



**NSW POLO ASSOCIATION (KYEEMAGH) LIMITED  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

**MINUTES**

Friday 16 August 2024, 11am  
Windsor Polo Club, Richmond

Peter White opened meeting 11.12am

**1. ATTENDEES**

Club Delegate/Proxy

Zone	Club	Attending Delegate/s
Hawkesbury	Arunga	Thomas Martin
	Windsor	Ben Tiplady , Julie McIntosh, Adam Meally
	Kurri Burri	Adam Meally
	Muddy Flatts	Ian Wingrove, Toby Goodman
	Town & Country	Adam Meally
	Killarney	Adam Meally
North	Scone	Alec White
	Ellerston	James Harper
	Qurindi	Adam Humpries
	North Star	Adam Humpries
	Mudgee	Scott Kennedy Green, Will Parry-Oakden
	Gunnedah	Adam Humpries
	Wirragulla	NA
South	Tamarang	Adam Humpries
	Timor	NA
	Goulburn	NA
	Millamolong	Sinclair Stratton
	Garangula	NA
	Jemalong	Colt Kahlbetzer
	Forbes	Thomas Martin

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

Renata Davidson  
Samuel Hopkinson  
Stephen Philip  
Jeremy Bayard  
Marie-Louise (Muz) Easton  
Rowena Rainger  
Chairman: Peter White & David Head  
Executive Assistant: Jo Anslow

### **2. OFFICIAL APOLOGIES**

Official Apologies received from: Adam Tolhurst, Edward Hitchman, Simon Doolin, Wallace Ashton

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Motion:** Jeremy Bayard moved that the Minutes of the previous AGM on 8 November 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Seconded:** Renata Davidson.

**All in favour**

**3.1 CONFIRMATION OF AUDITOR BE APPOINTED** – RL Rodgers & Associates has been appointed as the Auditor for 2025.

### **4. PRESIDENT REPORT**

**Presidents Report - NSWPA  
August 16, 2024**

Dear all,

As I have served the NSWPA in my capacity as President for the past 4 years it is time to stand down and make room for fresh leadership.

In this time, we have ridden some wild storms; including managing some difficult relationships developed in the Hawkesbury basin, Covid, Flood after flood after flood and a few wayward incidences both on and off the field of play.

Memberships dipped to a 320 low (Covid 2020 -21) when no polo was being played, back up to a 384 high in 2023. Weather continues to play havoc in 2024 with 11 tournaments being cancelled due to wet weather from April through May including the International V India and the Morton Cup. With an energised Spring Calendar, let's hope for more time on the field ahead.

It is pleasing to see the success of the more comprehensive umpiring accreditation program, leading to more improved behaviour of players and thus making the game a much better spectacle. The much-improved Disciplinary Tribunal and Incident hearing process has short circuited much of the previous antiquated system. Well done David Head and Steve Philip.

We continue to roll out more junior polo schools across regional Clubs and have now formalised a NSW Junior Championships Tournament (The White Family Trophy), to be played during the September School Holiday period every year

The conduit between New Zealand, South Island and NSW Juniors has been laid with Junior teams taking it in turns to travel and enjoy the camaraderie and competition between the two countries. A big thankyou must go out to Peter and Emma Dormer (NZ) and Anto White (Scone Polo Club) for setting up this relationship. Long may it continue.

Women's polo continues to grow with a structured calendar which includes a Women's Tournament plus Women's International scheduled around April every year. A big thankyou goes out to Peter Bennetto and Rowena Rainger for their management and organisation of Women's Polo.

The Polo Calendar has always been a great source of frustration but at last the major Tournaments such as Dudley Cup and Hector King have found a home in The Spring. The revitalised Mudgee Club has now cemented its position in the Northern Circuit and The Gunnedah Club are now combined resources with the Quirindi Club.

Horse welfare concerns continue to come to the Board's attention but with better communication and selected horse welfare officers attending Tournaments in each zone, improvements are being made.

As I now join the very long list of "past players" it is my ambition to collate an up-to-date data base of contact details of all Past players, wives and partners, so that the Polo Community, at large, is better informed. Fran Gould, Linda Sheppard with assistance of Jo Anslow have been active in reaching out to gather information over the past 2 months. I urge everyone to get on Board and assist in gathering this information. The target is for at least 1000 contacts covering all three zones. With that polo network, together, we can aim to build pathways for our junior players to enter the Sport. The suggestion of a Junior Polo Development Foundation is a top priority.

