



National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

Over the winter softball season, we have seen Jason Carter (Vic) return from the ISF 10th Junior Men's World Championship, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada – read about Jason's experiences in this edition. Leigh Evans (Vic) has recently returned from the 14th ISF Women's World Championships, Haarlem, Netherlands. Leigh's report will be in the next edition. I'm sure we all agree, it was fantastic to watch all 76 streamed live games – thank you ISF.

The Technical Directorate has been very busy completing the 2014-2017 SAL Rule Book which will be available on-line. Stay tuned for when this become available. Thank you to Leigh Evans, Alan McAuliffe, Daren Sibraa, Amanda Houison and Debbie Grove for their much hard work, dedication and countless hours devoted to producing our rule book.

The Australian Sports Commission has recently accredited the National Umpiring Level 3/4 program, which includes the Participants' and Presenters' manuals.

All Australian umpires are in preparation for a bigger summer season of softball, as some states have already commenced their State Championships, State Leagues or Club competitions. See the calendar of events on the following page.

Amanda Houison and Bridget Cameron have recently resigned from their National portfolios, and I would like to acknowledge their tremendous work. Amanda and Bridget made a significant contribution in their respective communication portfolios. Bridget worked on many projects, and regularly compiled state reports for inclusion into BNOL, while Amanda coordinated BNOL, and as one of the four National UICs was heavily involved in strategic planning of the National Umpiring Program.

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Calendar of Events

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| The Switch Money Ball competition | 10-12 October, Ipswich, Queensland |
| Pan Pacific Games - Masters | 1-8 November, Gold Coast, Queensland |
| Canberra Fastpitch Skins Tournament | 5-7 December, Hawker, ACT |
| ISF14 th Men's Softball World Championship Qualifier - Oceania | 11-14 December, Auckland, New Zealand |
| SAL National Championships | 4-23 January, 2015 |
| John Reid Open Men's National Championship | 3-7 March, 2015 Redlands, Queensland |
| Laing Harrow and Joyce Lester Under 23 National Championships | 24-27 April, 2015, Redlands, Queensland |
| Australia Cup | 14-16 May, 2015 Blacktown, New South Wales |
| ISF 14 th Men's World Championships | 26 June – 5 July, 2015 Saskatoon, Sk, Canada |
| Scotiabank Canadian Open International Fastpitch Championships | 4-13 July, 2015 Surrey, BC. Canada |
| 2015 Pacific Games | 10-17 July, 2105 Port Moresby, PNG |
| ISF 11 th Junior Women's Softball Championship | 7-18 August, 2015 Oklahoma City, OK. USA |
| ISF 15 th Women's World Championships | 15-24 July, 2016 Surrey, BC. Canada |
| ISF 11 th Junior Men's World Championships | Dates TBD Midland, MI. USA |
| 9 th World Masters Games | 21-30 April, 2017 Auckland, NZ |
| ISF 12 th Junior Women's World Championships | 24-30 July, 2017 Clearwater, Fl. USA |
| ISF 15 th Men's World Championships | Dates TBD Whitehorse, Yukon. Canada |

Xth ISF Junior Men's World Softball Championships

Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada – Jason Carter

The email from Tricia Sibraa asking for nominations to attend the Junior Men's Worlds came out on 3rd January. Following my application and a subsequent interview over the phone, I was advised in February that I'd been selected. I felt incredibly honoured and nervous at the same time.

Over the coming weeks, I was contacted by Kylie Bloodworth (SAL) and Bob Stanton (ISF) to get sizes for uniforms, organise travel and a myriad of other details. The umpire team was:



(Back L-R) David Hardage (USA), Terry Richter (Canada), Vladimir Liss (Czech Republic), Casey Waite (USA), Scott McLaren (Canada), Thomas Lohnert (Germany), Bob Gieskens (Netherlands), Abel Chapa Benevides (Mexico), Jason Carter (Australia)

Front (L-R) Gavin Shepherd (NZ), Larry Tait (USA), Abel Mataboge (Botswana),
DUIC: Julie Johnson (USA), UIC: Bob Stanton (Canada), DUIC: Jeff Whipple (Canada), Daryl Helmer (Canada), Motoichi Ueda (Japan)

I was very busy at work and the time flew until it was only a week to go until we were to depart. My team uniform arrived and it was pretty cool to finally try on the Aussie tracksuit.

