

# Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

http://www.ieshc.org  
Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.



## Annual Report for 2004 / 2005

### Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

Shortly before this report was finalised, the Club was distressed to hear that Richard Martyn Gray, a member since 1986, died in the London bomb outrages of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005. Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Richard's family, especially his wife Louise and children Adam and Ruby.

On the hockey field the Club had a moderate season during 2004/05 during which the Ladies 2nds and Mens 3rds had good finishes in their respective divisions but our other four teams generally struggled and were all relegated. Despite the relegations, attitudes remained positive and buoyant and members looked forward to their weekly game.

<Continued after the results table>.

### IES - Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2004/2005

<i>Squad (X1)</i>		<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>% Success</i>	<i>League Position</i>
<b>Mens 1</b>	League	22	2	5	15	44	93	20.5	12 (12) R
	Friendly	4	1	0	3	8	18	25.0	
	Total	26	3	5	18	52	111	21.2	
<b>Ladies 1</b>	League	22	3	0	19	27	80	13.6	11 (12) R
	Friendly	3	1	1	1	6	7	50.0	
	Total	25	4	1	20	33	87	18.0	
<b>Mens 2</b>	League	22	2	3	17	16	98	15.9	12 (12) R
	Friendly	4	1	0	3	4	13	25.0	
	Total	26	3	3	20	20	111	17.3	
<b>Ladies 2</b>	League	22	15	4	3	59	21	77.3	3 (12)
	Friendly	3	1	0	2	3	8	33.3	
	Total	25	16	4	5	62	29	72.0	
<b>Mens 3</b>	League	22	11	4	7	65	42	59.1	4 (12)
	Friendly	3	0	1	2	4	7	16.7	
	Total	25	11	5	9	69	49	54.0	
<b>Ladies 3</b>	League	22	1	4	17	8	94	13.6	12 (12) R
	Friendly	2	1	0	1	3	4	50.0	
	Total	24	2	4	18	11	98	16.7	
<b>Mens 4/Vets</b>	League	N/a							N/a
	Friendly	2	2	0	0	7	3	100.0	
	Total	2	2	0	0	7	3	100.0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>153</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>40.0</b>	

(Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy, tournaments and 'extra' mid-week Mixed Friendlies  
P = Promoted, R = Relegated.

<Editorial continued from above the results table>

Although successes were mostly elusive, high points included runner-up finishes in two of the Suffolk Indoor competitions, a place for Geoff Reed in the Suffolk Senior mens squad when they came runners-up in the National Championships (the best result for Suffolk in 24 years), several young players representing Suffolk in various age-group squads and an equal 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Suffolk Summer League for the Ladies.

We continue to maintain excellent relationships with Rushmere Sports Club - grateful thanks are due to Sonia & John (for the Teas), Roger Osborne, Avril Adams in her Rushmere capacity and others. Off the pitch it is worth recording that IES again provided a considerable part of the Suffolk HA's management including Hon Treasurer (Chris Hatch), Suffolk Indoor League Organiser (Chris Hatch), Suffolk Rep to Schools Committee (John Adams), Suffolk Schools & Youth Chairman (Ian Reed), Suffolk Schools & Youth Treasurer (Ian Watson), Suffolk Schools & Youth Secretary (David Walsh), Girls U-17 Manager (Avril Adams), Boys U-15 Coach (Ian Reed), Suffolk Mini Hockey Organiser (Ian Reed). No other Suffolk club comes remotely near this level of commitment to organising the sport in and around our County.

The Club's interactive club web site, [www.ieshc.org](http://www.ieshc.org), designed and managed by Andrew Keedle, continued to be developed and provided the Club with a professional and powerful resource to distribute all sorts of information on what we are about and how we organise ourselves. It was updated and refreshed on almost a daily basis and few other clubs come anywhere near this level of web-enabled communications and members feedback capability.

The Club's social & fundraising programme was successful with several enjoyable events and the now well-established Craft Fayre in November.

Our youth coaching programme again proved highly popular and of enormous importance to the long term future of the Club and for which the Youth sub-committee and coaches under the leadership of Ian Reed, with strong coaching support from Steven Farrow, Chris Hatch and Geoffrey Reed deserve special recognition and thanks.

#### **EHA Mens Cup & Ladies Vase. 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 Trophy							Did not enter event
Ladies, EHA Trophy	1	0	0	1	3	4	1 Home

#### **Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2004/05:-**

Ladies Runners-up, Suffolk Indoor League Cup.  
Men Runners-up, Suffolk 'Borrett' Indoor Cup.

