

Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

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



Annual Report for 2002 / 2003

Editorial:

The Club had a very 'mixed' season during 2002/03 during which the Ladies made excellent progress but the Men suffered setbacks, following the departure of a large number of our best players for a variety of reasons. The Mens results below show that we had to reduce our size from 6 teams to 4 and the 1sts, 2nds and 4ths were relegated

<Continued after the results table>.

IES - Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2002/2003

<i>Squad (X1)</i>		<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>% Success</i>	<i>League Position</i>
Mens 1	League	22	4	1	17	25	66	20.5	12 (12) R
	Friendly	3	2	0	1	11	11	66.7	
	Total	25	6	1	18	36	77	26.0	
Ladies 1	League	20	14	3	3	46	24	77.5	3 (11)
	Friendly	4	1	0	3	8	12	25.0	
	Total	24	15	3	6	54	36	68.8	
Mens 2	League	22	2	4	16	18	64	18.2	12 (12) R
	Friendly	4	1	1	2	8	13	37.5	
	Total	26	3	5	18	26	77	21.2	
Ladies 2	League	26	10	4	12	51	62	46.2	7 (14)
	Friendly	3	1	1	1	3	3	50	
	Total	29	11	5	13	54	65	46.6	
Mens 3*	League	Team	Wd						12(12) Wd
	Friendly	16	4	1	11	18	52	28.1	
	Total	16	4	1	11	18	52	28.1	
Ladies 3	League	24	22	1	1	111	12	93.8	1 (13) C, P
	Friendly	1	1	0	0	2	1	100.0	
	Total	25	23	1	1	113	13	94.0	
Mens 4	League	22	5	3	14	34	67	29.5	11 (12) R
	Friendly	4	2	0	2	8	11	50.0	
	Total	26	7	3	16	42	78	32.7	
Mens 5	League	22	13	2	7	41	26	63.6	5 (12)
	Friendly	5	2	3	0	7	3	60.0	
	Total	27	15	4	7	48	29	63.0	
Girls U17	League	8	5	1	2	21	16	68.8	1 (5) C
	Friendly	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	
	Total	8	5	1	2	21	16	68.8	
Totals		206	89	25	92	412	443	49.3	

(Note that the above data excludes the cup/trophy, tournaments and 'extra' mid-week Mixed Friendlies and the Mens 3rds games are treated as Friendlies, following withdrawal from the League in January. We did not run a Mens 6th X1 during 2002/03). C = Champions, P = Promoted, R = Relegated, Wd = Withdrawn

<Editorial continued from above the results table>

The great successes of the season included the Ladies 3rds winning the Suffolk League Division 1 by a huge margin, the Ladies 2nds finished in the top half of the Suffolk League Premier and the Ladies 1sts contended for a promotion place throughout their season, ultimately finishing 3rd in East Division 2N. Moreover, the Ladies Indoor squad won the East Indoor Championships, although the results in the Suffolk Indoor League were less good than in previous seasons. The Mens 5ths aka Veterans finished 5th in East Division 9SE, exceeding expectations and surprising a lot of younger teams. The Men found hidden reserves to win the Suffolk County Cup, beating Ipswich on the way and mixing euphoria with head-shaking as to why such form eluded them during the league programme.

The men were once again well represented in the Suffolk senior and U-21 squads, as listed below.

We continue to maintain excellent relationships with Rushmere Sports Club - grateful thanks are due to Sonia (for the Teas), Roger Osborn and others. Ongoing sponsorship from GAH Heating (formerly 'Thermecon') continued to provide funds for additional training resources. Off the pitch it is worth recording that IES again provided a considerable part of the Suffolk HA's management including Secretary (Chris Hatch), Mens Treasurer (Chris Hatch), Mens Senior and U-21 Manager & Coach (Charlie Farrow & Stu Gooderham supported by John Adams), Suffolk Indoor League organiser (John Adams), Schools & Youth Treasurer (Ian Watson), Boys U-13 and U-14 Manager and SSHA Secretary (David Walsh supported by Steve Godfrey), Suffolk Mini Hockey Organiser (Ian Reed). No other Suffolk club comes remotely near this level of commitment to organising the sport in and around our County. Charlie Farrow continued as the East Hockey Regional Development Manager – a professional position supporting our sport throughout the region.

