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**President:** - Matthew Cook

**Secretary:-**Brenda Tully

**Vice President:** - Peter Cock

## MINUTES

Minutes of Special Meeting of Mid West Football League, held Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at the Minnipa Hotel, commenced at 7.30pm

### 1. Roll call & Welcome

#### 1.1.

#### Present

President	Matthew Cook
Vice President	Peter Cock
Secretary	Brenda Tully
SANFL – RFC	Andrew Taheny
Central Eyre	Aaron Grocke, Jared Sampson, Wes Matthews
Elliston	Steve Paul, Jay Williams
West Coast Hawks	Tegan Whitford, Neil Montgomerie
Western Districts	Nathan Hebbberman, Jamie Baker, Scott Feltus, Wade Shepperd
Wudinna United	Greg Scholz, Dallas Waters, Ryan DuBois
Wirrulla	Craig Johnson, Vinnie Kellett, Andrew Patterson, Shane Pittaway

#### 1.2.

#### Apologies

Elliston	Chad Fleming
Wirrulla	Milton Holmes

2. Matthew Cook welcomed all present at this special meeting regarding B Grade and Colts numbers for 2019. Matthew Cook continued to inform all present that the Mid West Football League was a healthy league made of 6 family orientated clubs. This year we have had heaps of forfeits in the B Grade before and after seeding. This makes an empty day for hosting clubs with less spectators and volunteers. The Colts have had lots of games with the Mercy rule applied and this is an ongoing trend. The junior players are the future of many of our clubs and they play an important role, we need to keep them interested or they find something else to do. Looking at the school numbers this year which are approx. Wudinna – 260 students, Streaky Bay – 250 students, Karcultaby – 60 and Elliston – 60. Some schools are filling 2 clubs and others only one. We need to make sure that we sustain a healthy comp for both our Colts and B Grade within our league if possible so that was the importance of tonight’s meeting. We need to chat openly about situations and possible constructive ideas to take back to your clubs to discuss and then bring back and other ideas and suggestions in readiness for the 2019 season. Looking at approx. numbers if the 3 leagues were to amalgamate and would face more travel for clubs who may have players, spectators and volunteers drop off, so before this situation gets to that points we need to as a league try to resurrect something for our own good and the good of football in Mid West. Matthew Cook suggested we be honest and transparent with ourselves.

### COLTS:

Greg Scholz – Wudinna United FC

The club has gone through numbers 16 8yr – 16yr olds, Minis numbers approx. 16. Not a lot of change in the next 2 yrs. Club has had a couple of meetings. Suggested we have 12 aside for the colts. Looking at age groups they have suggested U16 –U13yrs play at 10.30am and U12 – 8yrs play at 12.30pm.

Aaron Grocke – Central Eyre FC

Club has looked at numbers and they have 23 11yrs – 16yrs might lose 1 or 2 to college next year. Their club discussed reducing the numbers to 16 on the playing field and 3 on the bench. Happy with the mercy rule. Their club spoke of their older colts need a break between Colts games and B Grade. May need to have a longer break between Colts and B Grade games so the Colts players have had time to have a decent break.



Jay Williams – Elliston FC

Some weeks they have 21 Colts and have lots of Minis. Colts numbers are looking ok may lose a couple next year. Most of the older U16 players are playing B Grade or A Grade some weeks.

Andrew Taheny – SANFL – RFC

Presented a structure which has been set up several years ago for the junior grades & junior age groups all clubs need to look at this.

Neil Montgomerie & Tegan Whitford – West Coast Hawks FC

Tegan Whitford spoke of numbers this year 21 U16yrs – U12 Colts and 15 U12yrs – U8yrs. Their club runs Auskick on Friday nights before an away game this is to help all players get a run. They try to rest older colt's players for B Grade games. Their club is happy to swap and mix up when Mercy rule is applied in games.

Shane Pittaway – Wirrulla FC

Their numbers this year are 21 U16yrs – U10 yrs. If they didn't play those younger players they would struggle. Possibly lose 2 next yr. There is a fear factor in the age gap from the older colts to the younger ones. Injury is always a possibility.

Port Adelaide Cup and Kinlough Cup this year was a struggle. Port Adelaide Cup numbers were ok just not successful have good 1<sup>st</sup> halves but can't keep up the pace. Kinlough Cup struggled to get numbers as most of this age group are away at college or at school in Pt Lincoln.

Nathan Hebbberman – Western Districts FC

Have 16 colts ranging from all ages would have 5 older players and the rest below the age group. Will possibly lose 1 player next year. Discussed the possibility of matching up the age groups on the oval as much as possible to allow the older kids a more competitive game play these older kids in the forward lines and the back lines. Their club don't have good numbers for the future. Look at bringing age group back to U15's. Use the Match Day permit system for clubs who may have excess numbers and then all the players get a go. Sometimes it might mean several players play for another club under that team name but might return to their home club the following week. Players could be rotating each week to help out another team.

Andrew Patterson – Wirrulla FC

Spoke of playing U15 age group may not be good for the U16 player's development if having to play B Grade or A Grade full time. Allowing the players to play in the U16 age group does help their development and is an important time in their development

Aaron Grocke – Central Eyre FC

Spoke of young U16 yr players might drop off and not want to play at all or might not be ready to play B Grade full time just yet.

Nathan Hebbberman – Western Districts FC

Spoke of tweaking numbers each week or depending who they were playing. This isn't going always going to resolve problem.

Greg Scholz – Wudinna United FC

Suggested split Colts into 2 age groups U13 – U16 yrs and U8 – U12 yrs. Reduce numbers on the oval to 12 or 14, when playing Districts they will be playing 12 aside. Most games may be competitive until they all come up against West Coast Hawks.

Peter Cock – Vice President

Spoke of trading players weekly with Match Day Permits to go to Western Districts or clubs who may need them. This can be done by positions of the clubs on the ladder at the end of the home and away season. Will make for more competitive games. If some children and parents knew right before the start of the season they will be getting a game each week this might help the fall off of players who aren't playing on a regular basis and may help West Coast Hawks club. This will be good for the players to go to another club and know they are helping them out.

We may need to convince parents and kids for the future of the competition. Remember this will help the kid's development and will be good for all clubs in the league.

Greg Scholz – Wudinna United FC

Split age groups to U16 and U12 play 9 aside games and reduce ¼'s to 15 minutes

Shane Pittaway – Wirrulla FC

Spoke of making sure the kid's development is not being affected and we need to make sure the competition is more competitive. This could be why we need to split Association in half and select for Pt Adelaide Cup and Kinlough Cup Best Colts East v West carnival on a Sunday selection day. This would also allow selectors good look at certain players in certain positions. Combine U17 and U15's together to form teams and allow the players a bit more competition to use this as a pathway for Port Adelaide Cup and Kinlough Cup games.

Matthew Cook - President

Think about these suggestions and take back to your clubs and discuss. There are several possibilities to look at.



### 3. B GRADE

Scott Feltus – Western Districts

Spoke of 40 senior players most weeks during seeding time this may drop off. They had 1 forfeit for the season. Discussed look at shortening ¼'s in B grade, possibly bring oval in on both sides. Play 15 or 16 aside. We need to look at all avenues to keep the competition going. This may entice the older players to continue playing.

Craig Johnson, Andrew Patterson & Vinnie Kellett – Wirrulla

Their club has had good numbers this year not always easy some weeks have had a club meeting to discuss shortening B grade ¼'s to 15 mins. May have to apply a rule at league level for those clubs who forfeit regularly. Financially it isn't good for any club when a forfeit happens. We need B Grade to continue as this is a good competition for those players who are border line A grade players. Andrew Patterson spoke not in favor of reduced numbers for B Grade, clubs have to work harder to get players interested in playing and this helps all clubs. Communication plays a big role in the B Grade competition sometimes you can spend hours on the phone trying to scratch a team together and talking to the opposition coach.

Tegan Whitford – West Coast Hawks

This year the older Colts players have saved forfeits by playing B Grade games. Their club struggled at the start of the year. For a few weeks they battled to get a team together. Their club discussed shortening the ¼'s in B Grade to 15 mins

Jay Williams & Steve Paul – Elliston FC

Spoke of 6-8 players are locals the rest are out of town people. They rely some weeks on the older Colts to play to make sure they get a team. Last year they forfeited a fair bit their older guys weren't always playing which was disappointing but this year they have been able to turn it around. Agree should shorten the B Grade ¼'s to 15 mins. Some weeks may have to reduce numbers to 14

Aaron Grocke & Jared Sampson – Central Eyre FC

Struggled some weeks with injuries and players missing from the A grade have 56 regular senior players. In B Grade they have 14 players from 17yrs – Middle age, 7 40yrs and up. The key to a good B grade is a good coach, team manager and personnel. Agree shorten the B grade ¼'s to 15 mins no time on. B Grade is a stepping stone for some A grade injured players to get match fitness. We need to make sure all B Grade Coaches/Team Managers communicate with opposition Coaches and Team Managers. Sometimes volunteer fatigue does set in and this isn't healthy for clubs.

Brenda Tully – Secretary

All clubs be aware B grade numbers of 12 constitutes a game. Be aware you can also Match Day Permit players from or to the opposition on Sporting Pulse.

Greg Scholz & Dallas Waters – Wudinna United FC

They have had a meeting to discuss numbers for next year. 40 senior players possibly 30. Hard to find players each week, this year hard to field a B Grade. They will need help next year with extra players from the opposition teams. Their club spoke of 16 players on oval and 3 on bench for A grade games may help their B grade numbers. Most of their players are higher side of 35 age group playing B Grade have had lots of injuries also. Agree to shorten ¼'s and reduce numbers to play games

Jamie Baker & Nathan Hebbberman – Western Districts FC

Spoke of their struggle several years ago. Recruiting players hoping to attract a few extra players to help clubs out. Raising money to get players is a huge help. Sometimes a player might bring a mate who brings a mate this helps the B grade games, it also attracts netball players to your club. Sometimes volunteer fatigue does set in in the B Grade with officials but we need to make sure we all jump in and help them.

Brenda Tully – Secretary

Spoke of importance to communicate with opposition coaches by 10pm Thursday Evenings may reduce forfeits. Reduce ¼'s to 15 mins no time on and also reduce A Grade games to 20 min ¼'s no time on.

Aaron Grocke & Jared Sampson – Central Eyre FC

Sometimes good recruiting plays a large role in clubs. Some clubs may have to spend money to attract players to their clubs. Attracting family orientated players helps. Look at local boys returning back to your clubs and just keep working hard. Gus May attended Central Eyre FC meeting recently and suggested this league is a bloody good league. We need to look after it. We may have to tweak the Colts & the B Grade competitions with very small changes but we need to all dig very deep and work hard.

Greg Scholz – Wudinna United FC

Suggested we look at a split round start a week later. Take a week out after Kinlough Cup

Full round at the start of the season. Full round at the end of the season shorten middle round. Not in favor of 2 straight rounds only 10 games for the year.

Jared Sampson – Central Eyre FC



The split round may effect clubs with 2 venues financially

Matthew Cook thanked all present for attending this meeting and spoke of some very good ideas and discussion points from tonight's meeting that all clubs will need to take back and discuss further or bring back any other suggestions. Great ideas and some very simple changes could help a few clubs with both Colts and B Grade competitions. We need to have this sorted out prior to AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018.

4. **Next Meeting –Special Meeting – TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 – Minnipa Hotel at 7.30pm  
Can All Club Presidents/Secretaries and Delegates attend please?**
  
5. **Meeting Closed 10.17pm**

