



Blues News On-Line

www.umpiring.softball.org.au

Edition February/March 2009

National UIC Call with Andrew Rindfleish

This time of year sees most summer softball competitions drawing to an end with finals series being held through March. This year I'm reminded very much of the importance of grass-roots softball for our sport. I'd like to relay two stories of local softball association successes.

A few weeks ago I had a call from Adrian Rampoldi, the Umpire-in-Chief for Hornsby District Softball Association. Hornsby is in the far northern suburbs of Sydney and has a membership base of approximately 700 player members. Adrian is a Level 2 umpire and was calling to invite me to the Hornsby Grand Final Day.

When Adrian explained that they have umpired every single game, every Saturday during the whole season, from Under 12s to A Grade with ALL UMPIRES, not one single clubbie - I was blown away. This is a fantastic achievement for the newest metropolitan association in Sydney. My response to Adrian's invitation was an immediate and emphatic "yes".

Hornsby has in excess of 60 umpires, from Junior Blues through to Level 1, 2 accredited umpires. The fact that they have no umpires more senior than this makes their story all the more special. It was explained to me that they do not have enough games each week for the number of umpires they have. I saw two grand final games being umpired by "teams" of 4 and 5 umpires, with the umpires rotating through the positions on the diamond throughout the game.

One of the strengths of the Hornsby umpire development program is the use of mentors for the developing umpires. Mentors attend each and every game umpires by juniors and provide enormous support for these young umpires. Significant contributors to this program have been Adrian Rampoldi, Paul Wolf and John Walker.

The second story is from my own association, the Sutherland Shire Softball Association, in Sydney's south. Through the hard work of the Sutherland UIC, Level 4 umpires, Sharyn Girdler, for the first time all Grand Finals in 2009 were umpired by umpires, with no clubbies being required.

Grass roots softball is important to our sport. The work done by local association umpires-in-chief, such as Adrian and Sharyn, is of enormous value to umpiring. The pools of young and developing umpires, at the local level are the basis for our national umpire program. I salute the work done by Adrian, Sharyn and their counterparts across the country.



Top: Andrew Rindfleish presenting the award for the Club Contribution to Umpiring: Mount St. Benedicts

Middle: Hornsby Junior Blue Award winner Cloe Holman in action on Grand Final day

Bottom: Scott Rindfleish (NSW Umpires Training Coordinator), Johnnie Walker, and Andrew Rindfleish with "Johnnie Walker Junior Blue" award: winners Chloe Holman and Hamish Owen

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au BNOL Submissions to mtoft@ozemail.com.au



Aust. Capital Territory

www.suaact.softball.org.au

AUSTRALIA DAY TOURNAMENT 2009 with Sarah Houston

Over the Australia Day long weekend Canberra saw approximately 50 girls teams and 14 boys teams from various parts of Australia converge on the Capital.

The girls were at Hawker for all three days and the boys were at our Mawson Grounds for 2 days and then over to Hawker for the finals on Sunday. With so many teams, we saw a whole heap of wonderful umpires cramped into two change rooms and a cupboard!! (Only the best for our visitors).

With 26 local SUAACT umpires and approx 50 interstate umpires, our 2 UICs, Brett Atkinson and “legend” Dan McKay, had their hands full allocating over the 3 days.

At the Girls the weather was hot - really hot and the fans ran overtime in the change rooms as we sweated our way through many kilos’ of sausages, steaks, bacon and eggs, and litres of soft drink and water, very generously provided by Softball ACT.

We umpired many hundreds of games over the weekend and gained much praise for the standard of umpiring. Big thanks to Mat Camp (also doubling as our Association Secretary) who was out there early each day setting up and late each night packing/cleaning it all up.

The boys’ section of the tournament was played at Mawson on Friday and Saturday and then joined the Hawker mob for the last of the rounds and the Finals on Sunday. There were 3 grades of competition, Under 16 (5 teams), Under 14 (5 Teams) and Under 12 (4 teams). 17 umpires were allocated to this section of the tournament although not all were available for the 3 days and there were a couple of injuries. There were 64 games in all resulting in 140 appointments.

The games were played in a very good spirit and there were no dramas. No doubt our zero tolerance policy contributed to this.