A real innovation was the new interactive club web site, www.ieshc.org - designed and managed by Andrew Keedle, this provides the club with the means to provide all sorts of information on what we are about and was a major step forward in communication resources.

The Club would again like to acknowledge with thanks the work done by Suffolk HA President Brian Perks (now retired from that role) to coordinate the Indoor League & Cups throughout the season at Rushmere. We entered four squads in total and enjoyed playing in the competitions although success was more elusive than we would have wished.

The Club's social & fundraising programme was successful with several enjoyable events and the now well-established Craft Fayre in November.

Our youth coaching programme again proved highly popular and of enormous importance to the long term future of the Club and for which the Youth sub-committee and coaches under the leadership of Charlie Farrow deserve special recognition and thanks.

EHA Mens Cup & Ladies Vase. Summary of results

Competition	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Venues
Men, EHA Trophy	1	0	0	1	2	3	1 Away
Ladies, EHA Cup	1	0	0	1	4	7	1 Home

Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2002/03:-

Ladies Winners, East Indoor Championships (qualifying for playoffs for National League – finished in 3rd place and were therefore not promoted)

Men Winners, Suffolk County (Outdoor) Cup,

Representative Honours during 2002/03

England U-16 Squad	George Pinner
Wales U-16 Squad	Tom Parry
Suffolk Men Senior X1 Squad	Danny Mayhew, Guy Marshlain, Charlie Farrow, George Pinner. Manager/Coach Charlie Farrow / Stuart Gooderham
Suffolk Men U-21 X1 Squad	Marc Lloyd, Graham Bendall, Alex Borwick, Jamie Buxton, James Klug, Ian Swallow, Tim Caston, Tom Parry Manager/Coach Charlie Farrow / Stuart Gooderham / John Adams
Other Suffolk or East Junior Squads	Tim Fletcher, Stephen Peck (U-17); David Messant, Eddie Day,

James Howe (U-15), Charlie Turner (U-14) Jamie Pinner (East U-14), Jack Hinshelwood, Max Underwood (U-12); Josh Godfrey (U-11), Hannah Golding (U-17), Hannah Godfrey (U-15).
 Management: David Walsh managed the East U-13 Boys and has been Secretary of the Suffolk Schools & Youth Association. Steve Godfrey and David Walsh co-managed the Suffolk U-12 Boys squad.

News from the Annual General Meeting on 3rd June 2003

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

President, John Taylor; Chairman, John Adams; Secretary, Jacqui Gooderham;
Business Manager, Men's Team Secretary, Astro Pitch Liaison & Umpire Appointments Officer, Chris Hatch;
Club Promotions Officers, Guy Marshlain;
Social Secretary, Claire Laight;
Youth Officer, Ian Reed

Position

1st X1 Captain/V-Captain
 2nd X1 Captain/ V-Captain
 3rd X1 Captain/ V-Captain
 4th X1 Captain/ V-Captain
 Mixed X1 Captain / Secretary
 Indoor League Captain 'A', 'B'
 Fixtures Secretary
 Press Officer
 County Liaison Officer
 Web Site Manager

Men

David Taylor / Kevyn Brown
To be advised
 Darren Clark / Steve De Boltz
 Hugh Rowland / Barrie Whelpton
 Simon Martin
 Andrew Keedle or Kevyn Brown
 Peter Blake

 Andrew Keedle

Ladies

Katherine Brierley / Janis Taylor
 Annette White / Liz Staton
 Cathy Cook / Sue Nunn

 Mel Maguire / Liz Marshlain
 Jaq Gooderham
 Maria Whelan
 Katy Edwards

Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-

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

Thanks to John Reader and G A H Heating Products for their generous sponsorship which has now come to an end. Warm welcome to Members of Cranes Men's 1st team who will be joining us next season.

