

1st Grade Report

Glebe vs. Ryde

Round 10

31st May 2008

Result 7 – 2

Coming off a disappointing loss the previous week the side were eager to get back on the pitch to make amends in this match.

The concession of five goals last week inevitably led much of the pre-match talk to be focussed on defence. Not so much the technical skill of the players, but more the structural and communication improvements necessary to restrict the opposition. By and large these were successfully implemented in the first half, with Ryde struggling to mount much by way of meaningful attack apart from some deflection attempts.

Glebe started strongly, using the ball intelligently and holding possession, with some great goal scoring opportunities created but unfortunately not capitalised on – some shots heading wide, with others heading straight at the keeper.

However dividends were finally achieved midway through the half when Glebe went ahead through a sharply taken short corner, much to the delight of the club's Brains Trust in the south western corner of the ground.

Throughout the half we continued to dominate field position and possession, so it was upsetting for the team to concede a soft-goal with less than five minutes to go in the half. More vigour at the contest was required at a few fronts in this passage of play.

Heading into the break at 1-1 Glebe were confident of taking the game, but not pleased they weren't already holding the whip hand.

Imagine then the side's irritation when Ryde scored in the first minutes of the half when a failed deflection attempt from one of their players rolled to the toe of another Ryde attacker who had the easiest of tap-ins after Dean had already moved to cover the initial attack. It is difficult to plan for these sorts of raids, although closer marking and competing for the deflection may have prevented the goal.

It was if all Glebe had needed was this firm kick up the you-know-where, as from the hit-off Mark, Ian and Michael combined to score an unlikely goal, levelling the scores at 2-2. Then in the next three minutes the score leapt to 4-2 in Glebe's favour, a goal shower if ever there was one. This included a screamer one-touch tomahawk from Michael as well as a brilliant effort from Ian where he ran from near the half way to finish with diving shot around/under the keeper.

From here the game settled back into something a little more regular, with Ryde enjoying plenty of possession in their attacking half. When Glebe did get the ball we stormed into attack, but often ran out of personnel, allowing the Ryde defence to

outnumber us and force turnovers. This meant Glebe did a fair amount of defending, but through tight marking and good transitioning between the back four we comfortably saw off their raids. A more measured approach to the build-up play in stages will be necessary in the future to prevent the game becoming something of a tennis match.

The game was still in the balance with Glebe being only two goals in front, but was put beyond doubt after another short corner was buried.

Another field goal to Ian as well as a final tomahawk for player's player Michael put the finishing touches on a strong, but far from perfect game for the maroons.

Final score 7-2.

The long weekend sees some of our team heading to the NSW State Championships in Grafton, good luck up there fellas. The next round after the long weekend we meet persistent premiership heavyweights Moorebank in what will be an undoubtedly tough encounter.

Best of luck to Ian Paterson and Alister Cullen who are soon heading off to compete for NSW at the Australian U21 Championships in Darwin. Don't forget your sunhats.

Cheers

Patrick Wark

3rd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Ryde

Round 10

31st May 2008

Result: Ryde 3-2

This match was an absolute belter to watch though unfortunately without the result we so desperately needed. With other results going our way last week, Glebe was still only a win out of the top four despite last week's loss to NW Strikers. The side have been happy with the style of hockey we have been playing and were hoping that with a few positional changes we could over turn our recent run of disappointing results against the undefeated competition leaders, Ryde. A promising start to the game was ruined by a horrible pass from one of the Glebe defenders which resulted in a well worked but ultimately easy goal to the black and whites. Glebe responded by making some great attacking penetrations into the circle which broke down from missed shots at goal. However, after recent weeks we were just happy to get shots on goal, even if they weren't going in. Another bad pass from a Glebe defender again exposed the goalkeeper and Ryde slotted another soft goal which came from pretty much nothing and against the run of play. Ryde did not put a lot of pressure on us if truth be told, which was strange given that they are running first, but this counted for sweet F.A. as the scoreboard read Ryde 2 Glebe 0.

Paul Jowett, promoted to Right Wing for the first time began the Glebe comeback with a delightful little deflection goal late in the first half which gave us a lot of hope going into the break. The 2nd half also started well with Glebe placing a lot of pressure on the Ryde defence. Jake and Alex were having massive games at Inside Forward and Mouse was directing play very well at Centre-Half. However, a third poor pass by a Glebe defender lead to another Ryde breakaway goal to take the score to 3-1. Glebe immediately attacked and were rewarded with a penalty corner which was calmly deflected by the pusher out, Paulie Jowett into the backboard. 3-2 and with Glebe pressing strongly an equalising goal seemed to be inevitable. Then Peter was sent off by the umpire for dissent. Then the Captain was sent off by the same umpire for asking her why she had seen fit to send off a player for dissent without prior warning (SHUA please note: this is not slander, this is exactly what occurred). These decisions effectively killed the game for Glebe given that they only had 9 players on the field for the last 5 minutes of the game. The boys battled on valiantly and continued to attack despite Ryde's considerable numerical advantage. All credit to Ryde, but a draw would have been a fair result. Oh well, until the next game.

Player's Player Award: Alex Sheard

Cheers

Adam Campano