



Edinburgh
Sports
Club

50

Years

1936 ~ 1986





Introduction



The year 1936 was certainly eventful, dominated in the press by the Abdication crisis. So it is not surprising that the formation of a limited company in Edinburgh to provide squash facilities went unnoticed. The details of this development and of the next fifty years in the life of the Edinburgh Sports Club are related in this small history, published to mark the Club's 50th Anniversary. We owe a considerable debt of gratitude to the Club's founders for two reasons, namely, the very significant contribution made to the development of the game in Scotland, demonstrated not least by the list of members who have played for their country; and secondly, for having the foresight to provide facilities in an open club for a game which was destined to become universally popular. This latter fact is best illustrated by the number of members in all categories in 1986—over 1,000. I am therefore pleased to be able to record that the Club is flourishing in its fiftieth year. The singles courts are in constant use, the doubles court has had a new lease of life following the introduction of racketball, the provision of snooker and tennis facilities has enhanced the popularity of the Club, and it is in demand as a venue for some of the country's principal tournaments. The Directors are constantly considering ways of further improving the facilities and we look forward with confidence to the second fifty years.

Hugh K. Young

June 1986.

Chairman.



“Hot Showers may be Difficult to Supply”

A Non-Playing History of Edinburgh Sports Club

In the early thirties, when trousers were wide and shorts were long, a group of Edinburgh lawyers and businessmen met regularly and bemoaned the fact that there were insufficient facilities readily available for playing squash. The first court in Edinburgh belonged to T. J. Carlyle Gifford and overlooked the Water of Leith under Belford Bridge. But other than that, there were only the two Edinburgh Academical courts at Raeburn Place and the two built quickly in response by Watson's at Myreside. Squash and rugby have always marched closely together! The University built two courts at Kings' Buildings in 1932 but there was definitely room for more.

So, after many meetings, plans were finally

drawn up in 1935 between four men who were to become the first shareholders in the Edinburgh Sports Club Limited. They were The Hon. David Balfour (later Lord Kinross), Captain G. E. Carter, Ian McKinlay and A. G. Weir. With an initial shareholding of five pounds each they raised enough money from a debenture issue to buy the land from Dr John King and erect the first three courts, changing rooms and bar facilities—at a total cost of £8,000. It was ironic that the new building stood at Bellsmill, only a stone's throw from that very first private squash court on the Water of Leith. But this new squash facility was a proprietary club, intended to be self-financing and even to make a small profit for its shareholders!



The Official Opening of the Club by Lord George Douglas-Hamilton in July 1936.



In July 1936 a party was held and the Edinburgh Sports Club was officially opened by Lord George Douglas-Hamilton (now the Earl of Selkirk). Gerry Barnes was appointed the first professional—probably the first in Scotland—and the only other appointment on record is that of a bar steward. So things began as they have continued with equal stress on sport and social activities!

There were 250 full-time members (150 men and 100 ladies) paying four guineas a year subscription and five shillings per lesson from the professional. Country and Junior members were also to be considered. So great was the demand on these arrangements that the proprietors immediately decided to extend them and by 1938 there were two more courts and a doubles court in play.

As with so many things, all would have gone well if it had not been for the war. In 1939 the Club

premises were requisitioned by the Army but to this day we do not know exactly to what purpose, since the records are "TOP SECRET" and have never been released. When the courts came back into civilian hands the main evidence of occupation was fire damage to the floor of Court 5. Heated courts have obviously been a high priority for longer than we think!

The re-opening of the Club after the war was due in large part to Gerry Barnes who returned as the professional, swapping his Royal Marine uniform and rifle for shorts and a squash racket. In July 1945, he wrote to members informing them that play would begin in September. "Rackets and balls may be a problem but some have been obtained for hire," he wrote, "but hot showers may be difficult to supply!" He himself promised to continue giving lessons, becoming more available "as I get fit again"; revealing that he, like so many returning members, had been wounded in the war.



Opening of the New Wing—9th and 10th October 1937.

W. Aylott, Ian J. Mackinlay, D. Butcher, J. Dear, A. G. Weir, J. Barnes, Capt. G. E. Carter, Hon. David A. Balfour.



The fabric of the Club had also suffered. Apart from the fire damage, a leaking roof and a crumbling river wall led to a repair bill of £1,600 (£30,000 today!) and more debentures were issued to cover the costs. By 1946, it became obvious to the original shareholders that owning squash courts was unprofitable and so some talented accounting by the then secretary, Ian Ritchie, turned the Club over to its members by splitting the share capital into 500 One Shilling shares. Holding one share became a condition of membership which remains to this day. During another financial crisis in 1952, the subscription date was brought forward to 1st July—the date pertaining ever since. At this time members themselves often put in sterling work and individuals were sometimes to be seen wielding a paintbrush or a mop in one hand and a gin and tonic in the other! One contemporary who shall be nameless even went so far as to declare that “a hard core of patriots drank the Club into solvency”.

The years up to 1960 seem to have been the “fun” years. Playing standards were maintained but

squash was still very much an amateur sport. The management undertook to find partners for players without opponents. Match play is recorded elsewhere, but it should be noted that while petrol rationing was still in force, the fifth member of any team travelling South was often chosen for the size of his car and his ability to obtain petrol, rather than strictly on playing merit!

Teams were often royally entertained! One member recalls being treacherously wined and dined by a group the Club team thought to be their English opponents, only to find at start of play next day, and nursing ferocious hangovers, that their hosts of the night before had been replaced by a team fresh of face and white of eye!

In 1960, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Club. He watched an exhibition match on the Championship Court and a doubles match between four veterans. Irreverent younger Club members remarked afterwards that they'd never before seen the quartet wear such clean kit!



A Club team led by Mick Gwyer with opponents at Handsworth S.C. in 1953.

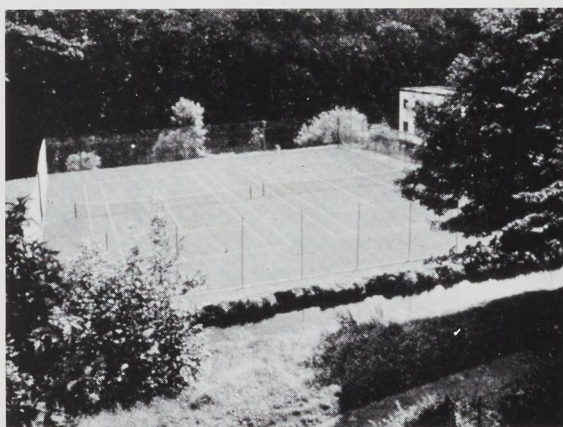


The Duke's visit co-incided with the beginning of the squash "boom". Through the sixties and seventies the number of clubs grew from the original pre-war four in Edinburgh to the present total of nearly 100 in Lothian Region. The first architect's plan for the Edinburgh Sports Club made provision for "Squash Courts, Clubhouse, Covered Lawn Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool and Car Park". As present members will know, the Swimming Pool is still a pipe dream but 2 tennis courts were laid in 1957. Before that the Club had died in the summer.

By 1968 the membership had soared to almost 500 and the premises were modernised with the help of a £4,000 loan from Scottish Brewers when 2 more squash courts, a snooker room, dining room and bar extension were added. In 1971, a third tennis court was added and all were laid with an all-weather surface. Floodlights were erected on the Number 1 tennis court in 1984.

The Club was the first in Scotland to install heating on the squash courts. For decades, Scottish players had been not only suffering the

shivers in winter but also suffering the disadvantage of being unused to heated courts when competing in England. A squash ball bounces best at 12 degrees Centigrade and after the Club courts reached this temperature it was noticeable how quickly other Scottish Clubs followed suit. So now not only are hot showers in plentiful supply but hot courts as well!



The two tennis courts in 1960.



Visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh—March 1960.



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The Club Today or “Life Begins at Fifty!”

