



President Report – 2023
1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023
By Julie McIntosh

In the 2023 reporting season, Windsor Polo Club is pleased to advise that after the floods and Covid, we have had a year with minimal disruptions.

The Autumn & Spring Seasons have been the busiest on record with several tournaments attracting 30-36 teams. This is an inordinate amount of polo from the usual 12-14 teams on average.

The NSW Polo Association is using the Windsor facilities for the Finals of their significant trophies such as the Morton Cup, JK Mackay, Hector King and Countess of Dudley Cup. This trend is set to continue as polo in the Hawkesbury goes from strength to strength. The NSWPA also sees Windsor Polo Club as its 'home ground'.

We also hosted the annual Polo International in April, which saw Australia play against Argentina. After a 4-year hiatus, it was a pleasure to see a relaxed picnic polo crowd enjoying the grounds whilst watching an outstanding match.

As a result of our focus on continued field improvements, we can host more quality games with minimal field damage. All in all, the critical mass of polo, plus our focus on capex improvements, it is finally seeing the results our committee set out to achieve a few years back. This increased level of activity generates the much-needed revenue in the form of tournament entry fees, ground hire and Club House food & beverage sales.

The Club has 50 + active members all playing a decent level of polo. In our move to professionalise the Club, we continue to engage the services of M Polo Management, who run all the club chukkas and tournaments on our behalf. This has resulted in an improved level of professionalism across all the polo played, and with this, we are seeing a better level of teams travelling into the Hawkesbury to compete. This year 16 goal tournaments have been played in both the Spring and Autumn Seasons, something that has not occurred before.

The Sydney Show Jumping Association continue to enjoy the Windsor Polo Club facilities, utilising them five times a year, at a time which doesn't impact the polo. The income generated from this, is crucial, and goes a long way in assisting us with the field improvements. The relationship is uncomplicated and complements the Club extremely well.

From a Capital Improvements perspective, this year saw a second electric scoreboard installed, which means we can run high level polo on both the # 1 & # 2 fields simultaneously. 40 plus trees have been planted and the wash bays and pony lines improved.

In 2023, there has been, and continues to be, a big focus on the Club House Redevelopment Project. We have engaged a consultant who will assist us with this. There are many factors that

need to be considered with the Club sitting on a flood plain, and once we have more to report, we shall do so.

The Club is financially sound *if* revenue from Polo Tournaments, Club membership and the Sydney Show Jumping Association continues. Our goal is to continue making Windsor Polo Club the leading public polo facility in NSW. Much of this comes down to the incumbent committee who are focused on achieving this common goal. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank them all for their continued commitment to Windsor Polo Club.

Julie McIntosh - President



Grounds Report – 2023
1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023
By Adam Buchert

2023 started well for the Fields team with some very favourable mild weather over the summer helping the flood recovery immensely.

We had played quite late into December at the end of 2022 due to the inclement weather in Victoria but with the grounds in good condition and favourable weather it only helped the surfaces for 2023.

Our first events started with 8 goal polo in March and then we hosted the Morton Cup 12 goal for the NSWPA over the Easter in April.

We did get to spread sand on the fields over the summer break in readiness for a big year ahead;

February Sand

250 tonnes onto the number 1

280 tonnes onto the number 2

150 tonnes onto the number 3

We did encounter some inclement weather which meant not all scheduled games for the Morton Cup could be played on the Windsor Number one in April and this also put the Annual Easter test match in doubt but after some consultation with Chris Marokakis and the NSWPA we were able to organise to borrow the aerator from Kurri Burri and rub in 100 tonnes of Sand onto the number one on the day before the test match which made the surface safe and secure and allowed Windsor to host an amazing Test match between Australia and Argentina. A huge effort by Chris Marokakis and his assistant Ben.

Total Sand In April

April

100 tonnes onto number 1, day before the Test Match

38 tonnes onto number 2 after show jumping

The remainder of the Autumn Season went relatively smoothly after that.

Over the winter months we were able to purchase the new score board and switch the original score board around. The reason being that the orange umbers were difficult to see when the sun was directly on it so now, we have the new scoreboard with green numbers facing the number one and the existing score board facing the number 2.

We were also able to rebuild the wash bay between the number one and number 2 fields over the winter so that it's much more user friendly and safe for polo ponies and large jumping horses alike and we will ensure we have the drainage sorted by the beginning of 2024.

Total Sand spread over winter

July

90 tonnes onto number 3

August

210 tonnes onto number 2

298 tonnes onto number 1

Another winter project that Chris and his team completed over the was the planting of another \$10,000 worth of trees along the Old Kurrajong Road boundary to replace the poplars that have a limited life span. We chose a variety of Ornamental pears and pistachio trees which will give us some great colour in the Autumn and shade in the summer.

