



REDLANDS TOUCH ASSOCIATION INC 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

- To:** 2020 Management Committee
Life Members
Management Committee Nominees
Association Members & Players
- Venue:** Redlands Touch Association Clubhouse
- Date:** 27 May 2021
- Time:** 6.30pm
- Item One:** Presidents Welcome
- Item Two:** Attendance: as per attendance register

Apologies: Russel Thompson
- Item Three:** Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting
MOVED: Sharon Searston
SECONDED: Mark Jansson
- Item Four:** 2020 Management Committee Reports
(a) Presidents Report
(b) Treasurers Report (including Auditors Report)
(c) Referees Report
(d) Junior Report
(e) Operations Report
MOVED: Craig Searston for all reports to be accepted.
SECONDED: Trent Ford
- Item Five:** Acceptance of financial statements
MOVED: Karyn Smith
SECONDED: James McNamara
- Item Six:** Appointment of Auditor – Metro Audit Services
MOVED: Mark Jansson
SECONDED: Jason Forsyth
- Item Seven:** Life Members Nominations: Nil
- Item Eight:** Election of Management Committee
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) President | Craig Searston |
| (b) Vice President | OPEN FOR ELECTION |
| (c) Treasurer | OPEN FOR ELECTION |
| (f) Secretary (Appointed 18/05/2021) | Rhiannon Moreton |

Nominations received:

Vice President: Rick Lester

NOMINATED BY: Sharon Searston

SECONDED BY: James McNamara

Treasurer: Karyn Smith

NOMINATED BY: Craig Searston

SECONDED BY: James McNamara

**No other Nominations were received and there were no contested positions.
All Nominations were accepted and approved.**

Meeting Closed: 7pm

SIGNED:

**Craig Searston
(PRESIDENT)**



Presidents Report

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2020 commenced well with both our Senior and Junior Competitions up on numbers from the previous Season 1 in 2019.

The junior sub-committee were proactive over the Summer holidays, with a greater emphasis on advertising our Junior Competitions and Mini Muddies. The sub-committee were able to display posters at every primary and high school in the Redlands Catchment and were able to get individual flyers to students within those schools. I want to thank Jason FORSYTH for the passion and effort he put into driving this advertising campaign. Owing to this advertising we were able to grow our junior competition to over 100 teams which was the second highest number of teams in the club's history. The club were pleased to see a number of teams made up from our mini muddies graduates from the previous season entered into the Under 8's competition and also a number of the mini muddies graduates also playing in other teams.

The board was pleased to see our Women's competition continue with 9 teams competing in two divisions in Season 1 2020. It was great to see the ladies improve and their confidence grow throughout the season and it was great to see some of our ladies who hadn't played for a number of years back enjoying our sport again.

The Senior Competition grew to over 100 teams across all our competitions in 2020 for the first time in many years. The board believes there is work to be done in our Senior Competitions to keep the numbers stabilised and also to grow our competitions. The Senior Sub-Committee was formed in early 2021 and the board are hopeful they can drive initiatives to support this growth.

In early March 2020 the board made an informed decision to suspend all our Junior and Senior Competitions owing to the growing Covid 19 outbreak in South East Queensland, in order to protect our community. Redlands Touch Association were the first affiliate to make the decision to suspend competitions and that decision was vindicated a week later when all community sport was suspended in Queensland.

The rest of 2020 was a tough year for everyone, with normal life turned upside down and the opportunity to play the sport they love now on hold.

I want to thank all our staff for the commitment you gave to the club through this challenging period. With support of the Federal Government Job Keeper payment we were able to keep a number of staff employed throughout the Pandemic. I want to show gratitude from the club for the hard work, commitment and the ability to remain positive as things changed on a daily basis throughout the uncertainty.

The main goal of the board for 2020 was to get our competitions re-started, give our participants one full season and to give our participants value for money.

In September 2020 we were able to re-start all our competitions and even grow the competition in both Juniors and Seniors.

In September 2020 we formed a partnership with the Salvation Army Cleveland. Through this partnership we were able to commence a clothing drive to help support the Salvation Army to support those families and individuals in need in the Redlands. As part of the Drive the club received a payment for every bag we supplied. As always our community rose to the occasion and donated over 400 bags of quality clothing which the Salvation Army were extremely appreciative. Bags continue to come in now and another clothes drive will be run in the second half of 2021.

The board would like to thank our Junior Sub-Committee once again led admirably by Chairperson James McNamara for all their efforts in 2020 to grow our junior base and then to drive the community spirit and culture in our Friday Junior competitions. The junior committee continued to come up with initiatives to fundraise and gather sponsorship for the club which attributed to a successful year.

