

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

TWENTY SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SEASON 1954.

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

OFFICE-BEARERS

SEASON 1954

Founder: The late Rev. Bro. McCarten Keegan
Patron: K. Dickey, Esq.
President: J. J. Worley, Esq.
Senior Vice-President: (V. Halls, Esq. died 5/8/54.
(M. Steedman appointed 17/9/54.

Vice Presidents:

A. Jurd	G. Mockler	Mrs. M. Dickey
E. Rodgers	F. Needham, Snr.	C. Humphreys
G. Stanley	Hon. W. O'Connor	N. O'Donnell
	T. Pearce	D. Riley

Life Members:

Late Mrs. E. O. Taylor J. Quinlin J. Kenny

Hon. Secretary:

W. Ryan

Hon. Treasurer:

N. Walker

Hon. Ass. Secretary:

P. Rodgers resigned 15/5/54
W. Murray appointed 4/6/54

Hon. Ass. Treasurer:

K. Riley

Club Captain:

H. Wark

Club Vice Captain:

V. Turner

Publicity Officers:

W. Ryan
F. Needham, Jnr.

Delegates to M. H. A.

W. Ryan

Alternate Delegate to M. H. A.

N. Walker

Management Committee:

J. Worley	F. Needham, Jnr.	V. Halls, Snr. died 5/8/54
W. Ryan	F. Murray	H. Wark
V. Turner resigned 27/6/54.	N. Walker	H. Butler
K. Dickey appointed 12/7/54.		J. McParland appointed 17/9/54.

Provisional Selection Committee:

L. Waight
V. Turner
N. Walker
F. Murray
K. Dickey

Under 16 Coach:

V. Turner

Hon. Auditor:

J. McParland ceased duty 17/9/54.
M. Steedman appointed 17/9/54.

INTRODUCTION TO ANNUAL REPORT 1954.

Gentlemen,

Season 1954 was a momentous one for the game of Hockey in N.S.W., as it saw the staging of an all-Australian Senior Championship for the first time since pre-war days. In addition, a New Zealand Representative team visited Australia and the highlight of the visit was the playing of the sole Test Match in Sydney at the conclusion of the Senior Championships.

As you will read later in this Report, our Club had the honour of providing the N.S.W. Captain in the person of Vern Turner, in addition to which Alec Robb and Ken Wark were members of the team. The latter achieved the ultimate aim of all Hockey players by gaining selection in the Australian Eleven. The work done by Noel Walker and Paul Rodgers in assisting to make the Championships a success is worthy of special mention. They gave unstintingly of their time and ability in order to make the lot of the visitors a happy one and the thanks of all Hockey players is due to them together with the other Administrative Officers of the Association.

From the point of view of our performances on the playing field, the season was not as successful as in recent years, although we were fortunate enough to win one of the minor Grades. The standard of play in the Club generally showed a marked deterioration and many senior players betrayed ignorance of some of the basic fundamentals of the game. On far too many occasions hard-hitting tactics were employed at the expense of skill and science which only served to bring previously good teams down to the level of their weaker opponents.

Our standards of demeanour on the field have always been held in high regard but they received a severe set-back when, in the first grade final match against St. George, two of our players were suspended following a series of unseemly incidents which were, without doubt, initiated by members of this Club. The offenders were taken to task by the Management Committee and it is hoped that all Club members will, in future, ensure that our standards of conduct on the field are restored to their previous high plane.

The occasion should not be allowed to pass without again placing on record the splendid work of the Ladies Committee once more under the capable guidance of Joan Ryan. The results of their efforts are obvious on our financial page in addition to which the Club has been imbued with a fine social spirit.

It is regretted that it is necessary to end these opening remarks on a very sad note but as you know, during last year, there occurred the untimely death of our Senior Vice-President, Vince Halls. His untimely passing was so sudden as to be a severe shock and perhaps we have not yet realised our loss. Vince Halls was a sportsman and gentleman of the highest order and his wise counsel and practical assistance will be sadly missed among us. To his wife and family we offer our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy.

1954 also saw the passing of the "Father of Hockey" in N.S.W., in the person of Ted Foskett. Ted had spent over 40 years in playing and administering the game and had held practically all offices. He had been a Vice-President of our Club for some years and had always watched our progress with keen interest. The game will be the poorer for Ted's passing. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

.....

<u>FIRST GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	16	14	2	-	64	15

For the third time since 1940 the first grade team were defeated for premiership honours, the only consolation was the winning of the Walbow Cup for the tenth consecutive season, a record which should stand for all time in hockey history.

The "firsts" after a shaky start settled down later in the season but found St. George, ultimate competition winners, too good in the Final after extra was played.

Twenty players represented first grade throughout the season, this being the greatest number of players to participate in any one season for many years.

Glen Elliott played very consistent hockey and should be proud of the small number of goals scored against during the season.

Ken Wark took over the captaincy half way through the season, but was not fortunate enough to steer his side to victory; however, Ken had the distinction of

representing N.S.W. and playing for Australia versus New Zealand in the only test match.

Jack Taylor once again was near to rep honours, but someone has to miss out and the "tea cosy" man now knows what it means. Jack proved a tower of strength in defence in our club games.

