

N.S.W. COUNTRY ENJOYS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The inaugural Annual Meeting of the NSW Country Australian Football League was held in an all-day sitting at the Wagga Riverina Club on Sunday, January 27, where the Constitution of the newly formed League was ratified.

Office-bearers for the 1980 season elected were - President, BRIAN HASTE (Farrer), Vice-President, BRUCE STEWART from Ardlethan, with ALLEN BAKER from the South-Coast League as Secretary-Treasurer.

The enthusiasm and dedication of those working so hard to expand interest in the National code was personified by ALAN VICTOR, the Newcastle president. Alan left home on Sunday morning at 3am driving to Sydney to connect with a flight to Wagga, then after the meeting Alan retraced all his steps, returning home in Newcastle after a span of 24-hrs.

N.S.W. TO PLAY SOUTH AUSTRALIA ON MAY 19

The NSW AFL have accepted an official invitation from the South Australian National Football League to play in Adelaide on Monday, May 19. It is the first occasion that S.A. have invited a NSW team to play in Adelaide in football history, indicating the growing awareness of the improving quality of Australian Football in this State.

NSW will play a combined Under-23 South Australian side and feature in the curtain-raiser to the SA v Queensland interstate match at Football Park on Adelaide Cup Day.

STATE SQUAD TRAINING DATES

NSW will meet the A.C.T. in an Australian Championship match on Sunday, March 16. Riverina selectors DON DURMAN and DOUG PRIEST have chosen a strong squad from their territory who will commence training under State Coach ALLAN JEANS on Friday afternoons at North Wagga oval starting on February 8th.

Sydney representatives to the squad chosen by State Selectors IAN HARRY and REG MYERS will commence their program on Saturday mornings under ALLAN JEANS at Trumper Park, Paddington on February 9th at 9.30 a.m.

Selectors of the NSW team are very confident they can go one better and will topple the A.C.T. on March 16. If they do, they'll meet the winner of the Richmond-Woodville match on March 23rd. A likely inclusion into the NSW squad will be former St. Kilda star GLENN ELLIOTT who has just been appointed the first full-time coach of Ovens and Murray League club LAVINGTON.

A strong opponent in the A.C.T. line-up could be PAUL FELTHAM who will be playing in Canberra this season.

Sydney Football League players selected for the State Squad are - Pennant Hills - Pat Wellington, Philip Tribolet, Graham Brown, Mal Farnham, Paul Thrupp; Balmain - Bill Walford, Andy O'Keefe; St. George - Steve Bird; Southern Districts - Warren Finger, Bob Treadrea; Newtown - Sam Kekovich, John Pilkington, Stephen Kent, Laurie Devitt, Greg Scheetz, Kevin O'Halloran, Ian Gordon, Kent Coburn; Western Suburbs - Mick Brown, Laurie Quade, Brian Richards, Wes Preston, Graham Shiel, Mark Atkins; North Shore - John Pitura, Tim Hessell, Greg Jepson, Graeme Hamilton, John Baker, Peter Underwood, Bruce Neish, Alan Fitzgerald.

A.F.C. TO MAKE THREE APPOINTMENTS

An important decision was reached at the first Annual General Meeting of Australian Football Championships Pty. Ltd. held in Melbourne on Friday, January 25th.

Following on from the appointment which brought RUSSELL HOPPER to the position of General Manager to the NSW AFL last March, the AFC will shortly add full-time general managers to Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.

The appointments will initially be for one-year, as the League's themselves believe they will become self-sufficient within 12-months.

STATE-WIDE COMPETITION IN TASMANIA

The Tasmanian League following the lead of the NSW AFL SuperLeague concept will establish a new intra-state competition embracing all teams from the Tasmanian Football League, the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, and the North-West Football Union. In addition to rostered matches for the three competitions, clubs will play for \$27,500 prize money under the sponsorship of Rothman's.

This important innovation is expected to give added interest to the 1980 season of Tasmanian football.

NEW LIQUOR LAWS BRING CHANGES NOW

Recent amendments to the NSW Liquor Act has seen the introduction of a new "Functions License". It replaces the old "Booth License" and will bring changes for all clubs throughout the State.

