

Edinburgh Sports Club

80th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 29th October 2016

Speakers

(before dinner)

Introduction – Andrew Forrest

Grace – David Dix-Perkins

(after starter)

The Club History – Alastair Allanach

(after dinner)

The Toast to the Club – Bill Barclay

The Club's future – Andrew Forrest

Menu

Canapes (at your table)

**Oak smoked salmon and Arbroath Smokie roulade
Micro herb salad, lemon and dill mayonnaise**

**Roast fillet of Aberdeen Angus beef, puff pastry,
port wine and beef reduction
Baby vegetables, pommes Anna**

**Sticky toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce, vanilla
pod ice cream**

Coffee and fudge

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



Hollingdale 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



2012 Mini Team winners



1965 - six cavaliers



2000 Ballyearl



2010 Fitzwilliam



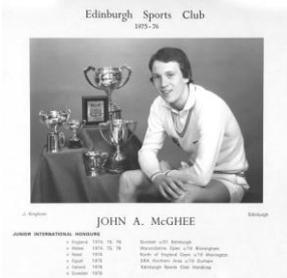
2009 Artemis



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



World Squash day 2012



75th Anniversary Star Players



2000 - winning quiz team



2000 - Juniors



1980 Standard Life Squashers



2014 - Scotland's first Padel court

An extract from this evening's address by a Club historian

The history of this Club comprises a number of interwoven components, all essential to its evident success: the building, and its surrounds; the people who have been members throughout its life; the great sporting occasions which have taken place here; the great one-off, annual and ongoing events, including the many 'clubs-within-clubs' which have developed over the years, and the many major social occasions.

The 50th history started famously..."In the early 30's, when trousers were wide, and shorts were long, a group of Edinburgh businessmen met regularly and bemoaned the fact that there were insufficient facilities readily available for playing squash..."

The history of the grounds starts in 1935, when as can be seen in aerial photographs, this was entirely occupied by allotments (around 500 we believe). Those Edinburgh businessmen mentioned previously ensured that in 1936, three squash courts, changing rooms, administration offices, bar and small kitchen were opened. Such was the success of the venture that the following year courts four and five, and the doubles court were added (the same doubles court which is now the only one in Europe). The club was requisitioned by the Army between 1939 and 1945, and returned slightly damaged. 1957 saw the erection of two tennis courts, providing a summer sport alternative, then in 1968, the biggest change, the block in which we are now celebrating was added. That new block comprised the snooker room, offices and the extensive lounge and dining room. Amazing to think how much socialising was done in the relatively small area comprising the current bar and kitchen area. Two further squash courts, nos. 6 and 7 were also added at the same time.

A third tennis court was added in 1971, and were floodlit with a few years. In 1978, the mini leagues started, initially run by the manager then organised and controlled by Jim McLauchlan for twelve years.

In 1989, courts 6 and 7 were adapted to glass backs for a televised tournament - Telesquash in which 8 of the world top 10 players participated, and was which was featured on Grandstand for 90 minutes. A TV camera position was added to the front tin, and the Court 7 glass back wall folded back to allow tiered seating. Court 6, the show court, had its floor painted green and walls pale blue to allow spectators to see the movement of the ball, which was a specially designed white reflecting version.

In 1994, an open competition among local architects proposed three developments; a fitness room, new changing for ladies and gentlemen, and a new semi-circular staircase (protruding into the car park) to replace the one we still use. In the event, a VAT windfall almost exactly equalled the cost of the fitness room, with the bonus of sauna for the gents, and steam for the ladies, while the other two proposals fell by the wayside. In the late 1980's until in the mid 1990's, five a side football was played on the tennis courts (boards were erected around the circumference),

The Mid 1990's saw the first Oktoberfest, an event spawned by ESC attending the Guinness festival of squash. The Mayhem Festival, similar to Oktoberfest but intended for the student population commenced in 2012.

2006 saw court 7, for long the bridesmaid, converted for use as a table tennis venue, a further rackets offering for the club, and coaching sessions and league matches are now held regularly.

Padel tennis arrived for the first time in Scotland in 2014 here at ESC, with a second court built this year.

Our alternative offerings now include, for those with issues of Flexibility, Fitness and aFliction, we offer Pilates, Personal Training and - Physiotherapy. Perfect alliteration...

The Club has produced an endless supply of Ladies and Mens Scottish Internationalists, many of them still members. They include Brenda Carmichael, Sylvia Boyd (daughter of the Clubs first Lady champion) and Dorothy Sharp who amassed 139 Caps between them, and a total of 12 Club titles. Ian de Sales la Terriere, Bill Shaw, Ollie Balfour, John Done, Peter Wilson and Tom Smith have a host of Club championships and over 120 Scottish Caps between them. Balfour and La Terrier were joined by Mike Oddy as three Edinburgh Sports Club players in the team of five which beat the previously insurmountable English at the Club in March 1964. In recent times, we have had a host of Masters Internationals and Champions, perhaps testament to the durability of ESC players - Simon Gogolin, Jim Dougall (British O65 Champion), Simon Boughton and Moira Atkinson feature. Fast forward to the youngsters and we see Carrie Hallam, Georgia Adderley, Dougie Kempshall and Rory Stewart among those achieving international recognition. And while our Ladies were frequent visitors to the European Team championships during the last 20 years (indeed winning a bronze medal in on the way), our Men's team at last broke the glass ceiling and competed In Italy in 2013. The Edinburgh Open (previously known as the Artemis and other titles) continues to be one of the premier events in UK, and has been graced by many top players, including several World male and female number ones.

Our policy of broad age inclusion sees, at the senior end of the spectrum a group of four over 80's playing doubles squash (and appearing on National TV), while at the Junior end the Miss-Hits event (Judy Murray's initiative), involves girls aged 5 to 8.

Volunteers are essential in this sort of business, and many Board members and volunteers have contributed along the way, along with a host of sponsors and advertisers (also listed in the programme) along with the those experts like the Bathgates and Brian Suddaby who engineer and plaster our facilities. The 50 50 Club is supported voluntarily, and provides valuable funding to a range of Junior rackets programmes.

Social events have played a major part in the Club's life, and these have varied from the lock-ins of the 1950's, through the complex and much sought after Christmas dinners of the 1980's and 1990's, the 2009 Burlesque Festival Fringe, Barbecues, the Karaoke events much favoured by younger members, Mini team dinners and the return of the Friday evening Bistro.

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	J C Lindsay
Williams de Broë	Balina Construction	Spotless Cleaning	Artemis

Current sponsors are Investec, Shepherd Chartered Surveyors and Lorn Macneal Architects

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 1st 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 for the amateur) 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 (a.k.a. the Bathgates)