

# Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.btinternet.com/~ieshc.info/index.htm>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.



## Annual Report for 1998 / 1999

### Editorial:

The results summarised below and the Chairman's report reflect the best season since IES was started at Chantry Park in 1986. <Continued after the results table>

### Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 1998/1999

Squad (X1)		<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Goals For</u>	<u>Goals Ag'st</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>League Position</u>
<b>Mens 1st</b>	League	18	10	4	4	38	19	66.7	2 (10) P
	Friendly	4	4	0	0	9	2	100.0	
	Total	22	14	4	4	47	21	72.7	
<b>Ladies 1st</b>	League	18	15	1	2	58	12	86.1	2 (10)
	Friendly	2	1	0	1	4	2	50.0	
	Total	20	16	1	3	62	14	82.5	
<b>Mens 2nd</b>	League	18	13	2	3	57	19	77.8	2 (10) P
	Friendly	10	5	1	4	27	25	55.0	
	Total	28	18	3	7	84	44	69.6	
<b>Ladies 2nd</b>	League	18	15	2	1	62	9	88.9	1 (10) P
	Friendly	4	3	0	1	17	7	75.0	
	Total	22	18	2	2	79	16	86.4	
<b>Mens 3rd</b>	League	18	10	2	6	48	23	61.1	4 (10)
	Friendly	8	6	0	2	25	12	75.0	
	Total	26	16	2	8	73	35	65.4	
<b>Ladies 3rd</b>	League	18	9	2	7	32	29	55.6	4 (10)
	Friendly	5	3	1	1	12	7	70.0	
	Total	23	12	3	8	44	36	58.7	
<b>Mens 4th</b>	League	16	9	3	4	35	20	65.6	2 (9)
	Friendly	9	3	3	3	18	16	50.0	
	Total	25	12	6	7	53	36	60.0	
<b>Mens 5th</b>	League	12	2	2	8	15	23	25.0	7 (7)
	Friendly	8	2	0	6	3	26	25.0	
	Total	20	4	2	14	18	49	25.0	
<b>Mens Vets</b>	Friendly	22	9	3	10	56	55	47.7	
<b>Mixed X1</b>	Friendly	20	10	4	6	64	39	60.0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>228</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>63.2</b>	

\* (Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy and tournament matches shown below and 'extra' mid-week friendlies).

<Editorial continued from above the results table>

Much depended on the success of the move to Rushmere Sports Club and, by general consent, the welcome we received and the overall reorganisation very much contributed to the outstanding season on the field and the great social atmosphere off it. The club still has much to do: The main challenges for the future include developing our own artificial pitch at Rushmere, sustaining Mens Hockey at East Premier 'A' level and advancing the Ladies hockey into the East league structure. The youth coaching programme is in good hands and we have every reason to look to the future with confidence and optimism.

### **EHA Trophy, and AEWHA Cup/Plate . Summary of results**

Competition	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Venues
Men, EHA Trophy*	3	2	1	0	11	5	0 Home + 3 Away
Ladies, AEWHA cup	2	0	0	2	2	4	0 Home + 2 Away
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0 Home + 5 Away</b>

\* The Men were eliminated from the EHA Trophy by Worthing HC in a penalty stroke competition following a drawn game. (Worthing went on to reach the Final at Milton Keynes but were unsuccessful).

### **Tournament results during 1998/99 (to semi-finals or better):-**

Semi-finals, Felixstowe Mixed Tournament.

Winners Felixstowe U-11 and U-13 Tournaments

3<sup>rd</sup> place, Delft Tournament (Ladies)

Runners-up, Ipswich Ladies 7's Tournament

### **Representative Honours during 1998/99**

England Men Over-60 X1

John Taylor

Suffolk Men Senior X1

Charlie Farrow

Suffolk Men U-21 X1:

Simon Rose, Kevyn Brown, Tim Knowland

Suffolk Men U-18 X1:

Simon Rose

Suffolk Ladies U-18 X1:

Hayley Smith

Suffolk Boys U-12 X1:

George Pinner, Joe Broughton, William Turner, Josh Bartlett

Suffolk Boys U-11 X1:

