

Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club

<http://www.ieshc.org>

Associate Member Club of Rushmere Sports Club Ltd.

Annual Report for 2007 / 2008

Summary of match statistics for games listed in the Fixtures Card 2007/2008

Squad (X1)		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	% Success	League Position
Mens 1	League	22	12	1	9	72	49	56.8	5 (12)
	Friendly	6	3	0	3	22	20	50.0	
	Total	28	15	1	12	94	69	55.4	
Ladies 1	League	22	7	6	9	35	46	45.5	7 (12)
	Friendly	4	1	1	2	9	12	37.5	
	Total	26	8	7	11	44	58	44.2	
Mens 2	League	22	4	2	16	18	82	22.7	12 (12) R
	Friendly	6	2	0	4	16	18	33.3	
	Total	28	6	2	20	34	100	25.00	
Ladies 2	League	22	15	2	5	67	24	72.7	3 (12)
	Friendly	2	2	0	0	11	0	100.0	
	Total	24	17	2	5	78	24	75.0	
Mens 3	League	20	6	4	10	40	58	40.0	9 (13)
	Friendly	5	1	2	2	12	15	40.0	
	Total	25	7	6	12	52	73	40.0	
Ladies 3	League	20	10	3	7	42	31	57.5	5 (11)
	Friendly	3	1	0	2	3	8	33.3	
	Total	23	11	3	9	45	39	54.3	
Mens 4	League	20	5	5	10	40	54	37.5	9 (12)
	Friendly	6	1	1	4	10	14	25.0	
	Total	26	6	6	14	50	68	34.6	
Totals		180	70	27	83	397	431	46.4	

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

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

Editorial (by Chris Hatch):

A fair reflection on the 2007/08 season might view it as a generally satisfactory one, with all but one of our league teams enjoying reasonable campaigns and finishing in mid-table positions. The Mens 2nds could not make sufficient impact and were relegated but were still good enough to win four league games and would hope to recover next season. We continued to run and sustain 4 mens and three ladies teams, allowing us to provide the right amount and level of hockey for the full range of members. Overall senior membership numbers, both men and ladies, remained broadly the same as the previous year but this definitely depended on and benefited from about eight former junior trainees advancing into the senior ranks. Our junior coaching programme was certainly moved forward with the involvement of a new coaching committee and this all bodes well for a bright future.

The Club would again like to thank Rushmere Sports Club Ltd, its Manager Roger Osborne and other staff for all their work and support of us during the season. Also, Sonia and John Wyatt for the regular hot teas service after matches. All these contributions, a positive approach from captains and teams and a generally fair season on the field helped to make 07/08 a solid and positive year for the club – one that we need to build on during 08/09!

EHA Mens Cup & Ladies Vase. Summary of results

Competition	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Venues
Men, EH Vets Cup/Plate	3	1	0	2	5	8	1H + 2A
Ladies, EHA Trophy*	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

* The Mens Vets lost 3-2 to Canterbury (Sean Kerly scored twice against us) in the EH Vets Cup and beat Shefford & Sandy 3 - 2 in the EH Vets Plate before losing 0 – 3 to Ashford and being eliminated.

The Ladies EH Trophy competition was a non-event. Firstly, Bourne defaulted their game and then IES was unable to raise a side to play in the next round at Stevenage, resulting in the club being fined.

Outdoor Tournament & Indoor competitions. Best results during 2007/08:-

Ladies Runners-up, Suffolk Veterans Qualifying Tournament (outdoor)

Men No leading places were achieved in either outdoor or indoor competitions

News from the Annual General Meeting on 5th June 2008

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

President, John Taylor;

Chairman, Graham Ramsden;

Secretary, Laura Collinson;

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

Ladies Team Secretary, Claire Pearsons

Social Sec.; Saph Cutting and Faye Godden

Youth Development Committee, Dave Charles, James Nayler, Sapphire Cutting, John Oakley

