

THE MATHIESON HARRY JACOBY CUP (M.H.JACOBY CUP), OR PATRON'S AWARD

This Award was struck in the year of Panther's incorporation (1999) to be awarded each year to a member giving outstanding service to the Club in that year. This criterion advantaged Committee members at the expense of other members of the Club. In early 2013 the Management Committee determined to alter the criterion to extend opportunity amongst members. The first Award within current criteria was awarded at the Annual General Meeting to the 2013-14 season.

Trophy

A Perpetual trophy (Cup), the property of the Club, to be held by the incumbent winner until the month prior to the next Annual General Meeting

A smaller Cup as the permanent property of the winner

Criteria

To be awarded to a Panthers member who has given valuable service to the Club in the past year.

Differentiation

Notionally the Award is for service in the past year. Sometimes 'bottle-necking' of appropriate candidates may occur over a period. In such cases continuous service may be considered relevant, as long as Awardees remain currently serving at the time of their selection.

Procedure

Nominations for the award are principally made by members of the Management Committee but nominations can be offered by any Panthers member. Any number of nominations may be tendered giving a brief 1-3 sentence testimonial for each. Nominations need to be with a panel determined by the Management Committee to short-list candidates at least 4 weeks before the Annual General Meeting and Junior Wind-Up. The panel will be constituted of people regularly attending Club games and training. The panel will reduce the number of candidates to 5.

Each member of the Management Committee will award votes to the short-listed candidates – 3 votes to the person they believe most deserving, 2 votes to the candidate next most deserving, and 1 vote to the third most deserving candidate. Committee members send their votes to the President. Voting slips may be signed, or not; the President will ensure each voter submits only one slip.

The votes are tallied by the President and the nominee receiving most votes will be judged the winner. If two or more nominees receive an equal number of votes they will be judged joint winners; no 'count-back' system will be applied.

Background

Mathieson Harry Jacoby settled in the Mundaring area in November 1893 and was an exceptionally public-spirited individual, actively promoting the district's interests and contributing greatly to its progress. Amongst other things he

- Adopted the aboriginal name for the area for his vineyard (Mundaring), later extended to the district and new town-site
- He was elected as the MLA for Swan 1901-05 and 1908-11, serving variously as Speaker and Temporary Chairman of Committees
- He was a founding member, and first Chairman, of the local Progress Association
- He served on many committees supporting local interests and development
- He championed the current Mundaring Recreation Ground as a preferred recreational amenity to the alternatively proposed site later to become Harry Riseborough Oval

Although undoubtedly successful personally and financially it was generally accepted his devotion to public service exceeded any pursuit of personal gain.

Ms Toni Frank was the grand-daughter of M. H. Jacoby and was introduced to Panthers Basketball Club at the time of incorporation by founding member Ms Joan Berendsen. Ms Frank accepted an invitation to become Panthers inaugural Patron. As part of this arrangement Ms Frank donated a generous financial sum and on-going donation of items for fund-raising activities.

In return Panthers agreed to name its award for service after her grand-father. His service exemplifies the attitude to voluntary service that Panthers wishes to reward.

[Compiled 18 June 2014 by Ken Rose]