

### President's Report

I am disappointed to be making the following comments in this month's Red Rag, but I feel I need to make them, with a view to hopefully ensuring that I will not have to mention them again in 2014, as we all seek to have an enjoyable and successful season.

I have been contacted over the last couple of weeks about players dropping out on match day and even as late as 1-2 hours prior to the game, leaving teams short and consequently forcing other players to double-up. This is not good enough for a club such as ours.

Moreover, it is not fair on those players nor their team, who now have to play with as many as 3-4 tired players, with possibly now no reserves and who have to confront a fresh and raring to go opposition. For these players this is very disheartening and ultimately, can totally sour their day's experience.

I note that in the main, players are being asked to turn up 1 game prior to their game – surely this is a given. I would think (I should have said I know) hockey is not just about playing your game and going home straight after.

Surely, there has got to be more to it than just that? If not, then maybe Glebe is not the club for you!

Too many, worked too hard, for too long, to make this club what it is today and there are just as many today working just as hard and just as long to provide you with the opportunity to play hockey for this great club. You would honour them and their efforts by just making a few simple changes to your game day routines.

My simple thought - why wouldn't you get out to the ground early to support your fellow club-mates and then after your game enter into friendly banter with your teammates over a beer or softie – “whatever floats your boat” as they say, whilst now supporting the next team, even if just for half a game? There is not a better hockey day experience than this!

Please, I ask that you respect the club's wishes to get to the ground 1 game prior to your game - it helps immeasurably when we encounter player shortages or we find that no umpires have been provided. Plus, it is just great to know that everyone is at the ground and ready to play. If you are running late, please a simple phone call or text is all that is needed by your team captain to settle the nerves.

My final comments on this overall theme – please, please, please, can we all make the effort, at every opportunity, to support the club's social events. They are so important to the club and it goes without saying assists in the vital area of fundraising for the club. Adam Campano is really working hard to organize these events and it is very heartening for Adam when we support these events in good numbers.

On the hockey front - get to training, get yourself fitter and be honest and open about your weekly performances and ask yourself, what are you going to do to make a difference next week to help your team be the best it can be. Respect your coaches/managers and team captains who volunteer their services.

“A Champion Club – A Club of Champions”

Let's make this Glebe “truism” true, not only on the field, but also, just as equally off it.

All the best

Danny O'Brien



Greetings to all members of the Glebe District Hockey Club. Well things are moving thick and fast with the Hockey season under way for all factions of the Club. There are a number of important aspects which I need to communicate to all members and I felt the Red Rag would be a better Vehicle rather than the normal email correspondence.



## The GDHC Website

In my opinion the GDHC website is the best Club Hockey website in Sydney if not Australia. There are a number of new aspects being added to the website as it is constantly evolving and being updated. There are two new sections of the website which I would particularly like to draw to your attention to so please see below.

History Tab and the Prominent GDHC Members menu item. This section of the website contains feature Articles, Vale's and Biographies of prominent Glebe District Hockey Club members who have contributed mightily to the life and times of the Club. Information has been collated over the years which has helped to construct many of these stories. If anyone has information pertaining to any of the Prominent GDHC Members which might improve their accuracy, please send through your thoughts and/or sentiments to Club Secretary Mark Paterson at [markgpaterson@icloud.com](mailto:markgpaterson@icloud.com) or by post to 12 Alexandra Rd Glebe NSW 2037.

History Tab and GDHC Life Members Menu Item. This is currently being compiled and completed so please WATCH THIS SPACE for more updates. Currently we have 15 - 16 fully completed GDHC Life Member Biographies which have been completed. As they say "Rome wasn't built in a day", so once completed this will be a great historical record for the GDHC to have and to also pay tribute to members whose overall demeanour and dedication to the values of the Glebe District Hockey Club has been beyond reproach.

## Social Membership

If you are not a playing member for the GDHC in 2014 and wish to keep up to date on all things involving the Glebe District Hockey Club then you may like to join up as a social member of the Hockey Club. Becoming a social member of the Hockey Club entitles you to the following listed below and all it will cost you is \$50. If you wish to become a Social member please see the payment details listed below.

