



July 2013



## National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

Again, July has brought us a busy month of softball, both in Australia and across the globe!

This edition of BNOL brings us reports from the International Friendship Series, hosted by Softball NSW, as well as updates from Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. Congratulations to umpires across the country who have been appointed to State Championship finals, as well as to the award winners from Queensland's recent Awards Dinner.

Congratulations are extended to the members of the recently announced 2014 ISF Umpire Certification Clinic, which will be run in New Zealand. The participants are:

- |                   |     |                  |     |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| • Richard Barrow  | VIC | • Jay Gibson     | NSW |
| • Bridget Cameron | QLD | • Jana McCaskill | QLD |
| • David Casey     | QLD | • Trevor Murphy  | VIC |
| • Kyira Cox       | NSW | • Jesse Smith    | NSW |
| • Leanne Gearside | NSW | • Alex Turnbull  | ACT |

Keep an eye out for next month's edition, which will be filled with updates from recent international events – the X ISF Junior Women's World Championship and the Canadian Open International Fastpitch Championship – as well as those events closer to home, especially the recent U15 Regional Championships, held on the Far North Coast of NSW. To our local and state associations, keep your articles flowing in, so we can share all the umpiring news!

Until next month, good calling!  
Tricia

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# 2013 International Friendship Series

## An umpire's perspective

### **Blacktown, New South Wales - 1 to 5 July 2013**

As an attendee of a previous Friendship Series as a learning coach, I was keen to see what happens on the other side of the game – from the umpire's perspective...

#### **Pre-tournament...**

TCU Leanne Gearside along with Mentors – Vicki Lansley, Kevin Tannebring (KT) and Kevin Offer were instantly welcoming and supportive of all those participating in this wonderful learning and development opportunity.

In line with the development focus – arrangements had been made for the video recording of many matches, and with a mentor on each game for the week – a massive undertaking by the leadership group, but one that was appreciated by all involved.

Although many were travelling (planes, trains and automobiles) from various States and overseas blues, plans were made for a pre-tournament meeting and dinner to discuss the rules of the week and as a general get to know each other opportunity on the Sunday night. A good night of laughs was had, even if the restaurant hosts didn't always understand us at times!! ☺

#### **Tournament statistics**

Over the week the umpires covered 64 games, all with three umpire rotation with 24 full time and part time umpires participating. Games commenced at 10.00am each morning and concluded at 8.00pm.

#### **Tournament time....**

The morning of the first matches, the umpiring group was welcomed by Harvey Milson Tournament Director, with a friendly reminder of what the tournament was all about – friendship and junior softball development. With Harvey's best wishes, bat checks complete, key focusses from the leadership group were provided to get everyone off to a positive beginning.

These positive focusses and key learnings were to be the continuing theme throughout the week – as local umpires, giving up time around work commitments joined the group, all were provided feedback on their individual and team performances on the diamond. The feedback, both positive and constructive, provided everyone with the opportunity to immediately implement their learnings and improve their on-ground performances.

It is difficult to describe the amount of work that was put into the mentoring and support provided by Leanne, Vicki and the two Kevin's as this certainly did not finish when we left the grounds each evening. With all mentors staying at the visiting umpires accommodation (although for some this was further from the grounds than their own homes!), they continued to make themselves available to discuss the day's activities and provide valuable off diamond support. This was greatly appreciated by all involved.

In addition to the umpiring and game play, it would be remiss to not highlight the wonderful program support offered by all those volunteers, parents and staff of Softball NSW. The statisticians were a pleasure to work with and a valuable source of information to all; the coaches were supportive and understanding (even if they didn't always like our calls); the grounds people did an amazing job to get the diamonds into playable condition after the previous week's rain and turned them over between games with amazing efficiency; the canteen options and friendly staff were excellent; and the parents who came along to support their young athletes were also very supportive of our efforts – it was all great to see.

Not looking to single any one person out but a special note should also be given to one of our very talented up and coming umpires and sports photographer in 14 year old Tom Ryan – an amazing unassuming young man who has a very exciting future ahead of him. Keep an eye out...

Congratulations to all involved.

### **Grand Final Appointments:**

The males were first up for their grand final with Australia Gold playing Australia Navy. Haydyn Wood was appointed to the plate, with Dale Kaimoana at first base and Kevin Tannerbring at third base.



