



MINUTES 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

Given the early conclusion of the AGM, the Chair proposed that the Council Meeting commence earlier than tabled

Moved	<i>David Mortimer</i>	Seconded	<i>Greg Davidge</i>
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OPEN: 10. 55 am

1. Presentation of Yearly Awards

Coach of the Year and Team Manager of the Year. Awards for Coach of the Year and Team Manager of the Year were announced by Christie Hunt.

Coach of the Year: Brad Wamsley
Team Manger of the Year: Louise Parkinson

Umpire of the Year

Presented by Sam Halstead
Umpire of the Year: Cameron Hill

Administrator of the Year

Presented by Arch Anderson
Administrator of the Year: Mellissa Davis

Anthony Kirk and Cathy Bennett both acknowledged the willingness of Mellissa volunteering to undertake the work of improving and standardising the medical support at all carnivals.

2. Minutes from previous Council Meeting – as circulated

Business Arising

Request for amendment to minutes

Request for an amendment to be made to previous Council Meeting minutes made by Tanya Mulligan on behalf of Laughlin Ross and Western Districts. A request was made to alter the minutes to reflect the passing of Terry Blake and Neville Gilpin. An understanding of the fact that a minutes silence was observed for all of the members that had passed this year was recognised but it was requested, for historical reasons that Terry Blake, 26 years President of NSW, as well as Neville Gilpin, receive individual mentions in respect of the significant contribution they made to Polocrosse.



Arch Anderson affirmed that the last council meeting minutes would be amended to acknowledge this.

Moved	<i>Western Districts</i>	Seconded	<i>Mark Wilson</i>
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3. Reports from Subcommittees

No Reports were received.

The Board and the council discussed the difficulties of conducting effective Sub Committee Meetings on the morning before the AGM and Council Meetings. In addition to, either poor attendance or no meetings at all, it was noted that holding meetings only an hour or two before Council meetings does not give councilors adequate time to consider any of the issues the committees may raise. It was agreed that, as a general rule, sub committee meetings should not be conducted at future state meetings but should be conducted when they are required either in person or via telephone conference.

Chairs of Sub Committees would then be expected to present a report for circulation prior to the Council meeting for consideration at the meeting.

4. Board Report – Discussion of Major Decisions and Issues Arising

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Quirindi “Come and Try” day -	allocated \$500
North West Plains Coaching Clinic -	allocated \$1,800
Gulgong Womens’ Coaching Clinic-	allocated \$1,000

GROUND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Galloping Gully Ground Improvement-	allocated \$1,000 (Funded by Albury-Holbrook’s donation of \$10,000 to the State.
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General discussion took place regards the future of ground improvement grants. It is envisaged that if the ground improvements grants work well, and encourages Clubs to improve their grounds, consideration will be given to continuing this initiative.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received from Burradoo. The correspondence addressed issues confronting Clubs hosting Zone and Club Championships including media support and arrangements for developing the draw.

The Board agreed there is an opportunity to put together media packages to assist Clubs in the lead up to major events. Exploration of options would be considered in the first instance by the new SEO.



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The event task list in the OPM will also be revised to provide a more complete “go to” guide when it comes to running these events. Correspondence and discussion highlighted the need to identify a dedicated Draw Committee, including a nominee by the Host, for all major events. Again this should be reflected in the revised OPM and actively implemented / monitored.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Two notices of motion received from Hunter Valley Zone regarding state grading and zone divisions.

Notice of motion from Central West regarding paramedic fees.

Discussion held over to later in the meeting.

FEES AND GROWTH FUND

The reduced insurance premiums provided PA NSW the opportunity to commence developing a growth fund to secure the future of the sport (out to 2040-2060) by retaining a small portion of the savings from the lower insurance premium. These retained savings should generate in the order of \$20,000 per year. The growth fund is intended for long term development of grounds, infrastructure and major promotional opportunities of the sport. The Board is in the process of refining guidelines to ensure the proper use of funds as intended (ie benefit all players)

Guidelines at the moment include that the expenditure of funds:

- Must benefit all players
- Cannot subsidise teams, team travel
- Must contribute to securing the future polocrosse in NSW.

Note that availability of the growth fund could assist with attracting catalyst funding for major infrastructure.

