

Canterbury Regional Officials Newsletter



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Volunteers: The Heart of Sport

Volunteers form the backbone of sport and recreation in New Zealand. These volunteers could be your coach, trainer, referee, judges, orange cutters, uniform washer or perhaps someone who takes you to the game.

SPARC & Sport Canterbury would like to say a huge thanks to the half a million Kiwis who do a ton of tough jobs in sport and recreation every week, just for the love of it.

There are 41,000 people paid to work in sport in New Zealand, but 500,000 people working unpaid.

How Volunteers Contribute to Sport

Volunteers are incredibly important at every level. Without grassroots helpers, sport simply wouldn't happen - and players could never advance to world-class level

What do our Volunteers do?

Coaches

Umpires

Starters

Judges

Referees

Scorers

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Athletics report from the Arafura Games

In this issue I wish to report on the Arafura Games - Darwin an event which the majority of New Zealand Track and Field officials will probably have never heard of?



I and three other New Zealand Officials Ruth Liong, Heather O'Hagan and Keith Bade were invited by Paralympics Australia and Paralympics New Zealand to attend the Arafura Games to participate in an International Paralympics Committees Level 1 NTO - IPC course and officiate at the games from 9th to 13th May. An experience all will remember for various reasons the first possibly being the air travel with two hops taking more than ten hours in total. With two flight delays the South Island contingent finally arrived and made bed around 2am on the day of the course which thankfully had changed its start time to allow two bleary eyed kiwis a little more time in bed.

The course on the 9th which was run by the retired chairman of IPC Athletics Chris Cohen was extremely enlightening giving attendees a far better insight to the application of the IPC rules for Athletes with a Disability. At the conclusion of the lectures, course members twelve in all sat the Level 1 NTO IPC examination which I'm proud to say all four Kiwis passed.

That evening we along with several thousand locals, 3500 plus athletes and their officials from 49 countries attended the opening ceremony. An entertaining evening with lots of razzmatazz finished off with a march past of teams and a finale of fireworks.

We often read about the time athletes have to sit around at such opening ceremonies and this event was no exception to the rule. I for one felt sorry for the time athletes had to sit around prior to making their entrance. From the time teams left their accommodation, arrived at the assembly area, were fed and the last athletes finally made it into the arena were well over four hours. For all that I think the majority of athletes would have had a marvelous evening.

From the 10th to the 13th we four Kiwis were fully employed officiating at the Track and Field Championships. I was on Jury duty and assisting occasionally in the field, Ruth in Jumps and Keith and Heather Field events. Fortunately for us Kiwis the track and field sessions were held in the evenings between 5.00pm and 9.30pm a relief from the daytime temperature. I must say it was a very good experience for all and something we can all use leading up to the Paralympic Track and Field Championships Christchurch 2011.

Games History

The first Arafura Games were held in Darwin in 1991 attracting around 1500 athletes from seven Countries competing in 13 sports and by the time the 2005 games took place athlete numbers had grown to 3000 representing 32 nations competing in 30 sports.

In 2005 the Australian Paralympic Committee and the Northern Territory Government embarked on an ambitious program which resulted in the inclusion of the Oceania Paralympic Championships in May 2007 with more than 300 athletes participating.

At this years event Athletes with a Disability competed in seven different sports but unfortunately I do not have the total numbers that competed in Track and Field. A quick look in the results would indicate somewhere around 85 plus competed along with their able bodied counterparts.

The Arafura Games' logo, with its flag motifs, was developed to represent the coming together of competitors throughout the Asia Pacific region. The region centres on the Arafura Sea, the body of water joining Northern Australia and South East Asia.

The next by-annual games will be held in 2011 so if have an inkling to be part of this event please keep your eye on the Arafura Games website.

And to those officials from other Sports Bodies who may have read this article check the Arafura website to see if there is an opportunity for you at the next games?

TENNIS OFFICIATING NEWS



Tennis will make its debut on the Commonwealth Games Programme in Delhi 2010. Five events – Singles (men and women), Doubles (men and women) and Mixed Doubles – will be held at the R.K. Khanna Tennis Complex between 4 and 10 October 2010.

The application process is open to all internationally certified umpires. In order to be considered for selection, officials need to be White Badge certified, and have Grand Slam experience. The Commonwealth Games Federation insist priority be given to officials from Commonwealth nations. This event is a brilliant example of just how far (both professionally and geographically) tennis umpiring can take you. In the past, tennis has only been part of the programme for the Youth Games – Edinburgh 2000 and Pune 2008. In this case, being there for the debut of tennis, will be history in the making.

For further information contact the administrator of the New Zealand Tennis Umpires Association on admin@nztua.com and see what Delhi has to offer on this link: <http://www.thecgf.com/games/future/delhi2010.asp?yr=2010>

CANTERBURY NETBALL UMPIRES

Canterbury Netball Umpires have been very successful in appointments to International and National events coming up over the next few weeks.

