



Sydney Shires Cricket

Umpires Association

4th Annual Report

Season 2004 - 05



HONOUR ROLL 2004 – 2005 SEASON

**1st Grade Grand Final – Alan Davidson Oval
Strathfield bt Pennant Hills**

Umpires – Alan Green / John Moore

**2nd Grade Grand Final – Mona Park #1
Holroyd Hills bt South Sydney**

Umpires – Stephen Blomfield / Peter Friend

**3rd Grade Grand Final – Airey Park
Burwood bt South Sydney**

Umpires – Andrew Hinks / Chris Taylor

**4th Grade Grand Final – Rothwell Park
South Sydney bt Holroyd Hills**

Umpires – Brett Osseweyer / Robin Gandevia

**Frank Gray Grand Final – Alan Davidson Oval
Warringah bt Lane Cove**

Umpires – Brett Osseweyer / Robin Gandevia

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SSCUA

As at June 2005

PRESIDENT

July 2001 – July 2003	Peter Turner
July 2003 – July 2004	Bruce Parfett
July 2004 -	John Moore

VICE PRESIDENT

July 2001 – July 2004	Karl Wentzel
July 2004 -	Robin Gandevia

SECRETARY

July 2001 -	Stephen Blomfield
-------------	-------------------

TREASURER

July 2001 -	Gordon Smith
-------------	--------------

2004 - 2005 Management Committee

John Moore
Stephen Blomfield
Gordon Smith
Robin Gandevia
Brett Osseweyer (Asst to Secretary)
Glen Hanshaw (Resigned Jan 2005)
Owen Ridge
Peter Garlick

The Peter Turner Umpire of the Year Award

2001 – 2002 Bruce Parfett

2002 – 2003 Bruce Parfett

2003 – 2004 John Moore

2004 – 2005 Stephen Blomfield

Most Improved Umpire Of The Year Award

2004 – 2005 Geoff Taylor

A total of 6 members qualified to contest the most improved umpire of the year award this season. The list below shows each members improvement from season 2003/04 to season 2004/05.

The improvement is expressed as a percentage.

7.94% - Geoff Taylor

7.20% - Stephen Blomfield

6.10% - Ivan Holland

5.40% - Chris Taylor

2.72% - Brett Osseweyer

0.99% - Peter Garlick

Umpire of the Year / Most Improved Umpire of the Year - Criteria to win

The winner must have umpired a minimum of 11 matches during the season. Frank Gray games can make up part of the minimum 11 games however an umpire does not qualify unless at least 9 of the 11 games are Saturday Shires Matches. At least 7 of the 9 matches must be preliminary round matches. Any match where an umpire is only available on 1 day of a 2 day fixture does not count towards the 11 minimum matches.

A Message from the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee

To the Members,
Sydney Shires Umpires Association,

On behalf of all Shires Clubs, it is both a pleasure and an honour to write this short address for your Annual Report. I think you will agree with me that a game of cricket is not a real game of cricket without umpires. In the short time that your Association has been operating in Shires Cricket, our Competition has grown in both stature and quality, and continues to do so.

Sometimes people have short memories for it was not very long ago that Shires Cricket was threatened with the prospect of all players umpiring their own games in every grade. If that were to occur, then our competition would have really been in trouble.

Fortunately that did not eventuate and through the hard work of your tireless executive and your members, we now have a Sydney wide turf cricket competition second to none.

Of course there is still a lot of work to be done. More umpires need to be recruited so that every week ALL grades will see a man in black and white. Furthermore we would like to see a reduction in objectionable player behaviour. For this to happen, there needs to be an attack on several fronts. Players need to understand that they are not the only factors in the game. Club administrators need to take ultimate responsibility for their players and act immediately upon observing anything wrong. Umpires need to work to improve their man management and communication skills. Administrators need to be constantly thinking of new ways of approaching the problem (e.g. maybe re-visiting the possibility of a trial yellow card system). These are challenges for us all, but knowing the calibre of your members they are challenges we can overcome.

At club level we are comforted by the fact that your Association has strong leadership, dedicated members and enormous goodwill within its ranks. This is why the Shire Sub-Committee has issued a permanent invitation to your executive to attend all of our meetings. By communicating in this and other ways we are striving for the best possible outcomes for the Shires Cricket.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate and thank your Association for your wonderful work throughout season 2004-05 and look forward to seeing you better than ever, on the park next summer.

Stirling Hamman
Chairman , Shires Sub Committee

A Message from the NSW Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association

As umpires we all know that there are some decisions we make that you can look back on and be very pleased that despite the difficulty surrounding the decision the outcome was absolutely correct.

So it is with the decision taken some 4 years ago to start up the Shires Cricket Umpires Association. There are not many now that will admit to voicing their concerns or disagreement of the decision as the Association goes from strength to strength to become, as it was proposed that it should be, a very much vital cog in the operation of the NSWCUSA and its requirement to supply umpires of good standard to the SCA competitions.

Of course like all good decisions there is an element of luck and in NSWCUSA we realise that when we had the good fortune to have Stephen Blomfield not only take up the role of inaugural Secretary but also carry on with that role to this day.

It would be very difficult to find any one as conscientious as Stephen and the members of the Shires CUA should be very grateful for his work that he undertakes on their behalf that is far and above that what would normally be expected in such a role.

It has been my pleasure as Executive Officer of the NSWCUSA and in my role as appointments officer for the Grade (and previously Shire) matches to work with Stephen. It is a delight to work with some one as co-operative and as understanding. Thank you, Stephen.

The President and Secretary of the Shires CUA have always encouraged those of their members who are keen to advance their umpiring career to move into Grade cricket. It is also encompassing that such moves be mutual and that Grade umpires wanting a lesser demanding role on their travel time etc. be encouraged to operate in the Shire competitions.

As both organisations move forward we have but one major aim and that is to fulfil as many umpire appointments as is required each week. Recruitment is not easy and requires everyone involved, including members to be pro-active in bringing into the operation potential umpires and indeed convincing existing members to retain their membership and remain active.

