



THE RED RAG

A Champion Club, A Club of Champions

President Address

Well, I am pleased to be in the position of writing this piece, knowing of course, that this means we are fast approaching the start of another season.

I can see that the various sub-committees of the club have been very active organising trials, training, teams and coaches/managers and I sense a great deal of optimism throughout the past 4-6 weeks.

We appear to have strong numbers in the juniors, women and men and there appears to be “Energiser Bunny” enthusiasm at training and we hope this bodes well for season 2016.

I believe we need a few more coaching positions to be filled along with a couple of managerial positions and I ask if you haven’t volunteered yet, please do so if you are able to. We need members to contribute more than just playing if the club is really to succeed. It is such a vital aspect of the club and the rewards to the club and yourself are massive!

From the board’s perspective, we are busy getting through this period dealing with the various competition bodies, ensuring you are fully informed about matters such as:

- Selections
- Competition Draws
- Player Registrations and



Glebe District Hockey Club Management Committee Contact Details

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•Player Fees

I ask all players, if you haven't done so yet, please attend to your HNSW and SEHA registrations which need to be completed in the main by 31 March and at the latest by Sun 3 April. Yes, Sunday 3 April!

On behalf of the board, my best wishes and every success for 2016!

Glebe District Hockey Club President

Danny O'Brien

Secretary Report

Greetings to all members of the Glebe District Hockey Club. With the 2016 season upon us I wanted to take this opportunity to rely a few important administration matters.

All correspondence should be directed through the Club Secretary to then filter on to the varying factions of the club.

As of the 2016 season all important documentation relating to the Glebe District Hockey Club will be placed and published on the Glebe District Hockey Club's website. The website from now on will be the focal point for all documentation rather than myself having to handle the various bundles.

The Glebe District Hockey Club is always on the forefront of technology and keeping up with this modern fast paced society. An initiative recently undertaken to reduce the amount of paper work and email attachments has been the installation of an on-line membership form. For any Club member wishing to update their details please see the link below to access the on-line registration form.

Glebe District Hockey Club Membership Form: <https://goo.gl/XSjJP4>

The 2016 season has commenced in a most exciting and positive way. I am delighted to see good numbers of new and returning players and members eager to begin yet another season with the

Women's Convenor

Melissa Newton

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Position to be filled in 2016

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Position to be filled in 2016

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Glebe District Hockey Club. It is often said that meaning in life comes from serving something bigger than ourselves. With this in mind I ask that the members of the GDHC, to help when and where they can. Whether it be a smile, a helping hand or just a word of encouragement, especially to those who dedicate much of their personal time to seeing this grand old club of ours prosper from year to year. I have high hopes for the 2016 season that with commitment and collective hard work will see another successful season with the Dirty Reds.

Men's News

Welcome to the 2016 season. With Tuesday night and Wednesday night trainings well underway I am heartened too see returning players but also new faces to ready to don the maroon and white for the 2016 season. Training attendances of a Tuesday night have been constant with roughly 40 - 45 players attending each session.

It is also good to see a number juniors keen and eager to start playing men's hockey thus year. I am sure they will be cared, mentored and looked after by the more senior members of the team.

As you may or may not be aware of. The playing/grading structure for Sydney Hockey has changed yet again in an attempt to simplify and foster a more club based atmosphere rather than a team based approach. The Sydney Hockey association has enacted the following listed below:

- A 4 Team Premier League with 12 teams or 'lines of teams' across the 4 Premier Grades (SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4).
- There will no longer be a promotion or relegation system based on results.
- It is a strategic goal that all Clubs expand in future years to the point where they can fill all Grades in the Premier division, and the number of 'lines' will increase from 12
- There will not be more than 18 Rounds, plus finals.

The Glebe DHC has yet again nominated Cintra Hockey Park - (St. Lukes Park Concord) as it's home ground for the 2016 season.

Liaising with the Sydney Hockey Association (SHA) the Glebe DHC Management Committee has submitted a request that all Glebe DHC home games at Cintra Hockey surface run to the following time slots listed below:

- SL4 (4th grade - 12:30pm)
- SL3 (3rd Grade - 2pm)
- SL2 (2nd grade - 3:30pm)
- SL1 (1st Grade - 5pm)
- SL6 (5th Grade - 6:30pm)

The Glebe DHC management committee feels this would best promote the club model. If any players, supporters or readers have any views on the above structure please don't hesitate to write in to the Red Rag Newsletter expressing your thoughts and opinions.

For the first time in many years the Glebe DHC will not be in the 2016 season fielding a 6th grade senior men's side. This is due to a lack of player numbers available week in and week out during the regular season. After consulting with players in the 5th and 6th grade teams from 2015 regarding the amount of doubling up, starting games with the minimum amount of players and generally chaotically organising teams and players right up to the start of play it was a decision the Glebe DHC Management made with player welfare in mind.

Hockey NSW Registration

Could I also ask that all players register with Hockey NSW ASAP and make this a priority. The Club does not want to be chasing players for registration fees during the season. An email was sent through to all players on Monday 7th March 2016 regarding the process. Please read the set of instruction carefully. I have also left the link down below for all Glebe DHC players to access.

Hockey NSW Registration: <https://memberdesq.onesporttechnology.com/23/reg/portal>

Umpiring Roster

During the 2015 season the Glebe DHC management committee enacted a Glebe Junior umpiring roster for all senior men's and women's players based on a rotational basis. Junior games often lack the umpires to run a game of hockey effectively and efficiently, also many new players and parents now come to the club from a non - hockey background which often makes it hard for parents to adjudicate. It also helps to enhance the camaraderie between amongst senior and junior players throughout the season. This will be another priority in 2016, with Assistant Club Secretary Alister Cullen currently in the process of allocating the roster. Stay Tuned!!!

Final Word!

At the current point in time the Glebe DHC does not have a men's higher and lower grades Club Captain. So anyone wishing to help out in this vital role please contact Club Secretary - Mark Paterson immediately to express your interest.

I must stress to all players across all grades for the time being can you let Mark Paterson (Club Secretary) know well in advance if you are unavailable to play at any stage during the course of the season. It was a constant headache last year for both Club Captains often scrambling at the last minute to find reserves and asking other players to double up.

I would recall on all players to make a renewed commitment to the club both on and off the field. Trying to fill holes week in week out not only puts pressure on selectors but also on players who end up playing two games a week and generally leads to us fielding weaker sides.

IMPORTANT DATES!!!! - TRAIL GAMES AND START OF THE SEASON

- **Saturday 2nd April 1st & 2nd grade squad Glebe vs UNSW @ David Phillips Complex Daceyville 12pm.**
- **Saturday 9th April 2016 at Cintra Hockey Surface top 5 grades.**
 - 5th and 4th grade squad - 12:30pm start
 - 3rd grade - 1:15pm start
 - 2nd grade - 2:30pm start
 - 1st grade - 3:45pm start

Start of the season - Saturday 16th April 2016

NB: SHA draw to finalised and sent through soon.