The board would like to thank our Referee Sub-Committee led by Chairperson Matt Lavery and Jason HEMSON. The committee has been able to grow numbers in our referees throughout both our Senior and Junior Competitions and grown the profile of our referee group. It has been great to see a number of our Junior Referees progress into our Senior Competitions. The referees play an integral part in our association and its great to see a positive influence from the leaders of the referee group.

The financial position of the association improved in 2020 and for the first time in a number of years the club made a small profit. The board believes with the hard work put into growing the grass roots of the club and continued positive numbers in our junior and senior competitions the board is confident the club's financial position will continue to trend in a positive manner in 2021.

I would like to acknowledge the positive contribution made by Jenny PRICE over the past 18 months in her role as Club Secretary. Jenny stepped down from her position in early 2021 and her contribution will be sorely missed.

I would like to thank Rick Lester (Vice President) and Karyn Smith (Treasurer) for all the hard work you both have put in behind the scenes to make Redlands Touch Association the club it is today.

I would like to thank all members of the Redlands Touch Community who have continued to play and support Redlands Touch Association through what has been a turbulent 12 months. The board is looking forward to a positive 2021 for both the club and its members.

Craig SEARSTON

President



RTA Treasurers Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

After a great start to 2020 the year did not proceed as we had budgeted and planned. With financial management improvements and income generating strategies implemented during 2019 our forecast was for the 2020 financial year to produce our first surplus since 2016.

Obviously the year was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic restricting us to only one competition season for the year. We were also unable to host any of our annual major fundraising events e.g. Arthur Davies Cup and QPST All Schools and many other income generating activities. This led to a major reduction in our annual income as is evident in our Financial Statements.

However, with the wonderful support from our Committees, Staff, Volunteers, Members and the Job Keeper payments we were fortunate to be able to retain key staff and still battle through to a much lower than forecast surplus result (please refer to the 2020 Financial Statement).

This left us in a secure financial position at the end of 2020. We continue to consider and implement more strategic income generating initiatives and review, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our financial management processes and systems, which encourages us to forecast a more significant surplus result for 2021.

Fingers crossed we have no more outbreaks of COVID -19 or other unforeseen disruptions and our forecast is achieved.

Regards

Karyn SMITH

Treasurer – Redlands Touch Association



RTA REFEREES REPORT 2020

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Firstly, I would like to thank our Referee Committee members who give their valuable time to ensure Redlands Touch leads the way in our region for referee development.

Again, the dedication of our referee team, particularly a large number of stalwarts that have been with the club for many years, allows our game to be played.

The committee started the year meeting on a regular basis face to face which soon turned to Zoom meetings due to the Covid outbreak.

The new 8th edition rules were introduced over a number of weeks allowing both players and referees to adapt without being overwhelmed.

This process worked well and enabled a smooth transition.

The disruption to the season meant that a number of planned courses did not run due to enforced restrictions.

When play resumed the referee team had to adapt to a new way of doing things to enable the club to implement its Covid Safe Plan. Things such as spraying balls, managing new scorecards and spectator registration became the norm.

The committee put out several short videos on the return to play to remind referees of the new rules and Covid Safe Plan.

We finished the season with 82 regular referees many of whom will be attempting upgrades to Level 2 or Level 3 in 2021.

One of the most pleasing outcomes from 2020 was the number of junior, (under 18) referees that stepped up to senior grades to join a number that returned from 2019.

Phoebe Arnold, Lauren Nolan, Liana Dix, Dylan Bryant, Jacob Persson, Matt Sheppard, Tim Rae.

Their continued development is vital to our club.

A big thank you to the club judiciary for taking a stand against abusive and threatening behaviour towards our referees with some long suspensions handed down.

Work has already started with club management and the other committees to formulate a referee strategic development plan focusing on recruitment, development & retention of our referees.

This will give us a focus and pathway for many years ahead to ensure Redlands remains at the forefront of referee development.

Courses

☑ Level 1- 20 attendees

☑ Level 2- 13 attendees

Events

☑ NYC- 4 attendees

☑ Senior State Cup- 4 attendees

☑ Secondary All Schools- 4 attendees

☑ All Nations- 7 attendees

The referees were supported at these events through the Redlands Club Fund and the Redlands Referee Fund.

