

New South Wales Baseball
Umpires Association Inc.

95th Annual Report

2017

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Season 2016-2017

Office Bearers

Position	Name
Patron	David Cowdroy
President	Rob Brown
Vice President	Matt Carter
Honorary Secretary	John Bailey
Honorary Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Rob Brown
Committee Members	Don Washburn
	Jordan Taylor
	Duncan Boileau
State Director of Umpiring	Trent Thomas
Delegate to the League	John Bailey
Junior Umpire Development	Marc Roberts

Life Members

J. Aitro	B. Clarke	*C. Davies	*J. Deviegne
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	R. Brown

* Denotes deceased member

President's Report

Once again a challenging year, but there is a great deal of hope!

Baseball NSW – we must continue to try and be included in their decisions
Without a doubt we are a stakeholder of BNSW – all we need is for them to understand & recognize this concept. We believe we have something to offer in moving baseball forward. We have been pursuing BNSW for nigh on 4 years with concerns around the Judiciary process, zero tolerance of any type of abuse in Little League/Juniors (& its flow on effect), recruitment/retention & funding. I'm happy to be able to report that there has been some action. Mark Marino CEO, BNSW commissioned a review & trialed some changes to the judicial process. We hope that our concerns will be taken into account when the new process is finalised. Mark also said that BNSW is rewriting their Member Protection Policy & we hope that this will include our zero tolerance request (LL/Juniors) & finally we have had verbal (not written as yet) confirmation, that there is some funding available to us. We would like more action & less talk.

Executive

This has been another disjointed year with a couple of our executive busy with their jobs hence time poor. I take this opportunity to thank John Bailey, Don Washburn, Duncan Boileau and Marc Roberts for their whole hearted effort. Special thanks go to Matt Carter who made the NSWBUA/ABF Accredited shirts happen. The question is why was this made our problem?

Meetings/development

We held 10 executive and 8 General meetings for the year. The winter months were thinly attended & we are reviewing the need for holding monthly general meetings. Perhaps we should hold meetings in conjunction with local associations if requested? There have been a few ideas on how to improve Development – some revolving around the possibility of publishing each item, either by placing them on our web page & or emailing them to our members.

Presentations & Annual Dinner Night

The night was held at Bankstown Sports Club. This year we had a number of special guests including 7 life members, 3 past Presidents, our Patron, past umpiring greats, some of the executive committee and the President of BVBUA. Brian McDonald was awarded our highest award, the Umpire Award for his contribution to our association & baseball. Some of the people attending you may know; Bob Medicott, Alan Jones, Geoff Robertson, Mike Stephens, Gerard Tancred, Trevor Watters, Geoff Lynn, David Barbuto, Col Handel, Paul Hyham, Stewart Howe. John Bailey organised the night, booked it, provided the music and visual presentations, was the emcee & did a fantastic job. Thanks John ... and of course thanks to Lynn for allowing him to!

Availability

This year we have begun to cover some additional Junior tournaments plus SWBL, SSL and NSWWL. Although both SWBL and SSL have fewer teams, our association still couldn't cover all games. Without Billy Green and Phil Choy doubling & sometimes tripling up we would have serious problems. Currently in SWBL there are 3 venues each week & only require 9 umpires all up – which we haven't been able to provide! Please help if you can, even one game would be great. Perhaps we are all jaded from abuse or getting hit? Or just need some time to recover. Whatever it is, if we know of it, we'll try & fit in with your needs. Our association, BNSW & its leagues need your support. (Umpire recruitment/retention is important to all stakeholders)

Little League & Junior Umpire Development

Marc Roberts has been appointed our delegate & has taken over the responsibility for LL & Juniors & their mentoring, reporting directly to our Executive. Marc has put a great amount of

time & effort attending the numerous Cups and Championships. Mentoring is needed at all levels of baseball & if anybody has some spare time, please contact Marc.