Women's News

The Glebe Women have been working hard at training, fitness and trials which is a good start to the 2016 season. Glebe Women will now field four teams in the SWHL competition (ML1, ML3, ML5 and ML6) and one team in the SEHA competition (SEHA4).

We have been lucky to have the ongoing support of Matthew Wark who is keen to take the first grade girls to another premiership and our first in Metro 1. Not to mention Andrew Goodrick who in entering his 10th year coaching a Glebe Women's team and will be the first to tell everyone he is the most successful women's coach in the club. Without the support of these two club persons the women's teams would struggle. We would like to announce the return of our stats man Martin 'Bish' Bishop who has been a rock solid coach for us over the years and great to see him return. We would also like to introduce a new young coach Jules Reijnen, who is an absolute gem. He is from Holland and completing a internship in Sydney. Jules has been putting the ladies through their paces the last couple of weeks with his famous line 'If it doesn't challenge you it doesn't change you.'

PHOTO'S FROM TRAINING

Draws at this stage have only been released for 2 rounds, with Glebe 5 starting a week early on 3rd April 2016. They will be published shortly on www.SWHL.com.au and www.seha.com.au

Glebe 1 – 1:30pm at Moorebank (10/04/16) / 10:30am Western Districts (17/04/2016)

Glebe 2 – 4:30pm Cintra (10/04/16) / 10:30am Bankstown (17/04/2016)

Glebe 3 – 12 Moorebank (10/04/16) / 6pm Cintra (17/04/2016)

Glebe 4 – 9am Moorebank (10/4/16) / 12 Moorebank (17/04/2016)

Glebe 5 – 11 am Sutherland (3/4/16) / 9:30am Daceyville (10/04/16)

Please remember all selections will be on the website each week on a Thursday.

During the trial period Glebe Women have participated in the Ryde 9's where they were faced with a tough competition. The girls battled well in the heat and were able to be competitive during the day.

One of our club members, Nicki Osborne, has welcomed Ruby Mae Osborne born 24th March 2016, Nicki has said everyone is doing well and we wish them all the best of luck.

A big thank you to Natalie White and Helen Howe who offered their time to assist us with our selections. Natalie White has returned to Glebe after 7 years. She was previously our Metro 1 Coach and has a Glebe Women's award named after her to represent her contribution to the club. Helen Howe is currently the person with the highest number of games played for the Women's teams with over 400 games to her name. Helen has recently moved up to the Central Coast and we appreciate the time and effort she has put in to select our teams. Thanks also our Men's first grade coach, Peter Busch, who assisted with the trial games at Ryde.

If anyone is interested in coaching or umpiring feel free to contact gdhcwomens@gmail.com.

See you all at the New Player's Night 16th April 2016

Glebe District Hockey Club Women's President

Mel Newton

Cintra Park Hockey field has moved!!

As you may or may not be aware Cintra Hockey Field has moved.

Attached is a map showing the new location of the Cintra Hockey Field. There is a small 30 space car-park on the North side of Queens Rd below the field which can be utilised but any overflow parking can be done either in the Tennis Centre car-park next door, across Queens Rd in the old hockey car-park or in Stanley St.

Just a reminder that turf training for the senior Men and Women started on Tuesday 16th February 2016 and will continue through the 2016 season.

An extra session for the Men's and Women's top grades is at the moment be sort at the moment and there will be more information to come.



Senior Women: Tuesday's - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Senior Men: Tuesday's - 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Junior A Division team: Tuesday's 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Junior News

WRAP UP OF 2015 GDHC JUNIOR INDOOR HOCKEY SEASON

Yet another happy and successful indoor hockey season was conducted by the Glebe Hockey Club in late 2015.

This 2015 season, Glebe fielded 7 teams in the U9, U11A, U11B, 13A, U13B, U15A and U15B divisions conducted at the Ryde and Hurstville Aquatic Centres over a 7 or 8 round season commencing in October 2015. As usual, Glebe fielded more teams



than most other Sydney junior clubs. As always, the emphasis was on skill development and an enjoyable experience for the kids and their parents (with plenty of team bonding and free swims at the aquatic centres thrown in).

Indoor hockey allows the kids to have a lot more time on the ball and many more touches of the ball during games. A lighter stick is used. The rules against hitting, against lifting the ball other than shots at goal and the use of side boards make a fast paced and challenging game. All the kids involved materially improve their stick skills and general game awareness throughout the season. It was great to see. Anyone interested in playing next year, please let us know.

All the 7 teams were successful. The U9, U11A, U13A, U13B and U15A teams made their respective divisional semi-finals. The U15A team, coached by Vernon Howe, were runners up, losing in the grand-final to Sutho 2 goals to 5. The U13A team, coached by Aaron Nilan, won their grand-final 4 goals to 3 in a titanic struggle against a combined Briars and Ryde team.

Very well done to all the kids involved. You all did yourselves and the Club proud. You were respectful of the opposition and accepting of adverse umpiring decisions with good grace. A particular thank you to all the coaches and managers involved. Needless to say, there could be no indoor season without your time, effort and support.

Glebe @ Glebe Night - A Huge Success!

On Wednesday the 2nd March 2016 the Glebe District Hockey Club held a fun filled evening for its junior teams at Jubilee Oval, Glebe. In an impressive turnout, over a 100 junior players attended the night to either rekindle old friendships, make new ones and to register for the 2016 season. The night included 5 v 5 games for new and returning players as well as coaching and umpiring development courses. The half field games were held under lights on the newly remediated Jubilee Oval surface with a mix of senior and juniors mingled together to enhance the camaraderie between amongst players. This was followed by a barbeque under the arches for all who attended.



Glebe DHC Junior Convenor Clare Prideaux in front of the Glebe @ Glebe night participants

Glebe District Hockey Club Junior Convenor

Clare Prideaux had this to say about the night “the Glebe at Glebe night is an important event as it endeavours to strengthen the club culture by developing a strong connection between its Junior and Senior players whilst instilling a sense of loyalty amongst our juniors when they progress into the senior ranks. Ms Prideaux who has three children of her own playing in both Junior and Senior teams stated she has been “impressed with the Club’s sense of tradition and history in supporting Junior Hockey development which she has coined the true Glebe spirit”.