Old photographs of the Club show that the place has not changed very much over fifty years. It is still the same serviceable, squat white building that was erected in 1936. Bits have been added and the main entrance has moved through ninety degrees but a member who hadn't set eyes on the Club for five decades would still instantly recognize it.

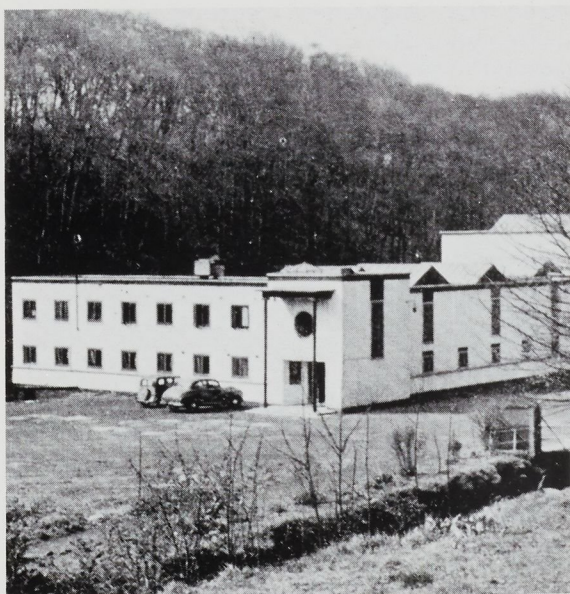
He might recognise the building, but would he recognize the Club? Today, it is surely a very different place. Formerly, membership of the Club was drawn from the professional firms which proliferate in Edinburgh. More recently, members have come from a wider cross-section of the population, based on their desire to play and enjoy the game of squash. Formalities regarding dress and junior participation have been relaxed in recent years, moves which have been welcomed by today's members.

The present Manager, Derek Dolphin, has been nine years with the Club and before that had served for 24 years with the Army Physical Training Corps. So it's not surprising that the Exercise Area with its various instruments of torture has been developed under his aegis! He

also introduced the Club Mini Leagues, which have revolutionised playing arrangements and given an “edge” to social squash.

When Dorothy McNeill (Mrs Sharp) was appointed Club Professional in 1981, she helped to improve competitive playing standards throughout the Club. She did wonders for the Ladies in particular and not only for the teams but also for the lesser mortals who just wanted to keep fit, introducing morning exercise and squash classes with crèche facilities attached! Her successor, Steven Sproule, didn't have quite the same incentive to supply this need, but must take some of the credit for last season's successes—his first season as Club Professional. He distinguished himself individually by winning the 1985 National Handicap Championship and a brand new MG Metro from the sponsors, Austin-Rover! A far cry from the days when he was the Club bar steward in 1978!

Sponsorship has made great strides in the last few years. Last season, all six Club teams were wearing sponsored kits to the tune of £2,000 worth; and most of it has come through contacts with Club members.



The Club in its early days.



The present Manager Derek Dolphin and his wife Margaret.



The development of the Junior Section is another major change in recent years. Children of all ages are now encouraged around the Club rather than just tolerated and this is reflected in the fact that there is a waiting list for junior membership. A good incentive for them is the Lothian Junior League which started in the 1984/85 season. Steven Sproule coaches the juniors over 8 years old and one of the members, George Thompson, has just started taking some of the under 8s for coaching on Saturday afternoons. Toddlers and babies are often to be seen watching the action on court and playing in the orchard in the summer.

The annual children's Christmas party is now a regular success with 60 children attending at Christmas 1985. Derek Dolphin's wife, Margaret, provides valuable support at that function and on many other Club social occasions. These are many and varied. There are still regular dances (usually well-subscribed by the over 35s!), but there are also discos, barbecues, candlelight dinners and Burns Night suppers and, more recently, video race-meetings have been a great attraction. "Social" tennis tournaments are held in the summer and Guy Fawkes Night fireworks attract young and old alike.

It was seven years ago that Derek Dolphin first brought four rather stubby rackets and half a dozen "bald" tennis-type balls into the Club and suggested that members try an American game called racketball on the doubles court. It is now so popular that the court is hard to book on week-day evenings and many squash players get extra enjoyment and exercise from a game no

other club has the facility to play. Internal competition, including mixed-doubles, is fierce!

Another game played at the Club with great enthusiasm is snooker! The "lunchtime league" meets regularly, when the meal consists of more snooker than soup, and the odd bet has been known to take place! There has been a Club snooker team in the Edinburgh District Snooker League for the last three years. Last year, the team was promoted from Division Three to Division Two.

Although the stated purpose of the Club is to provide squash and tennis facilities, its members have achieved success in many other fields. Members have won international recognition for rugby, cricket, basketball, table tennis and football; and have had an active interest in racing, both at Powderhall and Aintree!

Many squash players are becoming professional in these days of sponsored competitions. The older members may regret the passing of the amateur but it seems that as playing is taken more seriously, the social side of club life becomes more relaxed. In an age of expanding leisure facilities, when other squash clubs have been forced to close, the Edinburgh Sports Club with its expanding range of facilities has held its own against newer rivals. Certainly, our recently refurbished bar and function rooms are superior to most sports clubs in Scotland and our central location and friendly atmosphere are the envy of many a visitor. At fifty years old, the Club is a lively and sought-after centre of activity with a subscription accessible to many and a reputation second to none.



Children's Christmas Party 1985.



Court 1 transformed for Christmas Dance 1985.

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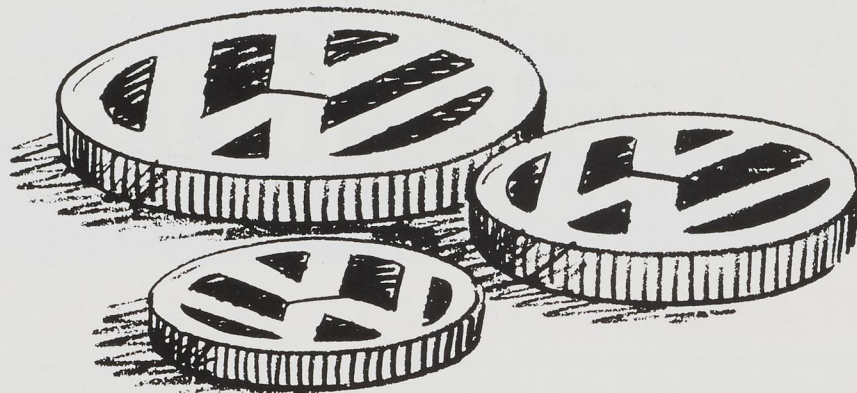


