

WWCHA Annual General Meeting Minutes

Monday 28th November 2022



Date: Monday 28th November 2022

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Zoom

Chaired by: Ken Larkin

Board Membership:

Ken Larkin (President), Amy Smart (Secretary), Karen Boyd (Treasurer), Mel Chyb (Competitions), Nathan Szymanski (Development), Tamika White (Officiating), Phil Stone (Facilities)

Vacant (Representative), Vacant (Events)

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

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Present (A-Z):

Board Members: Ken Larkin, Phil Stone, Amy Smart, Nathan Szymanski, Tamika White

Apologies: Karen Boyd, Mel Chyb

Club representatives: Liz Cronin (Roy), Dan Smith (CSU), Sharyn Wellham (Ros), Matthew Pickersgill (CSU), Adam Boyd (Lake Albert), Alicia Rose (Cavaliers), Charmain Gay (Ros), Kylie Cowell (Roy), Jackson White (Harl)

Apologies: Helen Lansdown, Sharon Smith, Terry-Ann McBeath, Jarrod Thorne

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Wiradjuri people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[AGM 2021 and September 2022](#) (located on WWCHA website)

Accepted: Charmain Gay

Seconded: Sharyn Wellham

Business Arising from previous meeting

Nil

Reports

President's Report – Ken Larkin

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of Wagga Hockey for the last 8 years. After being the Men's President in the late 90s I was given a great opportunity by the members, to come back and be a part of Wagga Hockey again.

This season was our first full season back after the previous 2 years being affected by COVID, something I don't think we would all like to go through again.

Despite being the first full season, we still had our challenges at the Board level. We had 3 vacant board positions for most of the season, Facilities Manager, Events Manager and Representative Manager. This placed a lot of stress on the board and meant that all board members took on additional tasks, to ensure we delivered a good winter competition.

Despite sometimes rubbing each other the wrong way, I believe we were able to deliver a solid season that we can all be very proud of.

A very big thank you from me to the current board for everything you did to make the season as successful as it was.

All board members will share their own reports on their respective portfolios, so I will leave it to them to share their own reports.

Highlights of the season for me were:

- Seeing a return of representative Indoor Hockey.
- Competing in all bar 1 age group at the HNSW State Championships
- Hosting a very successful Academy Games and HNSW Women's Masters Half State Championships.
- Conducting an all in one, Grand Final and Presentation Day.
- Having 4 players achieve state selection honours. They were Lachie Chyb, Andrew Woodgate and Michael Woodgate and Helen Lansdown.

Over the last 8 years through the management of a number of boards we have achieved many things. These include:

- Established and maintained solid working relations with our supporting partners (HNSW, Wagga Council, SSA, Wagga Touch, SIRU, State and Federal Govt members, as well as Tumut and Griffith Associations.
- Installed reverse cycle air conditioning in the club rooms.
- Replaced the ageing carpet in the clubrooms, along with updating table and chairs.
- Installed wifi in the clubrooms, canteen and the playing fields.
- Purchased and installed large TV to use for presentations etc.
- Installed safety nets on both fields for protection of the car park.
- With the support of council installed CCTV in both turfs, canteen and outside of the clubrooms.
- Purchase 2 additional portable grandstands for Paul field.
- Purchased additional equipment for the canteen, including Fryer, Bae Marie, Coffee Machine, Freezer (50per cent share with Touch), large fridge, sandwich maker and new cash register.
- Addressed safety concerns with power outlets in the canteen.
- Installed a bottle filling station near each of the fields.
- Replaced the shock pad and playing mat on Paul field.
- Repaired the nets in between both fields.
- Repaired both main grandstands on Paul field to address safety issues.
- With support of council, concreted the entrances to both synthetic fields.
- Constructed storage shed next to the canteen
- Purchased portable PA system.
- Installed additional bench seating around both synthetic fields.
- Replaced ageing goals on both synthetic fields.
- Provided lighting to container and safety lighting on both grandstands.
- Purchased and installed new LED scoreboards on both synthetic fields.
- Purchased and installed 2 defibs, for the clubrooms and the container.
- Completed a 3-5 year strategy which is now due for review
- Successful return of a hockey program into SSA
- Developed and replaced WWCHA representative uniform.
- Successfully hosted a number of State Championships.
- Replaced ageing BBQ

The Future

- The incoming Board is encouraged to set a new 3-5 year strategy clearly focusing on facility enhancement, player growth, officials development and growth in members participating as well as enhanced community engagement.

