



## 2015 Annual Report



79<sup>th</sup> Year

# Annual Report 2015



## 2015 Annual Report

### Office Bearers

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President	<b>David Gripper</b>
Vice President	<b>Peter Bowie</b>
Secretary	<b>Chris Rapley</b>
Treasurer	<b>Mark Richardson</b>
Committee Members	<b>Lou Bonomi Dan Morgan</b>
Umpire's Advisor	<b>David Gripper</b>
Patron	<b>Doug Oliphant</b>
Honorable Auditor	<b>Tony Lee</b>

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### Life Members

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<b>J Wilson*</b>	<b>G Pascoe* (1952)</b>
<b>L Bain* (1956)</b>	<b>H Duncan* (1972)</b>
<b>D Andrews (1973)</b>	<b>E Knight* (1975)</b>
<b>D Osborn* (1978)</b>	<b>M Reynolds (1979)</b>
<b>K Richardson (1981)</b>	<b>M Mount (1983)</b>
<b>K Smith (1991)</b>	<b>A Luscombe (1992)</b>
<b>F Robertson* (1997)</b>	<b>M Richardson (2000)</b>
<b>D Gripper (2001)</b>	<b>M Johns (2006)</b>
<b>V Lomonarco (2006)</b>	<b>D Oliphant (2006)</b>
<b>P Bowie (2010)</b>	<b>R Robson (2010)</b>
	<b>B Robson (2013)</b>

\* Deceased

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## 2015 Annual Report

### Trophy Winners

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Umpire of the Year (Peter Solomon Trophy)	<b>Brett Robson</b>
Most Improved Umpire (Dennis Osborn Trophy)	<b>Steve Benfield</b>
Best Minor Grade Umpire (WA Baseball Scorers & Statisticians Association Trophy)	<b>Bob Bond</b>
Rookie of the Year (Mick Mount Trophy)	<b>Anthony Heard</b>
Meritorious Service Award (Eric Knight Trophy)	<b>Lou Bonomi</b>

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### National Championship Appointments

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ABL	<b>Lou Bonomi Peter Bowie Ryan Harder Brett Robson</b>
Under 16 and 18	<b>Terry Ford Peter Handcock Neil Medlin</b>
Junior League	<b>Frank Millard Dave Russell</b>
Little League	<b>Peter Dickenson Anthony Heard Kyle Tait Karl Schmidt</b>

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### International Appointments

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WBSC Premier 12 (Japan & Taiwan)	<b>Brett Robson</b>
Women's World Cup (Japan)	<b>Fiona Lambrick</b>
The Hit Factory Tour of Singapore	<b>Gary Arnell Lou Bonomi Peter Dickenson Travis Eardman Karl Schmidt Kyle Tait</b>

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## 2015 Annual Report

### President's Report



I am pleased to be able to present my report for the 2014/2015 season. As an association specifically tasked with the promotion of baseball umpiring in WA, we have had another very successful season. I know from my regular contact with the other umpiring fraternities in Australia, there is a lot of conflict and lack of direction which prevents them from reaching their goals. In WA we do not have any issues and the credit for that rests squarely with your Executive Committee and to the instructors who put in countless hours to ensure we remain totally viable and a great asset to Baseball WA.

Our most prominent mover and shaker, **Mark Richardson**, has a fantastic rapport with all personnel at Baseball WA. He is not only a major asset to us, but to all of the stakeholders in baseball. Without him the fixturing would be inadequate which would make his other job of rostering our umpires an absolute shambles. That is to say nothing of his financial skills of keeping our accounts in great order while looking after the best interests of our umpires. Well done Richo!

All of the members of your executive committee have specific roles to play, and again this year performed admirably. While **Chris Rapley**, **Dan Morgan** and **Peter Bowie** worked their miracles again, special mention must also be made of **Lou Bonomi** and his mission to promote the Green Shirt program to budding umpires at both Little League and Junior League level. He trained over 100 umpires last season, and while he had some assistance early, he was mainly required to cover from Two Rocks to Mandurah on his own. This was a remarkable achievement and was appreciated by all clubs at all levels.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued efforts of **Brett Robson** in mentoring our umpires at all levels. I do not know many umpires accredited at Brett's level who would be prepared to umpire a B grade game to work with an up and coming umpire; never a problem for Brett. He also provides great assistance with issues at our Rules & Mechanics sessions.