The worldwide recognised success that is NSWCUSA is based on the support of its members and affiliated Associations. As Executive Officer I thank the Shire Committee and its Members for their involvement in 2004/05 and encourage all to ask themselves what they can do to make 2005/06 even better.

Enjoy your non-playing season.

Peter Hughes - Executive Officer NSWCUSA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004 - 2005

On behalf of the Sydney Shires Umpires Association (SSCUA) it is my pleasure to commend to you this, our Annual Report for the 2004/05 Season.

Looking back at the past season, I think it is fair to say that our Association has continued to move in the right direction but it is also fair to say that we still face some stern challenges ahead. To my mind, the most impressive thing about last season was the fact that more Shires games than ever before had officiating umpires. We were able to achieve this because of the efforts, not only of our own dedicated Shires Umpires, but also from our brother Grade Umpires. Special thanks go to Peter Hughes, the Executive Officer of the NSWCU&SA for his support as well as that of their President, Jim Cameron.

During the season, it was most pleasing to speak to many Captains, Players and Administrators and almost to a man, the consensus was that our performance as a group of Umpires improved markedly in Season 2004/05.

My thanks go to all officiating Shires Umpires for their dedication and professionalism during the Season. Of course, we rely on the support of our wives/partners and to those people I extend on behalf of the Association, our heartfelt thanks.

Our association is where it is today because of the unbelievable efforts of our Honorary Secretary and Appointments Officer – Stephen Blomfield. As your President I can attest to his utmost devotion to the growth and well being of this Association and to Shires Cricket in general. His dedication is frankly remarkable! To top off his year, it is my pleasure to congratulate Stephen in attaining the award of our 2004/05 Umpire of the Year. When one considers the efforts he puts in to administering our Association, this result is a remarkable effort.

I would also like to make special mention of the efforts of Andrew Hinks who ran Stephen a very close second in this award. In his first year of umpiring, Andrew, a former Shires Player, is hopefully a sign of the times, when more ex-players will join our ranks. Special mention also to Geoff Taylor who won the award as our most improved Umpire for the 2004/05 Season. At this rate, Geoff will be giving both Stephen and Andrew a real run for their money in 2005/06.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004 - 2005

Without the ongoing support of the SCA, our Association would really struggle. Thanks particularly to Ian Field and David Ford for their professional counsel during the Season. We particularly wish David all the best as he starts a new life in Ireland. To Stirling Hamman and his Shires Sub Committee, we thank you for your financial and moral support during the season. We have no greater supporter than Stirling Hamman.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the Clubs, in particular the Administrators and the people who look after us at the respective Shires Grounds around Sydney. These people are the unsung heroes of the Competition and we want them to know that we greatly appreciate their efforts. As well, we must not forget the Groundsmen who work tirelessly to ensure that our Season is successful. To my mind, this past season saw some really good batting tracks produced which all but the bowlers enjoyed.

Without the Players there would be no need for Umpires. In general terms, I believe the relationship between Captains/Players and Umpires continued to strengthen during 2004/05. This will continue to be the case if we as Umpires continue to improve our performance on the field and if the Captains continue to safeguard the Spirit of Cricket. It would be fair to say that Player behaviour slipped during 2004/05 if one considers the fact there was a 300% + increase in Shires Players going before the Judiciary. As Umpires we will need to work more closely with the Captains in 2005/06 to reverse this trend.

On the field, it's results that count and on behalf the Association I would like to congratulate the Premiers in all four grades together with all the Award winners for 2004/05.

During the past Season I have been fortunate to work with a strong Committee who have worked tirelessly to continue to develop our Association. I wish to give special thanks to my Vice- President Robin Gandevia for his ready support and to our Treasurer, Gordon Smith, for managing our finances so well.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004 - 2005

LOOKING TOWARDS 2005/06.

So where to from here for our Association? As I said at the beginning of this report, we still have many challenges to face. Prime amongst these are :-

1. To retain and attract new members to the SSCUA.
2. To continue to work with the NSWCU&SA to ensure more Shires games have officiating Umpires next Season.
3. The SSCUA institute more training sessions for its members.
4. To continue to build our own identity within the framework of the NSWCU&SA
5. To work with the Shires Sub-Committee and the Clubs to improve the Spirit of Cricket within Shires Cricket.
6. To improve feedback to our Members on their on field performance.

In commending this Report to you I would like to thank once again all those who made 2004/05 such a successful Season and I hope that we come back next Season in greater numbers and with renewed vigour.

John Moore
Association President

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

It is with a great deal of pleasure I present this my fourth Secretary's Report for the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association for the 2004/05 season.

Our fourth year will go down in history as our most successful to date. Our membership numbers were up and most importantly we in partnership with excess umpires from the Sydney Grade Competition were in a position to cover more Shires matches in a season than ever before.

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to report to the Shires clubs that in season 2004-05 that the following umpire allocations was able to be achieved –

- * **100%** umpire coverage of all days play in First Grade Shires
- * **100%** umpire coverage of all days play in Frank Gray Shield Matches
- * **82%** umpire coverage of all days play in Second Grade Shires
- * **21%** umpire coverage of all days play in Third Grade Shires
(15% of these being Sunday Preliminary games)
- * **11%** umpire coverage of all days play in Fourth Grade Shires
(4% of these being Sunday Preliminary games).

