



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION



SEASON 2015-16 EDITION

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FRONT COVER: Nathan Johnstone in a very tight run out in the State-wide T20 Semi Final

UAC REPORT

TERRY PRUE

The UAC is constituted under the rules of the WADCC which in part say:

The Umpires Appointment Committee will carry out the following functions on behalf of the WADCC Management Committee and will report to each meeting of the Management Committee:

- (a) to carry out grading of all umpires and prospective umpires;
- (b) to appoint umpires for matches for Competitions as directed by the Management Committee; and
- (c) to deal with such other matters or questions relating to umpiring as may be referred to it by the Management Committee of the Western Australian Cricket Umpires Association.

Further to the above the UAC has determined that:

1. The ranking and selection of umpires is the UAC's major role.
2. Coaching and Professional Development is the responsibility of the WACA through the Umpiring Manager. UAC members will continue to offer advice and provide feedback of a general nature to umpires. Captains' reports are crucial for the UAC and its considerations.
3. The Umpiring Manager is responsible for providing performance feedback to all umpires.

Members of the UAC for 2015/16 were Roy Boyd, Jeff Brookes, Dean Chamberlain, Matthew Hall (Umpiring Manager) and Terry Prue (Chairman).

CA appoints umpires to all CA competitions. The WACA, through Matthew (and the UAC), will be consulted with appointments such as Futures League, WNCL, WBBL matches and the male U15 and U17 carnivals. The expanded Futures League and WBBL competitions plus the U15 male carnival have provided more opportunities for exposure to CA competitions. CA announces all appointments.

A State Representative Group was selected and the WACA



UAC member Jeff Brookes (L) with Wayne Barron (R)

invited those selected to join the group. Acceptance of the invitation brings further personal and professional development opportunities along with other responsibilities in conjunction with the Umpiring Manager.

The UAC also selects a nominee for the Peter McConnell Medal for the Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association to consider and present.

There is a strong core of experienced umpires who continue to contribute to (now) Premier cricket and are joined each year by newcomers wishing to be part of WACA competitions. The efforts of all are appreciated. Total available numbers remained a big issue for Matthew (with appointments) and the UAC throughout the season although it was pleasing to see numbers improve as the season progressed. Matthew ran some 'short courses' to help improve numbers and it is hoped that the newcomers will return next season. Availability across the board was at times disappointing and requires Matthew to have a pool much larger than the 64 required to service senior male cricket. Female cricket plus the junior competitions also require umpires so clearly the more people Matthew has available the better for all (the competitions and the individuals concerned). The commitment to the WACA for every weekend (Saturday mainly) of the summer is large but for those desiring to achieve the best outcome that commitment is essential.

Overall the captains' assessments were pretty positive although we must all accept there will be hiccups along the way. As noted above the Umpiring Manager is responsible for providing performance feedback to all umpires and each of you should take responsibility to contact Matthew, seek information, act on the information and do all you can to become the best umpire you can. You are the only person who can maximize your journey however long it may be!

Thanks to all of you for being part of WACA cricket. Let's hope you have enjoyed the experience and will return for 2016/17.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN SHERRY



President John Sherry

We are reaching the end of what has been a rewarding season for WA Umpires. Mick Martell has been seen all over the world umpiring in One Day Internationals, the Under 19's World Cup as well as performing at a high level in Sheffield Shield and Domestic One Day and T20 Competitions.

Trent Steenholdt and Hennie Botes represented WA in the National Under 17 carnival, with Trent Umpiring in the final.

James Hewitt and Nathan Johnstone represented WA in the Under 19 Carnival and performed well while Ashlee Kovalevs umpired in New Zealand and at the National Under 18 Female Carnival.

It has also been very refreshing to see Umpiring Numbers increase in Grade Cricket. Credit must be given to the new Umpire Manager, Matthew Hall, whose passion for cricket and his role has reaped great dividends.

The WACUA has thrived this year with all general meetings being well attended. The highlight for me was when Test Match Umpires Nigel Long and Sundaram Ravi attended our meeting. It showed to me that the brotherhood of umpires is a strong and welcoming one no matter what level you umpire.

As the season comes to close, I would personally like to thank all those who have stood in the middle this year and I would hope that all will return next year.





STATE UMPIRING MANAGER REVIEW

MATTHEW HALL

First of all, on behalf of the WACA competitions department I would like to thank all the umpires who have officiated in WA Premier Cricket during this season. On behalf of myself and the WACA, we very much value the contribution you have made to cricket by being involved and making yourselves available to umpire this season.

The biggest challenge for me this year came at the start of the season with us being too low on numbers to be able to appoint two umpires in every game. Our low point was in round three with only fifty umpires available to service WA Premier Cricket. I have a great deal of admiration for all those umpires who have umpired by themselves this season and also double up by officiating in junior and senior games on the same day. Without your help the season would have been more challenging.

During the course of the season, we held three community level officiating courses, resulting in the recruitment of sixteen new umpires. These new umpires have done very well and continue the journey of improving their umpiring with every game they stand in.

Your availability is a key component of helping our other umpiring colleagues out during the season and the more you are available the easier it makes it for all our mates on the field.



