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ELLINBANK & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE



2022

AGM REPORT

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2022 LEAGUE OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT	ROGER GWYNNE
VICE PRESIDENT	KEN WHITE
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS MANAGER	KEN MOORE
JUNIOR FOOTBALL DIRECTOR	STEPHEN PRATT
TRIBUNAL DIRECTOR	CHRIS BEHRENDORFF
TRAINERS ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR	ALAN MASSARO
ACCIDENT FUND DIRECTOR	STEPHEN PRATT
SECRETARY	PETER SMITH
TREASURER	SOPHIA DOIG
FOLLOWER PRODUCTION EDITOR	JODIE PRATT

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Firstly I must say it was tremendous to have football and netball back for a full season as we had not held a grand final since 2019. It brought back meaning and connection for many players, coaches, volunteers or just fans after COVID threw us off balance in recent years.

Congratulations to the Neerim Neerim FNC the winner of the Parklea 2022 senior premiership and the Robin Hood Inn Club Championship. To also win the U18 flag and the EDNA 'A' grade premiership was an outstanding effort by all at the club. Commiserations to Buln Buln FNC. To lose the senior grand final by a solitary point is heart breaking.

I like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our award winners this year. Well done to Poowong rover Jack Hazendonk who won the EDFL Alf Walton medal and for the third time – that is truly rare air. Congratulations to Catani who won the Parklea Most Disciplined Club (MDC) award at senior level while at junior level it was Longwarry, who were the best behaved. Well done to both clubs!

Our Warragul Country Club MVP was won by Nyora ruckman Travis Stewart and with little senior experience entering the season it was a mighty fine achievement. Travis also polled 17 votes in the Alf Walton medal count so often caught the umpire's eyes as well.

We are also pleased to have a new league award – the Downtowner Community Club of the Year – presented to the club that promoted the most valuable awareness of community issues or engaged with community organisations. The inaugural award was won by Ellinbank FNC.

It has been trying year for many clubs especially among their junior ranks – as many clubs were well short of numbers. While the extra 'catch up' matches can be inconvenient they are a small price to pay to give kids more games of football. The league Board of Management (BOM) is concerned about the diminishing numbers at junior level. A strong senior club is predicated on a healthy junior numbers. The BOM is currently visiting clubs and hope to get to all - time permitting - over the next few months to talk over each clubs approach to junior recruitment and retention. It was sad there was no U16 Gippsland football carnival this year but to compensate the league organised an U16 East v West match to replicate a traditional interleague campaign. Such was the success it won a lot of plaudits, attracted a big crowd late in July and may well be a regular fixture in the upcoming years. Incredibly we could not have scripted the finish any better - the match finished in a draw. Thanks to all involved with the match and for the donors who paid for the kids jumpers.

EDNA must also be pleased with the evenness across their grades, remarkably all 11 clubs had at least one team play finals. And while on the netball, our league merger to officially ratify the EDFNL name is still on track for the 2023 financial year although as I pen this report disappointingly there are few applications to join the new five person board.

We were also delighted with our new partnership with SEN Track 91.9FM this year with a match broadcast every Saturday of the H&A series and all our finals. A big thank you to the weekly commentators Brad Sinclair and Ian Dougherty. Great job boys! I'd also like to acknowledge my hard working board, in particular Stephen Pratt for his work with clubs around their junior arm and thank you to our Secretary Peter Smith, who stepped down in November but played an important role in setting up the new Play HQ platform for the clubs.

The EDFL is once again grateful to our sponsors. Indebted to have Parklea an Australian owned property developer with us again in 2023 as the naming right sponsor. I would also like to thank our other partners Physioworks, MP Gary Blackwood, Warragul Regional Newspapers, the Downtowner, John Duff & Co, Robin Hood Inn, Wolf-Telstra Partner, Hip Pocket Warragul, Body Fit Training Warragul - who sponsored our footballs this year, the Warragul Country Club who sponsor the Most Valuable Player Award and a new sponsor this year AG Warehouse.