- Further work will need to be done on player attitude and respect awareness.

From a facilities perspective:

- Grandstands will reach they life's end in 1 year and will require replacement, Est cost \$40K for 2 x 40 capacity as a min.
- Full service of the water guns on Paul Field. Has not been completed for 10 years and estimated cost will be \$7K-\$8K.
- Continue to build funds towards replacing Noonan Field surface within the next 4-5 yrs. Council have committed to providing 50% of the cost with total cost for replacement estimated at \$500K.
- Maintain strong relationships with key supporting partners. HNSW will be an important one, given the structural overall that is being rolled out.
- Address volunteer burnout both at the board level and club level. Finding replacements will be a challenge in a world that is both challenging and constantly changing.
- Other associations are moving towards paid administrative positions to overcome volunteer shortage. This of course will place additional cost on members. This is something to consider.

Finally, I would like to wish the incoming board all the best for the coming year.

Additions

Recommend that the new Board do not publish their new strategic plan until Hockey NSW has finalised their strategy.

Treasurer's Report – Karen Boyd

Season 2022

The 2022 has been another successful year, with a successful championship.

Books currently being worked on by our bookkeeper. Profit and Loss report not to hand at time of this report but hopefully at meeting for next week.

Balances of accounts as of 19th November 2022

Account	\$
Cheque account	18,624.82
Cash reserve account	67,635.34
Term Deposit	100,183.68
MasterCard account	1,184.92
Fundraising account	15,317.95
Total	202,946.71

Overall profit for the year is \$25480.80. This may change slightly when books are finalised. This is mainly from canteen profits for Southern Sports Academy carnival and master's championship.

Large expenses where from Lighting costs, last payments for turf, council user pay fees, new Wi-Fi, installation, cost of new trophies, grand final day trophies and new BBQ and canteen equipment.

Consideration for competition for 2023.

- All board members should be allocating at start of year what they think their expenses will be for the season. All expenses over \$1000 (treasurers limit) need to be passed at a meeting. And this will make sure things aren't left to the last minute at end of season.
- Discussion and Allocation needs to be made for new perpetual trophies as a lot are missing, broken, or full.
- Uniforms – need to be ordered asap and getting short on skorts and shorts.
- Fundraising Account – \$10000 of this money is allocated for cementing of the path between both fields. Still waiting for news on 1 grant which is for the remaining money for cementing. \$3000 allocated for junior development raised in previous years by Kate Wickson for new gear.
- I suggest that our financial year date be changed back to December instead of October. Main reasons being the inclusion of our indoor comp, Australia Hockey fees now being different, and so that more time is given for all charges/payments to be made in the correct year. I.e. Still have outstanding umpire payments. Juniors umpire payments not allocated till after October.
- Term Deposit- I suggest movement of funds of \$50000 from Cash reserve be added to term deposit on renewal. This money is allocated for new turf on Noonan field in the future and further funds need to be raised.
- Fees – A good look at fees for 2023 season. Juniors and competition board members need to know what they want early on so that it can be included in the fee. Some fees have been set too early without this in mind.

This is my last year on the board. I came back to help this year and have not enjoyed it. I would say to anyone wanting to join the Wagga Hockey board then they need to consider what is involved. All positions take a lot of time. And if you don't have the time then things start unravelling. Also, you should join for the good of hockey and not for your own gain.

A lot of pressure was put on the board this year with things that have happened. All I can say is that there are rules for a reason. Usually, those rules were put in place because of something that was not right. Some rules are out of date. By having the rules updated with make a difference. And again, those rules should not be used for revenge for something you don't like.

Good luck to new board for the 2023 season. I hope you can increase our number to before covid...

