

Barry Howe

30/9/1953 - 8/12/2019

Barry's parents, Jim and Molly Howe, came to Glebe in 1947 from Barellan in the Riverina area of NSW. Jim worked for the PMG (Post-Master General's Department), later to become Telecom and then Telstra.

The Howe Family lived first in Arundel Street and then Pyrmont Bridge Road, Glebe. Barry was one of 18 children, one of whom died in the first weeks of life. There were 12 boys and 5 girls that survived infancy, with Barry being the twelfth born child.

Barry started primary school at St James' Catholic School Forest Lodge in 1959. He was educated initially by the Good Samaritan Sisters, and then the Patrician Brothers. For his secondary education Barry moved to Marcellin College Randwick, a school run by the Marist Brothers.

At school Barry represented in rugby league and athletics, and he played cricket for the St. James Catholic Youth Organisation (CYO).

Barry started playing hockey in the juniors for Glebe in 1967 in the Under 16 team. At that time he had elder brothers playing seniors for the Club, Brian (who by then had played 181 games for the club), Peter (133 games), and Peter's twin, Gavin (8 games), Martin (145 games), Bobby (17 games). Looking at the Club Records, Barry seemed to start in the juniors a year or two after younger siblings Greg, Jamie, Adrian and Vernon.

The Club's junior records for the mid-60s are poor and it is possible that Barry started with the Glebe juniors a year or two before 1967. According to Club records, Barry's youngest brother Alan started as a junior in 1973.

The eldest of the Howe children, Brain Howe, started with the Glebe juniors in 1955, where he was coached by the 'Father' of the Glebe Juniors, Vernon Turner.

The 1967 Under 16 team comprised Glen Puckeridge, Lockey Lee, Greg and Barry Howe, Con Savva, Paul Abate, V Wallace, Mick Weatherley, G Clepke, Laurie Brown (captain), Les McMahon, with coaches Pat Nilan and Robert Charlie Brown. Pat Nilan was an established Australian representative hockey player, who had gone to the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, and Robert Brown had played hockey for the NSW Senior Team. Barry learnt his hockey from a couple of Glebe greats.

All 12 boys in the Howe family played hockey for Glebe at both junior and senior level.

It is noteworthy that in 1975 the Club entered two teams in the Saint George Hockey Club Easter Carnival, which for many years was held at Gardiner's Park Banksia. One Glebe team was comprised of 11 Howe boys. The Howe Clan had made a special effort to assemble for the occasion, and most of the Howe family were in attendance

There was a festive atmosphere at the ground, and it was a significant Howe Family Reunion. To bolster the ranks, and to have a reserve in case of injury, Glen Puckeridge was co-opted for the carnival and made an honorary Howe for the day. Jim and Molly Howe were in attendance to witness the remarkable day's events. In 1972 British Tobacco had launched a cigarette brand called Winfield and one of its advertising lines, heavily promoted on television, went "Anyhow, have a

Winfield". In a satirical twist on the cigarette advertising slogan, the Howe family team was given the name 'AnyHowe' to distinguish it from the other Glebe Team playing at the Carnival.

The Anyhow team made the Major Division Semi-Final in which they played Saint George. The match, which was a tough, exciting and even encounter, was drawn at full-time and a flick-off followed to decide the game. Vernon admits with some humility that the game was lost when he missed his flick.

Much to the chagrin of the Saint George Hockey Club President Mr. George Watts, the other Glebe team defeated Saint George in the Final to win the carnival.

Fielding a hockey team comprising 11 boys from the one family must be an extraordinarily rare occurrence. Is this a world record? Fortunately a team photo was taken on the day to provide undeniable proof that the team did exist and that it was not just a figment of someone's vivid imagination.

In 1968 Barry and Greg started playing in the Glebe Senior teams while they were still playing in the Club's Under 16 team. Greg captained the Under 16 team and Barry was its centre-forward. The coach had this to say about Barry: "Top Goal Scorer of the team. Has a ton of ability---- If he listens he will improve to be a good hockey player for Glebe."

