

BEHIND THE GOALPOST



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the first QPA eNewsletter, the MC have made the decision to move with the times and adopt this electronic version of our beloved BTGP to be delivered direct to all members throughout the playing season. The plan is to retain the printed Christmas edition to be distributed with the annual wall calendar and pocket calendar. It is hoped that this initiative will ensure a more timely delivery of news to our members and in turn save the Association a few dollars.

The season has certainly started with a bang, particularly for many Qld. juniors and their families who spent the Easter school holidays on the road. Congratulations to James Bredhauer, QPA Director of Youth Development on the Junior Coaching Clinic held at Cunningham, this was certainly a great success and it was a shame the Northern version was cancelled thanks to cyclone Debbie.

Queensland just missed out on beating New Zealand in the Hyfeed Cooper Cup, held at Cunningham but it was great to see the camaraderie and friendship surrounding the game, both on and off the field. We will get to



see many of these New Zealand players again when they return to contest the New Zealand Challenge to be held at Tambo, 20-21 May. Well done to the Cunningham Club on the presentation of the grounds and the manner in which they hosted the visitors, a great credit to all members.

Congratulations to all of the juniors that represented Qld at the Albury Junior Classic and thanks to the mums and dads that made this possible for their children.

Once again the Warwick Club hosted a very well run Barastoc Interstate Series at Morgan Park with the added bonus of a fantastically

exciting Test Series between Australia and South Africa. The test games held under lights each evening were thrilling to watch and a fabulous precursor to the 2019 World Cup.

In other QPA goings on:

2017 Queensland Zone Championship

categories, to be played at Bauhinia in July, are:

- Open Seniors & Senior Women
- Open U21 & Women U21
- Open Juniors
- U12s
- Open Masters

Open means any combination of men and women. Six player teams. Capricornia, Far North Central West & Outback Zones may source players from any other Zones.

The MC have determined that a review of the Qld representative uniform is due. A uniform review committee will be formed to take a look at this, whilst ensuring the uniform remains affordable and readily available to all. If you would like to be involved in the review committee please contact the QPA office.

Results in next edition.

Regards, Charlie Brook

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© Joe McInally Photography 2017

Australia Battles Reigning World Champions South Africa for National Polocrosse Pride

By Carolyn Line

An action packed four day extravaganza of polocrosse at Warwick in late April drew the largest crowd to a polocrosse event since the 2007 World Cup, proving the true Australian sport is fast gaining popularity. With more than 600 riders playing 3 different polocrosse competitions (including an International Test Series, Interstate State of Origin and Club level) on show, thousands of spectators flooded through the gates from Thursday to Sunday to witness some of the best polocrosse action ever seen in Australia.

Hosted by Warwick Polocrosse Club at one of the country's premier polocrosse grounds, spectators were treated to 3 nights of top international polocrosse as the Australian Men's and Women's team took on reigning World Champions South Africa.

Warwick Polocrosse Club President Les Fraser said the clash between the two best polocrosse nations in the world had drawn huge crowds.



The Australian Team



The Australian Cheer Squad

"When you get 14 of the best men and 14 of the best women players on the quality of horses we had here, you know the games are going to be amazing and they were," said Les.

Some of the best polocrosse horses in the country were put in a pool of horses to be used by both teams, with the predominant breed used being the Australian Stock Horse. "If you are going to stage a world class event such as this, you need to provide the best horses possible," said Les. "There is no better breed than the Australian Stock Horse for an outstanding horse to play on and that was proved over three nights of action packed polocrosse."

The Australian Women's team triumphed over the South African women in all 3 games played under lights on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with scores of 25 to 14, 30 to 14 and 25 to 19. Champion Lady Player of the Series was Lucy Grills from New South Wales and Champion Ladies Horse was awarded to Way Way Alley owned by Kevin and Sue Donnelly.

The fast paced Men's games showed the different style of play the South African's have compared to the Australian Team. The visiting team took out all 3 games with scores of 31 to 21, 29 to 24 and 28 to 27. In the final game on Saturday night, the Australian Men had adapted their play to the match the style of the South African's, giving them a much closer scoreline. A goal scored by the Australian's right on the buzzer, which could have taken the 2 teams into a golden point battle, was disallowed dashing the home team's hopes. The Champion Male Player of the Carroll Truck International Test Series was awarded to South African Graham Maclarty and the Champion Men's Horse went to Bud owned by Trent Collins.



