

# Glebe District Hockey Club

## Life Membership Biography

### Paul Rogers

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member

Elected Life Member in 1977

Born on 3rd of May 1935

Paul Rogers was born on the 3rd of May 1935 to Jack and Margaret Rogers (nee Turner) in Coraki which is a small town situated on the confluence of the Richmond and Wilson Rivers in Northern NSW about 720 kilometres North of Sydney. Paul spent most of his adolescent childhood in Coraki growing up with his four sisters Joan (84), Nolla (80), Anne (70) and Marriee (67) and his two older brothers Frank (90) and John (87). Paul attended St Joseph's Catholic School in 1940 and progressed through the relevant grades. St Joseph's is a combined Primary and Secondary School and is still there to this day located on Adam Street Coraki.

Glebe has had a strong association with the rural town of Coraki, near Lismore, with six or seven members of the Jenkins and Birmingham families playing Hockey for Glebe over the years. Royce Jenkins, who played 268 games for the club ran the Coraki general store for a number of years. Coraki is synonymous with producing great Hockey players with probably the most notable being Warren Buster Birmingham. Paul remembers growing up and going to school with some of the Birmingham's who along with the Rogers were a prominent family in the area at the time.

Paul left School in 1950 after completing his intermediate exams in 3rd year (4th form). Paul had moved to Sydney in 1945 where he stayed at his Grandmother's house located at number 60 St



Johns Road Glebe. During 1950 Paul was enlisted in the National Service in the Air Force division of the Australian Defence Force. After the war had ended Paul moved to Beverly Hills for a time but then re-located to Granville where he lived from 1946 – 1959.

In 1951 Paul Furthered his education by completing a printing course at Ultimo Technical College. After completing his Tafe qualifications he worked as an apprentice in the printing trade. During his working life Paul lived in a number of Suburbs such as Granville – Toongabbie – Liverpool, and Kogarah Bay. Although trained as printer Paul never really applied this qualification to his working day to day life.

Paul established his own Printing and Publishing Company in 1977. Pau'sl printing business went by the name of Educational Publications, he sold the Business in 1991. Upon selling his business and retiring he moved to the South Coast town of Berry, but has since moved to Gerringong and is now re-married and living in Kiama.

In 1959 Paul married a local Glebe girl by name of Pat Ross who he met in 1955, Pat unfortunately died on the 21st August 1999. Paul was introduced to Pat by his Uncle Vern Tuner who at the time lived in Leichhardt Street Glebe Point. Pat also lived in the same street as the Turners. One thing led to another with Paul and Pat eventually marrying. They spent many a happy year together and were married for just over 40 years. They had two children together a son named Jeffery born in 1961 who played hockey for a while as a junior for Glebe but found Rugby Union more to his liking and played that for most of his adult life. Paul's son Jeffery now lives on the South Coast and works in the landscaping Business. Paul's daughter Carolyn born 1962 played tennis for a number of years, and is married with two daughters, she lives in Oatley, Sydney.



**Photo of the 1965 Glebe Third Grade Team, which was taken at Sydney University Number Two Oval.**

**L - R Back Row: Peter Howe, Marvin Heaston, Kevin Doyle, Brian Howe, Paul Rogers, Paul Cuneen**

**L - R Front Row: Fred Letts, Kevin Weeks, Jim Kenny (Gk), Peter Krepp**

Paul's illustrious career with the Glebe Hockey Club started in 1950 as junior. Paul's Uncle was the great Vern Turner who was a pioneer in the early days of the club particular within the Glebe juniors. Vern encourage Paul to play as young boy and spent many a weekend in Glebe as in those

days to qualify to play for Glebe you had to live in the District. Paul could quote and remember numerous memories from his time with Glebe although there are a couple which stick out. He remembers being selected in the Glebe 1st grade side at a young age which was a great thrill as at that time it was a great, star studded team. He recalls playing with the late Ken Wark Snr as an amazing thrill and in Paul's humble opinion he rates Ken Wark Snr as the greatest full back off all time. Paul recalls that Ken Wark had an unbelievable presence on the field. Paul also recalls the one of the great things about the club was the social aspect of the club; there were so many nice people and eccentric characters. They all enjoyed each other's company under the arch and all club members enjoyed and participated in the various social functions along the way. Paul remembers training nights were something to remember, he also states that he could write an entire book of stories about the social life of the club but adds some stories are best not to be told but instead remembered.

