

IN BLACK & WHITE

THE JOURNAL OF THE NSW CRICKET UMPIRES' AND SCORERS' ASSOCIATION



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CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

MARK HUGHES

Dear Members,

Welcome to another edition of **In Black & White**, as the anticipation builds for a return to cricket.

The extension to the off-season due to the pandemic has no doubt been disappointing to all of us, especially as we endure through the stay at home orders we currently operate under. One piece of wisdom offered to me regarding living in lockdown is that life is not currently on hold, just different, and our challenge is to make the most of such a difficult situation.

For some, living alone or in isolation with immediate family presents significant challenges, but taking a glass half full approach serves better than the glass half empty alternative.

I extend the recent invitation to all members to reach out to me or my fellow Directors of NSWCUA and any of the Management team if you just want an opportunity to talk. We're encouraging everyone to be in regular contact with your fellow members and colleagues and being there for each other as we all deal differently with our circumstances.

One of our Association's main strengths is the spirit of community we share with each other. I look forward to when our summer of cricket returns, and we get the opportunity to take to the field once more, knowing we can't take for granted our enjoyment of the game we all have such passion for.



Members together at the Annual Dinner



EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

TROY PENMAN

Dear Members and Affiliated Associations,

As we edge closer to the start of the season, I'd like to focus this report on Association spirit, the recent online Convention and thanking those who are working hard to prepare for the season ahead.

In recent weeks the Association has focused on the mental health of members and encouraged members to contact and have a conversation with their colleagues.

Having made a handful of phone calls in recent weeks it is clear that members appreciated the contact whilst highlighting their difficulties and challenges that lockdown was presenting.

I'd like to share with you a recent email received from a member after making contact with two of their colleagues:

Hi Troy,

Just a note you might be pleased to get.

A while back you asked all NSWCUA members to make an effort to call 2 members and check on them for their well-being at this time (lock downs etc.)

I thought at the time it was a good idea to ask us to do that. ...so I have.

Both were over 70 years old. I'd been known enough/familiar to them in ump circumstances and gatherings when they were active.

One is still a premier umpire and one is a retired umpire.

Neither knew I was calling the other.

The gratitude I heard over the phone for my call to them was very sincere and moving.

It made me glad I made the effort (it's hardly an effort is it, to make a simple phone call though, and chat for 10 mins or so...regardless of that, I hadn't done it previously)

They both asked if we can chat again 'in a while' and a coffee catch-up has been arranged by both of them with me (separately) for when we are out of restrictions.

I thought when I decided to take up your ask, that it would probably make me feel pretty good too...it did that ...and much more.

What this highlights, is that the smallest gesture can have a significant and lasting impact. I'd like to again encourage members to reach out to your colleagues even if it is just to say g'day.

Following on in the essence of Association spirit I'd like to make members aware of Member Phil Daws who only joined the Association at the September OGM this year. Phil reached out about offering his services in line with the Membership Directory.

Hi Troy

If you would like to add me to your services directory, I am available.

My category is pest control. As I am retired now, I can only give advice in relation to this. I have 50 years' experience in the industry. My main expertise is termite management in relation to building codes. Any member who would appreciate information on these subjects, my phone is always available. There would be no cost for any information given.

A wonderful display of Association spirit from someone who has only just joined. Thank you for thinking of others Phil.

The Association Directors are also thanked for offering their contact details as an avenue for members to reach out and talk to a familiar voice.

The recent Online Convention was an overwhelming success, starting with Keynote speaker Leisel Jones. Leisel was refreshing in her thoughts and many members would have taken great benefit from the session.

I'd like to thank Claire Polosak, Bede Sajowitz and Ben Treloar for their incredible efforts in putting together this year's program and for facilitating each session. The program provided members with a vast array of topics and experiences that will hold everyone in good stead for the upcoming season.

To the members who attended sessions thank you. It was pleasing to see numbers over 160 in attendance for most live sessions. The support of the membership is not taken for granted.

To the members and special guests who contributed to sessions or pre-recorded material I'm extremely grateful. You have volunteered your time to spare experiences for the benefit of others.

Understanding that not all members were able to attend the Convention online I'd like to share the key points from my Executive Officer update.

What we have achieved

- The development of our online umpire training courses

Since COVID-19 first hit, there have been 228 new members for the Association with over 90% of these coming through online training courses. Whilst other associations and industries were struggling through the pandemic, we were able to adjust, look for alternative options and then make the most of these options to ensure that we continued to move forward as an association.

The training team were instrumental in the development and initial roll out of the program.

The addition of the online training course has added another bow to what we can offer to prospective members and members alike. The development of the online course doesn't mean that we will stop face-to-face training. This style of training still remains important as people need to have options and the online space is not for everyone.

- Facilitating a hugely successful online Annual Convention in 2020.

It would have been easy given COVID-19 to just give the Convention a miss, but the training team again stepped up to the plate to deliver an informative Convention on the theme of embrace. We saw a large number attend each live session and also view the pre-recorded sessions when they were circulated. It was an adventure into the unknown with the results pleasing and feedback supportive of what was produced and delivered.

- Facilitating Association meetings via online means and in a hybrid format.

By turning our meetings into online and/or hybrid meetings, we are now able to reach members across the State instead of those who reside in Sydney. The numbers in attendance at each meeting have increased significantly. In the past, the September OGM regularly saw between 90 and 100 attendees, whereas the recent online meeting saw 150 members in attendance. We want to continue to make these meetings informative, focused on the Association state-wide and provide educational material to all.

- Membership Directory

A new initiative established in 2020 looked to assist members who own small business, by giving them extra exposure to our membership. The small business industry was one of the hardest hit during the initial COVID-19 lockdowns and this was a way

for the Association to assist our members. We saw 21 members take up the opportunity to put their business in the spotlight for all members to use and we hope to see this number increase moving forward.



- Monthly Laws questions

One of the first initiatives put in place was the distribution of monthly Laws of Cricket questions. This has continued to be an initiative that is resonating strongly with the membership. The questions provide education all year round and also throw up situations that you may not have experienced before. I would like to thank Ben Treloar for his efforts with this initiative. Hours are spent formulating the questions and the answers, plus following discussions with members who require further information and clarification.

- Constitution

After a number of years, the update to the Association's Constitution was finally completed. I'd like to thank Chairman Mark Hughes for his efforts in leading this process. These changes will hold the Association in good stead moving forward.

It has been a very progressive 12 months for the Association and one that the staff are very proud of, as Leisel Jones touched on in her Convention presentation COVID-19 has ensured that we have

needed to make the most of challenges that are placed before us and in almost all areas I think we have done this for great benefit to members and the Association moving forward.

What we are currently working on

- Cricket NSW Foundation

The Cricket NSW Foundation is the charitable arm of Cricket NSW and exists to inspire everyone to play and love cricket. Through the Cricket NSW Foundation, the aim is to raise philanthropic funds to enhance live through cricket.

The Cricket NSW Foundation focuses on three key areas:

1. Thriving Cricket Communities: to improve wellbeing across our cricket communities.
2. Basil Sellers Scholarship Program: to holistically develop our pathway coaches and players.
3. Cricket NSW Helping Hand: to give back to communities in which we operate.

The foundation reached out to the Association to see if there were any initiatives that needed financial support that would benefit the wider cricketing community.

A sub-committee was established and presented a number of ideas to the foundation for their review and approval. I'd like to thank Neil Findlay, Mark Hughes and Darren Goodger who joined me on this sub-committee to discuss the projects to put forward.

The Cricket NSW Foundation granted the Association \$10,000 for the 2021-22 season.

The funding provided was allocated for the following three projects:

- Subsidising fees for regional umpire accreditation courses

Aim: To reduce any financial barriers to people undertaking a NSW CUSA Umpire Training Course.

Activity: NSW CUSA Laws of Cricket courses to be run across regional NSW where participants have their registration fee subsidised by the Cricket NSW Foundation to the tune of \$25.

Outcome: Increase in number of accredited umpires in each regional area where a Laws of Cricket training course is facilitated. An increase in matches covered by accredited umpires leading to a richer cricketing experience for players.

The subsidising of fees for regional Level 2 training courses was implemented in June ahead of our winter program. Unfortunately, as we approached the start of the training program COVID-19 caused areas to be locked down with courses either cancelled or postponed.

- Enabling an experience in Premier Cricket for regional cricket umpires

Aim: To provide development opportunities to regional NSW CUSA members in NSW Men's Premier Cricket.

Activity: 16 regional NSW CUSA members to be invited to Sydney to officiate in NSW Men's Premier Cricket. Members will be reimbursed for accommodation, mileage and provided with an observer report post-match.

Outcome: Enhanced match officials that return to their local areas to share their experiences with others. Providing feedback, they received to their colleagues for their development. Increasing the standard of umpiring in regional areas.

- Providing additional opportunities for female umpires from regional NSW

Aim: To provide development opportunities to regional female NSW CUSA members in NSW (Men's or Women's) Premier Cricket.

Activity: Eight female regional NSW CUSA members to be invited to Sydney to officiate in NSW (Men's or Women's) Premier Cricket. Members will be reimbursed for accommodation, mileage and provided with an observer report post-match.

Outcome: Enhanced match officials that return to their local areas to share their experiences with others. Providing feedback, they received to their colleagues for their development. Increasing the standard of umpiring in regional areas.



Brenton Harrison & Tim Donahoo at Howell Oval

- McDonald's Sponsorship

NSW CUSA have secured a sponsorship deal with McDonald's for the next three seasons. With the assistance of the Cricket NSW Commercial department, the deal will see \$50,000 come into the Association.

The deal will extend our partnership with McDonald's to six seasons and embeds NSW CUSA as part of the larger Cricket NSW agreement. The most pleasing aspect of this agreement is the establishment of another revenue stream for the Association moving forward that I hope will continue to prosper long after my time in this role has come to an end.

To support and provide back to members the field shirts will continue to be subsidised to just \$10 for the first two shirts ordered. With the remaining funds we will continue to look at ways to reinvest and seek further opportunities for members.

What we want to achieve

- Laws of Cricket questions online

The website continues to be a source of information and resources for members. I'd like to thank Bede Sajowitz for his efforts in transforming the page. We are looking to provide members with an imbedded exam or a link to an exam that will allow members to test and challenge themselves in their own time. The Examination Committee have spent countless hours reviewing our database of questions to ensure they are in line with the current edition of the Laws and we want to take this hard work and provide another valuable education resource for all members.

- Update the Associations By-Laws

With the review of the Constitution complete, the Association By-Laws now require an update to be brought into line with current practices. A sub-committee of the Board will be established to work through the document and once complete, the revised By-Laws will be provided to the membership.

- Consolidation of what has been implemented over the past 12 months.

With the significant changes that have been implemented in the past 12 months we need to take a step back to ensure that these become embedded into our practices each day, month and year moving forward. We will continue to look at making small changes in an effort to provide the best product to all members.

In the formalism of quantum mechanics, the state of a system at a given time is described by a complex wave function, also referred to as state vector in a complex vector space.[23] This abstract mathematical object allows for the calculation of probabilities of outcomes of concrete experiments.

Finally, the overriding principal for the next 12 months is to maintain a state-wide focus and providing opportunities for all members. We are here to support and help members to achieve as much as they can in their time with the Association.

I'd like to finish this report by thanking a number of people for their efforts in recent times. To the members volunteering to fill administrative roles within our affiliated associations, your work and contributions don't go unnoticed, you ensure our members across the state are supported and provided with excellent guidance and counsel.

To the members who have put their hand up to fulfil office-bearer positions with the Association, your offer to assist the Association moving forward is appreciated and I look forward to working with across season 2021-22.

