South Western Times
Sport

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ISSN 1445-4149

Home hope hits hurdle

BEN PAPALIA

THE Eaton Boomers' search for a permanent home ground continues to hit dead-ends, according to club officials.

Arguably the South West Football League's most vibrant club, the Boomers' partnership with their temporary home ground, Glen Huon Reserve in Eaton, continues to spark debate between club officials and the Dardanup Shire Council.

Tension continues to mount as both parties try to resolve whether the club should be allowed to use Glen Huon permanently or shift to a purpose-built facility.

The bustling club, which moved to Glen Huon almost nine years ago from Boyanup Oval, is brimming with new members and its success on and off the field gives weight for the club to stay put, according to delegates.

With membership and playing numbers continually increasing, and likely to rise again next year, concerns are growing about the uncertainty of where the club's home ground will eventually be.

The *South Western Times* understands that before a decision is made on a permanent location, a concept survey must be completed and brought back before the shire for review.

It is understood funding for the survey, believed to be upwards of $18,500, has stalled, causing frustration for club officials.

An alternative home ground at Parkridge Estate has been marked as a possible new home for the Boomers, but its completion is more than 10 years way, again causing frustration for the club.

The *South Western Times* also understands an independent consultant's review put before the shire recommended Glen Huon was the best option for a football club.

Shire chief executive officer Mark Chester said while he understood the club's frustration, the council's position would remain the same.

"The current position of council is they won't be staying permanently at Glen Huon," he said.

"The process which we're currently in is to do a concept survey of the oval, to see how we can make best use of the ground and facilitate all the surrounding sports.

"After that survey is complete and comes back to the council, we might review our position."

Chester said the club would have to accept the situation and be patient, or could look for an alternative ground.

Academy offers new pathways

ASPIRING young South West cricketers have a new reason to smile.

This week, as reported by *South Western Times* sport since January, the South West Cricket Academy was officially launched at Dalyellup College, bringing with it a new era of cricketing opportunity.

Australian cricket stars Marcus North and Tom Moodie, WACA chief executive officer Graeme Wood and academy sponsor Perdaman Industries, represented by Vikas Rambal, were special guests at the opening on Tuesday.

The prestigious academy, the first in regional WA, will offer junior cricketers a new pathway and better opportunities to reach an elite level.

During an address to onlookers, Wood praised the work from South West cricket gurus including Peter Silinger, Andy Cottam, Paul Gardiner and Peter Grygorcewicz for their commitment to getting the academy started.

Other special guests speakers included Barry House and Dalyellup College principal Gary Quinn.

The Academy will begin offering scholarships later this year.

Western Warriors coach Tom Moodie watches as Perdaman Industries managing director Vikas Rambal bowls the first delivery at the South West Cricket Academy in Dalyellup on Tuesday. PICTURE: NORMAN BAILEY

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