

# WWCHA General Meeting Agenda

## 23rd April 2018



**Date:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 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 March 26th, 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 Royals Hockey Club- Player request

5.2 Royals Hockey Club- Player request

### 6.0 New Business

6.1 2018 nominated players

6.2 2019 Board structure

## 7.0 Board Reports

7.1 President	Attached
7.2 Administration	No Report
7.3 Treasurer	No report
7.4 Competitions	Attached
7.5 Officiating	Attached
7.6 Development	Attached
7.7 Representative	No Report
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	No Report
Royals	Attached

**Next Meeting:** May 28th, 2018

## **Correspondence In**

### **5.1- Royals Hockey Club**

Maree Beresford (Division 1 player) to play goalie in the Division 3 Women's competition (never played goalie before, purely to allow this developing team to be on the field).

### **5.2- Royals Hockey Club**

We are struggling with our Men's nominations as putting a Division 2 Men's team in this year was a stretch. Our Division 1 Men's goalie, Logan Wilford is desperate to have a run as a field player in the division 2 team. This is not possible as we need him as a nominated player in Division 1 to cover the required number of nominations. We are seeking a vote on whether we are able to nominate 8 in our Division 1 Men's team to allow Logan to play down in Division 2.

## **Board Reports**

### **Presidents Report**

After the first two rounds of the competition we still have some way to go to settle into a good operating rhythm.

It is evident from feedback from a number of clubs that the issue of playing numbers is now having a significant impact on clubs ability to fill the grades that they have nominated for.

Tonight we intend having a good discussion about the right thing to do to support not only those clubs that require help but also to ensure that our local competition remains viable and provides an opportunity for everyone who wishes to lay hockey.

Our facilities upgrade continues and you would have all noticed:

- . New fences around both fields have commenced
- . Tech Benches now have gates to reduce access particularly young children who often just walk through without notice.
- . The goals to Paul have also been repaired and will now have the longevity originally intended when they were first built.

There is also some remaining cement works on the new drains for Paul and these will be completed in the coming weeks.

With regard to the safety nets, if I could ask that players do not un hitch the u bolts that fix the nets to the cement, as this will leave the nets loose and ineffective.

Our facilities manager will continue to work closely with all clubs re the maintenance of the grounds. This year we are relying fully on clubs meeting their weekly obligations with regard to recycling, rubbish removal and ground clean up. Please make sure that your club meets the expectations for the roster. Any questions, please contact Phil Stone.

I have recently met with council and other users of Jubilee Park, to discuss short and long term storage needs. You will appreciate and I know that you will agree, that we have limited storage space available to us, and we do have a lot of equipment and resources that require a safe and secure environment.

Hopefully council will agree the right strategy to ensure all users will have access to additional secure storage.

You will have recently seen from our social media post, that our charity of choice for this years 'Charity Round' will be 'Little Wings' which is also the charity of choice for hockey NSW.

Last year everyone got behind our charity of choice 'Love Your Sister, and it will be great if we receive the same level of support for 'Little Wings'. More info on how you can support 'Little Wings' will be shared as we get closer to the charity round.

## **Officiating Report**

The first 2 rounds have started really well in terms of clubs filling duties as required. Behaviour from players has also seemed to improve from what I have seen. Please can all teams continue this as the season progresses?

One thing I have seen is players not substituting correctly. Substitutions must be made as close to halfway as possible and a player cannot enter the game until the other player is off the pitch.

Our umpire clinic with Stirling Sharpe I believe was a massive success. He was impressed with the amount of people that turned out to both clinics. The interest from everyone that attended was really good to see as well. We had 20 people turn up to the advanced clinic on the Friday night and we had 17 turn up to the beginner's clinic on the Saturday morning.

I will be looking to have the newly appointed Zeke Newman from hockey NSW come down for another clinic later in the year. Zeke is currently an FIH badged umpire in both indoor and outdoor hockey, he is very well respected and has a great wealth of knowledge on the game of hockey.

More info to come on this soon.

## **Competitions Report**

From the last general meeting, the clubs indicated that they would field enough teams to allow both the men and women to continue a 3 division competition.

