



# Red Rag



**AUGUST  
2020**

# FROM THE CHAIR GDHC

Well, it certainly has been an interesting introduction to the President's role with the 2020 season presenting many challenges before we even managed to get on the pitch.

Bushfires, floods and a pandemic just to name a few but as we have had to do many times over our 89-year history, we will regroup and be stronger for the experience. I would like to

thank the Club's Board for their tireless work in the background to ensure things kept ticking along so the Club was ready once we received the green light for the season to commence. A special shout out to Veronica Collins for her hard work sorting through all the COVID information and requirements ensuring as a Club we were compliant both on and off the field.

Though I am familiar with many of our club members, I thought I would take the opportunity to give our members a little bit of my background with the Club as an introduction. I played my first game for the Club as a 6 year old, with my father as our coach who also started playing juniors for Glebe in the 1950's. My four children have also played and are still currently playing in the Senior ranks.

to be a tough ask with a young playing group but it gives us the opportunity to compete at the highest level and attract new players as we continue to grow.

Good luck in the coming weeks and I look forward to seeing you around fields proudly wearing the Maroon and White.

A Champion club, a club of champions.

Craig Martin  
PRESIDENT

We have seen some solid results in recent weeks now we have finally been able to get into the 2020 season, with our First Grade Women competing in the ML1 competition as a highlight. The Club was given the opportunity at very short notice to once again play in ML1 and we decided to take up the opportunity. We knew it was going



Craig Martin - Club President

# #glebejuniors GDHC

It is with such relief that I can write our Juniors Report for the Red Rag, and actually report on hockey.

It has been a bumpy run towards the start of the season, with a false start back in March and another attempt on the 17th July. However, throughout all the uncertainty, throughout all the concern, we now have over 130 wonderful Juniors representing GDHC for 2020.

This season we are fielding eight teams in the SEHA competition which includes our U9 kids, aptly named Strikers, and one team in the Sydney Metro competition. We have 10 incredibly generous coaches and managers, a very dedicated team of coordinators, including Ann Morey and Carmel Lazarus, both tireless in their efforts to get our kids registered and on the field.

In what will be a short season, a 10-round sprint to the final series, it is pleasing to see an increase in Junior Umpire participation. We have welcomed four new umpires, all ready to blow a whistle and learn the art of umpiring. Our Junior Umpire Coordinator, Peter Bestel, has continued to pursue development in this area with many tools and resources available for our Juniors. Importantly though, there is much care and support on offer. Confidence is key and we

are focussed on helping our umpires gain that confidence as quickly as possible.

My report would not be complete without mentioning our beautiful Minkey's, our youngest Juniors. This season our kids are led by Coach Lester Currie, happily supported each Saturday by a small team of older Juniors, all volunteering and giving back. It is a very proud moment for me I can tell you, to see such commitment and contribution at such a young

age. At Glebe, we have an abundance of it and it's why I continue to lead our Juniors.

They say a picture's worth a thousand words..... So, as I wrap up, I leave you with a photo of our 1st Grade Women's Goalkeeper Aisling Kilmoski (Ash) and adorable U11A Reds Junior, Bekele Cochrane at training. Yep, our future is bright.

Keep safe and see you on the sidelines.

Sue Heath - Juniors Director



Aisling Kilmoski (Ash) and adorable U11A Reds Junior, Bekele Cochrane at training

# ARTHUR STUBBS FOUNDATION GDHC

This year we are asking Club members to support the Arthur Stubbs Foundation via donations online, since we are unable to hold any physical events. This is our only fundraiser for the year.

The good news for club members is that any contribution that they are make will be 100% tax deductible. We have a range of raffle prizes up for grabs. Every \$25 you donate online, gets you a ticket in the raffle, with prizes drawn in September.

Donate at least \$25 here to enter into the draw: <http://asf.org.au/projects/glebe-district-hockey-club/>

There are a range of great prizes including:



A bottle of Grants 25 Year Old Scotch – RRP \$499



\$100 voucher for dinner at the Glebe Point Diner



Brunch for four People at St Johns Espresso



Fruit Box from Galluzzo's

## THE TOXTETH

\$100 Voucher for the Toxteth Hotel



JDH Hockey Sticks



3 x \$50 Vouchers from Booth and Taylor Hardware in Annandale

# #glebefamily GDHC

Babies, babies, babies!

