

THE RED RAG NEWSLETTER

Glebe District Hockey Club Inc

AUGUST 1997



Congratulations...

...To Araron Oman for making the Australian Under 19 Train On Squad.

...To Aaron Oman and Christian Campano for making the NSW Under 21 Train On Squad.

...For making the Sydney Team in the NSW Under 21 Championships:

Aaron Oaman
Dean Benfield
Simon Bracht
Christian Campano
Sam Everist
Saul Rivers

...For making the Sydney Senior Sides to play Country:

Dean Benfield
Steven Cain
Craig Greaves
Patrick McCann
Aaron Nilan
Shane Nilan
Chris Neville
Aaron Oman
Ken Wark

...And best wishes to Kerrie Wark when she represents Australia at the World Veterans Championships at Seoul, South Korea in August. This nls a bit of role reversal, isn't it? Kerrie is normally waving Ken goodbye!

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Dear Member

End of season approaches...

The end of the season is fast approaching with the Final Series just around the corner. The Club wishes all teams the best in their final endeavours to become the best in their grade. All we can say is do your best and the rest will look after itself.

Ken Wark Junior...

Last month a newspaper article was printed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (which is in this month's *Red Rag* with the kind permission of the *SMH* and the author, Phil Wilkins). It's about our beloved Ken Wark Junior and it compared him to Allan Border and David Campese. All Glebe Club members already knew this, and we think it is a great tribute to a man who gives so much to his Club, State and Country and to the game of hockey. We all salute you Ken.

A new sponsor for our Juniors...

The Club welcomes aboard a new sponsor — the Toxteth Hotel, Glebe. We would especially like to thank Shaun Murphy for his generosity in the support of the Glebe Juniors. Members, please remember to get up there and support our sponsors!

Congratulations...

The Club congratulates our State League Squad for winning again the State League Competition to prove once more to the rest what we already know — that we are the best club in the State!

The Semi-Final was played against Parkes early on a Sunday morning after Dean Benfield's 21st. You could see that we playing under a handicap and the team struggled early, being 3-Nil down after about twenty minutes. The Coach then made a great tactical decision and took himself off and the Team went on to win 7-6.

The Final was played against Ryde in what some people said was a great match, with the play flowing from end to end. Glebe played some scintillating hockey to come out winners 6-5.

And congratulations to both 1st and 3rd Grades for winning the Allen Yates Shield in their respective grades. 3rd Grade struggled with a 3-2 win against Liverpool in extra time and 1st Grade came away easy winners with a 4-1 win against Sutherland.

We have so many individuals to congratulate this month that we have devoted a special column to them! Just look to the left.

Protective gear...

We'd like to remind all players (*again*) that they should wear protective equipment — mouth guards, shin pads — and make arrangements for an insurance for yourselves in case of injury that the Association Insurance does not cover.

Important dates...

Presentation Night is on 18th October 1997 at Balmain Leagues Club starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are \$35 per person. A ticket booking form is with this month's *Red Rag*.

The AGM will be at the Clubhouse on Sunday 30 November commencing at 9.30 am. Your chance to come and have a say in the running of our Club — so be there

Get Well...

Misch Quilty hurt her knee by pulling a muscle from the bone. Get well soon — the team needs you!

Les Wark
Secretary



Bishops

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Club Calendar

Major dates
to put in your diary

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Saturday
18 October 1997

Balmain Leagues Club
Victoria Road
Rozelle

7.00 pm to late

\$35 a ticket

A Ticket Only Affair
NO tickets at the door

only 250 tickets
available

Further details from
Les Wark
9181 2379 (home)
Maureen Paterson
9798 0463 (home)

*Please note that juniors
who attend the Senior
Presentation should be
accompanied by
a parent or guardian*

**Other events
coming**

Keep an eye on this space

**Ads in the
RED RAG**

and

**the notice boards
in the Clubhouse**

*Dates could change due to draw
changes and other circumstances*

Men's News

The Final Series will be played as follows (sorry, no 3rd Division as yet):

