



Tofty's Editorial

### Spread the word



The overall response from the first issue of Blue's News—Online has been fantastic. Of course it is entirely up to all Blues to spread the word of this newsletter and where it can be found. ([nuc.softball.org.au](http://nuc.softball.org.au)) **NOTE: You don't need the www in front of the address.**

The contributions are not restricted to the State Directors of Umpiring, any District Association Umpire Coordinators may contribute information for any issue.

You may want to send photographs. If you do make sure they are in .jpg so I can read them. Or you may have some new accreditations from your Association or something that is unique to your District, send it through.

We all can learn from each other. An old friend of mine once said, "If you learn something new everyday, you will know 365 new things after one year." (I know, 366 in a leap year)

So if you have something that will be of interest to fellow umpires, please send them along and we will attempt to place them in future issues. I am sure we can have a lot of fun with Blue's News On-line, so if you want to be a part of it just put pen to paper.

Visit the Website and remember to tell your fellow umpires, you never know what you will pick up from there.

Remember this newsletter is written about umpiring by umpires for umpires.

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### Dates to remember

- Oct - ASF Annual Meeting
- Nov—Regional UICs Meeting and ISF Congress, Florida.
- Dec 31 to Jan 4—International Development Clinic - AIS, Canberra.
- June 8—Thumbprint Day - Tofty's Wedding Anniversary



### 2002 INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The selection of ten umpires by the National Umpiring Committee [NUC] in May of this year for the International Umpire Development Program [IUDP] continues a process that was started in 1989. The concept was instituted at that time to broaden the base of Australian umpires who would be capable of umpiring at World Championship level, specifically, for the 1991 Junior Women's which was to be held in Adelaide.

The IUDP is purpose designed and specifically structured, and requires from the participants a distinct continuing commitment to pursue identified outlined goals at International, National and State level.

After twelve years, the purpose of this Program has not changed. That is, to prepare the participants for possible selection for future international umpire commitments both in Australia and overseas, and, ultimately, International Softball Federation (ISF) Certification if the required standards are met and maintained.

With ISF Certification comes the opportunity of possible appointment to World Championships and selection to the Olympic Games as well as qualifiers for these events.

The selection of participants is by a facilitated, structured, decision making process and the criteria includes theory results, on and off diamond performance, an attitude which is mature, flexible and adaptable and good interpersonal skills.

Following selection the umpires are invited to become a member of the squad. This approach is taken because of the commitment that is required, including financial, for the four-year program. Umpires are in no way compromised should they choose not to accept the invitation.

Before replying to the letter of invitation, the selected umpires are requested to give careful consideration to the points mentioned as the long term commitment may significantly impact on the umpire's personal, family and working life.

Some of the points to be considered include:

- Be available for National Championship appointment over the next four years;
- Maintain in greater detail a record of game assignments and contribution [in hours] to training programs in the State, verified by the State Director;
- Demonstrate leadership and role model qualities;
- Submit reports to the National Umpiring Committee on all softball activities;
- Complete specific assignments as required [e.g. review of umpiring documentation, etc]
- Maintain an 85+ pass in the Australian Umpire Theory Examination;
- Maintain a high standard of umpiring performance at all times;
- Conduct that is exemplary in manner at all times, both on and off the diamond.

**Continued P 2**

## International Umpire Development Squad

It is important that Australia has a Program that is not only sustained but continues to develop and, accordingly, allows selected umpires the opportunity to be capable representatives internationally.

The 2002 squad follows those of 1990, 1994 and 1997. The success of each squad is measured not by individual achievement but that of all members of each squad combined. It is acknowledged that some squads have been more successful than others, but the opportunities that are presented to the participants over the four-year period are there for the taking if individual goals are to be achieved.

The 2002 International Umpire Development Clinic will be held at the AIS in Canberra from 31 December to 5 January, with the practical component following at the Australian Women's Championship at the Hawker Softball Complex from 6 -12 January. Five New Zealanders will join the Australian squad; two of whom will be staying on to officiate at the Championship.

The Clinic is particularly designed to give the selected umpires insight into the diverse requirements for umpire representation, plus an understanding of the place in which umpires, and umpiring, has in Australian and International Softball.

