

Glebe District Hockey Club

Life Membership Biography

Geoffrey Ian Paterson

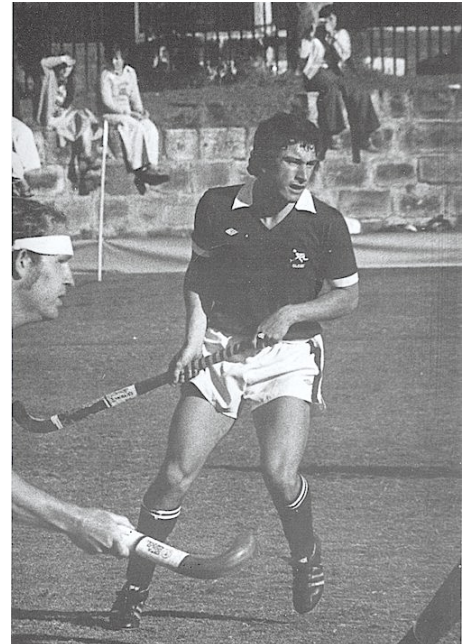
Born: 24th of October 1954

Elected Life Member to the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1997

Geoff Paterson will be remembered for the best and most deft stick work by any forward who has run on the field for Glebe. It was spectacular!!

Geoffrey Ian Paterson was born on the 24th of October 1954 to Keith James Paterson and Jean Sewell Paterson (nee Barlow) in Richmond NSW. Geoff was the third of four children to Keith and Jean Paterson. Geoff's Father Keith resigned from the RAAF in 1958 when the private sector started to gain momentum and work became more regular and better paying. Keith purchased a small block of land in Londonderry where the Paterson's had a small sustaining farm, Geoff attended Londonderry Primary School from 1960 to 1965 often cycling the 5 kilometres to and from school everyday.

In 1965 with Geoff's father who at the time was employed by the Department of Works was offered a Supervisors job overseeing the construction of many buildings in Papua New Guinea. This offer was too good to refuse and the Paterson's headed to Port Moresby PNG where they lived for three years. During this time Geoff attended Boroko High School in Port Moresby. Geoff was a keen participant in all sports during this time, playing Rugby league, Hockey, Soccer and competing in the Athletics competition. After three years of overseeing construction projects Keith along with his young family returned to Australia in 1968 where he bought a 2 – bedroom unit at 115 Alt Street Ashfield. Geoff's education continued after returning from PNG at Birrong Boys High and in 1970 finished his education at Drummoyne Boys High School.



During this time Geoff was a keen hockey player, playing his entire junior hockey with the Cumberland Hockey Club. Geoff's father Keith played 1st grade hockey for Cumberland. He encouraged Geoff to play from a young age. Geoff excelled at hockey from a young age; he enjoyed the sport and was often noted for his exceptional speed on the field. After graduating from High School Geoff obtained a job with the Australian Post office in October 1970 working in the mailroom. Geoff enjoyed the work but wanted a change of scenery. So in February 1971 he applied for a job working as a Clerical Officer for the Department of Transport with the NSW Government. Geoff has worked for the Department of Transport for more than 40 years where he has risen to the title of Senior Finance/Administration officer, Geoff has found the work enjoyable and fulfilling whilst also allowing him to engage in his other passions.

In 1976 Geoff met a young woman by the name of Maureen Casey whose family had been associated with the club for decades. Maureen's brother Paul Casey (55 games), Stephen (720 games) and Peter Casey (258 games) had all played hockey for the Glebe District Hockey Club with Maureen's mother Kath helping to run the juniors and her father Tom Casey being a loyal supporter for over 30 years as well being clubroom manager and providing many fine meals after Wednesday night trainings down at Jubilee Oval. The Casey's lived at 3 Victoria Rd Glebe a stone's throw away from Jubilee oval. The Casey's had many a Hockey party at their place and late night poker games where often a frequent occurrence. Maureen



Therese Paterson (nee Casey) was born on the 3rd of May 1957 to Thomas Vincent Casey and Kathleen Frances Casey (nee Fogarty). She received her Primary Schooling education at St James Catholic Primary School, Glebe before furthering her Education at St Scholasticas College, Glebe Point. Maureen never played a game of Hockey for Glebe but was a keen netballer in her day, representing NSW at junior level.