Justin Langer talking to the WACA umpires at this season's seminar weekend

The pre-season umpiring seminar was well attended and forms a key part of our pre-season training. I would like to thank all the people who had a big hand in helping to organise and deliver the learning opportunities over the seminar weekend. A highlight was having Justin Langer come and talk at the seminar.



Pre-season seminar training working on the LBW in the WACA indoor nets

When I started in my role in August I expressed my desire to be open, honest and transparent with you all and I do hope that you think I have been true to my word. You will be the best judges of that.

This season we altered the way we communicated appointments to you by sending notifications through MyCricket. This had the added benefit of giving you your partner's details so you could more easily call your mate and introduce yourself to your new partner.

We have made available to you captains reports for the first time with not only the

number the captains give you but also the commentary. I do hope that you found them useful and I also recognise some of the commentary made could be very challenging for individuals. I encourage you all not to get emotionally attached to the commentary and the numbers. The key for me is to be honest with you about your performance. Do some self-reflection in this space and use the feedback as a learning opportunity to improve and be the best umpire you can be.

I also stated that I wanted us to be as well prepared as can be and the learning and development the WACA provides plays a key part in the journey both pre-season and during the season.

The feedback we had from the pre-season umpiring seminar weekend was very positive with all sessions well received. We also conducted training at every WACUA general meeting which included a variety of sessions such as decision making and umpiring field craft.

It is evident we still have work to do in this space. We are all very time poor in this modern world we live in and I am keen to get your feedback on how we structure our pre-season training and what we do during the season to make it more effective for you.

At the last meeting we conducted a review and feedback session and I do thank you for your candid feedback on things that you think can be improved. Captains' reports were high on that list and I am keen to get as much quality feedback for you as possible so it can be used as a learning and development opportunity.

Recruitment and retention of umpires will be a key focus of mine during the off season; we finished the season with 102 umpires registered for senior and junior cricket. I do hope not to lose any umpires this year and I am planning to recruit another 15 to 20 umpires for next season with the aim of having two umpires in every senior game.

Finally, I do hope that you have enjoyed umpiring this season with the many challenges that it presents for us as officials of this great game, and I hope that you will all be going around next season.



Matthew Hall out umpiring this season.

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UBERUMPIRE TO THE RESCUE

ANDREW MICENKO

I was lucky enough to be part of the Cricket Australia/Optus UberUMPIRE initiative on Australia Day. For those who haven't heard about it, the basic idea was to allow people to request an umpire on Australia Day between 11:00am and 3:00pm to come and officiate in their game of backyard (or street, or park) cricket. People would make the request with the Uber app on their phone, and if they were lucky enough to get through, Uber would deliver an umpire right to their game!

For me, the day started at about 10:00am. I arrived at the Uber office in Subiaco (which I had no idea existed) after driving past it once and going around the block. Dutchy was already there, and I met "Harro", who was organising the day. It was all very informal. Once everyone had arrived, we had a quick briefing and received copies of the official Australia Day Backyard Cricket Rule Book to have a quick read through and hand out to the players. There were some cracking rules, such as automatic Boonie (no higher than 1m) to be placed at short leg, underarm bowling to Kiwis allowed, and nan being allowed a runner at all times. We then chose teams based pretty much on whoever you were closest to at the time. I was partnered with Uber ambassador "Timmy Stump-it" and Uber driver Leigh. Leigh's Alfa Romeo was very nice, and resulted in the modified playing condition of automatic dismissal for any batsman hitting the car.

My team was assigned the Mirrabooka area. The first couple of games we attended were set up out on the street. Tim's favourite line when on the phone to players was "we're 5 minutes away and coming in hot!". There were Emu Exports and other alcoholic beverages everywhere, even at 11am, and more than one was spilled. Quick tip – don't put your cider stubby behind the stumps that everyone's trying to hit. Broken glass plus thongs don't mix! We weren't able to drink any alcohol that was offered, but the pizza, fairy bread and watermelon was nice!

After the street games, we ended up in a fairly run-down looking back yard in Dianella. It quickly became apparent that the 5 guys there were all stoned. We stayed for a few minutes before quickly getting out of there. After a speedy lunch, we arrived at a very nice mansion in Bayswater. These guys had the best setup of the day, requiring us to walk over the swimming pool's stepping stones in order to reach the tennis court where the game was being played. They still had Emu Exports though – what the?? Here I rolled my arm over but was unable to take any wickets. I also scored a few runs before being dismissed by hitting the ball over the back wall.

Finally, we arrived at a place in Belmont, where I was recognised by Graeme Atkinson from Wanneroo! This was the most formal game, with two captains picking teams and having a bit of a competition. Graeme was given 8 and out for smashing the ball out of the front yard, over another house and into the house behind that one. Chasing 43, Graeme's team was all out for 43 with the last batsman getting 6 and out when the score was on 37. A nice close to the day.

Finally, we made our way back to the Uber office, where Harro asked for any feedback or ideas. The general consensus was that 11am was too early to start, with most teams having a pretty quiet time until about 12. It's likely that a similar event will be held next year, and I've already put my name down to be involved!



