

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

# BALL UP

ISSUE 1, 2019



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## YOUR 2019 COMMITTEE



“Your support is vital to ensure SANFLUA remains a viable entity that can support its Umpires, and also provide them with opportunities to socialise with Umpires they might not get a chance to. We’re here to look after the needs of all our Umpires and with a strong member database; we’re better equipped to achieve this.” SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins

## AFTER MATCH CATCH UP #1

Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> was the first After Match Catch Up at The Gilbert Street Hotel. After a solid start to season 2019 it was terrific to see an array of new faces, familiar faces, partners, siblings and a Life Member come and enjoy our the night and a few beverages. The After Match Catch Up's are a great way for Members to have a chat in a relaxed environment. Thank you to The Gilbert Street Hotel for their awesome hospitality and putting up a door prize of a free drink. Well done to Giles Lewis on taking out the prize and enjoying a free pint of Pirate Life. The SANFLUA hopes to see you at the next After Match Catch Up on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.



## 2019 SANFLUA DATES

### Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>

Lawn Bowls at Walkerville Bowling Club

### Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>

After Match Catch Up #1 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

### Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>

After Match Catch Up #2 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

### Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Life Member Luncheon (TBC)

### Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>

Ten Pin Bowling (TBC)

### Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>

After Match Catch Up #3 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

### Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>

Quiz Night (TBC)

### Thursday August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Annual Dinner at Adelaide Oval

### Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>

SANFL Grand Final After Party at The Cathedral Hotel

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME - MATTHEW CUMMINS

Welcome to the first Ball Up for Season 2019. It's hard to believe we're at Round 6 already. It felt like the pre-season went forever but once the trial games started it moved at a rate of knots.

It was my aim to ensure we held the AGM earlier than previous years so that we didn't feel like we were chasing our tails for the rest of the year. We managed to achieve this. We held our AGM in early February and this allowed us to hold our Members BBQ early and squeeze in a pre-season Social Event of Lawn Bowls.

Our AGM had solid attendance. It's great to see that many of our members have interest in their Association and some are even keen to ensure we're a success by providing great feedback and input. There were some minor changes to the committee this year. With our Life Members Rep being a committee appointed position (the same way the statistician role is appointed), we were able to add an additional member voted committee member. Relocating back home after a year in Sydney, Matthew Norton was keen to contribute to SANFLUA again. The committee are pleased to have him back as our Website editor. Mathew Wilson, Aaron Bennett and David Sobieraj were re-elected to the committee and will continue in their roles.

Once again a major focus for us will be to continue our presence across our social media platforms. I make no secret of my thoughts on the importance of this. To be able to showcase our members and reward them for their efforts in this small way should bring pride to our group and show our sponsors and supporters the blood, sweat and tears we all put into our umpiring careers.

With a tricky SANFL Fixture for Season 2019, putting together a Social Calendar that all our members can attend was difficult. There are a lot of Sunday games scheduled. However, we feel we've come up with a social calendar that appeals to every demographic amongst our members and we look forward to seeing every one of you this year. We'll have our After-Match Catch Ups, Ten Pin Bowling, Annual Dinner and our ever-popular Grand Final After Party. We held an Afternoon of Lawn Bowls in March and whilst attendance was small, we hope this will become a popular pre-season event, particularly with the brilliant March weather.

I'm keen to ensure that everyone is aware that our Social Events are for everyone. Bring a friend if you wish. Bring your family. If unsure contact us and we'll be happy to accommodate you. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as our events will be posted on there with all the details. If you plan on attending an event it's important you let us know so that we can let our venues know numbers.

I'd like to thank our Members who have continued to support us in Season 2019. If you haven't joined up yet it's not too late. Jump on our website or approach a committee member and we'll be happy to assist.

Our Members BBQ was well attended again and continues to be a great way to kick the year off and get our members signed up. We lucked out a little with the weather this year, with plus 40-degree temperatures. Those that stayed back were able to join up and enjoyed a snag or two and mingled with fellow umpires.

Our training venue continues to be a source of great discussion and rightly so. Whilst it's pleasing we have seen two light poles erected (as of late April), there is still a significant amount of improvement required to bring it up to an elite and safe standard. The slowness of this process continues to disappoint SANFLUA and we'll continue to work with the SANFL Umpiring Department to ensure our priorities are met. Less talk more action.

For our Life Members, I'd like to remind you all that you are always welcome at our Social Events and we'd love to see you. To our interstate members, thank you for your on-going support of SANFLUA. If the planets align we'd love to see you at any of our social events.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on any Association/Umpiring issue. I can be contacted at [president@sanflua.com.au](mailto:president@sanflua.com.au)

I hope our Umpires have all had a fantastic start to Season 2019 and I wish you all the best for the remainder of the year. Don't forget – enjoy it!

**Matthew Cummins**  
President



[www.facebook.com/SANFLUA](http://www.facebook.com/SANFLUA)



@sanflua



@sanflua

## OLD FACES REJOIN THE SANFLUA COMMITTEE

This year's AGM saw former SANFLUA President (2016 - 2017) Matthew Norton re-join the SANFLUA Committee for a term of 2 years. Matthew has taken on board the Website portfolio and will ensure this is regularly updated to bring you all things SANFLUA. Matthew brings with him a wealth of experience within the goals with 111 League matches, two SANFL Grand Final (2010 & 2017) and 47 AFL matches (2011 - 2015).

Three familiar faces were also re-elected to the Committee for a further two years. Field Umpires Aaron Bennett and David Soberaj re-join the committee and have recommitted to their portfolios of Communications & Sponsorship.

Goal Umpire Mathew Wilson has also jumped back on board with the Publication portfolio and will continue to produce our electronic editions of Ball Up.

The SANFLUA have also reappointed Craig Trewartha as the SANFLUA Life Member representative and will continue to be an important mouthpiece between the Association and our Life Members.

Steve Paunovic will also continue in his capacity as SANFLUA Statistician. Steve is a vital cog in providing the SANFLUA with upcoming milestones. If you are a member and still haven't finalised your games tally, we implore you to arrange a meeting with Steve to get your League match tally finalised.

<http://www.sanflua.com.au/umpirestatistics/>

We'd like to thank all Members and Life Members who attended this year's AGM at The Gilbert Street Hotel. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the coming season on the track and at the various SANFLUA events.

By SANFLUA Committee



## 2019 MEMBERSHIP BBQ A SMASH HIT

An always popular event on our yearly social calendar, this year's Members BBQ at Pulteney Grammar School on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February was again a success. A reward for the dedication of our Members who join up in strong numbers every year, the BBQ provides an opportunity for our Umpires to mingle across all disciplines and sign up to the Association for the upcoming season.

The Committee this year rewarded our members further, by giving the first 100 people that signed up before or at the BBQ, with a 2019 SANFLUA Member Drink Bottle and 2019 Calendar of events.

On behalf of the committee, we sincerely thank Bakers Delight Central Markets for their generous donation of the entire bread supply on the night, Austral Meats at Gepps Cross who provided great rates for our supply of sausages and onions and Fielders for use of their exceptional BBQ Trailer. Nights like our Members BBQ are almost impossible without great support from such fantastic businesses.

We thank SANFLUA Committee Members Matthew Norton and Craig Trewartha as well as SANFLUA Life Members Leo Corrieri & Reg Burgess who were on hand to cook a fantastic BBQ whilst our Umpires sweated it out in the heat.

The entire Committee wishes to thank all its members who joined on the night. It's great to have you on board. You can still sign up as a member for this year. It's never too late. Head over to our Sign Up Now page and get on board.

<http://www.sanflua.com.au/join-sign-up-now/>

By signing up as a member via the **Online Membership Portal** you will create a personal SANFLUA membership account. A membership account provides access to your own personal dashboard where you can view and update your details plus renew your annual membership.

