

Hills Bulls Sports Club AGM | MINUTES



Meeting date | time 04/11/2024 6:30 PM | Meeting location Ettamogah Hotel Upstairs

Meeting called by Board of Members

Type of meeting 2024 Annual General Meeting

Facilitator Michael Gremmo (President)

Note taker Rick Palin (Secretary)

Timekeeper Rick Palin (Secretary)

Attendees (As per Attendance Register)

Rick Palin, Mark Mahoney, Michael Gremmo, Ryan Orley, Graham Marshall, Tracey Marshall, Robert Zecchin, Chris O'Toole, Scott Chalcraft & Leon Carroll

Apologies

Aaron Gonzalez, Craig Culnane, Paul (Griffo) Griffin & Sam Rutherford

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Topic **Facilitator Welcome** | Presenter *Michael Gremmo*

Welcome: Michael Gremmo opened meeting, welcomed all attendees & Life Members – Rob Zecchin, Leon Carroll & Rick Palin (& Michael Gremmo).

Rick Palin (RP) asked that all attendees ensure they have signed the Attendance Register.

Apologies given & read out – Aaron Gonzalez, Craig Culnane, Paul (Griffo) Griffin & Sam Rutherford,

Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting introduced by Rick Palin (RP) which had been distributed with the AGM Notice on Club website.

Rick asked the floor that the 2023 AGM minutes be taken as read.

No questions/changes arising from 2023 minutes.

RP requested that a motion be proposed confirming the previous 2023 AGM meeting minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

Motion Proposed: Robert Zecchin

Seconded: Graham Marshall

2. Topic **Presidents Report** | Presenter *Michael Gremmo*

Discussion: Michael Gremmo (MG) provided his report on the Club's activities for 2024:

Thank you everyone for the year and your efforts. I would like to acknowledge our Life members Rick Palin, Robert Zechin and Leon Carroll.

Apologies from Board Members Craig & Aaron & our thoughts with Aimee and Aaron with the funeral today for Aimee's mum.

Another successful year for the Bulls:

- 2024 Parramatta Junior Club of the Year.
- 2024 Hills District - Try of the Year – Riley Davis (U16/1s).

- 2024 Referee of the Year – Bailey Clark (U19/1s) – for the second year in a row.
- Laurie O'Brien taking out Volunteer of the Year – Laurie O'Brien (U14/2 Coach).
- Club Championship and Junior Incentive Shield - Hills District would have won both if the criteria had remained the same since 1947. Rick and I went to the Parramatta JRL District Forum all day yesterday & Parra are putting to clubs to vote if it remains the same or goes back most clubs didn't care.
- Oz Tag another successful year and a huge thank you to Tracey & Graham and Marshalls and Leon Don and everyone who assists with OzTag.
- Junior Rugby League going great guns and we believe this has a lot to do with the coaching. 15/1, 16/1, 17/1 all winning their respective Premierships and probably first time ever.
- Senior Rugby League we see a change of coach for 2025 with Steve Odea who brings in a wealth of knowledge and experience.
- Partnership with Norths & Melbourne Continues in 2025.
- Gym completion which is a great asset for the Bulls for many years. Also full of great Gym gear.
- Mini Clinic, U13's clinic & Queensland Tour were a great success and will continue in 2025
- 60-year Anniversary in November great night with the Rugby League & Oz Tag team of the decade announced and we congratulate all.

A huge thank you too all especially:

- Social Media – Hannah & Kerry
- Podcasts with Scott Chalcraft.
- Rob – Photography

3. Topic **Annual Financial Report FY23/24** | Presenter *Mark Mahoney*

Discussion: Mark Mahoney gave an overview of the finances for the club. Financial Statements and Audit Report for the year ended 30 September 2024 prepared by Jigsaw Tax Accountants was provided to all attendees and tabled at the meeting (attached to minutes).

Operating Result: The surplus for the financial year amounted to \$122,574. This is compared to a loss \$102,597 in the previous financial year was primarily due to the realignment of Financial Year End. Previously the financial year ended on 31 August, but as a result of the updated Club constitution, the financial year end is now 30 September. Last year's report was for 13 months rather than the usual 12 months.

A substantial grant of \$75,000 was received in FY2024 for the building of the gym. Just over \$300,000 was spent on the gym construction in the past financial year.

Balance Sheet as at 30/09/2024:

Cheque Account -	\$550,261
Petty Cash/Floats -	\$4,280
Debit Cards -	\$16,454

Trade and Other -	\$89,860
Long Term Deposit	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$860,855

A motion stating the 2024 Audited Financial Report is accepted by the floor. Report Attached.

