

Vale Dan "The Painter" Winters.

Loyal Glebe Supporter 1973 to 1984 who died in his 70's

WINTERS, DANIEL CHARLES

WINTERS, Daniel Charles Passed away on the 6th of April, 2016 Late of Yeppoon & Sydney Father, Brother, Uncle & Friend to many. A private family cremation was held in Rockhampton on Thursday 21st of April, 2016 at 2pm. 4922 5422 www.fitzroyfunerals.com.au

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Dan never played hockey for the Glebe District Hockey Club, but he saw a lot of hockey played by Glebe teams and was an avid supporter of the Club from 1973 to 1984. Dan moved to Queensland decades ago and lived at Yeppoon. He died on 6 April 2016.

Dan was a friend of the late Bill Greaves who was the father of the Greaves lads, Jason and Craig, both of whom played junior and senior hockey for Glebe in the 70s and 80s. Dan came along to the hockey for a look in 1973 and kept coming back for the next 12 years. Dan was a painter by trade and he was affectionately known by the knock-about Glebe crowd as Dan the Painter. Few people knew that his surname was Winters.

Dan was a member of the Toxteth Hotel push who in the 1960s, 70s and 80s conducted many of the administrative functions of the Glebe District Hockey Club from the Public Bar of the Toxteth Hotel. Dan was a likeable chap who helped the Club where and when he could, selling and buying raffle tickets at the Pub, which in those days was owned by Darcy Henry and then the Murphy Family. The Publicans allowed the Hockey Club to conduct raffles at the Pub, which raised considerable sums of money for the Club that helped defray the Club's running costs.

The Toxteth Hotel Set of that era was a close knit group who got on well and Club affairs and the running of the Club was a constant topic of conversation.

Dan helped paint the Clubhouse at Number Four Railway Arch Jubilee Oval on a few occasions. He added very much to the colour and movement of the life and times of the Glebe District Hockey Club in the years of his involvement.

First grade games were transferred from Jubilee Oval Glebe to Federal Park Annandale, just across Johnston's Creek Canal in the early 1970s because of the poor state of the playing surface at Jubilee Oval. The first grade played at Federal Park until around 1984 when the games were transferred to the new synthetic surface playing field at the State Sports Centre Homebush.

For Glebe home games at Federal Park 12-15 spectators would frequently assemble on the Railway Viaduct beside of the field to watch the game. The Viaduct offered a perfect vantage point from which to watch the game, and to cheer the Glebe boys on. Dan was a regular in the Viaduct crowd in that era. Train traffic had mostly stopped on the Viaduct by the late 1970s, and the risks of being hit by a powerful diesel train were low. The odd train did trundle by on its way to the Darling Harbour shunting yards, usually at low speed as the driver was interested in watching the game as much as the spectators. When trains came past the spectators breathed in, stood up and let the train slide past their derriere. Fortunately no injuries were ever recorded.

The picture below was taken at Federal Park Annandale in the late 1970s during a first grade game between Glebe and North Sydney. On the viaduct watching the game can be seen some of the regular Viaduct spectators Dan "The Painter" Winters (note his name is misspelt in the caption), Life Member Colin "The Voice" Brown, Kevin "Yogi Bear" Weeks, Jim "Jungle Jim" Warwick, Peter "Rowdy" Rowswell, and Doug Brewer. Other season ticket holders on the Viaduct, who were not in the picture (they might have gone over to the Clubhouse to purchase refreshments) were Life Member Graeme "Have A Chat" Gilmour, Ralf "One For The Road" Rochester, Neville "The Accountant" Adcock and Don "The Old Salt" Wilson.

The elevated spectators and their pithy, cryptic comments added to the ambience of the Saturday afternoon and playing hockey at Federal Park Annandale in front of their faithful band of spectators often brought out the best in the Glebe team.

Senior grade hockey has not been played at Federal park for close to 20 years. Juniors played at Federal Park until the mid-2000s. The very occasional school fixture is played on Federal Park now, but by and large there is no hockey played on the ground. Its main users in 2016 are dog

walkers. It is an off-leash area for dogs, which make sure the surface of the field cannot be used for sports such as hockey and soccer where the ball needs to roll over the grass in a predictable fashion.

It is a shame that there is no hockey currently played on Federal Park as on a sunny, Saturday Federal Park it was a terrific place to play and watch hockey with the Viaduct on the sideline, Rozelle Bay in the background and Johnston's Creek Canal running behind the field from Camperdown in the south to Rozelle Bay to the North. At its best, Federal Park was one of the premier grass hockey fields in Sydney.

Alas, very few games of hockey in Sydney, either senior or junior, are now played on grass. The vast majority of hockey games are played on synthetic turf fields and unfortunately Glebe does not have a synthetic turf field in its heartland. All Glebe home games are currently played out of area.

Just recently there was a hope that a synthetic turf hockey field could/would be sited on the Rozelle Bay Shunting Yards Site, but with the M4 Extension and the propose traffic interchange at White Bay, has now made this synthetic turf proposal unlikely.

The Glebe District Hockey Club extends its heartfelt condolences to Dan's family. May his Soul Rest in Peace.



Federal Park Annandale in the late 70's, at a Glebe vs North Sydney first grade match: the Glebe players are from left to right Robert Wark (7), Geoff Paterson (kneeling), Roger McDonald, Les Wark. Note the Railway Viaduct season ticket holders in their elevated vantage point: Dan "the Painter" Withers, Colin "The Voice" Brown, Kevin "Yogi Bear" Weeks, "Jungle Jim" Warwick, Peter "Rowdy" Rowswell, Doug Brewer, absent Graeme "Have A Chat" Gilmour, Ralph "One For The Road" Rochester, Neville "The Accountant" Adcock, Don "The Old Salt" Wilson.