

WWCHA General Meeting Minutes

Monday 29 April 2019



Date: Monday 29 April, 2019
Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Location: Jubilee Park Club Rooms
Chaired by: President
Board Membership: Ken Larkin (President), Emily Paul (Secretary), Karen Boyd (Treasurer), Melinda Chyb (Competitions), Thomas Belling (Development), Sam Arnold (Officiating), Brittany O'Donnell (Representative), Vacant (Facilities), Vacant (Events).
Club Membership with Voting Privileges: Cavaliers, CSU, Harlequins, Lake Albert, Rosellas, Royals, Mustangs

Agenda

1.0 Present

Board: Ken Larkin (President), Emily Paul (Secretary), Thomas Belling (Development), Brittany O'Donnell (Events), Melinda Chyb (Competitions),

Voting Members: Aaron Crump (LAHC), Bernie Howard (CSU), Sharon Smith (Rosellas), Paula McEwan (CAVS), Maree Beresford (Royals), Benny Worlton (Mustangs), Dennis Girling (Harlequins)

Members: Sharon Wellham (Rosellas), Emma Lynch (CSU), Chris Skillen (Harlequins), Pat O'Donnell (Royals), Sharyn Wellham (Rosellas), Rob Woodgate (Royals), Ryan Hutton (Mustangs)

2.0 Apologies:

Sam Arnold, Karen Boyd,

3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

25 March 2019 (located on WWCHA website)

Confirmed: Aaron Crump **Seconded:** Maree Beresford

4.0 Actions arising from previous minutes

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

5.0 Correspondence In

- **Rosella's HC – Concerns about Women's Team Nominations**

WWCHA Board have initially approved Rosellas to nominate 5 players in their Division 1 Women's team. The Board will work closely with Rosellas to monitor these nominations as the season progresses. The association will also work with Rosellas during this season to help develop key strategies to attract and retain players.

- **Urgent business – CSU: Wed April 24**

CSU have some urgent business that we would like added to Monday's meeting.

We would like ask if we can nominate seven (instead of nine) first grade men's players this season. We ask this in the interest of having a strong competition and for the following reasons:

- The club has had lower men's nominations this season compared to previous years,
- The combination of division three and two has meant we were forced to nominate two teams in the lower division. Because our players cannot play across the division, we have less players available to fill-in when we are short.
- We had to ask if Bevan Swaffield could play as a goal keeper in the lower division so we had enough players to make a full team. Normally Bevan would be nominated in first grade only. This leaves us with one less player as a nomination for first division because technically Bevan is now considered to be playing second division.
- We can no longer play our female players in the men's competition. This has put pressure on our playing numbers when we are short.
- We have a number of players absent from games due to work, uni placement and other commitments regularly
- One of our nominated first grade players from last year is now playing for another club and another has changed sports (AFL)
- The club has three men's players that are injured. These players may or may not play this season because of their injuries.

Voting Outcome: CSU request to nominate 7 instead of 9 in the Div 1 Men's team did not pass.

Y – 2

N - 7

Abstained – 2

6.0 New Business

6.1 Tech Bench

**(Refer to Officiating Report)*

Technical Bench Officials – there is still a long way to go with clubs performing duties to an adequate standard all round:

- Clubs are to provide tech officials to their own games for two reasons:
 1. Clubs have enough difficulty to supply umpires when their team isn't playing
 2. Secondly it helps bring teams in a club together. Every club has at least two teams, so sharing the tech bench duties between teams is no excuse.

The main points for tech bench, are:

- Clubs are to provide a suitable person to perform tech bench duties, ie not a junior player.
- It should not be the duty of Wagga Hockey board member to chase up and find out who is doing the duty for a particular team.
- The completed scorecard should be brought to the middle dugout before the start of the game with the individual.
- The individual person doing the duty needs to focus on the game on that field and take note and mark down any injuries as well as penalty cards on the cards along with the goal scored during the match (The umpires will still need to indicate the reasons for any cards at the completion of the match).

Discussion – Teams are not ready to start when time is on. This has been clearly evident in a no of games.

Action :

- Clubs to give all umpires notice that umpires are to start games on time.
- If a team is not ready the umpire may start the game and allow the team ready to 'play on'
- Officiating Coordinator to communicate this with umpires.

6.2 Club Fact Sheets

Observation – repetition of names nominated on multiple panels. This is an opportunity to involve other club members and share the responsibility.

Action: Admin to resend link for fact sheet to allow clubs to re-think their panel nominations.

6.3. Junior Coaches

- Agenda item has been repeated many times
- Still have gaps in U/9's – in desperate need of adult volunteers.

Action:

- Clubs to communicate to members and encourage individuals to volunteer ASAP – last call!!

6.3 Friday Night Junior BBQ

When you have a Club Day, must do the BBQ on a Friday night. There are other dates available, where clubs can hold the BBQ, and have an opportunity to make some much needed funds.

