

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 4, 2017



INSIDE:

- Quiz Night
- AFLW U18 & AFL U16 Championships
- 70th SANFLUA Annual Dinner
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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
- Saturday August 12:
Cathedral Catch up #4
- Thursday August 17:
SANFLUA Annual Dinner
- Sunday September 24:
Grand Final After Party
- Saturday October 28:
Wine/Microbrewery Tour
- Sunday December 2:
Christmas/Lawn Bowls BBQ

CATHEDRAL CATCH UP #4

Saturday August 12th was the final After Match Drinks for 2017 held at the Cathedral Hotel. 27 people turned up to enjoy the night and we were truly looked after by the hotel. Members enjoyed a few drinks courtesy of the President. We hope to see everyone at the SANFLUA Grand Final After Party on Sunday the 24th of September.



QUIZ NIGHT

Long before our major annual events, Mathew Wilson and David Sobieraj were scurrying around Adelaide (and beyond) in search for perfect prizes for the 2017 Quiz Night and Annual Dinner. The men searched high and wide, accruing timeless timepieces, a pair of sunglasses that (Steven) Paunovic would happily match with the timepiece, enough wine to last the team Wine Weasels a year and massage equipment Chris Rabin would endorse. As the weeks approached, our President (in true Matthew Norton form) organized some dazzling quiz questions and practised his passages for the night. Prior to the event, these men along with other committee members, came together to set up the room in conjunction with the capable backing of the Checkside Tavern and the outgoing and obliging little Ollie Wilson.

As the night arrived, there was an air of excitement as members, friends and family came together to quiz it out in the Checkside Arena. The team names were a highlight and while there were some very well thought out names, unfortunately for some teams, their answers weren't as well thought out as their names. BT's Roaming Rookies turned out to be very Rookie, the Pretenders lived up to their name but, Holy Sh!t Jason, G train were the true underperformers considering the combined years of university study between the members of the team. Steven Rypp and Theron Philp either have inflated egos or their tables were as boring as Craig Fleer with their two table names being... Steven Rypp and Theron.

The night was played in good spirit with participants embodying one team's name, everybody love everybody'. I didn't see what Choccy's Buttons had to eat on the night, only they will know if they ate chocolate buttons and how far they embraced everybody loving everybody. Sam's All Stars put in an all-star performance though were just outperformed and had to settle for third place. Theron's team Theron came a close second, finishing only two points behind the eventual winners. The Unemployed represented 6.6% of South Australia well, answering more questions correctly than any other table. David "Slug" Elliot's family (The Unemployed) were two members short with only eight participants, though this didn't hold them back as they performed very well, taking home 10 bottles of wine and a \$100 Café Brunelli voucher as victors, well done.



Congratulations to the SANFLUA Quiz Night winning team led strongly by SANFLUA Life member David 'Slug' Elliot

The Unemployed weren't the only winners on the night with a number of silent auction items being taken home for a bargain and the abundance of raffle prizes resulting in a number of contestants leaving with their pockets full. A few \$25 Bakery on O'Connell and Officeworks vouchers were also awarded to the winners of our 'heads and tails' and 'stand up sit down' games. A huge thank you to everyone who attended the night, it was this year's big fundraiser and events like this one are important contributors to SANFLUA's finances. Thanks again to everyone who attended the night and a further thank you to those who organised a table, brought friends or family along, the more support we get for these events the better.

By Chris Cook



Thank you to those who came to the SANFLUA Quiz Night. Please enjoy some photos from what was a very successful event for the SANFLUA

AFLW NAB U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND 2: EMILIE HILL



(L-R) SA AFLW U18 Representatives Dylan Speck (B), Emilie Hill (G) and Riley Hemming (F)

Round 2 of the AFLW U18 Championships were held on the Gold Coast between the 10th and 14th of July. Riley Hemmings (field), Dylan Speck (boundary) and myself (goal) were invited to officiate in the second round of the Championships. After round 1 in Adelaide we had a taste of what the Championships were all about, therefore making us even more excited to experience it on a larger scale.

This excitement was slightly drowned by the anticlimax of a five-hour flight delay from Adelaide to Melbourne. After time spent snoozing on airport lounges and arranging our connecting flight, we were on our way. Due to the delay we missed out on the meet and greet activities with the rest of the umpiring team, and arrived just after dinnertime. An early night was had by most, ready for our first day of games.

We each umpired a game on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with three games being played on each of those days. Monday's games were played at Bond University Oval, which was great despite the oval being rather boggy. The remaining games were played at Broadbeach AFC, this being the group's favourite ground with fantastic facilities. As

expected, the Gold Coast provided us with beautiful weather, emphasizing the positive vibes throughout the umpiring group.

Each discipline was lucky enough to be mentored by either a current or ex AFL umpire, including Stefan Grun (field), Rob Taylor (boundary) and Sally Boud (goal). We were required to make many adjustments to the way we umpired considering the differences in the way the girls play. Many of these changes were discovered and noted during Monday's game, allowing us to prepare for the rest of the week. Umpiring with a team of people from all over the country was a great experience. It was particularly interesting listening to the way they did things which varied between each state. These differences were respected and discussed by the group and many umpires tried to incorporate different techniques into their games.

Between our three games we had days off, this was used for recovery, coaching and exploring some of the Gold Coast. The mornings after we had umpired were scheduled beach recovery sessions where we went for a short walk from our accommodation to stretch and swim in the surf. This was definitely a different experience for some people, highlighted by the Darwin umpires' reactions to the enormous waves. In the afternoons we had coaching sessions; on Tuesday this involved group coaching and skills. We had a pleasant surprise arriving to Palm Beach Oval for skills, being greeted by the Gold Coast Suns who were training on the oval. Our day off on Thursday was filled with a shopping trip to Pacific Fair and individual coaching sessions. For me personally this was a debrief on my two games thus far, and a time to set short term and long term goals. This was a constructive session and set me up for the last game.

This experience was more than beneficial and taught me so much, not only about my own umpiring, but also the way the AFL umpiring department operates. The feedback I received from different people was absorbed and appreciated, even if I had heard it before, hearing it from a different perspective reinforced it. I have come away from these championships with a newfound confidence and urge to umpire to the best of my ability. The opportunity to officiate in the AFLW U18's Championships will be treasured and reflected upon long into the future.

By *Emilie Hill*



(L-R) Belinda Stewart (QLD) and Emilie Hill (SA) in action during the VIC Metro vs WA match AFLW U18 match on the Gold Coast

AFL NAB U16 CHAMPIONSHIPS: BRAD JENKINS



Brad Jenkins (bottom right) and the AFL U16 Championship Goal Umpire Squad and Coach David Dixon.

The National Under 16 Championships was held in the Gold Coast on the 10th, 11th, 14th and 15th of July. Along with these teams came the umpires. There was at least one from every state in the country and from all different leagues around Australia. The umpires lucky enough to represent South Australia were Hudson Noack (field) Thom Ford (field) Matt Parker (boundary) and myself (goal).

