



“Director’s Award”

2001 “Vivienne Triplett Award” Umpire of the Year

Sydney 2000 Olympic Umpire JOHN MCAULIFFE is the winner of the 2001 “Vivienne Triplett Award” for Umpire of the Year.

In an umpiring career that commenced in 1964 in Adelaide, SA, John has officiated at no less than 30 Australian Championships commencing with the Jr. Girls Championship in 1984 as a candidate umpire.

Since attaining ISF Certification John has represented Australia on twelve [12] occasions, including three [3] World Championships, viz Jr. Women in 1991, Jr. Men in 1993 and Men in 1996.

John has also contributed to the development of umpires and the National Program in various ways, as a UIC and Examiner at National Championships, SASA Training Officer and Examiner and as a presenter at both National and State Umpire Program clinics.

John was a member of the self funded 1990 umpire’s tour to Canada and the US.

In 1999 the International Softball Federation appointed John to the Umpire Panel for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. His excellent and consistent performance during the softball competition was recognised with his assignment to 1st base on the Gold Medal Game.

There is no doubt that John McAuliffe is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Previous winners of this award are

Margo Koskelainen 1995, Alan Mc Auliffe 1996, Alan Mc Auliffe 1997, Ken Culpitt 1998, Toula Connolly 1999, Margo Koskelainen 2000.

Lesley Steedman is the recipient of the inaugural “Director’s Award” for 2001.

Much is said about a person’s commitment to a sport, but there is no doubt that “extraordinary dedication” is a superlative that can be attributed to Lesley’s involvement with softball umpiring.

For many years Lesley has represented NSW umpiring at Australian level with distinction and umpired at the first National [invitational] Men’s tournament in Sydney in 1984, with Marj Dwyer as UIC, where she got the taste for umpiring and the national scene.

After selection in the International Umpire Development Squad and subsequent ISF Certification, Lesley has also represented the Australian Umpire Program in the International arena in the Netherlands, Canada, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, including two World Championships.

This dedicated and determined lady has traveled an extraordinary number of kilometres over many weekends, from Leeton in south west NSW to Sydney, in her efforts to gain knowledge and umpiring experience - a 12 hour return trip.

Over the years, Lesley’s energy and personal attributes have helped many aspiring umpires in NSW and, administratively, her businesslike approach to problems has helped both the NSW Umpire’s Association and the National Umpire Program as a staff member on many occasions.

Lesley has given over twelve years of service to the Training and Examination panels of the NSW Umpires Association and is the NSW Southern Country Umpire Coordinator.

She has organised and presented country umpiring clinics for NSW and has been a UIC, Deputy UIC and examiner at NSW Championships for many years. She has been the President of the Leeton Softball Association and Vice President of the NSW Softball Association.

This special Director’s Award is given in acknowledgement of the exceptional commitment and service that Lesley Steedman has given to softball umpiring.

Since the last edition of Blue's News On-line Queensland umpires have been busy attending State Championships and were in force at the 8th Australian Masters in Newcastle.

Queensland had a large contingent of Blue's either playing or officiating or both in the Coal City. The list included—Tricia Bichel, Mark Toft, Ted Gross, Darren Sibraa, Jamie Harries, Ron Trow, Ian Goodman, Peter Walsh, Danny Griffiths, Sallyann Lewis, Heather Brown, Robyn Hoeta, Tony Ringrose, Adrian Ralph, John Dyer, Doreen Murray, Dell Ollenburg, Brian Rixon, Shane Millon, Troy Molyneux, Stephen Gutteridge, Sue Lamb, Vince Wallwork, Liz Fresser, Patti White, Kath Dale, Fiona Wilson, Dianne Bunston, Louisa Denman and I have probably forgotten some. It was a great effort from the "Bannana Benders".

While the bulk of the umpires did about 30 games each in Newcastle, Queensland hosted it's Under 16 Boys (Toowoomba) and Under 16 Girls (Ipswich) State Championships. Queensland also hosted it's Open Women's Championships in Caboolture more recently.

