

# BLUES NEWS ON LINE

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January/February Edition Vol 1 2003

## International Test Series Australia vs. Japan

Hosted by the New South Wales Softball Association at the Blacktown Olympic Park, this Test Series provided not only the first international experience for the Australian Team, but exciting international softball for six NSW Umpires.

Umpiring under the leadership of Umpire In Chief, Alan McAuliffe, the crew included: Lisa Freeman, Sue Itzstein, Bruce McCahon, Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish, and Darrell Shephard.



**FATHER AND SON:** Andy and Scott Rindfleish share a special moment during their first National game together.

The test comprised of six games, two games held each night. With the final result being three wins a piece, the test series was officially handed to Japan on 'runs against.'

All games were umpired by a three man crew, thereby allowing each umpire the opportunity to umpire one plate, one first base and one third base.

Every game was played in an excellent spirit and was truly an exciting three days to conclude this month of elite softball.

Umpiring international softball is a rare experience and this Test Series was the first international appointment for Lisa and Scott.

Game 4 was a history making game for Andrew and Scott Rindfleish, this being the first international game umpired by this father and son combination. Only a week earlier the Rindfleish's umpired their first national game together at the Under 19 Men's National Championships at the Olympic Stadium and Game 4 was certainly a thrilling experience to conclude a great month of softball.

**Note:** Andy's wife, Scott's mother, Sue was also the convenor at the Under 19 Nationals and the National Umpires at the tournament thank her for MY BOY?

## Thanks for your efforts

**MARGO'S  
MEMO**



The end of January sees the close of one of the busiest and most difficult months we have ever had as far as servicing our sport is concerned.

The scheduling of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival during January increased the requirement to supply senior qualified umpires during January, which, even without the extra tournament, is always a complex task.

To ensure that the national championships were adequately supported, some senior umpires applied for and were appointed to two National events over the four-week period.

As we all know January produced many days of extremely high temperatures right around the country, and concerns for the health and safety of participants in some States became an issue.

Also, the bush fires around the nation's capital added yet another dimension to the day to day management of the Junior Women's and the Junior Men's Championships.

This year, to say that each and every umpire appointed to the National Championships and the Olympic Youth Festival carried out their assigned duties under difficult circumstances is perhaps an understatement.

I am proud of the commitment and dedication shown by all the umpires to see each and every tournament through despite the obstacles.

To those umpires who were able to attend more than one National championship / tournament this year, thank you, and, to each and every umpire who attended a National Championship / tournament, my heartfelt gratitude on helping the sport through a very difficult and stressful time.

Congratulations to Matt Gowty who has made the top three in the Sports Industry Australia "Official of the Year" Award.

The announcement of the winner will be made at the annual Sports Industry Australia Awards Dinner that is to be held at the Crown Palladium Ballroom on Wednesday, March 12.

Those of us who will be in Brisbane for the Men's National Championship at that time will look forward to hearing the result. GO MATT!

## Blues Help Out at Charity Challenge

Western  
Australia

Gary Butler, head coach of the U19's, organised the Charity Challenge over the weekend of January 4 & 5 to assist the team with preparations for nationals. Teams who attended included the U19 men, Morley Eagles, Stirling Centrals, Eastern Monarchs, the Open Means team and an Invitational team.

Gary asked for help from blues to officiate the games. Thanks to:

Brett Treeby  
Graham Bancroft  
Jason Carter  
Betty Maas  
Dave Searle

All umpires were looked after very well with lunch/dinner and drinks provided. Competition was competitive but friendly and all who attended enjoyed the experience. Graham Bancroft (plate) and Betty Maass umpired the grand final.

The WASUB would like to thank those umpires who gave up their weekend to help out our State teams.

### WA State Championships

The 2003 State Championships is once again being organised for the long weekend in March 1-3 and, if you're an umpire WE NEED YOU !

Always an enjoyable tournament, the State Championships is a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends you may not have seen for a while or to attempt your next level.

To express your interest to umpire at the State Championships, please complete and return an availability form located in the WASUB Resource Library.

(<http://www.waumpires.softball.org.au>)



**LEFT:** L to R Scott Rindfleish, Sue Itzstein and Bruce McCahon prepare for their game in the Test Series between Japan and Australia. Bruce and Sue are members of the current International Development Squad, Scott is having his first taste at this level.



**RIGHT:** Lisa Freeman conducts the preliminaries with the Australian and Japanese coaches prior to her first plate in an International game. On the Game with Lisa were Bruce McCahon and Darrell Shephard.



**LEFT:** Darrell Shephard, Andrew Rindfleish and Lisa Freeman were part of the Japan/Australia Test Series umpiring crew in Sydney recently.

