



# Blues News On-Line

[www.umpiring.softball.org.au](http://www.umpiring.softball.org.au)

June Qtr edition 2011



## National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

### **Australian Umpires attending overseas events**

Helen Strauss and Yvonne Kahler have been selected to umpire at the ISF IX Junior Women's World Championship in December 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa. They will be travelling with the Aussie Pride team to Perth who will take part in a 2-day camp leading up to the Championship.

Howard Watt is currently touring with the Open Women's Team at the Canadian Open International Women's Fastpitch Championship which runs from 9-17 July, and he will follow onto the VI World Cup of Softball in the USA from 21-25 July.

### **National Activities**

Kevin Broomhall was appointed and has now completed an umpire training course in Tasmania on July 2 & 3 in Launceston.

Leigh Evans attended the Youth Cup and conducted a presentation on the pitching rules to umpires, coaches and players.

### **National Umpiring Committee**

The National Umpire Committee has scheduled quarterly meetings and you can read the summary later in this newsletter of our first meeting.

On the weekend of Friday May 27 the NUC met in Melbourne to have face to face discussions with SAL Management and between themselves. Key issues on the agenda were the Umpires Code, umpire levies, the fourth UIC – Communication and Membership position, umpire training, the Youth Cup, the Under 15 Regional Championships and a review of last year's Australian Championships. A summary of the wide ranging and productive meeting follows.

The Umpires Code was reviewed, drafting amendments, formatting job descriptions and umpire tournament selection criteria as attachments were completed.

# NUIC Meeting

Sue Noble, GM SAL, then met with the full meeting to discuss the umpire program and interaction with SAL. SAL has reviewed national and international umpire levies and is considering that the levies need to be set to recover a percentage of the total cost to SAL of supplying umpires to an event.

We have suggested that SAL need to consider the input of umpires before and after events into such things as training and promoting the game. These are all done without cost to SAL and should be offset against the tournament umpire costs. The NUC have been asked to submit a discussion paper outlining the Umpiring Programs' service to the game and recommendations.

## **UIC – Communication and Membership**

Discussions centred on the need to appoint a person to this position ASAP. The lack of a UIC – Communication and Membership is curtailing the promotion of the umpire program and creating additional work for the other UIC's.

The NUC put a formal proposal to SAL that the operating code be amended to allow a SDU to be a UIC but not a NUIC. The proposal included wording that the UIC that holds a SDU role would not be permitted to be the NUIC and all UICs would need to sign conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements. This Proposal would allow more flexibility if needed to select the right person. At the time of production of this edition, SAL has given approval of our proposal.

There is also still a vacancy for two staff positions on the NUC. All these positions will be aggressively re-advertised shortly. The National Umpiring Program urgently needs your assistance, so please give this some consideration. If you are interested in one of these positions please talk to one of the present committee members or contact me directly.

## **2011 SDU Meeting**

It was agreed to include a training session at this year's meeting - "Motivating and Leading Volunteers". **The 2011 SDU meeting date was set for the weekend of Aug 13 & 14. Agenda items are due by July 15.**

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# *NAC Meeting*

## **Umpire Training**

Discussions were held about the need to develop the national umpire pool so that more home state umpires can be used at tournaments to reduce costs. It was agreed a national training assistance package needed to be developed to assist states to train more umpires.

It was agreed to publish a document outlining the formal pathway for national and international selection suggesting the “order” of tournaments an umpire should follow during their international career.

## **Australian Championship Review**

The meeting identified the need for the championship regulations to be amended in the area of suspended and abandoned games to allow for the game to be carried over to another tournament. E.g. Gillies 1 to Gillies 2.

It was also recommended that SAL do not hold the Youth Cup and U15 Regional tournaments at the same time and at different locations and that SAL try to avoid holding national tournaments at the same time as state tournaments.

The issue of excess baggage charges on umpiring gear was discussed and it was recommended that SAL consider recent airline baggage allowance changes when booking umpire flights. Umpires have additional baggage needs that not all airlines can accommodate and/or the airlines impose high excess baggage charges.

All attending the meeting agreed it was most productive and beneficial and have scheduled for these meetings to occur regularly in the future on a quarterly basis. A report will be published here in Blues News after each meeting.

