

A SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 1, 2017



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- Field Marshall , Boundary Bolter & Galloping Goalie
-and Much More

YOUR 2017 COMMITTEE



“Your support to the Association is vital as we are here to support you and be your voice on any issues or concerns you may have. If everyone is on board, we are better able to achieve our goals, which is to look after the needs of all umpires.” SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

2017 SANFLUA DATES:

Saturday April 29: Cathedral Catch up #1

Saturday May 20: Movie Dinner Night

Saturday June 3: Cathedral Catch up #2

Friday June 16: 8 Ball Night

Saturday June 24: Ten Pin Bowling Night

Saturday July 8: Cathedral Catch up #3

Saturday July 22: Quiz Night

Thursday August 18: Annual Dinner

Saturday September 12: Cathedral Catch up #4

Sunday September 24: Grand Final After Party

Saturday October 28: Wine/Microbrewery Tour

Sunday December 2: Christmas/Lawn Bowls BBQ

CATHEDRAL CATCH UP #1

Saturday March 29th was the first After Match Drinks held at the Cathedral Hotel. 27 people turned up to enjoy the night and we were truly looked after by the staff of the hotel. Most people enjoyed a few drinks courtesy of the President We hope to see a few more people at the next SANFLUA Cathedral Catch up on the 3rd of June.



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—MATTHEW NORTON

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everybody to the first edition of Ball Up for 2017.

Season 2017 came around rapidly with the AGM being held a little later than preferred, but regardless, the AGM was well attended with lots of productive discussion. There was a front bench reshuffle come Office Bearer election time, with four new members being elected. We are all excited and committed to making the up and coming Season a successful, fulfilling and enjoyable one for its members.

Some areas that the committee has already been proactive in improving is increasing our Social Media profile through the utilization of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and acknowledging milestones of Members for League Matches umpired.

The SANFLUA has also taken on the mammoth task of ensuring that records/statistics of current running umpires are correct for League Matches Umpired as it was identified that there was discrepancies between the Umpires, the SANFL and other external sources. We have seconded the assistance of Steven Paunovic who will perform the roll of Association Statistician and will work through the records and set the records straight, so to speak.

We have developed a very extensive Social Calendar that is full of variety and something that will provide us with many opportunities to get to know fellow members away from the training track and game day. I'm sure you will be impressed!

This purely electronic version of Ball up will contain information about up and coming events, pasts events, social pages, gossip and information about your fellow umpires and life members, and will be another powerful communication tool in addition to our social medial platforms.

Your support to the Association is vital as we are here to support you and be your voice on any issues or concerns you may have. If everyone is on board, we are better able to achieve our goals, which is to look after the needs of all umpires.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime should you feel the need whether it is an Association related issue or a general umpiring issue. My email address is president@sanflua.com.au

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best and every success for the rest of the Season and get from it what you put in.

Matthew Norton

President

GETTING TO KNOW:
MATTHEW NORTON

Discipline: Goal Umpire

Games Umpired: 101 (as at Round 4 2017)

1st SANFL League Game: 2008, Glenelg v Port @ Glenelg Oval

Commenced Umpiring Career With: Spencer Gulf Football League (1998)

Honours in Umpiring: 2010 League Grand Finals, 2016 State League Game and 47 AFL Games (2011 – 2015).

2004 Mark Posa Award for Best New Talent, 2009 Most Improved, 2010 Golden Flags and 2010 SANFL League Grand Final

Why did you become an Umpire: Loved my footy, couldn't play football to save my life – just watch me at skills sessions, you'll know why I became an umpire!

Before a game I always: Enjoy a Cibo Coffee

Occupation: Warehouse Office Administrator

Favourite Food: Mexican

Favourite Movie: The Three Amigos

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Savage Garden

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Elton John, Barack Obama, Prince William

Favourite Holiday Destination: South Pacific Islands

Most admired sportsperson and why: Adam Ramanuskas - for his resilience and refusal to take anything lying down. Tough as nails!

GETTING TO KNOW: MATTHEW CUMMINS

Discipline: Goal Umpire

Games Umpired: 201

1st SANFL League Game: 2006, North v West @ Prospect Oval

Commenced Umpiring Career With: SAAFL (2004)

Honours in Umpiring: 2007-08, 2011-13, 2016 League Grand Finals, 2007-08, 2012 and 2016 Golden Flag Award, 2012 & 2013 State League Games, 3 AFL Games.

Why did you become an Umpire: I love footy so it was a way to stay involved. My dad Goal Umpired with the SAAFL and I used to go to all his games and developed a love for umpiring, and goal umpiring specifically.

Before a game I always: Have a coffee. and listen to my iPod on the way to the game.

Occupation: Branch Manager

Favourite Food: Can't go past a perfectly cooked Steak. Melts in your mouth! And definitely chocolate!

Favourite Movie: Any of the Star Wars movies, Bad Boys 1 and 2.

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Foo Fighters, P!NK – I have a wide and varied taste in music.

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Kylie Minogue, Prince Harry and Barack Obama

Favourite Holiday Destination: USA and Gold Coast

Most admired sportsperson and why: In his day – Lleyton Hewett. He never gave up!

GETTING TO KNOW: AARON BENNETT

Discipline: Field Umpire

Games Umpired: 9

1st SANFL League Game: Round 1 2016, Sturt V Eagles (Unley)

Commenced Umpiring Career With: South Adelaide SASFA (2005)

Honours in Umpiring: 2008 School Sport Australia Nationals, 2011 SANFL U16 Grand Final, 2014 Northern Territory FL Division 1 GF, 2015 SANFL Reserves Grand Final (Emerg), 2015/2016 AFL U18 National Championships, 2016 SANFL Reserves Grand Final and 2017 AIS National Officiating Scholarship.

Why did you become an Umpire: To be involved in the game.

Before a game I always: Pack my bag at the last minute

Occupation: Customer Service

Favourite Food: Subway

Favourite Movie: Project X

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Cold Play

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Ellen DeGeneres, Kevin Pietersen, Barack Obama

Favourite Holiday Destination: Darwin (Second Home)

Most admired sportsperson and why: Roger Federer – always shows true class

GETTING TO KNOW: MATHEW WILSON

Discipline: Goal Umpire

Games Umpired: 89

1st SANFL League Game: 2007, South v North @ Noarlunga Oval

Commenced Umpiring Career With: NAJFA (2000)

Honours in Umpiring: 2010 League Grand Finals, 2016 State League Game and 47 AFL Games (2011 – 2015).