Year of contrasting fortunes for the two sections. Men found wins very difficult to come by with the exception of the Veterans whose experience shone through. Ironic that so many of our players have represented the full County or the U-21's in a season that proved to be the best ever in the County's history. Having to lose two teams (one at the start of the season and one at Christmas) was a huge blow. I am sure this is only a temporary blip in our fortunes and if the whole Club pulls together we will soon be moving upwards again. The season did finish on a high with the Men being crowned Suffolk Champions.

By contrast, the Ladies' have just had their best season ever. The 3rd XI won Division 1 convincingly, the 2nd XI had their best season ever in the Premier and the 1st XI had a great season in the East Leagues finishing 3rd in Division 2 North and will be eyeing promotion next season. Ladies crowned Indoor East Champions and represented the East in the playoffs for a place in the National Indoor League next season. Special thanks to all the team Captains for their commitment and time given to the Club and to Debbie Godfrey for her commitment to coaching.

In a new venture for the Club an U-17 team was entered into the Suffolk League which they duly won and by the end of the season several of the U-17's had progressed to the Senior sides. Thanks to B O C for their sponsorship. Moving the Juniors to a Sunday morning proved to be a great success, numbers were good and there were more volunteers to help with the coaching. Thanks to Charles for all the time and commitment he has put into the Juniors and all those that regularly helped with coaching. U-9, U-11, U-13 and U-15 boys and girls sides were entered into the new leagues with the U-13 girls winning theirs.

Four events held on social and fundraising front - season opener, bbq and games afternoon (Mandy Minter), another hugely successful Annual Craft Fayre in November (Sue Stenson, Avril and helpers on the day), a very well supported Quiz Night (Clare Laight) and our Annual Dinner & Awards (Avril & John) at the Orwell Hotel was once again a great evening.

Concluded by thanking all the Committee, on behalf of Club Members', for all their efforts behind the scenes to ensure Saturday hockey.

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

At the end of our 5th season after moving to Rushmere Sports Club, it is a pleasure to report that we have continued to pay our way and look forward to the future in a satisfactory financial position, despite a singularly difficult season in terms of having to manage a reduction of Mens teams from 6 to 4. The 'Copleston Contract' started from 1st September 1998 and we have now completed the 5th season of 10 under this agreement. This guarantees us the three Saturday and one alternate Sunday playing slots until 2008, together with the usual Wednesday evening training time, all at 20% discounts plus a further £10 reduction on Saturday bookings. It must be added that we derive enormous benefit from the Copleston 'SportsLink' scheme in terms of pitch availability and price reduction and the basis of the youth coaching programme. Once again it needs to be emphasised that the members who run the youth coaching programme are providing the whole club with a de-facto subsidy on their hockey costs. During 02/03, income and expenditure were in broad balance but this position was certainly supported by most of our 'development' costs being paid for from a grant of some £3,600 from the 'Awards for All' scheme – we are most grateful for this grant which has been put to very good use for the purposes for which it was made available. Along with the grant and general control of costs, it is satisfying to finish by noting that we voted to effectively reduce subscriptions in the form of providing all members with a 'free' new red shirt and match fees will be unchanged for 2003/04 despite the usual inflation of hockey costs.

(iii) Social & Fundraising Report (Editor's report):

The Chairman's report above gives details of the Social and Fundraising events run during 2003/03 and due acknowledgement to the members who organised them. The highly successful Craft Fayre was the main money earner and altogether the net fundraising income across all events was around £600, as we subsidised the season opening bbq and other events broadly broke even. The social side of the club has always been a very important aspect and all members are urged to give our Social Secretary Claire Laight their full support.

