



Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association

7th Annual Report

Season 2007 – 08



HONOUR ROLL 2007 – 2008 SEASON

**1st Grade Grand Final – Tantallon Oval
Pennant Hills 9 dec 255 bt Epping 159**

Umpires – Peter Friend / Stephen Blomfield

**2nd Grade Grand Final – Mona Park # 1 (George Parry Oval)
Roseville 193 bt Lane Cove 157**

Umpires – Bruce Whitehouse / Peter Mooney

**3rd Grade Grand Final – Alan Davidson Oval
Warringah 8 dec 276 bt Pennant Hills 200**

Umpires – Mark Hughes / Jim Shellens

**4th Grade Grand Final – North Sydney Oval #2
Macquarie Uni 161 & 3/148 bt Lane Cove 119**

Umpires – Spencer Harrison / Tony Kingsford Smith

**Frank Gray Grand Final – Tantallon Oval
Warringah 6 / 182 cc bt Auburn 80**

Umpires – Jim Shellens / Tony Kingsford Smith

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SSCUA

As at June 2008

PRESIDENT

July 2001 – July 2003	Peter Turner
July 2003 – July 2004	Bruce Parfett
July 2004 - July 2005	John Moore
July 2005 -	George Richards

SECRETARY

July 2001 -	Stephen Blomfield
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TREASURER

July 2001 -	Gordon Smith
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2007 - 2008 Management Committee



From Left to Right – Trevor Schokman , Peter Friend , Paul Coleman ,
Gordon Smith (Treasurer) , George Richards (President),
Stephen Blomfield (Secretary) , Jim Shellens

HISTORY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

The below list shows each person's name who has joined this Association and their respective membership number. Names displaying an asterisk are persons who have allowed their membership to lapse , have resigned or are deceased

Member	Name	Member	Name
1	Turner , Peter *	61	Tasker , Peter
2	Beesley , Graham *	62	Taylor , Chris
3	Blomfield , Stephen	63	Bird , Tony
4	Carroll , Phil *	64	Bowman , Ian
5	Donnellan , Tom *	65	Brady , Steve *
6	Friend , Peter	66	Hammond , Brett
7	Guha , Ronnie *	67	Hinks , Andrew *
8	Hanshaw , Glen	68	Roche , Glenn
9	Haviland , Chris *	69	Thomson , Ian
10	Hickey , Dave *	70	Tribolet , Brett
11	Holland , Ivan	71	Bharadwaj , Vijay *
12	Jayaweera , Jay *	72	Cocks , Graeme *
13	Jegathesan , Jeriam *	73	Dobbin , Patrick
14	Kearney , Chris *	74	Hasty , Jon *
15	Keierleber , David *	75	Luke , William *
16	Luckman , Terry *	76	Maloney , Rob
17	MacGillivray , Bruce *	77	Marquet , Jonathan *
18	Owen , Alan *	78	Narayanan , Vishy *
19	Parfett , Bruce	79	Pardy , Bill *
20	Pepper , Glenn *	80	Ponsford , Derek
21	Quaken , Keith *	81	Street , Gary *
22	Rajogopalan , Ragoo *	82	Hughes , Mark
23	Ralston , Tim *	83	Mathews , Rupert
24	Roberts , Michael	84	Ritchie , Matt *
25	Sammy , Rajan *	85	Jones , Colin
26	Shiner , Tom *	86	Romeo , Joe *
27	Smith , Gordon	87	Superina , Dean *
28	Starks , Steve	88	Parker , Graham *
29	Taylor , Geoff	89	Mooney , Peter
30	Thorpe , Ken *	90	Chambiras , Paul
31	Wentzel , Karl *	91	Coleman , Paul
32	Yeend , Stuart *	92	Treloar , Ben
33	Buckland , Ken	93	Gupte , Vinayak
34	DeSilva , Kapila *	94	Kingsford-Smith , Tony
35	Dhandapani , Khadhir *	95	Nyers , Peter
36	Gale , Andrew *	96	Charlesworth , Adrian
37	Gandevia , Robin	97	Goodger , Darren
38	Goodman , David	98	Watson , Arthur
39	Iyer , Malli	99	Campbell , Neil
40	Johnston , Patrick *	100	Stiller , Wesley
41	Moore , John	101	Smellie , Patrick
42	Richards , George	102	Moody , Andrew
43	Rush , Gary *	103	Tunks , Greg
44	Rutherford , Neil *		
45	Shellens , Jim		
46	Whitehouse , Bruce		
47	Younan , Daniel *		
48	Byrne , Laurie		
49	Christen , Richard		
50	Garlick , Peter		
51	Green , Alan		
52	Harrison , Spencer		
53	Knowles , Warren *		
54	McKinnon , Jeff *		
55	Mulligan , Luke *		
56	Murphy , Steve		
57	Osseweyer , Brett *		
58	Ridge , Owen *		
59	Schokman , Trevor		
60	Scott , Wesley *		

The Peter Turner Umpire of the Year Award

2001 – 2002	Bruce Parfett
2002 – 2003	Bruce Parfett
2003 – 2004	John Moore
2004 – 2005	Stephen Blomfield
2005 – 2006	Chris Taylor
2006 – 2007	Chris Taylor
2007 – 2008	Bruce Whitehouse

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 8 of the 11 games are Saturday Shires Matches. At least 7 of the 8 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. The winner of the award must have attended at least 1 (one) General meeting of the Association during the season (AGM not included).

**Chris Taylor (right) receives the Peter Turner Umpire of the Year Award for the previous season - 2006/07
Presented by SSCUA President, George Richards**



Most Improved Umpire Of The Year Award

2004 – 2005	Geoff Taylor
2005 – 2006	Chris Kearney
2006 – 2007	Trevor Schokman
2007 – 2008	Richard Christen

Nine members in season 2007/08 have qualified to be eligible for this award with the winner this year being Richard Christen. Richard experienced a 5.48% increase in his captains assessment mark from season 2006/07 compared to the season just completed. Below are the list of members who improved their captains assessments marks in 2007/08 compared to the previous season in 2006/07 – Congratulations to all of the below listed members for improving your umpiring skills during the season

Richard Christen	5.48%	Jim Shellens	4.16%	Trevor Schokman	0.37%
Spencer Harrison	4.51%	Peter Mooney	2.68%	Paul Coleman	0.11%
Peter Friend	4.51%	Ivan Holland	2.11%	Stephen Blomfield	0.08%

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 8 of the 11 games are Saturday Shires Matches. At least 7 of the 8 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. The winner is calculated by comparing an umpires average mark as supplied by team captains from the previous season to the current season. The improvement is to be expressed in percentage. The winner is the member who has improved by the biggest percentage. To qualify the winners previous seasons marks must have also met the above criteria (ie must have umpired 11 matches in both the previous and the current season)



Trevor Schokman (right) receives the Most Improved Umpire of the Year Award for season 2006/07 from NSWCU&SA President, Tim Donahoo

A Message from the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee

The 2007-08 season was complete with incident, controversy and the winds of change, and as such, was one of the most dynamic in recent years.

The season started quietly enough with your usual senior and other retirements as well as the usual additions.

It was satisfying for your Association to receive so many responses to your recruitment drive. It was however particularly disappointing for many of them to fail the Umpire's course and retreat from the environment before any further involvement in training or games. Following discussions I firmly believe that more should be done to retain these aspirants. Firstly I believe that the exam standards should be reviewed so they are more relevant to the prominent and regular aspects of umpiring so as to reflect a good working knowledge of the rules rather than the more theoretical matters which rarely occur. In the event of failing the umpire's course, a system of reassessment could be implemented so that further training occurs and passes the candidate in due course. I believe the Shire's Umpires Association could play an important role in this process in that those unqualified applicants could be referred to your Association and could stand in lower grade Shire's games with your mentors. Over time they would improve their education and skill levels to the point of a full pass. They should be paid a lesser sum than normal each week during this process. They could do a full end or just stand at square leg depending on their competency. If matters of theory do arise during a game then a safety procedure could be instituted. This could consist of a reference to the rule book before the game recommences or possibly a phone call to an accessible umpire mentor who is "on call" for such advice. In other words akin to a reference to a third umpire on the run. These are obviously matters for discussion but we should never lose sight of the main priority which is to retain, train and develop manpower so to increase umpiring numbers. In an increasingly difficult world to recruit volunteer umpires, rejection should be avoided at the point of failing what is now a most difficult exam.

Despite this early setback your Association was obviously determined to increase numbers and at season's end 89% of second grade games had been covered by your umpires...a new record! I congratulate your Executive on this excellent achievement as it shows initiative and persistence are paramount.

It is now quite noticeable that some of your former members are well established within the grade ranks particularly in the first grade panel. I am presently aware of several others in your ranks who are ready for that step up and I encourage them to take that challenge whilst they have the time and motivation. Like former Shire players they will ultimately return to the fold better for the experience and impart their improved umpiring and man management skills to your members and thereby lift the standard for everyone.

A Message from the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee

It wasn't too long into the season before some unpleasant player behaviour incidents arose. Unfortunately this persisted to season's end. Several games were very disappointing and resulted in lengthy suspensions by the Judiciary panel. On the facts it was obvious that your members had to resort to these procedures. Again on the topic of change I can advise your members that the Draft Yellow Card system devised by the Shires Sub- Committee some years ago has been re-submitted to the SCA Committee of Management for consideration. The Shires Competition provides the perfect place to trial such a system for a limited time next season.

The advent of lashings of wet weather brought its own special incidents and challenges for your umpires. They were constantly called upon to adjudicate upon playing and safety matters before and during play. This included the constant monitoring of covers and the state of the wicket square. Throughout this wettest of seasons, all Shire clubs were very impressed with the composed manner in which your affirmative plans were executed to secure the maximum amount of play no matter what the score or position of the game. The integrity of their solutions was established by the fact that no player was injured in wet conditions. Your members are to be congratulated for their actions in these difficult situations.

The season had its fair share of administrative, playing and umpiring errors and concluded with controversy surrounding the finals with player qualification and player behaviour issues. Still we were all able to navigate a safe landing and the finals were expertly handled by your senior umpires.

On behalf of all of the Shire's Clubs I would like to express our appreciation for the tireless efforts of President George Richards, Secretary Stephen Blomfield and their Committee as well as all of your members in making Sydney Shires Cricket such a professional Competition. After an off season consisting of watching countless Indian Premier League umpiring decisions, we look forward to seeing you all at our Clubs next season.

Stirling Hamman
Chairman, Sydney Shires Competition Sub-Committee

A Message from the NSW Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association

"The Game is Not the Same" was the title of the book written by ABC cricket commentator and journalist the late Alan McGilvray back in 1985. One wonders what he would now think of the game with the many changes that have taken place since and even more recently. The advent of Twenty/20 cricket, the (legitimate) 3 allowed challenges of an umpire's decision, the pink ball, the need to spell out in the Laws the manufacturing material used in the bat and the shift of power in the International running of the game. I shall leave it to you to decide whether changes such as these are making the game not the same.

