

IN BLACK & WHITE

Edition 66 April 2017



WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION

- | | | | |
|--|----|--|----|
| ❖ Executive Officer update – Darren Goodger | 2 | ❖ Albury to the Big Smoke – Neil Smith | 40 |
| ❖ Ten Stribley Shield Finals – Pat Kerin | 6 | ❖ Beastwear | 42 |
| ❖ NSWCUA & TCUSA Umpire Exchange – Troy Penman | 7 | ❖ NICC Championships – Stu Grocock | 43 |
| ❖ Technical Matters – Darren Goodger | 14 | ❖ 60 seconds with Nic Bills | 55 |
| ❖ The O'Farrell Cup – Pat Kerin | 16 | ❖ New Members | 59 |
| ❖ Officiating is in the blood – Roberto Howard | 18 | | |
| ❖ Around the Zones – Neil Findlay | 22 | | |
| ❖ Female Engagement Update – Claire Polosak | 24 | | |
| ❖ Answers to Technical Questions | 25 | | |
| ❖ Cricket Crossword – Nic Bills | 26 | | |
| ❖ ICC World Cup Qualifier – Claire Polosak | 28 | | |

ANNUAL DINNER

The Association's Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation will be held at Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday April 8 2017.

Leading comedian Paul Martell will provide quality entertainment, whilst Jay Lenton will be returning as the MC after an outstanding performance last year.

We have approximately 180 members and guests attending, it will be a fantastic evening.

Executive Officer update – Darren Goodger

Dear Members & Affiliated Associations,

Congratulations and thank you to all members across the State for your service to cricket in 2016-17. Well done to all those umpires and scorers who have officiated in finals series matches.

We take this opportunity to advise the umpire appointments to Sydney Cricket Association Finals to all members –

NSW Premier Cricket First Grade

Sydney University v Bankstown at Bankstown Oval
Gerard Abood & Greg Davidson
Reserve Umpire Sharad Patel
Match Referee Graham Reed

NSW Premier Cricket Second Grade

Northern District v Sydney at Mark Taylor Oval
Ben Treloar & Anthony Wilds
Reserve Umpire Kedar Oza

NSW Premier Cricket Third Grade

Northern District v Mosman at Allan Border Oval
Simon Lightbody & Troy Penman

NSW Premier Cricket Fourth Grade

Sydney v Gordon at Drummoyne Oval
Darren Goodger & Keiran Knight

NSW Premier Cricket Fifth Grade

St George v Randwick Petersham at Hurstville Oval
Andrew Hamilton & Phil Rainger

Sydney Shires Cricket First Grade

North West Sydney v Mount Pritchard Southern Districts at Joe McAleer
Stephen Blomfield & Anthony Raymond

Sydney Shires Cricket Second Grade

Warringah v Burwood at Kanebridge
Daniel Burton & Clay Finnemore

Sydney Shires Cricket Third Grade

Warringah v Georges River at LM Graham Reserve
Simon Dodwell & Geoff Wheeler



**SYDNEY CRICKET
ASSOCIATION**

Sydney Shires Cricket Fourth Grade

Burwood v Strathfield at Ron Routley
Peter Mooney & Ian Tabrett

Metropolitan Cup

Gordon v Penrith at Killara
Ken Buckland & Sathish Kumar

Tim Creer Cup

Ryde Hunters Hill v Mount Pritchard Southern Districts at Boronia Park
Scott Pryde & Andrew Steindler

Women's Premier Cricket First Grade

Gordon v Sydney Rangers at BISP2
Laurie Borg & Bob McGregor

Women's Premier Cricket Second Grade

St George v Parramatta at Merrylands
John Colwell & Gerry Forliano

Women's Premier Cricket Third Grade

Gordon v St George-Sutherland at Forsyth Park 1
Kevin McFarlane & Lawrie Yeomans

Women's Premier Cricket Brewer Shield

Parramatta v Campbelltown-Camden at Old Kings
Brian Ferguson & Laurie Luccitti

NSWCUSA will celebrate the season in style with its Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation being held at Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday 8 April 2017. We look forward to a great event, an evening where members from the city and the country gather to enjoy the company of each other. The function will consist of a three-course meal, open bar, outstanding entertainment from Australia's best comedian, Paul Martell, while Sydney Thunder and NSW Blues player, Jay Lenton, will again be an excellent MC. During the evening we will honour members for their years of service to the Association, and recognise milestones and excellence. We will recognise those members who officiated in National Finals and honour three members involved over many years with Country Cricket NSW who have decided to stand down. Co-patrons Brian Booth MBE and Alan Davidson AM MBE have confirmed their attendance and both look forward to sharing the evening with us. Also commended to all members is the quality of the raffle prizes assembled by Gaurav Desai and the Social Committee team. Please support the raffle if you can, you don't need to attend the dinner to be eligible to win prizes. If you wish to purchase raffle tickets then Nic Bills is the person to contact, they will not be sold on the night. Nic can be contacted on 0427 947 000 and Nic.Bills@cricketnsw.com.au

In the next edition of B&W we will acknowledge the umpire appointments to Finals played across the State. Our members do such a great job serving the game in NSW. We acknowledge

the exceptional service of Neil Findlay to Cricket Illawarra. Neil umpired the First Grade Final at North Dalton Park on 25-26 March 2017 between Balgownie and Dapto, standing with Dave Cullen. This was the 20th occasion Neil has umpired the Cricket Illawarra First Grade Final, an outstanding achievement, and record, showing his commitment to excellence, and the game in the Illawarra, across two decades.

We congratulate and acknowledge Paul Wilson on his appointment to umpire the Sheffield Shield Final between Victoria and South Australia at Traeger Park, Alice Springs. Paul is a wonderful advocate for umpiring and for NSWCUA, and he has enjoyed an excellent season as a member of the Cricket Australia National Umpire Panel. The Sheffield Shield Final was Paul's second and his 49th First-Class match as an umpire.

Congratulations are offered to Roberto Howard and Ryan Nelson on their appointment by Cricket Australia to umpire the Final of the U15 Male National Championships between NSW Green and NSW Magenta, played at Brisbane Grammar 1 on Sunday 2 April 2017. Roberto and Ryan prepared thoroughly and performed very well.

Recommended to all members is the Cricket Australia Representative Officiating Online Component. It is an outstanding professional development resource. We commend Bob Parry at Cricket Australia for his work on this and encourage you to complete the online learning. For those members who are already accredited Cricket Australia Representative Officiating (Level 2) umpires, the online learning is free of charge up to and including 30 June 2017. This is now the process for umpires to re-accredit with Cricket Australia. There is an attachment to this email which outlines how to login in to the program. In season 2017-18, and beyond, it will be compulsory for umpires wishing to be appointed to First and Second Grade matches in NSW Premier Cricket, and to representative matches in Country Cricket NSW programs, to have completed the online learning. It is competency-based assessment, with no examinations involved and all the resource materials needed to complete the program are available to you online as part of the package. We hope you register for the online learning and enjoy the program, it is an exceptional resource for current umpires and a wonderful chance to upskill free of charge.



The 2017 Annual Convention will be held at Bankstown Sports Club on the weekend of 19-20 August 2017. Further details will follow in June with regards to registration. The focus of the Convention will be the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code. The changes to the Laws will improve cricket and the Convention will give full coverage to the changes and how the Laws are to be applied. Active umpires are encouraged to attend. The Convention will also have a keynote speaker and presentations on the art of umpiring by experienced umpires and presenters.

Training courses in the country zones will be organised and advised following consultation with Zone Umpire Representatives and Affiliated Associations. These courses will encompass the new Laws and their application.

I am reading Home Truths by Craig Bellamy and wish to share with you snippets from this excellent read –

- *To me, if you go to the Olympic Games and you achieve a personal best and come fourth, that is success, because you've performed to your potential. Performing below your best is usually due to a lack of preparation, or compromised preparation. If you prepare and perform as well as you can, you are a winner. If you do not, you are probably going to be very disappointed with yourself after the event.*
- *Repetition is a huge thing in sport. You are going to get it wrong numerous times, but the place to get it wrong is on the training field or the practice court. Doing it over and over until you think you know a system that works best for you means that you can reproduce that when you play. Everyone has different talents and abilities so it is a test against yourself, and no one else.*
- *It is unrealistic to set your expectations on winning every day and to measure success against that yardstick. Sometimes you can play well and lose, sometimes you can play poorly and win, but we still make sure we examine and analyse a performance in exactly the same manner, ensuring that it does not all hinge on the result. At our club, most of the players look to that idea of doing the best they possibly can, regardless of the result, to define whether or not they are winners or losers. The public probably see that line between success and failure more in black and white, and for a lot of people, it will be associated directly with the result. I accept we are in the business of winning, and professional sport is about achieving successful results, but I certainly do not see it in such black and white terms all the time.*

In the coaching aspect of my role with umpires the hardest thing for many who want to achieve something is to work consistently at it; without that steady hand you are not going to get there. Clear and detailed planning, along with commitment to self-improvement and discipline, are required to improve, progress and achieve goals. This can be a challenging aspect for many to juggle in line with their family and work commitments, both of which take priority over umpiring.

The best umpires are consistent in their preparation and performance. There is only a small gap between their best and worst performance. Consistency is what players like in umpires. *The players you are taking a chance with are those with a massive difference between their best and worst: the inconsistent performers.* CRAIG BELLAMY.

I am proud of the umpiring standards across NSW and I thank each and every member for your commitment to the Association, to raising standards, and to the game of cricket in your association.

Wishing all members, and those in our affiliates, all the very best. Hope to see as many members as possible at the Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation and to see many of you take up the opportunity to complete the Cricket Australia Representative Officiating Online Component. You won't be disappointed in either.

Success lies in a masterful consistency around the fundamentals.

ROBIN SHARMA

Ten Stribley Shield Finals – Pat Kerin OAM

The Stribley Shield is the senior representative interdistrict competition played between the DCAs of Northern Riverina Cricket Council. During Stephen Poidevin's long and distinguished career as a NSWCUA accredited umpire since 2003 he has officiated in many matches throughout NSW. However, closer to home, Stephen has now stood in ten Stribley Shield finals at four different venues, easily a record for this competition.

2006-07 with Gordon Wood [Wagga] Yass 8/205** defeated Wagga 9/198 at Robertson Oval
2007-08 with Rick Becquet [Cootamundra] Yass 9/131 defeated Cootamundra 108 at Victoria Park
2008-09 with Chris Cassin [Cootamundra] Yass 4/115 defeated Cootamundra 111 at Victoria Park
2009-10 with Chris Cassin [Cootamundra] Yass 3/88 defeated Temora 87 at Victoria Park
2011-12 with Chris Cassin [Cootamundra] Cootamundra 8/196 defeated Wagga 108 at Albert Park
2012-13 with Tony Hackett [Wagga] Yass 3/84 defeated Cootamundra 83 at Victoria Park
2013-14 with Tony Hackett [Wagga] Cootamundra 1/61 defeated Wagga 57 at Albert Park
2014-15 with Tony Hackett [Wagga] Wagga 6/192 defeated Cootamundra 188 at Geoff Lawson Oval
2015-16 with Tony Hackett [Wagga] Yass 8/227* defeated Wagga 8/220 at Robertson Oval
2016-17 with Tony Hackett [Wagga] Wagga 5/282 defeated Cootamundra 8/237 at Robertson Oval

** In the 2006-07 final, Yass needed four runs to win in the last over, while in the 2015-16 final*, Yass defended their total to win by seven runs.



Tony Hackett [Wagga] [left] and Stephen Poidevin [Yass] are pictured during the lunch break at Albert Park, Cootamundra. The fixture being a McDonalds Country Cup play-off match Riverina vs Western- Murray Valley vs Parkes December 2015. Parkes 1/178 [30 overs] defeated Murray Valley 174.

NSWCUSA & TCUSA Umpire Exchange – Troy Penman

The umpire exchange has now been going for 5 years and it was a privilege to be selected this year to travel to the Apple Isle.

Prior to the start of the exchange Cricket Tasmania Match Officials Administrator, Will Braid, contacted me to ask a few questions around what I was looking forward to and what I wanted to get out of the exchange. His article, which also includes information on Simon Burns who travelled to Sydney for the exchange, is provided below;

The highest profile and longest running Umpire Exchange Program involving Cricket Tasmania is next month with one of Australia's best and brightest coming to the Cricket Tasmania Premier League for round 17 on February 11 and 12 while a familiar face returns to New South Wales Premier Cricket for round 12 on February 4 and 5.

NSW umpire Troy Penman has had a break out year this season having stood in the Cricket Australia Under 19 and Under 17 Male National Championships, adding to his impressive resume which includes two Futures League matches, six WBBL, two WNCL to go along with his accumulated 20 odd First Grade matches.

In return for Penman, Cricket Tasmania is sending Simon Burns to Sydney. The Tasmanian Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association President, with CA match experience in Under 17 Carnivals and a trial Futures League game, was part of the exchange in its first year in 2013 when he stood with former First Class umpire Darren Goodger at North Sydney Oval.

