

WWCHA General Meeting Agenda

26th March 2018



Date: Monday 26th March 2018

Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Location Jubilee Park Club Rooms

Chaired by: President

Board Membership: Ken Larkin (President), Carla Bailey (Secretary), Karen Boyd (Treasurer), Sam Arnold (Competitions), Kate Wickson (Development), Cameron Tokley (Officiating), Sharon Smith (Representative), Phillip Stone (Facilities), Brittany O'Donnell (Events).

Club Membership with Voting Privileges: Cavaliers, CSU, Harlequins, Lake Albert, Rosellas, Royals

Agenda

1.0 Present

2.0 Apologies:

3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 February 19th, 2018 General Meeting Minutes (located on WWCHA website)

4.0 Actions arising from previous minutes

	4.0 Actions arising from previous Minutes	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress
4.1				
4.2				

5.0 Correspondence In

- 5.1 Rosellas Hockey Club- Player request
- 5.2 Rosellas Hockey Club- Club Training
- 5.3 Royals Hockey Club- Player Clearance
- 5.4 CSU Hockey Club- Player exemptions

6.0 New Business

- 6.1 Active Kids Voucher Update
- 6.2 New PA System
- 6.3 Update-cementing of Paul turf and fence replacement
- 6.4 Meeting with Wagga Wagga City Council feedback

6.5 Strategic planning session update

7.0 Board Reports

7.1 President	Attached
7.2 Administration	Attached
7.3 Treasurer	No report
7.4 Competitions	Attached
7.5 Officiating	Attached
7.6 Development	Attached
7.7 Representative	Attached
7.8 Events	No report
7.9 Facilities	No report

8.0 Club Reports

Not required for this meeting

Cavaliers	No report
CSU	No report
Harlequins	No report
Lake Albert	No report
Mustangs	No report
Rosellas	Attached
Royals	No report

Next Meeting: April 23rd, 2018

Correspondence In

5.1- Rosellas Hockey Club

Rosellas Hockey would like to request that Jo Dare play only as a goalkeeper in Division 1 and could she play only on the field in division 3 for our club.

Sharyn Wellham.

5.2- Rosellas Hockey Club

We Rosellas have approached the Harlequins Hockey Club through verbal conversations (with Harlequins Committee) to the possible joining of our training night to offset the cost of the proposed 20-week training costs that Wagga Combined Hockey has imposed for each club this season. In past years we have not used that many training nights in a season and we don't wish to be charged for time we don't use.

We are still in negotiations with Harlequins.

Rosellas will be training this Wednesday 21st March and the next week the 28th March and we hope to confirm our proposed training times for the remainder of the season after the Easter Holidays

5.3- Royals Hockey Club

1. We wish to request clearance for Natalie Rees to play solely for Royals Hockey Club this season. Natalie played for Cavaliers Hockey Club in Women's Division 2 as well as Royals Hockey Club in Women's Division 1 during the 2017 hockey season.

2. Nathan Fisher and Nick Bamford are both requesting to play Division 1 for Royals this season whilst also playing in their Division Two team for Cavaliers.

3. We are also wishing to request clearance for our Division 1 Goal Keeper, Georgia Hughes to play on the field in Division 3 this season. Georgia has had very little experience as a field hockey player so would definitely be at this standard.

5.4- CSU Hockey Club

SU are asking for 3 player exemptions for this year:

1. Mitchell Pitkin would like to nominate in Division 2 Cavaliers Men and be allowed to play for CSU Division 1 Men. He has done this the last 2 seasons.

2. Leanne Thorp and Millie Worldon would like to nominate in the Division 3 Men Mustangs team and be allowed to play for CSU Division 1 Women. At the time of writing this request, I'm not sure of each player's intentions if this request were not approved. I.e. If this is denied, I'm not sure which club they would chose to play for - CSU or Mustangs. As I understand it, Mustangs currently only have 11 players and as they are a one team club, would need 11 registered to make a team. So if either player decided they only wanted to play Division 1 Women, this would complicate things. I'll try to find this information out before the night of the meeting.

Board Reports

Presidents Report

The season is almost upon us and we have still yet to finalise the competition structure. This must be done at tonight's meeting, to give us a couple of weeks lead in time to ensure everything is ready.

Our Junior competition for this year looks to be again a year of growth and I cannot stress how important it is for all clubs to provide the appropriate support on Friday nights. The

board cannot do this alone, because as the numbers grow the level of support through coaches and umpires also grows.

I attended the Hockey NSW AGM and Presidents forum on the weekend of 10/11 March.

It was interesting weekend understanding the future strategy of Hockey NSW, some of which I will share in the coming weeks both via email and also at our future committee meetings.

