



S.D. (Stuart) Minetti 2021/22

Stuart attended Wattle Park High School in Burwood and played junior cricket at Highfield Road Methodists Cricket Club in Camberwell.

Stuart's passion at the time was golf, however he completed his Australian Army National Service in 1970 to 1972 where he befriended a passionate cricketer from Warrandyte. After Stuart left the army in 1972 his army mate convinced him to play cricket with Warrandyte (in BHRDCA) where he played two and a bit seasons from 1972/73 to 1974/75 in their 2s and 3s. Stuart is a self-confessed 'very ordinary' cricketer who nevertheless enjoyed the game.

In early 1976 Stuart moved into his first house which happened to back on to the newly created Ainslie Park. The ground became the home of the new Ainslie Park Cricket Club formed from the amalgamation of Croydon West and East Ringwood Uniting cricket clubs. Later that year Stuart decided to become involved with a higher level of cricket than he could play and became an umpire in the RDCA from 1976/77 through to 1979/80. His mentor was an RDCA iconic umpire and life member Ken Dunham. Stuart's highlight of umpiring was a Chandler Shield semi-final in 1979/80. Starting a young family and career took Stuart away from cricket for most of the 80s. From 1993 Stuart played over 60 games of veteran's cricket in the over 40s & 50s for Ainslie Park.

Stuart became involved with Ainslie Park CC in 1989/90 first as an Under 12 team manager for his eldest son Sean and then took on the role of Junior Coordinator in 1994/95. In his tenure of 6 years he also coached an under 16 team and was an early adopter of the Milo Have-A-Go program.

Stuart took over as Club President in 2000/01 for 4 years, Vice President for one year, Club Treasurer for 6 years from 2005/06 to 2009/10 plus 2015/16, Property Officer in 2010/11, as well as Club Secretary for 2 years from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Stuart was awarded the Cricket Victoria Outer-East Metro Volunteer of the Year in 2003/04 and has been the Ainslie Park 1st XI Scorer since 2013/14. He was awarded life membership at Ainslie Park in 2007/08.

Stuart's involvement with the RDCA started with joining the RDCA Junior Committee in 1999/00 with the following 3 years as RDCA Junior President. For 10 years from 2000/01 to 2009/10 Stuart worked with another RDCA Life Member, Jeff Luscombe, in completing the complex grading and fixturing for the RDCA Junior competition. In 2004/05 Stuart worked on the Veterans Committee retiring only because he had to work in New Zealand during 2005 and 2006.

In 2011/12 Stuart was coerced into joining the RDCA Senior Committee as its Minutes Secretary, a position he held for 9 years before taking over the role of Senior Secretary from Gregor Mason at the commencement of 2020. Stuart remained Senior Secretary until the start of the 2022/23 season and was awarded life membership of the RDCA at its 2022/23 AGM. Stuart was an integral part of the merging of the Yarra Valley Cricket Association with the RDCA from 2020/21 and was also the inaugural secretary for the RDCA Women's East Committee in 2021/22.