



To lead the sustainable growth of polocrosse in Australia

POLOCROSSE AUSTRALIA

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Saturday 23 March 2024
Time: 10.00am AEDT
Venue: The Best Western Airport Motel & Convention Centre,
 33 Ardlie St, Attwood, VIC 3049.

Attendance Record:

Board members	Position
Mick Templeton	Polocrosse Australia elected Chair
Charlie Brook	Polocrosse Australia elected Director
Brian Johnson	Polocrosse Australia elected Director
Callum Hughes	Polocrosse Australia appointed Director (casual vacancy) / appointed Treasurer
Catriona Nicholls	Polocrosse Australia appointed Director
Kate Grills	Polocrosse Australia appointed National Executive Officer
PA Voting members	
Mike Williams	QPA President/Member State
Trish Shepherd	QPA Member State
James Bredhauer	QPA Member State
Lucy Grills	PANSW Member State
Kaylene Wilson	PANSW Member State
Beck Brennan	PANSW Member State
Craig Bassett	PAWA President/Member State
Pip Crook	PAWA Member State
Matt Waugh	PASA President/ Member State
Matt Morgan	PV President /Member State
Rob Wait	NTPA President/ Member State
Observers	
Frank Blokland	NTPA Vice President
Bridgette Van der Brink	PASA Vice President
Sara Grills	Albury-Holbrook Polocrosse Club
Susan Rose (online)	Bunnan Polocrosse Club
Andrew Rose (online)	PANSW President/Member State
Apologies	
Sandra Weston	Polocrosse Australia elected Director
Scott Miller	TPA President/ Member State
Gill Mathie	PA life member
Les Fraser	QPA/ PA life member

	<p>Meeting Opening</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Mick Templeton, Chair, opened the meeting at 10.01am, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the 2024 PA AGM and requested the PA voting members approve him to chair the meeting. This was granted and approved.</p> <p>Mick noted the Susan Rose’s resignation from the board on the 12 March. He thanked her for her contribution and noted that the Board appointed Callum Hughes as Director, to fill the casual vacancy.</p> <p>Mick noted Sandra Weston’s decision not to re-elect as a director, acknowledged her efforts as a Board member and thanked her for her contribution. Mick read a letter from Sandra to the delegates and Board.</p>
	<p>Ordinary Business</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Confirmation of Quorum</p> <p>Confirmation of Quorum was confirmed by roll call conducted by Mick Templeton. It was noted that the Tasmanian polocrosse association has forfeited their vote as they did not submit their proxy form on time.</p> <p>Confirmation of Super majority was seven votes as the total voting number is 11.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Financial statements, reports, and minutes</p> <p>The 2023 financial report was circulated prior to the AGM and Mick Templeton asked for questions from the floor.</p> <p>Kaylene Wilson asked for narrative of the Player development line item, Callum explained that two junior test series, two tours to NZ and the Rest of the World series.</p> <p>It was confirmed that line-item professional fees relate to the recent disciplinary action.</p> <p>Trish Shepherd requested further explanation regarding the insurance variance, Callum explained that an increase in full memberships resulted in the variance.</p> <p>Trade creditors line item was used as an end of year adjustment.</p> <p>Retained earnings refers to legal costs and future provisions put in place such as player development.</p> <p>Motion: <i>“That the meeting accept the audited 2023 financial report”.</i> Moved: Mike Williams Seconded: Pip Crook Motion carried</p> <p>The 2023 PA Directors’ report was circulated prior to the AGM with the 2023 Notice of AGM. Motion: <i>“That the meeting accept the 2023 PA directors’ report”.</i> Moved: Matt Waugh Seconded: James Bredhauer Motion carried</p> <p>The 2023 AGM minutes were circulated prior to the AGM. Motion: <i>“That the meeting accept the 2023 AGM minutes”.</i></p>

