

## AGM 2020

### 4<sup>th</sup> XI Team Manager's Report

Playing in the NEHL division 2 is difficult for a 4<sup>th</sup> XI. All the opposition teams expect to win.

We have had a settled core of players throughout the season and managed to provide umpires and full squads for all our games. Many of our regulars fit into the veteran category and it was always a struggle against younger legs.

Our early season saw good players taken up into the 3rds almost every week: Jack Addison, Russ Philpott, Pete Edwards, Dan Walters, Charlie Thomson, Nik Child, Dave, and Richard Hall. Thankfully, our goalkeeper, James Thomson was not only an ever present, he was often man of the match. Ethan Clarke, Adrian Marshall, and Joe Aitchison were young legs that helped our average age.

Despite good draws against Newcastle 1s, Redcar 1s, and Marton Furness, by the end of January we were bottom of the league with no wins. We then beat Newcastle Medics 2s, Redcar 1s, and Gateshead 2s. Will Ferguson scored twice in the Gateshead game. In games when Tim Parker or Gary Ferguson played, we were more effective. Only two teams did the double over us this season, Carlisle, and North Shields, top and bottom of the league. Hopefully, we won't have to play either next season. The influx of four 13-year olds transformed the squad; Will Ferguson, James McGee, Billy Merifield, and Finn Davie. It was a shame they didn't have more games.

Our safety was ensured when Jesmond and Morpeth both cancelled through lack of players, giving us 5-0 wins. We would rather have played, as we had spare players. If captains had contacted me and explained, we could have had another two games. With the Covid cancellations, we missed 5 matches in total.

Thanks to Geoff our captain, all the drivers, especially Alistair Thomson who drove to almost every away game, and the players who took care of the equipment. The players from the 1s and 2s who umpired after playing at home. John Ions who seemed to be umpiring away every week for the 3s or 4s. Injured players from the squad who umpired or acted as technical delegates.

Results of our matches are on FixturesLive and the NEHL website.

Goalscorers: Gary Ferguson-7 Geoff Bunn-4 Tim Parker, Bob Hill, Chris Needham, Will Ferguson-2 Pete Edwards, Dave Hall, Ethan Clarke-1