

# BLUES NEWS ON LINE

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September Edition Vol 9 of 2004

## Why do we want to be umpires?

Why do everyday people decide they want to become umpires? First and foremost we decided we wanted make a lot of enemies while we learnt our trade. But that's not the reason or is it? Most of us had family members playing so we decided to get involved in officiating or we had finished our playing career and wanted to stay involved or did we really want to make enemies?

I was surfing the net the other night and came across a quote which seems very relevant when it comes to players and coaches assessing our first game. ***"You're expected to be perfect the day you start, and then improve."*** - Ed Vargo

Can you remember your first game? If so, why not share the experience with all BNOL readers. The preparation, your mentor's words of advice, your expectations and your results.

Finish your story by letting our reader's know how long you have been umpiring and what have you got out of being a softball umpire. I am sure there are many stories to be told, so why not share yours with everyone. Send to [mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

## What's in this Edition

- **National Allocations**
- **On Diamond Shirts**
- **Heat Management**
- **Queensland Blue's Busy**
- **WA Finish Winter Season**
- **Are You seeing what you are looking at?**
- **Nifty Neville in Athens**

## **Softball Awards Dinner**

Umpires who are going to the Softball Australia Awards Dinner on October 22, 2004 will not be expected to wear their blue or taupe umpires' jacket.

It is considered that a lounge suit / evening wear would be more appropriate on this occasion.

This will be a big night for umpires with the naming of the Viv Triplett Umpire of the Year Award winner and the induction of Margo Koskelainen and Alan McAuliffe into the ISF Hall of Fame.

Booking through the ASF office.

## **New On-Diamond Shirts are coming**

News Flash

When, where, how, how much, all these questions will be answered very soon.

BNOL has included an email from our National Director, Andy Rindfleish about the current status of the new on-diamond shirts with a little more background from National Staff Member, Sue Itzstein.

Just remember to place your order early in what is a new era in our sport in Australia. The working committee have done a great deal of work behind the scenes and it is believed that they have come up with something special. Thanks goes to our working group of Sue Itzstein, Darren Sibraa, Peter Richardson, Phil Waller and Yvonne Newman.

### **Email from Andrew Rindfleish:**

We have progressed the introduction of our new on diamond shirt. See Sue's email below for details of the status of the committees' efforts. In addition, Greatrex will be sending samples of undershirts, in the same moisture management material. Costs will be finalized shortly and the shirts will be available through the office. Orders will be taken after each State has had a chance to view the samples.

### **Email from Sue Itzstein:**

A manufacturer for the new National Umpiring Shirts has been chosen it is "Greatrex" from South Australia. While the quoted submitted by Greatrex was slightly cheaper than anyone else there is a sponsorship deal between ASF and Greatrex that needed to be honored.

Style of the shirts is as follows:

Material – Dri Tex Micro Mesh Moisture Management

Style – Short Sleeve Polo with a drop shoulder (long sleeve will be available)

Colour – Sky (very similar to NT shirts)

Placard – Navy inside and out with navy buttons

Collar – Navy with a Green Gold stripe

Sleeve Trim – Navy with a Green Gold stripe

Logo – will be embroidered on the chest in the same colours as the stripe in the collar and trim

Note: Collar and trim need to knitted to have a stripe.

Samples will be available and sent to the States for sizing in the next two weeks. However we will still be able to make changes at this stage if required. An order needs to placed with Greatrex by Monday October 11<sup>th</sup> to have shirts available by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

## Queensland busy with representative season



## Queensland

Queensland umpires have been put under the pump over the past month with three State Championships being held and won. Mind you The men, Under 19 Men and Under 19 Women are yet to play.

The good news is the umpires came out unscathed and Queensland can brag about more Blues moving up the accreditation ladder.

What is good about the accreditation is that there are a number of young umpires who have taken the opportunity to join the very successful program which is currently in place in the Sunshine State.

The jUmp program which is administered by The State Umpiring Committee under the guidance of State Director, Darren Sibraa and Ron Trow. Both these guys are busy traveling around the State in an effort to spread the word about the jUmp Program and the National Program.

Congratulation to the following umpires who moved up recently.

Level 3 - Paul Gierke (Toowoomba Association)

Level 2 - Dominic Skellern (Ipswich Association), Joshua Taylor (Wynnum Association), Matthew Bade (Hervey Bay Association), Chris Baxter (Rockhampton Association).