My congratulations go to all the umpires selected to represent WA at National Championships:

Little League:	<b>Neil Medlin</b>
	<b>Peter Dickenson</b>
	<b>Anthony Heard</b>
	<b>Kyle Tait</b>
	<b>Karl Schmidt</b>
Junior League:	<b>Dave Russell</b>
	<b>Frank Millard</b>
Under 16/18's:	<b>Terry Ford</b>
	<b>Neil Medlin</b>
	<b>Peter Handcock</b>
Under 25's	<b>Ben Stone</b>



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Our trophy winners for last season, and as presented at our Annual Dinner & Trophy Night, were:

Umpire of the Year	<b>Brett Robson</b>
Most Improved Umpire	<b>Steve Benfield</b>
Best Lower Grade Umpire	<b>Bob Bond</b>
Rookie Umpire of the Year	<b>Anthony Heard</b>
Meritorious Service Award	<b>Lou Bonomi</b>

Congratulations to all of the winners.

On a sad note, I would like to record the passing of **Mike Penn's** partner and rock, Cheryl Higgs, earlier this year. Cheryl and Mike had moved to Bali to start a new life together but sadly, Cheryl was killed in a horrific road accident in Bali. Our condolences go out to Mike and his family for their loss. On a brighter note we hope to have Mike back umpiring for us in the near future as he attempts to put his life back together.

Good luck to all of our umpires for the 2015/2016 season and we will see you all at pre-season training.

*David Gripper*

President



## 2015 Annual Report

### Secretary's Report



The 2014/15 season was another outstanding season as our umpires worked their butts off on the field and the committee continued to steer umpiring (and baseball in general) in the right direction both within WA and nationally. The more I get to know the landscape of baseball outside our state the more I realize what a great team we have and the importance of the talent in WA to drive the improvement of baseball umpiring in Australia. We are not bragging when we say we have the single best umpire in Australia here in the west but also the best governed bunch of umpires.

The hard job keeps getting no easier – scheduling/appointing umpires. This was again done superbly by Richo and Lou. Even as changes in Junior and Little League baseball occurred these two guys made sure we were able to cover as many games as possible. Since the end of the season they are already in consultation with BWA and clubs to make things better for 2015/16 – absolutely awesome!

President Gripper was again at our skipper and like John Bertram of Australia II fame he brings us across the line with our spinnakers set and in first place! Developing talent, critiquing umpires, helping Larry Harder suspend players, and being our voice with Baseball Australia; David's enthusiasm seems tireless. Most importantly he opened his house (and larder – thanks Robyn) to the executive every month. Along with the input of a Deb Bowie cheesecake Gripps ensured the executive enjoyed our monthly meetings.

If Peter Bowie has not got it then it can't be gotten. That's not a revelation of a personal nature rather a complement to the impressive array of equipment Pete has amassed at his home and his willingness to get anything we need. He is better than Ebay!

The Captain Morgan, has become a master of organization and entertainment. His efforts and zany thinking ensured we enjoyed a great Appreciation Night at the Ballpark - including arranging the appearance of our MLB superstar, Jon Byrne. Then he trumped himself by sending us all Hawaiian at our end of season awards night showing the world that we can be a colourful lot as we don't ALWAYS wear blue!

... And then there was all the great on-field stuff too. But you can read all about that in other pages of this report...

*Cheers*  
*Rappers 2015*



## 2015 Annual Report

### Treasurer's Report



#### **My fellow umpires**

I have pleasure in presenting this report for the season ending May 2015.

We continued to appoint three umpires to most night SL games to increase our training of the 3-man system and increase the experience level of a number of umpires as well. I think the results shown during the finals vindicated this approach and I think we should continue with this next year.

We purchased new training equipment this year and also replaced the air conditioner in our room at Baseball Park. We continued to assist BWA and the umpires financially to travel to the various tournaments which has been and always will be an ongoing priority for our Association.

