



The Victorian Quidditch Association

Annual General Meeting

2017

Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017 of the Victorian Quidditch Association, held on the 11th of March at 10am at Melbourne’s Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street

Minutes prepared by Regina Atkinson & Nicola Gertler

Meeting opens at 10:05am

Chairperson: Kassi Grace (President)

1. Attendance

Alex Langdon	Briony Penfold	Chloe Bridle	Dean Rodhouse	Ed Farrell
Emma Humphrey	Emma Wright	Graham Done	Kassi Grace	Kath Lloyd
Mark Douglas	Matt Ingram	Morgyn Benstead	Nicholas Hirst	Nicholas Munro
Regina Atkinson	Sally Hicks	Thomas Dortmans	Zachary Giofkou	
Callum Wynen <i>Proxy for Rachel Davis</i>	James Brooks <i>Proxy for Carissa Dyall</i>	Justine Herring <i>Proxy for James Layh</i>	Kelly Rodger <i>Proxy for Alexander Frame</i>	Lucas Pahl <i>Proxy for Ed Vient</i>
Madeliene Kerr <i>Proxy for Jess Cooper</i>	Natalie Benedykt <i>Proxy for Liam McCoppin</i>	Nathan Morton <i>Proxy for Tias Allard</i>	Nicola Gertler <i>Proxy for Samuel Kilpatrick</i>	Sebastian Gay <i>Proxy for Emily Kirsch</i>

Total Members in attendance: 39

2. Unconfirmed Minutes

2.1 VQA AGM

Attachment 1

2.2 VQA SGM 01/16

Attachment 2

Resolution #1

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves the unconfirmed minutes of VQA AGM & VQA SGM 01/16.”

Moved: Kassi Grace

Seconded: Tom Dortmans

For: 36

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

RESOLUTION PASSES

3. 2016 Committee's Reports

Reports are given by:

President: Kassi Grace

Kassi says 2016 was a huge year for Victorian quidditch, with the Leadbeaters winning the inaugural first round of State of Origin games. We had 11 Victorians selected for Dropbears, more than any other state, which was amazing. Victorian Fantasy Tournament took place at La Trobe University, with grey team winning VFT and NSW winning the second round of Origin. Kassi organized for the Victorian Dropbears to have newspaper interviews, which lead to the Dropbears being featured in the breakfast shows 'The Today Show' and 'Sunrise'. In April we went to Supanova and although we didn't run exhibition matches we still made quite a bit of money selling merchandise and recruited some new players.

June had the fourth Mudbash tournament, which aside from a last minute venue change went well. We reached 11 teams competing for the championship; a new record. In July the Dropbears smashed the World Cup and getting to watch the team beat the Americans was incredible. Our Victoria Cup ended in September, with the Melbourne Manticores won the Grand Final for the second year in a row. The Leadbeaters won the third round of Origin and the Origin Shield. Spring Carnvial got our players ready for QUAFL, and with three of the top four teams including the winning team being Victorian, we prepared well.

Kassi thanks everyone she's worked with during her time on the executive, especially the rest of the executive, and says she won't be re running as she doesn't have the time to commit to the role in the coming year due to study.

Secretary: Regina Atkinson

Regina says 2016 has been a successful year for the VQA, she doesn't want to repeat too much of what Kassi said so she'll keep it short. We've reached close to 200 members over three tournaments, it was a shame we couldn't run the Invitational although she mentions the Unicorns made up half the total sign-ups for it. She's had a fun year as secretary and is looking forward to continuing on committee this coming year.

Treasurer: Graham Done

Graham says we've had a successful financial year, and will be going into more depth when we discuss the financial statement.

Head of Gameplay: Nathan Morton

Nathan believes that the 2016 Victoria Cup ran incredibly well and he looks forward to the growth of the Victorian quidditch community in 2017 with a 10 team fixture for the coming season. Furthermore Nathan commends the association on the popularity of Melbourne Mudbash, Victorian Fantasy and the success of the Leadbeaters and Dropbears. Nathan accepts a question from Emma Humphrey, who asks about snitching training, especially for female snitches. Nathan states his intention to run snitching

workshops early in the season and would be happy to work with snitches of all genders to improve their performance on field.

Head of Officials: Liam McCoppin, read by Nicola Gertler

“The basic job that the head of officials must fulfil is organizing the referees for most to every game that is run by the Victorian Quidditch Association, and in 2016 we had no problems in this regard. Most teams were capable of providing referee teams, to varying degrees of quality. No games in 2016 saw not enough referees take the pitch/be available to have the game continue, so this base standard was covered. The system that the VQA have in place for Vic Cup, where referees and their teams are rated by both teams, continues to serve as a fantastic way to see how each are faring, and while they are available to me, I am able to see the problems that individuals may have and attempt to solve these situations, be that through further referee coaching, clarity over the rules, or worst case scenario, avoiding using these individuals in future games.

