



NSW POLO ASSOCIATION (KYEEMAGH) LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

MINUTES

Held on Zoom Meeting

Peter White opened meeting 10.05am

1. ATTENDEES

Club Delegate/Proxy

Arunga	Julie McIntosh	Mudgee	Alec White
Ellerston	Jeff Fisher	North Star	George Hill
Forbes	Glen Gilmore	Quirindi	Ben Osborne
Garangula	Jake Daniels	Riverlands	Nicola Cole
Goulburn	Adam Sims	Scone	Alec White
Gundalong		Sydney Polo	Georgia Higgins
Gunnedah	Ben Osborne	Tamarang	Renata Davidson
Jemalong	Johnny Kahlbetzer	Timor	Fiola Labron
Killarney	Julie McIntosh	Town & Country	Adam Meally
Kurri Burri	Adam Meally	Windsor	Julie McIntosh
Millamolong	Angus Dowling	Wirragulla	Beau Blundell
Muddy Flats	Wal Ashton		

Kyeemah Members/and other Members of the NSWPA and Clubs

Angus Campbell	Sebastian Mariani
Stephen Philip	Glen Gilmore
Sam Ballas	David Head
Adam Tolhurst	John Farren-Price
Sam Hopkinson	Jack Archibald
Chairman:	Peter White
Executive Assistant:	Shauna Laverty

2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES

Official Apologies received from: Rowena Rainger, Jeremy Bayard

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motion: Peter White moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM of 6 November 2020 be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Sam Ballas

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit down on last year significantly due to the \$70k grant received in the previous year.

This year, we had reduced income from tournaments and in fact spent considerably more on the Dudley Cup with the flooding in Windsor and the relocation to Garangula.

The result of the company for the financial year amounted to a profit of \$7,669 (2020 year a profit of \$63,948).

This is in line with NSWPA objectives to break even.

We did receive \$10k in March from the Office of Sport

As at 18 November our cash and deposits are \$356 670 and operating account is \$8100

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

Treasurer, NSW Polo Association

Motion: Georgia Higgins moved that the Financial Reports and year ending 30 June 2021 and the Treasurer's Report be accepted as an accurate record.

Seconded: Jeff Fisher

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.

Georgia Higgins moved this motion and Jeff Fisher seconded it. All in favour.

6. PRESIDENTS REPORT 2021

COVID-19

2021 started with high hopes for a better year of POLO than the previous one. Unfortunately, the resurgence of COVID-19 and the consequence of prolonged lockdowns and very limited community gathering meant that the majority of Tournaments had to be cancelled throughout NSW this year. It has been an extremely challenging time for administrators, organisers and players alike.

I would like to thank all for the responsible way in which you have adhered to the restrictions, had yourselves vaccinated and managed to make it back onto the field in late October. Clubs and players have adapted quickly and diligently to the recommendations provided by the NSWPA and we are grateful to you all for the responsible management of Tournaments under these new restrictions.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

One of my primary objectives in my tenure as President, has been to focus on our Junior Players and indeed the future development of polo.

As such we have contracted Glen Gilmore to the position of NSW Junior Development Polo Manager, to facilitate two coaching clinics in each zone per annum. This means that Glen will not only make himself available to come and play in Regional Clubs but run Junior Polo Clinics before and after their respective Tournaments.

Glen will also be working closely with the NSWPA to create a NSW Junior Polo Championship. This will be a three day Tournament held during the last week of School holidays in both Autumn and Spring. The venues will be Scone (North) in October and Arunga (Hawkesbury) in April 2022.

Junior Players will nominate as a Club Team and compete for the NSW Junior Club Championship. From this competition a State side will be selected to compete in a State of Origin series against either Queensland or Victoria.

It is also proposed that a National Junior squad will be selected to tour New Zealand every two years.

PAST PLAYERS MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

A reinvigorated "Past Player" membership is being promoted for 2022. The aim of this membership is to not only keep our past players in better communication with what's happening but bring them together more often for social functions such as the Hall of Fame and specifically to help raise funds that will all be invested in a "NSW Polo Development" or "Past player" TRUST. This trust is purely set up to help fund the Junior Polo initiatives mentioned above and help develop Regional Polo Clubs.

Details will be sent out to all players and posted on the website in the next couple of weeks.

UMPIRING ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL UMPIRING PROPOSAL

NSWPA is currently working on a new Umpiring accreditation system based on the USPA model and overseen by the National Umpiring Director Mr Fergus Gould. It will introduce a pathway to help not only improve but streamline Umpiring in NSW and eventually the whole of Australia. It will also open the door for Professional Umpiring from within our own Country and create a fully funded position for a NSW Head Umpire to administer Umpiring on a professional basis across the State.