### Finals Allocations

#### Women's

Queensland Cup - Helen Strauss, Ron Trow, Ian Goodman

State Championship - David Casey, Jamie Harries, Mike Williamson

President's Cup - Mick Gorman, Dianne Bunston, Sally Crawford

#### Under 16 Girls

Grand final - Ian Goodman, Rick Gill, Jamie Harries

President's Cup - John Ashby, Maxine Bullion, Paul Gierke

#### Under 16 boys

Grand Final - Helen Strauss, Darren Sibraa, Dominic Skellern

President's Cup - Adrian Ralph, Ashley Riddell

## Up coming events in Queensland

Under 19 Women - Rockhampton - October 1, 2, 3

Under 19 Men - Ipswich - October 1, 2, 3

Open Men - Toowoomba - October 15, 16, 17

There are a number of candidates attempting higher levels at these championships and BNOL wishes these umpires all the best under examination.

## Australian Capital Territory State Director

Name: Nathan Levy

Age: 47

Born: San Francisco (USA)

Marital Status: Married - Anne (an Aussie girl)

Children: One. Daughter Aliza - Plays Under 16's

Pets: One: Dog - Labradoodle

Umpiring Level: Level Three

Sporting Career: Played baseball as a youth where he began umpiring. Nathan was given scholarship to University for baseball but went to Israel instead for 20 years. Didn't play ball there but played a form of hide-and-go-seek in the army.

Joined Israeli Army: Regular 1976 to 1979, Reserves 1979 to 1992

Resided in ACT: Canberra in 1992

Time Umpiring: Has been umpiring softball as a 'Blue' for the last three years.

Reason for becoming State Director: Marty Turnbull (former State Director) went to Brisbane and no one else around to do it.



No Pic Available

New South Wales along with the rest of the Australian Umpiring Family congratulate and recognise three new Level 3 umpires.  
**Wendy Boyd, Kyira Cox and Ryan Benson**

## HEAT MANAGEMENT – HAS POLICY SIMPLY EVAPORATED?

By Rod Dawson (Australia's US Correspondent)

In Australia heat kills more people than any other weather-related hazard. Softball is generally played in the warmest months of the year and on hotter playing days all participants, to some degree, will be affected by the heat. Further, experiences during last season have highlighted that heat management policies are ill defined or non-existent. The aim of this article is to promote awareness regarding some of the issues concerning heat management in sport and hopefully prompt further discussion.

Before progressing any further, I would ask the reader to please review an article on Heat Management presented at the 2003 State Conference of Sports Medicine Australia (Queensland Branch). This article highlights the key issues regarding this subject and reinforces the requirements for education, sound policy, supervision and decision making. The link is:

<http://www.mullins-mullins.com.au/files/HP265.PDF>

### What are the Risks?

Apart from a general lack of enjoyment, playing sport in extreme weather conditions can result in heat cramps, heat exhaustion and ultimately heat stroke and death. *(All umpires must be educated regarding the risks associated with playing sport in the heat. SDUs and tournament UICs must ensure that there is some form of emergency response plan in place for dealing with umpires under their supervision who might be suffering from heat stress, particularly possible incidents of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.)*

### How Does the Body Manage the Heat?

A healthy person has a remarkable capacity for regulating body temperature. If the air temperature is below skin temperature (~34°C), then the body's principal cooling mechanism is to radiate heat into the atmosphere. When the air temperature is above skin temperature, the body becomes an importer of radiant heat from the atmosphere, so the principal cooling mechanism is via the evaporation of sweat. However there are a number of personal factors that inhibit the body's ability to manage the heat. These factors include:

- **Clothing.** Wearing equipment and dark clothing may increase the absorption of heat from the environment as well as form barriers to evaporation. *(Most umpiring 'uniforms' are not manufactured for use in sport and will generally increase the heat load on an individual)*
- **Poor Physical Condition.** Individuals who are unfit and/or obese produce far more metabolic heat during exercise and are much less efficient at dissipating that heat. *(Any group of umpires will present with a wide range of fitness and obesity levels)*

