

New South Wales Baseball Umpires
Association Incorporated

92nd Annual Report

2014

Table of Contents

Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Office Bearers | 3 |
| Life Members | 3 |
| President’s Report..... | 4 |
| Secretary’s Report..... | 6 |
| Treasurer’s Report | 8 |
| Financial Reports..... | 9 |
| State Director | 14 |
| Junior Co-ordinator | 16 |
| Little League | 17 |
| Appointed Umpire’s Reports | 18 |
| President List..... | 24 |
| Awards | 25 |

Office Bearers

| Position | Name |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Patron | David Cowdroy |
| President | Neil Alchin |
| Vice President | Matt Wagner |
| Honorary Secretary | John Bailey |
| Honorary Assistant Secretary | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Treasurer | Rob Brown |
| Committee Members | Glenn Hollett |
| | Duncan Boileau |
| State Director of Umpiring | Trent Thomas |
| Delegate to the League | John Bailey |
| Junior Umpire Development | Matt Wagner |

Life Members

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| J. Aitro | B. Clarke | *C. Davies | *J. Devigene |
| A. Jones | R. Jordan | *W. Mancell | R. Medicott |
| F. Mitchell | *D. Price | J. Riley | G. Robertson |
| R. Russell | *F. Stewart | *L. Wilson | G. Tancred |
| M. Stephens | D. Cowdroy | *T. Brooks | T. Watters |
| J. Robertson | I. Rouse | F. Adam | |

President's Report

2013-14 was once again a challenging year for NSWBUA, with the usual issues of the availability of sufficient umpires to fill all required games & provision of resources to satisfy the requirements of our members and the various leagues. Sadly on-going bad player & team official's behaviour occurred, which makes retention of umpires difficult & wastes an inordinate amount of the NSWBUA executive time & energy. We look forward to an improvement from seemingly habitual offenders and the support of all stakeholders in baseball in addressing these matters.

I would like to thank the management committee members for their efforts. A lot of work continues being done in the background to keep our association operating. It continues to be clear that it is harder and harder for us all to commit time to our pastime, with so many of us time poor in these modern times.

The monthly development meetings have been well attended & some great information provided for us all and there were some very good discussions on rules, mechanics and game situations, with a bit of humour for good measure. I encourage all to attend as often as possible.

NSWBUA appointed umpires to a number of leagues in 2013-14. Here we list the Umpires appointed for the Grand Final games in each of the leagues:

State League

| 1 st Grade | 2 nd Grade | 3 rd Grade | Under 18 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| G1: Bob Dawes | Jordan Taylor | Peter Macfarlane | Alan Charity |
| G2: Bob Crawford | | | Brian McDonald |

Sydney Women's League

| A Grade | B Grade |
|---------------|-------------|
| William Green | Philip Choy |

Sydney Winter League 2012

| 1 st Grade | 2 nd Grade | 3 rd Grade |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bob Dawes | Jordan Taylor | William Green |

Umpires were also appointed to various National Age championships, National Women's & Little League. Congratulations to all of you. I trust you enjoyed your experiences & learnt a lot. Their reports will be included in the NSWBUA Annual Report which I commend to you.

Many of you would have seen two of our members, Paul Hyham & Trent Thomas, officiating in the games between Australia & the touring MLB teams in March. NSW continues to produce high quality umpires who continue to represent us with distinction.

During 2013-14 we once again focused our attention on development of our existing members and to target others and have them join us as members. A number of Level O courses were conducted. A challenge for us all is to convert these numbers into regularly officiating umpires, at all levels of the game.

The 2013 Level 1 seminar was conducted on a different format which seemed to work well - the feedback from attendees and instructors was very positive. As I write this plans are well underway for the 2014 level 1 & 2 seminars in June.

A number of new members joined and have commenced working in the various leagues. Well done to those guys & I trust you are enjoying yourselves.

I personally have enjoyed the camaraderie of my committee members, fellow umpires and the instructing panel during this year. This will be my final report as President of NSWBUA after 7 years as VP and now 3 as President, I will not stand in the upcoming AGM elections & leave the stewardship to others.

It is timely to once again look to the challenges of umpiring & to retain a positive attitude to the tasks we have. We sought, & in the main obtained, a degree of support from other stakeholders in Baseball. Again I reiterate the point that recruitment, training and retention of umpires at all levels is not just the responsibility of NSWBUA but all stakeholders – we all need to do our part.

