

Feb 2014

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President's Report

Well, it's only a few weeks away till the competition starts for our seniors, noting our juniors commence the weekend of 21st March (Friday).

My best wishes to all teams and my thanks upfront to those who have volunteered to coach, manage and transport players. You are invaluable!

CLUBHOUSE

The refurbishment of our clubhouse marches on and we trust this will be completed soon. We are all waiting for the day we can enjoy the clubhouse and really be proud to say this is our home.

SPONSORSHIP

I am pleased to advise that the Exchange Hotel at Balmain will again be supporting our club in 2014 due to the efforts of Adam Campano. Adam has already booked our first event - to welcome players/members and celebrate the start of the season. I ask that you all make the effort to support this event, not just players, but also all of our junior parents and social/life members. You will have a great time and you will be provided with the opportunity to meet your fellow Glebe brethren. I make the point, the more that attend this event, the better the \$ return for the club. Look out for information on this night.

STORMS CLOUDS – NEW HOCKEY STRUCTURE

There are some big changes ahead for not only Sydney Hockey, but the entire state of NSW. Hockey NSW is pushing ahead full steam to form new associations in 2015 and eventually run a 2-3 graded elite Sydney wide men's and women's competition, with the lower grades to play in our own zone area competition. There are meetings coming up in the next two weeks with both Sydney and Hockey NSW and as a forerunner to these, please click on the following link:

<http://hockeynsw.com.au/About-Us/Resources/Association-Reform>

When you get to the webpage, I urge you all to click on "Presentation from President's Forum." This document details fully what is being proposed. Check out the other tabs/icons as well.

You will see that we have been placed into the new Association currently known as **Metro Central & East**, which will comprise the following associations and clubs.

Associations

Eastern Districts Women's

Canterbury Women's

Sydney Hockey Association

Sydney Junior Hockey Association

Clubs

Bankstown, Briars, Bentstix, Easts, Glebe, Monterey,

St George-Randwick, Sydney Uni, Wests and UNSW.

We suspect Sutherland would join this group/zone as well.



It would appear that Sydney Hockey Association and many of its clubs might oppose this change. Our Hockey NSW meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26th March, with the SHA General Meeting scheduled for Mon 31st March. It will be interesting to see what we know after these two meetings. Given the importance, I will report to you all around Wed 2nd April.

WEDDED BLISS

Many of our club members including myself, were blessed to be able to attend the recent wedding of Mark Paterson and Gabrielle Wark. It was a beautiful afternoon/evening and our congratulations to Mark and Gabby and of course, our best wishes for the future.

Danny O'Brien

M: 0412 876 657

E: presidentglebehockey@gmail.com

Men's Club Captain Address

Mens News



The start of the season is upon us and soon all the hard work put in over the off-season will be put into practice and we will see where we are at as a club. I am confident that we will be more than competitive across all our grades and especially in the top two. Third grade have been reinstated into SL1, where they rightfully belong, and I know they're looking forward to showing SHA that they should have never been removed from that division. All will be revealed from Saturday April 5th 2014 and the first round promises to be a cracker against Sutherland at Sutherland.

The first social event of the month will be held at our sponsor's pub, The Exchange Hotel in Balmain. This was a great night last season and it promises to be again this year. I hope everyone gets along as it is a good opportunity for players from all grades to mix socially and get to know the new players who have joined the club and show them how we celebrate what will hopefully be a big few wins over our traditional rivals.

Now that the new season is dawning on us it's important that everyone works harder now at this early stage of the season to make sure that all the hard work that has been put in over the last few months doesn't go to waste. As they say you can't win a competition in the first half of the season but you sure as hell can lose one.

