

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 5, 2017



INSIDE:

- 200 Club Luncheon
- 2017 Grand Finals
- Grand Final After Party
- Golden Whistle Awards
-And Much Much More

YOUR 2017 COMMITTEE



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

2017 SANFLUA DATES:

- Saturday April 29:
Cathedral Catch up #1
- Saturday May 20:
Movie Dinner Night
- Saturday June 3:
Cathedral Catch up #2
- Friday June 16:
8 Ball Night
- Saturday June 24:
Ten Pin Bowling Night
- Saturday July 8:
Cathedral Catch up #3
- Saturday July 22:
Quiz Night
- 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 3:
Christmas/Lawn Bowls BBQ

WINE/MICROBREWERY TOUR

The 2017 Winery/Microbrewery Tour will be held on Saturday October 28th. We have magnificent day planned in the Adelaide Hills.

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

2017 SANFLUA WINE TOUR
SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER, 2017

VISITS TO: SIDEWOOD, NEPENTHE, PRANCING PONY & BIRD IN HAND
MEMBERS/PARTNERS \$15: | NON MEMBERS: \$35

VISIT SANFLUA.COM.AU/SOCIALEVENTS TO BOOK NOW!
LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

Central & Eastern Collection Points

MacKinnon Parade at 9:45am
Burnside Village at 10:20am

Travel Snacks & Beverages Provided
Lunch @ Prancing Pony Brewery

Return Burnside Village at 16:15
MacKinnon Parade at 16:45

Festivities to Continue at:
The Cathedral Hotel at 5:00pm approx.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - MATTHEW NORTON

My Goodness gracious me! Who can believe that another season has past us by?

With that, it gives my great please in scribing another season in review to complete my second year as President of the SANFL Umpires Association.

Season 2017 can be described as nothing short of successful for the SANFLUA and its members.

In it's 70th year. The SANFLUA has thrived thanks to the efforts of everyone involved within the Association. With an increase in membership across all disciplines, its was pleasing to see many new members, life members and members who may not have generally attend many of our events in previous seasons, turn out in great numbers to support the many social functions we held over 2017.

Change and progress will not occur unless we have the numbers behind us to do so. People power is extremely important, so climb on board and continue to be member and encourage other people to do the same.

Another pleasing aspect of the season was to witness and have my signature placed on the certificates of our Life Member Inductees. Three very worthy recipients who have given considerable time and dedication to our association; so to Rick, Peter and Tony – Congratulations!

A lot of the success of this year can be attributed to the committed team we have on the SANFLUA Executive. Behind every great President there is an even greater team! I have never been involved with a more dedicated group than I have been this year.

A huge thank you must go to Matthew Cummins who came on board and took on the Social Media and Web Content portfolios. I think everyone has seen the fruits of Matt's efforts this year with an exuberant increase in followings across all social media platforms and the content shared. We look forward to his continued involvement next year.

Secondly to Mathew Wilson who has produced our Ball Up Magazine this season. We were committed to four editions this year, but with the release of this edition, we have exceeded our own expectations and released 5. This has been a powerful communication tool with our members and has been a great success. Thanks Mat.

But we cannot forget the rest of the team for their outstanding work. They are Secretary Andrew Crosby, Treasurer Sean Burton, Social Secretary Chris Cook, Communications Officer Aaron Bennett, Sponsorship Director David Sobieraj, Life Membership Coordinator Craig Trewartha and Abdulah Alpaslan.

In closing, I would like to wish you happy umpiring and every success for the up and coming season. You will only get out of it what you put in. I look forward to catching up with you all through out the off season. Enjoy the rest!

Your President,

Matthew Norton

SANFLUA President

GETTING TO KNOW: PETER SOWERBUTTS

Discipline: Field Umpire.

Commenced Umpiring Career With:
NAPSFA can't remember what that stands for but it's the North Adelaide panel.

Honours in Umpiring: 2013 NAPSFA Field Umpire of the year, 2015 Under 16s SANFL Grand Final emergency umpire.

Why did you become an Umpire: I've always loved footy, but wasn't ever big enough or skillful enough to play. I decided to take up umpiring so I could be involved without playing.

Before a game I always: Eat something light just before leaving the house.

Occupation: SANFL umpire/unemployed.

Favourite Food: Oreo.

Favourite Movie: The Dark Knight.

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Paramore.

3 People you'd like to have dinner with:
Hayley Williams, Leonardo DiCaprio & Jesus.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Canberra.

Most admired sportsperson and why:
Serena Williams - because she has the mental strength to win in any circumstances.



Peter Sowerbutts in action during 2017.

GETTING TO KNOW: MICHAEL BUTTON

Discipline: Goal Umpire.

Games Umpired: 12.

1st SANFL League Game: Woodville-West Torrens vs Sturt, Woodville Oval, Round 18, July 30 2016.

Commenced Umpiring Career With: South East Football Umpires League (Mount Gambier, SA) in 2008.

Honours in Umpiring: Goal Umpire of the Year (SEFUL 2010-13); Golden Whistle (SEFUL 2014-15); Goal Umpire Seniors Grand Final (SEFUL 2010-15); Most Improved Goal Umpire (SANFL 2016); Emergency Goal Umpire Reserves Grand Final 2016 and 2017.

