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# Armidale District Football Association

# Minutes of General Meeting

**Held at Armidale City Bowling Club – Duval Room**

**Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7pm**

1. **Present:** Graham Parson (President in Chair)

Brooke Brennan (Vice President)

Stephen Griffith (Secretary)

Gavin Flanagan (Treasurer)

Steve Davies (East Armidale)

Luke Polson (TAS)

Jay Westfold (DKFC)

Lindsay Grigg and Marilyn Wheaton (NUFC)

Brad Hine (Uralla)

Liane Nixon (St Johns - NEGS)

Mark Farrant (South Armidale)

Col Stanley (Guyra)

**Observers:** Chris Horneman and Tim Coates (NIF President)

1. **Apologies**: Robert (Charlie) Brown (Walcha), Sam Preston (Westside FC)
2. **Minutes from the Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the November 2015 meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. **Motion:** Westfold/Grigg Carried.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Chris Horneman asked what action has been taken to recognize Jean Bone’s service and contribution to ADFA. The Chair indicated that he has arranged for New England Trophies to prepare a plaque and would make arrangements for an appropriate time to present this to Jean
4. **Correspondence:**

**In:** Letter from Armidale Sports Council – The meeting noted that the Sports Council has requested ADFA to pay the full $2,000 interest payment for the Rologas redevelopment with no regard for ADFA’s contribution to Architect Fees and Modified DA Fees. The meeting resolved that the Secretary should again write to Council and request that this contribution be amortized from ADFA’s sports levies’ over a period of 10 years (thereby reducing our contribution by around $200 per year). **Motion:** Farrant/Westfold Carried.

It was also noted that ADFA had received an account from Australia post for its PO Box at a cost of $120.

**Out:** Submission to Stronger Communities. The meeting noted the ADFA submission. The Secretary advised that we should know in the next few weeks if our application will progress to the next round.

1. **Financial Report:** - Gavin Flanagan advised the meeting that there had been minimal transactions since the end of the season with payment of $440 to the SES paid for the Jack Vallance Memorial carnival being debited from the General account which has an account balance of $3,229.75.

He also reported that following payment of the Canteen managers payment in December, the Canteen Account has a balance of $3102.63.

The meeting also noted that ADFA has a $35,000 term investment with Newcastle Permanent Building Society.

The meeting noted that should the stronger communities grant application be successful $5,000 from the term deposit would be required to undertake the renovations. The meeting endorsed this recommendation and accepted the Treasurers report. **Motion:** Polson/Wheaton Carried

1. **Sports Council**: The President and Secretary reported on the Sports Council Meeting held on 8th March and discussions in relation to Rologas developments and implications for the 2016 season. The meeting noted and congratulated the President on his election to the Sports Council Executive. The President reported that at this time fields 1 and 2 will be unable to be used until 30th June at the earliest. With renovations to the Rologas Club house and new change rooms commencing within the week it will be unviable to operate a Canteen during the season. The Canteen is currently acting as a storeroom for ADFA.
2. **Competition Matters:** 
   1. **Senior and Junior Competition Nominations.** Nomination forms were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that senior team nominations would close at **5pm** 4th April and Junior team nominations at **5pm** on 15th April. It was agreed that all ADFA Competitions would commence on Saturday 30th April.

There was discussion in relation to Home and Away games for Guyra and Walcha teams and it was agreed that there were too many forfeits in 2015 so games between these Clubs would be scheduled at Rologas fields to reduce travel on players and parents.

It was further noted that Senior competitions would return to a 3 round final series in 2016. Team nominations would determine whether there would be a 1 or 2 week competition break in the July school holidays.

Mark Farrant sought clarification in relation to Wet Weather cancellations and it was agreed that if games are cancelled in Armidale they are called off in all other centres.

* 1. **Mann Cup:** It was agreed that the Mann Cup would to be held on 2nd & 3rd April. It was noted that Doody Park would most likely host the competition. Gavin Flanagan offered to check availability and costs to use UNE fields. It was noted that teams would be able to play up till noon on Saturday on Field 1 but after this time Easts have a home game in the McDonald’s NI PL. It was agreed that team nominations would close at midday Wednesday 23rd March.
  2. **Discussion in relation to field requirements for 2016 season and plans while Rologas 1&2 and Mini Roos Fields are out of action**

There was lengthy discussion in relation to field options with Rologas 1 and 2 and U/6 and U/7 mini roos fields being out of action for most of the season. There was general agreement that it is in the best interest of football to have most junior games played at the Rologas precinct with the suggestion that fields 16 and 17 be replaced with the mini roos fields for U/6 and U/7’s. It was also agreed to investigate availability of O’Connor fields and Clubs were asked to advise ADFA of availability and interest in providing fields that could replace Rologas 16 and 17 for the U/9 fixtures if required.

