



Photo: Alantha Abey Quidditch Photography



**QUIDDITCH
AUSTRALIA**

Quidditch Australia's 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes



Quidditch Australia's 2020 AGM

Minutes

Date: 22. 11. 2020

Location: Google Hangouts

Attendance:

Team Representatives

Kathryn Cooper, Quidditch NSW

Manon te Riele, South Melbourne Quidditch Club

Arfy Papadam, Greater Southern Quidditch Clubs

Claire Smith, University of Sunshine Coast Quidditch Club

Amber Williams, Valkyries Quidditch Club

Thomas Willingham, ANU Quidditch Club

Emma Glancy, University of Sydney Quidditch Club

Charlie Sims, University of Newcastle Quidditch Club

Joseph Dodd, Queensland Association of Quidditch

Maria Laura Carol Villavedra, Macquarie Marauders

Jasmine Robinson, South West Quidditch Club

Matt Blissenden, Eastern Sydney Universities

Mark Kelly, Victorian Quidditch Association

Ava McConnell, North Sydney Nightmares



James Horne, Monash Muggles Quidditch Club

Rebecca Robb, Sydney City Serpents

General Members

Eleonora Leopardi

Justine Herring

Phillip Vankerkoerle

Claire Smith

Chloe Bridle

Taylor Angelo

Claire Smith

Luke Derrick opened the meeting at 7:26pm (AEDT)

Acknowledgement of Country

Luke Derrick: Welcome. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we all meet, and their connection to land, culture and water. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Mathew Blissenden moves a motion to allow team representatives and current and newly elected board members to speak at the AGM.

Phillip Vankerkoerle seconds the motion

Yes: 12

No: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion passes



Luke Derrick: While we are here please keep on mute, use the polls for voting other than elections, use Q&A function for questions, which board members are monitoring, and use the hand raise function for discussions.

Luke Derrick moves a motion to make Nicola Gertler Deputy Chairperson

Matthew Blissenden seconds the motion

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Apologies and leaves of Absence

No apologies or leaves of absence

Minutes of the previous meeting

Luke Derrick moves the motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM

Matthew Blissenden seconds the motion

Yes: 13

No: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion passes

Business arising from the previous meetings

Jamie Turbet speaks about Quidditch Australia's progress towards Sports Australia recognition

This year we made steady progress towards our application. We had hoped to submit our application by the end of year but due to COVID-19 they are not accepting applications until



April-July 2021. Most of our efforts have gone towards our strategic plan, which I will talk about later. We have also been investigating a new membership system which we hope to implement at the beginning of 2021. Most other criteria we already fulfil, it's just a matter of writing it up.

Kathryn Cooper: What impacts with sports recognition have to state policy?

Jamie Turbet: I will do proper research and get back to you within the next month, but off the top of my head you might have to make some policies around anti-doping, referring and coaching. The biggest impact will be grants though, you will be able to apply for grants you previously were not eligible for.

Presidents report

Luke Derrick delivers the Presidents report

2020 has been a year of unparalleled difficulty for Quidditch Australia. 2019 was a positive year with growth across multiple states and a full exec for the first time in a long time. 2020, however, experienced many issues which are unparalleled in the history of Quidditch Australia. Many of our members have not been able to train for the majority of this year, let alone playing a game or attending a tournament. Our membership numbers are down in regards to both members and teams and therefore our income is also down. Unfortunately, the Dropbears aspiration of winning back the gold has been put on hold till at least 2022 which is unfortunate for all of those players who were selected. 2020 has been a sad year for quidditch in Australia as well as the rest of the world.

However, I believe we have done a great job considering the circumstances we were provided with. The board has handled this year with grace and understanding, copping some criticism for our choice to put the safety of our players first. Though quidditch was mostly cancelled, the board kept working, trying our best to bring you up to date information, policies and decisions which affected training, games and events throughout the year. Though QU AFL, state shield and many state leagues have had to be cancelled this year, quidditch has survived and we have a bright future on the horizon. We have managed to stay safe, avoiding any COVID outbreaks in the community which would have been disastrous publicity for the sport.

Many of these successes come down to the work of our volunteers. AJ did amazing work on our Covid-19 policies as well as our media through the year. Alistair has done great work communicating with event organisers in order to try and keep our options open as long as



possible for 2020 QUAFL and State Shield and has already begun investigating locations for these events in 2021. Scott has managed to stay on top of an ever changing membership list and showed, through his work at QUAFL 2019, that he can organise and make sure Quidditch Australia merchandise can be sold. Kelsey has been working closely with the gameplay board to create new policies for refereeing and snitching for the new year as well as moving towards implementing the new rulebook. Jamie and Nicola both have their own reports after mine, so I will leave them to talk about their own achievements, but they have both done amazing work this year and it is only with their effort that our year has gone how it has. The board as a whole has also worked to make sure that all of our members are safe and healthy during this time, as well as working to streamline actions and communications between state bodies and the board itself.

Quidditch has a chance to move forward and emerge out of COVID better than before. We have shown as a community that we can survive a pandemic, an incredible achievement. I can't wait to see the quidditch community move back towards our normal schedule and I know it will be just as successful as it was before.

Lastly, I want to say thankyou to all of our members. You have stuck with us through this year and we thank you all for doing that. We hope to be able to provide you more next year and hope that if this ever happens again, the board will be ready and prepared to support you all as much as possible. Thankyou for giving us your continued support.

