

**Sydney Shires
Cricket
Umpires Association**

Season 2003-04

**3rd Annual
Report**

HONOUR ROLL 2003 – 2004 SEASON

**1st grade Grand Final – Rothwell Park
STRATHFIELD bt SOUTH SYDNEY**

Umpires – Bruce Parfett / John Moore

**2nd grade Grand Final – Alan Davidson Oval
WARRINGAH bt BURWOOD**

Umpires – Stephen Blomfield / Peter Friend

**3rd grade Grand Final – Airey Park
BURWOOD bt AUBURN**

Umpires – Alan Green / Robin Gandevia

**4th grade Grand Final – Mona Park # 1
SOUTH SYDNEY bt BURWOOD**

Umpires – Chris Taylor / Gordon Smith

**Frank Gray Grand Final – Mona Park #1
BURWOOD bt LANE COVE**

Umpires – Bruce Parfett / Robin Gandevia

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SSCUA

As at June 2004

PRESIDENT

July 2001 – July 2003	Peter Turner
July 2003 –	Bruce Parfett

SECRETARY

July 2001 -	Stephen Blomfield
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TREASURER

July 2001 -	Gordon Smith
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2003-2004 Management Committee

Bruce Parfett
Stephen Blomfield
Gordon Smith
John Moore
Tom Shiner
Owen Ridge
Karl Wentzel

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003 – 2004

As President of the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association (SSCUA) it is my pleasure to commend to you this SSCUA 2003/04 Annual Report.

This President's Report gives me an opportunity to formally acknowledge the work of a few who work so willingly for so many and to thank those persons and bodies who have assisted our Association over the past year. I also have the opportunity to reflect on the progress of our Association and most importantly – ruminate on what I see as the Association's most pressing future challenges.

People often defer, for a number of reasons, from singling out individuals for individual praise. However, I have no such qualms in singling out our Honorary Secretary and Appointments Officer, Stephen Blomfield, for my personal thanks and I am sure that of the Association's membership, for his wholehearted work on our behalf.

Stephen, an active umpire with the Association, works tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that the Association's best interests are promoted and that we have umpires appointed to the maximum number of Shires Competition matches. Without Stephen's generous giving of his time and unstinting efforts, our Association would not be in the healthy position it is now. Stephen's passion for umpiring in general and the SSCUA specifically, is truly amazing.

To the members who participated on our Association's committee, I also extend my sincere thanks.

I'd also like to thank the members of the SCA Shires Competition sub-committee for their continued support, and in particular that of its Chairperson, Stirling Hamman. Their invitation to the SSCUA this year, to join the sub-committee, as a non-voting member, was very much appreciated and will, we believe, prove worthwhile.

Players and umpires alike sometimes forget the people behind the scenes. So I'd like to thank, on behalf of our members, the people at those Clubs who take the effort to make the umpires feel welcome on match day. Here I won't mention Clubs or individuals – they know who they are. But their efforts are greatly appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003 – 2004

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It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support our umpires get from the majority of captains and indeed most players. On too many occasions, when reviewing player behaviour, we focus on the negative aspects caused by a very, very, small minority of players and not on the excellent behaviour of the majority. Despite many reports to the contrary I do think the Spirit of Cricket is alive and well - albeit that it may go to sleep on occasions. We as umpires are not always blameless and sometimes – just sometimes – we need to reassess how we approach the game and players!

The Association also appreciates the support of the SCA's Ian Field and David Ford. Ian and David are very professional, extremely approachable and above all are "good blokes" to deal with.

The thanks of the SSCUA go to the Executive Officer of the NSWCU&SA, Mr. Peter Hughes, for his support of our Association over the past year. Without Peter's cooperation and guidance, the operation of our Association would be severely compromised. I know Stephen appreciates immensely the very productive working relationship he has with Peter.

Along with Peter, we also gratefully acknowledge the support of the NSWCU&SA in general and specifically its training committee and those members who have given freely of their time to attend Association meetings as guest speakers.

My biggest thanks however, are reserved for the most important people in our Association – our umpiring members – whether they are dedicated Shires umpires or members from the Grade panels. Feedback on your performances and demeanour from our client base - the Shires Clubs, team captains and the cricketers - continues to reflect positively on the Association's original aims and objectives. I've spoken to many club officials, administrators, team captains and players, and they are, to a man, without exception, genuinely appreciative of the contribution that our umpires are making to the playing and enjoyment of cricket in the Shires Competition. This is down solely to the individual and the collective commitment, skill, and dedication of our members – a position of which they can be justifiably proud.

Of course any thanks would not be complete without acknowledging the tremendous support our umpires receive from their wives, partners and families. On behalf of the Association and its members we thank you sincerely.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003 – 2004

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Turning from thanks, I like to formally acknowledge and congratulate our SCA Shires Umpire of the Year – John Moore. John has performed at a consistently high level throughout the year and this award is just recognition of his umpiring excellence and the regard in which he is held both on and off the cricket field – by Captains, players and his umpiring colleagues. As an Association we continue to benefit from the experience that ex-1st grade Grade umpires, such as John, bring to the Shire's arena

May I also pass on the Association's warmest congratulations to the 2003/04 premiers in the four Shire Grades and the winners of the competition's awards. Namely:

Premiers:

1st Grade – Strathfield;
2nd Grade – Warringah;
3rd Grade – Burwood;
4th Grade – South Sydney.
U24's – Burwood

Spirit of Cricket: Burwood

Captain of the Year: Nathan Rennie (Pennant hills)

Player of the Year: Gary Sheen (Pennant Hills)

Player of the 1st Grade Final: Adam Elbourne (Strathfield)

Player of the U24's Grand Final: Adam Hudson (Burwood)

In turning to reflect on Season 2003/04 I think it has been one of both consolidation and growth for the SSCUA.