Semi Finals

Premier & Second Division
Saturday 6 September 1997

Homebush
(Field 1 or 2, depending
on final placings)

1st Grade	3.00 pm
2nd Grade	1.00 pm
3rd Grade	11.00 am

4th Grade	8.00 pm
5th Grade	6.30 pm
6th Grade	5.00 pm

Finals

Premier Division
Saturday 13 September 1997
Moorebank

1st Grade	3.30 pm
2nd Grade	1.30 pm
3rd Grade	11.30 am

Second Division
Sunday 14 September 1997
Ryde

4th Grade	3.30 pm
5th Grade	1.45 pm
6th Grade	12 Noon

Grand Finals

Premier Division
Saturday 20 September 1997
Moorebank

1st Grade	3.30 pm
2nd Grade	1.30 pm
3rd Grade	11.30 am

Second Division
Sunday 21 September 1997
Ryde

4th Grade	3.30 pm
5th Grade	1.45 pm
6th Grade	12 Noon

Curry Night

Come one, come all to an occasion not to be missed.

Spouses, mistresses, friends, enemies — anyone!

Saturday 23 August
7 pm for 7.30

Out of Bombay 92 Union Street
Pymont

BYO

(next to Pymont Bridge Hotel)

\$20 per person

RSVP Let Narlan or your your Captain know on 9810 0126 ASAP



GB Carlton.

One of the world's great brewers.

Harry and Ken Wark: 50 years service to the Gelbe Hockey Club

Harry and Ken Wark were born at 28 Victoria Street, now called Quirk Street Rozelle to parents Foster Henry and Mary Eileen Wark. Harry was born in 1924, and Ken 19 months later in 1926. Foster was a wholesale butcher and before she was married, Mary Eileen was a dancer with the J C Williamson stage production company.

The Wark brothers primary education was at Rozelle Demonstration School in Darling Street, Rozelle. For secondary school, Harry went to Drummoyne Boys High School and Ken to Ultimo Technical College. It was at Drummoyne Boys High in 1938 that Harry first played hockey and continued playing until he retired in 1989 aged 65. On leaving school Harry continued his hockey career with the Balmain Police Boys Club, a one team Club. Ken's first competition game was with the Balmain Police Boys Club when he was 15 years old. At an earlier age he had practised in the backyard of the family home with his elder brother.

Harry and Ken continued to play with the Balmain Police Boys Club until 1946, winning several lower grade premierships on the way. Foster Wark died in the early forties and Harry became the sole bread winner of the family, operating a butcher shop in Mansfield Street Rozelle — a business he continued until 1980. Balmain Police Boys Club trained on a Sunday morning at Allen's Reserve Glebe, a venue also used by the Glebe District Hockey Club. Allen's Reserve became a housing estate in 1949-1950 and was located adjoining the storm water canal opposite Harold Park Paceway.

At these Sunday training sessions Harry and Ken got to know Jack William Taylor, the then Secretary of the Glebe District Hockey Club. Jack pointed out to Harry and Ken that if they remained with their one team club, the Balmain Police Boys Club, they could never play in the first grade competition as this competition was reserved for the District Clubs. Having won the B Grade (2nd grade) competition with the Balmain Police Boys Club in 1946, Harry and Ken were keen to move to first grade and give themselves the opportunity of tougher, more challenging competition. Allen's Reserve must have been a busy place of a Sunday morning as Harry also met his wife, then Molly Johnstone, at Allen's Reserve. They married in November 1945.

1947 was Harry and Ken's first season with the Glebe District Hockey Club, an association which has lasted 50 years. Ken

married Joyce Bishop in 1949 and together with Harry and Molly the Wark families have been loyal and faithful servants of the Club, which in turn has given them immense pleasure.

