

NEW SOUTH WALES TOUCH ASSOCIATION

45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14th October 2018 Bankstown Sports Club

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Meeting was opened at 9.10 by AM who thanked all in attendance welcomed the Life Members Tony Doyle, Judy Begnell, Fran Hanson, Ian Matthew and thanked them for their Attendance. AM also thanked Steve Mitchell and Barry McNamara from TFA for their attendance.

2. Apologies

Life Member- Ray Vawdon
Life Member- Cary Thompson
Life Member- Michael Clark
Eastern Suburbs TA- John Ryan {Life Member}
Touch Football Australia- Anita Hagarty (Chair)
Jerrabomberra TA- Craig Thomas Schumacher
Jerrabomberra TA- Annette Thomas-Schumacher (JER)
NSWTA Selectors Panel- Don Green
Parkes TA- David Cooper
Ryde Eastwood TA- Paul Wines
Manly TA- Stuart Geros
Manly TA- Ian Kalms
Wollongong TA- Rob Summers

3. Registration of Attendance

Aileen May NSWTA President (AM) {Life Member}
Chris Dolahenty NSWTA Vice President (CD)
Tony Doyle NSWTA Finance Director (TD) {Life Member}
Ian Matthew NSWTA Technical Director (IM) {Life Member}
Mark Hearnden NSWTA Independent Director (MH)
Fran Hanson NSWTA Director of Selectors (FH) {Life Member}
Tony Trad NSWTA Director of Coaching (TT)

Northern Eagles- Craig Englert- Regional Director (EAG)
 Hunter Western Hornets- Beau Newell- Regional Director (HOR)
 Southern Suns- Peter Millington- Referee Director (SUN)
 Sydney Mets- Aida Catalano- Assistant Regional Director (MET)
 Sydney Scorpions- Anthony Dudeck- Regional Director (SCO)
 Avondale TA – Sharlene Conroy (AVO)
 Ballina TA- Scott Turner (BAL)
 Bankstown TA- Nathan Loveday (BAN)
 Bankstown Jets Jnr TA- Jenenne Papadopoulos (JET)
 Central Coast TA- John Turnbull (CCO)
 Hills Hornets TA- Brad Mitchell (HIL)

Macksville TA- Kendall Stirrat (MAC)
 Maitland TA- Melinda Walls (MAT)
 Manly Warringah TA- Craig Lowe
 Mudgee TA- Karen Quinn (MUD)
 Newcastle TA- Kim Miller (NEW)
 Parramatta TA- Pam Hetherington (PAR)
 Penrith TA- Glen Fabian (PEN)
 Port Macquarie TA- Anette Coleman (PMQ)
 St George TA- Scott Henderson (STG)
 Taree TA- Phil Rainger (TAR)
 Taren Point TA- John May (TPT)
 Wagga Wagga TA- David Baggio (WAG)
 Wallsend TA- Tony Bradley (WAL)
 Young TA- Brandon Sanderson (YOU)
 Dean Russell NSWTA General Manager (DR)
 Daniel Rushworth NSWTA Sport Manager (Drus)
 Kylie Hearne NSWTA Business Operations Manager (KH)
 Satya Puthi NSWTA Finance Officer (SPu)
 Matthew Kiddle NSWTA Member Services Coordinator (MK)
 Ben Williams NSWTA Member Services Coordinator (BW)
 Joel Ward NSWTA Member Services Coordinator (JW)
 Keith Lee NSWTA Event Coordinator (KL)
 Rebecca Dennis NSWTA Event Administrator (RD)
 Ricky Hetherington NSWTA Development Officer (RH)
 Alexa Christodoulou NSWTA Development Officer (AC)
 Thy Nguyen NSWTA Development Officer (TN)
 Jocelyn Burnett NSWTA Sport Support Officer (JB)

Observers

TFA- Steve Mitchell- CEO
 TFA- Barry McNamarra- Director
 Avondale- Lee Browning
 Bankstown Jets- Mette Kitona
 Bankstown Jets- Kylie Wilkinson

Hills TA- Brad Curl
 Maitland TA- Joshua Fishlock
 Newcastle TA- Jay Miller
 Newcastle TA- Rebecca Jackson
 St George TA- Melissa Henderson
 Parramatta TA- Rod Hetherington
 Parramatta TA- Garry Collins
 Wallsend TA- Nicole Bradley

4. Minutes from previous AGM

There were no questions of the previous minutes.