Treasurers report

Nicola Gertler delivers the Treasurer's report

We closed the 2020 Financial Year with a balance of \$31,214.55. This report was published by AJ earlier in the year within the mid year reports. On the 1st of July 2020 we paid \$18,292.85 in insurance. Other than this outflow, we have had small membership income and outflow. Currently we have \$14,048.05 AUD across our two accounts. This is a good current amount in our account thanks to the success of 2019 events even with the struggles of 2020. Without the potential Dropbears expenditure in 2021 as we are now looking at a 2022 or 2023 World Cup, I believe we will be able to move sustainably into the 2021 season and be able to fund our events and further insurance payments as well as consider funds to be attributed to new initiatives as I spoke about at the 2019 AGM which was planned for this past year, such as NSO recognition, gender engagement, referee development, coaching development, and more.



Secretary's report

Jamie Turbet delivers the Secretary's report

Most of my work this year has revolved around the strategic plan. It started with the strategic forum we hosted in February which gave us the foundations of the plan. We then published a draft, gathered feedback and held 6 online forums to get further input. We are hoping to get the plan done by the end of the year, if not then by February when I plan on hosting the next strategic forum.

My other work surrounded reviewing our policies and constitutional amendments. I was hoping to have them done by the end of the year, but I was unable to do this, so I will be aiming for the year. My goals are to review our policies, especially extreme weather policies, as well as clean up our constitution, make it more practical and in line with NSW Fair Trade.

I also oversaw the dropbear process this year, which took a disappointing turn with the cancellation of the event. We did however try to make improvements from the 2018 process, like improving gender inclusion and our uniform supplier.

Manon te Reile: Why are we online bringing the constitution in line with NSW Fair trade?

Jamie Turbet: We are incorporated with NSW. With our NSO recognition efforts we will be moving to a CLG, which is national.

Kathryn Cooper: Do we have the link to any Warner Brothers deals that would affect sponsorships?

Ajantha Abey: IQA has spoken to them, nothing was decided. Warner brothers might say something - but there is nothing at this point in time. There are plans to move away from the name quidditch but nothing has been decided.

Joe Dodd: Are we going to sell the DB merch and uniforms or are we going to save them for the next world cup?



Jamie Turbet: That is not something that the board has properly discussed yet, but I would say we would save it for next year.

Motions of notice

Nicola Gertler reads out the motion to nominate Ajantha Abey for a Quidditch Australia Life Membership

"Ajantha has made a substantial contribution to the Quidditch Australia board, the wider media representation of Quidditch Australia, and countless hours he has spent as a community member of USYD Quidditch Club, QNSW and Quidditch Australia."

Nicola Gertler: He's done a great job as a board member and member of the community - his contribution to the QA community has gone above and beyond what any individual could expect - I think making him a life member is a good way to acknowledge this.

Kathryn Cooper: I agree, he does lots of behind the scenes and doesn't ask for acknowledgement

Arfy Papadam: I agree, you've been great, as someone who also does some admin work I understand the effort and mental anguish, thanks on behalf of the weasleys

Emma Glancy: Usyd is the club it is because of AJ, thank you for what you've done.

Kathryn Cooper: Watching AJ put in effort almost immediately, he jumped in straight away to help out and to get usyd as big as we can, 3 teams after lots of people left. Wholeheartedly agree.

Matthew Blissenden seconded the motion

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes



Elections

Due to the completion of the terms of Ajantha Abey, Nicola Gertler and Jamie Turbet there are three vacancies to the board. We have received two nominations from:

- Nicola Gertler
- Jamie Turbet

Nicola Gertler makes her election speech

Nicola Gertler: I have been a part of the quidditch Australia board now for two years and have really enjoyed my term, and I would like to stay on for two more years. I'm sure most people are aware of my long history of volunteering and involvement in quidditch over the past eight years so I won't go into it further. I am interested in continuing my role as treasurer. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my role as director of Quidditch Australia.

Jamie Turbet makes her election speech

Jamie Turbet: Well I've already told you what I have done this year and last, so I'll focus on what I plan to do in the next two years. My main focus will be the strategic plan and to ensure its longevity. So getting it started, setting the motions in place and ensure new boards will be able to keep the plan going.

Nicola Gertler and Jamie Turbet

General Business

Kathryn Cooper: I just wanted to bring up something discussed with state bodies with merging QA with state bodies - more incorporated - wanted to note if there was any further discussion on that, how will we move forward?

Luke Derrick: We had a meeting and decided there weren't many benefits to merging, talked about what was beneficial, aligning policies such as complaints - but not merging organisations which is not what people wanted. Currently collecting all constitutions - see what can be unified - and unify everyone onto slack to improve communication

Ajantha Abey: Notes for that meeting are on the website

Joe Dodd: I just want to bring up that I know myself and some other dropbears would appreciate a jersey or some sort of memorabilia for the fact that we were selected for the 2020 squad.



Nicola Gertler: We can look into that. But please don't share dropbear jerseys if you were able to see the designs. We did pay for them and would like the opportunity to eventually use them.

Matthew Blissenden moved the motion to allow all members to speak

Arfy Papadam seconded the motion

Yes: 15

No: 1

Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Matthew Ingram: What is your favourite pizza topping?

Luke Derrick: BBQ Mayo

Luke Derrick closed the meeting at 8:16pm (AEDT)