The coveted Crockett Shield, presented by Bob Crockett’s son, J.M. Crockett in 1947, for the biennial cricket match between teams from the VCAUA (now VCAUSA) and the SACUA (now SACUSA). (See article p 13.)

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VCA Umpires’ & Scorers’ Association Newsletter
Vol. 25 No. 7, 2018-2019 season
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G.P. Schembri (2018)

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Welcome to our colleagues from “across the border” for the 2019 Easter Exchange. For those of you who regularly read this Newsletter, published approximately monthly during the cricket season, you will note that this is truly a “bumper issue” which I trust will be the source of some entertainment and discussion during the Easter weekend. The highlight is again the Crockett Shield Match, the 41st in the series and I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Kristen Thomas is bringing you some interesting facts from the Crockett Shield history under the heading of “The 2019 Crockett Shield Mission Continues.”

There are the regular columns from both the VCAUSA President and our CV Umpire & Coach Education Manager as well another under the heading “Macca’s Book Review” for which I am grateful to Eric Kelly for his review of the recently published book The Pastor and the Painter. Thanks also to our recent visitor from SACUSA, Dhaval Bhatt, for his report on his experiences in the SA/Vic umpire exchange and likewise to Vinit Mahna, our visitor from Auckland this season, in the NZ/Vic umpire exchange. Vinit’s report follows that by Michael Hill from Christchurch, published in the previous issue, February, 2019.

Following the inaugural National Premier T20 Championships held in Adelaide, I thank Chris Grant and Tony Medina, the Victorian umpires appointed to officiate in that event, for their reports which I trust readers find of some interest.

The recent social cricket match between the VCAUSA and Mount Waverley Vets is well reported by John Richards, despite his “defection” to the opposition. As usual, I have supplemented a few pages with several items of interest from recent issues of Playing the Game. Thanks again to Luke Edwards, our inaugural VCAUSA/CV Scholarship recipient, for the second report on his experiences in this role and we wish him well for his future in umpiring.

Hopefully, the column, “My Favourite Test Team”, which we were able to commence in the February issue, thanks to the initiative of Tim Wendelken, will create some interesting discussion during the Easter weekend. I am most grateful to those five readers who accepted the invitation to add to this column in this special issue. As mentioned previously, in the first issue for Season 2019-20 we shall publish “The Most Popular Favourite Test Team” from an analysis of the various teams selected.

You should find the cricket quiz of some interest and on the inside back cover, please take note of the ongoing VCAUSA Calendar for 2019-20, to the extent that dates are known.

As we have done for recent issues of Law 43, I invite those of you who will take off-season holidays to send in a report on your holiday experiences. In sending in your reports, please remember the old cliché, “A picture is worth a thousand words!” You can be assured that, provided I am not challenged for the task of Law 43 Editor at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in August, all your submitted off-season holiday reports will be published in the early issues next season, commencing in September.

May I wish both SACUSA and VCAUSA members and families participating in Easter, 2019, a most pleasant exchange. Hopefully, we shall be favoured with perfect weather!

Trevor Finlayson
... AND THE PRESIDENT – PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

On behalf of all members of the VCAUSA we congratulate the players, scorers and umpires who experienced finals action this season. Many of us visited the different venues to show support for our colleagues and we caught up on the hill at the CitiPower Centre during the 1st XI grand final. As a busy season ends we welcome our SACUSA colleagues and their families to Melbourne for the 2019 Easter exchange, to fight for the Crockett Shield and Butler Trophy. This will be the 41st Crockett Shield match and the 10th Butler Trophy family-day event.

Over the past two months we had the luxury of training at the CitiPower Centre indoor nets thanks to Cricket Victoria and Umpiring Manager Jason Leonard-Scott and at Maddock Sports in Blackburn. With 18 potential players attending, the selectors had plenty of options at their disposal. The Committee of Management thanks the Easter sub-committee of Gerry Schembri, Trevor Finlaysen, John Richards and John Collins for their work and is sure that Captain John Richards and the team will give their all. We also thank Heinz Southern District (HSD) Cricket Club and the City of Casey for their help in securing a turf ground so late in April.

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Dinner and Presentation night on Friday, 17th May, to celebrate a successful season and to congratulate the winners of various awards which, for the first time, will include the Ray Isherwood Perpetual Trophy for the Representative Umpire of the Season. Ray Isherwood was a President of the Committee of Management, a Life Member of the VCAUSA, Test and First-Class umpire, a member of the Cricket Victoria 200 club and a Captain of the Victorian Crockett Shield team. The Committee of Management is grateful to the Isherwood family for permission to name the award in his honour and to the Bomford family for the donation of the trophy. In addition, we should like to acknowledge the work of members of the Monash Men’s Shed, both for the refurbishment of the perpetual trophy and for the production of individual trophies to be retained by each recipient of this award.

Finally – Richie Benaud on the front-foot, No-Ball Law – “Players have snarled at it, umpires have taken the easy way out with it, spectators have been, are and always will be annoyed by it and administrators are scared to do anything about it.” – Chappelli Has the Last Laugh (1980) Lansdowne, Sydney p.54.

Alan McCarthy

-----------------------------------------------------

A FAMOUS CRICKET FEUD

Dennis Lillee and Sunil Gavasker

Controversially given out lbw to Lillee in the 1980-81 series, the Indian captain exchanged angry words with the bowler before trudging back towards the pavilion. On the way, he claimed Lillee abused him at which point Gavasker asked non-striker, Chetan Chauhan to walk off the field, thereby forfeiting the match. Fortunately, Gavasker calmed down and India went on to claim an historic triumph.


-----------------------------------------------------
Just like that, season 2018/19 is in the books! It’s fair to say that my first full season in the Manager’s role has seen some challenges, successes and learning opportunities. I’m particularly proud of the progress the panel have made this season. Overall, the captains have rated the group higher in all areas (Table 1). This is testament to the effort and energy everyone has contributed to preparation, communication and the team-first attitude.

On an individual ‘grade’ basis, the Third XI (+0.01) and Fourth XI (+0.01) panels remained essentially steady whilst the First XI (+0.22) showed outstanding growth to average 2.50 as a group! The disappointing result was the Second XI which decreased by 0.10. These changes may be attributed to many and varied reasons, which we will unpack as a panel in the lead-up to next season.

Table 1. Comparison of Captains’ Reports data for seasons 2017/18 and 2018/19.

| Grades | number of reports | A   | B   | C   | D   | E   | F   | G   | H   | I   | J   | K   | ave |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ALL    | 2017/18           | 3067| 2.33| 2.34| 2.33| 2.35| 2.29| 2.27| 2.30| 2.31| 192 | 2.12| 2.31|
| ALL    | 2018/19           | 2666| 2.40| 2.43| 2.41| 2.46| 2.35| 2.28| 2.34| 2.37| 203 | 2.09| 2.38|
| change |                   |     | 0.07| 0.09| 0.08| 0.11| 0.06| 0.01| 0.04| 0.06| 0.07|     | 0.07|

Thanks go to the mentors, off-field observers and umpires for their support of the MOS system which will be expanded in the future.

Congratulations go to all our Grand-Final umpires across the season in all formats:

- **Youth Premier League**
  - Under 14 Female: Sarah Fishley & Jeff Diamond-Smith
  - Under 14 Male: Colin Hall & Russell Turner
  - Under 16 Male: Dan Bomford & Tony Medina
  - Under 17 Female: Bill Sheahan & Samy Muthugounder
  - Under 18 Male: Darrell Holt & Nick Frampton

- **Premier Cricket**
  - Firsts:
    - Women’s: Gaurav Bawa & Nick Frampton (3rd: Jamie Wyatt)
    - Men’s: Phil Gillespie & Geoff Joshua (3rd: David Shepard)
  - Seconds:
    - Women’s: James Watson & Alfred Gaugham (3rd: Kim Faulkner)
    - Men’s: Mick Nolan & Russell Turner (3rd: Tim Wendelken)
  - Thirds:
    - Men’s: Lisa McCabe & Malcolm Gunn (3rd: Glenn Schache)
  - Fourth:
    - Men’s: Andre Conradie & Jeff Diamond-Smith (3rd: Malcolm Wood)

- **Premier T/20**
  - Firsts:
    - Super Slam: Greg Azzopardi & Daryl Brigham (3rd: Chris Grant)
VCAUSA umpire awards will be presented at the dinner on Friday, 17th May, so I’ll congratulate the winners after that. Needless to say, it was a difficult process selecting the umpire of the year in each grade, as well as the inaugural Isherwood trophy for “Best Representative Umpire” … a very pleasant problem to have.

At the recent Ryder/Paisley night, I was very pleased to award Colin Hall with the Umpire Recognition Award. It was fair to say Colin was surprised and very humbled to achieve this award… well deserved, Colin.

I look forward to welcoming the SACUSA members, family and friends to Melbourne for the Crockett Shield. Let’s hope the weather looks after us and we can get a great game in… best of luck to both sides and may the best team win.

Exchanges were held with New Zealand and South Australia. Many thanks to Matt Robertson (to Christchurch), Mark Malmberg (to Auckland) and Adam Hawking (to Adelaide) for representing Victorian Premier Cricket with such distinction. We welcomed to Melbourne Michael Hill (from Christchurch), Vinit Manha (from Auckland) and Dhaval Bhatt (from Adelaide).

End-of-Season Interviews, somewhat worrying (unnecessarily) called “exit interviews” are being scheduled as I write this. Whilst voluntary, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with as many umpires as possible to discuss their progress and help set realistic goals for the coming seasons.

Being a member of the Premier Cricket Umpires' Panel is a privilege, not a right, and adherence to the values, coaching instructions and team ethos are absolutely not negotiable. Along with Performance, Coachability, Character, Chemistry and Teamwork are the key characteristics required to be on the panel. All of them, not just a few! It is for this reason that some current panel members may not have their application to join the panel accepted for season 2019/20.

Our Mantras played a significant role in season 2018/19. These we referred to at each T&D.

It was interesting to note that the report/caution data was almost identical this season. The significant change being the recognition of behaviour as ‘reportable’ rather than just a ‘caution’ (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>Cautions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I’d like to think that this is because we’ve remembered that “The behaviour we ignore is the behaviour we approve.”

Very few captains commented on poor explanations (though there were a few) and there were more comments from them about clear and courageous decision making under pressure. Well done all.

I’ll save the rest for my speech at the VCAUSA dinner… until then, See them well!

Jason Leonard-Scott

Quotable Quote

“All I can say is that I have taken more out of alcohol that alcohol has taken out of me.”

I returned a call to Sarah Fry one afternoon and got a surprise from her! Sarah asked me if I was available to umpire in Victoria as part of 'Umpire exchange' on 9th & 10th February (a Saturday – Sunday round). It didn’t take me more than couple of seconds to say ‘Yes’. She provided some logistic details and we locked myself in for the Melbourne visit.

I received a welcome email from Jason Leonard-Scott. He also sent me a CV Handbook (Playing Conditions). Sarah sent my itinerary and Jason sent another email with my appointment details (Fitzroy Doncaster vs Prahran).