Communications Officer (Press and Web Site), James Lane

Suffolk County Liaison Officer, Steven Farrow

Ladies League Liaison Officer, Linda Rose

Position

1st X1 Captain/V-Captain

2nd X1 Captain/ V-Captain

3rd X1 Captain/ V-Captain

4th X1 Captain/ V-Captain

Mixed X1 Captain / Secretary

Indoor League Captain

Fixtures Secretary

Head Coach

Club Coaches

Men

James Lane / Carl Short

Phil Vernon / Peter Day

Hugh Rowland / Barrie Whelpton

John Oakley / Sam Oakley

Simon Martin

Kevyn Brown

Graham Ramsden

Charles Farrow

Phil Vernon, James Nayler

Ladies

Linda Rose / Annette White

Dawn Claxton / Karen Keedle

Lindsey Trench / Mikki Hart

Not applicable

Simon Martin

Abi Adams (A); Cathy Cook (B)

Dawn Claxton

Charles Farrow

Other Matters reported on at the AGM:-

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

John thanked James Lane for stepping in as Social Sec and organising a varied list of events which were all well attended and enjoyed. The Club Dinner, held for the first time at Fynn Valley, was very successful and well attended. A new Youth Committee of James Lane, Dave Charles and Saph Cutting, supported by John Oakley and Chris Hatch with Karen & Gary Cope (Administrators), moved the youth development considerably forward and all deserved the club's thanks for their contributions.

On the playing front, the Club generally had a good season except perhaps for the Mens 2nds who were relegated. Both 1st X1's did well whilst the Ladies 2nds challenged for promotion, both 3rd X1's finished in good positions and the Mens 4ths held their own after promotion. Player availability and consistency of sides remains an issue but we have to handle the situation as best we can, taking all circumstances into account. All Captains were thanked for their considerable efforts.

The 3rd Richard Gray Memorial Tournament raised a record £610 for the nominated charity, Breast Cancer Care, and this very generosity says a lot about the membership of IES.

All the Committee were thanked, especially Chris Hatch and Laura Collinson for all the 'work behind the scenes', without which the Club would cease to run!

On 31st May, Peter Elsom Snr put up plans for a proposed astro pitch at Rushmere, the first time this had been made public, although work on this had been progressing for years. There is still a long way to go but the plans were about to be formally submitted to the Local Authorities.

Lastly, John announced that he was stepping down as Club Chariman after a tenure of 10 years. (*Ed - A vote of thanks to John for his considerable contribution over such a long period was duly recorded by the AGM*).

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

Chris reported: At the end of our 10th season after moving to Rushmere Sports Club, it was a pleasure to say that we have generally continued to pay our way, recording a slightly unexpected surplus of £1221 (although about half of the

surplus was down to selling club clothing bought in the previous year). This was the second year of three during which our shirts have been sponsored by Hill Felixstowe and Hill Piling, for which the Club has been most grateful.

The 'Copleston Contract' started from 1st September 1998 and we have now completed the 10th season of 10 under this agreement and we are therefore out of contract and potentially vulnerable to Copleston no longer being available. That said, terms have been agreed for the use of Copleston for the full 08/09 season, on the same general Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday usage profile as during 07/08. There will be a price rise of about 7% (of £300).

The team secretaries and/or captains were thanked for clear, concise and mostly timely accounting of income and expenses. The 'traditional' contributions of those who waived most travelling expenses, goalkeepers who provided their own kit and also by those who absorbed costs such as phone calls were gratefully acknowledged. The club does have a tangible amount in the bank, at present, but that is some £10,000 less than we have had to be earned by fund-raising since we started IES in 1986. On reviewing the cost structure at the AGM, it was agreed that the only change to 07/08 fees will be to raise subscriptions by £10 (senior, £5 junior) in order to be able to cover the projected costs of increasing the petrol expenses for away games to 15p/mile per delegated car.

(iii) Secretaries Report (Laura Collinson)

7 committee meetings were held. This enabled the club to continue to organise great hockey for all abilities.

Dates of the meetings were; 2.08.07, 6.09.07, 18.10.07, 29.11.07, 24.01.08, 20.03.08 and 1.05.08

Each month the committee met and discussed various aspects of club management including; Finance, Youth, Playing Matters, Fixtures, Indoor League, Richard Gray Memorial Tournament, Social and Clubs

1st. Attendance was very good throughout the season with on average 9 committee members being there at each meeting. Meeting minutes were produced and then circulated to committee to keep a record of the meeting.

