

Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

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



Annual Report for 2005 / 2006

IES - Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2005/2006

| <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> |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Mens 1 | League | 22 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 107 | 35 | 95.5 | 1 (12) C, P |
| | Friendly | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 13 | 60.0 | |
| | Total | 27 | 22 | 4 | 1 | 120 | 48 | 88.9 | |
| Ladies 1 | League | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 35 | 31 | 47.2 | 6 (10) |
| | Friendly | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 62.5 | |
| | Total | 22 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 46 | 40 | 50.0 | |
| Mens 2 | League | 22 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 59 | 41 | 68.2 | 3 (12) P* |
| | Friendly | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 40.0 | |
| | Total | 27 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 68 | 50 | 63.0 | |
| Ladies 2 | League | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 45 | 15 | 77.5 | 3 (11) |
| | Friendly | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 50.0 | |
| | Total | 22 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 47 | 20 | 75.0 | |
| Mens 3 | League | 22 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 47 | 42 | 52.3 | 7 (12) |
| | Friendly | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 20.0 | |
| | Total | 27 | 12 | 1 | 14 | 55 | 56 | 46.3 | |
| Ladies 3 | League | 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 26 | 38 | 45.0 | 8 (11) |
| | Friendly | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 100.0 | |
| | Total | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 38 | 47.6 | |
| Mens 4 | League | n/a | | | | | | | n/a |
| | Friendly | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 100.0 | |
| | Total | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 100.0 | |
| Totals | | 148 | 82 | 22 | 44 | 368 | 254 | 62.8 | |

C = Champions; P = Promoted

* Following the completion of the Div 4NE programme, 3 teams were 'defaulted' to 0 points. As a result, IES 2nds' points obtained on the pitch were cancelled, and the team was placed 3rd rather than 2nd and therefore deprived of a promotion place (all in accordance with the League Rules). Subsequently, the League Committee reinstated the IES 2nds promotion and the team will compete in Div 3NE in 2006/07.

For the record, the official Div 4NE League statistics of the Mens 2nds for the season were:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------|----|---|---|---|----|----|------|--------|
| Mens 2 | League | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 38 | 30 | 62.5 | 3 (12) |
|---------------|--------|----|---|---|---|----|----|------|--------|

(Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy, tournaments and 'extra' mid-week Mixed Friendlies)

Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

On the hockey field the Club had a fine season during 2005/06 from which the Mens 1sts and Mens 2nds won promotion and the Mens 3rds, Ladies 1sts, 2nds and 3rds all had good finishes in their respective divisions. The progress achieved certainly helped to keep everybody in a positive and buoyant frame of mind and members looked forward to their weekly game.

Post-season, the Ladies won the 2nd division of the Suffolk Summer League and the Men came 3rd in the one Mens division (behind Ipswich and Bury).

We continue to maintain excellent relationships with Rushmere Sports Club - grateful thanks are due to Sonia & John Wyatt (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 Chairman (John Adams), Hon Treasurer (Chris Hatch), Suffolk Indoor League Organiser (Chris Hatch), Schools Committee Rep to the SHA (John Adams), Suffolk Schools & Youth Chairman (Ian Reed), Suffolk Schools & Youth Treasurer (Ian Watson), Suffolk Schools & Youth Secretary (David Walsh), Girls U-17 Manager/Coaches (Debbie Godfrey, Maria Whelan, Amanda Todd), Boys U-16 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, 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 (refer also to the Secretaries' report below).

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, John Oakley and Geoffrey Reed deserve special recognition and thanks.

EHA Mens Cup & Ladies Vase. Summary of results

| Competition | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GF | GA | Venues |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Men, EH Vets Cup/Plate | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 Away |
| Ladies, EHA Trophy* | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 1 Home |

* The Mens Vets drew 2-2 with Eastcote (Hampshire) in the Plate round but lost 10-9 on strokes

The Ladies drew 2-2 with Bourne (Lincs) and won the game 3-2 on strokes before losing to Richmond in Rnd 2.

Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2005/06:-

Ladies Runners-up, Suffolk Indoor League. Winners Suffolk Summer League Div 2.