(iv) Youth Coaching Report (Editor's report):

Very briefly, much was again achieved in terms of providing coaching and playing opportunities for our 'army' of youngsters on the youth coaching list. Quite often, 60 or more youngsters came along and there was no doubt that moving the youth sessions to Sunday mornings was very beneficial in all respects. Charlie Farrow again spearheaded the programme and was supported by a varied group of the Club's coaches & supporters who regularly included Sue Nunn, Dave Taylor, Jon Oakley, Sophie Flack and several others. The impressive progress and commitment was backed financially by the Club's 'Awards for All' grant, which helped to finance coach education and related skills development during the year. One key innovation for the youngsters was the instigation of the 'McNeil Sports Youth League', run by Charlie Farrow on a voluntary basis and providing regular age-group based competition with teams from other local clubs. IES achieved a fair measure of success in terms of results but the real 'win' was the creation of a lot of competitive opportunity for the youngsters – altogether a major step forward. At the end of the season, Charlie stepped down from the leading role but Ian Reed, a Level 2 coach and former Chairman of the club, has stepped in and we can look forward to continuing to move the youth hockey forward in the 2003/04 season.

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

For the record, the Mens 1st X1 Premier 'B' league matches were umpired by ECHUA appointees whilst the Mens 1st X1 friendlies and most of the seconds games and were umpired by members of the SCHUA. Ladies 1st X1 East League games were umpired by the Suffolk neutral pool. The Club is, as always, most grateful to these three organisations for this essential contribution. Ladies 2nd, 3rd and Men's 3rd, 4th, and 5th X1 games were umpired by Club appointees. For our official Saturday and Sunday programme (including some neutral pool appointments, SHA Cup games, Girls U-17 league and 'favours' for other clubs), 3 or more games were umpired by Chris Hatch (39 games), Jon Oakley (18), John Pope (14), Ian Reed (9), Nigel Munson (7), Jamie Buxton (5), John Adams (4), Steve de Boltz (4), Anne Edney (4), Danny Cripps (4), John Bendall (3), Ray Black (3), Charles Farrow (3). Ten others (all Level 1 or Level 1T qualified) umpired 17 games between them.

Nearly all of the Club's 'Level 1' Umpires contributed to the total effort. However, it is a matter of concern that England Hockey and the various umpires associations want to push the idea of umpires having to do a minimum of 5 games in a season to maintain their qualification. This would be disastrous for IES on the basis of the above profile and is being resisted – simply on the grounds of practicality and player-umpire availability. On a positive note, 4 members passed the Level 1 Umpire qualification examination and are moving towards full qualification – we continue to need all the qualified player-umpires we can get! Chris Hatch will again act as

the Club's non-pool umpire appointments coordinator for the coming season.

Review of the 2002/03 season – with Captain's reports where available:

The Mens 1st X1 (Editor's comments) It has to be acknowledged that a season in which we suffered a second successive relegation and are now out of East Premier level hockey for the first time in 8 years was a bit of a setback and disappointment. Whilst the side was always able to compete and played with IES's usual style of eclectic and attractive hockey throughout the season, the oppositions generally outscored us as made evident from a league record of W4, D1, L17. The best patch came either side of the Christmas break with wins against Long Sutton, Pelicans and Letchworth but the hint of a revival and survival evaporated as the last 7 games up to March 29th were lost, with a subsequent victory over Havering on the slip date being a scant consolation. The loss of a number of talented players to other clubs, trips to Australia, university and retirement was undoubtedly the main reason for the decline in fortunes. However, great credit should be given to the squad and the management of Charlie Farrow, David Taylor and Kevyn Brown for maintaining their enthusiasm and enjoying the contests, even with success on the pitch being somewhat elusive. Everybody gave 100% and our young goalkeepers George Pinner and Marc Lloyd continued to make progress. The best really was saved for last when IES won the Suffolk County Cup, beating a full-strength Ipswich on their own pitch with a really accomplished performance. We need to build on the knowledge that we can play extremely well as we resume action in Division 1 of the East League in the new season.