Glebe Men Win the inaugural Ryde 9's



2014 Glebe 9's Team (L - R)

**Back Row: Alex Sheard, Alisdair Brown, Alister Cullen, Chris Holmes, John Miller, Dylan Howe, Jake Ribarovski, Luke Rogers.
Front Row: Ian Paterson, Mitch Tudor, Dominic Tintner, Bj Bruton, Mark Paterson, Josh La Spina, Aaron Oman (Coach)**

On Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd March 2014 a squad of predominantly Glebe 1st and 2nd grade Men's players competed in the inaugural Ryde 9 a side competition which was played at The Ryde Hockey Complex. The teams which competed during the two weekends included Gordon North Sydney, Sydney University, Ryde, University of Technology and Glebe.

Hockey 9's is a variation on field hockey and is also played at international level with the inaugural International competition held in Perth, Western Australia during October 2011. While played on a standard size hockey field, there are a number of variations in its rules, most significantly the reduction of the number of players on a team from eleven to nine.

On Saturday, Glebe started the competition losing 4 - 3 against Ryde, then following up with a solid win over Gordon North Sydney. Sunday saw Glebe register wins against Sydney University and The University of Technology which gave the Glebe team enough cumulative points to make the final which was to be played against Gordon North Sydney.

The Final was an entertaining game with both teams scoring two goals apiece during regulation time. This forced the game into sudden death with two 5 minute periods in which neither team was able to add to their scoring tally. This forced the two teams into a Penalty shoot out whereby five players from each team in turn start with the ball on the 23-metre line opposite the goal, and must attempt to successfully get past the opposing goalkeeper and score a goal within the allotted time period of eight seconds. Glebe won the penalty shootout scoring 4 goals to Gordon North Sydney's 2, the Glebe players played to the best of their ability every game and never gave an inch. Thank you to the spectators who came out to watch and lend their support it was much appreciated. Congratulations to Josh La Spina who picked up the highest goalscoring award with a total of eight goals.



The pre-season preparation for our five women's teams has continued strongly in March.

With great success at the inaugural Ryde super 9s tournament, our trials have continued against Briars and UNSW. Our teams for season 2014 will be finalised in the next week or so, and these trials have given our coaches and selectors a great opportunity to see the skill and fitness levels of our playing group.

Our players trialling for Glebe 2, 3, 4, and 5 will finish the pre-season with games on Sunday, 30 March against Ryde.

Please keep posted for the announcement of our final team lists.

We're all looking forward to the season ahead!

Glebe Ladies take out inaugural Sydney 9's Comp at Ryde

Ryde Hockey Club hosted a new format hockey tournament at the weekend, and Glebe came out the winners in both the Ladies and Mens competitions!!

Named the Sydney 9's, the competition was based on the successful International Series played in Perth for the last two years. As the name suggests, games were played with just nine players a side, although the full pitch was used. This gave a bit more space for the players to express themselves, but also called for high fitness levels, as games were shorter (15 minutes each way for the women, 20 minutes each for the men)!

Each team had to keep two attackers in the opposition half, which made for quick counter-attacking moves. The other main rule differences concerned the long corners and penalty corners. For penalty corners, the defending side were allowed just two defenders and the keeper behind the baseline, while the attacking side had to have three players on the 25, in addition to the injector. All other players from both teams started in other half of the pitch. The ball had to go outside the 25 before going back into the circle, where 'normal' open play rules applied – so no stick traps and drag-flicking. Long corners were played in a similar fashion, except that three defenders were allowed behind the baseline, while there were four attackers on the 25.

Due to late withdrawals, there were only five clubs in both the Mens and Ladies draw, but the action on the pitch was non-stop, despite the regular rain showers!

Representing Glebe Ladies at the tournament were: Josie Barron, Jo Symes, Litiana Field, Charlie Webb, Lou Tapsell, Becky Howe, Alisha Middleton (new to the club this season), Kate Gleeson, Tessa Bruin, Laura Schmahmann, Alex Glading, Helen Benfield, Hannah Momot, Amy Lovegrove and Andrea Lum, with Bish trying to instill some semblance of tactics on proceedings!