Another outstanding feature was the willingness of umpires to “step up to the plate” when an unexpected gap occurred in the appointments. Thankyou to Softball ACT for providing lunch vouchers for the Mawson leg while we all enjoyed the B-B-Q at Hawker on Sunday.

Overall, it was a great experience and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au BNOL Submissions to
mtoft@ozemail.com.au



Tasmania

www.tas.softball.org.au

Tasmanian umpires work hard on Australia Day by Wayne Clarke

Tasmania's B Grade State Championships were once again held on the Australia Day weekend. Unlike our other state championships this season, it was over the whole weekend rather than just one day. This gave it a more carnival atmosphere and gave us the time to find out what our fellow umpire's had been up to in the past year.

With the change of year we also had a change in the weather. Unlike the other championships there wasn't a coat insight. This is saying something as a certain umpire won't go onto a diamond without a coat unless the temperature is over 24°C!

The championships were held at Ulverstone. The ground is not the best in Tasmania, but would be the most picturesque. From the diamonds you can see the boats and yachts sailing up and down the river on the edge of the ground. At high tide, it looks as if the boats are sailing on the ground.

Scott (Bart) Bartlett managed a record in his last game as he was able to call "time and game" after 2½ innings in only 35 minutes! Bart also had the distinction, in one of his earlier games, of being the first in 7 years to have a protest.

We now look forward to the Open men and U16 boys at the end of February. This should be interesting as none of us have called a male game in 12 months.

Tasmania's U19 Women and U14 Girls State Championships were held recently. Once again it was just a one day tournament. On yet another cold, wet and windy day we all headed to Churchill Park, Launceston.

To liven things up we came up with a few new rules for umpires. Wayne and Kelvin Clarke struggled with one of the rules and ended up breaking it in their first games.

It was good to see that you stayed on your feet Bob and didn't break your rule! Debbie took out the "blond moment award" with her 1 min 20 games. Did you mean 1 hour 20?

Final Appointments:

U14 Girls

Plate - Cindy Wilson (Clarke), 1st - Peter Clarke, 3rd - Ian French

U19 Women (pictured right)

Plate - David Lipscombe, 1st - Bob Cluley, 3rd - Debbie Rodman



Final crew: L to R - Wayne Clarke, Kelvin Clark and Bob Cluley



National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



Gilley's Shield 1 and 2

Level 6 accreditation pilot program with Debbie Grove



in seeing you both on the park again soon.

During the first two rounds of the 2008/009 Gilley's Shield the National Umpiring Program piloted an accreditation system where two Level 6 candidates were examined over two weekends. On behalf of all umpires I would like to take this opportunity to again congratulate Stacey Evans and David Datson (pictured) in achieving their Level 6. This was the first time Candidates were under examination over two separate week ends, which has its own challenges. Well done again and look forward

David Datson from South Australia was asked to make comment on the experience.

"The assessment process in Brisbane and Canberra was an exciting and challenging experience. Having the opportunity to consistently be involved in good ball games in itself was great and at times very challenging. Perhaps the hardest part was calling tight games in extreme weather conditions - the heat and humidity of Brisbane and the cold of Canberra. And most of all was the knowledge that you were being watched all of the time, even if the game was not a formal assessment game. Fortunately I was able to work with great crews and this made the assessment process easier - to all of you thank you all very much".

Stacey Evans added the following comments. "Gilley's shield round 1, at Downey Park in Queensland, started with a torrential downpour delaying start on day 1, then the sun came out and created a natural sauna out on the diamonds. We had 3 days of great softball, plenty of laughs and also got to see the new umpire's room.

The trip home was filled with excitement- lightning strikes could be seen all around on the drive to the airport as a storm of enormous scale struck... until I stopped and thought what this might mean for our plane... Sure enough, they had closed the airport, and we had a LONG wait for our plane to leave. About 3 hours after our scheduled arrival time (i.e. 12 midnight) we landed in Melbourne, then had to wait about an hour for our bags, then went on a treasure hunt for Debbie's car, and finally got to bed at about 2 am... what a day!

In Canberra I woke up on day 1 to the sound of raindrops on my window... Not a sound you want to hear when you really want to get out on the park! I went down to KT and Dave's room for breakfast and watched the steady fall of rain out the window- it really wasn't looking good. After a few hours at the hotel we decided to all head down to the grounds to check out the situation there. Unless all the players put on their bathers and flippers, it was looking highly unlikely we would be able to play any games that day.