- **Dehydration.** Sweating, inadequate fluid intake, alcohol, caffeine and certain medications can lead to fluid deficits. Without sufficient fluid the body cannot sweat. *(Umpires are generally unaware of recommended fluid intake requirements and will often be umpiring in facilities that do not provide adequate rehydration services)*
- **Medical Condition.** There are a range of medical conditions that interfere with the body's ability to manage heat. Probably the most common condition is cardio-vascular disease. *(Despite general risk management advice to the contrary, umpire registration forms do not require declarations of medical conditions, or confirmation that a doctor has cleared an individual for participation in the sport)*
- **Age.** Children (prepubescent) and older participants (>50 years age) are at additional risk. *(The age demographics for umpires are extremely wide, from prepubescent children at one end to veterans at the other.)*
- **Repeated Exposure.** Exposure to hot conditions on a previous day increases the risk of suffering heat stress for the current day. The effects of heat stress are cumulative. *(In some tournaments umpires may be out on the diamond for 4 – 5 games per day, repeating this effort for several, or more, days in a row)*
- **Previous Heat Related Illnesses.** Individuals who have a history of heat related illnesses are at risk of repeat occurrences. *(There is currently no mechanism for recording incidents of umpires suffering from heat related illnesses)*

The bottom line is that any heat management policy has to recognise that some umpires will begin to suffer from heat stress much earlier than others in the 'crew'.

### Environmental Factors

As I have mentioned air temperature is a significant factor in how body temperature is managed. Other environmental factors, which affect the body's ability to manage heat, include:

- **Relative Humidity (RH).** RH, expressed as a percentage, is a measure of the actual amount of water vapour in the atmosphere compared against the maximum possible water vapour for a given air temperature. The higher the Relative Humidity, the more saturated the atmosphere is with water vapour resulting in sweat increasingly pooling on the skin rather than evaporating.
- **Radiant Heat.** Direct sunlight adds to the body's heat load.

- **Wind.** Wind blowing in hot dry (low humidity) conditions adds to the body's heat load, with the reverse occurring in higher humidity conditions.

## Heat Stress Models

Any tool used for determining whether conditions are safe for sport must make some attempt to measure the heat stress being placed on the participants and not simply measure air temperature. (There are a number of softball associations that have based their heat management policy on temperature only. Some associations are prepared to continue matches until the air temperature reaches 40°C! These policies appear regressive and ignore the comprehensive physiological data that is available regarding heat stress guidelines.)

Two heat stress models that are widely used are the 'Wet Bulb Globe Temperature' (WBGT) and the Steadman Heat Index. WBGT is used in the US by both the military and major sporting organisations as well as in industry. Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) also recommends the use of WBGT as does the Bureau of Meteorology. ASF also appears to have recommended the WBGT model for National Championships. Lastly the South Australian Softball Association has also mandated the use of WBGT for the conduct of State Championships and their Adelaide based club competition.

In the US, the WBGT limits are varied according to the sport or other activity being conducted. This reflects an enlightened approach to the dual nature of any safety policy: providing sufficient protection to the participant without compromising the sport itself. In the Australian situation, the SMA WBGT guidelines which are understandably 'sport generic' have been adopted without amendment by SASA and even more curiously, ASF appear to recommend the same guidelines for their 'elite' level of competition.

The SMA 'sport generic' recommendations are:

- WBGT > 28°C – *Extreme* risk of heat risk and sporting events requiring moderate to intense exercise should be cancelled.
- WBGT between 23-28°C – *High* risk of heat injury
- WBGT between 18-22°C – *Moderate* risk of heat injury
- WBGT < 18°C – *Minimal* risk of heat injury.

SMA also recommends that for sport involving children and adolescents, regardless of the WBGT, activities should be cancelled when the air temperature reaches 34°C.

### Implications for Softball?

Using the Bureau of Meteorology estimation model, a plot of the SMA recommended WBGT values against Air Temperature and Relative Humidity is possible (Figure 1).

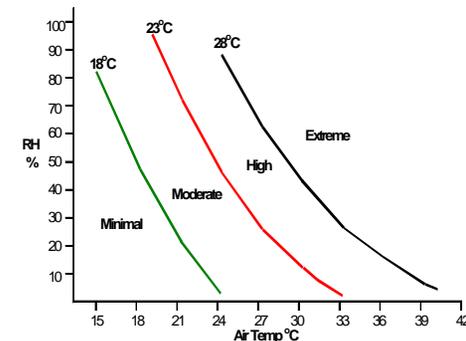


Figure 1

Assuming a universal adoption of 28°C WBGT as the trigger for suspending/cancelling softball matches, it becomes an interesting exercise to estimate the effect that this policy might have had on the 2003/2004 playing season. Fortunately the Bureau of Meteorology keeps detailed records of daily weather conditions going back 13 months. For Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra up to 2 Saturdays between early October 2003 and late March 2004 might have been lost due to WBGT exceeding 28°C. However for Brisbane and the western Sydney area, this figure reaches a significant 7 playing days potentially lost to extreme heat. Clearly the impact of any heat risk policy has to properly understood by competition organisers.