In his end of season Report, the 1968 fourth grade team captain Keith Vincent remarked on Greg and Barry: "straight from the juniors and they played splendidly. There is no doubt that their stay in 4th grade will be short, if they have not already completed their term."

1969 was Barry's last year in the Under 16 team. He was the team's top goal scorer with 23 goals. Coach Pat Nilan commented about Barry in his end of year Report: "Barry's ability as a Centre-Forward had not gone unnoticed as he was selected in the 1st grade to play Wests Newcastle in the latter part of the season, scored one goal and played a leading part in the team's victory over Wests." Along with Barry, players in the 1969 Under 16 team included Lockey Lee, John McMahon, Garry Scanlon, Steve Casey, Mick Weatherly, Con Savva, Paul Abate, Noel Anderson, Glen Puckeridge, Paul Casey, Ray Holden, Les McMahon, and John Wallis.

In 1970 and 1971 Barry played in the Glebe second grade team with his brothers Peter and Greg. The 1970 second grade team captain Paul Rogers, referring to Barry in his end of season Report: "A very good mover with the ball and should go a long way in the game. His first season in second grade and acquitted himself well."

Barry had a very active social and working life in the mid-1970s and although he loved his hockey, he had a lot on his agenda. Consequently his reduced devotion to training and fitness meant that he did not progress to be a force in first grade, although he definitely had the ability to do just that.

Barry spent a couple of years in the mid-70s progressing other areas of his life, a sabbatical so to speak from hockey training, to gain experience at the University of Life. Several Regional NSW postings with his work also meant that he could not attend training.

The camaraderie, the esprit de corps, the socialisation, the exchange of repartee, the sharing of jokes with his teammates, and his Saturday afternoon interactions with his family members were what Barry enjoyed most out of playing hockey for Glebe. He never strove to play at the highest

level, but was happy to play where the selectors picked him, and to derive pleasure, and enjoyment out of his physical activity and social interactions.

In 1974, '75 and '76 Barry played in the Premiership winning third grade team. Fellow players in the 1974 team included Len Needham (captain), Bill Stubbs, Graham Bell, Darryl Seed, Rob MacLauchlan, Peter Naylor, Vernon Howe, Robert Diviney, Chris McIntosh, Steve Casey, Graham Shirley, and Graham Gilmour. Barry was referred to by Len Needham in his end of season Report: "this was achieved by having our own centre-forward becoming the leading goal scoring machine in Sydney Hockey."

Additional players in the 1975 team were George Manou, Pat Diviney, Ian Fawcett, Tony Cowan, Roger McDonald, Michael Atterton and Col Smith. The 1975 team scored 100 goals for the season, of which Barry scored 46. Barry's strike rate was over two goals per game for the season.

The 1976 team comprised Len Needham (captain), Graeme Gilmour, George Manou, Adrian Howe, Pat Diviney, Ian Fawcett, Roger McDonald, Hilary McDonald, Michael Atterton, Jamie Howe and Ian Scotcher. This team scored 106 goals and conceded 18 goals. Barry scored 30 of the team's goals.

The 1978 Glebe third grade team captained by Colin Brown, were equal premiers with NSW University, with Barry scoring 23 goals during the season. Barry's goal scoring expertise was a major factor in the success of the Glebe third grade team of this era. He was a lynch-pin of the team, a motivator, an encourager, a great team man, who dragged his team mates along with him when the team was hard pressed.

At the end of the 1979 season Barry had played 215 games for Glebe, and in 1980 he captained the third grade team to the finals. This team was a team comprised mainly of players progressing into the grades from the junior ranks and Barry was the steadying hand and wise counsel at the helm. Together with Coach Graeme Gilmour they did a magnificent job of mentoring these young lads.