Will Sheppard, Michael Tomiak

### **News from the Annual General Meeting on 13th May 1999**

The following elections were made (or filled by subsequent committee appointment):-

President, John Taylor; Chairman, John Adams; Secretary, Helen Price; Business Manager, Men's Team Secretary & Astro Pitch Liaison Officer, Chris Hatch; Club Promotions Officers, Charlie Farrow and Guy Marshlain; Social Secretaries, Avril Adams and Stu Gooderham; Youth Development Committee, Ian Reed, Charlie Farrow, Helen Price and David Walsh

#### **Position**

1st X1 Captain/Secretary

1st X1 Manager / Ladies Coach

2nd X1 Captain/ Secretary

3rd X1 Captain/ Secretary

4th X1 Captain/ Secretary/

5th X1 Captain/Secretary

Vets X1 Captain/ Secretary

Mixed X1 Captain/ Secretary

Indoor League Captain

Fixtures Secretary

Press Officer

Umpire liaison & appointments

League & County liaison

Communications Officer

#### **Men**

Martin Reader / vacancy

vacancy

Peter Elsom / Ian Watson

Halley McCallum / Darren Clark

David Walsh / Jon Oakley

Andy Whiting / Shaun Denny

Chris Hatch / Ray Black

Andy Murray (Secretary)

Andy Keedle

Tim Best

Stuart Gooderham

Chris Hatch

John Adams

Mike Harrison

#### **Ladies**

Steph Cook / Annie Taylor

John Adams

Jane de Boltz / Cathy Piddington

Anne-Marie Edney / Clare Rant

Helen Price (Captain)

Jo Dexter

Mel Maguire

Liz Marshlain

## **Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-**

### **(i) Chairman's Report (John Adams):**

What a brilliant season, with the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI Runners-up, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI winning Division One, long before the final league game, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI finishing within a whisker of being promoted in their first season in Division One.

In the Mens, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were promoted to Premier A for the first time in the Club's history. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won promotion with the 3<sup>rd</sup>'s finishing in fourth place and 4<sup>th</sup>'s just missing out on winning their league on the final day of the season. The 5<sup>th</sup>'s continued to give several youngsters the opportunity to have league experience. The Vets continued to be as competitive as ever. The Mixed XI would undoubtedly take any award for being the most sociable side!! We must continue to progress upwards in the leagues but only in the best tradition of I-ESHC.

The season started with the move to Rushmere Sports Club. This proved to be a wise decision as I am sure you would all agree. The friendly and sociable atmosphere has been enhanced by the superb facilities.

We were also fortunate to be able to welcome members of the former Woodbridge LHC to join us at the start of the season. This gave the Club some new faces and a fresh impetus throughout the ladies teams.

The Junior Section went from strength to strength with the numbers steadily increasing throughout the season. The future of the Club depends on the youth programme and getting youngsters into the Club. We all owe Ian Reed, Charles Farrow, Helen Price, David Walsh and several others our gratitude for all the time and effort they have put into the Juniors. The season started with our own tournament, it proved to be a great day for everybody that took part, seeing so many Clubs and Schools enjoying the sport, some for the first time, was a great credit to the Club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barclays Bank for their generous sponsorship of our Junior Tournament. The season finished with success for the U-11's and U-13's at the Felixstowe Tournament.

There were several excellent social and fundraising events during the season. Thanks go to Avril and Stuart for their efforts in putting these events together. It's a pity that these events weren't better supported by Club Members. Fundraising proved to be a significant amount of the bottom line in the accounts but we mustn't rely on this to fund our hockey.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for all the time they have put into the Club during the season and the support they have given me in my first year as Chairman.

### **(ii) Treasurer's Report (Chris Hatch):**

At the end of a season which saw a move to a new home at Rushmere Sports Club and the best overall playing record since the original IES Hockey Club was formed in 1986, it is a pleasure to report that we have continued to pay our way and look forward to the future in a satisfactory financial position.

By common consent, the move to Rushmere has been a great success and everybody has appreciated the post-match teas and bar service provided by Pearl, Tony, Ian, Katherine and others. In general, the club now provides a very attractive 'package' to members and it is in our own hands to build on this excellent foundation as we move into the new millennium. We were blessed with a good winter resulting in very few matches being cancelled due to weather and good match fee income as a consequence. Subscription income also recovered from the previous season as membership numbers increased, particularly for the ladies.

