

February 2013



## National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

Welcome to the first edition of Blues News Online for 2013! I hope that the New Year has started well for all umpires across the country, bringing you enjoyable games and great calling.

As always, January is a busy month with our National Championships across the country – this edition features reports from Gilley's Round 3, U19 Women and Gilley's Finals. We'll hear from the U17 Boys and Girls and U19 Men in the next edition.

Young umpires are encouraged to explore the "Local Sporting Champions Grant" – read the article from the ASC on page 2 and check out the web link provided for more details.

Finally, as February draws to a close, it is with pleasure that I wish Leigh Evans (VIC), Scott Rindfleish (NSW) and Darren Sibraa (QLD) the very best at the upcoming ISF XIII Men's World Championships in Auckland, New Zealand. We all look forward to hearing about your experiences at this prestigious event.

### Editor's Note:

Congratulations and best wishes are also extended to Tricia Sibraa (QLD) for her appointment as Deputy UIC at the ISF XIII Men's World Championships – the umpiring community looks forward to hearing about what it is like to be involved in this capacity as an administrator at a World Championship.

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# ISF XIII Men's World Championship

Follow all the action from the upcoming Men's World Championship in Auckland, New Zealand

Visit the official website for the Championship at: <http://www.softball2013.com> where you can register for the newsletter, or choose to follow all the action on Facebook or Twitter. The full draw is also available on the website.

Games will also be using the iScore technology, so you can follow all the action as it happens. Visit <http://www.softball.org.nz/Tradestaff+WSC+2013+Results.html> for the iScore feature.

## Local Sporting Champions Grant

Australian Sports Commission

Apply now for a Local Sporting Champions grant!

Are you, or do you know, a dedicated young athlete, coach or official participating in a state, national or international sporting championships?

Are you aged 12-18 years old travelling further than 125km to your event for a state, national or international championships?

If yes, then you or your team could be eligible for an Australian Government Local Sporting Champions grant to help meet costs such as uniforms, travel, accommodation and equipment.

Grants of \$500 per individual and \$3,000 per team are available for young people participating in the following:

- nominated National Sporting Organisation endorsed state or national sporting championships
- School Sport Australia state or national championships
- International competitions where the applicant is participating in the official Australian team.

This program is an Australian Government initiative managed by the Australian Sports Commission and supports 8,000 young people each year.

The grants are designed to help athletes, coaches and officials achieve their sporting goals and are distributed across all 150 federal electorates of the national parliament. Applications must be submitted prior to the commencement of the nominated championship.

Further information, including application forms and eligibility criteria, is available at: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/champions>

# Gilley's Three

Sydney – 2 to 6 January 2013

A vibrant crew of umpires totaling a lucky 13 travelled New Year's Day to welcome in 2013 and assemble at Blacktown for Gilley's three. Our New Zealand umpire, Jeff Weber joined us the next day and was a delight to have on the crew.

Off-diamond stories were plentiful:

- Some marathon card games took place in room 8, and one crew member learnt a new skill – the supposedly difficult art of shuffling cards!
- On Friday the full crew went for breakfast to celebrate Nev's birthday;
- Our American Kiwi had French toast as an Aussie breakfast!
- On Thursday, a power outage made for dark change rooms and interesting exchanges and apologies!
- Pete the Parrot managed to hijack our crew photo-shoot!
- As part of a non-duck meal option, dedicated efforts were made to find a Red Rooster open beyond 10pm, again to no avail!
- On two occasions birds flew into the windscreen of the van – must've been the Victorian umpire driving that they were trying to attack!
- No one will be fooled again by Sydney temperatures – add 10°C for Blacktown!
- A new mechanic was invented to signify sprinklers during play!

Our accommodation at the Astina Apartments in Penrith was perfect, comfy beds, air-con and all the facilities a tired crew needs.

