



# Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association

## 8th Annual Report

Season 2008 – 09



# **HONOUR ROLL 2008 – 2009 SEASON**

**1st Grade Grand Final – Tantallon Oval  
South Sydney 210 bt Pennant Hills 37**

**Umpires – Peter Friend / Chris Taylor**

**2nd Grade Grand Final – Airey Park  
Burwood 171 drew with Auburn 8 for 83  
(Burwood Premiers)**

**Umpires – Stephen Blomfield / Mark Hughes**

**3rd Grade Grand Final – Alan Davidson Oval  
Georges River 3 for 88 bt Lane Cove 87**

**Umpires – Tony Kingsford Smith / Alan Green**

**4th Grade Grand Final – Mona Park # 1 (George Parry Oval)  
Burwood 329 drew with Lindfield 5 for 86  
(Burwood Premiers)**

**Umpires – Jim Shellens / Bruce Whitehouse**

**Frank Gray Grand Final – Tantallon Oval  
Strathfield 6 for 231 cc bt Auburn 119**

**Umpires – Stephen Blomfield / Chris Taylor**

# **OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SSCUA**

As at June 2009

## **PRESIDENT**

July 2001 – July 2003	Peter Turner
July 2003 – July 2004	Bruce Parfett
July 2004 - July 2005	John Moore
July 2005 - July 2008	George Richards
July 2008 -	Peter Friend

## **SECRETARY**

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

## **TREASURER**

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

## **2008 - 2009 Management Committee**



Top Row - Trevor Schokman , Jim Shellens , David Goodman  
Bottom Row – George Richards , Gordon Smith , Peter Friend , Stephen Blomfield

# THE HISTORY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Each person's name who has joined this Association and their respective membership number appears in the below table. Any name displaying an asterisk are persons who have allowed their membership to lapse , have resigned or are deceased

Member	Name	Member	Name	Member	Name
1	Turner , Peter *	51	Green , Alan	101	Smellie , Patrick
2	Beesley , Graham *	52	Harrison, Spencer	102	Moody, Andrew *
3	Blomfield , Stephen	53	Knowles , Warren *	103	Tunks, Greg
4	Carroll , Phil	54	McKinnon , Jeff *	104	Parker, Trevor
5	Donnellan , Tom *	55	Mulligan , Luke *	105	Hood, Philip
6	Friend , Peter	56	Murphy , Steve	106	Jason Dowling *
7	Guha , Ronnie *	57	Osseweyer , Brett *	107	John Harvey
8	Hanshaw , Glen	58	Ridge , Owen *	108	Apter, Jamie *
9	Haviland , Chris *	59	Schokman , Trevor	109	Alliston, Bill
10	Hickey , Dave *	60	Scott , Wesley *	110	Ward, Malcom
11	Holland , Ivan	61	Tasker , Peter	111	Clift, Paul
12	Jayaweera , Jay *	62	Taylor , Chris	112	Rowsell , Adam
13	Jegathesan, Jeriam *	63	Bird , Tony *	113	Yousef, Salman
14	Kearney , Chris *	64	Bowman , Ian	114	McLean, Scott
15	Keierleber , David *	65	Brady , Steve *	115	Wheeler, Geoff
16	Luckman , Terry *	66	Hammond , Brett *	116	Wheeler, Mike
17	MacGillivray , Bruce	67	Hinks , Andrew *	117	Williams, Chris
18	Owen , Alan *	68	Roche , Glenn	118	Breakspear, Brian
19	Parfett , Bruce	69	Thomson , Ian	119	Khale, Shailesh
20	Pepper , Glenn *	70	Tribolet , Brett	120	Whyte, Craig
21	Quaken , Keith *	71	Bharadwaj , Vijay *	121	Deacon, Lachlan
22	Rajogopalan,Ragoo *	72	Cocks , Graeme *	122	Campbell, Malcolm
23	Ralston , Tim *	73	Dobbin , Patrick	123	Smith, Cameron
24	Roberts , Michael	74	Hasty , Jon *		
25	Sammy , Rajan *	75	Luke , William *		
26	Shiner , Tom *	76	Maloney , Rob		
27	Smith , Gordon	77	Marquet, John *		
28	Starks , Steve	78	Narayanan , Vishy *		
29	Taylor , Geoff	79	Pardy , Bill *		
30	Thorpe , Ken *	80	Ponsford , Derek		
31	Wentzel , Karl *	81	Street , Gary *		
32	Yeend , Stuart *	82	Hughes , Mark		
33	Buckland , Ken	83	Mathews , Rupert		
34	DeSilva , Kapila *	84	Ritchie , Matt *		
35	Dhandapani,Khadhir *	85	Jones , Colin		
36	Gale , Andrew *	86	Romeo , Joe *		
37	Gandevia , Robin	87	Superina , Dean *		
38	Goodman , David	88	Parker , Graham *		
39	Iyer , Malli	89	Mooney , Peter		
40	Johnston , Patrick *	90	Chambiras , Paul		
41	Moore , John	91	Coleman , Paul *		
42	Richards , George	92	Treloar , Ben		
43	Rush , Gary *	93	Gupte , Vinayak		
44	Rutherford , Neil *	94	Kingsford-Smith, Tony		
45	Shellens , Jim	95	Nyers , Peter		
46	Whitehouse , Bruce	96	Charlesworth, Adrian		
47	Younan , Daniel *	97	Goodger , Darren		
48	Byrne , Laurie	98	Watson, Arthur		
49	Christen , Richard	99	Campbell, Neil		
50	Garlick , Peter	100	Stiller , Wesley		

## The Peter Turner Umpire of the Year Award

<b>2001 – 2002</b>	<b>Bruce Parfett</b>
<b>2002 – 2003</b>	<b>Bruce Parfett</b>
<b>2003 – 2004</b>	<b>John Moore</b>
<b>2004 – 2005</b>	<b>Stephen Blomfield</b>
<b>2005 – 2006</b>	<b>Chris Taylor</b>
<b>2006 – 2007</b>	<b>Chris Taylor</b>
<b>2007 – 2008</b>	<b>Bruce Whitehouse</b>
<b>2008 – 2009</b>	<b>Chris Taylor</b>

### 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).



**Bruce Whitehouse (Right) receives the Peter Turner Umpire of the Year Award  
for the previous season - 2007/08  
Presented by SSCUA President, Peter Friend**

This report is produced & printed prior to the annual general meeting where the umpire of the year award is presented.  
This report each year therefore displays the picture of the winner from the previous season rather than the season just completed

## **Most Improved Umpire Of The Year Award**

<b>2004 – 2005</b>	<b>Geoff Taylor</b>
<b>2005 – 2006</b>	<b>Chris Kearney</b>
<b>2006 – 2007</b>	<b>Trevor Schokman</b>
<b>2007 – 2008</b>	<b>Richard Christen</b>
<b>2008 – 2009</b>	<b>David Goodman</b>

Nine members in season 2008/09 have qualified to be eligible for this award with the winner this year being David Goodman. After taking into account a nearly 20% increase in the captains marks with the new (inflated) marking system this season it is estimated that David experienced a further 10.91% increase in his captains assessment mark from season 2007/08 compared to the season just completed. Commendation goes to the following members who came close to winning this award Ian Bowman (8.31%), Richard Christen (8.16%), and Patrick Smellie (5.11%)

### **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)



**Richard Christen (Left) receives the Most Improved Umpire of the Year Award for season 2007/08 from NSWCU&SA Treasurer, Laurie Borg**

This report is produced & printed prior to the annual general meeting where the most improved umpire of the year award is presented.  
This report each year therefore displays the picture of the winner from the previous season rather than the season just completed

## **A Message from the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee**

To All Shire's Umpires;

The 2008/09 Sydney Shire's cricket season saw an important milestone in the short history of your Association. For the first time since foundation we saw Third Grade Shire games being regularly officiated by your members. True it was not all games, nor all rounds but nevertheless sufficient Third Grade games were covered to establish the achievement of this long standing aim of your Association. This great stride forward was brought about by increased numbers both in the Shire and Grade ranks but also due to the constant diligence of your Association in making it happen. It is hoped that this trend will continue next year so that all or nearly all of Third Grade is covered every week so that we can then move onto the ultimate prize - Fourth Grade Shires !

Another notable achievement occurred in Shire's cricket this past season and that was in the realm of player behaviour. Only 4 shire players were dealt with by the Judiciary whereas there were 22 in Grade cricket. There were many reasons for this most desirable trend in Shires cricket including the regular publication of the whole of the Spirit of Cricket data and the more responsible attitude taken by club officials and players, but still I would like to credit the members of your Association with the manner in which you man-managed every game so as to prevent issues from becoming out of hand.

In the Shires competition we have an enormous benefit in having our own Umpire's Association and that is the familiarity, trust and respect which builds over time between your members and our players. Everyone knows that all players, officials and umpires are doing their very best in the circumstances so that there is just no need to "go off at a tangent" in the course of the game. To do so only damages the whole presentation and enjoyment of Shires cricket for everyone especially when the players will have to deal with those umpires again very shortly.

Rain again visited some of our matches. During the finals series it was understood that the availability of match referees greatly assisted the Umpire's management of these delayed games. However during the regular rounds there were the obvious disappointments of one side or the other as your Umpires had to make the hard decisions. The Sub-Committee looks forward to some dialogue with your Association during the off season as to whether we can refine some guidelines so that the umpires, players and officials are in a better situation to understand the basis upon which these decisions are made.

The season was another successful one for your Association. As a consequence of the increase in umpire numbers your members covered all of the games in the finals series without the assistance from the grade ranks. In addition you provided high standard umpires for the Shire representative games at the SCG and the U/24's game against the Churches. At this point I would like to mention the improvement of the standard Shire's umpiring and congratulate your individual Umpire award winners. I thank your members for their "extra umpire's work" each week in marking the standard of the pitches and Captains and completing the Shire Criteria during the year. It is noted that your Association took on the role of collating and publishing the spirit of cricket points and ground assessment marks on behalf of the SCA and the early publication of this data proved to be of significant benefit to Shires Cricket. Your medals for the Grand final best and fairest players were gratefully received.

## **A Message from the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee**

It seems that your Association is going from strength to strength and this is due in no small measure to the relentless energy and efficiency from your Executive. The Shire's Sub Committee and the Shire's Competition really appreciate the hard work of your President Peter Friend, Secretary Stephen Blomfield and their committee. Without your Association's efforts our great Shire's Cricket competition would be very much diminished.

I wish you well studying the Shires Rules and Laws of Cricket during the winter months and look forward to seeing you in your best umpiring form at our games next season.

**Stirling Hamman**

**Chairman, Sydney Shires Competition Sub-Committee**

## **A Message from the NSW Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association**

Season 2008/09 was yet another season of progressive change for umpiring, not only in NSW but the world. My predecessor Peter Hughes left me with a strong and willing Association - the complete article so far as umpiring goes. On that strong platform I am able to look forward with confidence that our Association will continue to grow and that our service to Affiliated bodies can grow proportionately.

The explosive evolution of Twenty/20 cricket, described by Ian Chappell as “*120 individual contests between bat and ball*”, has brought home the fact that the game is moving fast. To keep pace with an ever changing world there is a need to put bums on seats and to engage the world in a game that doesn't stop for lunch and tea. The success of the SCA Twenty/20 competition that saw the final played under lights at the SCG drew a crowd larger than a Sheffield Shield attendance – yes it is here to stay.

The Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association under the steerage of hard working Secretary, Stephen Blomfield continues to provide a service down into grade 3 matches – a thought not even contemplated several years ago.

If we are to move on and keep up, we need to harness the enormous expertise within our Associations – mentoring and coaching being two ways that umpires are not lost when the bones being to ache after too many hard days on the field. Every umpire has something to contribute in mentoring and coaching whether it is during or after matches or at other social gatherings. Converting our senior and experienced umpires into ready made mentors and coaches is a resource not to be lost.

On the training and education front, we are gratified by the record numbers of people interested in undertaking the Laws Education Courses and in turn the high numbers of those passing examinations that appear to be interested in umpiring in SCA competitions next season. Maybe that dream of not only filling Grade 3 Shires matches but covering Grade 4 as well may not be that far away?

We continue to witness the interchange of umpires across from Shire to Grade and from Grade to Shires. We will continue to encourage Shires umpires wishing to expand their experience into Grade and conversely there may be many SCA Grade umpires wishing to move in the other direction due to changing circumstances.

Finally, changes have been made to the administration of the NSWCUSA this year. Royce McCormack has thrown himself in at the deep end and worked tirelessly to appoint umpires closer to home due to escalating fuel costs. I know that the Admin areas of SCA Grade and Sydney Shires work closely on appointments when there is an overflow of availability.

Darren Goodger has taken the word to the country and affiliated associations across the State and it is no small coincidence that the gathering momentum of interest in learning about umpiring is due to Darren's passion.

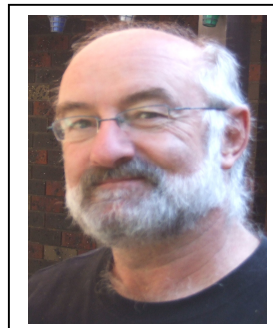
We, as an Association have a commitment to ensure all of our affiliates receive the benefits of our progress and Sydney Shires Cricket Umpires Association is an affiliate we are proud to have on board.

With best wishes

**Darrell Hair**  
**Executive Officer**  
**New South Wales Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association Inc**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

By Peter Friend,  
Association President  
(July 2008 – Current)



I want to start this report by expressing my most sincere thanks to all of the members who worked so hard on and off the field to make this another successful season of Shires Cricket umpiring – Season 2008/09

The success of our off season recruiting enabled us to provide umpires to an increased number of games as you will see in more detail in the Secretary's report. In fact at a time when many other Umpires Associations are having difficulty retaining members and covering games, we have continued to grow both in numbers and in levels of competence. This is a development that is greatly appreciated by all of the players, some of whom have never seen official umpires at their grade before.

Much of the thanks for this go to Stephen Blomfield and Darren Goodger who promoted the Association so very effectively on radio and in the local press prior to the start of the season. From all preliminary indications we can look forward to further success in recruitment of umpires for 2009/2010.

I cannot omit a more comprehensive record of thanks to the members of the Executive Committee of Trevor Schokman, David Goodman, Jim Shellens and George Richards for their work this year. Together we implemented a number of changes and improvements and one (the Umpires Assessment System) that was not an improvement that we will address at our end of year meeting. We currently are the only umpire's body in Sydney that uses Test Cricket standard light meters thanks to the success of two applications for Government grants driven with skill and determination initially by George Richards.

To your Secretary much gratitude and admiration, his workload increases with every new member and yet the quality of communication never flags. To the Treasurer, Gordon Smith thanks for keeping control of the finances so that we are in a reasonably strong position to be able to finance continual improvements for the benefit of our members. To all of the other committee my thanks for helping my first year go smoothly. George Richards and Michael Roberts were of tremendous help to many of our newer member as a result of their observation and mentoring roles, thanks to both of you.

Thanks must also go to the members of the Shires Sub-Committee of the SCA for their ongoing support and to the staff at Cricket NSW for their assistance during the season. Admittedly there have been times when we did not quite see eye-to-eye, but the focus had always returned to the service of the players with good outcomes.

Congratulations to all of our members who have been recognised for outstanding performances. To our peripatetic friend Chris Taylor who again was recognised by the Captains as the Umpire of the Year and to David Goodman as the most improved performer as well as to those umpires chosen for representative honours, Peter Mooney and Mark Hughes.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

One of the more pleasing aspects of the season has been the concentration of many of the clubs on player behaviour. This has been expressed in the attitudes of the Captains and in some clubs the appointment of Captains with senior cricket experience to guide the teams. There have been fewer players reported, however there were a few occasions where it appeared that Umpires were reluctant to report players. The improved code of conduct procedures now allow for an early plea to be accepted so that most cases are decided without having to go to the SCG to give evidence. I would encourage all members to be strong in their refusal to accept bad behaviour.

It is a concern that a small number of members were found wanting when interpreting playing conditions last season and caused problems that had the potential to affect a match result. The issue of confusing playing conditions is one of the factors that the committee looks at when choosing the umpires for finals appointments so I would encourage you all to be attentive in this regard

To highlight the problem - All SCA grade umpires next season wanting to umpire in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be required to re-sit and pass the exam before the start of the season otherwise they can only umpire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or less.

One final point of concern that occurred during the season was when some members decided to forward / share / discuss information & instruction emails from the Secretary with persons who do not hold membership with this Association. These actions caused quite a deal of unwanted friction between your committee and other cricket bodies, leaving us the task of having to reconcile issues that should never have found their way to non members in the first place. From now on it is expected that all members will treat correspondence from your management committee with care and ensure that no further leaks to non authorised recipients will happen.

If possible you should consider attending the annual convention, maybe doing the exam on-line in the winter or attending the July training course to refresh your knowledge of the rules, a good starting point is for all members to re-read the SCA handbook as often as possible.

In closing I wish you all an enjoyable off-season and encourage you to attend our Annual General Meeting and choose to become involved and return refreshed for another season, our 9<sup>th</sup>

**Peter Friend**

**Association President**

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right  
30 July 2008**

**Members  
attending the  
Association's  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
General  
Meeting at  
Redfern RSL**



**Left**

**18 March 2009**

**President Peter Friend  
presents member  
Rupert Mathews with  
his 50 game polo shirt  
at the March 18  
members meeting**

**Right  
31 January 2009**

**The first ever game  
at Bruce Purser  
Oval. The Mayor of  
the local area (1<sup>st</sup>  
on left) tosses the  
coin as the two  
captains and  
umpires Brett  
Tribolet (hat off)  
and Scott McLean  
(Hat on) watch on.**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**28 February 2009**

**Geoff Taylor (left) is  
congratulated by  
Rupert Mathews at  
Airey Park at the  
start of Geoff's 100<sup>th</sup>  
Shires Match**



**Left - 10 December 2008**

**Jim Shellens receives his navy  
blue Association polo shirt from  
President Peter Friend in  
recognition of officiating in 150  
Shires matches at the December  
members meeting**

**Right**

**It's a thirsty job this  
umpiring gig thinks  
Chris Taylor &  
Stephen Blomfield**

**Frank Gray Shield  
Grand Final at  
Tantallon Oval**

**1 March 2009**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**30 July 2008**

**Tony Kingsford Smith (left) is congratulated by the SCA's Roy Formica and presented with his certificate for being appointed to the Frank Gray Shield Grand Final in season 2007/08**



**Left - 22 March 2009**

**Peter Friend (left) is about to display his catching ability to Stephen Blomfield during the 1<sup>st</sup> grade Qualifying Final played at Alan Davidson Oval**

**Right**

**President Peter Friend (left) congratulates and shares a joke with Glen Hanshaw after awarding him his 50 career game polo shirt at the members meeting held on 10 December 2008**



# **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

By Stephen Blomfield,  
Honorary Secretary  
(July 2001 – Current)



It is with a great deal of pleasure I present this my Eighth Secretary's Report for the Sydney Shires Cricket Umpire's Association – Season 2008/2009.

If the success of a season is measured solely on the number of members we have, and the number of games we cover for the Shires competition, then season number eight in our history will surely be marked as our most successful to date and one where we finally broke through what was once perceived to be an unbreakable barrier. That barrier, of course, was being in a position to allocate umpires to Shires Third Grade on a regular to semi regular basis without the assistance of any surplus umpires from the Sydney Grade Competition. But more about that later.....

The season started with some sweeping changes in regards to personnel. George Richards stood down as President at the Annual General Meeting after spending three seasons in the chair. Thankfully he elected to stay on the general management committee to continue to offer us his wealth of wisdom and experience (not to mention his enthusiastic photographic skills). The vacancy in the President's position was filled by Peter Friend who in his first season as our leader has been a huge support to me and to the membership. Peter's leadership has been second to none, and his never ending support of the way we do our business is hugely appreciated.

Additionally at the Annual General Meeting we had a small reshuffle on the committee with Paul Coleman electing to not stand again (and then resigning his membership a few months later). To replace Paul, David Goodman came in offering his services to form part of the eighth SSCUA management committee. The full committee for the season therefore being – Peter Friend (President), Stephen Blomfield (Secretary), Gordon Smith (Treasurer), Jim Shellens (Vice President) and Trevor Schokman, George Richards and David Goodman (General Committee Members). The number of persons offering to stand on the committee was again a little disappointing. We actually have the capacity to have as many as five general committee members however for the last few seasons have only run with the minimum requirement of three as per the constitution. It would be nice to see some fresh faces offer to put some time into the committee next season.

Besides the changes to our own committee there were also major changes to the umpires department at Cricket NSW. David Townsend who held the Training & Development officer's position moved onto another area at Cricket NSW and he was replaced by Darren Goodger. As well as this change Peter Hughes retired from the Executive Officer's role and was replaced by not one, but two people. We welcome Darrell Hair into the Executive Officers role and Royce McCormack who was appointed to the newly created role of Office Administrator. As the season progressed with Darrell, Royce and Darren settling into their new roles I found that the relationship that we have built up has been of great benefit to the membership of SSCUA. I can see as next season rolls around that the new ideas that all three gentlemen bring to their jobs will invariably see more opportunities for our members both on and off the field. A message to the members of this Association from Executive officer, Darrell Hair, appears elsewhere in this Annual Report.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009

Moving back to the season that was...As previously mentioned the summer of 2008/09 has turned out to be a record year when you look at membership numbers and also the number of umpires we provided to the Shires Competition. With the exception of only one match in Round 1 of the season every single Second Grade match had umpires allocated to it on top of our usual 100% coverage of First Grade Fixtures. This represents a completion rate in Second Grade of 98.7%. On top of this success I have great delight in further reporting the statistics for Third Grade matches which saw 47.8% of days played in preliminary round fixtures receive umpires with this figure increasing to 51.9% after finals matches. This is a statistic that has not been reported in the past simply because we have never had enough umpires to allocate to Third Grade preliminary round matches that have been played on Saturdays. Any previously reported statistics on Third Grade have been based on matches played on Sundays due to ground shortages plus Finals Series matches. The feedback from clubs regarding having umpires allocated to Third Grade matches has been phenomenal. Most of the comments relate to how the tension that exists in matches where the players have to umpire has all but disappeared. Even in games where some of the umpiring has been deemed by the captains as being a bit "iffy" the overall feeling from the clubs was that it's better to have umpires that make mistakes than opposing players who have less than honourable intentions when they have to umpire their team mates batting.

The above statistics are even more impressive when you take into account the fact that we once again received an almost negligible amount of umpires overflowing from Sydney Grade Cricket. As you can see from the below table, after a modest number of surplus Sydney Grade umpires being made available to Shires Cricket in 2007/08 that number took a nose dive in 2008/09 back to a level closer to that displayed for season 2006/07 when numbers for Grade cricket were at their lowest this decade. This is an extremely worrying trend and one that we all hope will turn around in the upcoming season because when Grade Cricket has a healthy number of umpires seeking appointments then this has a positive flow down effect for Shires Cricket.

It was very frustrating to often have Royce McCormack call me in the days leading into the publication of appointments supplying me a healthy number of surplus Grade umpires seeking an appointment to a Shires game... to then allocate these persons a Shires game knowing full well that pullouts would eventually see all of those umpires taken back to Grade Cricket. Unfortunately the lower than normal numbers in Sydney Grade Cricket seem to have often been (in part) attributed to a weekly occurrence where many Sydney Grade Cricket umpires regularly pull out of allocated appointments often on short notice and often with some flimsy excuses.

