

Glebe
District
Hockey
Club
Inc



**JUNIOR
TEAMS**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Junior Convenor's Report 1996

It would have to be said that this was a momentous year. Certainly full of controversy as to the direction of the juniors, and the activities of the juniors this season.

We at Glebe must be doing something right, when our teams reached the grand final in all divisions except under 13 B's. Gary Cronin and his team will testify to the fact that they were robbed of a chance in that division by the controversial Central Area draw for this year.

All our teams that contested, I heartily congratulate them. Especially, the Under 15's who won in both divisions and the Under 17's who won their final convincingly.

This season saw the Under 1's come under the Junior committee wing, after a time in no man's land. (I can say that because they are all young men). Their performance was near brilliant. We are privileged to have such talent in our Junior and now senior ranks. I am sure many an old senior player is eyeing the grades with reserved anticipation for a spot to play next season, especially with these young men pushing up the ladder.

The success of all our teams who reached a final and grand final, is due to the dedication and talent of the coaches and managers. Without their input Glebe would not be the strong club it is. It is unfortunate that such talent can not be spread around all the time. These people give up their time to train and foster Juniors. We all say thank you, Coaches and Managers for a great effort.

A Champion Club

I can again report that Glebe is the biggest junior club in Sydney, tipping out Sutherland by 5 players. The numbers of 167 registered junior persons is a record for the Club. It is testament to the stability of the Club that we can field 4 Under 11, 4 Under 13, 2 Under 15 and 2 Under 17 teams.

Congratulations also goes to those players from Glebe that represent – either in Sydney or State competitions this season. Their numbers too numerous to mentioned here are referred to another part of this Report. Special congratulations to Pat Wark who attained the State Under 14 side, and Tony Wark and Sam Everist who attained the State Under 16 development side. Also Congratulations to Liam Casey and Mark Paterson for making the State school boy championships.

Great achievements and prestige for the Club.

Inaugural Club Carnival

The highlight of the year was our inaugural Carnival. What a fantastic day it was. A great atmosphere and a wonderful effort by our teams. Winning in all divisions certainly made the day. I imagine there will be quite a challenge for our Carnival next year, from the reports given by other clubs.

It took much persuasion on my part to convince the seniors of the suitability of the grounds for such a day. Some were anxious that the southwestern end of Federal was not suitable, but with a great effort by the Leichhardt Council groundsmen, the fields and area were turned into a great venue for our event.

The only thing that concerned me on the run up to that day was the weather. I can say that the organisation, on, and the run up to the day, was superb. We had an army of willing helpers that made it a great event.

Without the dedication of Anne Wark in the canteen and Greg Lawler on the organisational structure all good ideas would have come to nought.

To Artie Moir, Pat Nilan and Adam Campano and his gang of Under 17's Umpires who kept the play on track, thanks for making the day greater by your efforts.

One of the highlights of the day was the Minkey competition. It was a delight to see the little kids applying their new found skills. Certainly, Hockey's future rests in fostering the noncompetitive and fun aspects of this introduction to our sport.

To everyone involved, you all demonstrated the club's unity when it mattered. For that I am truly thankful and grateful.

Minkey

Minkey was again well attended this year, with the able assistance of Robert Wark and Veron Howe showing these budding players the ropes. Other than the Glebe Carnival, our minkey kids attended a Carnival put on by Dainbank College and the St George Club in August. It was well attended and our Minkeys had a great time. Minkey is set to be an important development for Hockey NSW next year. It is anticipated that Glebe will be involved in that program, bringing the Minkey kids more into the fold of the club. They certainly will be the incubator for this club and Hockey in general. We wish them all the best.

Development Clinics

It was unfortunate that our development clinics were abandoned due to rain on two occasions. This did not assist in its success, as it dampened the enthusiasm of the participants. This year has been a big year for the procurement of our turf, and the development organisers were preoccupied with the weighty matters of its attainment. Unfortunately the spare time was not available to organise the development program, efficiently this season. I have been assured great things for skills development next year with the turf, so all is not lost and it was a start. That dedication to excellence in our Juniors is matched by our dedication to the program.

Carnivals

Our Participation in Club Carnivals again had great support this season.

As usual Glebe juniors and parents braved the cold in Lithgow, to play in a successful competition. For our 17's at least. The strength of Country sides is evident (many could be considered as Association sides) at such meets and we as a club should not feel so bad when we can reach the semi's at such events. It again proves that we have the depth of talent in our club. St. George was certainly a successful carnival for us this year. We took home all three age group trophies. Congratulations to all those that participated.

The Senior and Junior Committees felt that we should in future be present at a series of Carnivals with the prominent one's being, Northern Districts, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, St George and Lithgow. The purpose being that Glebe as a Junior Club is on show and should put forward its best. This leaves two or three others that will be available if Coaches and Managers feel it opportune to take their full team. Carnivals will be a mixed team affair, unless Coaches decide to field their full team as stated.

Carnivals are essential for club growth in NSW, and the Glebe club support this policy.

Policy Directions

What was surely the most controversial development in the juniors for 1996 was the announcement in July's *Red Rag* that they would be graded next season, causing 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. A previous request by members of the Junior Committee for a *policy direction* precipitated reconsideration of the existing methods in choosing teams and led to a policy paper being circulated by the President and the Senior Committee.

The Senior Committee recognised that within the South Area Competition, other clubs field graded sides in each age group. The proposed grading would provide one team in each age group to meet that challenge.

This season the Northern Area has engaged in a graded competition and from reports received from their area President, this has been very successful. Concerns expressed by members of our club, "that players would loose out by not playing against the better teams," were initially expressed by the Northern Area as well. The argument certainly has merit, however, players in the "A" teams complain about the lack of challenge and tend to develop an artificially inflated opinion of their own abilities. When they meet teams of equal ability the leveller is applied. The same applies to all other teams in the club or the Association draw. Everybody plays others at their own ability and level. We were witness to this at the semi's and grand finals, and did it not provide good hockey and excitement for those players ?

Glebe is recognised for its competitiveness. But there is certainly no room for a "win at any cost" philosophy in the Glebe club. The Club wins or loses on its own abilities and commitment. Winning certainly is a desirable aim, and teaching our children to be focused on achieving a favourable result, personally and within a team is important, however, *losing with dignity* is also a desirable feature to foster within the Club. It makes the achievement of winning, on another day more satisfying. I can therefore only endorse the sentiments expressed by others in the Club, when they quote the following Australian Sports Commission code of conduct

- A. Children play organised sport for fun, they are not miniature professionals.
- B. Focus on the child's efforts and performance, rather than the overall outcome of the event so the child can set realistic goals related to his/ her ability.
- C. Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory.

The Club's objectives are for its junior members to experience the enjoyment of the sport, have fun, compete and above all develop long term friendships. We have players of varying abilities and all must be catered for.

What is important has been the input by you the club member. Discussion about the policies and advancement of the club can only be a healthy.

It shakes any complacency that an organisation can have about itself and its direction and focuses the objectives of the club. Both the senior and junior Committee's have certainly been put to the test and made to examine and set out a policy for the future direction of our juniors.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Junior and Senior Committees for their assistance this season. Thanks to Greg Lawler for his support in the Assistant Convenors role and to Helen Howe for her superb secretarial work. Next season I would like to see a greater participation on the women's part in the juniors' development. I have to say Helen exemplifies that family spirit that is the undertow of the club, and shows that there is a future for girls, as well as boys in the club. I was proud to see her play in her first women's grand final. Both her and the girls certainly excelled themselves.

Thanks to the President, Geoff Paterson and Les Wark for their assistance and council during the season.

Thanks to all those others to numerous to mention, I have appreciated your help.

As I reported in one of the Red Rags this year, at a function for NSW Hockey "Buster" Birmingham made 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 personnel 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 the great teacher and champion. 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 in any endeavour, *enjoy it*."

We all must join in those sentiments for the 1997 season and beyond, enjoy your Hockey.

GO THE REDS IN '97.

Terence Kelly
Junior Convenor

Under 17's Reports

Under 17 Ones

AN EXCELLENT SEASON – UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

We started the season with the knowledge that we had a good chance to win the premiership. In some respects that could have provided our downfall, but each and every member of the team remained focused on our objective – with the result in the record books.

During the season the team competed in sixteen matches, including semi-finals and finals, putting together fourteen wins and two draws. We scored 132 goals with 10 against. An average in excess of 8 per game for and less than one against.

The team members were:

		<i>games played</i>	<i>goals scored</i>
In goal	Alex Crook	–	
At the back	Kristian Haigh	16	1
	Geoff Hammett	16	4
In the middle	James Moseley	16	2
	Wayne Benfield	16	18
	Juri Schimke	16	1
	Troy Booth	14	1
In the forwards	Sam Everist	11	12
	Saul Rivers	15	25
	Aaron Oman	16	24
	Doug Cronin	16	12
	Tony Wark	15	19
	Simon Bracht	16	13

I believe that all the guys' individual skills improved throughout the year, particularly in the areas of strength on the ball, reading of the game and supporting their team mates both on and off the ball. This no doubt was brought about by their involvement in various grades.

