

# BLUES NEWS ON LINE

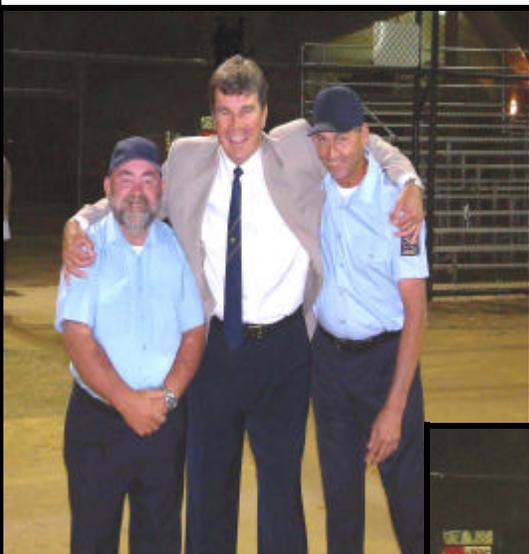
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April Edition Vol 4 of 2004

## Congratulations on your higher level

Well done and congratulations to Phil Waller, Graham Boyle and Yvonne Kahler on attaining their Level 6 accreditation.

Phil and Graham (pictured below with Championship UIC, Andrew Rindfleish) were successful candidates at the Open Men's Championships in Canberra, while Yvonne was successful at the Under 23 Men's in Sydney.



Congratulations should also go to Cathie who pick up her Level 5 at the Under 19's in Adelaide.. Cathie is the first Northern Territory umpire to attain a National Level.

Below: Andrew Rindfleish with New Zealand exchange umpire, Riki Tourangi at the National Open Men's Championships in Canberra this year.



### There is nothing like success

Following six intense games of softball each Phil Waller and Graham Boyle were successful in attaining their Level 6 at the Open Men's National Championships. Pictured are the two successful candidates congratulated by Andrew Rindfleish UIC of the tournament..



**Our new ISF Blues:** Pictured are four of Australia's newest ISF accredited umpires who officiated the final at the recent international series in Sydney. L to R: Darrell Shepherd, Diane Waller, David Crowe and Debbie Keogh.

## National Examination

May 31, 2004

**Reminder to all Level one umpires and above.**

**You must sit the exam on the above date. For further information contact your local umpiring association or State body. Good Luck!**

### What's in this issue

- Successful candidates
- Making an umpire
- State updates
- 23's successful
- Letters to editor

**More contributions needed for may Edition.**

## **Australian Capital Territory** by Martin Turnbull (S.D.U.)

As the ACT season comes to a close, a number of umpires are preparing to travel to Melbourne for the annual Dandenong and Waverley events. This is a chance for junior and mid-level umpires to work with other umpires from different areas to continue learning and pass on some of the skills they possess - as well as have a lot of fun doing so.

The Secondary Schools National were held just after Easter and Alex Turnbull is traveling to Melbourne to support this event as the ACT umpire.

Highlights of the season included:

- \* the 9th Australian Masters Games where 1,100 umpiring appoints are now a memory and YES I would do it all again just to work with some magnificent umpires,
- \* the Canberra Skins Men's professional tournament (where the SDU was in quarantine due to a whooping cough scare and missed the whole weekend),
- \* ACT Umpires attending National Championships (Martin Rod & Ken)
- \* visit from a Beijing Institute of sport team where all the umpires were given cloisonné egg-key rings and many of us learnt to deal with non-English speaking teams for the first time (I'm still not sure how I managed to convince the coach that it was a double play and that the runner did leave early on the fly...)
- \* the International Men's Series, between Australia, Canada and the Netherlands, where a couple of local umpires (Martin & Brett) experienced international umpiring for the first time, and
- \* the ASF National Open Men's Championships

We have lost a few umpires this season, due to relocation or retirement, and we wish them well in all their future endeavours. However, we have gained a few new umpires and some of our existing umpires have taken the next step up the ladder by adding to their levels.

