

## SECOND GRADE REPORT- MARCH 14TH

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Report, Glebe vs. Briars, Round 1, 14 March 2009

Result 3 – 0 (Brad Goodridge, Scott Cleary, Gus Malfroy)



“Briars were under the pump all game. It was great to watch.” (Club Captain, Adam Campano)

The first game of the season was always going to be a tough encounter with a new second grade team and a strong opponent who gave us a touch up in the trial game the previous week. Having said that the trials mean nothing and a few changes through the week and a good team talk from the new coach (Colin Rochester) and boys got straight back to the business of playing good hockey. Glebe took control of the game from the start by holding the ball and forcing errors from the opposition, with many of the young players in the team playing beyond their years.

After building up the pressure an attacking shot at goal was fouled by the Briars defence and a penalty stroke awarded, Brad Goodridge stepped up and put the first goal in (good idea practicing few strokes at the end of training last week). During the first half we created plenty of good opportunities, a few short corners, where we were able to steal another goal from rebound and Scott Cleary scored. By the end of the half we were not able to increase the 2 goal lead. Just failing to find the back of net and create effective shots on goal. The defence held strong and we went to the break leading the game.

The team talk pressed home the need to keep up good structure and keep things simple in the second half, and we started the second half maintaining the pressure on Briars and again we forced another penalty corner after a good break away down the right. Given the chance to go three ahead we took it with a lucky deflection securing a goal to Gus Malfroy. Throughout the second half Briars turned the tables and we crept back into some old habits from last year, but the scrambling of the midfield and defence kept Briars out. In the end the game finished in a downpour of rain and lightning but Glebe secured the three points with no goals against.

At the end of game it was a good effort from a young team with some guys who are looking to establish themselves in second grade. A much tougher assignment awaits us next week playing against last year's premiers Sutherland.

**Thanks to Brad Goodridge for that report.**

## THIRD GRADE REPORT- MARCH 14TH

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Glebe vs. Briars



Result: Glebe lost 1-3

Not a great result to start the 2009 season for 1<sup>st</sup> grade as last year's goal scoring woes continued to haunt the young Glebe side with at least a dozen good opportunities missed in the first half. The match was truly a game of two halves as Glebe set out determinedly and attacked with great skill and vision on several occasions only to break down in or around the circle or with a weak shot at goal. Alex Sheard was in red hot form dribbling his way into good scoring position on a number of occasions but could not quite get the right end result. Young U/17 guns Will Noller and Dom Tintner showed glimpses of brilliance which they will need to match with improved work ethic in coming weeks. The backs and halves, including the comeback of Will Warner (an ex-Glebe junior), combined very well in the first half to create some super chances for the forwards. However, all to no avail as Briars somehow survived the onslaught to go into half-time locked at 0-0.

The second half was a completely different kettle of fish. It started with a simple back pass from the starting hit-off which one of the backs then duffed his transfer pass to the other back which was gratefully intercepted by the Briars centre-forward and smashed into the back of the net. Briars then applied massive pressure on Glebe as our midfield fell to bits as a result of the forwards not coming back to defend as a unit. The way hockey is played now you can't afford to do this and Glebe was duly punished minutes later when Briars scored a breakaway goal. Glebe tried hard after this but continued to expose the defence resulting in wave after wave of Briars attacks, superbly broken down on many occasions by man of the match Daniel Carey and evergreen goal keeper, Mick Bougoukas.

Glebe got itself back into the game with a late deflection goal to Scott Bortfield, who recently returned from a serious long-term injury, but this was cancelled out almost immediately when Briars scored another break away goal to seal the game. It was disappointing to lose the game in this fashion as Briars 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are not well known for their attacking style of play and they buried us in emphatic fashion despite not having the majority of possession or field position in the match. Glebe must be far more disciplined in its tactical approach to the game and learn to adapt itself to different styles of play during the course of the game or we will lose more games than we win this year. Despite these shortcomings, there were a lot of positive

aspects to come out of this game and much to look forward to for the remainder of season 2009.

Thanks to Adam Campano for that report.

## **4TH GRADE REPORT - MARCH 14TH**

### **Glebe vs Briars**

Homebush was as hot as a furnace for the first game of the year for the inner west derby. Welcomes were made to the new players. The game started slowly, but Briars were the first to score. Glebe equalised with Evan scoring the first of 2 goals after a storming breakaway. Briars scored again, unfortunately another soft goal, showing the need to tighten up at the back. The 2nd half saw a sneaky early goal to equal things up, and domination of field position, though few clear chances. A draw was probably a fair result, though it was a little disappointing not to be able to score a late goal and celebrate a win. Reflection after the game stressed the need to arrive earlier for better preparation; to get fitter; and to reflect upon the ways to use the new rule changes.

Cheers

Tim Sutton

## **6TH GRADE REPORT - MARCH 14TH**

### **Glebe vs. Briars**

Game one started at a frenetic pace with Briars taking out an early lead of 2-nil. Glebe then levelled with goals to Arun Aggarwal and Captain James Casey within the last 2 minutes of the first half. Glebe then dominated proceedings for the second half, keeping Briars scoreless and allowing Paul Flanagan to score the winning goal from a short corner.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade welcomes goalkeeper Cameron Elliot to the side. Cameron is up for a busy year as he also keeps for Glebe's under-17s. James Casey from the Australian Defence Force returns to the club from about 8 years out of hockey as does Adrian McKeown who has not played since 1990. Many players who were playing 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade last year are also present in the side.

Cheers

Adrian McKeown