

1st Grade Report

Glebe vs. Sydney University

Round 13

28th June 2008

Result: Glebe 4-1

Sydney University had posted some impressive results in recent weeks, drawing with Briars and Bankstown and beating St George, UTS & Ryde. In fact they hadn't been beaten since early May. The Glebe change-room was well aware of the skill and tenacity of their opponent and was by no way taking The Books lightly.

Sydney University play an unconventional attacking system, pushing all their midfield to the sidelines and stacking their right hand attack. This novel approach posed the risk of the unknown to the Glebe backline, which once again had some new personnel from the previous week, so continuity and communication could have been a problem. For the most part however Glebe held fast, and adequately transitioned between marking roles to ensure no opposition players were loose. Throughout fair portions of the first half Glebe were forced to defend the midfield as University controlled possession, but without really ever threatening the goal.

When Glebe did gain the ball they attacked strongly, creating chances and circle penetrations but were not able to convert. It was after one of these Glebe attacking raids that Sydney Uni broke quickly down the left flank and somehow managed to score what was ultimately a soft goal.

This incensed the Glebe team, who lifted a notch from there. On the stroke of half-time their efforts seemed to be rewarded after Mark Paterson found a diving Andrew Cheong for a deflection goal with a probing 40m pass. There was only one person at the ground on Saturday afternoon who thought the ball had contacted Andrew's body before it went into the goal, and unfortunately that one person was holding the whistle. The side was not pleased to be going into half-time trailing 0-1, especially after believing we had clawed one back, only to have it disallowed.

At half time much of the talk centred on the awkward attacking system we were faced with. Communication and better releasing were the main tenets of the discussion. It was pleasing to see these changes implemented in the second half

The controversy in which the first half finished only added fuel to the Glebe fire in the second, as the side came out firing. The half was only minutes down when Peter Wark blasted one from outside the 25 to Daniel Cleary, whose deft touch beat the keeper hands down.

Moments later Mark Paterson neatly cleaned up the scraps off an Adam Howard strike from the set piece. And the half was less than five minutes old. Glebe continued to follow the 'best defence is attack' mantra, putting the University ball carriers under tremendous pressure at every opportunity. This was not to say it was all one way traffic, as Glebe was forced to

defend a number of short corners. The defensive battery's steely resolve proved too much for the Uni attack, with Stefan Madycki making several good saves along with some committed tackling from Zach, Peter, Patrick Casey and Adam.

Midway through the half another corner was slotted by Glebe to give them the all-important two goal buffer and deflate the opposition's spirits that little bit further.

To their credit Sydney University did not throw in the towel at any stage forcing Glebe to keep at it all the way to the end. With 5 minutes remaining Mark Paterson took some of Les' advice and cracked one from the right pocket to find a opportunistic Glebe stick which deflected the ball straight past the keeper's ear hole en route to the top of the net. A dinner goal for sure.

This put Glebe 4-1 ahead and the contest was over. The Glebe performance was gritty rather than glamorous, but scoring 4 goals against a side with the second best defensive record in the comp is no mean feat. Glebe beat SU 4-1 in both the first and second round in 2008.

Cheers

Patrick Wark.

2nd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Sydney University

Round 13

28th June 2008

Result: Glebe 2-1

Again with players missing from all sides, Glebe faced a tough battle with inner-city rivals Sydney University. Welcoming back master coach Les, Glebe looked to reconstruct another dominant performance, resembling last weeks display over GNS.

Within the heated opening exchanges, stand-in center half Mouse managed to snag himself a goal through a couple of deflections and scrappy defending. Sydney Uni's strong left side attack was put to rest with strong communication and marking skills by Scott, Ben and Josh, with the opposing inside forward opting for an up field approach. This provided Glebe with the motivation to continue a dominant display of hockey throughout the first half, snagging another goal just before half time.

Through out the half time talk, Les had many points about different parts of individuals games, mainly where balls should be going from inside our own half. He stressed the need for the 'killer ball' (back left, to right inner/wing) to come into play, and more jinking up front.

The second half started nothing like the first, as Glebe lost their way in an ordinary turnaround. Sydney Uni began to find some form as poor marking gave easy field possession to the blue and yellow. The endless and sustained pressure mounted into continuous short corners, one lucky enough to find the backboard. This failed to spark the Glebe attack, as Glebe began to panic and give away to much ball.

It seemed to be all over with 15 seconds on the clock, however, Sydney Uni galloped into one last dash for the goals, it would have been stopped if only the Glebe fullback wasn't so lazy, as he made a poor back stick trap, giving Sydney Uni one last dangerous short corner after the buzzer. Fortunately, it did not give them the draw, as Glebe walked away with the win and another 3 competition points.

