



**MINUTES - DRAFT**

**Swan Districts Football Club Inc.  
90<sup>th</sup> 2023 Annual General Meeting  
6.30pm Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
President's Lounge, Steel Blue Oval**

1. President Peter Hodyl opened the meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by an Acknowledgement to Country.

'I would like to acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land in which this event is being held. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Noongar Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders who are present this evening'.

Peter stated that in an effort to be more environmentally friendly and to reduce unnecessary costs, the club has only produced strictly limited printed copies of the club's 2023 Annual Report. All members have had access to the online copy via the Fighting Swan and club website.

A minute's silence was held to remember past players and Life Members who have passed away during 2023. These included Bill Holloway, Joe Sarich, John Farris, Ken Ferguson, Peter Anderson, Bryan Maxwell, Allen Morton, , Roger McKenzie, Alan Cope, Peter Douglas and more recently Bob Manning.

2. Apologies.

Leona Snow, Peter Snow, Neville Bassett, Adrian Ellis, Adam Johnston, Brian Haley, John Cooper, Ian Foss, Steve Bettridge, John Nichols, Fred Panting, Greg Wardell-Johnson, Lee Komorowski, Joe Paterniti, Nessa Hodyl, Allan Jelleff, Bob Hutchinson and Eric Benson.

3. Minutes of the 89<sup>th</sup> 2022 AGM as posted on the club website were accepted as a true and accurate copy.

**Moved: Phil Spencer**

**Seconded: Trevor Hoy**

**Carried.**

b. Business Arising - Nil

4. Presentation of the annual report and financial statements.

a. President's report - Peter Hodyl referred to his report in the Annual Report and yearbook. He is looking forward to 2024 and wished all teams success. He made reference to the club's Strategic Plan, our ever expanding community programs, and emphasized that football was still our number one focus as a Club. He spoke about our ongoing sustainable business and about the ongoing machinations of the ground redevelopment stating that there are many stakeholders, and the Club is determined to not be any worse off unlike some other WAFL Clubs have been. He thanked Board members and their committees, as well as the great staff and our tremendous Coterie groups led by John Rowe and Trevor Hoy for their invaluable input to the Club.

b. CEO's Report - Jeff Dennis spoke about the club's improvements on and off the field. He spoke about the club's business model and its outcomes. He referred to the commitment to the club's purpose, vision and values and the strategic pillars that underpin them. The club's new 3 Year Strategic Plan is in place and a copy is on the club's website. The 2023 financial result provides another surplus with \$1.7M cash in the bank. He spoke briefly about the Steel Blue Oval Bassendean redevelopment and the MOU with the Council having a community and financial sustainability focus. The timeframe for any redevelopment is more likely to be 6-10 years, but the club will continue to maintain and upgrade its facilities. He thanked the Past Players and Officials Association and the Swansmen for their contributions to the facility upgrade and repairs. The upgraded oval lighting has unfortunately been delayed due to problems with the Town of Bassendean's tender. He also noted the Swans Foundation now had raised \$240K. He thanked staff, volunteers and everyone else involved for their efforts in 2023.

c. Director of Social Impact - Ian Westmore referred to his extensive report in the club's Annual Report. He highlighted many of the club's programs across the State and thanked all of the club's hard working staff in Perth and the Pilbara. He emphasized our mantra is to 'Build Community and Develop People'. He spoke briefly of our Elevate program and the recent staff turnover in Onslow. The Swans Café barista initiative has given many people opportunities. He noted the club received an additional \$150K from the Telethon Institute which will enable us to deliver a new school inclusion program using the ten sports wheelchairs we already received. He thanked the committee, the CEO and the Board for their support of the Social Impact strategy and stated we are looking for more opportunities to enhance our outreach and help people be the best they can be.

d. Director of WAFL Football - Andy Holmes highlighted some of his report in the club's Annual Report. He spoke about our current football strategic plan 2020 - 24. He noted the losses and new recruits for the coming year and was positive about

the outcome in 2024. He mentioned the unfortunate injury run and close losses by our League team in 2023. He congratulated all involved in the Reserves Grand Final triumph and noted that Greg Harding will be stepping away in 2024, but will still be around to support the Club.

e. Director of WAFLW Football - Brendan Valentine stated it was a privilege to oversee the WAFL Women's program in 2023. He thanked all the volunteers and sponsors at the Club. He also thanked the support from the CEO and the President. He noted that Swans was now very much a destination club. He also congratulated the AFLW draftees and award winners, and thanked Adam Dancey for his services to the Club. He believed we are building the right culture at the club and encouraged members to support the women's teams in 2024.