Secretary's Report – Amy Smart

As some may recall from my last Board report in 2021, I put the call out for more assistance from clubs and players to make sure that our association members do not burn out. If I thought 2021 was a taxing year, 2022 put that to shame. With a very empty board and many expecting the association to run by itself, the amount of extra work on our plates seemed endless.

Despite this, 2022 was still a successful and productive season. At the start of the year we had a successful Indoor and Summer competition, with the fees set up and ready to go. Moving into the Winter season there were hiccups with the fees when a new 'feature' was released by Revolutionise. For those that did not play the Indoor competition, they were not impacted.

The website transformed into an information hub for those participating in the Representative Teams, especially Masters. Thank you for Helen Lansdown for driving the communication and providing newsletters to be shared on the website and via Social Media. This page has now been cleaned up in preparation for 2023.

The website was also updated with a new layout, added new forms, cleaned up the Agenda and Minutes pages, and modernised some policies and documents. Higher use of the Survey Monkey platform was also a good addition to the association.

This year we started utilising more features within Revolutionise, like Roster Management, Teams and Competitions, Events, Incident Reports, and Injury Reports. I highly recommend that the new Board and the Clubs familiarize themselves with these areas of the website as early as possible. It will make long term management much easier.

2023 Recommendations and Actions

Revolutionise is the central, nationalised system that Hockey NSW uses. I strongly recommend that all documentation regarding players, incidents, game records, umpire records, are maintained through this system. In doing so, players are less likely to have a bad experience with our systems, as well as protecting ourselves and other associations from being taken advantage of and manipulated by ill-intentioned players. This will also ensure that no matter who is sitting on the Board, they will have access to the historical records.

I will take this opportunity to remind the association and the clubs that Revolutionise resets in December 2022. Make sure you export any and all information to store in a safe, accessible location for future reference.

Ensure that a strong relationship is built and maintained with Hockey NSW. We are the voice of their members. Talk to them about your ideas and how the clubs and association run in reality. Work together to make the changes that you believe will improve the systems.

A new page has been created under the *Clubs* tab for [Club Support](#). I encourage the new Secretary to remind the incoming club executive that this page is here, and to update it with any other helpful information that becomes available.

Term 1 Fees are yet to be released, they will need to be added to our Payment Classes as soon as they are available. This will need to be done for the Wagga Wagga Combined components for Indoor and Summer Competitions, including a separate set with the affiliation fees for Griffith and Tumut.

The following items will need to be finalised early in the year. Please see the secretary handover file and Google Drive for more information.

- Rule Addition – Club Duty Fines
- WWCHA Constitution 2022 Update
- WWCHA Playing Rules Update
- WWCHA Strategic Plan for the next 5 years
- Create Payment Classes for all different competition types throughout the year

Final

2022 was my third year in the role of Secretary. The first two years were a rollercoaster thanks to COVID-19. I am very proud of the work that I have completed during my time on the Board, and I am very hopeful that this will be continued by the new Board in 2023. I am stepping down from the role, but I will be available to assist in any way that I can moving forward. I can confirm that the Role

Description on the website does not scratch the surface on what is involved in the role. I wish the new secretary and board the best of luck in the future.

Competition Report – Mel Chyb

2022 Season

2022 Hockey season started with a social comp that allowed players from all teams being mixed together to make up 4 teams and then played COD style hockey. This was described as a great way to meet and develop new relationships with players from other clubs and a great way to introduce our younger players looking to start in seniors in the winter competition.

The summer social comp finished off with a BBQ for all players which was a fun way to celebrate the end of the summer social competition. Thank you to all players who supported this competition.

The winter hockey season started for the men on the 30th April and the following weekend for the women. The women's competition was delayed due to 3 teams registering for division 1 and 5 for division 2. After multiple meetings and discussion, the women's competition went ahead with 4 teams in division 3, 5 teams in division 2, and 3 teams plus a made-up team from all clubs (Wagga United). This team was supposed to be made up of division 1 players from all four clubs with the division 1 competition played as 9 a side competition. Unfortunately, most of the players in this team were division 2 players happy to play a second game each week, or a game when they had a bye in division 2.

