



**NSWAF
UMPIRES
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2008**



The 2008 Premier Division Seniors Grand Final Panel

**NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL
UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

The Reg Bartley Oval
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CONTENTS

Life Members	4
Hall of Fame	4
Committee Members	5
Active Members	6
President's Report	8
Vice President's Report	9
Secretary's Report	11
Treasurer's Report	12
Financial Statements	13
Social Report	15
Coach's Report	19
Award Winners	20
Grand Final Umpires	22
AFL Representatives	26
Sydney AFL Representatives	26
Milestones	27
Debutants	27
Appendix 1 Minutes of the previous AGM	28
Appendix 2 Agenda of the current AGM	30

LIFE MEMBERS

William J. Allan
Nicholas Angelos
Jack Armstrong
George Brack
Fred Bradley
Glen Callaghan
J. J. Clancey
Richard Cox
Roger Crowhurst
Danny Daniel
Tom Evans
Wally Craig (Deceased)
Mrs Ruby Craig (Deceased)
Grant Godfrey
Leslie Gonye
E. J. Griffin (Deceased)
Peter Hampshire
Henry Harrop
Theo Haughan
Michael Heinrichs
Max Henry
William Hunkin (Deceased)
Chris Huon
Martin Jackson
George Jones (Deceased)
Frank Kalayzich
John Lanser
Jack Leber
Mal W. Lee
Anton Lewis
Leo Magee
George Maruan
Alan McIntyre
Patrick McMahon
Shane McSpeerin
James A. McSweeney
Jack Maude
Kevin Meade
Frank Nevill (Deceased)
Peter Nilson
Laurie O'Connor (Deceased)
John Reid
Ken Ray
Mark S. Rendell
Anthony W. St Clair
James Smail
Andrew Smith
Robert Tait
Roy Thomas
Steven Wallbank
Ross Wheeler
Frank Williamson
George M. Wood
David Yole

HALL OF FAME

Graham Allomes
Peter Hampshire
John Leber
Mal Lee
Alan McIntyre
James McSweeney
Kevin Meade
C. Murray
Len Palmer
John Reid
Mark Rendell
James Smail
Bill Wagener
Ross Wheeler
David Yole

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



President

Anton Lewis

Vice President

Angus Heritage

Secretary / Interim Treasurer

Sean Richardson

Treasurer

Michael Peck (resigned 28 February 2008)

Ordinary Members

Troy Edwards

Carl Fletcher (resigned 10 January 2008)

Jeff Milne (appointed 20 January 2008)

Andrew Rutherford

Andrew Scovell (appointed 16 April 2008)

Meeting Attendance

	Committee Meetings	Association Meetings
Anton Lewis	11 (11)	7 (7)
Angus Heritage	10 (11)	5 (7)
Sean Richardson	11 (11)	6 (7)
Michael Peck	0 (3)	1 (1)
Troy Edwards	7 (11)	5 (7)
Carl Fletcher	1 (1)	0 (0)
Jeff Milne	9 (11)	7 (7)
Andrew Rutherford	2 (11)	6 (7)
Andrew Scovell	6 (7)	3 (6)

ACTIVE MEMBERS

	Discipline	Year First Joined	Years of Service
Damian Anderson	Field	2007	2
Paul Barron	Field	2003*	5*
Jeremy Boland	Field	2005	4
Thomas Bowes	Field	2008	1
Glen Callaghan^	Field	1995	14
Peter Cameron	Goal	2008	1
Daniel Coghlan	Field	2007	2
David Connelly	Boundary	2004	5
Paul Crockford	Boundary	2007	2
John Curran	Goal	2008	1
Danny Deigan	Field	2006	3
David Doyle	Boundary	2008	1
Stewart Eckermann	Coach	1995*	12*
Troy Edwards	Field	2007	2
Pierce Field	Field	2007	2
Bernard Fisher	Boundary	2008	1
Carl Fletcher	Field	2006	3
Justin Fox	Field	2005	4
John Freeland	Field	TBC	TBC
Matthew Gestier	Field	2003	6
Roy Goh	Goal	2006	3
Leslie Gonye^	Boundary	1995	14
Tim Griffin	Boundary	2003	6
Takanori Hamada	Boundary	2008	1
David Harding	Boundary	2004	5
Simon Harrison	Coach	2008	1
Angus Heritage	Boundary	2007	2
Brenton Hissey	Field	2007	2
Peter Hoffman	Field	2006	3
Peter Humphries	Field	2003	3
Sean Hunter	Field	2008	1
Mathew James	Field	2008	1
Frank Kalayzich^	Field	1983*	23*
Natasha Kuchta	Field	TBC	TBC
Anton Lewis^	Field	1994*	13*
Matthew Manevski	Boundary	2008	1
Chris Marathakis	Field	2008	1
Petros Markou	Field	2004*	4*
Luke Mathews	Field	2008	1
Adam McDonald	Boundary	2006	3
Anthony McGilvray	Field	1990*	13*
Shane McSpeerin^	Boundary	1992	17
Jeff Milne	Goal	2006	3
Anthony Mitchell	Goal	2008	1
Kevin Morrison	Goal	2006	3
Peter Nilson^	Goal	1992	17
Chris Niven	Field	2008	1
Scott Nugent	Field	2007	2
Paul O'Loughlin	Field	2008	1
Jonathan Park	Boundary	2008	1
Gerard Parsons	Field	2008	1
Michael Peck	Field	2005	4
Emma Polette	Goal	2007	2
Timothy Pow	Field	2008	1
Ken Ray^	Goal	1989	20
Sean Richardson	Field	2003	6
Liam Rowe	Field	2008	1
Andrew Rutherford	Field	2006	3
Michael Saunders	Boundary	2008	1
Andrew Scovell	Goal	2005	4
Andy Smyth	Field	2007	2
Alison Stevens	Boundary	2007	2
Stephen Stork	Field	2008	1
Brian Sullivan	Field	2002*	6*
Ashley Symons	Field	2007	2
Robert Taylor	Boundary	2008	1
Josh Terrey	Field	2008	1
Stephen Thurston	Boundary	2008	1
Sergio Villagra	Goal	2000	9
Steven Wallbank^	Field	1990	19
Tristan Williamson	Field	2008	1

