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2021 PAA AGM

The PAA AGM was held for the second year via a Zoom meeting (video conference) Saturday 8th May, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the 12 Council Members and 6 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 DIRECTORS RETURNED

Congratulations to Graham Lane, who returns as the PAA President. Susie Rose & Drew Gurney were returned as Directors and Gillian Meppem extended her tenure for a further two years as an appointed Director. Polocrosse runs on volunteers and there is considerable time involved in serving on the PAA Board. Thank you, Graham, Susie, Drew & Gillian for “putting your hand up”.

Your Board 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.

PAA National Executive Officer (NEO):
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neo@polocrosse.org.au

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<https://www.polocrosse.org.au/>
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2021 BARASTOC INTERSTATE SERIES

The winners are:

Interstate Mens –

Winners: NSW
Runners up: QLD
Best horse & rider: Jim Grills NSW
Best ASH: Will Weston, “Silver Hills Skim”
Champion Player of Carnival: Will Weston NSW
Champion Horse of the Series: Will Weston, “Silver Hills Skim”

Interstate Womens –

Winners: QLD
Runners up: NSW
Best horse & rider: Beth Hafey QLD
Best ASH: Sandra Weston, “Nimby Lara”

Interstate U21 Mens –

Winners: NSW
Runners up: VIC
Best horse & rider: Harry Semmens VIC
Best ASH: Alex Grills, “Burradoon Dusk”

Interstate U21 Womens –

Winners: QLD
Runners up: NSW
Best horse & rider: Makayla Elford NSW
Best ASH: Gemma Stuart, “Future Dori”

Interstate Masters –

Winners: NSW
Runners up: QLD
Best horse & rider: Terry Donnelly
Best ASH: Garry Stevenson, “Springside Jamaica”

Interstate Junior Boys –

Winners: QLD
Runners up: NSW
Best horse & rider: Jim Henry NSW
Best ASH: Mace Edmestone, “Emugully Tahlee”

Interstate Junior Girls –

Winners: QLD
Runners up: NSW
Best horse & rider: Emily Warmsley NSW
Best ASH: Emily Bowden, “JH Guill”



2021 ALBURY/HOLBROOK COVID CUP

The winners are:

Covid Cup Under 11 -

Winners: NSW 1
Runners up: VIC
Best horse & rider: Cameron Clarke, ASAR Lady Antebellum”
Best ASH: Chevin Chester

Under 13 -

Winners: NSW 1
Runners Up: NSW 2
Best horse & rider; Charlie Stuart
Best ASH: Pippa Cullen, “Thistlehill Flint”

Under 15 Mixed -

Winners: NSW 1
Runners up: VIC
Best horse & rider: Jim Henry, “Noonamah Dora”
Best ASH: Bridget McKemney, “Rosebrook Amber”

Under 17 Mixed -

Winners: QLD 1
Runners up: NSW 1
Best horse & rider: Jasmine Bowden
Best ASH: Marty O’Sullivan, “Berragoon Dior”

Champion Junior Player in Covid Cup:

Jasmine Bowden

The carnival attracted 63 teams in total, with Tasmania sending almost 2 juniors with their own horses by boat – amazing.

Over the weekend, the carnival ran several other competitions for A & B club grade players, a junior pool competition for U’11, U13, U15 & U’17 as well as our traditional Silver Stirrup & Spur, Bronze Bit & Belt.

The weather was warm and the fields slightly dusty but played perfectly. The people were excited to be out and about at a major event again.

We had fun doing what we love!!

Thanks very much for the support of the PAA, it meant a huge amount to our club to have this support from our governing body.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In line with Section 2.7 of the Polocrosse Association of Australia (PAA), Policies and Procedures the PAA Board is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from persons interested in undertaking the following role:

- Player Grading Review Committee

As with all non-professional sport, polocrosse runs on volunteers. All members are encouraged to consider taking their turn in positions or perhaps supporting and encouraging a fellow Club member to put their hand up. Please provide an EOI in writing to neo@polocrosse.org.au by June 10th, 2021.

SURVEYMONKEY #6

On behalf of Kent Wells, National Manager of Umpiring, he would like all the members to test their knowledge on the rules of polocrosse by completing SurveyMonkey #6.

Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6VWBVVC>

For more information on the rules of polocrosse you can visit the PAA website; <https://www.polocrosse.org.au/resources/rulebook/>



HORSE WELFARE

Has your horse got Ringworm?

Ringworm is transmitted from horse to horse by direct contact between horses, tack, grooming equipment, clothing, contact with infested stables or trailers. The fungi are quite resistant to environmental factors and can remain on fence railings and timber structures for long periods.

On behalf of Kent Wells, National Manager of Umpiring, he would like to remind Polocrosse members of Rule 6 (f) in the current rule book.

A horse showing an infectious disease, for example ringworm, shall not be played or umpired on.

Kent is asking Polocrosse members please take special attention to your horse and check them for ringworm as there seems to be some ringworm getting about this year. Please remember horses with ringworm should not be played and left at home.

If you bring a horse with ringworm to a Tournament the Chief Umpire or Horse Welfare officer will ask you to take the horse from the field and isolate or take horse home. If you have a horse recovering from ringworm, please provide a vet certificate to the tournament chief umpire or Horse Welfare officer.

For more information, please follow the below links on how to treat ringworm.

