



THE POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

**MINUTES**

**2015 HALF YEARLY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**26 February 2015**

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**Venue:** "The Coolabah Room" Matilda Motor Inn, 231 Darling Street, Dubbo

**8:30am** Selectors Sub-Committee Meeting was held

**10:20am** Council Meeting Commenced

**ATTENDEES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Zone</i>
David McKillop Tracey Stevenson	Central West
Joanne McFayden Melissa Davis	Hunter Valley
John Grills Phillipa Grills	Northern New England
Linda Drynan	North West Plains
Toni Davidge Dinah Hayes Wendy Barlow	Southern Highlands
No delegate	South West Riverina
Charlie Grills Elissa Koch	South West Slopes
Margaret Garnsey Cameron Hill	Western District

**MEMBERS**

Sara Grills	Belinda Smith	Andrew Rose	Ray Davis
Bill Bleechmore	June Bleechmore	Jody Mathie	Alison Mathie
Colin Parkinson	Sam Halsted		

**APOLOGIES:**

Sandra Weston	Will Weston	Brian Johnson	Mark Wilson
Kristy Bullen	Cathy Lilliebridge	Peter Wilson	Chris Bunny
Murray Thomas	Kevin Hartley	Louise Parkinson	Terry Blake
Kevin Stevenson	Gary Stevenson	Brad Wamsley	Rob Finlayson
David Mortimer	Simon Turnbull		

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS General Meeting

**Moved** Bill Bleechmore

**Seconded** Joanne McFayden

## BUSINESS ARISING

Passing the Audited 2014 Financials

**Moved** Anthony Kirk

**Seconded** Bill Bleechmore

## REPORTS

President Report – Moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Laughlin Ross

**Seconded** Elissa Koch

Treasurer – Moved as presented (attached)

\* Please note that the Account list is as at 24 September and the Balance sheet as at 1 September

**Moved** Anthony Kirk

**Seconded** Toni Davidge

Director of Coaching – No report.

Marg Garnsey resigned in April this year. Laughlin thanked her for her effort in this role. Christie Hunt from Narrabri is the new Director of Coaching.

Director of Umpiring – Moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Sam Halsted

**Seconded** Bill Bleechmore

Uniform Officer – Moved as presented (attached)

Anthony congratulated Libby for the massive job she undertakes. It is a big job which she does extremely well.

**Moved** Melanie Kelly

**Seconded** Charlie Grills

Junior Development Officer – moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Melanie Kelly

**Seconded** Elissa Koch

Intermediate Development Officer

Alison was appointed as the IDO at the beginning of this year. She reports that it was up and down for the intermediates in the state this year. Our NSW Intermediates were able to attend the Sydney Coaching weekend. Despite the weather, it was a successful weekend with our Intermediates getting some games in against the PAA Development teams. The NSW teams needed to be shuffled around a little, however our intermediates, should hold their heads high, they did an outstanding job in the circumstances.

An Intermediate division was also run at Tumut Carnival, this also included a few USA Intermediate players that were visiting. This competition was also very well received and run.

Unfortunately the competition that was proposed for Galloping Gully was cancelled, however hopefully this may be able to be pulled together for next year.

These competitions are extremely beneficial for developing our Intermediates. With the support of the Board and the State, Alison is hoping to grow these tournaments in the future, with them being held in both the North and South of the State.

The Intermediate division is where our numbers drop off the most. We need to come up with solutions to try and keep these players in our sport.

Laughlin thanked Alison for her efforts as IDO and especially at the Sydney Squad weekend. She had to reorganize the weekend and teams, for which she did an exemplary job.

International Liaison Officer – moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Melanie Kelly

**Seconded** John Grills

Grading Officer

No report

## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Horse Welfare Officer Report – moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Sara Grills

**Seconded** Elissa Koch

Selectors Subcommittee – Moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Cathy Bennett

**Seconded** Toni Davidge

### Issues arising

A question was raised as to whether the OPM is a policy. It was advised that the OPM is a live working document. It is to be adhered to, as it is displayed on the website. The OPM can be changed with the approval of council. It is to be followed until it is updated. Anyone with suggestions of changes to the OPM should forward to the State Office for consideration.

