

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

# BALL UP

ISSUE 2, 2017



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## 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:  
SANFLUA 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

### 2017 GOLDEN WHISTLE

The 2017 Golden Whistle Awards will again be held at the magnificent Adelaide Oval on Friday October 6th. This prestigious event is for all umpires who have officiated SANFL League football during the 2017 season.

Mark it on your calendars and lock it into your diaries. It's always a great night .





## MOVIE DINNER NIGHT



Saturday 20th May was our annual Movie Dinner night held at a new venue for 2017 with Cafe Brunelli and Palace Nova Cinemas on Rundle Street hosting the SANFLUA for the evening. 30 members, partners and friends turned out to enjoy a few drinks, magnificent food and great company. Only a few enjoyed a film whilst others kicked on at other Rundle Street establishments. We hope to see more of our members at the SANFLUA 8 Ball Night up on the 16th of June.

## CATHEDRAL CATCH UP #2

Saturday June 3rd was the second SANFLUA After Match Drinks held at the Cathedral Hotel. 31 people turned up to enjoy the night and we were again very well looked after by the staff. Members enjoyed a few drinks courtesy of our President. It was great to see all umpires blending together. We hope to see a few new faces at the #3 SANFLUA Cathedral Catch up on the 10th July.



## GETTING TO KNOW: MATTHEW ZACHER

**Umpiring Discipline:** Boundary Umpire

**1st SANFL League Game:** 2009 ANZAC Day Game at Adelaide Oval with Hayden Cook, Sean Burton and Dane Fenton.

**Commenced Umpiring Career**

**With:** Started umpiring with the Pulteney Old Scholars FC, doing Division 4 games in the Amateur League, before moving the Independent Schools and U17s.

**Honours in Umpiring:** 2005 U17s GF, 2008 U19s GF, 2013 Reserves GF, 100 League Games (2014) and 2016 Reserves GF.

**Why did you become an Umpire:** To earn some extra pocket money (cash in hand when I started..) and to keep fit.

**Before a game I always:** Pack my bag the night before. No other superstitions!

**Occupation:** Process Engineer

**Favourite Food:** Pizza

**Favourite Movie:** Three Kings

**Favourite Music Artist/Band:** Horrowshow

**3 People you'd like to have dinner**

**with:** Evan Longoria, Steve Carrell & 'Boston' Rob Mariano

**Favourite Holiday Destination:** Hoi An, Vietnam

**Most admired sportsperson and why:** So many! I admire any sports person that has had to work hard to achieve, as opposed to relying on their pure ability alone. Eg. Kevin Garnett.

## GETTING TO KNOW: GILES LEWIS

**Umpiring Discipline:** Field Umpire

**1st SANFL League Game:** South Adelaide v Glenelg, 2015 at Noarlunga Oval

**Commenced Umpiring Career**

**With:** North Eastern Metro Junior Football Association (NEMJFA)

**Honours in Umpiring:** 2011/12 AFL NT Grand Final, 2014 SAAFL Division 1 Grand Final, 2015 SANFL Reserves Grand Final, 2015 SANFL Mark J Posa Award, 2016 SANFL Most Improved Award and 2017 AFL Rookie

**Why did you become an Umpire:** I played football but started to get regular injuries, so decided to give umpiring a go

**Before a game I always:** Double check I have everything I need in my bag

**Occupation:** Primary School Teacher

**Favourite Food:** Sushi

**Favourite Movie:** Back To The Future

**Favourite Music Artist/Band:** Queen or REM

**3 People you'd like to have dinner**

**with:** Charlie Pickering, Any player from Everton FC & Rowan Atkinson

**Favourite Holiday Destination:** Liverpool, UK

**Most admired sportsperson and**

**why:** Nairo Quintana - Humble beginnings, Amazing self discipline and fitness, successful, big future ahead of him

## GETTING TO KNOW: BRADEN FORD

**Umpiring Discipline:** Goal Umpire

**1<sup>st</sup> SANFL League Game:** 2015, Round 12, West Adelaide v Woodville-West Torrens

**Commenced Umpiring Career With:** Northern Combined Schools

**Honours in Umpiring:** 2012 Stan Wickham Memorial Medal, for Dedication, Most Improved, Teamwork and Commitment to Umpiring, 2015 Reserves Grand Final Emergency Goal Umpire, 2016 Reserves Grand Final Goal Umpire

**Why did you become an Umpire:** To try something new and earn a bit of money on the side

**Before a game I always:** Listen to music to get me pumped up

**Occupation:** Lighting technician

**Favourite Food:** Lasagne

**Favourite Movie:** Red Dog

**Favourite Music Artist/Band:** Lee Kernaghan

**3 People you'd like to have dinner with:** Glenn Robbins, Mick Fanning & Lee Kernaghan

**Favourite Holiday Destination:** Vanuatu

**Most admired sportsperson and why:** Mick Fanning – He is such an inspiration the way he comes back each year putting in % 100 effort and dedication, especially the way he bounced back from his shark attack is just incredible



(L-R) Matthew Zacher (B), Giles Lewis (F) and Braden Ford (G) all in action



## AFLW NAB U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS: EMILIE HILL

Round 1 of the AFLW U18's Championships has recently been held in Adelaide on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May. South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory were the teams competing, therefore a field, boundary and goal umpire from each of those state were involved. Riley Hemmings (field), Dylan Speck (boundary) and myself (goal) were lucky enough to share this opportunity with the interstate umpires.

