

# Glebe District Hockey Club

## Life Membership Biography

### Jack Logan Quinlan

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member

Elected Life Member of the GDHC in 1947

Born 1909 - Died 1958

*(probable dates only), these are estimates only as no official certification of his birth or death have been identified despite an exhaustive search.*

Up until 1946 there was no provision in the Club's Constitution for the election of Life Members. At the 12 March 1946 AGM held at the Glebe Town Hall, in Saint John's Rd Glebe, a motion was put to the floor of the Meeting by Assistant Secretary and Management Committee Member Mr Kelvin Dickey that Life Membership of the Glebe District Hockey Club (GDHC) be constituted and that the rules and regulations for the awarding of Life Membership of the Club to be voted on at the 1947 AGM.

Members present at the Wednesday 19 March 1947 AGM held at the Glebe Town Hall voted to have the position of Life Member added to the Constitution of the GDHC as recommended by the Club's Management Committee.

President Mr Jack Worley Chaired this 1947 AGM. Those Club Members present at the Meeting voted Jack Logan Quinlan a Life Member of the Club. Also elected a Life Member at the 1947 Annual Meeting was Mrs Esther Taylor (nee Dickenson), wife of Mr William John Taylor and mother of Mr John William Taylor and Mr Tom



**Photo taken at the Cranbrook School Playing ground 5 Victoria Rd Bellevue Hill**

Dickenson Taylor. There is no record in the Minutes of the 1947 AGM, as to the order of election to Life Membership. It is impossible to know whether Jack or Esther was first to be elected to Life Membership.

Jack was probably born over 106 years ago and probably died over 60 years ago. In writing this Biography I have been unable to identify any person who either knew Jack, or knows the whereabouts of Jack's relatives or contemporaries. In early August 2014 a notice was placed in the "Where are they now?" section of Sydney Morning Herald with the title: "Calling all Experts - The Glebe District Hockey Club, asking for information about the Club's first five Life Members". In early November 2014 a similar notice was placed in the In-search Section of the Daily Telegraph. These two notices did not stimulate any response from their readership about John Logan Quinlan.

In 1992 I had spoken with the late Mr Jack Joseph Worley, who was President of the GDHC for 12 years from 1946 to 1957 and who was a contemporary of Jack Quinlan. Jack Worley gave me a few limited facts about Jack Quinlan. Apart from Jack Worley, I have not spoken to any person who could provide me with facts and insights into the family, work, social and educational side aspects of Jack Quinlan's life.

Most of the information for this Biography comes from the GDHC's Annual Reports, which stretch back to 1937 and the Club's AGM Minute Book, which had its first entry in December 1932.



**Reserve Grade Premiers - 1932**

**Back Row: J. Burt, M. Cummins, J. Ryan, J. Taylor, E. Mockler, G. Walsh, T. Barklimore**

**Second Row: J. Quinlan, Bro. Macarten (Coach), W. Bourke (Captain), J. Donovan (Secretary), T. Pearce (Vice-Captain)**

**Front Row: M. Dunn, S. MacCormick, G. Mockler.**

**Photo Taken at Jubilee Oval Glebe**

Jack was a Foundation Member of the first Saint James Sport's Club Hockey Team, captained by Galway-born Irishman Reverend Brother Macarten Keegan. In 1931 that team played in the B Grade Competition of the Metropolitan Hockey Association. In 1931 men's hockey in Sydney had two Associations, one called the Northern Hockey Association and the other the Metropolitan Hockey Association. The Northern Hockey Association controlled the running of hockey competitions north of Sydney Harbour and the Metropolitan Hockey Association controlled the running of hockey competitions south of the Harbour.

The 1931 Saint James' team won the Third Grade Competition (then called B Grade), with Macarten Keegan captain-coach. The 1932 Saint James' team, with a retired Macarten Keegan as coach won the second grade (Reserve Grade) competition.

If the Saint James' team wanted to progress to the first grade of the competition then, under the rules of the Metropolitan Hockey Association, it would have to be a district team. The Glebe District Hockey Club was formed in time for the 1933 season, with most of its players having played for the 1932 Saint James' team, which had won the reserve grade competition.

Jack played for the GDHC until 1948 and continued to have an active administrative role in the Club until 1951. In total he played 257 games for Glebe and was the first GDHC player to play 200 games for the club, which he did during the 1944 season. He received a pennant to commemorate this achievement, awarded at the 1945 AGM held on 5th April 1945 at the Glebe Town Hall. Over 200 of his 257 games were played in first grade.



