



OVER

The Newsletter of the WA Cricket Umpires' Association

No. 1(1)

September 2012

Welcome to *OVER* – the newsletter of the WACUA

Reader – you may recognise the title of this publication as of that previously written monthly by Barry Rennie. With Barry's hearty assent, the WACUA is now responsible for authorship of this learned tome. This will allow the Association to provide a great service to its members with updates on the latest news, events and training – you will find these and more within this edition.

I very much look forward to compiling and editing the magazine; submissions of content from members are more than welcome. In my later correspondence within this edition from my position as Communications Manager, you will note I touch on this subject again – do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the Committee should you wish to contribute to *OVER*.

I would like to take this opportunity to also mention the members' survey which is currently available both in hard copy and online – have your say on what you would like included in the WACUA experience of 2012/13.

Happy reading!



Chris McCann – Editor

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From the President

Dear members and potential members,

I am very proud and honoured to have been elected the president of the WACUA. With this honour comes the responsibility of leading this great organisation to provide the membership what they want.

Since its inception, the WACUA has witnessed many changes in its 100-plus years. The organisation now faces the main challenge of engaging our membership and increasing member participation in the programmes and events that we are planning this year, with the environment of having less opportunity out of work to volunteer our spare time.

We have a strong leadership group in the committee this year, and we are determined to make the necessary changes to deliver an organisation for the modern times that the members want to be part of and get involved with.

We need to improve our communication to the members and Chris McCann has kindly offered to look after this important role. This includes starting by putting a calendar of events together so the membership are aware of what we meetings and events coming up with plenty of notice to put the dates in the diaries.

We are also working on offering a membership benefits package to offer discounts on products and services for the coming season.

I sincerely hope to see you at the general meetings and events this year as we are developing a vibrant programme for you during the season.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Hall
WACUA President



Committee Report

The start of the season is always a busy time for the committee. The number one priority has been planning the year ahead. It is our aim to make each general meeting one which members will find attractive. It is our belief that we should be organising events that are enjoyable but will also help to enhance our umpiring.

Firstly, we have the camp to help with. As usual we are providing some liquid refreshment for those who attend but more importantly will be on hand to encourage as many as we can to join the WACUA as well as showcasing our very good merchandise.

Secondly, one of our major tasks will be arranging the life members breakfast, which this year will take place on Sunday 2nd December. This is an event open to all members, and one well worth attending so as to benefit from the experience of the luminaries that are our life members.

The WACUA committee will also be involved in organising the Olly Cooley Medal Night – not only in the collecting of votes for the different medals, but also in providing the presentation and organisation of the night itself.

A very important role of the WACUA is maintaining an archive of umpire statistics. We all know the commitment we give to umpire so it is important that milestones be recognised. The role of the committee also involves liaising with the WACA, and we hope to continue our good relations with Barry Rennie and Ben Oliver and the DCCI.

It looks like being a busy yet enjoyable year for all of us on the committee so if you have any issues or concerns about the running of the WACUA, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

John Sherry
WACUA Secretary



Communications Manager

As the WACUA "Communications Manager" for 2012/13, I would like to welcome everyone to the season. This is really this first time our association has had a dedicated communications and media manager with a scope as broad as what has been offered me.

It is extremely important that there is an efficient and clear communication between committee and members. To this end, a number of media become vital, including the website. While in the past the site has been somewhat neglected, it is to become a key weapon in the association's armoury. Facebook is also a vital medium for our association, as many of our members are active on the "Book" (some more than others!).

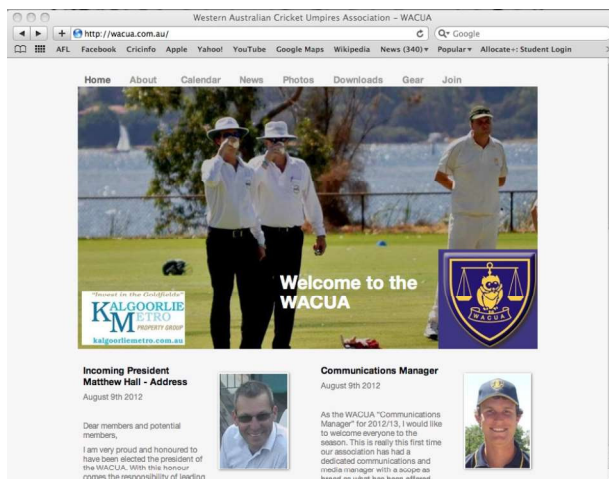
As part of the committee's goals to reach members and increase participation and engagement, a survey will be distributed to members in order for the committee to gain an accurate reflection of the desires of our members. We very much want to hear from you to assist the committee in planning the season, and providing an opportunity for each member's voice to be heard on matters of importance to all at the WACUA.