A big thank you to Softball NSW who provided travel coffee mugs; far more environmentally healthy than 100+ used polystyrene cups, and useful for the long-term. With four trips to-from the airport, our trusty van travelled over 660kms on the wonderful freeways of Sydney.

We were joined late in the week by the incoming crew for the U17 Girls, and as expected, we all merged in seamlessly, like the one big happy family that we are. While it meant a slightly crowded umpires' room, it made for more jokes, more ribbing, and a bigger card game!

When the chance to do a plate on Saturday night came up, the Little Angry One had his hand up in a flash. And of course, the best news of the week was the successful attainment of Level 6 accreditation by our two candidates, Chris Trengove and Stuart Tyler – well done guys.

The Final of the Edebone-Weber Shield was crewed by:

Amanda Housion (P)      Richard Barrow (1B)      Steve Gutteridge (3B)

The All-Star game was crewed by:

Helen Strauss (P)      Neville Lawrance (1B)      Richard Barrow (3B)



Rear Row: Richard Barrow, Chris Trengrove, Mark Gallagher, Jeff Weber (NZ), George Norrish, Stuart Tyler, Steve Gutteridge  
Front Row: Amanda Houison, Debbie Grove, Leanne Gearside, Neville Lawrance (TCU), Yvonne Kahler, Helen Strauss

Writer: Richard Barrow

## Under 19 Women's Championships

Canberra – 13-19 January 2013

The Crew: Diane Waller (TCU), Darrell Shephard and Amanda Houison (examiners), Jana McCaskill, James English, Jay Gibson, Jamie Harries, Sarah Houston, Vicki Lansley, Neville Lawrance, Steve Wallace-Yarrow and Haydyn Wood.

First things first – congratulations to Darrell Shephard for umpiring his 300<sup>th</sup> Nationals game at this tournament!



The crew for this year's U/19s Women's championship included five umpires backing up from U/17s Girls' and two from the boys. Naturally, we were all well warmed-up for the tournament – even those two whose travel arrangements meant that they were not at the umpires meeting to 'volunteer' for various tasks throughout the tournament. Thanks to Haydyn for his swell ball cleaning and recycling.

With 6 teams and 11 umpires on the diamond, we had the swell opportunity to run the majority of games as 4 umpire rotations. Saturday featured a couple of revision sessions from Neville and Amanda, and some general agreement on how we were to go about things. Nonetheless, there was the occasional '3 umpire moment', but these were ironed out as the week progressed.

The weather was hot with a few surprising cooler days. Heat rules were only required for the last two days, and despite some of us not feeling the best, some cold water, crew support and a bit of tough love (with one of the crew ensuring that another stayed in their cold shower long enough to cool down properly) meant that everyone came off their games feeling swell. There was also a new heat management method - not wearing leg guards turned out to be a cooler option, even if it wasn't intended.



'The Jimbo Exhibit'. I'd like to say that I was locked in there and forced to eat, but that's just not true.

translucent butterflies.

We responded with some questions of our own, and some warnings for Googling answers in the dugout.

Saturday saw Jana McCaskill appointed to her second grand final plate, with Amanda Houison, Neville Lawrance and Darrell Shephard on the bases. Congratulations to them on their appointments and a swell game.



Jana McCaskill on the Grand Final plate, with Darrell Shephard in the background.

A few of the umpires had more steps than a staircase on the Saturday night with the disco beats pumping and a stellar performance of the Nutbush (the 6 minute version) will never be forgotten.

To say the least it really was a swell week!

With love and laughter from Jay and Jimbo.

# Gilley's Final

Melbourne – 30 January to 2 February 2013

The finals of Gilley Shield for 2013 were held at Waverley Association in Melbourne from Thursday 31/1 to Saturday 2/2.