Hudson, Matt and I began with the 2 hour flight from Adelaide to Gold Coast. Whereas Thom Ford came from Melbourne after spending time with family. We arrived and met with Adam Davis who was our 'Umpire Manager' and also the NSW umpires. After I missed my bags a couple of times at the baggage collection and nearly poking people's eyes out with my goal flags, we were finally ready to head to the hotel in Coolangatta. Not long after we were settled in that we had to go for a coaching session at the Coolangatta Football Club. This is where we met all the goalies and our coach David Dixon. After a couple of drills at the training session, we headed back to the hotel for a meal and then it was back to our rooms to wake up early for our first games the next morning.

The first bus to Metricon Stadium left at 10am for the SA v Vic Metro game. Matt Parker from SA was emergency boundary umpire for this game. Unfortunately SA lost 48 – 112. The second bus left at 12:15pm for the game WA v Vic Country. This game had Thom Ford as one of the running field umpires, Hudson as emergency and myself in goals. This game ended with WA winning by 1 point! We got back to the hotel after the games and got straight into a recovery at the pool. Then we had group debriefs before putting our \$200 Woolworths voucher to use making sure we had enough supplies for the trip. It was then bedtime because we had to be up at 7am.

The next morning the first bus left at 8am, but luckily for the SA boys none of us were on it, so we got to relax for a couple more hours. The game was between NSW/ACT and NT. The game ended with NSW/ACT winning 136 to NT 16. The second bus left at 10:15am and it had Hudson and Matt on the field this time and Thom Ford on the bench as emergency. I had the day off so I just hung out at the hotel and enjoyed Coolangatta for the day. While the people who had games were doing recovery I was getting ready for the group debrief.

Wednesday 12th of July was everyone's first day off relaxing and having a full day of free time. Everyone split up into their groups they have made friends with and made the most of the day. Some went to Surfers Paradise others stayed and enjoyed the beach in Coolangatta. After a relaxing day we had some bare foot lawn bowls at a local club before we had dinner inside the bowls club and watched the NRL State of Origin. We then made our way back to the hotel to get ready for the next day.

We woke up at 7:30am for what was mainly a day off but we had individual coaching sessions to review our games. David Dixon and I went through my footage and he gave me a few words of advice. After the session, we had another group debrief before we had dinner and then it was off to bed for our next lot of games.

Today was round 3 and the first bus left at 7am to get to the Gabba for the Vic Metro v WA match. I was on the second bus and got to the game to watch the last half, it was very entertaining ending up in another WA win by 1 point! I then had my game which was Vic Country vs SA. SA ended up winning 98 – 70. We then had recovery and debriefs before it was time for dinner as we had to get ready for the last day of games.

Saturday the 14th was our last day of games and our last day in Coolangatta as the trip was sadly almost over. The bus left at 7am but this time we headed to a local oval near Brisbane. The first match was NSW/ACT vs Tasmania. I was sitting as emergency for this game but it was a decent game to watch; Tasmania lost 52 – 79. The second game was between NT and Queensland with Queensland winning 113 – 42. After the games we had recovery and the group debrief and then had dinner at the Coolangatta surf club. The footy was also on the TV so we had a nice relaxing meal watching the footy for the last time with the guys and girls we had met on this trip. It was time then to pack our bags ready to leave the next morning.

We said thanks and goodbye to the coaches, staff and umpires we met during the trip and got on the bus. We checked our bags in, boarded the plane and headed home. Overall the trip was one of the best experiences of my life so far. We got to umpire in front of AFL umpiring legend David Dixon and show him what we've got to offer. Getting to umpire on the Gabba and Metricon was a once in a lifetime experience. I would 100% recommend this to anyone who gets the chance because I came back more confident about my game, I met new friends, I had experiences I never would've thought were possible and most of all I had fun.

GETTING TO KNOW: JAKE BEAUMONT

Umpiring Discipline: Field Umpire

1st SANFL League Game: N/A

Commenced Umpiring Career

With: Glenelg/West Adelaide SASFA 2013

Honours in Umpiring: Glenelg SASFA Golden Whistle 2015

Why did you become an Umpire: I wasn't very good at football, so wanted to take up Goal umpiring, as I had volunteered to do it for my younger brothers teams growing up and really enjoyed it. I changed my mind at the basic umpires course and wanted to become a Field Umpire instead. I chose to become an Umpire because I live the game and wanted to stay involved

Before a game I always: Pack my bag the night or a few days before my game, so everything is ready to go on game day

Occupation: Customer Service

Favourite Food: KFC

Favourite Movie: The Conjuring 2

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Don't really have a favourite

3 People you'd like to have dinner

with: Brian Taylor, Clint Alleway and Anne Hegerty

Favourite Holiday Destination: Queensland or Melbourne

Most admired sportsperson and

why: Roger Federer. He is a gun tennis player who is never big headed or cocky. He shows class with everything he does

GETTING TO KNOW: CAMERON TEMME

Umpiring Discipline: Boundary Umpire

1st SANFL League Game: Round 11 2017 Sturt v Adelaide at Unley Oval

Commenced Umpiring Career

With: Combined Southern Panel

Honours in Umpiring: SANFL U18's Grand Final (2016), 1st League Match (2017) and a few A Grade Grand Finals as Association games with my local panel

Why did you become an Umpire: It was a good way to stay in touch with footy and earn a bit of money on the side

Before a game I always: Make sure I have everything packed

Occupation: Apprentice Plumber

Favourite Food: Pizza or Pasta

Favourite Movie: Cool Runnings

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Hilltop Hoods

3 People you'd like to have dinner

with: Rowan Atkinson, Kevin Hart and Chris Froome

Favourite Holiday Destination: Never been but would love to go to France

Most admired sportsperson and

why: Usain Bolt. He has been such a great athlete and he has shown what hard work and determination does

GETTING TO KNOW: STEVEN PAUNOVIC

Umpiring Discipline: Goal Umpire

1st SANFL League Game: Round 13 2002
Glenelg v Norwood with the great man Corey Ogilvy

Commenced Umpiring Career

With: Started in 1998 when SANFL ran High Schools and Independent Schools

Honours in Umpiring: SANFL Grand Finals 2009 & 2014, Golden Flags 2014, AFL 2010-2011 (14 of the best), Mark Posa Award 2001, 200 League games, SANFL Life Membership, 4 x Reserves Grand Finals, 1 x U17 Grand Final and being stretchered off at Woodville Oval

Why did you become an Umpire: I could never really play but loved to watch the games on TV back in the early 90's—the umpire in the white hat, coat and tie and it sort of stuck with me. That's what I wanted to do.

Before a game I always: Get out for a coffee and get to the ground early. Soak up the atmosphere

Occupation: Senior Service Standards Officer—DPTI

Favourite Food: Some would say cinnamon scroll but I'm more of a scone man

Favourite Movie: The Blues Brothers or any Star Wars

Favourite Music Artist/Band: I have a wide variety from 80's and 90's to movie tunes.

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: I can think of 2. Rampaging Roy Slaven and HG Nelson—been listening to them for many years back to the days of The Dream. I'd model a commentary role on their expertise

Favourite Holiday Destination: USA

Most admired sportsperson and why: N/A



(L-R) Jake Beaumont (F) , Cameron Temme (B) and Steven Paunovic (G)
during the 2017 season

70TH SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER (PART #1)

It gave me great pleasure to welcome our members, life members and our invited guests to what was a very special occasion for our Association, that being our 70th Annual Dinner.