All this and more could never be achieved without the help of an enthusiastic, energetic, talented and committed NSWPA Board. For your support, quality debate and energetic motivation to make Polo in NSW a better sport; I thank you.

To Jo Anslow, the Office Administrator for NSWPA, you deserve a gold medal. Well done for managing everything through the Office of NSWPA.

To the Honourable Treasurer, Mr Jeremy Bayard, your attention to financial detail and creative thinking sets the foundation for a sound financial footing. With a few Government Grants in the wings NSWPA is on a trajectory to secure solid growth into the future.

To retiring Board member Sam Hopkinson, we all owe you an enormous amount of gratitude for your continued energy in keeping the game in a positive frame. Your involvement in bringing the USPA Umpiring Initiative here to Australia should never go unnoticed. You have been the conduit between players and administration for well over 10 years. The game is a better spectacle because of you. Thankyou.

There is still much to achieve so I encourage the new Board to keep up the good work and never be afraid to stand up and make the necessary changes.

Thank you again for your support.

Regards

Peter White  
President NSWPA

## 5. TREASURERS REPORT

### NSWPA Treasurers Report August 16, 2024

Dear Mr President, Directors & Delegates

The NSWPA endured a difficult year with the impact of flooding in the Hawkesbury in April significantly impacting the trading result.

The full year result showed a trading loss of \$58,097.85.

However, the Association remains in a healthy financial position with total equity of \$399,959 including \$351,807 in cash and cash equivalents as at the end of June.

The major contributors to the operating loss were the washed out Indian International and the significantly reduced Morton Cup. Combined these two events contributed \$36,000 to the loss. There was a further book-keeping correction from the 2023/24 financial year of a \$20,000 loan repayment from Windsor Polo Club that had to be included in this year's accounts. This contributed to the overall deteriorated financial position.

There were several fixed costs associated with the International and Morton Cup that had to be absorbed despite the cancelled, and greatly reduced, tournaments.

There were no material variations to budget in other profit and loss lines.

The forecast for the 2024/25 financial year is for a ~\$21,000 profit based on a small profit contribution from each of the major tournaments.

The tournament committee has taken steps to minimize the amount of fixed costs for each tournament (including no video coverage of tournaments). The association will in future retain up to 20% of the entry fee to assist in covering fixed costs. During the year the Association asked clubs to make submissions for capital works projects and coaching development clinics for the coming 12 months, prior to the NSW AGM. The ambition was to prompt clubs to prepare budgets in advance of their operating year and to provide the NSWPA board sufficient time to consider requests for financial assistance. Requests have been received from five clubs for various projects for consideration. These will be considered by the new board in the coming weeks.

As approved at the 2023/24 AGM, NSWPA has moved its operating and planning activity to August in line with the start of its financial year. However, the membership collection process is still linked to the calendar year. This means that annual fees are not collected until 6 months into the financial year which is illogical and causes cashflow planning issues. A request to change the timing of the membership collection process was rejected by the APF, which controls the system. It must be noted that all other states collect their fees at a time that suits their operations. This needs to be addressed.

Jeremy Bayard  
Treasurer  
NSW Polo Association

Peter asked Jeremy to explain, the Coaching and Umpiring Role that the NSW Board has been discussing. Jeremy noted that the board has budgeted \$25,000 for this role, which will be used to facilitate coaching, schools and umpiring for clubs in NSW. NSW are looking to appoint a Coaching and Player development manager, which will oversee the umpiring initiative.

Along side this, we have set aside and allocation of \$6000 per zone for coaching and schools, so that zones can provide 2 schools a year.

**Motion** – James Harper moved the treasurer's report and Financials.

**Seconded** Sinclair Stratton

**All in favour.**

## **7. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS**

Jeremy Bayard took the chair for the election of the President:

President Nomination received from: David Head

No other nominations were received.

David Head elected as President for 2024

David Head, as newly Elected President, took the chair.

David thanked everyone for their support. He noted he has enjoyed being part of the Board for several years and thanked Peter for his contributions and leadership during his time as serving as President of NSW Polo Association. David noted that the past players network, was a wonderful initiative and he is looking forward to this being implemented, to help assist the Junior players' trust.

