



MINUTES

New South Wales Polo Association (Kyeemagh) Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Held at

The Woollahra Hotel, Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Friday 22 November 2019

Stephen Philip opened the meeting at 10.16am

1. ATTENDEES

Club Delegate/Proxy

Arunga	Julie McIntosh	Riverlands	Julie McIntosh
Basin	Thomas Martin	Scone	Alec White
Ellerston	Glen Gilmore	Southern Highlands	Dick Rodgers
Forbes	Gary Johnston	Sugar Beach	Stevey Arena
Garangula	Sebastian Mariani	Sydney Polo	Georgia Higgins
Goulburn	Simon Walker	Timor	n/a
Gundalong	Simon Walker	Town and Country	Jeremy Bayard
Jemalong	Johnny Kahlbetzer	The Northern Polo	Alec White
Killarney	John Farren-Price	Windsor	Mike Barker
Kurri Burri	Sam Hopkinson	Wirragulla	n/a
Millamolong	David Head		

Kyeemah Members/and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs

Sam Ballas	Adam Tolhurst	Rowena Rainger
Richard Rodgers	Glen Gilmore	Adam Buchert
Peter White	Ben Osborne	
Tim Boyd	Marlene MacFarlane	
Stephen Philip	Lindsay Jameson	
Chairman:	Stephen Philip (outgoing) Peter White (incoming)	
Executive Assistant:	Shauna Laverty	

2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES

Official Apologies received from: Angus Campbell, Jack Archibald, Luke O’Leary

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motion: Georgia Higgins moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 23 November 2018 be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Tim Boyd

All in favour: Motion carried

4. TREASURER’S REPORT – SAM BALLAS

Sam Ballas, NSWPA Treasurer read his report:

NSWPA reported a profit of \$29,000

An NSW Sport and 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 umpiring training.

Legal fees were considerably down

Highlights – NSWPA maintained fixed costs.

Slight administration increases in costs in the transition to Shauna

MYOB to Xero – transition to new system. A few issues with reporting in new system.

State and Affiliation fees remain stable

Coaching clinics were down due to the drought

Tournaments have been more profitable

Budget for break even.

Bank bills – state figures. We haven’t had to dig into cash – healthy position

Motion: Questions regarding 2018 fees and audited accounts for 2019. Not approved at Board level. Sam Ballas to provide more detailed report.

In response - Sam Ballas has advised that in 2018 the tournament costs were much greater than in 2019 hence the large difference between the loss reported for 2018 and the profit for 2019.

Sam Ballas

Treasurer, NSW Polo Association

5. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Sam Ballas moved to continue with Samuel Skurnik & Co Pty Ltd as the auditors of NSW Polo Association.

Seconded Tim Boyd

2019 President's Report

Welcome and thank you for coming

Welcome to the 2019 NSW Polo Association AGM. Thank you all for you taking time out of your schedules to attend this meeting.

2019 has been a big year in polo

Autumn

- The Polo International – Australia victorious over England 9-8 in the men's final was a great game. A hard-fought win for the men with Ruki Baillieu winning MVP. In the Ladies International Australia was again victorious over the English with a 3-1 win. The MVP was Indi Bennetto. In the lead up to those two games, we enjoyed a city v country match where country came out on top 7.5-6. Anna Dowling was the MVP of the match and there was some great young talent on display.
- The Australian Open followed the International and Ellerston were the winners on the day, defeating AZ Polo 8-4. James Harper won Best and Fairest.
- In the Dudley Cup Ellerston were again the winners beating Windsor 12-9.

Spring

- We were especially fortunate to have Ellerston host the J K Mackay Memorial Final this year having had a 3-year break from hosting tournaments. It was a wonderful weekend and we congratulate AZ Polo who defeated Town and Country 14-9. In the Ellerston Spring Trophy Final, it was Garangula who took home the gold, defeating Ellerston White 7-5.
- At the Hector King Cup Final, the following week at Windsor Supereasy/Red Gum Run defeated Town and Country.
- Catalina defeated Kurri Burri -8-2 in the 8 goal Richmond Cup.
- Scone had a big win in the Queens Cup – congratulations to David Paradice and his team.

Women's Polo

We have seen some wonderful women's polo this year. At the Polo International, the women were victorious over the English in an exciting game that saw the ladies score a victory 3-1.