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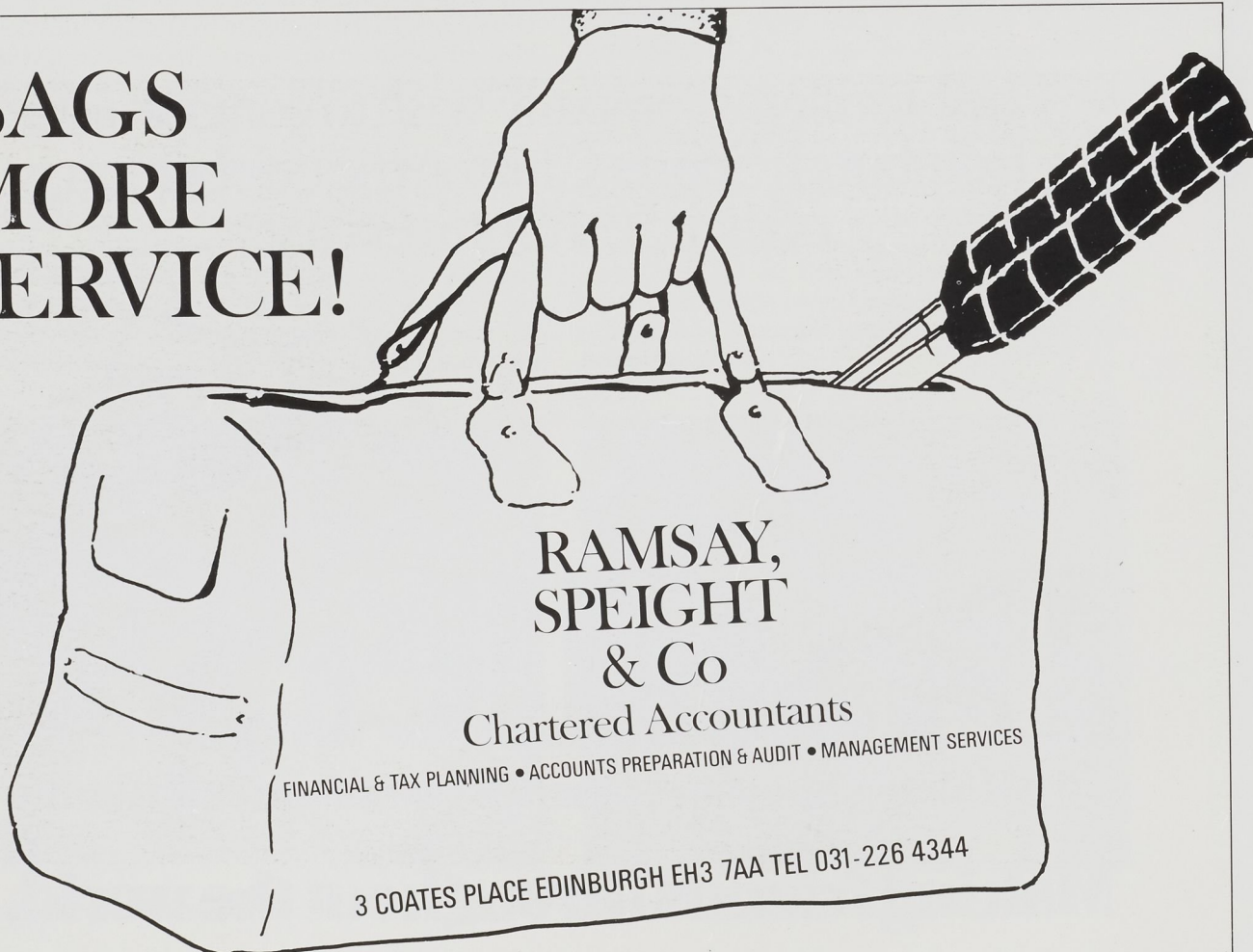
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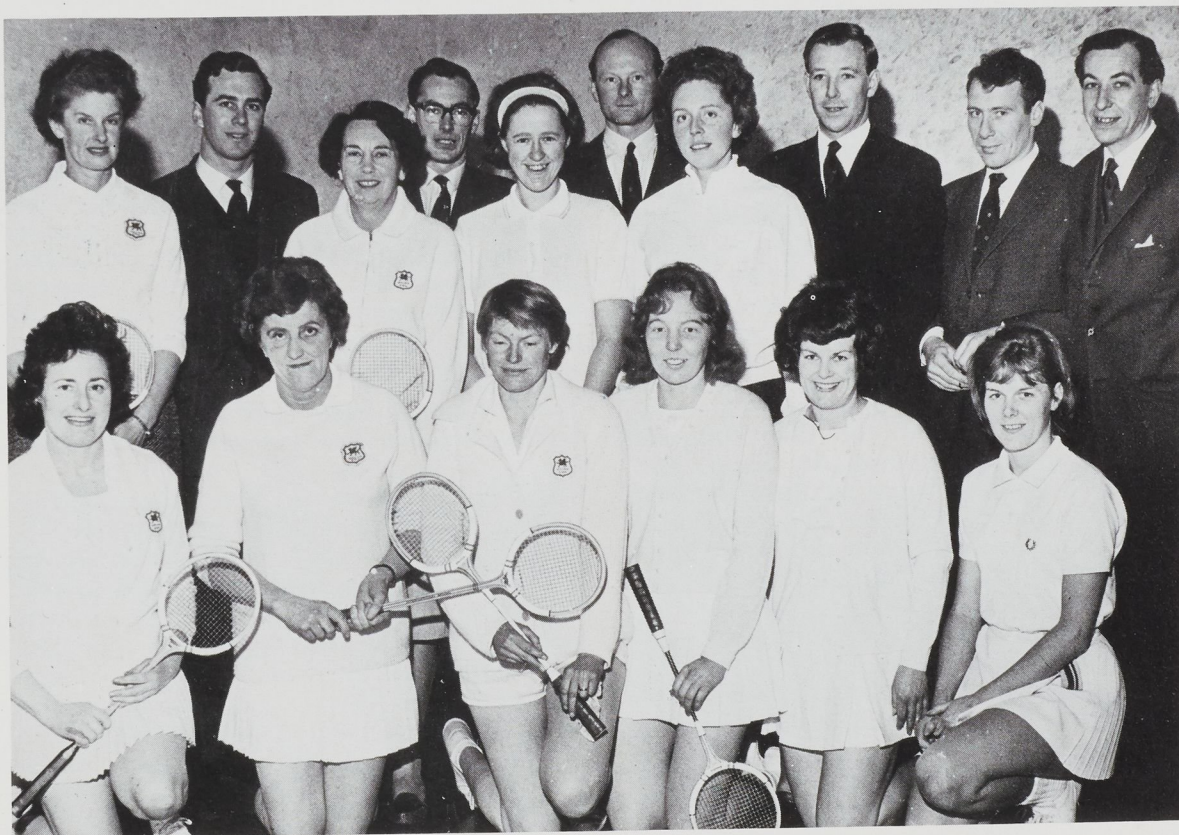
When the Club opened, squash in the capital received a great boost. With the almost immediate extension of the premises to include five courts and the doubles court, the Club became the largest in Scotland. Before the war there were no inter-club league competitions. One of the earliest recorded events was a 32-a-side match against the Watsonian Squash Club, which had opened in 1935. In this match, 20 ties were played at Belford and 12 at Myreside.

Internationals were played against the Home Countries and between 1937 and 1939 four Club members were capped for Scotland, namely Sir Stewart Stewart-Clark, J. E. K. Sprot, E. G. Macpherson Grant and Paul Harding-Edgar. In 1937, the first Club Championships were held and won by E. G. Macpherson-Grant and Mrs Christine McClure, who both retained their titles

the following year. The outbreak of war in 1939 brought all competition to a close.

After the war, the professional Gerry Barnes quickly re-established the reputation of the Club at the forefront of Scottish squash and with the help of W. D. McLaggan, who succeeded him, coached more Club members to international caps than any other club.

Organised competition between clubs began in 1951 with the Gray's Cup which was the forerunner of the current Scottish League. In its first nine years, Edinburgh Sports Club won the Gray's Cup three times from 1954 to 1956. It was a time when many top-class Club players emerged—Bill Shaw, George Chisholm, Ian de Sales la Terrière, Michael Oddy and Olly Balfour; and a Welshman called Alun Davies first played for the Club in 1957 and continued to do so until 1983.



Scotland v Wales at E.S.C. 1965.



Strong lady players were also emerging, among them Miss Lucy McInroy who took the Scottish Ladies Championship in 1951/52—the first Club member to do so. In the fifties, Scottish caps were won by twenty-five members of the Club, thirteen men and twelve ladies. From 1958 the Club Men's Championship was dominated by Olly Balfour who lost the title only three times in the next 14 years. So he is the "Champion of Champions" with a record 12 titles, the last in 1972.

1960 saw the start of the Scottish League and in the following ten years the Club won the title six times. Mike Oddy won the first of his five Scottish Championships in 1956 and the last in 1966. In 1963, the Scottish team which included four members of the Club (Mike Oddy, Olly Balfour, George Chisholm and Ian de Sales la Terrière) achieved what was thought to be impossible, they beat England for the first and only time. You can read Ian's colourful account of the match on page 17. In 1968, Olly Balfour won the Scottish Open Championship, the last Scottish player to do so.