**Berri and Brisbane.** Two events also worth comparing against this model is the SA Junior Championships held over one weekend in Berri, SA during February 2004 and the National Open Women's Championship held in Brisbane in January 2004. Temperatures in Berri over the 2 day carnival were extreme (45.9°C and RH up to 18%) indicating WBGT heat stress levels of at least 32°C. This tournament was ultimately cancelled early on the second day of competition. For the Brisbane event, the temperatures were much lower (28-33°C), however the RH was between (59-75%) resulting in WBGT heat stress levels of between 29°C and 31°C. Participants were exposed to these conditions for a number of days in succession.

### Way Ahead

- **Education.** SDUs, UICs and Umpiring Coordinators must be aware of their duty of care requirements and that there can be no assumption of risk regarding those umpires under their supervision. Accordingly, umpires must be educated regarding the risks regarding officiating in the heat (as well as other risks involved in the sport). For underage umpires, supervisors must ensure that parents/guardians are fully apprised of the risks.

- **Registration.** Umpire registration forms should require disclosure of relevant medical conditions and where appropriate, confirmation that advice/clearance from the individual's doctor has been obtained, particularly if that individual is taking medication. Heat Registers should be established for the purpose of being able to identify umpires who might be at risk of heat illness and to provide some feed back mechanism regarding the effectiveness of overall heat management policy.
- **Implementation.** Embrace the SMA guidelines and make them policy. Suspend all play once the WBGT reaches 28°C. However, UICs should keep umpires advised as heat stress levels change 'zones.' ie from minimal to moderate, moderate to high, high to extreme. Remember umpires are a diverse bunch and response to heat stress will be different from individual to individual. For some umpires in particular, UICs might have to consider modifying their commitments once the WBGT reaches 'high' levels (>23 °C).
- **Monitoring.** It is essential to have some form of on-site heat stress measurement tool. The Bureau of Meteorology can provide on-line assessment of WBGT levels for requested areas. However, there are electronic devices available, either hand held or fixed that can provide estimations of heat stress levels. Their prices vary from AUD\$180 - \$1050. Alternatively there are basic temperature and relative humidity sensors that can be purchased for less than \$50.
- **Authority.** Appoint someone to monitor environmental conditions and ensure this appointee has sole authority for continuing, suspending or recommencing activities.
- **Emergency Response.** Ensure that appropriately qualified personnel are available to respond to heat stress victims. Remember, for potential heat stroke sufferers, immediate treatment is the key to survival.
- **Sport Specific Guidance.** As I have already mentioned, the SMA guidelines are 'sport generic.' ASF and the NUC could demonstrate leadership in this area by applying some appropriate sport medicine science to the SMA guidelines and produce some policy that is applicable to each level softball, from the 'elite' grade right down to the club competition level.

Thanks Rod

On behalf of the entire Blue's Family I take this opportunity to thank Rod Dawson for his contributions to the last two editions of BNOL. Rod is currently posted to the US and is quite busy, but he has found time to assist his fellow Australian umpires with information regarding Lightning (September Edition) and Heat Management (This Edition). I look forward to your next contribution. Stay well and we hope to see you back in Australia real soon.

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## Contributions for BNOL

We encourage that all umpires to take the opportunity to send articles to the editor. Deadline for October's issue is October 22.  
Send contributions to  
[mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

## **Are You Seeing What You're Looking At? How a Little Distance Gives You a Better View** by Anthony "Corky" Carter (Referee, May 2004)

Those who attended the 2002 NASO National Conference on Officiating in Albuquerque, N.M., were treated to an exceptional educational program on ways to improve officiating vision. I believe the techniques taught can certainly improve the way we see things on the softball field.

As a certified safety professional, much of my job deals with getting people to recognise hazards. Drawing from my work in driver improvement, there are vision-related techniques that also carry over to the ballfield.

