

ESC History interview

Andrew Forrest

1. What brought you to squash rackets, and when did you first play?
 - a. I was originally a tennis player which was natural being brought up beside Waverley Tennis Club. The late 60s and early 70s was the boom era for squash and Waverley built two courts in 1968 which was when I first picked the game up.
2. When did you join ESC?
 - a. I joined ESC in 1986 through the encouragement of Alan McHoul
3. When did you first and last play at ESC?
 - a. I had actually played at ESC in the late 60s with a friend of my father's Eric More. In terms of squash I last played in 2019 for the Khaledonians, who are one of the handicap league squash teams competing for the McLauchlan Trophy. However, I have continued to play racketball and more recently padel.
4. Would you like to provide a timeline of your early life?
 - a. I was educated at George Watson's Boys College, long before the school became co-educational. At that time you played rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer. They did have a small tennis section so I played team tennis rather than cricket. After leaving school I went to Edinburgh University and graduated with a B.Com with the intention of becoming an accountant. I lasted a year and decided this was not for me. In 1978 I headed for the oil capital of Scotland which seemed much more glamorous and after two years working onshore went offshore with Chevron Petroleum where I remained until 1986.
5. Were you a member of other club(s)?
 - a. In terms of tennis I have been a member of Waverley but also played team tennis for Murrayfield and latterly Corstorphine. For golf I have over the years been a member of North Berwick West and Luffness but now only Murrayfield. I played all of my team squash for the Watsonians even after I was a member of ESC.
6. Who were among your most regular opponents?
 - a. The ESC leagues provided most of my regular opponents and in my day working at the West End there were many lunchtime tussles with the likes of Roy Cowper and Neil Stewart. We also had a healthy Saturday afternoon session with the likes of Gordon Fruish, Dave Borthwick, Bill Reid, Richard Mellis, Alan Hunter, Mike Callachan, Roy Harley and Bruce Johnson.
7. Best sporting achievement
 - a. In terms of squash it was probably the first World Masters Tournament held at Colinton Castle SC which I think was 1986. George Meiras was the organiser and I was late with my application. George was delighted as that gave him a perfect 32 draw for the over 30s. Of course, it didn't really dawn on me that the top seed was going to get a bye. Early on a Saturday morning with a full gallery I played Dave Pearson ex-World number 4. The score was 9-0,9-0,9-1 and I got an enormous cheer for my one point. It may seem that he gave me the point but that is not correct as he didn't drop a point until the semi-finals and had a very comfortable 3-0 win in the final.
8. What did ESC bring to your life?
 - a. It has undoubtedly been the bedrock of my sporting and social life. It has introduced me to a far wider range of people than one would normally have achieved from a school or work environment. And it has also allowed me to give something back through my stint on the Board.
9. Who were your best friends at the Club?

- a. 'Best friends' is a strange concept. You meet and connect with people throughout your life. Some stay with you and some move on. I have met wonderful people in ESC throughout the years but a special group has been the Saturday afternoon gang
10. What was your career?
- a. After my time working in the oil industry I came back to Edinburgh in 1986 and have worked in the Stockbroking and now Wealth Management Industry for the last 34 years.
11. Are you happy with the progress the club is making, e.g. Padel, Table Tennis installations, and refurbishment in general?
- a. In my time there have been two pivotal moments. Not selling part of the land to housing and not building a Real Tennis court. Our major asset is the debt free land and this has allowed the club to take advantage of changing sporting trends the most recent of which is padel tennis. Being at the forefront gives us a fantastic advantage to attract new members which in turn increases revenue and the ability to upgrade the club and other facilities. We will primarily be a racket sport but there are opportunities to grow our health and fitness offering which will involve some change to the structure but when that occurs will be directed by our finances. Overall the direction of travel has been encouraging.
12. Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or other records from ESC?
- a. I have some architectural plans that previous Boards developed although I think that the club may already have copies.
13. Have you any other questions, or suggested topics?
- a. Your checklist has been very comprehensive so at this time I have no other suggestions.
14. Other information

Photographs to be included

