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mtoft@ozemail.com.au

TOO MUCH FUN FOR ONE DAY - HAD TO STAY A WEEK!

How does it feel?? What's the next step?? Will you have to leave Toowoomba??

These are some of the questions which I have been hit with when I arrived back from Perth after attaining my Level 6 accreditation.

There are times in one's life that makes you sit down and reflect on the things that you have done over many years. This is one of those times.

I think back to the first game of softball I umpired in Toowoomba and being approached by a person named Tricia Bichel. This of course was after she and her mother nearly ran me off the road 100 metres from their home at Plainlands.



Would you like to umpire at a State Championships next weekend? "Sure", I said, "What do I have to do?"

"Well it's very simple, just come down to Downey Park and umpire for three days".

So naturally I took on the challenge and arrived in a room full of men and women all getting dressed, most of them wearing a pale blue shirt and long pants. I only had blue shorts. (What a sight! I looked more like a bus driver than an umpire)

Tricia came over to me and gave me a draw and said, "See you on Sunday!"

What an introduction! But after three days I was hooked. A couple of months ago I wrote an editorial on the friends you make while umpiring and it is so true to this day.

I have made many friends over the years, and it is these friends who have inspired me to attain my Level 6. It's all a matter of teamwork and friendships. From my umpiring colleagues in Toowoomba, those at State level in Queensland and the numerous at the National scene, especially Tricia Bichel, I thank you all for your guidance over the years,



I hope to repay you all in some way, but at the moment I need to re-set my goals, both long term and short term. What I really want to say is thanks for the friendship and thanks for your support. This large family of umpires have pulled together once again and I feel very honoured to be part of such a great family. Cheers!

TOFTY

Margo's Memo

Nationals over for another year

With the Australian Men's Championship having been contested in Perth earlier in March, the 2002 National Championship season concludes and, across Australia, softball's summer competitions' champions are being decided. Also, the work of many umpires has been evaluated in numerous areas across the country.

At National level my congratulations go to our new Level 5 umpires Andrew Chapman, Nicole Crowe, Rod Dawson, and Scott Rindfleish and Level 6 umpires Greg Baker, Graham Bancroft, Kevin Broomhall, and Mark Toft who successfully underwent practical examination in Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne and Perth respectively.

Interestingly, these umpires will find that this coming year will be the most challenging of their career to date. As National level accredited umpires, each performance will now be monitored by everyone on the park, including those umpires who are aspiring to higher levels of accreditation themselves.

However, this challenge not only exists for Level 5 and 6 umpires. As all of us who have been in the same position in the past know, umpiring at next year's Championships, National or State, is another step in the overall umpiring experience – whatever the level of accreditation you have attained.

It will, hopefully, prove that the performance level of the previous year was no aberration and, perhaps more importantly, that the hard work has continued since that heady day when the words "Congratulations, you have passed" were said.

"This will be your hardest year" has also been added at the same time to successful umpires over the years. It is one of the most meaningful statements made.

Congratulations and "Well Done!" to all the umpires of all levels who have improved their accreditation and my thanks to all concerned with the evaluation processes in the Umpire Program in every State and Territory. It is not an easy task at times, but it is so very rewarding when we can acknowledge that the hard work has paid off for the umpire under examination.

Remember, "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become of it".

What's Inside BNOL This Month?

Page 8...Ando's Resort & New Accreditations!!!!!!

Page 7 Sleeping in other people's beds!

Page 2..... Laugh with Larter

NEW BAG?

Page 3..... NSW and ACT Reports

Page 2..... Big Al's Monthly TESTER!

Larner
the best
Medicine



There is al-
ways time
to laugh!

Think about it!!!!!!!

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
3. Why do we say something is out of whack? What's a whack?
4. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
5. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
6. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
7. When someone asks you, "A penny for your thoughts," and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?
8. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
9. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? It's just stale bread to begin with.
10. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
11. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person drives a race car not called a racist?
12. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
13. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
14. Why isn't 11 pronounced "onety one"?
15. Could it be that "I do" is the longest sentence?
16. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
17. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?
18. Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?



