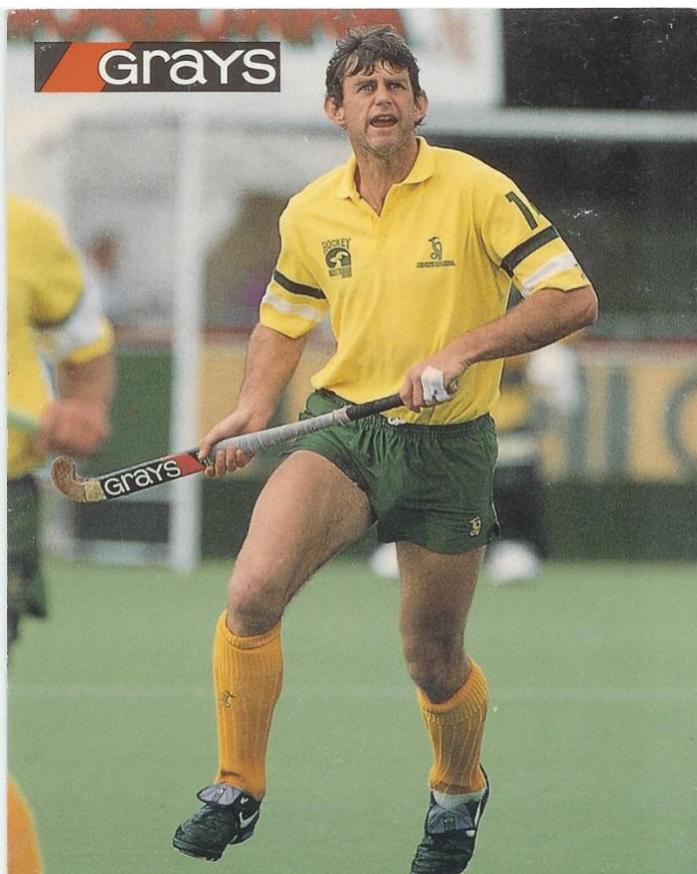


KENNETH WARK (3 August 1961-)



On 16 July 2007 Glebe District Hockey Club stalwart Kenneth Wark was inducted into the NSW Sport's Hall of Champions.

Glebe now has two Members, ex-junior players of the Club, who have been honoured with induction into the NSW Hall of Champions. Glebe legend Pat Nilan was inducted into the Hall of Champions over ten years previously.

Competitive men's hockey has been played in Sydney since 1927 and in this time there have been only five men's hockey players inducted into the NSW Sports Hall of Champions. A great effort by Pat and Kenneth and for the Glebe District Hockey Club.

In November 2016, Ken Wark was inducted into the Australian Hockey Hall of fame.

GDHC Life Membership

At the 2019 GDHC AGM held on 10 December 2019, Ken Wark was appointed as a Life Member in recognition of his distinguished service to the Club. The following testimonial was read at the meeting where Ken and his family, Kerrie, Kaiden and Kameeka Wark were present:

Ken Wark Nomination for Life Membership

Ken's record as an outstanding Australian player is well documented. He has been recognised for his contributions to both Hockey NSW and Hockey Australia through his induction into the NSW Hall of Champions in 2007, one of two Glebe players and only 5 men hockey players to

have the honour bestowed upon them. And in November 2016 Ken was inducted into the Australian Hockey Hall of Fame.

He is a triple Olympian, playing in 1988 at Seoul, in 1992 at Barcelona where he won a Silver Medal and in 1996 at Atlanta where he won a Bronze Medal. Ken played in NSW senior teams from 1983 until 1997, a total of 15 seasons and he captained the NSW team during the 1990's and led it to two Australian Championship victories.

His playing record for the GDHC is no less impressive. He began playing junior hockey in 1976 as a 15 year old and after only one season of the game joined the men's sixth grade side as well. His First Grade debut was made just three seasons later in 1979 at the age of 18.

