

Robert Shields



I was football bonkers from an early age in Lincolnshire UK, and find it astonishing and very cool that I am still obsessed and playing at the tender age of 75. I have read with interest and admiration the football journeys of the players on this site, and they have conveyed much more eloquently than I, the passion, the love, the comradeship, the health benefits and the bloody good fun our sport brings to us.

My family emigrated to South Africa when I was 16, and I played senior soccer in the Cape Western State league. I also played for England in an "International" Sunday league which comprised of immigrants from different countries. To my surprise I won Player of the year in my first season.

In 1978 I moved to Amsterdam to further my career as a commercial artist. Injuries as well as work responsibilities put my footy pursuits on hold for a while.

Eventually I got a place in a team from Hoorn in the Netherlands Voetbal 6th Tier.

In 1982 I emigrated to Australia with my family. Again injuries to my knee prevented me from playing until 1988 when I joined Beaumaris, a Melbourne bayside club which I played for and coached with until 2010.

I retired in from my job in 2017 and threw myself into my beekeeping, a wonderful hobby which keeps me busy. Then one day out of the blue an old friend asked me to fill-in at a walking footy game. I became hooked. I now play socially twice a week with with a wonderful bunch of people at Caulfield Maccabi WFC (all age). I also was invited to join the Ballarat Nuggets at the 2023 Masters Games and we won a a Silver playing in an Over 50's competition. I wish there were more tournaments as the spirit is certainly willing and I would play all week if I could!!

Positionally I tend to gravitate to defence but have been described as a 'useful nuisance' when chucked up front occasionally.

WF has certainly been good for my health and my soul, and has filled a void in my life, and now I am rapt to be able to continue this journey with a new group of like minded friends.