Finally as I have said countless times before I would like to express my gratitude for the work of all officials and volunteers across all clubs. Quite often it is those behind the scene that nobody know about are the lifeblood of many clubs. The current strength of the league is in no small way due to your presence. All the best in the off season!

Roger Gwynne

Chairman – EDFL Board of Management

TREASURER REPORT

This season we have ended the year with healthy accounts. The end of year account balances at 31st Oct 2022 are as follows:

General Account: \$120,527.14

Accident Fund Account: \$12,081.38

Term Account: \$25,811.80

As per our financial report from Tyrell our Profit & Loss has come in at a loss this year of \$45,803.03. This was to be expected as the board budgeted to give all clubs financial relief after receiving a very large income in 2021 through COVID grants. Our total Equity on our Balance Sheet is \$158,622.58.

We thank our sponsors this year, we received \$31,000 in sponsorship. Our biggest expense by far was our umpire fees which have risen a lot this year. Umpire fees are also expected to rise over the next few years. It was great to have finals back, we made a healthy profit of roughly \$59,700.

Overall we have had a successful year. Lastly I would like to thank clubs for their timely payments throughout the year.

Sophia Doig

EDFL Treasurer

TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

1. During the 2022 season the new EDFNL logo was available for all new trainer's apparel that was purchased. It is also available on the white first aid or water carrier's polo shirts.
2. The data base for all qualified personal was kept up to date by Peter the league secretary.
3. The key ring system was again successful and distributed to the qualified trainers allowing them entry into all games.
4. The AFL ran 3 SMA Trainers courses for free in the Gippsland area in early 2022
5. Many trainers participated in the online concussion course run by the AFL.
6. Alan Massaro with his helpers again provided trainers for the junior inter-league games.

Lorraine Connell

ACCIDENT FUND REPORT

Welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thank you for your commitment to your Clubs. Well, finally after 3 years we were finally able to get a full season in even with some small Covid instances effecting some Clubs and players.

Over the past 12 months the Fund has paid out 2 Claims, Lachlan Fievez/ Nyora \$1389.66 and Matthew Dare/Ellinbank \$770 totalling \$2,159.66. Also \$1265 was paid back in from the League General Account mistake in 2021.

As at October 31st the Accident Fund has a combined balance of \$37,893.18 consisting of \$12,081.38 General Account and \$25,811.80 in the Term Deposit which received a massive \$44.90 interest in that time. Due to the balance being over \$30,000 and by our Rules the Clubs will not be making a contribution in the budget. We have a few claims still in the pipeline from this season to resolve.

A growing trend is it is getting all too hard for our younger generation to spend a little time to deal with Centrelink either by phone, email or in person. One player forfeited around \$6,000 by not being bothered to go through the process albeit spending 3 hours there he claimed!

Finally I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. Hopefully you can get a break as I know football and netball are more than ever a 12 months of the year job!

Stephen 'Dogga' Pratt
EDFL Accident Fund Manager

TRIBUNAL DIRECTOR REPORT

The introduction of the set penalty across Victoria, for reportable offences has minimised the tribunal attendances

Two actual sittings this year.

The first around the Easter break, was considerably affected by the influence of Covid related restrictions and those with symptoms needing to isolate. In relation to this the board introduced the ability for participants to attend via video link. However, the tribunal panel believe this to be much harder to adjudicate than a normal in person hearing. The league will need to investigate having a better media base set up should the need arise in the 2023 season

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The season started disappointingly with a number of clubs unable to field any teams at Junior level resulting in only an 8 team competition in the Under 16s and 6 teams in the Under 18s
Think this could have had a little to do with only half a season due to Covid in 2021?!

In the Under 16s Longwarry and Yarragon were the stand out teams over the 65 game season resulting in a hard fought Grand Final for 3 quarters before Longwarry's greater depth saw them pull away for a comfortable victory. Congratulations to Cooper Brown (Longwarry) for being awarded the BOG Medal and Darcy Paul (Yarragon) winning the Ian Cooper Medal.