This \$10,000 tree planting came about due to the generous donation from the estate of the late Derek Macintosh. Derek Loved trees and Derek Loved the Windsor Polo Fields so it was only fitting that Julie and the family over saw the donation and as part of his final wishes we were able to plant a classic Oak Tree for Derek near the entrance of the Windsor Polo Club Grounds.

A Huge Thank You to Julie and the family for this amazing gesture that will be enjoyed by polo people for many years to come.

The Spring season at WPC Started on the 16th of September which was followed by the Hector King and then the Winten Cup.

After that we hosted the JK Mackay which was a huge success and showcased our amazing fields and facilities and it was great to see some amazing 16 goal polo being played here on the Windsor fields.

It must be noted that on the Countess of Dudley weekends there were some 36 teams nominated to play on our fields and they did not disappoint.

The biggest success for Chris Marokakis and I would have to be that we saw the benefit of our Bore upgrade from 2 years ago. The Bore upgrade was an expense that Windsor didn't really need at the time but the infrastructure was necessary and when we had heatwave conditions in early October that irrigator was running 24 hours a day for 6 to 7 days straight to enable the fields to support the high volume of high level polo that comes with hosting the Winten cup and JK Mackay 16 and 8 goal Tournaments.. This would not have been possible on the old pump system, and we would have lost thousands of dollars and a lot of credibility if we had not upgraded the irrigation system like we did back in 2021.

Future Goals

There is still a way to go. If we continue to put sand on the fields every year and we continue with our weed eradication program I am sure we will be able to compare WPC fields with some of the worlds best fields very soon. Our focus now is to have the fields Kikuyu and weed free by the end of 2024 and to be able to mow our fields as short as 12mm by the end of 2024 also.

As discussed last year the increased revenue from Show jumping has enabled us to sand more and keep the surrounds maintained all year round which is a huge improvement on how the fields were maintained in the past.



We will continue to improve the Windsor number 3 with sand and weed eradication to get this field up to a level so that it will take even more pressure off our 2 main fields.

There are still more trees to be planted especially near the day yards and pony lines.

If I sit back and review the year, I would have to say we are blessed to have such an amazing grounds team and a head groundsman that is so deeply passionate about Windsor Polo Club. We were thrown downpours in the Autumn days before our flagship event and the team prevailed and we were served heat waves in the Spring, and they again prevailed.

Thank you Chris and Thank You Ben....

I am proud of both guys Chris and Ben, and I am proud of how the fields are improving little by little bit every year.

All The Best

Adam Buchert
Windsor Polo Club Grounds



Club Captain's Report - 2023

Adam Meally

With favorable weather 2023 was a year where WPC was able to show its full potential as one of best clubs in Australia.

Hosting 9 club tournaments along with finals of all major NSWPA tournaments including the - Morton Cup 16g, Alec Macleod Cup 8g , Dudley Cup 10g, Hector King Trophy 10g, JK Memorial Trophy 16g and the NSW 8 goal.

WPC was also the venue of choice to host the over flow of matches from other local clubs. Highlight of the tournament calendar was the Dudley Cup which saw 34 teams competing over a single weekend with is a record for the club.

In total 135 games were played at WPC in 2023-
WPC#1 73
WPC#2 62

Club chukkas- were well attended by members, paying locals from other Hawkesbury clubs, visiting regional , interstate and international players.

2023 saw a new fee structure introduced which collected over \$13k in club chukka revenue. WPC 3 took the lions share of the club chukka work load which is a testament to the grounds staff for the continued improvement to this field.

Goal umpires - for the first time in NSW paid goal umpires were introduced into WPC tournaments this innovative was quickly adopted by other local clubs, these goal umpires were sourced from the local community and the concept as a whole was well received by the local playing community.

New goal posts - for those of you that ran into a goal post this season you would of noticed how soft they now are, a local supplier was found and the club bought 10 new padded goal posts.

Tournament draws - the software that is used behind the scenes for tournament management continues to be upgraded and is a major contributor to how we can efficiently get draws out in time especially when there are upwards of 30 teams playing over multiple fields.

Watch this space- we are currently working with a new start up business based in the UK who are developing a polo app which will help manage tournaments but more importantly give us a better way to communicate with players, grooms and officials for any last minute schedule changes taking away the need to be constantly checking emails.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local clubs, a big part of all our success is the willingness of the local clubs to work together as a community and sharing the common goal of making the Hawkesbury basin the premier destination in Australia to play polo. 2024 is set to become an even bigger and better year for the club with a slightly improved calendar from 2023.

