

Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.ieshc.org>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.

Annual Report for 2009 / 2010

Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2009/2010
(Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy, tournaments and 'extra' mid-week Mixed Friendlies)

IES	Results	2009	-	2010					
Squad (X1)		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	% Success	League Position
Mens 1	League	22	8	3	11	80	80	43.2	7 (12)
	Friendly	3	0	0	3	0	13	0.00	
	Total	25	8	3	14	80	93	38.0	
Ladies 1	League	22	9	3	10	30	38	47.7	6 (12)
	Friendly	2	0	0	2	2	5	0.00	
	Total	24	9	3	12	32	43	43.8	
Mens 2	League	22	7	3	12	36	73	38.6	8 (12)
	Friendly	2	0	1	1	0	2	25.0	
	Total	24	7	4	13	36	75	37.5	
Ladies 2	League	18	7	4	7	26	26	50.0	7 (10)
	Friendly	2	1	1	0	8	1	75.0	
	Total	20	8	5	7	34	27	52.5	
Mens 3	League	20	7	3	10	43	54	42.5	7 (11)
	Friendly	3	1	0	2	5	15	33.3	
	Total	23	8	3	12	48	69	41.3	
Mens 4	League	18	1	6	11	21	59	22.2	11 (12)
	Friendly	2	1	0	1	4	9	50.0	
	Total	20	2	6	12	25	68	25.0	
Totals		136	42	24	70	255	375	39.7	

The Ladies 3rd X1 was closed and withdrawn from the league at the start of the season, due to a lack of sufficient players. The League overall 'success' was 39.2%. No teams were relegated (or promoted).

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

Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

A fair reflection on the 2009/10 season could view it as a satisfactory one in most respects, with all of our league teams enjoying reasonable campaigns. No teams got relegated but equally no team came anywhere near challenging for promotion. The closure of a Ladies 3rd X1 due to shortage of players was a setback that will not be easily reversed. The Mens 1sts improved 1 position to a 7th place finish - something we must strive to do better with in 10/11. We continued to run and sustain 4 mens, with a lot of new youngsters coming into our senior ranks which promises well for the future. By contrast, we have no 'teenage' ladies playing senior hockey and the operation of just two ladies teams does not necessarily allow us to provide the right 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. Our junior coaching programme recovered to some extent with more children to coach than in recent years and outstanding results by the boys U-16 team. Some good competitive results were obtained by the U-9 and U-13 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, Anna Whatling for the regular hot teas service after matches. It was Anna's first year in this post and she did well and is set to return for 10/11. All these contributions, a positive approach from captains and teams and a generally fair season on the field helped to make 09/10 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. Summary of results

Competition	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Venues
Men, EH Vets Cup/Plate	2	1	0	1	6	9	2H

The Mens Vets beat Sudbury Vets 4 – 1 but then came up against Harleston and were beaten 2 - 8 in the EH Vets Cup. We chose not to enter any Ladies National Competitions in 09/10.

Representative Honours during 2009/10:-

Suffolk Mens senior County Championships squad: Kevyn Brown, Steven Farrow

News from the Annual General Meeting on 27th May 2010

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;

Social Sec.; Greg Jones and Steven Farrow

Youth Development Committee, John Oakley, Sam Oakley, Ian Reed, Anthony Whitaker

Communications Officer (Press and Web Site), Jason Pettit

Suffolk County Liaison Officer, Steven Farrow

Ladies League Liaison Officer, Faye Godden

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

Kevyn Brown / Charles Coulson

Peter Blake / Mike Thomas

Guy Whiting / Hugh Rowland

John Oakley / Barrie Whelpton

Andy Murray

Kev Brown (A) Dave Charles (B)

Graham Ramsden

Jason Pettit

James Nayler

Dave Taylor

Saph Cutting

Ladies

Annette White /

Saph Cutting / Kim Caley

Hannah Reynolds

Megan Adams (A); vacancy (B)

Di Stevens

vacancy

Chris Hatch

Dave Taylor

Saph Cutting

Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-

(i) Chairman's Report (Graham Ramsden);

Graham reported that the club had had a reasonable season, with all teams retaining League divisional status for next season and there had been some conspicuous success by the boys U-16 team in its competitions.

Unfortunately, we had to close our Ladies 3rd X1 due to a shortage of players. Anna Whatling was thanked for providing the teas service. Graham was able to announce some significant developments that are in prospect for the future of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd and introduced Peter Elsom Snr (MD of RSC Ltd) who expanded on the plans in progress and took questions.

Graham thanked the Committee members for their hard work and diligence during the past year and looked forward to taking the club into 2010/11.

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

The club generally continued to pay its way during 09/10, although a loss of £821.16 was recorded on the current account over the year.