Not all changes are adverse. The change within the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association in 2007/08 and as reported by the ever efficient Secretary Stephen Blomfield is witness to that. It is extremely gratifying to me and the NSWCUSA that Stephen reports on the change that sees the SSCUA finish the season with the highest percentage of umpiring days officiated in the association's history.

To cover 90% of the match days in 2nd Grade makes the next goal of 100% within reach and enables the focus to be then changed to 3rd Grade requirements

I congratulate the Association on welcoming its 100th new member; perhaps another goal of change would be to see more of the total membership being active on the field, although having said that we should never underestimate the input that can be made to an association by its non active members.

I congratulate Gordon Smith on being nominated and selected as the recipient of the Association Medal in 2007/08. Perhaps it's only a small acknowledgement compared to the effort and service that Gordon has given during his years as a member of first the NSWCUSA and then the SSCUA.

It is also pleasing to advise that SSCUA President George Richards is to be made a Principal Member of the NSWCUSA in recognition for his long and distinguished service to the Association(s). As we know Principal Membership is the second highest honour that can be bestowed upon a member of the NSWCUSA. I understand George is to retire from umpiring and step down as President of the Association following the next Annual General Meeting. I wish him well and trust that George can remain involved in some way in that non active role mentioned above

The retirement of George means that changes will take place and his successor, who ever that may be, will hopefully bring fresh and innovative ideas to be considered. We should never rest on our laurels and it is imperative that we continue to seek to improve, whether that is on a personal nature in our own umpiring skills or as body to be able to offer the best of opportunities, those changes should be made.

One of the most gratifying changes for me however has been to witness how the interchange of umpires across from Shire to Grade and from Grade to Shire that has taken place. Many (ex) Shire umpires wishing to expand their experience into Grade cricket have been encouraged to do so by the executive of the SSCUA, similarly the number of umpires moving across from Grade into Shires has also been welcomed. This is what we forecast would happen to those doubting Thomas's at the launch of the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association some seven years ago.

Finally, there will be changes made to the administration of the NSWCUSA this year. What will not change however is my true gratitude and the acknowledgment of professionalism shown by the SSCUA Secretary Stephen Blomfield without whom the game would not be the same.

Peter Hughes

Executive Officer , New South Wales Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

I have much pleasure in presenting my third and last annual report as President of the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association. It has been an honour to serve in a line that started with Peter Turner in July 2001, and continued with Bruce Parfett in July 2003, and John Moore in July 2004. I was elected to succeed John in 2005, and now, as I do not intend to umpire regularly in the coming season, I am not seeking re-election as President. I hope my successor enjoys being able to contribute to the standards of the game, as I have enjoyed it.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Bruce Whitehouse, who won the Peter Turner Award for Umpire of the Year, and to Richard Christen, winner of the Most Improved Umpire Award.

The umpires who stood in the grand finals in each grade deserve special mention, because these games were the most keenly contested in the whole year. They are Peter Friend and Stephen Blomfield (1st grade), Bruce Whitehouse and Peter Mooney (2nd grade), Jim Shellens and Mark Hughes (3rd grade), Spencer Harrison and Tony Kingsford-Smith (4th grade) and Gordon Smith and Rupert Mathew (Tim Creer Cup).

Special mention must be made of Gordon Smith, our Treasurer since the inauguration of our Association, who was awarded the NSW Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association's Association Medal. This is annually awarded to an umpire who "has made a contribution of note to an Umpires' Association that is affiliated to NSWCU&SA." The surprise award was made at the NSWCU&SA Annual Dinner, and I was extremely pleased to have been there to see Gordon, and our association, honoured in this way.

It was not a good season for weather or grounds, all of which made the task of our members harder. Many days saw a complete washout of play. As well, several clubs struggled to find suitable grounds. We wish Macquarie University, Warringah, North-West Sydney, and Strathfield well in their struggles to establish or refurbish their grounds.

A total of 22 members this season umpired 10 or more Shires games while 38 members in total umpired at least one Shires match during the season, pleasing was that there was a smaller percentage of 2nd grade matches that did not have at least one umpire in any given match. It was also pleasing to see in the list of appointments sent out by Stephen Blomfield for each round that there were a number of appointments made to 3rd and 4th grade matches played on Sundays (because of the shortage of grounds). The effect of these appointments was that many teams found themselves being umpired by official umpires for the first times, and a common remark made by players was "It's brought the l.b.w. back into the game".

I wish there were awards to be made to the Umpire Who Received the Biggest Spray, the Umpire Who Stood Firmest Against Untoward Pressure, and the Umpire Who Upheld the Laws of the Game Against Ignorant Players. Many of our members would qualify for one or more of these awards, and in doing so they have kept the standards of our umpiring high.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

This was not a good year for player behaviour – I counted nine Shires players who appeared before the Sydney Cricket Association judiciary committee and were found guilty of offences ranging from “physical threat to another player, crude and offensive language” to simple “dissent”. Too many - but each appearance meant that the Shires umpires were doing their duty in reporting players, and without them, cricket would have suffered further. I encourage all members to bite the bullet when confronted with breaches of the Code of Conduct, and do your part in maintaining cricket's standards.

Once again my deepest thanks must go to Stephen Blomfield (known throughout Shires cricket as ‘Blommers’ or ‘Blommy’) who devotes vastly more time, energy and phone calls than can be quantified in cold hard cash. He competently handles late withdrawals, match cancellations or transfers, directives from those above, and is always striving to get as many umpires on the field as possible. One aspect of his work has gone unrecorded until now. He has previously sourced counters, heavy bails, and ball gauges for our members, and excelled himself this year with a successful application to the Federal Government for a Small Volunteers Grant to set up our first grade umpires with Test match-grade light meters.

I've already mentioned Treasurer Gordon Smith and his well and hard-earned Association Medal. Thanks again to him for keeping our financial head well above water.

I offer my wishes for a good season in 2008-2009, with, as always, green fields, true but bouncy pitches, no flies, loud snicks, clean catches, clear run-outs and batsmen who walk. If all these eventuate, watch out for the flying pigs as well. I will watch with pleasure and envy from the boundary fences.

George Richards

Association President

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Left
Stephen Blomfield looks on as another Pennant Hills wicket falls on the first day of the 1st Grade Grand Final at Tantallon Oval Saturday 5 April 2008

Right –
Michael Roberts, Glenn Roche, Gordon Smith, Steve Starks and Gordon's brother Alan Smith attending the NSWCU&SA Annual Dinner on Saturday 12 April 2008



Left –
Winners are Grinners.
Darren Goodger (Winner of the George Borwick & 1st Grade Panel Awards) with our Treasurer Gordon Smith who won the prestigious Association Award at the NSWCU&SA Annual Dinner Saturday 12 April 2008

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Left
Alan Green and Spencer Harrison
just before the start of their Round 1
1st Grade match at the picturesque
Castlewood Park
Nth West Sydney v Auburn
Saturday 29 September 2007

Right –
Gordon Smith is presnted the
NSWCU&SA “Association
Medal” by Kim Norris at the
NSWCU&SA Annual Dinner
Saturday 12 April 2008



Left –
Glen Hanshaw has the
officiating duties here
during the Frank Gray
Shield Round 5 clash
between Georges River
and Macquarie Uni at
the Uni’s number 2
ground on Sunday 13
January 2008.

Unfortunately this was
Glen’s last match of the
season as work
commitments saw him
have to give umpiring
away for the rest of the
season. We hope to
see him back 08/09

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

It is with a great deal of pleasure I present this my Seventh Secretary's Report for the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association for the 2007/08 season.

Despite the fact that cricket season 2007/08 was one of the wettest and also coolest summers in Sydney for more than 15 years; despite the fact that we had more days of play washed out this year than the last 6 seasons all put together, the season from this Association's perspective was the best year we have experienced in our (so far) seven year history since inception in 2001.

In my opinion season 2007/08 was a phenomenal success.

The summer of 2007/08 was a record year for us as we finished the season servicing the highest percentage of days play in a season than in any of our previous six summers of cricket. Especially pleasing was the fact that just on 90% of days play in our 2nd Grade competition received umpires this year, which is nearly 10% higher than our previous best effort in season 2004/05 and 16% higher than last season. A few more umpires surplus from grade cricket or a few of our "part time" active members putting their hand up for a bit more work next season may get us close to achieving our long term goal of 100% coverage in both 1st and 2nd Grade thereby ensuring that our 3rd Grade competition gets a more heightened exposure to official umpires on a more regular basis.

In season 2007/08 our active numbers were strong and, unlike last season, we received during the summer a modest flow down of surplus umpires from Sydney Grade Cricket which I am sure that the Shires players and clubs all very much appreciated (see below table)

For each single day of cricket that one Grade Umpire officiates in a Shires match then that shall be counted as one "appointment". If that umpire officiates on day 1 AND day 2 of a single match then that is counted as TWO appointments. Two grade umpires doing both days of the same game shall be counted as FOUR appointments.

The below statistics only apply to Saturday Shires cricket and not to lower grade fixtures re-scheduled to Sunday play due to lack of a suitable venue

Surplus Grade Umpire Appointments Allocated to Shires Preliminary Round Matches Each Season	
2001/02	57
2002/03	28
2003/04	35
2004/05	101
2005/06	46
2006/07	5
2007/08	45

In season 2007-08 the following umpire allocations were achieved –

- * **100%** umpire coverage of all days play in First Grade Shires
- * **100%** umpire coverage of all days play in Frank Gray Shield Matches
- * **89%** umpire coverage of all days play in Second Grade Shires (**a rise of 16%**)
- * **29%** umpire coverage of all days play in Third Grade Shires
(40% of this coverage was Saturday cricket, 60% was Sunday + Finals Series)
- * **31%** umpire coverage of all days play in Fourth Grade Shires
(All of the above coverage being re-scheduled Sunday cricket + Finals Series)

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

In summary we as an Association supplied at least one umpire to 371 days of cricket within a competition that conducted 566 days of play. This is a completion rate of **65.54%** of days played in the entire 5 competitions conducted in the Shires Association. This high percentage figure of 65.54% is however slightly masking the fact that the wet weather during the season resulted in a lower number of days played. The umpire coverage figure of 65.54% is compared to last seasons 52.13% (the previous best season ever was 56.89% in 2004/05). The figures in this paragraph show what a fantastic season we had with 2007/08 now being our best ever as far as supply to matches is concerned. Let's hope we can improve on this even more and build on what was a very pleasing year for all concerned.

When looking at the above statistics I think the highlight of the year was the manner in which 9 out of the 13 rounds played in second grade saw every game played in those rounds have exposure to umpires. Our strong numbers this season as well as having surplus members from Grade cricket to umpire in the Shires competition were the two contributing factors as to why we had such a successful season overall with our coverage of matches. Now the tough job is to improve on this next season.

