

A new home. A new uniform. A new newspaper. A new era. (Farewell to Scovell News!)

Once again we take our new goalies' caps off (which arrived last month after being on a slow boat from China) to Stephen Berry and Dane Cowper, for throwing together issue 2 of The Hanmer Herald. Some of the stories were nearly interesting. Better luck next time, if there is one. For those reading this newspaper for the 1st or 2nd time or 3rd time please be aware that it is totally made up. If your name appears then it is just a coincidence.

As you know, this wonderful newspaper only reports on incidents and stories that are about football. Needless to say that the Hamburg International Pip Spitting Tournament was won by Noble Lefreeil (3.45m) from Kurtz Dukkenfromme (3.21m). Officials were very quick to announce that no pips were hurt during the vicious and often spiteful final.

Forgetful umpires: (Story one) Recently at the Sunshine v Altona Division 1 Senior game, about 20 minutes before the game, one of the senior boundary umpires decided to change from his WRFL polo to his green top. Unfortunately he couldn't find it in his bag and after checking a few times realised that he hasn't brought it with him. Another of the boundary umpires suggested that he could use his old white top instead but he didn't have that one in his kit either. So in the end, one of the Division 1 Reserves boundary umpires was asked to lend his top to the forgetful boundary umpire for the game. Eventually he did but very reluctantly for some reason. Maybe it was because the forgetful umpire was none other than Scotty Vanstone, that once-field-now-boundary umpire. Obviously he just hasn't done enough to be accepted by the boundary umpiring community as yet. What makes this funnier is that Scotty got to the ground at least 90 minutes before the game but didn't realise that his top was missing until just 20 minutes before the game. Earlier Scotty was also heard mocking another boundary umpire when he heard about him losing his whistle during the game and only realising it when he had to blow it for an out of bounds call. At least he did have his whistle with him. Talk about Karma biting back!

Forgetful umpires: (Story two) It seems that one boundary umpire forgot to check his gear before leaving home. He arrived at his game without his green socks. This meant that young Ethan Kelly ran the boundary in a pair of very short white anklets.

Forgetful umpires: (Story three) Young goal umpire Violet Cumming Gray got to her game and discovered that her flags were still at home. What happened? Did she send a runner back home? Did she share with her sister (who was at the other end.)? Two each?

Forgetful umpires: (Story 4) One goal umpire was trying very hard not to forget the last behind scored. He just didn't have a chance to record that score before the ball came in for another behind. He signalled, wrote down both scores but forgot to wave the flag.

Forgetful umpires: (Story 5) Prior to the Manor Lakes v North Footscray reserves game, young boundary umpire Jy Muir was having trouble keeping his socks up. So someone gave him some tape to use. He put down his whistle while he used the tape and then went out to do his game. His whistle lay forgotten in the rooms and somehow Jy umpired the 1st quarter without a whistle! Luckily he knew how to whistle thru his teeth.

Forgetful umpires: (Story 6) It was great to have the Tasmanian umpires officiating in the WRFL. One eagle eyed official spotted that they had not been appointed to any game prior to the appointments being issued. Obviously Rene Van Kuyk had forgot!

Forgetful umpires: (Story 7) Field umpire was having a quiet go at one of the goal umpires who was still fiddling in his bag as the others were leaving the umpires' room. After marching onto the oval the field umpire suddenly stopped and darted back to the rooms to grab his whistle that he had forgotten to take out with him. The goal umpire wanted to say something but because of his kind nature he never let him live it down!

Forgetful umpires: (Story 8) Paul Battaglia was pleased to get his new gear but being the very large muscular type, he needed to have it adjusted by a tailor. As per usual, he packed his new umpiring gear the night before & put it in the car ready for an early start. That's when he couldn't find his new cap. He checked the gear, his car and the cupboard where he keeps his kit bag. After quite a lengthy search with no luck he decided to go and ask his wife, Rosa. Maybe she had seen it or moved it. (She's always either cooking or cleaning.) "Rosa, have you seen my new cap." The reply was short. "It's on your head!"

Forgetful umpires: (Story 9-100) These are the stories that running umpires and umpiring officials have forgotten to pass onto Stephen Berry and Dane Cowper. And, yes, the story about you was one of these. How embarrassing but how fortunate for you.

An official from the Essendon Football District League says that whenever they see a group of goalies at training standing in a circle, they call it a dope ring. True story! Of course, that doesn't happen in the WRFL because the goalies are directed to stand in a triangle or a pentagon. That might sound crazy but it is absolutely the truth! Honest!