Our Glebe families have welcomed a number of new bubs, growing our Glebe family. Check out these beautiful babies, ready to join our Minkey squad in a few years.

Glebe women's Ali-sha welcomed Henry Edward Middleton and Jess welcomed Theodore Melba Higgs Volkov, while 1st grade men's Mark Paterson welcomed he and Gab's third child, Isla Anne Paterson:

3rd Grade women's team welcomed Kate's Ruby Grace Pearsall Romano and Lou's Mabel Clare Anderson, joining her brother Ted:

4th grade women welcomed two new bubs, with both players back to play this season. Mary welcomed Levi Kavanagh Oliveria and Steph welcomed Kelsie Boyce Monforte:

and Gareth Mealing welcomed beautiful Phoebe:



Ruby Grace Pearsall Romano



Levi Kavanagh Oliveria



Mabel Clare Anderson



Kelsie Boyce Monforte



Alma



Phoebe



Theodore Melba Higgs Volkov



Isla Anne Paterson



Henry Edward Middleton

Men's player Pete Dodsley welcomed Alma, here getting her first go in slightly oversized maroon and white,

# #glebefamily GDHC

## New player spotlight!

First grade men have a new recruit this year, Pakistani nationals player Aleem Bilal. Aleem is known for his firing drag flick for short corners and has already converted for Glebe, hopefully the start of a few goals for the maroon and white. Aleem is also helping coach the Juniors and umpiring for the women this season.

Welcome to the Club, Aleem!

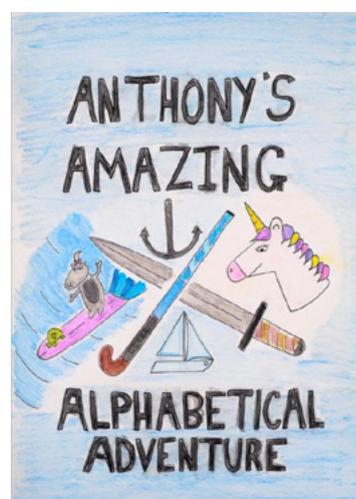


Aleem Bilal

## Achievements in #iso

Do you have a new hobby helping you pass the time in isolation? Perfecting a drag, knitting or making sourdough? Third Grade men's player Anthony Wark has used his time to write his first kid's book, an alphabetical adventure full of hilarious alliteration, containing all the names of his nieces and nephews.

This clever little book is available through Anthony directly, with all profits donated to Glebe's minkey program:



*We'd love to profile more new players, new family members or special stories, so please email your relevant Director with your news for the next edition.*

Third grade women have welcomed back Hannah Goodchild to Glebe and couldn't be happier to have her in the squad. Hannah played for Glebe as a goalie a few years back, playing with Mary Wark, Helen and Colleen Howe and others in Glebe's first grade side. Hannah took a few years off to have a family and now has joined as an on-field player. Welcome back Hannah!



Hannah Goodchild

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Toxteth Hotel**

**JDH Hockey  
Galluzzo Fruiterers**

# #glebewomen GDHC

demic upon us there has been no other season like 2020. What a challenging and worrying time for our world. We kicked off in February with an abundance of players and enthusiasm. We got through two weeks of selections and were just about to start training when restrictions in NSW kicked in and our season got closed down indefinitely. We missed our hockey but the very real threat of Covid-19 put everything in perspective. We did our best to stay in touch and maintain some level of fitness. We missed each other and our community. By June there was talk of easing restrictions and hope that we may be able to play in some sort of revised competition. So began the task of re-connecting, finalising teams, checking availability and finding coaches, managers and umpires. We heard

that many clubs were struggling to find players but that certainly had not been our experience. Glebe women came back in force, grateful for any opportunity to play hockey and shrug off those Corona – Kilos. I have been so impressed with the adaptability of our players to follow new rules and ways of interacting. Long held traditions have been turned on their head – the end of matches is now marked with tapping opponents' sticks instead of handshakes; goals are celebrated with an enthusiastic rubbing of elbows rather than hugging and brilliant tackles are acknowledged by a thumbs up in place of backslaps and high fives. Glebe women have taken on this new etiquette and have never questioned its need. Furthermore, we have had to ask players to limit their spectators and support crews; change rooms and dug outs