For Penman, it's another chance to umpire out of a suitcase. "I've never umpired in Tasmania before, but I'm looking forward to the experience," Penman said. "My preparation will focus around the playing conditions and the players involved which is similar to any other match, but this time I think extra layers of clothes will be packed first instead of being an afterthought."

Penman has enjoyed his busy season and this exchange is another chapter in what is becoming a fast-written book. "It's been a whirlwind start to the season with plenty of umpiring in many different locations," he said. "The experiences I've had from these matches will help with preparation for the Tasmania trip. "The main advantage will be being able to deal with travelling straight into umpiring and then travelling home when done.

"It's been an interesting few months, but I guess it's all part of the challenge and if you want to umpire professionally you need to be able to deal with the travel.

"I'm very lucky in that I have a wide support network of girlfriend, family and friends who I can rely on and chat with whenever I'm away from home."

With this being his second trip to Sydney, Burns plans to use his experience and lesson learned to best prepare himself for two tough days of cricket.

"Bottled water," Burns said.

"That was a painful lesson to learn last time.

"I learnt that since you are there for only a few days, managing what you eat and drink is vital.

"You do not need anything untoward happening when you can manage it."

Burns has had plenty of time out for First Grade since his last trip and the effort he has put into getting back is a marker of his recovery from illness.

"It has been quite a while since I was able to stand consistently at First Grade," he said.

"It certainly has been a long journey, but being selected for this exchange I see is a reward for keeping my dedication to umpiring.

"I couldn't have achieved my goals so far if not for the support and understanding from my wife, Carmen.

"Also from both our Match Officials Manager, Roy Loh, and High Performance Coach, Richard Widows, who both have given me their time and patience while I undertook this long journey.

"I also couldn't have achieved my goal without the support of ever partner I have stood with in the past few years, from First Grade all the way to the Under 15's.

"We are lucky that our Association places a premium on teamwork and attitude, and are pleased more for their colleague's successes than just their own personal success.

"I've already started reading the playing conditions as there are some strong differences between the local comp and Sydney.

"I will put a little more time in relaxing between games, as there is a strong social element to the exchange."

Both exchange umpires are viewing this as a learning opportunity.

"I look forward to learning a great deal from this trip," Penman said.

"The match will provide me with different cricketers, weather conditions, playing conditions and an umpiring colleague who I wouldn't have umpired with before.

"When you put all of these together I'm sure there will plenty I'll learn.

"It's an opportunity to learn from new umpires, but I hope to learn from their organisation and competition and suggest to the TCUSA and CT that could benefit from Sydney Grade Cricket's experiences," Burns said.

CT Match Officials Manager Roy Loh said this exchange will wrap up what has been a busy program with exchanges from the Australian Capital Territory, Cricket North and Cricket North West.

"CT look forward to the Umpire Exchange Program to New South Wales every year," Loh said.

"It's a great opportunity for two umpires to experience umpiring away from home, with different playing conditions, a different partner and a different environment.

"This program has been a great success in the past and we are convinced that the two umpires involved, Troy and Simon, will benefit from the experience."

Previous NSW Exchanges

2013 – Simon Burns (Tas), David Taylor (NSW)

2014 – Jamie Mitchell (Tas), Simon Lightbody (NSW)

2015 – Harvey Wolff (Tas), Andrew Hamilton (NSW)

2016 – Darren Close (Tas), Darren Foster (NSW)

Below is a diary of my four days in Tasmania, included on the pages following are the pictures that are related to in the diary. I hope you enjoy reading about my trip.

Friday February 10

It was a very interesting start to the trip with Jetstar having a system outage which meant that all planes were delayed and a long queue at the airport. My flight was scheduled for 10.30am, but didn't depart till 12.40pm.

I was collected at the airport by Will Braid and taken to the Old Woolstore Hotel to check in and prepare for the match, I was lucky enough to be accommodated in an accessible room which meant that it was quiet roomy, now as I have an interest in the Sydney Property market, I've seen 2 Bedroom apartments smaller than the bathroom I had.

After settling in I headed into town to pick up a few essentials for the next couple of days, water, bananas, yoghurts and some lollies. After arriving at Woolies, I found out that plastic bags cost 15 cents and when I asked the lady in charge at the checkout what the process was with purchasing them she looked at me like I had two heads, now there is a joke in there somewhere, but I'll move on.

That night I met up with Tasmanian High Performance Umpire Coach Richard Widows and my umpiring colleague Darren Close (who I officiated with at the U/19's earlier in the season) to discuss the upcoming match and run through the playing conditions.

Saturday February 11

Following a good night's sleep it was off to Kingston Twin Ovals for Day 1 of the top of the table clash between Kingborough and Clarence. The drive took around 15 minutes and we were now on the other side of Mt. Wellington.

The ground looked in great shape with the outfield easily the best I had ever umpired on, the pictures give you a good insight. The pitch was hard, with enough grass to make sure there was something for the bowlers.

Kingborough won the toss and elected to bowl, they were instantly rewarded with the wicket of Clarence captain Harry Allanby in the first over. Clarence batted steadily and were looking to see off the new ball without losing to many wickets. I had the pleasure of having first class bowler Clive Rose bowl 20 straight overs from my end. He showed his class by taking 5 Clarence wickets during the innings.

The conditions throughout the day were cold and windy, I had three layers on and that was around two layers short. With the ground positioned on a hill and very exposed to the elements it made it quite challenging to umpire and you had to really focus on every ball to make sure that you wouldn't miss the faint caught behinds.

Rain caused a premature close of play on day 1 with Clarence 9 down and still a long way from a competitive total.

That night I had dinner with Darren and fellow members of the TCUSA at the Hope and Anchor Tavern, we were lucky enough to be joined by National Panel Umpire Simon Fry and Umpire High Performance Panel Match Referee David Talalla who were in town for the Shield match between Tasmania and Western Australia, the match was also Simon Lightbody's debut. It was an excellent evening and I was very appreciative of the invitation to come along.

Following dinner it was back to the room to call home and rest up for day 2.

Sunday February 12

Day 2 started with Clarence continuing to bat on and the 10th wicket partnership reached 83 before yours truly gave number 11 James Hickey out LBW to Clive Rose. At lunch whilst standing next to James his father who was the Clarence scorer informed him that the record 10th wicket partnership for Clarence was 89. So close to witnessing a record, but I guess if he had of used his bat he would have been ok!!!

Clarence were bowled out for 278 leaving Kingborough 80 overs to chase them down. I had Daniel Meredith start from my end and he was doing plenty with the ball, he ended up bowling 22 overs straight of pace from my end. This was split over lunch and two drinks breaks, but a fantastic effort, he took 2 wickets, but had three dropped catches off his bowling so it could have been a match winning spell.

At tea Kingborough were 4/151 with no winner obvious, we came back from tea and were only able to bowl 4 balls before play was suspended for rain. Unfortunately the rain continued and with no side close to winning both captains agreed to take the 1 point for a draw and go home.

A post-match meeting was held, but unlike Sydney, the umpires run the meeting and it's just the two umpires and the two captains who attend. The match was discussed in particular, pitch, facilities and decisions, both captains were happy and had no issues, a player from Clarence was given a yellow card for showing decent at an umpire's decision, and if I remember correctly its three cards across 2 years and the player automatically misses the next match.

The Kingborough club were excellent hosts and had the toasted ham and cheese sandwiches on overdrive over the two days due to the cold weather, I think they've experienced this before. Their club room was very open and had a bar for post-match functions. On the Saturday night they actually had a function with past players from the 1996-97 and 2006-07 winning premierships sides in attendance.

Darren dropped me back at the Woolstore and made the long trip back to North West Coast which is about 3 hours from Hobart, he does this every week.

That night I had agreed to meet up with Simon Lightbody for dinner to celebrate his First Class Debut, it just happened that the shield was over in three days and we were able to have a few drinks to celebrate. We were joined by Simon Fry and it was a wonderful experience to hear about his recent trips to India and umpiring at the International level.

We headed to New Town to grab a bite and a few drinks, we were then joined by National Panel Umpire Mike Graham-Smith who lives in Hobart, I had met Mike once before at the U/17's National carnival in Brisbane so it was good to chat with him again.

The night was very enjoyable, but with early flights in the morning it wasn't a late one. Back to the hotel and the bag was packed for the trip home.

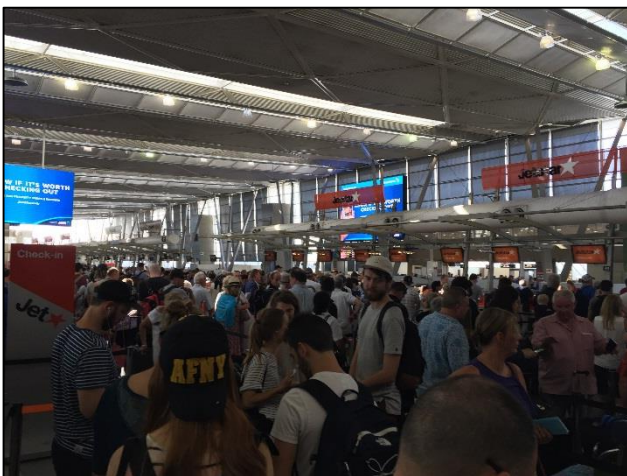
Monday February 13

Will Braid had kindly offered to pick me up and give me a tour of the Cricket Tasmania offices and Bellerive Oval where I had never been before. Bellerive is just on the other side of the harbour from Hobart so we were there in no time, in fact it was a public holiday so there was very little activity.

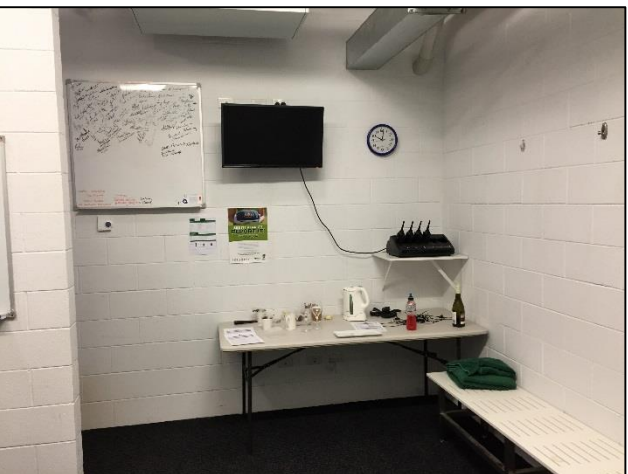
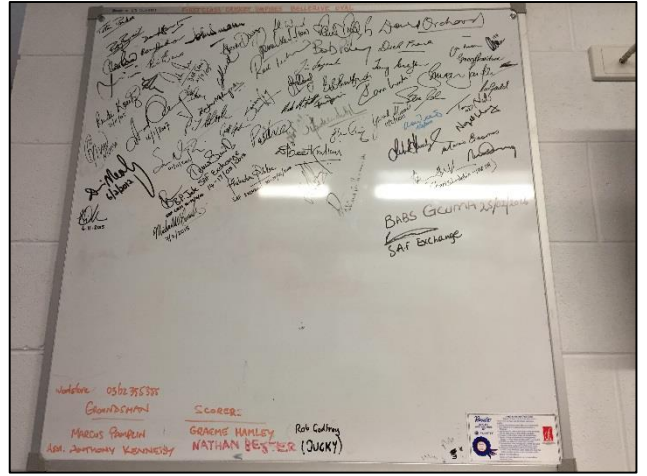
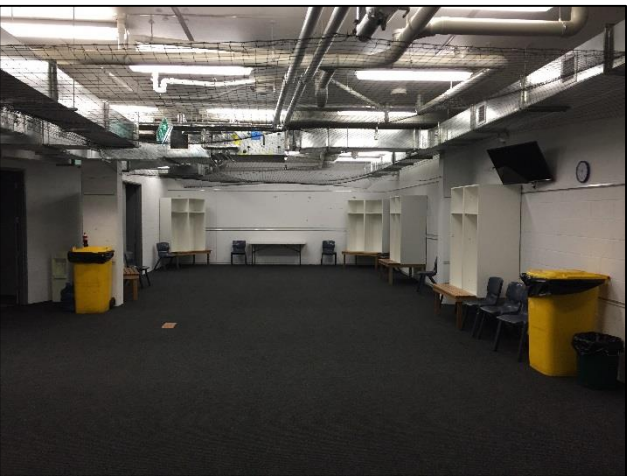
The tour was great and Will provided plenty of information, pictures on the following pages show the highlights. Following the tour, it was time to head to the airport, but not before one last stop to catch up with Mohammad Qureshi. Mohammad had moved down to Tasmania to pursue a number of things including his umpiring career. It was good to see him and talk about previous matches we had done in Sydney.

Now off to the airport and this time no delays and no line ups, we definitely weren't in Sydney.

I would like to thank both the TCUSA for hosting me whilst in town and to NSWCUA for nominating me for the exchange, it was a wonderful experience to take part in, and if you're offered the opportunity then grab it with both hands, just pack plenty of clothes.







