

November 2013



National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

Welcome to November's BNOL! This time of year sees the diamonds around the country getting busier and busier with a range of competitions either starting or wrapping up, and a huge amount of preparation occurring for the coming year's

National Championships. Thank you to all the states who have submitted articles this month.

Congratulations to members of our Blue Family in both New South Wales and Queensland who have successfully progressed to their next level. Your preparation and hard work leading up to your respective assessment weekends have certainly paid off, and we look forward to hearing about your ongoing adventures on-diamond.

Victoria are clearly putting in the preparation for the upcoming National Championships, and their State Classic allowed umpires to also work at their on-diamond skills for their appointments.

Special mention must be made of Josh Goyne from the ACT, who is undertaking a major challenge to support his grandfather, and many others, who are dependent on the work of the National Stroke Foundation. Read about his challenge, and how you can support Josh, on page 3 of this edition. Josh, we'd love to hear how you went with your challenge!

Lastly, it is with great pleasure that I can congratulate three of our most senior umpires on their induction into the SAL Hall of Fame – Debbie Grove (VIC), Neville Lawrance (SA) and Andrew Rindfleish (NSW). These inductions are most deserved for these three umpires who continue to have outstanding careers.

Enjoy this edition of BNOL, and looking forward to seeing you on a diamond sometime soon around our great country!

Features

Victoria	2
Australian Capital Territory	3
New South Wales.....	4
Queensland.....	7

Victoria

State Classic – 17 November 2013



Photo (L-R): Kian Privitera, Dave Addlem, Richard Dodds

Sunday 17 November saw the Victorian State Teams combine for a full day of practice games at Waverley, with players and coaches looking to sharpen their skills for upcoming National Championships. On a beautiful sunny day, ten umpires gathered to service these games, and work on their own craft. A range of two, three, and four umpire systems were used, enabling plenty of work on rotations.

Thanks to all for continuing to provide great service to our sport – everyone got value from the day.

I would like to thank Dave Addlem, Richard Barrow, Richard Dodds, Leigh Evans, Stacey Loveridge, Trevor Murphy, Kian Privitera, Mark Scammell, Ryan Thorneycroft and Chris Trengove for their valuable work on the day.

Some excellent discussions were held over the lunch break, while we enjoyed a snag or two. As the attached photos show, umpires rooms everywhere have that generalised look of organised chaos.



Photo (L-R): Stacey Loveridge, Trevor Murphy, Mark Scammell

See you all on a diamond again somewhere soon.

Writer: Richard Barrow

Australian Capital Territory

Young ACT umpire inspired to ride

Young ACT umpire, 15-year-old Josh Goyne, is making headlines in the Capital with an ambitious undertaking to ride from Canberra to Sydney, all in aid of the National Stroke Foundation.



Photo: Josh Goyne on base

Why? In honour of his grandfather, who has just suffered his fifth stroke and is paralysed from the waist down.

The athletic Melba Copland Secondary School Year 10 student is not a cyclist or a triathlete. He plays soccer and softball, and only discovered the joys of pedal power earlier this year, while visiting his grandfather on the Sunshine Coast hinterland where he lives.

On December 7 Josh will get on his bike and pedal the 277-kilometre ride to Sydney.

Josh said going cycling helped him deal with the sadness he felt for his grandpa, who needs constant nursing care and will never walk around his farm again, and he was on the bike when he came up with something positive he could do.

Josh is raising donations for the National Stroke Foundation, which funds research to help improve the lives of stroke survivors as well as educating the

public on the signs and symptoms and how to lower the risk of stroke by keeping the cardiovascular system in good health.

To support Josh, go to his Facebook page at facebook.com/stroke.awareness.ride.2013

New South Wales

Level Two Success for Fantastic Four

NSW has four new Level Two umpires after Jen Womsley, Wayne Wickens, Georgia Hill (Cumberland Nepean) and Kylie Diaz (Manly Warringah) emerged triumphant at the Softball NSW U15 State Championships.



New Level 2s L-R: Kylie Diaz (Manly Warringah), Georgia Hill (Cumberland Nepean), Jen Womsley (Cumberland Nepean), Wayne Wickens (Cumberland Nepean)

It was the moment they'd all been waiting for – after six examination games in trying weather conditions, they heard the two words they'd been hoping for all weekend – you've passed.

