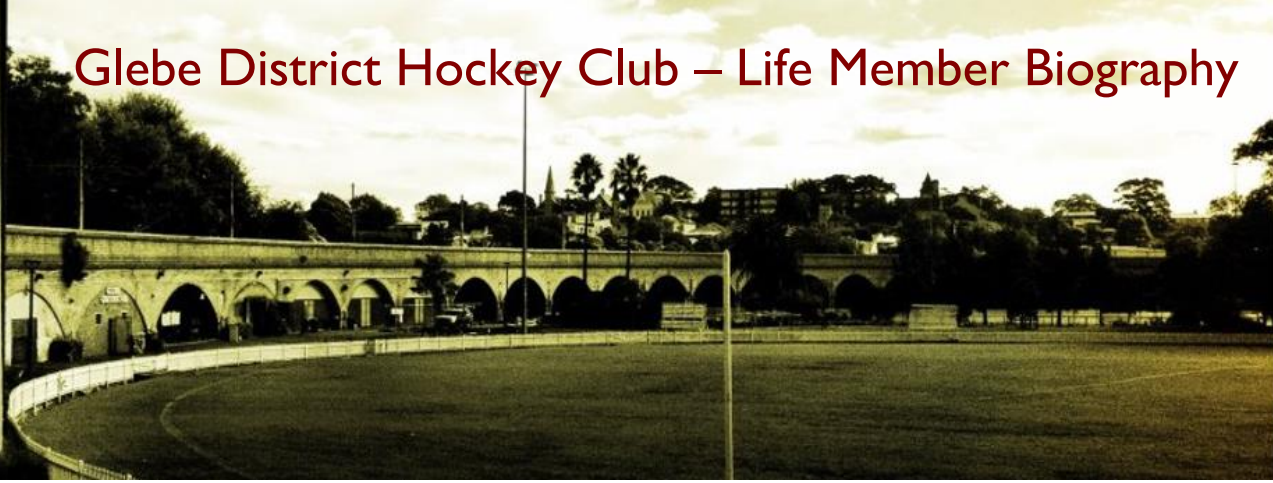


Glebe District Hockey Club – Life Member Biography



Colin Brown

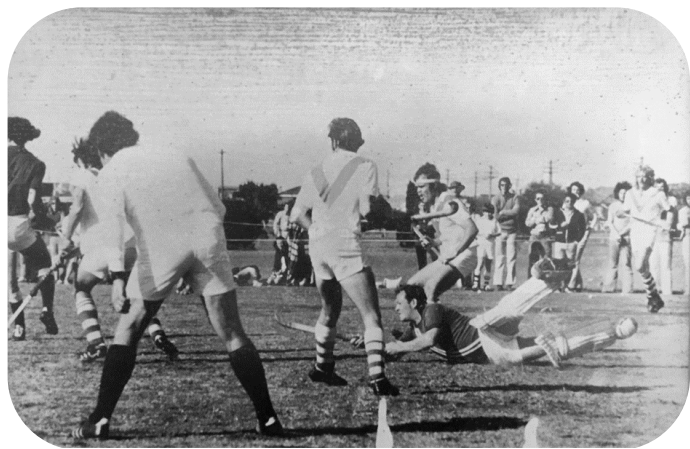
Born 12 September 1948
Elected Life Member in 1989



Colin Brown was born at the King George Hospital, Camperdown in Sydney NSW to Alfred Dudley Brown and Phyllis Helen (nee Brookes). Colin's father was born in West Botany, Sydney; Alfred had one brother and one sister, he was a boiler attendant and worked for the Fresh Food and Ice Company at Haymarket in Sydney. Colin's mother was born in Hobart, Tasmania. Phyllis had five sisters and one brother. The Brookes family moved to the mainland, first settling in Melbourne but then later moving to Sydney.

Colin was the youngest of three boys, his older brothers being Robert, born in 1942, and Denis in 1946. The Brown family lived at several rental properties around Glebe, in Glebe Point Road, Cook Street and Forsyth Street. The Brown boys were born at King George V Maternity Hospital in Missenden Road Camperdown, and received their schooling at Glebe Public School and Newtown Technical College.

Colin developed polio as a child and this left him with a left leg that was 5-6 centimetres shorter than the right leg, considerable muscle loss in his left calf, a deformed left foot and a pronounced limp. He wore a leg calliper until he was around 9-10 years old. This lower leg, and foot deformity meant that Colin's agility, manoeuvrability and ability to run was considerably impaired.