At the end of the ACT season the following umpires gained accreditation:

Craig Williams (4), (Craig recently moved back to Tassie), Mark Gallagher (3), Nathan Levy (3), Lyle Roberts (2). We have six new Level 1 Umpires:

Travis Albrecht, Mathew Dears, Steve Dixon, Lyn Lalas, Rhiannon Lavett and Jill Peterson

On Grand Final day, the State Director's Umpire of the Year Award for 2004 was awarded to Ken Culpitt. Ken has won a numerous awards over the years, including the Vivian Triplett award and has been umpiring for over 30 years during which he has attended national championships for more than 25 consecutive years.

This year his home association had the opportunity to record their appreciation by recognising him at the local level for his hard work. Ken, as an ASF, ACTSA and SUAACT board member, allocations coordinator and examiner is not only dedicated to his sport but is extremely busy taking on all the task he does - all of which are executed with skill and Ken's sense of fun and humour.

This award was given not for those higher positions that he holds but for still being able to get out on the diamond and work with all levels of umpires helping us all to improve our skills. I acknowledge that I would not be the umpire I am today if it were not for Ken Culpitt. Thank you Ken.

Due to sudden changes in personal circumstances I will be moving out of the ACT soon, so will be unable to continue as SDU ACT. However I do intend to continue umpiring and look forward to working with the Brisbane umpires when I get settled later this year.



SUAACT members with some proudly displaying their new awards (absent from photo: Ken Culpitt, Dan Mackay and Mike Sandford who were busy with team presentations). Back (L to R) Stephen Smith, Dick Gallagher, Brian Higginbotham, Mike McCartney, Jill Peterson, Alex Turnbull, Matthew Camp, Brett Atkinson. Front (L to R) Lyle Roberts, Travis Albrecht, Martin Turnbull (SDU), Mark Gallagher, Nathan Levy.

## A Recipe For The Blue

### Ingredients:

1 large package of pre-game discussion  
½ cup of ground rules  
2 freshly ground starting line-ups – complete with managers  
Several bats and balls to taste  
1 tablespoon of legal pitches mixed with catcher's targets  
1 teaspoon of ineligible and illegal substitutes  
¾ cup of dead ball appeals  
1 large box of well-seasoned second guesses  
2 cups of re-entry  
1 first class controversy, thinly sliced  
A pinch of exaggeration  
½ kilo of unsalted balderdash  
8 grams of biased opinions, finely chopped  
To satisfy your taste, add

- A steal or two for the FP game, or
- Blend in 3-5-7 or 12 home runs in SP

1 medium bottle of locker room hysteria

### Directions:

Empty package of pre-game discussion into a large kettle. Heat over moderate flame for 60 (SP) or 90 (FP) minutes until questions and answers congeal. Mix in signals, positioning and mechanics and serve on toothpicks as appetisers or as a dip with potato chips.

Fifteen minutes before game time, check bats and balls, and mix in line-ups with ground rules. Knead contents until all blend smoothly. Mix in game ball, legal pitches, catcher's targets and teaspoon of substitutes. Roll all above ingredients with cups of re-entry and dead ball appeals. Set aside until all rises to the occasion.

Place biased opinions on greased pan and place in oven. When opinions are half-baked, remove from the oven and serve.

Season thinly sliced controversy with exaggeration. Then lightly marinate both controversy and exaggeration with any ejection required. Simmer lightly, but do not bring to a boil. When mixture is thick enough to obscure vision, combine second guesses and unsalted balderdash. Shape all in bite size softballs. Sprinkle with own juices during any extra innings.

Sift steals and/or home runs, making sure foul balls are added after reaching required seasoning, or that runners blend in with rules.

Garnish all with a sense of humour. Locker room hysteria may be used as after-game cordial or presented as a dessert.

