

# HDCA General Meeting : 04/05/2020

Highlands District Cricket Association



## Meeting details

Date and Time: 04/05/2020 7pm

Location: Online

Meeting Opened: 07.10pm

### 1 – Attendees

- **Present:** Simon Taufel (Chairman) (ST), Tahlia Wellington (TW), Byron Kaufline (BK), Brian Martin (BM), Jack Whitfield (JW), Graham Brake (GB), Brett McAulay (BMc), Michael Heinecke (Bowral Blues), Angus Humphreys (Bowral CC), Michael Pike (Wingello), Andrew Bell (Chev), Steve Beveridge (Bundanoon) Aaron De Jager (Robertson), Martin Filipczyk (Bundanoon), Scott Miller (Mittagong), Simon Reid (HNVCC), Matt Watson (Bowral Blues), Michael Standen (Gib Gate), Rina Hore (Bradman Foundation), Rob Collins (MVCC), Matt Rapa (HNVCC), Peter Canestrari (MVCC)
- **Apologies:** Rodney Cavalier (RC), Salman Yusuf (SY)

A minutes silence was held in memory of Peter Burgoyne and Graeme Watson.

### 2 – Previous Minutes

Motion/s	Moved	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Result
That the Minutes be accepted as true and accurate	ST		Carried

### 3 – Business arising

Nil

### 4 – Correspondence

All correspondence has been distributed to club presidents and secretaries, there are a number of grants open at the moment and we would encourage you to go back over these emails and look to apply for any that may be appropriate.

Suggestion to send correspondence sent in a single day as a single email with a summary page.

### 5 – Reports / Issues

- Chairman
- A very difficult season with bush fires, air quality, washed out matches and COVID-19 meaning we were unable to play semi finals and finals. It

was a tough and challenging season for administrators, players, umpires, sponsors and supporters.

- We have been working closely with GIZ and CNSW re putting together a strategic plan for the coming season.

- Cricket will be under a lot of financial pressure going forward. This may mean that some programs particularly at the representative level may be cut. The HDCA Board will also review how we make cricket in the coming season(s) as affordable as possible. We will look at how we deal with social distancing etc. There is speculation that CNSW are looking at umpires not holding hats/jumpers, no saliva on the ball etc.

- Discussions have commenced with winter sports regarding ground usage and user agreements.

- Noting that many players may still be unemployed, and many clubs may face sponsorship draw backs (HDCA may not receive sponsorship from Mittagong RSL) we will look at ways to ensure that cricket is as affordable as possible. This may mean looking at how much turf cricket we play.

- We would encourage all clubs to begin to review their clubs and seasons in a similar fashion.

- The HDCA strategic plan which was developed last year has at this point been put to the side and in it's place the board will look to develop a strategic plan for the 2020/2021 season in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The board has received a Life Membership nomination for Brian Martin. The board endorsed this unanimously. A special resolution will go out with AGM notes and minutes.

- The board are currently working through curator replacement strategies for Lackey and Welby.

- We will be having discussions with GIZ re their strategy and funding and finances.

- There will be a rebate to all senior clubs following some operational savings.

- BDCU have committed to presenting at the AGM showcasing a community partnership program with savings accounts.

#### c. Secretary/administrator

- Everyone has been affected by COVID-19. If there is anything that any of the board members can do to potentially ease anyone's burdens, please reach out.

- Please provide feedback on the zoom meeting process. At this point, if social distancing restrictions prohibit face to face meetings, the AGM will proceed as a zoom meeting. There are a few details to work through to ensure that this runs smoothly.

- Currently working on a membership pack that would be able to be completed and returned online.

#### d. Senior Cricket

- The previous season was a very bizarre one. Thank you to the clubs, you all do a great job in organising players during all of the changes due to heat, rain and pandemic.

- Spirit of Cricket awarded – Bowral Cricket Club (128 points) , Wingello Cricket Club (121 points), Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club (115 points).

- Senior player of the year awarded - Joint recipients – Nathan and Mitchell Wright (12 points), Alex Debs (9 points).

