

THE RED RAG NEWSLETTER

Glebe District Hockey Club Inc

AUGUST 1996



President's Message

In reply to the letter from Peter Williams in July's *Red Rag*, I thank you for your constructive ideas regarding a Club Day.

Your points about incorporating skills for Juniors, trying out new Junior Members for grouping into appropriately matched teams would be something the Committee would be in favour of.

It is encouraging to have some positive thoughts come forward to unite the Club and I commend you for that.

We could also have a Cricket Day that I am planning with Keith Harvey for a variation one Sunday.

*Geoff Paterson
President*

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Dear Member

All the Competitions are into the last legs and the final series are just around the corner. The Club would like to wish all of the members competing all the best and good hockey.

The Club was saddened to hear of the passing away of Mrs Howe, beloved mother, grandmother and friend of so many. To the Howe Family & relatives our thoughts are with you.

Congratulation to Dean Benfield who was chosen in the Australian Under 20 side to play in Germany and England in August. "Well done".

Senior Presentation Night

The Presentation Night will now be held at Balmain Leagues Club, It is a Ticket only affair. No money will be collected at the door. No ticket no entry. Tickets will cost \$3 5 per person and are available from Les Wark or Ann Rochester NOW.

Enclosed is a application for tickets and details of the night, please fill it out and return it ASAP.

Do it now and don't be disappointed.

Chocolate Drive

I am sorry to report that the chocolate drive will be not be on this year but look out for it early in 1997.

Italian Night

A great night was had by all, especially the 3 Amigos, (Brent, Jason & Damien). The Club would Like to thank Lee Farlow for her effort in organising the night.

Sports Development Courses

The Department of Sport & Recreation is conducting a number of courses in sports development, if you are interested please contact me for details

Messages of the Month

"Only dead fish swim with the stream"

"Perspiration is the labour of success"

Les Wark, Secretary



Bishops

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Club Calendar

MAJOR DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY
(NOTE SOME DATES HAVE CHANGED)

Major dates to put in your diary

- 10 August Junior BBQ
12 October Presentation Night
Balmain Leagues Club
27 October Junior Presentation Day

**PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE OF DATE
AND VENUE**

SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

~~12 OCTOBER 1996~~
Balmain Leagues Club

This will be a ticket only affair.
Application form for tickets
is enclosed with this issue of
The Red Rag

Dates could change due to draw
changes and other circumstances

Remember...

Come and join us...
Always a great time at the

Junior B B Q

Saturday 10 August
3pm to 9pm

Jubilee Oval

Annual Social Gathering
of the Junior Club

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Junior Grading

Further to the reference to grading of junior players next year in last month's *Red Rag*, here are letters written to the Editor expressing concern. These are reproduced with a response from the Management Committee.

The Editor

I am writing in response to Terry Kelly's column in the July Red Rag. As a parent of a child who has been a member of Glebe teams who have experienced large losses, I strongly disagree with the thinking of the Convenor and Senior Management Committee — i.e., the grading of players and a graded competition.

After six years of watching junior hockey I am convinced children only improve by playing with and against better players. Unfortunately, losing is part of the process. Everyone suffers big losses from time to time. It is not only part of sport, it is a part of life — just ask the Wallabies.

What is important is how you react to those losses. It really is a measure of you as a person. In my son's case his team is now beating teams by the same big scores they used to get beaten by when they first played hockey.

When you start to think that children only enjoy their hockey by winning, I really think we have lost the plot. If that is the case, why not go the whole hog — change our colours from maroon to blue and only pick boys in our teams?

Yours sincerely

Jim Oman

The Editor

It was with great disappointment that I read in the July issue of *The Red Rag* — Juniors' News, about the grading of junior players for next season.

This is a significant departure from the way Glebe, and in fact Sydney Junior Hockey, has played junior hockey and I believe our strength and our children's enjoyment is gained from ungraded teams in an ungraded competition.

There are many examples of this which could take up pages of the *Red Rag*. It is sufficient to say that the senior grades of both Women's and Men's teams have many ex juniors who are skilful, have represented Sydney, NSW and Australia, and who learnt how to play the game, win with pride and lose with dignity, all from ungraded junior teams.

I know that many others share my views and I hope they will come forward to ensure this retrograde step does not occur next season, by letting our Junior Committee and Sydney Junior Hockey know of our objections.

A discussion of this matter at a special meeting of the committee, attended by all interested parties, seems appropriate.