Ken, a full-back, quickly established himself as a player of considerable talent, being selected for the NSW Seniors in his first Glebe season. He played years for NSW from 1947 to 1956 and represented Australia from 1952 to 1954. A member of the Glebe firsts from 1947 to 1968, he played in thirteen winning first grade premierships teams. No other player in Sydney, alive or dead, has played in as many first grade premierships winning teams. Between 1947 and 1968 Ken played 342 first Grade games, playing his last first grade game when he was 42 years old. Only Pat Nilan has played more first grade games (361), 19 more games than Ken. He appeared for Glebe in 492 games. On retiring from playing Ken, almost single-handedly transformed Federal Park Annandale from a useless bog to a first class hockey field. Ken has served the Club on numerous occasions as a Treasurer, a Vice-President and a Member of the Management Committee. In the seventies Ken was elected a Life Member of the Club in recognition of his tireless efforts for over twenty years. In 1997, Ken can be seen attending Premier Division, Second Division and Junior Fixtures, umpiring, advising and helping where he can. In all his efforts for the Club Ken has been ably supported by his wife Joyce who for decades was the Club records officer.

Harry played with Ken in the Glebe firsts between 1947 and 1959 when they won 10 premierships. Club records continually referred to Harry's speed on the field. He was very fast. Playing at inside right, he possessed a powerful and accurate shot for goal which, combined with his acceleration enabled him to score more goals for Glebe than any other player. He hit 226 goals between 1947 and 1959 alone. After his first grade days were finished, Harry spent the next 30 years working his way down through the lower grades eventually retiring in 1989 aged 65 years. He holds the record for the most number of games played for the Club, 757 games.

Harry has been active in the administrative side of the Club since he joined 50 years ago. He has been a Club Captain, a Vice President and in 1997, Club House Manager, an active Member of the Management Committee and the Club's Patron. For his services to the Club he was elected a Life-Member in the mid sixties. Over these 50 years of association with the Club he has had fantastic support from his wife Molly, who is also a Life-Member of the Glebe District Hockey Club.

Harry and Molly, Ken and Joyce have, over half a century, displayed a community spirited approach which has assisted the Club to develop into the flourishing association which it is today.

For their contribution the Club expresses its great debt of gratitude.

*Under
the
Arches*

COPIES AVAILABLE
IN THE CLUBHOUSE

*A History of the
Glebe District Hockey Club
By Max Solling & Harry Wark*



LOVE A BARGAIN ?
Check this out,
Factory and Clearance
prices on Fashion, Footwear,
Electrical and more



707 ANZAC PARADE, MAROUBRA JUNCTION

Ken Wark Junior joins other sporting greats

In the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Friday 11 July, Phil Wilkins opened his new Friday column, *Wilko's World* with an article featuring our Ken and comparing him with other sporting greats who have "retired".

Many thanks to Phil Wilkins and the *Sydney Morning Herald* who have given us permission to reprint the article in full for those of us who did not manage to read it the first time round.

'Ornaments' fear being left on the shelf

ALLAN Border often used an expression after he turned 30 when anyone naively raised the subject of retirement.

Having seen Border and David Boon bumped into the inferno, rather than jump voluntarily, Mark Taylor recalled the words when he inherited the Test captaincy, and is considering them now more than ever on his odyssey around England.

More recently, champion Waratahs Tim Gavin and David Campese made their representative rugby farewells at the Sydney Football Stadium, Campese clutching the football to his breast, waving to the Campese face-masked crowd, becoming so emotional in the dressing room he announced his availability for next winter.

Over the weekend, Shane Nilan led Glebe to the NSW State League hockey championship by beating Ryde in a 6-5 thriller, behind him the inevitable defender, Ken Wark jnr, rising 36, the triple Olympian. Glebe club was formed during the Depression in 1932, the summer of Harold Larwood and Bill

Voce and Bodyline cricket. At the turn of the century there were midnight spills from the abattoirs of Glebe Island into Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays, turning the harbour blood red.

Glebe became the Bloods and have worn maroon ever since.

Peter Crittle said in farewelling the grand old rugby man George Marshall during the week: "You don't know hard men. You can smell them."

