

Blue's News On-Line

Official Australian Softball Umpire's Magazine

Contributions to mtoft@ozemail.com.au October Edition 10/2005

Umpires clean up at Excellence Awards By Mark Toft

Umpires Alan McAuliffe, Leigh Evans, Darrell Shepherd and Ryan Benson have been recognised at the 2005 Softball Australia Awards of Excellence Dinner in Canberra at the weekend.

McAuliffe was inducted into the Australian Softball Federation Hall of Fame. Alan joins umpire legends Marj Dwyer (Deceased), Vivienne Triplett and Margo Koskelainen who have been honored our sports most prestigious Australian award.

Leigh Evans was named the Vivienne Triplett Umpire of the Year. More on Leigh and this prestigious award on page 2 of this edition.

Darrell Shepherd was presented with the Administrator of the Year for his work as State Director of Umpiring in New South Wales.

Ryan Benson made it a 'repeat' when he took out the IT award for the second consecutive year for his intensive work on the New South Wales Website.

On behalf of all Blue's News On-Line readers congratulations to all four umpires.

What's in this Edition

- Our own English Rose in the land of the Cherry Blossoms
- ISF Squad in detail
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- Softball in Iraq

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Umpire of the Year



Well Done: Victorian Umpire, Leigh Evans accepts the presentation of VKT Umpire of the Year from Vivienne Triplett at the Awards of Excellence Night in Canberra recently.

Cathy's on long service leave

Just to let you all know I will be on two months leave from work as of this Friday

I will only be available via my home e:mail of callen504@bigpond.com

(Have to take long service)

I will still be contactable via my mobile of 0403025581 or my home telephone (08) 8952 9194.

Could all please ensure that any mail be sent to the my home address.

Leigh Evans takes the VKT Umpire of the year Award

By Mark Toft

Victorian Umpire Leigh Evans has been honoured at the Softball Australia Awards of Excellence Dinner by being named the Vivienne Triplett Umpire of the Year for 2005.

Leigh has had an amazing year officiating at the International series in Sydney at Easter and then being selected to officiate at the 2005 Under 19 World Youth Championships in Canada.

His appointment to the semi final plate would have been in the highlights of his career, but to be awarded the plate in the preliminary final the following day capped off what would be one of the biggest honours for an Australian Umpire.

Leigh's family are heavily involved with softball. Wife of 22 years, Sandra has played the game most of her life and has had the distinction of being a Victoria State coach and was selected as an ASF Development Coach two years ago. Daughter, Stacey is currently a Level 3 umpire while son Andrew is a regular member of the Victoria Youth State team. To round it out Leigh's mother-in-law, Betty McGuire is a retired International Softball Federation umpire.

Besides this year's World Championships at Prince Edward Island Leigh's career highlights include Officiating at the 2004 Japan Cup and being appointed to the plate on the Championship Game; being the Plate umpire at every Level of the Victoria Championship Grand finals both men and women; officiating at the New Zealand Island Bay Classic; attaining his Level 6 accreditation; umpiring in the 2001 Australia v New Zealand test series; being selected in the 2002 International Development Squad.

Leigh started umpiring in 1987 to help out at junior level. From there he decided to attend an umpiring clinic in 1990 which led to his Level 1 accreditation the next year. In 1997 he gained his Level 5 and his Level 6 in 2000. Leigh is currently the Victorian Rules Interpreter and a National Staff member for the Australian Umpiring Committee.

I have known Leigh since 1998 and is a humble man who enjoys life. Besides his two loves, family and softball, Leigh makes time to catch up with old friends at various championship throughout Australia. On behalf of the Australian Umpiring Family I take this opportunity to congratulate Leigh on this most prestigious award. Well done Leigh you are a model to the umpiring fraternity.

VKT Award winners

1995	Margo Koskelainen
1996	Alan McAuliffe
1997	Alan McAuliffe
1998	Ken Culpitt
1999	Toula Connolly
2000	Margo Koskelainen
2001	John McAuliffe
2002	Matt Gowty
2003	Debbie Grove
2004	Neville Lawrance
2005	Leigh Evans



PLAY BALL: *Ismail Khalil, trainer and head of the national baseball and softball federation, shows softball players how to bat during training.*

Women taking a swing at softball (From USA TODAY, Sept. 15, 2005)

BAGHDAD — Add another item to the list of U.S. imports coming to Iraq.....women's softball.