If you are willing to assist with contributions to the website or newsletter by writing articles or taking photos, feel more than welcome to contact me. The staff here in the Communications Department is always looking for contributors to assist with material for the website.

The possibilities of media for the benefit of our association are exciting, and I very much look forward to fulfilling the role of Communications Manager this season while working with the President, Committee and all the membership.

Chris McCann
WACUA Communications Manager

Left: The website in full swing –
www.wacua.com.au





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Umpires Appointment Board News

with Terry Prue



This year the UAB members are Graeme Bibby, Dean Chamberlain, Terry Prue and Barry Rennie (Umpiring Coordinator). Sadly, Keith Rinaldi, who was the fifth member, passed away earlier this year and has not been replaced.

The UAB is responsible for providing a ranking of umpires enabling the Umpire Coordinator to make appointment to the various grade competitions. The current elected UAB members are all experienced former umpires and, along with the Umpiring Coordinator, observe umpires during club matches. The UAB meets after every second round of matches to review rankings.

This review is based on Captains Reports, personal observations and third party observations and

conversations as well as commitment (to appointments and training) and a demonstration of knowledge of Laws and playing conditions. In addition the UAB recommends umpires for the State Panel (Cricket Australia requirement) and for appointments to interstate competitions such as the WNCL.

Whilst the role of the UAB is not that of coaching/training, members provide feedback from their observations to individual umpires either personally or through the Umpiring Coordinator.

Terry Prue
UAB Chairman

Structure of the UAB

The Umpires' Appointment Board is constituted under the Western Australian District Cricket Council (inc.) Rules and Conditions of Play. The structure hereunder is adapted from that document.

The UAB is composed of the following members:

- Four members, elected biannually; two elected each alternate year
- The WACA Umpiring Co-ordinator
- A chairman is elected from within these members
- Quorum consists of two members

The duties and powers of the UAB are as follows:

- Grade all umpires and prospective umpires
- Appoint umpires for matches as directed by the DCCI
- Adjudicate on other umpiring matters referred by the DCCI or WACA
- Report to DCCI on the business undertaken

Jeff Brookes to return to WACA umpiring

We welcome back former National Panel umpire Jeff Brookes to District Cricket for the 2012/13 season. Jeff's return to umpiring after missing last season through work in the north of the State will be of benefit not only to the first grade ranks but umpiring on the whole.

Jeff has also agreed to perform the role of a mentor to the State Panel this season. His experience at first-class level will doubtless prove invaluable to those on the panel who are umpiring at interstate junior levels and aspiring to reach even higher honours.

With his role on the WACUA Committee thrown in, Jeff's contribution to District umpiring will be extremely welcome this year. We thank him for his commitment to the roles he has taken on this year.

WACA Umpiring Coordinator's Report

The pre season work being put in by umpires has been fantastic and I believe the program has been very interesting and challenging. Geoff Marsh, Adam Griffith, Steve Smith and Ben Oliver have each provided a different slant on the role of the umpire.

The highlight of the pre season is the weekend seminar, which emphasises field craft techniques. Our guest speaker will be Craig Doyle, an SBL referee, who will bring a different emphasis to officiating.

Following this there will be several sessions that will focus on WACA district cricket. Player management, WACA expectations and playing conditions will be the emphasis and all umpires should make every effort to attend.

Coming up soon is the Warriors practice match where George Burgum will make his umpiring debut on the WACA. George will officiate for the first overs of the match supported by Ian and Mick. The match commences at 10.00am and it would be great if as many as possible were to get to the WACA by 9.30am to wish George well on the important occasion. The day will be combined with a field craft workshop from 10.30 to 11.30am, during which we will view the routines and processes of our top two umpires.

Please lock in Wednesday 3rd October for the WACA Launch of Umpiring for Season 2012/13. This is a social gathering to celebrate the start of the new season. WACA and WADCCI members will be there to recognise the great work done by our umpires.

Barry Rennie
WACA Umpiring
Coordinator



2011/12 Grand Final Photos

Below are some of the fantastic photos taken by John Sherry on Grand Final day last season. These and more appear on our website – www.wacua.com.au.



