

ESC History interview

Tony Gay (TonySquash)



- What brought you to squash rackets, and when did you first play?
- Dragged along to watch my parents — I personally had a different sport every night. Played in late teens with a teacher, then late not until my late 20's when I joined Abbotsley Squash Club (since closed)
- When did you first come to ESC?
 - Squash tournament, due to the Helsinki Heroes (**some names?**), (World Masters 2003) – loads of Scotsmen attended, and I became 'The Adopted Scot' – from that tournament, I then entered ESC masters in 2004
 - Had work at Dumfries, came with them to Octoberfest perhaps 2 years later
 - What did you think of the club initially?
 - Coming down the driveway – it suddenly hits you – impressive building (sign saying 1936) - blimey – how many courts has it got? – great ambience, the people who run it – I now feel at home when I come up. Tony still uses ESC as an example how to run a club and keep it running.
 - What brought you to squash court maintenance?
 - Ex Father in Law had his own company (squash court maintenance– Wearwell courts) brother - in- law asked for Tony when Dad wanted to retire, and asked who he wanted to bring in.
 - When did you adopt your 'TonySquash' moniker?
 - For simplicity – easier than my company's real name which is a bit complicated
 - What has your career path been?
 - Went to college to train as a PE teacher
 - I was National springboard diver/ southern counties swimmer – damaged back very badly diving
 - Unable to continue the teaching course – was a problem for 4 years– so worked for NHS as cashier/auditor
 - Assistant bursar at school in North Devon (with two small children) – I had family down there
 - 10 months in Devon – couldn't sell property back home
 - That tied in with my starting working for Wearwell, and moved to Letchworth
 - Four years with Wearwell, then started own company
 - Are you a member of other club(s), and do you play other sports?
 - Cycle, mountain bike, walk, gym (Cambridge Uni Sports centre)
 - Where does ESC figure in your table of good places to visit
 - At the top.
 - Aside ESC, where are your other favourite customers
 - Martelsham in Ipswich, Kendal, Radlett
 - Who have been your most regular opponents at ESC?
 - Simon, plus playing in tournaments, or whoever is working with me – e.g. Paul Swallow

11. Do you have any humorous anecdotes to share, e.g. jobs gone wrong?
 - a. Please add some info here
12. What do you think of the club spirit at ESC?
 - a. Please add some info here
13. Who did you first meet when you came to the club, and do you still know them?
 - a. Ian Williams (plus anyone else from the Helsinki Heroes).
14. Who are your best friends at the Club?
 - a. JJ, Simon, Ross, AA
15. What views do you have about the progress the Club is making, and what does the future hold?
 - a. Please add some info here
16. Can you tell us about your family?
 - a. Please add some info here
17. Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or other records of yourself at work or at ESC? I don't seem to have any of you in our archive collection.
 - a. Photo with van
 - b. Any others – perhaps diving or similar
18. Have you any other questions, or suggested topics?
19. Other information

Photographs to be included

How many customers / how distant / how many years – are ESC an early customer?
 The Tony Squash tournament – what is it and how did it come about?
 Aside the vehicle, have you any others? – I'll ask Simon