The pleasing result of these two junior championships and the Open Women's Championships was the higher accreditation of a number of umpires. For a complete list refer to page four of this edition.

Finals Allocations

U16 Boys—Grand Final - Frank Thomas, John Campbell, Nicole McDonald
President's Cup - Ian Bunston, Ralph Brown.

U16 Girls - Grand Final - Matthew Blake, Rick Gill, Ray Warwick
President's Cup - Helen Strauss, Mick Gorman, Paul Gierke.
Open Women's

Queensland Cup—Grand Final—Mark Toft, Frank Thomas, Ian Frame.
B Grade—Grand Final - Stephen Gutteridge, Ian Bunston, Ted Gross
President's Cup - Helen Strauss, Robyn Pittman, Danny Griffiths

"GIVE US A WAVE!"

What does dehydration do to the body?

Water is a highly important nutrient. It makes up approximately 60 per cent of the body. Dehydration can cause muscle cramps, exaggerated fatigue, loss of concentration/poor decisions, loss of co-ordination, loss of muscle force, headaches, dizziness, blurred vision and irrational decisions. All affect our performance as umpires both physically and mentally.

When an individual partakes in physical activity their need for more rapid fluid replacement increases. The body's water content can greatly affect physical performance. Without adequate fluid replacement the body's ability to tolerate extended exercise periods is reduced. Studies have shown that dehydrated individuals are intolerant of prolonged exercise and are prone to heat stress. For example a distance runner that can run 10,000 meters in 35 minutes when dehydrated will take two minutes 48 seconds longer.

What really happens?

Fluid loss decreases blood pressure which, in turn, reduces blood flow to the muscles and skin (decreasing our performance ability). The body tries to overcome this by increasing the heart rate. As the body is producing more heat it sweats. Through sweating we lose water and important nutrients. It can also make your plate equipment wet and smelly, especially if you leave it in your bag for three weeks (David Crowe). It is not uncommon for an individual to lose two to three litres of fluid through sweat in one hour. When we sweat we lose electrolytes (which are dissolved substances that can conduct electric current, these are highly important in getting the muscles to contract).

Electrolytes can be found in all commercial drinks, especially high is sport drinks, such as Powerade, Gatorade and Lucozade (see a pattern?). Even though the need to replace electrolytes is important, our need to replace body fluids (water) is greater.

What can be done to prevent dehydration?

"Prevention is better than cure". As umpires we can umpire in a variety of climates, from hot in Tweed to cold in Goulburn. Naturally our fluid intake will vary as well. Two hours prior to your game you should consume at least 500ml of water. During the game take enough water so that you can drink 100 to 150ml of water every 20 minutes. This could mean forcing yourself to drink. Alternatively you can take a sports drink onto the game, so that your body is replacing lost electrolytes. Do not replace water before or after the game with a sports drink as water is still best for the body. If you begin to feel thirsty....it's to late! Once the game has finished continue to drink water. Continue this pattern throughout the day, of course remembering to go to the toilet or you will be in the bottom of the seventh, 1-0 team at bat is behind, runner on third and you can't move anywhere in fear that you will wet yourself!!!



Big Al's Tester

I was recently asked to comment on the following query about a difficult situation concerning a pitched ball hitting the hands on the bat:

I cannot find a clear definition in the Rulebook for the following situation.

If the batter hits the ball safely, and the ball has also hit the hands on the bat as she swung, is it a dead ball?

Is the batter out in this situation if it was the 3rd strike - as in when the batter swings and misses the ball, but the ball hits the batter, or is it just a dead ball and strike on the batter, which stays at 2 strikes if that was the count before the pitch?

Would it be an unfair penalty to give the batter out if she got on base safely with the hit?

The following was my reply:

This is one of the many "game situations" that cannot be spelt out or clearly defined, in words, in the Rulebook. It is a matter of 'thinking through' the situation logically to arrive at the correct answer. The following should help the process.