Also on hand during the night was former Kookaburra (Australian Men's Hockey Team member) and current Glebe first grade Captain Mark Paterson who became the club's first Minkey player to progress through to Australian Men's Hockey Team. Mark commented "it was fantastic to see so many keen and eager young faces enjoying the game of Hockey which has provided me with much enjoyment over the years. It was a humbling experience to once again see junior hockey being played on Jubilee Oval as it brought back some fond memories. Not so long ago I was were these young kids were playing for the sheer fun and enjoyment of the game".



Glebe's next generation enjoying the 5 v 5 games

The Glebe District Hockey Club is celebrating its 86th year of continual operation in 2016. It currently fields 10 juniors, 6 Senior Men and Women's Teams. Club President Daniel O'Brien remarked "junior development has always been the cornerstone of the Glebe District Hockey Club and it is what has sustained us for all those years. The Club has always relied on dedicated, generous, capable, industrious people to volunteer their time and effort to see this great Club of ours grow and prosper from year to year".

The season starts on the 19th March 2016. The Club caters for all abilities and field's teams from Minkey (4 – 8 years of age) to U/17's. Anyone interested in joining the club for the 2016 season can find more information at www.glebehockey.org.au

Glebe DHC - Minkey program kicks off with a BANG!!!

The Glebe DHC Minkey program kicked off on Saturday 19th March 2016 (9:30am - 10:45am) down at Jubilee Oval, Glebe under glorious sunshine.

A band of 35 young hockey players keen to acquire and pick up the skills and techniques of this great game of ours were in attendance. The atmosphere was fun, friendly and enjoyable for all those attended.



The Minkey participants at the first minkey training session for 2016

Vernon Howe starts his 20th continuous year as Minkey head coach a phenomenal achievement by anyone standards.

Due to the Easter Long Weekend the next Minkey program will take place on Saturday 2nd April 2016 9:30am - 10:45am meeting outside the Glebe DHC Clubhouse Jubilee Oval. Anyone wishing to part-take is more than welcome. The Glebe DHC provides sticks and balls so just bring yourself.

Olympic Games - Rio 2016, 5-21 August 2016

Rio 2016, held in Rio de Janeiro, will be the first Olympic Games to be held in South America. The city of 400 million people held off rival bids from Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo to secure the Games.

The Olympic Hockey Centre will be situated in the Deodoro region of the city, one of four 'hubs' of Olympic venues. The main pitch will have seating for 10,000 spectators while the second pitch will seat a further 5000 fans. The official invitational Olympic test event will take place at the venue from 18-22 November 2015.



The 2016 Olympic Hockey Centre located in Deodoro
one of the four Olympic Hubs

Each of the men's and women's hockey competitions at the Olympic Games features 12 nations. In total, 384 hockey athletes are accredited with each of the 24 squads comprising 16 athletes, two fewer than major FIH events such as the World Cup, World League and Champions Trophy.

One of the oldest Olympic sports, hockey boasts great skill and bravery, plenty of goals, clever tactics and thrilling penalty shoot-outs.

The match format has been changed for Rio 2016, with four quarters of 15 minutes replacing the two 35-minute halves used at London 2012.

KNOW YOUR HOCKEY - DID you know??

- The first record of the sport is from Ancient Egypt, 4000 years ago.
- The first recorded club was the Blackheath Hockey Club, formed in Britain in 1861.
- Pakistan's men defeated India 1-0 in the final of the Rome 1960 Games, ending India's 32-year run as Olympic champions.
- At the London 2012 Games, the Dutch women became three-time Olympic champions, beating Argentina in the final
- India's men won six consecutive Olympic titles between 1928 and 1956, remaining undefeated for 30 matches, and scoring 197 goals along the way.
- Argentina is the only South American country to have won an Olympic medal in hockey, their women's team having claimed two silvers and two bronzes.
- Hockey is the only team sport to have had Olympic medal-winners from every continent.
- Until 1970, Olympic hockey matches were played on grass. The switch to synthetic surfaces made the game faster.



Rio Olympics: Hockeyroos coach Adam Commens to quit after Rio Games.

Adam Commens will stand down as Hockeyroos coach at the conclusion of the Rio Olympics due to family reasons.

The former Australian international will relinquish his position in November after more than five years in the role.

During his reign, the 39-year-old Commens led the women's team to a Commonwealth Games gold medal, silver medals at the World Cup, Champions Trophy and World League Final, consecutive Oceania Cups and the Champions Challenge title.

The Hockeyroos have climbed from seventh in the world rankings under Commens to a high of second and they currently sit third.

Commens told players and coaching staff earlier this week he was returning to Belgium to be with his young family.

"The most important thing was to make the decision based on what is right for my family at the moment, including my wife, Stephanie, who is pregnant, expecting in June, and my daughter, Olivia, who is seven and lives in Belgium," Commens said.



**Australian Women's
Hockey Team
(Hockeyroos) Coach:
Adam Commens**

Having made his decision, Commens believes it has only served to heighten his motivation to pursue success at the Olympics.

"When you know that this is going to be the last opportunity you have with the Hockeyroos then what better way to go out than on a high and be successful, and to really have the team set up to continue in the future," he said.

During his playing career, Commens made 143 appearances for Australia, scoring 20 goals.

He was part of the team that won Olympic bronze at the Sydney 2000 Games and Commonwealth Games gold in Kuala Lumpur.

In Europe, as head coach he led Belgium to their first Olympic Games in 32 years, qualifying for Beijing 2008 by clinching bronze at the European Championships.

The Hockeyroos' next game is on Saturday in Perth, their fifth Test of a six-game series against Great Britain which is locked at 1-1 after two drawn matches.

Club President Danny O'Brien married - FINALLY!!!

Congratulations to Club President, Danny O'Brien who on Saturday 13th February 2016 married his long time partner Donna Crawford. The two were married in a civil ceremony in their back yard surrounded by family and friends.

It was a great occasion for the two who have spent many happy years together raising Donna's two children Andrew and Kristen. Danny and Donna met approximately 22 years ago down at Jubilee Oval Glebe when Donna decided to bring Andrew down to Junior training. A relationship was struck and romance followed. The Hockey club has over the years has always provided a warm and inviting atmosphere where young men and women can meet, socialise and interact.

From everyone here at the Glebe District Hockey Club we wish Danny and Donna all the best on the next chapter of their lives together.



Congratulations to Aleks Manou

The Glebe District Hockey Club would like congratulate Aleks Manou who married his partner of eight years Samantha Canhao on Saturday 20th February 2016 in front of family and friends.

Aleks (Mouse) Manou has been the main stay at the back for the Glebe first grade team for many years playing over 240 senior games for the Club. He is the son of Life Member and 650 game plus stalwart George Manou. Aleks devotion to the Club and the team is absolute and despite his size never takes a backward step. Aleks has never played a bad game for Glebe and continues to apply his trade in the true traditions of the Club. Aleks and his wife Samantha are now honeymooning in New Zealand. From all of us here at the Glebe District Hockey Club we would like to congratulate you on your wedding and wish you all the happiness in the future.