Consolidation of the Association took place from the perspective that as the season progressed (and indeed as future seasons unfold) our members have continued to build upon and enhance their umpiring technique, knowledge of the Laws and man management skills. This is particularly relevant when one considers that most of our members, at the present time, have three (3) years or less experience and are by our own admission - still travelling up a very steep learning curve. The really positive outcome is that we are already producing some excellent umpires, who if they maintain their passion and commitment to the game, could well progress to higher-grade honours.

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In terms of growth, the SSCUA, after a concerted advertising drive, increased its membership considerably from the end of season 2002/03 to a total of 43 by Christmas 2003. With our ranks bolstered on occasions by our umpiring colleagues from the Grade panels, the SSCUA has been able to appoint two umpires at every 1st grade game in every game of the season and on occasions, have one or two umpires officiating at games down to third grade. A position which we would never have dreamed of when only four of us turned up to the Briars Club in 2000 to discuss the formation of the SSCUA!

The challenges that lie ahead for the SSCUA are probably many and varied. In no particular order of importance my personal selections of some of the major issues are:

1. Attracting new members to, and retaining existing members within, the SSCUA
2. Developing the capability to appoint umpires to as many games as possible across all Shire's grades;
3. Ensuring that the SSCUA has in place a disciplined framework and operating structure;
4. Growing, developing and consolidating the SSCUA's individual identity as a progressive and vibrant entity - albeit under the umbrella of the NSWCU&SA – within the SCA generally and the Shires Competition specifically;
5. Ensuring that the SSCUA's service and performance strategies and objectives are clearly aligned to the service needs all of its stakeholders;
6. Continuing to operate in an open and responsive manner – particularly in the engagement and involvement of its members.

In closing this season's President's Report I'd like to reiterate my sincere thanks to all those who have supported and assisted the Association over season 2003/04. We look forward now to a rest over winter and coming back bigger and better in 2004/05.

Bruce Parfett
Association President

SECRETARIES REPORT 2003 – 2004

It is my pleasure to present this my third Secretaries Report for the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association.

As the start of the season approached the pre season numbers of members indicating full time on field availability looked rather grim. I was half convinced we were going to have a similar season to 2002-03 where the numbers of on field members was barely adequate to cover the compliment of first grade games each week.

To combat this your committee went on an aggressive advertising campaign sending out information about our Association to every single local newspaper in the Sydney metropolitan area. I'd like to thank the approximate 75% of those local newspapers who ran stories about us. The net result was about a dozen enquiries from people who wanted to become umpires or those wishing to resume an umpiring career from the past.

In light of this response we set up a special Shires training course. I cannot speak highly enough of the assistance that was offered to us by Peter Hughes , Laurie Borg , David Dilley and Graham Chudleigh from the NSWCU&SA who agreed to run this course for us. The course and examination were completed by the end of the seasons second match. The net result was an extra six bodies who came on board with us as full time umpires. Not a lot in the big scheme of things but more than enough to get our second grade competition umpires in about three or four of its seven matches each round. This was a marked improvement on the previous season.

A warm welcome to the following gentlemen who joined us as new members this season and who came through the above mentioned training course.

Peter Garlick - Answered our add for umpires and came to us with extensive experience umpiring in schools competitions. Received many compliments about his umpiring and we hope Peter has a long and fruitful career with us in the Shires competition.

Spencer Harrison - Spencer hadn't umpired for quite a number of years and had previously spent time in the local Parramatta competition in the past. Received a lot of good marks and handled himself very well to all accounts.

Warren Knowles - Warren had recently moved to Sydney from Melbourne. He had previously umpired some "park" cricket in Victoria. He did two and a half games with us and then mysteriously vanished. All future efforts to contact Warren were unsuccessful. Put that one in the X Files Mr Mulder !

SECRETARIES REPORT 2003 – 2004

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Brett Osseweyer - Brett was our “junior” applicant aged in his early 20’s. He decided to give cricket umpiring a crack and did a great job in his first year. Brett has a bright career ahead of him whether it be in Shires or Grade.

Trevor Schokman - Trevor passed the exam and then joined us only a few years after the end of his playing career. Trevor is an ex Lindfield player who I must say I always had a great battle with in the matches I played against him. Acquitted himself very well in his first season as an umpire.

Chris Taylor - Chris was our Pommy connection. He umpires in England and was in Sydney for an Aussie Summer where he received a lot of praise for his on field umpiring. It was a pleasure to have Chris on board and hope he visits us again next Summer.

We also had the following new members join our ranks during the season from various backgrounds –

Jeff McKinnon – Joined us after 2 seasons on the sideline having umpired in Grade Cricket in Panels 3 & 4 in 2001-02. Due to work commitments had to withdraw from his Grand Final appointment which must have been disappointing for him. We hope to see Jeff back next year for another successful summer.

Alan Green – Joined us at the beginning of Round 6 after umpiring First Grade last season. Alan brought a wealth of experience to Shires having over 200 grade games under his belt a lot of them being First Grade. It would be a pleasure having Alan back in Shires next year. Alan made to me a very interesting comment that he felt that Shires First Grade was like umpiring the Standard of Grade First Grade cricket with all the players on prozac ! Quite a compliment for the standard of play and particularly the behaviour in Shires Firsts !

Laurie Byrne – Joined us having completed and passed the mid winter training course. Due to work commitments only did 2 games this season. Hopefully Laurie can get in a few extra games next season.

Wes Scott - Wes passed the exam but is still playing club cricket on Saturdays. He was very keen to umpire on Sundays wherever possible. Ended up umpiring just about all of the Frank Gray games on Sundays and did quite well to all accounts

Stephen Murphy – Stephen umpired grade cricket in Panel 4 the previous season but joined us this year due to limited availability. Only ended up doing 2 games – Hopefully a few more next season !

