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MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday 11 February, 2013 at 7.00pm, ESFA Office Eastgardens (Mtg. 3/13)

MINUTES

In attendance: Raff Del Vecchio, Emmanuel Alfieris, Ron Ogilvie, Mark Puterflam, Paul Kelly, John Clayton, Aaron Dibdin (General Manager), Elisha McKie (Observer).

The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

The meeting formally welcomed Elisha McKie as an observer.

2/13.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Andrew Field

2/13.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 2/13 & MATTERS ARISING

2/13.2.1. Consideration of minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the January meeting are a true and accurate record.

Moved: Paul Kelly

Seconded: Ron Ogilvie

CARRIED

2/13.2.2. Business arising from the minutes

Aaron reported on outstanding action points from the previous meeting.

2/13.3 REPORTS

2/13.3.1. President's Report

Raff reported that there had only been a couple of weeks since the last meeting, so not too much had happened.

Raff noted that he will be attending a meeting on Thursday with the Chairman and

Deputy Chairman of FNSW along with the President of Central Coast Football at which

he will continue to press ESFA's case to do with increasing the value proposition from Football NSW and reducing the financial burden on Associations and players.

Raff also reported that he had fielded a request from Maccabi to move a U11 side to CDSFA which was rejected.

Raff also noted that he will be attending the Football NSW AGM with Andrew and asked Aaron to circulate the AGM papers to the Board.

2/13.3.2. Financial Report

Aaron took the Board through the financial report.

Aaron took a number of questions on notice:

- check status of a number of bonds paid
- see why Westfield is in the 61-90 day column
- see why Multibase is in the 31-60 day column

The Board also ordered that there be Letters of Demand to be sent to QPFC and UNSWFC in respect of accounts that are past 90 days due.

Motion: Write off outstanding sum from Honey and Ginger to doubtful debt.

Moved: Mark Puterflam

Seconded: Raff Del Vecchio

CARRIED

Motion: Write off outstanding sum from Mini-Melts to doubtful debt.

Moved: Mark Puterflam

Seconded: Raff Del Vecchio

CARRIED

Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted.

Moved: Paul Kelly

Seconded: Ron Ogilvie

CARRIED

2/13.3.3. Other Reports

2/13.3.3.1 Small Sided Football

Mark reported that the SSF Council Chair, Moray Vincent, has matters well in hand along with Aaron and that we have developed a good understanding of what people are looking for in the marketplace.

Following on from our memo to clubs to book grounds for set timeslots, Aaron was asked to take a survey of SSF clubs to establish when their fields are available so that we can then move forward with publicizing the timeslots.

2/13.3.3.2 Junior FMC

Ron reported that 2013 will be “more of the same” – building on the good foundation built in 2012 with clear cut rules applied through the system.

We will be maintaining existing rules and processes on re-grading etc. and our season timetable has been circulated widely and is now on the website. Some additional rules have been drafted to deal with clubs with more than one team per division – A and B team rule. Finals series rules will continue, pennants will continue, the finals progression rule has been made explicit and there is a rescheduling protocol including clarification of the costs against clubs who forfeit at short notice.

There are some small rule changes proposed to deal with inconsistencies, and we will be formally approaching the Referees' Branch to raise the matter of referees facilitating card checking.

The A-Grade competitions in each age group will be called Premier League.

There will be a tick-box on match card to indicate that cards have been checked – if it's not ticked then all other rights of complaint about eligible players are null and void.

Match cards will be checked all year in the office.

Emmanuel asked if we can re-assess after a month.

Ron replied that to police the “playing up” rule, every card will need to be checked.

Raff noted that Central Coast Football has issued iPads to every club – they are all on the system, Compman built an app to manage all the match day documents.

Aaron was asked to investigate iPad management of matchday documents and report back on feasibility, as well as positives and negatives of the system.

Moray and Aaron are also putting together a report on impact of SAP on players, coaches, managers and volunteers – when completed this should be co-signed by club presidents and presented to Football NSW.

The Board suggested that the Junior rules amendments be forwarded to the SFMC for their consideration.

2/13.3.3.3 Referees and Judiciary

Paul reported on referees' matters.

We have 37 registered seniors and 27 registered juniors – much more than we had this time last year. We have made it mandatory to register if you want to do trial games.

Paul reported that he is working on ensuring the referees see some incentives to participate and develop – let them know they're part of something good. We have to aim to develop skills, provide opportunities to advance.

We are reasonably healthy; other associations press-gang referees from their clubs and if we recruit well we hope never have to go to that extreme.

Our last referee course was full, and we've had reasonable feedback, we have another course running in March.

So we have had good recruitment, we need to retain them, and deal with managing behavior so that referees are not deterred from continuing.

We also need to develop the career path within the Branch to ensure that there's a structure to advance refs within our structure to premier league - facilitate a means for them to crack it to the top.

We need to get better at evaluating premier league referees. At present we don't evaluate fitness for our top referees and we should bring in the existing fitness standards and apply them. Referees that are no longer up to Premier League should move into senior roles like assessing as well as continuing to referee other games.

Paul also noted that we are sometimes struggling to get refs for AAW1 and that he wants to see the top level of women's football so treat the same level as Premier League.

Lastly we are clearing up our outstanding Judiciary matters starting with a hearing tomorrow.

Raff suggested that Paul give a spiel to clubs at the All Clubs Meeting to outline refreshed referees' structures and processes.

Emmanuel proposed that we take an analysis of how many games we have and how many referees we would need to cover a targeted number of games. Set a target to recruit an appropriate sized cohort to cover all games.

Emmanuel and Mark also asked if there is a way to offer some 'oiling' to give bonuses to take more games.

Paul noted that the membership fee already means that referees who do more games gain a greater relative benefit.

Ron suggested that we implement some sort of points system and asked if we could track teams that don't get refs, identify possible incentives to cover difficult games or grounds.

2/13.4 BUSINESS

2/13.4.1. ESFA Premier League

Raff reported on the fact that as circulated via email, subsequent to being accepted into the ESFA Premier League late in 2012, Maccabi have since indicated they will be unable to attend as they were not able to recruit the players needed to form a squad.

2/13.4.2. Other Business

2/13.4.2.1 Communications Policy

Aaron presented the draft Communications and Social Media policy.

The report was noted and the Board will come back to it next month with a view to adopting it as policy.

Aaron is to circulate the FNSW Social Media Policy and existing ESFA communications policy to the Board.

Subsequent to its adoption, Aaron is to ensure staff are trained in its effect and application to them in their roles and report to the Board in respect of staff compliance.

2/13.4.2.2 ESFA Policy Library

Following on from consideration of the draft Communications and Social Media Policy, the Board asked Aaron to review existing policies.

2/13.4.2.3 ESFA Survey Report

The Board requested a report be provided on the findings of the 2012 ESFA Satisfaction Survey, particularly in respect of comparison to the 2011 results.

2/13.4.2.4 Communications protocol

John asked if there should be some thought given to whether some announcements might be better broadcast to all members – he cited an email advertising referees' courses that had been sent to clubs and made it to some clubs' websites but which hadn't necessarily been clearly communicated to all members.

Discussion ensued, and Aaron agreed to develop a communications protocol to refer whether certain messages should be broad or narrowcast and in respect of chains of communication.

2/13.4.2.5 Private football academies

The Board requested that the office maintain a watching brief on academies in our area – building up a roll call on:

- Who is operating in our area
- What they're promoting as an outcome
- Any affiliations they hold whether to clubs or to 'leagues'
- who's signing up to our area.

The Board requested that Aaron report back in two months.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:56pm.