In respect of membership, season 2007/08 saw us register our 100th member since we opened our doors seven seasons ago. Congratulations to Wes Stiller for being the lucky 100th member. No prizes here, just a bit of prestige having membership number 100. As at the end of the season we have a total of 53 members, a decrease of 4 from last seasons high of 57. During the season we took in 10 new members (8 new applications plus 2 re-joins) while a total of 14 decided to resign or allow their memberships to lapse. While the resigning number of 14 appears high it should be noted that most of these 14 persons were making little or no contribution to active on field umpiring in the previous season with a total of only 27 matches officiated between those 14 ex members in the previous 2006/07 season. Of our current 53 members as at the end of season 2007/08 only 22 of these managed to umpire in 10 matches or more in the main Saturday draw Shires Competition. This compared to a figure of 23 last season. Of the 22 members who did 10 or more matches only 10 were available for all 13 Preliminary rounds of our main Saturday competition. These 10 members were Peter Friend, Spencer Harrison, Ivan Holland, Rupert Mathews, Peter Mooney, George Richards, Michael Roberts, Trevor Schokman, Jim Shellens, and Gordon Smith. I think I am sure I speak for all of the players and clubs within the Shires Competition who would like to congratulate these 10 members for your dedication and commitment towards Shires cricket by making yourself available to umpire every round this season.

Of our current 53 members, 10 were inactive from umpiring in SCA controlled matches this season, which is the same number as last season. Of the remaining 43 members who did partake in SCA officiated matches, 32 umpired in Shires and 11 in Grade. Of those 11 that umpired in Grade, 6 made themselves available in Shires Cricket at some point during the season (mainly for Frank Gray Shield matches). The total number of members who therefore partook in at least one Shires match during the season of 2007/08 was 38 out of our total membership of 53 – This represents a figure of 71.6%

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

As you all should know our priority is obtaining umpires for our Saturday competitions. So it's always a great feeling when each season we welcome some new (and not so new) umpires into our Saturday ranks. During the season we picked up a total of three brand new members who had never umpired before. As well as this we had a further five new members who joined us who all had previous experience with umpiring cricket at a variety of different levels. Recognition of these members occurs further down this page. This paragraph also acknowledges and welcomes into our Saturday umpiring ranks six members who had either umpired Saturday Grade cricket in the previous season, had only umpired Sunday games for us in the previous season or had come back from a period of time away from umpiring. To Tony Kingsford-Smith and Michael Roberts who came across from Grade to umpire Shires on Saturdays I say a big thank you. Your enthusiasm and commitment to our competition was appreciated. The experience you bring to our newer members is invaluable. To Rupert Mathews, Mark Hughes and Brett Tribolet I also say thanks for making the move from umpiring part time on Sundays last season to umpiring full time on Saturdays with us. I hope you all enjoyed the experience and will stay with us for a long time yet. Finally, thanks to Bruce Whitehouse who decided it was time to finally give away playing cricket and committed a full season of Saturday umpiring after a number of seasons of umpiring mainly on a part time basis. Bruce had a sensational season winning the umpire of the year award which is covered off in another part of this Secretary's Report.

Please join me in welcoming to our ranks the following new members who joined our Association during season 2007/08 (please note; members who re-joined are not detailed here) –

Neil Campbell - Neil came to us asking to umpire a few games at the start of the season as well as in the December / January school holiday period when the GPS School competition that he umpires in was in recess. Neil brought a wealth of experience to Shires Cricket and his contribution in officiating in six games this season was appreciated. I hope he can do similar next season.

Adrian Charlesworth - Adrian contacted me pre season looking to umpire in Shires after having a break of about 7 years from umpiring cricket when in Tasmania. Adrian quickly fitted in and umpired a total of 19 matches in his first year in Shires Cricket and acquitted himself very well from all accounts. I look forward to Adrian backing up again in season 2008/09

Darren Goodger - Our Star recruit for the season, Darren joined our Association with the aim that he would umpire a handful of Frank Gray games when his commitments to Grade cricket would allow. Unfortunately due to Grade cricket Darren only managed to umpire one match in the Frank Gray Shield passing on a wealth of knowledge to his partner on the day. I wish Darren well in his future endeavours and hope one day he can give a bit more back to Shires Cricket where we would welcome him with open arms

Andrew Moody – Andrew came to us early in the season keen to take up umpiring after having played Shires Cricket back in the 1980's. Upon passing the exam Andrew participated in 6 matches before deciding that umpiring wasn't for him (despite receiving some very promising captain's reports). I'm hopeful that Andrew might give it another go in the next season or two just to make sure he really doesn't think umpiring is his cup of tea – I'd encourage him to give it one more try just to make sure

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

Patrick Smellie - Patrick was another new recruit to Shires this summer just gone contacting me from our local paper recruiting advertisements / stories. After getting Patrick through the exam he settled in very well into a full season in 2nd Grade making one appearance in 1st Grade late in the season. Patrick's marks were very solid for a first year umpire, and the feedback received from captains was that he did quite well during the season. Next season should be a very productive one with Patrick no doubt looking to do more 1st Grade games in his second season in Shires

Wes Stiller - Wes came into the Shires system after having spent a season in Grade cricket in 2006/07. Wes only umpired about half the season but came across to Shires with the knowledge that Shires appointments are a bit more sensitive to a members suburb of residence than that compared to Grade cricket. Despite only umpiring a total of eight matches Wes settled into the Shires competition nicely and his captains reports were more than satisfactory for a new umpire in Shires. Next season I hope to see Wes available again and hopefully for a bigger percentage of the summer

Greg Tunks - Greg never having umpired cricket before was referred to our Association by fellow member Bruce Whitehouse. Greg's background as a football referee in the winter months certainly assisted him settling into the role of a cricket official. His captains marks started off slowly but by the second half of the season they were very good (umpired 12 games in 07/08) and I think Greg will have a great year next season now that his debut year is behind him.

Arthur Watson - Arthur joined our Association in a support role while still continuing to umpire in Grade Cricket mentoring new up and coming umpires. I was hopeful I could get Arthur to umpire a few Sunday Frank Gray Shield matches with our newer members however the opportunity never came up. Maybe next season.

The above new membership intake of 8 compared to previous seasons is disappointingly low. We all need to be more pro-active in ensuring that we talk up our Association for anybody that might want to consider umpiring cricket as well as sowing the seed into the thoughts of umpires who may currently be adjudicating in other competitions. We need to make our Association an interesting alternative for others umpiring elsewhere to consider. Let's get out there and put those recruiting hats on because if we don't continue to strive for new members then we just end up going backwards after making so many positive steps forward in 2007/08

Congratulations are extended to the 11 members of our Association who choose to umpire in the Sydney Grade Competition. Whilst these guys do not at the moment directly contribute towards the main Saturday Shires Competition they officiate proudly as dual members of both our Association and that of NSWCU&SA. Congratulations to Darren Goodger (Panel 1) and Glenn Roche (Panel 3) who both won their respective panels for the season and were acknowledged at the NSWCU&SA Annual dinner on April 12. Congratulations are also extended to members who finished in the top 10 in their panels. In this respect I make special mention of Peter Garlick and Bruce Parfett (Panel 2), Paul Chambiras and Ken Buckland (Panel 3) and Arthur Watson (Panel 4). No doubt some of the above named members will be hopeful for a promotion to higher honours next season. Additionally, (of course) we would welcome any or all of these members back to Saturday Shires Cricket if they decide that they would like to move back to Shires at some point in the future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

During the season two of our members received appointments to representative matches. Chris Taylor was offered the opportunity to officiate in the Annual Shires XI Vs Grade XI match at the SCG in December 2007 which was won comfortably by the Grade lads. Shortly after this game Chris was called home to England to attend to a private family matter. We wish Chris well and hope he makes it back to Australia for next summer. Jim Shellens was offered the chance to umpire the other representative game this season where the Shires boys took on a Combined Sydney Churches XI at Bexley Oval won by the Churches team. Detailed accounts of both of these matches appear elsewhere in this report

During the season three members joined the elite 50 games or more club and each of these members have already or will be recognised with a special sky blue Association polo shirt at our AGM in July. Congratulations are extended to Tony Kingsford-Smith (62 matches), David Goodman (54 matches) & Glenn Roche (50 matches) for all passing this milestone during the season just gone. Another highlight of the season was seeing four members reach the even more illustrious 100 games career games list. George Richards (120 matches), Spencer Harrison (115 matches), Ivan Holland (114 matches) all have already been presented with their Royal Blue 100 game shirt while Peter Friend (106 matches) will receive his at the AGM. Finally, yours truly managed to finish the season on 170 career games and received a Navy Blue 150 game shirt at the members meeting held in December 2007. All of the above members should be very proud of their efforts and I look forward to seeing them all pass further greater milestones in the seasons that are ahead.

A full listing of all members who are on the 50 games or more list appears in the statistics section located at the rear of this report.

In an extremely close contest, congratulations are extended to Bruce Whitehouse on winning the Umpire of the Year Award. In the final collation of umpires marks three members finished within minuscule margins of each other with Bruce's final season average mark being only 0.08 higher than the second place runner up (Stephen Blomfield) and only 0.13 higher than the member who ran third (Peter Friend). Bruce as we all know wears many hats still being the President of the Georges River Cricket Club as well as having a spot on the Shires Sub Committee. He clearly has the respect of the players and captains under his control and despite his appalling taste in music (sorry, couldn't resist) he had an extremely good season as an umpire officiating in 23 matches during the season. It was in fact the first time in Bruce's five years as an umpire that he has completed a full season of matches in the Shires Competition having previously only umpired on a part time basis, or in Grade Cricket. His season was rewarded with the appointment to the Shires 2nd Grade Grand Final and he is a worthy winner of this award. I hope Bruce will continue to umpire with us for a few seasons yet to come so that the younger and less experienced members can draw on his relaxed and welcoming nature on the field, just don't get in his car when the CD player is on !