Non-existent before the U.S.-led invasion, women's softball is catching on.

The Iraqi Baseball Union currently counts four female softball teams competing against one another in Baghdad and six in outside provinces, says Ismael Khalil Ismael, the union's founder. The union has had men's baseball teams for nearly 10 years.

"It is a new game for Iraqi society," says Farah Safa, 25, a teacher and softball player. "You feel that you are practicing many sports at the same time, and that is why I like it." She says softball shares some of the same skills needed for volleyball and track," Ismael said.

Ismael, a longtime baseball enthusiast, has worked for years to establish the sport in Iraq. In 1994, he submitted a request to the Iraqi Olympic Committee to establish a baseball team to compete against other countries. Committee members rejected the idea, saying it was "too American," he says. He spent three days in a Baghdad jail for even proposing the idea, he says.

"They told me it was an American game, which meant I had made contact with American people," he says. He hadn't made contact with Americans, though his Iraqi cousin, who lived in the USA, sent him bats and balls. Two years later, the mood at the committee had eased. This time, the committee accepted the offer, and baseball was born in Iraq.

Women's softball still seemed a little far off then, he says. After the U.S.-led invasion in early 2003, however, Ismael applied to the committee and created a national women's softball team. He also added female teams to the existing Iraqi Baseball Union, which he founded in 1996. To find female athletes who knew how to swing a bat or field a pop fly, Ismael put out ads and held trivia competitions on radio stations across Iraq. He was surprised at the positive response. "You cannot imagine the number of applications I got not only from Baghdad but from all over Iraq," Ismael said.

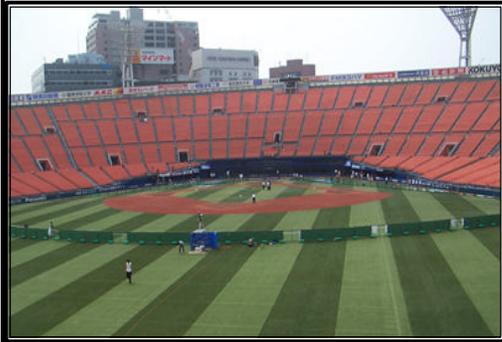
After building a good base of female athletes, he set up training camps for players and coaches to go over the rules of the game and strengthen skills. But as insurgent bombings mounted this summer in the area where they practiced in Baghdad, the training camps ceased, Ismael says. Practice is set to start again next week.

"Although softball and baseball are associated with the USA, the players haven't received any threats," Ismael said. He, however, recently received his first threat, which came via e-mail from someone in Saudi Arabia.

Ismael emailed him back. "We can't beat the U.S. with weapons," he told him. "Let's try with their sports."

By Mona Mahmoud

Flying High in Japan (or climbing way too many stairs!) with Julie Richardson



After a delay of an hour in Perth due to a flat front tyre (on the plane!), I managed to arrive in Sydney to meet with the rest of the Australian Team, the Aussie Spirit at 1910h. After a few hours in Sydney, we embarked across the Pacific arriving in *Tokyo Narita* airport at 0635h. It then took another two hours by bus to reach the Hotel!

The Tour was broken into two stages. The first being the “Japan Cup”, held in Yokohama July 28 - 31. The second was held August 1 - 5.

“Japan Cup” tour was held at the *Hodogaya Park*, with the Grand final played at *Yokohama Stadium*. The crew consisted of five Japanese umpires, one American (TX), myself and the UIC (from Japan).

The opening of the games was something else, of one I have never experienced before! The honour of the first plate was mine, and with it, were some duties that needed to be undertaken preliminary to the start of the game. This event is different as we had held the Opening Ceremony back at the Hotel the previous night unlike here in Australia where we hold them at the grounds. The fanfare of the first game was quite impressive.



After the number one brass band, whom were amazing, introduced the preliminary event starting with the introductions of the officials for the game over the loud speaker. As the appointed plate umpire, and first up on the intro list, I went out and took my position at home plate, then turned, bowed in acknowledgement to the spectators which was met with great applause and enthusiasm. The others then followed.



Once we were out on the diamond, a helicopter hovered over the pitching mound where four balls (tied together) were dropped and collected by myself. This was the prelude to the next event where the balls were then presented to each of the four celebrities who took their position on the pitching mounds and were to pitch the ball simultaneously to each represent-

tative catcher and batter of each of the representing countries attending the tournament. My role in this finale was to simply call “strike!” and then the game began between *Japan* and *China*.

