

FAMILY FIVES : AGM REPORT

A couple of seasons ago we had a 5th team in the NEHL Club Development League. This team folded because we found it difficult to get a team out on a regular basis because the games were on a Saturday and players had to be at least 13 years of age.

So Kitch formed the Family Fives playing on occasional Sundays on a full size pitch 11 a side. If the weather forecast was not looking good the team played on a reduced format indoors. The team squads were made up of juniors, some under 13 and senior players. The senior players were mainly parents of some of the juniors plus the odd guest senior. The parents were current players, players returning to the game and some playing for the first time. This balance supported and encouraged the juniors to compete, enjoy and learn in a match situation. Substitutions were also made to ensure the games remained balanced. Luckily two local clubs, Norton and Stokesley had similar thoughts and provided regular opposition usually on a three team format where players could be loaned, shared to balance sides. The main themes were safety, enjoyment and development. Some players now find themselves in the 4th team and some parents who were not playing league hockey now do.

All in all a great success which will continue and hopefully grow next season.

Kitch