



UMPIRE PROFILE

David D'Altera



David D'Altera, affectionately known as 'Balltearer' umpired his 400th VSDCA Cricket Match, Kew v Brunswick at Victoria Park on the 23rd of January 2021.

David started his cricket journey way back in 1969-70 for St John's Presbyterians in the Essendon Broadmeadows Cricket Association because he was keen to learn to play cricket and a friend from school convinced him to join up. David was a right-hand inswing, medium-slow bowler and took a B Grade Hat trick! As a batsman, his top score was 34. "We played on coir matting made by prisoners from Pentridge Jail". His cricketing career ended 17 years later in the 1984-85 season when he hurt his knee.

Like all cricket umpires, David has a love of the game, consequently, he took up umpiring in his local church league competition for four years, then in the 1988-89 season, he moved over to the VSDCA after Bobby Seymour asked you to join up.

David was the inaugural winner of the Matt Harris Award for the most improved umpire. Advance ten years, and David received Life Membership of the VSDCUA. Another very fond moment was umpiring the Hatch Grand Final between Elsternwick & Broadmeadows at

Balwyn sometime in the 1990s. Also, Country-Week games, "there's lots of good cricketers in the Victorian Country. I love umpiring them".

When asked why he likes umpiring cricket? "After so many years it has become part of my weekly routine; it's pretty easy to do when you love the game".

So, what is a moment you will never forget? "I was at Kew, a spinner was bowling, and the batsman smashed the ball, the bowler tried to catch it, and unlucky for me, it deflected off his hand right into the corner of my elbow. I had a bruise for weeks!" Ouch! "I also copped a nasty bruise on the ankle umpiring at Port Melbourne".

What's your all-time favourite ground? "Preston City Oval, I love the surface because it's so good."

What are some things about you, a lot of people would not know?

- I live in Essendon and never married, and I have a Ukrainian lady friend named Lidiya.
- I have been wearing glasses since I was in 5th Grade. For many years I umpired using contact lenses.
- D'Altera is French Huguenot (Protestant), and the D'Altera Family has a Coat of Arms. 'Toujours Le Meme' is on the Coat of Arms and means 'Always the Same'.
- In the 16th Century, the D'Altera's were cotton, fabrics, and fleece weavers. Irish Persecutors, under Queen Margo's reign, attacked their village during the Battle of Bartholomew, and captured family members, and took them back to England to ply their trade, my family has a second coat of arms, in England.
- David has umpired 662 VAFA football matches, of which 450 were as a field umpire and 212 as a goal umpire.
- Added to this, Sunday Football with Yarra Juniors from 1992 - 2008 as a field umpire and 2009 as a goal umpire.
- David served on the VSDCUA Committee in various roles over 7 year's
- David is a retired public servant. He worked in the police traffic accident department from 1974 - 1991.
- Later in life, he worked for a security company, looking after very expensive earth moving equipment and also as a driver for a physio practice, ferrying patients who are unable to drive.

Anybody that knows David, knows that he has a great sense of humour, congratulations, Balltearer, you are one of a kind!

Combining football and cricket, you have been a great servant to your community! Well done mate!