

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Report

Glebe vs. NWS

Major Semi - Final

06<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Result 2 - 4

With Sydney's weather resembling that of the monsoon season which sweeps across the African savannah, Glebe's 1<sup>st</sup> grade was preparing for a major semi final against North West Strikers. The pre match talk examined the need to play possession hockey as well as attacking in numbers to isolate, draw and to pass around the NWS defensive group, we also recognised the importance for a total team defensive effort to keep the skilful and evasive NWS forwards quiet.

With the rain subsiding for the time being the opening minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> half saw the two best teams in Sydney contesting a real arm wrestle with both teams poking and prodding each other trying to gain the upper hand in this all important match. Glebe was making continual inroads into the NWS defence forcing a number of short corners none of which were converted, the back group were for the time being were keeping the NWS attackers at bay. Glebe were first to score when Michael Wark grabbed a sharp chance when after receiving a pass on the left hand side of the circle propped and delivered a back stick shot which careened into the right hand side netting of the goal much to the amazement of the large crowd which had gathered for the match. NWS main forward and go to man Troy Sutherland was not to be outdone when he skilfully set up NWS first goal of the match when he worked his way along the backline to deliver a pass to the opposite post where an opposing player had the simplest of tap ins. With the scores and match all level both teams continued to throw players forward and attack, the style of hockey which has the ability to give coaches heart palpitations whilst keeping all the spectators on the edge of their seats. The scores would remain one all going into the half time break with absolutely nothing in it.

Geoff stated that he thought the team was playing well and was contesting anything and everything, the defensive effort needed to be maintained! He also thought that the forwards at times could play closer together to pass around the stubborn NWS defence.

The second half started off a lot like the first with both teams giving nothing away playing tough uncompromising hockey. Glebe again was the first to score when a miss directed penalty corner push out forced Aaron Oman to trap upright and deliver the death rattle when crunched a straight hit into the left hand extremity of the goal despite the efforts of the diving NWS goal keeper. This gave Glebe the early ascendancy in the second half, but again a defensive lapse allowed NWS to draw level when a midfield turnover allowed them to

counterattack with numbers and score a well worked goal. Glebe had twice thrown away a one goal lead; with both team again locking horns it wasn't until the final 10 minutes that would see the Glebe team fall behind on the score board for the first time in the match when NWS scored a well rehearsed Short corner. Glebe however lifted to attack only to be denied time and time again. With 5 minutes left to play NWS delivered the final blow when they scored there 4<sup>th</sup> goal of the match to seal the match and a Grand final berth.

Glebe however not disheartened by the performance will now play Moorebank – Liverpool in the Final. The NWS team a very opportunistic team capitalised on the mistakes made by the Glebe side and the team was made to pay for it; these will have to be limited against Moorebank who easily accounted for Bankstown in there Minor Semi final appearance.

The Glebe team is looking forward to reapplying themselves to training this week, with everyone's eyes firmly fixated on Saturday's game against Moorebank; we hope to see all you supporters out there again.

Cheers

Mark Paterson

## 7th Grade Report

### Semi final

6th September 2008

It was a dark and stormy night and this will always remain my strongest memory of the game. The game itself was a blur of activity, with too many individual moments of 7th Grade brilliance to count; from a Glebe's defenders strong tackling under pressure from the defensive 16yard line, to a forward weaving the ball between two defenders to take shot at goal.

For the game itself, GNS came out firing in the first 10 with several breaks down the centre of the pitch, with some slick passing between the forward inners and the centre half. The attacks paid off with a short corner converted at the 10 minute mark to put GNS 1-0 up.

Re-grouping Glebe, started to settle, led by Graham Durrant, John Cullen and John MacDonald at the back being a rock in defence. Rather than take GNS on in the centre of the pitch, we moved the ball wide, using Peter's side. Several close crosses of the ball resulted from the pressure, but the GNS defence held tight. Then with 5 minutes to go in the first half, a break was created from right inner, with some slick stick work down the right hand side from the forwards, allowing Simon Rickards to finish off with a clean stick to put the ball in the back of the net to even the scores going into the break.

With the start of the second term, Glebe picked up where it finished, again applying the pressure with a second short corner awarded at the 10 minute mark. The shot came from the top of the circle to only be stopped at the last inch by a defender guarding the line in the left hand corner. So close. GNS continued to attack down the centre and the left hand-side, keeping the defence busy. Then at the 15 minute mark, a second short corner was awarded Glebe's way. This time no mistake was made. The shot came and wasn't cleared by GNS, to allow Peter Dodsley to sweep in from the left to score the second goal to put Glebe into the lead.

Danger time - a one goal lead and 20 minutes to go. GNS lifted, > struggling to move the ball through the centre now, they started to hit the ball long to the roving forwards, with several long passes having the Glebe defence scrabbling, forcing Terry Kelly to make several last ditch saves. It was on the third of these fast turn-overs that GNS passed the ball forward for it to find its way past the keeper to even the scores with 10 minutes to go.

Now both sides tired - the game ground on, with attack and counter attack struggling to break the deadlock. With the forwards, specially Glenn Detering, Paul Diaper and Arun Aggarwal, putting in the hard yards to push for a result up front, but the GNS players started to flood the defensive circle to either hit the ball long or clear the ball wide of danger, and so the result remained until the full time whistle blew.

Extra time - 5 minutes each way - began with Glebe needing to score to go through, automatically putting GNS at a distinct advantage. The game started again with GNS hitting off. They attacked down the right and were stopped by some staunch defence, with the ball

being moved quickly forward, with the forwards creating a short corner opportunity.

The short corner was taken with the shot going wide of the post. GNS collected the ball and built slowly, controlling the ball to run down time to end the first half of extra time.

Glebe hit off and attacked into the circle, to lose the ball and allow GNS control the ball. A quick attack down there right gave GNS a short corner. GNS used the same attacking corner style, allowing the defence to read the play and clear the ball quickly down our left. John MacDonald leading the way with urgency to take the ball within inches from the GNS circle, to fall just before the cross could be made. From there the game ended, with time run out, as the final attack at the GNS circle was cleared.

Special mention needs to be made of Owen Bailey and Sam Crysos who came on as the super-subs on each wing during the game. Both put in sterling efforts in the time on the pitch to help the cause.

To Lindsey Owen-Taylor and Justin Allen, both who made big contributions throughout the season but couldn't join us on the night, a big thank you from the team and look forward to seeing you play in the finals next season.

It is only onwards and upwards from here.

With Kind Regards,

Gareth Mair

## 8th Grade Report

### Semi Final

6th September 2008

#### **8th grade wins local derby**

on the coldest Saturday in 33years and in torrential rain 8th grade were successful in our minor semi-final against Briars. Over the last three weeks we have been scoring goals again and have not let any in. This has come from a greatly improved short passing game and every player being involved and committed in defence, our offense is now starting in the midfield rather than our goal line! By not relying on the long Upfield bash, 8th grades usual preferred attacking method, we were able to adapt to the slow wet conditions and control the tempo of the game. The 2-0 win was well earn't and well deserved and the team is really looking forward to taking on Sydney Uni this week. We go in as under dogs but we know they and Sutherland are both beatable. Go the mighty 8ths.

Regards

Milcho