Why did you become an Umpire:

My old man was a Field Umpire and I was a terrible player so thought ... why not?!
Boundary umpired for two years and then had enough of that running caper so became a Goal Umpire.... and the rest is history!

Before a game I always: Have a coffee and an apple.

Occupation: Manager

Favourite Food: Anything from Asia. AMAZING food!

Favourite Movie: V for Vendetta.

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Rage Against The Machine, Muse, The Presets – anything with a decent beat really!

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Matt Fraser, Kara Webb and Anna Meares.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Western Australia

Most admired sportsperson and why: Anna Meares – despite her setbacks she always trained her guts out and never gave up on her dream!

GETTING TO KNOW: DAVID SOBIERAJ

Discipline: Field Umpire

Games Umpired: 52

1st SANFL League Game: Round 5 2013, South v North

Commenced Umpiring Career With: West Adelaide Schools

Honours in Umpiring: 2014 Reserves Grand Final

Why did you become an Umpire: To keep fit

Before a game I always: Eat a vegemite sandwich

Occupation: Accountant

Favourite Food: Chicken and Pasta

Favourite Movie: Back to the Future

Favourite Music Artist/Band: The Rolling Stones

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Groucho Marx, Mick Jagger and Sean Connery

Favourite Holiday Destination: Europe

Most admired sportsperson and why: Roger Federer - Skill and class

BIGGER & BETTER THINGS: LEIGH HAUSSEN

At age 13 Leigh Haussen began his umpiring career with both the Sturt SASFA AND Metro South JFL. He had played football until the end of primary school; his switch to umpiring came about because as Leigh admits *"I was never particularly good but always loved the game. I was always at the footy watching my brother play. Basically, it was something to do."*

Leigh's 166 SANFL League game career has been littered with highlights including Grand Finals, Stan Wickham Memorial Medal, Most Improved and twice he has been awarded the prestigious Golden Whistle award. After many years of knockbacks, rookie listings, adversity and persistence Leigh was finally upgraded to the AFL list at the commencement of 2017; and decision which meant he had to move to greener pastures of Melbourne. Leigh was appointed to umpire his first AFL match at Etihad Stadium between Western Bulldogs v Brisbane Lions on Saturday 22nd April 2017.

We wish you all the very best for an amazing AFL career Leigh. Go well mate!

Commenced Umpiring Career With?

I started in 2001 (13 years old) with both the Sturt SASFA and Metro South JFL. Both are now known as SANFL Juniors!

Why did you take up umpiring?

I started umpiring because I was always at the footy anyway watching my brother play. Basically, it was something to do!

How many SANFL League Games?

166.

Grand Finals in which years (inc Reserves/Under Age Grades).

U18s - 2009

LEAGUE - 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 & 2016

SANFL awards (year and title)?

2009 - Stan Wickham Memorial.

2010 - Most Improved.

2012, 2016 - Golden Whistle.

What is your favourite ground to umpire on and why?

Norwood, Friday night in particular.

Was there a day/ground/experience umpiring that was your least favourite?

Norwood v Port Adelaide ANZAC Day Eve Game in 2015. Adelaide Oval on a Friday night. Didn't stop raining all night and in the worse conditions I've ever umpired in. (It was meant to be a marquee game!)

If you could give someone in their first year in the SANFL, what advice would you give?

Work hard, get fit and leave nothing up to chance.

What is the best city in Australia and Why?

I'm an Adelaide boy so hard to go past home but I am thoroughly enjoying all that Melbourne has to offer.

Comparing Melbourne and South Australia what are some pros/cons/similarities/ differences?

Cons of Melbourne:

- everything is more expensive.

- traffic.

Pros of Melbourne:

- always something on / something to do.

- everything is always open.

Who is someone influential for you, what have they done/how have they had a positive influence on you?

Toby Schreier, Flinders Athletics Club Coach - taught me what hard work really is!

What's your favourite sport outside of Australian Football, why?

NBA. Always been a fan of basketball and played a lot through my school years. I'm a Boston Celtics fan because my Auntie is from New England.

What's your best sporting experience outside of football?

With Hundertmark (Rowan) and he tipped me Glass Harmonium on Darby Day, 2011. Never seen so much cash! Was also a pretty special cup to be at that year too.

What is your favourite food?

Pizza. (Vegetarian)

For umpires you umpired with in SA:

Who is the funniest?

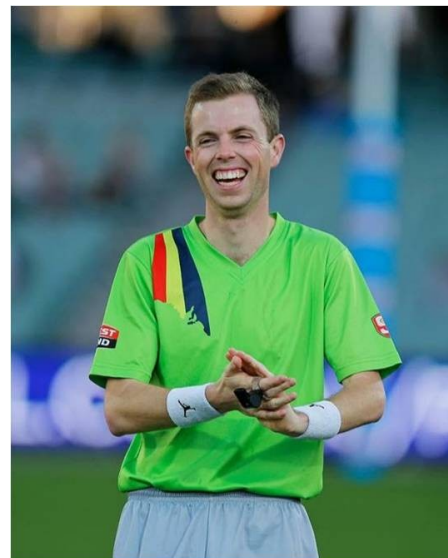
Angry Theron.

Who has the most annoying behaviour/habit and why?

I now embrace it but when i was coming through the ranks and doing every second week with Sboro at Noarlunga, the whole boxing / national anthem warm up was just too much!

Who do you think has/had the most talent?

Craig Fleer and Sam Morgan. Both just naturals and make it look easy.



Leigh Haussen in action at Adelaide Oval (2016)

MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT: THERON PHILP

If you need an example of dedication, passion, commitment, enthusiasm and resilience then you need no further than to look to Theron Philip.

Best described as one of umpiring's 'Great Blokes', Theron recently spoke to the 'Ball Up' about becoming an SANFL Life Member, an honour bestowed upon him at this year's SANFL Annual General Meeting in March.

Reflecting on his 200th game (Round 9, 2016) milestone, Theron admitted that he "definitely felt like I had achieved something in my career as 200 games was a goal he always had". By his own admission Theron states that despite his "career not having that many highlights that becoming a 200 game umpire and a Life Member of the SANFL eclipses not having umpired a League Grand Final."