Paul played most of his hockey as a wing half. He had a high work rate and would run all-day. He was an ideal link between the full-backs and the forwards, who scrambled well and had an uncanny ability to snuff-out promising opposition attacking raids into Glebe territory. He mostly pushed the ball rather than hit it, which meant his passes were usually accurate. Paul could push the ball as hard as he could hit it; he had a powerful push.

Paul's greatest legacy to the Club is the Club's Red Rag Newsletter. The first Red Rag was published on 10th May 1958. Paul was helped in this initiative by Club stalwart and assistant editor Harry Butler, Pat Rogers and Isobel Butler who for years helped publish the highly popular newsletter. Fred Letts also helped with the running of the Red Rag which in 2014 is still being published for all members of the GDHC.

As a book publisher Paul appreciated more than most, the communication benefits of a Club Newsletter. In the first few years of the publication of the Red Rag Harry Butler was its assistant Editor, with typing and office assistance from Paul and Harry's wives Pat Rogers and Isobel Butler. In the early years of the Red Rag production Club Secretary Fred Letts was a major contributor to its content and publication.



**Photo taken at SHA Ball 1974.**

**L - R: Daryl Fishenden, John Lane, Bill Stubbs, Len Needham, Vic Westacott, Paul Rogers, Noelle Westacott, Pat Rogers, Bev Stubbs, Pam Fishenden, Bronwyn Lane.**

Publishing a Newsletter in the late 50s involved a large commitment of time and energy. In those days there were no computers, no word processing, and no printers as we know them today. Paul and Harry gathered the information, their wives typed out the copy and then the Newsletters were printed using a low cost stencil printing press that worked by forcing ink through a stencil onto paper. After the Newsletters were produced during the week, Paul and Harry would distribute them on Saturdays.

In the 56 year period from 1958 to 2014, 150 Red Rag Newsletters have been published by the Club. All of these Newsletters are now displayed on the Club's Web Site.

Between 1950 – 1958 Paul appeared for Glebe on 558 occasions, playing in three first grade premierships (1955, 1956 & 1958) and also playing left half in the 1959 team. Paul also featured heavily in the Glebe second grade side who were premiers for five years in a row from 1964 – 1968.

Paul played his last competitive game for the club at the ripe old age of 48 and for the next few years he continued to play in the veteran's

competition. Paul ceased to be actively involved in the club upon leaving Sydney and relocating to the South Coast of NSW, but still keeps track of the club results and also enjoys reading the Red Rag Newsletter which Paul helped produce.

Paul states that one of the biggest strengths of the Glebe District Hockey Club has always been its good management and people willing to provide their time and expertise for the betterment of the club.



**A Glebe 1st Grade game against Mosman at Jubilee Oval Glebe 1959.**

**Glebe Players L - R: Paul Rogers, Harry Wark (Hat), Bill Stubbs, Bennett Dunn (Lunging), Ray Thorpe.**

**St George won the 1st Grade Comp in 1959 defeating Glebe 4 - 2 in the Final.**

**The Photo was taken by Victor Westacott.**

Paul's long standing association with the Glebe District Hockey Club, in which time he gave yeoman service has allowed the Club to prosper and thrive. Paul has left a long standing legacy with the Club in the Red Rag, which is still being widely read and enjoyed to this day. It provides the GDHC members with information on all things Glebe Hockey and being available on the internet, is read by the larger Hockey community in Sydney and beyond. Paul's legacy of the Red Rag was continued on every year till 2015 in which it is still being produced. Subsequent editors of the Red Rag include Fed Letts, Eddie Crook, Mick Tapsell, Louise Tapsell and Mark Paterson.



**A Photo taken in the mid - 1970's by Victor Westacott, of the Glebe Fourth Grade Team.**

**L - R: Con Sava, Man in glasses unknown, Paul Rogers (in headband), backside unknown, Tony Martin, John Howe (in hat), Ken Wark (obscured), Roy Birmingham, Lady in glasses (unknown).**

Paul was a doer. If there was a job that needed to be done he just did it. He didn't ask why he should do it, or why someone couldn't do it, he just did it.

Thank you for your contribution to the Glebe District Hockey Club Paul; the Club is a better place for having had you as one of its members.