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# U17 Girls Nationals

by Trevor Murphy

**THE VENUE:** Downey Park Swim Centre, “Brisvegas”

**THE CREW:** Darren Sibraa (UIC), Debbie Grove, Amanda Houison, Howard Watt, Richard Barrow, Leanne Gearside, Martin Turnbull, Sharyn Girdler (candidate), George Norrish (candidate), Ron Yardley, Sarah Houston, Peter Walsh and Trevor Murphy.

**THE AIRPORT ARRIVALS:** The meeting and conveying of all those crew members arriving from interstate at “Brisvegas” airport was very well coordinated by the UIC, Darren Sibraa, and all aircraft were on schedule. However, he must have known something and we should have expected what was on the horizon by the size of his umbrella.

**THE TOURNAMENT:** (that wasn't): The Technical Meeting and Opening Ceremony took place on the evening of Saturday 8 January and the morning of Sunday 9 January respectively. The Opening Ceremony included a light shower of rain that drowned out the National Anthem and turned into a deluge that lasted days and nights. The outcome of which brought about the eventual abandonment of the championship and significant heartache, expense and suffering for many and we all know that story.



Downey Park under water in January



The Regatta Hotel under threat from flood

**THE ACCOMMODATION:** The crew was very fortunate to have excellent dry and trouble free accommodation at the Toowong Villas. However, as the crisis in the community continued to worsen, fresh food essentials like bread and milk became scarce.

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# U17 Girls Nationals

Our National Director, Tricia Sibraa took an interest in our dilemma and dropped by with some of these food essentials which were appreciated by all - thanks Tricia.

**THE MEMORIES:** While the crew speculated each day, some humour was found in how, from our designated pontoons around the diamond, we would manage getting to the right position to make that really close play and how good we may be as oarsmen. The final verdict was that we had no oarsmen to speak of but some may be able to prove their ability sculling (skulling).

As each day passed the crew sought alternate activities to keep themselves busy while waiting for the weather to break. I think Richard Barrow proved to be the most proficient at Ten Pin Bowling while any pool partnership that included this author had little difficulty defeating all comers.

However, I am sure the crew set me up with the partnership of Peter Walsh who managed to sink the black on both occasions (never let the truth get in the way of a good story, eh Pete).

**THE EVACUATION:** I said the accommodation was dry and it was. While it seemed all around us were suffering significant anguish we remained comfortable and relaxed. However, when the decision was handed down to abandon the championship the rush began to release the locals and get air travel arranged for others to get home. In this eleventh hour rush we suffered a power failure in the accommodation and maybe this was our wakeup call of just how lucky we had been in our isolated piece of nirvana. Thanks Darren and Tricia for making sure we all got away safely.

**THE REAL EVENT:** 2011 U17 Girls National Championships re-scheduled (17 - 21 April 2011)

**THE REAL VENUE:** Waverley Softball Association, Melbourne

**THE REAL CREW:** Diane Waller (UIC), Ian Frame, Darrell Shephard, Kevin Tannebring, Howard Watt, Richard Barrow, Leanne Gearside, Alex Turnbull, Martin Turnbull, George Norrish (candidate), Ryan Thorneycroft, Peter Walsh, Richard Dodds and Trevor Murphy.

**THE AIRPORT ARRIVALS:** Crew members from interstate arrived throughout the day on Saturday, April 16. Local crew members did the usual thing by meeting and conveying as required. However, this time things didn't run as smoothly. Kevin

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# U17 Girls Nationals

Tannebring had his luggage sent to Perth for some reason. Some flights were slightly delayed which resulted in some crew members having their evening meal at about 10:30 pm. Luckily the Springvale Eateries stay open late and I had a stash of beverages for afterwards.

**THE TOURNAMENT:** The Technical Meeting was held on the morning of Sunday and games started soon after. After everyone being warned about Ryan Thorneycroft's very adept ability to attract tie-breakers, I got set up again. While Ryan wasn't on the next game with me, my crew mates must have mozzed me as I had the very next tiebreaker. I think there must have been only one game (the showpiece of the day) in this particular time slot because it seemed, other than those of us on the diamond, the rest of the crew were cheering in the stands. Thanks for the standing ovation, friends.

The Opening Ceremony was scheduled after the last game of the day and was well put together with a local youngster singing the National Anthem perfectly and with poise. I know everyone enjoyed her rendition.



