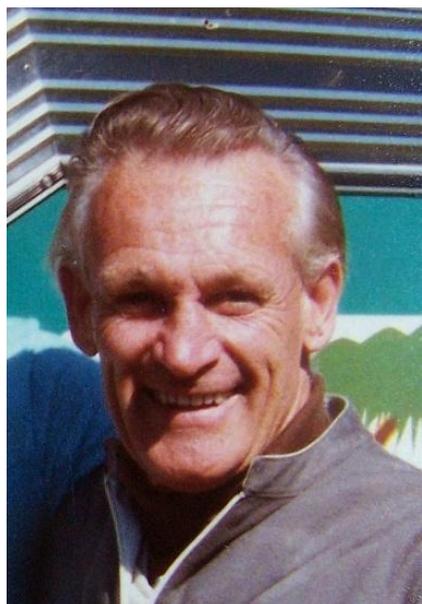


# Lionel Sneyd 1926-1994

Life member CCWSA 1983



Lionel Sneyd was born in Bankstown 1926. He met up with Irene, who was a single mother with four children – three boys Ron, Jim and Ken and one daughter Vicky, in 1952. They married 1964. The boys started to play soccer for East Bankstown from 1954. This was Lionel's first involvement with soccer as he was an ardent South Sydney Rugby League supporter. Both Lionel and Irene became members of the Club in 1957. Lionel helped out with the coaching of senior and junior teams, and refereeing of different age groups. Lionel played in the First team at the Club which played in the Sydney Amateur League. In 1965, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the League's 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. Irene was involved in the Executive administrative affairs of the Club. Lionel, similarly, became President and Treasurer in 1958 but was primarily involved with his three step sons Ron, Jim and Ken who were all playing for the Club. Irene's involvement in the Club affairs over a number of years led her to be awarded a Life Member of the Club. Lionel obtained his referee ticket and officiated at weekend games. They were both pro-active members of the Club.

In 1970 the family moved to San Remo and would begin a long line of success which would be hard to duplicate. Lionel's expertise was in the coaching and refereeing whilst Irene would concentrate on the administration affairs. Both, from 1976, were involved in women's soccer at Club (Budgewoi), Region (Central Coast), State (Northern NSW) as well as Irene's involvement at National (Australian) Level.

Initially, Lionel became involved with the coaching of the boy's teams and also refereeing with some promotions and publicity work to assist Irene who was also involved herself in the administration side of the Budgewoi Club. Lionel was also involved with Club as President of the Board of Trustees and Club Registrar for several years.

It was 1976 when positive things started to materialise with the setting up of the first Women's Competition on the Central Coast and the building of a women's team at the Budgewoi Club. Irene was the spokesperson on behalf of the inaugural venture and she was elected as President of the newly formed Central Coast Women's Soccer Association (CCWSA). Lionel was supporting the cause by coaching the side, which went on to win the League Championship. A CCWSA Representative team was selected to play some exhibition games – two against the NNSW State side and one against a Manly Rep side. Lionel was the Manager of this side with Roger Smith the coach. An interesting story to come out of this first year (1976) was the emergence of Renaye Iserief who came to Lionel at Budgewoi training at the age of 13 to see if she could play in the Women's side. Lionel told her to go away and come back next year as she was too small. She came back next year and won a spot in the team and went on to play for Australia. Renaye and Lionel would set a record over the next 10 years which probably will never be equalled. Together at Budgewoi, Central Coast, NNSW State, they were a strong partnership and with Irene pulling the strings behind the scenes, the results could not be better.

From 1976 to 1985 (10 years) Lionel coached Budgewoi to nine League Champions, five Premierships, seven Grand Final appearances and six Norman Ross K.O. Cup wins. It is even more impressive when the team did not play on the Coast in 1984. The team tried their luck in Sydney (it only lasted one year).

Lionel and Irene moved to the Gold Coast, Queensland at the end of 1985. Lionel returned to Budgewoi after the sudden death 1988 of Irene on the Gold Coast. He took the Budgewoi 1<sup>st</sup> team to the League Championship 1989 and 1990 and Premiership 1990.

On the CC Rep team scene, he coached the women's side 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982, 1989 and 1990. In 1977-1979 the Rep team activities was centred around an end of season Representative Tournament held on the Central Coast every year from 1977-1986. In 1980 the NNSWWSA, for the first time, organised State Titles for particular age groups (Seniors for the first years then Youth and Junior teams were added). A player who wanted to advance to State level before 1980, had to be recommended to the selectors of the State team. At the State Titles from 1980, a State team would be announced at the end of the Titles. It created a busy itinerary for the players and Lionel, who, as well as Club commitments, had the State Titles, then the Nationals, then the Central Coast end of season Tournament.

With regard to the NNSW State teams, Lionel was Assistant State Coach 1978 and State Coach for seven years 1979-1985 with another Central Coast connection Garry Chamberlain his assistant 1981-1985. Garry would take over the reins of the State team for the next two years 1986, 1987.

Lionel was honoured with Life Membership with the Budgewoi Club and the CCWSA for his outstanding commitment to the game..

Lionel played an important role in the setting up and continuation of women's soccer on the Coast. Along with his wife, Irene, he provided the desired expertise required to keep the players interest in the game and provide them with the necessary support and guidance to the better players for them to attain their goals. He provided the complete package and is to be recognised as the foundation coach of Central Coast women's soccer.