In summary we as an Association supplied at least one umpire to 425 days of cricket within a competition that conducted 747 days of play. This is a completion rate of **56.89%** of days played in the entire 5 competitions conducted in the Shires Association. This is a great improvement on previous seasons which have all been less than 50%

The coverage of **82%** in Shires Second Grade was also a new record and one that was very much noticed by the Club Captains looking after Second Grade teams this season (see thank you acknowledgements at the back of this report). There were even occasions when Third Grade games saw the occasional umpire which was a great result and one we hope to improve on in 2005/06

This season we had eight new members join our Association. All of these gentlemen did good jobs during the season and I really hope they all decide to saddle up with us next season. Please join me in welcoming to our ranks the following members –

Tony Bird - Tony is a friend of our Treasurer Gordon Smith who had been umpiring in the local Georges River competition. Gordon talked Tony into having a crack at district turf cricket and he took to this task with great skill receiving some excellent marks from some of the captains during the season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

Ian Bowman - Ian only did a handful of games with us primarily due to his commitments with junior cricket. The step up to Shires cricket was an eye opener for him and I'm sure with this season behind him that he will settle in nicely next season and hopefully do a few more games than this summer.

Stephen Brady - Stephen only did two games this season after deciding to take umpiring on very late in the season. Hopefully he will be a better position next summer to start from Round 1 and develop his skills further.

Brett Hammond - Another umpire who made the move from the Georges River competition on synthetic wickets to turf wicket Shires. Brett after starting the season a bit slowly finished the season in fine form and received a number of compliments late in the season about his umpiring.

Andrew Hinks - Andrew finished his playing career with the Strathfield club last season and immediately moved into umpiring. Andrew had a brilliant first season and earned the respect of all the players and clubs he had involvement with. His exceptional season was capped off by running 2nd in the umpire of the year award. Andrew obviously will head to bigger things in Grade Cricket however I'm hopeful we can get maybe just one more year from him before he makes the move.

Chris Kearney - Chris rejoined us after spending the last two seasons in Grade Cricket after his initial year was with us in 2001-02. He had a really good year and received some excellent reports through the season. I'm hopeful Chris will spend many more years with us in the Shires competition

Glenn Roche - Glen rang me just before Christmas as keen as mustard wanting to make the change from the local Fairfield Liverpool competition into Shires. His enthusiasm for the job was infectious as was his unique way of calling out "over" after the completion of six deliveries. He also lives in an area of Sydney that I find hard to allocate umpires to. So his application to join Shires was warmly appreciated. I'm really looking forward to seeing him back on board next season.

Ian Thomson - Ian is a stalwart at the Roseville Shire club having played most of his career there as well as holding committee positions including President. He keening decided to take up umpiring at the start of this season. He had a pretty solid first season and I definitely enjoyed his company on the few occasions we umpired together. I look forward to seeing him back for another season in September

All up this season we had a total of 45 paying members an increase of 2 compared to last season with 8 new members (see above) and 6 non renewals. Of our 45 members a tick over 50% of them (23) umpired in 10 matches or more which is a much better result compared to previous years. Only 7 of our members were inactive from umpiring in SCA controlled matches this season, this being the same as last season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

As Secretary of this Association I wish to acknowledge the successful relationship that again was in place between Peter Hughes (NSWCU&SA) and myself. Peter offered assistance and support to our Association whenever required as well as supplying extra umpires from time to time that were surplus to Grade Cricket. He also was kind enough to allow Shires members to officiate in Green Shield fixtures during December and early January which gave our members some extra on field experience in a new environment sometimes at locations they have never umpired before. Our thanks also go to Peter for attending one of our meetings this season.

In on field issues the SCA embraced the suggestions that came in all directions in regards to playing times in two day matches and re-arranged playing times so that the number of overs to be fitted in during a days play averaged out at 16 per hour. This proved to be an overwhelming success and the number of matches playing excessive amounts of time beyond 6pm were slashed. This rule change was a great result for umpires and players alike. A number of rule changes are in the wind for next season with the main one being the abolition of one day wides in ALL limited overs matches with all games in Shires Cricket going back to the Laws Of Cricket in relation to wide calls. The SCA Management Committee has already approved this change. Hopefully I will be able to report more on this and other potential rule changes come AGM night on July 20 , 2005

During the season three of our members received appointments to representative matches. Peter Friend stepped in when Alan Green fell ill to appendicitis and officiated in the Annual Shires XI Vs Grade XI match at the SCG which was won handsomely by the Shires lads. Chris Taylor umpired the Shires XI Vs Churches XI match at Mona Park whilst Brett Osseweyer received an appointment to the inaugural Shires XI Vs Sydney Districts XI match at Alan Davidson Oval. A Report on each of these matches is covered elsewhere in this report.

Moving along to a topic that I am saddened that I have to bring up in this report and that is the subject of player behaviour. We had a horror year in Shires with a total of 19 players being reported to the Association for various complaints breaching the Code of Conduct guidelines. Of the 19 players reported, 13 were complaints lodged by umpires while another 6 were complaints lodged by clubs. This compares to last season's total of only 6, a massive increase of 316%, which culminated in the events that occurred in the Auburn v Pennant Hills 1st grade semi final. In this fixture five players found themselves fronting the Judiciary in the week leading up to the Grand Final which was disgraceful. Thankfully the Judiciary saw through the smoke screen that was put up by the leading protagonists and appropriate penalties were issued. One of the suspended players received an even harsher penalty when he rolled the dice in front of the appeals committee the following night, which will preclude him from taking on a captaincy position in the coming season. It was a shame that the First Grade Grand Final which is the showpiece of our competition was tarnished by the actions of a few silly people who had been treading a tightrope with most umpires during the season. Hopefully the lessons learnt will see a better year for player behaviour in the upcoming season. I would like to reinforce comments I made in this report last season and encourage members to not shirk their responsibility in respect of player behaviour. The SCA and its Judiciary Committee are right behind the umpires in wanting to stamp out poor behaviour. I have invited one of the Judiciary Committee members to address us as a group at our September 2005 pre season meeting and I encourage all members to attend.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

While on topics negative I wish to express my disappointment at the attendances of the meetings we held this year at Redfern RSL. I was particularly appalled at the low numbers that attended the AGM in July 2004. Of a total membership of 43 a meagre 20 members bothered to attend what is essentially the most important meeting of the year. A total of 14 members did not attend one single meeting all season. We only hold four meetings a year (July, September, December and March), surely members could show a bit more enthusiasm to attend at least one meeting. The committee has approved a motion that any member who does not attend at least one of the general meetings (Sept, Dec or March) in a season will be ineligible to win the umpire of the year award. Lets keep these thoughts in mind for the upcoming season.

