

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

### **Glebe vs East's**

### **Result: Glebe 2-1**

### **Round 14**

**8.pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Kymeeagh**

8pm at night out at Kyeemagh playing in front of nobody. Well, not quite nobody. There were a couple of Easts 4<sup>th</sup> graders who hung around to watch the first half and heckle the Glebe team. It's funny how clearly you can hear individual comments from the side when there is no-one else there. Even the incoming and outgoing jumbo jets seemed unusually quiet on this occasion. Maybe that's because Glebe was concentrating so hard on repelling attack after attack from Easts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Anyway, I digress. Glebe were taking on the pommy might of Easts who have managed to be a bit more consistent than they were last year, admirably holding on to 2<sup>nd</sup> position in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, not too far behind the dominant Manly side. To their credit, the Easts boys have developed a suffocating style of hockey which sees them try to press the opposition defence into errors and then attack with great numbers and build constant pressure on the opposition D. However, Glebe took a few lessons from the first round game in which we dominated the first half in which we did not score and then were completely overrun in the second half.

On this occasion, the Glebe striker defence fell away somewhat preventing Easts from exposing the area in behind where they tend to place extra roaming players in the midfield to isolate lone defenders. As a result, Glebe successfully frustrated Easts into a number of errors, one of which was the otherwise excellent Easts goalkeeper's only error when he mistimed a kick straight to our centre forward Paulie "I'm only good for 10 minutes a game" Jowett who was presented the easiest goal he will ever score on a platter with a straightforward unopposed push into the goal for the first score.

Early in the second half, Glebe pushed their advantage further when Corey Morrow, the sole high striker, received a long ball from the defence and dribbled around two defenders before firing a shot at the goalie who took the heat off the pace of the ball as it slowed on its path towards the ball before being smashed in from a metre out by a diving Rosco Tapsell, one of our three Radical Rangas. Glebe were then forced to defend for the remaining 20 minutes of the game as Easts pushed their whole team forward constantly raiding the right side of the field. Easts got one back when a pass found an Easts forward unmarked at the top of the circle. As a Glebe defender followed his mark across the goal spot he got in goalie Teren Manou's line of sight just as the Easts striker had a backstick tomahawk shot at goal. The shot rocketed along the ground and past the unsuspecting Teren's kicker. My bad.

The Glebe defence marshalled by Holmesy, Holysmokes, Teren and unofficial man of the match, Braydon Mead (Ranga 2) was absolutely outstanding. Glebe should have been dead on their feet with no fit reserves following injuries to Paulie and Ro yet soldiered on and hung on to victory until the final siren. Corey Morrow was very good as our lone striker up front. Dom Tintner (Ranga 3) also had a terrific game in a performance which I believe will be a coming of age experience for him. The kid has a big future. Thanks to all the boys for their massive efforts, especially to the regular 4<sup>th</sup> graders who helped out after playing close to full games in 4ths. Hopefully, we will welcome back Alex Sheard and Will Noller to the team for this week's game against Gordon-North Sydney.

Campo

## **5th Grade Match Report**

**Glebe 0 def. by St George 5**

**Round 14**

**3.30pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**Kymeeagh**

It's not often that you can walk away from a 5 goal defeat and feel proud of the effort put forth by your team, but then again it's not often that the men of 5th grade have to face off against players who earlier in the day played against the Glebe 2nd grade squad either. But such was the case on Saturday when we hit the field to line up against St. George's 3rd grade outfit.

In a game that was a real step up in class from our last two opponents St. George started hard and fast with some interchanging passes that eliminated the Glebe defence all too easily and within the first 5minutes the score was already 1 - 0 to St George. St. George continued to press hard and their offensive set up was well organised and well drilled and all too often had the Glebe left side defence stretched thin leaving the middle exposed. Chris Farrugia did well in the middle to cover across from right half and clearout a lot of St George's attacking raids alleviating the pressure and allowing the rest of the defence to restructure and regather some breath.

But St. George would not be deterred nor denied so easily and over the next 10 minutes were able to wrangle half a dozen short corners, some deserved but others quite dubious. The glebe defensive short corner unit did well to keep out the first 3 attacking raids from St. George but on the 4th a well placed drag flick glanced off Jack's left glove on it's way to hitting the inside back post to put Glebe down 2 - 0. The growing deficit did nothing to drop the heads of the dirty reds though as Glebe managed to mount some attacking raids of there own, James "Hustle" Hurrell coming in off his leftwing managed to poke the ball free on a back tackle to Jason in the middle who took off on a counter attack. After selling the St. George left back an

intention to roll the ball to Dion on the right wing he instead laid the ball back up the middle to James who collected at full speed and managed to drag inside the remaining fullback but was hacked on his way past and earned a short corner. Sadly the resulting short corner was undone before it got a chance to be started as a miss-trap and giant foot from Jason turned the ball back over.

As the half wore on the attacking raids continued in waves from St. George but the Glebe defence dug in and held firm showing an excellent desire to shut down all opportunities in the circle before they became a real danger, scrambling, swarming and suffocating the St. George strikers. The closest St. George came to securing a third goal before halftime came off another short corner with a variation being laid off to their drag flick specialist merely ten yards out who let fly but was denied by a remarkable split second reaction save from Jack who parried it safely over the crossbar.

The second half started out with Glebe showing just as much spirit in defence even with a reshuffle after Chris Loukakis was forced from the field very late in the first half after being hit by another drag flick off a St. George short corner and replaced by Pete Kelly. Glebe showed better patience and control when in possession of the ball as Jason became more involved in the game controlling and distributing the transfers through the halves and Glebe seemed to be able to apply more pressure up front. Sadly Nalaka Dias only lasted 5 minutes of the second half after appearing to pull a muscle but Tom Pacey slid back to take his place and Glebe never lost a beat of intensity.

After Glebe managed to hold out St. George for a period of nearly 30 minutes (bridging the halftime break) St. George went up 3 - 0 after approx. 15 minutes into the second through a fortunate and discreet deflection. St. George went up 4 - 0 with 15 mins remaining in the game, Glebe's scrambling defence just unable to get to that one last striker as Jack was beaten Sam and Chris L. made a valiant attempt to get back and cover the goals but the shot was too fast and hard as it beat them both into the backboard.

Glebe's best chance to open their account came inside the last 10 minutes when awarded a short corner Jason managed to lay off the ball to James on his left eliminating both runners, but the strike from James was mishit and adjudged to have been too high even though it bounced over the keeper and certainly would have hit the backboard - just one of those days! St. George celebrated their 5th goal in the dying minutes of the game off another deflection and the score finished at 5 - 0 against the dirty reds.

So while the score line was none too glamorous I would personally like to thank the boys that put out on the field because from start to finish there wasn't a player that I saw who didn't put 110% into that game, from the young fullback combination of Sam and Chris Loukakis to the guys who played in the halves Chris F, Tom Pacey, Nali to everyone on the forward line - a lot of blokes to mention!

We had 3 subs on the bench and the boys made sure that everyone had a chance to give it there all, the guys played their hearts out, took their hits and licks and always went back in for more. It was an effort born of the camaraderie that has been built up over the last few rounds as the injuries and unavailability's have added up to push us to our limits. Everyone has done a great job of stepping up for each other after a horror month of May, June was certainly a good and positive turning point for the team; now let's continue it on in July guys!

Congratulations to Dion Condack on surviving a baptism of fire in his debut for Glebe Senior hockey ranks, he put forth a great effort and showed that like many other juniors bred by Glebe, he's going to be a talent to watch in the years to come.

Jason McDonald.