^Life Member
 *Discontinuous service



The 2008 AFL Sydney Umpiring Panel

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anton Lewis

It is with great pleasure that I present my second President's report, covering the 2008 season.

The 2008 season was a challenging year for the Association. We had a bit on our plate with a number of Committee positions having to be filled prior to the elected occupants even starting their roles. We found some suitable replacements for these positions but this meant a greater load being carried by a few for a period of time. Discussions around the CBA also commenced in 2008 and did not go as well as what we would have liked. Our relationship with the League and sharing of information seems to have improved in most areas. We now have a number of processes and channels embedded to further assist umpiring and the communication with the Association. We will continue to work with the League to ensure our Members obtain relevant information in a timely manner and we are able to resolve any issues that may arise amicably as happened in 2008.

2008 also saw improve training standards with our new coach Michael Hetherington taking us to greater levels of fitness. Michael will be with us again in 2009, so start training now!!

Graham Glassford continued in his role as coach of the AFL Sydney Umpiring Group as well as being the State Umpiring Manager for the NSW/ACT AFL.

This season our Association was represented by a boundary and goal umpire at the AFL level. Congratulations to these Members, and long may you represent NSW umpiring at this, the highest level. The opportunities clearly exist in a smaller football state for those who set their sights on them. The dedication and commitment required to reach this level is worthwhile once you step onto the ground for your first AFL game. It is good to see that Matthew Gestier has been provided with an opportunity to trial as a field umpire along with 10 others from interstate, so we wish him the best in his trial process.

Once again the Association explored a significant number of avenues regarding sponsorship. We were very fortunate to retain dd(too) and Columbia Coffee (Peter Nilson) as our sponsors. We welcomed USN as our major sponsor during the year. Challenges exist in this area in these financial times, and is something that we must all be vigilant about. The 2009 Committee will need to work hard and early to identify sponsors for 2009. Whether these be goods in kind or some dollars, please let a Committee person know as every bit helps and improves the services to all.

Membership numbers have grown this year, up from 68 in 2007 to the magical 71 mark in 2008. This is a welcome development, and all umpires should take credit for contributing to the harmonious and welcoming atmosphere at training. I encourage you to rejoin the Association in 2009 and continue this trend. The Association plays an important role in maintaining and developing the culture of the Sydney AFL group. We appreciate the feedback provided by our Members and hope that the initiatives we have started in 2007 & 2008 are of benefit to all.

The Committee has again attempted to make sure that a number of suitable and enjoyable social functions occurred to meet the needs of Members. Planning and scheduling these occasions continues to be a challenge and although a variety of events were organised across the various locals in Sydney they may not have suited all Members. Any suggestions regarding these functions are always welcome and we will plan accordingly to meet Members needs.

I would also like to thank the 2008 Committee for their hard work this year. Each Committee Member has contributed in their own way to help make this season a successful one. We are losing some Members for various reasons and I'm sure that their boots will be hard to fill. The role of the Committee is not easy one. The bar that has been set has been high over the last few years with lots of expectations to meet. I'm sure whoever nominates and is elected onto the 2009 Committee positions will do as good a job as the previous incumbents.

I hope the 2009 season is beneficial to you all and I look forward to seeing you at the 2008 AGM.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Angus Heritage

The 2008 season has been a long and demanding one but one which has also brought the NSWAFUA Committee and its Members more opportunities, great enjoyment, personal satisfaction and of course fun, laughter and a lot of cherished memories.

The Committee began working toward the 2008 season straight after the 2007 AGM and I have been both proud and honoured to serve the Members of the NSWAFUA as its Vice President for 2008.

The main objective of the Committee for 2008 was simple – to make the involvement and Membership of the NSWAFUA as rewarding, long lasting and satisfying as possible.

With this objective driving our strategy and planning we set about creating a business plan which included clearly articulated objectives, quantifiable results and related action plans – we later put this to the NSWAFUA Membership for confirmation and support.

We also delegated particular responsibilities to particular people; with the objective being that if people are responsible for something then the facilitation and execution of the function will not be left to the usual two or three people who have historically driven a number of the NSWAFUA activities.

There was an obvious need of securing sponsorship, reviewing current policies and processes and the use of available facilities and the range of services already offered – and how we could improve all these areas in a cost effective way.

We also began preparing for the larger issues of the CBA negotiations, umpire retention and welfare and reviewed the ways we represent ourselves (as an umpiring group) to both the AFL community and the broader general public.