<https://www.ringworm-treatment.net/ringworm-horses-prevention-treatment/#:~:text=Most%20common%20and%20effective%20treatment%20for%20ringworm%20in,for%20at%20least%203-4%20weeks%2C%20longer%20if%20possible.>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Treat-Ringworm-in-Horses>





PAA BOARD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

For quite some time now the PAA Board has been meeting regularly on every third week, via teleconference and is looking forward where they can meet face to face. The Directors find this especially 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:

Director	Sub-committee
Graham Lane	Insurance and Disciplinary Tribunal Chair
Sandra Weston	National Umpire Committee, National Coaching & State Liaison Officer Tasmania
Susan Rose	Legal, Marketing and State Liaison Officer Queensland
Drew Gurney	Selectors, State Liaison Officer Western Australia, and Northern Territory
Charlie Brook	Horse Welfare, State Liaison Officer Victoria, and South Australia
Gillian Meppem	Governance, Marketing and State Liaison Officer New South Wales

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



2021 WESTERN AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN ZONE AUTUM LEAGUE SERIES WRAP-UP

How good was the League?! This was the conversation among so many here in WA throughout the Autumn months. Over 4 big weekends we saw Murray, Capel, Margies and Moberup battle it out to gain precious premiership points that would seed their Clubs for the Semi Finals which were played at Capel on the weekend of May 9/10/2020 winners Murray made a big last-minute push to climb to the top of the Ladder setting them up against 4th placed Capel who gave it their all, but the mighty Murray Chukka displayed their class and cohesion to run out winners and move on to Saturday afternoon's Grand Final. The battle of 2nd and 3rd seeds Moberup and Margies was simply epic! Fast and furious action up and down the field with all 6 players feeling the nerves at the start but the experience of the Mob began to show, and they narrowly snuck a win over the ever-gallant Margies.

4pm rolled around and this was it, the first ever League Series Finals were here (thanks to COVID ruining this in 2020!) and the atmosphere was electric! An official ride in to live music, the cheers, and hoots from the packed sidelines and 12 amazing players and horses ready to do their best!

The 3rd vs 4th clash of Margies and Capel was truly a masterclass performance from the team in green and gold, they started with fire in the belly and finished with swift pickups, pinpoint passing and puffed out ponies. This is not to undersell how hard the Capel trio worked to gain some much-needed possession with spotted pony of Jordan Sparks making a few entertaining sidelines runs they had smiles on their faces the whole game and showed incredible sportsmanship throughout all 3 chukkas but the Margies crew were in a class of their own to claim the bronze medal.

The Grand Final between Mobrup and Murray was, very fittingly, potentially the game of the whole Series! Murray started slightly better with some quick thinking and quick goals, but the Mob crew were on the counterattack in a flash ensuring they stayed in touch with the fast pace. Goals were hard to come by with great defensive pressure from both Teams so much so that the scores were still tied going into the final chukka! What a treat for the spectators! 6 steely faces, 6 sweaty ponies all grit their teeth and dug in for the last as goals were traded and turnovers were created, and it took every second of the 6-minute chukka, but it was the Mobrup crew who narrowly edge out Murray by 2 goals to take the win and glory of League Series Champions.

All Clubs enjoyed the fun filled presentations along with their very own Saturday night celebration with the Capel Clubroom all decked out in the Club's colours. The Southern Zone Committee would sincerely like to thank the Clubs that hosted the League Carnivals, the League Committee for being such fantastic contributors to help guide the Comp and to every player that took to the fields in this amazing concept. We can't wait to see this Competition go from strength to strength, include more Clubs from around the Southern and Central Zones and mainly just enjoy this fantastic sport at the grass roots level.

Thanks, Jodi Dunlop.



BEHIND THE "D" WITH DREW GURNEY



Met Drew Gurney– PAA Board Director and a Master's Player for Naracoorte Polocrosse Club, South Australia

How long have you been playing for? - I have played for 45 years but did have 10 years from 21 to 31 years old where playing was sporadic. Knowing that the football career window is short, I concentrated on playing AFL football. I always intended to come back to polocrosse at a later stage. Which is what I've done.

What do you do outside of Polocrosse? - We run our farm, stud, and work full time. I have worked for SA Power Networks for 35 years so along with polocrosse we are remarkably busy. I recently started coaching junior football again after a long break. I find the kids refreshingly honest and fun to coach.

What is the most memorable occasion associated with the game? - I have many fantastic memories from Polocrosse but I would have to say one of my all-time favourites was coaching the Bit Savi team at the Narrabri Junior Challenge and them winning. They are a brilliant and incredibly talented bunch of kids and they played so well. It was a pleasure to coach them.

Where do I see the game going in the next 5 years? - I would hope that we build our grass roots numbers and see grass roots clubs expanding the player base while still being able to provide the opportunities for those that want to be able to aspire to reach the top and represent Australia. Polocrosse as a sport I believe is one of greatest family sports in the world.

Tell us something that is unusual about you? - Not sure if it's unusual or not but I love computer games. We never had those as kids, and they fascinate me now. I can play them for hours on end much to my wife's dismay.

Thanks, Drew for your time.



CONTRIBUTORS

The PAA would like to thank Les Fraser, Elissa Koch, Kent Wells, and Jodi Dunlop 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



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision". Helen Keller

Foot note.

Helen Keller (was an author, lecturer, and crusader for the handicapped. Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, she lost her sight and hearing at the age of nineteen months to an illness now believed to have been scarlet fever).



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!