

Fitzwilliam/ESC exchange

1978-2019

Roy Cowper says that the event started in 1978, when he was 'handed' the fixture by Watsonian's Peter Lothian, who were unable to fulfil it.

AA recollects the 1980 trip, staying Jury's, sharing with Dave Graham (Pringle reckoned that two Oriental workers would be ok together). Dave reckoned it had to be '80 or later as he had been working for many years overseas. AA also recollects Willie Hogg being on the trip, and Jury's outdoor bar having a Guinness hose to fill glasses en masse. On that basis, Sat 2nd Feb, 1980 – (Ireland 22 Scotland 15) was therefore my first attendance. AA recollects a two-venue squash fixture in 1980, one of which was at a cricket ground – almost certainly Leinster Cricket Club, but I don't think we played there again.

Since then, the format has been the same. Five or six trusted ESC members, decent competitors who are able to stay awake longer in the bar than their opponents, along with the occasional travelling supporters.

Squads

The Cowper/Fisher/Allanach era

Ireland		Scotland	
Noel MacDonald	Died 2020	Roy Cowper (1978)	Hosted by Noel
Trevor McVeagh		Pringle Fisher	Hosted by Trevor
Oisín O'Buchalla	Club owner	Willie Hogg	Died circa 1980
Gerry Callanan	Andy O'Connor	David Graham (1980)	
Eddie Bryant		Alastair Allanach (1980)	Hosted by Noel/Trevor
Seamus Toomey		Bob Adams	Hosted by Noel
Damien O'Reilly		Chris Kempston	Hosted by Trevor
Tom Clancy	Sadly died recently	Andrew Forrest	
Declan Clancy		Scott Thomson	
Johnny Kennedy			
Cormack Byrne	He of the infectious laugh Was he also the piano man?	Iain Cowper	Occasional attendee
Gar Holohan			
Robin Craig	Middle of 2010 photo		
Jim Cottar		Brian Angus/ Bob Lynch	

(Many of the early Irish squad kindly recollected by Trevor McVeagh)

The Forrest era

To be updated

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The Ross McHoul era

Alan Travers		Ross McHoul	
Ronan Campbell		JJ Tait	
Denis O'Conner		Simon Boughton	
Stephen Meredith		Richard Mellis	
Rory Byrne		Peter Brierly	
Aiden Sharkey		Chris Brock	
Andrew O'Connor		Peter Lynch	
James Kavanagh		Des Creasey	
Niall Lillis		Colin Dick	
Ray Byrne		Matt Franklin	2017 only?
Hugh Monaghan			

Anecdotes

This of course excludes any tales on the WGOTSOT principle.

1. Gar Holohan was a red-haired International squash player who briefly ended up managing the Club in the late 1990's as I recall. In the mid-1990's, when moderately inebriated and with a broken racket, he played our Bob Adams, who hadn't been advised of his opponent's pedigree or physical state, and thought he was doing well. Gar still won fairly easily, with the Edinburgh contingent giggling on the gallery.
2. In 1984, AA flew into Dublin (from Bahrain) for the expected tight Triple-Crown match, which turned out to be disappointingly one-sided... After the game, we went back to Oisín's (pronounced O'Shane's) basement bar/disco in Lower Leeson Street, where Pringle and the rest of us helped to dampen the prospective tricky behaviour of a few of the victorious Scots players (including a very dangerous wing-forward)
3. There was a young unsuspecting debutant (Robin Craig) who Declan and Johnny K locked out of my house in the early hours, have first left the youngster to pay for their taxi home. The next night, Declan failed to come home, and his possessions were loaded into a black bin bag and taken to the airport where he was NOT reunited with them. They were handed out to a variety of passengers on the plane, and he had to stand at plane exit door collecting them as the passengers filed out at Dublin.
4. Declan and Johnnie locked Bob Adams in a wardrobe (for quite some time) in Declan's Dublin house.
5. I remember Pringle and Chis being hosted by Trevor and Marion, but on returning from the newsagents on Sunday morning, ready to be taken to the airport, being unable to rouse them, despite throwing half-bricks at their bedroom window. I would have been staying with Noel and Mrs (?) MacDonald
6. Dave Graham recollects the incident at Lansdowne Road (a potential Irish Grand Slam?) when a dangerous crowd situation emerged, possibly because of counterfeit tickets; people had to be handed out over the crowd's heads.
7. Trevor recalls Cormack being ejected from the Bank Bar (Pringle's) for bad behaviour – he had a habit of pouring drinks over people
8. **Des Creasey** remembers driving Stranraer to Larne, golf and stay in Belfast (where he copped out early), then when came down for breakfast, the drinking squad was still at the bar. He then drove to Dublin, and the weekend proceeded in much the same way.
9. **2020** - Craig Valente-Paterson – threw his dummies at Edinburgh airport as his racket was going to cost £20+ to check in, and so didn't travel, leaving the team with four players
10. Roy and Alastair stayed with Noel and Trevor's respectively for many years after retiring from organisation and playing duties.

Golf

Jim Cottar The financial planning man who hosted us at Luttrellstown castle GC

Des Creasey talks about golf in Belfast en route to Dublin

Photos



2005 Café Rouge Edinburgh



2010 Fitz and ESC



2010 Fitz lunch



2010 Dinner –
tiredness creeping in



2013 at ESC – Fitz the winners



2017 at ESC – ESC the winners



2018 at Fitz – teams plus mascots



The Cardiac Cup