Baby News in 2016



Brian is pictured here
with son Harry,
Daughter Amelia &
newborn Felicity

Congratulations to Glebe 2nd and 3rd grade player Brian Downton who welcomed in to the world Felicity Pamela Downton on 13th November 2015 at the RPA maternity ward. Brian joined the Glebe District Hockey Club in 2013 playing mainly in the 2nd and 3rd grade sides. Brian is Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE) teacher at the Sydney International Grammar School located at Broadway.

Around the Grounds

Are Parents of Junior Players being Milked Financially?

Glebe District Hockey Club fielded its first junior team in 1948 and has fielded junior teams every year since then, a period of 68 years. For most of these 68 years the Club never charged the children a registration or playing fee. The cost of running the junior teams was borne by senior Club Members. External pressures are now forcing change.

The junior Club is run by generous volunteers, who give up their time freely and willingly for the betterment of children. The parents of children who play in the Club's Junior Teams pay for their child/children's playing attire. No playing attire is given out free to the children. There are used second hand sticks at the Club House that can be used by children if they do not own their own stick.

For 68 years no junior convenor, coach, manager, umpire or official of the Club has ever been paid to help out with the running the Junior Club.

Playing sport is beneficial for children. It helps them get fit, it provides them with friendship groups, and it teaches children how to accept victory with graciousness and defeat with dignity. Hockey is a sport where serious injuries are rare, but not unknown. The advantages of encouraging children to become physically fit, to learn social and behavioural skills, to learn psychological coping mechanisms and be involved in a sense of camaraderie with their teammates in an out of school environment far outweigh the risks of injury. All the Glebe Junior teams are mixed, boys and girls, so that children and young adolescents learn to mix in a non-threatening, supportive environment with members of the opposite gender.

Junior hockey, as does all junior sport, has a lot to offer children and helps them along the way to becoming fitter, more balanced, coping, less anxious, less stressed individuals.

The Hockey Club provides hockey for children of all ages and all skill levels. Whether a child is good at hockey, or not so good at hockey does not matter that much. A child's participation in a team sport and their development of social skills and a degree of physical fitness is what matters most. The Hockey Club is not trying, and has never tried, to turn a child into hockey super star. Encouraging children to get along with their peers, to accept the authority of their coach and manager and to enjoy the company of their team mates should be the central tenant of all junior sport.

The Hockey Club is a community based organisation founded to provide a healthy outlet for all people who seek to participate in the sport of hockey. The Club should treat all children equally and treat every child with respect and care. In the Club setting more capable hockey players should not be treated any differently, or given more advantages than children of lower ability. Looking after the Club's Junior player base, both talented and otherwise, should be the prime objective of the Club's administrators. Participation is paramount, winning games, winning competitions and getting players into representative teams comes a distant second.

The concept of getting children to participate in sport and encouraging all players equally is central to why the Club was founded in 1931, why it still exists today, and why it is so well supported by the community in which it operates.

For the last eight or so years the parents of junior players have been encouraged to take out Club Social Membership in an attempt to help defray the cost of fielding the Club's junior teams. The cost of Social Membership is \$100 per family, \$20 of which goes into the Club's 200 Club "Raffle" which is drawn at the end of the season. In the last few years Club Social Membership by a junior's parents has been expected, although if a family for one reason or another did not take out Club Social Membership, the family's children still participated in their hockey activities. No child was denied a spot in a Glebe junior team because a family could not pay their \$100 Social Membership fee.

In recent years it became necessary to ask these parents to take out Social Club Membership so as to help defray the considerable cost of synthetic turf hire charges. Most Junior games are now played on all weather synthetic turf fields, which are expensive to hire. The synthetic turf hire charge for an under 11 game is approximately \$120, sixty dollars to be paid by each team. If the Club has ten Junior teams and each team plays 15 games during the season the turf hire charges for a season come to approximately \$9,000. If some teams progress to the semi-finals, finals and grand finals additional ground fees need to be paid.

In total it costs the Club over \$10,000 per season for ground fees to run its ten junior teams. The money raised from Junior parent Social Membership does not cover the costs involved in running the Junior teams. The shortfall is made up by Senior player fees and the Club's generous Sponsors.

Each team has a volunteer coach, a volunteer manager and often (not as often as we would like) a volunteer umpire.

Currently the Glebe District Hockey Club now field's Junior teams in a Sydney East Hockey Association (SEHA) Competition. As I understand it, officials of the SEHA Junior Competition Management Committee who organise the draw for the SEHA Junior Competition are unpaid volunteers

Why does the SEHA Hockey Association need to charge each junior player \$20 per season if Officials of the SEHA Competition are all volunteers? Where does the money go? A quick calculation suggests that the SEHA Hockey Association receives approximately \$7,000 per season from player registration fees (25 teams in the Association's Competitions, 14 players per team, at \$20 per player). If Glebe has ten teams in SEHA Competitions this \$20 per player fee means that the parents of Glebe juniors paying in these Competitions collectively pay around \$2,600. I suspect the money raised by the \$20 per player levy is used to pay for SSEA Representative Teams in NSW Championship Competitions.

My concern is that the parents of the average junior club player, who plays the game for exercise, social interaction and enjoyment is being taxed to subsidise the representative ambitions of players who would like to pursue hockey at the next level of competition. The common or garden club player is being milked of \$20 to subsidise the representative ambitions of a minority of players who would like to play representative hockey.

My view is that this policy is unfair on the parents of children who play for the fun of the game, the exercise and the camaraderie it provides and only want to participate in the sport at the club level. These parents are subsidising other children to take their hockey ambitions to the NSW Championship level. On a user pays principal is this fair and reasonable? My view is that it is not and should be abolished.

This \$20 per player SEHA Hockey Competition levy is small beer compared with the levies and taxes imposed by Hockey NSW.

I quote from the Glebe District Hockey Club Junior Information Leaflet:

“All juniors are required to register with Hockey NSW on-line and pay a NSW player registration fee of U18/\$70 per child; U11/\$41 per child; and U7/ \$23 per child”

On the Hockey NSW Web Site the changes are given as U7 \$23.49, U11 \$41.76, U18 \$70.99 and O18 \$120.06

Hockey NSW does nothing for the Glebe Junior player who wants to play social hockey, with his/her friends for exercise, enjoyment and the fun of the game. All that these players want out of the game is provided by volunteers from the Glebe District Hockey Club, with a Competition organised by volunteers in the SEHA Hockey association. Why should Hockey NSW charge a tax on these children who do not want to pursue hockey at the representative level and who cost Hockey NSW nothing?