When asked about being presented his SANFL Life Membership, Theron said that "it was fantastic to be presented his life membership in front of so many football legends, as it made you feel that you had made something of your career."

During his acceptance speech Theron sites Bob Grieves (former Umpiring and Fitness Coach) who spotted his talents at the West Adelaide Junior Panel and invited him out to the SANFL as biggest influence and supported throughout his career.

"Bob was not only was a great mentor but also a fantastic bloke, both in and out of umpiring. He has given me a few phone calls throughout my career and asked how I was going".

Theron then went on to thank several former umpires such as Richard Williams and Craig Dodridge who he learned much of his craft from. He continued by making a special mention of the fitness coaches such as Graham Hill, Frank McCue and Tony Checker who offered him help and support during various injuries across his career.

Theron finally thanked his fellow umpires who he clearly states that "I wouldn't be out here (at umpiring) if the guys I umpire with on the weekend and out at training weren't great blokes to be with. It just makes it! I love the banter; I get a fair bit but also give a bit out as well."

Collectively we hope that we continue to have your dedication, passion and stories within SANFL Umpiring for a few more years Theron

Wishing you all the very best for a terrific 2017.

Author: Mathew Wilson



Theron Philip being presented with his SANFL Life Membership

AWARD DETAILS

Golden Whistle: This is awarded annually to the field umpire deemed to have performed the best throughout the year.

Silver Whistle: This is awarded annually to the best boundary umpire.

Golden Flags: This is awarded annually to the best goal umpire.

2016 Award Winners

Golden Whistle: Leigh Haussen

Silver Whistle: Corey Watkins

Golden Flags: Matthew Cummins

Most Improved: This award is given to an umpire in each discipline, who has shown the most improvement in their umpiring, at senior level.

2016 Award Winners

Most Improved Field: Giles Lewis

Most Improved Boundary: Brayden Theil

Most Improved Goal: Michael Button

GOLDEN WHISTLE: LEIGH HAUSSEN

“It is a great honour to be awarded the Golden Whistle Award and something in which I am immensely proud of. To have your name etched on the honour boards at Adelaide Oval is significant but to be named alongside legends like Williams, Woodcock and Kinnear is even more so.

Of course winning an award like this takes a lot of hard work and persistence but more importantly a lot of support from the people around you. I'd like to thank all the other umpires in which I umpire with and train along side, and occasionally get to enjoy a social beer with! In particular I want to acknowledge the rest of the Grand Final team: Andrew Crosby, Rowan Hundertmark and Scott Hosking.

I'd also like to acknowledge all of the coaching staff that have invested so much of their time into my umpiring over the years. I'd also specifically like to note Shane's influence on my career and most importantly the way he has always supported me through the tough times.

All the best to everyone for the 2017 season. I hope you all enjoy your time out with the SANFL and get the very best out of yourself!”

SILVER WHISTLE: COREY WATKINS

“It is an extreme honour to be named the 2016 silver whistle winner. It is an award that has been won by many great umpires before me, and to be amongst this list now is something that I never dreamed of when I first started umpiring.

I can honestly say that without the help and influence of several different people in my life, then I would not have won this award last year. Firstly I would like to give a large thankyou to the coaching staff at the SANFL, particularly Hayden Cook who spent numerous hours down the local oval with me last season improving my throwing technique. Second, I would like to thank Matthew Konetshka and Lachlan Henning who have been great mates and training partners at both formal and informal sessions which kept my running dedicated throughout the season. Lastly I would like to mention my partner Georgina who offered a great deal of support all throughout the season and helped keep my head screwed on before every game.

If I could offer a piece of advice for any up and coming umpires who have dreams of winning this award or eventually umpiring league, it is to try hard at training but also go for extra runs during the week. It will help you improve fitness which allows you to always get into the best position for a decision on the line.”

GOLDEN FLAGS: MATTHEW CUMMINS

“Winning the Golden Flags Award for 2016 was an achievement that capped off a fantastic year for me in umpiring and meant a lot. With the top end talent in our Senior Goal Umpiring group the Golden Flags is an award that is highly competitive. A lot of hard work, effort and strong umpiring performances goes into winning the award and none of it is possible without the support of the coaches. From early on they sensed my desire and hunger to achieve in 2016 and they encouraged it at every opportunity. The footy season is a long one and I feel it's important to have people around you that can be an outlet for you. Matt Norton and Rhys Negerman are the two that I need to say a big thank you to for letting me 'chew the fat' with them on many occasions throughout 2016. It helped keep me on track.

Achieving success in anything is never possible without the support of our close family. My wife Peta has been an amazing support for me through my career and again in 2016 was no different. Being away from the family home twice a week at night and once a week on the weekend for the majority of the year is a massive amount of time, but she still never questions it. My beautiful daughter Rylee, whilst going to the footy is not always fun for her, she still came along to a few games during the year and knowing she is there always brings a smile on my face. Thanks girls.

To my fellow goal umpires – it's a great group and we have some great banter and it has certainly kept my enjoyment for Umpiring going. If we don't enjoy it then achieving success is almost impossible. So a big thanks has to go to them.

Having won four Golden Flag Awards they are an achievement I will always be proud of especially given the amazing names that are on the Honour Board for the award. “



Leigh Haussen



Corey Watkins



Matthew Cummins

MOST IMPROVED FIELD UMPIRE: GILES LEWIS

“It was a great honour to receive an umpiring award from the SANFL. I believe my improvement across the 2016 season greatly reflects the time and effort that the SANFL coaching and fitness staff have invested in me. Shane Harris and his coaches have provided me with not only great feedback and advice, but have also given me belief in myself to umpire at a high level. My peers also greatly influenced my improvement by performing to a high standard that keeps us all accountable and ensures we aim high. The support from my family and friends also had an important part in my achievement.”



MOST IMPROVED BOUNDARY UMPIRE: BRAYDEN THEIL



"To win this award came as a total shock. I did not think I was going to be awarded the most improved umpire but a credit and thank you to everyone I umpired with during the year who helped me improve my game. Also thank you to the coaches for seeing the hard work that is put in by everyone and acknowledging people who try to better themselves each week. My family have been my biggest supporters especially my parents who come to my games, week in week out, to watch my games. Without their support I wouldn't be where I am today."