What else? Excitement! I received everything by now and my preparations started. My preparations involved:

- Ground location;
- Accommodation location and distance from ground;
- Umpiring gears which I had to take with me;
- Reading of playing conditions; and
- Weather forecast.

Leading into the week, I called Scott Olufson (my umpiring partner) to discuss a few things – playing conditions, ground, weather. I was very happy and more confident after talking to him.

I flew on 8th February evening flight and Jason came to pick me up. He dropped me at my hotel around 10:15 pm. We discussed about the next day’s game and Cricket in Victoria while going to the hotel. He gave me an on-field shirt and a hat with my Cricket Victoria Umpiring Heritage Number on it.

Scott came to pick me up at my hotel next day around 9:20 am. We reached Schramms Reserve (the home ground of Fitzroy Doncaster) in five minutes. We had another surprise while going to the ground. It started raining. By the time we reached the ground, it was pouring. We kept our gear in the room and went outside. We gathered in 15-20 minutes that we would have a delayed start. We went back to our room and again discussed playing conditions with all possibilities for a rain-affected day.

We observed the ground and pitch conditions after the rain completely stopped. We discussed a few areas of concern and decided to start the game at 1:00 pm. Before we could start, it rained again which pushed our start to 1:15 pm.

Finally, we got a start. Prahran won the toss and with no surprise, they decided to bowl first. We played for about an hour before we had another rain break. Our on/off field runs stopped after this and we had continuity for a cricket match. However, it was not the best conditions in which to play or umpire a game of cricket with wind, clouds and cold. However, I enjoyed the experience. Both teams played well and kept the game very well open for them to go into Day 2.

Jason had organized dinner and five of us enjoyed delicious food and the evening. (Jason, Luke, Alan, Sue & myself - Scott had a prior commitment so he couldn’t join.)
Day 2:

Again, Scott was at my hotel around 9:45 in the morning. Weather was pleasant.

Fitzroy Doncaster set a target of 281 for Prahran with a minimum of 85 overs left in the day. Prahran chased this total down with two wickets in hand and eight balls to spare. It was a close game and I could not have asked for a better debut in Victoria than this one. Both captains and some of the team players complimented both umpires’ work which included 164 overs in two days.

Schramms Reserve is a very good cricket ground with an excellent wicket. I enjoyed the hospitality during breaks. Scott was very kind enough to drop me back to the airport after the game.

It was a fantastic weekend with opportunities to meet new teams, new colleagues and to experience a different venue and Melbourne weather. I really enjoyed the weekend and would like to thank Sarah, Daniel, Jason and all from both States for this opportunity.

Thank you and warm regards.

Dhaval Bhatt (CV Umpire No. 588)

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MEET A RECENT RECRUIT TO THE CV PANEL FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Luke Uthenwoldt: So here I am now residing in this crazy city of Melbourne. My lovely lady, Claire, and I moved here in late January, from Adelaide. I had had enough of cheering on my beloved Western Bulldogs from 800kms away, so moving was an easier option! I jest of course, being a Bulldogs fan in Adelaide was a lot of fun.

I took up cricket umpiring when I was a real youngster. Way back during the 2003/2004 cricket season. I realised I was never going to play State cricket by that stage, so to earn a few dollars and stay in the game, I thought I’d give umpiring a go. Prior to taking up cricket umpiring, I had been umpiring football for a few years so I already had an “umpires’ mentality” to the game, so things progressed quickly from there.

My debut 1st grade game was in 2005 and it has been non-stop ever since. Over 150 first-grade games in Adelaide, a few years on the State Panel, Underage championships, seven 1st grade grand finals in the two-day comp, numerous grand finals in the shorter formats, plus a BBL Final as 4th umpire at the home of cricket, Adelaide Oval.

Mid last year, Claire and I decided on a fresh start as such, somewhere else. We both loved visiting Melbourne, so it was a relatively easy decision on where to go. Claire applied for a few jobs, got one relatively easily and here we are.

Away from the game, along with cheering on the Western Bulldogs, I am regularly seen talking about the Green Bay Packers in the NFL and will always wake up bright and early on a Monday morning during the NFL season to see them play.

In terms of work I have always worked with coffee: from managing coffee shops, doing barista work and drinking coffee. So, it’s no surprise to regularly see me with a coffee in one hand.

Over time I look forward to meeting you all and hopefully umpiring with a lot of you!

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I was extremely privileged to be appointed to the National Premier T20 Championships (NPT20) in Adelaide from 4th to 6th March. The tournament brought together the best T20 Premier Cricket teams from around the country. I was also very excited to see “The Great” Tony Medina had also been appointed.

We arrived into Adelaide in time to attend the pre-tournament meetings and Live Draw. Both events were held at the Adelaide Oval and it was great to see the famous ground since its renovations. Meeting the umpires from other states was excellent, I knew a couple already by name, but it was great to put a face to the name. Everyone got on very well from the outset, which made standing with any of them on-field very easy.

Each of the teams and Match Officials group had photos taken under the old scoreboard. The Live Draw was hosted by former Australian and South Australian cricketer Wayne Phillips, who was extremely funny and read the room very well. The Live Draw was an interesting concept and one that generated a fair bit of interest. It turned out that Carlton would play Dandenong in Round 2, remarkable coincidence. Once the draw was complete, the Match Officials team received their umpire appointments. For me, Round 1 had me down to umpire Carlton vs University of Queensland, and Round 2, Melville (WA) vs Tuggeranong Valley (ACT).

It appeared many of the Carlton and Uni Q’ld players knew one another (perhaps from a few beers the night before), which made the match a friendly affair. Carlton held Uni Q’ld to a gettable target and did so with a minimum amount of fuss. My colleague for this match was Suranga Lekamarchchi from the ACT. He was great to stand with, a pretty laid-back character and a great partner. My afternoon match had a number of current and former First-Class cricketers which amped up the intensity. Tuggeranong Valley had three Floros brothers, the eldest, Jason, is a former Queensland Domestic One-Day Captain and Melville had Usman Qadir who, from all reports, for the first match was unplayable. Melville eventually took the chocolates and won through to the Semi-Finals phase. My partner for this game was the Northern Territory’s Mark Donfeld. He’s one of the Territory’s top umpires who’s done a lot of CA Tournament cricket and is a top man to boot. Mark brought the experience of the NT Strike
League where Steve Smith and David Warner commenced their comebacks. Qadir bowled from the other end but I was to get a closer look in my next match.

After Day 1, the Match Officials team got to bond over dinner and share a few stories from the Day. We also found out the umpire appointments for the remaining matches. I was lucky enough to be appointed to the Semi-Final between Uni Q’ld and Melville on the Main Oval at the Karen Rolton precinct. I was paired with Eloise Sheridan, one of South Australia’s leading umpires. Eloise was a calm presence throughout, particularly through a tricky rain delay and calculations scenario. Usman Qadir came on to bowl from my end and it was a terrific experience to have a difficult leg-spinner bowl from my end (difficult to pick not a difficult player, he’s a gentleman). With it all on the line, the match intensity was higher than normal, so it was both a thrill and a relief to come out the other side. Eloise had a great game and as such went through to the Final to officiate with Tasmanian Umpire Jerry Matibiri. Jerry is a Test Umpire from Zimbabwe so to have him a part of our Match Officials team was brilliant.

I was fortunate again to sit on the sidelines for the Final between Carlton and Uni Q’ld as the Reserve Umpire. The Final was closely fought with Carlton prevailing after a tight last five overs. Uni Q’ld were cruising until they lost a couple of very untimely wickets. It was said before the tournament started that a few players will be ‘uncovered’ from the final and potentially pick up professional or Rookie contracts. For mine, the Uni Q’ld captain, Dom Michael, is one of those and I’ll be interested to see if he gets a chance. I watched three of his four games closely and he impressed me no end.

The tournament itself was extremely well run and provided a great cricketing experience for players and umpires who might not get an opportunity at National Level. It also gives these players and umpires the opportunity to show their wares in front of State selectors and administrators. I’m grateful to Jason Leonard-Scott for appointing me to this tournament in the first place. Cricket Australia are placing a greater emphasis on Premier Cricket which is very encouraging for all players and umpires plying our trade week in week out. I’m also very appreciative of CA Match Referee, Damian Herft, who ran a tight ship and was very supportive of all 12 umpires. Lastly the ground staff at the Karen Rolton Oval complex are a brilliant team and they should be congratulated, as should the SACA and their staff on the ground. The Tournament was brilliantly run and the facilities and support made it such a success. It was a great experience and one for which I am very thankful.

Chris Grant

I was thrilled to be invited to represent CV as one of two Victorian umpires for the NPT20. What a great experience it turned out to be.

I flew in on Monday afternoon, leaving Melbourne with Chris, Suranga Lekamarachchi (ACT Umpire) and two teams aboard, Tuggeranong Valley (ACT) and Carlton. We arrived safely, navigated our way to the motel, met all of the other Match Officials and it was then straight off to the Adelaide Oval for the serious stuff:

- **A Cricket Australia Integrity session**: As the games were being streamed live and betting would be taking place, it was made very clear here that we were not to bet, talk to family or others...
about the games that would assist betting and if someone approached us, we were to inform CA. We would also be relinquishing our mobile phones during each day’s play.

- **Pre-Championship briefing:** This was a discussion with Match Officials, Team Managers and Captains, around the playing conditions.

- **Group and Captains’ Photos:** This was conducted under the historic scoreboard at the Adelaide Oval, what a buzz!

- **The Live Draw:** Wayne Phillips was the MC and he was so funny and quick witted. As it turned out, Carlton and Dandenong were matched in the same side of the draw for Day 1 action and I joked with my new colleagues that I certainly wouldn’t be doing that game and it was set for the main ground, Karen Rolton Oval (KRO).

As we prepared to leave the function, Damian Herft, Tournament Match Referee, announced to our team the following day’s appointments, I was allocated: Game 1: Sutherland vs Tuggeranong Valley (TV) with Eloise Sheridan, SA; Game 2: Dandenong vs Carlton with John Sherry, WA. Can you believe that? **WOW**, all the way to Adelaide to umpire the Vics!

So after a pretty rough night of sleep, tossing and turning all night, it was off to the KRO precinct, arriving at 8:45 am. We had plenty of time to explore the venue prior to our first game. Eloise and I were on Oval 1, which, funnily enough, is the farthest one from KRO and the facilities were outrageously good. I couldn’t even spot a weed! The curators and staff were busy preparing the pitches and outfields and it was a hive of activity. So exciting!

Sutherland, NSW, coached by Steve Smith, had young Austin Waugh playing and Steve Waugh was also in attendance. That’s a lot of pressure I’m feeling and to add to that, the match was being recorded and also coded, which means that all our decisions and dismissals were being scrutinised. Eloise and I hit it off famously and by the time the toss occurred, I’d extracted almost all of her cricket playing and umpiring career so I allowed her to choose her end, as I am prone to do. The toss came down in favour of Sutherland and they sent TV in to bat.