are off limits and for the first month of training we didn't tackle. Seeing our women at half time talks, spread one and a half metres apart, listening intently and just being glad to be out there, is a sight to make one proud. In future years, when we look back at hockey photos and wonder why there was so much space between players we will remember this strange season, set against the horror of death rates in other countries. We will also be reminded that it was a time we learned never to take the freedom and health to play our sport with our mates, for granted. As usual we are a diverse bunch. From 12 to 59 years, from Glebe born and bred to welcome imports from Argentina, Holland and Queensland. We have five sets of mothers and daughters playing as well several more mothers of junior players.

We have babies on the sidelines and dogs in maroon jackets. Our most common name this season is Kate (we have four of them, plus one Cate and one Katherine), as well as four named Olivia, followed by three each of Amy and Laura. We have former Australian players (Clare Prideaux); former NSW players (welcome to the club Emma Halliday) and those who are brand new to our sport. We are on our way up the ranks or gracefully moving down them. We are as diverse as we are strong and it works. So here we are three weeks into a revised nine round competition and it's a good time to point out some highlights:

- Semifinals will be here before we know it. Fourth Grade sits at the top of its ladder with three strong wins. Third Grade sits second on its ladder and is looking strong. If these

two teams continue as they have been playing they are both likely contenders for semifinal berths. Our other teams have had mixed results but are fighting hard and goals are being scored.

- Record attendance at training. Tuesday night and there is nothing better than seeing six women's teams spread across the pitch working hard together. Attendance has been fantastic.

- First grade doing us proud. Our top team has been moved this season into Metro League 1 of the Sydney Women's comp. That means the highest standard of club hockey in NSW and it's tough. Our women are giving it their best and showing the other clubs that Glebe is no push over.

- Dedicated coaches. We are most fortunate to have six fantastic coaches (First Grade Ross Bougoukas; Second Grade – Lynsey Askew; Third Grade – Megan Jenkins; Fourth Grade – Garnet Brownbill;

Fifth Grade – Beth Parr; Sixth Grade – Julie Phillips). Thank you to our club captains (Tess Van Sluis and Olivia Edwards) for their work with the coaches to organise the team lists and field rotations for training each week.

- Brilliant managers. Sincere thanks to our managers who are taking on more than ever this season. Not only are they looking after coaches, match cards, equipment, injuries, babysitting and dog minding, they now have added disinfecting balls, management of social distancing rules and monitoring of spectators to their job list. Much gratitude to Alisha Middleton – First Grade; Kate Charge – Second Grade; Wendy Machin – Third Grade; Elissa Molloy – Fourth Grade; Maddy Dell – Fifth Grade and Rachael Beckett – Sixth Grade.

- Juniors stepping up. As their confidence grows with each match, our young women are doing us proud. Particular standouts are Layla Francis, in

her first ever season, who is giving her all for sixth grade; Allegra Symmonds who won players' player in only her second game in Fourth Grade and Sarah Brine who is training and playing so well she has been moved to First Grade.

- Thanks women's committee. With deep gratitude to our committee members who are working behind the scenes to get our players on the field each week. Special thanks to Lucy Brennan who has done an amazing job as registrar; Kate Pearsall who looks after our match cards diligently each week; Lou Tapsell who has worked her bum off to find umpires as well as taking the whistle herself when needed; Erin Machin – Hunt for excellent social media work and Megan Jenkins for so much and more.

- We belong to a whole club. Thank you to Glebe President Craig Martin who travels from Newcastle each week, stick in hand, to challenge

our players at training and to Kenny Wark for his consistent, outstanding and tireless training support. Thanks also to the Glebe Board for everything it has done to get our women, men and juniors playing safely this season.

Thank you mighty Glebe women. Enjoy every moment of this short season.

