

# Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.ieshc.org>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Centre.



## Annual Report for 2012 / 2013

Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2012/2013

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

		IESHC - Playing Record: season 2012 - 2013										
		Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	% Success	League Points	Lge Position	
Mens 1st	League	22	16	4	2	72	25	47	81.82	52	1 (12), [C],[P]	
	Friendly	3	3	0	0	16	6	10	100.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>84.00</b>			
Ladies 1st	League	22	5	3	14	30	64	-34	29.55	18	10 (12)	
	Friendly	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>28.26</b>			
Mens 2nd	League	21	19	1	1	95	30	65	92.86	58	1 (12), [C],[P]	
	Friendly	2	1	0	1	6	6	0	50.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>89.13</b>			
Ladies 2nd	League	22	0	0	22	1	157	156	0.00	0	12 (12), [R]	
	Friendly	1	0	0	1	2	13	-11	0.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0.00</b>			
Mens 3rd	League	22	13	2	7	73	45	28	63.64	41	4 (12)	
	Friendly	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	100.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>65.22</b>			
Mens 4th	League	20	7	4	9	44	47	-3	45.00	25	6 (13)	
	Friendly	2	2	0	0	9	3	6	100.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50.00</b>			
Mens 5th	League	18	3	2	13	21	70	-49	22.22	11	11 (14)	
	Friendly	2	0	0	2	1	15	-14	0.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>20.00</b>			
<b>Totals</b>		<b>159</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>49.06</b>			

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

C = Divisional Champions      P = Promoted. R = Relegated

### **Editorial (by Chris Hatch):**

Season 2012-13 saw IES run 5 Mens and 2 Ladies teams and achieved 2 promotions (as Divisional Champions) but with one Relegation for the Ladies 2nds. Most of the season's story is described in the Chairman's report and this editorial is therefore kept very brief.

The Club would again like to thank Rushmere Sports Centre, 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.

## **EH Competitions: Summary of results (conceded games are not included in the stats)**

<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 Trophy*	1	1	0	0	4	0	1H
Men, EH O-40 Trophy/Vase**	3	1	0	2	3	3	2H +1A
Mixed Cup	1	1	0	0	3	0	1H

Mens Trophy; IES were unable to play a much delayed game v Norwich City in the following round and conceded the game.

Mens O-40 Trophy/Vase; IES lost to Havering (Trophy) but beat St Neots (Vase), then lost to Stratford in the semi-final.

Mixed Cup; IES beat Bury St Edmunds but then conceded to Bedford after two attempts to play on a fit pitch during protracted bad weather.

### **Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2012/13:-**

Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> place, Suffolk Indoor Premier League

Men Runners-up, Suffolk Indoor Premier League

Runners-up, Suffolk County Cup

Winners, Suffolk Premier League Cup

Runners-up, ERHA Mens Premier Indoor Tournament (Promoted to National League but were unable to raise an adequate side to compete)

### **Representative Honours during 2012/13:-**

Suffolk Mens Senior County Championships squad: Geoff Reed, Luke Curtis; Tony Burch (Manager)

East Region; Mens O-55 squad: Graham Ramsden: Mens O-50 squad, Peter Blake

East Ladies O-45 squad: Maria Whelan, Sam Simpson

Suffolk Mens O-50 squad: Graham Ramsden, Peter Blake, Terry Murray, Guy Whiting, Dave Gooch, Hugh Rowland, JPRC: George Sutton

Various Suffolk junior squads: Lauren Whiting, James Gray, Donnie Archer, Alex Smith

### **News from the Annual General Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

The following elections were made at the AGM (or by subsequent committee appointment). Note that elections to the various posts followed adoption of a new Constitution for the Club and which are reflected by the separation into an Executive Committee and Additional Roles in the lists below:

President, Graham Ramsden;

#### Executive Committee

<u>Chairman</u> ,	Steven Farrow;	<u>Deputy Chairman</u> ,	James Klug
<u>Treasurer</u> ,	Chris Hatch;	<u>Secretary</u> ,	Phil Buck
<u>Welfare Officer</u> ,	Pete Francis	<u>Development Coordinator</u> ,	Geoffrey Reed
<u>Communications Co-ord</u>	Gary Scarff		
<u>Mens Player Representative</u> ,	Russell Williams	<u>Ladies Player representative</u> ,	Samantha Simpson

