



WARATAH NETBALL CLUB

Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22nd October 2019

Present	Nicole Cadogan, David Cadogan, Dwight Graham, Ellie Stanley, Amy Richards, Jane Stoodley, Isobel Stoodley, Ash Phillips, Lauren Jukes, Jackie Jukes,
Apologies	Nick Osborne, Carla Killen, Stephanie Movigliatti, Megan Newbury, Liz Gold
Meeting Opened	6.35pm

Agenda

Previous Minutes	Isobel Stoodley moved that the minutes of the previous meeting on 17.9.19 and the Club Forum be accepted as a true and accurate recorded.	Seconded by Jane Stoodley. Carried.
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Outstanding Business

Item	Discussion	Action
Club shirts/Uniform	<p>On hold til next meeting as Nicole and Carla have not heard from 100% Netball, on the shirts. If they haven't heard Nicole will contact on 1st November, and once back with the quote will order the shirts. Aim to have for selection day and registration.</p> <p>Club Credit with The Netball Shop was discussed, to be used on new game pinnies. Nicole will organize.</p>	<p>Nicole to buy new game pinnies with TNS credit. Maroon colours. Dwight to buy training pinnies- bright colours, on eBay.</p>
WEMOOSH Plan	Varying ages and abilities, so far went well. Varied in number from 10-16 people depending on what was occurring and timing around afternoon tea. Most seemed to have fun- coaches think it will work out. Jackie and Jane are experienced coaches running it overall which is ideal with the varying ages and skill levels. Netball court- half taken over by demountable, half the width but the full	Jane and Jackie to continue coordinating program at WEMOOSH

	<p>length. 10 people are okay but more may be more challenging. Already on social media. Photos- no faces but can take photos from behind etc (WEMOOSH rules). Next week Veronica and Jane are coaching. Plan for whole program will be available from Jane. One child from east OOSH was interested but not enough for the bus, but may be as it grows in interest.</p>											
Greater Open Meeting/Possible Merger	<p>NNA direction seems good.</p> <p>Greater Open 1 team per club in Greater Open.</p> <p>Greater Open (GO) > Greater reserve > U23s (side comp to A, Bs etc.). Nil borrowing player policy for GO. Must have GO and Reserve division teams. Bridge between as below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="461 674 1200 787"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Greater Open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A grade</td> <td>Greater "Reserves"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1 grade</td> <td>23's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A2 grade</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A3 grade etc</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Might have multiple teams to draw from. Would you be able to train with them? (David)</p> <p>Have to apply to be in GO, must have a development plan, including giving back to someone. ie supporting juniors onwards.</p> <p>GO to always play at 2.30pm, so players would miss out. Maybe Friday night game instead?</p> <p>Communicated with Tracey (from Forsythes) re possible connections, to hear back from her. Forsythes will have to align with someone as they will now require a development plan. Without full payment of everything they won't go to a team ie free membership, games, training, umpiring, gym membership etc provided by Forsythes. Their reserves only pay the NNA cost not a club cost.</p> <p>NNA Goal- next 5 years have a Sydney team – need a 24 player squad to be invited which would not leave many players in our comp. Keep going with broadcast with Sam Poolman:</p> <p>Feedback (GO final):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor court location - Maybe Sunday so only game rather than competing with other finals - 		Greater Open	A grade	Greater "Reserves"	A1 grade	23's	A2 grade		A3 grade etc		<p>Contact Tracey re thoughts: Nicole.</p> <p>Dwight to give email address to Nicole.</p> <p>If asked to provide feedback on GO Final and broadcasting Secretary will send in notes from today's meeting.</p>
	Greater Open											
A grade	Greater "Reserves"											
A1 grade	23's											
A2 grade												
A3 grade etc												
Equipment	<p>Most coaches and managers have returned or provided an equipment list to Liz.</p>	<p>Jane to follow up stragglers.</p>										

Manager Reports	Still worthwhile doing. Few questions- parent/player participation, did you use equipment/resources provided.	Isobel to do properly.
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Correspondence