TV (with four Floros brothers playing) batted quite well and finished on 7/156, with a lost ball into the train line. I had joked with Eloise at the time that it might have hit the Ghan, had it been chugging past. Sutherland in response started slowly but quickly picked up the pace, passing the target score with the loss of only two wickets in the 15th over. Opener, Biviano made an unbeaten 103.

Two amazing things happened in this batting innings. One was the Indian Pacific chugging slowly by and even more amazing was that one of those two wickets was caught by the keeper after the batter smashed it into his own foot. Eloise beckoned me towards her and asked me what I saw. I couldn’t categorically say that it didn’t hit the ground. However, she said she was sure it hadn’t, so I encouraged her to back her judgement and she signalled OUT.

Immediately after the game, we were able to review that vision. In fact, it was clearly an awesome decision by Eloise and that was a great relief. Great job, Game 1 done.

After a relaxing lunch in KRO pavilion it was preparation time for Game 2 on KRO proper. This was the venue for the Australian Women vs New Zealand Women One Day International a few week’s earlier. It is a first-class venue, with

Tony Medina (right) takes the field with John Sherry for Game 2 on Karen Rolton Oval. (Photograph courtesy of Carmen and John Sherry)
sightscreens as wide as you’ve seen at both ends with scaffolding and TV cameras set up at the Northern end. I jokingly said at lunch that the cameras should get my best angle, the back of me. I offered my partner from WA, John Sherry, his choice of end but he is one of those chaps who likes to throw the bail in the air to decide which end to stand and luckily for the viewing public, the bail told me I had to do the Northern end.

Dandenong won the toss and batted, struggling to 9/138. Never enough! Carlton cruised to victory with eight wickets and two overs to spare, Evan Gulbis 61 n.o. and Tom Smyth 51. They didn’t know it until much later but unfortunately for Dandenong, they missed the live semi-finals by 0.01.

Back to the motel and out to dinner with the Match Officials team, then it’s a reasonably early night. At dinner the appointments were announced and I was happy for Chris and Eloise who would be both be doing one of the live semi-finals – Melville vs Uni Q’ld. I was rapt to be allocated to a semi-final with TV again, this time against the NT team, City Cyclones, at the Adelaide Oval #2, with Suranga Lekamarachchi.

What an experience it was to use the Match Officials’ Rooms enjoyed by Test and First-Class umpires and use the dining room that the Test and NUP lads share with the players, the amazing choices for lunch!. I discovered and then took a photo of Ashley Barrow’s signature on a giant board in the change room, from his first Sheffield Shield match on the Adelaide Oval.

We couldn’t get on to the hallowed main ground as the last three remaining cricket pitches were being prepared to be lifted out and the grass for the football inserted. In fact, the chap marking up our creases asked us what time we expected to finish as he wanted to prepare his team for the removal and placement. This nice chap turned out to be the Head Curator. I was amazed as he described how they would be working around the clock to get this enormous task completed by midday the following day.

Anyway, the cricket was quite good. City Cyclones won the toss and batted, piling on 3/174 off 17.5 overs. We had a rain delay that ended the first batting innings and we had CA staff there advising us of the DLS target score. How good was that 😊 New target was 182, I think. That target score was never threatened as the TV lads capitulated to be all out for 93 in the 15th over, some ripper catches, I must say, and some tired and potentially hungover batters.

That was my day done from an umpiring aspect. Suranga and I continued to explore the Adelaide Oval after a brilliant lunch. What a venue! After lunch we went back to KRO to watch Eloise and Jerry Matibiri stand in the final, with Chris Grant as Third, well done to all of you. It was a fantastic game between Carlton and Uni Q’ld. Carlton batted first, struggled early but managed to scratch out 8/154. “Not enough on that ground,” I muttered! However, they managed to hold them and won the game by a solitary run. Couldn’t have asked for a closer final and the Vics won. Happy days! Back to the motel and out to dinner with the Match Officials team, a fantastic night. My veal scaloppini looked mysteriously like chicken but no harm done, the red wine helped me ease my weary legs.

I should like to thank CV and Jason for the invite and Damian Herft for his assistance before, during and after the tournament. I had an absolute blast and it was an experience I shall never forget - that feeling you get from representing CV at a tournament is indescribable.

Tony Medina

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THE 2019 CROCKETT SHIELD MISSION CONTINUES

As we gather for the 2019 VCAUSA/SACUSA Easter Exchange, involving the 41st Cricket Match between teams representing these two Associations and the 37th being played for the coveted Crockett Shield, it is appropriate to summarise a few of the significant cricketing feats which have been achieved almost every two years since the inaugural match in 1931, with the exception of the period of World War II when the exchange was suspended for obvious reasons.

The overall win count currently stands at VCAUSA 21 to SACUSA 18 with one match (1931) having ended in a draw (SA 8/125 vs Vic 7/111 at stumps), since no rule defining a limited-over match had been agreed upon. There have been some “highs” and “lows” amongst these matches. In the case of the SACUSA, the batting “high” was a score of 9/191 at Scotch College, Adelaide, in 2013, a score sufficient to give them a win by 53 runs, and a “low” of 51 (all out) in 1979, in a match played at Scotch College, Hawthorn, Victoria, which the Victorians won by seven wickets. For the VCAUSA teams, the “high” has been a score of 234 (all out) in 2011, in a match played on a hard wicket at Cricket Willow near Daylesford, Victoria, which the VCAUSA won by 115 runs and a “low” of just 55 (all out) in 1971, in a match also played at Scotch College, Hawthorn, which the SACUSA won easily by two wickets and 124 runs.

Despite these “highs” and “lows” the match has always been played in the true “Spirit of Cricket”, evidence for which is the regular Teams and Match Officials photograph, an example of which is shown below, taken at Henley High School Oval, Henley Beach, South Australia, in 2017.

A question sometimes asked is, “Where can I find the coveted Crockett Shield between biennial Easter?” The simple answer to this question, at least immediately following the cricket match itself, would be, “It is on display at the Crockett Shield Dinner, prior to being presented to the winning team.” But then what happens to it after that depends on which team has won the match.

Should it have been won by the Victorians, as has been the situation in 2015 and 2017, then the Shield would have been on display at Cricket Willow, a most picturesque venue owned by the Tinetti...
Family, at 355 Hepburn-Newstead Road, Shepherds Flat, near Daylesford [1], and “next door” to the former willow farm once owned by the Crocketts and where many RM Crockett bats were manufactured [2]. Cricket Willow which features a well-maintained cricket field and accommodation, is also the venue for a number of special cricket matches and social occasions, as was the case for the 2007 and 2011 VCAUSA/SACUSA Easter Exchanges. Cricket Willow also features a fine display of Bob Crockett memorabilia and is well worth a visit.

Should the match have been won by the South Australians, such as in 2009 and 2013, then one assumes that it may have been on display most prominently at the offices of Coverdrive Couriers – a longstanding and generous sponsor of SACUSA. Coverdrive Couriers’ association with SACUSA began with its ownership by Crockett Shield champions, Max Bartlett, Chris Holland and Mick Aworth, who many Crockett shield devotees would know from the trio’s many years of support to this Easter cricket festival.

I have it on good authority that the Tinettis are looking forward to the Shield being returned to their display cabinet at Cricket Willow following Easter, 2019! But I also have it from another “good authority”, that Coverdrive Couriers still have the display cabinet in Adelaide vacant and awaiting the return of the silverware to that location!

Over the years there have been some excellent individual performances and it is worthwhile to note some of these, particularly for players who have participated in several Easter exchanges, in order to give current team members from both sides of the border, some definite goals to which they should aspire.

For South Australia:

K.C. Butler: 1937 (66); 1939 (20)
C. Wigglesworth 1936 (0/11); 1937 (6/10); 1939 (7/5)
(There is some confusion in the records regarding this player in that in 1936 a bowler just named “Wigglesworth” had the figures of 0/11, in 1937 “C. Wrigglesworth” took 6/10 and in 1939 “E. Wigglesworth” took 7/5. It would appear that all three names belong to “Charles Ernest Bell Wigglesworth” who is therefore credited with the remarkable career figures of 13/26 [3]!)
J. Kiers: 1953 (68 & 5/33); 1955 (27 & 2/38); 1957 (69 & 4/41); 1959 (4/22); 1963 (3/30)
F. Godson: 1957 (28 & 4/12); 1959 (26 & 3/27); 1963 (20 & 3/29); 1965 (24); 1969 (25); 1971 (1/15); 1973 (20); 1975 (38 n.o.)
E. Schroeder: 1953 (38 & 2/10); 1955 (3/37); 1957 (22)
J. Novak: 1963 (51 n.o. & 3/23); 1965 (3/26); 1967 (7/22 (including a Hat Trick)); 1969 (1/47)
M. O’Connell: 1967 (117)
W. Lane: 1969 (32); 1971 (23); 1973 (19 n.o. & 2/11); 1975 (4/43)
R. Bailhache: 1971 (25); 1973 (40)
A. Crapp: 1975 (39); 1977 (35)
A. Crafter: 1977 (63 n.o. & 5/21); 1981 (2/25)
D. Harper: 1985 (22); 1987 (34 & 2/63); 1989 (22); 1995 (19)
G. Slater: 1989 (27); 1993 (2/28); 1997 (39 & 3/42); 1999 (68); 2001 (23); 2007 (25)
C. Thiele: 1997 (24 & 4/28); 2001 (3/16)
M. Sheppard: 2005 (35); 2007 (49); 2009 (85 n.o.)
C. Thomas: 2011 (16); 2013 (24)
A. Drosd 2013 (20); 2017 (27)
D. Little: 2015 (33 n.o.); 2017 (14)

For Victoria:

M. Barker: 1959 (25 & 4/23); 1961 (6/44); 1967 (35 & 4/40); 1969 (32 n.o. & 3/43)
K. Collicoat: 1961 (60); 1965 (32); 1969 (2/10)
R. Isherwood: 1963 (43); 1969 (32); 1971 (14); 1977 (26)
P. Hooper: 1965 (5/29); 1967 (2/43); 1971 (3/1); 1973 (13 & 3/38); 1977 (19 n.o.)
G. Thies: 1973 (4/52); 1977 (22 & 3/37)
L. King: 1981 (2/28); 1985 (38); 1987 (96 & 2/36)
D. Holt: 1983 (3/22); 1985 (4.23); 1987 (2/13); 1989 (19 n.o. & 3/45)
R. Whitehead: 1981 (47); 1983 (28)
I. McGregor: 1991 (24 & 2/24); 1995 (2/16); 1997 (5/26)
D. Clement: 1991 (4/9); 1993 (4/35); 1997 (4/22)
R. Patterson: 1995 (33); 1999 (3/25)
A. Barrow: 2001 (3/40); 2003 (33 n.o.); 2005 (37 & 4/22); 2007 (22 n.o.); 2009 (38); 2011 (32)
A. Ventura 2003 (21); 2007 (40); 2013 (22 n.o.)
C. Dalkin 2005 (111 n.o. & 3/16)
J. Richards 2013 (21 & 2/47); 2015 (16); 2017 (33)
S. Brne 2011 (58 & 3/6); 2015 (47 & 5/12 (including a Hat Trick)); 2017 (50 & 2/8)

The history of the exchange has been documented, perhaps as well as it can be, and the interested reader is referred to a previous article published in Law 43 [4], for which the author, Kristen Thomas, had researched the true origins of this long-running exchange between the two Associations. A full version of the history, including match statistics, etc., as well as they are known, is available on the VCAUSA website [3]. There remain a few missing facts concerning this history and Kristen is always keen to receive any items which might fill in these gaps in the history. She can always be contacted through the address in the front of this issue.

