



# NEWSLETTER

**VOLUME 2    ISSUE 2    FEBRUARY 1997**

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. You have probably noticed a few changes around the club and this trend will continue as we proceed with the development process. Since July we have 119 new members bringing the total up to 955 just 45 short of the magic 1000. It would be great to achieve that target by the end of the financial year and therefore the offer of waiving the joining fee for new members that have been Proposed and Seconded by current members of two years standing will continue. The club offers a big thanks to Charlie Laing for sponsoring this newsletter, and if members have any contributions for the next edition, please leave these with the Manager or at reception.

## **Development Update**

In a few weeks' time a pamphlet showing various development options will be distributed to the members. The intention is to briefly describe the schemes and show how the cost of each option will affect subscriptions. Whilst the Board of Directors will recommend one particular scheme, it is planned to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting shortly after the issue of the pamphlet at which the members will be invited to choose one particular development. Prior to the Extraordinary General meeting, the schemes will be displayed in the club over a short period, and during a specified time a Director will be present to explain further details.

Your vote is being sought to permit the chosen scheme to be turned into a reality.

## **PROFILE ON OUR NEW MANAGER**

The club extends a warm welcome to its new Manager Dave Thomas.

Dave was educated at the Indefatigable Boarding School on Anglesey North Wales, a school that has been a feeder for the Armed Forces for over a century. It was there that he developed a love for sport and the great outdoors.

Dave was enlisted into the Parachute Regiment and completed over 200 jumps on static line and freefall. Having qualified as a Physical Training Instructor he was responsible for the training of young soldiers in outdoor education and adventure. He attained the rank of Sergeant and served in Cyprus Germany and the UK. On leaving the Army in 1982, Dave worked in a London Local Authority sports centre and then for the U.S. Navy managing a multi sports and recreation programme for the American forces throughout the UK.

The last four years saw Dave as Manager of a Squash, Health and Fitness club in Chesham Buckinghamshire. Dave comes to Scotland because he loves the country and hopes to renew his association with the Scottish hills. He also enjoys a game of squash and working his gun dog.

Married to Beverley they have 3 children Leighton, Natalie and baby Cory.

## **LAING FENCING LTD.**

Established 1977

\* for better security or just to keep your dog in    \* all types of fencing    \* repairs & extensions to match existing

Tel : 0131 555 3155 Fax 0131 555 4610

220 Easter Road EDINBURGH EH6 8LE



# Team News

## Mens National League

In a very toughly contested league, the team is currently lying bottom, partly due to other teams importing semi - pro players and an absence of lady luck. Having lost narrowly 3/2 to Dunfermline and Glasgow all is not lost, and with several matches still to be played, we hope to play our way out of the relegation stakes. M Ramsay recorded a fine victory over B Tait in the National League Cup to record a memorable victory over Colinton Castle. We will play David Loyd Centre for a place in the final and all members are most welcome to come along and support the team at home matches. A.M.

## Mens 1st

The 1st team reached the half way point of the season handily placed 4th and set for a second half charge to the top. With monotonous regularity, the senior members of the team brought home the points proving there is no substitute for experience, and the team swept to 4 wins out of 9, the 5 losses being close calls. An active youth policy saw youngster R Housego being blooded at the tender age of 30 thus seeing a competition for places increase. An elusive place may be available in the light of the imminent departure of one stalwart. Despite pleas to reconsider, Adam appears set to return to the States although an application for travelling expenses for matches has been lodged. J.G.

## Mens 2nd

ESC 2 exploded out of the blocks in the first half of the season, winning the first seven games in succession including the usual inevitable victory over the first team. Lacklustre performances in the last two games have left us in a creditable third place. Rab "The Grinder" has led from the front, with Archie defying the critics and ignoring calls for a dope test, and Alastair packing the middle order. Ray "Get me to the church" continues to baffle considerably fitter opposition whilst Captain Mark has enjoyed an excellent season through regular selection of himself at No5. M.H.

## Mens 3rd

After two consecutive wins at the beginning of the season and sponsorship from Stockbridge Pine, everything was looking promising for the team. Since then positive results have been hard to come by which has left the team propping up the bottom of the league. Nevertheless, all members including Mike "The Ladder" are confident that a strong finish should just about guarantee second Division squash next season! R.H.

## Ladies National League

This is the first year of a Ladies National League, and the ESC were delighted to enter a team along with Colinton Castle, Eden Park, Lochgelly, Newlands and Western. With a team of three, we have operated a squad system with Juliet, Irene, Lisa, Helen and Jackie all having played, and so far so good with four victories. I.C.

## Ladies 1st

The 1st team has enjoyed moderate success so far currently holding 2nd place in Division 1. We have been fortunate to have had a fairly consistent team selection with Irene, Juliet, Sally, Joanne and Julie playing most weeks and Elaine stepping in as substitute. As usual the matches versus the 2nd team have been tense, with a noticeable lack of volunteers to mark when Julie "yes let" and Jenny "yes stroke" play! A big thanks to Quality Mark for sponsorship and the T-shirts. J.M.

