



**NSW POLO ASSOCIATION (KYEEMAGH) LIMITED**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

**MINUTES**

Held at

The Australian Club Business Centre  
167 Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 200

Friday 6 November 2020

*Peter White opened meeting 10.04am*

**1. ATTENDEES**

**Club Delegate/Proxy**

<b>Arunga</b>	Julie McIntosh	<b>Mudgee</b>	Alec White
<b>Ellerston</b>	Jeff Fisher	<b>North Star</b>	Alec White
<b>Forbes</b>		<b>Quirindi</b>	Alec White
<b>Garangula</b>		<b>Riverlands</b>	Nicola Cole
<b>Goulburn</b>		<b>Scone</b>	Alec White
<b>Gundalong</b>		<b>Sydney Polo</b>	Georgia Higgins
<b>Gunnedah</b>	Alec White	<b>Tamarang</b>	Alec White
<b>Jemalong</b>	Andrew Williams	<b>Timor</b>	Fiola Labron
<b>Killarney</b>	Mel Cochrane	<b>Town &amp; Country</b>	
<b>Kurri Burri</b>	Ru Barlow	<b>Windsor</b>	Mike Barker
<b>Millamolong</b>	Sinclair Stratton	<b>Wirragulla</b>	Alec White

## **Kyeemah Members/and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs**

Glen Gilmore	Sebastian Mariani
Stephen Philip	Glen Gilmore
Sam Ballas	Ben Osborne
Adam Tolhurst	Rowena Rainger
Sam Hopkinson	Jack Archibald
Chairman:	Peter White
Executive Assistant:	Shauna Laverty

### **2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES**

**Official Apologies received from:** Tim Boyd, David Head

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Motion:** Stephen Philip moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 22 November 2019 be accepted as an accurate record.

**Seconded:** Sam Ballas

**All in favour:** Motion carried

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT – SAM BALLAS**

NSWPA has had a very profitable year in 2020 with some significant COVID-19 support from the Federal Govt.

The Fed Govt support was very generous however, it was a one- off event. Details of Fed Govt support:

Sports Grant	\$10,000
Fed Govt COVID 19 Grant	\$70,000
NSW Clubs Govt Grant	\$16,000 (paid to 16 NSWPA Clubs)

The 2020 Profit amounted to \$ 63,948 compared to \$29,097 for 2019.

The profit for 2020 would be considerably less at around \$2,000 loss after adjusting for some abnormal event ( Fed Govt Grants and late invoice that were paid in the 2020 financial year).

This was in line with our objective to run NSWPA at around break even.

As at 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020 NSWPA has cash and deposits amounting to \$420,985, which is a very healthy financial position that will enable the NSWPA board to consider special projects that will benefit and grow the sport in NSW.

There are a couple of issues in the Financial accounts that need further explanation:

Note 3 Affiliation Fees Received: The \$72,376 (2020) figure is made up of Club Affiliation fees, Insurance Premiums and Player Affiliation Fees.

Insurance Premiums: the 2020 figure is “zero” as it is accounted for in the Affiliation Fees received.

Admin Fees includes wages and superannuation is a little higher than the previous year but are acceptable in a very difficult COVID year.

Also, our current Auditor has had a serious medical condition that is likely to result in NSWPA having to look for a replacement.

Sam Ballas proposing that we simplify and consolidate accounts by having our bookkeepers finalise accounts so we can have everything reported in Xero. Currently as it stands, we send these to R L Rodgers but they are converted to MYOB. It would be cheaper and more efficient to have all accounts finalised and reported in Xero.

Motion – Sam Ballas would like all accounts reported in the one platform ie Xero. He would like our current bookkeepers to carry out this operation. Peter moved that all accounts are presented in Xero. Delegates supported the move. All in favour

**Sam Ballas**

**Treasurer, NSW Polo Association**

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Motion - Sam also proposed that we change the auditor as our auditor has suffered a heart attack, Sam would like to review auditors and find a new company to audit the accounts.

Sinclair Stratton moved this motion and Alec White seconded it. All in favour.

## **2020 Presidents Report**

### **Presidents Report NSWPA November 2020**

The polo season just finished, is one for the history books. It is one that was not interrupted by drought or flood, but COVID-19. It has been challenging for administrators, organisers and players alike. I congratulate everyone for the mature and responsible way in which you have adhered to the restrictions and made it possible for polo to continue. The clubs adapted quickly and diligently to the recommendations provided by the NSWPA office and we are grateful to you all for the responsible management of the tournaments under these new restrictions.

At this point I would like to thank our new Polo administrator, Executive Assistant, Shauna Laverty. The constantly updated information from the NSW Office of Sport was disseminated to all members almost weekly by Shauna and was done with professionalism, commitment, and precision. On a daily basis Shauna was assessing the guidelines and establishing a platform for polo to continue in NSW from one Tournament to the next. I also thank Stephen Philip for his work in this area as well, utilising his legal knowledge in disseminating often confusing messaging from the Office of Sport.

