

Hills Bulls Sports Club AGM | MINUTES



Meeting date | time 17/11/2025 6:30 PM | Meeting location Crestwood Clubhouse

Meeting called by Board of Members

Type of meeting 2025 Annual General Meeting

Facilitator Michael Gremmo (President)

Note taker Rick Palin (Secretary)

Timekeeper Rick Palin (Secretary)

Attendees (As per Attendance Register)

Rick Palin, Michael Gremmo, Ryan Orley, Craig Culnane, Rob Gleeson, Graham Marshall, Tracey Marshall, Martin Shanahan, Leon Carroll, Leon Don, Jason Brett, Aaron Gonzalez, Hannah Withers, Kerry Barnard, Lauren Rizzo & Daniel Rizzo

Apologies

Rob Zecchin, Mark Mahoney, Scott Chalcraft & John Abbott

AGENDA TOPICS

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

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

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

Apologies given & read out – Rob Zecchin, Mark Mahoney, Scott Chalcraft & John Abbott

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

Rick asked the floor if the 2024 AGM minutes can be taken as read.

No questions/changes arising from 2024 minutes.

RP requested that a motion be proposed confirming the previous 2024 AGM meeting minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

Motion Proposed: Graham Marshall

Seconded: Rob Gleeson

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

Discussion: Michael Gremmo (MG) provided his report on the Club's activities for 2025:

Thank you everyone for the year and your efforts. I would like to acknowledge our Life members Rick Palin, Leon Don and Leon Carroll (& Michael Gremmo).

The 2025 Winter season has come to an end and our summer season commenced, and once again we can proudly say that the Hills Bulls Sports Club remains the premier sports club in the Hills District.

To our incredible sponsors, officials, parents, supporters and volunteers – thanks you. Whether you coached, managed, worked the canteen, ran water, set-up and/or managed the grounds, or played a behind-the-scenes role,

your contribution is what makes this Club strong. A massive thanks to our Board and Coaching & Development team, whose professionalism, vision and tireless work continue to set us up for success, year in and year out.

Special recognition to:

- Aimee Gonzalez and her team for continuing to raise the bar in the canteen.
- Kerry Barnard, Hannah Withers, Stacey Stafford, Scott Chalcraft, Rob Gleeson, Nathan Behrens, Jessica Beckingham and IMS for elevating our social media, marketing and event presence.
- Rick Palin, our Club Secretary for managing NSWRL/Parramatta JRL protocols and Club operations at the highest level.

Without your combined efforts, this Club simply wouldn't be what it is today.

Remembering Paul 'Griffo' Griffin

Last year we lost a Club icon and mate – Paul Griffin. Griffo was a Life member, tireless volunteer and generous supporter. His spirit continues to guide this club.

In honour of Griffo, we:

- Celebrated Griffo's life with a heartfelt service at Crestwood Oval, attended by thousands of Griffo's family and friends.
- Opened Griffo's Gym at Crestwood Oval – A high-performance facility and community hub that reflects his legacy.
- Held the Inaugural Griffo's Cup against Wentworthville and Ryde Eastwood.
- Celebrated the announcement by NSWRL of the Paul Griffin Award for the Ron Massey Cup Grand Final Player of the Match.
- Hosted the first ever Griffo's Long Legend Lunch – a sell-out event filled with mateship, footy, and heart. Thank you to Joel Cain and the Parra Legends – Sterlo, Muggo, Pebbles and Guru – for donating your time and stories. Raising nearly \$100,000 towards our \$350,000 goal for the Community Centre.
- Welcomed the new Bulls Greyhound Syndicate, a runaway success thanks to Wayne Franklin. We now have three Greyhounds, including one affectionately named 'Don't Tell Robyn'.

Griffo's generosity continues to inspire us – especially through his final gift of organ donation. His legacy lives on in every corner of this Club.

