

Blue's News On-Line

Official Australian Softball Umpire's Magazine

Contributions to mtoft@ozemail.com.au July Edition 7/2006

National Umpiring Program Website: umpring.softball.org.au

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Happy Birthday BNOL

This month is the start of the sixth year of Blue's News On-Line, Australian Umpires Official Magazine.

A concept generated after the 2001 State Directors meeting and has enabled umpires throughout Australia and other countries to contribute articles regarding fellow umpires both on and off the field.

As editor it has been a pleasure to be in charge of a service which is an intricate part of the National Umpiring Program.

The July 2006 edition will be the magazine's 58th issue (three issues were dual month combined).

To enable this magazine to survive we need more contributions from all umpires from the grass roots level to the international arena.

There is nothing better for the National Umpiring Program than recognition of its members. BNOL offers a medium where we can read about the efforts of our fellow Blues.

Remember BNOL is written by umpires for umpires. So send in your contributions.

From: Susan Crow (Chief Executive)

Date: 7 August, 2006

Subject: Umpire Program Review

I am writing to advise you that the Softball Australia Board accepted the thirteen Recommendations provided in the Umpire Program Report at its meeting yesterday. The Board found the review to be a positive one that will lead to further development of the Umpire Program and will create further opportunities for umpires.

During the discussion on the Report, the President stated to the meeting that Andrew Rindfleish, NUIC, had advice for the Softball Australia Board that at this time he will not seek re appointment as NUIC.

Deputy NUICs, Alan McAuliffe and Tricia Sibraa, have been advised of these decisions.

Planning has commenced on the next steps for implementing the Recommendations. A key component in the Recommendations is the recognition of three umpiring streams, technical, operational and development.

As National Rules Interpreter, Alan McAuliffe will continue to lead the technical stream. In accordance with the recommendations, contribution to the other two streams will be sought from National staff members. Each of the three stream leaders will report to the Board through the Board Member responsible for technical programs.

In recognition of his outstanding service to umpiring, the Board asked that Alan McAuliffe be approached to determine if he will agree to his name being on documents requiring the Umpire in Chief signature. I am pleased to report that Alan has agreed. Alan has separately indicated that he did not wish to be considered for the NUIC role.

The Board was very appreciative of the efforts of Committee Members in taking the Review to completion and recognised that a concerted effort will be required by all those in the umpire program to implement the Recommendations. Andrew is also thanked by the Board for his contribution during his time as NUIC.

Letters to the Editor



Tofty,
Congratulations on six years of editing.
I just have some quality issues about omissions in the June Tome

My first issue is the omission of an appointment of another retired umpire to the 2006 Worlds In Beijing. The appointment was of a grumpy old bugger who has been appointed as the Chief Statistician. This GOB has to travel to Beijing in July to train the Worlds team in relation to the reporting requirements and the system that will be used.

My second issue is in relation to Nev's (Neville Lawrance) article on his International Clinic. The omission is there was no mention of rain. Having been to other International events with Neville I know that there has to have been rain. In the past international events I have attended with Nev, rain has fallen, droughts broken and there have been men with flowing beards building a big boat, collecting animals and stores for a long voyage.

Cheers mate, congratulations on six years and keep it up
Grumpy Old Bugger

Dear all concerned,
Please be advised that Softball Australia now have stock of the Official Softball Playing Rules and Case Book 2006-2009 and are available to order.

We are happy to inform you that the price of the book has not changed from previous years. The cost is \$20.35 incl GST for Clubs and Associations and \$23.40 incl GST for all other orders. An order form is available on the Softball Australia website if you wish to place an order. Delivery costs will be charged according to the amount of books ordered.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could forward this email on to your local clubs and associations. If you require any further information please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,

Adam Power
Administration Manager
Softball Australia

Telephone: (03) 9890 8200

Link to ASF Merchandise page -

[http://www.softball.org.au/powered_by Interfuse/shopcategory.asp?id=4](http://www.softball.org.au/powered_by_Interfuse/shopcategory.asp?id=4)

Mark,

The attached newspapers article may be of interest to your readers.