The "Function License" comes in two forms - (1) for a fee of \$25 per day, per booth, a club can obtain a 'limited' license; or (2) a fee of \$100 will bring an 'annual' license. The Licensing Court is likely to grant a function license to operate a bar from a tent, shed, hall or the like. At this stage rights may also be granted to operate from unlicensed clubrooms, however this may be subject to challenge by Police.

A statutory declaration witnessed by a Justice of the Peace can be completed by a club secretary, indicating that the body is non-profit. A second form is the actual application which requires - location of premises from which it is intended to operate the license, the number of bars the club wishes to operate (remembering that if it is a 'limited' license it is \$25 per bar), the area on the football ground the bar is situated, hours of intended trading, nature of the function - football match etc., and in the case of an 'annual' license the number of functions likely to be held to June 30 next, together with properly drawn plans showing the bar(s) in relation to toilets, entrances to the ground, parking facilities, the surrounding streets, grandstands etc.

One benefit of the new Function License is that the holder is permitted to purchase liquor direct from a brewery, distillery or winery or other liquor outlet at wholesale prices.

In the case of the 'annual' Function License, the fee is \$100 per bar plus 8% of the total liquor purchased and the requirement to forward to the issuing court statements on the number and cost of purchases, the number and receipts of sales and the quantity (if any) of liquor unsold which must be returned to the supplier.

Our early information is that it is advisable to seek a single or 'limited' Function License at the start of the season. It is wise to apply well in advance of the dates you wish to operate, placing your telephone number on the application so that local licensing police may contact you when it is received.

of course it is necessary to obtain permission to sell liquor at a ground from the local council or owner of the ground, and this must be done before applying to the court for the license.

When exercising the license it is essential that all rules of the Liquor Act are obeyed and that the location is properly supervised, and that no liquor is sold to persons under the age of 18 years.

Applications for a Function License may be made, in the case of the Metropolitan area to the Licensing Court, Selbourne Chambers, 2nd Floor, 174 Phillip Street, Sydney; outside of the Metropolitan area, to the local courthouse.

ST. GEORGE PLANS FOR 1980 UNDER WAY

Although they failed to make an impact on the Sydney scene last year, the St. George club are zooming into the Eighties with great enthusiasm. Plans for the long-awaited clubrooms at Olds Park are nearing completion and building is expected to get under way early in March.

Already 300 letters have been forwarded to old players, former officials and club life-members seeking support for the plans that will give St. George their first firm footing in their history of more than 50 years. Donors are being asked for contributions of \$500 to become "Gold Pass" members of the new club, with many inviting privileges.

It is hoped that the Saints will get more than the response they expected.

On the field, St. George have appointed JOHN BESTER as coach for 1980. John is a former player with the VFA club Williamstown, and though this is his first stint as coach he has served under three former VFL and VFA stars at the Seagulls oval, Merv Hobbs, Barry Gill and Max Papley. Bester before he went to Willy had a distinguished period with Newport in the Footscray & District League where he won the best and fairest award for five seasons.

The Saints commenced their training program on January 8 under Bester. All three grades are at work with an average of 45 players attending each session. JOHN BESTER is keen to promote many of the promising juniors that the St. George club have been blessed with over many seasons with impressive records in the Thirds.

AROUND AND ABOUT - Popular NSWFL general manager RUSSELL HOPPER is currently on a well-earned vacation. Russell as usual chose the United States for his 4-week break, with stops at Los Angeles, New Orleans, Atlanta, Washington, Philadelphia, New York and L.A. again before winging his way home to what will be the most exciting season ever for Sydney football fans.

MANY NEW FACES FOR SYDNEY

Newtown president JOHN ARMSTRONG and newly appointed coach SAM KEKOVICH recently returned from Tasmania with the signature of JOHN PILKINGTON to further boost their 1980 pennant hopes.

Pilkington has been a consistent star first-grade player with the Hobart club GLENORCHY and should find Sydney conditions ideal. The big ruckman has regularly played for the Tasmanian State team and a feature of his game is his high marking.

Former Hawthorn champion PETER HUDSON has praised the big fellow after playing with him at Glenorchy. Pilkington this year was runner-up to Hudson in the William Leitch Medal which is the T.F.L.'s Best & Fairest Award judged on umpires votes.