Our experience began when we met our fellow umpires and 'umpire manager', Scott Galletly at our motel. We collected our uniforms and spent some time getting to know our new umpiring team. There was excitement amongst the female umpires, as we were spoilt with the uniforms being a female fit! Excitement aside, we packed our bags ready for our 6:00pm game between SA and TAS at Richmond Oval. We had to meet two of the Launceston umpires at the ground as their flight was delayed, thankfully they arrived an hour before the game. To mentor us through the weekend, Scott Galletly, Chris Bull and Peter Challen were assisting the field, boundary and goal umpires respectively. This was really helpful to receive different feedback from experienced and knowledgeable umpires still performing at the highest state and national levels. With the quarters being 15 minutes, the game was over before we knew it. It was a great experience to be a part of the AFLW system and to share it with the interstate umpires. After the game we jumped back on our mini bus and headed out to dinner at Café Brunelli on Rundle Street. In no time we were in bed getting a big sleep for the next day.

Saturday was our relaxing day as our game began at Adelaide oval at 4:35pm. We made the most of our buffet breakfast and had a very relaxing morning. A few of the umpires caught up with people they knew in Adelaide, two of the NT umpires had a taste of SANFL footy, watching a Reserves game at Unley Oval and the remaining umpires explored Rundle Mall. Before we knew it, it was time to get ready and walk to Adelaide Oval. We proceeded with our normal match day routines and checked out the Oval. This wasn't my first time umpiring on the grand Oval, but one thing is for sure, it's just as special every time, especially sharing it with new friends. I try to get to as many AFL games as I can, therefore I am used to being a spectator, but umpiring on the oval gives an entirely different perspective and another level of appreciation. The game between SA and NT commenced and we watched the crowd slowly build in preparation for the Crows v Melbourne game. Once the game concluded we were all buzzing with excitement. We were invited over to Next Gen for a recovery swim with the two state teams. The boys took that opportunity and the girls headed off to find a seat for the game. Watching the AFL game after was a great experience to share with the interstate umpires, as they are from the Northern Territory and Tasmania, their opportunities to attend AFL games are limited. After the game we headed off back to the motel ready for our final game the next day.

The feeling amongst our group of umpires was mixed on Sunday morning as we were both eager for the final game whilst knowing that our Round 1 AFLW U18 Championship experience was almost over. Off we headed to Richmond Oval again for the 10:00am game between TAS and NT. Despite the oval being in great condition we were all wishing to be back on Adelaide oval again of course. We reflected on the weekend, discussing our highlights, experiences and admiring the wonderful weather Adelaide had put on for our interstate visitors. The game went well, it was my turn to sit which was a great opportunity for me to personally reflect on my own umpiring and what I have learnt from the weekend. Once the game had concluded, presentations were held in the grandstand, awarding MVP trophies to a player from each team. We posed for our final umpiring team photo and said our goodbyes.

The best players from the three teams will be selected to make up an Allies team that will compete against the other states for Round 2 of the AFLW U18 Championships held on the Gold Coast between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July. Riley, Dylan and myself will be heading up to umpire along with a field, boundary and goal umpire from every state. We are all looking forward to this next experience to umpire in the championships as well as meet up with our friends from Round 1. Opportunities like these are not only essential for female player development but it gives the umpires a platform to show their talent and grow.

*By Emilie Hill*



AFLW U/18 Umpires Emilie Hill (G), Dylan Speck (B) and Riley Hemmings (F) on Adelaide Oval

## SANFL U/16 GRAND FINAL: MICHAEL BRUNO

The 2017 Under-16 (U16) Torrens University Cup Grand Final was a tremendous success for the entire umpiring body. Glenelg took the win over Woodville-West Torrens with a close five-point victory. From the get-go, both teams were determined to finish on top before the final siren sounded and they put forward continuous strength to uphold their position. We were fortunate to have beautiful sunny conditions at Football Park West Lakes. The gameplay was quick and every umpire effectively covered their field of play. I observed a tremendous effort from all of the umpires. Each umpire acted tactically and displayed their full ability. They showed a great level of speed, precise decision making and a commendable level of camaraderie. I had the pleasure of umpiring this milestone with Alisha Machek who was goal umpiring on the opposite scoring line. Alisha showed outstanding goal umpiring ability, including perfectly positing herself during some close calls.