MOST IMPROVED GOAL UMPIRE: MICHAEL BUTTON

"Receiving the Most Improved Goal Umpire Award in 2016 was a massive surprise and capped off what was a whirlwind first season for me at the SANFL. After making the move from Mount Gambier for uni, I have strived to improve my umpiring to take it to the next level. I have to thank all my coaches and co-umpires from Mount Gambier, especially Terry Willoughby and Terry Walters, for creating a pathway to the SANFL. Thanks to Garry Wyld and Barry Oates for helping me, especially during my first few weeks in Adelaide, and the goalies for welcoming me into the group. I also have to thank all the SANFL Goal Umpire coaches and observers for providing the necessary feedback for me to continually improve and for the opportunities I was presented in season 2016. Finally, for all the support and encouragement from family and friends and the dedication from my Mum and Dad for always being willing to travel whenever required is something I am extremely grateful for.

I still have plenty of improvement to make with my umpiring but I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Bring on season 2017!"



AWARD DETAILS

Most Dedicated: This award presented to an umpire in each discipline, who is voted by their peers as being the most dedicated. The award is determined by performance, dedication, commitment and adherence to exemplary standards in all aspects of umpiring both on and off the field. The winner is someone who, in the eyes of their peers, holds the Association in high regard and shows care for the state of umpiring as a whole. The person is someone who always strives to contribute positively to the reputation of SANFL Umpires through their high standards of performance and upstanding character.

2016 Award Winners

Most Dedicated Field:
David Sobieraj

Most Dedicated Boundary:
Matthew Konetschka

Most Dedicated Goal:
Matthew Oxford

MOST DEDICATED FIELD UMPIRE: DAVID SOBIERAJ

“Being acknowledged by your peers is quite humbling. There are many of us who are dedicated to umpiring and it meant a great deal to be recognised by my fellow umpires in this way. SANFLUA plays an important role as I feel it compliments what we do in regards to training and matches. Getting to know your fellow umpires and forming friendships makes what we do extra special.

At the end of last season, the field umpires sat down as a group to talk about some of our favourite moments and funny stories that we had experienced in umpiring over the years. The memorable moments that we shared all involved someone else, they were not individual stories. Umpiring can sometimes be seen as an individual pursuit, however my favourite moments in umpiring over the years have been seeing my friends achieve their goals. If I have been fortunate enough to achieve a goal of my own, the memory that I took away from it was being able to share that moment with others.

I feel very fortunate to be apart of SANFLUA and I look forward to many great moments for all of us in 2017.”

MOST DEDICATED BOUNDARY UMPIRE: MATTHEW KONETSCHKA

“To win any award is great but to win one that was peer voted and has such quality past winners made winning the Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire award all the more special. Umpiring plays a big part in my life and is something that I love to do. It would be nowhere near as much fun without the great bunch we have out at the SANFL at the moment, so I would like to thank all the running umpires and also the support staff who make it happen for us!”



David Sobieraj

Matthew Konetschka

L-R: Abdul Alpaslan & Matthew Oxford

MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE: MATTHEW OXFORD

“The purpose of my involvement in Goal umpiring is common with and why we are all involved is for the participation and enjoyment of the game it brings. I feel all the nominees for this award are worthy and deserving as my commitment is no different to what one would strive for of the attributes of what the award is all about. I enjoy my involvement amongst the Goal Umpiring panel and am thrilled to be nominated and selected as the successful nominee. It means that I have been acknowledged and recognised by the voting members, who I admire are good role models and respect greatly. This award is a bonus, is a highlight, an honour to receive and I am grateful for where I continue to enjoy the role of being a Goal Umpire. I would like to thank all the voting members of the association, Abdullah Alpaslan for his continuous sponsorship of the Award, all the Goal Umpire Coaches and my Family.”

ROUND 1 MILESTONES: 1ST AFL MATCH

WORTH THE WAIT FOR WATKINS

Losing two of arguably the greatest boundary umpires ever during 2016, it was the hard work, dedication and underlying desire to be successful, that set Corey up to be selected for AFL footy in 2017. Hailing from an athletics background, with two of his brothers making national finals in the 400m and 800m, Corey started umpiring at the age of 10 for his brother's U12 team. From then Corey has umpired at independent schools and the SAAFL before making his way out to the SANFL three years ago where he has gone from strength to strength. Corey has umpired the last two SANFL grand finals, the 2016 state game and was awarded the 2016 silver whistle.

Outside of umpiring Corey is currently in his final year of a physiotherapy course and a loyal member of the McKinnon Parade Athletics Club, coached by Michael Buckler. Over the years Corey has racked up an amazing 24 sashes before he was 22, something only a very select few have been able to achieve in a lifetime of racing.

In the few games Corey has had to start off the season, he has shown all the characteristics to lead him on the path to what will be a long and successful career. We wish him all the best in the future.

By Matthew Konetschka



Corey in action during the AFL Round 1 clash between Adelaide v GWS at Adelaide Oval

ROUND 1 MILESTONES: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

FANTASTIC FIFTY FOR SOBIERAJ

Round 1 of Season 2017 began with 3 SANFLUA members celebrating milestone games. One of those was field umpire David Sobieraj, who officiated his 50th SANFL League Match in the clash between Glenelg and Port Adelaide at Gliderol Stadium. David commenced umpiring with the West Adelaide Schools panel in 2000, and officiated his first SANFL Under 17's game in 2007. After a steady climb through the ranks, he made his League debut in Round 5 2013, overseeing the game between South Adelaide and North Adelaide. David is an extremely popular member of the Senior Field umpires panel and a dedicated member of the SANFL Umpires Association. This was evident at last year's Annual Dinner where he was overwhelmingly voted by his peers as the Most Dedicated Field Umpire for Season 2016. Congratulations, Dave!

By Andrew Crosby

When asked about his achievement David had this to say;

"I feel very fortunate to be a part of the SANFL and to umpire league football. Time had travelled quickly from when I had made my debut to umpiring my 50th game. It meant a great deal that a number of my fellow umpires wished me well before the game. It was a good game and an enjoyable night that was great to be a part of."



David Sobieraj (L) being presented his 50th League Game Certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

Well done David and all the best for a terrific 2017.

ROUND 1 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCHES

THE CARTER CREW ON DEBUT

Not too many people would have umpired league football with two debutants from the same discipline in a single round. Further to that, I doubt anyone has ever umpired with these two debutants being their own brothers. However, that's what I did in round 1 this season at Elizabeth Central v Eagles with my brothers and fellow boundary umpires Gerard and William.