Resolved to accept the minutes of the 44th NSWTA Annual General Meeting.

Moved PEN Seconded BAL

Carried

5. Annual Reports

a. Presidents report

AM highlighted the importance that is for NSWTA, the Affiliates and the Regions to concentrate on grassroots with all working together to grow the sport. She highlighted that the junior figures are continuing to grow with the seniors on the decline. AM thanked TD for his financial oversight and position of stability that NSWTA is in. AM notes that the the Board is happy for anyone to approach them to discuss issues and they are willing to listen and help where they can. She thanked all the Regions for their continuous hard work and also the State Panels for what they do for the sport. AM thanked DR and the staff for their service and in providing a fantastic product for our members.

b. General Managers report –

Participation during the period from a junior perspective has been growing but the concern is the decline in senior numbers. DR noted that this is the trend with team sports across the industry. It is being reported to us via the affiliate network that we also lost approximately just over 1.0% of senior teams through impacts of junior league and significantly in S1 in women due to the push of female League Tag competitions. He advised that we are continuing to work with TFA to aid the league family get the message out on the benefits of the strategic alliance between both sports. He discussed the impact that poor presentation/delivery at grassroots can have on growth. DR discussed the significant area of work being done by NSWTA staff in conjunction with TFA staff in the marketing of grassroots competitions, so we can aid in this process. NSWTA staff have worked closely with TFA in developing an Affiliate Marketing plan/template and resources to provide to the coal face to halt

the trend of senior participation decline. DR also advised of the benchmarking for affiliates will take place by the Members Services team to ensure that all affiliates are offering an amazing product that has the same look and feel across the state.

Commercial module is to be rolled out that allows us to go into areas to entice unaffiliated competitions to join DR stated that NSWTA have worked closely with TFA staff to develop further the Commercial Competitions model. He advised that we have identified ten (10) areas across the state to work with TFA in looking at commercial competitions start-ups. He stated these are all areas where we either have no footprint or where unaffiliated competitions are running.

DR advised that the Sporting Schools program has been one of our most successful programs during the reporting period and there is an opportunity for affiliates to engage with NSWTA through the Sporting Schools program to transition children into their local competition.

DR noted that the events that NSWTA run have all exceed expectation except for the Country Championships. He acknowledged the issues with Country Championships and understands that this needs an overhaul needs to occur. DR advised that what this looks like is still unknown. He noted that having both Japan and England attending the State Cup was the highlight of the event and shows the international attraction of the event as the jewel in the crown of the NSWTA.

DR spoke on the relationship with NRL clubs and noted that this has been good through the period. He advised of work between the NSWTA and West Tigers looking to roll out a new junior competition jointly resourced soon. He spoke on the relationships with affiliates and their NRL clubs Parramatta, Manly, Easts, Newcastle, Wests Tigers. He noted that there are discussions occurring with St George Illawarra, Canterbury and Souths. DR he highlighted the NRL Touch Football Premiership and its success. He congratulated Steve Mitchell and his team on the roll out of the product and that it has been a massive leap forward for the sport. DR stated that it can now tangible show benefits of the partnership with a grass roots to elite pathway in the sport on the big stage, stadiums and media coverage.

DR passed on congratulations to all the NSWTA Regions for the work that they are doing.

DR acknowledged Riley Sohler departure during the reporting period and noted for the minutes the Associations thanks for his dedication to this organisation. He advised that he sadly missed.

DR advised the meeting that a new program being the High-Performance Unit commenced during the reporting period. It is to provide recommendations and feedback on the board in the areas of oversight on player performance, coaching performance and team unison. He noted it has a wide range of knowledge on the panel

from high level coaches, players and administration. DR advised that so far, the output has been very good and will get stronger over the years.

DR spoke on the pleasing results of the NSWTA social media program. He advised that our SHUNT rating (which is the Australian Sport and recreation Industry Social Media Snap Shot) has NSWTA ranked in the top 10 within NSW. DR advised that this is of importance as Social media is the way in which society engages today. DR advised that we all need to recognise that this is the way we need to interact with the members and participants. He congratulated the regions and affiliates on their social media and noted that some do it better than us

HOR asked if TFA had made a financial agreement between the them and NSWTA. DR gave an overview on the national governance structure and then discussed the historical collaboration agreement between NSWTA and TFA. He advised that TFA have provided a new agreement to both NSWTA and QTF which is being discussed between the parties the moment.

