



Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



BOB BRAY

SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

- Oakleigh District Football Club Under 18's Secretary 1955-56
 - Oakleigh District Football Club Junior Treasurer 1957-72
- Oakleigh District Football Club Senior Committee Member 1958-69
 - Oakleigh District Football Club Football Trainer 1966-2014
- Southern Football Netball League Trainers Association Trainer of the Year 1996
- South East Suburban Football League & Southern Football Netball League Interleague trainer 1982-98
 - Oakleigh District Football Club Life Member
 - Southern Football Netball League Life Member
 - 60 Years of Voluntary Service

Bob Bray is a club trainer unlike any other. In 60 years of service to community football, Bray has seen it all. He began at a time when Tuesday night's training featured injured players treated with ultrasounds and huddled together under heat lamps.

"It was an interest, my hobby, like everything – the more you put in the more you get back and I enjoyed every bit," Bray recalled.

Bray joined Oakleigh Districts FC in 1955. Like most, he went to support his mates. The club was looking for help.

"The president grabbed me; clubs were always looking for volunteers," Bray said.

Bray has devoted a lot of time to the club as a committee member, past treasurer and selector. If he could put his hand up to help, he did. Committee roles aside, Bray best served as a trainer strapping ankles.

"I loved getting to know the players... I felt part of the team," said Bray. "It's about teamwork amongst us trainers."

Bray's home is Oakleigh Districts FC, being a life member since 1968. Yet he also donated his time to many other leagues and teams. Traveling to away games with the 'midweek comp' were highlights, matches at Puckapunyal and Cerberus to name a few. The Superules competition also kept Bray busy.

From three to four leagues at any one time, Bray's volunteering was an incredible feat and well recognised. Awarded Trainer of the Year in '96, he served as an Interleague trainer for 16 years.

Bray attends every Oakleigh Districts match, yet this is his first year as a spectator.

"I do miss the comradery, the feeling of being part of the team," Bray expressed. "Every year with the turnover of players, there's more I don't know."

The SFNL presented Bob Bray with a life membership in 2006. After 60 years of taping joints and applying ice, Bray is well deserved to join the Hall of Fame; his kind-heartedness being rightfully honoured.

"I'm enjoying my retirement - happy watching from half way around the ground with some good friends."

By James Raknes