Club Events & Social Impact

- Launched the 'Our Club Our Legacy' campaign including the 'Buy-A-Brick, Build a Legacy' initiative and raffle ticket sales for the NRL Vegas Trip – all raising funds for the Hills Bulls Community Centre, although we have seen disappointing results to date from the teams selling very little tickets raising only 30% of estimated ticket sales.
- Completed the High-Performance Gym.
- Jersey Day and the Nathan Gremmo Shield once again raised awareness for organ donation and brought the community together with a huge crowd at Crestwood. The Hills Bulls Sports Lunch (5th September 2025) and Hills Bulls Golf Fundraiser (18th November 2025 at Castle Hill Country Club) remain calendar highlights.
- Our digital presence continues to grow thanks to our media team. Visit our updated website and follow us on Social Media platforms to stay connected.
- We have raised over \$205,000 of the \$350,000 required to build the Hills Bulls Community Centre. Thank you to all who've contributed – we are over halfway there, and in true Bulls spirit, we will finish what we have started.

Junior Rugby League & LeagueTag

Hills Bulls Sports Club has continued to dominate across competitions – a credit to everyone involved.

- 48 League and League Tag teams (including 9 female teams)
- 23 of 28 eligible teams reaching the finals
- 14 Grand Finalists
- 6 Premiership winners (U21s, U15/1s, U14/1 LeagueTag, U12/1 LeagueTag, U12/2 LeagueTag & All-Abilities team)
- 4 players from our All-Abilities team selected for the Parramatta Rep team defeating Penriths Rep team in the Battle of the West
- Numerous players selected for the male and female Development and Representative Squads.

Senior Rugby League

It was an exciting year with Jason Baitieri, a Bulls junior, returning as Club Captain after a stellar international, NRL and Super League career. Jason will join the Coaching team in 2026.

Congratulations to Taniela Lasalo who was awarded the NSWRL Ron Massey Cup Player of the Year.

While 2025 was a rebuilding year for our Ron Massey and Sydney Shield squads, we saw strong junior progression into the senior ranks. Recruitment and retention are well underway for 2026.

Our alliances with the North Sydney Bears and Parramatta Eels continue to build a strong development pathway from grassroots to the NRL.

Open Age Womens team – 2025 Grand Finalists – Our female program continues to build and grow.

Oztag Highlights

- Over 5,000 registered players and 400 teams competed in our 2025 Winter & Summer competitions
- The Hills Bulls Representative Program was outstanding at the NSW State Championships
- Out of 17 teams contesting at the State Cup, 14 teams made it through to the Finals campaign, with the U16 Girls being crowned State Cup Champions
- A huge thank you to Leon Don, the Marshall family, and all supporting families for your dedication

Sponsors

To our amazing sponsors – thank you. Your loyalty and generosity continue to fuel this Club's growth and success. Whether you're a current parent, past player or long-time supporter, your backing means everything to us.

Looking ahead, our commitment remains anchored in our Club's guiding philosophy:

CLUB – TEAM – PLAYER

Thank you to all for another successful season. Enjoy the summer break, be safe and we look forward to seeing you at Crestwood Reserve in 2026.

In Closing

Our female programs and growth have been enormous.

Parramatta District Awards – Hills Bulls would have been awarded the Club Championship again if the criteria remained as it was since 1947.

NSW State Government unfortunately ruled our grant application ineligible for the \$100,000 which was fully endorsed by our local member Ray Williams MP as the land owner did not give us permission to build on their land which is incorrect as we have a letter endorsing the building, Development Approval, Modification Approval and Construction Certificate and commenced work on site under their inspections. State Government then cancelled the Q4 grant and will have the grant reopened in 2026.

On Sunday, 16th November, the NSWRL had their community day at Olympic Park and we were presented with a \$200,000 grant towards the Community Centre, which we will commence construction in 2026.

3. Topic **Annual Financial Report FY24/25** | Presenter *Rick Palin*

Discussion: Rick Palin gave an overview of the finances for the club. Financial Statements and Audit Report for the year ended 30 September 2025 prepared by Jigsaw Tax Accountants and audited by Peter Gunton was provided to all attendees and tabled at the meeting (attached to minutes).