Neil Alchin
President

Secretary's Report

As I take time to reflect upon the past 12 months it would be remiss of me not to thank our retiring President Neil (Barnie) Alchin for his tireless work on the committee over the past seven years. We wish him well for the future.

The past year has certainly presented significant challengers to your association. Our active membership is not growing to any degree and the impact on your association is we are not able to cover all games each week. This will be one of the priorities for the incoming committee to work out how to grow the membership working hand in hand with Baseball NSW & the various stake holders, drawing on ex-players, coaches, managers, and juniors with the aim of having them come into the ranks of umpires.

Throughout the year NSWBUA ran regular level "O" seminars for clubs & associations with John Robinson, Fred Adam, Rob Brown with assistance from Matt Wagner giving up there week nights.

On occasions other instructors also took part in this seminars. The Annual Level "1" seminar was held in July at BISP and run by SDU Trent Thomas and Paul 'Buster' Hyham and the instructor panel of Rob Brown, Neil Alchin, Matt Carter, Glenn Hollett, Fred Adam, John Robinson, Bob Crawford & David Cowdroy with the format being changed from the usual weekend to Friday night and two Saturdays this format appeared to be accepted by the membership with 75 members and non-members attending. By the time you read this our 2014 Level "1" & "2" seminar would have just finished and we are hoping for the same high attendance.

Your association was well represented at ABF national Youth League championships

| Competition | Name |
|--|---|
| Under 23, Adelaide, Sept 2013 | Jordan Taylor |
| Under 14, Adelaide, Jan 2014 | Alan Charity, Josh Voigt |
| Under 16, Sydney, Jan 2014 | Robert Dawes, Riley Barrington, Nick Glazebrook |
| Under 18, Canberra, Jan 2014 | Rod Thomas, Jordan Taylor |
| Womens, Hammondville/Campbelltown, Apr 2014 | Matt Wagner, Craig Lester |
| Under 15 Girls, Hammondville/Campbelltown, Apr 2014 | Les Hartas, Renee Small |

On the social front your association held its Annual Dinner Presentation night at Bankstown Sports Club with Paul Hyham as the special guest speaker. For those who missed the night

Paul Hyham spoke about his time as an umpire and his experiences at ABL, IBAF World Baseball classic and other international tournaments.

NSWBUA Major Awards on the Night went to Rob Crawford (State League Umpire of the Year) Jordan Taylor (Rookie of the year) and Matt Wagner (Little League umpire of the year).

Your association also attended the Lionel Harris Medal this night is the Baseball NSW major awards night and it was great that your association invited to attend.

The biggest highlight for your association was the appointment of Paul Hyham & Trent Thomas to umpire Australia v MBL teams during the opening in March of the MLB season in Sydney between LA Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks a fantastic achievement for all involved.

Finally if you think you can help your association and are interested in being on the committee in 2014/15 and I would ask you to speak with the executive as there will be positions available.

Sincerely,

John Bailey

Treasurer's Report

I present my Report to our Members for the year ended 30 April 2014.

I am disappointed to report that we recorded a profit for the year of only \$85 and a decrease in our Development Fund of \$546.

Our income has dropped by around \$4700 and our costs have increased by about the same with shirts and book sales costs accounting for 60% of the increase. It appears that we should review and then recommend a change to the way we handle all stock.

Last year I recommended that we approach Baseball NSW for grants to cover costs of development. As at this late stage we haven't received any positive reply. We may need to take a more direct approach to at least gain an indication as to why umpires are treated differently to team officials (coaches, managers, EO's) and players of representative teams.

With the advent of the Western League we have lost some members. I will be proposing to the next 'incoming executive committee' that we should more closely look at where we get our money from SWBL, SSL and Women's League and where we spend it which includes Juniors and Little League and the two National Women's appointments to try and come up with an equitable solution.

Similar to the past 5 or 6 years there are a small number of members that carry the majority of work, both on and off the field. I'd like to thank John and Fred Adam for their efforts in development and John Bailey, Matt Wagner and Neil Alchin for their efforts for our association.

To those I have umpired with this year, I've had a ball and THANKS – I've had a lot of fun and hope to meet more of you on the diamond. Also if you are interested in being assessed, all you need to do is email the Coordinator and ask – he will arrange it.