It is also a requirement for all clubs to nominate the minimum 9 per team for clubs with more than one team which is due after the third round of competition.

However it has been very obvious after the first 2 rounds and from registration data from the Wagga revolutionise platform that not all clubs will not be able to comply with the competition ruling means that Wagga Hockey has the right to omit the teams from the competition. This can't be done until player nomination team lists have been received from the clubs.

The issue is that any reduction by one team in the women competition will have a follow on affect with re-structure back to 2 divisions from 3 and will have a flow on impact of playing numbers that will choose not to play. And the men could also potential have similar problems.

The proposal to reduce the minimum number of nominations for first Division team to 7 and possibly 8 players for teams in Division two for Season 2018.

The idea to reduce the minimum requirement for Division 1 has no immediate impact for teams in Division 1, clubs will still have the same list of potential players to choose from for that Division. It impacts to Division 2 and 3 with potentially players from a higher division dropping down to strengthen that team prospects at the expense of the weak player.

There has been concession already granted to one club and the frustration that I have as competitions manager is that we making changes to after the start of the season. Clubs will use example down the future to avoid the real issues. We are already at a point with allowing players to play in a higher division for another club without having to take a step forward and field a team there.

The real issue is that senior playing numbers are reducing at alarming rates, the men's competition is hidden by the fact the combined/both gender clubs can use female players to cover gaps in teams. Whilst the others cannot. There alarming increase of the number of players playing more than one divisions. Also on the increase is the number of times teams do not have the minimum eleven players to take the field which is a concern each week.

How is reducing the minimum number of nominated players going to fix the issue with teams playing short each week? All clubs have playing regularly away across the season and no one is immune from injury. If the nominations for team lists are reduced it means more and more players will be required to back up for a second game more regularly.

Playing lists by all clubs required a lot of attention from the competition manager to

ensure clubs maintained the player nominations but there a lot of players having to be renominated up to avoid penalties.

Earlier this year I met with the Port Macquarie/Hastings HA President which their association is a similar size to us in regards to teams and competition. They identified that players should not be automatically entitled to two games of hockey a week. They had 3 divisions in both their men and women competitions up to the season 2017 but stripped it back to TWO divisions for 2018 with a premier division and lower division and having teams needing to qualify for finals.

The argument or answer from the Wagga side of things is that the sport is so expensive to play, so playing in two teams each week gets value for money or that is it a pathway to develop players.

Where are the developing players? Last year both the men and women open representative teams required players plucked from the bottom senior divisions at Wagga Hockey just to field a side at the Steakhouse Cup in Wagga and at the FSC. The Division 1 and 2 players that should be away representing choose not to go as Wagga Hockey was at the bottom divisions at the representative levels.

But by our own rules, the 9 nominated player in a club's top division team are in theory unable to play anywhere else except in Division 1 or in Cavaliers' case Division 2.

### **IMPORTANT**

*As a request for this general meeting (for April), there will be a discussion about player nominations lists and minimum number requirements.*

*I wish all clubs to come forward and provided details of the current projections for team lists nominations based upon the 9 nominated player per team (i.e. where their all their registered players would be nominated) who are playing in the 2018 season including players who have not registered at this point in time and TOTAL club players.*

*All clubs should submit their PROJECTED team nomination list before the meeting on Monday. So the competitions manager can cross reference all names.*

*ACTUAL OFFICAL Team Nominations Lists DUE DATE will be due after all parties come to a workable agreement at the meeting.*

