



46th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 17 August 2022, 6:30pm
Zoom Conference
MINUTES

1. Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Welcome was extended by the President Shelly Rush-Nichols.

Attendees: Shelly Rush-Nichols; Darren Wills; Andrew Fishlock; Steve Nichols; Ivan Cole; Jeff Gilewski; Beth Monk; Matthew Chapman; Tom Taylor; Steve Hepburn; Jo O'Connell; Karen Davies; Hayden Ryan-Hill (via zoom)

2. Apologies: Phil Balcombe; Ross Osland; Julie Gee

3. Minutes from previous AGM

Minutes read and accepted as a true record.

Moved: Steve Nichols

Seconded: Ivan Cole

4. Business arising from previous meetings

Nil

5. Annual Reports

Presidents Report (Shelly Rush-Nichols)

- SRN noted it has been another tough year for community sport but prided the club on our ability to respond as promptly as we did to have players back on the field the same day we came out of lockdown.
- Junior comp team numbers were steady in comparison to the previous season and were run under the "Return to Community Sport" guidelines.
- Senior comp team numbers were also good given the uncertainty of the times.
- SRN thanked her all sponsors for their continued financial support of the club.
- SRN also extended her gratitude to the outgoing Administrator Karen Davies, the committee members who have given up time to help run successful competitions and of course all the players and referee's for their participation, help and support.

Motion to accept Presidents report

Moved: Beth Monk

Seconded: Darren Wills

6. Technical Reports

Technical Director Report (Andrew Fishlock)

- AF reported wet weather had an impact on the 21-22 summer competition with numerous rounds being cancelled, forcing the season to be pushed back into March before finals could be completed.
- Teams numbers for ladies was at 6; mens at 15 and mixed at 19
- Comps ran with numerous COVID-19 restrictions, but fortunately no COVID incidents needed to be addressed
- Mid-year competition saw very cold nights when games were able to be run. Wet weather also impacted this competition with games cancelled due to field closures.
- Team numbers for men was at 6 and mixed at 13

Motion moved to accept Technical Directors report

Moved: Shelly Rush-Nichols

Seconded: Matt Chapman

Director of Referees Report (Ivan Cole)

- IC expressed his disappointment COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather caused the cancellation to all tournaments except the Hornets run Peter Wilson Memorial Champs (PWMC).
- Congratulations were extended to Julie Gee for another well-deserved Blues Award.
- Referee upgrades were limited due to all the tournament cancellations, however the below MTA referee's received upgrades:
 - L2 – Amber Sullivan
 - L5 – Caleb Walz

Motion moved to accept Director of Referees report

Moved: Steve Nichols

Seconded: Andrew Fishlock

Director of Coaching Report (Tom Taylor)

- TT noted due to the COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather causing cancellation to all but PWMC, all was not lost as the National Touch League still provided an opportunity for a handful of MTA Redbacks to participate in some quality touch.
- Congratulations were extended to several Redbacks members who attained coaching positions in the Hornets teams.
- TT acknowledged the Redbacks finest results to date at PWMC with quite a few teams reaching the quarter and semi-finals at the tournament which can be attributed to the efforts of the great coaching staff.

Motion moved to accept Director of Coaching report

Moved: Karen Davies

Seconded: Matt Chapman

7. Financial Statement / Report

Finance Directors Report (Steve Nichols)

- SN acknowledged the strong financial position MTA is in
- Audit has been carried out by Brown Auditing Services on the club's finances for 2019/20 and 2020/21

- Account balance as at 30 June 22

Working account	\$88,555.85
Representative funds account	\$2,668.50
Term deposit	\$27,889.21
Savings account	\$15,653.36
Canteen account	\$4017.34

Motion moved to accept Finance Directors report

Moved: Shelly Rush-Nichols

Seconded: Darren Wills

8. Election of Board of Directors

Due to SRN being elected to the President's role in 2021, which is a non-election year for this position, nominations were called again to align with the Constitution. This position is a 2 year appointment, elected in the even years.