The day finally arrived when I was due to leave and I was feeling excited and nervous.

Thursday 26/6 – Mon 7/7

We boarded our Air Canada flight at around 11:20am. The team was spread around the plane and I was happy to get a window seat. The flight was nearly 14 hours, which I spent either napping, watching movies, listening to music or reading. Was very happy when we landed at around 9am local on Friday 27th (Vancouver being 17 hours behind).

We collected our people movers and packed the gear in, then headed to our accommodation at BCU (British Columbia University). What a beautiful campus! I got room 670 which included a single bed, desk and cupboard.

Over the next week, the Colts played against a number of local teams and took part in a couple of tournaments. I tagged along and umpired many of their games, which was a great opportunity in the lead-up to the Worlds. Overall, I umpired around 20 games. I made a heap of new friends and was honoured to finally meet the famous Bob “Henner” Henning.

Monday 7/7

Left for the airport at 8:15am. Kind of sad to say goodbye to Vancouver and our accommodation at UBC. Got to the airport around 8:45am and had one of the smoothest check-ins for such a large group yet. We were all checked in by 9:30am and were free to roam the Vancouver Domestic Airport until our flight was ready to board at around 11:30am. The scenery from 30,000ft was spectacular.

Once in Whitehorse, I spent the next couple of days acclimatising to the 22hrs per day of daylight and doing some sight seeing. I moved into the umpires’ accommodation on the Wednesday.

Thursday 10/7

The crew met at the Klondike Inn for bat checks and the technical meeting. I was allocated to team 1 (of 2). It was the first time I’d seen a bat compression tester (see *photo to right*) and was able to see it in action.



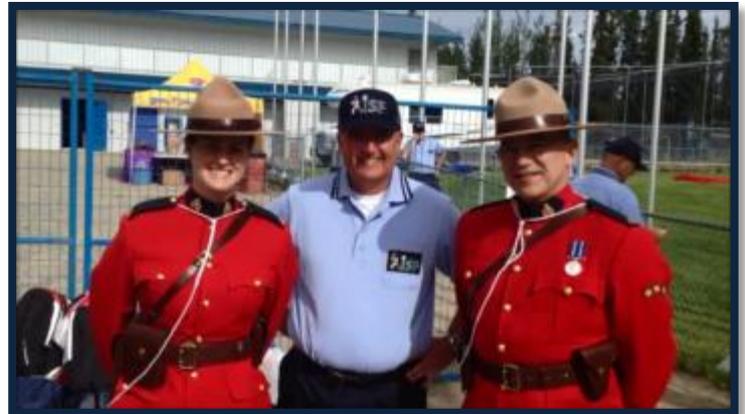
Following the technical meeting at 10:30am, we went to Pepsi Stadium and up to the umpires’ room to receive our uniforms. This was a pretty exciting time for everyone as it was the first tangible event that said, “You’ve made it!” I was very lucky that all my gear fit well.

Friday 11/7 – Championships Day 1

Day one of the championships and everyone was really excited for it to start. First game was at 12:30 with Singapore playing Japan. My allocations were attending to the pitch clock (see photo to left) on the Argentina vs. Mexico game at 1:30pm. It was my first time operating the clock so I had a practice on the spare diamond. Pretty simple controls – Start, stop and reset buttons. The only tricky part is resetting the clock at the right time and using the plate umpire's signals as a cue also.



The opening ceremony started at 5:30pm and was a terrific experience. The organisers did a great job and had obviously put a lot. The whole ceremony was completed in half an hour. We then got a team photo with two RCMP Mounties, which was pretty cool!



