

# THE RED RAG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

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## THE EDITORIAL.

The past fortnight has seen the First Grade rise from second to top position also we have by a combined effort reached the top of the table in the club Championship. I don't know if it is the paper or not, but since its introduction all this has happened and I am pleased to see many club members coming forward with their ideas and articles. This is what we need. Keep it up boys.

This issue we are continuing Noel Walkers comments on "The Game" also Tom Pearce a St. George player and an ex Australian player has written an article on our game against St. George. It is his candid opinion and was not written to offend. We welcome comments from people of other clubs, and wish to thank Tom for his commentary on the game.

We have pleasure in announcing that the Rag has reached the Central West, and has stirred up Bill (Jazzer) Ryan to send some comments for us. Bill is a life member of the club and was a very hard worker for many years. He played centre half for Glebe first grade and represented N.S.W. We welcome his article and hope to see him writing many more. Thanks "Jazzer".

Jack Worley gives his answer to last Issue's problem, and tests your knowledge with another question. This just about wraps it up so keep at it Reds and

Play the whistle,  
THE EDITOR.

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## ST. GEORGE V'S GLEBE BY TOM PEARCE.

Everyone is entitled to his opinion, so here is my observations of the Glebe, St. George match last Saturday, for what it is worth.

I have in the past seen some really good hockey between the two teams, but right from the first bully when the ball went to Ken Warl I knew then what tactics had been planned. A wild unnecessary hit which even his own side could not pick up.

Good hockey and rivalry has always prevailed when the two teams meet, but I stress this time, only rivalry existed. I will be candid and state it was one of the worst games I have ever seen. Frankly it wasn't a good example for the younger players.

Referring to Noel Walkers article on hockey turn to the page on "fundamentals". "Hockey is a passing game, not a hack-slash and bash". How true, but how easily ignored by the majority of players in both teams. The blame I am not pinning down to Glebe, but knowing the tactics planned by my own club I was most surprised when they fell for the trap and followed suit and made it a hack, slash and bash. I am not making excuses for our defeat Glebe certainly deserved the victory because they worried and hustled the St. George boys. They worried them to such extent that I even perceived the Glebe centre forward tackling and hacking the St. George centre half, even as far back as the 25.

The feature of the game, (and I took particular notice) was the splendid defence of the Reds.

Ron Payne was the hero of the match, he made many brilliant saves, one after the other.

The halves I am proud to say, never, at any time adopted slash and bash methods, on the contrary, they coolly intercepted passes and gave their forwards many opportunities. Their positional

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play was excellent as results proved, both St. George wingers rarely had a run. I would say that the half line would be the youngest and strongest in N.S.W.

Harry War- & Ray Thorpe, though I don't care for their style of hockey, proved dangerous all the time. No buds for one goal Ray, I was standing in line with Tom Mobbs on one occasion. To my way of thinking, there were only two good goals scored, one by Ivan Spedding and the short corner hit by our "Harry". I wouldn't be the least surprised to see an add in the paper, lost! a hand, finder please return to Frank Murray.

Young Fox on the wing had a good day and should develop into a first grade winger. The left wing (a new face to me) though unorthodox shows promise. He had a weak half marking him-for I have never seen young Tom play so bad.

Ken Wark and Jack Taylor certainly were effective, but I must condemn their hard hitting tactics - not for giving St. George possession which they did, but for not giving their attack a chance of picking up their hits. From the sideline how annoying to see a back in possession, in a perfect position for a nice controlled hit or push, and to see him hit the ball out of touch the other end of the field. Sometimes in desperation it is necessary, but when a side is leading three to one it is just foolish. Ken and Jack may not agree with me, but you players and spectators, dwell and look back upon the match and remember how many times this occurred.

Readers may perceive I haven't mentioned St. George, outside of Derwent Morley I was most disappointed and merely state "too bad to be true".

In conclusion I want to congratulate the thirds on their brilliant win. It was a pleasure to play in a game where the players were engrossed in their hockey and not whinging and hating. Both teams I felt played good hockey.

Finally may I say the Dragon was certainly slain, but history tells us it only happened once.

Tom Pearce.

Editor's Note- At present Tom, history is not only repeating itself, its got hiccoughs!

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### SPORTS NEWS.