The costs for the annual dinner were much higher than last year with a really good turn-out of our members and invited special guests. Thanks must go to Dan Morgan and Chris Rapley for doing a terrific job again organizing the event. It was a fantastic night and the theme and the slushy machine seemed to be enjoyed by all. The venue and the service we received were exceptional again.

The Association is in a healthy state financially with a reasonable surplus, carrying on from last season. My efforts to ensure clubs pay promptly have been successful with all clubs being fully paid up for this season. Despite my continued efforts to prompt the payments on time the late fees were paid, although less than last year.

I trust this report will be met favourably and wish all members luck for next year. I look forward to working with you all next year and beyond.

M S Richardson  
Treasurer WABUA  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

### Auditors Report



Dear Sirs,

I have audited the cash payments and cash receipts records of the Western Australian Baseball Umpires' Association for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

Based upon the information presented to me, the Financial Report for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 presents a true and correct record.

*Tony Lee*  
Honorary Auditor  
15<sup>th</sup> June 2015



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### Umpires Adviser Report

The ongoing training of umpires, which allows them to perform at the highest level, remains a challenge. It will do so for the foreseeable future.

To this end I am grateful for the support received mainly from **Chris Rapley** as he continues to evolve as an instructor and also from **Peter Bowie, Lou Bonomi** and **Brett Robson**. Without their support it would not be possible to continually roll out the acknowledged best training programs in Australia.

As alluded to in last year's report, the growth of baseball at Little League and Junior League level has created a strain on our resources. This growth will continue for several years to come and, as a group of umpires we need to ensure we can adequately cover the additional games being played. It is a fantastic opportunity for budding umpires to get involved and we are more than happy to provide whatever training is necessary.

To this end I must say a huge 'thank you' to **Lou Bonomi** for stepping into the role of training umpires at Green Shirt level. At last count over 100 umpires were trained to be able to work at Little League and Junior League. He travelled far and wide to accomplish this daunting task.

It is probably timely to announce that for next season, Lou will not be appointing umpires to Junior League games. It will be the responsibility of the relative clubs to appoint a Green Shirt umpire to their home games. Where possible the umpire appointed to the Colts game will be at the ground to assist the rookie and even run bases for him. More information on this later.

There will also be some changes to our regular Rules & Mechanics nights at Balcatta. The sessions were all extremely well attended last year but with a view to "freshening up" these nights, we will look to do some work outdoors. Game management is an area we will continue to work on; this is not unusual, as it seems that in MLB it is also a problem which is continually challenged.

There will many opportunities for umpires to step up a level this year due to the total number of games we need to cover and I look forward to your attendance at our pre-season training.

***David Gripper***

Umpires Adviser



## 2015 Annual Report

### Junior Report



This year we saw the building and expansion of the Junior League which had replaced what was known as the 15's competition two years ago. In addition, the Colts grade games was now scheduled on a Saturday which formed part of the junior allocated games. The Colts included three division as previously in the senior competition there was only the one.

Overall we covered a total of 288 games not including the final series. (Compared with the previous year where we covered a total of 257 games which is approximately 12% increase. This increase was contributed to the inclusion of the Colts competition as there was three divisions.

The Junior League included a Junior League All Stars competition which was generally played every second weekend or over a number of weekend. We covered some 84 games in this competition. Only a few number of the Charter Clubs had finals arrangement in place.

In addition the Junior Allocation role included the Little League All Stars competition games played over the Easter Weekend.

In addition it seem that there was a number of tournaments every second weekend, in particular the Goodwill's series over the Christmas weekend again we covered some over 85% of the scheduled games. Great effort by all involved.

However, taking into account the difficulties and the great work by a number of our umpires it was very pleasing season from an umpiring perspective of the number of junior games that were covered.

All of the Colts grades final games were covered with a minimum of two umpires and the grand finals games by a three umpire system. This is a tremendous effort and represents 100% of all the available games. I must make a special mention for Frank Millard and Gary Arnell's commitment and tremendous effort as both would umpire most Saturday's and do two games at different venues on occasion. Again the effort of Terry Ford, David Gripper and Peter Dickenson who umpired every weekend is much appreciated. To all the umpires that help to cover the Colts or Junior League, I say thank you.

