

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

# BALL UP

ISSUE 4, 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

## 2019 SANFLUA GRAND FINAL AFTER PARTY

**Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Cathedral Hotel, Torrens Room**

- Subsidised Drinks
- Finger Food
- Grand Final Umpire Recognition Certificates

**Members and Member Partners**  
**\$25 each**

**Non-Members**  
**\$40 each**

**Start Time: 5:30pm**  
**Finish Time: 10pm**

Click below to RSVP:  
<https://gafterparty.app.rsvpify.com/>



## 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 at  
722 Bar and Bistro

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Ten Pin Bowling at Kingpin  
Bowling Norwood

**Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>**  
After Match Catch Up #3  
at The Gilbert Street Hotel

**Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Quiz Night at Walkerville  
Bowling Club

**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

## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

To our Members, Life Members, Sponsors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening and welcome to the 72<sup>nd</sup> SANFLUA Annual Dinner. Over the past few years this dinner has continued to grow and tonight we have close to 150 Members and supporters in attendance. And it's fantastic to see.

I'd like to welcome SANFL Chief Executive Officer Jake Parkinson. It's great to have you join us this evening. And over from Melbourne, a warm welcome to AFL Umpires Association CEO Peter Howe.

SANFL Umpiring Manager Shane Harris sends his apologies.

Myself and the SANFLUA Committee would also like to make welcome our valued sponsors and supporters. We have two in attendance tonight:

- From Peter Shearer Menswear, Harry Georgio and Ethan McDowell. Peter Shearer have supplied our committee with suits for tonight's dinner and supply all our members fantastic discounts on suit purchases or hire.
- From Fasta Pasta South Terrace, Stuart James and Mick Reid

Hannah Rexx from On The Ball Media was a late apology for this evening. We approached Hannah early this year to gauge her interest in taking photos of our Umpires on Match Day. Hannah jumped at the chance and has provided some terrific photos. You'll see a lot of them tonight on the screens and we thank her for her time and effort.

It's with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of SANFLUA Life Member Bill Holst. Bill was a highly regarded Field Umpire with the SANFL and various country panels for more than 20 years. He was awarded Life Membership of SANFLUA in 1976.

Where has the year gone? With more organisation, we were able to hold our AGM much earlier this year. This enabled us to begin our membership drive earlier and establish a social events calendar to benefit our members.

An increase in split rounds and Sunday Football did prove difficult for us to be able to coordinate our social events. However, our terrific sponsors and supporters enabled us to provide several subsidised events throughout the year and these were well attended as always. If you've never been to any of our social events, do yourself a favour and come along. They are always great events and are a great way to meet people across all disciplines of umpiring, including some coaching and training staff.

Our Annual Membership BBQ was held after training in early February this year. On what was one of the hottest days in Adelaide, we still received great support and plenty of our umpires stuck around to enjoy the BBQ and sign up as members for 2019. Most of us were hoping the eskies were full of beer and not soft drink, but we weren't that lucky. Maybe next year!

There's a membership category that suits everyone, and all Umpires, Trainers and Support Staff are encouraged to join up. The more members we have, the more your SANFLUA can do for you. We're often caught between a rock and a hard place when it comes to gaining a voice in the states football circles and often, we struggle to even get a seat at the table. The only way we can continue to push for better fees, conditions and facilities for Umpiring, is for us to unite as one. So, jump on board and encourage your mates that aren't members, to sign up. Your Association is an important part of the football landscape in this state and it's our job to open the eyes of those that don't think we are!

Our membership remains steady and it's fantastic to see so many of our Umpires, trainers and support staff join up with no hesitation at all. Our total numbers sit at just over 200 members including our Life Members. I acknowledge the difficulties of not being a part of the current umpiring environment some of our Life Members have, but you are a big part of this Association. The many conversations I've had with some of you this year, has shown me that you're still very passionate about Umpiring in this state. Continue to be. We need and love the support.

I look forward to the day when we can talk more positively about our training venue. Short term pain for long term gain is quickly becoming long term pain for not much gain at all! Yes, we've seen two new light towers erected and as of this week, two holes for more light towers, but that's all the excitement we've had this year.

I've continued our push for urgency when it comes to the venue. Regular meetings with the SANFL Umpiring Department are a positive for us and ensure our voice is heard. We need less talk and more action. Without umpires the game becomes a free for all. We are important, and it's time those that can make a difference, understand that we are!

(Continues next page)



## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

From next year, The SANFL Umpiring Department will be moving towards online ordering for uniforms. We have an opportunity to join this and we've been working on some SANFLUA Merchandise options for our members. From polo shirts to beanies, I'm looking forward to seeing our members getting around in SANFLUA branded clothing. We'll have more on this in due course. We'll survey our membership database to get a gauge on interest, so keep an eye out for the email.

Congratulations to all of tonight's Most Dedicated Award winners. Once again, we had a great response to the voting. These awards have a rich history and some umpiring greats of the past have been winners. It's important as a group we continue to ensure our awards are held with great significance.

We'll also induct three new Life Members tonight. They are all worthy recipients. Congratulations to you all. Your support of our Association over many years has been greatly appreciated.

We've enjoyed some great milestones this year. To those that made their SANFL League Debuts – Field Umpires Harrison Hughes and Mason Beyer, Boundary Umpires Ben Williams and Patrick Cannard and Goal Umpires Liam McDonald and Emilie Hill - congratulations. To the three umpires that represented us in Perth for the State League match versus Western Australia, Field Umpire Andrew Crosby, Boundary Umpire Martin Elsegood and Goal Umpire Mathew Wilson, well done!

Life Member and long-time supporter of SANFLUA, Mark Thomson notches up an amazing milestone this weekend. On Sunday, Mark will officiate in his 400<sup>th</sup> AFL Match. Congratulations and run well!

To all our umpires who celebrated a significant milestone this year, congratulations and I hope there are many more achievements in the future.

I want to personally and on behalf of the SANFLUA Committee, congratulate Field Umpire, Life Member and long-time supporter of our Association, Theron Philp, who after this season, hangs up the whistle. Thirty years involvement in umpiring is an amazing achievement. Well done mate!

Finally, to my committee – we could not achieve what we do without a passion for umpiring and teamwork.

The committee this year was largely unchanged. We welcomed back Matthew Norton, who took over the role of Website Co-Ordinator. Continuing their involvement, we had our Treasurer Sean Burton, Secretary Andrew Crosby, Social Secretary Terence Carter, Social Media Co-Ordinator Tom Sharpe, Communications Officer Aaron Bennett, Publications Officer Mathew Wilson, Sponsorship Co-Ordinator David Sobieraj, our Statistician Steve Paunovic, Life Member Rep Craig Trewartha and Abdul Alpaslan.

