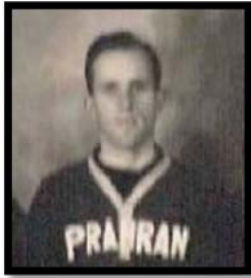


Vale Dick Chapman 1916-2012 Prahran BC Life Member



Richard William (Dick) CHAPMAN passed away peacefully aged 96.

Dick was inducted as a Life Member of the Prahran Baseball Club in 1948 and of the Victorian Baseball Association in 1970; he was also an outstanding BV/VPBL umpire.

John Ferguson and **Graeme Ainscough** have written some of their thoughts on Dick Chapman:

Dick originally played with the Ormond Baseball Club and was recruited to Prahran by Herb Raphael (Club Patron). Dick was a key member of the strong Prahran teams that dominated their competition prior to World War 2; the Golden Era of the 1930's and 40s when they were never out of the final 4 from 1930 to 1949, and won numerous premierships with Dick being a star outfielder in a few of those premiership years. An outstanding fielder, Dick fielded 1.000 (no errors) in 1939-40.

In the 1939 Grand Final playing at first base against High School Old Boys, trailing 0-1 with 2 out in the bottom of the ninth, Dick hit a walk-off 2-run homer as Prahran again won the Metropolitan Division. Prahran went on to play Carlton for the Major Championship of Victoria and won 5-3 in a high standard game played at the Dandenong show grounds.

Dick entered baseball umpiring on his retirement as a player and quickly graduated to the top umpiring position. He was the plate umpire at the demonstration game at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 at the MCG. Dick was also a regular Referee/Adjudicator at Provincial Championships for many years and a rules expert. He had a photographic memory and could relate games in great detail that he had played in or umpired as if they had been played yesterday. No player at club level had a bad word to say about Dick and nobody ever questioned a decision or call that he made.

He was also the Registration Secretary of the Victorian Baseball Association for 25 years with his wife Joyce doing much of the recording of information. Dick and Joyce celebrated their Silver (50 years) and Golden (60 years) wedding anniversaries in the late 1990s. Joyce passed away a few years ago; Dick is survived by sons Ross and Leigh and his wife Judy and grandson Rohan and Deborah and 10 great grandchildren.

Dick was made a Life Member of Prahran Baseball Club in 1948 and was awarded Life Membership of Baseball Victoria in 1970.

Our deepest sympathy to his sons Ross and Leigh, both former members of Prahran Baseball Club, and their families.