Technical Matters – Darren Goodger

Four questions, one of which was contributed by a member, are offered for your consideration –

1. A fielder is running to field the ball. He consciously throws his hat on to the ground. He picks the ball up and throws it. The ball accidentally touches the discarded hat. What happens now?
2. I was umpiring, standing at square leg. My colleague called and signalled No ball. The striker played the ball to a close fielder who immediately threw the wicket down at my end. The striker was standing out of his ground, not attempting a run, and the fielding side appealed. I gave it out, was I correct?
3. In what ways may the striker be out from a Wide?
4. Tea is scheduled for 2.40pm. A new over is started at 2.36pm. A wicket falls on the fifth ball of this over at 2.39pm. It was the 9th wicket. At what time should tea be taken?

Laws of Cricket 2017 Code

The MCC has confirmed a new Code of Laws to be introduced in October 2017. Some of the changes announced by the MCC are –

- New restrictions on bat sizes.
- Change to run out law regarding bouncing bats.
- No ball if the ball bounces more than once before the popping crease.
- The bowling of a deliberate front foot No ball will lead to immediate suspension from bowling.
- No ball and Dead ball.
- All airborne players making contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise a boundary is scored.
- Striker no longer allowed to take guard in the protected area.
- Where non-striker leaves his ground early – extending the point at which the run out of the non-striker can be attempted to the instant at which the bowler would be expected to deliver the ball.
- Levels of sanction in dealing with misconduct / poor player behaviour.
- Handled the ball mode of dismissal now included under Obstructing the field.
- Wording to be more general neutral.

It is my view that the changes to the Laws will improve the game. They will provide greater clarity, the wording is tighter and has been improved. Ambiguity has been removed. They are easier to read and apply, much more umpire / user friendly in the sections I have read. The changes are a sign that those who write the Laws are moving with the modern game.

NSWCUSA will advise members of the changes to the Laws when they are promulgated. The Association will facilitate training courses across the State during Winter and Spring concerning the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code. Workshops in regional centres will be organised in consultation with Zone Umpire Representatives –

Central Coast

Don Maisey

dmaisey@westnet.com.au

Central North

Gary Crombie

gary_crombie@hotmail.com

Illawarra

Neil Findlay

nwfindlay@hotmail.com

Newcastle

Kim Norris

kimnorris@bigpond.com

North Coast

Paul Dilley

pdilley@bigpond.net.au

Southern

To be appointed

Norm Stanton – Secretary, Southern Zone Cricket Umpires' Association

stormnanton@hotmail.com

Riverina

Pat Kerin

pk1951@bigpond.net.au

Western

Greg Jones

wzoneumps@gmail.com

The Laws of Cricket 2017 Code will be the focus of the Annual Convention which will be held at Bankstown Sports Club on the weekend of 19-20 August 2017. A copy of the new Laws will be made available to all NSWCUSA members and Affiliated Umpire Associations.

The O'Farrell Cup- A rich cricket tradition in the Riverina since 1925 –

a brief history by Pat Kerin OAM

The O'Farrell Cup was presented to the Wagga Wagga District Cricket Association (WWDCA) on 20 October 1925 by Thomas Joseph 'Tom' O'Farrell who was a tailor with a business in Wagga Wagga.

Its purpose was to raise the standard of country cricket and help arouse the interest and enthusiasm of both players and public in the game.

In the 1930-31 season WWDCA won the trophy outright and since then the trophy has been contested as a Perpetual Challenge.

The competition is called the O'Farrell Challenge Cup and is controlled by the Wagga Wagga District Cricket Association.

The early days of O'Farrell Cup matches had no time limit in batting with holders either being sent in or winning the toss and batting. Often the challengers would be given very little time to chase down a big score. At the commencement of the 1946-47 season, the rules were altered with holders given an extra hours batting, which did not impress a number of associations.

In the 1971-72 season with the arrival of one-day cricket, the rules were changed where teams were limited to 55 overs each with no limitation on bowlers. Eight ball overs were replaced by six ball overs in 1979-80. If you opened the bowling and bowled unchanged, you would send down 28 consecutive overs.

Under the 55 overs per side match; Cootamundra and Albury share the record for the most number of defenses with 27. Cootamundra successfully held the Cup for 27 matches, between 1978-80. Albury were going to break Cootamundra's record in 1989, however, in an absolute cracker of a match at Alexandra Park, Albury batted first and scored 183. Cootamundra replied with 8/184 winning with just seven balls to spare. Albury's equaling record run was from 1987-89.

In 2009, the rules were changed to 50 overs per team; bowlers were limited to 10 overs. In 2011, the rules were changed again back to 55 overs each with bowlers limitation increased to 12 overs.

In the 2016-17 season just completed, the O'Farrell Cup changed hands on four occasions in just eight matches.

West Wyalong held the Cup over the Winter, however, before Christmas they lost to challengers Leeton by five runs. After Christmas Griffith defeated Leeton by 39 runs and Young defeated Griffith by 23 runs. Young's win was their first since 2003 when they defeated Cootamundra by three runs. In a low scoring match, Temora took the Cup off Young winning the coveted trophy by 56 runs.

Temora then enjoyed their best run for nearly a quarter of a century, defending the Cup against Wagga Wagga by four wickets, Cootamundra by 69 runs, Ardlethan Barellan by nine wickets and in the last challenge for the season, they defeated Holbrook in a nail biter by just five runs, courtesy of a David Tassell hat trick.

Temora now hold the Cup for the Winter and await the first challenge for the 2017-18 season.

This quote from former Temora O'Farrell Cup cricketer, Mark Brennan, sums up the excitement of them winning the O'Farrell Cup and keeping it for the Winter.

"The boys played up last night after a stressful day defending the cup.

Dave Tassell did not have to buy himself any beers. Lucky for us the RSL closed at 10.30pm.

The helpful club courtesy bus driver delivered the players back to the ground to continue on late into the night".



SUCCESS: Temora's O'Farrell Cup team that retained the Cup against Holbrook at Nixon Park on Sunday 19 February. This match was the last challenge for the season.

While it is great to host the O'Farrell Cup matches as the holders, it is a costly exercise. Temora estimate each match costs \$400 to host, and that's with current player Peter Gerhard donating curating costs.

The same two umpires officiated at all five matches in our region [Young and Temora]. NSWCUA accredited umpire Jeff Egan is from Temora and Community Officiating umpire Fergus McCosker is from Young. Fergus, who is a cousin of Rick McCosker, is looking forward to attaining his NSWCUA Accreditation this year. Both umpires have age on their side. Jeff is 34 and Fergus is 27. Both enjoyed their experience of umpiring in the prestigious O'Farrell Cup.

Feature Article – Officiating is in the blood – Roberto Howard speaks with Troy Penman

For Roberto Howard officiating is a passion and one he fulfills all year round, in summer he can be found on the cricket field, but when the seasons change he can be found officiating on the football field.

From a young age he has been an official in both sports and over the past 12 months he has achieved a great deal, making his 1st Grade debut in the SCA Men's Premier Cricket competition and being appointed to the Premier League Grand Final in the BDAFA (Bankstown District Amateur Football Association)

We sat down with Roberto to discuss where it all started? what got him into officiating? making his 1st Grade debut and where he would like to take his officiating in the future?

You've taken up officiating at a very young age, what has led you down that path? What sport came first with officiating?

Football refereeing came first while I was in the final year of high school and university just as a little bit of extra cash. My mother is Argentinean so I grew up around football and it was instilled in me from a young age. I started playing soccer and cricket in primary school and then throughout high school.

Originally I started umpiring cricket because I was a fast bowler and never looked after my body and I had a few issues with my back and knees. I still enjoyed my cricket, my father was umpiring so I thought I would give it a go.



Do you have a preference for the sport you officiate or are the challenges very different?

I would have to say that my preference would be cricket. It is much more challenging and the length of time you need to be on the ball and concentrating makes it more demanding. There are similarities and differences when it comes to refereeing football and umpiring cricket. Match management and decision making is very similar because you have a split second to make a decision and you need to effectively run the game from the middle by yourself.

You mention there are similarities when officiating both sports, what characteristics cross over when it comes to dealing with players and officials?

I think there are a lot of characteristics that cross over. One characteristic in particular is dealing with players and officials with respect. If you treat them with respect, it will be

reciprocated. Coming from a teaching background, it's one of my classrooms rules. Respect is earned!

You officiated the Premier League Grand Final in the BDAFA competition in August last year what was that like and was that a career highlight for soccer officiating?

Yes it was an honour to be asked to referee this game. It was a big deal to referee this game because it is a hardly fought competition all year. To be there on the final night to referee the final was a great pleasure for me. It definitely was a career highlight in football! I have done many games with no spectators and to walk out from the change room to hear the crowd, it gets the nerves going that's for sure. The game was a fast and intense game. There was plenty of running and some high quality football. Bass Hill defeated Central Sydney Wolves 3-1 but it was tight all game and they only kicked away with a few minutes left.



Now in a little known fact you have actually officiated two soccer matches that I have played in, the second being on a cold wet night at Kelso Park where my team won 2-0, do you remember that match at all?

I do remember you playing for Panania in those games. I actually don't remember much about the game except for the fact that it was very cold and foggy. I think I needed a few layers on that night to survive the weather, not to mention the players.

You made your 1st Grade debut in the Gordon v Sydney Uni match at Chatswood, how was that and did you change anything in your routine prior to the match?

It was a very enjoyable experience to umpire my first 1st grade match. I was extremely nervous the night before and the morning of the game. I looked at the teams the night before and noticed names like Ed Cowan, Nick Larkin and Ryan Carters, all who I had followed when playing for New South Wales. To share the field with them really made me feel like this was the real deal. My routine stayed the same. I tried to keep it as simple as possible and just stick to the routines I have had over all the other games I have umpired. I believe what helped to ease my nerves, was that I had Darren Goodger as my partner. It really made me feel like I was going to be fine, and I was. It went off without a hitch and I thoroughly enjoyed myself!



This season you reached the 100 SCA Premier Cricket and Shires games mark do you remember your first Premier cricket match, where was it and who did you officiate with?

My first game was in fourth grade, St. George vs Penrith at Harold Fraser Oval with Bill Rigby. I did not understand him for most of the game because of his thick Scottish accent. All I remember of the match was that we sat around all day on day 2 for no play.

Do you have anyone you look up to in the officiating world?

I would have to say that Simon Taufel would be the person I look up to most. He had such an excellent career in umpiring. He was calm and confident while in the middle, which I try to replicate.

With the talk around about red cards coming into cricket I would say that you would be one of the best prepared umpires to use these?

As you would know, the Bankstown District Football competition can be fiery and extremely physical. I have had plenty of use with giving out red cards, and I would have no problem to hand them out in cricket. When and if it comes in, I am happy to run a seminar on it.



You've recently been selected to officiate at the U/15 national carnival in QLD what are you looking forward to getting out of the trip?

It was quite an honour to be selected for the Under 15 National Carnival. It's a thrill when you get a package from Cricket Australia full of gear. It really did not sink in until that happened. What I am most looking forward to getting out of the trip is just the experience of how the High Performance environment works. I have heard stories about it, and I am looking forward to experiencing it. I'm also looking forward to umpiring with people from all around Australia and get to know some new people.

It's clear that you have a passion for officiating and there are currently plenty of opportunities coming up to progress, where would you like to head in both cricket and soccer?

I would like to pursue it as far as I possibly can. I think my age is on my side, I think I can really pursue it. I can see a future in umpiring for me if I really put my head down and focus on it. Hopefully one day, I can be on the Elite Panel and be umpiring test matches. It will take a lot of hard work and commitment, but I am willing to do that to get to my goal.

What is the best piece of advice you've been given about officiating

The best piece of advices I have been given would have to be simply "Treat each ball on its merits" and "do your best". It might sound cliché, however these two pieces of advice have stuck with me since I first started umpiring. There have been times when you just zone out for a split second, and that's when a huge appeal or something out of the ordinary happens. It's important to focus for every ball and do your absolute best always.

Thank you for your time Roberto and best wishes for the remainder of the season and your trip to the U/15's.

Merchandise Winner



Around the Zones – Neil Findlay

Camden District CUA:

The Camden District CUA has enjoyed a very successful season. Membership reached an all-time high of 62 with 16 new members joining the Association. The annual Training Course, facilitated by Laurie Borg and John Evans, was held at Raby over 5 nights in September-October. This was a highly successful course with 22 attending and 15 presenting for the assessment. Of these, 12 participants were successful in attaining the NSWCUA “pass” level. With such good umpiring numbers, the vast majority of matches had umpires during the season and two umpires were appointed to each of the Camden District Cricket Association Grand Finals (1st-10th Grade). A Members Facebook Group has also been established and it serves as an excellent forum for posting results, photos and interesting cricket stories.