F3 or 3 A SIDE POLO

It has been talked about by many and for some time but it is getting closer to reality. A new format F3 (3 a side) version of the game that can be taken to high population density locations around the State is being negotiated between NSWPA and the ATC via third parties. The sport will be picked up by a major sport promotions group with the intent of modernising the game and taking it to the corporate world.

HALL OF FAME COCKTAILS AND PRESENTATION EVENING

It's time we recognised more of the greats of the game! We are planning to go ahead with the next "Hall of Fame" cocktails during the Easter Dudley Cup Tournament 2022. We are also working on a presentation evening which will celebrate those who have achieved during the year, both players and horses. To capture the data we have been working on an online scoring system which will record all performances at every game of every Tournament over a calendar year. Much like the Dally M Player of the Year. We look forward to announcing the details of this event in the New Year.

HAWKESBURY FLOODING AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO RICHMOND BRIDGE

The Hawkesbury suffered a devastating blow to their grounds and facilities earlier in the year with floods across most Clubs This saw the prestigious Dudley Cup being relocated to Garangula and much thanks must be given to the Swarzenbach family and Sebastian Mariani for their support and professionalism in taking over this event. It was a thrilling competition that saw the Scone Club take home the silver for the first time in 46 years and the first time in the Cup history that a woman has won the title, congratulations Lucy Bliss.

The Association has also been involved in communicating on behalf of the Polo Community to Transport NSW, voicing concern in regard to the effect of the newly proposed Bridge across the Hawkesbury River will have significant impact on three polo Clubs in the area.

HORSE WELFARE AND RIDING ON PUBLIC ROADS

All clubs need to be proactive with regard to horse welfare. When tournaments take place in hot, humid weather, we encourage Tournament Committees to adhere to the "Heat" policies on the APF website.

We have also forwarded the Transport NSW information to all players and clubs regarding the riding and leading horses on public roads. This is a major concern to polo administrators and we ask all players and grooms in the Hawkesbury to take note.

DISCIPLINE POLICY REVIEW

The Association has introduced a new Judiciary Committee consisting of David Head (Chair) , Stephen Philip, Sam Ballas and John Farren-Price. The Committee has created a new Discipline Policy, which will make dealing with disciplinary actions more precise.

THE NSWPA BOARD

Please join me in thanking the NSWPA Board of Directors for all their hard work and effort over the past 12 months. I believe we have an extremely proactive group of individuals, with a good balance of talent and skill sets. New initiatives are always welcomed and debated intelligently with solid outcomes achieved.

To our Administration Officer, Shauna Laverty , we all owe an enormous amount of gratitude for her consistent energy, drive and meticulous attention to detail. She is the ignition to the engine room of the NSWPA.

We have much more to achieve in 2022. As we see in Argentina a new breed of talent coming through the ranks of Polo, our ambition here in NSW is to accept the responsibility to make sure we follow the same path.

VALE

John McNeill

John was a much- loved member of the polo community, both as a player and most notably for his wonderful commentary. His warmth and fantastic sense of humour has been missed.

Guy Kirkpatrick

A gentleman to the game. A tragic loss of a great family man and talented player and horseman. Our deepest thoughts are always with Guy's family, wife Cathy and sons Henry and Alec.

Peter White

President – NSWPA

7. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS

Stephen Philip, took the chair for the election of the President:

President Nomination received from: Peter White

No other nominations were received.

Peter White elected as President for 2022.

Peter White, as President, took the chair.

Southern Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Sebastian Mariani. Sebastian Mariani elected as Southern Zone Director 2022.

Northern Zone Director – two vacancies. One nomination received from Renata Davidson. Renata Davidson elected as Northern Zone Director 2022. Casual Vacancy for one position.

Hawkesbury Zone Director – one vacancy. One nomination received from Rowena Rainger. Rowena Rainger elected as Hawkesbury Zone Director 2022.

8. HANDICAP REPORT & CONFIRMATION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE

The year 2021 saw a total of 349 registrations to play, 231 of which were full senior memberships. Junior memberships were down reflecting the fact that no polo schools were held due to lock downs coinciding with school holidays.

The calendar was disrupted early in the year, with major flooding in the Hawkesbury followed by another state-wide pandemic lock down all but wiping out the back half of the year. There was polo played but we were limited to staying within our zones.

Highlights of 2021 included successful tournaments at Ellerston & Garangula Autumn also the Dudley Cup that was re located to Garangula, thanks to the Schwarzenbach family, Seb and all the team. The southern circuit also managed to go ahead.