Michael Palmer is a Level 8 Australian softball umpire. He attained his Level 6 in 1981 at the age of 19. He was selected for the combined Youth World Championships in Fargo, USA, the Junior Girls WC in Oklahoma City, USA, and the WWC in Auckland, NZL.

He was a member of the Task Force which brought umpiring into the modern era in 1985. Michael is from Tasmania and his mother, Diane, is the resident Umpire Liaison officer in Hobart when national championships are held there.

Margo Koskelainen

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2006 QLD UMPIRE'S FORUM by Darren Sibraa

Queensland's annual umpiring forum was conducted on the weekend of 29/30 July, with representatives from the 22 District Associations in attendance.

State Director, Darren Sibraa, presented the forum, and with many new District Association coordinators utilised the opportunity to cover a range of topics.

Recent rules changes were presented during a combined session with scoring and coaching representatives with discussion on the way the had been implemented during the 2007 Nationals, and whether the same application should apply at State Championships. Specifically, the intentional walk and new run-ahead-rules were considered.

During the combined session, initiatives to speed up substitutions and other line-up changes were debated.

Other topics included: a review of 2005-06, development of a recruitment and retention survey, umpire development, review of the 2006 Exam, and reports from the respective District Associations.

Once again, the forum was well received, and the attendees welcomed the opportunity at the dinner on Saturday night to share stories, with other umpires, coaches and scorers alike.

FIFA thinks world of Aussie

A LITTLE-known Tasmanian has emerged as the most powerful Australian in world soccer as the build-up begins to South Africa's World Cup finals in 2010.

Michael Palmer, 43, has been headhunted by the game's governing body, FIFA, to head its 2010-World Cup effort from its office in Johannesburg.

FIFA appointed him to the role last July but he'd kept a low profile until facing the media during Germany's World Cup to reject a South African report published in an Afrikaans paper.

The report claimed South Africa's chances of hosting the World Cup were getting slimmer by the day and there were "whispers in the corridors of soccer power" that the event could be moved to Australia.

"When you think about that logically, it's bizarre. To me, someone's thrown a dart at the map of the world, they've missed and it's landed on Australia because it's bottom right hand," Palmer said.

"If it's ever going to be moved, for whatever reason, You would move it to a place that could handle it on the spur of the moment."

HE said two World Cups had been relocated—the 1986 men's tournament was moved from Coloquio to Mexico because of political instability, while the 2003 women's event was shifted from China to the US because of SARS fears.

Palmer said, the 2010 World Cup would definitely be in South Africa because it has the capacity to deliver a successful tournament and FIFA wanted to develop soccer in Africa and help Africa through soccer.

"South Africans are more excited about their World Cup four years away than the Germans have been about their World Cup," Palmer said.

World's his oyster: Tasmanian Michael Palmer is heading FIFA's preparations for the 2010 World Cup. Sydney Olympics, to taking charge of the MCG soccer venue for the Games. Palmer then administered venues at the Manchester Commonwealth Games before hitting world soccer's big time.

"While I was still in Manchester, I got a call offering me a job as head of venue management on the (UEFA) Champions League," Palmer said.

For three years he became an enforcer for TJEFA's incredibly successful Champions League tournament, a role in which he laid down the law to heavyweight clubs including Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Arsenal, Liverpool, Juventus and AC Milan.

"We've had a few running battles with Real Madrid and Manchester United and Barcelona, but it's been fun," he said. "It really, really helped being Australian. And the reason is because everyone else working on it was from one European country or another and the thing that really helped me was being seen to be truly neutral."

While Palmer is occupied for the next four years, perhaps a soccer job back home could mean running an Australian World Cup. "I'd personally be very excited, I think it would be wonderful and I hope that a World Cup ends up in Australia during the time that I'm still able to work on it," he said.

"What the chances are, it's difficult to say. FIFA's strategy about how it approves World Cup host cities might take a change in the coming years.

