

Simon Boughton

Born 1972

Phone interview, 20 July 2020

1. What was your inspiration to start playing squash?
 - a. BP sponsored a six-week course at Retford Squash Club (sadly closed recently) – a Council facility which was ‘under-performing’.
 - b. My Mum was a PE teacher, and got me into sports at an early age: football was my first love.
2. What did I think of ESC when I first visited?
 - a. I think played in an early ESC Open, circa 1996 – AA was responsible for restarting the tournament (won by Barry Sutherland) after Derek Dolphin decided to stop the event (“the youngsters were too noisy”). The only date which Scottish Squash would offer was the last week in January, which clashed with other major events – but the rest is History.
 - b. I was Club Pro at Bridge of Allan 1996-98, also Development Officer at Scottish Squash. I played for Bridge of Allan against ESC in a match in 1996, and felt ‘a sense of history’ in the Club.
 - c. I was hired by ESC as Sports Development Officer in 1998, being interviewed by what was probably a full board (Renwick/ Rod/ Al McKie/ Rod G/ Michael Stuart and AA).
3. Who did you make friends with initially, and are they still friends?
 - a. Al McKie (via Facebook), Scott Thomson, Richard Snowden, Alan Murray and Dave Hickman
4. Who are the best players you have seen at ESC?
 - a. Obviously, the World No 1 ladies and men; Rachel Grinham, Vanessa Atkinson, John White, Mohamed El Shorbagy, Gregory Gaultier, Karim Abdul Gawad and others
 - b. Nick Matthew, Daryl Selby, Martin Heath, Paul Coll, Cassie Jackman,
 - c. Anecdotes
 - i. Dean Williams / Gaultier encounter. – DW (visiting) “I used to be World No 2” – JJ “Come upstairs, we’ve got one better” (Gaultier was in the lounge!)
 - ii. El Shorbagy watching Arsenal (he was a keen supporter) on a busy Saturday evening in the lounge; Alastair brings in Philip Mackenzie Ross and sits him back-to-back with El Shorbagy, suggesting that a little stardust might rub off.
 - iii. When Steve Sproule couldn’t at very short notice (on the day) travel with us on the Italy Trip 2004, his barmaid Pauline went in his place (on the day) – we all met for breakfast prior to leaving at Steve’s pub – (‘The World’) - where Alastair advises he was later banned by Steven from Karaoke ‘performance’.
5. Who were your opponents in the championships (both winning and losing)?
 - a. My first win was against Dave Simpson,
 - b. I lost to David Heath (2000 was possibly his only appearance)
 - c. Ken McNamara (who won in 2002, and is now at Watsons)
 - d. Richard Snowden
 - e. Rab McGill
 - f. Others?
6. Family?
 - a. I met my future wife Caroline at Lauren Moss’s flat, where she was Lauren’s flatmate. As an ESC member, Lauren was heavily involved in several ESC tours and other events in the 2000’s
 - b. We married in 2010, and now have three children
7. What’s the future for squash in ESC and in Scotland?
 - a. Looking good at ESC; our involvement in the bigger picture in the ESC Open and the recent European Club championships have been well supported by Scottish Squash.
8. How successful will Padel become?
 - a. Will probably take off – the extra court and the covers will be very effective
9. Questions I should be asking you?
 - a. To be identified...
10. Anecdotes – overseas trips, particularly Italy (do you have photos of that?)
 - a. Story about the Italian trips – including those who went – 18 – JJ/ Mellis/ Scott Thomson / Les Wilson/ Chris Milne /John McBride/ Danny Knowles/ Ken McManara
 - b. Three trips, two to ‘Five nations’ in Milan - first just four of us (you, Richard M / Scott and Alan Murray), the second was nine players (list please)
 - c. Cardiff trips – when I arrived at ESC there were 8 teams (two of them, Cardiff and Ballyearl brought a total of 30 people each!) – their numbers pushed us to increase the numbers of teams in the event.

EDINBURGH SPORTS CLUB

Staff Profile

Simon Boughton

Sports Activities Officer Simon joined the club in April 1998. His previous position was as a part time Regional Squash Development Officer with Scottish Squash, while also fulfilling a Squash Professional role at Bridge of Allan Sports Club. Previously Simon spent some time out in Milan, Italy coaching and helping to promote the game of squash. Brought up in Worksop, Nottinghamshire Simon took up the game at the age of 12 proceeding to represent the county at various levels while competing closely with a

young Peter Marshall. Simon also represented England Universities while studying for his BSc Hons in Sport and Leisure management. Currently ranked 8 on the Scotland ladder rankings Simon has proved to be an inspiration to junior players at Edinburgh Sports Club. Enthusiastic, amenable and a people person Simon has time for everyone. In addition to his duties promoting sports within the club Simon also represents the Club National Squash Team helping them towards a very credible 4th place last season. Simon has recently completed a course in Fitness/Gym Instruction.



Simon's ambitions for the future are to see all of The Sports Club teams finishing strongly in leagues and

competitions and the continued success of his coaching programmes at every level.

STOP PRESS

Squash Mad website, 23rd November 2020

Simon features in an article – see <https://squashmad.com/breaking-news/simon-boughtons-love-affair-with-edinburgh-sports-club/>