

Match report

1st Grade

Glebe vs. Gordon North Sydney

Round 15

Saturday 4th of July 2009

Homebush State Sports Centre Pitch 2

It is now seven games since the Glebe first grade team has had a victory. Despite its lack of success on the score board, the team always tries hard; it is committed and gives its supporters a good run for their money.

The game against Gordon was no exception. Glebe had as many shots at goal as Gordon and had at least 50% of the field position. Gordon had one penalty corner during the game from which it scored. Glebe had two penalty corners, neither of which were converted. First grade has lost three or four games recently because the opposition penalty corner conversion rate is much superior to Glebe's. It is disappointing to lose games when the team has played well and is, on field play, slightly the better team. Converting golden opportunities into goals is the team's major problem at present.

Match report

2nd Grade

Glebe vs. Gordon North Sydney

Round 15

Saturday 4th of July 2009

Homebush State Sports Centre Pitch 2

The second grade team has been hard hit by personnel changes. Players called to first grade to cover injured players, players gone overseas and players on holidays. This makes it difficult for the team to develop cohesion and understanding. The team is always competitive and the players keep going, and never give up, which is a pleasing feature of the team's psyche. Unfortunately the penalty corner conversion rate is too low and the option taking in the attacking quarter of the field is at times sub-standard. Seconds is a young team and will undoubtedly get better as the matches go by.

3RD GRADE

Match Report

Glebe vs. Gordon North Sydney

RESULT: 1 - 2

Round 15

5pm Saturday 4th of July 2009

Homebush Pitch 2

Oh my god. I felt like shooting myself after this game. After last week's superb win against Easts, Glebe 3rds expected nothing more than an emphatic victory against the bottom of the table GNS. It was not to be. We did not take GNS lightly. Far from it. We played our strongest possible side (for the first time this season) plus we had the celebrity inclusions of ex-1st graders Aaron Oman and Tony Wark which resulted in us being able to throw absolutely everything we had at GNS.

I could not even say that GNS defended out of their skin to keep us out or that they succeeded in keeping our shots at goal to a minimum. The reality was that Glebe had about 15 shots at goal to Gordon's 2. Glebe had about 5 shots from point blank a few metres out all of which somehow remarkably missed the goals all together. Too be honest, we rarely forced a save from the Gordon goal keeper which was nothing short of embarrassing.

There is absolutely no point in documenting a blow by blow analysis of the game because from a Glebe perspective the final pass or final shot was in every case utter garbage. Gordon scrambled a goal early in the first half and then the decisive goal with 10 minutes to go in the game from a penalty corner hit which may or may not have been hitting the backboard before it got a deflection into the goal from our goalkeeper.

In any case, I refuse to be a sore loser. Gordon deserved to win, simply because although they were utterly outclassed, they never gave up, defended stoutly and took their few chances to score when they came. No team can do more than this. Glebe was left to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of this disappointing loss and rue a game which was there for the taking. Glebe supporters were left shaking their heads in disappointment. Sorry.

Adam Campano

5th Grade Report

Glebe vs. Manly

Result 1 - 0

Round 15

2pm Saturday 4th of July 2009

Homebush Pitch 2

The day didn't start too promisingly for the battling 5th grade squad in the preparation to tackling the Manly, last minute scrambling saw us relying on the bravery and kindness of the 6th grade squad just to ensure we could field 5 forwards instead of just the 3. To further add to the troubles centre half Jason McDonald had to leave the field after only 5 minutes after sustaining a hamstring injury. Jason returned 10 minutes later but took up the unfamiliar role of fullback to minimise running and Tom Pacey shifted back into centre half to control the play from the middle and Tom Schlosser filled in the vacant inside left position.

The first half was tough and though Glebe had opportunities up front the lack of experience in playing together from our slap together forward line showed and not many opportunities were able to be capitalised on inside the circle. Manly had the upper hand in their attacking opportunities in the first half using the strength of their right side attack to constantly apply pressure to our halves and backs. The Glebe defence held firm though and scrambled hard in the circle minimising the shooting chances of the Manly squad. Manly had the fortune of having 3 short corner opportunities within the closing 15 minutes of the first half and Glebe only managed to retire to the break at 0 - 0 thanks to the excellent efforts from Jack in goals who not only stopped all 3 shots that were heading for the bottom corner he even managed to clear his own pads on the first shot before Manly had the opportunity for a follow up.

