

# Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.ieshc.org.uk>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.

## Annual Report for 2008 / 2009

Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2008/2009

Squad (X1)		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	% Success	League Position
<b>Mens 1</b>	League	22	9	5	8	60	56	52.3	8 (12)
	Friendly	4	1	0	3	6	19	25.0	
	Total	26	10	5	11	66	75	48.1	
<b>Ladies 1</b>	League	22	10	6	6	49	43	59.1	6 (12)
	Friendly	4	0	1	3	4	16	12.5	
	Total	26	10	7	9	53	59	51.9	
<b>Mens 2</b>	League	22	10	3	9	65	52	52.3	7 (12)
	Friendly	3	1	1	1	7	12	50.0	
	Total	25	11	4	10	72	64	52.0	
<b>Ladies 2</b>	League	20	6	5	9	37	47	42.5	6 (11)
	Friendly	2	1	0	1	2	3	50.0	
	Total	22	7	5	10	39	50	43.2	
<b>Mens 3</b>	League	21	8	5	8	54	48	50.0	8 (13)
	Friendly	3	0	0	3	5	24	0.0	
	Total	24	8	5	11	59	72	43.8	
<b>Ladies 3</b>	League	20	16	1	3	74	24	82.5	2 (11) P
	Friendly	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	
	Total	20	16	1	3	74	24	82.5	
<b>Mens 4</b>	League	20	13	3	4	79	25	72.5	3 (13) P
	Friendly	4	2	1	1	16	5	62.5	
	Total	24	15	4	5	95	30	70.0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>167</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>55.4</b>	

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

### Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

A fair reflection on the 2008/09 season could view it as a broadly satisfactory one, with all of our league teams enjoying reasonable campaigns, including promotions for the Ladies 3rds and Mens 4ths. The Mens 1sts did come uncomfortably close to relegation, just surviving with an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish - something we must strive to do better with in 09/10. We continued to run and sustain 4 mens and three ladies teams, allowing us to provide the right amount and level of hockey for the full range of members. Overall senior and junior membership numbers, both men and ladies, remained broadly the same as the previous year. The Mens 3rds, comprising mostly young players, improved conspicuously during the season and offers the prospect of producing future 1<sup>st</sup> X1 players. Our junior coaching programme continued but, frankly, did stutter a bit with relatively few children to coach and reduced availability of coaches able to commit to our Sunday morning sessions. Some good competitive results were obtained by the junior teams and there is a basis to build on for the future.

The Club would again like to thank Rushmere Sports Club Ltd, its Manager Roger Osborne and other staff for all their work and support of us during the season. Also, Sonia and John Wyatt for the regular hot teas service after matches. Sonia and John have now retired and we wish them all the best for the future. All these contributions, a positive approach from captains and teams and a generally fair season on the field helped to make 08/09 a solid and positive year for the club. As always, there remains much that we can that we can build on to improve next season!

### **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, EH Vets Cup/Plate	2	0	0	2	0	7	2A

\* The Mens Vets lost 0-3 to Canterbury (Sean Kerly was as awesome as ever) in the EH Vets Cup and then lost to Jersey 0 - 4 in the EH Vets Plate (the game being abandoned in the closing stages due to a snowstorm). We chose not to enter any Ladies National Competitions in 08/09.

### **Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2008/09:-**

Ladies	Runners-up, Suffolk Indoor League
Men	Winners, Suffolk Indoor County Cup (The Borrett Cup)

### **Representative Honours during 2008/09:-**

Suffolk Ladies senior County Championships squad: Abigail Adams, Abigail Elsom, Linda Rose, Amanda Todd, Maria Whelan

### **News from the Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

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

President, Peter Blake;

Chairman, Graham Ramsden;

Secretary, Anne-Marie Edney;

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

Ladies Team Secretary, *Vacancy*

Social Sec.; Ian Harris and Greg Jones

Youth Development Committee, John Oakley, Sam Oakley, Dave Charles, Sapphire Cutting,

Communications Officer (Press and Web Site), Jim Strongitharm

Suffolk County Liaison Officer, Steven Farrow

Ladies League Liaison Officer, Linda Rose

### **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 Captains (A/B)

Fixtures Secretary

Head Coach

Club Coaches

Club Clothing Officer

Club Welfare Officer

### **Men**

James Lane / Kevyn Brown

Dave Charles / Neil Slade

Guy Whiting / Hugh Rowland

John Oakley / *vacancy*

Simon Martin

Kev Brown (A) Dave Charles (B)