*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 on Saturday*

**Surplus Grade Umpire Appointments  
Allocated to Shires Preliminary Round Matches Each Season**

<b>2001/02</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2003/04</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>2004/05</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>11</b>

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

In season 2008-09 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
  - \* **98%** umpire coverage of all days play in Second Grade Shires
  - \* **52%** umpire coverage of all days play in Third Grade Shires
  - \* **13%** umpire coverage of all days play in Fourth Grade Shires
- (All of the above coverage being re-scheduled Sunday cricket + Finals Series)

In summary we as an Association supplied at least one umpire to 458 days of cricket within a competition that conducted 670 days of play. This is a completion rate of **68.35%** of days played in the entire 5 competitions conducted in the Shires Association. This is our best achievement yet and surpasses last season's high of 65.54% - Of note however we must remember that the 65.54% completion rate of 2007/08 was artificially inflated by the high percentage of washed out days of cricket in that season. So in real terms this season's figure of 68.35% is a significantly better result when compared to 2007/08. A goal for next season is to break the 70% barrier.

In respect of membership, season 2008/09 saw us register a bumper 22 new members. As at the end of the season we had a total of 69 members, an increase of 16 from the same time twelve months earlier. Of these 22 new members, 20 of them were new applications and a further two were re-joins. In the losses column a total of six people dropped off our membership list with five allowing their membership to lapse and one having his membership expunged by the management committee

Of our current 69 members as at the end of the season a total of 30 members managed to umpire in 10 matches or more in the main Saturday competition. This compared to a figure of 22 last season. This is great improvement and one of the main reasons we were so successful this season in appointing umpires to Third Grade. Unfortunately of the 30 members who umpired 10 or more matches only one (Richard Christen) was available to be appointed for every scheduled day of all 13 Preliminary rounds of our main Saturday competition. I want to thank Richard for his total commitment to umpiring for the Shires competition this season just gone. I am sure everyone involved in the competition appreciates the effort you put into Shires Cricket. Let's all strive to be available more often in the upcoming season !

Of our current 69 members, 12 were inactive from umpiring in SCA controlled matches this season - an increase of two from last season's tally of ten. Of the remaining 57 members who did partake in SCA officiated matches, 48 umpired in Shires and nine in Grade Cricket. Of those nine that umpired in Grade cricket, four 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 2008/09 was 52 out of our total membership of 69 – This represents a percentage figure of 75.3%. A good effort, but one that certainly leaves room for improvement.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

One of the pleasing aspects with the number of members we had this season was the record number of new members (20) who joined us and completed their debut season with our Association. Please join me in welcoming to our ranks the following new members who joined our Association during season 2008/09

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Number of Saturday Games</b>	<b>Number of Sunday Frank Gray Shield Games</b>
Bill Alliston	11	0
Brian Breakspear	13	0
Malcolm Campbell	6	0
Paul Clift	0	3
Lachlan Deacon	11	2
John Harvey	13	0
Phillip Hood	0	2
Shailesh Khale	9	0
Scott McLean	15	4
Trevor Parker	15	5
Adam Rowsell	13	1
Malcolm Ward	11	1
Chris Williams	11	0
Geoff Wheeler	12	4
Mike Wheeler	15	4
Salman Yousaf	8	0

As well as the above 16 new members a further four new members failed to umpire a game this season. Cameron Smith and Craig Whyte after joining were for personal reasons unable to commit to umpiring any games and we hope they can turn that situation around next season. Jason Dowling was another new member who disappointingly changed his mind about umpiring and cancelled his membership before the start of Round 1 and finally Jamie Apter who joined pre-season but had his membership expunged by the management committee in October after an issue of misconduct was considered and ruled upon.

The above list is without a doubt the most number new members we have ever taken on board in a season. This of course brought on a whole new series of challenges which included making sure all of our first year members were paired up with other umpires who had at least one previous season of umpiring experienced behind them. In the main the appointments throughout the season achieved this goal with many experienced members being rotated into 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade matches with our first year members. Feedback received from our new members was that they gained a lot of valuable information by standing with our more experienced members.

A new initiative we had this season to assist our new members was having the services of George Richards and Michael Roberts to do match day observing of our new (and sometimes not so new) members. Both George & Michael in deciding not to be active on field umpires this season served the Association well by watching our new members and reporting back on their progress. By the second half of the season George decided to come out of full time retirement and was available to umpire for lower grades if required. Thank you George for your assistance as this certainly helped with the appointments during the second half of the season. Thanks also to Michael for your observing efforts which were very much appreciated. We hope to see you back on board next season either as an observer or an on field umpire.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

The increased number of new members that joined us this season which brought about the outstanding result as described above was achieved in no small part by the amazing contribution made by fellow member Darren Goodger who was appointed to the role of Training & Development officer of NSW Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association in May 2008. In the past it was often felt that Shires cricket ran a very distant second to Sydney Grade cricket when it came to informing potential new umpires about the pathways they could choose when deciding what SCA competition was right for their individual circumstances. Throughout the off season Darren was extremely pro-active in his support of this Association and worked tirelessly to ensure that every single person who expressed an interest in the July 2008 umpires training course was supplied a comprehensive and balanced presentation detailing the pros and cons of each of the three SCA run competitions as well as the district and the private schools competitions. Darren also put in a huge amount of time in the office outside of what most consider "normal working hours" to give potential new umpiring candidates the opportunity to have extra tuition as well as opportunities to re-sit the examination, some taking up Darren's kind offer of assistance "any time/any day" on numerous occasions at times of the day (and night) when the rest of us were at home relaxing. It is strongly my opinion that the amazing work Darren has done in his role has been a one of the main contributing factors in the way this Association has flourished in season 2008/09. For all your efforts Darren I know I speak on behalf of the membership of the SSCUA as well as the whole of the Shires Cricket Community by saying thank you. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Another new initiative this season saw the post match meeting involve the captains needing to supply the umpires their completed assessment forms in person. We all thought this would be a great initiative however it was quite apparent early in the season that the system was not giving us the level of feedback we sought when we designed the change. This left many Captains not being able to accurately assess the Umpires' performances as we would have hoped. This caused a hugely inflated assessment mark for the membership across the board. The feeling of the committee was that the process used this season was a failure. Your committee will be meeting during the winter and will revisit this situation with the intent of revamping the process for the upcoming 2009/10 season. Hopefully a report will be available on this topic at the Annual General Meeting in July.

Another initiative used this season was the re-introduction of the swap system that was used a number of season ago to give a Shires member who had future aspirations for Grade cricket a taste of a Grade match during the season in exchange for a Grade member who would stand in Shires. This season member Mark Hughes was given the opportunity to umpire in Grade cricket during Shires Round 7 and in exchange Robin Gandevia who umpires in Grade cricket but holds dual membership with our Association came back and revisited a Shires first grade match. The experience Mark gained has put him in a good position for next season as he leaves our ranks and takes the step up into the Sydney Grade competition. I know we all wish Mark well in his future endeavours.

I am very keen to explore an extension of this swap system in season 2009/10 to allow SSCUA members who are loyal to our competition to umpire one game a season of similar quality to what they are used to in Shires but in a different environment with players and umpires and venues you may not have come across before in one's umpiring career. Umpiring the same group of teams season after season can make you fall into a routine that may not always be healthy. Offering our longer term members a chance to umpire a game once a season in a totally different environment could be a refreshing and healthy thing for everyone concerned. I am very hopeful that in discussions with Darrell Hair and Royce McCormack at NSWCU&SA that we can bring this idea to fruition in 2009/10. Stay tuned.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

Congratulations are extended to the premierships sides this season as well as the members appointed to officiate in these games, as follows –

	<b>Premiers</b>	<b>Umpires</b>
First Grade	South Sydney	Peter Friend / Chris Taylor
Second Grade	Burwood	Stephen Blomfield / Mark Hughes
Third Grade	Georges River	Alan Green / Tony Kingsford-Smith
Fourth Grade	Burwood	Bruce Whitehouse / Jim Shellens
Frank Gray Shield	Strathfield	Stephen Blomfield / Chris Taylor

For the second successive season the Auburn Cricket Club took home the Dave Tribolet Club Championship Trophy running away with the award with a comprehensive lead of 218 points at the completion of the 13 preliminary rounds

Appointments to the finals were a tough task for me in my role of appointments officer this season. The competition within the membership for finals appointments was very high and a number of very worthy candidates missed out on the final weekend of the season. I thank the management committee for their input and assistance in making these allocations just a little less painful for me.

Another pleasing aspect of the finals series this season was that for the first time in our history we had enough members to fill all places in the Qualifying Final weekend without having to rely on filling gaps with non members from Grade cricket. Finally this season for the first time we have truly been able to stand on our own two feet !

Congratulations are extended to the two members appointed to our annual representative matches in season 08/09. Peter Mooney umpired the Shires vs Grade fixture at the SCG in February won by the grade team, and Mark Hughes umpired the Shires vs Churches match played in December but this time at Tantallon Oval. The Shires team on this occasion having a strong win against the opposition. Due to financial reasons it's being suggested that the SCG game may need to be played next season at a suburban venue – if this happens let us all hope that this is only a temporary measure and that this annual fixture can soon return to hallowed SCG turf.

The Umpire of the Year award was taken out by Chris Taylor who wins this for the third time in four seasons. If not for Chris having to depart for England in December of the previous season Chris may well be stepping up to receive this award for the fourth year in a row. Congratulations to you Chris, you set the standard that the rest of us can only strive to reach.

The most improved umpire of the year goes to David Goodman who had a very good season receiving excellent feedback all year. We all hope that David can continue this good form into future seasons

Well wishes are extended to those members who reached significant milestone matches during the season. Gordon Smith & Jim Shellens both passed 150 matches with a number of other members passing 100 and 50 game milestones. All 50/100/150 game milestones were celebrated with each member receiving either one of the sky blue (50), royal blue (100), or navy blue (150) Association polo shirts. A full listing of members with 50 or more career matches can be found in the statistics section at the back of this report. I know all members feel a great sense of satisfaction in reaching milestone matches and the awarding of a new coloured polo shirt celebrates those achievements quite nicely. In regards to the statistics section at the back of this report you will also find a new category this season that lists all members career finals series matches for those who have stood in ten or more finals.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

In SCA matters besides the premiership and club championship clubs mentioned earlier we offer congratulations 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 15, 2009

- Shires First Grade Captain of the Year – Andrew Jalalaty - Burwood CC
- Shires Second Grade Captain of the Year - Andrew Faber - Pennant Hills CC
- Shires First Grade Player of the Year - Kish Nadesan - Pennant Hills CC
- Frank Gray Shield Player of the Year – Matt Gubbay - Roseville CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Best First Grade Club – Macquarie Uni CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Best Second Grade Club – Georges River CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Best Third Grade Club – Lindfield CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Best Fourth Grade Club – Lane Cove CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Best Frank Gray Shield Club – Roseville CC
- Spirit Of Cricket Award – Overall Winner – Lane Cove CC
- Ground Of The Year – Tantallon Oval , Lane Cove CC

The ground of the year this season was Lane Cove's Tantallon Oval. It must be said that this award is richly justified. The club and ground staff did a remarkable job at this venue during the year and this was never better typified in the way in which the venue was presented on the morning of the First Grade Grand Final. After a week of torrential rain that saw no play take place on day one of the second and third grade matches and a late 2pm start occurring at the fourth grade venue, Tantallon Oval stood tall with play commencing on time on the first morning. This was in no small part to the fact that the host club (Lane Cove) went out of their way to cover the pitch square ALL week rather than the minimum requirement set by the SCA which is the three evenings before the match. The venue was in remarkable condition given the weather during the week and congratulations are fully extended to both the Lane Cove Club and its ground staff for being worthy winners of this award.

