

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION



January 2014



Mick Martell

Mick Martell joins the ICC International Panel of Umpires

Trent Steenholdt

Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association member Mick Martell has been rewarded for his excellent performances with ICC endorsement for inclusion on the International Panel of Umpires.

Mick joins Australian umpires Simon Fry, John Ward and Paul Wilson, who began his State umpiring career with the WACUA before relocating to South Australia, on the International Panel of Umpires which sits below the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires.

Mick's appointment to the panel has made way for him to be appointed to some 2014 World Cup qualifier matches in New Zealand between nations such as Hong Kong, Netherlands, UAE and Canada. These matches will be played throughout January adding to an already busy schedule for Mick who has been away from home for a majority of this season so far.

Mick becomes the first umpire of the WACUA to be appointed to the panel under the new ICC system set up in the early to mid 2000's. Congratulations Mick on the appointment!



Front Cover: Todd Rann standing in his 200th First Grade game.

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President of the WACUA Matthew Hall (left) with 200 First Grade games Umpire Todd Rann (right)

President's Message

I do hope that you all had a fantastic time with family and friends and have recharged the batteries for the second half of the season.

I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what the WACUA has achieved so far this season.

We once again have achieved the milestone of getting 60 members for this current season and have maintained the attendance at the general meetings.

We have rebranded and modernised the WACUA logo to reflect and identify with Cricket Australia's logo, in conjunction with the launch of our Facebook page and the updating of our website with the aim of increasing the profile of the WACUA inside and outside the cricket community.

At December's meeting we had the fantastic opportunity of hosting some of the ICC Test Match Officials and support staff Billy Bowden, Tony Hill, David Levens and Rob Spiers.

They provided us with a great night of learning and tales, it was great to see that they were one of the last to leave on the night and mixed with and chatted to members all evening.

I would like to congratulate Dean Trigg and Neill Holland for both reaching 100 first grade games,

Finally I would also like to congratulate Todd Rann on reaching the milestone of 200 First grade games. It was a great honour to be able to stand with Todd on this great occasion.

Yours in Cricket,

Matthew Hall
WACUA President





Life Members with the President
Left to Right: Bob Watson, Graham Bibby, Bill Reynolds, Peter McConnell, Terry Prue, Ric Evans and Matthew Hall.

Life Members Breakfast

Trent Steenholdt

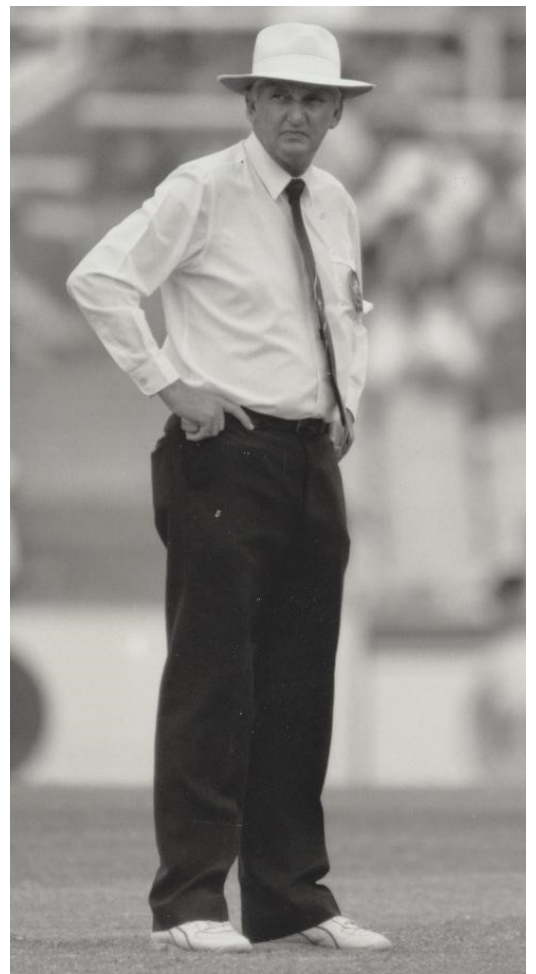
Once again, as part of yearly tradition, the WACUA held it's Life Members Breakfast at Mantra on Hay on December 15th during the third day of the WACA Ashes Test Match.

