

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 5, 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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members, Life Members & Sponsors,

First and foremost, I thank you for your contributions to the Ball Up's across 2019. Without your assistance Ball Up wouldn't exist. I thank you all for always being so willing to assist when asked. It is and always will be greatly appreciated.

I really enjoy putting each Ball Up edition together but it does take a real team effort to bring it all together. To SANFLUA committee members Aaron Bennett, Andrew Crosby, Matthew Norton and Tom Sharpe I thank you for not only proof reading but for also distributing via email, uploading them to the SANFLUA website and for promotion through our social media platforms. Additionally, I'd also like to thank SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins who not only assists in the proof reading but is always a great help with providing content, being a sounding board for ideas and producing all SANFLUA milestone certificates. It would be remiss of me not to also thank Steve Paunovic for his outstanding work with the SANFLUA statistics. Steven has been a great help with providing details about milestones, statistics and all SANFLUA 'Fun Facts'.

Finally, to the Field Marshall, Boundary Bolter & Galloping Goalie I thank you for always giving a terrific insight into the inner sanctum of each discipline across the year. For those wanting to know their identities you will find an 'Easter Egg' in an edition of Ball Up that gives away their identities. Good luck to those who want to work it out. Of course I will deny everything. That is the purpose of them being ghost writers.

Enjoy your off season and I'll see you all in 2020.

Kind regards

Mathew Wilson
SANFLUA Publications Officer

2019 SANFLUA DATES

Sunday March 17th

Lawn Bowls at Walkerville Bowling Club

Saturday April 6th

After Match Catch Up #1 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

Saturday May 18th

After Match Catch Up #2 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

Sunday June 2nd

Life Member Luncheon at 722 Bar and Bistro

Saturday June 15th

Ten Pin Bowling at Kingpin Bowling Norwood

Saturday July 13th

After Match Catch Up #3 at The Gilbert Street Hotel

Saturday July 20th

Quiz Night at Walkerville Bowling Club

Thursday August 22nd

Annual Dinner at Adelaide Oval

Sunday September 22nd

SANFL Grand Final After Party at The Cathedral Hotel

PRESIDENT'S PEN - MATTHEW CUMMINS

Just like that, Season 2019 has been run and won! It seems every year just continues to move along at a rate of knots. Once again, it has been a pleasure to represent SANFLUA as President. Despite the obvious issues we face with our training venue, umpiring in this state continues to produce a fantastic group of Umpires that will no doubt enjoy success at higher levels of footy.

All our running members would have seen progress beginning at our training venue. An additional two new light towers have been installed on the oval, ensuring we have adequate lighting when its required in season 2020. Continual improvements being made to the surface, coupled with improvements in lighting ensures we're slowly getting a venue that is better than sub-standard.

I can let our members know that the building that is currently used by our trainers and umpires on the oval, will receive a significant upgrade over the summer. To be ready sometime in January, the building will have better changeroom facilities, storage for equipment and ensure our trainers can work in an environment unimpeded. Importantly, the building will be more hygienic for all who use it. I stress that this improvement in the building does not replace the initial proposal of what is hoped will turn the Pulteney parklands into a first class facility for our umpires.

An exciting development for SANFLUA in season 2020, will be the addition of our very own apparel. To be made available online thanks to Burley Sekem, we'll have a small range of fantastic merchandise options. A pressing issue amongst our group has always been we don't look like a team with our pre-match attire. The apparel options chosen will ensure we get closer to appearing like a team. We certainly hope our members embrace this.

Congratulations to all our members who were chosen to officiate in Grand Finals this year. It is reward for the dedication and effort made through season 2019. To our members who were rewarded for their effort at the Golden Whistle Awards congratulations. A special mention to Mitchell Harris (Golden Whistle), Damian Robinson (Silver Whistle) and Mathew Wilson (Golden Flags) on winning their respective awards.

It's with sadness I acknowledge the passing of 3 SANFLUA Life Members. Lyall Philips, Ken Potts and Tony Cooper all passed away recently. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

As stated above, it's been a pleasure to represent SANFLUA as your President. Whilst tough at times, I enjoy the opportunity to ensure our members are represented at management level and provided with the respect we deserve. We don't get everything we want at times, but without a strong SANFLUA, Umpiring will be worse off.

We look forward to all our members re-joining for season 2020 and encouraging those that aren't members, to sign up as well. Season 2020 is already proving to be an exciting one.

Enjoy your summer break with family and friends.

All the best.

Matt Cummins
President
E – president@sanflua.com.au

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER



STAN WICKHAM MEMORIAL SHIELD

Awarded annually to a Centre of Excellence Umpire within each discipline who provides his or her peers with a 'Role Model'.

Field Umpire:

Daniel Whittlesea

Boundary Umpire:

Hailey Siebert
(accepted by Assistant
Boundary Umpires Coach
Michael Buckler)

Goal Umpire:

Jared Murton



All photographs from the 2019 Centre of Excellence Awards Evening were provided by SANFLUA Publications.