(iv) Social Events Report (James Lane);

Taking over the social secretary job for a club with such a friendly and sociable reputation was a daunting task, but one which I really enjoyed.

We kicked off the season with some golfing action in both Pub Golf and real golf. The 1st XI men hosted a pub golf event, which I would describe but for losing my memory after the 8th "hole". A good time was had by all (apparently). The proper golf event was a day at Rushmere. Fourteen took part in four games, with some interesting shots, swings and misses occurring. The event was won by "Bear" with Jerry Hindle a close 2nd on Stapleford points. Thanks to Bob at Rushmere for allowing us on his course – we replaced the divots.

The annual Christmas party was held on the 8th December at Rushmere. As usual, Curry and Crackers were in evidence and several members brought one along to test out their skills with a very discerning audience. Thanks to Gilly and Lizzy Burch who did most of the organisation. The raffle raised a hundred pounds.

Next up was the annual quiz, hosted by James "Bob Holness" Lane. Nine teams battled it out for the coveted prize, and the eventual winners turned out to be the 1st XI men (aka www.shootonsight.com) who took the title. A sizeable raffle and entries meant over £100 was raised.

The end of season dinner moved to Fynn Valley GC in Witnesham in April. Nearly 100 guests made it to the event and enjoyed a three course meal, dancing to Junktion Roadshow and the prize giving. A heads and tails game plus raffle gained the club around £250. The venue was very good as was the food and definitely one for the future.

Our last social event was the Richard Gray Memorial Tournament, this year won by the Chairman's XI (who fielded a GB goalie). Other teams were led by Hugh Rowland, Steve DeBoltz and Laney. A great day with plenty of sun (not too good for those who had been to Charlie and Claire's wedding the day before) meant a good turn out for this annual event. A sizeable amount of money went to charity. (*£610 to Breast Cancer Care - Ed*).

(v) Youth Coaching Report (James Nayler);

The season has been a flying success. From the start of the season it was decided that we needed to start to rebuild the junior section after several of the older players moving to the adult's teams.

An open day was held which attracted in the region of 40 young players...we included stixskills and a number of mini games. We have since then had on average around 40 young players attending Sunday sessions between 10:30 – 12:00 at Copleston High School.

We have had teams in the boys U13 league and the girls U13 league – although matches have been hard, league positions don't fully emphasise the hard work that has been put in and the progression that has been made.

A number of the young players in the Junior section have made their senior debuts this year with great success and are now being integrated into the senior teams and attending senior training.

Congratulations go to James Willing and Jake Charles who both were selected for the Suffolk squads for their respective ages.

We have been doing a lot of work with the younger age group and have recently offered competitive opportunities for U11's. We took part in the Suffolk Mini competition and participated in a mini tournament at Felixstowe HC. An invitational mixed U11 side also participated at the Suffolk finals day at Henley Road.

We are always looking to build and improve on everything that we do and have already been having discussions about how we can improve things for next season. Dave Charles has just completed his level 1 coaching award and Saph Cutting is about to start her Level 2 award, James Nayler is well on the way to completing his level 2. This development of coaches is important to ensure that our young players are being given the best opportunities.

A number of our young players are being encouraged to attend Young Umpire and Foundation Umpire awards so that they have a better understanding of the rules and who knows – we could have a further Chris Hatch out there! Thanks must go to all the parents that have supported us all throughout the season, particularly Gary and Karen Cope in their administrative roles...without them our jobs would be so much harder.

Special thanks to John Oakley who has managed the boys team along side Dave Charles. And to Chris Hatch and all the other coaches who have helped through the season.