The weather was something else and quite unseasonably hot and humid. A trend that continued throughout the tour!

The venues were simply awesome, the light towers were that which you get at the AFL footy or major cricket grounds in Australia – they were HUGE! The diamonds were either fully skinned, or astro-turf infields with manicured grass outfields.

The games between *Japan* and *USA* were phenomenal games. The first encounter and the privilege of doing the plate went to ten innings resulting in *Japan* defeating the *USA* team 1-0. The *Aussie Spirit* team congratulated me on the game, even though it delayed their game some forty minutes! It was certainly a humbling moment as an official to be accepted as part of the team of which all members of the Aussie Spirit ensured that I was involved in their activities such as team meetings, meals etc.



The final day of the “Japan Cup” saw two games being played – 3 vs. 4 position and 1 vs. 2 position. The tournament UIC, whom I called “The Boss” chiefed the 3 vs. 4 game between Australia and China. The 1 vs. 2 was between Japan and USA and appeared to be a repeat of the previous day. The honour of plating this game was bestowed upon myself, and what a game it was! We ran a six umpire system and unlike the preliminary days, the Grand final was held at *Yokohama Stadium*.



The Closing Ceremony was not as eventful as the Opening Ceremony of which the umpires didn't partake. After saying our farewells, we packed our gear and went home.

The second tournament of the tour was primarily Exhibition matches with College teams and national youth squads.

On August 1st we arrived at *Atsugi Urban Hotel*. We were really spoiled at the first accommodation. On Tuesday, I met up with the local umpires. The first day crew consisted of four males and three females plus the UIC.

On Friday, I was treated to a very special day by a local umpire *Seiji* and his wife, *Maiko*. I was given a grand tour of the temples in *Yokohama*. A particular temple known as *Engakuji* temple was very spectacular. Following the tour of the temples, I was invited back to *Seiji's* parents place for an evening meal and *saki*. It was a wonderful cultural experience and I had learnt much.



All in all, the tour to Japan was a brilliant and wonderful adventure of which are filled with new friends and lots of brilliant, unforgettable memories.



A special "Thank You" to Andrew Rindfleisch and ASF for this fantastic opportunity to experience an International Tour and to the *Aussie Spirit* team whom warmly welcomed me to the team during the tour.

Julie Richardson.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey Guys,
Just thought I'd let you know that I have resigned as SDU of the ACT. Don't really think it matters much to you guys, or the National executive, as the ACT seems to get lost in the bureaucratic shuffle that seems to take place.

We are still waiting to get the competency based testing programs for the Level 1's-4's. So keep up the good fight..... Thanks to all who have been most generous in their help for this novice. If you should be in Canberra we might meet up somewhere... for a coffee? I'll be more than happy to make it. Once again thanks and it was fun.

Nathan Levy

Dear Mark,

News from Victoria:

On 22 October 2005, Softball Australia recognised some of the greatest in its history when players, officials and administrators gathered for the fourth annual Awards of Excellence Dinner in Canberra. The awards are designed to honour exemplary achievement in categories such as coaching, officiating, athletic performance (male and female), spirit, administration and information technology. The **Australian Softball Umpire of the Year, Vivienne Triplett Award**, went to Leigh Evans who has been umpiring for 15 years, and since 1997 has umpired over 600 games. Well done Leigh and congratulations

Richo Retires

Mark, please place this in BNOL for me - Thanks

I started umpiring in 1985 and at that time there was some really good ball being played, a lot of kiwi imports came to play ball in WA.

I attend my first Nationals in Darwin in 1993 where I was successful for my Level 5 and also was selected for the Grand Final on 3rd base.

I had the privilege of being select to tour NZ with the Australian Men's side in 2000.

I have had a great time umpiring at Nationals over the passed 12 years and I would like to thank every one that I have ever umpired with. I have made some really good friends in this time and I will never forget them.



Five selected in 2006 International Development Squad By Mark Toft

Following a long wait the announcement of the new International Development Squad has been released.

Kevin Broomhall (Vic), Warren Duff (WA), Julie Richardson (WA), Scott Rindfleish (NSW) and Darren Sibraa (Qld) have been selected to attend an ISF clinic in Auckland, New Zealand in January next year.

