



Perth Football Club Inc

Minutes of the Special General Meeting Held on Tuesday 22/08/2023 in Lathlain Hall Commencing at 7.40pm

Welcome and Confirmation of Quorum:

The Chairman, President Adrian Barich confirmed that a quorum of members was present and declared the Special General Meeting of the Perth Football Club open.

He welcomed all members and thanked them for attending this important special meeting.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

- Mel Belgard
- Brad Gordon
- Murray Cole
- Kerrie Ann Pental
- Damian Matthews
- Travis Burrows

Proxies:

The Club's CEO, Russ Clark advised the meeting that 24 proxies were held by members in attendance.

Purpose of this Meeting:

The Chairman explained that those members who attended the Annual General Meeting held last December would recall that there was considerable discussion regarding Life Memberships although that discussion was more centred around life membership being granted to players who played in a winning league premiership side.

However, during the discussion several key points of a general nature were made including:

- The constitution already recognises and provides the means to reward long and distinguish service to the Club which is needed to further strengthen the Club. However, with the lesser home and away games played each season it is becoming more difficult for players to qualify.
- It should be an incentive for players and officials staying with the Club.

Another comment made during the discussion was that a change to the qualifying requirement for games played occurred in 1966 when the required number of league games played was reduced from 200 games to 150.

The Board being conscious of the points made at the AGM and the reduced number of games currently played each season and the increased number of WAFL players being draft by AFL clubs believed it appropriate to undertake a review of the requirements for PFC players to automatically qualify for Life Membership.

Having resolved to undertake such a review, Director Brian Cook, a Life Member agreed to lead the project.

The Chairman then explained as to why it was decided to hold the Special General Meeting rather than take the motions to the AGM. Again, those who attend the last AGM will recall the discussion regarding the Life Membership matter was lengthy and rather emotive. With this mind the Board believed that it was preferable to deal with this rather important and reasonably sensitive matter separate to the AGM.

The Chairman further advised that as the motions relate to amendments to the Club's constitution, they are Special Resolutions and accordingly need to be supported by the votes of not less than three-quarters of the members present, in person or by proxy at this meeting. Each motion will be dealt with separately. However, a minor amendment has been proposed to the first motion to strengthen the intent of that motion.

The Chairman then asked Brian to explain the process undertaken leading to the motions to be presented to the meeting.

Brian then referred to a PowerPoint presentation which detailed:

- Members of a sub-committee that assisted him and included:
 - Daryle Mann a Life Member and former PFC President.
 - Earl Spalding a Life Member and former PFC player and Senior Coach and a former AFL player.
 - Laurie Liddelow a Life Member and former PFC player and Football Manager and volunteer.

- Fraser McInnes PFC and AFL player
- Warren Nicholas a Life Member and former PFC Player.
- That the desired outcome of any recommendations for change must maintain the status of Life Membership based on extraordinary service and commitment to the Perth Football Club while at the same time recognising the new realities of WAFL football being:
 - The increased difficulty for players from more recent WAFL eras to reach the 150 league game criteria.
 - To included provision for the most talented players from our metro and country zones whose PFC careers were impacted by their AFL careers.
- Brian then presented a comparison of Home and Away WAFL games in a current season to past seasons:

WAFL in the 1960's 70's and 80's
 18 games now whereas 21 games then
 $18/21 \times 150 = 128$

With current AFL games
 18 WAFL games verses 23 AFL games
 $18/23 \times 150 = 117$

To achieve 150 games and Life Membership

AFL	6.5 years
WAFL 60's, 70's & 80's	7.1 years
WAFL Current	8.3years

- New Realities:
 - Prestige – the WAFL is no longer the biggest show in town.
 - Workload – the expectations of modern WAFL players is extremely high.
 - AFL Careers – we will always want our best players to have the opportunity to play at the highest level and rather than begrudge them doing so we will celebrate with them even if it means they end up playing against us.
 - High Entry level
 - Perth products
 - 4–5-year AFL career
 - Made a conscious decision to return to PFC.
 - 3–4-year PFC career

- Only aware of three players who would qualify over 36 years.
- As a footnote Brian said that he would like to see any player who has played in a WAFL (or WANFL) senior premiership team for the PFC to receive *“PFC membership for life”*

Brian concluded that taking these factors into account led the sub-committee to believe that the first two motions were relevant to the current WAFL competition and would encourage players to commit to the PFC.

Brian then took questions/comments from the floor during which the following hypothense was made that a PFC player recruited by the Fremantle Dockers could play for their affiliate club Peel Thunder in the WAFL and qualify for PFC Life Membership while playing for Peel in a WAFL Grand Final in which they beat the PFC.

The Chairman thanked Brian for his presentation and advised that he will now proceed with the motions and asked Cath Parker and Jared Bell if they will be kind enough to count the votes bearing mind that proxies are held. In this respect with the members present and including proxies the maximum votes possible are 63 which will require 48 favourable votes for a special resolution to be successful.

The Motions:

The Chairman explained that a minor amendment to the proposed first motion has been **Moved** by Brian Cook and **Seconded** by John Matthews being:

that the proposed renumbered sub-rule 29.1.4 be amended by the inclusion of the words *“is of good standing and”* after the word *“who”* in the first line.

Following the votes being counted the Chairman declared that the motion had been **lost** 26 votes for and 34 votes against the motion.