A relationship struck up between Geoff and Maureen and romance followed. They were married at St James Catholic Church, Glebe in 1981. The Hockey Club provides an ideal vehicle whereby young men and women can meet and socialise in a warm supportive atmosphere. Geoff not being Catholic undertook lesson from the Great Father Roberts who was keen supporter of the Club about the finer points of being a Catholic. Geoff and Maureen bought their first house in 1981 at 32 Holden Street, Ashfield. They resided there for 3 years before acquiring a bigger house at 52 Cromwell Street Croydon Park where they have lived since October 1984. In 1985 they welcomed their first child into the world a son by the name of Mark and two years later welcomed there

second son Ian (87). Both Mark & Ian have shared their Fathers love for the game and played Hockey for the Glebe District Hockey Club in both the Junior & Seniors ranks of the Club.

Short in stature, Geoff played in the Glebe first grade side from 1974 to 1984, appearing for the Club on 217 occasions. Very quick and fit, he mostly played as centre forward. Geoff's representative honours included the NSW colts, 1972 to 1975 and the NSW Seniors in 1976 and 1979 to 1982. In 1978 he was the winner of the Brian Booth Medal. Muscular problems ended his career prematurely, much to the disappointment of Hockey supporters who marvelled at his brilliant dribbling technique. Geoff has continued his association with the Club, coaching junior and senior sides and becoming president of the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1992 a position he held until 1998.

Geoff first came to the Glebe District Hockey club in 1974 with his life long friend Keith Pritchard from the Cumberland Hockey Club. He was encouraged to join the club by Graeme Gilmore who coached both Geoff and Keith in the 1974 NSW colts' team. Glebe provided Geoff with the opportunity to improve his Hockey, through having great players and coaches to learn off. In that era players included Pat Nilan, Graeme Gilmour, Charlie Brown, Victor Westcott, Bill Stubbs & Ian Mutton. The club was blessed to have such an array of talented and skilful Hockey players at that time.

At the same time Cumberland had lost a number of seniors players and Geoff and Keith were often left to take fitness and training sessions. At such a young age they didn't think it should be put on their shoulders to carry such burden and responsibility.

After joining the club in 1974 Geoff played in the 1974-second grade premiership team when they beat St George in the Grand Final 3 – 1 were his class showed. Paterson took a pass on the St George 25 yard line and ran through the defence, beating four defenders before being brought down in the circle. Peter Howe made no mistake with the stroke to seal the victory.

Geoff Played in the 1976 undefeated Premiership winning First Grade side defeating St George 4 – 2 in the Grand Final. Geoff also gained selection in the NSW senior's team

that year. Geoff was also a member of the 1977 First Grade side that retained the Premiership defeating North Sydney 3 – 0 in the final. An interesting note that Glebe did not win back-to-



back First Grade Premierships until 2005 & 2006 seasons when Geoff coached the Glebe First Grade side, reflecting what a difficult feat it is.

Geoff's outstanding form throughout the 1978 season earned him the Brian Booth medal. Geoff was an artist with the stick, with outstanding ball control and agility – a real wizard. Patrick Nilan remarked in his 1978 First Grade Report: Geoff Paterson showed what can be done when you try. Geoff gave a total performance all year, was eager to work, listen and respond. Really displayed the art of dribbling. A fine reward in winning the Brian Booth medal.