To our first time Members, welcome. We look forward to seeing you all at our Social Events this year.

By SANFLUA Committee



## SANFLUA MEMBERSHIP FEES

### First Year Academy

- X Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
- ✓ Subsidised social events
- ✓ Discounts and special offers from our [sponsors](#)
- ✓ Discounted umpiring equipment (eg. whistles & score cards)

**\$35 annually \***

### Associate & Trainer

- X Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
- ✓ Subsidised social events
- ✓ Discounts and special offers from our [sponsors](#)
- ✓ Discounted umpiring equipment (eg. whistles & score cards)

**\$40 annually \***

### Academy (U16 & U18)

- ✓ Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
- ✓ Subsidised social events
- ✓ Discounts and special offers from our [sponsors](#)
- ✓ Discounted umpiring equipment (eg. whistles & score cards)

**\$110 annually**

### Full (League & Reserves)

- ✓ Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
- ✓ Subsidised social events
- ✓ Discounts and special offers from our [sponsors](#)
- ✓ Discounted umpiring equipment (e.g.. whistles & score cards)

**\$170 annually**

\*denotes that the Annual Dinner is not included in this Membership category.

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 2019 Social Calendar



**Lawn Bowls**

**March 17**



**After Match Catch Up**

**April 6**



**After Match Catch Up**

**May 18**



**Life Members Luncheon**

**June 2**



**Ten Pin Bowling**

**June 15**



**After Match Catch Up**

**July 13**



**Quiz Night**

**July 20**



**Annual Dinner**

**Aug 22**



**Grand Final After Party**

**Sept 22**

**SAVE THE DATES** More details will be available closer to events.

**Keep Up-To-Date with SANFLUA**



[www.sanflua.com.au](http://www.sanflua.com.au)



[info@sanflua.com.au](mailto:info@sanflua.com.au)



SANFL Umpires Association Inc



@sanflua



@SANFLUA

## MEMBERS ROLL UP FOR BBQ AND BOWLS

This year we brought back the Lawn Bowls and BBQ which was held at the Walkerville Bowling Club on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Although attendance numbers were disappointing those who attended enjoyed an afternoon of bowls, BBQ, beverages and banter.

There were a few stand out performances from the afternoon.

On Rink one the competition was fierce as Tom Burke showed his finesse and up and coming Field Umpire Alex Reardon was able to confirm there is another sport he is a natural at.

Next door on Rink two the usual Goal Umpire suspects and their partners' enjoyed a roll with a few forgetting (more than once) to orientate the bias to the right side of the bowl and ended up two rinks over. Rylee Cummins (Matthew Cummins's daughter) was by far the most improved for the day as the little lefty showed as much talent as her dad does between the sticks.

Over on Rink three, Oliver Wilson (Mathew Wilson's son) was a having practice with the mini lawn bowls after getting an upgrade from the tennis balls. His dad tried to keep him on task but that didn't last too long though as the dinosaurs he brought were more interesting, as were the sausages in bread.

We remind our members that without your support we cannot host events such as this. Umpiring can be a challenging environment and the culture we create is solely driven by all of us.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, we sincerely thank Bakers Delight Central Markets again for their generous donation of the bread, Austral Meats at Gepps Cross for their awesome snags, SANFLUA Committee Members Mathew Wilson and Abdul Alpaslan for cooking the BBQ and Walkerville Bowling Club for hosting our event.

We hope to see more of you at our second After Match Catch Up at the Gilbert Street on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

By SANFLUA Committee



## VALE BILL HOLST

Sadly SANFLUA Life Member Bill Holst passed away on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the age of 83.

Bill was a highly regarded Field Umpire with the SANFL, Glenelg SW panel and various Country panels for more than 20 years. He was awarded life membership of the SANFLUA in 1976.

Bill was an active member of the association, a well-respected Umpire with a wry sense of humour, a mischievous streak and he loved a laugh. His notice was in the paper on both Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>. The notice appropriately captured the loss that Bill's family was feeling. Bill was also a keen supporter, time keeper and volunteer with the Glenelg Football Club.

His funeral was held on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 p.m. in the Hyson Chapel Centennial Park, Goodwood Road, Pasadena. Bill will be sadly missed and his contributions to umpiring in South Australia are acknowledged. Our deepest condolences to the entire Holst family.

*By SANFLUA Committee*





## WHAT PRE GAME SUPERSTITIONS AND HABITS DO OUR UMPIRES HAVE?

During Round 1 a photo emerged on the SANFLUA Facebook page of one of our Boundary Umpires with socks that clearly need to be binned. After consulting with him I found out that these are just socks that he had in his kit bag; I thought they may have been his lucky pair. As such, it got me thinking, "What superstitions do our Umpires have?" So I went around the disciplines to find out what our Umpires do pre game. This is what I found out:

### Field Umpires

Aaron Bennett - "I eat Subway".

Corey Bowen - "I have to have pasta for dinner the night before. On game day I always eat a banana & drink a Gatorade on the way to my game. "

Jamie Broadbent - "I don't have any real superstitions/habits, so I'm pretty boring."

Thomas Burke - "I don't have any habits or superstitions of note."

Tom Bryce - "I watch Russell Westbrook's highlights "

Andrew Crosby - "My only rituals are I iron my shirts & shorts, and pack my bags the night before, eat 2 pieces of bread with banana and honey around 2 hours before the bounce, go for a run at 3/4 time of Reserves game, then head in for a rub-down and organise a smorgasbord of food for my fellow umpires post-game."

\*Curtis DeBoy - "I read my bible and pray in the change rooms before every game. Wouldn't have it any other way."

\*Craig Fleer - "I couldn't care what my preparation looks like! About the only thing I do on a regular basis is have a chocolate bar in the rooms before the game."

Mitchell Harris - "Only superstitions for me are the typical pasta the night before, always where the same jocks and have a Red Bull on the way to the ground."

\*Leigh Haussen - "I can't help you with that mate. I literally have none."

\*Sam Hay - "To be honest I don't have any pre-match rituals - I just keep things nice and simple."

Harrison Hughes - "I don't really have any pregame superstitions or habits pre-game, other than I have to get a coffee."

Rowan Hundertmark - "I always have a coffee before most games; who doesn't love coffee. Apart from that, I don't have any pre game routine."

Giles Lewis - "For me it's taping my whistle on my hand as I had a match once where it came off when I bounced. Had to quickly find it and pick it up while watching the game. Ever since I feel more comfortable knowing it can't come off. "

Sam Morgan - "I don't have any sadly. I'm a pretty boring operator in terms of superstitions."

Theron Philp - "My only real superstition is that I wear the same socks to the game every week, and always pack my bag on the Thursday night, no matter what day the game is."

Michael Sboro - "Where do I start; Pasta and thick shake the night before, 2 pieces toast with Nutella exactly 3hrs before we walk out on ground, check my bag at home and then 4 houses down the road just in case, have 2 'Nodoz' 30mins before walk, boxing and skipping 2mins before walk, National Anthem on the walk out to the ground, I must be the first umpire to get to the centre circle otherwise bad luck awaits, I never start the game but go to the southern end as I live furthest south and I bring Chikos to the game for half time."

Michael Schramm - "Coffee en route to game and 'Triple M Saturday Rub' on the radio. Additionally, I try to stay out the way from Sboro's shadow boxing, avoid Theron's whinging, shut out Mitch Scott's constant BS, tell Tom Bryce he's sitting in my spot and complain about who we're running with from other disciplines."

Mitchell Scott - "Sorry I have no superstitions; how boring. I think though the key there is flexibility, I believe it is important to not mentally over exaggerate the importance of any one area. I do have some habits that help me prepare - 8-9 hours sleep the night before, lay my gear out on the bed before it is packed to make sure I have everything & I try to get 30mins of stretching in the morning of.

