



## 2016 Annual Report



80<sup>th</sup> Year

# Annual Report 2016



## 2016 Annual Report

### Office Bearers

---

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>

---

### Life Members

---

<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

---



## 2016 Annual Report

### Trophy Winners

---

Umpire of the Year (Peter Solomon Trophy)	<b>Peter Bowie</b>
Most Improved Umpire (Dennis Osborn Trophy)	<b>Ben Stone</b>
Best Minor Grade Umpire (WA Baseball Scorers & Statisticians Association Trophy)	<b>Lance Mackichan</b>
Rookie of the Year (Mick Mount Trophy)	<b>Stuart Tyson</b>
Meritorious Service Award (Eric Knight Trophy)	<b>Lou Bonomi Chris Rapley</b>

---

### National Championship Appointments

---

ABL	<b>Lou Bonomi Peter Bowie Ryan Harder Brett Robson</b>
Under 16 and 18	<b>Terry Ford Peter Handcock Neil Medlin</b>
Women's and Girls	<b>Fiona Lambrick</b>
Junior League	<b>Fiona Lambrick Lance McKichan Rod Ness Gary Arnell</b>
Little League	<b>Frank Millard Stuart Tyson Bradley Fraser Kai Kurasho Liam Olesen</b>

---

### International Appointments

---

WBC Qualifiers (Sydney)	<b>Brett Robson</b>
Women's World Cup	<b>Fiona Lambrick</b>
The Hit Factory Tour of Singapore	<b>Gary Arnell Lou Bonomi Dan Morgan</b>

---



## 2016 Annual Report

### President's Report



I take pleasure in presenting my report for the 2015/2016 season. From an umpiring perspective, I consider that we have had another strong year in providing fully accredited umpires to the various needs of the baseball fraternity. It has been necessary to provide them from Little League right through to ABL and national championship level. To all umpires who have officiated at any level; a job well done and a job which is ultimately appreciated by the whole of the baseball community. I know that at times it does not feel that way but, believe me, they do appreciate the work we do.

From an administrative angle I would like to congratulate the whole committee on the work they do to keep our association as the most revered in Australia. We do not have internal fighting, we do all pull in the one direction and all decisions made are for the betterment of our membership. Chris Rapley has again co-ordinated the training programs and he keeps tweaking the program to ensure its relevance and to ensure there is something in it for all levels of umpires. He is very ably assisted by Peter Bowie and Brett Robson. Again, our program is considered superior to any training program from interstate.

From a financial and umpire allocation angle, Mark Richardson has continued to weave his magic by getting BWA to schedule games that best suit our ability to get umpires 2 games per day without excess travelling and without having to sit around for hours between games.

Again in relation to training Lou Bonomi was instrumental in getting the green shirt program rolled out to over 120 newbies who were then able to umpire club Little League games and all Junior League games. Awesome work Lou and others who assisted along the way. Dan Morgan took some of the pressure off Lou this year by taking over the Little League State Championships Umpire Supervisor role. All at Little League were impressed by Dan's commitment and they are pleased to hear that he is willing to repeat his performance this coming season.

Peter Bowie has had his hands, and shed, full with the constant demands of providing us with the best uniforms and equipment possible. New black umpire shirts will be all the rage this coming season. I guess that means we will need black caps instead of navy. More pressure on the shed!!

Last, but by no means least, I would also like to recognise the value of the assistance we continue to receive from Brett Robson. He is always willing to provide guidance, and also to work with, umpires at any level. If his excitement at the performance of our Little League umpires continues, I can see him working Little League games very soon. With Brett's new role as Head of Technical Officials, Baseball Australia, he has his hands full but is enjoying the position and will continue his support where possible. I would like to acknowledge those umpires who won awards at our trophy presentation night, and those who were selected to officiate at national championships:

- Umpire of the Year – Peter Bowie
- Most Improved Umpire – Ben Stone
- Best Minor Grades Umpire – Lance Mackichan
- Rookie Umpire – Stuart Tyson
- Meritorious Service Award – Lou Bonomi and Chris Rapley



## 2016 Annual Report

Under 16's and Under 18's Championships – Mike Penn and Ben Stone  
Women's Championships – Fiona Lambrick  
Junior League Championships – Gary Arnell, Lance Mackichan, Fiona Lambrick & Rod Ness  
Little League National Championships – Frank Millard, Stuart Tyson, Bradley Fraser, Kai Kurasho & Liam Olesen

I look forward to seeing all umpires at our pre-season training again this year. Watch this space for details, again re tweaked to maintain relevance for all umpires.