## Ladies 2nd

Variety is the spice of life, and the 2nd team has certainly been a mixed bunch this season. When captain McVea dropped out, mad McMary was forced to step in and deal with the motly crew of : Fiona "navigator", Mary "white-face", "Fit" Hazel, Claire "new job must fly", Jenny & Alison "Granny girls" and Alison "please return my backhand". With skill, precision, speed and determination we've battled to win one match, therefore as the season end approaches "dirty play" may be added to our list of tactics. Watch this space ! A.Z.

## Ladies 3rd

The 3rd team managed to hold their own in Division 2 finishing 5th at the half way stage. Due to difficulties for the teams in Division 1, the 3rd's stalwarts of Alison, Wendy and Sandra never quite knew who would be joining them with guest appearances from Lesley, Jenny, Alison Z, Suzy or Katy! However we now appear to have a more settled team with Claire and Elaine making up the five for the past few weeks. S.K.

## Next Edition - The Ladies Christmas Night Out

Bar Roma exclusive including Desni hand slapping, Sandra chocolate sliding and Julie table walking!!!!!!

## TEAM SPONSORS

The club are delighted to thank all our sponsors who have kindly sponsored the following teams :

National League - Mills Multon Partnership

Ladies National League - Q Mark Clothing

Mens 1st - Menzies Dougall W.S.

Ladies 1st - Q Mark Clothing

Mens 2nd - Lynch McQueen

Ladies 2nd - Q Mark Clothing

Mens 3rd - Stockbridge Pine

Ladies 3rd - Q Mark Clothing

Junior Teams and Events - The Bank of Scotland and Kwik Fit



### Junior / Student Sponsorship

The Chairman and Board of Directors are delighted to announce an annual sponsorship award to a Junior or Student member of the club who has shown to have ability and promise in a sport which is not played within the club premises. i.e. Swimming, golf etc. If any Junior or Student is interested in applying for this sponsorship and already has a track record in a particular sport please contact the Manager or one of the Directors for further information. The award will cover the cost of clothing etc. up to a maximum of £100.

The first recipient of this award has been given to Hugh McInnes who is a triathlete. A profile and photograph of Hugh will appear shortly on the notice board. We all wish him every success in his forthcoming events and hopeful selection for the Scottish Triathlon squad.

### Bar and Lounge

The club has ordered a new 32" television for the lounge which will be hopefully installed by the end of February, so you can now watch your favourite sports whilst trying out the new delicious *hot dogs* available in the bar evenings and weekends!

### Tom Cain

It was with much sadness we all heard of the sudden death of our coach Tom after playing in a match at CCSC.

As anybody who new Tom will confirm he was one of the truly "Good Guys", warm friendly, competitive and full of honour which was portrayed in his endless catalogue of good and not so good jokes. One always found Tom the same way which in itself is a tremendous attribute.

At Tom's funeral in Kirkcaldy, the Sports Club was well represented as was squash in general in what was a very emotional day. A wonderful eulogy was given by Dr George Meiras which encapsulated Tom's full and interesting life.

The club opened a book of condolences which was filled with thoughts and reminisces from many members. Particularly touching were the entries from the juniors to whom Tom meant so much, A respectful minutes silence was held both at the Peter Nicol match and the club AGM.

In memory of Tom it is the clubs intention to hold an event, possibly in April, in the form of an all ages challenge against CCSC, at which funds will be raised in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Our thoughts are of course with Tom's widow Senga.

For a modest fee your company could sponsor this newsletter and gain advertising space. For more information contact the Manager on 539-7071.

### Junior Programme

The junior squash coaching course has been well attended this year, with the final session due to finish on Sunday 23rd March.

For the Easter holidays the club is running a **Junior Activity Week** for the week commencing Monday 24th, which will involve Football, Rounders, Squash and Tennis. This is open to non members but members will be given priority.

During the summer term a new **Tennis Foundation Course** will run on Sunday's for six weeks commencing Sunday 13th April. It is intended to continue this course throughout the Summer subject to demand.

For more information regarding these courses please see the Junior notice board or ring the club.

### Questionnaire Results

There were 102 returns from the Questionnaire survey. 8% of you use the club 5 or more times per week ! Does this include the bar though? 75% indicated the pool option as 1st priority, however the most original suggestion for development was to build a Real Tennis Court !

### Junior News

In the recent Home Internationals, Richard Snowden played No 1 for the Boys team, whilst the Scottish Select team contained the Hillyard brothers Nicholas and Christopher, and Allan Angus.

In the Scottish Girls Quaich, our team of Kirsty Lind, Lisa Pratt and Jessica McDermott gained valuable experience and came 3rd in a strong field. Our Boys team of Peter Kempston, Christopher Hillyard and John McDermott also came 3rd in the Scottish U-14 Quaich.

