

June 2013

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President's Address

"We are going well across the entire club, but it can easily unravel."

I say this as we approach the colder months of our hockey season and the middle part of the year, which historically, has been a real danger period for the club.

We have dropped games we shouldn't have and whilst we cannot win the competition right now, we certainly can lose it. It is very important that we stay focused on winning and continuing to remain highly committed and get to training.

I note particularly in the case of the men, that we are still having up to 10-15 players out each week and this really does affect our team performances. Because of this, selections get difficult, the pressure builds and we need more and more players to stay and assist other sides. We are currently in a situation the men's club has never experienced before, with our 3rd and 4th grade teams being demoted two grades this year and it is a real priority for these two teams to win the minor premiership and get back to where we belong as a premier club.

I ask over the next 4-5 weeks across the entire club, that we give our all to the club and support our teams.

Let's try to ensure that as we enter the last 4 weeks of the competition rounds in August, that we have strengthened our positions on the table. We will get that added incentive in August of being only a few weeks away from the finals.

July needs to be our best month of the season.

By Danny O'Brien

Glebe District Hockey Club President



It's been an eventful and extremely successful month of June for the Glebe Men's Hockey Club, with all sides having significant wins against top ranked opposition as well as Glebe players being prominent in the recent NSW Men's Championships in Newcastle.

1st grade have had a relatively tough month coming up against the two top ranked teams, North West Strikers and Moorebank and losing marginally to both, however, managing to retain third position going into the final 8 games of the season. While the team has been affected by players taking mid-season holidays (would not have happened back in the President, Danny O'Brien's day) and injury, a number of players from 2nd grade have stepped up to the plate and turned in some courageous performances. Ross Bougoukas and Mick Wark both made strong cases in the Moorebank game for the prize of 'goal of the season', up against some strong competition from Mark Paterson after cracking goals against both SWS and Briars and from Andrew Cheong against Ryde (I think).

2nd grade after a minor hiccup with an unexpected loss against UNSW have stormed back into premiership contention with a terrific win against Moorebank last weekend leaving them alone at the top of the ladder. This team is lucky to have a wealth of experience in the playing group (I count almost 900 games of cumulative 1st grade game experience in the team) and find a way to win most of their games.

3rd grade have come from fourth position at the beginning of the month to take down the first and second ranked teams in the competition, Bankstown and Moorebank, and as of this week have also gone top and clear of the other competition in their division SL3. The forward group led by new boy Hugh Campbell and rock solid midfield have improved dramatically, and as a result the team is now scoring goals on a more regular basis.

4th grade still have not lost since the opening round of the competition and look to make it 10 wins in a row when they taken on UNSW this Saturday. The form of the co-captain, Chris Farrugia, marksman Paul Jowett, and junior players, Ed Noller and Max Tintner, has been outstanding in what has been a great team effort to date. Both Chris and Jason McDonald's efforts as co-captains in moulding this side through some very tough times into a successful unit must be commended.

Despite having their top goal scorers, Geoff, Jamie and Ivan (Googa is not included in this statistic) absent for large parts of the season, the 5th grade side continues to grind out impressive wins based on very strong defensive efforts from the core of Manou, Cullen, Googa, Sutton, Moseley, Martin and new boy Phil Richardson. Young guns Kris Manou, Harry Doughty and Deon Condock have been improving rapidly, some in unfamiliar positions.

Last but definitely not least, the super 6th's have turned their season around with a couple of crushing consecutive wins against higher ranked opposition, moving them from dead last to 8th and mathematically only one win from 5th spot with 8 games remaining. Anything could happen! Apart from the usual enthusiastic 6th grade stalwarts the side has welcomed back Assistant Club Captain Adrian Mckeown to the team and the double addition of Bevan Miller and Nick Ball to the team has resulted in a goal scoring potency not witnessed in this side for some time. Nick in particular has scored 2 hat tricks in three weeks I think. Just ask him, he'll tell you all about it!

Glebe men were represented at the recent NSW Men's Championships in Newcastle in both Sydney 1 & 2, who both won their respective divisions, by Matt Wark, Mitch Tudor, Ross Bougoukas, Aleks Manou, BJ Bruton and Dom Tintner. Ross scored the winning goal in the Division 1 final while Mitch scored the winning goal in the Division 1 semi-final. George Manou managed Sydney 1 team. 1st grade coach Aaron Oman attended as head of selectors. Following this tournament, BJ Bruton was selected to the preliminary NSW AHL squad along with regulars Mark Paterson and Matt Wark. Aaron Oman is the NSW Men's coach for 2013 for those of you who weren't aware. Congrats guys! You are all a great asset to our club.

