

# 2004-2005

Men's Club

Women's Club

(Last update 6 April 2005)

## Men's

### Division 2N

3/4/05

Ipswich III 3

Norwich Union II 4

Norwich Union Men's 2nd team saved themselves from relegation from division 2 N on Sunday with 10 seconds to go until the final whistle. Norwich Union needed 3 points from the match to move above Peterborough Athletic and out of the 4 team relegation zone. They achieved this with a well struck short corner by Rupert Snelling with only 10 seconds left in their final game of the season.

Ipswich 3rds went 1 ahead in the 1st half with a quickly taken and deflected free hit. Norwich Union countered with 2 goals in quick succession; a tight-angled drilled shot from Neil Harrison followed by a well finished tap-in following a short corner by Oliver Browne.

In the second half, Neil Harrison made his tally 2 with another short corner routine, this one with a direct short rebounding off the keeper and into the roof of the net. Ipswich then scored 2 goals to level the game despite numerous and worthy athletic saves from goal keeper Robbie Whiting. Norwich Union fought hard to win a short corner in the final minute of the match which crawled over the line following a deflection off an Ipswich defended.

Norwich Union now stay in division 2N but Peterborough Athletic, Ipswich 3.N orwich City 2 and Ipswich and East Suffolk are relegated.

### Division 2N

12/3/05

Norwich Union II 6

Norwich City II 3

Norwich Union began their battle to pull out of the relegation zone by producing a competent performance against relegation and local rivals Norwich City 2s. Norwich Union opened the scoring with Alex Browne reactively pouncing on a goal keeper mistake in the goal mouth. Norwich City shortly equalised and then went 2-1 ahead after only 25 minutes. Norwich Union came back shortly before half time with a well struck second goal from Alex Browne. The second half was markedly one-sided with the striking partnership of brothers Alex and Olivier Browne scoring another 2 goals and midfielder Rob Panter blasting a well-struck shot from the top of the D to earn Norwich Union's fifth. Norwich City came close to a fourth with a goal mouth scramble, leading to a home side break and Richard Moulson for scoring the final goal of the match. Norwich Union are now 1 point behind safe Peterborough Athletic but with 2 games in hand. The game was a great local derby between 2 competitive teams.

### Division 3NE

12/2/05

Harleston Magpies IV 0

Norwich Union III 1

A fantastic all round performance inflicted upon the home side and division leaders their only defeat of the season thus far. Magpies young side had much the better of the early part of the first half with their incisive attacking play putting the Union defence under pressure. The deadlock was broken midway through the second half when Alex Browne ran onto a through ball and despite an initial save by the advancing keeper maintained his composure to score. Despite concerted efforts by Magpies and atrocious weather conditions Union held on for the win. This put Union back on track after three successive defeats.

### Division 3NE

29/1/05

Norwich Union III 2

Harleston Magpies III 3

Union found themselves with a mountain to climb when they conceded 3 early first half goals to a extremely competitive Magpies side. The home side snatched a goal back before half time and despite dominating the second half and scoring again, unfortunately could not find an equalizer.

### Division 3NE

22/1/05

Lowestoft Town 4

Norwich Union III 2

A poor performance by an understrength Union team and the oppositions 12th player armed with whistle and cards saw them lose to the then bottom of the table side.

### Division 3NE

15/1/05

Norwich Union III 5

Watton 3

Union got off to a flying start when Oliver Browne scored what could be the goal of the season. Unfortunately this was undone by some sloppy play by the home side which saw Watton go in at the end of the first half 2-1 up, much to the chagrin of Union's goalkeeper! However, following a constructive half time team talk by Pete Thomas Union took the game by the scruff of the neck and with Thomas instrumental in pulling the strings

from midfield Union didn't let Watton back into the game. Four goals in the second half by Browne, Moulson, Rutherford and Thomas secured the win with Watton getting their third on the stroke of full time.

#### **Division 4NE**

27/11/04

Norwich City IV 0

Norwich Union IV 1

A goal from Kirby was all that separated the two teams in a hard fought match.

#### **Division 1**

20/11/04

Redbridge & Ilford 0

Norwich Union 2

Union could easily have given up before this game even started after being reduced to a bare 11, and including players like York-Smith and Wolfe who have more recently played at a lower level. Instead they responded with what may be one of their more memorable performances.

Right from the start the tempo and passing game was just what was required. Control of the ball was obviously going to be important with no substitutes to call upon, and the team played some delightful passing moves (notably Taylor, Norman, Harrison and Snelling) in the opening exchanges.

Half-time arrived with neither side breaking through. The pattern of play had suggested that Union would look to control the ball whilst Redbridge looked to break. This all changed within the first few minutes of the second half when Harrison took advantage of some unexpected space in the circle and shot high to the keeper's left. The home side, chasing the game, threw caution to the wind and forced the tiring Union into a rearguard action which stretched the game out. It did, however, create the sort of space that Jones and Green are capable of exploiting with their pace, and after these two combined nicely a simple tap in was presented to Wolfe, effectively ending the game.

Union were impressive in their attitude right from the warm-up, and fully deserved their win.