The 'Copleston Contract' took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1998. This guarantees us the three Saturday and one alternate Sunday playing slots for 10 years, together with the usual Wednesday evening training time. The deal is that we are due to pay Copleston £12k in support of their 3<sup>rd</sup> phase lottery bid in return for the pitch slot guarantees and a further £10 reduction on Saturday bookings. Without this arrangement, the Club would not be runable (on the basis that we now play virtually all home hockey on astro) and the contract was a vital component in our ongoing viability. So far, the money has not been called for but we must assume that this is a matter of time. It must be added that we derive enormous benefit from the Copleston 'SportsLink' scheme in terms of pitch availability and price reduction and the basis of the youth coaching programme. Please appreciate that the members who run the youth coaching programme are providing the whole club with a de-facto subsidy on their hockey costs and that this programme must be supported and developed on a long term basis if we are to look to the future with confidence.

I should like to thank the team secretaries and/or captains for clear, concise and (mostly) timely accounting of income and expenses. The 'traditional' contributions of the Veterans in waiving most travelling expenses and also by those who absorbed costs such as phone calls are gratefully acknowledged. Furthermore, the social and fundraising

effort has been quite outstanding. Avril Adams, Stu Gooderham and John Pope (for the dinner) deserve our particular thanks and admiration for their efforts.

The financial structure for 1999/2000, endorsed by the AGM, is included in the Notes accompanying the membership renewal application form and may be found on the Club's web site.

**(iii) Grounds Report (Chris Hatch):**

With the exception of two games played on Guardian grass, all 'home' games were played on astro pitches as listed in the table below. Some statistics for the record are included:

	<u>M1</u>	<u>M2</u>	<u>M3</u>	<u>M4</u>	<u>M5</u>	<u>MVet</u>	<u>L1</u>	<u>L2</u>	<u>L3</u>	<u>Mixed</u>
Copleston	1	10	10	11	6	11	6	9	10	10
Tuddenham Road	8	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	1
Framlingham	3	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Woodbridge	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Guardian (grass)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Away games*	11	13	12	12	11	11	10	10	12	9
Games played	23	28	25	24	20	23	20	22	23	20
Games cancelled	3	2	4	3	5	6	6	3	1	5

\* Away games include one for each Saturday and/or Sunday tournament entered.

Mens home games = 73; Mens away games = 70  
 Ladies home games = 33; Ladies away games = 32  
 Mixed home games = 11; Mixed away games = 9

Total games played = 228; Total games cancelled = 38

% matches played at home: Men, 51.3 %; Ladies, 50.8 %; Mixed, 55.0 %.  
 % Home 'astro' matches: Men, 98.6 %; Ladies, 97.0 %; Mixed, 100 %.

We paid 5 late cancellation fees to Copleston. In addition to the above, the Club played 5 'Cup' matches, all away and about 6 midweek Mixed matches at Framlingham for which the pitch costs were shared.

**(iv) Social Committee Report (Editor's report):**

The move to Rushmere Sports Club provided the scope and impetus to put on a revitalised social and fundraising programme. Most credit for organising events should go to Avril Adams, Stu Gooderham and John Pope. The events included a Craft Fair, Christmas Karaoke Party, Race Night, Fantasy League, Lucky Numbers Draw and the Annual Dinner Dance. The total funds raised by Social events and related activities was £ 2589.27 and this is vital income for the Club. More in the new season .....

**(v) Youth Coaching Report (Ian Reed):**

Youth development has taken a giant leap forward this year with the very welcome increased help with coaching on Wednesday evenings and with managing the youth sides in games and tournaments. First and foremost, may I thank Charlie Farrow, Helen Price, Andy Murray, John Adams, David Walsh and the numerous others who have taken time to ensure that progress has been made. Once again, a number of juniors have filtered into our senior sides. We have taken part in the RAF Under-16 Cup, the Suffolk U-11's and U-13's tournament and the Felixstowe tournament. For the second year running we have produced our own mini hockey tournament with the first funded by 'Challenge Funding' and the second by generous Barclays Bank sponsorship. Hopefully this will continue as the sides taking part are primarily from Ipswich and it is a great introduction for schools to the sport at a young age and enables the teachers to meet other schools who play.