Forbes held a school recently which received great reviews from the women who attended from both NSW and QLD. Riverlands held a women's tournament in the Autumn and Windsor recently held one in the Spring. Sadly, due to the drought, Millamolong were forced to cancel their tournament and Ellerston didn't proceed. I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Bennetto as Ladies Women's co-ordinator as we will continue to focus on this growing section of our sport.

RAS Polo

It was good to have polo back at the RAS this year, after last year where we didn't play due to a structure being placed on the ground. We had two State of Origin games as well as a Test Match with New Zealand, which Australian won 11-7.

I would like to thank Glen Gilmore for organising players and teams and having them ready to play at the Show. Glen has spoken to the RAS and we will be playing over three days next year, including a Test Match.

In the Player Development space

We supported coaching clinics and a number of junior polo schools.

- **Coaching Clinics** - several clinics were held at clubs during the year and I thank the club representatives for organising these. Thank you to Muz Easton from Forbes Polo Club who tried hard under very tough conditions. She held a clinic for players coached by Kirsty Sullivan and ran a kid's polo school as well as holding tournaments throughout the year.
- **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 which are essential to the development of our young players. Thank you to Sydney Polo Club for working with Scone to ensure the Scone school wasn't cancelled for a second year due to the drought. Schools were also held at North Star, Forbes, Windsor, Garangula and Ellerston. It has been another tough year of drought in our State, so we thank all for keeping the schools functioning.

Umpiring

We have again invested in improving the quality of our umpiring. I thank Sam Hopkinson for driving this aspect of our game. Ben Turner was again flown out for the J K Mackay tournament in Sydney and at Ellerston. He did a superb job at the tournaments and was a valuable resource training other umpires to improve the quality of umpiring in NSW.

We also invested in new headsets for the umpires which were used at the Hawkesbury Spring tournaments. These have received excellent reviews from umpires and those who used them at tournaments. As Sam Ballas mentioned in the Treasurer's Report, there was a cost involved, however over the past two years NSWPA has been successful in receiving a grant from NSW Sport and Rec, specifically for the purpose of umpire development.

I would like to again recognise Anto White for all his work in taking the lead with Rules and Umpiring Clinics. We now have 220 registered players who have passed the rules test and 54 players who hold umpiring accreditation. Importantly we continue to invest in Rules and Umpiring, as we believe it makes polo safer and more enjoyable for all.

Horse Welfare

Horse welfare should be at the forefront of everyone's minds and I encourage all clubs to be proactive with regard to horse welfare issues. As we know from recent ABC reporting on the Racing Industry, animal sports are under the microscope and will be into the future.

The Association was proactive by appointing Steve Barnard as Horse Welfare Officer for the Hawkesbury Basin. Steve is responsible for providing guidance to clubs, horse owners and players regarding all aspects of horse welfare. This includes tournament conditions and facilities, tack and equipment and the general health and condition of horses. Steve is authorised on behalf of the Association to undertake random drug testing of horses, engage a veterinarian (should he feel it is required) or to disqualify a horse from playing if he considers the horse's health or fitness is not up to the standard required to play chukkas or play in a tournament. Steve is a very experienced horseman and has the full backing of the Association, so we ask that all clubs work with Steve on this important issue.

Membership

We have 377 paid up members of which 266 are full senior members. 51 are full junior members. The remainder are club chukka members or either 4- or 1-week members. These numbers are down ever so slightly on last year where we had 270 full senior members and 384 paid up members.

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 Facebook and Instagram. Your feedback is always welcome.

Thank you to the NSWPA Directors

I would like to thank the Directors who have all worked tirelessly to conduct, encourage, promote, advance and administer Polo throughout NSW over the last 12 months. As I said in 2018, I believe we have an extremely strong Board at the moment, with a good balance of talent and skills.

I begin with our Treasurer, Sam Ballas for managing our accounts and keeping us all in check. We made a profit this year so thank you Sam. Thank you to Dick Rodgers for auditing all our accounts and also ensuring all accounting affairs are in order.

Thank you to the Calendar committee of Sam Hopkinson, Adam Tolhurst, Glen Gilmore and Simon Walker, Peter White and Tim Boyd. Particular thanks to Sam Hopkinson for putting together the NSWPA draws, liaising with players and managing the calendar.