UMPIRE PROFILES

ANDREW MICENKO



Born (city/town)	Fitzroy, Victoria (but don't hold that against me)
Occupation	Software Engineer. I've just been made a "Product Architect", but that just means I go to more meetings
Joined the WACUA?	2012
Favourite cricketer growing up	Early days Bruce Reid, and Javed Miandad because his name inspired lots of dad jokes. Then JL - my first cricket autograph!
One word to describe you	Eclectic
Favourite sporting team (outside of cricket!)	West Coast Eagles
Which cricket club did you play for (if applicable) or other sports have you been involved with in the past?	Swanbourne Cricket Club. My first season was 2006/2007. I joined up once I had managed to buy my own car and could make it to games and training. So the first time I played any sort of cricket was when I was 21! I'm terrible at most sports I try, but I had a few years when I was cycling around 250km each week. I haven't been on the bike much recently though.
What's the best advice you've received from someone?	It's too hard to single any one thing out. I'll say "don't blink!" from Dr Who is pretty good.
If you could invite three people to your house for dinner, who would they be and why?	They probably wouldn't want to come to my house because I am very lazy around the house and won't cook anything good. Can we go out instead? Maybe an Englishman, and Irishman and a Scotsman. Whatever happens is bound to be funny!
UMPIRING BACKGROUND	
Why did you choose umpiring?	I was fed up with opening or batting at 3, getting out cheaply and having to sit around all day. However I wanted to stay involved in cricket.
Who has had the most influence on your umpiring career?	Barry Rennie – all the training I went through before I even started made me really well prepared.
What's the strangest thing you've seen happen on field?	Standing at square leg at Burrendah watching a Uni batsman (I won't name him here!) play a glorious on drive – straight to the fielder. He was still standing admiring his shot as the fielder lobbed it back to the keeper, and was run out.
Greatest cricket moment you've seen on field?	Gilly's ton at the WACA in the 2006/07 Ashes. Another one in country week where the batsman gave a big leave to a hat-trick ball, only to have his off stump go cartwheeling.
If you could invent a new rule for the game, what would it be?	Every time there's a maiden over, an extra stump gets put in at that end. It goes back to normal when someone gets out!

UMPIRE PROFILES

NICK WALTERS



Born (city/town)	Bendigo, Victoria
Occupation	Delivery Driver + WAFL listed goal umpire
Joined the WACUA?	2013
Favourite cricketer growing up	Adam Gilchrist as the Australian wicket keeper and Chris Rogers and Jo Angel for the Western Warriors. Class players
One word to describe you	(More than one word but...) good bloke!!
Favourite sporting team (outside of cricket!)	North Melbourne Football Club
Which cricket club did you play for (if applicable) or other sports have you been involved with in the past?	Warwick Greenwood JCC Greenwood CC (later Warwick Greenwood CC)
What's the best advice you've received from someone?	1. Watch the Ball 2. Be patient
If you could invite three people to your house for dinner, who would they be and why?	Probably umpires of earlier decades and a current umpire Discuss how technology has affected the game of cricket for both players and umpires over the years
UMPIRING BACKGROUND	
Why did you choose umpiring?	Boring story: I was asked if I would consider umpiring by another WACUA member. I've always loved the game and wanted to somehow be part of WACA district (premier) cricket. I umpired 15's/17's in the morning and played for GCC/WGCC in the arvo. Once I realised I had a bit of talent as an umpire I decided (with assistance from Barry Rennie) to give playing away and take up umpiring more seriously.
Who has had the most influence on your umpiring career?	First umpiring manager, Barry Rennie + current Senior Umpires and other umpires I umpired with in 15's/17's
What's the strangest thing you've seen happen on field?	Probably ball clipping off stump and bail not moving at all
Greatest cricket moment you've seen on field?	2012/13 under 17's Grand Final, South Perth coming from behind to chase Wanneroo's 214.
If you could invent a new rule for the game, what would it be?	Law of Common Sense, needs to be applied more often

UMPIRE PROFILES

MARK HOOPER



Born (city/town)	Frankston, Victoria
Occupation	Journalist (sub-editor, The West Australian)
Joined the WACUA?	2010
Favourite cricketer growing up	Greg Chappell
One word to describe you	Placid
Favourite sporting team (outside of cricket!)	Joondalup Falcons in women's WAFL – my daughter plays for them.
Which cricket club did you play for (if applicable) or other sports have you been involved with in the past?	Cricket - Baxter, Frankston, Melbourne (Vic), South Perth, Shenton Park, Kendenup (WA). Football (Aussie rules!) – Frankston, Hastings (Vic), Newtown (Esperance league). Lots of golf at lots of courses.
What's the best advice you've received from someone?	1. Respect umpires! 2. Don't get involved in financial matters with family or friends.
If you could invite three people to your house for dinner, who would they be and why?	Steve Waugh – 18-year international cricket career, wider view of the world (including India). Tim Costello and Peter Costello – brothers, great servants of Australia in social and political spheres.