Why did you become an Umpire: I took a liking for the role of a Goal Umpire at a young age and when I realised that I was too tentative to get in and under the packs as a player I decided to focus just on umpiring.

Before a game I always: Check my bag about five times and check my appointment before I get in the car, just to make sure I am heading to the correct ground. Hasn't failed me yet!

Occupation: Full-time student.

Favourite Food: Pizza or pasta.

Favourite Movie: Anchorman.

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Muse & U2.

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Jason Day, Adam Gilchrist and Carl Barron.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Mount Gambier – I don't really go on many holidays!

Most admired sportsperson and why: Adam Gilchrist – such a humble player who was extremely entertaining to watch, both with the bat and behind the stumps with the gloves.



Michael Button in action at Elizabeth Oval in 2017.

GETTING TO KNOW: TOM BRYCE

Discipline: Field Umpire.

Commenced Umpiring Career With: West Adelaide/Glenely in 2012.

Honours in Umpiring: SANFL U16's Grand Final 2014, SANFL U18's Grand Final 2015 and SANFL Reserves Grand Final (Emergency) 2017.

Why did you become an Umpire:

Loved footy and umpiring was a way to be involved in the game.

Before a game I always: Go for a walk and have a coffee.

Occupation: Full-time student (Clinical Exercise Physiology).

Favourite Food: Seafood.

Favourite Movie: The Dark Knight.

Favourite Music Artist/Band: Ed Sheeran.

3 People you'd like to have dinner with: Bruce McAvaney, Roger Federer and Shane Warne.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Los Angeles, USA: great sports, culture and all round vibes

Most admired sportsperson and why: Russell Westbrook: loyal, elite work ethic and great competitor.



Tom Bryce in action at Glenelg Oval in 2017.

2017 AFL FINALS UMPIRES

Congratulations to all of our SANFLUA Members who participated in the 2017 AFL Finals series.

Field Umpires: Curtis Deboy (VIC).

Boundary Umpires: Matthew Konetschka (SA), Jason Moore (VIC) and Mark Thomson (SA).

Goal Umpires: Steve Axon (SA).



(L-R) SANFLUA Members and 2017 SA AFL Finals Umpires Steve Axon, Mark Thomson and Matthew Konetschka.



(L-R) SA expat Shane Thiele pictured with Victorian based SANFLUA Members Jason Moore and Curtis Deboy who all officiated in the 2017 AFL Finals series.

Congratulations also to all of our SA expats who participated in the 2017 AFL Finals series.

Field Umpires: Justin Schmitt (VIC).

Boundary Umpires: Shane Thiele (VIC).

Goal Umpires: Brodie Kenny-Bell (NSW) & Michael Palm (VIC).

200 CLUB: ANDREW CROSBY

On Friday 1st September, I was privileged enough to be invited to the SANFL 200 Club, Past Players and Officials Association Luncheon in the Ian McLachlan room at Adelaide Oval. Although not officially inducted into the '200 Club' until the AGM next January, any player or official who had reached the 200 game milestone during the season was invited as a guest speaker. The four new inductees were Steven Somerton (Port Adelaide), Matthew Cummins (Goal Umpire), Sean Burton (Boundary Umpire) and I. It was a great honour to share this special day with two other umpires; who also happen to be fellow SANFLUA committee members.

When I first saw an advertisement for a 'Basic Umpires Course' in the Sunday Mail one morning in early 2002, there is no way I could even fathom that I would umpire 1 league game, let alone 200. In fact, after the initial course at Football Park, my intention was to be a boundary umpire for school football. After arriving for the first training, somehow I ended up finding the field umpires instead, so decided to join them, and it was one of the best things that could have happened to me. It's hard to describe to the non-converted about what makes umpiring football so special and so rewarding. Is it the challenge of interpreting the rule book to ensure a fair and even contest? The thrill of being in control of the best and most exciting game in the world? The pursuit of being selected to umpire at the highest possible level? The lifelong friendships you can make on and off the field? For me, it's a combination of all four, and I have no doubt that there are many more reasons why we all chose to be an umpire.

Fast forward to Saturday June 2nd 2017, Norwood versus Sturt at Unley Oval; a day that I will never forget. A day where I got to umpire my 200th game alongside two of my best mates in Theron Philp and Michael Schramm. So many messages of congratulations, and people making a fuss. I couldn't tell you much about the game itself, but I will forever look back on that day with pride, happiness and an even greater awareness about what tremendous people there are in the umpiring circles. Matthew, Sean and I all have vastly different pathways that enabled us to get an invite to the Luncheon this year, but I'm certain we each have great memories of the day of our 200th.

The Luncheon was hosted by the very entertaining and dry-witted Wayne 'Flipper' Phillips, who interviewed all four of us on stage about our football and umpiring careers. There was no shortage of laughs from the guests in the room due to Phillips' ability to ask a variety of humorous, curly questions with a dead pan face. Scanning around the room, I was in awe of the number of faces I recognised and idolised as a kid growing up watching SANFL football. None more so than the great Stephen 'Sticks' Kernahan, who was the guest speaker after lunch. The interview between himself and Wayne Phillips provided a great insight in to his playing career with Glenelg, the transfer to Carlton in the VFL, playing State of Origin football for SA, and that infamous post-Grand Final celebratory version of 'Stand by your Man'. It truly was an honour to be part of a memorable afternoon.