STATE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Anthony Kirk advised the Council of the background and outcomes of the introduction of the State Conferences.

In traveling to the National AGM over the last few years the Board observed that states frequently don't understand each other's challenges, innovations and general perspective on polocrosse across Australia. Consequently, NSW approached other states about the possibility of having a standalone conference with the purpose of all parties gaining a deeper understanding of all aspects that impact our sport nationally.



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The intent is for all states to make informed and consistent decisions and recommendations about the future of our sport. The conference is an opportunity for the states to come together and discuss contemporary issues in an informal environment with the view to developing solutions for implementation by agreement or, where appropriate, submission to the PAA for its consideration.

To date there have been two meetings Feb and Nov 2016. This has opened up lines of communication that previously did not exist and a cooperative culture between the States.

COACHING INFORMATION

Christie Hunt has raised the issue around the lack of marketing packages available for Polocrosse coaches and administrators. This includes information that could be passed on at equine-based events.

There is potential to pool existing and updating of coaching resources. By providing easier access to promotional materials, polocrosse could be attracting many new players each year, particularly children. Materials should encourage individuals to consider our sport and outline ways to contact and perhaps join local clubs. Board to investigate options.

COMMUNICATION AND EMAIL

Cathy Bennett discussed the benefit of caretaking the SEO position during the change over period between the outgoing and incoming SEO. She noted some of the challenges faced, particularly regarding the failure of people to notify the state of changed email addresses as people change positions. Through discussion with the incoming SEO, a standardised system of email addresses has been proposed. (Eg: ClubY@nswpolocrosse.com.au) The aim is for each club and zone to have an individual and professional email address which will ensure clubs are always informed, regardless of the changing of Zone or Club office holders. Whilst this will take an initial effort, long term it would reduce administration time and increase the successful transfer of information between State, Zone and Club and onto Members.

Anthony Kirk noted the importance of a standardized email system when applying for grants, sponsorship and attracting members of the wider public to the sport of Polocrosse. Creating a professional electronic presence, allows the further flow on of the professional appearance and standing that we are slowly looking to adopt across all areas of the sport.

Anthony Kirk also used this opportunity to thank Cathy Bennett for her efforts, stepping in between SEO's at a time of change; not only with insurers but also with the implementation of a new database system and during the Christmas period. Cathy has also continued to support the SEO during her initial stages of employment.

Despite Cathy's refusal for payment for her efforts over the 8 week period, the Board decided to give Cathy the equivalent of three weeks SEO pay (\$589 x3).



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REFUNDS

Due to the unusually wet weather in the latter half of the playing season, a number of carnivals were cancelled. The result was a number of requests for refunds in membership fees.

PAA have a policy of no refunds on PAA fees or insurance.

PA NSW policy is to refund the PA NSW component of fees where appropriate. The outstanding requests for refunds will be addressed in the next few weeks.

The refund policy for PA NSW will need to be revised in the OPM to clarify process and reflect the new fee payment system.

MULTI HORSE CARNIVAL REQUEST

Given Southern Highland Zone support, the request from Lake George Club for a multi horse carnival was approved.

5. Notices of Motion *(attached)*

Central West re support for Paramedics

Central West supported the introduction of the new Paramedic requirements. The intent of the motion was to initiate a discussion with Council of the approaches of other Zones and Clubs to meet the increased cost of paramedic services rather than seek a particular outcome.

Discussion was very collaborative, with a useful exchange of different approaches and experiences across the state.

Discussion included Zones seeking quotes for Zone wide service provision, Zone support to smaller Clubs to ensure more carnivals are viable in local areas, seeking an additional "Paramedic" fee at carnivals, increasing player fees which are quite low compared to some states (ie Victoria carnival fees are around \$40). Small carnivals conducting coaching at conclusion of play could also apply for State funding to fund Paramedic services etc.

There was general agreement that Clubs and Zones should continue to explore all options and opportunities and a State wide response was not yet appropriate or required. The Board reiterated previous advice that they would consider any requests for assistance from smaller clubs to ensure they can continue to conduct their annual carnivals.

Hunter Valley Grading

There was discussion of the difficulties Zones and the State face in ensuring Gradings are consistent and result in an even and fair competition for all. It is recognized that individuals have some degree of interest in maintaining grading levels above or below parity for various reasons, ie ego, win lower grades, benefit in 'point



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based' competitions etc.

