



**Minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Ainslie Football Club Incorporated
conducted on 23 February 2025.
Held at the Ainslie Football Club.**

Attendees

Greg Bishop, Karl Blundell, Glenn Brown, Jason Burgess, Michael Caley, Nathan Cawley, Tracey Cawley, Rene Chaustowski, Denis Condon, Stewart Cross, Dani Curcio, Aldo Di Petta, Greta Doherty, Roy Hancock, Ash Harris, Brent Heaver, Ally Hirst, Wendy Hirst, Simon Holt, Jack Ireland, Mark Jillard, Rebecca Kerlett, Laurie Laffan, David Lee, Edi Marshall, John McGrath, Sue-Anne McKeough, John Mikita, Alex Mitchell, Stewart Morgan, Ian Muir, Jim Muir, Linda Muir, Nicholas Paine, Peter Poke, Ralph Rendell, Wayne Rogers, Lisa Rourke, Alison Scholes, Marcus Sheridan, Robert Stokman, Andrew Thompson, Giles Tranter, Kendelle Treloar, Greg Vickers, Matthew Vickers, Meredith Wells, Anthony White, Kirsty Westaway

Michael Cawley, AFC President, welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 9.33am

Agenda Item 1 - Apologies

The following apologies were recorded

Garry Cox, Brett Hannam, Liz Holt, Lee Phillips

Agenda Item 2 - To confirm minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting

Motion – That the Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting held 18 February 2024 be accepted.

Moved - Wayne Rodgers

Seconded - Glenn Brown

Agenda Item 3 - To receive and confirm the Committee reports on the activities of the Club to 30 September 2024

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The President welcomed all AGM attendees especially board directors and office holders, and special mention to board directors leaving the board Paul Connellan and Sarah Bosworth.

The president also offered a special welcome to Social Club directors.

The strategic plan seeks to deliver good governance and financial management with a focus on improved, inclusive facilities, The club has continued to deliver on the facilities aspects, evidenced by improved grandstands. We have also delivered a key governance outcome with a review and renewal of the Club's Objects and Rules.

The President noted the Ainslie Football Club (only) reported a 2024 Operating loss. Loss due to increases in a number of football operational costs plus significant facility costs including grandstand maintenance.

This loss will carry forward into 2025, and the new board will review the 2025/26 budget to factor in this loss.

In the capability and communication space, we improved our digital communications work to the extent that the Club received the AFL's 2024 Senior Club Media Award. The club also provided communication experience to an intern during the season as part of our strategy to reach out to our club membership.

In 2024, the senior club introduced the 'Eight for Mates' concept which sought to have all senior players provide eight hours of support over the course of the season. The program was introduced across the senior teams as a trial and was based on the long-standing concept that individual contributions achieve a community benefit. The program was well received amongst our players and in 2025, the program will be continued, and we will seek to expand that into our junior teams.

We field more senior and community grade teams than any other club in Canberra and have over 350 junior participants and 300 senior participants – we are clearly a club of choice for many. In the women's space, we were the only club that fielded four teams across 1sts, 2nds, 3rds and U18s. Overall, our participation numbers remained relatively stable for 2024. The AFL will not be pursuing a Canberra-Sydney competition which means the competition structure will remain as is for the foreseeable future.

Our One Community objectives based on making a positive impact on our club community by connecting people has continued. We established the 100 Years Project committee, and the level of work is appropriate for the stage we are at. That work will increase over time as we head towards 2027. With regard to culture, the feedback I have received from the senior and junior spaces has been positive. I am comfortable that the culture is at the right setting. Looking forward, our values will not change, TRADITION, RESPECT, INCLUSION, COMMITMENT and INTEGRITY, will continue to be fostered within our Club.

Our success at the senior men's and women's levels were not where we would have liked, but we were close and there is no need to hang our heads. The season saw the retirement of our Senior Female Coach, Britt Tully, and I thank her for the wonderful work including bringing us our second senior women's premiership in 2023. Our 18s and 16s female and male teams all won premierships and our challenge going forward is to retain those players and grow them into senior or community squads.

I look towards 2025 with a lot of positiveness for the club in the football operations department. Off the field, we as a club need to have that discussion as we head towards our 100th year about what type of club we see ourselves being over the long term. How we do business, how we move forward will be critical – the Club is not in a position to rest on its laurels. We know the 20 year old football player of 2027, will not be the same 20 year old from our first year, our 60th, 70th or 80th years so it cannot only be more of the same.

The reality of community football is that if we do not adjust how we operate, if we do not fight for the survival of the Club, it is pretentious to assume that our club will be immune to what has happened to so many other community clubs. I would assert that we as members need to consider where we want the club to be in our 120th year – in 2047.

Certainly, if the development around Alan Ray Oval is the success that it sets out to be, it would be wrong not to consider how the club needs to change in light of that success. I look forward to seeing you during the footy throughout 2025.

Motion – To receive and confirm the Committee reports on the activities of the Club to 30 September 2024

Moved - Greg VICKERS

Seconded – Al Mitchell

Agenda Item 4 - To receive and consider the statement of accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

Motion - To receive the statement of accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

Moved – Wayne Rodgers

Seconded – Andrew Thompson

Agenda Item 5 – To elect Directors

The President dissolved the 2024/25 board.