The Warks are hard men. From father to son to grandson, it's in the blood, the bones, the family an institution out there beneath the arches near Harold Park.

After Wark returned from Atlanta with an Olympic bronze medal, there was a long silence, but not, as the TV experts predicted, an announcement by Wark. Unlike Campese, he never mentioned retirement.

To Border and Boon and Steve Waugh, cricket is not a sport or a living. It's life.

Border and Boon played a century of Tests, Waugh is closing on his century fast. Ken Wark played 214 hockey internationals for Australia.

Wark was one of the best at Atlanta, mobile, skilful, fearless, always prepared to concede a metre of skin from elbows and knees, donating it to the national cause, for a pint of blood from rival forwards.

Three months after Atlanta, new Australian coach and fellow international Terry Walsh announced his national squad. Staring ahead with gold dust in his eyes to Sydney 2000, he espoused a youth policy.

Wark was dropped. After silver and bronze medals and an Olympic fourth from an international career beginning in January, 1985, through to the Atlanta Games, he was gone.

Wark's confusion was understandable. From a regular of the First XI he was omitted from the Australian squad of 26, all within three months.

He is a crowbar of a man, unbending, unbreakable. At the Olympics, he was described as "a rugged ornament of the game".

And with those ears and eyebrows, elbows and edges, what an ornament indeed.

Wark's father, Ken Wark sen, was never an ornament. He was unchiselled rock rather than a rough diamond, the knuckle-duster rather than the bracelet.

He played it hard and played it well and when rivals attempted to stop him, to stop Glebe, he resorted to physical retaliation to "wipe them out".

"We played for two points, and when you play for two points, you gotta be hard," he said.

"Don't take no s--- off the Indians," he said, warping the words of John Wayne.

Ken snr is 71 years of age, his face hickory brown, carved by sun and rain and wind and almost 500 games for Glebe, of 21 seasons of first-grade hockey and 13 premierships, hair steel-grey, knees battered by frustrated, frothing rivals.

For more than three decades
PHIL WILKINS has been one of
Australia's most respected sports
writers. Today he begins a new
Friday column, *Wilko's World*.

He was an international himself in 1952-1954 when money was scarce, there was no Institute of Sport and tours were infrequent. Australia sent its first team to the Olympics in 1956, to the Melbourne Games.

Occasionally, a selector has sidled up to Wark jnr in recent months, conscience pricking, asking about his availability, probably hoping to hear he has retired, frustrated out of the game.

In fact, his form has been exceptional. He was Player of the Finals when NSW won the National Hockey League final in May.

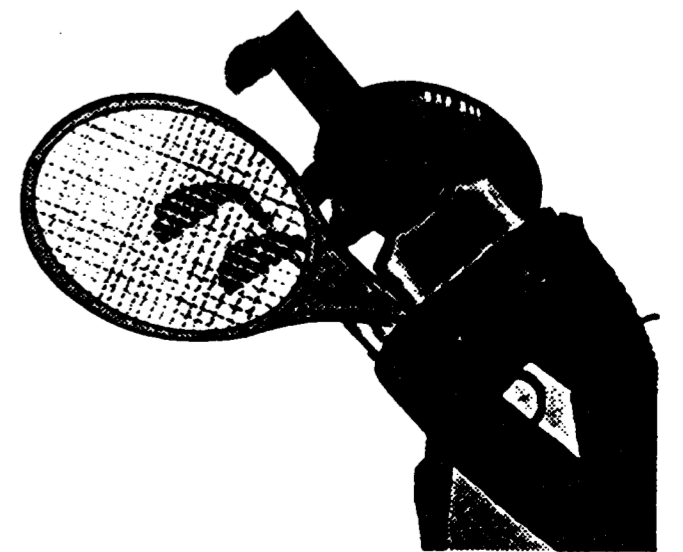
Next October, Australia will take part in the Champions' Trophy, a tournament between the six leading nations of hockey. The only reason Australia are involved is that they are host nation, having run last in the qualifying tournament.

