



OVER

The Newsletter of the WA Cricket Umpires' Association

No. 1(5)

January 2013

2012/13 Life Members' Breakfast



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INSIDE EDGES

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From the Comms Desk

Half the season has now gone and so comes the fifth edition of *OVER*. This edition comes just before Christmas and looks forward to January, and the warm months ahead.

This particular edition is somewhat lighter than first planned, but owing to the learned editor being out of town in the days leading up to the normal publishing date, composition and compilation of material has been somewhat rushed. This edition was indeed finalised in the fine city of Hobart, where the pictures at right were taken. Alas, no umpire profile will be in this edition owing to a shortage of time, to be made up for next month. However, you will find within these pages a wondrous new addition – a ‘spot-the-ball’ competition with a prize. See page 9 for details.

Next month, expect to see reports on a number of umpires’ interstate trips, including James Hewitt’s Australian Police Championships expedition and Nathan Johnstone’s experiences in the Rose Bowl women’s ODI series.

Merry Christmas and happy reading.



Above: Hobart's 2012 test. Below: University Oval, Hobart



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From the President

With Christmas upon us, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what the WACUA has achieved this season as we continue to strive to ensure the organisation has a sense of purpose and relevance for you – the members.

We have 53 members – an increase on previous years – and with that we have witnessed increased attendance and participation at the WACUA general meetings. The feedback we have received in general is very positive.

We continue host joint meetings with Barrie Rennie, the WACA Umpiring Coordinator, to deliver training and development during the season so as to aid the continuous improvement of umpiring in the WACA competition.

This started in September with former National Panel umpire Andrew Craig giving us a session on ground weather and light. So far this season we have had to use his wise words much more than we may have anticipated.

October saw a presentation by Jeff Brookes on the importance of building solid processes for our umpiring, and most recently Andy Oram gave us a coach's perspective on the important

role we play in the game as officials. Andy discussed our presentation and non-verbal communication being very important elements of umpiring. December's meeting will see Jeff Brookes deliver a session on the importance of building relationships and rapport with the captains and players.

Chris McCann has done a fantastic job as communications manager and the editor of *OVER*. I would like to thank Mick Martell for his continuing sponsorship, which enables us to supply the members with WACUA merchandise.

We will shortly be sending out a mid-season questionnaire, seeking your honest feedback on our progress so far this year, and the association's future directions.

Finally, I wish all the members and their families a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy the festive season and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

Yours in Cricket,

Matthew Hall
WACUA President



Committee Report

As we head into Christmas, it is time to reflect on the season so far. As the Perth weather has mirrored that of Scotland at times, we have all had to test our skills in dealing with ground weather and light.

The committee has been busy, and I believe successful, in revitalising General Meetings and membership. I have enjoyed all the meetings so far and have learned a lot. Having the experience of people such as Jeff Brookes and Andrew Craig on tap is a huge plus for our organisation.

Membership currently stands at a healthy 53 and our funds are a very healthy \$13000. We have to thank Mick Martell and KMPG for their sponsorship and merchandise which has been very popular. It is good to turn up at grounds and see my fellow umpires looking very professional in their polo shirt, caps and carrying the excellent WACUA bags.

It is the committee's aim to build on these successes and to make the WACUA an organisation which all umpires would want to be a member of and one that enhances the enjoyment of umpiring.

From my own point of view, the year so far has highlighted the camaraderie of the umpiring family. In particular I appreciated the numerous messages I received in congratulating me on my first grade debut, which gave me a huge lift.

I also made my debut in Sunday League and 20/20 which I found very enjoyable. It did however, teach me something that all can draw from: that reaching a new grade is just beginning and if one wants to remain or advance at that level then the hard work must continue.

In my case, for someone who started umpiring at 4th Grade with very little experience of playing cricket, it proves that if you are dedicated and put in the effort you can achieve a standard of umpiring that allows you to be considered for first grade.

In 2013 we have the Olly Cooley Medal Night to look forward to. Keep those votes coming in and have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Sherry
WACUA Secretary



WACA Umpiring Coordinator's Report

It's hard to believe that it is nearly six months since we first got together to prepare for the new season, when here we are at the half way mark.

It has been great to have welcomed several new umpires who have all performed admirably.

Probably the most dominating factor in the season so far has been the intervention of the weather. This has only served to emphasise just how important it is for all of us to be fully conversant with playing conditions.