- 1 x Ticket in the Clubs annual 200 Club Raffle
- Receive correspondence on all things Glebe Hockey such playing times, Social News and Events. Also receive every edition of the Clubs Monthly newsletter the Red Rag.
- You will also gain the right to vote at the AGM and receive a copy of the Club's Annual end of Year Report.

National Australia Bank

BSB: 082356

Account: 466231070

Account Name: Glebe District Hockey Club

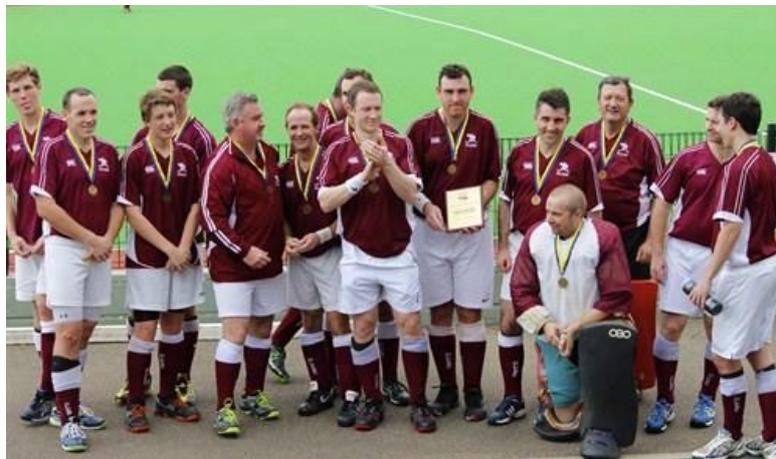
Please ensure you record your name in the transaction details, so that we know who has paid.

Cheques are to be made out to 'Glebe District Hockey Club'

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Club President Danny O'Brien.

I trust everyone enjoyed the Easter break and remembered to honour our fallen on Anzac Day.

It has been a slow start to the season for the Red Men this year with 3rd Grade and 4th Grade the only teams to hit the ground running. 3rd Grade are the toast of the club at the moment with three wins from their opening matches after being promoted two divisions in the off-season. While 4th Grade have also performed well with one win, one draw and a loss from their opening matches, all against competition favourites. Conversely the top two grades have failed to recapture their form and have suffered disappointing losses to sides that last season they either would've beaten convincingly or competed with. To be honest I don't think either 1st Grade or 2nd Grade were mentally ready for the start of the season and it has been a quick wake-up call for the boys. There is no doubting the effort on the day but the skill execution and overall play has not been up to the usual high standards that I know the boys expect of themselves. 1st Grade saw a return to form in the last round match for April beating cross-town rivals, Briars, 4-1, which will have given the side a bit of confidence heading into May. 2nd Grade only played the two matches in April as Norwest Strikers were granted a deferment by SHA for the match due to the fact that NWS was missing too many players who were away on junior rep duty. I know readers of the Red Rag will have their opinions on the validity of such a decision by the governing body and I suggest that these would make a great letter to the editor.



At the end of April this how the Men's team are positioned on their respective tables:

1st Grade: 7th  
2nd Grade: 8th (with a make-up match v NWS to be played)  
3rd Grade: 1st  
4th Grade: 6th  
5th Grade: 7th  
6th Grade: 10th

It doesn't make for great reading but it is early days and you can't win the competition in the first rounds. I am sure by the end of May I will be reporting a much happy state of affairs.

This second month of the season could prove to be a sides a making or their undoing so I would ask all players to redouble your efforts and your commitment to your side to make sure that over the next five rounds to get your sides back up the top of table.

A reminder about fees:

The early bird special for fees expires at the end of next week May 9. So for those keen to give a bit more money to club please ignore this and we can put a few extra dollars towards the clubhouse renovations and our juniors. For those who would love to have a little bit of extra dosh in your pocket then please make sure that you get in beforehand. Fee information and how to pay is located on the club's website under the men's tab.