It is pleasing to see that we can win some of the time. Although the IES sides always acquit themselves well it is always difficult to create winning sides at an age group, because we are a club and not a school.

It is my hope that we can build on the increasing help by marketing ourselves now. This has not happened because the help has been limited or sporadic. We must, for instance, positively promote ourselves at Copleston School and help to ensure that the school can put out sides of 7 players for the Suffolk mini hockey tournament – that is an

important target for next year.

*Much more is happening – we were delighted to receive a grant from Ipswich Borough Council towards the costs of new goalkeeping equipment for the youth programme. There is a strong committee elected for the new season and developments such as a youth newsletter and fun day are all happening – Editor.*

#### **(vi) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Chris Hatch);**

For the record, the Mens 1st X1 league matches were umpired by ECHUA appointees whilst the 1st X1 friendlies and most of the Mens seconds games and were umpired by members of the SCHUA and the Club is grateful to these organisations for this essential contribution. Men's 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4th, 5th and Vets X1 games had to rely on self-help but a good standard of umpiring was provided throughout with Nigel Munson, Jon Oakley, John Pope, Ian Reed and Chris Hatch taking responsibility for much of the league umpiring for these teams. John Bendall, Chris Hatch, and Eleanor Knowland were prominent among those who regularly umpired as the Ladies 1sts neutral appointee in the Suffolk Ladies Premier Division mutual pool and sometimes umpired another match as well on the same day. Several of our other Level 1 umpires also contributed appointments in this pool as well as contributing umpiring for the 2nd and 3rd X1's.

John Jay and Chris Hatch again organised the annual SCHA Level 1 qualification course in our premises, and it was encouraging that Ray Black, Steph Cook, Rachel Tremaine, Anne-Marie Edney and David Walsh attended from our Club and all passed the exam. Ray went on to complete his assessment and qualify by the end of the season and the others should aim to follow suit as soon as possible – we need every qualified umpire we can get ! That said, the Level 1 or better qualified umpires list of IES members by the end of the season was as follows:- John Adams, John Bendall, Ray Black, Peter Blake, Graham Brookman, Jo Celerier, Charlie Farrow, Chris Hatch, Helen Jay, John Jay, Eleanor Knowland, Mel Maguire, Simon Martin, Nigel Munson, Jon Oakley, Cathy Piddington, John Pope, Ian Reed, David Taylor, Geoff Tindall and John Wright.

Chris Hatch will formally act as the Club's non-pool umpire appointments coordinator for the coming season. All members are encouraged to acquire formal umpiring qualifications – it will help to sustain the Club and it will help your game.

#### **End of Season Team Reports: (1998/1999)**

##### **a) Mens 1st X1 (Danny Mayhew);**

The two main aims of the men's first team in the 1998/1999 season were to improve on their semi-final position in the Hockey Association Trophy competition as well as fulfilling their potential in Premier B league. To achieve this, the squad was boosted by the arrival of a number of key players to the club although injuries and unavailabilities prevented the strongest team being fielded on several occasions. This was the case when the squad travelled away to Worthing in the fourth round of the Trophy competition to play a side which, on paper, should not have been the cause of much concern. However, despite taking the lead and missing the opportunity to increase the lead through a penalty flick, the side were eventually beaten on penalty flicks following a 1-1 draw after extra-time.

In the league, it soon became obvious that Pelicans were going to be the team to beat, but following defeats for IES in two hard fought games Pelicans had built an insurmountable lead. With second place apparently not carrying a promotion opportunity, the side strived for their best league position in the club's history and achieved this by clinching second place despite a number of strong sides competing for the accolade. Following the success of Peterborough in the National League play-offs, promotion was the reward of finishing in second-place and despite being a daunting task, the members are looking forward to the challenge of Premier A hockey.