My first on-diamond game was on 1st base on the show game – Canada vs. Czech Republic at 7:30pm. There was a huge local crowd to see the home team play and I was a little nervous until the first pitch was thrown. I blocked out the crowd and got “in the zone”. No nerves after that and I thoroughly enjoyed the game. Canada won the game and the crowd was well pleased about that.

Saturday 12/7 – Championships Day 2



My schedule for today was 3rd base on the Singapore vs. Denmark game at 4pm and the plate at 7:30pm for Canada vs. Argentina.

The first game was very even and the lead changed several times. In the end, Denmark scored a run to take the win 8-7 in the bottom of the 7th. Unfortunately, the game went 2.5hrs, which gave little time for a break before my plate.

Again, I was a little nervous before my plate. That quickly changed to excitement when the teams and umpires were announced and it was game on.

Sunday 13/7 – Championships Day 3

The allocations were kind to me again – another late start and a bit of an easier day with a 2nd base on Mexico vs. Japan at 4pm and the clock on Singapore vs. Argentina at 6:30pm. That game saw the first time violation, so the batter got an extra ball. Each night, Bob allocated umpires to create the social activity. Tonight was Oceania, Botswana and Japan (myself, Gavin Shepherd, Able Mataboge and Moto Ueda). I tried to find some Aussie or NZ beer but there was none to be had in Whitehorse. So I bought some Stella Artois and stuck home-made labels on the beer for Fosters, XXXX, VB and Speights. I organised a game of Celebrity Head where I wrote the names of famous Australians on 3 hats and put them on Bob, Julie and Jeff. They weren't able to guess the names so we had to give them huge clues. In the end Bob picked Crocodile Dundee, Jeff picked Hugh Jackman and Julie never did guess Kylie Minogue.

Monday 14/7 – Championship Day 4

My first game was on 1st base for USA vs. Mexico. Both teams needed a win and fought desperately. Scores were tied after 7. USA kept Mexico scoreless in the top and then scored in the bottom.

My second game was 3rd base on Canada vs. NZ. This was, again, a hard fought game with NZ winning 12-6 in the end. NZ performed the Haka at the start and the crowd wasn't disappointed. The stands were full and there were people all around the home run fence. The noise from the cheering was incredible and there was a great atmosphere. It was a great experience to umpire in front of such a large crowd. This game also went for nearly 2.5hrs – but it was quality ball and I loved every second.

Tuesday 15/7 – Championship Day 5

Had a fantastic day today with two ripper games! First game was on the plate for New Zealand vs. Japan at midday. Japan was expected to win but NZ came out strong and won.

The second game was on 2nd base for New Zealand vs. Argentina. It was pretty much a straight up and down game. In the last game of the night, Australia won their game over Canada, which surprised a few people, especially the Canadian team.

Wednesday 16/7 – Championship Day 6

Thomas Lohnert and I were interviewed by CBC Yukon local radio at the park. We talked about our umpiring experience and what attributes are needed to be a good umpire. Something a bit different to start the day!

First game was 1st base on Singapore vs. USA. Game 2 was more serious as it affected the placings - Argentina vs. Japan with me on 3rd base. Argentina ground out an 8-1 win in the 7th. Pretty straight up and down game in the end.

Thursday 17/7 – Championship Day 7

Had an early start today – Gavin Shepherd, Bob Gieskens, and I had booked a 2.5hr seaplane tour of the Yukon. We arrived at 8am and took off about 20mins later. The flight was awesome, taking in the glaciers, pristine lakes and incredible scenery. We stopped for 1/2hr in Bennett and took in the local area. After taking off, we headed back to Whitehorse.

I headed to the ballpark at 2pm for a 4pm game on 1st base with New Zealand and Singapore. I expected it to be a fairly short game but Singapore put up a fight and we went the full 7 innings.