Our other achievement award for the season saw Richard Christen win the most improved umpire of the year award for season 2007/08. Of the nine members that qualified for this award, Richard achieved the highest percentage increase in his captains assessments marks from season 2006/07 compared to this season just completed. Richard will be presented with the perpetual trophy for this award at our Annual General Meeting on 30 July 2008. My congratulations are extended to Richard on having a much improved season. I wish him many more to come.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

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 be proud of that achievement. The numbers of perfect scores awarded this season increased from last season's count of 7 to this season's tally of 15. This achievement reflects well on us as an Association and shows that our umpiring this season has improved. Each of the below listed members will be awarded an achievement certificate at the AGM on Wednesday July 30. Congratulations are extended to the following members –

Stephen Blomfield

Nth West Sydney v Strathfield 4th Grade Round 7
Georges River v Strathfield 1st Grade Round 13
Burwood v Auburn Frank Gray Shield Round 5

Ian Bowman

Macquarie Uni v Nth West Sydney 4th Grade Qualifying Final

Paul Coleman

Burwood v Roseville 1st Grade Round 4

Peter Friend

Burwood v Auburn Frank Gray Shield Round 5

Spencer Harrison

Macquarie Uni v Burwood 1st Grade Round 2
Nth West Sydney v Strathfield 4th Grade Round 7

Tony Kingsford-Smith

Macquarie Uni v Burwood 1st Grade Round 2
Pennant Hills v Epping 1st Grade Round 9

Rupert Mathews

Pennant Hills v Epping 1st Grade Round 9
Nth West Sydney v Lane Cove 4th Grade Round 11

Peter Mooney

Burwood v Roseville 1st Grade Round 4

Ben Treloar

Nth West Sydney v Lane Cove 4th Grade Round 11

Bruce Whitehouse

Epping v Auburn 1st Grade Semi Final

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

Congratulations are also extended to the following award winners all of whom were presented their respective awards by the SCA at the end of season Shires dinner which was held on May 16 , 2008

Shires First Grade Captain of the Year – Adrian McCaffrey (Pennant Hills)

Shires Second Grade Captain of the Year - Raoul Barbon (Auburn)

Shires First Grade Player of the Year - Richard Chee Quee (Sth Sydney)

Frank Gray Shield Player of the Year – Sam Wotton (Strathfield)

Further congratulations were extended to the following winners of these club awards

- **OVERALL SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD – Lane Cove CC**

- **SPIRIT OF CRICKET (INDIVIDUAL GRADES)**

1st & 2nd Grades (Warringah) , 3rd & 4th Grades plus Frank Gray Shield (Lane Cove)

- **GROUND OF THE YEAR – Lane Cove CC , Tantallon Oval**

- **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY – Auburn CC**

Moving along to SCA matters - Season 2007/08 saw the total number of Shires players reported to the SCA for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct come to a total of 9 compared to a total of 15 players who were reported from Grade clubs. The figure of 9 reported Shires players was a decrease of two on last season's count of 11. Of this seasons count of 9 reports only 6 of these were from members of this Association and the remaining 3 were reports where clubs laid charges against opposing players in lower grade matches where no official umpires were available. Of this seasons 9 reports, 7 of these proceeded to a Judiciary finding where all were rendered a guilty verdict while two were offered a caution with no hearing required. Suspensions handed out ranged from one match to one particular suspension dished out requiring the guilty party to sit out of the game until 1 January 2009 (effectively 11 matches). Also pleasing was the Judiciary Committee's desire to take away the captaincy from players reported who were supposed to be the leaders of their respective sides – two reported players suffered this humiliation during the season (as well as a further four captains in the Sydney Grade Competition).

Once again the Judiciary process ran smoothly with all reported players being required to attend a hearing by the Thursday night following any report made. This from my perspective brought a higher level of confidence back into the whole Judiciary process seeing all cases heard immediately rather than being dragged out with deferral after deferral as was the case in seasons past. The continuation of this expedient process in my opinion definitely needs to be maintained, if so then the credibility of the process will also increase in the minds of those that have previously doubted the system.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

During the season of 2007/08 a number of new initiatives were introduced to the membership that I believe were all positive additions to the season.

In July 2007 at the Annual General Meeting the members unanimously passed a motion that effectively re-wrote a large portion of the Associations Constitution document. The original document that was passed for adoption when the Association was formed back in 2001 had so many items in it that were no longer relevant to the day to day running of the Association in 2008. My thanks are extended to the members of the 2006/07 management committee who all assisted in the re-writing of this document tailoring it to meet the needs of the Association seven years into our history. I welcome any members input in the future to add, amend or make more relevant this most important set of rules and regulations for our membership base

During August 2007 President George Richards and myself got together and made an application to the Federal Government to obtain funding under a Government scheme called the Volunteers Small Equipment Grant. This Government initiative allowed successful applicants the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$3000 to be spent on "equipment" that would assist in the development of any sporting Association. Following a successful application for an amount of nearly \$2,500 being approved we used these funds to purchase eight umpire light meters, the same type used by umpires in test match cricket. These meters have already, and will continue to be an invaluable tool for our members ensuring that we now have a constant guide to use when assessing the suitability of the light in matches played in the Shires Competition. A side-issue of interest is that I received an enquiry from the SCA mid season wanting to know about our light meters. It now appears that from the initiative we have shown that the SCA will consider the purchase of light meters for the Sydney First Grade Competition. One might be so bold as to say with tongue in cheek, we lead and they follow !

Probably one of the biggest changes for season 2007/08 was the introduction of the on field umpires polo shirt which saw a near century of tradition put to bed with the abolition of the requirement for umpires to wear a tie. Our thanks are extended to the SCA for funding this initiative and it is hoped that this more common sense approach to the uniform we have to wear may entice more people into umpiring. In addition to the uniform change our match fees received their first increase since the end of season 2003/04. An increase from \$85 to \$100 per day was certainly a welcome gesture by the SCA in its efforts to make umpiring a more attractive option for lovers of cricket. However, in real terms this increase has barely kept up with other competitions in Sydney that still offer more per day to umpire than SCA competitions. I think it's very important that the SCA provides an annual re-assessment of match payments from now on rather than what we have seen in the last 6 or 7 seasons. I think it would be far more practical for match payments to increase \$5 per season rather than \$10 or \$15 once every third or fourth season. The down side to this whole situation is that as long as the private schools competitions continue to offer more per day than what the SCA is prepared to pay then you will always have an element of umpires out there who will go where the money (and player behaviour in the case of the private school comps) is best. If the SCA wants to attract more umpires then this situation needs to be re-visited. In my opinion, the best cricket competition in NSW should be paying its umpires the best match fee in the state if umpire recruitment and retention is truly an important issue for the SCA. It's interesting to compare umpire match fees to other sports (particularly the footy codes). Most referees in local club footy codes can in one day spend an equivalent amount of time on the field as cricket umpires do yet walk away with more than double the amount of a cricket umpires daily match fee. And maybe, just maybe, that's why cricket umpires are such a rare (and under-valued) commodity in Sydney in 2008.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 - 2008

Moving along to finance and it is noted that the end of the season sees us in a comfortable but still vulnerable position if an unforeseen large debt or expense was to fall upon the bank balance of this Association. The season again saw us receive a grant in the amount of \$2800, which represents \$200 from each of the 14 Shires Clubs. However this season the amount was supplied to us directly from the SCA rather than the \$200 per club being deducted from the Shires Clubs annual grants. As has been case in previous seasons this grant has been extremely welcome and has to all intents and purposes kept this Association afloat as the members of your executive committee continue to perform the thankless tasks of running this Association on a voluntary basis. Without the ongoing support of the SCA and the clubs in supplying this grant I am not sure how we would be able to continue to function. So in this respect I sincerely thank the SCA and each of the 14 Shires Clubs for their continued support of the SSCUA.

This season saw us move the bulk of our account holdings from our non-interest bearing cheque account to the more attractive option of holding the bulk of our funds when not immediately required in an ING online account. This product thanks to the current market of spiralling interest rate increases saw our account holdings accrue a rate of interest that fluctuated from anywhere between 5.9% and 6.85% during our year. Our total interest earned for the financial year was just a little under \$200 which is certainly "money for nothing" compared to the cheque account which earned us exactly nothing.

Our season raffle was again conducted in October and November with a modest income return of just a little over a thousand dollars. A huge thank you to those members that made the effort to sell a raffle book with special thanks to members Laurie Byrne and Glenn Roche who went above and beyond by selling two books each. A big thank you also goes to those that chose to supply a donation in lieu of selling a book. To those that failed to sell a book or supply a donation I just want to express my disappointment in the way that you have badly let the team down. The revenue we raise from our raffle heavily contributes towards our annual membership fee being kept down to an amount that is considerably less than that charged by our parent body of NSWCU&SA. Without 100% support for the raffle the amount we charge for our annual membership fee may need to be revisited. Our raffle is also partly funding the savings for our upcoming 10th anniversary in 3 years time. I ask all members to please keep these thoughts in mind before you decline an invitation to contribute towards our raffle in season 2008/09

And so we look ahead to our eighth season as an Association in the summer of 2008/09. Certainly it will be hard work to build even further on the success we had this season. As always recruitment is at the forefront of any continued success and I challenge each and every member to do your utmost to encourage new blood into our Association. We cannot rely on our existing membership to always be around to umpire in shires. Members will ultimately retire from umpiring, others may move on to Grade cricket, others will stop umpiring way before their time for all sorts of reasons, some acceptable but sadly some completely unacceptable – these things happen. For these reasons we need a continual flow of new people joining our ranks and it's up to YOU to ensure that our Association continues to flourish. We are totally alone on the topic of recruitment - the clubs that we umpire for as well as the competition sub committee have shown little to no interest in helping out with umpire recruitment and the SCA has also shown little enthusiasm for this topic while Grade cricket gets close to its full quota of umpires each Saturday. So gents, your input becomes critical to ensure that we thrive as an Association rather than dying a slow death. It's all up to you to contribute as much as possible so that we continue to be relevant for Shires Cricket. So the question to you right now is this - Besides your own on field officiating, what ELSE will YOU do to further the success of this Association ?

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2007 - 2008

In finalising this report it would be remiss of me to forget to offer a number of thank you messages to those people that have been supporters of this Association over the last 12 months.

A huge thank you to President George Richards who has indicated he will be bowing out of the position after three seasons in the job. George's experience and wisdom has been a critical factor in the manner in which this Association has kept on an even keel in recent seasons. Congratulations to George who has also been elevated to Principle membership of NSWCU&SA – well done George, I am sure all members wish you well in your future endeavours.

Thank you to our Treasurer Gordon Smith who is still going strong after seven seasons in the role. Gordon was richly rewarded on Saturday 12 April at the NSWCU&SA end of season dinner when he was presented with the Association Medal for services to the SSCUA. This medal is one that is presented to the outstanding candidate each year that does work for an Umpires Association that is affiliated to NSWCU&SA. I look forward to my continuing involvement with Gordon during the upcoming season.

To Peter Friend, Trevor Schokman, Paul Coleman and Jim Shellens who all contributed this season as members of the management committee. Thank you gentlemen for all of your assistance and your friendship.

A big thank you also to Steve Murphy who hosted this Association's website and came to my aid when I couldn't get the site looking the way it should be on numerous occasions. Steve, Your assistance was invaluable

Thanks are extended to Ian Field and Roy Formica at the SCA, as well as Stirling Hamman and all the other members of the Shires Competition Sub-Committee. Your support of this Association is always appreciated and our working relationship has in the last few seasons been one that I have been very happy with.

