



**It has been sometime** since the last UIC News so it's time to summarise the many events that have happened since that issue.

**The next Oceania ISF Certification Seminar** is scheduled for early 2011 in Australia. Details are currently being finalized with Australia and will be available before the end of the season. In June the NUS invited five umpires to participate in the seminar lead-in programme; Rikki Tourangi (AK), Mark Porteous (NH), Tara Harris (HV), Jeremy England (WN) and Dave Shedlock (WN).

**At the SNZ AGM** in August Nicky Ogier (CB) was named "Umpire of the Year", whilst Distinguished Service Awards were bestowed on Jeremy England (WN), Stuart Hodges (HB), Cass Seeling (WBOP), Manu and Bill Smith (NH), Trevor Stratford (HV), Lance Type and Riki Tourangi (AK).

The traditional September Regional clinics were held in Wanganui, Oamaru, Christchurch and North Harbour. Again there was a good attendance at each clinic and it was pleasing to see new faces amongst this year's list of facilitators.

**The National Rules Examinations/Refreshers** in October is a permanent fixture on our annual calendar. Congratulations to the following umpires who obtained their **Level 2 Rules examination pass**.

Irene Curnow (BP), Benjamin Horn (HV), Heath Walker (NH), Mike Lee (NH), Shaun Poata (NH), Stuart Powers (NN), Sara Emerson (NO), Eric Lord (OG), Rebecca Taylor (OG), Evelyn Kara (WK), Helen Rogers (WK), Jasmine Kara (WK), Lizzy Norris (WK), Sara Worster (WK), Taumanu Hepi (WK), Toa Toimata (WK), Pip Bennion (WN), Steve Sila (WN), Ngawhetu Dickson (WN), Josh Charnley (NH), Pouroto Clair (NH), Ross McKandry (NH) and Cale Wood (NH).

**Thanks again** to Nicky and Mark and the team of checkers for putting the Rules Refresher together. It is now 17 years since the introduction of a National Rules Examinations/Refreshers for all. **Continual improvement** is an ongoing challenge for all, so visit the website and test and grow your umpiring knowledge. Next season we will need to enforce the cut off date for late returns as these delays have caused considerable extra work with alterations to the National Tournament Appointment Schedules and the early Travel and Accommodation bookings undertaken by SNZ.

**Again we had more** applications for National Tournament appointments than we were able to satisfy. There continues to be a challenge to balance programme development requirements with individual expectations whilst still working within budget. The December/January round of National Tournaments have now finished and I extend a very big thank you to all who staffed these tournaments. Whilst at times all things don't run smoothly, it is important going forward that we all have a **continual improvement ethic**. The new combined men's and women's National Fastpitch Championship worked well for umpiring, creating an environment conducive to consistency of rule applicant to both genders. We had an increase initially to **29 field examinees** appointed this year. Listed below are the names of those successful with their Level 3 and Level 4 field examinations to date.

**Level 3 (Qualifying):** Judi Leaper (AK), Ben Horn (HV), Heath Walker (NH), Michael Lee (NH), Shaun Poata (NH), Josh Charnley (NH), Stuart Power (NN), Sara Emerson (NO), Eric Lord (OG), Rebecca Taylor (OG) and Ngawhetu Dickson (WN).

**Level 4 (Badge):** Howie Namana (CB), John Wilson (CB), Matthew Ogier (CB), Steve Cooper (HB), Joe Tangitutu (LB), Graeme Love (MN), Brydon Wells (NH), Martin Hunt (NH) and Duane Donovan (OG).

**International** umpiring appointments included Wiremu Tamaki and Mark McFarlane to the ISF Men's World Championship, Saskatoon, Canada in July. Mark stayed over to additionally work the ISC II Tournament of Champions. Jeremy England, Mark Porteous and Greg Taylor officiated separately at the first three rounds of the Gillies Shield Tournaments held in Australia which were attended by the White Sox. Richard Gale is our Trans Tasman exchange umpire and will attend the combined men and women's Championships in Canberra while Jason Carter will attend our Men's Open. Randy McLamb (USA) is the

ISC exchange umpire and worked the U17 Boys in Nelson and will travel north to work the major club tournaments in the northern region. Wiremu Tamaki is our ISC exchange umpire and will work the ISC 2010 World Tournament in August. Nicky Ogier and Glen Nalepa have been nominated to the ISF for selection to the ISF Women's World Championship, Venezuela in July.



**The ISF Congress** was held in Venezuela in October. As co-chair of the ISF mechanics sub-committee I had the task of presenting proposed changes and recommendations to the Umpires Commission. All seven recommended changes were accepted as was one item for discussion. The Rules Commission considered 65 proposed rule changes, of those 11 were withdrawn and 10 were rejected. There were significant changes to the fastpitch pitching regulations whilst most other approved changes were of a minor or housekeeping nature. A copy of the rule changes for 2010-2013; the 2010-2013 Official rules and the Point of Emphasis for Rule 6 the Pitching Regulations (Fast Pitch Only) are available for download from the ISF website as is the new Communication Protocol.

Work is well underway on the new SNZ rulebook which is due to come into effect from August 2010. This will include all the new ISF Rule changes and SNZ approved rule differences.

**ISF UmpSchool** was launched this month and is accessible at [www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx](http://www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx). This new era web based training tool is a must for all umpires (players and coaches too) that want to keep up to date and further their careers. The interactive rules tests will help you increase your knowledge and set you on the path to be the very best you can be. Also available through UmpSchool is the newly revised ISF 3/4 Umpire Mechanic System, the Umpire Manual, the Case Book, Rule Interpretations and Technical Bulletins.



**Oceania update** from Congress saw former Oceania Vice President Bob Leveloff elected as the 2nd Vice President. Darryl Clout (Aus) and Bob Steffy (Guam) are the new Oceania Vice Presidents. While umpire John McAuliffe and I were honoured with election to the ISF Hall of Fame along with a number of other newly elected respected softballers from our region. Thanks to Bob Leveloff for organising through the ISF the gifting of new umpire equipment within the region.

October saw a change in the management structure of umpiring in Australia. Tricia Sibraa is now the new UIC and has been right in the thick of it since day one. On a personnel note I would like to extend a debt of gratitude to Andrew Rindfleish for the many years he has given and continues to give to umpiring.

Just another reminder, that the next **Oceania ISF Certification Seminar** is scheduled for early 2011 in Australia. Details are currently being finalized and will be available shortly.



#### **Brian Van Os**

Softball Canada National Director of Umpires

#### **INVITES YOU TO THEIR NATIONAL UMPIRE CONVENTION**

Regina, Saskatchewan. April 1-4, 2010

Take a look at the Convention topics, Hotel Information, Registration information all on line at [www.blueconvention2010.com](http://www.blueconvention2010.com)

Quote: One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.

**Wayne Saunders**  
**Umpire-in-Chief**