We had the pleasure of the company of SANFL CEO Jake Parkinson and all the way from Victoria, AFL Umpires Association CEO Peter Howe, We also received regretful apologies from SANFL President and Commission Chairman John Olsen AO who was interstate and SANFL Umpiring Manager Shane Harris.

We also welcomed our valued sponsors and supporters:

- The Cathedral Hotel was represented by Kym Bond and his sidekick Edward.
- From Peter Shearer Menswear who supply the Committee with their suits, was Martin Gilligan and his wife Abi
- Representing J&H Williams Holding Pty Ltd who donated all of this years awards were Craig Williams and Shey Fair
- SANFL Historian Mark Beswick,

And last but not least, the SANFL's number 1 Photographer Deb Curtis.

The group acknowledged the passing of Life Member and Boundary Umpire Bevan Williams. Bevan was Chairman of SANFLUA in 1964 and 1965 and he was made Life Member of SANFLUA in 1970. Rest in peace Bevan.

It then gave me great pleasure in updating all who were present on what the SANFLUA had been up to in 2017.

Through our sponsors and supporters, the SANFLUA has continued to provide members with a variety of subsidized social functions to promote cross discipline interaction away from Football Park. This allows us to do it in a relaxed and stress free environment. Our aim was to increase attendances to these events and most events were very well attended. The most positive response was the increase in attendances from our younger members and also our life members, particularly to our after match drinks at the Cathedral Hotel quite possibly encouraged by SANFLUA shouting the first round – who can't resist a free bevvie?

Early on in the season, the SANFLUA was approached by many members enquiring about their records of matches umpired and it soon became apparent that there were great discrepancies between records held by the umpires, the umpiring department and the SANFL. So the Committee appointed SANFLUA Member and current running Goal Umpire Steven Paunovic to the honorary position of Statistician and through working closely with Historian Mark Beswick and the Umpires personally, they have produced a set of accurate records that are now displayed on our website and updated weekly. So we greatly thank Mark and Steve on their efforts.

In addition to maintaining these records, the SANFLUA has introduced and will continue producing milestone certificates and presenting them to its members. And as a will of good gesture, we have presented these certificates to non-members also. It's all about acknowledging Umpires contributions to our great game that some people, not all, higher up refuse to acknowledge.

Our website and social media platforms continued to be powerful communication tools between the SANFLUA and its members and the broader community with a dramatic increase in followings across all networks. Along with the statistics being added to the Website, Annual Reports, Ball Ups, weekly appointments can now be viewed on our webpage. The off season will be an important time for this part of our business as we seek to improve some features such as membership subscriptions and the RSVP and Payment processes for Social Functions so to minimize extra costs for all.

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70TH SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER (PART #2)

On the back of our Membership Survey conducted last year, we still have many major issues to pursue, and without people power we will not be able to achieve our objectives, so peoples membership is highly valuable and we thank everyone for being part of our journey this year and please encourage those that haven't joined to do so in 2018 because there are certainly bigger and better things to come, so watch this space. The agenda items continue to grow and we will be addressing these issues with the SANFL in the coming months.

The committee this year consisted of our Treasurer Sean "PJ" Burton, Secretary Andrew Crosby, Social Secretary Christopher Cook, Communications Officer Aaron Bennett, Web Page and Social Media Coordinator Matthew Cummins, Publications Officer Mathew Wilson, Sponsorship Director David Soberaj, Life Membership Rep Craig Trewartha and Property Abdullah Alpaslan.

It was impossible for me to separate and individually thank any one person – because this year every member has performed above and beyond their roles to assist in the smooth and successful running of our Association and its events and I look forward to working with them into the future.

I finally gave a huge amount of thanks to Steve Murphy for accepting the role of Master of Ceremonies the evening, for the impressive efforts he went to in preparing our pre dinner video and everything he did to ensure the night ran smoothly. I can't thank Steve. enough

In closing I wished those who were lucky enough to be selected to umpire in the finals all the best. Recommending they go out there and just do their best – let their umpiring speak for itself but above all, enjoy the experience.

By SANFLUA President Matthew Norton



2017 SANFL Committee (L-R)

70TH SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER (PART #3)



70TH SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER (PART #4)

SERVICE AWARD

This award is presented to a member who has been a consecutive member of the SANFLUA. The Service Award is presented initially for ten (10) years consecutive membership; and then awarded again every five (5) consecutive years thereafter.

2017 SANFLUA Service Award Recipients

Ten (10) Years:

David Sobieraj

Fifteen (15) Years:

Tim Bryant

Sean Burton

Peter Challen

Adam Cleary

Shane Thiele (absent)

Twenty (20) Years:

Matthew Cousins

Shannon Riggs

Michael Wilde (absent)

Forty (40) Years:

David Elliot*

Max O'Connell*

Daryl Schramm*

Fifty (50) Years:

Peter Hosken

*Denotes SANFLUA Life Member



David Sobieraj
(10 years)



(L-R) Tim Bryant, Sean Burton, Peter Challen & Adam Cleary (15 years)



(L-R) Matthew Cousins & Shannon Riggs (20 years)



Peter Hosken
(50 years)

2017 SANFLUA SERVICE AWARD: 20 YEAR MEMBER - SHANNON RIGGS

"I joined to SANFLUA back in 1998 with my fellow running and non-running umpires, based on the recommendation of my umpiring peers and coaches Mostyn Rutter and Ray Mules, who are both Life Members of the SANFLUA.

During my time I have enjoyed being part of many Quiz Nights, Catch-ups, Ten Pin Bowls Nights, Golf Days and various other charity / community fundraisers that the SANFLUA has been involved with.

These days even though I'm no longer a running umpire, I still believe it is important for me to be part of the SANFLUA as a member of an association which involves, shapes and effects umpiring.

Seriously, 20 years has flown by so very quickly and in my view the SANFLUA is still as important today to the umpiring community as it was back then, representing umpires individually and umpiring interests as a united group across the disciplines, for the overall benefit of umpiring."

AWARD DETAILS

Most Dedicated: This award is 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.

2017 Award Winners

Most Dedicated Field:
David Sobieraj

Most Dedicated Boundary:
Terrance Carter

Most Dedicated Goal:
Matthew Cummins

Most Dedicated Support Staff:
David Elliot

MOST DEDICATED FIELD UMPIRE: DAVID SOBIERAJ

“It is quite humbling to be acknowledged by your peers. The previous recipients of this award are all umpires that I look up to and respect; I feel honoured to be in their company.

Many of us are dedicated, it isn't just one person. One of the great things about umpiring in the SANFL is the people who are a part of it. I have met so many great people during my time at SANFL, which if not for our common interest in football, I may not have had the opportunity to do so.

SANFLUA continues to add that extra dimension to our umpiring. When you are surrounded by friends going to training and umpiring matches are something that you look forward to. Knowing that you are a part of something special motivates all of us and as a result we all become dedicated.”