Over the past 200+ games, umpiring SANFL football has provided me with some amazing experiences and memories, and the luncheon on Friday 1st September was certainly one I will take with me long into retirement, whenever that may be.

By Andrew Crosby



(L-R) Sean Burton, Andrew Crosby and Matthew Cummins being interviewed by Wayne Phillips at the 200 Club Lunch.



(L-R) Matthew Cummins, Andrew Crosby and Sean Burton with their 200 Club certificates.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS EVENING (PART #1)



AWARD DETAILS

Stan Wickham Memorial Shield

Awarded annually to an Academy Umpire within each discipline who provides his/her peers with a 'Role Model'.

Field Umpire

2017 Award Winner

Jack Millar

Boundary Umpire

2017 Award Winner

Matthew Parker

Goal Umpire

2017 Award Winner

Emilie Hill

Centre of Excellence Awards Evening photos kindly provided by SANFL Goal Umpire and SANFLUA Member Michael Bruno (Elevate Photography)

STAN WICKHAM MEMORIAL SHIELD (FIELD UMPIRE)

JACK MILLER

“Commenced with SANFL in 2016 and came onto our list with a pretty big reputation.

He has a good feel for the game, is very strong with his on field demeanour and match day presence.

Extremely enthusiastic to learn and improve his umpiring and fitness and since joining our list we've seen him quickly move up into Under 18s.

Season 2016 saw him umpire a handful of Under 16 matches, a semi-final and Grand Final then capped off the season with Under 18 finals.

Season 2017 has seen him at the age of 17, have a taste of 6 reserves matches, develop some consistency at Under 18 level before a strong performance in the 18s Qualifying Final and will this weekend umpire his first Under 18 Grand Final.”

By Garry Wyld

STAN WICKHAM MEMORIAL SHIELD (BOUNDARY UMPIRE)

MATTHEW PARKER

“The winner of the Stan Wickham for the Boundary for 2017 has demonstrated an amazing commitment, persistence & determination to maintain focus on his umpiring goals.

He was one of the 10 boundary umpires to make his Reserves debut during the 2017 season. He started with the SANFL at the age of 14 in 2013.

This umpire has had an unlucky run of injuries with his most significant injury occurring early in 2016.

After finishing the preseason & being as fit as he had ever been, he was involved in a non-football related incident & had to undergo a knee reconstruction & consequently he did not umpire during 2016.

He only viewed this as a temporary setback, remained positive, completed all the rehabilitation & presented himself for the 2017 season in a fit & match ready condition – a credit to his commitment & determination. Over his 5 years with the SANFL he has officiated in 45 SANFL games including 6 Reserves games, all this year.

His attitude, attendance & willingness to learn is best in class & he represented the SANFL at the U16s National Championships & will be officiating in the U18s Grand Final on Sunday.

A great example of what can be achieved if you persevere & continue to work hard even when everything is not going your way.”

By Quentin Brewer

STAN WICKHAM MEMORIAL SHIELD (GOAL UMPIRE)

EMILIE HILL

“The first time I saw Emilie I knew we had an umpire, a project umpire needing development with the fine skills, but we had an umpire that we could develop.

Emilie just makes me smile. She is happy and friendly never complains and is just a positive person to be around; I make sure to talk to her every training just to take some of that positive energy on board.

Emilie never quits. It would seem the word is not in her vocabulary.

Emilie wants to do better. She is determined to improve. She asks questions and listens to answers.

She is respected; Not just by the coaching group but by her peers. Everyone wants her to succeed.”

By Andrew Alderson



(L-R) Centre of Excellence Stan Wickham Award winner Matthew Parker, Jack Millar and Emilie Hill.

2017 UNDER 18'S GRAND FINAL

Congratulations to all of our Under 18's Grand Final umpires.

Field Umpires: Jack Millar, Luke Wittenberg, Joshua Hardy & Hudson Noack (Emergency).

Boundary Umpires: Taylor Dorsey, Dylan Speck & Matthew Parker & Jonathon Poethke.

Goal Umpires: Cameron MacDonald, Liam MacDonald & Brad Jenkins (Emergency).



2017 RESERVES GRAND FINAL

Congratulations to all of our Reserves Grand Final umpires.

Field Umpires: Mitchell Harris, Sam Morgan, Scott Galletly & Thomas Bryce (Emergency).

Boundary Umpires: Gerard Carter, Tom Kelly, Issac Fishlock & Adam Spratt.

Goal Umpires: Brad Hammer, Braded Ford & Michael Button (Emergency).



2017 LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Congratulations to all of our League Grand Final umpires.

Field Umpires: Toby Medlin, Corey Bowen, Giles Lewis & Michael Schramm (Emergency).

Boundary Umpires: Brayden Theil, Matthew Zacher, Matthew Hermann & Samuel Royans.

Goal Umpires: Matthew Norton, Thomas Sharpe & Steven Paunovic (Emergency).



SANFLUA GRAND FINAL AFTER PARTY





Congratulations to SANFLUA Members Braden Ford and Matthew Konetshcka who both made appearances on the MCG for the last Saturday in September.

Braden officiated the AFL U18's All Stars match; a curtain raiser to the AFL Grand Final.

