

SANFLUA PUBLICATION

# BALL UP

ISSUE 3, 2023



INSIDE:

75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA Annual Dinner

Rounds 11 - 14 Milestones

Craig's Quiz

....And Much More

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 2023 SANFLUA DATES

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY @ 6 PM

POST GAME CATCH UP #1 AT THE ASTOR HOTEL

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY FROM 12:15PM

LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHION BRITANNIA HOTEL

SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY @ 6:15 PM

TEN PIN BOWLING AT KINGPIN NORWOOD

SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE @ 6 PM

POST GAME CATCH UP #2 AT THE ASTOR HOTEL

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY @ 12:30PM

LAWN BOWLS AT TORRENSVILLE

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST @ 6PM

POST GAME CATCH UP #3 AT THE ASTOR HOTEL

THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST @ 6:30PM

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER AT THE NATIONAL WINE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

GRAND FINAL PARTY

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER – President's Speech

To our Members, Life Members, Sponsors, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening and welcome to our 75th SANFLUA Annual Dinner. This year, we find ourselves at a new venue here at the National Wine Centre and what a fantastic venue it is. Moving this dinner to a new venue again had its challenges and concerns however, we're extremely pleased with the outcome, and we hope you are too.

On behalf of the committee, I'd like to make welcome our invited guests tonight:

SANFL CEO Darren Chandler and SANFL General Manager - Football Matt Duldig. It is great to see continued support of our Association from the League. We hope this continues and strengthens well into the future.

I would like to welcome our long term and valued sponsor, Peter Shearer for their 41 st Year of support to our Association. Tonight, Peter Shearer is represented by their hire managers Sophie and Emad. I reckon you've managed to scrub the committee up nicely.

We also welcome a new sponsor for this year's annual dinner. Helloworld Travel, Tea Tree Plaza have jumped on board and tonight they are represented by Michelle. They have kindly supplied us with extremely generous donations for tonight's raffle, which Kylan will touch on soon. We look forward to working with you guys on future sponsorship opportunities.

A big welcome to SANFLUA Photographer, Manfred Kern. The work that he has produced for us this year has not gone unnoticed, with his Manfred Mondays being a huge hit on our social media platforms. You will see plenty of his amazing snaps on the slideshows throughout the evening. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to make it tonight. I Hope you enjoy your evening.

Our Social Calendar proved to be another success this year even with the continuation of floating fixtures making it difficult for scheduling. We hosted two major events - Ten Pin Bowling and Lawn Bowls and we were able to host several after match catch ups, which were all well attended. Our Life member's lunch was another hit and the venue change to The Britannia Hotel was a welcome change.

Congratulations to all of tonight's Award winners. These awards have a rich history and it's important that we continue to ensure our awards are held with great significance. These awards are great reward for the winners, for their dedication to their discipline, their support of SANFLUA and most importantly who they are as people. I'd like to acknowledge the donors of 3 of our awards. Theron Philp, Mark Thomson, and Abdullah Alpaslan. Every year they continue to support these awards without hesitation. On behalf of our umpires and the committee, thank you.

I'd like to welcome all our Life Members in attendance tonight. Many of you here are the very reason we can gather in a room like this every year for our Annual Dinner. As President of the current executive, I am always so happy to see our Life Members at our events and I hope tonight is enjoyable as always, I hope your night is filled with plenty of stories, laughs and getting to know some of today's younger members.

Tonight we'll be inducting 3 new Life Members. In the committees' eyes, they are all worthy recipients. Their support of our association and dedication to umpiring over many years has been greatly appreciated and I know we'll continue to have that support moving forward.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

We've had plenty of milestones this year. To those that made their SANFL League Debuts. Field umpires, Henry Klemm, Zac Packard and Daniel Whittlesea . Boundary Umpires, Fraser town, Nathan Becker and Blayde Harten. And Goal umpires, Tom Kelly (League Debut as a Goal Umpire, having previously been a part of the Boundary Umpires list) and Justin Thai for a quarter. A debut non the less and honourable mention to Daniel Whittlesea for goal umpiring in his league debut for 2 minutes. Congratulations to you all!

I'd like to also acknowledge some amazing league milestones: Mathew Wilson and Damian Robinson on reaching 200 league games, which makes them eligible for SANFL Umpires Life Membership. And Matthew Cummins on officiating his 300th League Match. Amazing achievements boys.

This year we saw a Huge 23% increase in membership. This due in part to the return of our annual Membership Sign Up BBQ, as well as the return of Match Fee Deductions and I extend a big thank you which a thank you to the SANFL finance team for accommodating this. A lot of new faces this year which is always great to see, with 29 people in the room tonight attending their first Annual Dinner – enjoy the night!

We are the current custodians of this association - none of us own it. This association needs to continue to grow and evolve to remain a loud voice for its umpires. That won't happen if we succumb to the views of a handful of people. We need to keep membership numbers strong to front the issues that we face...issues such as our training venue, retention of umpires and our match day experience. These affect all of us as a group, not just individuals!

Being a voice for its umpires is one thing. Getting results for them is another. As previous Presidents and Committee members know, it has never been easy to get what we want. Our association differs to those in other states. We receive no external funding. It is all self-driven and relies heavily on its member base. These things add to the difficulties faced when pushing for issues for our umpires. What I can guarantee you, is that we are here to fight for what is best for you... the umpires... and we will continue to do so. I'd like to again encourage you to approach your association on any issues you may have. We're here to help.

To my committee – Your dedication and passion for the Association and Umpiring is amazing. You work so hard behind the scenes to improve the overall umpiring experience in this state to ensure our umpires earn the respect they deserve. I thank you all and I couldn't have done this year without you. This year we saw a very different committee to previous years, returning in their roles were Chris Rabin, Sean Burton, Steve Paunovic, Abdul Alpaslan and Craig Trewartha. We welcomed for their first time on the committee, Cameron Scott, Michael Button, Brad Hammer, Kylan Beech and Taylah Parker. The AGM was amazing to see such a strong presence of people wanting to jump on board. I encourage anyone that would like to put their name forward for future openings on our committee to do so.

I'd like to acknowledge the work of our outgoing committee members Dean Garrett, Mat Wilson and Matthew Norton for the work they put into the association over their terms and thank you all for your continued support.

Aaron Bennett took on the role of secretary this year. As previous committee members know this is a massive role for anyone. I thank Aaron immensely for the work he has put in over the year, especially the organisation and smooth running of this evening. He's made my life a hell of a lot easier. Outgoing

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

President Matt Cummins probably hasn't felt like he's left the role at all. The number of times I've called, texted, or picked his brain at training, I'm sure he's ready to block me. I can't thank you enough for the help and guidance you have given me, these past 7 months. I'm sure we all agree that he handed over the association in a great position and I'd like you all to join me in thanking Matt for his work over his 5 years as President.

I'll be honest... This year has not been easy for me. Taking on the presidency has had its fair share of challenges. Challenges I have taken with both hands and I really hope I have done you, the members and life members proud. I look forward to taking this association onto bigger and better things into 2024.

Finally, I wish our running umpires all the best for the remainder of the season in your respective finals. You have all held SANFL umpiring to such a high standard this season, and I know those in finals will continue to show that we have the best state league umpires, in the best state league in the country. Thank you all for attending tonight and for your continued support of the association.

Remember, we're in this together!

Enjoy the evening.

Braden Ford - President



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ball Up edition 2 was well received from our audience again, which was great to hear! Craig's Q & A is back for this edition, along with other old favourites. It has been a big month for the SANFLUA, with our 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner being a huge hit. The committee heard nothing but praise for the night! Braden, deserves a massive congratulations with hosting his first dinner as President, as too does Aaron and Beechy for also having large roles on the night. And not to exclude all the other committee members in playing a big part in helping bring the dinner to life. The National Wine Centre of Australia certainly did not disappoint.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Ball Up!

By Brad Hammer.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 2023 SANFLUA SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### 10 YEARS:

Aaron Bennett  
Jamie Broadbent  
Sam Morgan  
Luke Whittenberg

#### 15 YEARS:

Chris Rabbin  
Michael Sboro

#### 20 YEARS:

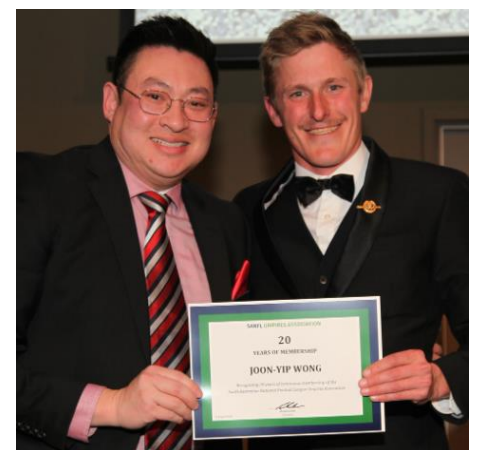
Matthew Norton  
Craig Fleer  
Joon-Yip Wong

### TRAINERS RECOGNITION

Nicky Noble  
Chris Rabbin

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Manfred Kern



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE – TOM MAYO

I was honoured and privileged to be awarded the most dedicated goal umpire award. Mention must go to Abdullah Alpaslan for donating this award to the SANFLUA, many thanks Abdul. This award means a great deal to me as it is voted on by your peers and fellow umpires and to be recognised as someone who is highly dedicated to their craft, is something that I highly value.

I would like to thank my family and friends who have supported me throughout my umpiring journey. I would also like to thank the goal umpiring coaches, who have helped through feedback and guidance, put me in a position where I have been able to take my umpiring to the next level. Finally, a huge thank you to the goalies group and all other umpires at SANFL. The friendships I have formed and the fun we have both on the track and on game day, is one of the main reasons why I love umpiring and what we do.

SANFL would not be what it is without the dedication and commitment from all umpires. The comradery between all umpires is incredible and I hope we, as an entire SANFL umpiring group, continue to develop and strive for the best umpiring culture within state leagues across the country.

By Tom Mayo.

### MOST DEDICATED BOUNDARY UMPIRE – BRAYDEN THEIL

I am very honoured to receive the most dedicated boundary for 2023. I would like to thank all the umpires I have shared the field with. Without them, I wouldn't be here enjoying football as much as I do. Thank you to everyone who has made umpiring so enjoyable.

By Brayden Theil.

## MOST DEDICATED AWARDS

**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.

### MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE

-SPONSORED BY ABDUL ALPASLAN

### MOST DEDICATED BOUNDARY UMPIRE

-SPONSORED BY MARK THOMPSON

### MOST DEDICATED FIELD UMPIRE

-SPONSORED BY THERON PHILP

### MOST DEDICATED SUPPORT STAFF

-SPONSORED BY SANFLUA COMMITTEE





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### MOST DEDICATED FIELD UMPIRE – SAM MORGAN

Sam has been a running member within the association for 10 years now and has become a leader within the field umpires group. Sam is highly committed to his craft and being voted in for this award shows how valued he is within the fieldies group. Congratulations on the award Sam!

By SANFLUA Committee.

### MOST DEDICATED SUPPORT STAFF – ADRIAN FORSTER

I would like to thank the association for this award and very thrilled to have received it. I am a big supporter of the association, being past Secretary and President and they never stop continuing to support umpires in this state.

I have been observing and coaching goal umpires since 1998, being mentored by the great Mostyn Rutter and it never stops giving me pleasure to see the young umpires gain confidence and skills to go onto umpire finals and AFL and being involved keeps the mind and body active and alert.

Peter Honeyman, the goal umpire's coach went overseas this year for a well deserved holiday and I stepped into his shoes but he had everything setup and was in constant contact, so it made the job easy. The support from fellow coaches and umpires also made the job run smoothly.

Recently, I had a set back when I had a triple bypass open heart surgery and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who passed on their kind thoughts including umpires, coaches, colleagues, the SANFL and Shane Harris.

By Adrian Forster

## MOST DEDICATED AWARDS

**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.

### MOST DEDICATED GOAL UMPIRE

-SPONSORED BY ABDUL ALPASLAN

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-SPONSORED BY SANFLUA COMMITTEE



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### MOST OUTSTANDING NEW TALENT – JOSHUA EDWARDS

I'd like to thank the association for all their hard work supporting our umpires and organising events throughout the year. I'd also like to thank Reg Burgess and Nelson Teamwear for sponsoring this award which I'm very humbled to receive. To everyone who I've been lucky to umpire with, I'd like to say thank you for helping make umpiring at SANFL such an enjoyable experience. I look forward to running more games with you and those who I haven't yet umpired with.

By Joshua Edwards.

### MOST OUTSTANDING NEW TALENT AWARD

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.

2022 winner: Zack Brittan

-SPONSORED BY REG BURGESS





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEES

#### SHANNON RIGGS

It is a privilege and honour to be recognised and awarded SANFLUA Life Membership, and I thank the SANFLUA Executive and Life Members Committee for my nomination. After having 26 years SANFLUA membership, it is very humbling to be elevated to Life Member status. I have very much enjoyed my time over the years as a SANFLUA member attending quiz nights, golf days, lawn and ten pin bowls nights and various other catch ups, and of course the Annual Dinner each year, and I will continue to do so in the future for as long as I can!

By Shannon Riggs

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEES

#### MATTHEW NORTON

I was most certainly surprised and deeply honoured to have been presented with Life Membership at the most recent Annual Dinner of the Association.

If it wasn't for many people in the room that night, 20 years continuous service and contribution to the Association, along with other awards and accolades would certainly not have been possible; so I believe these awards are a team award and not a solo effort.

Receiving awards like this mean so much more for a lad who grew up umpiring footy in the Mid North of South Australia and dreamed of becoming an AFL Goal Umpire. Fr Steve Ardill, a SANFLUA Life Member, was a Catholic Priest in Port Pirie at the time, who recognised some "talent" in me and made connection with Mostyn Rutter. I was invited down to "trial" and found myself straight on the senior squad umpiring U'19's. I have so much to thank these gentlemen for, especially Mostyn who persisted with me and guided me through the early years of my career. I umpired over 200+ matches for the SGL prior to moving down to commence with the SANFL in 2004 at 18 years of age. I returned home for a couple of years between 2005 and 2006, then returned to Adelaide in 2007 and the rest is history.

In many of acceptance speeches on the night, Mateship was the centre piece to the longevity of the recipients careers, and mine was no different. If it wasn't for the outstanding friendships of Matthew Cummins and Mathew Wilson guiding me through some interesting times in my life, I would not have achieved what I have in Umpiring – thanks gents!

I had the pleasure of giving back to the Association in recent years as Secretary and President. Both roles were rewarding, and it is great to see the great work being continued, by future committees. It is a thankless role, and we must give credit to the current group of arranging a wonderful evening at the National Wine Centre.

I look forward to continuing my support of the SANFLUA and look forward to seeing Life Members and Current Umpires in the very near future.

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# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA ANNUAL DINNER

### LIFE MEMBER INDUCTEES

#### BILL DART

A much-loved past goal umpire was awarded SANFLUA Life Membership during the 75<sup>th</sup> SANFLUA Annual Dinner. Bill Dart has been involved in the Association for 28 years and continues to be a big supporter of the SANFLUA. Bill is currently on holiday overseas and so we were unable to contact him for a message on his Life Membership. However, we could see from the night how much this meant to him and to Lauren too! Once again Bill, congratulations.

By SANFLUA Committee.

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# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## SANFLUA LAWN BOWLS

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, we saw a return of the fan favourite lawn bowls event. Whilst this was in the middle of winter and on a rainy day, we saw a great turn out at Torrensville Bowling Club. Having a roof over the green was a big plus! For those that attended, they were asked to wear a crazy shirt and there were definitely some loud and out there outfits! Special mention goes to Kylan Beech for his full kit get up. It was also great to see some partners there too, supporting the association. A big thank you also goes to the social committee for organising this event and for the Prez for supplying some nice platters.

For most, a game of bowls and socialising meant for a relaxing afternoon. While for others, the competitive juices came out. Shout out to Jarrod Murton, who was seen running up and down the green at times and taking his game very seriously. Speaking of juices, Ball Up heard that many of those that attended lawn bowls were on the juice the night before, looking at you choccy Button.

Lastly, thank you to the Torrensville Bowls Club who kindly allowed us into their club and accommodated for all of us on the day. This bowls club is a stone's throw from the city and the undercover greens make it a great allrounder. We are hopeful with more time to plan and lock in social events next year, that the lawn bowls return!

By SANFLUA Committee





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## AFTER MATCH CATCH UP #3

Our second After Match Catch Up was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 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. Around 20 members and partners attended the event, which ran alongside the SANFLW Golden Whistle. We heard that this made for a big night in town post both events. Thank you to The Astor for continuing to have us, whilst being busy with their other private functions. Please drop into the Astor Hotel for a drink and a meal at any time, it is a great place to relax!

By SANFLUA Committee.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## CRAIG'S Q & A

**This edition's interview is with one of nature's gentleman Mr Robert Grieve now of Beachport SA. It's a 4-hour drive and has only one pub! It does however have one of the best beaches in SA, spectacular views, great surfing, swimming, and fishing. About 800 people live in Beachport SA and one of them is Bob. I asked Bob, what took you to Beachport in retirement and what keeps you busy?**

Marg and I purchased a block in Beautiful Beachport in 2001. We had a home built and moved in, from Yorke's Peninsula, in 2003. We have loved our retirement here and have become quite involved in our small community. Marg joined the SA Ambulance Brigade as a First responder 'Ambo', is a Book Club member and contributor to our local town newsletter. She and I are both involved with Meals on Wheels and with the Beachport Development Assoc, whilst I am involved with the local Lions Club (incl. terms as President, Secretary and Treasurer etc.) and the CFS. I have been fortunate to have several of my sculptures on display in town, a pastime which, together with woodworking, takes up most of my spare time. We are much closer to our two daughters, one in Millicent and the other in Melbourne and are consequently able to see much more of them and our five Grandchildren.

**The SANFLUA Life Members don't see enough of you. I hear you are making a rare appearance at the 75th dinner in a few weeks?**

Yes, I'm most looking forward to the SANFLUA dinner, where I hope to catch up with many old umpiring mates, many of whom I have not seen for many years!

**When was your first dinner and what was your football journey? I seem to remember you looked pretty sharp in a Peter Shearer bow tie.**

I commenced umpiring with the SANFL in 1972 (at the tender age of 31!) after moving to Adelaide from our hometown of Naracoorte, to take up employment with Lucy Engravers in Halifax St, where I advanced to the position of Sales Manager.

Umpiring was done with only one field umpire in those days and was consequently both physically demanding and limited in advancement opportunities. Fred Bear was the senior Coach, Bill Neill Fitness coach and Maurie Smith Country umpires' coach. Murray Ducker then took over, assisted by Mark Poser and Maurie Smith. I guess it was Mark who had the biggest influence on my career. Fitness was then under the very astute and regimented Erne Holder, a former running coach who also had a great influence on my later coaching aspiration.

The SANFL panel comprised, not only those umpiring League, seconds and colts, but most of country SA (as well as Broken Hill). Therefore, we had a very large panel, who trained in the West parklands next to Adelaide High School, the majority of whom were members of a vibrant SANFLUA.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## CRAIG'S Q & A CONTINUED

I was fortunate enough to be voted on to the committee, where I spent terms as President and Secretary. I also produced, by means of typewriter cut stencils and a Gestetner ink hand printing machine, what was then known as "Balls UP" – the fore runner to today's magnificent publication!

I served on the Committee with Mostyn Rutter, Kevin Tannerbring, Brian Litchfield, Peter Brownrigg, Murray Bampton, Ken Potts, Laurie Argent, Adrian Forster, Des Foster, Vin Camporeale, Ric Charlesworth, Dennis Rebbeck, to name but a few.

Many big functions were organized by the enthusiastic committee, often with several hundred attending the Grand Final night function. I also recall memorable annual alternate year trips to Melbourne to be entertained by our Victorian counterparts, and then entertaining them in Adelaide.

**I recall you coached for about 10 years towards the end of your running years both at SAFA, CDFA, and then as an observer with SANFLUA. We learn from our coaches. Whose philosophies and styles made the most impression on you – in your coaching role?**

The year SAFA commenced (with great fanfare and the 'game of the round' played on Adelaide oval on a Sunday each week and televised live!) I left the SANFL and commenced to umpire in this new league, which was coached by Peter Clee, a former SA Amateur League Umpire. He was assisted by former SANFL League boundary umpire Stewie Loch as fitness coach. What a running machine he was!! This panel proved a great feeder for the SANFL. Names such as Schramm, Bowels, Marta, Ardill, Cresp and others all went on to 'the League'.

I was then offered the opportunity to begin my coaching career with the Central District Football Assoc, umpires panel – a daunting task for a beginner as I had 130 or so appointments to fill each week, ranging from under 11's to "A" grade! After 2 successful years and introducing the 'two umpire' system, I was then lured back to SAFA as senior coach, a challenging but very rewarding job.

I was then given the opportunity to take on the part time role of Umpiring Development Officer with SANFL, a job I shared with Frank McHugh. When the League decided to make this position full time I was fortunate enough to be taken on. This position required travel to the country panels to train and develop their own umpires. Three level accreditation was to be introduced, and the state divided into 5 areas, each under the control of an Umpire Manager. These had to be selected and trained accordingly.

Similarly, city panels were monitored and my role also involved observing, recruiting and training potential future SANFL umpires. I was fortunate to work closely with Des Foster who became a full-time umpire director with the League, Frank McHugh, Mark Mackie, Mostyn Rutter and subsequently Shane Harris when he became umpire director. Probably the high point of my time in this position was the establishment of the Umpiring Academy, which we based at Pultney Grammar School.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## CRAIG'S Q & A CONTINUED

### **Who do you catch up with these days Bob?**

Over the many years spent in the umpiring community I have made many good friends. In the days of SAFA a few of us started to play cards on an end-of-season trip and to this day some of still get together regularly. Stewie Loch, Geoff Bowels, 'Serious' Schramm, John Hutchinson, Ally McCallum, 'Jocko' Lyons and I play several times a year...with the Adelaide boys managing a trip to Beachport occasionally! Sadly, the youngest of our group, Dominic Marta, is no longer with us.

I'm most thankful to have had such a great time umpiring.... It kept a raw country lad sane when he went to live in the 'big smoke'! Getting out into the country on a weekend was great, as was travelling to all parts of the state with some real characters, whose memories will stay with me forever. It was hard on my ever-loving wife and two daughters to be left at home, although they were able to accompany on some occasions to enjoy the country hospitality. I'm forever grateful to Marg and my two lovely daughters for allowing me the opportunity to experience the umpiring career I've had.

**Thanks, Bob, for the wonderful trip down memory lane. You didn't mention the great pasties at Kadina for our readers but to all Life Members, if you want to hear more from Bob, book a table at the Beachport Pub and invite him to lunch OR make sure you attend this years dinner and pull up a chair on his table. The clock is ticking for us all but don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. Thank you again Bob Grieve.**

**Would you like to be my subject in the bar? Give me a call. Thanks Craig 0451682595**

A big thank you to Craig for another great edition of his Q & A! This segment aims to bring in some Life Member flavor into Ball Up and Craig has certainly done that.

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## 60 SECONDS WITH....

### Matthew Rohrlach

Nickname: Matt

Joined SANFL: 2018

Recruited from: Combined Southern CSLFUP

Before a game I always... Love having a chat to my fellow umpires.

Favourite umpiring moment: Throwing a bounce down in the middle of Adelaide Oval, an experience I will never take for granted.

Away from umpiring, I am... An OSHC Director and Studying Bachelor of Education (Primary).

Favourite Food: Can't go past a Chicken Parmi from The Front Page Café.

Favourite Song: Anything funky or groovy. For someone with no musical inclination, I've been told by many musicians that I have great music taste.

My highest bucket list item is: I would love to travel to lots of places! Currently, Iceland is at the top of the list with their beautiful scenery and twenty-four hours of daylight in their summer period.

### Nicholas Mallia

Nickname: Nick

Joined SANFL: 2018

Recruited from: SANFL Juniors (Central)

Before a game I always... Grab a coffee and eat a caramel slice.

Favourite umpiring moment: Umpiring the Auskick at the 2016 AFL Grand final and walking in the parade.

Away from umpiring, I am... am the Sport Coordinator at the Australian Masters Games and a full-time student studying Sports Management.

Favourite Food: Pizza.

Favourite Song: Don't You Worry by Mark Ambor.

Favourite Movie: Paul Blart: Mall Cop.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Cartago, Costa Rica.

My hero is: Adam Gilchrist.

The item highest on my bucket list is: To complete an international marathon.

### Blayde Harten

Nickname: Never really had a nickname

Joined SANFL: 2020

Recruited from: SANFL Juniors

Before a game I always... Drink a coffee and listen to music during warm up

Favourite umpiring moment: Being fortunate enough to travel to the Gold Coast to umpire.

Away from umpiring, I am... Studying Physiotherapy at Adelaide University and working at a carwash.

Favourite Food: Any type of pizza really.

Favourite Song: 90210 by Travis Scott

Favourite Movie: Not a big movie watcher, but I like the Harry Potter and Star Wars movies though.

Favourite Holiday Destination: Japan because it's just such a different world from Adelaide.

My hero is: There are lots of people I look up to, a sports star is probably Stephen Curry, being a super successful and famous athlete, and still being close to his family and faith is something I admire.



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## FISHLOCK SWIMS HIS WAY TO 100

Fish is the sort of guy that doesn't do things in half measures, whether its trail running, umpiring or growing facial features. When he puts his mind towards something, there is usually very little chance that he doesn't achieve it, so it is with no surprise he has become a league game centurion. In his 100 games he has done 2 league grand finals, and was probably only a coin flip away from having 3.

I am sometimes in awe of Fish's determination and focus when it comes to achieving something he has set out for. Before I knew him, he umpired 70 something reserves games before he got his first league game. If you ask him it was because the coach at the time had a grudge for him, others might say Fish just didn't fully understand the last touch rule, some things never change...

No one would say that when they are around Fish that there is a dull moment. He is either playing music through a speaker or talking, never too many moments of silence. He always brings a positive atmosphere to a changeroom which is always welcomed in my opinion. When I returned to umpiring after a hiatus, Isaac was one of the first people to make me feel welcomed back into the group. A friendship that genuinely extends beyond umpiring. Fish is currently on a hiatus of his own and we have to ask, will he return? No one truly knows. I have heard rumours he could return in a coaching/observing capacity, could be interesting.

I almost forgot; did you guys know Fish is a fire fighter? Fire fighters are like vegans, how do you know that they are one? Don't worry, they'll tell you.

By Dylan Whan

### STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2015

SANFL League games: 100

SANFL Reserves games: 71

1<sup>st</sup> League game: Round 7 2018

50<sup>th</sup> League game: Round 1 2021

Stan Wickham Memorial Award: 2015

SANFL Most Improved Boundary Umpire: 2018



# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## SAMMY HITS TRIPLE FIGURES

Sam Morgan has established himself as a leader within the senior field umpires group and has shown a high level of commitment to his umpiring. 100 League games is a wonderful achievement and hitting triple figures is nothing to be sneezed at!

Sam has worked hard over the years and has come a long way from the young lad that started out in the SANFL (although he still looks as young as he did when he started). He has developed many friendships within the umpiring group, perhaps none more than with Corey Bowen, who some think is his father!

Sam, well done on getting to 100 SANFL League games and we hope that you can continue the great path you are on. 100 to go for Life Membership for the SANFL.

By SANFLUA committee.

### STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2013

SANFL League games: 100

SANFL Reserves games: 69

Reserves GF: 2017, 2018 and 2019

1<sup>st</sup> League game: Round 17 2017

50<sup>th</sup> League game: Round 2 2021

Stan Wickham Memorial Award:  
2015

Mark J Posa Award – 2017

SANFLUA Most Dedicated Field  
Umpire: 2023





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## ZAC PACKARD MAKES HIS MARK

From not knowing whether he was in the senior or academy group last year, Zac has made a swift entry to his first League game. He began his SANFL Umpiring in 2017 and after 2 years, decided it would be a nice change in his life to move across the globe to America. Clearly missing the footy, he moved back after a year and got straight back into it. A steady pace back with the academy group saw Zac as the emergency umpire in the Under 18's Grand Final in 2020. Eager to stay off the bench the next year and go one further, he earned himself the 2021 Grand Final and hasn't looked back since.

Coming back the next preseason, it was clear to see Zac had done the hard yards and wanted the next level. He came back fitter than he'd ever been, and quickly established himself as a strong runner. He's paired that with an incredible ability to take on coaching feedback, improving his craft every weekend. It has taken Zac 42 reserves games before getting the call up, and he hasn't missed a beat since, solidifying his spot in League for the remainder of the home and away season.

Zac, the efforts you have made over summer and during the season have shone through brightly, so much so that you are now one of the fittest fieldies on the track who's gained the respect of all your peers. You've earned every bit of your success this season so far, keep it up all through finals and aim even higher next season. Don't forget to keep bouncing! The race to 50 is on!

By Henry Klemm.

### STATISTICS

Joined SANFL in 2017

SANFL reserves: 42 games

Under 18's: 47 games

Under 16's: 3

Under 18's GF in 2021

2021 Stan Wickham Memorial Trophy

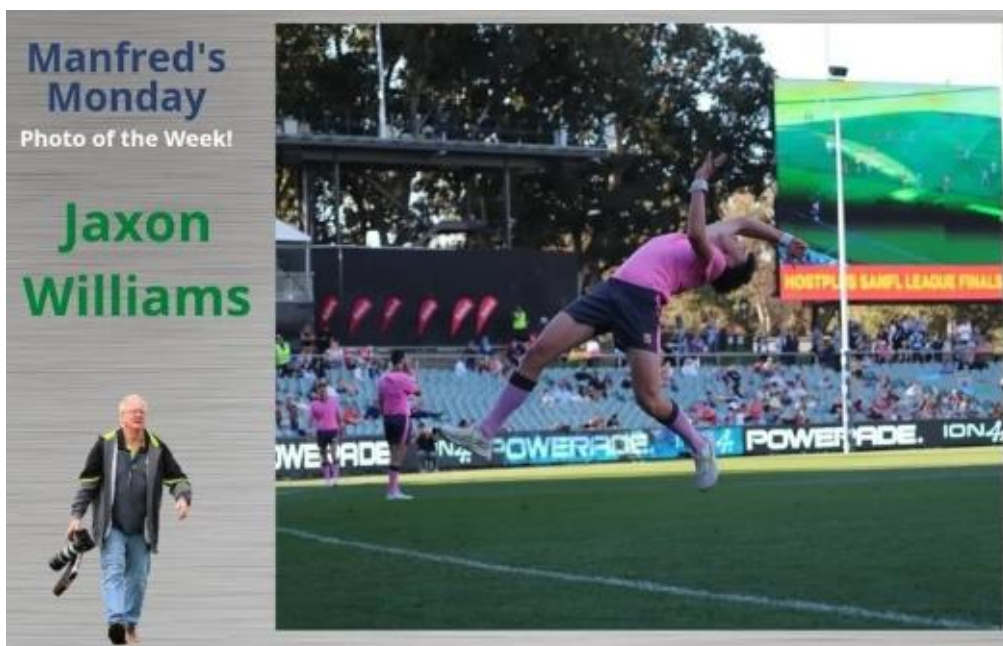


# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## MANFRED'S MONDAY

The SANFLUA would like to thank our official photographer Manfred for his work over the years and for this season too. Manfred is dedicated to his work and attends as many SANFL matches he can to take photos of 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.





# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## STEVE'S STATS

The SANFLUA would like to thank our official statistician and good friend Steven Paunovic. 'Paun' has been an integral part of the association for many years and we would be lost without his stats! Wednesday is the day to find Steve's Stats on our socials, which provides everyone that follows SANFLUA with interesting stats each round. Paun also records stats for every umpire in the SANFLUA, which is an amazing feat. On behalf of the association, thank you very much Paun.

By Brad Hammer.