Ok, Lets get out of this negative mood and move on to some nicer topics. I am sure we all would like to extend our congratulations to the competition winners –

1st Grade Premiers – Strathfield (That's 3 in a row)

Strathfield 278 defeated Pennant Hills 90 at Alan Davidson Oval

2nd Grade Premiers – Holroyd Hills

Holroyd Hills 8/288 drew with South Sydney 6 (dec) 320 at Mona Park 1

3rd Grade Premiers – Burwood Briars

Burwood Briars 8/202 defeated South Sydney 200 at Airey Park

4th Grade Premiers – South Sydney (Also 3 in a row)

South Sydney 255 defeated Holroyd Hills 164 at Rothwell Park

Frank Gray Shield Premiers – Warringah

Warringah 8/197 defeated Lane Cove 9/195 at Alan Davidson Oval

Grand Final weekend was amazing weather wise. After the disappointment of rain ruining the Sunday of last seasons Grand Finals this year the big weekend produced two picture perfect Sydney days with blue sky and temperatures in the mid to high 20's. Whilst the First Grade match was a bit of a fizzer with Strathfield wiping out Pennant Hills before lunch on day 1 the other three matches were crackers. 1st Grade Man of the match (Peter Toohey Medal) – Rob Luc from Strathfield

The Second Grade was a marvellous game played on one of the flattest and unforgiving wickets that Mona Park has ever produced. Batting first Souths (the lower placed side) posted a huge 6/320 before declaring and getting a crack at the Holroyd boys before stumps. Holroyd to their credit batted and batted and batted and when time was called after the completion of 120 overs Holroyd had only lost 8 wickets and had posted a score of 288. The draw was enough to secure them a well earned premiership. Man of the match – Michael Mara from Holroyd Hills

The Third Grade match was also a close affair with Burwood Briars winning by 2 wickets. Chasing 200 at Airey Park they were cruising at 0/135 before a huge collapse gave Souths a big sniff. In the end a tense finish saw the undefeated Minor Premiers take out the title. Man of the match – Peter Hall from Burwood Briars

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

In Fourth Grade South Sydney won their 3rd Premiership in a row batting first and posting a healthy 255 at Rothwell Park. Holroyd Hills in reply only managed 164 but chased hard all the way with the match winding up around about tea time on day 2. Man of the match – Rob Callan from South Sydney

The Frank Gray Final was a nail biter with Warringah batting first and posting 197 off its 50 overs. Lane Cove in reply needed 8 off the last over but fell 2 runs short of the win. It was a bitter pill for the Lane Cove lads who had lost the previous two Frank Gray finals and had gone into the game against Warringah undefeated. Man of the match (Dave Gilbert Medal) – Stuart Milne from Warringah

Congratulations should also be extended to the Burwood Briars Club who yet again won the David Tribolet Club Championship Trophy by quite a comfortable margin. The Briars have set the standard in consistency across all four of their grades in recent years and were deserved winners of the award.

The Second year of the Spirit Of Cricket Award saw the Warringah club take the award in a closely contested affair from the Georges River Club. Winners of each individual grade were Roseville & Lindfield (joint winners) in 1st Grade, South Sydney in 2nd Grade, Georges River in 3rd and 4th Grade and Macquarie Uni in the Frank Gray Competition

The Shires Ground of the Year was awarded to Rothwell Park (Burwood CC) by the barest of bare margins. Achieving a final average mark of 8.78 out of 10 they pipped Mona Park (Auburn CC) by only 0.01 of a mark. It really couldn't get any closer than that. Both grounds were superb all year with Rothwell being a belter of a batting deck while Mona was also a great cricket wicket but possibly won more hearts with the outstanding facilities and hospitality supplied by the Auburn committee. In Third place was Alan Davidson Oval (South Sydney CC) which also is held in high regard by players and umpires alike.

Further ground placings were as follows (Club Names listed, not venue name)–

(4th) Macquarie Uni , (5th) Georges River, (6th) Strathfield (7th) Epping , (8th) Pennant Hills , (9th) Roseville , (10th) Lindfield , (11th) Lane Cove , (12th) Holroyd Hills , (13th) Warringah , (14th) Southern Districts

Further congratulations are also extended to the following award winners –

Shires First Grade Captain of the Year - Damien Naughton (Lane Cove)

Shires First Grade Player of the Year - Danny Tait (Pennant Hills)

Frank Gray Shield Player of the Year – Damien Naughton (Lane Cove)

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

Congratulations are extended to the 12 members who were appointed to Grand Finals this season whether it was the Frank Gray Final, one of the four Shires finals or the two Metro Cup finals. To all accounts most members had good games and the efforts of all were appreciated. This year was the first season in our history where I felt that the competition for the First Grade Grand Final was so strong that in my opinion anyone of the umpires appointed to the four Shires Grand Finals could have easily handled themselves in the First Grade Appointment, the margins between each of the top 8 were that small. Well done everyone !

In a new initiative this season your Association introduced a new award for the most improved umpire of the year. This year that award is bestowed on Geoff Taylor. Geoff has been a member of this Association for all our four years to date and this season was his third as a full time officiating member. He has improved greatly from season to season and received one particular comment from a captain this year giving him praise for the manner in which his umpiring has matured in recent seasons. Overall Geoff improved his performance compared to last season by 7.94% and will be the recipient of the inaugural Most Improved Umpire Award at our AGM

One of the highlights of the off season was the Shires Premiers Dinner on May 13 which as per last year was held at the Epping Club. I can't speak highly enough of this evening and the Shires Sub Committee should be thanked as well as being very proud of the efforts they put into making this evening such a huge success. Guest speaker on the night was legendary Aussie opening bowler and newly elected Australian cricket selector, Merv Hughes. Merv entertained the large crowd on various issues that have cropped up during his illustrious career and had the crowd in hysterics. I was proud of the fact that we as a group of umpires supported this evening and we filled two tables with our members and partners. I highly recommend this event to all current and future members in future seasons.