Was that Jesse Hill swearing in the change room? Yes, it was and it wasn't all that vulgar. His excuse: "I'm allowed to swear. I'm a teenager," he said to the other teenagers.

What was goal umpire Michael Lynch doing as he was leaning against the goal post at the Yarraville Oval in the fourth quarter. He was either suffering from a severe leg cramp or he was trying to straighten the post. Perhaps Michael should be sent to lean against the goal post at Manor Lakes where one post has a definite bend in it two thirds the way up.

Laverton v Parkside in Division 3 was an interesting affair. Looking on it was a sea of black and white. The final quarter saw Parkside slam on 19 goals and 6 behinds. Wow!

All field and boundary umpires know that they need to always have their shirts tucked in. The new shirts do have a slight tendency to work themselves out of the pants after a while. One idea is to tuck them into your jocks. Another idea is to use safety pins to carefully attach them to your underwear. If you do use this method then be careful!

Tribunal report: Evan Ions (Veterans Football Club) was reported for abusive language towards an official. He pleaded guilty and was given a severe reprimand. He has since buried the severe reprimand behind a tree on Hanmer Reserve. Who is Evan Ions?

One week we do a feature article on former AFL (and WRFL) boundary umpire Shane Jones running around as number 71 for Deer Park reserves. Next he is promoted to the seniors and gets the ball at least three times because he is listed as kicking three goals.

Great statements from the 2017 football season: "I read the last issue of The Hanmer Herald but the first two pages were all in cryptic script that I couldn't understand." (Craig Hill); "Whoa, that coin must be older than Graeme. It's ancient." (trainee goal umpire); "A garden gnome covered more territory." (Bob Taylor describing the performance of one field umpire); "If someone has nuts, it would be you." (wife to umpiring husband); "Just call me Roadrunner because I keep getting lost and cover lots of roadways," (Bob Taylor); "Having a week off from umpiring is not good. All I did was eat and drink and get fat." (Ian Evans reflecting on the Queen's Birthday long weekend).

The young female field umpire who is specialising in U11/U12 games explained that the reason she was in very close to play was because she was coaching the players. The observer was stunned because he thought umpires officiated impartially and not act as coaches. In another aspect, she also plays Under 15 girls' football. Mr Observer mused, "I wonder if she tries to umpire those games while she is playing?"

Last issue it was reported that Trevor Budge doesn't mark the centre of the goals with his boot but actually digs a trench. Obviously Paul Battaglia went to the same ground the week later because he was complaining about the huge hole in the centre of the goals. For most people it wasn't really huge but Paul needed two ruckman, one trainer and a water boy to get him out of what he called the Black Hole of Calcutta.

Field umpires, don't forget the **Two Vees**. Yes when giving the All Clear to the goal umpire it should be done very clearly by **visual** (hand signal) and **verbal** (spoken).

When Bob Taylor entered the ranks of observer for the WRFL he asked to only report on young first or second year umpires. On a recent Saturday he ventured to North Footscray to see one young Terence McGarity. Terry is exactly one month older than Bob! The observation report read: "Seventy years old! What did you expect? Speedy Gonzales?" (Let's be honest. We haven't too many Speedy Gonzales in the WRFL umpiring group.) Come to think of it, have we any real speedy umpires? Is Dean McGowan Mexican?

Craig Hill was not slightly apprehensive before his recent knee operation. To be perfectly honest, he was petrified. Anyway, his family, and I do mean his whole family, armed with ropes, chains and pulleys, persuaded him to get to the surgery on time. Everything was going very smoothly. Even the anaesthetist assured him that soon he would be in La La Land and not be aware of anything until he woke up. Suddenly he felt reassured, calm and relaxed. That's when they wheeled out the guy who had just had the same knee procedure before Craig was due in theatre. Everything was quiet and ordered. But then in came rushed a nurse who had a brief but loud discussion with the attendant pushing the wheelchair. Evidently one of the doctor's instruments was missing. In a flash, Craig and his operation was put on hold while they wheeled that other guy back into the operating theatre, re-opened him up and found the missing instrument. Craig was found a little bit later in the car park in his pjs trying to hitch a ride back home. Later, when he woke up he said in a loud voice, "Well, let's get started." A kind-faced orderly looked his way and said, "But, Mr Hill, you've already had the procedure." And now he's walking!

