

# Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.btinternet.com/~ieshc.info/index.htm>  
Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.



## Annual Report for 1999 / 2000

### Editorial:

The Club achieved a great deal of success during 1999/2000, coming within one win of achieving all our realistic ambitions. <Continued after the results table>.

### Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 1999/2000

<u>Squad (X1)</u>		<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	22	6	1	15	29	69	29.5	10 (12)
	Friendly	4	1	0	3	4	13	25.0	
	Total	26	7	1	18	33	82	28.8	
<b>Ladies 1st</b>	League	22	20	1	1	127	13	93.2	1 (12) C
	Friendly	6	5	0	1	13	6	83.3	
	Total	28	25	1	2	140	19	91.1	
<b>Mens 2nd</b>	League	22	16	3	3	70	25	79.5	1 (12) C
	Friendly	5	2	2	1	20	17	60.0	
	Total	27	18	5	4	90	42	75.9	
<b>Ladies 2nd</b>	League	22	9	1	12	34	59	43.2	9 (12)
	Friendly	5	5	0	0	14	2	100.0	
	Total	27	14	1	12	48	61	53.7	
<b>Mens 3rd</b>	League	22	18	2	2	73	8	86.4	1 (12) C
	Friendly	6	2	3	1	15	11	58.3	
	Total	28	20	5	3	88	19	80.4	
<b>Ladies 3rd</b>	League	18	6	4	8	27	33	44.4	6 (10)
	Friendly	7	4	3	0	23	6	78.6	
	Total	25	10	7	8	50	39	54.0	
<b>Mens 4th</b>	League	22	8	6	8	40	34	50.0	6 (12)
	Friendly	5	3	0	2	8	6	60.0	
	Total	27	11	6	10	48	40	51.9	
<b>Mens 5th</b>	League	22	11	3	8	49	27	56.8	5 (12)
	Friendly	4	2	0	2	8	8	50.0	
	Total	26	13	3	10	57	35	55.8	
<b>Mens Vets</b>	Friendly	24	5	3	16	34	75	27.1	
<b>Mixed X1</b>	Friendly	17	9	5	3	50	31	67.6	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>255</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>59.0</b>	

\* (Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy, post-season Ladies play-off matches and 'extra' mid-week Mixed friendlies).

<Editorial continued from above the results table>

After an outstanding season, winning the Suffolk Ladies League for the first time, the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1 could not quite achieve promotion to the East League – frustrating our ambitions to play at the higher level. The Mens 1<sup>st</sup> X1 held their nerve and form when it counted to maintain East Premier ‘A’ status and can look forward to the challenges of the new season with great confidence. The Mens 2nds and 3rds both won their respective East League divisions and will play at a higher level in the new season. Our other league teams all competed well to achieve mid-table positions. We continue to build excellent relationships with Rushmere Sports Club - grateful thanks are due to Pearl, Katheryn, Tony and others - and hope that progress can be made soon on development of our own artificial pitch. Generous sponsorship from 'Thermecon' and 'Broadleaf Tree Specialists' provided funds for new playing shirts and additional training resources. Our youth coaching programme is highly popular and of enormous importance to the long term future of the Club. Ipswich Borough Council support and a major Sports Match grant have been received and are helping to develop our infrastructure and look forward to the future with confidence and optimism.

### **EHA Cup, AEWHA Cup/Plate & Ladies League play-offs . Summary of results**

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drawn</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>Venues</b>
Men, EHA Cup	2	1	0	1	2	5	1 Home + 1 Away
Ladies, EHA Cup	3	2	0	1	12	13	0 Home + 3 Away
Ladies East League p/o	4	2	1	1	12	4	2 Home + 2 Away
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3 Home + 6 Away</b>

### **Tournament results during 1999/00 (to semi-finals or better):-**

Ladies	Winners, Suffolk County Cup, Suffolk Indoor League, Suffolk Indoor League Cup
Men	Runners-up, Suffolk County Cup, Suffolk Indoor (Borrett) Cup, Suffolk Indoor League Cup
Boys U-13	Winners, Felixstowe U-13 Tournament
Mixed X1	Semi-finalists, Felixstowe Mixed Tournament