*(I think in the words of Churchill – this is our finest hour ! – Very well done and congratulations – Editor)*

##### **b) Ladies 1st X1 (Editor's report);**

The statistics tell of a fine season, indeed equalling the best league finish since Ladies hockey started at I-ES in 1989. However, we had to accept second place in the Suffolk Premier Division, missing out on the play-offs for promotion to the East Super League as a draw in the last game was insufficient to secure the top spot. The squad showed tremendous commitment to both playing and training throughout the season and should be formidable in the next campaign when promotion must be the main objective. At the start of the season, a number of new players were welcomed from Woodbridge and other clubs and rapidly melded into a highly competitive side. It has to be hoped that this is just the foundation for a highly successful Millennium season for which Steph Cook will continue as captain and be supported by Annie Taylor and John Adams in the other team management roles.

##### **c) Mens 2nd X1 (John Adams);**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had a great season building on the work put in during the previous year. The policy of blending youth with experience proved a winning formula. James Mann was named the Club's Young Player of the Year, Simon Rose continued to make good progress and Graham Bendall more than justified his place in the team towards the end of the season. Ultimately, first team call-ups that caused a lack of continuity probably stopped us from winning the league, nevertheless, second place and promotion was still a major boost for the Club. It bodes well for the future and I wish my successor Peter Elsom an enjoyable season.

#### **d) Ladies 2nd XI (Jane De Boltz);**

The Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished as runaway Champions of Division 1 in the Hales Waste League, finishing with a superb victory of 10 – 0 over Lowestoft.

Considering there were many new faces at the start of the season, everyone quickly settled in, worked together, put in 100% effort and there was excellent team spirit. All this combined to soon produce a winning side. Only one league game was lost (that was on grass !) and two were drawn – so the outcome speaks for itself. Top goal scorer was Annette White with 18 league goals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI (but many more for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XIs – 35 in total), Jane De Boltz with 14 and Sally Elsom with 10.

Training was well attended with skills and fitness improving all the time, resulting to a few promotions to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team. The award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI player of the year went to Cathy Piddington and was well deserved.

Congratulations to everyone, let's keep training and enthusiasm up and look forward to a competitive year in the Premier Division next season.

*(And well done to Jane for showing great fortitude and leadership after getting a dreadful facial injury on January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Editor)*

#### **e) Mens 3rd XI (Graham Brookman);**

A successful season after the disappointment of relegation from Division 5NE last season with the team only just missing out on promotion at the end of this campaign.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 1998 the team set a club record beating Dereham IV by 17 - 0 in the league with goals from Graham Bendall, Darren Clark, Mike Harrison, Steve Deboltz, John Bentley (2), Guy Marshlain (2), Halley McCallum (3), and Peter Hopson (6).

It was especially pleasing to see the development of the youngsters with Graham Bendall moving up mid season to become a regular 2<sup>nd</sup> XI player. In addition we have seen Geoffrey Reed, William Fulker and Philip Bradbrook all have games for the 2nds and along with Steven Farrow have consolidated their places in the 3rds.

The development of the youngsters has been supported by the commitment and encouragement of the senior players and the success this season has to be attributed to them in the main. For his 17 league goals plus 8 in friendlies and tremendous work rate the 3<sup>rd</sup> team player of the year was Peter Hopson. Peter will be dropping back into defence next year to help support the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI push for the Fantasy League Trophy.

I am standing down from Management/Captaincy for next season and will hand over to the capable hands of Halley McCallum and Darren Clark.

#### **f) Ladies 3rd XI (Clare Rant);**

This was the Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> XI's first season in the Division One. We started the season with one aim - not to be relegated at the end of the season. This pessimism was quickly removed, following a very solid start to the season including several wins. The season got better and better with the team running second in the league at one point. Rather than join both the Ladies firsts and seconds in the Premier division, we decided to finish a respectable fourth.

Thanks go to the whole team for their commitment and enthusiasm shown during the season. Thanks also go to those second and first team players who helped us out in our hours of need.

Particular thanks go to Jeanette Rowell for her assistance as vice captain, Claire McBride our player of the year and also Gill Burch who stopped many a goal being scored against us - quite how no one ever knew. Thanks also to Anne-Marie Edney for playing every single position during the season without complaint.