Identical twins Kevin (nice dress) and Diane

SAL then put on an evening meal for all participants as a token of their goodwill after the disappointment and troubles of "Brisvegas". Diane had informed us about this event previously with instructions that we should all be in our walk out uniform (skirts were optional). Fortunately, Kevin Tannebring's luggage had arrived and he was able to take up the option.

**Days 2 - 5** seemed to blur as they all blended into one. I am not sure if that was due to the strain of the schedule or to the fun we had as a crew. More likely the latter.

To my knowledge the competition ran quite smoothly with only minor slippages occurring across the week. All teams had their day in the sun with a surprise win here and there. As the Final series drew closer those teams with depth and stamina eventually stepped up.

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# U17 Girls Nationals

The Melbourne weather was (as usual) excellent throughout the week with temperatures averaging of 17C overnight and 23C during the day (peaked at 26C). There was only one day of inclement weather when a slight drizzle set in for a couple of hours followed by heavy rain overnight but there was very little sign of it around the diamond the following morning.

During the week a short presentation was held in the umpires' facilities to officially present the green and gold hat to a past umpire - Peter Schwab. Peter, along with his family members, were noticeably excited and very pleased that he had been included in this ritual as he has been off the scene for nearly 20 years.

The Grand Final game was played between NSW and QLD, with NSW winning.

Congratulations go to the Grand Final Crew of Richard Barrow (P), Kevin Tannebring (1st), Ian Frame (2nd) and Darrell Shephard (3rd). (Pictured below)



**THE ACCOMMODATION:** Once again the crew was very fortunate to have excellent trouble free accommodation at the Quest Apartments Waverley. We had undercover parking under the building and easy access to our accommodation via an internal lift to all floors.

Due to the early departure of most crew members the announcement that our candidate had been successful was made in the crew room prior to everyone dispersing.

Notwithstanding, when at the Closing Ceremony, George Norrish was announced as being a successful candidate he jumped with joy as he jogged out to receive his accreditation certificate and many players and officials yelled cheers of congratulations. George is a special guy to have on the crew and is admired and liked by all who meet him. I know I said it on the way to the airport George, but well done buddy and I hope to see you on the diamond again soon.

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# U17 Girls Nationals

We were also fortunate to have Richard Dodds, a newly appointed Level 4 umpire, join the crew and enjoy the experience at his first National tournament. Well done Richard and I know I will see you around the Victorian scene again soon and hopefully on the National circuit.

**THE MEMORIES: Night 0 - 1245 am** - George was in bed suffering cramp in the legs - boy it looked like being a long week at that point hey George. And, the only exercise undertaken was walking a hundred or so metres from the car park to the restaurants and back.



**Richard Dodds in action at his first nationals**

**Night 1** - After the opening ceremony we returned to the number one room - a suite fitted out for four people and we had five. Rather than squeezing in with George, Ryan or Peter, our lucky newcomer Richard Dodds had to make do with the fold-out lounge. Unfortunately, he had to wait until all the party animals went back to their own rooms before he could get into it

**Night 2-** We had arranged to have a BBQ in the garden of the Quest Apartments. Phil Waller joined us for this and things turned out fine with

George giving us a floor show that included the recital of a poem that made everyone laugh. The thought of that chair still makes my eyes water eh!

After the BBQ it was back to the room. Richard Dodds had wised up from the previous night and made sure he folded out his bed early and the camaraderie sessions went on around him. I found it amusing and somewhat amazing how Richard could snore during a conversation and not lose track of what was going on.

**Night 3** - We had planned to go out to the movies. Peter Walsh took this opportunity to catch up with his son and daughter. Others found a TV they might enjoy, while most went to a local Asian restaurant, dined and talked for a couple of hours then retreated to the room for a quiet night. When Peter Walsh returned he asked me if I could find out who left their after dinner snack in his bed. ??????

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# U17 Girls Nationals

**Night 4** - We were booked into the Wheelers Hill hotel for our evening meal and again I think everyone enjoyed the meal. We had the best seats in the house (we thought) that looked out across the Dandenong valley with the Ranges in the background.



**Father and Son:** One of the more special moments at these championships was when it brought together two umpires who have never umpired at the same National championships. Alex (left) and Martin Turnbull utilised the time together as umpires as Alex is, for most of the year, overseas working.

