

# Blue's News On-Line

Official Australian Softball Umpire's Magazine

Contributions to [mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au) December Edition 12/2004

## 2004 What a year!

Another year has past and has anything change in the 12 months.

I recall what my father used to tell me about learning when he was alive

"If you learn one new thing everyday, then after a year you would have learnt 365 (366 leap year) new things in the past 12 months."

He's gone now but I am sure that I am wiser than I was 12 months ago. I learnt a lot and maybe with the experiences I had this year I may learn to retain a little more of that knowledge.

To the umpires with whom I have worked with in the past 12 months I thank you for your support and I know there are bigger and better things on the horizon for all of us.

The Tupperware people don't understand why I look forward to January year in, year out. They are so busy booking parties, I busy getting my gear ready for the Nationals.

I suppose it's the friends you make on tour. Some you get to see most years, some you don't see for three years, but there is always a good story to be told and a good laugh to be had.

## What's in this edition

- National Appointments  
Version 3
- National Travel Attire
- Open Women's Nationals  
Adelaide - Schedule
- Dave McKenzie Skins  
Western Australia
- BNOL needs your Help!

I was asked one day, why?

The answer is quite simple. It's the friendships you make all around Australia. The network we have in the Umpiring Program is never ending. Some may retire, but they're always around the traps somewhere, while others are coming through.

The greatness of our network is that we are one big family.

So to my big Blue family, Merry Christmas, call well and I hope to see you in 2005.

Tofty

## Andy's Address



As 2004 draws to an end, one cannot help but reflect on the year just about done. Being at the helm of the National Umpire Program certainly has been challenging, in many ways, but has been, personally, very rewarding. As a group we have risen to these challenges in serving our sport.

2004 has brought many changes in our sport and I'd like to thank all those within our ranks who have contributed to the initiatives we have seen to date. Change is the way of the world, we see it all around us in every facet of our lives, mostly at a frightening speed. Softball, and the part we play in it, will, by necessity, continue to evolve and change.

We all need to remember that our lot in life, the role we have to play in softball is to serve our sport. It has been said by others much more learned than I that one's rewards are proportional to one's level of service. Personal satisfaction and gratification comes in bigger doses to those who truly provide service to our sport.

To all BNOL readers, I wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas. May your holiday time be safe and happy and may 2005 be kind to you all. I also hope, for all of us, that 2005 is not as short as 2004 seems to have been!!

To all umpires attending 2005 Nationals, enjoy the experience, renew friendships and learn a little about yourself as you strive to be the best you can be. All the very best to our candidates, especially those Level 5 candidates as you strive to enter the National scene.

Andy Rindfleish



## Send in your contributions

Next edition of BNOL will be published following the Under 16 Boys and Under 19 Men's National Championships. You can start send your items now.

Deadline January 25

## How easy it is when it is explained

When four of Santa's elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones, Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her Mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress.

Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked, and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys.

So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor, and there was nothing to drink.

In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door, and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

## BNOL needs your help

For those umpires going to Nationals this year I need some volunteers to take some photographs and write up all the good times had by the umpires both on and off the field. Please nothing too personal just the fun stuff.

In my BNOL report this year I recognised those who assisted me at last year's Nationals and it was great to see so many willing and able. If you can help in 2005 send me an Email.

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

## Australian Open Women's National Championships Adelaide - January 2 - 8, 2005

From: Neville Lawrance (State Director South Australia)  
To: Umpiring Crew

Arrival: You will be met at the airport and transported to the accommodation.

Accommodation: City South Apartments – 2 & 3 person suites.  
Web site: [www.adelaideregent.com.au](http://www.adelaideregent.com.au)

Technical Meeting:  
Saturday, January 1, 2005 at 6.00pm, Softball Headquarters West Beach  
Telephone contact for the ground is (08) 8353 6766.

Umpires Meeting: To follow the Technical Meeting. Venue to be advised.

Liaison: Stephen Parker.

Games: Commence Sunday 2nd January, 9.30am.

Transport: Daily transport to and from the grounds will be by private vehicles.

Candidate Cost: Accommodation cost approx. \$37.00 per day.

