

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

BALL UP

ISSUE 1, 2023



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2023 Committee

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....And Much More

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2023 SANFLUA DATES

SATURDAY 6TH MAY @ 6 PM

POST GAME CATCH UP #1 AT THE ASTOR HOTEL

SUNDAY 21ST MAY FROM 12:15PM

LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHION BRITANNIA HOTEL

SATURDAY 27TH MAY @ 6:15 PM

TEN PIN BOWLING AT KINGPIN NORWOOD

POST GAME CATCH UP #2 AT THE ASTOR HOTEL DATE TBC

MAJOR EVENT

MORE DETAILS TO COME

75TH ANNUAL DINNER

MORE DETAILS TO COME

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

GRAND FINAL PARTY AT THE CATHEDRAL HOTEL

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Welcome to season 2023 and our first edition of Ball up for the year! What a start to the year we've had. Now with the peak of COVID almost behind us it has been great to see minimal interruptions to the season as well as in the outside world.

We held our 2022 AGM earlier this year and it was great to see such a well-attended meeting. Joining us for their first year on the committee we have Kylan Beech, Michael Button, Taylah Parker, Cameron Scott and Brad Hammer. As well as Aaron Bennett taking on a new role as secretary and of course myself stepping in as President. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members Dean Garrett, Mat Wilson, Matthew Norton and Matthew Cummins. Their hard work and dedication to the committee has shown throughout the last few years and has made our committees transition such an easy and successful one.

Not long after the AGM we hosted our annual membership BBQ. It was so rewarding to see this event return after struggling to host over the past few years due to COVID restrictions. This event was well received and overall was a success in getting plenty of members on board. Thanks to all that helped on the night.

Our current membership numbers excluding Life Members currently stands at 92 and growing, which is an increase from last year. A big reason for this is the return of the match fee deduction payment option. This previously had been lost to the pressures of COVID in the SANFL. Academy fees were slightly increased by \$10 this year to help offset some costs for the association. However, all other fees remained the same. Membership fees are our number one source of revenue and are the key to ensuring SANFLUA remains a viable entity, giving a voice to you, our umpires on key issues that affect us. Whilst a lot of the issues we take to the SANFL can be drawn out and frustrating to gain a result, without SANFLUA we will suffer further.

Hopefully you've had a chance to have a look through our brand new website. This has been a great success so far and has made membership and general communication a lot smoother. If you haven't yet been sure to have a look at www.sanflua.com.au. A big thanks to Aaron who put in a lot of hard work to get it up and running.

We've already had our first after match catch up for the year. But if you missed out don't stress we will be having several more later in the year along with other social events. Keep an eye out on our socials, Ball ups and your emails for these.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our returning sponsors for 2023, but we are always looking to gain more. If you or someone you know would like to help out the association with sponsorship in any way please sing out. Our main sponsors can be found on our website and I am sure they will appreciate your support as much as we appreciate theirs.

Once again thank you to all those that have re-joined for 2023 already and those that have joined for the first time. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you're still deciding to jump on board for this season I strongly encourage you to do so. We put our umpires interests and wellbeing at the fore front of everything we do. If you do have anything you wish to bring up or any matters you may wish to discuss please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. My contact details can be found at the bottom of this letter, or come grab me at training.

All the best,

Braden Ford

Email: president@sanflua.com.au

Phone: 0410148204

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

NEW FACES JOIN THE SANFLUA COMMITTEE

This year's AGM saw a big change for the SANFLUA Committee. To begin with, Braden Ford is the new SANFLUA President, after being on the General Committee for several years now. Braden brings a wealth of SANFLUA knowledge with him, as well as family history through his Grandpa. Braden is well regarded within the umpiring group and has now umpired over 110 League matches and umpired his first League Grand Final in 2023.

Regarding the General Committee, Michael Button (Social Secretary), Taylah Parker (Social Secretary), Brad Hammer (Publications), Cameron Scott (Communications) and Kylan Beech (Social Media) join the Committee as new members.

Aaron Bennett has been elevated to Secretary, after being on the General Committee for many years and Sean Burton continues his role as Treasurer. Other familiar faces include Craig Trewartha (Life Members), Abdul Alpaslan (Property), Steven Paunovic (Statistics) and Chris Rabin (Sponsorship). A big thankyou is needed for all returning Committee members, you all do a wonderful job and are fantastic advocates for the SANFLUA.

A special mention is also needed for Matthew Cummins, who was President since 2018 and helped steer the SANFLUA through some incredible situations over the past 5 years. Being President is no easy feat, let alone through some trying years. Furthermore, thank you to all retiring General Committee members who all played a part in helping and shape the SANFLUA during their time.

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

By SANFLUA Committee

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AARON BENNETT:

Started umpiring in 2005 SASFA South Adelaide.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2011 – Field.

Why you started umpiring: To stay involved in the game, not much of a player.

SANFL milestones: 2011 SANFL U16 GF, 2016 and 2019 Reserves GF, 2015 and 2016 NAB AFL U18, 2016 AFL GF Talent Game Curtain Raiser, 2017 AIS National Officiating Scholarship, 2018 SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field Umpire, 2021 Andrew Vickers Medal.

Hobbies and occupation: Supporting Aston Villa, travelling, critiquing chicken Parmis, business account manager at Officeworks.

Why you joined the committee: I joined in 2017 as I felt my passion for umpiring, ability to generate relevant, fun ideas and sense of creativity could make a positive difference to the Association. 7 years later, I'm still enjoying as much as ever.

MICHAEL BUTTON:

Started umpiring in Western Border Football League (Mount Gambier) in 2008.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2016 as a Goal Umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Goal Umpiring appealed to me being a footy nerd and I was never going to make it as a player.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2016, Reserves GF 2018, Most Improved Goal Umpire 2016 & 2020, State Game 2022, League GF 2022.

Hobbies and occupation: Work as a land surveyor. Watching any sport and spending time with family and friends enjoying good food and drink.

Why you joined the committee: Knowing there was going to be a rollover with some experienced committee members thought it was time for me to put my hand up and serve for the SANFLUA which does so much for its members.

CHRIS RABIN:

Started with SANFL in 2009.

Why you joined the SANFL: To contribute to society and help out where I can as well to enjoy footy.

SANFL milestones: Reserves Grand Final debut 2009 and LEAGUE Grand final 2010.

Hobbies and occupation: Drummer and ballroom dancer as my hobbies, occupation Remedial Massage Therapist for 14 years/SANFL trainer and 1st year as SANFL Property Steward. As well as volunteering for SAPOL, RAH, TDU, SOLAR Challenge, AFL MASTERS and many more.

Why you joined the committee: I joined the committee in 2010, 2015 and 2022. Why I joined, is to help wherever I can as a general member. Then I became sponsorship committee member in 2022.

BRAD HAMMER:

Started umpiring in Panther League as a field umpire in 2009 (primary school footy).

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2014 as a Goal Umpire (I saw the light).

Why you started umpiring: Goal Umpiring just naturally appealed to me after being invited to SANFL summer training in 2013.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2017, Most Improved in 2017, Mark J Posa Award in 2018, Reserves GF 2017, 2018 and 2021.

Hobbies and occupation: social worker at SA Health and I enjoy most things sport, spending time with family and going out with mates.

Why you joined the committee: I wanted to join last year but my final year of uni got in the way so I thought I would join the general committee this year, knowing that there were some vacant spots.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

CAMERON SCOTT:

Started umpiring in what league: Glenelg School Football Association (Primary School Football).

Year started in SANFL and discipline: Started in the early 2000's as a field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Started umpiring because I worked out that I wasn't going to play footy at a high level.

SANFL milestones: Umpired the 2022 SANFLW Grand Final at Coopers Stadium.

Hobbies and occupation: Playing golf, watching all kinds of sport, travel and visiting breweries and wineries with friends. Police Officer.

Why you joined the committee: I joined the committee to have a bit of a voice for the SANFLW panel.

BRADEN FORD:

Started umpiring in what league: NEMJFA.

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 2011 as a Goal Umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Granddad use to umpire so I thought I'd give it a try.

SANFL milestones: 2015 League Debut, 2022 SANFL GF, 2022 Golden Flags.

Hobbies and occupation: Farmer.

TAYLAH PARKER:

I began my umpiring journey in 2018 at a Basic umpires course at AAMI stadium. I had never played football myself however had a small running background at the time, having completed a few half marathons and loved football so though may as well give it a go. From here I was invited out to the SANFL Academy group that year as a boundary umpire.

SANFL milestones: Under 18 SANFL men's Grand final and was awarded the Stan Whickem award. I was then moved to the senior squad in 2021. In 2023 I have also taken on a leadership role in coaching the SANFL junior umpires with helping promote more females into the sport.

Hobbies and occupation: Studying Medical Imaging as well as work both at orthopaedics SA and The Athletes foot. I race track in pro running in events such such as Bay Sheffield and Stawell gift.

Why you joined the committee: I wanted to help bring together the umpiring community and promote an environment where others could combine and socialise and build connections. I also wanted to provide a female voice to the committee which could promote female numbers within the umpiring community in South Australia.

SEAN BURTON:

Year started in SANFL: 2003 as a boundary.

SANFL milestones: 200 League games, Silver Whistle in 2013, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 SANFL League GF.

Hobbies and occupation: Senior manager at Audit & Assurance Grant Thornton.

Why you joined the committee: To help umpires and give back to the community.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

CRAIG TREWARTHA:

Year started in SANFL and discipline: 1967 and field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Injured whilst playing for North Adelaide under18.

SANFL milestones: Norwood/North district GF at 21 in 1971. 1900 senior games. 1 league game. Bangkok for final of the Asian league.

Hobbies and occupation: Accountant and Financial business coach.

Why you joined the committee: It was expected back in 1967.

STEVEN PAUNOVIC:

Started umpiring in 1998 in SANFL (High Schools, then Independent Schools) and retired at the end of the 2017 season.

Why you started umpiring: Knew I couldn't play, wanted to be involved, in particular always watched the Goal Umpires.

SANFL milestones: League debut 2002, 200th League 2015, League GF in 2009 and 2014, Golden Flags in 2014, AFL from 2010-2011, Mark J Posa Award in 2001.

Occupation - SANFL Juniors Umpiring Coordinator.

I joined the committee to be a part of making a difference. In 2017, I was tasked with bringing all of the SANFL Umpires Stats and Profiling together which was always a hobby of mine for my own. Keeping the information together is vital for all our members.

ABDUL ALPASLAN:

Started umpiring in 1996 and first SANFL match in 1997.

Retired from umpiring in 2007 with 21 league games and now current senior squad goal umpire coach.

Hobbies and occupation: currently working at Adelaide Oval and spending time with family.

Currently undertaking the property portfolio in SANFLUA and have done so for many years.

KYLAN BEECH:

Started umpiring in 2016 at the SANFL as a boundary umpire for a year and then came back in 2019 as a field umpire.

Why you started umpiring: Started when I was 10, a family friend got me into it.

SANFL milestones: 50+ SANFL games, SANFLW GF and U16 GF.

Why you joined the committee: Umpiring is my biggest passion and I want people to love the social aspect of umpiring. The comradery can change an umpire's look on umpiring massively!

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

2023 SANFLUA MEMBERSHIP BBQ

2023 has seen a return to the traditional and highly popular SANFLUA BBQ membership drive. It has been sometime since we have been able to have a BBQ membership drive at Pulteney in preseason and it didn't disappoint. The membership BBQ offers all our previous members and new ones to mingle across all disciplines over a snag or two and sign up for the coming year.

The entire Committee would like to thank those that all signed up for 2023, new and old! This year's BBQ was a huge success and our membership numbers are back up towards those of pre Covid.

This year the Committee provided all of those that signed up with a SANFLUA bottle opener, thanks to Full Hammer. The SANFLUA would like to thank all those that helped on the night.

If you haven't signed up yet and would like too, please head to <https://www.sanflua.com.au/membership>

All memberships are tax deductible and to our first-year members, welcome aboard. We look forward to seeing you all at our first social event.

CHRIS RABIN TAKES OVER DEANO

This year the SANFL umpires have a new property steward in Chris Rabin. Chris has been around the SANFL umpiring scene for a while now and he is now undertaking a new role. Chris continues to be a supportive trainer for all our umpires and has selflessly put his hand up to take on the property steward role.

Chris is an important member to the umpiring team and is always up for a chat with any umpire – old and young. Thank you Chris for putting your hand up for this role!

By SANFLUA Committee.



SANFLUA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Full (League and Reserves)

- Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
 - SANFLUA Key Ring
 - Subsidised social events
 - Discounts and special offers from our sponsors
 - Discounted umpiring equipment (eg, whistles & scorecard holders)
- \$170 annually**

Academy (Academy and SANFLW Umpires)

- Annual Dinner (drinks + 3 course meal provided)
 - SANFLUA Key Ring
 - Subsidised social events
 - Discounts and special offers from our sponsors
 - Discounted umpiring equipment (eg, whistles & scorecard holders)
- \$120 annually**

Associate and Trainer (Coaches, Trainers & Supporters)

- SANFLUA Key Ring
 - Subsidised social events
 - Discounts and special offers from our sponsors
 - Discounted umpiring equipment (eg, whistles & scorecard holders)
- \$40 annually**

First Year Academy (New to SANFL and SANFLW in 2023)

- SANFLUA Key Ring
 - Subsidised social events
 - Discounts and special offers from our sponsors
 - Discounted umpiring equipment (eg, whistles & scorecard holders)
- \$35 annually**

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

AFTER MATCH CATCH UP #1

Our first After Match Catch Up was held on the 6th of May at The Astor Hotel. As Always, The Astor is a relaxed environment where umpires, coaches, partners, Life Members and friends can enjoy a nice night out and some beverages. It was great to see the younger group of umpires attend the event, along with those that have continued to show up year after year. Thank you to The Astor for continuing to have us, whilst being busy with their other private functions. We look forward to you attending our next After Match Catch Up at The Astor Hotel with the date and time to be confirmed in coming weeks. Please keep a look out on our socials and your email for the confirmed date and time.



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CRAIG'S QUIZ

1. In 1929 West Adelaide footballer Edgar 'Dickie' Bennetts was reported for 'Hacking' (kicking) an umpire and found guilty of the offence. What was his suspension?
 - (a) 1.5 years
 - (b) 3.5 years
 - (c) 5.5 years
2. The Thomas Seymour Hill Trophy has been presented to the SANFL Premiership team since 1963. Who originally donated the trophy and the replicas that are kept by the clubs?
3. What is the origin of the term scoring a 'Behind'? i.e., to kick a Behind or the naming of the 'Behind' post.
4. Where was Col Light's statue located before it was moved to Montefiore Hill in 1939?
 - (a) Light Square
 - (b) On North Terrace near the Museum
 - (c) Victoria Square
5. What is the official name of the area between the oval's northern gate and Pennington Terrace, that is used for car parking?
 - (a) Stella Bowen Park
 - (b) Montefiore Hill Park
 - (c) Pirltawardli

ANSWERS:

1. 1. 'Dickie' Bennetts was suspended for 3.5 years, from Sept 1929 until April 1933.
2. The actual trophy and the replicas which would be kept by the clubs were donated by the Caltex Oil (Aust) Pty Ltd. It was decided to name the trophy after Mr Hill who had an active association with the SANFL over 38 years.
3. In the early 1860s two posts, called 'kick-off posts' were placed either side of the goal posts, (and usually about 20 yards (18.2m) from the goal posts) and in a straight line with them. If a kick for goal missed and the ball went behind the goal posts any member of the other team could bring the ball 20 yards in front of any portion of the space between the 'kick-off' posts and kick it towards the opposite goal. The term behind was used to describe a ball that went over the end line but not between the goal posts.....it was described as going 'behind the posts'.
4. Victoria Square.
5. Stella Bowen Park.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

INAUGURAL SANFLUA TALENT AWARD 2022

We're excited to announce Academy Field Umpire Zack Brittan as the recipient of the inaugural SANFLUA Talent Award for 2022. The newly implemented SANFLUA Talent Award with thanks to Life Member Reg Burgess and partner Nelson Teamwear, is awarded to an umpire who is identified as consistently demonstrating their umpiring talent, their dedication and willingness to learn and improve on and off the field.

After joining the SANFL in 2019, Zack made an instant impression with his natural ability. To date he has umpired: 9 x SANFLW

33 x Under 18

19 x Under 16

3 x Reserves and earlier this month got a taste of umpiring at league level for the first time in a trial match at Elizabeth.

Zack has also umpired a Grand Final in the SANFLW, Under 18 and Under 16 competitions, an amazing achievement. Not only has Zack achieved highly on field, but he has also been a member of the association for 5 years, regularly attending SANFLUA events and is a role model to his peers. Zack was presented with the award by President Braden Ford at last evening's Membership Drive BBQ. Congratulations Zack and all the best for the 2023 season!



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Craig's Q & A

Laurie Argent

I set out to find the effervescent Mr Laurie Argent at a local watering hole and check out how he is 40 years on from umpiring the 1983 Grand Final between West and Sturt.

Here's how it went.

How's your health Laurie and what are you doing these days to keep busy?

Thank you for your interest Craig. Yes, in good health apart from a bung left knee. The surgeon said he could not understand why half of the meniscus in the left knee was worn to the bone and I suggested it was probably from the action of bouncing the ball for 30 years and he agreed. After 2 arthroscopies and a half-left knee replacement all is reasonably well now. Unfortunately, it has led to stopping weekly golf recently but all good.

For the past 6 years, every 3 months I play golf with some old umpire mates. I partner Rick Kinnear and we take on Jack Hylton and Steve Semmler for a perpetual trophy. The competitive nature of all of us never goes away along with the uncomplimentary comments on the course!!

I also have been racing go-karts at the Barossa Go-kart track for the past 5 years and have managed to persuade my 2 young grandchildren, my daughter and son in law to buy Karts and race as well. A truly exciting hobby! Due to turning seventy this year, it is nearly time for me to retire from it and just help the family out with their racing.

Finally, Sue and I are volunteers with KESAB and walk a section of the main roads in our suburb, Greenwith, and collect roadside litter. This normally involves a monthly 2–3-hour walk. It is quite rewarding to help keep our area clean and tidy and it is good exercise as well.

Where did you play your footy before starting umpiring?

I played junior footy for Elizabeth Football Club (yes Johnnie Platten's Club as well) and in my final playing year we won the U/14 premiership. Finishing 4th at the end of the minor round and having not beaten the top 3 sides all year we went right through to the grand final and won it by 3 points. One of the best feelings I have ever experienced. However, I had a dicey back so following doctors' advice, I had to give playing away after that game.

What year did you start umpiring and who got you into it?

I just rested for a year following the U/14's season but truly missed footy big time. My older sister was going out with a SANFL umpire at the time (Lenny Sharp for those oldies that know Len) and he suggested I take up umpiring.

I disliked umpires at that stage in life as one of my main playing roles as a ruck rover was to stop the best opposition midfield player from influencing the game. That meant sometimes resorting to kicking mud onto him (and there were plenty of muddy grounds up our way on a Saturday morning!), constantly holding his jumper, vigorously tackling him and applying little pinches to the mid-rift. Naturally this came to the attention of the umpires sometimes and hence I was spoken to often about it during games. It led to not having a good relationship with umpires.

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However, I just loved footy and wanted to still be a part of it out on the ground so I thought why not give umpiring a go.

I started at the age of 15 in 1969 and it meant catching the train from Elizabeth to Railways Oval (now Karen Rolton Oval) twice a week to train under Mark Posa's first year umpires' group. My first year appointments were in the Elizabeth area doing juniors from under 9's to under 12's.

I remember my first game was an under 9's game and when I was running backwards after a point was scored, a kid was doing up his boot lace and I fell over the top of him into the mud. All the parents laughed and clapped and I thought bugger this for a joke, they can stick this umpiring. All for \$2.00 in 20 cent pieces!!

However, the next few games went a little better so I stuck at it. The following 5 years were spent in the bush doing country games from junior colts to double header (Saturday-Sunday) "A" grade matches. I just loved umpiring in the country. Last year I was invited to the Victor Harbour Footy Club 50th year, yes fifty year A Grade premiership reunion- a very special day. I umpired the match and still had the original footy program and player report sheets so I took them along. It created many a laugh particularly the report forms. All but 6 players were in attendance.

Some of the other country footy highlights were having a beer with the players afterwards and weekend trips away to places like Broken Hill, Port Augusta, Ceduna and Port Lincoln. For a young teenage kid, this was something special. The country car trips allowed me to meet the older experienced country umpires and blimey, that was an education. Many good stories were told in the car along with witnessing some unforgettable after match events!

401 League games, 16 State Games, 2 AFL games, 2 Golden whistles, that's quite a CV. Any regrets?

Actually none, except for belting Kevin Chambers in a touch footy match at training one night. However, he deserved it. Only joking Kev.

It was a great era to be involved in the game. The footy was exciting and we had high numbers of really vocal passionate supporters at the games resulting in a magnificent atmosphere. The atmosphere at the State games was just nuts.

Looking at the 1983 Grand Final. What celebrations took place when Rick Davies kicked his 150th goal?

Wow, I actually don't remember him kicking that 150th goal. Dam, I forgot to congratulate him. I must remember to do that when I see him next. The 1983 Westies premiership side was the best, most complete side I ever umpired.

Why 2 AFL games?

Pretty simple really. Too bloody old - body worn out!! The Crows came into the AFL in 1991 and the AFL allowed selected SANFL umpires to join their panel. I was very lucky (and surprised) to be one of them at age 38. I trained 6 times a week during that first year which involved 3 gym sessions in the morning at 6.00am under the guidance of Daryl Hicks at his locally owned Salisbury Gym to gain strength and flexibility and 3 other running nights – 2 with the SANFL official training plus Mondays on my own. I had decided to up my training to give myself the best chance of coping with the speed of AFL games under the 2-umpire system.

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Following a few calf injuries during that year, I was appointed to the last 2 games of the AFL season in Melbourne. The final game was Richmond and Carlton on the MCG. Unbelievable. The pace was so quick, much faster than any of the State games that I was involved with. What a privilege to have experienced a minor round AFL game on the MCG.

Anyway, the games seemed to go OK and the AFL umpiring hierarchy said I would be set for a full season the next year. Wow pretty exciting. I was appointed to the West Coast v Collingwood preseason game in Darwin and due to the heat, the AFL said it would be a 3-umpire system game (1992). I pulled a calf muscle at training on the Thursday night before the Saturday game but I didn't want to miss the match and being the 3 umpire system and having umpired 2 seasons in Darwin previously, I was confident I could get through with strapping on the calf. Luckily it went ok and no one knew of the injury. However, the muscle didn't pull up well afterwards and over the next few months injuries kept coming.

My time was up. The body could not sustain the workload. Ian Robinson (the AFL field umpires coach) rang me halfway through the year and said "how are you going" and I said "When is the 3 umpire system coming in" He replied "probably not for another 3 years". I said, "I'm done then" And that was the end of AFL and SANFL. No regrets – just a great time. I then went to the Barossa and Light League and umpired for 2 years followed by 2 years umpiring the Trinity College (Gawler) first side in the second division College competition. Chad Cornes and Mathew Pavlich were 2 standout young players that were in opposition teams during that time.

My last umpiring involvement was field umpiring in the annual AFL Asia footy carnival this time in the capital of the Philippines – Manila in 2016. 26 teams from all over Asia played including Thailand, Bali, Singapore, Cambodia and Malaysia and Indonesia. My son lives in Singapore and plays for the Singapore Wombats. AFL has a surprisingly strong following in Asia not only from expats but locals as well. They used the 3-umpire system for the carnival and the field umpires did not have to bounce the ball so it made it easier but we did have to umpire the shortened games nearly all day from 8.00am until 6.00pm in the tropical heat. It reminded me that I was too old for this sort of thing - totally knacked at the end of the day.

Do have any particularly fond memories of the SANFL umpires Association?

Of course - many. The SANFL Umpires Association was the glue for all of us to cope with what comes with umpiring. The social aspect was important as it united us through the many events that were organised by the committee. The family events helped our wives and children to enjoy the whole umpiring scene. Strong family friendships still exist as a result of those social events.

The umpire's dinners were a special night and I always had a day off the next day. Actually, I would not get home until well into the next day!

Who was the best umpire you saw – and coach?

I rated Murray Ducker as the best umpire as he was always composed and in control. Murray also displayed those qualities when he coached us as well. Each of the coaches added their bit to help which was appreciated.

A big thank you to our Life Member representative Craig for the hard work he has put into this Q & A and into Craig's Quiz! We look forward to the next Q & A and Craig's Quiz in the next Ball Up.

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

60 SECONDS WITH....

PAUL VENTURA:

Nickname: Ace
Joined SANFL: 2021
Recruited from: Adelaide Footy League
Before a game I always... Put on - left sock, right sock, left shoe, right shoe.
Favourite umpiring moment: Having the opportunity to umpire the 2022 Under 18 Grand Final. Away from umpiring, I am... a Corporate Account Manager for Crown Equipment.
One thing you couldn't live without: Footy, Food & Water.
Favourite Food: Eggplant Parmigiana
Favourite Song: Blue Suede Shoes - Elvis
Favourite Movie: The Dark Knight
Favourite Holiday Destination: Nice (France)
My hero is: Darren Jarman - idolised him when I was young, and he still has the two greatest AFL Grand Final performances ever.
The item highest on my bucket list is: Go to an AFL Grand Final as I haven't had the opportunity to go to one yet!

NATHAN BECKER:

Nickname: Becks
Joined SANFL: 2020
Recruited from: SANFL Juniors
Before a game I always... Eat a banana
Favourite umpiring moment: Umpiring an U18s Port VS Crows Academy game before a showdown at Adelaide Oval. By the 4th quarter there was probably 20,000+ people.
Away from umpiring, I am... Studying Bachelor of Criminology, working in a sporting warehouse
One thing you couldn't live without: AFL
Favourite Food: Depends on the mood, Watermelon or Pizza
Favourite Song: Depends on the mood again, Ed Sheeran and Drake always hit.
Favourite Movie: Not a movie but a series, Prison Break
Favourite Holiday Destination: Gold Coast
My hero is: Jordan Dawson - Good leader and happy the Crows picked him up.
The item highest on my bucket list is: Play cricket in the UK

TOM MAYO:

Nickname: Tommy, Aioli & Chipotle
Joined SANFL: 2020
Recruited from: Adelaide Footy League
Before a game I always... listen to music and have 10 minutes in my own bubble mentally preparing for the game ahead by doing reflex catching with a soft ball off the wall.
Favourite umpiring moment: First goal of League debut in 2022 and final 10 minutes of reserves Grand Final 2022. Sturt cheer squad behind me at the Northern End of Adelaide Oval cheering the double blues to victory. Brilliant atmosphere!
Away from umpiring, I am... working as an SSO and studying Primary Education at University.
One thing you couldn't live without: Umpiring! I love umpiring each week and officiating quality games of footy with awesome people!
Favourite Food: Chicken Stir Fry
Favourite Song: Lovers Eye by Mumford & Sons
Favourite Movie: American Sniper
Favourite Holiday Destination: Gold Coast
My hero is: Roger Federer. I never played tennis, but I always watch the Aussie Open and Wimbledon and Roger Federer was the perfect example of sportsmanship. Humble in victory and gracious in defeat and that is a trait in sport and life that is invaluable.
The item highest on my bucket list is: To travel Europe and to road trip around Australia.

JAKE CREASEY

Nickname: Crease
Joined SANFL: 2017 originally, then returned in 2020 Recruited from: N/A
Before a game I always... Read through my packing checklist to make sure I've got everything
Favourite umpiring moment: Umpiring the 2023 Anzac Day Grand Final re-match
Away from umpiring, I am... Working part time at ALDI and studying a double degree in human movement / teaching. Also love a hit of golf!
One thing you couldn't live without: Up & Go
Favourite Food: Some good pork dumplings
Favourite Song: Smells like teen spirit - Nirvana
Favourite Movie: Real Steel
Favourite Holiday Destination: Cruising the Pacific Islands
My hero is: When it comes to umpiring, I'd say my dad because he's a clear role model and his experiences have taught me a lot
The item highest on my bucket list is: Silver Whistle

SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

BRAYDEN THEIL NOTCHES UP 150 LEAGUE GAMES

A massive congratulations to Brayden Theil on his 150th SANFL League game! Starting with the SANFL over a decade ago, he's acquired a notable set of achievements, the most impressive of which is umpiring 4 SANFL League Grand Finals. The high calibre of his achievements has required an enormous amount of dedication, consistency and hard work over many years. Every time Brayden steps on the field, he is professional, elite, and umpires with a team-focussed mentality.

The boundary umpiring group knows they can trust Brayden. He'll always be where needed and will always back his team up. To the newer members, he's deservedly earned the unofficial title of 'role model', and his recent coaching journey has highlighted his care and generosity.

On a more personal note, Brayden and I have spent an excessive number of hours training together. Seeing his passion for performing at his best is inspiring. Over the years, we've developed a highly valued friendship, sharing in each other's highs and lows of life. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of Brayden's journey, to consider him a lifelong friend, and be part of his special day. Congratulations Brayden on your 150th, a well-deserved recognition and distinguished achievement!

By Martin Elsegood



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

'DAMO' REACHES SANFL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing (Pele).

This quote would summarise the consistent effort, the metronomic training and dedication of a bloke who came into umpiring much later than most. For those who don't know, prior to becoming a household name in the SANFL Senior squad, Damian was an accomplished Pro Runner, having etched his name in the history books with back to back Ballarat Gift sashes in the Mile, as well as back to back Sashes in the Camden Classic Mile.

Fast forward ten years and he is still etching his name in the books, by reaching 200 SANFL League matches. Having commenced his league umpiring career, mixing it with names like Dizzy (Ryan England), Funky (Matt Fallon), Matt Konetschka, Dane Fenton and Jason Moore, this formidable middle distance runner honed his craft over a number of years before finally getting his chance to mix it with some of the SANFL's best. Umpiring is full of highs and lows. For Damo there are many more highs than lows. I recall running alongside Damo during a semi-final at Adelaide Oval, only to see him and his first throw in fall agonisingly short. For many a short throw in and knowing your season was done would be enough for most blokes to throw the towel in; Damo is his toughest critic, he was not done. He had unfinished business, he doubled down and came back. The scrutiny he puts on himself is far harsher than any coach before him. It wasn't long before Damo achieved success in his first League Grand Final.

Damo has achieved almost everything one could hope for; Three consecutive SANFL League Grand Finals (2018, 2019 and 2020) as well as back-to-back Silver Whistles (2018 and 2019) and multiple State Games. While Damo's on field achievements are impressive considering all the challenges that have been thrown his way over the years, there are a few constants; the love he has for his kids and the passion and commitment he shows week in week out on the footy field. I think we all would agree that Damo's love for umpiring has allowed him to extract every ounce out of himself. It has also made him that likeable guy on the training track, that is always willing to have a chat and mentor the younger members of the group.

Congratulations on the 200-game milestone, wishing you every success for the remainder of your career.

By Tim Bryant



SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

HENRY HUNTS DOWN HIS LEAGUE DEBUT

Henry, congratulations on achieving a huge milestone in the umpiring world; your first League game. This is one of those days that you will never forget, so I hope that you had the chance to take it all in, enjoyed the extreme nerves and loved every minute of being out there.