President: one nomination received from Shelly Rush-Nichols

Nil opposed. SRN accepted.

9. Appointment of General Committee

Phil Balcombe

Matthew Chapman

Jeff Gilewski

Julie Gee

Beth Monk

Steve Hepburn

10. Appointment of Public Officer

Steve Nichols

11. Appointment of General Committee members

Monday Night Competition Supervisor – Hayden Ryan-Hill

Tuesday Night Competition Supervisor – Hayden Ryan-Hill

Thursday Night Juniors Competition Supervisor – Shelly Rush-Nichols

Director of Referees – Ivan Cole

Director of Selectors – nil appointed - vacant

Director of Coaching – Tom Taylor

Public Relations Officer – Darren Wills

Judiciary Chairperson – David Dyson

Representative Coordinator – Darren Wills (senior); Shelly Rush-Nichols (junior)

Canteen Coordinator – Vanessa Fishlock

Motion moved to accept positions

Moved: Karen Davies

Seconded: Jeff Gilewski

12. Appointment of Life Membership

Nil

13. Special Resolutions

In accordance with NSWTA guidance, the MTA Constitution is required to be reviewed every 3-4 years. Special resolution raised by the Karen Davies seeking permission from the committee to commence a total review of the Constitution.

Motion moved to review Constitution

Moved: Karen Davies

Seconded: Darren Wills

14. Notice of Motions

Nil

15. Appointment of Auditor

Judy Brown of Brown Consulting

Motion moved to accept Auditor

Moved: Matthew Chapman

Seconded: Steve Hepburn

16. General Business

SRN thanked the outgoing Administrator Karen Davies for her time with the Club.

Annual General Meeting closed 7:24pm

Presidents Report 2021/22

The 2021/22 year has seen many challenges for our community sport programs and our representative campaigns. Not only was our year marred by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also extreme and dangerous weather patterns played havoc throughout the entire year. This was difficult and daunting at times given that Touch Football is our core business and everything we strive for and dedicate long volunteer hours too was being jeopardised and totally out of our control.

In saying all the above, we have had highlights, and through adversity comes an even stronger club and community. Maitland Touch worked hard and was the first affiliate in our region to get touch football back on the park after the long lockdown and restriction period in August-October 2021. Our community was calling out for some kind of “normal”, and we delivered! The competition had to be pushed back a week or two, but the day after restrictions lifted, we were on the park. A massive achievement for our small but dedicated club and one that I personally am very proud of. Another positive for this year is my engagement with Maitland City Council. I applied for a grant to go towards the upgrade of the clubs’ amenities, which we were successful in gaining, hopefully these improvements will commence in the not-too-distant future for our members to benefit from.

Our Junior Competition team numbers were steady in comparison to last season, we ran our competition under the “Return to Community Sport” guidelines. We had a total of 79 teams from under 7s – 17s.

Our Senior Summer Competition comprised of 40 teams total across our women’s, men’s and mixed competitions. These are good numbers for both senior and junior comp given the uncertainty of the time.

Our Mid Year Competition is nearing completion with 19 teams competing in men’s and mixed divisions.

We had 10 Junior Representative sides and 6 Senior Representative teams selected for the 2021/22 respective representative campaigns. However, in a devastating turn of events cancellations, postponements and further cancellations these teams/players did not get to represent themselves or our club at state level this year.

We had 7 players selected to play State of Origin (that’s 4 more than last year) plus 1 referee. A very pleasing 25 Senior players representing Hornets at National level and an astounding 14 Junior Hornets Players at regional level that will also be attending NYC later in the year. Many of our junior players have also gone on to achieve in their Regional and/or State School teams. This growth and these achievements highlight the depth and strength within our club, and that more athletes are choosing touch to be their first sport. In addition, we had referee upgrades and many of our coaches and MTA members on the coaching staff for Senior and Junior Regional Hornets teams, some of which will be heading to NYC later in the year with their Junior teams.