Yours in gratitude

Kate Alexander  
Women's Director

With an air of trep-

# #glebemen GDHC



validation and a great sense of relief, Glebe men have come out firing for the first two rounds of the shortened 2020 season. Only 10 games will be played (one round) followed by three finals.

What an interesting start to the season it has been. Glebe's men's teams were training hard and ready for the season, only for it to be called off only days before game one. This was way back in March, which feels like a very long time ago! Just as CVD-19 was becoming a household name, we were all confined

to our houses in an attempt to squash the virus.

Early success in suppressing the spread has allowed training to re-commence. Initially only 10 players were allowed in each half of the field with no tackling. Now, full contact tackling is allowed and games are in full swing each weekend.

All teams are in good shape this year with 5 x squads of 14 players. The structure is awesome with teams playing back to back. What a difference it makes when you know you can use reserves for the team

playing before or after yours.

A large cohort of juniors is coming through this year, concentrated in 4th grade under coach Brad Goodridge. The juniors are making a huge impact and improving every game. From Glebe's 15s and 17s, we have Nicky Vera in goals, Orlando Travis (player's player in 3rd AND 4th grade last week), Eddy Noble, Zac MacPherson and Zane Goodridge. Tom Alexander-Prideaux was keen to play but has broken his hand.

If we can get to the

end of the season I'll be very happy! In the meantime, I look forward to some great hockey and mixing it up in the finals in October.

Adrian McKeown

Men's Director

# #turfupdate GDHC

From Australian Leisure Management:

The City of Sydney is planning to upgrade three sports fields to synthetic grass to allow more types of sports and year-round play, with the Council today announcing that three multi-purpose synthetic fields will be at The Crescent in Annandale, Waterloo Oval in Waterloo and Turruwul Park in Roseberry.

Advising that the work is part of the City's ongoing sports field upgrade program to support a growing inner city population, Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore advised "as our local population continues to grow there is increased demand from our communities for more sporting fields and open spaces.

"A number of national and local sporting bodies have expressed their desires for high-quality

synthetic grass fields that will allow them to play and train more often."

Synthetic grass fields allow for greater use as a greater range of sports can use them more often. They are less impacted by weather and there is no need for returfing.



The Crescent synthetic field will be suitable for junior hockey and other small ball sports. President of the Glebe Hockey Club, Les Wark, said it is welcome news for his players, commenting "the pro-

posed multi-purpose artificial surface suitable for hockey will be a game-changer for the Glebe District Hockey Club, allowing our juniors to train and play small competition matches locally instead of travelling long distances from home.

"It will also benefit

hours on city sporting fields.

Lord Mayor Moore added "we have an ambitious plan to meet this demand by increasing the capacity of existing sports fields, building new sports fields and partnering with other land owners to build more fields.

"Upgrading some of our existing fields to synthetic turf will help us meet growing demand for more playable hours, so our local families and sporting teams can practise and compete all year round."

Designs of the new synthetic fields will be released for community consultation next year. Construction of the synthetic fields at The Crescent and Turruwul Park is expected to start in 2021 and at Waterloo Oval in 2023.

other local sporting clubs looking for a reliable all weather surface for training." The City's open space, sports and recreation needs study released in 2016 forecast the need for an extra 16,000 playable

## #oped

A 1/3 sized synthetic turf field has been approved by the City of Sydney Council to be constructed next to the childcare centre on the Crescent, Annandale. Pre-Covid-19, the estimated start date on construction of this field was 2021, and it would be available for use in the 2022 season.

The mini-field would be suitable for training, but not suitable for games. Having a mini-synthetic turf field in the Glebe/Annandale Area on which our junior teams can train will give a substantial boost to the Club.

From 2022 junior training can be conducted locally and the need to travel to Concord for turf training will be eliminated. The mini-field would also be available for senior players' skills training, following junior training.

100,000 people now live in and around Glebe – that's 100k residents within 3km

of the Crescent and Federal Park. Within close proximity to the turf are four primary schools and two high schools. The community resource will be well used. The Club's immediate past president Mr. Les Wark was instrumental in negotiating this mini-field with the City of Sydney Council.