On the field there were some extraordinary personal and team performances in the Shires competition during season 2008/09. Three players (Peter Cross Lane Cove 1st grade, Scott Brennan Burwood 2nd grade and Adam Macic Nth West Sydney 3rd grade) all scored double hundreds, one player (Greg Brown, Mac Uni 4th grade) took all 9 wickets in an innings against a ten man side and then backed it up with 6 wickets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings. Kish Nadesan from Pennant Hills, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade player of the year, took 4 wickets in 4 balls against Epping in Round 7 and who could forget Nth West Sydney 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who managed the unbelievable team score of 8 for 529 off their maximum 50 overs against Roseville during the limited overs Round 9 fixture. Within that match opening batsman Adam Macic amassed a personal score of 261 which is the second highest known personal score in the history of the Shires competition (the best being a score of 283 way back in 1936/37) – and he didn't even bat out the full 50 overs losing his wicket during the 45<sup>th</sup> over. I'm sure the umpires in that match, David Goodman and John Harvey, will have stories to tell for many years.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

Still on SCA matters, The newly introduced system that allowed the Code of Conduct Commissioner to offer a reported player the chance to accept an up front penalty for an early guilty plea to avoid having to arrange a Judiciary hearing was in my opinion one of the success stories of the year. As well as this fact the number of reported Shires players this season was very low, in fact only three players were reported by members of this Association and all three accepted the Commissioners penalty offer to avoid a Judiciary hearing. The total of three reported players is a very positive result as we haven't had such a low number of reports since season 2001/02. As well as the three players just mentioned, a further two were reported to the commissioner by clubs for alleged breaches of the code. The low number of reports in Shires is a very pleasing result for the competition. This is mainly because of the fact that in the past the numbers of reports in Shires has often been about the same compared to those in Sydney Grade Cricket. This season however the low number of players reported in Shires is compared to a figure of 22 in Sydney Grade Cricket.

Despite the low number of reports in Shires cricket I feel I have to once again hammer home to everyone the importance that we not be lax regarding poor player behaviour. Even though only three players were reported by our members during the season, I feel there are some very careless and irresponsible members who don't take the responsibility of reporting poor player behaviour seriously. This is backed up by some stories that filtered through to me during the season where some members have simply turned a blind eye to issues that SHOULD HAVE been reported.

We now have a proven mechanism that allows us to report a player with the chances of that report not requiring a Judiciary hearing being quite high. This is a timely wake up call to ALL MEMBERS to please show more responsibility towards player behaviour and show some courage by doing the right thing. Leaving the problem to fester to the umpire in the following match is totally irresponsible. Members who are found out ignoring serious player behaviour issues next season will be asked to account for their actions with the management committee of this Association, so please, don't let this happen to you.

I'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the 9 members of our Association who choose to umpire in the Sydney Grade Competition during the 2008/09 season. Whilst these guys do not at the moment directly contribute towards the main Saturday Shires Competition they officiate proudly as duels members of both our Association and that of NSWCU&SA. Four of these nine members did however umpire at least one Frank Gray Shield match during the season. Congratulations to Ben Treloar (Panel 3) and Adrian Charlesworth (Panel 4) who both won their respective panels for the season. Both were acknowledged with awards being presented to them at the NSWCU&SA Annual dinner on April 18. This is a significant feather in the cap of Shires Cricket and shows how members getting experience in Shires before taking on Grade cricket have a very significant advantage over new umpires who go straight into the Grade cricket system. Congratulations are also extended to members who improved on previous seasons in Grade cricket by receiving appointments to a grade higher than they had previously been appointed to. Members Glen Roche and Peter Garlick both gained their first appointments to First Grade and Ken Buckland, Robin Gandevia and Ben Treloar managed a few Second Grade matches during the season. Bruce Parfett started the season in Second Grade but received a permanent promotion to First Grade around the halfway mark of the season. Well done to all of these members. Hopefully one day in the future you'll all make your way back to Shires Cricket to finish off your careers.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

Moving on to finance and the end of our financial year being 31 May sees us in a reasonable position. This position however should not be taken for granted as many of the funds currently in our deposit accounts are being preserved for our upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in season 2010/11. With these funds being targeted to be spent in that season we need to understand that we do not really have a strong enough bank balance at this time to adequately counteract any significant and unexpected expense that might pop up in the near future. In these troubled financial times we must continue to build up a nest egg to cover any possible scenario that may eventuate in the future.

At this current time our sound financial position is mainly due to the increase in membership this season. This increase in numbers contributed towards a larger than normal accrual of monies from our only fund raising activity of the season, that being the sale of a raffle book with prizes supplied by Cricket NSW. This activity which nets us \$38 per book sold is a vital cog in our wheel and without these extra funds we would probably struggle to function in the efficient manner we currently do. It is vitally important that all members make a contribution and sell one of these books when requested. It is very disappointing to report that a number of active members refused to assist with this activity last season and one person who is no longer a member actually sold a book but ended up keeping the money himself on the tickets he sold. Its people like that we are happy to say are no longer members of our Association.

As mentioned above, the increased bank balance at the end of our financial year is a very positive step forward as we have been slowly over the last few seasons trying to build up a nest egg to spend on our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary which occurs during cricket season 2010/11. The monies we raise from our raffle and the interest we earn on these funds are primarily going to be used for this occasion.

In other financial news we were once again extremely fortunate to gain a grant of \$3000 from the Federal Government that we have used to boost our light meter inventory to 14. This is now enough meters for us to cover each 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade match on a regular preliminary round weekend. We also had enough to ensure that every finals series match in each grade is covered. Certainly this puts us in an extremely good position much I hear to the envy of other competitions. Following on from the purchase of the extra light meters this season we still have a sum of money leftover from the grant that your committee will use on some other tangible piece of equipment purchase for the betterment of the membership.

Once again this season we invested our surplus and preserved funds in an online ING direct account which netted us approximately \$220 (estimate as at time of writing this report) in interest for the season. Whilst the interest returns were extremely good in the first half of our financial year with deposit rates reaching a high of 7.50% this was sadly offset by falling interest rates since November which currently sees our cash reserves collecting a very modest rate of only 3.50%.

Our thanks are extended to the Sydney Cricket Association in season 2008/09 for their generous support of this Association by once again absorbing from the clubs their annual levy to us. In fact this season the SCA kindly increased the levy from the previously agreed amount of \$200 per club supplying us a 5% indexation increase which saw the levy paid to us total \$210 per club or \$2940 all up. The Association highly appreciates this grant, for without it we would simply fail to function. The grant represents our operational costs which is critical in seeing us provide a high level of service to the existing members of this Association as well as the 14 participating clubs in the Shires competition, and finally allowing us to conduct recruitment drives for new members so that we can hopefully supply more umpires to Shires cricket.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008 – 2009**

In finalising this report I want to offer a number of thank you messages to those people that have been supporters of this Association over the last 12 months.

I owe our new President Peter Friend many thanks for his unwavering support of the way this Association conducts its business. On occasions when we have been under attack from persons outside of our membership Peter has been the rock that has held us together. The manner in which we have grown as an Association during the past season can be attributed to Peter's strong leadership. I very much look forward to Peter continuing in the Presidents chair for many seasons to come

Thank you to our Treasurer Gordon Smith who has just completed his eighth season in the job. Gordon has always been a strong supporter of my work and together we have been there since day one. I look forward to working with Gordon in 2009/10

To Trevor Schokman, Jim Shellens, George Richards & David Goodman who all contributed this season as members of the management committee. Thank you to all of you for your assistance and support during the season.

Thanks are extended to members George Richards and Peter Garlick who both spent time during the finals series matches going around the grounds and taking some excellent photos, many of which appear on the pictures pages of this very annual report document. Thanks George, and thanks Peter, without your pictures I'm sure our Annual Report would not be half of what it is. Your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you again to Steve Murphy who hosted this Association's website and updated the more complex parts of the site when required. Our website is a vital tool for our members and without it we wouldn't be where we are now. Steve's hosting of this site on his personal time is a contribution that should not be overlooked.

To the staff at Cricket NSW in charge of running the umpires department, Darrell Hair, Royce McCormack and Darren Goodger. Your support of this Association is most definitely appreciated by the membership of the SSCUA. We look forward to continuing our excellent working relationships into the new season as we strive to continually grow.

The approaching 2009/10 season is our ninth since we formed as an Association in 2001. I am very positive about continued growth for next season with as many as five potential new members as at today (20 April) already committed to us for next season. As well as this we will be conducting another very vigorous recruitment campaign in the winter months. We are determined to make forward progress and would seek all members co-operation in trying to find us as many new members as possible. If only one in three of the current membership could bring along a mate next season we would have enough umpires for all matches down to fourth grade. The topic of umpire recruitment does not solely rest with your management committee. It is a task that we all have to pitch in with. Please ask around all your friends and cricket connections and let me know if you can recommend anybody.

I look forward to seeing all members attend the AGM which will be held on Wednesday night, July 8.

All being well we kick off another season on Saturday September 26. I hope as many of you as possible can take an active on field role during the season as we strive to grow even more than we did in season 2008/09

**Stephen Blomfield**  
**Honorary Secretary**

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right – 22 March 2009**

**Stephen Blomfield  
(right) and Peter  
Friend discussing  
tactics at the  
Sth Sydney v Epping  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Qualifying Final**

**Alan Davidson Oval**



**Right**

**30 July 2008**

**Association President Peter  
Friend receives his Royal Blue  
Association polo shirt at the  
Annual General Meeting in  
recognition of officiating in  
100 Shires matches**



**Right**

**28 March 2009**

**Scott McLean (Left)  
and Brian Breakspear  
Two of our first year  
members officiated in  
the Metro Cup Grand  
Final at Pratten Park**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right**

**President Peter Friend  
presents Geoff Taylor with  
his 100 Game Polo Shirt at  
the members meeting held  
at Redfern RSL Club on  
18 March 2009**



**Left**

**21 March 2009**

**Chris Taylor & Alan Green  
enjoy a discussion with  
the Lindfield 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
captain Rowan Hamman**

**Strathfield v Lindfield  
Qualifying Final at  
Airey Park**



**Right**

**31 January 2009**

**Brett Tribolet standing at  
square leg watches as  
North West Sydney First  
Grade opening batsman  
Cameron Watson attempts  
a cover drive at the new  
Bruce Purser Oval**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right – 22 March 2009**

**Peter Friend & Stephen Blomfield pull stumps after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Qualifying Final at Alan Davidson Oval**

**Sth Sydney 10/189  
Def. Epping 10/154**



**Left**

**18 March 2009**

**Gordon Smith (left) is presented with his navy blue polo shirt for reaching the milestone of 150 Shires Games**

**Right**

**28 March 2009**

**Brett Tribolet (left) and Mike Wheeler (right) stood in the Shires 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Grand Final  
Aka the Tim Creer Cup**

**Here they pose with the man who this competition is named after, long time player at Epping Cricket Club, Tim Creer**



## **Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2008-2009 season**

**Combined Shires XI vs. SCA Grade XI at the SCG  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February , 2009 – Umpire Peter Mooney**

**SCA Grade XI – 7/279 (50 overs) bt SCA Shires XI 10/150 (44.4 overs)**

This match was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tues 24 February 2009. Players were selected from most Shires clubs and Andrew Jalalaty, from Burwood, was appointed captain of the Shires team. Stirling Hamman and Roy Formica acted as managers of both teams for the day. Bill Hendricks from the Sydney Grade competition and I, from Shires, officiated as umpires.

On the morning of the match, Bill and I travelled together to the SCG. After parking, we proceeded initially to the Sydney Cricket Association Office where we met up with Darrell Hair & Darren Goodger for a cup of coffee and a chat.