The photograph at left, which has been preserved at the Coverdrive Courier offices for many years (and more recently, at Craig and Kristen Thomas’ home) in SA, is an example of what Kristen would dearly like to find. The members of this team have been identified in the caption for this photograph, to the best of the knowledge of current SACUSA members and friends, but should any reader be able to add missing names to the photograph, then please contact either Association.

As for the name, Crockett Shield, this began in 1947 when the Victorian Association, known then as the VCAUA, persuaded Bob Crockett’s son, J.M. Crockett, to donate this large shield (front-cover picture) for this biennial match between the two State Associations. It is surmised that the son may have done this, in order

1951 South Australian team departing for Melbourne
Standing and from left: 2nd John McMenamin; 6th Eric McKay; 7th George Season; 8th George Cooper; 12th Steve Mahony; 13th Keith Butler; 13th Glen Jones; 14th possibly Wally Matthews.
Seated and from left: 1st George McDonagh; 3rd Arthur “Dick” Cocks; 5th Bob Gabell; 6th possibly Johnny Juett; 7th Reg Nelson; 8th Ron Joseph.
remembered throughout Australia in which Umpire R.M. Crockett was considered to be the best umpire of his time, namely, 1891-92 to 1929-30.

The assistance of Kristen Thomas in the preparation of this article is acknowledged.


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2018-19 PREMIER CRICKET AWARDS NIGHT

This annual gala event was held at the Crown Palladium on Wednesday, 3rd April last. As has been the case in recent years there were about two tables of Umpires (and one partner) present. Several of these were attending on “free-bees” but some of us were proper “paying guests” on the night and we were grateful to the Cricket Victoria organiser, Emily Ryan, for offering umpires the discount price following an extended email exchange during the weeks preceding the event.

In case any readers did not see the final results of the count of Umpires’ votes for the Jack Ryder Medal, Brett Forsyth, opening bat for Dandenong, polled 35 votes and narrowly won the medal by two votes from Casey-South Melbourne’s Captain-Coach, Luke Wells. In the case of the Una Paisley Medal, Melbourne’s all-rounder Amy Yates comfortably won this award by 18 votes.

Also, congratulations to Colin Hall (pictured) who received the CV Umpire Recognition Award for this season.

For those of you who, for whatever reason, missed the event, let me assure you that the grilled, 120-day, grain-fed, Riverine Black Angus tenderloin was the most tender and tasty steak I have been served for many years! I recommend the event at the end of your future seasons.

Ed.

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THE DERIVATION OF SOME CRICKETING TERMS

(I was recently asked to explain the origin of the cricketing term “Hat Trick”. Perhaps you, as a cricketing enthusiast, have been asked a similar question and hence may be interested in the answer to this and some of the other unusual expressions in our game.

Hat-trick: This term originates from a mid-nineteenth-century custom whereby any bowler who took three wickets in three balls was presented with a hat. Surrey’s H.H. Stephenson was the first to be awarded a hat after performing the feat for the All England XI against Hallam in September, 1858.

Maiden over: Before becoming part of the vocabulary of cricket, the word “maiden” had long been used in English to mean “unproductive”. Hence in cricket a maiden over is an unproductive one, from which no runs are scored.

Umpire: The word stems from the old French “nompere”, from “non per” which means “not equal”, indicating an “odd man” or third party called in to adjudicate between two contestants.

Social Cricket – VCAUSA vs Mount Waverley Vets

The annual grudge match between the VCAUSA and Mount Waverley Vets took place on Labour Day, Monday 11th March, 2019. The annual kerfuffle over finding a ground ended when Andrew Hind brilliantly secured the East Malvern-Tooronga main ground for us, Waverley Oval in East Malvern.

Some preliminary shuffling of players to balance the numbers saw Andrew Hind, Glenn Schache, Rob Sturgeon and John Richards jettisoned to play for Mount Waverley and keeping some moderate talent behind to play for the VCAUSA.

Mattis van Eck was appointed VCAUSA captain for the day, some playing conditions were loosely agreed upon, and Mattis had no hesitation in electing to bat on winning the toss. The third-day surface was already showing signs of wear. Jason Leonard-Scott and Dale Ireland (33) stepped out to open the innings and faced a barrage of hostile bowling, and an even more hostile barrage of sledging (particularly from the VCAUSA members of the opposition). Opener Sudarshan somehow nipped one through Leonard-Scott's defences, which brought Jamie Wyatt (36 n.o.) to the crease. Wyatt and Ireland combined for the best partnership of the day, both compulsorily retiring on 30 at 1-70.

The sledging and general poor behaviour from the VCAUSA Mount Waverley players was unrelenting and Umpires Trevor Finlayson and Rod McKinnon had to use all their match management skills to keep things under control. At one stage John Richards was lucky to escape a Level 4 violation when he shoulder charged McKinnon on the way back to his mark after a frivolous appeal was turned down.

Batting was far from easy, and the cracks in the pitch were not getting any smaller, but Greg Azzopardi (16) looked his usual golden self, Ashfaq Ali (12) was stylish, and Glenn Davey (23) spanked some imperious boundaries to help the VCAUSA to a total of 142 all out in the 40th and final over.

Spin did the damage for Mount Waverley. Padhu (8 overs 4-35) took the honours, while Andrew Hind's (2 overs 2-4) left-arm orthodox was damaging and John Richards (3 overs 1-6) bowled his usual tripe and only gets a mention because a full toss managed to be smacked straight to cover.

Mount Waverley in reply found the going tough due to a combination of the wearing pitch and our imposing battery of fast bowlers - Mattis van Eck (6 overs 0-11), Glenn Davey (5.5 overs 2-11), Chris Doyle (5 overs 3-7) and Luke Edwards (3 overs 1-1).
When John Richards (8) came out to bat he was treated disgracefully by all the VCAUSA fielders. This was completely unwarranted because, apart from a smattering of Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 offences earlier in the day, he had hardly put a foot wrong. Usman Mani, who had earlier pulled off a blinder of a catch at short mid-wicket for the opening wicket, made it a double by running out Richards in the same position with as good a piece of fielding as we'll see all season in any form of cricket.

Wickets tumbled regularly and at 4-22 a winning total looked a long way off. Some late-order heroics from Glenn Schache (10) and Sudarshan (32 n.o.) added respectability, but Usman Mani (4 overs 2-20) and Dale Ireland (4 overs 1-14) completed the job for the VCAUSA who ran out comfortable winners by 35 runs.

Other heroes on the day included Monash Tigers scorer Alan Britton whose scorebooks were a work of art as usual, Gerry Schembri on the barbecue, Tony Ventura on catering and Rob Sturgeon who organised the Mount Waverley side. We should be back again next year to attempt to keep our unbeaten record versus Mount Waverley intact.

The Match Scorecard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Innings – VCAUSA</th>
<th>Bowling O M W R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. Ireland c Vains b Halger 33</td>
<td>Sudarshan 7 1 2 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Leonard-Scott b Sudarshan 2</td>
<td>Mattingley 8 1 0 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Wyatt not out 36</td>
<td>Sameer 6 2 0 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Hayes st Schache b Padhu 6</td>
<td>Halge 3.2 0 1 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Mani lbw b Padhu 1</td>
<td>Green 2 0 0 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Azzopardi b Padhu 16</td>
<td>Padhu 8 2 4 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Pitts c Hind b Padhu 0</td>
<td>Richards 3 0 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Ali b Sudarshan 12</td>
<td>Hind 2 1 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Doyle c Vains b Richards 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Davey st Schache b Hind 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. van Eck b Hind 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extras</strong> 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong> 142</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Innings – Mount Waverley Vets</th>
<th>Bowling O M W R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vains c Mani b Doyle 6</td>
<td>M. van Eck 6 2 0 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale c Wyatt b Doyle 5</td>
<td>G. Davey 5.5 2 2 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sameer b Davey 4</td>
<td>C. Doyle 5 2 3 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richards run out (Mani) 8</td>
<td>L. Edwards 3 2 1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schache b Mani 10</td>
<td>A. Ali 4 2 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alok c &amp; b Mani 18</td>
<td>E. Hayes 4 0 0 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green c Ali b van Eck 2</td>
<td>S. Pitts 2 0 0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudarshan not out 32</td>
<td>U. Mani 4 1 2 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattingley c Edwards b Ireland 0</td>
<td>D. Ireland 4 0 1 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hind b Davey 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padhu lbw b Davey 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extras</strong> 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong> 107</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I have been a cricket official for the last seven years and after doing a number of Premier games here in New Zealand, I finally got the opportunity to visit the sunny/hot Melbourne for this year's cricket umpires' exchange. I had heard from the senior umpires here in Auckland, that it's a good trip “down-under” but it turned out to be more than what I had hoped for. I spent eight days in total in Melbourne. I had the opportunity to umpire in three Premier matches (one T-20 and two One-dayers) and six Under-18 tournament matches. Here is a brief “snapshot” of a few of my experiences and observations.

There are so many things that umpires in Melbourne do differently to how we do it here in New Zealand. There isn’t a good way or a bad way of doing things, there is just a different way. First and foremost, there is something called a pitch hand-over that umpires practise in Melbourne which is a bit different to how we do it here in New Zealand. (Umpires in Melbourne walk backwards towards the square leg position after handing over the pitch to their colleague at the end of the over whereas we in Auckland just hand over the pitch and walk back to our mark i.e., not backwards). As I said before, this is a different way and probably something that we in New Zealand can learn from. Walking backwards gives the umpires more time to concentrate on what the players are doing if anything, on the pitch, or what they are saying, if anything, to the batter.

Another thing that I found really useful is that the communication between the umpires and the captain is more frequent in Australia than it is in New Zealand. I found that if such a thing is practised, captains appreciate the regular communication from the umpires as it gives the captain more control and they are able to manage their time more effectively.

Small things like team sheets are really well organized in Victoria and especially for youth games, it’s beneficial to have the ages of the players written down along with the stipulated overs they can bowl in a spell, etc. (I managed to pass on one of the Australian team sheets to our Umpires’ Administrator here in New Zealand and hopefully we can incorporate something like that here too.)

Another very important observation was that in each of the Under-18 games I did, there was always a Cricket Victoria person present and that clearly shows why Australia's cricket at grass-roots level is so strong.