#### **g) Mens 4th XI (David Walsh);**

On the whole this was a successful and enjoyable season, with the team finishing in second place in the league. The results were excellent at the start and end of the season, reflecting the fact that those were the periods when availability was good and we had a fairly settled side. Injuries and other absences, mainly due to inevitable shortages in higher teams, meant that we were without several key players in the middle part of the season and our form dipped as a result.

Young goalkeeper David Shaw had a fine season, and in front of him Jonathan Cox marshalled the defence splendidly. His guidance of teenagers Sam Bouttell and Steve Farrow in particular was one of the real plus points of the season and led to his award as 4<sup>th</sup> XI player of the year. Graham Ramsden held the midfield together throughout the season with personnel changing around him fairly regularly. Also playing mainly in midfield,

skipper David Walsh ended as leading scorer. However, despite creating many opportunities, on the whole we struggled to score enough goals.

John Pope's warm-ups meant there was no excuse for any slow starts in the matches! He, along with manager John Oakley, provided the captain with much-appreciated back-up, off the field throughout the season and on the field especially during his lengthy mid-season lay-off through injury. Looking forward to next season, it is of course unrealistic to set a target of a settled side in a 4th XI, but it is to be hoped that we can hold on to more of our young players for a little longer before they are promoted upwards, both for their own development and in order to have a better balance between youth and experience!

The captain would like to place on record his thanks to the whole squad for their generally high degree of commitment and reliability throughout the season.

#### **h) Mens 5th X1 (Andy Whiting):**

A disappointing start to the season with a loss of 9 – 0 at Bury could have been an omen for the future, as this year turned out to be a very difficult one for the Mens 5<sup>th</sup> X1. Of 20 games played we managed to win 4 and draw 2 – one hell of a record. However, it was not all doom and gloom as the scorelines did not do justice to the hard efforts of many of the players. As usual, sterling service from Terry Murray kept scorelines respectable and several of the newer players have shown potential for the future of the club. Thanks must go to the whole team when our backs were against the wall, with particular reference to:

Andy Whiting, Aaron Turner and Ian Robertson in defence, Phil Vernon everywhere and Neil Slade coming in at the tail end of the season (as Kevin Sullivan migrated to the 4ths) to show great character up front to support the dynamic running of skipper John Wright. Ian Harris, although playing only a few games, shows great potential and is a good prospect for the future. Stuart List's work rate in mid-field was as usual, impressive, and Richard Gray was his usual self. Marc Dexter showed much improvement at his position of left wing and should develop further. Shaun Denny's character was always there to give the team a laugh as well as providing moments of class in defence and support in attack.

To finish, the 5<sup>th</sup> X1 player of the season award went to Duncan Harris for outstanding commitment and attitude during matches and for his improving skill – we hope for a lot more from Duncan in the new season.

#### **i) Mens Veterans (Chris Hatch):**

The Veteran's season was both enjoyable and a fair balance of ups and downs in terms of results with just one game more lost than won when the last game was played on April 10th. We also gave a good account of ourselves in two tournaments at Colchester and Harleston without quite advancing to the semi-final stages. Camaraderie and commitment were good throughout although long term injuries to Brian Mitchell and Hugh Rowland meant that we did not always have all the regular squad available. Quite a few players who usually played for other Club sides helped make up numbers at times and the captain was grateful for this support. Indeed the season's out-turn was a credit to the Club in sometimes difficult circumstances and we were only responsible for one of the six games cancelled. We welcomed Tom Grant, Martin Oldfield and Peter Gray into the squad who effectively replaced the three who had hung up their astro boots at the end of the last season. Dave Gooch deserves special mention for playing outstandingly well in goal. Leading scorers were Barrie Whelpton (12), Jerry Hindle (12), Brian Mitchell (8), Hugh Rowland (3), Martin Oldfield (2), John Taylor (2), Chris Hatch (2). Fifteen other players contributed one each. John Taylor's selection for the England over-60's squad was a great credit to him and shows what can be done if you maintain your fitness and enthusiasm. Ian Reed is thanked for providing most of the vice-captain's duties when the captain was stuck in remote foreign locations. Grateful thanks to all non-squad umpires are due – but if you can umpire Veterans well, you can umpire anything ! Obviously it's good training.

