

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

TWENTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SEASON 1956.

GLEBE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB

OFFICE-BEARERS

SEASON 1956

Founder: The late Rev. Bro. McCarten Keegan
Patron: K. Dickey, Esq.
President: J.J. Worley, Esq.
Senior Vice President: M. Steedman Esq.

Vice Presidents:

A. Jurd	F. Needham, Sen.	Mrs. Wark, Sen.
G. Stanley	C. Humphreys	
G. Mockler	D. Riley	

Life Members:

J. Quinlan J. Kenny W. Ryan

Hon. Secretary:

R.G. Thorpe

Hon. Treasurer:

H. Butler

Hon. Ass. Secretary:

J. Buckley

Hon. Ass. Treasurer:

P. Rogers

Club Captain:

H. Wark

Club Vice Captain:

R. Thorpe

Publicity Officer:

J. Taylor

Delegate to S.H.A.

K. Wark

Alternate Delegate to S.H.A.

A. Halls

Management Committee:

J. Worley	K. Wark	J. Buckley
K. Dickey	H. Butler	P. Rogers
H. Wark	D. Robertson	R. Thorpe

Provisional Selection Committee:

K. Dickey
R. Thorpe
H. Wark
K. Wark
V. Turner

Hon. Auditor:

J. McParland

INTRODUCTION TO ANNUAL REPORT 1956.

Gentlemen,

As predicted in our Report of last year, the Olympic Games provided a great boost to many sports during 1956 and Hockey was no exception. The privileged few who were able to attend the Games from N.S.W. spoke highly of the general organisation and confirmed that they provided a never-to-be-forgotten spectacle. One particularly heartening feature of the Olympics was the results achieved by our own Australian Team who proved beyond doubt that they are verging on world class and with a little more International competition would attain an even higher standard.

We must, however, guard against complacency and continue our drive for more teams and higher standards. The opportunity occurs this year to obtain more publicity for our game as the Colts Carnival is destined for Sydney and once again we must see that our own Club is well to the fore in offering Administrative and practical assistance.

We were fortunate during 1956 to win the 1st Grade Premiership and to share the honours for the Club Championship, but a large number of games played were by no means decisive victories and it was clear that the Club's playing standard had deteriorated to a marked degree. It was equally heartening, however, to see that the Under Age Competitions were flourishing and that the Glebe Club possessed a number of young teams which obviously included some champions in the making.

A limiting factor in this aspect of our activities is the obvious lack of members and supporters who are prepared to help organise and train individual teams, and I appeal to all concerned to do everything in their power to alter this poor state of affairs. If such work is left to the few, it becomes an arduous responsibility but many hands make light and pleasant work of an interest such as this. I refuse to believe that a Club of our size cannot produce the helpers required and I ask each and every one of you to accept the challenge.

Lastly, it is hoped that you enjoyed your Hockey in 1956 and that the year before us will find all concerned endeavouring to maintain the fine tradition of our Club both on and off the field.

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<u>FIRST GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	17	14	3	-	46	22

Congratulations must go to the A Grade for their Olympic year premiership honours after a grand final with N.D.

Our last line of defence was very capably carried out by our member of the R.A.A. Harry Arnold. Harry on numerous occasions clinched victory for us with some very solid goal keeping.

Jack Taylor again represented his club in A Grade and with such consistency it makes it hard for me to say something that has not already been said by his previous captains, except - see you in A Grade.

Victor Westacott was again seen as centre half and played good hockey for his club, also being selected in Sydney No.1 rep. team and from the whisper of the grapevine was very close to N.S.W. Sen. selection. Congratulations, Victor,

Paul Rogers, right half, was seen during the early part of the season playing some good hockey but due to a very nasty hit in the mouth and the loss of a few teeth his game backed off a piece, but after an off-season's rest we will see the new Paul again.

Frank Murray, another stalwart for the Reds who in playing left half till his accident and also after it, brought badly-needed strength into that position and his fatherly experience helped us all in as much as you have not lost till the final whistle has blown.

Vern Turner, Mister Hockey himself, who played left wing and left half during the absence of Frank Murray and very capably played both positions. Congratulations must go to Vern for his time spent in looking after our future A Grade players on a Saturday morning -- keep up the good work.