Mandy Nottingham - Following on from a very successful ANZ Cup Championship Mandy has been appointed as the reserve Umpire (due to neutrality cannot umpire) in Invercargill for the New Zealand Australia Series.

She has been appointed to Umpire the World Netball Series in Manchester in October and also the England / New Zealand / Australia Tri Series in Bath in October.

This year Mandy has been appointed to the International Testing Panel and also the Rules Advisory Panel. An extremely successful Season for Mandy and we, Canterbury Umpires are very fortunate to have access to Mandy's many netball skills.



David Pala'amo – David was also appointed to ANZ Cup Championship games.

This year David was appointed as a cadet to the International Testing Panel and in this role is currently in Rarotonga at the South Pacific mini games umpiring and also coaching umpires at the tournament.

Closer to home – Perry Foundation National Provincial Championships are underway with Kim Sinclair and Robyn Vermeeren being appointed to the first grade round robin games culminating in a week long tournament to be held in Invercargill starting 28th September.

Anna Sheen was also successful in being appointed to the New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships to be held in Timaru in October. This is an exciting tournament where the top 12 secondary schools teams come together.

As well as our Umpires excelling and being appointed to fixtures Sheena Tyrrell, New Zealand Umpire Panel Member, has been appointed as the umpire panel convener to Perry Foundation. Sheena will head a panel of five, giving feedback to the umpires and allocating umpires to games.

Canterbury Netball Umpires Group is very proud of the achievements of Umpires in the Region this year and look for continued success into 2010.

REMEMBERING GILLIAN HALL

Gillian Hall passed away peacefully on the evening of Saturday 1 August with her husband Tony and three children David, Anna, and Nicky at her side.

Gilly's unstinting contribution to Disabled Snowsports, physiotherapy and her work with the Paralympic movement both within New Zealand and overseas are a testament to her generosity, drive and foresight. Gilly always knew how to get the best out of those who entered her world. Her passion and dedication will provide ongoing inspiration to all that knew her.

In 1975 motivated by her experiences in Europe, Gilly, a qualified physiotherapist and ski instructor, nurtured her vision of enabling physically disabled people to ski. She was the driving force behind the first organised programme for disabled skiers in New Zealand, setting up a small programme at Coronet Peak with the assistance of the NZ Snowsports Instructors Alliance. Gilly gained enormous support within the snow sports industry for her vision and with the backing of a group of like-minded people, including her trusty sidekick Tony, The NZ Association of Disabled Skiers was formed in 1976.



Over the years Gilly's involvement saw the Association develop into a national sport organization and registered charity, with a network of branches and programmes around New Zealand providing assistance to its growing number of members, skiers and more recently snowboarders with disabilities. Gilly believed strongly in the development of grassroots programmes and was always a prominent advocate of the therapeutic value of sport for people with disabilities. She recognised the need for a solid support network for people wishing to ski and was instrumental in the creation of a volunteer training programme and an internationally recognised instructor qualification.

It wasn't long before the competitive side of New Zealanders took hold. During the 1980's the road to overseas competitions and a pathway toward Paralympic honours was established under Gilly's leadership. She was the team physiotherapist, supporting the kiwi competitors in both the 1990 Disabled Alpine World Championships (Winter Park, USA) and the 1998 Winter Paralympic Games (Nagano, Japan). By the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games (Salt Lake City, USA) the NZ Disabled Ski Team held the honour of being New Zealand's most successful Paralympic team, bringing home a combined medal tally of 15 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze.

Not a person to back down from a challenge, by 2001 Gilly saw the need to develop a more professional approach to the running of a national sport organisation and spearheaded the move from a volunteer run organisation to the employment of skilled administrative staff. Most recently, Gilly was a strong advocate for the development of international competition for disabled snowboarders which culminated in the first ever World Snowboard Federation Adaptive Snowboard World Championships, held at Cardrona Alpine Resort this July.

Gilly continuously added value to the organisation (renamed Disabled Snowsports NZ in 2006) stepping away from her hands-on roles to become an active board member and President. There she provided invaluable support, encouragement, mentoring and development to the organisation's many adaptive athletes, members, volunteers, instructors and employees. Incorporating her commitment to disabled skiing and her passion for physiotherapy Gilly became a Paralympic Classifier, working with the classification teams at both the 2002 and 2006 Winter Paralympic Games. Despite the hectic Games schedule she always made time to support the Kiwi teams competing at these events. She was internationally respected for her knowledge and expertise as a classifier and until her retirement due to illness, was the Head of Classification for the International Paralympic Committee's Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee. Gilly was also an active member of the board of Paralympics New Zealand and was the New Zealand Head Classifier, supporting local athletes and providing training and inspiration for the many aspiring classifiers she worked with.

