

Glebe District Hockey Club

Life Membership Biography

Graeme Gilmour

Born 22nd August 1943

Elected Life Member of the Glebe District Hockey Club 1975

Graeme could talk the leg off an iron pot and hence his nickname “Have-a-chat” Gilmour. When he was not playing or training for hockey, Graeme beat a mean tune on the drums in his brother’s band, The Noel Gilmore Quintet, a popular band of the 1960’s & 70’s, which sometimes appeared on television and had permanent gigs at various venues around Sydney. Graeme was an accomplished musician; he enjoyed his music and his interactions with other band members.

Graeme Gilmour was born on the 22nd of August 1943 to Inez (a derivative of Agnes) and Robert (Bob) Gilmour at the Royal Women’s Hospital Paddington and lived with his parents at 18 Victoria Road Glebe. Victoria Road is the road which runs along the top of the Glebe Hockey Club’s Home Ground, Jubilee Oval in Glebe. It is probably little wonder that Graeme developed an interest in the GDHC considering his home was only 100 metres from the hockey field.

Graeme’s father was of Scottish decent and a self-employed electrician. In the book on the Club’s History; Under the Arches, the authors Harry Wark and Max Solling make the following comment; “Bob was a legend with the boys of the Glebe Police Boys Club team, a real enthusiast with an infectious optimistic view of life.”

During the 1950’s and with Graeme in the team, Bob as coach would often collect players in his Under 14 team from the Glebe Post Office on Glebe Point Rd in his Austin A40 work ute. The whole team of eleven or twelve players would pile into the back of the vehicle for the two or three kilometres journey to St Paul’s Oval at Sydney University where the competition was based in those days. The Ute would slowly head down Glebe Point Rd, turn up into City Road at Broadway and then turn right into the driveway of Saint Paul’s College, a Residential College at Sydney University.

The singing, catcalls, jokes and repartee emanating from the back of the Ute made the team a well-known feature on Glebe Point Rd on a Saturday morning during the hockey season. It was

an epic journey which delighted the boys of the Glebe Police Boys Club team, even though the mode of transport was a touch on the risky side. Fortunately no one ever came to any harm during these trips, hockey player, pedestrian or other road users.

If the side won by more than 10 goals Bob would stop at the Riviera Milk Bar on the corner of Glebe Point Road and Broadway and shout milk shakes all round, before heading back to the Glebe Post Office where everyone would alight.

Graeme's father was a driving force with the Club's juniors in the 1950's. Inez performed various home duties and also looked after several boarders during her time.

Graeme was a product of Forest Lodge School from 1948 to 1954 and Fort Street High School from 1955 to 1960. After completing his Secondary School education in 1960 Graeme went to work as a Clerk with the Sydney County Council performing various administrative duties.

Growing-up in Victoria Road, Graeme and was constantly "down the park" practising his hockey and socialising with his fellow Club mates. The Cowans, Attertons, Sullivans, Caseys and the Whitemans were all families living in Victoria Road at Glebe in the 1950s, 60s and 70s who had sons play hockey for Glebe.

In 1960 Graeme met Delma and they married in 1966 and had two children a daughter Kellie (1971) and son Brent (1972) before being divorced in 1976. Both the children played hockey for the Glebe Hockey Club.

In 1990 Graeme's partner, Sue, moved from Tasmania to live with him in Sydney then, in 2006 they moved to Hobart to live and still reside there. Graeme and Sue visit Sydney three or four times a year to time to catch up with family and friends (and to go to the dentist).

Graeme hit the hockey ball around the park at Jubilee Oval from an early age, but first started in the Club's junior teams in 1954 aged 11 years, when he played in the Glebe Police Boys Club under-14 team.

In 1955 Graeme won the most outstanding player of the season award for the Glebe Police Boys Club Under-14 team. The Glebe Junior Organiser and coach Vernon Turner had this to say about Graeme in the Club's 1955 Annual Report: "Graeme excelled in all phases of the game. His stick work was excellent, the result of constant practice, and his positional play good. He showed a great deal of hockey sense in his passes and placements although at times too much stick work was used unnecessarily. Graeme must remember that stick work should only be used to eliminate trouble, not beget it. A cool head at all times is essential. Keep up the good work and practice as much as you can." Vernon's comments are just as applicable to the emerging talent of today as they were to Graeme in 1955.

Graeme spent four years, 1954-1957, in the Under-14 team and 1958 and 1959 in the Glebe Police Boys Club Under-16 team and would have played around 90-100 junior games for the Club.

During the 1959 season while he was still an Under-16, Graeme filled-in for the Club's fourth grade team when they were short of players. In that year Graeme won the V J Turner Cup, which is awarded to "The Most Improved Junior under the Age of 17 Years." V J Turner was a driving force in the Club's Junior Development in the early 1950s.

In 1960 Graeme played in the Club's premiership winning second grade team with Jim Kenny, Robert "Charlie 'Brown, Alan Halls, Bill Stubbs, Jack Thompson, Ted Woodhouse, Fred Letts, Max Jeffs, Vince Halls, Brian Howe, Paul Rogers, Ken and Harry Wark. Other players that played second grade that year were Daryl Fishenden, Jack Taylor, Ron Callaghan, Bennett Dunn and Len Needham.

