



**EASTERN SUBURBS  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Developing football for everyone.**

## **MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tuesday 23 September, 2014 at 7.00pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens  
(Mtg 11/14)**

### **MINUTES**

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

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

#### **11/14.1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Raff Del Vecchio.

#### **11/14.2 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 10/14 & MATTERS ARISING**

##### **11/14.2.1. Consideration of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> August were taken as a true and correct record.

Moved: Sean Fenton

Seconded: Paul Kelly

Carried

##### **11/14.2.2. Business arising from the minutes**

The action items were reviewed and updated.

#### **11/14.3 REPORTS**

##### **11/14.3.1. Financial Report**

The General Manager spoke to the financial report and took questions.

The Board directed the General Manager to:

- Investigate the status of the family discount program for 2014

- Have as an action item for the incoming Board to develop a protocol for dealing with late payments for representative players

#### 11/14.3.2. Other Reports

##### 11/14.3.2.1 Small Sided Football

Sean reported on the recent SSF review meeting and the discussion that revolved around communications, coaching courses and establishing minimum standards. Sean noted that there was a broadly positive reception for the presentation of the preferred model for 2015. Sean reported that he is looking to gather the clubs for a meeting dedicated solely to planning for the 2015 season in coming weeks.

Sean noted that the position of Chair of SSF was held over until 2015 Direction had been agreed

##### 11/14.3.2.2 Junior FMC

Ron reported that the end of the season saw several junior finalist needing to be determined by 'higher teams progressing' owing to washouts. This was unfortunate but it was a real positive being able to have Grand Finals played at Hensley on synthetic turf and undisturbed by weather. Ron did note that it would be ideal if there were a greater sense of cooperation between clubs to try to get games played wherever possible and that ESFA may need to become more involved in dictating terms.

Ron congratulated the office team on their execution of successful grand finals that went without a hitch, and the stages, lights and pyrotechnics gave a real sense of theatre that players, parents and everyone associated enjoyed.

Ron noted that the upcoming review meetings will have three issues to discuss in respect of the competition rules:

- Relative Age Effect (RAE) – as seen in FNSW competitions
- Radical reshaping of age group competition to adopt differentiated competitive and participatory streams
- 25m rule for younger age groups

##### 11/14.3.2.3 Senior FMC

Elisha reported on recent successful and productive meetings of senior clubs to discuss the future of the Men's Championship competition and the formal end of season review meetings.

At the Men's Championship meeting, all clubs agreed that being down to 8 clubs (with some of those struggling to continue) was not ideal and that there had to be action to address the situation. Adam Gwynne's proposal sparked a lot of constructive discussion including further proposals from Rubens Camejo, Peter Hennessy and David Patch. The end result was that clubs showed great flexibility in their thinking and there will be a cooperative solution struck with clubs and ESFA working together to support a positive future for the competition.

At the review meeting, Jaleh Shafie and Adam Gwynne were re-elected to serve as the Chairs of the Women's and Men's Councils respectively. Jaleh noted that the last couple of months had been very difficult for staff and volunteers alike and that the impact had been very heavy. An enormous amount came out of the meeting, with ESFA needing to work with clubs to develop solutions to address:

- Washout rescheduling processes including
  - Adoption of a mid-season deadline for early season washouts
  - Removing right to refuse reasonable rescheduled games
  - Empowering ESFA to force games to be played where possible
- Prevention of forfeits – clubs prefer the imposition of mandatory \$300 fines for forfeits
- Introduction of U21 competition
- Tightening match sheets and card checking including going back to 'no card, no play'
- Non-attendance at Council meetings – to be punished by a fine
- Processes for complaints about referees (be it individual referees or more systemic issues)
- The persistent level of dissent to referees
- Ideas to better reward and recognise League Champions

Clubs did report that they loved having their Grand Finals at Hensley and appreciated the time and effort put in to getting them on a great stage.

#### 11/14.3.2.4 Representative Football

The Board discussed the FNSW request that came through outlining the splitting of the Regional League into the League and Conference. The board expressed its disappointment at this decision and expressed the view that the creation of effective a 3rd youth league would probably result in a further loss of junior players. Noting that the Conference maintained the dual-registration and part-time format while the League was full-time and no dual-registration

was permitted, Andrew recommended that the Association enter the Conference. The Board agreed.

It was suggested that Hakoah was very likely to be entering a full SAP structure in 2015. Andrew was confident ESFA's SAP teams would remain strong however it would likely impact at least SSF numbers at Maccabi

#### 11/14.3.2.5 Referees and Judiciary

Paul reported that the Referees' Branch was very heavily engaged with the Grand Finals and many committee members and other referees gave a lot of time to support their fellow referees across the various weekends.

A number of up-and-coming young referees were given the opportunity to referee senior Grand Finals and did very well, showing we have a bright future in the senior ranks.

We need to address our attrition rates – it's better to not lose the refs we have than to recruit simply to cover losses. We know from the Grand Finals that we have a stock of very good refs and we don't want to lose them, so we need to address things like abuse and dissent. In particular, we need to take better action against repeat offenders.

Paul also noted that John Garcia is now a Level 2 referee and that this is a great achievement for a relatively young referee who started here as a junior.

The Board set the following action points:

- Paul to develop a proposal to impose harsher penalties on repeat offenders of abusive or offensive conduct
- Aaron to write to all Grand Final referees and assistants to congratulate them
- Aaron to write to John Garcia congratulating him on his Level 2 accreditation

### **11/14.4 BUSINESS**

#### 11/14.4.1. New club application – Old Boys United FC

The Board examined the application documents from Old Boys United FC. The Board asked Aaron to:

- Assess their compliance with the relevant terms of our Constitution
- Gauge the views of clubs presently using the grounds that OBU FC proposes to use

- Seek clarification from OBU FC as to whether they have their tenure confirmed at their grounds for 2015
- Ask OBU FC if they could include 'Scots College' in their name to distinguish them from the many other "old boys' unions" related to other institutions

#### 11/14.4.2. Queens Park FC

The Board reviewed recent action taken in respect of Queens Park FC and non-compliance with the signed exemption agreement between the Club and the Association.

The Board undertook to write to all QPFC members outlining the situation and outlining the distinction between the Academy and the Club.

The board to request David Patch to attend the next board meeting to discuss what is happening at Queens Park in particular in terms of SSF and juniors in 2015.

#### 11/14.4.3. Other business

- Aaron will seek updates from all clubs as to their progress in becoming incorporated.
- Aaron will update the Board on positions to be elected at the 2014 AGM by the end of the week.
- The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Tuesday October 21 at 7:00pm.

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.