Other Costs: Team photographs, Programs (\$8.00), petrol, food and other day to day expenses.

Final Night Dinner: To be held at AMI Stadium (Football Park). Cost - \$40.00

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I will see you very early in the new year.

If you need any further information please give me a call on (08) 8263 8086  
Phone at home (leave a message and I will get back to you), Mobile 0438 638086 or you can e-mail me at [nevump@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nevump@ozemail.com.au)

## National Appointments Changes

- Withdrawal of Steve Morgan, S/S at U16 Girls
- Withdrawal of Ross Harrison, U23 Men
- Withdrawal of Garry Pitman, U16 Boys
- Withdrawal of Damien McCauley, U16 Boys
- Addition of Debbie Grove to the U16 Boys

**Complete allocations of Version 3 on Page 4**

## **Dave McKenzie Skins Classic - Western Australia**

Stirling Centrals have won the inaugural Dave McKenzie Skins Classic, defeating Eastern Monarchs 3 skins to 2.

Five teams played a total of 13 games over two days utilizing two diamonds. Players, umpires and spectators enjoyed the milder weather over the course of the weekend.

The tournament was named after the now retired Dave "Lobby" McKenzie. Dave (a pitcher) was a long time player for Stirling Centrals and represented WA and Australia on numerous occasions.

Congratulations to the umpires allocated to the grand final:

Plate: Warren Duff  
First: Jason Carter  
Third: Bill Kilmurray

Thanks to the following umpires who helped out over the course of the weekend: Peter Baker, Ronie D'Fleur, John Mooy, David Stoker

## **Attention National Umpires !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Please be advised that, as we have stretched the friendship with our clothing supplier, Greatrex, to the max, our travel polos and on diamond undershirts will not be available in time for the January 2005 Nationals.

Continuing the trend of the last couple of years, I am happy for traveling umpires to wear

1. Either a white business shirt and Softball Australia (or similar) tie or blouse OR a white Softball Australia polo, and
2. Either a sky or taupe blazer for traveling.

As the form of the formal tournaments can vary considerably from State to State, I suggest all umpires be prepared to wear the full formal shirt, collar, tie or blouse and blazer.

If any individual umpires are really concerned about the appropriate attire, I suggest they contact their State UIC and or Tournament UIC for the specific tournament.

Regards  
Andrew Rindfleish  
National Umpire in Chief  
Mobile: 0411 69 80 80

email: rindfleish@ozemail.com.au

## **Canberra Skins - Working hard for the money**

The Canberra Skins tournament conducted over 4,5 and 6 December again attracted the majority of the best male players in Australia. The tournament was used to select the Australian Men's Team to participate in the Quad International Series to be held in New Zealand in February.

The Skins is an exciting form of Softball where the teams and players are rewarded for their efforts in the form of cash. A Grade teams earned money for: - games won, innings won, more than 4 runs in an innings, most number of home runs in a game, most number of batters safe on first, and least number of hits against in a game. B Grade teams earned points for each game win.

Prize money was awarded for 1st and 2nd. Other prize money paid included - Grand Slams, triple plays, player who hits the most number of home runs, and each pitcher who pitches a perfect game (no hits).

The umpiring crew was the best yet. Eighteen umpires were present for the tournament. This strong support for the Men's Program was well noted and appreciated. In action on the plate for the final game was Australian Quad Series umpire, Bruce McCahon. The prize money doubled for the Championship game and there was little doubt that this was one of the biggest games of his umpiring career also great preparation for the intensity of the New Zealand Quad Series. Leigh Evans and Darrell Shephard shared the umpiring pressure of the big game where teams shared over \$1500 for one game played. Well done to the crew for their performance and their management of this rain interrupted game.

The umpiring crew supported each other well during the tournament and enjoyed the hospitality provided by the Canberra hosts. Phil Waller, injured during the first game, remained focused and provided valuable feedback to the less experienced umpires. National Umpire In Chief, Andrew Rindfleish, contributed to the success of the umpiring crew by working games and providing feedback and an insight into where the Umpire Program is going under his leadership.

The Victorian and Queensland umpires turned out in force again and demonstrated their support for the event. The New South Wales were strongly represented for the first time and Warren Duff made the trip from Perth.

