

Bob Graham



Bob Graham was first involved in soccer in the Canterbury District at the Earlwood Club in 1967. He became a referee the next year 1968 with the Western Suburbs area. He would remain a Referee for the next 11 years and adjudicate at the highest level – the National Soccer League. He spent six years (1968-1974) in the lower Leagues earning a reputation before his first taste of the big time. His most remembered occasion was being referee for the 1974 Reserve Grade Grand Final at the then Sydney Sports Ground (now redeveloped as the Sydney Football Stadium) between Western Suburbs and St George. He became an NSL referee from 1975 to 1978.

He moved to the Berkeley Vale area in 1979 with his family and brought the Chittaway Butchery business and started up a Wholesale Foods business associated with the Presto Smallgoods name.

Surprisingly, after announcing his arrival on the Coast, he wasn't approached by the local Referee's Association to adjudicate locally. Bob didn't push the issue, as he was busy running a business. He did, however, loyally follow his son, Paul, who played through the junior grades at Berkeley Vale and later into the Central Coast Representative Teams and the senior grades at Berkeley Vale.

In 1980, Bob became the Berkeley Soccer Club President and became involved in writing football news articles 1982-1984 in the local media including feedback to the local radio station 2GO during Sunday 1st Grade games. He also arranged sponsorship for the local 1st Grade Premier League through his Presto interests.

Bob was honoured for his support of football by becoming Patron of the CCSA over the period of 1986-1999.

During the period of 1988-2012, Bob has been busy outside football. He was the local Member for The Entrance in State politics 1988-1991. He has been a Councillor with the Wyong Shire Council from 1999 to 2012 and held the positions of Mayor (five years) and Deputy Mayor (four years) during that period.

He has been on the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Mariners Football Club in the Australasian wide A-League from its inception in 2005.

Bob Graham is a dedicated football supporter. He has refereed at the top flight and has been a prominent figure in the major changes, which the game has taken, since he arrived on the Coast 1979. He loves the game and will be a valuable and important figure in its future on the Coast.

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