One thing that I can share is that WWCHA is seen to be in a good state at the moment, something that the current and past boards can be very proud of. Our relationship with Griffith and Tumut is starting to work and we are seen to 'have our act in order'-thank you everyone.

I want to highlight one thing that was re-enforced at the forum, which was 'Respect for Officials-Take the Pledge'. We have highlighted this recently on our FB page and I have committed to hockey NSW that WWCC is behind this initiative and we will be working with all clubs to have our players 'Take the Pledge'. Kylie Seymour (Olympian and International Umpire) has been appointed ambassador for Hockey NSW and the board is looking for an ambassador for WWCHA.

One of the things that is very clear to everyone and it should be to us as well is 'No respect, no officials, no game'.

Our facilities upgrade continues, with the replacement of the fences to commence or has already commenced. With the new goals on Paul turf there is some repair work to be done, to address some deficiencies, to ensure the longevity of the goals. Quotes are currently being obtained.

This year the weekly maintenance of the fields will fall heavily on the clubs. As with last year a roster will be prepared and Phil (Facilities Mgr.) will need the support of all clubs to ensure the grounds are in tip top shape week in and week out.

We recently attended a meeting with WWCC. Key outcomes of the meeting were:

- . An additional 2 picnic tables will be installed near the canteen-work has already commenced. This comes from WWCHA pushing.
- . The change rooms, toilet and showers (below the clubrooms) will be upgraded before the end of June. They will be turned into unisex change rooms.
- . Council will partner with us in terms of funding for future replacement of turfs. A broad costing for replacement of Paul has been provided to council to enable them to make future provision.
- . Lights on both fields will have bulb replacement where required, prior to the start of the season.
- . Whilst there is no firm long term solution to the water flow problem at Jubilee Park, Council will be on standby should we require assistance during the forthcoming Hockey NSW Under 13 Boys Championships.

Finally, our 3-5 Strategy 'on a page' has been finalised and we will shortly distribute to all clubs.

Administration Report

Registration

There have been a number of issues with the registration portal this season which I have been working with Hockey NSW on. These are not unique to us but nonetheless have created some challenges. These issues should now be resolved.

All players who are U18 years need to register through the Wagga Junior Hockey club website. This has been communicated via Facebook and on both the WWCHA website and the Junior club page website. The reason for this is to allow the use of the active kids rebate for players who are U18.

The U18 fee for those playing seniors only (e.g. 16,17 yo) includes the NSW registration fee and the WWCHA fee. These players when they register will be able to select the club they are playing for in the registration process.

All senior players register through the WWCHA website and this fee includes the Hockey NSW registration fee as well as the WWCHA fee as endorsed at the last committee meeting.

Active Kids rebate

The active kids rebate is available on the wagga junior hockey club website. Parents are responsible for applying for the rebate through the NSW office of sport and they will receive a voucher number. The voucher number is entered as part of the registration process. WWCHA will accept and redeem vouchers that have been utilised.

Communication went out last week regarding the use of the active kids voucher for hockey which is different to other sports. Because of the way the Hockey NSW fee is collected the active kids voucher can only be used for the association fee. The Hockey NSW fee will need to be paid in full at the time of registration. Therefore, for our very young players using the voucher is not advantageous as they will only be redeeming a small amount from the voucher and it can only be used once.

Hockey NSW are working with the Office of Sport to work around this issue and will advise when a resolution is reached. However, given the timeframe I don't think there will be an outcome for the 2018 winter season. The voucher can be used for children who register in the COD program later in the year.

Officiating Report

With the season fast approaching. Everyone is busy finalising teams for the year ahead. But please don't forget to organise people for umpire duties in the lower 2 grades. I understand that it is hard to find people to umpire but all clubs need to make the effort and make sure you have people filling the umpire allocations each week.

We will be having an umpire briefing for all umpires, Friday 6th April at 6.30 in the club rooms. This meeting will not take a lot of time, it is just going over a few rules and expectations that we as an association need to address. Please can all clubs make sure every umpire in your club attends this briefing so they all know what we are looking for in our umpires this season.

I have been in talks with Stirling Sharpe from Hockey ACT regarding him coming down and running a couple of clinics for umpires in our association. The 1st clinic will be for beginner umpires and will be an introduction to umpiring. The second clinic will be a more technical clinic for our experienced umpires. I am yet to finalise dates with him but will let everyone know as soon as I do.

Competitions Report

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all the participants and the six teams involved in the 2017 Summer Competition that was completed recently. Congratulations to the Cavaliers team that won it. Special mention to CSU President Thomas Belling who instigated the preseason competition after 2-year hiatus. By all reports all players enjoyed the competition and hopefully it can return in 2019 bigger and better.

