



MINUTES: 2017 Half Yearly GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 23rd September 2017
VENUE: Dubbo Golf Club
TIME: 10.30 am

Delegates

Name	Zone
Dinah Haynes	Southern Highlands
Wendy Barlow	Southern Highlands
Toni Davidge	Southern Highlands
Gary Stevenson	Central West
Corey Ireland	South West Slopes
Russell Anthony	South West Riverina
Christina Honeyman	Western Districts
Cameron Hill	Western Districts
Graham Wilson	Hunter Valley
Kaylene Wilson	Hunter Valley

Attendees

Name	Zone
Paul Myburgh	PAA
Keith Godfrey	SWR
Ian Sampson	SWR
Tanya Mulligan	WD
Narelle Spinks	WD
Simon Turnbull	WD

Apologies

Name	Zone
Sandra Weston	SWS
Charlie, Sara and Lucy Grills	SWS
Libby Ward	SH
Kevin and Tracey Stevenson	CW
Christie Hunt	NWP
David Mortimer	NWP



SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports from: the Uniform Officer, Horse Welfare, Selectors, Junior Development, Coaching Director, and Directors of Umpire Reports were received and circulated prior to the meeting. These Reports are attached for reference.

NOTICES OF MOTION - Nil received

CORRESPONDENCE - Nil received

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. PA NSW Board Appointments

Corey Ireland and Gary Stevenson have been appointed to the PANSW Board. Further nominations for Board positions will be called before the 2018 AGM.

2. 2018 Nationals and Major Events

STATE CALENDAR

Council discussed level of participation at Club and Zone Championships, the two premier State events, with Clubs being the “grassroots of Polocrosse”. Hosting these events give Clubs the opportunity to raise money, but forward planning is critical on part of the Host and the participants for them to be successful.

Issues discussed included the number of major competing events in the State calendar, need for adequate notice, allowing pool players and composite teams, more flexibility for dates, consider Qld events, make 2 out of the 3 listed selection events compulsory for State selection, run as a biennial event etc. Divisions at Zones was also an issue and could result in difficulties for the draw partly as a result of reduced numbers participating.

Proposed a review of major events with the aim to:

- a. increase participation and numbers
- b. make it a viable and fair selection weekend for those that are from clubs who may not be able to field a team in their division.
- c. Allow selectors to see players in same divisions at same event.

Outcomes:

Recommendations from the Review of Zone and Club Championships will be put to the 2018 AGM as a motion.

Divisions for Zones to be set at the AGM at the beginning of the year. Zone teams to be nominated well before to allow time for any necessary changes and effective drawn to be completed.

For 2018, Zones are to have submissions to host PA NSW major events, and any major individual club run events, via email to the PA NSW office by the 4th November 2017.

The Events calendar, including ‘other’ non-State run high level competitions, should be approved before the start of any playing season.



Clubs to be advised of proposed State events:

Albury (Junior Classic)	21-22 April
Barastoc	5 th -6 th May (2 weeks after Albury)
Zones	26 th -27 th May
Clubs	Held on 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
At a central location, possibly in conjunction with club carnival.	
Consider: grounds quality, location, facilities (to host off field training and support).	

All Dates and locations need to consider horse welfare and will be reviewed and agreed at AGM.

NATIONALS

Budget and funding: Given the cost of sending TEAM NSW to Perth in 2018, all sponsorship options need to be pursued. All members to consider opportunities and contacts they may have. Board members Corey Ireland and Cathy Bennett will work on sponsorship opportunities.

Team preparation: A structured preparation schedule will be developed by the Board and the Coaching Director. EOIs and input will be sought from a range of interested individuals.

Selection/Selectors: Men's Selection Committee proposed horses that had been played at 2017 Zones, would not necessarily need to be played at the 2018 Zones. However, all horses nominated for Nationals need to be seen by selectors in the 2018 season to confirm fitness.

It was reconfirmed all players on NSW Nationals Squads had nominated horses. These are held by Chairs of Selectors. Any change in fitness of a nominated horse must be notified to the Chair, or players risks being ineligible for NSW representation for a period of 2 years.

3. EOI for NSW Coaching Panel

Members of the Coaching Panel are due for re-election. (as per the OPM policy: re-elected every two years, in alignment with Nationals).

Current panel is made up of the Board member with the coaching portfolio (Arch Anderson), Sandra Weston and David Mortimer.

Outcome:

EOI will be called asap to be forwarded to the State office. Current incumbents also encouraged to re nominate.

4. Umpire Issues, code of conduct players and spectators

Clubs and Zones need to take responsibility for respect for officials and codes of conduct are followed by **all players and spectators**. The need to review the current reporting and follow up of repeat offenders was identified as a priority.

System needs to allow quick assessment, with possible forwarding to relevant Sub Committee heads eg Horse Welfare or Chief Umpire. Any misconduct and/or disrespect of officials should be noted on score sheets and included in cover sheet on the post carnival reports. Currently it is



the job of the match umpire to report to the tournament umpire, with tournament umpire then determining whether to present a report to the state.

Board member, Gary Stevenson, and SEO will undertake review of systems and discuss with PAA as appropriate. Review will consider option of use of reports first going via the Zone secretaries, forwarding onto relevant parties, with SEO to be copied in on finalised report.

Discussion of the use of the sin bin for on field misdemeanours. The current minimum of 3 minutes, which has a large impact on game outcomes, means umpires are reluctant to use it.

Outcomes: Recommendations of review of Reporting mechanism for Incidents and minimum time for send off ruling to go to the PAA and NUC.