To all of you. Thank you. We work hard to improve the umpiring experience in this state, to ensure umpires earn the respect they deserve.

In closing, I'd like to thank Matthew Norton for accepting the role of master of ceremonies. You still make me nervous!

Thank you all for attending and continuing to support your Association.



2019 SANFLUA Committee (L-R):

Mathew Wilson, Andrew Crosby, Tom Sharpe, David Sobieraj, Aaron Bennett, Craig Trewartha, Matthew Cummins, Sean Burton, Steven Paunovic, Terence Carter & Matthew Norton.

Absent: Abdul Alpaslan







## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER



### SERVICE AWARD

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

#### 2019 SANFLUA Service Award Recipients

##### Ten (10) Years:

Scott Bau  
Thomas Burke  
Christopher Cook  
Eleni Glouftsis

##### Fifteen (15) Years:

Andrew Crosby  
Matthew Oxford

##### Twenty (20) Years

Gary Fila  
Dean Garrett  
Sam Hay\*  
Steven Paunovic

##### Twenty Five (25) Years:

Michael Avon\*  
Mark Bywater\*  
Tony Symons\*

##### Thirty (30) Years:

Theron Philp\*

##### Thirty Five (35) Years:

Leo Corrieri\*

##### Fifty (50) Years:

Craig Glennon\*

##### Sixty (60) Years:

Ken Potts\*

\*Denotes SANFLUA Life Member

## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### MOST DEDICATED SUPPORT STAFF: STEVEN PAUNOVIC

"When you go out and do your job week in, week out, sometimes you don't expect the accolades that come your way – you just enjoy doing it for the love. This is why I continue to be involved in SANFL football.

To be recognised for the efforts, I was very honoured and humbled to be awarded most dedicated support staff at the SANFLUA annual dinner for 2019. Not only this but in what was my 20<sup>th</sup> season as a member of the association.

Retiring at the end of 2017 in the best way possible, I had to make the decision to either have a rest, or keep going, and pass on my knowledge and be there for those umpires developing their own careers. I don't think I could have made any better decision.

I may not have said this during my short speech, but I do this now for all of you, and I can only hope we get the most out of everything we do, whether it be on field, or in the stands. To our umpiring crew, and the coaches I work with, you truly are extraordinary people.

Again, I was truly very happy to receive this award. Remember, your association is there for you, and joining is one of the best decisions you can make. The SANFLUA is an integral part of umpiring and I can't praise them enough for the work they do, and I thank them for letting me also be a part of it."



*Steven Paunovic during his acceptance speech*

### MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE: MATHEW WILSON

"Firstly, I'd like to thank Abdul for donating this award. I know firsthand the amazing effort he puts into both his coaching and to his role with the SANFLUA.

To be recognised as the Most Dedicated Goal Umpire by my peers is very humbling. I am very passionate about Umpiring and the SANFLUA, but I can honestly say that there are many people who are far more deserving of this award than me.

To all Members, Life Members and Sponsors, I thank you for your contributions to the Ball Up Publications. Without you, they wouldn't have become as fantastic as they are. I really enjoy putting each edition together.

Finally, I'd like to thank the entire SANFLUA committee. Your dedication is second to none and I feel very honoured and privileged to serve alongside a collective group who want to see the betterment of SANFL Umpiring."



*Mathew Wilson during his acceptance speech*

## MOST DEDICATED AWARDS

### AWARD DETAILS

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

### 2019 AWARD WINNERS

#### Most Dedicated Support Staff:

Steven Paunovic

#### Most Dedicated Goal Umpire:

Mathew Wilson

#### Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire:

Terence Carter

#### Most Dedicated Field Umpire:

Tom Bryce



## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### MOST DEDICATED BOUNDARY UMPIRE: TERENCE CARTER

"I would just like to say 'thank you' to all the Coaches, my fellow umpires and support staff. I am very thankful to be acknowledged as the Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire this year. It means a lot to me to be recognised by your peers, so thank you for that.

It's been a very enjoyable year. I can't remember ever loving matches and umpiring as much as this year. Training is still a grind, but you can't have it all I guess! A big part of this year has been the SANFLUA and the social events that are put on. So, thank you to the Committee for organising them and thank you to everyone who attends. It is fantastic to mix in with other disciplines and get to know other umpires well. I think that is a massive part of why I have found umpiring so enjoyable the last few years. Being on the Committee and being able to help give something back to the SANFLUA and my peers. It has just great to be involved and to have so many mates throughout the group as well.

I'm grateful for this award and the recognition and I am looking forward to continuing to train and umpire with you all."



*Terence Carter during his acceptance speech*

### MOST DEDICATED FIELD UMPIRE: TOM BRYCE

"To be acknowledged and respected by your peers is extremely meaningful to me. It's a great honour to receive this award, especially when you look around the room and see how many other worthy recipients there are within our group.

I strongly believe this is a team award and that dedication is just the by-product of being surrounded by great mates pushing you to be better. The people who mostly deserve recognition are the leaders of our group organising extra sessions, the senior umpires always being incredibly generous with their time and the aspiring umpires who are keen to learn. There are a lot of incredible people involved with umpiring to truly admire, and strive to be like. It's a great privilege to just be a part of the group and to have mates setting the standard to follow.

Finally, a massive thanks to Theron Philp for donating this award and to the SANFLUA for your ongoing work in adding to the umpiring experience."



*Tom Bryce during his acceptance speech*

## MOST DEDICATED AWARDS

The SANFLUA would like to thank the following people for donating the 2019 Most Dedicated Awards.

#### Most Dedicated Support Staff:

Donated by the SANFLUA

#### Most Dedicated Goal Umpire:

Donated by Abdullah Alpaslan\*

#### Most Dedicated Boundary Umpire:

Donated by Mark Thomson\*

#### Most Dedicated Field Umpire:

Donated by Theron Philp\*

\*Denotes SANFLUA Life Member



## LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEE: SAM HAY

"It was a great honour to be inducted as a Life Member at this year's Annual Dinner. There are many umpires and coaches who have been a big part of my career and to be able to join them in being a SANFLUA Life Member is a huge thrill.

I have been a member of SANFLUA for 20 years now and I have loved being involved during that time. I have many happy memories from attending social events over the years and through my involvement on the committee for 4 years as Treasurer.