To all members, thank you for continuing to support the Association; I wish each of you all the best for the upcoming season, in whatever form that takes.



2021-22 Clarence River DCUSA Executive Committee members: David Honeybrook, Bruce Baxter and Paul Ensby // Darren Goodger

STATE UMPIRE MANAGER UPDATE

DARREN GOODGER

Claire Polosak Test Debut

The following email was sent to CNSW staff on September 10.

A dream becomes a goal when action is taken toward its achievement.

Recently we acknowledged Claire Polosak for five years' excellent service to CNSW. Today provides opportunity to inform that Claire will make her Test debut as an umpire in the Australia v India women's day-night fixture commencing on 30 September, being played at Metricon Stadium on the Gold Coast. The four-day Test will be broadcast on Channel 7 and Foxtel.

Claire has achieved so much already in her umpiring career. As an on field umpire, Claire has an impressive resume, here are a few highlights:

- She is member of the CA Supplementary Umpire Panel and the International Development Panel of ICC umpires.
- Claire has umpired 50 women's international matches (33 T20 Internationals and 17 ODIs), along with one men's ODI, and three men's List A matches in the One Day Domestic Cup.
- She has umpired four domestic women's finals – two WBBL and two WNCL.
- Claire has been appointed to 10 ICC events and has twice umpired a semi final at the Women's T20 World Cup.
- She has umpired a male Youth Test between Australia and Sri Lanka (U19).

Claire becomes the second female to officiate a women's Test match in Australia.

NSWCUSA member Stevenie Harman was the first, officiating in two women's Tests, both at North Sydney Oval (Australia v India 1990-91; Australia v England 1991-92). Stevenie was an outstanding and highly respected umpire in Men's Premier Cricket in the 1980s and 90s, standing in 93 First Grade matches and 185 matches in total.

This appointment is a wonderful opportunity for Claire, having performed to an exceptional standard on every occasion she has been appointed by the ICC. Claire has made the most of her opportunities at international level, she has also created many for herself. Claire loves umpiring, her enthusiasm for it is infectious and her enjoyment obvious.

Claire was recently honoured with Principal membership of the NSWCUSA, the Board upgrading her membership in recognition of her contribution as a match official and through her work as an educator and board director which has so positively advanced the Association and influenced people across New South Wales. This may only be awarded to members who have been with the Association for a minimum 15 years and who have given exemplary service. Claire deserved the upgrade, she is a wonderful person and contributor.

On 30 September Claire Polosak will become the 67th Australian to umpire a women's Test match. She has worked hard in progressing through the umpiring pathway, is ready to perform at this level and deserving of this appointment. In umpiring, it takes years for a person to become an overnight success.

Claire's umpiring colleagues for the Test will be Phil Gillespie (Field) and Bruce Oxenford (TV), Bob Stratford will be the match referee.

We are so pleased for Claire and proud of her many achievements, we are equally proud of her character.

We wish our latest New South Wales Test umpire a wonderful experience and offer our congratulations.

WT20I Series: Australia v India

Match Official Appointments

All matches to be played at Metricon Stadium (Gold Coast) on October 7, 9 and 11:

Match 1 – Umpires: Bruce Oxenford & Eloise Sheridan; TV Umpire: Claire Polosak

Match 2 – Umpires: Phil Gillespie & Bruce Oxenford; TV Umpire: Eloise Sheridan

Match 3 – Umpires: Claire Polosak & Eloise Sheridan; TV Umpire: Phil Gillespie

Far North Coast Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association

It was a pleasure to attend the AGM of FNCCUSA during which the Umpire of the Year (the award being named in honour of the late Ray Neilson) was awarded to Graham Rose and the Encouragement Award presented to Chen Tay. Congratulations to Graham and Chen on their respective performances and contribution in season 2020-21.

The executive team may be well proud as this Association is in very strong hands under excellent leadership with a committed membership. During the AGM all were re-elected unopposed. Congratulations to President Doug Trigg, Vice President Pat Holt, Secretary David Went and Treasurer Bruce Johnstone. Associations cannot function without volunteers, these members all do a fantastic job leading, serving and encouraging their peers.

Clarence River District Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association

This period of lockdown enabled me to also attend the AGM of CRDCUSA. This involves a small group of match officials committed to serving cricket in the Clarence River Cricket Association (CRCA) and the North Coast Cricket Council.



FNCCUSA members Chen Tay and Graham Rose with their respective awards from the 2020-21 season // Darren Goodger

The executive team was returned unopposed with congratulations and thanks offered to President and Treasurer Bruce Baxter, Vice President Dave Honeybrook and Secretary Paul Ensby.

Judy Disson attended this AGM. We offer congratulations to Judy on being honoured with Life membership of CRCA at its annual dinner and awards presentation. Judy is also a Life member of Brothers Cricket Club and has served as CRCA secretary for nine years.

Judy has been a wonderful servant to cricket on the Clarence and richly deserves her life membership. She is a previous winner of the Malcolm Gorham Scorers' Award.



CRCA Life member
Judy Disson

Northern Inland Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association

It was a pleasure to attend the NICUSA AGM, the Association servicing these affiliated cricket associations:

Armidale, Bingara, Coonabarabran, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Inverell, Manilla, Moree, Narrabri, Pilliga, Quirindi, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Walcha.

Members travel long distances to officiate and serve the game at representative level in the Northern Inland Cricket Council.

This Association is another that is extremely well led and administered by a committed team. Congratulations and thank you to President Geoff Hoy, Vice President Wayne Solomons and Secretary / Treasurer Ian James for their leadership and management of the NICUSA.

The Association's Patron is Mike Porter, the President of Armidale District Cricket Association. Mike is also a member of NSWCUA, one who has given outstanding service to cricket. He has been president of Armidale Cricket since 1989-90, amazing commitment.

Convention

Congratulations and thank you to Ben Treloar, Claire Polosak and Bede Sajowitz for their hard work in planning and delivering this year's virtual convention. They did a fantastic job. Thank you also to all members who facilitated sessions, we really appreciate your time and preparation and those who supported the convention through their attendance.

It was a pleasure to see and hear Leisel Jones who had several relevant shared experiences and such worthwhile messages. She engaged superbly with our group. Her key message – success lies in authenticity. "We each have the capacity to change someone's day, by being 100 per cent of who we are."

Country Umpire Representative Panel 2021-22

- Bruce Baxter – North Coastal (cap no. 46)
- Dave Cullen – Greater Illawarra (44)
- John De Lyall – Western (53)
- Graeme Glazebrook – Western (43)
- Brenton Harrison – Riverina (54)
- Keiran Knight – Newcastle (55)
- Phil Rainger – Newcastle (42)
- Neil Smith – Riverina (50)



NICUSA Executive Committee members; Ian James, Geoff Hoy and Wayne Solomons // Darren Goodger

Members of the CURP do their fair share of kilometers across a season and are so committed to their craft and to serving Country Cricket NSW representative programs, doing so to a high standard.

Neil Findlay is their committed coach and quite appropriately has introduced a performance focus to the work of the umpires on this panel which has been embraced by them. The Country Panel umpires add value to Premier Cricket in Sydney when they come to experience the men's competition. The CURP is viewed alongside the Men's Premier Cricket First Grade umpire panel.

Thank you and best wishes to those umpires who have chosen to stand down from the Country Panel; Ken Brooks, Gary Crombie, Tony Hackett and Ross McKim – we appreciate all these umpires did for country cricket.

We wish our Country Umpire Representative Panel the very best for season 2021-22, they will be supported at country carnivals by several other umpires who are distinguished and reliable performers in our programs.

State Umpire Panel 2021-22

It is a pleasure to note the State Umpire Panel remains the same for season 2021-22.

- Andrew Hamilton
- Roberto Howard
- Sharad Patel
- Bede Sajowitz

All umpires performed above expectations last season with limited opportunities. These umpires all performed strongly and consistently well in Men's Premier Cricket, with each being appointed to umpire a Final. Each has a will to succeed, more important is the will they display to prepare. We wish them the very best for the coming season.

Who is next on to this panel and to step into the CA umpiring pathway?

Supplementary Umpire Panel 2021-22

New South Wales is well represented on the Supplementary Umpire Panel and we offer congratulations to Eloise Sheridan on her elevation to this panel. We look forward to the opportunities these umpires will receive this season.

- Nathan Johnstone – WA
- Simon Lightbody – NSW
- Troy Penman – NSW
- Claire Polosak – NSW
- Eloise Sheridan – SA
- David Taylor – Queensland
- Ben Treloar – NSW

Delighted to see Ben Treloar debut at men's first-class level and Troy Penman in men's List A in season 2020-21.

National Umpire Panel 2021-22

We are also well represented on the National Umpire Panel which has seen just the one change, Bruce Oxenford standing down from the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires and returning to the National Panel. Bruce is such a positive person and umpire, he is a great inclusion and the umpires he stands with will benefit from his shared experience, knowledge and example.

- Gerard Abood – NSW
- Darren Close – Tasmania
- Shawn Craig – Victoria
- Greg Davidson – NSW
- Phil Gillespie – Victoria
- Mike Graham-Smith – Tasmania
- Donovan Koch – Queensland
- Sam Nogajski – Tasmania
- Bruce Oxenford – Queensland
- Tony Wilds – NSW
- Paul Wilson – NSW

Gerard, Greg, Tony, and Paul were amazing last season in their commitment, weeks on end living in hubs, bio secure bubbles, quarantine, all to assist in delivering a summer of cricket for the players, fans and the game. What they contributed shall always be remembered, some umpires literally being away from home and their families for 2-3 months, and during the Christmas period. I congratulate and thank them for all they did and wish them the best for this season. Each is an advocate for the NSWCUA.

Simon Lightbody also did significant periods away from home in 2020-21, again incredible commitment from a dedicated umpire. In wonderful spirit of generosity, he hosted all match officials in Canberra at the time at his home for Christmas.

WBBL|07

The initial batch of matches for WBBL | 07 will be played in Tasmania and NSWCUA will be represented by umpires Roberto Howard, Simon Lightbody and Claire Polosak. Congratulations to each on their appointment, we wish them the very best for an enjoyable and successful experience.

Season 2021-22

My thoughts are with members who have endured extended periods in lockdown since June. The cricket season is underway at national and international level, our domestic season in New South Wales is almost here.

We will have a cricket season to enjoy across the State. It will provide hope to so many who love our game. We place our trust in CNSW to deliver a season of opportunity for us all. To our Competitions Team led by Bruce Whitehouse and including Stephen Blomfield, Roy Formica, Sean Mantle and Jess McMahon we offer a huge vote of thanks. Troy Penman also who is a member of the return to play committee at CNSW.

Few things are harder to earn and easier to lose than trust. Trust among cricket match officials is crucial to us serving the game to the best of our ability, and to delivering as the game expects. When I walk onto the field, I want my colleague to be able to trust my preparation, knowledge, teamwork and the fact that I will always be there for them during the match. I want them to know I have their back. I want to be able to trust the team. I want the team to do well. Trust is not about getting on well; building meaningful working relationships adds far more value than getting on well. In teams and relationships, trust starts with truth and ends with truth. Fake teams use harmony as their currency.

I also want to be able to trust myself, that I am ready for each match, to make the most of the opportunity and the experience. After all, I am doing this for two reasons, love of the game and its people, and the challenge that umpiring provides. Steffi Graf, what a champion she was, 22 grand slam titles, and world number one for a record 377 weeks. She used to say her greatest challenge was playing against herself. I believe this because each of us as match officials can do no more than our best – it is the most and the least we may do for ourselves and the players.

