

MINUTES of the 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEETING OPENED Collegians Club, Wollongong on the 21st April 2005 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT As per attendance sheets

APOLOGIES Paul Anthony

PREVIOUS MINUTES 20th April 2004 were accepted as true and correct

REPORTS & BALANCE SHEET There were no questions of the reports
The Financial Report was presented unaudited

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motions were carried with the required majority.

1. Honorariums as laid down at the AGM of the 20th April 2004, are paid to outgoing Directors. Administrator to receive \$1000.00 President, Finance, Coaching, Junior, Referees & Information Technology & Assets, to receive \$200.00 each.
The role of Publicity was not completed to satisfaction and will not receive an honorarium
2. Honorariums for the incoming Directors are set at \$3000 for Administrator. President, Finance, Coaching, Publicity, Referees, Grounds, Canteen, Juniors and IT & Assets to receive \$300.00 each

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS & GENERAL COMMITTEE

President	Terry Sylvester	(continuing)
Administrator	Gary Brickell	(continuing)
Finance	Kerry Kyriacou	(continuing)
Coaching	Allyson (Ali) Day	(continuing)
Juniors	Karen Ruzzene	(continuing)
Referees	Michael McGrath	(continuing)
Grounds	Graeme Corby	
Publicity	Natalie Rixon	
Canteen	not filled	
Information Technology & Assets	Paul Anthony	(continuing)

General Committee Scott Matteson Ben Bresolin Barry Jackson Tony Rixon

GENERAL BUSINESS NIL

MEETING CLOSED at 7.45pm

The Winter 2005 Team managers meeting will follow directly afterwards

Presidents Report

Terry Sylvester

The year 2004/5 for WTA, I believe to have been a successful one. Like last year we were sustained by a small committee of dedicated workers along with the "few" dedicated rep players and associated families. The pressure on the WTA's committee to make time and fulfil duties increased greatly this year in particular, citing marriages, new family members and changed work conditions. To make time and complete duties needs to be commended but again the question must be asked, is this sustainable?

Our winter and summer competitions were successful, good team numbers and both final series producing a number of drop-offs, if not then very close results.

Mick McGrath managed our small band of dedicated whistle blowers well this past year. Unfortunately the passing of one of our favourite referees Stan Kozlowski occurred in this past year, Stan will be fondly remembered at WTA. The move to two time slots in our competitions was a good move, taking a bit of pressure off our generally overworked and loyal Refs. Two time slots also allowed our Dalton Park complex a little room to breath between games. The duty referee system has improved slightly with our stronger stance and penalty regime, the same will continue into this next year. Again we need more of our qualified duty refs to step up and ref more in the following seasons.

The Junior competition has been running really well again this past year, under the guidance of Karen Ruzzene and loyal team of workers. Karen has done a tremendous job with the communication and energy she brings to the position. It's good to see Karen continuing in the role.

The 2005 Junior State Cup (JSC) with 275 teams was the equal of our 2004 success, for smoothness of operating and also financially. This year was marred by the absence of Gary Brickell, for health reasons being unavailable on the Fri/Sat & Sun. Because of Gary's pre-preparation for the event the impact was lessened. The JSC would have been even more successful if not for another extreme weather occurrence on the Sunday. We have the mix right for this tournament, with only small adjustments required. Again many thanks to the volunteers who contributed to the JSC 's success, some I noticed were complete family groups, thanks to Jeff "coco" Masters' for the coffee shop and to the Thirroul Scout group for barbeque operations. Watching WTA Juniors / Coaching staff at the JSC and the results they achieved (2nd Assoc to Penrith), shows the future success of our teams and individuals is assured. I'd like to see more of the older juniors stepping up, with some selected senior teams taking them "under their wings" to accelerate the obvious burgeoning talent.

Congratulations must go to the victorious WTA Junior teams, the Mens 40's (State Cup) and the ever growing band of representative players including Australian Reps.

Special thanks again to Gary Brickell for his unparalleled workload in administration, JSC, refereeing, grounds etc, for WTA. It's good to see him back better than ever after his heart surgery.

Administrators Report

Gary Brickell

Once again another year has gone without too much change occurring.

We introduced breach notices to the competition in summer, with a total of 37 first breach notices served on teams for failing to abide with the competition rules they entered under. These breaches were for failing to do duty or forfeits. Two teams were suspended from the competition for two weeks for second breach notices. The result of their actions saw disruption & frustration to those teams who then missed out on playing games over those two weeks. We hope that these breach notices will deter future ignoring of the competition conditions.

Congratulations to those teams who accepted their responsibilities and refereed when they were required, some doing more than requested. This definitely assists the competition when referees are not available, and also gives everyone concerned a better appreciation of refereeing.

A worrying aspect of the domestic competition is the high quantity of minor injuries occurring, some can be put down to the hard playing surface, but the suggestion is that players are not preparing for games. Too often, players arrive minutes before game time, or just after and enter the field without any preparation, example stretching.