Regards

Rodney Hammett

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The Editor

I am writing to express my fundamental disagreement with the grading of children announced in the last issue of The Red Rag.

My boy joined the club in the days when we sometimes had trouble getting one full team of under 11 's together for the match. The team lost consistently week after week in the 11 's - and they always backed up for more, and they always enjoyed themselves. And they started to win. Not all of the original members of the team are there now in the winning team, but most of them are still playing, and still enjoying the game.

Grading individuals will destroy that process, and it certainly won't help the Club.

I'm not totally convinced, but there are probably good reasons to have one team of excellence in each age group.

There are no good reasons to brand other players as inferior.

Children don't need to win. It's nice if they do. If they enjoy the game, and they're not judged harshly, they'll keep playing. If they're branded as losers, they won't play.

I urge the Committee to think again.

Yours sincerely

Marilynne Smith

Management Committee Reply...

Dear Junior Parents

Thank you for voicing your concerns regarding the Club's policy on Junior selection. It is encouraging to see people taking an active interest.

The underlying aim of the Club is always that all players at all levels enjoy their hockey, develop and maintain friendships and refine their skills of the game. To do otherwise would defeat the purpose of running a club.

The Club will continue with its current policy of grading one junior team in each age division. All other teams then being selected according to a mix of maintaining social groups - where this is possible allowing for the logistics of transport, allocation of Coaches and a mix of boys and girls. If the structure of the Sydney Junior Hockey Competition changes some rearrangement may need to occur to maximise our children's potential within their teams.

We hope that this will set your concerns to rest. If not please feel free to approach any member of the Management Committee to air your views, keeping in mind that we are all here with a common aim - the welfare of all our children and the enjoyment of our sport.

Committee

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TURF UPDATE

We have had verbal advice from Leichhardt Council that the \$200,000 is OK and they will be writing to us very soon confirming this.

The Turf Negotiation Committee of Craig Stubbs & Colin Rochester are still in the process of finalising negotiations with the two turf manufacturers and have presented to the Management Committee an update. The Committee has given Craig & Col delegation to issue a letter of intent when they have agreed on a turf manufacturer.

Rod Hammett (another tireless worker) has been working feverishly to get things in order so the base works package can be put out to tender to a number of Companies. One tender has already been received and is being reviewed at present, and further negotiations will be taking place. Connell Wagner (Rod's Firm) has been appointed to Project Manage the whole project. It is expected that the field will be available for the beginning of next season

When all the prices are in the whole project will be packaged up and Bill Stubbs (thank god for the Stubbses) will present it to the Department of Sport & Recreation for their approval to obtain a loan guarantee from the Government for approximately \$400,000 (final figure is yet to be confirmed).

Harold Park have not yet decided on the future of the Old Tote Building so the Club House design team have been put on hold until a final decision has been made.

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Men's News

We shall be bringing you up to date with the Men's News next month including reports about the progress of Grades 4, 5 and 6.

But don't forget there are a number of things to put on your check list:

Presentation Night
Now 12 October
at Balmain Leagues Club

Junior BBQ
If you can get along, especially those of us playing at Jubilee, don't miss out on a fun afternoon and evening.

Club Gear
Artie and Ron would like to sell you some gear! (What's new?) But there are new items available such as the Supporter's Shirt and the hockey bag.



