

Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.ieshc.org>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Centre.



Annual Report for 2013 / 2014

Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2013/2014

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

		IESHC - Playing Record: season 2013 - 2014									
		Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	% Success	League Points	Lge Position
Mens 1st	League	22	7	7	8	42	51	-9	47.7	28	8 (12)
	Friendly	3	2	0	1	5	6	-1	66.7		
	Total	25	9	7	9	47	57	-10	50.0		
Ladies 1st	League	22	1	4	17	11	81	-70	13.6	7	12 (12) R
	Friendly	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00		
	Total	23	1	4	18	11	82	-71	13.0		
Mens 2nd	League	18	8	3	7	47	37	+10	52.8	27	5 (10)
	Friendly	3	2	0	1	12	5	+7	66.7		
	Total	21	10	3	8	59	42	+17	54.8		
Ladies 2nd	League	18	12	2	4	94	10	+84	72.2	38	2 (8) P
	Friendly	3	3	0	0	11	0	+11	100.0		
	Total	21	15	2	4	105	10	+95	76.2		
Mens 3rd	League	22	14	4	4	70	40	+30	72.7	46	3 (12)
	Friendly	2	2	0	0	9	3	+6	100.0		
	Total	24	16	4	4	79	43	+36	75.0		
Ladies 3rd	League	18	4	1	13	15	117	-102	25.0	13	6 (8)
	Friendly	5	4	0	1	11	4	+7	80.0		
	Total	23	8	1	14	26	121	-95	37.0		
Mens 4th	League	22	8	4	10	46	49	-3	45.5	28	8 (12)
	Friendly	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00		
	Total	23	8	4	11	47	52	-5	43.5		
Mens 5th	League	18	8	1	9	50	46	+4	47.2	25	6 (10)
	Friendly	3	0	0	3	1	11	-10	0.00		
	Total	21	8	1	12	51	57	-6	40.5		
Totals		181	75	26	80	425	464	-39	48.75		

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

C = Divisional Champions P = Promoted. R = Relegated.

Games in Suffolk Ladies Div 1v Christchurch 3rd have been included as Friendlies (Christchurch were defaulted from the league due to exceeding the number of allowed cancellations)

Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

Most of the 2013 – 14 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.

We enjoyed a mixed season with our Mens sides doing well in their various divisions but the Ladies 1st X1 was relegated although the Ladies 2^{nds} achieved a promotion place. We ran a Ladies 3rd X1 and an official Mixed X1 for the first time in several years and that proved to be most successful in terms of expanding the club and providing additional playing opportunities.

EH Competitions: Summary of results

Competition	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Venues
Men, EH O-40 Trophy/Shield	2	0	0	2	4	7	2A

Mens O-40 Trophy/Shield; IES lost to Dereham (Trophy) then drew 3 – 3 against Sudbury (Shield) but lost the penalty stroke competition 5- 6 and were eliminated.

Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2013/14:-

Ladies 2nd place, Suffolk Indoor Division 2
 Men 4rd place, Suffolk Indoor Premier League
 Winners, Suffolk Indoor Division 2
 3rd place, ERHA Mens Premier Indoor Tournament (retain status for 2014/15)

Representative Honours during 2013/14:-

Graham Ramsden: Suffolk Over 50s; Suffolk over 60s; England LX club; East Grand Masters (over 60)
 Peter Blake: Suffolk Over 50s; East Over 50s
 Donnie Archer: JPRC; trial for England U-16 squad
 James Gray: Suffolk U-17; JPRC U-17
 Lauren Whiting: Suffolk U-15

News from the Annual General Meeting on 5th June 2014

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 (subject to a Lady member being appointed later)
Team Secretaries	Chris Hatch (Men), TBC (Ladies)
Social Secretary:	Chris McManus (Cathy Cook as Ladies' rep)
Junior Section Co-ordinator:	Tony Burch (also Head Junior Coach)
Club Kit Organiser:	Steven Farrow
Press Officer:	Kat Howard

