

## The whistle blower

Well there is not long to go now, a couple of weeks and we are into finals. The first few weeks are a huge strain on umpiring resources, as all finals have full complements of field, boundary and goal umpires. Chairman Brendan Beveridge at training has asked for senior field umpires to help out in the finals by running a boundary. It is a good recovery session if you have run the day before. If it is the U14 all as you have to do is adjudicate whether the ball is in or out, the field umpire will ball up the ball if it goes out of bounds. If you are able to make yourself available, see Carl to register your name.

It doesn't happen too often but Daniel Dorling rang me last week excited about the fact that he was involved in a drawn game, out at Modewarre. I didn't get any calls this week but at the Elephant and Castle I asked Paul Trotter how he went, he said he had a draw. We will see what happens this week.

Need to remind umpires that finals are on both Saturday and Sunday so if you are not available for either of the days, make sure you put your name in the unavailability book before 6pm on a Tuesday night.

The umpire rooms are very close to being finished and handed back to us. The builder is putting on the final touches at the moment. We will be able to use the rooms once the extra fit-out that the GFUL is responsible for is complete which will take a few more weeks. The rooms look a treat on the outside and are very impressive on the inside. We are hoping the grounds around the rooms will be groomed as well.

Tony Brooks reminded us of the three umpire system team rules last week in the coaching session. There was a handout if you did not receive it, see Tony for a copy.

It covered the main points that we should be doing all of the time for Mid Zone and End Zone umpires. Mid zone umpires are asked to retain play when the ball is going forward, to 45m. If the sun is troubling you in the game, you need to do the best you can to see play without sacrificing your position. You need to stick to the team rules.

According to Kmac Steve Allinson didn't reach his 600 as I indicated last week, a fraction premature he needed one more game.

Making their senior debuts last week Brett Henshaw and I'd like to say Jake Morrissey but prior commitments in the afternoon, he could not do the seniors, maybe next week.

There have been the odd Sunday games, one last week, thanks to the umpires that helped out putting their hand up and backing up on Sunday.

This week looks set to be the family round, father/son; mother/daughter; etc... I will let you know a few of the combinations next week.

Adrian Stephenson thought he might have a quite weekend with a couple of games one Saturday morning and the other Sunday morning. He ended up umpiring 2 games Saturday and then on Sunday after the U18's he was asked if he could umpire the reserves. Well done Stevo, wouldn't have been a problem for a fit guy like you.

Milestones:

2<sup>nd</sup> July C Callegher, J Morrissy 50 games and Bert Touwslager 450 games.

9<sup>th</sup> July S Moerenhout 50 games and Erin Keating 150 games.

**Coming up:**

The season 2011 Finals Launch will be on the Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of August, it is a very well attended evening, 2 course meal after training. Get in early and reserve a seat, see Julie Beveridge.

Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> will be the training awards and Grand final announcements. Don't forget the presentation dinner this year is on Friday October 14. Yes Friday.

Look out for Life Membership voting.

See you back at the Elephant and Castle.

**Macca** Damian McMaster GFUL



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