One observer is now known as the Roadrunner. Not because of his speed but due to the enormous distance he is travelling each weekend. Recently he became lost twice. Once going from Caroline Springs to Point Cook via the Ring Road. On the second occasion he ventured into Werribee looking for the Wyndham ground but somehow ended up at Manor Lakes. Beep! Beep! (No sign yet of the arch-villain Coyote or Yosemite Sam.)

One umpiring official tried in vain to find email addresses for Stephen Berry and Dane Cowper. Obviously he has not heard that these two scoundrels have been banned from sending emails. They are also not allowed to Faceblock, Tweet or Messing things up.

John Sutton. John Sutton. John Sutton. For legal reasons we're not allowed to name him.

Recently one coach needed to call in on Sohn Jutton at home. The coach was subjected to a barrage of abuse from Sohn Jutton, Mrs Sohn Jutton and Daughter of Mr and Mrs Sohn Jutton. As the coach bolted for the door he agreed that Sohn Jutton was excused from training due to two family birthdays and he would also get two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday for the rest of the season. The coach has since decided never to make house calls in future.

PB: (out on the training track) I don't mind training here at Hanmer.

JS or SJ: Hanmer? Isn't it called Hammer?

GH: It's named after a former Footscray councillor. You probably should remember him.

JS or SJ: Yes, I can remember getting a few kicks here.

CG: More like kicks in the head after that last response!

Sad to hear that there was a recent fire in the grandstand at Yarraville Oval. Luckily it was confined to the seating area upstairs and didn't spread into the rooms below although there was a fair amount of water damage to some of the rooms. That's why several home games had to be transferred to other venues. The grandstand was built in 1932.

All umpires aged eighteen & over must get themselves a Working With Children Check.

The coach decided to implement a new activity on the training track. The cones were neatly set out in rows and the coach explained the activity to the eighteen umpires. It seemed easy enough. He then went on to say that the activity relied on the honesty of each individual. So the 3 honest umpires did the activity while the 15 others just watched.

Young boundary umpire Jayden Ellis was keeping up with play and he was right there when the ball rolled out of bounds. Very efficiently he thrust his hand into the air and went to blow his whistle. Sadly he had put the whistle onto his fingers back to front which meant blowing it quickly was a real challenge. A quick change was soon undertaken.

Rene Van Kuyk thought he was doing very well. He had pleased his fellow umpiring official so much that he was awarded one Brownie point. Alas, not one hour later he carelessly knocked the official's cones off the bench, scattering them hither and thither. A stern look and word: "You have just erased your one Brownie point!"

Good news for all The Hanmer Herald fans... Yes, I do realise that there are only a very few ardent fans but at least more readers. However, it does appear that there are several junior reporters out there. Of course they will not admit to the fact but they can be spotted easily. They are the ones wearing masks and stealing away into the toilet at half-time to write down the latest big scoop on the precious toilet roll. So, be warned!

Tim Moloney was watching "The Front Bar" one Thursday early in June. The guest was Brian Taylor and they showed some footage of a very young Sam Pang kicking a goal for Prahran on 2/7/1994 at Toorak Park. It was the VFA's TV game and Brian Taylor was the Prahran coach at that time. Tim watched the goal umpire signal and thought that he looked very familiar. It was none other than Graeme Hodgart. His partner that day was Alan Letson who went on to umpire 49 games in the AFL. One of the field umpires, Darren Agnew, officiated in 9 games at the top level. Oakleigh 18-14 defeated Prahran 13-8. (Estimated crowd of 1000.) Pang, a regular back pocket, kicked two goals that day.

Tim could spot Graeme but could Graeme spot Tim? No! When a goal umpire in a photo needed to be identified, Graeme sent out a plea to all the goalies to work out who it was. Even Tim, along with several others, could identify that it was Mr Moloney. Blind GH?

Rene sent out an email naming all those umpires who were selected for the Metropolitan Championship games. His email began in thus fashion: "I apologise for the late epistle." Late? I'll say it's late. About 2000 years late! (I didn't know that Rene was religious?)

Recently at McIvor Reserve where Yarraville Seddon plays some junior games the two respective Under 11 coaches had to call their teams into order. Why? It was because half an hour before the game all the players were having a ball on the playground equipment!

Who said advisors don't have a sense of humour? One illustrious advisor gave an observer the following games: Manor Lakes, Newport, Point Cook & Williamstown. A request for a helicopter for the observer & permission to hold up games whilst it landed was refused. Needless to say, it was a joke. We won't mention names as it might just cause some Pain.