For the past two years of my umpiring career, I have umpired Division 1 football at the Channel 9 Football League; achieving the Division 1 Grand Final at the end of the 2016 season. The ability of Division 1 footballers is very good, although umpiring throughout the U16 season and the U16 Grand Final was a valuable development opportunity for me and has allowed me to advance my umpiring skill set. More specifically, I developed in reading the ball and gaining speed to straddle the scoring line. At this level, teams take a very different approach to their gameplay. Their younger age means that they prefer to kick towards the scoring line from closer proximity to the goal square. This required me to stay on my toes and frequently attack the ball which was within a contestable height and closer to the post padding. In the first quarter, I quickly found myself straddling a speedy mark nearing the behind line. The parallel skill and ability level of each team meant that the ball was intensely contested from each team while creeping towards me. I always needed to be prepared as at times I found the ball to be unpredictable.

From behind the scoring line, I have continuously been placed under pressure during games and weekly umpire training. The coaching staff at the Channel 9 Football League put a lot of time towards preparing me to enter the advanced level of football at the South Australian National Football League (SANFL). This year I have received outstanding support from my coaches at SANFL. My coaches offer me feedback regularly and encourage me to “stay eager” and present my best efforts.

The U16 Grand Final was a fantastic experience and a great form of development for me and everyone one who received the opportunity to umpire on the day. I strongly encourage any new umpires to strive to get an U16 Grand Final appointment as the nature of the game will undoubtedly further development to their umpiring capacity. I am enormously thankful for the constant direction from my coaches and the opportunity to umpire this milestone.

*By Michael Bruno*

**Congratulations to all of our U/16 Grand Final umpires.**

**Field Umpires: Jackson Nokes, Max Richarson & Joshua Hardy**

**Boundary Umpires: Brody McKay, Corey Sauerwaid & Taylor Dorset**

**Goal Umpires: Michael Bruno, Alisha Machek & Emma Marinelli (Emergency)**



Taylor Dorset (B), Jackson Nokes (F) and Michael Bruno (G) in action during the SANFL U/16 Grand Final at Football Park



## BIGGER & BETTER THINGS: ELENI GLOUFTSIS (PART #1)

Eleni Glouftsis AFL debut was not only a highlight for her but it was one of the most widely publicised news articles of 2017. She became the first female in VFL/AFL history to officiate a home and away match in round 9 when she took charge of the Essendon vs West Coast game at Etihad Stadium on Sunday May 21st.

As she prepares for her third AFL match (Gold Coast vs West Coast at Metricon Stadium) Eleni was kind enough to take time out of her busy schedule to chat with Ball Up to give our readers an insight into how she prepared for her history making match. Here is what Eleni had to say;

*“On the Sunday of my match, I tried to treat it the same as any other game. I ate the same pre-game meal and arrived at the ground only a little earlier than usual. Simon Meredith, Shaun Ryan and Nathan Williamson (Emergency) are extremely calm before matches and this helped me to feel comfortable and ready to go. I was so excited that I was able to share my first match with Matthew Konetschka, who I was really close with at the SANFL and still am now. It was great to have my Mum, Dad, Nanna, brother, sister and boyfriend Dillon come down to the rooms for my whistle presentation by Hayden Kennedy. Once the match began, it mostly feel like a normal game, just quicker and generally more predictable. I was disappointed with my bouncing, Etihad had the centre resurfaced just the week before, but otherwise I was pleased with the way my first match went. After the match, I was mostly relieved that it had all gone ok and spent the evening catching up with all of my friends and family who had travelled from Adelaide to see my match, friends from the school I work at and other AFL umpires who came along.”*



Eleni in the thick of the action during her debut match at Etihad Stadium



## BIGGER & BETTER THINGS: ELENI GLOUFTSIS (PART #2)

### **Age, year and panel where did you start your umpiring journey?**

I began umpiring in Year 9 (aged 13) in 2006 at North Eastern Metro Junior Football Association.

### **Ever played football? If so until what age?**

I played football through high school with my high school team but stopped once I finished high school.

### **Why did you take up umpiring?**

I always loved footy and was keen to be involved in any way possible. I also really liked fitness and thought this was a great way to both be involved and keep fit.

### **How many SANFL League Games?**

19 SANFL League matches

### **Grand Finals in which years (inc League, Reserves/Under Age Grades).**

In 2010 I umpired the SANFL Under 16s Grand Final and SAAFL Division 3 Grand Final. In 2014 and 2013 I umpired the SANFL Reserves Grand Final and was the emergency for the SANFL Reserves Grand Final in 2012.

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

Always listen to and seek out feedback from your coaches, as well as senior SANFL umpires, they want to help you improve and are happy to help! And, most importantly, make sure you have fun and enjoy ever experience and opportunity you get.

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

I loved living in SA, close to the city and close to the beach with my family and friends. It's a really different experience in Melbourne with it being a footy mad town and so busy compared with Adelaide. There is always something happening in Melbourne.