Matthew officiated in his first AFL Grand Final after being the Emergency Boundary Umpire for the 2016 Grand Final.

Well done boys, terrific achievements!



(Left) Braden Ford with Tasmanian counterpart Bryce Guy, (Top Right) Braden giving a maximum on the MCG and (Bottom Right) Braden collecting his flags as he makes his way to the middle of the MCG to check the scores.



(Left) Matthew Konetshcka and partner Kate having a quick pre match photo and (Right) 2017 AFL Grand Final Boundary Umpires (L-R) Mitchell Lefevre, Matthew Konetshcka, Robert Haala and Damien Cusack during their pre match warm up.

GOLDEN WHISTLE - SEASON IN REVIEW

“How fast did that season go?”

I am pleased 2017 generally saw Umpiring overall at an acceptable level as we say in umpiring generally not heard or seen. Quality of umpiring is very subjective!!!

Across all disciplines we have seen some real talent emerge and the elders have continued to perform at a high level. There is no doubt the commitment and dedication continues to be high.

When you're the manager of this group you often look from the outside in we have created a fantastic learning environment with strong structures and processes in place for Umpires to achieve.”

By Shane Harris

SANFL State Umpiring Manager

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO UMPIRING AWARD NOW THE ‘DAVID ELLIOTT AWARD’

David “Slug” Elliott is one of Umpiring’s truest gentlemen. He is always warm, humble, welcoming, up for a chat and a huge advocate for both Umpiring and the SANFLUA.

Slug’s stats speak for themselves:

- Began umpiring back in 1976 in the Sturt/Glenelg/South Adelaide High Schools panel.
- First game with the SANFL was in the U17’s at Panther Park, St Mary’s in 1979 (see picture below).
- Worked through the grades (U17, U19, Country and Reserves) over 8 years debuting at league level on Adelaide Oval in July 1987.
- Umpired the 1982 U19 GF, 1984 U17 GF and GF Replay, 1988 & 89 Reserves GF’s and 1990 SAFA GF.
- Umpired 225 league games between 1987 and 1996, including 7 finals and the 1992 Foundation Cup (pre-season) GF.
- Winner of the 5AA umpire of the year in 1989.
- Officiated the Port Adelaide v Collingwood trial at Football Park in March 1993.
- Began observing/coaching (under Shane’s leadership) in 1997 and has continued in that role up until present day (21 years later).
- Inducted as a SANFLUA Life Member in 2009.

I caught up with David to hear how he felt about the renaming of the award. This is what he had to say:

“It was a very humbling experience when Shane made the announcement that the ‘Outstanding Service to Umpiring’ award would from 2017 be named in my honor and to have it presented to me with my entire family in attendance was one of the proudest moments of my 40 years in umpiring. My continued involvement is my way of putting something back into the sport that has given me so many opportunities in life, not to mention the fantastic people I’ve met, lifelong friends I’ve made and the fact I just love it. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped me along the way and in particular to Shane for bestowing this honor upon me and to my family for all of their unconditional support. I’m looking forward very much to presenting the award to another worthy recipient in 2018.”

A perfect honour to be bestowed upon a magnificent man.

By Mathew Wilson



(L-R) Mick Dobbie, David Elliott & Lyn Bradshaw during David’s first U17 SANFL match at Panther Park, St Mary’s on July 7th 1979. South Adelaide 9 - 9 (63) d West Torrens 7 - 12 (54)
Slug getting South over the line even in 1979



David Elliott with the newly named ‘David Elliott Award’.



Inaugural ‘David Elliott Award’ winner Barry Oates with David Elliott.

AWARD DETAILS

David Elliott Award

Awarded annually to an Individual for 'Outstanding Service to Umpiring'.

2017 Award Winner

Barry Oates

Mark J Posa Award

Awarded annually to an Umpire who is an 'Outstanding New Talent'.

2017 Award Winner

Sam Morgan

Andrew Vickers Medallion

Awarded annually to an Umpire who is a 'Role Model' to their peers.

2017 Award Winner

Michael Sboro

DAVID ELLIOTT AWARD

"Receiving an award for Outstanding Service to Umpiring is something I never expected. Who would have thought when I first became involved in umpiring in Tasmania in 1985 that 33 seasons later firstly I would still be involved and secondly being recognised by receiving an award such as this. I'm honoured and very surprised to be honest. To receive the initial David Elliott Award is also very special.

I am a better person for my involvement in umpiring and have many great experiences to reflect on. There also many individuals I have umpired with, coached, mentored and worked with through my umpiring journey that are now lifelong friends. Umpiring has the ability to turn negatives in to positives in such a way that the negatives are quickly forgotten. The challenges across the many off field roles I have been involved with in umpiring are what I now focus on and thrive and allows my passion and commitment to shine through. I can't see myself never not being involved in umpiring well in to the future. My son is now thriving with his umpiring and I really look forward to sharing and enjoying his journey in the game."



Barry Oates

MARK J POSA AWARD



Sam Morgan

"It was a massive shock to win this award, being my first golden whistle I wasn't aware of all the awards and definitely did not expect to win one. It's a massive honour to win the award and very humbling. 2017 has been a very rewarding year, starting running early with Leigh Haussen at Flinders Athletics Club was a big help.