My second game was Canada vs. Japan on the plate at 7:30pm. There was (again) a large crowd and it was a brilliant experience to call the balls and strikes. The game went really well with no issues. Japan ended up winning the game 7-0 with a walk off home run in the bottom of the 6th.

Friday 18/7 – Championship Day 8

Bill, our liaison, picked us up at 9am to do some shopping in Main St. Spent the most time shopping I think I've done for a long time! Managed to get some cool stuff for Kelly and the kids at Paradise Alley. I bought a few things for myself, too.

Had a 1st base on the Canada vs. Singapore game. Even though it was a pretty “standard” game, it still managed to go for 2.5hrs.

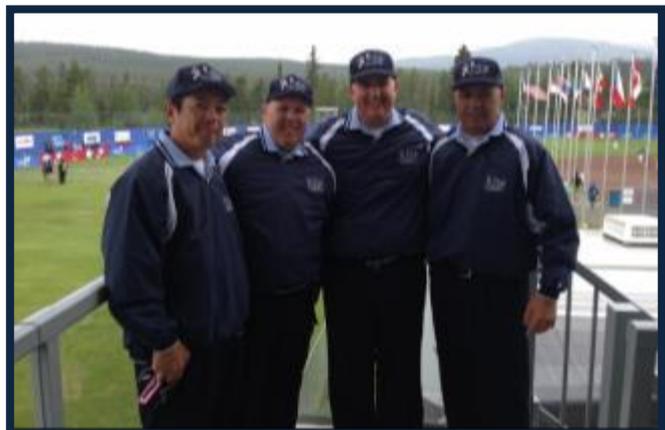
Saturday 19/7 – Championship Day 9

Picked up our allocations at 9am – I had a clock on the Singapore vs Canada game and 1st base on Mexico vs. Canada. Both games were pretty much straight up and down with no issues.

Unfortunately, the Colts lost their game against Japan, which secured them 4th place in the Championships. I was disappointed for them but proud of what they'd achieved.

Sunday 20/7 – Championship Day 10

The final day of the championship had finally arrived. We all met in the lobby at 9am to receive our allocations. I was allocated to the 2pm Consolation Final on 1st base between the USA and Mexico that would determine 5th and 6th position. Both teams fought hard but USA eventually won in 7 innings. The most notable thing that happened on the game was the number of timeouts that the coaches requested to make substitutions as both coaches wanted as many players as possible to take the field.



Monday 21/7

Packing was a pain in the bum. Having to fit what I brought over as well as the new kit we received at the tournament on top of the goodies I bought throughout the trip was an ordeal.

The flight from Whitehorse to Vancouver was 2.5hrs. We then had about 6 hours to kill before the long 15-hour flight back to Sydney. Another 4 hours saw me land back in Melbourne.

I arrived at around 2:30pm on Wednesday 23rd to be greeted by my wife and kids. It was a wonderful feeling to see my family after so long! We had a great time catching up and I'm happy to say that Kelly and the kids loved their gifts!

The next day, I got up early and went to work. It felt strange after living the dream for 4 weeks to go back to the daily grind but it doesn't take long to climb back in the saddle!

In closing...

I feel very honoured and fortunate to have been given such a unique experience. I'd like to thank Softball Australia for the opportunity to represent my country and the umpiring program at the championships. It reinforces my opinion that we have one of the best umpiring programs in the world that prepares us very well for the international stage.

I'd also like to thank the Colts team management – Wayne Saunders, Fabian Barlow, Wess Frances and Sue Tomlinson – for making me feel welcome and a part of the team.

I couldn't umpire without the support of my wife and family. Thank you, Kelly, for supporting me over the years and for allowing me to pursue my dreams.

My respect and thanks is extended to the umpires in Australia who have provided guidance, training, support and a kick up the backside when needed. To Werribee Softball Association who provided support, encouragement and a terrific sporting atmosphere – thank you!

Finally, I'd like to thank the Aussie Colts who represented our country so well and are a great bunch of guys to boot. They trained hard, played hard and laughed harder as only Aussies can and they allowed me to feel a part of the team.