It is clear still that our refereeing standards are low, especially with the assistant ref teams provided by the teams, however this is in part due to the continued turnover of players within the league, and the fact that the sport remains unprofessional and officiated by volunteers (usually players from other teams), and so although this will remain one of the biggest issues to tackle in the future, it also is not the most important issue that perhaps faces officiating in Victoria over the next year.

With head referees, who have completed a base knowledge of the rules, now paid by the VQA, I think we have seen a small raise in the standard of referees in 2016, and for this the VQA should be commended. Currently, the minimum requirements for receiving this payment is achieving 50% on the international head referee rules test, and considering that the pass mark for this test is 80%, perhaps to further improve the base standard of head refs in Victoria, we could move our own requirements to be slightly higher, perhaps closer to 75%, to further encourage referee knowledge of the rules.

There has been talk from Quidditch Australia of implementing our own form of either ref testing or ref training in Australia in 2017, and I think the VQA should be firm supporters of this movement. National training, especially if funded by QA, would make a huge difference in the standard of referees, and the more practise and national standardisation that referees can get will make a large difference come the larger tournaments in Australia (be that QUAFL, Mudbash, State of Origin etc).

There are endless calls for more ref workshops at a base level in Victoria, usually from the team reps, and again the VQA should continue to support these calls, and endeavour to run at least two or three workshops throughout the season for budding referees, be that sit down chats at the end of games, or more practical training with an entire day put aside. These should be organized between team reps and the head of officials, with VQA exec approval, in 2017.

On the whole, 2016 has been largely a success for officiating in Victoria, with higher average scores recorded by team ratings and better refs officiating more games. Hopefully this trend continues in 2017!”

Team Development Officer : Nicholas Hirst

Nic says that team development in 2016 has been a little slow, however the 2017 season is looking excellent with with three new teams joining the league.

4. 2016 Financial Statement

Graham Done (Treasurer) presents the Financial Statements for 2016 for the members to review.

Dean Rodhouse asks if the “Ambulance and Medic fees” expense covers all tournaments first aid, Graham says it also includes the cost of marquees and everything else the first aiders needed. Dean asks if the “VQA Referee/First Aid” expense is just \$20 every game of Vic Cup, Graham says it includes tournament reffing costs.

Nicola asks what the “Digital/Visuals” expense covers, Graham says it’s the cost of maintaining the website and design work.

Resolution #2

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves the presented financial statements.”

Moved: Graham Done

Seconded: Matt Ingram

For: 36

Against:

Abstentions: 3

RESOLUTION PASSES

5. Constitutional Amendments

It is requested to move proposed amendment 11 first, as this amendment has a knock on effect on a few proposed amendments.

Change 11

Amendment to rule 61:

Rule currently reads:

61 Election of Team Representatives

(1) Each Affiliate Member shall appoint/elect one Team Representative who shall hold a vote on the Committee.

(2) A person may not concurrently hold the position of Team Representative and any of the positions in Rule 46a) to 46j) inclusive

New rule will read:

61 Election of Club Representatives

(1) Each Affiliate Member shall appoint/elect one **Club** Representative who shall hold **one vote for each of the club’s teams** on the Committee.

(2) A person may not concurrently hold the position of **Club** Representative and any of

the positions in Rule 46a) to 46j) inclusive

Intent: Use of club rather than team under the changes proposed to Rule 5 Definitions

This amendment is not moved

Change 1

Addition to rule 5 (definitions):

Club: A group of players forming a team or teams that is governed by a single executive body

Team: A group of members of an affiliated club who identify as a team for the purpose of playing together in VQA Victoria Cup.

Intent: With the implementation of multiple teams per Quidditch club, the terms club and team can no longer be used interchangeably and as such must be defined for constitutional purposes and for creating rules to the Victoria Cup.

Resolution #3

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 1 to the Constitution”

Moved: Nicholas Hirst

Seconded: Graham Done

For: 38

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 2

Italicise all instances of terms found within the constitution that are defined in Rule 5, with exception of terms found in the bolded names of rules.

Intent: This change does not change the execution or schedules of the constitution. It only changes the way special terms are displayed to make their specificity more salient. Bolded terms remain as they are. Terms in regular font become italicised to show that they have a special meaning.

Resolution #4

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 2 to the Constitution”

Moved: Morgyn Benstead

Seconded: Ed Farrell

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 3

Addition of section 10. Term of Membership. Renumber all subsequent and effected sections.