Numbers have once again been an issue with many matches having only one umpire. As I have reiterated many times, we hope that as many umpires as possible commit themselves to being available for most or all matches. As we approach the holiday period it would be great if everyone made as much effort as possible to commit his or her Saturdays to umpiring. The pressure placed on umpires standing on their own is great and I have the highest respect for those who have had to stand alone on several occasions.

Overall the captains feedback assessments have been marginally higher in scores this season than last, which is very pleasing.

I am also heartened by the steady improvement in attendance at WACUA training sessions. These should be seen to be a vital component in your umpiring development. All umpires must recognise that they are part of the peak cricket competition in WA cricket and as such should make consistent effort to improve and ultimately be the best they can. We should have the same philosophy as the elite players and that is to be responsible for constantly identifying areas for improvement and, putting in place strategies to improve.

Have a very enjoyable and safe Christmas and let's see everyone back ready to go early in the new year.

Barry Rennie
WACA Umpiring
Coordinator



November WACUA meeting

November's meeting saw Wanneroo's premiers-ship-winning coach and former first class player Andy Oram address the group. Andy shared his views on the importance of umpires to cricket on the whole and a few anecdotes from his first-class cricket career. Be sure to hear each month's guest speaker at the meetings at Tatt's; Jeff Brookes will be addressing the group this December at the Christmas meeting.



Umpires Appointment Board News

with Terry Prue



Responsibility

Responsibility can be taken as 'A duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone, or created by one's own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfil, and which has a consequent penalty for failure'.

In accepting the badge to be the umpire, the individual agrees to take on all responsibilities that go with the badge. That list of responsibilities is probably endless but includes: physical and mental preparedness, responsibility to the WACA, responsibility to colleague/s, and to control the game as required by the Laws, with *absolute impartiality*. The items in this list are what we should expect of ourselves as umpires, as well as what the game and players expect of us.

Social acquaintances, work colleagues, relations are all to be treated in exactly the same manner. A player who was particularly friendly in a second grade match that you were officiating in may not want to show those same emotions when he sees you in first grade! Be able to adjust your approach.

Umpires have always been advised not to instigate conversation. This does not mean you cannot acknowledge each other or indeed have that conversation. It is a bit like a comment at the recent seminar when the guest (basketball referee) suggested choosing an ally in defusing potential problems. You need to know your target. This will not be easy if you are operating in a new environment!

'We all make mistakes – that's why you have a rubber on the end of your pencil' – Billy Connolly

Terry Prue
UAB Chairman

RECENT AND UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS

7 Dec WT20 WA v SA
Matthew Hall and Trent Steenholdt

8 Dec WNCL WA v SA
Matthew Hall and Dean Trigg

9 Dec WT20 WA v SA
Matthew Hall and Dean Trigg

U17 Male Championships
Chris McCann

Women's ODI Series (4 matches)
Australia v New Zealand
Panel: **Nathan Johnstone**, Bruce Oxenford and Richard Patterson

Wed 12th SCG
Nathan Johnstone and Bruce Oxenford

Mon 17th North Sydney Oval
Nathan Johnstone and Bruce Oxenford

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Feature

High Teas

Fresh off the heels of a coffee extravaganza, Culinary Editor Chris McCann and Dickie Kneebone take a look at the tantalizing teas of district cricket

A topic of much discussion amongst district cricket umpires is definitely the afternoon teas offered by the clubs. Consider it done that an umpire will spread the word as to the quality of a given tea when it is encountered; thus, some venues begin to gain a reputation for teas of the best (or worst) fare. But hearsay really ought not to be the gold standard of teatime fare; and so, the culinary staff at *OVER* decided to catalogue the teas of district cricket.

The original plan was to present a list of the top five or ten teas; the washed out first day of round 5 put paid to that. And so, the culinary editor will go venue-by-venue in his assessments based on the grounds that he has visited this year. But first, umpiring legend and noted gastronome Dickie Kneebone discusses what makes a good teatime spread.

Dickie's guide to a good tea

Cricket is a game that still carries the centuries of tradition of its creators – the English. And nothing is more English than a good afternoon tea. It is indeed the case that the tea break is one of the great institutions of the game, so valued that it occurs in all levels of cricket.

But what makes a good tea? A number of things must be remembered when preparing one, whether it is a well-staffed kitchen in a first-class match or the eleven ruffians fighting over who will bring the biggest packet of Tim Tams to a ninth grade suburban game.

