



Essendon Football Club

ACN 004 286 373

MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Details

Meeting Date and Time	6.30pm, Wednesday 18 December 2024
Location	Essendonians Function Centre, Essendon Football Club, 32 Watson Drive, Melbourne Airport 3045, Victoria
Directors Present	David Barham (President) Andrew Welsh (Vice President) David Wills (Finance Director) Anthony Howard AM KC Dorothy Hisgrove Andrew Muir Kate O'Sullivan Tim Roberts
Other Members Present	See attached list
Guests Present	Julian De Stoop
Apologies	Melissa Verner Green

Minutes

INTRODUCTION

Julian De Stoop (**JDS**) welcomed all those present and gave an acknowledgement of country.

QUORUM

The President, David Barham (**DB**) noted that a quorum was present and declared the 2024 Annual General Meeting open.

DB introduced the Directors, the Chief Executive Officer, Craig Vozzo (**CV**) and Company Secretary and General Counsel, Michael Abrahams (**MA**), representatives of the Club's Executive and the Club's auditors, Grant Thornton.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND NOTICE OF MEETING

DB tabled the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 December 2023 and noted that these had been approved by the Board and signed by the chair of that meeting. DB noted that these minutes had been approved and signed in accordance with the Corporations Act and had been made available on the Club's website. Copies were also available at the registration desk.

DB noted that the Notice of Meeting had been given in accordance with the Club's Constitution. The Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

DB invited the Vice President, Andrew Welsh (**AW**), to conduct the first item of business, Declaration of Election of Directors, given that DB had been a candidate for election.

DECLARATION OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

AW noted that nominations for the two available Director positions to be filled by election were received from five candidates and that a ballot had been conducted independently by CorpVote and overseen by the Club's Returning Officer, Bruce Walmsley KC.

AW formally declared the results of the ballot, with DB and Dean Solomon elected to the Board for three year terms. AW congratulated the successful candidates and thanked all other candidates who had put themselves forward for election as well as the members who had exercised their right to vote. AW acknowledged the substantial contribution of Melissa Verner Green, who would be leaving the Board.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

DB returned to the lectern.

DB congratulated Dean Solomon on being appointed to the Club's Board and acknowledged the contribution made by Melissa Verner Green over the past seven years.

DB thanked all other Board members for their hard work and loyalty to the Club, the Board and each other throughout the year.

DB thanked the members who had voted for him and stated that he would continue to do his best to bring success to the Club, on and off the field. DB stated that, in his view, the election result was a strong vote for stability, alignment and unity. DB stated that the previous two years had represented a new era, that the current Board was not responsible for the previous 20 years and that the Club was now moving forward in a stable and united manner and was aligned towards success.

DB congratulated the leaders of the Club, including Craig Vozzo, whom he said had continued to do an outstanding job (including implementing changes that would create long term benefits for the Club) and Brad Scott, whom he said had also reshaped the Club and set the example of always putting the Club first.

DB congratulated Natalie Wood, AFLW Senior Coach, on an outstanding year and the rapid improvement of the team under her leadership.

DB thanked the Club's executive leadership team for another excellent year, as well as all of the Club's staff.

DB stated that the Club was in the midst of a reset, putting the right people, processes and systems in place to create long term, sustainable success.

RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Finance Director, David Wills (**DW**) was introduced.

DW noted that the Annual Report and financial accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024 had been made available through the Club's website and that copies had been sent to members who had requested them.

The Annual Report and financial accounts were taken as read and received.

DW noted the Club's continued investment in the football department and the stronger alignment of resources for the ongoing development of the players and teams.

DW spoke to the key aspects of the annual financial report for the year ended 31 October 2024 including the:

- profit & loss statement and the 'year on year' changes including investment in the Football department and facilities at the NEC Hangar and Windy Hill; and
- balance sheet.

DW spoke to the Club's plans to redevelop the Windy Hill precinct and recent funding received from the AFL to support the regeneration of the venue.

DW thanked Tony Pititto from Grant Thornton, who had been the lead partner in relation to the Club's audit for the past 7 years and was retiring from the role due to mandatory audit rotation requirements.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADDRESS

CV gave an address in which he:

- provided a summary of the Club's AFL recruiting strategy since 2017 to date, including significant list changes made since 2022 and the Club's current list status;
- outlined recent investments to upgrade football facilities at the NEC Hangar including a new steam room and resurfacing of the main training oval;
- referenced the experience of Chris Fagan and the Brisbane Lions in taking 8 years to achieve ultimate success;
- confirmed the Club's continued focus on investment in the VFL program, including bolstering coaching and operational resources;
- praised the VFLW team in reaching the finals for the second consecutive year;
- noted the challenge for the AFLW program to continue to progress to the next level and win finals;
- praised the continued progress and success of the Club's VWFL program;
- highlighted the success of holding AFLW games at Windy Hill with respect to attendances and broadcast ratings and the Club's commitment to further enhancing the venue from a playing, fan and broadcast perspective;
- thanked the Club's commercial partners for their ongoing support; and
- spoke to some of the Club's key community achievements during the year, including the AFLW Dreamtime game in Darwin, increased connections with the Tiwi Bombers, an enhanced presence at schools in the North-West Melbourne region and growing the Club's talent pathways programs.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

DB explained the procedure for the appointment of the auditors for the 2025 financial year, which required a formal vote of members present.

DB moved the motion:

That Grant Thornton be appointed as the auditor of Essendon Football Club for the financial year ending 31 October 2025.

DB invited any questions on the motion. There were no questions raised.

A vote was conducted, and **the motion was declared carried.**

DECLARATION OF THE BALLOT ON MEMBER REQUISITIONED RESOLUTION

DB outlined the proposed member requisitioned resolution received by the Club from the No Pokies at Essendon (NoPE) group on 1 October 2024, seeking to amend the Club's Constitution and the procedure required under the Corporations Act and the Club's Constitution for the proposal to be determined.

DB noted that to amend the Club's Constitution the resolution would need to be passed as a special resolution, meaning that at least 75% of votes would need to be cast in favour of the proposed resolution for it to be successful.

DB noted that a ballot of members had been conducted and that 63.8% of votes had been cast *against* the proposal. DB declared that the proposed special resolution therefore had not been passed.

QUESTION AND ANSWER - AFL & AFLW

General Manager of AFL, Daniel McPherson, and General Manager of AFLW, Aysha Ward, were welcomed to the stage and participated in a question and answer session with JDS.

GENERAL BUSINESS

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

DB and CV addressed questions that had been submitted by members in advance of the meeting or during the meeting, including regarding the following:

- the Club's investment in its facilities to attract the best players;
- game time opportunities for younger players;
- contractual arrangements with Marvel Stadium and greater opportunities to play at the MCG;
- recent increases in membership prices;
- recruiting more indigenous players and remaining a leader in this area;
- the Club's continued involvement in gaming venues and alternative revenue streams; and
- the on-field results in 2024 and prospects for the 2025 season.

CLOSURE

There being no further business, DB declared the meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record

David Barham, President