



Perth Football Club Inc

MINUTES OF THE 123rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Tuesday 13th December 2022 in the Main Hall, Lathlain Park
Commencing at 7:30pm

WELCOME:

The Chairman, Club President Robert Shields, confirmed that a quorum was present and in declaring the meeting open welcomed all members and guests and thanked them for attending and acknowledged the presence of the Club's Patron, Peter Gilkison and several Vice Patrons and Life Members.

PRESENT:

96 members were in attendance (see Attendance Register)

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from:

- * Ian Callahan
- * Phil & Jodie Castle
- * Damian Matthews
- * Gavin Caudle
- * Mel Bellgard
- * Ian & Claire Laws
- * Dean Gilkison
- * Colin Davies
- * Pat Pinkus
- * Roberta Stiles
- * Shane Stiles
- * Todd Stiles
- * Karen Rosbender
- * Bill Leuzzi
- * Michael Grapsas
- * Pat Astone
- * Colin Matthews
- * Graham Edwards
- * Milton Milloy
- * Ted O'Connor
- * Chris Mitsopoulos

PROXIES:

It was noted that 36 proxies had been received.

VALEDICTORY:

Before attending to the business part of the agenda the Chairman asked the meeting to mark the passing of the following, since the last AGM:

- * Former players Michael McPhee, Bob Barry and Richard Main
- * Members Barry VanderWeide, Steve Owen, Margaret Leuzzi, Les Herbert, Cheryl Ransted and Chris Clarke
- * Life Member Richard Camm's father Richard senior.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Motion:

It was moved Cathy VanderWeide, seconded Greg Dart that the Minutes of the 122nd Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 be confirmed.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Chairman advised that the only matter arising out of the minutes of the last AGM was the question of at that time the ongoing zone review.

The Chairman confirmed that thankfully this matter was resolved during the year and members advised the outcome at the time with further details included in the Club's Annual Report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman explained that as shown on the agenda for this meeting an email dated 01/11/2022 was received from member Wayne Gosnay in which he has asked that the six questions as listed be answered at this meeting:

With the members' indulgence he addressed the questions:

- 1. Will members be invited to the 2023 Butcher Medal night?*
- 2. Why weren't members invited for the 2022 Butcher medal night?*

The Chairman advised that as questions 1 and 2 related to the same event, the Butcher Medal function, he can comment on this matter together.

He said that as members will be aware the Butcher Medal dinner is predominately for the players, coaches, support and football staff and volunteers. When these people and their partners and Board member with key sponsors are considered, the room is just about full. Accordingly, with limited spaces available the Club cannot guarantee seats for members therefore details of the event are not widely circulated. The Chairman added that while he cannot pre-empt the approach that the incoming board will take in future, they no doubt have taken note of the questions and will determine what can be done in future.

- 3. Is the latest proposal plans (by PFC, WCE or the Town of VP) to have a new grandstand for PFC members to be at Northern End of the ground?*

The Chairman said that the short answer is yes and that he has provided full

details of the latest proposal in his annual report to members with the Club to have a standalone building at the north/western end of the present grandstand with the Town of Victoria Park to fund the shortfall due to the increase in the cost of construction.

4. Are there any plans or proposals by PFC, WCE, Wirrpanda Foundation or the ToVP to have the Wirrpanda Foundation build a new facility at Lathlain Oval at or near the PFC's current grandstand?

The Chairman explained that while there has been some interest expressed by other organisations including the Waalitj Foundation to occupy a community building if constructed at some later date, but this does not involve the PFC or the new facilities.

5. Are there any plans, proposals or considerations in place by PFC, WAFL, WAFC, WCE or the ToVP to have PFC relocate to a new home ground and if so where has been proposed and how seriously are those proposals being considered?

The Chairman reiterated that the negotiations have always been about a new facility at Lathlain Oval and while at one stage there was a thought that the Club may need to relocate during the construction phase this now will not be necessary.

