

## **AGM Report**

The Hockey club had another very busy season last year. On the field our teams had mixed success however there were a lot of positives to build on for this coming season. Our Adult membership was slightly reduced from the season prior. However our youth sections continues to grow from strength to strength. Off the field we have run a Back to Hockey event to get adults back and interested in hockey. We have also run three social events throughout the season including a games night, Christmas dinner, gin tasting and an End of Season dinner at the clubhouse.

## **Men's Section**

Within our Men's section, it was another unstable season for the 1s with Men's Coach electing to take a step back at the midway point. Having been relegated to National 3 the previous season, the team were keen to dig in and assert themselves in the league, and did themselves proud despite the Coaching issues finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall only 1 point off the top 3. Our Men's 2 had a successful season in East District 1 finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place while also reaching the District Plate final losing out to the University of Edinburgh 2<sup>nd</sup> 11, who play several leagues higher than our team. It was a great achievement for the team beating teams from higher leagues along the way to final. Finally, our M3's had a successful season also finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in East District 3, however this was enough to see them promoted for this season.

## **Ladies Section**

The Ladies 1s had their second season in National 1 – an achievement we are very proud off, being a first for the club on either the Men's or Ladies side! Having survived their first-year foray in the top flight of Scottish hockey, and having lost a few key players, this year was always going to be a big ask. Despite a positive league campaign that saw them finish in 8<sup>th</sup> place the team were relegated through the relegation playoffs, losing a nail biting game then a nail biting game against Grange on the Sunday which went to running penalties. With no score after the first 5, it went to sudden death and Grange were unfortunately first to break the deadlock. Despite this difficult season number of school girls got their debuts playing in the top division in Scotland which bodes well for the future.

Elsewhere our Ladies 2s had an incredible start to the season making it to the Christmas break unbeaten and favourites to win promotion from the Championship 2. However, a few injuries appeared in the second half of the season and ended up finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and narrowly missing out on promotion. While, our Ladies 3s had a very difficult start to the season due to poor availability and were bottom of the table at the Christmas break. However the break did them some good and played extremely well in the second half of the season finishing 8<sup>th</sup> and avoiding relegation.

## **Youth**

It was another exciting season at ESM Youth Hockey as numbers and standards continue to rise. The youth now have a total of 117 registered members and a

projected 140 for next season. We have teams throughout all U14 levels, including one that finished 4<sup>th</sup>, having missed 3<sup>rd</sup> place by one goal, in A league, the highest in East of Scotland.

We have also started under 16 training for both boys and girls with the hope that we can have 2 squads next season and a smoother transition to adult hockey.

We have a host of talented, dedicated and fun-loving coaches who make each session enjoyable and worthwhile under the leadership of our Head Youth Coach Ally Dodge. We also have a fantastic bunch of parent-helpers who, as well as being great supporters on the side-lines, are always happy to roll their sleeves up and get stuck in when it comes to helping the club out.

Our Youth camps have continued to grow and improve, with great reports about our camps in October, Easter and the Summer Holidays.