For Womsley, this was the culmination of three years of hard work and a rollercoaster of emotions that saw her pick herself up after the disappointment of missing out two years ago to tasting success in 2013.

"It's really exciting. I'm excited, happy and overjoyed - I wanted to scream but had to control myself," said Womsley with a smile the size of the Harbour Bridge.

"I've put in a lot of work to get here. I missed out two years ago but I persisted; I participated in the Academy, clinics and a lot of tournaments and finally I've achieved my two."

It is moments like these when the importance and value of development opportunities really come to fore.

"The feedback I've received since missing out has been really important. It has helped shape me as an umpire. Two years ago I wasn't a strong or confident umpire, but this weekend – now – I am," she said.

"All weekend I got amazing feedback. From game one I was pumped and ready to go. By the time I got to game six I was telling myself to go out there and smash it.

"To have all of us pass together is amazing – I couldn't be happier."

Congratulations to the following umpires on their Grand Final appointments:



**Penrith City 4 def Southern Districts 2
U15 Boys State Championship Final Crew**
Photo (L-R): Dermot O'Daly (Retired hurt) / Rob McIntosh
(1st Base), Tony Moncaster (Plate), Craig Myers (3rd Base)



**North Shore 8 def Hornsby 3
U15 Girls State Championship Final Crew**
Photo (L-R): Joe Kellermier (1st Base), Shane McIntosh
(Plate), Brianne Watt (3rd Base)



**Wagga Wagga 14 def Southern Districts 2
U15 Girls State Cup Final Crew**
Photo (L-R): Narelle McIntosh (1st Base), Tom Ryan (Plate),
Lindy White (3rd Base)

Photos by Tom Ryan Photography

Hats off to Houison

Amanda Houison got a tap on the shoulder she didn't expect on Sunday – given the honour and challenge of umpiring the plate on the Softball NSW Men's State League Grand Final.

Houison has umpired at World Championships, Australian Championships, and pulled on the Pep's Auto Spares – Narellan umpiring shirt on a number of women's State League grand finals over the years, but this was her first foray into calling the action from behind the mask in the men's grand final. "I was looking forward to the challenge of doing the game," Houison said. "I'm very proud of the appointment; it was unexpected. It offered a challenge and it sends a positive message that these sorts of appointments are achievable regardless of gender.

"I've gained a huge amount of confidence – but it's still something that I'll continue to work on [confidence in umpiring men's games]. I'm not the tallest person or biggest person out there, so it has been a huge confidence boost for me."

Whether it is umpiring a round game or the competition decider, Houison makes sure that she sticks to her routines.

“I don’t tend to change my mindset; every game is important for the players and the teams. It’s about using the same routine each game and by doing that I feel like I’m putting myself in the best position to call a good game,” she said.

Pleased with her own achievements in 2013, Houison is quick to point out an achievement of another umpire on the grand final crew – James Townsend – who umpired at second base in his first State League Men’s Grand Final.

“It has been a pleasure watching James progress through the levels. He has been involved in the SNSW Umpire Academy and I’ve also seen the work that he is doing off the diamond in the area of training. This appointment would be a highlight of his season and a reward for all the hard work he has been doing,” Houison said.

The SNSWUA would like to extend their thanks to Pep’s Auto Spares – Narellan for their continued support of the umpiring program.

Congratulations to the following umpires of their Grand Final appointments:



**Dolphins 6 def Tropics 5
NSW State League Men’s Grand Final
Photo (L-R): James Townsend (2B), Scott Rindfleish (1B),
Amanda Houison (Plate), Vicki Lansley (3B)**



**Sutherland Sharks 3 def Northern Storm 2
NSW State League Women’s Grand Final
Photo (L-R): Andrew Rindfleish (1B), Rob McIntosh (2B), Leanne
Gearside (Plate), Andrew Compton (3B)**

Photos by Tom Ryan Photography

Queensland

Tricia Sibraa's service to the sport is awarded

2013 Queensland Sport Awards recently announced the finalist for their annual black tie sports awards event to be held on 2 December 2013.

Congratulations to our Umpire-in-chief, Tricia Sibraa who is a finalist for the Queensland Sport Award in the category of Officiator of the Year.

Capping off an amazing month for Tricia, Softball Australia also announced on 18 November that Tricia will become a member of the SAL Hall of Fame.

