



Mr. John Diviney

Born 6th February 1928 - Died 25th April 2000

Aged 72 years' old

Elected a Life Members of the Glebe District Hockey Club 1980

John Diviney, from Galway, Ireland, had a touch of the blarney in him and was very persuasive (gently so) in getting people to help. John could sell ice to an eskimo or coal to Newcastle - a great attribute for a junior convenor.

John was born in Galway, Connaught Province, in the west of Ireland. John went to primary school at the National School in Kilbeacanty in suburban Galway. His secondary schooling was in Dublin. John Diviney's parents, Patrick and Josephine, were farmers. He was the third of four children, having a sister Mary and three brothers, Michael, John and Patrick.

In 1951, at the age of 23, he came to Australia on a working holiday, planning to stay a few years. Within a week of his arrival he attended a dance at Saint Benedict's Catholic Church Hall in Broadway, Sydney where he met Trudi Nilan who was then 17 years old. Trudi had grown up in the inner city, at 135 Rose Street, Darlington. Trudi's parents, John and Patricia, were both born in Ireland. Her father came from Galway and he worked for the City of Sydney Council. Her mother? Who was born in Ireland looked after the household and reared the children. Trudi was the fourth of the ten Nilan children, two boys and eight girls. Both of Trudi's brothers, Pat and John are GDHC stalwarts and both are Life-Members of the Club.



Mr. John Diviney

The Nilan family home was demolished to make way for the extension/expansion of the University of Sydney. Today, the University of Sydney Engineering Precinct occupies the land on which the Nilan Family home once stood.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Trudi was born at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Annandale. She went to school at Saint Kieran's Catholic School, Golden Grove, Newtown, where she had both her primary and secondary education. After leaving school Trudi worked at the Wynn's Department Store, at the City end of Oxford Street, Sydney.

John's relationship with Trudi kept him in Australia longer than he had first anticipated. John and Trudi were married in 1956, at Saint Kieran's Catholic Church, Golden Grove, Newtown, five years after he arrived in Sydney. Saint Kieran's was closed as a Catholic Church decades ago. Trudi left paid employment after the birth of her first child, Patrick, in 1957.



Mr John Diviney and Mrs
Trudi Diviney

After his arrival in Australia in 1951, John obtained employment with the Toohey's Brewing Company in Surry Hills, Sydney. The company moved to larger premises at Lidcombe in 1955. In 1957, John and Trudi moved from the inner city to Auburn, where they bought a house, so John would be closer to his work. In the 1960s John obtained work with the Rothman's Tobacco Company at Granville, a suburb adjacent to Auburn, where he worked for a further 30 years. John was a cheerful, positive, optimistic chap, who helped anyone and everyone where and when he could. John and Trudi had six children, five sons - Patrick, Robert, Terry, Kieran, Michael and a daughter, Anne.

The Diviney children went to primary school at Saint John's Catholic School, Auburn and then boys went on to Auburn Marist Brother's Catholic School for their secondary education, St John's provided secondary education for Anne. Marist Brother's School Auburn became part of a three school amalgamation in recent years and the amalgamated school is now called Trinity College, Auburn.

Trudi still lives in the family home at 45 Kirkham St Auburn, a period of 59 years. During their married life John and Trudi did make a few holiday trips back to Ireland to visit John's family and friends.

Trudi's younger brother, Pat Nilan, was a vibrant force in the Glebe District Hockey Club in the 1960s and the Diviney children were exposed to hockey and the Glebe District Hockey Club from a young age. The Diviney children were keen to follow in the footsteps of their uncle Pat. At the time Pat was Glebe first grade captain, Vice-Captain of the Australian Men's Hockey team, and in addition coached the Glebe under-16 team. In 1970 John brought his children down to Jubilee Oval Glebe to learn their hockey and John and Trudi became actively involved in Club affairs from the get-go.

In 1970 John Atterton was the Club's Junior Convenor and coaches included Tony Cowan, Graeme Gilmour, Pat Nilan, Colin Brown, Robert "Charlie" Brown and Garry Manou. Bill Stubbs was Club President and Fred Letts the Club Secretary.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Junior Hockey for the Diviney Family commenced in 1970 with Pat Diviney playing in the U/14 team at left half and Robert Diviney playing in the U/12 team at inside left. Robert won the team's best and fairest award for the season.

Pat and Robert made the Sydney U/14 in 1971. Also in 1971 Terry started in the same Glebe U/10 team as Danny O'Brien and future brother-in-law Colin Rochester. Colin is married to Anne Rochester (nee Diviney)

Pat Nilan was elected President of the Club in 1972, a position he held for six years until 1977. During the 1970s John and Trudi helped out in marshalling the junior teams where and when they could.