The championship is over but I will never forget my experience. I hope that I can inspire and help others achieve their ambitions so they, too, can feel the tremendous pride and excitement of representing their country as I have.

Victoria

Victorian Umpires awarded at State Dinner 2014

The annual Softball Victoria State Dinner was held on the 17 May at Moonee Valley Racing Club to recognise the achievements of the Victorian Softball community over the past year. State Director of Umpiring, Richard Barrow presented certificates of recognition to all fourteen Victorian umpires that performed at National Championships this year. Richard acknowledged Phil Waller, who travelled to Canada last year to the ISF Junior Women's World Championship, and also wished a further two of our umpires well, as they head overseas to umpire at upcoming ISF World Championships; Jason Carter to Junior Men's Worlds in Canada in July, and Leigh Evans to Women's Worlds in the Netherlands in August. Richard finished his presentation by thanking all umpires for the time and commitment they have given to servicing our sport.

Leigh Evans made a further presentation to our recent successful ISF candidates and outlined for the audience the path that these umpires followed to reach this goal; Trevor Murphy and Richard Barrow received their cap, pin and certificate from the International Softball Federation.



Photo: Richard Barrow, Leigh Evans and Trevor Murphy

Margo Koskelainen then came to the stage to make the presentation of the annual award of umpire recognition and achievement:

“The Margo Koskelainen Victorian Umpire of the Year award recognises an umpire for their high level of officiating skill and commitment to the Victorian and National Umpiring Programs. The nominees this year are Richard Barrow and Trevor Murphy. This year's recipient is Richard Barrow:



Photo: Richard Barrow and Margo Koskelainen

Richard has been involved with the Victorian Umpires Committee for a number of years, and is the current State Director of Umpiring. This year's highlights on-diamond include successful attainment of ISF certification, umpiring at the NZ Open Nationals, allocation as grand final base umpire at the U19 Men's Nationals, and officiating the grand final plate on the B-grade Men's State Championships. Off-diamond Richard has successfully applied for

and received a government grant to fund the 'green shirt program' which has now been successfully rolled out at five associations.

He spends countless hours coordinating the state umpire program to ensure that the umpiring program in Victoria continues to support umpires of all levels - from school sport and beginner level through to international. Nationally Richard assists in writing the Basic Umpire Exam and the community umpire manual. Congratulations Richard."

Later in the evening, a special presentation was made by SAL board Director Helen Langenberg to induct Debbie Grove into the Softball Australia Hall Of Fame.

"Debbie Grove becomes the 8th umpire in history to be inducted into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame, joining fellow Victorian umpires, Margo Koskelainen and the late Vivienne Triplett. This is a remarkable achievement not only for the Victorian Umpiring program, but the National Umpiring Program.

After over 25 years involvement in softball including reaching the pinnacle of umpiring, an Olympic Games, Debbie is definitely a worthy inductee into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame. Debbie has been umpiring internationally for the past 16 years, officiating at five ISF World Championships and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games with fellow Victorian Diane Waller. Her achievement of six major international events is unheralded in the national umpiring program. This is certainly testament to her ability.



Photo: Helen Langenberg and Debbie Grove

Nationally, Debbie has umpired for the past 22 years at National Championships since her first tournament in 1991. Her contribution to national championships is not only on the field but also as a Tournament Umpire in Chief, Examiner and Mentor. Debbie has been on the National Umpiring Committee since 2009, with the responsibility of the Development Portfolio. Debbie has contributed so much time and effort into all aspects of the sport and is a worthy recipient to be inducted into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame.

Her ability to help umpires feel relaxed and confident makes Debbie a valuable member of the umpire crew.”

This magnificent achievement received a standing ovation from the room, following a short and heartfelt acceptance speech from Debbie.