### **Additional roles (not part of the Executive Committee) – elected or appointed by Committee decision.**

Umpire Liaison Officer:	Chris Hatch
Mens' Fixture Secretary:	Graham Ramsden
Ladies' Fixture Secretary:	Graham Ramsden
Social Secretary:	Tony Burch (Cathy Cook as Ladies' rep)
Junior Section Co-ordinator:	Di Stevens
Ladies Recruitment:	Katie Baskett
Club Kit Organiser:	Steven Farrow
Fundraising Secretary:	TBC
Men's Head Coach:	Geoff Reed
Women's Head Coach:	TBC
Junior Head Coach:	TBC
<u>Team Captain / Vice Captain</u>	
Men's 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Luke Curtis / Charlie Coulson
Men's 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Peter Blake / Peter Francis
Men's 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Guy Whiting / TBC
Men's 4 <sup>th</sup> :	James Willing / Stu Thornton
Men's 5 <sup>th</sup> :	Ian Reed / Barrie Whelpton
Ladies' 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Sam Simpson / TBC
Ladies' Team Secretary:	Julie Yorke
Ladies' 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Lizzie Burch / Kat Howard

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

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

A year ago this place, Rushmere, was rather different. We were waiting for deals to happen that would lead to the developments you can see now – a new pitch, changing rooms, a roof that doesn't leak. The legal deal that happened a while after the last AGM wasn't the one that we expected. If the original deal had happened Rushmere would have been run by a charity and apart from the new pitch, it might have continued much as it had for the last 10 years or more. That deal fell through and the owners of Rushmere had to start again looking at alternatives. Ipswich School expressed an interest but wanted a different deal. They are a charity but they have bought the sports club and have very different ambitions to what some other charity and trustees might have had. The school expect to make considerable use of the pitch on Saturdays which, with only one pitch means we would not be prime users.

Moving on to our performance on the field: For the ladies it was never going to be an easy season. The Back to hockey sessions last summer were the important beginnings of a sustained effort to keep 2 teams going. Well done and thanks to Annette and the team captains for encouraging everyone to the point where a third team is again on the cards next season. Special thanks to Annette and Lizzie Burch for taking the reins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> team part way through the season.

The men have gone from strength to strength with the mens 1<sup>st</sup> now promoted to Div 1 and the mens 2<sup>nd</sup> to Div 3 after a fantastic unbeaten run until the last match of the season. Geoff, Charlie and Peter – great stuff. Guy's 3<sup>rd</sup> team put up another great show and for a while they were in the promotion run as well – we needed them to survive in Div 4 having been promoted last year – they did much more than that.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> teams were frustrated by continual and often last minute changes to their squads – compounded at the end of the season by opposition sides not getting their teams to fulfil fixtures. The mens over 40s reached the semi final of the plate competition and only lost by the odd goal to Stratford-upon-Avon. We made progress in the Mens trophy and mixed competitions but had to concede in the end due to weather and a backlog of other commitments.

We had many players gaining county and regional honours – there may be others so my apologies to anyone I've missed:

- Sam Simpson and Wheelie in the East Ladies over 45s
- Lauren Whiting, James Gray, Donnie Archer, Alex Smith, Geoff Reed and Luke Curtis all played for Suffolk. Tony Burch was Suffolk coach
- Seven of us played for Suffolk in an over 50s competition beating Essex and then lost to Cambridge in the East region final
- Peter Blake played for East Over 50s.

Indoors last year the men gained promotion to the East Premier division and they proceeded to win that this year. Unfortunately they were unable to go on to the next level which would have meant a trip up to Hull. They did however beat Ipswich to win the Suffolk Indoor cup.

Individual commitment and determination are key factors in these achievements but the coaching support we have is vital too so many thanks to all our coaches.

The youth section has been very active as well and the results that have been achieved by all age groups show the progress the youngsters have made. Di, all the coaches, team managers and supporters – thanks for doing a great job.