### **Hawkesbury Zone Directors**

Two vacancies, one resignation from Samuel Hopkinson

Two nominations received from Adam Tolhurst and Thomas Martin

Thomas Martin newly elected as Hawkesbury Zone Director

Adam Tolhurst Re-elected as Hawkesbury Zone Director

### **Southern Zone Directors**

Two Vacancies. Two nominations received from David Head and Edward Hitchman.

As David Head is the newly elected President, there will be a vacant role in the Southern Zone, until a new Director is appointed.

Edward Hitchman Re-elected as Southern Zone Director

### **Northern Zone Directors**

Two Vacancies, one resignation from Jack Archibald

Two nominations received from Scott Kennedy-Green and Renata Davidson

Scott Kennedy-Green newly elected as Northern Zone Director

Renata Davison Re-elected as Northern Zone Director

## **8. HANDICAP REPORT & CONFIRMATION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE**

Report Delivered by Thomas Martin, Vice-Chairman, NSW Handicap Committee, on behalf of Samuel Hopkinson.

### **HANDICAP REPORT 2024**

2024 Autumn season saw 18 goal polo played across the major high goal tournaments with 6 competitive teams. Again, we were disrupted by flood water in the Hawkesbury basin but best efforts were made to get all polo played. The lower grades of polo were very well supported and team numbers look to be building again for the spring 2024.

Moving the handicap level to 12 goal for the Spring is proving to have the desired result with around 12/14 teams preparing to enter creating a very competitive season.

The end of season handicap review saw a few of the higher rated professional players drop in handicap. This was based on results of the season and to fall in line with international handicaps.

This year we have been fortunate to have a number of high calibre international players compete in Australia, these players have been competing in the top tournaments around the world. The second hosting of the La Dolfina high goal tournament was a great spectacle for Australian polo and a great gauge for our Australian handicaps and horses.

To remain in line with worldwide handicaps we have adjusted the handicapping policy to be able to do a full handicap review at the end of each season. Replacing the "Mid-Season Review". This gives the committee the ability to be more fluid with handicaps and maintain a fair and even playing field for each season. With more and more international players coming to compete in the higher levels it also gives us the opportunity to use these players as a guide for our benchmark players.

I believe there is still work to be done to ensure the APF benchmark committee does not have too much influence on the handicaps in NSW. We play the highest level of polo in the country in NSW and have the largest player base. Because of this it is important that the handicaps the NSWPA put forward to the APF are not influenced by how interstate players perform in other states when they might have very different circumstances and be playing in lower levels.

I have raised this issue with the benchmark committee and steps are being taken to prevent this happening.

We have a dedicated handicap committee with 8 members giving a vast range of international experience who spend a lot of time working through the best scenario for Australian handicaps.

I would like to thank the handicap committee for their efforts during the season and look forward to a competitive spring season of 12 goal polo.

Sam Hopkinson  
Chairman NSWPA Handicap Committee

#### **WOMENS HANDICAP REPORT**

Women's Handicap report, delivered by Rowena Rainger, NSW Women's Handicap Committee.

#### ***NSPWA Women's Polo Championships***

The NSWPA Polo Champs week kicked off with a great day of coaching provided by Glen Gilmore and Phillipa Fitz-Henry. We had over 20 riders attend ranging from beginners new to the sport, including a number who have gone on to play in a tournament since, as well as experienced players wanting to further develop their skills. It was an excellent day, made even better by being on the amazing field at Arunga Polo Club – Thanks to the Tolhurst family.

The tournament built on the very successful inaugural event in 2023 with increased participation to showcase 4 teams in the A grade (14g) and 7 teams making up the B grade. We had players attend from all states of Australia (minus Tasmania) as well as players coming in from New Zealand and flying over from the UK.

Starting games early, with a bit of pushback from the fog, and using a field that is renowned for handling the wet, worked in our favour and enabled us to get all games, bar 1, played. It was a great opportunity for the NZ ladies to get a chance to try the horses they should have played in the test and enabled some of the Australian team who hadn't played together before to be on the same team.

The winners of the hard fought A Grade went to Red Gum Run Polo – Carlie Trotter, Chloe Allen, Inge Burke, Pip Fitz-Henry who beat Louisville Polo by 1 goal in an extra chukka.

The BPP was Cat played by Chloe Allen and owned by Muddy Flatts Polo Club and Wallace Ashton - sponsored by The Equine Hub. And local legend Ashley Glennie was awarded the MVP.