In the role of Vice President, I was delegated responsibility for sponsorship and general business planning and worked closely with Richo (Sean Richardson) and Rowdy (Troy Edwards) in the areas of logistics with a primary focus on feeding, watering and general supplies for the 2008 running group.

I personally learnt a lot about the challenges of securing relevant and long term sponsors – which is not easy at the best of times, and these are not the best of financial times.

I believe a large number of new innovations introduced in the 2008 season have improved the services available to NSWAFUA Members including (but not limited to):

- The introduction of a formalised "buddy" system for new umpires to the group.
- The development of tiered Membership packages with various inclusions and value levels, which encouraged and enabled a larger number of people to become NSWAFUA Members in 2008 compared to previous years.
- The commitment of Jeff Milne (as one Committee Member) responsible for all NSWAFUA Member's welfare and on-going support.
- The introduction of more professional game day and training uniforms – which have increased the positive profile of our group to the broader community and made us look more professional.

The updating and implementation of the new NSWAFUA website to be both more interactive and user friendly but also a great resource for prospective future umpires.

- The securing of a dedicated website – www.umpireafl.com.au
- Increased interaction and involvement with other AFL representative bodies throughout NSW and Australia. In particular, the involvement of the NSWAFUA Members in the Junior Carnival was a great success both for the spirit of umpiring and financial for our Members – thank you again for those who assisted over that weekend.
- Better use of the resources that "The Reg" has to offer and in particular the more regular and more diverse food and product offering – particularly for the Thursday Feeds. Thank you, also to all those who have assisted with the preparation and delivery of food throughout the season – I know that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes.
- The increased focus on ensuring the social and fundraising activities are both relevant, fun and profitable – not always an easy mix to get right.
- Increased levels of communication and information provided to Members regularly.

The list goes on and on but this is not meant to be a self congratulatory lecture but rather recognition of some of the achievements in 2008. The bottom line is; we still have much more to do.

Much of the work done and advances made in 2008 would not have been possible without the combined (and individual) skills of your Committee.

In particular, a couple of people deserve special recognition.

The first is Richo (Sean Richardson), what an outstanding and capable person he has proven to be over a long period of time. He has set new standards in the role of Secretary and even stepping up to include the Treasurer functions throughout the season has not reduced his enthusiasm and commitment. Much of what we have achieved as a group can (and should be) placed squarely on the hard work and time he has committed the NSWAFUA.

Another people who deserve particular recognition and our thanks are Tugger (Anton Lewis) and Sleepy (Jeff Milne). Throughout the year, both these men have spent hours planning, discussing and negotiating with a number of parties to secure the best possible CBA and welfare support and services for us all.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the other Members of the 2008 Committee - both those who are nominating for another tour of duty in 2009 and those that are moving on. The work that you have contributed has been invaluable.

In conclusion, I hope every Member of the NSWAFUA has an enjoyable and restful off- season. You certainly have deserved it.

I look forward to making the opportunities we have before us come to fruition in 2009 and beyond.



The 2008 First Division Seniors Grand Final Panel

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sean Richardson

The NSWAFUA is the heart and soul of umpiring in the Sydney. Our single most important task is creating a friendly, supportive and engaging environment for umpires, especially our Members. The importance of this role for umpire recruitment and retention cannot be underestimated. To this end, I believe that the Committee has continued to 'raise the bar' in season 2008 - however much work remains ahead.

An enduring challenge for the NSWAFUA, the AFL Sydney Umpiring Department and the AFL NSW/ACT is defining the differing roles and responsibilities of each organisation. There is often confusion (and somewhat differing expectations) surrounding our respective duties and responsibilities amongst League Officials, Coaching Staff and the Association. This year the Committee has attempted to clarify matters through our Umpiring Handbook Supplement, our Welcome Brochure, regular Member updates and in our CBA negotiations. This remains an ongoing issue for all parties to ensure we all continue to operate from the same perspective.

We achieved our target of 71 Members for the 2008 season, an increase from 66 in the previous year. Achieving a 100% sign up rate from those umpires who 'regularly' attend training was a further goal of the Committee, but one that once again went unrealised.

The appointment of Carl Fletcher as Umpiring Development Officer this season was a fantastic step forward for umpiring in both Sydney and NSW. This has seen further focus and resources placed into junior umpiring programs across the state, including the Regional Squad and Development Academy. Nonetheless, there still remains somewhat of a 'gap' between the junior and senior umpiring groups in Sydney, which the NSWAFUA can look to help 'bridge'. We took some stall steps forward with our involvement in the AFL GSJ Representative Carnival and invitations to our Annual Ten Pin Bowling Challenge, which will provide a further platform linkages in 2009.

The CBA negotiations throughout the season have proved tiring and often challenging. The NSWAFUA has attempted to take a holistic approach to both the process and the new Agreement. We have had extensive consultation with Members who have supported a wider view to the conditions support structures provided to the Association and Members - rather than simply fee increases. At seasons end an Agreement for 2009 appears far from being reached. The support and resolve of Members in this process has been outstanding, and will continue to be needed as negotiations continue into the new season.

The 2008 Committee has worked tirelessly from early December last year to serve the Membership base. As much as I dislike the term as a core value, ensuring our work remains 'relevant' to Members is the guiding principle behind all Committee affairs.

Both Carl Fletcher and Michael Peck originally nominated for the Committee but were unable to continue in their roles due to changed work and university commitments. I thank them both for their service on the Committee in preceding years and hope they are able to renominate in future years.