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Peter Tasker - Peter was a full time Panel 4 Grade umpire on Saturdays who wanted to join us for some Sunday games where possible. I was more than happy to allocate Peter some Frank Gray games and he would be more than welcome on the full Shires panel for Saturdays if ever he wants to make the move.

Luke Mulligan & Richard Christen – Two others similar to Peter Tasker. Luke & Richard both umpired Grade on Saturdays in Panel 4 but were keen to hold membership of our Association. Richard also a handful of Frank Gray games during the season when required.

All in all our total membership for the season was a credible 43 with 18 of these members umpiring more than 10 matches in the season. Another 18 members did less than 10 matches and 7 members held membership without actually taking the field this season. I can only hope that those who couldn't umpire this season have their circumstances change in 2004-05.

Another positive aspect to occur during the summer was the high percentage of people available to umpire Grade Cricket during the season. Whilst the flow down of surplus Grade umpires into the Shires competition didn't occur in October or November due to various reasons (eg World Cup Rugby , School Cricket being on , Lower than normal availability , etc etc) the fact was that by the time we got to December , January and to a lesser extent February Peter Hughes at the NSWCU&SA regularly had a couple of Panel 4 umpires surplus after his appointments were completed. In each case these umpires were allocated a Shires game as near as possible to their suburb of residence and in the majority of cases handled themselves quite well. We did have a few problems with a couple of Grade umpires officiating in a couple of Shires matches and between myself and Peter Hughes I think we were adequately able to communicate the clubs concerns onto those particular umpires.

The result of this overflow from Grade cricket was that Shires had a total of 17 Grade Umpires appointed to an extra 15 Shires matches that without this overflow would not have had umpires in the first place. That's a win – win scenario in anybodys language if you ask me !

I want to thank Peter Hughes at the NSWCU&SA for allowing us the use of his surplus numbers and I'm sure this arrangement can be expanded on in the future

Another up side with the relationship we had with Grade Cricket was the fact that Shires Members were offered the opportunity to umpire in the Green Shield Competition during the summer school holidays. As well as this we were allowed to umpire in Grade Cricket on January 3 when Grade played a limited overs round and Shires were having a week off.

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I know that the nine guys who got a run in Grade Cricket on January 3 got an eye opening look into a different breed of cricket. Some liked it , others hated it. Each to their own I say. But the big plus about our guys umpiring Grade on this day was that Shires members for the second year in a row filled up a number of gaps in the Grade appointments that round that without our help would have seen a number of 5th Grade matches go without umpires ! Well done to all of you who put your hand up on January 3 when some regular grade umpires decided they had “other” things to do. Wasn't there a test match on at the SCG that day ?

In on field issues we started the season with an important change to playing conditions in standard two day games. The SCA ruled that play start at 1pm (instead of 12.30pm) and the number of overs in a day be reduced from 85 to 80. Using simple mathematics it was clear to everybody (seemingly except the SCA) that this was going to cause problems. We now had a situation where teams were being required to bowl at the ridiculous over rate of 17.2 overs per hour compared to the previous seasons 16.4 per hour which in itself was rarely achievable.

The net result of this decision was that the majority of matches were finishing way beyond the scheduled 6pm finishing time in daylight saving games. Umpires were regularly doing 30,40,50 even God forbid 60 minutes overtime simply because the asking over rate was unachievable. This current situation in my opinion is totally unacceptable and we will be lobbying the SCA through the Shires Sub Committee to go to a 12.45pm start leaving the required overs at its current daily quota of 80. This will reduce the asking over rate to 16.2 which is a much more sensible rate in this day and age.

This proposed changed will also ensure that the majority of matches will finish at 6pm on the dot and umpires and players alike can get home on a Saturday night at a time that wont cause a divorce in the home. I firmly believe if we can guarantee umpires that matches will finish at 6pm and not drag on and on into their Saturday evenings that we would have a better chance of picking up a few extra members. Getting home at 9pm is NOT fun !!

Another big initiative that started this season was the introduction of the Spirit Of Cricket Award. Umpires were required to allocate a mark from three down to negative one assessing each team on their “Spirit Of Cricket” ethics displayed in the game. In Shires matches with no umpires in lower grades the opposing captain marked his opposition. Whilst this award is a great one in theory my perception was that only a few clubs changed their on field behaviour this season and some clubs only brought up the “Spirit Of Cricket” subject when it suited them and the position of the match at any given time.

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I personally viewed captains who took this stance dimly and a mark of zero was regularly allocated to teams that took this line of thinking. I encourage all members to adopt this stance in the new season as Spirit of Cricket should be displayed at all times and not just when it suits.

In a closely fought contest congratulations are extended to the Burwood Club for winning the overall inaugural Shires Spirit Of Cricket Club Of The Year. Burwood had an average Spirit Of Cricket Mark for its entire Club of 2.138 out of a maximum of three - Well done Burwood !!

Burwood were closely followed by Lindfield on 2.121 then Roseville on 2.054, Epping on 2.053 , Georges River on 2.000 and Southern Districts on 1.983. The SCA made the remaining eight clubs positions only known to each individual club in question which I personally found to be totally unproductive as it hides and shields the inadequacies of the clubs that showed poor spirit of cricket ethics in the season.

The teams that won the individual grade awards for Spirit Of Cricket were -

1st Grade - Roseville (2.385)

2nd Grade - Burwood (2.538)

3rd Grade - Georges River (2.385)

4th Grade - Southern Districts (2.000)

Frank Gray - Lindfield (3.000) - Perfect Score in all 6 matches played !!

