

1st Grade Report

Glebe vs. Briars

Round 7

10th May 2008

Result 3 – 2

This weeks fixture saw the Glebe first grade team come up against cross town rivals Burwood Briars; in recent years the games held between the two teams have delivered hard fought encounters of which Saturdays game was going to be no exception.

The pre - game talk stressed the need to maintain good basics throughout the whole seventy minutes of hockey with this being one of our focus points. We also touched on our inability to convert short corners and to continue our defensive effort around the park and as well as in deep defence.

With the return of Aaron Oman to the Glebe team we were back to full strength as the opening ten minutes of the first half saw Glebe have a plethora of possession as well as attacking opportunities all of which came to no avail. The Glebe team soon found themselves one goal down in the opening 20 minutes as Burwood Briars pounced on a turnover which allowed them to rebound into attack with speed and numbers, this led to the first goal of the match and for the first time this year Glebe was not the first to score. This however only strengthened the teams resolve as the Glebe forwards continued to make inroads in the Briars defence which saw multiple opportunities squandered in front of goal due to poor execution or poor decision making. However ten minutes out from half time Glebe had earned a short corner which saw Ian Paterson pounce on a miss directed short corner variation to slot home the equaliser and bring the scores back to 1 – 1 going into the half time break.

The half time talk stressed the need to dig deep for the last 35 minutes of the match with our continued defensive effort and to control the game through our ball movement. In particular the forwards needed to finish off the good work being done by the backs and half line.

The second half couldn't have started off any better with Michael Wark opening the scoring after some slick left hand side combinations allowed Michael to draw the goal keeper out and calmly slot the ball between the posts to give Glebe the ascendancy early in the second half. This season has seen an increasing number of Goalkeepers leave the safety of the goal to challenge the strikers in a one on one confrontation so it was pleasing to see that we as strikers have learned from previous games and experiences. Glebe was continually building pressure; with the Half line of Pat Wark, James Benson and Adam Howard continually threading balls to the strikers in open space, which led to the game taking on the characteristics of a tennis match with end to end free flowing hockey which is what the Glebe team didn't want to happen. Briars were the next to score after some mixed communication at the back saw an unmanned Briars player receive a ball deep in the Glebe Defensive circle to again have the score board locked up at 2 – 2 with fifteen minutes to play. The match was dead even until the final 5 minutes when NSW fullback Matthew Wark provided a 70 meter bullet like pass to the stick (a' la - Harry Wark) to a waiting Mark Paterson who drew one Briars defender to provide Michael Wark with his second goal for the match and also the imperative one goal lead. Glebe was a side invigorated and continued to attack and hold possession forcing a short corner in the dying stages to wind down the clock and drive home

the one goal advantage. The game ended 3 – 2 with a win to the Glebe team who at times were far from their best but did enough to secure the crucial three points. A hard fought match was had but one where plenty of pleasing performances were had in particularly the defensive group who have set the foundation for many of the teams performances to date. To the attacking group attention must be paid to detail especially in the attacking third of the field where it is crucial to make traps and to make decisive decision within the circle.

The post match talk drove home a few truths about the team's performance but one gratifying aspect has been its never say die attitude, as when the game becomes tight the team has been able to lift to another level.

As a club we enjoyed great success over our cross town rivals with four out of six grades winning their respective fixtures with one draw in fourth grade during the day. Special mention must go to Second Grade who provided a clinical performance winning 8 – 0, Third Grade also returned to the winners circle with a hard fought win, and Fifth Grade who also won the match convincingly with a 5 - 0 performance. Check out current photos for this weeks fixtures under the drop down menu of news.

Cheers

Mark Paterson.

2nd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Briars

Round 7

10th May 2008

Result: 8-0

In what was deemed to be a tuff encounter, facing last years minor premiers, and PL2 runners up, Glebe showed no signs of the previous weeks disappointing performance as they set up a brilliant display of hockey within the first 10 minutes. From the first whistle, Glebe began their dominance over their opponents with a short corner only two minutes in. This set up the first goal, coming from a rebound off the keeper to a Glebe attacker, who needed no help in finding the net. With the Briars defense under pressure and Glebe riding a huge high, Briars began to fall apart before they scooped up a ball within the circle to a loose Ando, and used a great ball to find Josh, who snuck one of his many past the goalie. This gave Glebe a 3-0 lead within the first 10 minutes. From there, Briars began to wake up and began to control the ball a bit better, whilst letting many attacking opportunities go begging. To cap of a stellar half from the Reds, Peter Wark managed to find Simon Wark on the left post from a short corner play.

This sent the Reds into half time with a 4-0 lead, with the percentage of chances finding the net. The break gave us the time to re-focus on the talked about game plan. Les also stressed the need, that when a team is in a situation as such, we must “tighten the vice”, i.e. continue to apply pressure.

Again from the get go, Glebe launched into attack and as they again began their dominating display pocketing another four goals from the half. With Briars changing their style and gaining more attacking opportunities, the game became more of a challenge for both teams, as an open, end-to-end style of attacking game took place. With Briars going close, and placing an immense amount of pressure on the Glebe defense, the aggravating tension between both teams boiled over, with Peter and a Briars player both sent from the field from an all in scuffle within the Glebe defensive circle. How ever, this did not deter Glebe from their 8-0 rampage, as four field goals were run in within the second half. One from a beautiful one-on-one with the keeper thanks to goal scoring machine Josh La Spina, and another from a great one motion trap and hit squeeze shot from Simon Wark who also finished the game with a couple.

Both goals produced on the back of great lead up play through the middle from Chonga and Scott Cleary.

The entertaining performance was a great spectacle for the strong Glebe crowd who had hung around from the previous first grade game. Glebe hopes the hockey gods and the good form follow them into the much anticipated game next week against last years premiers UTS, again out at Olympic.

Sam Noller

3rd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Briars

Round 7

10th May 2008

Result: Glebe 3-1

Glebe desperately needed a win in this game to be among the mix again for a semi-final spot come September. A loss would have meant that Glebe would 3 wins away from the top 4, which is a lot of ground to make up considering we are yet to play the undefeated Ryde team in the 1st round of the competition. Glebe started the match confidently attacking the Briars goal for some time, until a counterattack from Briars and some very sloppy defending resulted in Briars getting the first goal. Anyway, Glebe just went back to the drawing board and continued to build up play and put pressure on the Briars defenders. Yet again, Glebe appeared to be dominating its opponents but were not able to get any shots on goal. Eventually, Glebe were awarded a penalty corner and Rossy Bougoukas stepped up to drag flick the ball high past the Briars keeper. Rossy then doubled up with a field goal only minutes later.

The defence of Pete Busch and Dom Kavanagh kept the Briars attack at bay, while Aleks Manou had a storming performance at right half creating several opportunities for his right side attack. Jake and Corey were also having much approved games up front and beginning to improve their last pass option taking. A final drag flick by man of the match and hatrick hero, Rossy B, low and hard to the right corner of the goal sealed a very solid victory.

Post match talked centred on the need for Glebe to use more width and depth in attack and for the strikers to make more position to the opposition backline in attack. The team still needs to be able to work for shots at goal from the field if it is to compete with the stronger sides in the competition. Unfortunately, a bye next week temporarily disrupts the small amount of momentum Glebe may have accrued from this game. Until the next game then.

Cheers

Adam Campano