Thanks to Chris and all our umpires. We had a few more take the umpires course last season and there's always room for more.

The social events organised by Steven Farrow (Jaffa) were well supported, particularly the Dinner Dance with over 90 present. Ladies night went down very well with some memorable performances from a range of stars – though I don't think any will make it onto Britain's Got Talent. The Richard Gray event is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> July here at Rushmere

Thanks to

- Committee and club officers for all their work through the season
- Anna for teas
- Dawn for running the 100 Club
- Gary and Geoff for the web site and fantasy hockey
- Rushmere staff

Finally as I step down from the role of chairman, there are three special thanks:

- First to Annette White, club lady of the year who committed a great deal of time and effort to managing the ladies this year,
- Secondly to Jaffa, Club man of the year – he's give me personally great support and advice this year, plus he's met and negotiated with the school on behalf of us all
- Lastly, someone who has played a few games, umpired often, and is also responsible for all the work that has gone into the proposed constitution and all the supporting documents that were sent out with the AGM notice; in the background he's gathered a group of helpers that have worked through the season so that we are in a position today to propose a new constitution and structure for the future. Thank you Barrie Whelpton.

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

At the end of our 15th season after moving to Rushmere Sports Centre, I am able to report that we have continued to pay our way, with a surplus of £34.92 recorded on the current account over the year. We enjoyed a mixed season with our Mens 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> X1's promoted and all other Mens sides doing well in their various divisions but the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 was relegated although the Ladies 1sts retained divisional status.

There was relatively modest expenditure on equipment, balanced by a heavy investment in training courses. However, the major departure from 'business as usual' was the receipt of £4500 in sponsorship from 'Martlesham Heath Business Park' (to which the club is most grateful) and the disbursement of the bulk of this sum on part-sponsored playing kit. Of this sponsorship sum, about £650 remains. The club is also very grateful for receipt of £500 from the Ipswich Rotary Club (to support junior hockey) and a 'Back2Hockey' grant of £330 (to support the take up of the game by women).

There was a net loss of £453.00 for all Indoor hockey activities (competitions & training), which remains a concern.

The winter was pretty awful for weather for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, causing a lot of dislocation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a number of the league games postponed. These were mainly made up by end-season but income was lost due to Friendlies having to be cancelled.

The long-awaited pitch at Rushmere is now a reality, However, its availability to IES on Saturdays is improbable. That means that we will be negotiating for the use of Copleston for the full 13/14 season, on the same Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday usage profiles as during 12/13.

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 40% off the net pitch hire costs at Copleston.

I should like to thank the team secretaries and/or captains for their clear, concise and timely accounting of income and expenses – some better than others this year. I should also like to thank the members who have participated in the '100's club' and Fantasy League which yielded £516 in fundraising income. The 'traditional' contributions of those who waived some travelling expenses (especially our Junior Coaches) and those who absorbed costs such as phone calls are gratefully acknowledged.

### **(iii) Secretary's Report (Phil Buck)**

The Committee met regularly during the 2012-13 season at about 6 week intervals. Much time has been devoted to the future of Rushmere Sports Club. Many Club members felt strongly enough to write to Suffolk Coastal Planning Department. Also of great importance has been the work of Barrie Whelpton and a sub-committee set up to begin the process of ClubsFirst accreditation through England Hockey. This has been the driving force behind changes to the Club Constitution and changes to the management structure. The AGM 2013 voted for a new structure and the those duly elected are as listed in the 'News from the AGM section' above:

Thanks to Graham Ramsden for his work in 2012-13 as Chairman and to Peter Blake as President.

Next year the Club will require further paperwork and course attendance by some individuals, to enhance the hockey experience offered by IESHC, as we progress towards Clubs1st .

### **(iv) Social Events Report (by Steven 'Jaffa' Farrow);**

This season the club ran three formal social events, Curry and Crackers, a quiz night and the end of season dinner. The Curry and Crackers event took place prior to Christmas and was very well attended with over 40 members and guests present. The quiz night was held in March again a very well attended event with over 10 teams entering. The season was rounded off with the formal end of season dinner at Fynn Valley golf club. This year over 90 members and guests attended and we packed the restaurant!