### **Representative Honours during 1999/00**

England Men Over-60 X1	John Taylor
Suffolk Men Senior X1	Charlie Farrow, Danny Mayhew, Colin Mannall. David Taylor (coaching)
Suffolk Men U-21 X1:	Simon Rose, Graham Bendall.
Suffolk Men U-17 X1:	Mark Lloyd, Phil Bradbrook
Suffolk Men U-16 X1:	Geoff Reed, Will Fulker

### **News from the Annual General Meeting on 16th May 2000**

The following elections were made at the AGM (or 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, Peter Elsom;  
Social Secretary, Avril Adams; Youth Committee, Charlie Farrow, Ian Reed, and David Walsh, Claire Pearsons

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Men</u></b>	<b><u>Ladies</u></b>
1st X1 Captain/Manager/Coach	Martin Reader, David Taylor, Vaughn Dearling	Captain/Secretary/John Adams
2nd X1 Captain/ Secretary	Peter Elsom, Vacancy	Tara O'Reilly, Claire Pearsons
3rd X1 Captain/ Secretary	Halley McCallum, Graham Brookman	Julie Lisseman, Claire McBride
4th X1 Captain/ Secretary/	David Walsh, Jon Oakley	
5th X1 Captain/Secretary	Andy Whiting, Kevin Sullivan, Duncan Vaughan	
6th X1 Captain/ Secretary	Chris Hatch, Ray Black	
Mixed X1 Secretary / Captain	Andy Murray	Annette White
Indoor League Captain	Andy Keedle	Abigail Adams
Fixtures Secretary	Halley McCallum	Jo Dexter
Press Officer	Stuart Gooderham	Maria Whelan
Umpire liaison & appointments		Liz Marshlain
County liaison	John Adams	N/a

**Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-****(i) Chairman's Report (John Adams);**

Once again, the Club had another superb season, on and off the pitch. With three League Champions in the Club, it shows what strength we have in depth. The Ladies enjoyed their best season in the Club's history and thoroughly deserved all their success - the commitment was exceptional. The Junior section continued to thrive with a long list of members enjoying success at County level. It was pleasing to see so many new faces getting involved with coaching the juniors. This is critical to the future of the Club.

The social events were once again well supported, but it would be good to see a few new faces. Well organised and great fun for everybody, they also had the bonus of raising a considerable sum of money. The great strength of IESHC as a Club is the social and friendly atmosphere - no other club can match this. This is fostered by the interaction between the Mens and Ladies' teams and the support both sections give each other. As a Club, we must strive to build on this to offer old and new members the opportunity to play our sport at whatever level they choose in such a brilliant atmosphere.

To all the Committee, thank you for your support during the season and all members of the Club who have got involved in various events. If anybody wishes to become a Committee Member and get more involved, please speak to me. It is vital to the future of the Club that we bring new people onto the Committee.

**(ii) Treasurer's Report (Chris Hatch);**

At the end of our 2nd season after moving to Rushmere Sports Club, 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. We should consider that the club provides a very attractive 'package' to members and it is in our own hands to build on this excellent foundation. The 'Copleston Contract' started from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1998 and we have now completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of 10 under this agreement. This guarantees us the three Saturday and one alternate Sunday playing slots until 2008, 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 or Sports College bid in return for the pitch slot guarantees and a further £10 reduction on Saturday bookings. Without this arrangement, the Club would not be runnable (on the basis that we now aim to play all home hockey on astro) and this contract is 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.

The 'traditional' contributions of the Veterans in waiving most travelling expenses, goalkeepers who provide their own kit and also by those who absorbed costs such as phone calls are gratefully acknowledged. The overall financial position has improved a little this year but there is no room for slack or complacency. The social and fundraising effort has been quite outstanding. Thanks are especially due to Avril Adams with support from Sue Stenson, Stu Gooderham, Andy Keedle and John Adams. They all deserve our thanks and admiration for their efforts. The financial structure for 2000/2001, 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);**

All 'home' games were played on astro pitches as listed in the table below. Some statistics are:

	<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	7	14	11	11	9	9	9	8	11
Tuddenham Road	2	3	1	0	0	0	5	3	2	0
Framlingham	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0
Woodbridge	7	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0
Away games*	16	15	13	15	13	13	14	15	12	6
Games cancelled**	1	3	2	3	2	5	1	2	3	9

\* Away games include one for each Saturday tournament entered.

\*\* Excludes 'defaulted' league games, for which pitch costs were recovered.

In addition to the above, the Club played 9 Play-off and 'Cup' matches and about 6 midweek Mixed matches at

Framlingham for which the pitch costs were shared.

#### **(iv) Social & Fundraising Report (Editor's report):**

As mentioned in the Chairman's Report, the Social (and fundraising) activities of the Club were a great success and a vital part of our fabric and cohesion as a Club. Avril Adams, as social Secretary, deserves our thanks and admiration for another sustained year of effort and enthusiasm in leading the organisation of all this. Sue Stenson and Avril put a great deal into organising our 2<sup>nd</sup> Craft Fayre - which should now be an annual event and which was highly successful for all concerned and provided the largest single sum of fund-raised income for the Club. The other events run, with credit to the main organisers were:

Caribbean Party (Avril Adams), Christmas Karaoke Party (Avril Adams & Stu Gooderham); 'Lucky Numbers' Draw (Avril Adams); Christmas Draw (Avril Adams); Valentines Party (Avril Adams), Quiz Night (John & Avril Adams and Stu Gooderham); Fantasy League (Andy Keedle & Stu Gooderham); Annual Dinner, (John Adams);

Some Summer 2000 and new season social events are listed at the end of this report. Have fun !

#### **(v) Youth Coaching Report (Editor & Ian Reed):**

Youth development has continued to be very popular with the youngsters this year with Charlie Farrow taking over as main organiser and putting a lot of his style, organisational flair and enthusiasm into maintaining a bouyant programme of training, games and tournaments. Charlie had great support with the coaching and organisation by Helen Price, Andy Murray, David Walsh, Jane De Boltz, Claire Pearsons, Colin Mannall, Ian Reed and others. Once again, a number of juniors have filtered into our senior sides. The youth programme is part of the structured community 'SportsLink' programme run by Copleston Centre and the Club is most grateful to Copleston for the free provision of the pitch for the youth coaching sessions and some competitive games.

We again took part in the RAF Under-18 Cup (beating Felixstowe but going out to Framlingham College), the Suffolk U-11's and U-13's tournament (reaching the quarter finals) and the Felixstowe tournament (winning the U-13s). Various games at U-11 level were played against Sudbury HC, Ipswich School and Woodbridge School. It is pleasing to see that we can win some of the time and a number of our young players got selected at Suffolk representative level.

We were delighted to receive a grant from Ipswich Borough Council towards the costs of new goalkeeping equipment for the youth programme. Furthermore, a substantial grant was received from SportsMatch which will provide funds for coach development and a number of other desirable objectives.

A strong committee has been elected for the new season and there is much to look forward to.

#### **(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>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and Vets X1 games had to rely on self-help but a good standard of umpiring was provided throughout. After 'retiring' from the Veterans, Ian Reed umpired most of the Mens 3rds games, with Jon Oakley and Stephen Harris umpiring a good many of the 4ths and 5ths respectively. Chris Hatch did games for the Vets, when not playing and occasional appointments for the 2nds in lieu of a pool umpire or when the opposition asked us to provide two.

We had to provide 2 'neutral' umpires for each of our Suffolk Ladies Premier teams. The majority of these appointments were covered by Chris Hatch, John Bendall, Simon Martin and Nigel Munson. Contributions were also made by Alan Fairweather, John Pope, John Adams, John Wright and Anne-Marie Edney and others. These same umpires mostly officiated also for the Ladies 3rds in the Suffolk 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

John Jay and Alan Fairweather organised two Umpires Level 1 qualification courses during the season. There were fewer IES candidates than in recent years, which was a touch disappointing. However, Anne-Marie Edney and Stephen Harris completed their L1 qualifications and were added to the official umpires list.

