



MINUTES - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday May 28, 2012 at 7.00pm, Juniors @ the Junction, Maroubra

Meeting opened at: 7:15pm

Attending: Raff Del Vecchio, Michelle Bogatyrov, Ron Ogilvie (Directors), Mike Halpin (Coogee United), Quintin Freeman (Dunbar Rovers), John Clayton (Easts), Pam Sypher (Glebe), Craig Millard (Kincoppal Rose Bay), Jon Van Roest, Bob House (Lokomotiv Cove), Craig Behrmann (Maccabi Hakoah Juniors), Mary Ivancev, Caroline Memmolo, John Reid (Maroubra), James Mavroudis, Nasser Attia (Mascot Kings), Effie Giavis (Olympic Eagles), Marko Kraljevic (Pagewood Botany), David Patch, Jaleh Shafie, Peter Vaneris (Queens Park), Justin Cusack (Redfern Raiders), Roy Belcher (Sydney University), Michelina Pelosi, Nicole Cooney, Eric de Haas (Waverley Old Boys) Wally Holzer (Life Member), Peter Kriesler, Adam Gwynne (Board Observers), Aaron Dibdin (General Manager)

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Andrew Field, Mark Puterflam, Barnstoneworth United, Bondi United and Reddam House.

M: Ron

S: Peter K

2. Consideration of a motion:

Raff vacated the chair and handed over to Ron Ogilvie.

“That the Eastern Suburbs Football Association adopt the documents as circulated by email on 14th May as its Constitution and Regulations.”

Moved: Raff Del Vecchio

Seconded: Peter Kriesler

Raff spoke to the motion.

Raff thanked attendees, noting that the SGM is one of the most important meetings we'll have outside the AGM.

Raff noted that in January of this year it was revealed in discussions with Football NSW that Fair Trading had not recognised our constitutional amendments since 2005.

In legal fact, we were left with a constitution that differed significantly from that which members voted on in good faith in November 2011.

The ESFA Board responded quickly to this event, gathering advice from experts and stakeholders within the Association to develop documents.

The Board's aim was to develop documents that could be adopted promptly, give the same effect as the 2011 documents, and give a modern framework.

Raff stated to members that the result of that advice and consultation was before them.

He noted that a constitution is a living document, and we can expect it to change over time but that this document is based on a best practice model that was developed by legal experts from Lander and Rogers and the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation in response to the new Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Raff also noted that the Board has made the necessary amendments to the model to ensure that within this modern framework, we remained true to the spirit of the constitution approved by members at the AGM last year.

The one crucial change is that we will be asking clubs to be incorporated before 1st January 2015. This is crucial to protect office-bearers and volunteers – if they perform their statutory duties on their committees, they are protected from personal liabilities.

Lastly, Raff noted that appended to the Constitution are schedules of Regulations, the 'operational' sections of the Association's rules. It is these documents to which most people will refer to on a month-to-month or week-to-week basis, and there is now a clearer process for adopting and amending regulations. The regulations themselves have been amended slightly to correct contradictions, redundancy or overlap.

Raff also thanked David Patch from Queens Park for the countless hours he provided assisting ESFA staff on the regulations.

The documents proposed for adoption are therefore a newer, cleaner version of the 2011 documents.

Raff stated how proud he is of the work the Board has done to take a difficult situation and from it take the opportunity to modernise and clarify our governance. He reminded members that governance is at the centre of what he came to do as President.

He concluded that on members' behalf the Board has put together a good platform for the Association to move forward; a clear, modern framework to deliver stable, well governed administration of football in the Eastern Suburbs.

Raff took questions.

John Clayton asked a question regarding the process for adopting regulations. Raff referred the question to Aaron Dibdin, who answered that the constitution governs the process for the Board to adopt regulations in consultation with the members.

Peter Kriesler waived his rights.

Motion put and carried unanimously.

Raff resumed the chair, and called David Patch to speak to some proposed amendments for later in the year.

David noted that some amendments had been circulated in his name to be considered later in the year, but that he had agreed to not put them to the Special General Meeting in order to facilitate the adoption of the new constitution.

3. Updates on competitions

Raff called on Ron Ogilvie for a competitions update.

Junior Competitions Update

Ron reported that re-grading is occurring as planned at the end of the first round of each junior competition. The JFCM met this evening and made just a few changes that will be circulated. On one instance the JFCM have asked for suggestions from member clubs. The process is looking only to re-grade only teams that are far out of their proper place.

There will be pennant series in virtually all competitions, but no cross-grading like there was last year – no bottom two from higher division playing top two from a lower division.

Ron noted that ID cards have been ignored in some SSF age groups – ESFA reinforces that every player should show their cards.

There are legal reasons – it's an insurance issue, unregistered players can cause insurance complications if someone gets hurt. It's also good practice – it's in the rules and it should be followed, and we can avoid issues that unregistered players may be playing regularly.

Before a game if the other team doesn't have cards, it should be noted on the match sheet, play the game and we can see if there's a reason after the fact.

Ron reminded clubs that minutes of our council meetings are on the website.

Ron also announced that the JFMC intends to start talking about planning for 2013 before the end of the 2012 season, talking about whatever changes may be necessary to competition structures and steps to take to grow player numbers. Always looking for feedback – results online are working very well.

Ron took questions:

John Clayton from Easts asked about online results.

Ron noted that most clubs are online with Sportingpulse now entering online results by Sunday night.

Marko Kraljevic from Pagewood asked about council meetings.

Ron stated that the previous week's council meetings did not go ahead because there were no agenda items proposed to discuss.

Nasser Attia from Mascot asked about team sheets.

Ron answered that this year we are running with blank sheets – most teams have photocopies with their players' details and they fill in the match details. He further noted that we will be looking to move into online sheets next year through Sportingpulse next year, but that it was a step too far this year.

Marko Kraljevic from Pagewood asked about player cards for age groups 12-18.

Ron noted that the same rule applies as in previous years – no card no play

Senior Competitions Update

Adam Gwynne updated the meeting on senior competitions. Adam noted that while there were some issues with gradings early, all competitions are now running and running well, with good competition in all divisions. Dealing with

incident reports as they come and referring those to the JC. Need to eradicate violence on field.

Adam noted that Senior Council meetings are scheduled for next Monday, starting to plan for 2013 as well as dealing with ongoing matters.

The floor was opened for questions.

David Patch asked about referees coverage

Raff answered, stating that referees have been an issue not just in our association but in all associations. He stated that each Friday he receives statistics on appointments and our numbers are comparable to previous years, but that no shows are a significant problem – up to 10% no shows.

The Association is proactive in running more referees' courses to train more referees, and he noted that he speaks daily to the office staff and they are constantly working hard to improve coverage.

David suggested we offer refs courses and get clubs to twist arms to get someone from each team to referee.

Raff thanked David for the suggestion and said he will relay that to the Referees' Standing Committee.

4. Close of meeting.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 7:36pm