Bill Stubbs, Inside Left, broke the ice into A Grade and after a very good season and a very good grand final should, with a few more years' experience, become one of Sydney's outstanding inside forwards.

Gregg Harris, Right Back, although only playing 5 games during the absence of K. Wark, will this year make it hard for the selectors to overlook him for top colours.

Ray Thorpe, Centre Forward, again made his presence felt by scoring at least one goal every match except 2, during the season. Keep it up, Ray. That's the only way we win; scoring goals.

Harry Wark, Inside Right, and the antelope of the side, who always worries his opposing positions with whirlwind dashes such as seen in the grand final with the winning goal. Keep it up, "old" fellow.

Bennett Dunn, Right Wing, just kept on improving with every game he played and if he keeps all his fire for playing hockey shall be a top honours player for the Reds.

Congratulations must go to Vince Halls for his outstanding game in the grand final.

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<u>2nd GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	15	7	5	3	36	17

What is it that enables a racehorse, who is apparently beaten, to come on again and snatch victory in the last few strides, or a prize-fighter to get up off the floor and win by a K.O. after taking terrific punishment?

Heart, courage and the will to win, is the answer and if the Glebe 2nd Grade Team had shown one ounce of this they would have won the competition by the proverbial street. Individually the calibre of the players was well above 2nd Grade standard, but with the exception of two or three players the two most important features of the game of Hockey, i.e., teamwork and team spirit, were missing completely for the majority of matches played. Instead of putting their shoulders to the wheel and working in unison a number of players seemed more concerned with the fellow alongside of him and spent half the time commenting and criticising mistakes made by team-mates.

Now for the orthodox report:- This team after a slightly patchy season managed to reach the semi-finals and were very unlucky to be eliminated by Ryde.

Composed mainly of veteran players with three or four up-and-coming youngsters this performance wasn't too bad considering incidents previously mentioned.

As for quite a number of previous years our star goal scoring forward was Johnny Sutherland. Good work, John, and there's still a fair quota of goals in the old stick yet. Hope to see you whacking them in again this year.

Number One Deputy, Gary Sullivan, a youngster with a lethal hit and a hatred of goal-keepers, is improving all the time and with a little more experience should go a long way.

The rest of the forward line was comprised mainly of D. Robertson, J. Buckley, D. Graham and J. Martin, and some good work was seen from each of these players at various times.

In the half-back line we saw such players as Freddy Needham, "Butch" Butler, Max Jeffs and "Macka" Campbell. "Butch" and Freddy, although both old-timers now, can still teach the majority of players a trick or two. Both Max and "Macka" have a lot of potential and I predict a good future in the game if they continue to improve as they have done in the past.

There would not be too many teams in the competition with a line-up of full backs as good as this team had, namely, Vince Halls, Greg Harris and Jack Watterson. As for Greg, I cannot speak highly enough of his outstanding ability, demeanour and general outlook regarding the game.

Our last line of defence -- goalkeeper -- was occupied by Bobby Rodgers who performed this job quite capably. Noel Walker and Bernie Watson also occupied this position throughout the season and proved able deputies.

As far as the appearance, dress and sportsmanship was concerned it was quite up to the standard expected from the premier club.

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<u>MINOR A GRADE:</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>E.</u>	<u>GOALS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
	14	3	9	2	20	32

It's 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 the future season.

The words "Oldmen" have often been misused on numerous occasions when referring to various teams of the Club. But the Minor A's cannot be labelled in this category because they consisted of the young blood of the Club. Although the will to win was never more prevalent, the standard of the play produced was much below the ability of the players.

The frequent members of the team:-

Alan Gough - CAPT.

John Bishop - VICE CAPT. Showed flashes of good form.

Ron Cullen was at home playing in the backs or forwards.

Richard Tandy - As keen as they can be found.

Pat Bourke. Only played a few games, but was still able to show he knew what to do with the ball.

Jim Kenny. A good man to have behind you, one that never gives up.

Neville Simpson. A good forward, but must learn the umpire is always right.

Brian Ross. Was at home on the wing and displayed good stick work.

Wally Wilson. A newcomer to the Club. Played a couple of games in the Thirds. Played well in the forwards.

Don West, Played some fine games. Very keen player.