The Under 16s still had no Interleague format so the Board decided to try an interleague concept splitting the 8 teams into East and West 20 a side teams. The boys had 2 training sessions as a group before the game. Even though I wasn't in attendance the feedback was the game was a cracker, resulting in a draw, was well attended considering the conditions on the night. Well Done to Cooper Brown (West) and Matthew Cahill (East) on being awarded best on ground honours. Thanks also to the Coaches who jumped on board Jake Serong (West) assisted by Darren Pope and Peter Joyce and Matt Devon (East) assisted by Matt Irwin and Paul Axford . Also to Matt Irwin and Jamie Spencer who put up some funds so all 40 boys could keep their jumpers and gear as this wasn't not budgeted for. The Board at this time expect the Under 16s will be at least a 9 team competition in 2023.

In the Under 18s Neerim Neerim South were the dominate team over the 49 game season with 23 of these catch up games. During the finals most pundits gave Longwarry a chance with all their juniors who played lots of Senior Footy during the year coming back to the team for finals. It looked that way during the 2nd Semi but Matt Roberts just got South over the line. Come Grand Final day and with Matt Roberts selected in the seniors most people thought Neerim South might be up against it. But they need not worry as the Neerim Neerim South boys came out and played a great brand of footy to convincingly defeat Longwarry. Well Done to Ayden Ramm (NNS) awarded the VCFL BOG Medal and Matthew Roberts (NNS) the Bill Cumming Medal. Thanks to Coach Toby Wallace and assistants Kody Wilson and Lachie Cove.

The Under 18 Interleague Gippsland Championships were played at Morwell on June 29th. The team played 3 games resulting in 2 wins against East Gippsland and Mid Gippsland and a loss to subsequent Champions West Gippsland who later defeated Gippsland League meaning we finished 3rd out of 6 teams. Congratulations to Ned Ashton (Longwarry) on receiving the player of the Carnival for the EDFL. Special thanks to Alan Massaro and Tony Clark (Trainers), Keith Fort (Timekeeper) and Jeff Tull (Photography) for both age groups representative games and trainings. The Board are at this time hopeful the Under 18s will also be at least a 9 team competition in 2023. Also Congratulations to the Longwarry Football Club on winning the inaugural Most Disciplined Junior Club award.

Finally thanks to everyone who contributed in some form to Junior Football in 2022. Let's hope after a first full season of football in 3 years that our competition can start to grow again and not continue the downward trend over the past 8 years.

Cheers
Steve 'Dogma' Pratt
EDFL Junior Football Director

SPONSORSHIP

Pleased to announce our sponsorship income of \$34k in 2022 matched our budget estimate.

This year a dozen businesses sponsored the league the most notable our naming right sponsor Parklea Developments, while we had contra deals with the Warragul Country Club who sponsored our Most Valuable Player award and SEN Track Latrobe Valley 91.9FM who provided the league with plenty of air time on their Saturday morning sports show before match day coverage every Saturday afternoon throughout the entire season.

I am sure we provided our sponsors with very good exposure for excellent value across our strong audience reach through our social media: website, email, App, Facebook and this year Instagram.

We are indebted to our sponsors for their generosity and we do our utmost to meet their requirements and special requests. Thank you letters to all sponsors were distributed early November along with a list detailing how we promoted their business across our social media.

As mentioned in previous reports we provide publicity for our sponsors all year round – not just over the over the football season.

Confident our league naming rights sponsor Parklea Developments will commit again for the 2023 season and after recent contact with all this years sponsors have no reason to believe we will lose any over summer. We have also renewed our partnership with SEN Track Latrobe Valley 91.9FM for 2023. Hope everybody enjoyed the coverage this year in our first foray into radio coverage for the home and away season. Also looking forward Intersport Warragul a long time sponsor of our Interleague jumpers have come on board as the league ball sponsor for the entire 2023 season which is great news.