Last but not the least, before each match the umpires go through their goals for their game and they ask for their colleague to observe them based on the goals they have set for themselves for the match/for the season. Setting up goals and discussing with your partner is such an easy task but still so effective and I have started doing this in my matches after returning from the Melbourne exchange, thus far in the season.

So overall a very good trip where I not only had a chance to meet like-minded people but also the opportunity to learn from them. On one occasion I had the opportunity to socialize with them and their families (when the CV umpires took us out for a dinner night). Thank you for such wonderful hospitality and apologies for the delay with this report.

Vinit Mahna
The 2018/19 VCAUSA/CV Scholarship Report – Part 2

As a part of the scholarship, there is a requirement for me to write two reports for Law 43 and this is my second report.

On-Field and Off-Field Observations
Due to the condensed schedules for both our State and National Umpires, I wasn't able to be given an opportunity to stand with any of those guys after the Christmas break. However, I did get the chance to umpire with some of our very best umpires during that period. Damian Herft has also been very busy with his schedule as a Cricket Australia Match Official. But he did sneak down to one of my games late in the season to take some snaps.

Shadow Match Referee
On Friday, 1st February, I was given another opportunity to become a shadow Match Referee, this time with Damian Herft at a WNCL Match between Victoria and Queensland at the Citipower Centre (Junction Oval). The umpires for the day were Daryl Brigham and Mattis van Eck.

As the match was set to start at 10:00am, we all ended up arriving over an hour before the game was due to start. It was a bit strange rocking up to the oval and seeing the amount of security and people who were there, especially when we go to the ground for Winter Classes and T&Ds and the place is deserted. We all caught up after arriving at the ground in one of the meeting rooms that face on to the ground behind the sight screen, before eventually heading out on to the ground. After tossing a bail to decide which umpire was going to have his back to the stationary camera (sorry Mattis), we then called the two captains together, Kirby Short and Meg Lanning, to toss the coin. Queensland won the toss and sent Victoria into bat. Before leaving the ground, Damian and I attended a medical briefing and went through all the emergency procedures. We then came back to the rooms, had a quick chat with the guys, before leaving them to prepare to head out on to the ground. We then made our way up to the Match Referee’s Box. We ended up being in one of the rooms upstairs, between the scorers’ box and the analyst’s box, overlooking the pitch.

I then had the opportunity to watch Damian go to work, which was something that I didn't get the chance to do with David Talalla, on account of the adverse weather. It was quite surprising how focused a Match Referee needs to be, in terms of paying attention and watching. If a decision was made by any umpire or Damian picked up on something that didn't look quite right, he was able to look at a replay of the ball by going to AMS (Athlete Management System) which is where the analyst logs and codes every ball. He would then need to record the decision and evaluate it as either correct, wrong or insufficient evidence. Insufficient evidence is used when the replay doesn't provide enough evidence for the other two options, which happens quite often especially when there is only one fixed camera. In amongst all of this, Damian was also trying to keep tabs on each umpire’s technique, match management, attitude and teamwork during the match.
In regards to the match, Victoria ended up finishing their 50 overs at 7-196 which Queensland were able to chase down with four overs remaining, after at one stage being 9-172. Kirby Short was awarded player of the match which ended up being decided upon by Damien, after she scored 45 (50) and captained her side very well.

After the match, I was afforded the opportunity to attend the post-match meeting which included Meg, Kirby, Damien and Rebecca Barker (Cricket Operations Officer). Again, I won't disclose what was said during the meeting out of respect to the two umpires, but for me it was very interesting to see what the ladies focus on from an umpiring perspective, by comparison to the things that men focused on. Damien then passed on the feedback from the captains and the notes he took from the game, to both Mattis and Daryl.

**Conclusion**

As this is my last report as the inaugural recipient of the VCAUSA/CV Scholarship, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those who have been a part of it and, in particular, David and Damien for the unprecedented level of access afforded to me. I should also like to thank the National Panel Umpires, the VCAUSA and the CV Umpiring Department for organising this opportunity and I look forward to the next recipient being announced before the start of the next season.

*Luke Edwards*

PM REJECTS PCB’S PROPOSED NEW DOMESTIC MODEL

Pakistan’s Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board’s (PCB’s) patron, has rejected the board's new proposed domestic cricket model, insisting that departments should have no role in the game. The PCB put together a model in which department teams such as Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) would remain relevant stakeholders alongside regional sides - although initially even the PCB had decided to strip departments of their playing rights.

But this idea was knocked down by the PM, who does not want departments in the system in any capacity. He has instead directed the PCB to rework the structure to include just six provisional teams - two from Punjab, and one each from Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. Imran was a strong advocate of a domestic structure with only regional sides for much of his playing career, enamoured especially by the Australian Shield Cricket structure.

There are many now - as there were then - who believe such a model will not work in Pakistan, where the population is nearly nine times that of Australia. The PM believes that the sizeable talent in the country must not be allowed to go to waste, with it being the PCB's responsibility to provide a conducive environment for that talent to flourish. He was also concerned about the exodus of cricket talent over the years. With all this in mind, a PCB task team worked out a plan to reduce the number of regional teams in the system, but also kept the departments alive, making them sponsor of the regional teams and in effect, giving them a significant role in the domestic circuit.

*(from Playing the Game, No. 2764-13792, 28th March, 2019)*

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MY FAVOURITE TEST TEAM

(This column follows from the suggestion by Tim Wendelken, which we published in the February issue, for readers to submit their own “Favourite Test Team”, on the basis of the “international cricketers they have most enjoyed watching.” We promised to publish all suggestions received. Indeed, in the first issue for next season which will be in September, it will be our aim to analyse all entries received, in order to arrive at “The Most Popular Favourite Test Team” which will be published in the September, 2019 issue.

The following are the entries received and, to be fair, they are published in the same order in which they were received either in the post or on to my computer as an email attachment. For completeness and to aid any interesting discussions on this topic during the Easter Exchange with SACUSA, Tim Wendelken’s team has been reproduced.

Ed.)

Tim Wendelken’s Favourite Test Team

Mark Taylor Australia (Captain) - Left handed opener, would be a great foil for Greenidge and the best captain I have seen. Every side always needs a good first slip.

Gordon Greenidge West Indies - West Indian flair and power combined with perfect technique.

Jaques Kallis South Africa – One of the under-rated batsmen and a more than handy bowler.

Sachin Tendulkar India – The little master is at number 4.

David Gower England - Elegance and grace. Could watch him bat all day, great in the covers as well.

Steve Waugh Australia – who can forget his back-foot cover drives in the 1989 Ashes? The greatest shot in cricket.

Adam Gilchrist Australia (Wicket-keeper) – the cricketer we all wished we were.

Ravi Shastri India - another who made the game look effortless. More than handy at number 8, almost destroyed Shane Warne’s test career in one innings.

Wasim Akram Pakistan – Left-arm fast off ten steps, swung it both ways. Great to watch from everywhere except behind the stumps at the bowler’s end.

Sir Richard Hadlee

Michael Holding New Zealand – Poetry in motion.

West Indies – Every team needs a bowler to get the batsmen’s’ hearts racing, did it with style.

Roger Harper West Indies (12th Man) - it was amazing how many of his colleagues were “injured” allowing him to spend an hour or two on the field every game.

Ralph Francione’s Favourite Test Team

Sir Leonard Hutton England - An opening batsman with a technique capable of handling the most vicious turning-pitches of the United Kingdom, or the bounciest tracks at the 'Gabba. A superb defence which could withstand the pace and venom of such as Ray Lindwall, Keith Miller, and Bill Johnstone. Capable of carrying his bat throughout an innings, as he did on many occasions. Brought up on
the unpredictable Yorkshire tracks, no bowler ever succeeded in mastering this champion who also played his post-war cricket with a badly-disabled left arm, suffered in a war injury. And he once held the World Record Test score of 364 made in 1938.

Sid Barnes  
Australia - Sadly, one of the forgotten men of Australian cricket. Opening bat. Played his first Test Series against England in 1938, missing the first three Tests because of a broken arm. Returned to Tests in the '46-47 series in Australia, and hit 234 in a 405 partnership with Bradman at Sydney. Played the sweetest square-cut of them all - even the Don acknowledged that one. Fine close-in fieldsman, who snaffled many a quick glance off the bat from unsuspecting batsmen. Big runs against India, and then toured England again in 1948 for more big runs as one of "The Invincibles", returning to Australia to make even more large scores, many in partnership with his NSW colleague, left-hander Arthur Morris. Few batsmen gave me as much joy to watch as Sid. Troubles with Australian officialdom ended his career far too early - he was still probably the best batsman in Australia when he was forced into retirement by the cricket hierarchy. He took up journalism with a modicum of success, but by 1971, life had become too much for him, and sadly he ended his life via a handful of tablets.

Sir Donald Bradman  
Australia (Captain) - The name will probably be known to a few elderly folk. Averaged 99.94 in Test Cricket. Captained Australia. Never lost a Test Series. Any questions?

Sir Vivian Richards  
West Indies - Just imagine. Bradman and Richards batting in partnership. Most bowlers would cash in their superannuation and go home. The Secretaries of Test grounds would treble their ticket prices, and still sell-out the house. It is hard to picture a man who could thump a ball to the fence with the might and elegance of Viv. Wonderful close-in fieldsman. He might also have been pushing to outrun the Don who was like a gazelle between wickets. Back in the '80s, he had several fiery, on-field disagreements with VCAUSA Life Member, Robin Bailhache who, without much urging, could regale you with many a story of some not-so-gentle discussions. Happily to say, our colleague invariably won his points successfully.

Sir Garfield Sobers  
West Indies - Like Bradman being the batsman supremo, the same distinction belongs to Garry Sobers as an all-rounder. Great batsman, who once held the world Test batting record. As a bowler, he could, and often did open the attack with sharp medium-pace leg cutters, with the giant Wes Hall pounding down violent short-stuff from the other end. After a rest, Sobers would then return to put down a half-dozen overs of subtle left-hand googlies. He invariably captained the team into the bargain. Outstanding fieldsman in any position, and on several occasions put on the wicket-keeping gloves. Could probably act as drinks-waiter if necessary. Surely no team has possessed a more complete all-rounder. And his batting - anyone at the MCG one afternoon in January, 1972, saw probably the most brilliant double-
century ever scored at the ground. "Who said so?" The Don - that's who, plus D.K.L. whose best offerings were blasted to all parts of the ground.

**Brian Lara**

West Indies - What a wealth of talent wore the WI colours in the latter years of the 20th Century, none better than this gentleman. Any sensible bowler from other nations should have rung in ill if they were listed to bowl against BL that coming day. Centuries were trifling events in an innings from Lara. Dropped when 19 in a game against Durham, the wicketkeeper said to first slip: "The little b---- will probably make a century now." He didn't - he made 501*, still a world record. Not just a slogger, on several occasions he pulled the Windies out of trouble with a steady, unspoiled century. Hard to choose his favourite shot - probably the pull, which was also D.G.B's speciality.