After a delightful buffet breakfast that included cereal, fruit, sausages, eggs and lots of bacon that invited itself to second, third and even fourth servings, President Matthew Hall thanked the attendees for their commitment and dedication to the WACUA and WA cricket in general.

The morning continued beyond breakfast with many reliving their memories of yesteryear both at WACUA general meetings and out on the field. Some of the discussions involved Malcolm Marshall who many believe is still the best bowler to ever play the game, the noise of one day cricket at places such as the SCG and MCG, the incident in which Curtly Ambrose was asked to remove his wristbands and some of the early to mid 90's items of discussion made at the general meetings. I.e. Enforcing umpires to wear a tie, even in extreme (38+ degree) heat!

With no Test Match being played next season at the WACA the current format of the Life Members Breakfast may change next year to be either hosted before an ODI fixture or rather a brunch, lunch or dinner.

The WACUA committee will be in contact with Life Members and speak with the general members on preferences for next season.



From the Archives:

Peter McConnell standing out in the middle of the SCG in the 1991 Ashes Test Match.



Tony Hill and Billy Bowden with Terry Prue (middle)

Christmas General Meeting

Trent Steenholdt

For those who missed it on December 17th, we were very lucky to have in attendance the ICC Match Officials from the WACA Commonwealth Bank Ashes Test Match at our Christmas general meeting.

Umpires Tony Hill (3rd), Billy Bowden (On field) and Mick Martel (4th) were joined along with Rob Spiers (ICC DRS Director/ Technician) and David Levens (ICC Umpire Coach for Australia) to talk to the general members about what it's like to umpire at the elite level.

While many of the questions from the general members were focused around the use of the media scrutinised Decision Review System (DRS), a number of interesting topics were discussed like ongoing coaching of the elite umpires, match management and player behavior especially where the games are heavily monitored and talked about by the media.

While the night was recognised by an article on the Cricket Australia website which created a lot of traffic for the WACUA's YouTube Channel, website and Facebook page, the gratitude of the ICC Match Officials taking time out of their busy schedule was very much appreciated by all those who stayed around and the WACUA Committee. Many who stayed back for the sausage sizzle even got a few photos with the officials and even had some personal one-on-one conversations!

The WACUA would personally like to recognise the work that Tony Hill has put into the game since his recent retirement from all forms of International Cricket. We wish Tony all the best in his new role as the New Zealand Cricket umpiring coach when he takes on the position in early March.





The Facebook Cover Photo celebrating Todd Rann's 200th First Grade game

Todd Rann - 200 First Grade Games ***NOT OUT***

Matthew Hall

When Todd umpired his first WACA game in October 1996 he never envisaged that he would reach the outstanding milestone of 200 First Grade games and counting.

A fresh-faced Todd debuted in a Third Grade game at Lilac Hill 2 between Midland Guildford and Scarborough. His partner for the day was Gordon Brown, while on the other ground, a first grade fixture, saw umpires Don Weser and Barry Rennie. Gordon, Don and Barry are all very recognisable names within the Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association ranks.

Todd continued progressing through the grades quickly to make his first grade debut at the start of the 1998/1999 season at Fletcher Park, in a game between Perth and South Perth. His partner was Ross Emerson and since that first ever First Grade appointment, he has not looked back once.

It was a great honour to stand with Todd not only in his 150th a few seasons ago but in his 200th first grade game on Saturday 4th January 2014 in a one day game between Wanneroo and Perth at Kingsway 1. Todd has become only the 10th umpire in the WACA/WADCCI pennant competition history to hit those dizzying heights of 200 first grade games, not out.

We drove to the ground together and arrived at our usual time about one hour before the start of play and followed our usual routines of a hot cup of tea and a pre-game chat. Word had got around the traps throughout the week prior as Grant Hebbard, loyal fan of us umpires, turned up before the game and volunteered his services to be the room attendant/ 4th Umpire. What Grant put on the table to look after us would have easily taken care of a full cricket



Matthew Hall and Todd Rann

team! It included two first aid kits, a mini medicine cabinet and a lot of confectionary lollies. He had obviously heard that Todd had pastured well over Christmas and may of needed some assistance during the days play!