The Level 1, or better, qualified umpires list of current IES members by the end of the season was as follows:- John Adams, John Bendall, Ray Black, Peter Blake, Graham Brookman, Anne-Marie Edney, Charlie Farrow, Stephen Harris, Chris Hatch, Helen Jay, John Jay, Mel Maguire, Simon Martin, Nigel Munson, Jon Oakley, Cathy Piddington, John Pope, Ian Reed, David Taylor, and John Wright.

Chris Hatch will again 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: (1999/2000)**

#### **a) Mens 1st X1 (Martin Reader);**

What a season it has been for us. As usual we as the underdogs were tipped by our opposition to go straight back to Premier B and thankfully they were wrong !

We knew it was going to be tough especially meeting both Crostyx and Cambridge University in the first two weeks of the league. As the new boys we were extremely consistent through the first half of the season playing good hockey for only part of each game, thus allowing our opponents to get into their rhythm. Having a small squad due to injuries and unavailability did not help matters.

After Christmas we were a different team. Whilst we found it hard against the likes of Cambridge University, Colchester and Ipswich we showed we had learned a lot. We proved we were good enough to be in Premier A and not phased by the competition. Our goal this season was to maintain Premier A status which, thanks to all concerned, we were able to achieve in a thrilling game against Pelicans on the last weekend of the league season. This felt as good as getting promotion the year before.

Our success has been attributed to the hard work in training and on the pitch of all the players involved - not only the starting eleven but the other squad members as well. The introduction of Vaughn Dearling as Coach has paid healthy dividends by sharing his technical knowledge and experience to everybody at training. Lastly but by no means least, thanks must go to the Club committee for the organisation behind us, for working relentlessly to get a pitch for us to train on and the Sponsors their financial support. Congratulations must also go to Colin Mannall for winning the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 player of the season award, which was thoroughly deserved.

As preparation for next season will soon be underway, we look forward to doing it all again. If we can work hard during the summer months through fitness training and staying together as well as finding a few new high-calibre players (as unfortunately most of us are the wrong side of thirty), we should finish in the top half of the table.

Finally, I would like to say that I have enjoyed being Captain immensely. It has not been the easiest of seasons but probably, as it turned out, the most rewarding of my hockey career.

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

Champions of the Suffolk Ladies League for the first time and winners of all the major County outdoor and indoor tournaments ! A great run in the EHA Cup and a chance to play a leading National League side. The commitment was tremendous - as described in the Chairman's report. An overall playing record of better than 91% success was testimony to the organisation, Stephanie's captaincy, John's coaching, good players and positive attitude all round. Kirsten Civil was the Premier's leading scorer with 40 goals and we finished a remarkable 12 points clear of the runners-up. From the season after next, the East League should provide more opportunity for ambitious clubs and another good season should ensure we are in position to compete at this level.

#### **c) Mens 2nd X1 (Peter Elsom);**

Before any league campaign begins it is important to set an achievable target so that the players have something to work for. At the beginning of the season the target was set "to win the league". I am pleased to report that the target was achieved with room to spare.

In a season that was very "stop-start", particularly after Christmas, it was commendable that concentration levels were maintained but also illustrates the fact that if we want a decent standard of hockey, where teams will turn up, we must progress even further up the hockey ladder. The season itself was not about individuals but a squad that grew in character as the season went on, a blend of youthful experience from the senior players and emerging talent from the youngsters.

So now that the season is confined to history on a Chris Hatch "hard disk", we turn our attention to a new challenge in Division Three. It is difficult to predict what might happen as players come and go but I make no apologies for the fact that I will be delving into the transfer market to strengthen the squad. Players wanting the challenge of Division Three hockey will rise to the competition for places which will, in turn, make us a stronger club.

Finishing second is not an option - no-one remembers runners-up - and this is why I will be expecting to win the league again this forthcoming year.

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

A well fought and admirable season for the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. After gaining promotion to the premier division and a bit of a 'shaky' start (or should I say 'shocking' in more ways than one!), we soon settled in and played some excellent hockey. We retained our good team spirit from last season with everyone working extremely hard for each other and sheer determination paid off on many occasions - or was it the Port!!! Probably our best hockey was played against our Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI and, I'm sure they'd agree, we gave them a good run for their money - as promised.