UMPIRING BACKGROUND

Why did you choose umpiring?	To be involved in the game and contribute to it, after long playing career.
Who has had the most influence on your umpiring career?	Barry Rennie
What's the strangest thing you've seen happen on field?	Can't think of anything particularly strange, but I was on the field when Travis Birt hit six sixes in an over at Fletcher Park in 2013-14.
Greatest cricket moment you've seen on field?	Craig Simmons 160 for Rockingham Mandurah v Claremont Nedlands at Cresswell, 2013-14. Last 100 in about an hour. As a player, was a fieldsman watching Aravinda de Silva make about 70 in grade game (at MCG) – bloody brilliant.
If you could invent a new rule for the game, what would it be?	If the ball goes over the boundary line, it's four. If it doesn't, it's not four – forget this silly business of whether the fieldsman was touching the rope or line or fence.









SOCIAL MEDIA, OUR RAPID GROWTH

TRENT STEENHOLDT

The Western Australian Cricket Umpires' Association committee has once again this season put social media high on the agenda, not only to promote us as an organisation but to the promote the game of cricket in general. With this in mind we looked back at previous seasons and assessed how we were handling this space and identified areas where we could improve. Some of these being:

1. Better promoting of umpires reaching significant milestones.
2. Better representation of all our members, not just those in the higher grades. And,
3. More visual advertising. Photos, videos and interactions that engage not just our members, but the community.

Following the guidelines above we looked immediately at the heart of our social media drive being the public Facebook page. With \$100 in kindly donated funds by Trent Steenholdt during the course of the season we began with some targeted Facebook advertising which saw our public page leap from second place in Australia at around 700 likes, behind long time leaders NSW Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association, to number one in the world with roughly 2300 likes! With that leap we then immediately had an issue! How on earth do we engage with these new fans and keep them interested in us?!

When the increase in likes occurred our process of posting on the public page had to change. Instead of putting posts that just engaged our WACUA members we had to make sure our posts, photos and updates engaged the new community! To do this we kept it simple by making sure that all new posts had at least one photo and some meaning around that photo, like Colin Ogilvie's 300 game milestone post with photos kindly taken by Stephen O'Dea. As they say, a picture says a thousand words and from the statistical evidence it certainly looks like we have engaged our new fan base really well.

Page	Total Page Likes	From last week	Posts This Week	Engagement This Week
YOU 1  Western Australian Cric...	2.4K	▲0.3%	4	89
2  NSW Cricket Umpires an...	1.6K	▲0.5%	0	0
3  Tasmanian Cricket Umpi...	867	▲0.3%	18	131
4  South Australian Cricket...	562	▲0.7%	3	29
5  Victorian Cricket Umpire...	264	▲1.1%	0	0

Facebook statistics showing us leading other umpiring associations

The work into the Facebook page and the increase in number of likes not only increased traffic on our posts but also to our website at www.wacua.asn.au and our YouTube channel. It also gave us a new opportunity that we never had before which was recruiting new umpires in Perth and across Western Australia. Seeing this opportunity, we immediately began targeted advertising and posting to promote new fans to become an umpire and referenced them to the WACA website. Whether or not this actually gave us new umpires in the WACA Premier Grade Competition is not truly known, but we do know from the click statistics on the posts that a number of people clicked on the link to go the WACA website and that in its own right is an achievement! This is a new avenue to get more cricket umpires and more umpires means potentially more WACUA members, which in turn means a stronger and more prosperous association for the years to come!

With social media the success is not just due to one or two people but to a whole team of content contributors. The WACUA committee would like to thank all photographers, videographers, journalists and writers for their outstanding work this season.

UNDER 17 MALE NATIONAL CHAMPS

HENNIE BOTES



Hennie Botes in action at the Under 17 Male National Championships. Source: CA National Championships Website

The Cricket Australia U17 National Championships were held in Brisbane from 28 September to 8 October and two WA umpires, Trent Steenholdt and Hennie Botes took part. The Championship was played under One Day, 50 over a side playing conditions with ten teams representing the States and Territories who battled it out over five regular rounds and three rounds of finals to decide the ultimate winner.

The eleventh team of the Championships was the umpires under the guidance of the CA Umpire Educator, Bob Parry. For most of the umpires that were part of the championships, this was their first

opportunity on the CA pathway. Umpires were paired up with different colleagues every day and were assessed on Attitude and Teamwork, Preparation, Laws and PCs, Match Management, Decision Making, Technique and Self-Management. Feedback from assessors was given after each day's play following meetings with captains and team officials.

Umpires also spent time away from the game sharing the events of the day over a good (mostly meaty) meal and some cold refreshments. Different pitch handover techniques were demonstrated and judged to perfection and the famous square leg "crouching tiger" technique was entrenched in the minds and built in the action of every umpire; some with more unique styles than others.

Umpires were graded towards the end of the tournament and our very own Trent Steenholdt was appointed to the Grand Final at Allan Border Field between Queensland (the winner) and New South Wales. He sure did not disappoint in both quality of umpiring and entertainment; the famous evasive action footage captured a moment that will go down in history as another highlight of the final.

The championships create opportunities for every aspiring umpire to officiate at a tournament under the control of Cricket Australia showcasing the best young talent in the country and sharing umpiring and life experiences with other quality umpires. Something within reach of every WACUA umpire.