Board Report – Moved as presented (attached)

**Moved** Laughlin Ross

**Seconded** Elissa Koch

### Issues arising:

*Nationals* –

- **Horse Welfare** – Elissa Koch advised that as a State we have done very well at keeping our horses healthy at Nationals. We had the smallest vet out rate of all states at the 2014 Nationals. The Nationals Vet report provides details of players who have vetted out their horses. Players who have repeatedly had their horses vetted out will be monitored.

Sara Grills advised that Seamus McKillop is happy to be our State Team Vet again for Albury, however it was suggested that we wanted a report on treatments we may need to provide him with an assistant. PANSW will fund the regular consumables such as saline, however any substantive treatment will be self funded by the person responsible for the horse.

- **Barastoc prior to Nationals.** Due to the timing and the distance needed to travel to Barastoc, Albury Club have advised that at this stage they do not think that they will be sending their Nationals players to Barastoc. They have 13 players in the Nationals teams.

Options were discussed, including a weekend at Wellington prior to the Nationals, similar to what occurred before the Warwick Nationals in 2012. No firm decisions were made.

- ***Manning of gates at Nationals.***

Elissa outlined their proposal to Council for NSW to man the gate. They are hoping the system would be streamlined, and therefore the man power needed for the manning of the gates would be minimal. PANSW will respond to their proposal by the 1 December 2015. Zones or Clubs may then be approached for the opportunity.

- ***Nomination of Horses***

In future, when players are advised of their selection into a NSW team, it will be confirmed which horse they will be selected on. SEO is to cross checking horses listed on acceptances to ensure they are the same horses provided to Selectors. It was agreed by the Selectors Subcommittee that these horses will be listed on the website along with the players. It was further agreed that Reserves will also be listed on the website.

### World Cup Levy

A World Cup Levy has been imposed on players at a rate of \$10 per player per year for 4 years (approximately \$40,000 for NSW). This will be refunded to PANSW if the World Cup makes an adequate profit.

## **BRIEF FROM ALBURY ON NATIONALS**

Elissa advised that a lot is going on behind the scenes to kick start the Nationals. Field preparations started last season and are continuing. Albury have managed to secure The Commercial Club Albury as the major sponsor for the Nationals. They have received outstanding responses from their requests for sponsorship. At this stage, NSW will be in camping in the same location as the last Nationals, which was in the pony club facilities. Portable horse yards will be brought in for the event and they are hoping to provide 12 yards per team. Entry, camping fees etc will be similar to Darwin.

Albury are currently identifying where they need assistance in terms of workforce. NWP are taking on a job at the Nationals, they are open to other zones and clubs taking on other roles and if any zones or clubs are interested, they should contact Albury Club.

The website should be up and running next week, with camping being able to be booked online from beginning of December. The Club is working on the logistics of Live Streaming and also being able to sell the games on DVD.

We need to make more of an effort to acknowledge our sponsors. This needs to be done at both the State and Team level. Helen Mathie advised Farann Mathie wrote to the sponsor of the bridle that she won at the 2014 Nationals, to thank him. She received a response saying that she was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> person that has ever acknowledged him as a sponsor.

Currently Helen Grills is coordinating a book on the history of the Nationals, which will be available to purchase at the Nationals. All photos are welcome. The photos must all be digital, dated and if appropriate, have a caption. These will need to be in by mid December.

**Outcome/Task:** A notice to go out in the Newsletter seeking photos to be included in the book.

**Break for lunch 12:45pm**

**Recommence: 1:21pm**

**BILL BLEECHMORE** - National Anti Doping Control Officer for PAA. Bill advised that for the 2014 Nationals only 2 players registered as being on insulin, a couple of people registered they were on ADD medication and no one registered for asthma. He finds it very hard to believe that out of the number of players that attend the Nationals, that these figures shouldn't have been higher. All Players need to ensure that they do pre-register their medication.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

No Notices of Motion were received.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from Narrabri as to umpiring issues. This was read to Council. Sam Halsted received a letter from Brian Johnson in response to the Narrabri letter, which was also read to council, stating that they will be also bringing these issues up at a National level.

Following extensive robust conversation the council unanimously agreed on the following problems and the proposed corrective concepts

4 main issues

1. Umpiring – the standard of umpiring and the number of umpires
2. Player standards – ensuring every player meets a minimum standard
3. Corporate governance and reporting of notifiable incidents
4. Field standards - making sure fields are set for purpose

### **1. Umpiring proposal:**

Each zone must conduct an umpire school at the start of each year prior to their first tournament which must be attended by a minimum of 2 people from each club.