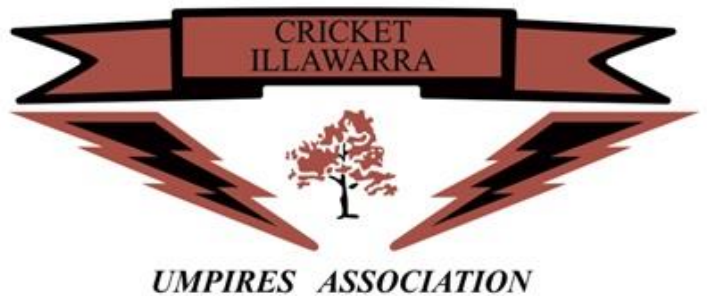
Central Coast CUA:

The Central Coast CUA is another flourishing Association with 39 members. Of these, there are 28 active members and each weekend there are 17-21 umpires on the field. Training and development is given an important focus. At the beginning of the season all existing members as well as potential members attended a training course led by Don Maisey. Newly qualified members were then paired up for three games with experienced umpires to help get them started. At each monthly meeting there is a session on Laws and Playing Conditions, in addition regular correspondence is sent out before every game to help the umpires focus on specific local playing conditions before the upcoming weekends. This season the Association received a sponsorship from SpecSavers that has enabled members to wear new blue field shirts in matches and has resulted in the expected comments from players. The Association also has a very active Facebook page, named Central Coast Cricket Umpires.



Illawarra CUA:

Last November, umpires Chris Adams and Peter Ferguson had the privilege of umpiring the final trial match preceding the Special Olympics Australian Championships to be played in Darwin. The level of skill of the players varied, but they all shared an enthusiastic love of cricket and enjoyed every moment of the day. Almost every run involved an attempted run out and a vigorous appeal with all three stumps being knocked completely out of the ground. Needless to say this meant that the umpires spent considerable time restoring the wickets. The conceding of byes was not well received by either fielding team and wicketkeepers at fault were soon sacked and replaced. One of the top scoring batsmen had trouble remembering the different roles of the striker and the non-striker. At the bowler's end he would invariably face up as if receiving and at the striker's end would position himself as if backing up. When shown his often made error he would severely chastise himself. Sadly quite a few players were incapable of verbal communication. One such player did not say a word the entire match and it appeared that he could not talk at all. However, after being silent all game, when he was dismissed he was able to unleash quite a vocabulary at his partner who had run him out. Both umpires thoroughly enjoyed being part of this match and Peter Ferguson commented: "I commend all umpires to experience the joy of this competition".



Newcastle District CUA:

In February, umpire Bruce Muddle, was struck by the ball while umpiring a 1st Grade T20 match being played between University and Waratah-Mayfield at University Oval. He was standing at the bowler's end when University captain Matt Gawthrop drove the ball straight back down the wicket. Unable to move out of the way in time, Bruce was struck in the head and was knocked unconscious. Fortunately, an off-duty doctor was at the ground watching the match and he assisted with treatment until an ambulance arrived and took the umpire to

hospital. Thankfully Bruce escaped serious injury and was released from hospital with just a few stitches. The match was abandoned after the incident. Matt Gawthrop commented: "I knew I hit it pretty hard but it all happened really quickly and he didn't have time to move. It was a scary moment for everyone out there on the field, especially the one being hit. I was pretty shaken up when it happened. If anyone is going to get hit you think it will be a batsman or a fielder but never an umpire. You never expect it but it's lucky that it turned out okay and the ball didn't hit in a more fatal area."



Female Engagement Update – Claire Polosak

So far there has been 114 enquiries from females looking for more information about becoming an umpire. We have had 55 complete the Cricket Australia Community Officiating course, and three have completed the NSWCUA Laws of Cricket course, passed the exam and also become members of the association.

On the 12th of March 2017, Manjinder Sandhu officiated her first game in the SCA Women's Premier Cricket competition. It was a Brewer Shield game, between Gordon and Bankstown. Kevin McFarlane was her partner for the day and I am sure Manjinder enjoyed the experience.



Manjinder Sandhu officiating at Grahame Thomas oval

On Monday the 13th of March, I travelled back to Goulburn to finish an umpiring course that we started in December last year. The reason for the split session, is that during the first session the participants were so keen to learn more about the laws of Cricket, we ran out of time!



Participants of the Goulburn Community Officiating course, December 2016

Coming up in the Female Engagement space:

- Workshop held at Cricket NSW on the 18th and 20th April 2017.
- Workshop in Dubbo 23rd May 2017.
- Workshop in Forbes 24th May 2017.

If anyone knows of a female who is interested in Cricket, and may be keen to learn more about the role and benefits of umpiring, then please feel free to contact claire.polosak@cricketnsw.com.au or 0417 074 458.

Answers to the Technical Questions

1. The ball becomes dead.
A 5 run penalty is awarded.
No report is made.
2. Yes, the striker is out, Run Out.
The No ball means that he cannot be Stumped, but because a fielder other than the wicket-keeper has touched the ball, he can be out Run out.
3. Hit wicket, Obstructing the field, Run out, Stumped.
Bowler gets credit for Hit wicket and Stumped.
4. At the end of the over in progress at 3.10pm (unless the innings ends sooner, or players leave the field for any other reason).

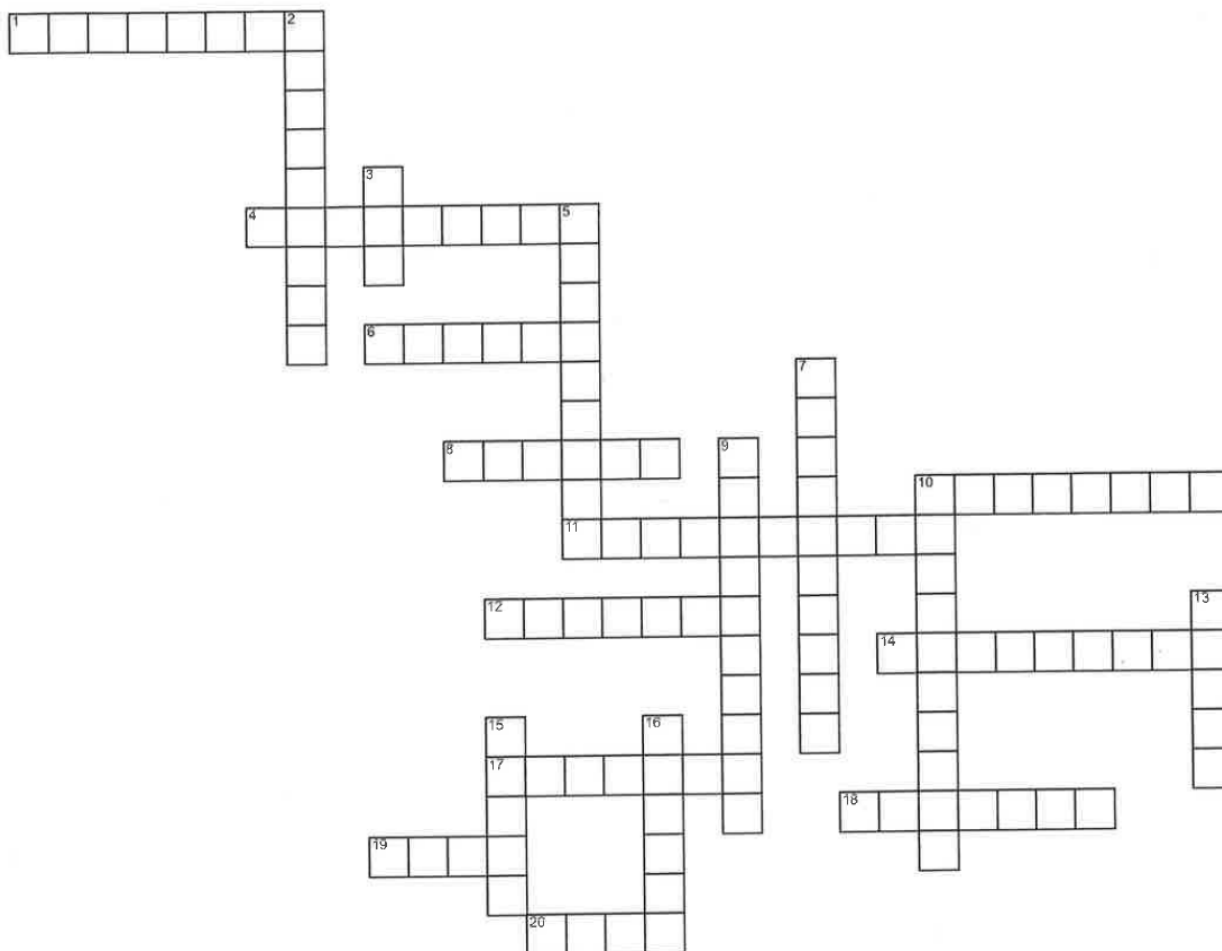
Players deserve our best efforts with regards to Laws and Playing Conditions in key end of season matches. Knowledge and correct application will come from preparation. We should all aim to be students of the Laws and PCs.

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.
Abraham Lincoln.

Best wishes to all members involved in umpiring and scoring finals series matches across the State, congratulations to you all on your appointments.

Darren Goodger
Executive Officer

Crossword – Nic Bills



ACROSS

- 1 International Cricket that captained the Brisbane Heat in the recent Big Bash
- 4 Captain of the NSW Blues cricket team
- 6 Australian Umpire who stood in the most test matches
- 8 Winners of the 2016-17 Women's Big Bash
- 10 Winners of the 2016 Matador One Day Cup
- 11 Leading wicket taker for the NSW Blues this season
- 12 One of the current opening batsmen for Australia
- 14 Player who has played in the most Test Cricket matches
- 17 Fast bowler with the most Test Wickets
- 18 Australian Test Cricketer who scored centuries in both innings of his hundredth test
- 19 Recently named Captain of the English Test Cricket Team
- 20 Most Wickets by an Australian Test Off-Spinner

DOWN

- 2 Winners of the County Championship 2016
- 3 Last Australian to make their test umpiring debut
- 5 Winners of the 2016-17 Big Bash
- 7 Winner of the last World T20 tournament in 2016
- 9 Test Cricketer that debuted for Australia in the SCG Test, 2017
- 10 Which team do Australia compete against in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy
- 13 English cricketer who recently debuted for NSW Mason
- 15 Current World number 1 test cricket batsman
- 16 Australian Test Cricketer with test cap number 400



Kevin Battishill & Varun Marwaha



Andrew Coates



Geoff Garland



Tony Carr



Rob Maloney



Darren Goodger

ICC World Cup Qualifiers Sri Lanka – Claire Polosak

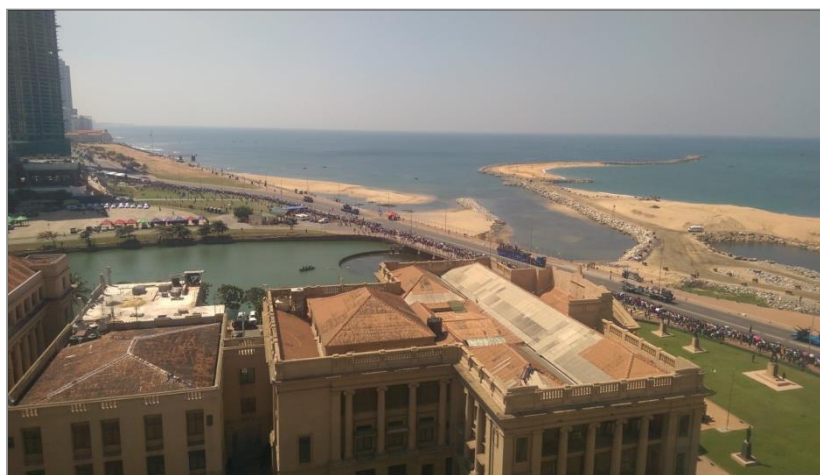
Friday 3rd February- Depart Sydney

I left for Sri Lanka via Singapore this afternoon. The 8 hour flight to Singapore was meant to have an hour in Singapore- just enough to change terminals ready for the second leg of the flight, however there was a delay and we ended up spending nearly 3 hours at the terminal. I nearly ran out of free WiFi. Times were looking bleak!

Once we were on the flight, it was uneventful, however, this delay meant that instead of landing at midnight, I now landed closer to 2am. (The Sri Lankan airport is resurfacing the tarmac for a few months and as a result the airport is only open during the evenings, with you also being needed to check in five hours prior to the departing flight.) I was met by the umpire liaison officer, who had a picture of me so he knew who he was looking for. He was quick to let me know how long he had been at the airport waiting for me. I was very apologetic. The trip to the hotel Galadari was a relatively quick one, approximately 30 minutes - apparently much quicker than the others who had arrived at a more civilised time of 6pm! Up to my room and quick to bed as we had a pre-tournament workshop starting at 9am.

Saturday 4th February- Pre Tournament Workshop

The 4th of February is also Sri Lanka's Independence Day. They have parades with fly overs, parachute jumpers and tanks. All of which we were able to see from the workshop's windows. Would have been great to be down and experience the event, but alas we had work to do!



Parade along this road

I had dosed myself up on coffee at breakfast, so was feeling good after probably 3 and a half hours sleep in total. The workshop covered playing conditions, players serving penance time, code of conduct, and also a session about Anti-Corruption, run by YP Singh, who I believe is the ICC head of the Anti-Corruption Unit.