Cheers

Sam Noller

3rd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Sydney University

Round 13

28th June 2008

Result: Glebe 3-0

Pumped up from watching stirring Glebe victories against the books in 1st and 2nd grade, Glebe 3rd grade came out hard and put the blue and gold's under the pump from the outset. To their credit the uni boys defended stoutly and continually frustrated our strikers attempts at penetrating the D. University players are really good at being frustrating on the field. Less frustrating with a beer in hand off the field. Anyway, it took almost half an hour for the deadlock to be broken when Rossy B converted from close range.

The second half began with more Glebe attacks and more Uni belligerent defence resulting in no further additions to the score. Uni did not really look like threatening until on one particular counter attack when a couple of Glebe missed tackles, a duffed Uni shot at goal, a Glebe defender down on his knees was adjudged to have prevented a ball travelling at 1 km/hr from going in the goals, by an umpire whose view of the incident would have been totally obstructed by the defender's arse which was pointed in his direction. Anyway, justice was served when Uni's 1st grade shot stopper put the penalty stroke flying three yards to the right of the post with Mick Bougoukis sent flying three yards in the opposite direction. In hindsight, the scene was quite humorous.

This incident seemed to sting Glebe into action and what ensued was some 'Calypso hockey' of the highest order, at least for 3rd grade anyway. A well worked short corner resulted in a Pete Busch hit to the right post for Rossy to bag his second and then only minutes later a Uni striker dispossessed on the half way line led to some beautiful short passing into the D and then around the goalie for Paulie Jowett to make an exaggerated dive to tap the ball in the goal from half a yard out. This was a Campo special if ever I saw one.

Three wins in a row. Glebe 3rds are now back amongst it, but will face a massive test next week in a Sunday game against arch rivals, the Hobbits from Sutherland Shire.

Cheers

Adam Campano

6th Grade Report

Glebe Vs. Macquarie University

Round 13

28th June 2008

Result 1 – 2

On a clear, bitterly cold Saturday evening the battlers of Glebe's 6th grade side stood together ready to step foot on the field of war once again. A very difficult season early on for 6th grade saw the side sitting second from bottom when the side suffered loss of perennial stopper and crowd favourite 'Googa' due to a broken bone in his right foot. However, with the return to Glebe of James McDonald (after a ten year absence) the loss was lessened and the many veterans of 6th grade all putting one more foot forward to help fill the void and under the experienced guidance of John McDonald the younger U/17's players growth in both skill and heart has seen a steady improvement in on-field play, culminating in a dazzling 6 - 0 win over Moorebank the round before.

The true litmus test for the growth of the mighty 6th grade came in the form of second placed Macquarie University, an overall younger, stronger skilled side that inflicted a 4 - 0 defeat to the men in maroon in what was a highly spiteful match during their first meeting. With the hour passing eight and the temperature seeming to be drop below it, the first hurdle arose before a whistle could even be blown.. .Nobody was there to actually blow a whistle!

A quick glance in the grandstands displayed the weather was too cold for even the mightiest of men to play spectator as the club faithful all made a dash for the creature comforts of a soft bed and warm blankets.. .. I think someone owes us a beer!

Once our opponents finally managed to wrangle up some of their players from the previous match to pose as umpires we finally got underway with Macquarie Uni dominating the field position in the opening minutes of exchange constantly switching the ball from the right of mid-field to attack strong and fast down the left hand side through their left inside and wing men. Great communication at the back from the fullbacks and especially Jeremy in goals kept the defence solid and left the attackers empty handed for heavy pressure, as the time wore on the Glebe men were able to steady the play and did a good job of obtaining possession and after some well worked interchanges from Mick Mosely, Johnny Mac and Chris Loukakis, Glebe grabbed the early advantage as Lester Curry managed to collect the ball at the top of the "D" and upon a quick spin launched a thunderbolt cracking straight into the backboard before the fullback or goalkeeper had time to think on the 10 minute mark.

With the upper hand in our favour Macquarie Uni continued to press and Glebe

continued to absorb the pressure with fullbacks James Mac and Peter Kelly - solid in tackles and efficient in reading and eliminating any long balls through - receiving plenty of cover support from the halves and especially from inside-left Eoghan O'Donnell and Lester. Glebe continued to maintain calm when in possession of the ball, choosing to hold firm and be patient but an unfortunate defensive error fifteen minutes before the break saw Macquarie Uni level back through a swift counter-attack and the shot from the right wing just managed to glance off underneath Jeremy's kicker into the goals - a minor blemish on what was an otherwise outstanding goalkeeping effort!