The first game against Gordon-North Sydney saw both teams quickly experiencing the faster pace of the game – Glebe took the game to their higher ranked opponents, and created some good early chances. However, they failed to capitalize, and fell behind to a fast GNS break. Glebe conceded a second goal at the end, from a penalty corner shot. Having taken on board some key lessons, Glebe then faced a weaker UTS team, and scored a comprehensive victory, goals coming from Jo Symes, Becky Howe and Charlie Webb. The final game of Day 1 saw Glebe play hosts Ryde. In an enthralling contest, Glebe grabbed the victory, with a well-worked team goal, finished by Laura Schmahmann.

Sunday started with an early game against UTS, and Glebe again put their opponents to the sword, with a great display of attacking hockey. Kate Gleeson helped herself to two goals, and Becky Howe grabbed a third, giving Glebe second place in the rankings, and a semi-final against the hosts. After a long break, which allowed for a healthy lunch (or a nap to help recover from a late night....no names mentioned, eh, Tessa?!), Glebe put in a top quality team effort. Glebe missed some early chances, and then Ryde began to dominate. This brought out the best in the Glebe defence, and Josie pulled off some excellent saves. With the game still goalless, five minutes extra time was played to sap the energy levels even further, but the girls gave their all, and at the end went through to the Final due to ending the competition games on more points.

After watching the Glebe men win through to their Final, the women re-focussed for the deciding game, once more facing GNS, who had won all their games, and not conceded a goal. GNS played a strong passing game, exploiting the width of the pitch, but Glebe defended well, and stuck to their gameplan, hitting back on the counter-attack. Glebe went ahead with a superb team goal, finished off by Tessa Bruin. GNS came back strongly, but again the Glebe defence held firm, and their midfield worked tirelessly to ensure GNS were kept at bay. Hamstrings and lungs were tested to their extreme, but eventually the clock wound down, and Glebe won the title by the single goal.

Becky Howe deservedly won the women's Player of the Tournament trophy. The exhausted girls stayed to watch the Glebe men complete the clean sweep, although they took the longest possible route, with extra time and then sudden death penalties, before they walked off with their trophy also.

This was a superb effort by the whole group of sixteen women (and the men's squad also!!), and their performance improved with every game. Now we can return to the 'normal' 11-a-side game, with the skills learnt from this competition.

The 2014 season was in full swing this weekend with the Central Area Competition running its first trial matches across all age groups (U11s to U17s), the Sydney Metro Competition launching straight into Round 1 (U15A & U17A) and the fantastic Minkey program in its second week (U9s).

The Glebe U13A Redbacks secured the best result of the first weekend of matches winning 3-0 against UNSW. The balance for the results for the U11 to U17 teams are set out below.



Central Area Matches - all matches were trials only

1. Glebe U11A Redbacks 0 defeated by Sutherland Stingers 7
2. Glebe U11B Strikers 2 won against Glebe U11B Strikers 0
3. Glebe U13A Redbacks 3 won against UNSW 0
4. Glebe U13B Hornets v Moorebank (result pending)
5. Glebe U15B Strikers 1 won against Glebe U15B Hornets 0

Sydney Metro Matches - Round 1

1. Glebe U15A Redbacks 0 defeated by Ryde 4
2. Glebe / Briars U17A (combined team) 2 defeated by NWS 3

The Sydney Hockey Association (SHA) have included Central Area junior competition pages on their website, so parents and players were able to monitor the progress of their team throughout the season. This is an excellent initiative and the Central Area competition pages are very high quality. Thank you to everyone at SHA who helped to get this up and running. See: <http://www.sydneyhockey.com.au/competition/dashboard/teamplan/5/0/0/0>

Visiting a number of the grounds over the weekend, it was great to see the Glebe teams back on the hockey pitch and the Glebe supporters in full spirits cheering the teams on.

It has also been great to see so many families down at Jubilee oval at the Wednesday Div B trainings. The weather has been perfect and there is nothing better than sitting under a tree overlooking Jubilee oval on a Wednesday evening enjoying the club facilities. Again, thank you to all the club members who work so hard to make everyone welcome at the clubhouse.