Date - From	Item	Action
21/10/19	Office of Sport- Local Sport Grant Program Can't use for food but interested in using it for gala day something else to recoup costs. Applications due 25 th November.	Isobel to draft application if she finds an appropriate use for the funds.
21/10/19	City of Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan- Preliminary Directions Discussion Paper Summary by Jane, attended : (netball specific) -It is a feedback and review phase - 61 netball courts (30 comp and 31 training) - lightning is an issue, 46% have consistent lightning. Less have competition lightning. Supporting amenities and facilities don't always meet requirements including poor drainage. - Recommendations: there will be 7 deficit netball courts by 2031 - National park- upgrading lightning supporting, car parking plan in action. Redevelop courts up to 36 courts, relocation all courts to one side! Reconfiguring soccer. Training courts in western area – Minmi direction- Shortland might go under that area so potentially we could utilize that to get WNC courts in the area. Feedback from WNC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern re club payment needed - Timeline > feedback send > next phase in report to council > very conceptual - 2023 maybe date (Jane unsure) - Keen to support and use plan to lobby for courts our direction - Courts at Waratah Park? Warabrook? 2 courts plus lightning – at the moment both are grass and only have hoops (some bent and unusable) 	Jane to provide feedback to Newcastle City.

23/9/19 Sue Johns (NNA)	Sports Shorts September 2019	
16/9/19 Terry (MWBC)	Note from cleaners thanking us for cleaning up after presentation	
22/9/19 Dwight Graham	A9 – Public Officer A12 – Financial status	Dwight sent and paid \$47 fee.
10/10/19	Suncorp Net Set Go – How did your program go	Nicole did- hard to do as a club participant not a player.
21/10/19	Mark Hughes Certificate	

Reports

Item	Discussion	Action
Treasurer's Report	<p>As at the end of September we have \$11,674 in the bank. Isobel has provided updated presentation money (+\$320 for presentation payment and -\$273.03 for decorations). Paid bill for drinks and meals (47 meals charged, next time to consult with Social Coordinator to ensure right numbers have been charged). Noted only future costs are sending the body suits to someone.</p>	Dwight moved it, Jane seconded.
Registrar's Report	<p>The Registrar noted that there had been some success with respect to the Expression of Interest (EOI) options on the Club website (see 2019 Forum Minutes action in Item 3). So far he had four EOIs from three seniors and one 14yr old.</p> <p>The Registrar also advised that 'pre-registration' via MyNetball is not possible. Additionally, it is impractical to register via MyClubMate, and then transfer all the data across. He therefore recommended that the Club continues to send out reminder emails to all 2019 players via MyClubMate email, and to EOI players (and any other interested persons) via separate emails from the Registrar.</p> <p>Tamworth Association to put the moving to Newcastle flyer on their social media. (Thanks Jackie!). To schools- Newsletter this term and see if they will share via their Facebook pages</p>	<p>Jane to put EOI on social media.</p> <p>Jane CO: Facebook page from schools- might be able on their social media</p> <p>Isobel and Jane to contact schools re newsletter submissions.</p>

		Registrar to email players who have put in EOIs at registration time.
Fundraising Report	No report.	
Coaching Convener's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Dwight for all his hard work over the last two years. • I plan to meet with each of the coaches to ascertain how I can best support the coaches going forward. • After that I will put out an expression of interest on the Facebook and Website to see if there are any would be coaches in the wings. • Currently the WEMOOSH program is the focus. Thank you to those who have agreed to help. • I am also developing a shooting program that I am trialling with a couple of players. Dependent on the success of that trial, I will offer it to other shooters within the club. • When I meet with the Senior coaches, I will discuss the Preseason Club Training in 2020 and brainstorm how it should run and liaise with Mark Grinham re incorporating some targeted fitness within that framework. Then I hope to have a full coaches meeting. • Several coaches will need to update their WWC numbers in 2020. And some of the younger coaches will now need to get WWC checks as they are over 18 years of age. I will discuss with the relevant coaches when I meet with them. 	Nick/Registrar: look at putting a working with children check field for registration – to check.
Umpiring Convener's Report	Nothing to report.	
Social Coordinator's Report	Handover over with past Social Coordinator went well.	
Communication Officer Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no duty statement, so will be working actively to define the role initially and would be interested in any views on that. Please email me your thoughts or ideas. (This is a Strat Plan Action) 	Jane to put committee members together in chat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I anticipate taking the lead on social media and ensuring information on the Website is current and accurate. Active promotion of club events and building a sense of community will be a priority. (As per Strat Plan) • I will develop a roster for contribution from teams and coaches in 2020. (As per Strat Plan) • As part of defining the role, I also anticipate creating some guidelines around communication for the club to reference. • Committee members in coaches and managers chat? ie Ash Phillips <p>Suggestions for social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep profiles and baby photos etc. - Jackie with Masters - Ideas to Jane. 	<p>Exec to add committee members into the Coaches and Managers chat for universal communication point.</p> <p>Any ideas for social media content to be sent to Jane.</p>
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New Business