Our representation at junior games is appreciated by many of the Clubs. Not only do the players get to know the umpire and in a majority of cases you see the same players again on the Sunday roster. I know that the junior area is a great place to work on improving your skills.

For the umpires that helped out this year I know the executive committee was very pleased on the number of umpires that may them self available to assist in umpiring at the junior level.

If you are interested in umpiring juniors just make yourself available and you will experience some great games of baseball.

*Lou Bonomi*



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### Australian Baseball League (ABL) Report

Following another exceptional year for Perth HEAT it is timely to acknowledge the part played by our ABL umpires panel in that success. **Brett Robson**, **Ryan Harder**, **Lou Bonomi** and **Peter Bowie** umpired with such a high level of efficiency that Perth HEAT always knew what to expect and were then able to focus totally on their own game.

Congratulations to the entire panel on a fine season. The manner in which they matured during the season and pressured each other to perform at the next level, bears testament to Brett's mentoring skills. It is unfortunate that we cannot have all of our umpires listen to the pre-game and post-game discussions that take place during the ABL season.

Now that **Peter Bowie** has grown into his role there is enormous pressure on everyone to perform, week in and week out. The upcoming ABL season will have an extended playing schedule and that will provide the panel with additional opportunities to step up.

The future of the ABL is still a year to year scenario as it does not appear to be a financial success but I hope with the expanded schedule it might grab more attention around Australia. Funding for baseball at all levels in Australia continues to be an issue.

To conclude, congratulations go to **Brett Robson** on his appointment to the ABL Championship Series in Adelaide. He was clearly the stand out umpire for the whole series and I am seriously concerned at the gap between Brett and the next best.

In late breaking news I can confirm that **Brett Robson** has been appointed to the Premier 12 international baseball series to be held in several Asian countries during November. I congratulate Brett on his appointment and fully anticipate that he will acquit himself well and in all probability be the best umpire in attendance.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the efforts of **Doug Oliphant**, not only as the best "kitchen bitch" but also for the valuable assistance he provides to me on umpiring performances.

***David Gripper***

ABL Umpires Supervisor



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### Social Pages

The 2014/15 brought many new twists and improvements to our season social calendar of events.

### Little League Player of the Week

Our association continued to host the Little League Player of the Week Award which keeps the umpires association in the limelight during Perth Heat Games. The LLPWA is a fan favorite which has caught on in Little League as a sort after recognition. Perth Heat supporters only applaud louder for a walk off homer or when Lou Bonomi wears a 90 MPH fastball.

Each year the award has risen in popularity and the 2014/15 season saw greater participation with several umpires, special guests, players, coaches and mascots assisting with the presentation of the award.

The Perth Heat management have recognized the presentation as a mainstay that provides a feel good moment and puts umpires in a positive light with supporters and players.

### Umpires Appreciation Night

Umpires Appreciation Night saw a return to the Diamond Lounge and was well organised (Perth Heat) and well attended. A well-deserved lifetime achievement award was presented to Jon Byrne for his umpiring at the highest level. Jon is a great ambassador for our association and was well received by supporters and players.

The Perth Heat management went above and beyond to [promote the night and also showed a tremendous amount of respect and appreciation for Jon's achievements.

### Umpires Awards Night and Dinner w/ Chris Rapley MC

One Word "[Hawaiian](#)"

The Umpires Awards Night and Dinner was transformed into a Hawaiian luau with Hawaiian punch and a menu of Hawaiian treats. A bit of a different twist on a night when we all pay back our wives and partners for putting up with our Love for the game. All the 2014/15 Award winners were spot on and well deserved. Especially the Lou Bonomi Ball Magnet award going to Gary Arnell.

Thanks all for all your help, assistance and allowing me to have a great time as coordinator of all things social.

Cheers

*Dan Morgan*



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### 16 & 18s National Championships

The 2015 NYC were held at Blacktown International Sports Park, Rooty Hill, NSW from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Terry FORD, Neil MEDLIN and I were appointed from WA to officiate at the tournament. Overall the tournament was run well, however there was some inclement weather over the first few days which resulted in one full day worth of games lost and a number of games being suspended. With the net result being that the first full round was completed but the second round was abandoned and the finals round expanded.