I am truly so grateful to our local community for financially backing Maitland Touch. I would like to thank all our sponsors, Club Maitland City, The Mutual Bank, Nichols Electrical, Carpet Court Maitland, Yellow Coaching, Bakers Delight Green Hills, Lovey’s Grocers, CNW Maitland, Pirtek Maitland Branch and Fit4kids for seeing value and worth in our club and what we offer to our community through inclusive sport.

I would like to sincerely thank our Club Administrator, Karen Davies. Her knowledge and understanding of “all things touch football” is what has kept us moving progressively forward this year. We could not have gotten through the last two years without Karen, and it is with much sadness that she leaves us at this AGM. While I am very sad for the loss of our club, I will also miss her personal guidance that she gave me when I found myself in uncertain or uncharted territory. Thank you, Karen for your wealth of knowledge during my time as president of MTA, while I will immensely miss you, I thank you for time shared and experiences gained through the past two years. I wish you well in your next chapter of enjoying life, free time and family time.

I would like to personally acknowledge and thank our referees; we have a strong team of referees that work in collaboration with the club. They too have felt the frustrations of the past year however continue to give their best to our club and MTA is fortunate to have the calibre of referees that we can call our own. Thank you Ivan, for overseeing the ref cohort.

Our players whether grassroots, rep or both, young and old are our stakeholders. Without them we have no club. I would like to personally thank our players and our touch community for their unwavering support during the last two years. This is only my first year in this position (last year I was acting president), and the growth of community within our club and given the circumstances of the past year has surpassed my expectations in such a short amount of time, our stakeholders are the key to the future of this club.

To the Committee, we are not large in numbers but large in heart, thank you for giving your time to our club and our community. Our core business is to play touch football, we desire to play it well, we are setting goals and working on processes and with our focus and determination I am excited to see how far we can go.

In closing I would like to add that I am thrilled to be President of this club. What we have achieved given the period and circumstances of time is tremendous. I look forward to the coming years, that will hopefully be a little smoother than the last.

Thanks team couldn't do it without you,

Shelly Rush-Nichols

President

Summer Comp 2021/22

- 40 teams across the Monday and Tuesday night competitions –
 - o Monday Night Comp
 1. 6 Ladies teams
 2. 15 Mens teams (5 A Grade and 10 B Grade)
 - o Tuesday Night Comp
 1. 19 Mixed teams (6 A grade; 6 B grade; 7 C grade)
- Weather impacts due to excessive rain events resulted in numerous competition nights being cancelled and ultimately delayed the end of the season as we pushed back into March to complete the season.
- All divisions played relatively competitive touch although early regrades did assist.
- QR codes used for all teams to sign on which generally worked ok
- All night supervisors and referees worked well together.

The 2021/22 Summer competition run relatively smoothly with the ongoing support of a core group of night supervisors working in conjunction with Ivan Cole the Referees coordinator.

Although the competitions run with numerous COVID controls and mitigations in place, there were no reported COVID incidents that needed to be addressed.

From a competition perspective, the season run smoothly with no major incidents or issues to report apart from the ground conditions due to the ongoing rain events and additional field marking required.

Mid-year (Winters) Comp 2022

- 19 teams across 3 Grades
 1. 6 Mens
 2. 6 Mixed A grade
 3. 7 Mixed B grade

Competition played out across a very cold winter although this was another competition impacted by ongoing wet weather with the competition delayed due to ground cancellations

The competition continued in size across all grades and was well supported by all teams.

No major issues experienced with the new QR sign on system utilised. The consistency of the competition was impacted by ongoing team forfeits – an issue we still need to satisfactorily manage as a club.

Technical Director

No major issues to report

The biggest concern that the club needs to resolve is the ongoing input from a small group of committee members covering most of the significant workload required to deliver for the club.

Finance Report, Financial Statements

By Steve Nichols

On 30 June 2022, the bank balances of the accounts were:

Working Account	\$88,555.85
Savings Account	\$15,653.36
Representative Account	\$2,668.50
Canteen Account	\$4,017.34
Term Deposit	\$27,889.21 (Re-invested again this financial year).

