



Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



TED WOODS

SOUTH EAST SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- 100 games for East Brighton Football Club
- East Brighton Football Club Under 17's Coach for 18 years
- East Brighton Football Club Under 17's Premiership Coach x 11
- East Brighton Football Club Life Member

Ted Woods is one of the most revered figures at the East Brighton Football Club.

Described as a “good, honest footballer” and a “fair exponent of the stab pass”, Woods notched 102 games during his playing career with East Brighton between 1952 and 1964. Although a centreman in his early days, Woods excelled off half back and on a wing, and became somewhat of a cult figure at the club as he was the only player to wear spectacles on the field.

He spent a season with Brighton in the VFA in 1954 but, with his eyesight deteriorating, he returned to the Vampires in 1955 and claimed the club and the league Best and Fairests that year. Woods was also a member of the 1962 reserves premiership team – East Brighton’s first senior flag.

But Woods’ greatest achievements came during his legendary 18-year tenure as coach of East Brighton’s Under 17s side. During his two stints at the helm between 1958 and 1980, the Vampires were the undisputed powerhouse of the competition, winning no fewer than 11 premierships.

Of those 18 years in charge, Woods’ team missed the finals just twice – an incredible feat – and a defeat during the 1965 season ended a stunning 76-game winning streak.

Part of the reason behind his team’s sustained dominance was his ability to lure the best players down to Hurlingham Park. One of these players was Steve Hill, the current President of East Brighton and a member of Woods’ 1974 premiership team.

“(He) certainly attracted the best talent in the local area for a long time,” Hill said.

“His ability to attract players was (remarkable)... he used to go and attract players and get their parents on side.”

One of the ways Woods managed this was by going to watch the best kids in the junior competitions with a couple of slabs of beer in the back seat of his car. After the game had finished, he would approach the player and his parents and, after a few amber beverages with Woods, the player’s parents would be encouraging their son to move to the Vampires.

According to Hill, Woods “coached the best part of a dozen VFL players” throughout his East Brighton years, including Carl Ditterich, Mordecai Bromberg and Doug Booth.

Hill described Woods as “dedicated to the task” and joked that he “was married to footy”, such was his dedication to the club and the game.

“He was... just a lovely bloke and just lived for it. If you ever wanted a conversation with him just bring up football,” Hill said.

Woods has been a life member of his beloved East Brighton since 1959 and his induction into the SFNL Hall of Fame is further recognition of a life devoted to grassroots footy.

By Will Hunter