Regards,

Adam Meally
WPC Club Captain
11th Dec 2023



Treasurer's Report – 2023
1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023
By Jessica Sprenger

I am pleased to present the Financial Report for the financial year 2022/2023.

The report shows special purpose financial statements as at 30th of September 2023, as it is required by the NSW Association Incorporation ACT 2009. The accounts have been audited and the auditor's report is attached with the financial report in detail.

This financial year, so no major natural disasters or interruptions, so were able to hold all tournament and events as planned. They showed a positive outcome compared to last year, in a year where no revenue was generated.

This year's result shows a surplus of \$ 47,063. A significant difference compared to the loss of \$58,280 last year.

The positive outcome is due to stable revenue, upwards of \$500K as summarized below:

- Tournament revenue for this FY is \$ 141,589 plus \$22K from the Test match.
- External field hire is almost \$ 150K. It is important to note that half of this from the Sydney Jumping Association (SJA). SJA is a major income factor for the Club and helps with the cash flow. It is something that has to be nurtured.
- Membership levels are steady with about \$81K this year. Including 4 new Life members.
- Donations, Grants, and fundraising include Government grant payment for last year's flood, the raffle organized by The Classic Safari Company and Club Sponsors (The Royal, Stone, Winten Group and other) as well as some donations by some of our valued members!
- The Club house Revenue is higher than ever before at \$4.4K

With all the Club activity and recent dry spells, come expenses. The field still needed attention from the flood damage with plenty of sand spread to bring it up to scratch again. Major expenses this year include:

- Field maintenance costs \$153,788 (Mowing, fertilizer, weed control, general maintenance of the whole property, irrigation etc.)
- Sand \$96,000
- Repairs \$ 24,000 (Scoreboard electrics, fix off sound system, road fix and other)

I am very pleased with the financial outcome for FY23 and is great to see all the activity back in the Club.

However, the Club's budget is tight and will be for the next months until the Autumn 2024 season commences. There is still a lot to fix and improve until then, so we will need to monitor it.

The Revenue from the Spring Season will be going into the preparation for the next season so we can present the Club at its best so we can attract more members and sponsors.

The Clubhouse redevelopment is underway, which will be a major stepping stone in the Club's future, and I am excited to see the Club grow.

I am very confident that the Club will stay financially healthy from now on provided a good level of polo continues to be played in the Hawkesbury and that the SJA continue to see the ground as their home base. I am hoping for another year filled with lots of Polo, Show jumping and other events.

Financial Report for the year ended 30 September 2023 - prepared by:

Brentnalls Chartered Accountants

Treasurer report for the year ended 30 September 2023 – prepared by:

Jessica Sprenger
12/11/23

Windsor Polo Club: Marketing, PR, and Communications Report

The past year has witnessed an inspiring journey for Windsor Polo Club, marked by strategic communication initiatives that have solidified our position in the community and expanded our reach across various platforms. Our proactive approach to marketing, PR, and communications has yielded positive results, propelling the club towards greater visibility and engagement.

Press Engagements:

The Windsor Polo Club has enjoyed coverage in newspapers and media outlets. Our events and achievements were prominently featured in local publications such as The Nepean Press & The Hawkesbury Post. This has amplified our presence within the polo community and beyond. This coverage has not only celebrated our successes but also positioned the club as a key player in the local community.

Social Media Amplification:

Our social media presence has experienced a high level of growth, showcasing an increase in followers across multiple platforms. Through consistent, engaging content, we have fostered a vibrant online community, effectively communicating the club's ethos, events, and accomplishments. This heightened online traction has significantly contributed to increased attendance at our events and heightened member engagement.

Increased Traction:

The strategic alignment of our marketing efforts with the club's objectives has resulted in a notable increase in traction. Attendances at matches and events have seen a steady rise, reflecting the effectiveness of our communication strategies in captivating and retaining the interest of both existing and potential members.

Overall Impact:

The cumulative effect of our marketing, PR, and communication endeavours has been positive. The Windsor Polo Club's brand has been solidified as the standard of excellence within the polo circuit. By fostering a strong sense of community, enhancing visibility, and leveraging various communication channels, we've laid a foundation for continued growth and success.

As we approach the AGM, it's evident that our concerted efforts in marketing, PR, and communications have been instrumental in advancing the club's mission. The achievements of the past year serve as a testament to our commitment to excellence and innovation in our communication strategies.

Moving forward, we remain dedicated to leveraging these successful approaches while exploring new avenues to further elevate the Windsor Polo Club's profile, foster stronger community ties, and continue our journey towards excellence.

Prepared by Teneille Murray
Windsor Polo Club