Makes one, two, three or four servings depending on the assignment. Leftovers may be stored in the refrigerator and served as snacks or held over until next season.

## News from Northern Territory by Yvonne Newman

Cathie Allen achieved her level 5 ( The first ever in the NT to reach Level 5) and scored a double with winning the NT Sports Awards 'Official of the Year in early April. Congratulations to Cathie from all the NT umpires.

Our season has started and with Margaret and Ian still in Adelaide our numbers have shrunk, but we are still out there on a Saturday. The Blues will once again be traveling to The Daly Community in the remote NT for the Merripen Arts Festival to umpire there in May and Derek Quong and Yvonne Newman will be traveling to Brisbane to umpire in the Men's championships in June.

Exam time means lots of study and the Blues in Darwin are holding twice weekly rules sessions to sharpen our knowledge. We are looking forward to Margaret and Ian returning to Darwin around June. Good calling.

## My First Opportunity

On April 16, 2004 I was on the road by 0545 heading toward Logan Softball grounds for the 0700 umpires meeting before the start of the Queensland U14's Boys State Championships.

At 0650 I arrived and so had I, a sigh of relief but where was everyone else? (That is another tale)

After a number of years I finally had the opportunity to attend a Championship and to be assessed for my Level 2 the final outcome is not relevant.

I would like to clarify that at no time was I nervous (no matter what some were saying) How could I be nervous even though the odd glance in to the spectators revealed the presence of the assessors like vultures hovering over a carcass?

All joking aside I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to publicly thank Darren Sibraa, Ron Yardley (admit it you were surprised that I was on time), Mick Gorman, Helen Strauss and all the other assessors (sorry but I have forgotten your names but you know who you are) for their time, constructive criticism and feedback of my performance over the three days.

Eric Eyre (Laidley Softball Association)

## Under 23s Men's Report

By Peter Richardson

This tournament was held over 4 days with a crew of 8 umpires. We stayed in 3, 3 bedroom apartments about a 45-min drive away from the grounds. Opening ceremony was different. Only the umpires on the grounds, then a team player entered the stadium on the back of a Harley with their State flag. Went over really well. As always there was a practical joker in the crew, who put suntan cream on thongs, pulled out shoelaces, and other things, we never found out who it was.

The Grand Final was washed out.

### Comments

Darryl Sheppard - "I thought you would like to see the golf course".  
(As he missed the turn off for the second time)

Kevin Tannerbring - "You bugger set me up, that's the fast pitch I have ever seen" (After Bruce McGahan and Andrew Chapman had gone out to talk to ACT pitcher, Andrew Kirkpatrick (Chesse), the next pitch came down with a bit more speed 135 k.

Greg Baker - " Are those new balls or have you cleaned them" (As Big Al was taking the new balls to the coaches)

" I will buy you a case of Beer" (Since he was the last to arrive to the first meeting, told Big Al he would be there by 8.30pm arrived 10.15pm all umpires were seated and waiting)



**Thirty years and still going strong:** Ken Culpitt (left) receives the ACT Umpire of the Year Award from Martin Turnbull (SDU ACT).

## Under 23 Women's - Ipswich

By Mark Toft

Have you ever wondered how you can get a crew which works so well together. I know that you work in crews over many years of umpiring, but one that clicks from the first minute to the last. That is what we had at the Under 23 Women's National Championships at Ipswich recently.

The feedback on all games from the examiners, Debbie Grove, Debbie Keogh and UIC Tricia Sibraa was constructive and to the point and I personally picked up a number of things over the weekend.

As Big Al told me one day, "You can never stop learning about umpiring" and how true he was.

The tournament was over four days and if we had one concern it would be to start the tournament a day earlier so the umpires and teams could travel on Sunday instead of the Monday.

All in all the standard of softball was high and the double elimination was taken to another level.

It was also a pleasure to work at a tournament named after one of the greatest players Australia has produced, Joyce Lester.