On arrival at the ground, we met managers Stirling & Roy, scorers Phil Stelzer & Peter Rezek, head groundsman Tom Parker, and our chief hospitality official for the day, Cathy. Tom mentioned that a lot of cricket was being played on the ground but he considered this annual fixture a most prestigious occasion. A game had been conducted the day before and another was scheduled for the day after our match. Before play commenced, the obligatory photos were taken. The official match report stated the playing conditions as “Weather: sunny and Pitch: hard”.

Sydney Grade won the toss and batted and at the end of their 50 overs had scored 7 for 279. Most successful bowler for Shires was Chris McIlvenny (Southern Districts), taking 3/28. Batting after lunch, Shires started well with big hitting by Peter Cross (Lane Cove) who hit two huge sixers and was ably assisted by John Eden (Georges River) but when they were dismissed, the innings fell away and Shires were dismissed for 150 after 44.4 overs.

The game was played in excellent spirit and a beautiful banquet lunch was served to the players and officials in the members dining room.

At the match’s conclusion, Stirling Hamman, made the presentations and said all the right things about the two teams and the handling of the match. He blamed the excellent lunch for the failure of the Shires team in getting the required number of runs in the afternoon. Players and officials mingled for a short time thereafter in the members bar.

I was personally honoured to participate as a member of the third team in this match and I thank the Executive of the SSCUA for giving me this opportunity; it being my first officiating match at the SCG. I was impressed with the big new stand at the southern end. The crowd for the day was only about 50 but they made plenty of noise when Peter Cross hit his two sixers. The facilities were good (excellent compared to normal club games) and I was thrilled to be able to inspect, in the spacious umpires room, the photos and names of first class umpires who have officiated at the SCG over the years.

Once again, my thanks and I would recommend this match to any future Shires umpire fortunate to receive this appointment

## **Appointed Umpires Report – Rep Fixtures 2008-2009 season**

**Combined Shires (Under 24's) XII vs. NSW Churches CA XII  
Tantallon Oval , Sunday 7 December 2008**

**Umpires - Mark Hughes (SSCUA) & Graham Parsons (Churches CA)**

**Combined Shires (Under 24's) 10 / 221 def NSW Churches 10 / 173**

An overcast day greeted the two sides for the first representative fixture of the season. The Shires XII, made up of players eligible for the Frank Gray Shield competition, had a number of late changes from the original side selected, with Nat Stapleton (Ros), Hugh Holden (Epp), Blake Dewberry (SD), Ryan Croom (GR) and Chris Diehm (GR) making way during the week for late inclusions Sam Wotton (Str), Anthony Gray (MU), Jai Shyam (MU), Ethan Collett (War) and Steve Davis (Bur). Captain for Shires XII Dan Lenehan (Ros) won the toss and elected to bat on a well grassed wicket which offered good assistance to the bowlers and provided a challenge to the Churches XII, used to playing the majority of their cricket on synthetic pitches.

Tim Hood (Epp) and Mitchell Wakeford (Aub) made an enterprising start for Shires, putting on an excellent opening partnership of 68 at run-a-ball pace, as the Churches bowlers struggled with length until realising the need to pitch up more on a turf wicket. Once the secret was realised, 0/68 became 7/112, Shires collapsed after the excellent platform built by their openers. Shyam and Lenehan steadied the ship but with the loss of the captain and the score only advanced to 8/137, it looked like Shires would not post a competitive score. Shyam (50) found unlikely support from Kyle Dunley (SD), who made a personal best score of 42 not out, putting on an invaluable 74 for the ninth wicket. This resulted in Shires posting 221 off 43.2 overs, which could have been considerably more if the team had been able to bat out its overs, which it fell well short of due to loose, but highly entertaining batting throughout their innings. Lloyd, utilising the pace and bounce of the wicket, was the best of the bowlers for Churches with 4/23 off 8.2 tidy overs.

An enjoyable lunch provided by hosts Lane Cove with John Lloyd on the barbeque had everyone well satisfied leading into the run chase for Churches.

The Shires XII was enthusiastic in the field and captain Lenehan was keen to give all and sundry an opportunity to roll the arm over during the Churches innings. Alex Dodds (LC), electing to be the man not to bat for shires in exchange for the new ball, removed both openers and apart from the captain of Churches, Steve Commons, the batsmen struggled to tick the runs over and the target quickly became over well over a run a ball. A steady stream of wickets fell with the threat of rain necessitated the Churches batsmen to risk their wickets to up the run-rate, and the middle order were knocked off by the continual bowling changes employed by Shires without a decent partnership ensuing. Vice captain Hood capped off his entertaining innings with the bat with a one handed outfield catch to remove Churches dangerman Commons (73), and followed this up with a direct hit runout and two late wickets with the ball to secure man of the match honours and a comfortable 48 run win for the Shires XII.

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right – 28 March 2009**

**Conflict Resolution !**

**Scott McLean (left) explains the laws of the game to a batsman during the drinks break. Brian Breakspear is the other umpire here.**

**Metro Cup Grand Final played at Pratten Park**



**Left**

**28 March 2009**

**Geoff Taylor (left) & Gordon Smith (right) Umpired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Semi Final at Auburn's George Parry Oval**

**Right**

**Airey Park  
20 March 2009**

**Chris Taylor (left) and Alan Green (right)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Qualifying Final  
Strathfield v Lindfield**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right – 20 March 2009**

**Ivan Holland  
signals another  
boundary**

**Third Grade  
Qualifying Final  
Dave Tribolet Oval**

**Auburn v NW Sydney**



**Left**

**28 March 2009**

**No play took place on day 1  
of the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Semi Final  
Burwood v Macquarie Uni.**

**Rothwell Park's pitch was  
vandalized overnight with  
cooking oil being poured all  
over the centre of the pitch.**

**The match was transferred  
to another venue for the  
second days play**

**30 July 2008**

**Spencer Harrison (left) is  
congratulated by the  
SCA's Roy Formica and  
presented with his  
certificate for being  
appointed to the  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Grand Final**



## **FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

**Pennant Hills v South Sydney at Tantallon Oval , Lane Cove  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**South Sydney 210 def Pennant Hills 37**

**Man of the Match – Robin Younan (South Sydney)**

**Umpires – Peter Friend & Chris Taylor**



Undefeated Minor Premiers Pennant Hills looked to back up their premiership win from last season facing up to second on the table placed South Sydney in the Shires First Grade Grand Final for season 2008-09

Day one dawned with a strong southerly blowing after five days of solid and sometimes torrential rain.

The scene at Tantallon Oval was a true testament to the skills and hard work of the ground staff and the members of the Lane Cove Cricket Club. The pitch had been protected through the week of rain which was more than the SCA minimum requirement and the outfield was a picture, even having been mowed on that morning. In this respect Tantallon Oval showed exactly why it was judged the best ground of the year. The pitch was naturally a bit soft with a fair bit of grass as it had been covered for 5 days and when Pennant Hills won the toss, to no-one's surprise they asked South's to have a bat first and to set a target for Pennant Hills to chase.

Sibanda and Hill opened against the competition's most successful new ball attack of McCrae and Nadesan. The first hour was very difficult; the pitch a bit slow with good swing in the air and some challenging bounce off a good length at the Northern end. The openers carried the score to 28 before Sibanda fell to McCrae. Pargeter and Hill then batted carefully through to the lunch break to take the score to 1-69. This was a difficult session that gave the batsmen a chance to show their skills and determination, and the bowlers to express themselves as well.

## **FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

Straight after lunch Pennant Hill's skipper McCaffrey took the ball with immediate results, getting Hill to nick one to Pasaputi at slip and the score was 2-70. With the score on 94 Pargeter did what so many had done this year and left one from Nadesan only to see it sharply come back in the air and take the top of the off stump. This bought the Chee Quee brothers together. Richard batted carefully, much as he had in the previous game when he scored a match winning century. With the score at 114 McCrae got one to nip back to Michael and trapped him in front. Tea was taken at 4-118. As so often happens after a break Richard flashed at a lifter from McCrae outside the off stump and got a fine nick through to the keeper and it was now 5-118. This started something of a collapse as Gallek also chased a wide one 6-128, Gaggin hit a full toss straight to short cover 7-128 and Ebbink was strangled down the leg side 8-130. At this stage it looked as if South's would struggle to pass 150. Guthrie and Younan then set about righting the innings showing all of their years of experience. They kept out the good balls and took singles to keep the scoreboard moving. At the end of day one when bad light stopped play at 5.28pm with five overs remaining they had put on a stand of 56 to take the score to 8-186. This was a true grand final day's cricket played with high skill, great spirit and fairness and a decent amount of courage as well. Again given that this was the only game to have a full day's play huge credit to the ground staff, who stayed all day without being paid for it, and to the Lane Cove club.

Day two started with blue skies and a promise of a tight contest. Younan and Guthrie continued their partnership until Younan flashed at one from McCrae and was caught behind to give McCrae his 7<sup>th</sup> wicket. Heslehurst joined Guthrie and they took the score to 210 when Guthrie skied a catch off Nadesan.

So Pennant Hills had 211 to win or bat out the 84 overs left in the day for a draw to secure their 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Premiership. Things never really got going with Guthrie and Pargeter bowling tightly. First wicket of Jay Satchi fell with the score at 8 and Mayes shouldered arms and was adjudged LBW with the score on 10. In the last over before lunch Chris Satchi nicked one onto Ebbink's gloves and then to Michael Chee Quee in the slips to take the Pumas to lunch at 3-15 and in a spot of bother. Almost straight after lunch skipper McCaffrey missed a straight on from Pargeter and lost his leg stump and it was 4-16. As the clouds rolled and in the temperature warmed up the ball started swinging around. Pargeter bowled a fuller length and was rewarded as Pasaputi nicked an outswinger; Ebbink dove across in front of first slip and bagged a screamer of a catch and all of a sudden it was now 5-22. Batra decided that attack was the best form of defence and played a few strong and somewhat risky shots until his innings was ended with the score at 6-37.

What happened next could only be described as mayhem. Younan picked up Campbell caught behind to make it 7-37 and in the next two balls dismissed Nadesan clean bowled (8-37) and Melville caught in the slips (9-37) to bag a Hat Trick. The gallant McCrae who secured bowling figures of 7-49 was last man out with the score stuck on 37 to give the Bunnies an overwhelming victory.

The winner of the Peter Toohey medal as Man of the Match was Robin Younan. He came in to bat with his side in trouble at 5-118 and helped the innings to 210 mainly through a 9<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership of 60 with Guthrie and then capped off the day with figures of 4 for 8 off 6 overs including a hat trick. Shane Pargeter was a close second choice for the medal with a defiant 25 in difficult batting conditions on day one and figures of 6 for 24 off 13.3 overs of accurate and dominant seam bowling in the post lunch session. John McCrae was unlucky to be on the losing side with his bag of 7-49.

## **SECOND GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

**Burwood Briars v Auburn at Airey Park, Flemington  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Burwood Briars 171 drew with Auburn 8 - 83**  
Burwood Briars are Premiers being the higher placed side in the final

**Man of the Match – Pascal Wallace (Burwood Briars)**

**Umpires – Mark Hughes & Stephen Blomfield**



The weather in the lead up to the grand final weekend unfortunately played its part in helping to determine this year's second grade premiers, with the covers at Airey Park not laid until Wednesday evening before match weekend. Unfortunately this meant over 46mm of rain had already soaked the square and outfield early in the week and with another 20mm falling from the skies after covers were required under SCA playing conditions, the groundsman was left with little option but to prevent releasing the ground for play on Saturday due the waterlogged field and a pitch that was only in its commencement stages of preparation by afternoon of the scheduled first day's play. If anything the rain has highlighted poor drainage issues at Airey Park which may need to be taken into account next year for finals venue allocations

Arriving on Sunday the outfield remained very heavy underfoot and the groundsman was still working on the preparation of the pitch, which meant a delayed start was inevitable. Match referee John Lloyd from Lane Cove did an excellent job of keeping the players in check and ensuring both Burwood and Auburn sides were taking responsibility for the sopping up process making the outfield fit for play. A decision was made for an 11.00 am start, foregoing lunch to ensure a minimum of 93 overs play would be possible in the match. As umpires we believe we must have made the perfect decision for determining the commencement of play, as both captains were unhappy with the chosen start time, for differing reasons!