The coaching feedback from Shane Harris and the staff was also a great help and very thankful for Shane allowing me the opportunity to umpire league football. To be presented the award by Richard Williams was also a massive honour as he has also been a great help in my short career. Finally the support of all the boys out on the track was immense, as well as the support of my family and friends."

ANDREW VICKERS MEDALLION

"It was truly an honour to be nominated for the Andrew Vickers Award this year. I have only heard some details about the man he was, and hope I can give this Award the credit it deserves. When you look at the previous winners of this award, you realise that some of the Greats of the umpiring fraternity have been recognized for their efforts in the season, and I am humbled to be a part of this group.

I started my 2017 season back in July last year. I was swimming, riding and running twice a week, hoping it would set me up for a great 2017 season. I competed in many triathlons, trying to get my body fit and fresh for the upcoming season. I had a successful year, notching up 50 League games in the 2nd week of the Finals Series. Thanks to everyone who puts up with my low key approach to my pre game, but special thanks to all the field umpires."



Michael Sboro

AWARD DETAILS

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

2017 Award Winners

Most Improved Field:

Mitchell Harris

Most Improved Boundary:

Gerard Carter

Most Improved Goal:

Brad Hammer

MOST IMPROVED FIELD UMPIRE:

“Winning the most improved field umpire for 2017 was a massive surprise. It caps off the most successful season for me at the SANFL. For me, it is recognition for the hard work that I put in throughout 2016, as well as this year, where I trained harder away from umpiring and watched what I ate. The recognition of being most improved is positive reinforcement that I am heading in the right direction.

I would like to thank the guys who I trained with last off season, especially Chris Cooke for organising the sessions and pushing us. Thanks to my family for their support over the past few years and in the future. I look forward to again improving my fitness over the off season and having another crack in 2018.”



Mitch Harris

MOST IMPROVED BOUNDARY UMPIRE



Gerard Carter

“It was a surprise to me that I was chosen as the winner of this award as I believed there was great improvement by all this season, so for me to be chosen was a real honour. I really have to thank all the coaches for all the tips and pointers I have received throughout my umpiring journey as they have helped me become the umpire I currently am.

Thanks also need to go to my family for all their support and guidance especially my two brothers who are currently umpiring with me. I know I still have a lot of work and improvement to make in order to achieve my goals in umpiring and am looking forward to getting stuck in again out on the track this summer.”

MOST IMPROVED GOAL UMPIRE

“Winning the 2017 most improved goal umpire award is big honour and caps off a very big year for me. If I was told that I would win this, halfway through last year, I would've laughed it off (not out of disrespect but because my 2016 season was awful). This award is something I'll never forget and it will take a while for the smile to be wiped off my face; and as Darryl Kerrigan says in The Castle, "this is going straight to the pool room."

I would like to thank my family and friends for helping me with my umpiring over the years and all the umpires themselves; as well as the Goal coaches for showing patience with me. Additionally I would like to thank my first umpire coach Michael Charles for getting me into the SANFL.”



Brad Hammer

AWARD DETAILS

Golden Whistle: Awarded annually to the best SANFL Field Umpire.

Silver Whistle: Awarded annually to the best SANFL Boundary Umpire.

Golden Flags: Awarded annually to the best SANFL Goal Umpire.

2017 Award Winners

Golden Whistle:
Toby Medlin

Silver Whistle:
Samuel Royans

Golden Flags:
Matthew Norton

GOLDEN WHISTLE

“It is truly an honour to be presented with this award and to have my name listed among so many other talented umpires. Without the support of a number of important people around me I could never have achieved this dream.

To my first umpiring coach Reg Burgess. He got me into umpiring and has been my number one supporter ever since I started.

I am grateful to Shane Harris who has believed in me and my abilities. He’s continued to push me and without his guidance I wouldn’t be the umpire I am today.

To all the coaches who have supported me throughout the years, I’ve been able to take pieces of advice from every single one to help make me a better umpire.

Lastly, and probably most importantly I want to thank all of the other umpires. It’s the friendships we have that make umpiring so special.

Thank you for this award. It’s not something I could ever imagine winning. To umpire three Grand Finals is amazing, and now to be able to call myself a Golden Whistle winner is the absolute icing on the cake.”

SILVER WHISTLE

“I feel utterly privileged and honoured to have been this year’s recipient of the Silver Whistle. It’s something that I didn’t even think I would be close to achieving throughout my umpiring career. It was a great competition this year and any number of guys this year could have won it. Umpiring can be seen as a very individual game until you are part of it. We all know that without the assistance, the care and the support of different people in your life there is very little chance of success.

The coaches and observers that dedicate their own recreational time to watch different people grow as people and as umpires are to be commended. Without them I doubt many would find success. To all the coaches and observers, thank you. Particularly to Hayden Cook and Quentin Brewer as their words of wisdom and guidance through the years gave me hope and goals.

To my beautiful family who take great delight just to see me on the field regardless of the game. Their support is tireless and won’t ever be forgotten. To my Zoe who puts up with everything week in week out, and continues to listen to the same story 110 times, thank you.

To each and every one of you, who I run and train with on a weekly basis, thank you. To Timmy Bryant and Damien Pryer, I could never do without our witty and ridiculous banter.”