In 1982, 1995 and in 1997 Ken played in Glebe's First Grade premiership winning teams. He captained the 1995 and 1997 teams. In 2003 he captained the premiership winning Glebe Second Grade team where he played with his nephew Matthew Wark and his cousin's son, Michael Wark. He has played in Glebe teams that have won premierships in first, second and third grades. ¹He won the A.J. Oldfield Trophy for the Most Improved and Best Behaved U21 Player in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1982; the J.W. Kenny Trophy for the Most Outstanding First Grader in 1983, 1991, 1993, and 1994; and the Robert Diviney Trophy for the Most Outstanding Club Player, Senior or Junior in 1983, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992 and 1997. In all he has played 444 games for Glebe, with over 350 being in First Grade.

The Glebe District Hockey Club is immensely proud of Ken and his achievements. He was an inspiration to the teams in which he played and he always led from the front. From his magnificent covering tackles to save a certain opposition goal, to his attacking sorties down the middle of the field from deep in defence, he lifted his team mates and inspired them to attempt to lift their commitment and their efforts to match his own. He often turned games around for the Glebe teams in which he played and was at his best when the team was struggling. As a captain he held a team together when they were under pressure and his own grit, determination and absolute commitment rubbed off on his team mates. ²

There is no doubt that Ken's contribution to the Club as a player has been significant, but it is as an outstanding role model of commitment to the whole club that he deserves special recognition.

¹ Acknowledgement with gratitude to Harry J. Wark for information taken directly from the Biography of Ken Wark (2017 Version).

² Biography of Ken Wark (2017 version) by Harry J. Wark

Between Olympic Games, Ken served the Club on the Management Committee as Clubroom Manager in 1989 and 1990, doing the job around his Australian playing commitments.

The Club's Annual Reports are littered with remarks of gratitude to Ken who 'stepped in while I was away', 'provided me with great support' or for his 'outstanding contribution to the team'. Despite being an outstanding player and competitor, Ken has never been one for pushing himself forward as the expert in all things hockey. His humility is another quality that has endeared him to members as a true Glebe man, treating everyone equally regardless of age or ability. Ken continued to play down the grades until injury prevented him, supporting the young men who came through the ranks to improve their skills and adjust to men's hockey from the juniors. In the 2007 Annual Report, a story is recounted about Ken playing centre half in 5th Grade and directing the young players around him. After a misdirected pass from one of these junior players and an opposition intercept that had the Glebe defence desperate, the Glebe captain looked up to find why the team was missing the rock-solid defence of Ken Wark at the back. There he was, back on the centre line, patiently explaining and demonstrating what that junior could have done instead.

Ken's contribution has often been listed as 'assistant'. He has served the Club as Assistant Club Coach, Assistant Club Trainer and Assistant Coach for a number of teams. Ken was assistant coach to Natalie White in 1998, the club's first season in ML1 and in the 1998 Annual Report, Nat made special mention of the support and excellent advice given by Ken during matches and at training. Ken was still assisting with coaching our women in 2007.

Since being invited by Les Wark in 2017 to take on a special role with our junior players at training, Ken has continued to mentor and assist with skills development. He also took on the same role with our senior teams and has continued again this season to share his tremendous knowledge across all the all groups and grades.

While the Club has long been in awe of Ken's playing success and has been very proud to celebrate his many achievements, it is time for us to redress the lack of formal recognition that our club has afforded to him for his significant contribution over many years in giving back. In gratitude for his distinguished service to the Glebe District Hockey Club, I recommend to the Annual General meeting that Ken Wark be appointed as Life Member.

Nominated by: Carole Wark

Seconded by: Aleks Manou

GDHC Board Approved and Recommended to 2019 AGM: 30 September 2019



Pictured above are the Life Members present at the 2019 AGM congratulating Ken Wark on joining their number. L-R Les Wark, Geoff Paterson, Ken Wark, Pat Nilan, George Manou, Andrew Goodrick



Ken Wark with his family L-R Kameeka, Kerrie, Ken and Kaiden pictured at the 2019 AGM

Biography

Harry J. Wark, Club Historian, updated this January 2020 version of Ken Wark's Biography following the conferring of Life Membership on Ken Wark at the 2019 AGM.