Item	Discussion	Action
Team Selection	<p>Jackie and Jane: suggest that we use 3 week training “club training” for selectors (squad style). Players that couldn’t come on the traditional one day event have multiple options. Combination of skills and game play.</p> <p>Reminder next year give the actual dates.</p> <p>Still need to market it as selection so it’s taken seriously but reduce pressure as it is multiple sessions.</p> <p>Ellie- only concern, have to be registered to do it however will combine with Registration–see below in registration.</p> <p>Appeals process will still be the same - 48 hours to appeal.</p> <p>22nd Feb- teams have to be in to NNA</p> <p>Dwight- make compulsory, do on a Tuesday to start the habit of training and test people’s commitment.</p> <p>Rego form at first training (positions, who you want to play with etc.)- hard to do on MyNetball registration system so can’t do as part of registration.</p> <p>28th January, first training- following next 3 weeks.</p> <p>Similar for juniors but start 4th February.</p> <p>Juniors 4-5.30pm, seniors 6-7.30/8pm.</p> <p>CO to coordinate contacting players about the new process.</p>	<p>CO to communicate via email – one for seniors and juniors.</p> <p>Social media mid January.</p> <p>Selection panel to include Jane, Jackie, Nick, Dwight (Dwight unable to be there 4th and 18th but will be involved) and a 3rd party (TBC).</p>

	<p>Selection panel: possible to have an independent person to assist >> Nicole to find option. Independent person only for 2nd and 3rd weeks for final selection.</p>	
<p>Registration and 2020 Season Dates</p>	<p>Ash: University O week Tuesday to Friday 18th – 21st February? Ash is waiting to hear back to see if we can and organization information. Jane- presence is a good option re casuals/people for next year. Everyone in favour as long as cost is minimal.</p> <p>Also discussed sharing through Facebook groups such as Medical Students at UoN etc.</p> <p>Rego day: 1st February 10-2pm.</p> <p>Rego table at the club training> Nick and Doof could manage. 4th February 5.30-6pm. Nicole to assist with Juniors.</p>	<p>CO to make generic post re use WNC for netball to be passed on to committee members to share (ie Ash for Medical Students at UoN).</p> <p>Ash to continue contact re O week.</p>
<p>Nick's Report from Netball Australia partnership Forum</p>	<p>The Registrar provided the following input for the meeting.</p> <p>On Wed 9th October, the Registrar attended a Netball Australia Partnership Forum. This was on behalf of the Defence Force Netball Association, however the comments below are relevant to Club and Associations.</p> <p>Use of Social Media</p> <p>The NA media team presented their data on the NA “reach” via social media. Their information has direct relevance to small clubs such as ours. In particular, they noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Social’ referral is much better than ‘search” referral. In other words, using Facebook or Instagram is more effective than expecting members to find us via Google. <p>Recommendation: we should ensure that our social media is our priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spread of traffic across social media is approx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% mobile • 20% web based • 10% tablet <p>Recommendation: we should ensure that our website is optimised for mobile access. (Nick)</p> <p>NA also noted the following</p>	

- A strong support mechanism is a pre-existing family network. Particularly when parents or older siblings bring in the younger members.

Recommendation: continue to host the ‘family orientated’ opportunities such as coming to watch a Suncorp Super Netball match at a Club BBQ, or the family netball events. NB - 40% of NetSetGo were unaware of Suncorp Super Netball!

- Personal stories are very powerful, as they develop a ‘habit of engagement and tribalism’

Recommendation: use ‘Player Profiles’ more regularly and more often. (Jane thought: Exec profiles til X-mas, combined people)

- Forming partnerships with other sports is very effective

Recommendation: form an alliance with another sport such as cricket (off season), or football (in season) to increase our family base (Cricket already have partnership—haven’t done yet ☹ Nicole hasn’t done yet. To put up.)