The Association has helped me enormously in my umpiring career and I have made many friends over the years with my involvement which I am very grateful for.

I thank the committee for awarding me this honour and I look forward to being a part of SANFLUA for many years to come."



Sam Hay during his Life Membership acceptance speech

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

### Life Membership Details

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

### Rules for Life Membership

- (i) Life members shall not pay any Membership Fee but shall have all rights and privileges of "Full Members".
- (ii) At the discretion of the Committee the qualifying period of Life Membership may be extended due to:
  - (a) Transfer of employment to the country or interstate.
  - (b) Overseas travel.
  - (c) Or any other reason as seen fit by the Committee.Should deferment be granted, the Member would be required to complete the outstanding period of time before consideration be given to Life Membership.
- (iii) The Committee shall vote for each Life Member on a resolution proposed and seconded for each member, and each resolution shall cover one member at a time and the resolution shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Committee members present at such meeting and voting there on.
- (iv) Any person who has been a member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) consecutive years who has not been granted Life Membership and has not been a member for a further period of two (2) consecutive years shall no longer be considered for Life Membership on the basis of those fifteen (15) consecutive years.

**Taken directly from the SANFLUA Constitution**

## LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEE: KEVIN WALLACE

"It was a great honour to receive Life Membership of the SANFLUA. This means a great deal to me. The Association, was by my side in umpiring but also provided me an avenue in developing my inner self whether I was in my "ups or downs". The Association has also been a "tool" in developing strong and long lasting friendships (40 plus years).

Having retired from being an active umpire, there are occasions when I start remembering "the good old days" when I was a running umpire. Memories of what happened at Training, Game Day or an Association gathering all with fondness. Now having received SANFLUA Life Membership, is another achievement that I will cherish.

I thank the committee for nominating me and their decision, in allowing me to receive this award and thank you to everyone that has had some influence on me."



*Kevin Wallace during his Life Membership acceptance speech*

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**Taken directly from the SANFLUA Constitution**



## LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEE: TONY SYMONS

"I feel extremely honoured to be awarded Life Membership to the SANFLUA. It means a whole lot as I've been a member for the last 25 years and I feel very privileged to now have my name alongside some of the greats of umpiring on the honour board.

There have been many people who have had an influence on me over the years. I have made some great friendships over the last 25 years but I do need to make a special mention of Chris Brooke, Damian Joyce, Michael Schramm and Richard Williams. These four men have been great mates as well as huge influences and supporters of me across my umpiring journey.

Finally, I'd like to thank the current committee and the Life Member sub-committee for all their support in allowing me to be inducted. I will cherish this award forever."



*Tony Symons during his Life Membership acceptance speech*

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**Taken directly from the SANFLUA Constitution**

## 72ND SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

A special thank you to SANFLUA members and Goal Umpires Allannah Bruno and Braden Ford who assisted the SANFLUA at the 72nd Annual Dinner



When SANFLUA Sponsor and Photographer Hannah Rexx was a late apology for the evening, SANFLUA Member and Goal Umpire Allannah Bruno didn't hesitate when asked if she could assist the SANFLUA with being our photographer for the evening. Allannah is no stranger to being behind the lens and her magnificent photos can be seen on pages 4 – 11 of this edition. Being an avid food lover, we thanked Allannah for her efforts with vouchers from our magnificent sponsors Bakery on O'Connell and Zambrero Norwood.

SANFLUA Member and Goal Umpire Braden Ford was our AV technician for the Annual Dinner. With his wealth of knowledge having worked in this industry, he made the evening flow seamlessly. Being a massive beer lover, the SANFLUA thanked Braden for his efforts with six packs from our valued sponsors Pirate Life Brewing and Shifty Lizard Brewing as well as a voucher from Bakery on O'Connell.





## 2019 FINALS PANELS

### AMATEUR UNDER 18'S

**Field Umpires:** James Brittan, Zack Brittan, Harry Holmes & Matthew Rohrlach.

**Goal Umpires:** Josue Browne, Holly Dolphin & Mitchell Williams.

### UNDER 18'S

**Field Umpires:** Jake Cuming, Henry Klemm, Nicholas Mallia, Ryan Morrow, Hudson Noack, Jackson Nokes, Max Richardson & Daniel Whittlesea.

**Boundary Umpires:** Bradley Applebee, James Brewer, Anthony De Ruvo, Liam Draper, Joshua Marshall, Taylah Parker, Hailey Seibert & Jaxon Williams.

**Goal Umpires:** Georgia Henderson, Bradley Jenkins, Jonty Leslie, Alisha Machek, Emma Marinelli & Jared Murton.

### RESERVES

**Field Umpires:** Aaron Bennett, Mason Beyer, Nick Ghan, Jay Gilden, Harrison Hughes, Jack Millar, Sam Morgan, Alex Reardon & Luke Wittenberg.

**Boundary Umpires:** Patrick Cannard, Will Carter, Taylor Dorsey, Steve Evanson, Tom Kelly, Matt Mielczarek, Corey Sauerwald, Dylan Speck, Dylan Whan & Ben Williams.

**Goal Umpires:** Allanah Bruno, Michael Button, Tom Fahey, Emilie Hill, Liam McDonald & Matthew Oxford.

### LEAGUE

**Field Umpires:** Corey Bowen, Jamie Broadbent, Tom Bryce, Andrew Crosby, Mitch Harris, Rowan Hundertmark, Giles Lewis, Theron Philp & Michael Schramm.

**Boundary Umpires:** Gerard Carter, Terrance Carter, Martin Elsegood, Isaac Fishlock, Scott Hargreaves, Elliott Raymond, Damian Robinson, Sam Royans & Brayden Theil.

**Goal Umpires:** Matthew Cummins, Braden Ford, James Georgiadis, Brad Hammer, Rhys Negerman, Matthew Williams & Mathew Wilson.

### AFL

**Field Umpires:** Craig Fleer.

**Boundary Umpires:** Matthew Konetschka & Mark Thomson.

**Goal Umpires:** Peter Challen.

## ROUND 19 MILESTONE: 1ST AFL MATCH

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July Jamie umpired the top of the SANFL table Glenelg v Adelaide game at Glenelg Oval. After an outstanding performance at 'The Bay', Jamie then drove to Adelaide Oval to be the Emergency for the Port Adelaide v GWS Giants match. At the 9 minute mark of the second quarter Jamie heard the now infamous words across the Matchcomm system from AFL Field Umpire Leigh Fisher "Ahhh! I reckon I've done my calf. Jamie you ready mate?" Jamie took off his tracksuit top & bottom (and was thankful to see he remembered his shorts this time round), ran onto Adelaide Oval, gave Fish (Leigh Fisher) a hi-five on the way through and took up his position in GWS's End Zone. In that moment Jamie became the 7<sup>th</sup> South Australian based Emergency Field Umpire to officiate an AFL match and thus made his AFL debut.

