

1st XI Report 2019/20

The 1st XI finished 6th in Division 1 of the North Premier league. We managed to complete 20 out of 22 scheduled fixtures before the league was closed. Had we won our outstanding games there was a realistic chance of finishing third in the league.

We won 10 games and drew 2, scoring 78 goals in the process. In total, 23 players played 1st team hockey during the season and we had 12 different goal scorers.

The plain numerical facts hide an exciting couple of months. To play a full season requires an individual player to travel at least 1500 miles. That takes some commitment, particularly if you only get picked to play away games! And it was ultimately frustrating not to be able to finish the season and achieve a proper standing in the league. We have tried to play an exciting but controlled brand of hockey, that encourages individuals to develop within the team ethos. Its given a new lease of life to a few old dogs, and developed a few young lads into proper players! A good year!

The 1st XI continue to set the example to the club in after-match hospitality to both umpires and opposition. Its an important part of the match day experience, and something that we as a club must continue to get better at. Fortunately, it appears that without exception, the 1st XI enjoy the odd drink to go with the playing side of things.

As usual, we wish all the very best to those who will be leaving us this year to pursue their studies at University, and we look forward to welcoming returning players. I have deliberately avoided mentioning individuals up to now, but I must thank the 1st XI skipper, Kevin Ward, for his commitment, dedication and example throughout the year. His professional approach and leadership has, over the last few years, turned the 1st XI into a highly competitive and dedicated outfit who try and play hockey in the proper way. We have produced some talent - and I hope all these universities are grateful!

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all those who have played, coached, trained, driven, and drunk their way through another highly enjoyable and successful season. Roll on 2020/21.

Gerard Tompkinson
1st team Manager