David Sobieraj receiving his award with Theron Philp



Terrance Carter receiving his award with Mark Thomson

MOST DEDICATED BOUNDARY UMPIRE: TERRANCE CARTER

“I really appreciate the acknowledgement from my fellow umpires of being this year's Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire. This is a privilege as I view our role as not as a job or work but as something we love doing so I can't see why you wouldn't be dedicated to doing the best you can at it. When you enjoy doing something it's not really work and that's how it's been for me the last couple years and especially this year. Going out there every weekend to run around with your mates and be involved in this awesome game is what I look forward to all week. Even training however difficult Check's manages to make it is always fun. There's more to it than just running around the oval it's a social aspect of catching up with guys you don't see every day and sharing stories from the weekend etc. I think that the friendships formed from umpiring and the people you meet along the way is probably the biggest and best thing the game can give to you. Most of my friends come from umpiring or football in some shape or form.

The last few years we've seen some well experienced guys finish up in the boundary umpiring squad so I think it's important that some of us older guys lead the way now and try to take some of the younger aspiring boundaries under our wings. I know that we have the right guys out there now at both AFL and SANFL to lead the way and set the example for the young boundaries.

I'd like to thank all my fellow umpires for their help and for contributing to my enjoyment of this season, also the coaches especially Hayden who spends a lot of time observing and out at training and sometimes it's a thankless job but the only way we get better is by the coaches working with us. Thank you also to the SANFLUA. They've put on many events this season and we are trying to raise the number of boundaries in attendance. All the after match drinks I've attended have been great and it's another opportunity to mix in with the other disciplines and become more engrossed in what we do. Thank you to my family for their support.

Thank you all for making this the best and most enjoyable season yet.”

AWARD DETAILS

The SANFLUA would like to thank the following people for donating the 2017 Most Dedicated Awards.

Most Dedicated Field Umpire:
Donated by Theron Philp

Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire:
Donated by Mark Thomson

Most Dedicated Goal Umpire:
Donated by Abdullah Alpaslan

Most Dedicated Support Staff:
Donated by SANFLUA President
Matthew Norton

MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE: MATTHEW CUMMINS

“Having been a member of SANFLUA since 2006, I’ve always found the mateship opportunities that the Association provides to be a valuable experience. The opportunities to mingle amongst some of the great current and past umpires is always a highlight and one that I implore up and coming and current umpires to continue to do.

Being chosen as the Most Dedicated Goal Umpire for 2017 is certainly something that I will look upon with pride. To win an award is a humbling experience but to be recognised by my peers certainly makes the award that extra bit special. So thank you to all the Goal Umpire SANFLUA Members who took the time to cast their votes and to those that chose me as their Most Dedicated. The field of nominees this year was strong and any one of those guys would have been worthy winners of the award. Congratulations to all of those nominees. They are great umpires on and off the track.

Thank you to Abdullah Alpaslan for his continued support of the Goal Umpires Most Dedicated Award. As I said on the night, Abdul’s passion and can-do attitude towards SANFLUA is second to none.

Lastly, a massive thank you to my family; the support my wife Peta provides me during Footy season is immense and without it none of my umpiring career would have been possible.

I look forward to many more years of continued involvement with SANFLUA and hopefully giving back as much as they put in for its umpires.”



Matthew Cummins receiving his award with Abdullah Alpaslan



David Elliott receiving his award with Andrew Crosby

MOST DEDICATED SUPPORT STAFF: DAVID ELLIOT

It was not only a huge surprise but a tremendous honour to be awarded the most dedicated support staff award at the recent SANFLUA Annual Dinner and in SANFLUA’s 70th year made it even more special.

This is my 40th year as a member / life member of SANFLUA. When I first took up umpiring I was indeed fortunate to have a fantastic coach /mentor by the name of Don Palmer who actively encouraged all of us on the Sturt/Glenelg/South Adelaide High Schools panel to become members of SANFLUA, which many of us did and fore that I will be eternally grateful to Don.

Over many years I’ve made a lot of lifetime friends through my involvement in SANFLUA and reminiscing about some of the things we got up to over the years on nights like the Annual Dinner always makes for a great, great night.

This has been a very enjoyable year for me and it’s been great for my family to get to meet some of the people I talk about and mix with so much over the footy season thanks to the SANFLUA social program. Once again I’d just like to say thank you so much for the award, as all of the recipients mentioned on the night it is truly a great honour to be recognised by your peers in this way.

Umpiring and the SANFLUA have given so much to me it’s a privilege to be able to give something back.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP
DETAILS**

Life Membership

At the discretion of the Committee, Life Membership may be granted to any person who has either been a member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) consecutive years and rendered distinguished service to the Association or died or has been permanently incapacitated while a Member of the Association.

Rules for Life Membership

(i) Life members shall not pay any Membership Fee but shall have all rights and privileges of "Full Members".

(ii) At the discretion of the Committee the qualifying period of Life Membership may be extended due to:

- (a) Transfer of employment to the country or interstate.
- (b) Overseas travel.
- (c) Or any other reason as seen fit by the Committee.

Should deferment be granted, the Member would be required to complete the outstanding period of time before consideration be given to Life Membership.

(iii) The Committee shall vote for each Life Member on a resolution proposed and seconded for each member, and each resolution shall cover one member at a time and the resolution shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Committee members present at such meeting and voting there on.

(iv) Any person who has been a member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) consecutive years who has not been granted Life Membership and has not been a member for a further period of two (2) consecutive years shall no longer be considered for Life Membership on the basis of those fifteen (15) consecutive years.

Taken directly from the
SANFLUA Constitution

**SANFLUA LIFE MEMBERSHIP:
TONY DEY**

"Life membership of the SANFLUA means a whole lot to me as this association has been a part of me for 21 years which is more than half of my life. This group has allowed me not only to umpire but make some strong friendships which has lasted a very long time and also allowing my wife make friends in this time to. I have always said that the association is only as good as its members and the quality of people that come and go and leave their legacy which stories get told for many years later.

Being awarded with this will hold a very special place in my heart and memories for many years to come. The SANFLUA is a great place to socialise and make friends and help umpires when times are tough.

I thank the committee for their support in allowing me to receive this and thank everyone that has had some influence on me over the years."



2017 SANFLUA Life Membership Inductee Tony Dey

**SANFLUA LIFE MEMBERSHIP:
PETER HOSKEN**

"Life membership in any sport is the ultimate one can seek to strive to get. It is something to be proud of and cherish. Very few people attain this goal. It is something to strive for and something to be proud to receive and be given."



2017 SANFLUA Life Membership Inductee Peter Hosken

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP
DETAILS**

Life Membership

At the discretion of the Committee, Life Membership may be granted to any person who has either been a member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) consecutive years and rendered distinguished service to the Association or died or has been permanently incapacitated while a Member of the Association.

Rules for Life Membership

(i) Life members shall not pay any Membership Fee but shall have all rights and privileges of "Full Members".

(ii) At the discretion of the Committee the qualifying period of Life Membership may be extended due to:

- (a) Transfer of employment to the country or interstate.
- (b) Overseas travel.
- (c) Or any other reason as seen fit by the Committee.

Should deferment be granted, the Member would be required to complete the outstanding period of time before consideration be given to Life Membership.

(iii) The Committee shall vote for each Life Member on a resolution proposed and seconded for each member, and each resolution shall cover one member at a time and the resolution shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Committee members present at such meeting and voting there on.

(iv) Any person who has been a member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) consecutive years who has not been granted Life Membership and has not been a member for a further period of two (2) consecutive years shall no longer be considered for Life Membership on the basis of those fifteen (15) consecutive years.

