

# Edinburgh Sports Club

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011

### Speakers

*(before dinner)*

Introduction – Alastair Allanach

The Club History – John Jones

Grace – Bill Shaw

*(after dinner)*

The Toast to the Club – Ken Hutchison

The Club's future – Andrew Forrest

### Menu

Canapes and welcome Fizz

Peppered Rib-eye of beef

Poached salmon

Vietnamese shredded chicken salad

Assorted vegetable roulades

Hot potatoes and assorted salads

Chocolate truffle / Pavlova roulade / Fresh fruit salad

Cheese board

White and Red wines



**A selection of photos from our archives**



*The Club from the air in 1932*



*Opening Day July 1936*



*1953 Handsworth trip*



*Holloingdale wedding*



*1982 ESC internationalists*



*1980 Men (SMT)*



*1965 Scotland v Wales*



*1984 Scottish Audi team*



*1960 - The Duke visits*



*1990 Ladies*



*2002 Ladies European*



*2003 Barbecue*



*Balfour, Munro, Boyd etc*



*The Club in the evening*



*1965 - six cavaliers*



*2000 Ballyearl*



*2010 Fitzwilliam*



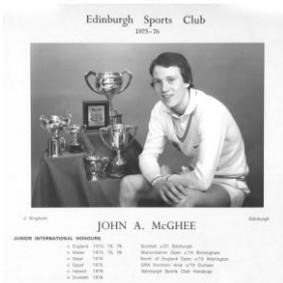
*2009 Artemis*



*2009 Juniors*



*1985 Men (C&R)*



*John McGhee*



*Nine from the 50th brochure*



*Artemis and BBQ's*



*Football and the bar*



*1964 V England*



*320 years on court*



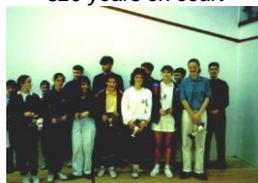
*Three old codgers*



*1997 Club Champions*



*2000 - winning quiz team*



*2000 - Juniors*



*1980 Standard Life Squashers*



*McLaughlan trophy winners*

## ***A few words from some of those who can't be here this evening***

### **John Guthrie**

Many thanks for your invitation to participate in a dinner at the Club to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I've been told who are attending, remember you fondly, but sadly I cannot attend due to other commitments. I hope the dinner goes well and the Club is thriving.

*John was Chair in 1969*

### **Mike Oddy**



In my regrettable absence, I would like to send my congratulations to the Edinburgh Sports Club on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I had the good fortune to play my squash in the days (early 1960's) when the Sports Club was truly the home of Scottish squash. The courts were in general first class with the championship court outstanding. It had one of the three largest galleries in the World, the others being Lansdowne in London and Wanderers in Johannesburg. All in all, the Club was definitely one of the best in the World at the time. There was a constant high standard of play, including bi-annual matches with England, and visits from top amateur international teams from Egypt, Australia and South Africa. The courts were graced during this time by Hashim and Azam Khan, the greatest two players of their era and possibly any other.

The memory of the Club which stands out above all others was when England lost a squash international for the first time in the history of the game. That was March 1964, but was not a total surprise as in 1958 Ian la Terriere set the ball rolling by beating British Amateur champion Roy Wilson in the first string match. Then in 1962 we won at both one and two with Ollie Balfour beating higher ranked players on each occasion. In 1964, we were two matches all, and two games down, but George Chisholm fought back to win the last three games and the match. I have never seen the gallery so full and buzzing with excitement. It would be remiss of me not to mention one of the Club's other outstanding attributes, namely its friendly atmosphere and extraordinary hospitality. I knew many international players over the years and became used to their universal praise of their visit to Edinburgh and the Club. Once again, many congratulations to you on achieving your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and my best wishes to all attending tonight's dinner

*(Mike was British No 1 player for six years, won the British Amateur Championship in 1960, and became Champion of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. He was ranked 2 in the World in 1963, and was five times Scottish Champion. He retired from top class squash in 1964 aged 27 due to ill health and business commitments).*

### **Mark McLean**

My first experience of ESC were when I was at school at George Heriot's as a 12 year old. I was lucky enough to have been selected by the unique Dougie Yule for coaching. It was pretty exciting though as Dougie was well known for having brought through 2 of the top player Scottish junior players at the time - John McGhee and Raymond Stevenson. My memories were of very cold squash courts (before heaters) and Dougie used to run you around to the point of exhaustion wielding some unfashionable heavy wooden Sondico squash racket. It had to be durable as Dougie used to take ball and sidewall at the same time (to take the pace of the ball obviously) and place volley drops an inch above the tin.

I was also lucky enough to train at ESC after leaving school at 17. Roy and Irene Cowper helped me at that stage (Irene with training at ESC) and arranging for me to live in Wokingham for a good while to play full time before the World Junior Champs in Singapore in 1992. That spell playing full time before I went to university gave me a taste of what professional squash might be like and I guess set me on my way. Later memories of ESC were a home international series in the early 80s (Brian Tait and John McGhee also played as I recall) and various Open Championships. Telesquash was another memory from the 80s which was an all too rare appearance for squash from ESC on Grandstand.

I also remember well playing Jonah Barrington on court 5 in 1986. I had managed to end Jonah's long unbeaten run against British players in 85 and we played a number of matches including at ESC where he made the most of one of the best squash courts using all of its' height and beat me 3-1.

I wish you all the best for this evening and just wish I could be there.