I wish everyone all the best for their upcoming matches and encourage our loyal band of supporters to continue to show up each week to cheer on the boys. I know they appreciate the support, both positive and negative, because you have given up some of your own time to come down.

Ian Paterson  
Glebe District Hockey Club Captain

We are three weeks into the women's competition and already there have been some great successes and signs of significant improvement. I believe all the girls would agree that the efforts and organisation by Lou and the coaching team in the pre-season training and matches has resulted in a stronger, more-cohesive approach to season 2014.

While round one was tough for all teams, round two and three saw some great results. Glebe 4 had a incredible 9 -0 victory against Tartans in round 2. And while we had a few girls away for the back to back long weekends, all teams now have at least one win on the table and have contained the goals against.

Current ladder standings:

Glebe 1 are securing 2nd  
Glebe 2 are sitting in 6th  
Glebe 3 are holding 2nd  
Glebe 4 are in 3rd  
Glebe 5 are in 4th

Training continues Tuesday from 6.30 - 8.30pm for all teams on Tuesday evenings and every second Thursday for Glebe 1 and 2. We had a great turn out to training last week, so would be great to keep it up as the colder night creep up on us.



Finally, congratulations to our delightful Glebe 1 member, Jo Symes, who is currently representing Australia in the Women's 45's promotional and development tour of Fiji. Well done Jo!!

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Current ladder standings:

Team	Ladder placing
Glebe 1	2
Glebe 2	6
Glebe 3	2
Glebe 4	3
Glebe 5	4

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The 2014 competition matches for all junior teams kicked off before the April school holidays and, after 2 trial matches & 2 competition matches for most teams, all the junior competitions took a 2 week break over the holiday period and re-commenced competition matches on 2 & 3 May.

Our strength (at this early stage of the competitions) appears to be in the U13 age bracket, with both our U13 teams – the U13A Redbacks and the U13B Hornets – starting the season very strongly and recording a number of excellent wins. The Central Area competition tables have not (as at the time of writing this report) been updated since Round 1, so the current position of our teams playing in the Central Area competitions is unknown.

The Sydney Metro competition tables, in contrast, have been updated and our U17A team (a combined team with Briars) is currently sitting on 2nd spot of their table and our U15A team is sitting on 6th spot of their table.

An early highlight for the club was on 5 April, when Glebe hosted Bankstown at Jubilee oval for 3 back-to-back Round 1 matches for the Central Area U11, U13 & U15 Div B competitions. This was the first home match for Glebe at Jubilee oval for over a year (Jubilee being closed for most of last season for a substantial upgrade) and our 3 Glebe teams – the U15 Hornets, U13 Hornets and U11 Strikers – all recorded impressive Round 1 victories in front of a great local crowd (for full details of the day see the story on the junior / overview page of the club website).

On the representative hockey front, the various Sydney Hockey Associations (Sydney Junior Hockey Association (SJHA), North Shore Women's, Parramatta Women's, Sydney North Woman's, etc) completed their final trials for selection into their representative teams for 2014 just before the April school holidays and it was extremely pleasing to see 39 Glebe junior players, ranging from U11s through to U18s, being selected into regional representative teams in 2014 (a full list of the players selected is on the junior / overview page of the club website). These players will now play, later in the year, for their regional representative teams at Hockey NSW State Championships venues across NSW and will also participate in rep team training ahead of their respective State Championships. The 2014 Hockey NSW State Championships venues are: U13 Girls (Orange); U13 Boys (Grafton); U15 Girls (Taree); U15 Boys (Wagga Wagga); U18 Girls (Narellan); and U18 Boys (Newcastle). The U11s will play at a 3 day Hockey NSW Development carnival in Tamworth. Good luck everyone and congratulations on your selection into your regional representative teams!!