On the subject of Spirit Of Cricket and player behaviour I need to report that we had a pretty average year for bad player behaviour. A total of six Shires players were reported to the SCA Code of Conduct Commissioner. Of this total of six I can advise that three of them were players reported by members of this Association with the other three reports being made by Clubs. Of the total of six reports made to the SCA four received a suspension, one received a caution and suspended sentence and one was dismissed – (The one that was dismissed was a club complaint and not from an umpire)

As well as the six reported players above I am also aware of at least FOUR incidents this season where members of this Association failed to report players for some rather appalling behaviour. To say I am disappointed in these members is an understatement. Members who allow this sort of “gutter” behaviour only allow the problem to fester onto one of your colleagues in future matches. We MUST take a harder stance on this sort of garbage occurring in Shires matches. The Code Of Conduct Commissioner fully supports umpires reports and cases are now being heard in a timely manner so there is now no excuse for ignoring bad behaviour.... EVER

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Deciding not to report players for showing serious dissent or breaching the Spirit of Cricket conditions is just not acceptable. Taking the attitude of “Sweeping it under the carpet” or “I couldn’t be bothered” is in my opinion lazy and irresponsible. Reporting an incident doesn’t necessarily mean it’s a Judiciary matter. The decision if an incident is bad enough for a Judiciary hearing is the role of the Code of Conduct Commissioner. Your report may not make it to the Judiciary but it may make the difference if a future incident on the same player occurs as this shows a pattern of conduct by that player.

Its is my personal opinion that members who don't do the right thing in the next season and elect to ignore any sort of poor player behaviour should be asked to justify their actions to the Executive of this Association.

During the season three of our members received appointments to representative matches. Bruce Parfett officiated in the Annual Shires XI Vs Grade XI match at the SCG. Peter Friend umpired the inaugural Shires XI Vs Churches XI match at Lindfield Oval whilst Gordon Smith received an appointment to a three day test match involving Australia Deaf v England Deaf at Uni of Sydney #1 Oval. The only twist here is that Gordon and his partner for the match Arthur Watson were the only two people on the field that could actually hear – but some might say that was debatable! A Report on each of these matches is covered elsewhere in this report.

The seasons major fund raising activity was the Sydney Cricket Association (SCA) raffle. This raffle is where the SCA puts up all the prizes and prints off all the raffle books. We thank the SCA for their ongoing support by making this raffle available to all clubs and Associations. The way it worked is that the SCA charges each participating Association or club \$2 for the printing of each raffle book supplied. Each book contains 20 raffle tickets to be sold at \$2 a pop with the entire proceeds of ticket sales to go to each of the participating Associations or clubs. This means that we earned a clear \$38 for each whole raffle book sold. At the start of the season your committee decided to purchase a total of 40 books at a cost to us of \$80. These books were distributed to all active members. I can report that the total amount we raised (deducting the initial \$80 outlay) was net \$1,160.00

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I want to thank all the members who took on the shared responsibility of fund raising for this Association and sold a raffle book. I also want to thank the 2 or 3 members who didn't want to sell a book but contributed a \$40 donation instead. Finally though I'd like to express my extreme disappointment with a number of members who only partially sold a raffle book or worse still refused to sell a book and returned it unsold. Some members just didn't return the book at all ! These members (in my opinion) have let this Association down badly. All members share an equal burden to assist in fund raising for this Association. How hard can it be to sell 20 little raffle tickets to your family , friends or work mates ? Please guys , a bit more consideration next season as the proceeds of this raffle keeps your membership fee down at \$10 per year. Without this raffle a large hike in your annual membership fee might be on the cards. Maybe it might be easier to increase membership fees from \$10 to \$50 and any member who wants to offset their membership by \$40 can ask to sell a raffle book. An issue to be discussed at the AGM.

Moving back to on field matters I want to congratulate the competition winners this season as follows –

- 1st Grade – Strathfield**
- 2nd Grade – Warringah**
- 3rd Grade – Burwood**
- 4th Grade – South Sydney**

The finals series was played in fantastic weather until 7am on the morning of the second day of the Grand Final. At this point rain ruined what should have been a great day for everybody except for the second grade match which managed to get a result due to three hours of play in the afternoon. It seemed that everywhere in Sydney it was pouring except at the second grade match where the rain held off long enough to see the Warringah club pip the Minor Premiers Burwood. No play was possible at all in the 1st , 3rd and 4th grade finals on day two. It was such a shame to see grand finals won on a rained out draw but we simply don't have any control over the weather.

Congratulations are also extended to the Burwood club who had a great year taking out an extremely close win in the Club Championship as well as winning the Frank Gray Final and having three of their four sides participate in the Grand Finals. A super year all round from the Briars boys.

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Congratulations to the South Sydney club who this season took out the important award of Ground of the Year for their preparation and conditions supplied at Alan Davidson Oval. Souths were followed closely by Burwoods home ground at Rothwell Park and then came Auburns home ground Mona Park. Fourth to last place were – (4) Pennant Hills , (5) Strathfield , (6) Macquarie Uni , (7) Epping , (8) Lindfield , (9) Holroyd Hills , (10) Lane Cove , (11) Georges River , (12) Roseville, (13) Warringah & (14) Southern Districts.

On the subject of Finals I want to congratulate the 12 members who received a Grand Final Appointment whether it be in the four Shires grades, the Frank Gray Final or one of the two Metro Cup Finals. From all accounts you all did exceptionally well and were a credit to this Association. Congratulations are also extended to John Moore on taking out this years umpire of the year award. John did a great job and was rewarded with an appointment to the Shires First Grade Final for the second year running. I know a lot of members really enjoyed standing with John and gaining valuable experience drawing on Johns background in being an ex First Grade Panel Umpire. John was duly acknowledged with an award medallion being given to him at the end of season Shires Premiers Dinner which was held in May this year at the Epping Club.