In sad news, Hinnerk Saathoff plays his last game for the club on Saturday 7 July against SWS at Bankstown before returning home to Germany given that his period of exchange at Sydney University has almost expired. Hinnerk has been a great asset to the club, has scored some great goals especially from his powerful drag flicks, and we hope he returns to the motherland with lots of great things to say about Glebe. I'm sure the boys will give 'Hinz' a great send-off.

Thanks also to everyone who has helped out to date in the slow but steady restoration of the Glebe Clubhouse. Can't wait to have a few beverages there soon and party like it's 2013.

By Adam Campano

Glebe District Hockey Club Club Captain

Glebe 1: The girls got their first win on the board a few weeks ago against fourth placed Western Districts. They won the game 2-1 after a great strike from Sarah Stevenson and a short-corner conversion from Angela Wark. After that game it has been tougher times for the Glebe 1 girls who went down to Sydney Uni and Esquires. Unfortunately in the Sydney Uni game, half Rhiannon Russell copped a nasty stick to the face and suffered a cut to the head and broken nose. The girls have been supporting Rhiannon since it happened and are happy to see her on the mend. She has had surgery on the nose and the specialist has said it went better than expected. In saying that, the team will greatly miss Rhiannon and what she provides both on and off the field.

The win against Western Districts does show what this team is capable of though, so it won't be long before another win is recorded for the girls.

Glebe 2: The Glebe 2 girls are still undefeated in their competition after 12 rounds. Only two weeks ago did they go 1-1 with Macarthur in a very wet match that restricted ball movement. They bounced back the next week with a 7-0 win over Manly, their best win of the season. The girls have a strong side that could see several players up permanently with 1st grade. But this team is keen to stay together after their win last season. The most important target for the girls this season is to secure the minor premiership and move up to ML3. They are currently 10 points ahead of second place, but need to keep up the good work to continue to keep top spot.

Glebe 3: These wonderful ladies have had a mixed season so far, with some solid wins and some draws. They are in an incredibly tight competition, so the fight for the four is close. Both their goalkeeper Kloe and striker Mim were picked in the U15 NSW Training side, which is a fantastic achievement. Unfortunately this can rule the girls out of quite a few games for 3's, but luckily we have girls ready to step up. Coach Alison Cheong is working extremely hard to help develop the girls skills, so we look forward to seeing how the girls go later in the season and into next season. WE wish their brilliant Manager, Prue Brady, a speedy recovery after a knock to the head this week. :)

Glebe 3B: The poor Glebe 3B ladies, who play in the ED3 comp, had games scheduled for Saturday and Sunday last week on what was one of the wettest weekends in Sydney. Both games were cancelled due to rain including Mel Newton's 350th game for Glebe. The girls are still second placed on the ladder but need to work hard to secure a top four spot, especially after the cancelled games result in two 0-0 draws. They are perfectly capable of making the finals with a bit of extra work at training and fitness kept up during the match. Watch out for these ladies come September!

Glebe 4: The girls, now coached by Googa, recorded their second win of the season a couple of weeks ago, moving them up two places on the ladder. If you don't already know, these ladies are an extremely new side with some girls coming back to the sport after years away or others taking it up for the first time. They are enthusiastic to learn things at training and improve and some of girls, such as forward Jasmine, are working hard up front to get the ball and get results. They were recently joined by goalkeeper Stephanie Goldworthy, who has brought strength at the back. They will no doubt keep improving as time goes on.

By Louise Tapsell

Glebe District Hockey Club Women's President.

We are now over halfway through the season and many of our junior teams are firming to participate in Finals series. The U11A Redbacks remain in second position and are improving every weekend under coach Kate Alexander. We have three teams in the U11B competition with the Hornets and Vipers teams battling it out for second and third positions.

The U13A Redbacks are also in second position and have some tough games ahead against traditional rivals Sutherland. Both the U13B teams have been struggling for player numbers but under the encouragement from their coaches and managers turn up every week and do their best. The U15B Strikers team recently scored their first win of the season which caused much excitement amongst the players and parents.