Jeff Mile and Andrew Scovell were appointed to fill the casual vacancies and have done a sterling job. In only his first year on the Committee, Angus Heritage has shown outstanding leadership and dedication as Vice President, and Anton Lewis has continued his often unsung 'work horse' role as President.

Andrew Rutherford and Troy Edwards have both chosen not to nominate for the Committee in 2009, due to work commitments and intrastate relocation respectively. After recently announcing his engagement, Troy is moving up to the Central Coast - look out NCCUA! Both have performed diligently and admirably this season and I wish them both all the best in the future.

It is with much sadness that I have chosen not to nominate for the Committee next year. With a number of exciting personal matters on the horizon in 2009, I must 'step back' for the time being. It has been an honour serving as Secretary for the past two seasons and as an Ordinary Member in the preceding years.

Involvement with the Committee can often be a time consuming experience, but it is certainly a rewarding one. To my colleagues in 2008, I thank each and every one of you for your energy, passion, commitment, patience and warped sense of humour. If it wasn't fun, it wouldn't be worthwhile! I wish the 2009 Secretary and Committee every success, and I encourage each and every Member to support their tireless work through your engaged and meaningful Association Membership. Something as simple as RSVPing to a function, reading a Member Update or attending an Association Meeting can often mean the world of difference.

After all - it's 'your voice, your team, your mates' - and your Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sean Richardson

The Committee took a prudent approach to our financial affairs in 2008, after failing to attract a major sponsor this season. After a review of our financial situation at the start of the season we aimed to 'break even' over the course of the season, with a focus on attracting and retaining Members through affordable Association Membership and services. We also commenced maintaining the Association accounts and database through MYOB software, which allowed greater reporting functionality and insight.

Despite not securing a monetary sponsor, a number of non financial supporters offered goods and/or services in kind over the course of the season, and we extend them our sincerest thanks:

Bohemia Crystal (and Angus Heritage)
Intercontinental Hotel (and Adam McDonald)
dd(too) (and Sean Richardson)
Columbia Coffee (and Peter Nilson)
Sydney Water (and Jeff Milne)
Oce Printing (and Paul O'Loughlin)
USN - Ultimate Sports Nutrition

The support of such organisations is invaluable, and have allowed us to reduce/minimise costs and raise much needed funds. A further thank you to those Members who have facilitated these donations.

Membership Fees were once again 'tiered' through a range of different packages designed to accommodate our diverse group. This has been a very successful initiative over the past three seasons offering choice and flexibility to all Members. Dues were pegged at comparable 2007 levels, with only minor adjustments made based on slightly different inclusions. Bronze (or basic) level Membership remained at only \$60.

Members were very receptive to our investment in branded tracksuits in 2007, and accordingly all Memberships this year received a Member Pack (with inclusions, depending on your package, of a polo shirt, training shirt, bag, key ring, water bottle, towel, cap and sweatbands). This introduced an even greater level of professionalism to the group - after all, 'team that looks like a team, plays like a team'.

Thanks to the initiative of Paul O'Loughlin, the Association was able to provide canteen services to the AFL GSJ Representative Carnival held at Mahooney Park over the long weekend. Whilst a logistic nightmare to organise (and run) given the weather, facilities our limited experience (!), this nonetheless provided a much welcomed financial injection mid season. A number of intangible benefits also flowed through our support of junior football, promotion of umpiring and interaction with the junior umpires present. If continued in 2009 (and with better weather and the new canteen building) this fantastic initiative will prove even greater opportunities to the Association. Our sincerest thanks to Paul O'Loughlin for his work securing the rights for the weekend, to Troy Edwards and the rest of the Committee for their work organising the canteen, and to those Members who helped serve over the three days.

Once again we ran our annual Cadbury chocolate drive, magnificently organised and executed by the wonderful Alison Stevens. Thanks to Alison's hard work this ran extremely smoothly - although I must confess to having three quarters of a box of snakes still sitting at home, uneaten!

A challenge that the Association has historically faced is budgeting for our two major end of season functions (President's Night and Presentation Night). With our fee income largely received up front and our expenditure deferred to later in the year, it is easy to succumb to a false sense of security regarding the financial state of affairs. The Committee attempted to account for these upcoming liabilities with a provision in the Treasurer's Report provided at Meetings throughout the season. Whilst somewhat conservative, we hope that this has provided a more realistic insight into the financial affairs and problems faced by the Committee.

Another feature of the Association accounts is that we only account for 'Members Funds' in our Statement of Financial Position (or Balance Sheet). All stock and inventory is immediately expensed to ensure only our liquid (cash) assets are represented. As such, the NSWAFUA recorded an approximate \$1000 financial loss for the 2008 season. Given the Committee's goal to break even this season, this loss is not unexpected and can be directly attributed to our significantly increased list of non financial items - primarily inventory. With a net realisable value in excess of \$3000, this represents deferred income for season 2009.