On the subject of the Premiers Dinner I would like to thank the Executive of the Shires Sub Committee for another great effort in putting on a quality event at the Epping Club. I had heard a lot about how successful last years event was but due to other commitments I was not able to attend. For this years event our Association filled two tables and we were all entertained brilliantly by guest speaker and ex Australian opening bowler Rodney “41 at 12.85” Hogg. I highly recommend to ALL members your attendance at this event in future seasons.

Our other activity mid winter was the members BBQ held at Bruce Parfett's place on Sunday May 30. A total of over 20 people attended and a great day was had by all. A big thank you to Bruce and his wife Ann for putting up their home for this function. I strongly recommend we make this an annual event as it gives us a chance to socialize away from the cricket field.

By now you should all have received your end of season marks and comments supplied by all club captains. I hope these documents provided you with some valuable information and feedback on how you may be able to improve your game. We all know that a majority of what captains write in their reports are a load of “guff” however once in a while something gets written down that you can actually take on board and use to improve your game. If you can improve your game even a tiny bit from information in the captains comments then the whole exercise I would consider to be worthwhile.

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As you all know a “perfect score” from a captain is a mark of 12 out of 12 for a match obtaining a maximum mark of three in each of the four measured competencies.

Most umpires would have achieved a perfect score of 12 from a captain on more than one occasion during the season. Invariably a mark of 12 comes from a winning captain. I would now like to acknowledge the following umpires who achieved what I consider to be the “holy grail” of umpiring --- A Mark of 12 out of 12 from BOTH captains in the same match.

Congratulations to the following members –

Stephen Blomfield - Sth Sydney V Warringah - 1st Grade Round 1

Richard Christen - Warringah V Strathfield – Frank Gray Round 2

Robin Gandevia - Strathfield V Georges River - Frank Gray Round 5

Alan Green - Holroyd V Epping - 1st Grade Round 12

Spencer Harrison - Strathfield V Macquarie Uni - Frank Gray Round 3

John Moore - Lane Cove V Auburn - Frank Gray Round 5

Bruce Parfett - Sth Sydney V Warringah - 1st Grade Round 1

Gary Rush - Burwood V Strathfield - Frank Gray Round 6

Owen Ridge - Burwood V Lindfield - Frank Gray Round 3

Gordon Smith - Sth Sydney V Georges River - Frank Gray Round 3

Gordon Smith - Burwood V Macquarie Uni - 3rd Grade Semi Final

Wes Scott - Strathfield V Macquarie Uni - Frank Gray Round 3

Trevor Schokman - Warringah V Southern Districts - 3rd Grade Round 12

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I'd now like to conclude by thanking a number of people for their contributions during the year.

A Big thank you to Peter Hughes from the NSWCUA for all his help and guidance in the season just gone. Thanks to Bruce Parfett our new President for all his input. Thanks also to Ian Field & Dave Ford at the SCA for their help during the year. Finally thank you to Stirling Hamman the Shires Sub Committee Chairman. I look forward to dealing with all of you gentlemen in the new season.

To wind up I would like to encourage all members to make your best effort in the off season to try and bring a mate into cricket umpiring. As I continually say so often if just 8 or 9 of us could bring along a mate to umpire in the Shires Competition we would be in a healthy position to be able to get close to our main target. This of course is to try to have enough members to ensure a complete coverage of umpires in all First AND Second grade match during the season. If we can get anywhere near that goal we would all be in a position to feel exceedingly proud of ourselves.

ITS UP TO YOU !!

I look forward to the new season with anticipation. I look forward to umpiring with you all in the new summer and I look forward to serving you as this Associations Secretary in the new season if the members wish to vote that way at our Annual General Meeting.

September 25 can't come quick enough for me (yes my footy team is not doing well at all) !

Stephen Blomfield

Honorary Secretary / Appointments Officer

TREASURERS REPORT 2003-2004

SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION INC

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 May 2004

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Bank Fees	14.85	Balance C/F	2,534.25
NSW Umpires Gear	102.00	Interest	2.01
Register – Fair Trading	39.00	NSWCA Raffle	1,160.00
Application Fee (NSWCUSA)	50.00	SCA Clubs	1,400.00
Secretary's Expenses	1,899.13	Fees Members	430.00
Engraving	17.00	Umpires Course	430.00
A.G.M. 2003 (Supper/Drinks 25/7/03)	189.40		
General Meeting (Supper/Drinks 24/9/03)	199.90		
General Meeting (Supper/Drinks 20/1/04)	190.00		
Secretaries Computer	855.75		
Balance	2,399.23		
	<u>\$5,956.26</u>		<u>\$5,956.26</u>
		Balance C/F	\$2,399.23

*Gordon Smith
Hon Treasurer
17 June 2004*

SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
INC.

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31st May 2004

Total Income for Financial Year	\$3,422.01
Value of all Assets, including Deposits	\$2,399.23
Total Expenditure for Financial Year	\$3,557.03
Value of Liabilities	NIL
Number of Members for Season 2004	43
Were accounts audited	Yes

The Association has no outstanding Debtors

Gordon Smith
Hon Treasurer
17 June 2004

SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
INC
Reconciliation with Bank Statement

Balance of Bank Statement dated 31.05.04	\$3,114.23
Less Outstanding cheque (Shires presentation night 07/07/04)	715.00
	<u>\$2,399.23</u> =====

Expenses drawn by Hon Secretary during the
2003-2004 season

Stamps & Postage	\$551.70
Stationery	580.79
VHS Tapes (Training Course)	23.97
Ink Cartridges for Printer	328.65
Phone Expenses	250.00
Post Box Hire	82.17
Post Box Redirect	33.00
Laminating Machine	48.85
	<u>\$1,899.13</u>

Gordon Smith
Hon Treasurer
17 June 2004

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2003-2004 season

Sydney Grade XI vs. Sydney Shires XI Thursday 4th December 2003

In 2000, if anybody had suggested to me that in 2003 I would umpire a cricket match at the SCG - I would have told him or her they were dreaming. Yet, here I was, on Thursday 4 December, preparing to stand in the annual Sydney XI versus Shires XI representative cricket match, at one of the finest cricket grounds in the world. What a buzz!