Financials Proposed: Scott Chalcraft

Seconded: Chris O'Toole

Topic **Election of 2025 BOM / Committee Members** | Presenter *Rick Palin*

Rick Palin congratulated the 2024 Board for their time, work and achievements for the last year and asked that all 2024 Board Members step down, so we can start voting in the 2025 Board of Members and Sub-Committee Members.

Board Of Management Paper nominations received: Rick Palin, Michael Gremmo, Mark Mahoney, Aaron Gonzalez, Ryan Orley, Graham Marshall, and Craig Culnane – All 7 members for 7 positions are elected.

Nominations from the floor for remaining positions: N/A

General Sub-Committee Paper nominations received: Hannah Withers (Girls Rugby League Liaison & assist with Social Media), Robert Zecchin (Registrar) and Scott Chalcraft (Marketing).

4. Topic **General Business** | Presenter *All*

General Discussion was had on:

- Rob Zecchin asked if we are able to start the Clubhouse upstairs renovations in the near future:
 - Michael Gremmo advised that with \$400k, we could start but we are really wanting a Council or Government Grant of around \$300k to assist with the build costs rather than pouring in more of the Club funds.
 - Mark Mahoney said that we need to be careful that we don't use all our money reserves as this is also the Clubs financial safety net in case we fall on bad financial times.
- Rob Zecchin asked if we could let out the Gym, now that it is completed to assist with bringing revenue.
 - Michael Gremmo advised that without staff it would be very difficult, and we cannot afford staff to run the gym. We are also under some very strict rules and instructions from the council on how the Gym is used.
- Chris O'Toole said that the Podcasts that have been released about the Club over the 60 years are fantastic and a great initiative by the Club. He said there has been great feedback for the Podcasts that he has heard from previous and current players including his own Grand Daughter.
- Rick Palin read out an email that was sent in by the Open Women's team Coach – Steve Younis:

Hi Rick,

I believe the Bulls have a board meeting tonight, if so, would you mind bringing up the following points during General Business on behalf of the Women's team?

The biggest issue the Women's team faced in 2024 was the unavailability of players to attending training and games due to having so many shift workers (police, emergency services, nurses). To combat this we believe the best solution is to start heavily recruiting for new players, so that we have a larger group of players to select from. (If we have to hold "try outs" to cut down the numbers to a manageable quantity, at least we'll be able to select a more competitive and committed squad).

I know the club already has plans to send out an EOI this week. If we could continue this drive throughout the next 4-5 months, it would go a long way to increasing our chances of getting new players.

Additionally, should the club consider running some kind of tackling clinic for some of the younger girls teams (like a Tag to Tackle program of some sort), please let me know so we can give the women the same opportunity to participate.

The other major issue the players themselves asked me to raise was that the Club give the Open Women's team the same consideration they give the Men's A-Grade team when it comes to promotion, opportunities, access to equipment, etc. They were disappointed in 2024 when the Women's team was not included in the schedule of games being played on the Nathan Gremmo Memorial Shield day. They were also bitterly disappointed that when the Parramatta Eels NRLW players attended the Bulls training sessions they were not brought down to meet with our own Women's team.

Lastly, as far as the playing jerseys are concerned, is there really a need to have pink on the female jerseys? The players want to play in the Bulls colours. The NRLW teams don't have pink versions of their club's jerseys, why do the Bulls? Can it be put to a vote or have each team decide?

- It was agreed by all that EOI were to be started and posted weekly to assist with the recruitment of senior female players. Scott Chalcraft will get the EOI Posts underway.
- Graham Marshall also suggested to get some EOI poster made and placed down at Crestwood Clubhouse, as there may be a lot of women who play OzTag interested in playing Rugby League. Scott Chalcraft will organize for some posters to be printed and placed down at Crestwood.
- Playing Jerseys for females were discussed with the floor and it was questioned that if we want to be an inclusive Club, then we should all wear the same-coloured jerseys. This was put to a vote and it was unanimous yes by all present that all female teams will wear the same jersey colours as the males.
- Regarding the question above about being given the same consideration as the Mens team, there was discussion around that we do, but scheduling games etc is not something that we can always do as it needs to work in with Parramatta and NSWRL schedules and requirements. This year was the first time A Grade was able to be scheduled on the same day as Nathan Gremmo day, and a third of the mens team were all Nathans mates who had played with him.
- Rick Palin will respond back to Steve with the decisions above.