

EASTERN SUBURBS
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
MEN'S COUNCIL REVIEW MEETING

Monday 25 October 2010

8:00pm – ESFA Office

1371 Botany Road, Botany

MINUTES

1: Apologies: Mascot Kings, Kytherians

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

Absent: Coogee, Glebe, Heffron, Lions, Lokomotiv Cove, Maccabi Hakoah, Maroubra United, Pagewood, Phoenix, Sydney University

2. Opening Comments

Peter welcomed all and thanked everyone for participating in the 2010 season review meeting. Peter explained he would co-chair the meeting with Wally.

3. Grand Finals

Peter wished to dispel some myths regarding the Grand Finals in 2010. Peter explained that former General Manager Jeff Saul was in negotiations with Sydney FC, Wentworth Park, ES Marks, Fraser Park, David Phillips, Randwick City Council for Heffron Park and Botany Bay Council for Hensley Athletic throughout most of the 2010 season. The overall thinking was to negotiate with the 'higher echelon' venues and once they became unavailable to try and find a suitable alternative. Once Sydney FC informed ESFA that the SFS was unavailable to use as a curtain raiser to a Sydney FC fixture, negotiations with other grounds intensified.

The playing surfaces of ES Marks and Fraser Park were identified as unfit for the Premier League competition. Wentworth Park was unavailable on certain dates and was quite costly to hire. David Phillips also became unavailable for use as UNSW gave precedence to their rugby competitions. That left Heffron Park through Randwick City Council and Hensley Athletic via Botany Bay Council. Although numerous attempts were made to contact Botany Bay Council, a letter was received at very late notice that Hensley was not available for hire. That left Heffron Park as the best option available to the Association. Jeff and Adam had already negotiated with RCC to re-schedule all games listed for Heffron Park #4, five weeks out from the

regular season. RCC promised to cultivate the pitch as best they good by relaying turf, patching up holes, watering, top-dressing etc. at no cost to ESFA. This allowed for a superb looking venue and tremendous pitch quality for the various participating teams.

It wasn't ideal having some participants play on Heffron 53, 54 and 55 needing to come across to Heffron 4 for presentations so that is on the agenda for improvement in 2011. However not everyone can play on a one-field venue and Adam and Aaron did the best job they could with the facilities on offer.

4. Grounds

An improvement that clubs want to see in 2011 is a draw that is confirmed as early as possible. Peter explained that the draw can only be released once grounds are confirmed. Randwick City Council changed their policy in 2010 whereby individual clubs were asked to individually book grounds. This may revert back to the 'Association' issuing grounds again in 2011 but we won't know until after Christmas. As always a draw template will be confirmed and run again with wet weather catch-up rounds etc. next season.

5. O45's Competition

Wally explained that there were 4 teams willing to participate in an O45's competition at the beginning of 2010. Teams then dropped out leaving the competition far too sparse to run. The overall view is that ESFA needs a minimum of 5 x O45 team nominations in 2011 for the competition to run. Queens Park have already offered that they will definitely enter a team next season.

Mark suggested that if there were 'bye' teams in O45's and O35 divisions in 2011, those teams could play each other over the bye weekend. Most agreed this is a good idea however some clubs thought these players will enjoy a rest weekend every so often meaning they can plan in advance to go away on holidays etc.

6. Saturday Football

Peter stressed that Sunday football was becoming overcrowded and some games/divisions need to be shifted to Saturday to 'free up' some grounds. There are plenty of grounds available on Saturdays that aren't being used due to the heavy 'Sunday only' schedule. Richie suggested running more divisions with 'reserve teams' or squads which play on Saturday. Peter believed a separate competition could be run on Saturdays however the logistics of where they fit into the competition and how the draw reflects the shift is difficult to envisage. Clubs present asked why the women can't shift to Saturday and Peter replied that women's football has always traditionally been played on Sunday due to participants playing netball on a Saturday. Wally retorted that many O35's and All-age men work on Saturdays and it would be just as difficult shifting them off Sundays.

7. Recommendations for 2011

- Grand Finals sub-committee – ESFA to introduce a Committee that can primarily focus on improving the Grand finals as a spectacular event for all. Adam's idea of a 'Festival of Football' should be encouraged for both the seniors and juniors.
- Ground scheduling – ESFA to release a draw as soon as possible and utilise wet weather catch-up weekends for Knockout Cup if games are currently up-to-date.
- Promotion/relegation – Wally mentioned that the promotion/relegation system is the fairest way to move teams up and down the divisions. Barnstoneworth were unhappy that their O35A's were flogged every week in 2010. Wally explained that it's difficult when everyone wants to play in lower divisions in an attempt to win a trophy. Some teams on the cusp between Division 1 and 2 will need to have successful seasons one year and then try their hand at the higher division the following season.
- 2-week/3-week finals series – Clubs were indecisive on which structure to run in 2011. Vote at the next All Clubs Meeting will determine relevant outcome.
- Registering goalkeepers – Barnstoneworth asked if goalkeepers can be dual registered next season so they may play up or down. Aaron suggested rules would not be changing and that individual cases such as injuries to key goalkeepers need to be forwarded to the FMC for approval.

8. General Business

Peter thanked Wally for his efforts as Men's Council Chair in 2010. Adam reminded clubs of the Sydney FC event on Saturday where 3 representatives of each club are invited to attend this 'inaugural special event' for ESFA.

Meeting closed 9:15pm