



Polocrosse Association of New South Wales Incorporated

ABN 15 216 280 967

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2017 HALF YEARLY BOARD Report

DATE: Friday, 22 September 2017

VENUE: Dubbo Golf Club. Yuille Crt Dubbo

TIME: 11:00am

Two members of Polocrosse NSW indicated an interest/willingness to come onto the NSW Board. Prior to the formal commencement of the half yearly board meeting, Corey Ireland and Gary Stevenson were briefed on operations of the Board and current issues. Both accepted appointment to the Board.

Open: 1:30pm

In attendance: Arch Anderson, Catherine Bennett, Anthony Kirk, Gary Stevenson, Corey Ireland, Stewart Sutherland and Paul Myburgh (PAA NSW Liaison), Amba McWilliam (SEO)



1. 2018 Nationals –dates, training camps + calendar for other special events

Discussed the need to clarify the schedule of major key events leading up to 2018 Nationals. Draft schedule was discussed, with key dates for selection and training weekends.

Issues of concern

Ability of selectors and players to compete at top level to gain selection and concern for health welfare, given need to travel to WA in October 2018.

Draft Schedule was developed for presentation to Council.

Due to logistics and the consideration of horse welfare, it was decided that Zones should occur at least 3 weeks after Barastoc (now proposed 26th-27th May).

2017 State sanctioned and other important dates:

Albury	21-22 April
Barastoc	5 th -6 th May (2 weeks after Albury)
Zones	26 th -27 th May
Clubs	To be held on the June long weekend, or after, but before the 2 nd week in August.
State Training Weekend	18 th -19 th Aug or 25 th -26 th Aug (central location, possibly to run in conjunction with club carnival or separate event. Points to consider: grounds quality, location and facilities (to host off field training and support). Dates and location need to strongly consider horse welfare.
Narrabri Junior Challenge	14 th -15 th July (TBC)

2018 NSW Calendar

Given the above dates, Zones will be required to provide their proposed carnival dates by 4th November 2017. Applications for Zone and Club championships requested ASAP.

Nationals-other issues

BUDGET & FUNDING

Discussion of cost of sending team NSW to Perth. How to finance, options for sponsorship, State level, Team Level, Individuals.

Board members identified to develop approach and sponsorship packages for state and event level.



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TEAM NSW PREPARATION for PERTH 2018

Recognition of need for more structured preparation for Perth, including training, coaching, managers and TEAM NSW.

Schedule plan and approach to be developed by Board and the Coaching Director. Board will be seeking input from interested individuals to assist in the PA NSW preparation for Perth.

PA NSW needs to identify individuals willing to be engaged in managing state teams and preparation for Perth. EOI will be sought. In particular preparation an conduct of the state training weekend.

Issue for selection/selectors

If selectors have seen nominated horses play at major events (ie 2017 zones) flexibility may be given to playing nominated horses at major events in 2018. However, selectors/coaches will need to see nominated horses played during 2018 lead up to nationals to ensure horses fitness to compete at Perth.

EOI of Coaching panel, nomination, election and appointment.

The PA NSW coaching panel structure was introduced prior to the last nationals, with that panel to be renewed every 2 years. (refer OPM)

PA NSW board consider the current structure has worked very well for NSW Polocrosse process and outcomes. While some process may be “tweaked” it is appropriate to seek expressions of interest.

EOI for the coaching panel should therefore be sought for the next nationals cycle, current incumbents also encourage to renominate.

2. Umpire Issues, including code of conduct players and spectators

Discussion regarding the need for Zones and Clubs to ensure players and spectators respect umpires and officials. There is NO tolerance for abuse in our sport. Process exist to follow up any grievances-these processes need to be followed.

Discussion of need for incident reports and a review of the processes and systems to enable PA NSW to follow up repeat offenders/ or any issues of concern ie insurance claims can be verified etc.

Agreement that Gary Stevenson will work with the SEO to review current processes and opportunities for better utilization for the PAA database.



3. Half Yearly meeting - the key opportunity for members input

Reiterate with council the half yearly is the best meeting to review the playing season. Identify issues to be addressed, actions to be undertaken, plans to be made for season ahead. Need to encourage Zones and State officials to attend half yearly. Seek council advice regarding timing to enable maximum participation, ie avoid football finals and presentations.

4. Grading – importance of consistency, how to achieve

Reiterate the importance of accurate and consistency across the state. Grading is key to fair and even competitions.

Zones need to have regular and effective grading meetings.

5. Role of the SEO, Zones and Clubs

The SEO is a limited resource and required to undertake a variety of issues in very limited time for a modest salary. The Board is also comprised of volunteers required to fulfil their duties in their own time. It is simply not possible for the Board and the SEO to fix every problem across the state. This is particularly the case for local issues. Consequently, individuals must go through their club secretary while clubs must go through their Zone officials.

For ordinary day to day matters, only Secretaries and State Officials should contact the SEO.

Members are also reminded to subscribe to the PA NSW newsletters and use the PA NSW website to search for information relevant to their issue before elevating the matter.

Additionally, while the current SEO has personal ties with polocrosse, members should not use the SEO's personal phone number, email or social media accounts for polocrosse matters. Those with a legitimate need to contact the SEO need to contact her through the official phone number and or email. This will enable the State Office to be conducted effectively. Polocrosse related correspondence not sent to the SEO official contact details will no longer be replied to.

The PA NSW are working to enhance our communication with members, but we need to recognise due process to allow it to function.

6. 9th Chukka

Currently being compiled with assistance from Lyric Anderson and Simone Duff. Grateful any further input from membership re articles, advertising opportunities etc.

7. Masters Women – how to encourage

PANSW remain committed to encouraging and promoting Women Masters competition. These members are often the backbone of the sport at Club and Zone level. We want them to remain committed and engaged for the future health and development of our sport.

8. NSW Playing Shirts

Report from the Uniform Officer was discussed. Sample of potential new playing shirt was reviewed. PA NSW support recommended new approach to standard NSW playing shirt. Policy will remain that each Nationals will have a unique playing shirt.



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9. Funding Applications- Ground Improvement Grants

Following new applications were considered and approved.

\$1,000 to Pallamallawa

\$1,000 to Gulgong

PA NSW Grants approved for ground Improvement to date.

Galloping Gully	\$1,000
Guyra	\$1,000
Maitland	\$1,000
Dunedoo	\$1,000
Sydney Reimburse washout 2016	\$1,000
Quirindi	\$1,000

Discussion of the future of grounds grants scheme.

Need for analysis to encourage clubs/zone to consider state of grounds, what has been achieved etc. How does PA NSW support these initiatives going forward. PA NSW Board to identify mechanism to undertake analysis, review grant selection criteria and budget allocation in future years. Horse Welfare officer has again undertaken a Survey of NSW Clubs Grounds. Need to consider the responses and work with Clubs to encourage continuous improvement.

Options: dollar for dollar, Clubs contributing after a windfall, Government grants etc.

10. Financials

Discussion of current financial system, audit process, going forward budget allocations. MYOB now allows interrogation of financials for increased transparency.

Close: 5:30

Annual General Meeting and Yearly Council Meeting suggested dates:

24th Feb 2018