Rules Challenge

Big Al's Tester

This month's article deals with the Replacement Player Rule (Blood in Sport)

Top of 2nd innings, Brown (starting player) is substituted by Smith.
Bottom of 2nd innings, Smith is injured and has severe bleeding. Smith is withdrawn to receive treatment and is replaced by Brown, as a Replacement Player.

Top of 4th innings, Smith cannot resume, as bleeding has not been controlled.
Because Brown, the Replacement Player, is one who has previously been in the game, then he must be replaced by a legal substitute who has not yet been in the game.
Is this correct?

Answer: No, the outcome of the scenario is not quite correct.

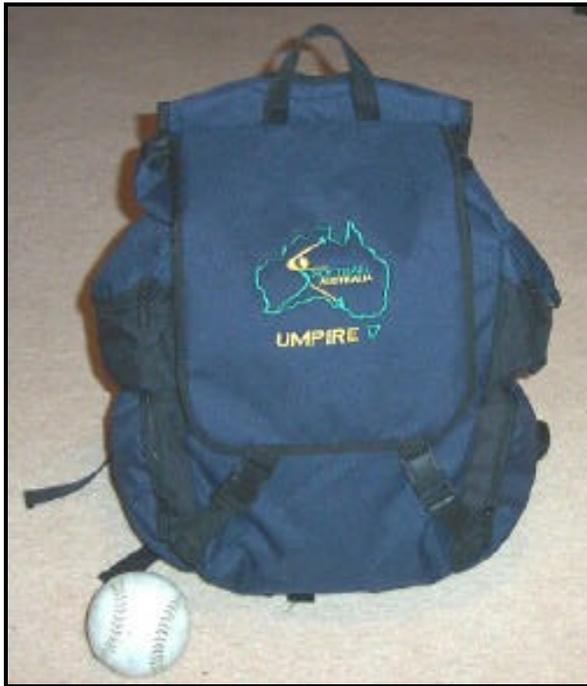
The intent of the REPLACEMENT PLAYER rule is to allow the bleeding player to immediately leave the game for attention, without penalising the team concerned. It is also aimed at protecting the health & welfare of all participants in the game. This is achieved by allowing any **eligible** player to replace the withdrawn player for a defined period of time.

Rule 1 Section 68 defines a Replacement Player and indicates (a) it **may** be a player who has previously been in the game, provided the player has not been ejected or removed from the game by the umpire for an infraction of the rules, and (b) the Replacement Player is not classified as a substitute. "One who has previously been in the game" means a player who may no longer **legally be in the game under normal circumstances**, eg, a starting player who has been substituted from the game on 2 occasions, or a substitute who has subsequently left the batting line-up.

In the quoted scenario, Brown (the starting player) has returned to the game as a Replacement Player for Smith (the substitute). If Smith could return to the game within the prescribed time, i. e., before the start of the 4th inning, then Brown could again leave the game and subsequently re-enter at a later time, as he has not been **substituted twice** (he has merely left the game the 2nd time as a **Replacement Player**).

However, as Smith was unable to return within the prescribed time, Brown could now (a) be replaced by a legal substitute who has not previously been in the game, or (b) continue to play under the Re-entry rule (the re-entry taking effect from the top of the 4th inning). If Brown is replaced by a legal substitute at this time, he may then re-enter under the Re-entry rule at a later stage in the game.

Had Brown been substituted from the game on 2 occasions prior to entering the game as a Replacement Player, then he **must** be replaced by a legal substitute, in terms of Rule 4 Section 9 Effect 2, at the end of the prescribed time (as suggested in the quoted scenario). Furthermore, if Smith was eventually able to stop the bleeding after the prescribed time, he may subsequently be used as a Replacement Player (if required) in terms of Rule 4 Section 9a, but **NOT** as a substitute for any other player.



