



President: - Matthew Cook

Secretary:-Brenda Tully

Vice President: - Peter Cock

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Mid West Football League, held Tuesday 29th July 2019 at the Minnipa Hotel, commenced at 7.30pm

1. Roll call & Welcome

1.1. Present

Vice President	Peter Cock
Secretary	Brenda Tully
Treasurer	Leanne McArdle
Umpire Coordinator	Wade Shepperd
Central Eyre	Aaron Grocke & Jake Sampson
Elliston	Nathan Little & Chad Fleming
West Coast Hawks	Paul Feltus & Dion Trezona
Western Districts	Scott Feltus & Jerel Fromm
Wudinna United	Greg Scholz & Shane Dupree
Wirrulla	Ryan Watson & Kieran Patterson

1.2. Apologies

President	Matthew Cook
Western Districts	Jamie Baker
SANFL	Richard Murphy & Andrew Taheny

Peter Cook chaired meeting in the absence of President Matthew Cook.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1. That the Minutes of the MWFL meeting held on 23rd April 2019 be passed as true and correct

Proposed:	Jerel Fromm
2nd:	Nathan Little
All in Favour.	CARRIED

3. Business Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

- 3.1 Country Football Web Page – Lawrie Colliver.
Mid West Football League will not be paying \$500.00 to this web page.
Moved Brenda Tully Seconded Aaron Grocke All in favour CARRIED
- 3.2 **By - Law change – Red Card** player can be replaced by another player after 10 minutes playing time.
Moved Greg Scholz Seconded Chad Fleming All in favour CARRIED
- 3.3 Scott Feltus gave a report on the Mortlock Shield Carnival. Finished 5th out of 6. Plating at 9.30am next year. Will need to build on for next year. Look at Mortlock Shield being 2 pools. Pool A – 1,3 & 5. Pool B – 2, 4 & 6.
EP Game – Finished 3rd overall Good effort from the team.
State Game Perth – WA Country v SA Country – started scrappy up by 4 goals and lost by 9 points. Players played well and excellent effort to Scott and his team for all games.

4. Questions on Notice:

- 4.1 Modified Colts games Round 2 – Chad Fleming spoke of positive comments from both players and spectators. Coaches spoke to all the children in both age groups. 12 players on the oval is a good number 4, 4 & 4. Look at not having last touch. Have a ball up instead allowing it to be a more contested. Encourage participation and move players to different positions. Age groups need to be defined if this is going to continue in our League. Clubs need to decide if we are playing this for the whole year or just Rd 2 again. Need to also decide on U13 age group or 13 & Under. Some clubs may have players in both games. Clubs suggested having 2 coaches one for 13's and one for 16's. Aaron Grocke spoke of coaches comments that sometimes it was very busy and chaotic. We may need to look at official Mini Colts age and have a proper comp again. Starting times and length of games to be looked at for next year competition. Clubs need to discuss further for the AGM.

5. Treasurers Report: Opening Balance	\$14,125.28
Income	\$35,484.71
Expenses	\$43,077.07
Closing Balance	\$ 6,532.92

Moved Leanne McArdle Seconded Chad Fleming All in favour CARRIED
Leanne McArdle asked that all clubs hosting final arrange gate floats. After Budget sales and club floats are taken out of finals gate money Leanne McArdle or Peter Cock will arrange to collect.

6. Correspondence:

- Mentally Fit EP Round – 22nd June 2019.
- Norwood Cup Training Squad.
- Kinlough Cup Training Squad.
- Round 2 Colts Rule changes for U16 and U13 games.
- SANFL – Sarah Sayers - Affiliation & JLT Insurance form.
- Hilton Hotel/Motel Pt Lincoln accommodation Mortlock Shield.
- Port Lincoln FL – Norwood Cup – MWFL Squad.
- Printing Press – MWFL Norwood Cup Team & Team Info.
- Mortlock Shield – Training Squad.
- Mortlock Shield – Coach/Player Profiles.
- Mortlock Shield – MWFL Team & Team Info.
- Printing Press – MWFL Team & Team Info.
- Country Championships – Pt Pirie.
- Mortlock Shield Review – 2019.
- Kinlough Cup MWFL player/coach info.
- Kinlough Cup – MWFL players.
- Sporting Pulse – Clearances close 30th June 2019.
- Western Zone – EP Coach/Players info.
- Country Championships.
- SANFL – Working with Children Template.
- SANFL – SA Country Team announced.
- SANFL – Coach of the year nominations 2019.

