



MINUTES

NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE FORUM
held
BRIGHTON BEACH NOVOTEL HOTEL
Brighton-le-Sands NSW

SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 2011 AT 10.00AM.

AGENDA 1 WELCOME

Chairman, Warren Hawtin, declared the meeting open at 10.05am and welcomed Delegates and observers.

AGENDA 2 ROLL CALL

Those present

REPRESENTING	DELEGATE	VOTES
Brisbane Barracudas	Tony Young	2
KFC Queensland Breakers	Jordan Votan	2
Hunter Hurricanes	Mick O'Brien	2
Sydney University Lions	Greg Turner	2
Balmain Tigers	Alex Sutton	2
UNSW Wests	Ray Swinnerton	1
Cronulla Sharks	Chris Brooks	2
Drummoyne Devils	Michael Hahn	2
UNSW Killer Whales	Peppi Kearney	1
Victorian Tigers	Ian Jones	2
Adelaide Jets	Mark Dayman	2
Fremantle	Damian Kelly	2
Uni WA	Doug McGhie	2
NWPL Chairman	Warren Hawtin	1
Australian Water Polo	Chris Harrison	1
OBSERVERS		
National Women's Coach	Greg McFadden	
NWPL Commission	Danielle Woodhouse	
NWPL Commission	Stephen O'Keefe	
NWPL Commission	Suzie Fraser	
NWPL Commission	Mark Grooby	
Referees Commission	Michael Defina	
OFFICERS		
NWPL General Manager	Peter Hobday	

AGENDA 3 APOLOGIES

John Fox - National Men's Coach
John Whitehouse - Secretary General
Noel Harrod - NWPL Commissioner elect

AGENDA 4 FINANCIAL STATUS OF TEAMS/CLUBS

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that whilst all clubs had not met their financial obligations for 2011 season arrangements to resolve this situation was in hand.

AGENDA 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF NWPL FORUM MEETING HELD 8 AUGUST 2010

Moved Greg Turner, seconded Jordan Votan, "that the minutes from the meeting of 8 August 2010 be taken as read"

CARRIED Unanimously

AGENDA 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

AGENDA 7 ELECTION OF NWPL COMMISSIONER

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that Stephen O'Keefe was the retiring NWPL Clubs' Elected Commissioner. Mr Noel Harrod has been elected.

The Chairman thanked Steve for his contribution during his term as a Commissioner.

The current AWPI nominated Commissioners are Suzie Fraser and, following John Birch's resignation, Mark Grooby has been nominated by the AWPI Board to take his position effective immediately.

The Chairman acknowledged the role John Birch had played as a Commissioner since the inception of the Commission.

AGENDA 8 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

The National Women's Coach addressed the meeting and thanked the clubs for their cooperation in acquiescing to the National Coaches' requests for time out to conduct national team training camps.

Greg asked that the meeting consider home and away game draws being determined by penalty shootout.

He urged the meeting to consider making the format of the finals series as competitive as possible.

8.1 Report by AWPI CEO on NWPL Review

Warren Hawtin and Chris Harrison outlined the process which had been followed following the receipt of the Review by ASC, Jackie Fairweather.

After the report had been received in January, it was presented to the AWPI Board which found the report to be much broader than the original Terms of Reference. The NWPL Review Panel was asked to extract the sections which related directly to the NWPL and to

report back to the AWPI Board. This has now been achieved, with the report to be referred back to the ASC for finalisation.

There will be no changes to the NWPL format or structure flowing from the report in the 2012 season.

Several attendees expressed their concern that the process had taken too long and that the people who gave their input now feel disenfranchised by the length of time taken to release the report.

Delegates urged that the report be made freely available to the league after it has been finalised.

8.2 Financial Report

Peter Hobday tabled the accounts from the season 2011 and noted that the cost of participation of each team was very close to budget.

The budget for 2011 was tabled and noted.

There was discussion on the opportunities that the league presented to potential sponsors. It was generally agreed that a sponsorship package be put together to be marketed to potential sponsors.

Chris Harrison undertook to ask Dave Lyall to put together a sponsorship package.

8.3 Draw and Finals Series

Peter Hobday reported he had received some feedback on the draft draw released as a result of requests from the National Coaches, and urged clubs who had any difficulty with the draw to advise him by email as soon as possible.

After discussion, it was moved Michael Hahn and seconded Mick O'Brien that "All games, except the Semi finals and Medal games, that finish in a tie after normal time will be decided by a penalty shootout, limited to 5 shots, and if after those 5 shots the score is still tied, the game will be declared a draw". Carried

It was agreed by the meeting that the finals series be modified to reflect that the teams which finished on the bottom of the ladder after the finals series round robin will play for 5th and 6th places, and the Semi finals be conducted in a crossover format between the four remaining teams. This means that by playing two round robin games on the first day, the series will be reduced to four days. The question was raised as to whether the series could then be played Thu/Fri/Sat/Sunday. Peter Hobday was asked to liaise with the National Coaches and SOPAC, and report back to the Clubs.

8.4 Finals costs equalisation submitted by UWA

Doug McGhie moved and spoke to the motion from last year's Forum that the finals series equalisation which sees all clubs/teams contribute to the subsidy of the interstate teams competing in the finals series be rescinded. This would have the effect of the cost of the subsidy to interstate teams competing in the finals series paid for only by those teams in the finals series. The motion was seconded by Mark Dayman.

The motion was lost by a show of hands.

After further discussion, Michael Hahn moved, seconded by Greg Turner, "that the amount paid by all teams towards the interstate teams' finals subsidy be capped at \$1500". Carried.

8.5 Review of the Operations Manual

Peter Hobday led the meeting through changes to the Operations Manual, expressing the need to make the presentation of the game as professional as possible.

Major changes covered

- Sections 3 & 13 - teams to appoint a Media Liaison person
- Section 4 - details relating to the conduct of games strengthened
 - inclusion of the All Stars games
- Section 5 - introduction of game delegates through the Referees Commission
- Section 6 - minor changes to import status
- Section 7 - unfinished games to be adjudicated on by the Commission at the end of the home and away games
- Section 8 - changes to the finals series
- Section 11 - clarification of protest procedures
- Section 12 - changes to the process of air travel
- Appendix 2 - inclusion of National Id on registration forms
- Appendix 6 - on-line results entry
- Appendix 7 - game delegate checklist

AGENDA 9

CLOSE OF MEETING

Warren Hawtin thanked the Delegates for their attendance, and thanked them for their contribution.

Meeting closed 2.30 pm