

JOHN SULLIVAN

When we first discussed the launch of the NCCUA Hall of Fame there was one person that was a certainty of being included in the Inaugural Hall of Fame.

The gentleman we celebrate first thoroughly deserves the honour of being the first ever inductee into the NCCUA Hall of Fame.

Let's first take a look at this man's umpiring career. Since the formation of the Black Diamond AFL in 2000, this inductee has umpired a total of 380 matches, the most matches by any umpire in the BDAFL. This is the breakdown of the 380 matches, 54 matches as a Field Umpire, 326 matches as a Goal Umpire, 195 of these 326 matches as a Premier Division Goal Umpire. This man also Goal Umpired nine Premier Division Grand Finals (2000-2004, 2006-2007, 2012-2013), one First Division Grand Final (2014) and two Reserves Grade Grand Finals (2005, 2011), as well as two Representative fixtures (2009, 2012). This man was also named in the Premier Division Panel of the Decade.

Of course, this man also appeared in the old Newcastle AFL, umpiring in ten NAFL Grand Finals, Five of these as a Field Umpire (1970, 1977 – One Umpire, 1986, 1988-1989) and five as a Goal Umpire (1981, 1996-1999).

When you combine this man's impressive list of BDAFL achievements with his statistics of Newcastle AFL and junior football, the man has umpired over 950 matches. Yet this is not all he has contributed to the great game of AFL or this region. This great man first joined the Newcastle AFL Umpires Association in 1970, immediately taking on the role of Umpires Advisor, a role he held several times (1970-1972, 1974, 1976-1978). He also took on the role of President of the NAFLUA in his second year in the Association and held that role between 1971 and 1975. This man also led throughout the formation of the new Newcastle Central Coast Umpires Association. This man's off-field contribution includes six years as President of the NCCUA (2000-2005), Umpire's Coach (2002), and NCCUA Committee Member (2009, 2013-2015). This man also has the honour of being a Life Member of both the NCCUA and Black Diamond AFL.

This is quite an impressive list, and yet this man also takes the time to mentor nearly every umpire that has taken to the field in recent times, attending both the Newcastle and Central Coast training sessions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honour and pleasure to recognise this great man's contribution to this Association, can you please join me in congratulating him and welcome Mr Edmund John Sullivan into the NCCUA Hall of Fame.

Inducted by Jake Lowe on Saturday 12th September 2015