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MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Monday 19 January, 2015 at 7.00pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens
(Mtg 3/15)**

MINUTES

Attendance: Sean Fenton, John Clayton, Mark Puterflam, Ron Ogilvie, Paul Kelly, Andrew Field, David Owens (by telephone), Aaron Dibdin

The meeting opened at 7.08pm

3/15.1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3/15.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 2/15 & MATTERS ARISING

3/15.2.1 Consideration of minutes

The minutes were amended to reflect that the GM was requested to seek a month free on the renewed lease.

As amended the minutes from meeting 2/15 were taken to be a true and correct record.

Moved: John

Seconded: Paul

CARRIED

3/15.2.2 Business arising from the minutes

The action items were reviewed and updated.

3/15.3 REPORTS

3/15.3.1 President's Report

The President reported that since the last meeting he has had discussions with local government figures that leave him hopeful of forming an ongoing positive dialogue for the coming year.

This is obviously positive and there will be more to report in coming meetings.

The Football NSW AGM is coming on the 31st March – Aaron to check if there are any pre-AGM meetings.

The Board briefly discussed recent discussions between the President and the heads of various clubs.

3/15.3.2 Other Reports

3/15.3.2.1 Small Sided Football

David started by thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve and the confidence that they have shown in him through their appointment of him to the role of Director of Small Sided Football.

The discussion between David and the clubs so far has led us to a 'home and away hub' model, where the hubs essentially provide a mechanism for condensing 'home grounds' into larger sites with a carnival atmosphere and stronger on-the-ground organization, but preserving the breadth and variety of opposition.

David reported on planning discussions he had had with the ESFA office to put some meat into the planning for the SSF season, particularly in respect of the breakdown of the teams by club, gender and age to assist in planning what is needed for each of the SSF hubs so that by the end of the week we will be able to meet and flesh out the final plans.

The priority is on coordination. We want the traffic cop on the ground above all else getting people to the right places and getting games started on time. Coaching assistance comes on top of that. The development of the ESFA Coaches' Forum will assist in providing coaching support and a mechanism for identifying keen and talented coaches to assist – tapping the football family. The Forum will provide access to SAP and RYL training for demonstrations.

3/15.3.2.2 Junior FMC

Ron reported he had met with the ESFA Office to discuss planning for the 2015 season including the pre-season calendar and key season dates.

Ron noted that the basic structures of competitions won't change a lot in 2015, though the idea for more development-focused competitions beneath the Championship divisions is still under discussion.

The Boys Council is presently without a chair, and Ron and the board briefly discussed potential candidates.

Ron also reported that the Junior and Senior FMCs are meeting to discuss potential harmonization of the competition rules. There will always be some differences between the two as there are differing philosophies in some ways, but the aim is to eliminate unnecessary inconsistency.

3/15.3.2.3 Senior FMC

The Board briefly discussed getting the calendar out to clubs to allow them to plan for season dates. The Board noted that it will be great to have 10 clubs in the Men's Championship again and asked Aaron to check with the clubs on the progress of their recruitment.

3/15.3.2.4 Representative Football and Coaching

Andrew reported on the progress of SAP and Regional sides, noting that all players had received registration emails asking them to register in MyFootballClub, and that preparations were well advanced for the season with good player numbers and quality and coaches in place.

Sean asked if a coaching calendar could be published as soon as possible for coaches to sign up for courses. Aaron reported that we are waiting on confirmed presenters from FNSW for some courses.

3/15.3.2.5 Referees and Judiciary

Paul spoke to three motions that had been circulated.

First was the proposal to appoint John Galouzis to the RMC. Second was the proposal to offer an incentive of a free referees' shirt as an early-bird bonus and the third was a reduction in the cost of registering for referee courses.

1. That the Board endorse the appointment of John Galouzis to the ESFA Referees Management Committee.
2. That the Board endorse the financial incentives outlined above in assisting to both retain our existing referee pool as well as incentivise potential new referees by reducing the cost of participation.
3. That the Board endorse the referee registration fee structure as a means of retaining our existing referee pool as well as acting as an incentive for new referees.

The proposals were discussed at some length and agreed to.

The Board asked if Aaron can look into options for reducing the out-of-pocket GST liability that accrues to ESFA from paying referees and billing for the service.

The Board also gave Paul the endorsement to work on further incentives to encourage referees to cover more games and cut down on no-shows.

Paul reported that referees' courses and a seminar had been set for the season.

John also reported that discussions are advanced on revised Judiciary rules and that former President Raff Del Vecchio was joining the discussions.

3/15.4 BUSINESS

3/15.4.1 Easts / Old Boys Union joint venture

John Clayton reported on the fruitful discussions between Easts FC and Old Boys Union FC that have led to the striking of a joint venture to participate in the ESFA Men's Championship in 2015. The joint venture explicitly acknowledges that at a time in the future, OBU FC may still seek to form an independent club competing within ESFA. The name of the Championship teams and the playing kits will reflect the joint venture.

3/15.4.2 Director of Senior Football

Sean reported that we are still seeking discussions with interested persons regarding taking on the role of Director of Senior Football and the Board discussed a number of potential candidates.

3/15.4.3 Ground Development Trust Fund Committee

Sean led a discussion regarding the present composition of the Ground Development Trust Fund Committee. The Board resolved that John would investigate whether it was appropriate for the President to remain on the Trust Fund Committee.

3/15.4.4 Board strategy day

Sean spoke briefly about the Board strategy day that he hopes to have off-site sometime in February.

3/15.4.5 Season Launch and Presidents' Forum

Sean reported to the meeting that he intends to call a Presidents' Forum for February 11. This is in addition to the All Clubs Meeting / Season Launch, which will be on February 23.

With there being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