An action shot of goalkeeper Colin taken in 1974 during Glebe's 3-2 Grand-Final win against Saint George at Heffron Park, Matraville. By all accounts Colin had a great game that day.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown



His physical limitations restricted Colin's sporting options, but he always focused on what he could do, rather than what he couldn't do and he sought to participate in sport, mix with his friends and peers, join in the fun of the game, and the esprit de corps where and when he could.

Colin's eldest brother Robert began playing hockey for the GDHC in 1958. Robert was recruited to the ranks of the Club's juniors by the Club's then Junior Convenor Vernon Turner. In the 1950s Vernon went to schools in the area and spoke with students and teachers about the possibility of playing Saturday hockey for Glebe. Several of Robert's friends joined up and Robert decided to join them.

Colin, as a 12-year-old, and Denis, as a 13-year-old, joined Robert at the Club in 1960. They played in the Glebe Police Boy's Club Under Fourteen and Under Sixteen teams of that period, in the Eastern Zone Junior Hockey Competition, which conducted its competition at Saint Paul's Oval, Sydney University. Randwick, Eastern Suburbs and YMCA were other clubs that fielded teams in this Zone Competition.

Because of his physical limitations Colin was often placed in the goal-keeping position by his coaches. He got to like the position and played as a goal-keeper throughout his Junior and Senior career, which spanned 35 years.

In the early 1960's, after Vernon Turner left the Club, the Club's Juniors were facing extinction because of a lack of coaches and managers. It was hard times for the few juniors that the Club had then, and keen, promising lads were as quickly as feasible promoted to the Club's lower grades in the hope of retaining their interest and enthusiasm. Colin first played seniors in the Fourth Grade team of 1962, at the age of 14 years.

In 1963 Colin won the Club's V J Turner Cup, which is awarded annually to the "Most improved Junior Under the age of 17 Years."

Colin was a bit of a free spirit in his early teenage years. The fourth grade report of 1963 commenting on Colin says: "showed plenty of courage and could go a long way in the game if he concentrates on goal-keeping." Players in the fourth grade team of 1963 with Colin included: Bobby Howe,



A photo of the Club's Second Grade 1968 Premiership winning team taken at Saint Paul's Oval, Sydney University after its grand-final win.

Back Row L-R: Daryl Fishenden, John Nilan, Harry Wark, Tom Harvey (Victorian), Brain Howe, Graham Kirkland, Fred Letts.

Front Row L-R: Bennett Dunn, Bobby Fox, Colin Brown, Albert Hush, John Nemes (Newcastle).



Daryl Fishenden, George Griffith, Billy McCormack, Mick Letts, Denis Lisk, Cliff Boyd, Ron Hall, Noel Irvine, Ray Griffith, Bobby Fraser, Peter Newson, Dennis Brown, and Noel Pye.

Colin won his first senior Premiership in 1966 with the Club's Fourth Grade Team. The 1966 Annual Report had the following comments about Colin; "In my opinion the best goalie in the Club. He is never afraid and saved us many times when things were going bad."

In 1970 Colin was the first grade goal-keeper. At end of the 1971 season Colin had played 201 games for Glebe. In 1972 Colin's Second Grade team won the premiership. Victor Westacott, the team captain, had this to say about Colin in his end of season report: "remarkable and uncanny performer. His guts and supremacy in the circle was an inspiration to all team members."

In 1974 Colin played in the Glebe Premiership winning First Grade team. In 1976 he played in the Premiership winning Second Grade team having been displaced from the First Grade team by Graham Bell. In 1978 Colin captained the third Grade side, which finished joint premiers with the University of NSW. Colin mentions captaining this team was one of the highlights of his playing career.

In the 1978 third grade team were a couple of seventeen-year-old players Warren "Buster" Birmingham and Ken Wark jnr. Buster went on to captain Australia and play 200 games for his Country. Ken Wark went on to play 214 games for Australia in 20 countries around the world.

Colin mentioned in his end of 1978 Season Report, in the Club's Annual Report: "those players in 2nd and 1st grade, beware in the years to come: some of these boys are going places." He was not wrong.



This photo was taken at the Drummoyne Sailing Club in 1966 at the Club's Presentation Night. Colin's fourth grade won the Premiership, and it was a great night of celebration.

Back Row L-R: Lindsay Weate, Martin Howe, Sammy Singh, Brian Howe, Tony Morley, Peter Howe, Harry Wark, Bobby Fox, Tom Taylor, Graham Kirkland.

Front Row L-R: John "Mouse" Cameron, Colin Brown (siting), Dennis Brown, Bill Stubbs, Paul Rogers.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown



By the end of the 1980 season Colin had played 403 senior games for Glebe.

