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**QUIDDITCH
AUSTRALIA**

Quidditch Australia 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Jamie Turbet

Secretary



Quidditch Australia's April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 9 December 2021

Location: Google Meet

Present:

Nicola Gertler (Chair)	Rebecca Robb	Lachlan Ward (Sydney City Serpents)
Jamie Turbet (secretariat)	Luke Derrick	Ava McConnell (North Sydney Nightmares)
Matthew Blissenden	Logan Davis (ANU Quidditch Club)	Cameron Walker (Eastern Sydney Universities Quidditch Club)
Kelsey Collins	Mark Kelly (Victorian Quidditch Association)	Maria Laura Carol Villavedra (Macquarie Marauders)
Alistair Yap	Jasmine Robinson (Horntails Quidditch Club)	Kaysanne Hockey (Queensland Association of Quidditch)
Scott Palmer	Michelle Talledo (Monash Muggles)	Lara Griffin (Melbourne Manticores)
Brandon Frison	Benjamin Davis (USC Quidditch Club)	Amber Williams (Valkyries Quidditch Club)
Harrison Jones	Charlie Sims (University of Newcastle Quidditch Club)	Justine Herring (South Melbourne QC)
Katalin Kara (USQC)	Yukitoshi Imaizumi-Zhou (Quidditch NSW)	Courtney Buckley
Kim Govier		

Meeting Opened: 8:03pm by Luke Derrick



LD said due to the fact I am running in this years election it is unconstitutional for myself to be the chair of this meeting. Nicola Gertler will chair in my place.

NG welcomes all members to the 2021 AGM.

Acknowledgement of country

NG gives an acknowledgement of country.

Apologies

JT confirms no apologies were received for the 2021 AGM.

Minutes from previous meeting

MV moved the motion to accept the minutes of the 2020 AGM.

AM seconds the motion.

Yes: 13

Abstain: 1

The motion passes.

NSO Update

JT reported in 2020 QA started pursuing National Sporting Organisation recognition, meaning we would be recognised as a legitimate sport in Australia. This would bring a few benefits such as legitimacy in the sporting community and access to many more grant opportunities.

Our goal was to submit our application in June 2020, however due to COVID Sports Australia was not accepting any applications until 2021.

In June they announced their revised requirements with the intention of opening applications in July. There was delays, but in August I found their form on the website and submitted. This is what I reported at the SGM.



Since the SGM I was contacted by Sports Australia who said the form was an accident and they weren't intending to accept submissions. They would however keep ours on file for when they review them.

I contacted them again in November to inquire about progress and was told our application will no longer be kept on file and I must resubmit when applications are open. I do not know when this will be, but I am assuming it is after Christmas.

This is obviously disappointing, but we have our application ready to go once they do open submissions. Hopefully by the end of 2022 we will have our NSO recognition.

Another key component to this effort is becoming a CLG, which Matt has led. This has also become delayed somewhat due to some forms that need to be submitted to NSW Fair Trading, where we are currently registered, and a few different processes from the ASIC that we need to. We are on track to become a CLG by the end of this financial year, and it will not delay our NSO application as we just need to show we are making progress towards it.

Dropbears memorabilia

SP reported: the plan is for all players and management to receive a training shirt in recognition of their achievements.

JH asked why the agenda item constitutional review was skipped?

NG apologises and invites MB to report on the constitutional review.

CLG Constitutional Review

MB reported the CLG constitution has been supplied to a lawyer, who will review it when they can. They also noted any legal issues that arise would be picked up by the ASIC. There are unlikely to be any issues.

JH noted there are references to hockey in pages 13 and 17. Has this been fixed?

MB confirmed that the issue has been updated for the lawyer.



Presidents report

LD reported 2021 has been a tough year for all of us. Covid, lockdowns, cancelled tournaments. It all feels the same as last year. Cause it was, pretty much the same. This year has been such a hard year to handle both physically and mentally. It felt like we were coming out of the dark days. It felt like we were finally going to get back to quidditch and then it was all taken away from us. I don't know what else to say but it sucked.

However, throughout this time there has been an amazing effort from the Quidditch community to continue to enjoy our amazing sport. Whether it was articles and Facebook posts, or most recently open trainings and quickly organised tournament days, the community has shown that their love for this sport cannot be stopped by a world stopping pandemic. The state boards have done amazing work keeping their state running and have quickly jumped on the opportunities afforded to them by the lessening of restrictions occurring over the last few months. Every one of us who are still here and involved should be commended for our resilience.

I would also like to thank the Quidditch Australia board for their time and effort throughout this time. Every single one of them has worked incredibly hard to serve the community in any way they can. Quidditch Australia would not be where it is today without their hard work and their passion for this sport that we all care about. I just want to say to them that I am sorry they did not get a chance for a normal year and I hope they do get that chance in the future.

