

# John Fairweather

Life Member CCSA 1982



John Fairweather was born in 1935 in Homebush. He first was involved in soccer in 1966 when, as a parent, registered his son at the East Gosford Soccer Club.

It was not long before he was involved himself in the Club activities and became President in 1969 for 4 years until 1972.

In 1973, after attending various Central Coast management meetings representing East Gosford, he became President of the CCSA in 1988 and held the position for a record length of time until 1998 ... a period of 11 years at the helm.

John was a straight shooter. He didn't know any other way to achieve what he wanted to happen for the good of the game on the Coast. He did govern the Association with

pride and loyalty, and the period in which he was leader was some of the least controversial eras of the Association. The committee to which he was boss did not change greatly during his reign. The system worked well under his control.

The people who he admired throughout his football life were June Swindells (East Gosford), Barry Margin (CCSA), Bill Northam (CCSA) and his right arm lieutenant, Leonie Best.

He was proud of his achievement and his greatest reward was the development of Pluim Park, of which he was an active member of the steering committee, and which meet for many years, before the official opening of the complex in 1987. His relationship with Bill Pluim, Barry Margin and Don Pryor saw the development progress. He also instigated assistance from Bill Pluim to construct a grandstand for the main field and eventually a roof. The grandstand was named after long serving supporter Barry Margin. Because of his pride for the complex, John became caretaker of the grounds from its conception up to 1998, when he lost his Presidency at the 1998 AGM.

One of John's disappointments was the failure of the new Board in 1999 to continue with the planned indoor stadium, which had Gosford Council approval, at Pluim Park.

John was also involved with the 1981 U12 Rep Team tour of Holland organised by Bill Pluim. He was also actively involved with Gosford Council's sister City international exchange relations with the Japanese City of Edogowa.

Due to the establishment of Pluim Park, Central Coast was able to attract the Australian Olyroos to play against Bruce James coached Central Coast First Grade Super League side. Over 3000 persons attended the event.

John's major legacy is his Pluim Park dream becoming a reality, but he has to be congratulated in steering the code through the eleven years he was at the helm without much drama whilst moving the code forward.

Published 2013