

The whistle blower

Good to see Jordan Bannister made it to the meeting last week. Jordan along with Scott Howard is umpiring the next few weeks in Geelong. Jordan was saying he has to keep saying to himself don't follow the ball, don't follow the ball, throughout the game as to not be drawn into play. He said he is becoming a better umpire each time he gets to umpire a game. I asked Erin Keating who ran with Jordan a couple of weeks back what he was like? Her response, "He's sooo nice.....". I suppose he could be Erin but he did play for Carlton and now he is an umpire.

Goal umpire Mark "Ossie" Osborne was umpiring in the goals at Anakie last week, and sent a player from the field for getting a bit hot under the collar. It not unusual to have players sent off in a game and it is carried out by the field umpire showing the yellow card. Ossie convinced the player he should go to the bench to get off the field too cool down, no cards no nothing. To Ossie's surprise the player went off.

Its half way through the season and at the meeting last week they were talking finals. Each week there are 51 senior field umpires required. The top 12 field umpires will umpire a GFL final. The coaching session was explaining to field umpires how the matrix is working this year. There are a few hiccups with it as with most new systems. A couple of field umpires have umpired some teams 3 out of 4 weeks, just ask Stuart Morgan, he and the whole team at Newcomb are on first name terms.

Could be a few more senior debut's this week, 16 senior field umpires are unavailable.

A boundary umpire at Drysdale the other week was set to retrieve the ball after a goal was scored and didn't realise the ball had bounced back into the field of play. He raced down to behind the goals to find a kid with a good looking Sherrin in his hands. He tried to get the footy off the kid a couple of times but the youngster wasn't going to give up his footy. Good on young Richo.

A couple of Milestones

Congratulations to up and coming field umpire Josh Brown managed to get his first GFL match a couple of weeks back South Barwon v North Shore.

Congratulations to first year goal umpire Shaienne Dawes (thirteen) managed her first senior game Queenscliff v Newcomb last week. She did extremely well considering losing her hat in the wind a couple of times and then a fantastic call over the post with lots of pressure from players and spectators. I should know as I was there.

Field umpire Alex Neville and Goal umpire Mitch Gray umpired the VCFL v VAFA U19 at Elsternwick.

Coming up: Exchange week July 3; 1st year; New Members night July 6; Life Members night July 8.

It was a nice change last week we were back at the Elephant and Castle along with a few of the boys from Thompson.

Tonight we have some Karaoke at the rooms put on by the development squad umpires. It also says goodbye to Jason Hillgrove, off to Canberra to look after the umpys up there.

Macca Damian McMaster GFUL

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