Thank you to the Tournament Committee of NSW tournaments – Sam Hopkinson, Adam Tolhurst, Glen Gilmore, Simon Walker, Alec White, Jack Archibald. It is a huge effort to manage the tournaments and I thank you all for your contribution.

I'd like to thank Angus Campbell for chairing the Handicap committee for the past three years as his term draws to an end. We appreciate your time and effort in leading the committee, as chairing the handicap committee is not an easy job. Handicaps are always contentious. Angus handled any issues involving handicaps in a calm and considered manner and I appreciate his dealing with the issues in this way.

I would also like to extend our thanks to the rest of the handicap committee - Sam Hopkinson (Deputy), Dick Doolin, Luke O'Leary, Jock Mackay, Alec White and Andrew Williams. Special thank you also to Willo who is also stepping down after many years on the Committee. NSWPA appreciates your effort and contribution to handicapping over a number of years.

Simon Walker is retiring as a Director after six years. Simon has a wealth of polo experience and knowledge and brought this to the Board. Simon always gave his opinion in a forthright way and fought hard for issues he believed in. I appreciated his frankness and honesty. He was a passionate Director on behalf of the Southern Zone and always put the interests of polo and the good of the game first. I want to thank Simon for his important and valuable contribution to the Board.

Thank you also Angus Campbell, Ben Osborne and Glen Gilmore for your involvement in the Hawkesbury Polo School (which from all reports was a great success) and also with the Australian junior team who took on NZ in a super game of polo and were victorious in the colt's match at the Australian Open.

Thank you to Peter White who initiated the online scoring system and who has been working with Shauna to develop the system and to Ben Osborne and Adam Tolhurst for getting involved and to a point where we can trial the system in the New Year.

I'd like to thank Rowena Rainger who has stepped in to fill Bruno Mascart's Board Position during the year, for hosting the Polo International this year as well as many NSWPA tournaments. Windsor Polo Club did a superb job of the International as anyone who attended can attest.

Thank you also to Lindsay Jameson who is our keeper of all archives, records and trophies. This is an important part of our history and tradition and we sincerely thank you for the care and time you invest in managing this area.

This is my last year as President of the NSWPA. I feel lucky to have been involved with such a talented group of Directors over the last three years. There has been no one pushing any personal barrows – every Director has had the best interests of the sport at heart. I thank each and every one of you for your contribution and support. It has been a pleasure working with you.

I would also like to express my personal gratitude to Shauna for her help and the untiring effort that she puts in. As you know, Shauna only came into the role at the end of last year, having taken over from Suzie who had been in the role for some 15 years. She had a very steep learning curve and has thrown herself in 100% and done an amazing job so Shauna, thank you very much.

I wish the incoming President and Board every success in 2020 and the future.

Thank you.

Stephen Philip
President, NSW Polo Association

6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & DIRECTORS

President Nomination received from: Peter White

No other nominations were received.

Peter White elected as President for 2019-2020

Southern Zone Director – one vacancy. Nominations received from Sebastian Mariani. Sebastian Mariani elected as Southern Zone Director 2019-2020.

Northern Zone Director – two vacancies. Nomination received from Jack Archibald and Glen Gilmore. Jack Archibald and Glen Gilmore elected as Northern Zone Directors 2019-2020.

Hawkesbury Zone Director – one vacancy. Nominations received from Georgia Higgins and Rowena Rainger. Rowena Rainger voted in as Hawkesbury Zone Director 2019-2020.

Peter White thanked Stephen Philip for his hard work and contribution as President. He also suggested that due to the number of tournaments in the Hawkesbury that perhaps we can look at including another Board Member from the district. Peter requested that Stephen Philip review the possibility of amending the Constitution and include another Board Member for Hawkesbury.

7. HANIDCAP REPORT – SAM HOPKINSON (DEPUTY CHAIR)

Apologies from Angus Campbell. Sam Hopkinson read the Handicap Report.

2019 saw the NSW Handicap Committee judge a total of 250 men, 80 women- 30 of which played in Ladies Tournaments so were given a ladies rating, 100 juniors & 48 interstate players.

The current group did this strictly following the guidelines laid out in the APF policy. The NSW clubs should feel confident that this group has worked hard to achieve a balanced list that will ultimately lead to close enjoyable games during 2020.