All of the aspects of the workshop were centred on the umpiring team being as prepared as possible and as consistent as possible across the tournament. There are 14 umpires being used for the first part of the tournament- 8 who have been flown in and 6 local umpires. There are nine that will be used for the whole tournament, and the others will only be used as reserve umpires for the group stages.

Sunday 5th February- Warm up game South Africa vs India

I umpired the warm up game with Leslie Reifer from the West Indies. It was a competitive game, with South Africa beating India. The game was at P. Sara stadium, a test venue for the country and also the ground where the games for this tournament will be live streamed. The game went well, smoothly. Leslie and I worked very well together.

Monday 6th February- Rest day

A rest day before the tournament started. We had breakfast at a reasonable time, and then departed for Galle at 8:30am. At Galle, we saw the test venue that was flattened by the tsunami. We also explored around the Galle Fort, and then we travelled to a nearby beach where we had lunch at the 'Happy Banana'. Galle beaches are very nice, and full of tourists! After lunch and sometime paddling on the water, we came home. It took over two hours to travel 78kms, this is due to a mixture of the roads and the traffic. We spent an awful amount of time travelling on the wrong side of the road!



Tuesday 7th February- Sri Lanka vs India

Again I was at P. Sara stadium, this time the game was live streamed by ICC. The game was fairly straightforward. We did have to Code of conduct a player for displaying the DRS signal to us, this is in clear breach of the behaviour code. India batted first and scored 259/4 and Sri Lanka only managed 145/8, both batted for their 50 overs. Harmanpreet Kaur was playing, and after seeing her play for the Sydney Thunder, I asked her if it was nice to be in National colours, which she replied with yes!

Wednesday 8th February- Pakistan vs Bangladesh

Pakistan batted first and scored 227 all out after their 50 overs, and Bangladesh was bowled out in 49.3 overs, for 160. What made this game stand out was that 5 of the Bangladesh team used while batting helmets that were not compliant with the new safety requirements, as well as three of the Pakistan team members.

The safety requirements are the British Standard helmets, this is a standard that Cricket Australia has had in place for the last two seasons, whereas ICC has only made it compulsory to wear a compliant helmet since the 1st of January 2017, to which many countries whinged, and so it was extended until the 1st of February. All country boards have been told, however, the message has not reached the individual players, or they chose to ignore it. They get one warning and the second time they wear a non-compliant helmet, then they may be suspended for a match. What a waste to be suspended for wearing the wrong helmet! I spent a fair amount of time writing out the clothing and equipment report forms, one for each player!

Thursday 9th February- Rest Day- Elephant Orphanage

A rest day and our first sightseeing day for the trip. We left nice and early- 6am, and travelled to Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. It was approximately two hours away, we arrived as planned, in time for the morning feeding. We watched the older ones get fed plant material, the babies get fed milk and also had the opportunity to feed them some fruit. After the feeding time, the elephants are walked down to the river, where they get two hours to play in the water. We watched from the side of the river, and then made our way up to the hotel looking over the river to have some lunch. Once the elephants had left, we made our way up the street, exploring our first set of Sri Lanka souvenir tourist shops. We then drove home, and again battling the Colombo afternoon traffic. There are some crazy things that happen on the roads, but surprisingly enough, there does not seem to be many accidents. There is a lot of traffic, however, it is not moving all that fast, which I think may lessen the seriousness of any accidents that do occur.



Friday 10th February- Thailand vs Zimbabwe

Today was a game between two countries that I guess you could call developing. I saw both teams last year in Thailand, and there was still a number of the girls who were in the team, so it was nice to see them again. The Thailand team, just love cricket, and after each game, they line up and bow to the cricket pitch and also to the pavilion at the ground, absolute respect for the game. Zimbabwe have not had a long preparation time, many of the team have only been playing 50 over cricket for the three months leading to this tournament. Zimbabwe scored 191 for 8 off their 50 overs, and Thailand managed 155 all out in the 48th over. Thailand while bowling also managed to be well ahead of the over rate- they zip around the field and only have short run ups, so the overs go by very fast.

At this evening's debrief with the other umpiring teams (we have this every night to share the experiences from the day's play), Graeme Labrooy, the tournament match referee told us about a once a year parade that would be occurring this evening. Even though we had a game

tomorrow, we thought that it would be a great experience to attend. And that it was. There were dancers, drummers, elephants, cane dancers, stilt walkers. It was great! It was just Sue, Kathy and myself who went, along with one of our security officers, who found a great place for us to sit on the side of the road and wait for the parade. We were in bed by 1130, so it wasn't too much of a late night!



Saturday 11th February- Scotland vs PNG

These two teams are pretty evenly matched. I felt at the beginning of the day that it was going to be a close game. Both teams were yet to win a match, and so pride was definitely on the line for them! Scotland batted first and scored 169 from their 50 overs. PNG were going along very solidly, losing their first wicket for 72, however they continued to lose wickets consistently and were all out for 162 on the last ball of the innings. They needed around 20 runs off the last over; I was at the bowlers end. Two of the six balls went for four byes, and then they scampered for runs, but ended up short of the total. Scotland were pretty happy with themselves, breaking out the beers at the end of the game, and also gave us some as well! I did feel sorry for Scotland though- their uniform was the same uniform that they would wear in Scotland during summer. Needless to say a Scotland summer is very different to Sri Lanka in February!

Sunday 12th February- Rest Day

We were let out on our own to explore two shopping malls in Colombo. We got our first trip in a Tuk-Tuk! We first went to 'Odel', a shopping mall and then we also went to 'Crescat', a smaller mall. The trip between the two centres was probably the biggest adventure of the trip to date. Two Tuk- Tuk drivers convinced us that they would take us to Crescat, free of charge as they would be given petrol vouchers from the centre. We were dubious, but after confirming that we would pay nothing and be taken to Crescat, we decided to go with them. Everything was travelling along nicely, and then they turned off the road and stopped at a gem and jewellery store. Men started coming out of the store and tried to get us to come in. We point blank refused to get out and told the drivers to take us onto Crescat. They reluctantly obliged. We get to Crescat, and then they asked for money, we refused to pay them. They showed us the pamphlet for the gem store- we still refused to pay. It took for us to make contact with the police at the door of the mall, for the drivers to leave us alone and leave. It was certainly an adventure, I am glad that there were five of us and only two of them!

We stopped for lunch here, we didn't buy much- it was more of looking around and seeing what was there. I think I have found somewhere to get a massage, towards the end of the trip!



Monday 13th February- South Africa vs PNG

All four of the games today were the David's vs the Goliaths- the weaker teams were all playing the stronger teams. With my game, PNG won the toss and batted first, they were all out for 76, after around 32 overs. South Africa scored the no wickets down, inside 14 overs. We were finished at 12:50, 20 minutes prior to the scheduled lunch break, and we were not the earliest finished game for the day!

The afternoon was spent in the Java Lounge (very similar to Starbucks) on their free WiFi and catching up with the other umpires.

Tuesday 14th February- Rest day- Train trip to Kandy

We had an early start- catching a train to Kandy for the day. We left the hotel at 6:15 for a 7am train. The tickets we bought were for the observation carriage, which had extra-large windows. 1600LKR was the cost of the tickets (\$13AUD). It was a very pretty trip, which lasted just under three hours. When we got to Kandy, we were met with a van and a driver, for security reasons we needed to be in the one vehicle, this only cost us 6500LKR for the day. Our first excursion was to a teahouse, as we really needed a cup of tea!

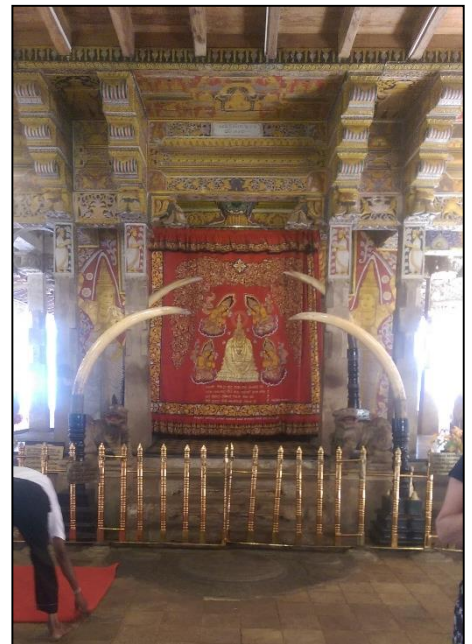


We are really enjoying the tea in Sri Lanka- something I guess you should expect in a tea growing country!



After tea, we travelled to the Temple of the tooth. This is a Buddhist temple which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha. Allegedly there are eight body parts that are held in different parts of the world. In order to get in, we drove to the employee's entrance, where our security guy (Herath) dropped his name and rank and we were allowed through the private entrance. Shoes were left in the bus and we were given a tour of the temple. You cannot see the tooth, as it is in a special vessel that has seven layers to it, not dissimilar to a Russian Doll.

Also in the complex is the museum of Raja Tusker, which is dedicated to Raja, the elephant that carried the tooth relic casket during the Esala Perahera for 50 years. The Esala Perahera is the parade that we witnessed on Friday night in Colombo. The Kandy festival is held in August, and apparently it is a lot bigger than the one we experienced in Colombo.

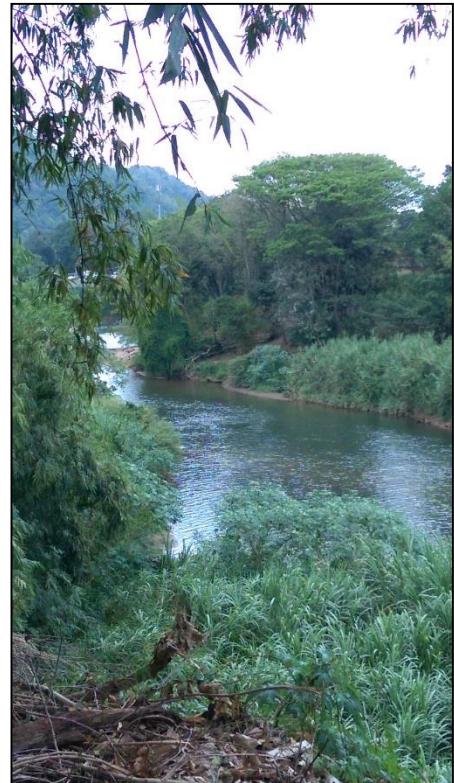


While we were in the complex, Herath was on the phone an awful lot. We didn't know what he was doing, however, when we left the temple we now had a police escort. As we were short on time and now needed to get across town to the Kandy botanical gardens, through the heavy Kandy traffic. These guys knew what they were doing. We spent the majority of the trip across town, straddling the middle line of a two lane road.

They were waving cars away from them on both sides of the road, but, boy did we need it. The lane that we were meant to be in was incredibly backed up, and we are sure we would never have gotten to the gardens with any time to see them. I have a video that shows their work, let me know if you want to see it!



The gardens were lovely- we spent around an hour wandering the garden, along the longest river in Sri Lanka, the Mahaweli River. There is also a house of orchids that has over 300 species of flowers.



We then, still with our out-riders, headed back into town and had lunch in the Kandy bake house, which was very nice. We then headed to the train station in time for us to catch the 3 O'clock train back to Colombo. I think Herath was relieved we made the train!

The train trip home started uneventful, however, as we reached the outskirts of Colombo, it started to rain. I mean really rain. It was so heavy we couldn't see outside our windows! Then I noticed my window was leaking, so I put a napkin against the window frame to soak the water up. We looked across the aisle, and Kathy legitimately had a river coming down her window and across the floor at her feet! Leslie in front of us was also experiencing a slight shower in his seat. After this the carriage also lost power, the lights in the roof and also the Air Con had stopped working. Locals weren't worried, so I decided it was probably nothing.

We got home safely, albeit a little wet getting from the station to the van. We looked at the forecast, and it did not look good for the first day of games in the Super Six stage of the tournament.

Wednesday 15th February- First Day of the Super Six Stage- Bangladesh vs Ireland

With four teams now heading home, those teams being Thailand, PNG, Scotland and Zimbabwe, leaving the following six teams; South Africa, India, Ireland, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan to fight it out for the four places that are available to go to the world cup in England. All six teams also receive ODI status for the next four year cycle.

I was third umpire/ reserve umpire for the game between Bangladesh and Ireland. Bangladesh were much too strong for Ireland, who just didn't bat well enough to score enough runs. Ireland were all out for 144 in the 48th over, and Bangladesh scored the runs in the 40th over, three wickets down.

As third umpire for a non-televised game, there are no referrals, however, you are responsible for calculating overrates, as well as substitutes entering the field, and most importantly having drinks ready for your colleagues, at the specified drinks breaks. The rain that was forecasted decided to stay away, which was nice!

Thursday 16th February- Rest Day

Now that we are into this stage of the tournament, where all six teams play each day, and a reserve day follows the match day. Today was a very relaxed day. We went for an explore around world market in the morning, where I bought some new 'elephant pants' and then in the afternoon we wandered down to the Galle Face hotel, one of the oldest and fanciest hotels in Colombo for lunch in their bar.