Ken Wark was born on 3rd August 1961 and grew up in Five Dock, NSW. He was the youngest son of Ken Wark snr, a butcher by trade, and Joyce Wark (nee Bishop), a dressmaker, his two older brothers being Robert and Gary Wark.

Ken Snr played hockey for the Balmain Police Boys Club Hockey Team from 1942-1946, and joined Glebe in 1947 aged 21 years after the Balmain Police Boys Club Team became defunct. Ken Snr was a Glebe stalwart and played 499 Club games from 1947-1977, 320 of which were played in First Grade. He played his last First Grade game when he was forty years old.

Ken Snr was an Australian hockey player from 1952-54 and taught his son the fundamentals of the game from an early age. While "old" Ken battled it out on the field, "young" Ken would hit the ball up and down the sideline to amuse himself supervised by his mother, Joyce.

At the age of 8, Ken Jnr. began playing soccer with his school class mates for the local Five Dock Anglican Church team, Saint Alban's, and continued to play for Saint Alban's until he was 15.

"Young" Ken went to school at the Russell Lea Infants School, Haberfield Primary School and the Drummoyne Boys' High School. Ken's uncle, Harry A. Wark, went to Drummoyne High School 37 years before him.

When Ken was 15, the minister at Saint Alban's, the Reverend John Gray, an accomplished cricketer, moved to a Parish in Cronulla. The replacement clergyman at Saint Alban's did not have the same enthusiasm for sport as his predecessor. The soccer team that Ken had played in for over 6 years could not field a team in 1976, and it was this quirk of fate that launched Ken on his hockey career.

Ken decided to try his hand with the 1976 Glebe District Hockey Club playing on Saturday mornings in the Under 16 team coached by Colin Brown, and in the Sixth Grade team captained by Bill Stubbs on Saturday afternoons. Players in this 1976 Under 16 team included

Brian Bissaker, Alan Chu, George Manou, and Michael Gilfeather. In 1976 Ken Snr and Ken Jnr played in the Club's Sixth Grade team together.

In 1977 Ken played in the Glebe Under 16 second team coached by Royce Jenkins, which was beaten 2-1 in the Grand-Final by Moorebank. Other players in this team were Ken Asplan, Danny O'Brien (captain), Justin Banks, Craig Spence, Terence Diviney, Scott Bunston, Terry Murphy, Scott Brown, Lee Adler, and Chris King. In the 1977 season Ken again played in the afternoon for the Glebe Sixth Grade team that won the Premiership. Players in this team were Bruce Pink, Michael Gilfeather, Colin Rochester, Danny O'Brien, Bill Stubbs, Colin Smith (an Englishman), Alan Chu, Graeme Shirley (a New Zealander), Bennett Dunn, Peter McQuade, Craig Stubbs, Brian Bissaker, Stephen Grealish and Peter O'Rance.

The following season Ken played in the Glebe Third Grade team with Warren 'Buster' Birmingham, a future Australian captain.

In 1979 Ken played in the Second Grade team with his 1977 Under 16 coach Royce Jenkins, and in 1980 took the field for the Club's First Grade side. First Grade that year comprised Graham Bell, Greg Corben, Kevin Sweeney, Royce Jenkins, Warren Buster Birmingham, Craig McPhee, Steve Nance, Geoff Paterson, Roger McDonald, Ian Mutton and Les Wark (Ken's cousin). In Ken's early hockey career he played in the halves, left half mainly, but sometimes centre-half. By the end of the 1980 season Ken had played 129 senior games for Glebe.