Allan Border always maintained to those who wished to retire him: "You're a long time dead."

There is a time to fly and, in a sporting sense, a time to die.

The Australian selectors should know: Ken Wark still feels he has some living to do.

They might also consider that the English sculler Steven Redgrave won his fourth consecutive gold medal in the coxless pairs at Atlanta. Redgrave will defend his crown in Sydney at 39 years of age.



Women's News

Metro League

The second meeting was a great success with nineteen people present. Two decisions had to be made on the evening: how many teams to enter and what grades to go for.

A little background — the Metro League competition is run by the Sydney Women's Hockey League. There are five grades:

- Metro A (standard of hockey would be one level above Eastern Districts' 1st Grade)
- Metro B (equivalent to Eastern Districts' 1st Grade)
- Divisions 1, 2 & 3 (all lower in standard to Eastern Districts' 3rd Grade)

Being the highest level of women's club hockey in NSW many believe Metro A is the level to aim for if you're an aspiring representative player. If we are to keep our top players, we need to offer them more opportunities within the Club to advance their level of hockey. It's also important to keep a foot in the door of Eastern Districts, as this provides other avenues for junior, senior and veterans representative hockey.

After much discussion, the group voted unanimously to enter two teams in the Metro League (A & B) and to keep three teams in Eastern Districts. A likely scenario would be:

1997	1998
1st Grade	Metro A
2nd Grade	Metro B
3rd Grade	ED's 2nd Grade
4th Grade	ED's 3rd Grade
5th Grade	ED's 4th Grade

However the path to Metro League is not straightforward, the only way into Metro A is through a challenge series which will be held in September. Preparing for this will be our first step. As you can see, these changes will affect everyone and the feeling from the meeting was very positive. Remember, seven years ago the Club decided to move from the North shore competition to Eastern Districts. This change was tough but look at us now!

A very special thanks to Molly for her endless support.

Ladder

Unfortunately I don't have the full details but this is where we're at after round 12:

1st Grade	11 points	Equal first with YWCA
2nd Grade	5 points	Equal second last with St George
3rd Grade	17 points	Fifth
4th Grade	28 points	In front by a country mile
5th Grade	17 points	?Third (not all score cards have been handed in)

Raffle

Congratulations to everyone, the women had the highest rate of return.

Outstanding Chocolate Money

Could those people who still have their chocolate money, please return it to Rebecca Harrison as soon as possible? Thanks.

Carmen Byrne

TURF UPDATE

The Club's quest for a synthetic turf has been a long and disappointing history of rejection from the various venues explored since 1984 - Wentworth, Federal and Lambert Parks, then Federal Park again.

Then came Harold Park. When the Harness Association was negotiating with Leichhardt Council to build its extended, banked, quarter-mile track, it offered the Hockey Club (and Council) the world. Now the track is built and running, difficulties have arisen.

The first problem to arise was "the greyhounds". For what it's worth, it now appears unlikely that the greyhounds will return to Harold Park, because at least some of the greyhound groups oppose the move. They're considering other venues, but it's very early days.

Wentworth Park as a venue for the turf would depend on a new home for the dogs; and it would seem to be many years before this could eventuate.

The next problem to arise concerns access to the turf at Harold Park. A situation has developed where it is not clear what access is going to be allowed by the Harness Association.

If our access to the turf is limited, it might not be economically viable for us to build. Without guaranteed, reliable access, the Hockey Club will not generate sufficient income to satisfy the lending requirements of any financial institution. The State Department of Sport and Recreation has so far withheld approval of a loan or a loan guarantee.

The Harness Association is currently taking the view that it never offered the Hockey Club any guarantee on access, and that the Association never intended to be restricted in the number of race meetings that it could hold.

This despite the fact that, at several public and site meetings, the General Manager of Harold Park said that the Harness Club did not intend to increase the number of meetings after the track had been extended, citing government regulations. The Hockey Club (and presumably the Council and

continued on page 4