*David Gripper*

President



## 2016 Annual Report

### Secretary's Report



Our 80<sup>th</sup> season was another one of great application, excellent judgement, nimble athleticism and the right amount of mischief and embellishment. Standout moment capturing all of above included the awards night where all attended dazzled in formal regalia and again confirmed that as a group of umpires our partner steal the show in the fashion stakes and reminded many that we look far better behind the mask. Another top moment was our Umpire Appreciation Night at the Ballpark we were able for publically recognize Gripper for his tremendous service to baseball. He had been practicing tossing the first pitch for weeks – such is his dedication!!

Speaking of Gripper, again we were under his great stewardship and again he opened up his home (with permission from Robyn). Each month the Great minds of our organization meeting in a forum that resemble more the local RSL rather than that of a super-efficient organization of uber-sex cymbals (that's right we go all out for a bang-bang play!).

Richo's continual meddling with the fixtures has kept each of us on our toes and BWA in a constant flux of confusion. Fortunately the combination of two yet to be completely understood entities (that's Richo and BWA) has led to a highly functional partnership – who knew!?!

It would be a great misconception that our association is run by intelligent people who know what is best and continually make the right decisions. It is a misconception we are willing to propagate. In truth however the real brain food that we run on is Cheesecake. Thus without Pete Bowie's connections in the Black Forrest Cheesecake market, we would be dead in the water – Thanks Deb.

By far and away the shining stars of our season were the continuing development of the enthusiastic group of young umpires that culminated in some of them attending various national tournaments this season. Their addition to our Monday night rules meetings and their excitement towards umpiring has reminded many of the old crusties that we really do this caper for fun – even if we cop a bit of flack along the way....

*Cheers*

*Rappers 2016*



## 2016 Annual Report

### Treasurer's Report



#### **My fellow umpires**

I have pleasure in presenting this report for the season ending May 2016.

We purchased a significant amount of uniforms in readiness for next season which became necessary following the changes of operations at Baseball Australia. Hence our stock-take shows an inflated amount but this will be reduced once the season starts and we sell the new gear.

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. These expenses are growing slightly due to the increased number of tournaments at which our umpires attend.

The costs for the annual dinner were higher than last year with a really good turn-out of our members and invited special guests. Thanks must go to Chris Rapley and his helpers for doing a terrific job again organizing the event.

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. Due to my continued efforts to prompt the payments on time the late fees were only \$51.20 this year, much 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 2016

### 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 2016.

Based upon the information presented to me, the Financial Report for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 presents a true and correct record.

*Tony Lee*  
Honorary Auditor  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2016



## 2016 Annual Report

### Umpires Adviser Report

Another very successful season for our ABL panel. While the Perth HEAT team was not as strong as usual, the umpiring panel continued its growth and maturity unabated. The panel is now in a fortunate position of not needing Brett Robson onfield for every game of every series. This bears testament to the work that Brett puts into the group on and off the field. As would be normal, Ryan, Lou and Peter all have their own personalities and style; however on any given day there is not a lot of difference in their actual umpiring ability.

Consistency of performance is the key to any successful umpire and this is even more desirable at ABL level. This is one overriding factor which keeps the Perth panel on top of the game across Australia. A quick look at televised games interstate leaves no doubt that this panel is better trained and performs at a higher level more consistently than any other panel.

Brett was selected for the ABL Championship series in Brisbane where he performed admirably. This sort of challenge never fails to bring out the best in Brett and, following this series, Brett was added to the panel for the World Baseball Classic qualifying round. Again, Brett's plate work had him positioned in front of the other international umpiring crew.

The future of the ABL for 2016/2017 is not clear at this point. MLB's sponsorship deal has expired and to date ABL has not been able to find another major sponsor. The season will probably go ahead, albeit at reduced number of games and perhaps with less import players than in previous years.

I would like to thank Chris Rapley for stepping into my role for a series while I was overseas and also to Doug Oliphant who continues to not only provide food the team but also assists me early in games with assessments.

*David Gripper*

ABL Supervisor





## 2016 Annual Report

### 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



## 2016 Annual Report

### Women's and Girls National Championships

#### January 2016 – Canberra

This was my ninth Womens National Championships and fourth Junior Girls. Six teams in both competitions, and fourteen Umpires.

I was assistant co-ordinator with Matthew Pearson. As with any tournament we experienced issues with the weather, extreme heat (enough to invoke a couple breaks in the games) to a little rain. But the tournament went smoothly, the umpiring even better. No surprises to see NSW dominated the tournament, and great to see the Junior WA girls come home with the win. I officiated at 1<sup>st</sup> base on the Gold medal game. I will also be representing Australia at the Women's World Cup in South Korea in September.

*Fiona Labrick*

### Junior League Championships

#### May 2016 – Adelaide

First time doing this level in about 4 years and first experience with the Charter type tournament, 16 teams and 12 umpires for a 5 days of fun.