As a first timer to a NYC I found the work load quite acceptable, we were scheduled to either plate one game or base two games per day, and then it was rotated each day predominately on that basis. There were a few exceptions to this due to suspended games.

At the end of each game there was a debrief /critique based mainly on game management performance, I found this especially beneficial, as I was able to take in and immediately put in to action suggestions and improvements.

Both Terry's and Neil's performance across the tournament were outstanding with Terry being given the Plate in the Under 16's Gold medal game and Neil the Bronze medal plate for the Under 18's and then the crew chief position for the Under 16's bronze medal game.

Thanks

*Peter Handcock*



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### National Little League Championships

I recently attended the ALLC in Lismore. 268 players in 20 teams from around the country, along with family coaches and managers converged on the Far North Baseball Club in Lismore. Around the same time 16 other umpires from around the country gathered for a week of work. Also jetting in from the states was LL veteran umpire Sherman Wallen.

Along with Neil Medlin, Peter Dickenson, Karl Schmidt and Kyle Tait as the other part of the West Aussie crew we flew out of Perth at 11.55 pm on Tuesday and two planes a bus ride later we arrived in Lismore at around 4pm on Wednesday. The discussion between Neil, Peter Kyle and Karl at the airport was about making sure no one got left behind this year. (This will make sense a little later) After a quick meet and greet with the other umpires that had been assigned to the championship and the two umpire coordinators, Atcheli Richardson and Barry Foat, we took a stroll around the four diamonds to discuss any special ground rules and a quick mechanics meeting and a discussion on the 3 man rotation system.

Not having worked a three man system in the field on any occasion I was keen to gather as much info as possible regarding rotations and positioning. I studied the diagrams that had been emailed to me and listened to the old timers explain how they managed it.

The Opening Ceremony followed and after a quick bite to eat we were off to see our accommodation and to shopping centre to gather some supplies for the morning.

First games had been scheduled for 8.15 and we were required at the ground by 7.15 to look at our assigned games for the day. I was expecting to be eased into the umpiring roster by doing as couple of base appointments but that didn't happen. I was given a plate first up. As we all filled into the change rooms in preparation for the day, outcome the Deep Heat, Tiger Balms and other liniments to warm up some of the older muscles in the room.

There was the normal banter between umpires as if they were in any other sporting team. With ages ranging from 16 to plenty and experience from 1 year to a hell of a lot more, the conversations varied and the jokes flew over the head of some. After a pre-game discussion with my other team mates on base we headed over to the furthest diamond on the ground. The air was cold and the grounds heavy with the morning dew. It was quickly established that regular ball rotations and towels at the ready by the fielding coaches was the order of the morning. All the games were played at a pretty good standard and we didn't any game that too much of a blowout. Although there were other games that recorded cricket like scores.

My next two games were at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (four man) on Diamond 1 which was streamed live online. This gave my family something to laugh at for a couple of minutes until they got bored.

Each game was followed by debrief with in the crew and then Barry and Richo would give us feedback and tell us areas that we needed to work on or they thought we could be better at. I found this extremely help full and took as much as I could on board. Every game was watched by either of the two mentioned above and they did as they said they would and nit-picked at everything we did, good or bad. The feedback was invaluable. Things like "ease up on my strike 3 punch out, I have a double set prior to the pitch, my strike call needs to change to just a raised fist instead of a pointed finger



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and using the correct hands and arms to ask the question and making a call. They liked my strike zone and my position mechanics looked fine". Bit to work on.

As I watched some of the more experienced Umpires at the tournament, I felt that I wasn't doing anything to much different, in fact they all seemed to do things that I got chatted about. As well as every state seemed to have a different way of signalling and communicating to each other.

The night game was a four man at second base with Sherman at the plate. He really knows how to plate a game in front of the camera. Hitters were being punched out all over the place. And they tell me to tone it down. He stands at a height a little shorter than most of the 12 year olds playing the game but was good value to watch.