Luckily for us the rain stopped some time on Friday night, and we were able to get all of Saturday's games played- I was so happy to be out there. At last all of my examination games were complete by Saturday night, so luckily for me I only had one more day of nervous wait for the results".

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au BNOL Submissions to
mtoft@ozemail.com.au



National Championships

Open Men's National Championships/Gilley's Shield Finals with Mark Toft

Sunday saw half of the umpiring crew arrive in a wet Sydney, with the forecast not looking good with rain to continue for a further days. Visiting the grounds it did not look good as all diamonds were extremely wet with play unlikely.

We left Tricia at the park to attend the technical meeting and other meetings as games needed to be rescheduled. Most of us settled in to the accommodation and did the usual visit to the supermarkets for victuals for the week, room by room of course. It was quite evident that some of the guys don't do shopping at home with what was in some trolleys. The girls had a lot more healthier food in their shopping baskets (of course).



What a mess: Diamond one at Blacktown needed a lot of work to get games underway.



Flowing like a river: Diamond two was unplayable for the first three days of competition.

At the accommodation there was an open storm water drain that rose and fell as the rain became heavier and lighter. It was probably our best gauge what was happening 20 minutes away at the ball park.

After the remainder of the first half of the crew arrived we sat around 'chewing the fat' as some of us had not caught up for a number of years and of course the odd story brought roars of laughter. Then the word came that we were not umpiring the next day. Believe me if the players were frustrated from not being able to play the umpires were as equally frustrated with cabin sickness.

Our UIC, Tricia had spent most of the day at the park in meetings and rescheduling the draw, which meant the management team of Andrew, Leigh, Debbie and Tricia had do allocations for the revised draw.

The next day saw no games again. This was the perfect opportunity to conduct a forum at the accommodation. Having the majority of Australian senior umpires available in one venue the umpiring management crew had organised an open forum discussion on a paper regarding umpiring signals and positioning. The ISF umpires had discussed this over a number of weeks prior to the tournament and with the inclusion of the Level 6 umpires we were able to discuss the 14 point paper at length. This was broken into two sessions breaking for lunch.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



National Championships

With some excellent results from the open forum, umpires agreed to trial a number of positions and signals throughout the rest of week when we took the diamonds. This was a huge success and will enable the National Umpiring Committee to assess changes (if any) that can be made to the Australian program in forms of Technical Bulletins.

One umpire who was very nervous before he even took the diamond was our sole Level 6 candidate, New South Welshman, Greg Zucchetti (pictured right) who needed to complete six games under assessment for his next level. I must admit he was rather cool under the circumstances.



There has been many firsts this year within the umpiring program. Our Tasman Exchange umpire from New Zealand was Tara Harris (pictured left) our first female exchange. Tara fitted in so well and by the end of the tournament could have passed as an ‘ozzie’ except for those funny shirts with a fern leaf on her chest. All in all the crew welcomed our New Zealand cousin with open arms and she had a great time when we actually did some games.

At this point it may be a good time to mention that Australia’s Tasman Exchange umpire, Phil Waller flies out to the New Zealand Open Men’s Championships at the end of March.

Although we got onto the diamonds late on day four it was still spongy under foot (especially my feet). The first day of games saw the last game finish after midnight and the good news was it was to be an early start the next day. With so much time lost there were not many complaints from umpires.

One thing about the days lost it presented many opportunities for the umpiring crew to do some sight-seeing (something we don’t often do). A bus load of us travelled into Darling Harbour for dinner one night and it was a fantastic night out. Wining and dining on the harbour was a night to remember. There were also other opportunities to go to the local restaurants, cafes and coffee shops. This was mostly all the exercise we got for four days, the walk cleared our heads.

The Open Men’s final was officiated by Darren Sibraa, Scott Rindfleish, Warren Duff and Andrew Rindfleish (Pictured left L to R). This was Scott’s first plate at a National Championship and he and his crew represented the entire crew with pride on the tournament game.



The Gilley’s Shield final was officiated by Debbie Grove, Neville Lawrance, Tara Harris and Ron Houison.