Time seemed to travel very quickly when the droves of people started offering Todd their congratulations before the game. After we got ready and walked out of the umpires room, both teams had formed a guard of honour. As I left Todd to walk through the guard of honour alone, he looked to be somewhat surprised by the effort people had made to recognise his milestone. However this just shows the respect he has earned over his time as a top-class WACA umpire.

The umpiring gods were with Todd out in the middle as he didn't do a lot during the day except count to six and call over. At the final drinks break of the day Norman Fawcett and Michael Minear from the Wanneroo came out with an iced bucket containing a bottle of Verve Clique Champagne and two glasses which were dutifully filled. We toasted and took a few sips before finishing a good days play.



Last drinks break for the day

When the game came to a close and time was called, Todd led us off the field where individual players shook his hand and congratulated him on his great achievement. We finished the bottle of champagne that we received at the last dinks and as expected, were one of the last to leave the Kingsway clubhouse that night.

For those of you who know Todd and have umpired with him will understand that he is a very quiet, unassuming person, however I do know that he is very proud of what he has achieved during his umpiring career.

Todd, the Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association umpiring community are very proud of what you have achieved and we look forward to having you amongst our ranks for many years to come!

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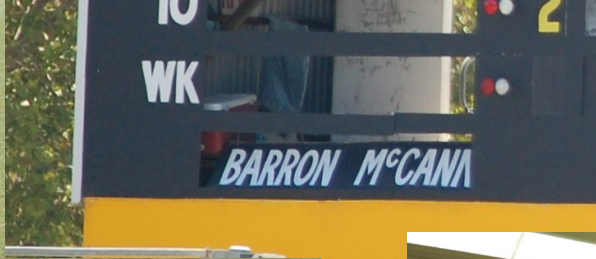
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Cricket Australia Appointments

The WACUA committee congratulate all members appointed to Cricket Australia fixtures in the months of November, December and January.

WACUA members are highlighted in yellow. Green denotes Life Member.

Toyota Futures League

18/11/2013 Futures League	WA vs. TAS	Richardson 1
Nathan Johnstone	FIELD	
Greg Davidson	FIELD	
Bob Stratford	REFEREE	

WNCL, WT20 (November)

22/11/2013 Women's T20	WA vs. VIC	Murdoch
Trent Steenholdt	FIELD	
Dean Trigg	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

23/11/2013 WNCL	WA vs. VIC	Murdoch
Matthew Hall	FIELD	
James Hewitt	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

24/11/2013 Women's T20	WA vs. VIC	Murdoch
Chris McCann	FIELD	
Wayne Barron	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

WNCL, WT20 (January)

02/01/2013 WNCL	WA vs. VIC	Floreat
Matthew Hall	FIELD	
Trent Steenholdt	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

03/01/2014 Women's T20	WA vs. VIC	WACA
Dean Trigg	FIELD	
James Hewitt	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

04/01/2014 Women's T20	WA vs. VIC	WACA
Chris McCann	FIELD	
Wayne Barron	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

Women's Ashes Series 2014

06/01/2013 Tour Match	CBA Shooting Stars vs. ENG	Floreat
Dean Trigg	FIELD	
Trent Steenholdt	FIELD	
David White	REFEREE	

10/01/2014 Women's Test	AUS vs. ENG	WACA
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Greg Davidson	FIELD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

Commonwealth Bank Ashes

13/11/2013 Tour - 4 Day	NSW vs. ENG	SCG
Simon Fry	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Peter Marshall	REFEREE	

13/11/2013 Tour - 2 Day	CA XI vs. ENG	Tregear Park Alice Springs
Simon Fry	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Sean Easey	REFEREE	

13/12/2013 Third Test	AUS vs. ENG	WACA
Marais Erasmus	FIELD	
Billy Bowden	FIELD	
Tony Hill	THIRD	
Mick Martell	FOURTH	
Jeff Crowe	REFEREE	

BUPA Sheffield Shield (cont.)