Assuring you of my best intentions at all times,



Rob Brown
Treasurer

Financial Reports

Statement by members of the management committee

The Management Committee has predetermined that the Association is not a reporting entity

The Management Committee has determined that the special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the accompanying financial statements being:

- a) Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 April, 2014.
 - b) Balance Sheet as at 30 April, 2014.
- 1) Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the
NEW SOUTH WALES BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED
as at 30 April, 2014
 - 2) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the
NEW SOUTH WALES BASEBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED
will be able to pay its debts as soon as and when they fall due.

The Management Committee further reports:

- a) There are no mortgages, charges and other securities of any description affecting any of the property of the Association as at 30 April, 2014.
- b) There are no funds held by the Association in its capacity as Trustee of any Trust.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for an behalf of the Management Committee by:

President _____ Dated 17
June, 2014
Neil Alchin

Treasurer _____ Dated 17
June, 2014
Rob Brown

Income statement

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Administration Fees | 4,845 | 4,265 |
| Member's Subscriptions and Joining Fees | 1,172 | 2,260 |
| Seminar Income | 4,564 | 8,555 |
| Interest Income | 119 | 121 |
| Shirt and Book Sales | 1,647 | 1,585 |
| Other Income | 501 | 1,328 |
| | <u>13,418</u> | <u>18,114</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Annual Dinner Subsidy | 1730 | 981 |
| Audit Fees | 770 | 770 |
| Bank Fees | 40 | 45 |
| Computer Expenses | 1,775 | 1,574 |
| Depreciation | 129 | 129 |
| Entertainment | - | 628 |
| General Expenses | 468 | 393 |
| Honorariums | 2,361 | 1,810 |
| Postage/Printing/Stationery/Telephone | 140 | - |
| Shirts/Awards/Books | 5,920 | 3,198 |
| | <u>13,333</u> | <u>9,528</u> |
| Operating Profit | <u>85</u> | <u>8,586</u> |
| Accumulated Surplus at Beginning of Report | 39,389 | 30,803 |
| Surplus for Year | <u>86</u> | <u>8,586</u> |
| Accumulated Surplus at End of Reporting Period | <u>39,475</u> | <u>39,389</u> |

Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET**AS AT 30 APRIL 2014**

| | NOTE | 2014 \$ | 2013 \$ |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at Bank Westpac Bank, Wentworthville & Paypal | | 13,514 | 29,540 |
| Receivables - Fees, Admin & Accreditation Fees | | 41,188 | 20,505 |
| Stock on Hand - at cost | | <u>3,355</u> | <u>5,635</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>58,507</u> | <u>55,680</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| CB Instructor Radios - at cost | | - | 600 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | | <u>-</u> | <u>600</u> |
| | | 0 | 0 |
| Card Scanner | | - | 112 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | | <u>-</u> | <u>112</u> |
| | | 0 | 0 |
| Computers - at cost | | 4,162 | 4,951 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | | <u>4,065</u> | <u>3,431</u> |
| | | 97 | 1,520 |
| Projector - at cost | | 1,879 | 1,879 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | | <u>1,879</u> | <u>1,879</u> |
| | | 0 | 0 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 97 | 1,520 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>58,154</u> | <u>57,200</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Umpire Development Fund | 2 | 7,412 | 8,409 |
| Creditors | | <u>11,267</u> | <u>9,402</u> |
| | | 18,679 | 17,811 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 18,679 | 17,811 |
| SURPLUS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES | | <u>39,475</u> | <u>39,389</u> |

Notes

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 APRIL 2013**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial Statements are special purpose financial reports prepared in order to satisfy the rules of the Association and the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

NOTE 2: UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT FUND

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Member's Contributions | 2,586 | 2,356 |
| | <u>2,586</u> | <u>2,356</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| National Under 14 Championships | - | 700 |
| National Under 16/18 Championships | 134 | 900 |
| Womens Nationals | 860 | - |
| State League Finals | 578 | 270 |
| Sydney Winter Finals | 790 | 510 |
| Little League | 31 | 1,000 |
| MLB Academy Gold Coast | 740 | - |
| Other | - | - |
| | <u>3,133</u> | <u>3,380</u> |
| EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME | <u>547</u> | <u>-1,024</u> |
| BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD | 7,959 | 8,984 |
| BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD | <u>7,412</u> | <u>7,960</u> |

Independent Audit Report

To The Members

New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association

Audit Brief

I have audited the financial report, being the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2014. The Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Financial Report and the information contained there in. I have conducted an independent audit of the Financial Report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Association.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the Financial Report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the association's financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

In conducting my audit I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the Financial Report of New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, the financial position of New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association as at 30 April 2014 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

MARY SZIRMAI B Bus
Registered Auditor
20 May 2014
Suite 306
10-12 Clarke Street
CROWS NEST NSW 2065

State Director

I'm pleased to write to the NSWBUA members for a second occasion.