The NOTE in R8 S1f states "The batter's hands are not part of the bat." R9 S1d states "The ball is DEAD when a pitched ball touches any part of the batter's person (in this case, the hands), or clothing, whether the ball is struck at or not."

The fact that the pitch has hit the batter's hands as she swung immediately makes the ball dead, so it is not possible for a safe hit to be recorded. The pitch becomes a dead ball and a strike on the swing.

If this happens to be the 3rd strike, then the batter would be OUT under R7 S9a. It cannot just be a dead ball strike remaining at Strike 2, as the

batter has missed the ball on the swing (remember, it hit the hands - not the bat).

In these situations it becomes irrelevant as to whether the ball also hit the bat, unless the umpire can be absolutely certain that the ball hit the bat BEFORE it

hit the hands, in which case the batter has now been hit by a batted ball while still in the batter's box; the ball would still be DEAD and no safe hit could be recorded (it would simply be a foul ball and the batter would resume batting). In reality, if bat & hand are hit at the same time, the umpire should always rule a dead ball.

It is not considered an unfair penalty on the "safe hit" as, by virtue of the ball hitting the hands, she has failed to hit the ball cleanly; however, it WOULD BE UNFAIR if the ball came off the hands, she didn't run and was subsequently thrown out at 1st. You can't have it both ways!!

This is one of those difficult situations that umpires are confronted with from time to time, so it is important to have a good understanding of the above rules in order to arrive at the correct decision.

A Snippet from Canada

Krissy Chrisztopulosz participated in the Pizza Pizza Pop Fly Contest at Skydome recently.

The purpose of participating in this contest was to increase awareness of the sport of Softball while raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Hungry fans watched in anticipation as Krissy attempted to catch the pop fly balls. If she caught all three, every one in SkyDome would receive a free slice of pizza courtesy of Pizza Pizza.

Guess what 26,000 happy fans ate for dinner on Sunday night!!!!!! At the end of the contest, Bases for Wishes presented a cash donation of \$1,294.00 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. We would like to thank the Softball Community, family and friends for their generous donations and support.

Level 4

Ron Trow, Ian Goodman, Bruce Challenor (QLD)

Level 3

Maxine Bullion, Danny Griffiths (Re-acredatation), John Campbell, Adam Palmer, Ralph Brown, Nikki McDonald (QLD)

Level 2

Sallyanne Lewis, Sarah Ray (QLD)

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE!

<p>Women January 6-12 Canberra</p> <p>M. Koskelainen UIC</p> <p>Examiners A. McAuliffe SA L. Steedman NSW</p> <p>Crew D. Crowe NSW D. Culpitt ACT L. Evans VIC S. Itzstein NSW G. James VIC D. Keogh VIC B. McCahon NSW D. Shephard NSW D. Waller VIC L. Whitehead VIC S. Hodges NZ N. Ogier NZ</p> <p>Candidates Nil</p>	<p>U19 Men January 6-12 Melbourne</p> <p>J. McAuliffe UIC</p> <p>Examiners J. Larter D. McCauley</p> <p>Crew K. Franklin VIC A. Greggs NSW N. McGaskill NZ R. Scammell VIC M. Toft QLD P. Waller VIC</p> <p>Candidates G. Baker NSW K. Broomhall VIC</p>	<p>U16 Boys January 6-12 Sydney</p> <p>P. Bichel UIC</p> <p>Examiners A. Rindfleish D. Grove</p> <p>Crew L. Freeman NSW T. Pascall NSW R. Pittman QLD R. Robinson SA</p> <p>Candidates A. Chapman NSW A. Cheeseman WA</p> <p>Skill Share M. Lee NT</p>	<p>U19 Women January 13-19 Adelaide</p> <p>M. Koskelainen UIC</p> <p>Examiners A. McAuliffe P. Baker</p> <p>Crew G. Boyle NSW Y. Kahler QLD D. Keogh VIC R. Robinson SA K. Tannebring SA</p> <p>Candidates N. Crowe NSW S. Rindfleish NSW</p> <p>Skill Share I. Bunston QLD</p>	<p>U16 Girls January 13-19 Hobart</p> <p>T. Connolly UIC</p> <p>Examiners J. Larter N. Lawrance</p> <p>Crew J. Glistak SA T. Gross QLD R. Harrison NSW S. Itzstein NSW F. Thomas QLD</p> <p>Candidates J. Lamond NSW R. Dawson SA</p> <p>Skill Share R. Houison VIC</p>	<p>Men March 10-16 Perth</p> <p>J. McAuliffe UIC</p> <p>Examiners K. Culpitt A. Rindfleish</p> <p>Crew P. Baker WA L. Evans VIC M. Gowty VIC G. James VIC D. McCauley KI</p> <p>Candidates G. Bancroft WA M. Toft QLD</p>
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THIS IS THE LATEST VERSION I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH EVERYONE THE BEST AT THIS YEAR'S NATIONALS ESPECIALLY THE CANDIDATES AND THE SKILL SHARE UMPIRES.

TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD—GOOD LUCK AND I HOPE YOU LEARN HEAPS AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN.

M.G.T.

If umpiring at a tournament that lasts several days in a hot climate it is a good idea to weigh yourself in the morning and then again at night. You need to drink fluid volume equal to the difference of the two weights (1 kilogram = 1 litre). For example if you weigh 85kg in the morning then 80kg at night you would need to drink 5 litres of water to re-hydrate yourself. I know that seems like a lot to drink, it should be spaced over a few hours.

Another important note, although some will find it disturbing, alcohol is **NOT** a recommended fluid replacement!!!! Although it may taste good and it may relax you, it only dehydrates you more. Sorry Guys.

**References: Wilmore & Costill, Physiology of Sport and Exercise
Crowe, Sports Physiology (University of Newcastle)**



They're coming: Don't hold your breath waiting for our new shirt patches. They say they are coming. A friend suggests we may have to sew them on, on our way to Nationals.

Wanted
Full time position.
Experienced print journalist.
Will relocate to any State.
Genuine request!!!!!!
mtoft@ozemail.com.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 20—Ground Hog Day
November 20—Ground Hog Day

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR BIRTHDAY

If you want to join our birthday call just send us the date of your birthday. Margo has most senior umpires' profiles but there are many more junior/senior umpires out there not on her list. Just send us yours or your friend's date.

Canopy Beds

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. this posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. that's how canopy beds came into existence.

Thresh Hold

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt floor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way - hence, a "thresh hold".

Peas porridge

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for awhile - hence the rhyme, "peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Bring home the bacon & Chewin' the fat

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they could hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon" They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat".

Lay some skin on me

Australian Capital Territory

ACTSA is running a men's SKINS competition in December. The SKINS is based on money being given to the side who wins an innings. As a result we require SENIOR umpires to officiate at the A Grade level.

Umpires will be paid the following.

Payment structure for the umpires for the Canberra Classic over 7-9th December 2001 as follows;

A Grade \$35 Plate, \$20 Base. Total budget

B Grade \$25 Plate, \$15 Base. Total budget

Accommodation and breakfast is Free of Charge at the Eagle Hawke.

The cost to the umpires would be to get themselves to Canberra.

If anyone is interested please contact me at the following address.

Denise.Culpitt@centrelink.gov.au



BIRTHDAY CALL FOR NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday dear everybody, Happy Birthday
to YOU. Hip hip! HOORAY, Hip, hip! HOORAY,
Hip hip! HOORAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



October 13 - Tony Dunne—Former International Umpire (We forgot you last month).

Nov 2—John McAuliffe—2000 Olympic Umpire, 2001 Umpire of the Year recipient.

Nov 5—Bruce Burford—South Australian Legend Umpire—Level 6.