David Sobieraj - "Part of my pre match habit is I eat a vegemite sandwich approx. 1 hour 30 minutes before the game starts."

\*Denotes AFL Umpire

## WHAT PRE GAME SUPERSTITIONS AND HABITS DO OUR UMPIRES HAVE?

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### Boundary Umpires

\*Chris Bull - "My one superstition is that I've listened to the same song pre game since my first SANFL GF in 2007; and no I'm not telling what song it is!"

\*Sean Burton - "I have pizza the night before a game and play 'Spot the Difference' in the AFL Record"

Gerard Carter - "The only habit/superstition I have is I always have pasta the night before I umpire for dinner."

Terence Carter - "Two coffees before every game from the same café."

Taylor Dorsey - "If I'm doing League, I have to get to ground at half time of the Reserves."

Martin Elsegood - "I don't think I have any superstitions for my pre-match preparations."

Isaac Fishlock - "It's more of a routine but I start by always eating a banana and bar and drinking 3qts of blue Powerade before the game. Then same again at half time but also with half a packet of gummy bears and finish the blue Powerade and start the red Powerade and drink about a quarter of it whilst also changing shirts every game. Then at the end of the game I'll drink a protein shake have the rest of the Powerade, have another banana and bar and finish the gummy bears. But I'd call this more a routine over a superstition."

Scott Hargreaves - "No pre game stuff for me, I just turn up an Umpire. I do usual have KFC after training though."

Matthew Herrmann - "I'll have a banana before most games but that is more of a habit as it fills me up."

^Tom Kelly - "I always make sure I avoid touching any metal objects and also avoid making eye contact with my dog on the day of a game."

\*Matthew Konetschka - "I have a funny one with pregame food and session habits. 2 days before a game is salmon for dinner, 1 day before a game is pasta for dinner & my session is 2x600m (with a hurdle at 200m) and 1x200. Game day is a chicken sandwich for lunch."

\*Jason Moore - "I have the same pasta meal with 48 hours of my match, I go for a 5.6km pre match run, for breakfast I will have a banana, oats/granola and Sustagen and I do same 'on-field' pre match warm up once we walk out into the oval before bounce"

^Elliott Raymond - "A short black coffee before every game is my go to."

Damian Robinson - "I have no real pre-game rituals or superstitions."

Sam Royans - "I have none at all. I'm incredibly disorganised and disjointed."

Dylan Speck - "I always sing 'Beautiful Girls' by Sean Kingston. I don't know why."

Brayden Theil - "I have pasta the night before a game."

\*Mark Thomson - "I have no superstitions. That went out the window when kids came along years ago."

^Ben Williams - "I go for a light 3km run the morning of my match."

Matthew Zacher - "I have to pack my bag the night before."

^Denotes not a member of the SANFLUA

\*Denotes AFL Umpire



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### Goal Umpires

\*Steve Axon - "Most of my superstitions have dropped off over the years, Definitely a pre game coffee though, I'd feel a little uneasy without one."

Allanah Bruno - "During games I will touch my right foot twice at some point, stand on the goal line next to the post when recording a behind and I step on the line with my left foot first before recording a goal. They are more OCD than superstitions."

Michael Button - "I'd feel lost if I didn't check the ground beforehand; that's about it really."

\*Peter Challen - "I have a Red Bull about 45mins before the game, a Winners bar about 30mins before the game, warm up drills about 25mins before the game and a whole bunch of other stuff too."

Matthew Cummins - "Have a coffee on the way to my game."

James Georgiadis - "A Subway wrap and a small Latte with an extra shot."

Tom Fahey - "I always wear the same Bonds jock as they match the on field kit."

Braden Ford - "The last song I listen to before I umpire is 'Rain is a Good Thing' by Luke Bryan. It gets me up & about."

Brad Hammer - "I put my left boot on first & I never touch the line as I was out to my goal end."

Emilie Hill - "I get changed 20mins before walk and I like to have a banana. Apart from that I'm pretty chilled out."

\*^Daniel Hoskin - "I don't have a pre game superstition, I just do whatever I feel like at the time."

Liam McDonald - "I don't have any. I just rock up and do my thing."

Steven Murphy - "I always have Spaghetti Bolognese and play the last 30secs of 'Believe' by Lenny Kravitz as I arrive."

Rhys Negerman - "I go to the gym and do a workout."

^Trent O'Driscoll - "Hungry Jack's or McDonald's for breakfast and ensure I show up early to my game."

Matthew Oxford - "My only pre game superstition/habit is ensuring I have allowed enough time and have been to the convenience (toilet), preferably before I leave home. Nothing worse than been caught short and under pressure when at the ground before 'Game time'."

Tom Sharpe - "I'll change to get ready when it's 20mins on the dot to walk."

Matthew Williams - "I don't really have any, just turn on time and I don't get ready any earlier than 30mins to walk."

Mathew Wilson - "A pre game coffee and an apple are my absolute musts."

