

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 1

Top Gun Coaching Clinic Wandoan.

PG. 2

Important dates to remember.

How well do you know the rules of polocrosse?

2022 The National Polocrosse Championships.

PG. 3

Western Australia 2021 Autumn Season

PG. 4 & 5

Behind the D with Phil Hutton

## TOP GUN COACHING CLINIC

The Leichardt Zone held a huge two-day coaching weekend, held recently on the 6th and 7th March, at the Wandoan Showgrounds. The invitation was put out to include the QLD ladies in such a weekend and take advantage of the Top Gun Clinic Coaches.

I had organised a group of specialists to talk and instruct participants on many aspects of a horse and how it can affect them in our sport of polocrosse.

I focused on nutrition and conditioning, chiropractic and stretches, structure and farriership, horsemanship, and training, incorporating Sam Allen and Tom O'Niell in the specialist side of the Polocrosse. The Saturday was spent rotating around the groups, finishing off with horsemanship in the afternoon.

Sunday was spent with all participants, 8 ladies and 25 junior /Intermediates playing chukkas with two on field playing coaches and when off the end of the field, extra coaches there, talking on what game was in front of them.

This was a weekend designed to help the people realize that observation around your horse will not only help you look after them to their optimum and they will give you their best but also save you time and effort in the long run. The weekend ran really well, and Sam and Tom worked in very well with what we were trying to give to the people. We have had nothing but positive feedback from the weekend.

This weekend as fueled their enthusiasm and are all ready to attack the year.

I look forward to again using the Top Gun coaches for our Zone and also my home club of Wandoan.

Kind Regards Kylie Gould, Leichardt Zone President.

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):  
PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):  
[neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)  
[neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)  
<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/>  
<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April:** COVID Cup Albury NSW.

**10<sup>th</sup> April:** Expressions of Interest for National Umpire, National Coaching Manager, Horse Welfare Officer and Player Grading Review Committee.

**16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Barastoc Series Warwick QLD.

**19<sup>th</sup> April:** Nominations open for the Swan Cup.

**8<sup>th</sup> May:** 2021 PAA AGM

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE RULES OF POLOCROSSE?

SurveyMonkey # 5 has been sent out to all members. Kent Wells, National Manager of Umpiring, encourages all members to complete the survey.

Please follow this link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XBSWJF>

## 2022 PAA POLOCROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

News Flash!

The 2022 Australian Polocrosse Nationals Championships will be hosted by the Polocrosse Victoria Association from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ballarat.

For more information and updates please contact Michael Schaefer via email; [polocrossevictoria@gmail.com](mailto:polocrossevictoria@gmail.com)

## HORSE DEALS

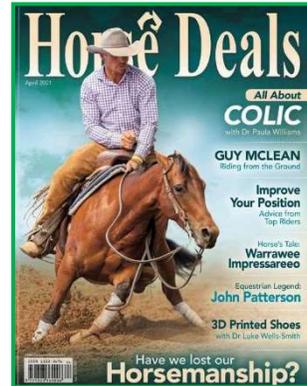
The April edition of Horse Deals is currently on sale.

Read all about Colic – the one word that instils fear into horse owners.

Another good read in this month's edition is the discussion with Chrissie Johnson and Colleen Brook whether or not the newer generation have lost the "good old" horsemanship.

Plus, all the latest products and services that every horse lover needs.

Each month Polocrosse Australia publishes a double page feature to help promote any polocrosse activity. So, if your club has something to contribute, please email the PAA [neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)



## CONTRIBUTORS

The PAA would like to thank Kylie Gould, Zone President Leichardt QLD, Jodi Dunlop, Zone Secretary Southern Zone Western Australia for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

Remember, if your club, zone, or state would like to promote an event that is happening please let me know via an email to: [neo@polocrosse.org.au](mailto:neo@polocrosse.org.au)



# 2021 WESTERN AUSTRALIA AUTUMN SEASON & LEAGUE SERIES COMPETITION

During the Autumn here in WA, Carnivals are mostly run across a 24-hour period playing from 12pm Saturday to 12pm Sunday which lessens the commitment required so everyone can sleep in their own beds and head off Saturday morning and be home Sunday with plenty of daylight. Being a short season, everything is cost effective including Players getting more Carnivals for their yearly Fees! This also helps when encouraging new players into the sport which is very high on the priority list in WA. The first Carnival for the WA Autumn season kicked off at the Mobrup Polocrosse Club on the weekend of March 27/28 and along with it the extremely exciting and new initiative - League Series.