Ian Dallen

GDHC Junior Convenor

The Glebe Club is one with a very long and family rich history.

An achievement by the Dallen family in 2014 should be noted and celebrated. There are 4 Dallen siblings playing in their third year with the Club. All 4 have just been selected into Division A teams for the 2014 season.

Congratulations to Archie Dallen in the U11A team, to Prudie Dallen in the U13A team and to Grace and Hugh in the U15A team. A remarkable collective achievement! The Club is fortunate to have such enthusiastic (and skilful) hockey families involved. Additionally, and just in case the Dallen family did not have enough to do in Glebe hockey, the children's dad, Ian, has been generous enough to step into the very large shoes of Mark Noller as the Club's new Junior Convenor. Thank you to Ian and all the very best to him for the role.

There is a still unconfirmed rumour that mum, Sarah, is in deep training for her Glebe Women's grade debut. Fingers crossed on that front.

Roving GDHC Junior Reporter
David Pritchard

Finally, the 2014 hockey season is about to start! It seems like forever since last season ended and everyone is chomping at the bit to put on the maroon and white and represent with pride.

Glebe Hockey Club are proudly sponsored by the Exchange Hotel, an exquisite hotel in the heart of Balmain and we encourage all club members, players, parents, partners, social members to attend the first official function of the year.

All men's games are played during the day with the women's comp starting the following day so it should be a cracking night. It would be great if people could have dinner there as the more money spent at the hotel, the more will come back in sponsorship dollars to the club.

All members will receive an Exchange Hotel membership card on the night and you will need to provide it to bar staff to swipe every time you make a purchase so that the sponsorship dollars start coming in.

Kids are welcome as long as they're accompanied by a parent, but of course normal RSA laws apply re supply of alcohol.

Dress nice, bring some good banter and I'll see you there! Come see me to get your membership card on the night!

Cheers,

Adam Campano
GDHC Social Convenor

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB
PRESENTS

NEW PLAYER NIGHT

DINNER & DRINKS

SAT
5TH
APRIL

7PM-12AM, THE EXCHANGE HOTEL
THE BOARDROOM, LEVEL 1
CNR BEATTIE & MULLENS
STREETS, BALMAIN

U/18's welcome when accompanied by a parent

exchange hotel balmain

Is the siting of a three-quarter sized multipurpose synthetic turf field in the Harold Park-Federal Park open space initiative a realistic possibility?

I will begin with a short story before address this question.

The Duke of Wellington was the British Commander that led the British

forces to victory over the French Army of Napoleon Bonaparte on 18 June 1815 at Waterloo, which is 10 kilometres south of Brussels, in Belgium. His army was smaller in number than that of Napoleon Bonaparte, but it was well trained, well drilled, efficient and effective.

After the decisive battle the Duke said the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. Eton is an English Independent Boarding School for boys situated 50 kilometres west of London, at Windsor, next to the river Thames. Nineteen British Prime Ministers have been schooled at Eton.

The ability to work in teams, to accept instruction, to respond quickly, accurately and decisively to constantly changing inputs, and to co-operate with others are life skills learnt from playing a team sport. These are the qualities that the Duke of Wellington's troops possessed on the battlefield at Waterloo. These qualities are every bit as important for children to learn as reading, writing and arithmetic, and are not learnt from sitting behind a desk at school listening to a teacher.

Teamwork is defined as cooperative efforts to achieve a common goal. It is universally recognised as a crucial quality for children to learn and to put into practice. Team sports are excellent ways by which children learn co-operation, fitting-in, listening to instructions, effective communication, team-dexterity, giving feedback, receiving feedback, learning how to win, learning how to lose, adaptability, flexibility and learning respect and consideration for their teammates and the opposition players, coaches and supporters.

Community (non-school) team sports mix children with other children with whom they may not have had any contact. New friendships are made and new associations formed.

