



EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

COMBINED WOMEN'S AND MEN'S COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2013

ESFA Office, Level 3, Suite 407 Office Tower Westfield Eastgardens
152 Bunnerong Road Eastgardens

COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 7.40pm

Attendance:

Geoff Boyd (Easts), Shane Leach (Dunbar), Kosma Tzannes (Kytherians), Mike Evans (Maccabi), Jim Wong, John Reid (Maroubra), Philip Carabitsios (Mascot), Adam Gwynne (Men's Council Chair), Jaleh Shafie (Women's Council Chair), Elisha McKie (Director of Senior Football).

1. Apologies

Bondi, Heffron, Loko, Coogee

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Review of 2013 season

Review of the women's season:

Jaleh reported on 2013.

There was a lot of comment about the combined AAW2 and AAW1 division. Some clubs and players understood what we were doing, some couldn't wait to split.

There was a lot of feedback from AAW1 that they enjoyed playing in the State Cup. Most/all teams played. Administration was hard with rescheduling.

ESFA will ask FNSW again to schedule women's State Cup on Saturdays, but ESFA can consider organising weeks off in the early rounds of State Cup.

There was a lack of clarity around juniors playing up in women's divisions – there needs to be a clear up in competition rules regarding parental consent, and there are some inconsistencies between junior and senior rules.

Women's teams would like to play on bigger pitches – Dunbar indicated that they will request some rotation in 2014 between NCIE and Reg Bartley, and Maroubra women will request to not be on Coral Sea 2.

There was some consternation about UNSW cancelling games when the Women's rep sides move from the grass to the synthetic and knock ESFA games off.

Review of the men's season:

Adam reported on 2013.

We introduced the Saturday All-Age comp, and we were happy with the evenness and standard. Anecdotally it seems that several teams with 14/16 players are keen to jump across.

Maroubra indicated that they are keen and there may be other clubs may be keen.

A question was put up about whether ESFA would consider having teams in Sunday comps agree to play Saturdays? Perhaps ESFA could put the option forward upfront for some teams to play Saturdays.

Aaron noted that there needs to be a tighten up on the eligibility rule between Sat/Sun divisions and careful grading of the division.

With the Sunday AA divisions, the comps worked out well, grading was fairly solid. There was strong feedback about eliminating byes in higher divisions.

Mike Evans noted that clubs have a gripe if there are fewer matches. People don't mind if they play same number of games.

Elisha stated that we will be trying to eliminate byes.

A point was raised regarding O35s/O45s – we have a benchmark for 1-15 on O35s so we won't/shouldn't need to combine divisions next year.

Adam noted that there were two standout sides, the other sides couldn't compete but from 3rd place and below, it was quite competitive. There was some miscommunication regarding a split and that was partly a result of change of Competition Manager. We Now have benchmarks that will work for a year or two to allow us to decide where to put people.

The point was made that we need to break perception of the O35s being a weak comp, and tell people that it is a good competition.

In the finals series – Jim noted that he tried to get game to not be played on Waverley.

Geoff raised referee no-shows, and said that Easts were talking about having a list of casual people at the club who can show up and cover games.

Should ESFA consider having casual referees system to cover uncovered games? All agreed that clubs should encourage players to take referees' courses.

Adam noted that wet weather was handled pretty well, everyone was fairly happy with how reschedules were dealt with by all clubs and the SFMC.

It was proposed that ESFA consider budgeting to provide for midweek grounds – Aaron noted that there's actually very little available that is not already booked for training.

Adam raised using Hensley for finals and having finals in September to give us extra weeks.

Aaron committed to resend PL nomination forms to clubs to ensure that we get nominations.

Fines for red and yellow cards:

There was a lengthy discussion about fines for dissent and abuse.

The meeting generally agreed that it was well intentioned but the rollout was poor.

Elisha noted that there was not enough information provided to clubs to address the issue and rectify behaviour with players.

Points that were raised included:

- It was introduced to address a spate of really bad behaviour
- Everyone needs to realise that what goes on in the EPL with abuse of officials is not right
- However, the introduction was part way through the season, and the rollout was poor with insufficient information to clubs and no right to appeal
- The financial implications for clubs are high because players wouldn't pay
- Intimidation of referees is real and we need to do something about it, but this isn't necessarily the solution

4. Election of Council Chairs

Jaleh Shafie was nominated as Women's Council Chair and was elected by acclamation.

Adam Gwynne was nominated as Men's Council Chair and was elected by acclamation.

Jaleh expressed the view that the three on the SFMC work very well together.

Elisha noted that our council chairs are two very capable people who are very willing to do what they can to make sure football works well, and key thing to ensure all clubs are consulted. We want to keep the lines of communication open and these two will have open ears.

5. U/21 Men's and Women's Divisions

Elisha reported that at the Joint Junior and Senior FMC meeting there had been strong support for U21 and W21 divisions – how do we get better pathways for juniors to progress to seniors?

We need to address the perception of AA divisions being 'tough', and get around the 'too cool for school' problem. It was noted that we tried to get U21 men up and running this year but we struggled for teams.

We will be trying to get U21 men and women this year.

We would like to get member of each club responsible for recruiting within club.

A key benefit is that it's in line with Champions of Champions.

We should be targeting the university clubs - do we think clubs would be interested?

Jaleh noted that it is especially important for clubs with junior and senior sides and that she will be trying to talk to her junior secretary to catch the 18s before they go away.

Shane noted that Sutherland Shire use it as a stepping stone into first grade. Geoff noted that you will often be able to catch boys coming back from private schools.

The competition is likely to be played on Sunday, but if there is *strong* interest in Saturday, we might be able to do that instead.

The next step is that we get people recruiting. The proposal was floated to make 21s cheaper?

We should consider allowing some overage players, and we should consider allowing linking to AA squads or the championship leagues.

6. Other Business

Aaron ran through other items that had been circulated before the meeting:

- There should be better documentation of cards for fines
- Scrap golden goal in the cup
- Lock in the cup dates at the start of the season – the whole draw could actually be done, rather than round-by-round
- Fill the top Sunday divisions first – i.e. the top 6 mens' divisions must have 10 teams
- Ask clubs to inform ESFA of what ground bookings they have, both for matchday and training – that way if there's washed out games, ESFA may be able to offer clubs suggestions of available pitches, particularly those with lights
- Vary KO times – if a team has all 9AM, they can never go to the pub after the game to support their sponsors
- Vary referees – one AA1 team had the same ref for 6 out of 16 games – familiarity breeds contempt
- Grand Finals should be a highlight of the season and a reward to the teams who get there. Playing them on the pitches where you train or play each week isn't special. Book Hensley/Wentworth/NCIS early and lock in the GF dates by the start of the season
- Would be great to get more notice on council meetings - not including this one (e.g. more than a week) especially for the Premier League ones which seem to have no notice at all (even better a calendar available at the beginning of the year as well)
- Minutes of meetings distributed within one week of a meeting (as opposed to not at all).
- No more rain please
- Provide a calendar of future meetings.

- Changeovers in coaching staff, we should be driving senior licences as a minimum.
 - Aaron noted that ESFA will publish dates of new courses

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35