

Glebe District Hockey Club Inc



JUNIOR TEAMS

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T**

1997

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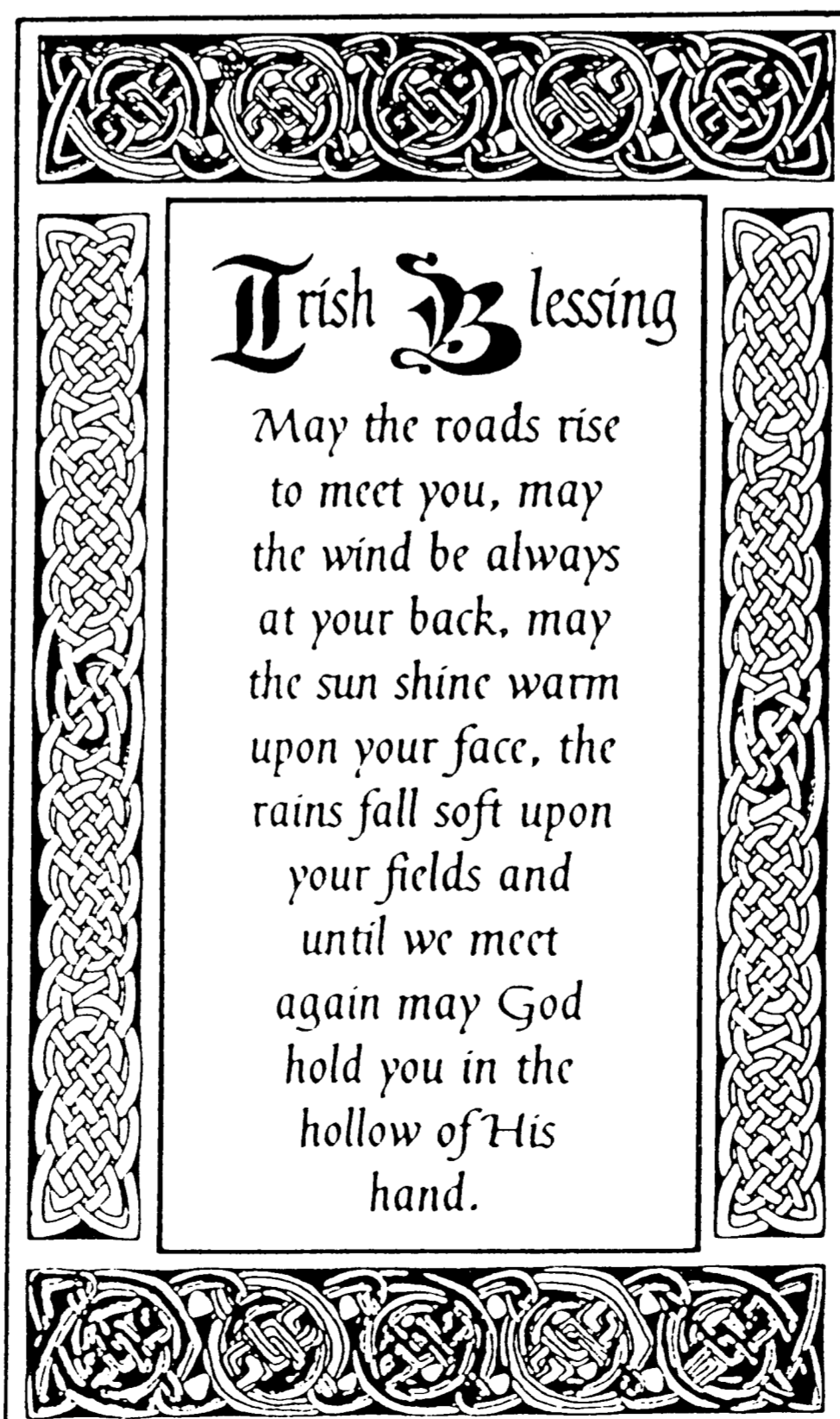
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to ALL our sponsors
large and small
who have helped us
throughout the year