22/11/2013	SA vs. TAS	Adelaide Oval
Mike Graham-Smith	FIELD	
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Peter Marshall	REFEREE	

22/11/2013	NSW vs. QLD	SCG
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Damien Mealey	FIELD	
David Talalla	REFEREE	

29/11/2013	TAS vs. NSW	Blundstone
Paul Wilson	FIELD	
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Stephen Bernard	REFEREE	

BUPA Sheffield Shield

06/11/2013	VIC vs. NSW	MCG
Mike Graham-Smith	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD	
David Talalla	REFEREE	

06/11/2013	WA vs. SA	WACA
Ashley Barrow	FIELD	
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Peter Marshall	REFEREE	

13/11/2013	TAS vs. VIC	Blundstone
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	FIELD	
Daryl Harper	REFEREE	

KFC T20 Big Bash League

22/12/2013	Hurricanes vs. Strikers	Blundstone
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	FIELD	
Mike Graham-Smith	THIRD	
Jamie Mitchell	FOURTH	
Daryl Harper	REFEREE	

22/12/2013	Heat vs. Scorchers	GABBA
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Damien Mealey	FIELD	
Tony Ward	THIRD	
Craig Hoffman	FOURTH	
Stephan Bernard	REFEREE	

Continues on next page

KFC T20 Big Bash (cont.)

26/12/2013	Scorchers vs. Renegades	#TheFurnace
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Paul Wilson	FIELD	
Ian Lock	THIRD	
Nathan Johnstone	FOURTH	
David Talalla	REFEREE	

01/01/2014	Hurricanes vs. Renegades	Blundstone
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Geoff Joshua	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	THIRD	
Jamie Mitchell	FOURTH	
Peter Marshall	REFEREE	

03/01/2014	Scorchers vs. Thunder	#TheFurnace
Geoff Joshua	FIELD	
Damien Mealey	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	THIRD	
Nathan Johnstone	FOURTH	
Bob Stratford	REFEREE	

07/01/2014	Scorchers vs. Hurricanes	#TheFurnace
Ian Lock	FIELD	
John Ward	FIELD	
Damien Mealey	THIRD	
Nathan Johnstone	FOURTH	
Daryl Harper	REFEREE	

16/01/2014	Scorchers vs. Strikers	#TheFurnace
Ashley Barrow	FIELD	
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Geoff Joshua	THIRD	
Nathan Johnstone	FOURTH	
Stephen Bernard	REFEREE	

KFC T20 Big Bash (cont.)

18/12/2013	Strikers vs. Heat	Adelaide Oval
Sam Nogajski	FIELD	
Paul Wilson	FIELD	
Ian Lock	THIRD	
Luke Uthenwoldt	FOURTH	
Daryl Harper	REFEREE	

21/01/2014	Stars vs. Hurricanes	MCG
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	FIELD	
Ashley Barrow	THIRD	
Phil Gillespie	FOURTH	
Bob Stratford	REFEREE	

23/01/2014	Scorchers vs. Thunder	#TheFurnace
Gerard Abood	FIELD	
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Mike Graham-Smith	THIRD	
Jamie Mitchell	FOURTH	
Stephen Bernard	REFEREE	



Ian Lock in the Scorchers vs. Hurricanes (#TheFurnace)
Photo courtesy of Trevor Krink



ICC Appointments

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Warm Up Stage - 2014 Qualifiers

10/01/2014	Kenya vs. Hong Kong	Christ's College	11/01/2014	WA vs. TAS	Burwood Park
Marais Erasmus	FIELD		Johan Cloete	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD		Mick Martell	FIELD	
Vineet Kulkarni	RESERVE		David Reid	RESERVE	

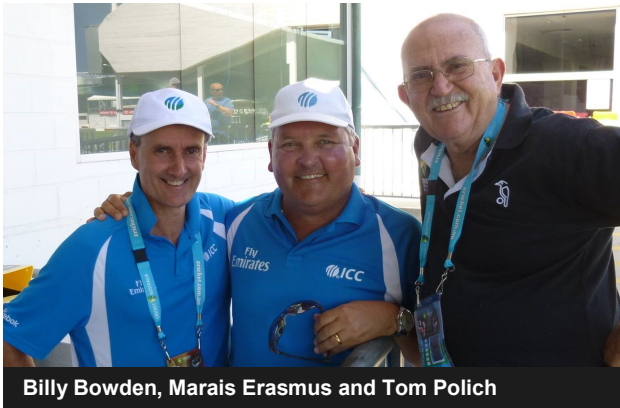
Group Stages - 2014 Qualifiers

13/01/2014	UAE vs. Nepal	Rangiora	19/01/2014	Hong Kong vs. Nepal	Rangiora
Marais Erasmus	FIELD		Mick Martell	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD		Peter John Nero	FIELD	
Enamul Moni	RESERVE		Enamul Moni	RESERVE	
Dev Govindjee	REFEREE		Ros Mahanama	REFEREE	