Chris Hatch will again captain the side in 1999/2000 supported by new team secretary Ray Black.

#### **j) Mixed X1 (Helen Price):**

This season has been one of the most successful and social so far, both on and off the pitch. Simon Martin's hard work pre-season ensured a full fixtures list over the year. During the season we have called upon the talents of many 'new' mixed players from all the teams and in addition several keen people have stepped in, often at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, to pick up a whistle. Many thanks to you all and special mention of Steph Cook and Anne Edney who were successful in the (Level 1) umpiring exams and proved more than capable on the pitch and Andy Murray who was bullied into being Vice Captain. Thanks for your help.

Player of the Year – Annette White who tirelessly ran around the pitch scoring goals and occasionally even smiled !

Along with the regular fixtures, the mixed team entered the Felixstowe Mixed Tournament and lost only in the semi-final to the eventual winners. Gary Wardman-Browne re-discovered his scoring touch on his return to grass !

At the beginning of May, a squad of 20 headed off to the annual pilgrimage to Herne Bay, Kent, where sun, liquid refreshment and competitive hockey made for an enjoyable tour and the best yet with 4 wins from 6 games. A great team performance greatly aided by the new 'tourers', Hayley, Tara, Clare and the unforgettable 'DeBoltz Duo' .....nice hat Steve, where did you get it ?

## **Information concerning the build-up to the 1999/2000 season**

### **1. Training, Coaching and related activities for 1999/2000**

i) The summer 'Sweaties' club takes place every Monday evening from 8.00 – 10.00pm and offers a wide variety of social sport for a session fee of £2. Activities may be in the sports hall or outside on the grass and may include such diversions as rounders, basketball, football, badminton or cricket.....something different anyway. It is pitched at keeping club continuity going over the summer and providing some exercise and some sporting variety for our members. Enquiries about which sport is to be played on a given evening should be made to Avril on 01394 282766.

ii) Pre-season fitness training for all men and ladies will take place at Rushmere Sports Club on Wednesdays at 7.00pm from **14<sup>th</sup> July** until further notice (*sorry if this information has arrived after the start date - Editor*). Please try to arrive promptly and ready-changed. This is basically in the format of running and related exercises on the Rushmere sports field grass and is free of charge.

iii) Mens 1<sup>st</sup> X1 squad additional training is at Rushmere Sports Club on Mondays from 6.30 – 8.00 pm (it precedes the 'Sweaties' session). This training is free of charge and is ongoing from now – by arrangement with the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain, Martin Reader or with David Taylor.

iv) Rushmere Sports Club circuit training is available to members on Wednesday evenings 8.00 – 9.00 pm for a session fee of £1.50. This is a general RSC training opportunity and is available as a follow-on (or alternative) from the IES outdoor fitness training. Enquiries to the RSC office on 01473 272525.

v) Main skills training will again take place at Copleston School each Wednesday evening mostly between 7pm and 9pm. This year it will again be Men 7 - 8pm and Ladies 8 - 9pm. This will begin on **1st September**. (From 6pm until 7pm preceding this we will be continuing our coaching of Copleston and other junior players as part of a community sports-link cooperative programme). Skills training sessions at Copleston are free to fully paid-up members who play and pay regularly in the Saturday and/or Sunday Mixed match programme.

### **2. Club Day 1999/2000**

We have had to depart from the traditional season's opener of internal club games / trials due, basically, to the lack of a double-pitch site. It was decided that it is in the Club's best interests to start playing matches against other clubs from 4<sup>th</sup> September, due to needing to be ready for the early start to the Ladies league programmes (18<sup>th</sup> September) and the major step-up for the Mens 1sts to East Premier A.

That said, the social committee have booked the Rushmere SC Lounge and will organise an appropriate social event on the evening of Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have to sell tickets and will be hoping that everyone can support this to get the new season underway on the right note (yes – there will be music) and get everyone together as the new season opens.

### **3. Arrangements at Rushmere Sports Club during 1999/2000**

The arrangements are expected to be very similar to what was established during 98/99.

Good luck to everybody for the new season !!

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*