



WEST PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB (INC)

PREMIERS 1897 1899 1901 1905 1932 1934 1935 1941 1942 1949 1951 1960 1971 1975 1995 1999 2003 2013

MINUTES West Perth Football Club (Inc) 134th Annual General Meeting Thursday 16 April 2020 Video Conference 7.00pm

Meeting started at: 7.01pm

1. **Attendance:** Please see end of minutes

Apologies: Lynn Anthony, Keith Plozza

Neale Fong opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2. Previous Minutes

The 133rd AGM minutes were approved and confirmed. Since the last AGM there have been two extraordinary meetings on the 26th of June and 3rd of July in which the new constitution was passed.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous Annual General Meeting.

4. President's Report – Neale Fong

The President noted the historic event where this is the first WAFL club to hold a virtual AGM via videoconference.

The 2019 yearbook has now been completed and is available to view on the West Perth FC website, which can be found under 'The Club' heading.

Neale thanked Tracy Venner and staff for putting the yearbook together.

"We are the oldest club in the WAFL, we have a very proud tradition, we have the best colours and the best history. I say this quite often, although we are not number one in terms of Premierships (behind East Fremantle, they did get a lot of easy ones in the WW1 period) we are the most successful club, certainly the

NUMBER ONE TICKET HOLDER Basil Zempilas PATRON David Elsegood

VICE PATRONS Mayor Albert Jacob (City of Joondalup) Mayor Tracey Roberts (City of Wanneroo) Honourable Peter Collier MLC

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Minutes

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longest serving and oldest club. Last year both our Men and Women had a good year; 2019 we won a Reserves Premiership which was our first one since 2014, so to Blake Arnold and all of his team, well done.

The League team, its first year under the Head Coach Geoff Valentine, with a lot of young players, young team and new people to the club did very well. It went down in a memorable finals game against WCE at the Arena last year, which also happened to be Andrew Strijk's last game with us as well; so, a lot of us still have great memories but also sad memories of that game.

The Colts and our Futures - we have strength in our juniors and under Ryan Lasscock and Casey Haw we have a really bright future there with Koopah Todd winning the Jack Clarke Medal for the Colts and also two younger boys going onto being drafted to the AFL.

The Women's teams are also an important part of our club and their participation in the Women's Reserves team (and you will see that they have provided a very good outline in the Yearbook about how the WAFLW Reserves team side fits into the Women's football structure), and they were unfortunate to miss out on finals; however they were very successful in having three of their women drafted into the AFLW (Ashton Hill, Bianca Webb, Ann McMahon). The Rogers Cup Team which is the Women's younger aged team also had a great year and had a number of their players represented in the state team.

From a Football perspective we did get some silverware and we have a great lot of players coming into our Men's and Women's sides.

Our Senior Coach is a very important role in our club and the appointment of Geoff Valentine in 2019 was a great appointment and we are so pleased with Geoff and his whole demeanour and his capability. The Club did extend his contract at the end of last season, so we are very pleased to have him locked in and with Steve Trehwella our Football Manager, we do have a good combination who are extremely professional in their approach to football; add that to Casey Haw and our Colts and Futures, and our Women's teams I think we are in a good place.

Off the field, I would like to recognise the role that Jim Caffieri has played, stepping into CEO when Linda Hammersley resigned. The board has worked very hard; it is one of the toughest roles in football to be on the board of a WAFL club. I would like to express my thanks to those who retired off the board this year: Peter Cutler director of Football and the role that he played connecting the football departments; Sam Modica our Finance director and the role that he played in steering us through our accountabilities and our compliance, our relationships with banks and the WA Football Commission with whom we have the loan. Ross Kelly our Vice President who has taken on senior liaison roles with the Commission and other state-wide areas and has been an outstanding person in football going on 60 years where he started as a player at West Perth. Paul Murray came onto the board in 2018 taking up the role as communications director and helped shape that area along with Cameron Branch who has done some great work for us on social media. Lastly, we thank former president Brett Raponi who was intending to stand for board this year but has been pre-selected for the state election coming up in March next year and has decided to step aside. Brett has been a tower of strength not only in corporate knowledge but his rallying of members and sponsors. Thanks to Phil O'Donnell who was co-opted to the board mid-season has also added a great deal. Phil and Claire have done a great job in bringing the junior clubs closer to the Club.

