

Robin Reed

Twenty Seven years of service as a Player, Coach, Venue Operator, Administrator, Referee and Publicity Officer.

Robin started playing squash in 1954 when he was invited by a group of his tennis mates to join them in their regular game at the Brighton Squash Centre, and played his first pennant match in D Grade but losing it 27/0.

He was then taken under the wing of legendary coach Gordon Watson who after a couple of years suggested he move to the South Yarra Club which he did in 1959 where he quickly rose to A Grade which is now known as Premier Grade, where he remained for ten years.

In 1961 he began his administrative career in the sport being elected to the Council of the Squash Racquets Association of Victoria (SRAV), the state parent body of the sport where he remained until 1965, then in 1967 was a member of the Planning Committee which ran the first World Men's Amateur Championship won by Geoff Hunt, and held at the old Albert Park Squash Centre.

Robin became an Accredited Referee and officiated at many state pennant finals, plus Victorian, Australian and World Championships. From 1977 to 1981 Robin also served on the Committee of the Victorian Squash Racquet Referees Association (VSRRA).

His introduction to the coaching ranks came about when the SRAV was asked to provide players to travel to regional centres to play exhibitions and coach the local players, which he and others accepted with pleasure.

As a result of these trips he developed an interest in coaching and quickly realised the need for a Coaches Association to be formed as there were a lot of players at this time turning their hand to coaching.

An initial meeting of five players, Robin, Brendan Woodford, Ron Hayle, Mike King & Allen Minchington was held at the South Yarra Club in 1969 where it was decided to form the Professional Squash Coaches Association of Victoria (PSCAV), which eventuated in July 1971, with Robin being elected its President and forever recognised as the Founder of that body.

Robin formulated and wrote the original written and oral entrance procedures to the PSCAV based along the lines of the English coaching entrance exams.

After serving ten years as President of PSCAV Robin was forced to retire from this position and playing the game that he dearly loved, due to severe back and neck problems, and on his retirement was awarded Life Membership of the PSCAV for his outstanding services to squash.

For many years Robin coached at various centres around Melbourne including Melbourne University, Southland, A1 Moorabbin, Caulfield, plus the Hampton Squash and Fitness Centre, which he operated

with his partner, Bob Blake.

During the seventies & eighties the SRAV produced their own squash magazine "Vic Squash" who's Editor was Noelle Bartling, and a key component of that magazine was the coaching articles written by Robin titled "Curley's Coaching Clinic" which would involve two to three pages of valuable coaching tips and information.

In collaboration with Ron Hayle and Brendan Woodford, Robin also wrote a weekly summary of the weeks A Grade pennant matches during the sixties & seventies which appeared in the must buy Saturday Night Sporting Globe.

For the past 15-20 years Robin has been regularly organising Squash reunions for past players, venue operators, coaches etc, which are always well attended.