They're sort of on a semi-rotational system now, which has allowed it to go to Africa." He said it was hard to gauge what impact its move into the Asian Football Confederation would have on Australia's chances, given Japan and Korea hosted the event in 2002. AAP



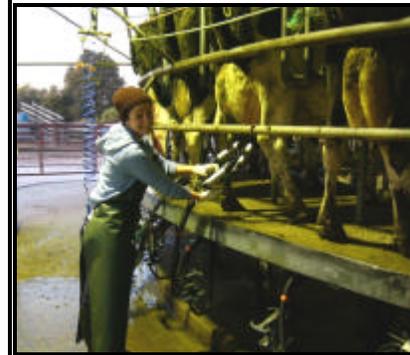
Living out on the farm by Stacey Evans

A few months ago I found out I was going to do my university work placement in Swan Hill. This is a LONG way from home.

The prospect of driving four hours each way every day didn't really excite me, luckily enough, Debbie and Steve Grove were happy to have me stay with them for a few weeks on the "funny farm".

During my stay I learnt all about cows and little cows, and worked hard to earn my keep. I was even found competent at milking! I really enjoyed my stay, it was a laugh a minute between Debbie's blonde moments (and there were a few of them), and Steve's wicked sense of humour.

They took me on as one of their own, and I was sad to leave after five weeks living as a county girl. Umpires (and their husbands) really do make for great friends.



Left: Up (very) early for the morning milking. She really looks the part, don't you think?



Below: How cute is this? Also a calf that talks. "I am a calf and my name is Patch."



Above: What's the story here?

Leigh gives Debbie some BBQ cooking tips while up for a weekend trip.

or

"That too many cooks spoil the broth!"

Softball in full swing for NSW Blues

New South Wales

NSW has had a very busy month of July starting with the Softball Australia Youth Friendship Series (July 2– 6). With 10 girl's teams and 6 boy's teams meant a lot of games needed to be covered in 5 days.

A Big Thank You to the large number of NSW umpires that volunteered their time during the week. The NSW umpires were assisted by the Advance Clinic attendees from Qld, VIC, SA and NSW.

A lot was learnt during the week and friendships formed forever. The Clinic was a great success with 6 of the umpires gaining appointment to the two Finals.

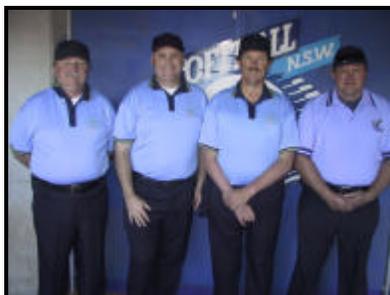


Congratulations to Stacey Evans (Plate), Leanne Gearside (1st Base), Vicki Lansley (3rd Base) who umpired the Girls Final and Dave Datson (Plate), Richard Bar-

row (1st Base), David Casey (3rd Base) who umpired the Boys Final.

A special thank you must go to the lectures Sue Itzstein (UIC), Andrew Rindfleish and Scott Rindfleish a job well done.

Next came the U19 Men's Australia vs New Zealand test series (July 7– 9) where they battled it out over seven games in three days. The games were controlled by four senior umpires Ron Houison, Bruce McCahon, Darrell Shephard and Dave Beaumont (from NZ). The games were played in the best of Trans Tasman Spirit with New Zealand winning the series 5-2.



The U19 Women's State Championship (July 14–16) kicked off with close games on Friday night. Unfortunately the weather got the best of the games causing Saturday to be washed out. With some careful rescheduling and some amazing team work between umpires, players and the weather the Championship was able to go ahead on Sunday. Congratulations to Darrell Shephard (Plate), Sue Itzstein (1st Base) & Scott Rindfleish (3rd Base) who



were appointed to the Final. Congratulation to the two Level 3 Candidates Jay Gibson and Jessie Smith from Far North Coast that were successful during the wet weekend. Well done boys

The U19 Men's State Championship (July 21– 23) was unfortunately not as lucky as the Women's and was postponed until August 5th & 6th. This postponement allowed the NSW umpiring crew to have a well earned break before the Waratah League and State League Season starts in August.



Thank you to all the umpires for a job well done over the busy month of July.

Training in Victoria

The combined Candidates and Intermediate course was held at Altona stadium on July 22, for the candidates for Level 2 and the intermediates going for Level 3 or 4, this is the first step to achieving their next level.