Here is how it all unfolded for Jamie:

Q. Talk me through it mate, how were you feeling?

A. After trotting around at 'The Bay' in a nail bitter, I was certainly not expecting an even closer encounter at the AFL and better yet involved in the action. At first when I was listening over the comms I was like surely not, this can't be happening? But funny enough at the same time I didn't have any nervous feelings; most likely cause I was semi-tired from running 14k 2hrs prior. It was sort of that feeling well this is what's happening, let's go with it and just enjoy the ride.

Q. How did you rate your performance?

A. Well let's just say I didn't feel the most flash out there as I would of hoped, but apart from that I was pleased to nail my two score reviews and glad that my anticipation was high so I could move to positions early as I couldn't rely on my speed/body. My decision making was sound and I felt I contributed to the team where I could. Overall I was just pleased to get through the match.

Q. How was the atmosphere out there?

A. It was electric and loud especially when Port had the ball on fast breaks and when the crowd thought they had some (friendly) advice about your decisions. I didn't really get a chance to soak it in until I was walking off the ground at halftime and after the game because the game was very close. Overall I loved it and that's the reason we all umpire to get good close games.

Q. Was the whole umpiring team supportive?

A. I could not thank the entire team enough. From the trainers and physios, Josh and Shane overseeing it all and of course the boys out there. Dan was very clear with the first score review, the boundaries; especially Bully who gave me his pickle juice at 3QT to settle the cramping (awful awful stuff by the way) and of course Curtis and Shaun for cutting out some of the running for me.

Q. Did you get any feedback post game and how was it?

A. Yeah it was really nice to get so many messages from the umpiring boys, family and friends after the game. In terms of feedback, Shane (matchday coach) was pleased with how I handled myself out there and made some good decisions brought over from the SANFL. The AFL sent me a rundown sheet with some vision which was beneficial to reflect on and learn from, overall they said I looked composed and good out there and got the job done, which was pleasing to hear.

Well done Doc, hopefully it is the start of more AFL games for you.

By Mathew Wilson (in conjunction with Jamie Broadbent)



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Jamie Broadbent with his 1<sup>st</sup> AFL Match Certificate

## JAMIE BROADBENT (FIELD UMPIRE)

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

Round 19 2019, Port Adelaide v GWS Giants at Adelaide Oval on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July

### Shirt Number:

43

### Achievements:

2018 AFL Rookie Field Umpire

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

### AFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Jamie becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> SA based AFL Rookie Field Umpire to replace an appointed Field Umpire. The others are:

6. Giles Lewis (2018)

5. Rowan Hundertmark (2017)

4. Curtis Deboy (2014)

3. Sam Hay (2009)

2. Colin Rowston (2002)

1. Tim Pfliffer (1997)

Current SANFL Goal Umpire Steven Murphy also came on as a replacement Goal Umpire during an AFL match in 1997 at Football Park. He replaced Anthony Squeo for the 2nd half of the Round 2 Port Adelaide v Essendon match.



## ROUND 15 MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

David Sobieraj (pronounced So-Ba-Ray) is a quiet fellow who actually grew up overseas, attending an International school in Indonesia. His early memories included hitting the Bounty Dance Floor as a 7 year old, which gave him the quick feet to be a good runner later in life. I've known Dave since 2007, and since then, his character on and off field is exemplary. He displays all the qualities of a proper, old school gentleman. He is the sort of bloke you want your sister to marry. Sorry girls and boys, Sally-Ann has already locked him in. Kind, respectful, generous, positive and beyond all, a legend. Dave is a quiet achiever with a fair CV in umpiring.

Dave started his umpiring journey in 2000 at West Adelaide Schools where his friend Josh invited him out to his first training session. He would owe Josh a few pub squashes for sure! Since then, Dave has risen through the ranks. His first SANFL U17's game was in 2007, where he had the pleasure of meeting and umpiring with some greats, such as Craig Fleer, Leigh Haussen, Ben Turner and obviously myself. He has umpired 1 X U16's, 23 X U17's and 25 X U18's games, including the 2010 U18's Grand Final on AAMI Stadium. He was known for his hard work and coach-ability in the early years, making his rise through the ranks at a steady pace smoothly. This year, Dave notched up the 100 games in Reserves level, holding the prestigious title of 100 Reserves games and also 100 League games at the same time. Not many blokes can say they have brought up the tonne in both, except Theron who is an idol of Dave's.

Late in 2013, Dave made his illustrious debut. It is still his favourite memory to date. He was warmly welcomed to the illustrious BWC group, except when they decided to race Go-Karts, where many fellow umpires wished they weren't on Dave's team as he is a boring, safe, sensible and cautious driver. The nice guy image was received well by the group, quickly taking the mantle off Curtis DeBoy (Currently still annoyed at this). Since his debut, I have only heard Dave fire up twice. Don't get him started on RSVP deadlines. And please don't mention a certain car park official in the Western Suburbs.

Not many people remember Dave's debut as it was over shadowed by the rise of fellow umpire Eleni and her remarkable break through that year. In fact, his end of year video regarding this bitter sweet but forgotten moment in Dave's life was a highlight at the SANFLUA annual dinner. He had the entire room in stitches of laughter. However, his League debut was a success, and was the first of 100 more big games to come.

(Continues next page)



*SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting David Sobieraj with his 100<sup>th</sup> League Match Certificate*

## DAVID SOBIERAJ (FIELD UMPIRE)

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

Round 5 2013, South Adelaide v North Adelaide at Noarlunga Oval

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

Round 1 2017, Glenelg v Port Adelaide at Glenelg Oval

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

Round 15 2019, Eagles v Sturt at Woodville Oval

### Grand Finals:

Reserves - 2014

U18 - 2010

### Achievements:

2016 & 2017 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire

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

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

From David's 100 League matches his most frequent grounds are Woodville and Elizabeth Ovals (13); Unley Oval (12) closely follows.

David's most frequent League Field Umpire colleague is Corey Bowen (27). Andrew Crosby (21) sits in second place.

David officiated at 8 of the 9 League home grounds in his first 9 games; only waiting for Norwood Oval which came in his 25<sup>th</sup> League match.