Nov 23—Rod Dawson—Level 5 Candidate U16 Girls in Hobart in January 2002.

Nov 28—Reg Stabb—Former Level 6 Victorian Umpire.

Nov 29—Debbie Keogh—Member of the International Development Squad for 2002.

Nov 30 -Ted Norris—Level 5 New South Wales Umpire.

WORLD MASTERS GAMES IN THE STATE OF

Victoria

October 2002 will see a multitude of participants descend on Melbourne for the 2002 World Masters Games, covering 29 sports, of which, softball is expected to have the largest number of participants.

At this time, we have over 1400 expressions of interest in Softball, and are planning to play Fastpitch at 2 venues, Jells Park Waverley and Gilbert Park Knox, with the slowpitch component being played at Melbourne Softball Association (Fawkner Park).

Chair	John Larter	jonvon@ozemail.com.au
Waverley Representative	Leane Wilkinson	leawilkinson@hotmail.com
Knox Representative	Graeme Young	gmyoung@ozemail.com.au
Melbourne Representative	Elaine Duyvestyn	melbsoft@sx.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the above if you have any question relating to the 2002 World Masters Games.

Marg's Crew are beating the heat in NT

NORTHERN TERRITORY

All umpires had a 3-week break but now the Men's competition has begun! If we didn't think it was hot and sticky before, well we do now!! A great wind up was held at Ando's and we all christened the new pool. BTM wowed us all with his cooking skills and little awards were given out. One umpire received a new water bottle with bright stickers on it so he would remember to put it behind the fence!!!! Another received some dice to go in his car to remind him of his other job!!! Grand final day went off well with no major dramas. All umpires were given an appreciation award from Active Australia and retired to have a few well earned refreshments.
Cheers Marg

STOP PRESS

Victorian Level 6 Umpire and 2002 International Training Squad Member, Di Waller last week was selected to tour New Zealand with the Australian Women's Team from November 13 to November 28. On behalf of all your umpiring family we wish you all the best on tour. You Go Girl!!!!!!!!!!

Larter
the best
Medicine



There is al-
ways time
to laugh!

These are from a book called Disorder in the Court - things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters.

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July fifteenth.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were you doing at that time?

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive, never the less?

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

Crew Signals Pre-game meeting with Coaches

I was a visiting umpire at another association and was asked to be a base umpire with one of the junior umpires. He told me he was going to do a pre-game meeting with the two coaches. To my amazement I thought, great this guy has the making of a fine officiator. That was until he opened his mouth.

To the best of my knowledge this is what was said at the plate.

“Alright there will be no spitting, no swearing, no jewelry, no questioning calls and this is your first warning. From now you and or your players will be ejected from the game.”

Needless to say the two coaches were quite set back from this, but went along anyway as if they had heard it all before.

Following the game I indicated to my junior partner how the Coaches Meeting prior to the game could make or break the game, and he may consider a different approach—a more friendly one.

“Good Morning/Afternoon. My name is and this/these are the base umpire/s This is a time game of 90 minutes and if we start an innings we will finish the innings. There are markers indicating 200ft and if the ball is blocked beyond that distance, four bases will be awarded. We are very approachable and if you have any questions wait until the play is finished before calling time and then you may speak to the umpire in question.”

Of course there are many different things that you can tell the two coaches, but the important thing is to be confident in what you are saying and make sure you are able to answer some of the basic question which a coach may ask. Again that is where your partner/s come in. If you don't have the answer maybe the senior umpire on the game could assist with an answer.

Another thing to ensure is that you take a coin to do the toss. It is so much better to toss a coin than to toss your counter.

First impressions are always remembered. If you make a good impression the coach will probably go back to the bench and tell his players that the umpires are on their game and they are to show some respect. This is better than upsetting the coach who goes back to the bench with steam coming from his ears and all he can think of is how to upset the Blues in charge of his game.

Next month we will talk about game management with special comments from a popular Victorian umpire. (The Warrior Princess)