The first is that tea has been adapted slightly to reflect the Australian climes and attitudes. As such, a number of typically Australian foods may be included; a small few are utterly obligatory, such as the humble meat party pie. Pies, and sausage rolls, should be served in abundance, with a large saucer of tomato sauce.

One thing that all tea-making staff must bear in mind is that when party pies and sausage rolls are removed from the oven, they are invariably piping hot. Therefore, they must be cooked and removed *before* any other items are placed on the tea table. There is nothing worse



Which of these items would Dickie include in his ideal tea?

than taking a bite from a molten pie, and suffering second-degree burns by scalding hot gravy dripping onto one's hands. This is in addition to the loss of one's taste buds in attempting to consume the entire pie too hastily.

That said, pies and other pastries should never be eschewed. Pies and sausage rolls are an essential element of a great Australian cricket tea.

There must always be fruit on a tea table. Not only is fruit nutritious and cooling on a hot day, but it also provides variety to the pastries and cakes that tend to dominate tea tables. However, there are a few things that must be borne in mind when preparing a fruit platter. Firstly, a platter entirely dominated by rock melon is depressing; similarly, while watermelon can be cooling, too much of it is just dull. Apple and banana slices should be avoided as both spoil easily. Some fruit should only be presented if it is ripe; for example, there is nothing worse than an unripe piece of kiwifruit that is sour and has a rock-hard core. Pineapple should be avoided at all costs, whether ripe or not.

A well-prepared tea table always includes scones. Yes, some may object, but to me it is the most quintessential part of the tea menu. Tea and scones! – how English, how *cricket*? There is only one way to serve scones; lashings of cream and strawberry jam. Not only does this mitigate the chance that the scones are a touch dry, but strawberries and cream is one of the most noble and delicious flavour combinations available.

Novelty items are always a treat for cricketers and umpires. For example, small squares of pizza often disappear before hungry cricketers; footy franks are a personal favourite of mine, particularly when lathered in rich red tomato sauce and handled via a toothpick; a bowl of lollies is always welcome.

But the main thing to remember with a good Aussie cricket tea is variety. One should be

able to load one's plate with at least five different appetising things; this also caters for the diverse range of tastes in the various persons present at the tea. One should be able to stand back from the table and have difficulty in making their first selections through being spoiled for choice.

The Culinary Editor's Assessments

Now that Dickie has given us an explanation of what truly makes a good tea, let's see how some of the venues stack up. It's fair to say that it is often difficult to find a *bad* tea – just items here or there. In fact, Dickie's right – as long as there are pies and sausage rolls, it's an acceptable tea. Let's have a look at a few venues and what they have offered this year.

Sutherlands Park (Gosnells)

The first thing that must be mentioned about Sutherlands Park is the lunchtime fare. Granted, this falls outside of the 4.10-4.30pm window that clearly defines tea; but the wonderful lunches that are supplied to the top grade players and umpires are appreciated by all. It is a measure of the spirit of Gosnells that their volunteers work together to provide such a welcome service to visitors.

The teas at Sutherlands are also of a high standard. While the lunch leaves tea with a lot to live up to, there is nonetheless an excellent spread that satiates sufficiently.

HIGHLIGHTS: Scones, of the plain and creamed varieties; footy franks; pikelets

Burrendah Reserve (Willetton)

The Willetton boys have wrested control of the facilities at Burrendah this year, and the hospitality has been excellent. The unity and spirit that is expressed by the facilitation of a good tea, and the bar that is now open at the ground, is clearly evident at the club. And the contents of the spread were very good when I was last there – most memorably was the combination of samosas and spring rolls alongside the old favourites of pies and sausage rolls.

HIGHLIGHTS: Spring rolls and samosas; good fruit spread

Stevens Reserve (Fremantle)

Teas at Fremantle have come storming back after an unfortunate hiatus at the beginning of the 2011/12 season. When teas returned to Stevens Reserve, their standard remained very high. I happened to be at Stevens on a stinking hot 40-degree day last year; tea, while still having the usual pastries and such, was notable for the steady and unceasing supply of icy-poles. The spread is very good, with many varieties of pastry and a good fruit platter.