GOLDEN FLAGS

“To receive any award is an honour in itself, but to win the award recognizing the best Goal Umpire in a particular season is even more special. If you had asked me at the commencement of the season as to whether I would expect to do a Grand Final, let alone win the Golden Flags – I would have told you to go and stick it. My involvement in football centres on getting as much enjoyment out of it as I can, and any rewards and recognition I get from that is a bonus. After coming off the AFL list in 2015, the period thereafter was spent trying to continually rekindle the enjoyment of my umpiring so season 2016 was a year to rebuild my career at SANFL Level with this season building further on what I had created in 2016 – so that makes receiving the Golden Flags even more special.

Success in anything we do is attributed to not only oneself, but to many other people. Firstly I must thank the coaching staff for supporting me throughout the season, showing faith in me and giving me the opportunity to umpire in this year’s Grand Final which did see the right colours take pride of place at the top of the chimney at The Brewery. Secondly to my mates on the track, if it wasn’t for ‘youz guyz’ there wouldn’t be the motivation to keep coming back to training each week for the banter and the showers – so a big thank you to you. Most notably, a big thanks you to the other members of the “Three Amigos” Matthew Cummins and Rhys Negerman, my Bae Mathew Wilson and my fellow Commentary Partner Steven Paunovic.

And finally to Two people that couldn’t be around to see me win this award and share the enjoyment, that were a huge influence on my career were Ante Perkovic and Julie Thomas ... I’ll be eternally grateful for their support in the early days of my career.

To all my fellow umpires, enjoy your rest over the off-season and look forward to seeing you on the track very soon.”



Toby Medlin



Sam Royans



Matthew Norton

AFL ROUND 20 MILESTONES: 50TH AFL MATCH

DETERMINATION PAYS OFF FOR DEBOY

2017 was a huge year for Curtis Deboy. He umpired 23 games at AFL level, including his 50th match and first AFL final, taking his total to 54 AFL games.

The round 20 clash between North Melbourne and Collingwood at Etihad Stadium saw Curtis rack up his 50th game and whilst this wasn't the best game to watch, Curtis did a great job on the night.

Curt's first AFL final however was an instant classic. He was one of the umpires in the elimination final played between Port Adelaide and West Coast. With the scores being even at the end of regular time, the game went into extra time. The Eagles won the game with a kick after the siren.

With the game being played at Adelaide Oval, Curt was able to have some of his family in attendance and his wife Kathy also made the trip over from Melbourne. Watching Curt from my living room back in Melbourne it was very pleasing to see him go so well in such a high pressure environment.

With Curt showing no signs of slowing down, I am excited to see what he can achieve next season. Hopefully we are able to do a few more games together at the highest level next year too.

Well done on a fantastic year and I'm sure there are many highlights left in your career.

By Leigh Haussen



Curtis Deboy in action on the MCG.

SANFL FINALS MILESTONE: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

SEMI FINAL MARKS HALF TON FOR SBORO

I've had the pleasure of knowing Michael since 2007 when he joined the SANFL from feeder panel Southern Footy League where he started his umpiring journey in 2002. Since joining the SANFL Michael has become an integral part of our senior umpiring panel and a much loved member to all fellow umpires. Michael's career highlights include umpiring the U/18's in 2010 and Reserves Grand Finals in 2014. We congratulate Michael on umpiring his first senior final, coinciding with his 50th senior match in the second Semi Final between Eagles and Port Adelaide.

It's fair to say Michael has had a stellar 2017. Inside 12 months he has moved into his first house (failing to invite any of us to the house warming), proposed (with success) to his beautiful fiancé Bec, turned 30, umpired his first senior finals game and at this year's Golden Whistle awards received the prestigious Andrew Vickers Award.

Personally, I believe this season can be attributed to his hard work and dedication off the field. In 2016 Michael would be the first to admit he returned "unfit" from a holiday overseas with Bec, which resulted in a disappointing season. Michael started umpiring the season in the '2's, after a handful of senior games and no finals he knew he had to pull his finger out. In the off season, knowing full well he was not a naturally gifted runner (he is not alone here), Michael committed to training for triathlons. In his own words he "loved the challenge". There is no doubt this helped him get much fitter and as a result, he absolutely smashed season 2017.

Michael is an absolute thrill to be around, drink with (not too many beers, he gets bloated), train and umpire with. His game day superstitions are a sight to behold. Whether it is his shadow boxing pre game, singing of our National Anthem or his need to be the first to reach the centre circle it is definitely never a boring day with Michael. He also loves to squeeze every penny, often being seen in running shoes with not only no tread but holes in them, singlets that are years old or skipping himself when it's his turn to buy a round. I think that ring that is on Bec's finger could have set him back more than he is prepared to admit.

Congratulations on your first 50 senior games, looking forward to umpiring many more with you.

By Michael Schramm



Michael Sboro being presented his 50th League match certificate by SANFLUA President Matthew Norton.

APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES (2018)

19

Steven Murphy - 291* (300)

Tim Bryant - 186* (200)

Peter Challen - 186 (200)

Toby Medlin - 186 (200)

Chris Bull - 147* (150)

*Denotes Game Tally is to be confirmed

SANFL FINALS MILESTONE: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

GF MILESTONE FOR GILES

I originally met Giles when I showed up to his door at 6am, we then went on to spend the next six months living together. It may sound like the ultimate Tinder date success story, but in fact we were both moving to Darwin to umpire the 2011/12 NTFL season. Giles is a great character. I remember that first morning I met him, he was a shy yet confident young man, obviously someone who was there to enjoy themselves, but also someone who I knew was always going to put in the hard yards when require. From that day on he would become a close friend and not just someone I could call upon for umpiring support.

Living with Giles was something I will never forget, he knew how to balance the ultimate Darwin lifestyle, with becoming the best umpire in 'The Territory'. This included Giles working in a nightclub down Mitchell Street, where he would work Friday and Saturday nights from 9pm-6am before then taking to the extreme Darwin heat to umpire a 2pm Tiwi Bombers game in 35 degrees and 80% humidity. Giles' character was quickly loved by all the Darwin umpiring locals, and he soon became one of the crew. That year Giles' went on to umpire the NTFL Premier League Grand Final, a game which will always be remembered in the Territory, as the Tiwi Bombers won their first NTFL flag. I knew that day that Giles had a bright future in umpiring, as his composure and ability under pressure shone through, as 10,000 Territorians cheered on the Tiwi Bombers.

Post Darwin, we moved back home to Adelaide, where Giles returned to the Adelaide Football League. After umpiring for 12 months straight, I remember him saying to me that he was "a bit over footy". This saw Giles take the 2012 and 2013 seasons relatively easy and regrow his love for the game, before in 2014 he decided that he would give it his all and see where it took him. That was a great choice and his career didn't look back, he umpired the 2014 Division 1 Grand Final, before heading out to the SANFL for the 2015 season.

In 2015 Giles' determination to become the best umpire he could really became apparent for everyone to see, I had a chat to Patrick, Giles' brother and said "geez your brother is a bit boring these days", but it was really just Giles giving it his all, a decision which right now is the best he has made. The fact Giles debuted in League during 2015 was testament to the amount of hard work he had put in.

Recently, when it was announced that Giles would umpire the 2017 SANFL League Grand Final, I was not one bit surprised. His dedication to umpiring over the past six years has seen him grow into the kind of individual that a lot of younger, up and coming umpires will use as a role model for many years to come.

By Liam Bentlley



Giles Lewis being presented his 50th SANFL League match certificate at the SANFLUA Grand Final After Party by SANFLUA President Matthew 'The Prez' Norton.

APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES (2018)

20

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mathew Wilson - 99 (100) | Thomas Sharpe - 96 (100) | Matthew Williams - 92 (100) |
| Scott Hosking - 85 (100) | Thomas Burke - 44 (50) | Jamie Broadbent - 35 (50) |

FIELD MARSHALL

Welcome to the Post Season games. A time of Frivolities and reflection.

The finals produced the goods and would have made the SANFL board happy campers with almost 40,000 supporters watching a 1 point thriller. Sturt and Port was always going to make for an exciting grand final but this game was beyond what anyone expected. Toby Medlin umpired his 3rd grand final and first as a tosser, he said becoming a tosser was the best move he made since deciding to leave training after the warm up to grab two whoppers from the local Hungry Jacks mid-year. Corey Bowen also umpired his third grand final and his first in 8 years. Much has happened for Corey in that time. He has aged 40 years, had 7 children and acquired a taste for throwing young umpires under the bus. Corey said he enjoyed the day very much but thought the crowd was a little bit loud at times. The third umpire on the day was debutant Giles Lewis. Giles has had a successful year with an AFL Rookie contract and SANFL Grand Final coming off the back of an extended trip overseas. Giles attributed his freshness in body and mind to the late start this year, citing Roger Federer as his inspiration behind the move.

The SANFL Umpires also have celebrated their golden night of nights at the Adelaide Oval with many getting dressed up to enjoy the spoils that come with the season's end. The Golden Whistle is always a highly enjoyable night and the hierarchy do an excellent job ensuring no expense is spared. Also, whilst I have your attention, it has always struck me as amusing that the Boundary Umpires win the Silver Whistle whilst the Field and Goal umpires with the Golden Whistle and Flags respectively. I have thought long and hard as to why this might be the case.

Perhaps it is a nod to the precious metal that was first used as a currency in South America; or maybe because the finest tableware is silver.

Anyway, back to the night, The Golden Whistle winner was Toby Medlin capping off a perfect end of the season next to his Grand Final. The most spectacular thing was that he actually owned his speech, whipping out a scroll and proceeding to read for a captivating 15mins.

Other 'Fieldies' to get a nod on the night were Mitch Harris who won Most Improved Field Umpire and Michael Sboro who won the Andrew Vickers medallion. But the highlight of the night, was the Mark Posa award for most outstanding young talent award, won by Sam Morgan. The Hon. Richard William's presented it to Sam in a truly memorable moment. Sam and Richard have a long relationship and Richard is undoubtedly somewhat of a father figure to Sam. Half way through the speech Richard decided to go "off script" and lamented that Sam had chosen to move on from his daughter despite taking her to his year 11 formal. From that point in the speech Sam was easy to spot as his face turned the colour of a tomato and glowed like a lighthouse on a dark night.

Anyway, that is all from me, enjoy the break and I will see you all in the New Year.

FM.