It was then **Moved** Andrew Young **Seconded** Brian Cook

That sub-rule 29.1.5 be renumber to 29.1.4 and be altered and added to as follows:

Any player who has played ~~150~~ 125 league games for the Club will, upon completion of their ~~150th~~ 125th league game, be deemed to have been nominated for Life Membership, and referral of the player’s nomination shall be deemed to have been approved by Board and the nomination shall be referred for consideration at the Annual General Meeting without any action required on the part of the Board. Players to who this Rule applies may be elected as Life Members in addition to

the restrictions of the ~~two~~ five members referred to in Rule 29.1.2.

Furthermore, any player who is deemed to be a product of the Club's metropolitan or country zones at the time of commencing their senior football career, who plays 50 league games for the Club and 75 senior games with an AFL team or their affiliate club whilst on that AFL Club's playing list will also be deemed to have been nominated for Life Membership and approved by the Board.

Before putting the motion to a vote, the Chairman enquired if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the motion.

Life Member, Richard Camm in speaking against the motion said there is a misconception that the Club needed more Life Members whereas in reality it needs more people to do the hard yards and contribute to the Club for it to be successful. The proposed motion if approved would cheapen the value of Life Membership and in his opinion sets the bar too low.

Richard continued what is required is for more people to strive for Life Membership and the comment that only one player at PFC since the year 2,000 has achieved Life Membership is somewhat of a myth as other WAFL clubs has seen during this time:

19 players at West Perth playing 150 league games to qualify for life membership; and
14 at South Fremantle
12 at Subiaco; and
10 at Swan Districts.

Richard posed the question "if these clubs can do it why can't the PFC?"

Richard concluded by referring to past players close to achieving 150 games that had chosen to move to another club rather than remaining loyal to the PFC. He also questioned whether the wording of the proposed motion enabled retrospectivity to occur. In any event the Board had the discretion to refer persons for life membership if they believed it was warranted.

Life Member, Allan Stiles advised the meeting that Brian Cook had previously shown himself and Richard Camm the proposed amendments, but he also has a problem with the changes. He like Richard is aware of three players who had accept offers from other clubs despite being close to achieving PFC Life Membership.

Allan added that he believed Life Membership needs to be earned and not watered down. It is earned by application, dedication and loyalty and questioned the number of past players who continued any ongoing relationship with the PFC.

Lindsay Gook said that prior to the West Coast Eagles entering the AFL, players were more likely to remain with their WAFL club and initially the two WA based AFL clubs allocated their player to WAFL teams making for a more level competition. The PFC now needs to catch up with other WAFL clubs and then successful players will be more inclined to stick.

Colin Lofts said that when he joined the PFC, he was in awe of people who got things done including Allan Stiles who taught him that it required effort to achieve success. These people made a real contribution to the Club. However, earlier speakers don't seem to appreciate the way forward as circumstances have changed and we need to encourage the young players and they need an incentive and the prospect of life membership and 125 league games for automatic qualification is one such way.

There being no further speakers the Chairman then put the motion to a vote following which he declared it **lost** 26 for and 34 against.

It was **Moved** Brian Cook **Seconded** John Matthews that Sub-rule 29.1.4 be renumbered to 29.1.3 and be altered and added to as follows:

The Board has absolute discretion in relation to the approval of referrals of nominations to the Annual General Meeting but should take into account the nominee's contribution to the Club in areas such as playing, coaching, administration, and volunteer work. It would ordinarily be expected that a nominee will be recommended by the Board if they:

- *Have given ten years-service to the Club before their nomination; and*
- *As players, who are deemed to be a product of the Club's metropolitan or country zones, who after playing 125 AFL games go on to complete 5 years-service to the Club as a player and/or in an official coaching role.*

There being no speakers for or against the motion the Chairman put the motion to a vote following which he declared it **lost** 27 for and 33 against.

It was **Moved** Carolyn Hills **Seconded** Carolyn Hall that sub-rule 29.1.1 be altered as follows:

Nominations for persons to be elected as a Life Member shall be signed by two current ordinary or life members and submitted to the Board no less than one calendar month prior to the Annual General Meeting. The nominations must be accompanied by a ~~short~~ statement setting out the nominees record of service to the Club. The need for this statement to be provided shall be ~~advertised in the other media coverage~~ included in

the notice/s calling for nomination. Where the statement is not provided, the Board may request that the nominator provide this. If the accompanying statement is not provided the nomination may be referred to the Annual General Meeting only at the Board's absolute discretion.

Daryle White then foreshadowed that he would like to move an amendment to the motion but as members had not been given prior notice of the amendment the Chairman disallowed it.

There being no speakers for or against the motion the Chairman put the motion to a vote following which he declared it **lost** 35 for and 21 against.

It was then **Moved** Wayne Koch **Seconded** Andrew Young that sub-rule 29.1.2 be altered as follows:

No more than ~~two~~ five Life Member may be elected in any one year.

There being no speakers for or against the motion the Chairman put the motion to a vote following which he declared it **lost** 29 for and 30 against.

It was then **Moved** Andrew Young **Seconded** Carolyn Hall

that existing sub-rule 29.1.3 be rescinded.

There being no speakers for or against the motion the Chairman put the motion to a vote following which he declared it **lost** 9 for and 38 against.

5 Close Meeting:

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting, Brian Cook and his committee for their work, Russell, and John Matthews for their efforts in organising the meeting and administrative tasks undertaken and Jared Bell and Cath Parker in registering members tonight and for counting the votes.

He then declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

John Matthews
Board Executive Officer

Chairman