HOR asked if there was an agreement between NSWTA and NSWRL. DR advised no but spoke to discussions with TFA and opportunities they soon hope to have.

WAL asked if there was a plan in place to address senior decline. DR advised there has been discussion and positive outcomes from meetings with TFA on how we attack this. He noted that all in the room recognise it is not an easy fix but its something both NSWTA, TFA and all states across Australia are aware of and will be working toward with the new national participation plan.

WAL asked about the process that will take place with the Junior State Cup, about costs, referee requirements, state finals teams. DR asked Drus to provide an overview. Drus advised that the state final is in Wollongong with the top 8 teams from each conference in each division invited to attend. No wild cards will be offered. He noted that players can be replaced if they meet the eligibility criteria for the event. Players can only represent one affiliate in the JSC series. Drus stated that in terms of cost, the state final will not be an individual registration, but rather be a team fee for the affiliate. This will allow the affiliate to be able to decide how they might wish to handle this. He noted that all information will be coming out in the COE in the next few weeks. Drus advised that in terms of referees for the State Final they need to be supplied by the affiliates based on the same rule for NSWTA events. Also, that the referees will be accommodated by the affiliate, as this will allow for the NSWTA to keep the team fee down. HOR asked about under8s. Drus advised its only divisional play at conference level and that there is no progression to a state final.

c. Technical report

i. Referees report

IM thanked both TT and FH for working so well together and that in this area cooperation between Coaches and Selectors has never been better.

IM thanked his Referee Panel and Regional Referee Directors for driving the sport forward. He also noted the hard work of the Regional Referee Directors do. He exemplified the efforts of Phil Rainger of the Northern Eagles who drives from Taree to Vawdon Cup every Friday to ensure he is upskilled and kept abreast with changes of the game.

IM asked from an affiliate level to be conscious when nominating referees at events as the lack of ability is ruining the game due to the lack of knowledge and skill set from inexperienced referees being nominated to representative events.

ii. Selectors report

FH thanked her selectors with the amazing work around the selection of the NRL Touch Premiership and congratulated TFA on an amazing product. She acknowledged the work that Kevin Jurd has done this past year as a deserved winner of the Selector of the Year Award.

iii. Coaching report

TT advised of a big change with coaches in NSW now working as one as team and that's a great thing for our sport. There have been opportunities to choose new coaches in positions during the period and this is reward for coaches who have committed to upskill themselves. TT discussed the NYC program and the great work done in 2017 via Barry Gibson and Dave Nolan. TT said also that while outside this reporting period he wished to acknowledge the recent 2018 crew. New coaches were put in place who did an amazing job as role models and he couldn't be prouder with how the development team has been progressing over the past few years. TT advised that working with the schools in this area we have made some great inroads and the partnership is doing well.

At the Elite 8 TT acknowledged that Joel Willoughby and Jason Martin did an amazing job. He also congratulated the Scorpions WO team management for this success.

TT spoke on his disappointment of the cancellation of Elite courses but advised that next year NSWTA are working to put in place more courses in the regional areas rather than Sydney.

d. Regions reports

i. Eagles – no questions

ii. Hornets – no questions

iii. Suns – NIL report

- iv. Scorpions – no questions
- v. Sydney Mets- no questions
- vi. Sydney Rebels – no questions

Resolved to accept the reports of the 45th NSWTA Annual General Meeting.

Moved HOR Seconded MAC

Carried

6. Financial Statement

TD advised the meeting that in his second last Finance Director report it was comforting to report a profit for the period of \$166K. He noted that our position at 30/6/18 was attributed to both direct and indirect control factors.

TD stated that we derive the bulk of our income from affiliation fees, He noted that we have no direct control over these fees at affiliate level in relation to increase or decline in teams. By this he stated that we cannot dictate how many teams an affiliate must have.

He spoke on the areas that the NSWTA did have direct control over being all planned programs and tournaments. He advised we can control how much we spend in our programs and how much profit is derived from tournaments. He advised that as a business we look to generate 15% profit margin from our events. He congratulated the staff who continue to deliver quality events and bring them in under budget. He acknowledged the way in which staff deliver quality product service in both our programs and tournaments.

