

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
WESTERN SUBURBS DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED
HELD AT WESTS ASHFIELD LEAGUES CLUB ON
SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2024 AT 2PM**

Meeting opened:

Mr Dennis Burgess (Chairman) declared meeting open at 2pm.

Attendance: As per attendance sheet:

One minutes Silence request:

Mr Burgess (Chairman) acknowledged those who have passed away in the past 12 months. Most notably, John Elford, John Hayes, Peter Hargroves, Ray Bernasconi and Peter Cook.

He asked for a minutes silence from the members.

Introduction of Board Members:

Mr Burgess introduced fellow board members – deputy chair Rick Wayde (RW), Alan Fallah (AF), Steve Montgomery, Tony Westlake and General Manager Leo Epifania (LE).

Mr Burgess also acknowledged Holman Barnes CEO Simon Cook (SC) and Geoff Squires, who is the Magpies representative on the Wests Tigers board.

Apologies:

John Hargroves, Mick Liubinskis, Steve Hartas, Jeannette Vendetti, Russell Smith, June Romero, Paul Stamoulis and Shane Richardson from the Wests Tigers.

Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting:

Mr Burgess called that minutes be received.

Mr Burgess asked the membership to receive those minutes.

Moved and seconded that minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting be received - CARRIED

Mr Burgess asked that any business arising can be put forward in General business questions.

Call on meeting to accept the minutes.

Moved and seconded that the Annual Report 2023 be received and adopted - CARRIED

Annual Report:

Mr Burgess advised the Annual report has been issued on website and in print.

Move to receive and adopt Annual report 2023.

Moved and seconded that Annual Report 2023 be received and adopted - CARRIED

Financial Statements:

Mr Burgess advised that the financial statements have been provided in the Annual report.

Call to receive and adopt the Financial Report for 2023.

Moved and seconded to receive and adopt the financial statements and auditors report for 2023 – CARRIED

Mr Wayde reported the annual statements showed the club had a debt of \$76,325. The system works that Wests Ashfield takes care of any shortfall by way of a grant. Revenue has been very strong with regards to gate receipts, sponsorship, member subscriptions, merchandise and fund raising. Mr Wayde said that the whole operation should be complimented and is in a very sound position.

Election of three (3) board members:

Mr Burgess advised that there were six candidates in the election and the returning officer advised that the three successful candidates were Alan Fallah, Shannon Cavanagh and Bob Cairns. Mr Burgess also advised that the following board nominees of the Holman Barnes group – Tony Andreacchio, Rick Wayde, Steve Montgomery, Dennis Burgess are also directors for a new term.

Special Resolution:

Mr Burgess advised that members will have to consider a special resolution to amend the club's constitution as outlined in the notice of the Annual General Meeting regarding the establishment of the triannual terms for the



three-four directors. He explained that the club is trying to get a free flowing thing so that the club is not electing three directors all at once for three years.

Mr Burgess invited Brett Boon and Sherif Mouakkassa from Thompson Geer Lawyers to address the meeting on this special resolution.

Mr Boon advised that commencing from the next election in 2027, the three directors would be designated into Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3. Director 1 would be drawn into Lot 1 and will initially hold a term of one year. Director drawn into Lot 2 will be holding a term of two years, the director drawn into Lot 3 will be holding office for 3 years. Each of those directors is eligible to be re-elected at the end of each term.

Mr Boon advised that the only thing that was modified that what is in the register club's Act is if a Director dropped out during his term, any person appointed is to take the whole term.

Questions were then called from the floor.

Mr Burgess advised that with this special resolution, it needs to be passed by three quarters of the membership present (75%).

A vote was conducted by a show of hands. There were 73.9% for and the motion was defeated.

Life Membership presentation:

Life Member Bob Cairns (BC) presented a life members plaque for Leo Epifania who was awarded Life Membership in 2023. Cairns thanked Epifania for all his work.

Mr Epifania advised that he is a bit embarrassment about the award but not embarrassment for being a life member. He thanked many people behind the scenes that made the difference. He thanked the directors, volunteers and supporters that keep the club going forward.

General Business:

Mr Burgess advised that all members were requested to send written topics to enable the club to provide members with a comprehensive answer. However, no requests were forthcoming. Mr Burgess then took questions from the floor.

BRIAN McDONALD (676)	MC – What is in the pipeline for continued progress for the Wests Magpies LE – I have always said that if the club isn't growing, it's dying. We can't sit in one spot. There needs to be growth in merchandise, membership, facilities, teams and competition. The point of going to Lidcombe is that we didn't have a home. We have somewhere we can display our heritage and our brand. We didn't have that at Campbelltown. Wests Magpies are flying high financially and we have a home and we are going down the path of getting a gym for elite teams to train. There is a lease in the pipeline. We know that the NSW Cup is losing but that is the next step. Moving forward, we have three change rooms, we need the fourth, the gym and the lease. It opens the door for external advertising. We are also putting in grants. BC – When we moved from the Campbelltown-Liverpool area, Cumberland Council invited us with open arms.
BARRY COLLIS (311)	BC – In the joint venture agreement it states that Wests Tigers will be our representative in the NRL and Balmain and Wests would play in other grades in their own name. Why is our Jersey Flegg playing under the Wests Tigers banner. LE – It was a national competition under Wests Tigers and that has continued. I would also be looking at considerable costs. It doesn't mean we can't fund it but we have to look at what it will cost. For a lot of NRL clubs, it is an elite program for them. If we have a Jersey Flegg team, do we bring them to Lidcombe Oval to train. I don't think we are set up for a Wests Magpies Jersey Flegg. RW - Wests Tigers in the NRL own the Jersey Flegg. The Holman Barnes Group has Western Suburbs playing at the highest level that allows.



BARRY COLLIS (311)	<p>BC: Allan Fallah, you mentioned on social media how difficult it was in getting more junior and recruitment.</p> <p>AF: That was in regards to the Wests board that should have been informed about the selection of NSW Cup coach Aaron Payne. While I endorse Payne, I shouldn't be seeing it first in social.</p>
<p>UNKNOWN MEMBER (Name and badge number not provided)</p>	<p>Member: This year the grant was \$100,000 less than last year in the Annual Report.</p> <p>SC: Holman Barnes paid \$100,000 to Wests Tigers to run the Junior Reps. Any project Wests Magpies have, we will look at it. Whatever they ask, they just put a plan to us.</p> <p>LE: Our budget is \$280,000. The council has already agreed to upgrade the toilets next to the main grandstand at Lidcombe Oval.</p>

Meeting Closed:

Mr Dennis Burgess (Chairman) declared meeting closed at 2.53pm.

