

EASTERN SUBURBS
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S COUNCIL REVIEW MEETING

Monday 25 October 2010

6:30pm – ESFA Office

1371 Botany Road, Botany

MINUTES

1: Apologies: Mascot Kings

In attendance: Peter Kriesler (Director of Football), Julia Chernoukha (Women's Council Chair), Adam Giles (Acting Competitions Manager), Aaron Dibdin (Acting Operations Manager), Dunbar, Olympic Eagles, Queens Park, UNSW, Waverley

Absent: Coogee, Glebe, Heffron, Lokomotiv Cove, Maccabi Hakoah, Maroubra United, Pagewood

2. Opening Comments

Peter welcomed all and thanked everyone for participating in the 2010 season review meeting. Peter explained he would chair the meeting until Julia arrived.

3. Player Numbers

Peter asked for some feedback from clubs regarding the Women's Gala day held at David Phillips fields on the 12th September. Although most clubs agreed it was a successful day there was a general consensus that more could be done to generate interest and promote women's football. Most participants on the day were already registered players within ESFA or nearby associations. More emphasis needs to be placed on attracting new players.

4. Team Composites

The Champion of Champions play-off system in 2010 involved ESFA's only representative in the North-West Women's competition, Coogee United, playing the League Champions of the AAW1's, Maroubra United. This concept was predominantly agreed upon by all to continue next season.

Still undecided whereabouts Coogee United will be playing next season. Clubs agreed competition needs to be flexible until team nominations have been finalised. Waverley, Coogee and UNSW played in the North-West Women's competition in 2009.

The O35 Women's competition is suffering due to the fact many women are still playing in the Women's All-Age competition. The gap in level of experience and skill is enormous between those who have played for a number of years compared to those first-timers who never played junior football. Queens Park asked if ESFA could lock in a draw at the beginning of the season. Adam mentioned that it was difficult to ascertain how many wet weather catch-ups would need to take place but as always a draw template will be issued outlining certain weeks, wet weather catch up rounds etc.

5. Competition Structure

Suggestions were made at the 2010 Finals Series Review meeting to introduce a 2-week finals series for all competitions. While this had some interest from those present, the main consensus was to structure competition to enable as much football as possible amongst competitors. Adam mentioned that no decisions were being made tonight and matters such as this would be determined by a vote at an All Clubs Meeting later in the year.

The option of merging competitions was floated by various clubs however Peter responded by saying that ESFA had already approached both St George and Canterbury Associations who had come back with an obvious 'no'.

Andrea asked if there was any chance of merging with North-West Sydney who only operates a women's competition. They are a strong association, with quality footballers but the downside is that it is quite a way to travel. Clubs would need to agree if they are prepared to make that commitment.

6. Recommendations for 2011

- ESFA website – Create section of website where clubs can advertise for any extra players. This will work either if a team has too many players or alternatively for those that need a few more. That way as many people as possible will be kept in football.
- Time requests – A significant improvement in 2010 was the increased use of allowing clubs to submit specific time requests. Game Amendment Forms were also extremely useful however the '3-week' window of submission before the relevant game was completely ignored by many clubs towards the end of the season. Needs to be enforced more strongly in 2011.
- Composite teams – Suggestions were made to create composite 'super' teams to strengthen competition say, in the ESFA Knockout Cup. Adam mentioned that Dunbar/Maroubra could become DUN-BRA who could give Coogee some stiff competition.
- More accurately graded competitions – Peter suggested that it is difficult to accurately grade teams when so many want to play in a lower division in an attempt to win a trophy. It was mentioned that O35's could use a structure where division 1 is listed as a 'serious' competition and division 2 is more for 'social footballers'.
- RTO Manuals – Clubs need to distribute and reinforce how important they are to all registered RTO's.
- 2-week vs 3-week finals series – As was mentioned in the Finals Review meeting there will be an opportunity to vote at the All Clubs Meeting on which format seniors will have in 2011. Clubs were divided on opinion, with some

believing the 'week-off' for a 3-week finals series was very beneficial whereas others believed this was detrimental to the higher team's chances.

7. Referees

Queens Park and Dunbar announced how delighted they were with the standard of refereeing this season. It is a marked improvement from two years ago when women's football received close to no referees all season. The women pay just as much money as the men and they should receive competent referees. All clubs agreed the standard has improved and the majority of games involved a crew of three.

Adam asked if clubs were happy to complete referee evaluation forms during the season. While the concept was voluntary in 2010 there is suggestion that this may become mandatory in 2011. Clubs did not feel it was necessary to make it compulsory and did not want fines or other punishments for failing to comply. Adam to put to RSC proposal of how to best work referee evaluation forms in 2011.

8. General Business

Peter thanked Julia for her efforts as Women's Council Chair in 2010. Clubs also thanked Adam and Aaron for running a successful grand final series.

Meeting closed 8:00pm