To the Board, I express nothing but gratitude for the way in which each member has contributed to discussion and decision making in such difficult circumstances. One benefit from Covid-19 restriction in running a State Association is that improved electronic mediums of communication have encouraged each Board member to read their notes thoroughly and make informed judgement on issues on a regular basis from their respective remote locations. Thank you.

Of note, I would like to thank Board Members Sam Hopkinson, Adam Tolhurst and Glen Gilmore for their organisation of the recent NSWPA run tournaments, the Hector King Cup and the J K Mackay.

I thank Sam Hopkinson again for leading the Handicap Committee and working closely with Gus Campbell and team on the review and monitoring of handicaps of players in NSW.

We said at the beginning of the year that we would improve communication to all members. Shauna and a band of helpers have put together a fresh, informative, easy to negotiate, website which is to be a growing platform for dissemination of current, up to date information and to provide results and photos from each Club on a regular basis. Congratulations and well done team.

We also promised a better and more coherent line of communication with the APF. Only recently the administrative role at APF has been left vacant and Shauna has stepped up to fill the position on top of her responsibilities at State level. NSWPA via Shauna will now be able to bring you promptly any National and International news of events and management decisions including rule changes, initiatives and International selections and handicaps. This development should assist with the organisation of Test matches, International Invitations and perhaps Inter State Tournaments.

On that note, discussion with David Paradise, to bring high goal players from overseas to NSW continues. It is a small window of opportunity but if successful this will be a huge boost to the standard of higher goal polo in Australia and exposure for potential sponsors. On the back of this Jeremy Bayard and Hall of Fame Committee are waiting for Covid-19 restrictions to lift so as we can present another round of inductions and bring the polo community together again in a social manner.

The Association is in a strong financial position thanks to Government assistance through Covid-19 and good financial management from the Board led by Sam Ballas. In the coming months the Board will discuss ways to reinvest this money back into the Sport. Even as I write this Report certain new initiatives are being presented to the Association which could allow us to develop the Sport from a grass roots level up, in a more professional manner.

The Board's aim is to allow change to take place and to grow the support base from a much broader field. The Association feels the need to offer something of value to all members and Clubs; past players, supporters, women players, junior players, International players, new players and perhaps even schools.

2020 has been a tough year for everyone. Our aim is to make 2021 a year of celebration and development.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a “COVID-19 free” , healthy year in 2021.

**Peter White**

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 2020-2021

**Southern Zone Director** – two vacancies. Tim Boyd resigned as Southern Zone Director.

Nominations received from Angus Campbell and David Head. Angus and David elected as Southern Zone Directors 2020-2022.

**Northern Zone Director** – two vacancies. Nomination received from Jack Archibald and Ben Osborne. Jack Archibald and Ben Osborne elected as Northern Zone Directors 2020-2022.

**Hawkesbury Zone Director** – two vacancies. Nominations received from Adam Tolhurst and Sam Hopkinson. Adam Tolhurst and Sam Hopkinson voted in as Hawkesbury Zone Director 2020-2022.

Peter White thanked Tim Boyd for his service and commitment to the NSW Polo Association Board of Directors and wished him well.

**7. HANIDCAP REPORT – ANGUS CAMPBELL (DEPUTY CHAIR)**

The year 2020 saw the NSW Polo Association have to make the unfortunate decision to cancel the majority of the Autumn season due to the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns and restrictions imposed by NSW Office of Sport. Thankfully as soon as it was able to resume play NSWPA with COVID Safe measures in place, gave the green light to our clubs to resume play. It is a credit to all involved NSWPA ,Clubs & players just how much polo was ultimately played in such a difficult year.

The 2020 handicap committee as of this year comprised nine members , Chairman Sam Hopkinson, Dick Doolan, Luke O’Leary, Tom Martin, Glen Gilmore, Angus Campbell, Jack Archibald, Ric McCarthy & Alec White. 2020 also saw the introduction of Women’s committee made up of Marie Louise Easton, Indi Bennetto, Rowena Rainger and Chaired by Steve Barnard. Thank you for all your effort throughout the season.

This meeting will see Dick Doolan stepping down after 11 years. Dick has been an invaluable member over this time, always with a strong view on matters arising. Never one to shy away from the tough calls or to articulate them when needed. Dick was Chairman for three years. We thank you Dick. We would also like to thank our secretary Shauna for all your support & hard work throughout the year.

Sadly, with the cancellation of polo in the Autumn we missed seeing a large number of international players here to play up to 20 goal polo which would have given us another benchmark to work from. This year's proposed list sees some exciting changes to some of our promising up and coming juniors, pushing them along and giving them confidence and reason to continue working hard.