Men Runners-up, Suffolk Indoor League Cup and leading Club team in the Suffolk Indoor League.

News from the Annual General Meeting on 5th June 2006

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;

Ladies Team Secretary, Claire Pearsons

Social Sub-Committee; Mel Maguire, Louise Fletcher, Faye Godden, Gill Burch

Youth Officer, Ian Reed

Press Officer, Laura Collinson

Suffolk County Liaison Officer, Steven Farrow

Ladies League Liaison Officer, John Adams

Web Site Manager, Andrew Keedle

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

Head Coach

Men

Steven Farrow / *vacancy*

Jason Pettit / Peter Day

Hugh Rowland / Barrie Whelpton

John Wright / *vacancy*

Simon Martin / *vacancy*

Jason Pettit (A); James Nayler (B)

Graham Ramsden

vacancy

Ladies

Linda Rose / Maria Whelan

Sam Simpson / Mel Maguire

Fiona Tozer / Kim Caley

Not applicable

Simon Martin / *vacancy*

Maria Whelan (A); Gill Burch (B)

Amanda Todd

vacancy

Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-

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

"What a difference a year makes!" After some difficult seasons we finished with both our Mens 1sts and 2nds promoted and the Mens 3rds achieving a solid mid-table finish. Altogether a really good year for the Mens teams. The Men have taken a decision to expand to four league teams for 06/07. The Ladies 1sts consolidated their position in East Div 2C whilst the 2nds were always competitive in finishing 3rd in the Suffolk Premier and the 3rds did well to achieve a lower mid-table finish.

Ian Reed again ran the Club's youth coaching scheme which typically involved 20-30 young players in the 10-14 age-group being coached at Copleston on Sunday mornings or playing in the various local junior leagues and tournaments. A vote of thanks is due to Ian and the other coaches (including John Oakley, Steven Farrow, Chris Hatch and Ian Watson) who ran the youth coaching throughout the season.

The Social side of the club did not see quite so many functions as usual but those run, Club Day, Craft Faryre, the Xmas Dinner, Race Night and the Annual Dinner were all well attended and very successful. It was good to see some 'old' faces at the Annual Dinner which marked the 20th year since the formation of the Club in May 1986.

The 'Richard Gray Memorial Tournament' held on May 14th was enormously well supported and a considerable sum of money was donated to 'Breast Cancer Care' in Richard's memory.

Finally, thanks to all the Committee members and especially Chris Hatch, Laura Collinson, all the Team Captains and others who all make important contributions to the running of the club.

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

At the end of our 8th season after moving to Rushmere Sports Club, it is a pleasure to report that we have generally continued to pay our way, although a financial loss of £1728.90 was recorded following a decision to reduce senior subscriptions to £40. We enjoyed a successful season with two teams promoted and it was good to welcome quite a lot of new members to the club.

This last winter was good for weather with a minimal number of the league games postponed. After September, very few Friendly games were played – reflecting the view now pertaining that hockey is mainly about the League programmes. Mixed hockey thrived with fairly regular mid-week fixtures, although no income or expenditure was recorded in the accounts as it was played and paid for on a day-to-day meet-costs basis.

The 'Copleston Contract' started from 1st September 1998 and we have now completed the 8th 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 four seasons ago and we have been continuing to note the benefits of the associated discounts for each booking used. Without this arrangement, the Club would not be runnable (on the basis that we now play all home hockey on astro - or don't play at all !) and this contract is a vital component in our ongoing viability. 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 on their hockey costs. For 06/07, Copleston will be re-surfaced to a high hockey playing specification and we are intending to play more games there as well as consolidate the Ladies and Mens training there on Wednesday evenings.

I should like to thank the team secretaries and/or captains for clear, concise and 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 again this year and we need to take this forward with due caution. The club does have a tangible amount in the bank, at present, but that is some £9,000 less than we have had to earn by fund-raising since we started IES in 1986.

(iii) Secretaries Report (Laura Collinson)

7 committee meetings enabled the club to continue to provide great hockey for all abilities.