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

For the record, all the Mens 1st X1 Division 2N and most of the Mens 2nd X1 Div 3NE 'Suffolk Derbies' League matches were umpired by members of the SCHUA (a total of 72 appointments), to whom the club is most grateful. Almost all the other club games were umpired by IES Club appointees (and the appointees of the opposing clubs). For our official Saturday programme, 3 or more games were umpired by Chris Hatch (42 games), Ian Reed (22), Dave Charles (12, including 5 of the above SCHUA appointments), Graham Ramsden (10, including 1 SCHUA appointment), Steve Clark (9), Charlie Farrow (6), Dave Taylor (3), Peter Blake (3), Jerry Hindle (3), John Oakley (3). Nine others (all Level 1 or 1T qualified) umpired 12 games between them. John Adams and Dave Charles also contributed significantly to the SHA Indoor League & Cups umpiring.

Grayden Webb and Sapphire Cutting qualified to full L1 Status. Chris Hatch will again act as the Club's umpire appointments coordinator for the coming season.

Review of the 2007/08 season – Captain's reports:

The Mens 1st X1 (Alex Borwick)

The first team has overall enjoyed a positive season this year. After an inconsistent start we've been on fire since the Christmas break suffering only narrow losses to the top two sides. The division certainly improved in terms of the quality this season and it was pleasing to achieve a position near the promotion spots again. However, I think everyone on the team would agree we are more than capable of pushing even closer and concerted effort for some of the tricky away fixtures next season could well put us in with a real shout for promotion. There are a few players who deserve special mention. Scott Cole has had a magnificent campaign, showing both commitment and skill, topping the goal scorers list and receiving the player's player of the season award. Carl Short achieved Captain's player of the season for his commitment, attitude and performances on the hockey field which have seen him become an integral member of the defence. Kevyn Brown also impressed many this season and when he stops trying to be a centre forward is probably the best defender I have played with! Finally, there are a band of regulars: Dave Taylor, Kevyn Brown, James Lane, Peter Blake, Scott Cole and Carl Short who very rarely miss a game and form the spine of a team that I have had great pleasure in captaining this season.

Ladies 1st X1 (Linda Rose)

Following promotion into the East League Division 1N at the end of last season the Ladies 1st team knew this was going to be no easy ride. As the season began, the team appeared nervous and only picking up 1 point from the first 4 league games which saw them sitting at the bottom of the table. A harsh 5-1 defeat at home to Harleston Magpies 2's gave the side the much needed kick up the posterior and think about what they really wanted to achieve this season. This along with a new found confidence and determination resulted in the team finally finding their form, only losing one game in the run up to the Christmas break.

The second half of the season saw another shaky start with the side losing their first 2 league games against Watton and City of Peterborough. A string of wins followed and we climbed up the table and further away from the relegation zone. March saw a much dreaded trip to top-of-the-table Dereham who were running away with the league. Although the team lost 3-1, this game was to be one of the team's best performances this season. We were also the only team to put a goal past the Dereham keeper since Christmas!

After a long and arduous season, the Ladies 1st XI finished a respectable 7th position. Many thanks go to everyone who has played for the Ladies 1st XI this season and for their commitment and determination to both playing and training. A HUGE thank-you goes to Charlie Farrow (coach) for all of the hard work he has put into coaching the side this season and also to Annette White for being my Vice-Captain 'rock'. The team now looks to build on everything they have achieved from 07-08 and to further their success in the forthcoming season.

Mens 2nd X1 results (Phil Vernon)

The season started off with a mixed bag of results, a win and 2 losses from the friendlies gave the team some good points to take into the upcoming season.

Unfortunately as was the trend for the last 2 games from the friendlies, the league followed on with some devastating results. As November rolled on and still no win in sight the outlook looked bleak. With IES not only failing to keep a clean sheet but yet to convert more than 1 goal an away game to top of the table Harleston did not bode well. Though this was not the case. An upset 2-1 first win for the league and the 2nds were jubilant. This carried on over the next few games leaving IES to build on the positives leading to another win and a draw. This placed the team just off the bottom of the table on the Christmas turn.

When the season restarted the winning streak lasted for a game with a closely fought battle with Norwich. This is where the season really turned sour for the 2nds. The run off losses increased from the average of a 3-0 to some 8-0 and 8-1 losses. This sealed a relegation and bottom spot at the Easter resting point. With their fate sealed IES relaxed into the last 2 league games with a draw and a win to leave them still bottom, but with by no means a tragic 0 point season.

