

A HISTORY OF SOFTBALL UMPIRING IN NEW ZEALAND

Interim report by Ray Weaver

I set out below a short report on my activities (no directly verifiable achievements yet). The task I have set myself is to research the period 1936 to 1949 in respect of national umpiring. It is unfortunate Ray has not been able to complete task due to his recent death. We are indebted to Ray for the effort put in to date and publish his findings including updating the record table.

UMPIRING HISTORY 1936 TO 1949

Materials in my possession:

- Minute book of the NZSUF 1949 to 1955. (Entrusted to me by Ron McLaughlin)
- An assortment from the research on Auckland softball. (courtesy of Trevor Rowse)
- Minute books of the WSA for 1938 to 1939 and from 1944 to 1949. (courtesy of Colin Ward)

Materials available to me:

- Minutes of the WSUA from 1941 to "?". (courtesy of the WSUA)
- The archive of the NZSA (available when the office completes the shift to Hutt City ~ 12 July 2002)

General:

- Results. It appears that the NZSUF began in 1946/47 at a time on or soon after 17 August 1946. I am cautious because this conclusion arises from an indirect source - the minutes of the WSA.
- Ray Laws (son of "Buck" Laws) has undertaken to find any umpiring materials which may be held by members of his family.
- I have met with Gerry Marshall once and from his recollections he has provided me with much background information. He is keen to meet again and talk further about the origins of umpiring.

In conclusion I have barely scratched the surface and I am sure that there is a lot of interesting and valuable reading ahead of me!!!

A HISTORY OF SOFTBALL UMPIRING IN NEW ZEALAND

Progress Report on researching "The New Zealand Softball Umpires Association" (NZSUA).

Sources of information for this report this report are:

1. Interviews with Gerry Marshall, Life Member
2. Correspondence from Trevor Rowse, Auckland Softballer and researcher
3. Minute books of the:
 - a) Wellington Softball Umpires Association, (WSUA) 1938 - 1951
 - b) Wellington Softball Association, (WSA) 1938 - 1949
 - c) NZ Softball Umpires Association, 1949 - 1955

The NZSUA was chosen for research because it was an organisation which served the development needs of Umpires at a national level and involved Softballers and Umpires whose foresight contributed in no small way to the foundations of Softball Umpiring in NZ.

Beginnings

The earliest indications of the beginnings of the NZSUA are contained in minutes of the WSUA:

25 October 1938. It was decided to form the NZ Umpires Assn and a grant of £3 was made to help pay expenses.

6 February 1939. A letter was received from the Wanganui Umpires Association regarding rulings. The letter was passed over for the Umpires Council to attend to.

3 July 1939. It was decided that Mr Burke be the delegate from the WSUA to the NZSUA

It is evident from these minutes that a NZSUA was indeed formed and was functioning in late 1938 or early 1939. Further minutes indicate that there were about five transactions annually between WSUA and NZSUA until 3 November 1941.

Perturbations

The minutes of the WSUA show that from November 1941 there was no further mention of NZSUA until 6 March 1944 when "Mr G Vanston reported on activities of the of the NZSUA". The next mention of a national umpires organisation is contained in the WSUA minutes of 12 March 1945 when "Mr Rabbitt reported on the game at Palmerston North of the NZ Womens Assn. Meetings were attended of the NZ Womens Umpires Assn and the NZ Womens Baseball Assn."

The next reference by WSUA to NZSUA appears in the minutes of 13 January 1947 when there were several transactions relating to the receipt of NZSUA minutes, an affiliation fee (£2-2-0), a request to obtain 24 caps and 24 badges similar to those used by Auckland Softball Umpires Association (ASUA) and an enquiry about the uniforms used by the ASUA umpires.

A few months earlier the WSA noted in its minutes of 22 July 1946 that ASUA advised that it was intended to call a special meeting to form a NZ Umpires Association on 17 August 1946. The minutes indicated that the WSA would be represented. A later minute of the WSA (25 February 1947) referred to an offer of a trophy for umpires to NZSUA.

It seems then that in the two - years - four - months gap (6/03/1944 - to - 22/07/1946) the NZSUA may have dissolved and following that, was reformed in late 1946.

Minutes of the NZSUA are available from the AGM in 1948 until the AGM in 1955 when the NZSUA wound itself up. These minutes are yet to be searched in detail.

Next

Search all available NZSA archives.

Appreciations

Many thanks to Gerry Marshall for his assistance and to those who entrusted their records to the researchers.

Year	Rules Interpretation Committee			Notes
1949-50	H (Ben) J Fuller (Chair), T Laws, G Vanston			
	Chief	Rules Interpretation Committee		
1950-51	H J Fuller	UIC replaces Committee		NZUF decision. Not clear when first UIC was appointed
1951-52	H J Fuller	Not Applicable		NZUF decides that UIC be known as NZ Chief Umpire.
1952-53	H J Fuller			
1953-54	H J Fuller	D Inglis	C K Morgan	
1954-55	C K Morgan	T Laws	H J Fuller	
1955-56	C K Morgan			
1956-57	C K Morgan			
1957-58	C K Morgan			
1958-59	C K Morgan	D Inglis	J Allen	
1959-60	C K Morgan	D Inglis	J Allen	
1960-61	C K Morgan			
1961-62	C K Morgan			
1962-63	C K Morgan	D Inglis	J Allen	
1963-64	C K Morgan	J Allen	R Weaver	
1964-65	C K Morgan	J Allen	R Weaver	
1965-66	C K Morgan	J Allen	R Weaver	
1966-67	C K Morgan	A Aitken	J Allen	
1967-68	R F McLaughlin	A Aitken	J Allen	
1968-69	R F McLaughlin	A Aitken	J Allen	
1969-70	R F McLaughlin	A Aitken	J Allen	
1970-71	R F McLaughlin	A Aitken	J W Allen	