YTD Profit

For the 2020/21 financial year Maitland Touch have accumulated profits of \$15,484.09 for the financial year. This is a pre-audit figure and maybe adjusted once the accountant has looked over them. We are still in a very strong financial position. This will assist in navigating whatever comes our way. We had challenge's this year with the weather and Covid-19. I believe we are also building a financial foundation to allow the committee some of the following options in future year/s to redistribute profits:

- Subsidise representative player levies, junior and senior.
- Subsidise local competitions.
- Build some funds to assist council enhance the facilities at Maitland Park

Financial Audits

We have had the audits completed on the financials for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 by Brown Auditing Services. Judy Brown (Brown Auditing Services) has then prepared these documents which were able to be viewed on request prior to the AGM. The audit for 2021/2022 will be undertaken by Judy commencing around October this year and will be ready to view prior to next AGM (2023)

Goals for the financial system for the Club in the 21/22 financial year.

These goals remain a work in progress from the 20/21 financial year.

- Consolidate bank accounts. I believe we have to many bank accounts. We can allocate funds to different accounts/areas within Xero without having different accounts at the Mutual.
 - Setup the Square to allocate sales to different accounts so it can be used for food sales, uniforms, levy's etc
 - Setup a simple system for the cash in the canteen.
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Profit and Loss

Maitland Touch Association Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2022

2022

Trading Income

Canteen	7,494.83
Fundraising Income	3,400.00
Interest Income	60.62
Junior Representative Levies & Revenue	7,070.00
NSWTA JSC Registration Fee	110.00
Registrations - Juniors	49,920.00
Registrations - Seniors	84,238.88
Senior Representative Levies & Revenue	2,190.00
Sponsorship	13,500.00
Uniforms	23,377.59
Total Trading Income	191,361.92

Cost of Sales

Direct Costs - Administration	15,137.50
Direct Costs - Canteen Supplies	2,330.92
Direct Costs - Equipment & Uniforms	69,056.66
Direct Costs - Referees & Supervisor (Juniors)	6,398.50
Direct Costs - Referees & Supervisors (Seniors)	8,971.50
Direct Costs - Registrations	45,855.00
Direct Costs - Representative	590.00
Trophies & Prizes	8,045.86
Total Cost of Sales	156,385.94

Gross Profit

34,975.98

Other Income

General Income	468.01
Refunds	(1,063.00)
Total Other Income	(594.99)

Operating Expenses

Advertising	641.27
Consulting & Accounting	642.00
Council Fees	9,015.00
First Aid Supplies	2,530.55
General Expenses	2,246.99
Motor Vehicle Expenses	190.84
Office Expenses	74.09
Repairs and Maintenance	273.90
Stripe Fees	534.29
Telephone & Internet	797.97

Profit and Loss

2022

Travel - National	1,950.00
Total Operating Expenses	18,896.90
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Net Profit	15,484.09

Maitland Touch Association

2021/2022: Director of Coaching Report

Once again we find ourselves at the end of another year of touch football, and whilst there were many highlights and achievements unfortunately it will be remembered as another year of cancellations caused by COVID-19 & dangerous weather.

Senior Representative:

At the completion of social winter competition, NSW were placed into another lockdown with a surge in COVID cases thus putting major doubt into the upcoming hornets, country & state competitions. Maitland Touch however decided to push forward as much as possible and during this time was able to appoint a successful team of coaches that would guide our senior rep teams throughout the season. These appointments are as follows:

	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Manager
W20's	Melissa Lidbury	Meg Jackson	Renae Trow
M20's	Hayden Ryan-Hill	Luke Grills	Shelly Rush-Nichols
MXO	Martin Roberts	-	Kerriann Tranter
W40's	Julie Robinson	Gai Taylor	-
M40's	Tom Taylor	Tim Nichols	-
M50's	Andrew Fishlock	Darren Wills	-

Unfortunately, Hornets Championships & Country Championships were expectedly abandoned early due to the COVID-19 lockdown. But the crushing blow came in late November when we were informed about the postponement of Senior State Cup due to bad weather forecasts and the eventual cancellation of this on its backup dates.