Is it the duty or the responsibility of the parents of children who play for exercise, enjoyment, social stimulation and the camaraderie that the sport provides, to subsidise children who pursue hockey at the representative level? I think not.

The parents of the Glebe junior player who is content with playing in the SEHA Competition and enjoys him/her self on a Saturday morning and leaves it at that is being slugged to subsidise representative players, officials, coaches and managers. On a user pays principal this is unfair and unreasonable.

If players would like to pursue representative honours they are welcome to do so but at their own expense.

Hockey NSW gets money from the NSW Government to conduct its affairs. If the money received from the NSW Government does not meet its expenses Hockey NSW needs to trim its expenses rather than tax the grass roots of the game. If Hockey NSW cannot operate within the budget provided to it by the NSW Government it should reduce its overheads, shrink its bureaucracy, reduce the number of paid employees, and learn to live within its financial means. It should not tax the average club hockey player at a higher and higher rate each year to support an ever expanding bureaucracy and paid coaching staff.

My view is that the club hockey player, in whatever grade he/she plays is the person who should be considered first and foremost by all hockey associations. Unfortunately the club hockey player is considered grist for the mill and is milked by Hockey NSW to subsidise representative players. This is a tactic that I consider to be unfair and unreasonable to club players who make up the majority of people who play hockey in this state.

The majority are financially disadvantaged for the benefit of the minority.

The tragic part of all this is that the Hockey NSW Executive Committee seem to have an unwavering belief that their taxing of club players to subsidize representative players is a reasonable way to treat average club players. In an amateur sport where everyone pays to play the game this attitude is unfair and discriminatory. Each player should bear his/her own costs and cross subsidization should not be tolerated. Why should the average club player subsidize the representative ambitions of fellow hockey players?

The average club hockey player is to be cared for, nurtured and considered not taxed into ceasing to play the game. Young families with children have many bills to pay and the financial imposts on families with children playing hockey should be kept to the bare minimum.

How much money will parents of Glebe Junior players contribute to the coffers of Hockey NSW in 2016?

If the Club fields 12 teams, one U17, two U15, three U13, four U11, two U7 and if in addition to the ten teams runs a Minkey squad of 40, the mathematics of the fees charged by NSW Hockey is shown below.

Age Group	Cost
U/17	993.86
U15	1,987.72
U13	2,981.58
U11	2,338.56
U7	469.80
Minkey	939.60
Total	9,711.12
SEHA Fees	2,600

For the 2016 season the parents of Glebe junior hockey players pay around \$12,300 to hockey associations, getting precious little back in return from these associations.

A coach employed by Hockey NSW does come to the occasional Glebe junior training session and does give umpire lectures from time to time. If the Hockey NSW Employee came nine times in a session and was paid \$100 per hour for two hours his/her wages would come to \$1,800.

The bulk of the money paid by the parents of Glebe junior players to Hockey NSW goes to supporting bureaucrats and a coaching staff which is principally involved in providing training sessions for representative players. The parents of Glebe junior players who play hockey only in a club level competition are being milked to support a bloated Hockey NSW bureaucracy and to pay for coaches who in the main coach elite players.

Children's participation in a team sport is to be encouraged and supported at the club level. The benefits of playing a team sport with friends are many, as explained above. The concentration of the focus of Hockey NSW on the upper echelons of the sport, while taxing the rank and file club player to support this undertaking is to be deplored. A strong, flourishing club competition is what is important. Whether NSW Junior teams win Australian Championships is neither here nor there to parents and players in club level junior teams.

Hockey NSW needs to realize that club competitions are the most important competitions, in the minds of the players who play in them, and their parents. All Australian level hockey players come through a local club competition. Hockey NSW needs to support and nurture its local, community based, volunteer run clubs above all else. The provision of paid elite coaching to representative players should be of much less importance than looking after the requirements of children turning out each week-end for their club team.

My views may run counter to prevailing wisdom and are not to be shared by all people involved in hockey.

To be fair to Hockey NSW and the SSEA Hockey Association, this Article will be sent to them for comment and their responses will be published in full in the same edition of the Red Rag in which this Article appears, or the following edition if their response does not arrive in time for publication. Readers can then make up their own minds as to the relative merits of both sides of the argument.

Harry Wark

Life-Member & Club Historian

Glebe District Hockey Club

If any Glebe DHC members would like to voice their opinions on the matter please do not hesitate to contact the Red Rag at markgpateron@icloud.com.

Hockey NSW Reply to Harry Wark's article: Are Glebe DHC Junior players being milked financially.

The Registration income Hockey NSW receives from members offsets costs for Insurance, Hockey Australia Levy and total Operating expenses of Hockey NSW. As you elude to, Hockey NSW receives annually only \$55,000 from the NSW Government.

Hockey NSW and all affiliated bodies including all members, officials, accredited coaches, umpires, executives and volunteer workers are insured under the national insurance policy, which covers personal accident insurance, public and product liability insurance, Professional Indemnity.

Hockey NSW is always seeking ways to grow our investment in the game by developing a broader income base. Hockey NSW has been successful in doing this in several ways:

- Developing ongoing stakeholder engagement at all levels of government.

- Developed long term and strong relationships with sponsors, resulting in a financial partnership to promote the sport of hockey.
- Engage local councils and discuss investment in local hockey infrastructure in return for holding state championships by exposing them to the economic benefit derived.

Growth at the grassroots level is crucial to our sport and the new streamlined Association structure is evidence of our ability to concentrate resources and develop plans that create long term stability for our sport in an increasingly competitive market. In 2015, our registrations grew by 2.8%, a promising sign when we recall that our growth over the preceding five year period was only 0.3% per annum. This is a nearly tenfold improvement in a 12 month period. More importantly, our Under 9 registrations were up nearly 7% from 2014 and the efforts of Hockey NSW with Associations and the Regional Coaching Coordinator Network has clearly started to pay dividends.

In 2015, Hockey NSW introduced the Rebate Scheme, with the key objective to promote the growth of our Under 7 and Under 11 participants. Each Association has been given a target number to reach of registered players aged 11 years and under. This target will be based on the 2015 registrations for that age group. For each registration achieved greater than the 2015 numbers (your target) as at Friday 1st July 2016, Associations will receive a rebate of \$20.00 (excluding GST) per player. For example, Association A had 1,000 Under 7 players in 2015. Association A achieved 1,250 registrations. Hence, the rebate would be calculated at 250 players x \$20.00 = \$5,000.

However, the reality is that we cannot afford to relax and we still face challenges, like many sports, in the retention of teenage players. We're also working directly with Hockey Australia to produce modified, contemporary forms of the game that reflect the demands of modern community life.