	<p>Moved: Trish Shepherd Seconded: Rob Wait Motion carried</p>
	<p>Prior to voting, it was confirmed that Frank Blokland and Bridgette Van der Brink would act as scrutineers for the meeting</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Resolution 1 – Election of Elected Directors</p> <p>Chair, Mick Templeton explained that two elected director positions were available and that voting for the one nominee would proceed prior to explaining next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Charles Brook Voting was completed, Mr Charles Brook was elected as a director of Polocrosse Australia by super majority. <p>Mick then explained a vacancy for an elected director still existed and that he would call for nominations from the floor and explained the voting process. That been first for a successful super majority. Should two candidates from the floor receive successful super majority, then a secondary vote for election in term of preference will be made. Noting that any successful candidate is elected subject to ASIC requirements.</p> <p>Beck Brennen requested a recess for member states to converse. Mick called for a five-minute recess. The member state issue was resolved and not shared with the Board.</p> <p>Mick proceeded to call for nominees from the floor. No nominations from the floor were received.</p> <p>Mick explained that the remaining position will remain vacant, and the board would explore its options.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Resolution 2 – Approval of ex-gratia payments</p> <p>Mick Templeton noted that whilst this resolution is not a requirement, it was agreed that voting members should be consulted on the matter.</p> <p>Matt Morgan noted the payments look low in terms of attracting board members. Mick suggested the topic is added to the half-yearly meeting for the 2025 budget.</p> <p>Moved: Matt Morgan Seconded: James Bredhauer Motion carried</p>
	<p>Destruction of votes. Mick Templeton requested Kate Grills, Polocrosse Australia NEO, to destroy the voting slips after 48 hours.</p>
	<p>This concluded the annual general meeting, and a recess was called prior to the start of the general business meeting.</p> <p>The 2024 annual general meeting closed at 10.45am</p>

	General Business
	Opened at 11.10am
1.	Governance
a.	<p>2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan The 2023-2026 Strategic plan was completed during 2023 and circulated to States for feedback. Feedback was incorporated and the Plan is available on the Polocrosse Australia website.</p>
b.	<p>2023-2024 Operational Plan Following on from the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan the Board has developed an operational plan to ensure there are tangible actions in place to ensure the goals outlined on the strategic plan are met.</p> <p>From this comprehensive operational plan, the Board has 12-month workplan that focuses our efforts on high-priority tasks.</p> <p>Matt Morgan stressed the need for the Polocrosse Australia board to get out and about in the community.</p>
c.	<p>Selection Committee update Kate Grills explained the proposed new structure of the selection committee with key points including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Open/Intermediate selectors, 3 Junior selectors • Same chairperson across both groups • To commence at the 2024 Australian Polocrosse Nationals • Roles to be rotated bi-annually ie. 2yr terms • Induction & handover process to be developed <p>Next steps for the committee will be as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft structure is currently being reviewed by selection committee • Updated structure will be circulated to SSO for comments • 3-week EOI will be sought in April/early May • New selection committee appointed by PA Board in May
d.	<p>Selection policy review Following feedback from both selectors and states the selection policy is currently in review. The proposed updated policy includes the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squad lists are to be fluid, players can be added & removed • Additional requirements for players ie. current membership • Lists to be published in approx. November for the following year • Include right of appeal process <p>Pip asked that the current squads lists be published on the PA webpage.</p> <p>James asked that the current selectors are involved in the review, which Kate confirmed the initial suggestions came from the committee.</p>
e.	<p>National Umpiring committee The NUC has been active again in 2023, dealing with a multitude of issue. The group led by Chris Sillitoe as Australian Chief Umpire, assisted by Charlie Grills, Nikki Barndon & Phil Day. The PA Board Liaison changed in May 2023 from Charlie Brook to Brian Johnson.</p>

	<p>The NUC had regular Zoom meetings to discuss issues as they arose, which also culminated in the Rule Book Review face to face meeting in late September, held in Melbourne. Thank you to all states that attended & for the provided input into the process.</p> <p>As you are aware, early this year we had two (2) resignations from the NUC in Chris Sillitoe & Nikki Barndon. The PA Board thank both members for their time & dedication to the positions.</p> <p>To achieve the desired outcomes for the 2024 Nationals, the PA Board worked with the remaining members to put together an Interim NUC that will work through to the completion of the National Championships in 2024.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the NUC to cover to the completion of the 2026 Nationals in Darwin will be circulated by the end of March and close at the end of May 2024.</p> <p>Beck Brennan, Kaylene Wilson, Mike Williams stressed there needs to be better collaboration and communication.</p> <p>Brian stressed that his key focus is to maintain and improved communication between the NUC and the State Chief Umpires.</p> <p>Mike stressed the need for structure and process. Supported by Pip, who stressed the need for administrative support for the NUC.</p> <p>Craig Bassett also noted the need to attract young people to the NUC — the floor agreed.</p> <p>The clear message that PA needs to invest in a clear communication, education and awareness campaign around policy decisions and umpiring decisions.</p>
f.	<p>Rulebook review</p> <p>Brian explained the review process and explained that only one state provided feedback.</p> <p>Questions arose around the implications of the new concussion policy on the rulebook review. The next chief umpires meeting will explore these issues.</p> <p>Questions around policy and procedures been removed from the rulebook, the board acknowledged this has occurred.</p> <p>Discussion around mutual memberships and state championships took place with the outcome that PA builds an exemption process into the mutual membership policy (and rulebook).</p> <p>A template for exemptions was requested to replace the need for a letter from the floor.</p>
g.	<p>Drug policy review</p> <p>Brian explained the drug policy review process.</p> <p>Communication about the updated policy will be followed by an open-access Zoom webinar and ongoing education and awareness campaign.</p> <p>It was communicated that the outcome of the Ballarat disciplinary actions will be made prior to the National Championships.</p>