The umpiring crew demonstrated the new on-diamond shirts. Very positive reports on the shirts were received from players, spectators and umpires. Their arrival is welcomed and perhaps over due.

The full umpire crew listed follows.

Andrew Rindfleish, Alex Turnbull, Leigh Evans, Bruce McCahon, Rick Gill, Scott Rindfleish, Darrell Shephard, Brett Atkinson, Darren Sibraa, Frank Thomas, George Norrish, Kerry Benson, Graham Boyle, Brian Higgenbottom, Warren Duff, Greg Baker, Nathan Levy, Phil Waller.

| WOMEN          |         |      |     | U19 WOMEN      |         |      |     | 16 GIRLS       |          |                |       | U16 BOYS       |                |      |     |
|----------------|---------|------|-----|----------------|---------|------|-----|----------------|----------|----------------|-------|----------------|----------------|------|-----|
| JANUARY 2-8    |         |      |     | JANUARY 9-15   |         |      |     | JANUARY 9-15   |          |                |       | JANUARY 16-22  |                |      |     |
| ADELAIDE       |         |      |     | MELBOURNE      |         |      |     | SYDNEY         |          |                |       | BRISBANE       |                |      |     |
| State          | Level   | Role |     | State          | Level   | Role |     | State          | Level    | Role           |       | State          | Level          | Role |     |
| KOSKELAINEN    | Margo   | VIC  | 7 U | McAULIFFE      | Alan    | SA   | 8 U | McAULIFFE      | John     | SA             | 8 U   | SIBRAA         | Tricia         | QLD  | 7 U |
| BAKER          | Peter   | WA   | 6 E | CULPITT        | Ken     | ACT  | 8 E | ITZSTEIN       | Sue      | NSW            | 6 E   | GROVE          | Debbie         | VIC  | 7 E |
| LAWRANCE       | Neville | SA   | 7 E | GROVE          | Debbie  | VIC  | 7 E | WALLER         | Diane    | VIC            | 6 E   | JAMES          | George         | VIC  | 6 E |
| BROOMHALL      | Kevin   | VIC  | 6   | FRAME          | Ian     | QLD  | 5   | ALLEN          | Cathy    | NT             | 5     | BOYLE          | Graham         | NSW  | 6   |
| KEOGH          | Debbie  | VIC  | 6   | OFFER          | Kevin   | VIC  | 5   | BAKER          | Greg     | NSW            | 6     | BUNSTON        | Ian            | QLD  | 5   |
| RICHARDSON     | Peter   | WA   | 6   | PITTMAN        | Gary    | QLD  | 5   | CHEESEMAN      | Alan     | WA             | 5     | DAVIS          | Col            | NSW  | 5   |
| RICHARDSON     | Julie   | WA   | 6   | RINDFLEISH     | Scott   | NSW  | 6   | HOUISON        | Amanda   | NSW            | 5     | KAHLER         | Yvonne         | QLD  | 6   |
| ROBINSON       | Raelene | SA   | 6   | WEBSTER        | Graeme  | SA   | 5   | PITTMAN        | Robyn    | QLD            | 5     | ROBERTS        | David          | SA   | 5   |
| TOFT           | Mark    | QLD  | 6   | WHITEHEAD      | Lindsay | VIC  | 6   | TROW           | Ron      | QLD            | 5     | TURNBULL       | Martin         | QLD  | 5   |
| WALLER         | Diane   | VIC  | 6   | CARTER         | Jason   | WA   | 4 C | ATKINSON       | Brett    | ACT            | 4 C   | GUTTERIDGE     | Stephen        | QLD  | 4 C |
| HOUISON        | Ron     | NSW  | 5 C | STRAUSS        | Helen   | QLD  | 4 C | WIKITOA        | Danny    | WA             | 4 C   | QUONG          | Derek          | NT   | 4 C |
| TANNEBRING     | Kevin   | SA   | 5 C | TURNBULL       | Alex    | ACT  | 4 S | BEASHEL        | Nicholas | NSW            | 4 S   | NEWMAN         | Yvonne         | NT   | 4 S |
|                |         |      |     |                |         |      |     | #REF!          | #REF!    | #REF! ##### ## |       |                |                |      |     |
|                |         |      |     |                |         |      |     |                |          |                | WATT  | Howard         | NSW            | 4 S  |     |
|                |         |      |     |                |         |      |     |                |          |                | #REF! | #REF!          | #REF! ##### ## |      |     |
| <b>6 teams</b> |         |      |     | <b>6 teams</b> |         |      |     | <b>7 teams</b> |          |                |       | <b>7 teams</b> |                |      |     |