Throughout the season all of the social events were well supported and that reflects well on all club members who contributed to making these a success. Along with the club socials the general social atmosphere has been very good this year, with the greater focus on using Rushmere and new activities such as social mixed hockey.

Looking ahead to the next year we are planning to continue with the current format for socials but would be keen to include more into the calendar.

#### **(vi) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Chris Hatch, as ULO):**

During the 2012/13 season, the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> X1 league games were umpired by SCHUA appointees when at home or Away in Suffolk and a mixture of Norfolk Pool and club umpires when away in Norfolk. IES is grateful for the pool appointees, especially as there was only one instance of the club having to provide to the Suffolk Pool. That said, our members, Dave Charles and Richard Pittaway gave priority to East Premier B umpiring (or occasionally Prem A) and the club met all possible Pool provision requirements (as mandated by the League Rules) on that basis. Accordingly, thanks are due to Dave and Richard for their commitment to umpiring at the higher levels.

It was a problem getting our current Level 1C 'candidate' umpires through the full qualification process although Richie Head was successful. Efforts are continuing to get several others to full L1 status. It's an essential aspect of the club's long term sustainability as quite simply we are unable to play and therefore dysfunctional without qualified umpires.

For the record, the following number of club Saturday games were umpired by each of our qualified umpires listed below:

Chris Hatch (35 games), Jerry Hindle (15), Barrie Whelpton (10), Graham Ramsden (10), Steve Thorpe (8), Ian Reed (6), John Oakley (6), Peter Blake (5), Richard Pittaway (5), Rob Sebborn (4), Anne Brown (3), Richie Head (3), Matt Oakley (2), Dave Charles (4), John Seabrook (1), Sam Oakley (1), Geoff Reed (1). All our currently listed L1 umpires on the East and Suffolk records retained their 'Active' status going into the 2013/14 season.

#### **Review of the 2012/13 season – Squad reports:**

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

This was a second successive championship-winning season for the Mens 1sts with a much-desired promotion back to East Div 1 level. Strong players joined the club and the coaching programme, lead by Geoff Reed, took the squad to another new level. The team remained unbeaten until promotion was assured and won 4 – 1 against 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed Bourne Deeping in February to assure the divisional title. Several players were injured or ill during the last month of the season and 2 defeats were recorded but this did not detract at all from a fine campaign. With much the same squad expected to form the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 in Division 1, it will be a tough challenge but one that the players can be confidently expected to rise to.

##### **Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1 (Sam Simpson)**

Success is not just about scoring goals or winning matches, though we all enjoy a top goal and the feel of a win. It's about the end result and learning from our experiences so that we keep improving.

The 2012/13 season for the Ladies 1st XI team was one which required us to preserve our league position. We had the benefit of a core number of dedicated players and everyone played at the top of their game. Snow and many cancelled and rearranged games lead to a lot more work for Julie Yorke, our Fixtures Secretary, but she made sure all the games were played. Annette White, our Ladies Manager, held the whole ladies section together by keeping us informed every step of the way. Thank you to Netty and we wish her well in her next chosen sport as she retires from playing hockey. Our Vice Captain, Ali Clements, was superb, she kept me together and gave tremendous support when I was captain on the day and took the lead in my absence. A strong positive approach to every game for a full 70 minutes and commitment to weekly training (a huge thank you to Tony Burch and Peter Elsom for running our weekly training sessions) has kept us in the NE Div 2 League. We achieved our goal.

In 2013/14 we look forward to moving up the League table and securing the IES Ladies 1st team numbers.

##### **Mens 2nd X1 (Editor's report)**

The Mens 2nds under captain Peter Blake, met every target and expectation with a truly outstanding season in Div 4NE, winning promotion as champions and not losing a game until the very last one played. As with the 1<sup>st</sup> X1, injuries and illness took their toll on late season performance but not before success was assured. Arguably, a non-played game v Thetford should have been awarded 5 – 0 to IES rather than voided by the League, which would have resulted in the team being credited with 100 goals scored. The stand-out result was a 9 – 1 thrashing of Bury 2nds in September which really set the tone for a season of confident and dominate performances. Congratulations are due to all the regular players, of whom the club will especially miss university-bound David Stevens and Chris Pittaway, as the challenge of competing in Div 3NE gets underway.