At the U15 and U18 level, National Championships this year (i.e. State v State) were played ahead of State Championships and so State squads & teams needed to be selected earlier in the year at specific Hockey NSW selection camps (rather than at the State Championships as is usually the case). Six of our U15 players (Sam Alexander-Prideaux, Angus Baird, Grace Dallen, Litiana Field, Kloe Mannering & Mim Pritchard) made the NSW U15 squads and two, Mim Pritchard & Litiana Field (both members of the Glebe U15A Redbacks), went on to be selected into one of two NSW U15 Girls Team which played at the 2014 U15 Girls National Championships in the school holidays. Mim Pritchard's NSW team won the 2014 U15 Girls National Championships and Litiana's NSW team placed 6th overall. An outstanding and memorable achievement!! (Please see the story on Mim's & Litiana's achievement on the junior / overview page of the club website). Two of our U17 players (Aisling (Ash) Klimoski & Mack Noller) made the NSW U18 squads and Ash, the goalkeeper of the U17A combined Glebe-Briars team, was called up to play for the Northern Territory at the 2014 U18 Girls National Championships that were also held in the school holidays. Ash's team placed 8th overall and Ash's performance in goals throughout the Nationals was widely praised.

A story on Ash's achievement will go up on the junior / overview page of the club website shortly.

Ian Dallen  
Glebe District Hockey Club Junior Convenor



Above is a photo of the Glebe U13A Redbacks after their 5-0 Round 1 win against SGR in the 2014 Central Area U13 Div A competition.

The 2014 season has finally started!!! The opening function for the season was held on 5 April at our sponsored pub, The Exchange Hotel in Balmain. A number of factors resulted in the night not being nearly as well attended as what had been hoped, although in saying that it was a cracking night. The pub is fantastic and ambient, the food is great and there is a wide array of drinks.



I implore all club members, old and new, to get behind our resident pub, The Exchange Hotel, as our present and future sponsorship depends on your patronage there. Everyone should aim to attend to a minimum of 4 team/club events there over the next 5 months that remain in the season, starting with this coming Saturday 26 April after matches on the Anzac weekend.

A Bunnings BBQ fundraiser has been organised for Sunday 25 May, which will be staffed primarily by the junior parents but may require some back-up from the senior club members. This is always a great day to meet some new people, practise your BBQ skills and do a spot of impulse shopping while you're there!

The club band night will be held later in the season in about late June or early July once the clubhouse is well and truly fitted out and fully renovated, and an inaugural club opening night will be set hopefully for late May.

Both the soccer and hockey world cups are coming up in June/July, so there will be ample sport to be watched in the company of your team mates at locations to be determined.

Watch this space!!!

Last note and an important date for all GDHC Members. The end of year presentation night has been set so please pencil in the following to your calendar.

GDHC Presentation Night  
Saturday 27 September 6pm  
The Grandstand Bar, University of Sydney

Adam Campano  
Glebe District Hockey Club Social Convenor

## **The Deferment of Competition Games due to the Unavailability of Players at an Australian Championship discriminates against the average hockey player.**

It seems to be within the rules of the Sydney Hockey Association Competitions, for a club to defer a competition game(s) if that club has one team with at least four or five players away representing NSW at an Australian Championship.

This rule has been used by the Norwest Strikers' Club (NWS) to defer its Sydney Club (second grade) team's first two round games against Sydney University and Glebe, on 5 and 12 April 2014 respectively. NWS has 4 or 5 players away at the under 18 Australian Championships being played in Canberra from 4 -12 April 2014.

This means that the 14 players, coach, manager and team supporters of both the Sydney University and Glebe teams are denied a scheduled competition game of hockey to watch and to play, due to the representative requirements of four or five representative players. In addition the 9 or 10 players in their own team are denied a game of hockey for two weeks. More than 42 players and team officials from Sydney University and Glebe are inconvenienced because of the requirements of the 4 or 5 NWS representative players.

If a club has four or five of its long standing club members away playing for NSW than a weak or modest case may be made for the team's games to be deferred. In the case of the NWS second grade team this is not the case. The club has one long standing club member away with the NSW Under-18 team. The other 3 or 4 players have only joined the club recently and did not play for the club in the Under 15 competition.

At least 2, probably 3 players have not played a competition game for NWS in any game, junior or senior. They have been imported to the club from outside its junior ranks to bolster the playing roster. Presumably they have been enticed to the club with some form of inducement, such as reduced or no playing fees, match payments, or the prospects of playing in the club's premier division team down the track.