In the early seventies, the Club played host to the European Championships and the Home Internationals. Chris Wilson won the first of his 106 caps for Scotland in 1968 and the last in 1983. He is the Club's most capped player and also the holder of the record number of international caps—recorded in the *Guinness Book of Records*. In 1973, John Done won the Club Men's Championship for the first of four times. John has acted as Scottish team manager on many occasions and has also played for Scotland. The 1976/77 season saw the beginning of a six-year run as winners of the Scottish League and the Club also took the Scottish Quaich three times from 1976 to 1978.

Over the same period, the Club was also producing some outstanding lady players with our Ladies Team of Sylvia McClure, Dorothy McNeill, Brenda Carmichael, Jill Sands and Jenny MacColl winning both the British Inter County Championship and the Crispe Club Championship Cup in 1965. Sylvia McClure, daughter of the Club's first Lady Champion, also won the title four times from 1962 to 1965 and again in 1967. Her dominance was first challenged when Brenda Carmichael won in 1966 followed by a further three wins from 1970 to 1972. Sylvia (now Mrs Boyd) resumed her crown in 1973 and won the title eight times in all—the

ladies record! Between them, these two ladies hold 74 caps for Scotland. The Ladies Championship in 1975 was won by Dorothy McNeill, a lady who holds 65 Scottish caps—another record! Brenda was the last Scottish lady player to win the Ladies National title in 1970. Since then, English and overseas players have dominated both men's and ladies' Open Scottish National Championships.

In the National leagues of 1979 and 1980, our first and second men's teams came first and second respectively in the League. Also in 1980, both men's and ladies' first teams were in the national semi-finals of the Banbury Trophy. In 1981, there were three Club members in the Scottish men's team—John McGhee, Tom Smith and Raymond Stevenson—and two Club members in the ladies' team—Ray Lynch and Anne Smith. In fact, so strong was the Club representation at international level at this time, that in the Home Internationals that took place at Ilkestone, Nottingham, in January 1982, ten of the twelve Scottish players were members of the Club.

Success continued in the Scottish Quaich, won by the Club in 1982 and 1985 and in the latter competition the team dropped only 4 games. The run of success in the League ended in 1982/83 but the Club regained that Championship in 1984/85 when, strengthened by Andrew Cuthbertson, Archie Waterston and Raymond Stevenson again, the Club had the competition sewn up half way through the second half of the season. In our fiftieth year, the Club team retained the Scottish League title. The successful team of Raymond Stevenson, Tom Smith, Archie Waterston, Gerry Anslow and Alastair McIntosh played throughout the season unchanged—another unique achievement.

The Club has also had considerable success in the Lothian Leagues. Twice winners of the Scottish League Division II in 1969/70 and 1970/71, the Club second team lost the first Lothian League Division I competition in 1972/73, but won the following year. By the time the second team had won Lothian League Division I in two consecutive seasons (1976/77 and 1977/78) without losing a match, they were promoted to Scottish League Division II and our Men's 3rd team took over the Lothian mantle. They came second and won promotion to Scottish Division II at the end of the season 1978/79. In the 1983/84 season, the Lothian Leagues were re-organised and our 1st Lothian team won Division I in 1984/85.



The Club Ladies 2nd team merit special mention as they won their Lothian Ladies Division I on no less than 7 occasions and in 5 of these went through the season undefeated. They also won the U.K. Ascot title twice in seasons 1976/77 and 1978/79. In the first of these, the team that beat North Kent in the final was Sandra Kempston, Gill McNeillage, Rosy Fraser, Sheena Hardy and Margaret Hunter and in the second success against Blackheath, Sandra and Sheena were joined by Jill Stephenson, Celia Lang and Chrys Musson. Both results were 4-1.

Until 1982/83, our Ladies 1st team were considered capable of holding their own in the Men's Lothian Divisions and have done so in Divisions II and III. They have never actually won either but the sterner competition helped to raise their playing standard and consequently most of the team have achieved international recognition. The Ladies team won the Lothian Ladies Division I title in 1985/86 with an undefeated record and our newly introduced Ladies 2nd team won the 3rd Division title.

In the past three seasons the Club also had a team competing in the Audi over-35 Men's National Championship winning the Scottish section twice and reaching the quarter finals of the British in the 1983/84 season.

The top squash players in Edinburgh have, down the years, nearly always been members of the Club. However, they have not necessarily played League squash for the Club, often playing for other clubs such as Watsonians or the Academicals and thus ensuring a good competitive standard throughout Edinburgh. They have combined under the Club banner to play effectively as an Edinburgh team in national competitions with considerable success. Through the many international competitions that have been played at the Club (such as the Scottish Open, the Home Internationals, and the European Championships) we have been privileged to

see many of the world's top players at Belford. The list is endless but it reads like the "Who's Who" of world squash over the past 50 years.

Since 1978, a very competitive mini-league has flourished. There are now up to 200 players participating, strictly controlled by Jim McLauchlan, to whom much of the credit for the league's success should go. For lesser mortals, this system has ensured that squash standards are maintained and improved.

The future lies with the juniors—and the future looks good. An enthusiastic Junior Section is ably led by Douglas Yule, Tom Fraser and Ray Tannock. Douglas Yule merits special mention for his efforts at Firrhill School where he has encouraged many young squash players including John McGhee and Raymond Stevenson, who have both played for Scotland. A remarkable achievement since, until this occurred, the centres of squash teaching in Edinburgh were traditionally the private schools.

The relationship between the Club and Stewarts Melville College is a case in point. Many of the juniors are pupils at Stewarts and they contribute much to the overall enthusiasm among juniors at the Club. Some exasperated veterans grumble that at times they appear to take over, but they should rejoice that the juniors are thriving, ensuring that the Club remains in its rightful place at the forefront of Scottish squash.

Doubles squash, which had been played extensively during the 1950s, is now only enjoyed by some of our more venerable members. For many years, however, our ladies excelled at this version of the game, being represented on the winner's rostrum of the Scottish Ladies Doubles Championship on no less than 19 occasions since the inception of the competition in 1937 to its apparent demise in 1981. In the last few years, the doubles court has been almost entirely given over to the Club's own version of doubles racketball, a game now so popular that a league system is in operation and annual competitions take place.



The U.K. Ascot Winners 1978/79.



The Club Over 35 Scottish Section Winners of the Audi National Championships February 1984.

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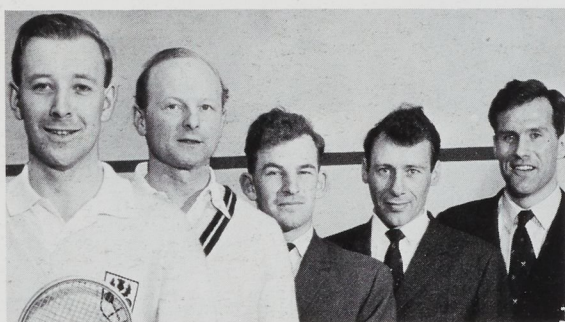
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"Breaking the Stranglehold"

(By Ian de Sales la Terrière)



The Successful Team.

Scotland v. England 1963/64

Since Squash Internationals began in the 1930s no home country has been able to defeat England. Indeed losing a tie to Scotland, Wales or Ireland was a rare occurrence for the Old Enemy. But in the early sixties, the prospect of eternal subservience began to look a little less inevitable with Scotland winning two ties in Edinburgh in the seasons of both 1959/60 and 1961/62.

In March 1964, the contest was again staged at the Edinburgh Sports Club. Scotland assembled:

1. Michael Oddy, the outstanding Amateur Champion;
2. Oliver Balfour, arguably the best player at that time never to have represented Great Britain;
3. George Chisholm, the latter's Watsonian team-mate and a great fighter;
4. Robert Montgomerie, a persistent performer with a good many wins to his credit on the Southern circuits; and
5. Ian de Sales de Terrière, after 12 years of international competition, still capable of upsetting top players on a cold Scottish court.