Burwood won the toss and after much deliberation, captain Cameron Beames elected to bat first on a tacky slow wicket & heavy outfield that had dried enough to at least prevent a waterlogged Kookaburra and a genuine contest between bat and ball.

## **SECOND GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

The Briars openers set about in their contrasting styles of play to record a 24 run opening partnership, with anchorman Phil Tregeagle caught by Tom Wood at bat pad off the bowling of Iain Cowan for 5. His opening partner Chris Hart raced to 30 before a mixup with Pasqual Wallace saw him back in the sheds after a good throw from Mitchell Freeburn saw him shot of his ground, and after Max Squire (2) came and went quickly caught by Freeburn at cover, dismissed by a 'fired up' skipper Raoul Barbon, the game was evenly poised at 3/49. The score then proceeded circumspectly to 3/60 off 24 overs at the halfway mark of the first session when the first drinks break was called.

A critical partnership of both time and runs between Wallace and Beames more than steadied the ship for Briars and they took the score beyond a hundred to firmly place the pressure on the Eagles who had to win to take the competition. When Beames (23) edged to keeper Aaron Vella off seventh bowler used Mohammed Emran, the game was well under Briars control. Auburn did managed to strike back with another two quick wickets just before tea, Wallace (44) holing out to Jason Novosel at mid on off a long hop from Wood just three minutes before the end of the session. Auburn were able to sneak in an extra over by a matter of seconds, and picked up keeper David Cox trapped in front on the crease off the bowling of Cowan and it was once again game on - Briars with the wobbles at 6/119 in the 51st over when tea was called.

Gerald Price joined Ben Hurford after the break and Briars again resumed control getting the score to 150 when Hurford (16) fell bat pad caught Cowan off Emran. Sachis Achmar was bowled by Max Labrooy without troubling the scorers leaving Price to pick up the scoring with the tail now well and truly exposed. A valuable 28 was scored by the Briars stalwart and when he was bowled by Shan Rana the game looked out of the Eagles reach with the overs remaining dwindling and the run rate required now rapidly escalating. Steve Davis was caught at slip off Labrooy and Burwood had totalled 171 off 72.1 overs, leaving Auburn just 18 overs to score at an unlikely 9.56 per over for the premiership.

Auburn took to the chase with enthusiasm and entertained the gathering afternoon crowd with some 'Twenty20' batting late in the day. Despite one good early over the Eagles were never really able to keep up with the required rate and lost their wickets in the pursuit of quick runs, with Burwood bowling tight lines to a defensively deep set ring field. 1 for 25 off 17 balls was the best it got for Auburn as they proceeded to lose 6 for 40 off the next 8 overs. Steve Harvey was the benefactor as Eagle batsmen chanced their arms to limited effect. Harvey finished his seven over spell with the figures of 6 for 42 and with it Auburn's tilt at grand final glory. The match petered out in the final few overs as Auburn had little option but to bat out the game to prevent being bowled out for a double digit total. Stumps were finally called at 5.10 pm in fading light on the completion of the required overs with the Auburn total standing at 8 for 83 - and as the final SCA match to finish the 2008/09 season, Burwood were declared as premiers, drawing as the higher placed side and enough to commence some boisterous victory celebrations.

Our thanks go out to our match referee John Lloyd, who did a great job dealing with the two tense teams in a rain affected game. Thanks also to Daryl Chappelow who played host for us over the two days and also to groundsman Sean for his efforts on both Saturday and Sunday to enable a match to be played. A special mention also to Rupert Mathews and Darren Goodger who came along to give us support on the Sunday, we appreciated having them pop in to give us a thumbs up during the game!

Pasqual Wallace was chosen to be the recipient of the man of the match medal, his 41 over occupation of the crease anchored the Burwood innings and went a long way towards preventing Auburn from having the ability to chase down a score required to win the game.

## **THIRD GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

**Lane Cove v Georges River at Alan Davidson Oval , St Peters  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April , 2009**

**Georges River 3 - 88 def Lane Cove 87**

**Man of the Match – Gavin Scott (Georges River)**

**Umpires – Tony Kingsford-Smith & Alan Green**



The Third Grade Shires Final was allocated to be played at the home of the South Sydney Club, Alan Davidson Oval between Georges River & Lane Cove Cricket Clubs. These two teams had met in the qualifying final with Georges River having run second after the preliminary rounds and Lane Cove running fifth. In that qualifying final Lane Cove had a decisive win over Georges River and therefore came into this Grand Final in the higher position – a washout or draw would earn them the premiership.

The chances of the whole weekend being washed out were looking good during the week with heavy rain starting on Monday and continuing throughout Tuesday to Thursday. Good management from the host club saw the covers laid from Monday onwards and this played a big part in the match actually getting a start on the Sunday.

The Saturday unfortunately saw no play with outfield waterlogged and the pitch (despite the extended covering) still very soft and unplayable. By Midday on the Saturday the host groundsman decided it was impossible to get the roller on the deck and we all went home in hope of some play on Sunday.

### **THIRD GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

Day 2 - 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 - A day of sunshine on the Saturday contributed a lot towards Alan Davidson Oval being ready for play on time at the revised starting time of 9am.

The toss took place at 8.40 a.m. and was won by Georges River who invited Lane Cove to bat. Georges River had to win to take the premiership.

Play started on time though the wicket at the northern end still had a plasticine appearance, but at least it was better than Saturday and although not ideal a game of cricket was finally to commence. The start of play led to a long period of slow and dreary batting. The openers were playing and missing during the first 10 overs and it was in this period the Lane Cove openers were given 'friendly' warnings about damaging the pitch. This 'friendly' allowed for players of both sides to highlight their ignorance of Law 42.11 regarding steering clear of the protected area.

After the first hour of play Lane Cove had crawled along to 1-15 in the first 15 overs and were obviously hoping to bat out as many of the 106 overs allocated for the day. In the 23<sup>rd</sup> over of the morning session, Lane Cove came to life with 'Jacko' hitting 2 boundaries. In the first 90 minutes there had been 25 overs bowled with Lane Cove struggling along to a score of 4-47. A brilliant catch by one of the Georges River players put an end to a rescuing 4<sup>th</sup> wicket stand of 29.

Gavan Scott, subsequently the Player of the Match, had bowled before lunch a spell of 10-5-10-2. Lunch on Day 2 found Lane Cove in trouble at 6-68. There were hopes during the lunch break that they still hoped to double that score and bat for at least another session or more. Unfortunately for the Lane Cove boys that hope became nothing more than a dream as wickets fell at regular intervals after the lunch break and a final total of only 83 off 51 overs was accrued with the final wicket falling 34 minutes after the resumption at 12.44pm. All in all a really disappointing result given the outstanding manner in which they had batted against competition favourites Warringah in the semi final the week before.

Georges River commenced the run chase just before 1pm needing to knock over the 84 required in a minimum of 53 overs. The run chase started cautiously similar to the manner in which Lane Cove started. Runs came slowly and after 10 overs Georges River had progressed to 1-16.

The introduction of Gavan Scott (35) and Alex Economou (42 no) however saw the run rate lifted with both batsmen showing a fighting determination to claim the premiership. This was achieved after only 26.3 overs. Georges River's first ever shires premiership since the Bexley & Canterbury clubs combined to form (Canterbury/Bexley) and then Georges River in the 1990's

A game played in good spirit by two teams that both enjoyed their cricket. One can only wonder how this game would have panned out over two full days on a ground that was not as rain affected as was the case in this match

## **FOURTH GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

**Burwood Briars vs Lindfield at George Parry Oval , Auburn  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Burwood Briars 329 drew with Lindfield 5 - 86**  
Burwood Briars are Premiers being the higher placed side in the final

**Man of the Match – Jordan Millar (Burwood Briars)**

**Umpires – Jim Shellens & Bruce Whitehouse**



After a week of inclement weather, both sides arrived at Georges Parry Oval at Auburn unsure of what sort of cricket wicket they were to be provided with. Fortunately for both sides, The host club, Auburn, led by Club Secretary Mike Wood and his team of volunteers and an extremely hard working groundsman did a magnificent job in keeping the wicket dry during all the wet weather, and the only issues that caused some concern were some spongy areas in the outfield – the wicket was bone dry.

In the true spirit of cricket, both sides led by respective skippers – Will Hood (Burwood Briars) and Paul Adams (Lindfield) worked extremely hard with super soppers to dry the affected areas, so much so that play was able to commence at 2pm.

After winning the toss, the Briars got away to a steady start against the tight bowling of Greg Flanagan and Matt Hardman, and it wasn't until the introduction of spin that the first wicket was taken with the score on 47 after 31 overs when Mark Smyck holed out to the wily Jay Patel.

## **FOURTH GRADE GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

Carl Trewin joined Greg Wallace at the crease and the scoring immediately picked up with Trewin being particularly aggressive outscoring the immovable object Greg Wallace. Trewin was next to go with the score on 90 when he was bowled by a beauty from Tahir Pervez who was in the middle of an excellent spell of bowling. Two balls later Muhammed Yahya was back in the pavilion courtesy of an excellent catch behind Matt Gersun leaving the Briars at 3-90. Skipper Will Hood came and went with the score on 104 – caught in close off the bowling of his rival skipper Paul Adams. Wallace and new batsman Rob Jalalaty safely saw Briars through to stumps with the game balanced evenly and the score on 4-121.

Tahir Pervez grabbed his third wicket for the innings early on day 2 when he yorked Rob Jalalaty for 14 with the score on 124 – Lindfield spirits were high. All this time the very experienced Greg Wallace showed all how to bat in finals cricket – watching the wickets falling at the other end. The wicket of Jalalaty brought 15 year old Jordan Millar to the wicket. After a shaky start, Millar began to play some excellent shots against the spin of Patel and Dan Isaacs and quickly the game got away from Lindfield – with a couple of chances missed. The two added 82 before Wallace was finally out for a determined 74 – caught in the gully off the bowling of Greg Flanagan. Dan Haikan joined Millar at the crease and batted aggressively, however a loose shot saw him caught and bowled by Flanagan for 14 with the score on 233. Greg Long played a combination of excellent and terrible shots, however he was able to add 45 with Millar who was edging closer to his century before Long ran himself out for 24 in a terrible mix up.

George “Wendall” Saleh batted as only he can – entertaining all with a wide variety of shots – some which even connected!! It wasn't long before “The Dell” holed out to cover for 9 off the bowling of Jay Patel.

The question now was could Millar go all the way to a well deserved century. Brad Whitfield and Millar added 36 runs very easily before Whitfield tragically ran himself out for 23 - Briars all out for 329, leaving Millar stranded on 91 on what was a magnificent innings in a final for a 15 year old.

After batting for 132.3 overs, this left Lindfield the task of scoring the required 330 runs in 31 overs at 10.65 runs per over – something that was never going to happen.

When the match was called off after batting for 29 overs, Lindfield were 5-86 with Luke Treadwell playing some enterprising shots in his 35. Both Muhammad Yahya and Mark Smyck each took 2 wickets.

Congratulations to Auburn in hosting the Final superbly in very trying conditions. With Burwood the higher placed side on the table, a drawn match meant that the Briars were crowned 4th grade premiers with Jordan Millar being the stand out and being rightly named man of the match.