Photo: L to R Kevin Tannerbring, Haydyn Wood and Dale Kaimoana



Photo: L to R Jacqui Crafter, Rob McIntosh and Alan Brown

The female grand final shortly followed with Australia Gold playing NSW Metro. Rob McIntosh was appointed to the plate, Jacqui Crafter first base and Alan Brown to third base.

### **Post tournament...**

The words of wisdom from those young and experienced have firmed in our minds, noting that our learnings come from all different avenues of the game if we are open to them. The videos and condensed notes which will come, forming our pathways forward will be watched and read, watched and read, practiced and solidified until the next time we step onto the diamond and give our all. We will all be better for the experience.

Happy calling  
Writer Jacqui Crafter



### 2013 International Friendship Series Umpiring Crew

Front (L-R): Thomas Sutomo (NSW), Rhett Eldred (NSW), Katrina Bulmer (NSW), Leanne Gearside (TCU), Lyn Moncaster (NSW), Narelle McIntosh (NSW), James Townsend (NSW)  
Middle (L-R): Dale Kaimoana (QLD), Rhonda Rowe (VIC), Lucy James (VIC), Bob Jones (NZ), Jacqui Crafter (SA), Vicki Lansley (Mentor), Brianne Watt (NSW), Rob McIntosh (NSW)  
Back (L-R); Tom Ryan (NSW), David Crowe (NSW), Haydyn Wood (NSW), Kevin Offer (Mentor), Kevin Tannebring (Mentor), Colin Tutt (NSW), Alan Brown (NSW)

# Queensland

## Softball Queensland Awards Dinner

### **Mercure Hotel, Brisbane – 6 July 2013**

Softball Queensland held their annual awards dinner in July to celebrate the past 12 months success for Softball Queensland's players, representatives, scorers, umpires and volunteers.

Before announcing the umpiring award winners, we must firstly congratulate Darren Sibraa who was (to his surprise) inducted as a Queensland Softball Life Member

As a snapshot of Darren's service to the sport, Darren has been performed in a voluntary capacity and has entailed many hours of dedication.

#### Queensland Administrator

- From 2002/03 to currently: Umpiring Committee Member
- From 2003/04 to currently: State Director of Umpiring/Chair UTD

#### Queensland Umpire

- Umpire at State Championships in excess of 12 years.
- UIC or Examiner at State Championships since 2002 at times holding these positions in multiple championships in the same year
- Umpire at Southern Cross Challenge 2008
- UIC at Southern Cross Challenge in 2010 and 2013
- Facilitator at annual Umpiring Forum
- Umpire at SQI Masters Tournament
- Umpire at South Brisbane Club Classic which is used for umpire development purposes since 2005
- Conducts training programs for umpires throughout the State
- Mentor umpire to umpires through his home association

#### Other Achievements

- 2000/01 gained Level 3 Umpire accreditation
- 2001/02 gained Level 4 Umpire accreditation
- 2003 gained Level 5 Umpire accreditation
- 2005 gained Level 6 Umpire accreditation
- 2009 awarded Level 7 International Umpire accreditation
- 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013 QSA/SQI Tricia Bichel Umpire of the Year Award
- 2007 QSA Service award
- 2009/10 Received Certificate for Service to the Australian & International Umpiring programs
- 2010-11 Finalist Qld Officiator of the Year - Qld Sport Awards
- 2010 SAL Service Award

Now to the umpiring award - a big congratulations to all umpires who were nominated for each award category, regrettably, there can only be one winner.

## Tricia Bichel Umpire of the Year

The Tricia Bichel Umpire of the Year award is bestowed to a Queensland umpire whose contribution and representation has been an outstanding as an umpiring representing the State for the last 12 months.

The nominees were:

- Stephen Gutteridge
- Yvonne Kahler
- Darren Sibraa
- Norelle Thomas

The winner: Darren Sibraa.



Photo: Tricia Sibraa presenting her sponsored award to Darren Sibraa



Photo: Samuel Bent being presented by Darren Sibraa

## Junior Umpire of the Year

The Junior Umpire of the Year is an award that recognises juniors whose commitment to umpiring and umpiring development has been outstanding in the last 12 months.

The nominees were:

- Samuel Bent
- Isaac Smith

The winner: Samuel Bent

## District Association Development Award

The District Association Development Award recognises the commitment from a District Association to the development or enhancement of umpires within their association. The nominee was Redland District Association.