Congratulations

To the award winners:

Brian McDonald who was awarded our top award (Umpires), Jason Spurway (Rookie);
Chris Layman (Little League)

Congratulations also to:

- All Grand Final plate umpires, crews & supervisors,
- All those that were appointed to ABL, National Championships; Little League, Youth, Womens, Matt Wagner and Geordie McRae who attended a week long Little League seminar held at the home of Little League, Williamsport, Pennsylvania USA.
- Matt Wagner and Marc Roberts for their appointments to Little League World Series tournaments in the USA;
- Riley Barrington for his WBSC appointment U12 in Korea
- Keith & Chris Layman who attended a 4 week Professional Umpiring School in the USA.
- To a few of our members that have retired this year – no names (I know the drill).... & a thank you, well done to all those that umpired on behalf our association this year. We appreciate your effort and the time you give up (away from loved ones) to do so.

Change management

The requirements of our association are rapidly changing. The strength of Australian umpires has been their single-mindedness to follow the same mechanics and procedures. With the reduction of the need of a full time Technical Official at BA level more technical and administrative work has been passed off to the states to either handle or disregard. Such as, the supplying and carrying stock of an "accredited shirt" or rules books – lets leave it to the states – why? Development of umpires & or instructors? And for those of you that aspire to higher levels, how can this happen?

With the popularity of Little League & Juniors more technical officials (scorers and umpires) are needed. These new officials need direct help, perhaps through mentoring so that they can enjoy their transition & have someone to receive feedback from and not to be abused by anybody!

An alarming stat is that our state premium leagues SSL and SWBL are reducing in size - this trend needs to be reversed. Even then we have been unable to fully supply their needs. We are no longer just administration or development based. We need to be business orientated. We need to go to our customers or potential customers and understand what they want & determine whether or how we can meet these needs.

Our association needs your thoughts on how to improve what we either do, provide, account for, whether it be: Allocations: grade/venue, post season; Development: topics/forum, Meetings: what should be discussed, how – process? Seminars: presentation/content/providers/timing, meeting venue: place/time/need – ANYTHING. Direction of our association: what do we stand for/should stand for? Funding: where do we spend our money/where should we spend our money, how much should we spend, how much should we charge? Umpires fees: should we increase them, reduce them? Deductions: review why and how much? If you think that something doesn't work, can be improved upon, sucks, whatever please let me or John Bailey know, we'll pass any correspondence on to the Executive or if you want to keep your input private – not a worry.

Rob Brown
President

Secretary

Its been twelve months since my last report and not much has changed, your association still has a number of major challenges ahead in rectifying the below.

- Active membership is in decline.
- Umpire development in juniors & seniors
- Expanded junior competitions (umpire coverage)

These will be the priorities for the incoming committee, to work on growing the membership working hand in hand with Baseball NSW & the various stake holders, drawing on ex-players, coaches, managers, juniors with the aim of having them come into the ranks of umpires.

Your association was well represented at National Youth League Championships in Sydney

On the social front your association held its 2016/17 Annual Dinner Presentation night at Bankstown Sports Club In attendance was a number of Life members and their wife/partners who travelled long distances to attend. For those who missed the night, NSWBUA Major awards went to Jason Spurway (Rookie of the year) and Chris Layman (Junior umpire of the year).

Patrons award Brian McDonald for his service to baseball.

Finally if you think you can help your association and are interested in becoming part of the committee in 2017/18 and help spread the workload please contact one of the executive.

John Bailey

Treasurer's Report

I present my Report to our Members for the year ended 30 April 2017.

I am happy to be able to report that we have achieved a profit.

This result has primarily occurred through the running of LO and L1 seminars of which only a few members contribute to. I'd like to thank John Robertson, John Bailey, Geordie McRae, Marc Roberts, Duncan Boileau, Matt Wagner and Brian McDonald for their help in the LO's. Without the injection of these funds, we would have made a loss. Please remember our association is self-funding. Why I don't know!

Our costs are relatively fixed with computer expenses and dinner subsidies being the largest individual outlays. Baseball Australia has undergone staffing movements and we are still more waiting to understand whether this will affect the development charges.

We have verbally heard that BNSW has some funding for us – we have written to them to confirm both how much it is and just how do we get it and are awaiting a reply.

Once again, similar to last year we have a small number of active members umpiring a majority of the games. If this trend was to continue and then one or two of these members were to get hurt or give it away, our association and its customers would be in a great deal of strife.