Expressions of Interest

Well what do you think? Have you ever traveled to and from the motel and the park and had nothing to put anything into, well this bag could be the answer.

At time of publication this bag is not an official ASF product, but it has been made to create some type of interest within the umpiring ranks.

If you think you would like one email Andrew Rindfleish at

rindfleish@hotmail.com.au

The cost would be between \$35-\$40 (Australian of course). With enough interest this could be a permanent item in the life of an umpire.

NSW

The New South Wales Softball Umpires Association has designed a website devoted strictly to umpiring and the issues related to umpiring at all levels.

I am committed to developing this communication tool in an attempt to make access to information easier and to encourage the communication between all umpires no matter what level.

Following the Interfuse system, the site includes the resource library – that contains application forms and all the articles written by the senior umpires of NSW recently published/printed.

I have implemented a Bulletin Board that is similar to the 'Forum' that was removed due to misuse. I am hoping that the BB will allow for junior umpires to ask questions/advise of senior umpires. Only time will tell whether this method is encouraging.

I hope you all can stop by our site and post your thoughts.

www.nswumpires@softball.org.au

Scott Rindfleish - NSW SUA Information Coordinator
Phone 0419610812 Fax (02)95473438

Australian Capital Territory

with Denise Culpitt (SDU ACT)

The ACT Softball season has come to a close. It has been a very busy year for the 20 or so "full-time" umpires. From the Open Women's in January to the ACT Junior Championship and tournaments in between most SUA ACT umpires covered an average of 70 games this season.

The inaugural ACT Director of Umpiring, "Umpire of the Year Award" was presented to Mike Hurrell.

Mike is a current level 3 umpire and has worked tirelessly over the last 24 months both on and off the diamond. Mike and his son Adam are both Level 3 umpires and his 2 daughters and wife play for the Sutherland Team.

Mike has been the SUA ACT secretary for the last 24 months, umpires Saturday Morning in his own affiliate, ran umpire Clinics for Sutherland, and also umpires every Saturday afternoon in the ACT Women's afternoon competition. Mike has represented SUA ACT in tournaments in Adelaide and Melbourne for the past 2 years.

Above all Mike has the respect of his peers as an umpire and as his own person. ACT Softball and SUA ACT would like to congratulate Mike on winning this award.

Who is the ACT Umpire "Highest Level" who spent a week in Perth at the Men's, and umpired on the Grand Final only to come back to Canberra just in time for the ACT Junior Championships, only to be allocated to the Girls T Ball Final.

What a great game, score was level at the bottom of the 6th innings, umpire "x" looked at his watch and with 90 seconds to go decided to start a new innings "we need a result he was heard to say".

At the top of the 7th innings team **A** scored 2 runs, team **B** scored 3 runs. Game over "**NO**". Team **A** protested and wanted a count back???, they wanted to count back to the 5th innings, which just happen to be the last complete innings they were in front.

PROTEST DISMISSED. Go figure?

It was the only protest for the weekend?????????

Grass roots Blues doing the job behind the scenes

There are numerous people in our sport that deserve praise for their efforts to develop, maintain and promote umpiring in Australia. Many people would be able to rattle off names such as Margo Koskelainen, Alan McAuliffe, Ken Culpitt, Tricia Bichel and so on; however there are many, many people working at the grassroots level with novice and beginner umpires that deserve a huge round of applause.

These people, often veteran Level 1 and Level 2 umpires spend countless hours working with other people in their own affiliates in an effort to share knowledge, improve the game for the participants and remain active in the sport.

It is these people who make the National Umpiring Program work to its full capacity. BNOL takes this opportunity to recognise these umpire trainers most of who, have been teaching umpiring for more years than they can remember. BNOL is sure that you know some of these people and we would like to hear about their work so that their efforts will not be unrewarded. Please forward all contributions to the Editor BNOL.(mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

This Week's Umpire's

Merrilyn O'Bryan Level 2 (Far North Coast Softball Association) - NSW

Merrilyn has held various positions with the Far North Coast (FNC) over many years.

