

**Football Brisbane Inc.
Annual General Meeting**

**Held at QSAC
Wednesday, 21 November 2007**

Meeting Opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: Michael Bailey (President); Guido Canale (Vice President);
Ken McDougall (Treasurer); Koula Fotinos (Secretary)
Ian Dalzell (MSC); Tony Buckley (WSC); Rueben Robertson (JSC); Norm Armstrong (RSC)

Apologies: Nil

Observers: Elaine Watson, Don Look, Anthony Bahlmann, Gayle Deegan, Christine Burchnall,
Karyn Longbottom, Bruce Dinsdale

Clubs Attending: Acacia Ridge, Albany Creek, Annerley, Bardon Latrobe, Brighton, Brisbane City,
Brisbane Force, Brisbane Olympic, Brisbane Wolves, Capalaba, Clairvaux, Colleges United,
Eastern Suburbs, Grange Thistle, Greenbank, Kangaroo Pt Rovers, Logan City Kings,
Loganholme, Mitchelton, Moggill, Mooroodu, Mt Gravatt, New Farm, North Pine, Old Bridge,
Oxley United, Peninsula Power, Pine Hills, Pine Rivers, Qld Lions, Redlands, Regents Park,
Rochedale Rovers, Rocklea, Sheldon, Souths United, Southside Eagles, Taringa Rovers,
Tarragindi Tigers, The Gap, Western Spirit, Westside Sports

Clubs Apologies: Bayside United, Deception Bay, Ipswich Knights, Teviot Downs

Clubs Not Attending: AC Carina, Beenleigh, Bethania, Brisbane Athletic, Brisbane Strikers, Centenary,
Dayboro, Ipswich City, Jimboomba, John Paul College, Kenmore Lions, Kingsridge,
Logan Village, Narangba United, Newmarket, Park Ridge, Redcliffe PCYC, Ridge Hills,
Samford, Sandgate, Slacks Creek, Toowong, Uni of Qld, Virginia

Formal Opening and Chairman's Address

Mr. Michael Bailey welcomed everyone to the 2007 Annual General Meeting. He expressed his view that the initial year of operations had been successful and that competitions had been completed with a minimum of problems. He complimented the staff and the countless volunteers who contributed to this success, believing that all of this augurs well for the future of the sport here in Brisbane. He acknowledged that the organisation will learn from the year's experiences and be in a position to improve services and be more cost effective next year. He outlined some of the challenges to be faced with the release of the National Development Plan and the revised representative programme to be introduced by Football Qld.

Minutes from previous AGM held 20/11/2006

The minutes from the 2006 AGM held on 20/11/2006 had previously been distributed to members. There was no business or discussion arising from those minutes.

Motion: *That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate account of the meeting.*

Moved: Sheldon College: Seconded: Bardon Latrobe: Motion Carried

Annual Report:

The Annual Report for 2007 was presented to the meeting. There was no further discussion.

Motion: *That the Annual Report be received and adopted.*

Moved: Rocklea United: Seconded: Greenbank: Motion Carried

The Financial Reports to 30 September 2007 were presented. The Treasurer, Ken MacDougall outlined the positive result, highlighting the fact that income was received for one entire playing season but some expenditure (e.g. salaries, office expenses) were only incurred for 9 months of the accounting period. He offered all members the opportunity to review the reports and contact him for any clarification that may be needed. He commented on the need to monitor the surplus reserves and continue discussions with Football Qld to ensure complementing programmes were introduced and there was no doubling up of resource allocation. He pointed to the need to prioritise the strategies to be implemented in line with State and National planning with particular attention given to ensure additional costs were not incurred on an ongoing basis unless planned for.

Motion: *That the Financial Report for 2007 be received and adopted.*

Moved: Kangaroo Pt Rovers: Seconded: Eastern Suburbs: Motion Carried

Appointment of Auditor:

Motion: *That Bachmann Robinson be re-appointed auditor for 2008.*

Moved: Mt Gravatt: Seconded: Souths United: Motion Carried

General Business:

2008 Fees: The Competition and Registration Fees for 2008 were distributed to all clubs. There are increases from FFA and Football Qld and Football Brisbane have increased the competition component in line with CPI increases. The Treasurer presented an analysis of distribution of the fees.

2008 Budget: The Treasurer presented a paper on the 2008 budget which included an analysis of likely club costs with respect to registrations and a projected increase in numbers. He commented on the difficulty of finalising expenditure levels given the new initiatives from FFA and Football Qld that may require subsidisation.