Areas covered on the day included theory, practical on-diamond rotation practice, practical plate work, legal responsibilities and rules.

We wish all candidates and intermediates all the best for their upcoming assessment and examination.

Thank you to all trainers for helping the participants to get the most out of this worthwhile day of preparation and learning.



Above: Victorian Umpiring Trainer, Kevin Broomhall goes through a few pointers in the classroom with three candidates.

“The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year. ‘
John Foster Dulles

Off to Canada Cup with Debbie Grove.

I had the pleasure in being at the Canada Cup in 1999 so I was really looking forward in seeing any changes and to catch up with the Umpires I had met then and to meet new fellow umpires.

This is the first time in Canada Cup history that they were having four tournaments in one. The International Women's Fastpitch, 19 & Under International Fastpitch Futures World Junior Women's, 16 & Under Fastpitch Showcase Tournament and the Canada Cup Special Olympics Friendship Tournament. These games were played over three venues, Softball City, Cloverdale and Sullivan Park. Overall there were around 50 Umpires.

I joined up with the Aussie team in Sydney and had a great flight to San Francisco then on to Vancouver. We arrived but there was no pick up for me so the Aussie Liaison took me to my accommodation.

My room was large and very comfortable, got settled then went for a walk to find some shops. Breakfast was available every morning which was our get together to start the day off. I thought the best way to make contact with home was to buy a phone card. This wasn't the case as it took 3 days for the phone company to make the card work. They said it was because they hadn't had any one ring into this "remote" area in Australia before. (Good excuse anyway)

Thursday, June 29 I decided to take a trip by bus and the sky train into Vancouver for the day. It was fine going there but not so good coming home. I didn't know they use the same number buses but go different directions!! It was a long trip back....enough said.

When I got back I had a message from Bonnie Gostola, she had arrived at the accommodation. Mike Hornak contacted me later that night and apologized about the Airport pick up and to let me know that Keith would be picking us up at 5.30pm Friday, June 30 for the Umpires meeting.

Mike went though how the tournament would be organized and some of the rules.

Mercy Rule: 10 runs ahead after 3 innings or 7 runs ahead after 5 innings constitutes a win.

The ISF International Tie-Breaker rule will be used in all round robin games, but will not be used in the Championship Round.

Five warm up pitches to start the game and each time a pitcher is relieved. All other times only 3 warm up pitches. On an injury to the pitcher where they leave the game the new pitcher may throw as many pitches as they wish.

When issuing an intentional walk. The pitcher must pitch four balls to the batter. (Reason: Mike said that this ISF rule wasn't being implicated till 2007)

Because of media and sponsor announcements we were instructed not to hurry the teams up between innings. I believe this was the main reason why some of the games went over three hours.

The first day of games went well with the weather being perfect until Kelly Hunter's game Japan v Canada 6.30pm start and didn't finish till 9.45pm and my plate game was to follow and didn't start till 10.15pm so that was a late finish for the first day. Jill Tuckey and I had the late shift again the following day a 10pm start and finished after midnight.

An Olympic Umpire came to the park with no umpiring pants (not me this time). I was able to lend her my pants as we were similar in size. (Find out who the Umpire was at the end of my report.)

The Opening Ceremony and Group team photos were done Sunday afternoon which most of us bought the Disk of group photo's and action shots. Monday continued with long games and mercy games but the weather was on our side.

Unfortunately Lindsay Carroll had an accident and went to hospital and came out with his leg in plaster. He said it was better being him then one of his players.

On Wednesday, July 5 a few umpires finished a little earlier so we went out for dinner and during the night the Aussie slang and sayings came up. They were all in stitches with the saying (spit the dummy and crack the shits) this saying was continued into the next few days.

Saturday, July 8, now down to the serious business for most teams. Sue Stafford was to pick me up for my plate game at 6.30am for a 8am start. She went to the wrong accommodation and didn't arrive till 7.40am. Got to the park at with a revised appointment, I went to 3rd base and picked up another plate later on in the day.