Given the appointment of the new Grading Officer, the Board confirmed they would work proactively to ensure the integrity of the grading process. Meetings could be held of grading officers at major events etc. The OPM can be revised where any process is considered unclear or being abused.

Masters Divisions

The Board continues to support agreements reached at the October council meeting. ie To ensure effective competition in the open state events, Masters competition in NSW should be for over 40's Women and over 50's Men. This also reflects the number of master's women playing in NSW.

This approach should be trialed in 2017 at NSW State Events.

Similar to support to small states at Nationals, consideration can be given to amalgamation of small zones to field competitive sides in both the Men's and Women's competitions.

Council supported the trial of these Divisions as per previous meeting.

6. Correspondence

Burradoo

As previously discussed

7. General Business

a. Insurance

Arch Anderson and Anthony Kirk provided the background and implications of the change to the polocrosse Insurance providers.

The Horse Industry Council and PAA have been working over the last few years with the Insurance industry to identify a service provider who would offer coverage that was more appropriate for Horse Related Sports. The PAA recommended the new provider and proposal to the States in December 2016.

The new provider (PSI) offers 24 / 7 coverage when working your horse, provided you are not a professional horse trainer. The level of cover is also higher, and the premiums much reduced.

All members are encouraged to carefully review the information provided by the PAA, as to what the cover entails. Individuals should consider their need for additional health and income insurance dependent upon their personal circumstances.

b. fees

-paying via database

For the 2017 season the PAA introduced a new on line payment system, via the membership data base, for all players Australia wide. There is no longer the option to pay directly to PA NSW. Once paid on line, membership (including insurance cover) is immediate.



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As with any change, there have been some teething issues. However, once bedded down, and members are familiar with the new system, it should significantly reduce the time required by Club and State administrators.

-NSW fee structure

The new NSW fees, with a reduction across all categories have been advised. The full breakdown will be available on the Web site.

c. state conference

As discussed in Board Report

d. Club Championships

There is still no Host identified for the 2017 Club Championships.

e. Induction training package

Anthony Kirk provided an update on the Induction Package. In response to a request for feedback, one Club (Lake George) had provided comments on the package. The package has been revised and is again required by all Clubs.

Half Yearly Council Meeting suggested date was advised to be 23rd September 2017

CLOSE: 1:30pm



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Motions

Hunter Valley:

Dear Amba

At the last meeting of the Hunter Valley Zone Polocrosse Association it's members discussed two items they would like tabled on the Agenda at the NSW Polocrosse Association Meeting to be held in February 2017.

Annual Review of all NSW Player Gradings

A meeting with a representative from each zone should be conducted at a minimum once per season to review all player gradings. All the gradings should be reviewed by the meeting as a whole, rather than each zone submitting their amendments to the State Grading Officer. A collaborative approach would be the key to the success of the proposal. Input could also be sought from the NSW state selection committees. Currently, gradings are not consistent across all the zones and are especially inequitable in the juniors and teams travelling from Queensland. There are an increasing number of handicap competitions being conducted (eg. Narrabri Junior Challenge, Toprail Equine Cassilis comp) where players make up non club teams to a maximum point total. The fairness and success of these competitions is reliant upon our gradings being correct. It is Hunter Valley Zone's suggestion that this meeting could be held at a large, centrally located carnival like the Club Championships.

Change to the Masters Divisions at the NSW Zone Championships

Hunter Valley Zone would like to express it's disappointment at the decision to drop the Over 40's Mens division from the Zone Championships. This division hosted a robust and close competition at the 2016 Zones, arguably the best yet. We would like the opportunity to discuss and re-evaluate this decision.

Yours faithfully

Kaylene Wilson Secretary



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Central West:

Ambulance fees to be paid by players fees state wide.

We would like the State to consider the following motion - we agree with state using only approved medical providers but small clubs are really feeling the costs of these providers and unless we can find a solution to help these small clubs they may have to make the decision to not hold a carnival.

All monies collected from players fees at all carnivals across the state are put into a State nominated bank account and the state would then pay each ambulance bill as it was presented.

Some carnivals would be profitable and some wouldn't but this should even out over the course of the year and help the smaller clubs keep functioning and holding carnivals.