2018 Senior Winter Competition

As currently appears with the information that I have received the men's side of the senior competition has 15 teams with Mustangs reforming in Division 3 and Royals entering Division 2 again. This is identical to 2016, i.e. 4 teams in 1M (18 games per team), 5 in 2M (16 games) & 6 in 3M (20 games). The women appear to have 4 teams in each division providing there is an LAC United team in Division 1 (for 18 games for every team).

With the success of last season with fewer matches deferred in comparison to last 10 years it kept disruptions to a minimum. This again will be the focus for the draw for the competition in 2018, like last season there will be an attachment with an explanation to each round.

However, there will be 7 senior men matches based on the fore mention teams forcing the senior competition with a game in the dreaded 8.30pm timeslot most Saturday nights (9.45pm game finish) which will be shared across both male and female teams within Division 2 and 3 competitions. This did not occur last season, as there were fewer games. But it will occur much more often this year than 2016, as there was a push to eliminate as many "late" 8.30pm game but all it did was compound the number of deferrals throughout the season last time.

One suggestion is to bring the start of the competition to 11am instead of 11.30am and moving all timeslots forward 30 minutes earlier. This usually brings an outcry by clubs that say they have people working but refuses to provide any names or details as I put forward the motion at the start of last season. However most other winter sports require players to travel long distances to opposition venues every second week meaning that they could be leaving home before 10am to partake that sport such with Football, Rugby and Netball - RFL, SIRU, Farrer FNL etc.

OR

The other options include to play fewer games (15 or 16) per team (but still 20 weeks of competition) to eliminate the late finishes. Players regular complain about playing the same opposition so often across the season. Teams will still play the same opposition the equals number of times in each division, but it would be fewer times over (i.e. 5 times in Four team competition instead of 6 and 3 times in the 6-team competition instead of 4), a five-team comp would remain the same – 4 times. The trade-off in general is never a full complement of matches on any given weekend and would need an overhaul for penalty points system. But would alleviate, player qualification, i.e. fewer matches to qualify for finals as well as reduce the issue for players that fall out of nomination too soon with injury. Less player requiring to back up to another team.

OR

Play matches of shorter duration – 30 minutes halves instead of 35 minutes. Same problem would still occur every weekend that all participants need to ensure matches start on time, this very rarely occurs until finals series when technical officials operate. Not the best option.

OR

Move a competition to Sunday, such as Division 1 (men and women) and have all matches played on the preferred Water Turf. (Less likely)

(Discussion is required, but the view of value for money versus playing games at all hours of the day. Fewer matches should results in reduction in fees to players with club fees becoming lower.)

If the competition does not change format on Saturday, 2018 will still see the following problem for Officiating

With the additional timeslot, the lower divisions (2 & 3) now have games spread across 5 main timeslots instead of 4 (and for some teams 7 possible different timeslots if there is a single Division 1 game on), whilst Division 1 play in a maximum of 2 timeslots (2.30pm & 4pm currently) in the past 2 seasons. There has been a huge burden with the fixed Division 1 timeslots for Umpiring Appointments with finding 8 suitable qualified and available umpires on regular basis throughout the season particularly the drain on representative weekends. I've experienced this in 2016 and Cameron in the role of Officiating currently, which having to appoint umpires as there is regular changes of availability throughout the week to find 8 umpires each week (i.e. four in each timeslot) when one person suddenly becomes unavailable, particularly at late notice.

To help alleviate the stress, is to offset the Division 1 matches by having a third timeslot (5.30pm) and having only one timeslot with a Division 1 Men and Women game on at the same time (ideally the middle timeslot – 4pm) with games running concurrently, i.e. Men and Women still back to back.

For umpiring duties, with the additional Division 3 Men game it will mean that Division 3 Men will have on some occasions have 2 games in the same time as well required an umpiring duty at the same time as they are playing and other divisions will have their games and umpiring duty spread around the Division 1 timeslots regardless if there is a third timeslot or not which will be no different to the 2016 season.

Like most things, this report was written one week ago and is subject to change!

Junior Umpiring Commitments

Senior Teams will be listed to supply umpires for Under 16 competitions, with Under 16 players to officiate the Under 13s game. Duties where possible will follow the rostered facilities program where one club's teams will be required to officiate one match, the exception is for Rosellas HC who do not wish have officiating on nights they have to operate the canteen. Please note that Juniors are playing the Friday night (8th June) of the long weekend and clubs (teams) will be required to supply umpires which is a general bye for the senior competition. The junior competition has been shortened to a 15-preliminary round competition with the regular 3-week finals format this year.

Teams who fail to supply umpires throughout the season (both Junior and Senior Duties) will be subject to loss of competition points and suspension of their team captain as per the competition rules.