The tribute to Joyce on the final night was moving and humorous and was well received by all who attended.

In what I think is a first, the Blues had a water girl, Teagen Pryde. What had happened is that the local association delegated local players to carry the banner of each of the teams including the umpires at the opening ceremony. We adopted our young lass and she did a wonderful job keeping us refreshed while we were on the diamond.

One of the Blues gave her a counter so she could keep the count during the games and I think we may have a new recruit in the Blues Family in the near future.

We also were looked after by Mrs. Delma Warwick who spoilt us rotten with cakes and treats for the entire four days.

The local association also cooked meals at the park for reasonable prices and most of the crew took advantage of the menu and the price. It was some of the best park food you will ever eat.

The final was between New South Wales and Western Australia and was officiated by Phil Waller, Frank Thomas and Mark Toft.

### Contributions

Contributions can be sent to the Editor

[mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

If you have anything regarding umpiring send it along.

# Letters to the Editor

Hello everyone - I need your help

Matthew Poynter (Level 4) has moved from Victoria to Queensland and is living at Unit 51 - 2 Langport Pde, Reedy Creek, Qld, 4228 with his wife and new baby. Home phone (07) 5569-2260 mobile - 0415 283 824

He is working in Surfers Paradise and home is about half an hour away, in peak traffic. 20 min normal traffic.

He needs someone to contact in relation to softball as he wants to umpire - but he is not having much success - can someone PLEASE contact him!!!!

Kevin Offer

Hi Tofty,

Reading your latest effort I can only say that it keeps me up to date even after I have joined the "dark side". With the updates and not studying I was still able to stay in the 80's in the last exam and still stay in the top 25 in the state. Not like the old days when I was in the top 5 but hey, these young blokes who want to study and be high achievers, good luck to them.

One thing I am using, now that I am helping with instructing statisticians, (last week I couldn't spell it now I are one) I again am using the umpiring publications for instruction in relation to rules, especially in relation to DP and DEFO. In the past it was the other way around. You know where to get a definition of reasonable effort? Page 39 of the Scorers Manual "Ordinary effort is defined by the area in which a fielder is expected to field the ball. For an average mature infielder this is usually around 10 - 15 feet (I don't care about the meters work it out yourself) to either side.

The range covered by a fielder will vary considerably, depending on factors such as age, size, individual physical ability and the speed with the ball comes to them. An outfielder will be expected to cover more territory, due to the longer flight time of the ball." What a good way to describe it to up and coming umpires, especially something that is in black and white.

Another great use of the Scorers Manual is the table of examples on page 15 of what happens to the score in an incomplete innings. Again, armed with the table and some knowledge the starting umpire on the park can get the result right and stop most of the arguments out their on their local park.

Still I will continue to admire the blues out there, sweating and getting lots of advice from players and officials, while I am sitting on my well upholstered seat, hopefully in the shade, waiting for something new to be said.

Cheers  
Mike Hannelly

Hi Mark

The order form for Tracksuits and On Diamond Jackets on the website has my old address on them, I will try and get another one done and send up to replace them however in the meantime could you put a notice up that my address is:

22/110 Reynolds Street  
Balmain NSW 2041

Many thanks  
Itzy (Sue Itzstein)

## How low can you go?

Tofty, you of all people will understand and appreciate the dry sense of humour umpires have. One such example was in last weekends Open Men's State Championship final, when a pitcher asked about a pitch. "Was it low?" reply "yes". "How low?" was the second question, with a straight faced reply "enough".

The pitcher was then faced with task of working out how far was enough.

Mike Hanley

## CLOSING DATE

Closing date for the May edition of Blue's News On-line is May 14. So get your articles, pictures in fact anything regarding umpires from grass roots to internationals.

The following has been extracted from the inaugural Coaching and Officiating Newsletter.