Taken directly from the
SANFLUA Constitution

**SANFLUA LIFE MEMBERSHIP:
RICK CHARLESWORTH**

"Wow SANFLUA is 70 years old in 2017 and still going strong. I have been part of the Association for 49 years and it has been an amazing journey.

Was I destined to be part of this celebration....having been born on Grand Final Day 1946!!

To me this award represents my lifetime commitment, training, hard work and dedication to the sport of Australian Rules Football, both as a player for 17 years and 49 years as an umpire, mentor and coach at all levels. The last four years of playing overlapped with my first four years of umpiring.

From my first season of umpiring in 1969 as a raw recruit I was encouraged to join the SANFLUA and from that time on participated and assisted in the many social events, interstate trips and committee meetings whilst I could. It was a pleasure to travel to local and country umpiring panels to promote umpiring and the SANFLUA.

During this time my umpiring appointments (1,750 games) saw me travel wide and far throughout South Australia and to many parts of Australia to umpire football. I have made many friends throughout this time and always look forward to catching up with them for a chat at the Annual Dinner each year or when I travel around the city or country to watch a game.

I certainly encourage ALL umpires from all disciplines to join the Association and assist in its promotion where ever you can.

To my family and especially my son who travelled a lot with me to city and country games for support and to all the players, officials, coaches and Associations who have encouraged and assisted me during my long career. A HUGE THANK YOU.

To all the umpires (of all disciplines) I have had under my care THANK YOU it has been a pleasure to umpire and share the games with you. We had lots of laughs in the car on our country journeys. Many of you will remember the car driver buys the ice-creams on the journey home.

Thank you to the current committee for bestowing this honor on me, I accept it with a great deal of pride and pleasure.

Finally congratulations to Tony Dey and my long time school mate Peter Hosken for their Life Membership Award 2017.

Good umpiring !

PS As Coach Posa would say.....Protect the ball player at all times, he makes your game."



2017 SANFLUA Life Membership
Inductee Rick Charlesworth

AFL ROUND 17 MILESTONES: 350TH AFL MATCH

THREE FIFTY FOR THOMMO



SANFLUA Life Member and AFL Boundary Umpire Mark Thomson being presented his 350th AFL match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

21 AFL seasons, 5 AFL Grand Finals and 28 AFL Finals is a feat very few people can say they have achieved and will remain only a dream for so many of us. Mark ‘Thommo’ Thomson is currently living this dream and shows no signs of slowing down as he looks towards another finals campaign.

Thommo umpired his 350th AFL match in round 18 on the big stage of Friday night football Crows v Geelong. In true fashion Thommo executed another flawless performance getting the job done in his typical non-fuss professional manner.

Thommo has the ability to make the hard look easy and what many of you would be aware of is Thommo is highly regarded as the best backwards runner in the game and could quite possibly be of all time. Seriously watch this man run backwards and see for yourself, or just ask him and he’ll tell you.

It is well documented Thommo has had his fair share of injuries and has shown he will go to great lengths to find a cure. Getting wacked with a bamboo stick repeatedly is a prime example of the lengths he is willing to go just to get back on the track.

You don’t reach milestones such as 350 games without a huge amount of dedication and hard work, something Mark has shown he has in abundance. Mark’s success is certainly not limited to the football field, success in the business world as well as raising a young family alongside his wife Paula.

As a bloke you won’t find much better, willing to provide feedback to less experienced umpires to help with their development. He is also someone who is always up for a laugh which is often at another’s expense. Thommo has always had the ability to deflect the attention off of himself and onto an unsuspecting victim without hesitation.

This is a man who is a SANFLUA life member and who has been able to pick himself up when times were tough and has reached the ultimate highs umpiring has to offer many times over. Thommo is not only admired in umpiring circles in South Australia but nationwide.

One of the greats.

By Chris Bull

MARK THOMSON (AFL) STATS

Debut: Rd 1 1996 - Port Adelaide (130) v Sydney (40)

100th Match: Rd 4 2004 - Port Adelaide (29) v St. Kilda (85)

200th Match: Rd 11 2010 - Adelaide (105) v Fremantle (82)

300th Match: 1st SF - Fremantle (85) v Port Adelaide (105)

350th Match: Rd 18 2017 - Adelaide (91) v Geelong (70)

Finals: 28 - 2 x EF, 8 x QF, 5 x 1SF, 2 x 2SF, 6 x PF and 5 x GF (2009, 2010, 2010 (R), 2011 & 2014)

AFL Stats kindly provided by AFLUA Statistician/Historian David Flegg

AFL ROUND 20 MILESTONES: 200TH AFL MATCH

DOUBLE CENTURY FOR THE AXE

I'm not sure if we became mates pretty quickly when "the Axe" joined the S.A.N.F.L. in 1996 because we were pretty much the only Goal Umpires under 30 (he was 15 and I was 22) or we bonded over our love of "Human Nature" (90's boy band, for those too young to know), but it meant many chats in his first year and I could tell, even back then, that this guy would one day become one of our best.

His passion for Goal Umpiring hasn't changed since and because of that, along with his dedication, professionalism, persistence and natural ability, I'm not at all surprised he has achieved 200 A.F.L. games, after starting his A.F.L. career in 2005 and hopefully many more, not to mention 2 A.F.L. Grand Finals (still the only South Aussie Goal Ump to achieve this).

In fact, the only thing he is more passionate about is his family ...and maybe horse racing!

Despite the fact he now spends a lot of his time helping others (and does it because he wants to, not because he's paid too or it's expected of him), he still finds time for "our chats" (which I appreciate) and the occasional "man date" with me to Human Nature concerts.

Speaking of finding time, I managed to sit the great man down for a few minutes to "ask the tough questions" (and a few easy ones!) ...

- Congrats on being the first "interstater" Goal Umpire to achieve 200 A.F.L. games. What does it mean to you?

I've lived and breathed goal umpiring since I was 13 so yeah it means a lot to me actually. It's been a long road and hasn't been easy being a non-Victorian based goalie so to become the 1st to reach 200 is pretty special yeah

- What was the best advice given to you early on in your umpiring career?

Only concern yourself with the things you can control.

- What is your pre-game routine?

Pack bag night before and a good night's sleep a priority. Game day – Always shower about hour before I leave home (day or night game) followed by a meal just before I leave. Then coffee on the drive in or on arrival.

- What is the biggest enemy for Goal Umpires - sun, wind, close-in kicks or something else and why? I would say wind because a ball can go from sailing through above contestable height to dropping on line in a split second. Ruckman standing behind you for set shot 50 out makes me feel uneasy! Haha But yes knowing when to jump on line for close in kick is one of the most underrated positioning skill.



Steve Axon in action at AAMI Stadium

(Continues page 18)

STEVE AXON (AFL) STATS

Debut: Rd 4 2005 - Port Adelaide (109) v Carlton (109)

100th Match: Rd 1 2012 - Port Adelaide (89) v St. Kilda (85)

200th Match: Rd 20 2017 - Adelaide (130) v Port Adelaide (46)

Finals: 14 - 4 x EF, 3 x QF, 2 x 2SF, 3 x PF & 2 x GF (2007 & 2008)

**AFL Stats kindly provided by AFLUA Statistician/
Historian David Flegg**

AFL ROUND 20 MILESTONES: 200TH AFL MATCH

DOUBLE CENTURY FOR THE AXE (CONTINUES)

- You obviously agree the Score Review system is better for the game but is there a small part of you that feels like some of the fun of Goal Umpiring has been taken away from you when it comes to being the sole judge of close decisions? A small part of me yeah. But with cameras in the posts now... it wouldn't be much fun watching a replay knowing you got it wrong and potentially costing a team a win or grand final even!