A quick look back at how we got here. Gerard began umpiring in the Spencer Gulf League (SGL) with myself in Port Pirie. He started a couple years after I did but didn't take long to catch on to it. He's always been the most athletic gifted of the three of us and rarely needs to do much training to maintain his base where as William and I have to work a little harder! By the final year I umpired in Port Pirie, Gerard and I were running A grade games together almost every week. It was great to run with your brother and certainly I know it's always been a challenge to help both my brothers in a coaching sense because you've 'been there and done it' before them. The years after I left Port Pirie to move to Adelaide and pursue umpiring, Mum and Dad packed up and moved the family to Whyalla for a change of scenery. William began to umpire there along with Gerard and both the boys progressed well in the first season there but in the second season in Whyalla they became overworked doing multiple games a weekend and decided they wanted to go back to playing football.

It wasn't until William came down to board at Rostrevor College that umpiring came back on the radar. To be honest, I more or less forced him to come out! I would pick him up on the way to training from school. He began in the Academy with Quentin until last year when he moved up to Reserves and spent the whole year there. Gerard moved down to Adelaide the year after William went to boarding school and refused to come back to umpiring but after hounding him for a year he returned to umpiring at the SANFL and also spent time in the Academy and last year at Reserves level.

Both boys knew at the end of last year that they needed to get fitter if they wanted to do League football. So they joined Mickey's group at MacKinnon which really helped them with keeping fit over summer. Coming into pre-season I knew they had improved as Gerard was beating me in some sessions and William was right up behind me too. After solid a solid trial match period both of my brothers were awarded with their first League match appointment.

In the week leading up to the game neither Gerard nor William said too much. I think Cookie (Hayden) even told them they need to get a bit more excited for it! Come Game Day and both seemed fairly nervous, especially as it was their first TV game also.

Asking them about the game William said "the game was a lot quicker and that he was really excited before the game". He also noticed an increase in the abuse of umpires - mostly when walking from the ground down the race at Elizabeth! Gerard said that he "thought he went well in the game and that there were no mistakes so that was good!" He also said that he "was nervous before the game but defiantly thought it was made easier doing it with William and I."

Look out – one of the Carter boys will be at a ground with you soon!

By Terence Carter



William Carter (L) & Gerard Carter (R) being presented their 1st League Game Certificates by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 2 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

HARDWORKS PAYS OFF FOR HARGREAVES

Overcoming a car accident at 19yrs old things can go two ways: Pick yourself up and continue the life that makes you happy or fall into the 'could have been' category. Thankfully, the now 22yr Scott Hargreaves got going and was able to overcome broken bones and muscle injuries. Scott commenced his Umpiring career with the Amateur League in 2012 but injuries plagued his development. After an enormous amount of hard work and dedication, Scott officiated in the 2015 Amateur League Division 1 Grand Final.

Sadly though, 2016 saw the injuries resurface and the umpiring stop.

Fast forward to 2017 and with the body healthy once more, friend and fellow umpire Corey Watkins coaxed Scott out to the SANFL in January this year.

With a solid pre-season his running developed along with his confidence and as such the talent was there for all to see. After a solid Trial Match Period Scott officiating in Reserves in Round 1 at the Parade and after a terrific performance he was rewarded with his 1st League match at the same venue for the Round 2 clash of Norwood v Port.

Scott has got an innate ability. This is a lad who loves running hard and we hope he continues with the SANFL for many years to come.

SANFL Boundary Umpire Head Coach - Hayden Cook

I caught up with Scott to ask him about his first SANFL League match and his career so far. This is what he had to say.

"Football has always been a part of my life from playing with my mates at the local oval to representing clubs in my local area. However, I never thought of the umpiring side of football until Corey Watkins took me out one preseason at the amateur league in 2012. I was reluctant at first but who can turn down chasing a ball around for a bit of extra cash.

I started in Division 3 and worked my way up to umpiring my first Division 1 Grand Final in 2015. Unfortunately in 2016 I had to take the year off due to several injuries resurfacing that occurred in 2014 where my umpiring season was cut a bit short. 2017 rolled up and there was Corey Watkins once again, to talk me into coming back out to umpiring, however, this time at the SANFL. Being persuaded once again I started my preseason.

During the preseason and trial matches I listened to the feedback and advice from the coaches such as Hayden Cook and implemented them during the matches. Round 1 came and I umpired my first official reserve game which was a step up in its self. Although, I would have never guessed that a week later I would umpire my first official League game (Norwood v Port Magpies).

Umpiring the game was a memorable experience. I still remember the roaring crowd, nerves leading up to and during game day and just trying to think "it's just another game" to settle the nervousness. Once the game started, the moment and thoughts became real, one of those "I have actually achieved this" situations. Being able to umpire my first league game for Norwood, Port magpies and their supporters was nerve racking, thrilling and tested me as a umpire and I loved every minute of it."

Well done Scott. We can't wait to see what the future holds for you.



Scott Hargreaves being presented his 1st League game certificate from SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 3 MILESTONES: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

100 GAMES UP FOR THE PRESIDENT

No one would argue the loyalty and commitment to Matthew Norton's outlook on life. He brings both of those qualities to his friendships; and he most definitely showcases them in his umpiring. Matthew's passion for helping people is one of the many traits that endear him to all of his umpiring colleagues.

Starting out with the SANFL in 2004 Matthew didn't take long to fit within the ranks of the Goal Umpiring group and as he does in most social settings, made friends easy. Since venturing down from Port Pirie all those years ago, he's been a much loved addition to umpiring here in SA. Matthew didn't take long to move his way up the levels of umpiring at the SANFL. He was emergency umpire for the League Grand Final in 2009. He was the winner of the Most Improved Goal Umpire Award for the year as well.

In 2010 he umpired the SANFL League Grand Final and he also took home the Golden Flags Award. He was rewarded for his consistent form since joining the League Squad when he was elevated to the AFL List in 2011.

Matthew umpired his 100th League match at Unley Oval on Tuesday April 25th and already he has a long list of achievements to be proud of. Upon reflection of his impressive umpiring career so far, Matthew was quietly pleased 'They make me extremely proud, and it makes me proud knowing that my family and friends have been a great support in achieving my goals and achievements in umpiring.'