The game finished at around 6.30pm and it was decided that we would head back to the accommodation for a quick shower and then off to the Workers Club for dinner. My room was a little of from the other shared accommodation that several of the guys were in. I kept an eye on the buses and waited to see movement before I headed down and out in to the cold. 7.45 came around and I decided to head to the main house and see what everyone was doing. House was empty. Guess who they left behind not to mention that every time we were heading of somewhere for the rest of the week there was the call of "Has someone got Heardy".

Each day was more of the same. Cold and wet to start but once the sun took over the grounds and weather were fantastic. It was a great pleasure to watch some good quality baseball and also to watch other umpires working their craft, something that I'm enjoying the more I do it.

There were a lot of highlights over the week. I was given 5 games on diamond 1 (all live streamed) but only one behind the dish. Something I will be able keep a copy of for a while.

But my biggest highlight was being given a spot in the bronze medal game at 3<sup>rd</sup> base which Neil and I both thought would be given the more experienced blues in the crew. Neil getting the 2<sup>nd</sup> base in the gold medal game surprised him as well.

The opportunity to chat with other more experienced blues and guys from around the country was great and something that I look forward to being able to do again

So after umpiring 14 games in 6 days with a good serving of refreshing amber fluids the week came to an end and we all jumped onto the buses for one last road trip back to Coolangatta Airport and begin our long trip home.

*Anthony Heard*



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### The Hit Factory Tour of Singapore

This year in February we had an opportunity to go to Singapore and umpire a tournament for various junior grades. The Hit Factory hosted its second annual THF Classic. Teams from the Asia Pacific Region, including Western Australia, came to Singapore for Under 10, 12 and 14 tournaments.

This was the first opportunity for a number of umpires not only to visit another country but umpire overseas. The umpires selected including myself, Peter Dickenson, Gary Arnell, Travis Erdman, Kyle Tait and Karl Schmidt.

The Tournament commenced on Friday and concluded on the Sunday, all of the umpires generally plate umpired three games a day. As part of the three younger umpire's individual development all three were given the plate game in the grand finals based on their individual performance over the weekend. Travis umpired the 14's, Kyle the 12's and Karl the 10s grade.

All the umpires shown great professionalism and had work and the comments from the Tournament Director as shown below demonstrates that our association is moving in the right direction.

From the Tournament Director Kimberley Conyers *"The umpire crew for this year's THF Classic was flawless, and I can't thank you enough for your hard work and professionalism. Having a professional crew officiating the games certainly took the tournament to a whole new level and it did not go unnoticed. I have received dozens of emails from parents and they have all recognized your efforts and praised your conduct on and off the field. You guys put in long days in the blazing heat, were on time for every single game, knew the rules and applied them beautifully and, most importantly, set the perfect tone for every game with your positive attitude and enthusiasm. You were a key factor in the success of the tournament, and we hope that this year was just the beginning of a growing relationship between The Hit Factory and the Western Australian Baseball Umpire Association.*

*By having professional umpires, the standard of the THF Singapore Classic took another step up this year, and we are hopeful that we can work together again in the future."*

I believe that all the umpires who umpired in Singapore in this tournament got something from the experience if not just going for dinner at "Hooters". Watch this space and more opportunities will come in the next few years.

Lou Bonomi



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### Women's World Cup

Miyazaki Japan, September 2014

To be selected once for represent your country at a world cup is an honour, but twice was beyond my dreams and goals. This time I was off to Miyazaki in the bottom east corner of Japan. Last time I travelled with the team and did pre-tournament games, this time it was travel alone and head straight to the location.

The location to the south of Miyazaki looked like it had previously been a very large beachside holiday area, however maybe distance from other large city's and facilities it seemed to now not be as popular. Despite this we were put up in a reasonable hotel (ANA Holiday Inn) where all officials including the IBAF officials were staying. Catering for breakfast and dinner was smorgasbord – sounds good, for those that enjoy Japanese food, but was getting very “not again” an number of the officials that don't. But we got through – still can't come at cold Spaghetti Bolognaise (this was severed at the ground before games!)

The crew consisted of 9 Females (USA, Canada, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, 3 x Japan, and I) and 5 males (Holland, 4 x Japan), the supervisor was also Japanese (ex Minor league umpire that knew/worked with our own Brett, Jon, Kyle & Travis).

