



**MUAYTHAI AUSTRALIA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**26 JANUARY 2020**  
**TALLEBUDGERA, QLD**

**Attendees**

| <b>Position</b>                              | <b>Representative</b>  |
|--|------------------------|
| MTA President                                | Anthony Manning        |
| MTA General Secretary                        | Trevor Lawler          |
| MTA Financial Director                       | Joselyn Eling          |
| MTA National Coach / IFMA Director           | Leon Spain             |
| MTA Head Official                            | Elias Dolaptsis        |
| Director Promotions<br>MTA NSW/ACT President | Andrew Parnham         |
| MTA QLD President                            | Richard Walsh          |
| MTA Female Commission                        | Courtney Rainbow       |
| MTA Club Representatives                     | Refer to Sign in sheet |

**Apologies**

| <b>Position</b>        | <b>Representative</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| MTA SA President       | Carly Gangell         |
| MTA WA/NT President    | Darren Reece          |
| MTA VIC/TAS President  | Vacant                |
| MTA Medical Advisor    | Ben Manion            |
| MTA Athlete Commission | Yolanda Schmidt       |

## **1 Welcome**

MTA General Secretary opened the meeting at 11:00am. Attendees were welcomed and previous AGM minutes were accepted.

Next AGM scheduled for December 2020.

### **New Executive Board**

The new MTA Executive Board was announced:

- MTA President - Anthony Manning
- MTA General Secretary – Trevor Lawler
- IFMA Director (MTA Head Coach) – Leon Spain
- MTA Head Official - Elias Dolaptsis, Assisted by Abby Nelson
- WMC Australia President (MTA Promotions Rep) – Andrew Parnham, Assisted by Chantel Green
- MTA Financial Director – Joselyn Eling

## **2 MTA President Address – Last two years**

Outgoing MTA President Richard Walsh thanked everyone for their work in progressing MTA over the past two years, and advised that he is excited to keep working with MTA QLD, with a view to remaining involved with MTA Nationally in the future.

Richard stressed the importance of focussing on MTA and the new WMC promotions, and working towards improving ourselves, instead of comparing to other bodies. Richard encouraged anyone interested in progressing MTA as an organisation to put their hand up, take on a role and get involved. The more people involved in building the organisation, the better the result and the lesser the load on everyone else.

### **MTA President Address – Next two years**

Incoming MTA President Anthony Manning introduced himself and the new MTA Executive Board.

Anthony discussed the rebranding of professional promotions, rankings and titles to WMC Australia, and introduced Andrew Parnham as the new MTA Promotions Representative, hereby referred to as the WMC Australia President.

Anthony discussed three key initiatives which will be the focus of the coming year for MTA:

- ALL professional promotions with fighters at amateur or professional level will be branded and labelled WMC nationally. For better branding and development of one national brand and quality Muaythai show we are returning to being seen publicly as the WMC! All promoters are to promote the WMC logo primarily and refer to the show as a WMC sanctioned show. The MTA logo should also be displayed. The new Director of Promotions is to be known as the WMC President Australia.

- The MTA is responsible for governance, policies, government liaison, member protection, national and all event up to and including development days.
- All juniors events is under the MTA banner.
- Direct liaison with other bodies will be developed formally with the aim of having MOUs with other major bodies to all work together for Muaythai.
- Individual memberships. Continue to work towards offering MTA individual memberships for fighters and other Muaythai enthusiasts to join singularly. This will be introduced as soon as MTA can secure insurance which will cover fighters. MTA Clubs will receive a rebate from non-fighters who purchase individual membership (and thereby insurance).
- MTA National Championships for the 2021 Australian team will be held over the second weekend of December 2020, over 4 days. This will allow a full day for registration, draw and schedule before fights start, which will prevent many of the issues experienced this year and in previous years.
- MTA Training courses will be introduced this year. There will be two courses: one for officials and one for trainers, and both will have components offered online. The official's course will consist of three components – Level 1 will be online training, Levels 2 and 3 will consist of recognised prior learning, on the job training, and time/experience. Courses will be a 5 level course with the aim one day of being recognised for a Certificate 3 or 4.
- Insurance – For clubs and promoters as an integral part of membership and a benefit only available to MTA member clubs and promoters.

### **3 MTA Financial Director Update**

Outgoing MTA Financial Director Trevor Lawler provided an overview of the 2018-2019 financials and the 2019-2020 financial year to date. Trevor explained that the MTA bank accounts are set up with access provided to the MTA President, General Secretary and Financial Director. All expenditure must be approved by two of these three individuals before any money can be accessed, ensuring accountability.