Operating Result: The surplus for the financial year amounted to \$228,492. This is compared to a surplus of \$122,574 in the previous financial year.

Balance Sheet as at 30/09/2025:

Cheque Account -	\$430,709
Petty Cash/Floats -	\$4,280
Debit Cards -	\$9,143
Our Club Our Legacy	\$177,234
Trade and Other -	\$146,070
Long Term Deposit	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$1,067,435

A motion stating the 2025 Audited Financial Report is accepted by the floor. Report Attached.

Financials Proposed: Ryan Orley

Seconded: Rob Gleeson

Topic **Election of 2026 BOM / Committee Members** | Presenter *Rick Palin*

Rick Palin congratulated the 2025 Board for their time, work and achievements for the past twelve months and asked that all 2025 Board Members step down, so we can start voting in the 2026 Board of Members and Sub-Committee Members.

Board Of Management Paper nominations received: Michael Gremmo, Aaron Gonzalez, Rick Palin, Mark Mahoney, 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: Kerry Barnard (Social Media & Oztag), Hannah Withers (Girls Rugby League Liaison & Social Media), Scott Chalcraft (Marketing), Daniel Rizzo (Oztag), Lauren Rizzo (Oztag), Jason Brettle (Oztag) & Kate Haddad (Oztag).

4. Topic **Life Membership Nomination** | Presenter *Leon Don*

Life Membership Nomination – Graham Marshall (Nominated by Leon Don – Life Member & endorsed by fellow Life Member Leon Carroll):

- Leon Don read out the Life Member Nomination and details.
- Graham was asked to leave the room, so the AGM attendees could discuss and vote.
- Graham was voted in by the members of the floor with a unanimous vote.
- Graham was invited back into the room and congratulated on his Life Membership.

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

General Discussion was had on:

- Discussion item 1 – Oztag Committee and member involvement:
 - Rick Palin advised that he had received multiple queries as to how people can get ointo committees and more involved in decision making or assisting with running Oztag etc.
 - Rick advised that it was a simple as putting your hand up and nominating to join the sub-committee you are interested in. Rick also stated that if you do put your hand up, then make sure you can commit, as we have a lot of people out there who insist on what we can do better, but very few people who want to commit and be part of the change makers and doers.
 - Mick Gremmo also said that we are always looking for more people to assist in all areas.
 - Kerry Barnard said that the people who have nominated are committed and want to give more hands to make work lighter.
 - Jason Brettle advised he has been around Oztag for many years now and feels that his experience could greatly assist running of oztag and coaching and development roles.
- MPIO:
 - Michael Gremmo asked if Marty Shanahan if he would like to go around again as the Club Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) which Marty said he would like to go around in the role again in 2026.
- 2026 Canteen Manager:
 - Kerry Barnard and Lauren Rizzo both queried what the Club was going to do with the Canteen Manager role now that Aimee Gonzalez is stepping down from the role at the end of this season.
 - Rick Palin advised that we do have an annual honorarium of \$3k for the person who owns the role and runs the canteen over the Rugby League and Oztag seasons. Kerry and Lauren asked would this be something that could be split multiple ways for two or three people to take on the role together? It was discussed and this could be something that can be done, but people will need to be committed and make sure the job is done correctly and in a sustainable way.
 - Kerry will put together an advertisement and run it by the Board to start advertising for new person or team to run the canteen in 2026.

- Oztag Growth:
 - Jason Brettle asked if we could build on the prize money over the weekly adult comps to help build and increase comp participation.
 - Leon Don and Graham Marshall both advised that for the Summer Comps to increase, we would need more green space as we are at maximum capacity, and with more grounds we need more people to be able to run the comps. Graham also advised that Winter Oztag has oom for growth but the issues we have are ground allocations – ie. Showground not be available when the Circus is on then there is the issue with the state of the fields that we can get.
 - Leon Carroll wanted to congratulate the outgoing Board & Committee and say Well Done to the incoming Board for season 2026.
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Meeting Closed: 7:41PM