We use two types of vision in our everyday endeavours: tunnel (concentric, to the centre) and peripheral (to the sides). If we understand the difference between the two and the limitations and advantages of each, we can become better umpires through better seeing.

As we walk around and do everyday tasks, we are predominately using our peripheral vision. We can see where we are going and we perceive events happening around us, although we aren't focused on any one particular element in our field of vision. That is much like when we are standing at the plate and gazing onto the field of play, and it's similar to standing behind first watching the game evolving around us.

When our peripheral vision is dominant, we have about 180 degrees in our field of vision. Some people have a little less, some a little more.

You can test yourself by putting your hands out to the side at eye level and wiggling your fingers. While keeping your eyes positioned straight ahead, if you can detect your fingers moving with your hands straight out to the side, you have about 180 degrees of vision. That is good.

If you have to move your arms toward the centre very much, you probably need to work on improving your peripheral vision. Our peripheral vision is sometimes referred to as our "early warning" vision. If you've been on the ballfield long enough, you've had the occasion to duck, move or throw your hands up when a ball, bat or player whizzes by. Your peripheral vision probably saved you from being hit.

Tunnel vision is dramatically different. When you are focused on reading, your peripheral vision gives way to your concentric vision. Instead of having that broad field of 180 degrees, your vision has narrowed to an amazing (or, perhaps alarming) three degrees. When umpiring baseball, I often wondered why I didn't see the batter swing or attempt to swing at a pitch. I now understand that I might have been too focused on the ball, thus limiting my vision to just three

degrees.

How drastic a change is that? Here is one way to see for yourself. The next time you are watching television (a sports channel or a news channel), notice what happens when they begin to scroll information across the bottom of the screen. While you are watching the program or commentator, you can see movement at the bottom of the screen, thus alerting you that something is happening. However, when you look at the information at the bottom of the screen, you can no longer see the commentator or action going on in the big portion of the screen. Your vision has essentially changed from a relaxed state of about 180 degrees to a narrow three degrees.

To test the phenomenon when driving, simply read the license plate on the vehicle you are following. You will notice that if you are looking ahead at the vehicle, you can tell there is a license plate there, even though you can't read it. When you read the license plate, you'll notice you won't even be able to see the back glass of the vehicle in front of you.

By now you are gaining an appreciation for the differences in the mechanics of how your vision works, and how to use that knowledge to improve your "seeing" on the softball diamond. I'm convinced that when we teach umpires to "focus," we might be doing them a disservice if we haven't taught them exactly what is happening from a physiological standpoint.

Umpires are taught not to get too close to the play because it cuts down that "big picture" of what's happening. Coinciding with that distance to the play is the physical change of our vision diminishing to three degrees. Put the two together and we better understand why good officials miss calls.

One way to ensure that your vision does not easily revert to three degrees is simply by keeping your eyes moving. If you move your eyes every two seconds, you will not be able to drift into a "fixed stare." Once your eyes look at an object for two or more seconds, your vision goes from 180 degrees to three degrees. That's true even when you are looking at a distant object.

As a driving example, if you look to read a billboard, your eyes focus even though it is quite a distance away. If you go directly from the billboard to the vehicle in front of you, you will be using tunnel vision. However, if you move your eyes to another object every two seconds, you'll regain your peripheral vision. Two seconds may sound like a lot of movement, but you'll be amazed at just how often you really do move your eyes now that you are aware of its importance.

The next time you are having some difficulty getting the close ones right, think about relaxing and simply keeping your eyes moving. If you do, you'll be seeing really what is happening from a broader perspective.

## 2004 Season Ends with Great Crowds and Support for WA Softball **Western Australia**

by Betty Maass, UIC

September 19th saw the culmination of a long season that commenced in April for the 2004 *Softball WA Men's Winter Competition*. Two Subbies and a Junior games started the day at 9:30 am.

The weather threatened, but held off to expose a terrific and exciting day of excellent men's softball. It was the Grand Finals and the crowds, supporters came out in force to watch the men play for the Premiership flags and for the first time, Softball WA allowed free entry for the Sunday final series.

There were nine senior divisions vying for the respected premiership flag this year. A change in format saw the Division 1/2 game being played alongside three other divisions. A bold move, however it was effective in keeping the crowds in and adding to the atmosphere.

