

WINDSOR POLO FIELDS LIMITED CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2023

Dear Members,

I'm grateful to be talking to you after a normal 12 months, given the horrible previous years of Covid and floods.

Polo in the Hawkesbury Basin has been very strong over the last year with record numbers of team entries.

It's wonderful to see a vibrant scene again.

Much of this is due to the amazing contributions made by the Windsor Polo Club ("WPC") committee members, especially Julie McIntosh and the management team headed up by Julie, Adam Buchert and Adam Meally. Thanks to all!

Whilst on the topic of amazing contributions, I would like to thank Lew McDonnell who has decided to stand down as a director of the company after 8 years of service. Thank you Lew for all your efforts across both Windsor Polo Fields and WPC over many years, having started as Commercial Manager for WPC in 2004.

I am happy to announce Gendy Parry-Okeden has agreed to stand as a replacement director for Lew – the Board feel Gendy would be an excellent addition to the Board.

This year WPC has continued to foster its relationship with the Sydney Jumping Association, which has been great for creating relationships with another horse sport and for providing great rental income for the club. These extra funds have enabled the club to improve the field maintenance with the commensurate improvement in the playing surface.

As some of you may have heard, we are embarking on looking at a project to build a proper club house. It is too early to give any details on size or location, due to the many issues that need to be dealt with, such as flood levels.

The preliminary assessment costs are being covered by a number of donors from the polo community. Thank you all.

Should an outcome become possible, then we will be looking at broader funding options.

Here is a summary from Julie outlining the 2023 year for WPC -

WPC Summary:

In the 2023 reporting season, Windsor Polo Club is pleased to advise that after the floods and Covid-19, 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 healthy if revenue from Polo Tournaments, Club membership and the Sydney Show Jumping Association continues. Our goal is to continue to making Windsor Polo Club the leading public polo facility in NSW. Much of this success comes down to the incumbent committee, who are all very hard working and focused on this common goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank them all for them for their commitment to our Club.

Yours Sincerely
Johnny Kahlbetzer