BOUNDARY BOLTER

Just like that the 2017 season is over. It's been a very successful and fun filled season for the boundaries this year with plenty of young guys debuting, some good milestones along the way and plenty of the usual game day and training banter.

First of all well done to everyone who ran during the finals and in particular those who umpired a Grand Final. It's always a special achievement to be appointed a Grand Final and something that everyone strives for. Also, congratulations to all the award winners at the Golden Whistle. It is always a great night and it was good to see so many of you there. The award winners spoke very well at the golden whistle and it was amazing to hear Gerard Carter actually speak in his speech. I think that's the most words anyone has got out of him all year.

The Grand Final after party proved to be a very entertaining night with Will Carter officially driving everyone up the wall with his antics all day and it's amazing he even made it to the after party. He did also get a Grand Final day kiss I hear from a certain female Goal Umpire. Matt Herman put in a solid effort and I heard he even made it to Zhviagos after the after party with his beloved Red Square not being an option on a Sunday night. Fish and Tom Kelly possibly also went out after. Those two have been almost inseparable all year. Spratty was well behaved having to work the next day. Some were smart and booked the next day off work the rest of us had to roll up with a nice hang over the next day!

Now that we've made it to the offseason a few guys have been away for the AFL Grand Final; in particular PJ, Zacher, Ben and Terence. Terence didn't go to the game he spent all his money shopping. I am not so sure that PJ went for a weekend with the boys or if he went to actually score some brownie points with Simon. Probably the later since he was MIA every time it was his shout for a beer. I also know that Ben spent the whole weekend complaining about Terence's options for food and coffee; not quite up to Bens high end hipster tastes. Ex SANFL Boundary Umpire Matt Fallon also made an appearance the AFL GF, how he managed to scab a ticket when he knows nothing about football is bizarre to me. Damien Robinson was also in Melbourne that weekend and I've heard he put in a solid drinking session at the crown the night before the GF. Matty K spent all of Sunday after the GF babysitting PJ who's knew nickname after that weekend is 2 beers since that's all he can handle. Corey Watkins was also in Melbourne for the GF but unfortunately I have no dirt to dish on Corey who spent the weekend hanging out with his mates and not dogging the boys.

Mark Thomson spent the GF weekend in Adelaide staying in the city with his family. Very surprising given I've heard Thomo has Simon on speed dial too and I would have thought he would have been in Melbourne washing Simon's car or mowing his lawn that weekend.

That's a wrap for season 2017. Hope to see you all back on the track when training returns and enjoy summer!

BB.

GALLOPING GOALIE

What a year it was for the Goalies. GG would firstly like to congratulate Matthew Norton and Thomas Sharpe for being selected to officiate the Grand Final which saw almost 40,000 spectators and a fantastic 1 point win to the Double Blues. A double congratulations also goes to Steven Paunovic for being appointed as emergency for the game, as well as announcing his retirement in the week leading up to the game. In a fitting tribute, Pauni was handed the flags to wave the all clear to the scoreboard one last time when the match finished. Both Steven and Matthew were on edge until the final siren sounded, and you may have heard a little squeal from both the Southern end of the ground and the bench when the Blues held on in a nail biter.

Congratulations also goes to Brad Hammer and Braden Ford on being appointed to the Reserves Grand Final and Michael Button for being appointed emergency for the second year running. Lastly well done to the McDonald brothers for their appointment for the Under 18s Grand Final and Brad Jenkins on his emergency role.

In a whirlwind week for the Prez, Matthew capped off a fantastic season with the Golden Flags. In one of the more memorable speeches in recent memory, Matthew entertained the crowd, like only Matthew **MORTON** could.... Now to just get that trophy fixed to spell your surname correctly.... Brad Hammer was also awarded Most Improved Goal Umpire, and in a surprise to most Goalies, Brad had the most to say of all three disciplines. Brad a man of few words, seemed to be able to string a sentence or two together without mentioning something about Port Adelaide or the Panthers, well done Sledge. In a double blow on the night, Thomas Sharpe who was sick as a dog, had a look at his medal for the Grand Final appointment, and it happened to read 2017 U/18s Grand Final Umpire. Funnily enough, from what the Galloping Goalie has been told, fellow umpires and Shane Harris, of all people, said it was where he belonged.... Unlucky, Sharpie.

In other news, what gears up to be a big off season, the Goalies are off to Victor on the weekend. Partners and wives alike are worried for their spouse's wellbeing. Steven Murphy and Michael Button will be battling it out for the lightweight of the tour, with Michael not having touched a drop of alcohol in his life, it says a lot about Steven Murphy's tolerance to alcohol. The crew are also worried that they may not see Matthew Cummins or Rhys Negerman for the entirety of the weekend as they are rooming together. In a warm up to their Port Douglas trip, the two need to work out who the big spoon and small spoon (I'm sure they already know). The coaches have also been invited to this year's trip, and Galloping Goalie has been given word that Peter 'Honeypot' Honeyman plans to spend a lot of his time catching up on work. This may be a good thing for all involved.

In my last time speaking to you as Galloping Goalie for season 2017, I wish you all the best off season, and safe and merry Christmas and New Year's period. Here is to hoping you don't come back looking like a James Georgiadis in January.

Enjoy the break,

GG.

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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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.**