The B-Grade winners were Tailshot Polo, with 2 players from NZ, 1 from Victoria and one from country NSW (Candance Kinser, Annaliese Kloe, Sam Thompson and Zoe Reader). They beat Vallex Polo 8 goals to 1. Zoe Reader gave a fantastic display of her talent going on to win the MVP prize and also pick up the BPP award on Nadal, owned by Sam Hopkinson.

Champion Off the Track Pony was sponsored by Lizzie Jelfs Racing and was judged across both days and both grades. This was won by Matildas Girl bred at Whiddon Stud, played by Fern Mcildowie and owned by Shannon Booth.

A massive thankyou must go out to everyone who assisted in making this an excellent tournament, from Guy Higginson and his team at Muddy Flatts to the very generous sponsors and those who provided horses and donated their time to assist in the running. A special thank you to the those that spent their free time umpiring, often in the pouring rain; Thomas Martin, Tom Dalton-Morgan, Andrew Gebbie, Ray Bruce, Dick Doolin and Bud Sorby.

### **Women's Handicaps**

With players visiting from interstate and overseas we took the opportunity to be able to watch and compare all players in the tournament to gauge handicap levels. Several players were still on the "conversion" from the mixed to Women's handicaps so were given true handicaps, with a few players going up in handicap. There was not a large amount of movement across all the players which is a good indicator of consistency and is to be expected with the limited number of Women's tournaments available for playing and handicapping in Australia.

Rowena Rainger  
NSW Women's Handicap Committee

### **ELECTION OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE FOR 2024**

Current Handicap committee was re-elected.

### **9. PROPOSED 2025 AFFILIATION FEES**

Proposed Affiliation fee's remain the same – No change from 2024 fee's.

Membership Type	12 months
Full Player Senior	\$ 500.00
Full Player Junior (19 years and under)	\$ 250.00
Club Chukka member Senior (no tournament or handicap)	\$ 250.00
Club Chukkas member Junior	\$ 140.00
Coaching Clinic / Polo School Participant	\$ 85.00
1 Week Membership	\$ 155.00
Club Affiliation Fee	\$ 2,350.00
Social Membership	\$ 100.00

### **10. APF UPDATE**

NSW were set to host the Australia vs India International and the Women's Australia vs New Zealand matches at Windsor Polo Club before the unfortunate weather condition cancelled play.

I would like to thank NSW and Windsor for their work in the preparation for this match with special mention to Julie and Jeremy. I would also like to thank the Marshalls for their hosting of the cocktail party which was a great evening.

Very successful return to the Sydney Royal Easter Show with Australia winning 6 Goals to 5 and the Indian team thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

QLD will shortly host the Women's International with Australia vs New Zealand.

A 14 Goal Australian team headed to New Zealand. Australia won the first match 9 goals to 7 For the second match Australia took the win 12 to 4.5

La Dolfina at Ellerston, thank you to David Paradice, who has showcased some of the worlds best players in Australis.

A ladies team also played against New Zealand and were defeated 5 to 3.

Sad loss for Australian Polo with Peter Abisheganaden, Rob Bell and John Goold, those gentlemen were real characters and will be missed.

APF Introduced new Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures to update and replace the 2018 regulations and set out the procedures and penalties to be applied to all disciplinary incidents.

The Horse Welfare rules was updated so that as of August 1st (Horse's Birthday), the year a pony turns 20 years of age, it is only able to: be used for coaching clinics/lessons and stick and balling or, play in subzero grade polo with a player on a -2 or -1 handicap, provided it has had a heart and eye test done by a current registered vet within the last 12 months. A copy of the relevant certificate of proof must be provided to the Secretary of the State Association prior to the season starting.

Benchmark Committee met regularly to review discrepancies and set the Benchmark players for 2024. Both handicap meetings are now full handicap reviews.

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.

Stephen Philip  
Chairman, Australian Polo Federation

## **11.TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2024**

Delegates were presented with a very rough draft of the calendar, which is still a work in progress and changes will be made. It was advised that delegates review the draft calendar and provide their feedback and preferred tournament dates to the tournament committee, Adam Tolhurst, Jack Archibald and Ed Hitchman, the proposed calendar will be drafted and sent to clubs for review in the coming months.

## **12. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Meeting Closed – 1:39pm



Signed David Head  
NSW Polo Association President