing start with a number of key players being reviewed by the benchmark after disputes with other states & those reviews going against us, potentially throwing out the balance we had worked hard to achieve. Fortunately however the impact of these decisions was not felt too severely as other mitigating factors came into play i.e. the most dominant team of the preceding couple of years taking time out of the game.

I would say however that the current system needs some change to ensure that the State where a player plays the majority of his or her polo should bare weight in ultimately making the call on that handicap. It seems ludicrous that a player can play the majority of his or her polo in one State, then travel to another State for as little as one weekend & that State gets to make the decision via the benchmark. If I retain my position I will be working hard to achieve change on this matter that has led to some on the Committee questioning why we bother.

I would like to congratulate all those selected in the World Cup Squad especially the four that have played so far & have represented Australia so well giving Australia a chance to make the Final.

With the season nearly over we can now look back at the results to track how we went with last year's review. I believe we have done a reasonable job all things considered with no one team dominating the year & plenty of close exciting semi-finals & finals many of which were decided by 1 goal in all grades.

Angus Campbell Chair, Handicap Committee

Andrew Williams said he would like to enforce the below regulations moving forward for the Benchmark committee:

1. If a member of the Benchmark committee has not seen a player play then he is NOT permitted to vote on that player.
2. The state in which any player plays the majority of his or her polo takes precedence over all other states.

Simon Walker and Sam Hopkinson expressed their agreement.

Stephen Philip said he will aim to flag these issues at the upcoming APF AGM.

8. ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2017

The current handicap committee were re-nominated as a block. There were no further nominations.

Tim Boyd moved that the **Handicap Committee 2018 is:** Angus Campbell (chair), Dick Doolin, James Archibald, Sam Hopkinson, Jock Mackay, Simon Walker and Andrew Williams.

Seconded: Bruno Mascart.

9. PROPOSED 2018 AFFILIATION FEES

Proposed Affiliation Fees for 2018, including APF Affiliation Fee & Insurance (Sam Ballas)

Sam Ballas said the affiliation fees would stay the same as 2017 in 2018:

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

Andrew Williams asked if the full junior fee could be further reduced. Sam Ballas explained the majority of that fee went towards insurance.

Motion that Affiliation Fees 2017 remain same as 2016

Moved: Peter White

Seconded: Andrew Williams

10. APF UPDATE

Sam Ballas reported that the APF had a \$46,000 surplus this financial year which is entirely due to Australia taking part in the FIP Snow Polo, and without which, it would have made a loss.

Stephen Philip said APF were revisiting helmet safety. HPA now recommend helmets with specific type approval.

11. TOURNAMENTS CALENDAR 2017

If a test match team is available (Glen Gilmore to invite), it was agreed to hold the test match on Easter Saturday with the Australian Open/low goal finals on Sunday and the RAS Test Match on the Monday.

Timor Ladies Tournament to take place first weekend of October to coincide with the first week of Ellerston.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Stephen Philip stated that General Business should not be included on the agenda, except for business that may be brought forward under the Constitution.

Fiona Fitzpatrick asked about the Women's Committee. Bruno Mascart explained that Billie Mascart sends in a report to the Board prior to each Board Meeting. Fiona asked how this information will be disseminated.

Roger Fagan

The meeting closed at 11.50pm. Attendees stayed on for lunch.

Signed

Stephen Philip
NSWPA President