f. Director of Governance - Ken Wyatt noted the ongoing compliance and good governance measures in the club. He noted the Board was accountable and sought to minimize risk. The Board undertook an internal review looking at a range of measures that Directors are responsible for. Policy reviews included measures to safeguard kids, minimize risk of internal fraud and also concussion policies. He stated it was essential to safeguard the club through the right protocols and noted the importance of data security and the threat of cyber-attacks. He thanked his committee and the CEO and President for their ongoing input and support. Mark Rocci (Head of Cyber security at HBF) raised a question on IT security and offered his assistance as a volunteer. The CEO noted the offer and gave a brief outline of our current infrastructure related to IT management and security within the Club.

g. Director Finance/Treasurer - Des Hardiman gave a comprehensive rundown on the club's financial position in 2023 which is well documented in the Annual Report. The club had another strong performance with a \$90k surplus. The balance sheet remains in a very healthy position on any criteria or ratio. The turnover increased by 12% or \$530k to \$4.76m. Cash at the bank is \$1.7m compared to \$1.35m last year. He listed the challenges ahead for the budget including balancing the budget, improved facilities, new oval lighting and on field success. He thanked the Finance Committee and Gerard and Jeff especially for their endeavors. He also thanked our auditors Willaim Buck and Associates who were in attendance.

**Peter Hodyl tabled the motion that the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 October 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Moved: John Rowe**

**Seconded: Cathy Rowe**

**Carried.**

## 5. Results of the 2023 Board Election

a. As Bob Hutchinson was ill and a late apology, Maurice Embley announced the 2023 election results. Three people were nominated and then one withdrew meaning a ballot was not required for the two vacant positions on the Board. Peter Hodyl and Des Hardiman were elected unopposed each for three-year terms. Maurice thanked the club's Returning Officer, Bob Hutchinson, for his valuable time and assistance, and the other two Scrutineers John Rowe and Norm Kirkup for volunteering their availability once again.

b. Peter Hodyl advised the meeting that Roanna Edwards had resigned from her Appointed Board position in November 2023 due to work commitments. The Board has 5 member elected Directors and up to 2 Board appointed Directors. The Board will look to appoint a new Board member shortly to help meet the Board's skills, experience, and diversity requirements.

## 6. Election of the Auditor.

a. The Board recommended the Members appoint William Buck for 2024.

The motion was put that William Buck be appointed as the Club's auditor for the year ending 31 October 2024.

Moved by: John Rowe

Seconded by: Mark Rocci

Carried:

## 7. Nomination of Awards.

Ian Westmore confirmed that the club received one Life Member nomination which was reviewed and endorsed by the Life Members Association and the Board of Directors.

a. **Peter Bacon** was awarded Life Membership.

Peter has been a member for 50 years. He's been an active volunteer making himself available to attend any plumbing needs as required, and serving on the Swansmen Committee helping in the club auction over many years. He continues to provide his services to the club and also manages the bar in the Swansmen's Lounge on match days. Peter received his 10 year long certificate in 2012.

b. Ten Year Long Service Certificate recognition was awarded to the following.

**Phil Smart**

Following a successful career at Fremantle Dockers over 16 years, Phil joined Swans in 2010 as Football Manager, a role he continues to this day. His unwavering commitment to the club extends well above his duty statement. He continues to play a significant leadership role throughout the club's football department.

### **David Cianciosi**

David has served in many roles behind the scenes since 2012. He has been a member of the Swansmen for 12 years including 5 years on the committee acting as the monthly dinner coordinator, the home game lounge manager and auction assistant. In 2018 he was appointed as the league team manager – a very important and demanding role that he has excelled in for the past 6 years. Always willing to give his time and labour to the Club, he was awarded the Best Clubman Award in 2017.

### **Jim Benson**

Jim has been a life-long supporter of Swans. In 2012 he became the minute secretary and was subsequently co-opted onto the Board in 2013. He served for a total of 8 years on the Board finishing in 2021. He was instrumental in governance and constitutional issues in his role as Chair of Governance and Risk. Jim has also served on the Swansmen Committee for the past 11 years, including 8 years as Secretary and assistance with events. A constant and reliable worker around the Club in any capacity asked and a strong advocate for keeping the Club and the WAFC accountable.

8. Confirmation of entrance fees, subscriptions and other amounts to be paid by Members.

As outlined as per 43.3e of the club's Constitution we hereby confirm that there will be no price increases for the 2024 season.

Members were advised that in accordance with the WAFC ruling, all WAFL club members will not be provided free entrance to their club's WAFLW home games this season.

9. Business of which due notice has been given.

Nil.

10. Questions without notice

Nil.

11. The meeting was closed at 7.35 p.m.

Following the AGM the President called on the club's senior WAFL and WAFLW coaches, Andrew Pruyne and Ben Bowness to provide updates to members.