

## Sue Mates blog – the first week

It's the end of Week 1 here at Broadbeach and it's been a very busy few days. The schedule has run mainly to plan except for the end of Day 3 when rain stopped play. There was an almighty storm that came from nowhere with thunder and lightning that meant play was suspended for an hour. Apart from that things have gone well.

I have been learning some of the subtle differences between tasks completed by the Markers and Umpires. Feedback, of course, is a very important part of continuous development and it's interesting as you'd probably not realise that there are differences! This photo shows me on my knees when we were having some tutoring before the start of the competition.



Friday was a more relaxed day for me as I was working at Broadbeach, which is where I am staying, so I didn't need to catch an early bus. I was also only working the middle game so had time to have a slower start to the day and I ended that day watching the final game as a spectator.

I've been working on two of the days where the live streaming has been carried out and these clips are available on the YouTube channel. There are only 2 games per session that are live streamed out of a possible 40+ so the chances of being filmed are relatively small.

**Be careful there are a lot of scam websites, some asking for money for viewing.** Please use the Bowls Australia YouTube channel to watch as this won't cost you anything. This is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@BowlsAust>

The next few days were the semi's and finals and I was selected to Umpire the Para Mixed Pairs Final and the Men's Pairs Final on 2nd Sept at 08:30 and 12:00 respectively. Then the following day I was umpiring the Para Men's Pairs Final at 09:00. All these games were streamed live and available on catch-up.

I had little to do through this period as the players just seem to manage themselves, but we (Umpires and Markers) have been referred to as little blue ants as we rush around all over the place making this work for the players!



One of the most exciting things to have happened was when a fugitive, who took a short cut across the green, was rugby-tackled by a New Zealand player and then arrested by police. You can see these events here: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/bowler-andrew-kelly-tackles-pitch-invader-at-world-bowls-championships/YJLOX6Q435GTJF5RVDZX62EBRA/>



The weather is great (apart from the thunderstorms) and hot when the sun is up. When you watch the games look carefully for low flying birds (big birds) and listen to the loud noises they make. It can get quite noisy at times. The morning and evenings are cooler, just like our August and September weather, but warmer when the sun's up.

I have another packed week starting Tuesday 5th September where I have a mixture of Umpiring and Marking duties. The only one due to be live streamed is when I am Umpiring at 2:45pm (their time) at Musgrave Club for the England vs Sweden match.

All of the finals on the 9th and 10th will be live streamed but we don't know yet what duties we will be doing as yet.

Hope you all have a good week.

Best wishes to everyone.

Sue