



Perth Football Club Inc

MINUTES OF THE 124th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 in the Main Hall, Mineral Resource Park Commencing at 7:30pm

WELCOME:

The Chair, Club President Adrian Barich, 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

The Perth Football Club acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their elder's past, present and emerging. We extend that respect by acknowledging all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People present today.

PRESENT:

78 members were in attendance (see Attendance Register)

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from:

- Neil Allen
- Ken Baxter
- Mel Bellgard
- Oscar Bird
- Alan Bott
- Brian Cook
- Neil Darby

- Colin Davies
- Graham Edwards
- Carolyn Hall
- Roxanne Hanney
- Lance and Gayle Rigby
- Michael Sinclair
- Kerry Sweetapple
- Jeff Watt

PROXIES:

It was noted that 4 proxies had been received.

VALEDICTORY:

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

- Former players being:
 1. Pat Astone
 2. Wayne Ryder
 3. Dave Browning
 4. Alan Chapman
 5. Laurie Basire
 6. Noel Staude
 7. Dave Raper
 8. Peter Lane
- Life Members being:
 1. Arthur Ransted; and
 2. Nicola Mawson
- Members being:
 1. Lindsay Crimp
 2. George Edwards
 3. Chris Tollis

4. Vern Dann (a long time Monday volunteer)
5. Richard Camm's father Dick - who was not included last year.

The Chair thanked Brian Sweetapple who provided the details.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Motion:

It was **moved** Terrance Rose, **seconded** Greg Dart that the Minutes of the 123rd Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 13th December 2022 and the Special General Meeting held on 22nd August 2023 be confirmed.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Chair advised that as far as he was aware there are no matters arising from either minute but enquired of members if there were any questions in relation to the minutes.

No matters were raised.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence was received.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President advised 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, he explained that he was excited for 2024 particularly in respect to the Club's on field performances as the Football Executive has undertaken the best recruiting period for many years. In this respect they had determined what was needed, went to Melbourne and spoke direct to the players. This resulted in the following key recruits:

- Charlie Constable
- Sam Simpson
- Blake Schlensog
- Aaron Clarke
- Josh Edwards.

The WA Football Commission has supported this initiative by extending the Club's salary cap for 2024 and 2025 and the Club's Recruiting Fund Committee has been actively raising funds to cover recruiting and relocation costs.

The introduction of a Rogers Cup team was another success story for the Club in 2023 and

plans are progressing well for a senior women's team to enter the WAFLW competition in 2025. The President congratulated all involved in these programs.

Also of note was that the Club had supported a team in the Wheelchair Football competition, and they have been successful in winning back-to-back premierships.

The President also acknowledged that the Club has had a reasonable year financially and this was supported by 23 new sponsors.

Other highlights for the year included:

- The progress made with the new facility with the Redevelopment Chair, Colin Lofts to report further later in the meeting.
- The contribution made by Earl Spalding as the 2023 Ball Legend.
- Michael Sinclair playing his 150th League game for the Club.
- The Colts playing in the Grand Final with their coach Scott Moore being acknowledged as the Colts Coach of the Year.

In conclusion the President said that he would like to thank:

- all members for their support of the Club and himself during the past year.
- Members of the Board who also have given him their full support during the year and worked diligently on behalf of the Club.
- The CEO Russell Clark and his staff for their excellent administration of the Club.
- The Town of Victoria and all the Club's sponsors.
- The Club's Patron and Vice Patrons, committee members and the many volunteers.
- The players at all levels, the coaches and support staff.

He then advised that he was now happy to take questions.

In reply to a question from Jeff Newman regarding the playing fixtures for 2024 the President advised that only today the Club had received a draft of the fixtures for comment and until confirmed he was obliged to not to comment on them. However, the season would start over the Easter weekend with the Grand Final to be played the week before the AFL Grand Final.

The CEO, Russell Clark added that in only receiving the draft fixtures this afternoon and the WAFC required a response from the Club by tomorrow and while being generally satisfied with the PFC allocation of games there are several queries to be clarified.

