

OVER

The Newsletter of the WA Cricket Umpires'
Association

No. 1(4) December 2012



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INSIDE EDGES

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From the Comms Desk

Contributions continue to come in thick and fast for OVER. It is really fantastic to have so many people keen to contribute to the magazine. I have received a number of ideas and pieces unsolicited, which is great. Thanks also to James Hewitt, who has been performing sterling work with collecting umpire profiles – this is much appreciated.

We have a number of features lined up for future editions, and I very much feel that it is important for OVER to include articles of interest as well as simply reporting on the goings on of the Association. The emphasis this year on training and development carries through to this publication – if anyone has any ideas for training-related articles they would like to see, please let me know.

This edition of OVER is itself an expanded one, but look out for a bumper Christmas edition for the December meeting! Happy reading!

- Chri

Scuttlebutterfingers

SAVED: Fred Davis, after a wardrobe malfunction, required the use of a backup pair of shoes, pictured below. The lesson is to always have a backup plan.

ON THE GRAPEVINE: Colin Ogilvie recently required a jab of corticosteroids on a troublesome wrist. No news on whether his finger goes up faster as a result.

OUT: El Presidente, for four runs. Word has it that it was a brilliant legcutter that went straight through his defences, catching him absolutely plumb in front. Cries of "going down leg" were, apparently, in vain, partly because by all reports it was stone dead. The



lesson here is to always play straight and get bat on ball.



Purely Property It's as simple as that

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From the President

Time does not wait for anyone and we are already in the middle of November with the season well underway. I hope all of you are continuing to enjoy your umpiring and the challenges that the umpiring role presents.

WACUA membership has gone past 50 for this season and our general meetings continue to be well attended, which means we have put a sense of purpose back into the organisation and relevance to the general meetings for the members.

Those of you who have not joined as yet, you still have the opportunity to do so – we value your membership and your contribution to the success of the organisation.

The November meeting sees Andy Oram present to the WACUA, giving us further insights of what players and coaches see as the required qualities for an umpire. Andy also discusses how important communication and body language is for us as umpires.

The season has provided opportunities for umpires to make their debuts in higher grades and I congratulate all umpires for their personal successes. Opportunities will always present themselves to individuals and will continue to do so – it is up to us as individuals to be ready to grab opportunities with both hands and enjoy the experience.

I also wish to congratulate all those umpires who so far this season have umpired in Cricket Australia appointed fixtures. Special mentions go to Nathan Johnstone for recently standing in a Ryobi Cup game at the WACA, and Todd Rann on his selection for the CA under-19 carnival.

Finally, just a reminder that the life members' breakfast is on Sunday the 2^{nd} of December and we would love this to be a great success as always.

Yours in Cricket,

Matthew Hall WACUA President



Committee Report

Another month has gone by and another match dominated by Ground, Weather and Light. Sitting on the balcony at Floreat with Gordon Brown while the rain came down I began to appreciate the words of Andrew Craig at the first General Meeting when he passed on his advice on how to deal with interruptions.

The result was on the conclusion of the match both captains commented on how well we had dealt with the conditions. In particular how well we had communicated with them throughout the match. It showed to me how important continued training is and how instructive the General meetings have been this year. We will continue to make the meetings as informative as possible.

At the previous match I witnessed the very much hands-on technique of Match Day Observer Steve Farrell, who assumed the role of square leg umpire in order to observe Pankaj Vakil and to pass on quality advice. This is fantastic and can only improve the quality of umpiring.

Thanks to all those who have sent me their votes promptly after games. Particular mention goes to Todd Rann whose votes were in my SMS box before I got off the field at Sutherlands Park. Remember to get your votes in nice and early so they can be tabled as efficiently as possible.

John Sherry WACUA Secretary



Umpires Appointment Board News

with Terry Prue

Presentation

The UAB considers many aspects of an umpire's performance when making its deliberations. Your physical presentation is one attribute clearly visible to everyone. First impressions are very important because

they are often lasting impressions. Be punctual, neatly dressed, well presented and conduct yourself with responsibility and dignity. People assess you immediately! This applies from the time you arrive at a match to the time you leave. Smart casual clothing, which includes the WACUA polo shirt, is quite appropriate off the field. The prescribed uniform must be worn on the field. It goes without saying that these should be neat, clean and tidy.