6. What plans are going to be introduced to improve communication between the PFC supporters and the club?

The Chairman advised that the Club's CEO Russ Clark has identified at least 515 communications to members during the last twelve months by way of face book, Instagram, the website and emails. He added that again, the incoming Board will have noted this question and ensure that there is adequate communication to keep members informed of Club activities.

There being no further questions on these matters the Chairman moved on to the President's report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President said that as his full report was included in the Club's Annual Report, which is available tonight, he did not propose to read it out. However, there are several people and items that are appropriate to acknowledge:

- * First the Board of Directors who have again been committed with their efforts on behalf of the Club and the CEO Russell Clark and his team for their achievements during the year particularly the work done in the community area and again achieving a sound financial outcome.
- * Colin Lofts and Russell who have been dogged in representing the Club in the negotiations with the Town of Victoria Park regarding the new facility and other matters.
- * Thankfully the Town of Victoria Park has given the go ahead to the new facility despite the cost now increasing from \$14m to \$18.2m and further agreeing to bridge the difference with the work expected to commence at the end of the 2023 season. However, there are still a number of issues to be resolved and he wished the Club well in resolving these issues.

The President also acknowledged that the Club is now in a strong position financially and that he was pleased that profits totalling some \$533k had been achieved during the four years that he was President. This was due in part to the revenue earned by the Centurions

Fund, and he thanked Peter Gilkison for his leadership of this committee.

In conclusion the President said that winning games is essential, and he is confident that the new Senior Coach who is already attracting players to the Club is the man to achieve this.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Chairman tabled the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by Hall Chadwick and thanked them for again undertaking this important task on behalf of the Club.

Motion:

It was moved Wayne Koch seconded Phil Geary that the Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 31/10/2022 be received.

Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Before inviting the Club's Director of Finance, John Dorazio to present the Finance Report on behalf of the Board the Chairman congratulated and thanked those concerned for finalising the accounts in time for them to be available to members prior to this meeting. He then invited John to present the financial report.

In presenting the Finance report John said that it is pleasing to be able to report a solid profit that being \$89,164 for the past year and he acknowledged the work done by the various departments and staff in achieving this result. John added that when he presented the accounts for the first time in 2012 the Club's assets totalled \$144k but are now close to \$1m with the last four years being a significant contributor to that achievement.

John then acknowledged:

- * The continued strong support of our sponsors and members with Marketing and Promotions revenue shown on page 14 of the financial report being up from \$588,268 to \$727,198 and here there is a need to extend our thanks to our Director of Partnerships Brian Cook and Business Development and Partnerships Manager Jared Bell.

- * In comparing the WAFC grants received you need to add Talent Development and the WAFC with the amounts in 2022 adding to \$757,593 compared to \$645,715 the previous year.

- * That Fundraising revenue was again up.

- * That revenue from other sources was generally down, but they none the less were in line with budget expectations.

John then explained that the Centurions Fund Reconciliation was shown on page 14 of the accounts with the Trustees taking advantage of the increase in interest rates by depositing funds on Term Deposit with Macquarie Bank. Total funds held by the Centurions Fund now exceed \$600,000.

In referring to the Balance sheet John added that:

1. Inventories have increased slightly with all stock on hand being current.
2. Trade and other receivables at \$162,308 is high but mainly due to several significant sponsors being invoiced quarterly with their latest invoices issued in October. These sponsors are undoubted in respect to meeting their obligations.
3. The increase in employee benefits provisions is due to timing as staff take their

annual leave when the office is closed over the Christmas/New Year period.

4. The trade and other payables of \$89,760 includes accrued expenses of \$50,354 being a provision for

- * Several invoices expected but not received until well after 31st October.
- * Five days of the pay cycle falling within the 2022 financial year.
- * A number of other small items of expenditure.

and BAS payable for October 2022.

5. Unearned income is made up of grants received for the Banyjima project awaiting the appointment of a Banyjima Aboriginal Engagement Officer and future expenses relating to the ongoing project.