Dates on of the meetings were;

12.07.05, 30.08.05, 29.09.05, 22.11.05, 4.1.06, 28.02.06 and 10.04.06

Each month the committee met and discussed various aspects of club management including;

Finance, Youth, Playing Matters, Fixtures, Indoor League, Men's 4th Team, Richard Gray Memorial Tournament, Social and Club Charter Mark.

Attendance was very good throughout the season with on average 10 committee members being there at each meeting. Meeting minutes were produced and then circulated to committee to keep a record of the meeting.

Club members were advised of dates of meetings and encouraged to add items to the agenda.

(iv) Social & Fundraising Report (Laura Collinson writes):

Unfortunately the club did not have a volunteer to coordinate this year's for social activities, however thanks various club members organised events to enable the club's social calendar to continue. Thank you to all members who made the events possible and so successful.

Social events included;

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Craft fair | Rushmere Sports Centre | 20.11.05 |
| Christmas curry and cracker night | Rushmere Sports Centre | 10.12.05 |
| Race night | Rushmere Sports Centre | 24.02.06 |
| Club Dinner Dance 20 th | Elizabeth Hotel Felixstowe | 6.05.06 |
| Richard Gray's Spirit in Hockey | Tuddenham Road | 14.05.06 |

Various hockey tours took place throughout the season including Hearn Bay, but unfortunately the annual tour to Delft in Holland had to be cancelled due to low numbers.

(v) Youth Coaching Report (Ian Reed's report):

The junior section functioned by fielding an under 13 boys side and an under 13 girls side in the Harper junior league. On the odd occasion we were able to field a boys under 9 side. The girls side could be particularly strong if all the girls we could select were available. The problem was that often we were unable to field sides as competing sports or school events meant that we couldn't raise sides. The numbers were steady between 10 and 20 depending on the weather but the disappointment has been that we haven't made strides to bring in any new children. 4 schools provide all our children. Orwell Park, St Jo's, Chantry and Northgate. The children are connected to Jo Celerier, Ian Watson, John Oakley and myself and my thanks go to each for their attendance and input into coaching and umpiring for the children. Also thanks to Chris for the odd time that I needed cover for my Suffolk duties.

We are approaching a radical change in how the children's hockey is going to be arranged. Under 16s will not be allowed to participate in adult leagues and the Harpers league will be the outlet for the junior players. We have not been able to "take off" with our junior section to the extent of the other clubs and I feel some of that is due to my age. Children are not going to relate to an old codger like me and I do feel that new blood is going to be required if the whole thing isn't just going to fade away. I am committed to the initiative with the schools using the rotary money but if the club wants a thriving youth section someone else (or as with other clubs a number each for an age group) needs to step forward to take youth hockey on to another plane.

(vi) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Chris Hatch):

For the record, the Mens 1st X1 Division 3NE League matches between the Suffolk clubs and most friendlies were umpired by members of the SCHUA, to whom the club is most grateful. Almost all the other Mens 1st X1 and Ladies 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Men's 2nd and 3rd X1 games were umpired by IES Club appointees. For our official Saturday 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), Andrew Keedle (22), Charles Farrow (17), John Oakley (14), Steve Clark (12), Graham Ramsden (10), Ian Reed (5), Jerry Hindle (5), John Adams (5), Ray Black (3). Ten others (all Level 1 qualified) umpired 13 games between them. Andrew Keedle, John Adams and Chris Hatch also contributed significantly to the SHA Indoor League & Cups umpiring, with 40, 24 and 11 games respectively. Ian Reed, Andrew Keedle, John Adams, Charles Farrow and James Nayler 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, Megan Adams part-qualified to L1T status and this should encourage other Lady members to qualify as umpires – an area that we really need to encourage. Chris Hatch will again act as the Club's umpire appointments coordinator for the coming season.

(vii) Press Officer's Report (Laura Collinson)

This season 2005 2006 IESHC had features in the local papers every week of the season.

For 27 weeks the captains completed a form detailing the games information including; venue/ pitch, opposition, game time, goal scorers and a short report of what happened in each game.

This was then collated by the press officer and emailed to the EADT and Evening Star each week this enabling IESHC to be featured in most weeks Wednesday's Edition of the EADT and Thursday's edition of Evening Star. Mid way through the season (thanks to the idea of the men's 2nd team captain and the technical expertise of the website manager) these press reports were then also available for viewing by all on the club website.