As always, to all those I have umpired with this year, THANKS, I had a lot of fun and hope to see you all again next year.

Assuring you of my best intentions at all times,

Rob Brown

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Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Ph 0412420305

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Members of NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc

I have audited the accompanying financial reports of the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc, comprising attached copies of

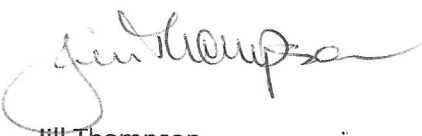
- Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2017
- Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 April 2017
- Other explanatory information as required.

The Committee of the Incorporated Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial reports and have determined that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act and those of the committee members. The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable for the circumstances and organisation. The committee is also responsible for the appropriate lodgement of the annual summary of financial affairs with the NSW Office of Fair Trading.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on an examination of the evidence provided to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial reports are free from material misstatement. In making the required risk assessment, I have considered internal control methods relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial reports. While these are appropriate for the examination of the financial statements, they are not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the following opinion.

In my opinion, the financial reports of the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc (as attached) present fairly in all material respects in accordance with the accounting policies used. The financial statements reflect the financial position and performance of the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc as at 30 April 2017 and its activities for the year then ended.



Jill Thompson
Honorary Auditor
26 June 2017

Profit & Loss

New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc For the 12 months ended 30 April 2017

	Apr-17	Apr-16
Income		
Administration Fees	4,305	4,155
Interest Received	42	34
Member's Contributions	2,464	2,294
Member's Subscriptions & Joining Fees	1,640	1,678
Other Income including contras	505	466
Sales - Books	341	490
Sales - Shirts	6,500	1,465
Seminar Income - L1	4,723	2,980
Seminar Income - Level O	3,421	4,091
Transfers from Administration	-	3,588
Total Income	23,940	21,241
Gross Profit	23,940	21,241
Less Operating Expenses		
Annual Dinner Subsidy	2,514	2,108
Audit Fees	300	1,100
Bank Fees	(1)	57
Computer Expenses - FBM Others	660	600
Computer Expenses - web hosting	2,778	1,519
Computer Expenses - Xero	600	100
Cost of Books	330	372
Cost of Shirts	4,955	2,311
Depreciation	341	2,136
Development - NSWBUA Development Officials	-	3,588
Filing fees	-	84
General Expenses	684	370
Honorariums	1,060	110
Little League	100	911
National Youth Championships U16&U18	-	120
NSW WL	220	740
Seminar Expenses - L1	2,826	985
Seminar Expenses - LO	696	588
Sydney State League	1,560	620
Sydney Winter League	200	240
Transfer movements in Umpire Development account	384	(336)
Transfers to Development	-	3,588
Total Operating Expenses	20,208	21,910
Net Profit	3,733	(669)

Balance Sheet

New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc As at 30 April 2017

30 Apr 2017

30 Apr 2016

Assets

Current Assets		
1. Cash at Bank: Westpac Wentworthville & Paypal	37,563	31,540
2. Receivables: Fees, Admin & Accreditation Fees	25,527	29,735
3. Stock on Hand - at cost	4,750	3,474
Prepayments	-	200
Total Current Assets	67,841	64,950
Fixed Assets		
1. Computers - at cost	6,386	6,386
2. Accumulated Depreciation	(6,298)	(6,145)
Office Equipment	188	-
Office Equipment - Accumulated Depreciation	(188)	-
Total Fixed Assets	88	240
Total Assets	67,928	65,190

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
5. Umpire Development Fund	6,266	5,882
6. Creditors	9,752	11,130
Total Current Liabilities	16,017	17,012
Total Liabilities	16,017	17,012
Net Assets	51,911	48,178

Equity

Current Year Earnings	3,733	(669)
Retained Earnings	48,178	48,848
Total Equity	51,911	48,178

State Director

I'm pleased to write to the NSWBUA membership for a fifth year.

Training and learning – they are something baseball umpires don't do enough of. If we want to maintain the same level to that of the games we aspire to officiate, we must each and every one of us continue to learn and train. Players train constantly – Umpires, even though it may be a bit harder, need to do so as well.