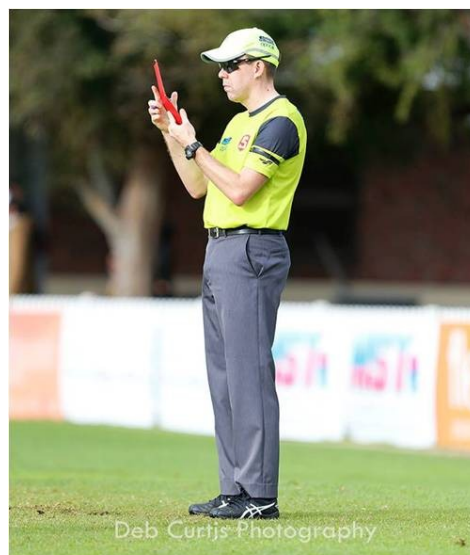
Now a veteran of the Goal Umpiring Squad, Matthew is very particular about what he sees for goal umpiring in South Australia 'There is some really good young talent coming up through the ranks, and particularly a couple of umpires that have come from regional areas. They are really passionate about their umpiring, and when they come and ask you for advice, it gives you a great deal of pleasure when you can see them put it into practice on field in their matches.'

It's never easy reflecting on a career that has many highlights and Matthew's career is full of achievements that he should be proud of. When asked to choose just one, some might be surprised by his answer. 'Being awarded the Mark Posa Award for Best New talent in 2004 would be my most treasured achievement thus far. 2004 was a big year personally as I moved down to Adelaide from the country and joined the senior list in the same year, and to be recognised by the coaches was a certainly a good feeling.'

Does The SANFLUA President have another 100 Games left in himself? 'I am going to do my best to get another 100 on the clock. As mentioned earlier, I am really enjoying seeing the younger umpires coming through the ranks, so hopefully their enthusiasm gives me the encouragement I need to clock up 200. That's the goal.'

The Goal Umpiring group certainly hopes so.

By Matthew Cummins



SANFLUA President Matthew Norton in action during his 100th League Match at Unley Oval

ROUND 3 MILESTONES: 200TH LEAGUE MATCH

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR CUMMINS

In SANFL umpiring circles when you mention Goal Umpiring there are a few names that instantly spring to mind. Alton Smith, Ray Mules, Mostyn Rutter, just to name a few ... and there is no doubt that one day the name Matthew Cummins will be held in as much high regard as these fine Gentlemen.

“Cummi” as he is more affectionately known recently umpired his 200th SANFL League Match at Unley Oval on Anzac Day, elevating himself to SANFL Life Membership and adding that to an already long list of umpiring honors.

With his SANFL Career now spanning into it's 12 season, in that time he has managed to umpire six league grand finals, a reserve grand final in 06 and has received the coveted Golden Flags award 4 times.

Friend and SANFLUA President Matthew Norton recently sat down with Matt and discussed life and umpiring.

MN: *What made you become an umpire? And how did you get started in the SANFL?*

MC: My dad umpired in the SAAFL and I used to tag along to his matches. Clearly I caught the umpiring bug from that. Once I had completed my University Studies and started full time work, I had more time to dedicate to hobbies so I went out to the SAAFL in 2004. I spent 2 years there before my then coach Jack Thompson encouraged me to go out to the SANFL in 2006.

MN: *Did you imagine when you started umpiring, that you would have the success you have had? What were some of your early goals?*

MC: Given the talent within the SANFL squad when I first joined the senior squad in 2006, absolutely not. It was ultra-competitive with plenty of top quality Umpires. Early goals for me were to Umpire a Division 1 GF just like my old man did. And from there, Umpire SANFL League Footy.

MN: *What do you enjoy most about umpiring?*

MC: Most definitely the mate ship. I've met some great people through umpiring and made some great friends. A handful of those will definitely remain lifelong mates. Outside of that – we have the best seat in the house to watch the best sport in the world.

MN: *Upon reflection of your many achievements in your umpiring career so far, how do they make you feel?*

MC: I'm extremely proud and thankful for what I have achieved thus far. I umpire because I enjoy it. I still get the same buzz on Match Days that I did when I first began. I often look back with pride and a quiet smile at some of my achievements.



Matthew Cummins in action during his 200th League Match at Unley Oval

(Continues on next page.....)

ROUND 3 MILESTONES: 200TH LEAGUE MATCH

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR CUMMINS (CONTINUED)

MN: *If you had to choose just one, what would be the stand out achievement?*

MC: As I said earlier, I love umpiring and I love Match Days. It's hard to go past the Grand Finals I've Umpired. Each one of them mean a lot to me for different reasons.

MN: *What are some of things that you think have contributed to your obvious success in umpiring?*

MC: Self-belief. And an ability to listen, take on board what I feel is relevant to me and disregard the rest. I say it a lot as well, but enjoyment. If I didn't enjoy what I was doing I wouldn't have achieved much success.

MN: *If you had one piece of advice to give up and coming umpires, what would it be?*

MC: Listen to your coaches/observers and senior umpires. You don't have to agree with everything they say and do. But if you listen, you'll find at least one thing that will help you progress through the ranks.

MN: *Do you have aspirations to coach umpires once you decide to retire from umpiring?*

MC: I think staying involved in footy and umpiring in particular is something that I'll definitely look at once my on field days are done.

MN: *What will make you keep going as long as you can being an SANFL Goal Umpire?*

MC: My enjoyment. And the friendships I have within the squad.

MN: You've come on to the SANFLUA committee for the first time this year, what made you decide to nominate?

MC: I've been a member of SANFLUA since first joining the SANFL Goal Umpires Squad. I've really enjoyed the social aspect of the association. I felt I had something to offer and if I can make a small contribution and assist with positive changes in Umpiring then I would have achieved my goal.

Matt's bright and humorous personality is one that is enjoyed by the umpiring fraternity on and off the field and makes him a popular member amongst our group and we look forward to him being around for a many more seasons yet.

By Matthew Norton



100 and 200 League game umpires Matthew Norton and Matthew Cummins both receiving their certificates on behalf of the SANFLUA

ROUND 4 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH

Mitch's journey in umpiring started when he was 3 years old. I had been appointed as the SANFL Umpire's Coach/Manager and as such we moved the family to SA from VIC.

By the time Mitch turned 5 he start coming to matches with me on a weekly basis and as such he has grown up with umpiring. Even back then umpiring was the topic of discussion around the dinner table. But it wasn't until Mitch was 8 when he took a real interest in umpiring. I clearly remember him starting to ask questions about umpiring decisions and their skills in relation to positioning, anticipation and work rate.