Under 11 Redbacks 1997

Back Row: Geoff Paterson (Manager), Geoff Bortfield (Manager), Thomas Dodd, Andrew Cheong, Andrew Fox, Scott Bortfield, Simon Wark, Sam Candido, Bobby Fox (Coach)

Front Row: Ian Paterson, Ashlea Schuberg, Alastair Moran, Michael Wark, Dean McWhinney, Christopher Casey, Zac Farlow
Garry Backus is not pictured



Junior Convenor's Report 1997

On behalf of the Junior Committee I would like to welcome every one to the Junior Presentation Day for 1997 – a year that is very special in the life of the Junior Club as it represents the fiftieth year of junior hockey at Glebe. The founding fathers of the Juniors, Vern Turner and Vince Halls Senior, could not have dreamed that their hard work all those years ago would result in the vibrant junior organisation we have today.

In 1997 the Club fielded twelve junior teams, comprising two Under 17's, three Under 15's, three Under 13's and four Under 11's, as well as our Minkey players. In total we have one hundred and sixty registered players (fifty seven girls and one hundred and three boys) making Glebe yet again the largest junior club in the Sydney Association. A far cry from the single team of Under 16 Boys who ran onto the field in 1948.

Terry Reece Trophy

Our season commenced on 16th March with the return of competition between Glebe and The Entrance clubs for the Terry Reece Trophy. It was played on the Central Coast turf at Wyong after a two year break. Glebe made sure they retained the shield by winning all their matches in the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups.

We look forward to The Entrance visiting us in 1998 when it will be our turn to host the event.

Junior Carnivals

Carnivals were once again very keenly supported and, as in previous years, a major part of the junior programme. The Club turned up in force at Northern Districts, St George, Baulkham Hills, Lithgow, and (of course) our own Carnival.

Besides being a source of great fun and enjoyment for the children who attended, I have no doubt that much of the success enjoyed by our junior teams over the past few years has been a direct result of playing carnival hockey on a regular basis.

Glebe Carnival

As in 1996, this year's Glebe Carnival was one of the highlights of the year. The response from everyone associated with the Club was nothing short of overwhelming. A number of parents and officials from other clubs were so impressed that they made special mention of the spirit and harmony within our Club and how much they enjoyed the day.

There is little doubt that the Glebe Carnival is now recognised as Sydney's premier junior club carnival. With such a reputation it can only go from strength to strength.

Minkey

The Minkey programme since its inception has been the foundation on which our junior structure has been built. In 1997 the initial registration of twenty children was considerably down on previous years. However, as the season progressed Vernon Howe with help from the Ladies' Club was able to build the number up to over thirty.

Congratulations Vernon and everyone on a truly magnificent effort.

Wednesday Nights Training

The greatest concern for a succession of Junior Committees ever since our numbers have grown to the proportions of the last few years has been how to provide adequate instruction on Wednesday nights for the large number of children who flock to Jubilee Oval. This year, as in previous years, Harry Wark Junior has been a huge influence in making sure every child that turned up to training was looked after by someone on the night. One of the most pleasing aspects of Wednesday night was the number of current and recent Juniors in the seventeen, eighteen and nineteen age groups who made themselves available to help with the coaching. Without their support it would have been impossible to give each player the individual tuition necessary to improve their skills. A special thank you to Carol Moran, mother of Rory, Kate and Alister, who came to the rescue when coaching staff were stretched to the limit.

Synthetic Turf

In 1994, when I last held the position of Junior Convenor, Leichhardt Council had just given approval to the Harold Park development. It was then quite reasonable to assume that by 1997 we would be playing on our own turf. As we are so painfully aware, that is not the case. Our dream seems further away than ever.

This Club over the years has had a history of battling and struggling against the odds. I have no doubt whatsoever that, regardless of how long it takes, the spirit and determination that drives this Club will triumph in the end and both our junior and senior teams will run out onto our own turf in the not too distant future.

Fund Raising and Sponsorship

We are still able to continue our proud tradition of no registration fees for our juniors. Like other clubs we have to rely on sponsors and various fund raising activities throughout the year to meet our running costs.

