

A Night to Remember

IT WAS a night of great emotion, some tears and a lot of joy when 29 newcomers were welcomed into the Football Hall of Fame WA at the Fourth Induction Ceremony held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in July, 2008.

There were 11 inductees into the Hall of Champions — Ronnie Campbell, Luciana Di Ienno, Alistair Edwards, Tommy Maras, Shaun Murphy, Craig Naven, Gareth Naven, Norrie Sutton, Tracey Wheeler, Teresa White and Robert Zabica.

The new category, the Hall of Merit for Players, saw an initial intake of seven — Harry Boys, Geoff Cole, Rene de Koning, David Kamasz, Frank Reid, Dave Roxby and Alex Senjuschenko. And 11 were embraced by the Hall of Recognition — David Andrews, Malcolm Brown, Stuart Kamasz, Roger Males, Alex McDowall, Graham Normanton, Rita Richardson, Peter Rickers, Alan Robertson, David Schrandt and Eric Thomas.

The presentations were made by

the then Minister for Sport John Kobelke, Football West chairman Kevin Campbell and Hall of Legends member Gary Marocchi. Many tears were shed when former State team coach Malcolm Brown received his Hall of Recognition award. Malcolm had been seriously ill for some time and received a wonderful ovation. It was an emotional night, too, for goalkeepers Dave Roxby and Tommy Maras, who were both lauded by the gathering of nearly 250.

Number one custodian Dave had taken rookie Tommy under his wing when he joined Spearwood Dalmatinac as a 16-year-old in the early 1980's. "I coached Tommy for three years," remembered Dave. "He was a bit raw initially but I could see he had tremendous potential. In fact, he became so good that I was forced to share first-team duties with him in the third year. I was thrilled when he went on to much success with the Perth club and then in the NSL with Perth Glory.

FAREWELL TO FOOTBALL WEST BOSS

The Hall of Fame Committee hosted a farewell gathering in late June for Garry Chandler, the departing Chief Executive Officer of Football West. "Garry was always a great supporter of the Hall of Fame and our aims," said HoF chairman Louis Prospero. "We wish him well for the future." Chandler was CEO of Football West for three years.

Football West Chairman Kevin Campbell said: "Garry provided significant input into developing the Football West Constitution and zones by which the game is governed throughout the State."

Meanwhile, Football West have linked up with Perth Glory in a bid to establish a new multi-million dollar administrative and training base. A working committee is investigating potential sites for a facility that would include training pitches, a gymnasium and an administration centre. Campbell said there had been talks with the Town of Vincent, City of Bayswater and the Department of Sport and Recreation about the establishment of a facility. "It makes a lot of sense to couple together with Glory and accommodate the code under the one roof," Campbell said. The development may also include plans to house memorabilia collected by the Hall of Fame committee.



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WELL DUNN

CONGRATULATIONS must go to one of the members of the Hall of Legends, Robbie Dunn, who has been appointed coach to the WA State team.

He led WA to a 4-2 win over South Australia at Members Equity Stadium in March. Robbie's assistant is another former Socceroo, Robert Zabica, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame WA in 2008.

• Congratulations also to the best football website in WA — footballwa.net — for giving its Hall of Fame coverage a new look. Fantastic. For up-to-date news, it's a site that can't be beaten.

• Need to contact us? The members of the Football Hall of Fame Committee are: Chairman Louis Prospero (0413 041942); Treasurer Bob Brown (9446 3338); Secretary Barbara Gibson (9526 0330). Others: John O'Connell, Peter Dimopoulos, Richard Kreider, Mel Moffat.



Dave Roxby with Tommy Maras

"To be recognised on the same night as Tommy means a lot to me."

The 60th anniversary of the State team's historic win in the 1948 Southern States Carnival was marked with a special presentation to the sole surviving member of the squad, Bob Cherry.

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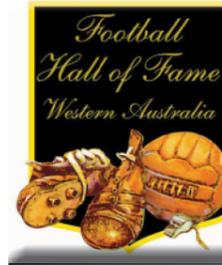
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THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia)

Issue 7 (Spring 2009)

MUSEUM QUEST CONTINUES

The push to establish a Football Museum in Perth is alive and well — and continues to be the main target of the Committee of the Football Hall of Fame. Committee Chairman Louis Prospero and Patron Julian Burt approached the new Minister for Sport Terry Waldron regarding the possibility of establishing a Football Museum at Members Equity Stadium.

"It was encouraging that the Minister agreed to meet us and he was delighted to be informed that there is a body serving the history of football in WA," said Prospero. "We gave him an overview of football in WA — and in Australia — and emphasised just how important it was to have a Museum in a re-vamped stadium.

"He said he would take our cause to Cabinet. I believe he did, but for the moment at least it's not one of the Government's

priorities. "Our Patron Julian Burt, however, has been heartened by matters and he is optimistic that there could be a successful outcome."