MyCricket
NSW Metro's Ryan Hackney hit yet another ton, this time in the Grand Final at the U17 National Champs and in the process nearly took out the umpire!
GF Live blog - <http://bit.ly/1ZdUUs>
National champs website: <http://bit.ly/1Ce0xV>
The Penrith Cricket Club batsman is leading the champs batting aggregate with 495 runs @ 82.50 including 3x 100s and 1x 50!
Like Comment Share 8 October 2015 · Edited
Nick Walters and 475 others like this. Top comments

Shared with: Public
27,755 Views
Embed Video
Embed Post
Report video

Trent Steenholdt captured on video taking evasive action in the Grand Final with the ball just clipping his hand. Source: MyCricket Facebook Page

HANDLING DISAPPOINTMENT

NATHAN JOHNSTONE

“One’s best success comes after their greatest disappointments.” – Henry Ward Beecher

With the end of the season and finals upon us, I thought it would be timely to talk about some strategies to handling disappointment.

Disappointments are dissatisfactions that arise when your expectations are not met by outcomes. In short, a) you had an expectation b) things did not unfold against the expectation.

We have ALL felt disappointed throughout our umpiring journeys; whether it’s not getting an appointment we had expected or a Captain’s marks being lower than we thought.

It’s how you choose to respond to this disappointment that is the key to your success.

You can choose to let it defeat you, take the easy option, just walk away from it and talk about what could have been. Or you can see it as an opportunity to improve, by embracing the challenge.

Contrary to what people may think, disappointments are actually positive phenomena, for two main reasons.

1. Passion toward a cause

If you didn’t care about something, you wouldn’t be feeling disappointed, would you? The very presence of disappointment suggests that this is something you care about so much that you would feel bad over it. The higher your disappointment, the stronger your passion for this is.

2. It represents an opportunity for progression

Disappointment also signals an opportunity for progression and growth.

The majority of our disappointment in umpiring comes from our own expectations and our perceptions of our performances, or OUR reality. Understanding this is crucial to addressing issues and progressing. You need to be honest with YOU.

Think of disappointment as a troubleshooting tool which helps you iron out the kinks in your perception of reality. By using the knowledge from your previous experience, you can act more accurately toward your desires. The more you deal with disappointment and learn from it, the closer you will get toward your goals and dreams.

1. **Seek feedback:** This can come from your partner, an observer, Umpiring Manager, Captains. Whilst you may not agree with the feedback or feel affronted by it, accept it, and thank the person who has given the feedback to you. At the end of the day, it’s up to you and you alone to decide if the feedback is relevant and actionable.



Nathan Johnstone out in a WNCL match earlier on this season.

2. **Make an action plan:** Once an issue has been identified, make an action plan to address the issue. Set specific actions and time frames to action by. Write it down and share it with someone who will hold you accountable.
3. **Get a mentor:** This is someone whose opinion/feedback you trust, someone who is going to hold you accountable to your action plan. They do not have to be involved in cricket umpiring.
4. **Make a Season Plan:** After reflecting on the season just gone and receiving actionable feedback, set yourself some short term and long term goals. Be honest with yourself and make the goals realistic and attainable.
5. **Self-reflection:** Whether you choose to use MOS, or keep your own diary, or chat to your partner after the game, or have a quiet moment to yourself, self-reflection is one of the most important things you can do after a day's play.

Whether your short term ambitions are to break into a higher grade, or umpire in finals cricket, or umpire 1st class cricket, you must accept that the journey requires self-discipline and a process of self-awareness - you have to address your strengths and weaknesses. It ultimately comes down to a person's attitude and willingness to take action.

Actions speak louder than words.

It's not about talking about changing, but affecting change. It's very easy to come up with an excuse for why we didn't get that appointment. Instead, accept that there are a lot of things you can't control, and put your focus and energy into those things that you can control.

No matter what you wish to get out of your umpiring journey, I encourage you all to reflect upon your season and touch base with Matthew Hall for an end of season review meeting.

Screen capture of the Match Official System and what a normal user would see with a few games recorded

“Defeat should never be a source of discouragement, but rather a fresh stimulus.”

“Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.”

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope”

“Don't get bitter, get better!”

“Any time you suffer a setback or disappointment, put your head down and plough ahead”

IMPOSSIBLE



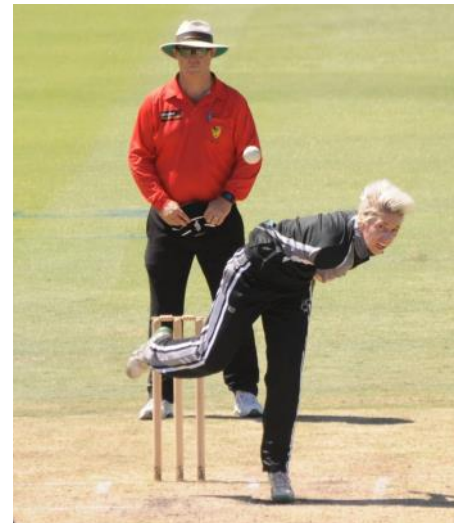


UNDER 15 MALE NATIONAL CHAMPS

JOHN TAYLOR

During the last week of February, Mark Hooper and I had the privilege of attending the School Sports Australia 15 and under National Championships in Brisbane.