The people who compete against themselves are the real competitors. They don't come any tougher. Wayne Bennett challenges his players by asking the question – why would you judge yourself against somebody else? We may well consider and reflect on the same question.

The greatest challenge can be getting the best out of ourselves every time we go into a match. The great umpires do this, it defines them, they hold it together for much longer periods of time and they have embedded consistent routines and use triggers to enable them to do this.

Best wishes to you all for season 2021-22.



CA-contracted umpires Greg Davidson and Simon Lightbody together at the SCG // Troy Penman

EDUCATION OFFICER UPDATE

BEN TRELOAR

Even though the state of New South Wales has been locked down for some time now, we've still had the ability to provide education and training opportunities for our members and those looking to commence their umpiring and scoring journeys.

The winter training program was going to be jam-packed, with laws courses and professional development workshops scheduled from Albury to Lismore and everywhere in between. COVID-19 has once again prevented face-to-face training featuring on the pre-season calendar. Thanks is offered to all our trainers who had made themselves available and for all the preparation work that had taken place to ensure the program would have been a success. With any luck, the team will be back ready and raring to go next year with the intentions to deliver training and education sessions in person in as many zones and to as many affiliates as we can.

Throughout the months of July and August, the training team has been very busy delivering two online level II umpire training courses. The courses combined have seen over 120 participants taking part working towards completing their accreditation along with Association members beginning their preparations for the upcoming season. Thank you to all trainers who facilitated various sessions and the exam committee, your time and efforts are appreciated. Both courses receiving positive feedback with participants enjoying the experience. A warm welcome and congratulations is offered to all our new members who have joined the Association during the winter period.

For the second year running we have been unable to see Tamworth host the NSWCUSA Annual Convention. This meant once again we would hold the convention online utilising the Zoom platform. It was great to see so many members and guests in attendance. During the convention we had numerous sessions covering various aspects of officiating, technique and fieldcraft, personal and professional development as well as mental health and wellbeing. The sessions were inspirational, motivational, and determined.

Sincere thanks to all umpire and scorer members who contributed to the event to benefit others, setting them up for success for the upcoming season and beyond – all were of the highest quality in preparation, delivery and engagement. We should also acknowledge our guest presenters; Matthew Burgin, Leisel Jones, Sharon King, Phoebe Lye and Alan Mantle. Thank you for the passion, energy and care you each brought to your sessions. A special thanks to everyone behind the scenes, too. Claire Polosak and Bede Sajowitz in particular. Both contributed significant hours over and above expectations which culminated in another successful convention for the Association. The quality of the communications and recordings are there for all to see. Presentations are available to view via the members' section of the NSWCUSA website.

Further education opportunities are to continue. We will see monthly Law questions and answers distributed each month along with focus sessions from the Exam Committee at each OGM of the Association.

I hope everyone, your families and friends are safe and well. See everyone on the park soon.

BOB DAVIS HONOURED WITH LIFE MEMBERSHIP

BEDE SAJOWITZ

The Association extends congratulations to its 54th Life member, Bob Davis, who received the honour at a Special General Meeting held prior to the Annual General Meeting in August.

Bob first joined NSWCUA as an umpire in 1995, being appointed to 12 matches in his first season before continuing on-field for fifteen further summers.

Whilst an active umpire, he also contributed off the field as a member of the Association's Social Committee for seven seasons, in which time he oversaw raffles, golf days, social cricket matches and Christmas dinners among other social events.

By the time he moved away from on-field officiating, he had stood in 221 matches – including one in First Grade, 93 in Second Grade and 72 in Third Grade.

In 2011, Bob was recognised with Principal membership of the Association, an appropriate acknowledgement of fifteen years of service on and off the field.

The 2011-12 season saw Bob join the Observer team, volunteering his Saturdays to travel around Sydney watching umpires and providing detailed feedback to them, both verbally on the day and through a detailed report in the days after.

He remains a familiar face around Men's Premier Cricket grounds, with last summer being his tenth season as an observer, making the effort to visit two matches each Saturday to view the umpires.



Life member Kim Norris presented Bob with a 25 Years of Service Badge at the 2021 Annual Dinner // Steven Smith

In that capacity, Bob works closely with Association staff, keeping track of the umpires that each observer views during the season and assisting with the appointment of observers to maximise the group's coverage across the summer.

He also plays a crucial role in ensuring that two umpires attend all 50 Men's Premier Cricket grounds each Saturday – volunteering his time to take and make phone calls when an umpire is unable to attend their match on the day – this role has also seen Bob take up a position at square leg on a number of occasions.

For the last four seasons, he has also been a crucial part of the Panel Selection Committee, bringing with him valuable insights into the development and ability of those officiating on NSW Men's Premier Cricket Umpire Panels 3 and 4, particularly newer umpires.

He would also be known to avid readers of In Black and White under his pseudonym – **The Nightwatchman** – which sees him as the brains behind the Cric-o-ku in each edition of the journal.

For 25 seasons, Bob Davis has been a dedicated member making a significant contribution to the Association and his fellow members, both on and off the field and is a truly worthy recipient of Life membership.

2021 PRINCIPAL MEMBERS RESPOND

Had the Annual General Meeting have been held in-person, those upgraded to Principal Membership would have been afforded the opportunity to accept their upgrade with a speech on the night.

In lieu of this, similar to last year, each member was offered the chance to pen a piece of acceptance for this edition of **In Black and White** for distribution to their fellow members.

KEVIN BATTISHILL



Life member John Evans with Kevin Battishill // Steven Smith

I am humbled and thankful for this prestigious honour which has been given to me.

Firstly, let me thank Darren, Mark Hughes and each of the members of the Board.

Secondly, my mentors, Laurie Borg, Andrew Hamilton and Andrew Coates as well as the Examination Committee for their input and support.

Thirdly, to the Women's umpires where I first started and to all my peers who have stood with me and offered encouragement.

And lastly, to the scorers, namely Ian Wright, Sue Woodhouse, Jennifer Byrne and Adrian Tham for their assistance.

Let me give you a brief history of my journey to umpiring - I was in the NSW Police Force and found myself working most weekends. I could only manage Lower Grades at Penrith. In 1994, I completed an umpiring course with Nepean Umpires and joined the Sydney Women's CUA in 1998 with Paul Farrell.

I was promoted into a management position at Surry Hills where I was responsible for the Sydney Football Stadium and Cricket Ground, the RAS Showground and the State Gay & Lesbian Community.

In the mid-90s, many would remember an intoxicated man tackling the stumps in a One-Day International at the SCG which went viral.

My boss, an Assistant Commissioner, wanted the problem fixed so he arranged a meeting for me to attend NSWCUSA at the SCG with Darrell Hair and Peter Hughes.

With the assistance of the Legal Team at the SCG Trust a Bill was drawn up and put before Parliament so that fines and bans could be applied to stop people from invading the playing field.

We had ongoing meetings and Mr. Hair encouraged me to complete the umpires course at the SCG, which I successfully completed in 2000 with Tim Donahoo and Laurie Borg.

Once again, I couldn't commit so I remained with the SWCUA and umpired when I was available.

In 2005 I retired from the police and I resat the course and committed to Premier Cricket umpiring.

Many thanks again to each and every one of you for your support so far and thank you once again for this honour.

JOHN COLWELL



John Colwell on field at Village Green // Supplied

To be awarded Principal membership of NSWCUA is a great honour, and I am very proud and pleased to accept this upgrade. It is a privilege to be recognised amongst the six other esteemed recipients this year, and those from prior years.

Thank you to the Board and Management team of the Association – they are always available and helpful. They continue to do a great job for the members, even in very challenging conditions.

My main focus and attention over the years has been assisting and umpiring women's cricket, and the Sydney Women's CUA. During that time, we have grown in both number and quality of members. It has been challenging and exciting, but well worthwhile to see the improvements.

I see some of our roles in the SWCUA as raising the standing of that Association through training and development and assisting a number of newer umpires to get comfortable and 'up to speed'. We also work closely with Claire Polosak to recruit and encourage female umpires.

A few quick thank yous to some special people:

My wife Rosemary, 'the cricket widow', and our family for their tolerance and support.

My great umpire mates, Kevin McFarlane, and the late Gerry Forlano, for their friendship, support and guidance.

Simon Taufel and Darren Goodger, for the inspiring example they have set.

In my early umpiring and time in admin roles, Gordon Smith, Helmut Gerlach, Trevor Parker, and recently Stephen Blomfield and Aldo Cantori, have been very helpful.

A few great 'running mates' over the seasons that I've learnt from – Kevin Battishill, Ian Carew, Paul Farrell, Laurie Luccitti, Bob McGregor and Lawrie Yeomans.

Lastly, to all my fellow umpires, scorers, players, officials, and groundsmen. We couldn't have the enjoyment and good times we have umpiring without the efforts of ALL of you. Thank you.

Best wishes.

TONY HACKETT



Life member John Evans with Tony Hackett // Steven Smith

It is with great pleasure that I accept Principal Membership granted to me recently. When I first became a member in 2003 I did not even know there were different levels of membership.

I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am.

People I would like to thank for their support are:

Lynn Hackett (my wife)

Darren Goodger

Dennis Chaplin, President of Wagga Wagga Cricket Umpires Association (a great support)

Pat Kerin OAM, the Riverina Zone Umpires representative

The Board of NSWCUA

CLAIRE POLOSAK



Claire Polosak with Life member Simon Taufel // Steven Smith

It was a real thrill to be upgraded to Principal membership of the Association. To every member whom I have stood with – thank you – I have enjoyed and learnt from all of you, you have all made me the umpire that I am today.

There are so many people who have been a part of this journey, firstly my parents who didn't give up on me as a teenager after my first failed attempts at the exam through to my husband Evan, who supports me and my umpiring no matter what.

Between these times, Darren Goodger has always been pillar of strength, and for the friendships I have made along the way, I am forever grateful.

I am very fortunate to currently be working in umpiring with Cricket NSW – in the team of Ben Treloar, Bede Sajowitz and Troy Penman along with Darren. We are working very hard to ensure that NSWCUA is the best officiating association in Australia by every possible measure. Thank you to the rest of the Board and members for the nomination to this membership category.

Never would 15-year-old Claire at the Laws courses have thought the opportunities she has had would have been possible. I am very lucky and grateful to all the friends I have made now around the world.

I don't consider umpiring to be work, it is an opportunity to continually learn new things, and meet new people.

All the absolute best everyone for this coming season, I hope everyone will be prepared for whatever is put in front of us.

"When the opportunity comes, it is too late to prepare" (John Wooden).

OWEN RIDGE



Owen Ridge with fellow member Lorraine Morris // Troy Penman

Firstly, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bob Davis - it is great to see you become a Life member Bob. Also, my congratulations to the other recipients of Principal membership.

I would like to thank the Board for bestowing Principal membership upon me, I do consider it to be an honour, especially when I look at the list of Principal members and know my name is being added. I joined our Association in 1993 and since then I have met many wonderful people and formed many lasting friendships.

I would like to thank all the umpires and scorers I have worked with over the last 28 years as well as the administrators, club officials and other volunteers I've met along the way.

My best wishes to everyone and I look forward to seeing you all during the 2021-22 season.

Cheers,
Owen.

SUE WOODHOUSE



Sue Woodhouse with Life member Merilyn Fowler // Steven Smith

Firstly, I would like to thank the Board for my upgrade to Principal membership of our Association - it is a wonderful honour.

How did I get started in scoring? Well like most of us, it was my son who came to me when he was nine years old and asked if he could play cricket - he had never owned a cricket ball or bat, so I said yes.