## **FRANK GRAY SHIELD GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

**Strathfield vs Auburn at Tantallon Oval (Limited Overs Fixture)  
Sunday 1 March 2009**

**Strathfield 6 / 231 (50 overs) def Auburn 119 (40.1 overs)**

**Man of the Match – Ian Janda (Strathfield)**

**Umpires – Chris Taylor & Stephen Blomfield**



Undefeated minor premiers Strathfield took on second placed Auburn in the Frank Gray Shield final for season 2008/09. Under cloudy skies and a weather forecast suggesting the chance of an afternoon storm the game started on time with Strathfield captain Sam Wotton winning the toss and electing to bat first at Lane Cove's Tantallon Oval. The pitch looked fantastic, the outfield was in good condition (although a bit lush) and play got underway with a healthy crowd of approximately 150-200 at the venue for the start of play.

The new ball played havoc in the opening exchanges with Strathfield quickly finding themselves two down with only 8 runs on the board courtesy of a quick opening spell by Dominic Papanis. After the fall of the second wicket Strathfield's two first grade batsmen Ian Janda and Aaron Sylvester came together and began to steady the ship against some good bowling.

It was probably this partnership that set the day in motion for the yellow caps as the opposition failed to make anymore inroads as the ball begun to get older and less effective. By partnership end another 103 runs had been added in 25 overs and the minor premiers were on the way to setting up a great platform towards a score of at least 200 and maybe anything up to about 240

## **FRANK GRAY SHIELD GRAND FINAL – MATCH REPORT**

The fall of the third wicket (Sylvester for a scratchy 43) saw the skipper Sam Wotton come to the crease. Immediately the run rate was stepped up and between him and Janda who was now passed 50 they took the score quickly along to 168 when Janda fell for a well compiled and match winning 75. The Auburn team would end up rueing the fact that when Janda was in the 20's he was missed to a pretty easy stumping opportunity.

Wotton was soon dismissed for a quick fire 35 which included a huge pull shot for six that cannoned into the windscreen of one of the cars on the northern side car park. At this point the score was 5-177 and with only 6 overs to go the Auburn boys were hoping to keep the score down to about 210. Some intelligent hitting and some ragged fielding saw the Strathfield lower order add a further 54 from the final 36 deliveries and the innings closed at a very commendable 231 for 6 from 50 overs in 202 minutes.

During the lunchbreak the skies cleared and to everyone's relief it appeared the predicted thunderstorm was not going to eventuate. At least the game was going to be won on the field rather than mother nature deciding to have a say in the proceedings.

The Auburn run chase started slowly and it was obviously from the start that the 232 target was going to be a big challenge. Unfortunately for the Auburn boys wickets fell at regular intervals and runs were tough to score. It was at this point with Strathfield well on top and a spiralling required run rate that the game went sour. Some ordinary behaviour from the Strathfield players fuelled by some narky chat from a number of the Auburn batsmen turned the game into a not so friendly event. This culminated in a very ugly incident where a Strathfield player ran 25 meters across the field to intercept an outgoing batsman to point him in the direction of the dressing sheds. Both umpires immediately jumped on this incident and placed it on report with the player receiving a suspension a week or two later causing him to miss the Saturday competition Qualifying Final.

It seemed such a ridiculous situation to both umpires as to why a team so significantly on top of its opposition would start playing the game in an overly aggressive and confrontational way. As it turned out it appeared that a number of players seemed to have carried baggage into the game from the day before when both clubs had played each other in 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Grades.

In the end analysis Auburn was never in the chase and a string of wickets saw them collapse to 9 for 90 due to some really tight bowling and some excellent fielding. It was only a last wicket partnership 29 that saw any freedom of stroke play as number 10 Matt Szaby swung lustily hitting a few big sixes on his way to a top score of 28. Auburn all out 119 off 40.2 overs in 147 minutes

Strathfield won the match by 112 runs winning their first Frank Gray Shield since season 2001/02. Man of the match was awarded to Ian Janda for his score of 75 during the Strathfield innings however, rather sadly for the game and the legacy left by Frank Gray to the Shires competition, nobody on this particular day of cricket won any accolades regarding the spirit of cricket

**FIRST GRADE SEMI FINAL**  
**PENNANT HILLS v LINDFIELD**  
**PENNANT HILLS OVAL – 28 / 29 March 2009**

**Right**

**Stephen Blomfield  
& Mark Hughes  
mallets drawn  
chase away the  
photographer  
before play**



**Left**

**Mark Hughes speaking to  
the Pennant Hills opening  
bowler, John McCrea**

***"Dear John, If you bowl  
the ball in THAT direction  
I promise I won't call the  
next one wide"***

**Right**

**Stephen Blomfield  
calls Pennant Hills  
1<sup>st</sup> change bowler,  
Phil Melville for  
one of his five no  
balls on the  
first morning**



**FIRST GRADE SEMI FINAL**  
**PENNANT HILLS v LINDFIELD**  
**PENNANT HILLS OVAL – 28 / 29 March 2009**

**Right**

**Stephen  
Blomfield  
holding a pose  
for the scorers &  
the photographer**



**Left**

**Mark Hughes &  
Stephen Blomfield  
discuss the first hour  
of play as drinks  
come onto the field**



**Right**

**Stephen Blomfield  
sends Lindfield  
number 3  
batsman, Mark  
Atkinson on his  
way LBW for 1**



**FIRST GRADE SEMI FINAL**  
**PENNANT HILLS v LINDFIELD**  
**PENNANT HILLS OVAL – 28 / 29 March 2009**

**Right**

**Stephen Blomfield re-sets the stumps just before the start of play**



**Left**

**Mark Hughes showing his stump setting skills just prior to the start of play**

**Right**

**Stephen Blomfield and Mark Hughes find themselves in an awkward position at the end of the game**

**Lesson of the day -**

**Never give the home captain out LBW !**



# Who Are You ?

*Are you an active member - the kind that would be missed,*

*Or are you a non contributor who lingers on the list ?*

*Do you attend the meetings to gain knowledge for your mind*

*Or do you stay at home, and always fall behind*

*Do you take an active part to help the comp along*

*Or are you the lazy type who is just happy to belong*

*Do you pay your subs on time or do you leave it late*

*Make us chase you over and over, until we seal your fate*

*And when it comes to fund raising, do you chip in and do your part*

*Or do you leave it to all the others because you've got no heart*

*Do you reply to all your emails when simply asked to do*

*Or do you never read them and give them the big shoe*

*If the committee needs volunteers do you give your time for free*

*Or are you that selfish member who always says "no no no, not me"*

*Think this over member ... Do you know right from wrong ?*

*Are you an active member, or do you just belong ?*

**SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – GAMES DONE – 2008/09**

<b>MEMBERS NAME</b>	<b>SHIRES GAMES</b>	<b>FRANK GRAY GAMES</b>	<b>GRADE GAMES</b>	<b>SEASON TOTAL</b>
ALLISTON, Bill	11	0	0	11
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	17	9	0	26
BOWMAN , Ian	10	2	0	12
BREAKSPEAR, Brian	13	0	0	13
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	3	3	15	21
BYRNE , Laurie	3	0	0	3
CAMPBELL, Malcolm	6	0	1	7
CAMPBELL , Neil	6	0	0	6
CARROLL, Phil	2	0	0	2
CHARLESWORTH, Adrian	0	0	13	13
CHRISTEN , Richard	14	4	1	19
CLIFT, Paul	0	3	0	3
DEACON, Lachlan	11	2	0	13
FRIEND , Peter	18	7	0	25
GANDEVIA , Robin	2	1	14	17
GARLICK , Peter	0	0	15	15
GOODGER , Darren	0	0	10	10
GOODMAN , David	14	0	0	14
GREEN , Alan	15	0	0	15
HANSHAW , Glen	4	0	0	4
HARRISON , Spencer	9	6	1	16
HARVEY, John	13	0	0	13
HOLLAND , Ivan	13	3	0	16
HOOD, Philip	0	2	0	2
HUGHES , Mark	16	0	2	18
KHALE, Shailesh	9	0	0	9
KINGSFORD-SMITH, Tony	18	6	2	26
MacGILLIVRAY, Bruce	6	0	0	6
MALONEY, Rob	5	0	1	6
MATHEWS , Rupert	15	6	1	22
MCLEAN, Scott	15	4	1	20
MOONEY , Peter	15	2	0	17
NYERS , Peter	6	0	0	6

**SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – GAMES DONE – 2008/09**

Page 2

<b>MEMBERS NAME</b>	<b>SHIRES GAMES</b>	<b>FRANK GRAY GAMES</b>	<b>GRADE GAMES</b>	<b>SEASON TOTAL</b>
PARFETT , Bruce	0	0	16	16
PARKER, Trevor	15	5	0	20
PONSFORD , Derek	10	0	0	10
RICHARDS , George	5	0	0	5
ROCHE , Glenn	0	1	18	19
ROUSELL, Adam	13	1	0	14
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	12	0	0	12
SHELLENS , Jim	18	7	1	26
SMELLIE , Patrick	12	0	1	13
SMITH , Gordon	14	8	0	22
STARKS , Steve	4	0	0	4
TASKER , Peter	11	2	1	14
TAYLOR , Chris	15	9	1	25
TAYLOR , Geoff	9	0	0	9
TRELOAR, Ben	0	2	15	17
TRIBOLET , Brett	14	0	0	14
TUNKS , Greg	8	0	0	8
WARD, Malcolm	11	1	0	12
WATSON , Arthur	0	1	14	15
WHEELER, Geoff	12	4	0	16
WHEELER, Mike	15	4	0	19
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	14	5	0	19
WILLIAMS, Chris	11	0	1	12
YOUSAF, Salman	8	0	1	9

**SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – CAREER GAMES DONE**

<b>MEMBERS NAME</b>	<b>SHIRES GAMES</b>	<b>FRANK GRAY GAMES</b>	<b>GRADE GAMES</b>	<b>CAREER TOTAL</b>
ALLISTON, Bill	11	0	0	11
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	145	51	8	204
BOWMAN , Ian	33	7	0	40
BREAKSPEAR, Brian	15	0	13	28
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	63	30	61	154
BYRNE , Laurie	5	0	1	6
CAMPBELL, Malcolm	10	0	1	11
CAMPBELL , Neil	12	0	0	12
CARROLL, Phil	9	0	0	9
CHARLESWORTH, Adrian	15	4	13	32
CHRISTEN , Richard	46	14	59	119
CLIFT, Paul	0	3	0	3
DEACON, Lachlan	11	2	0	13
FRIEND , Peter	115	16	1	132
GANDEVIA , Robin	45	40	54	139
GARLICK , Peter	25	0	50	75
GOODGER , Darren	0	1	149	150
GOODMAN , David	53	15	0	68
GREEN , Alan	99	1	176	276
HANSHAW , Glen	42	11	0	53
HARRISON , Spencer	97	33	2	132
HARVEY, John	13	0	0	13
HOLLAND , Ivan	99	31	1	131
HOOD, Philip	0	2	0	2
HUGHES , Mark	38	8	2	48
KHALE, Shailesh	9	0	0	9
KINGSFORD-SMITH, Tony	61	25	328	414
MacGILLIVRAY, Bruce	12	0	0	12
MALONEY, Rob	18	0	5	23
MATHEWS , Rupert	38	17	1	56
MCLEAN, Scott	15	4	1	20
MOONEY , Peter	57	3	243	303
NYERS , Peter	10	0	0	10

**SYDNEY SHIRES CRICKET UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**  
**ACTIVE UMPIRES LIST – CAREER GAMES DONE**

