



**EASTERN SUBURBS
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Developing football for everyone.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Wednesday 25 June, 2014 at 7.00pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens
(Mtg 08/14)**

MINUTES

Attendance: Raff Del Vecchio, Andrew Field, Elisha McKie, John Clayton, Mark Puterflam,
Sean Fenton, Ron Ogilvie, Paul Kelly, Aaron Dibdin

The meeting opened at 7.05pm

08/14.1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

08/14.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 05/14 & MATTERS ARISING

08/14.2.1. Consideration of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st May were taken as a true and correct record.

Moved: Sean Fenton

Seconded: John Clayton

Carried

08/14.2.2. Business arising from the minutes

The action items were reviewed and updated.

08/14.3 REPORTS

08/14.3.1. President's Report

The President reported on various meetings regarding a number of future developments in local football and foreshadowed some issues and opportunities that will be put on the agenda for discussion at future meetings.

08/14.3.2. Financial Report

Aaron spoke to the financial report.

The Board noted the strong progress that has been made in ensuring the strength and sustainability of our finances. The Board once again thanked our new accounts officer, Dennis Cardakaris his work in providing quality reports.

08/14.3.3. Other Reports

08/14.3.3.1 Small Sided Football

Sean reported on the success of the gala days at Easts and Maroubra the weekend just past. Sean attended Maroubra and saw that the day was well attended and well organized, with players and parents alike enjoying themselves and attended by ESFA clubs and a number of teams from Pagewood. Sean further reported that there is also a gala day organised for this Saturday at Queens Park hosted by Easts for the U10 and U11 age groups which will also be attended by ESFA clubs and Pagewood.

Raff noted that this positive development is the best thing that has happened in ESFA SSF in three years and congratulated Sean for his very hard work and his achievements so far.

Sean also reported that he is working on his report on a preferred model for ESFA Miniros in 2015 and will create a presentation for clubs.

08/14.3.3.2 Junior FMC

Ron reported that there had been some disruption due to wet weather but that we are progressing well and that the JFMC met on Tuesday night to discuss changes to the schedule to ensure that there were not significant gaps between the end of the regular season and the finals series and still preserve a wet weather weekend.

Ron also reported on specific changes to the U18 Championship competition and a key ruling made in respect of the requirement to have match sheets at matches before kickoff.

08/14.3.3.3 Senior FMC

Elisha reported on washouts affecting all competitions but especially the Men's Championship which had three consecutive full rounds washed out. Options have been put to the Championship clubs as to whether we attempt to replay all washed out games or whether we adopt an adjusted and shortened format

to get all games played. It appears that we will play the 21 rounds as clubs are confident that they can get all games played.

Discussions have also been opened on the future of the Men's Championship competition, with a range of ideas being raised at the council meeting on Monday night including:

- Cutting reserve grade and replacing with U21 or U23
- Cutting reserve grade and running as a one-team program
- Moving to Sundays

This discussion will have a way to go but it was good to get a broader body of clubs than the current 8 participants involved.

Elisha also raised the growing disquiet among clubs toward the handling of local grounds by councils. There are a range of pain points including closures being made very quickly, no refunds being offered when grounds are closed and additional cost being incurred when rescheduling.

ESFA has been active in trying to advocate for clubs but has been unsuccessful in gaining access to the appropriate forums thus far. Aaron will share with clubs the reply from Randwick Council to our request for a seat at the Sports Committee.

08/14.3.3.4 Representative Football

The SAP Technical Director, Greg Kokoviadis, reported to the Board that SAP has progressed and developed this year into a stronger and more sustainable program. The squads are nearly full and the level of coaching and development of players is clear to see in the quality and skill of football being played. Greg reported that the program is envied by others and is a credit to the support offered by the Board and the administration.

Andrew reported that the Regional Youth League sides are also progressing well and look very competitive, including good results against Football South Coast on the weekend just past. Both our SAP and RYL programs are built on a base of local players and local coaches and shows the quality of footballers and coaches coming from our area.

08/14.3.3.5 Referees and Judiciary

Paul reported that there has been some recent success in promoting some junior referees to be assistants at Men's Championship games and some senior referees to centre Men's Championship games. Development of our referees is progressing well.

The last ESFA Referees' Branch meeting was attended by Chris Young, the Sutherland Shire Branch Coach and an A-League match official. Paul told the Board that the meeting was well attended and Chris is an excellent speaker. He shared with us some feedback that is encouraging to us with respect to coverage and did a great job of capturing the interest of our referees, particularly our younger refs.

We have also assessed more referees in the last 6 months than had been done in the last 6 years and the Board discussed how best to share news of that success with the broader ESFA community.

Paul also reported that Jack Bell has recently been appointed to and officiated on a Men's State League 1 U18s match between Hakoah and Dulwich Hill and performed very well.

On Judiciary, Paul reported that we are doing well in keeping up with hearings and outcomes though more care needs to be taken when there are further directions outlined in decisions to have those directions followed up.

08/14.4 BUSINESS

08/14.4.1. Queens Park FC update

While the President of Queens Park FC is away, Aaron will in the interim seek an update from the committee at Queens Park as to progress on SSF with respect to their exemption agreement.

08/14.4.2. McDonalds vouchers

Aaron reported that McDonalds vouchers have now been distributed to clubs to hand out to players of the match on a week-to-week basis and thanked Ron for organizing.

08/14.4.3. Administrative assistance

Aaron reported that we have hired one of our young referees, Jack Bell, on a casual arrangement to help with monitoring match cards and doing some data entry.

08/14.4.4. Coaches' forum

Andrew and Caroline are working on dates for a coaches' forum that will coincide with a SAP training session to bring local coaches down to see our SAP coaches in action.

08/14.4.5. Player numbers

Aaron presented a report on trends in player registration that outlined the trends from 2007 to 2014 and the Board discussed a number of issues relating to player numbers in certain age groups. While our SSF ages have stabilized, there is a notable fall-away in the teenage age groups in the last year or two that is causing problems for the depth of our competitions.

08/14.4.6. External academies

Ron reported on discussion that he has had regarding the development of external academies in the area and a range of associated concerns that have arisen. Raff reported that he understands that there is some push from FNSW to regulate the academies and this has begun with their rule regarding State Cups and Champions of Champions eligibility. It will be a continuing issue for ESFA and we need to think hard about what action might be appropriate to address it.

08/14.4.7. Club incorporation

John noted that we have invited all unincorporated clubs to a meeting on Tuesday of next week to go through the process that is required to incorporate to meet their requirements under our constitution. Ron noted that we will need to also remind all other clubs of their obligations to us to maintain their membership.

08/14.4.8. Other business

The Board set a date for the July meeting (meeting 14/09): Wednesday 23rd July, 7pm.

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9:27 pm.