Great statements of the 2017 football season: "I decided to come back to umpiring so that I can get verbally abused every Saturday afternoon." (Justin Moloney); "Charlie Dickson: he looks alive today." (radio commentator); "Showers are wet." (Zak Muir); "If a player has a go at me, I try to ignore it. If he keeps going, I just remind him to keep his mind on playing. Then I keep thinking about the next free kick that I'm not going to pay to him." (Henry McFerran); "Thanks for giving me all those games." (Brent Wood); "If I carry your bags some people will think that I am your girlfriend." (Richard Watt to young male umpire from MacKillop Academy); "I wish Budgie was here. Then I could put him in this." (Bradley Heffernan standing next to a big blue rubbish bin.)

Richard and the three Tasmanians: On Friday Richard Watt drove over to Tullamarine & picked up the 3 Tasmanian umpires in Brett Dennison (field), Matthew Cure (boundary) and Lachlan Hardstaff (goal). They spent the first hour sight-seeing at the airport. First stop was the old rooms at Scovell Reserve. Brett needed a new pair of runners so he spent \$200 at Paul's Warehouse Sunshine. Brief stop at the 'hotel' (Richard's house) before exploring the rooms at Hanmer Reserve. They then drove into St. Kilda Road. (Richard said it was to pick up food!) A ride on the Melbourne Star! To Altona Sports Club to gate-crash Richard's sister's 60th birthday. Due to a lack of food they escaped to the Altona Bowling Club for a feed. They returned to the party for a drink or two. Home for a sleep. Up for a magnificent Ploughman's Breakfast. (Which one was the ploughman?) Brett went out for an hour's walk. To North Footscray to watch Richard try to umpire the reserves before having their own turn in the seniors against Albanvale. The Tassie goalie had his holders stolen off the posts at half-time. Partner Con Grouios had to fiddle with the electric tape to barely secure his flags to the posts. A quiet drink in the clubrooms. Home to freshen up then off to Hotel 520 for the Mid-season dinner. Matt relaxed so much that he curled up on a coach and slept. Tired or drunk? Late arriving home where Matt redesigned Richard's bathroom in technicolour! More food? Richard's famous sausage rolls disappeared quickly. Everyone slept like babies. Brett went out again for a morning stroll obviously to burgle the houses he had cased the day before. Drive to Williamstown to have a hot breakfast then to watch Ryan Webster (field umpire) and Riley Kane (boundary rider) officiate the Western Jets v Dandenong Rangers game at the Willy Oval. Detour to Hanmer to get a larger size shirt for Lachie. (He must have grown over night!) Another sight-seeing tour but this time to Highpoint. They also picked up some souvenirs. (From Highpoint?) Richard stayed in the car while the others promptly got lost! Back home to pack. The car automatically stopped at the Gladstone Park Hotel for a farewell drink. At 3:30 pm Richard said goodbye and returned home. He now had the place to himself and marvelled that there wasn't too much of a mess to clean up.

The Football Quiz (Number 2 for 2017) Answers are found below.

1. Which FDFL club did Fred Goldsmith play for?
2. Name the five Hills who have umpired in the WRFL in 2017.
3. How many points separated the Swans and the Dons in their recent game?
4. Which WRFL team plays home games at Kinder Smith Reserve?
5. How do you spell Lee/Leigh Mathews/Mathews?
6. Who wears number 8 for the Richmond?
7. Hill, Spurr, McCarthy and Neale play for which AFL team?
8. What number does Tom Lynch wear for the Gold Coast?
9. What on-going injury concern is plaguing St. Kilda's Paddy McCartin?
10. Which former AFL boundary umpire now plays for Deer Park?

Poor Chrissy Gent. She hadn't felt too well all week due to a head cold but on the Friday things turned from bad to worse. Before she knew it she was in hospital and had to rest and recover instead of umpiring. One unknown source (Trevor Budge) said that it was a poor excuse to get out of umpiring with Dave Voigt. At least it gave the opportunity for one of the young and promising goalies to get a game in Division 1 seniors. (G.Hodgart)

Jake Bokhove actually was a field umpire in two successive draws earlier this season. Bernie O'Dwyer's record as a goal umpire in far north Queensland: one game; one draw.

A few little notes about the umpires' mid season dinner and \$1000 reverse draw....