The series would have been a thrill for the six umpires officiating especially Lisa who had just picked up her Level 6 Accreditation in Hobart at the National Open-Women's championships.

## New Junior Umpire Development Program - JUmP Start

This will be a remote area Junior Umpiring Program to be run in Mt Isa, Cairns and Mackay

QUEENSLAND

The program will aim to:

- Increase the number of accredited umpires within these communities, enhancing the sport and providing greater opportunity for an increased number of people to play the game;
- Develop a pool of umpire coaches qualified to conduct umpire courses at all levels;
- Provide advice and assistance to District associations for the education of umpires;
- Provide the skills and pathways for all new officials;
- Improve the technical knowledge / level of our officials;
- Actively educate the District Association in assisting, maintain the development of their officials;
- Provide all officials with a structured pathways for development through to Olympic level;
- Impart, through educational strategies, the required knowledge to developing the associations in order to ensure the long-term sustainable development of the sport.

### Under 14 State Championships - Level 2 – 3 Pre assessment clinics.

Current Level 2 umpires are invited to attend the U14 Championships (Girls or Boys) to be assessed for examination later in the year. This offers prospective candidates the opportunity to be exposed to the examination process under State Championship conditions.

The pre assessment also give the candidates feedback on their on diamond performance. This increases their chances of success later in the year when being examined.

This is particularly important for those umpires from Queensland's country associations who have limited exposure to working with other umpires.

### Umpiring Clinics to be held -

Bundaberg - 15th - 16th Feb  
Cairns - 8th - 9th March  
Mt Isa - 28th - 29th March

Umpire Spence Williams supplies Mike Williamson with some long awaited hair



## Coast to Coast Tour

The Coast to Coast tour was held January 2-5 at Redlands. There were two American teams, a team from Tweed Heads, the QLD U/19 side and Squad also the U/16 side and 2 squads with the U/19 Squad winning the tournament.

Umpires who participated where as follows: Peter Walsh, Maxine Bullion , Rick Gill, Matt Blake, M Nilsson, Mike Williamson, Ian Frame, Steve Gutteridge Carolyn Gutteridge, David Casey, Dianne Bunston, Ian Bunston, Jamie Harries and Ron Trow .

## Successful Level 5 Candidates

On behalf of all Queensland Umpires the Queensland Umpiring Committee wish to congratulate Daren Sibraa and Ian Bunston who attained their Level 5 accreditation at the Nationals earlier this month.

Darren from the Wynnum Association completed his assessment at the Under 16 Boys in Melbourne, while Ian from the Toowoomba Association was a member of the Under 19 Men's crew in Sydney.



**New Level 5:**  
Darren Sibraa from the Wynnum Association in action at the Under 16 Boys National Championships in Melbourne.

## Calendar of Events

March 8-15	National Men's
March 21 – 23	Qld Secondary School Girls – Rockhampton
April 3 – 6	U23 Men's
April 18 – 21	ASF Masters – Redlands
April 25 – 27	U14 Girls - Ipswich
April 25 – 27	U14 Boys – Redlands
May 3 - 5	May Day Carnival – Rockhampton
June 7 – 9	South Brisbane Classic – South Brisbane
August 1 – 3	Qld Masters – Redcliffe



## Making Rules Simpler

with Alan McAuliffe (Big Al)

Is there such a rule as Umpire's Interference on the base path?

The following is a recent game situation (2-umpire system): Runners on 2nd & 3rd with 1 out. On a ground ball back to the pitcher, the runner on 3rd took 3 steps down the line so the pitcher threw to 3rd (runner safe). The runner on 2nd broke for 3rd, but on seeing the throw to 3rd turned around & headed back toward 2nd, lost balance and fell down.

On getting back to his feet the runner bumped the umpire who was crossing the runner's path trying to get a position for the play at 3rd.

The third baseman threw the ball to 2nd and the umpire called the runner out as he had still not regained the base.

The runner from 3rd then broke for the plate and the subsequent throw from 2nd caught the runner sliding home. Did this result in 3 outs and side away? No! The base umpire signaled a "Dead Ball" after calling the runner out at 2nd. The umpire insisted that he interfered with the runner, causing a dead ball situation, so the runner from 3rd was returned to 3rd, the batter was safe at 1st and the call at 2nd was reversed and the runner declared safe - all because of *Umpire's Interference*.

The plate umpire, a rookie in his first plate game, did see the base umpire's Dead Ball signal, even though he called the runner out at the plate! Was the base umpire correct in his actions and is there such a rule as Umpire's Interference on the Base path?