5. Half Yearly Meeting- key opportunity for member input

Half Yearly Council Meeting should be the key meeting for PANSW. Review events in the previous season and give time to plan for and make any changes before the next season. SH Delegate suggested the constitution require Zone and Club AGM's to be held before the PANSW Half Yearly. This will allow greater discussion within Zones, and subsequent presentation of issues to the PANSW.

Outcomes: Review Constitution and timing of Half Yearly, PA NSW to encourage greater participation at this as the key State meeting. Timing of mid – late October recommended.

6. Grading-the importance of consistency and how to achieve this

Grading consistency remains an issue. HV Delegate suggested start at National Level, and interstate competitions, where top players are graded across the country relative to each other. This would provide an accurate yardstick for individual States. Also need to use the full extent of the grading matrix, from 1-10.

NSW Junior and Sub Junior selectors could also provide benchmark gradings, and provide these to Zone grading officers. Other Selector Divisions could provide gradings on players to increase consistency. Proposed dual approach - top down and bottom up.

Outcome:

Kaylene Wilson, HV, will assist in developing proposal with NSW SEO for PA NSW, and an Australia wide grading meeting to be put to the PAA, through NSW Liaison, Paul Myburgh.

7. Role of the SEO, Zones and Clubs

HV suggested Zone secretaries be given wider access to functionality on the database (eg. allowing them to lock carnivals at a local level), functionality of Zone Secretary is currently very limited.

Board had also discussed how to improve communication between the State, Zone and Clubs; better use of existing channels, streamlining flow of information. Need to reduce pressure on the SEO and bring ownership back to Zones and Clubs.



A meeting of Zones secretaries could share ideas and information on how to assist each other and the sport. Information can then be passed on via the Zones, to the Clubs.

Also noted that the SEO has established an 'administrators group' on Facebook. Those members who have already joined should add other polocrosse administrators to the group.

Outcomes:

PANSW to investigate possible amendments to database access with Christine Franklin and Paul Carter.

PA NSW to organise training with the Zones/some Club secretaries and aim to develop more streamlined processes and access to information. Possible timing for meeting early in 2018.

8. 9th Chukka

Options for the 9th Chukka magazine have been discussed on a number of occasions. Board considered assistance from members with a media background could improve the quality of the magazine, while allowing the SEO to focus on State systems and processes for long term benefit. Lyric Anderson and Simone Duff were approached and are currently compiling the magazine. QLD has a quarterly on line publication. On line approach could save money, however some members still like to access hard copies.

Outcome:

Council should discuss with membership and put forward options / recommendations for moving to an online version if supported. This could be as a motion for the 2018 AGM.

9. Masters Women

PANSW remain committed to promoting Women Masters competition. Chrissy Honeyman and Penny Heuston were thanked for coordinating Masters Women's competition at the 2017 Zones. It was well received and seen as building participation in this division.

Outcomes: Chrissy Honeyman will assist in coordinating the Masters Women competition for 2018 Zone Championships.

PANSW will liaise with QLD polocrosse for inclusion of Women Masters at Barastoc in 2018.

10. NSW Playing shirts

A sample of the new representative playing shirt to be used at all events, except Nationals, was displayed. The new shirt looks fresh and aims to save money and administration of uniforms.

Outcome: Uniform Officer to be given the go ahead for the new shirt.

11. Funding Applications-Grounds improvement grants

The following new applications were considered and approved.

\$1,000 to Pallamallawa

\$1,000 to Gulgong



Discussion of proposal of the Board to review the scheme, with the intent of it being retained using PA NSW allocated funds, and encouraging further support from all Clubs.

12. Appointment of new Auditors

The Treasurer outlined the case to appoint new Auditors which was accepted by Council. Laterals GLP Chartered Accountants will be appointed.

13. PA NSW and Zone Constitutions

It has come to the attention of Council and the Board that the NSW, Zone and Club Constitutions could be revised to better reflect the needs of our sport and its administrators. The Treasurer, Anthony Kirk, offered to undertake a review, with aim to develop a template for Zones and Clubs to consider. Council welcomed the offer of this review.

14. Detrimental impact of Transfer Fees to the smaller "Boarder Zones"

SWR Delegates raised issues with interstate transfers for small Clubs in their Zone. While they are resident and consider themselves NSW polocrosse players, given their proximity to Victoria, and differing playing seasons, they start their season in Victoria and finish in NSW.

Issues: the different playing and FY between the States, PAA transfer fees, ability to remain a NSW player and eligible for NSW selection, ability of family members to play in 'a Club's teams' during the Victoria season rather than leant out each weekend.

SWR has provided details to SEO. PA NSW will make a case for waiving of transfer fees and confirming eligibility for NSW selection to the PAA (via Paul Myaburgh).

15. Annual Official Reports

It was noted that some of the Sub Committee reports did not accurately reflect the experience 2017 season. For example, the Umpire report did not discuss the issues raised at Council, or some observations during the season.

Outcome: PA NSW Officials should be encouraged to be honest in their reporting back to Council, the objective is to address any issues of concern, as well as provide credit where it is due. Office bearers should consider purpose of this reporting to Council and find the correct balance between the two.

16. Club Carnival Issues

Issue of highly graded players doubling up, and or playing in key positions in the lower grades, was discussed as problematic. In the past higher graded players were required to play as a 2 under a PA NSW by law. Proposed that the OPM could include a section on NSW policy for Club level Carnivals to ensure safe and fair competition for all.

17. 2018 AGM Date

Propose AGM be held on Saturday 24th February 2018.

Meeting Closed: 3.30 pm