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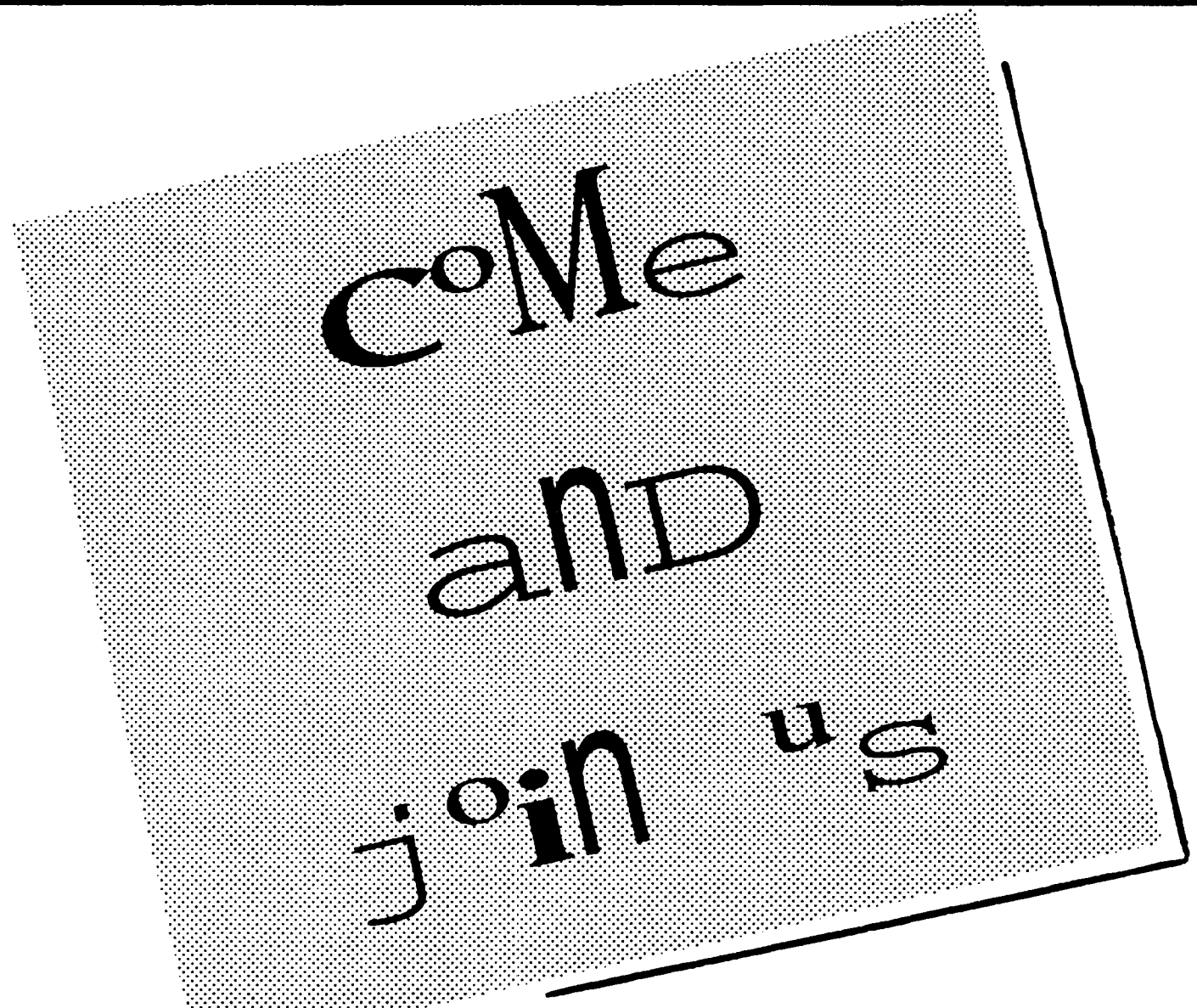
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the junior barbecue

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3pm to 9pm

Under the Arches, Jubilee Oval

Grades 4, 5 & 6 Play at Jubilee starting at 12.30pm



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Women's News

The whole Club is having an extremely successful year with all teams in semi final contention. Girls to increase our chances please come to training. Training is at Homebush field 2 every second Wednesday commencing the 31 July at 6.30pm for one hour.

First grade has recorded only a loss and a draw of all the games played. Despite having lost a few players from last years squad. Our new players Dale Phipps, Beckey Harrison and Kerrie Wark are more than compensating for the ones lost. This year there is also greater depth in the Club, especially in Second and Third grade for when their players are called upon to play higher grades they more adequately hold there own.

The Team, under the strict guidance of Les Wark, now know the three rules of hockey (see Les for a lesson if you don't know them) have great confidence in one another, are passing the ball around a lot and are playing with flair and enthusiasm. The few spectators that have watched, all agree we have improved immensely from previous years.

First Grade are strong contenders to take out the competition. Our last game is on Sunday 11 August at 1.00pm. Come out and watch you may be surprised at the skill level shown by some of the girls.

A Great Day ahead...

Come and see the Seniors play and then join in the fun at the Junior BBQ.

Sunday 10 August

promises to be a great day!

The 4th, 5th and 6th Grades will be playing at Jubilee that day against Randwick/St George.

12.30pm 6th Grade
2.00pm 5th Grade
3.30pm 4th Grade

Come and Watch...

Other items of note...

Turf Operations & Marketing Committee...

Jim Oman, Bill Warner, Merv Goodridge, Carman Burn, Geoff Bortfield, Gary Cronin, Arthur Moir have put their name down to be on this very important Committee (thank you) BUT more people are required.

This Committee gives life to the Turf. If you think you can add a little something please let Les Wark know.