On field the supplied long sleeved shirt should be worn tucked in with the sleeves to the wrist and the collar turned down. Well-pressed black trousers, with a black belt, are the standard – they do fade and can end up a brown-grey colour, which is not a good look. Shoes should have predominantly white upper, tongue and laces. A broad (stiff) brimmed white hat is best for both appearance and U.V. protection. Sunglasses (or photo chromic corrective lenses) are acceptable.

The smart appearance is not just for image (you are a WACA umpire), but for your own self-confidence. It is the accepted practice that both umpires will be similarly dressed, e.g. jackets or no jackets, not one of each. Look like the professional you are. Turning up unshaven is not a

good look (would you turn up to your 'day job' like this?). Dress according to expectations and maintain a proper appearance befitting the importance of the event. The WACA umpiring group can cultivate the highest standards of dress and appearance.

If you are required to attend a Tribunal, the same principles as match day apply: be punctual, neatly dressed and well presented.

'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit' - Aristotle (384-322BC)

Terry Prue UAB Chairman



RECENT AND UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS

Recent

9 Nov WT20 WA v Tas **W Barron and D Trigg**

10 Nov WNCL WA v Tas W Barron and M Hall

11 Nov WT20 WA v Tas **C McCann and D Trigg**

17 Nov Ryobi WA v SA **J Ward and N Johnstone**

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WACA Umpiring Coordinator's Report

With the first day of Round 3 being severely interrupted by the weather it has highlighted the need for all umpires to have an excellent working knowledge of the Playing Conditions, and their application. We could expect that captains would understand the conditions but more than likely they will be depending on us to inform them. In the likelihood of weather interruptions ensure that you read, question and understand the playing conditions before the weekend.

We have had several umpires offered the opportunity to debut at a higher level this season which has been great to expand our base of experience at new levels. Opportunities arise when others are absent for other duties and the challenge is to be the one performing at the right time to be selected by the UAB.

Ian and Mick continue to be appointed to CA matches. With the Big Bash coming soon they will be absent from district cricket for much of the rest of the season. Nathan and Todd recently officiated in the Futures League with distinction, watched over by former Test umpire Darryl Harper. Nathan will be on field in a Ryobi Cup match in the near future.

Todd is off to the Under 19's Carnival in January. All of these are Cricket Australia appointments and we congratulate each of them. Each of these umpires is an excellent demonstration of the dedication and endurance required to make it to the top.

Dean, Matthew, Chris and Wayne continue to perform with distinction in the WNCL. This competition provides excellent exposure to the next level of expectations in interstate cricket. Wayne and Chris will also be representing the WACA at the CA Under 17 Carnival in December.

All of these provide the opportunity for others to step up and be offered the chance to test themselves at higher grades.

Recently we had the unique situation of a father and daughter umpiring together in an Under 13 match. Ashlee and Michael Kovalevs stood together and both performed really well. On the same weekend we had father and son standing together in the same competition – one of the more unique occurrences in WACA cricket.

Barry Rennie WACA Umpiring Coordinator



October WACUA meeting and matches

These photos and more appear on our website – www.wacua.com.au



Feature

Umpiring Across Codes

We are all aware of the challenges that umpiring cricket presents. But, how do they compare to those faced by officials in other sports?

Several umpires within WACUA ranks also officiate in football codes – our own Mathew Cheeseman is a well-known A-League Assistant Referee (with a cult following that rivals that of legendary AFL boundary umpire George Pampacos).

OVER spoke to Mathew about the challenges of umpiring across two sporting codes, and the differing requirements therein.

What got you into officiating in each of your sports?

I started umpiring men's indoor cricket at my local centre where I played (age 13), and took up outdoor umpiring after I stopped playing due to the development of stress fractures in my back. My indoor centre knew I had an interest in football (soccer), so they asked me to referee some junior games, and then suggested I take up refereeing outdoors as well. 12 years later ...

What are the differences in terms of physical requirements between refereeing football and umpiring cricket?

We do regular fitness testing based upon the current FIFA fitness test, usually every two months. The test comprises of 6x 40m sprints, each in under 6.0 seconds, followed by a high intensity interval run – 150 metres in 30 seconds, followed by a 50m walk recovery in 35 seconds, with a minimum of 12 laps (24 sets).