#### **Representative Honours during 2004/05**

Suffolk Men Senior X1 Squad Geoffrey Reed

Other Suffolk or East Junior Squads Megan Adams, Hannah Godfrey, David Messent, James Howe, Abigail Elsom

#### **News from the Annual General Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

*The following elections were made at the AGM (or by subsequent committee appointment):*

President, John Taylor;

Chairman, John Adams;

Secretary, Laura Collinson;

Business Manager, Men's Team Secretary, Astro Pitch Liaison & Umpire Appointments Officer, Chris Hatch;

Social Secretary; *vacancy*

Youth Officer, Ian Reed

#### **Position**

1st X1 Captain/V-Captain  
2nd X1 Captain/ V-Captain  
3rd X1 Captain/ V-Captain  
4th X1 Captain/ V-Captain  
Mixed X1 Captain / Secretary  
Indoor League Captain  
Fixtures Secretary  
Press Officer  
County Liaison Officer  
Ladies League Liaison  
Web Site Manager  
Head Coach

#### **Men**

Steven Farrow / Guy Marshlain  
Jason Pettit / Graham Ramsden  
Hugh Rowland / Barrie Whelpton  
Chris Hatch /  
Simon Martin  
Steven Farrow  
Peter Blake  
*vacancy*  
Steve Clark  
  
Andrew Keedle  
Peter Blake

#### **Ladies**

Claire Pearsons / Maria Whelan  
Cathy Cook / Gill Burch  
Kim Caley / Sophie White  
  
Maria Whelan (A); Gill Burch (B)  
Amanda Todd  
Laura Collinson  
  
John Adams  
  
*vacancy*

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

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

This was a difficult season in terms of the hockey played and the fact that four of our six teams were relegated although our Ladies 2nds and Mens 3rds were relatively successful, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in their respective league divisions. I thank the Captains for their great effort put in throughout the season. Despite some of the adverse results, our members enjoyed their hockey and were always ready to compete in every game.

As a result of some reorganisation of the East League, our Mens 1sts and 2nds are being transferred to the North East quadrant for 05/06 and will play in Divs 3NE and 4NE respectively. The Mens 3rds are to continue in SE (Div 7) for 05/06, due to no suitable level transfer to NE being available.

Our junior coaching programme was successfully continued under the leadership of Ian Reed, with thanks also due to other coaches, Jaffa Farrow, Geoffrey Reed and Chris Hatch.

We enjoyed a varied social programme, which culminated in a great night at the Club dinner with 100 members and guests present. The traditional Craft Fayre raised some £700 and was again our largest fundraising event. All organisers of our social events are thanked for their contributions to maintain this essential aspect of the Club's activities.

Finally, I should like to thank all the Club Committee members for their hard work, often 'behind the scenes' but essential for the efficient and professional running of the Club.

### **(ii) Business Manager's Report (Chris Hatch):**

At the end of our 7th season (7 years already – goodness!) 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, although a financial loss of £949 was recorded following a decision to sharply reduce subscriptions for 04/05. We had a difficult season in terms of 4 of our 6 teams being relegated but it was good to welcome several new members.

This last winter was reasonable for weather with comparatively few of the league games postponed due to snow & ice. After September, very few Friendly games were played – reflecting the view now pertaining that hockey is mainly about the League programmes. Reduced subscription and match fee income generally reflected the sharp reduction in subscriptions and the loss of another Mens team, compared with the previous season.

The 'Copleston Contract' started from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1998 and we have now completed the 7<sup>th</sup> season of 10 under this agreement. This guarantees us the three Saturday and Sunday morning youth coaching slots until 2008, together with the usual Wednesday evening training time, all at 20% discounts plus a further £10 reduction on Saturday bookings. We paid the agreed capital payment three seasons ago and we have been continuing to note the benefits of the associated discounts for each booking used. 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. Once again it needs to be emphasised that the members who run the youth coaching programme are providing the whole club with a de-facto subsidy of 20% on their hockey costs.

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 those who waived most travelling expenses, goalkeepers who provided their own kit and also by those who absorbed costs such as phone calls are gratefully acknowledged. The overall financial position has been deliberately impaired a little this year and we need to take this forward with due caution. However, the Committee felt it was appropriate to offer another compelling membership package for 05/06 in terms of a further reduction in subscriptions and no increases in match fees – very much with a view to attracting new members and expanding the number of teams in due course.