10. Term of Membership

Unless otherwise stated, a member's term of membership extends from approval by the Committee under rule 12(1) until the end of the financial year.

Intent: Insert the above rule immediately after Rule 9, and re-number all following rules accordingly. The constitution has no clearly defined natural expiration date for membership. Save for Rule 19, members remain members forever (albeit suspended) unless they are expelled or die.

Matt Ingram moves to italicize the use of “financial year” to show the term refers to the VQA’s financial year.

Resolution #5

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves to amend the proposed Amendment 3 to the Constitution, to italicize the use of the term “financial year””

Moved: Matt Ingram

Seconded: Ed Farrell

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution #6

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 3 to the Constitution”

Moved: Morgyn Benstead

Seconded: Ed Farrell

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 4

Rewriting of rule 16:

Rule currently reads:

16 Affiliate members

- (1) Affiliate membership shall be open to quidditch teams or clubs within the state of Victoria
- (2) Affiliate members shall appoint a Team Representative to represent the team/club and hold a voting position at committee meetings.
- (3) An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.

New rule will read:

16 Affiliate members

- (1) Affiliate membership shall be open to quidditch **clubs** within the state of Victoria
- (2) Affiliate members shall appoint a **Club** Representative to represent **their club** and hold a voting position at committee meetings.
- (3) An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.

This amendment is not moved

Change 5

Removal of (3) in 16 Affiliate members

(3) An **Affiliate** member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.

Intent: Rule 16.3 uses the wrong term. It is a copy of Rule 15.2, and applies Associate Members, but not Affiliate Members.

Resolution #8

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 5 to the Constitution”

Moved: Morgyn Benstead

Seconded: Sebastian Gay

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 6

19. Resigning as a member

(2) A member is **taken** to have resigned if -

Intent: Correcting a grammatical error.

Resolution #8

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 6 to the Constitution”

Moved: Nicholas Hirst

Seconded: Chloe Bridle

For: 38

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 7

Addition of Honorary Life Membership to the constitution. Renumber all subsequent and effected sections.

21 Honorary Membership

(1) Honorary life membership of the association may be conferred by the affirmative votes of at least 2/3 of the voting members at a General Meeting, on a person who has made a substantial contribution to the club.

(2) Honorary life members of the association who are eligible for ordinary membership shall have all the rights of ordinary members.

(3) Honorary life members of the association who are ineligible for ordinary membership shall have all the rights of associate members.

Intent: Addition of life membership for to the section of members and renumber all subsequent sections

It is moved to edit section 21 (1) from “club” to “association”.

Resolution #9

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves the amendment to the

proposed Amendment 7 to the Constitution”

Moved: Nicola Gertler

Seconded: Matt Ingram

For: 35

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution #10

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 7 to the Constitution”

Moved: Ed Farrell

Seconded: Maddy Kerr

For: 32

Against: 1

Abstentions: 6

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 8

Addition of 36. Notices of motion. Renumber all subsequent and effected sections.

36. Notices of motion

A call for submissions for motions must be made to Members entitled to vote under Rule 14(1) by the Secretary no less than sixty (60) days prior to a general meeting except in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 34(3).

Intent: Insert the above rule immediately after Rule 35, and re-number all following rules accordingly. Rule 35.2 states that all motions to be passed by Special Resolution must be included in full with the notice to all Members entitled to vote. Sixty days is the period used in the Quidditch Australia constitution - a change that passed with the help of members of the Victorian Quidditch Association.

General discussion that 60 days is a long time for a small association.

Resolution #11

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 8 to the Constitution”

Moved: Matt Ingram

Seconded: Maddy Kerr

For: 12

Against: 17

Abstentions: 10

RESOLUTION DOES NOT PASS

Change 9

Changes to Composition of Committee to combine the positions of Head of Events and Head of Fundraising and Sponsorship. Section 54 changes to include fundraising duties in the Head of Events position and section 57 is removed. Renumber all subsequent and effected sections.

46 Composition of Committee

The Committee consists of –

- a) a President; and
- b) a Vice-President; and
- c) a Secretary; and
- d) a Treasurer; and
- e) a Head of Officials; and

- f) a Head of Gameplay;
- g) a Head of Events **and Fundraising; and**
- h) a Head of IT; and
- i) a Head of Media; and
- ~~j) a Head of Fundraising and Sponsorship; and~~
- k) one Team Representatives per affiliate member.