- Word of mouth is still the most effective means of increasing our player base. Note that WMOOSH is likely to be an effective activity. Additionally, we need to our players, especially our youth, to develop the attitude of ‘talking around the dinner table’. The use of Club ‘Ambassadors’ to engage the younger teams could be effective.

Recommendation: we maintain focus on ‘older teams mentoring younger teams’

- NA noted that they have sometimes fallen into the trap of deciding what their membership ‘wants’ before engaging them. Therefore some of their strategies have failed. As a Club we also run the risk of the same, although less likely with a small Club.

Recommendation: we ensure we have close engagement with our membership base to ensure we are providing what they want. (Survey at start with registration – what do you want out of being in Waratah Netball Club)

Kate Eddy (Vixens 2020) Comments

- Kate made a comment re being injured. She noted that she still felt part of the Swifts, and maintained a very close link to them, even though she was

	<p>injured and unlikely to play the last few games with them. She put this down to a very strong team bond, that continued to include her in all facets even though she was not able to play.</p> <p>Recommendation: coaches and managers ensure that all players are reminded of, and are included in, teamship activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate noted that she took up netball (she was a very good athlete) because she wanted to be part of a 'team'. <p>Recommendation: we ensure we promote the 'community and team' focus of the Club.</p> <p>WNC thanked Nick for his report and agreed we are on track for meeting recommendations particularly through Strategic Plan.</p>	
Representation at NNA Grading Committee	Jane: NNA will want someone from each club to represent at Grading. First instinct is Registrar but if Nick isn't available someone from Selection Committee.	To send Nick (and David if needed). David to go to review for Juniors. Nicole offered to be a back up.
MWBC Markets	Jackie: MWBC is potentially holding a market event (eg Saturday at twilight) to help boost interest, potential for WNC to have a stall to advertise playing netball with us or fundraising by doing a BBQ sausage sizzle. WNC in favor of supporting and attending.	Jackie to pass on that WNC are supportive and willing to help out.

Strategic Plan (Monitoring and Evaluation)

Item	Discussion	Action
Social Media thoughts	Mayfield Bowling Club Exec and staff profiles. Include sharing with Mayfield Bowling Club (ie could be President and President)	CO to organize profiles with both committees. Potentially at markets?