Australia v South Africa in the Carroll Truck International Test Series under lights at Warwick

Photo by Joe McNally from Joe McNally Photography, www.polopics.com



Interstate Rivalry for Matt and Byron Davison



Split Loyalties in the Davison Family

Brothers Do Battle

By Carolyn Line

Proud parents Russell and Kate Davison had divided loyalties for the Barastoc Interstate Series at Warwick as their two sons Matt and Byron went head to head in opposing State teams. Not wanting to play favourites, Russell and Kate even had shirts made up to declare support for both boys!

Matt, who now lives in Holbrook was called up for New South Wales while Byron took on the State honours for Queensland. Both boys play a 3 so it was a race out the back to see who was first to the ball for State pride and family bragging rights.

When asked who was the better player, in Matt's absence Byron with a cheeky smile on his face, says it was him, especially in the last game they played against each other. But Mum Kate was a bit more diplomatic saying that the boys played fairly evenly. In what was their first State to State experience against each other, Kate said she was happy that the boys had played fairly and with good sportsmanship. Polocrosse talent is strong in the Davison family, with younger brother Brandon also selected to play in the Queensland Under 21 team.



Brothers do battle Byron Davison for Queensland and Matt Davison for New South Wales

Photo by Carolyn Line



Richard Eton scoring for Queensland against the New Zealand Men's Side



Liz Reid carrying the ball down field for Australia

Battle for National Pride Fierce as New Zealand and Queensland Clash in the Hyfeed Cooper's Cup

By Carolyn Line

Queensland's 2017 season kicked off with an action packed two days of international level polocrosse on 8th and 9th April. A mixed team from New Zealand took on Queensland in the long running Cooper's Cup Competition and Australia's Men's and Women's team both had a hit out in preparation to take on South Africa at Warwick Polocrosse Club in the Carroll Truck Sales International Series later in the month. Cunningham Polocrosse Club, based at Bony Mountain, hosted the extravaganza of polocrosse with 3 events (Hyfeed Cooper's Cup, Queensland Polocrosse Association's Junior competition and an Open Club competition) over the 2 days.

Queensland started the 4 game Hyfeed Cooper's Cup test strongly with a win over New Zealand in Game 1 but the Kiwis fought back to take out Games 2 and 3, to give them a 1 game lead going into the last clash on Sunday.

Queensland, co-captained by Cunningham Polocrosse Club's Carly Cooper and John Franklin from Gold Coast Polocrosse Club, were determined to win Game 4 and came out firing. In the final stages of the game, the score was so close that it looked like it would go to golden point, until the New Zealander's riding borrowed horses scored to win 11 to 10. John Franklin was awarded Best Queensland Male, while Best Queensland

Female went to Brodie Stephens. While the Cooper's Cup showcased Queensland's elite sports men and women, at the other end of the scale, Queensland Polocrosse's dedicated Junior competition allowed young upcoming players to take to the field against kids of similar skill level. Queensland Polocrosse Association invested in those who are the future of the sport by hosting a free 2 day Youth Coaching Camp at Cunningham Polocrosse grounds prior to the weekend. More than 50 kids attended with coaching from top Queensland horsemen and women and representative polocrosse players.

On the field, the Juniors showed that the sport of polocrosse has a strong future with many talented players saddling up. The Blue Team beat the Pink Team in the A Grade Juniors final with a score of 12 to 6. Caitlyn Brook from Warwick Polocrosse Club was named Best Player in the A Grade Juniors. In B Grade Juniors, the Purple Team beat Red Team in the final with Jet Sargood from Tambo Polocrosse Club awarded the Best Player.

The QPA congratulates Cunningham Polocrosse Club on hosting the New Zealand players so wonderfully. Our thanks go to Hyfeed for sponsoring the event, Sally McGrath for Coaching and Jo Lawrence for Managing. The Kiwis got to take home the beautiful trophy but there is always next

A Weekend at Muswellbrook Show



Photos by Carolyn Line

Kate Davison, Queensland Team Manager

Arriving to a wet and muddy Muswellbrook on Thursday, we managed to get dressed and arrive at the formal function dry for a great night of presentations and celebrations. Three inches of rain fell overnight and the camping areas had rivers of water running through them, however, the sun shone on Friday and we were able to safely play on Friday afternoon.

New South Wales got the first win in extra time with a score of 15 to 14 and the second game by a couple of goals (14 to 12). We had our social meet and greet at the show this year with the rodeo and side show alley a hit. On Saturday, Queensland won by 7 goals (18 to 11). We didn't take the series but Hayden Grumley was awarded Best No 2 and the Terry Blake memorial H&R combination for Qld. Byron Davison was awarded Best No 3.

Best No 1 was won by Emily Gentry and Terry Blake memorial H&R for NSW was Jo Melbourne. Coach Russell Davison was very pleased with his team's effort and the close games. There were members of our team whom hadn't represented their state and over the 3 games the team improved together.