The loss noted above would have been significantly worse but for 3 exceptional items which went in our favour. (i) Copleston kindly waived £700 of the annual pitch bill to reflect the days lost to the bad weather; (ii) C Hatch was awarded a BT 'Community Champions Award' of £500 for the club and (iii) we received a VAT rebate of £414 following a court decision against HM Revenue & Customs. Allowing for these items the underlying loss was £2334.16. This was broadly in line with the budget plan to return some retained cash to the members, in effect.

This last winter was pretty awful for weather, causing some dislocation with a number of the league games postponed and requiring slip games, a few of which were then conceded by defaulting opponents. After September, no Friendly games were played at all, mostly due to the weather. Mixed hockey continued with fairly regular mid-week fixtures on a day-to-day meet-costs basis (i.e. finances not recorded for these accounts). 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 their clear and concise 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.

(iii) Secretary's Report (Editor's Report)

Committee meeting were held about every 6 weeks, during which the general management and matters relating to the club's sustainability and progress were discussed. The Minutes are available from the secretary (Anne Edney) on request. Members with items of business to raise should contact the Secretary in the first instance.

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

Social events were organised by a sub-committee of Greg Jones and Ian Harris during 2009/10. These included a Christmas Curry & Crackers night, a Quiz Night and the Annual Dinner. All events were well organised and achieved a small profit. Whilst all events were fairly well attended there was always room for a few more and as ever, members are asked to support these important events, as we move forward to the 2010/11 season.

(v) Youth Coaching Report (Editor's Report):

John Oakley continued to run the Sunday morning youth coaching programme, which included training and competitions for U-9 and U-13 teams, as well as a number of boys U-16 games. Liz Oakley acted as Administrator for the juniors (an Administrator is required for junior sessions to comply with good practice and child protection guidelines) for the 2nd year and was duly recognised as Club Lady of the Year in respect of this contribution. Anthony Whitaker took over running the younger children's sessions in the 2nd half of the season and built up a good attendance. The club is very grateful for Anthony's help in this regard, not least because it allowed us to run with separate groups for the younger and older children. John was assisted on various occasions by Sam Oakley, Chris Hatch and others. We certainly finished the season with quite good attendances of up to 25 children. Without doubt, the most successful aspect of the junior programme was the progress of the boys U-16 team. All the players were regular Saturday players in our various Mens senior teams but coming together as an U-16 team they produced some inspirational results. These included victories over all our leading local competitors including Felixstowe, Colchester and Ipswich hockey clubs

(vi) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Dave Charles):

All fixtures requiring umpires were fulfilled including those put upon us by SCHUA and other clubs. Many thanks must go to Chris H who has probably done the lion share again. He often by request does two games on a Saturday and long may this continue. Other contributions have come from Ian reed, John Adams, Graham Ramsden, Jake and Dave Charles, John and Sam Oakley, and Anne Edney. Many of our registered L1s will not be registered as active in the new season and this is a concern. The number of female umpires is also a concern that the male part of the club effectively bails out the female part. L1 courses are run regularly so there is no excuse! Jake Charles achieved well as an umpire; last season attaining L1 outdoor status, this season he achieved L1 indoor and became a candidate for NYUPL. SCHUA are after him for next season!!! IES has 3 L1Ts, Barrie and Sam are approaching assessment, Neil has a year to get his games in.

Thanks again to those of you who have been dreading the Friday or even Saturday am call!

Stats: the following IES qualified umpires contributed the umpiring for the number of games shown. These include club and SCHUA appointments for IES games and a few other games where IES was asked to contribute a SCHUA pool appointment or umpire for another club during 2009/10. This list is not necessarily complete:

Chris Hatch (31), Graham Ramsden (12), Dave Charles (10), Jerry Hindle (7), John Oakley (5), Jake Charles (5), Sam Oakley (5), John Adams (4), Ian Reed (3), Barrie Whelpton (3), Steve Thorpe (2), Neil Slade (2), Dave Taylor (2), Anne Edney (2), Peter Day (1), Saph Cutting (1), Steve Clark (1).

John Adams, Dave Charles and Jake Charles also contributed significantly to the SHA Indoor Competitions umpiring.

Review of the 2009/10 season – Captain's reports:

The Mens 1st X1 (Jason Pettit)

This season the men's 1st team took on a whole new approach with the introduction of a coach/manager to provide some leadership both on and of the pitch.

Previous season's the squad used was in excess of 25 people due to availability & commitment which did not help with stability or tactics with the team, this year we stuck with a regular squad and played some attractive hockey at times. This included a number of youngsters who had shone the previous season and warranted a chance within the squad.

This season we held preseason fitness sessions & friendly fixtures against team who play in higher divisions than ourselves to set expectations and to push ourselves.