The domestic competition still remains strong as far as team quantities are concerned, but our playing standards do not appear to be changing. The representative scene is getting stronger without putting too much back into the supporting competition. We desperately need our elite players to take ownership of the non-experienced teams and assist in their development. Ali Day has tried hard to develop this attitude, along with senior players Graeme Corby & Bob Ognenovski, but we seem to be stagnating in our development.

The representative committee again have tried hard, through the efforts of Barry Jackson, Ali Day & Wally Cardillo, to address the issues of financial support and have kept expenses under control. We still need to create a self-sufficient representative scene so as to eliminate the continual financial burdens they keep placing on the domestic competition.

Our junior competition maintained a level of strength under the guidance of Karen Ruzzene, Allyson Fisher and Jill McGuinness. This is one area where the "senior" representatives are assisting the growth of Wollongong Touch. We entered teams in every age division this year at the Junior State Championships, something Karen Ruzzene and her team can be very proud of and my congratulations to them for their efforts, especially resulting in two State Championships.

In November, we lost an esteemed member in Stan Kozlowski. Stan passed away while refereeing at the Suns Championships in Milton. Stan was a long serving referee, 1670 games at Wollongong, a committee member and junior coach. He will be sadly missed.

Juniors Report

Karen Ruzzene

This is the seventh season of our Junior touch competition with a record 490 nominations across 4 age divisions.

Without the wonderful support of a dedicated group of people, Lee Zaremski, Ingrid Cardillo, Ali Day, Jill McGuinness, and Graeme Corby the competition would not run as smoothly as it has (mostly!) I must make special mention of Allyson Fisher who took over the task of running the Primary school aged competition on Wednesday afternoons and did a great job. This allowed me some time to catch my breath and concentrate on establishing the High school aged competition on Tuesday afternoons. We had 27 teams playing on Wednesdays i.e. 7 x Under 8's, 10 x Under 10's & 10 x Under 12's with only 12 sponsored by local businesses. On Tuesdays, we saw 21 teams involved, sponsored by 14 businesses. This fall in sponsorship from previous years will need to be addressed before next comp.

Jill McGuinness again organised a three week coaching course for all children playing in the Under 8's, using our own local juniors of high school age to do the coaching. The skills based approach proved popular with all the children involved (young & old), and saw the transition into the game situation easier for all concerned.

The competition ran over Term 4, 2004 and Term 1, 2005 with only one week cancelled due to bad weather.

Team photos were taken by Scott Ruzzene after the debacle we had last year with a local professional photo graphics company. All teams were covered, with some orders being placed from parents and these were available on the last week of competition. Although this was a time consuming task at least we have all the names of children correct!

Just before the comp. began we had 7 children sit their Level 1 Referees course so they could officiate at the Junior games. We hope to see them back next year! Our major problem was with a lack of numbers on Tuesday afternoons to referee the older children. Ross Freestone provided coaching support to some of our older children refereeing at this time but we continually needed to call on parents or anyone who knew the rules to help supplement our shortfall on this afternoon. I must make mention of three of our senior referees, Gary Brickell, Peter Farrugia and Joe Spiteri, who saved the day whenever they could but often this was still not enough. Next season we are looking to change the format again and have the older children playing at the same time as the senior comp – we will wait to see if this is feasible as this may help address the lack of referees problem.

Adel Sportswear again supported the competition by sponsoring 4 teams and doing a great job on all the shirts worn by the children.

Finally, the strength of our competition and the experience many children have gained from playing in the Junior competition over a number of years can be seen by the successes our teams had at Junior State Cup this year. As an association we came equal second in the Club Championship pointscore, boasting two teams as State Champions. We were successful in the Under 14's and Under 18's Girls divisions, with the Under 10's Girls going down to Manly in the Final, the Under 12's Boys winning the Plate Final, the Under 16's Girls semi finalists, and the Under 10's & Under 18's Boys both quarterfinalists. It was our first year with a full complement of ten teams competing for the first time. Ali Day must be congratulated on bringing all the children together under the guidance of the coaching staff.

This is my second last report as Director of Juniors as I will not be renewing my tender after the next competition so start looking for a replacement now before its left to the last minute!

We were able to conduct our comp. without putting any strains on the finances of our parent club so you can see we are not it to make a profit but rather make our sport accessible to all children in a safe and friendly environment.

Thank you to all who supported the Junior competition for the 2004/2005 season,

My thanks go to all the referees who gave up their time to referee for Wollongong Touch Association. Not only do they give their time on Monday and Tuesday nights, these same referees also give up their time and pay for the privilege to go away to tournaments to allow teams from Wollongong to represent their association at tournaments. The tournaments which referees from Wollongong have attended in the past year are: Southern Suns, Sydney Championships, Country Championships, State Cup, Junior State Cup and the National Touch League as well as various knockouts and schools competitions.

From these tournaments the referees get coaching to improve their own refereeing skills, which they bring back to park level where the players can then benefit from improved refereeing standards so the rules of Touch can be enforced consistently and fairly. The players have a role to play as well, in playing in the spirit of the game and within the rules as defined by the rules of Touch.

