



**EASTERN SUBURBS  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Developing football for everyone.**

## **MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday July 30, 2012 at 6.30pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens  
(Mtg 08/12)**

### **MINUTES**

In attendance: Raff Del Vecchio, Ron Ogilvie, Mark Puterflam, Adam Gwynne, Emmanuel Alfieris, Andrew Field, Peter Kriesler, Aaron Dibdin (General Manager), Eddie Moore (CEO Football NSW).

The President, Raff Del Vecchio opened the meeting at 7:06pm

#### **08/12.1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Michelle Bogatyrov

Moved: That the apologies be accepted

M: Ron

S: Peter

CARRIED

#### **08/12.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 07/12 & MATTERS ARISING**

08/12.2.1. Consideration of minutes

Moved: That the minutes be adopted.

M: Ron

S: Peter

CARRIED

Notes to matters in the minutes:

- The first date for the SSF gala day was washed out – it will run again this Saturday
- The RCFC appeal is set for August 20.
- Judiciary is now meeting again.

## **08/12.3 REPORTS**

### **08/12.3.1. Update from President**

Raff reported that he had met with the new Sydney FC CEO Tony Pignata.

Tony was instrumental in getting Wellington into a very difficult market. He was also previously CEO of Football Federation Victoria and is still commuting from Melbourne. He understands the need to re-engage with community, and is very keen on engaging with ESFA and local associations which augurs well for our ongoing relationship with them.

### **08/12.3.2. FNSW CEO**

Raff welcomed Eddie Moore and indicated to him that the main issues we see are cost of football and the value proposition that FNSW gives to kids. Raff noted the very competitive market particularly against rugby league. Football needs to be able to answer why it costs \$300 to get a kid on the park. Raff noted that he is impressed with some of the communications in respect of governance; things like the nominations committee and the refreshed board but noted that there must be good processes on selection of clubs for elite competitions.

Eddie noted that the meeting was a chance to hear what is happening on the ground and that he is looking to get to all associations.

He noted the bottom up vs top down funding model – the economics of football mean we have a responsibility to be cautious with players' money. Football NSW is looking to take a more customer focused view on delivery on the ground, assisting with coach and referee education on the ground and recognizing that the majority are not in the elite pathways, they are at the grassroots.

Football NSW is not about to start asking for a lot less money, but they are looking to sponsorship to not need to ask for more and they are looking to provide more service. They are refining spending and targeting the grassroots.

Football NSW is looking to work with councils on facility access and development.

Lastly Eddie gave a brief rundown on the developments at Football NSW HQ and the development of shared services models that might offer Associations a way to draw on common expertise and resources.

Eddie took questions from directors on a range of issues before thanking the Board for the invitation and indicating he'd be happy to come back and meet our clubs at the AGM.

08/12.3.3. Financial Report

Aaron presented and spoke to the Financial Report.

Raff noted that the GDL trust has yet to be executed and that he went to constituency on platform of transparency and governance and it needs to be minuted and done.

The funds have been quarantined for this specific purpose and we now need a trust deed embodying rules and trustees, we need a lawyer to produce the document.

Andrew and Emmanuel are happy to attend a meeting to assist in striking a rules document.

We will then need club representatives appointed to bring us up to 3 trustees.

08/12.3.4. Other Reports

08/12.3.4.1 Junior FMC

Ron reported that there is now a document defining finals formats. The document has gone to clubs, and that we are now in control as far as when they'll all be played, they will all be finished by the end of August. There will be a number of pennant series over either 1 or 2 weeks. We have defined eligibility for players in finals. The rules are different in finals to during season and we have said if a whole round is washed out, we will drop a week of finals.

The Board stated that we need to clearly communicate about dropping weeks.

08/12.3.4.2 Senior FMC

Adam reported that a similar review to the Juniors stated several weeks ago and every competition is now set to finish on an agreed date. AA1, 3, 4 and 5 are pushed back a week, and the Premis will play a 2 week finals series with midweek preliminary finals.

08/12.3.4.3 Representative Football

Andrew reported that the development and progress of the two SAL teams has been excellent, and that in particular this was the best U12 group he had ever coached.

Peter reported that EUNSW Lions won league in open and reserves, and were 2<sup>nd</sup> by GD in 12s. The club finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in club championship. This year's success stemmed from recruiting very well in seniors, along with very good young players coming through from the junior ranks.

#### 08/12.3.4.4 Grand Final Planning

Raff noted that there needs to be a roster put out for the Board to attend and assist with grand finals.

Ron proposed that in the event that we lose preliminary finals to wet weather then the highest team progresses. If 2 weeks of finals are lost then we will go to a 1v2 grand final.

This must be discussed by the JFMC and SFMC and communicated via web.

#### 08/12.3.4.5 SSF

Mark reported that the SSF gala day has now been confirmed for Coral Sea Park, and everything is in order. For the 8-11 age groups there have been discussions about gala days, but none of the big clubs seemed keen on it. Generally clubs feel ESFA has done a good job this year and most feel that given lack of depth through absence of Queens Park and Pagewood people are quite happy with how it went and how we went about the delivery.

Raff re-iterated it would be good to see board members on Saturday at the Gala Day.

#### 08/12.3.4.6 FNSW Competitions Review

Andrew reported on the results of the Competitions Review.

Associations will run a U12-15 representative program in for players to participate in as a supplement to their club football.

There will be no SAL next year, there will instead be a SAP for 9-11 with Youth League running from 12-15 and the Association competition below that.

Andrew raised strategic questions about ESFA and youth league partners going forward.

### **08/12.4 BUSINESS**

#### 08/12.4.1. SSF player recruitment/retention

Ron raised SSF recruitment, noting that we have 350 fewer SSF registrations this year than last year, accounting for Queens Park and Pagewood pulling out in the 11s age group we are still short 150.

We have made a serious effort to get stable game times in place so parents know what time band their games will be and it is consistent week to week.

The Board noted that a stronger connection to councils would make a huge difference to get things like SSF pitches marked out and posts put in.

There is a need to elevate our product. ESFA will produce a SSF newsletter to communicate directly with parents about advantages of affiliation with ESFA.

08/12.4.2. Business continuity plan

Noting the shutdown of the ESFA office caused by the collapse at Eastgardens, the Board tasked Aaron to produce a business continuity plan.

08/12.4.3. Premier League

Raff noted that there had been only 4 responses to Roy for the Premier League Review. Adam stated that the review of Premier League would tie in to his broader plan for reshaping Senior competitions

Noting that the Grand Finals are scheduled to finish on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, the next meeting is pulled forward a week to the 20<sup>th</sup> August.

There being no further Business, the President closed the meeting at 9:45pm.