



Polocrosse Association of NSW Inc.

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MINUTES

Annual General Meeting - 22 February 2020 held at Cascades Motor Inn, Dubbo

Meeting commenced at 10.17am

Present: President – Arch Anderson, Board members – Catherine Bennett, Gary Stevenson, Kaylene Wilson, SEO – Vicki Grant

Apologies: Corey Ireland.

ATTENDEES:

Name	Zone	Delegate	Name	Zone	Delegate
Tracey Stevenson	CW	Y	Trent Mortimer	NWP	N
Carol Garland	NNE	N	Toni Davidge	SH	Y
Sarah Grills	SWS	Y	Colin Parkinson	HV	Y
John Grills	NNE	Y	Jim Davidge	SH	Y
Raymond Hudspeth	WD	N	Cameron Hill	WD	N
Graham Wilson	HV	Y	Tracey Woodward	NNE	N
Lisa Eagle	SWR	Y	Brett Woodward	NNE	N
Charlie Grills	SWS	N	Laughlin Ross	WD	N
Ness Hartge	WD	Y	Pip Grills	NNE	N
Tanya Thompson	SH	Y	Andrew Rose	HV	N
Mark Wilson	NWP	N	Lyn Bourke	NNE	N
David Mortimer	NWP	Y	Chris Bourke	NNE	Y
Jo Hamilton	NWP	N	Angus Stuart	WD	Y
Jade Hooke	HV	N	Ian Faulkner	NWP	N
Carrinna Allen	CW	N	Sandra Weston	SWS	N

APOLOGIES:

Name	Zone	Name	Zone
Belinda Cosgrove	SH	Jo Finlayson	NNE
Ray Davis	HV	Rob Finlayson	NNE
Joanne McFayden	HV	Elissa Koch	SWS
Libby Ward	SWS	Melissa Davis	HV
Ian Sampson	SWR	Ben Sykes	NNE
Louise Parkinson	HV	Russ Anthony	SWR

Moved Toni Davidge, seconded Colin Parkinson that apologies be accepted. CARRIED



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Minutes of previous AGM have been circulated to members and placed on NSW Polocrosse website.

Moved Toni Davidge, seconded Colin Parkinson that minutes of previous AGM be accepted as distributed.

Annual Reports

President's Report – Arch Anderson gave a verbal report-

- congratulated NSW players selected in Nationals teams and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the sport.
- thanked the Board for their support and work over the year.
- thanked all the horse welfare officers, umpires and office bearers in clubs and zones who all devote their time to the sport and the welfare of our horses and players.
- thanked the Council and the players for their support over the last few years of his Presidency.

Moved Arch Anderson, seconded Sarah Grills that the Presidents Report be accepted. CARRIED

Treasurer's Report – Kaylene Wilson distributed the financial statements (Attached to website separately)

- deficit due in part to reduction in membership fees.
- Issues ongoing with uniform/merchandise account which is still showing a loss.
- Approx. \$8,000 remaining in the Increasing Participation of Women in Sport Grant. Funds need to be expended by end of June.
- No major team sponsors for the Ballarat Nationals. Further discussion in general business.

Moved Kaylene Wilson, seconded Charlie Grills that Treasurers Report, Auditors Report and Financial Statements be accepted. CARRIED

Sarah Grills asked how much profit did Warwick make from the World Cup and whether that would be in part returned to the States? Sandra Weston responded as PAA representative, the levy was used to pay for the horse pool and will not be refunded.

Andrew Rose commented that arrangements for this type of occasion need to be more specifically documented, as this is a cost to general players who do not really see the benefit.

Arch Anderson commented that Warwick never committed to passing the money back to the states.

Chief Umpire's Report – Charlie Grills gave a verbal report.