7. Presidents Report

I have written this report as I am away overseas until the 22nd August. I would like to thank Jared for offering to chair the meeting.

Current State of Play

All clubs seem to be getting sides up successfully this year and the competition in the middle has resulted in some outstanding and close games this year. The seeding period provided a few unusual results and blowouts as to to be expected. However, player numbers are always an issue in a few of the clubs and every effort by clubs to address this are commendable. The clubs have made it very clear that they wish to continue as Mid West, the way they are, mainly for the community aspect. They understand that once it's gone, its gone for good. The League, through the clubs is open to continually improving our competition and ongoing changes need to be considered. For example, simple changes may even include the possibility of having a minimum of 16 for A grade with some form of modified rules. Who knows, it is up to the clubs to decide how the League proceeds.

Mortlock

A disappointing result that so easily could have gone our way. Inaccurate kicking for goal and marquee players (Raikawasa brothers and Lindsay Thomas) didn't help Mid-West's cause. Also, after losing on the Saturday, some players made the decision to have a big Sunday night and barely turned up on the Monday, letting the coach and the side down. This has happened in 2 of the past three Mortlocks. There is no problem with players socialising, but leave it for the Saturday night. Some player terms and conditions need to be set so that the focus is on winning the second game even if we lose the first.

Jason McEvoy tried his hardest again and Mid-West would like to thank him for his coaching efforts over a number of years. Jason has indicated that he won't continue coaching Mortlock and therefore Mid West will need to be looking out for a new Mortlock coach

Mid-West has provided a review of the Mortlock format as requested. Suggestions for improvements including a changed game format, reduced ticket prices, reduced social events and doing away with the 'so-called' marquee players. A number of other changes were also suggested. Mortlock needs a big shake-up to make it the premier EP competition that it should be.

Norwood Cup

Mid West would like to thank Shane Pittaway for his efforts this year. There were small improvements, but once again, it wasn't so much a lack of numbers, but the overall talent available. It usually goes in cycles and it is probably Mid West's turn at the moment.

Kinlough Cup

On behalf of Mid West, I would like to thank Butch Tree for his efforts in coaching. Butch took on the job with enthusiasm and had four (or more) trainings. Numbers at training were disappointing, as has often been the case in previous years. Hopefully, as discussed with him, Butch has put in a bit of a report with suggestions tonight.

Results were underwhelming as they have been in the last few years, and is largely to do with player numbers and player availability.

The League may need to start making it clear, that players not making themselves available without a reasonable excuse, will receive sanctions, such as games from the League. This happens in other Leagues. Mid-West clubs may want to consider putting something in place for the upcoming AGM.

Rule Changes

As with all changes, getting used to them can take awhile. From all reports, most of the changes have been reasonable, with some difficulties in interpreting the *Last possession rule*, and the *6-6-6 rule*, umpires, players and supporters included.

Now that we have nearly had a season with the new rules, Mid West clubs need to review their success or failure. By having the new rules, the advantage has been that Mid West is in line with most other Leagues. This should help players, playing in Interleague competitions and visiting umpires being able to use standardised rules.

Junior Modified Rules Football

U13's and U16's – By all accounts, these new junior competition formats have been reasonably successful and may be of benefit to continue in this format next year. Once again, as with all changes, there is room for improvement and a few small tweaks may be able to solve any issues.

Mid West welcomes club feedback and clubs will need to decide how the junior competitions will proceed in 2020.

League Positions

As I have said previously, I will not be continuing after the October AGM, but am happy to do the Vice President and help the new President.

All clubs, please make every attempt to find a suitable President that can be nominated at the October AGM, for the 2020 season. Someone reasonable needs to step up.

Also, other ongoing positions need to be considered prior to the election of officers at the October AGM.

Last Round and Finals

Hopefully, as clubs jostle for Finals positions, we can remind players and supporters that the umpires we have, do the best they can. All umpires make mistakes...this also applies to players and supporters who don't cop criticism or abuse. Criticism and abuse is often only directed at umpires because of frustrations at their own teams performance. Once again, if you aren't happy with the umpires...put your hand up and have a go.