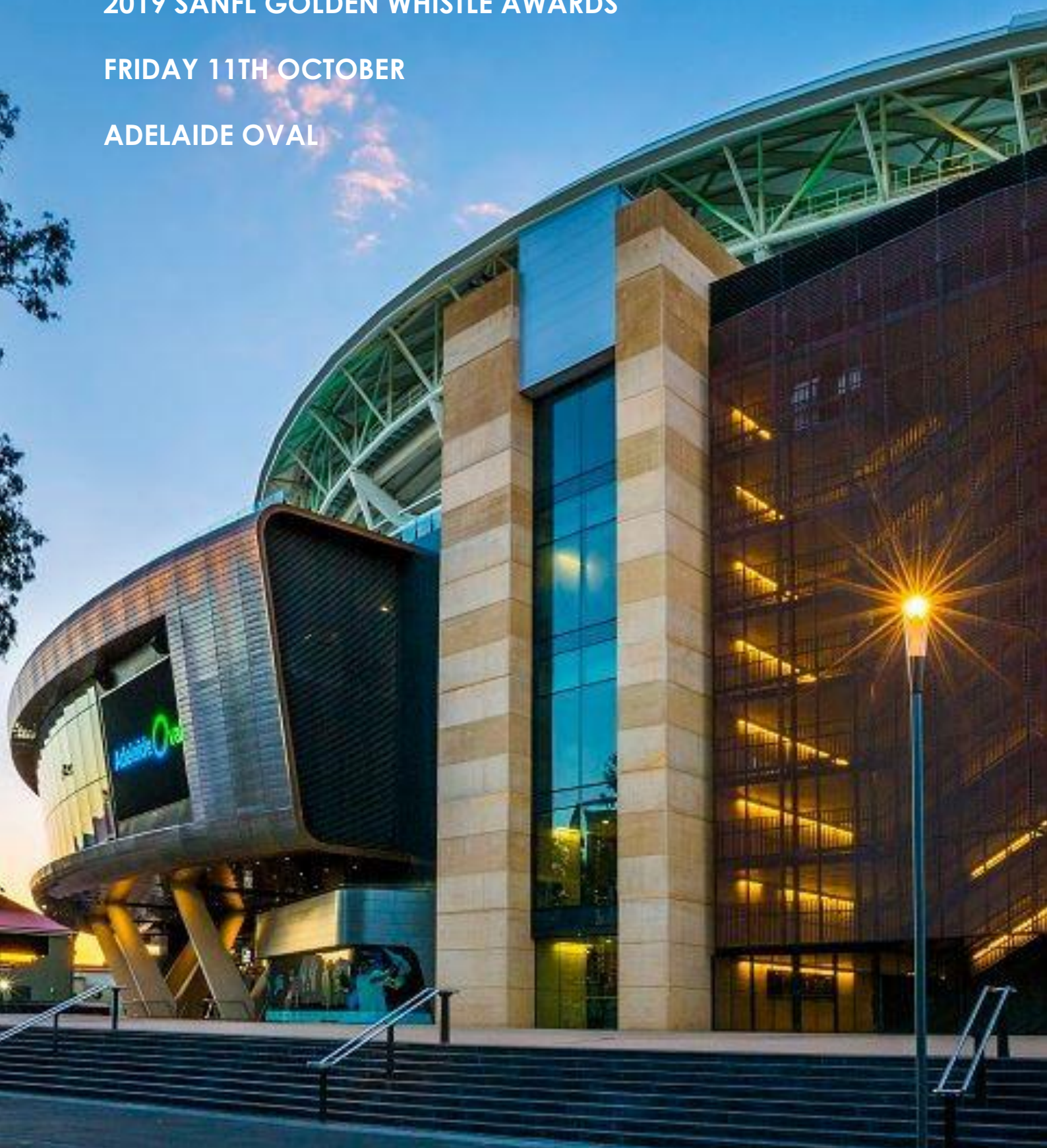
^Denotes not a member of the SANFLUA

\*Denotes AFL Umpire

**2019 SANFL GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS**

**FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER**

**ADELAIDE OVAL**



## ROUND 2 AFL MILESTONE: 100TH AFL MATCH

When I first came out to the SANFL during the 2006 season, Craig was injured. This was the status quo for him for quite some time. He just couldn't seem to get his body right and so his umpiring suffered. Despite all this Craig was (and still is) the most natural umpire I have seen. He makes everything look effortless. Whether it be bouncing, gut running in the mid zone or paying a free kick in the dying moments. Craig always seems to be calm and composed and his relaxed personality shines through.

After initially making the AFL list in 2012, Craig has had some testing and often difficult times. The toughest of which came in 2014, when Craig was delisted from the AFL, sacrificing his dream job and putting his family above footy.

In 2015, aka 'the gap year', Craig showed his absolute class in umpiring both the SANFL v WAFL state game, the SANFL Grand Final and being awarded the Golden Whistle. As such, Craig was reappointed to the AFL list in 2016 and hasn't missed a beat since.

Fleer's 100<sup>th</sup> game came in Round 2, when he umpired the Sydney v Adelaide game, Friday night at the SCG. In the crowd were both his mum and sister, whom had flown in from interstate to watch. As per usual, Craig started the game with a dart and umpired in his usual no fuss manner.

As Craig continues to rack up AFL games, I am certain that it is only a matter of time before he walks out to umpire his first final and then soon enough his 200<sup>th</sup> game. Here's hoping that we get to do a few of them together.

By Leigh Haussen



*Craig Fleer in action at Optus Stadium (Perth).*

## CRAIG FLEER (FIELD UMPIRE)

### **AFLUA Heritage Number:**

426

### **AFL Shirt Numbers:**

2 (2012 - 2014)

26 (2016 - Current)

### **1<sup>st</sup> AFL Match:**

Round 1 2012, Melbourne v Western Bulldogs at MCG

### **50<sup>th</sup> AFL Match:**

Round 14 2016, St. Kilda v Geelong at Etihad Stadium

### **100<sup>th</sup> AFL Match:**

Round 2 2019, Sydney v Adelaide at Sydney Cricket Ground

### **AFL Grand Finals: 0**

### **AFL Awards: 0**

**\*All AFL Stats are kindly provided by  
AFLUA Historian & Statistician  
David Flegg\***

### **AFLUA Stat Fun Facts:**

31 of Craig's AFL matches have involved the Adelaide Football Club.

Victorian based grounds (MCG, Docklands, Kardinia Park & North Ballarat) make up 41 of Craig's 100 matches.

Craig's most frequent Field Umpiring colleague is Matthew Nicholls (VIC). They have umpired together 13 times.

## ROUND 1 MILESTONE: LEAGUE DEBUT MATCH

Harrison Hughes commenced his umpiring with Independent Schools Competition in 2013 at the mature age of 22. He spent only one year with Independent Schools before he 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.

Harrison has had a quick rise through the ranks within the SANFL, through commitment to all facets of umpiring. He has always demonstrated the athletic ability and I have seen the development in his skills, knowledge and the ability to work at 100% grow to another level.

While under the guidance of Garry (Wyld), Harrison become a real leader within the Centre of Excellence and with a mixture of Reserves and U/18 football saw Harrison officiate in the 2016 U/18 Grand Final. That season saw Harrison put his hand up to be elevated to the Senior Squad. Harrison was also awarded the Stan Wickham Award as the best Field Umpire in the Centre of Excellence for that year.

At the commencement of the 2017 season through continued dedication and focus on improvement saw Harrison be elevated to the High Performance Academy, which is a part of the SANFL Senior Squad. During the 2017 and 2018 season, Harrison 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 Harrison put his hand up and be rewarded for Senior selection in Round 1 at Noarlunga in the South Adelaide v Central Districts match.

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 Harrison all the best in the Senior ranks and hopefully a longer career on the national stage.

By Shane Harris

I spoke up with Harrison to ask him about his first SANFL League match and how he found the build up and the experience. This is what he had to say.

"I found out I would be umpiring my first League game when I was on the phone at work on the Monday afternoon and my watch was vibrating with a congratulatory message from Sam Morgan. It was a bit of a shock, especially as the appointments were out on the Monday, but very exciting. The week went relatively quickly, and without too much thought about the game as I was moving house at the time which took my mind off things.

Come the Saturday, it was more excitement than nerves, but the closer to the start of the match the nerves kicked in and the warm up bounces started becoming a bit more crooked. We got the coin toss out of the way and the first bounce went up straight enough to get play underway. It was a great experience with a noticeable increase in the skill level, physicality of play, pace of the game and overall atmosphere which was very enjoyable.

Overall it was a fantastic experience and would like to thank everyone for the well wishes during the week and the all the assistance provided along the way to debuting."

## HARRISON HUGHES (FIELD UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 1 2019, South Adelaide v Central District at Noarlunga Oval on Saturday 30th March 2019

### Grand Finals:

U18 - 2016

U16 - 2015

### Awards:

2016 Stan Wickham Award

### Achievements:

AFLW Selection - 2017 & 2018

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Harrison's most frequently umpired ground is Richmond Oval. He has umpired there on 13 separate occasions.



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Harrison Hughes with his 1<sup>st</sup> League Match Certificate

## ROUND 1 MILESTONE: 150TH LEAGUE MATCH

It is my great pleasure to do the write up for Rowan's 150<sup>th</sup> SANFL league game. Rowan and I have umpired many games together over the years and have done countless sessions at Flinders Athletics Club and Brighton beach together also. Seeing Rowan's work ethic first hand it comes as no surprise to me that he has reached this milestone.

That being said it hasn't always been a smooth ride for Rowan. He debuted in 2010, then spent all of 2011 in the Reserves. From 2012 onwards however; Rowan has been a regular in the League ranks and has made the finals panel each year. Rowan was the Emergency for the 2013 and 2014 Grand Finals before finally getting a chance on the biggest stage in 2016.

Rowan's life changed significantly over the summer and his 150<sup>th</sup> League game was also the first time Rowan had umpired since becoming a father! I am sure wife Ruth and a still very young Henry would be extremely proud of Rowan's achievement and it is only a matter of time before Rowan becomes a life member of the League.

Outside of footy, Rowan juggles his young family as well as owning a plumbing business (yes this is a plug – I highly recommend him) but still manages to present in tip top shape year in, year out. I also know that Rowan would take great enjoyment in beating the young whippers coming through whenever there is a time trial.

Congratulations mate on 150 games. I'm sure you have another 150 in you and wish you all the best for the 2019 season. Nobody would be more deserving to be out there on the big stage once again.