Assuming a win at Number 1, could our courts assist to overall victory, most likely through Numbers 2 and 5 or would this year's contest prove yet another debacle at the hands of the invading Sassenach?

The moment they arrived, England's Jeremy Lyon and Tony Gathercole were bundled through the changing rooms and into battle. The Court 5 gallery was treated to one of Olly Balfour's most scintillating displays to win 9-5 in

the fifth. But on Court 4 the plot failed and Gathercole's persistent driving to the back corners saw off la Terrière in three games.

Montgomerie then won points but no games against Kirton and though Richard Boddington succumbed to the ruthless squash machine of the Amateur Champion, Scottish hopes were already washed gloomily down the Water of Leith.

The contest stood at two matches all, but "poised" was hardly the term being used in the bar, when murmurings of interest transmitted themselves along the passage from Court 5. George Chisholm had lost two close games to John Skinner, got home in the third and was now setting his opponent more than ordinary problems. Sure enough, for those who could squeeze a view, there was George, soaked and crimson, running as if his life as well as his country depended on it, belting the ball to level his tie—and the match—10-8 in the fourth. Could he keep it up? As he built up a lead in the fifth, it seemed impossible that the Englishman would not pull out some last minute recovery, but George's headlong rush continued and, in spite of many long fierce rallies, the final game went to Scotland for the loss of only one point.

Scotland had at last broken the strangehold. For the rest of the night at the Club, Winged Victory drove furiously at the Chariot of Bacchus—at least the writer's last memory of the occasion was one of pint tumblers bubbling over with champagne. Late Saturday morning, attending the Club's pre-Calcutta Cup oysters and Black Velvet party, were a few fragile and sheepish English and a frothy host of fragile but elated Scots.

Detailed results, Scottish names first:

M. A. Oddy beat R. M. H. Boddington 9-4, 10-8, 9-7.

O. L. Balfour beat G. J. A. Lyon 9-5, 9-3, 5-9, 3-9, 9-5.

G. R. Chisholm beat J. F. Skinner 6-9, 7-9, 9-6, 10-8, 9-1.

R. D. Montgomerie lost to P. G. Kirton 7-9, 7-9, 2-9.

I. C. de Sales la Terrière lost to T. D. Gathercole 8-10, 4-9, 6-9.



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Profiles

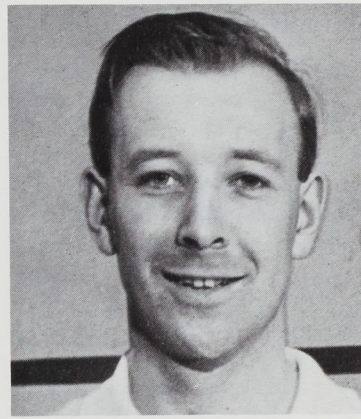
The Club has produced many fine players over fifty years and, in a small volume, it is impossible to record the achievements of all. The profiles that follow are therefore only representative of all those who have contributed to the well-being of the Club, and to squash, during the period 1936 to 1986.



Paul Harding-Edgar



Haydn Davies



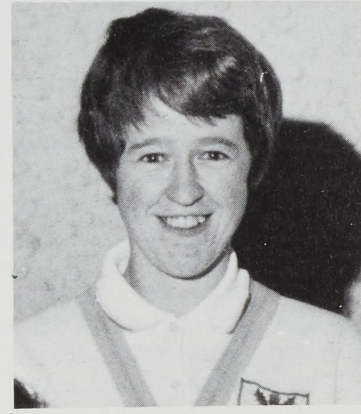
Oliver Balfour



Alun Davies



Michael Oddy



Brenda Carmichael



Sylvia McClure



Dorothy McNeill



John McGhee



PAUL HARDING-EDGAR

"A Founder Member"

In the early days of squash, internationals were far less frequent than today, but nonetheless Club members were very much to the fore in the matches that were played. One such player was Paul Harding-Edgar.

Paul first ventured into squash whilst a student at Clifton then progressed to play for Edinburgh Accies in the early 1930s. When the Club was launched in 1936, Paul became one of the original members commencing an association with the Club which exists to this day. His first of twenty representative honours came in 1938 against Ireland and ended against that same country in 1959—a span of 21 years which at that time was duly recognised in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Like many of his contemporaries, his playing career was halted by the war in which he served in the Royal Artillery reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. At the cessation of hostilities he dominated the Club Men's Championship winning the first three competitions after the war and, in 1948, his wife, Berthia Harding-Edgar also won the Ladies' Championship for the second time. The family dominance was extended in the 1950s by Paul's sister, Rachel Harding-Edgar, who was three times Lady Champion. The link remains to this day, upheld by Paul's son, John, who currently represents the Club and his grandson James Byers who has just become a member. (Both ladies also went on to win Scottish caps.)

The highlight of a long squash career for Paul was in winning the Scottish Amateur Championship twice in 1946/47 and 1947/48. He was unlucky not to make it a hat-trick of wins the following year when, in a strong position in the semi-final, he had to retire through injury.

His services to Scottish squash were not confined only to the court as, at various times, he served the SSRA as Treasurer, Secretary and President and was its first representative on the SRA Council.

In 1950 Paul was invited to join the Jester's—one of the few Scottish sportsmen to be so honoured at that time and in 1973 was made an Honorary Member of Edinburgh Sports Club.

HAYDN DAVIES

Haydn Davies was undoubtedly partly, if not wholly, responsible for the Edinburgh Sports Club emerging from the difficult post-war years to the position the Club finds itself in today. Haydn, whose main sport when young was cricket, found himself coaching squash at Cardiff after only two appearances on the squash court. He was so successful that it was not long until he turned professional and coached at Cardiff Squash Club from 1937 until 1959. He brought squash in Wales from a mediocre to a high standard. He was offered the post of professional coach and manager at Edinburgh Sports Club in March 1959 and continued in that position until 1975. In that period, ably assisted by his wife Jean, who handled most of the administration, the Club, both from the financial and playing sense, grew in leaps and bounds. It was he (when you read the other profiles) who brought so many players from novice to international standard and he was rated one of Great Britain's outstanding coaches. He was also an outstanding player having won the Welsh Open Championship. He left Edinburgh Sports Club in 1975 to return to Wales and in the same year was appointed President of the Welsh Squash Federation. He still coaches to this day and retains fond memories of his time in Edinburgh.

OLIVER BALFOUR

"The Twelve Times Champion"

Oliver Balfour was without doubt one of the greatest squash players ever to represent Edinburgh Sports Club. Between 1958 and 1972, Olly was Club Champion twelve times—a record that will take some beating.

Olly is now 49 and a partner in a firm of Chartered Accountants in Edinburgh, but his international career spanned 14 years and he was capped 45 times for Scotland. In 1968 that was a record and duly noted in the *Guinness Book of Records*, although it has been eclipsed since because, with more internationals being played, players get more opportunities to win caps today. His career was highlighted in 1964 when he took part in that historic victory over England and in 1966 in Dublin when he became one of the handful of players who have defeated the great Jonah Barrington. Olly was Scottish Amateur Champion three times and only succumbed in



the 1964 final to the brilliant young Australian, Geoff Hunt, then only 17. It still disappoints him, and many others, that despite his achievements in and for Scotland, he was never selected to represent Great Britain.

Olly retired from international squash in 1968, partly because of increased business commitments and partly due to a back injury which still plagues him. But he continued to play League squash for Watsonians until ten years ago.

In fact it was he, together with Haydn Davies, who were responsible for setting up the first Scottish League in the late 1960s. He also had a spell as Secretary of the S.S.R.A., served as Vice-President for four years and became President in the early 1970s.

In recent years though, Olly's enthusiasm for squash has diminished. "It's very professional now," he says, "and I wonder if the players really enjoy themselves. We were true amateurs and had to dig into our own pockets but it was great fun and we made many friends. Is it the same nowadays?"