By contrast, the **Ladies 1st X1 (Janis Taylor writes)** were always amongst the leading clubs in their league. Our second season in the East League but our first in North Division II with different journeys to face and oppositions to meet. We got off to a rather shaky start with some strange goings on at Pelicans! It appears they did not want to play a league game that day - the league decided upon a replay and so again to Kings Lynn. Subsequently our first league game against Norwich City was a very close encounter with us coming out on top, 4-3. A very disappointing game at UEA, losing 1-0, eventually cost us dear at the end of the season. A memorable and extremely long trip to Lincoln had us back on winning form (someone even remembered to pack a team breakfast). We continued with a mixed set of results up to the mid season break - although a satisfying win in our replay with Pelicans and nice lunch on way home ended things well. After Christmas we were depleted through injury and pregnancy, and despite our captain Fran being unable to play for the rest of the season she was ever present in her support and organisation. Out of 10 league games we lost only one, to Wisbech, who were the eventual league winners. A close encounter with UEA was on the cards for the last game of the season but unfortunately, due to other results, this game did not take place. We finished the season in a very creditable third place. Thanks must go to all the team for their commitment throughout and most especially to our manager John Adams for training, driving the mini bus, organising and putting up with us all and being able to stand the strain of watching us play well and losing and playing badly and winning! Last, but not least, thanks to Katy for being such great blonde entertainment for the entire season! All our thoughts and good wishes go to Fran for a speedy recovery.

The **Mens 2nd X1 results (Editor's comments)** broadly mirrored the Mens 1sts as overall available playing strength was not quite able to deliver winning results in Div 2N, despite the committed captaincy of first Peter Elsom and later Danny Cripps. Most of the oppositions were other club's 1st X1's and our (mostly) young players generally competed but struggled in this company. Highlights were wins over Felixstowe 1sts and Bourne 2nds but that aside, we conceded 3 goals for every 1 goal scored to finish in 12th and last place. However, as with the 1sts, players enjoyed their hockey, team consistency for the second half of the season was good and our young players learned to battle against the odds. Many of the side at the end of the season will be at university during 03/04 and the Club wishes them well in their new surroundings. The objective now must be to regroup in the slightly less demanding level of Div 3SE and integrate the best new players coming into the club, with a view to regaining Div 2 status at the earliest opportunity.

Again, reflecting the Club's relative competitive position, the **Ladies 2nd X1 (Editor's comments)** enjoyed a good measure of success in the Suffolk Premier Division. Jo Dexter's determined leadership and organisation set the tone and confidence was high as 9 points were secured from the first three league games against Haverhill 2nd, Harwich and Southwold. Some setbacks followed against opposition 1st X1's but a fine run of 5 consecutive wins before Christmas already secured enough points to remain in the Division and offered the prospect of a finish in the top 4. The New Year saw a decline in fortunes as key players were required for the 1sts and just two wins were recorded against Southwold and Ipswich 4th, along with some draws. Injuries to fast-improving goalkeeper Megan Adams certainly had a bearing. However, the overall performance saw the side finish in 7th place, just in the top half of the division and deservedly so. Opportunities opened up for our best young players to play at this level and the side should be confident of once again doing well in the Suffolk Premier in 2003/04 (but it will be tested by our 3rds !!).