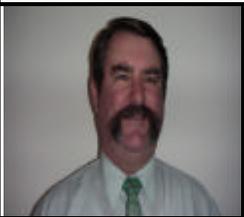
In previous squads there has been up to 10 umpires named. The abovenamed five umpires will be joined by more umpires following the 2006 Nationals.

The National Director, Andrew Rindfleish has acknowledged that the 2006 International Development Squad is not complete with more opportunities available to other qualifying Level 6 umpires.

Recently, the National Director released an email to explain and confirm the process.

"These five umpires will attend an ISF Clinic in January 2006 in Auckland New Zealand. Their development will continue into 2007 through tournaments and clinic sessions in Australia."

"Our international umpire development program and squad will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Specifically, following the 2006 round of National Championships, it is envisaged that additional squad members will be selected to join the above five to participate in the 2007 program and beyond."



KEVIN BROOMHALL

State: Victoria

Started umpiring: 1992

Position on Victorian Committee: Training Officer

National Levels Attained: Level 5 (2000) Canberra, Level 6 (2002) Melbourne.

CAREER INFLUENCES

"Unlike many in the umpire fraternity, my family is not involved with softball. In stark contrast to this however my wife has always encouraged my participation in the sport and continues to be my greatest support and was as happy and pleased with my selection as I."

"I was incredibly fortunate to have commenced my career in Victoria at a time where there was an incredible senior talent. Many of who are now not involved, Lyn Bishop, Debbie Grove, Rhonda Scammell, George James, Kerry Franklin and John Larter to name just a few. Additionally, I have had the privi-

lege of umpiring extremely good players, in particular those Men that have represented Australia and Victoria. Players who encouraged me to keep going and to try to provide the level of umpiring that they deserved."

"If I must name one person who has influenced me throughout this time it would be Kerry Franklin. Her devotion to umpiring was unsurpassed. Tipping her life upside-down to ensure she was able to represent this country at the Olympics, including giving up a promising career with the bank. Following more than half of her life with this focus she has now unfortunately left softball (hopefully temporarily) to start a new career and a life, which she had on hold for so many years."

"... I could not be that unselfish, however have learnt incredibly much from this lady".

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- My first National Championship (Canberra) where I was a Level 5 candidate at the last 16 / 19 boys.
- The honor of this selection.



DARREN SIBRAA

State: Queensland

Started umpiring: 1996

Position on Queensland Committee: State Director/Training
National Levels attained: Level 5 (2003) Melbourne, Level 6 (2005) Launceston

CAREER INFLUENCES

"My wife, Tricia, has been the greatest source of inspiration in umpiring primarily through her ability to motivate and challenge my ability. When I first started umpiring I had no knowledge of a "National Program", but was keen to learn. That's where Tricia and the other senior umpires in Queensland were all too ready to provide input. Great mates like Frank Thomas and Mark Toft have provided tremendous support in my endeavours and often been traveling companions when we "chased" tournaments. My partnership with Tricia has also introduced me to many great friends from interstate that I have learnt from and I couldn't wait to join them at Nationals."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Without doubt, the most significant moment has been my selection in this squad. Highly rated moments include my first State Championship, my first National Championship, every time I passed a level (although this could be expressed as relief), and being appointed to the plate at the Under 16 boys Nationals final in 2004.

**SCOTT RINDFLEISH**

State: New South Wales
 Started umpiring: 1995
 Position on NSW Committee: Training Officer
 National Levels Attained: Level 5 (2002) Adelaide, Level 6 (2004) Brisbane

CAREER INFLUENCES

"Fortunately I have a great resource base at home with my whole family heavily involved in softball at elite levels. My umpiring role model is obviously my father, Andrew and his guidance and advice has afforded me the best opportunities to be ready for all my exams and continually assists with my development. My mother, Susan has played a pivotal role in my career not on technical aspects but most certainly with regard to communication skills and interpersonal interaction. In the early days my brother, Adam while he was umpiring was also a role model and now, continues to be a great supporter."

CAREER HIGHLIGHT: Selection in the International Umpire Development Squad.