ALUN DAVIES

"The 25 Year Welsh Connection"

In 1953 when Alun Davies went to Cardiff University he was hardly aware of the existence of squash. Yet subsequently he has left an incredible mark on the game.

The coach at Cardiff Squash Rackets Club at the time was Haydn Davies, who later became our professional, and it was he that lured Alun from the cricket pitch and rugby field to the squash court to play, eventually, for Glamorgan. Had he stayed in Wales, Alun would undoubtedly have gained international recognition earlier. However, he decided on graduating in 1957, to take up a position with the British Geological Survey in Scotland. His first move was to join the Edinburgh Sports Club and it was the start of 25 years representing the Club in the first team, except for a brief three year break in the early 1960s. But it was not until 1979 that he did achieve international recognition when he played for the Scottish Veterans for the first time. He was team captain for the next three years.

But his Club record is a shining example and, with due deference to the higher standards of play in the 1980s, Alun is of the opinion that the

Club teams of the 1960s and the 1970s had more fun. Like Olly Balfour, he feels that squash is different today. "While I played to get fit, today's players get fit to play", he says. "It's more fun my way!"

Alun Davies was Club Captain for 10 years and in 1980 became Scottish Veteran Champion. He now plays social squash and enjoys playing cricket for Carlton Cricket Club. He was appointed President for the East of Scotland Cricket Association this year.

MICHAEL ODDY

"Scotland's great British Amateur Champion"

Mike Oddy won the British Amateur Championship in 1960 in London—the peak of a brief but scintillating squash career. For many people he is the greatest squash player Scotland has ever produced.

He was only 27 when he retired from major competitive squash in 1964 due to ill health and pressure of work, but in his 6 years as Britain's Number 1 player he became Champion of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and in 1963 was ranked Number 2 in the world. He was Scottish champion five times.

Mike's squash career began when he was told he was not allowed to play rugby because he only had one kidney. For a lad from Hawick that must have been a bitter blow. He joined the Club in the early 1950s and quickly made his mark, becoming Scottish Junior Champion and then, in 1956, Senior Champion while still only 18. He won his first Scottish Cap in the previous year and has represented Scotland 35 times since including, of course, that famous occasion when Scotland beat England in 1964.

Mike is a great advocate of Edinburgh Sports Club. When he was playing "The Club had great facilities and the Championship Court was outstanding, with a very good spectator section. It was definitely one of the best clubs in the world at that time".

Today, Mike Oddy runs a textile business in Leicester where he has been for almost 15 years. He is a member of Leicester Squash Club and plays now and again "purely for pleasure and fun". Co-incidentally one of the Club's outstanding players of the present time, Mark MacLean,



also now plays league squash for Leicester where Mike says he is held in high regard.

Mike is a former S.S.R.A. President and was made an Honorary Member of the Club in 1960—his greatest year.

BRENDA CARMICHAEL, M.B.E.

“Player and Administrator”

Brenda Carmichael was awarded the M.B.E. in 1980 for her services to squash, the first Scot ever to receive such an honour. Her association with the Club spans 30 years and has brought many honours. Brenda was capped for Scotland 53 times and she was Scottish Open Champion in 1970, the last Scot to capture that title. She has been Club Champion four times.

Now Secretary of the S.S.R.A., a post she has held for 4 years, Brenda was captain of the Scottish teams in numerous internationals and also President of the Scottish Women's S.R.A. which amalgamated with the Men's Association in 1972. The Club is lucky to have shared her time. She is a life member of Waverley, having been Secretary and involved in the squash court development there, and also of Colinton Castle Sports Club where she was its first manager. More recently, she has helped to coach the new Women's Section of the Watsonian Squash Club.

Brenda, like so many of her generation, came to squash from tennis, playing first at Craiglockhart where her brother, Jasper, played. She found squash easier and was soon among Haydn Davies's special squad. She, Sylvia McClure and Dorothy McNeill were to dominate Scottish women's squash for 20 years.

Brenda has some advice for the young players of today. “If you want to play squash full-time—go South” she says. “You will only improve your game if you are constantly practising and playing against the best—and the best are in England.”

Brenda's other sporting love although a County tennis player is rugby and that means watching Watsonians. Her brother Denis is Secretary there and her father J. H. Carmichael won three Scottish rugby caps in the early 1920s. Brenda's county squash career ended in 1980 when she

was beaten by a precocious 13 year old called Lucy Soutter. Only five years later Lucy beat Heather Wallace in the 1985 British Open.

SYLVIA McCLURE (Mrs Boyd) “Eight Times Lady Champion”

Sylvia McClure faced a crucial choice in her sporting career one day in 1965. It was the day that the Club Ladies' First Team was competing in the final of the British Inter-Club Championship—and Scotland was playing England at lacrosse. Sylvia was a member of both teams and had a fast car standing by to transport her from the lacrosse match across London to the squash match. Unaware that the Club was already in a winning position Sylvia played her match at Number 1 and was 2-0 and 6-0 up in the third when she collapsed with cramp and had to retire. It was at this point that she realised that she could not do justice to both sports. Fortunately for squash, she gave up her commitment to lacrosse.

Perhaps it was not surprising. Sylvia had squash in her blood. Her mother, Christine McClure, was the Club's first Lady Champion in 1937, held the title four times, and was capped five times for Scotland. Sylvia did not take up squash until she was nineteen, on returning from University in France. But coaching from Haydn Davies brought her to her first Club Championship within a year and to her first Scottish Cap in 1962. In 1965/66 she joined the British Touring Team to Australia and became one of only two Scots women ever to play for Great Britain. She quickly established herself in the British squad. She was a semi-finalist in the British Ladies Open Championship and in all she made 21 appearances for Scotland over a 15 year period.

Until recently she kept playing for Lothian Ladies but much of her time has been spent in her capacity as Chairman of the Scottish Ladies Selectors. She is a qualified coach, applying her extensive knowledge of the game in schools and to the Scottish Junior and Senior squads.

She may have abandoned lacrosse in her twenties but for many years played County tennis and today plays golf to County standard. She is married to Ian Boyd and has four children.



DOROTHY McNEILL
(Mrs Sharp)
“65 Scottish Caps—
A Ladies Record”

Dorothy holds the record number of ladies caps for Scotland at squash—65 in all. It is a playing career that began by chance in 1962 when she was more occupied playing hockey for Edinburgh University. One match was rained off so rather than waste the day she ventured on to the squash court. Within a year of these tentative beginnings she was in the Scottish Squash Team.

Her meteoric rise was no doubt partly due to her accomplishment as a tennis player. She gained entry to Junior Wimbledon and had played County tennis for East of Scotland senior team from the age of 15. She won East of Scotland Junior and Senior Singles, Doubles and Mixed tennis championships. Much of her progress in squash was due to the coaching of Haydn Davies.

Dorothy played for the Club throughout the 1960s and 1970s and gained a double blue from Edinburgh University in squash and tennis. She won the British Open University Championship three successive times.

In 1970, she won the Kenya Ladies Open and in 1975 was Club Ladies Champion and Finalist in the Scottish Open. But in her own estimation her greatest achievement was winning the Scottish Ladies Closed Championship four times in succession between 1974 and 1978, and being reserve for the Great Britain Ladies Team for the World Championships in Australia.

In 1976, Dorothy married Dr Craig Sharp, one of the country's foremost experts in Exercise Physiology and also a long-standing member of the Club. As a result, she moved South for some years, being four times a member of Edgbaston Priory's Banbury Cup winning team and the same number of times a member of Warwickshire's County Championship winning team. She returned to Scotland in 1981 and was appointed as the Club Professional. In this period she was

also selected as manager to the Scottish Ladies Team which toured Australia.

The birth of her son, Duncan, brought an end to her full-time coaching but she maintains her connection with the Club and uses her coaching experience to good effect with local school teams. Dorothy now teaches mathematics at Mary Erskine School, but hopes, when time allows, to play a little social squash.