### **Development Report**

- Junior Competition commenced Friday 6th April. The night was very busy but all games commenced on time and players very quickly got back into the rhythm of the night.
- After the first round, I was still receiving requests to register players for all age groups. As a result of this increase in registrations, the Under 13 grade has gone from 4 to 5 teams.
- Currently teams are:
  - Under 9 – 4 teams
  - Under 11 – 6 teams
  - Under 13 – 5 teams
  - Under 16 – 4 teams
- Discussions have already commenced if junior numbers increase again for the 2019 season, with the possibility of moving one age group to another evening. The current growth of players is occurring in the under 11/under 13 age group.
- We still require a coach for the Under 9 age group. If you are able to help out, please contact me ASAP.
- It is pleasing to have received quite a lot of positive feedback about our Junior Competition. Many comments concern the flexibility of juniors in regards to various things like low uniform costs and the ability to register after the season has commenced. Our main aim with junior hockey is to simply 'get kids playing hockey.' Our relaxed atmosphere and welcoming nature has been the number 1 positive comment coming back to us. Along with low costs for actually getting kids onto the field (players are only to purchase socks), sticks/shin pads can be borrowed for the season and the low registration fee all add to the attractiveness of our

juniors.

- Another issue which has arisen concerns junior players who are no longer eligible to play juniors. The concern deals mainly with under 18 players who have no affiliation with a senior club. This issue has been previously raised with clubs, and I strongly urge all clubs to discuss a plan they could put together in order to assist in moving these players into the senior competition. It would be very disappointing if these players decide not to play hockey as there is no obvious pathway for them into the senior competition.
- Senior clubs have provided umpires for the Under 16's games and Under 16 players are being encouraged to have a go at umpiring either under 11 or under 13 games. Each Under 16 team has been requested to nominate one player each week to assist in umpiring lower age groups.
- Uniforms: there is a possibility that we will need to purchase additional shirts (larger sizes) to accommodate all players.
- Over the last two weeks I have been able to sell surplus stocks of socks which have totalled \$500.
- All players are being requested to download the TeamApp for all communication for junior information. I would also encourage all senior clubs to do the same so they can keep up to date with what is happening with juniors. Senior clubs can also then be notified directly if any games are cancelled due to bad weather which have an impact on those clubs who are on umpiring duty.
- Thank you to all the board who have again assisted in the juniors. It is a team effort and I appreciate all the support received especially just prior to the commencement of the junior season.

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**

### **Royals Hockey Club**

Royals held their AGM at the end of January with the following appointments made for the 2018 Season:

President - Richard Engelbrecht    Vice President - Lu Nickell (to be replaced)

Secretary - Emily Paul

Treasurer - Bronwyn Harper

Umpiring Coordinator - Zoe Wild

Social Coordinator - Sarah Bonny

Uniform and Merchandise Coordinator - Tracey Gibbons

A number of initiatives have been put in place to build upon the success of our Club this Season including:

- The use of Survey Monkey to get feedback from Club members about what worked well last season and what could be improved. We also used this format to gauge interest in players for this season and Expressions of Interest forms for Coaches and Managers.
- Building upon the use of Revolutionise to have our own Club website. All of our registrations, invoices and finance details, draws, updates, live Facebook feeds etc. are posted on our website. The feedback from our club members on this has been very positive and we have also recruited 4 new players who commented that they contacted the Club through the website.
- We have built upon our Sponsorship Strategy again in 2018. Our Major Sponsor, the Koorungal Hotel have signed on for another 3 years. Major Goalie Sponsors have again signed on as well as 15 minor sponsors who are promoted on our Club training singlets provided to all Club members as well as our Website.
- We continue to run a fortnightly meat raffle at The Koorungal Hotel. All of the above have

put us in a strong financial position and therefore able to keep our Club fee to a minimum as well as provide our Club members with other incentives.

- Our new playing singlets for all Club members were delayed and will be ready to play in for round 3.
- This year we formalised our coaching appointments through a contract and outline of the responsibilities of a leadership team for each team comprising of the Coach, Team Leader/Manager and Captain. We made a point of announcing these positions more formally and recognising the contributions of these individuals. Pat O'Donnell is leading the coaching team to build capacity within the Club.
- The focus this year has also been on setting up three strong teams in every division across both the Men and Women's competitions. Where we have had overflow we have referred players to other Clubs to support the competition.

We have appreciated the hard work of the Association leading into the 2018 Season with many improvements evident. The work around the WWCHA Strategy 2018-2021 has also been a great process to be a part of in planning for the future of our sport.

Royals Hockey Club Committee

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