*Mark World number 7 in 1991-92, was 5 times Scottish Champion, 89 International "caps", member of Scotland Team winning European Team Championships 1992, European Champion of Champions 1989, Chairman of Professional Squash Association (May 1992 – October 1996)*

### **The Bathgates**



No amount of cajoling could persuade Brian and Derek, these two inseparable doyens of the Club, to attend this evening. They joined in 1960, and over the years have performed heroics with all manner of electrical, gas and general building maintenance and installation. Many of you will also remember great trips on the West Coast in Auld Reekie. When did you last NOT see them in the Club? Cheers guys, and here's to many more years of your company.

*The 'Bathplugs' are alive and well and receiving drinks at the bar whenever offered...*

### **Lisa McKenna**

I am very sorry that I can't be part of ESC's 75th Anniversary celebrations. The club has been a great part of my life for the last twenty years (gosh is it really that many)!! I am also truly thankful for their continued support of my charity event over the past couple of years and this would not have been the success it has been without the help and dedication of so many members & staff. I hope that you all have a fantastic evening!!!!

*Lisa was Champion in 1995, and is now a squash coach in England*

### **Eddie Still**

Joined ESC in 1975 – won East O 40's (Masters) when Tom Kane was coach. I was Scottish Champion 1953/54, played for Scotland over 30 times, and won the Welsh Open in 1956. I trained PE at Jordanhill, and became Scottish Coach. At some point the ESC table became unusable, and I suggested in the early 2000's that the Club should expand its TT facility, initially without success. I had not played for 30 years until our member Keith Walker kept pestering me. David Bremner invested in court 6 and 7, and along with myself and others arranged the acquisition of six tables, with great support from the Bathgate boys and others. Now we have four teams in the Edinburgh leagues, and coach dozens of youngsters. Lindsay Muir, Keith and Paul Atkinson all contributed. I'm so pleased that Table Tennis has prospered, and I'm sorry not to be able to attend, but wish you all the best for this evening

### **Bob Munro**

I wish you all the best for this evening. One of my proudest moments was being made an Honorary Member in 1986, when the Club thanked me for 'many years of dedicated service'. I remain a proud supporter. *Bob served as Hon Secy for 25 years from 1965, under thirteen Chairmen*

## Coaches and managers

	Coaches	Managers	
1930's	Gerry Barnes	Gerry Barnes	
1940's	W D McLaggan Tony Barnes	Gerry Barnes	
1950's	W D McLaggan Alastair Groundwater Bob Giles Jamal Din Hadyn Davies	General Maczek Hadyn Davies	
1960's	Hadyn Davies	Hadyn Davies	
1970's	Hadyn Davies John Trigg	Hadyn Davies John Williams Derek Dolphin	
1980's	Dorothy Sharp Steven Sproule Tom Cain	Derek Dolphin	
1990's	Tom Cain Simon Boughton	Derek Dolphin Dave Thomas	
2000's	Simon Boughton	Dave Thomas Ian Williams Jonathan Tait	

### Other Scottish Clubs at ESC inception in 1936

Fifteen Clubs contained a total of 18 courts when ESC was opened. These are listed below. A further 11 courts were in private ownership

Aberdeen (1913)	Belford (Gifford)	Broughty Ferry	Dundas Castle
Edinburgh Academy (1929)	Fettes	Gala	Merchiston Castle
RAF Leuchars	RAF Turnhouse	RAO Stirling	RN Yacht Club Rhu
SSRC	Trinity (Salvesens)	Watsonians (1934)	

### Sponsors through the years

Sponsorship has always been a major source of income and publicity for the Club. The following list will contain at least a few known to you.

Rossleigh	J. John Turf Accountants	Lillywhites	William Muir (Bond 9)
Justerini and Brooks	John C Todd Ltd	Balbardie Ltd	Cantrell and Cochrane
Alastair Campbell	Merchiston Motors	Standard Life	Dymock and Howden
Lothian Coachworks	Queen Anne Whisky	Powderhall racing	John Gibson & Son
William Youngers	Ernst and Whinney	Royal Bank of Scotland	Distillers Company
Image printers	J M Sloan	Maddocks and Dick	Alloa Brewery
Bank of Scotland	Stafford Exports	SMT	C&R Agencies
Appleyard	Grays of George St	Teleservices	Alna press
LPS Construction	Western SAAB	Dexters Hypotonic	

Current sponsors are Artemis, Williams de Broë, Balina Construction and Spotless Commercial cleaning

### More interesting facts

- Ollie Balfour lost to Mary Ross of ESC when playing for Watsons Boys
- Michael Campbell drove his 1929 Austin Swallow into the mill lade (to avoid a road hog) in 1956
- General Stanislaw Maczek commanded the Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division, and died in 1994 aged 102
- Alun Davies and Ian la Terriere have a funny story about driving through roundabouts on the old A8
- Hadyn Davies (Llanelli GS) lorded it over the bar, and kept a stock of disreputable and greasy ties for miscreants.
- At the 1976 East Masters, the sponsor (Chair of McKay's whisky) asked, Eddie Still – "are you amateur or professional"? Trophy and medal (and no money) or £100? – I'm turning professional immediately!, said Eddie, grabbing the cash.
- Peter Arnold, when he was very ill, couldn't play anything – Eddie Still taught him to play table tennis while sitting
- Hadyn Davies was struck by a full pint of beer thrown by Alun Davies, having had a contretemps with the Bathplugs