

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION



March 2014



Female ump's make history in Ballarat

Cricket Australia

New South Wales' Claire Polosak and Western Australian Ashlee Kovalevs have made history by being the first female umpires to stand together in a Cricket Australia National Championship fixture.

At Napoleon Oval in Ballarat, Polosak and Kovalevs stood in the fixture between Tasmania and the ACT, in affect also being the first ever 'all female' match. But not only making history in a Cricket Australia competition, both are also trailblazers for female officials in their respective states.

At just 20 years of age but mature beyond her years, Kovalevs has always been around cricket thanks to her family. However, it was her dad, also a cricket umpire, who encouraged her to get involved officially. In 2012 Kovalevs obtained her Level 1 accreditation and now in her second year is working through her Level 2 qualifications.

Starting in the Under 13 boys competition, Kovalevs this year officiates in the Women's A Grade competition each week. Her aim is to eventually officiate in the Men's First Grade.

The 4th year Politics and Public Relations university student needs to balance her studies, part time work at Dymocks, and other voluntary positions within Youth Parliament, with her umpiring. If not busy enough off field, Kovalevs is also Secretary of the Western Australian Cricket Umpires Association. Earlier this season Kovalevs was a champion of umpiring at the first female-only umpire course at the WACA which was attended by a dozen women between the ages of 16 and 21. She is also the first female umpire to represent Western Australia in the National Underage Championships.

Kovalevs commented that "the support network in Western Australia, and in particular the efforts of Umpiring Manager Barry Rennie, is really amazing. Many First Grade men's umpires stand alongside me in women's matches whilst everyone is willing to impart knowledge to help me develop". Kovalevs' mentor, Nathan Johnstone, actually flew overnight from Perth to make it to the ground just prior to the first ball.

Her advice to females who are considering becoming a cricket umpire is simple. "Don't be scared. Females might be limited in numbers in terms of gender, but not in support".

Both Polosak and Kovalevs represent Australian Cricket's promotion of female umpires and a pathway that is inviting and inclusive for both males and females. In order to improve the opportunities for female umpires moving into the High Performance/First Class system, Cricket Australia has just released a grant scheme that states can access to help encourage and develop female officials. The overall aim of the grant is to establish a credible pathway for the development of female umpires for CA competitions and eventually have a female First Class umpire.



Front Cover: Ian Lock and Nathan Johnstone getting drinks from George Burgum

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President's Message

At the time of writing my message we are in the middle of finals cricket and the season is coming to a close. Every season appears to go faster and faster probably because I am getting older and older!!

In January we were delighted to welcome captain coach of Midland Guildford Stewart Walters to come and talk to the group and spoke about the qualities that made a good umpire and how he valued the post-match meetings to provide a forum to give umpires honest and valuable feedback. He put good communication with captains and players high on the list of what he looks for in a good umpire and additionally to this good, body language and confidence in decision making.

In February we welcomed our very own Mathew Cheeseman who not only umpires with us but is a FIFA listed assistant referee.

Mathew stressed the importance of planning and preparation in everything we do from pre-season to pre-game to after game. What Mathew said was very thought provoking and delivered an excellent training session for all those in attendance.

Mathew was recently appointed an international FIFA fixture in Tokyo, Japan v New Zealand and we congratulate him on this appointment.

I would also like to congratulate Mick Martell on his ODI debut Netherlands v Kenya and his appointment to the BBL final in Perth.

Congratulations also go to Wayne Barron and Neil Holland for their appointment to the Colts final, and Dean Trigg for his appointment to the DTS T20 Final, and Ian Lock and Nathan Johnstone to the DTS One Day League final.

Finally I wish all those appointed to finals cricket the very best of luck and hope you all perform well and enjoy the experience.

Yours in Cricket,

Matthew Hall
WACUA President





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More Social Media For All!

Trent Steenholdt

It's been a great season for the Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association in terms of gaining a presence on social media. Our Facebook Page alone has reached over 300 likes and our reach on the page is so very close to 5,000 unique visits weekly!

The WACUA committee simply cannot thank our members and the broader community enough in making our launch into these communication mediums so successful! In particular the committee would like point out the contributions of John Sherry, Carmen Sherry, Andrew Micenko, Daniel Gibbons, Dean Trigg, Trevor Krink, Gary Richards and Stephen Farrell in their work of taking some great photos of us around the grounds this season! I think it's greatly appreciated by all (except when you get our bad side, or fat one) and we hope the people who contribute in taking photos and video increases again next season!