It is the interaction of children with players in their own team, players in the opposition team, with coaches, managers, club officials, and supporters that is important. In the process children get strenuous exercise and improve their fitness levels, attain new skills and improve their confidence levels as they acquire these skills.

In short team sport at the community level should be encouraged, fostered and nurtured for both the physical and behavioural development it provides for children and young adults.

This gets me back to the real purpose of this article.

I believe the City of Sydney Council should be proactive in providing facilities for active outdoor sport in the City of Sydney Council Area. The population of the City of Sydney Council Area has increased dramatically in the last ten years, but to my knowledge there has not been any addition to the stocks of fields on which to play outdoor sports.

Why is this so?

The Councillors of the City of Sydney are all middle aged. They mix with middle aged people, they think like middle aged people. Bird watching, strolling through the park and other passive recreational pursuits are top priorities for them. It is most likely many decades since any of the City of Sydney Councillors last played an outdoor team sport (Councillors, if I am wrong, please let me know).



They are not particularly motivated to improve facilities for the children of the area who like to run and play outdoor team games. It is up to us, Members and Supporters of the Glebe District Hockey Club to present our case for extra outdoor recreation fields in the City of Sydney Council Area, to the Councillors in a clear, concise way.

Forty percent of the Mirvac Harold Park Redevelopment is to become open space. None of this space will be available for active recreation. In the next year or two the Council plans to redevelop the land adjacent to the Crescent Road, Annandale, which it owns. The land was acquired by Leichhardt Council over ten years ago and was transferred to the City of Sydney Council when the suburb of Glebe was transferred from Leichhardt to to the City of Sydney Council area.

This land would be ideal for a three quarter sized multipurpose synthetic field. If the ground was designed to be a synthetic field it could be used seven days a week and still be in perfect condition day-in, day-out. The field could be used for a variety of sports, by both local schools and local community sporting clubs.

Having a synthetic turf close to Jubilee Oval for our junior players to train on would be a boon for the Club. It would mean our juniors could train on a synthetic turf field close to their home and eliminate the hassle parents have of transporting their children to and from the Cintra Park, Concord synthetic field, where the top teams of each age group currently train.

In many instances children could walk to the field from their own homes with minimal input from their parents, no battling the peak-hour traffic, no transportation irritations. After training the children and parents could walk 100 metres across Johnstons Creek Canal to have a sausage sandwich, a drink, discuss the training session and plan for the games coming up on Saturday. The social life of the Club and enjoyment of the evening by players, parents and supporters would be substantially improved.

Having the entire Club's junior players train in the Jubilee precinct at the same time, on the same night is a goal to be striven for. It would enrich the après training session for players and parents, increase canteen turnover and increase the enjoyment of all those present. It is an idea worth pursuing.

The field could be a hybrid synthetic surface with a minimal requirement for watering. It should have night lighting to enable training until 9-9.30 pm and preferably should have a small dug-out area for players to change and keep their belongings out of the weather. The field would only need a waist-high fence around it, except behind the goals at both ends, where a high fence would be required. The purpose of the high fence is to stop high balls which miss the goals and are travelling at a height which could come over the top of a low fence and have the potential to strike a person walking behind the goals.

Senior training could also be held at the field after junior training is finished. This would enable the Club to train within the Glebe area. It would be convenient for the players and let the community see that senior hockey is alive and well in the Glebe Area.

The funding of the facility would be open for discussion. If the Council funded the field it could be used by all community groups, for a fee determined by Council. The Hockey Club might even be able to part-fund the field if the Council requested this, and then get a share of the rental income generated by the field.

I suspect the installation of a field would cost of the order of one million dollars. The exact cost of the field would depend on the amount of subsoil preparation required before the base was laid. The extent of any sub-base preparation can only be determined with certainty by drilling core sample holes and assessing the composition of the sub-base geology. What can readers of this article do to increase the chances that this idea might become a reality?