Graham Ramsden

Jason Pettit

Phil Vernon, James Nayler

Dave Taylor

Amanda Todd

### **Ladies**

Abigail Adams / Sarah Brown

Cathy Cook / Faye Hubbard

Lindsey Trench / Klm Caley

*Not applicable*

Simon Martin

Abi Adams (A); Saph Cutting (B)

Charlie Farrow

Charles Farrow

Chris Hatch

Dave Taylor

Amanda Todd

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

#### **(i) Chairman's Report (Graham Ramsden):**

Because of the weather we ended up playing 13 fewer games over the season than last year but we scored around 60 more goals and conceded around 60 fewer. So it's been a successful season - the men have done well although there was a period when we were worried that the 1<sup>st</sup> team might not survive in Div 2. The men's fourth team transferred from the South east to the North East and had a great season but have been frustrated (so far) in their bid to gain promotion. The men have been outshone by the women with the ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team reaching their highest position ever in their league so far and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI gaining promotion.

Indoors the men restarted a B team to give some of the younger players (and me) a chance. The highlight of their season was a beating an Ipswich team (albeit only 5 men) whilst the A team won the Borrett Cup and are therefore Suffolk County Champions!

A big thank you to all the team captains who once again have not just lead their teams on the field but coped with the now usual availability issues and lack of consistency from one week to the next.

The youth section and our younger members are a key part of the club and John Oakley was nominated club person for his work in keeping the youth section going as well as running the third team. To John, Sam, Dave Charles Saph Cutting and all those who helped run Sunday hockey - thanks for your considerable contribution. Sam Oakley and

Jake Charles have made a mark both as players and umpires, with Jake being invited to umpire at the National Yazoo level in Nottingham.

In the qualifying tournament of the county play-offs held in Ipswich a few weeks ago 5 of our ladies – Wheelie, Toddy, Linda, Abi Adams and Abi Elsom were in the Suffolk squad and helped Suffolk win their pool. Unfortunately in the National Finals last weekend Suffolk came 4th.

Social – at the start of the season Club day was very well organised and deserved to have better attendance from our members. Halloween, the Xmas curry night, quiz night were all enjoyed by a good crowd and the Dinner dance rounded off the season in splendid style. Thanks to all those who supported these events, not just by coming along for a good time but by donating raffle prizes and buying tickets, and particularly, thanks to Faye and Saph for organising these events.

Every season has its ups and downs – We sadly saw the retirement of Sonia and John who have done great service turning out our teas for many seasons – if you know anyone who might take the role on and the opportunity to earn some cash on a Saturday, please let a committee member know. Players got carded and some of them learnt the sequence of traffic lights in the process; others got carded by their sons. We became accustomed to members of the men's 1<sup>st</sup> in drag on a Saturday evening though the ladies muff of the week was not so enduring.

Finally to all the other committee members – thank you for support and work to make the club a success for all the members – and especially to Chris and Laura whose work may not always be noticed because they just get on and do things, but it certainly would be noticed if they didn't.

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

At the end of our 11th season after moving to Rushmere Sports Club, I am able to report that we have generally continued to pay our way, although a loss of £448.23 was recorded on the current account over the year. We enjoyed a steady season with our sides doing well in their various league divisions, including a promotion for the Ladies 3rds and possibly the Mens 4ths. It was also good to welcome quite a lot of new members to the club.

This was the third and final year of three during which our shirts have been sponsored by Hill Felixstowe and Hill Piling, for which the Club has been most grateful.

Terms have been agreed for the use of Copleston for the full 09/10 season, on the same general Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday usage profile as during 08/09. There will be a price rise of £200 to £4700, representing about 4.5%, but it does give us pitch 'security' for another season at an affordable price.

Once again it needs to be emphasised that the members who run the youth coaching are providing the whole club with a de-facto subsidy on their hockey costs, as this is worth some 20% off the net pitch hire costs at Copleston.

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 Committee feels we should offer another compelling membership package for 09/10 terms of just a small increase in subscriptions but we are at the agreed 3-year shirt transition point and members will be asked to add £18 for a new Club Red Shirt this year. This assumes that we slightly reduce expenses for travel (due to lower petrol/diesel costs) and training costs. Teas costs are assumed to remain broadly in line with 08/09 but we have to 'solve' the problem of arranging a new teas service solution following the retirement of Sonia and John Wyatt.