h.	<p>Life membership</p> <p>Mick explained the issues around the inconsistencies between PA various life membership lists. The Board will approach the states to build a single and accurate life membership list.</p> <p>Process for life membership is outlined in the Polocrosse Australia constitution.</p>
i.	<p>Member States letter regarding communication</p> <p>Mick read the letter to the floor and asked each state to respond.</p> <p>Rob (WA): Timeliness of communication and responses to requests. Acknowledged it is a two-way street.</p> <p>Matt Waugh (SA): Feedback. Mention of the all states meeting.</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> Matt Waugh to send minutes from all state meeting from two years ago.</p> <p>Matt Morgan (VIC): Timeliness of responses needs to improve.</p> <p>Pip Crook (WA): Historical and ongoing issue. Focus again on the NUC.</p> <p>Mike Williams (QLD): Solution — All states to be recognised as a formal advisory committee to the Board to provide feedback in a similar forum to the annual general meeting on a biannual basis.</p> <p>Beck Brennan (NSW): Positive feedback on the meeting so far and keen for more timely feedback. Decision-making process could be clearer and more collaborative and consistent. <i>Code of conduct</i> still with PA to address the states’ concerns.</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> PA to provide clearer criteria for application for events and potentially create a google docs.</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> Revisit the concept of PA adopting Schoolzine.</p>
j.	<p>ACT Proposal</p> <p>Mick outlined the proposal from ACT to the floor and the PA position.</p> <p>Mick asked for feedback from the states:</p> <p>NSW — agreed with the concerns raised by PA. NSW is concerned by the mention of the ‘Southern Highlands’ zone.</p> <p>QLD — Mike asked whether our constitution allows us to refuse an application for the establishment of a new State or Territory Association. Mick assured Mike we are acting within the PA constitution.</p>
k.	<p>Key PA Governance progress</p> <p>Key milestones relating to governance achieved or in progress since the previous AGM are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the Strategic plan • Develop the Operational plan • Develop and implement Communications plan • Review and adopt the National Integrity Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy - Member Protection Policy - Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy

- Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Policy
- Review and update remaining PA policies (In progress)
- Review and update PA rulebook (nearing completion)

Questions from the floor

How will the states administer the concussion guidelines?

ACTION: PA working to develop a clear incident process and implementation plan in place and build into the *Educate, promote and grow* project.

Trish: Should we be looking at creating state and territory member/player welfare officers?

Mike: Recommended that PA put processes in place to manage the implementation via the database and reporting.

Matt Waugh: Recommend looking to other sports for models and frameworks.

Kaylene Wilson left the meeting at 2:40pm

2. Participation and growth

a. Educate, promote and grow project

Cat updated the group, as outlined in our Strategic plan, PA is committed to actively supporting the skills development of all players (from social to elite level), umpires, coaches and state, territory and club executives through a range of pathways and development programs.

Our Educate, promote and grow project aims to develop a set of resources that will support both existing and potential members. We are working with key subject matter experts from each state and territory as advisory groups, across playing, coaching and umpiring to capture the experience from the community and ensure the resources are community driven and developed.

The focus is on building accessible modern resources, such as booklets, factsheets videos, social media campaigns, competitions etc. Our target audience I existing and potential players, coaches and umpires and we are looking to collaborate with Pony Club Australia as an avenue of growing participation.

Input from the advisory groups so far has been great — not all states have taken up the offer of being involved but are certainly still welcome. Contact Kate if you have any contacts that wish to be involved in the project or you want to know more.

We have funding application in and being prepared to support the Educate, promote and grow project, to the tune of \$200,000. We will continue with or without the funding, but the funding will determine the size of the project and what we can achieve.

b. Australian Sports Commission GamePlan program

Kate explained the program to the group, outlining.