All sponsorship monies are all put back into the league and contribute to a reduction in club affiliation fees so if you know of any businesses you think may be keen to come aboard just give us a call.

OUR 2022 SPONSORS

PARKLEA – League Naming Rights sponsor & naming rights on the Most Disciplined Club award.

JOHN DUFF & CO

WARRAGUL CLUB & DOWNTOWNER – Naming rights for the Community Club of the year award

WOLF TELSTRA PARTNER WARRAGUL

GARY BLACKWOOD – STATE PARLIAMENT MLA for Narracan

WARRAGUL REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

HIP POCKET WORKWEAR WARRAGUL

ROBIN HOOD INN - Naming rights for Club Championship award

PHYSIOWORKS HEALTH GROUP

BFT - BODY FIT TRAINING WARRAGUL - 2022 ball sponsor

AG WAREHOUSE

WARRAGUL COUNTRY CLUB – Naming rights for the Most Valuable Player award

SEN TRACK LATROBE VALLEY 91.9FM – Saturday morning Sports Show & match day coverage

EDFL - GUA LIASON REPORT

A powerful statement was made early in the 2022 season with an agreed MOU signed prior to the AFL releasing their rate recommendation, due at the beginning of November each year but not sighted until January 2022 (no rate change advised)

A major change in this MOU was the Leagues willingness to consider the GUA provide umpires in their Reserve grade. As an introductory rate (with a reduced play time) the GUA left it to the league to gauge the interest in this supply. Most clubs took this opportunity to accept the GUA offer, and much praise was given throughout the year with this initiative. However, the request for the game to be shortened slightly was met with resistance and revised back prior to Round 1 of the season.

After the two years of limited opportunities, numbers at the GUA have reduced and securing the supply of these umpires to our League early in the season ensured that we had a majority of supply. Still, Covid restrictions governed the supply of umpires, especially during the colder months of the year where, unfortunately, some games were not able to be filled and thus Clubs were required to provide umpires for these games

Umpire numbers at the GUA have not returned to pre-Covid levels for several known reasons. These include: Other employment

Private hobbies

Abuse (Proposed introduction of additional Card)

Remuneration

Therefore, we as a league should consider this in regard to future MOUs, ensuring that we as a League continue to entice numbers for its own future.

While understanding this, there will again be a limited number of allocable umpires in 2023 (as there will be teams needing top up), thus we must also allow for these umpires (and players) to accept multiple games and thus ensure there is ample time between games for paperwork and refuelling for all involved.

EDFL MAJOR SPONSOR



EDFL & EDNA AMALGAMATION



A status update; In 2022 we still operated legally as the EDFL & EDNA but provisionally as the EDFNL while we transition to the new league name and organisation.

So far clubs have adopted working party resolutions;

- to amalgamate
- for a name change to the EDFNL (Ellinbank & District Football Netball League).
- for a new logo which is now used on all EDFL social media.

The EDFNL constitution is based on a Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) model rules.

There will still be separate By-Laws for netball and football

To recall progress so far the Ellinbank & District Football Netball League name could not be ratified with CAV last year as we could not meet the requirements of our new constitution – clause 20.4 – the new Board of Management – as no persons applied to the Expressions of Interest. Subsequently a new board structure was produced to maximise the interest to fill the positions and for a more impartial structure.

On 2nd August 2022 at a Special General Meeting League President Roger Gwynne put a resolution to the clubs to adopt the constitution with amendments (to clause 20.4). The change from the original model was as follows:

The Vice President & Sponsorship positions were removed and replaced with a Football Operations Manager (FOM) & Netball Operations Manager (NOM).

There was no change to the number of BOM members; still five with the other three roles being President, Director of Football and Director of Netball. This resolution was passed - Twenty (20) votes for and nil against. Two votes not counted due to being absent.

Once the board positions are all filled the league will complete and submit the 'Application to amalgamate' with Consumer Affairs Victoria to officially ratify our new name.

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GARY BLACKWOOD MLA
 Member for Narracan

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