Following the opening Ceremony on the day we arrived, we started to get to know the other 8 Umpires from around Australia who were selected for this tournament. The format for the tournament was all 50 overs games with a few varying playing conditions to what we are used to. The first 3 games were played at Brisbane Grammar School which boasts some magnificent facilities and allowed all 5 matches to be played at the one venue, making it easy for our observers to get around the grounds. A number of the UHPP members, along with Bob Parry, Ian Lock and Rob Dunbar (Qld Umpire Manager) also attended and were able to provide us all with feedback at the end of each match. This feedback is like gold and will go a long way to making me and the other guys better umpires. Also attending were a few former players in Greg Chappell and Graeme Hick who are now involved in talent identification.



John Taylor out in the middle of the WACA Ground in the WT20 Final

Following a rest day on the Wednesday, we all piled into cars for the trip up the Highway to Mooloolaba and had two more matches at Maroochydore and Caloundra. Both these grounds also boasted picture postcard scenes of picket fences and quaint pavilions. Following a day off on the Saturday, we travelled back to Brisbane Grammar for the final day and the Final which was won by NSW Green. WA finished 3rd.

One of the most pleasurable things about the whole 8 days was how well all the umpires got along and supported one another. Being a bunch of guys from all parts of the country who hadn't met each other before, we all had to work hard together to make sure that all matches ran smoothly and on time. A number of nicknames emerged and as Mark was the oldest of the group he became "PA". As I was able to officiate in two very short matches that only went until lunchtime, I became "HALF A". As I said it was great to get to know all the guys and I hope that we are now able to follow each others careers. Hopefully we can meet up at future tournaments.

In finishing, can I say, if any aspiring umpire who is looking to progress further is asked to attend something like this, do everything in your power to get there because not only will you learn a lot about yourself and your umpiring, you will create some great friendships that will last a long time.

UMPIRING IN NEW ZEALAND

ASHLEE KOVALEVS

Last December I received an unexpected call from Cricket Australia to umpire at the New Zealand Women's National Under 21 Tournament a fortnight later! So after a bit of organisation and the purchase of a black umpiring hat I found myself on an Air New Zealand flight to Auckland.

The tournament took place in Auckland and consisted of both 50 over and T20 matches, all of which were played at Lloyd Elsmore Park. Six teams from around the nation participated; Auckland, Central Districts, Wellington, Otago, Northern Districts and Canterbury.

Officiating at tournaments outside WA is a fabulous opportunity to develop as an umpire. Often there are umpires with considerable experience to learn from. This was definitely the case for me in New Zealand when I had the privilege of standing with Kathy Cross in a 50 overs game on Day 2. Kathy was the first, and still only, female member of the ICC Associate and Affiliate Umpires Panel. Unfortunately, the game itself was over by lunch however on the upside, it gave Kathy and I significant time to discuss umpiring in general as well as her experiences internationally.

Day 3 presented some GWL issues in the morning resulting in a delayed start but luckily we were still able to get a reduced overs game in. Weather conditions in Auckland were definitely different to home where I have never had to wear thermals as protection from the wind!

Rest day on Day 4 saw the umpires and some scorers become tourists and seven of us took a cruise out to Waiheke Island. We had become good friends by this stage so it was lovely being able to spend the day together away from cricket – although the sport still dominated most of our conversations!



Match Officials lunch on Waiheke Island

Day 5 was the last 50 over game before the competition changed to T20s. There were two T20 rounds played on Day 6. My game in the first round was extremely close, with one run needed of the last ball to go to a Super Over. The batter missed the ball and ended up being bowled – Super Over avoided! Day 7 saw the last T20 match take place which was followed by the Tournament presentations. This tournament's format did not include finals.

While trans-Tasman relations have thawed since the underarm incident of 1981, my preference for players to return the ball to me via an underarm throw became the cause for some mirth! Warren Lees, coach of Otago, was with the New Zealand team on that fateful February day and he especially enjoyed a joke at my expense!



Umpiring Otago vs. Canterbury

Certainly officiating in New Zealand has been a highlight of my career thus far. Umpiring, developing my skills and meeting new people together with the travel experience make a great combination and I was fortunate to have another opportunity only a few weeks later. This time it was in Canberra at the Cricket Australia Under 18 Female National Championship.

This tournament gave me the chance to catch up with fellow umpire and friend Claire Polosak from NSW. Claire and I met at my first CA tournament in Ballarat a couple of years ago. She had been umpiring longer than me and was already doing Men's First Grade. It was very exciting when recently she was selected to officiate at the Women's World Cup in India! Two umpires I met in Auckland also came to Canberra as part of an exchange between CA and NZ Cricket.

The games were played in great spirit and showcased some emerging talent. In the end Victoria broke NSW's winning streak with their victory in the grand final.

I am very fortunate to have had some amazing opportunities through umpiring. I am grateful to Cricket Australia, the WACUA and its members for their encouragement and support of my development as an umpire.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSURE

TRENT STEENHOLDT

The technique of getting over a bad decision, game or week is not an easy one for many. For some it may only be an issue for a few seconds where for others it can haunt them for days! As humans with unique behaviours and personalities, we all react differently to the situation where the finger has or hasn't gone up or we've done something that's made thirteen on field players and one colleague look at you strangely. Sadly, as humans, we're not perfect and we are prone to making mistakes. Sometimes players, in the heat of the moment forget that but we can't manage their emotions. What we can manage however is what we do with those mistakes we make and see how we can learn from them!