The Returning Officer, Simon Holt, advised the meeting that as the number of nominations matched the number of board positions available, per clause 12.4 of the Orders & Regulations, the following members were appointed as 2025/26 Board Directors as

Greg Bishop
Michael Cawley
Greta Doherty
Rebecca Kerlett
Sue-Anne McKeough
Alex Mitchell
Ian Muir
Andrew Thompson
Kirsten Westaway
Kendelle Williams

The meeting acknowledged the new Board members.

Agenda Item 6 – To approve amendments to the Ainslie Football Club's Objects and Rules

The President referred to the 3 page letter dated 8 January 2025 from BAL Lawyers outlining the rationale for proposed changes to the Objects and Rules.

No questions came from the meeting.

Moved – To approve the amendments to the Ainslie Football Club's Objects and Rules as tabled

Moved – Glenn Brown

Seconded – Greta Doherty

The President gave special thanks for the assistance of Greta Doherty in the interactions with the lawyers.

Agenda Item 7 – To elect by Special Resolution ordinary member/s as a life member of the club

1) Linda Muir

Words from Mick & Nathan Cawley.

Junior Development roles and operational roles.

On AFL Canberra Boards and Committees.

Drove participation in the Junior Football space.

Outstanding administrator but even more an outstanding person.

Nathan Cawley - why am I involved with the Ainslie Football Club - Linda Muir.
Love, kindness, care for me and all our players.
Epitomises the Ainslie Family.

Linda Muir responded

The outcome does not drive this, but a desire to help.

Brian James and Salvo DeLorenzo two of the first embracers to a woman coach and junior development officer.

Proud of my involvement, and development of women's players.

Special mention to Greg Bishop, challenging what is expected of coaches.

And a very special time working with Rourke and Lyndon.

2) Aldo Di Petta

Words from Jason Burgess.

Aldo Grew up in Melbourne, In 1990-92 drafted to St Kilda.

1993 came to AFC. Drafted to Sydney Swans.

1993-2001 in and under centre player. 129 games, 5 Premierships, B&F.

On Social Board in 2006.

Selfless, dedicated, deflecting self praise.

Great clubman, even better bloke.

Aldo Di Petta responded.

Thank you, a massive honour. The Club has done so much more for me.

Thought I'd stay in Canberra for one year, 30 years later I'm still here.

Helped with job opportunities. More importantly I met my wife through football connections.

I strongly value my friendships and my Ainslie family connections.

3) Meredith Wells

Words from Dani Curcio

So well deserved. Your name is synonymous with Ainslie.

Represented ACT and been recognised with a number of club awards.

Moved from softball to soccer to AFL.

Words describing her talents

on the field - machine, in awe, epic.

off the field - much too sensible. Constant energy, calm, fun.
Murph was a key person finding reasons to celebrate irrespective of football results.
She was one of our first “generational” players.
She was there for the highs and the lows and always with an attitude to improve and teach development.

Meredith Wells response.

A special thanks to all. Football was a significant part of forming my life for so long, it was a place where I made some of my best friends.

I never thought I would get this honour.

It is great to be recognised as a woman playing footy at Ainslie when initially there were such limited playing opportunities.

4) Ash Harris

Words from Greg Vickers.

To talk to Ash’s involvement with Ainslie is a great moment for me.

Ash started as an u18, while studying at Daramalan College.

In all the ACTAS soccer development squads. Matt Vickers chased Ash to play footy for 3 years.

In 2006 Ash played 4 u18s games, before debuting for 1st grade.

Rep player. Reliable, untiring, under the radar and always a significant presence.

Retired with a focus on his growing family.

Ash Harris responded

A huge honour. Especially alongside all the other recipients.

Not expecting this amount of emotion.

Footy is secondary to the people.

At crossroads of soccer, being chased by mates from AFC & Belco.

Great memories of so many people.

The Muir family. Chris Rourke and the Rourke family.

To my wife and our our 4 children.

Lucky to play at a successful time.

Thank you again.

5) Giles Tranter

Words from Edi Marshall

Predominantly Community player, initially a junior player including captain of R/Stars, and B&F in M2s.

The most important player on and off the field.

Dealt with plenty of injuries but always been around.

Community footy wouldn’t exist without a number of key people, and Giles is one of these people.

Giles Tranter response.

Family is what Ainslie do best.

As a young player I played a little, I left, came back and the club remembered me.

Able to foster my love for footy to new and young players.

Just to be involved is amazing. Help people to stay in their footy journey.

Overwhelmed to be recognised - not what you do footy for.

6) Mark Jillard

Words from Edi Marshall - kind of player who was a football brain, hard worker, committed to the team needs.

He has played 4 different grades for Ainslie – over 200 games.

Community awards across 10 years.

Played in 2014 Community flag.

Reliable,

Towards the end, would play when body his would allow it.

Strong family connection with footy through his dad.

Pillar of the club in areas where not everyone blossomed.

Mark Jillard response.

Started playing community footy with a bunch of mates.

Miles Davis, Tommy Lemon, Giles Tranter, Andrew Ferrell key people in his journey.

Shock to be in such illustrious comedy, but very appreciative.

Moved – To approve to the status of Life Member to the Ainslie Football Club for:

Linda Muir

Aldo Di Petta

Meredith Wells

Ash Harris

Giles Tranter

Mark Jillard

Moved – Al Mitchell

Seconded – Andrew Thompson

The President welcomed the life member recipients noting that they are all pillars of our club and torches to those coming through.

Agenda Item 8 – Any other business

No other business.

Meeting closed 10.33am.