You are a quiet achiever, a hard worker and an absolute legend of a person. You certainly tried your best to keep your boundary umpiring days in the past, which is surprising considering the way you told Tom and I about your rapid (and 'impressive', I believe you added) rise to the Under 16 and Under 18 Grand Finals, as well as how quickly you made your resses debut.

I, for one, couldn't be happier that you decided to make the transition to field umpiring. I have enjoyed the last few years when we have had opportunities to umpire together, particularly our trip last year to the Gold Coast. Your easy-going personality, sense of humour and interest in the lives of others inside and outside of the umpiring world has resulted in you becoming someone who is well respected by the entire umpiring group. This is not only a credit to yourself, but also to your family and friends that you have grown up around.

Over the past few seasons, I have enjoyed watching how hard you work to develop your game week in and week out. The way you meticulously break down your game, take on board feedback and then go out and improve the following week is a credit to your hard work ethic and self-motivation to improve every game. Congratulations again on achieving this huge milestone and I hope that you have been able to treat yourself to another Avatar: The Last Airbender tattoo!

By Zack Packard

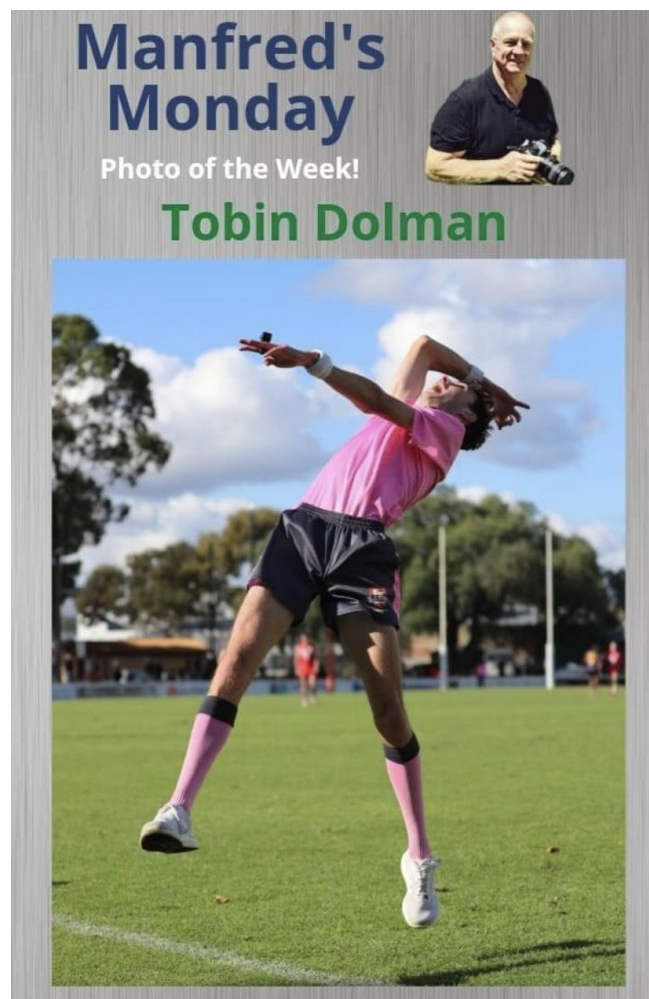


SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

MANFRED'S MONDAY

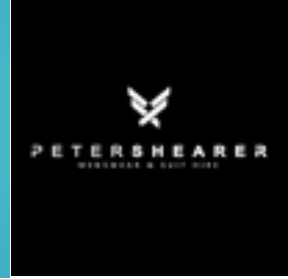
The SANFLUA would like to thank our official photographer Manfred for his work over the last couple of years and for this season too. Manfred is dedicated in his work and attends as many SANFL matches he can to take photos of all our umpires in action. His home ground is Prospect Oval, so keep an eye out for him and his camera during the year! On our social's you would have noticed that Monday is all about Manfred and his 'shot of the week.'

By SANFLUA Committee



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SANFLUA

SANFLUA was 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.

IN THE NEXT EDITION

Stay tuned for another bumper edition of Ball Up! Craig's Quiz will return with some great umpiring trivia. Also, Craig will be on the hunt to find his next Life Member to interview, we can't wait for some stories of the old days. A past president of the SANFLUA brings up the triple ton and we will hear about the always successful bowling night.

A special mention also goes to everyone that has helped play a part in creating this edition of Ball Up! In no particular order; Aaron Bennett, Braden Ford, Manfred Kern, Zack Packard, Martin Elsegood, Tim Bryant, Craig Trewartha and Mathew Wilson for his past Ball Up editions, which gave myself ideas for this current edition.

By Brad Hammer