The Club's juniors are its lifeblood. The Club is in its 90th year in 2020, and to survive into the future to provide the local community with an organization that provides exercise, social contact and all the advantages playing a team sport provides, it must secure access to a full sized synthetic turf field in the Glebe/Annandale heartland. The Inner West Council have prepared a Master Plan for the former Shunting Yards at Rozelle, for after the WestConnex Rozelle Interchange construction is finished. The area is now a large construction site, without a kilometre of outdoor leisure area to be seen.

When the roadworks are finished in a few years' time, the large construction site will revert to parkland under control of Inner West Council.

Currently on the Inner West Council Master Plan is a community synthetic turf field which would be suitable for hockey. A synthetic turf field at the Rozelle Shunting Yards site available for use by the Glebe District Hockey Club would give the Club a significant boost. It would bring senior hockey back to the District and attract local children and adults to play sport within a short distance of their homes. Because of the unavailability of a synthetic turf, senior hockey has not been played in Glebe/Annandale since 1996.

The Glebe District Hockey Club is a long-established community resource, and provides active sporting pursuits for girls, boys, men and women. This amateur Club of ours can only survive into the future if its cur-

rent members advocate for it to have access to a suitable synthetic turf field within its heartland. If members speak with elected representatives in the course of their daily life, advocating on behalf of the Glebe District Hockey Club with them would be advancing the Club's efforts to try and secure the Club's future in the Glebe/Annandale area. Each of our efforts might be small, but together we might be able to accomplish our goal.

# #matchreports GDHC

If you're interested in watching Glebe's First Grade victory in the 2008 Grand Final against Northwest Strikers, you can watch the entire game here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNKB2V-fOLzo&t=3813s>

If you're interested in writing a match report, or have other GDHC news, email the content through to your juniors, mens or womens directors for inclusion in the next edition!

## **Report on the Glebe v Moorebank Third Grade Game**

**on 18 July 2020 at the Cathy Flack Turf, Moorebank**

Result: Glebe 4 defeated Moorebank 1  
Half-time Glebe 2 Moorebank 0  
Penalty corners: Glebe 5 (two goals), Moorebank 2 (no goals).

Scorers for Glebe: Michael Wark, Tony Wark, Aaron Nilan 2.  
Glebe players:

Adam Campano, Emmerson Weiley, Chris Farrugia, Sam Bagley, Zac Farlow, Paul Jowett, Andrew Cheong, Michael Wark, Aaron Nilan (c), Anthony Wark, Pat Wark, Craig Martin, James Martin, Riley Harper, Suresh Raja.

Due to pandemic restrictions prevailing in the first half of 2020, the season was reduced to a 10 game competition, to be followed by a finals series of six teams as per usual. Another effect of the pandemic restrictions was the limitation placed on spectators being able to enter the hockey complex, which resulted in several staunch Glebe supporters, who had made the trip out to Moorebank, peering through the fence to see the 'red men' for the first time this year.

The third grade team missed out of the final six in 2019 and has hopes of doing a

little better in 2020. Fourteen of the fifteen man squad had played with the third grade team in 2019. Riley Harper, a young lad from Wollongong, is in his first season with Glebe. The team has a lot of experience, but against that some players in the team have had their share of injuries over the years, and have lost a metre or two in pace.

The game was played on a sunny, partly cloudy winter's day, with very little wind and for the most part bright sunshine, a perfect day for playing hockey. The playing conditions were as good as it gets at Moorebank.

Glebe started well and had 65% of the territory in the opening seven minutes. The Glebe ball movement was good, with passes being given early and at pace to the stick of a fel-

low Glebe player. Moorebank scrambled well, tackled early and gave nothing away.

Glebe had 5 or 6 shots on the Moorebank goal in the first 10 minutes, but the Glebe strikers were always under pressure from the Moorebank defence and none of the shots were easy opportunities, some were rushed and some were from acute angles. Michael Wark scored Glebe's first goal in the ninth minute of the game, shooting from 5 metres out in the inside right alley after receiving a pass from Tony Wark in the inside left alley. Moorebank found it hard to penetrate the tight Glebe defence, who read the game well and quickly closed off any gaps.

The half-line of Zac Farlow, Sam Bagley, James Martin, Paul Jowett and Pat Wark was effective in stifling any Moorebank

raids into Glebe territory. Fullbacks Adam Campano, Chris Farrugia and Craig Martin tackled efficiently and effectively.