The **Mens 3rd X1 (Editor's comments)** was one of the casualties of significantly reduced numbers of available players compared with the previous season. At least, during the first half of the season, the squad played its games and wins were recorded against Sudbury 2nds and Brentwood 3rds, although a total of 7 points from 11 games was hardly a comfortable position to close 2002 with. Captain Danny Cripps worked hard to maintain a positive outlook and keep up team morale but ultimately something had to give as we effectively lost 8 players at the mid-season break. Reasons included some players taking off to Australia, injuries, calls of work and Ipswich School priorities. Indeed, once the smoke cleared, the 2nd X1 after Christmas was largely made up of 3rd X1 players as selected before Christmas. Given the age profile of the remainder of the club, it did not seem practicable to withdraw the 5ths, i.e., cancel from the bottom as is the usual case when clubs have availability problems. Some delicate negotiations between John Adams and the League Committee resulted in IES being given permission to 'resign' the 3rd X1 from Division 4SE, whilst allowing the 4ths and 5ths to continue in Divs 7SE and 9SE respectively. Certainly, the 4ths and 5ths derived no unfair advantage as effectively no former 3rd X1 player moved down. So far as the league results were concerned, all 3rd X1 results were adjusted to [0 – 3] losses for IES and the team *de-facto* scrapped. The results obtained on the pitch up to the disbandment of the squad have been recorded as 'friendlies' in the table at the top of this report. Interestingly and fortunately, the merger of IES and Cranes 1sts has been accepted positively by the League Committee, allowing Cranes to bring their Div 4SE fixtures for 2003/04 with them. Therefore, with the club's top 3 squads playing in Divisions 1, 3 and 4 and the remaining side in Div 8 next season, league hockey will still be available at a demanding level for all the available Men. We have much to work on to maintain and improve on the position as we now find it!

In contrast with some tales of woe reported above, the **Ladies 3rd X1 (Editor's comments)** season turned out to be a tale of one of the greatest successes in IES history! Back in August we had concerns that we might be short of numbers to run 3 Ladies sides. However, players joined the club and Cathy Cook and Sue Nunn took over running the team. We had one bad day, September 21st when the side lost to Mildenhall by a goal. Four months later, we drew at Stour Valley on some 'difficult' grass. Apart from that, every game was won, many by substantial margins! We scored precisely 100 goals more than we conceded – that almost tells the story in itself. Cathy Cook and Anne Edney each scored well over 20 goals (not that the two of them were competing to be highest scorer in the Division, of course, in a team game!). Many other squad members also got their names on the scoresheet. At the other end, Fay had some quiet days but others where she had to keep the opposition at bay. One clean sheet came on Nov 16th when we got the best result of all putting 10 past Ipswich 5th – always good to beat the old rival, let alone give them a thrashing. Positively as well, the side managed to integrate several junior players as the season progressed and this has to be good news for the future. So, next season will bring some tougher challenges as our 3rd X1 moves to the heady heights of the Suffolk Ladies Premier Division. Guess what! The 03/04 league fixtures have set up the tantalising prospect of IES 3rds at home to IES 2nds on the opening day, Sept 13th. Good luck to all concerned and congratulations to the Ladies 3rds on winning the Division 1 Championship in such style!

Another tale of what might have been reflected the **Mens 4th X1 (Editor's comments)** season. With John Pope in charge and John Bentley as Team Sec, we could be confident of a well organised and well motivated squad ready to take on some tough opposition in Division 7SE. The early weeks of the season offered much encouragement as friendlies were won against Harleston and Bury opposition and then we got an excellent win over Upminster 3rds followed by a draw at Wapping 3rds in the first two league games. Three subsequent losses were followed by three successive wins to leave the side in mid-table at the end of November. Not bad at all. However, the need to move some players to higher sides rapidly told on performances and the rest of the season was at best frustrating in that nearly all the games were lost by one or two goals. That is, until the last two weeks of March when we drew with (and came within 2 minutes of beating) title-chasing Marconi and beat Colchester 3rds by two goals. The difference? A couple of players back from Uni and perhaps some added strength provided by a couple of our experienced players being available. Frustratingly the last league game was lost by a single bizarre goal to Witham 3rds but we just stayed ahead of them on goal difference to finish 11th. Unfortunately, that still meant relegation but even that situation disguises a bit of a twist in the tail! As IES have decided to run just 4 teams in 2003/04 and as we have absorbed the former Cranes fixtures in Div 4SE for our 3rds, it means our 4ths will participate in Div 8SE and that will provide the fixtures for the former 5th X1 who would have expected to play in Div 9SE. Funny old world! Anyway, back to the 4ths in 02/03 – Graham Ramsden had a fine season in the heart of the defence and goalkeeping was mainly shared by Neil Slade and Jamie Pinner who both performed heroically. Charlie Farrow played a cameo part at the end of the season. Some regular 5ths/Vets showed club commitment by playing for the 4ths when selected. Everybody gave 100% and really we were not far off the pace of a mid-table finish. John Pope worked exceptionally hard to ensure team stability and his web-site reports were sheer entertainment in themselves!