The U15A and U17A teams compete in the Sydney-wide Metro competitions which are of a very high standard. Although not having won a game so far, the U15A team recently had a draw against third placed Manly so we all hope this is a turning point for the team. The U17A team has had two strong games recently, defeating Gordon North Sydney and drawing with Ryde.

It has been difficult for many of the teams as training has been interrupted due to Federal field being closed for the last four Wednesdays due to rain.

Minkey continues to be popular each week with at least 30-40 budding young Olympians showing their talents on the grass at Bicentennial Park. Players are gearing up for the forthcoming Under 9 competition as well as the Minkey games preceding the First Grade Mens game at the Glebe-Briars Day on 20 July.

Many of our Glebe juniors and parents are involved in SJHA Representative teams which have met with considerable success this season. Some stories from recent carnivals appear below as well as our highlight Junior Player of the Month.

Mark Noller
Glebe District Hockey Club Junior Convenor

Glebe Junior Player of the Month - June 2013

Glebe's junior player of the month is Litiana Field, a long term junior Glebe (69 games before the start of this season) and current U15A Redback.

In addition to representing NSW in U13 indoor hockey and being a powerhouse U15 Sydney representative outdoor player, this season Litiana has become the youngest player in the long history of the Glebe club to regularly play Women's 1st Grade. She is still only 13 years of age! She also played very well with the 1st Grade team in the recent celebrated game against the mighty Shanghai Women's Hockey Team (representing a city of 23 million people).

Litiana is a fabulous player and a fine young woman. It is amazing to think that, if she was born a week or two after her December 1999 birth date, she still would be eligible to play U13 hockey. Litiana is a well-liked and fantastic role model for all the boys and girls in the junior club. Well done, Litiana. She does her club, family and friends proud.



Litiana Field

The U15 Girls 2013 representative season wrapped up at Grafton on the weekend of 21-23 June 2013 with the U15 Girls State Championships.

Glebe was fortunate to be proudly represented by Kloe Mannering, Litiana Field, Ana Moriatakis and Mim Pritchard in the Sydney U15/1 team and Grace Dallen and Alice Schacher in the Sydney U15/2 team. Kloe's mum, Mel, a recent and valued Glebe supporter (travelling regularly from her home town of Lithgow) was the manager of the U15/1 team. Kloe's dad, Guy, was one of the HNSW Technical Officers. Alice's grandfather, Ken Fulton, also an avid Glebe supporter (when he is visiting from his home town of Bathurst, at least) was the coach of the U15/2 team.



L-R: Mim Pritchard, Litiana Field, Ana Moriatakis, Alice Schacher, Grace Dallen, Kloe Mannering

The Championships arguably represent the highest quality of U15 Girls hockey in all Australia. There were 32 teams representing 25 separate Associations across NSW participating in 4 divisions over 3 days. The hockey was sparkling, even if the weather reminded everyone that hockey is a winter sport, even in northern NSW. There were plenty of Glebe parents, siblings and friends present in vocal support of the girls.

The Glebe girls all played exceptionally well. The Sydney U15/1 team finished a very credible 5th out of 10 in Division 1, having won 3 games, drawn 1 game and lost 1 game. The Sydney U15/2 team in Division 3 went one better and made the semi-finals, but were desperately unlucky to lose that game against Sutherland.

Kloe Mannering and Mim Pritchard were very fortunate to have been selected into the NSW State team squad and will soon participate at a 3 day residential trial at Newcastle to see whether they can make the U15 State team or either of the U15 or U14 State Development teams. All of the other Glebe girls were very deserving and very unlucky not to have also been selected into the squad.

Well done to all the Glebe girls. The Glebe Women's club has been very encouraging of all the girls within the junior club. Each of the girls playing representative hockey for Sydney at Grafton has also played a number of games for the Glebe Women's grade teams this season and learnt much from the experience. Many thanks to Louise Tapsell and all the women for making the junior girls feel so welcome.

Glebe Under 11 Rep Girls at Canberra Carnival - June Long Weekend



Back (L-R): Emma Alexander-Prideaux, Olivia Cain, Sarah Brine, Talia Morrow, Asha Machin-Hunt
Middle (L-R): Layla Riley, Olive Currie, Annie Millar, Billy Pritchard
Front (L-R): Prudie Dallen, Bandala Farrawell, Teagan Howe Absent: Jasmine Howe

U11 Tamworth Carinval - York Cup & Kim Small Shield 29-30 June 2013

The future of Glebe hockey is looking better than ever as our junior players participate with enthusiasm and skill at representative level.