We turned up to his first game, where our Association played average cricket, the coach came over to me and said 'Sue, you can learn how to score'. I had never seen a score book in my life until that day. The person I was scoring with said he is a left hand bowler and he is quick - when he bowled the next ball I did not see the ball, he did bowl fast, then he went into bat and the other scorer pointed out that he is a right hand batter - it was an interesting start to my scoring career. My son's cricket career seen me become manager of his club cricket and representative teams. That was the start of my scoring journey.

I would like to thank a few people who have helped me along the way.

First of all, thank you to Merilyn Fowler, my mentor, for her help over the years. Merilyn is an inspiration in what she has achieved over her scoring career.

Also, to Narelle Johnston, Christine Bennison, Kay Wilcoxon and to everyone else that I have not mentioned, especially to all the umpires out there. I would like to mention of Darren Goodger, he also is an inspiration to all of us.

To all the friends I have made in this great Association. I would also like to thank North Sydney CC and Blacktown CC for all the support they have given me over the years.

I would like to thank the selectors for appointing me to so many representative games over the years, I have enjoyed my scoring at this level, my highlight was when I was appointed to do the two WNCL Finals and to score WBBL matches.

On the Scorers' Committee I have enjoyed teaching people how to score - as they say you never stop learning and till this day I am still learning. I will continue my scoring journey as long as my health keeps me in good shape. I call it a journey because I never know where it will take me next.

I hope to see all your smiling faces when you turn up to score or umpire in the coming cricket season at some time. In these difficult times I hope everyone and your families take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,
Sue

TONY WILDS



Tony Wilds with National Panel colleague
Greg Davidson // Steven Smith

I was both surprised and honoured to receive an upgrade to Principal membership of the NSWCUSA at the recent AGM.

I have been a part of a number of sporting associations over the years and the NSWCUSA is one of the most professionally run that I have been involved with.

The opportunities wherever you are located throughout the state are there if you are willing to take up the challenge.

I have learnt so much as an umpire and I continue to develop my skills as each season rolls on. The sense of camaraderie and teamwork both on and off the field are a testament to those who have paved the way in our Association. I love the challenge of working with my partner to successfully play our part in each game.

The enjoyment of being a part of our Annual Convention and other training days reinvigorates me for each season ahead. We should all be striving to do the best we can in each match and not be distracted by events out of our control.

I would like to thank the Board and Management of NSWCUSA for showing faith in me and providing me with the opportunities to develop as an umpire.

Thank you to those I have stood with for the friendship and teamwork we have shared.

Best wishes to members for a successful season ahead, however that unfolds.

2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION WRAP

BEN TRELOAR

The 2021 Annual Convention was our second successive convention held online, whilst we look forward to returning to an in-person setting next year, we thank all members and guests who tuned into the live sessions and made them all an engaging and positive experience for everyone.

This year saw eight live sessions hosted over the course of 11 days, with an accumulation of over 1000 people dialling into sessions. The delivery and the content from presenters and facilitators were of a very high quality and we hope you found them beneficial and invigorating for the challenges that may lie ahead this season.

The Convention began with keynote speaker Leisel Jones, who provided an insightful session, talking about how success lies in authenticity, the importance of determination, what we do with feedback to name a few. Claire Polosak hosted the session and facilitated some questions from members as well.

Our Executive Officer and the State Umpiring Manager provided us with updates on the Association and representative officiating respectively. They also touched on some focus points to keep at the in mind leading into and during the season, notably - the importance of enjoyment.

Hosted by Andrew Coates, three of our contracted umpires; Greg Davidson, Simon Lightbody and Tony Wilds; shared with us some challenging match situations they have experienced in their careers and identified some strategies to help manage player behaviour.

We heard from Matthew Burgin, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead at CA, who presented with Paul Wilson to deliver a passionate and thought-provoking session focusing on our mental health and wellbeing, drawn from data and lived experiences.

Association Life member Simon Taufel shared his many years of experience and expertise with us, honing in on how we can get better one match at a time. Some key ideas from his presentation included brutal honesty and owning your performance, control what you can control and to focus on the process rather than the outcome whilst enjoying every moment.

A big thank you to Adrian Tham, Scorers' Committee Chair, and the presenters who provided some valuable sessions targeted at scorer members – Dan Moran and Ian Wright worked through scorer and umpire relationships and teamwork in the third team, Adrian himself reviewed key footage from a Big Bash match and Darren Mattison presented on some unusual scoring scenarios. Each of these sessions were very well attended and benefited scorers and umpires alike.

A reminder that most of the sessions and a number of pre-recorded sessions remain available to view on the Association website, under the Resources tab of the menu after logging in to the 'Member Access' section of the site. They will remain up moving forward for you to access at your leisure.

Also available here are several pre-recorded sessions, including fieldcraft and technique presented by the NSW State Umpire Panel, a Q and A with some of representative scorers and a session on protecting your hearing from Sharon King Hearing Centre in Tamworth.

I'd like to highlight Alan Mantle for engaging with our members one-on-one providing support, encouragement and strategies in preparing for the season ahead. We have received many emails and

texts with expressions of thanks from those who attended his sessions. We look forward to inviting Alan back again for next year's Convention.

There are many people to thank for their efforts in putting the Convention together, including the Board for their support and encouragement leading into and during the event, to Troy and Darren for their work proofing and editing many of the contributions that made it to your screens, to Bede for his communication before and during the Convention, as well his production of the flyer.

Thanks as well to Claire for her tireless work in sourcing contributors and presenters, facilitating sessions and for managing to edit and produce each of the videos you can see on the website.

It was great to see so many members engaged with the webinar sessions, we hope you found each session beneficial and can make the most of the recordings being available during the season and beyond. We hope you're looking forward to an in-person Convention again next year – we know we are!



A screenshot of members dialed into the Challenging Match Scenarios session

STEVENIE'S STORY

BEDE SAJOWITZ

Taking to the field at North Sydney Oval on January 26, 1991, Stevenie Harman and Graham Reed became the 44th and 45th Australians to umpire a women's Test match.

In so many ways, Stevenie was no different to those who proceeded her – applying the Laws of Cricket, fostering relationships with players, managing matches for the benefit of the players, and making decisions on outs and not outs.

Unlike those before her, Stevenie was the first Australian woman to stand in the middle at that level.

It was ten years beforehand though, where her umpiring journey began – when in 1981 part of her training to become a teacher saw her decide to undertake her umpiring accreditation.

"I decided in my second year of teaching to sit for my umpire's ticket and unfortunately they had the exam the day that Princess Diana got married to Prince Charles, so I missed the wedding!"

Still playing the game at the time – as a wicket-keeper for Kingsgrove CC – it wasn't until four years later where she put her umpiring ticket to use in Sydney Grade Cricket.

"1985 was my first year of umpiring – my first game was Waverley and Hawkesbury at Trumper Park in Paddington – with a guy called David Sanders – who they used to call the Colonel for obvious reasons – when I got there, the Waverley guys all thought I was one of the Hawkesbury players. I got

A portrait taken of Stevenie Harman in 2019 at Colyton High School, where she has taught for over 40 years // Supplied



told go into this dressing room, and I had to tell them I wasn't one of the players, I'm actually here to umpire.

"Umpires had to wear the same things back then, so you couldn't wear your coat if the other person didn't want to – David didn't feel the cold and it was a freezing cold day, so I was there freezing to death."

"Back then there was a First Grade Panel and a Second Grade Panel and then the others. So you might do Third Grade one week and Shires the next. I spent a couple of seasons in Third Grade, then two seasons in Second Grade. It was 31 December 1988 that I did my first game in First Grade.

"The phone call during the week came from Ted Wykes, who told me that I was with Alan Marshall – who was a Shield umpire at the time – the thought of umpiring with Alan made me stop and be sick twice on the way to the ground! It wasn't the thought of doing the game, it was the thought of what if I let him down."

That one-day match on New Year's Eve in 1988 was between Bankstown and Hawkesbury – with Bankstown fielding a very strong side including Mark and Dean Waugh, Gary Crowfoot, Wayne Holdsworth and Scott Prestwidge – whilst

Hawkesbury's team included Grade Cricket veteran Ken Hall.

In 1990-91 – Stevenie was appointed to the Green Shield Final between Manly-Warringah and Sutherland – the same season that she was appointed as a Reserve Umpire to an FAI Cup match between New South Wales and Tasmania at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"Ian Thomas and Darrell Hair were on field, I was sort of thinking 'break a leg, break a leg' but it didn't happen, so I didn't get on the field, but I got a tour of the scoreboard.

"I did get onto the SCG the next month for the Tooheys Challenge Cup Final on Remembrance Day and I got to sign my name on the wall in the umpire's room. I'd been there for the FAI Cup game, but I actually got to walk on to the hallowed turf for that one, so that was pretty special."

The Tooheys Challenge Cup was played between the Sydney Grade Premiers from the previous season, Gordon, and the Country Champions, the ACT. Each side fielded strong teams, the Gordon side featured Mark O'Neill, Phil Emery, Adam Gilchrist and Kevin Roberts; whilst the ACT had some touring English County players – Derbyshire's Peter Bowler and Lancastrian Steve O'Shaughnessy.

Gordon opening batter Ross Toohey scored 100; though Stevenie recalls him having some early good fortune, "He got dropped behind on one of the first balls that he faced, and they ran through, he came down to my end and said, 'that was lucky' and I said told him 'well go on then, make good use of your fortune and go on and get a hundred' and he did!"

It was a couple of months later in the summer that Stevenie and Graham Reed took to North Sydney Oval for the first Test in a three-match series between Australia and India.

"The great Belinda Clark made her debut in that match and there was all this stuff in the paper about Mark Waugh making his Test debut the day before as well. I'd actually coached Belinda for the NSW Combined High Schools so that was a really good feeling to be there for that. She ended up getting 100 in that game.

"One of the Indian openers got 50, I think every run was a nick through slips. Even though she got 50, it took her all day and even the Indian team may have been celebrating when she got out."

12 months later, in February 1992, Harman and Reed were in the middle of North Sydney Oval again for the one-off women's Test which saw Australia and England contest the Ashes – the first, and so far, the only women's Test to be scheduled for five days of play.

The match was also the first women's match to be televised, with the ABC broadcasting the fixture. The end of the match on the final day was an all-time finish to a Test – as Stevenie recalled, "It was the most climactic end to a Test match you've ever seen; it was absolutely brilliant.



Stevenie looks on as Zoe Goss bowls at North Sydney Oval in February 1992 // Supplied

"I was at the City End - Charmaine Mason, who was making her debut was bouncing the English batters trying to take the last wicket, you could hear the thunder and the lightning in the background and could see the rain coming. Graham Reed was standing at square leg and he was signalling to me that the rain was coming.

"Charmaine goes around the wicket and the ball just kissed the glove, the catch was taken, and England were all out - to my chagrin, because I'm a Pom!

"Then the rain came and the lightning came. Graham and I missed all the presentation because we ran one way everyone else ran the other way. It was just raining so hard, by the time we got out of our dressing room to go up to the presentation, it had all finished.

"In 1993, Arthur Watson and I were appointed to a WODI between Australia and NZ at Oakes Oval in Lismore - it was a really special match; to do it with Arthur as well, we wore blue shirts, the game started at 4pm and it was being broadcast live into NZ.

"It was so humid before play started - we had a photo taken before the game - we had to change shirts because we were so sweaty, luckily we had taken two shirts with us. Because it was so humid, the ball moved plenty!

"When I used to umpire, I put sun cream on, but I also put a line of pink zinc on my nose, because being English, I burn easily. I was trying to put it on, but it was melting coming out of the tube! Despite all that, it was a really good game which we enjoyed being a part of."