- how successful the year had been.
- close to half the accidents/incidents for last season compared to the previous season. Charlie attributes this to the new rule change (commencing play after a free goal with a penalty from centre field). He believes the umpires are starting to use this rule more all over NSW. There have been less games with face injuries.
- no suspensions this year
- thanked Colin Parkinson, Trent Mortimer, the Board, Sara Grills, Sandra Weston and the Zone Chief Umpires for all the work they have done over the last season.



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Moved Charlie Grills, seconded Colin Parkinson that Chief Umpires Report be accepted. CARRIED

State Grading Officer's Report – (Attachment 1).

Moved Toni Davidge, seconded Tracey Woodward that the State Grading Officer's Report be accepted as read. CARRIED

Youth Development Officer Report -(Attachment 2).

Moved Charlie Grills, seconded Chris Bourke that the Youth Development Officer's Report be accepted as read. CARRIED

Horse Welfare Officer Report - (Attachment 3.)

Moved Sarah Grills, seconded Mark Wilson that the Horse Welfare Officer's Report be accepted as read. CARRIED

Equipment Officer's Report- Mark Wilson gave a verbal report

- thanked Sara Grills for getting some new saddle cloths made for NSW. He advised that they were a slightly different blue, but that was as close as they could get in the new vinyl.
- next step will be to replace some brow bands. We need two more sets of brow bands to make 16 sets all up. Also need to repair some of the saddle cloths.
- at the last Nationals, some of the saddle cloths were not in an appropriate condition, but because of the number of teams they had to be used. Teams need to be directed by their coaches and managers to tie on the saddle cloths.
- making saddlecloths and brow bands is a very labour intensive process and this puts the costs up.

Moved Mark Wilson, seconded Pip Grills that the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. CARRIED

Moved Mark Wilson, seconded Pip Grills that the Equipment Officer buy two more sets of browbands and have repairs made to saddle cloths as required. CARRIED

Election of Positions

Scrutineers: Laughlin Ross and Lyn Bourke.

Moved Laughlin Ross, seconded Andrew Rose that votes be destroyed after counting. CARRIED

Appointment of Council:

CW - 1 vote

NNE- 2 votes

SH- 3 votes

SWS- 1 vote

NWP-1 vote

WD- 2 votes

SWR- 1 vote



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HV- 2 votes

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President:

Arch Anderson

Andrew Rose - elected

Andrew thanked Arch for all the great work he has done for PANSW.

Arch thanked Andrew and everybody present and hoped that PANSW would continue to go ahead.

Interested Directors- 2 positions

Tracey Woodward – not elected

Nominations from the floor:

Ben Sykes, nominated by Sara Grills, seconded Charlie Grills - elected

Angus Stewart nominated by Toni Davidge, seconded Lisa Eagle – elected

Public Officer

Kerrie DeBritt - elected

Review of Honorariums

Elected Directors \$1000

State Coaching Director \$2000

State Director Umpiring \$2000

State Grading Officer \$500

Equipment Officer \$500

Horse Welfare Officer \$500

Bookkeeper \$2000

Uniform Officer \$2000

Moved David Mortimer, seconded Lisa Eagle that honorariums remain same as 2019 listed above. CARRIED

Patron:

Moved Colin Parkinson, seconded Toni Davidge that a letter be sent to Ms Joy Poole asking her to be Patron of Polocrosse Association of NSW for 2020. CARRIED



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Office Bearers

Treasurer - Kaylene Wilson

Book keeper - Belinda Cosgrove

Uniform Officer – Belinda Cosgrove

State Coaching Director - Christie Hunt

State Director Umpiring - Charlie Grills

State Grading Officer - Joanne McFayden

State Draw Committee - Linda Drynan, Kaylene Wilson, representative from the host club

Youth Development Officer - Lucy Grills

Horse Welfare Officer - Sarah Grills

Equipment Officer - Mark Wilson

Coaching Committee - Christie Hunt, David Mortimer, Sandra Weston

Auditors

Moved Kaylene Wilson, seconded David Mortimer that Laterals GLP Goulburn continue as auditors for the association. CARRIED

Delegates to the PAA

Moved Charlie Grills, seconded Lisa Eagle that all 5 board members be delegates to the PAA, only 3 to vote. CARRIED

The meeting was reminded that selectors are elected from Nationals to Nationals. EOI will be called shortly for new selectors to be installed after 2020 Nationals.