I will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of this year (see Secretary's Report). I wish the incoming Treasurer (and Committee) every success in season 2009.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Incorporated

Statement of Financial Performance
for the year ending 31 October 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Income		
Memberships	10,615	9,660
Canteen / Equipment / Apparel	5,480	4,885
Social Functions	5,784	2,605
Fundraising	10,677	3,866
Total Income	32,456	21,016
Expenses		
Canteen	3,826	2,293
Equipment / Apparel	9,189	4,257
Social Functions	12,207	9,347
Fundraising	6,255	2,000
Other Operating Expenses	2,904	2,109
Total Expenses	34,381	20,007
Operating Profit / Deficit	(1,925)	1,009
Other Income		
Interest Income	929	402
Total Other Income	929	402
Net Profit / (Loss)	(986)	1,411

New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Incorporated

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 October 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Assets		
Cash On Hand	(1,718)	2,487
Savings Funds	15,525	12,959
Trade Debtors	750	166
Other Debtors	230	0
Total Assets	14,787	15,612
Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities	161	0
Total Liabilities	161	0
Net Assets	14,626	15,612
Member's Equity		
Retained Earnings	15,612	14,201
Current Year Earnings	(986)	1,411
Member's Equity	14,626	15,612

The Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution of the New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Incorporated. The Committee of the Association have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that the Association's financial statements are not subject to the application of the relevant accounting frameworks, standards or other professional reporting requirements, nor have these been applied. Rather, the records have been prepared in order to accurately present a true and fair record of the financial affairs of the Association, and have been presented in a consistent manner to the previous year.

Note 2 - Non Financial Items

The following list of items owned by the Association are considered significant, but do not form part of the Statement of Financial Position.

Item	2008	2007
Apparel - Bunnings T-Shirts	18	9
Apparel - Caps	25	0
Apparel - Sweatbands (Pairs)	64	4
Apparel - Towels	44	0
Apparel - Tracksuits	21	13
Apparel - Whistles	21	2
General - Filing Cabinet	3	1
General - Laminator	1	1
General - Metal Cupboard	1	0
General - Plastic Chairs	38	38
General - Trestle Tables	2	2
General - Two Seater Sofas	2	2
General - White Boards	2	2
Kitchen - BBQ	1	1
Kitchen - Electronic Hot Plate	1	0
Kitchen - Fridge	1	1
Kitchen - Microwave	1	1
Kitchen - Mini Cupboard	1	1
Kitchen - Pie Warmer	1	1
Training - Electronic Pump	1	0
Training - Massage Tables	1	1
Training - Metal Goal Post Bases	4	4
Training - PVC Goal Posts	4	4
Training - Trundle Wheels	1	1

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has determined that the New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Incorporated is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements need not be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

These records represent a statement from the Committee which is not misleading and gives a true and fair view for the last financial year of the Association's (a) income, (b) assets and liabilities, (c) mortgages charges and other securities, and (d) trust properties.

This report is signed for on behalf of the Committee by:

Anton Lewis
 President
 Monday 3 November 2008

Sean Richardson
 Treasurer
 Monday 3 November 2008

SOCIAL REPORT

Troy Edwards

Although I was not officially appointed to the role, I would like to report that a wide variety of social activities was provided for Members throughout season 2008. We commenced our season with our very popular annual barefoot bowls event at Lane Cove Bowling Club to the gala event, Presentation Night at the City Tattersalls Club. Andrew Rutherford and I have worked collaboratively with all venues and Members to make sure that the social events held during 2008 were as enjoyable as possible. Below is a list of events conducted throughout the 2008 season and I'm sure the Committee will welcome any suggestions Members may have for events to be conducted in 2009.

Barefoot Bowls. Approximately 25 Members attended Lane Cove Bowling Club for the now traditional season opening Barefoot Bowls. The venue allowed us to provide a BBQ for those attending with a teams event being well organised and run by Chucky.

AFL Hall of Fame Match Members attended and watched the match on the big screen at the Swans Club in the cross; this was well received and attended by approximately 20 Members and some of their partners.

Annual Ten Pin Bowling Challenge. A good turn out of Members at Lidcombe Ten Pin Bowling centre with some representation from some of our Junior umpire associations, which was good to see.

Vice Presidents Night. A possible change of regular training venue for 2009 saw Vice Presidents night held at North Sydney Oval, thus providing a two fold outcome which as well as recognising the grand final appointments for First & Second Divisions and 18 Challenge umpires, also allowed Members the opportunity to inspect and comment on the facilities.

President's Night. This was once again held at the Hotel Intercontinental. The NSWAFUA thanks Adam McDonald for his efforts in securing this salubrious venue.

Grand Final Day Marquee. The NSWAFUA Committee this year provided refreshments and light snacks for Members and their families on Grand Final day at Henson Park. This was well attended, with all present having a fantastic day in glorious weather.

Grand Final Night Drinks. This year the NSWAFUA secured the Alexandria Hotel as the venue for our drinks. Our sincere thanks are extended to the staff and management of the Alexandria for their provision of complementary drinks for Members upon arrival.

Presentation Night. The pinnacle and piece de' resistance of the season. A change of venue this year has seen the NSWAFUA Committee very excited to bring this awards evening to our Members and partners.

All in all, 2008 has seen a myriad of challenges faced by the Committee, and the Committee has responded accordingly. I have seen it as my duty, when required to ensure that Members attending functions have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and have been able to forget about the politics and behind the scenes rumblings that undoubtedly occur for all umpire groups, and in turn focus 100% on enjoying themselves.

SOCIAL REPORT



Action from the Barefoot Bowls Night

SOCIAL REPORT



Action from the AFL Hall of Fame Match

SOCIAL REPORT



Action from the Fourth Annual Ten Pin Bowling Challenge

COACH'S REPORT Graham Glassford

When reflecting on the season past and the umpiring group I need to reflect on twelve months. With pre-season starting at the end of October and the dedication of a number of umpires now training close to the full year I can only be pleased in the turn around of the umpiring group as a whole.