#### **Division 4NE**

16/10/04

Norwich Union IV 1

Dereham III 4

A well taken goal from Garner was all Union had to show against an in-form Dereham.

#### **Division 4NE**

2/10/04

Norwich Union IV 3

UEA III 1

Goals from Banham, Willson, Collison and a series of saves from Millar gave Union an excellent win in a competitive and entertaining game.

#### **Division 3NE**

2/10/04

Watton 0

Norwich Union III 1

After an even and scoreless first half, Norwich Union came back strongly in the second half. They made their advantage tell with a goal from Ed Smith. Watton came back strongly but were kept at bay by a great performance from Brooks in goal.

#### **Division 4NE**

25/9/04

Bury St Edmunds IV 2

Norwich Union IV 4

An excellent win for Union, with goals from Imad, Bingham, Kirby and Harrison sealing a very positive start to the new season and a new division.

#### **Division 3NE**

25/9/04

Norwich Union III 4

Bury St Edmunds III 1

An excellent start to the season for Norwich Union III with a 4-1 win over Bury III. A commanding midfield platform led to goals from Browne (2), Bell and Older. Despite a late consolation goal for Bury, NU always looked in control.

# Women's

## East Super League Premier Division

3/4/05

Norwich Union 3

Gravesend 1

Union finished the season with a well deserved win over Gravesend. ON a warm day, Union dominated the game scoring early on through Hayley Stammers after some good work from Gemma Nicholls. Union continued to press forward but Gravesend equalised through a penalty flick just before half time.

Union pressed on in the second half and scored through Gail Thomas - a stunning short corner strike. An excellent through ball from Gemma Nicholls put Harriet Maule through to slot the ball home for Union's third. A great team performance!

## East Super League Premier Division

19/3/05

Cambridge University 1

Norwich Union 0

Despite some excellent defensive work from Sarah Wagstaff and Anne Taylor, Cambridge University took the lead late in the second half. Tireless running from Gemma Nicholls in the midfield created chances which, unfortunately Union couldn't convert.

## East Super League Premier Division

12/3/05

Norwich Union 0

Chelmsford II 4

Union battled hard against a hard working Chelmsford side in this Premier Division fixture. Union started well and were unlucky to go one nil down in the first half. Union continues to fight and through player of the match Gemma Nicholls created short corners, but Chelmsford defended well. As Union continued to push forward, Chelmsford scored on counter attacks. With 2 matches to go Union still have all to play for as they fight to regain premier league status.

## East Super League Premier Division

5/3/05

Cambridge City 6

Norwich Union 3

Gemma Nicholls (2) and Kate Nichols scored for Union in an end to end game at Cambridge. On a very cold day Union started brightly and opened the scoring but were soon pegged back by a determined Cambridge side. Union never gave up and must take a lot of positives into the final 3 games of the season.

## East Super League Premier Division

12/2/05

Norwich Union 0

Canterbury II 2

Union started the game slowly and were unlucky to see two goals conceded in the first 20 mins, one coming from a short corner. Union's character became evident and they picked themselves up to create chances and hold onto possession for long periods of the game and frustrate a hard working Canterbury side.

Player of the match Angela Murgatroyd had an outstanding game in the heart of Union's defence, in addition to linking play up to attacking opportunities.

## East Super League Premier Division

5/2/05

Harleston II 0

Norwich Union 1

Norwich Union grabbed three more points against local rivals Harleston in a bid to escape relegation. Union are now level on points with teams ahead of them with 5 games of the season left to play.

Union started the game in high spirits and were passing the ball well. As a team Union looked solid and were able to create chances. A hard working Kate Nichols broke the deadlock just before half time with a great individual effort. As Harleston resorted to a long ball game, Union's defence kept their cool, especially Rachel Matthews, to keep the Harleston attack out. Another great team display from Union.

## East Super League Premier Division

29/1/05

Norwich Union 3

Dereham 1

Norwich Union started the local derby on the same number of points but one place above their opposition. Union dominated the opening play creating chances through Gemma Nicholls. Dereham had a goal disallowed for dangerous play meaning the half time score was 0-0. Union pushed forward in the second half and got the deserved breakthrough, with a well placed strike from Gemma Nicholls. Some great defensive play from Rachel Suckling and Anne Taylor kept Dereham at bay, while at the other end, Harriet Maule scored her first goal for the 1st XI. Kate Nichols added a well earned third goal. Dereham's Caroline Watson scored a late consolation Penalty Flick for the visitors. Local derbies keep coming for Union as they face Magpies II's next weekend in another crucial match.

## East Super League Premier Division

22/1/05

Croestyx 2

Norwich Union 1

Union, after a weeks break, started the game brightly creating chances which were well coped with by the Croestyx keeper. Anne Taylor, who was

solid in Union's goal, also made some great saves, ensuring the sides stayed level at half time. Crostyx started the second half brightly and scored two quick goals. Union, to their credit, kept battling on, and pulled one back. A pin point cross from Gail Thomas was clinically finished by Hannah Austin. Union must take positives from this game into next weeks home crucial clash with Dereham.