I wish to thank the current group ... Vice Chairman Sam Hopkinson, Dick Doolin, Jock Mackay, Alec White, Luke O'Leary & make special mention of retiring long term member Andrew Williams ...Andrew has been a member since 2004 with 3 years as Chairman. During this time Andrew has always had a strong voice. He has never shied away from the tough calls, of which, in these roles there are many. Thank you, Andrew, for your service.

Moving forward our committee has asked the board that 2 more members to be added to the committee taking it from 7 to 9. We strongly feel this will help achieve a higher standard.

With the growth in Ladies Polo we feel a dedicated group should be set up to give recommendations to the handicap committee similar to the way club recommendations work at present.

I would like to say what a great job Shauna has done making the transition from Suzie as seamless as possible, thank you Shauna for your help throughout the year.

Also, to our departing President I have felt lucky to have had you to call on when needed during my term as Chairman which ends this year.

Thank you, Steve.

Angus Campbell –

Chair Handicap Committee/ Delivered by Sam Hopkinson

8. ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2019

Angus Campbell will step down as chair. Andrew Williams also stepping down as representative for the South. It was agreed by the Board that the number of handicap committee members would increase from 7 to 9 people.

Nominations were received from Ric McCarthy (South), Glen Gilmore & Jack Archibald (North), Tommy Martin (Hawkesbury), Dirk Gould (Hawkesbury).

Southern Zone - Angus Campbell and Ric McCarthy

Northern Zone - Alec White and Glen Gilmore to represent the North.

Hawkesbury Zone - Thomas Martin, Luke O'Leary, Dick Doolin and Sam Hopkinson

Committee to appoint a chair.

Special Ladies Handicap Sub-Committee to be appointed. Peter Bennetto to provide recommendations as to who could be involved.

Motion: Simon Walker put forward that he would like all clubs to vote and not just the clubs in their zones.

John Farren-Price asked whether the handicaps could be better explained and published as to how the committee reached their final decision.

9. PROPOSED 2020 Affiliation Fees

Sam Ballas presented affiliation fees and advised the one- month option would be abolished and replaced with a one- week option. This was largely voted down by all NSW clubs.

Full Player Senior	\$375
Full Player Junior	\$165
Club Chukkas member	\$120
Coaching Clinic/Polo School	\$33
Proposed Club Affiliation Fee	\$2350 (inclusive all insurance)
Social Member Fee	\$35

Motion that Affiliation fees are as detailed above:

Action: Sam Ballas to take up issue regarding one-month option at the APF AGM regarding

10. APF Update

The APF AGM will be held 29th November. There was nothing outstanding or significant to report.

11.

TOURNAMENTS CALENDAR 2019

The draft Calendar was tabled and presented by Sam Hopkinson. No changes to calendar that was presented. Glen would like to keep this calendar for next 5 years.

Glen expressed view that the J K Mackay was tough on the horses, being in Windsor then up at Ellerston. Need to adjust timing.

Support all round for 12 goal to run again. John Farren-Price enquiring if there could be a 14 or 16g. Glen said no plans to at this stage. Possibility of a 20g - David Paradice examining.

Sydney Polo were welcomed back on the calendar. Georgia has assured of no banning members.

Lindsay Jameson raised the question of why the Hector King had been played around with in terms of goals? It was traditionally a 10g tournament and had recently been a 12g. This was acknowledged and received support. Sydney Polo said they could possibly put their 12g in September and hold Hector King 10g, 4g, 0g.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

Google Forms for Tournament Committee –Adam Buchert raised possibility of placing NSWPA tournaments on google forms. In this way, changes can be made, and it is clear who has made alterations and only one version exists. Shauna to examine how to set up.

Hall of Fame – presented by Jeremy Bayard.

Jeremy discussed his plan to organise a Hall of Fame evening around the time of the Polo International. He would like to hold this in the Hawkesbury and make it a self-funding event. Estimated to have around 200 people and induct players as well as horses. Currently looking at inducting 3 people and six horses.

ACTION: Jeremy to speak to Stevey Arena and ensure there are no competing events for Polo International.

Meeting Close – 12.16pm

Signed Stephen Philip

NSW Polo Association President