Once the competition got started the season ran relatively smoothly. There were several deferments and a couple of forfeits especially towards the middle of the season.

Both men's divisions were very competitive which made for a great season that came down to the last games before standings were decided including the grand finals.

The women's competition was very competitive also coming down to the last few games in the season and into the grand finals. There were also several deferments and forfeits in the middle of the season. A makeup round was scheduled during the July school holidays due to the delayed start for the women's competition.

The grand final day went well with positive feedback from all. Having presentation after each division seemed to run smoothly. One lesson learned is more time is required between the division 1 women and the division 1 men grand final for the other presentations to be completed. Having games and giveaways at halftime and between games got the kids involved and encouraged families to stay around and watch other finals.

Packham Cup was a great success after being restricted in the last few years due to covid. Originally, I had hoped to have a mixed and a female competition however we only received two entries for the women's competition. Luckily both these teams were happy to throw a few males into their teams and play in the mixed competition. Teams came from Young, Bega, and Tumut and several teams entered from Wagga. Kings and Queens led by Adam Boyd eventually took out the winner's title for Packham Cup 2022 and the wooden spoon (literally the wooden spoon) went to Not Fast, Just Fun led by Emma Pocock. Huge thanks to the Junior players that blew bubbles, ran prizes to players and were my general right and left hands for the day!

2023 Season

Start season on 25th March with a general bye on the 8th April due to Easter and 22nd April due to SSA carnival in Wagga.

Grand final Saturday 23rd September.

Recommendations for 2023 season

- Even team numbers in grades to make for a viable competition
- Teams have sufficient numbers for the competition and not playing short constantly
- Early request for deferments especially for university holidays, exams, school holidays and representative duties
- Easier early access for teams to defer due to large numbers of players lack of availability
- Quick 2 week turn around for deferment and rescheduling of deferred game
- Highlight players early that will struggle to make required number of games to be eligible for finals due to work/family commitments. We want players to play but we understand work/family life is also necessary and important!
- Limited availability is not a reason to play a person in two divisions when they are clearly too strong to play in the lower division
- Review rules around eligibility for finals to decrease the number of exemption requests
- Don't allow players to register late in the season if they are not going to be eligible for finals
- Exemption requests need to be detailed to give a clear picture of the reason for exemption
- Presidents of the clubs should not be involved in exemption decisions
- Nominations of teams and grades required before the 13th March
- Team lists required before 18th March
- 29th April Final team nominations. This gives clubs three weeks to sort out new players and what divisions they should be playing in to ensure each team has the correctly nominated team lists.

Officiating Report – Tamika White

Firstly, I would like to start off by thanking everyone who supported me during my first year on the board and those who stepped up and umpired throughout the 2022 season with the limited number of umpires we had.

This year WWCHA held the Academy Games as well as the HNSW Women's Masters half state championship. Both weekends were successful and a big thank you to our Wagga umpires who put their hand up to help umpire games, they really stepped up and went above and beyond in representing our association and helping other associations out with many umpiring duties.

We had Zeke Newman from HNSW run an umpiring information session on the weekend of the Academy Games to go over all the new rule changes and interpretations. We had a great turn out of both seniors and juniors at this session and we thank Zeke for his time and effort to help us out.

This year it was really good to see the amount of junior players wanting to give umpiring a go within our junior competition with hope that we will end up with some strong umpires coming through in the future to our senior competition.

Wagga currently has dwindling umpire numbers. One of the key factors that is contributing to our umpires stepping down or not wanting to umpire our games has been the behaviour of players on and off field. Even while we have been trying to promote umpire and player behaviour as a core issue, it only appears to get worse. This is a concern for the board and must be addressed at club level and by the incoming board members for 2023.

Umpiring is not an easy job at times, but our games cannot be played without a umpires.

Whilst this year has been a busy season and I've enjoyed my time on the board, I will be stepping down from my position as Officiating manager. I would like to wish the incoming board all the best for the 2023 season.

Club Championship:

Men: Harlequins

Women: Royals

Representative Report – Nil

Development Report – Nathan Szymanski

The 2022 season got off to a good start with two come and try days held on 31 March 2022 and 21 April 2022. These sessions attracted around 30 new players to the association, but mainly at the Little Flickers, Joey and under 11 age groups.