Topics include: Umpire performance; attitude, on and off the field; interpersonal skills; goal setting; fitness; conflict management; personality assessment; Championship UIC responsibilities; How to - Manage game allocations and How to - Be an effective examiner; Oceania Region's place in the World environment; Expectations of representative umpires and why; Oceania Region's commitment to the International administrative involvement; Career opportunities; Administration of the National Umpire Program.

The members of the 2002 squad are -David Crowe, Denise Culpitt, Leigh Evans, Sue Itzstein, George James, Debbie Keogh, Bruce McCahon, Darrell Shephard, Diane Waller, Lindsay Whitehead, and are to be congratulated on their selection and I look forward to working with them to support each of them in achieving their goals, both short and long term.

Larter .....  
the best  
Medicine



There is al-  
ways time  
to laugh!

Awareness  
is  
important

John, who was born without ears, needed to hire a new Bank Manager, so he set up three interviews.

The first guy was great. He knew everything he needed to know and was very interesting. But at the end of the interview, John asked him, "Do you notice anything different about me?"

"Why, yes, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears," came the reply. John did not appreciate his candor and threw him out of the office.

The second interview was with a woman, who had been with the bank a long time. She was even better than the first guy. But he asked her the same question: "Do you notice anything different about me?" "Well," she said, "you have no ears." John again got upset and tossed her out.

The third and final interviewee was the best of the bunch. He was a young man who had recently earned his MBA.

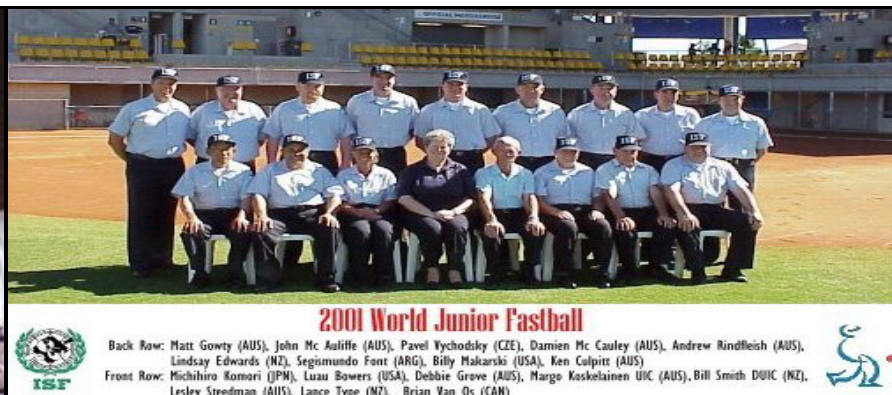
He was smart, handsome, and he seemed to be a better businessman than the first two put together. John was anxious, but went ahead and asked the young man, "Do you notice anything different about me?" And much to his surprise, the young man answered,

"Yes. You wear contact lenses." John was shocked and realized this was an incredibly observant person. "How in the world did you know that?", he asked.

The young man fell off his chair laughing hysterically and replied, "Well, it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no ears!"



Margo



2001 World Junior Fastball

Back Row: Matt Gowty (AUS), John Mc Auliffe (AUS), Pavel Vychodsky (CZE), Damien Mc Causley (AUS), Andrew Rindfleish (AUS),  
Lindsay Edwards (NZ), Segismundo Font (ARG), Billy Makarski (USA), Ken Culpitt (AUS)  
Front Row: Michihiro Komori (JPN), Luan Bowers (USA), Debbie Grove (AUS), Margo Koskolainen UIC (AUS), Bill Smith DUIC (NZ),  
Lesley Streedman (AUS), Lance Type (NZ), Brian Van Os (CAN)



Ken



The Crew

The Northern Territory Championships were held on August 4 and 5 in Darwin. At these championships three candidates were examined for their next levels.

Congratulations to Kevin (Ando) Anderson and David (BTM) Binder for gaining their Level 3 and to Yvonne Newman for gaining her Level 2, under the eye of Debbie Grove who was the examiner for the tournament.

Two umpires also travelled up from Alice Springs to assist at the championships.

