



Minutes of General Meeting Held 19 January 2009

Meeting Opened: - 7.05pm

Chairperson: - John Mc Martin

Present: - Bob Lennox, Rob Weisback & Steve Birchall (Nirimba), Matthew Guarrera & Paul Fraser (UTS), Ben Wilding (Notre Dame), Glenn Reece (Refs), Jim Pizantias (Syd U), Kieran Lorraine & Henry Albornoz (C'land), Joel Begnell (Bathurst), Stephen Nemeth (RailCorp), Lucas Duncombe (N'castle), M Dowel (Sec)

Apologies: - Bill Duncan (WS Blues), Rod Burke (M'thur), Navy delegate

Suspension of Standing Orders: - Chairman invited ARLD representative Cameron O'Riordan to address meeting and conduct power point presentation on the new on-line registration and player clearance procedures to be introduced this year, concluding with Q & A session. Handout on new procedures provided to all delegates. Chairman thanked Cameron for his presentation and normal meeting procedures then resumed.

Acceptance of Previous minutes: - Minutes of 01/09/08 meeting moved for acceptance by RW, 2nd SB and carried

Matters Arising: -

- ◆ Nil

Correspondence: - No formal correspondence, however, a number of emails received/despached relevant to matters acted upon or to be raised for discussion later:

- ◆ New Clubs – Lewisham Old Boys/Notre Dame, Uni of Canberra, Navy Titans
- ◆ Player injury insurance prospectus from OAMPS
- ◆ Confirmation of booking of Norford Park for 2009 semi finals on 22/8 & 29/8 and preliminary final on 5/9
- ◆ Meeting room bookings with RE Leagues Club for first Monday each month Feb to Oct
- ◆ Endorsement of C'land's request to NSWRL for club to send a team on tour to Cook Is.

Treasurer's Report: -

- ◆ Account balance \$3563.26 cr to start season, with all items for 2008 accounted for. However, Treasurer informed recently of a small amount outstanding relating to affiliation fees owed by a club for 2007 season. Matter to be taken up direct with club concerned.

President's Report: -

- ◆ Pleased that the prospects for coming season looked good, with 3 new clubs likely to join and most existing clubs indicating equal or improved involvement to last year. All going well the League could feature 2 X 10 team comps, very encouraging given the general downturn experienced in other comps. A special welcome too to Ben Wilding, delegate for new club Lewisham Old Boys/Notre Dame;
- ◆ Injury Insurance – Chairman explained that NSWRL wanted clubs in our League to take out injury insurance for all players. Bob Lennox, who had contacted a number of insurance companies for information/quotes, was invited to address meeting. BL outlined reasons behind the need for this type of insurance and that the best offer in price/cover was obtained from a company used and recommended by a number of ARL and NSWRL affiliates, OAMPS. BL stressed that it was a basic injury cover, similar in benefits to that in place in many Junior Leagues but for considerably less cost (approx \$60/player, compared with around \$160 for JL), but all players should be made aware of the need to also have private health cover. A big advantage with OAMPS is they are prepared to accept premium calculation on a notional number of players per team per club, say 20 per team, rather than the actual number of registered players with a club (as applies with most JL's). In addition, based on last year's income/expenditure, it was felt the League could subsidise the cost to bring it down to \$30/player for this season. Players could obtain top-up cover at their own cost if desired and SN requested more details in this regard to take back to his club. Moved JM that all clubs agree to accept OAMPS injury insurance arrangements, with clubs to be invoiced this season for \$600 for one team and \$1200 for two teams. 2nd SB and carried.

Registrar's Report:-

- ◆ As per ARLD session at start of meeting

Referee's Report:-

- ◆ Numbers look ok at this early stage but a general lack refs throughout all comps is cause for concern and may see some associations needing to amalgamate;
- ◆ NSW Ref Ass'n impressed with our City/Ctry game and may want to use junior rep refs for it (and any other rep games) in future;
- ◆ BL expressed concerns about ref resources, including equipment, given prospect of more games this season. Also JB asked that better quality refs be provided for Bathurst games. GR to take both matters on board;
- ◆ Requested add for refs to be placed on website, SB/RW to action.

Representative Report:-

- ◆ Try-outs for NSW team to play Qld to be held at Norford Park on 5/4 from 9.00am. Add on website and already 40-50 nominations received. SB asked to place add on AURL website;
- ◆ Annual NSW Vs Qld match to be held ANZAC weekend at Suncorp Stadium as preliminary match to Broncos Vs Parra game. Actual date of match will not be known until NRL match scheduling completed in a couple of weeks. When determined tour dates will be posted on website;
- ◆ Better support from NSW clubs needed to ensure quality selection of players for this game, especially given support Qld receives from clubs up there for its team. JM to take matter up with Geoff Carr. SB also suggested approaching NRL (Toyota Cup) as well;
- ◆ Aust team to be selected immediately after NSW/Qld game and commencing 27/6 will proceed on 2 week tour to Darwin/Tonga (yet to be confirmed)/Fiji/New Zealand;
- ◆ City/Ctry game scheduled for 25/7 and subject to confirmation to be played at Western Weekender Stadium;
- ◆ Negotiations continue to have NSW team (selected from eligible players only from our comp) to tour Serbia at end of season, but as was the case last season costs will dictate whether it can proceed. Matter will be finalised very soon, with alternative found if Serbia does not proceed.

General Business: -

- ◆ Comp to start 28/3 and clubs to let SB know final team nominations asap;
- ◆ 9's pre-season comp to be held 21/3. MD to book Norford Park if available;
- ◆ BL mentioned that we have been invited to enter a team in International 9's to be held at Cabramatta on weekend 7/8 Feb. Given most clubs will not even have started training by then invitation declined;
- ◆ Jersey Design for Notre Dame agreed after consultation with clubs in attendance
- ◆ Club Rounds
 1. C'land – Tour to Cook Islands to proceed in Feb. Having trouble securing a ground and usual problems getting players, but should be ok to field two teams again;
 2. Syd Uni – Change of committee will see new direction for club and promised improved attendance at our meetings. Better financial assistance from the uni. Training commences next week;
 3. Bathurst – Large number of past players have left uni so 2009 will see many new faces. One team will entered;
 4. RailCorp – Things looking good with 90% of 2008 players returning and have obtained a new sponsor. Training starts in Feb, one team to be nominated;
 5. Notre Dame – Progressing well and two teams may even be a possibility. Still working with Leichhardt Council to find a ground;
 6. N'castle – 2008 best season for a long time and with new committee they are working to continue the improvement for this year. Finances good and hopeful of fielding 2 teams;
 7. UTS – Fair amount of positive change at the club, which will now be linked with Balmain Tigers, providing them access to better playing/ training

facilities. Games to be played at Leichhardt Oval on under card of Balmain NSW Cup and junior rep games so SB to bear in mind when working draw;

8. Nirimba – Training to commence soon, numbers expected to be on a par with 2008

Meeting Closed: - 8.35pm

Next Meeting: - 2 February, 7.00pm