

ESC History interview – Jim McLauchlan

High level topics

1. What brought you to squash rackets, and when did you first play?
 - a. Friends and to get fit. I first played at Meadowbank then Craiglockart
2. When did you first play at ESC?
 - a. 1973
3. When did you join ESC?
 - a. 1977
4. Would you like to provide a timeline of your early life?
 - a. Born August 1940. Left school 1955 and started apprenticeship 1965. Started business 1962 became limited company 1966
5. Have you been a member of other club(s)?
 - a. Braids United and Murrayfield golf clubs
6. Who have been your most regular opponents?
 - a. Too many to list
7. What have been your best achievements at ESC, sporting and otherwise?
 - a. No particular sporting achievements unless you count playing a huge amount of games. My main achievements at ESC are being a board member on two occasions (1984-1987 and 1996-1997) which is itself unusual, and in that capacity initiating and running original squash competitions and social events and a combination of both.
8. What reciprocal events have you most enjoyed?
 - a. The inter-club events run in the above capacity
9. What does ESC bring to your life?
 - a. Friendships and fitness
10. Who did you first meet when you came to the club, and do you still know them?
 - a. Too many to mention but sadly so many are no longer with us
11. The mini-leagues started in 1978 (*see 1986 history*) – were you involved at the start?
 - a. I played in them from the start and shortly after that took over running them which I did for over 10 years
12. Can you tell us about the origins of the McLauchlan trophy?
 - a. The exact date will be on the trophy (1988) but the tournament was started 2 years before that and called the Festival of Squash. To reflect the more social side of the event we changed it to the Octoberfest (I had just returned from the Octoberfest beer festival in Munich). The trophy was put up and called the McLauchlan Trophy the year after by the board of that time.
 - b. I think I ran the leagues for the first 5 years, then Gerry Anslow took over, followed by Paul Macari then Simon.
13. You were made an Honorary member in 1998. How proud were you of that?
 - a. I am very proud of that especially when you consider the stature of the past recipients.
14. Who are your best friends at the Club?
 - a. Sorry - too many to mention (but Jim is now seen regularly as a snooker playing partner of Ray Turner, Ray Stevenson and John Macdonald)
15. What has your career path been?
 - a. Starting and running my own company from 1962 till retiring in 2003
16. What views do you have about the progress the Club is making, and what does the future hold?
 - a. I think the ESC has established a wonderful stability in recent years and has made excellent progress given the present constraints
17. Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or other records from ESC?
 - a. I have many personal photographs which I cherish but all records which I have made use of over the years have been returned to the Club
18. Have you any other questions, or suggested topics?

19. Further topics

- a. My involvement in the 2003-2005 Cala development was as chair of the committee checking the plans submitted by Cala, and there were many of them. The committee consisted of 16 people (I think) but I formed a sub-committee of myself, Alec Stevenson and Brian Suddaby to make things more manageable, and we passed our thoughts to the chairman of the time (Alan Munro) who dealt with the legal side of things and made the final decision. I do not now have any paperwork concerning the committee meetings but as the board of the time were also involved there should be minutes of the board meetings relating to the outcomes. (Brian Suddaby recollects the final meeting with Cala held in the Royal Burgess golf club, when the initial suggested free cash for the Club of £2 million had been reversed to a position where we would have ended up paying them money! That made the decision to abandon the project a simple one).
- b. I could include the many since aborted attempts to redevelop the club: others are unprintable