David must be a tragic for the rivalries, having umpired in 4 of the last 5 Sturt v Port Adelaide games at Unley Oval (2014-16 and 2018).

## ROUND 15 MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

Before Dave was considered for League finals, he went on to umpire the first final on the new refurbished Adelaide Oval, which was the Reserves Grand Final. This final shares a special moment in Dave's career as he was witness to one of the most exhilarating pre match pump up speeches by Emergency umpire Mitch Scott. It was hard hitting, intense, and very emotional for Dave, El and myself. The 38,644 thousand supporters missed out on the real spectacle that day. Not the Norwood win against Port by 4 points, but the legendary Reserves speech that Dave still relives today.

Dave's work ethic is constantly being recognised by his peers and coaches. He keeps getting fitter with age which is a testament to his ability, to push the boundaries in and out of the season. He loves his Fluoro time trial singlet (Bit of me time to stand out to the coaches). The year Dave gave up bouncing (or was reluctantly told not to bounce) he had a career best year in League. For one of the hardest workers in the BWC group, being appointed a League final was a fantastic achievement. Since then, he has umpired in League Finals each year.

Although from afar Dave seems quiet and timid, when you get to know him he is one of the funniest blokes in the BWC group. He shows genuine care about people that hasn't been seen since before Theron's time in the Gold Rush. He has been an active member of the SANFLUA committee since 2017. He holds the SANFLUA in high regard, and people respond well to his speeches on behalf of the Association in "Roaming Dave". In 2016 and 2017, he was voted Most Dedicated umpire which was no surprise to anyone. In 2015, once again through hard work and great achievement, David was awarded the Andrew Vicker's medallion. This really does symbolise David and his umpiring. Probably not the most athletic, nor naturally talented umpire. But his hard work, persistence and nature towards improving himself as an umpire and as a person is second to none.

People may ask: What makes Dave one of the greatest blokes running around in the SANFL umpiring circle? I think it's a combination of his commitment to umpiring and his kind, friendly nature. The way that he analyses every game, is his own harshest and honest critic, yet doesn't get involved in all the gossip is amazing. Congrats on the 100 with so many more games to come. Dave really is one of the best blokes going around and I am truly honoured to call him a close mate.

By Michael Sboro



David Sobieraj (holding the Burley) and his match day team prior to his 100<sup>th</sup> League Match at Woodville Oval

## DAVID SOBIERAJ (FIELD UMPIRE)

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

Round 5 2013, South Adelaide v North Adelaide at Noarlunga Oval

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

Round 1 2017, Glenelg v Port Adelaide at Glenelg Oval

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

Round 15 2019, Eagles v Sturt at Woodville Oval

### Grand Finals:

Reserves - 2014

U18 - 2010

### Achievements:

2016 & 2017 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire

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

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

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David's most frequent League Field Umpire colleague is Corey Bowen (27). Andrew Crosby (21) sits in second place.

David officiated at 8 of the 9 League home grounds in his first 9 games; only waiting for Norwood Oval which came in his 25<sup>th</sup> League match.

David must be a tragic for the rivalries, having umpired in 4 of the last 5 Sturt v Port Adelaide games at Unley Oval (2014-16 and 2018).



## ROUND 16 MILESTONE: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

When a young Emilie Hill decided to come down and try her luck at goal umpiring in the city, I am sure she was taken back by the training and application that was shown by the umpiring group at that time. For Emilie though you could already see that she had that work ethic and from early on you could see her training ethic was as strong as anyone's.

Emilie very quickly showed to all the coaches that she had what it takes to become a very good umpire. She listens and takes on all advice given which is a fantastic trait and one that has allowed her to climb up the grades. Her training application is fantastic and always strives to get better.

Emilie and the start of season 2019 was given the opportunity to come up and join the senior goal umpiring squad. This came after again strong 2018 and an impressive 2019 AFLW campaign. The AFLW experience I have no doubt took her umpiring to that next level.

Emilie came out and from Round 1 umpired at a very consistent level at Reserves football. Her consistency and umpiring at a high level in the end stood out and it was on a cold 24<sup>th</sup> July that Emilie heard those words she was so striving to hear. "We have a debutant in round 16 and that will be Emilie Hill at League level". As one of her coaches the look on her face was priceless and we could all see how much it meant to her. These are the moments in umpiring we all cherish.

After getting herself through Round 15 it was time to move onto her League debut. The build up week was nothing different on the track. Plenty of hard work and taking on any advice given from her coaches and peers.

Game day rolled around and Emilie was very relaxed. For her it was game day and she took the event in her stride. I think all the nerves seemed to be embraced by Braden.

In what we could say in a game that didn't reach too many heights Emilie shone above the match itself. Her positioning and attack on the football was what we all knew she would deliver. Her first decision was a real tough one that she nailed. It set her day up to have a great performance. Emilie continued to umpire exceptionally well for the entire day. A drawn match in your League debut I am sure is something Emilie will never forget.

Her partner for the day Matt Cummins made it such a special day for Emilie which was fantastic. What was also great to see is the number of umpires show their support on the day.

Congratulations Em and all the best for your League career and who knows maybe even further.

By Darren Trengove



*SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Emilie Hill with her 1<sup>st</sup> League Match Certificate*

## EMILIE HILL (GOAL UMPIRE)

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

Round 16 2019, North Adelaide v Glenelg at Prospect Oval on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

### Grand Finals:

U18 - 2018

### Achievements:

2017 Stan Wickham Memorial Award - Goal Umpire

2017 NAB AFLW U18 Championships

2018 NAB AFL U16 Championships

2018 AFLW Rookie Goal Umpire

2019 AFLW Goal Umpire

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

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

From Emilie's SANFL matches across all grades (U16, U18, Reserves and League), she has only officiated at Noarlunga Oval on 2 occasions. This is an oddity when you compare the fact she has officiated at Football Park on 3 occasions.

Coincidentally, Emilie's 1<sup>st</sup> Reserves (2017) and 1<sup>st</sup> League (2019) were in Round 16. Additionally, both her debuts involved the Glenelg Football Club as the visitors.

Emilie's most frequent Goal Umpiring colleague from the current members of the Senior Squad is Tom Fahey (5).

## ROUND 16 MILESTONE: 1ST LEAGUE MATCH

I spoke with Emilie about her first SANFL League match, how she found the build up and the experience. This is what she had to say:

*"It would be an understatement to say I was shocked when Darren revealed the news to the goal umpiring group. My goals at the start of the year were to umpire consistently, and as the year progressed I was happy with how I was travelling but never expected this! When the announcement was made I immediately felt so honoured and excited to be given this amazing opportunity. Before I even came to terms with it, I was flooded with love and support from my fellow umpires – one of the many moments I will never forget.*

*The days leading up to the game were a little nerve wracking, but I kept reminding myself that it is just another game, albeit a larger crowd and faster paced. I did everything I possibly could to ensure the day was smooth sailing, although the nerves were understandably still there. Arriving at the ground, this feeling diminished and I realised, it really is just another game. Being along side a very respected and experienced umpire in Cummo (Matthew Cummins), made me relax and really embrace the day. I proceeded with my normal routine and went into game mode.*

*I don't think anyone was expecting the result, and I was lucky enough to be in the middle of it all. The atmosphere was electric and it was honestly one of the best days of my life. It was made even more special by having my family travel down for the occasion and the undeniable support from fellow umpires. Here I am writing this four days after the game, and the smile still hasn't been wiped of my face. Lastly, I really want to thank the coaching group for believing in me and giving me the guidance I needed to get there."*



Emilie Hill in action during her Round 16 League debut at Prospect Oval

## EMILIE HILL (GOAL UMPIRE)

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

Round 16 2019, North Adelaide v Glenelg at Prospect Oval on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

### Grand Finals:

U18 - 2018

### Achievements:

2017 Stan Wickham Memorial Award - Goal Umpire

2017 NAB AFLW U18 Championships

2018 NAB AFL U16 Championships

2018 AFLW Rookie Goal Umpire

2019 AFLW Goal Umpire

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

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

From Emilie's SANFL matches across all grades (U16, U18, Reserves and League), she has only officiated at Noarlunga Oval on 2 occasions. This is an oddity when you compare the fact she has officiated at Football Park on 3 occasions.

Coincidentally, Emilie's 1<sup>st</sup> Reserves (2017) and 1<sup>st</sup> League (2019) were in Round 16. Additionally, both her debuts involved the Glenelg Football Club as the visitors.

Emilie's most frequent Goal Umpiring colleague from the current members of the Senior Squad is Tom Fahey (5).



## ROUND 18 MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

Matthew Oxford, the author of the Oxford English Dictionary, wrote a new chapter recently when he officiated in his 100th League match – the Round 18 match between Sturt and Glenelg at Peter Motley Oval.

I first met Matthew (or 'The Ox') on the Independent Schools Umpiring Panel in 2005, however his umpiring career began well before that. Not many current umpires would be aware that Matthew was umpiring with the SANFL in the 1990s, but as a Field Umpire. After a few years away at the turn of the millennium, Matthew returned to SANFL ranks as a Goal Umpire in 2004.

Matthew was quickly identified as having the talent and skill to progress to the SANFL Academy squad in 2006, where he stood out at Under 17 & Under 19 level. He earned himself a place in the 2006 Under 17 Grand Final, and the Under 19 Grand Final the following year. He also umpired Reserves Grand Finals in 2012 & 2015.

Matthew progressed through to League ranks, umpiring his first League match in 2009. He recently umpired his 100th League match at Peter Motley Oval in Round 18. It has been a long-held goal of his to officiate in 100 League matches. So determined was he to get there, that as the end of the end of the season was approaching, he even gave up his usual role of goalkeeper at indoor soccer at training recently to minimise his chances of getting injured! There is no doubt amongst the Goal Umpires squad of Matthew's dedication to his umpiring. He achieved a hat-trick of Most Dedicated Goal Umpire awards, voted by his peers, in 2014, 2015 (joint) and 2016. He was also awarded the 2018 Andrew Vickers Medallion for Outstanding Service to Umpiring.

Perhaps one of the most famous moments for The Ox was his surprise when he was appointed to the Foxtel Cup Grand Final in 2013 between West Adelaide and East Fremantle at Football Park. As the name suggests, the match was telecast live around Australia on Fox Footy. Ever since this time, Matthew has been known as 'Ox on Fox' and has stuck around to this day! Despite officiating in numerous SANFL matches telecast on Channel Seven, 'Ox on Seven' just doesn't have the same ring to it.

It was a pleasure to umpire with The Ox as he clocked up triple figures in front of a big crowd at Peter Motley Oval on Saturday. Matthew umpired very well in what was a close match and deserves all the accolades he receives.

Congratulations on your 100th League match Ox!

By Matthew Williams



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

## MATTHEW OXFORD (GOAL UMPIRE)

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

Round 14 2009, Glenelg v South Adelaide at Glenelg Oval

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

Round 13 2015, South Adelaide v North Adelaide at Noarlunga Oval

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

Round 18 2019, Sturt v Glenelg at Unley Oval

### Grand Finals:

Reserves - 2012 & 2015

U19 - 2007

U17 - 2006

### Achievements:

2011 Most Improved Goal Umpire

2014, 2015 (joint) & 2016 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Goal Umpire

2018 Andrew Vickers Medallion

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

### SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Ox's first 2 League games were with 2 of the current coaching staff in Darren Trengove and Shannon Riggs.

The Ox has umpired 16 League games at Elizabeth Oval. Although this is his most frequent ground it took until his 23rd League match to officiate there.

Matthew Williams is Ox's most frequent League Goal Umpiring colleague with 12 games together.

## ROUND 23 AFL MILESTONE: 400TH AFL MATCH

**7200** kilometres or just short of **10** return trips starting from Adelaide Oval to the MCG. This is the match day kilometres Mark Thomson will have clocked up when he completes his 400<sup>th</sup> AFL game in Round 23. Then start including all the training sessions, pre-season matches, SANFL junior and League footy and it's clear to see that this is a truly remarkable achievement and something we should all take a moment to comprehend and truly celebrate.

Mark began his umpiring career in the combined Southern Football League before quickly finding himself out at the SANFL. Mark rapidly made his way up the ranks and in 1996 was selected on the AFL umpiring panel, making his AFL debut in Round 1, Adelaide v Sydney. During these 400 matches Mark has enjoyed many highlights including 34 AFL Finals, which included 6 AFL Grand Finals (2009, 2010 x 2, 2011, 2014 and 2018) and has been named the All Australian Boundary Umpire on 2 occasions (2011 and 2014).

But, as in most elite environments Mark has certainly had his fair share of setbacks and disappointments, missing Finals and Grand Final panels and overcoming career threatening injuries. It is in these moments we get to see the real passion, desire and character of a human. Mark has not only overcome these setbacks but become better, stronger and more resilient from the experiences. I have been fortunate enough to witness first-hand the lengths Mark is willing to put himself through in order to make sure he is ready to perform week after week, year after year at the highest level.