Player registrations have been open on the revolutionise portal for quite some time, it is the club's responsible to ensure that their players are registered prior to taking the field. The competition manager duty is to ensure that upon inspection that EVERY player has registered and apply any penalties which due course with the score cards. There is no overlap this season with the old registration, so not registered, not excuse!

Team Player List Nominations – Are due after Round 3, by Monday 23rd April. Last season it was not done successfully or on time. Clubs cannot nominate a player if the player has not played AND registered. Or if the player has permission to play across in another club in that particular competition. (Men and Women Divisions are treated as separate competitions). Clubs must nominate MINIMUM 9 players per team for clubs with more than one team. 11 players in the case of Mustangs.

Clubs that have prior permission to play a player from Division 3 to Division 1 cannot use that player as nomination in Division 1 team.

Motion #1: - To start the Senior Competition on Saturdays to 11am instead of 11.30am OR leave as current. (VOTE)

Motion #2 (in play if no change in Motion #1): - To play fewer competition games per team each season. (VOTE)

Motion #3: To have third Division 1 timeslot to offset the Division 1 Men and Women competition fixtures and alleviate the burden for Officiating to source umpires. (VOTE)

Development Report

- Registrations have begun for Junior Teams for the 2018 Season
- Thank you to CSU, Cavs, Royals, Lake Albert representatives who have assisted in the running of these events. Your expertise is greatly appreciated.
- A large number of new players have shown interest in the Junior Competition which is fantastic.
- Coaches are still required for Under 16/13/11/9 teams. Coaches need to be committed to assisting the Junior Competition each Friday night, as well as being available on a roster system to attend Junior Training sessions. Please make contact ASAP if you or someone you know would be interested in coaching a team.
- It would be great to have an even number of club coaches rather than two or three clubs undertaking coaching duties as has been in the past.
- At this stage, Junior Training will be from 4:30 to 5:30 pm every Tuesday.
- Competition commences Friday April 6th.
- Players who have registered will be placed in an appropriate team for their age and skill level and all players will be notified of their teams at least 1 week prior to competition start so they can purchase the correct coloured socks.
- I am hoping to have an evening prior to Friday 6th April to distribute shirts, as this will lessen the load on the first night of competition. It will be ideal if all coaches will be able to attend this night in order to assist in the distribution of their teams' shirts as well as recording numbers.
- Issues with the Sporting Kids Vouchers have arisen, which has impacted on parents/players being able to utilise the whole \$100 amount for Hockey registration. NSW Hockey has advised players would be eligible to utilise the voucher for their child if they are interested in taking part in the COD program which takes place towards the end of the year. This does not help players who are not interested in taking part in the COD program. Affected parents have been advised to utilise the vouchers for another sport which will mean they can use the whole amount.

Representative Report

Trial day for U13 & U15 boys and girls was held on Sunday 5th March. If players are interested in trialling for any of the representative teams they are strongly encouraged to attend training days as follows:

U13 Boys and Girls – Commencing Sunday 8th April at 10am to 1130am on the Paul Field

Under 15 Boys – Commencing 18th March at 11am to 1pm on the Noonan Field

Under 15 Girls – Commencing 15th March at 9am to 11am on the Paul Field

Under 18 Boys – has already commence, training is held on Sundays 130pm to 330pm

Under 18 Girls- has already commenced, training is held on Sundays 230pm to 4pm

Open Men – has already commenced, training is held on Sundays 130pm to 330pm

Training is still to be arranged for the open women, any players that are interested please contact Coach: Pat O'Donnell or Manager: Brittany O'Donnell

Anyone who is interested in applying for a manager's position is asked to complete the application via the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2SNXLM>

Information for the representative teams can now be found on the Wagga Juniors web page and the Wagga Combined Hockey webpage.

Club Reports

Rosellas Hockey Club

It's our 75th Year as a Women's Hockey Club in Wagga Wagga. We have been investigating our long heritage at the CSU archives, most interesting but we get side tracked with the other histories of Wagga-- a great place to go.

So, it's our Diamond Jubilee year we are having a Diamond Dinner at the Rules Club Wagga on Saturday the 21st April at 7pm. We are looking forward to past and present players joining in a night of friendship and club nostalgia of Rosellas Hockey Club.

We had a BBQ at Bernardi's this past weekend for a fundraiser. We would like to thank Bernardi's for their donation and the opportunity to have the fundraiser BBQ, Great hosts!!!!

Other proposed fundraising for 2018 -We have booked our annual Pie Drive with Dossers and also the usual Club Day BBQ (we have requested a date with facilities),

We wish our players and teams all the best for this special season our 75th year in the History of Rosellas Hockey Club