

First Grade Match Report:

Glebe Vs Ryde

Saturday 30th of May 2009

Homebush Pitch 2 5:00pm

Result: 1-2

Another week, another heartbreaking loss for Glebe first grade. In the past three weeks Glebe have lost all three of their games. All three by one goal. In the final 20 seconds against Moorebank, final 3 minutes against NWS and this week against Ryde the goal was scored with 50 seconds remaining.

On paper it may appear the team is flagging toward the end and fitness is letting it down. To some extent this was true against Moorebank and NWS, but in today's game against Ryde, Glebe were going strong to the final whistle, yet could not come up with the result.

Glebe started strongly on a rainy and windswept night, controlling the ball and maintaining patience and composure in the face of Ryde's eleven-behind-the-ball defence.

A short corner was forced by Glebe and a variation saw the ball cop a deflection from a Ryde defender and ricochet into the net. An ounce of ass beats a ton of class, and of late it would appear Glebe only ever score short corners off stuff-ups. The Glebe conversion rate this year is poor.

The score would remain 1-0 heading into half time, where Glebe re-iterated the necessity for the side to keep playing short and between the lines. Intensity was also talked about, as Glebe can be patchy in this area. More grit and determination in attack, and a passionate desire to get the ball and either keep it or bury it in the net will improve the team vastly.

In the second half Ryde had a player sent off for ten minutes after a fairly rudimentary tackle. Glebe hoped that this advantage would provide the impetus to step up and grab the game by both ears, but instead they let it slip through their grasp. Ryde forced a soft short corner and a well-taken drag flick found the sideboard. 1-1, and for all Glebe's possession and field position the race was still neck and neck.

To their credit, Glebe did not panic and maintained some level of composure, adhering to the game plan and creating numerous goal scoring opportunities. It is with bitter disappointment that I tell you none of these were capitalised on. It is with a similar degree of disappointment that I note that Glebe were at times out-enthused and out-hustled by the Ryde defence. Taking the floppy, soft option has never been a trait of Glebe team's of old, and I sincerely hope that this style does not become endemic in the current side.

Ryde would see another of their players sin-binned for a professional foul, this time for five minutes. Glebe continued to press forward, but the passing and finishing were not up to the task. Once again Glebe also veered away from the game plan in stages, opting to go straight up the middle with attempts at 60 metre passes. For the most part these were cut off by Ryde.

When passes were strung together through the halves and inners Glebe were able to cut Ryde to shreds.

In the final minute Ryde leapt quickly from defence into attack, aided by some sloppy work by Glebe and were able to force another short corner. The shot this time was nowhere near the class of the first goal, but it still somehow managed to make it over the line. Ryde were jubilant, Glebe gutted. But at least they're now well used to the feeling.

Peter Wark was playing in his first game back after straining his hamstring against Sydney University on the 9/5/2009. Unfortunately he aggravated the injury during this match, and had an intermittent presence on the field, though was out there at the death to rile one of the Ryde forwards and their entire crowd. We all hope he can make a speedy recovery, although hamstrings are notoriously tardy. Whilst Peter was receiving treatment it was fantastic to see First Grade stalwart Adam Howard back out at the top level, and he looked like he'd never left – having a strong game in first grade, backing up after 70 minutes in 2nds. Ian Paterson suffered an injury to a ligament in his foot, and took no further part after only 15 minutes. Scott Cleary and Alex Manou would both come on to make positive contributions to the team.

This match was the end of the first round of matches, and now Glebe must look ahead to the second round and decide what it is they want from the season, and what it is they are willing to give.

Regards,

Patrick Wark.

3rd Grade Report:

GLEBE vs RYDE

Saturday 30th of May 2009

Result: 1-1 Draw

Glebe 3rds had an incredible chance to defeat the defending Premiers, Ryde, and just could not take no matter how hard they tried. Excellent build up play from Glebe in the first half resulted in monumental pressure placed on the Ryde defensive structure resulting in a number of circle penetrations and unfortunately weak shots at goal and missed deflection chances. The Glebe backs were playing very tough hockey and not letting the Ryde forwards get anywhere near the goal. Towards the end of the 1st half Corey Morrow scored what was a brilliant team goal which involved 7 or 8 uncontested passes to Glebe players culminating in Corey's flick shot on the run past the keeper.

