

## Ray Le Sueur

Ray started in softball in 1947 at the Victory Club where he ended up as player, coach and captain of various teams.

Clubs come and go and Victory amalgamated with Eden, the most powerful club in Auckland in those times, and he was almost immediately on the club's executive. He then joined Eden's building committee, a project which gave the club their headquarters at May Road Park.

During his long service with Eden, Ray was a selector of the senior team and manager of various grade over the years. Eden sent him to the ASA where he served on the management committee as a club delegate and he also worked on the fixtures committee, the protest committee and was part of many working bees. With Doc Crawford and Barry Smith, he was responsible for Eden's Softball News for six seasons. He was made a life member of Eden-Roskill in recognition of his services.

Ray joined the umpires in 1950 and remained an active member until 1991. He became an New Zealand Umpire in 1960 and has attended 19 tournaments in that capacity as well as officiating in various international fixtures involving Arizona and San Antonio.

In 1974 he became Auckland Chief Umpire, a position he held until 1981. He was vice-president of the umpires from 1965 to 1981 and has been President from 1986 to 1993.

During his active years, Ray worked in various capacities, notable rules and interpretations committees, plus being grading officer and doing appointments. Gaining two 100% score cards by AUSA examiners, including one from the late Doug Ingles, gave Ray great confidence in those years.

Ray was elected a Life Member of the Umpires' Association in 1966. United invited Ray on their tours of the USA in 1972 and 1976, in recognition of his life-long enthusiasm for the game and a measure of their confidence in him. Those trips were the highlights of his softball life.

He met and married Margaret, who was a Richmond player.

Ray Le Sueur, the keen man of all the masked men, was elected a Life Member of the Auckland Softball Association in 1991 .

Article provide by Trevor Rowse