It is a somewhat interesting time that confronts umpiring both locally and nationally.

NSW is losing one of the games most revered officials with the early retirement of Paul Hyham. Paul is relocating with family to the far reaches of North Queensland for professional reasons. He has been an immense figure heading umpiring in the State for over a decade. As an umpire there is arguably none finer, and as an educator of umpires well for those who have benefitted from his sessions I'm sure you'll agree he is up there with the best.

To follow on from this is the departure from the national body of our most senior mentor – Geoff Robertson. It is with very mixed emotions I write this as Geoff has to a few generations of umpires in Australia been the go-to man. His personal achievements speak for themselves and the legacy he has instilled will remain for many a time to come. I can only hope that whilst his professional involvement in the game is coming to a close that his knowledge and education of umpires at all levels still remains. It will be a hard act for anyone to follow.

In moving to matters closer at hand, the change in seminar format for the NSWBUA state seminar in July 2013 saw increased numbers. Those that attended brought with them a new enthusiasm for the game and umpiring in particular. In noting the success of this venture in 2014 the same format will be conducted but with the introduction of both a Level 1 and Level 2 seminar. There is a need to ensure we cater for all levels of umpires and experience in the game and hope to see a return to the interest that once was exhibited with yearly attendances at state seminars.

It has been pleasing to see some new faces in the State League and Women's League over the past summer. These are the two main competitions, along with Sydney Winter, the Association appoint to. Whilst I have always been an advocate of umpires giving back to their home associations, it is also important that we move out of our comfort zone and use our ability as officiators to work in the best competitions that are available. Bringing umpires up from local/regional associations either directly or via competitions such as the (youth) State Cup etc is a perfect avenue to provide exposure and opportunities.

NSW umpires continue to excel at national championships. All who attended over the last year have gained good reports. It shows we must be doing something right. Let's keep that continuing into the future.

The NSWBUA is continually looking for ways to provide benefits to its members. And it's these benefits all levels can get access to. Be it seminars/workshops, meeting and education nights or instructional games/tournaments the senior executive of the association is continually looking at ways to provide for you.

To the committee that puts in time, particular Secretary John Bailey who fulfils a number of roles, I thank you for all assistance in keeping the NSWBUA up and running.

National Appointments:

| Competition | Name |
|--|---|
| Under 23, Adelaide, Sept 2013 | Jordan Taylor |
| Under 14, Adelaide, Jan 2014 | Alan Charity, Josh Voigt |
| Under 16, Sydney, Jan 2014 | Robert Dawes, Riley Barrington, Nick Glazebrook (John Bailey* worked games to complement the panel) |
| Under 18, Canberra, Jan 2014 | Rod Thomas, Jordan Taylor |
| Womens, Hammondville/Campbelltown, Apr 2014 | Matt Wagner, Craig Lester |
| Under 15 Girls, Hammondville/Campbelltown, Apr 2014 | Les Hartas, Renee Small (Rod Thomas*, John Bailey worked games to complement the panel) |
| Little League, Gold Coast | Matt Wagner, Marc Roberts, Keith Laymen, Geordie McRae and Joshua Voight (Country) |
| ABL 2013/2014 | Trent Thomas, Paul Hyham, Bob Crawford, Riley Barrington, Jordan Taylor |
| ABL Finals, Feb 2014 | Paul Hyham, Trent Thomas |
| Asia Series, Taichung Taiwan, Nov 2013 | Trent Thomas |
| MLB Opening Series, March 2014 | Paul Hyham, Trent Thomas |

Junior Co-ordinator

The past year has again seen a good improvement in the participation in Umpiring across all level of Baseball and the junior segment provides great opportunities for our Association to develop Umpire thru to the higher levels of our game including ABF and beyond.

As always there is a still lot to do but with the continued support of Players, Spectators and Committees we will continue to grow this area of our game.

During the past year Junior Umpires have participated in the following areas of our Game.