In the past five she has been working with other local senior umpires in an effort to develop umpiring skills and talents in young umpires aged in their early teens.

She does this through various mentoring activities including assessment of games, rules discussions and even driving groups of young umpires two hours each way for regional umpiring clinics.

Her attitude is that her efforts may contribute to the better of these young people.

John Dyer - Level 2 (Redcliffe Softball Association) - Queensland

John has been around forever and a day, in fact he first started umpiring in 1985.

Any umpire to come out of the Redcliffe Softball Association has had some influence from John both on and off the diamond.

National umpires past and present and many senior Queensland umpire who have hailed from Redcliffe have been influenced by John Dyer.

John's communications skills with other umpires enables him to gain a report from those in the umpiring system within Queensland.

John is still involved with coaching both club and representative levels along with holding administration positions for his club.

John would like to present for a Level 3 in the future, maybe in 2004, but there is no hurry with John.

Dinga Bell Level 2 (Auburn District Softball Association) - NSW

Dinga has been umpiring softball for over twenty years, and as long as he is able and the Sydney trains are running he will continue to turn up at parks and do what he loves.

He is a true asset to the National umpiring program as his enthusiasm, honesty and general positive attitude should be an example to us all.

During the Summer months Dinga umpires at his home affiliate of Auburn; umpires various softball competition for athletes with disabilities; as well as various school level competitions.

His involvement during Winter does not diminish as he is involved with weekly umpiring duties at the North Shore association as well as being a team leader in their junior blues program.

Also look for Dinga at Master's competition in NSW.

(For those who know Dinga real well, must know his real name. The editor of this magazine is interested in finding out that hidden secret) He was very tight lipped in Newcastle last year, that's for sure.

Victorian Masters Championship June 2002

The Victorian Masters Championship will be held, at Keilor Park Association.

Umpires who would like to umpire at this event are welcome to contact Lindsay Whitehead.

Lin_P_Whitehead@allegiance.com.au

Qld Blues recognised at Secondary State Champs

At the Queensland Secondary School State Softball Championship held 22- 24 March 2002 at Hervey Bay.

Matt Denkel (Level 4) was awarded a Life Membership and Ted Gross (Level 5) was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for 20 years service.

Matt has tone down his umpiring in recent years to concentrate on scoring and coaching, but his induction of life membership had been for service in all three aspects of the sport at Secondary School level.

Ted Gross announced his retirement from National and State Championships earlier this year, but is continuing his service to the State Secondary School Program which has taken in more than two decades.

Congratulations Matt and Ted.

Queensland

Toowoomba umpires receive Life Memberships

Three current Toowoomba umpires, Mark Toft (Level 6), Ian Bunston (Level 4) and Di Bunston (Level 3) along with former Toowoomba umpire, Lyn Lange (Level 5) were inducted as Life Members of the Toowoomba Softball Umpires Association at the Toowoomba Grand Finals earlier this month.

These four umpires join an elite band of Blues who were the inaugural inductees last year. Those past and present umpires included State Director, Tricia Bichel (Level 7), Mary Youngman (Level 3), Norrelle Thomas (Level 3 Retired), Ian Luchterhand (Qld State Badge 1958 Retired), and Ken Harwood (Level 2 Retired).

All Umpire Life Member recipients except for Ian and Di Bunston are also Toowoomba Softball Association Inc. Life Members. Well done to all inductees.

Four Queenslanders heading South for Aussie Cup

Darren Sibraa, Ian Frame, Frank Thomas and Helen Strauss are on there way to Sydney for the Australia Cup series as this magazine goes to print.

Frank and Darren had a taste of the men at the Macarthur Shootout last month and are looking forward to the challenges of the women this weekend.