Victorian Under 19 Championships 2014

A very wet day in February saw the running of this year’s Under 19 Victorian State Championships. Held on Sunday February 16th, the Championship had it all: challenges due to weather, two candidates under assessment, a tight schedule, ambulance attendance and some fantastic softball. Twelve umpires officiated in thirty-eight allocations ensuring a terrific tournament for all participants.

The umpires were housed within the cricket pavilion which provided ample room to get changed, kitchen facilities, male and female toilets and privacy for crew discussions and administration work. Water coolers and tea/coffee facilities were provided which was welcomed by all. Maryanne Tyler made a cake for the umpires, which was very much appreciated by all.

The weekend saw Jono Sassella and Alex Van Kesteren, both from Albury-Wodonga, kick off their journey towards their Level 3 Accreditation. The standard and commitment to umpiring was evident, not only from the candidates but from all the umpires on display.



Level 3 candidate: Alex Van Kesteren



Level 3 candidate: Jono Sassella

Joining the successful candidates on the diamond was a small crew that included the management team lead by Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) Jason Carter, Deputy TCU Kevin Broomhall and TAO Debbie Grove. Across the day the games experienced some particularly poor weather conditions that challenged both players and umpires. Even with this spectacular weather the tournament organisers still managed to get all the games in with the finals being played in wonderful sunshine.

Despite the conditions and tight schedule throughout, the day was very enjoyable, especially considering the candidates later success at the Open Championships.

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

Men's Final Crew – Casey (7) defeated Albury (0)

Plate: Brett Tyler
1st Base: Stuart Tyler
3rd Base: David Addlem

Women's Final Crew – Waverly (11) defeated Albury (1)

Plate: Richard Dodds
1st Base: Stan Tolmie
3rd base: Ken Evans

Victorian Under 12 Spectacular 2014

Earlier this year, the Victorian Softball program saw the annual Under 12 Spectacular run on February 23rd at the Sunshine and Frankston Associations, followed by a playoff series on March 2nd at the Glen Eira Association. The tournament, for Girls and Boys, provides an opportunity for our younger junior participants (players, umpires, coaches and scorers) to be involved in a state-wide Club competition.

This year's tournament saw a massive increase in Umpire numbers with over 28 Learner Umpires across the three venues. With so many first-time Umpires there was also a need for umpire trainers to help provide guidance and assistance to this wide-range of rookies. The support team included fifteen senior umpires, some providing mentoring and training for the first time.

The first day saw the umpire crews rotate between off-diamond training to cover the umpiring basics and on-diamond experience with most of the umpires getting an opportunity to do at least one plate and a base or a multiple of each. Overall, the day was a great learning experience for all the new umpires.

The second day which was the finals saw a smaller selection of the umpire who performed well on the first day come back to support the playoff series at Glen Eira. The finals crew was Aaron Wendleborn, Sasha McMorran, Christina Babinsky, Zara Hogan, Ben Landt and Hana Barbaro. It was a great effort from this group who backed up from the first weekend and excelled both on and off the diamond.

The Umpire management crew who assisted with mentoring and support on the playoff day included Jenny Joynson, Heather Watts and Ken Evans all of whom had their first taste of being part of a management team.

The feedback from the teams and participants was great with one of the team managers providing the following feedback; 'the junior umpires all need to be commended as they did a fantastic job. Some of them were real standouts. The mentors also need a big thankyou as they did a great job guiding the green shirts without putting them down or discouraging them. As a system I felt this worked really well and hope that the kids who gave it a go on the weekend stick with it.'

Queensland

Queensland Softball Awards Dinner

The Queensland's Awards Dinner (commonly known as The Ozcars) is an annual Queensland award ceremony honouring Queensland's softball. The 6th Award ceremony, presented by Queensland Softball took place 12 July 2014, in Hollywood, Los Angeles beginning at 7:00pm. Of course our normal guests of J. D (Johnny Depp), Brad Pitt, Hanksie, Smithy (Will) just to name a few along with many others were all their in anticipation to taking seeing who would take out the prestigious awards.