As we finish off season 2013-2014 we have uploaded some new videos onto our YouTube Channel that can be watched right now! The video uploaded recently are:

- DTS One Day Final Presentation**
 Umpires Nathan Johnstone and Ian Lock at the WACA Ground on March 9th 2014. The final was played between Willetton and Subiaco-Floreat. (Won by Subiaco Floreat).
- DTS T20 Final Presentation**
 Umpires Dean Trigg and Matthew Hall at the WACA Ground, under lights, on March 2nd 2014. This final was played between Claremont-Nedlands and Melville. (Won by Melville).

For those who want to keep fresh with cricket while the mighty Eagles or triumphant Dockers come home with a flag, make sure to check out the online laws quiz at <http://www.wacua.asn.au/training/quizzes/> and keep checking us out on Facebook and YouTube!





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James Hewitt in Adelaide

James Hewitt

In November this year I received a phone call on my mobile phone. It displayed "Barry Rennie – Office" on the screen. When Barry calls, you never know whether it's going to be one of those calls, or one of those calls.

Barry said "James, you have been selected to be the WA representative at the Under 17's in Adelaide in January, congratulations",

The news was met with an air punch and little jig of delight.

Six weeks later, following extensive and meticulous preparation, goal setting, several meetings and phone calls to mentors I departed WA.

Playing conditions, playing conditions, playing conditions.

I could blather on for pages and pages about everything I did, the people I met, the grounds I visited, my breakfasts with two leviathans of the game (Murali and Ian Lock) etc. but think it best I cover the main points of my trip.

1. **The weather.**

It was hot! And when I say hot, I mean hot. There were six days in and around the 40 degree mark, including four in a row at well over that point.

A thorough heat management strategy was well publicised, discussed at length by the umpires and put in place. 10am scheduled starts were put back to 9am for the duration of the tournament, extra drinks breaks all round, ice vests for players, thirteen players permitted to come and go as they please with no restriction on bowlers leaving the ground and returning.

On one day the Competitions Committee even decided to start at 8.30am and only play two of the three scheduled sessions to avoid the heat of the day.

What did this mean for me as an umpire? It was noted by several umpires, far more distinguished than I, that these conditions would almost certainly be the toughest we would ever experience in our umpiring careers. The sheer intensity of the heat upon leaving air conditioned/fan assisted changing rooms and walking on to the park was incredible. I can only liken it to January 2008, when I left a dank, dreary, snowy England in two degrees to emigrate to Perth. We got off the plane to brilliant sunshine and roasting 38 degrees – It hits you, and you stay hit.

We all wilted to varying degrees, we are human after all. Our reaction to the heat in maintaining both concentration and outward physical appearance were sternly tested. I will admit to struggling on occasion, but fluid intake almost to excess, taking every opportunity to seek shade and a sit down as well as using rest days for their eponymous purpose kept me "in the game."

The heat also effected our on-field routines, especially with all players being under 17. Our timings of drinks breaks and allowances for etc had to be changed, managed and recorded. All bowlers had to have their 30 or 60 minute breaks and captains were keen to get the aces in the packs back with ball in hand as soon as possible. I was described in my feedback as being a "note taker extraordinaire." I had to be, I pride myself on being able to answer questions of captains, bowlers, coaches and the like confidently and immediately with no more than a glance at my notes, rather than a fumble through, looking at my watch, erring, umming and looking round for guidance.

Observe, anticipate, plan. Know the answer to the questions as the asker approaches.

2. **Preparation and the Importance of Working as a Group.**

As a group of umpires we gelled and worked together with great success. I learnt a huge amount from my colleagues about their techniques, signalling and main focuses. For example, one umpire from inter state virtually NEVER took his eyes off the ball, even when it was dead. When his eyes did sway from the ball, his gaze would meet mine, we'd nod knowingly and the game would continue. If any player wanted to tamper with that pill, or try any underhand shenanigans, he was right on top of it.

Other umpires favoured particular signals. I was requested not to signal a short pitch delivery that went chest height. "I only want to know if it's over the shoulder, and I'll do the same for you" was the request. "No worries" was my response. It worked well for us.



Driving to each days play, my partner and I discussed these aspects, so there were no surprises on the field of play.

After each days play, we all got together back at our hotel for a daily debrief. We went “round the grounds” and discussed facilities, players, bowling actions and follow throughs, match managers, results and other general topics. We even had a few “what ifs” come up and on several occasions the laws book came out and different interpretations resulted as ever.

It was open discussion that was superbly informative and gave great insight in to what we all might encounter in the fixtures to come.

Preparation, preparation, preparation!

I also learnt the full details of the “Last Hour Of Play” law. I have read it numerous times, but have never had to apply it practically in a game. Following a lengthy discussion with my room mate over roast chicken, pumpkin, potatoes, carrots, broccoli (cooked by him I might add) and a nice cup of tea (made by me) I became the full bottle on the last hour of play and also had a remarkably full stomach!