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

Michael Avon was always someone I have looked up to.

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

I love cricket, I grew up playing a lot of cricket and still get to a lot of Twenty20 and test matches.

### **What's your best sporting experience outside of football?**

In 2013, I completed the Florence Marathon, this was an incredibly challenging but rewarding experience.

### **What are some benefits of being a SANFLUA member?**

Catching up with the umpires outside footy at all of the social nights and events, in particular the Annual Dinner.

### **What is your favourite pre and post-match food?**

On game day, I will always eat toast with jam or honey before my match.

### **For umpires you umpired with in SA:**

#### **Who is the funniest?**

Matthew Fallon



Eleni (L) as she heads onto Etihad Stadium to warm-up prior to her debut

## AFL ROUND 7 MILESTONES: 50TH AFL MATCH

### PERSISTANCE PAYS OFF FOR PETE



Peter Challen in action during 2008

Resilient. Determined. Consistent. Three key words that categorise the goal umpiring career of Peter Challen that recently had him achieve a hard fought and well earned 50 AFL games. He became only the seventh person based in South Australia to achieve this in 26 years of the national competition being in Adelaide, illustrating the milestone isn't one that comes easy.

Peter's career can be divided up into 4 parts.

Part 1 is a young Peter entering umpiring, beginning with Independent Schools in mid 1999, progressing from here through the SANFL ranks, picking up numerous grand finals along the way in the junior grades. A league debut came in 2004, a state game and league grand final in 2006 to earn a late call up to the big leagues for the 2007 AFL season. Part 1 of his career is as fun, relaxed, successful and promising as could possibly be.

Part 2 of his career from 2007-2010 includes 31 AFL games, which he would admit were mostly filled with stress, anxiety and umpiring that wasn't his best. Many would argue his delisting was as unlucky as they come; however he knew it was coming when his end of season review was happening. The landscape of umpiring always changes when progressing from SANFL to AFL in so many ways and sometimes it can get the better of you.

Part 3 of his career from 2011-2015 was back to what Peter's fellow umpires had come to know. A professional and determined umpire who ticked every box possible on and off the field to be the best he could be. Whenever a fitness test was done, Peter would continue to use the AFL expectations as his goal. This 5 year period involved 3 SANFL grand finals, but off field was even bigger than now being a 4 time SANFL league grand final umpire.

Peter got married to Hayley in early 2014, had a nice trip to Europe at the end of that year and then the arrival of daughter Zoey in 2015. The most unlikely of people turning into someone who puts being a dad as the number 1 thing in the world he loves. You can't help but feel the combination of going back to the SANFL to regain confidence and form, as well as huge life moments helped him see that umpiring isn't the only thing in the world. This altered the previously over hyped Peter into a more relaxed umpire, taking us to where we are now.

Part 4 has Peter back on the AFL panel for the 2016 season and is without a doubt umpiring the best he ever has in 2017. Very rarely does someone get cut from the AFL and get a second shot. It seemed to take Peter at least half a season to stop shaking his head and saying "I can't believe this is actually happening" last year. It was certainly happening and his maturity, confidence, excellent umpiring and importantly a more relaxed Peter has his embracing his second chance and loving it.

If we rewind the clock 8-10 years, a mistake in a game would consume Peter's mind and likely lead to further issues, something we all in umpiring battle constantly. The Peter of 2017 will be disappointed, learn from it then go home to his smiling daughter Zoey and loving wife Hayley and remember what is truly important.



Peter Challen in action during 2017



## ROUND 5 MILESTONES: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

### HALF CENTURY FOR HENNIG

I first met Lachlan in 2012, when he decided to join the MacKinnon parade athletics club for a bit of summer fitness. My first impression of him was that he is the type of guy who would give you the shirt of his back, and this impression has only improved over the past five years. Although sometimes he comes off as a bit shy, he is very self-driven and always happy to ask his peers and coaches for pointers on how to constantly improve his umpiring.

Lachlan commenced his umpiring career in the 1<sup>st</sup> 18s at Immanuel College whilst also balancing a promising football career playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup>'s. When his PE teacher... a much younger Tony checker spotted this boys massive potential and text book running action, he tried to recruit Lachlan to come join the ranks at the SANFL. After much deliberation, Lachlan decided to quit footy and follow his umpiring career. Lachlan started umpiring in the U16s at the SANFL but was promptly elevated to the U18s and then again after half a year to reserves where he stayed for much of 2013. In round 9 of 2014, after putting together a couple of strong running pre-seasons, Lachlan got his big break; umpiring his first league game on the Friday night between Norwood and Centrals which he recalls to be a trying night, with the rain coming in sideways. Since then, Lachlan's determination and dedication to umpiring has resulted in improvements in running and throw ins and as a result, him powering his way through to 50 SANFL senior matches, two of which were league finals.