The winner: Redlands District Association. Through the leadership of Norelle Thomas, the Redlands District Umpiring Association has grown in its ranks over the last couple of years which genuinely recognises the umpiring leadership at this District Association. Well done Redlands' umpires.



Photo: Norelle Thomas accepting the Redlands District Development Award being presented by Darren Sibraa

# Victoria

## Victorian Masters - Bendigo 8 – 10 June 2013

The Victorian Masters was held in Bendigo this year – a nice leisurely drive from Melbourne. A new sporting precinct was utilised this year at Epsom just north of Bendigo. The change rooms were new and spacious - clean when we arrived and not so much when we left as we had to deal with a bit of mud.

Great new fields but a few tricky situations where umpires had to deal with really close back-nets and diamonds unusually positioned with team benches on the same side of the diamond.

TCU Deb Keogh and Deputy Rhonda Scammell once again coordinated a varied group of umpires for the event. Some new faces were seen and it was particularly awesome to welcome back Aaron Wallace into the fold.

It was great to see the new umpires being mentored by the more experienced umpires with some insightful feedback given.

The level of competition was once again at its best with Victorian Masters State bragging rights up for grabs. Between the Men's and Women's competition it was an excellent chance for umpires to practice their field movements, calls, game management and teamwork.

The weather for the weekend was surprisingly good – with a little ice on the diamonds for the first time slot then warming up during the day. It was winter after all so a little chilliness was to be expected, and as Deb always suggests, everyone was well prepared for any weather situation.

We even had one umpire continuing to call balls and strikes on a badly bruised and swollen “cankle” - ouch.

Lots of cakes and yummy goodies were supplied over the weekend – thanks all. This ensured that all the umpires were happy and were able to go and umpire on full bellies and with a smile on their face!!

Another great weekend of laughs and friendship within the umpire group – both young and old. Brett and Stuart enjoyed a Sunday night excursion back to Melbourne to go to the footy at Etihad to see the Eagles win in a cliff hanger – just to cap off the weekend.

See-ya next year fellow umpires - we always enjoy our time spent at chilly Vic Masters.

Writers: Stuart Tyler and Brett Tyler



Photo: Stuart Tyler's right ankle

# New South Wales

## Preparation pays off for Tom

14-year-old Tom Ryan isn't afraid of a challenge, which is a good thing, because on the weekend he stood tall amongst adults as one of the youngest umpires at the Softball NSW U17 State Championships at Southern Districts.

Tom's umpiring journey started six years ago when he was sitting on the sidelines watching his sister play club softball at Hornsby. Local UIC Adrian Rampoldi noticed the quiet, young boy sitting there playing on his phone and encouraged him to give the Junior Blues program a go – and as they say, the rest is history.

Receiving his Level Two accreditation earlier this year, Tom committed most of his school holidays to plying his trade in preparation for his first appearance at the U17 State Championships. "I've been working hard on my umpiring at North Shore during the winter competition, as well as umpiring at NIB Games and the Friendship Series during the holidays," Tom said.

"It was an unbelievable experience to work with the different crews at the Friendship Series. I was umpiring with NSW and interstate umpires and they all taught me something new, as did the players. The experience I gained from both of those events was fantastic so by the time 17s came around I was confident in my ability to be able to umpire at that level."

At only 14, you could forgive him for feeling nervous or overawed by the situations that may have confronted him at the U17 State Championships, but with the support of the crew Tom flourished.

"You have to think and act older or more mature – it's all about earning respect," he said.

"The crew was great all weekend; they gave me lots of positive feedback and were really supportive.

"There were times when it was challenging on the diamond, but with the experiences I had from NIB Games and the Friendship Series I felt like I was in a better position to manage situations with the help of the crew."

Congratulations to the following umpires on their Grand Final appointments:

**Softball NSW U17 Girl's State Championship** - Hornsby (8) defeated Manly (6)

P: Robert McIntosh (Hawkesbury)  
1B: James Townsend (North Shore)  
3B: Krissi Travers (Cumberland Nepean)



Photo: L to R James Townsend, Robert McIntosh and Krissi Travers



**Softball NSW U17 Boy's State  
Championship**

Macarthur (6) defeated Penrith City (1)

P: George Norrish (Newcastle)  
1B: Paul Bourke (Southern Districts)  
3B: Andrew Compton (Cumberland Nepean)

Images courtesy of: Tom Ryan Photography



Photo: L to R Paul Bourke, George Norrish and Andrew Compton