Trevor advised that two years ago, MTA had 95 member clubs. This number has now grown to 166 member clubs, and increase of 42.7%.

Last Financial Year MTA started with a balance of around \$80,000, closing with \$12,000. The balance fluctuates with annual events such as the MTA Nationals and IFMA World Championships. Of the income over the financial year, approximately \$34,000 came from club membership, with approximately another \$18,000 in sanctioning fees. Gross profit came to approximately \$213,000, with expenses approximately \$203,000.

MTA remains a not-for-profit organisation, and we try to assist athletes as much as possible to fund uniforms, participation in events etc.

Financials were noted by Corey Impelmens and seconded by Jeff Bullock.

### **4 Promotions Commission**

WMC Australia President Andrew Parnham introduced himself. Andrew advised that WMC had gone full circle, and we were looking at a return to the 'good old days' with

true champions who have earned their recognition through WMC. Athletes will now have the opportunity to follow one of two pathways: WMC/Pro competition and amateur tournament/MTA style competition.

Internationally, Bangkok WMC has been approving more WMC titles, and is keen to work with WMC Australia to rebuild the status of WMC both domestically and internationally.

## **5 MTA Medical Advisory**

Nil

## **6 MTA State and Territory President Updates**

### **6.1 MTA WA President Update**

- MTA WA/NT main focus has been to re-establish stability and create as much opportunity for growth as possible.
- Member gym numbers have increased by another 12 gyms, with many of these gyms getting on board to be a part of the junior, inter club sparring days. These days have proven to be an excellent platform for introducing juniors to the IFMA style and format whilst giving them a focus outside of their gyms. They also have proven to be a simple solution to getting much needed, real time training for potential officials and educating MTA WA as a board, what will be needed as they push hopefully towards an MTA WA state tournament, for both juniors and seniors, in lead up to the MTA National Championships in December.
- MTA WA focus this year will remain much the same as last year, while also encouraging their best A Class fighters to attend as many international IFMA events as possible.

### **6.2 MTA NSW/ACT President Update**

- Largest Club growth
- Development day model worlds very well.
- MTA exclusive Officials training and development helps grow the MTA and our shows in NSW.

### **6.3 MTA QLD President Update**

- Junior development days will be developed and grown to a regular competition opportunity.
- WMC will drive all promotions and grow the professional side.
- North Queensland is doing very well and will continue to grow.

### **6.4 MTA SA President Update**

- MTA SA Objectives for this year: Establish the MTA SA Board, Facilitate an officials training course (for new & existing officials) – aim to register 1x person from each MTA club, Facilitate the first MTA development day as an opportunity for novices and officials in training, Distribute regular emails to MTA clubs with upcoming events, news, etc., and Keep registered fighters up to date on the rankings.
- MTA SA currently has 11 registered MTA clubs, with 4 clubs pending registration.

- MTA SA events for 2020 include: Pride Fight Series (Saturday 28 March, Saturday 5 September), MTA Officials Training Course (June 2020), MTA Development Day and Officials Training (July 2020), and Barossa Blitz (Saturday 24 October)
- At the beginning of 2020, the preliminary MTA SA Board was established including MTA SA President Carly Gangell, MTA SA Head R&J Tom Ferrauto, and Mandy Graetz, an MTA accredited judge that holds a position on the SA Combat Sports Board for the Office of Recreation and Sport.
- Final MTA SA Board will be announced on 5 February 2020, and will include elected positions, plus a medical advisor and legislative advisor.

#### **6.5 MTA NT Representative Update**

- 2 clubs but 4 shows and development work to get everyone doing MT to work together.

#### **6.6 MTA VIC Representative Update**

- 2 WMC promotions currently. 22 clubs and a lot of room for growth and integration with established MT in Vic.

### **7 2019 World Championships Report**

MTA National Coach/IFMA Director Leon Spain provided an overview of the 2019 IFMA Junior and Senior World Championships.

The adults competed in Bangkok, Thailand. Our female fighters did exceptionally well, as usual. Our male fighters still don't quite grasp the level of competition in IFMA; even MTA's pro fighters struggle with competing on that level. We need to focus on building a stronger MTA team for IFMA, with more education for our Pro fighters on what is required to win at IFMA events.

Junior Worlds was held in Turkey, which was expensive but retained good numbers and the team achieved fantastic results. The event was very organised and well run, and the Australian team bonded very well. Hopefully positive experiences from the attendees at Worlds helps to generate more interest among other athletes and encourages more of them to attend next World Championships.