At this point I feel I should comment on Under 17's playing grade. Whilst I agree that if you are good enough you should play at the highest level, I do believe that these guys should be in a grade where their particular skills can be developed and honed, not just put on the *wing* because they're a good player. Are we really helping their careers?

Congratulations to our State Representatives Aaron, Sam and Tony; our Sydney Representatives Kristian, Hamo, Wacker, Simon and Saul.

And congratulations for a well deserved Players' Player Award to Wayne Benfield.

Thanks must go to our parents and supporters for consistently being there and cheering us on with the positive encouragement; to Richard Ware Real Estate for their financial assistance; and, last but not least, to Bob Taylor with Boni in umpiring and his support.

To those leaving the 17's we wish you all the best in whatever you want to achieve from hockey and we know you'll reach your objectives.

Artie Moir
Geoff Benfield

Under 17 Twos

The 1996 U/ 17 Glebe 2 side was made up of players from all three U/ 15 teams from the year before, as well as one final year player (Adrian) and one over age player (Lee). So, it was quite remarkable that the team had such a successful year since they were competing as a team almost solely made up of 15 year olds, against teams much older than them and representing as the number 1 side from their respective clubs.

Glebe was placed in the Second Division after a round-robin of matches and immediately stamped their authority on the competition proper by winning their first four games by playing very good, team oriented hockey. Glebe then unfortunately lost two games to Bankstown and Northern Districts, before winning their final round game comfortably. However, the previous two losses meant that Glebe were in a four-way tie for first place after the preliminary games and were unfortunately relegated to 4th spot and the elimination semi-final against Gordon due to inferior goal averages.

The team was extremely confident going into the game against Gordon as they had defeated them comfortably six weeks earlier. However, Glebe just couldn't put it together on the day. Lee scored a great individual goal against the run of play to go into half-time with a surprise 1-0 lead, but they couldn't consolidate this in the second half, losing 3-1 to the eventual Premiership Winners. Nevertheless, it was a superb effort just to get this far, even though disappointment after such a loss is only natural (believe me, I've been there). Cameron summed the season up best though, when he said to me "I'm just happy that I was in a team which won more than one game". Such dreams can be fulfilled if the right ingredients are there: team spirit, determination, enthusiasm, mateship and love of the game of Hockey.

On a personal note, I thought the team reacted well to my coaching style, and generally acted on advice and tips that I gave them at training and at games. Although it was a difficult task to try and weed out some of the bad habits which players had developed over the years, this was helped by getting the team to play a different style of hockey, in order to make the adjustment from grass to turf as painless and smooth as possible. At times, some passages of short passing between players warmed by heart, making my job (death sentence) as coach extremely worthwhile.

Congratulations to Joel and Damen for making Sydney sides, and to Joel, Damen, Lindsay and Tushar who were members of the Glebe combined U/17 team which won the prestigious Lithgow Hornets Carnival in August. Thanks must go to many people: to Lindsay, Joel, Robbie and Cameron for turning up to every single game of the season; to the whole team for generally good turn ups at training; to Shane Casey and Mrs Kelleher for umpiring when needed; to Arthur Moir for his fabulous support all season; to the parents who worked out a good roster system to get the players to matches; and to those players who helped us out during the year when we were short, in particular Pat Wark, but also Thibaut Dauvain, Allen Moriss, Jason McDonald and Joshua Rivers. Thank you also to those team members who turned up to the Glebe Junior Carnival and helped in different capacities as early as 8.30am. in the morning, when all of 1st Grade was nowhere to be seen - I salute you.

The team, in no particular order, was:

Joel Rivers: Our Captain courageous, who was the outstanding player week after week. Often he dropped back from centre-half to fullback when the defence was struggling. A skilled player, a true leader, and a good bloke, Joel was held in great respect by his fellow players. Good luck in Glebe Ones side next year.

Damen Jones: A potentially outstanding goalkeeper, Damen literally won games for the team on the back of some great performances. Damen is typically slow to start in a game and thrives on high involvement. Has sensational reflexes and if he takes training a bit more seriously he will threaten for a spot in the Glebe 1 side also. Congratulations for making Sydney - big time!

Lindsay Griffith: (2 goals) Showed great improvement during the year and great commitment to his own fitness and development by turning up to many Senior trainings during the year. Has to learn to be more constructive with his onfield talk as well as learning to take the simple option sometimes. Will come into his own next year as a good player in his own right when his close skills are further honed.