Ladies 2nd X1 (Peter Elsom):

After another trophy less season it is time to reflect and dissect the last 22 games and try to work out where we went wrong. I must confess at the beginning of the season I genuinely thought that this season would be the one where the Ladies 2nd team would emerge from the shadows of also rans to champions but going into the fifth game of the season which was a potential 'top of the table' clash with Carlton Park with unavailability, I realised we would fall short of the holy grail. It is perhaps relevant to point out at this stage that no team or individual is bigger than the Club itself. There should be an 'open policy' from players, managers and coaches. Players should play where selected to play and play for the Club as opposed to playing for a specific team. Whilst I accept that each team wants to pick their best team and have the biggest squad, captains and managers have to accept that their team is only part of the bigger picture and sometimes, due to numbers, a compromise has to be made.

Statistically, we were almost exactly the same as the previous season in that we scored one more goal, conceded four more goals, played two games more and finished third behind old nemesis Carlton Park and Haverhill, who finished the season unbeaten. (*Ed - both 1st teams with recent East League status!*).

Defensively, we were very strong and mixing the experienced tri of Dawn Claxton, Gilly Burch and Karen Keedle with the youthfulness of Benny and the raw talent of Lizzie Burch meant that teams would find it difficult to score goals against us, which was proved throughout the season. The midfield was generally made up of Di Alexander, the ageless Cathy Cook and the energetic Abi Elsom. Debbie Thorpe played well and contributed a few goals and Katie Baskett is an emerging talent. The deadly duo of Sam Simpson and Nikki Fuller up front plundered 31 goals between them which is a fantastic return as they only played together 10 times throughout the season.

Once on the pitch, I could not have asked for any more in terms of effort and determination and in one case a great deal of blood but the real challenge was to get everyone on the pitch week in week out at the same time. Inevitably, circumstances change and players come and go but with the addition of two or three players and some stalwarts of the Club returning to action, next season could well be the most successful ever for an IES Ladies second team.

Finally, I must pass on my thanks to the ladies that have played and for putting up with my demands for 22 weeks - you can now rest, apart from a little summer training, ready for next season. I have thoroughly enjoyed my official role of team manager for the season. Sam Simpson is stepping down as captain and I am very grateful for all she has done over the last two seasons and therefore it seems appropriate to close with the statistics of her reign.
Played 42 Won 27 Drew 6 Lost 9 GF 133 GA 89 Points 87.

Mens 3rd X1 (John Wright)

As with the previous year getting a consistent side together was always going to be a worry but with one advantage, we had a regular keeper in Jake Charles.

The season started on a high with a win in a friendly against Cranes 2 but then had to wait until the tail end of October before getting a win against Norfolk Nomads. This league stuff was starting to look serious!

As with the previous year getting a consistent side together was always going to be a worry but with one advantage, we had a regular keeper in Jake Charles and so it transpired. Every week the line up was different and this was reflected in the poor start. However, November saw a little consolidation with some draws and wins but we could never seem to sustain our momentum.

January saw 3 draws on the trot followed by a win but the rest of the season saw us lose more games than we won. As with last year we always seemed to play "down" to our opponents Playing well against stiff opposition and then giving games away to, what on paper were, weak opponents.

Some highlights of the year.

A long journey to play Holt at Sheringham in the drizzle of North Norfolk followed by a scrum with the Christmas shopping traffic to find parking in Holt town centre. We won 3-1 by the way!

Seeing Jake Charles develop confidence as a keeper as the year progressed. Pipped at the post for being voted 3rd team player of the year by his father Dave Charles. Don't worry Jake your time will come.

The return of the laconic John Oakley who become a stalwart at left back, and many other eventful happenings. In the main we were a happy little bunch but a few more wins would have been very welcome.

As the season ended we found ourselves 9th of 13 and again it was a case of not making the best of our chances. With John & Sam Oakley at the helm next year perhaps better things can be expected. We can only wait and see!

Ladies 3rd X1 (Kim Caley)

The ladies 3rds began the season full of anxiety, our regulars had left for university and we were really worried that we wouldn't be able to find a team. Our troubles evaporated when Ian's youth team graduates appeared; they were young, fit and ran for ever and ever – even more vitally, they scored goals-hallelujah!

