

The whistle blower

It was another successful game last week recognising the girls/women involved in umpiring at all levels at the all female day at Geelong Amateurs.

This game is now fully entrenched on the football/umpiring calendar. Both Geelong Amateurs and Portarlington support the day and it once again proved to be very successful.

Most of the umpires got back to the room Saturday night to enjoy the nibbles put together by Pam and Dawn before heading out for a bite to eat at Club Cats.

On Thursday night to get the week off to a flying start we had Tiffany Farrow, a young goal umpire, give an insight into her umpiring and goals. Her biggest accomplishment so far this year has been making her fastest 3km time trial of 17.03 minutes. Her ultimate achievement is to umpire in the AFL. Tiffany sets her goals by starting with smaller ones, achieving them, and then moving up. Tiffany became a goal umpire after undertaking an umpire course at school at Sacred Heart College and after listening to Chelsea Roffey (current AFL Goal) umpire speak. Tiffany says she is not intimidated by the players as they know the rules and realise the umpire has the final say. Her best advice is never get discouraged and she draws her inspiration from Chelsea Roffey. Well done to Tiffany for sharing your umpiring aspirations in front of the umpiring group (of about 70-80 umpires).

Just on Chelsea Roffey, well, when she started out umpiring she did make an exchange trip to Geelong for a weekend and I had the pleasure of being her chaperone for the weekend.

At the All-In coaching session last Thursday Councillor Stretch Kontelj was invited along to see the GFUL in action on a training night. Stretch has been a strong supporter of the umpires in the City of Greater Geelong Council particularly in the Council's funding support to the GFUL clubroom renovations.

On behalf of GFUL major sponsor, Specsavers, Stretch also accept a framed umpiring uniform emblazoned with the Specsavers logo to in recognition of their sponsorship support. Stretch informed us that there are several Specsavers optometrists in Geelong the region and they are very much an international company, sponsoring many Referee groups in the UK.

I mentioned Andrew Conte last week, helping out with some observations, well I am told he was back running this week and he got changed (put his umpiring gear on) in a bag. He must be getting back to his wonder woman days. (Well that's what I would assume after he dressed as wonder woman at an umpires camp a few years back). On the boundary umpires, Josh Stubbings must be thinking finals are just around the corner, supporting a very slick and much needed haircut.

It was footy weather last week - quite a few boys had to wear the cleats or stopped boots. James Stephenson knew when to go for holidays, kicking back at Dubai in 43degree temperature Saturday afternoon on a stop over to London. That was better than his dad Ray who umpired down at Ocean Grove. He probably got wet, but when he got changed back in his civvies he realized he had left his wallet in the change rooms. His wallet was still there with all his cards but it was \$70 short. If anyone knows where the money went he would certainly like it back. I must remind all umpires that you need to lock your valuables in the car.

Coming up: Exchange week July 3; 1st year Members night July 6; Life Members night July 8. See you back at the rooms tonight, (for a while, the Cats are on the box again).

Macca Damian McMaster GFUL



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