Season Calendar: All members received copies of the 2008 Season Calendar. This will also be posted on the website and forwarded to all clubs by end of week.

FFA National Development Plan: The General Manager urged everyone to read the document as it contained some very important initiatives that needed to be planned for. He advised that a meeting was being arranged for 12 December with Robert Baan (FFA Technical Director) to give a presentation of the rationale and implementation of small sided games. More information will be sent to clubs once finalised.

Red Rooster Coaching Kits: A document outlining the contents of the coaching kits was distributed to all clubs. Final delivery details are still to be advised by Football Qld.

Club Applications and Affiliations: The President urged those who had not yet forwarded their 2008 details or have not yet paid the appropriate fees or accounts to do so to avoid risking their competition status.

Registration Process: FFA are conducting a workshop/seminar on Registrations and Competition Management on 29 November so final details of 2008 process will not be available until after that date. However, preliminary discussions indicate that players re-registering will only have to complete their name, FFA number and signature. New players would have to complete the full process that was introduced this year.

Competitions: The President advised of the process for finalising senior mens competitions now that nominations had closed. He confirmed that Palm Beach has withdrawn from the Premier League and that we were awaiting confirmation of what was happening with the Q League as the introduction of that competition in winter would affect local competitions. The Rules of Competition covered the vacancy created by the withdrawal of Palm Beach but there was no consequential flow guaranteed in this matter. He outlined the circumstances and current thoughts surrounding the re-application of Qld Lions to play in senior mens competitions. No final decisions would be made in the composition of divisions until all requested information was at hand but he indicated that the Council would make the decisions in what would be the best interests of football in Brisbane.

He confirmed the intention to offer Under 16, Under 18 and Under 21 competitions in 2008. Invitations to the junior BJL competitions would be sent shortly with all other competitions to follow previous procedure and have nominations at the end of January.

Sheldon College: Asked for confirmation of age divisions. *Will be Under 16 and Under 18 (Male and Female) and Under 21 (Males only). There will be an Under 15 girls if enough nominations are received.*

Brisbane Force: Outlined their views on the Qld Lions scenario. Believed that it was not fair and had conducted a survey amongst Premier clubs. They believed the results show that the clubs feel disenfranchised from decisions. Asked how a decision could have been made in advance of nominations being finalised and that there has been precedence in such situations. *President re-affirmed decision would be made in best interests of football and that original decision had been made on basis of information to hand. It was known that the Council decision was unpopular with competing clubs but early notice to Lions and other clubs was appropriate.*

Rocklea United: Who was administering the proposed Q League? *Football Qld are running the competition.*

Souths United: Expressed view that there seemed to be a lack of balance between consultation and input from clubs and Council decisions. *The President responded that it was his understanding that the intent of the new constitutions was to allow governing authorities the means to govern without having to constantly refer every decision to members for approval. He supposed that was to enable processes to proceed and to allow for unpopular decisions to be made that executives and councils believed to be in the best interests of the game. This was not necessarily his personal view of how it should be organised but his interpretation of the intent of the constitution. He stated that Football Brisbane did consult via discussions with clubs, standing committees and meetings such as the AGM. The clubs had the ultimate authority as they elected the Council and had the power to remove them.*

Mrs. Elaine Watson: Mrs. Watson expressed her opinion that the current meeting was invalid as it did not conform to the Constitution and the requirements for verifying delegates. *The President declared that the meeting was valid as the Constitution gave the Chair authority to override that section and to determine meeting procedures in order that the AGM should take place.*

Mrs. Watson outlined other concerns with parts of the Constitution that were poorly written and conflicting and asked why no action had been taken on the draft the Constitutional Work Group had submitted to the Zone Council. *The President agreed that the current document was flawed but that it was workable and allowed Football Brisbane to get on with its core business.*

Brisbane Olympic: Would participation in the Q league preclude participation in the Brisbane Premier League? They are likely to be separate entities. *Without any official information about the structure and rules, there can be no definitive answer but there would likely be some concerns in areas such as registration about allowing participation in both.*

Brisbane Wolves: When would definitive answer about Under 21s proceeding be available? *Nominations will not be requested till next year and would only continue if enough support from clubs. Intent of offering competition was to fill the gap between end of juniors and moving into Metro comps for players who may need more time to mature and/or wish to continue to play as a group for their chosen club.*