This importation of players to bolster NWS's playing roster means that the club's own junior players have less chance of reaching the club's top two teams. This importation of outside talent disadvantages the club's juniors and breeds resentment. This resentment often results in the snubbed players giving hockey away. Importing players from outside the club's ex-junior ranks with inducements and promises is a short term glory seeking option, which is not in the best interests of the club long term.

For a club to survive long term it must foster, support and encourage its own junior talent. The concept of buying players from elsewhere and building a team of players who play for a club because of payments and inducements will ultimately lead to the club's grassroots withering on the vine and becoming disillusioned with the club's management's modus operandi.

NWS's management does not share my views on the importation of players and good luck to them. I do object to the fact that Sydney Hockey Association Rules aids and abets the deferment option, which advantages and encourages clubs who induce NSW representative players to their club over clubs who do the right thing by rank and file club members.

Why should 42 players and team officials from Sydney University and Glebe be denied a game of hockey to accommodate the requirements of 4 or 5 representative players?

Rank and file club players are not being treated by the Sydney Hockey Association with the respect and courtesy they deserve. Why is the competition being run to suit the elite few? If hockey in Sydney is to survive long term, the rank and file player needs to be encouraged, listened to and respected, not treated as being of lesser worth than a NSW representative player.

Any reader who would like to contribute to this discussion is cordially invited to do so. All contributions will be published in the May Red Rag.

By Harry Wark

GDHC Life Member & GDHC Historian





## Is Senior Men's Hockey in Sydney dying?

Fact: In the 2009 Sydney Hockey Association Men's Hockey Competitions 110 teams competed. In 2014 there are 88 teams competing.

Over five years there has been a 20% reduction in the number of teams in the Sydney Hockey Association Men's Hockey Competitions. In 2009 Glebe fielded 8 senior men's teams and in 2014 it is fielding 6 senior men's teams, a 25% reduction.

## Why is this so?

Cost is a deterrent: In 2014 the Glebe District Hockey Club fees are \$620. On top of the playing fees there is the cost of a stick, shirt, shorts, socks, shin pads and practice ball(s). Realistically it costs a player around \$900-\$1,000 per season to play hockey. Playing fees have gone up much faster than the rate of inflation over the last five years. Sydney Hockey Association does not seem to try hard enough to mitigate the rising costs of playing hockey.

The \$620 playing fee per player charged by the Club does not meet the Club's expenses to pay for its playing costs. The \$10-15,000 short-fall of playing costs over fees income is made up by funds raised from social functions, sponsorship from local businesses and bank interest from invested money.

There are 18 competition round games in the season, and if a team does not make a semi-final, it means a player pays \$34.40 per competition game in playing fees and \$16.70 per competition game for his/her gear, without the costs of transport to and from a game. To pay \$51.10 per game is expensive. If a player works shift work, or is injured and cannot play every game the cost per game is increased from the base line \$51.10.

The Club provides turf training on Tuesday night throughout the season and a couple of trial games prior to the commencement of the competition proper and the costs of providing them is incorporated within the \$620 playing fee.

Hockey is an expensive sport to play. If a player is going overseas for a month or six weeks during the European summer, then the cost per game of playing hockey approaches \$60-\$70 per game. Some players balk at this cost and decide to retire, or take a season off.

The second reason players leave the game is that the game times vary and a significant number of games are late at night. If players have a Saturday night job, they either miss a goodly number of games or they decide it is all too hard and retire. A player with a young family is away from his wife and the family for a significant length of time if the games are played late, well past a toddler's bedtime. Bringing a young family to a 2000 hour hockey game is not a realistic option. Because of the disruptions to family life caused by late night hockey, some players decide to retire.

A third reason players retire is because of the resentment they feel towards Hockey Associations in general. The average rank and file player is slugged \$111.20 to be Associated with NSW Hockey. A small amount of this money is used to buy accident insurance. The majority of the money is used to pay administrative costs, the cost of elite coaches and the hiring of synthetic turfs to allow elite players to train and practise. Why should the average rank and file player financially subsidise elite players and pay for coaches to train them?