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

There is no doubt that all the regular Ladies 2nds players enjoyed their season, despite results that were invariably adverse. The loss of strong players to the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 or to giving up hockey altogether meant that young and inexperienced players came into the team to fill the vacancies. The team spirit and sheer effort put in each week spoke volumes for the level of commitment which should stand us in good stead as the challenge of competing in Suffolk Ladies Division 1 gets underway. Thanks are due to Di Alexander for leading the team in the first part of the season and then to Lizzy Burch for stepping in later on.

### **Mens 3rd X1 (Peter Elsom)**

It was way back in 2012 during the close season and in Europe that two elder statesmen of the club and turned to the men's third team captain and said "just make sure you stay up" or words to that effect given that the team had gained promotion.

At best this was a master stroke of reverse psychology at worst it was a bit of an insult to suggest to the captain that "staying up" would be classed as a success.

The skipper would use these words on many occasion throughout the season in order to get the most out of his charges.

Those few privileged enough to be close to the skipper knew from the outset that the season was not about "consolidation" but was about progression and also aiming for a top two finish and whilst this was a tall order it was what the skipper wanted and expected his team to work for.

The teams within the league through up some interesting fixtures with a number of second and first teams in the league and the added excitement of playing our own second team.

The season started as many recent seasons have started with an away game and a loss in Norwich against a side that many predicted would be in the mix at the end of the season. There then followed 3 good games for the side scoring 19 goals in the process thus after four games everything was looking rosy 9 points from a possible 12 and a healthy goal difference to boot. Perhaps rather significantly and something that we did not realise at the time but 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012 was the last time we were to keep a clean sheet with the exception of course of the games conceded by the opposition.

A disappointing game away in The Dragons Den was followed by a nail biting victory at Sudbury and then the first concession of the season. Some people will "take a 5-0" victory but many would prefer to actually play and the skipper knows only too well that historically this team have always "struggled" a bit after not having a game.

What then followed can only be described as Nasty November. Four games and four defeats and any hopes of challenging for a top two finish had vanished and all of a sudden after an encouraging start to life in Division 4 started to look far more daunting.

The skipper regrouped his squad and two further games before Christmas bought two further victories.

After the Christmas break the weather did it's best to intervene and disrupt our fixtures which meant that two games were postponed before we entertained Norwich Dragons at home. Had we have played before this important game who knows what might have happened as it was Nowich left The Copleston Centre very relieved and perhaps slightly fortunate to have won the game narrowly 4-3.

This was the last time the side lost for the rest of the season and it was victories all the way with the exception of a "winning draw" against Bury played under lights late in the season and a "gutsy draw" against our own previously unbeaten second team.

So the season came to an end with the side finishing fourth in the league which is no mean feat and the side should go into their summer break with their heads held high and looking forward to next season where they should be aiming for promotion.

The side have been well supported and those that have played have revelled in the camaraderie that prevails in this side which is all very encouraging for the future and many thanks must go to The Fuhrer for creating these conditions.

Teams are not just built overnight and it is about getting the balance right. A very talented individual can be disruptive of a team performance and the skill is blending individual brilliance with the team ethos.

There is no doubt that the season in the main has been hugely enjoyable with some outstanding team and personal performances but I always look a bit deeper than the league table at the end of a season and ask could we have done even better?

Only those that have been part of the side can answer that question.

### **Mens 4<sup>th</sup> X1 (Richie Head)**

Well we had a great start to the season with a 5-1 win over Sudbury 3XI, unfortunately it was a friendly. Still it was a good game to shake out the cobwebs and set our hopes high going into the 5NE league. Our first league game gave us our first point with a 2-2 draw verses Harleston 6XI. Unfortunately the promise of a plethora players coming down to us did not materialize with injuries and the like, however we had a number of young players who all showed fantastic spirit and determination as did their more regular and experienced peers. We had a smaller core of regular players and this had an impact with the ability to play as a team with changes each week. This saw us through a small losing streak only curtailed by a draw with Harleston 7XI. We continued with a series of win lose and draw and have been dangerously close to the bottom a few times, although only just dipping into to the relegation zone.

