

ESC - Extra Special Community

This oasis of tranquility
has a magical ability
to lure you in
get under your skin
addicted to its charm
eating from of its sweaty palm.
As the Water of Leith flows by
kiss stress & worries goodbye
and when we're away too long
alarm bells sound - something's wrong!
We get cranky - go cold turkey
where the only known remedy
is a regular dose of ESC
that extra special community.

A club with history and tradition
but also a forward-thinking mission.
Just look at the decades ESC straddles -
we ain't up shit creek..we've got two
'Padels!'

And if the walls could speak
what tales they would leak:
From epic duels and championees
to friendlies and posing wannabees.
Of raquetearing friendship groups
and trophy hunting touring troops.
Not forgetting the table tennis cluber
all excited about a bat's new rubber!
Of eager juniors doing drills
mastering their racquet skills
and seniors - minds as keen as ever
if only their bodies could deliver!
Of lunches and presentation dinners.
Of ceilidhs and late-night sinners
having that one shot or drink too far
and doing something quite bizarre
like a car park scuffle by the bins
or some Snooker Room shenanigans.
Of 'Old Farts' pontificating at the bar
about how 'The young bucks go too far!'
But hello! - All too soon we'll be them!
The natural cycle of this hidden gem.

But whatever your chosen sport may be
there's an undeniable commonality:
Squash, tennis, raquetball or Padel
There's no love lost, every game's a battle.
We're gladiators when we step on court
where winning is our only thought.
Testing defenses with lob grenade balls
testing markers with dubious 'let' calls.
Lung busting rallies and short sharp attacks
getting in their head - mixing it to the max.
Sprinting, lunging, stretching every sinew
trying every trick that you have in you.
Firing volleys or slicing and dropping
a rolling nick there's no way of stopping.
Serving up a barrage that feels like Hell
and maybe some mishit framers as well.
All this to wear an opponent down
and surrender his or her crown.
But careful - don't be an arrogant chump
with that optional extra victory fist pump.
Rather, simply shake hands and smile
back to being friends..Well, for a while.

So, what's so special about ESC?
no other place we'd rather be.
Sure, courts and buildings play a part
but what is this Club's beating heart?
In essence it's the collective 'We'
to put it simply... that's you and me.



A poetic tribute to a
special club which has
been a big part of my life
for over three decades.
Glynn Cave 😊