

1st Grade Match Report

Glebe vs. UTS

Round 16

Saturday 11th of July 2009

Pennant Hills

Result: 3 - 2

This weekend saw the best talent in international women's hockey descend upon Homebush for the Champion's trophy. Consequently, some of the best hockey talent in Sydney's inner west was forced up to Pennant Hills for a Glebe 'home game'.

Despite some unfortunate results in previous weeks, the team had been building some good play from the back and through the midfield, only really faltering at the last and most important hurdle - failing to find the back of the net. Pre match talk stressed: (1) the need to get players in critical positions in the attacking circle; (2) the importance of holding possession and building passages of play using midfield transfers; and (3) being proactive and having a strong presence in defence, looking for interceptions.

The game started well for the Glebe side. With plenty of possession and space around the back, wing halves Zach Farlow and Pat Casey were able to overload the flanks and facilitate a series of attacking raids into the UTS defensive circle. A few early chances went astray before a succession of penalty corners was forced. Without a game-breaker of Chris Holmes' (3rd grade flicker) calibre on the battery, a left slip variation was used, and succeeded in finding Daniel Cleary who made no mistakes with a classy deflection. Shortly afterwards, another attacking raid from the right hand side of the field saw the ball find its way through a plethora of players from both teams to Andrew Cheong on the left post. He made no mistakes in finishing and putting the maroon and white up 2-0. The remainder of the half saw Glebe dominate the majority of possession and had Cheonga bag another goal before some lazy Glebe defence and poor communication let UTS back into the contest with a relatively soft goal shortly before half-time.

The second half was more evenly matched. The Glebe side continued to build promising offensive plays thanks to the Cleary boys, who are really starting to own their positions. However, we failed to capitalise on our opportunities with some poor shot selection and accuracy throughout the half. During this period, some UTS players also showed off flashes of individual skill but were unable to come together and attack as a unit. It was not until the final minutes that there was any addition to the score when a UTS forward was allowed to run across the top of the circle and shoot. A deflection and an odd bounce or two saw the ball end up in the back of the net and bought the score to 3-2. Despite the best efforts of Ross Bougoukas in the dying seconds, there were no further additions to the score card.

We managed to recall the words to the team song and sing it with passion in the sheds before awarding the players player points to Daniel Cleary, who was well and truly best on field.

Thanks to Harry Wark Jnr and John Cullen for volunteering as ball boys. Between them, (as Goog worked out) they share 118 years of life experience and two medical degrees! Surely some sort of record?!

Al Cullen.

Post Script: Get to training on Wednesday nights boys! Having only three in attendance last week was not acceptable.

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Going into this game Glebe were sixth on the table and UTS were tenth. Prior to this game Glebe had recorded six wins, six losses and two draws and the team needed to lift substantially if it was to remain competitive for the rest of the season. It is 7 points behind the fourth placed team in the competition, Gordon, and a semi-final spot looks most unlikely. Despite the position on the table, the team takes great pride in its performance and in this game against UTS there was a re-found vigour.

Glebe forwards put pressure on the UTS defenders. The press was good and the UTS defenders were denied time to pick their passes. Glebe defenders pressured the UTS forwards as they were receiving the ball and made it difficult for them to get up to operating speed with the ball under good control. The team's trapping and passing was slick and speedy, which made it hard for the UTS players to re-group. In the first half Glebe had many excellent scoring opportunities, some of which were well saved by the UTS keeper and some of which were poorly executed. Despite squandering many golden scoring opportunities Glebe did manage to score two goals in the first half, one of which was from a penalty corner variation. UTS played better in the second half, and scored two goals to Glebe's one.

UTS had several talented European players and probably had more skill and dexterity than Glebe, but Glebe had better team work, passion and commitment and in the end this was the difference between the two teams. In this game Glebe were awarded 8 penalty corners to UTS's 1. Our corner conversion rate still remains a problem. It is less than half the conversion rate of our competitors.

Match Report 2nd Grade

Glebe vs. UTS

Round 16

Saturday 11th of July 2009

Pennant Hills

Result: 2 - 4

Second grade lost 2-4 to the competition leaders UTS. It was a game where Glebe played without luck. There did not seem to be much between the teams on the run of play, but UTS made the most of its opportunities better than did Glebe. UTS's penalty corner combination was impressive and it scored 2 goals from corners, while from the same number of corners, Glebe scored one goal.

Glebe had a couple of one-on-ones with the UTS keeper, but the final execution was disappointing. If a couple of these excellent scoring opportunities had been converted into goals, the score may have been different. UTS were on average much older than the Glebe players and their greater experience showed at times. Glebe was always in the game and one felt that with a bit of luck, Glebe might get on level terms with UTS. If a couple of Glebe penalty corners late in the game had of been converted, the game could have resulted in a grandstand finish, but it was not to be.

A semi-final berth is now looking a hard ask for second grade. To improve the team needs slicker, faster passing, more width in attack and more running off the ball. Reduce the individual running. Pass the ball early and run to a field position to get the return ball. There is no lack of commitment, there is plenty of speed in attack, and the defence is solid, but the organisation and option taking needs to be improved.

Harry Wark Jnr.

Third grade match report

Glebe vs. Manly

Saturday 11th July 2009

Round 16

Result: Glebe 3 Manly 2

Bloody brilliant! A season defining performance. A well under strength Glebe 3rd grade side took on the power and might of the still undefeated Manly team in the 8pm slot out at Pennant Hills. Too be honest, I was not expecting miracles after last week's humbling loss to Gordon and the loss of a number of key players for this game. To be fair, Manly were without a couple of their strike players but they were still very strong and posed a constant threat in and around the Glebe circle. A number of regular 4th graders stepped up to the plate and had season best games filling in for 3rds. One of these, Rowan Kelly, scored the eventual winning goal from a well timed deflection shot.

Earlier in the game, Chris Holmes, stepped up to score two excellent penalty corner goals as a result of his ever improving drag flick. Ex-Glebe player, Jeremy Boyce responded for Manly with two well taken back stick tomahawk shots which somehow snuck in on the goalie's near post. Apart from these two well taken chances, Glebe defended stoutly and held out for a well deserved win.

Dom Tintner had an excellent match as a holding wing half, having to do a lot more defending than attacking as it turned out but this was how the game had to be played. Alex Sheard was again extremely enterprising at centre-half and began many terrific attacking raids. Corey Morrow continued his excellent mid-season form with another assured performance filling in several positions in the half line and front line while Paul Jowett managed to complete his first full game for the season. Congrats Paulie. Chris Holmes was a well deserved Man of the Match with his important goals and rare assuredness at the back. Glebe as a team and as a defensive unit were able to withstand Manly's hard press in attack and the team should be very, very proud of their efforts in enabling this to be possible.

Glebe is grateful towards the efforts of both volunteer umpires for umpiring what was a very tense and spirited game in the absence of the SHA appointed officials. There was some great banter and good natured sledging between players on opposing teams which is always good fun, more so when you win. Glebe took great enjoyment in singing the team song immediately following the game's finish in the dug out, with one team member slightly bemused and a bit embarrassed as he thought that Glebe had actually lost the game. Just goes to show how hard that player was concentrating on his own game for a change.

Adam Campano