**WARREN DUFF**

State: Western Australia
 Started umpiring: 1995
 Position on WA Committee: State Director
 National Levels Attained: Level 5 (2003) Melbourne, Level 6 (2005) Launceston

CAREER INFLUENCES

A number of people have helped shape my career, especially early on. I got the opportunity to work with Mike Ericson, Peter Baker, Peter and Julie Richardson right from a level 1. All of those people taught me an extensive amount.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Seeing some of the people I helped train, achieve higher certifications
- Level 5 Certification Melbourne 2003
- GF 3rd base Under 16 Girls Perth 2004
- Level 6 Certification Launceston 2005
- ISF Development Squad Selection 2005

**JULIE RICHARDSON**

State: Western Australia
 Started umpiring in 1985.
 Level 5 - 1994, U16/U19 Men's Mirrabooka Perth, WA.
 Level 6 - 1998, Open Women's, Homebush Sydney, NSW.

Person/persons I have been influenced by in my career would be number 1, my husband Peter who has always been there for me and continues to do so. There are also a number of other very special people that have impacted on my career of which Albert Dumaresq is one whom I credit for encouraging me at the beginning of my umpiring career. His friendship, wisdom and experience in the game, laid a very solid foundation to my softball umpiring career. Toula and "Big Al" were also people whom I respected and looked up to. Toula always kept me in the game. Her friendship during times of pressure and support to get through them was a treasure. "Big Al" is man that I could always talk to, his common sense approach and uncomplicated way of explaining things was an immense help especially in my senior stage of my career.

Why do I umpire?

I love the sport, the camaraderie, friendships that are borne through common interests; respect from players and fellow officials earned through time, experience, skill; the reward of achievements, not just my own, but of the players that I watch from start to finish and the umpires that I train. The satisfaction of watching these people achieve their own goals, their dreams is very rewarding and the feeling of having some influence in their achievements. I also enjoy the travelling opportunities that the sport provides - to be able to network not only within the city, but regional areas within the state, nationally and internationally. To be able to go out onto any softball diamond in the world and be confident in my ability and the ASF Umpiring Programme.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT:

- Representing Australia at the 2005 Japan Cup
- Officiating the Grand Final at the Japan Cup
- Selection in the 2006 International Development Squad.

Northern Territory honors Marg and Cathy

At the end of year Presentations for the Darwin Softball Association Marg Lee was presented with the Services to Softball for the Association for work over and above her role as an umpire in Darwin.

In the Alice Springs Association Cathy Allen was awarded the same for services to the Alice Springs Association.

More about Rules with Alan McAuliffe

THE RUNNING LANE (OR THE ONE METRE {3 FOOT} LANE):

You know what that is; it's the lane that is sometimes not marked on your field. But if they *did* mark it, it would begin 9.14m (30 feet) from home plate, extend 0.91m (3 feet) into foul territory and run up to the front edge of first base extended.

A. Reason for the rule: Protection of the defence.

When a batter-runner is trying for first, the rule requires he should be in that lane for the last half of the distance to the base. If he is not AND he impedes a fielder while the ball is being thrown to first, he is out for interference and runners return to the bases held at the time of the pitch. The rule also allows for an exception: The batter-runner may (indeed, he must) run to the left (fair territory) or the right (foul territory) of the lane if it's to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make a play on a fair-batted ball.

B. When the lane is important:

Let's get this point clear: What I'm about to say is *not* in any rulebook, but it's a "rule provision" (interpretation) nevertheless, because it has been determined via the decisions of thousands of umpires in tens of thousands of games played all over the world. The running lane should enter the umpire's decision-making process only when the ball is being thrown to first *from behind the batter-runner*. For example, when the third baseman throws off line to first and the first baseman goes for the ball, if contact occurs don't look down to see where the batter-runner's feet are; if you do, you're on the way to blowing the call. The **intent** of the rule is to keep the batter-runner from screening the fielder *behind* him from the first baseman in *front*. Keep it that way in your games and you should avoid trouble.

C. What is interference?

1. In upper levels of play interference of this type rarely occurs, even when the batter-runner is not legally in the lane: You'll often hear the first baseman yelling "Inside, inside," telling the catcher the batter-runner is properly in his running lane. "Outside, outside" lets everyone know the batter-runner is not in his lane, so the catcher should step to foul ground, if possible, to make the throw. Remember also that the batter-runner may legally run to the fair portion of the double base (which probably means the batter-runner is not running inside the lane) when the first baseman sets up on the foul portion of the base to receive a fair-batted ball, or dropped third strike, that has been recovered and thrown from foul territory.

2. It's always interference if the throw from the catcher or pitcher (even from the first or third baseman if fielding a short bunt) hits the batter-runner when he's not in the lane. The lines that mark the lane are part of the lane, so for interference to be called, the batter-runner must have some part of his body outside the lines at the time of contact.