(The following article was extracted from the South Australian Umpiring Magazine "Strike Me Blue" with thanks to Kevin Tannebring)

Umpire K2'd

Physical and health concerns have brought on the premature retirement of one of our most traveled umpires—John Glistak.

Whilst John has never been one to waste money on razor blades or haircuts, he has certainly kept the local petrol station in business, as he has averaged 250-300 kilometers per week since 1989 traveling from his country school home to Adelaide to fulfill his umpiring commitment.

John's involvement in Softball commenced in 1975 as a scorer for Eyre Softball Club in Whyalla and he progressed to umpiring for Jamestown in 1979 where he also held committee positions at Club and Association levels.

He joined the Port Pirie Softball Association in 1986 and soon found himself nominated for the Umpires Coordinator position.

In 1989, while still teaching at Jamestown, John decided it was time to try umpiring in Adelaide which he has continued to do even through his teaching relocation to Kapunda in 1992, then Riverton in 1994.

John's preparedness to do that bit extra has seen him in the position of Editor of this newsletter for 9 years, a member of the SASA Umpires Committee and since 2000, the Chairman of Examining.

From 1980 to 2002 he has rarely missed umpiring at State Championships and has now rocked up approximately 1500 games—no wonder the back has got tired and sore.

Major Achievements—1980 (Gained Level 1), 1982-1985 (Progressed through Levels 2&3), 1988 (Gained Level 4), 1995 (Earned Level 5-Perth), 1998 (Tournament Chief Umpire-University Softball Championships-Adelaide), 1999 (Earned Level 6-Adelaide), 1993-2002 (Appointed to 11 National Championships).

Congratulations, John, on a tremendous Umpiring performance both in the country, city and interstate. Your involvement on and off the diamond will be sorely missed (as will your regular patronage of the Canteen).

Thank you and good health in the future.

Kevin Tannebring

CONFESSION

It cannot be denied – I do sleep in other people’s beds.

It started innocently enough, in 1971. Once a year, perhaps twice, a weekend out of town. Nothing too overt that would alert anyone to what was going on, or even give a hint of what was to come in the future.

Initially it was just weekends – in country towns in Victoria like Traralgon, Mildura, Geelong, Albury, Ballarat, Bendigo, Hamilton, Horsham and various places in and around Melbourne.

My beloved husband would wave me goodbye on Friday afternoon telling me to “have a good time.” What an understatement – I was only going in order to have a good time. I would come home exhausted but happy and sated.

Some of the beds would be extremely comfortable in a delightful setting, others very ordinary – but then again I wasn’t there for the scenery or to rate the beds either for that matter – just to get the job done.

My companions were vibrant, athletic and a joy to be with, we had such fun together.

Various hosts at times were friendly and welcoming, accommodating my every wish, others less cordial – I was only there so they could make money after all.

After a few years of “local” adventures with old and new “companions”, I decided to range further afield, in search on more challenges, and it became obvious that a weekend was not enough. Ohhhhh, No! From now on, I would be gone for a week, and in some cases two weeks.

Ultimately this decision would lead me to “group” adventures. Others like me, who enjoy sleeping in other people’s beds.

First was Sydney, then Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Canberra, Brisbane, and, again, Melbourne. The place with only the timing different, has been repeated many times over since then, for some 27 years in fact.

My first visit to Darwin was exciting, as was the Northern Territory, sleeping in beds arranged for me by appreciative “companions”. One visit to the NT went nearly six weeks – by the time I got home I was so tired I could hardly spell the word exhaustion. I still enjoy going to Darwin, it is at the same time frustrating and a truly magnificent, tilting-at-windmills challenge.

After a time I started going away more and more often, waking up in different beds in excitingly different places, and finding new “companions” with which to share the fun of it all.

The challenge after a while was to learn different techniques. This afforded me the opportunity to experience the pleasure of learning new skills even further afield than Australia.