HIGHLIGHTS: Icy poles on hot days; abundance of pastries and spring rolls

Lark Hill (Rockingham-Mandurah)

One of the finest teas I have experienced in recent times. The highlight was unquestionably the little jelly slices that were on the table on the first afternoon. These consisted of a biscuit base, a lemon curd, and all covered by a layer of deliciously cool strawberry jelly. Outstanding. Somehow, the players ignored them – perhaps they were skeptical of the slices. On the second day, the most exceptional scones replaced the slice; the scones were thick and texturally superb, crisp on the outer and soft on the inner, and were topped by more than generous amounts of cream and strawberry jam – delicious.

HIGHLIGHTS: Scones; jelly slice; footy franks, slowly steamed to perfection

Wildcard: Richardson Park (South Perth)

While I haven't been at Richo for a two-day match this season, I am reliably informed that the tea, which I am about to describe, is similar this year. Last year, the tea at Richardson was of an exceptional standard. A wonderful variety of foods – pies, sausage rolls, cakes, fruit, biscuits – but there were two clear standouts. Firstly, a large bowl of lollies was great (although it disappeared quickly!); and secondly, the star of the show was the selection of Milo chocolate yoghurt cups. These cups were brilliant – little yoghurt-style, almost pudding-like desserts, that were not only served beautifully chilled, but texturally provided a diversion that piqued and thrilled.

HIGHLIGHTS: Milo cups; lollies



2012 Life Members' Breakfast

by Todd Rann

On December 2nd, the annual WACUA Life Members' Breakfast was held at the Mantra on Hay in East Perth. The event, traditionally held on the Sunday of the test match, is in honour of Life Members who have given outstanding service to the WACUA and cricket in WA. It was fantastic to see Don Weser, Bob Watson, Terry Prue, Peter McConnell, Clem Gannon, Bill Reynolds, Tom Polich and Graeme Bibby in attendance.

After a sumptuous buffet breakfast that included cereal, fruit, bacon, sausages and eggs, President Matthew Hall presented each of Bob, Tom and Graeme with his long overdue Life Member's badge.

Tom was then seconded to his primary and rather enviable duty for the day – chauffeuring the Test umpires from their hotel to the WACA ground for the day's play! Being surrounded by

Below: from left – Clem Gannon, Terry Prue, Graeme Bibby, Bob Watson, Peter McConnell, Don Weser and Bill Reynolds. Present previously, but having just left, was Tom Polich.



Above: Life member Bill Reynolds addresses the attendees

umpires with international experienced allowed us to sit back and listen to stories of past glories – Peter telling about the fastest spell of bowling he ever saw (Malcolm Marshall at the WACA), Terry reminiscing about the time he asked Curtly Ambrose to remove his wristbands (as requested by a sorry and soon to be dismissed Dean Jones) or Don remembering 'that ball' – Trevor Chappell's underarm delivery at the MCG in 1981. We could have stayed all day but unfortunately the day was slipping away, and for many a migration down the road towards the WACA was imminent.

The breakfast offered an excellent opportunity to benefit from the experience and wisdom of our association's life members. The morning was an enormous success and I encourage all members to put this in your diary for next year as it coincides with an Ashes test – and there are probably a few stories yet to be told!

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or contact the
Committee!