Considering it was the first game of the season, the teamwork and team understanding were excellent. Moorebank looked dangerous on the counter-attack at times, but it did not have many real goal scoring opportunities. The Glebe forwards had plenty of shots in the second quarter but most went wide of the goal, and a couple were well saved by the Moorebank goalkeeper. The second quarter was played mainly from 25 to 25, although Glebe had 60% of the territory. At times the Glebe wingers did not stay wide enough, the Glebe attack became too narrow, and was subsequently well contained by the Moorebank defence.

A few minutes into the third quarter, Glebe were awarded its third penalty corner. The penalty

corner stop was not clean and the ball was scrambled across to Tony Wark standing in the inside right alley. Tony hammered a well hit shot towards goal, which shaved the left hand goal post and went into the goal; Glebe 2 Moorebank 0.

The Glebe defence edged a few stops and deflected a few traps, to enable Moorebank to look dangerous on occasions in the third quarter. Ten minutes into the third quarter Michael Wark pulled a hamstring, came off and played no further part in the game. This was a blow to the Glebe team as Michael was playing very well. Towards the end of the third quarter Aaron Nilan in the centre-half alley in midfield was dispossessed of the ball by a Moorebank forward 45 metres out from the Glebe goal. The Moorebank forward ran straight at the Glebe goal, managed to burst through at least four Glebe tacklers, entered the circle and fired a tomahawk shot into the Glebe

goal, evading the outstretched right leg of Emmerson Weiley. The shot was not that powerful, but the position of the ball was inch perfect: Glebe 2 Moorebank 1.

Going into the fourth quarter the game was still very much in the balance. Glebe deserved to be a few goals in front, but its forward's radar was faulty and there was only one goal difference between the teams. Up to this point in the game, Glebe had had 65% of the territory.

Suresh Raja and Riley Harper made a few good runs with the ball on the stick and made life difficult for the Moorebank defenders with their energetic tackling back. Both players worked hard during the game.

On a few occasions during the game, from the push off Glebe went back to the centre-half who went back to the full-back, who was put under pressure and the ball ended up on a Moorebank stick

close to the Glebe circle. Loosing 30 metres from a Glebe push off on halfway and presenting the opposition with an attacking opportunity is not smart hockey. This is something to work on for next week.

Five minutes into the fourth quarter Zac Farlow was struck in the mouth by the ball. He suffered a laceration to his mouth and a couple of chipped teeth, and went to the blood bin. Zac is one of the team's better players and when he was off the field Moorebank started to gain some traction.

Moorebank looked dangerous and in the sixth minutes of the final quarter, attacking down the right wing. The ball came across the face of the Glebe goal and it looked probable that a Moorebank forward would deflect it into the Glebe goal and make the score 2-2. Fortunately for Glebe the ball hit the Moorebank forward's foot and no goal resulted. This

was a lucky break for Glebe.

Shortly after this close shave Moorebank were awarded a penalty corner. The direct drag flick was confidently saved with the hand by Glebe goalkeeper Emmerson Weiley. Moorebank continued to attack the Glebe goal but Glebe defence displayed grit, determination, self-discipline, and dug deep to repel many Moorebank raids. Zac Farlow came back on the field with nine minutes left in the game and this helped Glebe to gain some momentum, and field position.

Against the run of play Pat Wark disposed a Moorebank player 5 metres inside the Moorebank half in the middle of the field and ran at pace into the inside right alley. James Martin took good position on the right wing and got on the end of a firm pass from Pat inside the Moorebank circle. James hit the ball across the Moore-

bank goal mouth and it was deflected into the goal by a diving Aaron Nilan. It took me back 20 years watching Aaron score this goal. It was a ripper of a goal of the sort Aaron often scored back in his heyday; Glebe 3 Moorebank 1. This third goal scored with seven minutes remaining in the game virtually sealed the game for Glebe. Moorebank mounted several more attacking raids into Glebe territory but was repelled by desperate, scrabbling, tenacious Glebe defence, which hung on for dear life.