#### 1st. GRADE.

Well, at last we have something to write about, everybody. Our congratulations go to 1st. Grade on a brilliant win. It is a new lease of life to the whole club. All critics said, "this is the big test", and so it was-and we passed the test with something to spare. It was pleasing to see the play of the younger members of the team who combined with the experienced members to make it a game where every player worked in unison to force the win. A reminder that Glebe is still going ahead. Selecting the player who gave the best performance is a particularly hard job, but I thought that Jim Gray, playing on the left wing, was brilliant. I heard onlookers say- "he has lost the ball", but the next thing the ball was in the centre and Glebe was on the attack again. Well done Jim.

All the halves deserve congratulations to my way of thinking their play was faultless. Harry War-'s short corner demoralized

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St. George, as well as Fran (last seen Fran was writing left-handed; he will lose the use of his right hand any day). Last of all I must mention Ron Payne:—what an excellent example of goal keeping—he conveys the true spirit of Glebe—never-beaten. I have read St. George's version of the game (our thanks to Tom Pearce) and although you may not agree with all he has to say they are well chosen words, and all I can say is—read the article and appreciate the views of the writer.

The game against Easts at Centennial Park was another win for Glebe, but the state of the ground and the off-side tactics of the opposition made it into a poor game of hockey. We were victorious but I thought our forwards were disappointing—after all, our Harry only scored 3 goals and Ray only 2—both had 15 near misses. However with St. George being beaten in all 3 grades, the future is very bright indeed. Keep it going, and best of luck, 1st Grade.

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2nd GRADE

This team is not winning and not losing. They seem to live draws—a draw against St. George and another Vs. Easts still leaves them on top—more luck than good management. It is hard to find a reason why this team is not winning games, but, I am gunning for the forwards. In the games I have seen there is not enough fire in the circle. Instead of a shot at goal everybody seems to want to give it to someone else. Don't forget Boys, the element of surprise is the thing in the circle so ping that ball. Captain, Max Jeffis, seems to be worried and is introducing Team Talk—a very good idea. I hope all members participate. Righto boys, a big win this week to ~~be~~ change the script in the next issue.

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3rd GRADE

Well, it's cheers and boos for these boys. After a very good exhibition Vs. St. George—2 nil win—they were beaten by Easts 3-2. The game against St. George was one of the best seen this year and it was very good to see John Waterson back on form, taking a short corner and putting the team in a winning position. I must also mention Noel Walker, whose return was a boost to this side (he probably read his own article on How to Play Hockey). The game against Easts—well we won't talk about it. All we have to do next time is to have a greater number of goals for and that will allow for the umpire's bad eye-sight. Bad luck fellows— but you should have won 10-3.

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Minor B

Vs. Briars:

A lucky 3-all draw was the result of a match which gave an example of how forwards should not play. Reshuffled at half-time Alan (The Keg) Hall gave a brief but pleasing display at centre forward. Upon being returned to full back he proceeded to try and cut off "The Firehouse's" legs.

Vs. Mosman:

An amazing part of 4th Grade hockey is how some of our opposing teams change; what with these changes and again yielding a short team we were beaten 4-0. Forward play was much improved and they were unlucky not to score—a little condition may help some.

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UNDER 16's. The Glebe Police Boys still retain their lead in the competition with a very good win over St. George last week, and so avenging themselves, as Saints defeated them in the first round.

Paul Ross was taken to hospital for a couple of stitches, after being hit on the head, but is O.K. and will be there on Saturday.

St. James are running third in the same competition and are doing well, being Captained by Brian Howe.

We would like to congratulate Brian Howe, Graham Gilmour and  
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EMPIRE GAMES EXHIBITION MATCH

This game against St. George was played last Sunday before a crowd of at least 10,000. Although it was only ten minutes each way both Glebe and St. George showed the crowd enough to prove that hockey is a wonderful game.

It is hard to comment on play because it was an exhibition and the umpires were very lenient in their decisions. The score, 1-0 in our favour, was a good indication of the game. Our defence, as usual, played excellently. Ron Payne with some spectacular hitting delighted the crowd; Victor, "The white sports coat man," at the present time, has a stick a foot wide. The game was played at a very fast pace - too fast - by the time we had finished 20 minutes it felt like an hour. Playing on a football field - 110 yds. long - certainly made us stretch out. The field's size opened up play and I think made it a better game to watch.

Harry Wilson endeared himself to the team when he invited them to Beverly Park Golf Club for a "spot or two or .....". Norm Richardson came to our rescue with his supply of coats. Can you imagine Harry Warb in a State blazer with "Manager" on it? (too big for him); or Victor - t.w.s.c.m. - looking casual in one of Norm's overcoats - or was that a sports coat just a bit too large? Altogether a good game and a good day. Our thanks to the First Grade for turning out en masse. (in a body, all of them).