The 2021 handicap committee comprised 9 members Chairman Sam Hopkinson, Dirk Gould, Luke O’Leary, Tom Martin, Glen Gilmore, Angus Campbell, Jack Archibald, Ric McCarthy & Alec White thank you for all your effort throughout the year. We also have a women’s handicap committee made up of Marie Louise Easton, Indi Bennetto, Rowena Rainger & Chaired by Steve Barnard. Sadly no women’s tournaments were played this year due to closed borders. There are no changes to these committees for 2022.

We would like to thank our secretary Shauna for all your support, efficiency & hard work throughout the year.

Changes in handicap were kept to a minimum reflecting the shortened & disrupted season and seemed to be generally well received by clubs. The committee do however, have the ability to change anyone, at any time so the clubs can rest assured any problems can and will be addressed.

We look forward to a full calendar in 2022 lockdown and flood free.

Angus Campbell – Vice Chair Handicap Committee

Ben Osborne queried who in the North would be reviewing handicaps in the far north. Angus to give it some thought.

ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2022

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

9. PROPOSED 2022 AFFILIATION FEES

Full Player Senior	\$375
Full Player Junior (19 years and under)	\$165
Club Chukkas member (no tournaments or handicap)	\$120
Coaching Clinic / Polo School Participant (insurance only)	\$33
Club Affiliation Fee	\$2350
New Non- Playing Memberships	
Annual membership	\$100

Sam Ballas advised that a new account will be opened up for Annual Membership and will be dedicated purely to junior polo, not day to day running account.

Peter White outlined his plan for the new "Past Players" polo memberships, offering Gold Tier Perpetual membership for \$5k+, Silver Tier Membership for \$1k per year for 10 years, \$100 Annual Membership.

One off donations, may be made to this Past Player Membership.

All funds generated by these memberships will be held in a trust and into junior polo development.

Johnny Kahlbetzer and Georgia Higgins agreed that funds should be directed back into Junior Polo Development only.

Peter White thanked them for their feedback.

Ben Osborne queried if we could look at tax deductible donations. Sam Ballas to investigate.

Motion: Jeff Fisher moved that the memberships be accepted for 2022.

Seconded: Ben Osborne

10. APF UPDATE

Player Numbers - Full senior, junior & chukka members, decreased by 8% on average - approximately 800 in a normal year down to 735 this year. Most notably in NSW as you would expect, with a large portion of the Spring season unable to take place.

Polo School numbers were hard hit, down by nearly 60% - approximately 130 in a normal year down to 57 this year.

The Rules Committee met regularly to review changes to rules. Changes made in C1. Tournament conditions and communicated to all states.

Handicaps: Benchmark Committee met regularly to review discrepancies, set Benchmark Players for 2022.

The Sports Integrity Australia: APF in the process of adopting all SIA policies on Member Protection, Complaints, Anti-doping, Improper use of drugs and medicine, Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering and Child Safeguarding. These are on the APF website under policies.

Insurance: Work undertaken to accurately record last year's covid-affected activity resulted in \$39k reduction in insurance premium (FY21 compared to FY20).

National/International Tournaments: Australian Open was held in QLD; NZ Schools Tour planned for December will be rescheduled to 2022.

Survey: APF completed in August 2021 and reported received.

The APF has applied for the Australian Sport Commission's latest grant funding round "Participation Program" for funds to be used by Clubs/States. Awaiting outcome.

The FIP are keen for Australia to host Zone D playoffs in 2022 between Australia and New Zealand

I would like to acknowledge and thank to all those who voluntarily sit on the APF Board and Committees for their time and dedication to our sport. It is sincerely appreciated.

11. TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2022

Johnny Kahlbetzer advised that David Paradice is looking to bring out a high goal team at the end of April. Would it be possible to keep a field aside in good condition to play in the Hawkesbury.

Ben Osborne queried the 10g of the Morton Cup. Asking whether there can be different levels? Not as attractive to the North to travel.

Hall of Fame to be celebrated Friday 8 April 2022.

The draft calendar was tabled at the meeting and was approved.

Jeff Fischer raised the suggestion of the clubs running high goal tournaments ie Garangula, Ellerston and Sydney Polo, to share the costs of professional umpires.

Sam Hopkinson then provided an update on the Umpiring proposal and the NSWPA commitment to improving umpiring and the training program currently being put in place. Will be up and running by Autumn season. All players will need to sit a new rules test.

There will be a professional umpiring group and the head umpire will be a paid position.

Johnny asked whether NSWPA can purchase headsets that can be used in the North and South. Sam Ballas suggested that the larger clubs should buy them. NSWPA will look into the cost and discuss with the Tournament Committee.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Wal Ashton apologised for leaving the meeting for a short while but wanted to make the point how expensive he believes polo has become. He wants to take polo to the ACT. Muddy Flats will be playing Polo 3's.

Meeting Close – 11.33pm

Signed Peter White

NSW Polo Association President