

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

## Glebe Vs Norwest Strikers

### Round 9

24<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Result: 5 – 1 Loss

Glebe knew that this week's match against Norwest strikers would be a tough match. Strikers are the current premiers and were equal with Glebe on top of the table heading into round nine, having lost earlier in the year to Moorebank.

We were without our commander in chief; Geoff Paterson, but there was plenty of talk in the change room prior to the game from the senior players about what needed to be done, for us to get the right result.

After a good warm up, the intensity seemed to be up on previous weeks. The game started well and Pat Wark and Pat Casey were finding players going forward, allowing the skilful front three of Michael Wark, Daniel Cleary and Ian Paterson to weave their magic. The Strikers defensive 25 was under attack, but the goal that had eventuated at the end of these attacking raids in weeks past, was not eventuating.

Unfortunately an attacking corner that broke down led to the first goal of the game. The tall and gangly Norwest fullback, found one of his strikers unmarked on the opposing 25. Dean Benfield had little chance as the Norwest strikers swarmed forward creating a four on one, finishing off the end to end play with a simple tap in on the far post.

Glebe realised they needed to focus and started to mount some pressure when again Norwest managed a quick counter attack to extend their lead to two.

As halftime approached Norwest increased their lead to three, after some gallant defending by Al Cullen and Adam Howard.

At half time, there was plenty of talk about what we felt we were doing wrong, and what needed to be done to get us back into the game. The Strikers were averaging just one goal a game against them, so the Glebe side knew it would be hard work to score at least four to take the lead.

The second half started much the same as the first, with plenty of good attacking opportunities created by Mark Paterson, Michael, Ian and Daniel, but the raids failed to produce the outcome that was needed.

As the second half progressed, the boys knew we needed to attack to reduce the deficit and give the side some chance of getting out of the match with a point. After Glebe had a

number of corners, Norwest were able to hold on in defence before launching an attacking raid of their own. After a scramble in the circle, a cross pass by one of the Strikers forwards took a nasty deflection and fell to one of their strikers. His shot collected Mark Paterson as it headed wide of the goal and a stroke was awarded. Dean picked the right direction, but had the ball slide past his outstretched glove to put the Strikers 4 nil in front.

As time wore down, James Benson was on the end of some neat play around the circle and put a cracking shot into the backboard that brought the score to 4 -1 to offer a slight glimmer of hope for the redmen. Unfortunately a well worked strikers corner prevented any chance of a miracle comeback and the match finished 5 – 1.

The final result may not have reflected the possession and the flow of play, but it was a wake up call about what we need to improve to compete with the top team in the competition.

This starts on Tuesday night, where we need a solid attendance of players from the top 3 grades. The next two games against fellow top 4 teams, Ryde and Moorebank will have a major bearing on our chances of a semi-final action in September.

Cheers

Aaron Oman

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Report

Glebe Vs Norwest Strikers

Round 9

24<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Result: NW Strikers 4-1

The Glebe Club was ambushed by NW Strikers this weekend. Three losses and a draw in Grades 1-4 made for a depressing afternoon of hockey. The fact that 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade had earlier gone down as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> grade start about 15 minutes late could have been a bad omen. Before the game the elder spokespersons in the team stated the need to trap the ball and apply the basics well. Generally, the team stuck to this in the first half and the back line of Busch and Mead and the half-line of Gaywood, Sheard and Campo were able to provide the strikers with ball in good field position to mount a string of attacking raids. Unfortunately, our basics in the top third of the field again let us down. Strikers were able to mount the occasional counterattack as a result of one of our own failed raids, one of which led to a penalty corner. The first drag flick shot at goal beat the goalkeeper and hit the right post on the foot in the goal. Somehow, the umpires conspired to blow another short corner instead of a penalty stroke. The right post stayed very quiet. The ensuing drag flick flashed past the goalkeepers left glove for the first goal of the game. It stayed 1-0 until half-time.

The second half was an absolute shemozzle, a disaster of the most magnanimous proportions. Strikers scored two more goals from deflections on penalty corners in what seemed to be a very short period of time. Glebe kept f&\$@#g up time and time again whenever we even looked like getting near the opposition circle. We could not get a shot on goal. We could not get many corners. The few corners we had broke down before they even got to the stick trap. Simply awful. With about 6 minutes to go, Ross Bougoukis was able to jag a goal back and even from here I felt confident that we could still possibly get a result if things went our way and we showed a little bit more initiative in the circle. However, things didn't, we didn't, a shemozzle. While Strikers certainly had the ball bounce their way, they deserved their victory as they frustrated our attempts to attack and stuck to their game plan. While the boys are all trying hard and giving their best, we just don't seem to have the right balance in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at the moment and some minor adjustments (positional wise) may be what's required to turn the season back around.

Cheers

Adam Campano