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UNDER 14:

The results of the "Under 14" competitions in 1956 proved conclusively that the area under the jurisdiction of the Glebe District Hockey Club can provide still the potential to maintain the standards set by the Club over the past twenty years.

Eight Glebe teams were fielded in the "A" zone competition in which Randwick (three teams) Eastern Suburbs (two teams) and Y.M.C.A. (one team) participated.

Glebe Police Boys I were the ultimate winners of the A Zone by winning the Grand Final from Randwick I by three goals to two. Prior to this Glebe, the Minor Premiers, were defeated in the final by Randwick and from the ensuing grand final the Glebe team gave the Club its initial success in the "Under 14" division.

Following upon the completion of the zones competitions eight teams were drawn from these zones on a points basis, to play for the City of Sydney "Under 14" Championship. Our Club was fortunate enough to be represented by two teams, Glebe Police Boys I and St. James.

The outcome of the championship was that all other teams were defeated quite comfortably and St. James and Glebe Police Boys played off in the final. The match was a thriller and the high standard of play brought forth many favourable comments. Fortune favoured one side and then the other, but the match was finally won by St. James one goal to nil. It would be hard to say which was the better team as the teamwork and strategical play set a standard which the senior players might find hard to emulate.

Again a Glebe team was successful and in the one season the Club had won its zone competition and the City of Sydney Championship -- an achievement of which we may be proud.

It would be impossible to single out individual players and declare them to be responsible for their team's successes because hockey is a team game and every action on the field is executed in unison with the other members of the team.

Every member of every team is to be congratulated on the amount of improvement shown, plus the high standard of conduct at all times. For those players in their first year it may be some consolation to them to know that the worst year is over and from now on enjoyment they get out of playing hockey will be twice as great and will increase each year.

As you know, trophies are awarded each year to boys showing outstanding ability and improvement in their respective line of attack or defence.

In making the final selections great difficulty was experienced in that it could be quite possible to award three times the number of trophies, but that is not possible.

Congratulations are extended to the following players on the award of their trophy:-

The player selected to receive the award for the most outstanding player was Peter Howe. In winning the Sydney Under 14 championships the St. James team owes much to the ability of this player. Should he continue to take an interest in the game and practice whenever possible, the Glebe Club has another future Australian Representative.

For the most improved forward Pat Nilan of the Broadway team was selected to receive the award. In his first year at the game Pat was chosen to represent Sydney and acquitted himself in an outstanding manner. Here is another future Australian Representative if he is prepared to do that little bit extra practice that distinguishes a champion from the ordinary player.

The honour of being chosen as the most improved half back went to David Lisk of the Glebe Police Boys I Team. David was brought up from the No. II Team to fill a vacancy by the illness of Tony Irwin and played a prominent part in the Police Boys I team's successes. He was considered as one of the best half backs in the whole Zone A competition. He should learn to maintain his position more strictly rather than wander into the centre of the field.

The trophy for the most improved back went to Ron Melville from the Broadway team. Ron has a bright future as a hockey player as he does not become flustered and directs his passes to his forwards in a very sensible manner. He is a player that will help to maintain and even improve the standard of any team with whom he is chosen. He should study the technique of positional play in order to become the complete full back.

Two friends of the Club decided to give a trophy each to the boy setting the best example of sportsmanship and conduct. Their choice resulted in the captains of the two teams contesting the Under 14 final, namely, Robert Brown and Brian Howe

If an observation had been made of the competition during the season it could be understood that the awards were well deserved. Congratulations to both boys.

It is impossible to mention everyone and once again all the boys are congratulated on their fine standard of play and their sportsmanship exhibited during last year's hockey season.

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UNDER 16:

Once again the honour of winning the Sydney "Under 16" Competition eluded our grasp. The Glebe team were defeated by Mosman after leading for a period, but the general overall teamwork of the winning side proved just a little too good for our fellows. The match was described as the most exciting of the whole competition, a tribute to the teamwork and ability of both sides.

In order to gain experience a few members of the Under 14 team were allowed to play in the Under 16 competition where they soon proved themselves to be equally at home in the older division as they were in the younger one. These players included Barry Angus as full-back, Barry Goodrich as half back, Robert Brown as inside right, Graham Gilmore as full back and Fred Letts as goalie.