Making my way through the SANFL I was able to look up to 'The big 4' which along with Mark included Darren Wilson, John Creasy and Amin Chehade. Watching these four guys make AFL Finals and Grand Finals year after year, truly putting South Australian umpiring on the map. Whether they knew this at the time, they were also inspiring and shaping younger umpires careers by showing the commitment, professionalism and hard work required to make it at the highest level.

Although I hate to admit it, Mark played a huge part in getting me onto the AFL list. One cold and wet night at Norwood Oval, Mark joined Creasy in the stands to watch 3 AFL hopefuls run around the boundary. I remember at the time thinking that my AFL aspirations had probably come and gone and thinking they were there to watch a young Dillion Tee and Sean Burton. As luck would have it, after this game my name was also thrown into the mix and the following year I received my AFL contract along with Dillion and the following year Sean. I know for a fact that Mark played a huge part in making my dream come to reality and for that I will be forever grateful.

Mark is possibly feared by younger umpires, as they watch from a distance as he lines up his next prey for a sledge, which will without doubt last the entire year. But if I were a younger umpire with League or AFL aspirations I would firstly take the sledge, (it really means he likes you) and get as much experience and knowledge off Mark while the opportunity is still there. I know for a fact he won't mind sharing, just be prepared for some honest feedback!

In my umpiring journey I have met some truly great people; Mark would be at the top of that list. You will never meet an umpire as passionate and as driven as Mark. You will never meet an umpire who is more respected at a national level. You will also never meet an umpire who has the ability to annoy you more than Mark, and finally you will never meet an umpire who more deserves the accolades coming his way.

Congratulations on a truly remarkable achievement Mark! This is an achievement you and your family should be unbelievably proud of.

By Chris Bull



*SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Mark Thomson with his 400<sup>th</sup> AFL Match Certificate*

## MARK THOMSON (BOUNDARY UMPIRE)

### AFLUA Heritage Number:

458

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

Round 1 1996, Port Adelaide v Sydney at Football Park

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

Round 4 2004, North Melbourne v Sydney at Manuka Oval

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

Round 11 2010, Adelaide v Fremantle at Football Park

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

1<sup>st</sup> Semi Final 2014, Fremantle v Port Adelaide at Subiaco Oval

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

Round 23 2019, Port Adelaide v Fremantle at Adelaide Oval

### AFL Grand Finals:

2009, 2010, 2010 replay, 2011, 2014 and 2018

### AFL Awards:

All Australian Umpire 2011 & 2014

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

### AFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Mark has officiated 322 matches at SA AFL Grounds (Adelaide Oval & Football Park). This equates to 80.5% of his total AFL Matches.

Mark has officiated 34 Finals Matches. His most frequent ground for Finals is the M.C.G. He has umpired there on 19 separate occasions.



## ROUNDS 15 - 18 MILESTONES

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

### · Round 15 SANFL

^Dylan Whan (Boundary Umpire) made his long awaited to return to League football; 1491 days to be exact. Due to injuries and time away from umpiring, Dylan was selected for his first League game since Round 11, 2015.

### · Round 16 SANFL

^Martin Elsegood (Boundary Umpire) on his 100<sup>th</sup> SANFL match during the Round 16 match between West Adelaide v Adelaide at Richmond Oval on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

### · Round 23 AFL

Congratulations to former SA Boundary Umpire ^Dillion Tee on his 150<sup>th</sup> AFL match during the Round 23 AFL match between Western Bulldogs v Adelaide at MARS Stadium (North Ballarat) on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Additionally, the SANFLUA also congratulates Eleni Glouftsis & ^Dillon Tee on their recent engagement. Eleni said yes after Dillon proposed to her in the middle of the MCG following the Round 19 Carlton v Adelaide match; a game they had both just officiated.

^ Denotes not a member of the SANFLUA

## APPROACHING MILESTONES

### SANFL Milestones

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

Scott Hargreaves - 46

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

Bryaden Theil - 97

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

Chris Bull (B) - 147

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

Peter Challen (G) - 195

^Sam Royans (B) - 198

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

Matthew Cummins (G) - 246

Andrew Crosby (F) - 249

### AFL Milestones

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

Leigh Haussen (F) - 49

#### 200<sup>th</sup> AFL Match

Sam Hay\* (F) - 198

^ Denotes not a member of the SANFLUA

\* Denotes SANFLUA Life Member

All SANFL Umpire League statistics can be viewed at <http://www.sanflua.com.au/umpirestatistics/>

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



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



Dillion & Eleni re-enacting their engagement on the MCG.

## FIELD MARSHALL

It's Showtime! After a long season, we have reached the end of the minor round and are about to begin finals. It is an exciting time of the year and congratulations to everyone who is fortunate enough to be selected.

Some wintery weather arrived a few weeks ago as it rained all day and all of the night. It was probably because of the Ashes series that is taking place that we received some weather that resembled an English summer. In fact, I have the cricket on in the background as I am writing this article.

Congratulations to Tony Symons, Sam Hay and Kevin Wallace who were inducted as life members of SANFLUA. Their significant contribution to Umpiring in South Australia was recognised at the 72<sup>nd</sup> SANFLUA Annual Dinner which was held at Adelaide Oval. It is always a special event and this year was no different.

Why are you reviewing that?! It's clearly outside the line of leg. Sorry, I am currently watching the third test at Headingly.

A brilliant video tribute to Theron at the Annual Dinner provided a great dose of humour, nostalgia and sentiment. Some of the Umpires videos appeared to be filmed in their cars; I hope they weren't driving when they filmed them.

Throw it to the bowler's end! Noooooo, Lyon's dropped the ball!

It really got me how much of an impact Theron has had on SANFL Umpiring. It was a fitting tribute for the milestone that would take place a few days later. A well-respected man umpired his 265<sup>th</sup> League game (to go with his 235 Reserves) for a combined total of 500 games as he officiated on a sunny afternoon at Unley Oval.

Howzat! That was clearly hitting the stumps! Oh no, we're all out of reviews..... Sorry, I'm a little distracted at the moment.

Congratulations to Tom Bryce who was voted by his fellow umpires as the most dedicated umpire for 2019. Tom also showed that he was a dedicated follower of fashion as he also took out the Inaugural Tango award for the best dressed umpire. Tom might be the first umpire to accept an award at the Annual Dinner dressed in a turtleneck and blazer.

