

Vale: Brendon TAYLOR

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By Steve Jeffries

BT died from a heart attack whilst referring on the Central Coast of NSW. The Central Coast Dolphine Touch Association has the Brendon Taylor Award for the referee with the most games in a season.



Brendon was instrumental in the birth of the “grass cutters’ the name given to the Many Warringah Touch Referees Association. The grass cutters were a proactive and competitive group of district referees that officiated at State, National and International levels. There were a regular feature at the Australian Club Championships on the Gold Coast each year.

He was the smiling, diplomatic leader of the grasscutters who travelled extensively as a group to Touch tournaments, always outfitted in hats and clothing designed to set level of fashion for their competitor referee groups to try and out-do. Before becoming a referee he played for Westpac in the midweek business houses comp at Manly and for the Beatle Wreckers on Sundays at Manly.

Brendon was a Westpac Bank Manager before moving to the central coast and going into business for himself as a mortgage broker and financial adviser.

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Brendon Taylor started referring in the late seventies with the Manly Touch Referees Association and was a founding member of the infamous “Grasscutter” touring referee squad. They annually hiked to the Gold Coast to officiate at the Australian Club Championships. The Manly referees in those days were considered the best in the business.

BT (as Brendon was known) progressed through the referring ranks to reach his level 5 badge, But not long after he hung up his boots to raise his two small children after the untimely death of his wife.

After fifteen years away from the field he teamed up with the Central Coast Dolphins touch referees in 2002 and set about resurrecting his career and injecting his boys into the sport. It all came together when the three (Brendon, Rhys and Dean) officiated at the 9:30am Girls Under 14 Game at the 2004 Junior State Cup. It was an unprecedented moment and a record for either the Touch playing or referring ranks. They gained a big nod of approval from Ian Matthew the NSW Touch Director of Referees.