Colin's fourth grade team of 1981 won the competition. Players in this team were Pat "Rocket" Campbell, Jamie Howe, Peter Howe, Arthur Moir, Ian Edgar, Paul Puckeridge, Paul Abate, Barry Howe, Kerri Wise, Steve Casey, Alan Chu, and Victor Ferrari. In 1982 Colin's third grade team, of which he was captain coach won the premiership.

In the 1985, 1988 and 1989 seasons Colin played in the Fourth Grade Grand Final winning teams. He played his 500th game for the Club in the 1985 Grand Final. Players in that team were Barry Howe captain, Craig Martin, David Rochester, Jamie Howe, Grant Martin, David Cutler, Terrence Diviney, Alan Howe, Michael Diviney, Vernon Howe, Pat Nilan, Geoff Paterson, Martin Howe, and Tony Cowan.

Colin's last premiership win was with the Fifth Grade team of 1994, where he played a few games on an as-needs basis. This meant that he accomplished the rare feat of winning premierships in first, second, third, fourth and fifth grade. In 1994-1995 the Club had sufficient goal keepers for each of its team and Colin decided it was an opportune time for him to retire.

In retirement Colin was a frequent spectator at the Glebe fixtures, at both a senior and junior level and he still had a keen interest in Club affairs.

Colin adjusted to his pronounced limp and his weak left leg to become a consistent goal keeper with a very good eye and a sound technique. Col never let in a soft goal. He read the angles very well, and his decision making was as good as any goal-keeper to have played for the Club. He played goal-keeper with the only personal protection being a box, small cricket gloves, a cricket cap, and cricket batting pads, and was fearless in his efforts to prevent the opposition scoring. He played in the First Grade sides of 1970 and 1974 and featured in several premiership sides in second grade and the club's lower grades. The social fabric of the club has occupied a big parts of the Colin's life.

Colin never held any administrative positions with the Club. He was more a doer than an administrator.



A photo of the **1985 Premiershhip winning Third Grade Team**, which was taken at the bottom pitch at Homebush, which is no longer in existence.

Back Row L-R: Terrence Diviney, David Rochester, Grant Martin, Pat Nilan, Craig Martin, Adrian Howe.

Front Row L-R: Vernon Howe, Barry Howe (captain), Jamie Howe, Colin Brown, Michael Diviney.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown



Apart from playing the game, Colin's other great contribution to the GDHC was as a junior coach, mentor, and motivator. He first started as a junior assistant-coach in 1964 as a 16-year-old.

The Junior Convenor of 1967, John Cowan, commented in the 1967 Annual Report about Colin and his fellow Junior Coaches: "Graeme Gilmour, Robert Brown, Colin Brown and Pat Nilan thank you for being available at all times, to do all the things that have to be done to make the Junior Competition work, without you there would be none."

The Under 14 Team that Colin coached in 1968 included John Wallis, Greg Horan, Paul Abate, Paul Puckeridge, Adrian Howe, Ray Holden, Les Wark, Wayne Sullivan, Wayne Tilley, Phil (Bub) Weatherly, John McMahon, Michael McMahon and S McIlroy. He coached the Under 14 teams in 1968, 69, 81, 82, and Under 15 teams in 83 and 87.

In 1972, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 80 he coached under 16 teams. The Under 16 team that Colin coached in 1972 included: Vernon Howe, Robert Diviney, Peter Casey, Roger McDonald, Garry Lewis, Michael Atterton, Patrick Diviney, Jamie Howe, Joseph Cero, Michael and Tony Cowan. This team won the grand-final 12-1 against Saint George and Colin rated this team the best he ever coached.

Colin opined that the late Robert Diviney was the best junior player that he had ever seen play hockey. He ranked being involved in Robert's junior development and having the privilege of coaching him was the highlight of his involvement with the Club's junior teams.

In 1982 Colin coached the Club's Under 14 Team that went through the season undefeated and won the Parramatta Carnival, the Sydney Area Championship, and the Sydney Club Championship. Team Captain David Rochester had this to say about Colin: "finally to the best coach in Sydney, Col Brown, THANK YOU FROM ALL THE TEAM." David also commented "Colin made sure there were no 'Posers' in the team".

When he was not a coach of a particular team, as younger members of the Club, Danny O'Brien, Craig McPhee, Vernon Howe, and Eric "Cook" Frazer stepped-up to help, Colin supported them, when and as required. He was always at Jubilee on a Saturday morning and



This photo of the 1972 Premiership winning Glebe Under 16 Team coached by Colin Brown taken at the Kellyville grounds.

Back Row L-R: Jamie Howe, Robert Diviney, Michael Murphy, Hilary McDonald, Geoff Cupid, Nicholas King, Peter Casey, Tony Cowan, Colin Brown, Victor Ferrari.