The 2020 Senior World Championships are in Dubai in June 2020. Any athletes can nominate, with classes open for under 23 and 'open', male and female. Junior World Championships are scheduled for September 2020 in Bangkok and will be the main focus for MTA.

### **8 MTA General Secretary Update**

The Gen Sec is doing a handover to the New Gen Sec over the next few weeks.

#### ***Nationals 2020.***

Dec 10-14<sup>th</sup>. This is the Major single event of the MTA calendar. It is a promotion that everyone should support and encourage. It is not a pro - show but it is a showcase of everything Muaythai, Kids, and adults of all levels. Your club should be there, and everyone

should encourage everyone to be there. The only way to have actual national champions at the event is to get the best clubs and fighters there.

It is a 4 day event and a lot to organise but it is the MTA event and everyone should support it. The MTA tries to make money from it to fund athletes and the running of the MTA throughout the year. It is not an amateur event. It is for every level and everyone should enter.

Australian team will be selected from the event. A-class adults will also be considered with a parallel pathway of rankings and nomination however the 1<sup>st</sup> consideration is the athletes MTA support and entrance to Nationals. World Dates are not confirmed. Junior, under 23 and open teams will be selected after nationals.

Officials Support – More QLD officials are requested. NZ, WA, NSW supported the event well but SA and Vic need more involvement.

### ***We are the National Governing body.***

The Federal government come to US for anything MT, they also blame us for anything Muaythai related. This aspect needs to be used more strongly in every state. The Sports Commission only allows for one body to represent each sport. This model needs to be encouraged at state level. NO one owns Muaythai however our aim is to make the MTA the most credible, consistent and representative of athletes and clubs involved.

ASADA – Only the MTA can say we are ASADA compliant and can do drug testing to ensure athletes are playing fair.

### ***Change to Coy LTD by guarantee.***

This will require about \$3500 and be finalized in Feb 2020. If not we lose NSO status. This is the main behind the scenes work being conducted.

### ***Child Safety –guidelines***

Please watch the child safety video and read the member protection document. Sport at all levels requires everyone be more aware and responsible of children's safety in competition and training at the gym. Not just padding and rules but the way children are treated and what they are exposed to is important. Things like children fighting on shows in licensed premises is not condoned. This is a step towards getting ALL states to allow children to compete in accordance with MTA rules. Always follow them in your state and do what you can regarding the sparring guidelines.

All MTA members must strive for children to be as safe and respected as possible. Our rules are non negotiable for children.

### ***OFFICIALS TRAINING***

In 2020 I would like to plan to do an Officials course in every state. This will be organized by Elias and Trevor. All officials will be required to wear a national uniform for better branding for the WMC and MTA events.

### ***Club Memberships***

Only MTA member clubs should be on MTA promotions at any level. Only MTA member clubs can apply for title fights.

## **We or I.**

I would like to suggest that when it comes to doing a few small things better for the MTA, we all think about the difference between we and I. I admit there is not enough being done and we need to do more. There is a lot of great ideas, energy and passion but the simple difference for 2020 can be as simple as saying 'I' can do this and not 'We' should do this. Taking ownership of something can help the MTA keep taking small steps forward.

## **9 MTA Sub-Committee Reports**

### **9.1 MTA Athletes Commission**

- MTA Athlete Rep Yolanda Schmidt sent apologies. Brief submitted requested all clubs to submit athlete information and photos to allow promotion of athletes. Will only work with input from clubs and fighters.

### **9.2 MTA Female Commission**

- MTA Female Rep Courtney Rainbow advised Facebook and Instagram accounts had been established to promote existing athletes (Muaythai Australia Female Sports Commission). Like and Follow these pages and keep promoting. These pages will share stories of female athletes on how Muay Thai has helped them, and will also include trainers, officials etc. Courtney reminded everyone that as an NSO, MTA has access to Australian Government funding grants for female athletes, officials, coaches etc. for education and development, funding to attend events etc.

## **10 MTA Title and Rankings Updates**

This is now under the control of the Promotions Director and will be addressed shortly. It is an MTA priority to have credible and legitimate rankings and titles.

## **11 Other Business**

Luis Regis (SRG) – better relationship between NSW and other states with Juniors. Costs of travel interstate to get matches. QLD reluctance to travel and support other states.

Luis Regis also requested QLD match in advance more to consider other states need for travel and confirmation.

## **12 Closing Comments**

MTA General Secretary closed the meeting at 11:34am.