We also encouraged the squad to commit to training where we could work on set plays, basic skills and drills at improved structured training sessions held by the coach, although not as many people came as we regularly as we would have liked numbers were better than previous years.

Although the friendly results did not reflect the progress we had made already as a team they did offer a challenge which we dealt with very well.

We had some pleasing results in the first half of the season starting with a 10-1 win against St Neots and results continued to show that a stable team and training really helps and with six wins, 2 draws & 4 losses in the first half of the season we were more than happy with the progress we had made and sat in the top half of the table.

The second half did not start well with snow stopping training and friendly games which hindered our preparation for the second half of the season. This meant that we started with a league fixture and little preparation. This seemed to sum up our results also with only two wins, one draw and seven losses, however injuries did not help us either with two or three players out long term.

We hope to introduce a couple more players for next season to give the squad to strengthen and build for the future which will help us progress to the next level.

I would like to thank everyone who has played in the squad and contribute to its success in staying up in 2 North for another season. A huge thank you also goes to Jason Pettit for his commitment and expertise in coaching us from the sideline and to Kevyn Brown for being Captain.

We look forward to another successful season next year taking another step forward with this new approach and climb up the table next season.

Ladies 1st X1 (Abigail Adams)

The ladies first team squad knew they would have a tough challenge ahead of them in order to improve on last season's 6th place finish. After a shaky start seeing the girls draw to Bourne and lose to Wisbech, a run of 5 wins (including victory over local rivals Ipswich who were subsequently promoted), saw the squad sitting comfortably amongst the top teams in the league, with confidence and team morale high. The squad's performance hit the buffers with a defeat against Cambridge City which was the beginning of a run of six defeats. With self-belief somewhat lacking, the Christmas break provided a welcomed opportunity to refocus. January saw two well fought 3-2 victories against Norwich City and Long Sutton. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly a 1-0 victory over league champions Lowestoft, having been forced to turn out with only 11 players. Having lost some key players to injury and newfound family commitments, player availability was always going to be a problem this season, but stepping up to the plate when it mattered, coupled with the joining of several talented players to the club, meant that the girls finished in 6th place for the second season running. Despite a disappointing second half of the season we should take pride at remaining in this league and proving we are more than good enough to compete at this standard.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the ladies first team squad over the course of the season. Charlie Farrow has decided to step down as coach after four seasons, and thanks go to him for his commitment to the squad. I would also like to thank my Vice-Captain, Sarah Brown, for her endless support. In fact, everyone that has played a part in organising me over the course of the season – a huge thanks! We look forward to another successful campaign next season.

Mens 2nd X1 (Dave Charles)

The Mens 2nds, captained by Dave Charles needed to consolidate in Div 4NE. This level proved to be the team's level although 8/12 was disappointing and the possibility of relegation to div 5 only went away as results elsewhere and cancellations worked in our favour towards the end of the season. We could have had a mid table finish in the top 6 at one stage but it was not to be. There were some critical changes in team personnel throughout the season which probably cost us the chance to finish in the top 6. We used a number of Junior players to bolster the numbers and at times to make up playing numbers particularly in the 2nd half of the season. The effect of this was to strain the core members and to frustrate some of the Juniors but the resolve of the team and the spirit of the team held firm. The team almost unanimously voted Peter Blake as player of the year, but despite his best efforts we never really managed to stem the tide of goals and conceded almost twice what we scored!

Ladies 2nd X1 (Editor's Report):

The start of the season saw the need to consolidate from 3 teams to two, after it had become very clear that insufficient players were available for continuation of a Ladies 3rd X1. Some of the former 3rd X1 chose to stay but regrettably a few others moved to alternative clubs. This was fair and understandable. Despite the difficulties, captain Cathy Cook soon got the side into a competitive structure and a draw and a win in the September friendlies was a good foundation for the league programme to come. Following 2 losses, the side achieved four wins and four draws through to the Christmas break, virtually eliminating any chance of relegation by then. A game vs Bury 3rds on Nov 14th was abandoned in a torrential downpour but the 7 – 3 away win over Grasshoppers on Dec 12th saw an outstanding performance against a side above us in the division.

The Jan – Feb period was disrupted by the snowy weather but once games got underway the side enjoyed mixed fortunes. The outturn for the second half of the season was 3 wins and 5 losses. Home form and results remained quite good but end-of-season losses at Bury and Harwich took a bit of the gloss off and meant a 50% record and a 7th place finish of the 10 teams that remained in the division at the end. Still, a season that settled well and one where we were always able to compete and enjoy the competition. Cathy stood down as Captain after several seasons and the Club thanks her for her contribution in this regard.