The League Series is a one-of-a-kind concept for WA developed by the Southern Zone Polocrosse Association to offer C and D Grade Players a competitive playing arena in what was previously mostly a Green Horse and Beginner Player time of year. These divisions still exist, along with the standard Grades, and are very well supported by the Central and Southern Zone Players but President Jake Klein felt like there could be more to offer Members especially as it is a fantastic time of year to be playing.

The League Series is run much like a Sporting Competition i.e., Football or Netball where Clubs will nominate to compete prior to the start of the season with the Series played across 4 Carnivals held within the Southern Zone. Teams don't have to be 'set' which allows plenty of Player rotation throughout the Series, but caps are locked in to ensure all Rule requirements are still met. Premiership Points are awarded for each Game: 2 Points for a Win and 0 Points for a Loss. At the end of the Carnival a Ladder is produced showing the current tallied points from all the Teams/Games and they keep accruing until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Carnival, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Carnival then set up as 'Finals' i.e., 1 v 2 for the Grand Final!

2020 was the first year for the League Series and like anything to do with Polocrosse a new concept can take some time getting off the ground, but WA was very lucky to play a few Carnivals prior to the COVID shut down. It was definitely enough of a showing to get the ball rolling, create some friendly rivalry and in 2021 Clubs have turned their attentions, much like the great 'Eye of Sauron' in Lord of the Rings, to winning the League Series Championship in 2021 with twice as many Clubs entered to compete!! 2020 winners Murray will be very keen to retain their title as League Champions, but they are going to have some serious competition from arguably the favourites coming into the Series in Mobrup who took out pretty much every C Grade win last year! They will be hotly contesting with the never say die players from Margaret River, some returning legends at the slowly blossoming into form Capel, and 2 brand new Clubs hailing from the Central Zone in the mighty Perth colours and young guns of the Foothills Club. With these 6 Clubs it is seriously anybody's competition to win!

With the first of the four League Carnivals complete after a fantastic weekend at Mobrup the League Series Ladder has been updated with the newly acquired Premiership Points! Still, lots of opportunities left for Clubs to get on the board and rack up the points!

We look forward to bringing you all the results and winners following the Finals in May.

Jodi Dunlop/ Secretary & Treasurer,  
[southernzonepx@gmail.com](mailto:southernzonepx@gmail.com)



2021 AUTUMN POLOCROSSE LEAGUE SERIES RESULTS LADDER				
AS AT 29/03/2021				
CLUB	PLAYER	WON	LOST	TOTAL POINTS
MOBUP	3	3	0	6
MURRAY	3	2	1	4
CAPEL	3	1	2	1
FOOTHILLS	3	1	2	1
MARGARET RIVER	3	0	3	0
PERTH	0	0	0	0

WIN = 2 POINTS    LOSS = 0 POINTS



**Meet Phil Hutton – Member of Capel Polocrosse Club Western Australia.**

**How long have you been involved in polocrosse?**

I grew up in a polocrosse family, my father Roger played, and I started playing in 1965, so that’s a very long time.

The first game I played was as a fill in and on a horse borrowed from Erica Scott (nee Clifton). The first chukka I bent down to pickup the ball and the pony did a hard left turn and went straight back to the truck – I stayed with the ball!

Back then the four of us Hutton kids would tear around bareback on the farm, playing/practising polocrosse. Because we were short on saddles, throw an old hessian super bag over the ponies back, so their sweat would not get too slippery and we’d tie a couple of loops of baling twine together for stirrups, and off we’d go (no helmets). It was full on with the four of us racing around, Dad tried to avoid these sessions!

Maybe because I was a bit competitive, but in my younger years I was constantly looking for ways to improve my game. I would seek out information from anybody I thought was good/strong at something and add that knowledge to my game. I remember in my 20’s seeking out Wally Maughan (Margaret River) because his horses were always the best presented and he helped me a lot with horse nutrition and diet. Information I was able to use to improve my horse’s performance and therefore my game.

I have found that polocrosse people in general share info freely and this has helped me greatly. I always thought I could go to the next grade and when I got the chance, I never let anybody take my place back by preparing the best I could, whether it was me personally or my horses.