Action:

- Ken will email Clubs with available Friday night BBQ dates. Clubs to reply with request for dates by Friday 3 May.
- Cavaliers will be offered the BBQ Duty for leftover dates.

6.4 Junior Wet Weather Policy

- Thomas has developed a Policy (on Website)
- Decision for cancellation of games, notification will occur by 4pm Friday
- The exception is when weather appears during the game at which point last minute decisions will need to be made.

6.5 Shoosh for Kids Resource

- Awareness week – advertising and promotional material will be distributed.

6.6 Club Showcase – Mustangs

Benny Waldron gave the meeting a great presentation on his club, and highlighted a number of achievements and successes.

Showcase next meeting: CSU

Other Business: Memorandum of understanding between Cavaliers and Lake Albert (LACU) has been signed and submitted to WWCHA. To be reviewed in 2020.

7.0 Board Reports

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

7.1 – President Report

- Despite some teething problems we have made a good start to the 2019 Winter Competition. The new rules seem to be working however I believe we still have some way to go with our tech benching.
- I will shortly be hosting a President Forum for all club presidents. I will be sharing a lot of info from the recent Hockey NSW Presidents Forum.
- I have recently attended a WWCC meeting of all sporting organisations using the council facilities across the Wagga district. It was an interesting meeting which validated to me that all of our sports across Wagga face similar challenges to

Hockey, one of the most critical ones is the challenge of keeping people in the game. It was also a valuable meeting for understanding and sharing best practise. These meetings are held bi-monthly and I will make sure we are always represented at the meeting.

- We have recently signed-off on a new 5 year licence agreement for the Clubrooms and Canteen. This was particularly important to ensure that we would have continued and secured access to both facilities for the next 5 years.

7.2 – Administration

- Starting Thursday 2 May, a weekly WWCHA newsletter will be emailed to all Association members. We will trial this as an effective way to streamline communication. Any items that the Board or clubs wish to have included, need to be received by Wednesday evening. I encourage feedback from clubs and Association members as we roll this out.
- Clubs are encouraged to consider what they may like to “showcase” at the monthly general meetings. This will be an opportunity for clubs to share what is working, what they are proud of an initiative/s that could support other committee’s in running their club.
- All clubs are encouraged to consider utilising the Revolutionise platform to operate the administrative and promotional sides to running their club from 2020 onward. As the year progresses, the Board will look for opportunities to upskill club personnell and prepare them to use the platform in the near future.

7.3 – Treasurer

7.4 – Competitions

- Thank you for the work Clubs have done in sending through nominations
- Three strong exciting rounds
- Positive feedback regarding set game times
- Plan to improve communication around deferments and umpiring
- Update clubs and members (via newsletter) on recent deferments announced
- Starting games on time
- Competition person from the clubs
- Uniforms-CSU-look great

7.5 – Officiating

My apologies in advance for not being in attendance at the meeting this month.

Firstly, there has been no changes to umpires’ dress code – yet constantly individuals need reminding. All appointed Division 1 umpires should dress with black pants/skirt. All umpires should be wearing the Wagga Hockey Umpire shirt. Likewise, umpires are paid the following rates, \$40 for Division 1, \$30 for Division 2, and \$20 for Division 3 per game at the season end, should anyone be looking for extra money!

As for the clubs, all players need to be in the correct CURRENT playing uniforms. It has been over a month since the start of the competition and no reason for any player not to be in their correct uniform from any club. I still understand, Mustangs Women team is still waiting new shirts at the time of this report.

Technical Bench Officials – there is still a long way to go with clubs performing duties to an adequate standard all round. Firstly, clubs are to provide tech officials to their own games for two reasons, clubs have enough difficulty to supply umpires when their team isn't playing and secondly it is help bring teams in a club together. Every club has at least two teams, so sharing the tech bench duties between teams is no excuse.

The main points are – clubs are to provide a suitable person to perform tech bench duties, ie not a junior player. It should not be the duty of Wagga Hockey board member to chase up and find out who is doing the duty for a particular team. The completed scorecard should be brought to the middle dugout before the start of the game with the individual. The individual person doing the duty needs to focus on the game on that field and take note and mark down any injuries as well as penalty cards on the cards along with the goal scored during the match (The umpires will still need to indicate the reasons for any cards at the completion of the match).

Clubs need to ensure their team is ready BEFORE the start of the scheduled match time. A huge amount of time is loss by teams wasting time on the sidelines for players rather than being out in the middle of field prior to the start of the game.

The two-minute breaks, teams are to remain on the field and not enter the dugouts.

Before the conclusion of the games, tech officials are to help fill out the score cards with umpire names etc to help umpires speed up the process at the end of the match.

Finally, it is the teams and their tech bench official's responsibility to ensure the all match day equipment is ready and packed away. Ie the first teams playing on the start of the day on each field to get the score remote, fold up table and scorecard plastic tubs out of the pump shed before the start of the first game. Likewise, it is the last teams playing on each field ensure that everything is returned and packed away in the pump shed. (This also includes the "clearing" of the scoreboard to black).