Awards

Encouragement Award Senior Competition 2020- **Dylan Bryant**

Encouragement Award Junior Competition 2020- **Tayla Hankey & Daniela Hankey**

Family Achievement Award 2020- **Cameron & Paul Beggs**

Rising Star Award 2020- **Harry Taske**

Ray Forster Trophy Most Improved Referee 2020- Seniors -**Matt Wingad**: Juniors- **Lauren Nolan**

Referee of the Year 2020- **Lee Rossow**

Whistle Tone Award 2020- **Theo Rae**

Rookie of the Year Seniors 2020- **Phoebe Arnold**

Referees Choice 2020- **Matt Wingad**

Junior Mentor/Coach of the Year 2020- **Matthew Sheppard**

Most Consistent Referee 2020- **Monday- Mathew Wingad**

Tuesday- Dave Holland

Wednesday- Cameron Beggs

100 games 2020 season- **Dave Holland, Mathew Wingad, Cameron Beggs**

Redlands Touch Association Referee Committee

Matt Lavery (Chairman), Rebecca Buzacott (Secretary), Lawren Sullivan (Treasurer), Lee Rossow (Referee Development Officer), Jason Hemson (Social & Fundraising Coordinator), Neil O'Brien (Referee Development Advisor), Matthew Shepard (Referee Development Advisor).

Junior Committee Report for 2020

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2020 was a year like no other. The fact that Junior Season 1 2021 is the biggest in the Clubs history is testimony to our sporting community and the way it responded to the pandemic.

With that in mind, the Junior Committee would like to acknowledge the close involvement of the BOM and Administration in its activities during 2020. This style of open and regular communication led to better decisions being made faster. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Club's referees in supporting the Friday night Junior competition as well as the Clubs Junior Representative activities.

SEASON 1 2020

Despite Season 1 being suspended part-way through, the Committee managed to achieve a number of outcomes in Season 1.

Sign-on Night

- February Sign-on Day was well promoted. The largest attendance in recent years (if not ever). The result was 98 teams joining our competition.
- VIPs visiting sign-on night, Ethos [volunteer](#) helping, activities for kids in undercover area.
- Activities were held under cover due to rain. The kids had a great time despite the situation.

Mini Muddies

- 60 participants in Term 1
- Term 2 cancelled
- Bendigo Bank continued their \$500 sponsorship for Term 1 and provide volunteer staff member to help with set-up each week
- Instructor roles were exclusively filled with High School students for the first time.

Junior Season

- Started extremely well
- Lots of community engagement
- Rain interruptions early in Season 1 and ultimately suspended on March 16th due to COVID
- Very little happened during the suspension period.

Junior Representative Season

- Rep. Coaches in place by Jan 2020
- Junior Rep Trials 22 Feb, Mar 1. These were well attended.
- Ultimately the Rep Season was cancelled.

Fundraising

- Entered the Freedom Property “vote for your club” to win \$1000 competition. Second year running that we didn’t get to top 3. Once we are at 110+ teams, we should try again.

Community Building

- Lots more recognition of our community members in our Facebook group – coaches, referees, parents, sponsors, supporters
- Friday night ‘post play parents social’ was rocking in the Club (pre-covid).

SEASON 2 2020*Sign-on Night*

- Very well attended, even bigger than Season 1 (the biggest ever ... again)
- Season 2 sign-on achieved 100 teams (equally biggest ever)
- New table signage put in place for each age group with the intention of lifting our professional appearance and brand image.
- The sign-on marketplace concept was reviewed, and ideas noted to make it better. The committee continues to work with Kim Spinks on the best ways to recruit new people to our Club so that everything works post sign-on.
- It is still a challenge to find coaches for teams that are formed from individuals at sign on. The “come down and we’ll find you a team” offer needs to be adjusted. Since then, more work has been done on how The Club can provide support for new U8 and U10 teams. More about that in the 2021 report!
- It was agreed that Kim Spinks needs paid Admin support across the weekend immediately after Friday Sign-on. We expect to achieve 110 – 120 teams in 2021/2022. The workload is now too much for one person.
- New My Sideline was very frustrating for Club Staff and Parents alike. Mark and Kim were extremely supportive of parents to help them navigate the system.

Mini Muddies

- Mini Muddies solid for Term 3 and 4. Bendigo supported with \$500 ash donation each of Term 1, 3 and 4. This has continued into 2021.
- We pushed on with staffing Mini Muddies with local high school students. We now have the instructors that we need to grow the Mini Muddies numbers to 100.
- We need to provide continued support to the instructors on working with young kids and the drills that are appropriate for that. More work has been done in this regard in 2021.

Junior Season

- COVID return to play procedures were supported by professional signage and Junior Committee volunteer Marshals actively patrolling the grounds.
- Junior development clinics were held on Nov 13th and 20th. These were well attended by the younger age groups with over 100 kids in attendance.
- Season finished earlier since Redfest and other events were cancelled.
- Presentation night was held outside on Field 5 based on Mark's recommendation. This worked extremely well. We'll look to do this again in the future.
- Increased the focus on supporting our Referees through (1) signage, and (2) social media posts edifying our referees.