The boys were all sucking in the big ones during the break but we were confident that we could hold Manly out and try our best to take our opportunities up front we had every chance of snatching a win but we had to make sure we used our passes early and wide through the halves and the inside forwards.

The opening 10 minutes of the second half was the opposite of what was spoken about as Glebe appeared to still be taking a break. We applied more pressure to ourselves than Manly put on as we struggled to clear the ball beyond our own 25 yard line and found it even more difficult to clear it to a Glebe stick. But the defence of the backs, halves and inside forwards continued to hold firm and refused to let Manly get a clean shot on the goals, the closest call was defused on the very line, with Jack beaten away from the goals Chris Farrugia covered across from right half just in time to get a reverse stick save on the line, unfortunately for him he was forced to save his own clearance as the ball rebounded off the back of Jack's legs (who was retreating back to the goals) straight back towards the goal. The second clearance again off the back-stick from Chris managed to clear out to halfway and the defence was able to reset itself.

After that the Glebe boys finally woke up to the 2nd half and began to turn the tide on Manly, with controlled possession and better use of the halves and good switching from left to right Glebe started to look much more dangerous and put the pressure continually on the Manly defence. Donald ball at centre forward worked well at being a target man and holding the ball well to allow the inside men and halves to come up in support and Glebe was finally rewarded with a short corner 15 minutes out from time thanks a solid hack outside the circle. After the first corner was played off a Manly foot Glebe had it's best opportunity off the second corner, after a strong push out Chris Farrugia found some space behind the runners next to 7 spot and Tom Pacey was able to slide the ball straight through, his initial shot was saved by the Manly keeper on the ground and his second shot on the rebound was a little too low to get over the keeper and Manly cleared.

As the Glebe offence started clicking together with well structured play the Manly offence fell apart and though they still threatened with the occasional counter attack they were left to throw too many long balls between their players and the backs were able to read the passes easily and despatch of the threats efficiently. With 5 minutes to go Glebe got the breakthrough, another well structured raid found 6th grade captain Bernie unmarked on the left post who with 2 degrees to work with managed to earn the side a stroke after his flick over the keeper struck a Manly defender on the line. The stroke was handed to Chris Loukakis who made no mistake in directing the ball safely into the bottom right hand corner and give the Glebe men the 1 goal ascendancy.

The final 5 minutes saw Glebe defend doggedly and keep Manly safely outside the circle and the boys ended the game much deserved winners.

It was an excellent result for everyone involved and it was a great demonstration of the continuing balls and all effort that the 5th graders have been providing after a real grey patch only 7 weeks ago, thanks for the determination everyone showed in defence from fullbacks to forwards at some stage of the game everyone did what they could to sure up our defence. Thanks also to the 6th grade men who backed up for us in the front line; Googa, Bernie and Adrian.

Jason McDonald.

GDHC Men's 6TH GRADE

MATCH REPORT

Round 15

Glebe 0 defeated by Manly 3

12.30pm Saturday 4 July 2009

Homebush 2

Glebe came away with what could be seen as a respectable score in a hard fought game against a stronger opposition over the full 70 minutes. These guys beat us 4-1 in round 4 and again they proved to be a polished outfit for the first half.

Manly had short corners aplenty which over the game proved pivotal. Milcho Klimoski, as stand in goalie for Glebe did an excellent job, keeping the score to 3-0 down at the end of the first half. Defence players James Casey, Googa and John Cullen were crucially stoic, giving no ground and putting it all on the line. This approach was necessary as Manly were working their short passes and 1,2's to the Glebe D with simplistic and swift running.

Glebe's communication has definitely improved since last time the two sides met and clearances and connections were easier to find. Manly were certainly more harassed by Glebe than in the previous encounter however just as was the case last time, Manly moved the ball around cleanly with penetrating attack meaning another busy week for Glebe's fullbacks and goalie.

Glebe 6th grade made good runs up the centre assisted by Shane Casey and Phil Wade. To the right side, Bernie was on fire, mixing it up and able to penetrate repeatedly their D from passes nailed to him up the side lines and also from the centres. Aaron Aggarwal and Scott Glading were also pivotal in many runs towards their goal however a goal was not forthcoming.

Manly eased off the accelerator after the break, allowing Glebe back into the game. The score doesn't really reflect the true intensity of the second half and the game opened up in an entertaining contest of back and forth hockey. As Manly tired, Glebe was able to lift and Eoghan was unlucky not to score from a great lead in by Aaron Aggarwal.

The final score is testament to the improvements the team has made since the beginning of the season.

Adrian McKeown