Once all teams and clubs master this (ie without Wagga Hockey board members prompting club/teams along and the competition and officiating managers see accurate and matching scorecards), the long-term goal to restore match game time to the original 70 minute duration that clubs previously had. For both clubs and Wagga Hockey this is a big change from the previous season with the new four quarters format and the long term view is not to bring penalties in but to become part of the routine in the future. The current Team Techn Bench policy is a work in progress but welcome feedback.

In relation to dugouts, any person in a technical capacity during a game needs to been registration with Hockey NSW such as a non-playing official of umpire, coach, manager or club tech official. Failure to do, may result in suspensions for the captain of the team in the future.

A full umpiring draw for Senior games is available online, on the Wagga Hockey web-page. It is fairly straight forward with all lower women divisions requiring to umpire opposite game in their divisions. Division 1 will still have named appointments; however, Wagga Hockey has a limited pool of umpiring resources. Overall and this issue has been a long-term trend for several seasons now, clubs need to look at developing more new umpires, particularly in the female and younger age groups in clubs to aim to aspire to the senior ranks. Wagga Hockey and in particular, Cameron Tokley (the previous manager in the role – Officiating) have paid Hockey NSW and ACT umpire managers to visit Wagga with little support from clubs.

This leads in the next part, that **Wagga Hockey is continuing in Zero Tolerance policy for Umpire Abuse. However, it has been reported verbally to me that already this season that**

people in the officiating capacity has been subject to abuse in the opening rounds. All clubs and players across all divisions need to stamp this out as this is not acceptable.

One way to make an effort is to *take the pledge 'respect for officials'* which is the Hockey NSW initiative. Currently Wagga Hockey has one of the lowest sign up rates in comparison to other hockey associations. As a reward the first team in both the men and women competitions to have all their nominated players sign up in a team will be relieved of the Friday night Junior umpiring duties for the rest of the season. It is an online pledge through the Hockey NSW webpage.

Should clubs have difficulty in sourcing an umpire for a particular game on a weekend, the sooner it is identified and brought to my attention, the better chance a suitable replacement can be found. Best form of communication is via text on this matter. However, there is no stopping anyone and contacting another club for an umpire directly to address the problem.

In conclusion, some clubs are following through with what is required by Wagga Hockey in the area of Officiating which is great. However, it is obvious to Wagga Hockey that other clubs, that the communication is not getting through and it is left by too few individuals to cover the new duties.

I would like to commend, one senior individual – CSU player Dan Smith (a new player to the Wagga competition) who has had the initiative to reach out and offer support to the Division 1 umpiring pool, particularly on short notice. He had already had positive feedback from fellow senior umpires and is willing to improve his skills. He is a good example to the rest of the association to follow his lead.

Sam Arnold
Officiating Manager

7.6 – Development

- **UMPIRING DUTIES U16:** the senior umpiring allocations have been released and junior allocations for u16 games for the entire season will soon be released by Sam. First 2 rounds were released via emails, however both weeks we had clubs fail to show up for their duty. **Once the full season allocation is released, I will show no flexibility and clubs will be penalised per the playing rules for failing to supply an umpire**
- **REGISTRATIONS:** As of 20th April we have 192 junior registrations. This includes 16-18 year olds who are registered as juniors. Last year only had 162. This is nearly a 20% increase in numbers!!
- **RECRUITMENT:** I've had two clubs approach me (Rosellas and Lake Albert) asking if I have any juniors ready to step up to seniors. Whilst this is a great first step, it would be great to see clubs actually come to junior training or games and chat to the U16s or give out club fact sheets etc. Remember from the start of the year we could potentially lose up to 30% of juniors as they don't know how to connect to the senior clubs.
- **COMMUNICATION:** great feedback on weekly newsletter email. Haven't been using TeamApp to this date but haven't received any feedback asking for it, so will continue just to use email and Facebook as appropriate

- WET WEATHER: wet weather policy below accidentally omitted from last meeting

7.7 – Representative

- U/15'S Carnival will require as much assistance from Club as possible – WWCHA will begin advertising for volunteers soon
- Maters 2020 to be hosted in Wagga Wagga – Sharon Smith would like more volunteers for the committee

7.9 – Facilities

- New goals have been installed on Noonan Field, fresh coat of paint will be applied to the ones on Paul Field.
- New nets and improved framework on the nets between both fields has been completed.
- Completion of the new storage area is expected to be completed by early May.
- Riverina Water sponsored water filling station should be installed on Paul field by the end of April.
- Will be meeting with council shortly to kick of conversation/planning re replacement of Paul turf.
- All clubs must make sure they are completing their field maintenance duties when rostered.

8.0 Club Reports

Cavaliers	No report
CSU	No report
Harlequins	No report
Lake Albert	No report
Mustangs	Club Showcase
Rosellas	No report
Royals	No report

Meeting Closed: 8.56pm

Next Meeting: Monday May 27, 2019 – 7.30pm