

EIBC Chairman's Report 2025–26

The 2025–26 season has brought both successes and significant challenges, both on and off the court.

The greatest loss we experienced was the passing of Lee Linton-Hodges, which affected everyone connected with the club. Lee was a valued member of the EIBC family, and he will be greatly missed. It will be an honour to celebrate his life at the commemorative game in the coming month, and I know it will be a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much to our basketball community.

From a management perspective, the season has been largely successful. The changes we have implemented have helped place the club in a strong and stable financial position, providing a solid foundation for future growth. We still have areas to improve, particularly around committee efficiency, but I am confident we will continue to develop next season.

One real positive is that our entire management team will be returning for the coming season. This is a rare position to be in and gives us valuable continuity, allowing us to focus on moving the club forward rather than spending time recruiting and training new volunteers.

Our relationships with our sponsors remain very strong, thanks in large part to the outstanding work Nick D puts in throughout the year to maintain and develop those partnerships. We have, however, faced more challenges with our court suppliers. It is disappointing that they have not always been able to look beyond their own priorities, but we will continue working towards solutions that benefit everyone involved.

On the court, our girls' and women's programme continues to go from strength to strength. Winning another national title is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud to see so many of our female players progressing to universities and colleges both here and the United States.

Our boys' programme continues to present challenges. Both our Under-14 and Under-16 teams are now competing in the Conference for the first time, while our senior men's team remains in NBL Division 2. This is not where we ultimately want our men's programme to be, but I know Nick and all of our coaches are committed to driving standards higher and achieving the success this club aspires to.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every committee member, coach and team manager. Your commitment, hard work and countless volunteer hours throughout the year are what make this club possible. Everything we achieve is built on your dedication, and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nick Newman

Chairman

Ipswich Basketball Club