George Burgum – the ultimate cricket fanatic

Composed by Barry Rennie, the following piece first appeared as part of Cricket Australia's umpiring e-newsletter on the 7th August 2012.

If you have attended a Warriors or Scorchers match at the WACA you may well be aware of George.

When you mention the name George at the WACA, everyone knows you are talking about George Burgum. George is wheelchair bound but this does not stop him attending every match played at the WACA.

His mother and full time carer ensure he is there for the start of play on every day. On days when rain has washed out play George is the very last to leave, just in case they get on for an over or two. All players and visiting umpires make an effort to chat with George and he is very forthcoming with feedback on their performances.

George is the first to register for any training and development sessions and sits the Laws Assessment paper every year. His carer reads every question for George and he supplies his response. George's results demonstrate his excellent knowledge of the Laws.

When he is not at the WACA, every Saturday George attends district matches at his home ground of Wanneroo. When it's time for a drinks-break, he is the first to get the umpires' drinks out to them.



If there is no live cricket to watch George resorts to televised matches. Once, when there were two matches coinciding on different channels, George was asked which one he would watch. No problem for George; he has split screen and would watch both games simultaneously.

George is also set to make his debut umpiring on the WACA on Sunday 9th September, alongside Mick Martell and Ian Lock. All are encouraged to attend and support this historic occasion. A field craft session will be conducted under the tutelage of Barry Rennie during the first hour of play.

JOIN THE WACUA!

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



WACUA Events Calendar 2012/13

2012

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1st – Monthly Meeting (August carryover) at Ern Halliday

Tuesday 18th – Monthly Meeting

OCTOBER

Tuesday 16th – Monthly Meeting

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 20th – Monthly Meeting

DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd – Life Members' Breakfast

Tuesday 18th – Monthly Meeting/Christmas Function

2013

JANUARY

Saturday 1st – Monthly Meeting (August carryover)

Tuesday 18th – Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 16th – Monthly Meeting

MARCH

Tuesday 20th – Monthly Meeting

Umpire Profile: Reuben Garlett

First match umpired:

1996/97

First Grade debut:

2011/12

Favourite cricketing

venue: Lilac Hill – for its fantastic riverside location

Favourite beer:

Guinness

Favourite film: *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

Match-day lunch: A salad roll from the bar of whichever venue I'm at!

Highest individual score witnessed:

Mark Penter's 254 not out for University against Gosnells last year – he was dropped three times before he had reached 20!



Acknowledgements

I would like to make a few acknowledgements on the occasion of the first edition of the WACUA's new publication. Firstly I thank President Matthew Hall, Secretary John Sherry and indeed all the committee members for their support and contributions for this newsletter and the role of Communications Manager which I undertake. Next, thanks to Barry Rennie and Terry Prue for their contributions in the way of their respective reports, and Barry's kind permission to replicate his George Burgum article. Finally, I thank all the members of the WACUA for their involvement with such a fine organisation, steeped in history as it is. It has been a pleasure preparing the inaugural edition of *OVER* – I hope that all enjoy reading it. It is also available as a PDF on the website.

Feedback about the publication is much appreciated, and can be directed to communications.wacua@gmail.com.

Chris McCann, Editor

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".

Dear Dickie,

What do you consider to be the essential attributes of a successful cricket umpire?

Jeffrey, Wellard

Dear Jeffrey,

Thank you for your question – it is one that is posed to me very frequently. "Dickie," people ask, "What do you consider to be the essential attributes of a successful cricket umpire?"

I always thank them for their question, for I feel it is a very important one. There are several attributes, skills and abilities that an umpire must have in order to be successful. In particular, I feel the following two are the most important and essential for any umpire who wishes for himself success.

The most apparent ability an umpire must possess is being able to count to six. Without this ability, matches would either be very long or very short, which is undesirable. We want cricket matches to go exactly the length they mean to, and if an umpire is constantly counting to eleven, or three, for example, the match becomes guesswork for players and umpires alike.

The second-most important attribute of a successful umpire is knowing what to say at precisely the right time. For example, saying "not out" when your finger is raised above your head is the wrong time for that remark. Likewise, giving a batsman his marching orders while simultaneously shaking your head and returning the bowler's cap is most impertinent.

If you guard these two principles as your most coveted, you will doubtless be a successful umpire.

Dickie

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

OVER

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