

Developing football for everyone.

ESFA ALL CLUBS MEETING - Minutes
Monday 5 March at 7pm, Coogee Diggers Club

Meeting opened 7.15pm.

Attending:

Raff Del Vecchio, Andrew Field, Peter Kriesler, Ron Ogilvie, Mark Puterflam (ESFA Board); Aaron Dibdin, Andrew Fathers (ESFA Staff); Sean McGuinness (Barnstoneworth United); Chris Calverley (Coogee United); Quintin Freeman, Andrew Heading, Peter Hennessy (Dunbar Rovers); Kosma Tzannes (Kytherians); Ben Willing, Bob House (Lokomotiv Cove); Craig Behrmann, Alan Charak (Maccabi Hakoah Juniors); Caroline Memmolo, John Reid (Maroubra United); Alex Luxford (Mascot Kings); Tom Karagiannis (Olympic Eagles); Mark Kraljevic (Pagewood Botany); Terry Brady (Phoenix); David Patch, Jaleh Shafie (Queens Park); Wally Holzer, Nick Procopiadis (Redfern Raiders); Nestor Moreno, Sean Benson (UNSW); Mark Ambour (Waverley Old Boys); Roy Belcher (visitor).

Apologies:

Michelle Bogatyrov, Adam Gwynne (ESFA Board); Dimitriy Chachko (Bondi United); David Owens (Easts); Mary Ivancic (Maroubra United).

President's Welcome and Report:

RDV reported that subsequent to the last All Clubs Meeting at which the members voted to reject the application of Randwick City FC for affiliation, the applicants sought to appeal to Sydney Branch. Their application to Sydney branch was rejected due to lack of jurisdiction. It subsequently arose that prior amendments to the ESFA constitutions had not been properly lodged with Fair Trading. The club sought to invalidate the decision of the previous ACM.

The Board considered the matter and referred it to the ESFA Appeals Committee and Randwick City cited 3 grounds:

1. That they were not afforded procedural fairness
2. That the ACM was an invalid process due to constitutional amendments subsequent to 2005 not having been lodged at the Dept of Fair trading by ESFA
3. That by virtue of the 2010 recommendation to the ACM by the Board, the Board had substantially accepted RCFC's application

The Appeals committee sat and RDV represented the ESFA board.

The Appeals Committee found that Randwick city were afforded ample opportunity to make their case and did so. The Board was vindicated in terms of the adequacy of the process adopted.

RDV reported that ESFA conceded to the Appeals Committee the second ground – notwithstanding the fact that the process adopted was mistakenly adopted under a belief that the constitution was valid.

The third ground was rejected, and the decision on RCFC's admission was reverted to the Board.

RDV reported that the Board resolved unanimously to reject the application.

RDV informed the meeting that the judgment is available for inspection upon request.

As a result of this appeal RDV informed the meeting that it is opportune to revisit the constitution. We are doing some work on it to get it in order and seeking advice to build a constitution from the model rules. The General Manager has been tasked with working on rules to be put to clubs at a Special General Meeting in the near future.

RDV also reported on numerous meetings with local representatives to restate our common goal to make football is the pre-eminent sport in the Eastern Suburbs. We have met with:

- Mayor of Randwick City Scott Nash
- Member for Heffron Kristina Kenneally
- Member for Maroubra Michael Daley
- Mayor of the City of Botany Bay Ron Hoenig.

RDV indicated that these meetings served as an opportunity to meet and greet but also pressing some of our issues, particularly regarding facilities. It's important that we keep meeting politicians to be at the front of mind when important decisions come up.

- **Ratification of Rules:**
 - **Junior Development Fund**

RDV spoke to the JDF. He stated that one of the things we have heard a lot from clubs is that we need to raise the bar on small sided football. He stated that the JDF was on hold because it needs some more work to become a workable proposal.

Football operates in a competitive environment with academies and other sports nipping at our heels, we need to ensure we deliver the best quality product to kids on the grounds. The days of the dad coaching the team through to 12 or 13 are gone; we need to lift the bar. We need to deliver best value to kids and their families.

RDV re-stated that the JDF has his unequivocal support and the principle that underpins is sound and necessary. It was agreed to in principal at the All Clubs Meeting and RDV indicated that he is committed to ensuring that we implement a fully developed version.

- **Ground Development Levy**

MOTION: That the Ground Development Levy proposal as circulated be adopted.

RDV spoke to the Ground Development Levy. He noted that he saw from Football NSW the opening of Blacktown Football Park at Blacktown, a magnificent complex. They started work 25 years ago wanting something for the local association, collecting 50c per player per game and it took 25 years. People might think we're being a bit far sighted or optimistic, but this is designed to plan for the future to plan to one day have something of our own here in the Eastern Suburbs.

It's about building up so we can capitalize on opportunities that arise. This money will be quarantined. This is so just like the people in Blacktown in 25 years ago; we leave something for the future. To not do it is narrow minded, shutting our eyes on possibility.

John Reid (Maroubra) argued that there are too many objectives. The big picture should be the focus as discussed at the all clubs meeting - it should be about an association venue. If clubs contribute and don't get funds for their project they will get annoyed.

Amendment proposed: **amend Object 3 to limit the fund to expand ground capacity**

David Patch (Queens Park) spoke against, citing developments that could improve training capacity particularly.

Amendment put and LOST

Motion put and CARRIED

- **Finances**

RDV reported in Emmanuel's absence on finances. Over last two years finances have not been good, the balance sheet has not been good. The Board is aware of the priorities that finances need to take and have already implemented the following:

- Moving premises with the new premises having much cheaper rent, much better offices and better parking.
- Total salaries have been cut by 15%.
- We are smarter with ground maintenance and not throwing money into projects such as Matraville High.
- We are saving by using Sportingpulse/MFC rather than Compman.

RDV reported than in order to change the direction of the finances for 2011/12 we need to make a surplus of about \$100k. This will go some way to restoring our balance sheet and getting the Association to a sustainable footing. If player numbers drop we might have to rethink the budget.

At present, we owe money to FNSW. We have carryover debt from last year. We have had dialogue with Football NSW and re negotiated the payment terms of the invoice. . If budget projections are met, within 12-18 months we will be sustainably back in the black. That there are challenges ahead is not to be denied, but we are taking steps to address them.

- **Approval of Competition Rules**

- **Junior Competition Rules**

RDV called call Ron Ogilvie to speak to the Junior Competition Rules. He commenced by introducing and welcoming Andrew Fathers who is now ESFA's Competitions Manager.

Ron stated that in 2011 there was considerable confusion on rules. Importantly there is a quite reasonable set of Competition rules however often they appeared to be ignored while certain areas needed further clarification. Accordingly over the offseason considerable work has been done to ensure we have a set of Competition rules with which we can all agree before the season commences. We accept that nothing is perfect in the rules, but we want to avoid "making up things as it goes". These are the rules for 2012 – if they need to be changed they'll be changed for 2013.

Ron outlined a number of positive changes to the re-grading process, to finals, to wet weather rescheduling and extra football for Juniors on the Saturday of the he June long weekend.

If we don't need the extra week for rescheduled games, we'll play an ESFA 6-a-side championship in one day. It's 6-a-side so every team will well and truly have enough players even with people on holidays.

That the Junior Rule changes be adopted.

M: Ron Ogilvie

S: Mark Puterflam

Carried

Raff thanked Ron in particular for the tremendous amount of work done on the junior rules giving a framework agreed upon.

- **Senior Competition Rules**

RDV stated that Adam Gwynne has spent a lot of time on the senior rules, but it the circulated version is not quite complete. Raff called Peter Kriesler to speak to the rules in Adam's absence.

Peter reported that the processes are the same on regrading etc. as the Juniors, and that there were some amendments on changes for overage teams

Otherwise rules as they stand are substantially the same as last year.

David Patch moved three motions amending rules for overage competitions:

1: All references to 30-35 and 40-45 be changed to 30-34 and 40-44.

Put and carried

2: In 5.20 insert the words "until they turn 45" before the words "these players will be subject to re-grading".

Put and carried

3: Reinstate the '4 underage players' rule to O45s.

Put and carried

That the Senior Rules as amended be adopted.

Put and Carried

RDV stated that we will endeavor to do better at circulating documents well ahead of time and that we will publish a calendar of meetings as soon as possible.

RDV thanked all attending and closed the meeting, noting that it has been a long and busy off-season so we can't wait till there is finally some football played – and wished everyone an enjoyable year!

Meeting closed at 8.45pm