This tournament was spread over 2 locations for the first two days of pool play. Elimination and consolation games for the last 3 days, unfortunately a full day (day 4) was lost to rain, and the last day only the semi-finals and Gold medal game was played. Disappointing end to what started out so well.

Facilities at West Beach are very good for all, great location for this level of baseball. Great starting place for newer umpires to understand requirements around tournaments (yes it is harder on the body than one or two games a week). Was a great experience with my rookie WA umpires – Lance McKichan, Rod Ness, Gary Arnell, whom I am sure all took away a lot their week in Adelaide. I officiated at 1<sup>st</sup> base in the Gold medal game, and the plate on one of the semi-finals, whilst Gary was allocated a base on a semi-final.

*Fiona Labrick*



## 2016 Annual Report

### The Hit Factory Tour of Singapore

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

The umpire this year included me, Gary Arnell and Dan Morgan. We did have a blow in from Darwin (Lance Schmidt). Unfortunately THF Classic for whatever reason did not consider that the younger umpire would be to the standard. This is something I will take up with the THF if they request for umpire up and coming tournaments. This is a great opportunity and reward for the younger umpire to get this experience.

The Tournament commenced on Friday and concluded on the Monday, all of the umpires generally plate umpired three games a day.

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.

*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.

Watch this space and more opportunities will come in the next few years.

Lou Bonomi

### Under 25's National Championship

The Under 25's National Championship was held this year at the Cairns Queensland in September 2015. In addition to myself the umpires were from Queensland, Cairns, Canberra and the tournament director from South Australia.

This tournament plays a key role in the development pathway for elite athletes and provides a valuable testing ground for our elite, young, home-based players. A number of players representing their states also played in this year Australian Baseball League teams or have represented their state in Under 18 National Championships currently or in recent years.

The **Under 25 Championship** attracted sides from South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria.

The schedule for the championships was that all teams played a double header over the first four days of the competition. An elimination type final was held with the gold medal game competed between New South Wales and Queensland which was won by Queensland. Western Australia did not send a team in this tournament.

I was fortunate to be selected to umpire at the tournament and the experience of umpiring at a very good level of baseball was very rewarding. I had an incredible time



## 2016 Annual Report

and would highly recommend any of the umpires to take on this experience and challenge if given the opportunity.

Lou Bonomi

### National School Sports Baseball Championships

The crew that morphed in to being for the second week in May out at Baseball Park may have, at times been a shadow of their former capabilities, may have at times been under the influence of enhanced metabolic material and also may have had, at times the best six days of their year on or off a baseball field! That is to say we had crew of exceptional experience, unparalleled talent, unheralded use of anti-inflammatory and an expanded understanding of the English language – split infinitives notwithstanding.

The Crew represented the best Australia could offer. We had ABL experience (both ABL's), National tournament experience, American accents, home gown talent, 5-footers, 6-footers, as well as some ring-ins from Canberra. That is to say we had it all – most had seen it, some probably forgot much of it but all had the ability to make a lot of it up when needed.

The mood was very light hearted – it had to be as many of the crew has heart problems – but as the light heartedness increased so did the resolve to perform better and better – within the limitations of “supreme athleticism”. The crew of Gripper, Penn, Robson (Snr), O'Malley, Grotto, Rapley with special guests Morgan, Benfield Bowie and Bonomi along with Catering Manager Oliphant were treated to a week of exceptional talent as the best school aged baseballers showed their wares. Working with such experience where seamless rotations, punctuality, and umpiring artistry were commonplace it was easy to forget there was even an umpiring crew out there....

And that's how it should be – the men in blue playing the supporting role to the young players of the game. However off the field was an entirely different matter. But for those tales you will need to supply the writer with more of his favorite companions – Scarp and Toni - or be part of the next School Boys Championships.

Rappers  
Correspondent



## 2016 Annual Report

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

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, Dave Russell, Dan Morgan, Anthony Heard, Colin Patton, Gary Arnell, Kevin Delahay, Fiona Lambrick, Chris Rapley (Minutes).

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

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

Proposed by Brett Robson; Seconded by Bonomi; Carried unopposed

The following reports will were presented from the 2015 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 Bonommi  
Appointed unopposed

**Honorary Auditor:** **Tony Lee** nominated by Richardson, seconded by Bowie  
Appointed 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
Committee Member	Dave Russell	Unopposed

**Life Members:** No Nominations received

#### **General Business:**

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

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



## 2016 Annual Report

### Agenda of the Annual General Meeting of W.A. Baseball Umpires Association held at Balcatta Baseball Club on Monday 27 June 2016.

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

#### **Present:**

#### **Apologies:**

Minutes from the 2015 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	
Committee Member	Dave Russell	

**Life Members:** No Nominations Received

#### **General Business:**

Preseason Training Dates and venues