### **Coaching and Officiating 2003 – Investing in the future**

The Australian Sports Commission's Coaching and Officiating Unit staged the "Coaching and Officiating 2003 – Investing in the future" conference from 27-29 November, 2003.

Following the opening address by the Minister for the Arts and Sport, the Honourable Senator Rod Kemp, more than 300 delegates representing a range of organisations including NSOs, SSOs, local sporting clubs, State Departments of Sport and Recreation, and peak industry groups, participated in a range of workshops and plenary sessions.

The focus of the three-day program was to investigate a range of strategic issues related to coaching and officiating. Each of the one-day programs offered were aimed at professional development for high performance and community-level coaches and officials respectively.

Key conference streams saw presentations and discussion groups held relating to a number of current issues impacting upon coaching and officiating in Australia. These included: the recruitment and retention of coaches and officials, how to create better development pathways for coaches and officials, improving education and training delivery in rural and regional areas, ideas on how to develop effective e-learning strategies, and the implications of current state-based child protection legislations.

Specific outcomes achieved from the conference included:

- o Endorsement of the recently promoted changes by the ASC in setting a flexible levels framework for NSO training programs under the NCAS;
- o The need for the current general principle courses to include elements related to the "softer skills" of coaching and a "game management" approach for officials;
- o A need to improve the reach of education and training delivery networks to better support the work of NSOs in this area; and
- o Higher levels of support required to meet the needs of high performance coaches.

A number of positive comments about the quality of the conference were received. A clear message received was that conferences such as this do provide an opportunity for increased knowledge sharing, which is vital if the ongoing issues surrounding coaching and officiating are to be addressed effectively.

A number of the presentations delivered at the conference are available at <http://www.ausport.gov.au/events/coachofficial03/>

### **Play By the Rules**

*Play by the Rules* is an online training and information resource for sport and recreation clubs and associations. *Play by the Rules* provides information on how to prevent and deal with inappropriate behaviour including discrimination, harassment, favouritism, bias and various forms of abuse.

*Play by the Rules* contains several sections:

1. Online training programs
  - o *Play by the Rules* offers four free, tailored online training courses for coaches, administrators, umpires, and player, participants & volunteers.
  - o The courses are short and may be done in part or all at once.
  - o An official certificate is issued upon successful completion of a course.
  - o The courses make extensive use of cases studies.
  - o The official certificate generated after successfully completing the Coaches course can be used to obtain recognition of current competency in sections of nationally recognised coaching qualifications
2. Frequently asked questions
3. Legislation
4. Court decisions
5. What's New
6. Resources to download and use.

#### **How can NSOs use this site?**

NSOs are able to use this site as:

1. an updating opportunity for members
2. a pre-request for courses
3. a requirement for all SSO directors
4. resource for members
5. link on their website

For further information about PBTR contact Anita Hobson-Powell on [anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au](mailto:anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au)

**Something to ponder**  
**It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement.**

## Matt Gowty calls his final "Out"

The Grand Final of the 2004 Australian Womens Championship saw Matt Gowty umpire his last game in what has been an outstanding career spanning 28 years and four states. Matt leaves umpiring to spend more time with his wife, Margaret, and children, Adam and Sarah, who have made many sacrifices in supporting Matt's umpiring career.

Matt started umpiring in 1975, aged 12, at Jells Park, Waverley after spending Saturday afternoons there with his father watching him umpire. Many aspects of umpiring were very different to how they are today. The uniform at club level was black, there was no rotation system and there was a series of "Badges" instead of levels. Matt attained his Waverley Badge in 1978 and continued to umpire there until he joined the Air Force in 1981 as a Radar and Communications Technician and was then transferred to Perth in 1983. Matt steadily progressed with WA Grade 3 Badge in 1984, WA State Badge in 1985, Level 5 at the Australian Under 16 Girls held in Knox, Victoria in 1986, and Level 6 at the Australian Open Women's in Darwin in 1987. While in Western Australia, Matt had his first experience in administration by taking on the role of Deputy Director of Umpiring in 1986-87.