It was a great experience for all. Congratulations goes to all the players, a great weekend away and thanks to the families who banded to help with all the duties required to run these events.

As always in polocrosse, new friendships were made and it was a pleasure to coach and manage this team. We as a whole would like to thank QPA for their support in getting us to Muswellbrook. It was a first to camp at the grounds. It was really great staying on site with our horses and for the team to be able to enjoy and support the show.

QPA Youth Coaching Camp... what the kids had to say



Charlie Brosnan

Annie Brosnan 13 yrs

I enjoyed the Riding clinic so much because I got so much out of it! I learnt many new tips to becoming a great rider and polocrosse player. I really loved when the Australian team came and gave us loads of new information for playing polocrosse! They taught us many ways to become a great polocrosse player by practising all these different skills at home. I also met some wonderful people throughout the whole couple of days we were there and I was then put into teams with people that

were at the school and it was such a privilege being able to play with them throughout the weekend!

Charlie Brosnan 8 yrs

The school was so much fun because I met lots of new friends and I learnt lots of new things about riding and polocrosse. My favourite part about the weekend was when the man was doing all these cool tricks with the little horse. I also had fun doing the racket practises because I got to throw the ball and run around with my friends a lot.



Annie Brosnan

Photos by Sally Brosnan

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Director Youth Development James Bredhauer

2017 started with a bang for the youth development side of Qld Polocrosse. With three coaching schools for juniors organised prior to the season at Capella, Cunningham and Wandoan plus the Albury Junior Classic, which included three days of coaching prior and the Barastoc Interstate Series.

Unfortunately the QPA coaching school to be held at Capella had to be called off due to the after effects of cyclone Debbie. This was a huge disappointment as Chelsea and Ryan French from Capella had done a tremendous amount of work in the lead-up to this event. All the children that were booked in to the school have been posted our booklet on coaching tips and drills.

Southern QPA Coaching School - Cunningham

The southern QPA coaching school was held at Cunningham on 6 - 7 April, prior to the carnival and then the children were put into teams and played together for the weekend with coaches assisting throughout the weekend. The Australian team assisted for a session of chukkas and coaching on the Friday and Will Weston at short notice put a full day in with the kids on Thursday. There was a mechanical cow, a liberty skills and tricks demonstration, horsemanship, polocrosse skills on horses and racquet skills. Thanks very much too all the coaches and assistants plus the parents who helped make it happen. All children attending took home a bit more knowledge and a booklet covering some of the areas covered in the sessions. From all reports the children enjoyed the activities over the weekend. We are always open to suggestions and help for future coaching schools and youth activities, so please make contact with the QPA office or James Bredhauer (Youth Development Officer) if you are able to assist.

QPA Junior Weekend - Wandoan

Congratulations to the Wandoan Club who, with the financial assistance of Black Truck Sales Toowoomba and under the direction of



Will Taylor on the move



Albury Sub Jnr's Runner ups

PAA Coaching Director Jody Hall, conducted a fantastic junior weekend 11-12 March. This was attended by around 30 juniors. The QPA Women's Committee led by Penny Kelly staged a specific women's coaching weekend at the same time utilising the tremendous skills of well-known representative player, Jane Cooper. By all reports this "was one of the best coaching schools ever." It's great to see support for the women and children of polocrosse on the same weekend.

2017 Albury Junior Classic

We had a substantial number of families make the long trek to Albury for the Australian Junior Classic and coaching. Scott Keogh from SK Horsemanship sponsored the Albury Juniors playing shirts and the QPA assisted with coaching / travel costs. The coaching was enjoyed by all.

The six Queensland teams played in the Australian Junior Classic against teams from, NZ, WA, NSW, VIC and the Tri-states (NT, SA, TAS). The Queensland kids acquitted themselves very well on and off the field. The Qld Junior 1 team came away runners up following extra time and the Qld Sub Junior 1 team also made runners

up. Particular congratulations to Will Taylor, named Bombers Champion Junior Player of the Carnival and Best Number 1 and Lincoln Macklin who was named best Sub Junior Number 2. Lincoln's horse, Kydra's Lizzy was also named Best Sub Junior ASH. The comradery shown by all the teams was something to be very proud of. Thank you to the parents, coaches and managers.

Coming up

Please remember to nominate online for the expression of interest for the Perth Nationals.

- Eulo - Junior coaching 22-23, carnival 24-25 June. Contact Eric Beresford;
- Bauhinia - Junior coaching Friday 30 June, the day prior to zone championships.
- Qld selection trials 16-17 September.



Will Taylor with Trophies