Team Captain / Vice Captain

Men's 1 st :	Chris McManus / Charlie Coulson
Men's 2 nd :	Peter Francis / Carl Short
Men's 3 rd :	Guy Whiting / Russell Williams
Men's 4 th :	James Willing / Keiran Page
Men's 5 th :	Ian Reed / Barrie Whelpton
Ladies' 1 st :	Michelle Scarff / Kirsten Theobald
Ladies' 2 nd :	Lizzie Burch / Kim Caley
Ladies' 3 rd :	Leanne Ling / TBC

Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-

(i) Chairman's Report (Steven Farrow):

On the playing side it's been generally a good but tough season for all our teams. The Ladies 1sts had a very challenging year being in a new East League division with increased travel and tough opposition; they battled hard but unfortunately were relegated. I however think looking to next season they have a great chance to build the side and challenge to get back into the East League.

The men's first team also played in a new division having been promoted last season. Results went their way at the beginning of the season but they were pulled into a relegation battle towards the end, needing to win their last game to retain their league place, which I am pleased to say they did.

The ladies 2nds had a great season winning many games well and securing promotion to the Suffolk Premier Division for next year very well done to them.

The men's seconds also played in a new division (East Div 3NE) this year and competed well finishing mid table. Our ladies 3rds was a real success entering a new team this year to expand the section to three teams. The team featured many new and young players. They were a real credit to the club and competed well to finish mid table. I am sure they will develop well next season.

The men's 3rd team had a very strong season, finishing toward the top of their division (East 4NE) and challenging for promotion until the end.

Under the new captaincy of James Willing, the Mens 4ths also faced new opposition in their division (East 5NE) having been promoted. Finishing mid table was a credit to James and the team.

Our 5ths also had new leadership this year with the experienced double act of Ian Reed and Barry Whelpton. The team competed well, finishing in a very creditable 6th place.

On the indoor hockey we have run 4 men's teams and 2 ladies teams in the Suffolk Indoor League and also a men's team in the East Premier League.

Thanks you to all the captains and vice captains for their hard work and time this year in organizing the teams.

I must also thank all those who have umpired without you we all know games wouldn't take place also my thanks for Chris Hatch for managing this weekly.

On the junior side lead by Di Stevens we have again built on the success of previous seasons and have a really buoyant junior section with over 100 juniors registered. Thanks to Di and all her coaches who give so much

On the social side we have run our usual format of events. The end of season dinner was an especial success with 124 people attending at Ipswich town hall.

Off the pitch the focus has been the development at Rushmere. There have been numerous meetings with the new owners to secure our future at the site. I can confirm we have agreed our contract with the school in principle and are finalising the contract. Many thanks to Peter Blake for his patience and help in reviewing the contract.

Lastly I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work this season.

(ii) Treasurer's Report (Chris Hatch):

At the end of our 16th year after moving to Rushmere Sports Centre (or 28th year in total), it can be recorded that we continued to pay our way, with a surplus of £210.96 recorded on the current account over the year.

There was significant expenditure on equipment and playing kit, and some investment in training courses. The £650 remaining from the Martlesham Heath Business Park sponsorship was used to provide new members with playing kit (to the value of ~£50 each), although some additional support from club funds was needed to cover all such costs. There was a net loss of £402.50 for all Indoor hockey competitions, which remains a concern.

The long-awaited pitch at Rushmere is now a reality, along with 2 more that should be completed by August 2014. The club has been in detailed negotiation with the owners for many months and everything is essentially in place to be fully based at RSC from the start of the 14/15 season. The costs will rise but members will have great value for money by playing home games and training at an elite hockey centre.

Once again it needs to be emphasised that the members who ran the youth coaching during 13/14 provided the whole club with a de-facto subsidy on their hockey costs, worth some 40% off the net pitch hire costs at Copleston. Members and friends who participated in the '100's club' and Fantasy League helped by contributing £545 in fundraising income. A lot of income & cost modelling has gone into the financial structure for 2014/15 which was endorsed by the AGM. Most of the additional cost is the RSC pitch hire and a rise in RSC Membership fees. At its most optimistic this structure will deliver break-even finances but there is sufficient in the club's reserves to accept some losses and then take stock at the end of the first season fully based at RSC.