### **(iii) Secretaries Report (Laura Collinson)**

There were seven committee meetings throughout the season on  
2008 - 18th August, 2nd October, 6th November

2009 - 8th January, 19th February, 9th April and 14th May

There were an average 12.5 attendees and the following items were covered in majority of meetings

- o Apologies –
- o Present –
- o Previous Minutes –
- o Chairman's update
- o Business Manager's/Finance update
- o Playing Matters
  - Men's update
  - Ladies Update
  - Youth Update
  - Fixtures update
  - Umpires
  - Clubs 1st update

- indoor hockey
- Richard Gray Tournament
- Press and promotions update
- Website
- Social update
- AOB
- Date of next meeting

**(iv) Social Events Report (Editor's Report):**

Faye Godden and Saph Cutting took on the role of Social Secretary during 08/09 and put on a varied programme of social events between September 08 and May 09. The Club was impressed with and grateful for their efforts, as recognised by a joint award of the Club Lady of the Year to Faye and Saph.

Events started with Club Day and continued with a Halloween Party, Christmas Curry & Crackers Night, A Quiz Night and finally the Annual Dinner Dance. New Club casual wear also appeared in the form of 'Social Hoodies' and proved quite popular as well as contributing a small profit to the Social & Fundraising Account. It must be said that whilst support for the events was fair, it could have been a fair bit better and this is an aspect that the new Social events teams for 09/10 are looking to promote. Anyway, well done Faye and Saph and many thanks!

**(v) Youth Coaching Report (John Oakley):**

It has been a difficult season for the Youth Section although there have been some positive things to come out of the season. I was not initially running the Youth Section and only took it on after James Nayler stepped down. A few weeks later Sapphire also stepped down and that left the Section short of Coaches. The coaching was able to continue with myself and Dave Charles taking most of it and Phil Vernon assisting on occasions. All the Juniors who regularly attended improved during the season but the numbers were down on the previous year.

The major problem was that we did not have many U/11 and U/13 players which was probably because no early season recruitment had been undertaken. We had a very competitive U/16 boys team but very few younger players. The point is that they need to be replaced at the lower end. A few of the fringe players from the previous season (who mainly played the matches) also found other activities so we were struggling for players for the matches. We also had very few girls and did not enter a girls teams in the Suffolk Youth League.

We did however manage to play most of the League games having put U/11 mixed and U/13 boys teams in the Suffolk Youth League. We also put teams in the Suffolk Youth League finals day. The U/13 boys team acquitted themselves very well and only lost both games in the finals in the last minute. We also entered an U/13 boys team in the second Yazoo Competition at Harleston and apart from Bury we were the only Club to do so in the U/13 boys section. In the U/11 and U/13 boys league matches the results although not good were better than the previous season and there were improved performances which showed the Coaching had worked. The best performances were from the U/16 boys team which included a win over Ipswich in their matches and competed well in all the games they played. Also it is worth noting that several of the U/16 players played for the Men's sides so without the Youth Coaching it is likely we would have had to cancel games.

It must be remembered that the Club benefits financially from running the Youth Section and it would be useful if there could be more support next season. As mentioned earlier I only took over running the Section in the middle of the Autumn by which stage I was not possible to run any recruitment events. In order for the Section to function properly we need new Junior players and it is important that at the start of the new season events are organised to bring in new players.

There is a lot of work involved in running the Junior Section and to illustrate this on 25<sup>th</sup> January I had to run U/9,U/11 and U/13 league matches at Copleston in the morning and then take an U/16 team to Colchester in the afternoon with basically only my wife to help me. If the Club wants to reap the rewards of the Youth Coaching people must be prepared to give support to the Youth Section Committee.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped run the Youth Section during the season.

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

For the record, all the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Division 2N home matches and Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Division 1N League home matches (plus away matches with other clubs) were umpired by members of the SCHUA (a total of 50 appointments), to whom the club is most grateful. Almost all the other club games were umpired by IES Club appointees (and the appointees of the opposing clubs). For our official Saturday programme, 3 or more games were umpired by Chris Hatch (46 games), Steve Clark (23), Ian Reed (10), Dave Charles (10, including 6 of the above SCHUA appointments), Richard Pittaway (10, including 4 of the above SCHUA appointments), Graham Ramsden (9), John Oakley (4), John Adams (3), Jake Charles (3); Eleven others (all Level 1 or 1T qualified) umpired 13 games between them. John Adams and Dave Charles also contributed significantly to the SHA Indoor League & Cups umpiring. Several of our junior umpires contributed to the umpiring at junior tournament events.