Unfortunately, that was the night of the heavy rain and we were unable to enjoy the view.

George being the well rehearsed entertainer again provided us with another recital. I think it was that night that George was heard snoring in concert with Justin Beiber.

**BEWARE:** Some believe that the TCU may have put too much thought into the allocations with the following outcomes: Richard D, Ryan and Richard B - the Pirate crew RRR..... Aaaagh!

Then there was Turnbull, Tannebring and Trevor (another Turnbull in reserve) TTT – the terrible three or was that terrific!

**THE VERDICT:** The weather was fine, the accommodation was good, the company great, the teams towed the line - what a great week! Congratulations again to George Norrish and Richard Dodds.

Thank you Diane for your management work in the background that allowed us all to have a very enjoyable week on and off the diamond.

I think I can speak for everyone in saying "we all look forward to doing it all again in the near future" - see you around the diamond somewhere.

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# Secondary Schools Nationals



## National Secondary School Girls Softball Championships Toowoomba - 2011



### UMPIRING CREW

Back L to R: Nicholas Davis, Myles Lego, Mark Toft (UIC), Sam Field, Cameron Ryle  
Front L to R: Paul Gierke, Anita Ryle, Danielle Bellchambers, Natalie Fleischfresser (Examiner),  
Norelle Thomas (Examiner)

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# Secondary Schools Nationals

by Mark Toft



**Myles Lego (NSW umpire) on Queensland v Victoria game**

Well it was about time! Finally the picturesque Queensland city of Toowoomba had its day (really a week) in the spotlight when they hosted the 2011 National Secondary Schoolgirls at the Kearney's Spring Sports Complex.

Under the Schools Sport Program each State had the opportunity to send student umpires to officiate at this tournament.

New South Wales was represented by Myles Lego, while Queensland had two representatives in Cameron Ryle (Toowoomba) and Sam Field (Bundaberg). The crew was made up by Norelle Thomas (Redlands – formally Toowoomba) and Natalie Fleischfresser – Cairns) both these ladies were part of the crew management along with myself. The remaining umpires were from the Toowoomba Softball Association ranks.

There were three timeslots per day with two games played simultaneously. This made it mathematically very easy. Unfortunately we had a few umpires withdraw at the last minute and luckily we were able to call in the local Toowoomba Blues.

The rain came on Tuesday and washed out the last round and with Wednesday a lay day, it was necessary to reschedule two more games on the Thursday. The crew needs a lot of recognition with many running three games in a row.

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# Secondary Schools Nationals

We had the privilege to have David Casey attend the championships and he was utilised working with the student umpires and our candidate Danielle Bellchambers (who was being pre assessed for her level 3) for three games straight. His feedback for the young ones was invaluable.



The entire crew enjoyed the experience and Myles, Cameron and Sam were living proof that the student umpire program is strong and alive as all three returned good performances during the week.

It is hoped that student umpires from each State are sent to future tournaments for their individual development. This is a great arena to introduce junior umpires to a national event.

One of the highlights of the tournament was when I was advised that Myles Lego's appointment, as the plate umpire to the grand final, was a first for a student umpire at these championships.

This umpire was a credit to his parents, his softball association, his state and its softball program. Myles is a true gentleman, a true asset to the National Umpiring Program.

Myles, along with Cameron, Anita and Danielle will attempt their Level 3 accreditation later this year and if their performances from these championships are a measure of their prospect for advancement they should be Level 3 accredited very soon.

I enjoyed the opportunity of being appointed TCU. This was my first national championships appointment as TCU and I have enjoyed working with the National Schools Sports representatives, especially Russell Miller (National Schools Sports Secretary).

The presence of Matt Denkel (Queensland Director of Statisticians) and his band of official statisticians took the tournament to a new level. I look forward to future opportunities to undertake the role of TCU once again.

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# ISF Clinic Wrap-up

by **Amanda Houison**

The waiting was finally over for 13 Oceania umpires. The culmination of years of hard work and numerous games of softball umpired with their attendance at the 2011 Oceania ISF Accreditation Clinic.

Nine Australian umpires and 4 New Zealand umpires arrived in Brisbane in preparation for the 3-day clinic, which would cover aspects like game management, rule knowledge, on-diamond mechanics and the ins and outs of the presentations of two of the assessments - mechanics plays and case studies.