Late in May your Association was intending on putting on a free BBQ for all members. This would have been the second year we have conducted this get together and I intend on seeing it becomes an annual event from now on. This season the BBQ was going to be held at John Moore's place at Pennant Hills. Unfortunately John's wife (Leonie) fell seriously ill during the week leading up to the event and the day had to be cancelled. I am hopeful we might be able to reschedule the BBQ during sometime during September. We can discuss this issue at the AGM on July 20 and hopefully we can all agree on a date to reschedule the BBQ.

In Late April all umpires were issued their end of season match assessment marks as supplied by team captains. I hope that this information has given you some assistance. If you pick up just one tip from these marks and comments to improve your game in the following season then the whole system is shown to be working. PLEASE don't take these marks too literally. They should only be used as a guide for you to understand how a group of team captains has collectively assessed your performance. These marks are not the be all and end all of your umpiring career. Its only a game – please don't take what your receive too seriously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

As per last season I would like to acknowledge those umpires who received a perfect score assessment from both team captains in a game. This is quite a rare achievement and any member who was good enough to be assessed a 12 out of 12 mark by both team captains in a game can truly hold their head high. Each of the following members will be awarded an achievement certificate at the AGM in July. Congratulations are extended to the following –

Stephen Blomfield – Burwood v Strathfield 1st Grade Round 2

Stephen Blomfield – Burwood v Warringah 1st Grade Round 10

Stephen Blomfield – Strathfield v Warringah 1st Grade Semi Final

Peter Friend - South Sydney v Warringah 1st Grade Round 5

Robin Gandevia – South Sydney v Roseville 1st Grade Round 10

Glen Hanshaw – Auburn v Sth Districts Frank Gray Round 2

Andrew Hinks – Georges River v Lindfield Frank Gray Round 1

Andrew Hinks – Pennant Hills v Warringah 1st Grade Round 11

John Moore - Auburn v Sth Districts Frank Gray Round 2

Brett Osseweyer - Pennant Hills v Warringah 1st Grade Round 11

Jim Shellens - South Sydney v Warringah 1st Grade Round 5

Chris Taylor – Epping v Pennant Hills 1st Grade Round 10

Bruce Whitehouse – Georges River v Sth Districts 3rd Grade Round 10

Congratulations are extended to the following members who all passed 50 career matches with this Association during the season. They join active umpires Stephen Blomfield (93) and Bruce Parfett (79) on the 50 games or more list. Each of the below members will be awarded a merit certificate at our AGM in July. The number of career matches they have so far accumulated are also indicated –

(71) - Geoff Taylor (65) - Jim Shellens (64) - Gordon Smith
(63) - Robin Gandevia (61) - George Richards (58) - Ivan Holland
(56) - Peter Friend (56) - John Moore

A complete list of all members past and present who have umpired 50 or more matches is listed towards the back of this report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2004 – 2005

During the month of May the Committee met and discussed various issues for the upcoming season. The committee has decided to possibly revamp the system in which umpires performance marks are allocated. I myself am determined to put a system in place next season where members can have more frequent access to their marks. Another initiative we are looking at is to have our own website, hopefully I will have more to report on this issue at the AGM on July 20. Finally the Committee has approved an increase in annual membership fees from \$10 to \$20 for active umpires with inactive umpires continuing to be charged \$10. The committee deemed that the increase is appropriate especially in light of increased administration costs as well as freebies given to members such as food & drink at meetings and a free BBQ for members and their partners. Another reward initiative at no cost to members will also be unveiled at the AGM on July 20

Looking forward I would once again like to encourage all members to try and promote our Association whenever possible. We need more umpires to fulfil our ultimate goal which is to have enough umpires available on any given weekend to ensure that all 28 Shires matches from First Grade right down to Fourth Grade gets at least one umpire. If ever that happened it would a day we as an Association would be very proud of. I am sure every member of this Association knows other persons who might like to take up umpiring. I am equally as sure that most of us know other umpires who are adjudicating in other competitions. I ask all our members to be pro-active in attempting to recruit new members to the Shires competition – all are welcome. Promoting our Association also extends to the new Association Polo shirt that is going to be made available to all members to purchase leading up to the new season. I would like to think that all active members would purchase one of these and wear it with pride to and from all of your matches. For further details on how to purchase one contact either Treasurer Gordon Smith or myself.

My final thanks are extended to Peter Hughes from the NSWCUA for all his help and guidance in the season just gone. Thanks also to John Moore our new President for all his input. Thanks also to Ian Field & Dave Ford at the SCA for all their help during the year. Dave Ford left the employ of the SCA at the end of season and I wish him and his wife well on the next journey in their lives as they move to permanently reside in Ireland. Finally thank you to Stirling Hamman the Shires Sub Committee Chairman and all the members on the Shires Sub Committee. I look forward to dealing with all of you gentlemen in the new season.

In summary, season 2004-05 was a really good one for this Association. We had a record number of members, we covered more games of Shires Cricket than ever before and the competition for end of season grand final appointments was the strongest it's ever been in our four year history. The season itself was played in the main in great weather with hardly any extreme heat days and we lost a very minimal number of playing weekends to rain. All in all it was a season that we can all look back fondly on. And there's plenty to look forward to next season

The new season starts on September 24, 2005 – I can hardly wait !!

Stephen Blomfield
Honorary Secretary

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2004-2005 season

Combined Shires XI vs. SCA Grade XI Monday 14th March , 2005 – Umpire Peter Friend

Shires XI vs SCA Grade XI at the Sydney Cricket Ground

The SCA Shires representative team did the competition proud at the SCG this season by thrashing the Grade selection.