The only feed back I received was on this plate game. There was a huge crowd, spectators not the players had a problem with my delay between my verbal (strike call) and then the mechanic. This was a very valid point and I have taken this on board.

The final day in between the final of the futures and the women's final, I was privileged in being able to listen to a phone hook up of Umpires around the country with the Canadian Umpiring Committee organizing the Open Canadian Championship.

This was interesting as I got a chance to listen in on what they are going to implement as an Umpiring crew. One point that was brought up; the plate umpire should mirror image the line umpire's call. This is what they want to happen.

I had the pleasure in working with two Umpires that will be in Beijing, Jill Tuckey and Lori Bish.

The finals were 4 Umpiring system with no tie breakers. This was the first time I worked with Lori who was on the plate. Bonnie was on 1st, Jill on 2nd and I was on 3rd.

The final was Australia v Canada. This was a great game with Australia winning.

My appointments for the week were :

3 Umpiring System : 5 - Plate,
 : 5 - 1ST BASE
 : 5 - 3RD BASE
4 Umpiring System : 1 - 3rd BASE

To finish up a great couple of weeks I went with some of the Aussie players to Whistler National Park and the Suspension Bridge for the day.

The Canada Cup is a well organized event and I would like to thank every one involved in getting everyone there to share this experience. Thanks to Mike Hornack UIC, AIS, Australian Softball Federation and Andrew Rindfleish for their part in getting me there. I had another great experience thank you all.

Now I am really looking forward to my trip with the Australian team to China.

- The answer to who didn't bring their pants was "Lucie Carmichael"

Softball Tasmania re-appoint Clarke

At the recent Softball Tasmania Annual General Meeting Umpiring State Director Wayne Clarke has been appointed for another two-year term. With very little softball being played at the moment things are pretty quiet in the Apple Isle. It is envisaged that Tasmania will have more news next month.

Northern Territory Championships

State Umpiring Director for Northern Territory, Cathie Allen contacted BNL this week to inform readers that the NT Championships will be held soon with a number of junior and senior umpires looking to being assessed for their Level One accreditation.

In what is also a slow month for softball in the north, Cathie is hoping to contribute to the next edition of BNOL in August.

Queensland

Rockhampton Clinic

On July 8 Yvonne Kahler attended Rockhampton Softball Association to present an umpiring clinic. A total of ten of ten people attended the clinic. Again it is pleasing to see the number of younger people showing an interest in umpiring. This clinic's main focus was on rules with many topics being covered including strike zone, interference, obstruction, fair and foul balls, illegal pitching and substitutions including the use of DPs.

All attendees displayed a high level of enthusiasm and everyone asked plenty of questions which helped the participants understand the rules better.

It is pleasing to see the interest displayed by the members of Rockhampton and we hope to see the attendees on the diamond using this knowledge in the future.

State Championships

The following tournaments are being conducted in Queensland over the next three months. Nomination forms to umpire at these tournaments are available through, your districts umpires coordinator or on the Queensland umpiring internet site www.umpiring.qld.softball.org.au.

Softball Queensland Masters Logan 4 August to 6 August

Open Women's State Titles Ipswich 8 September to 10 September

U/16 Boys State Titles Bundaberg 23 September to 25 September

U/16 Girls State Titles Redlands 23 September to 25 September

U/19 Men's State Titles Wynnum 6 October to 8 October

U/19 Women's State Titles Redcliffe 6 October to 8 October

Open Men's State Titles Toowoomba 24 November to 26 November.

Any queries in relation to attendance at these tournaments should be directly firstly to your umpires coordinator or subsequently to Ron Yardley (Mobile 0407 592138).

**Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do.
Where there's love and inspiration, I don't think you can
go wrong.**

Ella Fitzgerald

World University Softball Championship 2006 – Tainan with Diane Waller

July 12– 25 2006

The Blue Crew & Delegates: - Tommy Wang, Mou Cheng, George Yang (DUIC), Jimmy Chen (UIC), Chen JC, Micheal Chen, Lin, Peter Pan, Hu, Bryan Chao, Tim Hsiao, Jasper Lee, Beer Huang, Tang, 190 Hung, Jeep Hsu, Leo Yang, Christina Drumm, Oshino Minuru, Ngootip Kamthorn, Ashley Mmakola & Diane Waller.



