

## Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, 5 October 2015



### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: Lisa Asbury, Sandra Grobbe

Present : Bryan Wee, Marcus Jones, Daniel Gilbertson, Cathy Steere, Brittany Dela Cruz, Brett Pullyblank

### 2. Review Previous Minutes & Outstanding Actions (Planning Meeting)

Vic Health Grant not eligible. Essendon documentation is done.

Holden grant the rough video is done.

Contact has been made with Emailed Melbourne University Polo Club re a schools program but we have not had a response yet.

We need another fund raiser and an extra \$50.00 to subsidise some fund raising.

Increased membership: We could run a 'Bring a Friend Meeting' or a Talent Identification Day 10 km circle. In order to do so we need to contact schools. We need to form a Sub Committee, ask Jo, Alex, Jules, Michelle Stellini, set up proposal letter, talk to Darren mini budget, ID schools, program development, timing. Flyers to swim centres. Once a week.

30 Year bathes, need to investigate drink bottles and caps minimum orders

Check with Rohan O'Donoghue for sponsorship

### 3. Office Bearer Report

#### 3.1. President

#### 3.2. Vice President

Went to Vic Polo AGM, Juniors discussion occurred, John Mason made a life member. New board members Peter Evans, Fiona Hutton, Matt Lea to full member. Call for assistance with the competitions committee.

#### 3.3. Secretary

Oak Park Development

Would be good to have input to get a water polo specific pool.

We need to put a submission for a competition venue and a club room. No reasonable venue this side of the bridge. We train 3 times a week, senior and junior venues

VU bookings for 2016 (Same as this year) **Left with Darren and Cathy**

Sub Junior Entries 12 mixed, 14 girls.

Suggested changes to Sub-Junior rules

Either 13 players per team, or for two teams from the same clubs to share players (concern here is what happens when the two teams are scheduled to play one another, or the "shared" athletes have back to back games)

We do not agree with sharing of players. Opens a Pandora's box.

Retaining 7 players in the pool (6 field, 1 goalie)

As Nationals play with 6 we should adopt the same format as soon as possible.

Subject to numbers facilitating a Girls U12 competition by either creating composite teams where clubs do not have enough numbers to create their own team, or possibly running the U12 Girls competition as a series of scratch matches with team selected on the day from the participants who turn up (I understand previous attempts at this resulted in the competition failing as not enough girls remained committed to keep competition viable, so clubs would need to work to ensure this did not occur)

We back composite teams with the option to play girls only games as an addition to the current format.

Removing scoring to put the focus more on fun and development (I have added this in as an additional measure given some of what I witnessed during last year's U12's). Removing the scoreboard encourages kids to try things and understand it is OK to make a mistake (if the score is really important to individuals they will keep score in their head anyway), it also encourages parents to focus on the fun and development aspects. This approach aligns with the WPA talent development model. I am happy to look at scheduling a U12 weekend carnival whereby clubs could enter their most competitive teams (U12 State Championships).

We are strongly opposed to the concept of removing scoring

A new club is starting in Ballarat

(Can we spare some gear for Ballarat as they are starting a club) Offering 1 set of caps, goals and a workshop with Blake/Darren. We can also offer the club as a pathway.

Referee Feedback, Darren very keen for refs and coaches to sit down to go through scenarios rather than putting in an email. Senior ref overruling rather than saying yes I saw the mistake

We need a stocktake and we need more balls.

3.4. Treasurer

Not Available

3.5. Vic Polo Delegate

3.6. Essendon Football Club Inc.

Information sent, Darren should go into the Ron Evans grant.

World tour cap

4. Merchandise

Team managers get access to Facebook and twitter.

5. Fundraising

Wine Raffle, Christmas BBQ breakup, Sun 13th. Oldies v kids. Photoshoot, speed gun

6. New Business

7. Next meeting November 9th

Dear Clubs

During the general discussion that followed at the conclusion of the AGM on Monday night a question was asked about the rules for the U12 competition, specifically the rules around team numbers (11 players per team, 5 field players and 1 goalie in the water) as this would limit the number of children who could be involved and make it difficult for some clubs who may not then have enough participants for two teams but too many just for one team.

The ensuing discussion explored the possibility of making the U12 competition more about participation (getting more kids in the water and having it more about enjoying themselves and learning the skills of the game than winning), this then led to the possibility of “softening” the rules for the U12 to allow:

- Either 13 players per team, or for two teams from the same clubs to share players (concern here is what happens when the two teams are scheduled to play one another, or the “shared” athletes have back to back games)
- Retaining 7 players in the pool (6 field, 1 goalie)
- Subject to numbers facilitating a Girls U12 competition by either creating composite teams where clubs do not have enough numbers to create their own team, or possibly running the U12 Girls competition as a series of scratch matches with team selected on the day from the participants who turn up (I understand previous attempts at this resulted in the competition failing as not enough girls remained committed to keep competition viable, so clubs would need to work to ensure this did not occur)
- Removing scoring to put the focus more on fun and development (I have added this in as an additional measure given some of what I witnessed during last year’s U12’s). Removing the scoreboard encourages kids to try things and understand it is OK to make a mistake (if the score is really important to individuals they will keep score in their head anyway), it also encourages parents to focus on the fun and development aspects. This approach aligns with the WPA talent development model. I am happy to look at scheduling a U12 weekend carnival whereby clubs could enter their most competitive teams (U12 State Championships).

As the clubs who participate in the competition I am now seeking your feedback, there appeared to be unanimous agreement in principle amongst those present on Monday night. I need to know what restrictions need to be in place from your point of view and whether you support these concepts. In addition I also need to know the number of teams and athletes from your club that are likely to be involved so that we can get a feel from a pool scheduling point of view.

In addition to the above I would also like to advise you that WPV is looking to promote good sportsmanship and as such will be requiring the U12’s to line up on the pool deck before a game, shake the hands of the referees and the opposition, and in addition we would like it to be encouraged that the teams meet in the middle of the pool at the end of the game and shake hands again. I would also appreciate Clubs encouraging ALL parents to clap and cheer ALL of the athletes at this level, not just their own kids.

We need to remember that at this age these are kids who play because they want to have fun and make new friends. If their first real exposure to the sport is ultra-competitive and they are not given the opportunity to just enjoy it we will struggle to retain them in the sport.

If you can follow this up with the relevant people in your clubs (coaches/team managers/parents) and get back to me by 30 September I would appreciate it.

The U14 competition will remain competitive, but still with a focus on fun and skill development.