We had a really promising first half of the season and most importantly had lots of fun. The new girls settled in well, gelling wonderfully with the existing players.

The final half of the season was much tougher, we still played well injury and sickness elsewhere meant we lost one of two of our key players. However, the Dunkirk spirit prevailed and we fought hard to secure our final place of 5th in the league, an enormous achievement in itself! Star inputs came from Mikki Hart, Cheryl Noakes and Ellie Eddy. Finally, a word of thanks must be given for the encouragement and cheer we received every week of the season, though hail or sunshine from Charley, Lewis, Roz, Jonathan and Dawn and for the coaching assistance given by Ian and Chris. Thanks again.

Mens 4th X1 (Hugh Rowland)

This season's results display a different balance to the high standards that the last selected side has become accustomed to enjoy over recent seasons. That having been said, we won or drew as many as we lost in the league and avoided automatic relegation. The league was tight with all teams, on their day, having the ability to beat any other with the probable exception of the eventual winners - Harwich (who it seems are destined to share the fate of Icarus next season). The vagaries of the league's summer machinations will tell if we have managed to secure our current league status. Wherever we end up next season, I am confident that we will improve on our showing this season although one or two younger legs would be valuable additions.

As it turned out, winning three out of our first four league fixtures flattered a side which struggled with away availability throughout the season. We were to win only three more games during the whole of the rest of the season – all at home. There were five hard fought draws with the pick of the bunch being the final game of the season against Maldon - the sides sharing the eight goals scored. As always my thanks goes to Barrie Whelpton for keeping me on the straight and narrow and absolving me from anything to do with money or results and to the regulars who have confirmed so readily and speedily. I hope we can provide a slightly more rewarding brand of hockey next season – at least in terms of results. Player of the season was justly won by Guy Whiting - the scorer of some truly legendary goals. Finally my thanks goes to Chris, without whom none of this would be possible, for his wise counsel through out the season.

Mixed X1 (Simon Martin)

The Mixed Team played eight midweek fixtures in the 07/08 season, a similar number to previous years. This season, though, these included the addition of a very enjoyable fixture against a Woodbridge School staff (mostly!) eleven put together by IES member Phil Trett. The usual post match trips to "The Station" in Framlingham helped to cement the very social nature of the mixed fixture card. The aforementioned Woodbridge game expanded this aspect of the mixed agenda even more in the form of an excellent buffet in the Mariner's Arms.

The retirement this year of a number of seasoned mixed players (was it the cold? are their knees shot to pieces? Or did they finally get a life?) meant that the reliable usual suspects were supplemented by a refreshing diverse influx of hot young mixed talent. These included: Dawn Claxton, Hannah Burch, James Lane, Saph Cutting, Carl Short, Phil Vernon & Maryam "Benny" BenRabha. These blended very well into the heady mix of more seasoned regulars (and not so regulars). The resulting teams, though never the same, at times displayed some really rather impressive hockey. The Captain would like to proffer a special thank you to Guy Whiting, Phil Vernon and Chris Hatch for umpiring most of the matches between them.

Finally the timing of these mixed matches, together with the, lets not deny it, downright parky temperatures encountered in early February at that time of night, means that it took a rather special breed of individuals to ensure that IES never failed to produce an impressive turn out. So thank you to everybody who played throughout the season. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

The mixed team player of the year, for her consistently impervious defensive play as well as her enthusiastic support to the captain in recruiting extra lady players, was Dawn Claxton.

Indoor Hockey Squads (Editor's Report)

IES had a below average season at Indoor hockey, by historical standards. We fielded just one Mens team in the Indoor League which struggled to avoid the wooden spoon and finished 3rd (of 4) in the Borrett Cup. The Ladies fielded A and B teams in the league with both finishing in mid-table and no longer took part in the National League. None the less, Indoor hockey still provided a lot of enjoyable evenings at Rushmere and opportunities to play for a good number of our members. The Suffolk Indoor League also benefited from the expert management provided by John and Megan Adams and background administration provided by Chris Hatch.

End of Report