Glebe started the 2nd half strongly again and had a number of good opportunities broken down by a desperate Ryde defence. Then with about 20 minutes to go in the game, the tide

changed dramatically. The Glebe strikers all of a sudden could not trap a ball nor hold on to it without being dispossessed and the Ryde strikers took their chance to mount wave after wave of attack on the Glebe defence. Led by a man of the match performance from goalkeeper, Teren Manou, the defence stood firm until with only 3 minutes left in the game a poor attempted clearance by one defender resulted in a turnover in the Glebe circle. The Ryde striker attempted to cross the ball to a waiting colleague standing left of the post, but before it got to him, the other defender (yes, that was me) managed to put the mutha*\$@#&! ball into his own net. Ryde then went for the jugular (as they do) and almost stole the game at the death when they were awarded a penalty corner just before full time. The match ended in near farcical circumstances after the Ryde pusher out pushed out the ball while his team mates were still in a huddle discussing which variation they were going to use to try and steal the game. The match was declared over by the only SHA appointed umpire present on the day amid Ryde's cries of displeasure.

I think a draw was a fair result in the end, but with more experience Glebe and a calmer head, Glebe should have had the game won by the half-time break. We still have a long way to go.

Thanks to Googa for umpiring and umpiring well and consistently, showing that if as an umpire you only call it how you see it and don't get emotionally involved in the game and in verbally interacting with players, it's not such a hard gig after all!

GDHC Men's 6TH GRADE

MATCH REPORT GAME 11

Glebe 0 defeated by Ryde 5

8pm Saturday 30 May 2009

Homebush 1

The final game of the first round was always going to be a huge ask as Glebe dug deep in the constant rain, slipping and sliding in what started as a tit-for-tat game with Ryde. Glebe did well to hold Ryde to a 1-0 first half lead and looked dead set threatening several times through Bernard Adcock and other forwards backing up from the 5th grade game prior.

OK, no one was in the really mood for hockey and it showed. It was cold and dark and the rain had not stopped all afternoon. DVDs and doonas had been abandoned all over Sydney in the reluctant drive to the Homebush Swamp and the weather played a big part in a chilly high-injury game. Sprained ankles, feet and shoulders were the name of the day - nice Kenny Wark-style defensive move on their CF Pete Kelly! As they say in the Marines, retaliate first!

Googa impressed the selectors with a length of the field run which carved up the Ryde defence however then nearly died and play was stopped (not for the last time in the match), to make sure he was OK.

During the half time break, the organisers of the Transmission rave party which was being held in the adjacent auditorium began their sound checks and cranked up the tunes. The heckles started from the rave security groupies who were high in the stands at this point, mostly laughing at us, the poor suckers who were losing out in the rain.

For the remainder of this match report, do the following:

1. Open up a new browser window
2. cut and paste or type in the following:
3. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPuLMZZ-OvU>
4. Press play

You are now experiencing what we were listening to while playing the second half. Ryde were suspected of dropping a few stimulants at around this time and it will be interesting to see what their beta samples reveal. Still, whatever those bickies they were munching at half time were, they worked a treat, and in turn, Glebe were worked for a 4 nil deficit for the second half. It is worth pointing out the new and highly controversial approach one of the umpires took to making close decisions. This largely consisted of a conference with the 4 surrounding players from either side – did it hit your foot or yours? Still, at least he was consistent, reversing 5 or 6 decisions throughout the match in response to calls like ‘‘Auugh! Come on!’’.

Glebe’s ever determined goalie, Cameron endured intense migraine-like symptoms in the goal with 5 minutes to go. The match was abandoned and a precautionary ambulance called. We hear Cam is feeling much better now.

Some sad news prior to the game was that one of our team mates, James Casey’s mother had passed away during the week. Our condolences to James and family.

Adrian McKeown