It's all over. Stokes has belted it for 4 through the covers. We should have w.....

I apologise for the change in font, I am having to write this last part of this article on my phone. I mistakenly thought my laptop could withstand being thrown across the room.

Tom's foray into trendy fashion ideas is not new. At an end-of-year function last year, Tom decided to channel his inner Pirate by wearing a bandana. Maybe next year he will wear a puffy shirt to ensure that he will be a favourite to take out the Tango award in Twenty20.

I'm off to bed. Does anyone know where I can get a good price on a new laptop and TV?

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



## BOUNDARY BOLTER

And just like that Finals are upon us. Who would of thought it'd come that quickly? It feels like only yesterday Cory Herrmann was spewing after his first preseason training. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate every single umpire on the year. Considering all the injuries and absences throughout it, we've toughed it out. Not everyone has had the perfect year. Who can forget Sam, Scott, Dylan and Elliot's recalls? But on a positive note, we've really raised the bar as a group this year.

The last couple weeks have been great for a number of reasons especially as all of the injured umpires are coming back. What a comeback it has been for Tom Kelly aka 'The Missile'. Who would have thought he'd be running around in League again this year? Unfortunately for you champ, finals is not on the cards for as much as you rate yourself. With finals coming up a regular around this time of year is Timbo. Wow, what a big inclusion who is back running injury free, touch wood. We all hope you get those extra 13-14 games to make 200.

A quick update on the fines system. Terence has finally racked up over a \$100 in fines this year; what a massive achievement TC. Nearly all his fines have come from social media post; unlucky mate. Dylan Whan finally received his first fine for sharing a terrible meme about Golden Whistle. But still does anyone want to be his plus Whan? Come on Dyl! Speaking of the Golden Whistle, will Fish actually show up this year or pull out another excuse? Speaking of Fish, good luck champ getting the bond back for the end of year celebrations to the house. With the Herrmann and Carter boy around, it won't end well.

Also, how is Dylan Speck's form going to a 'wedding' during the last round? I'm sure that's going to help your Finals campaign and please Q. Talking about pleasing Q, the usual suspects in Tom Kelly, Damo Robinson and Royans Being his right hand men

I'd like to congratulate both Patty Cannard and Benny Williams for fantastic first years of League footy. I hope you've enjoyed it. Unfortunately rumour has it both of you this year have left your whistle in the rooms after half time. Come on lads it's not a hard one! Also Ben make sure you listen to Micky on how to throw, he really knows what he's talking about.

Now Fish, we all know you are way too dedicated to umpiring, but you don't need to brag about running 100km a week and eating healthy every session. We can't wait for you to get injured so we can say told you so. Also, your last rep hero effort against the G-train was appalling. Where has that effort been all year? Might have to start calling you Fallon if you're not careful.

We have some big news from the Boundaries that Tom Kelly has no longer got the whitest legs of the group, that crown has now been taken over by Elliott. Please get to the beach over summer son.

Lastly I want to thank everyone for a fantastic year and good luck to those running finals.

BB

## GALLOPING GOALIE

It's here, the other 'F word' that everyone loves. Finals. As a former coach would say, "You can smell it, right... okay... Right..." However I think the only thing people are smelling at the moment is the boggy ground and diesel fumes. The GG wishes best of luck to all umpires involved in the finals over the coming weeks.

In Round 16 we were lucky enough to see Emilie 'Hilux' Hill take the reins in her first League game. The GG understands that the game wasn't much to look at and ended up in a draw but the performance that Emilie put on was enough for fellow umpires to be shaking in their boots for the seasons to come. A large number of fellow umpires were present on the day however one umpire appeared to not join the rest of them but was spotted on the opposite side to the ground with a certain mentor. Rumour has it the mentor has part of his ear missing due to it being 'chewed off' all day. The GG must remind Allannah that brown nosing is strictly not permitted, and this is her final warning.

Now we all know Thomas Sharpe loves to get on the chirp at times. However a few weeks ago our very own editor in chief, Mathew Wilson decided he'd put up with Sharpies shit long enough. The GG was informed by witnesses that Willow went absolutely 'bunta' at Tom after a snide comment was made during skills one night. After it had all settled down the pair were spotted having a conversation to sort things out like responsible adults. Good on them for being bigger men and putting it all to bed.

As the cold weather continues with it comes sickness. The goal umpiring group has been quite lucky this season to not have anyone go down with major illness. This was until Round 22 of the AFL when something didn't quite agree with Peter Challen's digestive tract. It is safe to say that Steve Axon was quite shocked when he received a call in the early hours of Saturday morning informing him of his call up to the AFL game after doing a SANFL game the night before. The GG understands that Ax celebrated the double pay check by having a few too many quiet ones out on the town with Squeeze.

Around this time of year the weather starts to get a bit more kind to us. This unfortunately was disregarded on the Sunday of Round 17 when we saw some of the worst conditions for many years. Torrential rain, hail and gale force winds were all part of the package that most of the umpires had to endure. However, all that were on took it in their stride and umpired very well according to the coaching staff. As the GG understands, Adrian Forster did in fact watch a few games and is no longer stuck in holiday mode after a 'refreshing' trip to Noarlunga. We're all sure he wants to head back to Scandinavia.

In the final minor round of the season we finally saw Matt Oxford get to Game 100. Now Matt is a man that every single Goal Umpire looks up to and is proud to call a colleague and a mate. Getting to any milestone in umpiring is a huge achievement, one that takes a lot of skill, respect and dedication; all three of which Ox displays day in and day out. He is a true legend and is the absolute barometer of the goalies. I'd love to be able to hang shit on Ox but I'm not sure it's possible. All I can say congratulations from the GG on 100 big ones.

For another edition that's it from me. Goodbye and thank your mother for the rabbits.

GG



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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.

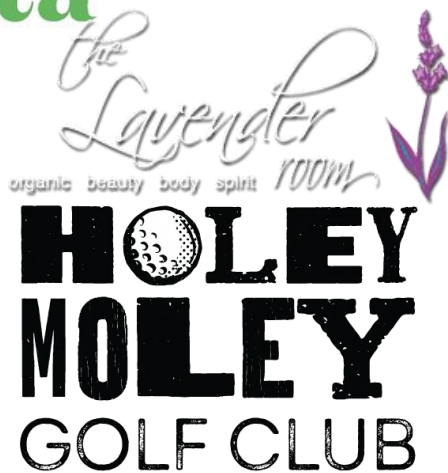
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