Being on the national panel means that I need to undertake a minimum of four training sessions a week. Two of these are group sessions with the other national panel referees based in Perth, while one is a generic session of our choice so I use my weekly game of indoor cricket. Generally, I will do additional running sessions in the morning before work, which brings the total to 6-8 sessions during the week plus any matches on the weekend. A normal game as a referee will see me cover between 10-12 km during the 90 minutes, although that can be higher during a match of increased intensity.

Umpiring cricket can certainly be hard on your back so you need to make sure that you have the right posture and perform stretching exercises to ensure that you can last through the entire day.

MATHEW CHEESEMAN - SOCCER

Hyundai A-League
Assistant Referee since
2006; 55 games. Grand
Final: 2012
WA State Premier
League Referee since
2006; 78 games, plus
about the same as
assistant referee. Grand
Finals: 6 (SPL 2008-11;
Cup 2010, 2012). Referee
of the Year 2010-12; Asst.
Referee of the Year 2005,
2009-11.



As I mentioned earlier about stress fractures when I was growing up, you will often find me loosening up between balls at square leg, normally provoking comments from players about me warming up to bowl the next over!

Football can be an emotional game - how do you deal with abuse from players/fans?

In simple terms, ignore it. Not the easiest thing to do, so more often than not you ending up laughing (or probably just smirking) at how ridiculous the comments actually are. Essentially though, when you've heard the same comments time and time again, it's pretty easy to just block them out.



At local level, I've been known to offer some witty responses. If you show a lighter side, players and spectators get to see that you are human. It can help defuse tension, because they often back down when you can show a sense of humour. For example, I get a few comments about the hair on my head – or more to the point the lack thereof – so I play along and start tapping the bald spot, which normally provides a suitable response!

What are some of the different challenges between the two sports? For example, in decision making or mentality?

Obviously, fatigue is a big issue in both cricket and football, and it is important for officials in both sports to be physically and mentally prepared to survive through the 90 minutes of a football match, or each day of cricket, as a decision made in the first minute or ball is just as important as the final decision of the game. Physical preparation between the two sports will be different, however the mental preparation will be closely linked. Once the games begin, avoiding physical or mental fatigue is where officials show their true strength.

Once of the biggest differences though is in football you will *constantly* be harassed by players, coaches and supporters with *every* decision you make, so you need to have a high level of mental strength and communication skills, as well as being able to deal with confrontation – something I've experienced my fair share of!

How does your preparation differ between the two sports?

With football I will generally have a decent sized meal five hours before kick off, and arrive at the venue between 1.5 - 2 hours before. With an hour to go, I would start getting prepared and then head out for a warm up roughly 35 minutes before kick off for 20 minutes. For cricket, I arrive at the ground at least an hour before the start of play, and breakfast will be the last thing I do before I leave home. Mentally though, the approach is the same: contact the other officials in advance, check the ground and travel arrangements the day before, visualise myself in the game (hopefully making the right decisions), and plan to enjoy it – because there's no point being out there otherwise.



Above: Mathew Cheeseman receives his medallion for officiating the 2011/12 A-League Grand Final.



Above: Cheesy lays down the law

Across other codes – AFL

Chris McCann, WAFL Field Umpire

While there are similarities, a lot of the differences that Cheesy also experiences exist between Aussie Rules and cricket. Like referees. WAFL field umpires need to meet fitness benchmarks, namely a 5km run in 20 minutes or less. Probably the main difference, even between Aussie Rules and soccer, is that footy is a heavy contact sport. Player management



becomes even more vital in an environment where tensions between players can turn physical. So, the ability to defuse a volatile situation is an essential skill of an umpire. Decision-making is also different in that in a game of footy, you get one look at a contest and you make a call and stick with it, because the game moves on very quickly – so you must, too.

Feature

by Chris McCann

Café Colombiano

The story of a coffee odyssey – learning about life through java: an OVER special report

Before *El Presidente* Matthew Hall embarked upon one of his frequent overseas expeditions to South America, he gleaned that I was fond of coffee. Well, at least fond of its hypertensive highs that allow me to complete urgent writing assignments in the dead of night, just before the deadline.

In any case, one or two conversations between he and I led him to declare that he would bring back some *real* coffee from Colombia when he next went.

I thought he was joking.

But one morning while he was away, a text message came for me – it was the Yorkshire Gringo himself proudly informing me that the purchase had been made, and fine Colombian coffee would be making its way through customs on his return.