This year had some success, such as applying for NSO recognition and getting back playing over the last few months, but we lost Quafl and State Shield for the 2nd year in a row. Its hard to judge accurately but the membership numbers do seem to have dipped down slightly which is unfortunate but not unexpected with Covid. Was this our best year, no. But I strongly believe that we did the best that we could in these unprecedented time.

However, we can come out of this better than we ever have been before. To do this, we need to now, more than ever, lean on the passion of our community, the strength of their spirits and their love of quidditch. More than anything we need that passion to maintain the sport and start us back on the path of growth we were experiencing before these hard times. If you do one thing moving into 2022, I ask you to please share your love of quidditch. Share your passion and your enjoyment to anybody who will listen.

Thankyou for sticking with us through 2021. I am so looking forward to 2022 and I hope you are to.

Treasurers Report

NG reported due to COVID19 no major financial activities took place as our two Quidditch Australia hosted events were cancelled. Our bulk of income was \$20 160 in membership fees, and our biggest expenditure was our insurance payment at \$18 292. 85.



A full report is attached here.



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Secretary's report

JT reported NSO has taken up a big chunk of my time, but another notable activity to report is the work of the Governance committee which I oversee.

With the great work of Nic Radoll we have updated all our player safety policies. This includes first aid, concussion policy and extreme weather policies. It is important all event organisers familiarise themselves with these policies as it will change how tournaments are run. It will be available on our website from tomorrow. Any questions can be directed to me. I'll not answer any questions here as I don't have the policies in front of me and I don't want to cause any confusion.

I have also acted as the QA IQA delegate, which has involved attending their AGM and Special Assembly. Some notable updates are the Continental games – Ireland and either Peru/Brazil. WC 2023 dates are being worked on. There will also be an NGB committee for the rulebook that QA will need to send a representative to. They basically work on new changes to the rule book.

Motion 1: To vote Arfy Papadam as a life member

NG reads the motion for all members.

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Motion 2: To vote Gen Middleton as a life member

NG reads the motion for all members.

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes



Elections

AW proposed the motion to allow all individual members to speak and participate during the election.

The motion is seconded by AM

Yes: 13

No: 1

Abstain: 2

AW's motion passes

NG reminds all members the election is only to ask questions of the candidate and everyone must abide by Quidditch Australia's code of conduct.

Alistair Yap

AY said the past two years as events director has been difficult due to the inability to host events. I would like the same position to continue work in events. I have commenced looking for next years QUAFL and SS venues as well as Quidcamp. I am looking forward to next year!

AM asked: what would be the one project you would like to complete at the end of your term?

AY answered a streamlined events registration process as well as a successful SS and QUAFL. An integrated quidditch calendar for states and clubs would also be good.

Brandon Frison

BF said I am excited to go into gameplay and move the game forward. I have a good reach with the community.

CW asked what direction should quidditch be moving to?

BF said the focus should be on development again. We need to get people ready for play, and coaches are ready to support players.

JH asked what other positions/experience do you have?

BF answered I don't have much experience but I'm eager to get involved. I will be seeking help and learning as I go.



LDs asked do you have any admin background or experience that would be helpful?

BF answered I have four years experience as a supervisor and two years experience as head manager. I am keen to get involved.

AM asked what is one single event or object you would like to see QA run that would achieve your goals?

BF answered a replacement for quidcamp. Travel will be hard. Work up a plan for coaches to operate in each state that will help coaches develop players. I would like to see something that will be permanent. This introduces new players in a noncompetitive environment.

MB asked what do you see as the relationship between QA and QNSW?

BF answered working together. QA should not be in charge of states, but provide guidelines that are agreed upon from both parties. It will be good to collaborate moving forward.

Harrison Jones

HJ said I wanted to start off by saying the team has done a great job, a lot of people have done a fantastic job. I would like to focus on trying to increase community engagement and communication between the board and other elements of the community. I have a background of honest communication and a clear connection to the sport at all levels. I understand how quidditch works at all lower levels. I have limited experience with QA, but I am willing to learn. I am experienced with communication and working with people. I have a passion to see it succeed. I am motivated, communicative and a willing member.

CW asked what will you do to combat COVID impacts on recruitment?

HJ said a lot has happened for a successful return. All opportunities should be accessible to all levels. We should be allowing input from all levels as well. Being clear with people to support open and honest engagement. Responding to community feedback is also important.

JH asked what specific goals or ideas will you bring to the table?

HJ answered provide better response times to the community. Explore expanding clarity and communication for transparency.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kelsey Collins

KC said most of what I want to say is in the nomination. My core goals haven't dramatically changed. I wanted snitch certification, develop a youth league and assist with recruitment and NSO recognition. I have taken some steps towards this with the board. Gameplay committee volunteers are Logan and Matt. I have worked with Logan on referee policies and will be hopefully implemented in 2022. I have also held some strategic forums over the last few years. I have discussed the development of youth leagues. I am confident this can happen. I helped work towards NSO recognition. It feels like I have a lot of unfinished work. I would love another two years to get these things happening.