Newtown had strong opposition to the players services as it was widely tipped he would play with East Sydney this season.

Hoping to celebrate their Centenary Year with a Premiership, the Angels have also signed two other proven players - LAURIE DEVITT and STEPHEN KENT, both from the Victorian Football Association. Devitt played with Oakleigh and Kent is a polished centre-man who gained a big reputation with Prahran in the Two Blues pennant winning year of 1978. If Kent stays injury-free he should be a driving force in the 'Townners line-up.

Devitt is a powerfully built footballer and is keen to have his best-ever season.

BALMAIN over the summer months have had a major administration shake-up and it seems the players and committee could now accomplish what Tiger supporters have been waiting for - the dream of making the finals. (The last time was back in 1969).

BILL WALFORD, the former Richmond and Fitzroy player, who later captained Sandringham, and was vice-captain at Dandenong is the new Balmain coach and should add much-needed discipline around the club.

It was unfortunate that Balmain's negotiations with the Council over Drummoyne Oval were unsuccessful but according to club spokesman JACK HOLM - "there is still a chance we can say good-bye to Jubilee",

We understand that the Rugby Union and Cricket club were reluctant to grant Balmain use of Drummoyne Oval, believing Australian Football would "cut up the ground".

For many years it has been obvious that Jubilee Oval is far too small for our Game. It was hoped that Balmain would have use of a larger ground in order to build a stronger team of players and rise above their "chopping block" image. Jubilee does have an advantage for training of the Tigers but let's hope that an alternative can be found for their home-and-away engagements.

WESTERN SUBURBS through their club Newsletter have confirmed that ALEX RUSCUKLIC will coach the Magpies this season. The coach who took EAST SYDNEY to an incredible run of 20 successive wins last year, only to lose the second semi, then the preliminary is a very determined man who no doubt will make a lot of long overdue changes to the West club. Football people will be asking the question - "What's in the bag, Alex?". (John Muggridge).

WHAT'S HAPPENING UP NORTH from KEN GRAY

Ken Gray our State Director of Coaching recently visited the northern areas of N.S.W. meeting some enthusiastic and capable people at Gunnedah and Coffs Harbour. For those unfamiliar with the progress of football in the North, there are two major League's - The North-Western League consists of clubs from, TAMWORTH, GUNNEDAH, COONABARBRAN, WEE WAA, MOREE and GOONDIWINDI over the border in Queensland. They field Firsts and Reserve Grade and more often enough an away game means a weekend trip to most clubs. These clubs operate under incredible difficulties but are coping admirably.

Unfortunately Ken couldn't meet the President of the New England League, RICK LACEY however this League is obviously growing well with a second COFFS HARBOUR club and a DUVAL club joining SAINTS, URALLA, COFFS HARBOUR, UNITED, ARMIDALE CITY and RODD COLLEGE. Cameron McRae of Coffs Harbour is also hopeful of starting a Junior League in his town. Near the border we have a dynamic LISMORE club playing in the Queensland GOLD COAST LEAGUE and this club is making quite an impact in the area.

National Director of Coaching JOHN WARREN and Ken visited the NEWCASTLE LEAGUE to organise a week-long sports promotion in April aimed at schoolboys in the area. KEVIN SHEEDY and RAY JORDON will spearhead this assault on a one-time Rugby League, now Soccer city.

Ken Gray sends out an S.O.S. to ANY PERSON in the MT. DRUITT-ST. NARY'S region who will assist with coaching of Under 11 and Under 13 teams this season.

If you, or you know of anyone, please contact KEN GRAY at the NSW AFL offices at 303 Cleveland Street, Redfern, on 698-1361 or 698-1660.

BERN HEAFEY - A MAN ON THE MOVE!

