

The whistle blower

It was a huge umpiring day for Goal umpire **Mark Osborne** last Saturday, starting at 7.30am at Geelong Amateurs and finishing up with a few drinks 12 hours later at the umpires' rooms. Ossie along with **Colin Hood** (current GFUL Goal umpire Assistant coach, retired AFL goal umpire and former AFL Grand Final goal umpire) umpired with **Jason "Jock" Hillgrove** for his last umpiring gig in Geelong. The boys got together to umpire the U16 clash at Geelong Amateurs then called on assistance from **Marcus Briggs** (GFUL boundary umpire assistant coach), **Isabelle Dixon** (first year boundary umpire), **Alan Grant** (GFUL goal umpire coach) and **Ray Menzies** (new GFUL goal umpire observer and former GFL grand final goal umpire) to umpire the next game the U18's.

There were certainly plenty of cobwebs blown away, Jock and Ossie have done about 1 field umpire appointment in the last 2 years, Colin, well I didn't know if he had ever umpired in the field before, and Ray and Alan would be lucky to have goal umpired at all in the past 10 years between them. Well done lads in getting "Jock" through his last game in Geelong before taking up the coaching position with the AFL in Canberra. It was an interesting change over for Ossie, Alan stayed in the Goals for the first quarter of the reserves, so Ossie could have a shower and freshen up for the rest of the reserves and the senior game. I must say well done to Ossie but I don't think you've broken Syd Payne's effort of four games in a row because you missed 1 quarter. (I'll have to check if you broke the record of being an umpire for that many hours, because you did get down to the rooms for a couple of ales after the games, Syd probably would have had a couple of cups of tea.)

I did mention last week that **Erin Keating** had commented on **Jordan Bannister** and said "He's soooo nice", well, she's done it again. I asked her how new GFUL field umpire **Alex Neville** was going and she said "He moves so well". Nice one Erin I'll be asking you more questions in the next few weeks.

In the past I have known goal umpires to have answered mobile phone calls during a match. It could be heading that way with the boundary umpires as well. Pat Shell was on the training track the other night and was replying to text messages after the warm-up laps. He said "that's ok Macca, the pocket in my shorts looks after my phone just perfect." I guess I just need to get up with the times.

Thanks to Darren Phillips team manager from Belmont lions for the letter in regards to the assistance he got from GFUL junior coach Jack Ververs.

Coming up: This Week (No official GFUL Training); we do have 1st year Members night on Tuesday July 6, 5.30 to 6.30pm at GFUL clubrooms, please RSVP to Carl for catering purposes; Life Members night on Thursday July 8, at Geelong Football Club and RSVP is mandatory. The umpire Exchange weekend has been moved to July 17. And just a whisper, on July 3 Bill Torney will be in Geelong to observe prospective GFUL umpires for VFL ranks next year.

I must say happy birthday to **Maryanne Villanti** 50 and **Tom Villanti** 18. The rooms have a function booked this week, so if you want to catch up, the Elephant and Castle is the place.

Macca Damian McMaster GFUL



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