Meeting Closed: 12 pm.



State Grading Report February 2020 – Jo McFayden

Welcome to 2020 and some much-needed rainfall, for those that haven't received any as of, yet we have crossed our fingers for you.

Nationals have come around quickly and I wish NSW all the best for the competition ahead. I have been in contact with the 2020 Zone grading officers for NSW and we are planning a meeting or phone hook up early into the season, the last one held was very informative and productive towards aligning the Zones, we will then work from there, on holding another National Grading meeting to continue the work done around bringing States into line with each other.

I would like to thank the Zone and Club grading officers for their much needed assistance throughout 2019, grading can be a thankless job sometimes and you have all been responsive and easy to contact.

Thank you to the Board for your support, guidance and advice especially in making tough decisions.

I would like players to remember grading isn't a reflection of you it is done with the best interests of the sport of polocrosse to keep it fair and safe to the best of our ability.

As always, I am happy to hear from anyone that has new fresh ideas and feedback be it positive or constructive criticism.

I wish you all the best for the 2020 season.

Kind Regards,

Jo McFayden
NSW State Grading Officer



Attachment 2

Junior Development Officer- Lucy Grills

Growth and development of our junior players across the 2019 season was again a major focus for the JDOs across the state and some fantastic events and coaching clinics have been implemented and really enhanced the opportunities for our juniors to learn and expand their skill set.

2019 again saw Albury unable to conduct the Junior Classic due to the World Cup held in Warwick, but are hopeful it will return to the calendar in 2021.

NSW Juniors were very well represented at Barastoc in 2019 and it continues to be an event that is imperative to developing the next wave of NSW players.

Narrabri held a fantastic junior challenge with very strongly contested divisions. Its great to see this as an annual fixture, with every kid I have spoken to saying what a fun, and exciting weekend of polocrosse. The junior challenge was elevated this year with the inclusion of the Australia v New Zealand Test Series, it was a pleasure to watch the future of our sport play an elite, expansive, and fresh style of international polocrosse, which I am sure is a direct reflection of the work being done by events such as the Junior Classic at Albury, Narrabri junior challenge, various coaches and parents. The standard of play and horses donated was first class and all involved are to be congratulated on keeping the trophy on home soil. A special mention to our NSW members involved go to Abby Finlayson, Kasey Henry, Thomas French, Darcy Brennan, Cameron Frear and manager Mark Wilson. I would like to thank Narrabri for having the foresight to hold a weekend such as this and congratulate them on such a successful event.

We again had the Schools expo at Coonabarabran where polocrosse was a very strong fixture, with many of our up and coming talents were on show to display a very high standard of polocrosse to a large audience.

One thing I would like to note, is that we really need to focus a strong portion of our development resources on the grass roots level of kids, to give them every opportunity to achieve what they would like to, and enjoy our game. I truly believe that if we are able to encourage kids to pick up a racquet and make it as fun as possible, we will be well on our way to keeping some growth in our membership numbers.

In 2019 I conducted the first of the Girl Talk workshops which were very well received and the feedback has been extremely positive. We had 24 girls aged 12 - 18 participate in 2 separate workshops across NSW and we are hoping to broaden our horizons in 2020 and develop the program further and target a wider age range of girls. Boys, never fear, there are some very exciting things on the horizon for you, we are just finalising the details and will have it all available soon.

Best of luck to all our NSW players heading to Ballarat and especially our Juniors, GO the blues.

Kind Regards
Lucy Grills
NSW JDO.