3. It's always interference if the ball sails into right field, or if the fielder behind makes no throw when, in the umpire's judgement, the batter-runner, by not being in the lane, created the miscue or intimidated the fielder, who feared to throw because of possible injury to the offensive player.

4. If the batter-runner, by any other action, interferes, whether in or out of the running lane, he is also out – even when he's already out, as in the following example: **The play:** R2 at second advances on a bunt. As the batter-runner is nearing first, he waves his arms and yells at the first baseman in an effort to distract him. Even so, the throw from the catcher to the second baseman covering first just beats the batter-runner, resulting in an out on the batter-runner.

Ruling: In this instance, the batter-runner should be declared out on interference as soon as he began waving his arms and yelling, and R2 should then be returned to second base. (In a play of this nature, it is extremely important to get the mechanics of the call correct, because if you don't you can expect some heat from the offensive team – a simple call of "out" will surely land you in trouble; the correct mechanic is to call "Dead Ball – Interference – Out", at the same time pointing to the batter-runner to indicate who has created the interference.)

Victorian Liaison Officer Appointments

I am pleased to announce that Trevor Murphy will be the liaison officer for Women's Open National Championship in January, with Rhonda Rowe being backup in case Trevor is unavailable.

I am also pleased to announce that Stacey Evans will be the Liaison Officer for Liaison Officer for the Commonwealth Men's Championship in January.

State Director of Umpiring

Lindsay Whitehead

Indonesian Men's National Team Tour

Dale Districts Men's Softball Association played host to the Indonesian Men's National Team. Playing against three local State League teams and the WA U19 Men's, the Indonesian team came away with a 1 – 3 record. However, two games were decided against the Indonesian team in the bottom of the last innings and the result could have easily been 3 – 1.

Making themselves available to umpire the four games, were

Stirling Centrals v Indonesia - Warren Duff, Bill Kilmurray, Steve Gunter
Bedford Invasion v Indonesia - Bill Kilmurray, Warren Duff
Eastern Monarchs v Indonesia - Warren Duff, Danny Wikitooa, Bill Kilmurray
U19 Men's v Indonesia - Bill Kilmurray, Warren Duff, Steve Gunter

WOMEN January 1-7 Melbourne	U19 WOMEN January 8-14 Brisbane	U16 GIRLS January 8-14 Canberra	U16 BOYS January 15-21 Perth
Rindfleish Andrew NSW 8 U Lawrance Neville SA 7 E ItzStein Sue NSW 6 E Broomhall Kevin VIC 6 Duff Warren WA 6 Grove Debbie VIC 7 Waller Diane VIC 6 Keogh Debbie VIC 6 Richardson Julie WA 6 Rindfleish Scott NSW 6 Sibraa Darren QLD 6 Houison Ron NSW 5 C Turnbull Martin QLD 5 C	Sibraa Tricia QLD 7 U Baker Greg NSW 6 E Grove Debbie VIC 7 E Harrison Ross NSW 5 Kahler Yvonne QLD 6 Maas Betty WA 5 Pittman Gary QLD 5 Tannebring Kevin SA 5 Trow Ron QLD 5 Gorman Mick QLD 4 C Watt Howard NSW 4 C Casey David QLD 4 S Harries Jamie QLD 4 S	McAuliffe John SA 8 U Culpitt Ken ACT 8 E James George VIC 6 Atkinson Brett ACT 5 Bunston Ian QLD 5 Cheeseman Alan WA 5 Frame Ian QLD 6 Gutteridge Stephen QLD 5 Pittman Robyn QLD 5 Robinson Raylene SA 6 E Turnbull Alex ACT 4 C Gill Rick QLD 4 S Strauss Helen QLD 5	Lawrance Neville SA 8 U James George VIC 6 E Richardson Julie WA 6 E Cheeseman Alan WA 5 Robinson Raylene SA 6 Baker Greg NSW 6 Carter Jason VIC 5 Maas Betty WA 6 Richardson Peter WA 6 Wikitoa Danny WA 5 Beashel Nick NSW 4 C Kilmurray William WA 4 C Loveridge Rick VIC 4 S Offer Kevin VIC 5
U19 MEN January 15-21 Launceston	MEN March 5-11 Sydney	U23 WOMEN April 5-9 Canberra	U23 Men April 5-9 Brisbane
MCAuliffe Alan SA 8 U Evans Leigh VIC 6 E McCauley Damien SA 6 E McCahon Bruce NSW 6 Tannebring Kevin SA 5 Toft Mark QLD 6 Waller Phil VIC 6 Whitehead Lindsay VIC 6 Davis Col NSW 5 C Houison Ron NSW 5	Culpitt Ken ACT 8 U Itzstein Sue NSW 6 Rindfleish Andrew NSW 8 E Evans Leigh VIC 6 Broomhall Kevin VIC 6 McCahon Bruce NSW 6 E McCauley Damien SA 6 Richardson Julie WA 6 Rindfleish Scott NSW 6 Sibraa Darren QLD 6 Toft Mark QLD 6 Pittman Gary QLD 5 C ?????? NZ	McAuliffe John SA 7 U Keogh Debbie VIC 6 Shepherd Darrell NSW 6 E Atkinson Brett ACT 5 Frame Ian QLD 6 Kahler Yvonne QLD 6 Pittman Robyn QLD 5 Baker Greg NSW 6 Strauss Helen NSW 5 Waller Diane VIC 6 E Tannebring Kevin SA 5 C Trow Ron QLD 5 C Lawrance Neville SA 7	Sibraa Tricia QLD 7 Grove Debbie VIC 7 E Bunston Ian QLD 5 Davis Col NSW 5 Duff Warren WA 6 E Gutteridge Stephen QLD 5 James George VIC 6 Toft Mark QLD 6 Turnbull Martin QLD 6 Waller Phil VIC 6 Offer Kevin VIC 5 C