In 1973 Robert and Pat Diviney had the odd game in the Club's senior teams, and John and Trudi had to ferry all the children around Sydney from Robert and Pat's junior games in the morning to their senior games in the afternoon. In those days, Saturday was a big day in the Diviney household.



The Diviney Family: L - R John, Patrick, Robert, Trudi, Anne, Terry, Michael and Kieran

In 1974 John Cowan and John Diviney were elected Joint Junior Convenors.

By 1974 Pat and Robert regularly played both junior and senior fixtures. Pat played in the GDHC fourth grade team that won the competition undefeated and Robert played in the Club's third grade team that won the competition. In 1974 Robert was selected a member of the 1974 NSW under 16 team.

In 1974 the two youngest boys, Kieran and Michael started with the U/10 team that was coached by Tony Martin. Players in this team, along with the Diviney boys, were Anthony Bennett, Grant Booth, Kieran Dell, Alan Howe, Darren Lewis, Glen Lewis, Butch McDonald, Craig Martin, Grant Martin, David Rochester, Nicholas Shackle, and Gavin Westacott.

In 1975 John Diviney was elected sole Junior Convenor and was helped by coaches Colin Brown, Kevin Weeks, Robert Wark, Bill Stubbs, Graeme Gilmour, Tony Martin, Ralph Rochester, Pat McQuade, Barry Goodrick, Kath Casey, and Bennett Dunn. In 1975 Robert and Pat played in the Club's second grade team

John was sole Junior Convenor from 1975 to 1979, and was joint Junior Convenor with Warren Dell in 1980.

John served on the Club's Management Committee for six years from 1974, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79. In 1980 Warren Dell succeeded John as Junior Convenor on the Club's Management Committee.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



By the end of the 1976 season Pat had played 74 Senior Club games, Robert had played 68 Senior Club games for Glebe, Terry was playing in the U/14 team, Kieran was playing in the U/12 team with brother Michael.

Robert Diviney won the W J Oldfield Cup in 1976 and 1977 and Michael won it in 1986. The A J Oldfield Cup was first awarded in 1941. The Cup was presented to the Club by the late A J (Burt) Oldfield, the former Australian Cricket Wicketkeeper. The trophy is awarded to the “Colt under 21 player who has been adjudged The Most Improved and Best Behaved during the Season.”



The Glebe 1974 U/16 Premiership winning team: L – R Colin Brown (Coach), Robert Diviney, Tony Cowan, Roger McDonald, Geoff Cupid, Jamie Howe, Peter Casey, Nicholas King, Michael Murphy, Victor Ferrari, Garry Lewis, Joe Cerro, Michael Atterton.

In 1977 Robert played in the first grade premierships winning team, with his uncle Pat Nilan as captain and in addition won the J W Kenny Cup. The J W Kenny Trophy was first competed for in 1975. It was donated by Jim Kenney, Patron, Life-Member and first GDHC player to reach 500 Club games. The Committee along with Jim decided to award the trophy to the most outstanding first grader each season.

In 1977 Michael won the U/10 most

improved back award in a team coached by Graeme Gilmour, and Kieran won the most improved back award in the U/12 team coached by Roy “the Boy” Birmingham. Terry played in the Club’s U/16 team coached by Royce Jenkins.

Robert played for the NSW Junior Team in 1973, and 1974, in the NSW under 21 Team in 1976, 78, 79 and in the NSW Senior Team in 1977, 1978 and 1979. In 1978 and 1979 Robert played in the NSW Indoor Team. In 1979 the NSW Senior team was coached by his uncle Pat Nilan. In 1978 and 1979 Robert captained the Glebe Club’s Indoor team. The team won the competition in 1978.

Graeme Gilmour in his U/10 Coach’s Report for 1976, which was included in the GDHC’s Annual Report, commented “In closing I would like to thank John Diviney undoubtedly the best Junior Convenor in NSW”.

Robert Diviney won the V J Turner Cup in 1972, 1973 and 1974. The J V Turner Cup was named after Vernon Turner in appreciation for his work for juniors. Vern was an outstanding player and an equally outstanding coach. He commenced with the Club in 1942. He played on left wing and soon went into first grade. He played 261 games for Glebe and scored 84 goals. His ambition was to coach a winning U/ 16 team. This ambition was unfulfilled when he left the Club in 1957. In the following season, 1958, two teams that he had coached played out the Final.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Michael Diviney won the Ralph Rochester Cup in 1980. The late Ralph Rochester donated this Trophy to the Club in 1972. The Trophy is awarded to the most outstanding Junior 13 years and under, with the best general demeanour on and off the field. Michael won the Michael "Abbo" Atterton Memorial Trophy in 1985. Michael Atterton died tragically in early 1978 and this trophy was awarded by the Club in fond memory of him. In 1965 at the age of six Michael commenced his hockey with Glebe. Whilst still a junior, at the age of 14, he played his first senior game with the Club and was considered an outstanding prospect. The trophy is awarded for the Player with the Most Potential.