Arriving at 8.15am for a 10 am start, I had recollections of the story about how Dickie Bird had arrived so early for his first test match that he contemplated climbing the locked gates to get in! Still better to be early rather than late! I could not even contemplate how I would've felt had I been late for this game!

As I gazed out over the empty ground I wondered to myself how the umpires might feel when this very same ground was full to capacity for an Australia vs England Ashes Test match - with all of its tradition and expectations and the accompanying colour and noise.

Yet here I was, looking out over this magnificent, albeit empty ground, with only a few workmen for company, feeling somewhat nervous about the challenge of what lay ahead. Certainly there would be no back page coverage of the game – but as far as I was concerned, this was my “test match”. I knew I wouldn't be back to stand on this ground again in any official capacity and I certainly didn't want to leave the ground at 6 o'clock having let my partner, the Shires Association or myself down. I was determined to represent the Shires Cricket Umpires Association to the best of my ability. Pressure – what pressure!!

Soon people started to arrive and I was extremely grateful to be welcomed by Ian Field, the SCA Secretary. I always find Ian to be an extremely calming sort of bloke and a short chat with him quelled the butterflies - at least for the moment anyway. Also helping to quell the intestinal juices was the sight of a few familiar faces of players from the Shires Clubs. Although balancing the familiarity of the Shires players was the total unfamiliarity of the Grade players!

My partner for the day, Margaret Beaumont, arrived shortly thereafter and I was glad to have the chance to meet her and chat about the day ahead. I was keen to draw on Margaret's 1st Grade experience and whilst I was more than happy to defer to her as “the senior partner”, Margaret soon made it quite clear that we were equal and she would have none of this seniority business!

Margaret made me feel at ease straight away, although I was thinking to myself that this “ease” would be tested in the sorting out of the change room protocols. I certainly didn't want to make a point of it but I was sure being equal in the partnership would not extend to the “sheds”!

On entering the umpires' change rooms, one couldn't help but be slightly overawed with the sense of history that seemed to ooze from the photographs of past and present Test and 1st Class umpires that adorned the walls. To think that the likes of

Dickie Bird, David Shepherd, Steve Bucknor and our own Darryl Hair and Simon Taufel had prepared for a test match in these very same rooms was a particularly humbling thought.

Having discretely sorted out our change room arrangements, Margaret and I eventually made our way down the timber stairs and into the Long Room (or is it merely the Members Bar?). With the customary "invitation" to both teams we were now on our way to the "middle". Sydney to bat – Shires to bowl.

On the way to the middle, I again made the mistake of referring to Margaret as the senior partner when offering her the choice of ends. Once again she reminded me that we were equal. Hopefully, this would be my last mistake for the day!

The ground from the Member's Pavilion is a terrific sight. From the middle - it is truly amazing. The feeling as I stood in position, under a blue sky, looking around the ground at the various stands would take someone of far better eloquence than me to adequately describe. Chuffed springs to mind.

It was evident, from the first ball of the Sydney innings that Shane Stanton, the Sydney captain and opening bat, was intent on getting on with the business. Equally, the Shires new ball bowlers - Paul Sullivan and Shaun Day - certainly did not look out of place in this company. Their line and length kept the aggressive Sydney batsmen in check and allowed early wickets to be picked up regularly and reasonably cheaply.

Unfortunately, the early in-roads into the Sydney batting line-up could not be capitalised on and with two of the younger middle order batsmen firing, Sydney went from 4/59 to 5/278 with some very punishing but controlled batting. At the end of their allotted 50 overs, Sydney had reached a commanding, but not unreachable, total of 6/325. Of this total, the number 5 bat, N. Hill, had retired hurt on 104, whilst the number 6 bat, D. Wallace was unlucky to fall five short of a well deserved century.

Best of the Shire's bowlers from their 10 overs were Paul Sullivan with 2/62 and Shaun Day with 2/56, with good support from Ian Rockwell taking 1/32 of his 5 overs.

Standing at square leg for the first over of the Shires innings, I was immediately impressed with the speed of Sydney's opening bowler, Kim Daley. This first impression was not lessened when Will Gell took the new ball from my end. I was even more impressed that both the Shires' opening bats had elected not to wear helmets! Judging by the comments of the Sydney fieldsmen – they too were impressed with the batsmen's cavalier approach – but probably not for the same reasons! Indeed their vocal support of their opening bowlers and my trepidation seemed to rise a couple of notches as the Shire's batsmen took a "Keith Stackpole" approach to anything short of a length.

Mark Oliver from Southern Districts was the first of the batsman to fall - just managing to top edge a ball from Daley back to the bowler. To say the batsman was a tad late in playing an attempted pull shot would not be an overstatement!

Whilst the Shires lost a second wicket quickly, Steve Moran from Macquarie Uni and Peter Crocker from the Lindfield club, combined to steady the ship in a solid performance which saw 66 added for the third wicket.

It wasn't until the score had reached 78 that Steve, wearing a terrific black eye from a mid week training mishap, was finally dismissed for a gritty 52. He had played extremely well at the top of the order and mixed stoic defence with good aggression in ensuring that the Sydney bowlers didn't have things all their own way.