(iii) Secretary's Report (Phil Buck)

During the Summer – Autumn of 2013 some IES Committee members were active in assisting Ipswich School to get the necessary planning permission for the additional two pitches at Rushmere Sports Club. Thanks to all those who wrote to Suffolk Coastal Council in support of the application.

In accordance with the new Club Constitution, a newly configured Executive Committee of ten members met on the second Thursday of every month. This was extended to 11 to include the Junior Section representative. Meetings involved reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Junior Section. We also had specific discussions about "playing matters" and "planning". It is hoped that meeting attendance will be more consistent next season.

The Secretary and Treasurer have attended all Suffolk Hockey Association meetings this season and reported any developments back to the Executive Committee.

A sub-committee, under the guidance of Barrie Whelpton, continued to work through the necessary paperwork required for 'ClubsFirst'. To meet criteria some members attended a variety of courses to include coaching, safeguarding and first aid. This is part of an ongoing process.

Members are asked to ensure that the Club has full contact details and that individuals complete their annual application forms to ensure that the database is kept up to date.

(iv) Social Events Report (Steven Farrow);

IESHC offered three main socials this year, starting with the annual Curry and Crackers event, held in November and very well supported with 60 people in attendance. My thanks go to Phil Buck, Lizzy Burch and Tony Burch for their help with this event. After the Christmas break we held our Quiz Night again well attended with around 50 people present. Chris McManus is to thank for his support on this event and being quiz master.

The season ended with our Annual Dinner, moving to a new venue this year in the Town hall. This exceeded all expectations in terms of ticket sales selling out within three weeks. We sold 124 tickets. My thanks goes to Russell Williams and Tony Burch for their help in organizing this great event. I hope we can look forward to many more dinners at this great venue.

(vi) Umpires and Umpiring Report (Chris Hatch, as ULO);

During the 2013/14 season, the Mens 1st X1 and Mens 2nd X1 Home league games were umpired by SCHUA appointees. IES is grateful to the SCHUA for the pool appointees. That said, our members, Nick Meakin and Richard Pittaway gave priority to Suffolk and East Premier umpiring and the club met all possible Pool provision requirements (as mandated by the League Rules) on that basis. Accordingly, thanks are due to Nick 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 Geoffrey Reed and Steven Farrow were 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. Of some concern, 68% of our umpiring appointments were provided by umpires in the 60's age group. Other younger potential umpires must become qualified to sustain the club

For the record, the following number of club Saturday games were umpired by the IES umpires listed below: Chris Hatch (36 games), Jerry Hindle (17), Graham Ramsden (10), John Oakley (9), Steven Farrow (9), Barrie Whelpton (8), Steve Thorpe (7), Geoff Reed (7), Rob Sebborn (5), Gary Scarff (5), Peter Blake (5), James Gray (4), Richard Pittaway (3), John Adams (2), Nick Meakin (2), Richie Head (1), Ian Reed (1).

Review of the 2013/14 season – Squad reports:

The Mens 1st X1 (Geoff Reed)

The Men's 1s had a simple task to stay up this year after 2 seasons of promotion, They were back into a respectable league with all other Mens 1s in Div 1. The goal was achieved.

Like all teams highs and lows were apparent. A lack of stable squad and commitment each week meant IES after finishing the first half of the season in 4th position, dropped to 8th at the close and staying up by 2 points and one place. Goals were a problem with James Klug finishing top scorer with 6 and not even playing the full quota of games.

Positives included being defensively one of the best in the league, and only conceding 2 goals in the first 5 games. Strong performances from Kev Brown (deservedly Player of the season with his performances) and Charlie Coulson meant each week we had a strong starting point.