In terms of our financial issues, it was always going to be a hard job to turn our club around. It was never going to happen in one year; it was always a 3 or 4 year turn around job. We have passed the first year and we have made a loss in 2019; we were projecting to at least break even if not to be ahead for 2020. All I can say is that from the volunteers, players through to the paid staff, it has been a fun year, a hard year coming out of voluntary administration but on behalf of the board, thank you for your support. Our sponsors, our members, our supporters are the life blood of our club and everyone went the extra mile in 2019."

No questions were raised in regard to the President's Report.

Members received and approved the President's Report.

5. CEO Report – Jimmy Caffieri

"It was a very tough year coming out of administration; a lot of thanks has to go to Linda Hamersley and Sam Modica for doing really hard work in making sure the club didn't pay more money or wasn't liable for more expenses. In the end it was a great result for the club. We increased revenue from 2018 to 2019 by \$210k which is about a 15%; we also dropped expenses by \$94k. The most disappointing part from last year was the drop in memberships and gate takings. Crowd numbers fell by 25% across the WAFL. The positives of 2019 were that sponsorship was up and Corporate Classic was re-introduced and had a really positive result. We would like to thank VenuesWest for installing a BBQ and roof over the terrace. We are also in negotiation with them and the WAFL in having greater control over games and all football matches played at the ground (eg at the Marsh Cup we did not receive any dividend). What we are aiming for is that, if any football is played at the venue that is should come under our jurisdiction and we would be able to reap the profits out of that.

We are really trying to connect with our junior clubs; this year we co-opted Phil O'Donnell, and he did a really fantastic job and now he has joined the board on his own right. We believe that the juniors are our future and they need to be nurtured.

On the terrace we have been having BBQ's which has added to our revenue so I would like to thank Joe Scarfo for donating all the meat for the terrace BBQ's and Stan and his crew of volunteers along with Claire O'Donnell, Trish and Tracy from the Women's Team for helping this build momentum.

Another positive was the Women's team; we are really pushing for them to have a league side in the competition in the next few years.

Last year we had 350 guests at the Italian club for a Gala Night celebrating the 1949, 1969 and 1999 premiership wins. It was a great night and a huge success. Thank you to Dennis Cometti for being MC of the event and Richard Homsany & The O'Neills for sponsoring the evening.

This year we are looking forward to celebrating the 1960's League and 1990 Colts premiership wins. At this stage due to COVID-19 we are unsure of the celebration date.

This year's raffle was also a great success. The club is in a stable condition with new members coming on board regularly and sponsors continuing to pay for their sponsorships.

Tracy Roberts the Mayor of the City of Wanneroo has been great in supporting the club and looking at them sponsoring the club and potential playing a game in Yanchepp into the future.

CEO's from all WAFL clubs are meeting weekly to and have been working together for the good of the competition.

I would also like to thank Joe McCarthy for his commitment to the club. Unfortunately, due to the crisis commencement of employment was pushed back and he was very understanding that it is best for the club. He is currently working 1 day a week on a voluntary basis and hopefully in July we can push to two days a week and when the club is in a position, employ him full time.

I really would like to thank Steve Trehwella, Tracy Venner and Geoff Valentine for picking up the slack at the club over the past 2 months.

The plan is to have a shortened season this year, which will be decided by the Commission and the state government. The club financially is OK at the moment; the great thing about our club is that our overheads have been extremely low at the moment compared to other clubs. VenuesWest has been great in deferring our monthly rent for the next 6 months which will really help our cash flow. There is no chance of West Perth falling over which is fantastic.

I would also really like to thank the board for all of their help and hard work.”

No questions were raised in regard to the CEO’s Report.

Members received and approved the CEO’s Report.

6. Finance Report – Sam Modica

Recap on 2017/2018 which saw WPFC come out of administration. In 2018 the club raised \$240k with the ‘Fighting Falcon Fund’ of which \$115k went to fund Deed of Company Arrangement. During the off season there is a cost of \$60-\$70k per month to stay open. We also received a \$40k grant from the Commission, leaving a shortfall of approx. \$25k. Hopefully this clears up any questions that may arise from the funds raised.

Moving into 2018/2019 Sam Modica presented the finance report in detail.

Sam thanked the board and the Finance Committee.

Neale thanked Sam Modica, Cheryl Edwardes, Andrew Anderton, Mark Chadwick and Ross Kelly as members of the Finance Committee.

No questions were raised in regard to the Finance Report.

Members receive and approved the Audited Finance Report.