There are a number of colleagues that Stevenie highlights as being supportive and welcoming of her during her umpiring career: Tom Brooks, Graham Chudleigh, Bob Collard, Peter Hughes, Ken Duffy, Kevin Kelty - though Arthur Watson is

one colleague who was particularly supportive of her umpiring and one of the great friends she made in the game.

"Of all of the umpires that were in the Association at the time, Arthur was always there, he was always so supportive, he always treated me as a fellow umpire. The very first game we did together was at Howell Oval in Penrith. He bought me a handkerchief with a little 'S' on it, which I still have." The story of one Saturday in 1991, when the pair weren't even umpiring together reveals the strength of the friendship between the two.

"In 1991, the whole of Sydney was ringed by bushfires, I got to Village Green for day two of a match between UNSW and St George. Both sides only had nine players because they couldn't get into Sydney because of the fires. Everyone agreed that whenever they arrived, we would waive the penalty time and they could just join in the game.

"There were burning leaves falling onto the ground - you could almost still see the flames on them. Back then, the rule was you had to play until 5pm, even if you had a result. We got a result at 3:30pm and we just said that's it, we're going home.

"I'm driving home to Emu Plains and it was pitch black, it looked like the world was ending in front of me and behind me. Even with your headlights on, you could hardly see where you were going, it was as if you were driving into armageddon. I got to the freeway exit and it was all blocked off, they wouldn't let me through.

"I had to umpire the next day at Bankstown Oval, I drove to Arthur's place in Guildford and asked if I could please spend the night. They were kind enough to let me stay and I went and umpired in Bankstown the next day."

Arthur Watson looks back fondly on the matches they shared together, "I had several First Grade

matches with Stevenie and I was always pleased when I opened my envelope and found that she would be my partner for the next game. It was a real pleasure to share the WODI with her and be the only male surrounded by all these women!

"I recall with interest, a First Grade match at Waitara Oval. The Northern District skipper, Ross Turner, was on 99 and played a leg side sweep shot off a spinner – there was dust, grit and a raucous appeal all round.

"The batsmen head off for a single and I was unsure if it came off the bat, the pad, nothing at all or even rebounded off the keeper's pad. I looked across at Stevenie for a soft signal and she obliged with indicating it came off the bat.

"I thought to myself, I can't award the batsman – even if he is a good bloke – a ton when I was not totally sure, so I took the easy option and signalled a leg bye, only to be told by Ross, as politely as he could, that he got a top edge off his bat.

"Fortunately, Ross did manage to score his 100. I learned quickly to have full confidence in Stevenie as a partner and always accepted her soft signals in future matches.

"Her strong points were decision-making and maintaining concentration, not to mention that she was always enjoyable to work with. She was always receptive to feedback and encouragement – something I think I was good at sharing. We often had conversations about various issues that had arisen in her games."

Umpiring isn't Stevenie's only involvement in the sport, also spending considerable time as a coach with the NSW CHS, involved in the coaching of both boys and girls.

"I took a schoolgirls team to NZ in 1989, and a schoolgirls team to the UK in 2001 – the standard was similar – they were still good cricketers, particularly their timing and their shot-making was

as good as it is now, whereas nowadays they do have that power, I guess the bats are bigger now too!

"Some of the players I coached, including Lisa Keightly, Leah Poulton, Nicole Goodwin, went on to play for Australia. You see these players go on and do outstanding things and you think maybe you had a bit of an influence on that."

There's a number of players the Stevenie remembers fondly, one in particular being a name that would be familiar to many – former Cricket Australia CEO Kevin Roberts – who played in a number of matches Stevenie umpired, in Grade Cricket and at an underage representative level.

"Kevin was such a gentleman – he and Gavin Robertson were the sort of guys that if you had a daughter you wouldn't mind if they bought this boy home! They were just thorough gentlemen.

"There was a game at Chatswood Oval, where Gordon were playing Fairfield. Richard Stobo, who played for NSW, has bowled this ball which reared up and clipped the top of David Kelley's bat and gone straight on and flattened his nose. Kevin was fielding at short leg, the ball had clearly hit the bat and bobbled up, and Kevin's just put his hands behind his back.

"David went to hospital, got his nose put back into place and came back to bat as Fairfield fought for a draw. Richard came back onto bowl and Kevin said, 'if you bounce him, I'm not playing for this club anymore' – Kevin's father was actually the President of the club at the time – so he didn't bounce him, and Fairfield batted out for a draw."

"A couple of years ago, we got a new parish priest, named Paul Roberts. A couple of weeks into his appointment, I rocked up late said 'sorry I'm late Father I was watching the Big Bash'. He mentioned that his little brother used to play and played for NSW and Australia A. I asked what his name was, and he said Kevin Roberts!



Stevenie in the middle for a match between Penrith and Randwick at Howell Oval; Paul Thomas bowls to Rodney Davison with Richard Chee Quee the non-striker // Supplied

"The next week I rocked up with a bat that I have Kevin's signature on and a scorecard from an old match. Paul took a picture and sent it to Kevin, we actually got to catch up at the Sydney Test a few years ago when the bushfires were on, just before he lost his job.

"A majority of the people were good to me and there were some clubs that were really welcoming, I had never umpired Petersham, then I had them three games in a row, so when I rocked up the third week, they asked me for club fees!

"Fairfield used to have this thing where their players weren't allowed to swear if I was umpiring – and there'd be a fine of a dollar each time they swore. Someone would drop a catch they'd go 'Oh ****' – to which I'd remind them I teach at a western suburbs high school – I've heard worse in the playground.

"I once umpired a match between a Penrith Invitational XI and the Ranji Shield champions from India, Karnataka, who had come to do a tour to play all the state sides. Mark Waugh got invited to play for Penrith and in the touring side was Syed Kimani, the former India wicket-keeper, amongst some other internationals. No one had ever called me madam on the cricket field before, but when he came out to bat, he asked for 'centre, please madam' which was actually quite hilarious and everyone started laughing."

Between 1985 and 1998, the Association's official records indicate that Stevenie umpired 185 men's grade matches, with 93 of those in First Grade – though had washouts counted, she would be a member of the NSWCUA 200 Club.

Stevenie recalls that her 50th First Grade game was particularly memorable, "I used to teach and coach Jason Arnberger, who was a brilliant cricketer, he was captain of the Australian U19 side but didn't get Sportsman of the Year award at our school because someone captained the touch football side, which they thought was more important!

"My 50th First Grade game, was Parramatta v Penrith at Old Kings Oval, and Jason played. It was a season where he had been struggling for runs, in this match he came out and got 100 so that was special. At the end of that season, he moved to Victoria, where he went onto play Shield cricket for a long time.

"I still keep in contact with his mum and dad because they live around the corner from the school where I teach.

"Often I'll go to Howell Oval and sit there for an hour or so, watch a bit of cricket before I go home and get ready to alter serve – which I've done ever since I finished umpiring. I used to have to go into Penrith for service at 7am before cricket. Once I

stopped umpiring, I could actually go to my own parish.

"There were several reasons why I pulled the pin, one of them was we got a sponsorship from an alcohol company that we had to wear on our hats. Being a teacher, I felt it was morally wrong for me to be wearing alcohol. But they had worked really hard to get that sponsorship, so that was in the back of my mind, it was a little bit of a clash of values.

"I enjoyed it. All good things come to an end, back then it was amateur, and I was coaching, I was umpiring, and I was teaching which included doing the timetables for the school and term four is the busiest time of year! It had become a bit too hard to try do all three things at the same time."

In a career that began at Trumper Park and saw her walk onto countless grounds all across the State, there are a number of highlights that Stevenie picks out, "I achieved a few things that I am pretty proud of – that no one else had done, it's a bit hard to pick.

"We never got a certificate or anything for the international matches we did – Graham, Arthur and I were appointed by the NSWCA, who did all the umpire appointments back then. I still have the letters in my scrapbook, and I have a ball from each of those games, which I got mounted.

"One of the highlights of my career too was when I was in the top five of the George Borwick [Memorial Award]. One year I was in the top five – when they announced the five, I was so nervous that when I stood up, I was shaking that much I nearly fell over.

"Umpiring at the SCG was a highlight. The two Tests and the ODI were the pinnacle, that's what you aspired to do – it would have been so nice if they had been at the SCG.

"Being able to walk in the footsteps of the people like Tom Brooks, Arthur Watson and Alan Marshall that had walked onto the SCG – it's hard to describe and put into words; walking onto the field, you think of the people that have been there before you and that you're following in their footsteps, walking in their shoes."



Stevenie at the bowler's end during the WODI at Oakes Oval, Lismore // Supplied

POLOSAK ON-FIELD IN TEST DEBUT

BEDE SAJOWITZ

NSWCUSA member Claire Polosak made her women's Test debut in the recently completed day/night match between Australia and India played on the Gold Coast.

Polosak has been a member of the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires since 2018 and Cricket Australia's Supplementary Umpire Panel since the 2014-15 season.

She made her debuts in WT20Is and WODIs in 2015 and 2016 respectively, and having stood in each of the recently played ODIs her career tally reads 33 WT20Is and 20 WODIs, meaning the Test is her 54th women's international match.

She also stood in a men's ODI in April 2019 when she umpired Namibia v Oman in the Final of the ICC World Cricket League (WCL) Division Two tournament held in Windhoek.

The WCL tournament was one of ten ICC events she has umpired at – it was also one of the six events where she has been appointed to umpire the final.

The most recent international tournament she was involved in the Women's T20 World Cup held in Australia in early 2020, where she was appointed to the England v India Semi-Final played at the SCG.

Ahead of the match, Cricket NSW State Umpiring Manager Darren Goodger said, "This appointment is a wonderful opportunity for Claire, having performed to an exceptional standard on every occasion she has been appointed by the ICC."

"Claire has made the most of her opportunities at international level, she has also created many for herself. She has worked hard in progressing through the umpiring pathway, is ready to perform at this level and deserving of this appointment."

Since being appointed to the Supplementary Panel, Polosak's involvement at a domestic level has seen her in the middle for three One-Day Cup matches, five in the WNCL and 27 in domestic women's T20.

During that time, she has umpired four domestic finals – two each in the WBBL and the WNCL – including the Final of both competitions last summer.

The four-day match at Metricon Stadium saw Polosak become the first female Australian umpire to officiate in all three formats of international cricket.

She will be NSWCUSA's second female member to act as an on-field umpire for a women's Test match; the first being Stevenie Harman who umpired the first of her two Tests in 1991.

Since beginning her umpiring in Sydney in 2008-09, she has officiated 165 SCA matches, with 43 in men's First Grade.

Polosak was joined on-field by Victorian Phillip Gillespie, with Queensland's Bruce Oxenford as Third Umpire, South Australian Eloise Sheridan acting as Fourth Umpire and Bob Stratford the Match Referee.



Claire Polosak, Bob Stratford and Phil Gillespie // Cricket Australia

2021-22 COUNTRY PANEL ANNOUNCED

BEDE SAJOWITZ

In the lead up to the 2021-22 summer, NSWCUA was delighted to announce the Country Umpire Representative Panel for the season, with eight umpires selected for the panel that services Country Cricket NSW representative programs.

Four umpires have made the decision to stand down from the panel from last season: Ken Brooks, Gary Crombie, Tony Hackett and Ross McKim; taking with them with considerable experience in Country Cricket representative programs.

Hackett and McKim have been on the panel for a total of five seasons, Hackett's tenure coming across two stints whilst McKim has been a member of the panel since the 2016-17 season.