Over the 3 days of the Clinic, a great sense of rapport was built between the 13 umpires, after all the cross-Tasman jokes were out of the way! The Clinic, its successes and stresses, and the pool-side relaxation at the end of each day, have built a bond that will see ongoing contact kept between all participants, both those undergoing examination and those who were presenting for and examining the candidates.

A highlight for all participants was the wealth of experience provided from those presenting the Clinic materials. Listening to the examples and stories of the ISF UIC, Bob Stanton, from Canada and the Oceania UIC, Wayne Saunders, from New Zealand, and all their experiences of being involved at the ISF level was of more benefit than can be expressed in words. This is certainly not to under-value the information passed on by the Australian presenters, either! We would all like to say a huge thank you to Tricia, Darren, Leigh, Andy, Scott and Debbie for their presentations and ongoing support throughout the Clinic, and for continuing this level of support during the on-diamond assessments. This "backbone" provided for the success of all 13 candidates in attaining their ISF accreditation.

With the completion of the Clinic came the on-diamond side of things, umpiring the Men's National Championships and the final round and playoffs for the 2010-2011 Gilley's Shield.

A full schedule of games resulted in many of the crew working through three games a day, especially with the postponement of one complete day's games in the Men's competition due to rain. Amazingly though, all games were played for both Championships. A special thank you and congratulations to Redlands Association for their amazing efforts to have the diamonds up to standard for each game, given the amazing amount of rain falling, and also to Brisbane Association for the use of Downey Park at such short notice, to enable the women to play their final round of games prior to the Finals Series.

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# New South Wales

## Watt an appointment! by Jesse Smith



NSW umpire Howard Watt has been selected to umpire at not one but two international softball events this year.

Howard, having received his ISF accreditation earlier this year, has been appointed to tour with the Australian Open Women's Team during July.

He will umpire at both the Canadian Open International Women's Fastpitch Championship from 9-17 July, as well as the VI World Cup of Softball from 21-25 July.

In receiving the good news, Howard stated that he was initially in a state of shock.

"I was a bit stunned and overwhelmed at first, but that has worn off and I am now both excited and nervous about my appointment."

"I am looking forward to the excitement of the trip and the event. Particularly, I am looking forward to the atmosphere of the tournaments and the chance to get out there and be a part of softball at the international level," Howard continued.

Heralding from Far North Coast, Howard has reached an important milestone with this appointment – his first at the international level.

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# New South Wales

## Rotary recognises Hornsby Umpire Development Program

by Amy Wadwell



Adrian Rampoldi, Paul Wolf, Glen Hangan

The Hornsby Softball Umpire Development Program continues to go from strength-to-strength, recently recognised by their local Rotary Club with a Community Service Award.

Adrian Rampoldi, one of the key drivers behind the program, tells an amusing story about how he and

Glenn Hangan, also honoured, both thought they were attending the function for each other.

“I got an invite to go to a Rotary function to support Glenn (Hangan). When we turned up we soon worked out that we were there for each other and the next minute we both ended up getting the award, there was a lot of positive feedback from parents that went with the award. I’m quite excited about it because I’m very proud of the umpiring program at Hornsby”, Rampoldi said.

Hornsby District Umpiring Association was recognised by the Softball NSW Umpires Association in 2009 with the Affiliate Award for Umpire Development, but to be recognised by an organisation outside softball circles makes it even more special for Rampoldi.

“To be recognised for our work outside softball circles was a pleasing thing for us. It made it extra special – particularly because it came from people that we directly helped; the people that we spend a lot of time with: the kids and their parents – so it was really good, I’m not too sure who was behind nominating us, but there’s a process that is followed each year and we were lucky enough to win the award alongside a couple of other people” he said.

For Rampoldi, he said of his team of trainers at Hornsby, nothing beats the pride and satisfaction they feel when they see young blues enjoying their umpiring.

“We just love seeing the junior umpires do something on the diamond that they’re proud of. You can see it straight away because they seem to stand taller with their heads up and smiles on their faces,” Rampoldi explained.

“When the umpire trainers see that, that’s a great reward for us because all the training that we’ve done is paying off”.

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# New South Wales

## Family first at inaugural Over 35s State Champs

by Amy Wadwell

On a wet, cold and windy weekend, Blacktown International Sports Park played host to the inaugural Softball NSW Over 35 State Championships.