Brisbane Force: Asked the President to clarify the election process for Standing Committees and subsequent changes to these. Expressed concern about lack of knowledge on the Committees. *The original Standing Committees are elected by the clubs The President accepted that there had been some initial misunderstandings with the JSC but these had now been clarified. He declared that he had confidence in all the current Standing Committees and their members. He acknowledged the difficult role of such committees. At present there were not Futsal or Coaches Standing Committees.*

The delegate asked about the issue of licenses to administer competitions. *The President explained that in Brisbane the only license was held by Football Brisbane as distinct from the previous year when four licenses were issued to the sectors. Licenses were not actual documents this year and were issued from Football Qld.*

Brighton: Asked about details for Licensed Suppliers. *Memo from Football Qld has already been forwarded to clubs advising of the names of the suppliers. Many had already contacted clubs direct.*

Asked about the structure of Under 6/7 age groups and Rooball. *Advised that no undertaking can be given until after the meeting on 12 December as changes at lowest age groups are inevitable.*

New Farm: Expressed concerns about the treatment of Mrs. Watson by the President and questioned why the clubs were not involved in the process to look at the Constitution and what could be done to speed up the process of review. *The President responded that he could not allow the legitimacy of the AGM to be questioned and had acted accordingly. The correct procedures for revising the Constitution was for Councillors to see and comment on the draft before releasing it to Clubs for comment and approval. He also indicated that any new constitution must be approved by Football Qld.*

Eastern Suburbs: Expressed concerns about the lack of definitive information on Q League from Football Qld given the effect on local competitions and all clubs.

Loganholme: In reply to earlier comment, wanted it noted that the experience on the Junior Standing Committee was extensive and was working cohesively after early problems.

Brisbane City: Given comments made about communication with Football Qld, suggested they be invited to attend meetings in future.

Kangaroo Pt Rovers: Asked if Football Brisbane had yet determined a contingency plan if grounds became unplayable. *Is currently reliant on clubs maintaining standards but should be added to list of items considered in corporate plan.*

Toowoomba Raiders: Commented about the need for major sporting organisations to work together on projects like the above. *Sports Federation does perform that task and submitted recommendations to Water Commission.*

Toowoomba Raiders: Commented on the obvious strain and tension between Football Brisbane and Football Qld at highest level. Should work towards better working relationship with clearer and informed explanations coming out of each organisation. *Our organisation is often frustrated about having major projects that have*

major impact announced with no pre-warning or consultation but does believe we have good daily working relationship with staff and CEO due to proximity of offices. Agreement that must strive to improve relationship and communication.

Toowoomba Raiders: Commented on lack of media coverage and should look at ways to address this problem. This has been a perennial problem with major media but not so much with local suburban press. We are always sending information but coverage is dominated by major national sports at expense of local sport. Difficulty even exists with self promotion (E.g. Magazine) when is difficult to get contributions from volunteers at club level.

Mitchelton: Asked President to define the "best interests of football" and what criteria would be used to assess Qld Lions application. In response the President said that the "best interests" of football might differ depending on the situation. It was therefore difficult to establish fixed criteria that would cover every eventuality. The Zone Council would always make decisions based on the available information in good faith. The Council had no bias, fixed positions, agendas or preconceptions beyond governing Football Brisbane in the best possible manner.

Rocklea United: Commented that clubs need to know what is happening with Q League. President re-affirmed earlier statement that once official information is received it will be passed on immediately.

North Pine: Looking for confirmation of BJJ invites. Will be sent by end of month.

Brighton: Requested some breakdown on the financial aspect of Referees Income v Expenditure. Ken will get details and respond by email.

Brighton: Asked President about strategies being considered to increase referee numbers. A number of strategies are being worked on and advice being sought from interstate associations. Clubs would be a major part of any initiatives with access to potential referees and conducting courses. Also in helping reduce issues that drive referees away from game at present e.g. spectator abuse, poor conditions.

Sheldon: Should consider use of a strategy like different colour vest for newer referees.

Brisbane Olympic: Should consider making it compulsory for clubs to train certain number of referees.

Brisbane Wolves: Asked what would be process to collect referees levy next year. President advised that no final decision had yet been made but it will definitely change after last year's method had been unsuccessful and proven unpopular.

Brighton: Advised that they considered last year's method worked well for them.

Mitchelton: Suggested that consideration should be given to eliminating the levy completely, given the level of profit generated. The President explained the philosophy of the association needing to create a surplus to fund future projects and initiatives over coming years.

Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 19 November 2008.

Moved: Rocklea United: Seconded: Brisbane Wolves: Motion Carried

Close: The President thanked all for attending and participating in discussions.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm