

Don Paterson

Life Member CCSA 1981



Don Paterson was born in Paisley, west of Glasgow, Scotland 1942. He had been involved in the game as a boy in the late 50s. He came to Australia 1965, firstly to Mosman, then to Narara 1972 where he played with the Wyoming Club 1974 as a Reserve grade player and was elected as Senior delegate on the committee. His son Peter had started playing U7 for Wyoming 1972 and it wasn't until Peter was in the U10 1976 that Don decided to coach the team. Peter went on to play Reps and Wyoming 1st grade. Don had given up playing in 1975 after 2 years. Don's wife, Eileen, was also involved in the Club on the Ladies Auxiliary. In 1975 Don was the

Clubperson of the Year for the Wyoming Club.

It was 1975 in which Don became involved with the affairs of the CCSA where he joined the Senior Competition Committee. A position he would retain for the next 2 years until 1977. In 1978 he coached the U12 Rep team and was the Rep Treasurer in 1984, while he was delegate to the NNSW Amateur body for several years.

At the same time 1976, Don became Fixtures Assistant, an involvement he would have for the next 11 years. Don became the Fixtures Officer in charge of draws, results and points tables. He saw a 60 % increase in the number of the teams from 1976 (217 teams) to 1986 (348). Everything was done manually in those early days. Scores had to be rung in from each Club's ground officials to Don on the same evening the game was played. Don received assistance from his daughter, Dawn at times. Dawn became a very competent player in her own right, playing 1st grade for Woy Woy and playing Reps for her region, State and was selected in an Australian Junior All Stars side.

Don's position required him to construct the competition points tables from the new data collected. Chasing scores and then checking their accuracy against the team sheets when they eventually arrived from the Referees was a frustrating task at the best of times. The system worked, however, but there were many areas where problems could occur, and you only had the week to finalise the correctness, because the next week it all started again. Fixtures duties were a season long profession and it included rescheduling fixtures due to washouts.

During his stint at CCSA, Don was very pleased to see Plum Park come to fruition in the purchase of land in 1985 with the eventual opening in 1987. He also made himself available to assist with general maintenance around the Park.

He is the longest serving Fixtures Officer in the CCSA history and was awarded with Life membership of the CCSA in 1981 Don Paterson was a truly dedicated worker of the CCSA over a 12 years period. He worked in one of the busiest positions for most of those years. He certainly earned his stripes.

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