Prospero later wrote to the Minister re-stating the Hall of Fame's ambitions and received the following reply: "Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2009 in regard to the establishment of a Football Hall of Fame at Members Equity Stadium. I understand that Football West are also exploring the development of a museum as a component of their desired 'Centre of Excellence.'

"In regard to the planned improvements to Members Equity Stadium these are in the early concept stages with the Town of Vincent providing a plan to support one possible outcome.

"Should funding be realised for

these improvements then the department will liaise with relevant stakeholders to identify and determine what can be accomplished.

"In the interim the department will continue to work with Football West on its plans, including the development of a museum." Yours Sincerely, Terry Waldron MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

It's the second time that the Football Hall of Fame Committee has approached a State Government in search of support for a Museum. In December, 2006, the then Labor Government's Minister for Sport John Kobelke met with Committee members — and offered a sympathetic ear, but didn't follow through with any commitment.

Football West is a strong supporter of the establishment of a Museum at Members Equity

and also recently backed up a call by rugby union side Western Force — which will play its home games at the stadium in 2010 — to upgrade the facility. Members Equity currently holds just over 18,000 and the Force want that to be increased to over 28,000. The Government recently made a commitment to upgrade the stadium.

Mr Waldron — generally known by his nickname of 'Tuck' — has a strong sporting background, although it doesn't include the world game.

A footballer and cricketer of note — he was captain of the WA Country XI from 1980 to 1991 and also captained the Australian Country XI — he was appointed general manager of the WA Country Football League in 1992. He has been in politics since 2001. He represents the seat of Wagin and is the deputy leader of the National Party in WA.

NORMO BACKS BIG PUSH

WESTERN Australia's most successful coach, Graham Normanton, is a strong supporter of the Football Hall of Fame's push to establish a Football Museum.

"It's a marvellous idea — and something, I believe, is long overdue," said English-born Normanton, who has won an astonishing 17 trophies in a decade of coaching with Perth SC.

"The Committee of the Hall of Fame have to be commended for what they have done to help preserve the history of the game in WA.

"But that now needs to go a step further. Football is part of the heritage of this State.

It reflects the immigration and deserves to be showcased.

"Establishing a Museum is certainly something that would get my full backing."

Normanton's amazing feats were saluted when he was inducted into the Hall of Recognition at the Fourth Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony in July, 2008.

"It was a special night and a great honour to be included in the company of people who have done a lot more for the game than me," said Normanton, who gained a special memento of the evening when he topped the bids for a State team shirt that was signed by all the inductees.



Chairman Louis Prospero with Graham Normanton

TRIBUTE TO REG DAVIES

A GATHERING of around 200 turned up at Dorrien Gardens on May 22, 2009 to pay tribute to the late Reg Davies at a Testimonial Dinner.

None came from further afield than former New Zealand coach John Adshead, who was WA's State team coach for a spell in the 1970's when Reg played seven times for the State. Adshead was a personal friend of Reg and flew in from NZ for the occasion. Reg, who died on February 9 at the age of 79, played as an inside forward for Newcastle United, Wales, Western Australia and several WA clubs. He was included in the Hall of Fame's Century of Champions in 2004.

"He was 42 before he made his State debut and, although he didn't have the legs anymore, he controlled many games from midfield and was one of the best passers of the ball I've seen and he was good enough to keep playing until he was nearly 50," recalled former Hall of Fame committee member David Andrews.

Former Southampton and England winger John Sydenham, who organised the benefit get-together, said that he tried to convince Perth Azzurri to sign the Welshman when he migrated to Perth. "I told them he was only 37 — in fact he was 42 — and would be a great addition, but they weren't interested," said John. "So, he joined Bayswater instead and went on to lead that club to a significant Cup win over Azzurri. Reg loved proving people wrong, but in the nicest way."

Cliff Jones, a teammate of Reg's with Wales and Swansea, was one of several British-based personalities who contributed to an audio tribute, which was superbly put together by Ashley Morrison, the MC for the evening.

Former England international George Eastham, who played with Reg at Newcastle, also contributed many amusing stories.

The auction of several signed shirts, including one by Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson — which sparked much frenzied bidding — helped to boost the benefit, which was held to aid Reg's widow Eileen.

The Football Hall of Fame's Patron, Julian Burt, also made a special presentation to Eileen of a framed tribute to Reg.

Reg's playing career — Clubs:

1949-51: Southend United 41 league games, 18 goals.

1951-58: Newcastle United 157 league games, 49 goals.

1958-62: Swansea Town 111 league games, 29 goals.

1962-64: Carlisle United 65 league games, 13 goals.

International career:

1952-57 played six times for Wales.

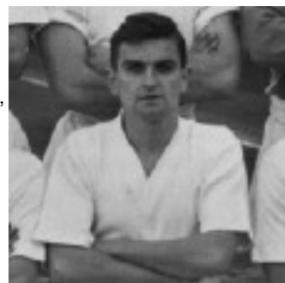
Australian career:

Clubs from 1971 Bayswater, Ascot, East Fremantle Tricolore.