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

The Chairman's report above gives brief details of the Social and Fundraising events run during 2004/05 and due acknowledgement to the members who organised them. The highly successful Craft Fayre, run by Sue Stenson and Avril Adams (and supported by many of the Club ladies in particular), was the main money earner. Altogether the net fundraising income across all events was around £600, as we subsidised the Club Day bbq & sports hall hire, and other events broadly broke even or made a small profit. Laura Collinson was Social secretary for the season, and put in a lot of effort, especially on Club Day.

### **(iv) Youth Coaching Report (Ian Reed's report):**

We had quality rather than quantity of youngsters to coach during 04-05, with just one team participating in the Harpers junior county league at U-11 level. Clearly we need more youngsters to commit to both the Club coaching and the sport in general. We are well off for qualified coaches for the youth programme and there is therefore a sound basis for moving forward in this area. Two of our young girls played for their school, Orwell Park, and were part of a national competition winning team and our boys U-11 goalkeeper was selected for the Suffolk team in this age group. Next season we will be aiming to run a girls U-13 team in the county league, although we need a goalkeeper. We will be aiming to get more of the local state schools involved and will be looking towards Chantry

School, in particular, now they are well positioned to promote hockey with their newly available astro pitch.

### **(v) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Chris Hatch):**

For the record, the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Division 2N League matches and most friendlies were umpired by members of the SCHUA. Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Division 1 East League games were umpired by ERHUA or SCHUA neutral pool appointees, including club appointees to the latter pool. The Club is, as always, most grateful to these two organisations for this essential contribution. Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> X1 games were umpired by IES Club appointees. For our official Saturday and Sunday programme (including some neutral pool appointments for the SCHUA and 'favours' for other clubs), 3 or more games were umpired by Chris Hatch (41 games), John Oakley (18), Steve Clark (16), Steve de Boltz (8), Ian Reed (5), James Nayler (4), Graham Ramsden (3) and Jerry Hindle (3). Eleven others (all Level 1 or Level 1T qualified) umpired 14 games between them. John Adams and Chris Hatch also contributed significantly to the SHA Indoor League umpiring, with 30 and 22 games respectively. Ian Reed umpired at some of the Suffolk Youth Tournaments and similar junior age group events.

Nearly all of the Club's 'Level 1' Umpires contributed to the total effort. However, it is a matter of concern that England Hockey and the various umpires associations still want to push the idea of umpires having to do a minimum of 5 games in a season to maintain their qualification. This would be disastrous for IES on the basis of the above profile and is being resisted – simply on the grounds of practicality and player-umpire availability. Recently, Andrew Keedle and Jerry Hindle became fully qualified Level 1 umpires and Alastair Kelly became part qualified to L 1T. Chris Hatch will again act as the Club's non-pool umpire appointments coordinator for the coming season.

### **Review of the 2004/05 season – with Captain's reports or Editor's comments:**

#### **The Mens 1st X1 (Editor's report)**

This turned out to be another difficult season for the Mens 1sts, as 12<sup>th</sup> place and relegation from Div 2N was to prove. The team was very well motivated and managed by Guy Marshlain and Dave Taylor throughout and everybody seemed to enjoy the weekly challenge of striving for league points despite being disappointed more often than not. The club welcomed some new players to the 1sts squad, although these same players were only available until Christmas before going off to travel the world!

The early promise of a 4-0 friendly win against Felixstowe was soon tempered by a 10-2 loss to an outstanding Spalding team in the first league game. Perhaps this undermined confidence as several defeats were sustained, usually only by close margins, before a point was put on the table with a 4-4 draw with Ipswich 3rds. Two further draws found the team with just 3 points by the Christmas break. Finally, on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, the side managed to assemble its strongest possible team for virtually the only time in the season and thrashed Cambs Uni 3rd by 5-1. Another draw with Ipswich 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 3-2 win over UEA in the last game showed further resolve to finish on a high note and lay the foundations for a recovery in the 05/06 season. Despite defeat in 15 of the league games, the side scored in 18 of the 22 games and this offers the prospect of doing well against the defences likely to be encountered in a lower division.

#### **Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1 (Claire Pearsons writes)**

The ladies first team knew at the beginning of the season that they faced a tough challenge, but to their credit their attitude, commitment and team spirit was never lacking.

Our first game was away to newly relegated Bury who were keen to get straight back to the Premier League. We lost 2-1 but it was an impressive start to our season and in the first half the game appeared to be going our way. This sums up the ladies firsts season, winning one half of the game! We seemed to lack the fitness and belief towards the end of the second half in many games. The pace of the game in our new league gave us a sense of awe at times!