At the end of the 1978 season Robert Diviney had played 101 Senior Club games, Pat Diviney had played 101 Senior Club games and Terry Diviney had played 21 Senior Club games for Club, as well as playing in the Club's U/16 team. Kieran Diviney played in the U/14 team and Michael Diviney played in the U/10s.

In 1978 the Club President Robert Charlie Brown commented in his Report contained in the Club's

Annual Report "John Diviney is doing an excellent job in his position as Junior Convenor. Three Premierships were gained this year in the juniors, the most ever in the history of the Club, also four players gained representative honours for NSW, the most ever in one year." Junior coaches in 1978 were Alan Chu, Graeme Gilmour, Graham Lisk, Roy Birmingham, Geoff Paterson, Robert Diviney and Royce Jenkins.

Robert Diviney played at the start of 1979 in the indoor team, but because of a groin injury he could not play in the 1979 outdoor competition, while Pat Diviney reached senior 113 games, and Terry Diviney 41 senior games.

In his 1979 Junior Report John commented; ""to my wife Trudi, without whom I couldn't possibly have done the job—a great big thank-you".

In 1979 Michael Diviney was in the U/ 12 team and, Kieran Diviney was in the U/14 side.

Robert Diviney was on Management Committee with his father John. Pat and Terry played second and third grades in 1979.

In 1979 it was hard to get people to transport the juniors to their games, to coach them and to supervise them. It was largely because of John Diviney's efforts that the Junior Club did not disintegrate and crumble.



The Glebe U/10 Junior team Coached Ian Mutton. John Diviney in the Blue Shirt



Robert Diviney was still out with his groin injury in 1980, but the other four Diviney boys continued to enjoy their hockey, Pat and Terry in the Seniors and Kieran and Michael in the Juniors.

At the 1980 AGM John Diviney was elected a Life-Member of the GDHC for his decade of service to the Club's Junior players.

1981 Kieran Diviney played 14 senior games, and in the U/16 team coached by Harry Wark snr. Pat played in the second grade team that won the premiership. Michael played in U/14 team. Robert's groin injury prevented him from stretching out when running, thus preventing him from playing hockey. During his three-year absence from the hockey field he enjoyed playing golf.

Not being able to participate in the game he had played from age 10 years, a game he enjoyed and excelled at, was a major source of frustration to Robert. In 1982 his leg problem was healed-up sufficiently well for him to be contemplating a return to playing hockey. He began pre-season training and felt confident that his leg injury had completely healed. In March 1982 he finished pre-season training at Jubilee Oval and was heading back home to Auburn.

He stopped on Parramatta Rd Auburn to buy some food, as he had skipped dinner so as not to compromise his training activities. While crossing the road he was hit by a car and killed. It was a tragedy of the first order. Robert, who worked in the banking industry was a fine young man who had his life ended much too prematurely. However, the Lord works his magic in unusual ways and hopefully Robert is happily ensconced in Heaven above. His absence left a big void in the ranks of his family and the Hockey Club.

In the 1982 Annual Report President Graeme Gilmour wrote;

"I know that all Members of the Club were shattered at the tragic death of Robert Diviney. This year a trophy has been struck in Robert's name. It is to be called the 'Robert Diviney Perpetual trophy' for the 'Most Outstanding Glebe Hockey Player, Junior or Senior'. The trophy is to be accompanied by a medal and I would like to thank Robert's workmates at Westpac for their donation towards it."

The winner of the 1982 inaugural Robert Diviney Perpetual Trophy was Warren Buster Birmingham, who went on to play over 200 games for Australia, many of these games as captain.



The 1978 Super 8 - Indoor Champions:
L – R: Ian Mutton, Greg Corben, Robert Brown, Les Wark, Robert Diviney, Geoff Paterson, Graham Lisk, Graham Bell



In 1982 Glebe won the Sydney Hockey Association First Grade Competition. The players in this team were motivated to do their best in an attempt to honour the year of Robert's death with a first grade premiership. They succeeded in their aspirations.

By the end of the 1982 season Pat Diviney had played 153 games, Terry had played 81 games; Kieran had played 14 senior games, as well as being a member of the Club's U/17 team, and Michael played in the U/14 team.

In 1983 Pat Diviney coached a U/11 team, as well as playing second grade, Kieran and Terry played in the Club's third grade team. Michael played in the Sydney U/15; the Glebe U15 coached by David 'Chuck' Rochester, and he had 15 games in Glebe senior teams. Kieran played 34 games in Glebe senior teams; Pat had played 169 senior games by the end of the 1983 season and Terry had played 103 Club games. By the end of the 1984 season Pat had played 211 senior games and he stopped playing for Glebe, having moved to the Central Coast.