Jake Charles qualified to full L1 Status during the season. Chris Hatch acted as the Club's umpire appointments officer for the 08/09 season, retiring at the AGM after many years in the role. Dave Charles has been elected to take on the role for 09/10.

## **Review of the 2008/09 season – Captain's reports:**

### **The Mens 1st X1 (James Lane)**

Trying to build on last year's high table finish was always going to be difficult with a limited resource of squad players, plus with the same old problem of availability causing havoc in some cases. Myself and my vice captain Kevyn Brown tried to instil an aspect of commitment which to some extent worked with the vast majority of the squad, but this commitment needs to improve if we are to progress and build in the 2009/2010 season.

Some pleasing results against some of the better and worse sides in the division were marred by some poor discipline which has led to the loss of several games when defeat seemed impossible at times. Again, this needs to be worked on. At one point we were a win away from 3rd place but ultimately survived thanks to another team with less points in our sister league 2S bearing a relegation.

The Division 2N standard varies dramatically, with teams such as Peterborough and Norwich City dominating the results and we need to work to their organisation and style, hopefully with a better training turnout which ultimately gives us issues with playing together on a Saturday and with penalty corner execution. Some notable players have excelled this season. Ian Harris, back from London has taken on the dominant midfield mantle with aplomb and others such as Carl Short (1st XI player of the season for the second season running) and Jon Tingey have been superb. Tingey and Scott Cole were neck and neck for the leading scorer, with Tingey just pipping Cole overall thanks to a hat trick for the 2nd XI. A good sign for the future is the success of Sam Oakley, who has gone from gangly youngster to skilled forward and will challenge for a starting place in 2009 if he continues his form through summer league and pre-season. We hope to introduce a couple more players for next season to give the squad a more youthful feel and build for the future, plus welcome back some old faces to add some experience. I'd like to thank all players who have made the effort to train, play and socialise in 08/09 and I look forward to building on this team ethic next season if possible. Thanks also to Kevyn Brown for his assistance and advice. Thanks also to Peter "Blakey" Blake who is stepping down from 1st XI games after being a worthy member for many years.

### **Ladies 1st X1 (Linda Rose)**

After a tough yet successful season last year the squad all knew what was in store and how they would have to up the ante if they wanted to improve on the previous season's performance. A nervous start to the pre-season friendlies saw the squad lose all 3 games putting doubts in people's minds about how well we would do this year. With the first league game imminently looming against newly relegated local rivals Ipswich 2's the team knew that they had to believe in their ability and prove to everyone especially Ipswich that although IES is a smaller club in comparison, we were going to be no pushover! A 2-2 draw made the statement to their rivals and a following 3 wins in a row saw the team climb to 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league.

The following matches leading up to Christmas saw a mixture of performances with highlights including beating Saffron Waldon who were near the top of the table. The much needed Christmas break allowed the squad to recharge their batteries and take stock of the first half of the season. A cold and frosty morning at the beginning of January saw the team draw 1-1 against East Prem side Sudbury in a friendly that helped restore confidence within the squad. The second half of the season saw the team produce a mixture of performances winning 5, drawing 4 and only losing 2 games resulting in them finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the league overall.

I would like to thank everyone who has played in the squad and contribute to its success in staying up in div East 1N for the second season in a row. Without everyone's hard work and dedication to both training and the matches we would not have finished in the highest position the ladies section has seen in IES. A huge thank you also goes to Charlie Farrow for his commitment and expertise in coaching us from the sideline and to Annette White for being my Vice-Captain who without her has provided me with a lot of support and made the role of captain easier. We look forward to another successful season next year.