This meant that no Senior Redbacks side took the field in the 2021/2022 season.

Not all was lost however with the National Touch League still providing an opportunity for a handful of Redbacks to participate in some quality touch football before the season's end. I would like to congratulate these coaches on being successfully appointed on the Senior Hornets Coaching team:

- Ladies 20's HEAD COACH: Tom Taylor
- Ladies 27's HEAD COACH: Jacqui Simpson
- Men's 50's HEAD COACH: Steve Hepburn
- Ladies 27's ASSISTANT COACH: Sophie Crouch
- Senior Mixed ASSISTANT COACH: Hayden Ryan-Hill
- All Abilities ASSISTANT COACH: Meg Jackson
- Ladies 50's MANAGER: Shelly Rush-Nichols

Junior Representative:

The journey for our junior players was a little bit kinder with our teams being able to participate in the Wallsend Gala Day & Peter Wilson Memorial Championships. But while this was the case, the journey still ended in heartbreak with the Junior State Cup Northern Conference being abandoned by bad weather.

This doesn't take away the huge effort from our junior coaching staff over several months of training and preparation. Congratulations to these appointed coaches:

	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Manager
G10	Molly Gallagher	Maddison Foley	Makenzie Grant
B10	Ryan Evans	Mick Campton	Ben Maytom
G12	Melissa Lidbury	Leanne Polglase	Ella Gidney
B12	Michael Carr	Zac Leonard	Andrew Hedges
G14	Sophie Crouch	Jacqui Simpson	Cindilee Thompson
B14	Tom Taylor	Connor Edwards	Eliza Carlson
G16	Steve Walterback	Craig Beckett	Natalie Osland

B16	Matt Tranter	Jack Edwards	Kerriann Tranter
G18	Meg Jackson	Monica-lee Morris & Keeley Fishlock	Melinda Walls
B18	Steve Nichols	Riley Jones	Shelly Rush-Nichols

Our club achieved its finest results to date at Peter Wilson Memorial with 8 teams reaching the Quarter Finals and a further 3 reaching the Semi Finals, this credit is deservedly aimed at our wonderful coaching staff.

At our junior presentation evening, Under 10 Boys Head Coach Ryan Evans was awarded the 2021/2022 Junior Coach of the Year award. Previous holders include:

Year	Name	Division
2021/2022	Ryan Evans	Under 10 Boys
2020/2021	Steve Walterback	Under 16 Girls
2019/2020	Sophie Crouch	Under 14 Girls

With the dust settling on the cancelled State Cup, some of our coaches were successful in gaining appointments for both Junior Regionals and National Youth Championships for the Hornets Region. Congratulations go to these Maitland Coaches:

- Under 14 Girls HEAD COACH: Steve Hepburn
- Under 14 Boys HEAD COACH: Tom Taylor
- Under 14 Boys ASSISTANT COACH: Zac Leonard
- Under 14 Boys MANAGER: Molly Gallagher

On behalf of the Maitland Touch Football Association, I would like to thank all participants members of the committee for another fun & exciting season. Looking forward to a dry and fast 2022/2023!

Tom Taylor: Director of Coaching

DIRECTOR OF REFEREES REPORT 2021-22

IVAN COLE & JULIE GEE

1. It has been a trying time over the last twelve months for Maitland Touch Association (MTA) and touch in general. With COVID-19 continuing to cause issues throughout our sport and more recently, the ongoing wet weather which has resulted in many delays organising, running and completing competitions. Basically, the clubs last twelve months have been up and down to say the least. Despite this, junior and senior referees continued to turn up and officiate games to the best of their ability.

2. **Winter Competition.** To say that the clubs 2022 Senior Winter Competition has been challenging is an understatement. With unrelenting wet weather delaying the start, constant field closures and referees falling victim to COVID-19... it's been a season in need of a warm embrace. Regardless, 15 referees still answered the call and officiated the Monday night games that were eventually contested. Grand Finals are due to be played on 15 August 2022 but this may be delayed due to the ongoing dampness. Final appointments will be announced at the referee end-of-season luncheon held at the Junction Inn - Raymond Terrace the Sunday prior.