**Wally Grout**

Australia (Wicket-keeper) - First pick as 'keeper by Richie Benaud, Alan Davidson, and many other Australian bowlers. His mastery of the craft enabled Australian captains to play one fewer man in slips because of Grout's skill in determining the swing or spin of a ball about to pass a batsman. And with the peerless Bob Simpson (best "slipper" I ever saw) beside him, opposing batsmen were loath to play a fiddling shot to a ball outside the off-stump. Can barely remember him grassing a catch. Never made big runs like the admirable Adam Gilchrist, but in this team with Bradman, Richards, Sobers, etc. batting above him, what need would there be for further runs? As W.G.Grace once said, "Always pick your 'keeper first."

**Malcolm Marshall**

West Indies - The most organised, talented and consistent fast bowler that I have seen. In complete control from Ball One, No friendly "loosener" for the player on first strike. Every ball had to be played at, particularly those that would cut in or out just as they were about to pass the batsman. Never were 'keepers, slippers or short legs so alert, because they rarely knew whether the ball was a leg-cutter, off-cutter, or straight one. And neither did the batsmen know either. No bowler in my experience bowled in such a controlled style as Marshall. Many a batsman quickly became irritated and impatient at not being able to put a delivery away. Result - hasty knick and a catch to slips. Prolific Test wicket-taker - over 300 wickets, average 20. Compare with D.K. Lillee - over 300 wickets, average 23.

**Frank Tyson**

England - The fastest - no argument. The scariest - no argument. The gentleman speedster who played for a limited period for England, and then migrated to Australia to take up a senior academic role. Also gave detailed and highly informative Test match summaries on the ABC. Destroyed several highly capable Australian line-ups in less than an hour each. I saw it happen in successive Tests at Sydney and Melbourne in 1954-55. I still have not absorbed what I saw - and neither have the Australian batting line-ups. A true gentleman who accepted success with modesty and humility. Funny story - at Melbourne on the final day, it was anticipated that the game would end at about 5:00 p.m. But it ended well before the lunch break. The caterer at the MCG had to donate hundreds of pies, pasties and sausage rolls to the Children's Hospital.
Well-founded rumour is that his firm went out of business. Tyson not only wrecked the Australian batting, but also part of the Australian economy.

Shane Warne
Australia - Australia's greatest gift to cricket. No, not Warnie, but the leg-spinner. What a range - H.V. Horden, Arthur Mailey, Warwick "The Big Ship" Armstrong, Clarrie Grimmett, Bill O'Reilly, Richie Benaud and Warnie. Unmatched either in quality or quantity by other nations. Pitches with turn and bounce were the key to their evolution. I saw Bill O'Reilly bowl, but I was just a kid. Some like Jack Fingleton called him the best. Maybe. Richie was good, but Warnie was a higher rung up the ladder. Flight, turn, pace, variation, wrong'un. He could be pasted around the ground, and then it would happen - the unplayable delivery. Several top batsmen could handle him for an hour or so, but usually the special one arrived on the scene and did its job. They are a rare breed.

Muttiah Muralitharan
Sri Lanka - This one might cause a riot. "Chucker" say umpires Hair and Emerson. But uncalled by the majority. Let's just look at the stats. 795 wickets at an average of 22. That's what Wisden says, and it is the Bible of cricket. I'll settle for that. You gentlemen may argue this one out. He's in my team - no arguments.

Neil Harvey
Australia (12th Man) - Best out-fielder I ever saw. Jonty Rhodes not far behind.

Cyril Andrew's Favourite Test Team
(As Cyril has written, "My favourite Test Team is selected from the 1948 Australian Tour to the U.K. I was a 15 year-old spectator at the matches played against county sides, Middlesex (Lord's) and Surrey (The Oval) and the two Test Matches also played at Lord's and The Oval. I was at The Oval when Don Bradman was bowled for that second-ball duck by Eric Hollies. You could have heard a pin drop! But then there was this almighty roar from the crowd.")

Arthur Morris
Australia – Left-hand opening bat. Don Bradman classed him as the finest left-hand batsman he had ever seen. Close to the wicket fielder. Outscored Bradman for the tour, 646 runs to 508.

Sid Barnes
Australia – Right-hand opener, rock-like defence, forceful stroke play. Close-in fielder of great courage. Had ability as leg-spin bowler. Once said, "I'm as good as Bradman but not better."

Don Bradman
Australia (Captain) – Right-hand bat. Enough has been said about this player. The master batsman of all time.

Lindsay Hassett
Australia (Vice-Captain) – Right-hand bat, forceful stroke player who also had unusual powers of concentration. A splendid fieldsman, either close in or in the outfield. Went on to captain Australia in 24 Tests.

Neil Harvey
Australia – Left-hand bat, one of the truly great left-handed batsmen. As a 19 year-old, scored two Test centuries, one against India and the other against England. He played all the shots with the pull and the square-cut dominating. Was a great outfielder. Then fielded in slips later in his career.

Keith Miller
Australia - Right-hand bat and opening bowler. One of the greatest all-rounders of his time. A dynamic batsman, a fiery bowler and a great slips fieldsman. Was the third Australian to achieve the Test double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets. The first to achieve 2,000 runs and 100 wickets. He also became the first cricketer of any country to score 2,500 runs and take 150 wickets.

Don Tallon
Ray Lindwall  
Australia – Right-hand opening bowler. Greatest fast bowler of his day. Had a superb rhythmical action and co-ordination with variations of pace. Was a fine batsman. He was the first player in Test history to pass 200 wickets and 1,500 runs. He was also a fine fieldsman and safe catch.

Ian Johnson  
Australia – Right-hand off-spinner who had beautiful control of flight. He was a handy batsman and was the fifth Australian to achieve 1,000 runs and 100 wickets. Went on to captain Australia in 17 Tests of the 45 in which he played. In later life he became Secretary of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Bill Johnston  
Australia – Left-hand fast bowler. Was somewhat overshadowed by Lindwall and Miller. Often reverted to slow spin.

Ernie Toshack  
Australia – A fine left-hand medium pace bowler who combined swing and spin with great control.

Sam Loxton  
Australia (12th Man) – A handy batsman and bowler. Scored 80 runs in his first Test, against India and 93 in the famous run chase win at Leeds in 1948. He was later to become a Victorian Member of Parliament. He was also a Test selector for a number of years.

Robin Bailhache’s Favourite Test Team

(Gordon Greenidge
Sunhil Gavasker
Ian Chappell
Vivian Richards
David Gower
Richard Hadlee
Alan Knott
Michael Holding
Dennis Lillee
Bishan Bedi
Lance Gibbs
Derek Randall

Gerry Schembri’s Favourite Test Team

Sunil Gavaskar
Viv Richards
AB de Villiers
Sachin Tendulkar
Donald Bradman
Gary Sobers
Adam Gilchrist
Richard Hadlee
Wasim Akram
Malcolm Marshall
Muttiah Muralitharan
Michael Holding

Alan McCarthy’s Favourite Test Team
I always liked left handers. With an Ashes series coming up, I have selected my favourite left-handed Ashes Test team with players from Australia and England. I have included the year of their Test debut and some quirky facts about them.

**Alastair Cook**
England (1999) - 12,472 Test runs, plays piano, clarinet and saxophone, debuted for the MCC at 14 when they were one short – made a ton.

**Matthew Hayden**
Australia (1994) - 8,625 Test runs, 128 Test catches, great in slips or gully, fisherman, chef and author.

**John Edrich**
England (1963) - one of the finest batsmen of his generation, Lillee broke his hand in 1974-75 in the First Test, captained England in the Fourth Test – courage.

**Allan Border**
Australia (1978) (Captain) - Test average of 50.56, 156 catches, great slips fielder, resilient in adversity.

**Neil Harvey**
Australia (1948) - Test average of 48.41, learnt to play cricket in a cobblestone laneway in Fitzroy.

**Rodney Marsh**
Australia (1970) (Wicket-keeper) - 342 Test catches and 12 stumpings, his 110 in the 1977 Centenary Test was match winning.

**Alan Davidson**
Australia (1953) - fast medium, bowled off 15 paces, 186 Test wickets at 20.53, nicknamed “The Claw” for his incredible close-in catches.

**Mitchell Johnson**
Australia (2007) - 313 Test wickets, able to bowl at 156 km/h, over 2,000 Test runs, useful tennis player too.

**Bobby Peel**
England (1884) - orthodox spin, 101 Ashes wickets at 16.98, useful middle-order bat, excellent fielder, later became a publican.

**Derek Underwood**
England (1966) - orthodox spin and medium pace, 297 Test wickets, made his only First Class ton when aged 39 as a nightwatchman.

**Bruce Reid**
Australia (1985) - medium fast, 27 wickets at 16 in the 1990-91 Ashes in four Tests, steepling bounce, now a bowling coach.

**Michael Hussey**
Australia (2005) (12th Man) - Test batting average of 51.52, 85 catches and 7 stumpings, “Mr Cricket” can step into the team at any time.

**The Editor’s Favourite Test Team**

**Len Hutton**
England – Right-hand bat. I first saw Len (later Sir Leonard) Hutton when, as a small boy, in December, 1954, I went with my family to the Rockhampton Showgrounds where a turf pitch had been specially laid for a match between the touring MCC Team and a Queensland Country XI. Hutton impressed me as a master stroke maker and while he may have been “past his prime”, he
figured in an opening stand of 112 with Bill Edrich and the MCC went on to win the match by an innings and 12 runs. My father had regularly told me of the “young Len Hutton” who, at the age of 22 and playing in only his sixth Test Match at The Oval against the touring Australians in 1938, had batted for 13 hrs and 20 mins to score a new individual batting record of 364, surpassing the previous highest of 334 by Don Bradman at Headingley, Leeds, in 1930. This is a quality one looks for in a Test Match opening bat. Hutton’s final Test Match stats: 79 matches, 6,971 runs at an average of 56.67, with 19 centuries.

Matthew Hayden

Australia - Hard-hitting, left-hand bat with an ability to score very quickly and thus the perfect partner for Hutton. Hayden’s 380 against Zimbabwe on the W.A.C.A. ground in 2003 remains the highest individual score by an Australian batsman. Hayden’s initial selection at Test Match level only came after “a mountain” of first-class runs. He can boast the second most runs by any opening batsmen in the history of Test Cricket and his overall Test stats are most impressive: 103 matches, 8,625 runs at an average of 50.73 with 30 centuries.

Sachin Tendulkar

India – Fluent right-hand batsman who could play all the shots in the coaching manual, and occasional right-arm spinner. At just 5ft 5ins tall he was appropriately nick-named “The Little Master.” In the five Boxing Day Tests during which I watched him bat, 1991, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011, his best contribution with the bat was in 1999 with 116 in the first innings and 52 in the second, although these were nowhere near his best performances as indicated by his overall Test Match stats: 200 matches, 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78, with 51 centuries.

Vivian Richards

West Indies – Now known as Sir Vivian. A most relaxed and fluent right-hand bat who always appeared to be at complete ease in the middle. His nickname “The Master Blaster” was most appropriate. Nominated as “one of the five cricketers of the century” by a 100-member panel of experts in 2000, along with Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Jack Hobbs and Shane Warne. Richards’ Test match stats: 121 matches, 8,540 runs at an average of 50.23 with 24 centuries.

Allan Border

Australia (Captain) – Left-hand bat, not always the most elegant but ranks among the most combative of all Australian batsmen. Regarded as the “saviour” of Australian cricket following the problems of the Packer, World-Series period. Border captained Australia in 93 Tests, the most by any Australian captain. He was also a skillful left-arm spinner but much under-bowled, particularly during his time as captain. His 7/46 and 4/50 in Sydney in January, 1989
earned him “Player of the Match” in a Test in which Australia defeated the West Indies by seven wickets. Just for the record the Umpires for this Test were Len King and Terry Prue. Border’s overall Test match stats: 156 matches, 11,174 runs at an average of 50.56 with 27 centuries.

**Garfield Sobers**
West Indies – Without a doubt, the greatest all-round cricketer of all times. Aggressive left-hand bat, new-ball, fast-medium, left-arm over-the-wicket bowler who would, in the same innings, switch to left-arm orthodox, and a brilliant field. While I could not have seen him in the famous tied Test in Brisbane in December, 1960, I listened to the radio broadcast throughout and Sobers’ powerful hitting for his 132 in West Indies’ first innings of 453 was most impressive. But what many may remember more was his 254 for the Rest of the World vs Australia, in Melbourne in January, 1972, which resulted in a win to the Rest of the World by 96 runs. (Out of interest, the umpires for this Test were Jack Collins and Max O’Connell.) Sobers’ overall Test stats: 93 matches, 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 with 26 centuries as well as 235 wickets at 34.03 and 109 catches.

**Adam Gilchrist**
Australia (Wicket-keeper) – Aggressive left-hand bat who introduced a “new dimension” for Australian wicket-keepers on account of his exceptional skill as a batsman, perhaps categorizing him as an “all-rounder”. Was vice-captain to both Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting for much of his career, and indeed, captained Australia in a total of six Tests, of which four were won, one lost and one drawn. Gilchrist’s overall Test stats: 96 matches, 5,570 runs at an average of 47.6 with 17 centuries; 379 catches and 37 stumpings.

**Shane Warne**
Australia – A fiercely competitive right-arm, leg-spin bowler. Who could forget his 700th victim at the MCG on Boxing Day, 2006 – Andrew Strauss, bowled Warne, 50. Then there was “The Gatting Ball”, Warne’s first ball in Test cricket in England in 1993 at Old Trafford, Manchester, when English batsman, Mike Gatting, said to be an excellent player of spin bowling, saw the ball knock his off stump after it had pitched outside leg. Warne also took pride in his batting and had the DRS now employed in Test matches been in place in the match against New Zealand in Perth in 2001, Warne’s highest score in Tests would have been a century and not 99. Warne’s Test stats: 145 matches, 3154 runs with an average of 17.32; 708 wickets at 25.41 with 5 wickets in an innings 37 times and 10 wickets in a match 10 times.

**Fanie de Villiers**
South Africa – Formally named Petrus Stephanus (or “Fanie”) de Villiers. Right-arm, fast-medium bowler and right-hand, lower-order bat. May seem like a strange selection, given his limited Test career, but having seen de Villiers “skittle’ Australia for just 111 (chasing 116 for victory) in the Second Test in Sydney, in January, 1994, he would be a perfect back-up to my two pace men named below. His performance was simply line and length with a little swing for his figures in that match of 4/80 in Australia’s first innings of 292 but 6/43 in the second innings, to see Australia lose by just five runs. This earned him “Player of the Match”, ahead
of Shane Warne whose figures in the same Test were 7/56 and 5/72. (Just for the record here, the two umpires for this Test in Sydney were Steve Randell and Bill Sheahan.) De Villiers’ overall Test stats: 18 matches, 85 wickets at 24.27, with 5 wickets in an innings 5 times and 10 wickets in a match, twice. Batting-wise: 359 runs at 18.89.

**Dennis Lillee**

Australia – Right-arm, fast bowler. In the early part of his career he was quite fast but stress fractures caused him to recondition his bowling to a lower speed but none the less devasting, as his results before and after this adjustment indicate. A handy right-hand bat on occasions and a real character, as the Aluminium Bat incident indicated. Lillee’s Test stats: 70 matches, 355 wickets at an average of 23.92, with 5 wickets in an innings 23 times and 10 in a match 7 times. Batting-wise: 905 runs at 13.71, with a top score of 73 n.o.

**Frank Tyson**

England: - Right-arm, fast bowler. Said to be one of the fastest bowlers ever. I know it is not right to make comparisons across decades and I know that the Lillee/Thomson combination was feared by opposition batsmen, but just imagine if Lillee and “Typhoon” Tyson were to have opened the bowling together! Tyson was a member of Hutton’s 1954/55 MCC Touring side mentioned earlier. While he did not play in the Country Match in Rockhampton, his results which I subsequently listened to on the radio were devastating on occasions, with his best being 7/27 in the Third Test in Melbourne, which England won by 128 runs, as well as the Ashes, 3 – 1 with one Test drawn. Tyson’s career was fairly short, possibly on account of his teaching career and he emigrated to Australia in 1962 where, initially he was a House Master at Carey Grammar School. I was privileged to meet him in Melbourne and found him to be a perfect gentleman. In the latter part of his career, he was Coaching Director to Victoria and then to Queensland. Frank Tyson’s Test stats: 17 matches, 76 wickets at an average of 18.56, with 5 wickets in an innings 4 times and 10 in a match once. Batting wise: 230 runs at 10.9 with a highest score of 37 n.o.

**Jonty Rhodes**

South Africa (12th Man) – Right-hand bat but often described as “the greatest fielder of all time” and therefore a logical choice as 12th man. To me he was best in and around cover point but I am sure he could have fielded in any position equally well. Test stats: 52 matches, 2,532 runs at an average of 35.66; 34 catches and I wonder how many run-outs!

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**SOME WORDS OF WISDOM**

“Get a single down the other end and watch someone else play him.”  
*Geoffrey Boycott, asked how best to deal with Glenn McGrath*

“It’s a funny kind of month, October. For the really keen cricket fan, it’s when you realize that your wife left you in May.”  
*Denis Norden*

“As a Pom, he’d make a great Aussie.”  
*Jeff Thomson, expressing his admiration for Ian Botham*

FEMALE UMPIRES FEATURE IN AUSSIE STATE PL GRAND FINALS

Three females are amongst the 50 umpires who have been appointed to the 25 season-deciding, men’s State first class feeder Premier League (PL) Grand Final matches, that either were played last week, or this coming weekend, around Australia. Last week, Eloise Sheridan stood in the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) PL First XI final in Adelaide, and this weekend Ashlee Gibbons is to stand in the West Australian Cricket Association’s (WACA) Third XI decider in Perth, the same level Grand Final Lisa McCabe will be on-field for in Melbourne in the Victorian Premier League. No female umpires feature in PL Grand Finals being played in the NSW, Queensland or Tasmania.

Of the members of Cricket Australia’s National Umpires Panel (NUP), Greg Davidson and Anthony Wilds will be on ground in Sydney this weekend for the NSW PL First XI final, and Mike Graham-Smith in Hobart for Cricket Tasmania’s First XI season-decider. Of the other NUP members, Paul Wilson, Sam Nogajski and Gerard Abood are engaged in the Sheffield Shield final in Melbourne. Simon Fry was in Papua New Guinea last week when SACA’s finals were being played, while Simon Lightbody is missing from all five of this weekend’s finals in Sydney.

Of the six on CA’s second-tier Supplementary Umpires Panel (SUP), Nathan Johnstone is to stand in the WACA’s PL first XI final this weekend, Donovan Koch is in the equivalent game in Brisbane, and Darren Close in Hobart, while Ben Treloar has been appointed to the second grade final in Sydney. David Shepard is in contention for next week’s Victorian PL First XI decider, while Claire Polosak, who stood in a Sydney third grade semi-final last weekend, is not amongst the ten umpires appointed to stand in Sydney’s first to fifth grade finals.

Victoria’s First XI PL Grand Final is a week away, so NUP members Shawn Craig, Phillip Gillespie, Geoff Joshua and John Ward are possibilities there. Gillespie, Joshua and SUP member Shepard are all standing in this weekend’s two-match Victorian PL Preliminary Finals.

No-Ball Error Could Force Shield Re-think

Cricket Australia (CA) will review the Playing Conditions for the Sheffield Shield that left the third umpire powerless to overrule a missed no-ball on a wicket-taking delivery in Thursday’s opening day of this season’s final. Controversy erupted when New South Wales bowler Trent Copeland’s sizeable overstep of the popping crease on the delivery that claimed the wicket of Victorian Seb Gotch was missed by umpire Paul Wilson. Copeland had Gotch well caught by Jack Edwards at third slip for just two runs.

Fox Cricket is broadcasting and live-streaming the final under the terms of the broadcast rights deal signed with CA last year, and replays aired after Gotch had departed showed Copeland had overstepped by a sizeable margin. Third umpire Gerard Abood saw the replays but under the Playing Conditions in force for the series, was unable to act.

A CA spokesperson said, “There are no provisions for match officials to review on-field [Sheffield Shield] decisions. This incident will be followed up in [CA’s] general match review process and feedback will of course be taken on board.” The options available to the third umpire are listed in Appendix D of the 2018-19 Sheffield Shield Playing Conditions. They include processes for ruling on run outs, stumpings and hit-wicket decisions, fair catches, and boundary line issues (e.g., whether a fielder gathered a ball cleanly before contacting the rope).
The third umpire can also be called into action if there’s any appeal for Obstructing the Field, or to adjudicate on which batter is out if they are both at the same end during a run-out. There is no third umpire for Shield matches during the regular season, which are live-streamed and do not feature cameras side-on to the pitch that can help adjudicate on no-balls and run-outs.

Wilson, the umpire standing when Copeland overstepped, had this week been awarded CA’s ‘Umpire of the Year’ award as the game’s best official for the summer for the second successive year. He is also on the International Cricket Council’s second-tier International Umpires Panel, and its ‘emerging’ umpires’ group. Copeland had no idea he had overstepped, saying, “No, I wasn’t [aware] but thankfully ‘Blocker’ [Wilson] was asleep on that one.”

(second from Playing the Game, No. 2764-13788, 28th March, 2019)

SECOND-STRAIGHT CA ‘UMPIRE OF THE YEAR’ AWARD FOR WILSON

Paul Wilson, a member of Cricket Australia’s (CA) National Umpires Panel (NUP) and the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) second-tier International Umpires Panel (IUP), has been named as Australia’s ‘Umpire of the Year’ for the second year in a row. CA said Wilson, 47, had “another standout season” after “a breakout” 12 months during which he was “elevated by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to its Emerging Panel of Umpires”, and was appointed by the world body as a neutral umpire in a One Day International series played in India, New Zealand and the West Indies.

CA says the winner was selected by its chairman and chief executive. The criteria used were: “on-field performance; demonstrated a high level of professionalism in their conduct throughout the year, both on- and off-field; significant development and improvement in performance on-field; significant achievement in umpiring throughout the year; contribution to the Australian umpiring community through off-field activities; contribution to the Australian cricket community in general; and sets an example of what it is to be a cricket umpire to the rest of the cricket and umpiring community.”

CA’s Interim Executive General Manager - Team Performance, Belinda Clark, congratulated “Paul on another great season [during which] he has regularly promoted umpiring and assists those who look up to him. He voluntarily attends state and community-level umpiring events where he is generous with his time and contributions.” He is also said to have been part “of the negotiating team who in June successfully agreed the CA-Umpire Memorandum of Understanding for the period 2018-21.” No details of that MOU, which it is assumed covers NUP member employment conditions, have been made public.

Over the last year Wilson has, in addition to his ICC appointments, stood in three CA domestic first-class games, four domestic List-A fixtures, including CA’s final, and seven domestic Twenty20s. A former first-class player, who played in one Test 21 years ago this month, he will finish the current austral summer season by standing in a fourth, first-class game, the final of CA’s Sheffield Shield competition which is due to get underway in Melbourne on Thursday.

Over the now 16-year history of the CA umpire award, Wilson’s NUP/IUP colleague Simon Fry has won it a record four times, now ICC Elite Umpire Panel (EUP) member Bruce Oxenford and former EUP member Simon Taufel each three times, and two other former EUP members Steve Davis and Daryl Harper, current EUP member Paul Reiffel, and former IUP member Peter Parker, all once.

(from Playing the Game, No. 2763-13781, 22nd March, 2019)
A CRICKET QUIZ

(Here is a cricket quiz for your enjoyment and discussion, possibly while watching the Crockett Shield Match on Easter Saturday. Provided I am not “deposed” as Editor at the 2019 VCAUSA Annual General Meeting, the answers will be printed in the first issue for season 2019-20, namely Volume 26, Number 1, September, 2019.

Ed.)

1. Where is commonly referred to as the “Home of Cricket”?
2. Which first-class county club did Phil Tufnel play for from 1986 to 2002?
3. The 2016 ICC World Twenty20 was won by which country?
4. In which country is Eden Gardens – it’s the second largest cricket ground in the World?
5. In 2000, who was the only specialist bowler selected by a panel of cricket experts as one of the five “Wisden cricketers of the century”?
6. Grace Road is a cricket ground in which English city?
7. Which New Zealand cricketer was named “Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World” for 2015?
8. W.G. Grace played for which county for nearly 30 years (1870 – 1899)?
9. Who was named Player of the Series following the 2013-14 Ashes series?
10. As of 2016, West Indies batsman, Brian Lara holds the highest individual score in Test Cricket with 400 (not out). Which country did he make this score against?
11. Which Test player scored 380 six months before Brian Lara scored 400, to take back the highest individual score record in Test cricket?
12. As of 2016, who is the only player to have scored one hundred international centuries?
13. Who became Club President of Yorkshire in 2014, replacing Geoffrey Boycott?
14. During a 1979 Test between Australia and England, Dennis Lillee caused an outcry by using a bat made of which material?
15. In January, 2006, Andrew Flintoff was presented with the Freedom of which English city?
16. In Sheffield Shield cricket, who is the only player to have achieved the double of 1000 runs and 50 wickets, and this player did it twice?
17. Who captained the English team to a five-nil defeat in the 2013/14 Ashes series?
18. Which country’s national team is nicknamed The Tigers?
19. As of 2015, which Test cricketer holds the record for the most number of Test runs without a century?
20. What is the legendary umpire Dickie Bird’s real first name?

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AND MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

“Cricket – a game which the English, not being a spiritual people, have invented in order to give themselves some conception of eternity.”

Lord Mancroft

“The very word ‘cricket’ has become a synonym for all that is true and honest. To say ‘that is not cricket’ implies something underhand, something not in keeping with the best ideals.”

Sir Pelham Warner

“My wife had an uncle who could never walk down the nave of an abbey without wondering whether it would take spin.”

Sir Alec Douglas-Home

MACCA’S BOOK REVIEW

The Pastor and the Painter – Cindy Wockner (Hachette Australia, 2018) ISBN 9780733636943

This book relates to the lives of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran (Bali 9 drug traffickers) inside Kerobokan Prison in Bali, to their redeemed state, and eventual execution. This book shows that everyone can change if they want to.

Arrested as part of the Bali 9, these two did not have any drugs on them at the time, Andrew in the airport, and Myuran in a hotel, but they were totally involved. Kerobokan jail (where Schapelle Corby resided) was to be their home for about 10 years after receiving the death penalty in their Bali court hearing. The other seven were to receive life in prison.

Depression was evident after the trial and the first appeals, as they lived together in what was known as “the death tower”. (This was where the Bali Bombers were kept prior to their executions.) Drugs were freely available in Kerobokan at a price, but, neither Andrew or Myuran were users, so they tried to change the system from the inside.

Lawyer, Julian McMahon, found both to be a little cocky, but after a tough love speech where he told them to look into themselves, and face up to how stupid they had been, they started to understand the situation. By the end of 2007, Myuran had decided to make changes to the way they lived inside Kerobokan. More appeals were turned down, but slowly they began to understand the predicament they had put themselves in.

An Indonesian prisoner was able to paint, and drew Myuran into his web, showing him some of the skills of the art world. It resonated with Myuran and he got the bug. English and computer classes were being run by Andrew and Myuran, with first-aid being taught to some of the guards and prisoners. This was vindicated when a prisoner had a seizure one night, and he was saved by the prisoners and guards knowing what to do, working together. Andrew was also becoming more focused, doing a bachelor degree in Theology and a certificate in Ministry. Andrew was known as the “Godfather” and Myuran as the “Kingpin” by the police, and these monikers stuck for a long time, but slowly everyone agreed that they were changing their ways.

With all these projects going along well, Myuran started a graphic design class with the intention of setting up a “T” shirt screen printing business for the benefit of the prison. The Governor of Kerobokan (Swiswanto) and the guards had warmed to the way they had changed, not only their own lives, but also the many inmates who now were more productive and less rebellious. His testimony to the court of appeal was the first time he had ever spoken on behalf of any prisoner, and it was something that Indonesian officials did not do, (speaking out against government policy). Both had earned the respect of the guards who knew that they did not need to be guarded 24/7

The help and comfort, and the programs instigated by the pair, were amazing on many accounts. Several of the prisoners, upon release, had meaning in their lives from the skills learned in the classes and were able to gain meaningful employment in the outside world. Through all the appeals, although not winning any, they were buoyant about the rehabilitation of not only themselves, but also their fellow prisoners.

At last when all the appeals had been exhausted and the death sentence was to be carried out, they were transferred to Nusakambangan jail, where they continued to work for the other prisoners on death row, trying to help them through this difficult period. Art classes were again started and earned the trust of these new set of guards. Andrew was again comforting the prisoners as he was now a fully ordained Pastor, and Myuran started teaching painting to them.
The biggest hurt for them both, was the pain and suffering that they had caused to their families and friends over the period of their incarceration. Mothers, fathers and siblings coming to Bali and then to Cilicap (death-row island) had taken its toll, while the lawyers kept trying to get a reprieve for them, working tirelessly on this mission.

When the day arrived, the family and lawyers were only allowed to visit for a few hours, which was extremely hard on them all. The prisoners were shackled, and marched out to the field, then tied to wooden crosses. Their spiritual advisers (with no view of the field) and the prisoners were all singing with gusto, when “BANG”

The boom ripped through the air. It was like nothing that the witnesses had ever heard before. The sound of 100 high-powered rifles firing simultaneously to kill the eight prisoners, was so deafening that it took several minutes to be able to hear each other again.

With the execution over, the spiritual advisors were informed that the execution had been a success, and all prisoners had not suffered. The families of the executed were informed that they had died with a song on their voices and had not been frightened. The bodies were then allowed to be claimed and buried by the families back here in Australia. These two drug traffickers, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukamaran, had eventually recognised that they had done the wrong thing, and went about doing something good for others, until it was time to go.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book, even though I am against the death penalty, as I am one who believes that even the worst of criminals can change if they are given the chance to rectify their behaviour and redeem themselves.

Eric Kelly

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VCAUSA CALENDAR

The ongoing VCAUSA calendar for 2019-20, as far as is known at this stage is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 – 22 April, 2019</td>
<td>Easter Exchange with SACUSA, Melbourne</td>
<td>Crockett Shield Match (Saturday) (K.M. Reedy Reserve, Hampton Park) and Butler Trophy (Sunday) (Glen Waverley Bowls Club)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 - Welcome Dinner, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>20 – 10:00 am start</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 – 11:30 am start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 17 May, 2019, 7:00 pm for 7:30</td>
<td>VCAUSA Annual Dinner &amp; Presentation Night</td>
<td>Veneto Club, 191 Bulleen Rd., Bulleen (details and booking form on back page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 21 May, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class 1</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre, Junction Oval, St Kilda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 28 May, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class 2</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4 June, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class 3</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11 June, 7:00pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class 4</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18 June, 7:00pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class 5</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18 June, 7:00pm</td>
<td>CV Winter Class Exam</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 20 August, 2019, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>VCAUSA Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>CitiPower Centre, Junction Oval, St Kilda</td>
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2019 VCAUSA Annual Dinner and Presentation Night

Veneto Club
191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen
Friday 17th May
7:00pm (for 7:30pm)

Guest Speaker is Keith Jansz

- Frankston Peninsula Senior Coach
- Former State Selector and Coach of Victorian Mens Team
- Former Chairman of Selectors Victorian Womens U17 & U19 Teams
- Former State Selector of Victorian Mens U19 Team
- Former Senior Coach - Hawthorn Monash Uni Cricket Club
- High Performance Coach in several schools in Sri Lanka

During the evening, the awards for Season 2018-2019 will be presented. These include the:
- Inaugural Ray Isherwood Representative Umpire award
- Umpire of the Year for each Premier Men's Grade
- The Scorer of the Year
- The Robin Baillache Commitment Award
- together with ‘Milestone’ certificates

VCAUSA Members and Partners $50 / person
Non-members and Partners $60 / person

Already subsidised by approx $30/head by the VCAUSA

3 course buffet-style meal
Beer/Wine/Soft Drinks included
Plenty of complimentary on-site parking

Book before Thu 9th May

Email, Phone or complete the form below and send to Gerry Schembri at the address shown above

Payment to VCAUSA
- Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000
- Account 156 125 593 or
- Cheque payable to VCAUSA with your booking form

Enquiries
- Gerry Schembri 0409 817 719
gerryschembri@gmail.com
- Trevor Finlayson 0408 053 712

Name: ........................................... Best Contact No ...........................................

Names of Accompanying Person .................................................................

Special Dietary Requirements .................................................................