Despite the rain it was an enjoyable week, it always is when you can catch up with friends, some of who you don’t see for a number of years at a time. A special mention to UIC Tricia Sibraa who spent a lot of time away from the accommodation and the crew. She did a great job, once again.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



National Championships - Family Ties

Family Ties by Mark Toft

Since I started as editor of Blue's News On-Line I have mentioned that umpires in this country are all one big family. This was even more evident at the recent Open Men's National Championships/Gilley's Shield Finals in Sydney.

This year's crew saw four families represented, two husband and wife teams of the Houison's and the Sibraa's, a father and daughter combination with the Evans' and a father and son duo with the Rindfleish's. All umpires are Level 6 and above and actively officiating at the highest level at Nationals.

As depicted below these umpires careers have spanned more than two decades with the National Level 6 recognition numbers in brackets besides their names. These umpires attained their Level 6 accreditation in a period of more than 20 years. Andrew (Brisbane - 1986 - ISF 1990), Tricia (Canberra - 1989 - ISF 1990), Leigh (Adelaide - 2000 - ISF 2004), Scott (Brisbane - 2004 - ISF 2006), Darren (Launceston - 2005 - ISF 2006), Ron (Melbourne - 2006), Amanda (Sydney - 2007) and Stacey (Brisbane/Canberra - 2008/2009).

On the world scene Andrew has officiated at four World Championships (1991 Junior Girls - Adelaide, 1996 Open Men's - Canada, 2000 Open Men's - South Africa and 2001 Junior Men - Sydney), Scott and Darren have one a piece both attending the 2008 Junior Men's in Canada, Leigh officiated at the 2005 Junior Men's in Canada and recently has been named to be Australia's representative at the 2009 Open Men's in Canada. Tricia officiated at the 1991 Junior Girls in Adelaide.



Dynamic Duos: L to R - Amanda Houison (147), Ron Houison (141), Tricia Sibraa (87), Darren Sibraaa (139), Leigh Evans (123), Stacey Evans (TBA), Scott Rindfleish (133), Andrew Rindleish (82) (Numbers in brackets indicate Level 6 accreditation number)

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



Olympic Softball News



BackSoftball

Media Statement From:

Don Porter, President of the International Softball Federation (ISF)

27/02/09

“No Joint Approach with Baseball for Olympic Games Programme”

The president of the International Softball Federation, Don Porter, issued the following statement this morning, following recent media speculation on whether softball would combine with baseball in a joint bid for Olympic Games Programme status in 2016:

“The ISF recently received a proposal from the International Baseball Federation for a combined approach for Olympic Games Programme status. However, having looked at all the factors involved, the ISF has decided that **softball will not combine** with any other sport and stands by the current proposals to the International Olympic Committee submitted in our recent response to their Questionnaire.

“The ISF proposal to the IOC is for an elite women’s softball discipline with the option of an elite men’s discipline if desired. We have offered the IOC a doping-free, universal team sport that reflects the values of Olympism all over the world.

“Softball is a global sport governed by a fully independent international federation – the ISF. Softball is also a stand-alone sport with its own rules, values, and philosophy.

“To reinforce this and in accordance with ISF statutes, the ISF recently instructed any national softball federation that is combined with a national federation of any other sport(s), to become fully independent at the earliest opportunity. We have developed measures to safeguard the federations who need to make this transition.

“Softball is expanding, especially among the world’s youth and females. The best way for us to continue this progress is for softball to remain firmly independent in all the major multi-sport Games – including the Olympic Games.

“Softball enjoyed an incredibly successful Olympic Games in Beijing last year and proved without doubt that, as a stand-alone sport, softball adds great value to the Olympic Games Programme.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



National Examination

Hello fellow blues, coaches, officials, administrators, even players and all those interested in the technical side of the great game we all love. The 2009 Softball Australia exam date is fast approaching (May 25 2009). Once again how time flies when you're having fun. Time to hit the rule books, especially the case book, and get yourself involved in your local club or Association rule sessions.

There are two separate umpires' rules exams in Australia, the Basic Exam and the Australian Exam.

The Basic Exam is a simplified version of the Australian Exam, it contains rule book verbatim questions, every day issues on the diamond and it is presented in an easy format for the person who is a local umpire, a first timer or just wants to brush up on their rule knowledge. You do not have to be an umpire to sit this exam. In fact players, coaches, administrators and anyone who has an interest may complete the exam. It is a very good place to start. So come on! Test yourself. Umpires wishing to become a level 1 or 2 umpires can also sit this exam, "come on be a candidate today!", come and enjoy the testing but fun side of the game. The basic exam can in fact be sat anytime on or after the May 25, 2009, so talk with your Association or Umpires co-ordinator. The Australian exam is a little more difficult as it has some more challenging questions. The pass mark required is set different based on umpire's individual levels. Level 1 umpires can sit this Exam with a pass mark of 50% required.