Murray Rayner, from the South Sydney club, joined Peter at the crease and the ex-Gordon pairing, under increasingly threatening skies, set about consolidating the innings. Murray looked particularly impressive. He was solid, confident and fluent in his stroke making. Peter, at the other end, was undertaking the archetypal supportive sheet-anchor role - a role he was playing with real g & d.

But at 3/120 and after 26 overs, all this promise was to come to nought as the SCG ground staff, aided by what turned out to be extremely accurate weather forecasting, appeared from nowhere, at the top of the bowlers run at my end, to call a halt to proceedings. Their intervention was extremely fortuitous because no sooner had we left the ground than down came torrential rain supported by a very impressive thunder and lightning show.

Who knows how the game may have ended up, but it would have been interesting to see just how far the Shire's batting line-up would have gone in chasing down the Sydney score. With Murray and Peter well settled on 28 and 33 respectively, we might well have seen a terrific game of cricket develop, one where invariably the Shires start as the underdog.

Declared a draw at just after 4pm, and despite the premature and disappointing finish to the game, I'm sure that players from both sides thoroughly enjoyed their SCG experience. Judging by the camaraderie in the Shires XI dressing room after the game, I'm also sure that the Shire's players enjoyed the opportunity of playing together in a representative side.

From my perspective, I enjoyed the experience immensely. I'll never forget the sense of occasion I felt in walking on to the SCG to take up my position at the start of the game. Nor will I forget the quite unique sound of a clean strike of bat on ball as it reverberated around the ground. I will be forever grateful to the SCA and the Shires Cricket Umpires Association for their nomination and the opportunity of standing in the game. It was a pleasure to umpire both teams and my thanks go to the respective captains Shane Stanton and Murray Rayner for ensuring that the game was played in a professional and sportsman-like manner.

To Ian Field and his team on the day – a very big thank you. To Stirling Hamman thank you also for your support and encouragement.

We all know that umpiring is about successful partnerships and I could find myself with no better partner than Margaret Beaumont, To Margaret I'd like to express my sincere thanks for the way in which she supported me throughout the day. Every game is a learning experience for me and this day was no exception.

To those umpires who have the opportunity and good fortune of standing in this fixture in the future please ensure you grasp it with both hands. Soak up the environment and enjoy every moment of the game and remember that very few umpires will have the opportunity to stand in a game and call "Play" at the SCG!

Bruce Parfett

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2003-2004 season

Combined Shires XI vs. NSW Church's Cricket Association XI Sunday 16th November 2003

This match was played at *Picturesque* Lindfield Oval on a blustery and eventually wet day, thankfully the rain stayed away until the end.

The Church's XI won the toss and chose to bat on a slow deck. Given that these players always play on synthetic pitches, they handled the conditions pretty well. The top three bats got off to a flyer, belting the ball to and over the fence with abandon. The skipper, Chris Nutt and his brother put on a good start for the first wicket, followed by the first drop P. Saidi. The second wicket didn't fall until the score was into the 150's at about the 21st over mark and the Shires were looking a bit short of impact. However, a good comeback by Matt Boorer and Darren McGinty bowling with accuracy and the occasional bit of McGinty fire took care of the middle order and the Church's were bowled out, albeit in the last of the 45 overs, for 229. Beers all round were racked by the seven dropped catches in the innings.

A great lunch was provided by Stirling and the other helpers, to set the tone for the second part of the day.

The Shires side was a bit short of specialist bats as the top of the order fell away to some quality bowling from Matt Parker, who finished his 8 overs with 4 – 31. Wickets fell in regular succession, the skipper Murray Rayner falling to a real "Classic Catch" in the gully. The 9th wicket fell with the score still 75 runs short of the target. Then came a terrific fight back from Ben Treloar and Mick Annis-Brown. They took the run rate down slowly from needing over 6 an over to reach the target with a couple of overs to spare. They batted with real composure and played the Church's right out of the game.

The day ended with a barbeque and cold one to wash out the flies and an entertaining and analytical "Speech" by Stirling followed by the presentation of the man of the Match award to Ben Treloar.

All in all it was a day of enjoyment and genuine admiration for the skills shown by the players on both sides and a great atmosphere of fun and a determination to make this a more regular event

My thanks to every one from the two committees who made the day so much enjoyment.

Peter Friend

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2003-2004 season

**REPORT ON THE DEAF ASHES
26th, 27th & 28th JANUARY 2004
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY OVAL NO.1**

**SCORES – Australia 9/450 Declared. Andrew Watkins 172 & Phil Cox 109
Defeated outright England 105 (Phil Cox 5/14 off 8.4) and
344. Umesh Valjee 186 n.o.**

Australia won the toss and batted and at the end of the 1st day were 8/414. Their innings continued on day 2 and Australia declared one hour after the commencement of play at 9/450.

England went in to bat and collapsed for 105 and, forced to follow on were 5/74 at stumps. There was some talk of an early finish for the 3rd day – but cricket is a funny game.

The Third day found the weather if not the players bright and clear when the English Captain Umesh Valjee resumed batting, and bat he did for the entire day and remained 186 n.o. A very inspiring performance given the heat of the day and length of the contest. There was one sticky moment, when Umesh reached his hundred, after kissing the 'Crowns' on his shirt and helmet, he started waving his bat around in the air in big whirling motions with excitement. Arthur Watson the officiating umpire was seen diving for cover as were some of the Australian fieldsmen. Fortunately no injuries were reported.

The test concluded with England's combined total falling just one run short of forcing Australia to bat a second time. With play well into the final hour and the odd thunder clap in the background, England was a little unlucky not to have avoided outright defeat.