3. **NSWTA Blues Awards.** The 2021 NSWTA awards night was held without a live audience due to COVID-19 restrictions but still, Maitland Touch walked away with an award. Our very own Julie Gee (Wiseman) received another Blues Award which is awarded to volunteers of NSWTA that go above and beyond the norm and continually backup day after day. We cannot thank you enough Julie for everything you do, not only for our club, but for touch as a whole... you are a one in a million!

4. **Summer Competitions.** The clubs 2021 Junior Summer Competition was supported by 15 junior and 17 senior referees. Seven of which were new junior referees that completed the September 2021 Level 1 Foundation course that was conducted by Maitland's Course Facilitators. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Junior Grand Finals were delayed from the planned Sunday 19 December 2021 until Thursday 03 February 2022. The referees appointed to these Grand Finals were:

- Boys 17: No GF contested
- Girls 17: Tahneisha Walls, Amber Sullivan
- Boys 15: Ivan Cole, Jeffery Gilewski, Hillary Andersen
- Girls 15: Steve Nichols, Laila Gutsch-Berry
- Boys 13: Tahneisha Walls, Amber Sullivan
- Girls 13: Ivan Cole, Abbie Turner
- Boys 11: Darren Wills, Dan Craig
- Girls 11: Jeffery Gilewski, Laila Gutsch-Berry.



The 2021 Senior Competition saw a referee roster that consisted of 26 junior and senior referees officiating both Monday and Tuesday nights. Grand Final appointments were awarded to the below referees:

- Ladies: Lucy Knight, Hillary Andersen, Liam Eade
- Men's A Grade: Tate Hoobin, Peter Retallick, Jordan Eade
- Men's B Grade: Beth Monk, Raymond Eade, David King.

Due to flooding, the Mixed Finals were postponed from Tuesday 01 March 2022 to 15 March 2022.

- A Grade Mixed: Bryce Lucas, Jeffery Gilewski, Beth Monk
- B Grade Mixed: Jason Taylor, Lachlan Procter, Liam Eade
- C Grade Mixed: Ivan Cole, Hillary Andersen, Amber Sullivan.



5. **Junior Referees End of Season Function.** With ongoing COVID-19 concerns the 2021 end-of-season junior social event did not proceed. With hope, this enjoyable day can reoccur for the 2022 season allowing our junior referees to finally enjoy the spirit of friendship that Maitland Touch resonates.

6. **Junior & Senior Referee Awards.** The 2021-22 Referee Awards were presented at the conclusion of Monday night’s Grand Final evening on the 28 February 2022. Unfortunately last years invited VIP, NSWTA Technical Director Ian Matthew aka ‘Matto’ was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Touch wood, Matto will be able to attend next year’s Grand Final evening. This year’s three exceptional referees were:


- Liam Eade – Maitland’s Tournament Referee of the Year – Presented by John Taylor
- Lucy Knight – Maitland’s Most Improved Referee – Presented by Ivan Cole
- Peter Retallick – Maitland’s Leading Referee – Presented by Julie Gee

Congratulations to you all on an incredible year, well done!



7. **Upgrades.** Congratulations to the below Maitland referees that received their respective upgrades throughout 2021-22:

Achievement	Awarded to	Tournament	Date	
Level 2	Amber Sullivan	Peter Wilson Memorial Championships (PWMC) Nelson Bay	06-Feb-22	

Level 5	Caleb Walz	National Touch League (NTL) Coffs Harbour	06-May-22	
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8. **Tournaments.** Due to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns and severe wet weather causing flooding nationally, the 2021-22 tournament calendar was heavily affected by cancellations as highlighted with in the below table. Nevertheless, our referees answered the call when an event did proceed either on behalf of Maitland or on loan to other affiliates. These tournaments included:

Tournament	Location & Date	Number Ref'd
Vawdon Cup (Cancelled COVID-19)	Sydney, Aug-Oct 2021	n/a
Country Champs (Cancelled COVID-19)	Central Coast, Oct 2021	n/a
Hornets Regional Champs (Cancelled COVID-19)	Nelson Bay, Nov 2021	8
NSW State Cup – Attempt 1 (Postponed Flooding)	Port Macquarie, Dec 2021	15
Peter Wilson Mini's (Cancelled COVID-19)	Central Coast, Dec 2021	n/a
Peter Wilson Memorial Champs (PWMC)	Nelson Bay, Feb 2022	16
NSW Junior State Cup (North) (Cancelled Flooding)	Port Macquarie, Feb 2022	15
NSW Junior State Cup Finals (No Finals Contested)	Earlwood, Mar 2022	n/a
NSW State Cup – Attempt 2 (Cancelled Flooding)	Port Macquarie, Mar 2022	14
National Touch League (Postponed Flooding)	Coffs Harbour, May 2022	7

9. Grand Final appointments for the above tournaments that did manage to go ahead were awarded to the below Maitland referees:

2021-22					
PWMC				NTL	
G18	Mya Cooke	B14	Jordan Eade	G12	Beth Monk
B16	Bryce Lucas	B12	Lachlan Lucas	G10	Marnie Fullerton
B16	Caleb Walz	B12	Peter Retallick	G10	Lucy Knight
B14	Jeffery Gilewski				M60 Phil Balcombe



10. **Additional.** Maitland's referees also officiate at other events around the region throughout 2021-22. Due to COVID-19, these were limited:

- Wallsend Gala Day U12-U18

11. **Referee Excellence.** Two Maitland Touch referees were invited to participate in the NSWTA 2022 State of Origin training camp held over the weekend of 28-29 May. Phil Balcombe and Bryce Lucas were both over the moon for this opportunity with Phil eventually being selected as part of the 2022 State of Origin Series referee run on squad that'll be held at C.ex Coffs International Stadium on 19-20 August 2022. Keep up the great work.

12. **Referee Training.** Courses were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2021-22. As a result, only one was conducted by Ivan Cole, Jeffery Gilewski and Mya Cooke. Future courses will see Peter Retallick and Beth Monk join Maitland's course presenting ranks as they both recently completed the required TFA training.

- Level one (1) Foundation – Maitland (on-line) – Sep 2021.

13. **Referee Coaching.** The referee coaching/mentoring program to develop both our junior and senior badged referees, although hindered by COVID-19 and constant field closures, is progressing well. This can be seen by the recent success at the 2022 PWMC where ten out of our available fifteen referees that attended were awarded Grand Finals. A phenomenal performance! The Referee Coaching Team lead by Ivan Cole and John Taylor will continue to guide Maitland's referees throughout their touch career and help them to be the best that they can be.

14. **Referee Recruitment and Retention.** Without referees, Maitland Touch would have to reinstate the dreaded Duty Team Referee Roster of the past. To combat this, the Committee is constantly researching innovative ways to attract new referees to the club and to retain its current referees. This includes:

- Maintaining a high level of remuneration
- The supply of referee attire
- Referee course reimbursement
- Accommodation during tournaments
- Referee end-of-season social events
- Recognition of referee excellence
- Referee coaching/mentoring program.

To help the club maintain its referee roster, our DOR, Ivan Cole recently attended the NSWTA Referee Strategic Plan Workshop in Sydney on Saturday 23 July 2022. Similar to the one he attended (on-line) back in 2020, but with less focus on coaching and more on grass root referee retention and recruitment which lead into referee training and support. Programs such as these will no doubt help not only Maitland, but other affiliates throughout our region and state.

CONCLUSION

15. Despite the many challenges including COVID-19 and the constant wet weather causing field closures and tournament cancellations, Maitland Touch continued to keep its members safe while doing its best to spread the joy of touch to the community. Thank you to Maitland's Referees for performing at their best over the past twelve months and thank you to the Committee for your endless dedication and continued hard work which makes our club one of the best.

Yours in touch,

Ivan Cole
Director of Referees

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