This year was the first year in the past 3 years where a full season was run. This consisted of a 15 round competition for U11, U13 and U16 age brackets, with a finals series run for the U16 age group (2 round only). The U11 and U16 age groups contained 4 teams in both age groups. Unfortunately, we experienced a downturn in the number of players in the U13 age group, with insufficient numbers to field more than 2 teams. It is understood this is on the back of a downturn some years ago in the U11s competition which is now flowing through.

For the U13 competition, consideration was given towards running a 7 or a 9 a side competition, however this was not deemed to be in the best interests of development. Accordingly each week the registered players were separated into two teams and games were held each week. Opportunities for those players who were in the U16 age bracket, but relatively new to hockey were provided to play a second game in the U13s competition for development purposes.

It was extremely positive to see the number of junior players offering to umpire games in the younger age brackets. This needs to be nurtured moving forwards to make certain we have a strong cohort of umpires moving through the ranks.

We appear to have a strong number of coaches for the U13 and U16 teams, however coaches for the U11 and Joeys were down this year – there needs to be more focus on using U16 players for coaching U11s, supported by more senior coaches. Coach availability for training sessions was also down and most weeks we scrambled to have sufficient coaches.

Lessons learned and advice for 2023:

1. Early engagement with schools to entice children to hockey to boost numbers
2. Early advertisement for commencement of the competition
3. Consideration put towards a Club managing an U16 team as a trial towards senior teams managing U16 teams
4. Consideration towards an U18 competition to booster the junior competition
5. The current format of training sees a mix of experienced and inexperienced players – consider separating into various skills levels (this depends on Coach availability)
6. Inclusion of clubs supporting training for Joeys was seen as a positive, however we need a single coach to lead these sessions

Facilities Report – Phil Stone

My report will be short and sweet.

Ken has covered the past 8 years of facilities updates.

The latest this season being the installation of Wi-Fi to our club room, canteen and further extending to our playing fields, the concreting to our field entrances and further requests for funding to have the area Infront of **the wall of knowledge** also concreted.

This year saw a massive improvement from all clubs assisting with field duties. Thank you to all board members, players and volunteers that were involved in keeping our fields clean and safe this season.

I'll be stepping down from this position next season but will be around to assist and help where I can.

Thank you for the previous seasons and I wish our future Board exec all the best for the upcoming seasons.

All Positions declared open

Nominations

Position	2022 Member	Nomination 1	Nomination 2	2023 Member
President	Ken Larkin	-	-	VACANT
Secretary	Amy Smart	-	-	VACANT
Treasurer	Karen Boyd	-	-	VACANT
Competitions	Mel Chyb	-	-	VACANT
Development	Nathan Szymanski	-	-	VACANT
Representative	VACANT	-	-	VACANT
Events	VACANT	Liz Cronin		Liz Cronin
Officiating	Tamika White	-	-	VACANT
Facilities (Maintenance)	Phil Stone	-	-	VACANT
Facilities (Development)	Ken Larkin	-	-	VACANT

Canteen Manager	Karen Boyd and Amy Smart	-	-	VACANT
First Aid Officer		Lara Laurent		Lara Laurent
Men Masters				VACANT
Women Masters				VACANT

President:

- Caretaker attending strategic meetings and council discussions until the last week of January 2023.

Discussion

- It has been 8 Years without a full board
- Other Associations have turned to Recruitment of Administration
 - o Since members are not willing to volunteer in these roles, do we need to consider charging higher fees to pay for an Administrator
- Timeframe:
 - o Clubs have until next meeting on 9th January 2023, then 30th January 2023 to fill the roles of the board
 - o 5 members from each club to attend those meetings. Emphasis that there will no hockey next year if these roles are not filled
- Speak to HNSW/Revo about clearing email addresses when players re-register.
- Charmain thanked the Board for their work this year.

General Business

Meeting closed: 8:32pm

Next Meeting: 9th January 2023

Ken Larkin (President / Chairperson)

Amy Smart (Secretary / Minute Taker)