Played seven representative games for Western Australia:

1972 v Hertha 03; v Wolves; v New Zealand; v Singapore.

1974 v Aberdeen; v Chelsea; v South Australia.



A TIRELESS WORKER

DAVID Woodfin, who died on March 22, 2009 at the age of 76, was the heart and soul of the Queens Park club.

Born in England — in Oswestry, Shropshire — he spent over 35 years at Queens Park and the club named their pavilion in his honour.

As well as being a tireless worker at club level, David also served on the board of the Soccer Federation of WA and Soccer West Coast for many years. The City of Canning named him their Citizen of the Year in 1992.

David, and his wife Beryl, had just recently returned from a three-month cruise when he died — fittingly while at a function at the Queens Park club.

A NOTED STRIKER

DAVE Brady, who has died at the age of 59, was a noted striker and midfielder who made 13 appearances for the WA State team.

Born in Scotland, Dave played for Perth Azzurri in the late 1960's and later joined their hot rivals East Fremantle Tricolore.

He made his State debut in 1969 when picked in the touring squad that took part in the Merdeka Cup in Kuala Lumpur and the King's Cup in Bangkok.

He scored three times in five games in the Merdeka tournament.

In the early 1970's he played for WA against Hertha, Wolves, Stoke, Bournemouth and South Australia.

Dave was amongst those honoured by the Football Hall of Fame in 2007 at a celebration of WA's involvement in the Merdeka Cup.

ABERDEEN LEGEND

DEREK McKay, who died in 2008 of a heart attack while on holiday in Thailand, was a legend with Scottish club Aberdeen who ended his playing days in Perth.

He was known as "Cup-tie" McKay after scoring two goals in Aberdeen's Scottish Cup final victory over Celtic in 1970. He also scored in the quarter-final and semi-final.

Born in Macduff, he played in the Highland League with Deveronvale before signing for Dundee and playing in the first team at 17. He joined Aberdeen in 1969 and, despite his Cup heroics, he left the Dons after a disagreement with manager Eddie Turnbull.

He went on to play for Crystal Palace and Barrow before heading for South Africa and then Western Australia.

A real character, a huge crowd attended his funeral and his pal Ernie Hannigan gave a moving eulogy.

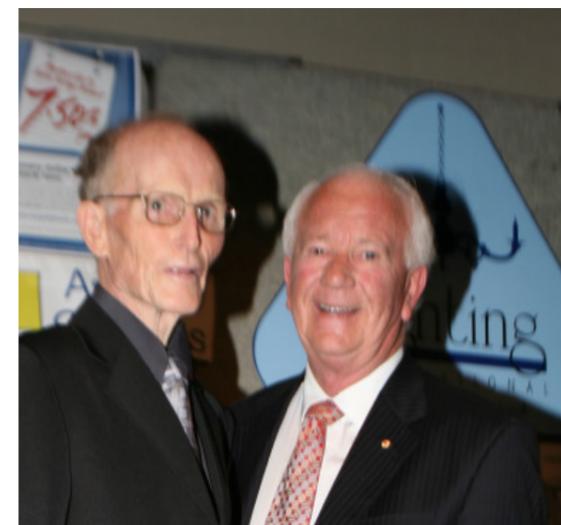
FLASHBACK TO THE 2008 INDUCTION NIGHT



Gary Marocchi with Frank Reid



Norrie Sutton enjoying the evening with his family



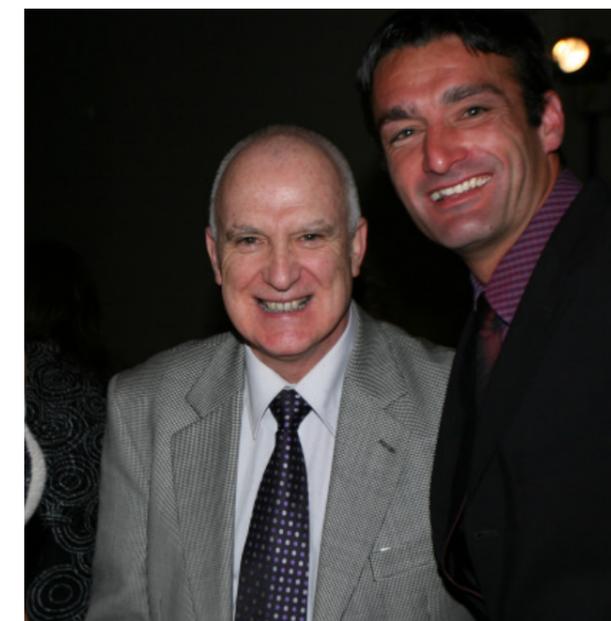
Malcolm Brown with Football West Chairman Kevin Campbell



Gareth Naven with John Kobelke



Tracey Wheeler with John O'Connell and John Kobelke



Stuart Kamasz with Shaun Murphy