17/01/2014	Canada vs. Hong Kong	Rangiora	23/01/2014	Netherlands vs. Kenya	Lincoln
Marais Erasmus	FIELD		Vineet Kulkarni	FIELD	
Enamul Moni	FIELD		Mick Martell	FIELD	
Mick Martell	RESERVE		Enamul Moni	RESERVE	
Ros Mahanama	REFEREE		Dev Govindjee	REFEREE	



Lincoln Oval, New Zealand



Billy Bowden, Marais Erasmus and Tom Polich

Tom Polich - 656!

Trent Steenholdt

Umpiring in over 400 pennant matches with half of them in First Grade (209 to be exact) some would argue that Tom has contributed enough to the game— well, he doesn't see it that way!

As part of the Cricket Australia's requirement to keep the ICC Match Officials safe and well during their appointments, Tom Polich took on the opportunity to become the chauffeur and local guide to everything Perth in the recent Commonwealth Bank WACA Ashes Test Match.

Tom's responsibility for each days play was to get the Match Officials to and from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, answer any questions they had about Perth and help them acclimatise to the "WA aka Wait-Awhile", laid back culture we all take for granted.

During his duties, Tom was given clearance to all areas of the WACA ground which meant he could get up close with the canyons (cracks) that started to appear in the pitch which gave us some great photos to share with our Facebook fans. Though according to Tony Hill, Tom may have taken that privilege a bit too far when he tried to take the umpires van out onto the field... Apparently he was just giving the 6 inches of space the other vehicle wanted to get around them. (Refer to our YouTube Channel for more details on this!).

What Tom appreciated the most however was how Billy Bowden, Marais Erasmus, Tony Hill, David Levens, Jeff Crowe and our own Mick Martell treated him as an equal. They commonly joked throughout the week about how his number of total games umpired (656) would drop or increase if he did something right or wrong.

A great experience for Tom that I'm sure he'll never forget! Thanks Tom for supporting WA cricket once again!



Dean Trigg

Nickname: Trigger

How did you get involved in the game?

Started playing cricket at the age of 11 for Studley Cricket Club in the Warwickshire League in England. Last club I played for was Joondalup District Cricket Club in January 2002.

What was the first match you umpired?

2004-05 Season 3rd Grade ML v GO at Breckler Park 2

What was special about the first game you umpired?

I cannot remember too much about my first game however, my second game was more memorable where I umpired my old team mates at Joondalup vs. Wanneroo.

In what car did you arrive to the game in?

2002 Lexus IS200. 120,000km later I'm still turning up in the same car.

What is something you do that makes you different from any other umpire?

Get to know the first name of all the in-coming batsman, so that when I give guard, I'm able to respond with their name.

Favourite cricket venue you've umpired at?

The WACA and St Peters College, Adelaide.

Post match ritual (beer, soft drink... shower)?

Complete all of my notes, speak to the Captains, have a quick shower and a light beer.

Match day lunch?

Tin of Tuna, a banana, a nut bar and a bottle of water

Favourite sport other than cricket?

Golf! I'm a member at Joondalup and play off a 17 handicap.

How has umpiring helped you?

Umpiring helped me with my transition from living in the UK to living in Australia and give me a sense of belonging with the mates I've met along the way. It's still the best seat in the house



Todd Robert Rann

Nickname: Toad, Toadfish

How did you get involved in the game?

My ex-wife saw an ad in the paper for a cricket laws course and suggested I go. I didn't realise it was a recruiting drive for umpires!!

What was the first match you umpired?

1996-97 Season 3rd Grade match MG v SC at Lilac Hill 2

What was special about the first game you umpired?

I umpired my first ever match with Gordon Brown. Many years later, I umpired with Gordon in his first 1st Grade match.

In what car did you arrive to the game in?

I drove a 1991 Nissan Pintarra and listen to Kiss Unplugged on my CD player

What is your favourite number?