Mens 3rd X1 (Editor's Report)

The Mens 3rds, under the redoubtable captaincy of Guy Whiting, approached the 09/10 season with a determination to show that they should have been in Div 5NE from the previous season. The step up was always going to be tough and challenging for a side that was in transition from one that had been very much veterans based. As the season unfolded, Guy was able to select and sustain a team of senior players, along with some of the promising teenage players who were increasingly making their mark. The four September friendlies saw a mixture of results including a win over Bury but a thrashing by Harleston, although by then it was clear that the team could score goals. A 4 - 0 win over Norwich City on the opening day of the league programme promised well but 3 losses followed before a return to form with wins over Sudbury and Norwich Dragons. In all, 5 wins and 6 losses was the outturn by Christmas, leaving the side adequately positioned but with work to do. When action restarted between the snow storms, a solid 4 – 2 win over Pelicans and a 1 – 0 win over Dragons (Daz Clarke scored with a few seconds left) almost ensured divisional survival but losses to Ipswich Cranes, Sudbury and Felixstowe left the side a bit vulnerable before a 3 – 0 'default' win over UEA assured a 7th place finish. The late season games and results were adversely affected by a seemingly minor collision which resulted in Guy having a badly broken arm and some permanent metalwork to hold the bones together. Any similarity with Bionic Man will have to await a later assessment.....!

Ladies 3rd X1 (Editor's report)

As mentioned elsewhere, it was clear by about August that too many players had left the club or were unavailable for reasons such as maternity, work commitments or other reasons for the continuation of a 3rd X1. With regret the side was withdrawn from the league – a doubly disappointing turn of events following the promotion to the Suffolk Premier after the highly successful 08/09 season.

Mens 4th X1 (John Oakley)

In terms of results obviously the 2009/10 season was very disappointing; however getting good results is not the only criteria to judge the 4th XI season. The role of the team is a development side with the aim to introduce promising juniors to Club Hockey and turn them into competent Club Players who can progress within the Club and play for teams higher up the Club. In these terms the season is then really a success because several youngsters continued their development to the extent that players who started the season with the 4th's finished playing for higher teams in the Club. Admittedly part of this was because of the horrendous number of injuries suffered by the Club during the season but it should also be noted that the youngsters all performed well in the higher teams.

Another aim this season was to restructure the 3rd and 4th elevens such that the Veterans played mainly for the 4th's. This was achieved relatively smoothly and it was possible to build a team spirit which meant even if we did not win many games we were competitive towards the end of the season. The low point of the season was the 12-0 defeat by Norwich City Vets where it was an achievement to get eleven players on the pitch (the eleven players however

were not necessarily eleven fit players). As with the 3rd eleven for the past two seasons a 4-4 draw (against Pelicans) was the turning point of the season when the team actually gelled and we were effectively robbed of victory when Barrie was injured and we had to play most of the second half with only ten players.

With regard to people who deserve a mention Steve Thorpe the player of the season and top scorer was a valuable addition from Colchester. At least for the first half of the season we were actually very effective at short corners. All the Veterans contributed well and it is probably unfair to single out any more for particular mention ahead of the others. Of the Juniors special note should be made of David Stevens who developed over the season from a raw junior to a dependable defender and his performance at Holt merits a specific mention. I would like to thank Dave Gooch for playing goal for the first part of the season and covering for the ripple effect of losing James Lane. Towards the end of the season Mike Whitting started playing as our goalkeeper and he shows considerable promise for the future.

Bearing in mind the fact that 2 teams withdrew from our league and our neighbours Ipswich dropped a team from the league above it was a good achievement to complete all our fixtures. In that regard the fact that I was able to bring in the juniors from Sunday training helped cover for the players needed to be released to higher teams.

Finally I would like to thank everyone from the Club who umpired for the 4th's during the season.

Mixed X1 (Editor's report)

The Mixed X1 continued to play in the informal mid-week competition that has been organised with the 'Saxmundham' and 'Framlingham' teams, at Framlingham College, for many years. A few games were cancelled due to the snowy weather but a high level of hockey was always played when weather conditions permitted (although mid-winter evenings at Framlingham are not noted for mild conditions at the best of times!). The results of these friendlies are not recorded but it is sufficient to say that IES achieved around parity with the oppositions. The Station pub was a clear winner with the business provided by the IES squad after the games!

Simon Martin has run the team for many years and deserves a great vote of thanks for his efforts. He stood down at the end of the season pending his move to Birmingham for personal reasons. (OK, that means he is getting married and moving on). Good luck Simon! You will be missed as a long term member of IES since 1991.

Indoor Hockey Squads (Editor's Report)

2 Mens and 2 Ladies teams competed in the SHA Indoor League and Cup competitions (managed by John Adams) at Rushmere. All teams played well and achieved some good results. (League positions and other details are not available at the time of publishing this report).

End of Report