1987 Australian Womens Championship Darwin

In late 1987, Matt was again transferred by the Air Force. This time to Townsville in North Queensland where he took on the role of Umpiring Co-ordinator. It was during 1988 that Matt umpired his first international game, between Australia and Chinese Taipei, at the Bicentennial Challenge in Brisbane. 1989 saw Matt move to Brisbane where he joined the State



1990 Umpires Tour

Umpiring Committee and establish the 'Counter Points' newsletter which is still being produced.

The next decade saw regular moves that took Matt to Newcastle, Melbourne, back to Newcastle and finally back to Brisbane where Matt and his family will settle.

1990 took part in the first "Elite Umpire Clinic" and umpire tour of USA and Canada

1993 first overseas tour to Christchurch in NZ

1995 joined National Staff, Established first National umpiring website

1997 ISF accreditation, first World Championship saw Aus win gold.

Inaugural winner of NSW SUA "Andrew Rindfleisch" Umpire of the Year Award

1998 awarded Level 7

2000 Mens World Championship, Australian Sports Medal

2001 Junior Mens World Championship, left National Staff but stayed on as webmaster, participated in committee to compile an ISF umpire manual

2002 Womens World Championship, awarded Level 8,



Matt at 2002 Canada Cup

Matt lists as his career highlights: the 1990 umpires tour of North America, playing the preliminary final of the 2001 Junior Mens World Championship, being selected for three consecutive World Championships, being the first Australian to umpire both a Mens and Womens World Championship, receiving the Australian Sports Medal, attending the 2002 Australian Sport Awards as a Finalist, being the inaugural winner of Umpire of the Year in two states and

achieving Level 8.

Matt leaves knowing that he has achieved more than he could have imagined possible when he started. He acknowledges the many opportunities he has received over the years and hopes that his contribution both on and off the diamond has made a difference to the National Umpiring Program.



The Next Generation



2004 Womens Championship



**Australian Championships**

- Open Women 87, 88, 90, 93, 94, 99, 00, 04
  - U/19 Girls 87, 88, 89, 90, 99
  - U/16 Girls 86, 94, 96, 98, 01
  - Open Men 86, 88, 90, 91, 95, 97, 98, 00, 01, 02
  - U/19 Boys 91, 95\*, 97\*
  - U/16 Boys 95\*, 97\*, 03
- \* Combined Championships



With Vincent Maoeng (South Africa)

**Major International Tournaments**

- |      |                                   |                           |
|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1988 | Bicentennial Challenge            | Brisbane                  |
| 1994 | South Pacific Classic             | Sydney                    |
| 1996 | 4 Nation Challenge                | Brisbane                  |
| 1997 | 4 Nation Challenge                | Brisbane                  |
| 1997 | V Junior Mens World Championships | St Johns, NFLD, Canada    |
| 1999 | US Olympic Cup                    | San Diego, CA, USA        |
| 2000 | 5 Nation Challenge                | Sydney                    |
| 2000 | X Mens World Championships        | East London, South Africa |
| 2001 | VI Junior Mens World Championship | Sydney                    |
| 2002 | US Cup                            | Honolulu, HI              |
| 2002 | Canada Cup                        | Vancouver, BC             |
| 2002 | X Womens World Championship       | Saskatoon, SK, Canada     |

**Awards**

- 1997 ISF Accreditation
- 1997 NSWSA Official of the Year
- 1997 NSWUA "Andrew Rindfleish" Umpire of the Year
- 2000 Officiating Victoria Softball Official of the Year
- 2000 Australian Sports Medal
- 2002 "VKT" Softball Australia Umpire of the Year
- 2002 Finalist of Australian Sport Awards Official of the Year



2002 Canada Cup Grand Final Crew With "The San Diego Chicken"



Last International Game NZL v CHN 2002 World Championship