#37 (Wayne Harmes, Paul Mifka, Feb 6 (my birthday) is the 37th day of the year.

What is something you do that makes you different from any other umpire?

I count the players on field before calling play. Don't know if this makes me different or not!

Favourite cricket venue you've umpired at?

Kingsway, Cresswell, Fletcher and the WACA.

Post match ritual (beer, soft drink... shower)?

Always shower after a match

Favourite sport other than cricket?

Australian Rules Football (AFL is not a SPORT people!!!)

Favourite holiday destination?

Looking forward to going to Hawaii

Favourite band/ song?

All time favourite band is Weddings Parties Anything.



Martin Brennan

Nickname: Google, Plugger, MB, Bessy, Marty Moose

How did you get involved in the game?

Started playing when I was 5.

What was the first match you umpired?

Unofficially Wylie vs West Yorkie in about 1990.

Officially Mt Lawley vs Subiaco Floreat 4th grade at Breckler

What was special about the first game you umpired?

Unofficial game... surprised by a no ball first up... didn't call it... nick to 2nd slip... bowler was the local cop... wasn't making a late call....

Official game... revoked about 6 leg side wide calls for balls that were flicking the batsman's pads.

In what car did you arrive to the game in?

Toyota Yaris

What is your favourite number?

I use to count to ONE when I batted.

What is something you do that makes you different from any other umpire?

Speed over the ground

Favourite cricket venue you've umpired at?

Wylie South followed by Wylie North and then Memorial at Aquinas... Probably Scarborough in the WACA... my uncles ashes are on the East wicket.

Post match ritual (beer, soft drink... shower)?

Beer and a Gatorade

Match day lunch?

Curried Egg Sandwiches.

Favourite sport other than cricket?

AFL... Go Tigers!

Shooting Stars vs. England

Trent Steenholdt

When Barry called me in late December to inform me that I had been appointed to the Commonwealth Bank Shooting Stars vs. England women's Tour Match on January 6th and 7th at Floreat Oval, I must admit, I was excited but wasn't exactly thrilled. This was mostly because I had to give my employer and clients a pretty short notice where they were expecting me back on that Monday because I was already unavailable the two-day working week prior.

After a bit of a hassle getting the time off, Christmas and New Year passed pretty quickly and my busy schedule of umpiring kicked off. The schedule post New Years Day looked something like this:

- Thursday, 2nd January: WA Fury vs. NSW Breakers
- Friday, 3rd January: Birthday party and housework.
- Saturday, 4th January: WADCCI One Day Game
- Sunday, 5th January: 2 x WADCCI T20 matches
- Monday, 6th January: Day 1 - Tour Match
- Tuesday, 7th January: Day 2 - Tour Match

Ironically my partner Dean Trigg (Trigger) for the match was doing 5 days on the trot so it was something that we both had to manage... It meant early night sleeps and eating the right food groups. Many would appreciate that isn't exactly the easiest thing to do after a good Christmas period feasting on nothing but junk and leftovers! I was certainly a few kg's heavier because of the period, I'm not going to lie!

My game on Thursday went off without a hitch and overall I was very happy with my performance. Highlights from it were having Ellyse Perry bowling from my end and watching a very strong NSW outfit play some good cricket. It was actually my first WNCL match with my CA appointments always being the shorter form WT20's so with that under my belt, I went into the weekends games with a bit of confidence and umpired three good games of cricket.

As the Monday morning sun rose, I felt I was very much prepared for the next two days. For the week prior I was reading a small section of the ICC Women's Test match playing conditions each night, something that I've always done when I'm learning or clarifying playing conditions and laws. From that, I jot down notes into my notepad or onto a card I can slip into my pocket so I almost have a cheat sheet out in the middle. It's just a way I manage all the conditions we have to learn and not confuse myself with the bunch of variant conditions etc. that existed only a day or two before!

Trigger and I met for the usual pre-match breakfast as the State Representative Group umpires tend to do. We did the norm of talking rubbish and politics but more importantly went over how we'd work together throughout the match. Trigger and I come from an era of umpiring taught by the likes of Brookesy (Jeff Brookes), Jenny (Andrew Craig), Magic (Nathan Johnstone), Toad (Todd Rann) and Mick (Mick Martell) so there wasn't much to go over in terms of how we'll umpire, but SRG members and 1st grade umpires of the like tend to go over the finer points of confirming that we'll be looking at each other every ball etc. and use appropriate signaling throughout the game.