Junior Club Games each week together with games at representative Level,

- Coasties Cup,
- Girls Friendship series,
- Rookies Cup
- Sydney Junior Championships,
- Association Cup and JAG
- Little League State Titles at Milton Park
- School Boy Tournaments at BISP, Aquatic and Wollongong.
- Junior All Stars Days

The development of Umpires for these events would not be possible without the support and training by Instructors at Level O and Level 1 events and I would like to formally thank a number of Instructors that have assisted but particularly Fred Adam, Rob Brown and John Robinson. This year they trained 185 new Umpires at Level O events.

I continue to work toward the establishment of an effective Umpires Association that will support Umpires in all areas of our game.

During the upcoming season it's is hoped to introduce a "Sky Blue Shirt Program" for our Level O umpires. It is hoped this will further support a mentality of Zero Tolerance of Umpire Abuse and allow development without intimidation. It will need to be further supported by effective feedback and ongoing training of new Umpires. There are only 2 promises you can make to a new Umpire. "You will get hit and you will make mistakes"

Yours in Baseball,

Matt Wagner

Little League

At the very beginning of Little League in Australia, some eight seasons ago, I believed that Little League would become the focus for junior baseball in Australia. What I did not expect was that it would become the engine room for the development of young umpires in New South Wales.

I have been fortunate to be the coordinator for most of the eight State Championships held and in this role I have been able to witness the development of our umpires. At the 2014 State Championships we had good umpire support from the clubs along with support from our regulars. I was able to run a three umpire system for all of the thirty eight games. The three umpire system is very well suited to the 60' diamond.

The small diamond seminar I ran at BISP in March was very well attended and the participants were very attentive and eager to learn. Most of the umpires had umpire experience and quickly adapted to the differences resulting from the 60' diamond.

John Robertson continues to lend considerable support to the Little League programme by conducting supervision and debriefs to the umpires. Every game during the State Championships was covered either by John or me. We saw positive development over the four days of the event. We were also very fortunate to have a number of senior umpires work the championships. Their experience and support was very important in the development process. The State Championships is an ideal arena to identify talent, work on development and map out a career path.

Since 2013 Australia has been granted automatic entry into the Little League World Series in Williamsport, USA. The ABF have expanded the number of teams competing in the Australian Championships to twenty. This enabled me to send five umpires to the 2013 National Championships and seven in 2014. The Little League programme enables our umpires to be exposed to the 'National Tournament' arena in a less threatening way. This is a positive for retention and the growth of our Association.

Two of our young Little League Umpires have now been elevated to the ABL Umpire Panel. Well done Riley Barrington and Jordan Taylor.

I have a number of younger umpires coming through the ranks and expect them to continue to develop.

The 2013/14 Little League year has been very successful for umpire development.

Fred Adam

Appointed Umpire's Reports Under 14 National Championships, Adelaide

No report received.

Under 16'S National Youth Championship, Sydney

I would like to express that it was a great honour and pleasure to be able to be involved as an Umpire for the 2014 National Tournament which was held in Sydney in January.

In order to reflect on the experience that I encountered I would like to say that the tournament was of a very high standard of not only the players but the coaches and the entire team that helped organize and run this tournament.

It is a great experience to be able to mix with fellow umpires from other states and see the difference in umpiring skills as I feel everyone has their own touch that they put in a game.

I also found that making new friendships through these tournaments and building a comradery between all involved has to be for the better for the game of baseball.

Personally for me I was very privileged to be appointed the Gold Medal game which I found was of a high level of baseball for under 16's.

I have been lucky enough to have been involved in previous tournaments and it is always a different experience every time and would always find it a privilege to be asked again.

Kind Regards

Rob Dawes

Under 18's National Youth Championships, Canberra

First of all I'd like to thank Trent and the committee for nominating me for the under 18's national championships it was something I wasn't expecting until I received the appointments so thank you for showing the confidence in me to send me down to Canberra for this tournament.

It was quite obvious that I was surrounded with great umpires in Canberra with the amount of experience that we had including majority of our panel having ABL experience, our panel included:

| Umpire Panel | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Greg Kent (ACT) | Michael Lyons (VIC) |
| Takahito Matsuda (ACT) | Michael Cumming (QLD) |
| Barry Barnes (ACT) | Rod Thomas (NSW) |
| Gavin Carson (ACT) | Jordan Taylor (NSW) |
| Mike Penn (WA) | |

We were under the watchful eyes of Matt Pearson and for a few days Geoff Robertson.

We were treated to 2 nights off ABL before the tournament started were we were able to sit back relax and watch our fellow panel umpires from A.C.T work some games while we sat back in the comforts of the stands and provided some support.

