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MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Monday 20 August, 2012 at 7.00pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens
(Mtg 09/12)**

MINUTES

In attendance: Raff Del Vecchio, Ron Ogilvie, Mark Puterflam, Adam Gwynne, Emmanuel Alfieris, Andrew Field, Peter Kriesler, Aaron Dibdin (General Manager).

The President, Raff Del Vecchio opened the meeting at 7:08pm

09/12.1 APOLOGIES

None

09/12.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 08/12 & MATTERS ARISING

09/12.2.1. Consideration of minutes

Alterations amendments

- Raised specific questions w/ Eddie Moore, we should record the detail specifically
- The Board raised a number of issues with regard to shared services i.e. legal, contractual, financial services and acting as a lobby group for councils.
- FNSW appeal date

Motion: That the minutes be adopted subject to amendments.

Moved: Peter

Seconded: Andrew

09/12.3 REPORTS

09/12.3.1. Update from President

Raff noted that the Grand Finals commenced on the weekend, on Saturday and most of Sunday and stated that the staff should be congratulated – they worked early on Saturday, backed up on Saturday night for the Premier League Dinner and were back very early Sunday morning.

Raff noted that it was a good weekend with some good football. This Board meeting was brought earlier to allow for the FNSW appeal, we are hoping there might be some resolution of that matter.

On the Ted Simmons Medal dinner Raff reported that Ted received a lengthy standing ovation when he stood up and was appreciative of the warm reception, the Sydney FC players were good company.

Raff updated the Board on a briefing he had with Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust – ES Marks is going to be shut and track upgraded. The Trust is looking to develop real estate, potential development of office space and the Trust is upgrading storage at Queen's Park. Raff stated he is looking to see Aaron involved with their committee.

09/12.3.2. Other Reports

09/12.3.2.1 Junior FMC

Ron gave a report to the Board.

The JFMC have had a number of tricky situations but have had rules circulated that we could lean on. We have been able to apply rules and so while not everyone's happy but we've been consistent and transparent. The FMC have been active on email and made decisions well.

Finals series protocols have gone out to out to the average player.

We have been communicating through Facebook and Twitter; Ron noted that it would be interesting to see details on website stats and hits, and asked if we can come up with some strategies to improve communications direct to teams for the October Board meeting.

Ron noted that the Pennant finals have been well received; people like that there are extra games.

Council meetings have been scheduled for September to do season reviews and elect council chairs for next year.

Raff noted that he has been privy to some of the key conversations and has seen some hard decisions made very well and people have taken them on the chin.

09/12.3.2.2 Small Sided Football

Mark reported that SSF effectively finished at the gala day. Ron, Raff and Sydney FC were there and the Association gained some good publicity on the Sydney FC site.

Mark requested that the Board minute the contribution of ESFA staff, Maroubra United and Frank Friedmann. Mark also emphasized that it was great to have Sydney FC and Stefan Kamasz there. In past years there might have been a lukewarm support, they gave it a real go.

A review of the year in SSF is coming in September. The Association has made some significant improvements this year but is still suffer from losing kids to Pagewood and Queens Park.

09/12.3.2.3 Senior FMC

Adam reported that an issue that arose with the AA1 competition was resolved but not without some residual discontent.

In AA10, Easts were unhappy that they were not in the finals even though it had been determined at the start of the season, indicating there is a gap between what is decided at Council meetings and what is communicated to players.

At the last Council meetings at the start of August, votes were taken to:

- Start a Masters league on Saturdays for O35s, and the hope is that it might bring some premier league players.
- Change the overage women's competition from O35W to O30W for 2013 - Queens Park will represent the Association in O30W Champions of Champions for 2012.
- Agreed that we would start Saturday all age with three divisions. Call for separate nominations for Saturdays. Squad changes to be considered by PL committee.

Communications to clubs outlining these decisions will go out in the next week.

The Women's Council held over a vote on creating a Women's Premier League, and it will instead be discussed at the end of season review. Six clubs currently in Division 1 have Division 2 teams, so these could be gathered and re-badged Premier League.

Going into end of season review looking at reduction of rounds. Need to do modeling on reduction of fees before discussing widely.

Michelle raised the issue of alcohol at grounds, and the Board asked the staff to remind all clubs that alcohol is prohibited at grounds.

Raff thanked Adam for his clear communications in respect of the AA1 situation in particular that alleviated a sticky situation.

09/12.3.2.4 Representative Football

Peter Kriesler reported on the Eastern UNSW Lions; both First Grade and Reserve Grade won the double, and they won the player of the match in Firsts. The 12s lost their grand final to a better team on the day.

Raff noted that the MOU with UNSWFC has expired. Peter stated that his understanding was that it was under discussion, but Andrew noted that the committee hasn't met for some time.

Raff will email formally asking the status of the MOU.

Andrew reported that the SAL teams are going very strongly, another 2 games and then have the Frank Broughton and Centenary cups.

As a result of the Competitions Review the 11s and 12s will go to youth league clubs next year and the SAL program will cease to exist.

Another result is that there will be an Association based competition next year running over 10 Sundays supplementing club football.

There is a question about when should the Association should pick sides? PYL and SYL boys will be picked in weeks immediately after announcement of divisions. As the third tier has been abolished, in the middle of November there will be 1500 kids looking for opportunities. Andrew suggested that we should run trials immediately, from early November to early December, select squads and then have a summer break, and start weekly sessions in February.

Andrew argued that if we don't pick the kids early, they'll head elsewhere. We should identify the kids, show what we're offering, get them to commit.

Questions over residency requirements, FNSW agreed deliverables, etc., but the key point is the kids must play in ESFA clubs.

No matter when we select sides, there may be a tendency for Youth League club selectors to come along and look to recruit from the association squads.

09/12.4 BUSINESS

09/12.4.1. Other Business

The Board proposed that Raff write a letter to FNSW restating the issues discussed with the CEO. ESFA will continue to pursue constituent members' issues, including asking Football NSW to detail their value proposition, lower their fees and step up their lobbying of third parties, emphasizing that these matters are worthy of strategic attention of the FNSW board.

09/12.4.2. Financial planning and management

Emmanuel is seeking a quote from MNSA Pty. Ltd. to give a general health check of how we do our finances, do audit planning and procedures and provide a series of recommendations.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 8:52pm.