There were nine teams participating including three Men's and a USA College team. USA won the International challenge, Alice won the Men's division and Waratahs won the Women's division. For the fastest game on the "Blue" team was Lee, Binder and Schwartz.

Prior to the championships we were able to run clinics in both Alice Springs and Darwin conducted by Debbie Grove.

These were well attended by both blues and club umpires and enthused many. We have gained another recruit in Darwin after sitting the basic exam – welcome to Adam Griffith.

All umpies would like to thank ASF and Debbie Grove for the support and encouragement given, not only on the weekend of the Championships, but to the umpires of Northern Territory.

Thanks again to everyone.

Marg Lee



#### What a Motley Crew

*L to R, Back, David Binder, Derek Quong, Leah Schwartz, Marg Lee. Front, Kevin Anderson, Yvonne Newman, Debbie Grove (Groover), Cathie Allen. Absent, Steve Bell.*

New South Wales Level 3 Umpire, Heather Randall is on tour with a New South Wales touring team visiting Singapore and Canada.

Heather was so keen to travel with the team she paid her own way just to gain valuable experience.

Heather along with a Canadian umpire have become the first female umpires to officiate at an ISC Men's World Championship Qualifier. She has done very well.

New South Wales have just completed the finals of the Waratah League Competition, which is a second tier to the State League. Final Allocations were Women (Scott Rindfleish, Amanda Greggs, Heather Randall, Men (Greg Baker, Peter Austin, Jim Long. While Sue Itzstein, Bruce McCahon, Amanda Greggs, and Greg Baker officiated the Under 19 Men's State Championship final.

Congratulations to David Crowe, Sue Itzstein, Bruce McCahon and Darrell Shephard who were included in the International Development Squad announced recently.

The National exam produced some good results with the following the leading marks - Geoff Fox (Orange Association) 95, Darrell Shephard (Illawarra) 94, Andrew Rindfleish (Sutherland), Lisa Freeman (Cumberland-Nepean) 93, Bruce McCahon (Southern Districts) 92, Lesley Steedman (NSW), Nick Beashel (Lake Macquarie) 88, Doug Tracey (Manly-Warringah), Alan Perman, (Manly - Warringah) 87, Stephen Morgan (George's River) 86.

#### Dave attends first National Umpire's Meeting

Tasmania

Tasmania's new Director of Umpiring Dave Libcombe has come away from his first National Umpire's Meeting knowing that he has a lot to do to improve his State's Umpiring Program.

The National Director, Margo Koskelainen has assured David that, where possible, the governing body will assist him in a variety of ways, with the numerous resources available. David feels that with this support he will be able to increase numbers and raise the profile of umpiring in Tasmania.

With Tasmania hosting the National Under 16 Girls in January this will also give Dave and his small band of umpires an opportunity to observe senior umpires working in 3-umpire systems.

Dave is a Level 3 umpire and is looking to gain his Level 4 in the near future during Victoria's State Open Championships.

This year has seen a lot of changes to the umpire administration in the State. I was appointed to the position of State Director by WASA in August 2000.

Since that time there has not been any nominations received for the umpiring committee positions as required by the Constitution. This has affected the management of umpires in the State. WASA has now formed a working group to look at governance and management issues for umpires. This group is meeting on a fortnightly basis and will continue to meet to produce a working document that will be designed to address all umpiring matters for the future.

A sad loss for this State was the passing of Mrs. Roslyn Jones. Roslyn has been a dedicated umpire for over 20 years in WA. The West Pilbara Association and the Northwest Association where Rossie was situated will miss her services along with the many umpires that have been trained and nurtured under her guidance. On behalf of all umpires our sympathies go to her husband and family.

Several Clinics have been held in the Country Centres and were well received, but in the Metro area numbers were down. A total of 42 persons attended the Basic Clinics where the Rules Clinics numbers varied with each session. An average number would be six persons at each session.

A total of 87 candidates sat the National exam in May, with some good results posted. The Basic Umpire Exam was distributed to several associations where new recruits and trainees were given the exam. A total of 12 candidates were successful in passing the exam.