54 ~~Head of Events~~ Head of Events and Fundraising

- (1) The duties of the Head of Events shall include to –
- a) attend committee meetings and General meetings;
 - b) plan and run events such as ‘Come and Try’ days, conventions and social gatherings;
 - c) recruit, train, organise and develop volunteers to assist in the Association’s events **and fundraising;**
 - d) work with the Head of Media and Head of IT to promote upcoming events **and fundraising opportunities;**
 - e) **organise supplementary merchandise for sale at events;**
 - f) **explore alternate merchandise and fundraising options;**
 - g) **actively raise money to financially support the Association;**
 - e) h) submit an Annual Report; and
 - f) i) perform other duties as the Committee may resolve.

57 ~~Head of Fundraising and Sponsorship~~

- (1) ~~The duties of the Head of Officials shall include to –~~
- ~~a) actively raise money to financially support the Association;~~
 - ~~b) explore various avenues of sponsorship or donations to the Association;~~
 - ~~c) liaise with the Head of Events to organise supplementary merchandise for sale at events;~~
 - ~~d) explore alternate merchandise and fundraising options;~~
 - ~~e) submit an Annual Report; and~~
 - ~~f) perform other duties as the Committee may resolve~~

Intent: In the past there has been a struggle to fill both of these positions, with both being casual vacancies throughout 2016. These positions share significant overlap, and therefore should be combined into the duties of the Head of Events.

Nicola moves to change the wording of 54 (1) to read “Head of Events and Fundraising”

Resolution #11

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves the amendment to the proposed Amendment 9 to the Constitution”

Moved: Nicola Gertler

Seconded: Matt Ingram

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution #12

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 9 to the Constitution”

Moved: Graham Done

Seconded: Nicholas Hirst

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

Change 10

Amendment to rule 46(k):

Rule currently reads:

(k) one Team Representatives per affiliate member

New rule will read:

(k) one **Club Representative** per affiliate member

This amendment is not moved

Change 12

Addition of section 47 staff positons. Renumber all subsequent sections.

47 Staff Positions

(1) At any given point, the VQA executive may appoint individuals to voluntary staff positions at their discretion with the consultation with the committee. Staff members are subject to all relevant policies under **Division 3 - Election of Committee Members and tenure of office** with an exemption made to sections 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63. (Numbered based on renumbering)

(2) Staff members do not hold a vote on the committee.

Intent: Allow the committee and executive to hire voluntary staff as members of the VQA admin to fulfil roles such as equipment manager and occupational health and safety officer. This addition of the constitution aims to protect these individuals as well as the association.

Resolution #13

“That this General Meeting of the Victorian Quidditch Association approves Amendment 12 to the Constitution”

Moved: Graham Done

Seconded: Ed Farrell

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION PASSES

5. Election

Attachments 3 & 4

An election is held for the positions of:

President

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Nicola Gertler	Regina Atkinson	Luke Pahl

Kassi Grace - Declined		
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Nicola Gertler is elected to the position of President

Vice President

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Tom Dortmans	Tom Dortmans	Mark Douglas
Alex Langdon	Nicola Gertler	Nicholas Hirst
Chloe Bridle	James Brooks	Carissa Dyall
Graham Done – Declined		

Following a vote, Alex Langdon is elected to the position of Vice President

Secretary

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Regina Atkinson	Kelly Rodgers	Matt Ingram
Chloe Bridle	Nicola Gertler	Mark Douglas
Nick Munro – Declined		

Following a vote, Chloe Bridle is elected to the position of Secretary

Treasurer

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Regina Atkinson	Morgyn Benstead	Natalie Bendykt
Tom Dortmans	Chloe Bridle	Mark Douglas

Following a vote, Regina Atkinson is elected to the position of Treasurer

Head of Officials

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Liam McCoppin	Liam McCoppin	Luke Pahl

Liam McCoppin is elected to the position of Head of Officials

Head of Gameplay

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Nathan Morton	Chloe Bridle	Luke Pahl
Sebastian Gay – Declines		

Nathan Morton is elected to the position of Head of Gameplay

Head of Events and Fundraising

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Tom Dortmans	Tom Dortmans	James Brooks
Luke Pahl	Nicola Gertler	Callum Wynen

Following an election, Luke Pahl is elected to the position of Head of Events and Fundraising

Head of IT

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded

The position of Head of IT is left vacant following no nominations

Head of Media

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Sally Hicks	Nicola Gertler	Natalie Benedykt

6. Plans for 2017

General agreement to skip forwards as we are running out of time. The fixture for the 2017 Victoria Cup season shall be released after the meeting.

7. General Business

Member of the Melbourne Unicorns ask to discuss the transfer policy and other Vic Cup specific gameplay policies with the committee; Nicola says she'll talk to them after the AGM in detail if they are happy to given that the meeting has run for a long time; they agree.

Meeting closes at 1:02pm

VQA Inc. A0091181H