By Leigh Haussen



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Rowan Hundertmark with his 150<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate

## ROWAN HUNDERTMARK (FIELD UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 21 2010, Glenelg v South Adelaide at Glenelg Oval

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 7 2014, Eagles v North Adelaide at Woodville Oval

### 100<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 16 2016, Sturt v Eagles at Unley Oval

### 150<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2017, Norwood v North Adelaide at Norwood Oval

### Grand Finals:

League - 2013(E), 2014(E) & 2016 Reserves - 2012

### Awards:

2016 Most Improved Field Umpire

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Rowan's most frequently umpired ground is Woodville Oval. He has umpired there on 28 separate occasions. Norwood is a close second with 27 matches.

Rowan's most frequent Field Umpiring colleague is Corey Bowen. They have umpired together 27 times.

## ROUND 3 MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

If you've never heard Rhys's voice don't worry because I'm sure you wouldn't be alone. He's a man of very few words but what he's always done is let his umpiring speak for itself. He is the ultimate quiet achiever in every sense. No fuss. No outlandish antics. He's always been happy to be in the background getting on with life.

His quiet nature should never be confused for having a 'no care' factor. His personality is quite the opposite. He might not show it, but he cares; and he cares a lot about umpiring. He takes pride in his performances and understands the players are the show. Often our harshest critic is ourselves and Rhys is no different. In my opinion, that's what separates the great officials from the good ones.

Rhys commenced his goal umpiring career after attending one of the SANFL's Basic Umpires Course's with a mate from his cricket club in 2010. Initially he went to that course interested in becoming a Field Umpire. Thankfully, his common sense prevailed, and he chose Goal Umpiring as his discipline of choice.

After finishing the Basic Umpires Course his umpiring career took off at a rate of knots. 2010 saw him officiate most of the year in Division 3 Amateur League. His obvious natural ability with goal umpiring saw him rewarded with the Division 3 Grand Final in his first year of Umpiring.

An impressive list of achievements followed from there. In just his second year of Umpiring in 2011 and first on the SANFL Academy Panel, Rhys notched up two Grand Finals in the one year, officiating in the U16's and U18's deciders. His solid performances and clear talent also saw him elevated to a handful of Reserves matches throughout that year.

(Continues next page)



Rhys in action during the 2018 SANFL League Grand Final

## RHYS NEGERMAN (GOAL UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 20 2012, Eagles v North Adelaide at Woodville Oval

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 14 2016, North Adelaide v Adelaide at Prospect Oval

### 100<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2019, Norwood v Sturt at Norwood Oval

### Grand Finals :

League - 2016 & 2018

Reserves - 2012, 2013(E) & 2014

U18 - 2011

U16 - 2011

### Awards:

2010 Stan Wickham Award

2014 Mark Posa Award

2015 Most Improved Goal Umpire

2018 Golden Flags

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Fact:

Coincidentally, Rhys has umpired on 24 separate occasions at each of his top 3 most umpired grounds. They are Norwood Oval, Prospect Oval and Woodville Oval.



## ROUND 3 MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

You could say Rhys took to goal umpiring like a duck to water. He officiated in 2 Reserves Grand Finals in 2012 and 2014 as well as be named Emergency for the 2013 Reserves Grand Final. He has also been rewarded with 2 SANFL League Grand Finals in 2016 and 2018 and took home the Golden Flags Award in 2018.

You'd be hard pressed to find a more impressive CV. All from a bloke who unless you could see him, you wouldn't even know he was there, such is his quiet manner.

Upon reaching his 100<sup>th</sup> League game in the Round 3 clash between Norwood and Sturt, he once again showed his no fuss approach. He performed solidly in a game that struggled to reach a high standard of footy. The one saving grace was that it was close, keeping everyone, including the milestone man, interested. Rhys reflected on his milestone match, *'I enjoyed my 100<sup>th</sup> game. Although it was low scoring, it was still a decent game to be involved in. Sharing it with my best mate was even better.'*

As for his career so far, Rhys was a little more matter of fact in his assessment *'I feel like I've still got a long career ahead of me. I had a very special 2018 season where I was rewarded with the Golden Flags Award.'*

When asked what he's taken from being involved in umpiring, *'I met my best mate thanks to umpiring and he continues to encourage me. Prior to 2015 I was probably a little immature at umpiring, but I feel like my umpiring has really kicked off since then.'*

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Rhys is destined for big things in his career. Patience and persistence will be the key for him and he has those qualities in spades. There are plenty of achievements in umpiring ahead of him.

Congratulations mate!

By Matthew Cummins



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Rhys Negerman with his 100<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate

## RHYS NEGERMAN (GOAL UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 20 2012, Eagles v North Adelaide at Woodville Oval

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 14 2016, North Adelaide v Adelaide at Prospect Oval

### 100<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2019, Norwood v Sturt at Norwood Oval

### Grand Finals :

League - 2016 & 2018

Reserves - 2012, 2013(E) & 2014

U18 - 2011

U16 - 2011

### Awards:

2010 Stan Wickham Award

2014 Mark Posa Award

2015 Most Improved Goal Umpire

2018 Golden Flags

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Fact:

Rhys's top 3 most frequent Goal Umpiring colleagues are:

1. Matthew Williams (19)
2. Matthew Cummins (17)
3. Steven Murphy (13)

## ROUND 3 MILESTONE: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

I know what it feels like to begin Umpiring at a young age; some people say you cant begin to know what you want to do, or how easy goal umpiring can be, until you try it. Some come to it naturally. Braden Ford would have to be one of those that showed that to be the best, you need to start somewhere (Football Park, long sleeve shirt and flags touching the ground), and begin your climb up, it becomes a career, a passion.

Braden began umpiring in 2011 off the back of coaching from the gentleman that coached me, and I now work under in John Hutchinson. There must be something in the water as Hutchy continues to produce some of the states best up-and-comers.

Breaking through in 2012 for his first Grand Final in the Under 16 competition, a strong season in 2013 Under 18's saw him rise to the ranks of Senior crew in 2014, a position he has held with distinct pride to this day, for himself, and his family, and none more so than his Granddad and former SANFLUA member Brian Ashmeade. Brian always encouraged Braden to be strong, progress and be the best that he can be.

After a full season in Reserves in 2014, League came calling in 2015. We wont forget the excitement. It wasn't always rosie - ending up in the Women's and Children's Hospital during an incident in a B Grade game at Richmond – and no one could still work out what happened. The mysteries of life.

For 2018, being a different season for me observing in the stands, it was none more pleasing than to see Bray push ahead and have, what I could only see, as an outstanding season, being selected into his first League final series campaign. I have never seen a person so nerve-wrecked before a game, and then have to go through it again for a second final at the Oval. With the crowds rocking during the series, Braden rose to the challenge, and we can only hope for more of the same.

To one of the best people you will ever meet in your life, a true friend, and genuine all round nice guy, congratulations to Braden on 50 League games, and we look forward to what the future holds.

By *Steven Paunovic*

## BRADEN FORD (GOAL UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 12 2015, West Adelaide v Eagles at Richmond Oval

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2019, Glenelg v South at Glenelg Oval

### Grand Finals:

Reserves - 2015(E), 2016 & 2017

U16 - 2012

### Awards:

2012 Stan Wickham Award

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided  
by SANFLUA Statistician  
Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Fact:

Coincidentally, Braden has umpired on 10 separate occasions with all of his top 3 Goal Umpiring colleagues.

They are Matthew Oxford, James Georgiadis and Matthew Williams.



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Braden Ford with his 50<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate

## ROUND 3 MILESTONE: 250TH LEAGUE MATCH

Congratulations Theron, officiating as a Field Umpire in 250 SANFL League matches. Yes, while I want to acknowledge why that is one outstanding achievement, I also want to place Theron up on the dais as a winner for many other reasons.