Other highlights were when the two umpires were presented before start of play with a copy of '3 Day Test Match – Playing Conditions', they decided to 'play it by ear'. The national anthem signed by a group of school children, a minutes silence for David Hookes, the running between wickets controlled by hand signals, field placing was by signing and the Umpires had to learn an extra signal for 'over', hand above the head in a whirling motion (minus the bat this time).

It was particularly pleasurable to read a report in the Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday, 31st January written by Peter Roebuck, "The Ashes contest where only the Umpire can hear you sledge". Well they didn't sledge and we didn't miss it at all. The game was played as we would like all games to be played –with SPORTSMANSHIP.

I would like to thank Arthur Watson for his guidance, professionalism and sense of humour and also thank the Association for giving me this chance of a lifetime to officiate in a Test Match. In closing, I must mention the thrill of taking the English and Australian caps and holding them in my pocket, that rather mundane act of an umpire was a special one for me.

Gordon Smith – Test Umpire (almost)

SYDNEY SHIRE UMPIRES ASSOCIATION - NUMBER OF MATCHES 2003-04				
NAME	SHIRE GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	TOTAL
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	17	5	2	24
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	1	4	*	5
BYRNE , Laurie	2	0	1	3
CHRISTEN , Richard	0	3	*	3
DHANDAPANI , Khadir	1	5	*	6
FRIEND , Peter	15	0	0	15
GANDEVIA , Robin	16	8	2	26
GARLICK , Peter	12	0	0	12
GOODMAN , David	7	3	0	10
GREEN , Alan	11	0	1	12
HARRISON , Spencer	15	3	1	19
HOLLAND , Ivan	13	2	0	15
IYER , Malli	4	1	0	5
KNOWLES, Warren	3	0	0	3
McKINNON , Jeff	14	0	0	14
MOORE , John	12	5	0	17
MULLIGAN , Luke	1	0	*	1
MURPHY , Stephen	1	0	1	2
OSSEWEYER,Brett	13	5	0	18
PARFETT , Bruce	15	8	1	24
PEPPER , Glenn	6	0	0	6
RICHARDS , George	14	1	0	15
RIDGE , Owen	1	3	0	4
ROBERTS , Michael	0	1	*	1
RUSH , Gary	6	4	0	10
RUTHERFORD , Neil	1	0	0	1
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	12	0	1	13
SCOTT , Wesley	10	4	0	14
SHELLENS , Jim	17	6	2	25
SHINER , Tom	14	5	1	20
SMITH , Gordon	17	7	0	24
STARKS , Steve	1	2	*	3
TASKER , Peter	1	3	*	4
TAYLOR , Chris	14	0	2	16
TAYLOR , Geoff	15	1	0	16
WENTZEL , Karl	0	2	*	2
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	4	5	0	9
YOUNAN , Daniel	3	0	0	3

* Indicates full time grade member - for matches done see grade annual report

2003-04 SYDNEY SHIRE UMPIRES ASSOCIATION - CAREER MATCHES				
NAME	SHIRE GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	TOTAL
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	57	15	7	79
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	25	8	15	48
BYRNE , Laurie	2	0	1	3
CHRISTEN , Richard	1	3	25	29
DHANDAPANI , Khadir	17	11	15	43
FRIEND , Peter	37	3	1	41
GALE , Andrew	10	1	0	11
GANDEVIA , Robin	25	14	3	40
GARLICK , Peter	12	0	0	12
GOODMAN , David	11	6	0	17
GREEN , Alan	34	0	176	210
HANSHAW , Glen	16	5	0	21
HARRISON , Spencer	15	3	1	19
HINCKSMAN , Laurie	0	0	6	6
HOLLAND , Ivan	35	2	1	38
IYER , Malli	12	4	0	16
JOHNSTON , Pat	19	0	26	45
KNOWLES, Warren	3	0	0	3
McKINNON , Jeff	24	0	24	48
MOORE , John	30	8	54	92
MULLIGAN , Luke	1	0	13	14
MURPHY , Stephen	1	0	12	13
OSSEWEYER, Brett	13	5	0	18
PARFETT , Bruce	54	23	1	78
PEPPER , Glenn	28	1	1	30
QUAKEN , Keith	100	0	271	371
RALSTON , Tim	68	0	53	121
RICHARDS , George	35	6	148	189
RIDGE , Owen	18	3	161	182
ROBERTS , Michael	12	5	46	63
RUSH , Gary	18	10	0	28
RUTHERFORD , Neil	6	1	0	7
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	12	0	1	13
SCOTT , Wesley	10	4	0	14
SHELLENS , Jim	34	12	3	49
SHINER , Tom	86	17	67	170
SMITH , Gordon	28	12	0	40
STARKS , Steve	14	2	28	44
TASKER , Peter	11	3	73	87
TAYLOR , Chris	14	0	2	16
TAYLOR , Geoff	36	12	1	49
WENTZEL , Karl	13	14	26	53
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	5	9	0	14
YOUNAN , Daniel	6	2	0	8
		27		

END OF SEASON STATISTICS

A number of members were keen to enquire how they rated against other umpires in during the 2003-2004 season. All members were issued with their own personal stats during May. The below list shows a list of average marks from best umpire during the season to the worst. 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 and therefore are ineligible for awards.....

9.83

9.50

9.41 * Umpire Of the Year Award

9.02

8.91

8.89

8.83

8.76

8.60

8.50

8.50

8.46

8.44

8.40

8.17

8.15

8.13

8.11

8.06

-----> Average mark 8.0241

7.91

7.81

7.77

7.65

7.57

7.46

7.17

7.06

6.94

6.83

6.50

6.41

6.29

6.00

5.80

5.75

5.50

1.50

The average mark this season was 8.0241 (last year was 7.4048) based on a total of 6,644 marks awarded in 828 captains reports.