### AI's response:

Regarding the umpire interference question - there is no such rule! The base umpire is considered to be part of the field, so if a ball hits him, or a player runs into him, it's just bad luck and something the teams have to live with. With tongue-in-cheek I believe the team was a victim of DMU Syndrome (Dumb Move Ump)! The syndrome is a disease that is a general result of a lack of appropriate schooling on mechanics, and is often associated with pure laziness. While DMUS can be treated and cured with clinics and practice, the scars left are permanent. The result of the plays above should have been 3 out and side away, as was corrected after the obvious protest from the defensive team.

Both umpires learnt a very valuable lesson on ensuring they make every effort to avoid the ball and players while making position for calls and understanding that the only Umpire Interference that can be ruled is when the plate umpire interferes with a catcher's attempt to throw the ball!

## Softball Umpire takes top award

Toowoomba Softball Umpire Mark Toft has taken out the Umpire/Referee of the Year Award for the second time in three years at the Annual Darling Downs Sports Awards held in Toowoomba.

Toft secured the inaugural award in 2000 and was a finalist last year, this year wins comes after he earned his Level 6 accreditation in Perth at the National Open Men's Championships in March 2002.

The Darling Downs Sports Awards cover all sports in the Region and is keenly contested even though it sometimes a thankless job.

More than 500 sporting personalities and guest packed Rumours International for the annual event.

Special guests included Queensland Rugby league Legend, Kerry Boustead, Bush Poet, Marco Gliori and the crowd was spell bound with Guest Speaker, Sam Loxton who was a member of Sir Donald Bradman's 1948 Invincibles Cricket Team.

One of the highlights of the evening was the special auction where more than \$11,000 was raised for next year event.



**Softball Umpire wins again:** Sports Darling Downs Veteran of the Year Amanda Richards (left) with Umpire of the Year, Mark Toft and Coach of the Year, Ann Brownlie at the Annual Sports Awards at Rumours International recently. Photo courtesy of Kevin Farmer from the Toowoomba Chronicle.

## Congratulations one and all

On behalf of the Australian Umpiring Family I take this opportunity to congratulate those umpires who were successful in attaining a higher Level at the round of Nationals last month.

It is great to see the number of successful candidates, especially to Level 5. These umpires are now part of the National scene and are well on their way to the next level, International.

### Level 6

Lisa Freeman from New South Wales was a candidate at the Open Women's National Championships in Hobart in the January and was successful.

### Level 5

Darren Sibraa from Queensland was a candidate at the Under 16 Boys in Melbourne.

### Level 5

Warren Duff from Western Australia was a candidate at the Under 16 Boys in Melbourne.

### Level 5

Ian Bunston from Queensland was a candidate at the Under 19 Men in Sydney.

### Level 5

Martin Turnbull from the Australian Capital Territory was a candidate at the Under 19 Men in Sydney.

### Level 5

Graham Webster from South Australia was a candidate at the Under 16 Girls in Adelaide

### Level 5

Col Davis from New South Wales was a candidate at the Under 19 Women's in Canberra.

### Level 5

Ron Houison from Victoria was a candidate at the Under 19 Women's in Canberra.

Of course our best wishes go out to Frank Thomas and Phil Waller, both fine umpires, who are candidates at the Open Men in Brisbane in March. Good luck guys.

## When you look at it, Matt is having a great year

Matt Gowty our resident traveling umpire has been nominated for the prestigious Sports Industry Australia Official of the Year Award.

Well to be nominated is one thing, but to be informed that you are in the final three is pretty darn impressive.

It can not be disputed that Matt has had a great year with an Open Women's World Championship under his belt and a successful pre World Championship tour. Matt was also recognised with a Level 8 accreditation.

Mind you that Matt is competing against all official of all sports within Australia. Now the final three is even more impressive, isn't it.

Margo has mentioned when the big night is and we wish Matt every success on the award, to be televised on SBS at 9:30pm, Wednesday 12 March.



### Under 19 Men's National Championships - Sydney - Umpires

**Back L to R:** Kevin Broomhall, David Crowe, Mark Toft, Neville Lawrence, Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish, Nick Beashel (Liaison Officer), **Front L to R:** Andrew Chapman, Martin Turnbull, Ken Culpitt (UIC) , Ian Bunston, Greg

**Presence on the Diamond.....what is it?  
Have you got it? Can you define presence?  
Who has the best? How did they get it?**

This is one of those touchy areas and we will attempt, over the next couple of editions define ON-DIAMOND PRESENCE.

There has probably been a number of articles written about On-Diamond presence, if you have access to them send them along.

Some umpires are told to improve their On-Diamond presence and you will become a better umpire. Now if only we can define the word "presence".