Umpires in the current baseball climate are being pulled in every direction. Asked to work year round, asked to work all Leagues – local and state, asked to work all tournaments. So when do we learn and when do we train? Learning can occur anywhere at any time. Reviewing rules and situations in the Rule Book and other educational resources, watching clips, talking with others is an easy way to discuss, listen and in the end learn. Training is best done as part of attendance at annual seminars. It gives the opportunity for concentrated drills, repetition, and evaluation. It also permits you to listen and learn as others are also undertaking their training. It shouldn't be thought of as a simple requirement to maintain an accreditation level. It should be thought of a way annually to train and work on maintaining or improving our skills.

NSW has been well represented at national level with a number of NSWBUA members gaining appointments to Australian Championships and Tournaments. There are several opportunities for those umpires who have the ability and are interested in such events. However gaining appointments are not a right, they are a privilege based upon performance over a period of time. Umpires that feel they deserve something "now" need to also learn patience and sustain a performance level before gaining appointment.

The NSWBUA fraternity has room to grow, but it is the involvement its members that will be what the growth it built upon. More people getting involved and more people wanting to interact will be the basis for this body to see its way towards the magic 100-years.

Work done by the Committee headed by Rob Brown and John Bailey can't be forgotten. Both put in significant time for the members to try and meet their needs. To John especially who backs up as the Umpiring Coordinator for the various State Leagues (senior) the task is arduous. Unfortunately it's us umpires that make his work harder so let's all try just that little bit harder to help make his job a bit less hectic.

The ABL reduced their regular season over last Summer to that of the length of the inaugural season. This reduced the opportunity to officiate at this level for the umpiring panel. However, there was limited assistance provided to the local Canberra based panel which offered some additional games for two members of the panel.

Paul Hyham returned to officiating following a two year hiatus and was a tremendous bonus to the quality of the crew based in Sydney. Paul's return was particularly remarkable noting he still resides in Mackay, Qld, and at a personal cost to himself committed to a pre-ABL games program in the State League from October and continued into January while the League was operating.

Two milestones were reached by local panel members in the last season – Bob Crawford started the season officiating in his 100th game in this edition of the ABL (Coupled with many more in the previous edition), whilst Ben Nash debuted working a double-header in the last home round played in Sydney.

Trent Thomas

Umpiring Coordinator

Firstly I would like to thank all our members who have contributed to our association over the past 12 months both in Sydney Winter and BNSW State league and Women's League competitions.

As coordinator the biggest issue our association is confronted with is the continued decline in umpire numbers. The question still remains how do we grow the membership and develop new umpires to allow all games to be covered with minimum two umpires. This is an ongoing battle, as the current roster of umpires is not getting any younger and new umpires are not coming through from junior ranks

I would recommend NSWBUA executive as a priority look at retention and growth of umpires from ranks of those who attend L0, L1 and Junior championships.

The NSWBUA coordinators role is to manage umpire rosters for the following leagues.

A total of 557 games scheduled in the four (4) leagues as follows

Manly Warringah Minor League Baseball (1st Grade) - 32 games scheduled

Sydney Winter league (1,2,3 Grade) - 42 games scheduled

NSW Baseball State League (1,2,3 & U/18)- 360 games scheduled

NSW Baseball Women's League (1 & 2 Grade) - 123 games scheduled

Of the scheduled games Washouts contributed to 56 games, 11 games were forfeited, 3 games cancelled due to extreme heat and your association was not able to provide umpires to 14 games during the season.

In addition to the above leagues our members were involved with the new Junior league, Little League and Senior League competitions run by BNSW and National NYC and Women's Nationals.

Thanks
John Bailey

Junior Umpiring Coordinator

This year has been a very successful year for NSW umpires working Little League age division games. The Little League framework adopted by Baseball Australia, formidably supported by Baseball NSW (Michael Ibbotson), provides a great environment to support and develop umpires. The development pathway can now lead to significant opportunities both within Australia and Internationally.

Members of NSWBUA have been at the forefront of umpire recruitment and development within the Australian Little League framework. This strength has been recognised through Australian and International appointments.

This year is the first year that Australian Umpires will be represented at Little League International World Series tournaments. NSWBUA will be well represented by Matt Wagner at the Senior League World Series (Easley, South Carolina) and Marc Roberts at the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. These are very prestigious appointments for which the association can be very proud.

This year also saw a record number of umpires appointed to Australian Little League tournaments.

The NSW State Championships were also successful from an umpire development point of view. We had 22 umpires working at the Senior/Junior League tournament and 24 umpires at the Little League Majors/Minor tournament. We were fortunate to have a range of umpires from very experienced through to young and parent rookie umpires. During the Little League tournament, we ran some skills clinics in conjunction with the tournament. Positive feedback was received from a lot of umpires with respect to the support and constructive feedback provided during the tournament.

It was great to have the support of Duncan Boileau across both NSW tournaments and at the regional Gala Days. These tournaments and events provide a great opportunity for NSWBUA to build a profile within junior baseball and support and nurture new umpires.

NSWBUA members supported the running of the regional tournaments run by Sydney Diamond Sports. These tournaments are extremely well run and attended by young baseball players and umpires alike. There is a core number of young umpires who attend these events, a number of whom were appointed to the NSW championships. Some of these young umpires will be appointed to state and Australian championships in the future.

In a very busy finish to the Little League championship season, NSWBUA also supported BNSW in the running of the Little League Super Series. Thank you to all umpires that assisted with these series.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Matt Wagner and Geordie McRae for their significant contribution to the support and development of umpires. In particular, Geordie has successfully supported a group of umpires at Ryde Hawk Baseball League who are setting the benchmark for junior baseball associations.

Marc Roberts

Umpire Appointments

Umpire	Competition
Riley Barrington	ABL
Bob Crawford	ABL
Paul Hyham	ABL
Trent Thomas	ABL (Crew Chief and Championship Series)
Ben Nash	ABL
Jordan Taylor	ABL
David Cowdroy	ABL (Umpire Supervisor)
Ben Nash	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships
Nick Glazebrook	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships
Josh Voigt	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships
Connor Casey	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships
Riley Barrington	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships
Jason Spurway	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships (Part Time)
Matt Carter	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships (Part Time)
Jordan Taylor	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships (Part Time)
Rob Casey	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships (Part Time)
Trent Thomas	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships Umpire Coordinator
John Bailey	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships Asst. Umpire Coordinator
Matt Carter	Under 18 / 16 Australian Championships Umpire Supervisor (P/T)

Umpire Appointments (Continued)

Umpire	Competition
Keith Layman	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Chris Layman	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Connor Casey	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Rob Casey	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Geordie McRae	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Glen Taylor	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Ray Crosby	Womens / Youth Girls Australian Championships
Alan Charity	Senior League National Championships
Matt Wagner	Senior League National Championships
Keith Layman	Senior League National Championships
Chris Layman	Senior League National Championships
Andrew Clements	Junior League National Championships
Chris Layman	Junior League National Championships
Bruce Rowe	Junior League National Championships
Justin Fry	Junior League National Championships
Matt Carter	Junior League National Championships (Umpire Coordinator)
Marc Roberts	Little League National Championships
Geordie McRae	Little League National Championships
Josh Voigt	Little League National Championships
Stuart Bridges	Little League National Championships
Scott Weekley	Little League National Championships
Ryan Van	Little League National Championships
Marc Roberts	Little League World Series 2017
Matt Wagner	Senior League World Series 2017
Riley Barrington	Under 12 World Cup (WBSC)

Appointed Umpire Reports

National Women's, Senior League and Junior League Championships

It was a privilege and an honour to be given the chance to officiate at three National Championships in my first year of working Nationals and I would like to thank Trent Thomas, Matt Carter, Mark Roberts and the committee for providing me with this amazing opportunity. I greatly appreciate this as I will be overseas for the next few years studying and it will be difficult for me to work any of the Australian championships.