1971-72	J W Allen	A Aitken	R Weaver	
1972-73	J W Allen	A Aitken	R Weaver	
1973-74	J W Allen	A Aitken	R Weaver	
1974-75	R Weaver	D McCammon	D J Brewer	
1975-76	R Weaver	D McCammon	D J Brewer	
1976-77	R Weaver	D McCammon	D J Brewer	
1977-78	R Weaver	D McCammon	J Rochford	
1978-79	R Weaver	D McCammon	J Rochford	
1979-80	R Weaver	D McCammon	J Rochford	
1980-81	R Weaver	D McCammon	C E Phillips	
1981-82	R Weaver	D McCammon	C E Phillips	
	Umpire-in-Chief	Deputy Chiefs		
1982-83	R Weaver	D McCammon	C E Phillips	
1983-84	C E Phillips	D McCammon	D F Wilson	
1984-85	C E Phillips	D McCammon	D F Wilson	
1985-86	C E Phillips	D McCammon	D F Wilson	
1986-87	C E Phillips	D England	M Mulholland	
1987-88	C E Phillips	D England	M Mulholland	
		North	Central	South
1988-89	C E Phillips	J Longdill	D England	Mrs J Phillips
1989-90	C E Phillips	J Longdill	D England	Mrs J Phillips
1990-91	C E Phillips	E Isaac	D England	Mrs J Phillips
1991-92	C E Phillips	E Isaac	D England	Mrs J Phillips
1992-93	C E Phillips	E Isaac	W Saunders	Mrs J Phillips
1993-94	C E Phillips	E Isaac	W Saunders	Mrs J Phillips
1994-95	C E Phillips	E Isaac	W Saunders	Ms S Adams
1995-96	C E Phillips	E Isaac	W Saunders	Ms S Adams
1996-97	W Saunders	D Ratu	B Bargiacchi	Ms S Adams
1997-98	W Saunders	D Ratu	B Bargiacchi	Ms S Adams
	Umpire Administrator			
1998-99	M Ferguson	W Smith	B Bargiacchi	Ms S Adams
	National Director	Deputy Directors		
1999-00	W Smith	C Seeling	B Bargiacchi	Ms S Adams
2000-01	W Smith	C Seeling	B Bargiacchi	Ms S Adams
2001-02	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	Ms S Adams
2002-03	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	Ms S Adams
2003-04	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	Ms S Adams
2004-05	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	D Turner
2005-06	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	D Turner
2006-07	W Smith	C Seeling	W Saunders	D Turner
	Umpire-in-Chief	National Umpiring Staff		
2007-08	W Saunders	C Seeling	D Turner	M McFarlane
2008-09				

Sources are: for 1949 to 1955, NZUF AGM minutes and annual reports and for 1955 to 1967, NZSA annual reports. Not all information required was recorded in these sources.

My next moves are: (1) Contact Ken Morgan (I have his NSW 'phone no.- but I understand that he goes walkabout frequently) and (2) view the NZSA archives (proving difficult because access requires the presence of one John Dawson) . Notes from Bulletin No 1 published March 1967 by then Chief Umpire Ron McLaughlin.

Rules Interpretation Committee.

I have pleasure in advising that Athol Aitken and Jack Allen were elected at the recent Council meeting to join me on the Committee. Pen pictures of the members might be of interest.

Athol Aitken: Commenced playing in November 1944 and also joined the Auckland Umpires Association in February 1945 during his first playing season. Finished playing in 1953 having been a junior rep for 3 years and a major rep for 6 years. Represented North Island in 1950 and was a member of the Eden team which won the John Lennon in 1948-49 and 1949-50. He has completed 22 years of umpiring and was awarded his N.Z. Badge at Auckland in the 1957 Men's Tournament. He is Auckland Chief Umpire and a life member of the Auckland Umpires Association. Selected as the New Zealand umpire to accompany the men's team to America and Mexico where he umpired with marked ability and more than favourably compared with umpires from America and other competing countries.

Jack Allen: Commenced umpiring in 1950 although he had never played softball. His progress was such that he was awarded his N.Z. Badge at Wellington in the 1955-56 Men's Tournament. He has been a regular attender at the Nationals and was Deputy Chief Umpire at Invercargill (Men) in 1962-63 and at Wellington (Women) 1963-64. Previously a member of the Committee and a clear thinking student of the rules. He has also been the Umpire's delegate to the Wellington Associations Executive. A rugby referee in the winter and is also a speed boat handicapper.

Ron McLaughlin: Commenced playing in 1942. After service in Italy with 27 Battalion he joined the City United Club (Wellington) on his return. Was Secretary for ten years and played and coached for the club for fifteen years. Was a part time umpire during that period and took up full time umpiring in 1961-62 when he passed his theory and practical examination and was awarded his N.Z. Badge at the Men's Tournament at Wanganui that year. Has been a regular attender at the Nationals since. A former Treasurer and Publicity Officer of the Wellington Association and has also been the Umpires' delegate to the Association.