

CASHMERE WANDERERS AFC : SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 4 August 2010, 7.30pm Cashmere Club

The Executive is calling a Special General Meeting to discuss the future of our Club and to seek feedback from you as members on where the Club needs to head over the next 3 years.

Why call a Special General Meeting?

We decided to call a meeting because there are a number of issues facing the Club that we need to address before the end of the season. Some of these issues are;

1. The Club relies on a small group of dwindling volunteers.

The Club is a victim of its own success. Membership has been steadily increasing over the past 5 years but the number of people willing to be involved in running the Club has declined. As a result we;

- Had difficulty reaching a quorum at our last AGM (we struggled to get 20 people to attend out of a total membership of over 1000).
- We are having difficulty in getting members to stand for key positions on the Executive and Senior Committees (for example, we currently have no Club Secretary).
- We are increasingly relying on parents of Junior members to fill key positions within the Executive (the Club President, Treasurer, and (until recently) the Club Secretary all come from the Junior Section). Given many Junior parents are only involved because of their children, this leaves the Club vulnerable to rapid turnover of key positions.

2. There is an increasing need for governance

We have a number of legal and financial obligations to NZ Football, Mainland Football and various government agencies that require the Club to focus on governance. For example;

- Our financial turnover means that we must be registered for GST.
- We are an incorporated society and must file audited financial statements each year and the audit standards are now more stringent.
- We employ a full-time football development officer (without whom the Club simply wouldn't function) but that brings with it obligations as an employer.
- NZ Football and Mainland Football are increasingly requiring a more professional approach to managing the game at Club level (e.g., requiring Clubmark qualifications).

As a result, the Club can no longer operate on an *ad hoc* and casual basis.

3. We need to decide on our future direction

The success of our Junior Section means we now have an emerging group of talented players through to youth level. Their future in the Club is uncertain as the pathways into senior football are unclear. Likewise, while we have a strong senior representation at Masters and in the more social grades, in recent years we have not had a strong competitive senior team at the top level of club competition. Developing and retaining our talented youth and competitive players will require some commitment and possibly financial investment. As a Club, we need to decide how best to achieve this – whether to focus on developing a competitive senior team or to accept our position as a 'feeder' club and the reality that our talented players will go elsewhere.

4. Our current position is not sustainable

While there are a number of very positive and exciting things happening within the game, both within our Club and at regional and national level, we are increasingly reliant on a small (and tired) group of volunteers who we place under enormous pressure to ensure our members can continue to enjoy the game they love.

This is not a sustainable way for the Club to proceed. As an Executive, we need to get feedback from you (as members) on the future direction of our Club. Please take this opportunity to come along and hear more about your Club, the challenges that face us, the options available to resolve these and what you are willing to contribute going forward.

Thank you

CWAFC Executive.