



By George Stavroulakis

A-League Chief: We'll see if Wellington Phoenix are interested in survival



A-League Chief, Greg O'Rourke, has fired a warning shot at Wellington Phoenix, saying he'll find out "whether or not they're interested in improving their club."

Wellington are last on the ladder, two points behind the Central Coast Mariners. This campaign is the third season in a row the New Zealand club have finished in the bottom-three.

Over Wellington's ten-year history, they've made the finals four times but never finished above fourth in the league and third overall.

Phoenix also have the lowest attendance in the competition, averaging 6,182 people per game. Against Melbourne City, they only registered 5,105. These are the metrics that O'Rourke finds so concerning.

"They have

metrics to hit, and we'll continue to work with Wellington Phoenix to see whether or not they're interested in improving their club to a point where those metrics become achievable," O'Rourke told Foxsports.

Most concerning for New Zealand football, current Wellington owner, Chris Morgan, previously said he was "reluctant" to own the club.

In a glib interview on Newstalk ZB, he seemed to have no cohesive plan for the club's future.

"We got a renewal, we're two years into it and that was dependant on particular performance criteria, which I have to say to you right at this stage don't look great," Morgan said.

"Something's got to happen in the next two years, otherwise it's goodbye Charlie."

Iain Ramsay: What I'd like to see change down under

It always interested me to go to the Philippines, but I never thought in the future that I would play for the national team. Coming from Australia, especially when I broke into the A-League, the Socceroos were all I ever thought about...

History is made with the Azkals...

I took my chance with the Philippines when the qualifiers for the World Cup started in 2015 and three years on we've made history qualifying for the 2019 Asian Cup. We beat Tajikistan 2-1, we trailed, but we came back. Our veteran captain Phil Younghusband converted from the spot in the dying minutes in front of over 4,000 fans to get us through. The atmosphere was amazing at Rizal Memorial Coliseum. It felt amazing getting the win - it's the first time we've made the tournament. It's a massive achievement,

not only for the squad, but for the fans and the country.

I still support the Socceroos...

When I was into my second season with Adelaide United, I did really well in the Asian Champions League (ACL) and the A-League too. There was a bit of talk about me in the media about getting called up with the Socceroos. Eugene (Galekovic) was already a part of the set-up, I was in the media here and there was a chance of a call-up, but it never eventuated.

When Australia's playing, it's always nice to follow and see how things are

going. See as well the new blood that is coming into the team. They've done remarkably well to make the World Cup and had a lot of adversity to deal with.

They showed their character to come through and I'm very happy for them. With the Asian Cup coming up, they're undoubtedly one of the favourites. There very well could be a chance we could play against the Socceroos. Playing for the Philippines you never think that far ahead, but these competitions make it realistic. I'm really hoping we get a couple of big teams in our group

whether it's Japan, South Korea or even Australia. That's what I'm really looking forward to and football can turn out in a funny way. If we ever come across the Socceroos, I still have mates that play for Australia so it'll definitely be nice to play against them.

Growing up half-Filipino in Australia...

Mum was born in the Philippines, dad was from Scotland and I was born in Perth. Being brought up in Australia until I was 17, I moved away to Scotland to try my luck in the Scottish league. Growing up, my mum used to cook traditional Filipino food, so that's where I got to understand the culture. It wasn't until my teens when the majority of my family from the Philippines moved to Sydney.

FIFA outlines solution to FFA governance crisis

FIFA has outlined what their temporary 'Working Group' will look like as the organisation attempts to solve Australian football's governance crisis.

FIFA's ruling on FFA's congress-crisis involves a temporary 'Working Group', which will convene to broker a permanent power-sharing solution among Australian football's key stakeholders. FIFA's eight-seat 'Working Group' will consist of: Four seats for member federations Two seats for club representatives One seat for a Professional Footballer's Association (PFA) representative One seat for an Independent Chairperson. The group will convene on July 31 and hold their first Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in early September.

Their objectives - previously outlined in a Terms of Reference document - included the following remits. - Alignment of FFA statutes with FIFA statutes - The full participation of women at all levels of football governance - FFA board composition and independence - A pathway for alternative A-League governance - A pathway for other stakeholders to become FFA members - Representation for NPL clubs in football governance At this stage there doesn't appear to be a seat for the Australian Professional Football Club's Association

(AFPCA) or Association of Australian Football Clubs (AAFC) - the general representative bodies for A-League and NPL clubs. Which member federations will be included in the four seats available also remains unclear. Background The 'Working Group' was set by FIFA as a temporary solution to the ongoing stoush between FFA and A-League club owners, who are seeking greater input into football's governance in Australia. This is in response to ongoing concerns over the top-down power structure in Australian football, with FIFA previously

acknowledging that Australia comprises an "un-democratic" system.

Due to FFA's inability to reach a power-sharing agreement with the A-League clubs, FIFA announced they would be implementing a 'Working Group' to bring all parties together to find a solution. However, the current makeup could still leave power in the hands of the four member federations. The only details available for the independent chairperson, as provided by FIFA, are that whoever the appointment is, they can't have a pre-existing relationship with FFA. They must also have a previous background in sports governance and mediation.