The main stadium that was used was Sun Marine Stadium (would fit about 30,000 plus) this has been used for some minor league ball in Japan, but has also been used for spring training for other Japanese League teams. The other ground that was used was a good half hour drive from the accommodation, this was a totally skinned infield, which made for some interesting times when we hit the days of rain. There were other fields at this location that was used as a result of washouts.

The three umpire system was used for the whole tournament, with four umpire system for finals. So, it was one game per day. I was fortune enough to be part of two night games (one as plate) that where telecast live on Japanese TV (these were also replayed in the early hours of the morning).

As with any international tournament, language barrier was an issue at times, but Google translator got plenty of use and made life easier, and on field we mostly talk the same baseball language.

Rain played a major role during the course of the tournament, with a number of games moved or delayed, but I give credit to the ground staff, especially at the skinned stadium, they worked miracles to get the grounds up. Rain played a role in the Bronze medal game (Australia v Canada), they game had been delayed and a further delay saw the game be moved to another location to finish so the Gold medal game (Japan & USA) could start on time and met the media requirements. Although I must say it was fun watching the support crews of Australian and Canadian teams practicing their slides on the home plate cover during the delay! Australia managed to take the Bronze medal, USA Silver and Japan was again World Champions (4<sup>th</sup> year)

I am pleased to say that I was appointed as the 1st base umpire in the Gold Medal game. Baseball once again provided me with a fantastic experience and learning curve, for which I am forever grateful.

*Fiona Lambrick*



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### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of W.A. Baseball Umpires Association held at Balcatta Baseball Club on Monday 30 June 2014.**

The meeting opened at 7.30p by President, David Gripper.

**Present:** David Gripper (Chair), Peter Bowie, Mark Richardson, Neil Medlin, Lou Bonomi, Brett Robson, Rob Robson, Denny, Dave Russell, Dan Morgan, Peter Dickenson, Alex Ironside, Chris Rapley (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Ryan Harder, Mark Johns, Doug Oliphant, Mike Penn, Tony Lee

**Minutes from the 2014 Annual General Meeting** to be accepted as true and accurate record of that meeting

Proposed by Richardson; Seconded by Bonomi; Carried unopposed

The following reports will were presented from the 2012 Annual Report:

President's  
Secretary's  
Treasurer's  
ABL and Umpires Adviser's  
Australian Youth Championships

#### **Election of Office Bearers**

**Patron:** **Doug Oliphant** nominated by Richardson, seconded by B Robson  
Elected unopposed

**Honorary Auditor:** **Tony Lee** nominated by Richardson, seconded by Bowie  
Elected unopposed

<b>Position of the Executive</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Elected</b>
President	David Gripper	Unopposed
Vice President	Peter Bowie	Unopposed
Secretary	Chris Rapley	Unopposed
Treasurer	Mark Richardson	Unopposed
Committee Member	Lou Bonomi	Unopposed
Committee Member	Dan Morgan	Unopposed

**Life Members:** No Nominations received

#### **General Business:**

Preseason Training dates, venues and key topics were discussed and will be confirmed

Discussion regarding changes in fixturing of grades and impact of moving Colts from Sunday to Saturday.

Noted the resignation of ABF Director Of Umpiring Geoff Roberson.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.30p



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### Agenda of the Annual General Meeting of W.A. Baseball Umpires Association held at Balcatta Baseball Club on Monday 29 June 2015.

The meeting will be opened at 7.30pm by President, David Gripper.

#### **Present:**

#### **Apologies:**

Minutes from the 2014 Annual General Meeting will be tabled

The following reports will be presented in a summarized format extracted from the 2015 Annual Report:

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
ABL and Umpires Adviser's  
Australian Youth Championships

#### **Election of Office Bearers**

Patron:

Honorary Auditor:

<b>Position of the Executive</b>	<b>Nominations Received</b>	<b>Elected</b>
President	David Gripper	
Vice President	Peter Bowie	
Secretary	Chris Rapley	
Treasurer	Mark Richardson	
Committee Member	Lou Bonomi	
Committee Member	Dan Morgan	

**Life Members:** No Nominations Received

#### **General Business:**

Preseason Training Dates and venues