The first tournament was the Women's and Youth Women's Championships, which were held in Canberra at the Narrabundah Ballpark from the 15th to the 22nd of April. Greg Kent was the Coordinator. This tournament showcased the growing game that is women's baseball across Australia. The opportunity to officiate a different variation of Baseball allowed for all of the umpires present to expand their ability and become more open to different playing styles and different game atmospheres. The overall quality of umpires was high class, with most umpires being appointed for their second or third time, bar only three or four. This allowed myself and the other new umpires to turn to the seniority of those umpires to learn and expand our knowledge. It was also an extremely great honour to be appointed to the Bronze and Gold Medal Women's Championship game, joining my NSW counterpart in Connor Casey. Ultimately, the experience of travelling to a National Championship and experiencing the greatest that Australian Women's Baseball has to offer.

The second was the Senior League Championships which were held in Lismore at the Albert Park Baseball Complex between the 14th and 19th of May. Paul Latta was the Coordinator. This opportunity to witness the highest quality of junior baseball in the country was matched with the opportunity to be critiqued and instructed by some of the most knowledgeable and well experienced umpires in the country: Paul Latta, Geoff Robertson, Mark Bramwell and Barry Foat. The structure of the tournament was unfortunately affected by rain and weather conditions however this did not affect the opportunity to umpire over the course of the tournament. Again, it was an absolute honour to be appointed to the Gold Medal Game between the Adelaide Armada and Hills as the sole NSW representative.

The third was the Junior League Championships, which were held in Adelaide at West Beach on the 21st to the 26th of May. Matt Carter was the Coordinator. This tournament was wonderful for me to take what I had learned in Lismore and apply to my umpiring with haste, which I believe made great improvements to my officiating. Being supervised by Matt Carter allowed me to work closely with a NSW representative to share my goals for the future and receive honest and constructive feedback, working with other umpires in my age bracket also allowed me to work with prospective future partners. It was another huge honour to be appointed to the Gold Medal game between Hills and Ryde.

Again, I would like to thank all of the committee for granting me this honour to represent the State of NSW as an official at three National Tournaments.

Chris Layman

National Women's Championships and Senior League Championships

I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to officiate at two National Championships this year and I would like to thank the Committee for that chance.

The 2017 Women and Youth Women Championships were held in Canberra Narrabundah Ballpark, between the 15th and 22nd of April. The Umpire crew consisted of a mix of older experienced umpires and a number of younger umpires.

Greg Kent was the Umpire Coordinator. The crew reported to the accommodation at Kingston a few days prior, to review the grounds and go through preliminaries and rules. The accommodation this year was far superior to the premises last year. The three-man umpire system was used at these championships.

The weather was magnificent for the entire program with bright clear days and cool crisp nights. The standard of baseball was quite polarised with the top teams demonstrating high standard and the lower teams enjoying the experience. Even though the teams contested their games fiercely they showed great sportsmanship with some nail biters in the semi's and the finals. I was privileged to plate the Bronze Medal Youth Women's game. Bill O'Malley provided the crew with good critiques challenging us to get out of our comfort zones and he instilled a desire for all of the umpires to keep improving throughout the competition.

The 2017 National Senior League Championships were held in Lismore Albert Park Baseball Complex between the 14th and 19th of May.

Paul Latta was the Umpire Coordinator. The crew which consisted of umpires from all the States who flew into the Gold Coast a few days prior to the scheduled start of play and then drove the few hours to Lismore. Accommodation, which was comfortable and central to the township was provided in houses that were close to the playing fields. The three-man umpire system was used at the Senior League championships.

Unfortunately, the series was rain affected and the first scheduled day was a wipe-out with no games playable on the waterlogged fields. However, on the second day, games resumed with a revised schedule. The standard of play was extremely high for these U17 kids and the even though rain affected most of the competition – the kids played hard and really enjoyed the games when they were able to get on the diamonds.

Paul Latta, Geoff Robertson, Mark Bramwell and Barry Foat conducted critiques on the umpire crews. The feedback from these gentlemen, was absolutely brilliant. Paul had put together a booklet for each umpire with all the details of the tournament and a space in the back for each umpire to make notes from the critiques provided. This provided a great resource to review and remember the good and the bad points that were provided after each game. The quality and the level of detail provided helped the crew improve throughout the tournament. Paul also took the crew through some advanced rotations, which assisted greatly in officiating the games.

The two championships were completely different but provided excellent learning instances. I enjoyed the opportunities immensely.

Keith Layman

Junior League National Championships

I was proud to represent NSWBUA and be offered a position to umpire at these championships. Little did I know before the event that it would be my best experience as an umpire at a tournament. It was a lot of fun and was the best development opportunity I have ever been involved with for Baseball Umpiring.

The tournament schedule had two diamonds operating four games per day with three umpires per game. This was a comfortable workload of two games per day per umpire. Also the workload of two diamonds for the umpire coordinator was sufficient to get good critique and development. It would be better to have one umpire coordinator (umpire coach) per game, but Matt Carter did an absolutely fantastic job in covering both diamonds and attending every post game discussion with the umpires.

The umpire I was at the completion of this tournament was a lot better than at the start of the tournament. I worked on my movement and mobility, got more confident with inter-umpire signals and we all worked as a team much better than I had experienced at any other tournament. Some positive feedback on the assignments was that the assignments for the finals and other key games were based on performance at the tournament balanced with experience. No-one was left to flounder with too little experience. Those that worked very hard at their craft and improved were rewarded.

As for the critique in the post game, I think that it is more beneficial to all umpires if post game discussion between the umpires is limited to how they worked together and any inconsistencies or special situations that developed. Having this discussion with the umpire coordinator (coach) managing the depth of discussion is good. I witnessed some occasions where the lesser experienced umpires were being over-coached by their partners. Tips can be great, but a coach will always pick only a few things to work on, not necessarily everything that was wrong as that can be overwhelming and confusing. Some more experienced umpires did overwhelm their partners with feedback. Thankfully this tournament I only witnessed it and did not have that issue myself, but I have experienced that in previous tournaments.

As a group, we had fun without too many practical jokes or mucking around that can distract from our performance. It was a professional attitude from all umpires and Matt Carter encouraged this without having to enforce it. It was a good culture within the group.

Overall I could not be happier with my umpiring and my development at the tournament and I attribute much of that to Matt Carter's attitude and hard work in planning.

Andrew Clements

New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc.

Little League National Titles, Lismore

Umpires Appointed: Marc Roberts, Matt Wagner, Geordie McRae, Josh Voigt, Stuart Bridge, Scott Weekly, Ryan Van.

- No Report Received -

Under 16 / 18 National Youth Championships

Umpires Appointed: Ben Nash, Nick Glazebrook, Josh Voigt, Connor Casey, Riley Barrington.

- No Report Received -

Professional Umpire School Report

From the moment Dad & I decided that we were going to attend the 2017 Wendelstedt Umpire School in Florida, the excitement level peaked and I was really looking forward to getting over there and learning all I could. The thing I didn't realise was the enormity of the whole experience and the thrill and sense of achievement that this experience would bring.

We flew into Daytona Beach on the 30th of December 2016, 4 days before school was due to commence. Our accommodation was at the Holiday Inn Ormond Beach, which was right on the oceanfront. Dad & I were lucky enough to get an ocean view room amongst the other 162 students, of which about 40 were returning students who had attended school previously but had not been selected to work the minors and 24 instructors that were staying at the complex. We would be provided with two meals at the hotel and lunch at the training complex each day.

The first official day of school was the 3rd of January 2017 and that morning we were told to queue up to register and as it was construed as a job interview to work in the Minor League Baseball ranks, we had to dress in business suit to attend. The registration was a one on one meeting with the Chief Instructor Brent Rice and Major League Umpires Hunter Wendelstedt, Jerry Layne and Dana De Muth (Ed Hickox was the other MLB Umpire Instructor however he was not there at registration) together with other AAA and AA Minor League Umpires who were instructors at the school. As Dad & I were both students, they had us attend the registration together and it was a awesome thrill to meet Hunter, Jerry and Dana where we discussed our goals and were issued with our uniforms and training documents. We were told that later that day, we would be bussed to the Wendelstedt Training and Education complex which was a few minutes drive from where we were staying, to view & orientate ourselves with the complex which will be home for the six weeks.