When you've made a blunder and you're feeling crappy about it, it's very easy to fall into a dark place. As any experienced umpire will tell you, we've all finished an over, game or week where we've left feeling really bad about what we've done; a poor job. When this happened to me early on in my career I found it very difficult to get out of the negative mood and I fully appreciate those who may over the course of this season got themselves lost in this space! To answer your question, no, you're not alone and we've all been there!

So going back to that mistake you last made, that bad feeling you felt, well funny thing is, that's a good thing! How is feeling bad good you're probably wondering? Well it shows first and foremost that you care! Getting all your decisions right and walking off the park unscathed is one way to look at cricket umpiring where actually maturing, learning and developing in the role is another.

Having umpired for a number of years now, the experience I've gained has helped me a lot in all aspects of my game including the "mistake" moments. That's an obvious given, but I think as umpires we sometimes get a bit ignorant of the fact that there is so much more we can do off the field that can help our performance on the field.

As that young naïve kid umpiring first grade at age 19, it was very easy to get ahead of myself and be shot down very quickly by a blunder. It was like each time I stepped onto the throne that I thought I should have been on; some sniper would shoot me down from a 100 miles away! You're probably thinking why am I telling you this; well I'm hoping you can learn from one of the first mistakes I made as an umpire who failed to get closure on those blunders.

Getting ahead of yourself is one of the worst things you can do as an umpire. It means you're not focused on the things that matter like what the ball is doing in front of you when it's hurtling down to the other end. Miss that edge or forget the line and you're setting yourself up to make another bad decision.

A way to look at the game you're about to go into is that it is the most important match in the world. Treat it with the level of respect that it ought to have. Don't be complacent



Trent Steenholdt at Allan Border Field earlier this season

if it's not the game you'd like to be umpiring. At the end of the day the players you're umpiring are playing their version of a test match!

When the inevitable happens and you've made a mistake the immediate human reaction is to dwell on it and try to make things right. Sadly, there is no making right a mistake in cricket so forget about that! Trying not to dwell on it is also very tough and easier said than done but remember that when you don the umpiring gear and you have a counter in your hand you have a job to do. The job can't stop because you're feeling bad about what you've done.

After a point in time you'll find that the "emotional explosion" around the mistake you made has subdued, almost like you're going through the seven stages of grief. When you're ready and only when you're ready should you go back and reflect on the mistake. This is where you're ready to learn.

Learning can be done in a number of ways. It can be when you're alone in thinking about it over a cold one, it could be talking to your colleagues, it could be writing it all down on a piece of paper or it can be completing your self-assessment. At the end of the day the learning has to be not "I won't make that same mistake again" but rather, "What actions will I take to make sure that mistake doesn't happen again?" and creating a plan to accomplish this.

Only when you've got obtainable objectives from learning experiences can you honestly get closure on the mistakes you've made. Otherwise all you're doing is trying to hold out as long as you can until you make the same mistake again!

To quickly summarise, here are some bullet point to remember:

- First of all, don't get ahead of yourself. Stay in the moment!
- Be honest and truthful to yourself. You'll know when you've made a mistake.
- Minimise the emotion when umpiring. Stoic in nature.
- "Bouncebackability" is a given when umpiring. You cannot afford to dwell.
- When ready, reflect on your mistake.
- Learn from the mistake, create a plan on how to prevent the mistake happening again.
- Obtain your closure by learning and developing.
- Have no regrets in every aspect of your umpiring!

"Mistakes are not a problem, not learning from them is."

"Self-Reflection is the school of wisdom."

"The capacity to learn is a gift. The ability to learn is a skill. The willingness to learn is a choice."

"Never stop learning because life never stops teaching"

PROGRESSION NOT PERFECTION

UNDER 19 MALE NATIONAL CHAMPS

JAMES HEWITT

In December 2015 I was privileged and fortunate enough to be selected to umpire at the U19 Male National Championships in Adelaide.

I work hard on my self-management and pride myself on it being a significant part of my preparation for any match I am appointed to. Well before going to Adelaide, I formulated plans and put them into place to give myself the best opportunity of performing at a level I expected of myself and was expected of me. I discussed these plans with coaches and mentors and felt my self-management preparation went very well.

One of the main strands was to maintain a level of physical fitness that would allow me to stand in eight games of 100 over cricket in 11 days. It may not sound too much, but add in all the other off field preparation, travel, professional development sessions, self-

assessments, social events and it is a testing couple of weeks. For this, I maintained a regime, which mainly involved being “active.” Not pounding the streets of Perth’s southern suburbs for mile after mile, I’ll leave that to the young blokes, but just being up and about for walks and light jogs, swims etc. I am fortunate enough that my work also allows me to do this. So I only needed to add in a few extra sessions in my down time. This continued through the tournament; I would rise early and meet a willing colleague for a brisk walk around the outer reaches of the City of Churches – A beautiful spot for a morning stroll and chat about life, cricket and our preferred eatery that night.