Everyone chipped in with good performances here and there and thanks must go to all the team for ensuring we stayed in Div 1 and have something to build on for next year.

Thanks and goodbye to Paul Graves, George Sutton and Tony Burch.

We won't miss running round after George in training, always an ever present and such a nice guy to go with it all. See you in 3 years when back from uni.

Points that stick out:-

A heroic performance from Tony Burch which was almost a keeper versus Bourne in 0-0 draw, saw some saves which seemed impossible, and the game could have gone on for days without him being beaten. Paul Graves scoring a great goal, despite falling over on the floor mid-dribble and getting up to fire into bottom corner. Beating Havering at home 4-2 who eventually went up, as well as a 3-0 win over local rivals Colchester. Nick Olding's drag flick versus Colchester which was pinpoint and a vital goal similar against Upminster.

The success was the emerging talent of 2 youngsters James Gray and Alex Smith whom both held their own and got better and better each week in a tough and high standard. Both have enthusiasm, skill, ability and a great attitude to go with it all, and are a joy to have around. Both playing in 1st team aged 15 this year.

To Look forward too: The arrival of our two Aussies, Jon Gibson (Aussie national Indoor Player & South Australian senior player) and team mate Michael Boseley (South Australian u18 and Senior player) both from Woodville Hockey Club - South Australia.

Both will be a credit to the club, both on and off the pitch as they are top players and above all social and lovely lads, so as a club we will welcome them with open arms and make them feel very welcome.

Ladies 1st X1 (Sam Simpson)

The season saw our Ladies 1's team competing in a new Division, 2 Central, which was created by the East League. It mixed Suffolk clubs with clubs as far as Hertford and East London. The Ladies 1's attracted some star new players, Hannah and Michelle, from our Summer League matches and together with our existing strong 1's players (who succeeded in keeping us in the East League in the previous season) we started off with gusto and enthusiasm. This was a tough season for us all and we travelled many miles to be defeated by stronger teams we had no previous experience of playing. The home games against our fellow Suffolk teams, that could have gone our way just didn't, try as we might. But, we kept our commitment levels up and we faced many games with fresh strategies and really listened to all team members' ideas and suggestions for lifting our game and finding better game plans. The result was an improving team who jelled through defeat and hard work.

Mens 2nd X1 (Peter Blake)

The early news that 2 teams had dropped out of Division 3 NE was disappointing for a squad keen to attempt a repeat of last season's heroics. Although this immediately eased concerns (if there were any) about relegation it meant for a disjointed season with three long gaps including the Christmas break.

It was apparent that some minor rebuilding would be required with the loss of Chris Pittaway and David Stevens to university. One of the highlights of the season was the emergence of Alex Smith and Owen Stevens as young players of genuine promise, both of whom performed with distinction on occasions. James Gray, when free from school commitments, and latterly Donnie Archer (more of whom below) also made a handful of appearances and significant contributions. The acquisition of Owen Cook, back from university was a boon, particularly when he found his niche as an overlapping left defender. Those aside the rest of the squad were largely the same players who had gained promotion with the additions of Chris McManus in goal and Tim Best, making a welcome return to the game after an absence of several years.

Despite the expected odd changes of personnel week by week for the usual reasons the squad has remained generally stable and committed (we could have trained more). Noticeable progress was achieved in playing enjoyable constructive passing hockey without ever achieving the dizzy heights of total hockey.

Early promise of promotion gave way to reality as defeats at the hands of Dereham 2, North Walsham, UEA and Harleston 3 suggested that we were not genuine promotion contenders and so it proved. In the end a fifth place finish was probably a fair reflection of the season overall, although it has to be said that on our day we were able to crush opponents with positive passing hockey and in some cases blistering pace. The wins against Norwich Dragons and Harleston 3 stick out in the mind. The team became more resilient as the season progressed as several hard fought away victories by the odd goal attest. A winning run in culminating in a 3-2 victory at newly crowned champions Dereham showed how far we had come over the season and owed much to the brilliance of Donnie Archer in goal, whose performances in the final 3 games of the season were nothing short of exceptions. Carl Short, who gets better with age was a worthy winner of player of the season.