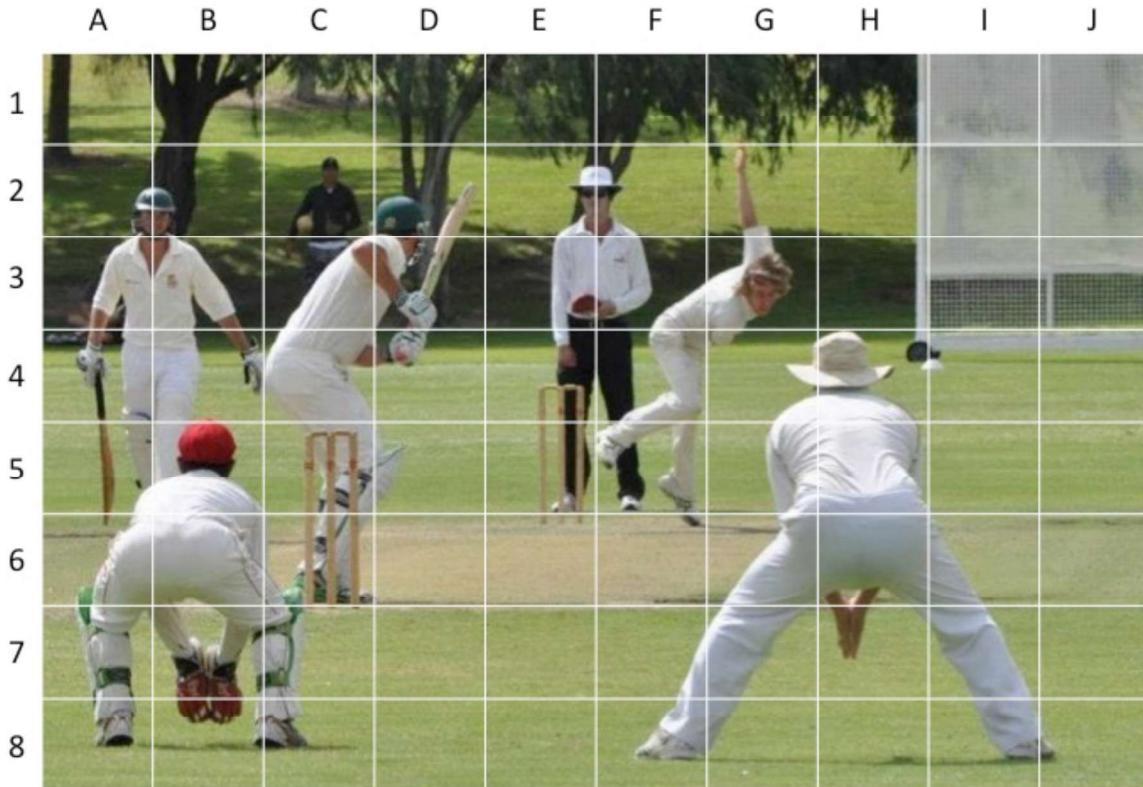
What you get for being a member of the WACUA:

- 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



Competition: Spot the Ball

The ball has been removed from the picture below. Can you locate it? There's a prize up for grabs if you can spot it! To enter, be at the monthly meeting on the evening that *OVER* is published, and fill in the entry form! Winners will be announced the following week on the WACUA website, and published in the following month's *OVER*.



WACUA Events Calendar 2012/13

2013

JANUARY

Tuesday 15th – Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 19th – Monthly Meeting

MARCH

Tuesday 19th – Monthly Meeting

SPOT THE BALL CONDITIONS AND INFO

This month's prize is:

- a bottle of Chapman Grove 2008 Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon (Halliday 93 pts) [*a very lovely, very drinkable drop – Ed.*]

or

- for non-drinkers, the value thereof (\$25)

Remember, to win the prize, you have to be at the WACUA General Meeting that month!

In the event of more than one correct entry, the correct entries will be drawn from a hat – the first drawn correct entry will be the winner.



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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 VOX POP

Question: What is your biggest teatime bugbear?

Bill, 46, Subiaco: "When spectators don't wait until the players and umpires have eaten before diving in themselves."

Robert, 25, Canning Vale: "I play lower grades, so we supply our own teas, and I hate it when everyone decides to bring lamingtons, or jam scrolls. They're so dull!"

Andy, 33, South Fremantle: "When the guys in the other grade get off the park before us and don't wait for us before starting. Poor form."

Dickie,

Who was the most fearsome fast bowler you ever saw, and why?

*Jonathon,
Mt. Pleasant*

Dear Jonathon,

I was asked a few months ago about my favourite batsman, and I think your question has really complemented that particular column.

Much like in the case of the batsman, the most fearsome fast bowler I ever saw wasn't Lillee or Marshall; not Holding nor Donald, nor even a rogue like Merv Hughes. The most fearsome fast bowler I ever umpired was a Kalgoorlie local – Jack McMaster.

Old "Four-ears" Jack didn't have the size of a Curtley Ambrose, or the speed of Thompson. So why was he so fearsome? What he had over any other bowler I saw was an intimate knowledge of the classics.

After delivering the ball, Jack would follow through down to the batsman and stare, flaring his nostrils, steam shooting from his ears. Then he would recite poetry.

The catch was that he would recite the poem, then attribute it to the incorrect author. If the batsman knew his poetry, then more often than not he would be so peeved at this misattribution that he would invariably lose concentration. If the batsman was not bookish, then the whole premise would confuse the daylight out of him.

And that's why you should always read the classics.

Dickie

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

OVER

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