- Obviously games like your first and the Grand Finals are memorable but is there another game that stands out for different reasons?

2 most exciting finals outside the 2 GF's is the West Coast v Collingwood Semi Final at Subiaco. Scores were tied and went into extra time. The Prelim the following week was the other when 98k saw Geelong beat Collingwood by 5 points. As for minor round games...Rd 19 Port V Crows in 2013 stands out. Last ever Showdown at AAMI and Port got up by 4 points after being down by 20 points with only 6min to play – First Showdown to be decided by less than a goal. Memorable more so however for infamous bounce/goal from Angus Monfries in the last qtr which sent the crowd wild! The ball bounced in the middle of the behind area and went right angles through the goals. As Dennis Commetti put it "I haven't seen anything like that, if Pythagoras is watching...explain that!"

- Do you wish your 199th AFL game (Port's Rory Gray kicked winning goal with a few seconds to spare at your end) was actually your 200th? Had I known the showdown was going to be a 12 goal shellacking and horrible weather, yes of course! It was an unbelievable finish and as you'd know Steven, nothing better as a goalie being in the right position for a close/on line winning goal in the dying seconds.

- Is it true that you and your brothers "kicked on" after your 200th game, as best you can on a Sunday night in Adelaide? Define "kicked on"? haha. In all seriousness it was great to have my 3 brothers there on the day, including my little brother Tim who made the trip down from QLD. But yes it was a good night.

- Who is your favourite current or past non South Aussie Goal Umpire to watch? **Anthony Black**

- Besides spending more time with family, what's the one thing you're looking forward to doing more of when you retire? **Watching AFL games at Adelaide Oval, stress free with a beer in hand!**

- Can you umpire 200 more? Turn it up....I'd be nearly 50! Maybe another 100....who knows. As I've always said, I'll keep doing it while I'm performing well and enjoying it.



Steve Axon being presented his 200th AFL match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

By Steven Murphy

STEVE AXON (AFL) STATS

AFL Stat Fun Fact: Steve Axon has umpired 59.40% (120) of his 202 AFL matches at Football Park (AAMI Stadium).

**AFL Stats kindly provided by AFLUA Statistician/
Historian David Flegg**

ROUND 15 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

TIME FOR SLEDGE TO SHINE

As the lyrics state in the 80's classic by MC Hammer U Can't Touch this it was "Hammer Time". With that on Saturday 12th of August at Alberton Oval a young Brad Hammer made his league debut.

Brad has been forging a very successful goal umpiring career since joining the SANFL in 2014. It has been a speedy rise since those days field umpiring his school football but he has worked extremely hard over the last two seasons since joining the senior goal umpiring squad and it didn't take long for us to notice his talent. Not everything has gone to plan over the journey for Brad but to his credit every time he has had a challenge he has confronted it front on and worked extremely hard to work on those areas.

The young man known to his peers as "Sledge" does everything his coaches ask of him and is a delight to coach. A hard worker at his craft and with this all the coaches within the goalie group have no doubt that he has just started what will be a very successful SANFL league career. You never know with continued hard work and application one day the big boys might come knocking.

Back to the game and the first thing I noticed was Brad was very relaxed and looked very comfortable pre-game and that flowed on to his performance. A great way to start his league career.

All the best for the rest of your league career Brad.

By SANFL Goal Umpire Head Coach – Darren Trengove

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

Even though the weather on the day was poor, it was a great experience from start to finish. I got to the ground quite early and watched a bit of the reserves (it felt weird watching a game beforehand). I was pretty calm during the whole thing and (Steven) Murphy made sure that I was comfortable with everything. I decided to take the southern end first and ended up with 8 scoring shots in the first quarter! The winds made it feel like we were down at Noarlunga but luckily the players were kicking quite straight. I was hoping for a close game but in the end it became a bit of a training exercise for port but nonetheless, it was still a great experience and one I'll never forget.



Brad Hammer being presented his 1st League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 16 MILESTONES: 250TH LEAGUE MATCH

COREY BOWEN

Well done Corey!!!! Great job Corey!

For the first few years of knowing Corey, I don't think I heard more than 4 words spoken at any given time.

Then Corey began to immerse himself into the group that has now defected to Melbourne, retired or should have retired years ago!

A few social nights with the Association or just a casual get together and once we saw him put a few drinks away, beer or his drink of choice, Jack Daniels, suddenly it became difficult to get a word in.

My first memory of that goes back to the U19's Grand Final in 2003 with Mick Williamson. It was the after party of that game where I really started to get to know Corey. As the end of season celebrations flowed, it was at this time that I started to finally see the real person that had been hiding away behind the Lurch like figure that we have come to know. It may have been during that night too that we both decided that we would help with the Academy. That was my first step into coaching and it was one of the most memorable and enjoyable as it gave me a chance to really get to know Corey and form our friendship.

That friendship has flourished from the many hours spent in the Adelaide Oval members keeping hydrated, the countless nights on the training track, to the grand final after parties, the casual social nights and weddings and of course the many games that we have umpired together.

Corey was always a pretty straight laced bloke who never really showed too much emotion or fired up when baited. All of that changed one day at training when Shane Harris tried to give him a bit of encouragement. We were in the middle of a really tough session and Corey was not in the front, or even in the middle running group. While the front 2 groups were busting their backsides with repeat efforts and running under the set time, Corey was taking it easy and coasting in the back group. Shane yelled out to him "Well done Corey, great job Corey" and well, I have never seen so many people who were physically exhausted find so much energy as quickly as they did to fire up. Unfortunately for Corey, that comment stuck like glue for the next couple of years and each time it was used, a bit more fire built up inside Corey.....much to our amusement and pleasure. For the record, when Corey became BWC leader, we all suffered multiple fines as he banned that comment but we just couldn't resist.

In all serious though Corey, a massive congratulations on your 250 game milestone. You have been through a lot in your career but you have always continued to persist and have reaped the rewards. To have umpired SANFL Grand Finals and of course AFL football demonstrates what a terrific umpire you are.

From all of us here in Melbourne and from the umpiring group, we wish you a fantastic 250th and the best of luck for the remainder of the season that hopefully culminates in another Grand Final for you.

Well done Corey, great job Corey

By Gary Fila

From Leigh Haussen:

My first encounter with Corey was with him being the academy coach way back when I started out at the SANFL. Corey was the rising star at the time and was well and truly on the AFL's radar. Luckily for me Corey was elevated to the AFL list mid-season in 2010 which gave me a chance to umpire the Grand Final.

Corey has always been a great support to me during my career and always provided advice and an ear to whinge to when things weren't going well. His relaxed nature and consistency have seen him achieve so much all whilst remaining one of the boys.

On a personal level, I got to know Corey very well as we both lived in the hills and would often share rides to the many end of season functions. This is where Corey flourished. Not often known for saying too much, this all changes immediately once free alcohol is on offer, Mon is staying home with the kids and the night is young!

