



UMPIRE PROFILE

Michael Moore



Michael Moore has a 23 year association as an umpires with Subbies, this is over two separate stints, with a 10 year hiatus with Premier Cricket.

Michael at the recent VSDCUA, AGM was made a Life Member of the association. This is added to his Life Memberships of Brunswick CC and Latrobe University Baseball Club. This is a well-deserved accolade, and a testament to his energy, commitment and love of cricket, congratulations !

Follows is Michael's cricket and family journey. It is a very good read!

Subbies cricket is pretty much ingrained in his family.

"My great uncle Bill Moore played in the first Brunswick Cricket Club 1st XI match when they joined the VSDCA in the 1909/10 season".

His brother Jeremiah had played for Brunswick since 1895 and moved to Kalgoorlie in 1904 to follow the gold rush. He returned in 1911 and resumed his place in the first eleven at Brunswick, and scored a century against Camberwell that season. Jeremiah played alongside the legendary W Dowling.

Michaels uncle Judd Moore also played for Brunswick 1st XI and scored multiple 1st XI centuries, including 145 against Footscray in 1941/42.

His brother, Michael's dad, George Moore, kept the family tradition by making his first XI debut in the mid-1940s after rattling off three centuries in the lower elevens as a teenager. George had a remarkable playing career at Brunswick with 187 x 1st XI, 278 x 2nd XI, 56 x 3rds, and 2 x 4th XI games.

Over the years Brunswick had a number of the Moore family, including another "Michael Moore", a cousin, who played 1st XI cricket, Phillip Moore another cousin, represented the Magpies, and George's grandsons Adam, Adrian, and Glen Baker also play for the club. Glen won three 1st XI batting awards and represented the VSDCA side in 1997.

When asked how did you get into cricket?

"I scored for my dad's team from 8 to 13 years of age. One day, I was dragged from scoring to fill in for the fourths, who were one-player short. Thus I began my cricket-playing career!

In 1974 John 'Nooky' Swanson asked Michael, what do you do in the winter? Suggesting Michael try baseball. "Within two years, I was in the Under 18 state squad and then played A grade baseball for eight years".

Michael's cricketing career was limited to the thirds and fourths as his skills did not transfer as easily as he had hoped. He did, however, accumulate a lot of runouts, and catching was his forte. "I was just as good with my left hand as my right. In my cricketing career, I was lucky enough to play in six grand finals, winning five premierships, the last of which I was so proud of being captain of my Brunswick premiership team".

One of the earlier winning Grand Finals featured two opposition players from Melton named Michael Wheelahan and John Anderson, whom both have gone on to enjoy long and distinguished VSDCA Umpiring careers.

Michael had to retire from playing all sport due to chronic hip pain caused by osteoarthritis. "I received a phone call one Thursday night saying this is Kevin Carmody, you are umpiring at Sunshine fourths on the weekend!"

"I had no idea who this Kevin Carmody was or what he was talking about?"

Brian Robertson, a fellow umpire of my Dad's, (whose two sons were my teammates at Brunswick), had found out I had retired and had put forward my name to the appointments officer of the VSDCUA. The only thing he neglected was to tell me! After borrowing some of my Dad's umpiring gear, I embarked on my new journey in umpiring cricket".

It was already well into the 1998/99 season and Michael must have done all the right things, as he was appointed to the fourth eleven grand final in only his 7th game of umpiring, and stood alongside Matthew Raby at Malvern. One of the youngsters playing in that match was a lad called Michael Beer. A third eleven final followed then, a second eleven final the year after.

Bob Stratford, the VSDCA Umpires Advisor, had been appointed to the same position for Cricket Victoria, and after a phone call from him, it was time to head to Premier Cricket. Michael spent ten years at Premier Cricket, culminating in a handful of 1st XI games and an appointment as Umpires Advisor for the Women's Cricket Association.

"I was a stay-at-home Dad during this time in Premier. I was lucky enough to umpire many schoolboys and schoolgirls games during the week with many state and Test Umpires".

His availability resulted in appointments for Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia to underage state and national competitions. "I was fortunate enough to umpire players like Aaron Finch, James Paterson, Glen Maxwell, and Michael Hill".

Umpiring in the women's competition gave Michael a front-row seat to witness a young girl named Meg Lanning, blossom into one the best female cricketers of a generation. Coincidentally Meg was taught by Michael's wife at Carey Baptist Grammar.

After being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010, Michael lost the fire in the belly needed for Premier Cricket and wanted to come home to the Subbies, where his family history and traditions exist.

Michael has umpired in the VSDCA ever since. "Unfortunately, I lost a couple of years due to a hip replacement that did not quite work, resulting in a massive weight gain and loss of fitness from not being able to walk for over a year. Michael feels he is now back to full health and is umpiring at his best.

Michael has umpired multiple finals and was awarded the Matt Harris Trophy in the 1999/2000 season for the most improved umpire. He umpired in the 2019/20 Craig Final. (Following in the footsteps of his Dad, George who umpired the 1978-79 Hatch final). Michael has served on the committee for the VSDCUA as recently as 2019-20 as Vice President.

Michael's recent award of life membership of the VSDCUA, joining his father George (1986) the only father and son life member of our umpiring fraternity.

Michael is as passionate about cricket as anyone, and he loves the game! He has a wealth of knowledge and wonderful family history to go with it. Michael has experienced so much in his time in cricket and still has plenty more to give.

Thank you for a magnificent story!