Once games started all eyes were on the games and there was no disappointment all the games were of a great quality and majority of the games were of a reasonable score line and by majority I mean all but one.... It just so happened that myself and rod Thomas were on the bases for the biggest scoring game of the tournament which N.S.W defeated Vic white 46-3 suprisingly though this still wasn't the longest game of the tournament and im quite sure myself, rod and mick were quite happy to be able to finish that game and get out of there as soon as we could.

The first few days were quite trying it seemed everyone players and umpires were trying to adjust to the heat that seemed to hit us from nowhere although luckily it was timed so well that we managed to have finished the tournament the day before the heat decided to hit 40 degrees I'm sure we were all quite thankful for that.

It was a tournament full of great baseball and great umpiring we were all in high spirits everyday no matter what and we all enjoyed ourselves.

Once again I'd like to thank Trent and the committee for the opportunity they gave me in being involved I know I was able to come back with such a greater knowledge then when I left and I am so grateful for the opportunity that was presented to me.

Kind regards

Jordan Taylor

Under 23's National Youth Championships, Adelaide

It was quite obvious the moment we stepped off the plane in Adelaide airport on the 25th of September what the weather was going to be like, once all the umpires and scorers from Queensland, Victoria and myself had arrived and finished complaining about the fact we all seemed to have been awake since 4am we realised it was going to be one cold week.

We met up with our umpire coordinators for the week Fred Halligan and Russel King at the southern districts baseball field, where we were greeted with massive gusts of wind and cold just to set the tone for the week.

The tournament was of great quality unfortunately the conditions really favoured the hitters and it showed quite quickly where in the first game of the day between N.S.W and S.A there was 22 runs scored, luckily I wasn't assigned to work that game. However there were plenty of arguments over whether that was the longest game of the tournament or not (everyone but the plate umpire from that game said yes it was).

We were quite lucky in the tournament that nothing out of the ordinary seemed to really happen though there were some great pitching and hitting displays as well as some just great baseball from all the teams.

We almost thought we had made it through the entire tournament without any injuries or anything but unfortunately someone on our panel decided to jinx us and in the bronze medal game we had an unfortunate incident involving a runner and the first baseman although the fielder seemed to be in high spirits when he left the ground although that could have been under assistance from the green whistle he had.

All in all it was a great experience where I know I learnt a lot it helped having some very experienced umpires there to help as a part of the panel with two of the umpires being ABL umpires.

As always I'm very thankful to the umpires here who have helped me reach this point and helped me to be nominated for this tournament.

Kind regards

Jordan Taylor

Women's and Under 15 Girls National Championships, Sydney

Firstly I would like to thank the executive for the opportunity of this appointment. This was another great opportunity to Umpire at a National Tournament after travelling to LL National Titles and Under 14's previously.

The National Woman's was held in conjunction with the Under 15's Girls tournament.

Planning for the event was this event to be held in Wollongong however Mother Nature had other ideas and the Illawarra region received record rainfall in the weeks leading up to the tournament. A decision was made by the ABF to move games to dryer venues in the Macarthur area. This resulted in many Umpires having to commute daily from the Illawarra to Moorebank and Campbelltown but the Umpires knuckled down and got the job done.

For some of the crew this was their first appointment but a number had been to several National age tournaments and we also had an ABL Umpire and Instructor (Greg Kent) in the crew.

We had a good mix of experience and inexperience as well as a mix of ages from some younger guys as well as some more seasons folk. There were also a couple of guys from interstate that I had worked with at recent LL titles.

Interstate Umpires Included:

4 from NSW including Renee Small and Les Hartas at the Girls and myself and Craig Lester (Illawarra) at the Woman's. With us were 4 from Victoria, 2 from South Aust, 2 from QLD 1 from WA and 1 from Canberra.

Trent was the Umpire coordinator for the tournament with Geoff Robertson and was able to provide solid feedback over the days of the tournament.

For the Pool games we utilised the 3 man system and this was a great opportunity to practice on new skills.

Each day included early starts and late finishes and included a night game each day at Moorebank.

Again I would like to thank the Executive but would also like to encourage any of the NSWBUA members that have an interest in developing their Umpiring Career to get involved and seek appointment to these Tournaments

Matt Wagner

Little League National Championships, Gold Coast

NSW Umpires Appointed: Matt Wagner, Marc Roberts, Keith Laymen, Geordie McRae and Joshua Voight (Newcastle)

Firstly I would like to thank the executive for the opportunity of this appointment. Traveling again to the Gold Coast for these National Titles is certainly been a Highlight of my Umpiring Career so far.