We as a League will have to continue to look at clubs nominating a new batch of umpires again for 2020, along with providing them with training and support. There has been talk from SANFL of having an appointed Umpires coach. We badly need help with not just recruiting umpires, but coaching and mentoring umpires.

All club delegates, please get Presidents and coaches to remind players (often the same ones) to keep the rough, dangerous and sling tackles out of our game. We need all the players we can get without deliberately injuring them, and we shouldn't have to be reminded that serious incidents can affect a players ability to work and play football.

Also, please remind players and supporters to continue to respect our umpires.

As an ongoing reminder, can all club delegates make sure that the information from this meeting gets to your club officers and members. This has not always happened in the past. As well, the Minutes sent out to you all from this meeting will help remind clubs what they need to do and need to know.

I am certain that there are other issues that will come up at the meeting that I haven't addressed or thought of. Good luck to all teams and see you at the Second Semi at Warrambo, which includes the medal counts.

Matt Cook

2019 Mortlock Review – Mid West Football League

This review from the Mid-West Football League was considered and had input from a number of Mid West League leaders. Also, the players, public and officials that were at the Mortlock were widely consulted for their considered opinions. This review may include some uncomfortable truths, but outside opinions of what works and what doesn't work can only be welcomed. Where possible, comments should be seen in a constructive light and Mid West have tried to provide suggestions and solutions to the considered problems. Our aim is not to upset anyone, but to help make Mortlock what it truly deserves to be... the premier football event on EP.

Positives

- Opening was a good event on the oval at Saturday lunchtime
- Budget was excessively glossy, but had good and interesting information.
- Dinner – The Life Membership presentation to Creagh McGlasson was well deserved and the Mental Health video presentation by Wellbeing EP was well worth seeing for those that hadn't seen before.
- Six Teams - A return to the pure form of the Mortlock was welcome and makes for easier game formatting.
- The Centenary Oval as a venue is well located, has all the facilities and is the premier oval on the EP.
- Sponsorships were reported to be above normal from the businesses that most benefit from the Mortlock weekend. This should help the bottom-line.
- The later start on Saturday and the early finish on Monday was very much appreciated by out-of-towners.

Negatives

- **Sponsors drinks and nibbles on Friday night and Sponsors supplied luncheon and drinks on Saturday**
 - o It's probably not a bad thing to have a bit of fun get-together and some sort of reward for hard work by the Mortlock organisers, staff, officials and league presidents, but likewise,

unnecessary considering the event has been losing money in recent years. The costs aren't insignificant for having exclusive drinks and piles of gourmet food laid on. A greater proportion could go towards keeping costs down and encouraging the public to attend.

- **Suggestion** - *could provide limited and basic drinks and lunch on the Saturday in the Centenary headquarters with sponsors in attendance. A greater portion of the sponsors funds be put towards advertising the Mortlock event, reducing entrance fees, reducing drink prices etc. to encourage people to attend.*
- **Game Format**
 - Often requires a two year plan to gain success.
 - **Suggestion** – *Maybe a game format similar to the Country Championships – 20 min halves, 2 games each on Saturday and Finals on Monday that includes a Grand Final at the end. This gives a truer indication of the best League side on EP.*
- **Crowd numbers and gate prices**
 - Numbers were definitely down and relatively poor, especially Monday, considering Mortlock being an important football event. Larger crowds are common in most of the Leagues for normal minor round matches.
 - Excessive prices – most people complained gate prices were too high and a good number said that they probably won't consider again now that they know prices are at those levels. A couple, with a car park and budget was \$35.
 - No family passes or tickets – getting a family through the gates was very expensive. A number of families commented that they didn't bother going on Monday. Commonly families of players included 2,3 or more kids and were paying \$60+ to get in and then they have to feed and water them. A number of young families did not go in on the Monday due to the expense. Country people are not going to pay city prices. The Mortlock weekend is an expensive weekend outing when couples and families pay for accommodation, do some shopping, eat and drink out and attend the footy.
 - Most players complained about not being given passes and paid \$12 each day for the privilege of providing the entertainment.
 - **Suggestion** – *Affordable ticket prices, family tickets and player passes.*
- **Budget**
 - Even though the \$8 cost of formatting and printing can be found in the budget publication, the glossy cover, size and colour can't be justified both in expense and practicality.
 - **Suggestion** – *Keep budget as a smaller, simpler booklet on plain paper as clubs normally produce for home games.*
- **Catering**
 - Excessive wages (reported to be something like \$50/hr for 10 employees?) for something that most Leagues take volunteers for granted.
 - **Suggestion** - *This may be reinventing the wheel, but Leagues may be able to provide a volunteer or two that can go on a roster to cater for the drinks and food canteens. How they want to use the money earned is then up to them, but most often would be used to help offset League costs.*
- **Presentation of Life Members**
 - Life Members are honoured at the dinner, but with a limited audience.
 - **Suggestion** - *Life Members should be presented on the Centenary Oval, where the biggest crowd is during the Saturday lunchtime.*
- **So-called "Marquee" players (if they don't already have a sense of their own importance)**
 - "Marquee" players are not necessary. Our home-grown talent is what we want to look at and younger players miss out on playing Mortlock when Marquee players are brought into a side. The EP wants to showcase their home-grown talent that is available for EP selections, not ex AFL/SANFL players that run rings around everyone....What use is that? We have more than enough players on EP to look at. On the other hand, many a talented young player makes