As Mitch got older he elected to play the game rather than umpire; something I always encouraged and tried to be involved in some capacity. When Mitch turned 15, I suggested to him to give umpiring a crack; it was good pocket money and would be great for his fitness. As he officiated more games you could see he was starting to really enjoy umpiring footy; although back then and even still to this date he hates running!

In the same year as he was playing footy with Tea Tree Gully U/16s (probably because his mates were playing in the same team) he won the North East Metro Junior Football Association Umpires top award, the next year he finally made his moved to the SANFL.

As an umpire he has displayed all the positive attributes of a top level umpire. He is an excellent decision maker, has a good (laid back) temperament and good match management. Being ultra critical of him, Mitch's skill execution is due to a lack of fitness and that is an area for him to focus on and improve; but as we can all see he is putting in the hard yards.

As his Dad and as his Coach he's had a tough lead into his first SANFL League match; however we (the Harris family) are proud as punch of him. He's done really well for himself and considering where he's come from (injuries) we are nothing but thrilled for him . You never forget your first League match.

As his Dad I hope he has a long career with the SANFL and maybe one day he gets an opportunity at the AFL.

By Shane Harris



Mitch Harris in action during his 1st League Match at Woodville Oval



Mitch Harris being presented his 1st League game certificate from SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 4 MILESTONES: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

A TON UP FOR TERENCE

The Carters have become a staple through the South Australian umpiring ranks, being important members of the boundary umpiring, match steward and administration groups. The first of the Carter boys to join the SA boundary umpiring ranks, Terence (TC, Tezz, Terry or Moggie), joined us in 2010 after making the move to Adelaide from Port Pirie where he first commenced his umpiring career. Following a successful debut season, Terence commenced 2011 by making his league debut in Round 1. This was a sign of things to come for the new prodigy of boundary umpiring that has led to multiple league preliminary finals, reserves grand final appointments, a most improved boundary umpire award and various other achievements along the way.

However, all of the achievements on the field have been matched by the impact that Terence has had on the boundary umpiring fraternity. Now considered a 'tribal elder', he is one of the key leaders on the training track, setting standards for fitness and dedication to proper preparation. Along with this, he is one to be admired on game day with his teamwork never able to be called into question. He's always there to back up his mate, and will never shy away from the tough stint on the outer.

And finally, potentially most importantly, Terence has become the bringer of swag to the boundary umpiring ranks. His own sense of style has filtered through, and he is probably one of the few umpires in history to get more grief from the crowd for his choice of haircut than for his decision making.

Congratulations on your 100th game, Terence!

By Matthew Zacher



Terence Carter running the boundary in his 100th League match at Prospect Oval



Terence Carter being presented his 100th League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES

18 Lachlan Hennig (50)

Steven Paunovic (SANFLUA Statistician) is currently working with the SANFL & umpires to confirm game totals. Once totals are confirmed more 'Approaching League Milestones' will be added to this section in future editions of the Ball Up

FIELD MARSHALL

Ah footy's back and we all suddenly remember why we enjoy the cold training nights so much. The big news over the long summer is that the group has lost another comrade to the AFL and Victoria, well done Leigh Haussen, well done indeed, 6 Grand Finals in the making. We are all wrapped for you mate and can't wait to see you out on the Adelaide Oval once again in the near future.

The AFL Women's league took Australia by storm this summer and many of our own umpires got the opportunity to grab some prime time T.V. To Sam Morgan, Tom Bryce, Mayson Beyer, Harrison Hughes, Luke Wachtel, Andrew Crosby and Toby Medlin, it was great to see S.A represented by such a good group of umpires and lads. An extra special mention must go to Tom Bryce, who represented South Australia in the inaugural Grand Final at Metricon Stadium in the Gold Coast. There was a higher spectator turn out for the women's game than for the men's game that preceded it. Tom, I am sure I speak for the entire umpiring community when I say that we were proud to see you in that game and look forward to watching your career develop.

Whilst Tom deserves enormous plaudits for his achievements on field, Luke Wachtel and the Jedi Master Andrew Crosby earned their place in history with some sensational off-field antics after the AFLW game in Darwin. It was a very real possibility that Luke Wachtel may have disappeared in Darwin forever after finding he quite enjoyed the laid back life style in the top end. Thankfully, the next day Luke showed incredible grit and determination to get home in one piece, albeit a few litres lighter. He was however constantly under the watchful gaze of Andrew, who was 1 parts guilt, 3 parts proud.

Back home in S.A, the first debutant this year was Mitch Harris who made his debut in the round 4 showdown at Woodville Oval (for some reason). Rumour has it that the Harris family made up over 55% of the total crowd and it was the first time in memory, the umpires have gotten cheered from the ground. Mitch also stepped up and set the tone both on the field and in the Advertiser. The Field Marshall enjoys this sort of behaviour as the fines percentage is at an absolute premium.

Season 2017 has brought many new changes and challenges to the group, none more so than the 6 field umpires that now all officiate an under 16s game together. There are many theories as to why such a change in direction has occurred. There is of course the league directive which states that with 6 umpires we will have more eyes around the contest and will inevitably pick up the free kicks that have enraged the crowd so delightfully in the past. Another theory that has merit is, that the new system has been brought in to assist the junior umpires who no longer have the fitness or endurance to umpire in a 3-umpire system. This is of course due to the heavy restrictions on training loads, which often only allows our juniors to complete 75% of the warm up before they are done for the evening. The third theory is a bid to remove boundary umpires from the game, a conspiracy so dangerous, even mentioning it in my report could have dire consequences.

In other troubling news, the performance staff are currently holding the group to ransom with the April edition of games night cancelled without warning. The performance staff are yet to issue a statement outlining their reasoning but two theories come to mind easily. The first theory is that this is a direct result of a field umpire selfishly injuring himself in the March edition of games night. This makes no sense though, as games night is always a survival of the fittest. On many occasion, umpires have used the night to improve their finals chances by physically or mentally psyching their competition out. The second theory which is far more plausible is that the fitness staff have finally gotten fed up with the group's constant chant for soccer and rubbishing of their own half-baked European handball creations. This is how mutinies and revolutions begin.