There were a total of 22 umpires in attendance at the State Championships, a very low number for this competition. Weather conditions were very hot and dry, which placed an enormous burden on all umpires who were required to officiate on every game slot. All efforts. The examining panel of Warren Duff, Harry Magill, Alan Cheesman and John Mooy (UIC), need to be congratulated.

Currently the State boasts a total number of 92 active umpires which has increased slightly over the previous year - Level 6 (3), Level 5 (2), Level 4 (7), Level 3 (14), Level 2 (27), Level 1 (39).

As mentioned a working group of persons has been set up by WASA to reform the governance and management of umpires.

The group has been facilitated by Janette Spencer from the Department of Sport and Recreation and is a part of the review process of all WASA operations. The group consists of Peter Baker, Laurie Prior, Maxine Sizer, Leah Ucich, Warren Duff and Trudy Hulbert. I would like to thank these people for their time and efforts.

As the Umpiring body does not have a working committee at this time, I would like to acknowledge the work done by the office staff in running the umpiring program.

WA has had some very good results from the recent Umpire exam. Mark Harris 99, Graham Bancroft 97, Harry Magill 96, Brian Birks 94, Peter Baker 93, Bill Kilmurray 90.

Again it is my reluctant duty to advise that Bob Cluley from Tasmania and Lesley Steedman from NSW have decided to call it a day in their separate areas.

Bob has decided that business pursuits are currently taking all his time and he cannot devote the time he feels is needed for the position of DUO in Tasmania. Bob assures me that he will still get out on the park when time allows and, hopefully, when things have settled down a little, attempt to further his umpiring accreditation again.

Bob has represented Tasmania at National Umpiring meetings for many years and has managed to give the rest of us an insight into the vagaries of the umpiring area in Tasmania. While ever hopeful that someone else will pick up the umpiring ball, Bob is not certain that this will happen.

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Lesley has chosen to retire from "on-the-park" after many, many years. Lesley has been another of my "roomies" and over the years has become a friend. We share similar views on a number of issues, not the least of which is the manner in which we present our program.

For a number of years Lesley has represented NSW umpiring at Australian level with distinction and umpired at the first National [invitational] Men's tournament in Sydney, with Marj Dwyer as UIC, where she got the taste for umpiring and the national scene.

After selection in the International Umpire Development Squad and subsequent ISF Certification, Lesley also represented the Australian Program in the International arena in the Netherlands, Canada, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, including two World Championships.

For those of you who live in metropolitan area, I do not believe you can have, or will ever have, any understanding of the dedication and fortitude it takes for a person from the country to pursue their goals when the best of their sport is played in the city. A mere drive across town to umpire pales into insignificance, in fact laughable, when one considers a six hour one way trip.

This dedicated and determined lady has travelled many weekends from Leeton in south west NSW to Sydney to get to various parts of Sydney in her efforts to gain knowledge and umpiring experience - a 12 hour return trip.

I know there have been many traffic infringements [I won't tell what for specifically - but "Cannonball Express" comes easily to mind] and at least an accident or two due to fatigue.

Over the years, Lesley's energy and personal attributes have helped many aspiring umpires in NSW and, administratively, her businesslike approach to problems has helped both the NSW and the National Program on many occasions.

I am assured that Lesley will be available to help with specific State and National projects for awhile yet but, as of July 2001, the diamond has lost a great team member of the Umpire Program and remarkable role model. More than that - a lady with style and an umpire with class.

## Queensland

Nineteen of Queensland's senior umpires attended an Advanced Clinic at the Bardon Centre in Brisbane recently.

Australian Deputy Director, Alan McAuliffe and National Staff Member, Andrew Rindfleish conducted the indoor/outdoor lectures in conjunction with Queensland State Director of Umpiring and Australian Deputy Director, Patricia Bichel.

The Advanced Clinic was well received by the participants where a number of new issues were raised along with the re-affirming of current issues and policies.

Taking nothing away from the presentations of Alan and Andy, but one of the highlights was the video presentation of Bill Humphrey (ASA Trainer), which seem to captivate the group.

In the outdoor session on plate mechanics it was amazing that a number of umpires needed to adjust their stance. Of course, it does help when you have another umpire (e.g. Alan and Andy standing right behind the plate umpire for a second opinion). This session was very useful and informative.