Shires XI 3/131 (29 overs) defeated SCA Grade XI 10/129 (39 overs)

Grade batted first and never overcame a slow start and were almost completely dominated by a bowling attack that worked out that on the 5 day old pitch (a Pura Cup had finished the day before on the wicket this match was played on) that bowling at the stumps was the right way to go. Sean Day and Brett Richardson set the standard right off the bat. 'Daysie' got two nicks in the first over, one of which was converted by Paul Mulvaney; the first of his 4 catches. Richo pounded in and deceived Matthew O'Brien with a swinging Yorker to take out his off stump. A decision to run on a ball that was hit within the grasp of Damien Naughton bought a length of the pitch run out to send the grade side to drinks at 3 – 79.

Jared Burke looked to bat out a partnership with the skipper but lost his head and stumps trying to belt Steve Ware over long off. Daminda Wijeskera soon found a length and with Jason Dowling causing trouble at the other end tied up the innings to finish with figures of 8-2-9-2.

Brett Collison stormed through the tail to pick up 3-16. Sean Day's bag was 5-0-15-1. Grade side all out for 129 in 39.3 overs. An innings totally dominated by the tight line and length bowling and solid fielding

After Lunch Shires set out after the target with Tim Harris celebrating his late call up stroking the ball through and over the field. At the other end, the bowlers made the mistake of bowling short to Brett Collison on an old and slow deck and he pounded the pickets square of the wicket. First wicket of Collison fell with the score well into the 50's. Tim Henry joined Harris and soon found the gaps and accelerated the score; Tim Harris jogged a single, and was run out to a direct hit with a half-century at his mercy, a solid contribution of 47. Henry belted a huge 6 into the Brewongle stand and soon after lost his wicket. Damien Naughton was joined by Michael Chee Quee who ended the game in style with three consecutive fours off the bowling of Jared Burke. Game over 3 – 131.

A game played by one side that wanted to perform and worked as a team and the other who didn't seem to have any answers or strategies. Thanks for the chance to Umpire in the middle of the "Hallowed Turf"

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2004-2005 season

Combined Shires XI vs. NSW Churches XI Sunday 14th November , 2004 – Umpire Chris Taylor

Shires XI vs SCA Grade XI at Mona Park #1

The SCA Shires representative team did the competition proud at the SCG this season by thrashing the Grade selection.

Shires XI 10/147 (43.2 overs) defeated NSW Churches XI 10/88 (30 overs)

The combined NSW Churches side won the toss and elected to field first on a warm and sunny morning at Mona Park.

The Shires openers seemed to be in control but some aggressive bowling by S.Briggs together with some superb catching brought about a collapse with half of the Shires side dismissed with only 70 on the scoreboard. Steve Ware from Warringah with 23 and then more particularly Paul Mulvaney (Roseville) with 53 gave the scoreboard a more respectable look.

The Shires team was bowled out for 147 in 43.2 overs, which must have given the Churches side some grounds for optimism with S.Briggs and P.Cotter producing the best bowling returns of 3/32 and 3/31 while P.Saidi chipped in with a handy 2/11. Although a couple of chances went begging the Churches fielding was outstanding.

After a great lunch put on by the host club Auburn the Churches side began their chase looking for 148 to cause what would probably be considered to be an upset win. Unfortunately they got away to a disastrous start with three wickets tumbling before double figures on the scoreboard could be reached. Anthony Boorer (Epping) bowled a penetrative spell and with Steve Ware (Warringah) chipping in things looked grim for the visitors.

J.Henry and N.Azzim threatened to make a game of it but it was J.Hirst with a courageous 33 who looked to hold up the Shires for any length of time. However the latter part of the Churches innings was blown away by Alex Moore from Roseville who took 3/17 as well as Anthony Foot from Lindfield with 2/11. Boorer finished up with the last wicket and overall took 3/28 with the home side achieving a more than comfortable than expected 59 run victory – Churches All Out 88 !

The game was played in excellent spirit and this together with the superb hospitality on offer by the Auburn Club made the day a very enjoyable one.

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2004-2005 season

Combined Shires XI vs. NSW Sydney Districts XI Sunday 5th December 2004 – Umpire Brett Osseweyer

Conditions at Alan Davidson Oval were near perfect for this game, a flat hard and grassed pitch was matched with sunshine and cool refreshing easterly breeze.

Sydney Districts won the toss and batted, they certainly were not afraid to swing the bat at anything wide or full, but unfortunately this lead to them losing 4 quick wickets. At the first drinks break there was a feeling that the game could be an early finish, however the Districts' middle order showed some talent and took it to the Shires attack. A couple of good solid partnership combined with some big hitting saw the Districts side edge there way to 200, helped mainly by a solid 42 by Kieran Richards. Another mini collapse lead to the belief that the Shires team would bowl Districts out in under the 50 overs however a 50 plus 10th wicket stand by J.Flood (40 no) and J.Hardy (30) saw Districts amass 230 off 50 overs with Hardy being bowled on the last ball of the innings. Wickets were shared between the bowlers, however stand out performances was Lane Cove's Brett Richardson 3/44 (10), Brett bowled his 10 over spell in one hit at the beginning then went off the field for the rest of the innings. Also, Lindfield's Daminda Wijeskra 2/17 (10), not a lot of turn but an excellent line and flight.

After an enjoyable lunch break, Sydney Shires started the run chase. It didn't start very well when Macquarie Uni's Steve Moran was caught behind in the third over. That brought Mark Oliver to the crease, after prodding at a few outside off stump he was then given a life when second slip dropped a sitter. "The Big Show" made Districts' pay when he opened his shoulders and took advantage of the fielding restrictions. Districts' catching let them down again when they dropped opener Auburn's Ben Donaldson who also made them pay with some beautiful stroke play through point and cover. Together Oliver and Donaldson put on over 100 runs before Donaldson luck run out being caught for 54. Oliver continued to smash around, with the support of South Sydney's Michael Chee Quee who took on the anchor role while Oliver kept the run rate going. However a bowling change by the Districts team and a well thought out fielding placement saw Oliver caught in the deep for 53. This lead to a dramatic halt to the Shires run rate, however the damage had been done. Chee Quee took on the responsibility of batting out the innings but was running out of partners at regular intervals. However, in the 48th over the winning boundary was hit by Chee Quee (finishing 59 no) and Shires winning the game by 2 wickets. The best bowling performance for the Districts XI by far was Peter Stott 4/23 (10), he bowled a slow medium pace, but put the ball "on the spot" very well and kept Districts in the game.

Many thanks go to Peter Daffen and Michael "Reg" Jones from South Sydney C.C for looking after everyone and providing us with a sustaining lunch. Also, the groundsman of Alan Davidson should be acknowledged, as he provided a pitch that saw 464 runs scored and 18 wickets fall.

Also, thankyou to my umpiring partner for the day Mr Steve Black (Secretary of the Parramatta District Umpires Association) we both had a fantastic day and got through the game with "little" controversy.

SYDNEY SHIRES XI 8/234 (47.3 overs) - M.Chee Quee 59no, B.Donaldson 54, M.Oliver 53; P.Stott 4/23 defeated SYDNEY DISTRICTS XI 230 (50 overs) – K.Richards 42, J.Flood 40no, J.Hardy 30; B.Richardson 3/44 , D.Wijeskra 2/17 , V.Bennett 2/38 by 2 wickets

ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – GAMES DONE – 2004/2005

NAME	SHIRE GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	TOTAL
BIRD , Tony	11	0	0	11
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	16	5	0	21
BOWMAN , Ian	3	2	0	5
BRADY , Stephen	2	0	0	2
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	3	2	15	20
CHRISTEN , Richard	2	2	16	20
DHANDAPANI , Khadir	2	2	13	17
FRIEND , Peter	15	1	0	16
GANDEVIA , Robin	15	9	0	24
GARLICK , Peter	12	0	0	12
GOODMAN , David	6	5	0	11
GREEN , Alan	13	0	0	13
HAMMOND , Brett	14	2	0	16
HANSHAW , Glen	6	5	0	11
HARRISON , Spencer	15	6	0	21
HINKS , Andrew	14	5	0	19
HOLLAND , Ivan	14	7	0	21
IYER , Malli	2	0	0	2
KEARNEY , Chris	11	2	0	13
MOORE , John	12	6	0	18
MULLIGAN , Luke	0	1	13	14
MURPHY , Stephen	3	0	0	3
OSSEWEYER, Brett	15	6	0	21
PARFETT , Bruce	1	1	18	20
RICHARDS , George	14	6	0	20
ROBERTS , Michael	2	1	9	12
ROCHE , Glenn	8	2	0	10
RUSH , Gary	2	0	13	15
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	15	2	0	17
SHELLENS , Jim	14	5	0	19
SHINER , Tom	0	2	0	2
SMITH , Gordon	19	5	0	24
STARKS , Steve	1	0	13	14
TAYLOR , Chris	13	2	0	15
TAYLOR , Geoff	15	8	0	23
THOMSON , Ian	13	0	0	13
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	3	3	0	6



2004-05 ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST - CAREER GAMES				
NAME	SHIRE GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	TOTAL
BIRD , Tony	11	0	0	11
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	73	20	7	100
BOWMAN , Ian	3	2	0	5
BRADY , Stephen	2	0	0	2
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	28	10	30	68
CHRISTEN , Richard	3	5	41	49
DHANDAPANI , Khadir	19	13	28	60
FRIEND , Peter	52	4	1	57
GANDEVIA , Robin	40	23	3	66
GARLICK , Peter	24	0	0	24
GOODMAN , David	17	11	0	28
GREEN , Alan	47	0	176	223
HAMMOND , Brett	14	2	0	16
HANSHAW , Glen	22	10	0	32
HARRISON , Spencer	30	9	1	40
HINKS , Andrew	14	5	0	19
HOLLAND , Ivan	49	9	1	59
IYER , Malli	14	4	0	18
KEARNEY , Chris	24	10	24	58
MOORE , John	42	14	54	110
MULLIGAN , Luke	1	1	26	28
MURPHY , Stephen	4	0	12	16
OSSEWEYER,Brett	28	11	0	39
PARFETT , Bruce	55	24	19	98
RICHARDS , George	49	12	148	209
ROBERTS , Michael	14	6	55	75
ROCHE , Glenn	8	2	0	10
RUSH , Gary	20	10	13	43
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	27	2	1	30
SHELLENS , Jim	48	17	3	68
SHINER , Tom	86	19	67	172
SMITH , Gordon	47	17	0	64
STARKS , Steve	15	2	41	58
TAYLOR , Chris	27	2	2	31
TAYLOR , Geoff	51	20	1	72
THOMSON , Ian	13	0	0	13
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	9	5	0	14



Career Matches (Shires Only)

50 Games Or More

All Current and Past Members

NAME	SHIRE GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	TOTAL
SHINER , Tom	86	19	105
QUAKEN , Keith	100	0	100
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	73	20	93
PARFETT , Bruce	55	24	79
TAYLOR , Geoff	51	20	71
RALSTON , Tim	68	0	68
DONNELLAN, Tom	63	2	65
SHELLENS , Jim	48	17	65
SMITH , Gordon	47	17	64
GANDEVIA , Robin	40	23	63
RICHARDS , George	49	12	61
THORPE, Ken	53	5	58
HOLLAND , Ivan	49	9	58
FRIEND , Peter	52	4	56
MOORE , John	42	14	56