Congratulations on the 250th mate, I hope it's a fantastic day and celebrated with family and friends.

Haus.



Corey Bowen being presented his 250th League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 17 MILESTONES: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

SAM MORGAN

Sam commenced his Umpiring with Metro West Panel, now SANFL Juniors at the age 14. He spent one year at junior level before it was recommended he move to the Centre of excellence at SANFL Umpiring where he has continued to grow just not as umpire, but a person as well.

Sam has had a steady rise through the ranks within the SANFL, through commitment to all facets of umpiring. I have seen his skills, knowledge and the ability to work at 100% grow do another level. Through the travels he umpired the 2013 under 16 Grand Final which was a fantastic achievement in only his second year with us and overall only his third year of blowing the whistle.

Still under the guidance of Garry (Wyld) Sam become a real leader within the Centre of Excellence and with a mixture of reserve's and under 18 football saw Sam officiate in the 2015 U/18 Grand Final. That season saw Sam also take out the Stan Wickham Memorial Trophy for the best Field Umpire within our Centre of Excellence, a fitting reward.

At the commencement of the 2016 season through continued dedication and focus on improvement saw Sam be elevated to the High Performance Academy, which is a part of the SANFL Senior Squad. During the 2016 and up until round 16 of the 2017 season, Sam has developed the on field skills, match management, composure, assertiveness and most important decision making that is consistently within our team rules.

His consistent performances at reserves level has seen Sam put his hand up and be reward for senior selection, which will be at the Ponderosa (Elizabeth Oval) on Saturday 19th August between Central District and West Adelaide.

With continued focus on improvement this is no doubt a step to many more senior matches and hopefully just a step closer to the ultimate, AFL.

We wish Sam a short SANFL career and more importantly a long career on the National stage.

By SANFL State Umpiring Manager Shane Harris

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

"On the Monday night Shane shook my hand and gave me the nod to be in the league for the coming week. I was set to umpire Central District vs West Adelaide at Elizabeth oval on the Saturday. The week in lead up is something I'll never forget, it was different to preparing for any other week. After a lot of build up Saturday rolled around and it was time for the game. Toby Medlin and Mitch Harris were the two other field umpires for the day, which helped me calm my nerves before the match. Music, cheerleaders, team songs, it was all different compared to an 11.25am start. Starting the match with a bounce is something I don't often like doing, fair to say my first bounce in league is something I won't forget either, as it drifted a little (a lot) left of centre. After paying a few free kicks early it was like no other game of football just a lot faster. The game was played to a good standard with both sides being competitive. The game was close until the last quarter when Centrals ran away with the game. Walking off the ground it all felt a blur as to what just had occurred but it is a day that I will always cherish and look back on."



Sam Morgan being presented his 1st League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

ROUND 17 MILESTONES: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

AARON O'MALLEY

When we think about dedicated and committed umpires Aaron O'Malley deserves to be top of the tree. This is a 50 game achievement which deserves enormous praise. As well as umpiring League football Aaron is able to manage a highly demanding and stressful employment as well as care for his young family.

Aaron is a non-fuss guy who is well respected throughout the umpiring ranks. I challenge anyone to find a bad thing to say about this guy! Aaron's umpiring ability cannot be questioned and has a throw that has earned him the title as 'the lever'.

Aaron has had some injury hurdles to contend with which had the potential threaten his career but in true 'lever' fashion he has been able to overcome these setbacks and get on with the job.

From a personal point of view to see Aaron reach this milestone I couldn't be more proud and if umpiring can attract the calibre of person such as Aaron then umpiring in SA is in a pretty good position.

By Chris Bull



Aaron O'Malley being presented his 50th League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES (FINALS/2018)

Michael Sboro - 49* (50)

Mathew Wilson - 99 (100)

*Denotes Game Tally is to be confirmed

UNDER 18'S FINALS PANELS

Field Umpires: Tom Ford, Joshua Hardy, Jackson Nokes, Luke Jensen, Daniel Whittlesea, Jack Millar, Isaac Jensen, Luke Wittenburg & Hudson Noack

Boundary Umpires: Luke Webb-Speck, Matthew Parker, Corey Sauerwald, Taylor Dorsey, Tristan Macheck, Zac Stapleton, Dylan Speck, Cory Hermann and Jonathon Poethke

Goal Umpires: Michael Bruno, Mitchell Howland, Bradley Jenkins, Cameron McDonald, Liam McDonald, and Angus McKenzie

RESERVES FINALS PANELS

Field Umpires: Aaron Bennett, Liam Bentley, Mason Beyer, Tom Bryce, Scott Galletly, Mitchell Harris, Harrison Hughes, Sam Morgan and Luke Wachtel

Boundary Umpires: Elliot Raymond, Issac Fishlock, Gerard Carter, William Carter, Scott Hargraves, Tom Kelly, Cameron Temme & Adam Spratt

Goal Umpires: Allannah Bruno, Michael Button, Braden Ford, James Georgiadis, Brad Hammer and Matthew Oxford



LEAGUE FINALS PANELS

Field Umpires: Corey Bowen, Jamie Broadbent, Andrew Crosby, Scott Hosking, Rowan Hundertmark, Giles Lewis, Toby Medlin, Michael Sboro, Michael Schramm & David Sobieraj

Boundary Umpires: Matt Herrmann, Sam Royans, Brayden Theil, Martin Elsegood, Damian Robinson, Tim Bryant, Lachlan Hennig, Aaron O'Malley, Terence Carter and Matthew Zacher

Goal Umpires: Steven Murphy, Rhys Negerman, Matthew Norton, Steven Paunovic, Tom Sharpe and Matthew Williams

FIELD MARSHALL

Finals are upon us once more. For some of the group it is a new and exciting experience. Reports of many a fresh face caught staring into the mirror for hours on end trying to glean some crucial information as to whether they will be doing finals or not. Some have even taken to saying "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, will I do a final at all?" August is always a wet month, and the water tends to help all the hand breaks that have been stuck on for the past 4 months. Some members in the group have decided they need to put the foot down in order to stand out in front of the coaches. Are they impressing? Or are they proving they could have been running harder earlier in the year? September appointments will reveal all.

Whilst the umpires have been taking it up a gear in the last rounds of the year, the same cannot be said for the video review system, which seems to be struggling with the pressure of finals. This is however an excellent talking point with many of the coaches who will happily speak about it being like this in the old days.

The annual 3km has been run once again with several runners impressing, many struggling and 12 umpires running the exact same time. Now this is an unusual stat. I picture 12 umpires fanned out across a 3 person wind track all crossing the line at the same time. Seem a little suspicious? An answer to the problem is they believed they were racing under cycling peloton rules where you all get the same time provided there are no distinguishable gaps in the group.

Sam Morgan has made his debut in League footy during the last two weeks of the season. It has been a big few weeks for Sammy, League Footy, got off his P Plates and grew his first chest hair. Sammy is a confident man though, allegedly buying his girlfriend a black tie dress for the end of year celebration, weeks before getting the league appointment. Nevertheless it has paid off and Sammy has finished the season on a high note.