Glebe Players: L - R Colin Rochester, Dave (Chuck) Rochester, Terry Diviney, Kieran Diviney, Michael Diviney. This photo was taken down at Jubilee Oval before a senior men's fixture

In 1985 Michael and Terry won the competition with the Club's third grade team. Terry helped with the Club's U/15 team. By the end of the 1985 season the Diviney family members had played 550 senior games for Glebe.

Michael played in the Club's first grade in 1986, and Terry played in the Club's second grade premiership winning team. By the end of the 1986 season Terry had played 163 Senior Club games, Michael 103 Club games, and Kieran 84 Club games, and the family had played a total of 620 senior games for Glebe.

By the end of the 1987 season Terry had played 183 senior games for the Club and retired, Michael had played 121 senior games and Kieran 104 Senior games.

Kieran continued to play for Glebe in the third and fourth grades up until after the 2003 season, by which time he had played 396 Senior Club games and had won several premierships. In 1999 he won the W J Taylor Cup. This Trophy was first awarded in 1941. It was donated by William J Taylor who succeeded Reverend Brother Macarten Keegan as Club Patron. The award was originally for the Most Improved Player, however, since 1954 the wording has been altered to The Club Member who has set the Best Example by Consistent Play and General Demeanour.

Michael continued to play on and off as work, and family commitments allowed up until 2005, by which time he had played 240 Senior Club games.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Anne Diviney, John and Trudi's only daughter was a keen hockey player. She started with the Glebe Women's Club in the early 1980s. Her brother Kieran coached Glebe Women's teams in the mid-1980s, as did her future husband Colin Rochester.

In 1986 Anne Diviney won the Molly Wark trophy for being the most outstanding Club Woman of the year. By 1993 Anne had played 157 games for Glebe.



Mrs Trudi Diviney and Mr John Diviney

Anne was the Women's Club's President in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. She was Women's Club Secretary in 1996 as well as being the Social Secretary. In 1992 and again in 1995 (as well as being President) Anne was the Women's Club's Treasurer.

In 1995 Anne won the Molly Wark trophy for being the outstanding Club Woman of 1995. In 1996 Anne was Secretary and Social Convenor.

By the time she retired in 2006 Anne had played 265 Senior Women's games for Glebe. Some seasons she missed because of family commitments.

Anne's husband Colin Rochester coached Glebe women's teams in the mid-1980s, played hockey with the Diviney boys and knew the Diviney family well.

Colin Rochester won a first grade premiership with Glebe, and coached premiership winning first grade Glebe teams. He played 577 Senior Club games for Glebe from 1977 to 2009, before a knee problem ended his playing career.

John and the Diviney Family contributed enormously to the life and times of the Hockey Club from 1970 to 2009, a period of almost 40 years. John's tireless, efforts on behalf of the Club helped to shape the lives of many young people, who benefited enormously from John's optimistic, effervescent, can-do, enthusiastic approach to life. He had a sense of esprit-de-corps, an energetic, upbeat spirit and an inclusiveness that was infectious. John's efforts gave the Junior Club of the 1970s and 80s a real sense of community and camaraderie.

Hopefully John is enjoying his Eternal Reward in Heaven. He was one of the Hockey Club's great sons, who never played hockey himself, but made it happen for others.

Thank you John, you were a great role model for us all.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Appendix

The Diviney Family

Name	Glebe District Hockey Club Record
John Diviney	Life-Member 1970-2002
Trudi Diviney (nee Nilan)	Loyal Supporter from 1970
Patrick Diviney	Played 1973-1983, 211 games
Robert Diviney	Played 1973-1980, 110 games - died March 1982 aged 23 years
Anne Rochester (nee Diviney)	Played 1985-2006, 299 games
Terry Diviney	Played 1978-1987, 183 games
Kieran Diviney	Played 1981-2003, 396 games
Michael Diviney	Played 1983-2005, 240 games
Total Games Played 1,439	

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney



Cont.

Details of the Nilan Children

Name	Date of Birth
Mary	10th January 1928
Cecilia	10th June 1930
Agnes	25th March 1932
Trudi	12th April 1934
Patricia	2nd March 1936
Therese	17th October 1938
John	9th January 1940
Patrick	30th June 1942
Anne	6th June 1944
Pauline	28th August 1946

Details of the Diviney Children

Name	Date of Birth	Occupation
Patrick	28th August 1957	Electrician
Robert	23rd September 1958	Bank officer
Anne	8th May 1960	Office Duties
Terry	30th August 1965	Butcher
Kieran	23rd August 1965	Carpenter - Registered Nurse
Michael	18th September 1968	Insurance Business

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – John Diviney