The year was also blighted by a number of games being cancelled due to the weather. This was quite telling later on, but kept the suspense going. This together with some personal sorrow, with the loss of my father at the beginning of the second half of the season made it a bit blurred for me, however as I would have expected the team continued to rally and first of Graham Ramsden and then Phil Buck stepped up, organized the team and the 4XI continued to fight to stay in the 5NE.

Our fortunes changed and we started winning more games than losing. I am sure this is something to do with the fact that I rarely played myself as I had been out too long and the team was working well. I did however enjoy organizing, selecting and talking to the team throughout, as well as putting in some cameo appearances.

It looked like the last two games would be the deciders, we had to at least win one of them to make absolutely sure we were going to slay up (although there was a good chance we would anyway). Unfortunately this is where it all fell a bit flat. Both postponed games due to be played on the last extended Saturday and Sunday of the season fell through with North Walsham and Pelicans forfeiting the games. This gave us two 5-0 wins and an additional 6 points which catapulted us up to 6<sup>th</sup> place. Whilst it is tremendous for the team, as they deserve the position it is a shame to end the season this way.

This year has been a good one for the 4XI and the club as a whole. I would like to thank all the officers of the club on behalf of the team for all of their hard work. The other captains have been very supportive and rose to the cries for help when us lowly teams have been short. Ultimately I have to thank those of you who have played for the 4XI. You have dug deep on many occasions, always putting in 100% and ensuring that you battle to the end. It was especially good to see Owen Stevens come on so well this year, and he was a very worthy winner of 4XI player of the year. Thanks also go to Phil Buck for stepping in so ably at the start of the second half of the season. I have been proud to lead you all out of a Saturday.

### **Mens 5<sup>th</sup> X1 (Editor's report)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> X1, under captain John Oakley, had a good season, providing the vital mix of playing opportunities for young juniors and very season veterans alike. Although just three league games were won, all our opponents were made to work hard for the points on offer and the side finished above the nominal relegation zone in Div 6NE. However, due to an expansion to seven divisions, the team will have to compete in Div 7NE during 2013/14. A realistic target will be a push for promotion but that will take every ounce of commitment.

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

Around 3 or 4 Mixed games were played against Saxmundham or Framlingham at Framlingham College with varied results. This informal and occasional playing structure is due to be superseded by the new Suffolk Mixed League during 2013/14 and it is interesting to see how well this is supported by both IES and other competing clubs. IES also played in the EH Mixed Cup, winning 3 – 0 against Bury with an excellent performance. Unfortunately, the weather caused 2 postponements of the next round game which we then decided to concede due to clashes of fixtures and no possible opportunities to play the game.

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

IES were continued to run 3 Mens teams and 2 Ladies teams, in the Suffolk Hockey Association Indoor League during 2012/13. The various teams, divisions and final league places were as follows:

Mens A, Premier Division; 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 7)

Mens Mallards, Premier Division 1; 5<sup>th</sup> (of 7)

Mens B, Division 1; 6<sup>th</sup> (of 7)

Ladies A; Premier Division; 4<sup>th</sup> (of 7)

Ladies B; Division 1; 3<sup>rd</sup> (of 5)

The Mens A team also won the Suffolk Premier League Cup.

So, a fair measure of success for both the Mens and Ladies squads. The Men also came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the East Premier Division Indoor tournament, resulting in promotion to the National League competition but were unable to raise a squad for the event (in Hull) and accordingly withdrew.

Dave Charles, Richard Pittaway, John Oakley and John Adams umpired regularly in the Suffolk Indoor League and are thanked for their contributions. The club would also like to thank Marc Lloyd, along with leading members of the Suffolk Umpires Association for their considerable efforts in managing the League and ensuring a high standard of umpiring.

### **End of Report**