2019 UNDER 18'S GRAND FINAL



v



Sunday 15th September

Adelaide Oval

12:10pm

Field Umpires:

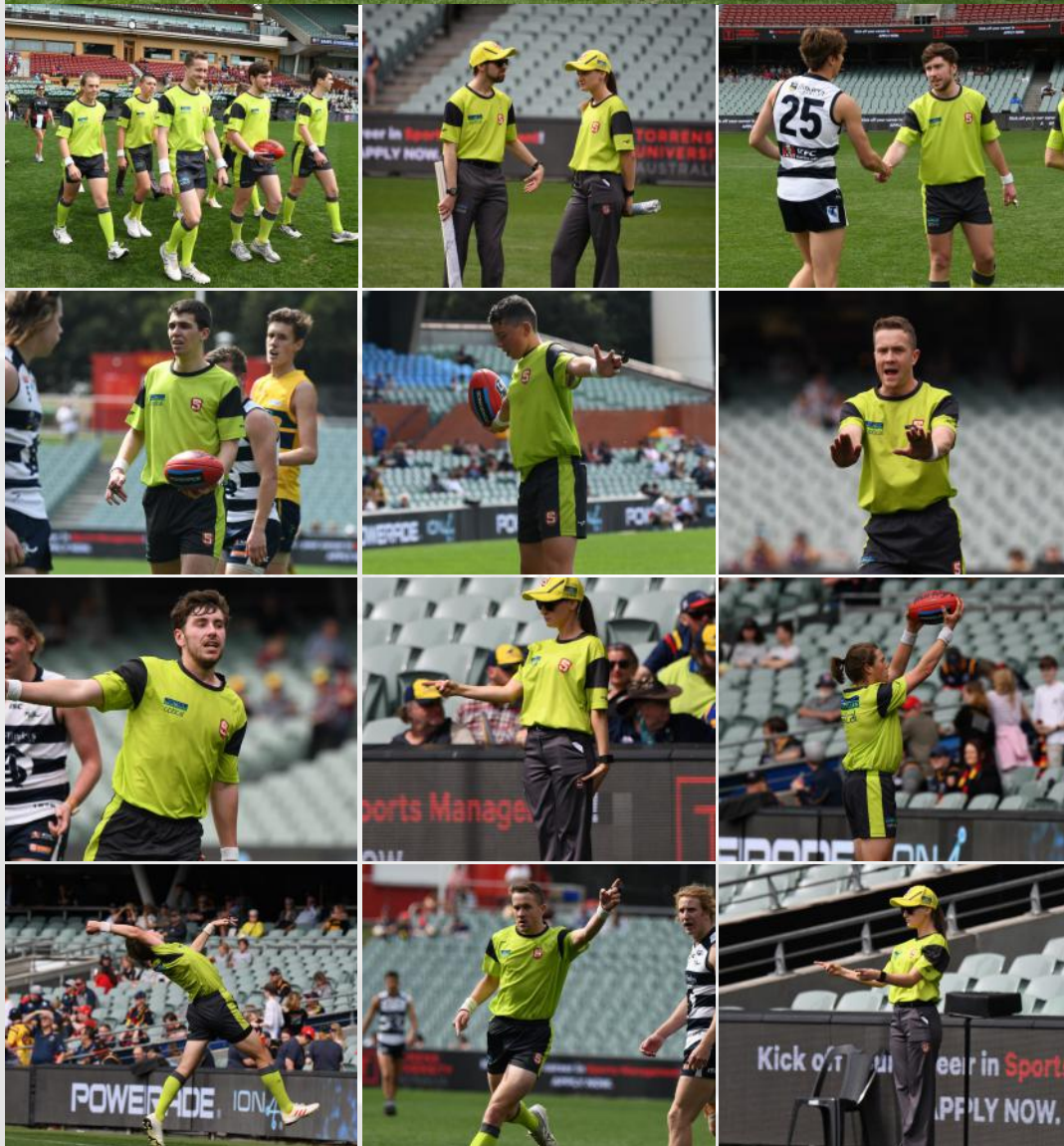
Henry Klemm
Jackson Nokes
Daniel Whittlesea
Max Richardson (Emergency)

Boundary Umpires:

Bradley Applebee
Anthony DeRuvo
Liam Draper
Jaxon Williams

Goal Umpires:

Georgia Henderson
Jared Murton
Liam McDonald (Emergency)



All photographs from the 2019 Under 18's Grand Final were kindly provided by SANFLUA Sponsor and owner of On The Ball Media Hannah Rexx.



2019 RESERVES GRAND FINAL



v



Sunday 22nd September

Adelaide Oval

11:25am

Field Umpires:

Aaron Bennett
Mason Beyer
Sam Morgan
Harrison Hughes (Emergency)

Boundary Umpires:

Will Carter
Taylor Dorsey
Corey Sauerwald
Ben Williams

Goal Umpires:

Emilie Hill
Liam McDonald
Tom Fahey (Emergency)



All photographs from the 2019 Reserves Grand Final were kindly provided by SANFLUA Sponsor and owner of On The Ball Media Hannah REXX.

2019 LEAGUE GRAND FINAL



v



Sunday 22nd September

Adelaide Oval

3:00pm

Field Umpires:

Tom Bryce
Andrew Crosby
Mitchell Harris
Rowan Hundertmark
(Emergency)

Boundary Umpires:

Gerard Carter
Damien Robinson
Sam Royans
Braden Theil

Goal Umpires:

Rhys Negerman
Mathew Wilson
Braden Ford (Emergency)

All photographs from the 2019 League Grand Final were kindly provided by SANFLUA Sponsor and owner of On The Ball Media Hannah REXX.



VALE LIFE MEMBERS: LYALL PHILLIPS, KEN POTTS & TONY COOPER

Lyall Phillips commenced umpiring with the SANFL in approximately 1963. His umpiring career was mainly in the Norwood/North and Country associations. He was an observer for the League post his running days. Lyall was inducted as a Life Member in 1979 together with M J Smith (deceased) and M E Ducker.

Ken Potts started umpiring in 1960 at the age of 26 and in just his second year (1961) Ken umpired the SANFL League Grand Final. Across his career Ken was a Boundary Umpire for 16 years, a Goal Umpire for 12 years, 6 years as an observer and many years as a trainer and massage consultant. He was also treasurer of the SANFLUA for an impressive combined 19 years over two stints. He was inducted as a Life Member in 1982. Ken's 60 years of commitment to SANFLUA is an impressive record and the Association and football in SA is indebted to him for his contribution. As a mark of respect for Ken, all Umpires wore Black Armbands during the 2019 SANFL League and Reserves Grand Finals.

Tony Cooper commenced umpiring in approximately 1960 after playing junior football for Sturt. He went on to umpire over 400 games over a 22 year career and across all three disciplines (Field, Boundary and Goal). In the early 80's he was awarded "The Charles Sturt Award" for his dedication to the SANFL. Tony remained heavily active with the SANFL as a local observer in metro leagues, as a statistician and finally as a match day steward until 2014. He was inducted as a Life Member of the SANFL Umpires Association in 1987.

The SANFL Umpires Association, its Members and Life Members pass on our condolences to the Phillips, Potts & Cooper families at this difficult time.



Ken Potts being interviewed by David Sobieraj at the 2018 SANFLUA Annual Dinner

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

DAVID ELLIOTT AWARD: THERON PHILP

"I was greatly honoured and humbled to be awarded the David Elliott Award for Outstanding Service to Umpiring at the 2019 Golden Whistle. David 'Slug' Elliott has been a true friend, fellow umpire, mentor, coach and confidante for my entire umpiring career, so it was made even more special to receive an award named in his honour.

I believe I have succeeded in achieving what I wanted to get out of umpiring over my 30 year career, despite not umpiring a League Grand Final or winning a Golden Whistle.

The reason why I embarked on my umpiring journey was because of the friendships, camaraderie and mateship I developed with all umpires I had the pleasure of training and umpiring with on game day. It is all of you I have sincere thanks for.

It is all of you guys and girls who made this such a special journey. I hope that I have been a positive influence to those around me, and helped umpires of all disciplines along the way to achieve their goals.

I would also like to thank family and friends for allowing me to live my dream of being an umpire."



Theron Philp with his David Elliott Award

MARK J POSA AWARD: TAYLOR DORSEY

"Being awarded the 2019 Mark J Posa Award couldn't have been more surprising. I was honestly shocked when my name was read out as the proud recipient; I am very grateful. It was a massive honour and something truly special that I won't forget. I can name so many other guys and girls that are worthy of this award for how far they have come through their Umpiring, but to be recognised by my coaches and given this award shows that my 2019 season was one to remember. Running in League Footy from Round 1, being chosen to go to Melbourne for the Under 18's National Championships and finishing 2019 off with the Reserves Grand Final has given me a great insight to where I can take my Umpiring. It has been a fantastic year, if not my best so far.

This wouldn't be at all possible if I didn't have all the great people I do around me. A massive thank you has to go to all the coaches, especially Quentin, who has helped me continuously throughout the year and given me several opportunities to prove what I can do.

A big thanks as well to all the Boundary boys, game day and training wouldn't be the same without them. As much as we love our footy and umpiring, having a laugh and throwing a bit of banter around is what we do best.

I should probably try again in thanking my partner Zoe as well, all I'll say this time is a massive thank you for all your continuous support.

Overall a very big thanks."



Taylor Dorsey with his Mark J Posa Award

DAVID ELLIOTT AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Theron Philp

MARK J POSA AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Taylor Dorsey

ANDREW VICKERS MEDALLION

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Michael Schramm

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

ANDREW VICKERS MEDALLION: MICHAEL SCHRAMM

"Receiving the 2019 Andrew Vickers Medallion is a tremendous honour and one I am very proud of. To be recognised by my coaches and in front of my peers on the night is something I will forever cherish.

I am very proud of my 155 game, 9 year League career so far and feel like I still have plenty to achieve in my time left as a running umpire. I'd like to thank my parents for their unconditional support. Mum for always asking me about umpiring and Dad for no longer being a coach. I'd like to thank my fellow field umpires for getting me through those tough training sessions, the games in the hail, and the fun times too. A special mention to the Wednesday night dinner boys. The camaraderie that we have is invaluable to me and I'm proud of us all.

Umpiring and the friends I have made from umpiring has helped me get through some very tough times. Times I am now comfortable talking about. I would encourage anyone who is struggling with mental health or any form of addiction to reach out to their support network, talk to their GP or have an open and honest chat to a friend. My phone is always on too."

"Manning up in the past was to suffer in silence, manning up now is to put your hand up"- Danny Frawley 2019.



Michael Schramm with his Andrew Vickers Medallion

DAVID ELLIOTT AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Theron Philp

MARK J POSA AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Taylor Dorsey

ANDREW VICKERS MEDALLION

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNER

Michael Schramm

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

MOST IMPROVED FIELD UMPIRE: TOM BRYCE

"A lot of great people have received this award, so to have my name listed below them is extremely humbling and something I am very proud of.

I want to thank all my family and friends. In particular, to my Mum and Dad for their ongoing support, thank you so much.

Thanks to Shane Harris and the entire coaching team for providing us with the opportunity to do what we love.

Thanks to the training and fitness staff for all your tireless efforts. Thanks to my team mates who make umpiring so special.

To everyone else who supports us, I can't thank you all individually, but you know who you are.

Finally, congrats to all the other award recipients and to everyone who contributed to this season.

We are all excited and looking forward to the 2020 season."



Tom Bryce with his Most Improved Field Umpire Award

MOST IMPROVED UMPIRE AWARDS

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNERS

Field Umpire:
Tom Bryce

Boundary Umpire:
Elliott Raymond

Goal Umpire:
James Georgiadis

MOST IMPROVED BOUNDARY UMPIRE: ELLIOTT RAYMOND

"I feel very fortunate to be awarded the Most Improved Boundary Umpire for 2019. I was so surprised to have won this award that in my speech I thanked Adam Cleary twice and forgot to thank Greg Dorey (sorry Greg)!

I really appreciate all the feedback, advice, and guidance from the observers this year, namely Quentin Brewer, Greg Dorey, Adam Cleary, Matthew Zacher and Michael Buckler. Each of them have devoted a great deal of their own time to improving others and I am really thankful that we have such a great group of people mentoring the next generation of umpires.

Special thanks to Michael Buckler for inviting me to join his running group over the offseason – before joining I couldn't run without tripping over my own two feet! I found this really helped with injury prevention and as a result I was able to umpire every game this season (including AFLW) which was a first for me. I would also like to acknowledge Josh Scott who helped with some minor injuries throughout the season.

Finally, I would like to thank some of the more senior umpires who really set the standard for umpiring and are always on hand to offer advice (especially Damian Robinson (Pryer) and Sam Royans). It's really important for a young group to have people to look up to for inspiration, and the senior umpires all set a great example to follow."



Elliott Raymond with his Most Improved Boundary Umpire Award

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

MOST IMPROVED GOAL UMPIRE: JAMES GEORGIADIS

"Winning the 2019 Most Improved Goal Umpire Award was an amazing honour.

It was totally out of the blue and such an amazing feeling once my name got announced.

I had a 'hard chat' with the coaches at the end of season 2018 after receiving no finals and I was told that I needed to lift my overall game and to their credit I have changed 180 degrees.

I thank the entire coaching staff very much for that and my fellow umpires from all disciplines, you guys are the ones that make it enjoyable week in week out.

Now for our Goalies weekend away!"



James Georgiadis with his Most Improved Goal Umpire Award

MOST IMPROVED UMPIRE AWARDS

AWARD DETAILS

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

2019 AWARD WINNERS

Field Umpire:
Tom Bryce

Boundary Umpire:
Elliott Raymond

Goal Umpire:
James Georgiadis

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

GOLDEN WHISTLE: MITCH HARRIS

"Winning the Golden Whistle is a massive honour and one that I am very proud of. Along with doing a Grand Final, it is the greatest reward that can be achieved at State League level, in my opinion. To receive the Golden Whistle is a great reward for all the hard work that I have put in since last November.

I'd like to thank Micky Buckler for allowing me to train with his running group at MacKinnon Parade over the summer period last year. His sessions pushed me to my limits whilst also focusing on running technique. I'd also like to thank the coaches that have influenced my career over the journey and have backed me in to be the best umpire that I can be.

To the umpiring group, especially the Fieldies, thanks for another great year. The attitude and spirit around the group this year has been amazing and really helps to make those cold nights more bearable. As I said on the night, I'd like to thank Theron for his support, especially over the last few years. I was lucky (or unlucky) enough to spend a lot of time running along Henley and Grange which no doubt has helped me get to where I am. It has been a pleasure to share many games together over the last couple of years Theron, enjoy your retirement.

Lastly to my family, they have been a massive support over the years since I started umpiring and continue to be there for me. To my wife Victoria, I can't thank you enough for the last 3-4 years, there is no coincidence that my umpiring career has excelled since being with you."



Mitch Harris with his Golden Whistle Award

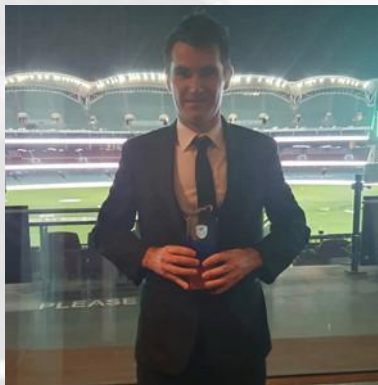
SILVER WHISTLE: DAMIAN ROBINSON

"I am absolutely delighted to be awarded my maiden Silver Whistle at the annual Golden Whistle award ceremony. Receiving such accolade has been a career goal of mine that at times I never thought I'd realise. To be considered a leader amongst such an amazing bunch of people is humbling, although, I do feel slightly overwhelmed to be spoken about in the same breath as past winners of this award.

There are numerous people that I need to thank and the majority I have done so individually, regardless, a massive thanks to everyone that has helped me get to this point and continues to enable me to be the best umpire I can be. You all know who you are.

If umpiring has taught me anything it's that success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts. For all those umpires hoping to be in this position in the future never give up on your dreams. Never be satisfied, always strive to improve no matter how good you think you are. Seek out your coaches, seek out your peers find ways to become a better person, athlete and umpire. Umpiring SANFL League footy is a privilege not a right.

Bring on next season."



Damian Robinson with his Silver Whistle Award

GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Field Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Mitch Harris

SILVER WHISTLE AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Boundary Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Damian Robinson

GOLDEN FLAGS AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Goal Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Mathew Wilson

2019 GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS EVENING

GOLDEN FLAGS: MATHEW WILSON

"Every year at the Golden Whistle evening I look at the list of Umpires who have won this prestigious award and to now have my name on that roll is truly an honour.

To my coaches' Abdul, Shannon, Peter, Adrian and Darren I thank you for all your hard work, for your feedback, for believing in me despite the setbacks and for always backing me in. I am beyond grateful.

To the Fieldies and Boundaries, thank you for making our culture fantastic. You all bring so much to making SANFL Umpiring a great environment to be apart of.

To the Goalies, not only are you such a talented group of umpires, but you are all an amazing bunch of people. I feel very blessed to be part of this group. A special mention again to James Georgiadis, Liam Macdonald, Braden Ford, Rhys Negerman and Matthew Cummins for your influence; it means the absolute world to me.

Looking back on my journey there have been so many individuals from within the current Goal, Boundary & Field Umpire groups as well as past umpires and past coaches who have helped me become the umpire and person I am. So to you all, I thank you for everything. You made this possible.

Finally, to my family, my children and my beautiful wife Kushla, thank for supporting me through the highs and picking me up through the lows. I love you all to the moon and back."



Mathew Wilson with his Golden Flags Award

GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Field Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Mitch Harris

SILVER WHISTLE AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Boundary Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Damian Robinson

GOLDEN FLAGS AWARD

AWARD DETAILS

Awarded annually to the best SANFL Goal Umpire.

2019 AWARD WINNER

Mathew Wilson

SEMI FINAL MILESTONE: 250TH LEAGUE MATCH

In the 1st Semi Final 2019, Norwood v Adelaide at the magnificent Adelaide Oval, Andrew 'Croz' Crosby umpired his 250th SANFL League Game. Just 2 weeks later, he would go on to umpire his 3rd SANFL League Grand Final when Glenelg defeated Port Adelaide in front of just over 39,000 people. September was a truly special month for Croz's umpiring career in 2019.

Croz began his umpiring career with considerably more hair in 2002, and ventured out to the SANFL for his first season in 2005. Croz actually umpired his first Reserves game in 2004 when he was umpiring with the Amateurs, and made a 'guest appearance' when Glenelg hosted Sturt at The Bay. He debuted in his first League game at Richmond Oval Round 13, 2007, when Westies hosted his beloved Roosters. Croz is definitely more suited to the smaller grounds, especially for his milestone games, as 10 years later, he umpired his 200th League Game at Unley Oval, when Sturt hosted Norwood in Round 8 2017, a ground he has umpired on the most of all grounds in his career. I was fortunate enough to share this experience with him, along with another great mate of ours in Schrammy. I felt somewhat out of place, being the only one not needing to lather my bald dome with layers of sunscreen prior to the game. I certainly wouldn't rock a bald head like those two.

Croz has had a stellar umpiring career thus far. He has umpired 3 SANFL League Grand Finals (2014, 2016 & 2019), 2 Reserves Grand Finals (2008, 2009), Under 19's Grand Final (2005) and was selected to umpire the AFLW in 2017 and 2018. He has also represented the State League by officiating in the 2018 (SA v WA at Adelaide Oval) and 2019 (WA v SA at Optus Stadium) State Games, in which he showcased his umpiring prowess. He truly is a dedicated and committed athlete, striving to get the best out of himself and excel in his umpiring career. He is a true role model for the younger umpires coming through, proving that with dedication and commitment comes reward.

Age is no barrier to Croz. He continues to train up in the pack, despite being significantly older than all but one of the group. He does the 'little things', and works hard to get the most out of his body. His fitness and work ethic are second to none. It is interesting to note another stat, that Croz has umpired the most ever games with his polar opposite when it comes to training, Toby Medlin, a guy that was rarely seen on the track.

(Continues next page)



Andrew Crosby holding the ball aloft as he walks out onto Adelaide Oval prior to his 250th League Match

ANDREW CROSBY (FIELD UMPIRE)

1st League Match:

Round 13 2007, West Adelaide v North Adelaide at Richmond Oval

100th League Match:

1st Semi Final 2012, Central District v North Adelaide at Football Park

200th League Match:

Round 8 2017, Sturt v Norwood at Unley Oval

250th League Match:

1st Semi Final 2019, Adelaide v Norwood at Adelaide Oval

Grand Finals:

League - 2014, 2015 (E), 2016 & 2019

Reserves - 2008 & 2009

U19 - 2005

Achievements:

2014 & 2015 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire

2017 & 2018 AFLW

2018 & 2019 State Games

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

SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Andrew's most frequent ground to officiate League is Unley Oval (38).

His most frequent League Field Umpire colleague is Toby Medlin (32).

Andrew has made 4 country trips across his 250 League matches to Mannum, Balaklava, Kadina & Bordertown.

SEMI FINAL MILESTONE: 250TH LEAGUE MATCH

The dedication and commitment that Croz exudes, is not only related to his training and on-field umpiring career. He has worked tirelessly for the Umpires Association in a few roles, more recently as Secretary. Without his efforts, many of the social events, especially the Annual Dinner, would not be the huge success they are. He does this without complaining, and with enthusiasm to ensure the members get the best experience with their membership. I personally am grateful for his efforts, and have enjoyed many a function. I implore everyone who is considering joining the committee to do so. I am sure Croz will agree it is a fantastic experience to give back to others involved in umpiring in South Australia.

Croz's umpiring career has not come without its trials and tribulations. He has battled his own demons, yet has dealt with them with grace, courage and dignity. Many would have given in, but Croz has worked hard to overcome adversity, and this has shaped his fabulous character and fostered enormous respect for him in the group. He decided to take a significant pay cut from working as a successful teacher, to work in the SANFL Umpiring Department as Umpiring Recruitment Officer. This change has certainly helped him, and like everything Croz takes on, he has become one of the most successful umpiring recruiters we have ever had. So successful in fact, he was told to stop recruiting mid-year, because there weren't enough mentors to take on the huge numbers of young females and males wanting to enter the junior umpiring ranks.

As I move into umpiring retirement, one of the things I will miss is mateship, and Croz is one of the best mates in and out of umpiring you can have. I will certainly miss him on the track, and running around with him on game day. I certainly have met a lifelong mate in Croz, and look forward to many years of watching the football with him as a Life Member one day at Adelaide Oval. I will never forget the effort he put in for my tribute video. I will remember that for the rest of my life. Only a true mate could organise such a parting gift. Thanks Croz, and again, congratulations on the 250 game milestone. Word has it, you want to keep running till you're 50!! Push for 350+ games mate.

It would be an amazing effort and achievement to cap off your stellar career.

By Theron Philp



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Andrew Crosby with his 250th League Match Certificate

ANDREW CROSBY (FIELD UMPIRE)

1st League Match:

Round 13 2007, West Adelaide v North Adelaide at Richmond Oval

100th League Match:

1st Semi Final 2012, Central District v North Adelaide at Football Park

200th League Match:

Round 8 2017, Sturt v Norwood at Unley Oval

250th League Match:

1st Semi Final 2019, Adelaide v Norwood at Adelaide Oval

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League - 2014, 2015 (E), 2016 & 2019

Reserves - 2008 & 2009

U19 - 2005

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2017 & 2018 AFLW

2018 & 2019 State Games

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PRELIM FINAL MILESTONE: 100TH LEAGUE MATCH

A perfect spring day, mid-September, sunny with a light breeze and a temperature in the mid 20's. This sets the scene for the 2019 SANFL League Preliminary Final between Glenelg & Adelaide. A tough and tight contest has Glenelg kicking the first goal within the first 90 seconds of the game & within the first 8 minutes have kicked the first 4 goals.

The final siren sounds with a win to Glenelg by 27 points & they book a Grand Final spot against Port Adelaide. This is the first finals game Glenelg has won since 2008 & will be only their 2nd Grand Final appearance since 1992.

On this day in 2019 Brayden Theil was officiating in his 100th League game. When Glenelg won their last finals game Brayden was only 11 years old, starting his football journey and only dreaming of umpiring on the big stage.

Brayden started his umpiring career with the Southern panel in 2011, he joined the SANFL in 2012. In that same year he was the first Boundary Umpire to officiate in both the U/16s & U/18s Grand Finals in the same year. A few more highlights while with the SANFL include making his Reserves debut in Round 20 2012 and his League debut in Round 19 2013. Brayden officiated in the 2015 Reserves Grand Final & officiated in the 2017 & 2019 League Grand Finals. In 2018 Brayden also added the SA v WA State game to an already impressive list of achievements.

I had wondered why Brayden has so many pictures of running shoes on his Instagram account but I now understand why due to the number of miles that he has run so he must need to change his shoes regularly!

Brayden is a quiet achiever with a clear focus on his ultimate goal of one day umpiring AFL. He gets on with the job at hand and gets it done with minimal fuss. He always puts in his best effort and it is these attributes that will assist him in reaching his ultimate goal.

Brayden sees his career highlights as officiating in the 2018 State Game & officiating in both the 2017 & 2018 ANZAC day clashes.

A young man with a very impressive list of achievements that will only continue to grow in the years ahead.

Brayden was not even born when Glenelg played in their last Grand Final & was only 3 years old when Port last won a Grand Final, so I expect his 101st League game will also be a game to remember for many years to come.

Congratulations & trust me there are many more games ahead with many more achievements to come.

By Quentin Brewer



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Brayden Theil with his 100th League Match Certificate

BRAYDEN THEIL (BOUNDARY UMPIRE)

1st League Match:

Round 19 2013, Sturt v North
Adelaide at Unley Oval

50th League Match:

Round 12 2017, South Adelaide v
Central District at Noarlunga Oval

100th League Match:

Preliminary Final 2019, Glenelg v
Adelaide at Adelaide Oval

Grand Finals:

League - 2017 & 2019

Reserves - 2015

U18 - 2012

U16 - 2012

Achievements:

2016 Most Improved Boundary
Umpire

2018 State Game SA v WA at
Adelaide Oval

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

SANFLUA Stat Fun Facts:

Brayden's most frequent ground to officiate League football is Noarlunga Oval (20). Unley Oval is in 2nd place (13).

Brayden's least frequented ground for League football is Elizabeth Oval (2).

Brayden's most frequent League Boundary Umpire colleagues are Damian Robinson & Martin Elsegood (22).

FINALS MILESTONES

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

- SANFL Preliminary Final

^Sam Royans (Boundary Umpire) on his 200th SANFL match during the SANFL Preliminary Final between Glenelg v Adelaide at Adelaide Oval on Sunday 15th September. Sam will be inducted as an SANFL Life Member at the SANFL Annual General Meeting early next year.

- AFL Finals Series

The SANFLUA congratulates South Australian members Peter Challen (G), Matthew Konetschka (B) & Mark Thomson (B) as well as Victorian based member Craig Fleer (F) on their selection for the 2019 AFL Finals series.

An additional congratulations to Matthew Konetschka who was selected to officiate the 2019 AFL Grand Final. This was Matthew's second AFL Grand Final following his appearance in the 2017 (Adelaide v Richmond) decider.

APPROACHING MILESTONES

SANFL Milestones

50th League Match:
Scott Hargreaves (B) - 49

150th League Match:
Chris Bull (B) - 147

200th League Match:
Peter Challen (G) - 195

250th League Match:
Matthew Cummins (G) - 248

300th League Match:
Corey Bowen (F) - 295

AFL Milestones

50th AFL Match
Leigh Haussen (F) - 49

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

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



2019 AFL Finals Umpires Peter Challen, Craig Fleer, Matthew Konetschka and Mark Thomson



SANFLUA President Matthew Cummins presenting Sam Royans with his 200th League Match Certificate



Matthew Konetschka with fellow AFL Grand Final Boundary Umpire Ian Burrows on the MCG prior to the 2019 AFL Grand Final

FIELD MARSHALL

Congratulations to everyone who umpired across the 2019 season. From our first preseason training session (that began back in January) to the end of September, this season flew by. Our new fitness coaches (lead by Josh) pushed us to breaking point. I am sure a few of our sessions at the start of the year contravened the Geneva Convention.

Glenelg won their first Premiership in 33 years against Port Adelaide at the Adelaide Oval. Congratulations to Croz, Mitch and Tom who did an outstanding job in front of 39,000 people. Earlier that day we saw, Sam, Aaron and Mason represent the group in the Reserves Grand Final. The week before, we saw Daniel, Henry and Jackson umpire the Under 18's Grand Final. All Umpires (across the three grades) did a fantastic job.

After the match, many SANFLUA members went across the road to the SANFLUA Grand Final party. We wish to thank the Cathedral Hotel who hosted the event; it was an enjoyable night for all of those who attended. Tom Bryce received a belated acknowledgement for being the best-dressed Umpire at the Annual Dinner. Never has someone worn a turtleneck with such panache. Above all else, Tom rated this award as the highlight of his season.

Just last week, our attention turned to the Golden Whistle. The Golden Whistle was held at the Adelaide Oval, with Stadium golf taking place in the background. It is a good thing the golfing participants did not realise an umpiring function was taking place otherwise they may have used us as target practice as we were walking into the venue.

Congratulations to Tom Bryce (this man can do no wrong) who was the recipient of the Most Improved Field Umpire for 2019. Tom had an outstanding season that resulted in him umpiring his first League Grand Final. The award was a fitting acknowledgement for all of Tom's hard work throughout 2019. With his umpiring ability, hard work and keen dress sense, I can see Tom achieving great things in the future.

Congratulations to Mitch Harris, who after umpiring his second SANFL Grand Final, was bestowed with the honour of the Golden Whistle. The Golden Whistle was a well-deserved acknowledgement for Mitch's season as he continued to umpire at a very high level. Michael Schramm received the Andrew Vickers award, which was also a well-deserved acknowledgement. Schrammy's heart felt speech epitomised what the award stood for and gave perspective to the role that family, friends and loved ones play in our umpiring and ultimately, our life.

We bid farewell to Theron (who after 30 years) retired from umpiring in the SANFL. Theron received the 'Slug' for his contribution to umpiring. When Theron started umpiring with the SANFL, turtlenecks were still in fashion, Glenelg's Premiership drought was only 3 years and the end of year award ceremony was named the Bronze Whistle. Theron has made an enormous contribution and left an enduring legacy to umpiring in this state. All the best for what the future holds.

Until 2020, that's all from Field Marshall.

BOUNDARY BOLTER

Wow, what a year it has been!

Congratulations to Brayden Theil, Gerard Carter, Damien Robinson and Sam Royans on the League Grand Final. Massive achievement, also big congratulations to Damo on winning the Silver Whistle very well deserved and lot of hard work has gone into it!

Now where do we start, it was a bitter sweet end for Sam 'Recall' Royans, we all knew you couldn't win the Silver Whistle again. Your throws this year have been worse than TC's haircut. Not to be put down, you continued to always throw everyone under the bus though. How about you do a long run for once mate?

Has anyone ever known someone who takes umpiring as serious as Fish? Like mate, we get it! You're passionate about it but no need to run 100km a week and then talk about your diet all the time. Also that supposed 'gym work' doesn't seem to be working for you, your arms are getting smaller.

Also old mate Tom Kelly pulling the "I won't umpire if I get Reserves" & look what happened mate! Back umpiring where you belong. Also, Dylan Speck, it looks like Q found out about that basketball game and put you in your place.

Unfortunately for both Ben Williams and Taylor Dorsey some sort of mystery Bolter took your spot this year in League finals. God knows what you both have to do next year. Maybe ask Royans and Damo for some advice on how to sweet talk Q.

Also Steve rumours are flying in thick and fast that you thought you should have done League this year, but unfortunately from BB's sources you're lucky to be umpiring Reserves.

How about Brayden or should we say Mumma's boy? Unfortunately for him, his mum has ended up costing him quite a few dollars in fines. But seriously it's great to see how well you're doing and how much she loves you and your pickle juice.

Now Corey Sauerwald, you always talk about flying your planes and what not, how about you actually fly to training for once and actually turn up. Also turning up just to get a rub is plain soft. Consider yourself lucky to be umpiring Ressie finals pal. You're lucky Q didn't find out about you staying up till 4am in town before both the Preliminary and GF.

Will Carter where do we even start with you? You were meant to be the 'finalist specialist', turns out you were wrong, unless you were talking about Ressies. Maybe focus on your home and away season first. Congratulations on the Ressies GF though.

Scotty, Scotty, Scotty what can we say, you're a freak of nature it's not fair how fast you are (even being injured). That KFC pot belly is something to be admired.

Matty Herrmann or should we say 'Future'. How are those Woolshed sessions slaying the Dragons? Don't worry, you got to slay the dragons before you reach the princess. Also what is with this rumour both you and Corey Herrmann have pulled out of both Golden Whistle and End of Season trip? We expect better from the Herrmanns.

Now Zacher being an observer you're meant to be non-bias, but from our sources we've heard that Fish bribed you with donuts to get his spot in finals. Honestly, we do blame you though. Donuts are awesome.

Gerard Carter, never outdone are you. We knew you were always wild when you drink but you've taken it to a whole new level, still drinking every day since the GF. Also, how's the headache after rocking up to GW drunk and then spewing it all up at the shed later that night?

Dylan Whan, aren't we glad you came back, well it would be nice if you could actually train and attend social events but we can't ask too much of a professional poker player can we?

Pat Pat Pat, have you got your shirt back in the mail yet or is still coming? What a year it's been for you. First year with us and in League, we're all glad you came though. We are better than the Vic's.

That's it from me this year, hope everyone enjoys their off season and comes back strong next year.

BB

GALLOPING GOALIE

Here we are, the seasons finished. About bloody time too. I don't think the group could put up with another minute of Liam McDonald running his mouth. Ahh the serenity! Unfortunately that is until the end of season trip that the Goalies have coming up and it's rumoured that Liam is actually bunking with Peter Honeyman who when questioned about room arrangements let off a vast array of colourful language followed by a large NO! Looks like you might have to bring your own bedding and sleep outside Li Li.

The GG would like to congratulate all umpires who were successful in gaining a spot in this year's Grand Finals. As the GG understands it was one of the most competitive seasons of recent years, and just goes to show the standard of umpiring is at such a high level. Congratulations to the following. In the colts we had Georgia, Jared and Liam. Yep you read that right, Liam got the call up the morning of as Brad Jenkins had to pull out as apparently flipping burgers and washing dishes was more important. Come on Brad! It's going to take a lot for you to come back from this one! In the Magoos we saw Emilie, Liam (again!) and Tom Fahey. Unfortunately as most will know this was Liam's final 'swan song' before he makes the move to Field umpiring next season and all the group can say is Good Luck you might need it! Finally in the A's we had Rhys, Wilson and Bray Bray. The GG has it under good word that all went well in their respective Grand Finals however I have heard that Wilson being the perfectionist he is needed a cuddle after game due to being pretty pissed off at a Port player who ran into him and knocked him out of position late in the final term. Toughen up mate you just umpired a Grand Final! Mind you after his 3rd Hahn Super Dry can I am sure all was well in the world again.

A big congratulations also goes out to Peter Challen for gaining a spot in the 2019 AFL Finals series officiating in the week 1, West Coast vs Essendon at Optus Stadium. GG was lucky enough to tune in and see that Pete had a sensational game and represented SA with pride. Well done.

Last weekend we had the annual Golden Whistle and the GG would like to congratulate, Mathew Wilson for taking out the Golden Flags and James Georgiadis for winning Most Improved Goalie. Both are thoroughly deserving winners. As most will know the Golden Whistle is certainly a wild night and this year was no exception with Slug definitely taking out the BOG. This is after being a bottle of red deep before giving his acceptance speech, as well as chatting up women old enough to be his mother at the Woolshed later on in the evening/early hours of last Saturday morning.

As mentioned earlier in my piece this weekend we see the senior Goalies take off on their end of season trip. Tanunda being the destination of choice after a group consensus earlier in the year. A massive shout out goes to Mathew Wilson (geez, he is racking up the plugs in this edition) for working tirelessly in his own time to get this trip organised. Unfortunately we won't see two familiar faces in the Barossa this year as Cummo and his wife Peta will be living it up in the USAs with their two kids, Rylee and Rhys. Enjoy guys!

The Barossa trip is set to be a cracker and I'd love to share some of the antics in edition 1 next season, but remember what happens on footy trips stays on footy trips. Sorry!

So From me that's it for 2019, see you all fresh and ready for season 2020.

Stay Classy Adelaide.

GG

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The SANFLUA thanks all of our major sponsors for 2019.

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P E T E R S H E A R E R

M E N S W E A R & S U I T H I R E



SANFLUA

Founded in 1947, the South Australian National Football League Umpires Association (SANFLUA) is a not for profit organisation representing the needs and interests of umpires officiating at South Australian National Football League (SANFL) and Australian Football League (AFL) level.

The aim of the association is to provide a supportive and team-oriented umpiring environment and unite members across all umpiring disciplines. The association has a primary role in organising social events throughout the year and in maintaining its Life Members network.

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The SANFLUA would also like to thank the following companies and businesses for their contributions in 2019:

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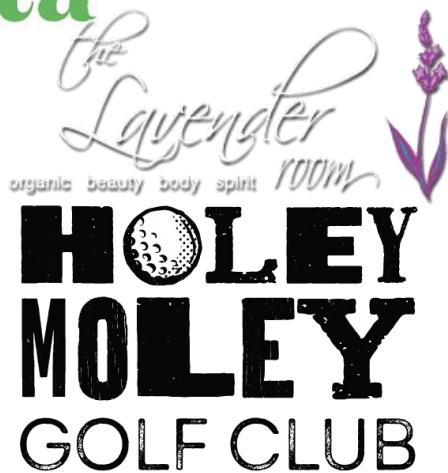
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