

## An update from the Chair:

Happy New Year to all BFUA members! I hope you celebrated the start of 2019 in good spirits with family and friends.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has offered support or congratulations to me after being elected as the new Chair of the board. I am honoured to be the Chair of an outstanding organisation like the BFUA. In particular I'd like to thank my family and the other board members who have been fully supportive, despite the initial concerns I had over time constraints. I am now confident I (and the board) can give the role the attention it deserves, and promise to carry it out to the best of my ability. I also think that by working together, we can continue to make the BFUA one of the best umpiring organisations in the state, and serve the football community in the Ballarat district with distinction.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce our new coaches for 2019:

**Director of Coaching/Field Coach:** Billy Mitchell

**Boundary Coach:** Daryl Biggin

**Goal Coach:** Brodie Bennett

Billy has spent most of his time umpiring in the Riddell umpires association, where he has held coaching positions in juniors and assistant senior roles. He has umpired several senior grand finals and also spent time on VFL development lists. We are thrilled to have somebody the calibre of Billy to carry on from the much respected Roger LeGrand, and we look forward to working together in 2019.

We are also pleased to welcome Daryl Biggin back into the Boundary Coach role. Daryl is very experienced in this role, and enters 2019 with a particular focus on junior development. Given the quality of the boundary group of 2018 under the guidance of Michael Toner, we are sure the transition to Daryl's leadership will be seamless.

Most will know Brodie as a respected senior Goal umpire at the BFUA. As we know Brodie also has the credentials of several senior grand finals and vast experience in goal umpiring. He will be looking to embark on his coaching career by continuing on from the great contribution of Rhys Brehaut.

We are also likely to have several assistant and observer roles attached to these coaching positions. More information on those roles we available when training starts, which will most likely be Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. Stay tuned for confirmation on time and venue prior to then.

Finally I would like to thank the members for their patience in regard to announcing our coaches for 2019. It takes some time to turnover 3 coaches in the same year, but we were determined to make getting the right people a priority, rather than working to any timelines. It is also worth noting that more than 99% of members remained silent during the process, and didn't react to outside commentary from an absolute minority. For that again, I thank you.

All the best for the 2019 season.

Kind regards,

**Justin Davey**  
**Chairman**  
**Ballarat Football Umpires Association**