Annual Dinner was a massive success this year with multiple segments involving a walk down memory lane. This was highly enjoyable for all as we got an opportunity to view and hear about the SANFL when it was at its peak strength. Imagine having to debut in front of 16,000 at the parade Sammy? Everyone behaved themselves at this event despite much hype surrounding the return of Ben "Red Wine" Williams. However once we left the venue there was talk of an altercation involving fists... but that is goal umpires for you. The dress code was Lounge Suit, a rather strict interpretation that almost everyone did a great job at adhering to. However, the committee opted for a black tie tuxedo, a little bit of one-upmanship for you and a bloke was sighted in chinos and a short sleeved Hawaiian shirt.... But that is boundary umpires for you.

I wish the best for everyone involved in finals. It is a great time of year. If you are not involved, get down and support your comrades and enjoy the break! I will be returning at some point in the off-season to report on the party season shenanigans.

Signing off,

Field Marshall.

BOUNDARY BOLTER

Hasn't the season gone fast? It's definitely starting to feel like finals time. We also know its finals time because Tim Bryant has returned to training after using every excuse known to mankind to get out of training all year.

Training has become a lot shorter in preparation for finals and some of the younger guys have come from the clouds to the front of the pack.

Hayden has told a few guys to get a finals haircut early this year. Matt Zacher had to mow of his doormat style hair and Brayden Thiel had to remove his top knot. Think Hayden probably did you a favour on that one Brayden! Now all that's left is for Little Speck to chop the dread locks off.

Gerard Carter became the latest boundary to go MIA this season when he took a weekend off to go to Melbourne and watch his Western Bulldogs lose to Port. Should probably have a week in the Reserves for that what a terrible excuse to use for a weekend off. Even Timbo has not used that excuse yet.

Timbo the first guy to drop a relay all year has also managed to drop a ball half way through his throw in at Unley much to the entertainment off the crowd. The same match that Will Carter apparently went the whole game without having a decision! Not sure if he was never near the play or if he just took the Timbo approach and handed all the throws off to his mate even though the ball was virtually right next to him. The only other person to put down a relay this year was Terence Carter at Norwood although he blames a pass from Sam Royans was directed more at his ankles than hands!

Adam Spratt never known for being normal managed to come to training straight from book week dressed as a mime, make up and all. Only Spratt could possibly enjoy training whilst looking like a clown. This just a couple weeks after he allegedly tore his hamstring off the bone at training and then fronted up the next session like nothing was wrong.

Will Carter has been back in League as of late and has taken to having a few celebratory beverages at Red Square after games. Not sure what it is about that place but the Bolter has heard of Matt Herman being a regular there too and Isaac Fishlock apparently takes his tinder dates to Reds as well. Will has taken to kicking on after some of the social events as well along with Scott Hargreaves. The Bolter looks forward to the Grand Final after party and the antics of these two.

Ben Sieben and Sean Burton are both back jogging laps and rehabbing injuries. The squad is a lot quieter without PJ up in everyone's grill. Though Sean barely has time to roll the track anymore since he now has a puppy Mango that I reckon gets treated better than some of the guys that have to run with PJ.

Mark Thomson has finally started parking his car with the rest of us normal folk in the regular car park. But this hasn't stopped Thommo and Matty K from warming down by themselves at the end of training. Still too good for the group maybe?

Fire up for finals guys!

Boundary Bolter

GALLOPING GOALIE

With finals around the corner, the GG's desk has been filled with last minute gossip for this addition of the Galloping Goalie.

Before I get stuck in, congratulations must go to a few milestone men and women. Well done to Brad 'Sledge' Hammer, on his league debut. Brad who happened to have two back to back South Adelaide games, was blessed with a huge upset in the second week with the Panthers upsetting the ladder leaders and keeping their finals chances alive. Another huge milestone saw Steve Axon, umpires his 200th AFL Match. Ax was lucky enough for the milestone to fall on the Crows addition of the Showdown. Well done, Steve! In the lead up he was seen in a full page spread on Page 85 that he seemed to be telling everyone who would listen, and may have ordered 50 copies himself. In the 200 tour, he was also seen at the Amateur League headquarters in his own words, an 'On the Couch' type set up, where he answered questions of his adoring fans and Robbie Tainsch. Finally a couple of debut's in Reserves ranks with SANFLUA members, Emilie Hill and Georgia Henderson umpiring in front of a big crowd at Unley Oval. Well done girls!

The Prez has had a few good weeks of late, the Bobby Goss has been flowing in. It was pointed out the Prez has continued to get his pre-game rub, pulling rank on any boundary or field umpires. This has rubbed off (pardon the pun) on up and coming umpire, Rhys Negerman. Rhys has been seen sitting on tables across the SANFL enjoying a back rub or two. The Prez was also heard to have continued on after the SANFLUA annual dinner, and may have ended up at the Casino. Word is, he may have been escorted out after he became frustrated with a trainer who wouldn't leave him alone.

The GG has been made aware after the Flag Fiasco of 2017, a couple of Goalies have gone to the extremes to fix their issues. Committee member, Mat Wilson was the first to alter his flags that resemble quilt sheets, to make them regulation size. This may be over the top, but to be fair, shortly after finding out about this, the GG found out Braden Ford may have also done the same. In his own words, he "told Granny to fix them". Bray may need to take a look at himself, and offer his "Granny's" services to the rest of us!

How could we not bring up the SANFLUA Annual Dinner? It was a fantastic night (well done to the Prez and his committee on a great night) and some were seen to enjoy themselves a little too much. While a first year member, he will remain nameless, but the certain someone may have been escorted out of the premises after possibly re-producing some of his food and drink that was enjoyed earlier in the night. We hope this certain someone learns from his mistakes. There was also some competition seen on the night. While in an intermission, an umpire from other ranks was seen tuning a first year member, while her partner looked on. Our first year member, may need to open her eyes a bit and learn when a talk is a bit more than a friendly chat.

Lastly, in post season news, two of the 'Three Amigos' have been heard to have booked a romantic trip to Port Douglas. If sharing a room at the end of season trip wasn't enough, these two may be seen posting #SANFLUASelfies at the resort during the month of October. Good luck boys.

GG would like to wish those who have been selected for finals the best of luck, and I hope you enjoy a fruitful offseason.

The Galloping Goalie

#SANFLUASELFIE WINNERS

Congratulations to our #sanfluaselfie winners Andrew Alderson (June) and Braden Ford (July).

To win simply snap a footy related selfie, tag us in it @sanflua and use #sanfluaselfie on Instagram or Twitter and you could win a \$25 Bakery on O'Connell Voucher.

The winning #selfie will be announced on our social pages each month. So get snapping and tagging #sanflumpires #sanfluaselfie



Congratulations to our June #**sanfluaselfie** winner Andrew Alderson who won the \$25 Coles Myer Voucher as presented by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton



Congratulations to our July #**sanfluaselfie** winner Braden Ford who won the \$25 Bakery on O'Connell Voucher as presented by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton

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

The SANFLUA thanks all of our sponsors for 2017.

Our major Sponsors for 2017 include: **The Cathedral Hotel, Peter Shearer Menswear, Deb Curtis Photography & Checkside Tavern.**



The SANFLUA would also like to thank: **Bakery on O'Connell, Lazy Ballerina Winery, Flash Gordon Photography, PeggyLane Time Instruments and National Pharmacies Optical for their major contributions during 2017. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

