

The whistle blower

Welcome to the 2010 football season, welcome to all umpires officiating today for the start to the Bellarine Football season.

This year the Geelong Football Umpires' League celebrates its 75th year.

From a very humble meeting of five men in a local pub in 1935, the GFUL has evolved into one of the major Australian Rules football umpiring organisations in Australia.

To celebrate this milestone, a 75th Anniversary Dinner will be held on Saturday 1st May at Buckley's Entertainment Centre.

The Master of Ceremonies for this event will be Mr Ian Cover of Coodabeen Champions fame. Ian will oversee the announcement of the Umpires of the Silver anniversary periods (i.e. 1935-1960, 1961-1985 and 1986-2010).

The Board of Management welcomes all members, both past and present, to celebrate this special milestone. For more information check the website www.gful.com.au or contact Carl Wood on 52298599

AFL PLAYERS TO DEBUT AS UMPIRES

Jordan Bannister, 67 AFL games with Essendon and Carlton, will be officiating in the Anglesea v Barwon Heads clash at Anglesea, whilst Scott Howard, former Essendon rookie-listed and 90 VFL games player with Port Melbourne and Werribee, will officiate in his first match at Torquay v Modewarre at Torquay.

The AFL's player-to-umpire pathway program is headed by former Geelong Football Umpires League member and 7-time AFL Grand Final Umpire, Brett Allen.

The GFUL is always looking to recruit more umpires and there is no better time than now to get involved. If you are after some extra pocket money or want to keep fit, give Carl Wood a call on 52298599 for more information or get down to the umpires rooms at Kardinia Park on a Tuesday or Thursday from 4:30pm onwards. The GFUL has a mentor program to assist new umpires and has field, boundary and goal umpire coaches for all prospective umpires. We are currently looking for male or female umpires for field, boundary or goal disciplines. We are particularly looking to recruit boundary umpires at the moment as their numbers are a little light on.

I would like to acknowledge the support the GFUL has for 2010. **Metricon, Specsavers, Technika, FCCS Ford Credit Coop Society, Geelong Galvanizing, T & P Concreting, Bellarine Children's Centre, Club Cats, Hardings, Kardinia Café, LBW Accountants, Marbletrend, Rinnai, Promote-It Trophy & Clothing, Steve Keating Finance, and TB Property Maintenance.**

Remember if you are unavailable to umpire you must have it in the unavailability book by 6pm Tuesday. Other late changes make sure you contact the appointments co-ordinator Kevin McMaster on 52431423.

Don't forget if you want to catch up on any news that the umpires have check out the website www.gful.com.au

Macca - Damian McMaster GFUL



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