All in all, Lachlan is a top bloke, who loves to get involved in a bit of banter. I look forward to seeing him only further his improvement in the coming years and am excited to see what he achieves.

*By Corey Watkins*

I spoke with Lachlan about his fiftieth SANFL League match and his career so far. This is what he had to say:

*"The idea of umpiring was first introduced to me in year 11 by Tony Checker, who was one of my teachers at Immanuel College. He always knew that I had been a keen runner since my early teenage years and he thought that umpiring would be a great avenue to better my running ability while earning a little bit of pocket money on the side. My first training session was one that made me realise that this whole umpiring thing was right up my alley, when I saw the likes of Darren Wilson, John Creasey and Shane Thiele, who I knew as some of the top runners in SA. I was really put in my place by everyone that night and was quickly spat out the back, which only motivated me to get up there as quickly as I could. I started by running the boundary of the 1<sup>st</sup> 18 football team of Immanuel College straight after playing in the reserves team. I quickly realised that I had to choose one or the other, as running on the wing for a whole game followed by running roughly 15 kilometres on the boundary was very physically demanding. After boundary umpiring a handful of games I started to get the hang of things relatively quickly and moved into under 18's SANFL footy. After another year I moved into reserves footy but knew there was still a lot to learn if I was going to break into league footy.*

*I remember spending many afternoons up in the grandstand after umpiring the reserves, watching the way the league boundary umpires went about it, which I think helped a lot in the development of myself as an umpire. I honestly wouldn't have broken into league footy if it wasn't for the people who took me under their wing out at training. The likes of Matt Konetschka, Corey Watkins, Sean Burton and Darren Wilson have played a huge role in getting me to 50 games and the way they get the best out of me on the training track and on game day is something I really thank them for. My first league game was Norwood v Centrals under lights on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June back in 2014, I will never forget the game as it was honestly the worst weather I have ever umpired in. I have really enjoyed my journey to 50 games and am very excited to see how far I can take my umpiring."*



Lachlan Hennig being presented his 50<sup>th</sup> League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

## ROUND 7 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

### ADAM SPRATT

From the footy fields of Whyalla in 2014 his career as a boundary umpire was motivation to train for a marathon.

The candle burnt inside – as we all get – knowing there are ‘bigger fish to fry!’ A move to Adelaide by years end and a preseason with the SANFL we were put on notice of how good of a runner this lad was when he posted at 16.30 5km Time Trial at Mckinnon Parade. This was far different to his navigational skills when getting to the Ponderosa (Elizabeth Oval) and being on the wrong side of the train line for his 1<sup>st</sup> trial match. A story for another time!

Adam left early in the 2015 season after accepting a teaching position in Roxby Downs with a return to the SANFL set for 2016 where he worked his way into reserves football and learnt to hone his navigational skills and craft for the future.

His league debut at Prospect in round 7 this year was through hard-work and an open mind to learn from the coaching staff and his fellow umpires.

Adam athletic attributes stem from the Triathlon where he has won State, National and Oceanic titles in the Duathlon/Triathlon and had a World top 10 age ranking.

We wish you a long career with the SANFL.

*By Hayden Cook*

I spoke with Adam about his first SANFL League match. This is what he had to say:

*I got the tap on the shoulder from Cookie at training Monday night. “You’re having your first shot at league this week.” The anticipation before the first bounce was great and built up throughout the week.*

*I was lucky enough to run with Damian and Martin who were experienced and were able to support me through it with the field umpires as well. I highly recommend taking anyone up on the offer of letting them start on the outer side in your first step up to help you get a feel for the game. The music and atmosphere of the crowd before the game added to the event and I defiantly was enjoying it.*

*Adrenalin was pumping through my body and I could feel my heart pounding in my chest as the ball was bounced. The pace of the game was like nothing I had experienced before. Even watching from the stands does not do it justice how quickly the decision making happens and how the ball can move and change direction.*

*I was really happy to have made it through and worked into the game. It was a great day even with some mixed weather and lighting difficulties. I look forward to being able to continue developing to the high standards that the other league umpires set in future opportunities.*



Adam Spratt being presented his 1<sup>st</sup> League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton



## ROUND 8 MILESTONES: 150<sup>TH</sup> LEAGUE MATCH

### MATTHEW ZACHER

Matty Zacher is now considered one of the elder statesmen at the SANFL with notching up his 150<sup>th</sup> game at the age of 27. Matty started umpiring out at the Independent Schools Panel in 2002 and has risen through the ranks at SANFL with umpiring his first league game in 2009 with an illustrious start to his career umpiring the AN-ZAC Grand Final rematch at Adelaide Oval where West Adelaide defeated Norwood.

Matty has umpired the U/17's Grand Final in 2005, the last ever U/19's Grand Final in 2008 and the Reserves Grand Finals in 2013 and 2016. Matty has almost gone the whole way with coming close to a SANFL league grand final in both 2012 and 2015 where he umpired the SANFL League Preliminary Final.