Following that, we went to a sapphire jeweller where I bought a pendant that I have been keeping an eye on over the last couple of days. We walked back from the jewellers, about a 25 minute walk to the hotel, where we walked along the 'beach front' where there is lots of little market stalls selling local food. Not game to try any of it, however, the walk was very nice.

Tonight Graeme (our match referee) took us to a restaurant that was a traditional Sri Lankan food buffet. Unbeknownst to him, there were also cultural dancers performing throughout the meal. A friend had told me to try an 'egg hopper', this was my opportunity! It's like a stiff pancake with an egg fried inside of it.



Friday 17th February- South Africa vs Sri Lanka, P.Sara stadium

Today was a game of two very different sides- South Africa who is one of the strongest here, and then Sri Lanka who is in the middle of the group of six teams left. South Africa bowled first, and restricted Sri Lanka to 142 for 9 off their 50 overs. South Africa made easy work of the total, scoring the runs one wicket down inside 37 overs. The first innings, I had a number of appeals- it was incredibly busy and tough. The second innings was much more straightforward from an umpiring perspective. What didn't help my match preparation was a dodgy tummy before the game started, however, I came good enough for the beginning of play, the game was certainly enough to distract me anyway!

Saturday 18th February- Rest Day

The locals told us that we had to checkout a few more shopping places today. We went to this place called House of Fashion- a five storey building that was primarily clothes, but also toys and electronics. Similar to a Myer I guess, though the actual footprint of the store was much smaller. There was a nice view off the top floor. I bought a silky blouse.

We were then taken to a factory outlet store, and also a government tourist store, and then the final place we went to was a much larger shopping centre where we had lunch. It is a maze to choose food to eat in a food court. In order for my tummy to be ok for the remainder of the trip, I decided to go with good old fashioned Pizza Hut. Food that I know is safer, and also it is freshly made, so it is piping hot! I also had a blueberry milkshake for the first time.

On the way home, Sue, Kathy and I were dropped off at the same jewellers we were at the other day- only this time, Sue was buying a hot pink sapphire for herself. We then walked home again along the water edge, our Liaison Officer and security were worried about us, but we convinced them we would be fine!

Sunday 19th February- India vs Pakistan P.Sara stadium

Today was the last day of the Super Six stage. The two teams for the finals have already essentially been decided- South Africa and India- by far the two strongest teams at the qualifiers.

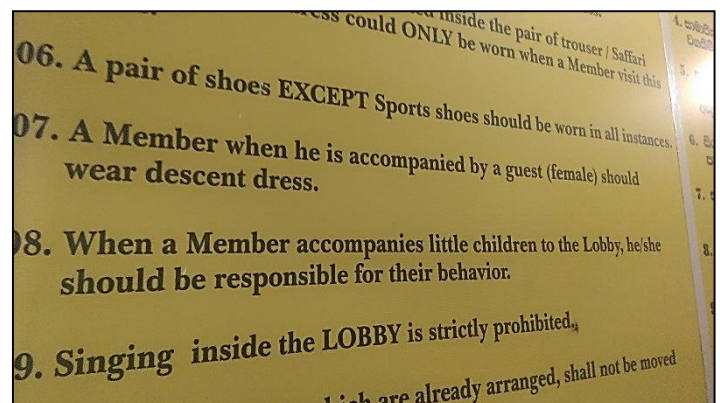
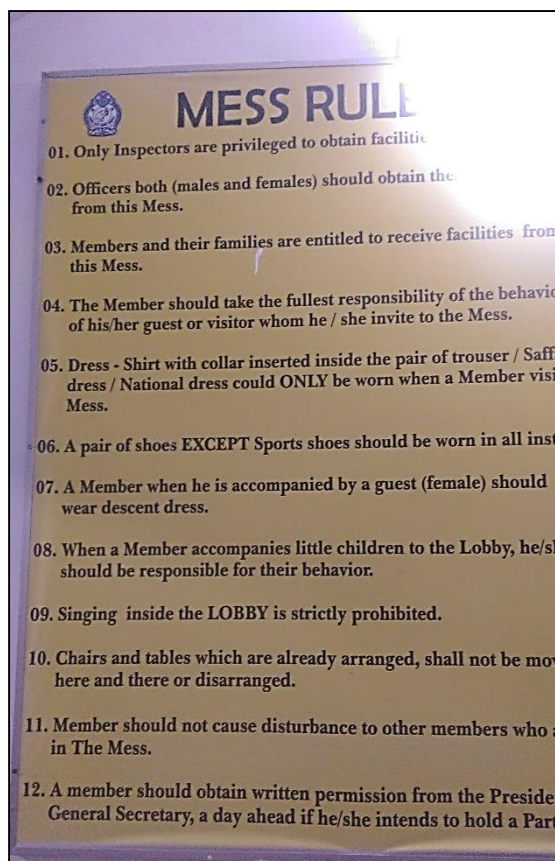
Before the match, there was some argy bargy between the two teams. It is customary for the home team to warm up on one side of the square and the away side to warm up on the other side of the square. This works when both teams know and understand who the home team is. Pakistan got to the ground first and set up on the 'home team' side. India soon joined them setting up. Both thought they were the home team. There was a mass of rubber stumps, cones, and training bibs set up all over the place. India had asked Pakistan to move, who were refusing. The venue manager and ground manager were very concerned as to the state of the warm up area and wanted us to do something about it. We said, we did not care where the teams warmed up, that it had nothing to do with us.

After this excitement, the game fizzed very quickly. India won the toss and elected to field first. The first 3-4 overs were maidens. India bowled Pakistan out for 67 runs in the 43rd over. There were 17 maidens in the innings. The grounds man admitted to our reserve umpire that he was expecting rain and as such did not water the pitch the previous day.

There was excessive turn. So much turn, that when we rated the pitch we rated it as poor. There was one ball that pitched outside leg stump, the batter left the ball anticipating a wide, and the ball came back and bowled her. Ekta, an Indian bowler bowled her 10 overs with five wickets for eight runs. Just eight! The timing meant that we would have a 10 minute interval, and then play for 25 minutes and then take the 45minute lunch break.

At lunch, India was 1-22 after 8 overs. India lost another wicket after lunch, Harmanpreet Kaur, but other than that they chased the runs down in the 22nd over. Literally as we were walking off the field, it started to rain. Five more minutes, and it was raining very, very hard. We did well to finish the game, however, we are also very grateful that we were able to have the extra eight overs in before lunch, otherwise we may have been in trouble- you need to have a minimum of 20 overs in the second innings to constitute a match. The other two games just made it to the 20 over mark before the rain came to them also.

One of the umpires, Ravi W is from Sri Lanka and he is an inspector of police. Tonight he invited us to have dinner at the inspectors mess. Essentially this is like a club/ restaurant for inspectors to attend with their guests. It was very nice, sitting outside a lovely old building. It was very dark, so unfortunately I was unable to take a picture of the old building. There were rules that needed to be followed in the club.



Monday 20th February- Rest Day

Today was our final rest day before the final on Tuesday. They had already announced the PCT for the match- Kathy and myself on field, Sue as reserve umpire and Jacquie as the fourth umpire.

Sue, Kathy, Mark and myself along with Sena (our new liaison officer) and Herath, and our policemen on bikes headed to Mt Lavinia, a beach that was around a 30 minute drive from the hotel. On the drive over, Herath said he had organised lifeguards for us to go swimming. I incorrectly assumed that we were going swimming near a hotel that already had guards on duty. No. Herath had called the police life guards and four of them met us, we each had our own personal guard. Only two of us were planning on actually swimming, so Sue and Mark went into the water, as did their guards. We found it all quite amusing, and over the top, but also lovely that they are taking it so seriously to look after us! Kathy and I went for a walk along the beach and watched some fishermen fold the net inside the boat- it looked like a precise process, to ensure the netting did not get messed up when trying to release it!



We had lunch at a restaurant on the beach, that was owned by a friend of Sena's, this place, in fact all of the hotels and restaurants along the beach are also literally next to a train track- we had to walk over the line to get from the car to the restaurant/ beach. It was a very good Chinese meal!



On the way home, Sue and I got dropped off (by ourselves, huzzah!) at Crescat, where I got a back massage and Sue had a foot reflexology session, and we tuk-tuked home. When we got back to our floor, which we are also sharing with the Bangladesh and Ireland team, Mary Waldron, the Irish Wicket Keeper asked if we could meet for coffee later on. Mary is a qualified umpire, she has spent the two previous seasons in Hobart playing and umpiring and is currently in Adelaide umpiring and playing. We had a really good chat with her, she said that while she is loving the umpiring, however she is also still loving playing. I can definitely see her umpiring more when she retires from playing.

Tuesday 21st February- Final- India vs South Africa, P. Sara stadium

Today was a rematch between these two teams, in the tournament India had won by approximately 50 runs. South Africa won the toss and elected to bat first. They were bowled out for 244 in the 48th over. At lunch I said to Kathy, that I thought they were around 10 runs short, and that 250 was a par score. South Africa started well with their bowlers bowling tight lines, however as the innings progressed, their fielding let them down, dropped catches, silly over throws and balls simply missed in the field. The game made it all the way to the 50th over, where India were 8 wickets down, needing 9 runs to win. It was a big over (watch it here: <https://www.icc-cricket.com/video/335792>). I am very happy with my performance for the match, as well as mostly happy with my performance over the tournament. Things to work on, but that's the life of an umpire, never completely happy ☺

It was a hot day, possibly one of the hottest I think there had been. There had been rain the day before, and so there was moisture coming out of the ground, and the atmosphere. As one of the South Africans put it, "we are in a sandwich".

After the game, it was straight back to the hotel to pack bags and head off to the airport, my flight was leaving at 1am. Sena used to work at the airport and had arranged a current superintendent of the airport to meet me, which allowed me to skip all of the line and be through security (x-rayed twice prior to checking my bags in, and then a further time prior to boarding the plane), check in and emigration in record time!

The flight home was uneventful, which I guess is a good thing when talking about air travel.

Albury to the Big Smoke – Neil Smith

It all started when Darren Goodger contacted me and asked me if I would like to come to Sydney and umpire a game and he gave me a selection of three dates. It took me 1.3 seconds to say yes and after some conversation the agreements for the weekend of 4 – 5 February, Round 12 of the NSW Premier Cricket. Well from that time to when the appointments came out I was like a cat on a hot roof (Hot is the prevalent word because it was extremely tropical that weekend). Looking forward to what game I would be allocated.

Appointment day came and Santa Clause had come to me in February. Can it get any better than that from a boy from the bush and to be appointed with Steve O'Shaughnessy a POMMY on the English county umpiring panel to officiate Gordon v Sydney at Drummoyne Oval WOW. I instantly started to think of some phrases to use in front of my Pommy mate Steve. This one was obvious "Well gents it is time for a cup of tea". Steve sent me an email to confirm the game and everything is all set.



The planning then took place. Accommodation was booked close to the Club Ryde to catch up with fellow umpires and discuss the day's play along with a good place to have some cleansing ales and a good steak, indeed a nervous steak, that was going to be inhaled by myself that evening. Travel arrangements made and to travel in tandem up the Hume Highway with fellow SCA umpire Keiran Knight who does the trip on a regular basis, along with Roger Burns and Vince Calabro who travels a further 2 hours.

Friday comes and away we go, meet up with Keiran and the two cars start the trek like Smokie and the Bandit 10/4 rubber duckie and up the Hume Highway the 550 plus kilometres. The mobile phone runs hot as we discuss issues of the world and the playing conditions and different scenarios pertaining to them. The one that comes to mind is to ensure that you start the 74th over so you do not have an early start on Sunday and that you have a free hour to get the overs in. A pregnant pause happens as a sensationally good - looking lady passes us in a BMW which stopped the conversation for a moment. We then continue our discussion. Keiran goes his separate way and I head to the motel to prepare for tomorrow.

Game day and I turn up to the ground. Steve arrives on his bike. I mentioned he should do a couple of laps of the oval for me. We have a chat and away we go. We have a bit of drizzle around so the covers are on and off. Toss is made and Sydney send Gordon into bat. The wicket had a green tinge. Game on and with a little in the deck and great bowling being exhibited by the Sydney quicks you know you are under the gun, Gordon are 4 for 40.

A great recovery and at the end of the day 9 for 320 odd. Weather was warm with humidity high so day one done, now off for rehydration

Arrive at the Club Ryde and meet up with the boys. Saw Stubbie (Glen Stubbings) there and a lot from the country including David Went who travelled from the North Coast for the weekend and Al Bonney from Urala and Kevin Wicks from the Central North Zone. Caught up with the boys from the interstate associations and could not forget to mention caught up with Darren and Laurie Borg and other Sydney umpires. A decent front row we would make.

Stories were shared about the day's play a couple of ales consumed and a steak inhaled.

Day two arrives and the temps again are hot, expected to be 38 degrees. Sydney are chasing 337 and the ball before lunch were 0 for 80. After lunch Mason Crane, another Pommy, was bowling from Steve's end. I am sure they communicated extremely well, and Matthew Junk from my end a quality left arm orthodox took the Sydney side to the sword and all out at tea for 146. Two quality spinners spinning their craft. Great to watch and as you all know from the best seat in the house.

