

How To Be An Awesome Buddy!

On behalf the newbie umpires and West Pymble thankyou for offering to buddy, your time and expertise are really appreciated! Below are a few tips that will help you be a more effective buddy especially if you are just starting off.

3 Qualities of a good buddy

- ↻ How you buddy depends on the level and experience of the umpire you are helping. A good buddy is able to adapt their buddying to target lots of different umpires at different stages.
- ↻ Buddies should be familiar with the standards of each badge (*can be found in the back of your buddy book*). They should help their umpire become aware of the standards they need to meet.
- ↻ Buddies should be friendly, approachable and enthusiastic (even at 8:am!!!!!!)

Some things to remember

- ↻ Try not to catch up with your friends whilst buddying or invite others to come buddy with you, you have a job to do and your umpire is relying on you.
- ↻ Never run up and down behind your umpire, it is dangerous and they will never learn it for themselves if they constantly wait for your call.
- ↻ As a buddy you can ask parents to move aside so the umpire has space, do this politely they probably don't realise they are in the way. Make sure the baseline is clear of spectators and equipment.
- ↻ Spectators can address queries to you during the game. If you feel things are getting out of hand go to the KNA window and ask for some assistance.
- ↻ Buddies should not be sitting in the one spot. Ideally you should be standing so you can see different aspects of the game but I understand you get tired! Standing between the transverse and goal line is a good position as you can give immediate feedback, then when you have something lengthier to say you can go to them at the other transverse line.
- ↻ Don't over load umpires, decide to work on 2 or 3 aspects (louder whistle and contact) per quarter, don't move onto the next aspect until you think they have it mastered.
- ↻ When giving feedback make sure it is positive and constructive; "You need to work on your whistle" as apposed to "You are making some great calls but they need to be louder so everyone can hear them, put a big puff behind each whistle and then speak as if you are telling the other umpire and all the sidelines what has just happened."
- ↻ Boost your umpire's confidence, people are less likely to question an umpire that sounds and acts confidently.
- ↻ Write an entry in your buddy's book each game you watch them, keep in mind this is a reference for them to see how well they are going what they need to work on, it is also a reference for yourself, other buddies, umpire convenor and club badgers.
- ↻ Team umpire! This is something that we all need to work on. All umpires should introduce themselves to the other umpire, make sure they come together in the breaks, you may even like to provide some tips to the other umpire, if there are questions from players during the breaks these should be dealt with by both umpires together.
- ↻ Encourage your umpire to ask questions, if you don't know consult the rule book or ask one of the senior umpires and hey then you have learnt something too!
- ↻ Have FUN!

Sign on at the West Pymble desk next to the umpire's name (this is how we will work out your pay), if they have not written what court they are ask at the window.