

Bill Northam (1938 – 2017)

Life Member CCSA 1984



Bill Northam was born in Bondi Junction 1938. He moved to Point Clare in 1973. He quickly was involved with the game registering his son Darren with the Gosford Club U7 in 1974 and ended up being the Secretary of the Club for the year. Next year (1975) he was off to East Gosford U8 with Darren mid season after firstly registering with Gosford and being the Secretary of the Club. In 1976 Bill became Secretary of the East Gosford Club for the year. Darren's team turned out to be the most successful team in the history of the CCSA – seven seasons undefeated (1975-1981). Bills would generally end up being Manager of Darren's team, even at Representative level where a majority of the team ended up together. Bill and Darren arrangement ended when in 1983 Darren successfully gained a position at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Bill lost his son to Canberra.

Bill, though, forged a football life without Darren.

In 1976 and 1977 Bill took over the CCSA Registrars position. This led him to have an involvement in the affairs of the CCSA and Representative football which lasted for the next 20 years until 1999.

The positions he held were: President CCFA (4 years – 1979-1982), U15 National Titles committee 1978, Senior Competition committee 1978, Delegate to the Senior Rep teams 1982, Senior Rep Chairperson (5 years – 1983, 1984, 1989, 1990, 1992), Senior Reps Secretary 1984, Director of Representative Teams (4 years – 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992), Plum Park Land committee (11 years - 1986-1996), Director of Affiliated Bodies 1989, Delegate to NNSW (3 years – 1982-1984) and Delegate to NSWFSF (2 years – 1992 – 1993).

Bill was honoured with Life Membership of CCSA 1984.

During that time, Darren played for Australian Schoolboys (1985), NSW Youth team (1986), Australian Under 20 Youth Team which played in the 1987 FIFA U20 World Youth Cup in Santiago Chile, Blacktown City (1986-1990), Newcastle Breakers (1991-1992), Central Coast (1990, 2000/2001) and then provided his experience and knowledge to several Central Coast teams as assistant coach. Darren is a great ambassador of the sport on the Coast.

Bill was a part of or witnessed various important events during his time. The major events, to which he showed great passion, were the introduction of a CCSA supported Senior side in the newly formed Northern NSW State League (1982) and the development of Plum Park, in which he had a hands on involvement. The both events came together with the opening of Plum Park (1987). The “Coasties” finally had their own home ground. Success in the Seniors came in the second year (1983), when under the guile of coach, Bill Vrolyks OAM, the team won the League Championship and were beaten by Weston in the Grand Final. Bill was involved in the transfer of the affiliation of CCSA from NNSW to NSWFSF (approved by the Australian Soccer Federation), which enabled our Senior teams to join the NSW State Leagues(1989). The Club went from 3rd Division to Premier League (2000) for 5 summer seasons.

Bill finished his football involvement undertaking the manager's role in 2000/2001 and 2002/2003 season with the 1st and U21 teams.

Bill's prime object was to provide the better skilled players of the game a pathway to the top. His commitment and his casual manner made everyone around him feel comfortable and provided a great platform for others to work together as a unit. He was a leader of men.

Bill sadly passed away on 20th September 2017, after fighting dementia in his later years.