The performances of all umpires across the season was very good and although we always face our challenges of never being able to satisfy our customers (the clubs) I believe our professional approach towards the game means we are respected by most. The culture of any group plays a very important role for any group and the Sydney AFL Umpiring Group is no different. While we are on the way to creating an environment that people want to belong to we still have some work to do to ensure a positive future for the group.

This year we improved the number of coaching staff and while we still struggle to view every umpire officiate throughout the year we are moving in the right direction. There is no doubt that each and every umpire wants improved feedback from the coaches. This is always a challenge given the limited resources however I believe that all of the coaches are accessible and willing to help each umpire achieve their goal. My sincere thanks to the following coaches for all of their hard work and dedication:-

Field Umpire Coaches:	Keith Ogston, Simon Harrison, Nick Angelos, Richard Cox, Andrew Jones
Boundary Umpire Coaches:	Greg Lyons and Stewart Eckerman
Goal Umpires Coach:	Ken Ray
Strength & Conditioning Coaches:	Michael Hetherington and Matt Tuck

There are a total of 58 field umpires, 24 boundary and 13 goal umpires that are on the list for the Sydney AFL Umpiring Group. The list size for 2008 has grown from 45 field umpires in 2007. The challenge is always to have all umpires officiating each week however that is not always possible with injury, work and family commitments being issues the umpiring group confronts. It is ever pleasing to have near on half the field umpiring panel aged between 18 and 25. Numbers of umpires attending training continues to increase which is encouraging.

The finals series saw the introduction of MatchComs for the Senior field Umpires. This proved to be a valuable coaching tool for the umpires involved but also for the coaches. It was pleasing to note that the umpires communication with players was extremely professional and something that the whole group could be very proud of. It is hoped that the system can be continued in some form or another in 2009.

Shrinkage in the number of goal umpires this year is a concern and in the off season a concerted recruitment effort will be implemented by the Umpiring Department to try and boost numbers.

The Umpiring Department continues to work closely with the Greater Sydney Junior Umpiring groups to ensure that umpires who wish to progress from beyond junior football are given every opportunity. A major role of the Umpire Development Officer has been to work closely and promote umpiring as a real alternative. There is no doubt that program's such as the Sydney Umpiring Regional Squad and the NSW/ACT Development Academy are important pieces in developing umpires throughout the region.

This year we also trialed a School Based Academy program in partnership with Endeavour Sports High School. This was a weekly program conducted within the school to train students in umpiring Australian Football. Students within various sports including athletics, oztag and of course football were given the opportunity around the middle of the year to be a 'Green Shirt Umpire' running the boundary in the Sydney AFL. The relative success in this pilot will see the potential for a number of schools to be involved in 2009.

A number of umpires in the group were appointed to games outside the Sydney AFL as part of their umpire pathway development. Congratulations to those umpires.

It is also pleasing to be able to announce that Matthew Gestier has been selected to trial as a Field Umpire for the AFL. Matthew becomes the first AFL Field Umpire to trial in NSW/ACT that has come entirely through the NSW/ACT system. This achievement will only help other aspiring umpires to believe that Sydney AFL is a viable competition to gain entry to the AFL.

In 2008 four umpires were part of the AFL Umpiring Panel, Adam McDonald, Luke McSpeerin (Boundary), Segio Villagra (Goal) and Mathew James (Field) who moved to Sydney midway through the season.

The Umpiring Department continues to work hard at buliding the base of umpires to ensure it caters for the growth of the game at all levels. By engaing the junior groups and the introduction of recruitment programs like School Based Academies we are buliding the base of umpires that over the next few years will translate into a greater increase in the number of senior umpires in the Sydney AFL competition.

AWARD WINNERS

Golden Whistle
Field Umpire of the Year
Matthew Gestier

Peter Hampshire Award
Boundary Umpire of the Year
Adam McDonald

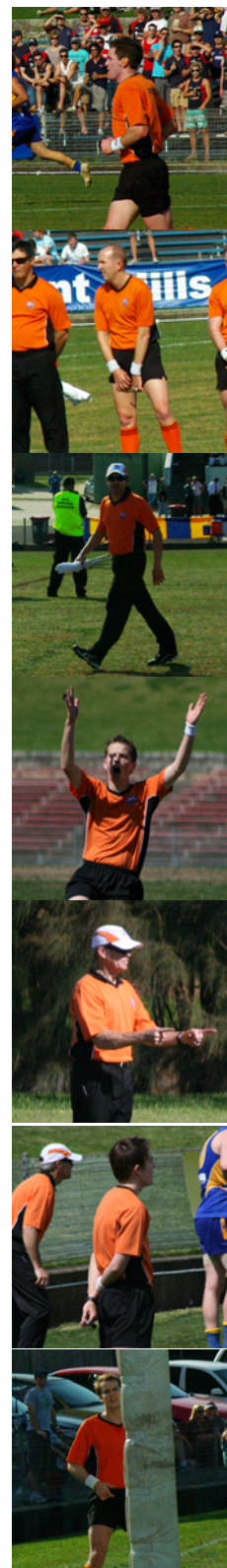
The Michael Heinrichs Award
Goal Umpire of the Year
Sergio Villagra

Umpires' Umpire Award
Best Team Player
Sean Richardson

President's Award
Jeff Milne

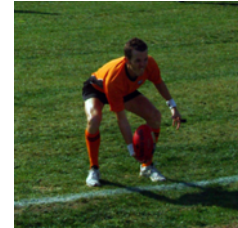
A. W. St Clair Award
Best All Rounder
Robert Taylor

AFL Award
Most Promising Umpire
Michael Saunders



AWARD WINNERS

Mark Rendell Shield
Best First Year Umpire
Stephen Thurston



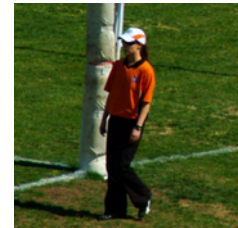
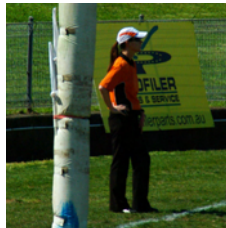
John Swensen Trophy - Field
Most Improved Field Umpire
Danny Deigan



John Swensen Trophy - Boundary
Most Improved Boundary Umpire
Angus Heritage



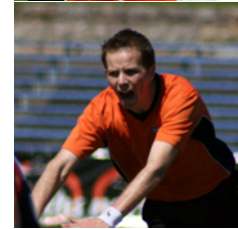
John Swensen Trophy - Goal
Most Improved Goal Umpire
Emma Polette



Spirit of Umpiring Award
Outstanding Commitment to Umpiring
Jeremy Boland, Alison Stevens



Trainer's Award
Sean Richardson



100m Sprint Cup
1st: Ashley Symons
2nd: Andrew Rutherford
3rd: Sean Richardson

GRAND FINAL UMPIRES



Premier Division Seniors

Pennant Hills v East Coast Eagles
Saturday 20 September, 2:30pm, Henson Park

F Matthew Gestier Danny Deigan Damian Anderson
B Adam McDonald Michael Saunders Stephen Thurston
G Kevin Morrison Sergio Villagra
E Justin Fox



Premier Division Reserves

East Coast Eagles v Sydney University
Saturday 20 September, 12:00pm, Henson Park

F Sean Richardson Frank Kalayzich Paul Barron
B Tim Griffin Robert Taylor
G Jeff Milne Andrew Scovell
E Michael Peck

GRAND FINAL UMPIRES



Under 18 Premier Cup

North Shore Bombers v East Coast Eagles
Saturday 20 September, 9:30am, Henson Park

F Pierce Field Tristan Williamson Ashley Symons
B David Connelly Paul Crockford
G Emma Pollette Anthony Mitchell
E Liam Rowe



Under 18 Challenge Cup

UNSW/Eastern Suburbs v Southern Shark
Saturday 13 September, 10:15am, H R Mahoney Park

F Scott Nugent Nathan Elsworthy
B Matt Mavenski Jonathon Park
G John Curran Shannon Pickford
E Will MacArthur

GRAND FINAL UMPIRES



First Division Seniors

UTS v Manly-Warringah

Saturday 13 September, 2:45pm, H R Mahoney Park

F Justin Fox Michael Peck Brenton Hissey

B Les Gonye Shane McSpeerin

G Pete Nillson Dom O'Callaghan

E Andrew Rutherford



First Division Reserves

UTS v Manly-Warringah

Saturday 13 September, 12:30pm, H R Mahoney Park

F Glen Callaghan Chris Marathakis

B David Harding Angus Heritage

G John Curran Jeff Milne

E Paul O'Loughlin

GRAND FINAL UMPIRES



Second Division

Pennant Hills v Sydney Uni Blue
Saturday 13 September, 8:00am, H R Mahoney Park

F Steven Wallbank Ron Johnson
B Paul Crockford Alison Stevens
G Pete Cameron Jane Freeland
E Andy Smyth

AFL REPRESENTATIVES

Field	Mathew James
Boundary	Adam McDonald Luke McSpeerin (Non Member)
Goal	Sergio Villagra

AFL SYDNEY REPRESENTATIVES

NAB U18 National Championships

Field	Paul Barron Matthew Gestier Andrew Rutherford
Boundary	Tim Pow
Goal	Roy Goh

NAB U16 National Championships

Field	Danny Deigan
Boundary	Robert Taylor (also selected for the U16 Grand Final)

Sydney AFL vs VAFA

Field	Damian Anderson Sean Richardson
Boundary	Tim Griffin Robert Taylor
Goal	Kevin Morrison Andrew Scovell

Sydney AFL Development Squad vs Black Diamond

Field	Brenton Hissey
Boundary	Robert Taylor
Goal	Jeff Milne

NSW/ACT Regional Championships

Field	Glen Callaghan
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Australian Schools Championships

Field	Alex Manfred (Non Member)
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SENIOR GAME MILESTONES

Sean Richardson	100 Senior Games Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 16
Kevin Morrison	50 Senior Games Goal	Premier Division Seniors Round 6

TOTAL GAME MILESTONES

Ken Ray	600 Total Games Goal	Premier Division Seniors Round 14
Steven Wallbank	450 Total Games Combined	First Division Seniors Round 9
Tony McGilvray	200 Total Games Field	Second Division Round 9
Tim Griffin	100 Total Games Boundary	Premier Division Seniors Round 14
David Connelly	100 Total Games Combined	Premier Division Seniors Round 13
David Harding	100 Total Games Combined	Premier Division Seniors Round 13
Paul Barron	100 Total Games Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 2
Petros Markou	50 Total Games Field	First Division Seniors Round 8
Danny Deigan	50 Total Games Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 6
Roy Goh	50 Total Games Goal	Premier Division Seniors Round 5
Brenton Hissey	50 Total Games Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 2
Andrew Scovell	50 Total Games Combined	Premier Division Seniors Round 1

SENIOR GRADE DEBUTANTS

Carl Fletcher	Senior Debut Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 11
Pierce Field	Senior Debut Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 5
David Harding	Senior Debut Boundary	Premier Division Seniors Round 5
Simon Harrison	Senior Debut Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 3
John Curran	Senior Debut Goal	Premier Division Seniors Round 1
Emma Pollete	Senior Debut Goal	Premier Division Seniors Round 1
Stephen Thurston	Senior Debut Boundary	Premier Division Seniors Round 1
Tristan Williamson	Senior Debut Field	Premier Division Seniors Round 1

Appendix 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 4 December 2007
The 'CNB' Hotel, 89 Ebley Street, Bondi Junction

Meeting opened 7:45pm
Chairperson Anton Lewis

Attendance

Damian Anderson, Paul Barron, Jeremy Boland, Glen Callaghan, David Connelly, Stewart Eckermann, Troy Edwards, Carl Fletcher, Justin Fox, Matthew Gestier, Tim Griffin, Angus Heritage, Anton Lewis, Luke McSpeerin, Jeff Milne, James Perrett, Emma Polette, Sean Richardson, Andrew Rutherford, Andrew Scovell, Alison Stevens, Ashley Symons, Steven Wallbank.

(a) Apologies

Richard Cox, Danny Deigan, Les Gonye, Peter Hoffman, Peter Humphries, Frank Kalayzich, Jim McSweeney, Michael Peck, Ken Ray.

(b) (i) Confirmation of the minutes from the previous AGM

Moved	Tim Griffin
Seconded	Steven Wallbank

(ii) Confirmation of the minutes from any previous EGM

Nil.

(c) Business arising from these minutes

Nil.

(d) Correspondence relating to the AGM

Nil.

(e) Committee Reports

(i) President's Report

Anton Lewis spoke on his published report.

(ii) Secretary's Report

Sean Richardson spoke on his published report.

(iii) Treasurer's Report

Luke McSpeerin spoke on his published report.

Moved	Jim McSweeney
Seconded	Tim Griffin

(f) Financial Statements:

Luke McSpeerin spoke on the Financial Statements.

Moved	Jim McSweeney
Seconded	Tim Griffin

(g) Notice of motions

Nil.

(h) Election of Life Members

Anton Lewis spoke on the criteria for Life Membership, as per the constitution.

Paul O'Loughlin and Luke McSpeerin were proposed as scrutineers for the ballot. No Members opposed.

Nomination for Glen Callaghan

Steven Wallbank on the nomination. Matthew Gestier seconded the nomination. Andrew Rutherford

and Justin Fox also spoke on the nomination.

Ballot papers were distributed and counted.

Result of Life Member election:

Glen Callaghan Accepted

Congratulations were extended to Glen Callaghan on his election as a Life Member.

(i) Elections of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members

Nominations have been lodged with the secretary as follows:

President	Anton Lewis
Vice President	Troy Edwards, Angus Heritage
Secretary	Sean Richardson
Treasurer	Michael Peck
Ordinary Members	Troy Edwards, Carl Fletcher, Angus Heritage, Jeff Milne, Andrew Rutherford.

Anton Lewis (President), Sean Richardson (Secretary), Michael Peck (Treasurer) were elected unopposed.

A ballot was held for the positions of Vice President and Ordinary Member. Tim Griffin and Luke McSpeerin were proposed as scrutineers for the ballot. No Members opposed.

Angus Heritage and Troy Edwards spoke on their nominations for Vice President.

Ballot papers were distributed and counted.

Result of Vice President election:

Vice President Angus Heritage

Congratulations were extended to Angus Heritage on his election as Vice President.

Jeff Milne spoke on and withdrew his nomination for Ordinary Member.

Troy Edwards, Carl Fletcher and Andrew Rutherford were elected unopposed as Ordinary Member.

(h) General Business

Sean Richardson thanked David Harding and Luke McSpeerin as outgoing Committee Members.

Sean Richardson thanked Members for their support of the Association by attending the AGM.

Anton Lewis spoke on the news that Ken Ray's father - Ted Ray - had passed away. Funeral details were advised. The Association has sent flowers. Anton Lewis expressed the Association's sincerest condolences.

Meeting closed 8:45pm

Appendix 2 AGENDA OF THE CURRENT AGM

New South Wales Australian Football Umpires' Association Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

Monday 3 November 2008
The Reg Bartley Oval, Waratah Street, Rushcutters Bay

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any Extraordinary Meeting held since that meeting
- (c) Business arising out of the Minutes
- (d) Correspondence relating to the Annual General Meeting
- (e) To receive from the Committee reports upon the activities of the Association during the last preceding financial year
- (f) To receive and consider a statement from the Committee which is not misleading and gives a true and fair view for the last financial year of the Association's:
 - (i) Income;
 - (ii) Assets and liabilities;
 - (iii) Mortgages, charges and other securities; and
 - (iv) Trust properties.
- (g) Notice of Special Resolution (if any)
- (h) Election of Life Members
- (i) Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members
- (j) General business