Crombie joined the panel in 2017-18 and Brooks the following season, each remaining on the panel since.

Crombie officiated seven Country Cricket finals in his time on the panel, including four finals in underage Women's Country Championships as well as finals in the Bradman Cup and Country Colts.

McKim was involved in five finals, two in each of the Bradman and Kookaburra Cups.

Hackett oversaw four finals, including two in the Kookaburra Cup and one in the Country Plate.

The Association would like to thank the four for their work as members of the panel, their loyalty to their colleagues and for all they do for cricket in their respective districts and zones.

Whilst Crombie has relocated interstate, the remaining three will continue to contribute to their local competitions both as on-field officials and as volunteer administrators.

Selectors decided not to replace the four umpires and the eight remaining umpires will form the panel for 2021-22.

The Association extends congratulations to the eight umpires selected on the panel and wishes them all the best for the coming season.

The full 2021-22 Country Umpire Representative Panel is as follows:

- Bruce Baxter – North Coastal
- Dave Cullen – Greater Illawarra
- John De Lyall – Western
- Graeme Glazebrook – Western
- Brenton Harrison – Riverina
- Keiran Knight – Newcastle
- Phil Rainger – Newcastle
- Neil Smith – Riverina



Departing Ken Brooks and Graeme Glazebrook at the Country Championships last season // Bruce Whitehouse

EIGHT MEMBERS ON CA PANELS

BEDE SAJOWITZ

Over the off-season Cricket Australia have announced their contracted umpires for the 2021-22 season with eight NSWCUSA members selected and an extra umpire added to each panel.

With the addition of Queenslander Bruce Oxenford to the National Umpire Panel the group grows from ten umpires to eleven, including the four NSWCUSA members retained – Gerard Abood, Greg Davidson, Tony Wilds and Paul Wilson.

Each of the four featured heavily in Cricket Australia competitions last season, each involved in excess of 20 matches across all formats.

Abood and Wilson were both on-field for senior national finals in 2020-21 and are the two longest-serving members of the panel, set to enter their 12th and 13th seasons respectively.

Davidson and Wilds were also housed in Sydney's WBBL hub for the entirety of the competition.

The elevation of South Australian Eloise Sheridan sees the Supplementary Umpire Panel increase to seven – with NSWCUSA's Simon Lightbody, Troy Penman, Claire Polosak and Ben Treloar included again.

Sheridan's promotion comes after significant involvement in the Big Bashes during 2020-21, officiating in the Adelaide BBL hub and in WBBL|06, where she umpired the Final with Polosak.

Last season saw significant debuts for Penman and Treloar, officiating their first fixtures in men's List A and first-class matches respectively with Polosak also becoming the first female umpire involved in men's Test matches when she was Fourth Umpire for the last two tests of the summer.

Each of the four were involved in the WBBL and were appointed to one match each in the One-Day Cup, with Lightbody and Treloar also appointed to officiate in the Sheffield Shield.

One change has been made to CA's International Panel for the coming season with Queensland's Donovan Koch nominated to replace Gerard Abood on the panel.

2021-22 CA National Umpire Panel:

Gerard Abood

Darren Close (Tasmania)

Shawn Craig (Victoria)

Greg Davidson

Phil Gillespie (Victoria)

Mike Graham-Smith (Tasmania)

Donovan Koch (Queensland)

Sam Nogajski (Tasmania)

Bruce Oxenford (Queensland)

Tony Wilds

Paul Wilson

2021-22 CA Supplementary Umpire Panel:

Nathan Johnstone (Western Australia)

Simon Lightbody

Troy Penman

Claire Polosak

Eloise Sheridan (South Australia)

David Taylor (Queensland)

Ben Treloar

2021-22 CA International Panel Umpires:

Shawn Craig (Victoria)

Donovan Koch (Queensland)

Sam Nogajski (Tasmania)

Paul Wilson

MCC TO USE THE TERM "BATTERS" THROUGHOUT THE LAWS OF CRICKET

MCC | 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

MCC HAS ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF CRICKET TO USE THE GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMS "BATTER" AND "BATTERS", RATHER THAN "BATSMAN" OR "BATSMEN".

These changes have been approved by the MCC Committee, following initial discussion by the Club's specialist Laws sub-committee.

MCC believes that the use of gender-neutral terminology helps reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game for all. The amendments are a natural evolution from work already undertaken in this area as well as an essential part of MCC's global responsibility to the sport.

The changes are effective immediately and updates have been made to the Laws of Cricket published at lords.org/laws, with the Laws of Cricket App and printed editions to be amended accordingly at their next updates.

A number of Governing Bodies and media organisations are already using the term "batter" in their Playing Conditions and reporting. We expect and encourage others to adopt the updated terminology following today's announcement of the change to the Laws.

At the time of the last redraft in 2017 it was agreed, following consultation with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and key figures within women's cricket, that the terminology would remain as "batsman" and "batmen" within the Laws of the game.

The changes announced today reflect the wider usage of the terms "batter" and "batters" which has occurred in cricketing circles in the intervening period. The move to "batter" is a natural progression, aligning with the terms of bowlers and fielders that already sit within the Laws.

Women's cricket has enjoyed unprecedented growth at all levels around the world in the same period. England's victory over India in the 2017 World Cup Final took place in front of a capacity crowd at Lord's. A record international crowd saw Australia defeat India in the T20 World Cup Final in Melbourne three years later and earlier this year, Lord's broke the record for a domestic women's match as 17,116 watched Oval Invincibles defeat Southern Brave.

Jamie Cox, Assistant Secretary (Cricket and Operations) at MCC said: "MCC believes in cricket being a game for all and this move recognises the changing landscape of the game in modern times.

"Use of the term "batter" is a natural evolution in our shared cricketing language and the terminology has already been adopted by many of those involved in the sport. It is the right time for this adjustment to be recognised formally and we are delighted, as the Guardians of the Laws, to announce these changes today."



A Middlesex wicket-keeper and an MCC batter in action at Lord's // MCC

TECHNICAL

BEN TRELOAR

The Difference between Laws and Playing Conditions

Most of us have experienced NSWCUA training courses which focus purely on understanding and applying that little blue book, the Laws of Cricket, to numerous cricketing situations – either as umpires or as scorers.

Included in the opening remarks of each course is the direction to participants to forget everything you know or have seen of the game. The reason for this is what we see on TV are matches played under the parameters of playing conditions which often override the Laws of Cricket.

A classic example of this is when we see a bouncer during a Test match which clearly sails above the striker's head standing upright at the popping crease. This automatically sees the striker's end umpire indicate a Wide has occurred, a playing condition, but under the Laws of Cricket it shall be called and signalled No ball. When we officiate, it's imperative we know and understand what playing conditions and which Laws are applied to your next match.

Following is an article from the MCC's website which provides context and explains an incident which occurred during the ECB's Vitality Blast Final. Under the Laws of Cricket, the striker is out caught. However, when playing conditions are applied, we have a different outcome altogether, due to the 'chain of contact' between the ball, fielders and the boundary.

In some ICC and Cricket Australia competitions the last dot point of Law 19.5.1 is amended by the playing conditions to say, **"another fielder who is grounded beyond the boundary"**. This sees **"if the umpire considers that it was the intention of either fielder that the contact should assist in the fielding of the ball"** being deleted allowing the 'chain of contact' to be applied.



Kent's Jordan Cox takes a catch, whilst colliding with team-mate Daniel Bell-Drummond // Supplied

A video of the incident can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/VYVfZ3P3j-k>

MCC WISHES TO CLARIFY THE LAW RELATING TO CATCHES NEAR THE BOUNDARY, FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT IN THE VITALITY BLAST FINAL.

Shared Article Posted: 20 September 2021

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/05/18/3fd4e12a-dfa4-4920-ad3e-252f5baa126c/Playing-Conditions-Vitality-Blast-180521.pdf>

Somerset's Will Smeed hit the ball towards the square leg boundary, where two Kent fielders converged, both trying to take the catch. Jordan Cox held onto the ball, remaining wholly within the field of play at all times, but collided with team-mate Daniel Bell-Drummond, who tumbled to the ground.

Part of Bell-Drummond's body was clearly touching and beyond the boundary, but his legs were within the field of play while they were in contact with the legs of Cox, who had already caught the ball.

Did this chain of contact with Bell-Drummond mean that Cox was deemed to be beyond the boundary? The TV umpire reviewed the footage and decided that it should be Not out, with a Boundary 6 being awarded.

MCC amended this area of the Law in 2017 to cater for just this eventuality. Law 19.5 states:

'19.5 FIELDER GROUNDED BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

19.5.1 A fielder is grounded beyond the boundary if some part of his/her person is in contact with any of the following:

- the boundary or any part of an object used to mark the boundary;
- the ground beyond the boundary;
- any object that is in contact with the ground beyond the boundary;

- another fielder who is grounded beyond the boundary, if the umpire considers that it was the intention of either fielder that the contact should assist in the fielding of the ball."

It is the last bullet point that is relevant in this case.

If two fielders are in contact accidentally, then the fielder within the field of play is not deemed to be beyond the boundary. If, however, the fielder beyond the boundary is doing something to assist his/her team-mate, such as supporting or lifting them, then such a wilful action would mean that both fielders are deemed to be beyond the boundary.



A West Indies player practicing boundary catches at Blundstone Arena // Supplied

FEMALE ENGAGEMENT

CLAIRE POLOSAK

Much like the Convention, this year the female pre-season training weekend was unable to be held in-person face due to the public health restrictions. So the training sessions were adapted and held online, across a number of nights in July and August.

There were six sessions held in total, covering a variety of umpiring topics, to assist the with preparations for the upcoming season - the sessions included:

- A presentation from Debbie Spillane, the first full-time female sports broadcaster at the ABC, who actually also umpired for a few seasons when she was younger! She provided an fascinating insight into her journey and how sport, and the presence of women in sport has changed over her career.
- Alan Mantle provided an introductory session to the realm of sport psychology and some strategies to assist when umpiring on field.
- Ben Treloar presented a session on a number of specific laws and scenarios to assist with Laws preparation for the season.
- Bede Sajowitz spoke about Teamwork, and some strategies to ensure the management of the game is as smooth as possible for both umpires in the middle and the players around them.
- Sue Redfern, an ICC/ECB umpire, presented around preparation for the season and what she does during the off-season, this also led into a more general question and answer session around umpiring.

- Hannah Darlington, Australian and NSW all-rounder, presented around the topic of relationships between players and umpires, particularly captains, and the best way to ensure these interactions are beneficial for everyone. Hannah was very candid in her presentation and in answering the questions from the audience.

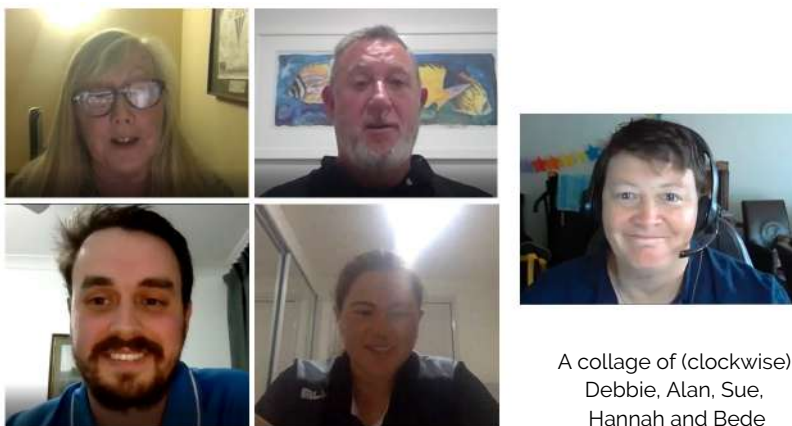
Thank you to everyone who presented, as well as the umpire members who attended the sessions, giving up their time for the benefit of their own preparation for the season ahead.