In 1981 and 1982 Ken continued playing in the Glebe First Grade team, with the 1982 Team winning the Sydney Hockey Association First Grade Premiership. In 1982, because of personnel movements, Ken was shifted from the halves to the fullback position, where he spent the rest of his hockey playing days. Other players in this 1982 team were Colin Rochester, Tony Cowan, Gary Manou, Geoff Paterson, Warren Birmingham, Keith Pritchard, Les Wark, Craig Stubbs, Danny O'Brien, Ian Mutton. The coach was Bill Stubbs and manager was Fred Letts. In 1981 and 1982 Ken played for the NSW team at the Under 21 Australian Championships. In 1983 Ken was selected in the NSW senior team and played in the team until 2000 a period of 17 years. He captained the NSW team in the 1990s and he played in two NSW teams that won the Australian Championships. At the Australian championships in 1987, and again in 1991, he was named as the player of the series - the best player in Australia at the time - one of a rare breed of players ever to have won this honour twice.

On 16 July 2007 Ken was inducted into the NSW Sport's Hall of Champions.



Pictured above is the GDHC 1990 State League team Back Row L-R: Ken Wark, Shane Nilan, Les Wark (Coach), Peter Busch, Craig Martin, Terry Reece, Tim Sutton, Adam Johnson, Michael Bougoukas, Warren Adams, Kevin Chivers. Front Row L-R: Julian Dell, David Rochester, Craig Stubbs, George Manou, Steven Cain.

Ken is tall and rangy, with a long reach. He was extremely fit, and had blistering acceleration and speed. He read the game extremely well. He shone at the 1984 Australian Senior Men's Hockey Championships and was invited to join the Australian Institute of Sport for Hockey based in Perth on a two-year scholarship.

In 1984 Ken had just finished his apprenticeship as a marine fitter with Howard Smith, an old, well-established stevedoring firm in Balmain, and they had offered him a permanent position. It was not an easy decision for Ken or his family as to whether to accept the scholarship offer or not.

Ken's father, Ken Snr, was born during the Great Depression and put great store on having a good, secure job. He was most ambivalent about Ken Jnr taking up the scholarship offer. In 1984 employment opportunities were tight and although he wanted to further his hockey career, he was reluctant to pass up employment stability.

After much consideration and consultation with friends and family and with some trepidation Ken Jnr accepted the two-year Scholarship. While in Perth, Ken trained with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) for Hockey and played club hockey with local club, YMCA. 1984 was the inaugural year of the AIS for Hockey in Perth and its Head Coach was Richard Aggiss. Ken trained twice a day every day except Saturday when he played for his club team in the Perth Men's Hockey competition.

While in Perth Ken enrolled in a Marine Engineering Course but found his hockey commitments meant that he missed many lectures and practical sessions and he reluctantly abandoned the course after a year.

In 1985 while at the AIS, he was first selected to play for Australia in a test match against New Zealand, in Brisbane. Ken subsequently played in three Olympic Games Hockey tournaments at Seoul in 1988, Barcelona in 1992 (silver medal), and at Atlanta in 1996 (bronze medal). He played in eight Champions Trophy Tournaments, and three World Cup events in London, Lahore and Berlin, winning a World Cup gold medal in London in 1986. In total he played 214 games for Australia in 20 countries, from 1985 to 1996, a twelve year period. In 1990, after the Tournament of Champions in Melbourne he was named as the best fullback in the world at that time, and he was selected in the FIH World Best Team selected from performances at the tournament.

In November 2016 Ken was inducted into the Australian Hockey Hall of Fame. Rick Charlesworth, in his book *The Coach*, (Macmillan, 2001), quotes a survey conducted by Mr. Richard Aggiss, former Australian hockey player and Australian hockey coach, where 33 hockey experts were asked to name their best Australian team of the 20th century. Ken Wark Jnr was named as a fullback in this team, a rare honour indeed.

After coming back to Sydney after his stint at the AIS in Perth in January 1986, Ken found employment in his trade as a marine fitter with the then Maritime Services Board (MSB).

When the repair and maintenance services of the MSB were subcontracted to an outside commercial company, Ken transferred to the Environmental Services section of the MSB and its related organisations. Ken has worked for Roads and Maritime NSW in various capacities for

over 30 years. He currently works for the State Government's Waterways Environmental Services and can often be seen helping to keep the harbour estuaries in pristine condition.