With only three timeslots and four diamonds to service for most of the day, the challenge as the UIC was to provide umpires for all games, and to allocate them appropriately. It is never an easy task, no matter what the level of the play, especially as umpiring numbers are not growing to match the demand by competitions.

With this, I would like to extend a personal thank you to the following associations and their umpires who said, "yes" to umpiring and assisting the final series:- SEDSUA - Bill Kilmurry, Rob Harris, Adam Stoker, PSUA - James and Shane Whelan, Other - Colin Gibb

Congratulations to the following people allocated the plate for each of the Grand final divisions:

Sub-Jnr Gold - R Bond (Azul UA); Sub-Jnr Black - J Whelan (PSUA); Junior - A Stoker (SEDSUA); Div 9 - D Alford (Azul UA); Div 8 - D Wikitoa (Azul UA); Div 7 - D Paul (Azul UA); Div 6 - R Harris (SEDSUA); Div 5 - J Carter (Azul UA); Div 4 - P Richardson (Azul UA); Div 3 - J Richardson (Azul UA); and Div 1/2 - B Maass (Azul UA) with J Mooy (Azul UA) & D Wikitoa (Azul UA).

Thank you also to the following people who were involved in officiating during the season and/or the finals:- W Duff, G Harrison, T Scudds (Azul UA), A Cheesman (Azul UA), J Donsen (Azul UA), E Walker (Azul UA), A Donsen (Azul UA), M Donsen (Azul UA) and a special thank you to the Richardson's who provided feedback for the season allocations.

Congratulations and well done to everyone (athletes, officials, administrators & volunteers) on another successful season 2004!



**Our Boy Nev:** It is not sure if Australia's Olympic Umpire Neville Lawrance, was stretching or trying to push the walls down in the Blue's room in Athens. Those walls sure are blue! More about Neville's trip in next month's edition of BNOL. Picture supplied by Cathy Kerr.

Well the official softball season for the NT has come to an end. The Grand Finals were played in Darwin and Alice Springs on September 18 and were umpired with great skill. Now the umpires are preparing for the Masters Games in Alice Springs in October and we have Yvonne Newman, Leah Schwartz and Rhys Newman off to Adelaide this week to participate in the South Australia Junior Tournament. **Northern Territory**

Rhys and Ashleigh McInnes gained their Level 1 during the season. This year we have gained a Level 5 (Cathie Allen in January in W.A.), a Level 4 (Yvonne Newman in June in Queensland). We hope to be able to expand our junior program in 2005. We also welcomed back Jeff Borella who will be fully on deck next season.

During the long break we will endeavour to keep ourselves "on the ball". We have a candidate for Skillshare and another Level 5 candidate for the Nationals and have our fingers crossed for their success.

We are also looking ahead to Arafura 2005. At this stage eight women's teams and five men's teams have expressed interest (quite a few from overseas). This will be a busy time for all of us as we hope to include an advanced umpiring clinic as well.

**WOMEN  
JANUARY 2-8  
ADELAIDE**

KOSKELAINEN Margo VIC 7 U  
 BAKER Peter WA 6 E  
 LAWRENCE Neville SA 7 E  
 BROOMHALL Kevin VIC 6  
 KEOGH Debbie VIC 6  
 RICHARDSON Peter WA 6  
 RICHARDSON Julie WA 6  
 ROBINSON Raelene SA 6  
 TOFT Mark QLD 6  
 WALLER Diane VIC 6  
 HOUISON Ron NSW 5 C  
 TANNEBRING Kevin SA 5 C

6 TEAMS

**U19 MEN  
JANUARY 16-22  
PERTH**

RINDFLEISH Andrew NSW 8 U  
 RICHARDSON Julie WA 6 E  
 SHEPHARD Darrell NSW 6 E  
 BAKER Peter WA 6  
 DUFF Warren WA 5  
 EVANS Leigh VIC 6  
 PITTMAN Gary QLD 5  
 RINDFLEISH Scott NSW 6  
 SIBRAA Darren QLD 5  
 TANNEBRING Kevin SA 5  
 WALLER Phil VIC 6  
 MAAS Betty WA 5 C