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Action
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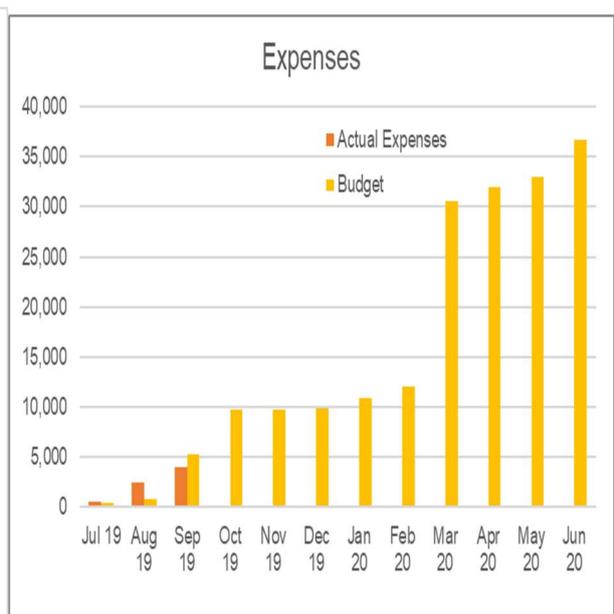
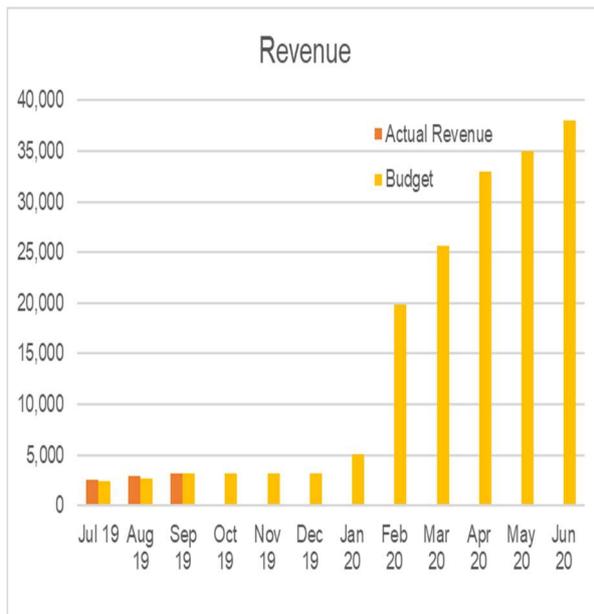
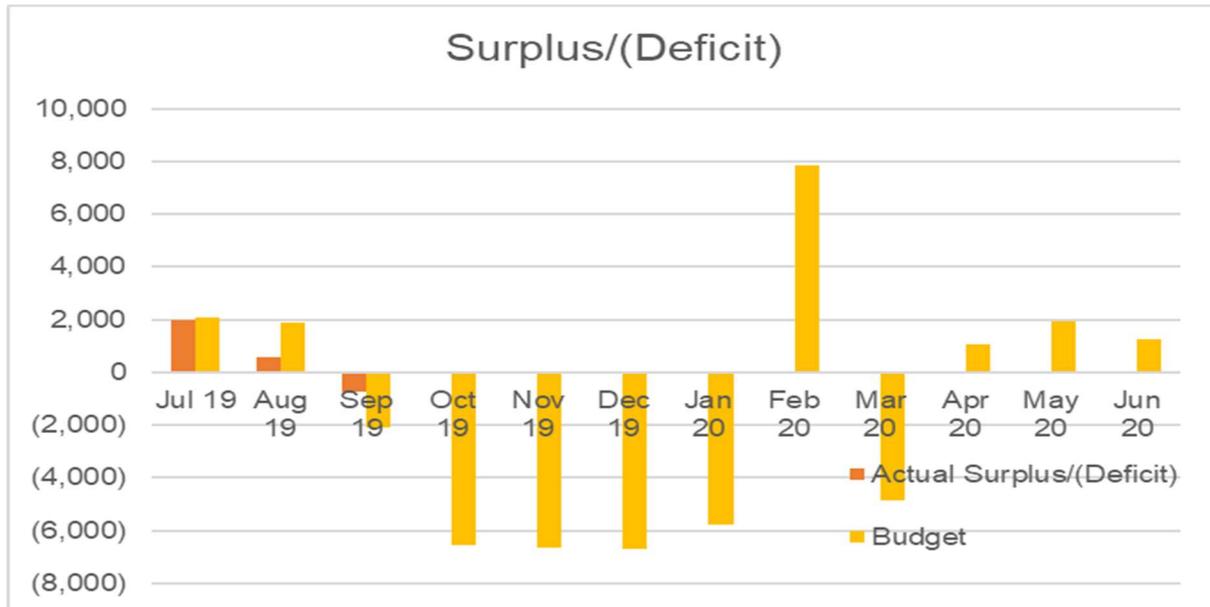
Friday 13 th December	X-mas party: Dwight's house.	Everyone to attend and have a good time!
Sunday 17 th November 2019	Dawn from Mayfield West Bowling Club holding a Fundraiser for her extended family who lost everything in the recent fires. 17 th November 2019. President will be there to support and encouraged everyone who could to attend. Coaches and managers to pass on. Potentially organize a team of WNC members to participate ie a bowls team.	Nicole will be there CO to send out information about a team with consulting Nicole.

Next Meeting: **22nd January 2020 at 6.30pm, MWBC**

Meeting Closed: 8.25pm



2019/20 July Month Finance Report



Notes

As at the end of September we have \$11,674 in the bank.

We have just received (in October) an invoice from the Bowling club for the Presentation night for \$1,279. This will reduce the \$1,810 positive variance (across the Presentation and Pres Vouchers lines) to \$531 and reducing the bank balance to \$10,395.

We received less Presentation income than I expected. Perhaps some was used to pay bills related to the presentation evening?



