



# *Southern Football Netball League*

## *Hall of Fame*



### STAN LE LIEVRE

#### SOUTH EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- South East Suburban Football League President 1968-74 & 1983
  - South East Suburban Football League Secretary 1975
- South East Suburban Football League Vice President 1965-67
- South East Suburban Football League Executive 1976-82 & 1984-91
  - Oakleigh District Inaugural Coach 1950
  - Oakleigh District Secretary 1956
- Caulfield Oakleigh District Football League Executive 1957-62

Stan Le Lievre had an outstanding and lengthy career as a player, coach and football administrator. Prior to his current induction to the Hall of Fame, his contribution to the sport had received previous recognition.

His son, Neil, spoke of an award presented to his father, which he held in high esteem. Reading from a clipping, he said: "President of the South East Suburban Football League, Stan Le Lievre, has won the 1985 National Football League Merit Award for long and outstanding service to football. The prestigious NFL award is presented annually to one person in each state. Le Lievre was nominated by the Victorian Football League to commemorate a playing and administrative career which began in Katandra in the Goulburn Valley in 1935."

Le Lievre's long and distinguished service to Australian football was also acknowledged by the Victorian Football Union in 1977, which gave him an award.

He was President of the South East Suburban Football League (SESFL) between 1968 and 1974 and took on the role again in 1983.

Le Lievre also served in other administrative positions including Secretary of the SESFL in 1975, and two stints on the executive board for that league. He was on the Caulfield Oakleigh District Football League executive between 1957 and 1962.

As a player, his ability saw him recruited by St Kilda in 1939 after he earned an extraordinary four senior best and fairest awards for Katandra between the ages of 16 and 19. Time served during World War II prevented Le Lievre from playing for the Saints until 1945, but he went on to record 20 games for the side.

His son spoke of the day in 1947 at the Junction Oval when Le Lievre had the unenviable task of playing on Melbourne forward Fred Fanning, who posted his famous 18-goal record for a game, which still stands.

"Dad played on him to half time and then they put someone else on him in the third quarter. He did such a bad job they put dad back on him in the last quarter," Neil said.

Le Lievre was quoted in the Age as reflecting 50 years later, "The ball was coming down quickly from blokes like Norm Smith and Fred was a very big man, hard to get around. Somebody said I should grab hold of his footy nicks and pull them off every time the ball came down, but they would have run out of nicks."

After finishing up at the Saints Le Lievre went on to play for Oakleigh in the VFA in 1948 and then became the inaugural coach of the newly established Oakleigh District in 1950. He was a playing coach and led the team to its first A-Grade flag in 1953.

"Dad was known for driving the district players around in the back of his Plymouth Ute. That's what you used to do to get the boys to the football in those days," Neil reflected. He inherited this trait from his father, transporting junior players in the back of his bread truck in his days as coach of St Mary's.

Neil said his dad "was respected by his peers". Speaking of his father's time at Oakleigh District, Neil said, "He was their first go to man."

The SFNL has previously honoured Le Lievre for his vast contribution to the game by naming the medal awarded to the best on ground in Division Three Reserve Grand Finals after him, but it is appropriate that he has now been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

As Neil said, "He really loved his football."

**By Andrew Paloczi**