Crew: Debbie Grove, Di Waller, Warren Duff, Howard Watt, Helen Strauss, Yvonne Kahler, Bridget Cameron, Kyira Cox, and Leanne Gearside. Kev Broomhall was our ever calm, unflustered and caffeinated TCU. Things ran smoothly until the rain and soggy grounds ceased play at the end of day 1 (losing 1.5 games), and some 'nearly' tie-break games also looked ready to push the schedule off track. But Kev must have talked to the right higher beings that night, as the weather turned sensational for the rest of the tournament and there was not one tie-break to be seen.

We had great accommodation at Quest Glen Waverley, but didn't spend much time there at all. The location was only 8 minutes by car to the fields (2 minutes at traffic lights), and restaurants close by enabled us to eat at a normal dinner time. Dessert for the crew prepared in room 10 while the washing was done proved a highlight.

This tournament seemed to come and go with the blink of an eye – maybe because it was the last of the busy year of umpiring! The last two days saw the best games, with teams itching for a finals berth. The Grand Final between WA & Qld was a cracker of a game – and congratulations to Kyira Cox (NSW) on her first Nationals Grand Final Plate appointment. Grand Final Crew: Kyira Cox (P), Di Waller (1<sup>st</sup>), Helen Strauss (2<sup>nd</sup>), Debbie Grove (3<sup>rd</sup>).

After the tournament concluded, we attended the 2012 Softball Australia Awards & Honours Dinner on the Saturday night where everyone dressed up. It was great to see our athletes, coaches and administrators acknowledged for their performances and contributions during 2012. I was very honoured to be awarded the Vivienne Triplet Umpire of The Year Award – thank you everyone for your support. Many of my umpiring idols and mentors have taken home this award, so it is very special to me. And congratulations to Jason Carter who was the other umpire finalist – we have shared many milestones together and you were a very worthy contender.

Thank you to up and coming Victorian Umpire Brett Tyler who assisted us with transport from the airport and to get supplies from the supermarket and the coffee runs during the tournament - we hope to see you on diamond at Nationals in the next few years.

So, until next Nationals – good calling Blues!

Writer: Helen Strauss

# Victoria

## Umpire Candidate Success

The Under 17 State Championships held at the Sunshine Association grounds in Victoria saw the successful achievement of new accreditations for six Victorian Umpires. The Championships, held over the weekend of November 24-25 saw teams from throughout the state vying to become State Champions.

The weekend saw four candidates showing off their skills working towards their Level 2 Accreditation. Louise Trickett from Albury, Kian Privitera and Adan Penfold from Waverley and Paul Bonner from Dandenong were all successful. The standard and commitment to umpiring was evident. What was particularly positive was that the candidates had attended the Level 2 Umpire Development Clinic in September, a positive reinforcement of the training and accreditation process.



Successful Level 2 Candidates: Paul Bonner from Dandenong; Louise Trickett from Albury; Kian Privitera and Adan Penfold (absent) from Waverley.

The weekend also saw another two successful candidates with Hayden Croft from Casey and Mark Williams from Waverly backing up from the Under 19 Championships striving for their Level 3 Accreditation.



Successful Level 3 Candidates: Hayden Croft and Mark Williams.

Click here to [submit your umpiring](#) news articles

Joining the successful candidates on the diamond was a 17 strong umpire crew that included the management team lead by Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) Jason Carter and Deputy TCU Richard Dodds. Across the weekend 33 games were played in weather conditions that went from very hot on Saturday afternoon, to a cool Sunday morning, with the competition attracting 4 male teams and 9 female teams across two grades.

Congratulations to the following umpires who were appointed to Grand Finals:

Boys' Final Crew – Casey (3) defeated Albury Wodonga (0)

Plate: Brendan Shatwell    1st Base: Hayden Croft    3rd Base: Mark Williams

Girls' A Grade Final Crew – Knox (5) defeated Waverly (4)

Plate: Alan Van Breda    1st Base: Stan Tolmie

Girls' B Grade Final Crew – Dandenong (5) defeated Glen Eira (3)

Plate: Brett Tyler    1st Base: Heather Watts