Probably the sessions of On-diamond Presence, Game Management and Stress Management along with Harassment touched home for the Senior umpires from this State as these points stressed their importance for advancement in the Program.

We have always known about them, it was the refreshment of the facts and the ways to deal with each of them within your own game, at a higher level, which projected a different light upon each issue.

The clinic also re-assured the participants of what is required to take that extra step, be it from Level Five to Six or from Level Three to Level Four.

The clinic was well presented, the venue was ideal and it was well worth the money. In the long term it will be money well spent.



**Queensland Umpires Advanced Clinic—July 2001**  
**Back, L to R:** A. Rindfleish (Nat. Staff), F. Thomas, I. Frame, A. Clissold, T. Gross, P. Walsh, B. Challenor, I. Bunston, A. McAuliffe (Aust. Dep. Director)  
**Middle:** I. Goodman, Y. Kahler, R. Yardley, R. Pittman, R. Warwick, P. Bichel (SDU-Qld) **Front:** D. Sibraa, H. Strauss, R. Trow, S. Gutteridge, K. Hardman. **Absent:** M. Toft (I'm taking the photo)

## Grass Roots of Umpiring

## Sunshine

## Victoria

Leigh Evans has been working hard with umpires at Sunshine over the last few years. Umpires already "badged" are Leigh (Level 6), Jodie Lightowler and Paul Mackie (Level 3), Kate Miller (Level 2), Stephen Ballestrino, Stacey Evans, Leanne Meyer, Ben Ingram (Level 1).

Interesting to note that Stephen, Stacey and Ben are Under 18, so our junior umpires are well to the fore. Last season we held a club umpires day course which was run by Leigh and 24 people attended, some of who went on to help out with club umpiring duties.

The umpires theory exam was again well-attended with six sitting the ASF exam and eight the basic exam.

Of the eight who sat the basic exam Belinda and Melissa Collins, Michael Ingram, Andrew Evans are all Under 15 years old, and it was great to see them all pass.

If we can maintain the interest from these juniors, the future of umpiring in the Sunshine Association is extremely bright.

As a point of interest, softball umpiring is well to the fore in Sunshine with Betty McGuire who started umpiring in 1961, gained Australian Badge in 1976, and attended many junior and senior Nationals, umpired in a number of Australia v Canada matches.

Betty was appointed to umpire in the Mini World Series in Brisbane in 1980 and although retired from umpiring is still Secretary of Sunshine and maintains a great interest in umpiring.

Leigh is married to daughter Sandra, who represented Victoria as a player in U16's. Daughter, Deidre represented Victoria in the inaugural 18 and Under National Championships. Betty's son, David also held a "B" grade umpires badge.

Stacey Evans is the third generation of the family to show an interest in umpiring and is attempting her level 2 accreditation later in the year.

Andrew Evans (Leigh and Sandra's son) has made the State arena, he was recently selected in the Victorian Under 16 State team which will compete in Sydney in January.

"Sunshine congratulates Leigh on his selection in the elite training squad to attend the AIS in Canberra in the New Year. He has been an enthusiastic leader in umpiring in the Sunshine Association," Betty McGuire said.



**TIME OUT:** Victorian junior umpire Stacey Evans in action at Sunshine.



In total there were 19 umpires on staff. There were four International umpires and the remainder were from Canada. One umpire was from the US.

One interesting aspect of the tournament was that the male and female umpire changing rooms were separated (Unlike in Australia) The umpire's changing rooms were located in the Ice Hockey Area over the road from Softball City. This proved to be very interesting especially after being hot after a game and then having to go into the area in sub-zero temperatures.

