ANNUAL REPORT

2016

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

KGV Park, Glenorchy

Sunday 5th February 2017
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I present to members Football Federation Tasmania’s Annual Report for 2016.

We are now three years into our five year strategic plan to achieve the organisation’s vision namely ‘To develop and maintain a vibrant football culture in Tasmania with facilities equivalent to the best amateur grounds in the country and to position the World Game as the major participant sport across the entire Tasmanian community’.

Our plan to grow and develop our game is based on the four pillars of facilities, competitions, pathways and relationships.

Discussions regarding facilities improvements have taken place with the Premier and within Sport & Recreation; as well as with various councils across Tasmania. The organisation continues to work towards the development of a junior precinct at Cambridge. We have also been supporting various clubs with their endeavours to gain council support for improvements to their facilities.

With respect to the pathways pillar and player numbers, overall registrations have remained relatively constant, with some increases and decreases across various grades and age groups. In the junior ranks (under 12 and below) there were 7,841 players in 2016 which represented an increase of 2.2%. While the overall number of males at 9,094 was almost exactly the same as last year (9,097), the numbers of female registrants at 3,017 was slightly down by 30 players. Futsal numbers continue to increase in the North, while in the South they have remained constant.

Participation in national competitions was as per the plan with Tasmanian NDC men and women, U14 and U13 boys, U15 and U13 girls all competing as well as Devonport Strikers participating in both the FFA Cup and National Premier League Finals. Devonport deserves great credit for their performances on the national stage; their journey illustrates how Tasmanian football continues to improve.
In providing opportunities for players; 2016 saw both the Tasmanian Women’s and Men’s Teams play against Victoria and Melbourne City FC respectively. Our women were defeated by Victoria, who retained the Bass Strait Cup, whilst our men overcame our partner A-League club Melbourne City in a thriller at KGV Park.

The Board has continued to prioritise the growth of the junior game following the review of Junior Football. An advisory committee has now been established of Junior Associations with representation from the FFT Board and Staff. This committee will continue to meet in 2017 as we look at ways to support junior football and in particular participation growth.

With respect to the Competitions pillar, a goal of the Board is to see balanced and sustainable competitions and a consistency from year-to-year and we are pleased that there is progress in this area. There is stability about the PS4 National Premier League and the Northern and Southern Championships for men and women. These competitions will continue to be played in the same formats in 2017. We have however made significant changes on the men’s side with the announcement of promotion to the PS4 NPL in the 2018 season and promotion/relegation in the 2019 season. This will add an extra element of excitement and interest in these competitions.

Women’s football remains a significant priority and we were pleased to be able to introduce the Women’s Super League in 2016. Whilst there were some challenges around the structure and the number of matches in the pilot competition, your Board has endorsed the Super League to continue in 2017 subject to sufficient clubs meeting the criteria. We see this as foundational work in growing the game to the stage where a Women’s NPL becomes viable and self-sustaining.

Once again the efforts of our referees were greatly appreciated. Coverage rates for matches remained high with 100% at PS4NPL level and 95% at Championship level across the state. However at around 55% in the other competitions, there is still progress to be made. There has been positive work done in recruitment, particularly with younger referees and we are
confident that this will allow us to continue to build the overall numbers going forward.

Performance against our Relationships pillar was good overall. Positive media coverage for football was maintained and customer satisfaction ratings were strong. A further positive was the continuing growth of the relationship with Melbourne City FC as our A-League partner. This is very different to the previous arrangement we had with Melbourne Victory and is entirely focussed on player development. This has seen a number of development squads visit Melbourne City’s impressive training facilities and work with coaches from their organisation. We are intending to grow this area as we provide enhanced experiences for our talented players.

One of the most interesting developments was the announcement of a consortium pursuing an A-League licence for Tasmania. The Board are broadly supportive of any initiatives which grow the sport within the State; however there has yet to be any formal detail provided to the Board regarding the proposed bid. Also, we need to await information from FFA regarding the tender process in 2017. No doubt there will be significant discussion around this matter and the Board will endeavour to ensure that FFT and its members are well placed regardless of the outcome.

For stakeholders interested in the 2016 honour roll across the competitions this is available as part of our CEO’s December update on our FFT website.

I would like to thank my fellow directors, all the various volunteer office holders of our constituent member organisations, FFT staff and all our sponsors for their valuable contributions during what has once again been a very busy and successful year.

Sean Collins
President, Football Federation Tasmania Ltd.
FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
James Brooks

The year ended 31 October 2016 saw a modest surplus for the organisation of $39.9k (1.7% of turnover).

Income was $2.384m, which was the same as in 2015 and expenditure increased marginally by 0.2% from $2.286m in 2015 to $2.344m. Even though overall income was constant from 2015 to 2016 there was a fall in grant/sponsorship funds from non-renewal of Melbourne Victory support of the NPL and adjustment or discontinuance of FFA funds across a number of areas, which were offset by increases in coach education, futsal and player development activities.

Major expenditure changes on the previous year were a fall in employee expenses due to some staff structural changes as well as a reduction in travel and meeting expenses. However, increases occurred in competitions with major maintenance on KGV lights and additional promotion around the NPL and Women’s Super League. The additional futsal and player development activities also resulted in an increase in costs.

Net current assets increased by $7k, maintaining a strong working capital ratio of 4.4, and net assets grew modestly from $721k to $761k ensuring the organisation retains a strong balance sheet for strategic investments in the game.

The October 2016 accounts were audited by independent auditor Accru Hobart, with auditor Michael J Burnett concluding that, in his
opinion, “…the Financial Report was in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 including: giving a true and fair view of the organisation’s Financial Position at, and Financial Performance to, 31 October 2016; and complying with Australian Accounting Standards”.

The board’s Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee also met independently with the auditor who expressed that the organisation is being managed prudently for the benefit of its members.

Other areas of focus for the FARM Committee included strengthening the internal controls of the company, more closely managing and enforcing the credit control policy (resulting in significant improvements in credit management), reviewing key policies for the organisation and reviewing and reporting on major initiatives and strategies on behalf of the board.

I would like to recognise the strong contribution made by my predecessor, Glenn Campbell, prior to his resignation in July 2016 in overseeing the management of the company’s finances and financial management practices.

I would also like to thank the clubs for their co-operation and professional financial management practices, the members of the FARM Committee and staff, for ensuring the company maintains a strong financial position to meet future strategic challenges.

James Brooks
Chair Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee.