

Victorian Football  
Umpires' Association

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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# Office Bearers 2022



**President** - Matthew Mahoney  
**Vice President (Member Engagement)** - Liam Pain  
**Vice President (Marketing & Communications)** - Joon-Yip Wong  
**Administrator** - Brad Noonan  
**Members' Representative** - Peter Howe

**Track Representatives:**

**Senior Field** - Peter Bailes  
**Development Field** - Jacob Stuckey  
**Senior Boundary** - Blake Anderson  
**Development Boundary** - Melissa Sambrooks  
**Senior Goal** - Luke Monea  
**Development Goal** - Emma Young (resigned March), Bridget Saftenberger

**Historian/Statistician** - David Flegg AM  
**Events Coordinator** - Jack Stammers

# President's Report

Woohoo! We finally got a season fully finished after COVID!

In December 2021, after a robust negotiation process with the AFL, the VFUA agreed to the fees and conditions package for the 2022 Victorian state league competitions.

Whilst it was a tough negotiation and we did not get everything that we wanted, we were pleased to secure the following conditions:

- A return to our pre-COVID (2020) match payments for all home and away matches, with some payments higher than the original 2020 agreement, particularly for NAB League and VFLW competition payments.

- A double up allowance of \$100 if our umpires were appointed to two matches on the weekend.

I have used some examples below to illustrate some comparisons with 2019. Note that these comparisons do not include the effect of travel payments, which are significantly more lucrative in 2022 than 2019.

- A senior field/boundary/goal umpire who umpired 20 VFL games would have received \$860/\$270/\$390 more in 2022 than in 2019, a 12%/5%/9% increase.

- A development field/boundary/goal umpire who umpired 20 NAB League Boys games would have received \$860/\$750/\$550 more in 2022 than in 2019, a 20%/23%/21% increase.

The VFUA is proud of these results and reflect our commitment to raise the conditions for umpires on the

development squad for which the turnover rate is high. I would like to particularly note the effect of these training payments during the COVID-interrupted years where very few matches were played, which left our umpires significantly better off.

At the date of writing our Members' Representative and I have had an initial meeting with AFL key stakeholders Lisa Lawry, Adam Davis, Luke O'Brien, Amy Adams and Dan Richardson about 2023 fees and conditions.

Following member feedback which we sought out via surveys and focus groups held during training, our key priorities in this meeting were as follows:

- Ensuring that there are increasing coaching and observation opportunities for development squad umpires.

- Training (retainer) payments to be increased significantly as a recognition of the training umpires put in, not only at official training sessions conducted on-site, but the hours and commitment required off-site.

- Match payments for VFLW and NAB League to be increased significantly to ensure umpires are receiving a significant premium compared to payments at community league level.

- An increase in pay specifically targeted at boundary umpire training and match payments to sufficiently compensate these umpires for the high levels of fitness required.



I would like to thank the AFL, in particular Luke O'Brien, for their communication during the year.

There is always an open dialogue between the AFL and the VFUA, with communication via phone calls and emails occurring multiple times during the week in-season, as well as when required outside of the season.

### **VFUA Life Members**

This year following dinner, we incorporated the 30th anniversary of the VFUA, at Hotel Collingwood in August.

It was great to see a lot of familiar faces at this event, as well as a few faces that we had not seen in a while! We tried a new format this year whereby everyone was encouraged to share a bit about themselves and mingle with unfamiliar people around the room.

I could tell that everybody had a fantastic time reviving old memories and sharing stories.

I would like to congratulate VFUA Life Members Judith Elliott and Sam Mounjed who were this year awarded with life membership, fitting recognition after serving as a VFL umpire trainers.

### **VFUA Executive Team**

As always, it is a privilege to work together on the VFUA Executive with a number of other passionate individuals.

This year we had our annual Executive planning day in Carlton and it was pleasing to see everyone there giving up their time for the benefit of the broader VFL umpiring community.

Apart from our annual planning day, most of our meetings were conducted virtually which was great for flexibility given we are spread out all across Melbourne and wider Victoria!

The track representatives are the face of our association at training and on game-day. I would like to acknowledge the work of Michael Willcox, Jacob Stuckey, Blake Anderson, Melissa Sambrooks, Luke

Monea, Emma Young and Bridget Saftenberger. All these umpires have done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes encouraging people to sign up for memberships, advertising our events and being the "ear on the ground" for issues that arise during the year.

I would encourage all our members to reach out to your track reps as first point of call when any umpiring-related issue arises.

I would like to congratulate Jack Stammers on the excellent work he has done this year in his role as events coordinator.

Starting with our first ever Barefoot Bowls night last year, carrying through to our final event in the VFUA Ball, I think everybody would agree the events took a step up in the past year and that is thanks to Jack's expertise.

When you hear the word "raffle" in VFUA circles, VFUA Vice-president, Liam Pain is the name that immediately comes to mind.

Liam – thanks for all your work this year with member engagement, including organising the Paul Anderson Mini Olympics (refer later in this report for detail) and offering alternative viewpoints to many issues that have arisen during the year.

Our social media has taken off in the last couple of years thanks to the expertise of VFUA Vice-president, Yippy Wong – there really are people from all over the world consuming content from our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and website channels.

I'm a bit of a nerd for statistics, and every time I navigate to the VFUA website to check how many games someone has done, there is one person to thank – David Flegg AM.

Fleggy – thanks for your prompt and accurate work administering the statistics, milestones, annual report and Quality Assurance Program (QAP) throughout the year.

A shoutout also to James Rizio for his work designing the annual report – it even makes people want to read my writing!

In his second year in the role, Brad Noonan has done a superb job in the background overseeing the organisation of all our events, documenting our many meetings and offering sage advice when required.

Thanks for all your hard work Brad and it has been great to see you become a part of our umpiring community.

When it was almost Christmas and we were negotiating with the AFL over the finer details of our fees and conditions package for 2022, there is one man that we are lucky to have in our corner – and that is Peter Howe.

Howey has been our Members' Representative for two years now, and in that time he has developed a very strong relationship with key AFL stakeholders, fought hard for umpiring conditions and talked sense into me on many occasions when I have been on the verge of losing the plot!

On a personal note, this will be my last year as president. In the past three years as president, I have developed several relationships and learned several lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

It was a difficult period with COVID, however I am proud of what we have achieved over that time.

I want to implore all current umpires to consider running for a VFUA executive role this year – not only will it help to grow your leadership skills, but contrary to popular opinion it is looked upon favourably by the AFL.

I'll see you on the track next year – I just won't be president! Have a happy 2022/23 holiday period, recharge the batteries and make sure you are fit come late January!

**Matthew Mahoney,**  
VFUA President



# Administrator's Report

After what could only be described as a challenging couple of years for everyone involved in our sport, it was great to have all four of the state league competitions fully completed in 2022!

Seeing premiership cups raised and grand final umpire panels officiating on the biggest stage(s) of all was fantastic. But the year wasn't without it's challenges from COVID still hanging around society.

So again, many thanks must be given to all members for their co-operation and professionalism to help ensure we got through the year. Well done to you all.

## **Farewell – President Matt Mahoney**

It is with a level of sadness that we say goodbye and thanks to Matt Mahoney, as he steps down from the position of president.

After serving as track representative and vice-president, Matt stepped up to lead the association in a period that will be looked back on as one of the most important in our history.

Matt's work reviewing historical fees and conditions resulted in many members receiving back payments and was responsible for the strong conditions our members have today.

He was also vital in ensuring members were classified as part-time AFL employees and therefore qualified for Job Keeper benefits during the COVID pandemic.

As Matt focuses on his personal and umpiring development, we can't thank him enough for the hours of work (and not to mention his amazing Excel spreadsheets) that he has put into the VFUA.

## **VFUA Executive**

During the year, the VFUA Executive worked diligently on many issues. In total ten meetings were held made up of five Strategic Team and five Executive Committee meetings.

I would like to sincerely thank all of the track representatives who take the time to be the combined voice of the members and help the Strategic Leadership Team focus on the important issues.

## **Membership**

This year saw 136 or 94% of running umpires take up full membership of the VFUA.

The main reason for umpires not subscribing was some development umpires feeling that with their contracts only going to 30 June, they wouldn't receive the full benefit from their subscriptions.

The VFUA Executive understands the positions of these umpires and are working to put in place a structure whereby all members receive benefits earlier in the year.



## Finances

The VFUA finished the year with a deficit of \$3,884.00, mainly due to a focus on subsidising social functions during the year.

This was expected and commented on in the previous year's report. Another impact on the financials was a number of members booking to attend the Annual Ball however being unable to attend due to AFLW appointments on the night.

We also faced some increases in expenses due to the date of the Annual Ball being declared a public holiday for the National Day of Mourning for the passing of the Queen.

## Fees and Conditions

Following temporary reductions in fees and conditions experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to negotiate a return to the strong position of the original 2020 deal (with some minor changes). At the time of writing this, current negotiations for the 2023 fees and conditions see the focus on the following;

- Starting at the pre-COVID level and adding CPI from the three years
- A dedicated focus on improving match fees for development squads.

This focus came about after conducting several focus group discussions with members, VFUA Members Representative, Peter Howe and VFUA track representatives.

The common item that was consistently raised was the variance between senior and development match fees, considering that the training requirements were very similar.

There were also comments made regarding the time requirements at state league, compared to local league levels, for what was a marginal difference in payment.

The VFUA acknowledge this feedback from the members' and look forward to a positive outcome from discussions with the AFL for the upcoming 2023 season.

## Strategic Plan

A new Strategic Plan was initiated following the completion of the 2018 - 2021 version. It was decided that the three main purposes of the VFUA remained and new priorities were established with particular focus on the personal development and welfare of members.

## Life Members, Past Executive and 30th Anniversary Dinner

In August a group of life members and former VFUA Executive members came together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the VFUA as a separate body from the AFLUA.

The night recalled how in 1992 the association was born in the form of the Victorian State Football League Umpires' Association, later renamed Victorian Football Umpires Association.

The primary reason for the formation of the VSFLUA was with the AFLUA becoming a national body with a national outlook, state league umpires needed their own association to look after their needs.

We thank all the former Executive members for all of the work and commitment to improving the conditions for our Victorian state league umpires.

## Partners

With a number of our partners facing supply chain difficulties from the pandemic, there wasn't as much opportunity for members to take advantage of the offers from our partners.

However, Nike did open their Nike Store to VFUA members on three occasions during the year, along with a number of members taking advantage of the 2XU discounts and Budgy Smuggler apparel.

We also welcomed onboard a new partner in Sherrin providing a generous discount on their footballs.



## **AFL List Promotions**

Congratulation to those VFUA members from 2021 who were promoted to the AFL list for 2022.

These were Michael Pell (field), Nick Phillips and Simon Blight (boundary) and Callum Leonard (goal).

With these appointments, the VFUA is proud to have provided 46% of all those umpires promoted to AFL lists since 2000.

**Brad Noonan,  
VFUA Administrator**



# VFUA Members

## Field Umpires

2016 Peter Bailes  
2018 Joshua Ball  
2018 Harry Birch  
2021 Alexander Bond  
2019 Jack Cannon  
2012 Thomas Chrystie  
2017 Joel Clamp  
2019 Adam Coles  
2022 Lisa Compton-Robins  
2021 Lachlan Coyne  
2019 Sebastian Dalglish  
2021 Genevieve Devenish  
2019 Shamus Dundon  
2010 Jack Edwards (a)  
2017 Sam Ferguson  
2022 Lachlan Flinn  
2019 Jackson Gillespie  
2018 Nathan Guy  
2021 Connor Hawes  
2019 Ian Herman  
2017 Jack Howard  
2021 Luke Hunter  
2016 Nicholas Jankovskis  
2019 Elias Kafritsas  
2021 Arron Knezevic  
2014 Lucinda Lopes (b)  
2017 Thomas Lyon  
2017 Matthew Mahoney  
2021 Ryan Mann  
2021 Nick McGinness  
2019 Hugo Morgan  
2021 Emiel Morvell  
2017 Alex Murray  
2021 Connor Newett  
2021 James Nolan  
2022 Hayden Pearson  
2019 Jordyn Pearson  
2022 Noah Piggott  
2015 Matthew Pongracic  
2016 Luke Porter  
2016 Jacob Rockwell  
2015 Martin Rodger  
2015 Leighton Rowe  
2018 Nick Scott  
2019 Jacob Stuckey  
2008 Andrew Talbot  
2021 Austin Tattersall

2017 Lucas Taylor  
2022 Kylie Van Raay  
2018 Michael Willcox  
2018 Cameron Williams  
2015 Matthew Young

## Boundary Umpires

2016 Blake Anderson  
2022 Wade Anderson  
2019 Kaitlin Barr  
2017 Sam Beer  
2009 Adam Bell  
2022 Harrison Bell  
2016 Josh Blain  
2021 Shaun Bourke  
2016 Trent Bowes  
2019 James Brayshaw  
2022 Jack Buller  
2011 John Cooper  
2016 Jake D'Angelo  
2016 Brenton Dickson  
2022 Mitchell Dorling  
2022 Reuben Dyer  
2015 Kyle Fisher  
2021 Caleb Garraway  
2022 Cooper Geall  
2022 Olivia Grcic  
2021 Riley Guerin  
2018 Lachlan Higgs  
2016 Patrick Jackson (e)(f)(g)(h)  
2021 Alexander Keys  
2014 Anthony Laughton (c)  
2022 Mitch Lea  
2019 Corey Malcolm  
2019 Lachlan Menara  
2021 Benjamin Merrick  
2018 Greta Miller  
2022 Sean Miller  
2019 Zachary Mousaco  
2019 Luke Myatt  
2021 Mitch O'Neill  
2015 Liam Pain  
2022 Jonathon Peck  
2021 Lachlan Perdon  
2021 Damien Petrucci  
2017 Adrian Pretorius  
2019 Benjamin Rofe  
2016 Melissa Sambrooks

2018 Raushan Seychell  
 2015 Lewis Spiker  
 2016 Daniel Urbans  
 2021 Andrew Van Keulen  
 2018 Max Visintin  
 2015 Jesse Wilkie  
 2016 Chris Williams  
 2021 Lachlan Wright

### Goal Umpires

2022 Laura Brogan  
 2018 Zachary Brown-Close  
 2019 Joe Dorrat-Thorpe  
 2006 Chris Doyle  
 2022 Joshua Dudman-Doyle  
 2012 Matthew Edwards  
 2003 Adam Gardner (d)(g)  
 2019 Thomas Gath  
 2022 Benjamin Geleit  
 2021 Brady Gutbier  
 2019 Lochlin Hamer (e)  
 2015 Joshua Hickman  
 2021 James Kandler  
 2019 Bradley Kellett  
 2022 Damon Kelly  
 2022 Charlie Lodge  
 2017 Tayla Manning  
 2018 Jake Marnie  
 2022 Noah Meyers  
 2016 Brendan Moloney  
 2016 Luke Monea  
 2022 Connor Petrie  
 2021 Phillip Pettinella  
 2022 Samuel Polden  
 2018 James Rizio  
 2021 James Rodwell  
 2018 Samuel Rogers (f)  
 2021 Bridget Saftenberger  
 2022 Cohen Shannon  
 2018 Jack Stammers  
 2019 Adam Steger  
 2018 Callum Thornton  
 2021 Harley Trickey  
 2017 Nelson Tucker (g)  
 2016 John Varker  
 2015 Joon-Yip Wong  
 2021 Emma Young

Year indicates first season of VFUA Membership

### Notes

- (a) Off list 2015-16.
- (b) Field 2014-16, 2018-22. Boundary 2017.
- (c) Off list 2015, 2017-2020.
- (d) Off list 2009-2016.
- (e) Off list 2021.
- (f) Off list 2020.
- (g) Off list 2018
- (h) Off list 2019



Nick Jankovskis



John Cooper

Luke Monea



# John Russo Trophy

**In recognition of on-field excellence and off-field commitment**

## **Melissa Sambrooks**

Since 2017 Mel has been the track representative for the Development Boundary Umpires Squad and has excelled in that role for a record five years.

She has been a member of the Executive Committee for five of her six years on the list.

As Track Representative, Mel's role is to keep boundary umpires informed on association affairs, act as a conduit between the umpires and the VFUA Executive Committee whilst encouraging their involvement in social functions and grand final events.

Mel's hard work and enthusiasm in each of these areas was rewarded with development boundary umpires being significantly more engaged during her term.

Attendance at association meetings and social functions was regularly improved and Mel's communication with the squad was a significant factor in this engagement.

Mel also provided valuable input to the VFUA planning process over several years and regularly provides thoughtful input to issues that have arisen during the same period.

She has regularly shown her connection with her squad, and their confidence, by raising numerous issues brought to her with the

Executive in a professional and timely manner.

In 2020, with umpires in lockdown, Mel was the driving force behind and main architect of the successful Virtual Mini-Olympics.

While the event raised \$2068 well in line with and exceeding some previous events held at Victoria Park, it also raised the spirits of the members.

It was also Mel that produced the video celebrating the results. She also had a plan in place for 2021 but the ever-fluid COVID situation proved too difficult for the Executive Committee to overcome in a formal program.

On the field 2021 provided Mel with her most significant appointment - the 2021 NAB Girls Grand Final.

Joining the VFUA in 2016 Mel has umpired 27 NAB Boys, 9 NAB Girls, 26 VFLW and 11 VFL Reserves/ AFLDL matches.

In the earlier years this involved the commute from Bendigo to Melbourne for training and matches.

In addition to the VFL Mel was also a member of the AFLW Boundary Umpires Squad in 2017-2018 running in 8 matches.

In short, Melissa Sambrooks had a very successful 2021 season and has shown outstanding leadership not just in 2021 but throughout her time with the VFUA.



## Recipients

1997 R. Davidson  
1998 D. Flegg  
1999 A. Black  
2001 C. Snell  
2003 D. Wilson  
2004 R. Findlay  
2005 J. Armstrong  
2005 A. Wojcik  
2006 D. Flegg  
2008 S. Gloag  
2010 R. Mills  
2012 D. Butcher  
2013 M. Curtis  
2014 S. Piperno  
2015 D. Butcher  
2015 L. Rayner  
2017 M. Curtis  
2018 A. Talbot  
2022 M. Sambrooks  
(Pictured)





# Rowan Sawers

## OAM

### Rowan Sawers OAM

VFUA foundation life member Rowan Sawers lifelong commitment to umpiring Australian football was recognised in the 2022 Australia Day honours with the award of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

That commitment began as a teenager in the Southern Umpires and progressed through the VFL Reserve Grade (1973-1974) and promotion to the VFL senior list in 1975.

In a senior career spanning 23 seasons he became the league's record holder in 1995 and umpired a total of 410 VFL/AFL matches.

Along the way there was success after success and a selected list of accomplishments includes: 410 VFL/AFL matches, 1982, 1984, 1987 and 1990 VFL/AFL Grand Finals, 8 State-of-Origin matches, 2 International Rules tours to Ireland and induction to the AFL Hall of Fame.

At umpire association level Rowan was president, and recipient of the Bishop Shield for excellence and contribution to the VFUA in 1984, and became a life member the following year. He was an original inductee into the AFLUA Hall of Fame in 2008.

Following a post-season injury that curtailed his 1992 season, Rowan spent the year coaching which was an introduction to the role he would successfully take on following his retirement at the end of the 1997 AFL season.

From 1998 until 2013 he was the AFL field umpires' coach and a heavy influence on both the general direction of umpiring and the individual careers of dozens of field umpires.

His contribution continued following his departure from the AFL when he headed the Essendon District Football League umpires from 2014 until 2020.

As an outstanding umpire, honest, forthright and insightful coach Rowan Sawers has earned the respect and friendship of multiple generations of everyone involved in Australian football.

The award of the Order of Australia is a just recognition for his contribution to the game.



# Courage Award

Recognising recovery from  
significant injury or hardship

YEAR	UMPIRE
1994	D.Hammond
1995	A.Malcolm
1996	D.Beard
1998	S.Nathan
2001	P.Anderson
2004	P.Balding
2005	B.McCorkell
2011	M.Saunders
2012	D.Cusack
2013	L.Keen
2013	J.Mather
2015	B.MacDonald
2015	G.Verberne
2017	J.Grindal
2017	D.Main
2017	S.Plumridge

Ben MacDonald



Peter Balding





# Frank Leverett Shield

The Frank Leverett Shield is awarded to the best umpire of all disciplines umpiring in their first season.

Numerous past winners have gone on to umpire at the highest level.

It is the VFUA's only multi-discipline on-field award.

## Recipients

YEAR	UMPIRE
1992	Alan Letson
1993	Adam Skidmore
1994	Steven Hanley
1995	Adam Bastin
1996	Gordon Muir
1997	Glenn Guzzo
1998	Matthew Tippet
1999	Matt Stevic
2000	John Neaven
2001	Luke Walker
2002	Rob Haala
2003	Neil Woods
2004	Matthew Lafite
2005	Jacob Mollison
2006	Chris Gordon
2007	Graham Bergroth
2008	Matt Maclure
2009	Brendan Hosking
2010	Luke White
2011	Daniel Butcher
2012	Hayden Gavine
2013	Matthew Dervan
2014	Sam Stagg
2015	Leighton Rowe
2016	Cameron Dore
2017	Joel Davis
2018	James Rizio
2019	Corey Malcolm
2020	No Award
2021	Riley Guerin
2022	Harrison Bell (Pictured)





# Best First Year Umpire

## Year

2012  
2013  
2014  
2015

## Field Umpire

Hayden Gavine  
Pat Burns  
John Howorth  
Leighton Rowe

## Boundary Umpire

Lachlan Rayner  
Kieran Ferguson  
Sam Stagg  
David Park

## Goal Umpire

Sam Walsh  
Matthew Dervan  
Kate Griffiths  
Cameron Millich  
Brad Standfield

2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022

Cameron Dore  
Sam Ferguson  
Josh Ball  
Shamus Dundon  
No Award  
Lachlan Coyne  
Kyle van Raay

Chris Williams  
Joel Davis  
Matthew Crowley  
Corey Malcolm  
No Award  
Riley Guerin  
Harrison Bell

Pat Dwyer  
Sian Atkins  
James Rizio  
Thomas Gath  
No Award  
Emma Young  
Josh Dudman-Doyle



# Most Improved Umpire

Year	Field Umpire	Boundary Umpire	Goal Umpire
1992	B.Allen	T.Anderson	C.Clark
1993	S.McLaren	M.Vitiritti	G.Billing
1994	K.Nicholls	S.Williamson	D.Humphries
1995	V.Sercia	S.Jansen	M.Harrison
1996	T.Shearer	S.Davies	M.Russell
1997	W.Mann	R.Frampton	A.Galea
1998	G.Twitt	S.Nathan	C.Evans
1999	S.Jeffrey	M.Vitiritti	D.Dixon
2000	A.Davis	G.Boland	P.Gonis
2001	C.Donlon	S.Smith	D.Flegg
2002	C.Kamolins	-	C.Appleton
2003	M.Stevic	-	A.Galea
2004	R.Findlay	-	P.Nastasi
2005	J.Armstrong/A.Mitchell	-	L.Walker
2006	T.McCarthy	-	J.Venkataya
2007	B.Ritchie	-	-
2008	R.Mills	S.Jones	R.Thwaites
2009	A.Mitchell	T.Morrison	B.James
2010	M.Curtis	M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou
2011	B.Hosking	J.Andrews	M.Maclure
2012	T.Carlos	T.Lougoon	C.Wong
2013	R.O’Gorman	J.Mather	S.Walsh
2014	P.Burns	A.Leggo	S.Plumridge
2015	H.Gavine	L.Buwalda	C.Leonard
2016	J.Howorth	D.Main	M.Edwards
2017	A.Gianfagna	L.Harty	P.Trotter
2018	P.Rebeschini	A.Hawkes	J.Varker
2019	L.Porter	M.Crowley	J.Rizio
2020	Not Awarded	Not Awarded	Not Awarded
2021	M.Young	K.Fisher	M.Edwards
2022	J.Ball (Pictured)	A.Laughton	C.Thornton





# Life Member / 30th Anniversary Function

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the VFUA and the Executive Committee decided to recognise this milestone by inviting not only life members but also previous Executive members to a combined life membership dinner and anniversary celebration.

The event was held on 28 August at the Hotel Collingwood in Smith Street and began with pre-dinner drinks in the main bar followed by a dinner in the upstairs private function room.

President, Matt Mahoney, welcomed guests and Administrator, Brad Noonan, outlined the history of the VFUA.

Attendees introduced themselves and several previous Executive members returning after a long absence brought us up to date with what they have been doing.

Conversation carried on throughout the meal and then around the room as the mingling continued well into the night.

Chatting was interrupted only by Liam Pain's ubiquitous raffle.

Thanks to Brad Noonan and Jack Stammers for organising a successful event and also to the 30 life members and current and former Executive who were in attendance.



# VFUA Life Members

Darren Agnew (1995)  
 Peter Allsop (1992)  
 Paul Anderson (2018)\*  
 Jason Armstrong (2006)  
 Peter Balding (2010)  
 Dan Beard (2004)  
 Gary Best (1994)\*  
 Anthony Black (1998)  
 Michael Blair (2013)  
 Michael Boss (2011)  
 Alan Brewer (1996)  
 Graeme Brewer (1993)  
 Nick Brown (2019)  
 Tristan Burgess (2013)  
 Daniel Butcher (2016)  
 Keith Callaghan (1997)  
 Peter Cameron (Found.)  
 Mark Canning (2000)  
 Peter Carey (1992)  
 Brendan Carland (Found.)  
 Barry Carmichael (Found.)  
 Geoff Caulfield (1995)  
 Craig Clark (1996)  
 Andrew Clifton (2005)  
 Andrew Coates (1994)  
 Allan Cook (1993)  
 Michael Curtis (2018)  
 Graham Danne (Found.)\*  
 Russell Davidson (2000)  
 Rod Davies (1995)  
 Andrew Dempster (2001)  
 Greg Denison (2012)  
 Frank Dicosmo (2006)  
 David Dixon (2004)  
 Lloyd Fisk (2003)  
 David Flegg AM (1997) #  
 Rob Frampton (1999)  
 Joy Gelly (2005)  
 Stephen Gloag (2005)  
 Darren Goldspink (1993)  
 Peter Gonis (2005)  
 Doug Gourlay (1994)  
 Doug Gower (1993)  
 Ian Green (1993)  
 Kate Griffiths (2020)  
 John Hall (1997)  
 Michael Hammond (2003)

Lindsay Hardman (2000)  
 Shane Harris (1992)  
 Darren Holt (2003)  
 Colin Hood (1997)  
 David Howlett (Found.)  
 David Humphries (2001)  
 Anthony Hunter (2014)\*  
 Steele Irish (2007)  
 Ben James (2006)  
 Michael Jennings (2010)  
 Dean Jones (2019)  
 Leigh Keen (Found.)  
 Peter Kelly (1996) #  
 Greg Kennedy (1998)  
 Hayden Kennedy (1993)  
 Colin Larter (1999)  
 Nick Laurence (2015)  
 Andrew Leggo (2019)  
 Matthew Leppard (2009)  
 Richard Leslie (2002)  
 Stephen Luckman (1992)  
 Andrew Malcolm (2002)  
 Wes Mann (1999)  
 Shane Mason (2003)  
 Dean Maxwell (1995)  
 Peter McDonald (1998)  
 Anton McKernan (1993)  
 Scott McLaren (1999)  
 Richard Mills (2013)  
 Chris Mitchell (Found.)  
 David Mitchell (Found.)  
 Kevin Mitchell OAM (2006)  
 Geoff Morrow (Found.)\*  
 Sam Mounajed (2018)  
 Geoff Mowat (1992)  
 Peter Nastasi (2004)  
 Ben Naughtin (2008)  
 John O'Leary (1993)  
 Malcolm Owen (1993)  
 Laurie Page (1994)  
 Daniel Pieper (2016)  
 Brian Philp (1994)\*  
 Steven Piperno (2015)  
 Simon Plumridge (2019)  
 Mark Powell (1998)  
 Mark Prince (1993)  
 Doug Purss (Found.)\*

Frank Raiti (1994)  
 Gary Ramm (1999)  
 Denis Rich AFSM (Found.)  
 Michael Richardson (2006)  
 Linton Roe (2000)  
 Greg Russo (1999)  
 John Russo (Found.)  
 Paul Saville (Found.)  
 Rowan Sawers OAM (Found.)  
 Graeme Scherger (1992)  
 Colin Segota (1996)  
 Roger Selwood (1992)  
 Michael Sexton (1998)  
 Bryan Sheehan (1993)  
 Michael Sneddon (Found.)  
 Chris Snell (2003)  
 Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)  
 Justin Stephenson (2001)  
 Steven Stirling (1998)  
 Brad Strachan (2000)  
 Terry Suitryk (1993)  
 Phil Sutton (Found.)  
 Andrew Talbot (2018)  
 Simon Tursi (2008)  
 James Van Beek (1994)  
 Jason Venkataya (2005)  
 Michael Viney (1993)  
 Matthew Vitiritti (2000)  
 Phil Watson (1993)  
 Andrew Wheeler (1998)  
 Graeme Williams (Found.)  
 Adam Wojcik (2007)  
 Cyrus Wong (2018) ‘

\* Deceased

# Special Award recipient

Found.- Foundation life member

Year indicates year of life membership



# VFL Life Membership

## **SAM MOUNAJED**

I would like to nominate Sam Mounajed for life membership of the VFL.

Sam has been involved with the VFL Umpires since 2008. He joined the VFL as a trainer and has been the head trainer for nine years.

Sam began his tenure head trainer in the era of great umpires coming through the VFL like Nick Lawrence, Tristan Burgess, Dean Jones, Andrew Talbot and Michael Curtis, all whom also have achieved VFL life membership status during that time.

Throughout his journey, he hasn't just been the head trainer he has also played roles of doctor, , teacher, coach, Observer, mentor and a father figure not only for the junior trainers coming through the program, but also all the umpires.

When you think about all the work this man does, not only giving plenty of hamstring and calf rubs, but the clean-up and set-up each year to ensure that the umpires get the best opportunity to be at their best. When the season is all over, you will still see Sammy at Vic Park cleaning those tables, ice baths, and rooms and preparing them for the next season.

When the umpires get Sammy as trainer on game day, not only do they have the best trainer in the business, but they also have the best caterer. Through cakes, biscuits, Lebanese breads and of course, his stash of lollies, Sam goes above and beyond what's required of him for the betterment of the umpires.

He is a fantastic contributor to the culture that is being built at the VFL and there is no question to his commitment of this.

Sam has not only made himself available in the umpiring group, but also ensures to encourage his group of trainers to attend all VFUA Social events with himself.

Sam doesn't just look after the VFL Umpires. When the Brisbane Lions play in Victoria, Sam is there looking after the players on game day.

Sam's contribution to Brisbane was remarkable, he was flown to the Brisbane Lions Awards Night in 2016 to be awarded Volunteer of the Year.

Over the course of Sam's 12-year journey, he has been appointed as a match day trainer at approximately 240 games.

Many umpire trainers have been involved for a few short years before moving on, but Sam continues to return year after year. In his own words, when a VFL umpire is promoted to the AFL, he feels that he has had a part in someone else's success.

That's a total of 57 umpires that he has contributed to achieving the ultimate goal of being an AFL umpire.

It is for all these reasons that I have no hesitation in nominating Sam for life membership of the VFL.

# VFL Life Membership

## JUDI ELLIOTT

On 6 September, Luke O'Brien gave me a call and asked me if I was coming to Vic Park for my End of Season Review. "Would you like to announce to everyone that Judi Elliott is receiving VFL Life Membership?"

I was honoured to be the one to give Judi her well-deserved and amazing news.

For anyone who was in attendance at the finals announcement, the applause she received when she received the news speaks volumes of what she means to the VFL umpires.

Her tears showed what being involved in this competition and helping us week after week truly means to her.

Judi has constantly gone above and beyond to help and celebrate the team that is often forgotten when it comes to match day.

She has many-a-time put her hand up to travel long distances when there were no local trainers available, and even then, she will most likely be set up well before the first umpire arrives.

For the umpires she really likes most (the ones who she publicly ridicules), she'll even give you extra time on a massage table despite Sammy's time limits!

Judi is already a life member of the VFUA and it's no doubt why when she has for years donated gift baskets and prizes for raffles, attended meetings, social events and the end of year ball!

She doesn't just want to help us prepare to perform, but she enjoys being involved outside of training and match day with every umpire, often checking in on the many different life events we all experience during our umpiring journeys.

For me personally, there is nothing better than seeing Judi as my match day trainer because I know I'll cop a bit of cheek, I'll be able to dish it back, but most importantly, I don't have any worries that she'll be ready to help with pre- or post-game massage, drinks, offering barley sugar, providing the spray bottle on a hot day or even providing a special milestone treat for any lucky umpires.

I have no doubt I speak for everyone within the umpiring group, from umpires, coaches and the rest of the medical staff and trainers, we are all very proud of you receiving this prestigious and well-deserved recognition for the decades of support for hundreds of umpires who have passed through the state league system.

Congratulations VFL Life Member, Judi Elliott!

# Squad Functions Field

Thanks to COVID, the field umpires were responsible and decided to split their social event up into a development squad and senior squad event.

The senior squad had a fantastic night at the Duke of Wellington pub in Melbourne in June.

Some highlights of the night were getting boxed into our own private room against our will, Pongo being extremely punctual as usual and polishing off a parma before anyone else arrived, as well as Matt Young backing up his reputation as the most valuable umpire off the field by partying on well into the night.

The development squad headed to Archie Brothers arcade for their squad night, which started off with everyone struggling to get to the arcade as most of Docklands was closed down.

Once everyone arrived we headed to the bar and starting working around the arcade machines.

We got our fill of arcade gaming, and even had enough tickets each for a couple of lollipops.

Then, it was time to go out and continue partying.



# Squad Functions Boundary

The long-awaited boundary function took place on a Sunday 19 June at Ballers Clubhouse, which could only be described as a pub crossed with a non-computer game arcade.

So well anticipated was the event that the goal umpires decided to tag along to see how a function should run.

Although there were plenty of highlights of the night we'll start off with the negatives, firstly the goalies decided to bring along the unwanted virus that has been going around for the past few years and spread it through the boundary group.

Secondly, Ben Rofe decided that he should send his partner in crime, Georgia to the event instead of attending himself. Final negative was Jack "the Bulldog" Buller's reaction to losing every single game of darts he played, even to the tired and emotional pair of Shaun Bourke and Benny Merrick.

Onto the positives and for the first time possibly ever, Blake Anderson (that's Wade's brother) opened his wallet to put some money on the bar for everyone. Wait, no he just took credit for it. Really, the VFUA funded the drinks, with Dicko taking full advantage of this.

Coach Harty was also overly eager in general dominance to ALL umpire's present, showing his soft touch on the shuffle table. The night wrapping up with young Caleb Garraway showing everyone that there's only ever been one umpire with skill to come out of Mildura,

and it clearly wasn't him, with an embarrassing performance on the pool table.

Overall, a great night for all that were there, luckily everyone ignored the request of "nobody goes home from kick-ons until Mel balances a coin on a lemon" or we might still be there.

Well done to the track reps, Blake and Mel, for organising everything, you did such a good job, you can organise next year's function too.

# Squad Functions Boundary





# Squad Functions Goal

On Sunday 19 June, the VFUA goalies organised our mid-season social event at Ballers Clubhouse in the CBD.

This was the first time that our combined Development and Senior Goal squads have had the chance to catch up outside of an umpiring environment in a couple of years due to COVID.

Ironically, the night was a spreader event amongst some of those lucky enough to catch COVID on this occasion (thanks for that, boundaries), but I digress!

The event was partially subsidised by the VFUA and included three hours of various unlimited games at the venue. Games included were table tennis, interactive darts, shuffleboard and table Shuffleboard. It was a good chance to get competitive with each other over a few beverages and show off our skills.

Thanks to our Goal Umpire Track Reps, Luke and Bridget, and the rest of the VFUA Committee for organising and partially subsidising the event.

A huge thanks also to everyone who made the effort to come along and make the event a great success.





# Squad Reports

## Senior Field

What a season 2022 was.

Highlighted by the first VFL men's finals series since 2019 there were many important moments for the senior field squad throughout the year. The year started off with Hayden Kennedy coming on board as the senior coach. This brought a new level of professionalism and resources to the squad and pushed the group to a new level.

Early in the year there were still disruptions with COVID creating havoc resulting in some umpires doubling up on weekends or being called up last minute (sometimes from the golf course).

It was great to see the way that umpires supported each other throughout these times to make sure that everyone was able to perform to the high standard that we challenge each other to achieve.

### Training

Training was increasingly diverse throughout the year with road runs and a statue search around the 'G' being incorporated to keep umpires on their toes.

During the year umpires also went back to their local league and help pass on some skills and advice to the next generation of umpires.

There was also a group of development umpires who joined senior coaching to help their development as well as mentoring programs amongst the senior and development umpires.

### Milestones

Nic McGuinness was appointed to umpire the AFLW Grand Final between Adelaide and Melbourne in Adelaide. Nic was also added to the AFL list throughout the year as an injury replacement umpire which was a fantastic reward for effort and shows the opportunities available to umpires in the coming years.

The VFL Grand Final featured the 'tallest panel ever' with Matt Young and Marty Rodger joining Queensland based umpire of the year, Andrew Adair, on the field with Harry Birch as the emergency umpire.

These umpires had fantastic years and it was great to be able to celebrate their achievements with them following the match.

There were also several umpires who achieved games milestones:

First match - Shamus Dundon, Cameron Williams, Jackson Gillespie, Jordyn Pearson and Seb Dalgleish

50 matches - Matt Pongracic, Peter Bailes and Leighton Rowe

150 matches - Matt Young and Jack Edwards

The following umpires have been recognised for the performance throughout the year with selection to umpire season seven of the AFLW:

Josh Ball, Harry Birch, Joel Clamp, Tom Chrystie, Sam Ferguson, Jack Howard, Nicholas Jankovskis, Nick Scott and Matt Young.

## Thank You

Every week we get to go out and do what we love and chase our dreams, but this would not be possible without the support of several people. Firstly, the support of partners and loved ones means that we can go out on weekends and perform.

The work that Luke O'Brien, Sam Wood, all the coaches and observers do to make sure that we are able to continue to strive for a high level of performance each week does not go unnoticed.

Adam Veli and the high-performance team put in a mountain of work to tailor training programs to individual needs and also make sure that we are in the best possible position to umpire well.

Finally, the trainers, physios and doctors help keep some of us on the park every week and continue to improve the environment for umpires.

A massive congratulations to Judy Elliott and Sam Mounajed for their recognition at the VFL Awards night. Both have contributed so much to our umpiring group and we owe them a lot for the work that they continue to do to make things better for every single umpire.

Overall, it was a great year for the senior squad which was finished off with the finals series.

We are fortunate to have the resources available to us and will be great to see hopefully many more umpires reach the top level in the years to come.



Nic McGuiness



Jordyn Pearson

(L-R) Sam Ferguson and Jack Howard





# Squad Reports

## Senior Boundary

Finally, a full season. New coach, new opportunities, same old boundary umpiring.

With Blacky off running a school and riding horses, we saw the conveniently timed retirement, and then appointment, of Leigh Buwalda as new boundary head coach.

Skeptical as we all were, Leigh did an excellent job in his first year at the top. Supported of course by the evergreen Lachlan Harty.

COVID was still a constant threat, not quite in the rear vision mirror just yet. I dare say we all took turns having it throughout the year. And thanks to a well-timed social function, probably gave Leigh some appointment headaches as well.

Notable mentions must be made to Nick Phillips and Simon Blight, getting the call up to the AFL stage.

Season 2022 also saw the likes of Riley Guerin, Lachlan Wright, Mitch O'Neill and Lachlan Menara all promoted to the senior list.

Mel Sambrooks, Kaitlin Barr, Luke Myatt, Andrew Van Keulen, Lachlan Perdon, Ben Rofe, Damien Petrucci, Harrison Bell and Mitch Lea all made their senior VFL debuts. Congrats to those guys on their reward for effort.

Milestones included Belly to 150 games, Blake and Jesse to 50. Laughto got 50 as well when you included NEAFL.

Sadly we also had Keysy and Raushaan call time on their careers. Not a final goodbye however as they will continue on next year as

apprentice observers under the tutelage and guidance of Johnny Summers.

A feeling of normality had settled upon us by September. Footy finals were back, Grand Final After Party, VFUA Ball, end of season squad dinners and Silly Sunday were all in the calendar.

Time for a well-earned break. See you all in 2023.



Patrick Jackson, Foreground  
Ty Duncan, Background  
VFL Grand Final Boundary Umpires



# Squad Reports

## Senior Goal

Whilst the start of a new football season can elicit a lot of positive emotions for all involved, the commencement of the 2022 Smithy's VFL season posed some interesting questions amongst the cohort of the VFL Senior Goal Umpires group, especially after the uncertainties that have been posed over the last few seasons by the pandemic.

Questions such as would we get a full season in, would most of us end up getting COVID and would we hear a peep out of Tom Gath (yes, most of us and not really) were questions firmly in the minds of our group leading up to the March 29 kick off.

The ascension to the AFL of our beloved captain, Callum Leonard, was offset by the arrival onto the senior squad of Emma Young, Cal Thornton and Nelson Tucker who all brought value to the group throughout the season.

Below is a rundown of some of the events as they happened this season:

**22 February** - Training resumes at the Project Clothing Centre.

What used to be a first night filled with long running drills and umpires extremely exhausted after a hard session is replaced with short, sharp agility drills and plenty of rest. The group approves.

Six weeks later after doing the six second shuttle drill for what feels like the millionth time the feelings of the group are vastly different.

**Round 1 Sunday 31 March** - Senior Citizen of the group Chris Doyle sets a new low in forgetfulness and professionalism by not checking that his new trousers fit before doing the Collingwood v Box Hill match at Victoria Park. Thankfully a quick dash across the ground to pick up his old trousers from home meant he could umpire the game with his decency intact and save a major embarrassment

**Round 2 Thursday 31 March** - Jack Stammers in what can either be described as extremely rare behaviour or ushering in a new era of extreme professionalism, brings in an iron to use on his umpiring trousers before a game at the Victoria University Whitten Oval

**Round 3 Saturday 9 April and Sunday 10 April** - Emma Young (at Preston City Oval), Cal Thornton (at the Swinburne Centre) and Nelson Tucker (at the NEC Hangar) all make their deserved VFL senior debuts. The AFLW Grand Final is also held in Adelaide that weekend with the Victorian trifecta of Rizio, Edwards and Monea given the honour

**Round 8 Sunday 15 May** - Perhaps still in holiday mode after his US jaunt, Josh Hickman doesn't read the second attachment in Luke O'Brien's appointment email thereby not realising he was appointed to the Fitzroy Cubs v Carlton game at Ikon Park. Thankfully to avoid Adam Steger having to do both ends Brendan Moloney make a mercy dash to Ikon and fills in at the very last minute.

**Round 10 Saturday 1 June** - Chris Doyle reaches his 150th VFL senior game rewarding a display of perseverance and effort over a prolonged journey. The achievement, which included a naming of a pocket at Victoria Park in his honour, seems to go to the old man's head with him taking a trip down media street, doing a radio interview before the game, which finishes nine minutes before the umpires were due to walk

**Sunday 12 June** - Adam Gardner debuts the three-quarter sleeves look in the Casey v Collingwood TV game at Casey Fields. Opinions mixed

**Sunday 19 June** - The VFL Goal Umpires social event at the Ballers Clubhouse, expertly convened by Luke Monea. A great time had by all with numerous activities to partake in at the clubhouse. It was a great night to catch a good vibe, or if you were unlucky like Brad Kellett and Emma Young, COVID.

**Thursday 23 June** - Jake Marnie attends training. To make light of the situation numerous people go over to the swashbuckling left-handed batter to introduce themselves throughout the evening

**Monday 4 July - Saturday 10 July** - Jack Stammers and Adam Steger given the opportunity to represent us by umpiring in the NAB Under 16 Championships on the Gold Coast and in Adelaide

**Thursday 7 July** - A rare outside training session with the group taking to MSAC to partake in a swimming night, despite numerous protestations by someone who will not be named (Doyle). After seeing some rather ordinary examples of swimming, a water polo match is held between the seniors and devs which is part water polo, part WWE wrestling.

**Round 15 Sunday 17 July** - A stitch up of epic proportions occurs at the North Port Oval where Adam Steger convinces Cal Thornton that the impending clouds looming over the bayside venue would not result in any rain, and that short sleeves would be the go. Cue five minutes into the encounter when a torrential downpour comes through leaving both looking like drowned rats.

**Round 17 Saturday 30 July** - Project Clothing enthusiast James Rizio brings up the 50 VFL matches milestone when he officiates the Werribee v Footscray game at the Avalon Airport Oval.

**Round 19 Sunday 14 August** - Josh Hickman also brings up the 50 VFL matches milestone when he umpires the Casey Demons v Carlton game at Casey Fields. Unfortunately, the Casey weather gods decide to honour the occasion with the usual stinking Cranbourne winter's day.

**Round 20 Saturday 20 August** - Joon-Yip Wong sets the record for the most backbenders and squats executed in a game when he travels to the Frankhauser Reserve at Southport.

**Tuesday 6 September** - Luke Monea is awarded the Umpire of the Year at the Project Clothing Centre. A fitting reward for the example he has set over several seasons.

**Friday 16 September** - The NAB Grand Final at Ikon Park in wintery conditions ably umpired by the duo of Matt 'Cortisone' Edwards and Bendigo's favourite son John Varker.

Nelson Tucker





**Sunday 18 September** - The Smithy's VFL Grand Final at Ikon Park in even more wintry conditions with Lukey and the Riz chosen to ably represent our group on the biggest stage the VFL has to offer.

The lads also have the honour of representing the group in doing the final game of the NAB Under 18 Championships during Grand Final Week at Marvel Stadium.

So, there you have it, a bit of a rundown of some of the events that shaped the 2022 VFL season for the VFL Senior Goal Umpires.

Looking forward to an even bigger and better year next year!



Senior Goal Umpire Panel

(L-R) Luke Monea and James Rizio





# Squad Reports

## Development Field

There was an extra bit of something in the air at the start of season 2022. The abrupt end to the 2021 season left the squad craving a consistency of games to prove their worth. The grass looked extra green, the air was a little fresher and the goalposts danced in the breeze. Victoria Park was a destination ready to see people be pushed to their physical limits.

Preseason was short and sharp, and the Field Development Squad began their campaign before having a full squad training session. The first game was a nice wake-up call for those of us who had a few too many chocolate bikkies for dessert.

Our first group session brought together some new talent from around the states, some new home haircuts, a new coaching group, and fresh new sunglasses. But we got straight into it, trying to regain fitness of seasons past with the echoes of a time-trial on the horizon.

The time-trial never came but the squad regained its fitness and was displaying arguably the most consistent and highest-quality umpiring on record.

Adversity was a mere speed bump for the group who dealt with a raft of changes and concerns over the season: two-umpire systems, broken whistles, shin splints, hamstring injuries, broken fingers, umpiring school football, not umpiring school football and then umpiring school football again. But to everyone's credit, each situation was tackled with the highest form of professionalism and commitment.

The seasons breezed through like a balmy day at Williamstown and before we knew it finals were upon us.

A Friday night thriller under lights saw cooler heads prevail and the umpiring panel remain even cooler under pressure. A packed-out sunny ETU Stadium, where the crowd was roaring and the cameras rolling. This panel ensured the hair was in perfect condition and the uniform was neatly pressed before making their TV debut.

Finally, a biblical day of rain before the concluding game of the season. This umpiring panel screwed in their long stops and showed the rest of the squad why they deserved to be there in the final week of the season.

Overall, it was a tremendous season for the development squad, who every day approached training and games with vigour, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

Rain, hail, shine, freezing cold nights, monsoon-like conditions, this group stuck together like glue and pulled each other through what at sometimes felt like a year-long season.

As this season has shown, opportunities are ever present for those who work.

Well done team

# Squad Reports

## Development Boundary

The 2022 season kicked off amidst yet more Covid outbreaks, but this year would bring a much-welcome return to a full season of footy.

With that also came the full bag of fresh faces to add to the development boundary crew. Although white shirts are a thing of the past, the first years still gravitate towards that same corner.

Many umpires made the most out of opportunities that came their way. We congratulate multiple umpires who were promoted to the senior list this year.

After a year without new recruits, and with plenty of double-ups and two-outs, the extra numbers in 2022 helped with loading and kept umpires out of the physio queue.

Some still managed to put themselves out for a match or two though. A big thanks goes out to the medical and training staff for keeping us fit and running.

Another return towards normal in 2022 was coaching and training going back to Vic Park, even if it was still once a week. Although the post-zoom game nights were missed, the post-training feeds made a comeback.

The crew became regulars at the Retreat, getting in plenty of games on the pool table, a few board games, lots of banter over meals and a couple of funny looks during Eagle Rock. No food was left behind with Riley helping anyone who was struggling to pack what they picked or helping 'No Salad' Perdon when there were any greens on his plate.

On the final night of training, the 2022 Mini Olympics provided a chance to battle it out against the other squads.

After a close relay, some disappointing soccer matches and heroic efforts around the other events, a stellar field umpire bounce from Andrew 'AVK' provided hope to the group.

With some tight final rankings, the Development Boundary Squad managed to take home the Paul Anderson Shield by one point over the senior boundaries.

Congratulations to this year's Grand Final Umpires:

NAB Girls Grand Final Umpires  
Kaitlin Barr and Harrison Bell.

VFLW Grand Final Umpires Shaun Bourke, Mitchell Dorling, and Luke Myatt

NAB Boys Grand Final Umpires Wade Anderson, Lachlan Perdon, and Ben Rofe

Finally, congratulations to the whole squad for an exceptional year and hopefully everyone has improved and gained something valuable from the season.

For all those not returning next year, farewell and all the best for your futures.

For those returning next season, relax and refocus to develop yourselves and reach your goals next year!

# Squad Reports

## Development Goal

What a year 2022 was for the goal development squad!

Nine new umpires were accepted onto the list in January as we hit Vic Park for what was to be a huge year ahead.

We began by seeing Emma Young, Callum Thornton and Nelson Tucker promoted to the senior squad, a shout out to them for their massive achievement.

After promotions, our list of 21 got stuck right into umpiring for "premiership points" as Lafite would call it with the NAB Girls season underway.

A successful season concluded with Connor Petrie, Bridget Saftenberger and Cohen Shannon (EM) umpiring an absolute thriller of a grand final at Avalon Oval with the winning goal kicked in the last 10 seconds of the game! Huge congratulations to the panel for their efforts.

The VFLW season was also in full swing, a big year that finished with a grand final played for the first time since 2019.

An entire goal panel of first year umpires, Sam Polden, Cohen Shannon and Connor Petrie (EM) represented our squad at ETU Stadium, Port Melbourne on 3 July for the 2022 VFLW Grand Final, what an achievement!

Our list also umpired an entire season of NAB Boys footy with six umpires selected to partake in the finals series, a cracker effort for everyone involved.

A special shoutout to Bridget Saftenberger for her promotion to the Season 7 AFLW Squad!

Bridget has been our squad's glue this year, as our track rep, she is approachable, she is supportive and she is always sticking up for we dev goalies.

Not only has she been a friend to every newly listed umpire and kept our entire squad up to date on all upcoming events, her umpiring ability has spoken volumes this year. A huge congratulations for all of your brilliant achievements this year Bridge!

Umpires, James Rodwell and Cohen Shannon were also appointed AFLW practice games during the season showing a reward for their unreal efforts this year.

As a squad, the dev goalies bonded closer as the year went on.

We had our rituals of dinner after training at the Retreat Hotel which always included some parmas that never seemed to find their rightful owners and occasionally a vodka milk bought for an umpire - much to his disgust.

On the track, a piece of everyone's soul was taken each week from Ryan, our strength and conditioning coach, who if I was a betting man, would put money on him to be thinking of new running drills in his sleep, but as much as we struggle, we are grateful for his guidance and support this year.



# Squad Reports

## Development Goal

The dev goalies also finished on the podium of this year's Mini Olympics with a bronze medal effort, shoutout to everyone that came along and enjoyed the night!

A mention also to Daniel O'Shea, Corey Brown and Pat Aurish on their retirements from the state league squad, a huge depth of experience and knowledge will be missed at Vic Park and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

See you on the track next year! Stay safe and enjoy the sun.

Development Goal Umpire Panel



# Mini-Olympics

Scores are level, the final event, 1 bonus point decides it all and crowns our 2022 Mini-Olympic champions. Who will win and who will fall short.

After what felt like a lifetime waiting for this event, the moment arrives and champions rose to spur their squad to victory. We are finally here and the development and senior squads for field, boundary, and goal competed in a variety of events, all in the memory of Paul Anderson, and all for charity.

The night saw acknowledgement of the grand final umpires and after a moving introduction to who Paul was and why we have the Mini-Olympics each year we competed head-to-head in relays, push-up competitions, soccer and more.

The night saw us welcome back the Anderson family who were generous enough to help us in remembering a dear friend and umpire of the VFUA. In much the same way as Paul dedicated his energy to umpiring, you could almost sense his energy was amongst us.

The development goal umpires took out the handicap relay with the head start proving critical to their victory, followed closely by development and senior boundary. It was clear from the outset that everyone was excited to be back, pushing our friends to the finish line.

From here we moved on to our other events. The goal kicking comp was taken out by the development boundaries with a late set shot from the development goals forcing senior boundary into equal third.

The soccer competition saw a stirring performance from the senior field taking two wins from their three games and clinching those crucial points for their squad.

During this however we saw some inspiring performances in the egg toss competitions. Senior boundary Liam Pain started strongly with a near 30 metre toss quickly beaten by their development counterparts, but it was the development field umpires, led by Lucas Taylor who somehow found a way to throw and catch the egg 50 metres despite the egg miraculously surviving being dropped on a previous attempt. It was from this point on those points became critical as we moved to the main events.

We gathered around the centre circle and one-by-one the squads tried their hands at the centre bounce. After a questionable performance from the development goal and senior boundary list, the field umpires stepped up and surprisingly only managed to keep it in the big circle.

It was an inspiring performance from the development boundary that took the lead, managing to get the ball to land in the small circle, alongside the senior goal squad.

The boundary throw-in event was perhaps the closest of the night with all the squads bar one being able to make it land within the small circle.

It was from here however that our scores became level, and it came down to a final performance from Blake Anderson as to who would win. The event in question, was the push



up competition. Whoever could do the greatest number of consecutive push-ups before collapsing would score their squad the points.

However, whichever squad did more push-ups as a collective would score a bonus point. Development field started us off with a lead of 55, quickly broken up to the 70s and then 80s with one final contender stepping to the plate.

Blake not only needed to beat 81 but to take the bonus point needed 119 to steal victory and bring us to sudden death. He cruised past 50, then 60, then 70, he buried 80, stormed past 90 and it was at this point things began to slow.

Each push up bringing him closer to what was needed, 100, 101, finished. He could do no more, the bonus point went to the development field and ultimately by a single point the development boundaries took victory for the 2022 Mini-Olympics and claimed the Paul Anderson Shield.

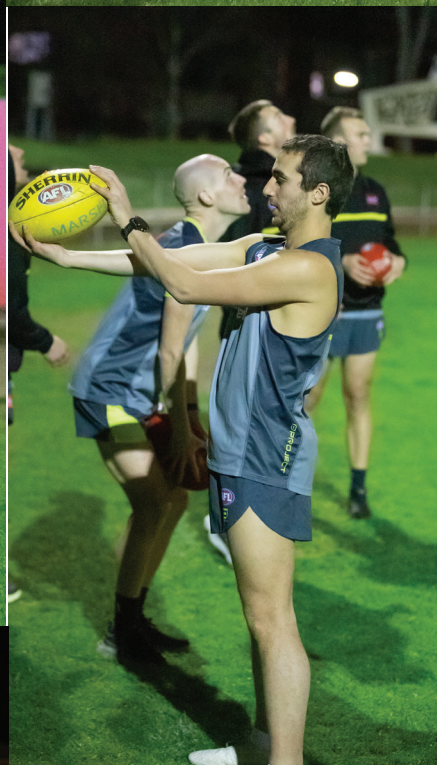
All in all, it was a fantastic night, topped off with a sausage sizzle put on by our amazing support staff. This year was something special and after what was a long wait, we finally got what we had waited for, and boy was it worth it.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and those who took out the shield. I look forward to us competing again next year and celebrating and supporting the Anderson family and raising money for such an important cause.

TOTAL RAISED: \$1,167.00









# VFL Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
1993	D.Agnew M.Nash	S.Leslie A.Pizaro	J.Moore L.Page
1994	K.Nicholls G.Caulfield	D.Perry J.Summers	D.Humphries P.Herrick
1995	S.Hanley V.Sercia M.Sexton	P.Bradford J.Fleming	B.Strachan M.Russell
1996	A.Malcolm T.Shearer M.Sexton	P.Bradford A.Duncan	A.Letson H.Stamos
1997	M.Vozzo W.Mann M.James	R.Frampton B.Crossett	F.Raiti D.Dixon
1998	R.Kelsey C.Rowe M.James	R.Leslie B.Crossett	R.Read M.Tippett
1999	K.Nicholls K.Callaghan S.Jeffery	S.Smith K.McCarthy	C.Evans D.Holt
2000	A.Malcolm S.Jeffery G.Twitt	S.Smith J.Wilson	J.Venkataya R.Read
2001	J.Quigley A.Davis S.Grun	M.Payton C.Steinman J.Stephenson	C.Appleton F.Dicosmo
2002	S.Grun M.Nicholls S.Ryan	G.Gibson C.Morrison A.Little	C.Appleton D.Wilson
2003	S.Grun S.Meredith M.Stevic	R.Haala S.Irish J.Bennison	L.Walker D.Wilson
2004	C.Donlon C.Kamolins D.Sully	A.Coote M.Foster M.Lefevre	M.Hammond L.Fisk
2005	J.Armstrong M.Jennings D.Sully	I.Burrows G.Large M.Lefevre	M.Hammond B.Letson
2006	J.Mollison H.Ryan S.Stewart	G.Large M.Lefevre C.Roberts	A.Clifton B.Letson
2007	M.Jennings J.Mollison S.Stewart	C.Hay G.Large N.Woods	B.Letson A.Wojcik

# VFL Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
2008	R.Findlay M.Jennings T.Pannell	C.Gordon S.Jones N.Woods	P.Balding S.Williams
2009	M.Jennings A.Mitchell B.Ritchie	G.Bergroth D.Kowalski M.Marantelli	C.Lai B.James
2010	M.Brown M.Leppard B.Ritchie	D.Kowlaski M.Marantelli P.Tongue	A.Kyrkou C.Lai
2011	D.Harris B.Hosking A.Mitchell	C.Esler M.Jenkinson M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou S.Piperno
2012	T.Burgess S.Gleeson D.Harris	D.Cusack T.Lougoon B.Macdonald	M.Craig M.Palm
2013	S.Gleeson R.O’Gorman B.Ritchie	D.Cusack T.Lougoon J.Mather	D.Benwell M.Craig
2014	N.Brown J.Edwards B.Wallace	J.Andrews B.Elvey J.Robertson	M.Dervan S.Piperno
2015	T.Burgess D.Butcher H.Gavine	J.Scully N.Laurence B.Macdonald	M.Dervan S.Plumridge
2016	H.Ryan D.Butcher H.Gavine	P.Dineen L.Rayner N.Laurence	D.Benwell M.Maclure
2017	N.Brown D.Butcher A.Gianfagna	B.Macdonald P.Dineen D.Main	S.Walsh S.Plumridge
2018	J.Howorth P.Rebeschini A.Talbot	P.Jackson K.Ferguson P.Dineen	C.Leonard S.Plumridge
2019	M.Pell P.Rebeschini M.Rodger	D.Main S.Blight J.Cooper	C.Leonard S.Plumridge
2020	No Grand Final	No Grand Final	No Grand Final



# VFL Grand Finals

**Year**  
2021

**Field Umpires**  
No Grand Final

**Boundary Umpires**  
No Grand Final

**Goal Umpires**  
No Grand Final

2022

A. Adair  
M. Rodger  
M. Young

J. Cooper  
Z. Mousaco  
P. Jackson  
T. Duncan

L. Monea  
J. Rizio

2022 VFL Grand Final Panel





# VFLW Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
2015	M.Rodger J.Spencer	-	-
2016	P.Rebeschini N.Jankovskis	-	-
2017	S.Ferguson J.Howard J.Clamp	P.Damato B.Anderson B.Dickson	S.Atkins J.Griffiths
2018	J.Ball L.Porter N.Scott	R.Kane A.Pretorius B.Dickson	T.Manning J.Stammers
2019	H.Birch C.Gibson B.Hunter	S.Beer K.Fisher C.Malcolm	J.Marnie B.Moloney
2020	No Grand Final	No Grand Final	No Grand Final
2021	No Grand Final	No Grand Final	No Grand Final
2022	C.Hawes H.Morgan K.Van Raay	S.Bourke M.Dorling L.Myatt	S.Polden C.Shannon

2022 VFLW Grand Final Panel



# NAB League Boys

## Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
1994	G.Deller J.Kanizay	S.Jansen C.Scott	P.Gonis S.Murray
1995	S.Nelis J.Quigley	K.Colegrave S.Rock	A.Henry H.Stamos
1996	B.Irvin D.Reid	D.Crettenden C.Morrison	P.Gonis G.Ray
1997	A.Davis S.James	M.Kent S.Nathan	A.Galea D.Holt
1998	S.Meredith T.Pannell	J.Formosa S.Smith	J.Venkataya R.Condon
1999	C.Donlon D.Jakymczuk J.Zampatti	M.Foster P.Munro	R.Read M.Tippett
2000	M.Stevic C.Blanchard J.Armstrong	A.Little J.Neavan	M.Richardson D.Wilson
2001	C.Nash S.Ryan D.Sully	J.Kenley S.Neal	M.Read L.Walker
2002	B.Dye C.Kamolins M.Stevic	I.Burrows J.Bennison	D.Page A.Wojcik
2003	C.Donlon C.Nash D.Sully	I.Burrows N.Woods	M.Craig B.Letson
2004	A.Irvin M.Jennings H.Ryan	D.Cusack L.Stephenson	A.Gardner M.Lafite
2005	M.Brown A.Mitchell B.Pawley	P.Ashmore N.Liparota M.Marantelli	E.Malpas D.Mills
2006	T.McCarthy R.Mills B.Ritchie	C.Gordon J.Robinson P.Tongue	F.Brady S.Piperno
2007	T.Burgess J.Grindal J.Krull	G.Bergroth S.Jones P.Tongue	S.Williams C.Lai
2008	T.Burgess A.Mitchell T.Saunders	D.Kowalski M.Marantelli S.Neal	R.Thwaites C.Lai
2009	T.Burgess D.Harris A.Talbot	D.Card T.Morrison S.Neal	M.O'Donnell S.Piperno



# NAB League Boys

## Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
2010	N.Brown M.Curtis M.Oakley	G.Bergroth T.Morrison A.Masterton-Smith	M.O'Donnell S.Piperno
2011	T.Carlos J.Edwards H.O'Connor	J.Andrews G.Bergroth A.Masterton-Smith	M.O'Donnell M.Maclure
2012	M.Curtis A.Talbot R.Young	B.Elvey J.Scully N.Steel	A.Kyrkou C.Wong
2013	S.Gleeson R.O'Gorman B.Ritchie	J.Andrews N.Laurence J.Robertson	P.Balding S.Walsh
2014	P.Burns D.Butcher T.Chrystie	N.Laurence B.Macdonald L.Rayner	S.Plumridge S.Walsh
2015	P.Burns J.Barry M.Young	L.Buwalda L.Coop J.Robertson A.Bell	D.Benwell A.Kyrkou
2016	L.Rowe C.Dore J.Howorth	S.Blight P.Jackson K.Ferguson A.Bell	M.Edwards C.Doyle
2017	M.Pell N.Jankovskis N.Toner	S.Blight L.Wilkie J.Cooper S.Stagg	P.Trotter C.Doyle
2018	P.Bailes J.Clamp C.Watts	K.Ferguson A.Hawkes T.Horsten L.Wilkie	J.Varker P.Dwyer
2019	S.Ferguson N.Jankovskis N.Scott	J.Blain T.Bowes M.Crowley R.Kane	L.Monea J.Rizio
2020	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-

# NAB League Boys Grand Finals

## NAB League Boys

**Year**  
2022

### Field Umpires

L. Coyne  
S. Dundon  
C. Williams

### Boundary Umpires

W. Anderson  
J. Brayshaw  
L. Perdon  
B. Rofe

### Goal Umpires

M. Edwards  
J. Varker

2022 NAB League Boys Grand Final Panel



# NAB League Girls Grand Finals

Year	Field Umpires	Boundary Umpires	Goal Umpires
2019	K.Laker L.Lopes C.Williams	K.Barr C.Malcolm	C.Brown T.Gath
2020	No Grand Final	No Grand Final	No Grand Final
2021	L.Coyne S.Dalglish S.Dundon	D.Petrucci M.Sambrooks	E.Young J.Dorrat-Thorpe
2022	L.Coyne J.Gillespie N.Thorneycroft	K.Barr H.Bell	C.Petrie B.Saftenberger

2022 NAB League Girls Grand Final Panel





# 100+ VFL Matches

Umpire	Matches	Umpire	Matches
Peter Balding	235	Jason Quigley	118
Dan Beard	224	Shaun Gleeson	117
Andrew Talbot	224	Andrew Leggo	117
Dean Jones	207	Glenn Gibson #	116
Michael Richardson	194	Andrew Malcolm	116
Nick Laurence	194	Adam Wojcik #	115
Shane Mason	188	Steven Neal	115
Michael Curtis	188	Chris Donlon #	115
Richard Mills	182	Matthew Leppard	114
Tristan Burgess	182	Neil Woods	113
Andrew Clifton	181	Robert Findlay #	112
Lloyd Fisk	177	James Davey	112
Ben James	172	Geoff Twitt	110
John Cooper	171	Andrew Heffernan	110
Andrew Mitchell #	167	Dan Butcher	108
Matthew Young*	163	Michael Palm #	108
Matthew Brown	163	Dylan Benwell	108
Michael Jennings	162	Russell Davidson	106
Nic McGinness*	161	Patrick Burns	106
Steven Piperno	161	Kieran Ferguson	106
Adam Bell	160	Jason Armstrong #	105
Jack Edwards*	159	Scott Murray	104
Jamie Grindal	158	Drew Kowalski	104
Chris Doyle*	158	Chris Morrison #	103
Michael Hammond	155	Andrew McCoy	102
Ben Macdonald #	154	Luke Wilkie	102
Simon Plumridge	151	Sam Walsh	102
Brendan Dye	150	Rob Frampton	101
Daniel Pieper	150	Mark Foster #	101
Anthony Kyrkou	145	Matthew Oakley	101
Damien Cusack	140	Matt Maclure	101
Callum Leonard	140		
Frank Dicosmo Cy	137		
rus Wong	136		
Brendan Elvey	135		
Stephen Gloag	130		
Damien Sully	129		
Peter Nastasi #	129		
Steele Irish	128		
Shane Stewart #	128		
Matt Edwards	126		
Cameron Nash	125		
Rob Young	124		
Stefan Grun #	123		
Brett Ritchie	123		
Heath Ryan #	121		
Tom Chrystie	120		

## NOTE:

\* Includes NEAFL matches  
# 100 AFL matches

# 11+ VFL Finals

## Umpire

Peter Balding (G)  
 Simon Plumridge (G)  
 John Cooper (B)  
 Michael Jennings (F)  
 Ben Macdonald (B)  
 Steven Piperno (G)  
 Shane Stewart (F)  
 Shaun Gleeson (F)  
 Andrew Talbot (F)  
 Neil Woods (B)  
 Nick Laurence (B)  
 Tristan Burgess (F)  
 Michael Curtis (F)  
 Anthony Kyrkou (G)  
 Brett Ritchie (F)  
 Daniel Butcher (F)  
 Kieran Ferguson (B)  
 Mark Foster (B)  
 Drew Kowalski (B)  
 Gerard Large (B)  
 Brad Letson (G)  
 Michael Marantelli (B)  
 Richard Mills (F)  
 Steven Neal (B)  
 Damien Sully (F)  
 Matthew Brown (F)  
 Patrick Dineen (B)  
 Mitch Lefevre (B)  
 Shane Mason (F)  
 Andrew Mitchell (F)  
 Heath Ryan (F)  
 Sam Stagg (B)  
 Jordan Andrews (B)  
 Dylan Benwell (G)  
 Simon Blight (B)  
 Damien Cusack (B)  
 Rob Findlay (F)  
 Michael Hammond (G)  
 Andrew Malcolm (F)  
 Nic McGinness (F)  
 Sam Walsh (G)  
 Graeme Bergroth (B)  
 Andrew Clifton (G)  
 Chris Doyle (G)  
 David Harris (F)  
 Courtney Lai (G)  
 Michael Richardson (G)

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15-Time VFL Finals Field Umpire,  
 Tristan Burgess



# 2022 Statistics

## Field Umpires

Field Umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VFLW	NAB Girls	APS
Peter Bailes	19 (62)	0 (22)	0 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joshua Ball	23 (40)	0 (13)	0 (7)	0 (3)	0 (0)
Harry Birch	22 (31)	0 (24)	0 (7)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Alexander Bond	0 (0)	3 (8)	6 (14)	6 (11)	7 (7)
Tristan Burgess	0 (182)	0 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Jack Cannon	0 (0)	10 (20)	6 (20)	4 (11)	5 (5)
Thomas Chrystie <sup>1</sup>	17 (120)	1 (30)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joel Clamp	24 (49)	0 (26)	0 (7)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Adam Coles	0 (0)	4 (12)	6 (18)	4 (11)	6 (6)
Lisa Compton-Robins	0 (0)	7 (7)	6 (6)	4 (4)	4 (4)
Lachlan Coyne	0 (0)	11 (16)	4 (10)	8 (15)	1 (1)
Sebastian Dalglish	3 (3)	8 (23)	2 (13)	7 (17)	4 (4)
Genevieve Devenish	0 (0)	8 (9)	6 (12)	3 (5)	2 (2)
Shamus Dundon	9 (9)	10 (26)	4 (16)	1 (9)	0 (0)
Jack Edwards <sup>2</sup>	19 (159)	0 (23)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sam Ferguson	20 (44)	0 (30)	0 (10)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Lachlan Flinn	0 (0)	8 (8)	9 (9)	4 (4)	8 (8)
Jackson Gillespie	1 (1)	9 (19)	4 (20)	6 (17)	2 (2)
Nathan Guy	0 (0)	4 (25)	8 (26)	4 (18)	9 (9)
Connor Hawes	0 (0)	13 (18)	9 (14)	5 (9)	4 (4)
Ian Herman	0 (0)	9 (17)	9 (24)	4 (18)	10 (10)
Jack Howard	19 (30)	0 (38)	0 (13)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Luke Hunter	0 (0)	8 (11)	5 (14)	5 (10)	8 (8)
Nicholas Jankovskis	13 (44)	1 (28)	1 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Elias Kafritsas	0 (0)	8 (14)	3 (26)	3 (13)	9 (9)
Arron Knezevic	0 (0)	10 (13)	8 (16)	5 (10)	1 (1)
Lucinda Lopes <sup>3</sup>	0 (0)	3 (48)	11 (47)	2 (13)	7 (7)
Thomas Lyon	17 (32)	0 (30)	0 (11)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Matthew Mahoney	18 (19)	0 (31)	0 (25)	0 (1)	3 (3)
Ryan Mann	0 (0)	9 (14)	4 (11)	5 (9)	5 (5)
Nic McGinness <sup>4</sup>	10 (161)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Hugo Morgan	0 (0)	7 (18)	12 (22)	2 (14)	4 (4)
Emiel Morvell	0 (0)	12 (18)	9 (16)	4 (9)	2 (2)
Alex Murray	12 (20)	2 (33)	1 (20)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Connor Newett	0 (0)	9 (14)	4 (10)	3 (8)	4 (4)
James Nolan	0 (0)	3 (4)	4 (12)	5 (9)	5 (5)
Hayden Pearson	0 (0)	13 (13)	5 (5)	3 (3)	5 (5)
Jordyn Pearson	2 (2)	7 (11)	1 (13)	0 (4)	1 (1)
Noah Piggott	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Matthew Pongracic	18 (52)	0 (34)	0 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Luke Porter	15 (45)	0 (25)	0 (15)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Jacob Rockwell	4 (5)	3 (44)	1 (27)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Martin Rodger	24 (82)	0 (22)	0 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Leighton Rowe	12 (61)	1 (19)	0 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Nick Scott	20 (41)	0 (17)	0 (8)	0 (4)	1 (1)
Jacob Stuckey	0 (0)	7 (17)	4 (18)	3 (10)	7 (7)
Andrew Talbot	20 (224)	0 (19)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Austin Tattersall	0 (0)	8 (15)	4 (13)	4 (8)	4 (4)



# 2022 Statistics

## Field Umpires

Field Umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VFLW	NAB Girls	APS
Lucas Taylor	0 (0)	3 (28)	7 (34)	2 (16)	6 (6)
Kylie Van Raay	0 (0)	9 (9)	10 (10)	3 (3)	4 (4)
Michael Willcox	16 (24)	0 (13)	1 (17)	0 (5)	1 (1)
Cameron Williams	4 (4)	11 (33)	3 (23)	3 (16)	3 (3)
Matthew Young <sup>5</sup>	24 (163)	0 (9)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)

### NOTES:

Figures in parenthesis indicate career totals in the listed competition.

<sup>1</sup> VFL total includes 1 NEAFL match

<sup>2</sup> VFL total includes 7 NEAFL matches

<sup>3</sup> Umpired 5 NAB Boys and 10 VFLW as a boundary umpire. Career totals NAB Boys: 53 and VFLW: 57

<sup>4</sup> VFL total includes 141 NEAFL matches

<sup>5</sup> VFL total includes 45 NEAFL matches

# 2022 Statistics

## Boundary Umpires

Boundary Umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VFLW	NAB Girls	APS
Blake Anderson	16 (64)	2 (14)	0 (9)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Wade Anderson	0 (0)	8 (8)	5 (5)	6 (6)	0 (0)
Kaitlin Barr	1 (1)	9 (14)	7 (24)	8 (23)	0 (0)
Sam Beer	19 (30)	0 (25)	2 (21)	0 (3)	0 (0)
Adam Bell	18 (160)	0 (35)	1 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Harrison Bell	1 (1)	10 (10)	7 (7)	7 (7)	0 (0)
Josh Blain	9 (22)	3 (40)	0 (16)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Shaun Bourke	0 (0)	9 (15)	13 (23)	3 (9)	0 (0)
Trent Bowes	13 (38)	3 (27)	0 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)
James Brayshaw	14 (23)	5 (13)	0 (12)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Jack Buller	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (9)	5 (5)	0 (0)
John Cooper	18 (171)	0 (25)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jake D'Angelo	19 (45)	0 (24)	0 (11)	0 (3)	0 (0)
Brenton Dickson	17 (42)	3 (38)	0 (12)	0 (3)	0 (0)
Mitchell Dorling	0 (0)	10 (10)	11 (11)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Reuben Dyer	0 (0)	6 (6)	4 (4)	4 (4)	0 (0)
Kyle Fisher	14 (43)	3 (35)	0 (12)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Caleb Garraway	3 (5)	11 (15)	4 (11)	1 (6)	0 (0)
Cooper Geall	0 (0)	5 (5)	10 (10)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Olivia Grcic	0 (0)	3 (3)	9 (9)	4 (4)	0 (0)
Riley Guerin	15 (20)	5 (7)	4 (9)	2 (8)	0 (0)
Lachlan Higgs	16 (39)	2 (17)	0 (11)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Alexander Keys	9 (13)	5 (8)	0 (1)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Anthony Laughton <sup>1</sup>	14 (59)	1 (12)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Mitch Lea	1 (1)	9 (9)	10 (10)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Corey Malcolm	13 (14)	2 (11)	3 (16)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Lachlan Menara	16 (24)	1 (10)	0 (8)	0 (8)	0 (0)
Benjamin Merrick	0 (0)	4 (9)	1 (9)	1 (5)	1 (1)
Greta Miller	15 (35)	0 (14)	0 (7)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Sean Miller	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)	4 (4)	0 (0)
Zachary Mousaco	19 (30)	0 (5)	0 (10)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Luke Myatt	3 (3)	10 (20)	6 (21)	4 (15)	0 (0)
Mitch O'Neill	16 (21)	1 (7)	0 (5)	4 (8)	0 (0)
Liam Pain	17 (84)	1 (21)	3 (5)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Jonathon Peck	0 (0)	6 (6)	10 (10)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Lachlan Perdon	8 (8)	9 (14)	1 (7)	2 (9)	0 (0)
Damien Petrucci	1 (3)	12 (17)	6 (9)	3 (9)	0 (0)
Adrian Pretorius	17 (42)	0 (24)	1 (18)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Benjamin Rofe	4 (4)	14 (24)	1 (13)	4 (15)	0 (0)
Melissa Sambrooks	6 (6)	11 (38)	3 (29)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Raushan Seychell	11 (13)	4 (21)	1 (22)	0 (5)	1 (1)
Daniel Urbans	13 (23)	4 (43)	1 (12)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Andrew Van Keulen	2 (2)	13 (17)	5 (16)	2 (4)	0 (0)
Max Visintin	0 (0)	9 (20)	8 (33)	3 (9)	1 (1)
Jesse Wilkie	11 (54)	1 (18)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Chris Williams	16 (39)	3 (28)	0 (19)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Lachlan Wright	13 (17)	5 (11)	2 (6)	1 (7)	0 (0)

<sup>1</sup> VFL total includes 31 NEAFL matches

# 2022 Statistics

## Goal Umpires

Goal Umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VFLW	NAB Girls	APS
Laura Brogan	0 (0)	10 (10)	8 (8)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Zachary Brown-Close	12 (35)	1 (10)	0 (11)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Joe Dorrat-Thorpe	0 (0)	9 (22)	4 (24)	2 (14)	0 (0)
Chris Doyle <sup>1</sup>	19 (158)	1 (81)	0 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joshua Dudman-Doyle	0 (0)	13 (13)	8 (8)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Matthew Edwards	18 (126)	1 (32)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Adam Gardner <sup>2</sup>	13 (93)	1 (64)	0 (12)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Thomas Gath	16 (21)	0 (9)	0 (11)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Benjamin Geleit	0 (0)	11 (11)	6 (6)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Brady Gutbier	0 (0)	9 (17)	4 (10)	7 (16)	0 (0)
Lochlin Hamer	0 (0)	7 (12)	10 (15)	3 (4)	0 (0)
Joshua Hickman	15 (51)	0 (22)	0 (8)	0 (1)	0 (0)
James Kandler	0 (0)	6 (16)	8 (18)	4 (8)	0 (0)
Bradley Kellett	17 (24)	2 (18)	1 (25)	0 (15)	0 (0)
Damon Kelly	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (9)	5 (5)	0 (0)
Charlie Lodge	0 (0)	5 (5)	12 (12)	4 (4)	0 (0)
Tayla Manning	16 (38)	0 (16)	0 (20)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Jake Marnie	14 (22)	0 (12)	0 (20)	0 (8)	0 (0)
Noah Meyers	0 (0)	9 (9)	5 (5)	6 (6)	0 (0)
Brendan Moloney	15 (21)	0 (31)	1 (25)	0 (9)	0 (0)
Luke Monea <sup>1</sup>	18 (82)	0 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Connor Petrie	0 (0)	8 (8)	5 (5)	7 (7)	0 (0)
Phillip Pettinella	0 (0)	3 (10)	8 (14)	3 (9)	0 (0)
Samuel Polden	0 (0)	10 (10)	10 (10)	3 (3)	0 (0)
James Rizio <sup>1</sup>	19 (56)	0 (7)	0 (5)	0 (4)	0 (0)
James Rodwell	0 (0)	7 (15)	6 (14)	9 (13)	1 (1)
Samuel Rogers	0 (0)	9 (27)	12 (33)	4 (18)	1 (1)
Bridget Saftenberger	0 (0)	8 (9)	10 (15)	5 (11)	0 (0)
Cohen Shannon	0 (0)	4 (4)	14 (14)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Jack Stammers	17 (41)	2 (14)	0 (11)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Adam Steger	14 (20)	0 (11)	0 (13)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Callum Thornton	15 (15)	3 (23)	3 (38)	5 (17)	0 (0)
Harley Trickey	0 (0)	2 (5)	6 (10)	5 (9)	0 (0)
Nelson Tucker	12 (12)	3 (19)	3 (34)	2 (7)	0 (0)
John Varker	20 (80)	2 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joon-Yip Wong	17 (26)	2 (27)	0 (30)	0 (9)	0 (0)
Emma Young	11 (11)	2 (7)	2 (10)	1 (10)	0 (0)

<sup>1</sup> VFL total includes 1 NEAFL match

<sup>2</sup> VFL total includes 44 NEAFL matches



# 2022 Statistics

## AFLW (Season 6)

### Field Umpire

	Games (Total)
Peter Bailes	12 (34)
Thomas Chrystie	6 (6)
Gen Devenish	4 (8)
Nicholas Jankovskis	4 (15)
Lucinda Lopes	3 (11)
Nic McGinness	10 (42)
Jordyn Pearson	10 (16)
Martin Rodger	10 (31)
Leighton Rowe	9 (22)
Matthew Young	5 (11)

### Boundary Umpire

	Games (Total)
Blake Anderson	10 (40)
Joshua Blain	7 (15)
Trent Bowes	8 (30)
John Cooper	11 (34)
Jake D'Angelo	7 (12)
Kyle Fisher	8 (15)
Lachlan Higgs	9 (15)
Lachlan Menara	9 (9)
Greta Miller	9 (33)
Zachary Mousaco	8 (17)
Jesse Wilkie	9 (32)

### Goal Umpire

	Games (Total)
Matthew Edwards	8 (21)
Adam Gardner	5 (14)
Thomas Gath	6 (12)
Joshua Hickman	7 (7)
Tayla Manning	5 (20)
Brendan Moloney	5 (9)
Luke Monea	7 (26)
James Rizio	8 (22)
Jack Stammers	5 (16)
Adam Steger	6 (11)
John Varker	7 (28)
Emma Young	4 (4)

### Season 6 AFLW Grand Final Umpiring Panel



# 2022 Statistics

## AFLW (Season 7)

### Field Umpire

Joshua Ball	8 (8)
Harry Birch	6 (6)
Thomas Chrystie	10 (16)
Joel Clamp	11 (11)
Lisa Compton-Robins	5 (5)
Gen Devenish	9 (17)
Jack Howard	9 (9)
Nicholas Jankovskis	13 (28)
Lucinda Lopes	7 (18)
Jordyn Pearson	8 (24)
Nick Scott	10 (10)
Matthew Young	7 (18)

### Goal Umpire

Matthew Edwards	2 (23)
Thomas Gath	6 (18)
Joshua Hickman	7 (14)
Tayla Manning	11 (31)
Brendan Moloney	6 (15)
Luke Monea	3 (29)
James Rizio	4 (26)
Bridget Saftenberger	6 (6)
Jack Stammers	6 (22)
Adam Steger	11 (22)
John Varker	5 (33)
Emma Young	8 (12)

### Games (Total)

### Boundary Umpire

Blake Anderson	10 (50)
Kaitlin Barr	12 (12)
Sam Beer	8 (8)
Joshua Blain	9 (24)
Trent Bowes	12 (42)
Jake D'Angelo	7 (19)
Kyle Fisher	8 (23)
Lachlan Higgs	10 (25)
Anthony Laughton	7 (22)
Corey Malcolm	10 (10)
Lachlan Menara	12 (21)
Greta Miller	6 (39)
Zachary Mousaco	6 (23)
Adrian Pretorius	12 (18)
Melissa Sambrooks	12 (20)
Jesse Wilkie	8 (40)
Lachlan Wright	7 (7)

### Games (Total)

Season 7 AFLW Grand Final Umpiring Panel





# 2022 Milestones List

## 150 VFL Matches

Chris Doyle	11 June 2022	Box Hill v. Port Melbourne (Box Hill)
Matthew Young	8 June 2022	Richmond v. Werribee (Punt Road)
Jack Edwards	29 May 2022	Northern Bullants v. Carlton (Preston)
Adam Bell	22 May 2022	Carlton v. Sandringham (Princes Park)

## 50 VFL Matches

Joshua Hickman	14 August 2022	Casey v. Carlton (Casey Fields)
Jesse Wilkie	6 August 2022	Footscray v. Coburg (Whitten Oval)
James Rizio	30 July 2022	Werribee v. Footscray (Werribee)
Matthew Pongracic	17 July 2022	Port Melbourne v. Collingwood (Port Melbourne)
Anthony Laughton	17 June 2022	Carlton v. Footscray (Princes Park)
Peter Bailes	28 May 2022	Williamstown v. Footscray (Williamstown)
Blake Anderson	2 April 2022	Casey v. Essendon (Casey Fields)
Leighton Rowe	27 March 2022	North Melbourne v. Williamstown (Arden Street)

## VFL Debut

Mitch Lea	3 July 2022	Richmond v. Collingwood (Punt Road)
Harrison Bell	3 July 2022	Northern Bullants v. Williamstown (Preston)
Kaitlin Barr	2 July 2022	Essendon v. Sydney (Windy Hill)
Jordyn Pearson	8 May 2022	Essendon v. Box Hill (Windy Hill)
Sebastian Dalglish	7 May 2022	Port Melbourne v. Richmond (Port Melbourne)
Jackson Gillespie	7 May 2022	Sandringham v. Northern Bullants (Sandringham)
Andrew van Zeulen	10 April 2022	Essendon v. Frankston (The Hangar)
Nelson Tucker	10 April 2022	Essendon v. Frankston (The Hangar)
Emma Young	9 April 2022	Northern Bullants v. Collingwood (Preston)
Callum Thornton	9 April 2022	Richmond v. Footscray (Punt Road)
Cameron Williams	3 April 2022	Box Hill v. Carlton (Box Hill)
Luke Myatt	2 April 2022	Collingwood v. Geelong (Victoria Park)
Melissa Sambrooks	27 March 2022	Richmond v. Southport (Punt Road)
Lachlan Perdon	27 March 2022	Casey v. Sandringham (Casey Fields)
Shamus Dundon	27 March 2022	Casey v. Sandringham (Casey Fields)
Benjamin Rofe	25 March 2022	Footscray v. Sydney (Whitten Oval)



# Jack Edwards

## 150 Games

In the early 2000s, a marathoner turned boundary coach at the Diamond Valley FL had somehow convinced his eldest son to follow suit as an umpire. A self-proclaimed fat-kid who loved basketball, picked up the whistle and took to field umpiring instead of the boundary in 2004 because "It paid more and you ran less." Fast-forward almost 20 years and Jack Edwards is notching up match 150 in the VFL!

This sort of milestone, that has only been reached by 13 others before him, is significant to everyone in their own way. For Jack, it acknowledges 10 years of umpiring state league football and 10 years of good mates, good times and lots of enjoyment. "Not many get there so I'm very lucky. It signifies the story I'll have when I move away from the match," he explained recently while chowing down a cheap \$19 steak.

When you've umpired that many matches, many of them blur into one, but for Jack, there was one stand out – The Lock-out Match.

That match was the 2014 Preliminary Final at North Port Oval. It was Port Melbourne and Footscray. The crowd was that big, they had to lock the gates. "The atmosphere was electric. Scores were level at the 21 minute mark of the last quarter." It's no wonder he went on to be appointed to the VFL Grand Final the following week.

Amongst his 10 years at state league level are two years on the AFL list. He may have only notched up 11 matches, but those 11 matches have left that hunger to climb back on to

that list.

His AFL debut, Melbourne versus Hawthorn in round 7 of 2015, also left a couple of memorable moments.

He had a dreaded score review in the first quarter when David Hale took a towering mark on the behind line. But the biggest accomplishment is flooring Viv Michie.

We all know being an AFL umpire has its perks, and Jack took full advantage when he told the story of being appointed to a match on the day of his engagement party.

"I spoke to Mel to see if she would be able to get everything ready so I could have a crack that night. So I organized dad to go and get the car with 10 minutes to go in the last quarter and go wait at the Moorabool Street entrance for when the siren went. I was in the car and on the highway when the theme song was still playing."

Jed's journey hasn't been all smooth sailing. He reflected on his first couple of years on the Development Squad. "In 2010 I did OK. I went backwards in 2011 and was warned that a return was not a guarantee in 2012." Jack made sure it was a certainty but having a big preseason which resulted in his VFL debut in round 1, 2012.

"The footy was good back then and umpiring was much simpler. We are more professional now and follow better preparation practices. We can over-analyze sometimes but the VFL has much better exposure."

When asked about some of the best umpires with whom he has graced the field he premised his answer with "I'm going to leave good people out here." From a developmental aspect, he named Brett Rosebury and Shaun Ryan as two.

They happened to be his exact teammates in his AFL debut. When it came to an umpire as teammate and having fun, it was the infamous Daniel Butcher. As one of the veterans now, Jack also acknowledged the enjoyment of umpiring with the younger umpires coming through the state league system.

It's not just umpires that Jack has come across. He named two players from opposing clubs as two of the best players he has seen at VFL level. Toby Pinwell from Port Melbourne and Ben Jolley from Williamstown. "Toby played hard, but he also respected you once he got to know you. But Port and Willy back then were stacked. Whenever they played each other, you knew it was going to be on."

For Jack, there has always been one constant support – Papa Craig. Craig has gone from father to Jack's biggest critic. What Jack values is the fact that Craig, as a respected boundary umpire and coach in his own career, often provides feedback that is on par with the official coaching. For this reason, even when Craig says Jack has had a bad match, he knows he is getting an honest point of view.

Ten years at the state league level provides perspective and wisdom. For umpires aiming for the state league, or even aiming for the senior squad, Jack's advice: "You need to understand that you'll need to make sacrifices, you'll have to work hard and the journey will be hard sometimes. But whatever you put in, you get back times 10 with mates, the footy and the experiences, none of which should be taken for granted. Being a state league umpire is not a right of passage. The position needs to be respected and earned."

It's been a privilege being part of Jack's journey from the good ol' DVFL days to now. Not just as an umpire, but getting to know his

immediate and now own family in Craig, Pina, Matt, Mel and Mable. and now own family in everyone in the VFUA congratulates you on your journey and all your achievements to date and we are all hoping to see many more achievements!

And one final message for his younger self starting to umpire for the first time...

"Umpiring is a rollercoaster with highs and lows. The between times are the bulk of the ride. Enjoy the ride and be proud to be an umpire."



# Adam Bell

## 150 Games

Adam “Ding” Bell started umpiring at the VFL in 2009, which means he’s been gracing Victoria Park with his presence almost as long as Johnny Summers.

In the days of Coach Vitiritti, Belly was in charge of navigating the correct footage during coaching, which was shown on a projector via a DVD player. This alone meant that he provided more valuable input than a number of people in that coaching room.

Belly spent three years on the development list before being promoted to the senior panel in 2012 doing his first match with Matthew Tomkins and Brenden Elvey. This means Belly has spent over a decade umpiring VFL senior football.

This type of longevity is extremely rare at VFL level, particularly in the boundary discipline and is a sign of the commitment that Belly shows towards umpiring.

To explain how long that’s been, close mate with Belly, Lokky Harty has started umpiring (2009), stopped umpiring (2011), started umpiring again (2015), stopped umpiring again (2018) and started coaching (2020) all at the VFL level.

Continued hard work has seen some great success for Belly, filling his career to date with great moments and fantastic achievements.

He did his first final in 2014 and aside from when COVID meant there were no finals at all; Belly has umpired minimum of one final in every year since.

Reaching a ranking as high as number five at the end of the 2016 season, Belly was only one step away from getting the VFL grand final in both 2015 and 2016 when he umpired the TAC Cup grand final.

The amount of dedication and hard work that Belly has put in reflects in the quality of the umpiring performances that he’s been able to consistently produce.

He shows great leadership on the field, letting his experience shine through and he is an extremely reliable umpire. For this reason, Belly is one of my favourite people to umpire with because you can always back him in to be where he needs to be, when he needs to be there.

It’s also no secret that Belly is one of the biggest characters on the VFL list. Subsequently, he’s one of the most well-known people out on the track.

From his “serious sideburns” getting a mention by the 7 VFL commentators to his general sick behaviour out on the training track, Belly always manages to find a way to make himself stand out from the crowd.

Enjoy your 150th mate. It’s been a pleasure umpiring some of those 149 matches with you and I’m sad I’ll be cheering you on from the sidelines instead of running out on the ground with you.

Sling on, Ding





# Matt Young

## 150 Games

Chompers. Slappsy. The Helmet. Youngy. The man of many nicknames, Matthew Young, brings up his 150th VFL match this Wednesday night, when he takes control of the Richmond v Werribee match under lights at the Swinburne Centre.

Youngy began his umpiring career in his home state of Queensland at age 12, in the AFL Brisbane Juniors Football League, because he thought “it was a pretty cool first job”. He progressed through the ranks and made his NEAFL debut in 2012, age 19, in the Round 2 match between Southport and Gold Coast.

He would go on to umpire 46 NEAFL matches, including four finals, between 2012 – 2014, and was appointed as the Emergency Umpire for the 2013 NEAFL Grand Final.

In 2015, he made the move down south to Melbourne and joined the VFL umpiring group, making his debut in Round 1 of that season. Since then, Youngy has been a mainstay of the VFL competition, umpiring 103 matches.

He made his VFL finals debut in 2019, in the elimination final between Geelong and Port Melbourne, an appointment he considers a career highlight.

Youngy’s commitment and dedication to his umpiring saw him selected in the AFLW Field Umpiring Squad for the 2022 season, and recently saw him promoted onto the AFL Rookie List. He is also a member of the VFL Umpiring leadership group, highlighting the strong regard in which the group hold him.