### **Mens 2nd X1 results (Editor's Report)**

The Mens 2nds, captained again by Phil Vernon, needed to consolidate in Div 4NE, after relegation at the end of the 07/08 campaign. This level proved to be the team's level as a mid-table finish was achieved with a slightly positive playing record and goal difference. The team started the league campaign well with a 3-1 home win over Bury 3rd and four more wins were achieved at home up to mid-November. Meanwhile, the away form was indifferent with several losses but wins away at Norwich Dragons and Holt almost eliminated any prospect of relegation by Christmas. Four points from a possible 15 by mid-February did put pressure on the team but 10 points from the next 4 games took the side to 5th place. However, losses to Thetford and Holt in March cost a top-half finish and the team had to settle for 7th place. All-in-all, a creditable league season, gaining league points in 13 of the 22 games and scoring 13 more goals than conceded.

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

The Ladies 2nds emerged from a difficult season in the Suffolk Premier, finishing with 6<sup>th</sup> place, exactly mid-table in a division of 11. The problems started from the first few weeks when captain Dawn Claxton had to stop playing due to

serious knee problems and vice-captain Karen Keedle also had to withdraw for the season due to injury. Further, leading goalscorer Sam Simpson was committed to the Berlin marathon and not available for selection until mid-season and stalwart defender Gilly Birch also struggled with injury and made very few appearances on the pitch. So, there were some opportunities for some young players and a some others who previously played for the 3rds and new leadership emerged in the form of Cathy Cook and Faye Hubbard as captain and vice-captain respectively. With all the difficulties, it was no surprise that the season got off to a shaky start and just 3 point from 3 draws in the first 7 games left the team in a relegation place at mid-November. From there the momentum slowly started to shift as 7 points from the last 3 games before Christmas moved the side up a couple of places. After a slow start in the new year, four wins and a draw took the side well clear of any threat of relegation and up to an eventual 6<sup>th</sup> place. Probably the outstanding performance was a 4 –3 away win at highly-placed Harwich, as the side recovered from a 2 goal deficit in the opening minutes and Young-player-of-the season, Ellie Eddy scored the winner with seconds left on the watch (to leave Harwich's manager fuming at the end!).

### **Mens 3rd X1 (John Oakley)**

When I took over as Captain my intention was to build on the foundations of the team captained by John Wright in 2007/08. It soon however became apparent that it was actually going to be a complete rebuilding operation. The team was essentially a development side and it certainly fulfilled all that was expected from that point of view during the season. In total 55 players were used in the League games that were played and the total would have been higher if the games cancelled by the opposition had taken place. In a large number of the games most of the side were youngsters and they did show considerable improvement during the season such that by the end of the season it seems likely that several of them are likely to feature higher up in the teams next season.

In terms of results the final league record was a creditable 8 wins 5 draws and 8 defeats and the team finished mid table. An analysis of the results shows a distinct difference between home and away matches. At home we only lost one match and that was to our fourth team so we were unbeaten by another Club in the league all season at home. Away from home however it was a different story with only one win and two draws achieved. The second half of the season was also far more successful than the first half. After beating Felixstowe 3<sup>rd</sup>'s 2-1 on the pitch and subsequently being awarded a 3-0 result by the League at the end of September it was January before the second win was achieved. This was because we lost a 3 goal lead against Dereham in the last league game before Christmas and had to settle for a draw.

The team was able to compete well when there were a reasonable number of adults but did struggle when the vast majority of the players were youngsters which happened quite often due to the fact the 4<sup>th</sup> XI took priority for players. The two home highlights of the season were a 12-0 win against Norwich City 6<sup>ths</sup> and a 4-3 win against Sudbury 4<sup>ths</sup> which set up an interesting game for the 4<sup>th</sup>'s. The one away triumph 4-0 at North Walsham demonstrated that Sam Oakley is a good prospect as a future team Captain as he led the side well in my absence following my operation.

Bearing in mind the number of players used there are far too many to mention individually as various players starred in different matches so this is just a general thanks to everyone. I would also like to thank everyone who umpired for the 3<sup>rd</sup>'s during the season.

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

The Ladies 3rds, captained by Lyndsey Trench, showed what could be achieved with commitment to training and a great team-ethic and work-ethic on the pitch. Given that some players from the previous season were needed by the 2nds, it was an especial effort to win 16 and draw 1 of the 20 league games and finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and gain promotion as a result. The team's 'nemeses' was East Bergholt who won both league games and duly went on to deservedly win Division 1. Apart from that and having to default on a slip game on a Sunday, Lyndsey's team brushed all opposition aside. Big wins included 10 – 0 over Mildenhall away and 9-3 over Ipswich 5<sup>ths</sup> at home and 4 goals were scored on six other occasions. Needing to win the final game for promotion, the side dealt clinically with an improved Mildenhall to run out 6 – 0 winners, with Lyndsey scoring the final goal of the season. Success was achieved this year but next year will be an enormous challenge in the Premier. The one note of serious concern was that leading scorer 'Dorie' Cheryl Nokes fell seriously ill in the early new year and the club wishes her a speedy recovery.

