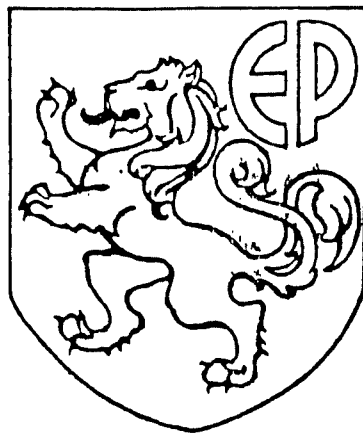


EYRE PENINSULA ZONE COUNCIL



THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL ON EYRE PENINSULA

*A discussion paper prepared by the
Zone Council Sub-Committee*

1st June 1985

FORWARD:

At a Mortlock Shield Conference on 3rd March 1984, a Sub-Committee was formed to examine the future of football on Eyre Peninsula and circularise a discussion paper for Leagues to refer to.

A questionnaire was subsequently drafted and forwarded to all Club Secretaries. The following statistics have been compiled and analysed from this source.

The following Clubs did not complete the Questionnaire.

Ceduna Football Club
Kelly Football Club
Kimba Football Club
Waddikie Football Club
Lock Football Club
Eyre United Football Club
Marble Range Football Club
Wayback Football Club

The Sub-Committee comprising Messrs D.P. McSweeney (Chairman), W.J. Flavel, B.S. Trigg, and J. Cronin, have analysed the returns and submit the following findings for consideration.

SUMMARY:

The areas comprising Far West League and Streaky Bay League need urgent review. LeHunte League should be invited to be represented at any review meeting that is held. Each club should be represented by two senior delegates and President, one of whom should be nominated as Official Spokesperson for that Club. Each League Executive should be invited to attend. This Sub-Committee should be present to assist and make recommendations. It should also be noted that any proposed alteration to League structure should be lodged with S.A.N.F.L. for approval by August 31st, preceding the proposed season of alteration and reference to Rule 26 of the Affiliated Leagues Constitution.

The Committee are of the opinion that player registrations will continue to decline and fringe clubs will struggle to remain competitive against more populous towns. Since the statistics were gathered Flinders and Streaky Bay Clubs have amalgamated leaving Streaky Bay League with four teams. Far West League are unchanged but a bye situation with only five teams is not in the best interest of the game.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

The Committee feels that any proposed changes or alterations should be on the following lines:-

1. Geographical and social interests between communities which have a greater common interest.
2. Development and encouragement of Juniors.
3. Encouragement for fringe clubs to remain viable
4. Maintaining representative teams and matches
5. Viable competition (Minimum 6 Clubs)
6. Maintaining sensible distances to travel.
7. Communication between Football and Netball Officials vital.

POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED

Points to be considered where changes to league structure take place:-

1. Generation of more interest for all teams in each league.
2. Top teams will get more reasonable competition.
3. Lower teams will get a greater opportunity to win matches than in present case.
4. Less problems with players knowing opponents too well and lessening of old antagonisms and spite in the game.
5. Less familiarity between umpires and players.
6. Youth of each area will have broader social and sporting contact.

STATISTICS:STREAKY BAY LEAGUE (5 Clubs)

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	Junior	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Streaky Bay	41	38	13	5	96	5
Flinders	45	45	30	5	20	5
Central Areas	46	38	22	6	65	10
Rovers	36	28	8	5	70	10
Wirrulla	40	37	24	5	70	20

2. Main Points from Questionnaire

- * All clubs are in a sound financial position
- * Streaky Bay population too small to support two competitive teams.
- * League should investigate amalgamation with another league
- * Juniors must be encouraged to ensure long term future of clubs.

FAR WEST LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	Junior	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Smoky Bay	46	40	29	5	73	20
Western United	70	50	20	10	220	20
Thevenard	48	42	24	6	215	10
Koonibba	58	46	20	6	120	10
Ceduna						

2. Main Points Each Questionnaire

- * All Clubs strong financially
- * Discussion on restructuring of leagues should be treated as an urgent priority.
- * Better competition required with more teams involved.
- * One club relies heavily on players from outside their own locality.
- * Significant dependence on farming community numbers for one club.
- * Smaller areas struggling to maintain support.

LE HUNTE LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	Junior	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Kyancutta	45	30	30	5	no information	
Wudinna	60	30	25	5	not available	
United	48	26	15	5	100	15
Minnipa	40	30	20	7	103	20
Warrambo						
Elliston						

2. Main Points from Questionnaire

- * Changes have not been widely discussed.
- * More information required before tangible decisions can be made.
- * Would consider amalgamation but wish to retain present club identities.
- * Consider travelling aspect to be a major consideration.
- * Amalgamation with Streaky Bay a possibility.
- * One club relying to some degree on players outside own locality.

KIMBA LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

1 Senior Team 1 Junior Team

	Senior	Junior	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Kimba						
Kelly						
Buckleboo	26	17	10	8	140	30
Waddikee						

2. Main Points From Questionnaire

- * Club numbers being affected by poaching of players by Whyalla clubs.
- * Strong club support which will probably remain for a significant time.

COUNTY JERVOIS LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	Junior	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Cowell	48	55	25	9	63	10
Cleve	44	45	21	7	157	30/15
Darke Peake	49	22	no mini team		160	10/ 7
Rudall	51	48	25	7	230	25/10
Arno Bay	45	36	25	6	145	20/10
Port Niell	46	42	22	7	196	25

2. Main Points from Questionnaire

- * One club relying heavily on players from outside own locality (45%)
- * Concern at the fact that colts numbers are barely sufficient
- * Darke Peake Club confident of numbers and support for at least ten years
- * Rudall Club confident of strong club and competitive team in future
- * Cowell Club future looks good for 10 years at least
- * All Clubs sound financially

GREAT FLINDERS LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	U/16	Mini	Youngest	Membership	Fees
Kapinnie	50	41	20	7	150	15
Cummins	50	35	16	7	100	10/10
United Yeelanna	51	17	20	8	110	20
Tumby Bay	52	66	45	5	160	20/15
Eyre United						
Lock						

2. Main Points from Questionnaire

- * Reducing to six teams may be inevitable
- * Juniors should be encouraged to ensure long term viability
- * Schools should be encouraged to promote football
- * Regional competition should be given consideration
- * Reduction of number of teams
- * All clubs sound financially

PORT LINCOLN LEAGUE

1. Registered Players 1984

2 Senior Teams 2 Junior Teams

	Senior	All teams U/17	Membership	Fees
Mallee Park	70	50	150	15
Tasman	75	80+	325	15
Boston	60	50	146	15
Lincoln South	70	85	410	12/6
Marble Range				
Wayback				

2. Main Points from Questionnaire

- * All clubs sound financial position
- * Regional Competition would be welcomed
- * Formation of Lower Eyre Peninsula League favoured
- * Future viability good but suffering to some extent by diminishing employment opportunities and active recruitment by League Clubs (S.A.N.F.L.)
- * Juniors must be encouraged to ensure long term viability
- * Financial costs involved just to get a team on ground each Saturday - where does increased costs stop and where does love of the game and sport begin

CONCLUSION:

The following facts have been taken into consideration during discussion on this subject and should be carefully considered by all people involved at all levels of football on Eyre Peninsula.

1. There is a substantial decline in population in rural areas of South Australia
2. This is substantiated by the fact that in one club area the number of resident farming families has declined from 38 to 17 over a period of three years
3. This trend will continue in all probability. The Stock & Station Journal in one selected week, had 38 pages of land for sale notices
4. The drain off to sports other than football has increased in recent years
5. In all areas except more populous towns, Mini League numbers are down and to field teams it is necessary to play five and six year olds in some cases

The Committee strongly recommends that a similar survey be carried out in 1986 and all clubs should co-operate to assist in monitoring the rate of decline of numbers. There are cases in almost all Leagues of questionable clubs re future viability.

Where any changes to structure of Leagues occur the concept of the Mortlock Shield and Junior Carnivals would have to be looked at.

The concept of changes to the structure of Leagues on Eyre Peninsula has to be viewed in an objective manner and not "as an instruction" to clubs and leagues.

Any refinements should be viewed positively for the betterment of country football.

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D. P. McSWEENY
ZONE COUNCILLOR