TD stated moving forward the Audit report was satisfactory with a few minor notes that are being dealt with.

He discussed the 2018/19 budget process that had been completed with a view to only a small profit margin. He referred to his report in relation to factors that will impact 2018/19 profit. The loss of Harvey Norman sponsorship and need to rebrand the sport, the possible decline in senior affiliation numbers and the splitting of the Junior State Cup with increased infrastructure costs.

TD states that his goal is to be able to present to the members in his next Financial report a small profit for the period.

HOR asked about the rebranding and raised that a few years back Colm Maguire of TFA had advised that rebranding would be paid for by the NRL and Harvey Norman. DR advised that unfortunately that isn't the case. He noted that TFA is in the same situation. He then discussed the opportunity to rebrand and the slow release the new NSWTA logo. He advised that that

\$55k might seem a large number in some people's minds but when you consider field surrounds, feathers, corflute signage, vehicles, uniforms for nearly 100 volunteers plus staff etc it quickly adds up.

Resolved to accept the financial report of the 45th NSWTA Annual General Meeting.

Moved **BAN** **Seconded PAR**
Carried

7. Election of Officers

CD advised that even though only 1 nomination for each position, President and Technical Director, had been received a vote was still required. He congratulated both AM and IM on the work thus far that they have contributed to the Board. DR outlined the voting procedure.

CD advised that AM had been re-elected as President of the NSTWA and IM re-elected as Technical Director of the NSWTA.

AM thanked the members and stated that she is honored to be President of NSWTA and that she cherishes the friendship she has made along the journey and is always there to listen and encouraged the members to contact her.

IM agreed with AM sentiments and thanked everyone for their support.

Resolved to destroy the voting papers.

Moved WAG **Seconded EAG**
Carried

8. Appointment of Life Membership

AM asked BN as the nominator to speak on behalf of the nomination of Don Green. He advised that Don has been a wonderful role model and dedicated to the sport over many years at both Regional and Affiliate level. FH reiterated what had been said. She noted that he has been part of the NSWTA Selectors Panel for many years and is completely committed to the sport.

DR advised the members that the Board received a nomination for Life Membership of the organisation in accordance with the constitution. This nomination was for Don Green.

On receipt of this nomination, the Board reviewed his service to the game. Don Green has been a major contributor in the Selectors ranks of the NSWTA and Hunter Western Hornet Region as well has contributed at grassroots Association continuously for over 25 years. His service at Hunter Western Hornets and Wellington TA has been rewarded by with a Life Membership of both organisations.

The Board looked at the breadth and depth of service to the NSWTA, Hunter Western Hornets and Wellington Touch Association. They found a gentleman who has given to the sport in NSW over 30 continuous years of dedicated service.

The Board recommends to the members this nomination from BN and FH. spoke on the review of the nomination and agreed that his contribution to the grassroots for some many years was worthy of the nomination.

DR outlined the voting procedure.

AM advises that it is with great pleasure that Don Green has been voted in as a life member of the NSWTA.

Resolved to destroy the voting papers.

Moved STG

Seconded TPT

Carried

9. Special Resolutions

DR spoke on resolution to change the constitution. He advised that the Board are seeking the members agreement to provide the opportunity to increase the board by 1 person by provision of a second Independent Director should they felt it appropriate. He noted the appointment of an Independent Director allows the Board to attract a Director who may have specific skills in commerce, finance, marketing, law or business generally or such other skills which complement the Board composition but need not have experience in or exposure to the sport of Touch. They do not need to be Members of the Association. Currently the Board only has the power to appoint 1 Independent Director. This change provides for the Association to be able to add greater skill capacity, expertise and variation to the Board. It provides for opportunity of the Board to add a second Independent Director with the specific skill sets that are thought to be required if felt appropriate. The provision of the change still maintains one Independent Director and delivers the Board the power to add a second Independent Director if required.

DR outlined the voting procedure and the requirement for a 75% majority to pass.

AM advised that the motion has been carried.

Resolved to destroy the voting papers.

Moved MET

Seconded EAG

10. Notice of Motions

NIL

11. Appointment of Auditor

Resolved to appoint Denis Jeff Quality Accounting as Auditors of the NSWTA for the 2018/19 Financial year.

Moved TD

Seconded AM

Carried

12. General Business

NIL

AM thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.25am and invited all to the mezzanine area for morning tea.