

May 2016 Water Polo Newsletter



Hello Sydney Uni Lions' alumni and supporters.

A Remarkably Successful National League Season

A lot has happened since the 2015 'Blue & Gold' Water Polo Luncheon on the first Friday in September last year.

Our senior men's and women's teams went on to enjoy remarkably successful National League seasons. Indeed, the Sydney Uni Lions were the winners of the inaugural Peter Kerr trophy for the most successful National League Water Polo Club for the 2015-16 season. This was as a result of our men winning the Southern Cross trophy for minor premiers and our women finishing the home and away games in second place to the Brisbane Barracudas.

The men's Final Series at the Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre produced some shock results with the final being played between UWA Torpedoes (who knocked out N°1 qualifier, the Sydney Uni Lions) and Victoria Seals (who knocked out the N°2 qualifier, the UNSW Wests Magpies). The UWA Torpedoes won the final in a penalty shootout, after our Sydney Uni Lions had defeated UNSW Wests Magpies 10-7 for the bronze medal.

Although disappointed not to make/win the final, coach Dudi Kristic, Operations Manager Ian Trent and President Antony Green ... together with their many assistants ... deserve the highest praise for their efforts throughout the season. Playing success was not confined to the National League – our M1 team were last summer's Metropolitan Men's 1st Grade premiers.



With a narrow semi-final win over the Cronulla Sharks, our Sydney Uni Lions women's team won the right to play the reigning champions, Brisbane Barracudas, in the final. The girls then created history with a stunning 12-8 victory for the Sydney Uni Lions' first ever National Water Polo League women's title.



All of our team contributed to this magnificent performance – the goal scorers were Hannah Buckling 5, Keesja Gofers 3, Isobel Bishop 2, Emma Lewis 1 and Tahlia Bogg 1. Hannah Buckling was awarded the Pat Jones medal for Most Valuable Player of the finals, while Keesja Gofers was selected in the 2015-16 All Star team for the National League season.

This result was a triumph for co-coaches Alicia Smith and Debbie Watson. Sue Trent managed the team superbly. Her husband Ian, the Club’s Coaching Director, and President Simon Lewis are also to be congratulated for many years of time and effort, which played an integral part in our first ever National Water Polo League women’s title.



Sydney Uni Aspirants for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games

Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness and our two affiliated Water Polo Clubs extend the best of good wishes to our six players who are members of the squads from which the final Australian Sharks’ and Stingers’ teams for Rio will be selected.

Just to make those squads is a terrific achievement by:



Isobel Bishop



Hannah Buckling



Johnno Cotterill



Keesja Gofers



Bronte Halligan



Lea Yanitsas

2016 'Blue & Gold' Water Polo Luncheon – Friday 26th August

This is early advice to “save the date” for this year’s annual ‘Blue & Gold’ Water Polo Luncheon.

The seventh consecutive ‘Blue & Gold’ Water Polo Luncheon will once again be held at **The Ivy Ballroom** (320 George Street, Sydney – opposite Wynyard Railway Station) on **Friday 26th August**. It is a terrific naturally-lit dining room, which is adjacent to **Palings Bar** – a most convenient watering hole for post-luncheon refreshments!

The date of this year’s lunch has been brought forward by one week to cater for the parents of Knox Grammar and Shore students. Apparently, our “first Friday in September” luncheons have been clashing with major fundraising events held at these schools on that day.

Although the closing ceremony of the Rio Games is on Sunday 21st August, most of our aspiring 2016 Water Polo Olympians are planning to be back in Sydney by Friday 26th August.

The 2016 ‘Blue & Gold’ Water Polo Luncheon will be a wonderful occasion, with Adam Spencer – the very best in the business – moderating two panels of Water Polo luminaries.

So, enter that date ... **Friday 26th August** ... in your diaries and let us know that you’ll be attending by completing and returning the attached booking form. Rest assured that no payments will be processed until one week before the event.



The front of house tables will be assigned to the first of you to respond with your booking forms. We will also accept verbal assurances from organisers of tables, be they corporate tables; tables of teammates from different eras; tables of parents of the players from specific (junior and senior) teams, etc. Ian Trent will be encouraging lots of different groups within the Sydney Uni Lions’ Water Polo Clubs to support this major fundraiser for Water Polo at Sydney Uni.

I would be especially pleased to see record numbers at this year’s event – The Ivy Ballroom can comfortably cater for 300 luncheon guests. Friday 26th August will be my last hurrah as the function’s resident MC. The Sydney Uni Lions’ Water Polo Clubs will take over the running of the ‘Blue & Gold’ Water Polo Luncheon from 2017 onwards.

There will be more newsletters for Sydney Uni’s Water Polo community in the lead-up to the Friday 26th August ‘Blue & Gold’ Water Polo Luncheon. However, we look forward to hearing from you as soon as you can confirm that you’ll be organising tables or just reserving places at the event.

Best regards.

Rodney Tubbs

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