6. A budget is currently being finalised for 2023 year and with the continued support of members and sponsors and improved on-field success we should, despite rising costs be able to maintain our record of profitability.

Finally, John said he must acknowledge and thank several people:

- * First his thanks to Hall Chadwick for again undertaking a thorough audit and preparing the financial accounts.

- * While there were limited opportunities to meet in person, he still needed to thank the members of the Club's Finance Committee for their support on those occasions they did meet

- * The work done by the various committees in achieving their targets and containing costs.

- * Again, our sponsors and members for their continued support throughout the year.

In reply to a question from Glenn Panomarenko in relation to the Talent Development income Russell Clark explained that previously talent expenses were controlled by the WAFC but now the WAFL clubs receive an annual grant from the WAFC (paid monthly), and all expenses are now paid by the Clubs.

In thanking John for his comprehensive report, the Chairman advised that at its meeting earlier tonight, the Board passed the following resolution:

“That the Audited Financial Report for the year ended 31/10/2022 be accepted and that it be confirmed that the Club continues to be solvent and can meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due.”

Rule 21.4.2 of the Club's Constitution provides that the accounts be presented to members at the AGM, and it is traditional at this club for the financial report to be adopted by the members.

Motion:

It was moved Peter Kennedy seconded Bob Samuels that the 2022 Financial Report be accepted.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Chairman explained that this year nominations were called for the position of Club President in addition to the four positions of directors that also became vacant.

In first dealing with the position of President with only one nomination being received, that from Past Player and Life Member Adrian Barich the Chairman advised that in accordance with rule 12.3.3 of the Club's constitution he has pleasure in declaring Adrian as duly elected

as President for the next two years.

In congratulating Adrian, the Chairman said that he has no doubt that he will be an excellent President and as he may well like to say a few words tonight, he will ask him to do so during General Business.

The Chairman continued that it is also pleasing and a healthy indication of the continued interest in the Club's business and community activities that seven nominations were received for the four vacant director positions on the Board and thanked the candidates for their interest and nomination. Furthermore, as an election was necessary, he thanked Greg Dart, Wayne Koch, and Brian Sweetapple for again agreeing to be the Returning Officers. Greg Dart was then called on to announce the result of the election.

Greg Dart announced that the four successful candidates were Brian Cook, Troy Cook, Travis Burrows and Andrew Young.

In thanking Greg, the Chairman in accordance with rule 12.3.3 of the constitution declared that Brian Cook, Troy Cook, Travis Burrows and Andrew Young are duly elected to the Board of Directors for the next two years and extend his congratulations to them. He then thanked Kerrie-Ann Pental, Catherine VanderWeide and Carolyn Hills for their nomination and said that he can appreciate their disappointment with the outcome.

The Chairman explained that at this stage it is appropriate to mention that the Club's Senior Vice President Mark Treasure after 17 years has not sought re-election to the Board. He added that while Mark's contribution has been outstanding, he would defer his accolades until later in the meeting but at this point on behalf of members he thanked Mark for his outstanding contribution over many years.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chairman explained that Hall Chadwick have agreed to continue as the Club's auditors and as there is no motion to change the auditors, he was pleased to confirm that Hall Chadwick will again be the Club's auditors in 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRON AND VICE PATRONS

The Chairman explained that the Board has proposed that for 2023 our Patron again be Life member Peter Gilkison who continues to make a significant contribution to the Club in many ways including being involved in another very successful Centurion's lunch and thanked him accordingly. It is also proposed that the following persons again be Vice Patrons – Ted O'Connor, Allan Stiles, Damian Matthews, Steve Irons, Hannah Beasley, Ben Wyatt, Graham Edwards, Phil and Jodie Castle and Lou Spagnolo with the addition of Bob Shields, Mark Treasure and Gavin Caudle who has been involved with the Club as its Principal sponsor for the past six years.