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - MEETING ATTENDANCES

NAME	2004/05 Meetings Attended (Maximum = 4)	Career Meetings Attended	Career Meetings Attended (expressed as a %age)
BIRD , Tony	3	3 (3)	100
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	4	7 (7)	100
BOWMAN , Ian	0	0 (2)	0
BRADY , Stephen	0	0 (1)	0
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	3	3 (5)	60
BYRNE , Laurie	1	1 (4)	25
CHRISTEN , Richard	3	3 (4)	75
DHANDAPANI , Khadir	0	1 (5)	20
FRIEND , Peter	3	5 (7)	71
GALE , Andrew	0	0 (5)	0
GANDEVIA , Robin	3	4 (5)	80
GARLICK , Peter	3	3 (4)	75
GOODMAN , David	1	2 (5)	40
GREEN , Alan	0	0 (4)	0
HAMMOND , Brett	3	3 (3)	100
HANSHAW , Glen	4	7 (7)	100
HARRISON , Spencer	3	3 (4)	75
HINKS , Andrew	2	1 (2)	50
HOLLAND , Ivan	4	7 (7)	100
IYER , Malli	0	0 (5)	0
KEARNEY , Chris	2	3 (5)	60
MOORE , John	4	5 (5)	100
MULLIGAN , Luke	0	0 (4)	0
MURPHY , Stephen	1	1 (4)	25
OSSEWEYER, Brett	4	4 (4)	100
PARFETT , Bruce	2	5 (7)	71
PEPPER , Glenn	0	3 (7)	42
QUAKEN , Keith	0	0 (7)	0
RICHARDS , George	3	5 (6)	83
RIDGE , Owen	2	3 (5)	60
ROBERTS , Michael	1	3 (7)	42
ROCHE , Glenn	0	0 (1)	0
RUSH , Gary	1	2 (5)	40
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	3	3 (4)	75
SHELLENS , Jim	3	4 (5)	80
SHINER , Tom	0	3 (7)	42
SMITH , Gordon	3	6 (7)	85
STARKS , Steve	0	3 (7)	42
TASKER , Peter	0	0 (4)	0
TAYLOR , Chris	1	1 (4)	25
TAYLOR , Geoff	4	6 (7)	85
THOMSON , Ian	4	4 (4)	100
TRIBOLET , Brett	0	0 (4)	0
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	0	1 (6)	16
YOUNAN , Daniel	0	0 (5)	0

Note – A number of general members meetings (approximately 3 or 4 in total) held in seasons 2002/03 & 2003/04 have not been included in these statistics due to the minutes of these meetings being lost

END OF SEASON STATISTICS

A number of members are keen to enquire how they rated against other umpires during the 2004-2005 season. All members were issued with their own personal stats during April. The below figures show a list of average marks from the highest ranked umpire to the lowest during the season. Each members name has been removed from this list. To find out where you rated last season find your particular average mark on the list, count how many places down the list you are and that is your placing. Marks listed in underlined text are members who officiated in less than ten matches

11.00

9.67 Umpire Of The Year

9.26

9.00

9.00

8.86

8.86

8.67

8.63

8.58

8.21

8.15

8.04

7.95

7.95

7.94

-----> Average mark 7.92

7.74

7.63

7.54

7.50

7.50

7.36

7.33

7.33

7.25

7.13

7.10

6.95

6.88

6.75

6.73

6.50

6.45

6.25

6.10

The average mark this season was 7.92 (last year was 8.02) based on a total of 6,797 marks awarded in 858 captains reports.

A Vote of Thanks

During the season our Association received numerous compliments and comments on the way we have contributed to the Shires Competition. These are the comments received –

1. Hi Stephen - As we bowed out on the weekend in the Semi Final I just wanted to send a short note to say thanks for all your efforts during the year with the umps for shires, particularly second grade. Ump numbers and talent have improved every year due mainly to your efforts, which were appreciated by all our players during the season. So thanks again to you, your committee and fellow umps and all the best for the Grand final weekend.

Brett Howle – Burwood Second Grade Captain

2. Stephen, Congratulations on an excellent summer of umpiring, your teams efforts really are an integral part of shires cricket. Personally well done, your organization is very impressive. All the best, and if I don't actually get a chance to speak to you over the Grand Final weekend, all the best for the off season.

Rex Whitley – Warringah Second Grade Captain

3. Congratulations Stephen, You continue to do a brilliant job and I know the guys really appreciate your efforts as well as those of all the Umpires under your control

Regards, Paul Price – Member of Shires Sub Committee & Burwood CC



A Vote of Thanks

4. Stephen - Well done, your tireless work and commitment in achieving the results your Association has is tremendous. The Shires Umpires Association has been one of the best initiatives and had the biggest impact in the Shires Competition since my involvement commenced in the late eighties. I hear comments all the time that if we did not have umpires then a lot of quality players would not be playing Shires. The creation of the Shires Umpires Association has lifted the prestige and image of the Shires Competition to a new level within the cricket fraternity. Keep up the good work and please pass on Auburn's appreciation to good work being done by all the umpires involved. Thanks & congratulations on fielding such great numbers to date this season !

Mike Wood – Club Secretary , Auburn CC

5. The reason for my email is I wanted to recognize the significant improvement that I have witnessed this year in the umpiring standards in 2nd grade. I've played Shires for seven years now - the first 4.5 in 1st grade and the last 2.5 in 2's. When I first came back from 1's to 2's I was surprised by the drop in umpiring standards between the 2 grades. Over the last couple of weeks (Qualifying and Semi Finals) the umpiring standard we have encountered has been really quite exceptional ! Overall the quality of the umpiring in 2's this year has improved dramatically against the last few seasons. With the exception of a game here and there the decision making has been much better then previous seasons. Well done to yourself for organizing the guys and all the individual umpires involved. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all involved

Michael Kelloway – South Sydney Second Grade Captain

6. Stephen - I'd like to thank you for your all your efforts with organizing umpires for 2nd grade this season. The number and quality of umpires in 2's this season really has been a massive improvement on previous years.

David Lewis – Holroyd Hills Second Grade Captain

The laws of cricket simplified

"You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs, that's the end of the game"