One of the meanings in the Concise Macquarie Dictionary is .....personal appearance or bearing, especially of a dignified or opposing kind.

Here are some views by a couple of umpires. (no names)

Some see developing On-Diamond presence in three categories

- Appearance - uniform, shoes (polished), cap (fitted), Shirt (the right colour and ironed), hair (groomed), sunglasses taken off when speaking to coaches and/or players.
- Body Language—The way you walk, talk, stance, mannerisms, signals, communication skills.
- Image - The image you project gains respect. It is important to remember

**“That you only get one chance to make an first impression”.**

As an umpire people will notice control, poise, knowledge, rapport and confidence, but they also notice inappropriate behaviour, lack of control, poor knowledge of the game and the rules.

On-Diamond presence needs to be worked on, in every game. No game is the same and different situations will test your On-Diamond presence.

If you have gained respect of the players, coaches and spectators you have gone a long way in gaining some On-Diamond presence.

If you have any ideas please send them to BNOL by email  
**mtoft@ozemail.com.au**

**BNOL needs your help..... Well the editor does!**

Due to the fact that my computer crashed and I have lost everything, I mean everything I need to stock up on my archival material.

I know what you are all saying, “Didn’t he back it up on disk or CD?” The answer is simple, “NO!”

Now we could go back and get some of the old material or we can start again and get a pile of new material which we can use in future issues.

That is where you can help. If all umpires who read this on line magazine sends me just one article, joke, comment etc. So lets all get together and help me put together some interesting archival material which will improve the image of our magazine.

Remember Blue’s News On-line is written by umpires for umpires.

NOTE: I would like to get some information regarding the Nationals held at Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide for the next edition as I was not in attendance. Thanks.

**Quote of the Month.....**

Some of you may have heard better, if so send them in.

One senior Umpire to an other referring to the Derwent River in Hobart.

**“Keep an eye on those match balls, we need to stop them going into the creek.”**

**Who said this?**

Now introducing the umpires at the Plate, ....., at First Base, My Boy, Scott Rindfleisch and at Third..... (The other names have been omitted for security reasons).

The repercussions from this is that the Sydney Stadium has the **My Boy Stand** which is located near the announcing booth on Level 3. (Thanks Sue)

This of course this was taken one step further with the introduction of the Victorian Coaching Staff on another game.

“Introducing Head Coach of the Victorian team, Frank Grego and His Boy, James.....”

As you can imagine nothing had the impact like, MY BOY! (Love ya! Scotty)

S C O T T D R  
 Y P G I U I E  
 D I A M O N D  
 N F M I E N T  
 E V E N O I D  
 Y J U G P N D  
 N F S S E G B  
 S H Z W N F U  
 B R O N Z E N  
 J R N J V E T  
 C R E E K L S

**Find the answers. Answers may be forward, backwards or diagonally**

1. My Boy's first name
2. Seven innings completed (score 2-1)
3. Not Safe
4. First name NSW Level 6 umpire (Female)
5. Colour of Australian Olympic Medal in Atlanta and Sydney
6. NSW umpire duo, Nicole and David's last name
7. What Big Al calls the Derwent River
8. ACT Umpire: Denise's partner
9. Brother of Big Al
10. When a field has no fencing it is regarded as ....
11. City which hosted the recent Under 19 Men's Test Series
12. Three up, three down
13. The score is all tied up
14. Runners can advance on this foul
15. Don't call too early; Have good .....
16. The dominant colour of South Australia's uniform
17. Designated Runner
18. This handy to have; A Strike ....
19. Catching the ball with the bat
20. A Buddhist sect. (popular in Japan since being introduced from China)

**ATTENTION ALL STATE UMPIRING DIRECTORS**

Could you send an updated list of umpires who have recently attained a higher level to the editor. BNOL has the National umpires of Level 5 and above, we need Levels 1 to 4.

**SUCCESS**  
 SUCCESS COMES  
 FROM HAVING A  
 STEADY GOAL AND  
 A DEDICATED AIM

**TEAMWORK**  
 TEAMWORK  
 MEANS GIVING  
 EVERYONE A LIFT

**SELF-ACHIEVEMENT IS**  
 THE FRUIT OF  
 DISCIPLINE



**SDU:** Kerry Franklin (Victoria SDU) and Warren Duff (WA's SDU) at last year's NUC conference.

**Back Issues of Blue's New On-Line**

If you require any back issues of BNOL go to the NUC website and you can find them in the Resource Library. While you are there have a look around the site you can pick up a lot of info about softball and of course umpiring. Remember, if you want something published in our magazine just send it to [mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

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