Motion:

It was moved Kerrie-Ann Pental seconded Brian Sweetapple that the Patron and Vice-Patrons as proposed be appointed for 2023.

Carried.

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS

The Chairman advised that three nominations have been received this year and he believed that all three are worthy of nomination.

The First nomination is for the Club's retiring Senior Vice-President, Mark Treasure

nominated by Robert Shields seconded by Jared Bell.

Bob Shields spoke of Mark's 17 years on the Board during which time he contributed in many ways to the Club's off-field success particularly as Chairman of the Gala Auction committee. Bob added that Mark has overseen the Marketing, Membership and Merchandise portfolio for many years and also provided him with wise counsel on a number of occasions when dealing with sticky problems.

Motion:

Moved Robert Shields seconded Jared Bell that Mark Treasure be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

In congratulating Mark, the Chairman invited him to say a few words and Mark said in a casual conversation with Allan Stiles he mentioned that he would like to help the Club, and this was followed up with a discussion with the then President Damian Matthews followed by his appointment to the Board. Mark then gave an overview of his time at the Club.

The second nomination is for the Club's current Vice-President, John Dorazio again nominated by Robert Shields seconded by Jared Bell.

Bob Shields spoke of John's 10 years on the Board during which time he oversaw the challenging finance portfolio. Bob also said that whenever he had a problem, he could inevitably turn to John who always found a solution.

Motion:

Moved Robert Shields seconded Jared Bell that John Dorazio be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

In congratulating John, the Chairman invited him to say a few words and John thanked all for this unexpected but most appreciated award and said he was humble and honoured to receive it.

The third nomination is for past player Chris Mitsopoulos nominated by Allan Stiles seconded by Wim Rosbender.

Allan spoke of Chris' playing, coaching and support roles with the Club and his subsequent media work where he was a great ambassador for the Club.

Motion:

Moved Allan Stiles seconded Wim Rosbender that Chris Mitsopoulos be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

With Chris being an apology for the meeting Allan thanked everyone on his behalf.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

The Chairman explained that for the first time in many years, three notices of motions have been received and that as the first two are similar in nature they would be dealt with together.

The two motions which will be decided by ordinary resolutions are:

1. *I Catherine VanderWeide, Member put forward a Notice of Motion under 6.1 Class of Members for ROVER Membership to be reintroduced as a special and ongoing membership. With conditions and benefits of a Full membership and guest at all President Lunches. This membership may only be changed by the members at a PFC AGM.*

Proposer - Catherine VanderWeide

Secunder – Brett Symonds.

2. *I Catherine VanderWeide, put forward a Notice of Motion under Class of Members 6.1 for the Trident membership be reintroduction as special and ongoing membership, of three President lunches of choice, including full membership. This membership may only be changed at a PFC AGM.*

Proposer – Catherine VanderWeide

Secunder – Brett Symonds

When asked to speak to her motions Cathy said among other positive points that:

- * The early payment of the fees helped the Club's cashflow early in the year.
- * It boosted attendances at the Presidents pre-game functions.
- * It was a group of members that could grow in numbers and become more involved in Club off-field activities.
- * There was disappointment when the class of membership was withdrawn.

In reply to a question from Phil Geary as to why this membership was withdrawn the CEO advised:

- * Due to Covid in 2020 the Club couldn't deliver on the benefits and a number of members ask for their membership fee back.
- * At this stage the number of home games to be played at Mineral Resources Park is not known.
- * Car parking can no longer be guaranteed nor can seating in the Presidents Lounge during games.
- * At the previous prices the Club did not even breakeven with costs.

June Hewson then spoke for the motion and made the point that attending the Presidents pre-game functions enabled people to associate with other PFC people face to face and network with them. In continuing she asked whether the Club wanted people to be involved as now other than watching the game there is no reason to come to matches.

In reply to a question as to who will determine the benefits of the memberships if re-introduced the Chairman advised that in terms of rule 9.2.1 of the Club's constitution it is the responsibility of the Board.

