



**NSW Chief Umpire**  
September 2017

The 2017 season has been and gone, started off wet with a few carnivals being called off and rescheduled due to the rain and has finished quite dry in a lot of areas of NSW. Here's to hoping for some much needed rain sooner rather than later.

A shout out of thank you's again this year to go to the NSW board members, the State Umpire Committee representatives Chris Bourke and Wendy Barlow, Brian Johnson, the PAA National Umpiring Committee that I am a part of and of course all the umpires that take time out of their weekends to umpire and make sure our sport of polocrosse continues in a safe and well conducted manner.

The North West Plains held a coaching clinic in March at the Galloping Gully grounds, the Zone should be congratulated on running a great coaching weekend with a lot of positive feedback from members who attended, thanks to Trent Mortimer for running the umpiring course.

Quirindi Club ran a Come and Try Day for the first time in which I was involved in coaching, a lot of new faces and a lot of fun had. There was some very positive feedback about the coaching and the things people learnt both new and 1st year players.

Albury Junior Classic, Silver Stirrup and Bronze Bit, great event, a well organised and fantastic event for the growth of Junior's and Women's Polocrosse in Australia. The Albury Club should feel proud of the great program they run there each year, a lot of work goes into the Junior Coaching and putting together a week long fun filled learning experience for Junior's across Australia. Coaches are always of a high quality and thank you to them also for taking the time out to help. I was lucky enough to coach at the event and be able to give some talks on rules and umpiring.

Barastoc was a fantastic spectacle event this year including the Australia verse South Africa along with the State games. The Australian umpiring was done in a very professional manner, it is not an easy task and thank you to those umpires that accepted the challenge and did a top job. I would like to thank the Warwick Club for the shifting of their carnival dates by one week to allow a better gap between Albury and Barastoc carnivals for people to be able to safely travel to attend both events, they are both very important carnivals for the future of polocrosse.

The Cassilis Pinnacle was a success and showed the very good umpires we have in our sport, fair and staunch in what could be some trying games to umpire at times when people are wanting to be the most competitive that they can be, thank you to those who took those umpiring jobs on and again did a great job. The umpires were organised and overseen by Drew Gerney, Wendy Barlow and Chris Bourke, thank you.



I attended the North West Equestrian Expo in Coonabarabran and assisted with the overseeing of the umpiring, the Western Districts Zone members led by Tanya Mulligan and Kylie Deshon, run a wonderful program to introduce new players from different schools across NSW to the sport of Polocrosse. Umpires are coaching and umpiring at the same time in some cases with some of the new players and everyone enjoys the games immensely, a lot of comradery and cheering from the sidelines.

Club Championships I was unable to attend this year due to prior commitments. Wendy Barlow was in charge, a fantastic job was done by her with the support of Pat French and Greg Davidge, thank you and Congratulations.

Narrabri Junior Classic this year was a very successful carnival giving the future players of our sport of polocrosse the opportunity to play with different people, make new friends and come together as teams to compete and enjoy the wonderful sport of polocrosse.

Umpires were selected by a group of people and was done so very successfully, there was no upsets and all was done very professionally.

Zone Championships were held at Warren with umpiring being under the watchful eye of Charlie Grills, thank you Charlie for stepping into this at short notice and overseeing the event, much appreciated. Feedback was that the umpiring was good and the event ran well. The change of the free goal rule to the individual player seems to have been well taken and a much fairer way to administer the rule.

NSW had one umpire represent their state this year, Glenn Hull from the Bingara Club travelled to Tasmania in March to umpire for the Tasmanian Championships, thank you to Glenn for taking this on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported me and stood by me in the last few years in the role of NSW State Umpire, a Congratulations to Charlie Grills for taking on the role, I wish you all the best and offer my support to you. I am remaining on the National Umpire Committee and as the deputy Umpire of Polocrosse Australia.

Please keep in mind, the jobs that players and members take on are voluntary and everyone tries to do the best they can to fulfil the roles and do a good job, it isn't personal. Try your best to understand the rule book and adhere to the rules and things will be always be easier for everyone. If you are not sure ask.

Safe and Happy Festive season to all.

See you in 2018.

Sam Halsted