Fortunes finally got better for the men at **Mens 5th X1 (Chris Hatch writes)** level. A hard look at available players back in August lead us to the conclusion that it would be impossible to run 6 teams in 02/03, as we had been able to do since the mid-1990's. With two teams in Div 9SE, following 6th X1 promotion, the reluctant choice taken was to withdraw the 6ths and form the last selected X1 around the veterans and some of the previous year's 5ths. So, setting aside the embarrassment of causing two gaps in the Div 9SE fixtures list, the 5ths set about building a team capable of enjoying the hockey at this level and that of course meant winning some games! Indeed, the first two friendlies were won against Colchester and Harleston sides respectively. The league started with a loss at Brentwood 6ths, then a 'win' against our non-existent 6ths followed by a draw with Felixstowe 4ths. Close encounters found us winning 4 and losing 4 up to the Christmas break to leave us comfortably placed in mid-table on 16 points. After being driven off the pitch by a snowstorm in a friendly at Harleston, league action resumed with a second loss to Brentwood 6ths (the eventual league champs) but this just served to herald a golden patch during which we recorded 8 wins (including 2 defaults) and a draw to move up to 4th place. We did lose on March 29th to Brentwood 7th but this did not detract much from what had been a fine outturn for the season's efforts. The highlight had to be the 4 – 2 defeat of Ipswich 6ths at Henley Road in which Ron Woolgar (aged 60 and advised not to play by the doctors due to injury) was persuaded to be the 11th player on the pitch and scored his first ever goal for IES – priceless! Success was certainly based on a cohesive team effort and everybody did well. Terry Murray in goal had a fine season and a group of obdurate defenders were well supported by goals coming from a fair spread of players. Leading scorers were Martin Wood (9), Jerry Hindle (7) and Barry Whelpton (6) with 10 other players scoring the remaining goals. Tom Grant, 'bon-viveur' and regular player for 5 years bade farewell at the end of the season on moving to Wiltshire for a new job. The 5ths will become the 4ths for 03/04 – it will be interesting to see how a bunch of veteran players cope at the heady heights of Division 8SE!

Another piece of IES success was the performance of our **Girls U-17 X1 (Editor's comments)** which did extremely well to win the Suffolk League. Managed by John and Avril, the squad seemed to really enjoy playing together in the 8 Sunday games in the League. This provided good opportunity to play as a team in a competitive environment and certainly everyone improved their skills and hockey awareness as the season progressed. Players were aged from 12 to 16 in the squad and this has to be a really good basis for developing our future top players. Let's hope the league has sufficient teams to run again in 03/04 and that IES continue to lead the way!

Mixed X1 (Editor's comments) hockey has migrated to midweek evenings in the last couple of years, as teams available to play on Sunday mornings seem to have disappeared. Simon Martin organised the games and sorted the side. The games were all at Framlingham College, conveniently situated for some sociable drinking and eating in the pub up the road afterwards! The results seemed to have been lost in a blur but everyone enjoyed the 8 or so games and the après-hockey conviviality. Long may it continue!