2019/20 July Month Finance Report



Waratah Netball Club Inc

Financial Report

YTD, ending 30 September 2019

Income	2019-20 Month Budget	September Month Actuals	Variation Fav / (Unfav)	2019-20 YTD Budget	2019-20 YTD Actuals	Variation Fav / (Unfav)	2019-20 Budget	Remaining Budget
Registration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00	18,621.50	18,531.50
Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	8,000.00	5,500.00
Fundraising - Trivia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Fundraising - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Pie Drive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Uniform Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Other Income	0.00	251.00	251.00	0.00	356.00	356.00	0.00	(356.00)
Presentation Fees	450.00	0.00	(450.00)	650.00	300.00	(350.00)	650.00	350.00
Total Income	450.00	251.00	(199.00)	3,150.00	3,246.00	96.00	37,971.50	34,725.50

Expenditure:								
Coaches Courses	58.33	0.00	(58.33)	175.00	300.00	(125.00)	700.00	400.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Other - Office	8.33	0.00	(8.33)	25.00	0.00	25.00	100.00	100.00
Coaching Equip & Balls	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Pie Drive Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Trivia Night	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MyClubMate Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	450.00
Preseason	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Petty Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Presentation	3,335.00	1,190.96	(2,144.04)	4,002.00	2,992.49	1,009.51	4,002.00	1,009.51
Presentation Vouchers	800.00	0.00	(800.00)	800.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
NNA Rego & Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	15,590.64	15,540.64
Rego & Other Refunds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	650.00
Social Memberships	250.00	0.00	(250.00)	250.00	230.00	20.00	250.00	20.00
Uniform Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Fundraising Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Miscellaneous Costs	0.00	356.00	356.00	400.17	407.99	(7.82)	250.00	(157.99)
Total Expenditure	4,451.67	1,546.96	(2,904.71)	5,652.17	3,980.48	1,671.69	36,692.64	32,712.16
FY18-19 Inc/(Exp)	(4,001.67)	(1,295.96)	2,705.71	(2,502.17)	(734.48)	(1,575.69)	1,278.86	

Bank Account		Petty Cash	
Balance at 01 Jul 19	\$12,409.12	Balance at 01 Jul 19	\$132.50
Total Credits	3,246.00	Income:	
Total Debits	3,980.48	Outgoing:	
Current Balance	\$11,674.64	Closing Petty C	\$132.50
	-1295.96		

Net Worth		Outstanding Debtors	
Bank Balance	\$11,674.64	Registration	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$132.50	Uniforms	\$0.00
Less debtors	\$0.00		
Net Worth	\$11,807.14		\$0.00
Increase/(Decrease)	(\$734.48)		

DJ Graham
Dwight Graham
Treasurer

Wrap up of the Greater Open Meeting held at NNA on Wednesday 25th September 2019

So a lot of talk was had and it was hard to understand people at times as everyone had a voice and wanted to use it, no matter who was talking. It looks undisputed that the Greater Open will be restricted to one team per Club/Independent (I use this word due to Forsythes being classed as a Club because they have 2 teams). This was most favoured due to their being 7 different teams within the comp this year and the 2nd Wests Balance team being flogged. They brought up the Souths 2nd team that was in that got flogged, the 2nd BNC team that got flogged, so said to be fairer for competition and allow more competition for those spots they will only allow single teams in.

As for the next part, they want to separate the GO from the normal competition and have it as like a side comp. So it would look a little like this:

	Greater Open
A grade	Greater "Reserves"
A1 grade	23's
A2 grade	
A3 grade etc	

So the Greater Open and Reserves grades would allow players to be moved around like a squad type situation. There is talk that maybe to allow that to be more fair, anyone who currently plays in Metro, Premier or some other league would have to be nominated at the start of the season that they cannot be moved down to Reserves, but anyone in Reserves and 23's could be moved up and down as necessary. There would be no cap on how many games you could play, as this would allow the teams in Opens to give exposure to the players below (main focus on the younger ones) and if someone in a lower team is having a blinder whilst one of the top players is faltering, then they could be swapped over to give the top player time to regroup and the lower player to experience top division. A lot of this focus is to build our pool of 23 & under players as the region is putting in a bid again in either 2022 or 2023 to have a Premier League team out of Newwy. And Cherie Peru was very vocal about how the Premier League works and what requirements there are to be nominated and considered. She says at this time we only have a pool of youngsters of about 12-14 ready for the challenge, however there needs to be 24-30, and this will help it grow.

