

# MITCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB – ‘HALL OF FAME MEMBER’ (#8)

## Gary ‘Sam’ Dunkinson

(1955 – )



Gary Dunkinson in action at the Club in 2021

A Mitcham local boy, Gary was born in 1955. There are not many past players ‘more local’ than the famous footballers, like Gary, who lived and played their first footy in Alexander Street Mitcham, close by to Walker Park. A leader from a young age, Gary was Team Captain of the MFC U15s (1970) and U17s (1972). His leadership would progress in his senior football years and in his business career.



Gary, more often known by his nickname Sam, is one of the most respected and liked persons to have ever graced the Mitcham Football Club.

In addition, Sam’s energy and skills to motivate stood him apart. As a player, junior coach, senior coach, multi award winner, multi premierships winner, committeeman, Club President, Life Member and Hall of Famer, Sam has performed most of the key roles within a football club. What a record ... but there is more! Sam has also been Vets Coach and continues to be the long-term President of both the MFC Past Players & Officials Association and the Mitcham Twilighters Golf Club.

### Active Service: 48 years

#### Playing Service:

##### 20 years, 325 games:

Juniors: 5 years, 1968 – 1972, 65 games  
Reserves/Seniors: 15 years, 1973 – 1987, 260 games

#### Coaching Appointments:

##### 11 years:

Juniors: 4 years:  
3 years: Under 13, 1977, 1978, 1979  
1 year: Under 16, 1982  
Seniors: 7 years:  
4 years: Reserves, 1984 – 1987, (2 Premierships)  
1 year: Seniors, 1990 Coach  
2 years: Vets Coach, 1995 – 1996, (2 Premierships)

#### Awards & Achievements:

##### 6 Premierships:

4 Years Reserves: 1974, 1981, 1984, 1987. Capt/Coach: 1981, 1984, 1987  
2 Years Vets: 1995 – 1996, Coach

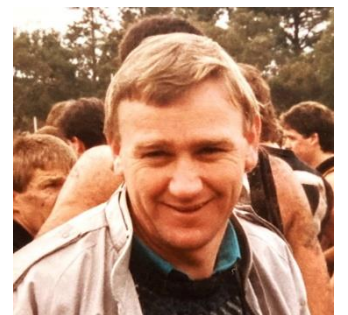
Best Clubman: 5 times: 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983  
Best & Fairest: Reserves: 1977, Runner Up 1974 (EDFL Reserves R/Up 1987).  
Re launched ‘Tiger Rag’: 1980 - 1984 (Club Newsletter, originally established in 1952)  
Life Member: 1983  
Chairman of Selectors: 1988  
Hall of Fame Member: 2010 Foundation member

#### Committees:

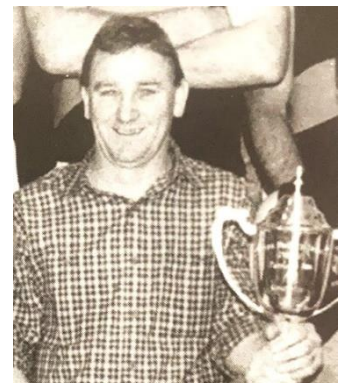
1977 – 1983 MFC General Committee, 7 years (Asst Sec 1978-81)  
1998 – 1999 MFC President, 2 years  
1978 - > President, Mitcham Twilighters Golf Club, 42+ years continuing  
(Established for players and supporters post playing days, to remain connected)  
1993 – 2004 Committee, Past Player & Officials Assoc (PPOA), 13 years  
2004 - > President, Past Players & Officials Assoc, 18+ years continuing  
2008 – 2009 Senior Recruiting Committee



Sam in 1974



Sam in 1986



Sam: 1996 Vets Premiership