

Player Profile – Chris Skeet



Chris was born in Bournemouth, England, on 22 September 1952. He came to Australia with his family as “10-pound Poms” on the *Castel Felice*, arriving in Fremantle in December 1963. His first job after school was with Millers Timber and Trading Co. in Perth, and later he joined the army. He met his wife Leonie while stationed at Bulimba, and they married in April 1975. After leaving the army he moved to Queensland and has lived in Kingston since 1976. He worked for the Australian Taxation Office until he retired in 2007.

Chris’s earliest memories of football include seeing Jimmy Greaves play for Tottenham, and he has supported Spurs ever since. His first game was when his mum, “... took my brother and I to watch Bournemouth play at Dean Court in 1961.”

He started playing football for Summerbee, his school in Bournemouth, when he was 7-years-old, and played for Wynnum Colts when he was in the army and then later turned out for Southside Eagles in the Brisbane 2nd Division. His honours, though, came with other sides; grand final winner with the ATO in the Commercial League and for Logan Uniting Church in the Churches League. He hung up his boots in 2014, at the ripe old age of 62.

... until walking football came along.

“ I heard about walking football from Vlad Terkes [another walking footballer], who messaged me about going along and having a go at it.” He had never heard of the game, but the idea appealed to him. “I was skeptical at first, and apprehensive,” he laughs, “but interested enough to turn up and see how it was played.” He went along with Rob Zuanetti [another walking footballer], who was a taxation person as well as Vlad, to the Coorparoo sessions.

Chris now plays at Oxley on a Wednesday night and at Coorparoo on Friday afternoons. He loves the game and plays it in a friendly way. “I’ve had a run in over the years with some overly competitive players. That sort of thing is a turn off.” For a quiet, amiable guy like Chris to get angry with those who he sees as taking things too seriously shows the passion he has for the ethos of the game. “I keep coming back for the social part of it and for meeting new people.”

Well done, Chris. Long may you play the game.

Postscript: Chris was one of 16 players invited to attend the recent selection trials for the Over 70’s Australian National team. The team is about to be released and will have their first competitive outing at the QUT Cup on 22nd April.

(If you are keen to share your walking football story please make contact with Stephen Thompson stephenrt@bigpond.com).