And so was presented to me at the October WACUA meeting a bag of *Oma* brand ground and roasted coffee, which proudly displayed the words "selección especial" – very authentic. Of course, I was immediately very grateful for the thought and effort he put into the gift. But given that at home I can only access a new-fangled, fancy Nespresso machine that solely accepts pods of coffee, I feared I would be unable to delight in the roast until I could obtain proper means of brewing it.

But I resolved that it simply must be done – that I must sample and report on the coffee as soon as possible. Partly, of course, to show my appreciation for PC's gesture, but partly because I knew it would make an outstanding piece of journalism. But my own understanding of coffee was limited to my experience as a mere consumer, and to do justice to the product I felt I really ought to get an expert opinion.

And so, I enlisted the help of Jenna Valentin, captain for last semester's C-division mixed netball premiership, and a researcher on coffee origins at the University of Western Australia's Centre for Forensic Science.

Jenna's work involves analysing coffee for forensic purposes – namely, verifying authenticity by tracing a particular batch to its region of origin. But her expertise extends beyond the laboratory.

The Coffee

Pictured is the Oma "Selección Especial" – the company's website has further information about this product and the rest of Oma wide range of coffees. The site's English version can be accessed at the following address:



http://www.cafeoma.com.co/en/index.html

"Working in food forensics with coffee," she said, "means being involved at a number of levels in its production."

Jenna has herself picked, processed and roasted the bean-like seed of the coffee plant – "and yes, that is a misconception," she said. "It is actually a seed, not a bean."

However, that has not stopped the misnomer from becoming firmly entrenched in the English lexicon – partly because the seed looks so much like, well, a bean.

Semantics aside, importantly for the outcome of my journalistic endeavour, Jenna's experience with coffee indeed extends to its brewing and drinking. Consumption of the brew is a concomitant part of being a coffee researcher, and its corollary is a finely tuned and discriminating palate.

For the official tasting of the *café colombiano*, we also levied the help of Alex Martin, a fellow forensic food researcher at UWA, a WAFL umpire, and the Centre in our premiership-winning netball side. Alex's office is next door to Jenna's, and when he found out there was a free cup of coffee to be had, he was only too willing to assist in the process. To that end, he volunteered his office for the official tasting.

I arrived at the university at lunchtime on a sun-drenched Friday afternoon, a day of perfect resplendence, and an ideal one to imagine myself on the South American continent in utter relaxation, looking forward to sampling this revered product. Upon opening the bag, we were nonetheless relieved to find coffee inside, and not another product that Colombia is famous for exporting. The fragrance of coffee filled the room, and heightened our expectations of the forthcoming tasting.

The three of us located the office coffee plunger and pot, and through solid teamwork brewed a batch. It was indeed teamwork – in engaging the full experience, I wanted to undertake the brewing solo, but Jenna wisely intervened when she saw what a hash I was making of it.

With the drink ready to go, cups were procured and each of us apportioned a healthy sample. I decided to leave the real work to the expert, and so I waited until Jenna had made her judgements before myself venturing to taste.

"It is very smooth," said Jenna, taking the cup and savouring the aroma of its contents. "Single origin coffees are often a bit harsher."

She took a draught of the deep brown liquid.

"It's quite earthy," was her initial observation, before she continued. "Compared to other Colombian coffee I've tasted, it's a reasonably mild roast. Often Colombian coffee tends to be roasted for longer and therefore stronger in flavour."

These technicalities were all extremely fascinating to me, being an avid consumer but not a coffee enthusiast in any strict sense.

Finishing the contents of our cups, the consensus was that it was indeed a mild, but very pleasant roast. Its taste lingered long after the last sip, as well, of which I was glad. Of course, the sampling was sans milk or other additives; being a long-time drinker of the milkier incarnations of coffee (for Alex, a subject of my ridicule), I had a renewed appreciation of the subtleties that the drink can possess in a "purer" form.

So, what to make of the experience? Starting initially with the ostensible task of the duty-bound tasting of a thoughtful gift, I now realise that this was a journey, one of both discovery and self-discovery. A journey of discovery in the things I learned not only about the *Oma* coffee, but coffee in general; and self-discovery in that by diluting my coffee with milk for years, I have been missing out on the full experience of quality coffee.