As for the table set out above, they are talking about having players able to move from A & A1 grade across to the other 3 and that is how the ones wanting to take their netball further will move sideways, and the ones who don't will stay in the left. A lot of talking was had on all this and some of it seemed very irrelevant, but again, everyone had a voice and they all wanted to use it – loudly!

The discussion of aligning smaller Clubs with independent or even small high grade teams was brought up. The concept would be that if we aligned Waratah with Forsythes for example, they could use our A1 players to play in their 23's, Reserves, or Open teams, and still be eligible to play in A1 without fear of being taken out of our team. This gives them exposure to the highest level in Newcastle and also is looked at hoping that players will see, "If you come to Waratah we can expose you to Greater Open". Whilst the concept was largely accepted, the discussions around the monitoring and such were discussed. I had been thinking through the day about how would Waratah

be recognised as Waratah and this pathway available? And suggested at the meeting that if this went ahead, would a Waratah player be allowed to play in the Forsythes team in their Waratah uniform, so players watching the game, or walking past, would know we had an affiliation with Forsythes? Otherwise it just looks like another player in their team playing. Some agreed with me, some didn't. Cherie (again) voiced that you would incorporate your colours into the colours of the team/Club you aligned with and that's how you would be recognised, others said just word of mouth or written promotion, but I find this not as effective as a Waratah player in a Forsythes team in a Waratah uniform. You can't get more promotion for alliance than that! Anyway, that was sort of left until later as there were so many discussions happening around the way the offset comp would be set.

There is talk of all the GO games being played at 2.30pm so the players from Reserves and 23's could play in both teams. The umpiring issue was raised about umpires coaching and playing as well so not being available for games. But that was agreed that that is a rostering issue and would be dealt with after the GO setup has been resolved.

There was a push for any team nominating for GO has to have a development plan in place, hence the alignment with a junior or smaller Club. They also mentioned about, if you have the tiers above (they couldn't decide if 2 tiers consisting only of GO and 23's was sufficient, or if 3 tiers consisting of GO, GR and 23's was better) that to nominate for GO you would also have to have a 2nd team to nominate for GR so you can pull players from that team. I said again that that doesn't help Waratah because we don't have the players to form 1 team let alone 2, and they said again about the alignment, to which I again said well if a Waratah player isn't in a Waratah uniform playing for their aligned team then who would know it's a Waratah player? Which got a few more umms and ah-ha's.... mind you, throughout the whole thing when people were commenting on the one team per blah in GO and asking what would happen with their 2nd tier players who want to break into the GO comp but now can't if there's only one team per blah allowed, I was very vocal in telling them to send them our way!! Hahahaha

They also questioned whether we open up the GO to more teams and have the comp go longer, as they have been contacted from Charlestown and somewhere else asking if their teams can join the grade. They are looking towards bringing talent from outside Newcastle itself and getting the players from Maitland and Charlestown and Port Stephens to come and play and build that competition and strengthen our bid for the inclusion in the Sydney leagues. So we could potentially see a larger competition happen.

I can't really think of anything else that happened at the meeting. They are planning on phasing the changes in, so not sure what that means for the alignment idea. It wasn't the most urgent topic of discussion. They just want to grow on the broadcasting and Sam Poolman commentating initiative from this year – that now they have gone big, they need to keep moving forward and not go backwards. Jane had the idea of moving the GO to Friday night but didn't say anything about it during the meeting 😊

After the meeting, Jane and I walked out with Tracy from Forsythes and asked her about an alignment. She said that because the meeting was the first she'd heard of it she'd have to get more info first to understand what exactly an alignment would mean. Although she wasn't against the idea, I don't think any merger will happen until more information is provided to Clubs and teams

about what an alignment will get people and what use to the other each one is. We asked her about getting a team into the Greater Open, and she said without full payment for the GO players you will never get a team. In other words, rego, uniforms, training kits, and even a bonus such as free gym membership or something else appealing, as most of the high grade teams have that extra bonus. Her 2nd team however, pays their own costs for everything, noting though she only takes off them the NNA rego and none for herself, so they only pay about \$110 in rego, then pay for their uniforms and everything else. So a few things to look out for if we are hoping to get a team into either GO or even 23's.....