Frank Murray, Vince Halls and Bill Ryan played consistent hockey in a half-back line that was changed quite often through the season. They found the St. George forwards too nippy in that eventful final.

Kel Dickey making a welcome reappearance more than held his own in the top grade and combined well with the other forwards in consistent attacking movements.

Noel Walker played his usual game at right wing, his only worry being a loss of form early in the season, but he overcame the situation with hard practice.

Harry Wark, Jack Sutherland and newcomer Alex Robb, were the sharp shooters for the team scoring 18, 13 and 12 goals respectively. Harry found the going very hard early but settled down later in the season. Alex played well in the difficult inner left position, and he is to be congratulated on being awarded the W.J. Taylor Cup for Season 1954.

Vern Turner, our early Captain, seemed to have many worries, and this upset his hockey. Vern has far too much to do, as his unselfish work with the junior players hardly leaves him with enough stamina to do himself justice in the top grade games.

.....

<u>2ND GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	15	11	1	3	45	15

Once again this team as in years past has consisted of senior members who have enjoyed their best years in hockey and of up and coming juniors thriving for top honours in the game. It had after the original grading of teams, the excellent name of "What a grand reserve grade team to field", but unfortunately even though it only lost one game throughout the season, this being the semi-final, it had many close shaves consisting of three drawn games. It was regretful that it did not always function as a team and had to lose place of pride due to a few who, not purposely, did not wish to play as a team as we have always in the last decade. However, let us hope they learn by their experience.

The team had many changes, no fewer than twenty-eight players taking the field throughout the season. This was due mainly to representations of players in major teams, call-ups for National Service training and injuries., however, the record of the team was very good, the goals against being low and the goals for, also of a high standard - not as high as previous years yet still a 3 to 1 ratio.

The only loss of the year, as mentioned, was in the semi-final, and even though it was up against a very "hot" side it only lost for one reason as stated previously, and the other was because the lack of condition, this also causing most of the drawn games it had throughout the season and it would be wise for the Juniorsto note that fitness is the major keynote to success in this game.

The defence of the team was very sound throughout, Bob Rodgers keeping goals as before in an excellent manner and showing a big improvement on the previous seasons. Les Waight --- (Country Carnivals are still his long suit) --- was very ably assisted by Keith Riley who up till the time of his call-up for N.S.T. was playing a very good and heady game, and now that he has "Sported his Wings" the future can easily see him amongst the top bracket. Vince Halls played so well early, he was stepped up a grade, and a very good performance he always turned on. Charlie "Double-Up" Gates, when he wasn't playing twice, thought there was something amiss in the Club - yet, you always acquitted yourself admirably in all games and it points to a First-class Clubman to do what you always did. Paul Rodgers, the mainstay of the Team, was always the pivot in attack and defence - your brains and grand play were always there when needed and it would be well for all Juniors to copy his grand style of play and field temperament.

Bill "Jazzer" Ryan, like Vince Halls, was also stepped up to his old position and he certainly showed most members of the Club that there was still plenty of life left in the old boy and his play, condition and field demeanour was something many a player would do well to copy. The Wing Halves including Paul Rogers, was at the end of the Season one of the most improved players in the Club, showing excellent control in attack and defence - a great little player, only too willing to listen and a lot will be heard of you in the near future. Len Needham, another capable youngster who on his day is a great Half - his only weakness is his over-willing wish to do more than his share of the work and he, like many other excellent juniors will be pressing very hard for the high Honours in the near future.

The Attack consisted of a very formidable lot, the spearhead being Jack Sutherland - once again top scorer, and he like a few others was lifted to the higher grade. Congratulations, Jack, your record as top scorer after only a half season with the team speaks for itself. Your play, condition and field temperament in both grades was first class. Second top scorer was Kel Dickie, who also made his presence felt scoring 7 goals in 4 games and you likewise were always showing your very best form. Jim Flood, the only member of the team to sport the "Two Blues" - nice work, Jim, and our congratulations. Your play was always first class and you certainly kept a few of the boys in the top grade flat out to retain their positions. Your only fault being your uncanny way of shooting over or around the goals and not in. Keep up the good work as a mighty big future is forecast for you.

Bennett Dunn, who also just as he was beginning to shine as a forward, had to go to his N.S.T. Yet, Bennett, you also have a very big future in line as your play needs very little improvement. Your only trouble is which position to give you, as you play any forward position so very well. Ray Thorpe certainly would take the Honours for the best Clubman after travelling so far to have a game as he did and in each game he showed glimpses of his real form that made him one of the best forwards in the game.

Don Graham also showed a great deal of talent in all games - always a grand mover and with a little more condition would certainly press for the top teams. Alan Fox, another who was near to the most improved player in the Team at the close of the season - he also is only too eager to listen and learn. A repetition of this form and he too would be pressing for the Top Grade. Leo Murdoch who came up the ladder also acquitted himself very well in all games. He always showed a great keenness and his play improved a great deal as the season went on. Good work, Leo, you still have plenty of games left yet.