Finally, My biggest thank you of all goes out to Mr Peter Hughes, Executive Officer of the NSWCU&SA. By the time this report needs to be written again in mid 2009 Peter will have left his position at Cricket NSW and moved onto retirement. I cannot speak highly enough of Peter - It's been a thoroughly enjoyable and very productive seven seasons that I've spent liaising with Peter almost on a daily basis since the role of Secretary of this Association was thrust upon me in 2001. The support that Peter has shown this Association particularly in our early days when others were not so supportive simply cannot be ignored. I am sure every single person both player and umpire alike in the Shires competition owes Peter a vote of gratitude for his support of Shires Cricket and the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association. Whoever gets to take on Peter's role at Cricket NSW will have a very huge pair of shoes to fill.

Congratulations Peter on your retirement, I wish you and your family all the best in the future. Thank you for everything you've done for both me, and this Association.

I look forward to the upcoming season as much as I always do and I hope to see all members make a big effort to attend our 7th Annual General Meeting. This meeting to be held on Wednesday 30 July 2008

Another exciting season of cricket starts in September.

Stephen Blomfield
Honorary Secretary

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

Ivan Holland & Spencer Harrison were both presented with their 100 career game polo shirts at the members meeting held in December 2007



Trevor Schokman getting into the action at Square Leg during a game at Macquarie University



Meeting in the middle

Jim Shellens & Mark Hughes get together during the 2nd grade Semi Final at Roseville Chase Oval on Sunday March 30, 2008

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Gordon Smith (Left)
presents President
George Richards
(Right) with his 100
game polo shirt at the
members meeting held
in September 2007**



**Left – Tony Kingsford-Smith creating a
new umpires signal ...
Is it out , a bye, or something else ?
Frank Gray Shield Grand Final
Tantallon Oval - March 2, 2008**



**Above – Stephen Blomfield gets the season off and running
Round 1 – Southern Districts v Macquarie Uni
Greenway Park – Saturday 29 September 2007**

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

Right – Gordon Smith & Rupert Mathews were appointed to the Tim Creer Cup (unofficial Shires 5th Grade) Grand Final at Waterloo Oval on Saturday 5th April 2008



Left – Paul Coleman was the focal point of our pre season recruitment drive. Here Paul poses for a picture and story that was run in a number of Western Local Newspapers in August 2007

Right – Umpire of the Year Bruce Whitehouse looks on during a match at Macquarie University # 2 Oval



Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2007-2008 season

Combined Shires XI vs. SCA Grade XI at the SCG Monday 18th December , 2006 – Umpire Chris Taylor

SCA Grade XI – 196 (46.3 Overs) bt SCA Shires XI 177 (48 overs)

Early morning rain following the recent wet spell put the game in some doubt. However the groundsman was very positive and his radar indicated an improving situation. Accordingly the match started only thirty minutes late.

Batting first the Sydney XI made a confident start despite good Shire's bowling. Watkins made 42, Lowe a belligerent 66 and with Hay playing well the Sydney XI were at one time 2-156. Shannon Lane had been introduced early and his dismissal of Hay for 40 precipitated a remarkable collapse. Lane took 5-25 in his superb spell and together with spin partner Cameron Watson, sent Sydney crashing to a disappointing 196 all out in 46.3 overs.

The Shire's reply began poorly with Wakefield soon out. Wichelo and Ritchard bowled with considerable hostility which lead to some dramatic cricket. McCaffery looked in good touch until he upper-cut to third man. Lane was then spectacularly run out to leave Shire's on 4-44 and in trouble. Ian Wheatley and Cam Watson played determinedly to add 60 runs. Beadle bowled his slow left armers very well and when he dismissed Watson for 36 a further collapse ensued. With Wheatley also out for a captain's innings of 53 and Shire's 8-124 their chances of victory seemed remote. Nadeson gave them hope with 24 not out but Shire's pulled up 19 runs short of their target. Beadle finished best with 4-37.

Shires had competed fully in a tight contest against a young Sydney XI. Shannon Lane was a worthy winner of the Man-of-the-match award.

SYDNEY XI	
N WATKINS c Lewis b Hanna	42
S RHODES c Lane b Nadeson	4
C LOWE c Wheatley b Watson	66
W HAY c McCaffrey b Lane	40
R HOKIN b Lane	0
J HOLLEY c McCaffrey b Lane	3
A BEADLE run out	15
C LITTLE c Nadeson b Lane	4
A SEMPLE lbw Lane	1
A RITCHARD not out	5
G WICHELO c Ledgerwood b Hanna	2
Sundries	14
Total	196

Fall: 29, 71, 156, 159, 165, 169, 179, 186, 193, 196.

Bowling: K Nadeson 8-1-33-1, P Rai 6-3-23-0, L Hanna 7.3-1-26-2, M Power 5-0-46-0, S Lane 10-1-25-5, C Watson 10-1-35-1. Batting Time: 178 mins. Overs: 46.3

SHIRES XI	
N WAKEFIELD c Holley b Ritchard	2
R ANJUM lbw b Wichello	12
A McCAFFREY C Little b Wichello	18
I WHEATLEY c Semple b Beadle	53
S LANE run out	0
C WATSON c Lalor b Beadle	36
J LEDGERWOOD lbw Little	3
L HANNA c & b Beadle	8
P RAI lbw Beadle	0
K NADESON not out	24
M POWER b Semple	2
Sundries	19
Total	177

Fall: 8, 33, 40, 44, 104, 109, 124, 124, 163, 177.

Bowling: G Wichello 10-0-34-2, A Ritchard 10-3-32-1, J Lalor 8-1-37-1, A Semple 5-2-11-0, C Little 5-0-13-1, A Beadle 10-1-37-4. Batting Time: 185 mins. Overs: 48.

SYDNEY XI won by 19 runs. Man of the Match: Shannon Lane, Shires XI.

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2007-2008 season

**Combined Shires (Under 24's) XI vs. NSW Churches CA XI
Bexley Oval , Sunday 21 October 2007**

Appointed Umpire Jim Shellens

NSW Churches 8/108 def Combined Shires (Under 24's) 10/107

On a day of forecast high temperatures, the Shires team showed up promptly, ready for a 9:30 start at a neatly turned out Bexley Oval. Unfortunately, due to some breakdowns of communication, the Churches team didn't even start to appear until after 9:30, because they had been told the start time was 10 o'clock.

The game was rearranged to a 45 over match, but as it turned out, this made no difference.

Shires captain Phil Brett was unable to play owing to an injury that had kept him off the field the day before. So Shires Manager, Bruce Whitehouse, appointed Dan Lenehan (Roseville) as Stand-in Captain. He got off to a good start, winning the toss. He elected to bat on what looked to be a good, well grassed wicket, with an occasional tinge of green and some minor cracking.

It soon became clear that the physical presence of the players was an illusion – only Churches had turned up for this game. Shires were first 1-0, then 2-2, and within 7 overs were 4-16.

What also became clear was that the pitch was setting challenges and batsmen struggled to meet them all day. There was just enough movement in the air and off the wicket to deceive all but the best eye. Three of those first four Shires wickets were out playing straight, another was caught behind trying to withdraw his bat to one that lifted.

Ben Eves, who finished with 4-18, bowled perfectly for the conditions with exemplary line, length and movement. At the other end the bowlers were finding the unaccustomed one day restrictions challenging, but eventually Evan Watts (4-42) found his range and together with a second Eves spell, cleaned up the rest of the innings.

Several Shires batsmen attempted to repair the damage. Ryan Croom (Georges River) made a solid 25, including the shot of the day – a straight 6 that cleared the first line of cars on Henderson Rd. Will Aplin from Pennant Hills with 26 and Dan Lenehan from Roseville with 22 both applied some hard hitting which, though not textbook, did get some runs on the board. But by then it was too late. Shires limped to 107 all out in the 21st over.

Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2007-2008 season

Combined Shires (Under 24's) XI vs. NSW Churches CA XI Bexley Oval , Sunday 21 October 2007

After generous Georges River hospitality and a hearty (early) lunch the Churches set about wiping off the required score, which the opening pair made to look hopelessly inadequate. However, Will Aplin accounted for them both and with a third wicket falling with the score on 36, the Shires team woke from their slumbers, and sniffed the chance of pulling this game out of the fire.

Catches win matches, or maybe dropped catches lose them. Carruthers was dropped without a run to his name and this allowed the Churches to claw back the momentum. Carruthers finished with 19, and contributed with captain Chris Laing (29) in a partnership of 35. In the context of the match, this was the telling blow.

But there were plenty of twists left. The bowlers were still finding plenty of life in the wicket. The run rate slowed to a crawl, and the field settings became more aggressive. However a couple of lusty blows to short pitched balls let the pressure off until only two runs were required. The field came in and the bowling tightened. A wild swish across the line would have won it, but instead the middle stump rocked back. Four chances went begging in one over: one sitter, one close run-out, but also one scorching caught and bowled that took courage even to attempt. Two more overs went for one run, and then Aplin did take a caught and bowled, though in doing so injured his hand. The change of bowling presented the opportunity for Churches to scramble the one run they needed in the 31st over with only 2 wickets in hand

An enjoyable game played in excellent Spirit in the lovely surrounds of Bexley Oval. Churches played better to the conditions, and ran out deserved winners.

The Shires Frank Gray Shield Combined Team:

Dan Lenehan (cpt)	Roseville
Will Aplin	Pennant Hills
Alex Tay	Epping
Kyle Dunley	Sth Districts
Sam Wotten	Strathfield
Geoff Isaacs	Warringah
Tim Bourke	Warringah
Ryan Croom	Georges River
Adam Rezek	Lindfield
Ben Lynas	Roseville
Prashant Rai	Macquarie Uni
Chris Miller	Georges River

FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

**Epping v Pennant Hills at Tantallon Oval
5th & 6th April 2008**

Pennant Hills 9 (dec) 255 def Epping 159

Man of the Match – Vinesh Bennett (Pennant Hills)

Umpires – Stephen Blomfield & Peter Friend



Epping Bulls and Pennant Hills Pumas met at Tantallon Oval to contest this years first grade grand final. The playing surface was a picture, a testament to the 'Ground of the Year' status, hard and well covered with grass.

Epping won the toss and asked Pennant Hills to bat. The early part of the innings was dominated by good bowling from Hugh Holden and Anthony Boorer. Wickets fell with some regularity 1-14, 2-36. A change of bowling with Alex Tay coming on at the Northern end brought immediate success. Alex Mayes LBW and a few balls later Brett Campbell fell to a splendid diving leg side catch as he glanced the ball to the keeper with Pennant Hills now in a bit of bother at 4-46. After lunch Mayuran Pasupati and skipper Adrian McCaffrey stabilized the innings and took the score to 100 until Pasupati got the ball of the innings from Alex Tay. After bowling a series of in-swingers, this one pitched on middle and seamed away to clip the top of the off stump. 5-100. The innings slowed, as it appeared that the pitch was slowing and making stroke play difficult. McCaffrey fell with the score at 6-115 and immediately with the next ball Phil Melville followed him back to the sheds, 7-115. All this time Bennett, who had experienced a lean year with the bat, was settling in and hitting the middle of the willow.

FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

The fall of the dangerous John McCrea just before tea capped off a great post lunch session for the pingers and they went into tea and cake seemingly in the box seat at 8-123 with a defensible score of 160-170 looking to be quite a way off.

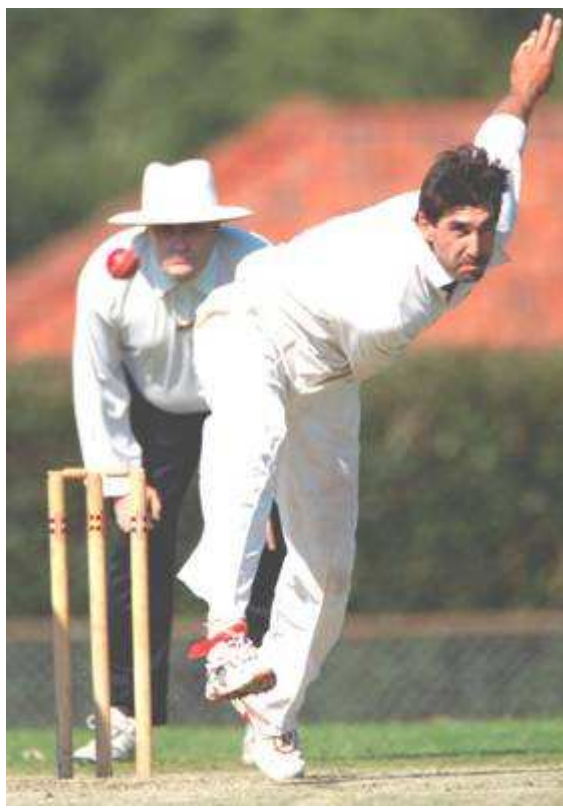
With the pitch now playing flat and true, the post tea session saw the momentum of this game swing completely back to the Pumas. Kish Nadesan joined Bennett and, as he had the previous week in the semi final played a solid hand, although the running between the wickets was always both risky and entertaining. The pair batted for 24 overs taking the score to 183 before Nadesan nicked one to the keeper. Bennett however was still playing strongly and hitting to and over the boundary. He needed number 11 Will Aplin to hang around if Pennant Hills were to get beyond 200. Aplin strode to the crease and proved a thorn in the side of the Epping bowlers to such an extent that a new ball was called for. In the 85th over Bennett drove a four to the mid wicket fence to mark his century. The declaration was made immediately at 9-255 with Bennett 101no, McCaffrey 34, Pasupati 26 and Aplin 18no being the pick of the batsmen. For Epping Dave Hossack 4-71, Hugh Holden 2-41 and Alex Tay 3-53 took the bulk of the wickets. The last two wickets had put on an incredible 132 runs and the pumas with considerable runs on the board now looked to be the match favourites.

Epping had 9 overs to face before stumps and any thought that they would simply bat time was dispelled, as by stumps they had reached 0-38 with Tim Henry and Dave Hossack scoring freely off any ball that was not perfect. Day 2 promised a great end as the weather forecast (Sunday Showers) had improved to “A change of an isolated shower” as the day had gone on

Day 2 opened in full sun and the promise of an uninterrupted day. Henry and Hossack continued to look for runs until Henry got a straight one from Pasupati to give up the 1st wicket at 49. Captain Ian Wheatley strode to the crease and looked at home from the first ball. Hossack was dismissed with the score at 67 and the Pumas bowling was starting to ask some serious questions with McCrea and Pasupati beating the bat with some regularity. Mick Kerr was caught in the gully after hitting an identical ball there for four in the previous over, 3-95. Shortly before the lunch interval the sky clouded over dramatically and covers were called for just before a solid downfall. Lunch was taken and only 4 overs lost to the day when play finally resumed 85 minutes after the initially downpour. After lunch the battle was rejoined with Wheatley defying everything thrown at him. Mike Wilson and Tim Hood were picked up behind the wicket off Aplin in one over to reduce the Bulls to 5-120. Phil Melville finally got one to beat the bat of skipper Wheatley and a stubborn innings was bought to an end by a catch to his opposing captain for 42 valuable runs. Pasupati and Aplin wrapped up the innings after the tea break to dismiss Epping for 159, a victory of 96 runs and the first Premiership to the Puma's First XI since 1960-61 was a reality. Wheatley 42, Hossack 28 were the best for Epping's batting while Pasupati 4-64 and Aplin 4-10 starred with the ball.

Vinesh Bennett was the winner of the Peter Toohey medal as Man of the Match for his match winning undefeated 101

FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL PICTURES



Epping opening bowler Anthony Boorer lets one go on the first morning of the 1st Grade Grand Final – Umpire Stephen Blomfield looks on eyes fixed on that little red ball



Umpires Peter Friend & Stephen Blomfield check their watches and discuss dinner plans



Stephen Blomfield ready for play on the 1st morning of the game

SECOND GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

**Lane Cove v Roseville at George Parry Oval (Mona 1)
5th & 6th April 2008**

Roseville 193 def Lane Cove 157

Man of the Match – Peter Brown (Roseville)

Umpires – Bruce Whitehouse & Peter Mooney



Roseville skipper John Biviano won the toss on a good pitch and outfield at George Parry Oval on a fine sunny day and elected to bat first.

It was tough going early on with some excellent bowling from left arm seamer Alex Dodds and his opening bowling partner Ian Skinner, and under this pressure Skinner grabbed the first wicket in the 5th over with a neat catch being taken by keeper Alex Maxwell. Dodds then chipped in 3 overs later with Maxwell once again taking a comfortable catch to see the Roseville skipper Biviano on his way. Sandy Cohen and Stuart Slocombe then steadied the ship and steered the Roses through to lunch, although Slocombe gave the Roses a number of “heart in mouth moments” as he played with plenty of luck early - being either dropped or hitting catches just out of reach on 3 occasions.

Resuming after a fantastic lunch at only 3 down, the Roses were very confident of setting a very competitive total. However leggie Sean Dunn had other thoughts on his mind as he grabbed Cohen LBW immediately after lunch. Shortly after he had his second wicket with a smart catch at slip by Covies skipper Rowan Higgins and the Roses were in all sorts of trouble at 5 down for not many. Stuart Slocombe’s entertaining innings of 44 also ended soon after when Sean Dunn beat him in flight and was comprehensively stumped – Dunn now with 3 wickets and on fire.

Ed Anderson and Paul Mulvany decided that attack was the best form of defence and hit a quick fire 27 before Mulvany hit a half tracker from Craig Robertson to square leg. Anderson followed shortly after in a similar manner also hitting a four ball straight down the fielders throat at square leg. Nat Stapleton probably received the best ball of the day from Robertson bowled by a ball that pitched middle and hit top of off stump.

SECOND GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

This left the Roses 9 down after 63 overs with the score on 134. The stage was set for the experienced Peter Brown who along with Jeremy Gill batted for a further 26 overs and added with little trouble at all a further 59 runs in what was to turn out to be both the best partnership in the match and the winning runs. When Brown was eventually dismissed for a career high 48, Roseville had tallied a defendable 193 – which in reality was about 60 runs short of what they should have scored.

The Covies bowling was solid – excellent line and length on a flat wicket. The pick of the bowlers was leggie Sean Dunn with 3-42, while Craig Robertson managed 3-42 (2 lucky ones here) while the hard working Alex Dodds took 2-49.

This left the Covies with 8 overs to bat on day 1 and openers Stuart Myers and Sean Dunn had little trouble in negotiating this ending at 0-19.

Day 2 started poorly for the Covies with Myers being caught behind in the 10th over off the bowling of Buggy Rashid. Sean Dunn was next to go with the score on 44 being clean bowled by Peter Brown who was in the middle of an inspired spell. Chris Granger was next snared at slip off the bowling of Rashid, while Brendan Hood committed suicide with a poor piece of running and was run out for 4 by a direct hit from Jeremy Gill at mid on – making the score 4-53. More trouble was in store for Lane Cove as Cameron “Pies” McKay who was starting to play some nice shots was caught at mid wicket by a brilliant catch by Sandy Cohen off Peter Brown - Lane Cove now 5-53.

Skipper Rohan Higgins and Ian Skinner then dug in – and with Skinner fresh from a century in the semi final the Covies were still very positive. Runs began to come as the batsmen settled in, however 10 minutes before lunch disaster struck with the score on 89 as Skinner holed out for 24 at mid on off the bowling of Brown which saw Lane Cove go to lunch 6 wickets down.

After enjoying another sumptuous meal provided by Mike Wood and his team of helpers from Auburn, play resumed and Alex Maxwell joined Higgins at the crease. Higgins was playing a fantastic skipper's knock – determined – not giving the Roseville attack anything. Maxwell however had other ideas as he played some “unique” shots which saw the scoreboard start to tick over – including one huge 6 out of the ground – an amazing shot! Maxwell's luck however did not hold out as he was clean bowled by Buggy Rashid to see Lane Cove 7-116. Alex Dodds joined his skipper at the crease and played a few nice shots but was out shortly after to the bowling of Jeremy Gill for 7, with the score on 8-127. Higgins' resistance finally came to end with the score on 136 for a “tough as teak” 36 in 118 minutes as he was also dismissed by left armer Gill – the Roses were now moving in for the kill!!

Could the last pair battle their way like Roseville's last pair and cobble together the remaining 48 runs required for victory? Cameron Bezer and Craig Robertson certainly thought they could and added another 21 runs with little trouble at all.

They say fairy tales don't happen. Skipper Biviano threw the ball to the retiring Peter Brown – and this did the trick with Robertson being caught in front – Lane Cove all out for 157 – Roseville premiers.

The best with the ball were Jeremy Gill (3-16) who bowled a very important and accurate spell, Buggy Rashid (3-40) and of course man of the match Peter Brown who followed his day 48 with the bat to accompany his 3-46 with the ball – what a way to end a career!

Congratulations to both teams on the way they conducted themselves – a superb game of cricket with no issues at all and plenty of laughs all round.

As well – Mike Wood and his team at Auburn – Ned Novosel, Peter Abboud, Cliff Treloar - were superb in their hosting of the final – great hospitality and superb on field facilities.

THIRD GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

**Pennant Hills v Warringah at Alan Davidson Oval
5th & 6th April , 2008**

Warringah 8 (dec) 276 def Pennant Hills 200

Man of the Match – Farley Scott (Warringah)

Umpires – Mark Hughes & Jim Shellens



Alan Davidson Oval was picture perfect for the third grade grand final between Pennant Hills and Warringah. The pitch was one which gave moderate assistance to all types of bowlers, consistent pace and bounce, providing moderate seam and spin which created an even contest between bat and ball over the two days. Warringah provided a team list with no fewer than 8 under age players while Pennant Hills opted for experience, with no 'juniors' in their nominated eleven. Warringah captain Mick Day won the toss and elected to bat first.