In response to a question regarding the reduction in the MIB funds the President advised that the funds were partly used to employ an Aboriginal Engagement Officer and a Community Liaison Officer who have hosted educational and interactive workshops and contributed to the Karijini Experience as well as other community projects. To continue this important work further funding has been approved by MIB.

In conclusion Daryle Mann said it worth acknowledging the work done by Jared Bell in the Club achieving the significant number of new sponsors which was followed by a round of applause.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Chair advised that the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by Hall Chadwick was included in the Financial Report for 2023 which has been made available to members and thanked Hall Chadwick for again undertaking the preparation of the accounts on behalf of the Club.

Motion:

It was moved Allan Stiles seconded Peter Gilkison that the Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 31/10/2023 be received.

Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

In inviting the Club's Director of Finance, John Dorazio to present the Finance Report on behalf of the Board the Chair congratulated and thanked those concerned for again achieving a positive result for the Club.

In introducing the Finance Report John said it is certainly pleasing to be able to report a profit for the past year in what has been a challenging year. Accordingly, he also acknowledged the work done by the various departments and staff in achieving this result.

John then elaborated on several factors that have influenced the result including:

- the continued strong support of the Club's sponsors and members with Marketing and Promotions revenue shown on page 14 of the financial report being up from \$727,198 to \$853,678.
- In comparing the grants income to last year there is a significant increase from \$695,233 to \$825,337. This is due to extending the relationship we now have with Banyjima whereby as advised by the President they fund by way of grants the Aboriginal Engagement Officer and Community Liaison Officer who in addition to doing great work in the community have prepared a detailed Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Other revenue streams were pretty well in line with expectations.

Turning now to expenses John explained that several items were worthy of further comments including:

- Administration expenses – the increase of some \$120,000 is due to the aforementioned employment of the AEO and CLO and the projects undertaken by them and our Community Engagement Manager Oscar Bird.

- Bar and Functions expenses have increased due to the additional revenue earned and increases in casual staff costs.
- Football Expenses have increased significantly as we prepare for an exciting 2024 with the appointment of a quality full time coach in 2023, the recruitment of key players and new equipment to support them. In addition, this expense now includes women's football with the Club competing in the Rogers Cup competition.
- Facilities expenses includes some costs in planning for the Club's new facilities as well as an aging current facility.

Balance Sheet:

Here John explained:

1. Inventories continue to be well managed with all stock on hand being current.
2. Trade and other receivables at \$164,046 are 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.
 - The Employee Benefits provisions is due to timing as staff take part of their annual leave when the office is closed over the Christmas/New Year period but this expense needs to be provided for in the interim.
3. The trade and other payables of \$97,645 includes provision for BAS and Superannuation payable for October and other end of month accounts.
4. A budget is currently being finalised for 2024 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 acknowledged and thanked several people:

- First, he thanked Hall Chadwick for again undertaking a thorough audit and preparing the financial accounts.
- The members of the Club's Finance Committee for their support during the year at our monthly meetings.
- The work done by the various committees in achieving their targets and containing costs.

John then invited the Club's CEO Russell Clark to explain changes to the Total Players Payments (TPPs).

Russell explained that the WAFC had changed the TPP rules so that clubs could if they hadn't expended their full amount of TPPs in 2023 to use the unused portion to pay players part of their 2024 TPP. The PFC had taken advantage of this change to prepay some \$33,000 of the 2024 match payments with this amount being expended in the 2023 accounts.

The Chair then advised that at the Board meeting held prior to this meeting that the Board had passed a resolution confirming:

“That the Audited Financial Report for the year ended 31/10/2023 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.”

Motion:

It was moved John Dorazio seconded Ken Inman that the 2023 Financial Report be accepted.

Carried.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Chair explained that this year nominations were called for the four positions of Directors that became vacant.