But the event wasn't the only "first" of its kind with the O'Daly family: Dermot, Alex and Jason umpiring together for the first time at any level.

You would think that with all three coming from the Macarthur District Softball Association that their paths would cross on the diamond on a regular basis. But not so, with the closest the trio coming when Dermot and Jason umpired on a game that Alex was playing in.

"A number of opportunities have presented in the past but never materialised. But it was good to get the opportunity and all-bar the conditions it worked very well. When we discussed the possibility yesterday about umpiring together we were very pleased because the opportunity won't present itself again for a while so we definitely made the most of it." Dermot said.

The O'Daly's were part of a 21-strong crew that served the championship which was unfortunately cut short on the final day due to wet weather.

"Obviously the major highlight was umpiring with my two sons, but for it to coincide with the first Over 35 State Championships was great."

Over-age events are growing in popularity around the country, and it is expected that the Softball NSW Over 35 State Championships will continue to expand from the ten teams that competed in the male (four) and female (six) competitions.



Keeping it all in the family: L to R: Dermot, Alex and Jason O'Daly

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# New South Wales

## Softball & Spirit the Perfect Ingredients for Easter Showdown

by Amy Wadwell

When many people would have been delving into Easter treats over the weekend, 18 umpires were pulling on the 'blues' at the inaugural Sports Spirit Softball Showdown hosted by Macarthur Softball.

Glorious weather greeted the team of blues, who were under the direction of local UIC Chris Ioannou, and the 11 teams that had come from Sydney, Canberra and New Zealand to take part in the U13 and U17 competition.

When the crowd wasn't captivated by the vigour and passion of the New Zealand haka, they were delighted by the skills, speed, strength and spirit of the teams.



For the umpiring crew, the opportunity to call the balls and strikes for some of NSW's best U17 male pitchers, as well as experience the New Zealand culture and playing style meant that the weekend didn't go by

without the chance to refine, practice and discuss points of interest.

Many young blues also took the opportunity to 'pick the brains' of some of their more experienced crew members and relished the opportunity to get on the diamond with them.

Attracting some of the best up-and-coming male softball players from both NSW and across the Tasman, there is little doubt that the Sports Spirit Softball Showdown will become a feature on the softball calendar.

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# New South Wales

## Rain delays, tie breakers: all in a day's work for the "blues"

by Amy Wadwell

The 2011 Waratah League season had it all: home runs, nail-biting finishes, diving catches, pin-point pitching and the odd rain delay.

Over 100 games were played throughout the season, and right in the thick of the action were the umpires who donned the bright green Pep's Auto Spares-Narellan shirts each week at the various venues across NSW.

Across the season there were road trips to Wagga Wagga and Newcastle that are always great opportunities for the umpires to mix away from the diamonds, not to mention the opening weekend at Hawkesbury and everything in-between.

SNSWUA Waratah League Coordinator Amanda Houison was thrilled with the response of the umpires throughout the season and thanked them for their efforts.

"One of the key success factors of a competition like Waratah League is the dedication of the umpires. Throughout the season we had over 25 umpires commit to games held across NSW, with some travelling great distances just so that they could be involved in the various development opportunities," Houison explained.



**2011 Waratah League Men's Grand Final**  
Vic Guillaumier, George Norrish, Adrian Rampoldi.



**2011 Waratah League Women's Grand Final**  
Alan Brown, Andrew Compton, Vikki Armsworth.

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# New South Wales

No distance too far for the blues by Jesse Smith



*Jay Gibson in action at the U19 Women's State Championship*

No distance was too far for the umpires on the crew at the Softball NSW U19 Women's State Championship held at Blacktown International Sports Park.

Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Coffs Harbour, and Lismore – they came from across the State, with one umpire, Dale Kaimoana even travelling up from Victoria in his 32 foot motor home for the weekend.

“We left Victoria specifically so I could umpire this weekend and I am really pleased I made the trip north, after living in Victoria for about two months we left Waverley and then travelled for 2 weeks making a stop at Bright before arriving in Sydney”. Kaimoana said.

An epic nine-innings tie breaker was needed to decide the winner, with a determined North Shore taking their opportunities against their highly fancied opponents to take victory 2-1.