Glebe regrouped quickly and stuck strong to what had been working so well, patience in attack and following a brilliant break down the left sideline from young Alex Hart (starting our defensive side of halfway and ending up undone deep in the attacking 25) soon found themselves in easy gaps attacking down the right hand side. With some well worked triangles getting out of defence from the Big Mac trio (James, John and Jason backing up at right half from 5th grade) and with inside-forward Chris Loukakis making good leads and providing even better distribution to the strikers Alex, Lester and Bernie always in prime attacking position, the Glebe attack was able to wrangle up some quality attacking raids with the best opportunity arriving minutes before the half with Chris Loukakis making a break through centre field and after drawing two defenders rolling a ball right to an oncoming Jason Mac who was unable at the last to connect with the 1-timer shot.

Going into the major break deadlocked at 1 - 1 the halftime talk given by John and captain Bernie congratulated the squad on what was possibly the best half of hockey played all year and stressed that all that was required was to remain calm in possession and maintain the patience that we demonstrated in the opening 35 minutes.

It was at this time Macquarie Uni approached and told us that we were required to supply an umpire for the second half because they faced being a player short in the second half, it was only after re-iterating the fact that 2 Glebe men officiated the entire 5th grade side that it was concluded each team would play 1 man short for half of the remaining match to supply 1 official.

So with that in mind and smell of panic about our surprised opponents 6th grade took the field in the second half and felt a real desire to attack early on given the one man advantage we would have until the 17 minute mark. Glebe started out strongly doing a solid job of using the width of the field in transferring the ball to stretch the short manned Macquarie Uni outfit and dominated the field position in the second half relegating Macquarie Uni to rely solely on counter attacking done mainly through the left side attacking options - due to a sprained ankle sustained towards the end of the 1st half Chris Loukakis had difficulty covering back creating an easy overlap for Macquarie Uni to exploit.

With Johnny Mac calling the shots from centre-half Macquarie Uni had great difficulty executing any passing from their own 16 yard hits as the forwards

formed a solid wall and on many occasions were able to pick up the ball on the 25 and immediately launch a counter, after 17 minutes however, all efforts had still refused to yield results and Bernie had to drop his maroons shirt to pick up a little black whistle leaving Glebe with the one man disadvantage and Macquarie Uni with a fresh pair of legs. Given the disadvantage Glebe's disciplined patience with the ball still saw them in the hunt on the attack for the pivotal goal that would put them back in front and had several close efforts that saw Aaron on the far post narrowly miss connection, Chris Loukakis' shot from the 7 spot smothered in the last second and Lester Currie's jink over a sliding keeper just beating the wrong side of the right post into the side netting.

The threat of the Macquarie Uni counter-attack was ever present however, with the fresh legs carrying their attack down the right side of the field and on the 10 minute mark saw them earn a penalty corner which was brilliantly stopped. Jeremy in goals after realising the variation managed to get off the ground and lunge left to get enough of a glove on the ball to send it sailing off safely to the left sideline, but the momentum in the game had finally shifted.

A second counter-attack down our left hand flanks 2 minutes later left our defence exposed as James was forced to try and cover the approaching attackers with Mick and Peter eliminated by crisp passing down our left flank and Jason retreating to help cover defence, the attack was broken down by some inspired keeping as the ball was threaded from the 25 yard line between the 2 brothers and an outstretched diving Jeremy managed to get a right glove on the ball and deflect it safely past the two attackers primed off the far post.

With 3 minutes remaining the exhaustion finally caught up the men from Glebe as sadly another attacking raid led down Macquarie Uni's right side attackers proved one too many for the men in maroon to repel and with a 4 on 2 in the circle Macquarie Uni finally broke through the defences. The Glebe men never dropped their heads, they picked up the ball determined to finish as strongly as they had been for the 67 minutes prior and pushed hard up until the final seconds when a last long corner provided us a chance at trying pull a short corner, however, the cross from the sideline was cleared by the defence as time expired.

In what was a superb performance from all 11 men involved special mention must go to the young men of the group Chris; who hampered by an injury still played his best attacking hockey of the year, Eoghan; whose tireless cover defence efforts in the first half were born of pure heart and determination and Alex's positional and support play was great. Jeremy in goals who kept us alive so superbly, was outstanding with saves which reflected total disregard for personal welfare.

So at 10:15 on Saturday night, with the rugby finished and lights of Homebush powering down, the men of Glebe walked out proudly, it wasn't a win, it wasn't 'calypso' hockey, but it was a determined, ground out,

character defining - brothers-in-arms on yet another battlefield! - team
game played with the heart of champions proudly staking their claim for a
club of champions.

Jason McDonald