



THE JOHN REID SHIELD

John Reid attended his first softball game as a spectator in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1940, but it was not until 1948 that his involvement became more intense. At that time, in response to urging from a workmate, the legendary Syd "Pop" Lambert, Reid tried out the equally famous Island Bay Club as a player.

After a few games with demonstrably less than mediocre performances: including a 000 batting average, John wisely accepted urging of Lambert to become one of the Island Bay Club's conscripted Umpires. This led to one of the facets of Reid's softball career which included the equivalent of State umpiring Badges from four NZ provincial associations, culminating in his gaining the NZ Umpires' Badge in 1960 and re-qualifying each year until migrating to Australia in 1968.

Soon after gaining his NZ badge, Reid was recruited by the NZ Softball Council as a Deputy chief Umpire and examiner, posts which he also held until migrating. Many of New Zealand's top current umpires were trained by him and in 'appreciation' of his efforts affectionately nicknamed him "The Whip".

His talents as an administrator were quickly recognised and taken advantage of. He held office in several NZ associations and was a member of the NZ Softball Council from 1953 until 1968. Among these talents is an ability to write, becoming a full time journalist in 1960, after many years as a casual contributor. With softball as a consuming interest, and writing as a talent it was not long before Reid became a pathfinder for softball publicity in New Zealand. A pinnacle on this path was his winning in 1966, 1967 and 1968 the ISF's awards for the best international articles, an unprecedented hat-trick that has not been repeated.

After being Chief Public Relations Officer for the NZ Decimal Currency Board and "with no further to go in NZ" Reid migrated in 1968, becoming the first Public Relations Officer for Tasmania's Hydro Electric Commission. He quickly became associated with the Southern Tasmania Association, being its Chief Umpire during his time on the Apple Isle.

Needing a greater professional challenge, Reid shifted to Sydney in 1971 to become Public Relations Officers for the Australian Bankers' Association, the prestigious employer's group. It is a mark of his attitude to all his endeavours that his peers have elected him as one of the Fellows of the Public Relations Institute of Australia.

Reid joined the North Shore Association, one of NS's strongest associations, especially in its nursery grades. For more than 10 years he was North Shore's Chief Umpire and major on-field activist. In this role, he was also North Shore's major umpiring representative at many State Championships over the years. This ultimately led to his further recruitment by the redoubtable Edna Nash as her formal Vice President and Deputy Chief Umpire of the NSWSUA for many years, becoming part of the senior panel that did much to further umpiring in NSW to its present high standard. Recognition of this came with his election as a Life Member of the NSWSUA.

When men's softball was trying to find its feet in NSW in 1978, the NSW Association asked John Reid to head the committee given responsibility to foster and co-ordinate activities. This sparked off nation wide interest in men's softball. On the initiative of the NSW Men's Committee and with the approval of ASF, Reid conducted his first survey in 1982 of softball played by men and boys throughout Australia. This also elicited keenness for a national men's championship, the first of which was played in Sydney.