

ESC History interview

Steven Sproule

High level topics

1. At Royal High School from 1969 - 1975
2. What brought you to squash rackets, and when did you first play?
 - a. First year at RHS – Physics teacher Tony Merryman – wanted to learn and were offered courts at Meadowbank – who was your squash mate – Colin Watson
3. When did you first play at ESC?
 - a. 1969 – through my Dad (Jim). Coaching was from Hadyn Davies, (seemed like an) old man, long pants, slicked hair, blue dot ball. I had a busy sporting life, rugby, squash, almost a different sport each evening, so didn't have much time for squash
4. Did you play other sport?
 - a. 4th year rugby played hooker in the RHS 1sts (later Captain in 1974-75)
 - b. In 5th year, played with Ian Milne in the Edinburgh side
 - c. Played football for Heriot Watt Saturday team in the East of Scotland league
5. When did you join ESC?
 - a. Joined as Junior in 1969, played school matches for Royal High at ESC
6. Would you like to provide a timeline of your early life?
 - a. Wardie primary, Robertson Bursary to the Royal High
7. Have you been a member of other club(s)?
 - a. Itinerant player. Asst Manager Hamilton (didn't want me to play at all), played at Whitecraigs. Played Scottish league for SSRC in Maryhill. (via Hugh Parker)
8. Who have been your most regular opponents?
 - a. John McGhee, Raymond Stevenson, Tom Smith – (plus names at Manchester)
9. What has been your best sporting achievement?
 - a. RHS 1st XV in fourth year (hooker), captain in my 6th year (1974-75)
 - b. Won a car MG metro – front page of 'Squash Player' – Alan Campbell helped with sponsorship with Alan's company name 'LPS construction'
10. What reciprocal events have you most enjoyed?
 - a. OctoberFest and Mayhem. Players, food, booze, nailing everyone for the weekend
11. Are you a member of any other clubs?
 - a. Ratho Park golf club
12. What did ESC bring to your life?
 - a. Fantastic job with a range of sports – the bear pit (Court 5) Jonah Barrington / Ahmed Safwat/ Qamar Zaman (year?)
13. Who did you first meet when you came to the club, and do you still know them?
 - a. Bathgates - who were great at arranging games
14. Who are your best friends at the Club?
 - a. See above, and Mike Campbell also sponsored
15. Do you want to talk about your family?
 - a. Dad. One of the all-time greats. Had a painting and decorating business. He was keen for me to get proper coaching, and Hadyn was the answer. He played with Dougie Marshall and Bert D'Agostino
 - b. Vicky the missus. Played team squash, devious! Sandra Kempston was an opponent
 - c. Daughter Janine held with an exhibition of her paintings at the club.
 - d. My uncle Alec persuaded me to play at Moray House where he was a lecturer

16. What has your career path been?

- a. Just after leaving school, I worked in the bar with Janet (?) (Rob Davies was Bar manager). John Williams was manager of the club and he didn't want her locking up on her own. I was also doing a little bit of coaching
- b. Early 1980's Corals squash clubs, played in Crewe, Stockport,
- c. Came back to Edinburgh 1983 and got coaching job at ESC during day. Juniors and Ladies until 5pm.
- d. Involved at Marcos (years?)
- e. When the World Bar finished (2009) Roy Cowper suggested I do a few shifts, ended up working full time for a couple of years
- f. ESC as bar manager 2010-2013
- g. Didn't work during my throat cancer treatment until 2014, then worked a few shifts informally, Octoberfest, Mayhem
- h. Land registers company 2013-2015
- i. Simpson Marwick / **Clyde & Co** 2015 - present day

17. What views do you have about the progress the Club is making, and what does the future hold?

- a. Padel – absolutely brilliant. Innovation is the future

18. Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or other records from ESC?

- a. Yes, and we will meet on a Thursday afternoon soon

19. Have you any other questions, or suggested topics?

20. Other information

- a.

Photographs to be included