Motions:

The motions were then put to a vote by a showing of hands with the result of 46 for and 47 against for the first motion and 47 for and 50 against for the second motion.

At this point a poll was requested and in view of the closeness of the vote it was agreed to by the Chairman. Following a division of voters, the result was 45 votes for and 65 against.

The Chairman then declared both motions as being **Lost**.

The Chairman then explained that the third motion which will be decided by a Special Resolution is:

1. Add to rule 29.1.5 Any player who played 150 league games for the club will, upon the completion of his 150th league game

ADD "and/or played in a winning league premiership side,"

Be deemed to have been nominated for Life Membership.

Proposer – Ian Rothnie Seconded – Graham Jenzen

In speaking for the motion Ian Rothnie advised:

- * That he has been a member for 60 plus years.
- * That the purpose of the motion if passed was to establish an incentive for future players to strive and work harder to become a Premiership player and it is a team game.
- * That in today's WAFL football that 150 league games maybe out of reach for players to qualify for Life Membership particularly if there is only 18 home and away games each season.
- * The AFL is recruiting the better players and injuries are becoming more prevalent.
- * Work and family commitments is making it more difficult to commit the time to football and it is easier to play amateur football often for more money.
- * The Club does not reward premiership players and does owe them a debt of gratitude.

Ian concluded by saying that this amendment would see an immediate change in player attitude and the Club's future is at stake.

In speaking against the motion Richard Camm referred members to a recent letter circulated by him and Allan Stiles in which they listed a number of reasons to vote against the motion including:

- Life membership has never been a reward – and shouldn't be – for one-off achievements.
- The current constitution recognises that but rather rewards long and distinguished service which is needed to make this club strong again.
- It should be an incentive for players and officials staying with the Club.
- We don't per se need more life members but more longevity from the players and officials.
- In recent times the West Perth Football Club has had eighteen 150 game players.
- Playing in a premiership is reward in itself and past premiership players have been recognised.

In conclusion Richard questioned what is intended i.e., future players or for the motion to apply retrospectively? Richard then explained that the Nominations Committee of which he is a member intends to review the question of life membership in its entirety.

Wayne Koch then said that speaking as an individual who assisted with the Redleg's to Demons book and was involved in the presentation of numbered caps to the league players with the 1676 cap being presented this year he believed it was time to review the qualifying criteria for players as the last player to be awarded Life Membership by playing 150 league games was Willie Dick in 2000.

Chris Tollis explained that he has been a supporter for 72 years and member for over 50 years and in that time has seen over 1,500 matches and that he was totally against the motion as he

did not see it as being an incentive. Further, in today's world if society found the pass mark too hard then they tended to lower the pass mark.

Noel Winsor saw the motion as wanting to recognise all premierships players and explained that a change to the qualifying requirements has a precedent in that it was changed in 1966 from 200 games to 150 games. Also, if approved the change can only ensure that these players stay engaged with the Club and be part of it for life and it can only have a positive effect on the younger players and reward them for their commitment.

Noel further explained Richmond use life membership to acknowledge premierships players and not to reward them and when they introduced this change it was backdated to 1902. He also suggested that when counting games all colts/reserves and league games could be included in the count as there is a need for change and bring the thinking into the present.

Allan Stiles then said that while it is difficult to talk against the motion but after doing due diligence on the matter, he found that:

- Of all the players available only four are alive with several now residing in the Eastern States.
- Only three premierships players are members of the Club's Past Players Association.
- In attending games in the past twenty years how many past players does he see?
- At the last PPOA open day only three premierships players were present.

Peter Gilkison said that he has spoken to nine premierships players and only one of them was against the motion. He also believed the main reason for playing is to play games and win premierships.

Peter Kennedy another supporter from the early 1950s said that premierships players are already considered to be heroes and special players. With only seven premierships there are a lot of disappointed players and often players continue playing with the Club to achieve life membership and without this incentive they possibly would have moved on.