Page 2

<b>MEMBERS NAME</b>	<b>SHIRES GAMES</b>	<b>FRANK GRAY GAMES</b>	<b>GRADE GAMES</b>	<b>CAREER TOTAL</b>
PARFETT , Bruce	57	24	75	156
PARKER, Trevor	15	5	0	20
PONSFORD , Derek	45	0	0	45
RICHARDS , George	100	25	148	273
ROCHE , Glenn	30	21	48	99
ROUSELL, Adam	13	1	0	14
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	81	6	2	89
SHELLENS , Jim	120	46	6	172
SMELLIE , Patrick	25	0	1	26
SMITH , Gordon	114	37	3	154
STARKS , Steve	19	2	101	122
TASKER , Peter	36	11	98	145
TAYLOR , Chris	79	17	3	99
TAYLOR , Geoff	77	26	1	104
TRELOAR, Ben	4	11	29	44
TRIBOLET , Brett	22	3	0	25
TUNKS , Greg	19	1	0	20
WARD, Malcolm	11	1	0	12
WATSON , Arthur	13	2	622	637
WHEELER, Geoff	12	4	0	16
WHEELER, Mike	15	4	0	19
WHITEHOUSE , Bruce	46	16	15	77
WILLIAMS, Chris	11	0	1	12
YOUSAF, Salman	8	0	1	9

## Career Matches (Shires Only)

### 50 Career Games Or More

As at end of 2008/09 Season

#### All Current and Past Members

MEMBERS NAME	SHIRES GAMES	FRANK GRAY GAMES	TOTAL
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	145	51	196
SHELLENS, Jim	120	46	166
SMITH, Gordon	114	37	151
FRIEND, Peter	115	16	131
HARRISON, Spencer	97	33	130
HOLLAND, Ivan	99	31	130
RICHARDS, George	100	25	125
SHINER, Tom	94	19	113
TAYLOR, Geoff	77	26	103
QUAKEN, Keith	100	0	100
GREEN, Alan	99	1	100
TAYLOR , Chris	79	17	96
BUCKLAND, Ken	63	30	93
SCHOKMAN, Trevor	81	6	87
KINGSFORD-SMITH, Tony	61	25	86
GANDEVIA, Robin	45	40	85
PARFETT, Bruce	57	24	81
MOORE, John	56	14	70
RALSTON, Tim	68	0	68
GOODMAN, David	53	15	68
DONNELLAN, Tom	63	2	65
OSSEWEYER, Brett	45	20	65
WHITEHOUSE, Bruce	46	16	62
KEARNEY, Chris	49	12	61
CHRISTEN, Richard	46	14	60
MOONEY, Peter	57	3	60
THORPE, Ken	53	5	58
MATHEWS, Rupert	38	17	55
HANSHAW, Glen	42	11	53
ROCHE, Glenn	30	21	51

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**

## **Career - Shires Finals Series Matches**

(Does not include Shires finals matches prior the SSCUA formation in 2001/02)

**All Current and Past Members**  
**Qualification: 10 Finals Series Matches or More**

As at end of season 2008/09

	<b>Saturday Shires</b>	<b>Saturday Shires</b>	<b>Frank Gray</b>	<b>Frank Gray</b>	
<b>Members Name</b>	<b>Q/F &amp; Semi/F's</b>	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>Q/F &amp; Semi/F's</b>	<b>Grand Finals</b>	<b>Career Finals Series Games</b>
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	16	8	12	1	37
SHELLENS, Jim	13	3	8	1	25
FRIEND, Peter	13	7	1	0	21
SMITH, Gordon	13	2	4	1	20
HOLLAND, Ivan	15	4	0	0	19
TAYLOR, Chris	10	5	2	1	18
PARFETT, Bruce	8	3	3	3	17
HARRISON, Spencer	8	3	4	0	15
GANDEVIA, Robin	6	2	4	2	14
TAYLOR, Geoff	10	1	3	0	14
GREEN, Alan	10	4	0	0	14
MOORE, John	8	4	1	0	13
OSSEWEYER, Brett	6	2	3	2	13
RICHARDS, George	11	0	1	1	13
WHITEHOUSE, Bruce	5	2	6	0	13
KINGSFORD-SMITH, Tony	8	2	1	1	12
BUCKLAND, Ken	8	1	2	1	12

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - MEETING ATTENDANCES

NAME	2008/09 Meetings Attended (Maximum = 4)	Career Meetings Attended	Career Meetings Attended (expressed as a %age)
ALLISTON, Bill	3	3 (4)	75
BLOMFIELD, Stephen	4	20 (21)	95
BOWMAN , Ian	1	6 (16)	37
BREAKSPEAR, Brian	3	3 (3)	100
BUCKLAND , Kenneth	2	11 (19)	57
BYRNE , Laurie	1	3 (18)	16
CAMPBELL, Malcolm	0	0 (3)	0
CAMPBELL , Neil	1	3 (7)	42
CARROLL, Phil	1	2 (6)	33
CHAMBIRAS , Paul	0	1 (9)	11
CHARLESWORTH, Adrian	0	3 (7)	42
CHRISTEN , Richard	4	14 (18)	77
CLIFT, Paul	1	1 (3)	33
DEACON, Lachlan	1	1 (2)	50
DOBBIN , Patrick	0	0 (13)	0
FRIEND , Peter	4	19 (21)	90
GANDEVIA , Robin	1	11 (19)	57
GARLICK , Peter	2	7 (18)	38
GOODGER, Darren	1	1 (7)	14
GOODMAN , David	2	9 (19)	47
GREEN , Alan	1	2 (18)	11
GUPTE , Vinayak	0	0 (9)	0
HANSHAW , Glen	2	12 (21)	57
HARRISON , Spencer	3	16 (18)	88
HARVEY, John	3	3 (4)	75
HOLLAND , Ivan	4	19 (21)	90
HOOD, Phil	0	0 (4)	0
HUGHES , Mark	4	10 (10)	100
IYER , Malli	0	2 (19)	10
JONES , Colin	1	5 (10)	50
KHALE, Shailesh	2	2 (3)	66
KINGSFORD SMITH , Tony	4	8 (9)	88
MacGILLIVRAY, Bruce	0	0 (4)	0
MALONEY, Rob	0	1 (10)	10
MATHEWS , Rupert	4	9 (10)	90
MCLEAN, Scott	3	3 (3)	100
MOONEY , Peter	3	9 (10)	90
MOORE , John	0	8 (19)	42

**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

### Page 2

NAME	2008/09 Meetings Attended (Maximum = 4)	Career Meetings Attended	Career Meetings Attended (expressed as a %age)
MURPHY , Stephen	0	2 (18)	11
NYERS , Peter	0	0 (9)	0
PARFETT , Bruce	0	6 (21)	28
PARKER, Trevor	4	4 (4)	100
PONSFORD , Derek	1	6 (13)	46
RICHARDS , George	3	18 (20)	90
ROBERTS , Michael	2	12 (21)	57
ROCHE , Glenn	1	5 (16)	31
ROWSELL, Adam	1	1 (3)	33
SCHOKMAN , Trevor	4	17 (18)	94
SHELLENS , Jim	4	17 (19)	89
SMELLIE, Patrick	3	6 (7)	85
SMITH, Cameron	0	0 (2)	0
SMITH , Gordon	4	18 (21)	85
STARKS , Steve	1	7 (21)	33
STILLER, Wes	0	0 (7)	0
TASKER , Peter	0	0 (18)	0
TAYLOR , Chris	2	6 (20)	30
TAYLOR , Geoff	2	12 (21)	57
THOMSON , Ian	0	5 (18)	27
TRELOAR , Ben	0	0 (9)	0
TRIBOLET , Brett	1	2 (18)	11
TUNKS, Greg	2	4 (6)	66
WARD, Malcolm	2	2 (3)	66
WATSON, Arthur	2	2 (7)	28
WHEELER, Geoff	1	1 (3)	33
WHEELER, Mike	2	2 (3)	66
WHITEHOUSE, Bruce	2	4 (17)	23
WHYTE, Craig	0	0 (2)	0
WILLIAMS, Chris	2	2 (3)	66
YOUSAF, Salman	1	1 (3)	33

**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

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right  
21 March 2009**

**Tony Kingsford-Smith  
does some  
housekeeping while  
munching on a pre  
luncheon bail**

**First Grade  
Qualifying Final  
Pennant Hills Oval**

**Pennant Hills vs  
North West Sydney**



**Left & Below**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Final at  
Tantallon Oval , 4 April 2009**

**Left – Chris Taylor all  
rugged up on a cold 1<sup>st</sup> day**

**Below – Peter Friend looks  
on as man of the match  
Robin Younan .... Well, I'm  
not sure any caption here  
would be appropriate !**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right**

**18 April 2009**

**Gordon Smith &  
Steve Starks at the  
NSWCU&SA  
Annual Dinner**



**Left**

**18 April 2009**

**Member Adrian Charlesworth in  
his first year with Grade Cricket  
won the Panel 4 Umpire of the  
Year award.**

**Adrian is seen here after being  
presented with his award at the  
NSWCU&SA Annual Dinner**

**Right**

**28 February 2009**

**Our members are everywhere**

**Member Ian Thomson has  
lived in Hong Kong for the last  
two years and is seen here  
umpiring a local match at  
Kowloon Cricket Club**



## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES

**Right – 24 February 2009**

**Peter Mooney SSCUA  
(Left) and Bill Hendricks  
NSWCU&SA (Right)  
umpired the Annual  
Grade versus Shires  
match at the SCG.**

**Here both are seen  
enjoying a drink in the  
members bar**



**Left**

**3 May 2009**

**Steve Starks (left) &  
Gordon Smith (right)  
enjoy a drink at a  
post season get  
together**

**Right**

**3 May 2009**

**Peter Mooney (Right)  
with Arthur and Anne  
Watson enjoying  
some social time at a  
post season BBQ**



# **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

To SSCUA ----

Congratulations on your massive achievement in sourcing umpires for Shires 3rd Grade. Trust me, it is being noticed by the players and the 3rd grade guys are really chuffed at having umpires.

**Don Rose, Auburn CC**

A fantastic achievement regarding umpires in 3rd Grade..Well done to you and all of your members....All of the Shires Clubs really appreciate your fine and relentless work, congratulations. Now onwards ..all of 4th grade ?..maybe next year ..who knows? ....

**Stirling Hamman, President Lindfield CC**

Just a personal note on the umpires. Congratulations on having umpires in third grade. I just wanted to pass on our thanks from Pennant Hills DCC on this remarkable feat. The players think it makes the game so much more enjoyable, as they often have to fight with opposition who, through no fault of their own, don't give decisions as they just don't know if it's out or not. Even 'green' black-and-whites are better than none, and all of our third grade agree with me. So, thanks again, and don't think that your work isn't appreciated!

**Steve Clarke, Honorary Secretary, Pennant Hills District Cricket Club**

To Peter Friend, President SSCUA

On behalf of the Auburn DCC I would like to congratulate the SSCUA and in particular yourself and Stephen Blomfield on the excellent coverage that the Association was able to achieve in the Shires competition in 2008/09, not just in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades but also in having umpires officiate in 53% of matches in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. This was an outstanding achievement which the SSCUA can be immensely proud of an one in which all clubs in the Shires Competition are greatly appreciative of. The hard work of the SSCUA executive in recruiting and maintaining umpires has certainly enhanced the prestige & quality of the Shires competition

**Mike Wood, Secretary Auburn CC**

On behalf of Lane Cove I want to acknowledge its been a tremendous result this season. Alex Southcott our third grade captain thought getting umpires in his grade was fantastic !

**Gerard Boyle, Hon. Secretary, Lane Cove Cricket Club**

On behalf of the Epping Cricket Club, Thank you to all the umpires and yourself for the work and effort you all put in to making sure we get a game of cricket each week. It is very much appreciated.

**Matthew Boorer  
President, Epping Cricket Club**

I must agree that as a 3rd grade captain it was a great year for umpire coverage, long may it continue.

**Adrian Smith - Secretary & 3rd Grade Captain, Southern Districts**

Thanks Blommy for all the hard work you and your colleagues have put in this year. It is great to see such good coverage in the top 2 grades, and over 50% in the lower grades. Please pass on my thanks to all the other umpires for their dedication to the job.

**Andrew Faber .... President, Pennant Hills CC**