Thank you also to the Board who provided funding for the guest speakers, which further enhanced the quality of the sessions and increased the benefit for those in attendance. We look forward to holding more sessions during the season.

It was exciting to welcome a number of female umpires into the Association during the winter months - we look forward to seeing them on-field during the season ahead in various competitions around the State.

A reminder that we are running a grant program for any affiliated association who would like assistance with engaging prospective and active female umpires and aiding their development and increasing their number of active female umpires within their association. Please contact me at claire.polosak@cricketnsw.com.au and we can discuss this further.

Wishing everyone the very best for the upcoming season.



A collage of (clockwise) Debbie, Alan, Sue, Hannah and Bede

FROM THE VAULT

CONCLUSION - 1991-92 ANNUAL REPORT

The 1991-92 season has indeed been a very full and interesting one, culminating in the World Cup. Our representatives on the National Panel of Umpires were not selected to represent Australia on the panel of international umpires appointed for the Cup. To Peter McConnell and Steve Randell, we extend congratulations on their appointments.

However, our National Umpires were appointed reserves in those Cup matches played in New South Wales. To Darrell Hair and Ian Thomas go our congratulations.

Members of our First Grade Panel were ambassadors to the international umpires whenever they were in Sydney - providing welcoming duties, transportation from and to the airport and within the city, and a farewell whenever they departed.

In the country areas, we have initiated a programme of re-organisation which will afford protection to all of the umpires who officiate in domestic and representative matches and will also strengthen the Associations in their relations with the controlling authority. This re-organisation has the full support of the New South Wales Cricket Association and of the New South Wales Country Cricket Association. Umpires associations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to fully implement the scheme as soon as possible. Our Honorary Secretary is readily available to provide support and assistance, including visits to country centres, as and when required.

Our on-field activities throughout the Sydney metropolitan and in a number of country locations

have been the subject of study and assessment by the State Umpires Advisor and his team of aides. The attention of all officiating umpires is drawn to that Appendix in this Report which sets out all the observations of match performances.

All umpires are encouraged to read closely these observations and apply self-analysis to each as a means of overcoming deficiencies in performance - including those of which you may not have been fully aware.

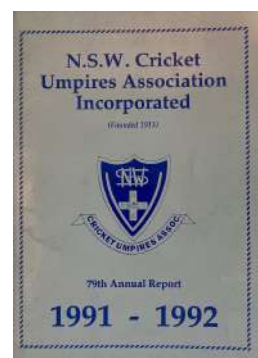
Our training programme is now well established. Training Officer Seminars are designed to assist those people who are involved in the education of umpires. Coaching classes are conducted regularly in the Sydney area. Those associations wishing to avail themselves of the expertise of our Examination Board when conducting their own coaching classes are assured of assistance as required - through the Training Officers Manual and the 35mm Training Slides and, possibly, by visits by Examination Board members if the time and venue can be met. However, associations are responsible for the conduct of their own examinations. Our Examination Board provides papers only for those aspirants to membership of the New South Wales Cricket Umpires' Association.

The support given to our Association by the whole membership during the 1991-92 season is gratefully acknowledged. We look forward to a continuing increased interest in all activities during the coming season.

Your Executive hopes that the 80th season of our existence will be one of satisfaction and enjoyment for all.

R. A. French
President

G. R. G. Wearne
Honorary Secretary



CRIC-O-KU Number 14*Clue: The rapport between umpires*

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Every row, column, and 3x3 box must contain each of the nine symbols, just like a normal Sudoku.

With *Cric-o-ku*, the symbols are letters and numbers, not just numbers, and when you've worked them all out, one of the rows or columns will be a cricket term.

The answer will be in the next issue of *Black and White*.

Enjoy!

CRIC-O-KU No 13: Solution

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OCTOBER 2021 MERCHANDISE VOUCHER WINNER



ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

TROY PENMAN

The Association is in a fortunate position where we have strong partnerships and relationships with a number of recognisable brands and companies.

We thank each partner for their assistance and support throughout season 2020-21, it is greatly appreciated by Management and Board.

Season 2021-22 will see NSWCUSA continue its sponsorship agreement with global fast food chain McDonald's. The sponsorship deal with McDonald's will be in conjunction with a larger deal between Cricket NSW and McDonald's. McDonald's continued on the back of the Association's field shirts. For this exposure the Association will receive \$15,000 + GST annually.

With the revenue from the sponsorship deal with McDonald's being invested in items for members, education and development, it offsets the cost for members and guests to attend Association events and an upgrade to Association products.

Since 2016, Beastwear has manufactured our merchandise – we are pleased for this association to continue into season 2021-22. The Association looks forward to continuing this partnership into the future and ensuring members are provided with quality on and off field wear.

In recent years, the Association has hosted a number of events at Bankstown Sports Club. These include Annual Dinners, Annual Conventions and in recent seasons both OGMs and training courses.

On a number of occasions, by way of a grant, the club have covered the cost of the venue hire, freeing up Association funds to be available to be used for the benefit of members. We thank the Club and their Board for their continued support.

Another of the Association's partners – the Bradman Foundation – continued its support of the Association and its members in season 2020-21. All members received a 10% discount on entry into the Bradman International Cricket Hall of Fame at Bowral and a 10% discount on all products in their Merchandise Store.

Additionally, they are offering an umpire mug at the special price of \$16 including postage. To reserve one please at the special price, please contact store@bradman.com.au with your postal address and you will be sent a link for payment.

As we look towards forward to season 2021-22, it is a pleasure to be continuing our relationships with each of our partners. Discussions with McDonald's and Cricket NSW saw a new three-year deal finalised for CNSW and NSWCUSA. The deal will see \$45,000 + GST come into the Association throughout its duration, with funds to be used to improve the experience for all members.

60 SECONDS WITH....

JOHN KILFORD

Day job?

In 1990, my wife and I established a consultancy business catering to the chemicals industry. We both have postgraduate degrees in chemistry and had worked in the industry for a number of years. Three years ago, I gave my part of the business to my son James (also a graduate in chemistry), and now look after the financial aspects of the business. I also maintain and update the computer program that I wrote to quickly and efficiently prepare Safety Data Sheets which is the basis of my/his side of the business.

Officiating Debut and the first time you recorded a smudge?

My first match acting as First Grade scorer was against Northern District in the 2009-10 season. Robyn Sanday made sure I understood the extra responsibilities that came with First Grade scoring. In previous seasons I had scored thirds (three seasons) and seconds (one season). That match was notable because in it, Greg Mail scored his second double century in consecutive matches – a first for Sydney Grade Cricket. Also he and Dave Miller put on 310 for the fourth wicket – a club record.

As for smudges – I know that Ian Wright looks out for them, but I don't.

Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)

I have been very lucky scoring for Sydney University during what I can only describe as a Golden Age. In the 12 seasons I have scored for First Grade we have appeared in six Grand Finals and won four of them.

One of these was especially memorable – the 2013-14 season saw us play Bankstown in the last round and lose to them. We still were minor premiers, but this win enabled Bankstown to finish in sixth place. The Grand Final saw us play Bankstown again on a pitch at Bankstown that looked like an over baked Christmas cake. We rolled Bankstown for 82 and at the end of day one we were 6/37.

The first 30 minutes of day two saw us lose the last four wickets without adding a run – so 37 all out. Bankstown managed 98 in their second innings so we needed 144 to win. At 6/70 this looked like a tall order but Tim Ley came to the wicket and with Mark Faraday took the score to 120. With Jonte Pattison playing a dead bat, Tim hit out, top scoring for the match with 48 not out, and a Sydney Uni win by 3 wickets.

That weekend saw Greg Mail away, officiating as best man to a good friend.

The 2016-17 Grand Final (also against Bankstown) saw two of our batsmen play special but completely different innings. Bankstown needed to beat us, and having won the toss, hit up a big score and declared.



Claire Polosak presents the Malcolm Gorham Scorer's Award to John Kilford // Steven Smith

Nick Larkin opened with Ed Cowan but was soon out bringing Ryan Carters to the crease. Ed was second out with the score at 109 of which he had scored 95 off 100 balls.

Ryan continued to anchor the innings and when Bankstown eventually called an end to play, had scored 110 not out off 431 balls. The match was drawn so we took the Belvidere Cup.

Best cricketer you have officiated?

Greg Mail without a doubt. A wonderful batsman and more than capable bowler. Handy in the field and a very astute captain. What more can I say?

Strangest thing to see happen on a cricket field?

During one match, everyone (players and umpires alike) went flat on the ground while a swarm of bees made their way across the ground. I have since found out that the Sydney University oval is a kind of a crossroads for swarming bees.

Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (any sport)? Why?

The First Grade scorers are all interesting and good company and it's perhaps unfair to single individuals out. However I will answer the question. As I mentioned before, Robyn Sanday scored my first First grade match and I regard her as a good friend and we often communicate during and outside the season. She provides wonderful afternoon teas when we play at Mark Taylor Oval. Toni Lorraine keeps the tidiest book. I noticed at the end of a day's play that a double century (not one of ours I am sorry to say) was all scored on a single line in her book. Impressive!

Ian Wright is perhaps the best scorer – always communicating and never assuming I have noticed things. Rarely is there any doubt as to what has happened when Ian is there. However, I must mention Geoff Price from Bankstown. We have sat together through some epic matches, two of which I have mentioned above.

We bounce thoughts off each other and sometimes these are uncomplimentary to each other or players from either side. Then he generously describes the rubbish I come up with as 'banter'.

Any superstitions?

I scored Second Grade in the 2008-09 season, before coming up to firsts, and was fortunate enough to score the Grand Final that year (we beat Penrith as I recall). Two years later I scored my first First Grade Grand Final (we beat Randwick-Petersham) and I noticed I was wearing the same cap. I continued using that cap in Grand Finals as a kind of superstition (more a good luck thing really) and I wore it for four successive Grand Final wins (five if you include seconds). However the luck seems to have run out as we have lost the last two.

Any special talents?

Not really. I try to get to know the other scorers and of course my players. Identifying strengths and weaknesses, which we all have, is important. When scoring at Sydney University, I extend the welcome to the Umpires too. It's always good to have happy umpires. I scored for several seasons exclusively on a laptop although this is now duplicated by use of the MyCricket app on my iPad.

For a few seasons I was also miked up to offer a commentary on the live stream. One of my ex-tutors – a team legend who now lives his life half in Australia and half in Germany – came up to me during a match and mentioned watching the live stream and listening to my commentary while in Germany.

Best piece of advice?

Concentrate! If you can think of a way that something can go wrong then sooner or later it will. Scoring on my laptop, Nick Larkin once hit a six that landed on my table mid-way between me and Kay Wilcoxon.

It jarred the table so much that the screen on the laptop went dead. Fortunately the "turn it off then on again" trick worked! Kay stood up and yelled to Nick "don't do that again".

What got you into scoring?

I am one of those unfortunate people with a love of cricket but little talent for the game, so my cricketing feats, such as they were, were soon forgotten. I also have two sons with even less talent, and no real interest in cricket. However I enrolled each in turn in local junior teams as I thought cricket part of their culture and scored for each of them in turn. After the younger one announced that he was no longer into humouring me by playing, I decided I would like to try scoring at a higher level so I contacted the Umpires' and Scorers' Association asking if any side wanted a scorer. I live close to Sydney University and studied Chemistry there many years ago, so it seemed like a natural fit – and it has certainly turned out to be exactly that.

