



1st Grade Report

Glebe vs Briars

Round 15

12th July 2008

Result 3 - 2

The Men's 1st graders were the last to hit the pitch at Cintra after a day of Derby hockey. The afternoon had already seen some great hockey as well as a win by the 2nd grade women (their 1st of the year), to give the club an opportunity to defend the Wark/Trevenar Cup. 1st Grade just needed to win.

Glebe 1st grade won and the win was a great result.

Why was it so great? For starters the following Glebe 1st graders didn't play: Alistair Cullen, Matt Wark, James Benson, Andrew Cheong, and Ian Paterson. To top this off Michael Wark lasted only 5 minutes. These players have 500 combined First grade games between them, so there is obviously a lot of experience missing.

In the off season the club also lost two players with a combined 250 1st grade games due to Salary Cap restrictions.

On top of this we have a Centre Half playing full back, an inside forward playing Centre Half, a right half playing Inside Right an Inside Right playing on the wing and did I mention Peter Wark at full back.

The side has managed to battle through the past 5 to 6 weeks on mateship, some individual brilliance and the mindset that while you are out there you do not give up.

Dean Benfield was brilliant in goals, saving many corners and a number of other shots that many keepers would have let in, Adam Howard and Peter Wark looked like they have been playing fullback together for years, Zac Farlow and Pat Casey are tough, unassuming and rarely get played over by their opposite winger.

Sam Noller came on and looked like he had played thirty games of first grade, and not three.

Pat Wark is playing some of his best hockey at Inside Forward and Mark Paterson had a couple of moments of brilliance that indicated he should go on to represent at a higher level.

Michael Wark should also be recognised for his 5 minute stint where he managed to score a goal on one leg.

With all due respect to our front 4 of Simon Wark, Daniel Cleary, Josh LaSpina and Scott Cleary, it is doubtful whether the various representative players at Briars even knew who many of these players were.

Yet Simon Wark and Josh LaSpina were great down the flanks and the two Cleary's combined brilliantly and looked sharp and dangerous every time they touched the ball.

All of these players have played Under 17's for the club and all but one has played earlier than that in the maroon and white.

When these young players come up to play 1st grade they know they will be supported by the older heads and they know that playing 1st grade for Glebe means something.

It no longer is a surprise to me that these young players step up like this. When you think back to Glebe teams over the past 10, 15 or probably even 20 years it has always been this way.

Maybe this is what makes playing for Glebe and being able to run on in a 1st grade shirt such a great feeling and maybe more clubs should concentrate on instilling this feeling, than worrying about where they will find their next import.

Cheers

Aaron Oman

Points Table - Premier League 1st Grade

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Norwest Strikers	15	14	0	1	70	17	53	42
Glebe	15	12	1	2	65	34	31	37
Moorebank	15	10	3	2	66	31	35	33
Bankstown	15	10	1	4	68	46	22	31
Gordon-Nth sydney	15	7	2	6	59	46	13	23
Ryde	15	6	3	6	49	56	-7	21
Sutherland	15	5	3	7	49	50	-1	18
Briars	15	4	4	7	50	46	4	16
Sydney University	15	4	4	7	34	39	-5	16
UTS	15	4	2	9	37	70	-33	14

St George Randwick	15	1	2	12	37	92	-55	5
South West Strikers	15	0	1	14	24	81	-57	1



2nd Grade Report

Glebe vs Briars

Round 15

12th July 2008

Result 2 - 2

In what looked to be a great evening of hockey, Glebe was determined to produce another sterling performance that would resemble their 8-0 win over briars in their previous meeting. However, the occasion of the game must have played into the minds of the reds as once again they failed to come out with a competitive attitude. Briars showed no sign of their previous performance, as the Glebe defense was put through its paces within the first 10 minutes, as attacking raids and short corners came after the other. It seemed only a matter of time until one marked the score sheet, however, Steff had other ideas, making 3 or 4 crucial drag flick saves to keep the scores at 0-0. Eventually one managed to slip his leg pads and bobble across the line, giving Briars a much-deserved goal.

The new score line managed to spark some attack and creativity into the reds as they began a new approach and moved the ball much more freely around the midfield. This gave space for our inside forwards, Scott Cleary and Man-of-the-Match James Benson who created many significant attacking opportunities, many of which went begging, until a great one on one tackle from JB left the Briars full back grasping at his heels, giving a 3-on-1 with the keeper. This left only one option, as a Briars defender made a desperate tackle the ball was handed to JB with an open goal. This gave the run into half time a new meaning as more and more chances were taken to go one up before the break.

The half time talked stressed the need not to panic, and to create a better result coming out of defense. Les again talked about marking and how the defense must step up to the plate.