LDs asked what are two or three concrete things you have achieved? It should also be noted I have worked with KC in the gameplay committee.

KC answered ref certification and recognition. I have enjoyed fleshing that out as an idea and am excited to implement. I wanted to succeed at refs to do snitching policy. I also assisted with the NSO recognition process and holding open forums and discussing ideas with the community. I have also worked on the fundraising guides and raising funds for Quidditch Australia.

MK said Brandon was talking about gameplay development and lower and middle teams. Do you have ideas on state level quidditch from a QA perspective? Would you work with Brandon?

KC said I am always happy to collaborate. I haven't had a lot of experience with state quidditch due to COVID. I would need development in those areas and I am happy to collaborate.

MK clarified I don't mean competitive but teams in the states.

KC answered we recently discussed with state bodies that we want to work collaboratively with them to improve the states.

Luke Derrick



LD said I would like to be reelected for a third term. I wanted to give back to the community. Over the course of my term I have helped assist in that. I was pushed to join the IQA, but wanted to stay with QA because that's where I am needed. I provide some strong skills. I would want the president position. I have strong leadership skills and will get external leadership training. Other projects enjoyed and suited towards is assisting with global team selection. I would like to build communication with the state bodies. I am passionate about QA and would like to continue serving you.

LDs what are two of three concrete accomplishments you are proudest of?

LD answered the development of handover documents and a process for handing over positions. I was a big proponent of pushing that forward. Under my guidance the board has been able to do their jobs. I deal with external issues, and allow others to do their jobs.

LDs said you say that being willing to step away and oversee the role to let other directors do their work. Would the work still happen if you weren't there?

LD answered yes but there would be more roadblocks for them to deal with. I am proud of my interpersonal skills. Would the work be done to the same timeline or level? No.

CW asked how would you rate your response to covid in quidditch and how were the actions perceived in the community?

LD answered the first response was good. We had a clear plan. Second lockdown took a very safe approach and waited for government instructions. Moving at a slower pace than we wanted. I stood by it at the time. Looking back it could have improved. I heard some are happy, some aren't. We did our best with being safe, balancing wanting to pay with government guidelines. We need to take those lessons and learn from them in future.

Matthew Blissenden

MB said I have outlined work prior to joining the board on gameplay. I worked on strategic portfolios created around strategic plans. COVID means the work hasn't been impactful. I ran fundraising initiatives and I am working on Mardi Gras. I am also working on being a fully chartered accountant. I deal with sporting organisations and non-profits which will be of use.

Rebecca Robb

RR said I am new to quidditch and unknown to some. I started at Macquarie and then moved to the Serpents. I have a foundational understanding of quidditch in NSW. I also have university and community experience. I am on



the leadership team of Serpents, I have helped communicate and I ran a tournament by myself. It ran smoothly and got great feedback and experience. Outside of quidditch I have finished bachelor of Anthropology. I have also been conducting research into gender in quidditch. Not sure where I'm going after the degree, and thought QA would suit me. I am keen and passionate about improving quidditch.

CW asked do you have plans to build recruitment at a higher level?

RR replied I looked at AJs guidelines. Retention is important. I want there to be recruitment policies for structure. Very keen on helping that along in a post covid world.

LDs asked what QA area do you want to work in?

RR answered anywhere but gameplay. I am more strategic minded, and I'm research and writing orientated.

Scott Palmer

SP said I have worked at state, club and national level. I am the merch director and membership, doing work behind the scenes. The membership system is a big project. I have been creating something that is streamlined. I did some WC merch planning that didn't happen. I worked with Nicola on new membership types. I plan on reviewing this to meet community needs. I served as a merch volunteer before the board. I am the Union delegate for my workplace. My two ambitions is to have a merchandise platform for year round and implement the new membership system.

CW asked can you elaborate on the membership system? Why is it easier?

SP I can't go into detail as I am getting feedback with the state boards. Currently people have three different levels. This will get QA and State level memberships through one platform. It is easier for administration. Members will have a log in. It is an easier way to deal with memberships as we grow.

LG asked is merch QA based or will that incorporate states and clubs?

SP said it has the potential to. I want something the community can get involved in at a state and international level.

NG pauses the meeting for team representatives to cast their votes and for vote counting at 9:38pm.

Meeting resumes at 10:19pm.



JT announces the successful candidates of the election are Brandon Frison, Kelsey Collins, Luke Derrick, Matthew Blissenden and Rebecca Robb.

NG thanks all candidates for their interest and passion in Quidditch Australia. A special thanks also goes to Scott Palmer and Alistair Yap who has worked tirelessly on the Quidditch Australia board for the past two years. Thank you to all members who came tonight, and we hope to see you in 2022.

NG closes the meeting at 10:21pm.