

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

SEASON 1953

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

To the Office Bearers and Members of the Glebe District Hockey Club:-

Gentlemen,

The 1953 Season was the second conducted under the auspices of the Sydney Hockey Assn. and the opportunity was taken to correct faults and strengthen weaknesses which were inevitably present in the first year of operation. In addition, the usual difficulties presented themselves; however, it is pleasing to note that the administration worked smoothly which was due in no small measure to the band of officials who gave unstintingly of their time to make our game possible. We believe that the co-operation of our Club officials helped to make their task lighter and they are assured that this will again be the case in 1954. It is noted with pleasure that Messrs R. Banks and L. Purnell are again standing for the respective positions of Assn. President and Secretary and this, in itself will mean much to the game.

From a Club point of view, we enjoyed a successful Season on the playing field, being fortunate enough to gain the Premiership titles in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades, while in addition, the much sought after Club Championship again came our way, although the result was in doubt until the last qualifying round. We are justly proud of having won the latter title every year since its inception. Despite the successes which we enjoyed on the playing fields, and if we might indulge in self-criticism, it is felt that for the first time in many years our internal administration did not function smoothly, and it behoves the incoming Management Committee to seek out and correct these faults.

The older Club members will realise that during 1953 we lost probably our most staunch supporter by the death of Mrs. E. Taylor. During the period 1931-1945 the Late Mrs. Taylor supported us vocally and practically, and she was as well-known in Hockey circles as most prominent players. For the services which she rendered to us, we conferred life-membership upon her, an honour which has been bestowed on only two others. Her passing came as a great shock, following quickly as it did the death of her husband, and our Patron, the Late Mr. W.J. Taylor. We extend to her son, Tom, our deepest sympathy on his loss.

The coming year promises to be a momentous one when the long-awaited Australian Championship Carnival will be held in Sydney for the first time since the War. Also a New Zealand Team will be visiting our shores and will play Australia in a Test Match in Sydney. This should bring about the greatest gathering of hockey enthusiasts ever known in Sydney and we look forward to a week's excellent Hockey in August 1954. We are confident also, that we will be able to repay the many kindnesses extended to our Club members by other States in the past.

Let us look forward now to another enjoyable Season and whether we win, lose or draw may we all assist in making Hockey "The Game that Grows".

FIRST GRADE:

Once again we were able to hold pride of place in Sydney hockey without losing one game during the season. This effort was due largely to the fact that the positional play of the team proved too superior to the spasmodic efforts of opposing teams.

The words "old men" have often been used to describe this team but the teamwork displayed by the "old men" caused many a younger team to wilt under the constant attack. To all members of the team go our congratulations for a job well done.

Glen Elliott deserves special mention for his winning of the W.J. Taylor Cup. After playing goalkeeper up and down the grades for many years and to be selected as most improved Club player for season '53 speaks volumes for his enthusiasm and good efforts.

Jack Taylor and Ken Wark lived up to their reputation as the best full back combination in Sydney hockey. "Tea Cosy" decided to settle down this year and with diligent training he may realise his life's ambition to partner Ken in wearing the True Blue.

Ken did not play as well last year as in previous seasons, but we can expect "big things" in '54 as the competition will certainly be keen.

Terry Reece, a welcome newcomer, soon settled down in the difficult left half possie and left no doubts as to his ability. His effortless play often brought congrats from both team mates and opposition. Terry won further honours with N.S.W. and also received the ribbon for best and fairest in match against Queensland. Incidentally, Terry is the third Club player to win this coveted ribbon in consecutive seasons, as previous awards were made to Ken Wark and Vern Turner. Surely this is another hockey record which will never be broken.

Les Waight met with strong wing half competition in Terry Reece and Frank Murray, but in the seven first-grade games his performances were top-class. Frank Murray - always the trier, his steady and consistent game is due to being in good condition. This interest shown by Frank could well be copied by all club members.

Noel Walker played orthodox and consistent right wing hockey. His pace and the accurate centering of the ball enabled the inside forwards to "shoot" many an easy goal.

Harry Wark was uncertain in early matches but soon regained his confidence and showed glimpses of past form in the tough matches. Acka scored 21 goals during 1953.

Ray Thorpe took the goal scoring honours with 27. He proved a good opportunist when in the first three matches he notched 12 goals. It is rumoured Ray has been transferred to Bulamacanka.

John Moore and Ken Bolin, two of the younger fry, were given a chance to gain valuable experience in the difficult inner left position. Ken also played on the left wing where he gave a good display in a new position. Both these lads acquitted themselves well, showing determination and the will to learn. More should be heard of their efforts in the near future.