During the late 1980s, Ken had to frequently go back to Perth and train with the Australian team at the AIS prior to travelling to overseas international tournaments. His absences from Sydney were accommodated by the MSB, who were very understanding and sympathetic employers. Ken's absences from Sydney on Australian Representative Duties meant that he was absent from the Glebe First Grade team for considerable periods and his absences significantly weakened the team.



Pictured above playing for Glebe against Sutherland at home L-R are Patrick McCann, Ken Wark, Brett Stubbs and goalkeeper Dean Benfield

Ken was an inspiration to his fellow Glebe First Grade players and to his fellow Club members. When he took the field for the Mighty Maroon and White, frequently as captain, he played every game as if it were an Olympic gold medal game. His commitment to the team was

absolute. He was one of those rare players who could bring the crowd to their feet with his skill, speed, athleticism and opportunism.

His attacking runs at great pace from the fullback position deep in defence, with the ball on the end of his stick, into the opposition's half and onwards to the attacking 23 metre line could be electrifying. This attacking ploy was his signature tactic, and not only did it get Glebe out of trouble in defence, it often resulted in Glebe scoring goals out of nothing. As a captain he held a team together when they were under the pump and his own grit, determination and absolute commitment rubbed off on his team mates.

In defence his long reach and his speed made him a hard man to get past. He was as solid as a rock at the back, and had a hard, accurate hit. He often hit the penalty corners for the Australian team. He had the reflexes of a cobra and his speed made him a tremendous cover defender. He made many magnificent covering tackles for Glebe saving what seemed to be certain opposition goals.

His Glebe First Grade career spanned an amazing 26 years from 1979, when he played his first, First Grade game to 2004, when he played his last First Grade game aged 43. Ken's playing career with Glebe spanned 32 years from 1977 to 2009. Above all else, Ken was a Glebe man from the beginning of his career to its end. The Maroon and White flowed in his veins.

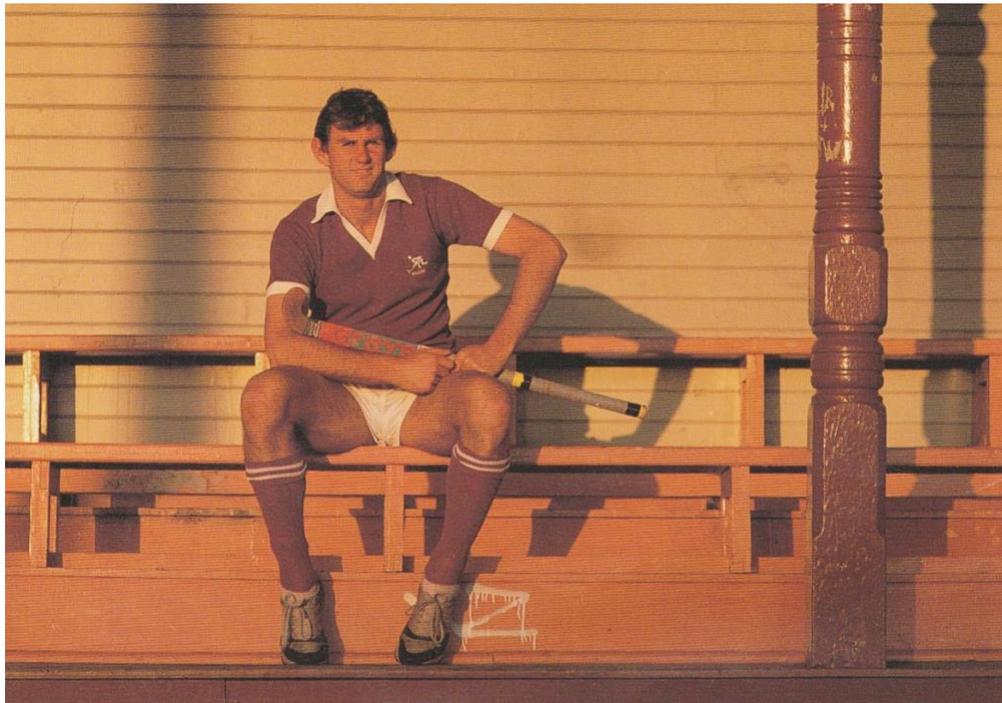
In the 1990s player payment for outstanding representative players was becoming the norm in Sydney. Ken rejected all offers made to him, and there were plenty, to play with his mates at Glebe. Throughout his playing career with Glebe he always paid his fees like every other Club Member. He never sought or expected any financial reward from the Glebe Club.