In 1981 Barry played in the Glebe Second Division First Grade Team (Fourth Grade) which won the Competition. Other players in this team were Colin Brown, Pat Campbell, Jamie Howie, Peter Howe, Arthur Moir, Ian Edgar, Paul Puckeridge, Paul Abate, Kerri Wise, Steve Casey, Alan Chu, and Victor Ferrari. Captain Paul Abate had this to say about Barry in his end of season Report: "Centre-Forward, 100% effort in every game, one of the best goal scorers in the Club."

In 1982 Barry's fourth grade team were beaten 3-2 by the University of NSW in the grand-final. This team included Mick Bougoukas, Peter Howe, Greg Howe, Arthur Moir (captain), Paul Abate, Jamie Howe, Lyle Ebert, Billy Jardine, Mick Galluzzo, John Price and Steve Casey along with Barry. The team had many happy memories and team members enjoyed each other's company. Saturday afternoon was a social occasion for the Howe boys, with four brothers playing together. In 1982 Barry also had the odd run in the Club's third grade team which win the Competition.

In 1983 Barry was the Club's Carnival Organiser and played in the Club's fourth grade team, which had an up and down year, just missing out on a spot in the semi-finals.

In 1984 Barry played in the Club's third grade team that was beaten by North Sydney in the Finals. Many players passed through the team in 1984, which meant that a cohesive style of play could not be developed. Players in the team were: Colin Brown, Kieran Diviney, Peter Howe, Anthony Bennett, Barry Howe, Grant Martin, Stephen Dunn, Paul Culshaw, Leo Kalisperos, Kurt Kennedy, Harry Wark, Victor Ferrari, Kieran Dell, Craig Martin, Pat Nilan (captain), John Garlick, Martin Howe, Arthur Moir,

Alan Chu, Paul Puckeridge, Geoff Busch, Patrick Diviney, Ken Wark jnr, Vernon Howe. By the end of the 1984 season Barry had played 301 games for Glebe.

In 1985 Barry captained the Glebe third grade team to the Minor Premiership and the Premiership, going through the season undefeated. There were five Howes in the team. Of the 22 games played, they scored 91 goals and had 20 goals scored against them. Barry scored 28 goals during the season and pushed his total goals scored for the Club beyond 200, which is a rare achievement. Under Barry's captaincy, players in the 1985 team were Craig Martin, Colin Brown, David Rochester, Jamie Howe, Grant Martin, David Cutler, Terry Diviney, Alan Howe, Michael Diviney, Vernon Howe, Pat Nilan, Geoff Paterson, Martin Howe, and Tony Cowan.

David Rochester was 16 when he played in the 1985 third grade team and remembers with very fond memories the singing, camaraderie, banter and merriment that took place in the Glebe dressing room after the grand-final victory against North Sydney. Dave relates "it was the first and probably the only time that I have drunk champagne out of a Silver Cup. Barry and the boys knew how to party".

1986 and 1987 saw Barry play in strong third grade teams that made the grand-finals, but were narrowly defeated in exciting, see-sawing, competitive games.

Barry retired after the 1987 season having played a total of 364 senior games for Glebe, playing for 20 years and scoring over 200 goals. He was a well liked Club man, and had an invigorating effect on every team in which he played. His upbeat enthusiasm was infectious.

With Barry, what you saw was what you got. He loved his involvement with the GDHC, it was his second family, and he mixed freely with his school mates at the Club, siblings and people he had met on his journey through the Club's junior teams and into the senior ranks. The Hockey Club formed a big part of Barry's life.

He accepted people as they were, for better or for worse and had an infectious, upbeat, enthusiastic, optimistic, positive, view of life and its living. He did not dwell on the downsides or the negatives. He was loyal and supportive and loved playing in the same teams as his brothers. The teams in which he played often contained two, three or four of his siblings. They were a real family affair.

