

Vale Keith Free

As the curtain closed on 2020 so too did the final chapter in the remarkable life and times of our esteemed member Keith Free.

Keith Free was a champion on and off the Bowling Green.

It is not an exaggeration to suggest Keith Free was revered in many walks of life and by the many lives he touched.

The naming of the Keith Free green at Greenleas Park bowling club epitomises the regard in which he was held.

It was described as the 'pinnacle reward members can bestow on an individual.'

The portrait of Keith Free is featured in the lobby of City Tattersalls Club where Keith was recently honoured as a legend for his magnificent service and the major role he played in determining the direction and prosperity of the club.

Keith was a successful bookmaker and chairman of the NSW Bookmakers Association. He was a board member for more than 40 years and treasurer for 19 of those years.

Keith founded the NSW Bookmakers Superannuation Fund. He was justifiably proud that from 1971 to 1999 under his sole direction the fund yielded an astonishing return of 12.29%. He did this as a service to members without remuneration.

Keith attended the selective Sydney Technical High School from 1943 to 1947 where he was appointed school captain and represented that school in first grade rugby union and cricket.

In 2003 Keith was awarded the Order of Australia medal for his services to the racing industry and the wider community.

Keith's bowling career was equally illustrious. Keith was a magnificent player and sportsman and an inspiration to his teammates. He was a prolific tournament winner which included seven major singles titles at Greenleas Park and 10 major pairs titles. Keith was also a team member of 15 winning pennant sides, nine of them in grade 1

In 2006 Keith was invested with the honour of club patron and was a driving force to coordinate the City Tattersalls Bowls combination and Greenleas Park bowling club.

Keith's life could have been much different. As a schoolboy he was chosen to sing solo with the schools 1000 voice choir at the Sydney town hall. The highlight of our city Tattersalls Christmas parties was when Keith would sing his signature songs like Winter Wonderland, The Girl that I Marry and Born Free.

Keith Free was an icon. His warm and charismatic personality endeared him to all of us. His memory will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

Our condolences are extended to Keith's adorable wife Pat and his family.