In 1982, 1995 and in 1997 Ken played in First Grade Premiership winning teams for Glebe in the Sydney Hockey Association competition. He captained the 1995 and 1997 teams. Players in the 1995 team included Warren Birmingham, David Rochester, Pat McCann, Brad Goodridge, Aaron Nilan, Shane Nilan, Dean Benfield, Craig Stubbs, Kevin Chivers and Steven Cain with Colin Rochester as coach. Members of the 1997 First Grade Team were Steven Cain, Shane Nilan, Aaron Nilan, Chris Neville, Pat McCann, Ken Wark, Kevin Chivers, Dean Benfield, Christian Campano, Jeremy Boyce, Craig Greaves, James Wright and Simon Booth, with Colin Rochester as the coach and manager Merv Goodridge.

In 2003 he captained the Premiership winning Glebe Second Grade team of Stephan Madycki, Simon Bracht, Adrian Good, Brad Goodridge, Tim Harvey, Adam Howard, Marvin Lamond, David Longhurst, Ross Tapsell, Michael Wark, Matthew Wark, Andrew Cheong and Zac Farlow.

Ken has played in Glebe teams that have won premierships in First, Second, Third and Sixth Grades. In all he has played 444 games for Glebe, with over 300 being in First Grade. In 1989 he was the Club Room Manager and contributed to the smooth running of the Club where and when he could, commensurate with his Australian and family commitments.

In 1995 Ken married schoolteacher and fellow hockey player Kerrie Banfield, who hails from Crookwell NSW. They have three children, Kiara, Kaiden and Kameeka. Kerrie was a NSW Senior Representative Hockey player, who played for the Glebe Women's First Grade team from 1996 to 2006.



Ken Wark: Weights and video replays, and running to make you feel like a horse.

Ken Wark pictured above in the Grandstand at Jubilee Oval, Glebe in 1991

Ken is a modest, likeable chap who is well regarded in the hockey fraternity, and often helps coach younger players develop their skills. Ken has been a great contributor to the community, both on and off the hockey field.

During the summer months Ken was a keen, enthusiastic and accomplished sailor, first at Dobroyd Sailing Club, Rodd Point, then Drummoyne Sixteen Foot Skiff events, the Manly sixteen footers and Double Bay Flying Squadron 18 foot skiffs.

In the late 2008/9 Ken suffered from a bad back, and this together with his family duties and commitments eventually forced him into retirement. Bending over all those years practising and playing hockey for Glebe, NSW and Australia had taken its toll.

For the last few years, starting in 2017 at Les Wark's invitation, Ken has given over his Tuesday nights to coach juniors, women and men wherever he has been needed at training at the Cintra Hockey Park, Concord. He has unselfishly imparted his encyclopedic knowledge of the game, to all members of the Club.

For his distinguished service to the Club over many decades Ken was appointed as a Life Member at the 2019 AGM, which was held at the Clubhouse on Tuesday evening 10 December 2019.

He is undoubtedly one of Glebe's great sons and the Club is immensely proud of him and his achievements.



Above: Ken Wark imparting some of his encyclopedic knowledge at 2019 men's training



Above: A change in sponsorship! For many years Ken Wark's game was synonymous with Grays hockey sticks but with the sponsorship offered to the Club by JHD in 2018 Ken Wark made the switch. Ken is pictured here with Club President and cousin, Les Wark, putting their JDH sticks to good use at training.