### East Super League Premier Division

8/1/05

Maidstone 5

Norwich Union 0

Norwich Union travelled down to a blustery Maidstone to eventually come home with no points. Union started the brighter of the 2 team, creating chances through Harri Maule, Hannah Austin and Kate Nichols, but were unfortunate to see none of them converted. Maidstone proved clinical on their finishing and were 3-0 up at half time. Union continued to pressure in the second half, with some great individual work from Gemma Nicholls but couldn't break the Maidstone defense.

### East Super League Premier Division

11/12/04

Norwich Union 2

Ipswich II 2

Union went one nil down very early on in their last game before the festive break. The goal came against the run of play and it was no surprise when Union equalised through Shelly Garrod. Unfortunately Ipswich replied quickly and went into half time 2-1 up. Union dominated the second half, having possession for long periods of the game and got their equaliser through Gail Thomas, an unstoppable short corner strike.

### East Super League Premier Division

4/12/04

Norwich Union 1

Cambridge University 1

Union started the match brightly playing some of their best hockey, passing and retaining possession for long periods of the game. They welcomed back vice captain Kate Nichols from injury, who created many chances. Union deservedly went in front through Shelly Garrod with a well taken effort just before half time. The second half saw much of the same from Union but were unfortunate not to increase their lead. Cambridge battled on and after a late barrage of short corners and got their equaliser.

### East Super League Premier Division

28/11/04

Norwich Union 0

Sevenoaks 3

In Union's second match of the weekend Union again started off positively but went 1-0 down early on. A spirited display saw some fine passing moves creating chances which were well saved. A great display in goal by Union's Anne Taylor kept the score to 1-0 at half time. The second half saw Sevenoaks step up the pressure and score 2 further goals, one a very well taken short corner. Union must take heart from a performance which did not reflect in the score line.

### East Super League Premier Division

27/11/04

Chelmsford 4

Norwich Union 0

Union travelled to Chelmsford with high hopes of adding more points to their league tally. They started off brightly with some influential play from Hannah Austin in the centre of midfield creating a few chances which were well saved by the Chelmsford keeper. Union took their foot off the pedal and let a couple of quick goals in. After the break Union pushed forward and were unlucky not to score through Shelly Garrod and Claire Baker but were caught on the break to allow 2 break away goals.

### East Super League Premier Division

20/11/04

Norwich Union 0

Cambridge City 3

Union faced Cambridge City on a bitterly cold day at Pinebanks in the East Premier League. Cambridge started brightly and were 2-0 up at the half time interval. Union created few chances, through some good work in midfield by Hannah Austin, which were blocked by a well organised defence. Cambridge caught Union on the break to add a third. Union face a double header next weekend, away at Chelmsford on Saturday and at home to Sevenoaks (12pm) on Sunday.

### East Super League Premier Division

13/11/04

Gravesend 3

Norwich Union 1

Union failed to get going in this Premier Division Match at Gravesend. The home side started brightly and found themselves 2-0 up before Lizzie Willmott converted a penalty flick for Union to give some hope in the second half. Kath Mares had an outstanding game in the defence of NU but could do nothing about Gravesend extending their lead late on to give Union little chance of a comeback.

### East Super League Premier Division

30/10/04

Norwich Union 1

Harleston II 0

Union faced Harleston II's in the second local derby in as many weeks. The first half finished goalless after both teams had their chances with Kim Love in the Harleston goal pulling off some fine saves. The second half saw much of the same, but NU managed to find the winner 4 minutes from time after some excellent work from Kate Nichols saw player of the match Gemma Nicholls putting the ball in the back of the net.

### East Super League Premier Division

2/10/04

Maidstone 5

Norwich Union 3

The scoreline does not reflect the tightly contested game between the 2 promoted teams into the East Premiership. Maidstone took an early lead which was equalised by an extremely well taken dive from Claire Baker. Maidstone took the score to 2-1 through some good counter attacking play but could not hold the lead when first a well worked short corner was followed up again by Claire Baker to bring the scores level, and then immediately from the restart an accurate pass from Gail Thomas was slotted in by Hannah Austin to put the home team 3-2 up. Union then saw themselves down to ten players and Maidstone were able to capitalise and take 2 more goals and three points, much to the disappointment of Norwich Union. Good performances were put in by Ann Taylor, Hannah Austin and Gemma Nicholls.

**East Super League Premier Division**

25/9/04

Ipswich II 4

Norwich Union 3

Norwich Union started life in the Printwise Premier Super League with a 4-3 defeat at the hands of Ipswich II. Failure to capitalise on good approach play and found themselves facing a 4-1 (Gail Thomas) deficit late in the game. However a late rally saw Union pull back two more goals (Shelly Garrod & Gemma Nicholls).

**EH Cup Round One**

26/9/04

Broxbourne 1

Norwich Union 2

A slow start saw Union concede an early goal. However they raised their game to score a deserved equaliser (Shelly Garrod) on the stroke of half time. An excellently worked short corner resulted in a fine strike to put Union deservedly in front (Claire Baker) and see Union safely through to the second round draw.