Three people you would love to have dinner with?

A very philosophical question! Isaac Newton, George Harrison, Alan Turing.

There are also several of my ancestors who I would love to speak to in order to solve genealogical puzzles.

60 SECONDS WITH....

PHIL RAINGER

Day job?

Tradie, own a painting business.

Officiating Debut and the first time you fired someone?

First game was a Country Plate game between Walgett and Pilliga at Walgett in 2006-07.

The first time firing someone was the next year in a game between Narrabri Second XI and Pilliga – a big LBW shout came off the inside edge, I just thought it was out and triggered him. After thinking about it and my buddy telling me he smashed it – I agreed with him, though it didn't effect the outcome Pilliga won!

Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)

Anytime being able to umpire at the home of cricket in NSW – at the SCG. Having done a couple of matches there it is always a special place to umpire and look at the names of umpires and players in the dressing rooms. Was lucky enough to umpire the first final of the Regional Big Bash under lights there.

Best cricketer you have officiated?

Umpired a day two game at Chatswood with Gordon playing St George. St George had brought in Moises Henriques, Trent Copeland and Kurtis Patterson in from a Shield game whilst Gordon had a young Mason Crane from England plying his trade. Watching the battle between Mason and Moises was a great one – and Mason won late in the day.

Strangest thing to happen whilst on a cricket field?

In my early days of playing in the Yallaroi comp - which entailed Warialda and surrounds, going out and playing in Coolatai at their home ground which was inside the rodeo ground. All players from both sides had to carry out coir matts for the ant bed pitch and then peg them down before removing all livestock from ground and their landmines from the cows before we could commence play.

Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (any sport)? Why?

Matt Cecchin. He has had the stamina to stay in the sport for so long and to be at the top with all the adversity he's faced is second to none.

Any superstitions?

None whatsoever.

Any special talents?

None - what you see is what you get!

Best piece of advice?

Take everything in and don't stop learning or looking for advice.

What got you into umpiring?

My neighbour in Narrabri was the president of our cricket association organised an umpiring course done by Sam Rees. He couldn't get anyone to go so he asked me. We had nine people turn up in the end and I was the only one who passed. I was still keen on playing though after a number of games umpiring - Sam Rees and Darren Goodger kindly asked if I would give umpiring a good crack. Here we are 15 years later still enjoying the best seat in the ground!

Three people you would love to have dinner with?

My wife Lanie, and our two girls Emily and Charlotte.



Phil Rainger and John De Lyall with captains at the Country Championships // Bruce Whitehouse

60 SECONDS WITH....

CHRISTIAN RAYNER

Day job?

Man of leisure at present but aspiring cricket umpire of course! (Ex-Retail Buyer, Group Store Manager and UK Police Officer)

Officiating Debut and the first time you fired someone?

Officiating debut was in the Brewer Shield - Parramatta vs Penrith at Merrylands Oval. I honestly have no memory of my first firing but I'm hoping that's a good thing!

Career (to date) officiating highlight(s)

Completed first season with 29 Games - 11 Men's Premier and 18 Women's Premier. Officiating highlights are few with only one season in the bank, but there are two that.

By far number one is receiving the Alan Marshall Award and being presented with it by Arthur Watson (even if I was late showing up for it, but it's all about building up suspense, right?!)

Secondly being given a semi-final appointment in the Brewer Shield even if it was just to sit in the rain all day.

Best cricketer you have officiated?

Blake Newport for St George scored a beautiful century at Olds Park last year. I was thoroughly impressed with his attitude and the way he managed his innings.

I think he's usually a Second or Third Grade player, so I was lucky to officiate him coming back from injury in Fourth Grade.

Strangest thing to happen whilst on a cricket field?

Not sure about funniest from my perspective but I'll let you be the judge!

For my first ever game umpiring - a Brewer Shield game at Merrylands Oval between Parramatta and Penrith - John Colwell had asked Peter Tate to be my observer. I was pumped up, although a tad nervous as it was my first game and Brewer games tend to have a larger audience with many enthusiastic parents on the ropes.

I was at the bowler's end, and there was a young girl bowling very talented but had a few wayward deliveries that I confidently gave as wide.

After the game Peter took me to one side and gave me very professional, comprehensive feedback on my performance. Overall I was very happy with the report. Peter then asked me how I felt about the wide calls I was firing out. I said that I was happy with them as the batsman couldn't really reach the ball, but in hindsight with the extra leeway the U18s get for wides I maybe shouldn't have given them. Peter replied, "Yes that was my daughter bowling".



Arthur Watson presents the Alan Marshall Medal to Christian Rayner // Steven Smith

I have to say although I felt incredibly embarrassed, Peter's report was great and his feedback was not influenced by this in the slightest. It's certainly something I'll never forget. It was a good lesson - you never know who's watching so get it right! Thank you, Peter!

Who is your favourite official to have or still is officiating in a sport (any sport)? Why?

Nigel Owens, a Welsh Rugby Union referee, is definitely the pinnacle of officiating in my view. The first and only rugby referee to reach 100 international tests and you can understand why. I can't think of any referee, at least in rugby, that is so consistently accurate, has such control over 30 men twice the size of him and can manage a game with such a wealth of knowledge and confidence. Absolute legend!

Any superstitions?

Not sure about superstitions but I'm very square and like things to be done in a certain way. Although I know the chances are things won't go wrong if I do it differently. I'm hoping I can use that as an advantage in umpiring.

Any special talents?

I used to be able to crush an empty drinks can between my shoulder blades but there's probably too much padding there now. I can make someone's arms go through the floor without creating any damage but that's probably best demonstrated rather than explained.

Best piece of advice?

I would say any advice should be given objectively not emotionally. Be the devil's advocate, never just tell people what they want to hear. All of this can be done in an empathic way, be tactile when giving people honest advice. Always try to see both sides, and opinions (particularly on others) should be based on fact.

What got you into umpiring?

I started getting very frustrated in my playing career particularly with batting, putting in a lot of money through personal coaching etc. I just thought to myself that I want to be a part of this sport that I love in a big way but it's not going to happen as a player. I had a lightbulb moment on my way home from work, stopped the car and emailed Ben Treloar whose email I found somewhere online and the rest is history. It was very spontaneous but I'm so happy that I am doing it and to have met some truly inspiring people through it.

Three people you would love to have dinner with?

Lewis Hamilton - most successful British sportsman of all time (in my opinion)!

Winston Churchill - if not the greatest then one of the greatest leaders in history

Emma Raducanu - the woman of the hour. What a truly inspiring story.

Sorry they are all English but I'm still waiting for the Aussie passport in the mail! Then maybe Gilly will turn up late for the party and take the 4th seat.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ABDUL HALIM HIMU | LAKEMBA | KHURRAM MAHMOOD | ROSELANDS |
| ABHIJITH RAO | INGLEBURN | KRISHNA PILLALAMARRI | EASTWOOD |
| AKM MONIRUZZAMAN | AUSTRAL | LEWIS MUNDAY | GLENBROOK |
| ALAN WILLMORE | PADSTOW HEIGHTS | LORNE CUMMINGS | PYMBLE |
| ANIL RANGANATHA | CARLINGFORD | MAHFUZ CHOWDHURY | THE PONDS |
| ANN CHARD | ULMARRA | MARTIN MOOD | GYMEA BAY |
| AREES RAUF | RYDE | MD ABDULLAH AL MAMUN | MOUNT DRUITT |
| ASHOK GOPAL | BLACKTOWN | MEHRUB CHOWDHURY | THE PONDS |
| AYUSH MISHRA | PENRITH | MICHAEL WOODS | LEICHHARDT |
| BRENT LEISEMANN | SYDNEY | MURRAY BENNETT | LUGARNO |
| BRUCE TOM | LAKE ALBERT | NARASIMHMAN | TOKYO, JAPAN |
| CHRIS SINCLAIR | ROCKDALE | SHRIKHANTH | |
| DAVID HENRY | WINSTON HILLS | NATHAN BROWN | PANANIA |
| DAVID MURRAY | GLADESVILLE | NICHOLAS DOWD | RANDWICK |
| DAVID WINIATA | SOMERSBY | PHILLIP DAWS | MOUNT ANNAN |
| DHAKSHINAMOORTHY | TOKYO, JAPAN | SCOTT CHARD | ULMARRA |
| NATARAJAN | | SHANNON MCEWAN | BRADBURY |
| EDWARD HOUSE | MASCOT | SIDDHA RAMANATHAN | WAVERTON |
| FARAZ-UL-HASSAN | INGLEBURN | SRINIVASAN | SCHOFIELDS |
| BUGVI | | KRISHNAMOORTHY | |
| GAURAV SINGHAL | MERRYLANDS | STEPHEN BALDWIN | BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS |
| GLENN CASEY | CONCORD WEST | SUJEEVAN PERU | DUNDAS VALLEY |
| HARINATH KANNAN | SEVEN HILLS | SUNDER NARAYANA | EPPING |
| JAMES FERNANDEZ | CHERRYBROOK | YANG FEI | EASTWOOD |
| KANJAN SHARMA | CARLINGFORD | YOUSUF IQBAL | NORTH KELLYVILLE |

Welcome!

TO ALL WHO JOINED AT THE
SEPTEMBER OGM

2021-22 REPRESENTATIVE PANELS

ELITE PANEL OF ICC UMPIRES

RODNEY TUCKER (AUS.)

PAUL REIFFEL (AUS.)

INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF ICC UMPIRES

SHAWN CRAIG (AUS.)

DONOVAN KOCH (AUS.)

SAM NOGAJSKI (AUS.)

PAUL WILSON (AUS.)

DEVELOPMENT PANEL OF ICC UMPIRES

HEATH KEARNS (JERSEY)

CLAIRE POLOSAK (AUS.)

ELOISE SHERIDAN (AUS.)

IAN THOMSON (HONG KONG)

CA NATIONAL UMPIRE PANEL

GERARD ABOOD

DARREN CLOSE (TAS.)

SHAWN CRAIG (VIC.)

GREG DAVIDSON

PHIL GILLESPIE (VIC.)

MIKE GRAHAM-SMITH (TAS.)

DONOVAN KOCH (QLD.)

SAM NOGAJSKI (TAS.)

BRUCE OXENFORD (QLD.)

TONY WILDS

PAUL WILSON

CA SUPPLEMENTARY UMPIRE PANEL

NATHAN JOHNSTONE (WA)

SIMON LIGHTBODY

TROY PENMAN

CLAIRE POLOSAK

ELOISE SHERIDAN (SA)

DAVID TAYLOR (QLD.)

BEN TRELOAR

CNSW STATE UMPIRE PANEL

ANDREW HAMILTON

ROBERTO HOWARD

SHARAD PATEL

BEDE SAJOWITZ

COUNTRY UMPIRE

REPRESENTATIVE PANEL

BRUCE BAXTER

DAVID CULLEN

JOHN DE LYALL

GRAEME GLAZEBROOK

BRENTON HARRISON

KEIRAN KNIGHT

PHIL RAINGER

NEIL SMITH

2021-22 NSWCUSA COMMITTEES

EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

KEVIN BATTISHILL

ANDREW COATES (CHAIR)

DARREN FOSTER

SATHISH KUMAR

MICHAEL MEEHAN

SCORERS' COMMITTEE

JANELLE CAREW

PETER GARLICK

ADRIAN THAM (CHAIR)

SUE WOODHOUSE

IAN WRIGHT

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

NOEL FORD

BILL GLACKEN

MICHAEL MEEHAN (CHAIR)

SACHIN SOLANKI

VIVEK SOLANKI



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