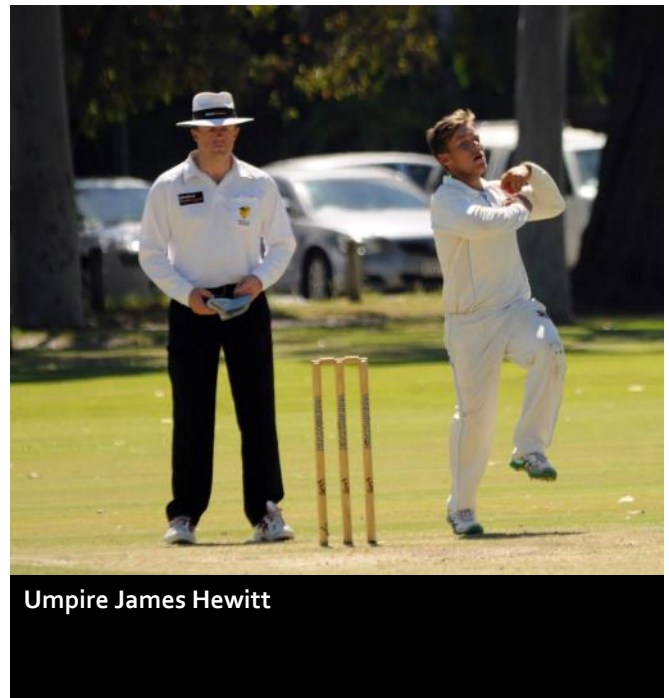
Another crucial part of my self-management was to ensure my business ran smoothly when I was away. Again, I am fortunate that I have a magnificent Head Coach who is more than capable of running the business I own when I am away. But a couple of full briefings and meetings before departure allowed me to focus fully on the job in hand.

In Adelaide itself, I quickly established a daily routine that held me in really good stead through the carnival. As an early to bed, early to rise type, I would get up early, meet my umpire mate from Victoria for our walk, then head back to the room to see my roomie WA’s very own Nathan Johnstone for a healthy breakfast. Then shower, a good stretch, pack my bag (I always pack my bag on the morning of the game, when it is done, the bag is zipped up, knowing that I have everything I need for the day) and off.

If you have prepared well and have strong routines on and off the field, the matches will look after themselves. I always try to ensure there are no surprises or distractions to disrupt my match management. Then face any of them that occur with a level head and unflustered mind. That way my partner and I implement our match management strategies and push through trial or adversity.

Post-match, I always shower at the venue, have a post-match debrief and head back to basecamp. Then I get some washing on and of course have a cup of tea.

My evening routine tended to involve a nice relaxing dinner with umpiring mates and a good chat about our day. If we had a game the following day I would only eat a light meal and just the solitary beer. Big dinners the night before a match tend to result in a bit of lethargy for me so I avoid them like the proverbial plague.



Umpire James Hewitt

Then back for about 9ish to continue preparation for the following day's game, a bit of ironing, that sort of thing. I also put my thoughts, feelings, goals etc. down on paper. Personal stuff from having a twinge in the calf, to feeling disappointed about missing my son's school assembly, also about feeling strong having dealt well with a player behaviour issue to getting through a tough session with the new ball and lots of strong appeals in just a few overs. I find this nicely declutters my mind and allows me to relax and focus.

I then took the opportunity to watch part of a movie, something stress free and relaxing – Thanks for the loan of the hard drive Nathan!

Finally, the 10pm Skype call back to WA. Followed by another good stretch and off to sleep.

Other aspects of my self-management were as much about exclusion as inclusion. I am a keen swimmer and usually swim a couple of times a week during the season and three times a week during the off season. But never on the day of, or the day before a match. The last thing I wanted was to miss a nick with water in my ears. Disappointing because I love swimming!

Adelaide also threw up a few days of 40+ degrees. So early starts and slightly tweaked daily routines it was. On one rest day, the temperature was well up into the 40's and promised the same for the next couple of playing days too. Instead of shying away from it in our air conditioned room, Nathan and I decided to take an early afternoon walk into the city, had a nice cool drink and then walked back. Just an hour of our rest day, but what great preparation to see how the temperature would be for the next few days. Don't forget – No surprises!

Self-management is so vital for us as officials. Communicate with wives, girlfriends and loved ones; tell them when you aren't going to be there. I usually add on a half hour to my expected return time, better to be home half an hour early than late eh? If possible, remove anything that will cause you to be distracted or disadvantaged in the field.

As this tournament reinforced for me, go out there giving yourself the best opportunity you can to be the best you can be, and most importantly, make good mates and enjoy the challenge.

LIFE MEMBERS' BREAKFAST

TRENT STEENHOLDT

On November 15 last year we once again held our annual Life Members' Breakfast at Mantra on Hay in East Perth.

The hot buffet breakfast was followed by Todd Rann being inducted as the newest Life Member of the WACUA. This presentation included Todd being given the WACUA Life Member Pin from President John Sherry and saying a few words about his journey as a cricket umpire and contributor to Western Australian cricket.

Todd is now the 44th person to be given a Life Membership of the WACUA. Congratulations Todd!



Todd Rann, our newest Life Member, with president John Sherry



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