Grand Final 3<sup>rd</sup> Base: George Norrish, Plate: Leanne Gearside, 1<sup>st</sup> Base: Jay Gibson



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# Queensland

## South Brisbane Club Classic - 20 years on

by Mark Toft

When the umpires flowed into the South Brisbane grounds no one could imagine what the three days ahead had in store for them. There were 11 teams fighting out the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Club Classic and believe me there were no easy games.

The teams were allowed three pickup players which bolstered their ranks and brought the competition to a new level. In conjunction with the Classic there was a Ladies Masters competition held.

The Classic crew was once again led by Tricia Sibraa with Darren Sibraa, Helen Strauss, Yvonne Kahler, Mark Toft, Steve Gutteridge, David Casey, Bridget Cameron, Jana McCaskill, Ron Yardley, Martin Turnbull, Ross Winn, Andrew Compton, Sally Crawford, Norelle Thomas, Janelle Hicks, Maurice Paraha, Ken McIntyre, Alan Walsh, Cameron Ryle, Anita Ryle and Kylie Knight.

The Masters crew was also organised by Tricia Sibraa with Mick Gorman, Daphne Bickle, Helen Wallis-Dunn, Kim Fayle and Colleen Thomson officiating this competition. It was wonderful to see a former international umpire in Helen Wallis-Dunn officiating during the Masters event.

Twenty-six of the 36 Aussie Steelers squad members were in attendance along with high profile New Zealand players making it an extremely high standard of men's softball.

This tournament will celebrate its 21<sup>st</sup> year next year so mark it in your calendars as it will be one heck of a tournament.

The Classic was one round with each team playing 10 games. With the threat of rain and diamond one out for the finals there was one preliminary final (2 v 3) and the winner going through to the grand final.



Ouch!! Bridget received a foul ball in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings of a game, but toughed it out. This bruise was the result.

**Grand Final Crew** – Darren Sibraa, Yvonne Kahler, Helen Strauss and Mark Toft

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# Victoria

## **Victorian State Dinner – Umpires Awards 2011** by Richard Dodds

The recent Victorian State dinner saw Victorian Umpires recognised for their efforts throughout the year.

This year once again saw the presentation of awards for the Margo Koskelainen Victorian Umpire of the Year, Victorian Softball Service Awards, acknowledgement of those umpires who attended Nationals during the 2010/11 season, announcement of the recipient of the John Larter Junior Umpire Award and presentations to those umpires who attained their next level of accreditation during the year.

This year saw three very worthy nominees for the Margo Koskelainen Victorian Umpire of the Year in Stacey Loveridge, Phil Waller and Jason Carter. All three umpires presented to the international panel of Bob Stanton – ISF Umpire-in-Chief and Wayne Saunders, Oceania Umpire-in-Chief at the recent ISF Accreditation Clinic held during the Gilley's Final and Open Men's Championship in Redlands Queensland. All three umpires have had illustrious careers and all three were successful in achieving their ISF accreditation which is a great result for Victorian Softball.

With three very successful and accomplished umpires to choose from this year the choice of Victorian Umpire of the Year was a tough one with Stacey Loveridge given the honour for 2011.

Since commencing her umpiring career at the age of 14, Stacey has umpired actively at her local association, regularly attended State Championships at all levels as well as being a regular umpire at the Impact Challenge. Stacey is also an active VUC committee member and actively involved in training and assessments of more junior umpires throughout the state.

A level 6 umpire, since achieving her Level 5 accreditation in 2007 Stacey has averaged 2 Nationals a year. In season 2010-11, Stacey was appointed to Nationals in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne including 3 rounds of the Gilley's Shield and the Open and U19 Men's Championships - quite a marathon effort. Stacey has also contributed to the development of the recently released Softball Australia Basic Umpire Manual. The hours Stacey has contributed to the umpiring program for both for Victoria and Australia is a tribute to her commitment and drive. Stacey recently travelled to New Zealand as the Trans Tasman umpire to umpire at their national women's championships. Congratulations Stacey!

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# Victoria

Also presented at the awards dinner were the Merle Short Service Awards for services to Softball Victoria. Two of our most recognizable Victorian Umpires, Phil and Di Waller, were recognised for their contribution to Softball in Victoria.