During the season Andy Keedle the clubs "Official" photographer was out in all weathers snapping the quirky, agile, athletic or just plain mad activities of the IES players and other local clubs playing their hockey with passion and guts. During the last few weeks at the end of the season IES further developed their press activity and submitted photos by Andy as well as the match reports. One week alone IES had a full double page spreads with IES headlines, write ups and multiple photos.

What a great season we have really got IES on the press map 2005 2006 - Thank you to the captains and Andy for their massive input in this great season.

Review of the 2005/06 season – with Captain's reports or Editor's comments:

The Mens 1st X1 (Steven Farrow writes)

This turned out to be very successful season for the Mens 1sts, as 1st place and promotion from Div 3NE was to prove. The team was very well motivated and managed by Steve Farrow (Jaffa) and Guy Marshlain throughout and everybody seemed to enjoy the weekly challenge of striving for league promotion. The club welcomed some new players and some player back to the 1sts squad. Availability was good through out the season meaning the side had a core squad for the season

The season started full of confidence with the strong squad that formed. Confidence was high after the first four friendly games of the season. Wining two, drawing one and losing one so a strong Norwich City 2nds. In the league the team went through the first half of the season winning every game. Scoring a total of 62 goals in 11 games, and only conceding 15 goals. After the Christmas break the team came back full of confidence, but drew the first two league games. This was soon rectified and the side returned to winning form, winning the rest of the games in the second half of the season. Scoring on total this year 107 league goals and only conceding 35 goals. The side averaged nearly 5 goals a game and conceding an average of only 1.5 goals per game.

The side continued to enjoy their hockey and socialised well throughout the season.

Ladies 1st X1 (Editor's report)

After relegation from East Div 1, this was to be a season of consolidation and rebuilding. Early season Friendly successes included wins over Ipswich 2nd and Harleston 3rd but the League season got off to a disappointing start with a 0-1 loss to Yarmouth. Things improved with decisive wins over Haverhill, Harleston 3rd, Bury 2nd and Ipswich 3rd but these were interspersed with losses to the division's leading contenders Colchester and UEA to leave the side upper mid-table but clearly off the promotion pace by the Christmas break. Another win over Harleston, revenge over Yarmouth and a solid defeat of Old Buckenham were the highlights of the reverse games but 5 league defeats and a draw saw a gentle decline to a final 6th place from 10 in the division. Positives included the emergence of some young players and the positive goal difference over the season. Squad stability was good and the coaching of Deb Godfrey and Andrew Keedle is gratefully acknowledged. We need to build on the achievements of this season to push to be among the contenders in 06/07.

Mens 2nd X1 results (Jason Pettit writes)

The men's second team this year were under new captaincy bringing new drive and ambition to the team, they also began a new adventure after being moved into the North East division facing new challenges and teams. The second team in previous years had struggled but this year they turned a corner and with a few new faces mixed with some more experienced ones, the team had a good mix which showed on the pitch.

Undefeated in our first 4 games' scoring 10 goals was a good start to the season with our main objective not to be relegated for a consecutive season and we were off to a good start. By the half way point we had won 7, drawn 1 and lost 2, this was a great start to the season and spirits were high within the team.

After the Christmas break we started off slowly with two losses and a draw but soon got back to our wining ways with three wins on the trot, by this point we were top of the league looking to secure second spot but we failed to win our next match. Lady luck was shining on us with the other results going our way meaning we had guaranteed second place with one game left.

We were away for the last game of the season against league champions Lowestoft Town with both teams having confirmed their promotion already this season into 3NE. Both teams could relax and play entertaining hockey but I think we took our foot of the pedal to much and were soon 2-0 down. But were awarded a penalty flick which Neil Slade stepped up to take, but this was well saved by the Lowestoft keeper. Just before half-time we pulled one back from a well taken short corner, which was slotted home by Peter Day. During the halftime team talk the captain spoke of enjoying the second half with nothing riding on the game apart from pride as both teams would meet again next season. The second half Lowestoft started their goal rush early, but IES managed to respond with another goal before Lowestoft scored another and another and another. It looked like the celebration drinks before the match had taken their toll on us and we never really looked like getting back in the game. IES made their way home visiting a number of public houses to celebrate their promotion after a fantastic season and down away the 8-2 thrashing by Lowestoft.