This weekend, a large number of Glebe juniors represented our Club and Association with distinction at the York Cup and Kim Small Shield tournament in Tamworth. A total of 34 separate teams from across NSW and this year for the first time, a team from the ACT, coached by Michael York, participated in four divisions, being two boys divisions and two girls divisions. Over 400 junior players attended. The Carnival commenced in 2003 and has rightly come to be regarded as the de facto U11 NSW State Championships. While there was no earthquake this year, Tamworth was at its sparkling best, with dry and reasonably clear weather throughout. There was plenty of local media coverage, including a photograph of our own Emma Alexander Prideaux making the newspaper.

Sydney Junior Hockey Association fielded five representative teams, being three boys and two girls' teams. All up 15 Glebe players (4 boys and 11 girls) participated at the Carnival across all of the five Sydney Juniors representative teams.

Sydney Juniors' participated with great sportsmanship, effort and skill throughout the tournament. The format of the tournament changed somewhat this year, presenting challenges at times for the enthusiastic supporters keeping up with the leaderboard, in what is a carnival focused on development and enjoyment of hockey.



Back (L-R): Sarah Brine, Talia Morrow, Jasmine Howe, Asha Machin-Hunt, Yuri Farrawell, Matthew West, Olivia Cain,
Middle: (L-R): Emma Alexander-Prideaux, Layla Riley, Olive Currie, Annie Millar
Front (L-R): Teagan Howe, Calam Baird, Riley Nilan, Bandala Farrawell

The York A Division Boys (U11/1) including our own Riley Nilan and Calam Baird finished undefeated, but in a thrilling final match of the tournament were defeated by Newcastle in a nail-biting 1 on 1 format elimination. This replaces the penalty stroke, but is no less of a pressure cooker for players and supporters alike. Yuri Farrawell and his team-mates in the U11/2 boys played in the higher-grade pool, and performed with distinction. The Under 11/3 Boys featuring Glebe's Matthew West finished runners up in the York B division pool.

The Kim Small Shield saw many of our junior girls in action. In the Kim Small A division, our girls played well, and reversed an earlier pool loss to finish in a very Australian hockey bronze medal position. The team included Asha Machin-Hunt, Bandala Farrawell, Emma Alexander-Prideaux, Jasmine Howe and Olivia Cain.

In the Kim Small B Division (U11/2), the girls performed beautifully throughout, and finished equal leaders, however were denied back-to-back titles in a count back of goals scored. Talia Morrow captained her side with great maturity and received her team's "Player Award" from the coaches. The Sydney 2 girls included Teagan Howe, Sarah Brine, Olive Currie, Layla Riley and Annie Millar, all of who made their coach and families very proud.

Kate Alexander coached the Sydney U11/2 girls for the second year and delivered what must be regarded as some of the most inspiring team talks of the carnival. Her assistant coach Sam Alexander-Prideaux demonstrated enormous potential with his tactical insights and skill development. Wendy Machin was a most gracious and supportive team manager for the Sydney U11/1 Girls. Both ladies generously insisted that their traditional team gift was a donation to their Oxfam charity walk. Impressive.

Glebe families and supporters attended the Carnival in large numbers. The possibility of a Glebe bus really should not be discounted. In what was a most convivial evening, 47 of us gathered at the Longyard Hotel for dinner on the opening night of the carnival. While disappointingly the promised cowboys did not arrive, both kids and adults showed the true reasons Glebe is such a successful family club. Many generations of hockey talent shared stories, laughed and formed what will undoubtedly be lifelong friendships. It was great to see so many Glebe families and supporters making the 420 km trip up the New England Highway to Tamworth. The Glebe kids were encouraging and enthusiastic in their support of other Sydney teams and, particularly, other Glebe players.

The participation and success of these kids builds on the fantastic work done over many years by Vernon Howe and a number of team coaches, many of whom were at the Carnival as supportive parents. The kids are grateful for the logistics support and dedication of their parents and long suffering siblings that allows them to achieve their potential. And we genuinely thank Mark Noller for his ceaseless work and the Glebe Hockey Club generally for its promotion, support and valuing of junior development.

