Spike's Report

The Australian Canoe Polo newsletter
July 2015

With Rowan Holt picking up the ball in other activities, the writing of Spike's Report has fallen a little behind with this edition a poor cousin to Rowan's entertaining and informative writing. Many thanks Rowan for creating, editing and issuing the newsletter to become an anticipated and important communication for the canoe polo community. We wish you every opportunity and success in your new endeavors.

But the newsletter continues . . . someone is needed to pick up the baton and continue as editor for Spike's Report. Would you like to help? Contact Ian Beasley (polo@canoe.org.au) you would like to learn more.

2015 Australian Canoe Polo Championships

Leading up to Oceania, the Aus champs at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre in April set a new bench mark for venue and services. Thirty teams competed from the states (but not Tas) along with ACT, NZ and a team from our sponsor CPS. Looking to the future, it was exciting to watch five microjunior teams chasing the ball to enjoy, not only successful shots, but a bit of competitive fun with friends.

The final results were:

	Open	Women	Junior	Youth	Veterans	Masters	Microjuniors
Gold	CPS	ACT	Vic-1	Vic	ACT	NSW	Qld
Silver	SA	Mixed	Qld-1	SA	SA	Vic-1	SA
Bronze	Vikings	Vic	SA-1		NSW	Vic-2	ACT girls
4th	NSW-1		SA-2		Vic	SA	ACT boys
5th	ACT		Qld-2				Vic
6th	NSW-2		Vic-2				
7th	Vic		ACT				
8th	Qld						
9th	WA						
10th	SA-2						

2016 Australian Canoe Polo Championships.

The venue for the 2016 championships is not yet finalised. However, discussions are well advanced and an announcement is expected at the end of July.

2015 Oceania Canoe Polo Championships

Australia hosted the Oceania Championships at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre in April. A great time was had by all at a fantastic venue, but alas, NZ led the results and

took home the Julian Carter trophy. There were seven teams from NZ and thirteen teams from Aus.

The final results were:

	Senior men	Senior women	U15	U18 men	U18 women	U21 men	U21 women	Over 30	Over 45
Gold	NZ	Vic-A	Gold Green	NZ	NZ	NZ	NZ	Aus	NZ
Silver	Aus-A	NZ		Aus	Aus	Aus	Aus		Aus-A
3rd	Aus-B	Vic-B							Aus-B

NZ youth tour

A youth squad is off to New Zealand in Sep/Oct to test their skills, meet a few NZ players and check out the sights. Details are being organised now, but if you would like to join them, it's not too late. Register your interest on the website on the following link: http://canoe.org.au/disciplines/canoe-polo/.

ICF World Championships

The 2016 ICF championships will be in Syracuse, Italy. We're after players, coaches, managers and selectors to represent Australia at the championships. The championship website is: http://www.canoepolosyracuse2016.com/en_GB/. We anticipate competing in the following categories:

- Senior men
- Senior women
- U21 men
- U21 women

No nominations have been received yet. So if you wish to attend please register on-line now at: http://teams.canoe.org.au/.

If you would like to know more, contact Duncan Cochrane (duncan@kayaksplus.com.au) for team information or Ian Beasley (ibeasley@eftel.net.au) for registration details.

An ambassador for canoe polo

We are pleased to announce Booby Bajram as an ambassador for canoe polo. Many of you may recall meeting Bobby at Nagambie in April. He gave an inspiring speech to players and parents at the camp site. Bobby has a national profile in television and newspapers that will take canoe polo to a wider audience. A disabled athlete, Bobby is currently training to climb Mt Everest. We wish him very success (and maybe a mention of canoe polo at the summit!).

New boat rules

In case you've missed it, every canoe polo kayak used in an ICF event must display a label stating that it was manufactured under the ICF Manufacturer's Scheme. The first time this becomes mandatory is at the *2016 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships*. The label is your guarantee that the boat complies with the current ICF specifications.

If you're purchasing a new boat be sure that it is from an approved manufacturer. For a list of approved manufacturers go to: http://canoeicf.com/…/More-on-Ca…/ICF-Manufacturer-list.html.

The AC polo website

It you've not seen it yet, take a look at the new look AC website. The canoe polo pages have a lot of information that will continue to grow to become a key resource for us. On the site you can nominate for national teams, keep up with team news, check out player profiles (who would you like to see added?) among other things. There is also information about refereeing, coaching, selection and other documentation.

So far the site has the following, but will be added to as material becomes available:

- coach training and accreditation
- referee training and accreditation
- forms and policies
- committee position descriptions
- calendar
- selection information
- minutes of committee meetings
- online nomination for players, coaches, manages and selectors for Australian teams

The site is at: http://canoe.org.au/disciplines/canoe-polo/

WWCC

If you manage or coach players under 18 it is essential to have a *Working with Children Check*. WWCC is a requirement under the *Working With Children Act* (2005) and is consequently an obligation for canoe polo managers and coaches. Managers and coaches that do not have a WWCC should not be working with players U18.

It is easy to apply for WWCC, although requirements do vary between the states. Go to the 'Coaching' tab on our website for links to the requirements of each state. http://canoe.org.au/disciplines/canoe-polo/

Join the committee

Your committee works behind the scenes to guide development and growth of canoe polo across Australia. The committee is:

Chair	Ian Beasley
Secretary	Anthea Courtney
Finance manager	Rob Watson
High performance manager	Duncan Cochrane
Chief referee	Carolyn Cochrane
Facebook	Mikey Lawrence-Taylor
Member	John Moore
Communications manager	Vacant
Development manager	Vacant
Competitions manager	Vacant

We would be pleased to hear from you about any aspect of canoe polo, but especially if you have something to contribute. Send a note to polo@canoe.org.au marked to the attention of the person you wish to talk with or contact Ian Beasley (ibeasley@eftel.net.au).

Where did canoe polo come from?

Have you ever wondered how canoe polo came about? Follow these *YouTube* links to see a little of how it started. The first is from France, 1966. The sport is kayak football, the kayaks are about 5m long and the playing field is around 100m long. The idea is to place the ball into a ring floating on the water. The second video is closer to the current game. Called bat polo, it is in a swimming pool and the goals are a 1m x 1m target above the water. (Checkout the body tackle near the end of the clip.) The game was at the *Crystal Palace*, England in 1970.

Kayak football – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbu4MZZ18HY
Bat polo – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9koUHd9UX4

If you would like to contribute an article for the newsletter, request something covered, or have a comment, send a note to polo@canoe.org.au marked to 'Newsletter'.