themselves unavailable because they have no interest in playing at Mortlock....why? Because they can find better entertainment elsewhere. This has always been the case, but years back, it was a real honour to make the Mortlock side and a real sense of pride and loyalty was developed around making the Mortlock.

- Marquee players don't really raise the overall playing standard or bring more of the public in to watch them as was evidenced over the weekend.
- Lindsay Thomas and both Raikawasa's definitely had some affect on Far West's and Mid West's Saturday match results.
- The Sharks, Northern League and KI League were experiments along the lines of getting more people in and seeing different players, but they haven't worked and weren't helping the money situation.
- What's the point of so-called Marquee players getting the Player of the Carnival, Runners-up and Leading Goal-kicker etc., at the expense of our 'play-at-home' players.
- The expense of getting outside players to come in and play is significant to Leagues and what detrimental affects does it have on team and player dynamics, let alone those who sit on the bench or miss out.
- It wasn't universally taken up by most Leagues ...it's either 'all in' or 'all out'.
- What have these 'marquee' players actually done for or given back to their Leagues over the time since they've left.
- **Suggestion** – *stick with and build loyalty in our 'play-at-home' players*

- **Mortlock Dinner**

- Dinner definitely not a priority for players and younger people, more for the Life Members and League officials. The dinner is no longer at risk of being outdated and exclusive, it already is.
- Meal and entertainment wasn't worth \$75 (even considering donation of \$10 to Wellbeing EP)
- Excessive tickets (16) payable by Leagues when they couldn't even give them away to players, officials or other Leagues.
- Guest speaker – good bloke, but not a great public speaker and poor topics – not entertaining and a yawn. Might have saved money, but a real turn-off.
- Venue catering was ok, but other places could easily do as good a job.
- **Suggestion** – *Do away with the dinner all together, and go back to an evening get together at one of the pubs if desired (no compulsion to attend). Evening events can still be organised, but not compulsory.*
- **Suggestion** - *Life members should be awarded on the Saturday opening event with the largest crowd in attendance.*

- **Live streaming**

- May be considered important, but most really don't care and who really watches it?...a few people who can't make it. Beyond the sponsors input, there are also the additional expenses to the Mortlock and Leagues.
- **Suggestion** – *Only live-stream the Finals*

- **Closing presentations**

- Difficulties seeing and hearing what was happening, who received awards and who were in the EP squad. Everyone was crammed up in a small area trying to see the winning team, player presentations etc.
- **Suggestion** – *have presentations out on the oval, with a good PA and enabling the public to spread out along the concourse.*

- **Fundraising - Raffle Selling**

- There were understandable reasons for the lateness of the distribution of the raffle books this year, but it was also effectively a \$500 tax on the Leagues. It shouldn't be up to Leagues to go out and gather funds for the Mortlock when they are already paying out enough already to participate.