- Working with the senior playing committee to arrange next meeting in line with social distancing restrictions. Building an agenda: Player gradings, review of playing conditions, potential COVID-19 season.
- Conscious of other Highlands District sporting competitions around how their competitions may be altered in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. HDCA have reached out to AFL and soccer. CNSW have also written to all LGAs to advance discussions between state body and all LGAs.
- HDCA very cognisant of the challenges that all sports administrators are facing currently.
- Congratulations to Robertson Burrawang for winning all 3 grades, Bowral CC for Spirit of cricket, and the Nathan and Mitchell Wright.

e. Junior Cricket

- Season was cut short, and unfortunately we did not get to play finals.
- Have been asking for feedback on playing conditions, communication, heat and air quality policies, female competition, coaching and umpiring courses.
- BK currently working on a report on the playing conditions that will be put forward to the board.
- Ross Bull memorial award jointly awarded to Noah Nasser and Nick Heinecke for their sportsmanship during the same game.
- Awaiting updates regarding potential relaxation of restrictions due to COVID to arrange for trophy presentation. If Award recipients would like to pick up trophies prior to this, they are at being held at the Southern Highlands Trophy Centre.
- Thank you letters will be issued to the schools who have provided grounds and the umpires who increased officiating junior games threefold.
- Conversations regarding a schools-based competition continue with Andrew Middleton and other school principles. As these conversations continue, the clubs will be engaged and consulted with.
- The intention of the schools-based competition is to increase participation at both junior and senior level.
- 2 board members have advised their intention to step down (Brian Martin and Byron Kaufline). Work has been done in the background to look for individuals to fill these places. Andrew Middleton has advised his willingness to nominate for one of these roles.

f. Grounds and Facilities

- Turf wickets – we have received interest from 4 separate parties for 2 (potentially 3 grounds). Working with the current curators to draft a scope of works which would then be put out for tender.
- Given the amount of financial pressure we are likely to be under in the coming season it may be a good opportunity for clubs where turf pitches exist to provide volunteer hours in the way of watering throughout the week etc. We currently spend \$30,000 on the preparation of turf pitches and are always looking at ways to reduce this cost where possible.
- We have had a meeting with maintenance and capital works teams at WSC to develop a plan for the replacement of synthetic wickets and entire concrete pitch. We would then review and develop a plan around when we would need these updated, to minimise the situation where we have multiple grounds unplayable
- Looking at this point to relay 2 synthetic pitches per year (one in winter, one in summer) and 1 full concrete wicket replacement every 2 years.
- Rob Collins will conduct roller maintenance next week. Thank you for your work in this space.

- Thank you to Brett from ST for the amount of work that he has been doing in the background.
- Strong message from WSC is that if the board and the clubs are ready and willing with projects being scoped out with architectural drawings, DA approved and shovel ready, there are a large number of grants coming through that we can take advantage of. We will help and support the grant writing process if required.

g. Finances

- Financial year now ends May 31<sup>st</sup> to allow time once accounts have been closed to check and verify the accuracy of the accounts prior to the AGM.
- Outgoing funds by way of prize money to go to the Robertson Burrawang CC.
- ToT we were very lucky to get this function in prior to restrictions. Our third-party silent auction company did go into liquidation 10 days ago. We have received the majority of the funds from this company however we are around \$1600 short from this company. It is a sign of the times that so many companies and individuals are being affected.
- The board budgeted for a lot of representative clothing to be sold however we only sold 10% of this. These unsold items are now assets.
- This years finances looks very different to any other year, with the Table of Ten funds.
- Following the extraordinary season we had and the operational savings we saw (ground and maintenance and umpires), rebates will be provided to all senior clubs.