At 15 I was elected as a Junior Zone Delegate and that introduced me to the administration side of polocrosse as well. I was elected President of the Capel Club when I was 18 or 19, the same year the Club got a grant from the Whitlam Government under the “RED” Scheme. The aim of the scheme was to give people employment and/or enable them to be upskilled. The Club and especially me, were very fortunate to have an extremely knowledgeable and passionate member in Terry Blechynden to act as Project Manager.

We received \$60K from the Government and the Capel Club contributed \$120K in funds or in kind. This was a lot of money in 1974 and allowed us to build our own Clubrooms, develop irrigated playing fields, build yards and a rodeo arena. I guess these facilities set a new benchmark, taking polocrosse out of farmers paddocks and onto purpose designed facilities.

I was also fortunate at this time during my apprenticeship to be taken off the tools and put into the engineering and drawing office to help during a major plant upgrade project at Western Titanium plant in Capel. This move gave me access to the draftsmen, engineers and building companies working on the mine upgrade and they helped our Club enormously by donating their knowledge, time, and equipment.

There was also another unexpected benefit for me during this Club project, as I had no experience and little knowledge of what was required to bring to my role as President, our State Patron Sir Stuart Bovell invited me to meet with him regularly at his home to talk through what was happening. I felt really honoured, he was a wonderful gentleman - and the tea and scones were great.

The 1980 National Titles were played on those irrigated grounds and they were like playing on a bowling green. Fortunately for me, my body etc. is still holding up, so I am still getting a game.

### **What do you do outside polocrosse?**

Julie and I have a small property in North Boyanup, and we have leased a few others as well over the years. We have a vineyard and wine label though currently we are in the process of exiting the wine industry. We also have an engineering contracting business which is mainly servicing government assets. This business has evolved from my tools background where I was running maintenance and plant upgrade projects.

### **What is the most memorable occasion associated with the game?**

That is a really difficult question because there is quite a few to choose from, all quite different in ways.

- Being a member of the winning WA Men's Team at the 1994 Nationals
- My horse "Challenge" winning Champion A Grade Horse at all the tournaments he played one season – seven over that season.
- The WA Team tour to Zimbabwe in 1997. The fellowship of team members and supporters plus the wonderful holiday left us with fabulous memories.
- Through the 1980's the Capel Club had a very successful coaching system and two representatives from the Australian Executive came over to look at it. Much of the Coaching Accreditation syllabus came from this. I feel extremely proud to have been part of that.
- Some wins stand out more than others. Coming through as winners when going in as truly the underdogs has always been special. Notably the State Championships in 1986 & 87 when as a Club team we were up against combined sides.
- Winning Sports Star of the Year three times in the local Shire was a surprise against more mainstream sportsmen and women and I think good for our sport, raising its profile locally.
- And the most important and memorable occasion was when I met my future wife Julie. It was when I joined friends around a campfire at Northam Club's Polocrosse Tournament held at Burges Siding in October 1976. We met up again in April 1977 and have been together ever since. She's a keeper and my rock!

### **Where do you see the game going in the next five years?**

I think we have to look back, to move forward. In 1994 WA polocrosse was changed from a summer sport to a winter sport. This had a devastating impact on our South West Zone. We lost the Harvey Club and in the Capel Club our playing members dropped from 66 to 10 in one year. There was a complete lack of empathy and understanding from the Polocrosse hierarchy of the effect the season change would have on the people who made up the membership of clubs in this area. Now I see a shift in this, though we are still a long way off getting back to the strength in numbers and ability we once enjoyed.

Positive things that are helping and attracting people to polocrosse include the Blue Bandage and Have a Go grades. The wonderful openness of polocrosse people to help others into the sport is our biggest asset. Recently a family new to the sport said to me that they couldn't believe how welcome and included they felt at polocrosse, whereas with other horse sports they had tried they experienced quite the opposite.

### **Tell us something that is unusual about you?**

I can't think of anything, I'm just a guy who likes to have a quiet chat - preferably with no bullshit.

However according to my family, the following are weird things about me –

- I didn't learn to swim until I was an adult.
- I've had the same hairstyle for 50 "fluffy" years.
- I play polocrosse with my tongue sticking out of my mouth – it is a wonder I haven't bitten it off then.
- I have a weird memory for dates but apparently can't read a clock!



*Phil, in his early days of playing polocrosse.*

*Thanks, Phil for your time.*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

***“ABILITY is what you're capable of doing. MOTIVATION determines what you do. ATTITUDE determines how well you do it”.***

*– Lou Holtz (Former all time American football player, and coach.)*

