

Upper Hutt City Football/Tararua Sports Club –

Nomination – Life Member: Steve Jones

Described as a tough competitor with a no-nonsense approach and an excellent football brain, Steve is 'on record' with 106 Central League appearances for the club between 1969 – 85 and 1993 – 94. Captain and sweeper of the Central League III South side in 1982 coached by Wally Douglas, and the Super League 2 side 1990-92 coached by John Milroy, Steve was noted in 1995 as being the longest serving senior club player. Steve graduated from juniors in 1968 with only two small breaks and captained many senior 1st teams during this time. It would have been longer had his former Central League teammates not convinced him to play for the Saints instead! After years of putting his body on the line, leading by example, and demanding a winning attitude from his teammates, Steve continues to support from the side-line and retains their upmost respect for his contribution to their game.

'Jonsey', as he is also known, has governed, coached, and mentored many club members over the years. Club Captain from 1980-84, and again 1994-95, Steve was an advocate for pooling local resources and talent. With a vision of unity, he was a key spokesperson who instigated a special meeting to agree the club's playing name as 'Upper Hutt City' following the merger with Tararua Sports Club and Valley Wanderers Sports Club Women's. Encouraged by Pip Scrivener he coached the Premier Women's Valley Wanderers in 1984 - 85, in addition to developing promising junior club and college players. Steve also coached the U19s Men's Napier team, delivered senior courses for Capital Football, and mentored many more including support to Mark Bloomfield during his tenure as the reserve team coach.

Loyalty and passion for the club's success remains as evident today as it did during his playing years. With an eye for up and coming talent, his desire for the club to perform well remains, with his side-line presence at most games; men's, women's, and youth, both home and away. For those who have the sense to take advantage of his wisdom, Steve is an excellent listener and sounding board for player and coach alike who have a desire to develop and grow the game.

Given his significant contribution across many areas of the club over a period of 50+ years (and still going!) I'm sure you will support me in this Life Membership nomination for Steve Jones.

Lorraine Bowring