



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## PG. 1

Robyn & Les Fraser awarded Life Membership

PAA Annual General Meeting

## PG. 2

AGM Notes ctd.

New Director

2020 Nationals

PAA Company Limited by Guarantee

## PG. 3

Will we play polocrosse this year?

## PG 4

PAA Board Areas of responsibility



## PAA LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED

Following the recent AGM, the PAA Board were very pleased to announce the awarding of life membership to Robyn and Les Fraser. The Board had planned to make the presentation at the 2020 Nationals at Ballarat. A further acknowledgment and celebration will be held at some time in the future when we are all able to gather in person.

Les and Robyn were recognised for their commitment and management of major polocrosse events. Les has played every season since 1961, which makes him currently the longest playing member of the Association, whilst in contrast Robyn has never played a single game of polocrosse – ever. Which makes her dedication of thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours even more remarkable.

## 2020 PAA AGM

The PAA AGM was held for the first time in history via a Zoom meeting (video conference) Saturday 18 April, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the 12 Council Members and 30 plus observers that joined the meeting. Acknowledging that there are downsides to meeting in this manner, most notably there is no opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company, the meeting was gauged a success by those who attended.

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):

[neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)

<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/>

## AGM NOTES CTD.

In the usual manner the PAA Councilors accepted the tabled Directors reports for 2019 and the audited financials provided by Treasurer, Callum Hughes. It was agreed that the 2021 playing fees be set at a special meeting to be held in November where an amended 2020 budget and 2021 forecasting budget can be discussed. COVID has had many impacts on our sport, not least of all financially.

Council accepted the Board's recommendation that the Director's honorariums not be paid in 2020 due to the financial stress placed upon the Association. The Councilors thanked the Directors for this contribution to austerity measures.

Council moved to return His excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General; of the Commonwealth of Australia as Patron of the PAA. Following appointment of the Public Officer and Auditors the meeting was closed.

## CHANGES TO PAA STRUCTURE

PAA funding body Sports Australia has notified the PAA and all national sporting organisations that they are required to move to a company limited by guarantee necessitating a change to the PAA Constitution. Director Susie Rose has been working with President Graham Lane to better understand the implication of this required move. PAA will provide Council and State Association with further advice including a draft constitution for consideration. A special meeting will be held to discuss the transition to a limited company and the proposed constitution in the coming weeks.

## NEW PAA DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Sandra Weston who returns as a PAA Director and to Charles Brooks, who joins the PAA Board. Polocrosse runs on volunteers and there is considerable time involved in serving on the PAA Board. Thank you to both Sandra and Charlie for "putting your hand up".

Your Board now consists of six Directors, President - Graham Lane, four elected Directors - Susie Rose, Drew Gurney, Sandra Weston and Charlie Brook and an appointed Director - Gillian Meppem. Callum Hughes serves as PAA Treasurer and Angela Grills as PAA National Executive Officer.

Thanks to Trish and Stuart Shepherd who acted as "electronic" scrutineer and witness for the election held during the AGM.



## 2020 NATIONALS

Following the PAA AGM a general meeting was held where the 2020 PAA National were discussed. Mick Templeton, President Polocrosse Victoria, advised that it is has become apparent that the proposed September date is not possible. The meeting discussed the pros and cons of holding the Nationals next year in Ballarat at a similar time of year i.e. April 2021. As it is still too early to predict the end of COVID-19 restrictions and assess the pandemic's impact on our sport, no firm date was set.

As the current unusual situation becomes clearer the PAA will work with Polocrosse Victoria and all State Associations to determine a 2021 date for the National Championships and adjust divisions and competition elements in the best interests of our sport.

## PASA MOTION TO PAA COUNCIL

Thank you to the Polocrosse Association of South Australia (PASA) for their motion put to the General Meeting following the AGM *“That the Warwick Club be asked to repay the monies contributed by all Australian players as the World Cup levy.”* Following explanation and discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Les Fraser, who was in attendance at the meeting, explained to the meeting that the World Cup levy, paid by each State Association, was for the provision of Australian horses for the visiting international teams. The 2019 World Cup Committee distributed these funds to the relevant providers of horses. Les thanked the State Associations, who in some cases levied players to contribute, for providing these funds. It was suggested that a more appropriate motion may be to request that the 2019 World Cup Committee consider donating a portion of the World Cup profits to the PAA for the development of polocrosse noting the considerable cost involved in staging the World Cup and the extraordinary sponsorship sought and secured by the World Cup Committee.

## PAA STRATEGY INITIATIVE

The PAA Board have engaged Andrew Kikeros from Life Time Wise to assist the Board in developing strategy with particular reference to securing funding opportunities and ensuring polocrosse at all levels is “funding application ready”.

<https://www.lifetimewise.com.au/>

## WHEN CAN WE PLAY POLOCROSSE AGAIN?

“Mum, dad when can we play polocrosse again?!” As we all do our bit and stay at home in the fight against COVID-19 there are plenty of polocrosse players, young and old, who are going a little stir crazy missing out on our game.

Please be assured that the PAA are continually monitoring federal and state government advice to determine when and if polocrosse can begin again in one form or another. President Graham Lane is also in regular contact with insurance company EBM to keep them abreast of the sports requirements should restrictions ease. It is likely that practice events and coaching clinics will be the first cab off the rank with carnivals to follow. **Please remember you are not insured for personal accident to begin official practice or carnivals at present.**

It is important to remember that polocrosse is a national sport and whilst things are looking better in pockets of our nation the PAA must be guided by government regulations and best practice health guidelines.



## UMPIRING & COACHING UPDATE

National Umpire Manager, Kent Wells is working toward holding the first umpire committee meeting via Zoom in the coming weeks. Congratulations to Kent on embracing this technology opportunity. Keep an eye on the website and social media for further details and planned quizzes to hone your knowledge and expertise.

National Coach Manager, Jody Hall is also busy getting the Coaching Syllabus ready for presentation via Zoom



## PAA BOARD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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For quite some time now the PAA Board has been meeting fortnightly via teleconference in addition to the traditional face to face meetings, held only four to five times each year. The Directors find this very useful in ensuring the daily operations of the Association are attended to in a timely manner. At the first Board teleconference following the AGM the Directors allocated the sub-committee areas of responsibility for each Director, please see below:

<b>Director</b>	<b>Sub-committee</b>
Graham Lane	Insurance and Disciplinary Tribunal Chair
Sandra Weston	National Umpire Committee & National Coaching
Susan Rose	Legal & Marketing
Drew Gurney	Selectors
Charlie Brook	Horse Welfare
Gillian Meppem	Governance & Marketing

Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant PAA Director via the NEO with any questions or concerns.



## HORSE WELFARE

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Following ongoing discussion regarding horse welfare, the Board has determined to elevate this role to a similar position in the Association's structure to that of National Coach Manager and National Umpire Manager. Charlie Brook will work to find a suitable candidate for this role.

Horse welfare has always been integral to our sport and by recognising this in its structure the Association is able to dedicate the required time and resourcing to ensure members have the most relevant and up to date information and that we are adhering to best practice.



*As always stay well and safe, we will get to meet again one of these days and enjoy our fabulous sport in the wide-open spaces!*