

# The whistle blower

There was one exchange of umpires last weekend. Paul McElhinney, Sam Mirabile and Ian Beddison travelled to Hamilton to umpire last weekend. They should be just about back in time to umpire this weekend.

The VFL talent scout was out and about last weekend. He was out at Leopold to see Daniel Clemm, Geoff Hasler and Aaron McGlade in the field, Pat Shell and Lewis Kenyon on the boundary and Matthew Robertson in the goals. Dave Chaston was wondering with so much talent himself why the scout wasn't coming to see him. Well Dave you have probably getting a little long in the tooth.

It was an all in coaching session last week and we had some of the leadership group umpires present. Davin Reid presented some Match Management for all umpires. It includes quick presence, effective communication, be prepared for the unexpected, game plan, reading the mood of the game, being calm and assist fellow umpires. This was backed up with some AFL video of situations that involved field boundary and goal umpires.

Andrew Conti gave a small presentation on mentors. Everyone should have one for advice, a helping hand, someone to look up to, a source of information and can be as a friend. Times at which you can use your mentors are: game days, training, tribunal and anytime (well almost anytime).

I had another first in my umpiring last week; I went to jail to umpire with Steve Juhasz. Barwon Prison organised a game for NAIDOC week, the first week in July. (NAIDOC "National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee"). They organised a game between indigenous and non indigenous. And yes they did let me out....

Last Sunday Brendan Beveridge organised a farewell of Jason Hillgrove. All the coaching panel were invited along to say goodbye to Jock. He was presented with a caricature in the latest umpires gear. We wish "Jock" all the best in his new coaching position and well he is going but not until Friday morning. He has roped in Mark Osborne and Alan Grant to drive a hire truck to Canberra and back again to deliver his gear. Enjoy the trip boys.

## Milestones:

May 22 - Sam Chaston and Lewis Kenyon games 50; Neil Kearney 300.

May 29 - Bertie Touwslager 400 games.

June 5 - Steven Cooling 50 games.

June 12 - Greg Cullen 300 and John Tatnell 350 games.

June 26 - M Clifton and S Grubb 50 games; Joey Kozina and Nigel Skurrie 100 games; and Ross Bennett 500 games.

## Coming up:

Tonight the junior members have a function back at the rooms. . The rooms will be opened for all umpires before the junior function.

The umpire Exchange weekend has been moved to July 17.

**Macca** Damian McMaster GFUL



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