

## Vale Merv Goodridge ( 5 October 2015)

Merv played all his hockey for the Northern District's Hockey Club. He played First Grade for decades and then enjoyed his twilight hockey years as he drifted down through the lower grades playing in the same teams as his sons on many occasions. Merv and his wife Val had five sons.

Merv represented NSW and Australia at hockey and he was a great full-back. Frequently a thorn in the side of the Glebe forwards of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, he had a lethal tackle and a good solid, accurate hit which often got his team out of awkward defensive situations. His reading of the game and his positional play were second to none.

In the 1980s Brad Goodridge, the youngest of Merv's five sons played hockey for Merv's old Club Northern Districts. During the 1980s Brad also played in the Sydney Representative Junior teams with Aaron Nilan, a Glebe junior who is the son of Pat Nilan, Triple Olympian, and Glebe Life Member, as well as the Greaves brothers Craig and Jason, and Graham Brown.

Brad and Aaron, Merv and Pat got on well with each other and for the 1990 season, his first year in the under 17 age division, Brad decided to come to the Glebe Club to play alongside and with some of the friends he had made in the Sydney Representative Teams. Merv's second youngest son Greg Goodridge came across with Brad and played in Glebe's third grade team, with was coached by Geoff Paterson.

In 1990 Merv, who worked for decades at the Commonwealth Bank, became a Member of the Club's Synthetic Turf Committee, which was formed to try and site a synthetic field in the Club's Glebe heartland. Even after he left the Committee Merv was always available to advise on financial matters, how the Club could raise a loan and how a lease should be structured.

Merv never lost his interest in the Club's quest for its own synthetic turf and even in 2014, 24 years after he first joined the Club's Synthetic Turf Committee Merv often asked Harry Wark, one of the Club's previous Synthetic Turf Committee Convenors, "how things were looking on the Synthetic Turf front".

In 1990 Brad played in the Glebe Under 17 team coached by Pat Nilan, which won the Sydney Premiership when it defeated Sutherland 3-1 in the Grand-Final. Merv frequently umpired for the team and lent a hand where and when he could.

By 1991 Brad was filling-in for the Glebe First Grade team and Merv was helping out as team manager and transport officer. The First Grade coach of the 1991 Glebe team, Les Wark, had this to say in his end of year report "To Merv Goodridge and Leo Sherwood thank you for your help and support"

In 1992 Merv was the Manager of the Glebe Second Grade team. In 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 he managed the Club's first grade team. Merv managed Glebe teams for seven years, and was well liked and respected by all. His even temperament, his constant encouragement, his no fuss approach, and his great hockey brain made him an excellent man to have in the dug-out alongside a team's coach. Low key and insightful Merv helped bring out the best in a team.

In his 1994 First Grade end of year Report team coach Pat Nilan had this to say about Merv "To Merv Goodridge, our manager, a man we all could rely on, who always had a band aid and a smile when required, a great job."

In his 1996 Report Pat had this to say about Merv "What can I say about Merv Goodridge and John Nilan, if you need a drink, a shoulder, a towel, a chat - they were there to cater for all one's needs. They did a tremendous job, at times taken for granted - real Club Members".

The 1997 Glebe First Grade coach Colin Rochester wrote about his two managers "Merv Goodridge and John Nilan not only do their jobs extremely well but they are also two fine gentlemen who they players and I love to have around, to both of you-thanks."

After he stopped managing Glebe teams in the late 1990s Merv was a regular spectator on the sidelines for the next 15 years. He attended most Glebe higher grade fixtures from 1990 to 2014, a period of 24 years. He was cheerful, welcoming and hospitable to all, and was always interested in Glebe Hockey Club affairs. If he could help he would. He was an obliging chap.

For 30 years or more Merv was active in the Sydney Veteran's Hockey Association and was a Life-Member/Legend of that Association. He was President of the Sydney Veteran's Hockey Association for 17 years from 1997 to 2013, an impressive length of service. Merv as a player and then as an administrator was a significant figure in Sydney Hockey circles for 60 years or more.

Merv's son Brad, up to the end of the 2014 season, has played 449 Senior Club Games for Glebe, winning two first grade Premiership in 1995 and 1997. In recent years Brad has had several injuries (knee and back) that have kept him off the field for long periods. In addition to his 449 Senior Club games Brad played two years of Under 17 hockey for the Club and played of the order of 40 junior games for Glebe.

Two of Merv's grandchildren Zane and Arlie, Brad's children, play in the Glebe Under Nine and Under Eleven teams. Hopefully the Goodridge Family will be involved with the Glebe Club for many decades to come. Carrying on where grandfather Merv left off.

I am extremely confident that Merv is now enjoying his Eternal Reward in the Heaven Above.

The Members of the Glebe District Hockey Club extend their condolences to the Goodridge family on the occasion of their loss. Merv was a good man, humble, honest and hardworking. The world is a better place as a result of his efforts here on earth.

Harry Wark  
Glebe District Hockey Club  
Historian



Photo of the 1996 Glebe First Grade Team which was taken at the Ryde Turf..

Back Row L-R Pat Nilan (coach), Simeon Booth, James Wright, Alan Alderson, Pat McCann, Brad Goodridge, Mathew Parker, Aaron Nilan, Merv Goodridge (manager)

Front Row L-R Ken Wark, Steven Cain, Dean Benfield (goalie), Kevin Chivers, Craig Greaves, Shane Nilan, Christian Campano (goalie)