In conducting a resume of the whole year's competition, a number of salient features stand out. Obviously, a team can win only by superior ability either in individuals or in the team as a whole. Our team as individuals were equal to any in the competition but the same could not be said of their teamwork. It is one thing to be a member of a team, but another to play as a team. Unfortunately, the Glebe team maintained too much of an individual type of play and their attack or defence was broken very easily although at times their teamwork was exemplary.

This aspect can be related to the lack of proper training and practice facilities where any deficiency may be corrected and tactics arranged. However, the matter of training facilities may be altered this year so every member of the Club will be able to benefit from the regular practice which has been a feature of our Club for so many years.

The award of the V.J. Turner trophy was made to the Captain of the team, John Whittle, who improved out of sight. It was mainly through his efforts that the team progressed so far in the competition. His stickwork is better than seventy percent of the senior players and his entry into the senior ranks should benefit the Club considerably. In order to improve his play he should practice complete control of the ball at all times together with the ability to make a pass on either side by using the push pass or the back stick pass. The ability to do these things plus a complete knowledge of his position will make John a force with which to be contended by the senior players.

To the other players joining the senior ranks, remember at all times that the greatest asset you can take with you is the desire to play in the team selected as a member of the team, not as an individual. By doing this you will not only be helping the Club but you will join in the thrill of being a member of a winning combination.

Congratulations on last year performances, and good luck for this year.

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CLUB TROPHIES:

Congratulations to the following players who have been selected as Trophy recipients for the 1956 Season:-

W.J. TAYLOR CUP	-	J.C. TAYLOR
W.A. OLDFIELD CUP	-	G. HARRIS
V.J. TURNER CUP	-	J. WHITTLE

CARNIVALS:

With carnivals it can mainly be said that the "Old Grey Mare She Ain't What She Used To Be", even though we think we are. I think I can safely say that on an average over the last few years the club has made 8 out of 10 Carnival finals. Three carnivals only have been won in the last 2 years. When we once more get into condition to "battle" out these carnivals - the "ageless" and the youngsters - a lot more finals will come our way.

This year the club attended carnivals run by St. George, Cremorne/N.Sydney, Wests, Manly, Cant-Bankstown, Moorebank, Goulburn and Bathurst. We were successful in the St. George and Cremorne Carnivals. At Bathurst the No.1 team probably played its best hockey of the season. The combination and team spirit of other days came to the fore. Unfortunately, rain made the grounds mud-heaps and we found the effort of playing on a wet track too much.

At Manly, a team comprising some hardy old veterans in the shape of "Butch" Butler, Dave Robertson, Des Wise and keen "kids" like Bill Stubbs, Ron Cullen, etc., paddled and sloshed their way to victory in the Minor Trophy. Well done, "boys"! You played a nice "dirty" game.

SOCIAL DOINGS HELD DURING 1956:

Considering the few social functions the Club runs it is surprising how many members do not attend them. This year we held a cabaret dance instead of a Ball. As a result we not only had a social success but a financial one too. However I do not think we can continue running either a Ball or a Cabaret hoping that members will rally round and ensure success in both directions. A profit of £5 was made on the Cabaret: In 1955 a loss of £20 was the result.

GOLF DAY:

Eleven members attended this most enjoyable day at Wallacia. Harry Wark, using his rather liberal handicap to advantage, never looked like losing. This is the first time Harry has won the Major Prize -- it is also, I am informed, the last time he will win. The sealed nine was won by Ray Thorpe. The "foursomes" was won by Jack Sutherland and Ray Thorpe. The prizes for each particular event were well worth winning and Jack Taylor is to be commended on his good taste in choosing them.

SMOKO:

Once more this event was held under the arches at Jubilee Oval. No electric light made things a bit difficult but I am sure those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As usual the Christmas Raffle was drawn the same night. Thanks go to Harry Wark who did most of the organising in the food and drink line, to Ken Wark who seems to have a frustrated ambition to be a barman and to Kel Dicke for his help at the Smoko and his effort in disposing of a goodly quantity of raffle tickets.

COUNTRY CARNIVAL:

We were once more fortunate to secure the catering rights at the country carnival during the Queen's Birthday week-end at Wentworth Park. And once again we were highly successful financially. It must be emphasised however, that without the unselfish help of members, wives and friends that you see behind the counter all this would not be possible.