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SOMETHING from OUT BACK:

The Red Rag even reached the Central West and all who read it voted it quite a good publication. From my point of view it seems that this paper will need support from club members, barrackers and friends and to those club members who are intent only on playing hockey then I would say, "Now is the time to help the club by assisting those energetic club members in keeping the Red Rag flying by enthusiastic support."

It is pleasing to read that the first grade team is now in good form and the performances of Harry Warb and Frank Murray should be a lesson to the young players to keep on trying and play the game without any complaints about selectors, team mates etc. To all in this team my best wishes for a successful season.

A number of names are still cropping up in the lower grades just proving that hockey must have some magnetic touch; Jim Kenny, Don Graham, Harry Wilson are just a few of the old stalwarts who still derive great pleasure from the game.

My congratulations to seniors and juniors selected so far in the representatives games. Keep the Red Rag Flag flying and here's hoping to see all four grades successful this season. Remember, we have done it before.

"Jazzer" Ryan

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COMING EVENTSN.S.W. C. carnival at Wentworth Park, 14-16 June

Once again we are catering for this. May we ask you a favour? In previous years players have used the stall as a cloak room. We would appreciate it if you would put your gear say in one of the cars. Also, the stall gets crowded, so don't enter just to talk. Thanks.

To all members nominating for Senior, Colt or Junior representative teams we wish every success. Good luck boys!

Carnival Dance:

Our monthly dance will be held at Darlington Town Hall on Saturday, 14th June.

Admission: -5/-

Supper: - Provided

Let's make this a bumper affair. Many country teams have been invited so let's not disappoint them. Bring your pewters boys!

Manly Carnival, 15th June.

Two teams have been nominated. Give your name to Ray Thorpe

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if you intend to play. Players in Sydney Seniors and Colts teams are not allowed to play.

Seven a side Competition.

Are you in favour of running a seven a side competition amongst ourselves at training on Sunday mornings? Let us know your views.

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THE GAME.

BACK PLAY.

Speed is not essential for a back in first-class hockey as it is for a forward or a half. Today, a back marks further upfield than he did in the past, and consequently if passed he needs to be fast in getting back to recover a lost position. He needs to be cool and collected in his play, must be able to stop the ball well on both sides, and get rid of it quickly with a powerful hit. As his tackling must be deadly it must be well timed, and for this and hard hitting a strong pair of wrists is a great advantage. He should also be adept at flicking a ball as this stroke is most useful in tight corners, when there is neither the time nor the space in which to hit.

In order to cover each other effectively the two backs should never stand square to the coming attack. The back on whose side of the field the attack is approaching should be in an advanced position, while his partner should be further back towards his own goal and ready to move across and collect the ball if it be pushed past the first defender. Should play be transferred to the other side of the field, as it can in a flash with a hard hit, the two backs should immediately perform a sort of "scissors" movement so that their positions will be reversed.

The most difficult position for a back to encounter is to find himself confronted with two or three forwards who have gained a clear break-away. He must on no account rush blindly at the man with the ball, but must delay his tackle and leave the forward guessing as to his intentions. His first duty is to keep the forward on his right side for the tackle if possible, and his great hope is that the forward will come too far before passing. Thus, he may get the chance for a swift lunging tackle, or a possible deflection of the pass if it comes within his reach, enough to spoil the attack and give the other defenders a chance to get back.

Backs must also co-operate fully with the centre half. Let us take this example. The opposing forward line is sweeping downfield with the inside left dribbling the ball. The right back notices that his right half is coming back fast and in a position to cut off a pass to the left wing. Similarly, the centre half is racing back between the inside left and the centre forward so that the pass between these two is covered. This is very favourable position for the right back to take his man without hesitation and force him to do something with the ball. When play is actually in the defending circle, the backs must tackle immediately and resolutely. During such hectic periods the backs must not get in one another's way and be careful not to unsight the goalkeeper.

My advice to backs on the question of positional play is this. You must discuss the whole matter with your goalkeeper, and your half line, for no mastery of positional play can be developed without their understanding of your job and your understanding of theirs.

Backs are too often regarded as defensive players. In my opinion, they should look upon themselves as instigators of surprising and dangerous attacks. Since attack is the best form of defence, backs must be attackers and constructive ones at that. Their main job is to feed the forwards, and if this is not possible to feed the halves. Both backs should be deliberate enough about their passing to ensure its complete accuracy. They should never pass to their forwards without having a complete mental picture of their positions. More than the other players, backs, usually have more time for deliberate passes. They should be hard clean hits, ALONG THE GROUND, with the speed of the pass controlled.