What an experience.

Thursday, July 13 2006

First of all when we arrived at Kaohsiung International Airport we were confronted with Typhoon Bilis. We were lucky that our plane got the all-clear to land because we had some athletes and the Statistician that were sent back to Hong Kong. The USA team had to fly to Taiwan and then bus it for 4 hours to Tainan. The Australian team were staying at the Chang Jung Christian University, so we dropped them off and then I was taken to the JR Plaza Hotel. The wind was so strong it was a feat to cross the road; even some parked scooters were blown over.

Friday, July 14 2006

I was informed that we were to meet in the foyer at 9.30am, which we did. The rain was very heavy. The Technical Meeting was scheduled for today, but we were informed that due to Typhoon Bilis, it had been postponed as not all teams and officials had arrived yet. We were to meet in the foyer again at 5pm. Then all of the Chinese Taipei umpires went in to a conference room and had what seemed to be a meeting!!!! Someone told us that we didn't have to attend. We attended the Welcoming Party that night that had lots of speeches, entertainment and food.

Saturday, July 15 2006

The Technical Meeting was held today, so we headed off to the Tayih Landis Hotel. Again there were lots of people giving speeches; one guy spoke for 20 minutes. We then had our Umpires meeting. The foreigners were given gifts and we also received our umpire's clothing from Mizuno. We received the schedule for the first day's games – All the Chinese Taipei umpires were written in Chinese, so it was hard to try to get to know them. I made a comment, so Jimmy said that he would write them all in English. That afternoon we had to attend the Opening Ceremony, which they changed the venue to the Town Hall. We had more speeches and lots of talented children playing drums. We

all went out for Chinese dinner and then some of us walked home as the rain had finally stopped. Jimmy was teaching us some Chinese words and he gave us Chinese names. Mine name is Shar Mee Wong (probably not spelt anything like that), which means "Little Bits".

Sunday, July 16 2006

Woke up this morning to the sound of heavy rain again. I had a phone call from Tang and I couldn't work out what he was saying to me, but I knew that he was trying to tell me something. George's room was directly above mine and I heard voices, so I went up there. They actually had invited me in for some Chinese tea, which I had of course. Today's games had been cancelled so we were to be taken a shopping Mall.

The Organizing Committee had a meeting today and it had been decided that we would all have to travel to Kaohsiung, which was 1 ¼ hours drive for us, but it was nearly 2 hours for the teams. It was also decided that we could only play a six-day, single round tournament.

Monday, July 17 2006

When we arrived in Kaohsiung it was dry and very humid. There were only 4 games scheduled for today. Before this game commenced the Chinese Taipei umpires and George were having a pre-game meeting. I was listening and then said "no problems". Someone asked me if I understood what was said. I said "no", but I know what I had to do out there on the diamond.

Japan v South Africa

Hu – Micheal – Diane – Tim

I was in a lather of sweat the whole game due to the humidity. Chris (USA), Ashley (Sth Africa) and I ordered some pizzas for dinner, which were very different to what we would get in Australia, but we still ate them. Jimmy gave us the schedule for tomorrow's games.

Tuesday, July 18 2006

We had a meeting at 9am to inform us that we were playing at Tainan fields. We left the meeting and then all the Chinese Taipei umpires had another meeting.

Japan v Chinese Taipei

Ashley – Diane – Chris – Ngootip

This game went into a tiebreaker. In the bottom of the 8th inning the 3rd base fielder, who was fielding on the line, reached over the foul line and contacted the ball. Ashley indicated a "Fair Ball". The Japan coach was going off his head. This tied the game up again, but we worked out that Ngootip actually indicated "Foul Ball". Just a bit of a stuff up. The game went for 2 ¾ hours. I had a back-to-back.