Our group of eight umpires, all with different backgrounds, along with Bob Parry, Umpire Educator from Cricket Australia combined and pooled our knowledge and experience and I feel certain we all became enriched as umpires because of it. I know I certainly did.

We also had the opportunity to chat with some of the National Panel officials when they came to Adelaide for a couple of Big Bash games. I managed to speak to both Damien Mealey and Sam Nogajski on their preparation for a BBL fixture. It was absolutely fascinating to listen to and take in. They prepared very differently, but equally as thoroughly. Their mental preparation was again different, but ended with the same result.



So what differentiates a National Panel member from one of us? My answer is very little. They are just ordinary, decent blokes who happen to excel in their field (if you'll pardon the pun).

To reach their level, I believe we must ask ourselves the following questions:

- Have I done absolutely everything I can to fully and properly prepare myself for this season/game/session/over/ball?
- Am I being as professional as I can be at all times? And I mean at all times, our performance is being assessed by observers, the UAB, players, club officials and supporters at every moment we are seen, and no doubt when we are not seen too.
- Am I being honest with myself? I believe this is vital in improvement. If we miss an inside edge on to the pad or call a leg bye as a bye, ask yourself why. Look for reasons, not excuses, be honest with yourself and your partner.
- Do I strive for improvement? Do I take information and use from everyone I speak to and every time I umpire. This can be in the form of inclusion and exclusion – include things in your game plan, preparation, technique. Exclude other things, but be sure to consider them.

3. My Personal Future

The Under 17 Carnival was nothing short of one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences of my life.

It has inspired me to work harder and improve and hopefully place myself in a position to have another similar experience in the future, wherever and whenever that may be.

My pre-season for 2014-15 started when I got off the plane back to WA (and went straight to the WACA to watch England win their ONLY game of a turgid tour). I have already made a few minor changes to my technique and responded to other feedback received. I am also planning to make further changes, both on and off field in the close season and to share my new found wisdom with all.



Ian Lock and Nathan Johnstone walking up to receive their medals for umpiring in the WADCCI One Day League Final this season.

Barry Rennie - Season Review

Barry Rennie

With finals commencing this weekend it is opportune to thank all umpires who have contributed to all of the competitions that form part of WACA cricket.

This season we have provided umpires for the WADCCI League, the Under 15 and 17 competitions, McKenzie and Inverarity Shields, Female A and B Grade, Emerging Warriors, Country Week, schools competitions and other one off matches. This is a great effort and has required much dedication and commitment to be available most weeks.

The season for umpires commenced back in August 2013 with the preseason training and development programs and it has been very pleasing to see the level of enthusiasm has been maintained. Looking forward I have already started planning for the next season.

Members of the UAB have also been dedicated in their roles as observers and have provided invaluable feedback at meetings to rank umpires. UAB meetings are robust in discussion and many factors are taken into consideration when assessing an umpire's progress.

I could not let this opportunity pass without noting the achievement of Todd Rann to pass 200 First Grade matches. This is a magnificent achievement and throughout his career Todd has maintained the highest level of performance, commitment and dedication. Todd is very highly respected by all players and his fellow umpires. Great job Todd.

My goal next season is to be able to provide two umpires for every match and as part of the plan to achieve this I am asking all umpires to be active in recruiting new umpires. We started this season being very close to this however along the way we have struggled of late. Past players, interested cricket followers, family and friends may just be the source of our next National Panel umpire. Mick Martell started as a new umpire coming from a playing background and look where it has taken him.

Finally once again thank you to everyone and also a huge thank you to all wives, partners and family for being supportive of our love for the great game of cricket.



(The) Todd Rann

Remember. Cricket umpiring. It's serious good fun.



Under 18's Women's National Championship Umpires for 2014

Ashlee in Ballarat

Ashlee Kovalevs

Nine days, eight games... almost more umpiring than I had done since I began a season ago. My January trip to the U/18 National Women's Carnival was a great experience. Not only did I enjoy the cricket but I also met some wonderful people.

While I left Perth a little apprehensive, my nerves were quickly put at ease by the warmth and guidance of the umpire team. There was considerable experience in the group and they were happy to share their skills with a novice like myself.

The hot weather from Perth travelled with me to Ballarat. With the temperature for the first three days of play not expected to get below 40 degrees playing conditions were altered. This meant starting games an hour earlier, extra drinks breaks and allowing the thirteenth player to rotate through the field. By Sunday the weather had changed dramatically, the wind was out in full force and original playing conditions were reinstated.

One dilemma that we weren't expecting to face was that we would have trouble with the bails. In the WA v ACT final alone three bails snapped! The result being that all Ballarat sport stores were left out of stock!

It was great meeting Claire from NSW and discussing important things such as ill-fitting shirts and wearing men's pants. It was great talking about umpiring from a female perspective.