JOHN McGHEE

John McGhee has undoubtedly been the most successful home-based Club player of the last decade. His squash career started at Firhill School in Edinburgh where Douglas Yule was coaching boys to take on the Merchant schools at “their” game. John certainly succeeded.

As a 16 year old, John started his Club career in the 3rd team and such was his progress that by the 1975/76 season he was a regular for the 1st team—and still only 18. He became Club Men's Champion in 1978 and has won the title twice since.

John made his debut for Scotland in the Home Internationals of 1976 in Cork. He played Number 4 against Wales, winning 10-8 in the 5th. Another 40 caps were to follow and John was given the captaincy of the Scottish team at the European Championships and the Home Internationals of 1985. In his own estimation his best result to date was in winning the North of Scotland Open in 1982, beating the New Zealand ranked player Rod Hayes in the final.

Recently, John has moved to join a legal practice in Stirling and plays for Bridge of Allan in the Scottish League but he still represents the Club in the Banbury Trophy. He hopes to retain his place in the Scottish team but accepts that, in coming years, it will be more difficult for a part-time player like himself to play at top level now that squash is becoming dominated by the full-time professionals.



Edinburgh Sports Club

Champions—Men

1937	E. G. McPherson-Grant	1965	O. L. Balfour
1938	E. G. McPherson-Grant	1966	O. L. Balfour
1939	D. S. Clark	1967	O. L. Balfour
1940-46	No competition	1968	A. K. Bruce-Lockhart
1947	P. N. R. Harding-Edgar	1969	O. L. Balfour
1948	P. N. R. Harding-Edgar	1970	H. J. L. Allan
1949	P. N. R. Harding-Edgar	1971	O. L. Balfour
1950	W. W. Clarkson	1972	O. L. Balfour
1951	J. W. Everett	1973	J. Done
1952	D. W. D. Shaw	1974	J. Done
1953	D. S. Reid	1975	J. Done
1954	D. W. D. Shaw	1976	P. K. N. Wilson
1955	D. W. D. Shaw	1977	J. Done
1956	M. A. Oddy	1978	J. McGhee
1957	M. A. Oddy	1979	T. P. Smith
1958	O. L. Balfour	1980	R. Stevenson
1959	G. R. Chisholm	1981	J. McGhee
1960	O. L. Balfour	1982	J. McGhee
1961	O. L. Balfour	1983	M. Maclean
1962	O. L. Balfour	1984	M. Maclean
1963	O. L. Balfour	1985	R. Stevenson
1964	O. L. Balfour	1986	T. P. Smith

Champions—Ladies

1937	Mrs A. Logan McClure	1966	Miss B. Carmichael
1938	Mrs A. Logan McClure	1967	Miss S. C. F. McClure
1939	Miss B. Keith-Murray	1968	No competition
1940-47	No competition	1969	No competition
1948	Mrs B. Harding-Edgar	1970	Miss B. Carmichael
1949	Mrs A. Logan McClure	1971	Miss B. Carmichael
1950	Mrs A. Logan McClure	1972	Miss B. Carmichael
1951	No competition	1973	Mrs S. Boyd
1952	Miss R. A. Carnegie	1974	No competition
1953	Miss R. Harding-Edgar	1975	Miss D. McNeill
1954	Miss R. Harding-Edgar	1976	Mrs S. Boyd
1955	Miss R. Harding-Edgar	1977	Mrs S. Boyd
1956	Miss M. W. McKenzie	1978	Miss I. M. Muir-Miller
1957	Miss M. W. McKenzie	1979	Mrs A. M. Smith
1958	Miss J. R. Sands	1980	Mrs A. M. Smith
1959	Miss J. R. Sands	1981	Mrs R. Gregg
1960	Miss J. R. Sands	1982	Mrs R. Lynch
1961	Miss R. Waterhouse	1983	Mrs A. M. Smith
1962	Miss S. C. F. McClure	1984	Miss R. Fraser
1963	Miss S. C. F. McClure	1985	Miss H. Doherty
1964	Miss S. C. F. McClure	1986	Mrs R. Lynch
1965	Miss S. C. F. McClure		



Scottish Caps—Men

	No. of Caps		No. of Caps
AITCHISON, A. G., 1949-50	4	MACLEAN, M., 1981-84	27
ALLAN, H. J. L., 1962-68	12	MACLEOD, H. R., 1953-58	7
BALFOUR, O. L., 1954-68	45	MacPHERSON-GRANT, E. G., 1937-38	2
BROMFIELD, A. E., 1946-48	5	MARSHALL, P. S., 1973-76	9
BROWNLOW, A. C., 1959-63	15	MATHESON, W. H., 1955-59	10
BRUCE-LOCKHART, A. K., 1968-78	61	ODDY, M. A., 1954-72	35
CHISHOLM, G. R., 1954-67	41	REID, D. S., 1949-54	1
CONSIDINE, H. M., 1947-49	7	SHAW, D. W. D., 1950-64	38
CUTHBERTSON, A., 1981-84	9	SINCLAIR, R. M., 1967-73	4
DE SALES LA TERRIÈRE, I. C., 1952-65	22	SMITH, T., 1980	2
DONE, J. N., 1974-76	5	SPROT, J. E. K., 1937-38	3
ENTWHISTLE, A. W. A., 1951	1	STEVENSON, R., 1980-83	17
FAIRLIE, P., 1980-83	19	STEWART-CLARK, Sir S. W. S., 1937-46	3
HARDING-EDGAR, P. W., 1938-59	20	TAIT, B., 1983	1
McGHEE, J., 1976-84	41	WATSON, R. W. S., 1946-49	7
McINTOSH, A. H., 1970-72	4	WILSON, C. M. N., 1968-83	106
McINTOSH, C. B., 1971	2	WILSON, P. K. N., 1975-81	13

Scottish Caps—Ladies

	No. of Caps		No of Caps
ALLAN, Mrs A. (BOYD), 1967	1	LYNCH, Mrs R. (GREGG), 1979-82	24
BAND, Mrs N. (McWATTERS), 1948-52	7	MacCOLL, Miss J., 1963-74	14
BOYD, Mrs S. (McCLURE), 1961-76	21	McCLURE, Mrs C. (JONES), 1948-52	5
BROWN, Miss S., 1981-84	19	McINROY, Mrs D. (WOOD), 1955	1
BUCHANAN, Mrs N. (SEACY), 1954-61	8	McINROY, Miss L., 1951	2
CARMICHAEL, Miss B., 1957-78	53	MILLS, Mrs E. (CARNEGIE), 1969-74	5
CARNEGIE, Mrs P. (MOSTYN), 1951	1	NIMMO, Mrs A. (BAUERMEISTER), 1981-83	8
COWPER, Mrs I. (MUIR-MILLER), 1976-81	6	OATES, Mrs J. (SANDS), 1957-67	15
CUMBERFORD, Miss A., 1983-84	8	PAGAN, Mrs F. (ROULSTON), 1963-66	9
DOWSETT, Mrs P. (GREEN), 1974-75	5	RILEY, Mrs R. (WATERHOUSE), 1957-68	14
DUNN, Mrs F. (ENDERSON), 1957-62	8	ROWE, Mrs I. (ANDREW), 1968-71	8
HAMILTON, Mrs S. (REID), 1964-66	3	SHARP, Mrs D. (McNEILL), 1963-80	65
HARDING-EDGAR, Mrs B. (KEITH-MURRAY), 1950-53	5	SMITH, Mrs A. (DEWAR), 1976-83	49
HARDING-EDGAR, Miss R., 1952-56	8	TAYLOR, Mrs F. (MACLENNAN), 1963	1
LESSELS, Mrs C. (HITCHMAN), 1965-72	15	YUILL, Miss M., 1969-73	5

The above list was taken from the SSRA 1985/86 Handbook.