WELL DONE team - we achieved our aim, to remain in the premier division, even reaching the dizzy heights of 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league at one point. It's been a tough season, we've battled hard but never given up and, as a result of the experiences of this season, have got a good basis to build upon for next season and improve our final position of ninth.

Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Player of the Season was put to the vote and the runaway winner was :

Avril Adams, who is always enthusiastic with lots of drive, energy and encouragement, saving us on many an occasion - a real stalwart of the team.

Top goalscorer - you've guessed it - Annette White, who scores a lot more when hung over!!!

Many thanks to everyone who played. Hope you all enjoyed it, as I have done as Captain for the last two seasons and, since I shall be stepping down from the role next year, I'd like to say a big Diolch Yn Fawr to the team for all your support, all the very best to my successor and Iechyd-dda !!!

#### **e) Mens 3rd XI (Halley McCallum);**

Entering a higher division would to some teams seem a little daunting, but not so for the 3<sup>rd</sup> team. We started slowly but after a good run and a lot of help in the speed department from the younger team members we won our division easily. Ian Reed provided great support as the regular umpire after retiring from the Veterans.

Indeed, the Mens 3<sup>rd</sup>s achieved the proud distinction of being the only team, out of more than 100 in the East League, to concede a single-figure number of goals from the 22 league games - in fact just 7 !

Going into a new league for the second year running we will accept the old campaigners from the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with open arms and hope that the younger 3<sup>rd</sup> team players will be used to consolidate the 2<sup>nd</sup> team's position in the hope that they are not relegated just a season after getting promoted.

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

The ladies thirds had a very average start to the season, we won some and lost some, finishing mid table at Christmas. It all started to go horribly wrong in the new year. Having endured a string of losses we found ourselves in the relegation zone. (Not our fault you understand.) The prospect of relegation and playing next season on grass proved a turning point and from then on we couldn't stop winning, finishing a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Despite a rather shaky season, we played the best hockey ever seen by the team - at times it looked really very good - honest Andy. Worth a specific mention are Heather Haywood who showed marked improvement during the season, Rachel Black who worked tirelessly in defence and even managed to be on time for the games and Jill Page who controlled the back line in an apparently effortless manner. That said the whole team showed great enthusiasm and commitment throughout the season, I'd like to mention you all. Finally thanks to Julie Lisseman for her sterling work as vice captain and good luck for the coming season as the new captain.

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

The 4<sup>th</sup>s ended the season in the top half of division 7SE, a very creditable effort having won promotion last year. There was a much better blend of youth and experience this year than last, Ian Harris (player of the year), Charles Coulson and Tim Fletcher (all under 15) showing promise while Mark Howlett in goal, Matt Lowe and Jon Cox at

the back, Graham Ramsden and John Bentley in midfield provided stability. David Walsh ended the season as leading scorer for the third consecutive season.

It was good this year to have been able to develop a number of players from the 5ths as well as bring in stalwarts from the 3rds! Highlights of the league programme included a hard-earned draw at Southend on grass, beating Maldon at home and of course the heroic victory against Felixstowe 2nds in our last match which meant we avoided relegation.

Jon Oakley umpired the vast majority of the matches as well as doing the bulk of the phoning around each week. Without his commitment the team would have struggled this year.

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

With a poor early start to the season fears of a repeat of last year abounded. But as the matches went by, and the team moulded into a unit again following the summer break things started to go right for the Men's 5th team.

With the introduction of players from the 4th team, and also some new young players into the Club, results started to turn in our favour. The run of three winning matches leading up to Christmas break giving a high that has been missing within the team for some time. We returned after the Christmas lay off and continued to play good hockey. We had managed to lift ourselves out of the bottom of the table and were now comfortable in the mid table position and ended the season in a very satisfactory and creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The 5th team has benefited from improvements in all areas of play and several changes of position for some players. Notably Kevin Sullivan, having lost his goal scoring touch with the 4th Team has now developed into a strong Central Defender/Sweeper, becoming worthy of the Player of the Year Award.