6 TEAMS

**U19 WOMEN  
JANUARY 9-15  
MELBOURNE**

McAULIFFE Alan SA 8 U  
 CULPITT Ken ACT 8 E  
 GROVE Debbie VIC 7 E  
 FRAME Ian QLD 5  
 OFFER Kevin VIC 5  
 PITTMAN Gary QLD 5  
 RINDFLEISH Scott NSW 6  
 WEBSTER Graeme SA 5  
 WHITEHEAD Lindsay VIC 6  
 CARTER Jason WA 4 C  
 STRAUSS Helen QLD 4 C  
 TURNBULL Alex ACT 4 S

6 TEAMS

**MEN  
MARCH 6-12  
LAUNCESTON**

CULPITT Ken ACT 8 U  
 EVANS Leigh VIC 6 E  
 RINDFLEISH Andrew NSW 8 E  
 GROVE Debbie VIC 7  
 ITZSTEIN Sue NSW 6  
 JAMES George VIC 6  
 McCAHON Bruce NSW 6  
 McCAULEY Damien SA 6  
 RICHARDSON Peter WA 6  
 THOMAS Frank QLD 6  
 DUFF Warren WA 5 C  
 SIBRAA Darren QLD 5 C

7 TEAMS

**U16 GIRLS  
JANUARY 9-15  
SYDNEY**

LAWRENCE Neville SA 7 U  
 ITZSTEIN Sue NSW 6 E  
 WALLER Diane VIC 6 E  
 ALLEN Cathy NT 5  
 BAKER Greg NSW 6  
 CHEESEMAN Alan WA 5  
 GREGGS Amanda NSW 5  
 PITTMAN Robyn QLD 5  
 TROW Ron QLD 5  
 ATKINSON Brett ACT 4 C  
 WIKITOA Danny WA 4 C  
 BEASHEL Nicholas NSW 4 S  
 MORGAN Stephen NSW 4 S

7 TEAMS

**U23 WOMEN  
APRIL 6-10  
MELBOURNE**

LARTER John VIC 5 U  
 KEOGH Debbie VIC 6 E  
 McCAHON Bruce NSW 6 E  
 KAHLER Yvonne QLD 6  
 MAAS Betty WA 5  
 OFFER Kevin VIC 5  
 PITTMAN Robyn QLD 5  
 RANDALL Heather NSW 5  
 ROBINSON Raelene SA 6  
 SHEPHARD Darrell NSW 6  
 WHITEHEAD Lindsay VIC 6  
 FRAME Ian QLD 5 C

7/8 TEAMS

**U16BOYS  
JANUARY 16-22  
BRISBANE**

SIBRAA Tricia QLD 7 U  
 JAMES George VIC 6 E  
 McCAULEY Damien SA 6 E  
 BANCROFT Graham WA 6  
 BOYLE Graham WA 6  
 BUNSTON Ian QLD 5  
 DAVIS Col NSW 5  
 KAHLER Yvonne QLD 6  
 ROBERTS David SA 5  
 TURNBULL Martin QLD 5  
 GUTTERIDGE Steve QLD 4 C  
 QUONG Derek NT 4 C  
 WATT Howard NSW 4 S

7 TEAMS

**U23 MEN  
APRIL 6-10  
CANBERRA**

McAULIFFE John SA 8 U  
 BAKER Greg NSW 6  
 BANCROFT Graham WA 6  
 BOYLE Graham NSW 6  
 BROOMHALL Kevin VIC 6  
 BUNSTON Ian QLD 5  
 HARRISON Ross NSW 5  
 THOMAS Frank QLD 6  
 TOFT Mark QLD 6  
 TROW Ron QLD 5  
 WALLER Phil VIC 6

6/7 TEAMS

Now isn't this exciting! The National Appointments. Firstly we would like to congratulate the candidates who will be attempting to move up a level at next year's Nationals. Candidates from 5 to 6 are Ron Houison, Kevin Tannebring, Betty Maas, Warren Duff, Darren Sibraa and Ian Frame. Candidate from 4 to 5 are Jason Carter, Helen Strauss, Brett Atkinson, Danny Wikittoa, Sytphen Gutteridge and Derek Quong.

Also it is an exciting time for the Skill Shares Alex Turnbull, Nicholas Beashel, Stephen Morgan, Yvonne Newman and Howard Watt.

**Need more Contributions**  
 Send articles, pictures, stories to the editor  
[mtoft@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mtoft@ozemail.com.au)

***Respect the Role - Respect the Person***