Club Teams

Winners—Scottish National League
Championship—Division I—
(Left to Right): Alastair McIntosh, Gerry Anslow,
Tom Smith, Raymond Stevenson, Archie
Waterson.



Lothian League Division I Team—
(Left to Right): John Done, John Buchanan, John
Shedden, Ken Grant, Gerry Anslow, Tom Smith.



Lothian League Division II Team—
(Left to Right): Adrian Anderson, Alan Camp-
bell, Andy Moyes, Bob Adams, Andrew Licudi.





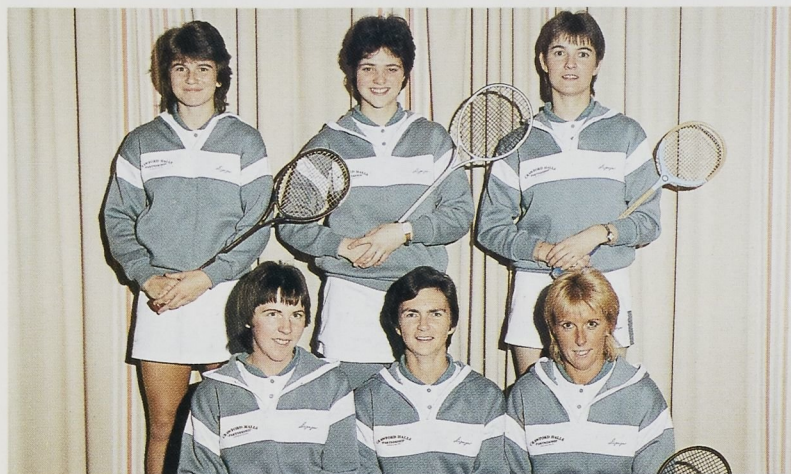
1985/86



*Lothian League Division III Team—
(Left to Right): Andy Speight, Bill Reid, Gavin Rennie, Louise Philip, Rosy Fraser, Audrey Cumberford.*



*Winners—Lothian Ladies League Division I Team—
(Left to Right): Sandra Kempston, Sally McIntosh, Sue Littlejohn, Elaine Colquhoun, Margaret Hunter, Sarah McCall (Inset).*



*Winners—Lothian Ladies League Division III Team—
(Left to Right): Gillian Munro, Donna Cruikshank, Susan Davey, Margaret Clark, Margaret Hunter, Joyce Lehany.*



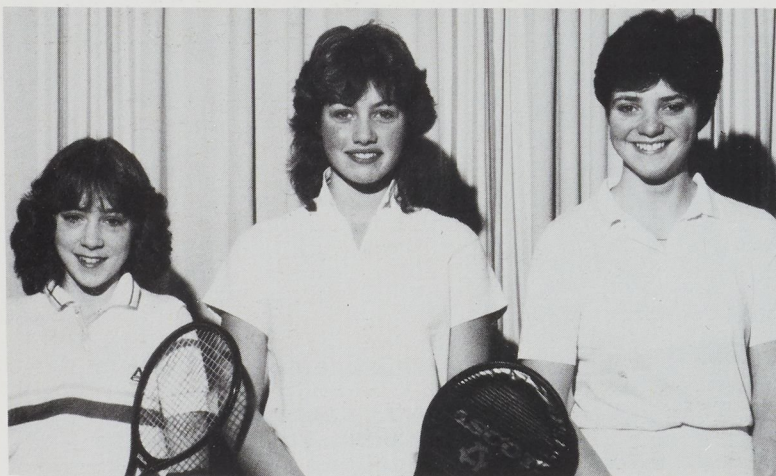
E.S.C. Club Champions 1985/86



(Left to Right): Ronnie Sinclair (Veterans), Ray Lynch, Tom Smith.



(Left to Right): Stuart Licudi (Under 16), Graham Kemp (Under 14), John Farmer (Under 19), Martin Kemp (Under 12).



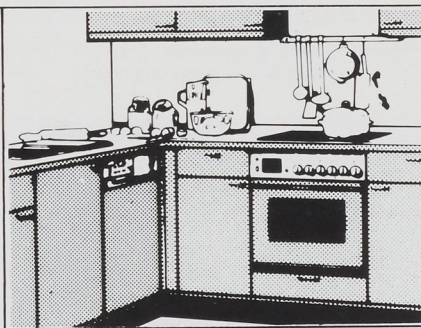
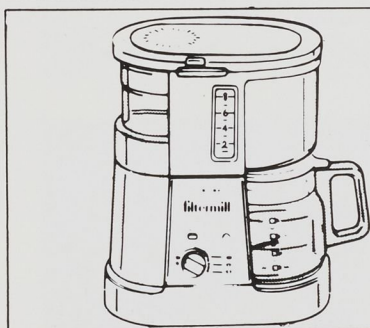
(Left to Right): Desni Nixon (Under 12), Caroline Irvine (Under 14), Donna Cruikshank (Under 16), Gillian Munro (Under 19) [Inset].

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The strong E.S.C. representation in the Scottish squad for the Home Internationals—Nottingham 1982.

Andrew Cuthbertson, Ray Lynch, John Done (Manager), Anne Bauermiester, John McGhee, Irene Cowper, Chris Wilson, Shirley Brown, Ann Smith, Joanne Wood, Tom Smith.



Scottish Open Finalists 1986.

Mark Maclean (Scotland), Ashley Naylor (England), Liz Irving, Tracy Smith (both Australia).



Club Chairmen

1936-45	No appointment	1966	S. N. Sloan
1946	The Hon. D. A. Balfour	1967	S. N. Sloan
1947	The Hon. D. A. Balfour	1968	S. N. Sloan
1948	R. W. Williamson	1969	J. Guthrie
1949	D. W. L. Menzies	1970	D. J. Hollingdale
1950	D. W. L. Menzies	1971	D. J. Hollingdale
1951	D. W. L. Menzies	1972	P. B. Mackenzie Ross
1952	F. S. Jamieson	1973	P. B. Mackenzie Ross
1953	F. S. Jamieson	1974	D. Y. Abbey
1954	G. C. Patterson	1975	J. K. Hutchison
1955	G. C. Patterson	1976	D. M. Bertram
1956	M. H. Cullen	1977	C. B. Miller
1957	M. H. Cullen	1978	G. B. H. Wishart
1958	W. G. Pottinger	1979	J. K. McNeillage
1959	W. G. Pottinger	1980	J. K. McNeillage
1960	H. R. Macleod	1981	T. Doherty
1961	R. Young	1982	T. Doherty
1962	R. Young	1983	T. Doherty
1963	A. R. McInroy	1984	T. Doherty
1964	A. R. McInroy	1985	H. K. Young
1965	S. N. Sloan	1986	H. K. Young

Secretaries

No record of the Club would be complete without reference to the role of the Secretaries. This has normally been a corporate appointment which has concealed the identity of some very hard working and dedicated Club members. However, from 1946 to 1951, the appointment was held by Ian S. Ritchie, W.S., who played a major role in the revival of the Club after the Second World War. Ian is still with us and will be an active participant in the Anniversary celebrations.

The current Secretaries are Messrs. Ernst and Whinney who can trace their connection with the

Club back to 1963 through predecessor firms. For the greater part of this time, the actual burden has fallen on the shoulders of W. R. ("Bob") Munro, C.A. Bob has provided the necessary continuity to a succession of Directors becoming, in the process, the best "authority" on the development of the Club during its second twenty-five years.

In publishing this history, the Board wishes to record its thanks to all who have, formally or informally, filled the Secretarial role.

Acknowledgements

The Board is particularly indebted to Jim McLauchlan, one of the Directors, for gathering much of the material for this history. Thanks are also due to Derek Dolphin (Manager), Duncan Hamilton (Technical Advice), Joanna McDonald

(Editorial Assistance), Paul Harding-Edgar, Ian Ritchie and Ian de Sales la Terrière (Research and Contributions), Harry Pincott (Advice and Editorial) and to our advertisers.



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as they celebrate their
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