When we first saw the fields we were amazed at how awesome they looked - there was four in total - they were 10 times better than anything we have in Australia and the Education complex was a massive room capable of holding 350 people.

After an hour-long briefing we were assigned to our umpire crews (8 students per crew named after retired MLB umpires) who would become our brothers in blue and we were expected to do everything as a crew. As a number of students had driven to the school, we were then assigned to car pools to ensure we were able to attend school each day. Dad and I were in different crews but the same car pool.

Day 1 started with classroom instruction where we turned to page one of the rulebook and one of the instructors started by saying "1.01 Baseball is a game between..." Brent Rice the chief instructor would then explain and decipher the rule and teach us every nuance that applied to that rule. Each morning we would report to the Education complex where we went through rule interpretation followed by lunch and then by formation where all the students lined up in rows and went through the mechanics for calling strikes, balls,

safes and outs – we were expected to improve our mechanics each and every day and it was scrutinized by the instructors each and every day. We would then move into our crews and start fieldwork where we went through drills, cage work, practice rotations and mechanics. That was the format for most of the week except for Saturdays where we went straight to the fields and started fieldwork immediately. Sundays was our day off but we were expected to study the rulebook and practice rotations. Exams on rules and interpretations were conducted every few days and the expectation was that you had to achieve 70% or better to continue. After the first 3-4 weeks of honing our skills we started working controlled games and live games, utilizing a two man umpire system and we were critiqued after each and every game and given goals and pointers that we had to master before the next game. It was gruelling and Dad needed some physiotherapy treatment to fix his aching legs on two occasions during the 6 weeks.

We also met a number of guest MLB umpires and Umpire Supervisors who gave us a presentation on their journey to MLB.

During Week 5 of the school, the instructors started filtering through looking for the group of students that would be selected to attend the Advanced Training Course held by Minor League Baseball. This would lead to selection for umpiring in the Minor Leagues. The 20-30 students selected to attend this course would join students from the other umpire school and contest for selection to umpire in the Minors. In the past a high percentage of students selected for the Minors were from the Wendelstedt School. This was the week where we were given our final rankings derived from exams held, fieldwork and instructor reviews. I was lucky enough to finish in the top 10 of the group and Dad finished in the top 50. I was also informed by one of the instructors that I would be selected to attend the Advanced Training Course and I was asked to provide my acceptance or rejection to attend. After much contemplation and discussion with Dad, I decided that I could not accept that opportunity as I had already committed to attend the State University of New York to study and play baseball there and felt that I should get a qualification before I chase any aspirations to umpire professional baseball; I was asked to consider returning to the Wendelstedt School, after I had completed my degree at college.

We had a celebratory dinner and presentation night on the second last day and the top two students and the top returning student from the 164 were recognised and presented with a huge trophy; it was also a great thrill to meet the legendary Joe West. On the last day of school, we had an exit interview where we were provided with feedback on our attendance at the school and we discussed the way forward on how to keep improving our skills as baseball umpires.

This was an experience of a lifetime and one that taught me so much about baseball umpiring and also showed me that hard work pays off.

Chris Layman
June 2017

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
1989-01	Jim Riley
2001-04	Michael Stephens
2004-11	Trevor Watters
2011-14	Neil Alchin
2014-	Rob Brown

Commentary:

1960 was the start of the Associations records

The period 1988-1989 was shared between Bob Medicott and Jim Riley

Umpires Award

Awarded for services to the game of baseball.

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
2014-15	Trevor Watters
2015-16	Trent Thomas
2016-17	Brian McDonald

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
2014-15	Nil
2015-16	Connor Casey
2016-17	Jason Spurway

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
2014-15	Marc Roberts
2015-16	Marc Roberts
2016-17	Chris Layman

NSW State League Umpire Award

(Awarded by the League)

2011-12	Robert 'Bob' Crawford
2012-13	Robert 'Bob' Crawford
2013-14	Robert 'Bob' Dawes
2014-15	Ben Nash
2015-16	Jordan Taylor
2016-17	Not Awarded