

Issue 3
April 14th 2011

Special points of interest:

- Well done to all the members of the V/Line Cup Umpires Panel for an excellent performance throughout the five days of the championships.

A particular thanks to Bendigo UA for providing additional umpires for the matches in Bendigo last Sunday.

- **Pink Footy Day 2011.**

In the past two years a number of groups have supported Pink Footy Day through wearing pink socks as part of their umpiring uniform.

Limited supplies of socks are again available for this year if groups are wishing to run in them on the weekend of 7th / 8th May.

The pink socks are available in sizes youth, large and extra large at a cost of \$5.95 + GST.

South Gippsland UA already have their order in and clubs are placing orders get your order in soon to ensure supply.

An order form is attached.

'Umpiring is Everyone's Business'

'Thanks Ump' - 14th & 15th May

Ideas Welcomed!

The second 'Umpiring is Everyone's Business' campaign 'Thanks Ump' round will be held in conjunction with the AFL Round 8 matches across the weekend of 14th and 15th May.

The weekend provides an excellent opportunity for all in football to continue to build the impetus of improving the match environment for umpiring.

In particular the 'Thanks Ump' round at local community football level provides a great opportunity for umpiring groups to undertake discussions with their leagues to identify how match day environments can be better.

Out of the round in 2010 a number of actions have been identified to have continued through until the end of the season and in the process made the lot of umpiring better.

Coaches and umpires shaking hands prior to the match was one of the initiatives and some expressed that it was able continue.

Where this occurred successfully it can be an action which could be picked up on and continued from the start of this season.

Other actions which have been identified from umpiring groups across Australia that were successful in 2010 were;

- Conscious effort by umpires to shake hands with players after the match. Particularly those in junior grade matches.
- A featured article from the umpiring group in the local football record highlighting initiatives being undertaken by the umpiring group to build their performance.
- Arranging with local clubs to make visits to training sessions in the week leading up to the 'Thanks Ump' matches.
- Arrangements between the league and umpires group to supply a different coloured shirt for the round to enable active promotion in the local press and record.

- A photo on the front cover of the local program in the spirit of the 'Umpiring is Everyone's Business' poster.

In addition there are a wide range of other actions which were taken by local groups which may not have even been promoted beyond the local community.

In the next two umpiring newsletters it is an aim to highlight as many actions as possible which either occurred last season or ideas which are going to occur this year.

All groups are invited to send in what they are planning to do with their local league in 2011 and these ideas will be promoted for other groups to consider acting on as well.

Email ideas to gerard.ryan@aflvic.com.au for inclusion and promotion.

This is a great opportunity for umpiring groups to take the lead and initiate discussions with their leagues and now is the time to start initiating the discussions to explore what can be done.

V/Line Cup Coaching and Training Thanks

A very big thank you from the WorkSafe VCFL Umpires Department to the coaches and trainers who assisted so professionally and generously during the V/Line Cup.

There was no doubt that the umpires who had participated were very appreciative of the coaching, support and friendships which they have established across the five days of the championships.

Coaches who gave of their

own time to participate were Steve Keating (GFUL), Peter Hilson (Bendigo UA), Mark Gunning (GFUL), David Read (Sale UA), Steve Penny (Southern UA), Marcus Briggs (GFUL), John Hagley (Bendigo UA), Alan Grant (GFUL) and Ian Bull (Goulburn Valley UA).

In addition the umpiring panel was supported in an excellent manner by two trainers who in the past four years have proven themselves to be an enormous benefit in ensuring

that umpires who are part of WorkSafe VCFL Championships are suitably provided for.

Peter Wilson and Sharon Phelan from Echuca were again a vital part of the umpiring panel and their work in enabling umpires to run multiple games in the one day and then to back up again three days in a row was invaluable.

Many have continued their support at the AFL Vic U16 Country Championships this weekend.