Sometimes touristy places, sometimes places not usually a ‘must see’ on anyone’s world tour list. All were chosen at times for different reasons – Auckland; Kao Shiung; Taipei; San Juan; St. John’s, Vancouver; Seoul; Fujianomyia; Normal; Atlanta, Long Beach, Tampa, Oklahoma City to name a few. Its fun to find them on the map.

All were interesting and exciting places each in their own way, but best of all were the wonderful “companions” with whom I shared the learning experience – not to mention the long nights discussing our techniques and skills in managing out professional life.

Such is my enthusiasm for sleeping in other people’s beds that I actively encourage others to give it a try. There is no other experience like it and it is addictive.

It is not easy; a lot of dedication and hard work is required on performance and proficiency. Sometimes there is disappointment at the outcome, but overall the benefits are many and varied, and far outweigh any setbacks, which, with a little more application, are likely to be only short term when all is said and done.

The job is satisfying and the rewards are many.

As I sit here, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, watching the snow silently float past the window in a mostly grey, black and white world of a reluctant, struggling northern hemisphere Spring that is so different from Australia, I can only marvel at the opportunities that have been presented to me over the years. It actually takes my breath away when the thought comes at unguarded moments.

I never imagined, way back in 1971 when I made a decision to take up softball umpiring, that I would be so fortunate in my umpiring career. It never occurred to me that, if I worked hard and did the job well, I would see every State and Territory in Australia, travel the world, meet some of the wonderful people of the global softball community and have so much fun ~ all while sleeping in other people’s beds.

Contributed Anonymously

Dates for Nationals/Internationals 2003

January 4 –12 - Open Women - Hobart

January 4-12 - Under 16 Boys - Melbourne

January 8 - 11 - Under 19 Women (Olympic Youth Festival) - Sydney

January 11-19 - Under 16 Girls - Adelaide

January 18 - 26 - Under 19 Women - Canberra

January 18 - 26 - Under 19 Men - Sydney

March 8-16 - Men - Brisbane

South Pacific Classic/Japan Cup Umpires

Following the positively final confirmation that only four [4] teams will be contesting the South Pacific Classic, which is to be held in Perth next month, the number of umpires required has now altered.

Six [6] Australian and two [2] visiting umpires [NZ and China] will officiate at this event. The final Australian appointments are:

ISF Accredited: Debbie Grove, Alan McAuliffe, Damien McCauley.

Development Squad: David Crowe, Darrell Shephard, Diane Waller.

Japan Cup

Leigh Evans has been selected to travel with the Australian team to Japan in August for the Japan Cup.

Congratulations are extended to all concerned.

Margo Koskelainen
National Director of Umpiring.

Umpire Accreditations

Level 6 - Mark Toft (Qld), Graham Bancroft (WA)

Level 3 - Yvonne Ladd, Jill Williams (SA)

Level 2 - Mike Feller, Graham Gambold, Rick Knight (SA), Louise Hancock (Qld)

Level 1 - Jennifer Burston, Shannon Edwards, Nathan Lynch, Kate Rawlins, Pam Rosser, Paul Scott (SA), Edward Zarnow, Grant Pickering, Dale Lowdermilk, Sandra Horne, Glenn Kermbrey, Brenton Miller, Eric Harm, Steven Nicholson, Ashley Hansen, Ashlee McClure, Vicky Lydon, Tamara Steel (NSW).

It is disappointing that every State has not submitted to this month's issue of Blue's News On Line. Remember, this a magazine written by umpires for umpires. If you have any news please send it to the editor. Deadlines are one week prior to publication. Publication dates are the last Friday of each month. More higher accreditations required for ALL States.

Ando's Resort in the Territory

For those who have not been to Ando's place in Darwin recently, there has been a few changes. Most people put in a pool, not Ando he has to go that little bit extra and convert his backyard into a resort. It looks to be a very nice to have umpiring meetings at while sipping the local brew. Maybe the Blues in the Southern States are doing it all wrong. Hang on!!! Ando where is the water slide????