It has been an absolute pleasure to captain the 2s for the past 3 seasons. Thanks to all who have played and contributed. My particular thanks go to Pete Francis vice- captain, Dawn for her help on the side line, to Seb for his commitment before he was injured and willingness to share his knowledge with and encourage younger players (everyone except me) and to Gary Scarff who had an excellent season and was not only willing and able to play anywhere but also knew a short cut to everywhere.

Ladies 2nd X1 (Lizzy Burch):

Starting this season off we knew that if we pushed ourselves we had a chance of promotion. After last season we were going out win the game and enjoy it as a team. We had are tough games which we struggled at first but as the season went on we grow from strength to strength and ended up 2nd in the league which from last season we had come a long way. We had huge support this season and we had some outstanding players but the whole team deserve credit for their hard work and for everyone to tat helped along the way. Hopefully all that hard work will pay off by being promoted next season.

Mens 3rd X1 (Peter Elsom)

It would be all too easy to go through the results of the season in order to give an end of season report and there is no point in reviewing the league table or analysing each match. The side finished third in the league which was an improvement on the previous season by one place and had something to play for right up until the last game of the season which perhaps demonstrates how close we came to promotion.

People will have their own opinion on what constitutes "a successful season" but if success is measured by team spirit commitment and togetherness then this was arguably the most successful season for many years for this squad of players. In the main thoroughly enjoyable and our thanks go to the management team of Messrs Whiting and Williams.

Looking back I think the season was one of two halves. The league was perhaps "split" into three definitive groups and the squad could be categorised into three groups of people. The league had the top group of 5 teams all pushing for promotion then there was a group of 4 teams that were a little inconsistent but it was all about what team they put out on the day that you played them and there was then 3 teams at the bottom that struggled. The squad could be categorised as follows:-

The Students (Dwelley, Donattello, Crane, Semnani, Elsom jnr and anyone under 21) – starting out on their hockey journey, enthusiastic, skillful and fit but perhaps lacking a little in tactics for mens hockey.

The Teachers (Lever, Gallagher, Tingey and anyone up to 35) – jealous of the students as they are not as fit as they use to be but still have the ability at this standard.

The Masters (Most of the side) – have generally been and seen it all, in the twilight of their career and jealous of the students and teachers who have more longevity.

The majority of the squad have enjoyed quite a lot of success over the last 3 or 4 seasons but it did feel as if it took a bit of time for this year's squad to settle down and this was reflected in the results during the first half of the season but the fact that at the turn of the year we were "still in the mix" is perhaps testament to the honesty of this group of players. Looking back perhaps those two awful weeks mid-October when we were comprehensively beaten by both Pelicans and Felixstowe in successive weeks galvanised the side more than we perhaps realised at the time. These were a difficult two weeks loosing so badly to two of the top teams in the league. However, the most disappointing result has to be the rather limp draw with Thetford who were relegated.

Whilst we struggled a bit for consistency in the first half of the season the same cannot be said for the second half of the season as in all bar one game we were determined and dogged and in two games positively destructive and by the end of the season we were in irresistible form.

It would be very easy to dwell on "the two games" that arguably cost us promotion in the end namely Thetford away (1-1) and Watton away (2-2) but I would prefer to keep the memory of the Dragons destruction (10-2) the passion and commitment shown against Pelicans at home (0-2) and who could ever forget 22nd March Bury at home.

It has been hugely enjoyable and the quad should be very proud of their season and assuming the majority of this squad can stay together I would expect even greater things next season but one must not be complacent and with home games being played at Rushmere next season we will become the club/team everyone wants to beat.

Finally whist I recognise that it is a team effort three people deserve to get singled out for special praise:

Toby Lever – deservedly won player of the year and was the engine room in midfield. Added dimension to his game this season was his goals.