Though we have paid staff, Hockey NSW is still an organisation that relies heavily on our Volunteers. They may perform administrative duties for Associations or Clubs; they may operate as Tournament Directors, Umpires or officials at State Championships or they might Coach or Manage a State team, among a dozen or so other roles – often in conjunction with one another. Hockey NSW is collaborating with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Clubs NSW and Volunteers NSW to develop a Volunteer Strategy which will set a benchmark in sport within the state. The Strategy will take a three pronged approach that pays credence to the different nature of volunteer roles : Association Boards and Committees, Championship Volunteers and Local Club Volunteers

Hockey NSW's main function and objectives are to govern, promote and develop hockey in NSW. Hockey NSW conducts 16 State Championships per year and coordinates and sends 26 teams to National Championships per year. Hockey NSW has also recently implemented a number of new initiatives:

Athlete Acceleration Program

The Athlete Acceleration Program is aimed at talented athletes aged 16-18, where traditionally the highest rate of attrition occurs and when skill development is crucial to athletes progress. The highly sophisticated program developed through extensive collaboration with NSWIS, Hockey Australia, the AAP has been rigorously tested to ensure that it meets Australian Winning Edge requirements. With athletes selected from every region, the program established a means for athletes from any area to

advance their skills to the elite level. Currently, the program caters for 60 Boys and 60 Girls across both age group.

Centre of Development

The Centre of Development program is designed to reduce travel costs and implement training during what is considered the off season of hockey, with High level coaching and development to athletes of all skills levels in their home regions on a weekly basis, supporting boys and girls from the U9 through to the U15s. Not just a development and talent identification opportunity that assist Hockey NSW in selecting its state teams, the COD attempts to foster a new generation of lifelong hockey players in a fun and enjoyable environment.

Regional Coaching Coordinators

A core objective of Hockey NSW is to ensure that the sport is available to any interested person, regardless of where they live or their knowledge of the game. The RCC network administer flagship programs such as the Centre of Development as well as penetrating the local community and school system. In developing this network, Hockey NSW has ensured that each region around the state has a champion for the sport and an individual responsible for increasing participating in a given area. There are currently 10 RCCs operating across the State, the intention is to grow the Network exponentially in the coming years and increase the presence of hockey in all localities of NSW.

Hockey NSW School Strategy

In recent years, Hockey NSW has struggled to continue to grow participant rates, experiencing stagnation in the critical 9-11 age group. To combat this, Hockey NSW has developed a School strategy in line with recent Federal government initiative, Sporting Schools. Targeting primary school-aged children, the school strategy intends to increase participation over the coming years through tapping into and creating hockey advocates within school systems around the state.

These hockey advocates will partner with the Regional Coaching Coordinators, forging close relationships between schools and their local Associations and Clubs. The malleable nature of the current School Strategy will allow Hockey NSW to change and adapt the Strategy as need requires, ensuring the initiative remains results – driven and effective as time goes on. With schools forming a cornerstone of Hockey NSW current strategy over the next few years, plans have been made to accommodate the broadening of the strategy as time goes on and retain the players that it captures within those age groups that are crucial to the growth of our sport. The strategy capitalises on the unique characteristics of hockey, utilising modified formats of the game, flexible venue options and encouraging collaboration between all parties involved to assure success.

Association Reform

With 27 Association operating across the State and Over 300 clubs, hockey is accessible everywhere in NSW. Hockey NSW is heralding a new era of hockey administration in the state and created a more unified and functional association system.

- There are many ways in which Hockey NSW supports its Associations/ Club hockey community:
- Providing a national online database to accept registration and club fees

- Offering a free website hosted and administered by the club
- Providing a regional coaching coordinator in each given area to develop links within the community and assist in promoting the sport
- Offering a nationwide insurance solution to streamline claims and provide legally sound advice when injuries occur
- Provide numerous pathways for talented players from Club or Association to better their playing and reach the elite level
- Providing advertising material and social media support where possible
- Providing Policies, Procedures and advice on Governance, Child Safety and WHS
- Delivering a State Championship in the U13, U15, U18 and Open Divisions across both genders
- Delivering the Toyota Drive My club Raffle with all proceeds returned to Club.

Unfortunately, the landscape of sport has drastically changed over the past 10 years. Hockey NSW no longer heavily subsidises our representatives teams. Like many sports, to play representative hockey in NSW, it is a user pay model. Hockey NSW has been able to secure a sponsor to assist, but once you divide this sponsorship among the 30 teams, this would be less than 5% per player taken off player levy – which unfortunately isn't a lot. Hockey NSW support players by providing them the tools with seeking sponsorship from local business and companies. Even our AHL teams, the Waratahs and the Arrows, have been asked to pay \$1000 towards the cost of attending this championships.

Hockey is not a tier 1 sport. We do not have the capacity like Netball, AFL, Rugby League to provide free junior registration or kits (stick, mouthguard, shin pad etc.), as at a national level we do not have the ability to attract these corporate sponsors, nor membership numbers or televised national competitions.

It is also timely to reflect on the progress we have made in recent years and the maturity we have displayed as a sport in times of change. Today Hockey NSW is seen as a leader in governance when compared to the vast majority of other sports across Australia. Our Board has an enviable mix of diversity in gender and also regional-metropolitan membership, with a 50-50 split of elected Directors in both categories. Following Association Reform, nearly 40% of all Associations have female Presidents. There have been numerous other achievements we should be proud of. Our financial stability and security has been restored and is vital to our collective success. Having begun to reap the rewards of establishing the Regional Coaching Coordinator Network, we must now use our ingenuity to expand it further following further positive feedback from Associations.

In the past, Hockey NSW was seen as a travel agent for State Teams. Today, its focus is firmly on growing the game, with leading edge development programs and structures that are inspiring similar initiatives in other states. We have expanded opportunities for emerging athletes with dual State Teams in the junior divisions and established the Athlete Acceleration Program, seen as nation-leading programs in our sport. Past Boards relied on Directors and expansive Committees to assist in operating Hockey NSW due to skill and knowledge gaps. This was unsustainable, inefficient and led

to a loss of strategic direction. Today, we have a highly skilled Management team which allows the Board to lead the business in a direction which is in the best interests of the game.

If you have further questions please let me know. I have attached our Hockey NSW introduction booklet, something we are very proud of and what we use to promote our sport to government, local councils and potential sponsors.

Regards

David Thompson

Hockey NSW General Manager

Sydney East Hockey Association Reply to Harry Wark's article: Are Glebe DHC Junior players being milked financially.

Mr Mark Paterson, Secretary Glebe District Hockey Club

Email: markgpaterson@icloud.com

Cc: presidentglebehockey@gmail.com

I refer to a Red Rag article titled “Are Parents of Junior Players being Milked Financially?” by Harry Wark, Life Member GDHC and would like to respond on behalf of SEHA as follows:-

SEHA unfortunately has to charge an Association Administration Fee of \$20 to each primary registered player in SEHA to assist with the ongoing association administration fees and payment of HockeyNSW Association Affiliation Fees. HockeyNSW charge SEHA \$8.25 (\$7.50 plus \$0.75 GST) for each registered player. This fee provides the association with an allocated HockeyNSW Regional Coaching Coordinator (“RCC”). This is a compulsory fee passed on to every registered member within every association throughout NSW in addition to the HockeyNSW registration fee. The RCC provides services to each association and local clubs by assisting with coaching accreditation courses, player coaching development and making contact with local schools to try and introduce hockey programs.

SEHA has been appointed Andy Van Pelt as our HockeyNSW RCC. Glebe District Hockey Club is aware of his position and has utilised his skills by running training sessions for the juniors and has recently held a Level 1 coaching accreditation course at the Glebe at Glebe night.

HockeyNSW have recognised that even though associations have got dedicated volunteers involved in running competitions, umpiring development, coaching development, junior development programs and representative teams – they are wanting to take some extra burden away from the associations by providing the services of a RCC.

To date all junior clubs within SEHA have had the HockeyNSW RCC attend to their clubs to assist them with their club needs.

So where is the balance of \$11.75 going? In the inaugural year of SEHA the association needed funds to assist with the set up costs of a newly formed association and also new association uniforms. This year the funds will go to assist with ongoing administration fees of the association as well as assist with all facets of development within SEHA. Unfortunately, unless the association can secure more sponsorships, an association administration fee will need to be charged to all SEHA registered members.

In relation to HockeyNSW registration fees, please see below the breakup of their fees:

(incl GST)

(incl GST)	Registration Fee	Accident Insurance	Public Liability	Total 2016*	Total 2015
Under 7's	\$12.25	\$8.09	\$2.16	\$22.50	\$22.00
Under 11's	\$29.76	\$8.09	\$2.16	\$40.00	\$66.00
Under 18's	\$57.76	\$8.09	\$2.16	\$68.00	\$66.00
Over 18's	\$104.76	\$8.09	\$2.16	\$115.00	\$111.00
Non Playing Officials	\$14.25	\$8.09	\$2.16	\$24.50	\$24.00

*Figures excludes the administration fee – which is payable when processing your registration online.

Briony Nilan

Sydney East Hockey Association President

Website: www.seha.com.au Facebook:

Sydney East Hockey Association General Enquiries: administration@seha.com.au

Sydney University secures a home ground

The Sydney University Hockey Club (SUHC) has secured a new home ground and it will be located on the University's Cumberland College campus, where the synthetically turfed hockey field will be the first of many new facilities to form a sporting precinct. Subject to future fundraising, it is planned that the subsequent developments will include a SUHC clubhouse and a second field as part of an international standard hockey complex.

The Red Rag has it on good authority that the SUHC has needed to secure funds in the amount of \$4 millions dollars in which to develop the initial field. They have received monetary commitments thus far totaling \$3.6 million dollars including a \$1 million dollar donation from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous at this stage.

It is without a doubt that the SUHC would have preferred a synthetic surface located on Hockey Square which is the traditional home of Sydney University Hockey. The feeling is that the powers to be sitting high perched up on their ivory chairs would have deemed this land to be valuable to be solely dedicated to a synthetic hockey surface and have thus meet the hockey club half way in gifting the land to the sporting club.

The Red Rag wished the Sydney University Hockey club all the best in its endeavors in crowd funding the rest of the required funds in which to develop and site its own synthetic surface. Increasing the number of synthetic surface can only be a good thing for hockey in Sydney reducing the amount of night time games.

Sam Noller won the chance to be on field for the 2016 Superbowl.

February 9, 2016 2:36pm

Lisa Herbertson and Ian Paterson

Inner West Courier Inner City

CENTRESTAGE at the biggest event on the earth, is a long way from sitting on his couch in Glebe watching the Superbowl on TV for 25-year-old Sam Noller.

But, after winning a competition to be involved in the halftime show, Mr Noller soon discovered himself involved in the all-American dream.

"It was insane," he said. "I can't even put it into words.

"Being in the front row of something that over 100 million people are watching from TV sets around the globe, makes you feel very special.

"Seeing the crowd holding up the coloured stunt cards, while the fireworks go off and having three of the biggest artists in the world a few meters away from you is truly amazing, once in a lifetime sort of stuff.

"I've had so many Americans complain to me that an Australian is living out this crazy American experience."

Mr Noller is a self-confessed sport nut, who has dabbled in plenty of sports back home in Sydney's inner west before moving to the USA to try to get a leg-up in the sports' industry.

"I'm interning at University of California in Berkley," he said.

"One of the other interns was volunteering with NFL for Superbowl and heard about how you could enter teams of 25 to attend the half time show.



Sam Noller picture here in the middle of the picture on the field of the 2016 NFL Superbowl played between the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers

“Turns out we were lucky enough to get a run.

“As Chris Martin put it, we were not just fans in the crowd — ‘you are the engine room’.

“We just had to run onto the field and enjoy the show, clap and wave your hands — an easy gig really.”

But there was a bit more involved to the biggest showcase on earth than just turning up, and Mr Noller said that the full dress rehearsals before the big event were just as exciting as the day.

“At the full dress rehearsals last Thursday, there was more time to soak up the experience,” he said.

“We got to run through the whole show inside Levis on the field, artists, fireworks and all at least four times, but with no crowd.

“Security for this was extremely tight, in particular the ‘no phones’ rule.

“Obviously a lot of secrecy surrounds the halftime show, so no phones, no social media posts and no talking to anyone about it.

“Anyone caught breaking any rule had all 25 of their team kicked out.”

Mr Noller said there was no chance he was going to miss out on this opportunity, and so he was unable to get any snaps when Beyonce walked right past him on the field.

“I was on the field for Beyonce’s performance,” he said.

“Between her part and the end, she walks through our section of the crowd.

“She was a lot shorter than I thought, but still very beautiful and surrounded by a ton of security.”

Josh Clarke and Nancy Atterton, a story of speed for the generations

Sydney morning herald February 12, 2016

He is Australia's fastest man, who is coached by Australia's oldest elite sprint coach.

This would be an extraordinary arrangement but for the fact it is so ordinary. Of course Nancy Atterton is Josh Clarke's coach, she has been since he was a year seven student at Sydney's Kings School.

Of course she would remain his coach. At 20, the principles remain the same for Clarke as they were when he was an under-sized 12-year-old, running when he wasn't playing rugby.



Josh Clarke and Nancy Atterton pictured above.