Seeing the familiar face of Nathan Johnstone arrive at Napoleon Oval on Monday morning was fantastic and demonstrated the support WACUA members share. The advice provided by the umpires and officials at the Championship combined with training provided by Cricket Australia's Bob Parry all built my capacity as an umpire.

The cricket played over the week was of a high standard and was a lot of fun to umpire. Overall it was a fantastic week!



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

24/02/2014	ACT vs. WA	Manuka Oval
Chris Cassin	FIELD	
Nathan Johnstone	FIELD	(WA Exchange)
David Talalla	REFEREE	

WT20 Final

07/02/2014	QLD Fire vs. ACT Meteors	#TheFurnace
Gerard Abood	FIELD	
Geoff Joshua	FIELD	
Sam Nogajski	THIRD	
Terry Prue	REFEREE	

KFC T20 Big Bash Final

07/02/2014	Scorchers vs. Hurricanes	#TheFurnace
Mick Martell	FIELD	
John Ward	FIELD	
Paul Wilson	THIRD	
Sam Nogajski	FOURTH	
Bob Stratford	REFEREE	

BUPA Sheffield Shield

20/02/2014	WA vs. NSW	WACA
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Anil Chaudhary	FIELD	(India Exchange)
Bob Stratford	REFEREE	

03/03/2014	VIC vs. TAS	MCG
Ian Lock	FIELD	
Tony Ward	FIELD	
Stephen Bernard	REFEREE	

11/03/2014	TAS vs. SA	Blundstone
Geoff Joshua	FIELD	
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Peter Mashall	REFEREE	

KFC T20 Big Bash Semi

07/02/2014	Scorchers vs. Hurricanes	SCG
Mick Martell	FIELD	
Paul Wilson	FIELD	
Geoff Joshua	THIRD	
Greg Davidson	FOURTH	
Peter Marshall	REFEREE	

Innovative Hair Growth Solution

Trent Steenholdt

Another one for the history books of my stellar career so far.

Standing with Ian Lock in a two day match between Scarborough and Bayswater-Morley at Abbett East I thought we would have a pretty relaxing and enjoyable couple days of play. Which of course we did....

Unfortunately I can't say the same for my hat, my hair (yeah, yeah I still have some) and my new friend called "Wings".

About mid way through day two the game was halted by a bit of commotion in the air. We had a bit of commotion on day one with a car meet where hundreds of HJ Holden's and Ford GT's started driving around the ground revving their engines until the pistons started exploding so we kind of just took it as another instance of delay to play. Anyways this time it just looked like some birds just flying between trees was actually a local hawk looking for its next meal. With its strength it was able to pluck a small little dove from mid air and pin it to the ground just in front of Mid-On at the pavilion end. When the hawk took a quick look at me and Justin Coetzee it made a runner which I don't blame it for, leaving the poor little dove to suffer on the field of play.

The initial reaction was to play on but then guilt got to me so I headed over to see what could be done. It was obvious that the poor little guy was not going anywhere fast. It was bleeding and had a very badly damaged wing. So dubbed "Wings" I took my hat off and put it down next to him. Sure enough the little guy ran straight in and made himself comfortable (was a very "aww" like moment if you're a fan of nature). With no other choice at this point I slowly walked off the ground and thought where I could put this dove to either pass away peacefully or recover for a couple of weeks. I decided the sea container next to the curators shed would be a good little spot for my mate "Wings" to hide.

At this point, Wings was in a bit of shock and was frozen solid so I had to tilt my hat to get him out. He kind of slid across to the wall of the hat and fell out before making a quick dash into a safe spot under the container. Thinking mission accomplished, I made my dash back onto the field only to realise that Wings left a couple of presents.

Bird crap and blood covered the insides of my hat... Yuck right!... But it doesn't stop here... With no choice and nothing to clean my hat with (I didn't have my two hankies like I normally do, match routine fail!) I thought well "I could always wash my head at the end of play" so I reluctantly put the hat back on resumed play!

Some interesting facts about Kalgoorlie Reo Hats with blood and bird crap in them:

1. It wasn't a pleasant feeling. It's hard to describe... it's like having cold gravy just sitting there.
2. My hair did not grow back like it was some type of soil fertilizer and my hair is grass. Just deflating this rumour as quick as possible. I will have to continue with my expensive Innovative Hair Loss Solution treatments.
3. I don't think any umpiring routine prepares you for dealing with this issue.
4. The family thought I was going to get Bird Flu. I'm happy to report that I don't have bird flu. If you're stupid enough like me, the virus actually avoids you because it feels sorry for you.

In all, I wonder how little Wings is doing?! I'm hoping he made a healthy recovery and is the new mascot for the Scarborough boys! Maybe just sitting there watching them train every Tuesday and Thursday night.

Oh, I have also showered since then and my hat is very much clean now!



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this season.

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