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**ELLINBANK & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**REPORT**

**FOR**

**2020 AGM**

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 **2020 LEAGUE OFFICIALS**

PRESIDENT ROGER GWYNNE

VICE PRESIDENT KEN WHITE

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS MANAGER KEN MOORE

JUNIOR FOOTBALL DIRECTOR GERARD BONGIORNO

TRIBUNAL DIRECTOR CHRIS BEHRENDORFF

TRAINERS ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR ALAN MASSARO

ACCIDENT FUND DIRECTOR STEPHEN PRATT

DIRECTOR CHRIS MORSE

SECRETARY MADI LOUDEN

TREASURER MEREDITH ANDERSON

FOLLOWER PRODUCTION EDITOR JODIE PRATT

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 **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Usually I am delighted to present the annual EDFL AGM report as it is a pleasure to relate many success stories over the season from a league, club and individual level but this year due to the coronavirus and having to call off the season all I can say is it has been a terribly disappointing year. Never before has the EDFL not played football for an entire season (apart from 1941-1945 due to a recess for the Second World War) and truly hope we do not have to endure missing another year ever again.

It was a tough decision at the time to abandon the season and the EDFL made an initial call - early June – and way before most if not all other leagues in Gippsland that if the restrictions imposed were not removed in particular the crowd limits we would not play this season. Now with hindsight and the fact all other senior football leagues in Victoria also adopted a similar approach our decision was vindicated after a second wave of the virus occurred.

I’d like to thank all clubs for their co-operation and understanding between April and June when the season prospects were unknown. The EDFL Board of Management (BOM) worked hard on a number of plans for the season to proceed should we be able to play 6 to 10 rounds but in the end disappointingly it proved fruitless. Once we knew the senior season was not possible we held hopes to proceed with a junior competition and I thank all clubs that put forward ideas to meet the restrictions at the time but ultimately most clubs along with the board of management were adamant the health and wellbeing of the community was more important and our plans for a junior season in some form were also cancelled.

I hope everything returns to normal in 2021. After all the league and clubs are not for profit organisations so we desperately need no crowd restrictions to source revenue. Great to see the COVID numbers currently sit at zero for now over three weeks in a row but it still looks like we will still have social distancing and biosecurity measures to adhere to next year. This is not ideal as it will be another burden on clubs but for the health of the community and the league we may just have to put up with the inconvenience to ensure the league is in a stronger position for the 2021 season and beyond and footy can resume. Looking forward I’d like to welcome the Trafalgar Football Netball Club into the EDFL for the 2021 season. Our clubs resoundingly accepted their presence at the vote. Trafalgar have proved to be a strong, successful and very financial club in the Mid Gippsland League and I am confident will add value to our league in particular in the junior ranks.

And finally I would like to acknowledge our Secretary Madi Loudon and my board of directors who put a lot of time into the season preparations and effort during year despite no matches played.

I can advise our board member Gerard Bongiorno has notified of his intention to stand aside. I would like to thank “Bongy” for his contribution in what must be close to a decade on the BOM and more specifically for his enthusiasm and work across the junior competition and most recently organising our partnership with Sports Chaplaincy Australia. And thanks also to our treasurer over the last two years, Meredith Anderson, who has informed us of her intention to also stand aside. All the best Meredith and no doubt we will still see you at the football. While the league suffered a small financial loss in 2020 I believe the solid base we had prior to the season will hold us in good stead for 2021 and beyond.

Roger Gwynne

Chairman – EDFL Board of Management

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 **TREASURER REPORT**

At the end of our football financial year on 31 October 2020 the EDFL incurred a loss of $12.9 k.

Our gross profit this year was $18.3k and operating expenses $70.7k. However due to $39.5k of government stimulus monies comprising of $20k from the ATO cash flow boost and 19.5k in job keeper monies our net loss was only $12.9k otherwise we would have suffered a loss of $52.4k.

This represented a negative $45k turnaround from 2019. Once we realised there would be no football a loss was expected but how much we did not know until we performed a mid-year budget review. To break even we rely heavily on finals income.

The BOM felt it was only fair that we waive the club affiliation fees this year.

 The sponsorship received at $17.3k was $8.3k below last year.

Many of our sponsors experienced differing degrees of hardship during the year and hence we did not push our sponsors for money. Our expenses were largely due to payroll expenses as we still had to operate and also incurred costs in preparation for the season that we thought in March would go ahead at some point in time.

Our accounts still look healthy and read as of 31 Oct:

General Account - $79,861

Accident Fund - $2,986

Term Deposit - $25,610

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Total Bank $108, 457

The BOM met on 10 November to produce the 2021 budget and proposed next year’s club affiliation fees be set at $14k per club which would comprise of 4 x $3500 (ex GST) instalments with the first to be invoiced on 1 April 2021.

Early in the year we changed accountancy firms moving from Pursuit Advisors to Findex. We anticipate the move will generate some minor cost savings. Thank you to Pursuit for their fine service to our league over the last six years.

Meredith Anderson / Ken Moore

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 **ACCIDENT FUND REPORT**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting.
Well what a year it has been a global pandemic, lockdowns and no football or netball for the first time since the Leagues inception.

Over the last 12 months we have paid out 3 claims , Anthony Marsden / Nyora $2,805.84 , Ben White / Poowong $1,496.36 and Jaxon Notman / Ellinbank $3,615 totalling $7,917,20 .