The first hour passed calmly as Warringah's opening pair looked to see off the new ball, with the loss of only James Ritchie (9) falling in the first hour caught behind off Matt Duhigg, going to drinks with the score 1/20 off 17 controlled overs. Farley Scott joined Nick Petterson and together they took the score along to 1/53 off 34 overs at lunch, both players taking chances with some cheeky running between wickets, with Pennant Hills unable to capitalise on multiple opportunities where a direct hit would have given them a much needed run out.

Petterson (13) fell shortly after lunch, yorked by Brendan Harris, with Warringah accelerating as Farley Scott gained in confidence, passing fifty as Jordan Black played the anchorman. At the drinks break halfway through day one, Warringah were in great position at 2/137 off 53 overs with Farley Scott now in complete control of the innings, lofting the ball over the infield regularly to the boundary after keeping the ball on the carpet in his first fifty. Pennant Hills struck back soon after the drinks break, claiming Black (18) run out from a powerful throw off Quais Shamal from the backward square fence and then finally Farley Scott, but not before he brought up his second century in the final series, falling for a well compiled 105 to a skied catch at point off the bowling of Ben Fogarty.

THIRD GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

Mick Day and Tannith Scott guided the Green Men to 4/173 off 69 overs at tea, with Day locked in a battle with Shamal who peppered the Warringah captain with a barrage of bouncers in a contest which neither batsman or bowler took a backward step and was thoroughly entertaining cricket as both players traded entertaining comments on how to bat and bowl to one another during battle.

Warringah's game plan was revealed after tea as they set out to now score quick runs, needing to give themselves enough time and overs to bowl Pennant Hills out. Day slashed outside off and was caught at slip for 29, while Tannith Scott commenced taking the long handle to the Pumas attack. The new ball was taken immediately at 80 overs and the score continued to quickly advance to 5/250 off 85 overs at the final drinks break. Warringah lost Paul Chapman (5) caught at mid on to Fogarty, Nick Burrows (1) in similar fashion to Vic Barbor, and Ben Ryan (0) run out before Warringah closed at 8 for 276 off 88 overs. Tannith Scott finished unbeaten on 81

Pennant Hill's bowlers toiled hard without great reward, with the bowling finishing as follows: Duhigg 1/28 off 14 overs, Barbor 1/46 off 17, Shamal 0/27 off 10, Harris 2/51 off 20, Fogarty 2/86 off 22 and Clarke 0/30 off 5.

The Pumas openers Peter Blade and Abanav Muthar saw Warringah safely through to stumps with the score 0/13 off 9, and the stage set for an exciting second day's play.

Pennant Hills continued on their cautious approach on Sunday, with the threat of showers and the security of being the higher ranked side in their favour. Muthar (24) fell in the opening hour caught at short cover off Craig Pecar's bowling his first over from the northern end, and the next ball Steve Clarke was put down in the same spot which would have given Warringah the honours. Rain soon halted play with the score 1/52 off 21 overs. Thankfully the rain passed by, the covers did their job and we were underway again with only a 45 minute break and 4 overs lost. Clarke (1) fell just before lunch caught in the covers off spinner Ben Ryan's first over from the northern end and the Pumas were 2/61 off 28 at lunch with the game still in the balance, with Blade anchoring the innings and Duhigg looking to up the scoring.

In the hour after lunch, Duhigg (17) was dismissed in unusual circumstances. With the spinners in operation and men around the bat, it was suggested Warringah might require a helmet or two for the close infielder's safety. A bowling change at the northern end with Ryan back on bowling, and with the lid 20 metres behind the keeper on the ground, Duhigg smashed a half tracker into skipper Mick Day's head at short mid wicket, where the ball rebounded 10 metres to short cover who held the catch with Day flat on his back and looking out for the count. Fortunately Day was okay to continue but the helmet found his way onto his head soon after! The key wicket of Blade (34) fell at drinks, caught slashing outside off to Cowan's first over in a new spell saw Pennant Hills at 4/105 off 49 overs halfway through day 2. In the next hour Warringah were able to also knock over Barbor (9), bowled through the gate by Ryan in his first over in a new spell from the northern end (pattern emerging!), and David Spies (30) caught cutting to the keeper off spinner Ritchie and the Green Men went to tea with the Pumas now 6/155 off 67 overs

After tea the game significantly turned to Warringah with 3 quick wickets. Danger man Shamal (26) was trapped in front off Chapman, and Fogarty (0) fell in the same over. Kyle Dignam (8) slashed at Ryan and was snapped up at point and with still 30 overs in the day remaining it was just a matter of time. Doig (11) and Harris (16*) hung on until the new ball was taken after 80 overs, and the final wicket fell off the first ball of the new pill to Cowan, driven into the safe hands of Chapman at mid off and the Green Men were victorious. Best for Warringah were the spinners Ritchie 1/29 off 12, Chapman 2/39 off 16 and Ryan 4/65 off 24 who were instrumental in securing victory.

Overall a great final to witness from out in the centre. The youthful Warringah in the end were just too good for the experienced Pennant Hills. Farley Scott was awarded the man of the match for his century which set the game up for Warringah's bowlers on the second day to secure victory.

FOURTH GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

**Macquarie University vs Lane Cove at North Sydney Oval # 2
5th and 6th April 2008**

Macquarie University 161 & 3 / 148 def Lane Cove 119

Man of the Match – Greg Brown (Macquarie Uni)

Umpires – Spencer Harrison & Tony Kingsford-Smith



North Sydney Oval No.2 was a fantastic setting for our final, in beautiful conditions, with an excellent pitch and Sydney Harbour Bridge as a backdrop. With Warringah scoring 535 in their 3rd grade semi final here the week before, many were predicting a high scoring Grand Final with a rock hard pitch that on first impressions would be a batting paradise

Macquarie Uni captain Greg Brown won the toss and to nobody's surprise elected to bat first, many thinking that Lane Cove would have to labour long and hard for the whole day and even longer. On a pitch that was as true as this one some were already suggesting that Lane Cove will probably find it difficult to win from here.

FOURTH GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

To Lane Cove's credit an early wicket had hopes high with Macquarie Uni being one down with only five on the board. However, a very good innings by David Gracie of 62 saw the score along to a comfortable 2/106 at lunch.

Some good bowling and some loose batting saw Lane Cove make some significant inroads in the post lunch session with Macquarie Uni losing a remarkable 5 wickets. At tea the game has swung back to the Covies and the students looked to be struggling at 7/147. Lane Cove then rolled through the Mac Uni tail after tea and in the end dismiss them for a very modest total of 162 made off 75 tightly contested overs. Best offerings with the bat after Gracie's earlier 62 were Mark Schaafsma with 33 and Craig Edwards 21. Excellent bowling by Shires legend Brian Scott, who finished with 5/23 including 15 maidens was the mainstay of the Lane Cove attack with good support coming from Craig Preston with 2/33. Not a big score, but very gettable on this flat pitch.

With 22 overs to stumps the Macquarie bowlers put their hands up and ran through the opposition to have them barely hanging on at 7/68. On resumption of play on Day 2, Lane Cove dug in for a while but fell to the pressure of Grand Final being eventually dismissed for 119. Best for Lane Cove was Craig Preston 31, Owen Fisher 27 and Patrick Tompsett 27. The bowling was excellent with Greg Brown 6/54 and Niraj Pathak 3/36 taking the bulk of the poles. Despite being 43 in arrears Lane did not concede as there were 78 overs still left on day 2, so the Mac Uni lads were asked to bat again

In the end the game fizzled out with Macquarie Uni having no repeat of the 1st innings. When play ceased Macquarie was 3/148 off 61 overs with Craig Edwards 61 not out batting the entire innings. Skipper Greg Brown also did well with the bat finishing 38 not out and collecting man of the match honours

Congratulations to both teams with Macquarie Uni being worthy winners after being Minor Premiers and front runners all season

FRANK GRAY SHIELD GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

**Warringah vs Auburn at Tantallon Oval (Limited Overs Fixture)
Sunday 2 March 2008**

Warringah 6 / 182 (50 overs) def Auburn 80 (39.1 overs)

Man of the Match – Ethan Collett (Warringah)

Umpires – Tony Kingsford-Smith & Jim Shellens



A little overnight rain with persistent morning coastal showers pushing over Tantallon Oval, meant that the start was delayed for forty minutes, playing on frayed nerves. The pitch was well grassed with a few green tinges and doubtless a bit of sub-surface moisture. The excellent outfield was understandably just a little slow. Auburn won the toss and had no hesitation in deploying their strongest weapon first by bowling.

To say this was a game of two parts would be an understatement. For nearly forty overs this looked like a terribly one sided affair with Auburn 'certain' to win in a walkover. Sixteen year old Ethan Collett came in first drop in the fifth over and proceeded to block. After ten overs Warringah had amassed just 13 runs!

When 2nd top score Tom Christensen (28), was out in the 25th over the score had reached 53. This was partly due to conservative batting, but also credit must go to a superb Auburn attack. They managed to swing and seam the ball for 50 overs. Charles Leonard bowled his ten overs straight from the start and finished with the excellent figures of 0-17, and not a single wide; Matt Treloar hardly leaked a single in his first spell and his ten overs returned 0-20. Mitchell Wakeford finished with 2-40, Captain Shane Cook had the best return of 2-33 even though he took responsibility for bowling the last overs. Michael Stevens (1-46) could claim to be the pick of the bowlers, almost unplayable early on.

FRANK GRAY SHIELD GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT

The Warringah middle order felt the pressure to score a little more, but when the big hitting Constantino was out for 13 in the 42nd over, skying a catch that went so high the batsmen had crossed on their second run when it was finally taken by Gordon Starkey, the run rate was just three. Warringah scurried through the last few overs, with plenty of aggressive running. Ethan Collett was finally out having faced over 120 balls for his match high score of 64, easily twice as many runs as anyone else managed all day.

Even so, 182 was not nearly enough, surely. Scores of 200 are often chased down at Tantallon. It looked like Warringah would suffer from their inability to rotate the strike for most of their innings. Chasing is never easy in a Grand Final, but Auburn would probably have enjoyed their lunch.

Warringah immediately set a defensive field, and bowled to it well. In particular Hunter Drew was the most parsimonious bowler of the day, returning 0-13 off his ten overs. Auburn set off rapidly at well over the asking rate of 3.66, but they also lost wickets. Tristan Rajah took a spectacular diving catch at short mid wicket to get Warringah going and from then on Auburn were unable to put a partnership together, as they were strangled by good accurate bowling and a sorry procession of wickets. In the end only number 10, Aaron Vella made it to double figures. Craig Pecar ripped out the top order and finished with 4-31. The change bowlers, Jack Hinksman (10 overs 2-18) and Ethan Collett (6 overs 3-10) backed up the openers impressively.