### **Mens 4<sup>th</sup> X1 (Hugh Rowland)**

Full of hope and confident of victory, IES sallied forth into the North East League intent on tilting at any windmill that had the temerity to block their path and surging upwards to the dizzy heights of Div V. As it turned out, the game plan was not entirely successful, but fate has a funny way of playing its hand.

The wake up call came with a defeat on the first league date to a strong team of Dereham millers on their home ground. It was apparent that the frozen north was not going to be as susceptible to plunder as some, in their cups in close season, might have foretold. Girding our loins, and not forgetting to keep a weather eye open for public conveniences, the mighty 4<sup>ths</sup> wrestled twenty seven points from their next nine matches (for those still struggling with their abacus beads, that is maximum points): notable scalps included Sudbury and Holt, of whom more later. The word travelled like rolling mist into the depths of Norfolk and a pre Christmas trek to North Walsham for a postponed game produced a veritable giant of an opponent. IES scraped a draw and were able, over the festive

break, to look back on an Autumn in which only four points had fallen to the ground without being garnered for composting.

Then came the big freeze. Anxious days were spent rubbing the hoary frost off the pane, playing endless games of shut the box and waiting for the weather to turn. In between a bout of postponed games, IES plucked some points (including three of the sweetest from Dereham) but also stumbled against the youth of Norwich and the guile of Nomads. Then came that trip by DBBTS pantechnicon to North Norfolk, where the planned celebrations turned to dust as a hastily constructed fighting force failed to hold back the tide and IES dreams of instant promotion came to a ..... well, halt! The only bright spot was that after paying for tea for thirteen, Midas Whelpton still had change from a fiver!

Despite spanking Walsham for fifteen of the best and putting ten past our club rivals, the fates conspired to converge all our hopes on the last game of the season - Sudbury. Long hours were spent consulting the runes and picking over the bones and much has been written and spoken about those seventy minutes of destiny. Perhaps, in the circumstances, a summary will suffice: we led, we lost, we won and, finally, we lost. But as we tumbled like Icarus with feathers floating from our melting wings, Apollo Hatch spied us from afar and plucked us, as we fell, in to his chariot.

In contemplative mode, it is possible to muse that if battles were all to be fought on home ground we would by now be champions (instead of bronze age warriors). But there can be no conquest without taking the fight to foreign fields. That is where we must be strongest for that is where the foe has his stronghold, and his lair!

Individual contributions have been too numerous to mention this season. Those who have played a part of particular significance know who they are (both in defence and attack for their incomparable records) but the writer's particular thanks go as always to Barrie Whelpton for his accounting and overall support over so many years; to those who have blown the whistle; and to our inspirational "midfield dynamo" player of the year, Graham Bendall.

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

The Mixed Team played about eight midweek fixtures in the 08/09 season, a similar number to previous years. The usual post match trips to "The Station" in Framlingham helped to cement the very social nature of the mixed fixture card.

The Captain would like to proffer special thanks to Chris Hatch and various others for umpiring the matches. Finally the timing of these mixed matches, together with the, lets not deny it, downright parky temperatures encountered in the mid-winter months at that time of night, means that it took a rather special breed of IES individuals to ensure that the Club never failed to produce an impressive turn out. A few results went our way and a few more did not – the teams put out by Framlingham and Saxmundham are usually quite strong and the hockey is of a good standard.

These fixtures remain a useful addition to the Club's programme and all members are encouraged to express and interest to Simon to be considered for selection.

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

IES entered 2 Mens and 2 Ladies teams into the Suffolk Indoor League, run at Rushmere and managed by John Adams on behalf of the Suffolk Hockey Association. The Ladies 'A' team did well, just denied the Championship by Lowestoft Ladies but the runner-up position was very creditable. The Ladies 'B' team came 7<sup>th</sup> of the 9 competing with 3 wins. The Mens 'A' and 'B' teams fared a little less well, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 9-team division but the Men won the annual Borrett Indoor Cup to become County Champions.

### **End of Report**