The second half started better than the first with Glebe looking to shorten up the play, however, the new style of play did not last long, as Glebe began to resort to a much longer game, continually making mistakes and turning over possession inside their own half. However, after a flurry of Briars mistakes Glebe gained enough momentum to secure a second goal through Simon Wark and some great passing between JB and Jake. Glebe looked to be taking a hold of the game, with a great deal of momentum in their favour. However a rocketing pass from close to half way, found a Briars deflection, and within 1 touch, they had taken the game back to 2-2.

This made for an entertaining last 5 minutes that gave the strong crowd a scrappy, but exciting display of hockey, as both teams went all out to secure the 3 points. Glebe missed many sure shots on goal, just as Briars did, with both teams unable to find the goal. Leaving the game to end at 2 a piece.

The result was not what the reds were looking for as they begin their run into the finals, needing as many points as possible to secure a major semi-finals berth. However, a thank you must go to the strong crowd who venture out on the cold night, as it was good to see such strong support for hockey in general. Glebe 2nd grade women's had their first win for the season and gave a great boost of morale to start the day. Another congratulations must go to the club as they once again retained the Wark/Trevenar Cup.

Cheers

Sam Noller

Points Table - Premier League 2nd Grade

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Sutherland	15	13	2	0	61	14	47	41
Moorebank	15	10	1	4	46	30	16	31
Glebe	15	10	1	4	41	25	16	31
Norwest Strikers	15	9	3	3	40	21	19	30
UTS	15	7	5	3	48	36	12	26
St George Randwick	15	6	3	6	35	36	-1	21
Sydney University	15	5	3	7	32	33	-1	18
Briars	15	5	3	7	38	40	-2	18
Gordon-Nth Sydney	15	5	1	9	27	32	-5	16
Ryde	15	5	1	9	33	47	-14	16
Bankstown	15	3	1	11	33	65	-32	10
South West Strikers	15	0	0	15	13	68	-55	0



3rd Grade Report

Glebe vs Briars

Round 15

12th July 2008

Result 2 - 2

This was a huge game for both sides as both teams were sitting just outside the top four and looking to get crucial leverage in the race for fourth position with the first three positions already all but decided. The game was also going towards the Wark-Travenar Cup and neither side wanted to get their club off to a bad start. Briars came out very, very strongly and were physically dominant for the early stages of the game and enjoyed a lion's share of possession which they eventually converted into a goal from a failed clearance of a penalty corner. Glebe tried to adjust to the Briars tactics by playing a more direct game than they usually would. Briars were close marking man-to-man with little time and room for the Glebe midfield to receive the ball and get a good pass away to the forwards. However, Glebe slowly worked itself back into the game and earned a penalty stroke which Paulie pushed straight at the keeper. Fortunately, after a penalty corner which we earned broke down soon after and allowed us to see what formation Briars were running, we then scored through a Peter Busch low drag flick (OK, so it was more of a push) past the standing keeper's left foot. The good work was undone a few minutes later when Briars returned fire with another goal from a failed clearance of a penalty corner. Briars went to half-time 2-1 and seemingly in control of the game.

Chris Holmes, Buschy and Mick Bougoukis (with another Man of the Match performance) kept Briars at bay in the centre-half with some excellent cover defence. The Glebe midfield did not have their best day with several basic errors causing crucial turnovers in our defensive half of the pitch but they made up for this with some last-gasp tackling back. Regular 4th graders, Greg and Arvin, were well supported up front by Campo, who along with some

grafting work from our inners was able to threaten the Briars goal a bit more regularly in the 2nd half. We earned a number of penalty corners and eventually Buschy put another one away with a terrific whack in the left hand corner which took a deflection off the keeper. Glebe were then lucky to escape with a draw after Mick had made a number of late, outstanding saves to earn us a well deserved points.

The result was enough to move the team back into 4th spot after losses to East's and NWS on the weekend propelled us marginally in front of the chasing pack. Glebe will be looking to further extend this lead and avenge 1st round defeat when they take on NWS at Pennant Hills next Saturday. Congratulation to Men's and Women's 1st & 2nd grades on the weekend who performed admirably to help Glebe retain the Wark-Trevaran Cup.

Cheers

Adam Campano

Points Table - Division 1 First Grade

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
Ryde	14	14	0	0	0	50	16	34	42
Sutherland	14	10	1	3	0	46	22	24	31
Manly	13	9	1	3	0	60	24	36	28
Glebe	14	6	1	7	0	26	31	-5	19
Briars	13	5	2	6	0	28	31	-3	17
NWS	14	3	7	4	0	23	28	-5	16
Easts	14	4	3	7	0	29	38	-9	15
University NSW	13	3	4	6	0	11	29	-18	13
Sydney University	14	3	2	9	0	17	35	-18	11
Moorebank	13	3	2	8	0	21	40	-19	11
GNS	14	2	3	9	0	13	30	-17	9