Nancy has the coaching pedigree to say that despite being 81, age is a state of mind. She won gold at the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver with Marjorie Jackson (Nelson) in 1954. She was Nancy Fogarty when she raced then with and against Betty Cuthbert. She has coached schoolboy athletes and men – women too - for decades. At one stage she mentored 400-metre champion Darren Clark – who was fourth at the Los Angeles Olympics. She is a direct and constant link between Australia's greatest era of athletics and the athletes taking us into the next generation.

She knows what she is talking about and she knows what she sees. And in Josh Clarke she eyes a sprinter capable of going where no other Australian man has gone.

Last weekend Clarke ran 10.15 seconds for the 100 metres to qualify for the Rio Olympics, where he will become the first Australian male to run the sprint at the Olympics since Josh Ross 12 years ago.

Last year he ran 10.19 to win the national title in his last run of the season when he was peaking. Last weekend was his second run of the season - and he is far from peaking. His time last year was quick enough to qualify him to run at the world championships in Beijing but he chose to stay home instead.

"It was a pretty simple decision in my eyes ... 10.19 in terms of world sprinting is not contending for anything too special, so you are looking at maybe just making it out of the heats and not doing too well in the semis. I thought I would get more benefit out of staying home. I'm still young, still developing, still physically developing - it's a purely physical endeavour sprinting – and those guys are pretty developed and been at it a while, so I thought it was more beneficial for me to stay at home and progress there," Josh said.

Nancy didn't want him going to Beijing because he wasn't ready. Last weekend vindicated that move.

"He is now running a time that puts him knocking on the door. He is at the front door knocking to come in," Nancy said.

"That's why we kept him home last year and to work. He managed 10.19 at the nationals with his last run of the season. I believe there is even more there right now this season, he has only had two 100s for the season.

"The whole aim of the game is, if he is going to go to Rio, it is not necessarily what he does here in Australia.

"And let's not forget he is only 20 years of age. It would be a major achievement if Josh made the final. Make a semi-final, that is a good achievement. The next Olympics in Japan is where he should come into his own."

Clarke only seriously took to running as a 15-year-old. He was playing rugby league at first, then union, with sprinting on the side. But as an under-sized kid watching others go past him to rep teams he decided to abandon rugby and concentrate on aths. A few months later he went to the national all-schools championships and won.

He realised he might have something and has never looked back. That said, it has only been in the past year since graduating from Kings and going to Sydney University to study commerce, that he has seriously begun training. It was only in June last year after nationals that he began training with a

strength and conditioning coach - Steve Adams at the NSWIS. He also has an osteopath and his dad, Brett, a PE teacher, is heavily involved in the team. And he has Nancy Atterton.

"His development and his progression - and I have had him since a schoolboy - has always been below his age. That is what makes him such an enormous talent," Nancy said.

"This boy is running these times - and I have been coaching now for a long, long time - he is performing at a standard now that is well above where his true fitness and strength levels are. That is the talent he has got."

When he builds the strength and fitness to match the talent he could be special, she says. Perhaps he will prove the best she has had, better maybe than Darren Clark.

She believes he is capable of running sub-10. Only one Australian – Patrick Johnson – has done that. The national record would beckon. Clarke is a student of the sport – he rattles off the names of Australia's best runners over the past few decades and admits Matt Shirvington was his idol – but he is also determinedly not focused on a time.

"Obviously it is the same as the four-minute mile, the sub-10-second 100 is just one of those things in athletics. It's the Holy Grail, I guess," Josh said.

"But I don't think about it too much ... sometimes if you think about times too much, it can sometimes take away your focus from what is really important and what you can control.



"This year it would be nice to get down to the low 10.0s. The weekend was a decent indicator of where my training was at and I think I have a little bit left in there. It would be nice to go 10.0 and obviously every sprinter's dream is to go sub-10. That might not happen this year, but ..."

Nancy is unlikely to travel to Rio with Josh this year. Brett Clarke will go, but he also needs to balance his work with his son's travel. Nancy is a chance to travel to Europe with him before Rio now that his time is good enough to earn him entry into races on the critical European circuit ahead of the Olympics.

Josh cannot believe that he had the good fortune to find Nancy as a coach.

"It was fate or luck that Nancy became my coach. She was head coach at school but one of Nancy's massive strong points is she has been around for ages and experience is invaluable in coaching, especially in athletics," he said.

"She is definitely old school. She doesn't hold back she tells me how it is. Even if I think I have run well or have run good times she will point out where I could improve and she never sugar-coats anything, which I appreciate."

Sad News

Passing of Richard Adamiak

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news to the Red Rag subscribers that Richard Adamiak has passed away. Richards funeral was held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at St Aloysius Catholic Church Cronulla. A wake following the service was held at the Royal Motor Yacht Club Burraneer. Richard suffered a fatal heart attack whilst playing Golf at Boonie Doon Golf course with a friend after having finished playing the 15th hole.

Richard learnt his hockey craft growing up in the NSW country town of Parkes. After completing his secondary Schooling Richard moved to Sydney and began playing hockey.

Richard was a member of a very successful University of NSW team which won Sydney Hockey Association 1st Grade Premierships in 1978, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985. Richard also played for the NSW Senior Men's team during this period appearing in a number of National Championships predominately playing as a half - back.

Richard also transferred his love of the game to his son Robbie Adamiak who played for Sutherland in the juniors and also represented the Sydney Junior Hockey Association junior representative teams. Richard also coached numerous junior club and representative sides during the mid to late 90's.

The world is a better place as a result of Richards efforts and activities. He contributed to the betterment of his fellow man, where and when he could. Hopefully he is now enjoying his eternal reward in heaven. To his wife Pam and to his son Robbie and daughter Clare the Glebe District Hockey Club extends its heartfelt condolences.

Passing of Michael Bougoukas Father

It is with great sadness that I advise you of the passing Michael Bougoukas Father.

Michael Bougoukas history with the Glebe District Hockey Club is long and distinguished having been associated with the Club for over 20 years as a player, coach and spectator. He has played over 400 senior men's games for the club and coached numerous junior and senior men's teams to premierships over the years.

He transferred his love of the game to his eldest son Ross who has been a vital cog in the Glebe first grade team for many years and is currently applying his trade in the German Hockey League.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bougoukas family at this time. We trust Michaels father is enjoying his eternal reward which is afforded to all those who have lived a good life here on earth.

APRIL
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The Merton Hotel

38 Victoria Road, Rozelle NSW 2039, Australia

GLEBE HOCKEY NEW PLAYER'S NIGHT

The Merton Hotel
Saturday 16th April 2016
6pm - 12pm

The opening event of Glebe hockey club social event. Complimentary finger food provided and full dinner can be obtained from the famous Merton Bistro.

All partners, family and friends welcome. The Merton Hotel is a family friendly bar. Children are welcome in attendance with a responsible parent/guardian.