Attachment 3

2019 NSW HORSE WELFARE REPORT

With very dry conditions all over the state in 2019, polocrosse certainly felt the effects of this. Not only with field conditions, but the availability and cost of feed and hay, it paid heavily on the player's pocket.

Considering the dry, clubs put the extra effort in to try to provide conditions that were safe for both horse and player.

Unfortunately, sometimes no matter how much work is done, Mother Nature does rule, and some playing surfaces were harder than we would like to see, and this impacts on our horse's welfare. Hopefully better seasonal conditions in 2020 will relieve this situation, or more work will be needed!

Recent heavy rain in some areas will hopefully mean a change in the cycle, however we will still need to remain diligent on our field preparation this season and into the future.

One main area that I think we really need to change, is our recording of Horse incidents within a game, as well as formal 'Vet Out Form' signed off and approved, and then collated. This needs to be implemented at ALL carnivals in NSW, not just Championships. There were many horses vetted out at the NSW Zone Championships this year, mainly with limb soreness, plus a tie up and an eye. There were 4 people responsible for vetting out, which was not ideal, as then it was difficult to record these properly. We need these statistics to be able to evaluate, to see if we have a problem, for example, hard fields, poor riding, poor husbandry / management.

I believe that our incidents in NSW have been lower in 2019 than in previous years, maybe as we had fewer carnivals to attend due to the seasonal conditions, but I would like to think that the work through umpiring and our diligence with field preparation, has helped in seeing the number of these incidents reduce. For me that doesn't mean we relax, rather continue with the effort already shown.

I had sent out our 2019/2020 ground survey form to be completed, however, if I only had one hand last night, that would have been enough to count the responses I have had, and that is from all the clubs in NSW. In 2015 the website listed all the Clubs in NSW and I may be wrong, but I don't think the web page has changed, yet our functioning clubs may have. For instance in the SWS, Tumut and Marrar have not competed for a number of years, yet they remain on the 'system'. I'm not sure if this is because we need these figures or numbers for grants, maybe? But when trying to establish the number of functioning clubs, their fields and physical addresses, who maintains the grounds, an indication of their desire to run events and any assistance that a club may need or like to apply for, without CURRENT information, I'm afraid it is very hard to get an accurate picture.

Over the last couple of weeks / months, with the help of Lucy (tech wiz!) we came up with a draft of a new Score sheet, and a NSW Horse Vet Out form.

The score sheet will enable the recording of all players and their horses, the positions they played in every chukka, as well as current documentation of incidents, plus a detailed report for horses vetted out during a game, that is simple to fill out. This will enable the recording of a horse vetted out, what injury was sustained, and hopefully an explanation as to how it became injured, and also recording of the new horse coming in. We have NO DATA or records of any vet outs in NSW,



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so we cannot paint any picture of why horses cannot complete a weekend, or for what injury or reason horses are vetted out.

Personally, this information I think is important, not only to make improvements to our horse welfare, but in this current environment, being proactive in seeking information as to why we lose some ponies during the weekend, will show our willingness to be proactive in Horse Welfare.

The second form is an Official Vet Out record of all other horses Vetted out from a competition throughout a tournament, but not during a game. These forms, and including the game vet outs, would need to be recorded at the completion of each carnival and a report made to the Zone HWO, who should then pass on the NSW HWO and the NSWPA Board, as part of their post carnival report.

Whilst I would like to discuss all these wild ideas at a Sub Committee meeting on Saturday, and hopefully if we have enough numbers we will, more discussion can take place and the draft may become reality.

Like I said, these are just my thoughts, but it is the sort of information I would be seeking to gather some details on horses that don't complete a weekend.

I will also add to this report, the Minutes from the Meeting we had in 2015, and how productive it was, but also how little we have achieved. Certainly, I think the grounds and their preparation has improved immensely, but hopefully now we can move forward.

Thanks to all the Umpires and Horse Welfare Officers in NSW for their continued help in Horse Welfare for NSW.

Sara Grills
NSW Horse Welfare Officer.