As a team we have had a fantastic season, spirits have been high and everyone has enjoyed their hockey. I would like to thank to everyone who played for the 2^{nds} this season. We have played some good hockey and will be back next year looking to do well in Div 3NE but most of all to enjoyed our hockey and build on a great 05/06 season.

Ladies 2nd X1 (Sue Nunn writes)

Another good season comes to a close for the IES ladies seconds. Our final position in the league was 3rd but at times during the course of the season we were pushing for promotion which was heady stuff! With a good regular core of players we were able to maintain continuity and also bring some of the younger players through which bodes well for the future. When we played well our game was flowing and we built up attacks with ease. However, it has to be said there were games when stringing two passes together seemed impossible! A good team spirit has always been present in the ladies seconds and this year was no exception. Thanks must go to Cath Cook, our captain, for her decisive and fair leadership and also to Peter Elsom for his contributions from the side of the pitch. Thanks also to all the umpires who gave up part of their weekends to enable us to play. Hopefully the team will build on this year's success and go from strength to strength.

Mens 3rd X1 (Hugh Rowland writes)

Finding ourselves in the south-east league on sufferance and by special plea, while our club colleagues travelled north, we felt we had a point to prove. At the start of the season, we would have felt it a job well done if we had finished mid table, shunning both promotion and relegation. Getting the plot spoiler out of the way at the beginning of this piece, that is exactly what we achieved and I have to report that we find ourselves well satisfied with our efforts.

The story of our season really commences with a most enjoyable June garden party chez Ray and Wendy Black. Two weeks later, we were devastated to discover that one of our band had been caught up in the senseless underground attack on 1st July. Richard Gray left a wife and two young children and it is fair to say that not a game went by this season without some comment being passed among us which assured that Richard might be gone but that he was far from forgotten.

The beginning of the season is best consigned to history as a series of defeats stretched through the friendlies to the first five league games. We were not down hearted. There were signs of improvement and we knew that reinforcements were just over the hill. Sure enough, our form improved and we commenced a run of victories which lasted well in to the second half of the season. We won games that we should not have won and, occasionally (proving that old habits die hard), we lost games that we should not have lost – including the final game of the season (although it has to be said that the pain of defeat was eased by wrapping up no less than two pubs of the year in the post match warm down!).

It is, of course, invidious to single out any individual for mention, but it would be churlish not to mention some performances of real merit and we have been especially indebted to Jerry Hindle, Guy Whiting and Graham Bendall whose strength and determination have literally carved out some results against the odds this season. Additionally, we were all delighted to see the return of Martin Wood - who had clearly announced his departure at the end of last season in a desperate move to secure player of the year (it worked!) – who showed that the art of jaw dropping goal scoring was not dead. But player of the season this year had to go to Barrie Whelpton whose uncanny knack of being in the right place at the right time must have made him a nightmare to defend against and contributed to his not insignificant goal tally.

This report would not be complete without a word on the Veterans Cup. Being bundled unceremoniously out of the competition in the first round, we progressed to the third round of the plate and faced Basingstoke away on a snowy day in March. Having drawn a supremely competitive game, Dave Gooch faced no less than eleven penalty strokes in a penalty shoot out of the highest calibre. Beaten but far from disgraced, my thanks goes to all those who made significant individual sacrifices to play a game which will live long in all our memories (as will the hospitality of our more than generous hosts).

Finally, and to prove that all the best reports have a beginning, middle and an end, May saw some of us participating in a club mixed tournament in honour of Richard's memory. Those who participated in, and spectated at, that tournament will have been left in no doubt that what ever external forces, over which we have no control, may throw at us, the spirit of hockey is alive and kicking at IESHC.