**Back Row: J. W Taylor (Hon Treasure), T. Taylor, C. Bush, K. Dickie, W. Ryan, C. Humphries (President).**

**Centre Row: V. Burton, J. Cummins, J. Quinlan (Captain), J. Taylor, J. Kenny, P. Rogers.**

**Front Row: W. Atkinson, S. Cairnduff, V. Turner - Insert: T. Irvine**

**Photo taken at St. Paul's Oval Sydney University**

He stopped playing at the end of the 1948 season, but continued his association with the Club in an administrative capacity until the end of the 1951 season.

Jack contributed greatly to Club Life and to the efficient, effective administration of the Club for over 20 years. He was Club Treasurer from 1936-1941 (5 years), on the Gradings, or Selection Committee from 1933-1949 (16 years), on the Management Committee of the Club from 1935-1948 (13 years), Senior Vice-President from 1942-1951 (10 years), Jack was replaced as Senior Vice-President of the Club in 1952 by Mr Vince Halls Senior.

He was the GDHC's representative to the Metropolitan Hockey Association and a Vice-President of that Association for a number of years.

Jack Quinlan captained the first grade team from 1935 to 1945 (11 years). He was an astute captain. A quote from the 1942 Annual Report is pertinent: "Jack was captain of the Q (Quinlan) Team and as usual displayed tact in handling the players." And further, a quote from the 1943 Annual report: "J Quinlan who emerged from retirement to captain the side achieved his ambition to lead an undefeated Premier team. Jack is to be congratulated on playing 200 games with the Club."

A quote from the 1945 Annual report: "Jack Quinlan, who captained the first grade team, proved a capable leader, holding the team together right throughout the season."

The first grade report in the Club's 1938 Annual Report said of Jack: "Jack Quinlan, left half and Captain was again to the fore,



**The second grade team of 1944 at Jubilee Oval Glebe, with the white Federation picket fence in the background and political graffiti painted on the railway viaduct, "OFFICIAL LABOUR VOTE MORAN"**

**Back row L-R Vince Halls Snr, Allan Cross, Vic Burton, Paul Rodgers, Wilfred Murray, Kevin Spears.**

**Front row L-R Jack Brown, Jack Quinlan, Glen Elliott, Jim Kenny, Billy Taylor.**

**Stan Moran, long-time resident of Forest Lodge, who organised the May Day March for 60 years, was reputed to be the first person to call Robert (later Sir Robert) Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister, "Pig Iron Bob" back in 1937.**

and played some splendid games. Jack is also Honorary Treasurer and had his usual busy and worrying season.”

The 1939 Annual report has this to say about Jack: “Jack Quinlan revealed all his old dash at left half, and is still undoubtedly one of the finest players in that position in the game. The confidence of the first grade team in Jack’s tactical ability again resulted in his being captain, a worthy reward for his untiring efforts as Treasurer, and as a player and sportsman of the first rank.”

In the early 1930s Jack was a stickler for the no train, no play policy, but as the years wore on his application to training waned. The first grade report in the 1937 Annual Report had this to say about Jack: “Our Treasurer and a very good one at that, so far has failed to catch the eye of the selectors (MHA Selectors), a solid player and a great team man, one of the never trains but is attending Grace Brothers GYM this season so we should see some great games from John Logan this season.” Jack was selected in the MHA senior representative team in 1939

The 1940 annual Report has this to say about Jack. “The “Old Faithfuls “of the side , namely Charlie Humphreys and Jack Quinlan despite their annual threats of retirement again displayed the superiority of brains over brawn and their cooperation defeated many promising attacks.”

It is said that Jack was one of the best left halves produced by the Club. His tactical ability and reading of the game was exceptional. The 1941 first grade half line of Bill Ryan right half (NSW Senior Representative), Tom Pearce centre half (Australian Representative) and Jack Quinlan left half (Metropolitan Hockey Association representative) is considered one of the best half lines ever to play for the GDHC.

During the 1930s and ‘40s Jack’s mother Mrs J Quinlan is mentioned in the Club’s Annual Reports as rendering significant help and support in Club activities.

When I interviewed Jack Worley in 1992 he told me Jack Quinlan never married and he worked as a time keeper/clerk at the Westinghouse factory in Rosebery in Sydney.

The 1933 Sands Street Directory lists the Quinlan residence as Dlumah, Edward St Glebe. The house was three or four up from the Eglinton Lane end of Edward St, on the Chinese Joss House (Temple) side of the road. In the 1940 list of Member’s addresses in the Club’s Minute Book, Jack address is given as 3 Edward St Glebe.

It is probable that Jack’s family home has been demolished and the land has been incorporated into the Chinese Joss House (Temple), which in 2015 occupies the site.

The Club would be delighted to hear from any person who can give us further information into the life and times of the late John Logan Quinlan.