## Steve's Stats - Finals Week 1



### MILESTONES

#### League

##### LEAGUE FINALS DEBUTS

Field - Harrison Hughes, Tom Burke  
Boundary - Jaxon Williams

#### Reserves

##### RESERVES FINALS DEBUTS

Field - Paul Ventura, Ryan Webster  
Boundary - Oakley Nilsen, Jayden Dunning,  
Blayde Harten, Gianni Scoleri, Nathan Becker  
Goal - Justin Thal, Tom Oxford

#### Under 18

50 - Daniel Rogers (F), South v Central

#### U18 FINALS DEBUTS

Field - Ben Thiel, Jayden Ridge, Josh Edwards,  
Spencer Davis  
Boundary - Daniel Charles, Joshua Read, Ben Van Raalte,  
James Haskard, Archer Wilson, Joshua Thunig  
Goal - Daniel Daminato, Patrick Backshall

#### Under 16

##### U16 FINALS DEBUTS

Field - Dylan Howarth, Cooper Williams, Peter Orr  
Boundary - Andrew Nunn, Paul DeLisio, Matthew Beer,  
Aden MacPherson, Halli Finnsson, Jude Heeps,  
Emma Jones, Hugo Measday  
Goal - David Cunningham, Ben Holds, Obelia Williams

#### Overall (All Grade Total):

400 - Sam Royans (Boundary), Centrals v Port - League

#### FIRST EVER FINAL IN SANFL

Field - Ryan Webster, Ben Thiel, Dylan Howarth  
Boundary - Ben Van Raalte, James Haskard, Archer Wilson, Andrew  
Nunn, Paul DeLisio, Matthew Beer, Aden MacPherson, Hugo Measday  
Goal - Ben Holds, Obelia Williams

### FUN FACTS

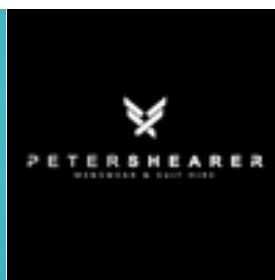
- In the first weekend of the Finals, we congratulate Sam Royans on the triple-treat of milestones from Sunday at Adelaide Oval. It was Sam's 40th League Final, his 50th Final across all grades, AND it was also his 400th SANFL match overall. Sam started Umpiring with SANFL in 2006, quickly rising to be a Reserves regular in 2007 and 2008 on the Senior Panel, debuting in League in 2007, and becoming a regular at the top level from 2009. Sam's first final was back in 2006, in the Under 17 2nd Semi Final, running that day with Ben Sieben and Bryce Watkins. His first League final was in 2009, 2nd Semi at Football Park, Centrals vs. Glenelg. To hit 40 League finals is a massive feat and a testament to Sam's love of Umpiring and resilience in his 18th season of SANFL Football.
- Field Umpire Daniel Rogers Umpired his 50th Under 18s game in the 2nd Semi Final clash between South and Centrals. Dan began umpiring with SANFL in 2020, quickly working his way to Under 18's Football in the same season, and Reserves in 2022. Daniel has umpired 66 SANFL games overall, and 4 Finals across the U16 and U18 competitions. Most of his 66 games have been run with good mate Kyran Beech (11 games together). Well done Dan!
- Archer Wilson - umpired his first Noarlunga game on Saturday, and has now officiated at all 8 U16/U18 grounds in 16 SANFL matches.
- Daniel Daminato - across 2 stints, umpired his 5th Eagles vs. Sturt match-up (most).
- Josh Thunig - umpired his 6th South vs. Centrals clash (most).
- Patrick Backshall - ran with Josh Edwards in Field, and Lochie O'Brien on Boundary for the 10th game each (most).
- Matthew Rohrlach - ran his 12th SANFL match with Nick Mallia (most).
- Halli Finnsson - umpired his 13th SANFL match at Richmond (most).
- Jude Heeps - umpired West Adelaide for the 8th time, and 4 of those have been against North Adelaide (most match-ups).
- Ben Holds - a massive effort to run in his first Final after beginning in 2023, and the First Semi Final on the weekend was just his 10th SANFL match.
- Dylan Speck - umpired with Sam Morgan in the Field for the 25th time in League games (most).
- Damian Robinson - not many would be able to say it; Damian umpired his 26th League game at Adelaide Oval, the most of any ground in his career to date.

# SANFL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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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. Also stay tuned for an umpire trip to the APY Lands!

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, Steven Paunovic, Brayden Theil, Sam Morgan, Shannon Riggs, Matthew Norton, Adrian Forster, Corey Bowen, Dylan Whan, Josh Edwards, Henry Klemm, Bill Dart, Tom Mayo and Craig Trewartha.

By Brad Hammer.