At 17 years of age, in 1961, Graeme progressed to the Club's first grade team. He played left full-back in the first grade team until the end of 1973, a total of 13 years. He won first grade premierships in 1962, '63, '64 and '65 and captained the first grade team in 1972.

In 1961, 1965 and 1972 he won the W J Taylor Cup which is awarded annually to the person considered by the Management Committee to have been "The Club Member who has set the Best Example by Consistent Play and General Demeanour." W J Taylor had succeeded the Reverend Brother Macarten Keegan as Patron of the GDHC in 1937.



After his first grade career was over Graeme played in the Club's lower grades mainly third grade until the end of the 1979 when he retired, having played 335 senior games for Glebe. He won third grade premierships in 1974, '75, '76 and '78.

Graeme was a vital cog in the team's penalty corner combination, which was a well-oiled outfit. He had a powerful hit resulting in many goals for Glebe

During his years in the lower grades Graeme mentored many of the players he had coached as Under-10 players. This involvement with the development of his ex-junior team members and being able to smoothly integrate them into the Club's senior teams gave Graeme a deep sense of satisfaction, and rightly so. Over many years he helped a lot of lads develop as people, as athletes and as balanced human beings.

He was elected the Club's twelfth Life-Member at the 1974 AGM and was the Club's President for four years from 1981 to 1984. He was on the Club's Management Committee for twenty years from 1965 to 1984. When Graeme was Club President, much of the business activity of the Club was conducted at the Public Bar of the Toxteth Hotel. The Toxteth Hotel was a sponsor of the Club at that time, and the Club had chook raffles and many fund raising activities at the Pub. The Publican of the Toxteth at the time Mr Darcy Henry was a strong supporter of the Hockey Club and had a good working relationship with Graeme.

In 1984 he was the inaugural winner of the Pat Nilan trophy, which is awarded to "The Most Outstanding Club Member for the Year." Pat Nilan is an ex-Junior of the Club, a Club Life-Member, an ex-Club President and played for Australia from 1961-1972.

Graeme represented Sydney for decades at both the junior and senior levels. He played for the NSW Under 16 team in 1959, and in 1967, 1969 and 1970 he represented NSW Seniors at the Australian Hockey Championships.

He coached the NSW Under 18 team for four years from 1971-1974.

Graeme had his first year coaching the Glebe junior teams in 1964, when he worked alongside Robert "Charlie" Brown, Pat Nilan, Barry Goodrick, Martin Howe, Kevin Weeks and Victor Westacott. He coached the Club's Under-10 team for 19 years from 1964 to the end of the 1982 season, which is an impressive feat by any measure. Graeme's coaching record is an amazing example of devotion above and beyond the call of duty. His unselfish devotion to the youngest players in the Club was an inspiration to others.

Transporting players to their games was often a problem for the Glebe Hockey Club and Graeme Gilmore only had a little 'banger' at the time, which was not adequate for the task. On a Saturday morning he would drive over to Harry Wark's Butcher shop at 107 Mansfield Street, Rozelle, collect Harry's big utility, leave the little banger, drive to the Glebe Post Office and collect the team, before driving them to the ground for their game. After the match the process was reversed and win, lose or draw the team had a great time being transported to and from their game, huddled together in the back of the utility, being gazed at by passers-by and giving cheek to all and sundry. Somewhat replicating what Graeme's father had done years before. The team was out of its depth on the hockey field but champions in the repartee stakes.

Their trip to and from the game was Saturday morning's highlight for some, perhaps the majority of the team members, with the enjoyment of these good times shared together, remembered long after the result of the morning's game had been long forgotten. Good times were had by all, irrespective of the result on the field, which is experiencing sport at its best.

Tradition, commitment, a sense of history, effort, trying, responsibility and gratitude were all qualities that Graeme had tried to instil in his young charges over the long period that he coached the sides.

For decades Graeme helped coach at Hockey Coaching Camps, which at one time were sponsored by the Rothman's Cigarette Company. This cigarette sponsorship occurred before the days that it was fully appreciated that the glamorisation of cigarette smoking was an activity not to be promoted in the community. Most of these camps were conducted in country New South Wales, and organised by the New South Wales Junior Hockey association, although some were held as far afield as Tasmania and organised by the Tasmanian Hockey Association.

Thank you Graeme, you have contributed mightily to the life and times of the Glebe District Hockey Club over four decades. Your efforts are much appreciated by us all.

Graeme's son Brent is the third generation of the Gilmour family to be involved in Club affairs. Brent came up through the junior ranks and for many years was a valuable cog in the club's lower grade sides.

Retiring at the end of the 1998 season Graeme's son Brent had played 255 games for the club winning multiple lower grade premierships along the way. In 1996 Brent won the W. J. Taylor Trophy. Delma and Kellie were frequent spectators at Brett's games and enlivened the sideline atmosphere. They lent their support to his teams when and where they could.



Brent is a self-employed air-conditioning and refrigeration technician and has three children Georgia (14), Emalee (14) and Sophie (13). Graeme also has four Step Grandchildren: Aeron (21), Catrin (17), Connie (6) and Cleo (2).

By a strange quirk of fate Graeme's partner's Sue Williams son Todd played with Ken Wark jnr in the Australian team back in the 90s. In addition, Todd coached Michael Wark's English Premier League Hockey team Hampstead-Westminster in 2011-2013 when Michael was living in England.