With two minutes remaining in the game, somewhat against the run of play Glebe managed to mount an attack into the Moorebank circle and was awarded its fifth penalty corner. The penalty corner trap was missed by the Glebe stopper and the ball went to Pat Wark who was backing up the battery on the Moorebank 22 metre defensive line. Pat pushed the ball to Aaron Nilan standing

in the inside left alley just inside the circle. Aaron hit a powerful shot past the Moorebank goalkeeper's outstretched left leg into the Moorebank goal; Glebe 4 Moorebank 1, which was the score at fulltime.

It was an entertaining, hard fought game, with the result in the balance until the last seven minutes. The Glebe performance was based on teamwork and a controlled passing game.

In 2019 Glebe often gave away goals to the opposition by taking careless field position and inferior options. In today's game the self-discipline was excellent, and the option taking good. There were no heroes in today's game. It was most definitely a whole of team commitment which brought home the bacon.

Congratulations on a fine effort.

**Report on the Glebe v Manly-Gordon North**

### **Sydney Third Grade Game on 25 July 2020 Pennant Hills 1 Turf**

Result: Glebe 5 defeated Manly-Gordon-North Sydney (MNS) 0  
Half-time Glebe 2-MNS 0

Penalty corners: Glebe 6 (one goal); MNS (no goals)  
Scorers for Glebe: Anthony Wark 1, Aaron Nilan 1, Orlando Travis 2, Riley Harper 1

Glebe players: Adam Campano, Emmerson Weiley, Chris Farrugia, Sam Bagley, Zac Farlow, Paul Jowett, Andrew Cheong, Orland Travis, Aaron Nilan (c), Anthony Wark, Pat Wark, Craig Martin, James Martin, Riley Harper, Suresh Raja. (out Michael, torn hamstring)

Glebe won this game comfortably. Last week Glebe won a close and hard fought game against Moorebank. The team did not give away any soft goals, which occurred a few times last season, and player self-discipline was good. No players

were given yellow cards, whereas last season the team were frequently reduced to 10 players at crucial stages in a game for yellow card offences, which interrupted the team's momentum. Hopefully this team self-discipline will endure for the full season.

In the first game of the 2020 season last week our opponents today, Manly-GNS were beaten 3-2 by Northern Districts. The Manly-GNS Men's Hockey Club were formed this year from an amalgamation of the Manly and Gordon-North Sydney Clubs. My impression before the game was that Glebe should win this game, with my prediction being a 3-1 Glebe win.

The game was played under a cloudy sky, with intermittent bursts of sunshine, ideal weather for a game of hockey.

Orlando Travis aged 15; a current Glebe under 15 team player, was having his

first senior game for Glebe today. He has played 118 games for the Glebe Juniors, starting in 2012.

Glebe got off to a dream start with Anthony Wark scoring within 70 seconds of the starting whistle. Anthony dispossessed the MNS right half with a good poke tackle, ran outside the MNS fullback and pushed the ball past the advancing MNS goalkeeper into the back of the net: This was a defensive mistake, but all goals count and this early success gave the Glebe team spring in their step: Glebe 1 MNS 0.

Glebe settled into a good style of hockey keeping the ball wide, before passing down the line, and then attempting to penetrate the MNS circle. Keeping good width in their play started to open up gaps in the middle of the field. The passes were early, crisp and fast, giving MGN little time to regroup and intercept passes. The aimless back pass to the fullback was less evident

today than in last week's game. This back pass can put the full backs under needless pressure and is best eliminated from our game. The Glebe defence were well marshalled today, and Manly found it hard to find a way through it. The defence is a little on the slow side, but MNS did not have any speedy forwards that could exploit this lack of pace.

To compensate for its lack of mobility the Glebe defence reads the play very well, tackles early and often, and takes excellent field position. There is a lot of experience in Glebe's defence, and gaps are closed down very quickly.

New lad Riley Harper at centre-forward was making good leads into space and was a terrier in his tackling back. He is a busy player.

At the 12 minute mark team captain Aaron Nilan scored from a penalty corner. The push-out and the trap were just a little off, and

Aaron read the situation to perfection. He beat the runner-out with a giant drag to his left and flicked the ball into the net from the penalty stroke spot: Glebe 2 MNS 0.