I would like to express on the behalf of everyone our special thanks to Shaughn Murphy and the Toxteth Hotel as well as Richard Ware Real Estate, both well known Glebe establishments, for their very generous sponsorships.

Thanks also to everyone for their support of other fund raising endeavours. There are too many to list, but our success as a club has a lot to do with this. In addition I thank everyone who has supplied prizes for raffles and who has given effort in our ventures. Last, but not least, thanks of course to the parents, guardians and friends who have supported us throughout the year.

Bob Fox

The season ended on a very sad note for the whole Club with the sudden and untimely death of Bob Fox. So much has already been said and written about the fine qualities of the man and his contribution to the development of junior hockey.

In order to honour his memory the Senior Management Committee has voted unanimously to provide a trophy in his name. It will be added to the three perpetual trophies already awarded in the Junior Club and will be presented for the first time in 1998.

Final thanks

In conclusion I would like to thank the Coaches and Managers for their support during the season. The manner in which your teams conducted themselves on the field brought nothing but credit to our Club.

To Anne Wark and her band of helpers who staffed the canteen during the season, thank you for the countless hours you have donated to the Club. The work of Anne and Bar Manager Harry Wark Senior has been critical for the financial viability of the Club as the canteen takings make up a large part of the Club's revenue. It is a comforting to know that at least 80% of these funds are generated by the juniors.

To President Geoff Paterson and the Senior Executive Committee, thank you for your support during the year.

I have been extremely fortunate to have people of the calibre of Ron Cheong, Mick Tapsell and Eddy Crook working with me on the Junior Committee. Their hard work, dedication and professionalism made my job that much easier. Thank you, gentlemen.

Finally, thanks to my wife Cheryl. I can only say that without her I would not have made it through the season.

May everyone here today have a very enjoyable summer and I hope to see you all back again in 1998.

*Jim Oman
Junior Convenor*

Under 17 Ones

A Summary of the Season...

The decision to commence the season with A and B competitions proved to be a good one, as the competition in A grade was even and no team could really be taken lightly. The season produced a number of "upsets" – another indication of an even competition.

After a slow start to the season – drawing the first game with Baulkham Hills 2 – all the Glebe A team gradually began to build cohesion as the new players from the 1996 Under 15 team found their feet. The earlier games were generally against the less talented teams, and gave the team the opportunity to build up teamwork. The defensively impressive Penrith side gave the team a solid workout at Penrith, while Glebe had too much class for Sutherland and Gordon. The best display during the first round was against Northern Districts, which Glebe won 4 nil. Northern Districts had done some recruiting in the off-season and were tipped in some circles as the team to beat for the Premiership. But on the day, they were beaten all round the park by a very impressive Glebe team, that maintained good team hockey throughout the whole game. The following week, Glebe played Moorebank at Moorebank. The first half was brilliant. Players let the ball do the work, and the team passing was easily the best to date. At half time the score was 6 nil to Glebe. Moorebank, desperate to stop the flow of goals, turned on the strong-arm stuff in the second half. Players became distracted and the standard of play fell away, which was a pity, as the first half had been great entertainment. At full time the score was 7 nil to Glebe.

The following week, Glebe played Ryde, emerging as the real threat to a Glebe premiership. This was a very tight, hard-fought game. Glebe led throughout the match, but the final scoreline: 4-3 to Glebe, shows how tough a game it was. Ryde, fighting to get back in the second half when two goals behind, earned the ire of the referees with some ill-disciplined play just when they were pressing Glebe hard. This was the turning point of the match, as Ryde generally had more opportunities late in the game, but the Glebe defence, which has been the most solid in the competition, held firm until Ryde managed a late goal.

At the end of the first round, the undefeated Glebe team led the competition by three points from Ryde and Northern Districts, all three teams seemingly assured of a semi-final position. A real battle was on for fourth position, with Sutherland, Moorebank and Baulkham Hills all possibilities. Sutherland then managed to draw with Ryde and beat Northern Districts and seemingly sew up fourth spot. But then they lost to Penrith, throwing the door open again to Moorebank and Baulkham Hills. Glebe lost the services of Troy Booth, shockingly injured in a fall at home, for the start of the second round. Troy, the centre-half, was emerging as the playmaker in the team. His play in those inspirational games against Northern Districts and Moorebank had been exceptional. Allen Morris, one of the main strikers in the team, also withdrew from the team due to work commitments. This reduced the squad to ten players, and it seemed as if the team might struggle to maintain their earlier domination in the competition.

