



# OVER

The Newsletter of the WA Cricket Umpires' Association

No. 1(6)

February 2013



**The editor in Hobart**

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## INSIDE EDGES

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### Spot-the-ball winner

I am pleased to announce that last month's spot-the ball winner was Ken Thorpe. Sitting on my hotel room couch in Hobart, I received a stream of correspondence from our erudite president, who basically gave me a live commentary of the meeting. After some initial confusion (namely that Dean Trigg had won), Ken was declared the winner and will no doubt be the proud recipient of the prize!

Thanks to James Hewitt for supplying the profile. He and Aron both insisted that I use the photograph on the right as Aron's likeness. Supposedly, that is how he gives batsmen out... Is it just me or is there a resemblance between this photo and our esteemed President, the Yorkshire Gringo?



### Umpire profile: Aron Downing

**1st Grade Debut:** 2012/2013 Round 4, Fremantle vs Gosnells with Todd Rann (a great bloke to make my debut with), I was very lucky because Shaun Marsh was playing in this game, although he disappeared after day 1.

**Highest Score witnessed:** Since I started umpiring the highest score I have witnessed was 149 by Angus Webster of Perth CC – swiftly followed by Simon Katich making 120 in reply. When I was playing I witnessed Rod Sammut make 221 for Melville Suburban Turf in a Grand

Final. At one point he shared a partnership of over a hundred with his uncle. His uncle made 9 of them!

**Favourite Ground:** Richo for sure, lovely ground, good facilities, always a warm welcome and I made my umpiring debut there too.

**Umpiring Ambition:** To be the best umpire I can be and to umpire somewhere in Australia, I don't mind if it's an Under 11's Girls carnival in Alice Springs (Barry, please take note). Also, to umpire on the hallowed turf of the WACA ground

**Tip for other umpires :** Get everything ready on Friday night!

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## From the President

I sincerely hope you had a great Christmas with your family and friends and had a fantastic New Year. I also hope that you all have a brilliant 2013.

We got the news from Barry that Bob Watson has decided to hang up his hat and the counter and his last outing was the first weekend on this year. It takes massive commitment to stand in over 400 WACA games, week in week out, over many years.

Bob made huge commitments off the field with our fantastic organisation, the WACUA, taking various committee roles in the past and currently acting as our treasurer. I can assure you he keeps us all in check at the committee meetings and is doing a great job looking after our finances.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Bob all the very best for the future and he will be sorely missed on the cricket field.

I mentioned we are producing a survey, and it is very important that we get your views on the organisation to see how we are travelling and what areas we can improve on for you, the members.

Please complete it so we can collate your responses and act on them to provide the membership with what it wants.

Secretary John Sherry was overseas at the time of print and as such I take the responsibility of informing on the committee's doings. In addition to turning our attention to the Olly Cooley preparations, at the recent committee meeting a situation was discussed relating to umpire welfare – it only serves to highlight the importance of being a member of the association, so that we can represent you should the need arise.

Finally, we are coming into the hottest part of the season, so please take care of your personal welfare on the field and ensure you take plenty of fluids on board during the day.

Yours in Cricket,



**Matthew Hall**  
WACUA President

2013
<u>JANUARY</u> Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Monthly Meeting
<u>FEBRUARY</u> Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Monthly Meeting
<u>MARCH</u> Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Monthly Meeting



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# JOIN THE WACUA!

Visit [www.wacua.com.au](http://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



## WACA Umpiring Coordinator's Report

Traditionally the first fixture after the Christmas-New Year break has been the hardest to make appointments for, as many umpires quite deservedly need a break with family and friends. It was very pleasing that the dreaded SUB only appeared in 4 matches in the first round of 2013. I think everyone deserves a huge thank you from WACA club land for their great support so far this season. Of course doing the appointments is only one step in the process and now on field performances are crucial. So far, overall the standard of umpiring based on captains' reports has been slightly above this stage last year, which is very pleasing. Our new umpires especially have performed extremely well. Several are already putting their names forward for promotion. The key piece of advice for everyone aspiring for higher duties is patience. There is an old saying that the longer it takes to get there, the longer you will enjoy success. As well there is the other old one about getting there is the easy bit and maintaining your position requires even greater attention to your development.

As part of this I would encourage everyone to make use of the Self Reflection form sent out previously. Those who have used it already have provided excellent information for me to provide suggestions for their development. This is taking responsibility for your own progress. Please continue to make use of the feedback opportunities available by speaking with UAB or Match Day Observers, or as many do, feel free to call me after a match to access information.

It is very pleasing to have received feedback on the performances of our two National panel umpires. Both Mick and Ian are doing very well in a very hectic part of the season. Mick enjoyed a very positive experience as the exchange umpire in NZ and I am sure this has added to his development. Nathan also had a very successful Rose Bowl Series in Sydney. All feedback indicated that he has continued to impress and we would like to think he is pushing for higher duties soon. Chris and Todd have also had the opportunity to showcase their skills on the bigger stage at the Under Age carnivals. I hope that the success of these umpires would act as an incentive for everyone to strive to be the best they can.

On a personal note I would like to thank those who have made a donation to the 'Jump to a cure' for type one diabetes. You have already contributed to me surpassing my target but it would still be great if anyone else who would like to support this great cause would still like to donate. Incidentally I will be wearing a parachute so anyone looking to take my place you will have to wait for another time.

Congratulations to Jamal as the Umpire of the Month for December based on several comments from captains about how Jamal made a positive contribution to the tone of the matches. Well done.

**Barry Rennie**  
WACA Umpiring Coordinator



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# Umpires Appointment Board News

## with Terry Prue



### Non-verbal communication

We all know the value of on-field communication (verbal or non-verbal) between umpires. It has benefits in areas such as concentration, ball counting, deciding whether or not the striker hit the ball plus a whole host of other matters which can be 'discussed' without the need for the umpires to leave their positions. It is communication between, and for, the umpires. This communication can be overt (open) or covert (subtle). Each has its place and must be used at the right time. For example signalling 'two to go' when four balls have been bowled or 'the batsman has hit it' as the ball heads towards the boundary can be done in an overt manner, although it may not be necessary. The overuse of '3, 2 and 1 to go' in an overt manner is simply unnecessary unless an event has occurred that makes a re-check wise. This overt display is not seen as 'ticking boxes'. However, if an appeal has been made a different approach is required. Players are very aware that umpires do communicate via a series of signals. For example if the striker has played at the ball and an appeal is made, the umpire at square leg should not offer his opinion (whether the ball was hit or not) in an overt manner - maybe not at all. The umpire at the bowler's end cannot 'look' to his colleague at square leg, so what can be achieved? The players will quickly realize he is unsure and work on him. It is very unsettling to have the umpire at the bowler's end saying not out when the umpire at the striker's end is overtly indicating something different as being possible. Players see this and there can be unpleasant consequences for player-umpire relations and more importantly for umpire-umpire relations. Do not be the one to 'dud' your mate: he may be the only friend you have! Recent observations would indicate that overt signalling is very common, but must be done wisely. At the December WACUA meeting James Hewitt spoke of communicating in a covert manner - a simple glance or nod may be all that is required for both umpires to come to the same view. There is clearly a place for this covert communication, not just when an appeal has been made!

### RECENT APPOINTMENTS

#### KFC Big Bash

- 27 Dec Strikers v Stars  
Geoff Joshua, **Ian Lock** and **Mick Martell** (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 29 Dec Scorchers v Renegades  
Geoff Joshua, **Mick Martell** and **Ian Lock** (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 3 Jan Heat v Stars  
**Ian Lock**, **Mick Martell** and Geoff Joshua (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 5 Jan Hurricanes v Strikers  
Geoff Joshua, **Ian Lock** and **Mick Martell** (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 8 Jan Stars v Thunder  
Geoff Joshua, **Mick Martell** and **Ian Lock** (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 10 Jan Strikers v Scorchers  
**Mick Martell**, Paul Wilson and Sam Nogajski (3<sup>rd</sup>)

*'One high-ranking current player told me recently that the only thing wrong with umpires is that they see themselves as an important part of the game' - Tim Watson, 2003*

**Terry Prue**  
**UAB Chairman**



# Learnings from Hobart

*An account of the National Under-17s Championships*  
by Chris McCann

*Above: standing in the Victoria v New South Wales match at University Oval*

This past December, I was fortunate to officiate at the Under-17 National Championships held in Hobart. Having been previously, I was looking forward to the challenge of the championships with the added plus of being familiar with the city and the tournament environment. As a result, aside from learning a huge amount about umpiring, cricket and life in general, I was able to take in a great deal of the city of Hobart during the two weeks there.

To adequately describe the experience, I felt that I ought to pay as much attention to my surroundings as possible; as such, I have attempted to distil the learning and experience of the Championships' fortnight by narrating a diary of sorts, broken into each day or days. Also, I have focused on the learning opportunities presented to me in each match, rather than simply a run-down of the game's action; after all, cricket is a game that can be vividly imagined through simply looking at a scorecard.

I arrived on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, a day clear of the start, due to the distance covered and time zones crossed. My first night was without luggage, for a delayed entry into Melbourne meant that I snuck onto the connection to Hobart while my bag spent a restful night at Tullamarine. QANTAS did provide a most excellent overnight pack – with the bag for which I now use to store valuables!

The night before the start of the matches,

all eight umpires met with Denis Burns and the tournament officials to go through playing conditions and other particulars of the fortnight. After we had all settled in, the group decamped to Hog's Breath for a piece of cardboard and fries, which gave us an excellent chance to get to know each other before day one.

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**10<sup>th</sup> December, Round 1:**  
**Queensland v South Australia**  
**King George V Oval, Glenorchy (50-over match)**  
**Queensland 1-106 (22.3 overs) defeated SA 103 all out (48.5 overs)**  
**Stood with Jayvan Ruddick-Collins (QLD)**

"KG Five", as it is affectionately known, sits in the northern suburbs of Hobart in a basin that is near equidistant from the base of Mt. Wellington and the Derwent River. Having previously umpired here on two cloudy and windswept days, it was a delight to arrive on the most majestically clear and sunny morning, to take in the picturesque ground in all its glory. The mountain almost casts watch over the emerald field, and on this day the sky of blue seemed to stretch infinitely. Every detail could be seen on the mountain, and the air was clear and crisp; the sound occasional horn of the nearby train seemed

to be emanating from a source a great deal closer, but lingering only momentarily to continue its path to expire in the surrounds, captured in the crags and hollows of the mountain.

It is a task in itself to describe the beauty of playing cricket in Hobart. All the grounds in the city have their similar charms; most have views of Mt. Wellington, and those that do not have their own beauty as a result of some other striking landmark. The colours that can be taken in at the grounds are limited to a few hues, usually greens, blues and browns – but the full gamut of each is on vivid display, and each shade therein is further dependent on the inclination of the sun at a given moment. Even when the sky is laden with cloud, the full spectrum of blacks, whites and greys is evident.

Despite the majestic weather, the game itself was a damp squib – all over at about a quarter to three in the afternoon, as Queensland thrashed South Australia inside 25 overs to achieve a double bonus point win. The game itself was very straightforward, with nothing other than the enormous six that scored the winning runs to remark upon.

The early finish did allow a still somewhat jetlagged author to return to the hotel and make a much-appreciated trip to the land of nod, which was reinvigorating and allowed a good amount of freshness to return.

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*Below: King George V Oval on the morning of the first day's play*



**11<sup>th</sup> December, Round 2: New South Wales v South Australia**  
**Ferguson Park, Pontville (50-over match)**  
**NSW 6-285 (50 overs) defeated SA 231 all out (48 overs)**  
**Stood with Ben Treloar (NSW)**

Ferguson Park is just between the towns of Brighton and Pontville, about a 40-minute drive from the city. I'd stood here previously, and so remembered the little subtleties of the venue, such as the fact that one has to walk to a separate pavilion for lunch. The ground is a picture-postcard: just to the north is an expansive vale, for me reminiscent in many ways of the south-west of our own State; and to the south a golden-brown hillside which aches to be a mountain, but perhaps isn't quite so large as to be considered so.

On this day we had the privilege of using the Duke balls, which were being trialled at the championships; the white Duke swung a great deal early but stopped moving thereafter, and there was too much moisture in the outfield for any reverse swing to occur. But the seam on the Duke is very proud, and it retains its colour extremely well, which made it more than durable enough for this match.

Tasmania's climate often mirrors that of the Antarctic, particularly under heavy cloud cover; it is true that when the wind gets up, it gets pretty darn cold. But the trap for young players is that when the sun breaks through the clouds, or the clouds are entirely absent, it gets *hot*. Not the

baking, relentless radiance of Perth or Adelaide – it is a singeing, almost conductive heat, as if someone is directly applying a heat source to one's skin. At this same venue last year on a similarly sunny day, I made the terrible error of not re-applying sunscreen and ending up looking like a radish. Thankfully, I didn't make the same mistake again, but out at Pontville, the ground is somewhat sheltered from the southerly breeze by the aforementioned hill; as a result, this ground does become quite warm in the afternoon.

The teamwork between Ben and I became crucial as the temperature peaked early in the afternoon. About five overs into the second innings, I began to drift ever so slightly, which was evident in the fact that I momentarily miscounted. With 45 overs still remaining and the sun bearing down, keeping concentration was vital, and the help of my teammate got my focus back on track immediately. It is important to consider: what can I do that will help my mate and I make the best decisions we can possibly make? Something as simple as re-checking the over count, or making eye contact or a thumbs-up can be a piece of valuable teamwork.

As a matter of fact, the sense of teamwork within the group of eight umpires was extremely strong. Not only were we four teams of two on match day, but a single team of eight off the field of play. This was well reflected in two ways. Firstly, our preparation was extremely thorough

*Below: the author in action in the Victoria v New South Wales match. To the left of picture is the south-western end, and the Centenary Building*



**Above:** The Championship Umpires. Back row, L-R: The author, Simon Burns (TAS), Jeremy Sten (NT), Mark Ferris (ACT), Cain Kemp (SA); Front row, L-R: Jayvan Ruddick-Collins (QLD), Phil Gillespie (VIC), Ben Treloar (NSW)

as a collective. The night before the first one-day match, and again before the first two-day match, we met for over an hour to go through the playing conditions; this was in addition to nightly meetings at which we would discuss bowlers, teams and other pertinent match issues so that all eventualities were covered and nothing was a surprise during the matches. Secondly, when it came time to relax, we were still a team – dinner each night was something to look forward to, and the atmosphere was always a jovial one. By the same token, I think we all appreciated individual needs; on two of the rest days, when the professional development sessions had ended and the afternoon was free, we briefly went our separate ways. Part of being a team is not solely bonding with the other members through frequent contact; it's also about understanding when people need their space, or simply need to relax in a less strenuous environment. In this way, we struck an excellent balance where the spirit was always upbeat.

### 12<sup>th</sup> December: Rest day

Three rest days intersected the matches: one after the completion of the two-one day matches, and one each between the two-day matches. On two of these days, Denis Burns facilitated extremely edifying and thought-provoking



professional development sessions. Much of the focus was around preparation – leaving no stone unturned so that nothing is a surprise when the first ball is bowled. Part of this involved the use of teamwork in preparation, and utilising all possible resources and strategies for preparing oneself for a match or a tournament.

The day was completed by a trip to Kingston to watch a local T20 match: Kingborough, the home side, were thrashed by a strong University side including Tim Paine, Jason Krejza and Ben Laughlin.



*Above: The Kingston Twin Ovals ground in perfect condition for the Kingborough v University game*

### **13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, Round 3: Victoria v New South Wales**

#### **University Oval, Sandy Bay (2-day match)**

**Victoria 159 & 8-162; NSW 123 (VIC won 1<sup>st</sup> inns)**

#### **Stood with Simon Burns (TAS)**

The two-day matches began on the first overcast day of the championships, though no more than spits of rain were felt on either of the days of this game. The University ground is a typical varsity cricket ground, a patch of green enveloped by campus buildings, and despite the holidays, students occasionally drift casually past the boundary as if the match was such a usual thing as to pay it no notice. The towering Centenary Building looms over the bowler's end at the southwestern end, for the wicket does not face true north-south. At the opposite end is a wonderful vista of the Derwent and hills beyond, with a yacht club in the foreground. This venue provided two learning opportunities before a ball was even bowled.

Even from a distance, the pitch was clearly going to play inconsistently. Plate cracks speckled

the surface. Some of the plates were so loose that simply placing one's fingertips on the surface and moving the hand would make the plate shake. For the most part, the pitch played as it appeared, which meant Simon and I had to be concentrating fully, for at times there would be several appeals in an over – and most overs contained at least one.

Also, before the match, we realised that the return creases at one end had been quite obviously marked too wide; upon measurement, they were closer to ten feet apart, rather than 8'8". Thankfully, the groundsman had green paint and was able to cover those lines, and remark the creases correctly.

The lesson with this pitch was that when inspecting the wicket, you must be totally cognizant of all necessary points of inspection. Be detailed and thorough: are the creases marked correctly? Touch the surface with your hands – is there surface moisture? How firm is the pitch? Will it break up? All of this can be enormously beneficial in preparing the umpire for all eventualities when play commences, and can be ascertained at the pre-match inspection.

This was a low-scoring thriller, replete with an intensity between the sides bordering on enmity. Indeed, over the course of the two days, Simon and I were required to call our player management skills to use on a number of occasions, as the game



*Left: University Oval, seen facing north-east*

became heated as the margin between the scores narrowed.

Teamwork was a key at one particular stage: a run out appeal that required consultation regarding whether the ball crossed the boundary as the batsmen were completing their second run. The non-striker was well out of his ground at the bowler's end, sent back after attempting a third. After consulting each other and the fielder in question, I gave the batsman out.

### **15<sup>th</sup> December: Rest day**

Today was a complete rest day with a visit to the Test match – arriving after lunch because of morning rain, we managed to catch about three hours' play. Bellerive is a lovely cricket ground that is not done justice by television pictures. There is a certain atmosphere that is only evident at the ground.

### **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, Round 4: Victoria v Queensland Kingston Twin Ovals, Kingston Victoria 184 & 2-150; Queensland 170 (VIC won 1<sup>st</sup> inns) Stood with Phil Gillespie (VIC)**

The Kingston Twin Ovals are a custom-built facility in the eponymous suburb, about fifteen minutes south of the Hobart centre – and a majestic facility at that, with state-of-the-art clubrooms and change rooms, and a first-class playing surface. The billiard-table outfield sits over a firm base – as with all the grounds – and the pitch is a beautiful sight. It otherwise should be in the centre of the WACA or 'Gabba; hard,

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*Below: Bellerive Oval during the Test match*



perfectly evenly, virescently grassed. From the clubrooms atop the hill is a commanding view of the wider, estuarial southern part of the river, seen through a chute-like valley. A six hit over the fence on the eastern side is irretrievable, lost down a steep embankment.

We arrived at the ground expecting inclement weather for the first time in the championships. We made sure we had every base covered in the eventuality of rain – we were conversant in the playing conditions and met the groundsman as soon as we arrived. This was important, for his local knowledge was excellent and greatly assisted us when there was some rain – he told us, and it was true, that when he was pacing about outside his shed in his jacket, it was about to bucket down! About an hour was lost on the second day, though a lot of drizzle was played through, and adding time to the scheduled close could make up all of the lost time.

While we were prepared for the rain, and we knew it could get cold in Hobart, I think these were the coldest two days I have ever spent on a cricket field. The wind was howling straight off Antarctica at a speed sufficient to require us to wear caps during the last session on the first day. I was happy to continue wearing my white hat – but after Phil lost both his hat and sunglasses to the wind (and had it not been for the fence, lost to the ether), I reluctantly changed into the caps. I was wearing three thick layers, and another two wouldn't have sufficed. At drinks, there were exoduses of players dashing to the pavilion to utilise the facilities, and Phil and I decided that whichever one of us was closer to the pavilion would have the first opportunity to do the same. Faces were frostbitten, and a pair of woollen gloves certainly wouldn't have gone astray.

We used Duke balls again for this match, though this time obviously of the red variety. They appear to retain their condition longer than the Kookaburras, but the lush outfield of the Kingston Twins may have had something to do with that. At the end of 80 overs, the balls had about as much wear as a 30- or 40-over old ball. It would be interesting to see how the balls performed on a pitch and outfield far more abrasive than what was seen in this match.

### **17<sup>th</sup> December: Rest day**

I took advantage of the free afternoon following the conclusion of the professional development to make

the journey to the top of Mt. Wellington alongside Cain Kemp. The weather was a little dicey – but was patchy enough that we were still afforded unbelievable views of the city below when a break in the cloud came. I imagined that on a clear day, one might be able to see for eternity to the east and south; it truly is a wonderful view, and the drive up the mountain is beautiful. My only advice to someone making the journey for the first time would be to dress for winter – it's easily ten degrees colder at the summit!

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, Round 5: Northern Territory v Tasmania**  
**TCA Ground, Queens Domain (2-day match)**  
**NT 163 & 4-178 (dec.); Tasmania 166 & 8-176**  
**(TAS won outright)**  
**Stood with Cain Kemp (SA)**

Didn't this game turn out to be a thriller! It had it all – wickets, runs, tension; even the first innings result was decided by a single ball, as Tasmania passed the target nine down and then were bowled out very next ball. Northern Territory then came out all guns blazing and set Tassie 176 in 37 overs, which they achieved with only one delivery left unbowled.

All of this unfolded at the beautiful and

historic Tasmanian Cricket Association (TCA) Ground in Queens Domain. One arrives at the pavilion and immediately is surrounded by over 130 years of history, manifest in every inch of the building, the grandstands and the playing surface. First-class cricket was played at the TCA for over a hundred years, and a one-day international was played there in 1985 between Sri Lanka and the West Indies. Sir Donald Bradman once graced the halls of the pavilion and took guard on the wicket; the North Hobart Cricket Club, which calls the place home, has been the breeding ground of many a first-class player.

To the west is arguably one of the finer views of Mt. Wellington from any of the grounds in the city, and to the east runs the Derwent, with the hills of Lindisfarne visible beyond. The fact that the ground sits on the top of a hill, with clear views of the surrounds, means that there is some assistance in judging the oncoming weather. Most of the rain in Hobart comes from the northwest; when the mountain is obscured, rain is on the way, and the amount of obstruction of the view tells of the heaviness of the shower.

In this particular match, after a late start, we went off for rain only once; perhaps we were

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*Below: Westerly from the center of the TCA Ground*



lucky, as at one stage the mountain was invisible to the west and the Lindisfarne hills were obscured to the east because of widespread showers. Somehow, at Queens Domain we were only getting sprinkles.

One of the nuances of the ground is that the wicket block is raised significantly. At the northern end, this is less pronounced as the outfield slopes very slightly up that way; but at the pavilion end, the rise is very noticeable. It takes a good few deliveries to get one's eye in when standing at that end, because the ball is being released from the bowler's hand almost a foot higher than it normally would. Again, this places value on a thorough inspection of the pitch before the game – once deciding on the end you are standing at, go and stand behind the stumps. What is the visibility like – is there a rise in the block? Are there any markings on the pitch that may assist in judging line, such as a crack or a change in colour? If there is a rise in the block, will you be able to see a low catch carry to the 'keeper, or will it be obscured? All of these things can prove valuable at some stage in the match.



*Above: Looking towards the historic pavilion from the middle of the TCA Ground*

And so the fortnight came to an end, but not before a thoroughly enjoyable final umpires' dinner and drinks along Salamanca Place. A development session on the Friday morning was the end of formalities, and left us with many lasting thoughts on a wide variety of areas such as goal-setting and overcoming setbacks. Denis Burns, Cricket Australia's Umpire Educator, was fantastic in organizing and facilitating the sessions, as well as a number of other facets of the championships for the umpires. Each one of us was richer for the experience, not only from the cricket we saw and what we learned, but from being part of the overall vibrant scene of the city and surrounds. It really was a fantastic, enjoyable two weeks. ■

*Clockwise from below: The historic TCA pavilion; the author in action at TCA, with the hills of Lindisfarne behind; the view from the top of Mt. Wellington*

Many thanks to Will Braid of Cricket Tasmania for supplying some of the images seen herein, namely: left and right below, and on pages 1, 6 and 8.



## 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'S NEWSFLASH***

#### **Editor equals record for most appearances in own publication**

OVER's editor, Chris McCann, has equalled his own record for most pictorial appearances in the WACUA's monthly magazine.

The previous record stood at six appearances, and this month the same mark was reached. But not all were satisfied.

“How did I only appear six times?” said the editor when approached for comment. “There are seven pages about me going to Hobart and I only appear six times in the whole magazine? It's an outrage.”

Word on the street is that he will be striving to shatter this record in next month's edition – although a consortium of cricket photographers is planning to flood the editorial offices with pictures of other umpires.

*Dickie,*

*Aakash Chopra recently wrote an article on Cricinfo in which he said the no-ball free hit should be removed from one-day cricket. Your thoughts?*

*Anthony,  
Mukinbudin*

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Dear Anthony,

Firstly, I am thrilled that we have a country reader. I will forever be indebted to my country upbringing for aiding my cricketing development.

Regarding your question, I agree partly with Chopra's assertion. I must say that I would have loved free hits in my Goldfield playing days; many times I was in such good form with the bat that bowlers would deliberately bowl from 18 yards to scare me – if I'd had a free hit next ball, I could have shown them what's what. As it was, I had to settle with drinking them under the table at the bar afterwards.

Yes, I agree partly with Chopra's assertion. I think that the free hit can sometimes skew the balance to the batsman, but I like the concept. So I would change one thing.

I would force the batsman to nominate where he will hit the ball, such as in pub billiards. He must nominate an area of the ground to hit the ball to, and if he succeeds in hitting it there, then the free hit stands. But, if he fails, then the ball is legitimate and he should be liable to be out as under normal circumstances.

Now, wouldn't that be fun, and add some drama to the free hit!

Dickie

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*Send your questions to Dickie! Email  
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# OVER

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