| U19 MEN        |         |      |     | MEN            |        |      |     | U23 WOMEN        |         |      |     | U23 MEN          |         |                |     |
|----------------|---------|------|-----|----------------|--------|------|-----|------------------|---------|------|-----|------------------|---------|----------------|-----|
| JANUARY 16-22  |         |      |     | MARCH 6-12     |        |      |     | APRIL 6-10       |         |      |     | APRIL 6-10       |         |                |     |
| PERTH          |         |      |     | LAUNCESTON     |        |      |     | MELBOURNE        |         |      |     | CANBERRA         |         |                |     |
| State          | Level   | Role |     | State          | Level  | Role |     | State            | Level   | Role |     | State            | Level   | Role           |     |
| RINDFLEISH     | Andrew  | NSW  | 8 U | CULPITT        | Ken    | ACT  | 8 U | LARTER           | John    | VIC  | 5 U | LAWRANCE         | Neville | SA             | 7 U |
| RICHARDSON     | Julie   | WA   | 6 E | EVANS          | Leigh  | VIC  | 6 E | KEOGH            | Debbie  | VIC  | 6 E | BAKER            | Greg    | NSW            | 6   |
| SHEPHARD       | Darrell | NSW  | 6 E | RINDFLEISH     | Andrew | NSW  | 8 E | McCAHON          | Bruce   | NSW  | 6 E | BANCROFT         | Graham  | WA             | 6   |
| BAKER          | Peter   | WA   | 6   | GROVE          | Debbie | VIC  | 7   | KAHLER           | Yvonne  | QLD  | 6   | BOYLE            | Graham  | NSW            | 6   |
| BANCROFT       | Graham  | WA   | 6   | ITZSTEIN       | Sue    | NSW  | 6   | MAAS             | Betty   | WA   | 5   | BROOMHALL        | Kevin   | VIC            | 6   |
| DUFF           | Warren  | WA   | 5   | JAMES          | George | VIC  | 6   | OFFER            | Kevin   | VIC  | 5   | BUNSTON          | Ian     | QLD            | 5   |
| EVANS          | Leigh   | VIC  | 6   | McCAHON        | Bruce  | NSW  | 6   | PITTMAN          | Robyn   | QLD  | 5   | THOMAS           | Frank   | QLD            | 6   |
| RINDFLEISH     | Scott   | NSW  | 6   | McCAULEY       | Damien | SA   | 6   | RANDALL          | Heather | NSW  | 5   | TOFT             | Mark    | QLD            | 6   |
| SIBRAA         | Darren  | QLD  | 5   | RICHARDSON     | Peter  | WA   | 6   | ROBINSON         | Raelene | SA   | 6   | TROW             | Ron     | QLD            | 5   |
| TANNEBRING     | Kevin   | SA   | 5   | THOMAS         | Frank  | QLD  | 6   | SHEPHARD         | Darrell | NSW  | 6   | WALLER           | Phil    | VIC            | 6   |
| WALLER         | Phil    | VIC  | 6   | DUFF           | Warren | WA   | 5 C | WHITEHEAD        | Lindsay | VIC  | 6   | #REF!            | #REF!   | #REF! ##### ## |     |
| MAAS           | Betty   | WA   | 5 C | SIBRAA         | Darren | QLD  | 5 C | FRAME            | Ian     | QLD  | 5 C |                  |         |                |     |
|                |         |      |     | STRATFORD      | Trevor | NZ   |     |                  |         |      |     |                  |         |                |     |
| <b>6 teams</b> |         |      |     | <b>7 teams</b> |        |      |     | <b>7/8 teams</b> |         |      |     | <b>6/7 teams</b> |         |                |     |