Bennett Dunn, another youngster, only played three first-grade games and although overawed at his introduction to top-grade hockey he showed signs that with a little experience he will make his presence felt. These lads should now realise the difficulties to be surmounted in the making of a first grade player, and strive to put the experience so far gained to further advantage during the coming seasons.

Vern Turner played consistent hockey throughout the season. Vern is the ideal model for all enthusiastic young players as he has now captained N.S.W. twice, yet he is still willing to learn any of the finer points of the game. Vern has a new "business" venture now, and it is to be hoped it does not interfere with his winter Saturday afternoons.

Despite indifferent health in the early part of the season, Vince Halls eventually played in two first-grade games and again revealed the form which places him amongst our best players.

These comments would not be complete without a suitable reference to veteran Bill Ryan who again used his unsurpassed tactical knowledge in making possible the team's undefeated record. There's life in the old dog yet; even after 248 first-grade games.

<u>Games Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Draw</u>	<u>Goals For</u>	<u>Goals Against</u>
17	15	-	2	71	15

SECOND GRADE:

When the grading of players had been determined for Second Grade this season, much interest was aroused as to the efforts this team would produce; what with a good percentage of Junior players combined with the experience of Senior players it was generally thought that this team had the power to enforce a safe passage through the Competition rounds and entry into the Semi-Finals. However, as the season went under way, the efforts of the Seconds left very much to be desired. Although the will to win was never more prevalent, the standard of play produced was much below the ability of the players and it was only after much hard work that the Seconds managed to play their way into the Semi-Finals and finally take the Premiership.

With the services of Frank Murray and his Waight in this team, the Juniors found their game improving and showed to advantage as the Season progressed. Bennett Dunn, Johnny Moore and Ken Bolin getting a touch of First Grade, whilst Keith Riley and Bobby Rodgers gave displays worthy of consideration for claims in top teams in the future.

During the season it appeared that the efforts to score goals by the forwards was handicapped by goal shyness and only towards the latter end of the season did they find touch and produce the shots that found the net. The Halves played consistently, Paul Rodgers in the centre and wing halves, Frank Murray, his (straight-back) Waight and Fred Needham assuring in keeping the forwards moving whilst the back line of the defence, Vince (Dadda) Halls, Charlie Gates and Keith Riley gave little away in defence. Bob Rodgers had a very interesting season, being kept at times very busy, and it was pleasing to see him produce that little extra when the going was tough.

Jack Martin came to us rather late in the season and found it hard to settle down to his natural game, but after a few hard runs was moving along more like his old self.

Don Graham and Jack Sutherland found plenty of work their way only to find it hard at times to find the net.

Albert Martin, a new Club member, arose from the under ranks and more than held his own with general play, in fact his positional play was a feature and lesson to be noted by other club members.

Bennett Dunn improved his play considerably and his efforts on the left wing at times had a touch of brilliance.

It was pleasing to see another of the old brigade in Dave Robertson getting back into the game. You can't keep the old dogs down -- what happen to the spare tyre, Dave.

Congratulations are extended to Jack Sutherland on his achievement of scoring in every game last season, not an impossibility but a feat not often experienced. Well done, Jack.

We look forward to seeing much of the Juniors mentioned and trust the experience gained will press home their strive for claims in the top grades next season.

<u>Games Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Goals For</u>	<u>Goals Against</u>
17	15	2	-	70	16

THIRD GRADE

Once again our 3rd grade team came to the fore to take the honours in the 3rd Grade Competition, thus making the hat-trick for the Club once more. This is an honour unique to the Glebe D.H.C., and one we must be very proud of.

Our 3rd Grade was comprised mostly of last year's team, one of the main reasons why our Club does so well each year in the competitions. A good thing for the Club perhaps, but not so good for the young players trying to get on.

On paper the team was a very formidable one, one that could have gone through the competition undefeated, but this was not to be so; they were to

suffer three defeats during the season, one of the defeats being in the Semi-final, thus a Grand Final was necessary.

The team was very ably led by veteran player Jim Kenny. Jim has been playing hockey with the Glebe Club since its inception and during that time has amassed the grand total of over 315 games, a record for the club and very close to, if not a record for the Sydney Association. The younger players of the club would do well to take a leaf out of Jim's book in as far as practice is concerned. I don't think he missed a Sunday morning at Harold Park. On the field he is a tower of strength to the younger players, helping them whenever possible. A good man to have behind you, one that never gives up.

Another vital position in the team was Goal-keeper, and this was filled by Bernie Watson. The team must consider themselves very lucky to have had a goalie of Bernie's calibre. On more than one occasion it was Bernie's goal keeping that saved the team from defeat. There is no doubt that Bernie was unlucky in having two men like Glen Elliott and Bob Rodgers in front of him.