"Badger" Page – quiet and unassuming but carried out his defensive duties without fuss and was not "intimidated" in any way.

Cameron Dwelley – it is not easy being "the new youngster" and in many cases "the only youngster" however he deserves special mention for lasting and putting up with us and will I am sure benefit from the experience.

Ladies 3rd X1 (Leanne Ling)

As this was a new ladies team I am not sure there was much expectation of great things from the 3rds but with the arrival of some very talented and keen young ladies and a core of older but still keen and enthusiastic members of last years seconds the team did very well. Finishing above some of the other new teams in the league and winning

some games against the teams of equal ability, although getting thrashed by some of the more established teams. We didn't start very well against our own seconds but built in confidence after winning 4-0 against Felixstowe 3rd. It was a very good start to the season with a committed turnout to training and games by all of the players, showing how much the girls like to play hockey. This dedication and commitment stayed right up to the end of the season with a friendly away at Bury ending up with 13 players to choose from and a 2-1 win. The improvement in the team really started to show as the team got to know each other and all games ended with a sense of pride and achievement, as well as comments from the opponents that we were a friendly team to play against. Apart from the extra practice at defensive short corners the skills of the team have improved massively and special mention goes to consistent goal scorers Emily Backhouse, Megan Claxton, Stacey East, Lucy Robinson and Holly Knox. With some brilliant saves from Tori Hazelwood as a new goalkeeper, and Kat Howard, Liz Mutimer, Julie Crane and Debbie Archer as our solid defence.

Mens 4th X1 (James Willing)

A new season, a fresh start, old heads and young legs. An inspirational young captain was to take his place on the big stage with the support of the old boy – Stu Thornton. The start of the season saw the introduction of previous members trying to rekindle the early days of their careers. Tim Best rejoined to be a rock at the heart of the defence; Danny Mayhew decided he fancied another go at being the instrumental figure alongside the inexperienced captain. Tom Britton even wanted to test his skills at the toughest of levels rather than having a go at the 1st XI again.

In a pre season with two cancellations and a damaging 3-1 loss to Colchester, things were off to a bad start. Those summer beach bodies weren't as trim and fit as first expected! However, the first game of the season saw our credentials handed a real boost with a 7-0 thrashing of Dereham. Stu Thornton found his goal scoring form straight away. That had been a prominent feature of the prior season. Danny Mayhew proved his worth offering the kind of support that David Beckham would have been proud of.

This form continued as the Mens 4s racked up 3 more wins and only conceding two. League dominance was on the cards with Kian Semnani showing his Ipswich School Boy talents with some fun running and scoring. Tom Britton also provided some much needed experience. However, the season defining moment came against the other form team. Pelicans had been unbeaten in their first 4 games, however conceding more and scoring less to leave them behind the 4s on goal difference. With our first meeting against them on the hallowed turf of Rushmere, the scene was set for a match of dominance. 2-0 up in 15 minutes and cruising. Things took a turn for the worse and quickly the result was a disappointing 3-3 draw.

The tone was set for the rest of the season with a damaging 4-2 loss to Sudbury away from home. There was movement of players with the loss of Tim Best to the 2s and Colin Sneddon deciding his time was done for that season. From what was a promising season came a disappointing end as the Mens 4s finished in 8th. However, there were gains from the season that weren't promotion defined. The development in the confidence of the younger players such as Matt Crane and Ollie Mills could prove to be a real success story for the forthcoming season. Matt Crane went from strength to strength while Ollie Mills showed his worth at right back with some very promising performances. Matt Hearnden was a huge success taking the step up from mens 5s to hold down a spot in the heart of defence week in week out. Let's not forget the captain either who couldn't be praised more for his desire (albeit self-evaluated). The team most definitely agree that he was the biggest success. Our praise goes to Dan Fairburn who seems as if his time is up at IESHC as he moves onto pastures new, he was a true success. Coming to a club with endless goalkeepers, to step up and be more than capable, he showed his worth by gaining points through some truly magnificent saves. My praise goes to every member that played under me this season and I could not have asked for a better squad to begin my development as a captain under.