This year level two candidates can sit the basic exam as an open book examination on the 25th of May or in his/her own home over a period of time. Candidates using the paper in this manner are required to provide the correct answers and a rule reference to **85% of the questions**.

Note: 1. The Basic exam can be sat on the last Monday in May at the same time as the National Exam, or alternatively it can be sat anytime during the year.

Note: 2. Level 2 candidates or umpires can sit the National Exam (required pass mark of 60%). This enables familiarity with the National Exam, with the chance to sit the Basic Exam if they do not achieve the required mark.

There will also be a supplementary National Exam available.

Level 3 candidates, and Level 3 umpires and above who are unable to make the exam due to illness, work commitments or extenuating circumstances is able to apply to the National Umpire in Chief, through their SDU (State Director of Umpiring), for special consideration. For full details please see the tech bulletin online at www.umpiring.softball.org.au

Your help is required to enable me to order and have printed sufficient copies of the exam for all states, so I would ask that you talk with your state Affiliates and advise them that you require a copy of the exam for 2009.

Affiliates need to notify their State Umpire in Chief and, in turn, the National Umpiring Committee by the 1st of March. Thank you for your help on this important part of our program.

If you have any concerns please [email me. leighevans@westnet.com.au](mailto:leighevans@westnet.com.au)

Leigh Evans
Softball Australia Umpiring Committee
Technical Stream
National Rules Interpreter

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au BNOL Submissions to
mtoft@ozemail.com.au



International Appointments

Leigh Evans in World Men's Crew by Mark Toft

Victorian umpire Leigh Evans has been selected as Australia's representative in the umpiring crew for the 2009 Men's World Championships in Saskatoon, Canada in July.

Leigh has been one of this country's leading umpires for many years and his appointment to the XII Men's Worlds is true recognition of his consistency as a Softball officiator.

"During our ISF clinic at the A.I.S in Canberra in 2002 one of the sessions involved Goal setting and Action plans, we had to put a long term and short term plan together. It had to list items and they had to be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely.

"I have found these challenging and very rewarding. I am happy to say that since then I have achieved all these goals, bar one.

Three Saturdays ago Andrew Rindfleish rang me while I was training our Representative Sunshine Association's Under 14 boy's team, advising I had been selected by the ISF panel to officiate at the XII Open Men's World Championships, so come July 2009 I will have achieved all my goals. A very rewarding and exciting experience" Leigh added.

Leigh's career Highlights

- 2002 - Travelling to Japan for the Japan Cup with the Australian Women's team and plate umpiring the Grand final Japan v USA.
- 2004 - Attaining his ISF accreditation in 2004
- 2005 - Attending the Under 19 Men's World Championships (Plate umpire in Semi- final and Preliminary Final)
- 2006 - Umpiring in the Commonwealth Championships (Plate umpire Grand final)
- 2005 & 2008 Vivian Triplet Umpire of the Year
- 2007 - Officiating at Canada Cup (Second base in Gold Medal game)
- 2008 - Umpiring the Gold medal game in the Men's Pacific Series in Canberra
- 2008 - Officiating in New Zealand for the Men's World Qualifiers



Leigh Evans in action in 2005 Canada v USA

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au BNOL Submissions to
mtoft@ozemail.com.au



European UIC visits

An old friend tours down under with Damien McCauley

Marliess Struyve, UIC Europe, turned up In Kingscote on Wednesday morning December 31, 2008. Unfortunately, this was without any luggage because that was still in Alice Springs. Luckily, QANTAS did the right thing and the luggage was only a day behind. Marliess spent the afternoon wandering around Kingscote before heading off to a shack at a place called D'Estrees Bay to spend New Years Eve. The shack was just that. An old fishing shack that consisted of about 10 sheets of galvanised iron and not much more. Marliess was greeted by some locals, and enjoyed a real Aussie barbeque for a meal that evening before seeing in the New Year.