Mariners Tournament One of the Best

Southside Mariners hosted the first tournament of 2005/2006 State League Season and what a tournament it was.

Western
Australia

With five members of the bronze medal winning Aussie Steelers on the diamond, the tournament was always going to be tough – especially when the three Australian pitchers were in three separate teams!

Thanks to the following umpires who helped out:

Full time

Warren Duff (UIC), Allen Cheesman, Betty Maas

Part Time

John Mooy, Grant Geary, Collin Gibb, Bill Kilmurray, Tracey Illingworth, Steve Gunter

Successfully trailed at the tournament was a “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding player conduct. It was well received by the teams and fully supported by the organising committee and the coaches. Most importantly, it was respected by the players who all worked within the guidelines. The outcome was a tournament that had no player management issues at all and was enjoyed by all who participated.

Officiating on the grand final was:

Betty Maass (Plate), Allen Cheesman (1st), Warren Duff (3rd)

The game was a hard fought game between Southside Mariners and Eastern Monarchs. Andrew Kirkpatrick (Mariners) and Neal Delpero (Monarchs) both threw excellent games with Mariners coming out winners 4 – 1.

Voted on by the players, coaches and management committee, Warren Duff was awarded “umpire of the tournament”.

Calling All Umpires for State League Season

Any umpire who is interested in helping out during the upcoming state league season, are asked to contact:

Warren Duff

State Umpire in Chief

Softball WA

041 793 8468

warrenduff@tpg.com.au

All games are to be played at Mirrabooka State Softball Headquarters, every Friday night and through out Sunday. With up to 12 games per weekend to be covered, any assistance at all would be great appreciated.

A Crew from the past



THE TEAM: 1997 Under 16 Girls National Championships - Perth
Back L to R Derrin Clark (TAS), Lindsay Whitehead (VIC), Leigh Evans (VIC), Bob Cluley (TAS), Peter Richardson (WA), Neville Lawrance (SA), Alan McAuliffe (SA), Graham Bancroft (WA), Peter Hill (NSW - Deceased)
Front L to R: Toulou Connolly (SA), Rae Robinson (SA), Julie Richardson (WA), Peter Baker (WA). Picture supplied by Peter Richardson.

Richo a true mate.....

The retirement of Peter Richardson brings to an end of a 12-year National career. Probably the one who knows him better than all of us is wife, Julie and she, more than likely, won't give away too many trade secrets.

Working with Peter in a crew at Nationals is an experience, he is a bloody fine umpire and is reliable on and off the diamond, except if he's your partner in cards.

His priorities of family first, softball, friends and work (oh! his boat comes in their somewhere) sees him enjoy life to the fullest.

Representing Australia is a goal for many umpires and Pete did that many years ago he is a down right good guy for someone born in Gibraltar so many years ago.

Pete thanks for the years of service to the sport, especially in the umpiring arena. Nationals will never be the same, you're a true mate.