After a solid background playing junior football, Theron started umpiring in 1988. For season 1990, Theron made his way to umpiring with SANFL. Yes, folks, in Theron's umpiring career, the landscape has experienced significant change. This was the era where weekly field umpiring appointments sent you to such places as Curramulka, Kybybolite, Warooka, Wudinna and Kaniva. Don't know where these places are? Please look them up. Adelaide Plains and River Murray Football Leagues were local appointments. Once being appointed to SANFL matches (College and U17's as a commencement point), you were an integral part of a 2 Field, 2 Boundary, 2 Goal Umpire TEAM. Quality number one. 30 years of umpiring suggests to me that, while in pursuit of outcomes, of achieving, Theron has enjoyed the process, taking time to smell the roses, to live the moment. As a famous person once wrote before having the phrase used in Hollywood, 'Carpe diem', seize the day.

Theron's achievement of officiating in 250 League matches is the tip of the iceberg. His appointments to date include:

99 U17 games (C'mon Shane and Garry, he's deserving of the century)

235 Reserves games

2000 Reserves Grand Final

2009 League Grand Final Emergency Field Umpire

SANFL League debut, June 1998 with Richard Williams and Justin Schmidt (both go onto enjoying AFL Field Umpiring careers) and the courageous Gary MacIntosh playing for Norwood.

A high achieving career such as Theron's, requires a great deal of 'proper preparation'. Quality number two: 'Winning dreams, winning talk, winning action'. In his on and off field life, Theron has consistently remained in touch with his dreams, having humble confidence to work through life's undulations, its peaks and troughs. What a powerful tool self-talk can then be in the pursuit of your dreams. Theron values self-reflection. While on one hand, it can nurture self-belief and resilience, on the other hand, negative self-talk can be hugely destructive. The need to then act, is where many let themselves down. Theron's competitive edge has undoubtedly led to him asking many questions, seeking personal improvement, focusing on what he has control of. He remains a highly coachable athlete and person. He has retained a competitive edge, often with himself. Vince Lombardi once said 'The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender....once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit'. I doubt if Theron really knows what the word surrender means.

(Continues next page)

## THERON PHILP (FIELD UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 13 1998, Eagles v Norwood at Football Park

### 200<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 9 2016, Norwood v West Adelaide at Norwood Oval

### 250<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2019, Eagles v Adelaide at Woodville Oval

### Grand Finals :

League - 2009(E)

Reserves - 2000

### Awards:

1998 & 2009 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Fact:

Theron is a two time winner of the SANFLUA's Most Dedicated Field Umpire Award (1998 & 2009).

Theron was awarded SANFLUA Life Membership in 2008 and SANFL Life Membership in 2017.

Season 2019 will be Theron's thirtieth consecutive season with the SANFL. 56% of the current SANFL League Field Umpires weren't even born when he started in 1990.

## ROUND 3 MILESTONE: 250TH LEAGUE MATCH

Now for a few favourite Theron stories:

An U19's game at Norwood Oval. One of the teams, for consecutive weeks, after half time, was again late taking the field. With a senior umpire suggesting in a lecture that if it were to happen again, the officiating umpires should start the match without them, Theron and his partner in crime did! The team certainly got a shock when they hastily made their way to the ground. Were these 2 appointed the following week? Were they appointed the week after that? Off to Losers Corner!

Ian Denham (SANFL/AFL Boundary Umpire) reflects favourably on his first year of teaching in 1982, an appointment at Lockleys North Primary School with a combined Year 2/3 class. He remembers Theron as a quiet, very alert and attentive year 2 student with a wonderful work ethic. How old are you really Theron? Some suggest you are in the same age bracket as George Clooney. Same tax bracket?

Theron's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party where the 'Fitness Coach' of the time, Frank McHugh attended. Is it true that Frank consumed the evening's supply of brandy and coke with little consideration for others? Was the pay back to come some years later with a group of umpires quietly dumping unwanted carpet on Frank's doorstep? Careful Theron, don't associate with the wrong people.

Your 200<sup>th</sup> league milestone – Is it true that a number of 'mates' signed off on a shirt expecting you were nearing the end of your umpiring career?

In a previous copy of Ball Up, Steve Axon in speaking of Steve 'Murph' Murphy, referred to Murph as a contributor. Interesting that, like Murph, a long-term SANFLUA member and SANFL Umpire, Theron has undoubtedly been a contributor to many people's lives. He is one of the first people to acknowledge and enjoy the achievements of others. He will be a valued lifetime mate to many. I have had the pleasure of knowing Theron in my Umpiring days as both a Boundary and Field Umpire (Yes, Siri is that old) and more recently in my role as the Physical Performance Manager for the SANFL Umpiring Department. He has been a highly valued 'Tribal Elder'. I sincerely hope we remain in touch. I wish him well for his future endeavours.

By Tony Checker

## THERON PHILP (FIELD UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 13 1998, Eagles v Norwood at Football Park

### 200<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 9 2016, Norwood v West Adelaide at Norwood Oval

### 250<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 3 2019, Eagles v Adelaide at Woodville Oval

### Grand Finals :

League - 2009(E)

Reserves - 2000

### Awards:

1998 & 2009 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Theron Philp with his 250<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate

## ROUND 4 MILESTONE: LEAGUE DEBUT MATCH

The year 2013 rolls around and all the goalies are back for what would be a strong season. Immediately everyone is drawn to a very young and quite confident young boy. This young man was not short on letting everyone know of how confident he was and how well he would go with his umpiring. This young boy was Liam McDonald.

We all remember the nights he was coming to training in the back seat of a police car. Rest a sure it was not from his behaviour, but due to his Dad being a police officer.

We fast forward 6 years and this young boy has turned into a young man and has considerably matured with time. Even though many would disagree, especially when he is anywhere near Steven Murphy. Liam and Steven have forged quite a special relationship over the years.

Liam with persistence and desire to get better was selected in 2018 to join the senior panel. In his first season of consistent Reserves football he did very well and umpired Reserves finals. Liam as confident and cocky as he is was determined to break into League football as soon as he could. From the first night of 2019 preseason all the coaches could see that Liam was going to leave nothing on the track to show he deserved a crack at League footy.

All the hard work was rewarded when Liam was informed he would be debuting at League in Round 4 at the Bay for Good Friday football. The excitement levels went to another level when it was announced he would be umpiring with the one and only Steve Murphy. Mind you it was hard to tell who was more excited!

The day was a special occasion with family there to experience Liam's milestone with him. It was the first time I have seen Liam on the quieter side, and you could see that nerves were a major reason for this. Once that first decision went through Liam got into the game and performed at a very good level for his first League match. No doubt Liam has many more league games to come and I am sure he will have a very successful goal umpiring career.

Well done Liam and congratulations!

*By Darren Trengove*

I spoke up with Liam to ask him about his first SANFL League match and how he found the build up and the experience. This is what he had to say.

"I found out that I would be umpiring my first league game when it was announced to the goal umpiring squad. I was obviously excited as it was a moment I'd been waiting so long for. As I narrowed in on the day I tried to remain calm and just do what I normally do.

When arriving at the ground the nerves started to kick in. It was obvious that it was going to be a big game however, the fellow senior umpires and young gun Steven Murphy allowed me to relax and just go out and enjoy the moment for what it was.

Throughout the first half I was still reasonably nervous as I settled in to League football and adapted to the increase in skill and pace. By the second half I felt comfortable and continued to put on a show for the crowd.

My first League game was very memorable and the entire occasion is something I'll never forget.

Huge thanks go out to Daz, all the other coaches and peers that have helped me get to where I am today as I wouldn't be here without them."



*SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Liam McDonald with his 1<sup>st</sup> League Match Certificate*

## LIAM MCDONALD (GOAL UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 4 2019, Glenelg v Sturt at Glenelg Oval on Friday 19th April 2019

### Grand Finals:

U18 - 2015(E), 2016 & 2017

U16 - 2014(E)

### Awards:

0

### Achievements:

2016 AFL Youth Girls National Championships

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided by SANFLUA Statistician Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Fact:

From the current SANFL senior squad list, Liam's most frequent Goal Umpiring colleague since commencing with the SANFL is Allanah Bruno. They have umpired together on 12 separate occasions.

Additionally, Liam's most frequently umpired ground is Norwood Oval.

He has umpired there on 20 separate occasions. Woodville Oval is a close second with 19 matches.

## ROUND 5 AFL MILESTONE: 150TH AFL MATCH

In Round 5 Matt Konetschka reached the 150 game milestone when he took to the field in the Adelaide vs Gold Coast game on a Sunday afternoon. This day was full of milestones with it also being Eddie Betts' 300<sup>th</sup> game and also Brodie Smith's 150<sup>th</sup> and Matt had the best seat in the house for Eddie Betts goal of the year contender for 2019. In reaching 150 games Matty K becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> umpire from SA to achieve this milestone.

Matty K began his umpiring journey in 2008 with the SA Amateur League with a gentle nudge from his father to take up umpiring and give away his dream of being a champion table tennis player (of which he was already representing the state), Matt has gone on to achieve great things in umpiring and without doubt the highlight being his appointment to the 2017 AFL Grand Final between Adelaide and Richmond.

Matt had a quick rise to fame completing his first League game in 2011 but then also going on to umpire the SANFL Grand Final that year and then being promoted to the AFL list the year after in 2012. This quick rise to fame was due to the massive throw Matt possesses along with his hard work ethic to continually improve. Since being promoted to the AFL list Matt has continued to work on all aspects of his game which resulted in him umpiring numerous finals along the way his appointment to the 2017 Grand Final.

Matt has completed studies in chemical engineering and finance (according to Mark Thomson he's the 2<sup>nd</sup> engineer on the AFL list in SA). Matt is currently employed full time with large accounting firm PwC of which he is currently on secondment to BHP. The way he balances his umpiring commitments along with his work commitments is a credit to Matt as he always ensures he is ready to give 100% on game day. Matt uses a number of things to ensure he is ready to go on game day and at times his bag represents that of a pharmacy with a number of gels, tablets and creams that are used and consumed on game day.

Matt is the youngest on the AFL list in SA but his cool and calm approach to games shows why he is one of the best boundary umpires in the country. Matt is an absolute work horse on the track always leading the group and setting a cracking pace, he also has a high level of dedication and professionalism. Matt is always leading by example and showing the rest of the SA umpires the level of commitment required to reach the top level.

Congrats mate on the 150<sup>th</sup> game milestone, at this rate there a few games records that may be in trouble!

By Sean 'PJ' Burton



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Matthew Konetschka with his 150<sup>th</sup> AFL Match Certificate

## MATTHEW KONETSCHKA (BOUNDARY UMPIRE)

### AFLUA Heritage Number:

548

### 1<sup>st</sup> AFL Match:

Round 1 2012, Port Adelaide v St. Kilda at Football Park

### 50<sup>th</sup> AFL Match:

Round 16 2014, Port Adelaide v Essendon at Adelaide Oval

### 100<sup>th</sup> AFL Match:

Preliminary Final 2016, Geelong v Sydney v at MCG

### 150<sup>th</sup> AFL Match:

Round 5 2019, Adelaide v Gold Coast at Adelaide Oval

### AFL Grand Finals:

2017 Richmond v Adelaide at MCG

### AFL Awards: 0

**\*All AFL Stats are kindly provided by  
AFLUA Historian & Statistician  
David Flegg\***

### AFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Matthew has umpired AFL Premiership matches involving the Adelaide & Port Adelaide Football Clubs on 126 occasions; including Showdowns.

Matthew has umpired AFL Premiership matches on a Saturday on 80 separate occasions.

Matthew's most frequent AFL Premiership match Boundary Umpiring colleague is Chris Bull (SA). They have umpired together on 80 separate occasions.

## ROUND 5 MILESTONE: 50TH LEAGUE MATCH

Mitch, 'not quite as fatboy', twinkle toes, Mr Deloitte the man goes by many names off field.

Mitch started his umpiring career at the age of 11 in the heart of Alice Springs where he used his whistle for all facets of life. By 12 he had umpiring heroes and became one of the youngest Field Umpires to take charge of Senior games at Traeger Park before moving to Adelaide to enhance his umpiring and further study. Let's just say he hasn't aged a bit and the people have spoken to bring back his childhood mop of hair.

Mitch has achieved plenty in his eight years of being a part of the SANFL with one U18's Grand Final in 2013, two Reserves Grand Final in 2014 (Emergency) and in 2016; while over the last couple of years cementing his spot in League and on the edge of debuting in League finals.

Mitch juggles his umpiring commitments with his time chained to his Deloitte desk and when he isn't there, he is on the leash being pulled between clients or at Gillberries enjoying a salmon bagel for breakfast. Mitch recently has been promoted in the audit world and is gradually climbing up the corporate ladder.

There is no one more passionate than Mitch on the training track, whether it be encouraging 'Ghanny' to break records on the last rep or trying to hit land speed records himself. He has also embraced Josh's new running biomechanics warmup, always being asked to volunteer the drills while showing off his impressive gym skills in front of the group. This doesn't come without some 'friendly' advice to Josh in the meantime, with Josh politely reminding him that he is in audit for a reason.

Lastly who could forget the time former Crow Tony Modra came out to do the coin toss with Mitch!! Mitch was so focused on his game he didn't recognise him and forgot his name when introduced. He then had to ask for it again and then still unsure needed further clarification as to who he exactly was and how he got the gig to do the toss. Providing further evidence that Mitch did in fact only grow up with umpiring idols.

Mitch have a ripper this weekend, bounce the house down, you're a top bloke and wish I was running beside you.

By Jamie 'Doc' Broadbent (SANFL Field Umpire)

## MITCH SCOTT (FIELD UMPIRE)

### 1<sup>st</sup> League Match:

Round 17 2014, West Adelaide v South Adelaide at Richmond Oval

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Round 5 2019, North Adelaide v Norwood at Prospect Oval

### Grand Finals:

Reserves - 2014(E) & 2016

U18 - 2013

### Awards:

**\*All SANFL Stats are kindly provided  
by SANFLUA Statistician  
Steven Paunovic\***

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Since commencing with the SANFL Mitch's most frequent Field Umpiring colleague is Aaron Bennett. They have umpired together 27 times.



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Mitch Scott with his 50<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate

## ROUNDS 1 - 5 MILESTONES

The SANFLUA would also like to congratulate the following Umpires on their milestones.

· Round 1 SANFL

^Ben Williams (Boundary Umpire) on his Round 1 SANFL League debut during the Sturt v Adelaide at Unley Oval on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

• Round 5 SANFL

^Daniel Hoskin (Goal Umpire) on his 150<sup>th</sup> SANFL match during the Round 5 match between Eagles v Port Adelaide at Woodville Oval on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Additionally, the SANFLUA would also like to congratulate former SA Boundary Umpire ^Shane Thiele on his 200<sup>th</sup> AFL match during the Round 6 match between Richmond v Melbourne at MCG on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## APPROACHING LEAGUE MILESTONES

### 50<sup>th</sup> League Match:

James Georgiadis (G) - 48

### 150<sup>th</sup> League Match:

Chris Bull (B) - 147\*

\* Denotes Game Tally is to be confirmed

**All SANFL Umpire League statistics  
can be viewed at**

[http://www.sanflua.com.au/  
umpirestatistics/](http://www.sanflua.com.au/umpirestatistics/)

**\*All statistics are kindly provided  
and updated by SANFLUA  
Statistician Steven Paunovic\***



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins  
presenting Benjamin B Williams with his 1<sup>st</sup>  
League Match Certificate



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins  
presenting Daniel Hoskin with his 150<sup>th</sup> League  
Match Certificate



## FIELD MARSHALL

Welcome back to 2019! After a long pre-season everyone was looking forward to the beginning of Round 1.