Ladies 3rd X1 (Editor's Report)

Shortly before the start of the season, we were looking into the abyss of not having enough players to fulfil our league commitments. Closure of the 3rd X1 would have been disastrous for the club but captain Kim Caley took a firm grip on the situation, and recruited enough players to both build a team and complete the league programme, finishing in a very creditable lower mid-table position. Only 2 league points were gained in during October but 3 wins and 2 draws in the 5 games up to the Christmas break put the team in a reasonable position and proved we could compete with anybody in the division.

After a month without hockey, heavy losses were recorded against East Bergholt and Grasshoppers 1st but a vital point was then gained away to Haverhill 2nd, as the team travelled with just 9 players. This exemplified team spirit and two wins in the next 3 weeks against Ipswich 4th and Felixstowe 2nd put the campaign back on track. Another win against Mildenhall helped the league tally to 21 points and an 8th place finish in Suffolk Div 1 at the end.

Altogether, it was a successful season in terms of recruitment of players, who built a team and improved as the season progressed. The defence rarely conceded more than 2 goals and if the scoring at the other end can be improved, the prospects look good for the 06/07 season.

Mens 4th X1 (Chris Hatch writes)

We assembled a 4th X1 on two occasions for friendly matches against Felixstowe 4th and Ipswich 5th respectively. The side included about 4 youth players from Charlie Farrow's Copleston coaching scheme together with a few semi-retired IES players (who usually umpire these days!) and a few others. Both games were well contested and both were won, giving the side a 100% record! It is very much hoped that some of the young players 'blooded' in these games will become committed players for 06/07, when the club has expanded back to 4 mens teams and has a full league programme in East Div 6NE to fulfil.

Girls U-17 X1 (Editor's Report)

It was again not possible for the club to enter a girls U-17 team in the Suffolk League, due to a shortage of eligible players in this age-group. It is a genuine pity that we could not participate as the league is becoming increasingly successful with 8 Suffolk clubs entering the league in 05/06 and IES somewhat conspicuous by our absence. It should certainly be a club objective in the near future to get back into participating in this league.

Mixed X1 (Editor's Report)

The Mixed X1, captained by Simon Martin, played about 10 friendly games against Saxmunham and Framlingham (mostly Lowestoft, Bury and Carlton Park players), on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at Framlingham College. IES won a few and lost a few but the games were always played in a friendly and social spirit and to a good standard on the pitch. More often than not, it was pretty cold playing conditions at Framlingham College but there was always a good warm-up in the Station Pub after the game and the social aspects of playing Mixed were fully supported in the best of traditions. IES finished the season in the well-established way of playing in the Hearne Bay Mixed tournament but any recollection of games played or the results seems to have been lost in the mist of the bar room chat!

Indoor Hockey Squads (Editor's Report & Jason Pettit's report)

The Mens 'A' team, captained by Steven Farrow, had a good season in the SHA Indoor League and Cup competitions, coming 4th in the league and runners-up in the League Cup. The side was the highest placed official Suffolk club side in the league, as the winners were Suffolk Masters (an invitation side) followed by Ipswich School and Framlingham College.

(Jason Pettit writes) This year we entered a men's second team at late notice to help bolster the league, this was made up of mostly 2nd team players, there were a number of good teams in the league this year and we had a number of close games. We managed to win one, draw one and suffered a number of close defeats but did not finish bottom.

We also got knocked out of the Cup in the early stages but all in all it was an enjoyable season and I would like to thank everyone that played for the team this season.

The Ladies 'A' team had an excellent season in the Indoor League, winning 7 of 9 games and coming 2nd to Ipswich as well as pipping friends and rivals Lowestoft into 3rd place on an exciting last evening of the season when all three sides had a chance to be champions. The Ladies 'B' team also competed well, finishing in 7th place (out of 10) and winning 3 games.

IES Ladies also competed again in the East Region Championships and the National League qualifier tournament, in both cases joining forces with Lowestoft Ladies in order to share costs and put a strong side onto the pitch. Success in both events proved elusive, however, and IES/Lowestoft were unable to record a win in either event but certainly gained in strength and experience from the level of competition on offer. With no 'relegation' from the Nationals, a decision will have to be made in new season as to whether to compete again at this level. IES qualified by right for the East Championship as Suffolk League runners-up.

End of Report