The Chair continued that it was also pleasing and a healthy indication of the continued interest in the Club’s business and community activities that five 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 Carolyn Hall, John Dorazio, Neil Darby and Daniel O’Sullivan.

In thanking Greg, the Chair in accordance with rule 12.3.3 of the constitution declared that Carolyn Hall, John Dorazio, Neil Darby and Daniel O’Sullivan are duly elected to the Board of Directors for the next two years and extended his congratulations to them. He then thanked Carolyn Hills for her nomination and said that in view of the excellent work undertaken by Carolyn in respect to Women’s football that she will again be appointed as an Associate Director in 2024.

The Chair further explained that at this stage it is appropriate to mention that Kelly Townson did not seek re-election to the Board as she has relocated to Melbourne with her employment. He added that Kelly along with Carolyn Hills has done a power of work to establish Women’s football with the PFC and thanked her for her contribution during her term of office.

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APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chair 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 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRON AND VICE PATRONS

The Chair explained that the Board has proposed that for 2024 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, Lou Spagnolo, Bob Shields, Mark Treasure and Gavin Caudle who has been involved with the Club as its Principal sponsor for the past eight years.

Motion:

It was moved Colin Lofts seconded Wim Rosbender that the Patron and Vice-Patrons as proposed be appointed for 2024.

Carried.

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS

The Chair advised that four nominations have been received this year and he believed that all four are truly worthy of nomination.

Michael Sinclair:

The First nomination was for the Club's League Team Captain Michael Sinclair who had played his 150th league game in 2023 and therefore is an automatic nomination. However, before asking members to formally endorse Michael's Life Membership the Chair asked the Club's CEO Russell Clark to briefly give an overview of Michael's football career with the PFC.

Russell advised that Michael played for the Colts team in 2012 and debuted in the league team in 2013 when he played 19 games and was allocated cap number 1539 and won the Doug Buckingham Medal. He then won the Butcher Medal in 2016.

Michael was appointed a co-captain in 2021 and 2022 and the sole Captain in 2023 where he finished on playing 161 league games and is the first player in 23 years to qualify for Life Membership. He also represented the State in 2019 and 2023.

Motion:

Moved Russell Clark seconded Jared Bell that Michael Sinclair be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

In congratulating Michael, the Chair advised that unfortunately Michael is an apology but on behalf of members extended him best wishes for the future.

Wayne Koch:

The second nomination was for Wayne Koch who was nominated by Brian Sweetapple and seconded by Cos Fasolo.

Brian Sweetapple spoke of Wayne's service to the Club including:

- playing for the Fourths, Thirds and Reserve Teams.

- Associate Director in 2002 and 2003.
- Club Director from 2004 to 2006 including being Vice President in 2005.
- Subsequently as a member of the Past Players since 2007, Wayne was instrumental in introducing the Caps project and assisted with the Redleg's to Demons book which recorded the history of the PFC to the early 2000's.
- Solely responsible for the publication of the Doug Buckingham book.
- Wayne has also been a contributor to the Club's History Centre.
- Regular volunteer/contributor to the Club's Gala Auction

Motion:

Moved Brian Sweetapple seconded Cos Fasolo that Wayne Koch be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

In congratulating Wayne, the Chair invited him to say a few words and Wayne thanked all for this unexpected but most appreciated award and thanked his family for their support and added that he was humble and honoured to receive Life Membership.

Greg Bennett:

The third nomination was for past player Greg Bennett nominated by Colin Lofts seconded by Peter Gilkison.

Colin spoke of Greg's' playing career which started with the U/12s where he won the F&B awards each year in junior football including the District Association F&B awards in the 16's and 18's. Other achievements include:

- In 1967 Greg played the first nine games in the Reserves and was then selected in the League team playing every game thereafter including the 1967 premiership.
- In 1967 Greg also won the Doug Buckingham medal.
- Greg remained in the League team playing in the 1968 premiership and came second in the Butcher Medal.
- Greg finished his playing career in 1972 after playing a total of 107 league games to accept an offer to play in South Australia.
- Greg was the team runner in 1985 and 1986.
- Was a Club Director in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

- **Motion:**

Moved Colin Lofts seconded Peter Gilkison that Greg Bennett be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

In congratulating Greg, the Chair invited him to say a few words and Greg thanked Colin and Peter for nominating him and members for endorsing his nomination. He then spoke of his football experiences and highlights and his other roles with the Club.

