



BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

PO Box 871, Bendigo, 3552
ABN 73 834 862 649

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League, held at The Bendigo Club, on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

Meeting opened: **7.33pm**

Attendance:

Board Members:

Carol McKinstry, Beres Fitch, Andy Walker, Sam McGee, Cheryl Elvey, Ellyse Roper, Cameron Tomlins (BFNL Manager)

BFNL Clubs:

Caleb Kuhle (Castlemaine), James Hanley (Eaglehawk), Mandy Dimasi, Tony Brancatisano, Debbie Brancatisano (Gisborne), Ian Symons, Gill Sawyer (Golden Square), Leigh Bailey, Chatheesha Jasotharan (Kangaroo Flat), Kelvin Noonan (Maryborough), Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst), Glenn Cowling, Tim Reed (Strathfieldsaye).

Guests:

Gavin Hore (AFLCV Commission), Craig Armstead (AFLCV Region Manager)

Apologies: Luke O'Keefe & Rod Barty (Strathfieldsaye), Rick Townsend (South Bendigo), Hayden Evans (Kyneton), John Wood (Gisborne), Rohan Molenaar.

Business:

1. Welcome and apologies

Acknowledgement of Country, Board Chair extended warm welcome to all Presidents, BFNL Board members, guests in attendance on behalf of AFL Central Victoria Commission, and other attendees in general.

Motion that apologies be accepted.

Moved: Leigh Bailey

Seconded: Kelvin Noonan

Carried

2. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022.

Motion that the minutes are recorded as a true and accurate record

Moved: Mandy Dimasi

Seconded: Debbie Brancatisano

Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

No business arising.



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4. Presentation of the Chair's Annual Report.
 - a. BFNL Board Chair (CM) provided a verbal report summary, highlighting:
 - i. Reflection on 2022 season - significant interest & increased crowds
 - ii. Welcome return to Finals with almost all clubs represented – noted increased spectator enthusiasm and support despite unkind weather, particularly on Grand Final day.
 - iii. Successful implementation of Premier Data, valued investment that raised league profile.
 - iv. Good financial year for league, based on prudence and strong financial management.
 - v. Disappointed interleague program was deferred, however noted overwhelming success of Netball Vic Association Champs, special thanks to all coaches/team managers.
 - vi. Thanks to all Board members for dedication, hard work, and personal support.
 - vii. Thanks to AFLCV RM Craig Armstead and AFLCV staff support, continuing a strong professional working relationship.
 - viii. Special thanks to retiring longstanding Board member Beres Fitch for 12-years' service, noting specific support of Interleague programs, wisdom, ability to 'think beyond the obvious' and provoke deeper thought, continued personal support provided for several BFNL Chairpersons.

5. BFNL Manager's Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.
 - a. BFNL Manager (CT) provided a verbal report summary, highlighting:
 - i. Special thanks to all BFNL members, players, volunteers, Presidents, Committees involved in 2022 season
 - ii. Thanks to clubs for involvement in various BFNL themed rounds
 - iii. Special thanks to new and continued league sponsors, local council, media outlets, BUA, BFNL Board members, retiring Board member Beres Fitch, AFLCV staff for dedication and support
 - iv. Congratulations to all Premiership teams and individual award winners
 - v. Congratulations to Maryborough U18 football & 17/U teams for returning and playing Finals
 - vi. Congratulations and thanks to netball representative team coaches, supports staff, and players/families
 - vii. Note new initiatives introduced including Premier Data, live streaming
 - viii. Note pleasing increase in overall football/netball team participation

Motion that the Annual Reports of the BFNL Chair & Manager be accepted:

Moved: Kelvin Noonan

Seconded: Mark O'Farrell

Carried



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6. AFL Central Victoria Commission Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.
 - a. Season summary offered by AFLCV Region Manager (CA):
 - i. Positive result for Leagues to complete a full season.
 - ii. Pleased with club/volunteer ability to cope with COVID positive cases, demonstrated willingness and flexibility to overcome varied challenges.
 - iii. Great Finals across region, attendance strong, reminder of associated excitement and value Finals competition creates.
 - iv. Current strong financial position of all leagues in region
 - v. Impressive 1.2% participation rate increase from 2019 (most recent full season), including clear growth in BFNL football.
 - vi. General issues of note included various behavioural incidents in general, volunteer workload, AFLCV committed to minimise volunteer burden.
 - vii. Congratulations to BFNL Board for delivering a strong product.
 - viii. Value continued strong working relationship between AFLCV & BFNL

7. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year ended 31st October 2022.
 - a. Brief financial overview offered by BFNL Manager (CT):
 - i. General BFNL financial performance overview - 2022 revenue, expenses, sponsorship, club reimbursements, and financial grants
 - ii. Impact of severe weather on Finals Series
 - iii. Implementation of league investments, initiatives, development – noting Premier Data, social media, live streaming, website development
 - iv. Importance of maintaining suitable level of cash reserves through prudent financial management, BFNL committed to providing financial relief to clubs where possible.
 - v. Identify recent significant increases to 2023 external league expenses and fees, overview of already incurred 2023 prepayments/instalments.
 - vi. Preview financial projections, intentions, challenges for season 2023.
 - vii. Intention to employ a BFNL Netball Umpire Mentor to assist clubs sourcing and developing adequate netball umpires.

Motion: The Annual Financial Statement be confirmed as a true and fair record of the financial position of the BFNL during and at the end of the financial year:

Moved: Leigh Bailey

Seconded: Tony Brancatisano

Carried



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8. Election of vacant Board positions.

Board to consist of a minimum of 7 persons, and a maximum of 9 persons.

