

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BETWEEN PENRITH DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE
FOOTBALL CLUB AND PENRITH RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB LIMITED.

The meeting was convened to discuss the formulation of the District Club's Budget for the 1970 season.

Present: Messrs. W. Ward, M. Cartwright, R. Partridge, D. Hambildon, J. Stevens, B. Welladsen, E.K. Ausburn, L. Brown, M. Clarke and R. Cowan. Minute Secretaries Miss M. Keller and Mr. M. Roberts.

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Chairman: Mr. W. Ward.

Mr. Ward welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

He asked for a discussion on all the points outlined in the suggestions written by Mr. Cowan. Mr. Ward suggested that the meeting start at the top of the suggestions and work down one by one. He said that the District Club was satisfied with the budget and the year's result and hoped that after the questions had been answered that the Directors would also be satisfied.

Mr. Ward said that in the Article of Association concerning the allocation of 45% of the £200,000, it was only necessary for the District Club to tell the Board of Directors how this was to be spent. Mr. Cowan said that this was not so and that it was necessary for this sub-committee to actually form a budget to be submitted to the Board of Directors. He outlined the fact that in November, 1968, the District Club owed £23,000 but that this year the amount had jumped to £54,000. He asked if the District Club could guarantee that a further jump of similar proportions would not occur again in 1970. Mr. Ward said that the District Club had to put forward a budget out of which came Mr. Cowan's screed. Mr. Cowan said that this was a most important meeting and suggested that they go over the items of expenditure on the budget to see if they were practicable. He suggested that some proposals should be formulated as to how the meeting should be run.

Mr. Ward said that what would suit the Directors may not suit the District Committee. He went on to say that the District Club is only answerable to the Directors for £95,000.

Mr. Cartwright said that the District Clubs are responsible to N.S.W. Rugby League and that N.S.W. Rugby League check over all Balance Sheets and if they feel that anything is wrong, they call the books in. There would be no way in the world that this Club would not be taken over by a Caretaker Committee if they went bad. He said that he felt sure that N.S.W. Rugby League would honour anything the District Club goes ahead with. Mr. Cowan said that it would be a sorry situation if it came to the stage when a Caretaker Committee had to come in to run the District Club. He suggested that if it was the case that N.S.W. Rugby League were responsible for the debts that a letter from them saying that they would not leave the District Club with unpaid debts would probably make this meeting unnecessary. He said that the Directors would not be happy to think that the District Club were in this position as the Directors had always shown a great deal of interest in the football and that no request from the District Club so far had been refused. Even as late as last September, the request for £25,000 increase in allocation was met. However, if a guarantee was forthcoming from N.S.W. Rugby League, then the District Club should be able to run their own race. Mr. Cartwright said that this made it sound like the Club was splitting. The Directors have always been good he said, but so they should be because the Club was established by football and for football. He said that he doubted whether N.S.W. Rugby League would put a guarantee in writing but he felt sure that some of their officials would be happy to come to the Club and

explain how they have helped Newtown and Liverpool in the past. He said that Rugby League has been responsible for more in Penrith than anything else. Rugby League has helped the Club and will help to fill the new Club. He was just as worried that the Licensed Club would not be able to make the necessary profit in the new Club as much as the Directors were worried about the District Club.

The meeting finally agreed to discuss Mr. Cowan's suggestions. Mr. Ward referred to it and said that some points were not factual and that some figures did not match up.

Mr. Cartwright said that in September next year, seven players finish their contracts and the Club was in the fortunate position that should they be able to see that their allocation will drop, they will be able to avoid signing on these players again and have them put on transfer instead. He said that assets in players would be greater than the budget they were asking for. One player South Sydney wants very much and they would go anything up to \$10,000 for this player.

District Football has never let the Directors down he said, and they have run to a budget even though the Directors do not think so. He said that the budget proposed for 1970 was his impression of the very lowest figure they could get by on. In some places it would be too low. He said that it was a game of trust both ways and that three representatives from N.S.W. Rugby League would come to a meeting to explain that N.S.W. Rugby League are fully obliged to look after any Rugby League Club that gets into trouble.

A discussion on the suggestions commenced. Mr. Cowan suggested that this discussion would get nowhere and asked that the suggestions be submitted to a Committee comprising of a representation from Offner & Hadley and T.L. Hurney and that they report back. It was resolved that this be done.

Discussion then commenced on the budget on the basis of discussing each item of expense as outlined in 1969 statement of receipts and payments. After going through the budget and settling on the proposed figures, it was again discussed that the liability of \$23,000 in November, 1968, had increase to a liability to pay \$54,000 in 1969. Mr. Cartwright outlined reasons for some of this increase which apparently resulted from the fact that many of the payments made in 1969 should have been paid in 1968. He suggested that we should only consider the bonus position. Mr. Cowan agreed that this could be a basis for discussion and outlined the fact that the 1968 November bonus was approximately \$31,000, whereas the November, 1969 commitment had risen to \$46,000. In addition to this, the District Club held in cash at the Bank the sum of \$8,000 at the end of the 1968 season but it was agreed that this could possibly have been used to pay other commitments which had not been previously discussed.

Mr. Cartwright suggested that the District Club and the Board of Directors have a combined meeting every month or two months when the District Club would submit all their figures so that they can be discussed and checked against the budget. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and a date is to be set for these meetings.

Mr. Cowan pointed out that it would now have to be reported back to the Board that a budget had been formed by the sub-committee which would allow them to just get through 1970 season on the \$95,000 allocation, provided no further commitments were entered into and that even then the sum of \$56,000 would have to be found in November, 1970.

Mr. Cartwright pointed out that although it was true that approximately \$54,000 should be paid in November, \$11,000 of this

would be taxation and would be left until next July and that certain other accounts could also be left so that the requirements for cash this November would be approximately \$42,000. Mr. Cowan said then that the whole question really revolved around the matter of payment of the \$95,000 and when this could be made available. Mr. Cartwright said that he considered that the full \$95,000 should be made available on the 1st January each year and that if he had known that this would not have been the case he would not have voted for the addition to the Articles of Association at the last Annual Meeting.

Mr. Cowan said that this matter would now be referred back to the full Board of Directors at their meeting to be held on Tuesday the 11th November, 1969 and Mr. Ward thanked everyone for attending and congratulated them on the conduct of such an orderly meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

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