Australian Football is on the move in N.S.W. and so is the man who heads it. Like no other President before him, BERN HEAFEY is meeting an incredible number of commitments to achieve progress of the Game throughout the State. His stamina and enthusiasm pales all previous efforts. Here is the timetable he set himself on behalf of the code for the first two months of 1980 -

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Fri Jan 4 (eve) | ABC Sportsman of the Year award | Sydney |
| Wed Jan 9 (am-pm) | Consultation with NSWAFL g.m. Russell Hopper | Redfern |
| Mon Jan 14 (eve) | NSWAFL Board of Management meeting | Redfern |
| Wed Jan 16 (am) | Sponsors Meeting (2 hrs) | Sydney |
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| Thu Jan 17 (eve) | Conference with NSW Umpires Assoc. executive | Sydney |
| Fri Jan 18 (pm-eve) | Meeting with State Selectors and Allan Jeans | Sydney |
| Thu Jan 24 (am-pm) | Meeting with VFL executives (in part) | Melbourne |
| Fri Jan 25 (am-pm) | Annual General Meeting of Australian Football Championships Pty. Ltd., followed by completion of Thursday discussions with VFL executives | Melbourne |
| Sun Jan 27 (am-pm) | Return to Sydney Inaugural Annual Meeting of NSW Country Australian Football League | Wagga |
| Tue Jan 29 (eve) | Return to Sydney Meeting with executive of Macquarie University club | Ryde |
| Thu Jan 31 (pm) | Special General Meeting of National Football League | Melbourne |
| Sat Feb 2 (am-pm) | Return to Sydney Meeting of the Illawarra Australian Football League | Wollongong |
| Mon Feb 4 (am) | Return to Sydney Sponsors Meeting | Sydney |
| Mon Feb 4 (pm) | Sponsors Meeting | Sydney |
| Mon Feb 4 (eve) | Sydney Football League formation meeting | Redfern |
| Tue Feb 5 (eve) | Sydney D. Football Association formation meeting | Redfern |
| Mon Feb 11 (eve) | NSWAFL Board of Management meeting, followed by Annual General Meeting of Sydney Junior F'ball Council | Redfern |
| Fri Feb 15 (pm) | Meeting with all Riverina media, followed by attendance at State Squad training session | Wagga |
| Sat Feb 16 (am-pm) | Annual General Meeting of NSW Junior F'ball Council | Wagga |
| Sun Feb 17 (am-pm) | Meeting with South-West District League | Narrandera |
| Mon Feb 18 (eve) | Return to Sydney NSWAFL Board of Management meeting | Redfern |
| Mon Feb 25 (eve) | Inaugural meeting of SFA and SFL | Redfern |
| Fri Feb 29 (pm-eve) | Annual Dinner & Presentation Night of Hume League | Albury |
| | Return to Sydney | |

In between the above of course are the day-to-day matters as they occur. From March 1st BERN HEAFEY can expect an even greater call on his time - as the football season proper begins in earnest. His recent efforts and unbounding dedication will see him meet every challenge to further the interests of Australia's National Game.

SYDNEY - NEW LEAGUE & ASSOCIATION ARE NEAR

February 4 and February 5 will see two important meetings held at the NSWAFL offices. On successive nights, delegates from both First and Second Division will discuss the final proposals which should culminate on February 25 with the formation of the - SYDNEY FOOTBALL LEAGUE and SYDNEY DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

The progress toward the SFL and SDFA which started with meetings outside of the auspices of the NSWAFL in July 1978 have been watched with careful interest by those who wish to see Australian Football progress with energy through the 1980's.

NSWAFL President BERN HEAFEY, and Board members REG MYERS and KEVIN TAYLOR will attend.

AROUND AND ABOUT - RAY JEMMESON the former NSWAFL Board member has once again committed himself totally for the development of Australian Football in this State. Ray's appointments so far this year include - St. George delegate, NSW Junior President, St. George Junior Football Association President and Sutherland Committee member. Ray although busy with meetings still finds time on a Saturday to play with the Sutherland side ... this season will see the formation of the CENTRAL DISTRICTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, a competition for Under 11 and 13 boys in the Balmain, East Sydney and Newtown areas. Each senior club has indicated it will field two sides in each age group with new under age teams growing to suit the demand. President of the CDJFA will be former Newtown champion DENIS AITKEN backed up by a vice-president from each club, Balmain's JACK HOLM and East Sydney's JOHN TODD. John Muggridge will be the Secretary-Treasurer and State Director of Coaching KEN GRAY will be the administrator.....