A big thank-you to Richard Watt who does a lot of the organising plus looking after the three escaped convicts from Van Dieman's Land. Congratulations to Abhishek Sharma for being the last ticket in the barrel which meant he won \$1000. The last 5 in the draw (Alex Lombardi, Luke McGuinness, Cam Terrill, Lita Hill & Abhishek) actually took \$200 each as they decided to share the prize when five tickets were still alive. One person tried to initiate sharing between the last ten in the draw but three people weren't in favour.) Great to see Mark Mather and his three sons in Josh, Tim and Matthew attending. Bernie O'Dwyer, now umpiring in Geelong, attended alongside Anthony Laughton (who drew his own ticket out of the barrel). Best dressed on the night was Dave Voigt. Worse dressed was Andrew Hill. It was said that former goalie Ricky Wallace was in the hotel's main bar. The Tassie exchange is in its 27th year.

The WRFL goal umpires have introduced a new concept for field umpires to remember the All Clear. It is **The Two Vees (verbal and visual)**. When there is a score, on most occasions, the field umpire should look at the goal umpire and signal with their hand or hands the All Clear. So next time you hear the goal umpires remind the field umpire about **The Two Vees (verbal and visual)** you will know what they are talking about

The Football Quiz (Number 2 for 2017) answers.

1. Spotswood
2. Robert, Andrew, Jessee, Tom & Craig
3. One point
4. Sunshine
5. Leigh Mathews
6. Jack Riewoldt
7. Fremantle
8. Nineteen
9. Concussion
10. Shane Jones

Graeme Hodgart is now a rookie reporter for The Hanmer Herald. If you have any gossip or stories or then please email him at ghodgart@hotmail.com and he will pass it on to Stephen Berry and Dane Cowper. Hopefully there will be a fourth edition in the August.

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Great quotes of the 2017 football season: “Hopefully you’ll get the correct answers for the quiz.” (Vaughan Garner to the writer of Umpires Corner); “This is the first time I’ve won anything in 18 years.” (John Sutton getting a \$2 prize at the Dinner Dance); “You’re in the top ten, Cam. No-one has ever said that to you before.” (Richard Watt announcing the last 10 tickets in the \$1000 draw); “Have you got a hard shaft?” (Henry McFerran to Tasmanian Lachlan Hardstaff); “Mine’s bigger than yours.” (Alf Johnstone to another umpire comparing ipads); “It went ten fetres.” (Craig Hill trying to explain distance. No wonder that Toyota is going under!); “I thought it was Tim Moloney because of all his accoutrements.” (Rene Van Kuyk on identifying the goalie in the photo); “Tim Moloney.” (Tim Moloney...ditto). “Go away.” (Eastern player stretching before the third quarter to 7 year old sister); “All clear (to goalie) and can you look after the ball (to observer).” (Richard Watt after the ball got stuck in the tree after a goal at North Footscray).

The curse of the goal umpires’ knees has struck again. Mark Pirrotta came off second best when playing basketball. Most likely he will miss the rest of the season. “Hopefully there will be someone else who can step up and fill the void,” wrote Mark via text message.

Disappointing when Justin Moloney gave the all clear he didn’t add an Uncle Tim on the end because Tim Moloney was the goal umpire. Maybe next time, Justin?

Well done to Shannon Van Boven who, after running the field for one Rep game, backed up by filling in for a missing boundary umpire. He did very well and ran strongly during both games. He did get a little peeved when one of the field umpires recalled one of his throw ins. It wasn’t his fault that the two nominated ruckmen were nowhere near where the ball landed.

Gerard Ryan writing in the AFL Record for the Metro games said that for many umpires, like the players, the games provide another step along the pathway to the elite level. He was obviously directing that comment to some of the goal umpires who were involved: John Prentice, Tim Moloney and Paul Battaglia.

Someone asked about Vaughan Garner and his recent injury. Adrian O’Donnell was very diplomatic and chose his words very carefully. “It was not general soreness but more like general sookiness!”

“Are you going to be at MacKillop,” asked one umpire. In reply, Mark Westgarth said, “Me? At MacKillop? I live there!”

We do take our football seriously but hopefully not as serious as the Panamanians take their soccer. In the last six years four members of the national team have been shot dead.

Congratulations go to the umpires selected to officiate in the 2017 Metropolitan Championships. These umpires have been selected due to their dedication, skill and ability in their respective disciplines.

The appointments.