We look forward to a full calendar in 2021, hopefully uninterrupted by the Pandemic and a swift resumption of international travel so important to our sport.

### **Angus Campbell – Vice Chair Handicap Committee**

#### **8. ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2020**

Dick Doolin advised of his resignation from the Handicap Committee for 2020.

A nomination for this position was received from Dirk Gould (Hawkesbury).

Dirk Gould was confirmed to take Dick's place.

Confirmation of representatives:

**Southern Zone** - Angus Campbell and Ric McCarthy

**Northern Zone** - Alec White and Glen Gilmore.

**Hawkesbury Zone** - Thomas Martin, Luke O'Leary, Dirk Gould and Sam Hopkinson

Sam Hopkinson Handicap Chair.

Angus Campbell Deputy.

#### **9. PROPOSED 2021 Affiliation Fees**

Sam Ballas advised that there were no changes at the APF level for 2021 Affiliation fee's. The NSW Board however are to review the NSW portion of affiliation fee's at the Board Meeting following the AGM.

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: Sam Ballas asked that we wait until after the Board Meeting to discuss Affiliation fees for NSW. APF fees are confirmed as above.

Action: Sam Ballas to advise fee's following NSWPA Board Meeting.

## **10. APF Update**

The APF AGM will be held Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Stephen Philip advised that Amanda Jansen had resigned her position of Executive Officer and Shauna Laverty had been appointed to fill the role. Stephen thanked Amanda for her 13 years of service to the APF.

Steve advised that the year had been obviously unusual and disrupted by COVID-19 however there were good things to report from the APF. New Directors Sam Hopkinson and Adam Buchert came on to the APF Board from NSW. Ruki Baillieu and Noel Vincent from Victoria.

The APF fees have been approved and remain the same.

Generally at the APF would like to push to make the APF more financial with sponsorship of test matches etc.

## **11.**

### **TOURNAMENTS CALENDAR 2021**

The draft Calendar was tabled and presented by Sam Hopkinson. All clubs have put in their calendar requests. The calendar was emailed to delegates. The calendar is not finalised and can be changed. The NSWPA Tournament Committee has tried to accommodate as many requests from clubs as possible.

Special mention is that the Dudley Cup has moved back so that the Test won't be over the Easter Monday weekend. This was done to accommodate the high goal run with Ellerston and Garangula.

As far as the Southern circuit, Garangula will start the season as usual and then it will flow to the other southern clubs.

There are a number of polo schools and junior events around school holidays.

Spring Season – not many changes. Ellerston and Garangula have tournaments running over 2 weeks.

We will aim to get to 14g if possible, if not it will be dropped to 12g. Sam advised that after 12 g, the next level will be 6g instead of 8g.

6 goal will be 4 chukkas, 12 goal will be 5 mins at 6.30 or 6 chukkas at 6 minute chukkas so you can have 6 horses. If it's 5 chukkas to 6.30 chukkas. If it goes to 14 goal it will be 6 chukkas but Sam thinks this is a positive step in horse welfare and also in assisting players with the cost of the game and the number of horses required.

The Hawkesbury still has to be finalised.

Sam opened it up to the delegates for feedback.

Jeff Fisher questioned whether it will be 6 minute chukkas from next year? Sam advised it's up for discussion to the teams and to decide what level they want to play at and how long the chukkas should be.

Andrew Williams says every year we debate the levels so that it's not so up and down moving forward. Asked if we can just set it and leave it. Sam agreed that Andrew makes a valuable point but said that when COVID hit, there was an immediate stop to international travel. We had to play 12 goal. We don't know what's happening next year and we'd like to play the highest level we can but

need to have as many teams that we can. If we can get 14g and get 6 teams, we need to remain a bit flexible.

Andrew supportive of dropping 8g to 6 g makes good sense.

Sam said it's getting harder for professionals to make any money out of the sport and it will make a difference to the pro's if they can play two levels.

Georgia Higgins asked questions around 2 weeks Garangula and Ellerston and asked if we had changed our mind in this regard. She believed we had decided that was too long to be away doing those two tournaments. Seb is going to look at his calendar in the Autumn tournaments. Being private clubs they have their own concerns. Ellerston cost of running a tournament for 1 week is not feasible and they request 2 weeks to make it financially sensible.

It doesn't affect the majority of the players playing in the low goal circuit. Adam suggested that you could play elsewhere in the circuit if you didn't want to be away that long. Still have low goal elsewhere and leave the high goal at Ellerston or Garangula. Leave it to people to choose where they want to play.

No further questions and calendar will be further refined in coming weeks.

### **13. GENERAL BUSINESS**

No general business was presented at the AGM.

***Meeting Close – 10.49pm***

**Signed Peter White**

**NSW Polo Association President**