Glebe were having plenty of shots, making good circle penetrations, but a combination of poor shot direction and excellent goal keeping by the MNS goalkeeper prevented any further scoring in the first quarter. In this quarter Glebe had 60-65% of the territory.

Glebe continued to play a good style of hockey in the second quarter with good width and early ball movement, which prevented the MNS defence from getting set and comfortable. The Glebe forwards were tackling the MNS defenders early and often and did not allow them to pick their passes. The MNS defenders were always under pressure when they tried to move the ball forward from defence. Glebe team cohesion was good,

with encouragement, good calling and appropriate praise for a teammate who was trying to the best of his ability. The crisp, firm passing between the fullbacks and the halves and the halves and the forwards was excellent.

At half-time it seemed unlikely that MNS had the ability to come back from a 2-0 deficit, with Glebe being put under little real pressure in the first half. At the second minute of the third quarter Manly made a break down the right wing before the ball was quickly centred across the Glebe goal mouth, where a MNS forward deflected the ball just wide of the post to the goal keeper's right. If MNS had put this sharp chance into the net, the game would have been 2-1 and MNS would have been back in the match with the sniff of a chance. It was MNS's best chance to score during the game. Glebe was making many breaks and the lead-up work was

good but the final pass was often not finding its mark. The sideline to sideline transfer of the ball by the Glebe team was good and MNS found it difficult to plug the gaps that were created by this quick ball transfer. At the 12th minute in the quarter Andrew Cheong received the ball from Aaron Nilan in the middle of the field around halfway. Andrew sprinted with the ball in the inside left alley, eliminating several MNS defenders with his speed before crossing to Orlando Travis who was steaming up in the inside right alley. With the goal keeper a little out of position because he was covering Andrew Cheong's run, Orlando had a back stick shot for goal, which he did not connect well with, but the ball had enough legs to roll over the goal line: Glebe 3 MNS 0. It was hard to see Glebe loosing from here.

This was Orlando first ever goal scored playing for the Glebe senior teams, and his

fellow players were delighted for him, a goal on debut. With not much on and the opposition forwards sitting back waiting to pick off a pass upfield the Glebe defenders at times tried for a push pass around the opposition forward. On occasions the opposition forwards picked off this pass and they looked dangerous. If in doubt the ball should be hit hard down the sideline, preventing any opportunity for the opposition forwards to pick off a soft pass to the forwards from the defence. Better teams than MNS will make us pay for poor decision making coming out of defence.

Another thing that needs to be improved is that our passes need to be concealed and not telegraphed. If the opposition defenders are able to anticipate were a Glebe player is going to pass the ball by accurately reading the body position and direct of gaze it gives them a chance

to make an intercept and launch a counterattack not too far from the Glebe defensive circle. Give the impression that you have two passing options, even if you have already made up your mind about where you are going to pass the ball.

Glebe's fourth goal came with 6 minutes remaining in the game. Aaron Nilan dispossessed a MNS player in midfield and quickly passed to Suresh Raja in the left wing position. Suresh read the game beautifully and crossed the ball to unmarked Riley Harper 25 meters out from the MNS goal. Riley sprinted into the MNS circle, dragged the ball to the goal keeper's left and hit the ball into the goal from an acute angle. This was a well worked team goal: Glebe 4 MNS 0.

Glebe continued to press the MNS goal and with a few minutes left in the game Aaron Nilan in midfield, 40 metres out from the MNS

goal fired the ball to Riley Harper on the MNS backline in the inside left alley. Riley quickly shot the pass across the MNS goal mouth for Orlando Travis to deflect the ball into the net:

Glebe 5 MNS 0.

The speed of our passing, the width of our play, the work rate of the forwards tackling back, and the excellent field position taken by our midfield were standout features of today's game.

Next week the game is at 12.30 hours at Cintra Park against UNSW. We had two draws against UNSW last year and this game will give use a good gauge of whether or not the Glebe third grade team are finals series contenders or not.

A little stick and ball training between now and then would be beneficial for all team members, if time permits.

Congratulations on a comfortable win. It is encouraging to start the season with two wins.