On a positive, the group has a new sponsor in National Pharmacies - Optical. Consequently the group has a great new uniform that has been afforded in the budget by the sponsorship funds and the retirement of senior coach Darrel Schramm.

The season is underway and everyone is excited and looking forward to the dark cold months to come.

The Field Marshall.

BOUNDARY BOLTER

2017 is here and another preseason is in the bank for the boundary umpiring squad. As per usual the hot sweaty preseason sessions where hard work made even harder by having to solve some sort of maths equation to work out what Check's had set for us! Nothing is simple on the track. Maybe Matty Herman has learnt from some of his other grand final umpires from last year that you only have to show up to training the week before finals. The only other thing with worse attendance than preseason was the yearly 5km time trial which seems to be an annual night off for Tim Bryant and Sam Royans. Adam Spratt and Lachie Henning put in impressive times. Spratty actually remembered to pack his shorts for that session which saved him from having to use Check's spare old man shorts again.

Leading into the season numbers were made even lower with some untimely injuries to Matt Zacher blowing out his calf after a month off on a work trip in Germany. Too many frothies for Zacher in Germany perhaps. Just use a bit of rock tape to patch your calf up Zacher that stuff has been holding Timbo and Thommo's calves together for years. Brayden Theil did a quad in a preseason session but was back in time for round 1 luckily. Ben Sieben unfortunately is out with his hip problems continuing. He will be carrying the 'poison pen' as he returns to observing. Issac Fishlock was out with illness too although some where sceptical as to whether he was ill or just still sulking about Kevin Durant leaving his beloved Oklahoma City Thunder. Matt Fallon also came back to training to announce his retirement so that he can focus on taking his photo of the day Facebook post to the next level and keep sending annoying snapchats all day.

Some milestones have come up already. Gerard Carter and William Carter both debut in league for round 1 with their brother Terence. I've heard they both looked like they were crapping their pants before the game with nerves. Scott Hargraves also debuted in round 2, congratulations Scotty. Well done to Corey Watkins getting the call up to AFL over the summer. Enjoy the egos up there. Although he celebrated early (round 2) only to find out he had miscalculated a huge congratulations to Terence Carter who notched up the ton in round 4.

Sure to be a few more debutants before the end of the season that's for sure. Good to see some of the young guys getting an opportunity.

We are well into the season now and a few stories have emerged from around the grounds. Guys getting hit by the ball to chaos with last possession rule. Even a rumour that Tim Bryant not one to worry about his skin folds brought hot cross buns and butter to a match!

Keep work hard out on the track and performing during games.

Boundary Bolter

GALLOPING GOALIE

We are up and running for another season, and as always it isn't without some eye raising behaviour. Before I start, I must congratulate Matthew Cummins and Rhys Negerman on their Grand Final performance, it was a great Grand Final and well umpired (at least in the goals).

In true goal umpire fashion, a few goalies rocked up to pre-season training like that had been in a great paddock over Christmas. That has not stopped a great start to the season, with many seen enjoying a beverage or two after trial matches thanks to a certain goal umpire.

After the dust settled, the Goalies senior squad had 3 new additions. Well done to Michael 'Chocolate' Button (officially upgraded), Allannah 'Brunz' Bruno and Brad 'Sledge' Hammer on their promotion. Their hard work has paid off and now it is time to show what they are made of. We also say goodbye (for now) to a couple of umpires in Steven Rypp, Thomas Fahey and Lauren Dart. All due to growing work commitments have decided to place the flags down for the season, but hope to return in the near future.

The Goalies have also added a couple of new names to the SANFLUA Committee. Funnily enough, the Prez's great mate Matthew Cummins put his hand up to take over the social media portfolio, and to round of the Matthew's, Mat Wilson has also taken the step into the publications role. Well done boys, we hope you have a successful stint on the association.

Another shout out to 2016 Grand Final umpire, Matthew Cummins who in round 3 brought up his 200th League appearance. In doing so he now qualifies for SANFL Life Membership. With only a handful umpires in recent years to reach the 200 game milestone, it is a credit to Matthew's professionalism and commitment to the art of Goal Umpiring. In the same round, his great friend Matthew Norton brought up his 100th League appearance. It may not be the same as the 200th, but considering Matthew's AFL career (47 Games between 2011 – 2015), it is a great achievement to reach the total. On the big occasion, the two umpired together in the AN-ZAC Day match between Sturt and Eagles.

Into the more interesting stuff now. Congratulations go to Sharpie on getting through the Easter long weekend in one piece, I heard that you made sure that your accommodation over the Easter period did not have any stairs in close range.

We have already had our first nomination for the 'Dummy Spit' award. During a technique session, Rhys Negerman, in his usual seasonally fashion, told one of the fitness coaches where to stick it when being told his push up and sit up technique needed work. At least this time a cone didn't go flying in the process.

Round 1 had a new look in 2017, Steven Axon was seen in the SANFL green for the first time in a long time. It was questioned if Ax had even remembered where SANFL Ovals were located, or if he even had the correct uniform after the multiple changes over the last couple of years. This may be true or false, but he also may have asked for a score review in a quarter to only be told where he was umpiring...!

Steve Murphy has stayed pretty low key so far in the 2017 season, that being said, the Galloping Goalie has heard words were spoken to the Brother-in-Law and Head Coach Darren Trengove when he wasn't appointed to the first road trip of the year to Encounter Bay. After having his name penned in for each road trip for the past 5 seasons, Steven was apparently furious to miss out.

That is it for the first addition of the Galloping Goalie, there was only a few drive by's in the addition, so keep an eye out for the next addition where sparks will fly.

Galloping Goalie

SANFLUA

Founded in 1947, the South Australian National Football League Umpires Association (SANFLUA) is a not for profit organisation representing the needs and interests of umpires officiating at South Australian National Football League (SANFL) and Australian Football League (AFL) level.

The aim of the association is to provide a supportive and team-oriented umpiring environment and unite members across all umpiring disciplines. The association has a primary role in organising social events throughout the year and in maintaining its Life Members network.

SPONSORS

A new sponsor has come on board this year in the shape of the **Cathedral Hotel**. The Cathedral Hotel is a beautiful heritage listed hotel just a short walk from Adelaide Oval. This will be the venue for our After Match Drinks for the upcoming season as well as the Grand Final After Party.

Other Sponsors still on board include: **Peter Shearer Menswear, Deb Curtis Photography & the Checkside Tavern.**

