

ESC History interview – Jordan Amaral

22 June 1990

High level topics

1. What brought you to squash rackets, when did you first play and how did you keep up the experience?
 - a. Picked it up in a Summer camp programme aged 10 (at BSRA – Bermuda) – friends and older brothers – until 15 or so, and losing interest got into mopeds!
 - b. At Uni in Halifax Nova Scotia Canada aged 18, inter-mural and ladder system – Winter sport – played all 4 years
 - c. In 2012 back in Bermuda, got back into it, (tour to New York) played until I came to UK October 2017
2. When and who did you first play at ESC?
 - a. October 2017 – probably Chris Paterson-Brown
3. When did you join ESC?
 - a. I arrived in Edinburgh on October 6, 2017 and one of my first priorities to help me settle into my new city was to find a squash club with an active membership to help me settle into my new home.
 - b. I googled and found a couple of clubs (Grange first then ESC) – Grange didn't seem to be terribly interested, so I trudged along to ESC, met Simon who took me around, showed me team squash and people playing, introduced me to Chris Paterson-Brown and Jonny Webster, and in first couple weeks I was off to Bridge of Allan to play in a team.
4. How did your ESC experience progress?
 - a. Managed the 7th team (The Mighty Dragons) for a couple of seasons – promoted from 5th to 4th to 3rd division (then our best juniors were promoted – Arun Pathal and Hugo Hemmati) and we were weakened...)
 - b. The 7th team was originally the team for new members as an introduction to squash competition
 - c. Racketball (doubles)– about one year – I was approached by Alastair A for a hit, then joined Colin, Graham, Charlie, Glyn and Michael and fairly quickly came to enjoy the game
5. Would you like to provide a timeline of your early life?
 - a. Saltus Grammar School Bermuda 1995-2008
6. ...and later life? - also see 'Career Path' later...
 - a. Halifax Nova Scotia where I attended University 2008-2012
 - b. Bermuda 2012-2017
 - c. Edinburgh 2017- to date
7. Have you been a member of other club(s)?
 - a. Bermuda Squash Racquets Association Bermuda
 - b. Dalplex Dalhousie University (affiliated with Nova Scotia Squash)
8. Who have been your most regular opponents?
 - a. Tony Hadden, Matthew Boyce, Tony Newell, Scott Lothian & Rodd Binns (Squash)
 - b. Alastair A, Charlie Magee, Glyn Cave, Colin Cruikshank and Graeme Hartop (doubles racket ball)
 - c. Recently with COVID-19 my partner and I have been playing padel quite regularly with Tony Hadden, Stuart Rowson, Tony Newell and Colin Cruikshank).
9. What has been your best sporting achievement
 - a. I won a couple of squash tournaments as a kid
 - b. Taking the Mighty Dragons (ESC 7th team) to a back to back promotion from League 5, up to league 4, and then league 4 up to League 3 (where we found ourselves a bit out of our depth).
10. What reciprocal events have you most enjoyed?

- a. Hosting Birmingham and Leicester teams, Kirkcaldy in the local leagues – they have hot courts, and they take us to the local pub where amazing steak pie and chips are on offer
11. What does ESC bring to your life?
- a. Really good memories, a sense of community and a place that has helped me transition smoothly with great friendships!
 - b. Friends, stress-relief, meet friend, enjoy tournaments and friends – and good for Lara
12. Who did you first meet when you came to the club, and do you still know them?
- a. I've named all those I play with above, and still know them all.
13. What has your career path been?
- a. Finished Uni (Accounting exams) BCom Major in accounting,
 - b. KPMG audit in Bermuda
 - c. Dropped out of accounting exams in 2015 – I didn't see my career in bean-counting
 - d. Moved to underwriting and captives and insurance for HSBC Insurance
 - e. In 2017, Americas Cup was in Bermuda – worked as a medical boat driver, there was also a doctor, a rescue diver and crew member on board
 - f. 2017 Worked in BF&M (Bermuda Fire and Marine) in pension admin.
 - g. Bank of NY Mellon in Edinburgh – various positions (started April 2018)
14. What views do you have about the progress the Club is making, and what does the future hold?
- a. Club is doing everything well, managing the capital well, lounge is excellent (big TV is from the 50:50 club). The future looks bright, especially now that we are moving ahead with 3 covered Padel courts!
15. Do you have any photographs, memorabilia or other records from ESC?
- a. See below
16. Have you any other questions, or suggested topics?
- a. I'd like to mention my favourite nights at the club - I thoroughly enjoy the annual Burns super. Lara and I have not had the pleasure of experience this prior to moving to Edinburgh, and the good folks of ESC have warmly welcomed us to it for the last 2 years. We have thoroughly enjoyed it, and its' now firmly fixed in our calendar, a great way to meet other members (representation from all sports) and an opportunity to try some tasty local dishes - not to mention the address to the haggis which is one not to miss! I just wish that I would feel better the next morning.
17. Other information
- a. AA to send requirements for Car/ Moped photo and video
 - b. Photos of the mighty Dragons
 - c. An explanation of the source of your surname (If you don't mind)

Photographs to be included