Grade	HDCA Clubs									Total refund
	Blues	Bowral	Bundanoon	Hill Top	Mittagong	Moss Vale	Roberston	Wingello		
1st	630	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2520
2nd	450	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3600
3rd	360	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	2880
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$810.00</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 810.00</b>	<b>\$1,080.00</b>	<b>\$ 810.00</b>	<b>\$ 810.00</b>	<b>\$1,440.00</b>	<b>\$1,440.00</b>	<b>9000</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>

- Rebate is unattached and entirely up to the clubs to determine how they deal with this (rebates to your players, using going forward to reduce fees for coming season etc)

h. Marketing and Sponsorship

- ST touching base with Mittagong RSL regularly. They will be opening their takeaway shortly. What ever you can do to support the RSL and each of our sponsors would be greatly appreciated.
- During the Table of Ten event, we asked for volunteers to come forward. We were disappointed with the response we received. We have had feedback that attendees did enjoy the opportunity to support the HDCA in that space, however were not available to volunteer on an ongoing basis. This event raised the image of the HDCA.
- Survey monkey has been distributed for ToT. Could you please pass this on to your members so that we can get as much positive and constructive feedback as possible to enable us to provide high quality events in the future.

i. Greater Illawarra Zone

- GIZ have put together a strategic plan, however given the current climate, the next season will all change, likely that they will plan for the coming season and then revert to the plan once all back to normal.
- Greatest concern, Illawarra still does not have a president or management board to run the association. They are the largest association in the GIZ. Glenn Bridge is running this association along with being the administrator for the GIZ.
- GIZ have advised that they are giving youth championships priority.
- The GIZ draft strategy is attached to these minutes, this strategy has been discussed at the board level, however would like to provide clubs the opportunity to review and provide feedback to ST and TW by 14th May and we will include this in our feedback to the GIZ board.

j. Representative Cricket

- Aaron De Jager Question: This year was the first year that senior players have been asked to pay a fee to play and represent the association. The best 12 senior and U18 players to give up a Sunday and have to pay for the privilege. Why should they have to pay to represent the association?
- Juniors have always had to pay, and there should not be a disparity between junior and senior players.
- Junior players receive the same uniform as seniors. They receive a shirt for the duration of the playing season which is returned to the HDCA at the completion of the season. Training uniforms are available for purchase to both junior and senior players.
- Prior to the commencement of the 2019-20 season we were advised by GIZ that seniors would be playing white ball cricket and would need to play in coloured uniforms. As such, these were purchased.
- The board has had a number of discussions regarding the cost of representative cricket, and how this should be covered. In order to prevent an increase in team fees for club cricket, it was decided that the representative players would pay a contribution to these costs.
- Costs attributed to representative cricket - \$1000 to be a member, each side paid a registration fee of \$200-\$250 per team, turf ground hire cost \$300-\$400 per team regardless of the age of the participants, catering for home games (feeding both our teams and the visiting teams), incidentals (stumps, ice, first aid equipment).
- We were still in the red for the previous representative season.
- Request for JW to add this to the senior competitions committee agenda to look for solutions to assist supporting the senior players.
- Question: Do we receive rebates from GIZ for hosting games?  
If we play a home turf game, we receive a \$150 rebate from the GIZ, however this does not cover the cost of pitch preparation, let alone the remaining costs.
- The HDCA Look to utilise as much sponsorship as possible to cover the cost of representative cricket.
- As we look forward, we are likely to receive less funding from other sources at this point.
- Recommendation to increase the fees for teams to play in association. Given the extent of the cost of representative cricket, this conversation would need to continue in order to find a suitable solution.
- Needs to be a holistic discussion around how we achieve good quality cricket on good grounds, and ensuring that we continue to increase participation rates.

Chair (ST) to include Aaron De Jager in the budget process for 2020/21 when it comes to representative cricket to which Aaron agreed to participate.

## 6. General Business

- HDCUA – There are 3 courses coming up in May and June on zoom. Angus will forward details to the clubs. Information will also be on the HDCA website. Umpire numbers were up last season. These courses are a good opportunity to increase our numbers.
- COVID-19 Strategy - The board may look at engaging the clubs in discussions around where you're at. What your sponsorship situation looks like. Who's sponsorships are under threat? How comfortable is your club at the moment? Etc. This will allow the board to determine whether we have any clubs who are under threat, and how we can best support those who need it.
- Annual report submission – Please submit content for the annual report, particularly any photos of the past season and the challenges we faced. Please submit to a board member by 31/05/20.

Meeting Closed at 8.24pm

Next Meeting 06/07/2020