With the lead up to the Christmas break we were yet to win two halves of a game. However this did not deter the girls and we pulled out an amazing win against Norwich City with Annette White on cracking form, slamming home five goals. It was great to win in front of such a positive crowd of supporters. Thanks have to go to Deb Godfrey for drilling us at Ipswich School prior to the match!

There were many close games this season in which we really should have dug out a win or a draw, but it wasn't to be. Peterborough away was a classic example of this and I really felt for the girls when we lost the game 3-2 because they so deserved to come away with three points.

In some games we were outclassed, but in the return fixtures with these teams the score lines were much more respectable. After the Christmas break we played the return match against Upminster, the high score line from the first encounter in the forefront of our minds. However, the game ended with a narrow 2-1 defeat.

Despite being relegated, the girls have done themselves proud in what was always going to be a tough season. We have had a sociable and hard playing season.

### **Mens 2nd X1 results (Graham Ramsden writes)**

Even though the team had dropped down a league it was always going to be a tough season. We were still facing several 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the league. On the positive side we won three times as many games as last season but 3 wins in 26 matches is not a record to be happy with. Up to Christmas Peter Day had done most of the legwork in getting the team together but with even in November before his elevation to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, it was a struggle to get 11 players on occasions. By Christmas the situation looked bleak but three points each in the return matches against Witham and Saffron Walden might have saved the day. After Christmas Graham Ramsden took on the captaincy but our fortunes remained much the same. A Pete Elsom goal put us in the lead in one game but we didn't have the strength to defend a lead for half a game, let alone 60 minutes. We failed to take or perhaps make chances against Witham and just gained a draw. We missed Simon Holland in the middle of the season and he had some excellent games on his return and of course the other stalwart - our player of the year - was Mark Burroughs.

With the second team suffering with non-availability of its own regulars as well as when first team players were missing, we never had the consistent team work to hold and control the play. In this day and age of squad hockey we do need players to learn to adapt and understand how to play in different positions individually and in different formations as a team. Most players put a great deal into their games but one or two seem to switch off if they are not in their preferred position.

Thanks to everyone who played and umpired, Messrs Pope, Day, Thornton and any others who helped organise the team. Despite the poor run of results, we still played some good hockey and most importantly, we enjoyed our hockey.

### **Ladies 2nd X1 (Editor's Report)**

In terms of overall results, the Ladies 2nds was the most successful IES team during the 04/05 season. Although not quite strong enough to challenge Lowestoft 1<sup>st</sup> (the SHA Premier Division Champions) or runners-up Sudbury 2<sup>nd</sup> for the league title and promotion, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Suffolk Premier was both highly creditable and highly satisfactory. Of the 15 league wins achieved, no fewer than 11 came without conceding a goal to the opposition. Felixstowe 1<sup>st</sup> proved a difficult side to overcome, both league games being drawn 1-1, but generally IES were good enough to beat all the sides in the mid and lower table regions by several goals. The biggest win was 8-0 against Christchurch 2nds. One unexpected point, late in the season and very late in the game, came when IES equalised against a dominant Sudbury 2nds as Anne Edney just got a touch to a fierce hit into the circle which defeated the opposition keeper. Sudbury left the pitch somewhat deflated whilst IES celebrated.

Good progress was made by several young players during the season, all though it must be said that the backbone of the team was IES's more experienced players. Ali Kitchener, Anne Edney and Cathy Cook were prominent among the regular goalscorers and Faye Godden was excellent in goal throughout. More names could be mentioned but it was a fine team performance. Bring on the new season!

### **Mens 3rd X1 (Hugh Rowland writes)**

The contraction to three teams this season meant that selection was always a headache with over twenty chaps competing for eleven places on the field. By and large, "ruthless" selection was treated with good humour and understanding and a huge captain's thank you goes to all involved for their co-operation. The team is not generally renowned for having difficulty in trying to squeeze a quart out of a pint pot but doing it the other way round is a little trickier.

A mixed pre Christmas session saw the chronologically challenged pick up enough points to end up just below mid table at the half way point. It was the second half of the season's tally of remarkable results which propelled the team vertically to its eventual resting place in fourth spot. The run had its naissance in an extremely narrow home defeat to the division's sharks Wapping (a sickening last minute goal). The post Christmas series of eight wins sealed the piece.

It has to be said that victory against Saffron was directly contrary to captain's orders bringing us as it did to within a hair's breadth of promotion. Still, pints were drunk and stories were told and whatever the league shenanigans bring next season we can be sure of one thing which is that the hockey played may not always be the best and the legs may not always be as vigorous as the post match analysis may suggest, but we do have our moments!