Junior Representative Season

- Applications for Junior Rep were requested during October. Ended up filling all coaching positions required. Rep Coaches were announced on the 1st of December 2020.
- Ultimately, Junior Rep Season 2020 was cancelled.

Fundraising

- The Salvo's clothing drive commenced in August. The drive finished at the end of October. Raised just over \$2400 for the club. This was earmarked for the Redlands Team marquee at JSC. Lots of good promo/PR about this. Lance, Sheena and Kim got right behind it. Madeline McGowan was a tremendous support.
- \$2500+ was raised from the Councillors Discretionary Fund. This was used to purchase a number of metal A-Frames and the printing of numerous signs. The messaging included: COVID safe play and QR code check-in, good sportsmanship, supporting referees, and promotions for the canteen. These A-Frames can be repurposed for field map and parking signage during Arthur Davis Cup and Primary All Schools carnivals (this has started). The metal frames will last us and be able to be used at the new venue.
- Ethos Sponsorship was due for renewal at the end of Season 1, 2020. This was extended to beginning of Season 1 2021 in lieu of COVID. We continued to provide positive PR and involvement for Ethos which resulted in them renewing their \$5000 sponsorship in 2021.

Community Building

- August 28th - VIP afternoon at the Club with 7 Local Councillors there, plus Kim Richards and Ethos representative
- Combined meeting with Referee Committee representatives to talk about potential collaboration and co-support to build a stronger club
- Very positive engagement in our Redlands Junior Touch Community Facebook Group.

Junior Committee Membership

- Junior Committee membership expanded with the addition of Candice Cross and Stu Goldston. This provides succession/back-up as the years roll on.

Although 2020 was severely impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic there are many positives to speak of and reasons to be grateful.

The year started with very strong Junior and senior team nominations on the back of very extensive and successful marketing and promotion from our Junior Committee in particular Jason Forsyth. This was also evident by the strong growth in the Mini Muddies Program.

Jason Hemson made an immediate impact taking over the Referee Coordinator position and working closely with the re-formed Referee Committee chaired by Matt Lavery to see our Referee stocks grow and develop.

Steve Karey also made a noticeable impact starting as the new groundsman & maintenance man in February and has proven himself to be an invaluable employee in this space.

Even though we had to abandon season 1 on March 16th, 2020, we were able to at least complete one full season in all competitions and divisions during the year, something not all associations or other sporting organisations were able to achieve. Resuming activities in late July many of our members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to RTA for being able to deliver the season without any additional fees on top of the fees paid for season 1.

We were able to retain key staff with the support of the Job Keeper Program. Along with other grants and government subsidies they were all crucial in saving RTA from a severe negative financial deficit for the year. As noted in the Treasurers Report we were fortunate to finish with a very small annual surplus, again this is something a lot of other sporting organisations were unfortunately unable to achieve.

I must firstly thank RTA's loyal staff with special mention to Kim, Lynn and Garry who remained available and continued on with the limited work on offer during the lockdown and resumed all duties when we re-opened. We also saw most other casual employees return to their previous duties as we resumed normal activities.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Junior and Referee Committees. In particular the behind the scenes work by Junior Committee Chairman James McNamara and Secretary Jason Forsyth was enormous. Along with the other dedicated committee members their support has been and continues to be invaluable to the success of RTA. Through their engagement and marketing efforts we now have an outstanding and ever growing profile and statues with political leaders, schools, local businesses and throughout the general Redlands Community. They have also established several very substantial and ongoing sponsorships arrangements with local businesses.

Matt Lavery and Jason Hemson have also worked tirelessly with the other referee committee members to plan, improve and develop our referee ranks. Please refer to the Junior Committee and Referee Reports for a more detailed overview of the work these committees have done in these spaces.

Finally I need to thank the RTA board who have stayed engaged, active, available and supportive throughout the year including through lockdown. Along with the volunteers on the other committees Craig, Rick, Karyn & Jenny's commitment and time generally go unnoticed and unappreciated. I can earnestly say on behalf of RTA staff we do notice and appreciate your efforts.

We head into 2021 in a strong position and with optimistic aspirations we can continue to grow and improve how we manage and deliver touch in the Redlands community. We have been working closely with the Redlands Council Project Team for the New Sports Precinct at Heinemann Road and been heavily involved in the Concept Design stage which is the point it is currently at. The fantastic facilities and potential opportunities this move presents is very exciting for the future of Redlands Touch. It will still be approximately 4 Years before this venue is ready, but we are already planning towards making this move and anticipating the benefits it will provide.

Let's hope for No More COVID-19 outbreaks or other unforeseen disruptions during 2021 and a great year of fantastic touch activities!

Regards

Mark Jansson

OPERATIONS MANAGER