* 1. **Discussion regarding Women’s Football and U/19’s competition**

**U/19’s:** The meeting noted the difficulty in conducting an Under 19’s competition. It was agreed that nomination be called with Junior nominations. It was noted that Norths, DK and possibly TAS would gain show interest in this competition but at least 5 teams were required to make a viable competition.

**Women’s Football:** The meeting noted the growth of Women’s Football in Tamworth and the challenges posed by Sport UNE’s women’s competition in Armidale. It was agreed that encouraging the establishment of a school based girls football competition would be a good starting point. It was agreed that Northern Inland Football would facilitate a Girls Football Forum to flesh out the barriers to conducting a sanctioned women’s football competition in Armidale.

* 1. **McDonald’s Northern Inland Premier League** Gavin Flanagan reported that the competition would commence on 2nd April and would be a 10 team full home and away competition following the withdrawal of Gunnedah United from the competition. There would be a 6 team Final series (based on the A League final series) with the Pl Grand Final to be held on 10th September a week prior to Armidale and Tamworth Grand Finals.

Gavin Flanagan congratulated Norths United on their recent success in the preliminary rounds of the FFA Cup. It was noted that NUFC will play the winner of the Mid North Coast competition.

Gavin also advised Clubs holding pre season fixtures that they are required to gain endorsement of NIF to ensure that players and match and Club officials are covered under NNSWF insurances for these fixtures.

* 1. **Armidale Carnival** The meeting agreed that the Jack Vallance Memorial carnival will be held on Sunday 7th August. Discussion was held in relation to competition regulations.

1. **General Business:**
2. St John’s nomination to join ADFA as a new junior Club in 2016. The meeting unanimously endorsed NEGS application. **Motion:** Griffith/Westfold Carried
3. Revised ADFA Constitution – The draft revisions were circulated electronically for Consideration by Club Committees. It was agreed that the proposed amendments be considered at the next meeting.
4. Line Marking Tender – The President reported that Steve Watts has submitted a tender to undertake line marking for ADFA in 2016. It was noted that the tender is in line with 2015 and that flexibility will be required this year with revised field arrangements. The option of progressing to open tender was rejected and the meeting resolved that Steve Watts be granted the contract in 2016. **Motion:** Chair Carried
5. Canteen Operation – The meeting agreed that due to Rologas Fields being out of action that the Canteen would only operate for the Jack Vallance Memorial Carnival.
6. Player Transfers – The meeting noted that under FFA and My Football Club regulations that a club has 7 days to withdraw active player status for a player. After this time it is deemed that a player is financial so there is no comeback on a club that advises that a player has left them without paying fees. It was noted that the biggest issue is players leaving without returning playing strips. It was agreed that as a courtesy a Club receiving a nomination for a player transferring from one ADFA Club to another Club should contact the Club registrar to ensure that the new player had returned all club equipment. It was agreed that Clubs should advise ADFA of their registrar details for circulation prior to the season commencement.
7. Club Officials – The meeting noted that due to the declining number of match officials it has been proposed that Northern Inland Football Referees coordinate a match officials Course requiring Clubs to nominate 2 people per senior team nomination to undertake a training course. Participants will be required to undertake and pass the on line laws of the game test and undertake a 2hr training session. The meeting agreed this was a positive move forward and details of the training course will be advised to Clubs.
8. Acropolis Cup: Nominations were due on 7th March. The meeting noted that despite players being selected.many had declared they were unavailable on this weekend due to Cricket and or work commitments. It was noted that east Armidale had nominated to play in a Nambucca tournament on the Acropolis Cup weekend. Clubs were given until 9am 11th March to confirm available players to see if it would be possible to field an Armidale Open’s team. Souths United would be discussing representing Armidale at their training session on 10th March.
9. **Other Business**
   1. Community Coaching Courses. The Chair encouraged Clubs to promote courses to their coaches as a way of improving the skill level of players. It was noted that a Grassroots Course is scheduled on 21st March.
   2. Michael Brown Masterclass. Gavin Flanagan advised that the State Coaching Director would be conducting a class for coaches on 10th March.
   3. Club Nets Roster. It was noted that the Nets roster would be impacted by Rologas 1 and 2 being unavailable.
10. **Date of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at Armidale City Bowling Club at 7pm, Wednesday 27th April
11. **Meeting Close.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

Stephen Griffith

Secretary