

# Geoff Johnson

Life Member CCF 2009



Geoff Johnson was born with a pair of boots on. He was born in Stanmore 1959 and was born into a soccer family. Ken Johnson, his father, when the family moved to Woy Woy, was involved with the formation of the Woy Woy Club as we know it today. There were other Woy Woy teams in the early years but non survived. Ken ended up with the Presidency from 1967-1972. Ken was also on the CCSA Senior committee 1973-1974. The Johnson family were responsible for writing and publishing a soccer magazine called Soccer Post 1967-1973. Geoff can remember all the family involved with the collation and distribution of the Mag to all clubs throughout the Central Coast.

Geoff himself started playing for Woy Woy in the inaugural year 1965. Only six he would play U8s for three years. He was destined to play the game but someone forgot to tell him when to stop. He is still playing and enjoying it in Woy Woy Over 45 side. He hasn't missed too many years in this playing career and could be one of the few players, who although

not born on the Coast but who played his first game on the Coast, to be still playing 42 soccer years later for the same Club. He represented the Central Coast when he was a junior from 1969 U10-1975 U18. He played 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Woy Woy when he was 17 in 1975 and continued in that team (interrupted only by overseas travelling) for 20 years, until he reverted to Over 35s in 2000 in its introduction on the Coast. Lately to Over 45s.

Within the Woy Woy Club, Geoff also moved into the areas outside playing. He was Junior Vice President, Social Secretary, Assistant Director, Coaching Director, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade Coach for short spells. He was a Club Director from 1990-1998 and President 1993 and 1994. Geoff was honoured with Life Membership of Woy Woy

He stood for a Directorship of the CCSA 2000 and was voted in as Director of Protests and Disputes. 2000 was the year that the Clubs took over the running of the Association after a year of discontent in the direction in which the organisation was heading. The entire Board of 1999 was outvoted at the 1999 End of Season Annual General Meeting and representatives from all clubs were elected into a brand new Board. Geoff has 3 years 2000-2002 as Director of P&D and took on the Chairperson role. A position he held for seven years 2003-2009 followed by the Director of Football 2010, 2011 and Appeals Chairperson 2010. 2012 saw him undertaking the role of Match Commissioner Football NSW in Sydney on weekends where his role is to report on the overall running of the game at a particular venue.

During his time on the Board of CCSA (2000-2011), Geoff has seen some profound events which has enhanced the professionalism of the then CCSA, such as the creation of the first full time Chief Executive Officer (in the past the position was an honorarium basis), the amalgamation of the Central Coast Womens Soccer Association to the newly named Central Coast Football 2001, the employment of an independent professional book keeper 2002 (an honorarium position in the past), the merging of Mingara Lakers Rep Club with Central Coast United Rep Club 2004, the use of Central Coast Stadium for A Grade Grand Finals 2002, the recovery action necessary with the unwarranted expenditure by the then CEO 2006 (it would take five years before CCF could see daylight), the introduction to on-line registrations 2009, the amalgamation of the Referees Association to CCF 2010 and the gradual upgrading of the facilities at Plum Park culminating in a recent three million dollar grant for field, car park and administration block enhancements. Geoff was awarded the CCF Life Membership in 2009.

Geoff's fondest memory is the opening of Austin Butler Oval at Woy Woy in honour of his uncle.

Geoff has spent most of his life time involved in the game and his passion is evident in the service which he has provided and the development of the game under his watch.