Player of the season had to be Martin Wood for his unique contribution to the arcane art of goal scoring. We wish him well for the future, wherever that may be.

Thanks as always to those who helped out with the umpiring and congratulations to Jerry Hindle for achieving his umpiring supremo badge thingy (heaven help us all!)

Finally, a special thanks goes to Barrie Whelpton for all his hard work off (and on) the field which contributed in no small part to some memorable (?) nights out and to an extremely efficient set of accounts.

### **Ladies 3rd X1 (Editor's Report)**

The Ladies 3rds enjoyed a difficult season in which in they were more often than not on the losing side in the SHA Premier Division. However, under the captaincy of Sophie White (elected Club Lady of the Year) and coach Peter Elsom, the squad gave 100% each time and ran some of the leading sides quite close – not least IES 2nds, who could only record a narrow 2-1 win in the opening league game. Some early season promise was shown with a 2-0 win in a friendly against Ipswich 4ths. In the opening weeks of the season, 5 league points were secured with a fine win over Castaways and draws with Christchurch 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bury 3<sup>rd</sup>. In January, two further league points came with draws against Southwold and Christchurch 2<sup>nd</sup>. That was, however, the season's tally and 7 points found the side in last place and therefore relegated to Division 1 for the 05/06 season.

It was never easy running the last selected side and on some days, an Olympic sized squad of 16 players was on the team sheet, whereas other days found the side playing short, which contributed to the possible loss of potential points in some games. However, there is no doubt that some of the young players made considerable progress, including Abigail Elsom who was selected for the county U-13 squad. There are good grounds for expecting that the squad will do quite well in Division 1 during 05/06, although much will depend on players being available on Saturdays and committing to working on their skill and fitness at mid-week training.

### **Mens 4<sup>th</sup>/Vets X1 (Editor's Report)**

The Mens 4<sup>th</sup>/Vets was an 'occasional' team, in which just 2 games were played during the season. These were, however, both won with a 3-1 win against Cranes and a 4-2 win against Ipswich Veterans. There was little hope of building up a 'new' 4<sup>th</sup> X1 for 04/05 with a substantial fixtures list and the prospects remain somewhat distant for 05/06. It would be good for the club's balance if a 4<sup>th</sup> X1 could be reinstated, because this would provide opportunity for some players not always selected for the 3rds and also provide a better level to bring youngsters into the senior club. A challenge for the future no doubt.

### **Girls U-17 X1 (Editor's Report)**

Unfortunately, it was not possible to enter a girls U-17 team in the Suffolk league during 04/05, as had been the case for several previous seasons. This was basically due to insufficient players in the age-group. The same is to apply for 05/06, which is disappointing, as the U-17 girls league is going from strength to strength and most of the other prominent clubs in the county are fielding sides in the event.

### **Mixed X1 (Editor's Report)**

Mixed hockey has now been firmly established as a midweek evening activity for several years, as local teams available to play on Sunday mornings have disappeared. Simon Martin continued to organise and captain the side during 2004/05, which saw some entertaining hockey and a varied set of results for IES. (The Editor played in one game that IES won!). The games were all at Framlingham College, conveniently situated for some sociable drinking and eating in the pub up the road afterwards! The squad also made the traditional trip to the Hearne Bay Mixed Tournament in May. All the actual mid-week results seemed to have been lost in a blur but everyone enjoyed the 10 or so games and the après-hockey conviviality. It looks well set to continue in 05/06!

### **Indoor Hockey Squads (Editor's Report)**

IES entered the usual two Mens and two Ladies squads for the highly-popular Suffolk League and Cup events run on Monday evenings in the sports hall at Rushmere, and organised during 2004/05 by Chris Hatch. IES Men struggled to some extent with the 'A' squad coming 6<sup>th</sup> in the league and the 'B' squad coming 9<sup>th</sup> (of 9 participating sides). A creditable runners-up position was achieved in the Borrett Cup (Suffolk Clubs championships), losing to Ipswich in the Final. IES Ladies did a bit better on balance in the league with the 'A' squad finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 'B' squad 7<sup>th</sup> (of 9 participating sides). IES 'A' were also runners-up (to Ipswich) in the League Cup.

IES Ladies also took part in the East qualifying tournament for entry to the National League, but were unsuccessful, although the competition was very much enjoyed by the players.

John Adams and Chris Hatch were prominent amongst the umpiring appointees for the Suffolk Indoor league and cup games, umpiring 30 and 22 games respectively during the season.

### **End of Report**