Front Row L-R: Garry Lewis, Joe Cerro (goalkeeper) and Michael Atterton.

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown



Wednesday night to help organize the smooth running of training and assist the junior teams' coaches on an as-needs basis. On match days he would umpire, organizing transport to away games, and undertook general ground marshalling duties to ensure everything ran as smoothly as possible.

Col's direct coaching style was legendary with the juniors. Never one to mince his words, Col has on occasion been known to call a spade a bloody shovel. Referring to a one-time first grade coach (who shall remain nameless) who attained the NSW Hockey Association Premier Coaching Certificate after much practical experience and theoretical study, Col commented "he couldn't coach a choko vine over a country dunny". Col became a life member in 1991 in recognition for his decades of involvement with the club's juniors.

In 1989, for his services to the Club, particularly as a junior coach, and his unstinting devotion to junior development for 25 years Colin was elected a Club Life-Member.

Colin (660) and his brothers Dennis (369) and Robert (426) played a combined total of 1,455 senior games for Glebe in the years spanning 1958-1994. Robert became fifteenth Club Life-Member in 1975 and has his own Life-Member Biography on the GDHC Web Site.

Dennis Brown (1946 – 1985) played three seasons in the Glebe Firsts (1968, 1970, and 1973) as a centre forward and appeared for the club on 369 occasions between 1961 and 1979. Dennis (Walt Disney) Brown worked on the wharves and obtained his nickname "Walt Disney" as he was a fine story teller who greatly entertained Club members, and patrons at the Toxteth Hotel alike. Dennis was the best stand-up comic the Club has ever produced - a real wit, a great talent. Tragically, Dennis died aged 39 years from oral cancer, leaving a wife Lorna and two children.

In the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s the Club had a close relationship with the Toxteth Hotel on Glebe Point Road. The publicans of that era, Darcy Henry and Joe Labarno being among them, allowed the Hockey Club to conduct meat raffles in the pub every Friday evening during the hockey season. Colin Brown, Denis Brown, Eric Frazer, Graeme Gilmour, Ralph Rochester, some of the Howe Boys, Wayne Sullivan, Mick Weatherly, Kevin Weeks, 'Jungle Jim' Warwick, Dan 'the Painter' Winters, and Peter Rowswell were prominent in selling raffle tickets.

Over the years these Toxteth Hotel raffles raised tens of thousands of dollars, which were used to help finance the Club's activities.

Colin never married. On leaving school he entered a panel beating apprenticeship, and became attainted his qualification. He worked in this field for an additional six years, before becoming a courier with the Kodak Film Company, where he stayed for 15 years. The last eleven years of his working life were spent working with Leichhardt Council.

In the late 1990s Colin developed the Post-Polio Syndrome in his left leg (weakness and pain) and this affected his ability to work. Colin retired from his job working with Leichhardt

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown



Council in around 2000, when he was around 52 years old. Club members Greg Howe, Wayne Sullivan and Eric Frazer were also working with Leichhardt Council at the same time as Colin. They were a formidable team.

After he retired from Leichhardt Council, Colin decided to move to warmer climes in Queensland, having previously spent all his life in and around Glebe. It was a big lifestyle change for Colin to make, as the social fabric of the Club has occupied a big parts of the Colin's life for over 35 years.

He settled initially at Noosa, on the Queensland Sunshine Coast, 135 kilometres north of Brisbane, where he stayed for a couple of years, occasionally catching up with Glen Puckeridge (248 senior club games), another GDHC stalwart who managed one of the dining rooms at the Noosa Surf Club. He later moved to Kin Kin, which is 44 kilometres north-west of Noosa, where he has lived happily in retirement for the last 15 years.

Colin shares accommodation in Kin Kin with Ciro Morgillo, a chap he coached as a junior in 1966 and 1967. Players in Ciro's Under 14 team of 1967 were Laurie Brown (captain), Con Savva, Greg Howe, Glen Warnecks, Ron Williams, Richard Bassett, George Chelpso, Paul Hanson, Les McMahon, Locky Lee, Bruce Lullum, Glen Puckeridge, John Wallis, Ian Wills, Fred and Chris Nuhagiar and Noel Anderson. Ciro Morgillo's younger brother Tony also played in the Club's junior teams.

Appendix

The Brown Family

Colin	Brown	1962-1994	660, Life-Member, Junior Coach
Denis "Walt Disney"	Brown	1961-1979	365, Management Committee
Robert "Charlie"	Brown	1958-1992	426, Life-Member
Total Games Played 1, 451			

Glebe District Hockey Club Life Member – Colin Brown

