

The whistle blower

It was one huge game at Inverleigh last week, the Encompass Cup - Inverleigh v Bannockburn where umpires with a disability are recognised and get to umpire together. Mark Caldwell and Daniel Dorling took to the field with Director of Umpiring Steve Keating. Alex Drummond and Darryl Dean were on the boundary assisted by senior boundary umpire Andrew Conte from the leadership group. Jake Baker-Brooks and Terry Maloney were in the goals. The boys did a tremendous job on the day showing their ability to match it with the best and be involved in football at the highest level. The match came down to the wire with Bannockburn just in front at the end.

I was at Grovedale on the weekend along with Matho commentating from the sidelines along with the radio commentary van parked on the wing. Matho was still going strong right up until the end of the game but the radio van was observed heading out the gate well before the final siren. Too bad if it was going to be a thrilling last quarter. Youngster Josh Brown, who is travelling very well in the field, went down in the third quarter backing out from a ball up. Thankfully he quickly got up, recovered and kept going. Not so lucky for Peter West who rolled his ankle during the third quarter and finished the last quarter in Grovedale's forward 50. By the end of the game his ankle had already swelled over his runners. Hope the ankle doesn't slow you down too much Pete, as the finals are just around the corner.

It was a very good round of football last week with many games being played having teams matched against each other that will be involved in finals football. Many of the umpires in those games will also be in the mix for finals.

Saturday night I had a function at my Aunts. It was there that it was brought to my attention that my cousin Jack Connor from North Ballarat has been invited to play at Bannockburn next year. Well done Reicky you could get a house mate at the same time.

Milestones

July 3 - John Hilder 400 games

July 10 - Steven McDonald 550; Josh Neville 100 games

July 17 - Mark Caldwell and Adam Jones 50; Apollo Shelton and Scott Mawson 200; Des Gahan 300; and Sam Mirabile 600 games.

Peter Taylor is getting close to 750 games.

Coming up:

Goal umpires trivia night, August 14 at the rooms. Get a table together and see Mitch Gray for bookings.

Life members and Past members Association game day on Sunday 8 August, Geelong Amateurs v Anglesea at Queens Park. Afternoon tea in the Amateurs Social Room. RSVP to Carl Wood for catering and entry vouchers.

Finals season launch Thursday 19 August, see Gary Flowers to reserve a seat.

The Goal and Boundary umpires have a night of minigolf on the 26 August.

See you all back at the rooms tonight. I'll be going early the cats are on the TV.

Macca Damian McMaster GFUL



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