In 1982 with first grade not winning a First Grade Premiership since 1977 the team came back with a vengeance in the 1982 season Captained by Geoff. The young Glebe combination took the field and were firm underdogs against St George. Keith Pritchard hitting the winning goal to give Glebe a memorable 2 – 1 victory. Geoff continued to play sporadically throughout the 80's in First grade and the club's lower grades but was restricted by his muscular problems, which limited the amount of time, he could devote to playing on the field. Although Geoff's time spent playing for Glebe was severely cut short; his most telling contribution to the Club can be seen through his dedication and efforts off the field.

In 1992 Geoff became President of the Glebe District Hockey Club a position that he held for six years from 1992 to 1997. During Geoff's tenure as President of the Glebe District Hockey Club the club generated a surplus each year, this was accompanied with the help of a skilful treasure in Bob Taylor and also many other people behind the scene's just doing their bit for the Club.



Geoff coached 2nd grade from 1991 – 1993 and in 1992 took the 2nd Grade

Team to the Grand Final but they were defeated 2 – 1 by Sydney University after finishing the season minor premiers. Geoff took a back seat from coaching the Glebe Senior Men teams when his son's Mark (1985) and Ian (1987) started to come through the junior ranks of the Club.

Geoff might hold one of the most impressive coaching records at the Glebe District Hockey Club. From 1992 to 1998 he coached a Glebe U/11 team and six out of those seven years he was associated with the various Glebe U/11 teams they made the Grand Final winning four and losing two having not reached the Grand Final in 1992. He continued to coach the Glebe junior teams through the 90's and in to the early 2000's. He coached the U/15's teams from 1999 – 2002

making the Grand Final every year and winning three out of four Grand Final appearances. He continued on in a mentoring role with the U/17's team coached by Les Wark taking on an assistant coach role and along with Les was a part of a formidable U/17's outfit which conquered all before them and were Premiers in both 2003 and 2004.

Geoff again stepped up to coach Glebe senior men's teams when his son's started to progress in to the higher grades. In 2002 Geoff coached a very good second grade side to the Grand Final only to be defeated by Sutherland in extra time. In 2004 he acted as assistant coach helping Shane Nilan to guide a very young 1st grade team to the final series, but unfortunately the team was bungled out in straight sets. Geoff took the reins of the Glebe 1st Grade side in 2005 and was to remain coach until the end of the 2009 season. During this time Geoff won three 1st Grade Premierships in five years. Geoff took first grade to back-to-back Premierships in the 2005 and 2006 seasons something the first grade side has not been able to do since the 1976 & 1977 seasons.

The 2008 season will be a Premiership long remembered by players and supporters alike with Glebe being true underdogs going in to the Grand Final and triumphing over on paper a more skilled opposition. After the 2009 season Geoff took an extended break from coaching preferring to watch from the sidelines, but the coaching bug bit once more this time in an assistant coach capacity



helping Coach Michael Bougoukas take the 2012-second grade team to a Premiership where they defeated Moorebank 3-2 in the Grand Final.

Geoff has noted that meeting and marrying his wife Maureen and having such a great social life with the club as his most treasured moments. As a player Geoff was also involved in every 1st grade Grand Final from 1975 to 1982. He also comments that playing with and sharing the camaraderie with players from that era was a real highlight of his career.

Geoff states that winning the 2005 and 2008 1st Grade Premiership as coach as two of his most memorable moments along with winning the Brian Booth Medal in 1978. Geoff has also helped coach and guide some of Glebe's great junior talents in Matthew Wark, Michael Wark, Simon Wark, Andrew Cheong, Zac Farlow, Adam Howard and Alister Cullen just to name a few in to the Club's senior ranks. His advice to the current committee is this: Have a good team around

you, all pitch in to make light work of things, don't get carried away with the ownership of your role & make decisions as a committee and talk things through.

Since coming to the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1974 Geoff has contributed greatly to all facets of the Glebe District Hockey Club. He has been a consummate administrator, Coach and one of Glebe's great players. He has set a fine example for all club members so much in the way of "Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for club'.