As at October 31st, 2020 we have a combined balance of $28,596.54 consisting of $2,986.12 General Account and 25,610.42 in the Term Deposit.

As the rules of our Fund state we should maintain a balance of over $30,000 at all times so I recommend to the Board and all Clubs they be levied $1000 + GST in 2021.

As I have renominated to continue on the Board in 2021 I offer to continue to manage the fund at an honorarium of $600.

As the year has been very frustrating for a lot of people particular the Committees who have done so much planning and work for 2020 for no reward . I'd expect all Clubs to be a lot more advanced in their planning for 2021 at this stage compared to a normal season rolling into another. Junior planning a priority!!

Welcome to the Trafalgar Football Netball Club to our League and I wish you well in your new environment and hope all Clubs embrace them from tonight and your first battles in 2021.

Finally have a great Christmas and New Year , we can only hope we can get back to some normality in 2021 and have a sensational Covid safe football / netball season bringing all our Communities back together. Let's hope in 6 months’ time and beyond the restrictions will be so minimal we can run a season and a finals series.

Cheers
Stephen 'Dogga' Pratt

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 **JUNIOR FOOTBALL**

The Board of Management (BOM) held strong hopes to still roll out a competition for our U16 & 18s even if the senior competition was called off. It devised a number of plans for an abridged season subject to the Government, health authorities and AFL Gippsland giving the green light to go ahead. These included a 4 week round robin season to keep our juniors active and involved with their clubs through to a 6 to 10 week home away season with finals.

However all plans came to nought as the second wave of the COVID virus took hold. It was very disappointing that we could not get any junior footy in.

Looking forward the BOM is confident our junior ranks will be enhanced by the introduction of the Trafalgar FNC and we wish them all the best in their initial season in the EDFL.

It would be remiss of the BOM if it did not acknowledge the services of our Director Gerard “Bongy” Bongiorno who has announced he will step down from the board after nine years’ service.

Bongy occupied the league Junior Development role, he also coached junior interleague teams and was heavily involved with both junior and senior Interleague preparations, our junior permit rules and area agreements. He also instigated the ‘Work for Dole’ scheme, brought advertising to our league and more recently organised our partnership with the Sports Chaplaincy Club Care program. All the best Bongy with your future pursuits!

 **SPONSORSHIP**

We had a significant downturn in the sponsorship this year. We budgeted for $27.5k but only received $17.3k. Our 2020 budget forecast was for it to be equal if not more than 2019 but as it became obvious we would have only a part season or no season many of our sponsors requested their sponsorship be reduced. The BOM understood that many businesses were under financial stress so did not press our sponsors and left it up to them if they wanted to provide monies.

This year we retained all bar one of our sponsors. Our sponsors being our naming rights sponsor Parklea and long-time backers John Duff & Co, Warragul Club, MP Gary Blackwood, Physioworks and Lang Lang Golf Club along with the Royal Hotel Drouin and Healesville Directional Drilling. Our two year contract with Viatek expired and they did not wish to renew. During the season we kept all our sponsors up to date with our season’s prospects to start playing and provided them with a detailed list on how we promoted their company across our social media in the absence of football.

We can report good news that our league naming rights sponsor Parklea Developments have already committed for the 2021 season and our talks with all our sponsors suggest they will all be back next year. We also have a new sponsor in 2021 in Hip Pocket Warragul – hopefully the first of many more next season.

Among our initiatives this year we produced a new league sponsor’s guide and placed multiple advertisements in the Drouin-Warragul Gazette on behalf on behalf of the EDFL, EDNA and all sponsors (who were recognised individually) wishing the community all the best over the COVID period.

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 **OTHER EDFL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020**

Pre- season the Board of Management worked on a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Gippsland Umpires Association (GUA). The new agreement more specifically details what services clubs receive for the monies they pay via the league affiliation fees.

Late October there was a special resolution for all clubs to vote on the affiliation of the Trafalgar FNC into the EDFL. It was passed by clubs 8/2 in favour.

Other EDFL projects:-

* Produced a straightforward COVID plan for clubs to follow.
* Devised an EDFL-EDNA Amalgamation project plan. Talks with EDNA are planned.
* Put forward a ballot for clubs to vote on a change in age groups to 16.5 and 18.5 levels for one year only in 2021. The EDFL believe this change will assist retention rates, give the players who missed out last year one more opportunity to play at junior level and a stronger likelihood more clubs will field teams at both junior levels. The vote was passed 7/3 in favour. Subsequently the request was approved by the AFL Gippsland commission on 12/11/2020.

 **AFL GIPPSLAND G25 REVIEW**

In June the AFL Gippsland Colgan Bauer G25 report final recommendations on senior competition structures in Gippsland was released.

The recommendation that may impact the EDFL the most was 2.2 P2.

It read: Develop a model in the western region to manage the competitive balance by 2025

Recommendation:

*Shift to divisional football in the Western corridor, with the West Gippsland competition and Ellinbank League maintain their heritage. To be implemented at the point of best fit before 2025*

*Before the implementation of the divisional structure clubs should develop the promotion/relegation criteria.*

The EDFL BOM has received no further correspondence on this proposal from either AFL Gippsland or the WGFNC.

 **MAJOR EDFL SPONSOR**

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 **OTHER 2020 EDFL SPONSORS**

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**NEW 2021 SPONSOR**

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