Matthew Zacher being presented his 150<sup>th</sup> League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

Matty definitely adds a USA flavour to training with a passion for MLB, NFL and NBA it would be a toss of the coin between Matty and Terence Carter as to who has more passion and 'swag' at the SANFL. This is also the case with the amount of US sport 'Swag' in the boundary change rooms normally each week there is a new set of 'kicks' from either Matty or Terence making an appearance after training!

All of the on field achievements are par for the course with the level of commitment and dedication that Matty shows to umpiring with the SANFL, he regularly completes the hour and half drive from Mt Barker where he works as a process engineer at Jurlique, he has usually started work at 4am to attend training and get the job done. One of Zacher's major assets in his umpiring is his ability to launch his throw ins to the centre square if required. However, this cannon has been known to misfire at times with one of the best throw ins in the SANFL having the occasional recall.

Congratulations on the 150<sup>th</sup> game Matty, not much longer now until that illustrious 200<sup>th</sup> game and two tickets to Adelaide Oval for the rest of your life!

*By Sean Burton*

## ROUND 8 MILESTONES: 200TH LEAGUE MATCH

### DOUBLE CENTURY FOR CROZ

An illustrious umpiring career culminated in the ultimate achievement of 200 SANFL league games on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June for Andrew “Crozz” Crosby, in the game at Unley; Norwood v Sturt.

When one looks at the history of the SANFL, in 140 years only 47 umpires of all disciplines have ever achieved this 200 game milestone. This is a true testament to Crozz’s dedication, commitment, tenacity and endurance in being the 48<sup>th</sup> member of this distinguished group. His application to training is something the young up and coming umpires should aspire to. His work on the training track, in conjunction with the extra work he does during the week, has made him without doubt the fittest 40+ year-old field umpire that umpiring has ever seen. This same level of dedication is also highlighted in his contribution to SANFLUA of which he has been a committee member for much of his umpiring career with the SANFL. Irrespective of life’s other challenges, Crozz has always ensured that SANFL functions and its members are well looked after. This is exemplified in the fantastic Annual Dinners that have been hosted over the last few years at the Adelaide Oval.



Andrew Crosby (C) enjoying post match beverage with his colleagues for his 200<sup>th</sup> League match in Michael Schramm (L) and Theron Philp (R)

Crozz started his career with the SANFL in 2005, and made his league debut in Round 13 of the 2007 season, when North hosted West at Richmond. Back then, umpires still wore the white uniforms, which would have somewhat clashed with the white dome that adorns the top of his head nowadays.... But gee he wears it well, and he’s started a revolution with many other umpires now choosing to shave their locks in the name of fashion. One would ask, “Is this for aerodynamics?”. But with Crozz’s dedication to umpiring and fitness, I don’t really think he needs any extra advantage in this area.

I was so proud when Crozz achieved his first SANFL League Grand Final in 2014, when Norwood played Port in front of a huge crowd at Adelaide Oval. It is a milestone that I never achieved, but due to my friendship with Crozz, his appointment to this game made it feel as though I too got to experience that ultimate goal. To his credit, his dedication ensured that this was not a one off. He deservedly achieved a repeat opportunity in umpiring the 2016 Grand Final; Eagles v. Sturt. I am sure this will not be his last.

On a personal note, Crozz has been a remarkable friend to me since he started with the SANFL. Whether the chips have been down or not, he has always been there. Even if I am whingeing, he always has a wise perspective and will always listen, which I have thoroughly appreciated. He is always kind and considerate to all umpires, and is always willing to give up his time for the younger generations. He is definitely a role model for those umpires who wish to have a successful career in umpiring and in life.

This weekend in his 200<sup>th</sup> game, he has chosen to umpire with two of his mates; Michael Schramm, and myself. It certainly bodes to be a wonderful experience for Crozz, but also for those involved in this momentous game. I feel truly honoured to have been chosen to share this experience, and hopefully Schrammy and I can add something to the day. I certainly know that when I shared my 200<sup>th</sup> game with Crozz and Schrammy, their support made the game that much more special. Crozz will always be a best mate, and I look forward to sharing AFL games in the Western Stand in years to come as Life Members.

Congratulations again Crozz for achieving this magnificent milestone. We hope you enjoyed the day and remember it for years to come.

*By Theron Philp*



## ROUND 8 MILESTONES: 200TH LEAGUE MATCH

### PJ RACKS UP THE DOUBLE

Over the past 10 years, there have been significant changes within boundary umpiring in South Australia. However, one the constants has been Sean Burton umpiring SANFL league football. Since joining the academy in 2003 as a slightly chubby loud mouth, 'PJ' has enjoyed an umpiring career full of success. After umpiring the Under 17s grand final in 2005, Sean had a massive 2006, making his league debut, umpiring the reserves grand final and winning the SANFL Most Improved Award. From then he has gone from strength to strength at SANFL level, umpiring another 6 grand finals (including 5 at league level), and being recognized as the state's best boundary umpire in 2013 by being awarded the Silver Whistle. It is worth noting, that all of these accolades have been achieved before his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday!