Congratulations to members of Wollongong Touch who have achieved upgrades in the last 12 months: Tim Guymer, Adrian Satori, and Kevin Waters, all upgraded to State level 4. I hope the players recognise the efforts not only of these referees, but of all the referees without which the competition at Wollongong would not be possible.

Also congratulations to Ryan Pascoe Referee of the year 2005, and last year's winner Tim Guymer.

Some of you will be very aware that we were not able to provide a referee for every game this last 12 months, particularly in the summer competition, and have reverted to using duty referees. As I have been saying for a number of years, if we don't increase our referee numbers we will soon not have enough referees to run the competition. That time is upon us now. Our referee numbers are reducing, but we have not yet found a way to replace them. It is essential, that every team member accepts the current duty system, and they must put their hand up and do their duty. It is not good enough to bag the referee or duty referees, let them do their job, or we will not have a competition. I do not believe the answer is in reducing the number of teams accepted into the competition, as when a few more decide that enough is enough, we will be faced with the same situation as we are now. I don't believe it will be long before this occurs. The only solution is to get more, new and younger referees so they can be coached to improve by the experienced referees before they retire.

I see the Junior competition as a breeding ground for our players and referees for the future, however it is going to be some time before they can be introduced to the senior games. Not all will continue and be available to referee at the senior level, as they will move on to other sports or choose not to referee due to the ever increasing criticism from the players. It's very common for people to criticize referees but they are not prepared to have a go themselves.

Coaching Report

Ali (Allyson) Day

FIVE WOLLONGONG TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS AT DUBBO ON MAY 31st AND JUNE 1st.

ALL TEAM MADE IT THROUGH TO THE SEMI-FINALS ON THE SUNDAY WITH THE MENS 45'S PROCEEDING TO THE GRAND FINAL.

THE **MIXED TEAM**, COACHED BY TONY RIXON, WAS UNDEFEATED ON THE SATURDAY IN THEIR 4 GAMES, SCORING 34 TOUCHDOWNS AND ONLY CONCEDED 5 TOUCHDOWNS. THEY UNLUCKILY WENT DOWN TO THE EVENTUAL WINNERS KIAMA 6-4.

WOMENS 23'S, COACHED BY MICK McCALL, PLAYED 6 GAMES OVER THE 2 DAYS LOSING 2, WINNING 3 AND DRAWING 1 GAME. THEY MET THE EVENTUAL WINNERS PORT MacQUARIE IN THE SEMI AND WENT DOWN 1-2.

MENS 40'S, COACHED BY GRAEME CORBY, CAME TOP OF THEIR POOL AND PLAYED PORT MacQUARIE IN THE SEMI FINAL. THE GAME WENT TO 4 ON 4 WITH THE MEN LOSING 2-3.

MENS 45'S, COACHED BY JOHN RUZZENE, WENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE CARNIVAL UNDEFEATED. THEY SCORED OVER 30 TOUCHDOWNS WHILE ONLY CONCEDED 7. SEMI FINAL THEY DEFEATED MORUYA 6-2 AND THEN DEFEATED NEWCASTLE 5-1 IN THE GRAND FINAL. PETER "PEARL" FARRUGIA WAS NAMED 'MAN OF THE MATCH'.

MENS OPEN, COACHED BY BARRY JACKSON, PERFORMED VERY WELL OVER THE WEEKEND WINNING ALL THEIR ROUND GAMES. THE SEMI FINALS WAS PLAYED AGAINST LISMORE AND LOSING 2-5.

COUNTRY SELECTION

TEN WOLLONGONG PLAYERS WERE NAMED IN THE COUNTRY TEAMS TO PLAY AGAINST CITY IN SEPTEMBER.

MENS OPEN: GLEN DE WIT, KIRK MATHIE

MIXED OPEN: SHANNON EVANS

WOMENS 23'S: REBECCA WALL

MENS 23'S: BARRY JACKSON (COACH)

WOMENS 30'S: ANNETTE MOUNSEY

MENS 40'S: DORI META, SAMMY BAZZAZ

MENS 45'S: JOHN RUZZENE (COACH), MICK McCALL, PAUL DALLAS

SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT THIS STAGE 4 TEAMS WIL BE NOMINATING FOR THIS COMPETITION

MENS OPEN: BARRY JACKSON

MIXED OPEN: TONY RIXON

WOMENS 23'S: MICK McCALL

MENS 35'S: JOHN OGNENOVSKI

SOUTHERN SUNS UNDER 18'S

AT YASS SATURDAY 5th JULY 2003

WOLLONGONG IS LOOKING TO NOMINATE A BOYS AND A GIRLS TEAM. SELECTION TRIALS WILL OCCUR ON SATURDAY JUNE 7th AT 3pm AT THOMAS DALTON PARK WITH SUBSEQUENT TRAINING RUNS ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS.

KAY RIXON AND SIMON FARRUGIA WILL ASSIST IN THE SELECTIONS.