Thursday was spent beachcombing and looking at historic sites before moving onto the Honey Farm and Eucalyptus Distillery. Duck Lagoon was the last place to visit in an attempt to find some Koalas. Fortunately, we did not go away disappointed.

Marliess spent Friday with an organised tour company that took her to Penneshaw to collect an Italian couple who happen to be on their honeymoon. The day was spent touring through several privately owned properties that allowed them to see plenty of Kangaroos and Koalas. By the time Marliess got back into Kingscote at the end of the day, it was time for a knock off drink. Marliess was then introduced to lots of locals, in a local hotel. The local beer got the thumbs up.



Tourist: Marliess and Damien enjoy time together at one of Kangaroo Island's beautiful sites.

Saturday was going to be a big day. First stop was Vivonne Bay. Voted Australia's Best Beach. After we left Vivonne Bay we called into Hanson Bay to see if we could visit the new Southern Ocean Lodge. It was now onto Kelly Hills Caves and the Flinders Chase National Park. The next two stops would be the highlight of Marliess's visit. Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch are truly amazing examples of the power of nature.

We spent the last day with Marliess by starting with morning tea at Emu Bay. After a visit to a nearby Lavender Farm, we went onto one of the highest points of the Island, Constitution Hill. It was a fine and clear day which allowed us to have some excellent photo opportunities of some of the best views on the Island. This gave us views over Snellings Beach and across to Yorke Peninsula and Althorpe Islands. Next stop, lunch at Stokes Bay. After squeezing through the crevice in the side of the hill, we did our best to walk off lunch by strolled along another of our more popular beaches.

This meant we arrived back at Cygnet River in time for a tour of the Sheep Dairy. One of only a few sheep dairies in Australia that produces sheep cheeses and yoghurts. Marliess returned to her accommodation that night to join a guided tour along the Kingscote shoreline looking for penguin colonies. It was a 5:00 am start for Marliess Monday morning, to allow her to make the connections that were going to get her back to Adelaide. She was joined by Alan McAuliffe upon arriving in Adelaide to spend some time looking around the City of Churches.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au



149 twicewhat are the odds

Helen's Unusual Double Play by Mark Toft

When the National Umpiring Committee made a decision to issue numbers on caps for umpires who achieved Level 6 accreditation, it was a sign of recognition. That had many people comparing numbers with Australian cricketers and Australian Softball representative player numbers.

Brisbane based National umpire Helen Strauss achieved her Level 6 accreditation in Sydney in 2008 and was allocated number 149 and it was not too difficult for her to compare with an Australian Representative player because 21 years earlier her Australian playing number was also 149. Helen started umpiring in Brisbane 1997, completing the Red Shirts Program. Helen recognises Cheryl Featherstone as the person who encouraged her to join the umpiring program, after she asked so many questions as a player.

Attained levels:

- Level 1 - 1997 Brisbane
- Level 2 - 1998 Brisbane
- Level 3 - 1999 Caboolture U19 Men/Women
- Level 4 - 2000 Redlands Open Men/Women
- Level 5 - 2005 Melbourne U19 Women
- Level 6 - 2008 Sydney Open Women

Helen has attended eight Nationals in her short career and a number of special events in which she has shown to be one of the fittest 'Blue' in our ranks.

Playing Highlights

Australia

1983 - Australian U19 - Junior Trans Tasman Series V NZ

1987-89 - Australian Open Team

1988 - AIS Camp Canberra - 1988

1988 - Bicentennial Challenge (Aust, NZ, Chinese Taipei)

1989 - South Pacific Classic (Aust, China, Canada, Japan, USA & NZ)

National Championship Medals

1977 - Primary Schoolgirls - Adelaide

1980 - U16 Girls - Adelaide - Esther Deason Shield

1982 - U19 Women's - Darwin - Elinor McKenzie Shield

1983 - U19 Women's - Brisbane - Elinor McKenzie Shield

1984 - Open Women's - Perth - Gilley Shield

1987 - Open Women's - Darwin - Gilley Shield

National Award

1986 - Open Women's - Canberra - Midge Nelson Medal (MVP)

Congratulations Helen on your achievements in a sport that you obviously love. With plenty of time I am sure your resume will be a great read in years to come.

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.umpiring.softball.org.au

BNOL Submissions to

mtoft@ozemail.com.au