

First Grade Match Report:

Glebe Vs Moorebank

Saturday 16th of May 2009

Ern Smith Reserve (Moorebank) 3:30pm

Result: 1-2

Glebe had a tough assignment today and were not up to the task. Whilst the side wasn't totally outclassed and the performance was not without some merit, Glebe lacked the cohesion and precision all over the park. Against an opponent such as Moorebank, who are invariably strong Glebe needed to improve their passing game. People off the ball need to get into holes rather than watching the ball runner. The ball runner needs to keep their vision up scanning for a pass and deliver swiftly. Passes need to hit their target. And perhaps most frustratingly, the receiver must be able to trap. First Grade hockey demands traps are made. You can do nothing with the ball if you don't have it, and at times it would appear the extra pressure which Moorebank were exerting on the receiver (and which Glebe unfortunately did not reciprocate) was not well handled. Trap first; then worry about your drag/run/shot/pass/loop-de-loop or alley-oop. These post-trap manoeuvres should not and must not detract from nor disrupt the vital first step of the process.

The result of the substandard passing and possession game of Glebe was that they turned over a lot of ball to Moorebank. Thankfully for Glebe pride Moorebank couldn't quite convert their numerous opportunities into goals.

Moorebank's first goal came from a drag flick from a short corner. Glebe were able to answer back rapidly after a great pass from Matthew Wark found Michael up high in enemy territory. Michael did well to beat a couple of defenders then the keeper with a well placed tomahawk. Glebe's attack in this match centred around one-out efforts, which, as passionate as they may've been were never going to consistently trouble Moorebank's defence. One against five is not good odds. The forward line and midfield must work as cohesive unit, running off the ball to get in gaps then passing to one another to move the defence. Moorebank have thrown their wing-halves into attack since Adam was a boy, and Glebe defended against this reasonably well. On the fast-break Glebe did not capitalise on their field position and overlap.

The score would remain 1-1 for most of the second half, with Glebe grimly clinging to the draw and defending like General Custer at The Battle of Little Bighorn. The side had almost snatched a draw out of the jaws of defeat. Until a dubious short corner was awarded to Moorebank with less than a minute to go. Some indecision from a Glebe defender who shall remain unnamed allowed the Moorebank left slip to thread the needle, with Glebe keeper Dean Benfield unsighted for the ball. This goal came only seconds before the full-time hooter, and whilst Glebe didn't deserve to win, it was certainly a gut-wrenching way to lose. Much the same as Custer really.

But lose they will until a bit more grinding mental discipline is achieved in the passing of the ball, the scoring of goals and the leading off the ball. Once you cross that white line you are

a participant, not a spectator. All hands on deck next week in the Grand Final rematch against North West Strikers.

Players Player: Dean Benfield. Dean had a good game today and got plenty of work. The two goals that snuck past him he could have done nothing about. Not a good sign when a side gets beaten 1-2 and the goalkeeper gets the award, but so be it.

2nd Grade Report

Glebe vs. Moorebank

16 May 2009

Result 2 - 2

The game this week was against the undefeated Moorebank at their home field, always good fun and take points away from them on their home turf. The game was a hard slog all the way through Glebe scoring the first goal through some good lead up in the midfield. Shortly after a bad bounce of the ball gave Moorebank a chance to equalise and they did, half time 1-1

Glebe played with good structure and composure throughout the game and at times dominating Moorebank. In the second half glebe pushed ahead with 15 mins to go and started to create more opportunities, but we still could not get the vital third goal. With less than twenty seconds go a questionable short corner was given to Moorebank inside the 25. The resulting corner saw them pull off a deflection that was pretty much unstoppable and draw the match.

There was great team effort today, but not taking our chances cost us the full 3 points and looking back over the season so far we have the best defensive record in the competition but the 7th best attacking record yet still lie in 5th, clearly more goals is what it is going to take to get in the top 4.