England claim the wicket of Elyse Villani on Day 2

After meeting David White, our Match Referee from Cricket Australia and talking to the usual subjects that appear at these kind of games (Luke Douglas, Daniel Gibbons, George Burgum and Barry Rennie) we went out to the middle and watched England win the toss and elect to bat. It was a warm day in Perth so the teams pretty much had already agreed prior that England were going to bat first so it would be a bit easier for them in terms of what was ahead of them... a very hot and dry WACA Women's Ashes Test match forecast.

As Trigger called play and started the match from his end, I fell into my routines and treated it like just any other game. It was actually quite interesting because for periods throughout the day, much like the Shooting Stars ladies did, I forgot I had to come back and do it all again tomorrow. It's quite unfortunate that Women's cricket in Australia is mostly one-day or T20 games only, so as the Australian's started nearing the 100 overs required for the day, you could tell the pace of the game was dropping. At one stage they were looking to bowl 120 overs easily in 6 hours!

With the post-day rituals like the cold shower (Trigger has them hot which turned the umpires room into a sauna) and general chit chat out of the way, I jumped into the car and started driving home. The radio was on ABC 720 and I was actually quite surprised to hear them talk about the days play for a good 15 minutes. Usually media on women's cricket is quite poor, so it was pleasing to hear it get a good run.

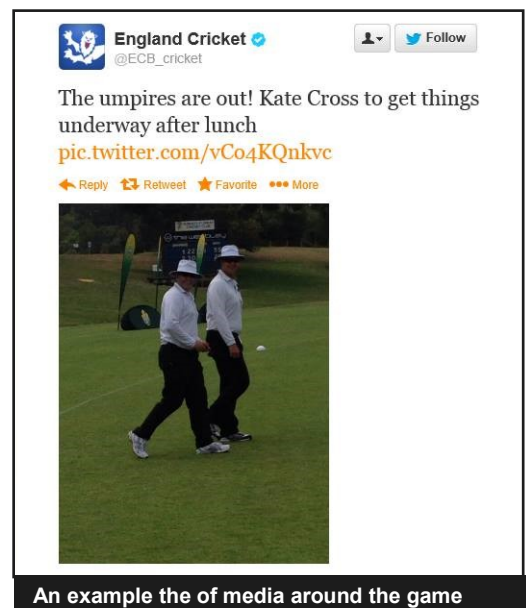
As I got home, being the IT nerd that I am, I was instantly on the computer checking up on the news and events of the day. Again, much to the same as hearing it on the radio, I was surprised to see sites like Ninemsn and CricInfo were running such highly detailed articles of the days events at Floreat. It caught me off guard and as I started looking at photos and videos of the day, I was a bit star struck that I was apart of something that made the news... Glad I wasn't the headline though!

I slept well that night because of the heat. Tuesday's cool change came into Perth which got me up early and I began the process of getting myself ready for another days play. Breakfast and coffee went down well with Trigger, the pants were getting looser with the weight loss and I was preparing myself to follow up on a solid couple of days cricket.

As Trigger and I got to the middle and got play underway, we could tell England wouldn't be batting for much longer. Before we knew it, England were taking to the field and our very own Nicole Bolton, batting with Rachael Haynes, was fighting for a spot in the Test side.

It was certainly an eye opener just how well the England side were knitted as group. The chatter out in the middle was more prevalent, there was also a bit more fun being created but it was still very much business to be made by the girls. England from first ball to the very last tried to win the match and credit does go to the knowledge and experience that Charlotte Edwards and the experienced players brought to the side. I personally haven't actually met a captain more switched on and passionate about the game... it was impressive to see her level of concentration and dedication... I joked with her that she'd make a very good umpire.

The overall experience of the tour match was incredible and something I most certainly am not taking for granted. It personally gave me insight to what it must be like at the next level where media pressure can be as brutal and confronting as upsetting a few players with a bad decision in any game. With an age that is so digitally connected, it's amazing just how quickly your name can appear in places you would have never thought possible!



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