Harrison Hughes made his debut in Round 1 at Noarlunga as South Adelaide took on Central District. A popular member of the group, Harrison, has worked hard for many years and his league appointment was well deserved. We look forward to seeing him umpire at league level for many years into the future. Not to be outdone, another debut took place at Noarlunga during pre-season, as a snake made its way onto the ground during a trial game. Some at the ground were left a little rattled by this encounter. Fortunately, sitting in the outer (wearing a Panthers scarf) was a mongoose named Mike. Upon seeing the commotion, Mike ran onto the ground in the direction of the snake yelling, "Go Panthers". This proved successful as Mike was able to scare the snake away.

There was a good turnout at our first After Match catch up at the Gilbert Street Hotel. SANFLUA was pleased with the number of umpires who attended, and credit must go to SANFLUA's social media team for notifying members of upcoming events. One Umpire will need to purchase a new phone so he can receive notifications for upcoming events after recently misplacing his. The Umpire (who shall remain nameless) is employed at the Adelaide Airport. As he was loading cargo to go on a flight, his phone accidentally fell out of his pocket and into a cargo container. He didn't realise this at the time, and it was only later that day (after asking a few of his umpiring mates to call his phone to help him locate it) that he realised his phone was on a plane, 40,000 feet up and half way to Malaysia. This has certainly given new meaning to the term international roaming.

In Round 3, Theron umpired his 250<sup>th</sup> league match. The Benjamin Button of SANFL umpiring continues to perform at a high level in what is his 30<sup>th</sup> season at SANFL! Most of the field umpires weren't even born when Theron started umpiring.

There were a few births took place during our time away with Toby Medlin becoming a father for the second time and Rowan Hundertmark for the first time. Rowan anticipates that his son will be taller than he is by the end of this season.

Along with becoming a father for the second time, Toby also made the decision to retire from umpiring. A 4-time Grand Final Umpire and Golden Whistle winner, Toby finished his career on the biggest day of the year by umpiring the 2018 Grand Final. We wish Toby and his family all the best for the future.

Tom Burke had a sore calf muscle a few weeks ago and we wonder if he had injured himself because he had been practicing getting down on bended knee. Congratulations to Tom and Annie who recently became engaged. Congratulations to Michael Schramm as well, who became engaged to Hannah. Congratulations also to Mitch Harris and Vicki, who celebrated their wedding in March. Love is certainly in the air and we wish all our couples happiness and success into the future.

Congratulations also to Craig Fleer on umpiring his 100<sup>th</sup> AFL match. Craig, along with, Curtis, El, Leigh and Sam continue to represent us with great pride in Melbourne. We wish them all the best for this season.

Until next time, that's all from Field Marshall.

## BOUNDARY BOLTER

And just like that we're back and into 2019. With this being the second year at Pulteney its fair to say the venue hasn't gotten better, yet it's gotten worse with still no lights as promised by daylight saving, and the track having holes in it everywhere but we'll soon have a "state of the art facility" don't forget everyone stay positive.

I want to start off by congratulating Ben Williams on his League debut, such a great achievement but we're also curious how you manage to both impress and annoy Q enough to give you a 2 on debut. unlucky mate. Congratulations to all the other umpires making the senior squad this year too.

Continuing with Ben, the Williams brothers are trying to challenge the Carter clan with 3 Williams brothers being part of SANFL umpiring at some stage, just shy of the Carters with 4, turns out we're the family discipline, if only we had more family members to come out so Zacher wouldn't have to run 2's every week.

With Josh taking charge this year, Pre season has been a massive increase in load and intensity compared with previous, which so far has been extremely beneficial to most except Dylan and Corey, BB got hold of information Dylan threw up first night out and Corey didn't even do half the session, But yet those two seem to be always on the table, at least put in the work, you're both better than that.

On the opposite end of the scale we got some old boys turning back the clock, Damo is running better than most of us have ever seen him run, Gerard is killing it whilst Scotty isn't here putting everyone to shame. Then we look at Timbo, doing the usual come out the week of round 1, unfortunately like last year you're too old and the body can't take a bit of running anymore. We'll see you just before finals.

BB also got some spicy gossip on his desk about a situation on Tinder involving both Hermy and Fish, both managed to match the same girl and thought they were going to get lucky but turns out both got unmatched better luck next swipe boys.

BB hopes everyone has a great season but warns everyone, he has his sources and nothing will be missed.

## GALLOPING GOALIE

Well after what felt like an eternity of an off and preseason, GG is back for season 2019! Unfortunately, GG has struggled to write his articles so far. This is from the unfortunate lack of lighting at our training venue and with the temporary solution not up to GG's standards it might be time to hit up Steven 'Von' Murphy for some help. He knows a thing or two about time before electricity.

Firstly, a congratulations to our honorary cone kick Rhys 'Tigger' Negerman on achieving 100 League games in the Norwood vs Sturt match in Round 3 with his good pal Matthew Cummins. It is an amazing achievement to be raising the bat and kissing the helmet at such a young age. I'm sure a celebratory cider and kissing the helmet of another kind was enjoyed on the night. In the same round we saw Braden 'Red Tin' Ford bring up his 50<sup>th</sup> League game. The GG has it under good word that there was quick dash into the rooms after half time to retrieve his scorecard that was left on the trainer's bench. Bit more concentration might be required next time Bray. But nonetheless a GG congratulations goes out to him as well.

In Round 4 we were very happy to have seen one of our younger umpires in Liam McDonald make his League debut. Although he still gives everyone the shits, his umpiring has continued to improve over the last few seasons and rightfully earned himself a Guernsey in the Seniors. GG has been informed that he was well looked after on the night by the veteran Steven 'Von' Murphy. However, I'm not sure any alcohol was consumed, as I don't think Lee Lee is even old enough. Not that not being old enough has ever crossed Murphy's mind. Congratulations on the debut as well as hitting puberty Liam. You know this means you've got to join everyone in the showers now. Just don't ask Brad Hammer for advice on the showers, he'll lead you to believe you can wear underwear in the showers. Not on Brad.

As first brought to light in Ball Up #3 of last year the GG has been informed again of the suspicious training patterns of Matt Cummins and Rhys Negerman. Both conveniently were absent on the night of the second 2km time trial. In their defence the fact that the group is made to do a 5km (give or take) warm up prior to the time trial would be enough to scare off a Boundary Umpire. GG might have to have a quiet word to our new fitness coaches in the coming weeks, just to remind them that Goal Umpires aren't the fittest mob.

A couple weeks ago Allannah Bruno had her mug broadcast across the free to air screens of Adelaide on Channel 44. A great incentive by Andrew Crosby to try and gain interest in Umpiring. However, I think the only person watching the SA sports show that night was Matthew Williams. The GG must remind Cros and Bruno that the Channel 44 ratings are lower than Steven Murphy's 'bot bot' when there's a ball close to the post but nowhere near as low as Trent O'Driscoll's attendance record and training this year. Pull your head in Trent.

Well that's all from the GG for now; so long, farewell and goodnight.

GG

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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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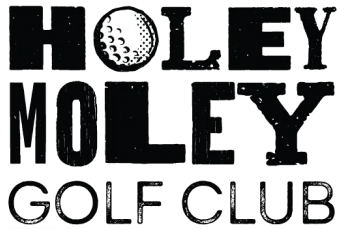
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