Glebe managed a scratchy 4-1 win over Baulkham Hills, before downing Penrith 8-0, a match in which both teams were short of players. In between, the game against Sutherland had to be postponed due to a double booking at Homebush turf. Glebe accounted for Gordon in a solid rather than inspirational display. Glebe then lost 4-0 to Northern Districts at Ryde, a close game in which nothing much went right for the team, and Northern Districts made good use of an exceptional "ring-in". The clash against Ryde was a bit of an anti-climax, as both teams had players missing, but Glebe had much the better of the game, winning 3-1. The washed-out game against Sutherland was then played, resulting in a Glebe victory, putting Sutherland out of the semi-finals.

In the minor semi-final, Northern Districts were too good for Moorebank, winning 7-1. Glebe faced Ryde in the major semi, a game vital to both teams chances for the Premiership. Ryde had lots of early chances, but the Glebe defence was solid. The team had developed a grit and determination that was going to be a major hurdle for Ryde to overcome. Players rallied and scrambled in defence. When the chances came, Ryde failed to take them, and Glebe scored the first goal against the run of play. Ryde

became frustrated, and Glebe kept up the solid play to take a 3-0 lead with ten minutes to go. Ryde finally scored a field goal, and in the final minute were awarded a dubious stroke.

Final score 3-2 and Glebe was in the Grand final. Ryde then went on to beat Northern Districts 6-1 in the Final, and set up another shot at Glebe, and a rerun of the 1996 Under 17 Grand Final.

Could the depleted Glebe team do it again? Fortunately, the Glebe U 1 5A side did not have a game on the U 17 Grand Final Day, allowing Pat Wark and Peter Wark to join the team. Glebe started the game brilliantly, and Sam Everist scored from a penalty stroke in the first minute. Ten minutes later, Kris Haigh, selected as man-of-the-match, scored a great team goal, and Ryde was down 2-0 and staring at yet another loss. The game then settled down to a real contest, with play moving up and down the field at some pace. At times Ryde were clearly on top, and only some great saves by Alex Crook kept them scoreless. Into the second half, Ryde's pressure was starting to tell, and Glebe earned the ire of the referees, having two players in the sin-bin at once. Ryde were unable to capitalise on the opportunity, and Glebe rallied to play some of the best defensive hockey seen all season. In the final minutes, Ryde managed a goal, but it was all too late, and Glebe won the premiership for the second successive year, much to the joy of the army of supporters who had turned out for the match.

Congratulations to the team: Alex Crook (Goalie); Joel Rivers and Max Francis (Full-Backs); Pat Casey (Right Half); Kris Haigh (Centre Half); Ross Tapsell (Left Half); Thibaut Dauvin (Right Wing); Sam Everist (Captain & Right Inner); Anthony Wark (Centre Forward); Doug Cronin (Left Inner).

And congratulations and thanks to those players who helped out on the way: Allen Morris; Pat Wark; Peter Wark; Tristan Roache-Turner; and Scott Evans.

Last, but not least, a thousand thanks to TroyBooth. He is recovering well and should be back on the hockey field next season.

This was a very courageous win by a team of players who always believed that they could take out the Premiership whatever the odds. Mid-season, when misfortune struck, many doubted that they could do it. The ten regulars soldiered on, with excellent back-up from U17B and U15A players, and under the expert guidance of their Coach, Artie Moir (with his back-up on the managerial side by Bob Taylor). Their victory was all the more sweet, having been achieved in some adversity.

Throughout the year, and again on Grand Final day, they proved they were the best team, however many brilliant individuals some of their opposition teams may have had. Those who had the pleasure of watching this team throughout the year will no doubt remember their brilliant first round games, but above all will cherish the tenacity and teamwork that carried them over those final hurdles. Without doubt this team had character.

Mick Tapsell