Others including Neil Slade, Alex Borrick Marc Dexter, Duncan Vaughan Phil Vernon and Duncan Harris, to name a but a few, have all had good seasons and we hope the momentum will continue for next year. All members of the squad for the past year should be commended on the team spirit and dedication to the Club.

Support from the Club and Umpires throughout the season is also duly noted and very much appreciated. If only a few of those early matches had gone our way promotion could have been possible.

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

The Veteran's season was enjoyable albeit with a modest playing record compared with recent seasons. Camaraderie and commitment were good throughout although there were clear signs of fitness problems and we were always 'on the wire' for having 11 players and an umpire available for any given match. 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.

Terry Murray came into the squad as goalkeeper and deserves special mention for playing outstandingly well and keeping us in many of the games. Ian Reed was much missed after retiring in November to become the 3rds umpire and injuries to Hugh Rowland, Ian Robertson and Kev Foster were unfortunate for both them and the squad.

Leading scorers were Barrie Whelpton (12), Brian Mitchell (7), Ray Black (3), Hugh Rowland, Kev Foster, John Taylor, Olli Knowland and Stu List – (2) each, with Jerry Hindle and Chris Hatch providing (1) each. Jerry was asked to play as sweeper for most games – this provided cover at the back but probably resulted in far fewer goals at the other end. Dave Gooch played well as occasional goalkeeper or deep in the defence and Tom Grant ran with tireless enthusiasm. John Taylor's continuing 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. Ray Black is thanked for providing support as the Team Secretary. Grateful thanks are due to all non-squad umpires, in particular, John Bendall. After considering the options, it was decided to discontinue regular Veterans hockey and re-form the team as the Club's 6<sup>th</sup> X1, entering the East League for the 2000-2001 season.

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

An enjoyable season with a good playing record, if a bit punctuated with the number of games cancelled. Thanks are due to Simon Martin for arranging the fixtures list and Andy Murray for support as the Team Secretary. Encounters with Willis were frequent and always entertaining - with half the other side coming from IES ! The season ended well with a good performance at the Felixstowe tournament and a great weekend at the Hearn Bay tournament. Good Luck to Annette White as Captain for next season !

## Information concerning the build-up to the 2000/2001 season

### 1. Training, Coaching and related activities for 2000/2001

i) The summer 'Sweaties' club - every Monday evening 8.00 - 9.00. Varied 'social' sport other than hockey. Session fee of £2.00

ii) Pre-season fitness training for all men and ladies will take place at Rushmere Sports Club on Mondays at 6.30pm from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** until further notice (*sorry if this information has arrived after the start date - Editor*). (Training takes place before the 'Sweaties' session). 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 to be held at Rushmere Sports Club. This training is free of charge. Arrangements are still being made. Check details with the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain, Martin Reader or with David Taylor.

iv) 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 (subject to review, if a Tuesday evening session we have applied for comes about). This will begin on **23<sup>rd</sup> August**. (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. Start of the 2000/2001 season

There will no 'Club Day' as such, due to the unavailability of a double pitch site. The Club is booking friendly fixtures for a full programme on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** (i.e - 6 Mens games + 3 ladies games) as part of the preparation for the League campaigns. The Ladies League starts on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the Mens league on 30<sup>th</sup> September (subject to confirmation).

### 3. Social events for Summer 2000 and the new season

We already have a lot of events arranged - so important dates for your diary are:

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July, 2.00 - 5.00pm	Mixed doubles tennis tournament & cream tea at Rushmere
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Outdoor volleyball tournament & barbecue at Rushmere
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 8.00 pm	Race Night at Rushmere
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Halloween 'Mask Party' with 'De Ja Vu' at Rushmere
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 11.00 am - 4.00pm	Craft Fayre at Rushmere
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Karaoke Party at Rushmere

For more information and tickets on all these events, call Avril on 01394 282766

### 4. Arrangements at Rushmere Sports Club during 2000/2001

The arrangements are expected to be very similar to what was established during the past two seasons.

Good luck to everybody for the new season !!

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