Award Categories were as follows;

1. Queensland Junior Umpire of the year
Finalist were:
 - Joshua Hartwig – Hervey Bay
 - Nikita Ireland – Redlands
 - Jason Rogers – Logan City
2. District Association contribution to umpire Award
Finalist were:
 - Maryborough SA
 - Redlands SA
3. Queensland Umpire of the Year
Finalist were:
 - Sam Bent – Logan City
 - Graeme Love – Mackay
 - Norelle Thomas – Redlands

And the winners were:

Queensland Junior Umpire of the Year – Joshua Hartwig

Joshua has been umpiring for 8 years and is currently a Level 2. Joshua takes on a great deal of responsibility for a young umpire. As Hervey Bays DA Umpiring Coordinator, he ensures the development of other local umpires, he is Hervey Bay representative at this year's umpiring forum and he fulfills umpiring duties at State and regional titles.



Photo: Joshua Hartwig

On top of this Joshua maintains a commitment to playing at a high standard and is currently representing Australia at the ISF Junior Mens World Championship in Canada. Joshua was in Canada during the Award Dinner and was not able to accept his award. Congratulations Joshua, you are a future softball player and umpire to watch.

District Association contribution to Umpire award - Maryborough Softball Association

In recent years Maryborough has introduced and maintained the “Red Shirt “ and mentoring program. This has seen a growth in their umpiring numbers and created an environment where junior umpires can work and develop with confidence. Some of these junior umpires are already progressing to state and regional events where their performance is notable

The Tricia Bichel Award – Queensland Umpire of the Year – Norelle Thomas



Photo: Norelle Thomas and Tricia Sibraa

Norelle has been an active umpire in Queensland for 20 years and is currently the DA Umpiring coordinator for Redlands and during summer she helps out with umpiring in Brisbane. In winter she travels to Wynnum to help their umpires in Saturdays. Norelle is a regular at State Championships and this year achieved her level 6 accreditation at the Open Women’s National Championship. Norelle is assisting with the development of a new candidates’ manual as part of the national

development, and at junior State Championships mentors junior umpires by working with them on the diamond and providing feedback.

Congratulations to all of our finalists and winners.

A very special award was also presented on the night. Tricia Sibraa was presented with her Softball Australia Life Member Award.



Photo: Tricia Sibraa receiving her SAL Life Member Award

In February 2014, Queensland umpires David Casey, Bridget Cameron and Jana McCaskill were successful in obtaining their ISF umpiring accreditation. David Casey was presented his ISF hat during the awards.

Bridget and Jana are currently residing in Edinburgh, Scotland and have been umpiring in London and Birmingham, England and Mainz, Germany. While Bridget and Jana could not make the awards dinner, Bridget said 'Jana and I are truly grateful for the support by the wider Queensland Softball community and our fellow Queensland blues. Without that support, we would have never achieved this great honour'.

Congratulations David, Bridget and Jana. Well done.



Photo: Tricia Sibraa and David Casey

Australian Capital Territory

One ACT Umpire shines

For a lot of ACT Umpires, 2013-14 was a good season, but for one umpire in particular, Mark Gallagher, 2013-14 was a great season. In recognition of this Mark was officially named the ACT Umpire of the Year by the ACT State Director Alex Turnbull.



Photo: Mark Gallagher

Mark umpired at numerous tournaments during the season, including the Canberra Skins in December, the Australia Day Carnival in January and the Waverley Carnival in April. Mark umpires in the NSW State League each year and was appointed to the Plate for the ACT Open Women's A Grade Grand Final.

Mark was also awarded life Membership of the Softball Umpires Association of the ACT earlier this year. Mark umpired at the U17 Boys Nationals in Canberra in early January, leading up to the big one, the U19 Men's and Women's Nationals in Canberra, again in January, where Mark was assessed for, and successfully gained his Level 6 accreditation.

Congratulations Mark on a great year and congratulations on your Level 6. A fantastic achievement.