The banter throughout the two days with my fellow umpire Steve was sensational. A funny bloke with similar interest in horses and a great bloke to do such a big game for me with. He made me feel comfortable and I had a great two days. His accent is unreal and the laughter when a change of bowler is going the same way was priceless. "Change of bowler, same action gents". Good luck when you return to England where the temperature will be considerably less. He has used more sunscreen protection in three months in Sydney than what he has in 10 years umpiring in England.

The after-match meeting concludes and the trek home begins. The convoy connects up and back down the highway we go. A bite to eat on the way, the phone hookup is made and we discuss our games in depth and the convoy hits Albury at 10.30pm. A better weekend one could not have been had. Umpiring opulence.

I would like to thank NSWCUA and Darren for the chance to come to Sydney and umpire in the premier grade cricket competition in Australia. A thrill I will never forget. From country umpire to NSW Premier Cricket it cannot get any better.

Cheers and enjoy the off season!

Neil Smith (Smiffie)



Beastwear Partnership

This season has seen NSWCUA undertake a sponsorship agreement with custom made sportswear company Beastwear.

Beastwear approached the Association looking to improve its exposure to the sporting demographic and the Association was happy to become associated with the brand.



Beastwear supplied \$15,000 worth of sponsorship by way of field shirts to the Association. The Association ordered 600 shirts to allow all umpires in NSW Premier Cricket, Sydney Shires Cricket, NSW Premier Women's Cricket and Country Cricket NSW representative programs to have access to two shirts each.

Members officiating in these competitions were charged \$10 per shirt.



NICC Championships Report 5 – 13 February 2017 (Aka “It ‘aint Half Hot Mum”) – Stu Grocock

Day 1

A full day ahead including an early departure (9:40) with a 3 hour flight to Alice Springs (after a particularly humid one day match standing at Rawson Park the day before between Mosman and Randwick). I ended up being seated with the NSW Indigenous Team however one of my umpiring colleagues from the ACT (NSWCUSA Member, Dean Martin) was on the same flight but seated a few rows back.

The “promise” of watching the in-flight movie of ‘Dr Strange’ was quickly replaced with news of a software failure with the replacement movie to be aired called ‘Queen of Katwe’. Probably an ok show but watching the rise of a young chess prodigy through the slums of Uganda to the National Championships, on a 7” screen from 15 feet away can certainly test your concentration....and eyesight!

On arrival, we had to disembark and walk across the tarmac to the Terminal. This was my first experience of walking from a climate-controlled environment into a furnace and back into a controlled temperature (but would not prove to be the last!!). I was also VERY happy to see the noticeable absence of any of the latest unofficial NT Tourism campaign within the terminal.

After collecting our baggage, Dean and I began our hunt for a taxi to take us on the 20 minute journey to our accommodation at Lasseter’s Hotel. As you can imagine, there isn’t a huge call for scores of Taxis to be at the ready around the Airport so we waited at the empty rank for a few minutes. My anxiety began to heighten slightly when I noticed that the “hotline” to call a cab was covered in cobwebs..... The NSW players were fortunate enough to have a fleet of hire cars at their disposal to get them and their gear around for the duration of the tournament and they were long gone. A 14km walk to the hotel with baggage is not exactly the way to get in the right frame of mind at this time. Fortunately a cab arrives after about 10 minutes.

At the reception, we were greeted by the Management Team of Bob Parry (CA), Richard Patterson (Cricket Victoria) and Roy Loh (Cricket Tasmania) along with a couple of our umpiring colleagues. Unfortunately, they were on their way to the Shopping Centre to collect some “supplies” for their use during the tournament e.g. water, some snacks for their rooms, Hydralite etc. Our turn to do this would come the following day..... ☹

A pre-tournament briefing of the Playing Conditions, Expectations, Conduct, Match Management etc amongst all of the Umpires and Management Team followed at 15:00 followed by a similar briefing an hour later, involving the Captains and Coaches regarding Playing Conditions and Code of Conduct only.



We then returned to our various rooms for an hour or so to settle in prior to attending the Opening Ceremony at Alice Springs' premier ground, Traeger Park. In this short space of time, the heavens suddenly opened up and Alice Springs received several millimetres of rain in approximately 1 hour.

At 18:00 we were ferried to Traeger Park for a traditional "Welcoming" Ceremony for the Teams and Officials, performed by some local Indigenous people (this included some interpretive dance and burning/smoking of some leaves). The Lord Mayor also spoke of their pride in being able to host the tournament and even pointed out the presence in the audience of legendary tennis player, Pat Cash.



It was interesting for Reuben Garlett (my partner for the next day from WA) and I to note the considerable amount of surface water on the playing field following the cloudburst, especially as this had forced the Ceremony to be conducted within the confines of the grandstand. Thankfully the covers were on the square due to the Imparja All Stars match being halted immediately before!!

After the Ceremony had concluded, we returned to the Hotel to change and meet as a group for a meal. I took the opportunity to discuss the Playing Conditions with my partner prior to the meal, especially as we now had to possibly factor in calculations for reduced overs etc and also to confirm our understanding of what we had read and heard in the briefing.

Day 2

Up early (5:30) and feeling the effects of heat and jetlag....and also the change in time zone as I'd overlooked the non-existence of DST in the Northern Territory. The effect of all this was to produce a kind of "hangover" feeling. Not something you particularly want on the first day of play....

Large breakfast with plenty of fluids and then meeting in the hotel foyer at 8:30 sharp before being driven to the ground. VERY pleased to find that we have an air conditioned change room underneath the Grandstand AND very happy to see that the covers are already off and any evidence of surface water on the outfield has disappeared. Not so pleased to find that moving from the room to the ground and back again results in a waterfall of sweat inside your clothing... Thankfully the CA shirts work well to use that soaked sweat to help cool you off! Although I'm beginning to wonder about the wisdom of CA sending us all heavy, onfield rain jackets for a tournament in Alice Springs.



The toss is taken 45 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. Immediately afterwards, the curator starts to hose down the square right up to the edge of the match pitch! The vision of Bob Parry nearly having a heart attack at the sight of this will remain with me for a long time. The thing that I found particularly curious was that we had so much rain the evening before

and that any further "drink" would surely leave things a bit treacherous underfoot but it didn't faze the Curator for a minute. Just goes to show what local knowledge can do...

Once the match commences at 10:00 I'm beginning to understand what goes on with ground management/preparation in the NT. There is not a crack evident anywhere on the square (something that was common to all grounds throughout the eight days of play), the square and runups are comparatively dry but the humidity whilst on-ground has shot up into the 80-90% range and stays there for the whole day as the sun tries to suck all of the moisture out.

The conditions are so draining that even the Queensland Captain was begging me to say he had bowled his 10 overs when he had only bowled 8 of his allowance. This was a fair indication of the effort he was putting in for a match that was being treated as a real State of Origin clash and he was rewarded with a haul of 5/29 off 8.4 overs. To witness the "stirring" speech he gave his team during a drinks break 2/3 of the way through the NSW innings was something to behold. It was quite explicit, very emotional and had the desired effect to lift his team.

The match turns out to be a very close contest which NSW prevails with 1 wicket remaining in the 44th over (Queensland 10/127 off 43.3 vs NSW 9/128 off 43.4). A hugely draining day both physically and mentally. The 'scrotometer reading'* would have been close to the maximum available (*refer to 12th Man for clarification of this term). During the course of the match, I managed to consume close to 10 litres of water/Gatorade and still I felt dehydrated that evening. The prospect of potentially standing in 10 matches in 7 days is now looking particularly daunting....

Day 3

After waking up feeling pretty drained, I was buoyed by the thought that I hopefully wouldn't be onfield that day and packed my gear ready to be the standby/4th Umpire at Traeger and ready to travel to another ground should one of my colleagues succumb to the conditions. On the upside, I would get the opportunity to absorb as much knowledge as possible from Bob Parry regarding techniques and fieldcraft whilst observing two of my colleagues....whilst occasionally sharing his airconditioned office.



A significant event occurred in the Tasmania vs Northern Territory match at Larapinta with two Indigenous umpires (L-R Reuben Garlett {WA} and Allan Coulthard {SA} standing together for the first time in a NICC match.

At the end of the day, my most arduous task was to run drinks out to my colleagues during the match so the mental and physical refresh was handy.

That evening, CA arranged for a Practical Training session to be held for any interested Community Officials and was also attended by most of the 8 NICC Umpires. This was conducted in the practice nets at Traeger Park and was run by Bob, Richard and Roy. Each in turn passed on plenty of information about positioning at bowler's end, square leg duties, signalling, match management and communication between yourself and your partner. There was certainly a lot of interesting material to learn from them for myself and would have been like gold for the Community Umpiring group.

Day 4

Another 50 over match for most of us while two of my colleagues had a Day/Night Women's T20 match to kick off the Women's Competition. I partnered Scott Pearce (TAS) in the Tasmania v SA match at Jim McConville Oval. Another 41 degree day so it was certainly another testing day and perhaps the Day/Night match was the pick of the day☺. Bob Parry departed from Alice Springs today to complete another assignment for CA leaving Roy and Richard to handle the logistics and observations for the balance of the tournament.

Tasmania compiled 9/160 off 50 overs while SA easily accounted for them with 3/163 of 28 overs.

Day 5

The tempo is really starting to pick up for the umpires now. Two T20 matches each today with the first match of the day starting at 9:00 with the last finishing at 22:00, meant that the amount of sleep and breakfast available over Days four to six was going to be at a premium. One pairing actually had the first match at 9:00, like myself, and then had their next



one starting at 19:00. A testing day for them without a doubt. I was located at Albrecht Oval with Allan Coulthard (SA) to handle a Women's match between Victoria and NSW followed by a Men's T20 between NSW and Northern Territory (the 2 frontrunners in the Men's division at that time). NSW disposed of both of their opponents in pretty quick fashion (Victoria 6/64 off 20 overs and NSW 2/65 off 7 overs with Northern Territory 9/92 off 20 overs and NSW 1/94 off 17.4 overs).

The competition is starting to sort out the frontrunners from the sides that look to be likely to miss finals action. NSW, Queensland and Victoria are looking strong despite the surprise packet of Northern Territory leading the table in a fairly open competition. While in the Women's, it's looking like NSW versus possibly Victoria could be slugging it out in the final, so this day was shaping as a bit of a prelude of what was to come later.

The day was notable for seeing Jacinta Goodger-Chandler (Victoria) compiling 8 off 24 deliveries when batting at first drop and then opening the bowling in the second half of the match. Jacinta managed to bowl 3 overs of fairly good pace however, after removing Ashleigh Gardner LBW, she then stood up, looked at me with a glassy-eyed look and collapsed. This was eye opening for me as the heat exhaustion had crept up unnoticed by myself. I was fortunate enough to umpire Victoria twice more and this enabled me to monitor her health a lot more closely.

I believe this is something that all umpires need to focus more attention on when it is a particularly warm day. I would suggest that umpires pay attention to a player's workload, have a good look in the bowler's eyes when handing the cap back to check for signs of them becoming "distant" and when batsmen are taking quick drinks it may also be worth involving yourself to see what condition they are in before they put their battle gear back on!!

Day 6

Another six T20 matches through the day and night with two umpires having a half day off each. The day is complicated by the need to move quickly from the first venue we stand at to the second with only a scheduled hour between matches, paperwork to complete and

toss to be taken 45 minutes prior to the start of the next match. Roy and Richard were under the pump a bit on that day for sure, as were the rest of our team.

Match one with Tim Blazely (TAS) featured WA vs Victoria in the Women's. Significant day for WA with Samara Williams scoring the first ever 50 by a player representing that state in this Competition and also recording their first win in a very long time (WA 6/118 off 20 overs and Victoria never in the hunt compiling 10/49 off 17 overs). Victoria's total not being helped by having their Captain run out for a Diamond Duck. Jacinta Goodger-Chandler again had to be removed from the match after bowling a 10 ball over. Clearly dark uniforms and a lack of recovery from her previous heatstroke were contributing factors!!

Day 7

Saturday ends up being a relatively easy day for me, only one T20 for the day with Damien Freiberg (Queensland), in the morning which leaves me free to catch up on washing and recharging my own batteries in the afternoon. In contrast, Traeger Park is under the pump by hosting the Imparja Cup Final from 8:30 to 11:30, a Men's T20 at 12:00, a Women's T20 at 15:30 and another Men's T20 at 19:00. I reckon the Ground Staff would have been having nightmares about painting white lines by the end of the night.

It was Queensland vs Victoria in my match with me umpiring the Victorian Women for the third day in a row. Queensland compiled 5/66 off 12.4 overs in reply to Victoria's 9/65 off 20 overs. Jacinta Goodger-Chandler seemingly well on the road to personal recovery having resumed her position at Number Three in the batting order and opening the bowling for Victoria and taking 2/6 off 4 overs including two wides!!