HNSW State Championships

CLUB NEWS

Glebe Players at the HNSW State Championships (8th - 10th of June 2013) Newcastle International Hockey Centre

The Hockey NSW State Championships were held over the Queens Birthday long weekend (8th - 10th of June 2013) at the Newcastle International Hockey Centre. Whilst most of the Glebe 1st and 2nd grade contingent saw it as an opportunity to escape from Hockey for the weekend six Glebe players in Matthew Wark, Dominic Tintner, Bj Bruton, Ross Bougoukas, Aleks Manou and Mitch Tudor all travelled up the Pacific Hwy to compete for Sydney.

The State championships as the name suggests invites teams from all over the State of NSW to compete in annual carnival. The annual Carnival offers players from around the State of NSW the chance to compete against current Australian players, State players and Sydney Premier League players which they might not otherwise play against playing in their local hockey Association competition. Matthew, Bj, Ross, Alexs and Mitch predominantly played in the Sydney Number 1 team with Dominic playing predominantly in the Sydney number 2 team.

On the first day of competition (Saturday the 8th of June) the Sydney number 1 team had comfortable wins against Bathurst and the Central Coast, whilst the Sydney number 2 team had resounding 8 - 0 wins against Illawarra and Grafton. Both Sydney teams would enter the second day of competition on top the table. The second day saw the Sydney number 1 team take on Newcastle where they recorded a 5 - 0 victory but were pushed all the way by a star studded Goulburn Team featuring London Olympic Team member Glenn Turner. Sydney ran out eventual winner 2 - 1. The Sydney number 2 team continued on their winning ways with a 4 - 1 win against Southern highlands and a 3 - 0 win against Tamworth.

The third day of competition saw the final qualifications games being played with Sydney number drawing 1 - 1 with Grafton but advanced through to the final after finishing higher on the ladder. Sydney number 2 team advanced through to their respective final after accounting for Newcastle 5 - 3.

The Premier Division final was played out against Sydney Number 1 team and the Illawarra team who had also gone through the competition rounds undefeated. By all reports the final was a fierce contest and could have gone either way. After 70 minutes the teams were locked at 0 - 0 and sudden death drop off was employed to try and separate the two teams. The drop off rule states that 2 periods of 6 minutes will be played by nine players including the Goalkeeper nominated by the coach. If by the end of the first 6 minutes if a goal has not be scored then each team will remove two players from the field and immediately change ends. In the second period of sudden death extra time Sydney was awarded a penalty stroke which was duly converted by Glebe's Ross Bougoukas handing Sydney the HNSW premier division title. The Sydney number 2 side played their final out in regulation time defeating orange 3 - 1.

At the conclusion of the Championships Matthew Wark was awarded the premier Division player of the Championships meaning that Matthew was the best player in that State at the Championships. This is a fantastic achievement by Matthew and a moment which i'm sure he is very proud of. From all reports the Glebe contingent who played at the Championships all performed to the best of their ability and did their club proud. Well done Gentlemen on a fine achievement. The club commends you on your efforts.

Glebe Players Selected in the HNSW Waratahs Squad

Following the conclusion of the State championships Hockey NSW (HNSW) named a 35 man AHL Waratahs squad. A trial is organised for the 28th of July 2013 where the final squad will be chosen to compete at the Australian Championships being held in Melbourne, Victoria. The competition will run from the 27th of September till the 5th of October 2013.

Three Glebe players have been selected in the squad in Bj Bruton - Goalkeeper, Matthew Wark and Mark Paterson. All three are current 1st Grade players for Glebe. The Coach is Aaron Oman who coached the team to a semifinals berth last year and is hoping to go one step further this year. Aaron is the current coach of the Glebe 1st Grade side whilst also playing 2nd grade for the club. The Glebe club wishes the three Glebe players all the best and we hope to see them competing in Melbourne later on in the year.

Synthetic Turf Committee Report

The Glebe District Hockey Club Synthetic Turf Committee has got the ball rolling and produced a Plan of Management (POM) to the Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus. Sydney Secondary College has three campuses one in Balmain, Leichhardt which cater for students from years 7 - 10 and then the Blackwattle Bay Campus which caters for Senior Students in years 11 - 12. Each Campus has a Principal, with an overriding Principle above them. The Principal of the Blackwattle Bay Campus will look over the GDHC POM before sending it onto the Principal of the three campuses. This is a slow process and we hope to hear back from the Blackwattle Bay Campus after the School Holidays.

