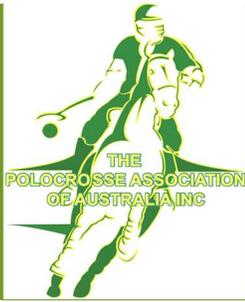


PAA

NEWS

January 2020



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President, Graham Lane

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BLUE BANDAGE POLOCROSSE & PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to those members and Clubs that have adopted Blue Bandage Polocrosse. This initiative is proving very successful with Pony Club Australia declaring Blue Bandage Polocrosse its Discipline of the Month for February. Details [here](#).

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CALL FOR PAA SELECTORS

PAA National Selectors are appointed from one National Championships to the next, given that 2020 is a Championships year the PAA are now calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from any members that wish to be considered for the role of PAA Selector. The PAA thank the incumbent Selectors for their ongoing work and commitment to this role.

EOI close 31 January, details available [here](#).

PAA INSURANCE

As previously advised the PAA Board have reviewed the Association's insurance requirements to ensure members are receiving the best possible deal whilst Quotes were sought from the incumbent insurer, Marsh and a second brokerage firm, EBM. The quote provided by EBM proved the more cost effective. Details of the EBM coverage and claim procedure should you be in the unfortunate situation of requiring it are available on the PAA website. The Board undertake to always work toward ensuring the efficient running of your Association which includes constant review of expenditures such as insurance.

PAA 2020 AGM

The PAA AGM packs will be sent out in February. The packs contain the Notice of Meeting, nomination forms, motion call documents etc. As advised in the December Newsletter the PAA AGM will be held in line with the 2020 National Championships in Ballarat, Vic in an effort to enable as many members as possible to attend. It is expected that the AGM, which takes around three hours, will be held the Monday following the Championships. The AGM is followed by a general meeting of the incoming PAA Board.



RESIGNATION FROM PAA BOARD

It was with regret that the Board received the resignation of PAA Director, Eric Beresford. Eric, a resident of Eulo, Queensland, is well known throughout polocrosse and has long been a servant to our sport. Eric is regarded far and wide as the epitome of a bush gentleman and the Board will miss his direct and pithy and contributions. Thank you for your service Eric.



TOP GUN COACHING CLINICS

PAA Director, Sandra Weston and PAA National Coach Manager, Jodie Hall are working with the current Open Squads to enact the Top Gun Coaching Clinics which provide our elite players with a platform to give back to Club members and our sport. Working over a weekend the Top Guns will partner with a Club, Zone or State Association to stage a coaching event aimed at schooling and mentoring interested members. These coaching events will also act as fundraising events for our Open Squad with Open players being charged at a rate of \$50 per participant. Funds will directly contribute to the Australian Open Squad.

Interested States/Zones/Clubs should submit their preferred dates and venues to ensure squad members are available and allow members plenty of time to make sure they have sufficient numbers via the following booking form. Event organisers are also required to source travel and accommodation arrangements for the Top Gun squad and loan horses where required. Details available [here](#) or contact the PAA NEO neo@polocrosse.org.au



2019 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW, FROM PAA PRESIDENT, GRAHAM LANE

Dear Members

2019 has been a big year for everyone with the staging of the very successful Adina World Cup and many of our members in the eastern states adversely impacted by the ongoing dry. Please find below some 2019 highlights from a PAA Board perspective:

Our registered players increased across the country, the membership database shows an increase of 498 or 18.5% in registered players which is a fantastic outcome. Blue Bandage Polocrosse, which was introduced with modified rules for beginner or returning players, has been a great success with over 200 new registered members across the nation, 40 of these players have gone on to register as mainstream players of the sport. I would like to make a special mention of and thanks to Board member Sandra Weston for her initiative and drive in relation to Blue Bandage Polocrosse.

When I was elected as the new President at the May 2019 AGM, I was also joined by two new Directors, Susan Rose and Drew Gurney. It was identified at the first Board meeting following the AGM that an appointed Director would be beneficial to add some skills to assist with a number of projects identified as being high priority. Gillian Meppem was appointed for this purpose; Gillian has an excellent background in both polocrosse administration and corporate governance.

In July, the Board commenced a review of the Association's Policy and Procedures (P&P). It had been identified that the current P&P was either difficult to find, not documented, not collated or duplicated with differing requirements, and that they needed to be formed into one document to ensure an up to date one source manual is available for all to reference. The final draft has been provided for members to comment via their State Associations during December. The P&P will be finalised in early 2020. The Board can clearly see that having clear policy and procedures for our sport to follow will allow the Board to commit more of its time to growing and strengthening our sport.

I am pleased to report that the gender diversity of the PAA Board is now 50/50 female to male. We have a diverse range of skills and experience including communications, business development, law and polocrosse playing and officiating. There is a clear understanding and respect between the Board members on the need to grow and strengthen our sport and to respect and care for the needs of players from grass roots to elite.

The Board has put in place a calendar of international events for divisions Open, Under 21 and Under 16. This calendar is a component of the PAA's program developed to ensure our elite players have a clear pathway to build up to the next World Cup, due to be held in South Africa in 2023 and allows the development of our players and provide international networking of polocrosse players, coaches, umpires, team managers and administrators. Newly installed PAA Treasurer, Callum Hughes is also working toward a funding model to accommodate the requirement for the 2023 World Cup and beyond.

It has been suggested by AusSport, the PAA's chief funding body that the PAA should move to a Company Limited Guarantee model rather than the current incorporated structure - this suggestion is currently being assessed by the Board. In 2020 the Board also intends to review the PAA Constitution to ensure it remains aligned to member's requirements.

In all, I am very proud of the Board's work throughout 2019 and what they have achieved for our association, members and players. We look forward to 2020 and in particular the National Championships to be ably hosted by Ballarat.

Kind regards, Graham Lane, PAA President