And finally, a note on the **Indoor Hockey squads (Editor's comments)** in the Suffolk Leagues and Cup events. IES entered the usual two Mens and two Ladies squads for the highly-popular events run on Monday evenings in the sports hall at Rushmere. IES Men generally came second to strong Ipswich and Harleston sides and our Ladies found it tough going against Ipswich HC Ladies and league winners Christchurch. The upshot was, disappointingly, no winning or runners-up performances in any of the league or cup events – the first time this has happened in recent history. As mentioned elsewhere, the Ladies did extremely well in the East Indoor Championships, having qualified from the previous season. All said, Suffolk League indoor hockey starts again at Rushmere in October and let's hope we can get back to winning ways again!

Information concerning the build-up to the 2003/2004 season

1. Training, Coaching and related activities for 2003/2004

i) **Pre-season Fitness Training: Wednesday evenings 7 – 8 pm, from August 6th**, on the grass at Rushmere. Everybody is welcome – indeed urged to come along. Free of charge and under the gentle(?) guidance of Steve de Boltz.

ii) **Ladies skills training:** This will again take place at Copleston School each Wednesday evening from 7.00pm to 8.30pm through the season (except for a Christmas break) until March starting **Weds 3rd September**.

iii) **Mens skills training:** This will again take place at Tuddenham Road each Tuesday evening from 8.30pm to 10.00pm through the season (except for a Christmas break) until March starting **Tues 2nd September**.

These skills training sessions are free to fully paid-up Senior and Junior members who play regularly in the Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club:

Saturday match programme or in junior games. Otherwise a training fee may be payable.

iv) Youth coaching programme: Youth coaching (for approx 6 – 14 years junior boys and girls) will take place at Copleston School on Sunday mornings 10.30 – 12.00, commencing 7th Sept 2003. Note that we have been fortunate enough to negotiate an extra half an hour for this purpose compared with last year, and are most grateful to Copleston Centre for their kind cooperation in this respect. Ian Reed is now in charge of this programme.

2. Start of the 2003/2004 playing season

There is a 'Club Day' at Rushmere on **Sunday 7th Sept starting at 1.00pm**, in the form of 'social sport' and a barbeque. Much the same as last year – which was most successful. All welcome – there may be a small charge to cover food costs.

The Club is booking friendly fixtures for a programme which starts **Saturday 6th September** (for up to all 4 Mens squads + all 3 Ladies squads) as part of the preparation for the League campaigns. The Ladies League (2nd + 3rd X1s) starts on **13th September** and the Mens league + Ladies 1st league on **27th September**. The full season's fixtures programme will be distributed by e-mail and posted on the Club web site, when available. There will also be a programme of competitive matches and tournaments for our various junior squads.

3. Arrangements at Rushmere Sports Club during 2003/2004

The arrangements are expected to be very similar to what was established during the past five seasons, since IES moved to Rushmere. Sonia has kindly confirmed her continued availability to prepare our teas and Rushmere Sports Club continue to make improvements to cooking facilities in the kitchen to facilitate this. Some variations in the teas menus will be considered from time to time!

4. Club web site (<http://www.ieshc.org>)

Members are reminded to check the club web site as often as possible and at least weekly. This superb resource, managed by Andrew Keedle, is now our primary means of distributing information rapidly to the membership. Some enhancements are being planned, including setting up a secure part of the site which will allow members-only access for both read and write. All members and supporters of IES should register as Members with the site, which is free, but subject to access rights being validated by the web site manager. Please also note that the Club Rules (Constitution) are available for download via the web site and 'IESHC Archive' exit.

5. Reminder to Members and Prospective Members - extract from the Club Rules

Members and prospective members of all ages, including Juniors, must note that the Club takes part in a physical and competitive sport and that all individuals participate entirely at their own risk. The Club only buys 3rd party liability insurance and is unable to provide for personal player insurance.

Arrangement of personal injury insurance is strongly advised. This may be done, for example, through John Wilkinson of Adams Wilkinson Insurance Brokers (Tel 01473 714224) or the insurance department of England England (Tel 01908 544644).

All enquiries to the Editor, Chris Hatch, tel 01473-625172, mail chris.hatch@bt.com
Report distributed from 18/7/03.

*****END*****