Many others could be mentioned but space will not allow it, but we all look forward to seeing our many Juniors of the Club go on to greater heights and the Old Stagers of the Team turn out again and guide our Juniors on to success, also to enjoy themselves as they always have in the past in the game that grows.

"Last but not least", mention should be made of Les Waight who captained the side. Les was unfortunate in that the personnel of the team was never stable, consequently he had to alter team tactics so often. He endeavoured to do too much in the semi final but at all times instilled the will to win amongst his own team members.

.....

<u>THIRD GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>ZAGAINST</u>
	16	12	2	2	55	12

This team are to be congratulated on a good season's performance, only being beaten by the odd goal in seven in the final against Ryde Hunter's Hill. It was most gratifying to see the improvement of the younger team members during the latter part of the season which proves that we need the older experienced players to carry on in the lower grades to pass on their knowledge in the training of the juniors for future hockey years.

Harry Butler who captained the team played the old "wise owl" part to perfection, and he was instrumental in many of the fine efforts of the team. "Butch" can also be proud of the fact that a number of the junior members improved considerably under his guidance.

Tom "Digger" Taylor came out of retirement to vice Captain the team and we can only say that the Club gained its greatest acquisition for years. Digger was at all times an inspiration to the team, and often times was seen hitting goals in the way we knew a few seasons ago.

Charlie Gates was the hardest working player in the Club - he would wonder what happened if he was not asked to play two games on the one day. Charlie never gives up and his example in this respect should be followed by all club members.

Dave Robertson, another very keen exponent of the Game. His display of stickwork at times would have done credit to a half back. Team members were very glad that swabs are not taken from hockey players, "Robbo".

Bobby Fox improved most considerably on the right wing. He has the necessary potential, so keep it going, Bob, as the openings will present themselves.

Bernie Watson as goalkeeper scuttled many an attack, by intelligent saves throughout the season. Although not a flash goalkeeper Bernie would give a good account of himself in any company.

Fred Needham once again played very consistent hockey feeding the winger with beautiful passes, and generally showing good positional play against all opponents.

Len Needham played early in the season in this grade but soon caught the selectors eye. Len should pay more attention to his game than the opposing players which at the moment is keeping him out of the higher grades.

"Mo" Cownie one of the most promising juniors, joined the team half-way through the season and acquitted himself really well. You should keep trying, Morrie, as it is well worth it.

Don Graham is the query of the team playing first class hockey at times whilst at other times he could not raise a gallop. Don scored many a good goal to help his side when needed.

Alan Halls showed he has retained his good hitting form by netting 19 goals for the season. He kept the game going on many occasions by making openings for his two inside forwards.

Ken Bolin played the difficult left wing position with a great deal of ability, at times giving the inside forwards scoring opportunities with well directed centre passes. Ken would much rather play in the inside left position.

<u>MINOR A GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	16	9	5	2	35	19

During the 1954 season the club was hard hit by the shortage of players due mainly to call-ups for National Service Training and injuries etc., the Minor A team suffered most and even though no less than 12 players from other teams, both higher grade and lower, assisted by backing up and playing 2 games to help out, the team still went on the field on six occasions with one man short, including the semi-final. In all, the records show, 37 players at one time or other played in the team. It was practically an impossibility to form any sort of combination as there were only two members who played in the same position throughout the season and they were the full-backs. It is, indeed, quite a feat considering all these set-backs. The team finished second on the list when the minor-premiership was decided and went down fighting in the semi-final. The entire club congratulates the Minor A team on its grand effort.

Greg. Harris showed class and coolness in his full back position, and many a time turned offence by the opposition into defence. With a little more experience Greg. will be giving the higher grades a shake.

Johnny Waterson who partnered Greg in the second last line of defence was a tower of strength with his long clearing hits to his forwards.

Don Campbell was unfortunate to be called up for National Service just when he was playing good hockey. Don has the ability and must go on to higher honours.

Bill Parry, a newcomer from the juniors described last year as Thrust and Parry without enough Parry. Bill rectified that this year by notching 9 goals, most for the team, and should benefit greatly by the experience in the senior ranks.

Bill Leckiss in his initial year with the club showed a lot of promise displaying a strong hit when in a scoring position and was sorely missed when unavailable in the semi-final.

Pat Veech: In only his second year with the club Pat showed he has plenty of fighting spirit and a very good team man. Pat did more than his share to keep this team together.

Harry Wilson, although carrying a bit of surplus weight, showed he could still fool the opposition with his change of pace on the left wing. Fortunately, with Harry, we have a man who can play in any position, a definite acquisition to this team.

Jack Thomson, another of those whose hockey was interrupted by Military Training, but in his three games with the team showed it did him no harm as he gained physically and acquired a more mature outlook which will be evident in the future.

Alan Gough as right half was settling in to his new position but after ten games, he too, was called up for National Service Training.

Lance Jones, a newcomer to the club, who played in the last three games of the season. Lance has a good turn of pace but must learn more of positional play.

Reg Matthews came back, on request, out of retirement to play in the last three games. Reg produced a solo effort goal in the semi-final when he broke through from near half-way to beat half the field. An effort not easily forgotten.

Arthur Snelling, although only playing one game, showed he had lost none of his pace and skill by notching 2 goals.