This year a record 20 teams were involved and this resulted in early starts, long days and late finishes.

Each state was well represented with the Umpire crew as follows

- 5 from NSW,
- 3 from Victoria,
- 2 from SA,
- 3 from WA,
- 2 from QLD and
- 1 from the US

The Umpire from the US was Sherman Wallen, the District Umpire Coordinator from District 10 Boston. This certainly was a highlight of the tournament to see a dedicated “Little League” Umpire working the Diamond. He presented unique skills and mechanics that were well received by many players, Coaches, spectators and Umpires alike.

As Little League Baseball continues to grow across Australia unique opportunities for Little League Umpires to develop as well. These State and National tournaments present our Association with great opportunities to foster and develop new Umpires and to develop them in to Umpires across all levels of our game.

Matt Wagner

President List

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1960-70 | Frank G Stewart |
| 1971 – 74 | David Price |
| 1974 – 75 | Dick Jordan |
| 1975 – 77 | Fred Mitchell |
| 1977 – 78 | Jim Connell |
| 1978 – 84 | Fred Mitchell |
| 1984 – 89 | Bob Medicott |
| 1989 – 2001 | Jim Riley |
| 2001 – 04 | Michael Stephens |
| 2004 – 11 | Trevor Watters |
| 2011 - | Neil Alchin |

Commentary:

1960 was the start of the Association's records.

The period 1988-89 was shared between Bob Medicott and Jim Riley

Awards

Umpire's Award

| | |
|---------|---|
| 1979 | Jack Gaynor |
| 1980 | Steve Green |
| 1981 | Barry Moore |
| 1982 | John Hollander O.B.E. |
| 1983 | David Titcume |
| 1984 | Kevin Baillie |
| 1985 | Eric Howarth |
| 1986 | Auburn Baseball Club Ltd |
| 1987 | Colin Martin |
| 1987-88 | Ken Douglas |
| 1988-89 | Organising Committee of the National Challenge Series |
| 1989-90 | Jack Clucas |
| 1990-91 | Sydney Wave Organisation |
| 1991-92 | Cheryl Barnier |
| 1992-93 | Tom Walton |
| 1993-94 | Jim Strickland |
| 1994-95 | Alan Jones |
| 1996-97 | Australian Secondary Schools Baseball Association |
| 1997-98 | Andre Desjardins |
| 1998-99 | Rod Walbancke |
| 1999-00 | Dianne & Michael Stephens |
| 2000-01 | Tom Walton |
| 2001-02 | David Cowdroy |
| 2002-03 | Richard "Dick" Jordan |
| 2003-04 | Jim Riley |
| 2004-05 | Cliff Watson |
| 2005-06 | Peter Worboys |
| 2006-07 | Kerry Jackson |
| 2007-08 | Garry Everson |
| 2008-09 | Graham Smith |
| 2009-10 | Leigh Carroll |
| 2010-11 | John Robertson |
| 2011-12 | Robert "Bob" Crawford |
| 2012-13 | Fred Adam |
| 2013-14 | Geoff Robertson |

Rookie Umpire Award

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1999-00 | Paul Muir |
| 2000-01 | Paul Chappell |
| 2001-02 | Rod Thomas |
| 2002-03 | Matthew Carter |
| 2003-04 | Christopher Adam |
| 2004-05 | Ben Nash |
| 2005-06 | Don Washburn |
| 2006-07 | Randy Kersey |
| 2007-08 | Rob Hadley |
| 2008-09 | Brian Kable |
| 2009-10 | Adrian Rampoli |
| 2010-11 | Luke Goldsmith |
| 2011-12 | Nil |
| 2012-13 | Jordan Taylor |
| 2013-14 | Philip Choy |

Little League Umpire Award

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 2008-09 | Ron Ross |
| 2009-10 | Phillip Griffiths |
| 2010-11 | Riley Barrington |
| 2011-12 | Matt Wagner |
| 2012-13 | Matt Wagner |
| 2013-14 | Justin Fry |

NSW State League Umpire Award

(Awarded by the League)

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 2011-12 | Robert 'Bob' Crawford |
| 2012-13 | Robert 'Bob' Crawford |
| 2013-14 | Robert 'Bob' Dawes |