And so came the end of my journey. After thanking Jenna for her assistance, and Alex for allowing the use of his office, I set foot back out in the real world, away from the coffee plantations of South America. But, what to do with the remainder of the coffee? I ought to invest in some brewing equipment – although I'll have to improve my brewing skills.



Above: The tasting panel (L-R) – the author, Jenna Valentin and Alex Martin. Below: Coffee seeds in various stages, from



Below: The tasting panel assesses the brew.



NEXT MONTH...

We review the best afternoon teas in district cricket

My debut: Lenny Fogliani

On Saturday the 20th of October 2012, my big day came. It was the first time I would ever umpire a proper WACA District game. On the previous Tuesday, I was informed by the Umpiring co-ordinator Barry Rennie, that I would be umpiring the Gosnells v Mt. Lawley 15s match. I was extremely excited and I my feet were doing little dances in my shoes.

I was very lucky, in that both my parents Phil and Enzelia were willingly accepting to drive me all the way to my match on Saturday morning. Both the team coaches were very kind and welcomed me warmly as I arrived. When I did my ground inspection, I got a bit of a thrill seeing the roller out on the pitch for the first time. I met my partner, Ray, and found the scorers to familiarise myself with where they were sitting.

The definite highlight of the first day was the Gosnells captain Jaxom Rose taking 3/14 and almost a hat-trick. Mount Lawley were bowled out for 134.

After the day's play, Mum and Dad took me out to a celebratory lunch at the Raffles Hotel in honour of my first day's umpiring.

On the second day Gosnells lost their opening

batsman, Ireland, in a mix-up and were already down a wicket at fourteen runs. However, only one more wicket went down with the score on 64, the third wicket put on 80 and Gosnells was able to win by eight wickets.

Ray, Steve and I came together at the end of the match, after congratulating the players on a good game of cricket, to unanimously decide that the young Gosnells Cricket Club's Braydon Ridley should get Man of the Match for his 57 not out and 1/29.

In all, it was a fantastic game to umpire, the kids were terrific and played in a good spirit, and both coaches at the end of the game gave me great feedback on how I umpired which made me feel even better.

The most challenging aspect of the game was probably deciding on LBW appeals, because of the number of different factors that came into making the decisions. But I think the most important thing I learnt from this game is something I think all first year umpires can remember: to be confident in your own self and your own decisions, regardless of what players and other people say. Thankfully all the players accepted my decisions well, but I think it is still very important.

- Lenny Fogliani



Kovalevs stand together in Inverarity Shield

On the same weekend that a father and son stood together in the same competition, late October also saw one of the more unique occurrences in umpiring as father and daughter Michael and Ashlee Kovalevs stood together in the Inverarity Shield at Hillcrest. It is possibly the first time that this has occurred, and was certainly an occasion of celebration.

The occasion was one of mixed emotion for both Michael and Ashlee. On taking the field, Michael said that he was feeling excited about sharing the experience of umpiring with his daughter. For Ashlee, there were slightly different concerns on her mind.

"I was quite nervous as I took the field," she said. "Having two brothers who are cricketers, I know the high level of expectation on the umpires!"

"I really enjoyed umpiring with Dad," Ashlee said. "I was relieved after the game finished, but I had a sense of accomplishment for trying something new."

Like any debuting umpire, Ashlee faced a number of challenges in her first game.

"We had to make some changes in the overs due to some weather at the beginning of the game," Ashlee said. "But a big challenge was just remembering to breathe!" "We had to make some changes in the overs due to some weather at the beginning of the game," Ashlee said. "But a big challenge was just remembering to breathe!"

The weather meant Michael and Ashlee were called upon to recalculate overs and interval times – perhaps a trying experience for a first-game umpire. But Ashlee wasn't fazed.

"The most important thing I learned from the game was that it reinforced my belief that things work out if you are prepared well."

Michael was glowing in praise of his daughter's performance in the game.

"I was proud of Ashlee for trying something outside her comfort zone and doing so well," he said. "I'm looking forward to umpiring with her again."



Above: Ashlee and Michael Kovalevs before the game

2012/13 Debutants

FIRST GRADE

John Sherry Aron Downing Rex Evans

ONE DAY LEAGUE

Aron Downing Rex Evans

ONE DAY LEAGUE

John Sherry Bruce Banyard Stephen O'Dea

COLTS

Craig Sheppard Bill O'Leary

COLTS

Phil Cockman Stephen Rose

DISTRICT SENIORS

Carolyn Prentice Stuart Blacker Marco Sasic Daniel Gibbons Andrew Micenko Ernest Chua Trevor Krink Bimsara Pathirathna

DISTRICT JUNIORS

Dale Sherwood Geoff Proudfoot Ashlee Kovalevs Simon Hicks Lenny Fogliani Ben Ryan Stuart Lockyer

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Visit www.wacua.com.au or contact the Committee!