A Fair Go for All - Opinion Piece

On Friday 28th June 2013 an article was published in the Australian Financial Review Newspaper entitled OFF THE MARK (page 6 of the AFR Review Section) written by Mr Ted Hopkins.

<http://m.afr.com/Page/Uuid/95f7d47e-d952-11e2-a8ee-f7413276ad1f>

The article was sent to me by Ian Paterson who is a Glebe stalwart, current first grade player, one time NSW player and an ex-social secretary of the Club, who suggested some of what Mr Hopkins had to say might interest the Supporters of the Glebe District Hockey Club.

Mr Hopkins' article is wordy and loquacious, but he makes some interesting observations about the AFL (Australian Football League) Competition, which might apply equally to the Sydney Hockey Competitions.

I briefly summarise Mr Hopkins' thoughts and add a few of my own.

All players and spectators of hockey should be treated equally when it comes to scheduling of competition fixtures. All players pay equal dues to SHA and should be given equal status, irrespective of the SHA competition in which they play.

In summary sixth grade teams should not be given the 8.30 pm Saturday night games every week and the first grade teams given the 2.30pm fixture every Saturday.

Hockey is, for 98% of players, an amateur game played for fun, exercise and camaraderie. The competition should not revolve around the 2% of elite players to the detriment of the other 98% of ordinary fun loving hockey players.

On a different tack, increasingly there are too many one-sided walk-overs in the top divisions of SHA Competitions. The clubs with money to spend attract players from outside their own junior ranks, which bolsters their capabilities and improves their on-field performance. The SHA Premier Division Competition is increasing becoming dominated by Clubs who field very few of their own junior players in their top teams.

Most of the players in these teams are imports from outside their own junior ranks. This development is detrimental to the sport of hockey and makes for a lopsided competition.

Is there a different way to tackle the challenge?

My suggestion is that all Premier Division teams should have at least eight out of the allowable fourteen players on the team sheet who have played for that club in the Under-15 age division or younger. This rule change would encourage a club's junior development, but leave room for six players in a team from the country and overseas.

At present clubs can cherry pick players from wherever they like, play them in the Premier Division team, win the Competition and view this as a significant achievement.

Achievement comes from giving young children the opportunity to participate in organised sport, enjoy themselves, get some exercise and developing social skills and long standing friendships. The better and more interested juniors will develop their hockey and some of them will filter through to the Premier Division team.

As they currently stand the SHA Rules do nothing to encourage clubs to develop their junior base and make it all too easy for clubs to buy a Premier Division Premiership and ignore their junior base. This will inevitably lead to a reduction in popularity of the sport of hockey. The current SHA structure is fixated on the apex of the triangle while ignoring its base. Given time the triangle will topple, unless the policy settings are adjusted to encourage junior participation and junior development.

On the point of money buying success, Glebe's first grade women's team in 2013 is competing in the Sydney Women's Hockey League (SWHL) Division One competition for the first time in many years, having won the Minor Premiership of the Metro League Two competition in 2012 and being promoted to the top division as a result. Glebe's team in ML1 is sitting in last position on the competition points table and two weeks was beaten by Sydney University 9-0. Macarthur the team that finished last in the 2012 SWHL ML1 competition and was relegated to allow Glebe to be promoted for 2013 fared no better than Glebe and suffered some heavy losses in the 2012 competition.

Many of the players in the Sydney University team are NSW representative players who are paid many thousands of dollars to play for the Sydney University team. The Sports Union fees of the many are used to subsidise the sporting participation of the elite few. If I was paying Sport's Union fees at Sydney University I would be asking a few questions. These sports scholarships are another example of the elite being favoured over the ordinary student. How is this equitable?

How can a district club who relies on junior development to produce its own Premier Division players and who do not have a pot of money to buy success compete in such a competition? If the present situation is allowed to prevail it is inevitably that the Premier Division Competition will shrink over time, to only four or five competitive teams. How is this development good for the sport of hockey and the development of the sport at the grassroots?

Policies should be developed which encourage clubs to provide hockey as a sporting option to the youth of Australia, rather than policies which allow clubs to buy success without any of the blood, sweat and tears involved in nurturing their own talent.

Any reader of the Red Rag who have a view either, for or against on my comments, is encouraged to write a letter to the Red Rag Editor. All letters will be published. Bear in mind that the Red Rag is read by our juniors and their parents and any comments must be expressed appropriately.

By Harry Wark

Glebe District Hockey Club Historian.