Sean Burton being presented his 200<sup>th</sup> League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

Following his incredible success at SANFL level, Sean made his AFL debut in 2012 and has already amassed more than 25 AFL games on top of his SANFL career. Over his time at the top, Sean has been a leader and role model for preparation, training standards and performance for the SA boundary umpiring fraternity. He is always pushing the pace and working hard at the front of the training pack, and always looking out for his mate on game day. Importantly he has leapt into the role of mentor for young and new umpires at SANFL level.

Along with this, he's always been a bringer of entertainment and banter, making sure that the group is livened up on a dreary night at West Lakes or by making sure that everyone is aware of someone's minor error (boundary bolter, anyone?). This is something that can't be underestimated through the ranks with the turnover and change that has come through the years.

Congratulations on your 200<sup>th</sup> game, Sean!

*By Matthew Zacher*

#### APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES (ROUNDS 9 - 12)

Martin Elsegood (50)

Brayden Theil (50)

## FIELD MARSHALL

Welcome Ladies, Gentlemen and Sir Andrew Crosby.

I will start with AFL news, yes our very own Rowan Hundermark stepped into the crucible of fire during the Adelaide v Melbourne match after fellow South Australian Craig Fleer was felled by a hit to the back of the head. Rowan understood it was his moment and came out all guns blazing, making the other two veterans out there look slower than a 1 legged race-horse. Rowan clearly ruffled some feathers in AFLHQ and was told that he needed to substantially cut his running back in the second half. Rowan is a man of 2 speeds, full gas or nothing and unfortunately accommodating the AFL's punitive wishes was a fatal move with Rowan's legs, becoming unresponsive. However, he won the respect of all involved and I am sure I speak for the group when I say you will be back out there soon enough.

Secondly, congratulations to three of Garry's finest young men who were appointed to the under 16s grand final between Glenelg and Woodville West Torrens. To Jackson Nokes, Max Richardson and Joshua Hardy congratulations, you have all had excellent starts to the season and I am sure that will continue. I did scratch my head at the decision to only run with the 3 umpires. Given the roaring success of the 6 umpire system it seemed only natural we would see 6 of a young bright officials out there doing what they do best. I was however glad to only see three umpires appointed for not only does it strike a familiar chord in my narrow minded perspective, but announcing 6 umpires to the group would have further extended the mid-training announcements our coaching staff are so fond of.

Pressing on, congratulations to Andrew Crosby on reaching 200 SANFL league games and guaranteeing himself two complementary tickets to every regular home and away AFL game.

Clearly the holy grail of umpiring and what every young umpire dreams of. Even more impressive was that it took Crosby just 10 years to accomplish this feat. Now to many of you young bucks, that length of time is more than half your age and difficult to comprehend, so I will draw comparisons:

- When Crosby started he had a glorious flowing mane of hair.
- The 10-year journey was 17 years faster than the last man to reach 200, Theron Philip.

Lastly I turn to the war on common sense with the Performance Department. The war continues to wage with many bloody scalps taken along the way. Scott Galletly and Scott Hosking took charge one night to lead the group in what was agreed to be the best training night of the year. But the performance staff wasted no time in counter striking, felling fellow umpire Mitch Harris in a tragic event involving an ankle and a highway to hell. Still the greatest punishment came on a wet May evening when the group was sent to Mackinnon Parade tasked with completing a scavenger hunt that would take them deep into the night. It is not often that you hear an umpire wishing they were just doing a time trial.

That is all for now from me, just remember... winter is coming.

Field Marshall.

## BOUNDARY BOLTER

Eight rounds have gone down in season 2017; faster than Tim Bryant's dropped relay on Anzac day! Since Ball UP #1 the boundary squad has brought up even more milestones. At least this time around no one jumped the gun on a milestone like Terence Carter!

Adam Spratt debuted in round 7 at Prospect Oval (North Adelaide vs Adelaide) after being so close all year. Great work by 'Spratty' who has worked so hard to get to league level, although I do have to pity the guys that get to run with him, hopefully they packed some headphones so they don't have to listen to him all day!

In round 8 veteran Matthew Zacher brought up 150 at Unley Oval (Sturt vs Norwood). Zacher has been in cotton wool since doing his calf early in preseason, so had to wait a few weeks to bring up his milestone. No doubt Brayden and Terence carried him on the outer in his 150<sup>th</sup> at Unley. The Boundary Bolter understands that Zacher got his own poster in the rooms before the game; not sure if he made that himself or not.

