

The whistle blower

This Saturday recognises the women taking on football umpiring with an all female panel game day at Geelong Amateurs. The Ammos take on Portarlington and each of the games throughout the day will be umpired by the many females involved in umpiring. The GFUL has plenty of girls umpiring and they are doing a tremendous job. Each week in the local games there are about a dozen girls umpiring in the seniors and there will be plenty at Queens Park today.

It's good to see who's backing the umpires. Nick Riewoldt, Chris Judd, Ross Lyon, Brett Ratten, Brad Scott, Tom Harley, Matthew Richardson, Leigh Matthews. The AFL has launched a campaign to retain and improve the match day environment for umpires. No matter what role you play in footy, we all need to make sure people want to umpire. So **"don't be a mug at the footy"** be a contributor. This campaign by the AFL goes hand in hand with the GFUL Leadership and Goodwill program.

We welcome back to FOS. Gary Flowers is back from holidays, and FOS well that's short for Father of Simon appropriately named by his coaching panel peers. And just on the reference to the footy show, James Brayshaw was seen calling into the umpires rooms after the Geelong game last week. Supporting his laptop and on the phone at the same time, the call of nature just happened see him sneak into the umpires rooms to use their amenities.

The boys that travelled to Colac last week did it tough. Usually a three umpire game at Colac, as it is just an enormous ground, a late withdrawal Saturday morning made it two and we couldn't find Tim Calendar and Rod McKenzie a replacement. I did see Rod on Sunday at Anglesea limping around and he said it was tough. They did call on an experienced reserve umpire to help them out. It wasn't too bad; the big problem was the ankle deep mud in the centre of the ground. Take it easy this week Rod we do need you.

Experienced Boundary umpire Andrew Conte is having a couple of weeks off with shin soreness, to keep himself in the running for the end of the year, he help out Briggsy with some boundary umpire observations on the weekend. Good Stuff Andrew.

You just can't slow Goal umpire Jake Baker-Brooks down. I bumped into him on Sunday at Anglesea at three quarter time of the reserves. I had been told it was his fifth goal umpire appointment for the weekend: U18's, reserves and seniors Saturday backed-up with the U18's and reserves on Sunday. That's a big weekend of footy for Jake and to make it even bigger his beloved Richmond Tigers won. I must also thank Anglesea FC for the drinks and sandwiches on the day.

Amendment to last week, I said Michael Dwyer umpired 168 games, it was 201 games.

See you back at the rooms tonight, not too late as I've got to get home to watch the Cats play.

Macca Damian McMaster GFUL



Chartered Accountants

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