7. Election of Office Bearers

In accordance with Rule 17.7.23 of the West Perth Football Club Constitution, Angeline Emery from the WAFC, as Returning Officer, appointed by the West Perth Football Club Board, declared the results of the vote count as follows:

Candidates and votes

N FONG 1189

J CAFFIERI 1122

P O'DONNELL 967

A MYERS 916

P COX 878

A HARBY 856

T GALLAGHER 792

The top 3 vote tallies are appointed 2 years on the board and the remaining are appointed 1 year.

Results are also posted on the West Perth Football Club Website.

The WA Football Commission also assisted in the election process for 2020. The Commission has a veto power under their deed of company arrangement whilst we still have the loan agreement, on who gets appointed to the board and this year, they approved the 7 names going forward. This year there were 7 positions vacant, and due to the constitution, that was agreed upon last year, it meant that all board members needed to resign and then a be re-elected; the WAFC chose to use a point system.

The President passed congratulations and welcomed all new board members.

The board will hold its first meeting early next week where there will be elections of office bearers and appointments to the various committees.

No questions were raised in regard to the Election of Directors.

8. Appointment of the Auditor for 2020

The Board recommended William Buck be appointed as the West Perth Football Club Auditors for 2020.

All members approved re-appointing William Buck as Club Auditors for 2020.

9. Life Membership Nominations

Steve Trehwella made the nominations to Lance Catchpole and Shane Nelson for Life Members.

Lance is a long-standing servant for the club, he started volunteering at the club back in 1984 at Leederville Oval. Lance has had several volunteering roles at the club. From 1984 – 1988 Lance was the team manager of the Colts, 1989-1999 league interchange steward and from 2000 to currently, Lance is the Score board official. We thank you for your 35 years of service, your passion and dedication to the club. It is with great pleasure that you receive your life membership.

Shane Nelson in 2019 round 15 played his 150th WAFL game for the club and as a result under the constitution has received life membership. Shane has played 8 years of senior football for the club and also come up through our Colts system. In Shane's last year in the Colts, won the Dominish Medal. In the 8 years he has been a league player he has 3 times won fairest and best, 2-time runner up and 2 time top five. Premiership player in 2013 and has also represented the state team 6 times. Congratulations on your life membership.

All members approved the two nominations.

10. General Business

No general business questions were received by mail or email.

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The President closed the meeting by quoting from the Yearbook Senior Coach Geoff Valentine's words that WPFC stands for
West Perth
Premierships
Family
Culture

Especially in this time of COVID-19 where we are feeling the loss of football, the president went on to explain that football games without crowds is likely not sustainable, as it costs the club \$25k to put players on the field with 10 games (\$250k to play), but with no revenue from gates, bar sales etc it makes things very difficult for all WAFL teams. The solution to this for WPFC and some other clubs would be to have this underwritten – the board would not look to increase our borrowings. These are some of the things that the WAFL is trying to deal with. Although we have a lot of young Men and Women eager to play. The decisions on this will be very difficult.

No questions were raised in regard to General Business.

11. Meeting Close

Neale repeated that this AGM goes down in history as the first WAFL AGM to be held via video Conference.

On behalf of the board, thank you for your attendance and support. Thank you to the outgoing directors and staff and special thank you to Tracy Venner for all of your hard work and Paola Zito for coming on board and helping in administration courtesy of Richard Homsany as part of his support to the club.

Stay safe and let's get through Covid-19 together.

Meeting Closed at 7.54pm

Attendees:

Neale Fong
Jimmy Caffieri
Ross Kelly
Sam Modica
Phil O'Donnell
Brett Raponi
Peter Cutler
Tracy Venner
Steve Trehwella
Paola Zito
Steve Masnyk
Conley Manifis
Ken Davis
Margaret Young
Greg Young
Harry Wykstra
Brent Howard
Steve Stephan
Blake Wilhelm
Barry
Lloyd

Di Skender
Geoff Lasscock
Tracy Gallagher
Vince Gallagher
Adam Myers
Dave Burton
Rhys Young
Terry Stokesbury
Jacqueline Alexandre x 2
Casey Haw
Lance Catchpole
John Milane
Mark Keitel
Rhonda Keitel
Paul Cox
Mel Whinnen
Champy
Claire O'Donnell
Ross
David Dyson
Tyler Keitel
Peta Myers

Ernie Myers
Sylvia O'Donnell
Len O'Donnell
Cathy Smith
Peter Smith
Frank Mammoliti
Trish Medwin
Adam Harby
Blake Arnold
Francis Dwyer
Raymond Mell
Russell Ellen
Lorraine Husten
Michael Panegyres
Jim Caratti
Andy Gorton
Doug McGhie
Stephanie Power
Andrew Anderton

TOTAL 63 Attendees