Gilly was highly respected in her field, receiving many accolades. In recognition of her early achievements, she was the inaugural recipient of the New Zealand Ski Association's Skier of the Year Trophy, awarded by Sir Bryan Todd in 1978. In 1986 Gilly was awarded the Queen's Service Medal, recognising her national contribution. Her on-going commitment to the snow sports industry was again acknowledged in 2006 when she was awarded the Contribution to Snow Sports Award by Snow Sports New Zealand.

Gilly's most recent focus was to lead the merger between Disabled Snowsports NZ and Snow Sports New Zealand to ensure the on-going survival of Disabled Snowsports for generations to come in NZ allowing both grassroots and future champions to flourish.

On behalf of Disabled Snowsports New Zealand, Adaptive Snow Sports New Zealand and our past and present members we extend our deepest sympathy to Gilly's family and friends.

Sport Canterbury Sports Awards Association Official Nominees

Sport Canterbury wish to thank Regional Sports Organisations for nominating their Outstanding Sports Official. Our congratulations to all the nominees.

At this stage no decisions has been made on the finalists.

Gary Baxter	Cricket
Adrian Ruaiti	Touch
David Plew	Triathlon
Lesley Huckins	Swimming
Karl Tyrrell	Volleyball
Craig Todd	Surf Life Saving
Geoff Cox	Marching
Alan Moore	Table Tennis
Vinny Munro	Rugby
Mark McFarlane	Softball
Gerald Dwyer	Rowing
Mandy Nottingham	Netball
Warwick Darby	Squash
Craig Gribble	Hockey
Mark Rule	Football

IMPORTANT EVENTS OUR OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN:

- **Ross Stubby, Boxing:** Ross went to the Australian champs and sat the AIBA exam for Ref/Judge, although he passed the written on both he only managed the AIBA judge practicable exam. There was approx 90 bouts and Ross was averaging 7-8 appointments each session. Ross is now qualified to judge anywhere in the world at the highest level, but only allowed to Ref and oceanic level, Commonwealth games and such. Thanks to Canterbury Boxing for their support.
- **Katheryn Fraser, Athletics:** Earlier this year Katheryn attended and passed a course for Level II Race Walk Judges. She is also a Level I Technical Official (or NTO) across the other areas of athletics. Last month she officiated at the Oceania Regional Champs on the Gold Coast and next month will be off to Sydney to officiate at the World Masters Games (athletics). This last weekend Katheryn received notification that she has been awarded a scholarship through the Alpine Energy Trust which caters for Personal Development.
- **Kelvin Nicolle, Ice Speed Skating:** At the beginning of September the appointments from the International Skating Union (ISU) coming season were announced. Kelvin has been appointed as one of the referees at the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships to be held for the first time in Taipei from the 7th - 10th January 2010. He was also a referee at two World Cup events earlier this year in Europe
- **Ted Pearce, Triathlon:** Ted has received a Prime Minister Scholarship to Officiate at the World Long Distance Triathlon Championships to be held in Perth Australia from 22 to 25 October 2009.

Regional Officials Meeting Supporting & Developing Officials

The Public perception of Sports Officials “What the Public think”

On Thursday night (7th October) a hardy group of officiators came together to listen to Andrew Hercus our own International Beach Volleyball referee and a member of the Olympic Control Committee (1996, 2000 & 2004). Andrew has also held the position of FIVB technical supervisor from 1988 to 2004.

Andrew shared the research project conducted by Massey University for the University Of Canterbury & SPARC. The lead researcher for the general public component was Jan Chabonneau, who is with the Department of Communications, Journalism & Marketing Massey University. The research is titled; “Perceptions of Sports Officials”.

Currently the content of the research is embargoed by the government; however SPARC gave Sport Canterbury & Andrew permission for the results of the survey to be shared with our regional officiating network.

The survey was sent to a random sample of 1800 New Zealanders drawn from the Electoral Roll to determine their opinion of sports officials. A total of 692 valid questionnaires were processed for an effective response rate of 40%.

Not surprisingly respondents indicated Rugby, Netball, and Cricket & Football-soccer as the top four favourite sports.

Andrew talked about the “overall opinion of sports officials”, which came out at 66% positive with 29% as neutral, indicating the public perception as most supportive of your work as an official. Another interesting component that was considered as important was the understanding of the rules of the game and the consistent application. Also one third of the respondents felt that sports officials exerted too much influence over the outcome of the game. Further in depth research may be needed to flush out why this is.

Probably the most interesting part of the research has to be around “Abuse”. Two thirds of respondents felt that abuse of sports officials had increased over the last five years, a view held more strongly by females. The vast majority of respondents judged a range of abusive behaviours towards officials as being unacceptable.

Unfortunately the forum was not well attended and an opportunity for those that didn't attend was missed. However with such a small group of attendees came lots of effective & robust discussion. May be Andrew can be persuaded to deliver this at a date when more officiators can take advantage of the research.

Sport Canterbury's Regional Officiating Network look forward to this research being released to the public & media, and the resultant strategies that can be developed that will support the world of officiating.

Thank you again Andrew Hercus for your expert delivery.