Motion:

The motion was put and **lost** 44 votes for and 64 against.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Vote of Thanks:

Peter Gilkison addressed the meeting and explained that when Bob Shields was first elected President four years ago Bob had said there were four things he wanted to achieve:

1. To build on the good work started by Daryle Mann and with the Club's financial record where the Club's assets grew from \$378,000 (Centurions \$431,000) to the Club's assets being \$900,000 (Centurions \$601,000) shows that this objective has been achieved. Peter added that Russell Clark's appointment as CEO has also made a difference.

2. To improve the Club's metropolitan zone. After much hard work this was finally achieved this year when the Club recovered its traditional areas around Armadale/Kelmscott and added Byford.
3. Ensure an improved on-field performance. The league team played finals in 2020 and the reserves team won their Grand Final in 2021. With the recent appointment of Peter German as Head Coach it is not unreasonable to see a return to finals football.
4. The PFC to acquire a new facility. This project had hit a brick wall in 2018 but due to the hard work of the President, Colin Lofts and Russ Clark the new building will go ahead.

In summing up Peter said that Bob has been a very good President and should be proud of his achievement while leading the Club.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bob in the customary manner.

2023 Legend:

The Chairman said that before announcing the 2023 Legend he must first thank our 2022 Legend Ken Inman for his commitment to the role throughout the year. Ken attended most matches during the year and was always available to represent the Club.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce that the Club legend for 2023 is Life Member and former player and Senior Coach Earl Spalding.

The Chairman then extended his congratulations to Earl and asked if he would care to come forward and say a few words.

Earl said that he honoured and felt privileged to be acknowledged in this manner and looked forward to the role in 2023.

Directors' Roles:

Carolyn Cabassi queried the role of the Directors particularly who has overseen player recruitment as it has not been that special in recent years.

Russ Clark responded by explaining that the Football Committee oversaw the recruiting activities and while a number of key players have been approached often the club is out bided. None the less several players have been signed but until all the paperwork is finalised, they cannot yet be announced but soon will be.

Other factors that have contributed to the lack of quality recruiting particularly from Victoria is that many go to the SANFL as flights back are more readily available and our lack of success has also been a factor.

Russ also explained that the Club has been allocated additional points and some salary cap relief which will assist going forward but unfortunately at the same time we don't have a volume of talent from our country zone.

Carolyn then commented that she believed that the club has missed an opportunity in not engaging Frazer McInnes further in the Club. She is also disappointed that Board members are rarely seen at the award presentations after home games and that they need to provide

further support to the players and coaches.

The Chairman agreed that Directors whenever possible should be present and no doubt they have taken note of Carolyn's comments. Russ added that he believed that the new coach would not welcome Board interference with the coaching activities.

Butcher Medal:

Cos Fasolo suggested that with members missing attending the Butcher Medal presentation due to the lack of room that consideration could be given to live streaming the event.

President Elect:

There being no further questions the Chairman invited the President Elect, Adrian Barich to address the meeting.

Adrian said that he could see and feel the passion in the room and acknowledged the good turnout of members for the meeting.

He also acknowledged the Board and staff and welcomed Andrew Young on being elected to the Board. He believes that the Club has the personnel to take the Club forward and deliver on the good work already undertaken in respect to the new facility, the introduction of women's football and revitalised zone.

Adrian then gave an overview of his arrival at the Club in 1984 his reason for retiring early from AFL football to return to playing for the PFC to achieve the honour of Life Membership. He congratulated the new Life Members on achieving that honour tonight.

Adrian explained the reasons for nominating for the role of President which include:

- His love of the Club.
- His desire to give something back to the Club.
- He has spent time during the year studying the Club and its progress and believes that he can help out during this critical period.

In concluding Adrian thanked Bob for his contribution and said with the coaching team now with the Club he is confident it will become a destination club.

CLOSURE:

In closing the meeting, the Chairman again thanked members for their attendance and wished them well for the festive season

The meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

John Matthews
MINUTE SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN

