



NOMINATION OF JOHN FERGUSON FOR CLUB PATRON



Introduction

Our Club has long given special recognition to those who have made major contributions to improve and better our standing in the local community at personal expense.

Life membership is one way of expressing our gratitude for service, but beyond that effort is the status of Patron. The eligibility criteria for a Patron is posted on the Club Website.

Nomination

As a current Life Member and Club Patron, I, Graeme Ainscough nominate John Roger Ferguson to be elevated to this position.

The nomination is seconded by Michael Trevorah, also a Life Member.

Background

John's long association with baseball started with his junior career as a Little Leaguer with Prahran in 1956 before his family moved to Bendigo. He returned to Prahran in 1964 when the family moved to South Yarra close to the Club's home ground at Como Park.

On Feld Achievements

- 13 years playing as an infielder for Prahran and then Cheltenham in A Grade and then Division 1 the Victorian Baseball Association from the mid 1960's.
- Representing Victoria on 7 occasions including 5 Claxton Shield series as Victoria won 2 Australian Championships
- Playing Manager and Club Coach for 9 Summer Seasons.
- Played for Australia against touring Japanese teams in 1970's
- BV Coach of the Year 1977/78
- BV Div 1 Golden Glove Shortstop 1977/78
- BV Div 1 Home Run Award 1976/77
- Club Coach of two Div 2 Club Championships 1981/82, 1982/83
- Manager Div 2 Firsts Premiership 1982/83
- Manager of U18 State League Champions 2005
- VPBL U18 All Star 1963
- World Masters Silver Medal 2005
- BV Runners Up 1968 A Grade Grand Final Essendon (6-8)
- BV Summer A Grade Premiership against Alphington in 1969 **(2-1 in 16 innings)**
- Manager of 5 consecutive DBA U19 Carnival Championship teams in 1977- 1981
- Games as senior player -over 600
- Games Coached/Managed – over 1000 across all grades

Off Field Contributions

Club Level

- Chairman of Selectors Summer Senior competition 10 Seasons
- Club Treasurer and Secretary stints following the merger between Prahran and Cheltenham in 1972 onwards.
- Original Board Secretary of Cheltenham Baseball Club Inc. in 1981 for a 10 year period.
- Member of the Clubs Summer Committee and Club Board positions at executive level, with service extending 20 years.
- Responsible for Grant Submissions to Corporate entities, as well as to the City of Kingston for various club and community grants.
- Ground manager for the best part of 2 decades marking or assisting with the marking out 8 plus Junior diamonds for Centre baseball hosted at Cheltenham. Work included painting and equipment repair,
- Coach of the Masters and Assistant Coach of Women's teams.
- Batting Tunnel (Donated \$4000 Coaching Honorarium) – First time Club Coach had been paid a substantial amount.
- Heavy involvement in the justification process and support of various projects the Club undertakes with pledges and guarantees are not mostly not common knowledge.
- Management of the Club's historical information in the old archives to help the Club preserve its past and identifies who we are today.

BV Level

- Member of the BV Pennant Committee (mid 1970's and early 1980's and again in 2013-16)
- Claxton Shield Selector and Assistant Coach
- Vic State U18 Selector and Assistant coach 5+ years
- Participant in first Overseas Study Tour by Australian Coaches (1978)

Honours

- Elected as a Life Member at Cheltenham in 1983.
- Australian Sports Medal 2000

Conclusion

In 2014, organised the Clubs100 year celebrations which included the Clubs Finest Fifty at Southern Golf Club, along with speaker Jon Deeble the Australian Team Manager. Medallions on the night for the recipients were at John's generosity.

John has been actively engaged as a Committee and/or Board member since the late 1960's. In many leadership roles including close involvement with local council and the sporting clubs and interest groups involved in the Kingston area as our baseball facilities are maintained and expanded.

He has over 60 years of experience as a player, manager, coach and in administration in baseball. He was one of the prime movers in the amalgamation of the Prahran and Cheltenham Clubs in 1972 and in the relocation from the Gas Works and the development of the facilities at Cheltenham's present base in the Kingston Heath Reserve in Cheltenham.

It goes without saying that the Club would probably not be where it is today without John's enormous contribution in a whole host of ways.

Over our long history, the Club has had only two Patrons, a clear indication of the importance and level of respect accorded to occupants of the position.

Proposed: Graeme Ainscough,

Seconded: Michael Trevorah