Mens 5th X1 (Editor's report)

The Mens 5ths, under the leadership of Ian Reed and Barrie Whelpton, achieved a good level of success on the field and continued to support the social side of the club off the field. A final Div 7NE placing of 6th (of 10 teams), winning 8 of the 18 games and achieving a positive goal difference, amounted to the best playing record since we were able to once again field a 5th team. As usual, a team at this level was very much about bringing youngsters in whilst continuing to offer competitive playing opportunities to our most senior (in age) members.

Mixed X1 (Editor's Report)

The club entered a team in the newly formed Suffolk Mixed League which provided a number of games on Sundays during the regular season. It must be acknowledged that the results were not especially good but the games provided a lot of opportunity for some of our Lady players especially to play in a high-paced competition and show their commitment to the club's wider objectives.

We also continued to play some informal Mixed friendlies at Framlingham College on mid-week evenings, again providing additional playing opportunities for our members.

Junior Section (Di Stevens)

The Junior Section once more has gone from strength to strength and its membership has risen to 124 children aged between 5 and 16 years. We have been involved in various tournaments often fielding more than one team in an age group including The St. Josephs College Girls Hockey Tournament, Suffolk Hockey Association and East of England U16's.

We now have a large number of our members from age 13 upwards playing in the adult teams and their zeal and enthusiasm have really made an impact on the club. We have made a large singular investment in 4 brand new full goalkeeping kits from our funds which has left us rather low but was essential not only to ensure the children's safety but to encourage more children to have a try. We have also bought new mini sticks, balls and some spare shin guards as new people turn up to have a try but are not sure of what to buy. This season there were so many calls, texts, emails etc to do for the section that I also resorted to a designated section mobile phone – this meant that should we need to contact a parent in an emergency their numbers were at hand immediately – this has been a real boon.

Not too many injuries once again (touch wood) – the worst being a broken thumb, and the usual bruises and bumps. We need to say a few thanks now – and I want to thank first our regular coaches – Pete Francis, Tony Burch, Sam Simpson, Ian Taylor, Russell Williams, Anthony Whittaker, Owen Stevens and Lauren Whiting. We have also had other coaches who have helped out at various times when we have tournaments or coaches are on holidays – too many to name so a big thank you to you all. The parents have been highly supportive – one who should be mentioned being Ingrid Longbon who took on some of the tournament organization for the U10 team (we were running 3 teams in this age bracket and still ran out of space).

The section has now outgrown my capability to co-ordinate and I have decided to step down and take a break! This means that there will be re-organization of roles and responsibilities – spreading the work load over a wider number of people. I will remain involved in the section coaching but will not be involved in the co-ordination role any longer (I would also like to do some fund raising!).

Thank you to everyone in the club who have supported not only the section when we meet on Sundays but all our young players who are so carefully looked after by you all in the adult teams.

Onwards and upwards – we look forward to some great results in the next 2014/2015 season!

Indoor Hockey Squads (John Oakley)

It was basically a successful season for the Indoor teams in that both sides in the Men's Premier League (IES A and IES Mallards) retained their status by finishing mid-table. If you bear in mind the sides playing in the Premier League this was a creditable performance for both teams. As most of the Mallards team from the previous season were not around it was an opportunity to give some of the Club's promising youngsters the opportunity to play a high standard of Indoor Hockey.

As the number of players on the pitch in an Indoor game had been reduced from 6 to 5 it was an opportunity to enter two teams in the Division 2 League. This proved successful, in that one of the teams won the League and should be promoted to Division 1, which will give a good balance to the Club's Men's Indoor structure next season. The two teams had a good mixture of experienced and younger players.

Editor's Note: John Oakley contributed a great deal to the coordination of the SHA Indoor League/Cup activities in general, including admin effort, table duties and umpiring contributions.

End of Report