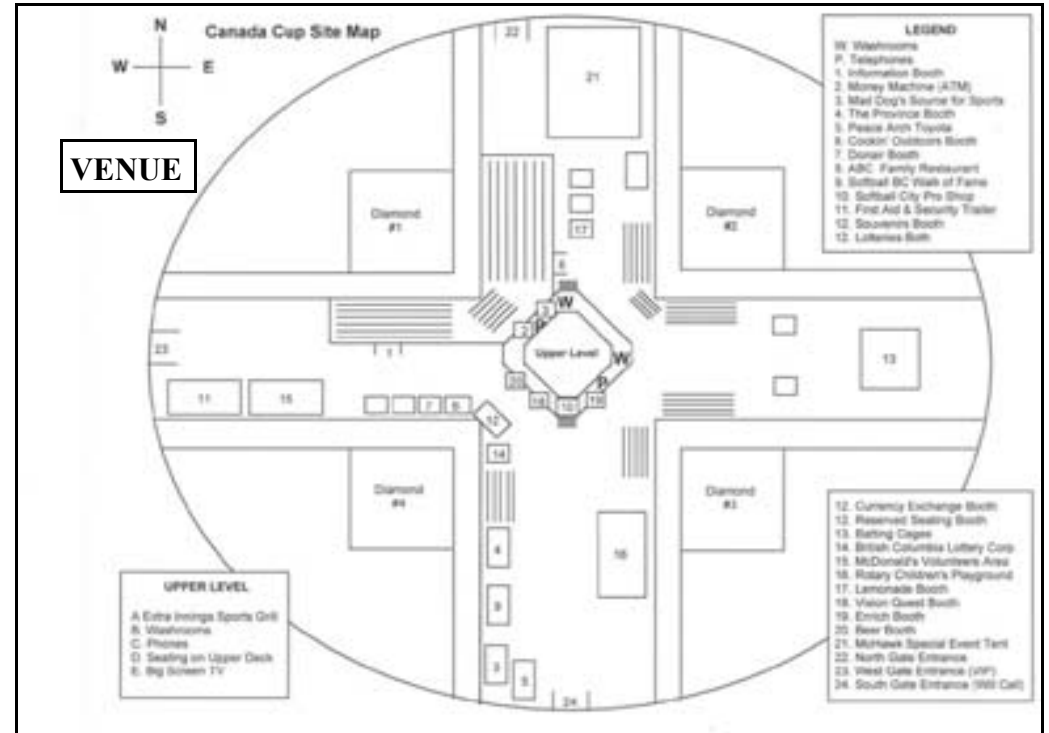
**Denise's Canada Cup Allocations**

DATE	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	POSITION	SYSTEM
29/06/2001	Australia	Canada	Plate	Warm-Up
29/06/2001	Venezuela	Canada Devel	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	Warm-Up
30/06/2001	Canada	Decatur Twister	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	3 Man
30/06/2001	Canada	Netherlands	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base	3 Man
01/07/2001	Venezuela	Phoenix Storm	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	3 Man
02/07/2001	Netherlands	NJCAA	Plate	3 Man
03/07/2001	Czech Rep	California A's	Plate	3 Man
04/07/2001	Canada	Czech Rep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base	3 Man
04/07/2001	Japan White	Taipei	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	3 Man
05/07/2001	Japan Red	Decatur	Plate	3 Man
06/07/2001	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup>	Div 2 4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base	4 Man
07/07/2001	Winner PO 1	Winner PO 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	4 Man

**MOVING PAUSE**

The Canada Cup rules allow for a "Moving Pause", mainly used by teams out of the USA. I found it difficult to work my timing if one pitcher was pausing and the other was not. I am sure I have benefited from the situation as I will be more alert to the difference in actions in the future all the same it wasn't much fun adjusting at the time.

I suggest that Australian umpires be alerted to the moving pause action and recognise that they might see this when at tournaments off shore.



**ACCOMMODATION**

The team accommodation was the Shearton at Guilford. The rooms were comfortable and the meals were always of very high standard. The official members of the tour were housed on the 14<sup>th</sup> Floor and the team was housed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Team Japan, California A's, USA Red and USA White were also housed at the Shearton. The accommodation was about a 25-30 minute drive from the grounds (SoftBall City).

**TRANSPORT**

Transport to and from the grounds was provided by the local Umpire Liaison Officers. As the accommodation was a long way from the park, there was at least an hour or so to the travel time to and from the park everyday. The Vancouver area was over ninety days into a bus strike and this meant that it was not easy to get around without liaison officer support.