What you get for being a member of the WACUA:

- •A body to negotiate your match payments with the WACA
- •A friendly environment to network with umpires of all levels and different experiences
- •Quality training to improve your umpiring skills
- •A support network of umpires to help you
- •A buddy system for new members
- •An Advocate to represent you at players tribunal meetings
- •Social events for the membership
- •Discounted Membership merchandise



Life Members' Breakfast





Sunday
2nd
December
Venue:
Mantra on
Hay
Tickets

WACUA Events Calendar

2012

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 20th - Monthly Meeting

DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd - Life Members' Breakfast

Tuesday 18th – Monthly Meeting/Christmas Function

2013

JANUARY

Tuesday 15th - Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 19th - Monthly Meeting

MARCH

Tuesday 19th - Monthly Meeting

Umpire Profile: Steve O'Dea

First match umpired:

Melville v Subiaco-Floreat 3rd grade, 2006/07

First grade debut:

Willetton v Perth, 2009/10

Favourite cricketing

venue: Stevens Reserve,

Fremantle

Favourite beer: I'm not really a beer man, but if



someone puts a Hahn Superdry in my hand I will drink it. I much prefer a good quality red wine. **Favourite film:** The *Men in Black* series. Will Smith is the finest actor of his generation. **Match-day lunch:** Vegemite roll. I also have at least three coffees before the start of play – they keep me alert.

Highest individual score witnessed: Trent Ovens made 150-something for South Perth against Melville in 2nd grade a couple of years ago. Melville thought they had him out very early, but it was a great innings to watch. I like watching all the Ovens boys bat. In particular, the youngest brother Dutch is a great prospect, but for some reason stays under the covers! Umpiring Ambition: My main ambitions are threefold:

- To do as good a job as I can for the players and my colleagues in each match I stand in;
 Avoid the "can you please explain" phone call
- from Barry;
 3. To be profiled in *OVER*.

[make that two main ambitions, Steve – Ed.]



www.facebook.com/groups/wacua or search "wacua"





Dead Balls

With Reg "Dickie" Kneebone



A graduate of the Goldfields Cricket
Association's world-renowned umpiring
program, Reg "Dickie" Kneebone umpired 34
Test matches between 1975 and 1989. Since
retiring from international cricket, Reg has
established himself as the foremost world
expert on umpiring, writing several books,
including his famous 1996 autobiography, "A
Kick in the Bails". Here he contributes to
OVER as our resident "Agony Aunt".

Dickie,

What is your position on technology in cricket? Does it have a place at grassroots level?

Richard, Como

Dear Richard,

I am all for technology. I think anything that can improve decision-making has to be a good thing.

I remember an umpire I stood with in the Goldfields – "Sparky" Harris – who benefitted greatly from wearing hearing aids. His improvement was testament to the use of technology.

Dickie

Dickie,

I've recently been asked to play masters cricket. I've got a problem, though – I'm only 24 years old. How do I get through without suspicions being raised?

Ian, Bedford

Dear Ian,

Ideally, age should be no impediment to playing in a game of cricket. But, if you're concerned that the opposition will rat you out for being too young, there are a couple of things that might help.

First, try rolling up at the ground in an old Cortina with a Neil Diamond album blaring through the tape deck. Preferably, this album should be *Hot August Night*.

If this fails, and you are confronted about your lack of age, get on the defensive. Say, "Jeez, you old fart, don't get all jealous because I look good for my age!" If that doesn't work, throw the responsibility back on them:

"Come on, mate – how seriously are you taking this game? It's only masters cricket, not a Test! I suppose you'll be coming in off the long run, then?"

This last step usually works. I remember that it did in my younger days of about twenty, when I was still a mad-keen player, driving from Boulder to play in the vets all over the Goldfields.

The fact that I was bald at the age of twentyone also helped – if you're receding, you should get through without question!

Dickie

Send your questions to Dickie! Email communications.wacua@gmail.com

OVER

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