- GamePlan is a free online platform with a suite of tools for sporting clubs to support club development.
- Clubs assess and evaluate their own environment, identifying their unique strengths and potential areas for improvement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GamePlan makes it easy for club executives to make good decisions while developing clear plans for the club’s future. • Over 3000 Australian sporting clubs across 78 different sports are gaining key development and capability growth through their use of GamePlan. • Complements the PA Toolkit
<p>c.i</p>	<p>Major events - 2025 calendar Kate handed out the 2025 calendar to members. Kate asked States to support her in keeping this document up to date. Mick emphasised that the calendar is a dynamic document and asked states to be proactive.</p> <p>Comments from the floor VIC sets calendar after AGM in October. <i>ACTION:</i> PA still looking at national-level representative opportunities for 2025 and will advise in due course. <i>ACTION:</i> PA will determine new Board portfolios and advise in due course.</p> <p>Kate reminded the group there is a need to continue to develop and promote the high-performance program in addition to grassroots participation.</p> <p>Mick made the floor aware that the executive of the IPC recently resigned. World Cup 2024 is on track, but PA is unsure about the future of the World Cup. The next step is a special meeting to determine the way forward.</p> <p>Kate advised delegates to review the international constitution and advise PA if there are any areas of concern to be raised at the AGM.</p>
<p>c.ii</p>	<p>Major events – Australian Polocrosse Nationals, Chinchilla Regular meetings are held between Nationals committee, QPA and PA.</p> <p>Update email to be sent to states before Easter. Kate dates include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 April – Team numbers confirmed to PA • 16 April – Full team submissions to PA and submission of player profiles • Late April – SSO review the draft fixture • 21 May – Team managers meeting • 21 June – Nationals venue opens to public • 23 June – Official practice commences <p>Mike Williams (QLD) concerned that the deadline for team submissions falls before QLD has started their season. They are asking for an extension of the submission date. Mick pointed out that the issue arises for other states for other nationals.</p> <p>Beck Brennan (NSW) backing QLD position and asking for NSW and QLD to be able to submit final teams the week after Barastoc.</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> PA to consider developing a policy around timeframes leading up to Nationals. <i>ACTION:</i> Board will consider delegates’ concerns at subsequent Board meeting and come back to the delegates with a response and related penalties by COB 24 March 2024.</p> <p>Kate outlined the proposed new structure for incidents at Nationals</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National umpire committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First point of call for on field incidents - Current interim NUC members • Disputes committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on field incidents appeals only - Appealing NUC decision - PA appointed 3-member committee, must not be involved in other committees • Disciplinary committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - off field & ongoing incidents - 3-member committee consisting of an external legal-minded chair, PA appointed member, SSO based member <p>Kate noted that the external legal chair may be sourced through the Aus & NZ Sports Law Association: www.anzsla.com</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> States and territory to put forward names for the disciplinary committee. Kate will provide the States and territory with guidelines and timeframes for this submission.</p> <p>Trish and James left the meeting: 3:40pm as afternoon tea started.</p>
c.iii	<p>Meeting reconvened at 4:00pm</p> <p>2024 World Cup update Mick provided update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Coast carnival – 17-19 May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 match series against New Zealand World Cup team - QPA & Gold Coast club engaged • Australian Nationals, Chinchilla – 22 – 30 June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Showcase chukkas on the Off the Track horses - Horse auction of Off the track horses - QPA & Chinchilla engaged and supportive • Australian Nationals, Chinchilla – Monday 1 July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team to regroup & shift focus to World Cup - Goodline Polocrosse Australia team departs – Thursday 11 July <p>Lucy Grills on behalf of the World Cup team thanked Polocrosse Australia for their support. Pip Crook noted the hard work the team is putting in to represent their country.</p>
3.	<p>Business development</p>
a.i	<p>Corporate partnership update – Goodline Australia Kate explained that the partnership agreement is signed and processed and includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming rights partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apparel access - Digital content - Team access - Agreement signed & processed
a.ii	<p>Corporate partnership update – Queensland off the track Kate explained the QOTT partnership status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited apparel access

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital content in the lead up to the auction - Equipment branding during showcase • Agreement is currently being reviewed by PA • Horse status; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All horses have been received, - Players are progressing with the horse's development
a.iii	<p>Corporate partnership update – Other potential partnerships</p> <p>PA and the team are having ongoing discussion with a number of potential partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrien Equine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress has slowed after December 2023 - Supported team whilst in NZ, so may be revived • Bennett Polocrosse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement formalised - Value in kind agreement • Thomas Foods International <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion are ongoing
4.	Other general business
	<p>AHIC animal welfare proposal</p> <p>Beck Brennan asked if PA was going to respond to the proposal. The answer is that PA will provide a response and call for any support from the state and territory. Discussion from the floor about activities happening in each state and territory. <i>ACTION:</i> PA to expand their dissemination federal and state grant information to SSO.</p>
	<p>Incentive competition review update</p> <p>NSW asked whether this review is on track. Brian: Explained that in the second half of 2024 PA will go out for EOI of incentive style concepts for competitions. Beck Brennan concerned about this timeframe in terms of gaining approval in time for promotion. <i>ACTION:</i> PA to develop a template for incentive style competition concepts.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed.</p> <p>Mick thanked everyone for their time, with no further business, the meeting closed at 4.45pm.</p>