Advertising for Members...

Do you have anything you would like to sell? Any hockey gear you don't use?

Why not advertise in *The Red Rag*?

The cost is FREE to Members!

Contact Les Wark or Eddy Crook for the next issue.

Under the Arches

A History of the Glebe District Hockey Club

By Max Solling & Harry Wark

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Under 17 One's

Still unbeaten this season! Apart from two drawn matches against arch rivals Moorebank, the team has won every match – sometimes with scores that are almost of cricket proportions.

The Under 17 One's give such a team effort each week that it is not appropriate to mention individuals. Glebe can be proud that these boys are an inspiration to others through the way they play the game. They have become skillful through the dedication and support of their coaches and many senior players since they started as raw and inexperienced players in the Under 11's.

Two recent matches will illustrate the team's dedication:

On July 13 it was the same skillful and enjoyable game for the spectators, but against our main contenders for the Championship, Moorebank. The score line was one all at the final whistle. In that game Sam Everist sustained a broken thumb – an example of the intensity of how the game was played – and he will be missed over the next few weeks.

It was another strong display when we met Baulkham Hills on 20 July. The sharing of the ball, the quick passing, the short corners and the strong defensive play resulted in the 19-1 win. Yuri's goal meant that everyone in the team – except for Alex as goalie – had scored this season.

The Under 17 One's are at the top of the table and are looking forward to playing in the Finals



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Juniors' News

Down the Home Stretch

Well here we are headed down the Wing ready to pass the ball, to score again for the season as the junior component of a mighty club. I would imagine that this will be the second last edition for this year, and I hope the new format has been successful. All the credit to our editor and publisher Eddy Crook for his perennial efforts in this endeavour.

The competition has been fierce and some well fought out games by all our teams. Going around the various fields one striking element of the play has been the determination of all our juniors. You all are to be congratulated for your supreme efforts. Let's not forget your coaches and managers, great work.

The club championship will be close this season. Sutherland are on top, just in front of us. So all efforts in your final games to keep that trophy in the display case.

Policy Directions

The announcement in July's Red Rag that juniors will be graded next season caused anxiety as well as much debate as to the directions of the club. It was unfortunate and regrettable that a misunderstanding arose from the announcement. I refer you to correspondence by the Club secretary elsewhere in this newsletter. Reference to my previous column in the May edition of the Red Rag is also explanatory as to policy direction taken in this regard.

What is important has been the input by you the club member. Discussion about the policies and advancement of the club can only be healthy. It shakes any complacency that an organisation can have about itself and its direction and focuses the objectives of the club. The Committee has certainly been put to the test and made it examine and set out a policy for the future direction of our juniors.

Playing the Game

Having just come away from seeing the girls win gold, one can only be elated for the future of hockey in this country. It certainly is up to the officials to capitalise on this marvellous win. The fact that this is a sport that both sexes play is its greatest asset. Let's hope we can realise on this gain over the next four years and make it two gold medals in Sydney.

As a prelude to the event and what was hoped a warm up for the men's gold chance, I attended a luncheon put on by the NSWHA on the 1st August. Many former state champions and officials attended. The highlight was the link up with Scott Fitzgerald a former NSW State captain and Steven Davies, with a post mortem of the game. The major aspect that Davies pointed out was that the team gave their all in that game. They felt challenged and Australia should be proud of their team.

Two other speakers were Sharon Buchanan, a gold medallist at Seoul Olympics, who spoke about the feelings of competing at the games and the effort that was required by the team as a whole. The other speaker was our own "Buster" Birmingham. As usual he was to make some relevant observations as to playing the game. To young players those points ring true. Always be challenge orientated. Your performance should always be focused to your own personal result as well as the teams. Tackle as many as you can. Stretch yourself in competition.

As a junior one of the most memorable things said to him about the game came from one of the great teachers. Pat Nilan said to him, "the most important thing you can do is possess the ball, and then make sure you do something better, "Pass the ball". He went on to say, that there may be a lot of things that you don't agree with, but to be successful, enjoy it.

Junior Barbecue

This event is one of the most important on the season calendar. It is time for us to get together and celebrate our season's efforts. We look forward to seeing you all there, giving vital support to the Junior cause.

Lithgow Carnival

This should be another great day for the Club. Hopefully we will have a full number of players again this season. Get in early for the bus as there is only a limited number of seats. I wish you all the best for the upcoming semis and finals. I am sure there is gold of our own out there.

Go the Reds.

Terry Kelly