USA v Japan

Diane – Chen – Micheal - 190

This also was a tight game. I indicated a "Fair Ball" because it bounced inside the 3rd base before then bouncing in foul territory. 190 who was the 3rd base umpire has come up with a roaring "Foul Ball". The USA coach at 3rd base

couldn't believe it and neither could I? I called the umpires in for a conference. The USA coach was telling me that my call was the correct call and it was, but my 3rd base umpire just killed it on me. Unfortunately, I struck the batter out on the next pitch, she wasn't happy. USA won 4-2.

Wednesday, July 19 2006

Thailand v Japan

Jasper – Beer – Leo – Diane

Fairly short game as Japan just had too much talent for Thailand.

When we arrived back home, Chris, Ashley & I went for a walk to see a temple and a street market. The temple is just amazing. The time and effort put into each sculpture is so fascinating.

Thursday, July 20 2006

We left early this morning on a sightseeing tour. Jimmy, Bryan, Lee and a Chinese lady took us to an historic temple and the biggest temple. We were doing all the right things like praying and all that stuff. We also went to a place where they used to fight the battles. Back to the softball.

USA v Chinese Taipei Ngootip – Diane

Oshino – Ashley –

This was a fantastic game with some great turn at bats, great plays and even a ball that bounced on the home run fence twice before going over for a home run. CT won 4-2.



Friday, July 21 2006

I went for a walk this morning to take some photos of the statues along the river.

The Play offs started today. Only 2 games 1 v 2 and 3 v 4.

Chinese Taipei v USA Oshino – Diane – Ashley – Ngootip

CT came out firing again and the USA made too many errors in the field. When I was watching the next game Jimmy called me over and was asking me how the Australian umpires work together regarding the "Fair/Foul Ball" situations. He actually agreed with my theory on this situation. We were taken out for dinner where we were presented with our Photos, Certificate of Participation and the schedule for tomorrow's games.

Saturday, July 22 2006

Prelim Final

USA v Japan

Diane – 190 – Chen – Micheal

Before this game, Bryan asked me if I would like to say anything to my crew. I just asked them not to call "Fair/Foul" unless they have turned to go out. This worked well as we had two very close calls down the baselines. I was mik'd up for this game, which was a bit nervy for a while until I forgot about it. This game went in a tiebreaker.

Japan didn't score in the top of the 8th, and then USA got the runner to third on

a sac bunt. Japan then intentionally walked the next two batters to load the bases. The next USA batter came up and hit through the infield to take the game. Jimmy debriefed us after the game and said that the crew worked well together. They like to check the match balls all the time as soon as it hit's the fence.

Grand Final

Chinese Taipei v USA

Oshino – Ashley – Ngootip – Diane

Another great game. Ngootip at 2nd base

was calling the plays just as they were happening. The USA coach went out to him, not because she was questioning the call, but she wanted him to wait until the play had finished before he gave his decision. He had some close calls. Jimmy and a delegate went out and gave him some water in-between innings and had a quite word with him. Another tiebreaker with the USA winning in the 9th. I had to pack my bags tonight as I was going to stay with the Australian team for the next couple of nights. A Thank You Party was held at the University and there were plenty of acts on stage by the teams and even 3 umpires. The Aussies and I went to a night market after the party. It was a fairly late night, or should I say early morning.



Sunday, July 23 2006

Today we headed off after lunch to a Buddhist Temple. 480 statues all the same in rows, unbelievable. After the Temple we went to a shopping mall for dinner and then headed for the beach for abit of the nightlife. When we arrived home Paula called a meeting in which they presented me with a WUSC2006 flag, which was great.

Monday, July 24 2006

We packed up and we were headed for home today. There was predication of another typhoon coming tonight. We were dropped off at Kaohsiung International Airport where we checked in. Just about all the bags were overweight and Sharon had to do some very smooth talking. They ended up charging us \$4000NT, which was fairly reasonable. We had a bit of a delay with an electrical problem, but in the end we took off. We had approx. 4 ½ hours in Hong Kong Airport and then finally off home.

Tuesday, July 25 2006

Some of the girls didn't clean their cleats and we were held up at Sydney Airport. We missed our flight into Melbourne, so we had to get the next plane. I was just glad to get home after the long trip.

I had a fantastic experience and would recommend it to anybody.