After the game he loved having a beer, cigarette and a chat with his teammates, no matter the score in the game or how the team performed on the field of play. The after game socialisation was just as important to Barry as the game itself. He was always supportive of his teammates, and he lifted the mood of the dressing room and the Glebe Clubhouse with his banter. The Glebe Clubhouse with Barry in it was a vibrant, cheerful place.

Barry had a lot of ability, he was quick, athletic, with a long reach, but he had a life to lead and had other things to do with his life rather than devote a big chunk of his time and energies to hockey training and practise. He was content to do his very best for the Club when he took the field in whatever grade in which he was picked. Striving to reach the pinnacle of hockey, and become a champion player was not something that Barry aspired to.

He had a well-developed sense of where to stand on the field, to make himself available to receive a pass from the defence. His reading of the game was excellent. This attribute often contributed to him receiving the ball in positions that facilitated raids on the opposition goals, and potential scoring

opportunities for his team. He had an excellent shot on goal, which is why he scored over 200 goals for Glebe during his 20 year career with the Club.

While he was still at school, during years 9 and 10, Barry had casual employment with the Pymont Post Office. After leaving school at the end of Year 10, Barry gained employment as a phone technician and as a linesman working on electricity cables. Over the years he worked for the PMG (Post Master General's Department), Telecom, Telstra, and private enterprise. He was still working at the time of his death.

Many of his jobs were in regional NSW, but he usually travelled back to Sydney for the weekend to "catch-up" with friends and family, and to play hockey for Glebe. In Sydney he lived mainly in share houses, including digs at Glebe; Annandale, Ashfield and Bondi, with a variety of friends, family, and hockey mates. From all accounts they were lively households.

In 1982, at the age of 29 he met and married Anne Fern. In the mid-1980s Barry and family moved to the Central Coast, where housing was considerably cheaper than it was in Sydney. Barry and Anne had three children together Melissa, Michael and Patrick.

With the move to the Central Coast and his family commitments, continuing to play for Glebe was not a realistic option for Barry. He did continue to play hockey in the Central Coast Hockey Competition with his brother Peter and a few of his old Glebe teammates Craig and Grant Martin, and Patrick Diviney. He had a heart attack aged 38, which forced him to slow down and to retire from playing hockey.

Barry was a larger than life character, with a cheerful, optimistic disposition, which lit up the life of many of the people with whom he came into contact. He looked on the bright side of life and walked on the sunny side of the road.

Barry died in his sleep and his death was unexpected, although he did have a long history of heart disease.

May the Lord grant to Barry a prominent place at his table, as a reward for all the many good deeds and actions he did here on earth.

Rest in Peace Barry Howe.

Harry Wark and Vernon Howe



The 'AnyHowe' Team at the 1975 Saint George Hockey Club Easter Carnival held at Gardiner's Park, Banksia

Back Row: L-R Jim Howe, Gavin Howe (goal keeper), Barry Howe, Greg Howe, Peter Howe, Glen Puckeridge, Martin Howe, Vernon Howe, Jamie Howe (obscured), and Bobby Howe

Front Row: Brain Howe, Adrian Howe, and Johnny Howe.



Peter Casey Glen Puckeridge Barry Howe Vernon Howe Bob Wark John Nelmes
Mick Atterton John Howe

This photo was taken at Primrose Park North Sydney, circa mid-1970s.



The 1985 Glebe Third Grade Team, with four Howes in it that went on to win the Competition.

Back Row L-R: Terry Diviney, David Rochester, Grant Martin, Pat Nilan, Craig Martin, Adrian Howe
Front Row: L-R: Vernon Howe, Barry Howe, Jamie Howe, Colin Brown and Michael Diviney.



A photo taken during the 1981 Fourth Grade Grand final played at Heffron Park Maroubra, and won by Glebe. Paul Puckeridge (left) celebrating with Barry Howe after a Glebe goal. Photo credit Steve Casey.