Day 8

Another six T20 matches to be played between 9:00 and 17:00 including two preliminary finals (one Women's and one Men's). I'm extremely fortunate to be appointed to do the Men's Preliminary Final with Nick Ferns from Victoria (I'm also with Nick for the first match of today) to be contested between Northern Territory and Victoria with the winner progressing to the Championship Final against NSW on Day nine with a 50 over day/night match.

Queensland defeated WA fairly comfortably to force their way into the Women's Championship decider. WA were only able to compile 5/80 in their 20 overs with Queensland getting the win with 1/81 off 14 overs. Carly Fuller (a player of the future) starred for Queensland with 39 off 34 balls including 2 fours and 1 six! A fairly creditable performance by WA through the tournament though with a couple of players only having competed in a handful of matches prior to this tournament.

In the second match for the day, Victoria are able to smash Northern Territory off the park in the Men's Preliminary Final by amassing 6/179 off 20 overs with Northern Territory only able to respond with 10/61 off 16.1 overs. Clearly their last ditch effort to make the Championship match cost them plenty of wickets.

At the conclusion of all the day's play all Officials, Teams and VIP guests assembled in the Function Room at Lasseter's for the Awards Presentation such as Men's and Women's All Star sides, Men and Women Players of the Tournament, Best Bowlers and Batsmen from each Competition and other official announcements regarding increased sponsorship to \$5M by CommBank over the next 3 years for Indigenous Cricket Development. The future Host City is also mentioned with Alice Springs only likely to have the tournament held there in 2018 with another host city to be chosen for 2019 (Brisbane is rumoured to be the favourite to host).

Prior to the commencement of the Presentation Night, the Umpiring group have the Finals appointments announced at our own private "ceremony". Nick and I are again thrilled to be partnering each other, only this time we are honoured that it will be in the Men's Day/Night match.



Rear: L to R Dean Martin (ACT), Damian Freiberg (QLD), Stu Grocock (NSW), Nick Ferns (VIC), Reuben Garlett (WA).

Front: Tim Blazeley (TAS), Roy Loh (State Umpiring Manager - TAS), Allan Coulthard (SA), Scott Pearce (TAS). Missing Bob Parry (CA) and Richard Patterson (State Umpiring Manager - VIC)

Day 9

With our match only commencing at 2pm, Nick and I both take the opportunity to have a slightly later breakfast followed by a period of relaxation and review/discussion of the Playing Conditions. We are also fortunate that we will be umpiring during one of the coolest days of the tournament (25-38 degrees) with a fairly nice breeze coming through Traeger Park through the night session.



The final turns out to be an absolute cracker with Victoria winning the toss, electing to bat and putting up a competitive 8/228 off their 50 overs. Eventual Man of the Match, Clayton McCartney posting the only century of the entire tournament in fine style with 114 off 109 balls including 11 fours and 5 sixes after coming in with the VICs 3/25.



NSW managed a valiant 10/210 off 47.1 overs with their Captain Nathan Price again almost carrying NSW on his own back coming in pretty early at 1/27 and being the last man out for 78 with the match in the balance. The see-sawing nature of the match is best reflected in the twitter feed shown below;





CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

.@CricketNSW will chase 229 for victory against @cricketvictoria in the 2017 Men's #NICC Final watch at nicc.cricket.com.au



13 Feb



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

Stage is set for another close one in the Men's #NICC final! @CricketNSW 5-137 off 31 chasing @cricketvictoria 228 nicc.cricket.com.au



13 Feb



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

A good partnership from Price & Patterson from @CricketNSW has come to an end. They are now 9-194 off 44 chasing @cricketvictoria 228 #nicc



13 Feb



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

2 ridiculously nervous teams! @CricketNSW need 19 off 18 balls with 1 wicket in hand to beat @cricketvictoria #nicc #final



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

Fairly evenly poised in the 2017 Men's #NICC Final. @CricketNSW 3-68 off 15 against @cricketvictoria watch at nicc.cricket.com.au



13 Feb



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

.@cricketvictoria are up and about and looking on track for their first #NICC title. @CricketNSW now 8-169 off 39 chasing 229 for victory



13 Feb



CricketAus Pathways
@CAPathway

While Price is out there anything is possible. @CricketNSW need 22 off 24 balls with 1 wicket in hand against @cricketvictoria #nicc #final



13 Feb

It's the Victorians celebrating victory with NSW Captain Nathan Price inconsolable in the background.



The end of the tournament has finally arrived with a function organised by the teams in the pub from about 22:30 where they can all let their hair down a bit...within reason. A couple of beers only for me to wind down and then back to the room at about 1:00 to pack before getting up early the next morning.

Day 10

Not much sleep as a quick breakfast, shower and final packing was required so that all of the Umpiring Team could get to the airport by about 10:00 as people were leaving at various times to multiple destinations. After several goodbyes, it's time to board the plane for what seems to be a longer flight home. The in-flight movie is "Keeping up with the Joneses" this time around, which is a little easier to watch than the one showing on the flight to Alice Springs☺

Points to Note for future NICC Attendees

You need to start your hydration and heat training at least 3-4 weeks ahead of the tournament. I was lucky to have a fairly hot summer in Canberra and did most of my driving without air conditioning on and windows up. This might sound like a stupid way to prepare but being able to still concentrate at the end of a 3 hour drive in a hot car when the outside temperature is near or over 40 certainly helps you once you get into a match situation.

There is not as much time to prepare for the tournament as you might think. There are contracts to sort out, flights, uniforms, various documentation etc to organise. The Playing Conditions aren't supplied overly early so you need to get stuck into them asap (There are 3 different sets for the 8 days of play to absorb plus appendices)

The PCs specify one drink break per session in the 50 over games, we were doing 2 per session in every match due to the conditions, so make sure that is sorted out prior to the toss.

Alice Springs is located in amongst the McDonnell Ranges and this contributes to the weather conditions changing very rapidly. Storms can appear from nowhere but can also disappear just as quickly. Be prepared for rain breaks in terms of lost time!

Despite the intensity of the competitors, the sportsmanship between ALL sides at the tournament was second to none and is something that a lot of sides in a lot of competitions should take note of.

There are a few official functions where you are required to wear a CA polo shirt, plus wearing one to each game. You are only allocated one shirt so be mindful of getting it washed AND available for the next function/match. Drying the shirt takes about 15 minutes in that heat!!

Don't plan on any sightseeing. There was no official rest day for players or officials. Uluru is about 450km away (10 hour round trip) so it isn't practical to get to somewhere like that for example.

Avoid alcohol until the tournament has ended. It was tough not being able to have that cold frosty beer after each day's play but I certainly didn't regret it the next day.

Make sure you get plenty of rest each night. The amount of fatigue you get from each day doesn't hit you until the next morning.

Be alert to early signs of player's suffering from heat exhaustion. They are not necessarily going to be aware of it so you need to pick up on the signs where possible.

Stick to all of your routines as far as possible, they will serve you well in the tough moments.

Get as much information and tips as you can from anyone who has attended these Championships before....everyone I approached certainly helped me out!!

Take pride in your appearance, yourself and be professional at all times. What you do, how you are perceived and how you act will reflect on our Association to those who are watching you.

If you get the opportunity to attend the NICC, don't think about it.....TAKE IT. If you can't/won't go, don't worry.....I will go in your place!

This has been my proudest moment during my umpiring career. I may have stood in some higher profile matches and some with more importance however, this was the first time that I have been able to represent the NSWCUSA on behalf of all its membership. To reach the final was an achievement that I felt was not just for me, but for all of you.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to those who gave me an opportunity to stand in this tournament, who have improved my umpiring to the level it is now and to those who helped me prepare for this tournament.

A special thank you also to everyone who contacted me with messages of support before, during and after the tournament. It really does help you succeed when you know you have the backing of everyone in the NSWCUSA and NSWCA.

Cheers Stu Grocock



60 SECONDS WITH NIC BILLS

Grahame Bell



Bob Garwood

Don Coleman



60 Seconds with Grahame Bell

Name:	Grahame William Bell
Background:	NOW RETIRED
Day Job?	Worked in ATO for 32 years and ILLEGALS for 18 years.
Officiating Debut and the first time you fired someone?	Started Umpiring in Bankstown District Cricket Association 2000. Went to Shires in 2011 and Sydney Grade in 2013. Can't remember the first but a few standout such as the Captain of Wests 4th Grade caught behind off inside edge and just recently no ball being called and batsmen bowled in consecutive games with 4 different clubs.
Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)?	All Green Shield matches, especially the last with Steve Starks where we had a rain interrupted day's play which eventually finished at 7.00 pm. Rain finally stopped play after 13 overs were bowled with only 2 overs to go to constitute a match which was then drawn. Every game is a highlight.
Best cricketer you have officiated?	Some good cricketers come to mind but Ben Hunt from Bankstown has continued to improve and if he continues to improve will be rated as a good cricketer.
Strangest (funniest) thing to happen whilst on a cricket field?	A partner's hat coming off in the wind and going to the boundary before being caught. The ball clipping the wicket without dislodging the bails. In a women's game when square leg went down hurt and both the batting and fielding sides gathered to see if she was alright.
Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (can be any sport)? Why?	I had the pleasure to stand with Doug Tyson in a DCA Rep fixture and then got to know him better when I joined Grade. He was approachable funny and easy to talk to and able to impart knowledge without teaching. Another one like Doug is Graham Chudleigh who I stood with in a schools fixture and learnt more about Umpiring in that game than I had in all the games in Bankstown. My third favourite is Gordon Smith as he has been a mentor and friend to me since before coming to Shires and is another one who can impart knowledge.
Any superstitions?	Always be prepared. The Scouts must have known something. Do the simple things so that the rest will be easy.
Any special talents?	I don't sing and dance
Best piece of advice?	Enjoy the game but do not become too engrossed with the players or the game. Keep focused.
What got you into umpiring?	I retired from cricket when the balls kept going past me at deep mid-off. A mate, Dave Collins was the President of the Bankstown District Cricket Umpires Association and I was told it was time to take on Umpiring. I have never regretted that decision especially going to Shires and Grade, now Premier Cricket.
Three people you would love to have dinner with?	Barack Obama, Julia Gillard and Malcolm Turnbull.

60 Seconds with Bob Garwood

Full Name:	Robert John Garwood
Background	Average park cricketer 1960-83; LM Canterbury-Wests CA & NSWDCa.
Day job	Retired TAB Agents' Relief.
Officiating Debut and the first time you fired someone	2013 Northern District v Sydney 4th grade. Early on was the easiest lbw ever; I haven't had one as obvious since.
Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)	3rd Grade & Green Shield.
Best cricketer you have officiated	In a previous stint, then Bankstown and later Queensland fast bowler, Ian King.
Strangest (funniest) thing to happen whilst on a cricket field	Captaining the fielding side in an A grade match, with the batting side just a few runs behind, the 9th batsman was bowled and the wicket remade by a couple of players. Two balls later, the ball went through the number 11 and through the stumps. Not funny at the time!!
Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (can be any sport) Why	As a fan of officials' being individuals and less robotic, 70's Rugby League referee, Laurie Bruyeres and more recent Test Umpire, Billy Bowden.
Any superstitions	No.
Any special talents	Wonderfully effective dryer up and rubbish taker out, after many years of mentoring.
Best piece of advice	Just do your best and have a good time.
What got you into umpiring	Love of cricket and Saturdays becoming free (see day job).
Three people you would love to have dinner with	Prince Charles, Dickie Bird and Paul Hogan.

60 Seconds with Don Coleman

Full Name:	Don Coleman
Background	Born and bred in Griffith.
Day job	Winery Production Coordinator.
Officiating Debut and the first time you fired someone?	1992 first game, gave 8 LBW's.
Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)	Over 600 games and umpiring Country carnivals.
Best cricketer you have officiated	Brett Lee and Doug Walters.
Strangest (funniest) thing to happen whilst on a cricket field	Dog ran onto field picked up the ball and ran off with fielders chasing, the dog jumped into nearby channel, ball not recovered.
Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (can be any sport) Why	Simon Taufel, just loved the way he umpired, always seemed calm and collected.
Any superstitions	Always put left leg into trousers, left foot socks and shoes.
Any special talents	Love a beer.
Best piece of advice	Always be calm, take your time on decisions.
What got you into umpiring	Love of cricket.
Three people you would love to have dinner with	Kevin Sheedy, Simon Taufel and Darren Goodger.

NEW MEMBERS

Name	Suburb	Name	Suburb
Alan Haynes	Towradgi	MD Najumus Sakib	Westmead
Alan Nichols	Fennell Bay	Michael Andersen	Neutral Bay
Bishas Rahman	Berala	Michelle Evans	Cremorne
Daniel Moran	Cooranbong	Nitin Dayal	Baulkham Hills
David Williams	Hamilton	Paul Olsen	Adamstown
Fahad Memon	Bondi Junction	Simon Long	Rose Bay
Ian Scott	Mount Russell	Stephen Millar	Great Marlow
John McMullen	Aberdare	Steven Cooper	Charlestown
Julian Humphrey	Terrey Hills	Thomas Daehler	Wattle Grove
Julie Smith	Wollstonecraft	Warren New	Chisholm
Malcolm Ward	Cedar Party		
Manjinder Sandhu	Parramatta		