Diane's involvement in softball started in 1978 when she was a fill-in for a junior girls' team - Oakwood Park. Diane played for 13 years and as part of fulfilling team commitments she was required to base umpire and, of course, nobody wanted to do it so she began working games with her husband Phil in 1985. She continued umpiring at Association Level at Dandenong until 1989 when she gained her Level 1 accreditation. Over the next few years she gained her Levels 2, 3 and 4.

In 1997 she attended her first National Championships as a Skillshare Umpire, which was an experience in itself. She has umpired at Nationals every year since then and achieved her Level 5 in 1998 and her Level 6 in 2001.

Her career highlights include umpiring at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and being announced as the 1st Base Umpire in the Gold Medal Game between Japan and the USA. She has umpired at the World Masters in both Melbourne and Edmonton, Canada; and won a Silver Medal playing in the Dandenong Masters Women's Team at the World Masters Games in Sydney in 2009.

Phil "Angry" Waller's involvement in softball started in 1983 when he was the coach of the Oakwood Park B Grade Women's team playing at Dandenong. Every team was required to supply an umpire and, of course, nobody wanted to do it so he began his umpiring career in 1984. He continued umpiring at Association Level at Dandenong until 1989 when he gained his Level 1 accreditation.

He continued to coach and umpire at an Association Level at Dandenong until 1995 when his, by then wife, Diane retired from playing and he stopped coaching. At this stage he thought that he might hang up his boots until some well directed words of advice from Lyn Bishop, a Level 8 umpire from Dandenong, suggested that he should continue umpiring and strive for his Level 2, which he achieved in 1996.

In 1999 he attended his first National Championship as a Skillshare Umpire. He has umpired at Nationals every year since then and achieved his Level 6 in 2004 at the Open Men Nationals.

His career highlights include umpiring at the World Masters in both Melbourne and Edmonton, Canada; and being appointed as a Trans Tasman Exchange umpire in New Zealand in Feb 2009. He also had the Plate on an International game – U19 Women Test Series Australia and New Zealand - this game was streamed live on the Internet. He was also Assistant Coach of the Dandenong Masters Women's Team who won a Silver Medal at the World Masters Games in Sydney in 2009.

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# Victoria

The dinner also saw the announcement of the recipient of the John Larter Development Scholarship award. The recipient of the award is an umpire who demonstrates an enthusiasm for umpiring, consistently demonstrates an above average level of officiating skill and demonstrates commitment to work towards obtaining their level 2.

This year's recipient was Talia McDonald who received her award at this year's U17 State Championships.

The dinner also saw the acknowledgement of those umpires who gained higher level accreditation during the year. Those umpires are as follows;

Richard Dodds	Level 4 – Senior state level
Chris Trengove	Level 5 – First of the national levels
Richard Barrow	Level 6 – Senior and highest national level
Stacey Loveridge	Level 2 Assessor – Highest state assessor level

Finally, those Victorian Umpires who attended nationals during the year were acknowledged. This year 15 Victorian national umpires filled 40 National Championship appointments, as Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, National Assessors, Umpires and Candidates. Those umpires are as follows;

Richard Barrow, Debbie Grove, Chris Trengove, Kev Broomhall, Stacey Loveridge, Alex Turnbull, Jason Carter, Trevor Murphy, Stuart Tyler, Richard Dodds, Kevin Offer, Phil Waller, Leigh Evans, Ryan Thorneycroft and Diane Waller.

Congratulations to all members, especially those acknowledged on the night for another great year of Umpiring.



Phil and Diane with their awards



Left: State Director Kevin Broomhall presents Stacey Loveridge with the Margo Koskelainen Umpire of the Year award at the recent Victorian State Dinner.

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# On Diamond Jackets

## ***National On-Diamond Umpire Jackets now available***

The National On-Diamond Umpire Jackets are now available. The next order deadline is to be announced. Orders will be placed once minimum orders have been received.

To order your jacket, please complete the [National On-Diamond Umpiring Jacket Form](#) and email it, and your payment to [nswumpires@gmail.com](mailto:nswumpires@gmail.com). Please contact [Scott Rindfleish](#), Director of Umpiring, Softball NSW if you have any questions.

After a long and frustrating process, the NUC will remain with the current supplier and style of jackets. The National Umpiring Program and Softball Australia would like to thank the NSW Umpires Association for coordinating this process.

Please refer to the [Merchandise](#) section of the Umpiring Resources page for more information.



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