Round 8 also saw fellow boundary veteran Sean 'PJ' Burton racked up his 200<sup>th</sup> at Woodville Oval (Eagles vs North Adelaide). PJ was quick to let everyone know he put on a clinic as he the time to drop down from AFL level to bring up the 200. Modest words from the man about himself as usual!

In what seems to be the theme of the year so far, Scott Hargreaves injured his hamstring prior to round 8. We all hope he recovers quickly as he has been a great addition this season. Coincidentally he got injured doing the running session on games night so I'll let you figure out the moral of the story here. Most guys have returned from injury now just Joshy Custance still to come back.

A few two umpire systems have come in again the last few weeks as the squad lacks some depth. Tim Bryant taking a weekend off to sit on the beach and be lazy didn't help much, but we hope Tim will be fresh for the second half of the season since I know he's been "just getting through" the last couple of seasons.

Ben Sieben has settled in well to his observation role; although, he now prefers to be known as 'BEC' which stands for Boundary Event Coordinator and is doing a magnificent job of organising boundary dinners. Keep up the great work Benny!

Sam Royans did good job on Check's orientation night at MacKinnon shafting his team to go do whatever he wanted at the loop. A good contribution just like his 3 minute outer stints. Spratty lost his keys that night and had to make an emergency phone call to get a ride home. That was probably the quietest any of us have ever heard Spratt be after he realized he had lost them.

Another story that made its way across the desk of the Boundary Bolter was Will Carter getting himself in Cookie's good books by telling him the night before his game that he was in fact away that weekend and would not be umpiring. Have a spell in the B grade Will! Perhaps he has been training with Timbo too much who also loves to go MIA and cause a 2 umpire system for his mates. Speaking of Carter Crew, I think the 'Brayden's' both Thiel and Dixon have taken the mantle from Terence Carter for worst boundary umpire haircuts at the moment. Surely they are coping as much from the crowd as they do from fellow umpires for their man buns/top knots.

Keep working hard at training and in games guys. It's been a solid first half of the season, let's keep it up!

Boundary Bolter



## GALLOPING GOALIE

Where has the time gone? Already over a third of the season gone and a lifetimes worth of gossip in the goalie ranks.

In the last addition it was mentioned, but now it has come and gone, congratulations to both the Prez (Matthew Norton) and Cummi (Matthew Cummins) on their fantastic milestones in recent weeks. The week that followed the goalies continued their tradition of dinner to celebrate. It's great to see the group coming together to celebrate our fellow Umpires Milestones. It has certainly been a great initiative by the Senior Coach. It was great to see Dan Hoskin make his first appearance at a Milestone get together. Dan made it to Peter Challens 50<sup>th</sup> AFL Game Milestone drinks after training one night. It's fair to say anyone who was sitting down nearly fell off their stools.

With the multicultural month being in full swing in recent weeks, Goalies were given orange flags to celebrate the occasion. I have been passed through some information from a reliable source that one goal umpire who had his and his partner's flags to bring to the game, may or may not have forgotten them at home. Let's just say, he is hopeful that a certain someone isn't reading this article.

The Goalies have started planning their end of season trip already (never too early). Rooms have been allocated and a certain elder statesman of the group, being his usual tight self, tried to convince his colleagues to stay at a place \$10 cheaper. It should be mentioned that this cheaper accommodation is 3km further out of town!!! GG is certain some more 'wheeling and dealing' will occur or at least the Shop-a-Dockets will be used at Victor in October.

Last time the boys had a trip, there may or may not have been a room which was known to the management by the end of trip. Hopefully this year, Steve Axon can hold his coffee mug of Jack Daniels and not drop it into Matthew Cummins' bag. Allannah Bruno will change the dynamic this year, especially when it comes to golf; hopefully she doesn't hit them like she kicks a footy. If she does, there will be people in trouble left and right. She couldn't be any worse than the Prez or Joon-Yip Wong.

The Galloping Goalie is becoming suspicious of Sharpe aka the 'Part Timer' who has missed more sessions than he has attended in recent weeks and still maintained a run of 8 straight league matches. The GG is wondering if Sharpe has been floating around Blackwood mowing Head Coach Darren Trengove's lawns.

In other news, resident 'twelve' Braden Ford was recently receiving some 'close' feedback from a coach. Some would say a little too close, and it was made aware to the Galloping Goalie that 'Brown Nosing' isn't to be permitted. The Galloping Goalie is putting Bray on notice.

Hopefully GG will be able to locate James Georgiadis by the time Edition 3 of the Ball Up comes out. It's believed he might have forgotten what nights training is on!

Finally, GG would also like to mention that a certain Score Reviewer seems to be showing more commitment to his AFL duties than his SANFL umpiring. This hasn't gone unnoticed by the GG and not to mention EVERYONE ELSE!

Until next Ball Up!

The Galloping Goalie

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The Ox and The Prez enjoying their "Golden Gaytime Protein Balls" from Bakery on O'Connell after a day at the office at Woodville Oval!



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## 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.

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