In accordance with Part 5, Division 3, Election of Board Members & Tenure of Office of the BFNL Constitution:

- i. Beres Fitch will retire as a Board member by rotation.
- ii. Carol McKinstry, Sam McGee, Andy Walker, Cheryl Elvey, and Ellyse Roper will remain on the Board with 1-year remaining in their respective terms.

No further nominations were received for the vacant positions.

- iii. The BFNL Board will commence a process to actively identify and recruit for the remaining Board vacancies, careful to avoid recruiting good people from current club duties, with a priority to ensure volunteer service remains directly at club level where possible.
- iv. Board Chair extended thanks and special recognition of the extensive contribution of retiring BFNL Board member Beres Fitch
- v. Beres Fitch acknowledged his extended BFNL journey, various developed friendships, many challenges faced, support and developed relationships with BFNL Chair's Carol McKinstry and Paul Byrne, valued involvement with the Kangaroo Flat FNC, acknowledgement of relationships with various league managers, club Presidents, players, and volunteers. Extended best wishes to all clubs for a successful 2023 and future in general.

9. League affiliation 2023

Motion that the BFNL affiliate with AFL Victoria, AFL Central Victoria, and Netball Victoria in 2023:

Moved: Mandy Dimasi

Seconded: Ian Symons

Carried

10. Appointment of Auditor(s).

Motion to appoint Kelly & Partners/MGR Accountants as the Leagues auditor for the coming 12 months:

Moved: Kelvin Noonan

Seconded: Mark O'Farrell

Carried



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11. Other Business:

i. **Review current \$2 purchase price of regular season match-day 'Record'** **Submitted by Ian Symons, GSFNC*

(IS) tabled item for general club discussion, suggestion to review current match day Record price, to consider a small increase to \$3.

Club/League discussion points:

- a. Number of records has decreased each year (currently 75 per match)
- b. \$2 considered simple round figure, \$3 would be a 50% increase.
- c. Clubs use EFTPOS at gates, minimal impact on collecting coins.
- d. There has been no price increase for a long period, and such increase would have minimal impact on club match day revenue.
- e. Consideration to also review current general gate entry prices.
- f. Discuss investigation of developing digital records.
- g. Minimise expenses and barriers for spectator attendance.

General agreement timing is not right to increase Record pricing, however clubs are open to further review and discussion prior to season 2024.

ii. **Review current discounted match day entry prices for 'away' club members** **Submitted by Ian Symons (IS), GSFNC*

(IS) tabled item for general club discussion, consider financial suitability/impact of current discounted match day gate entry sales for 'away' club members.

Club/League discussion points:

- a. Current club membership include \$5 discount as a member benefit.
- b. Offer is reciprocated at all clubs; are clubs too generous?
- c. (MD) avoid further disincentive for club members to travel, discounted entry is an incentive to attend and increases club revenue via canteen/bar, careful of perception of price increases.
- d. (KN) never a great supporter of the concept however difficult to now change back, estimation of 250 away club members attending at \$5 per head for 9 home games equates to approximately \$12K per annum. MFNC reviewing membership fee suitability.
- e. (LB) clubs set different membership levels with varied inclusions such as discounted away entry as a marketing tool. Believe current \$5 away entry fee is fair/reasonable, support retention.
- f. (CM) Presidents were the initial driver of the change; intent was to maximise, encourage/enhance spectator attendance and atmosphere as opposed to financial impact/benefits. Suggest clubs consult Committee's for March Presidents meeting review.



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- g. (MD) too late to implement for 2023 regardless, club memberships have already been decided.
- h. (TB) Need to be cautious of being too greedy, Gisborne in direct competition with EDFL who don't charge regular season gate entry. Explain EDFL negative impacts of increasing to \$20 finals gate entry fee, feel there are other ways for clubs to generate revenue.
- i. (CA) many other leagues charge a consistent discounted away gate entry model, as a specific benefit of club membership
- j. (BF) Heathcote District FNL charge \$12 gate entry compared \$10 BFNL entry, should general entry fees be reviewed?

iii. **Presentation of 2022 Premiership Flags**

- a. Gisborne FNC (Seniors & Under 18), Golden Square FNC (Reserves)

iv. **2023 key registration milestones program (TBC)**

- a. Update on rollout, timeline, purpose of annual participant registration monitoring program.

v. **2023 AFLCV Expo (Craig Armstead) (TBC)**

- a. Scheduled for late February @ Latrobe University, including a range of education, development, and networking sessions.

vi. **Scheduled AFL Club Community Camps (Craig Armstead)**

Essendon FC 9th – 10th Feb, Castlemaine/Bendigo

- a. Consist of various school and local community visits
- b. Possible AFLCV coaching development session with Brad Scott and other assistants (Thurs evening – details TBC). Free event including Q&A
- c. Scheduled open training session @ QEO Friday morning.

North Melbourne FC 13th – 14th Feb, Rochester/Bendigo

- a. Possible club leadership and communication session led by North Melbourne Executive members for AFLCV Club Pres/Secretaries (Monday evening – details TBC)
- b. Consist of various school and local community visits (specifically recent flood impacted regions)

vii. **2023 BFNL Season Launch – Bendigo Mazda (TBC)**

- a. Update on intention and purpose to generate BFNL interest for both the league, and specific club media exposure and interviews.

viii. **Child Safety Standards**

- a. Reminder on importance for clubs to be working towards the implementation of legislated club child safety requirements to meet new standards for football and netball clubs.



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ix. Other:

- a. (IS) Further congratulations and recognition of the service of Beres Fitch, including umpire career commencing in 1990, 400+ senior games across 18 seasons, further volunteer work for KFFNC and BFNL Board.
- b. (CA) Thanks to BFNL GM.

Thank all for attendance and varied support.

Meeting closed: 8.43pm



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