### Fitness

There has been a noticeable increase in the usage of the gym over the past few months and the management are thinking of ways to alleviate the problem of over crowding. Two new pieces of equipment have been bought, a stairmaster and a second treadmill. We hope you will find these most useful and please remember to use them properly as repairs can be very expensive.

### Coaching

Anyone who would like individual squash lessons should contact our new coach Chris Wilson at his home on 0131 552-3791. Juniors and parents of juniors are particularly encouraged to speak to him about group sessions as well as any individual lessons they might like to have arranged. A racket repair service will be up and running shortly.



## PROGRAMME

### FEBRUARY

Squash - 28th: New mini-leagues start..  
Social - 14th: Valentines Dinner.  
15th: Match v Bridge of Allan.

### MARCH

Squash - 14-16th: Junior Championships.  
25-29th: Closed Championship.  
Badminton - 24-18th: (April) First Club  
Championship.  
Social - 29th: Finals Day Disco Karaoke  
& Match v Hawick.  
Juniors - 24th: Junior Activity Week.

### APRIL

Squash - 11-13th: Masters Quaich.  
28th: Summer Mini-Teams commence  
Tennis - Mini-Leagues commence.  
13th: Junior Foundation Coaching  
course commences (6 weeks).  
Golf - Club Championship commences.

### MAY

Tennis - American Tournament.  
Golf - Club Outing - Venue to be  
decided.  
Social - Casino Night

## Results.....Results.....Results.....

### Lothian Junior Championships

Under 19 Girls Winner - Joanne Waine

Under 14 Girls Winner - Lisa Pratt

### E.S.C. Open

Ladies Open Winner - Lisa McKenna

Mens "A" Winner - Archie Waterston

Mens "B" Winner - Scott Thompson

Under 16 Boys Winner - Richard Snowden

Under 14 Boys Winner - Chris Hillyard

Ladies Open Runner Up - Helen McFie

Mens "A" Runner up - Peter Wilson

Mens "B" Runner Up - Gordon Fruish

### Lothian Masters

Mens Over 35 Winner - Dave Hickman

Mens Over 50 Winner - John Done

Ladies Over 35 Winner - Irene Cowper

**Congratulations to all the above members and good luck for the remainder of the season.**

### 100 Club

The 100 club draw is now being made on the last Friday of the month in the dining room at 2.00pm. Before the last draw we had eight new members and one of them came first out of the draw to claim 1st prize. If we can reach our target of 100 members, the prize fund will be £250 with 1st prize being £150. If you wish to help support the club and get better odds than the lottery, fill in a form now and hand it in to reception. Forms can be found on the downstairs notice board next to the gents. **Remember, If you aren't in it You can't win it !**

### The Bargains Continue !

As you have seen the shop has recently been offering bargains galore, and from the 20th February there will be a further offer of an amazing

*10% OFF all Prince rackets*

That means savings of for example :

Prince Dura-Light was £75 - NOW £67.50

Prince Response was £97.50 - NOW £87.75



## DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Member,

It would be most helpful to the Development Sub Committee if you could take a few minutes to fill out this short questionnaire regarding long term development of the club. There are many options open for development, and it is hoped that the results from this survey will help the Committee to concentrate its efforts in the areas most important for club members.

*Please tick where appropriate.*

**(1) Membership Category**

Full ☐ Family ☐ Husband & Wife ☐ Intermediate ☐ Corporate ☐  
Student ☐ Social ☐ Country Near ☐ Country Far ☐ Junior ☐

**(2) How Often Do You Use The Club ?**

Less than once a month ☐ 2-3 times per month ☐ 1-2 times per week ☐  
3-4 times over week ☐ 5 times or more per week ☐

**(3) Please Identify The Number And Age Of Any Dependent Children?**

1-5 yrs ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-16 ☐ 17-25 ☐

**(4) Which Of The Following Activities Do Your Children Do Outwith School ?**

Football ☐ Hockey ☐ Badminton ☐ Martial Arts ☐ Dance ☐

**(5) Identify Any New Activities You Would Like To See And Participate In At The ESC. -**

**(6) The Club Is Intending To Apply For Lottery Money To Achieve The Clubs Current Development Plan.**

**Please Rate The Following In Order Of Personal Importance**

**(1 to 6, 1 being the most preferred)**

- (i) Extension and alteration to provide new shop, reception and entrance foyer. ☐
- (ii) Alteration of East ground floor area to provide new Gents and Ladies changing facilities. (current snooker gents changing ) ☐
- (iii) Extension of gymnasium facility over area of existing ladies changing room. ☐
- (iv) Upgrading of West wing to provide new office accommodation and snooker room facility. (creation of 3 floors of accommodation) ☐
- (v) Construction of multi purpose extension in space in South elevation to house wet suite (swimming pool) and / or recreation hall. ☐
- (vi) Alterations to provide Crèche and toilet facilities. ☐