For those who do not personally know Tricia, she has been involved in softball for over 23 years as a player and umpire. However, it's Tricia's commitment to umpiring that is immeasurable.

Tricia was first appointed to the National Umpiring Committee in 1991, as the Deputy Umpire in Chief, a position she held until 2009, at which time she was appointed the National Umpire in Chief, and the Umpire in Chief – Operations. Tricia still holds these positions.

Tricia umpired at various National Championships between 1989 and 1992, and has attended National Championships since that time as a Mentor, Tournament Chief Umpire or Examiner, marking a contribution spanning 23 years. In the early 2000s, Tricia was responsible for developing the competency-based assessment material for the umpiring program, an Australian Sports Commission accredited program. Tricia has been a member of the National Technical Events Committee since 2009 and was awarded Life Membership of Softball Queensland in 1998. Tricia's personal contribution to the development of the national umpiring program over the past 23 years has resulted in the Australian Umpiring program being held in such high regard around the world. The International Softball Federation (ISF) recognised Tricia's contribution and work by appointing her as one of the Deputy UICs for the 2013 Men's World Championships in March 2013.

Congratulations Tricia!

U17 Girls State Championship - Redcliffe



Photo: Kiri Scott as plate umpire

The U17 Girls State Championship was held at Redcliffe Softball Association from 21-23 September 2013.

This tournament highlighted the amazing talent of teenagers girls unearthed from around the state as the umpiring crew was given extraordinary matches over the three days.

As the weather set a perfect scene for the championship – sunshine from start to finish, we were able to complete every game with 2 or 3 umpire crews.

The Redcliffe Softball Association had a superb grounds crew, canteen staff and liaison officers that allowed the championship to run smoothly and without any incidences, so many thanks goes out to the volunteers at the association.



Photo (L-R): Jo Voltz and Kiri Scott

The crew consisted of;
TCU – David Casey, Examiners – Bridget Cameron, Ron Yardley, Trainee Examiner – Ross Winn and the blue crew of Leanne O’Leary, Stephen Gutteridge, Adrian Ralph, Jo Voltz, Kiri Scott, Ron Trow, Ian Goodman, Vicianne Crane, Kylie Knight and Katrina Crane.

There were two successful Level 3 candidates from the weekend in Kiri Scott and Jo Voltz (Redlands) - well done on achieving your new level!

Congratulations to the finals crew:

- State Championship - Ron Trow (P), Adrian Ralph (1st) and Ian Goodman (3rd).
- President’s Cup - Ross Winn (P), Jo Voltz (1st) and Leanne O’Leary (3rd).

Throughout the tournament we were all given excellent feedback to assist our mechanics and knowledge and improve our calling of the game, which we were all thankful from the experience of David, Bridget, Ron, Ross and the many talented senior umpires.

Thank you to all the crew who gave up their time to umpire, what was a tremendous state championship.

Writer: Adrian Ralph

U19 Women's State Championships Wrap

A hot time was had by all at the Queensland U19 Women State Titles recently held in Noosa. With temperatures in the high 20's and low 30's how could we not?

But I did discover that attending state championships is like revisiting my school years – heaps of lessons to be learnt on every subject:

Math Lesson

- 1 Out – Courtesy runner can enter the game – well maybe not, better luck next time
- 2 Players especially the DP and DEFO cannot bat in the lineup at the same time
- 3 Strikes and you're out – when we decide to let you all know
- 4 Balls – yep that's a walk, away you go

English Lesson:

Let's read that paragraph on unannounced substitutes and how to handle them – strange how you don't cross things for years and then all of a sudden we have a flood of them.

Physical Education and Wellbeing

Take care who you sit next to – some umpires take things very seriously and in order to assist you will help by eating your meal!

History

Got to love revisiting the 60's at the RSL – great band/great music and the biggest shock was when the Brisbane White Girls started a sing along and dancing with the music – you go girls.

Sports

Well let's just say sorry to those on the crew who were Manly supporters - but go EASTS Roosters!

With a team of eleven a great job was done covering all the games and maintaining a solid standard of umpiring throughout the weekend.

Congratulations to the final appointments:

U19 Championship Final:

- Plate - Janelle Hicks
- First Base – Norelle Thomas
- Third Base – Adrian Ralph

U19 Presidents Cup Final:

- Plate – Kyle Knight
- First Base – Maria Caterson
- Third Base – Kiri Scott

Writer: Maria Caterson