Bill Ewens, a new acquisition to the club from the Air Force, substituted for Bernie in goals when he was called away on his winter cruise with the Navy, and did everything that was asked of him. Hope to see more of you this year, Bill.

Paul Rogers, a youngster full of promise, only his second year in senior hockey, he knows what he should do but hasn't the weight or strength to do it yet. He gave us some good games last year, and next season he should be nearly ready to move on up the ladder.

Len Needham, another youngster we expected great things from. There is the makings of a first-class half in this lad, but he must learn to control himself. For one so young he can see the openings amazingly well - an essent for a good half. Another one who should be going up the ladder soon.

Don Campbell partnered Jim Kenny in our second last line of defence. He gave both Jim and the rest of the team some anxious moments through the season but when things were hard he was there and often we saw, when they were needed, some surprising bursts of speed.

Harry Wilson, our fire-fighting fireman, turned out again and gave us some good games. Harry is a good club man and no matter what part of the field you put him he will have a go.

Wilfred Murray early in the season was a little short of condition but he soon rectified this. Wilf is another player almost in the veteran stage you younger players would do well to take notice of in as far as his training is concerned. I don't think he missed a Sunday morning run.

Dave Robertson only played a few games with our thirds, but those he did play showed us what a man in condition can do. A lot of hard work went into Dave's training; it speaks volumes for his enthusiasm.

Leo Murdoch came out, or was talked out of retirement when we were in need of players and held his position without any trouble for the rest of the season. Leo has the knack of scoring goals when they are badly needed.

Harry Butler played only one game with the team, that being the Grand-Final. In it he showed what a grand positional player he still is and that he still knows what to do with the ball when he gets it.

Allan (Lucky) Halls played some fine games with the team and showed that at all times he was a very keen player and club member. After playing his game he was always ready to take a whistle in a late game. A pity more Club members did not follow suit.

Albert Martin, a newcomer to the Club, started his hockey with this team but it was soon evident that he would not stay there long. He finished the season in second grade. A man that could play well in any company.

After a long spell on the grass, Kelvin Dickey, our brilliant centre-forward of former years was enticed from retirement. When the season closed

he was casting a much thinner shadow, but was again revealing the form which had made him famous.

This team had the best goal average of the Club for the 1953 Season.

<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Goals For</u>	<u>Goals Against</u>
17	13	3	1	56	6

FOURTH GRADE.

Once again we must be full of praise for the efforts put up by our Minor B Team during the 1953 season. Despite an almost persistent shortage of players on numerous Saturdays, this team forced its way into the semi-final to be narrowly defeated by the eventual winners, after playing short for the entire game, this being due to a piece of bad management.

This team, comprising a mixture of youthful inexperience and seasoned veterans, did a magnitudinous job in upholding the prestige of the club. It is to our lower grades that we look for the opportunity of building our future strength, and I hope to see greater consideration given to them in future seasons. With the advent of the Match of the Day being played on a Sunday, the opportunity may arise for senior members to give plenty of support to the lower teams on several Saturdays. For their efforts during last season the Minor team earned the plaudits of the entire club.

The more frequent members of the team were as follows:

(Capt.) Bruce Jeffree: A very capable student of the game who played a consistently solid if not spectacular game.

Noel Dundas: Showed flashes of good form, but one who must learn the art of passing the ball in the field and hitting only in the circle.

Jack Thompson: A youngster of undoubted ability, who must learn to take the good with the bad.

Reg Matthews: A stalwart who proved his worth on more than one occasion.

Pat Veech: A newcomer who impressed as always enjoying his game, both on and off the field.

Harry Butler: Came out of retirement to show that age does not dim the value of experience. Showed his former brilliance late in the season.

Jack McParland: Played only in the latter part of the season, and exhibited a very sound defence.

Alan Gough: One of the young members of the team who has improved vastly since joining the senior ranks.

<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Goals For</u>	<u>Goals Against</u>
17	9	6	2	49	18

UNDER SIXTEEN.

The 1953 Hockey season saw the periodic rise and fall of the hopes of the Glebe Club of becoming the premier under sixteen Sydney team for the first time.

The players of this team are to be complimented on the manner in which they conducted themselves, both on and off the field, and while they did not win the coveted premiership they won the admiration of all those people who observed their progress throughout the season. In going so close to winning last year they showed that they will still be a formidable force again in the coming season, even though several of them will be moving up into the senior ranks.

A measure of their ability was the winning of the Annual Sydney Under Sixteen Knockout Carnival at St. Paul's, where with a full complement they defeated the best of under age teams. Another feature was their participation in the Canterbury Bankstown Annual Knockout Carnival at Centennial Park, where by merit alone they reached the semi finals only to be defeated by the strong C.B. first team. In their struggle to the semi-finals they defeated two