If you support this proposition to install a synthetic multipurpose synthetic field next to the Carpet Warehouse at the Crescent, Annandale please send an email expressing your support to Ms Illira Margaritis at the City of Sydney Council. Ms Margaritis is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the City of Sydney Council and her e-mail address is shown below.

imargaritis@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

The more players and supporters that write to Council, the better chance Council will lend us an ear and seriously consider our proposal. The Club has at least 400 current players and social members on its books, and many more Club supporters and ex-players out in the community. Let's mobilize all our voices and impress on the City of Sydney Council that a three-quarter sized synthetic multipurpose synthetic field at Federal would be a boon for the children of the area.

Local schools would benefit from a three-quarter sized multipurpose synthetic playing field at Federal and bringing this proposal to the attention of local school teachers would be helpful. If local school teachers find the proposal reasonable, they too might be motivated to write to Council in support of the synthetic field.

Over the last ten years, the number of babies born in the City of Sydney Council area has doubled, the area's primary school enrolments have doubled and the number of students attending secondary school has increased 70%. All the objective information tells us there are many more children living in the City of Sydney Council area than there were 5 or 10 years ago and their needs should be catered for.

In conclusion, a three quarter sized multipurpose synthetic playing field at Federal Park Annandale next to Carpet Warehouse would give the Club's junior movement a significant boost and help sustain the Club's struggle to survive. Without a flourishing junior base the Club, which is in its eighty-fourth year in 2014, runs the risk of losing its community relevance and becoming defunct just like the Glebe Rugby Union Club, the Glebe Rugby League Club, the Glebe Athletic Club, the Glebe Cricket Club, the Glebe Lacrosse Club and the Glebe Cycle Club have done in days past.

Community sporting clubs are fragile organizations and without the full attention of its membership, help from the local community and the support and encouragement of Council are always at risk of folding-up. A three-quarter sized synthetic field at Federal Park would provide substantial help to the Glebe District Hockey Club in its quest to survive as a flourishing local community based sporting organization in 2014, and well into the foreseeable future.

With the beginning of a new hockey season upon many Hockey clubs in Australia the annual debate on leadership will most likely be a resounding discussion in most clubhouses. The Australian Men's Hockey team has recently spent time looking at its own leadership structure. Gone is the rotational captaincy, which was first brought in by the then national coach Barry Dancer back in 2001 and one such system which has stayed with the Kookaburra's till 2014. In its place, a leadership team led by Mark Knowles which features a greater number of athletes with varying responsibilities within the team.

While a lot of focus is always placed on a team's Captain, Hockey compared to many other sports is a fast, reactive game. With unlimited interchange, players are on and off the field and the Captain could be off for as long as 15min - 20min during the course of game.

One of the most important considerations must be that the team captain can cope with the responsibility that the captaincy brings without it negatively impacting on his or her performance. The Captain should still seek to deliver on-field performances as in the end that is everybody's responsibility. Captains also have the responsibility of setting a good example at training, during the game and showing a strong work ethic whilst always remaining positive. Captains need to develop friendship connections off the field to better hence team harmony and cohesion on the field.

Our very own GDHC Life Member Patrick Nilan who was an indispensable cog in the Reds' First Grade side between 1958 and 1978 also captained the Glebe First Grade side for 12 seasons in the Sydney First Grade competition. Patrick to date still holds the record for the most First Grade appearances' by any Glebe player with 361 first grade games.

Do GDHC teams need to employ a rotational captaincy among senior players sharing the load and spreading the responsibility? Should they stick with the current arrangement of one Captain? Have the times changed from having one on-field Captain in today's modern game??

The Red Rag would like to know our thoughts on any of the following articles in the March Red Rag.

Please send any remarks or thoughts to the following email address or via post to the following postal address.

By Mark Paterson

Glebe District Hockey Club Secretary

markgpaterson@icloud.com

Mark Paterson
12 Alexandra Rd
Glebe NSW 2037