John Matthews:

The fourth nomination was for John Matthews nominated by Richard Camm seconded by Allan Stiles.

Richard provided an overview of John's involvement with the PFC over the past 20 years which included:

- Three and a half years as a volunteer including undertaking the role of Accounts Manager (unpaid) for many months.
- Convenor/member of the Club's Finance Committee for 19 years.
- Member of a Management committee on two occasions pending appointment of a CEO.
- Employee for over 15 years.
- The Club's Board Executive Officer for 14 years.
- Member of the Banquet Auction committee for 12 years.
- Assisted with the drafting, adoption and registering of the Club's most recent constitution in 2019.
- From 2008 to 2021 co-ordinated Board elections when they were required.

Before putting the motion to members, the Chair asked Life Member and former Club President Damian Matthews to comment on John's involvement with the Club.

Damian endorsed Richard's comments and said that he is ware of John's commitment to the Club over many years and his appetite for policy documentation.

Motion:

Moved Richard Camm seconded Allan Stiles that John Matthews be awarded Life Membership of the Perth Football Club.

Carried.

John responded by thanking Richard and Allan for the nomination, the Board for endorsing the nomination and members for awarding him Life Membership. He also thanked his wife Jill for allowing him to continue to work in their twilight years.

In conclusion he said that a key reason for his long involvement was the people involved with the Club who had supported him throughout the journey.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

No Notices of Motion have been received.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

2024 Ball Legend:

The Chair said that before announcing the 2024 Ball Legend he must again thank the 2023 Legend Earl Spalding for his commitment to the role throughout the year. Earl attended most matches during the year and was always available to represent the Club.

The Chair said it gave him great pleasure to announce that the 2024 Legend is Mal Day and explained that Mal's involvement with the Club included:

- Being a player from 1968 to 1977 in which period he played 156 league games and kicked 30 goals.
- Playing in two premierships and represented the State on three occasions and won the Simpson medal as best afield in the 1976 Grand Final.

The Chair then extended his congratulations to Mal and invited him to come forward and say a few words.

Mal said that he is honoured and felt privileged to be acknowledged in this manner and looked forward to the role in 2024.

PFC New Facility:

At the Chairman's invitation Colin Lofts provided an update on the Club's new facility advising that:

- This has been a journey that has extended over 10 years and there now is considerable pressure to have the project approved by Council and started.
- Both he and the WCE have submitted reports to Council which will be conducting a special meeting next Monday to consider the responses to the Development Application during the consultation period.
- If approved by Council, then an application will be submitted to the WA Planning Commission for approval of the Development Application.
- If all goes well then work could commence in May 2024 with completion by late 2025.

- The expected cost of the project is \$23.8M with funding of \$14M already approved. Discussions are continuing with the State Government to assist in funding the shortfall.

President – Thank You

Adrian said that it had been a tough year for him due to illness within the family which had consumed much of his time and accordingly restricted his ability to be more actively involved with members and the community. However, he expects that 2024 will be a better year and he is committed to being more active in the coming 12 months.

At this point Allan Stiles offered his congratulations and thanks to Adrian in the manner that he has led the Club in this difficult period and believed that accordingly he has brought a lot of people together and involved in the Club.

This was acknowledged in the usual manner with a round of applause.

2024 -PFC 125 Years:

The Chair reminded members that 2024 would be the Club's 125th year and that a new logo has been designed as part of the celebration. Also a number of special events are planned for the year and members will be advise of these in due course.

CLOSURE:

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

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

John Matthews
MINUTE SECRETARY

CHAIR