- **Suggestion** – *With cost saving measures as suggested previously, fundraising using raffles shouldn't be required. However, if the Mortlock Committee feels the compulsion to raise some funds, they can do so by using their own resources.*

The Mortlock weekend is still a great showcase of our football talent and is very enjoyable to that extent. The allure of winning the Mortlock is still at this stage considered desirable by many, but may be diminishing. A concerning issue may be that there is a general misreading of the perceived importance of the Mortlock and the public sentiment towards the Mortlock event. Unless the public have relatives playing, or have a job such as umpiring to do, Mortlock is definitely not on the list for most people. Even footy diehards aren't going. Mortlock is also competes against people wanting a long weekend off from football and netball to go camping in the Ranges, go up to Finke Desert Race, etc. This was very evident from the large numbers in our area who did.

We should all have serious concerns for the future of the Mortlock, if we are to continue this trajectory of high prices, low attendance numbers and a common perception of exclusivity. We may have lost sight of the fact that the players, spectators and public should be the priority not the presidents, staff, officials and Mortlock organisers.

It is going to take a good number of years for Mortlock to rebuild the brand, gain a level of trust from players and public that they will get something worthwhile to attend and to grow loyalty for EP's premier footballing event.

Strip the event back and get back to basics and the main Mortlock objectives. That is, providing player enjoyment and camaraderie at a higher level, and, for those aspiring to go further, to give opportunities to showcase their talents to selectors and provide potential pathways to better things if they have the talent, will and desire to succeed. The other main objective is to provide an entertaining event that the public want to attend and enjoy. It's also an opportunity for our communities to get together, catch-up, shop, eat and drink out and have a good weekend down in Lincoln. Lincoln has much to offer these days.

Keeping income and expenses in balance always remains a juggle, but this can happen by bringing down the cost of overheads and reallocating income from sponsors etc to ensure that the public get two days good entertainment, without excessively increasing the costs to the people that really matter.

8. General Business

8.1 Mail Medal Count. – Saturday 24th August 2019 Second Semi, Not Sunday 25th August as previously noted on the program. Will be at Warramboos host Central Eyre.

Wirrulla will need to be given a chance to host the Medal Count as they will miss this years.

8.2 Defibrillators – Check that everyone has them, where they are kept and ensure batteries have been checked. **SUGGESTED ACTION: Remind clubs and reissue list as to locations to all clubs**

8.3 Life Member for 2019 – Andrew Buckham. This can be presented Sunday at 1st Semi Final.

8.4 Greg Scholz would like to buy a Mid West Football League Association jacket. Brenda Tully to organize once all jackets have been returned and order will need to be done for next year.

8.5 Brenda Tully needs to order U17 polo shirts. EP Marine to be taken off and Elliston Apartments to be put on as sponsor.

8.6 U16 & U13 Rd 2 Best & Fairest and Runner Up Medals to be donated by MWFL.

8.7 2019 – All Football Finals starting times – Colts 10.30am B Grade 12.30pm A Grade 2.30pm

8.8 Nathan Little asked that Andrew Buckham check the Colts Ladder on Sporting Pulse as it is wrong.

8.9 Finals club duties will be sent out once last game has been in Rd 15. Clubs will need to find Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires and make sure they are in correct uniforms.

8.10 Regular 15 Players list were submitted.

Refer attached list.

Moved Aaron Grocke

Seconded Greg Scholz

All in favour

CARRIED

The list be accepted.

9. **Umpires Report:** Umpires Level 1 online course – www.aflumpirestraining.com.au use this for club umpires. They will need approx. 1hr to do the course on line. Yellow Cards this year so far is more than usual. Clubs need to make sure the sling tackle isn't creeping into our games. Make sure all players know that they need to be in position for 6, 6, & 6 if not in designated areas frees will be given.

10. **Other Reports & Business:** Richard Murphy - SANFL – Football Coordinator - Clubs need to discuss his position and ask him to help them. We are paying for him to do this position so we need to make sure he is helping clubs in our League.

11. **Club Reports:** Central Eyre - All good. B Grade 3 on the bench White Shorts.
Elliston – All good
West Coast Hawks – Finals coming up and looking good.
Western Districts – All good.
Wirrulla – All good
Wudinna United - Nil

12. **Next Meeting:** **AGM - Monday 14th October 2019 - Minnipa Hotel at 8pm**

13. **Meeting Closed:** **9.50pm**