In the last year or two, the Sydney Hockey Association has introduced rules which make it hard for players to "double-up" and still be eligible for the finals series in a lower grade. The ability to play players in two grades on a Saturday is restricted by the onerous Sydney Hockey Association rules and leads to some players having substantially less than a full game of hockey.

In days past, as an example, a second grade player could play in second grade, and then sit on the bench in first grade, coming on as and when necessary. As long as a player played three of the last five competition games exclusively in a grade, they then qualified to play in that grade for the finals series. The current Sydney Hockey Association rules restrict the ability of second grade players to sit on the first grade bench to less than 50% of the first grade games, before they become ineligible for the second grade finals series. This rule applies to all grades, right down to the fifth or sixth grader. These player's activities are also hobbled by this onerous rule.

This restriction often means that a team runs a squad of 13-14 players. As there are only 11 players on the field at once, some players get substantially less than a full-game. Despite paying over \$50 per game, some players are only getting a 60-70% of the 70 minute game. The lack of field time is often a reason players become disenchanted and retire.

The Sydney Hockey Association Rules on player eligibility for the finals series has an impact on many club's team roster issues and leads to reduced field time for individual players, player dissatisfaction and retirement. The current Sydney Hockey Association rules are out of touch with the feelings of the average rank and file player, who just wants to play hockey, enjoy himself and get a bit of exercise. The unnecessarily restrictive current rules impede this goal. Hockey in Sydney is, for the vast majority, played as an amateur sport for the physical and social enjoyment of the players. No one is playing for the proverbial sheep station.

In 2009, assuming 12 players per team, 1320 players played senior men's hockey in Sydney Hockey Association Competitions. In 2014, assuming 12 players per team 1056 players are playing senior men's hockey in Sydney Hockey Association Competitions. This is a drop of 264 players in five years. In 2014, the Hockey NSW Association Fees are \$111.20 per player. This means that in 2014 Hockey NSW is getting around \$29,357 less than it got in 2009 coming into its coffers.

This reduction in income for the NSW Hockey Association from having fewer players playing hockey in Sydney Hockey Association is probably replicated Statewide. The income received by the NSW Hockey Association, from fees levied on the State's rank and file hockey player has shrunk substantially in recent times.

My suspicion is that Hockey NSW will increase the playing costs levied on rank and file hockey players in an attempt to compensate for this revenue drop. The solution should be to reduce costs, reduce or eliminate elite squads, reduce or eliminate administrative staff, reduce or eliminate elite player subsidies and reduce the number of umpires and officials paid to officiate at games.

Every attempt should be made to reduce the playing costs of the rank and file club hockey player. If the playing costs of the average rank and file hockey player continue to spiral upward, then the number of rank and file players will continue to spiral downwards and hockey at the grassroots will continue to shrink.

The Sydney and NSW Hockey Associations needs to try everything within their power to reduce the playing costs of rank and file players, improve games times and listen to the concerns and the views of Joe-average hockey players. Umpires and Ground Marshals should be paid less. If the number of umpires and ground Marshalls reduce because of the reduction in match fees, then these duties would need to be performed by the clubs competing on the day, just like it was in days past.

As mentioned earlier in this article, NSW Hockey needs to substantially reduce its commitment to elite squads, elite coaches and bloated administrations. NSW Hockey needs to reign in its costs and pass on the savings to reduced playing costs for ordinary club hockey players, who have been overlooked for far too long.

The primary aim and focus of the NSW and Sydney Hockey Associations should be to facilitate hockey for ordinary club players, not provide hockey and training opportunities for the elite, privileged few, otherwise the rapid downward spiral of men's senior hockey players taking part in Sydney Hockey Association Competitions will continue apace.

All comments, insights, criticisms and thoughts on this article are welcome and will be published in the May Red Rag. Feel free to have your say, send your correspondence to the Editor of the Red Rag, Mark Paterson at [markgpaterson@icloud.com](mailto:markgpaterson@icloud.com)

By Harry Wark

GDHC Life Member & GDHC Historian