Umpire allocation at carnivals must be approved by the tournament umpire no later than the start of each day. The Tournament Umpire is to approve that the umpires allocated are qualified and suitability experienced for the games they are allocated.

Make sure probationary umpires are used and or shadowing matches and consider using 2 umpires in lower grades – to ensure their skills are developed and to assist in umpiring.

Zones encouraged to implement a umpire mentor programs for less experience/junior umpires

Responsibility State Umpire and PA NSW BOARD

### **2. Player standards.**

- Develop a simple mandatory training program that all players must attend annually (will look at on line package) before they can play

- Similar training package to be done for first time players before they play
- Actively enforce the rule that players cannot take field without numbers

State Umpire and PANSW BOARD

### 3. Corporate governance and reporting of notifiable incidents

**Concept:** Each host club provides the state with a completed certification form within 48hrs following their carnival that confirms key information.

Host club must certify that:

- No reportable accidents/incidents occurred
- Accidents did occur – then provide details
- Tournament umpire had sanctioned umpire allocation so that umpires allocated were both qualified and suitably experienced for the games allocated.

PANSW

Revised score sheet to capture more relevant information

Al Mathie as part of her ongoing work with PAA

### 4. Fields

**Concept:** The current certification of all tournament fields expires on 31 Dec 2016. The Recertification process will be that every individual tournament field is to be certified by PANSW Board. The PANSW Decision will be based on the recommendation from a zone field committee comprising of:

- Zone Umpire or official delegate
- Zone welfare officer or official delegate
- An independent third party

Each individual field is to be assessed against set criteria with a recommendation made of:

- Suitable
- Suitable with minor modification
- Unsuitable

The PANSW Board in consultation with the State Umpire and State Horse Welfare Officer will then certify or not each field and stipulate any conditions.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Insurance response** PANSW received a response from PAA in relation to an easy to read guide for members. This has been uploaded to both the PANSW and PAA website. This should be read in conjunction with the full insurance policy. Marg Garnsey advised that in the new document it makes reference to a schedule that does not exist.

**Outcomes/Actions:** Mel will liaise with Marg as to the omission and bring it to the PAA's attention.

- **First Aid Policy** – The PAA responded to our proposed First Aid policy. The response received did not provide the desired clarification.

Melissa Davis advised that the private ambulance service is contentious and unregulated. Paramedics are defined as a person who can do first aid until an ambulance arrives at the scene. We need to ensure that we have a clear guide as to what levels of qualifications different providers have. As a State we need to ensure that an appropriate level of First Aid is provided across NSW.

**Outcomes/Tasks:** PANSW will form a First Aid working group to investigate options. The group will look at options such as providing a list of recommended First Aid service providers and providing feedback or assessment on possible service providers identified by Clubs. Consider the merit / potential benefit of PA NSW going to tender for either a sole provider, or have a number of providers across the State. Melissa Davis has agreed to coordinate this group, and will be looking into other people to be included.

- **Doubling up removal from Database system**

PANSW sought responses from Clubs in relation to PAA removing doubling up from the database system. Although we had limited written responses from Clubs the verbal response has been that Clubs would like the feature reinstated, however they would like it as a separate field in the system.

**Outcomes/Tasks** Council agreed that a letter be to the PAA ask that a separate field be added for double ups to be entered.

- **Changes to OPM**

It was reiterated that the OPM is a working document, in that it can be updated based on experience. The OPM can be changed with the approval of council. Once updated and placed on the website it is to be adhered to. Anyone with suggestions of changes to the OPM should forward to the State Office for consideration by Council and the Board.

- **Horse Declaration Forms**

Not all players and clubs are complying with the completion of Horse Declaration Forms. Clubs are reminded that it is their responsibility as the host club to ensure they have received all Horse Declaration Forms prior to the commencement of play on Saturday. Players are not to take to the field until they have complied with this direction.

- **Election of Board members 2016 AGM**

Laughlin advised that at this stage he will not be standing for re-election next year. There will be three positions up for election Arch Anderson, Chris Bourke and Laughlin Ross.

**Annual General Meeting and Yearly Council Meeting suggested date: TBA**