Good friend and fellow VFL umpire Tom Chrystie describes him as “a very genuine person who has always tried his guts out”, adding “with such a great work ethic and personality I think he will continue to climb the umpiring ranks quickly”.

Another recently crowned member of the 150 VFL matches club, Jack Edwards, said Matt is “an incredibly selfless person who wants to get the best out of himself and is great company to be around”. If you’ve had the pleasure of meeting Matt, you would know all of this to be true.

Youngy says the thing he loves the most about being a part of the VFL umpiring group is the support and mateship: “it has grown into a genuine team first environment”.

He lists the 2014 Under 18s AIS All Australian Europe Tour as his career highlight (he was the travelling umpire, not a player as he would have you believe!) and says the best match he has been a part of was the 2012 NEAFL Semi-Final between Southport and Redlands (Southport kicked a goal after the siren to win by 3 points).

He lists Nic Palmer (NEAFL Development Squad Coach), Cameron Nash and Kym Brockhoff as having had the biggest impact on his career, across both his time in Queensland and Victoria. And his advice to any young umpires coming through the system? “GET FIT!”

This isn’t a surprise, as he has gained the reputation as always being one of the hardest workers across the pre-season period, in recent years taking his fitness to the



next level, and being the only member of the umpiring group disappointed to see the 2km time trial go!

As a group, we consider ourselves very fortunate to have Youngy as part of our team.

He is incredibly hard working, committed and driven in his umpiring pursuit, and provides a perfect example to follow for any umpires entering the state league system.

All the best for match 150  
Chompers!





# Chris Doyle

## 150 Games

On 11 June, Chris Doyle became the 27th umpire, and the 10th goal umpire to officiate 150 VFL matches. Chris' journey at the VFL would be described as one which is filled with resilience, perseverance, and consistency.

Doylely, as he is affectionately known, started his career running the boundary for his alma mater St. Kevin's College in 1997 (Yes! Years before many of our current members were born). In 2002, he joined the VAFA to take boundary umpiring more seriously, but after a soft tissue injury that year he moved across to the goals. It was in 2006 that he joined the VFL Development Squad.

The next seven years were filled with many trials and tribulations for Chris as he struggled to break into the senior squad. This came to a head at the end of 2012 when former goal umpire coach Steve Stirling gave Chris an ultimatum, improve his fitness standards to the benchmarks required or not to come back.

During the off season, Chris lost almost 15 kilograms and in Round 3 2013 he was rewarded with his first senior match when Williamstown played Werribee at Downer Oval. After joining the senior squad in 2013, Chris went on to become one of the most consistent performers on the squad, which resulted in him officiating the 2016 and 2017 TAC Cup Grand Finals.

The one match that stands out for Chris was a semi-final in 2016, when Footscray played Essendon at Port Melbourne.

Doylely believes he had an "out of experience" that day as he had 41

scoring shots and nailed all of them. However, he also vividly remembers the moments when he split his pants at Werribee to get Hungry Jack's before a match and when he was "put on his arse" in a TV match at Preston.

Chris would be described as a unique and peculiar character with elite performance habits. Over the course of his 16-year journey he has demonstrated habits which included drinking a diet Coke before a match, having a piece of flake, two potato cakes and minimum chips the night before a match, and finally being the last out of the rooms with the comment "Lack of Ability: Check".

When reflecting on his career to date, Chris believes the thing he enjoys the most is the camaraderie from the group, especially the weekly story times at The Retreat, and the banter from his biggest pest Callum Leonard. While these days he doesn't enjoy the short sharp agility training sessions, he looks forward to umpiring the new interstate teams and no longer having to worry about the fitness benchmarks.

Umpiring 379 matches at state league level, Chris has developed a well-rounded perspective on footy and goal umpiring. His advice for aspiring goal umpires is to do the work (he hates seeing people waste their talent), and to not sweat the small things. He also believes that if he could change one thing about footy, it's that if the ball hits the post and goes through the goal, it should still be a goal (like in all other sports).

Also did you know that he time keeps for the AFL!







# Historical Office Bearers

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
1993	John Russo	Keith Callaghan
1994	Keith Callaghan	Mark Prince
1995	Mark Prince	Greg Kennedy
1996	Greg Kennedy	Anthony Black
1997	Anthony Black	Greg Russo
1998	Greg Russo	Russell Davidson
1999	Russell Davidson	Anthony Black
2000	Steven Stirling	Chris Snell
2001	Chris Snell	Stephen Evans
2002	Chris Snell	Troy Tindill
2003	Anthony Black	Rob Findlay
2004	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay
2005	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay
2006	Rob Findlay	Jason Armstrong/Adam Wojcik
2007	Rob Findlay	Adam Wojcik
2008	Adam Wojcik/Matt Leppard	Matt Leppard/Stephen Gloag
2009	Matt Leppard	Michael Boss
2010	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess
2011	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess
2012	Andrew McCoy	Graham Bergroth/Steven Piperno
2013	Andrew McCoy	Steven Piperno
2014	Steven Piperno	Daniel Butcher
2015	Daniel Butcher	Adam Havelberg
2016	Michael Curtis	Callum Leonard
2017	Michael Curtis	Nick Brown
2018	Michael Curtis	Tristan Burgess
2019	Andrew Talbot	Matthew Mahoney
2020	Matthew Mahoney	Liam Pain/Joon-Yip Wong
2021	Matthew Mahoney	Liam Pain/Joon-Yip Wong
2022	Matthew Mahoney	Liam Pain/Joon-Yip Wong
<b>Year</b>	<b>Events Coordinator</b>	
2015	Joe Hartwig	
2016	Tyler Hankinson	
2016	Pat Burns	
2017	Kelly Tellam	
2019-21	Matthew Young	
2022	Jack Stammers	



# Historical Office Bearers

Year	Executive Officer	Social Secretary	Year	Historian/Statistician
1993	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	2003	David Flegg AM
1994	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	2004	David Flegg AM
1995	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	2005	David Flegg AM
1996	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	2006	David Flegg AM
1997	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	2007	David Flegg AM
1998	Peter Kelly	Alf Galea	2008	David Flegg AM
1999	Peter Kelly	Dean Paulin	2009	David Flegg AM
2000	Peter Kelly	Frank Dicosmo	2010	David Flegg AM
2001	Peter Kelly		2011	David Flegg AM
2002	Peter Kelly		2012	David Flegg AM
2003	Peter Kelly		2013	David Flegg AM
2004	Peter Kelly	<b>Year</b>	2014	David Flegg AM
2005	Peter Kelly	<b>Comm. Officer</b>	2015	David Flegg AM
2006	Peter Kelly	2003 David Dixon	2016	David Flegg AM
2007	Peter Kelly	2004 David Dixon	2017	David Flegg AM
2008	Peter Kelly	2005 Leigh Keen	2018	David Flegg AM
2009	Peter Kelly	2006 Matthew Lee	2019	David Flegg AM
2010	Peter Kelly	2007 Drew Kowalski	2020	David Flegg AM
2011	Peter Kelly	2008 Michael O'Donnell	2011	David Flegg AM
2012	Peter Kelly	2009 Stephen Gloag	2022	David Flegg AM
2013	Peter Kelly	2010 Andrew Mitchell		
2014	Peter Kelly	2011 Michael Palm		
2015	Peter Kelly	2012 Daniel Lawlor		
2016	Peter Kelly	2013 Daniel Butcher		
2017	Peter Kelly	2014 Adam Havelberg		
2018	Peter Kelly	2015 Luke White		
2019	Peter Kelly	2016 Tim Carlos		
2020	Peter Kelly	2017 Kate Griffiths		
2021	Brad Noonan	2018 Andrew Talbot		
2022	Brad Noonan	2019 Joon-Yip Wong		
		2020 -		
		2021 -		
		2022 -		

NOTE: Communications officer role undertaken by vice-president (marketing and communications) 2020 - 2022

# Track Reps

Track Rep	Years	Track Rep	Years
Blake Anderson	2021-22	Ashley Hawkes	2018
Jason Armstrong	2004-05	Peter Herrick	1993-94
Peter Bailes	2019-21	Wayne Hoskins	2010
Peter Balding	2012	David Humphries	1995-96, 1999
Dan Beard	2001	Anthony Hunter	2011-12
Dylan Benwell	2012	Dean Jones	2006-07
Graeme Bergroth	2008-10	Chris Kamolins	2002-03
Anthony Black	1995	Hayden Kennedy	1993-94
Michael Blair	2010	Drew Kowalski	2008
Michael Boss	2008	Anthony Kyrkou	2010-11
Corey Brown	2014	David Lambourn	2006-07
Nick Brown	2011	Anthony Laughton	2016
Tristan Burgess	2008-09	Nick Laurence	2010-11
Daniel Butcher	2012	Callum Leonard	2014-15
David Card	2009	Matt Leppard	2006-07
Tim Carlos	2011	Tim Lougoon	2014
Ben Cheever	2017	Matt Mahoney	2018
Jason Cook	1997-98	Damien Main	2017
Lawrence Coop	2014	Josh Maine	2012-13
Ashley Crawford	2011-12	Wes Mann	1998-99
Michael Curtis	2013-15	Tayla Manning	2020
Damien Cusack	2005	Andrew McCoy	2011
Russell Davidson	1997	Luke McIlroy	2014-16
Curtis De Witt	2015	Greta Millar	2020
Justin Delaney	1993	David Miles	2016-17
Andrew Dempster	1997-99	Ken Mitchell	2020
Greg Denison	2005-06	Luke Monea	2021-22
Damian Devincentis	2010	Joel Morrison	2011
Rhys Doughty-Cowell	2009	Jack Murfett	2017
Chris Doyle	2012-13	John Murnane	1993-94
Andrew Duncan	1994	Ben Naughtin	2005-07
Jared Dyson	2016	Mark O'Reilly	1995
Jack Edwards	2018	Ryan O'Shea	2016
Matt Edwards	2018-19	Liam Pain	2019
Joel Elliott	2004	Michael Palm	2009
Brendan Elvey	2013	Brent Pawley	2011
Stephen Evans	2000	Paul Pickett	1995
Jarrold Faoro	2007	Daniel Pieper	2002-03
Rob Findlay	2002	Simon Plumridge	2017
Mark Foster	2004-05	Mark Prince	1993
Dylan Fulton	2019-21	Lachlan Rayner	2015
Alf Galea	1994	Michael Robins	1999
Michael Gibson	2003	Greg Russo	1996
Stephen Gloag	2001-04	James Scully	2014
Kate Griffiths	2016	Bridget Saftenberger	2022
Michael Hammond	2000	Melissa Sambrooks	2017-22
Lachlan Harty	2016-17	Colin Segota	1993-94
Adam Havelberg	2013	Stephen Smith	2000-01

# Track Reps

Track Rep	Years
Jack Stammers	2019
Harry Stamos	1997
Steven Stirling	1998
Travis Storti	2001
Jacob Stuckey	2022
Andrew Talbot	2012, 2017
Callum Thornton	2019
Troy Tindill	2001
Gareth Verbene	2008
Andrew Wheeler	1996
Luke White	2013-14
Michael Willcox	2022
Daniel Wilson	2002-03
Adam Wojcik	2004-05
Yippy Wong	2018
Emma Young	2022



# Financials

## Profit and Loss

Victorian Football Umpires' Association  
For the year ended 30 September 2022

Account	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
Interest Received	488	934
Miscellaneous	0	300
Raffle Income	348	0
Subscriptions Received	30,590	30,580
Merchandise Income	135	80
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,561</b>	<b>31,894</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,561</b>	<b>31,894</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Annual Report	0	913
Honorariums	12,290	14,095
Meeting Expenses	1,407	950
Social Functions	19,099	1,884
Trophies and Certificates	765	295
Merchandise Expense	1,052	2,137
Website Expenses	166	179
Consumer Affairs Annual Statement	60	59
Donations, Gifts and Prizes	229	150
Contribution to AFL for Psychologist	0	3,000
Mini Olympics	377	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>35,445</b>	<b>23,662</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(3,884)</b>	<b>8,232</b>

## Balance Sheet

Victorian Football Umpires' Association  
For the year ended 30 September 2022

Account	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Westpac Cheque Account	27,122	21,695
Westpac Term Deposit	70,212	69,724
Deposits Paid for Social Events	0	9,799
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>97,334</b>	<b>101,218</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>97,334</b>	<b>101,218</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>97,334</b>	<b>101,218</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Accumulation Account	101,218	92,986
Current Year Earnings	(3,884)	8,232
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>97,334</b>	<b>101,218</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report. This financial report is unaudited.

# Financials Notes

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to satisfy the accountability requirements under the entity's constitution. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report are consistent with previous years and are described below:

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and going concern assumption

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards promulgated by the accounting profession do not have mandatory applicability to the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. in relation to the year ended 30th September because the entity is not a 'reporting entity' as defined therein.

Under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012) the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. is a 'Tier 1' entity as revenue is less than \$250,000. Therefore, neither an audit nor a review is required to be conducted.

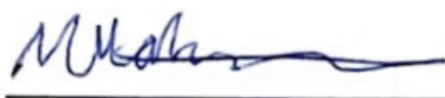
## OFFICEHOLDERS' DECLARATION

In the absence of an audit or review, in accordance with a resolution of the officeholders of Victorian Football Umpires Association Inc., the officeholders declare that the financial statements and notes presented herein:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity; and
2. Are free from fraud.



Brad Noonan  
VFUA Administrator



Matthew Mahoney  
VFUA President

In line with the VFUA's aim of being a transparent organisation, the VFUA welcomes any enquiries about the financial statements from members. Please direct your enquiry to [vfuaexecutive@gmail.com](mailto:vfuaexecutive@gmail.com)

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