In the semi final the Auburn last pair had put together a large partnership to snatch an unlikely win – could they outdo even that? With 9 wickets down, the umpires optimistically called the second drinks break of the innings, and for the next six overs Vella and Leonard played straight. Then despite the position, perhaps a flicker of hope got to them. Fittingly, Warringah's captain Tim Bourke took a smart catch low down at short extra cover and triumphantly held the ball aloft.

Throughout, the match had been played in excellent spirit with high energy. A bewildering game finished to chants of, *Franky's coming home*, and the Trophy named after the Warringah great returned to Weldon.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



**Left to Right – Peter Friend, Stirling Hamman (Shires Sub Committee), John Koral (Tantallon Oval Groundsman) and Stephen Blomfield pose with the Shires 1st Grade Premiership Trophy just prior to the toss on the first morning
Saturday 5 April 2008**



**Colin Jones officiates in the 3rd Grade Semi Final
North Sydney Oval #2
Warringah batted a day and a half in this game
amassing 535 against Macquarie Uni
Saturday / Sunday 29 & 30 March 2008**

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Left –
Tony Kingsford-Smith
fires another Lane Cove
batman during the 4th
Grade Grand Final at
North Sydney Oval # 2

Right –
Spencer Harrison looks
on as man of the match
Greg Brown from
Macquarie Uni lets one
go during the 4th Grade
Grand Final at
North Sydney Oval # 2



Right –
Tony Kingsford-Smith
& Spencer Harrison
relax at the 4th Grade
Grand Final after
match presentation
won by the Minor
Premiers
Macquarie Uni

SYDNEY SHIRES UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – GAMES DONE – 2007/08

MEMBERS NAME	SHIRES GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	SEASON TOTAL
Blomfield , Stephen	21	6	1	28
Bowman , Ian	8	1	0	9
Buckland , Ken	4	3	16	23
Campbell, Neil	6	0	0	6
Chambiras , Paul	0	0	12	12
Charlesworth, Adrian	15	4	0	19
Christen , Richard	13	0	1	14
Coleman , Paul	15	7	1	23
Friend , Peter	15	4	0	19
Gandevia , Robin	1	6	12	19
Garlick , Peter	0	0	11	11
Goodger , Darren	0	1	18	19
Goodman , David	10	1	0	11
Green , Alan	9	0	0	9
Hanshaw , Glen	4	1	0	5
Harrison , Spencer	23	4	0	27
Holland , Ivan	15	7	0	22
Hughes , Mark	18	3	0	21
Iyer , Malli	7	0	0	7
Jones , Colin	14	4	0	22
Kingsford Smith , Tony	17	7	1	25
Maloney , Rob	1	0	0	1
Mathews , Rupert	20	5	0	25
Moody, Andrew	6	0	0	6
Mooney , Peter	18	1	0	19
Parfett , Bruce	0	0	14	14
Ponsford , Derek	12	0	0	12
Richards , George	18	3	0	21
Roberts , Michael	13	1	0	14
Roche , Glenn	5	3	15	23
Schokman , Trevor	16	0	0	16
Shellens , Jim	19	7	0	26
Smellie, Patrick	13	0	0	13
Smith , Gordon	24	2	1	27
Starks , Steve	0	0	19	19
Stiller , Wes	8	0	0	8
Tasker , Peter	2	1	6	9
Taylor , Chris	7	2	0	9
Treloar , Ben	3	3	14	20
Tribolet , Brett	7	0	0	7
Tunks, Greg	11	1	0	12
Watson, Arthur	1	0	14	15
Whitehouse, Bruce	18	5	0	23

SYDNEY SHIRES UMPIRES ASSOCIATION
ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – CAREER GAMES

MEMBERS NAME	SHIRES GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	GRADE GAMES	CAREER TOTAL
Blomfield , Stephen	128	42	8	178
Bowman , Ian	23	5	0	28
Buckland , Ken	60	27	46	133
Campbell, Neil	6	0	0	6
Chambiras , Paul	13	2	12	27
Charlesworth, Adrian	15	4	0	19
Christen , Richard	32	10	58	100
Coleman , Paul	28	11	1	40
Friend , Peter	97	9	1	107
Gandevia , Robin	43	39	40	122
Garlick , Peter	24	0	35	59
Goodger , Darren	0	1	139	140
Goodman , David	39	15	0	54
Green , Alan	84	1	176	261
Hanshaw , Glen	38	11	0	49
Harrison , Spencer	88	27	1	116
Holland , Ivan	86	28	1	115
Hughes , Mark	22	8	0	30
Iyer , Malli	31	4	0	35
Jones , Colin	29	6	1	36
Kingsford Smith , Tony	43	19	326	388
Maloney , Rob	13	0	4	17
Mathews , Rupert	23	11	0	34
Moody, Andrew	6	0	0	6
Mooney , Peter	42	1	243	286
Parfett , Bruce	57	24	59	140
Ponsford , Derek	35	0	0	35
Richards , George	95	25	148	268
Roberts , Michael	29	8	76	113
Roche , Glenn	30	20	30	80
Schokman , Trevor	69	6	2	77
Shellens , Jim	102	39	5	146
Smellie, Patrick	13	0	0	13
Smith , Gordon	100	29	3	132
Starks , Steve	15	2	101	118
Stiller , Wes	8	0	11	19
Tasker , Peter	25	9	97	131
Taylor , Chris	64	8	2	74
Treloar , Ben	4	9	14	27
Tribolet , Brett	8	3	0	11
Tunks, Greg	11	1	0	12
Watson, Arthur	12	1	608	621
Whitehouse, Bruce	32	11	15	58

Career Matches (Shires Only)

50 Career Games Or More

(As at end of 2007/08 Season)

All Current and Past Members

Name	Shires Games	Frank Gray Games	Total
Blomfield , Stephen	128	42	170
Shellens , Jim	102	39	141
Smith , Gordon	100	29	129
Richards, George	95	25	120
Harrison , Spencer	88	27	115
Holland , Ivan	86	28	114
Shiner , Tom	94	19	113
Friend , Peter	97	9	106
Quaken , Keith	100	0	100
Taylor, Geoff	68	26	94
Buckland , Ken	60	27	87
Green , Alan	84	1	85
Gandevia , Robin	43	39	82
Parfett , Bruce	57	24	81
Schokman , Trevor	69	6	75
Taylor , Chris	64	8	72
Moore , John	56	14	70
Ralston , Tim	68	0	68
Donnellan , Tom	63	2	65
Osseweyer , Brett	45	20	65
Kingsford-Smith, Tony *	43	19	62
Kearney , Chris	49	12	61
Thorpe , Ken	53	5	58
Goodman , David *	39	15	54
Roche , Glenn*	30	20	50

Each Member as they pass a milestone match is awarded an Association polo shirt as follows

50 Games – Sky Blue 100 Games – Royal Blue - 150 Games – Navy Blue

* = New Additions to this list in 2007/08

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - MEETING ATTENDANCES

NAME	2007/08 Meetings Attended (Maximum = 4)	Career Meetings Attended	Career Meetings Attended (expressed as a %age)
BIRD , Tony	0	7 (13)	53
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	4	16 (17)	94
BOWMAN , Ian	3	5 (12)	41
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	2	9 (15)	60
BYRNE , Laurie	0	2 (14)	14
CAMPBELL , Neil	2	2 (3)	66
CHAMBIRAS , Paul	1	1 (5)	20
CHARLESWORTH, Adrian	3	3 (3)	100
CHRISTEN , Richard	2	10 (14)	71
COLEMAN , Paul	4	5 (5)	100
DOBBIN , Patrick	0	0 (9)	0
FRIEND , Peter	4	15 (17)	88
GANDEVIA , Robin	1	10 (15)	66
GARLICK , Peter	1	5 (14)	35
GOODGER, Darren	0	0 (3)	0
GOODMAN , David	2	7 (15)	46
GREEN , Alan	0	1 (14)	7
GUPTA , Vinayak	0	0 (5)	0
HAMMOND , Brett	0	5 (13)	38
HANSHAW , Glen	1	10 (17)	58
HARRISON , Spencer	4	13 (14)	92
HOLLAND , Ivan	4	15 (17)	88
HUGHES , Mark	4	6 (6)	100
IYER , Malli	1	2 (15)	13
JONES , Colin	3	4 (6)	66
KINGSFORD SMITH , Tony	4	4 (5)	80
MALONEY, Rob	0	1 (6)	16
MATHEWS , Rupert	4	5 (6)	83
MOODY, Andrew	0	0 (3)	0
MOONEY , Peter	4	6 (6)	100
MOORE , John	0	8 (15)	53
MURPHY , Stephen	0	2 (14)	14
NYERS , Peter	0	0 (5)	0
PARFETT , Bruce	0	6 (17)	35
PONSFORD , Derek	1	5 (9)	55
RICHARDS , George	4	15 (16)	93

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

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - MEETING ATTENDANCES

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NAME	2007/08 Meetings Attended (Maximum = 4)	Career Meetings Attended	Career Meetings Attended (expressed as a %age)
ROBERTS , Michael	4	10 (17)	58
ROCHE , Glenn	1	4 (12)	33
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	4	13 (14)	92
SHELLENS , Jim	4	13 (15)	86
SMELLIE, Patrick	3	3 (3)	100
SMITH , Gordon	3	14 (17)	82
STARKS , Steve	1	6 (17)	35
STILLER, Wes	0	0 (3)	0
TASKER , Peter	0	0 (14)	0
TAYLOR , Chris	1	4 (14)	28
TAYLOR , Geoff	0	10 (17)	58
THOMSON , Ian	0	5 (14)	35
TRELOAR , Ben	0	0 (5)	0
TRIBOLET , Brett	1	1 (14)	7
TUNKS, Greg	2	2 (2)	100
WATSON, Arthur	0	0 (3)	0
WHITEHOUSE, Bruce	1	2 (13)	15

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 – 2007-2008

The below figures show a list of average marks from the highest ranked umpire to the lowest during the season just completed. 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. Minimum qualification for a ranking below is to be appointed to at least 10 matches during the season

9.66	
9.58	
9.52	
9.35	
9.30	
9.19	
9.04	
8.76	
----->	Average mark 8.621
8.61	
8.51	
8.50	
8.33	
8.31	
8.05	
8.05	
8.04	
8.03	
8.00	
7.88	
7.75	
7.72	
7.26	
7.00	

The average mark this season was 8.621

The above averages compares to an average mark in season 2006/07 of 8.588 – This equates to an overall increase in the average mark this season of 0.033 or 0.39%

This seasons average of 8.621 is based on a total of 8121 captains marks awarded in 942 captains reports.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Left
Gordon Smith looks on during
the 3rd Grade Semi Final at
North Sydney Oval # 2

Macquarie Uni vs Warringah
Saturday 29 March 2008

Right

Darren Goodger (Left)
and Stephen Blomfield
(Right) with NSWCU&SA
Chairman Tim Donahoo

Shires Premiers Dinner
Friday 16 May 2008



Left

Members Mark Hughes
and Peter Mooney

Shires Premiers Dinner
Friday 16 May 2008