



# FPnews

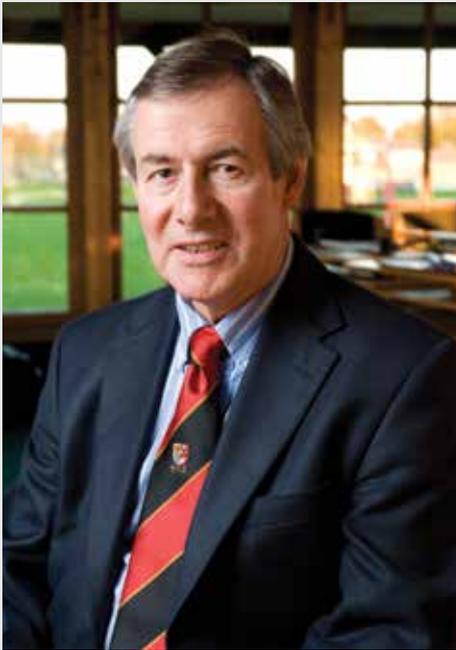
DECEMBER 2017

The Magazine and Annual Review of The Stewart's Melville FP Club



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# From the Editor's Desk



## Well that's 2017 gone.

Another year of change – wherever you look – and the Club is no different. This year sees Charles Wilson elected your new President as Bert Barclay retires; the Clubhouse has had a facelift and a new balcony installed; an upgraded Club website – [smcfclub@esms.org.uk](mailto:smcfclub@esms.org.uk) – is launched; and David Gray, Principal at ESMS, has announced his retirement at the end of the current School year in June with Mrs. Linda Moule, currently Vice Principal of ESMS, succeeding him.

David has been a consistently strong supporter of the FP Club and the affiliated Sports Clubs during his 18 year tenure and also contributed positively to the many discussions at Council meetings. Not only has he been supportive of the Sports Clubs but also an active participant in the FP Cricket club – sometimes displaying his bruises at the next meeting! Having said that, amongst the many highlights of



David & Gary Sobers

his time at ESMS, surely one of the most memorable was the visit to the School last summer by Sir Garfield Sobers – probably one of the finest ever cricket all-rounders. We wish David all best wishes in his retirement in the years to come.

The FP News continues to attract contributions from various sources – some completely “out of the blue” (Aubrey Chalmers, for one) and also those who were “volunteered” and who came up trumps. To you all, my sincere gratitude – the magazine would be awfully empty without you! This year has seen a deliberate connection made between members of School staff, David Clarke and Sandra Frost and members of Council and I am particularly grateful to David Clarke, History Master and Assistant School Archivist for his articles relating to School classmates in WW1 on pages 16 and 31 which I am sure you will find astonishing.

And now to the Millennials and younger members of the Club. Looking at the Year of 2017 destinations of School leavers on page 30, it is easy to understand why younger members who have left School in the last 10 – 15 years can quickly lose contact with your times at DSMC. You will be progressing with your chosen careers and starting young families etc. In many cases you may have left the Edinburgh area, or even the Country. So keeping in touch proves more & more difficult. But it is also revealing how many of you do gather again at Reunions marking significant years since leaving School – 10, 20, 30 years and so on. All these seem to have common themes – the (in)ability to recognise one's compatriots after such a long time, the memories that are still as vivid as they always were and a unanimous agreement to hold another reunion sooner than later.

So my plea to younger members is it may feel like a hassle but please keep your contact details up to date with Suzi Squires at the School Development Office ([ssquires@esms.org.uk](mailto:ssquires@esms.org.uk)) – because she can be extremely helpful in years to come should any of you wish to meet up again. The Club website ([smcfclub.co.uk](http://smcfclub.co.uk)), Facebook page ([smcfclub](https://www.facebook.com/smcfclub)) and ESMS Connect ([esmsconnect.org.uk](http://esmsconnect.org.uk)) are all there to tell you what's going on, who's doing what and helping you to keep in touch.

And to all members, don't forget the Clubhouse will always give you a warm welcome if you find yourself “back in Town”.

In closing, may I wish you all a happy and successful 2018.

**Bob Young**

Email: [rbc\\_young@hotmail.com](mailto:rbc_young@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 01506 463536

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Bob Young,

I was fascinated to read the feature in the current magazine about John Cruickshank VC and it is lovely to know he is still around. For your interest I enclose a print-out of a piece\* about the hero which I produced some time ago. I don't think it was for the Daily Mail, during my 32 years with the paper, but rather for a military or British Legion magazine. His visit to the school was a day I never forgot.

Oh! That front cover painting of the School by Porteous Wood is worth framing! Magnificent, and many thanks.

With kind regards,

**Aubrey Chalmers**

\*A copy of the print-out appears on page 21.

Email received from John Laing

## Speedway Memories

I enjoyed this article because away back when speedway returned to Edinburgh after WWII I went to Meadowbank with my parents who had gone to the ‘dirt track racing’ in the late twenties and early thirties. The sights, sounds and the smell of what I suppose was high octane fuel thrilled me and conjured up memories for my parents. Edinburgh Monarchs were one of the top teams and as Mike relates their captain, Jim Young, was World Champion in 1951. I recall listening with Jim Rowland, Mary's brother, to the radio commentary of his victory at I think White City in London. No TV then!

One of the standby riders for Monarchs in the mid sixties was Alex Hughson and I served in the RAF with his brother Bobby (a fellow National Service Air Gunner) who was killed in a plane crash on 8th January 1953 the day before I left the RAF. A few years ago, at a RAF reunion, I got to know Alex who told me that he had gone on to make a living out of promoting speedway in Southern Africa. Alex now lives in California and I've sent him a photocopy of Mike's article which I think will be of interest to him.

If Mike wishes I can put him in touch with Alex who I hope would be able to share his memories of Edinburgh Monarchs and speedway in general.

All the best

**John Laing**

**Ed: following John Laing's letter, Mike Hunter has indeed been in touch with Alex Hughson.**

# President's Review...

As I reflect on my two years as President, I have found one of the most satisfying duties is attending the SMC Prizegiving when all the sixth form leavers are presented with an FP Club tie and then hosting an informal reception at Inverleith for the SMC boys and MES girls as new former pupils. Not many clubs can say they recruit more than a hundred new members every summer (and that's just the boys) ! The challenge is of course to continue to engage with these new members beyond that first day particularly when 80% of leavers continue their education outwith Edinburgh. While in the past at different times my focus has been on the rugby and cricket clubs I see it is to the benefit of all sections to have a strong and vibrant FP Club in touch with all its members.

In order to better communicate with our membership Council have developed the Club's Facebook page and have just introduced a new website where we hope those living both in Edinburgh and elsewhere can see what is happening within the Club, where and when. "ESMS Connect" run by the School Development Office fulfils a slightly different function but continues to attract former pupils as well as parents and present pupils. I would encourage FPs to visit it and sign up to the registration process.

Inverleith remains home to the affiliated rugby, hockey and cricket clubs. All participate in an increasingly competitive

environment but notwithstanding their "open" status significant numbers of former pupils populate their playing numbers and all welcome support to their games and the Clubhouse on match days. All three clubs are hugely involved in providing competition and practice to School pupils outwith normal School games.

It would be remiss not to mention the success of the golf club in retaining for the third successive year the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup for Schools. Also the golf club has to be commended in the range of ages it attracts to its ever popular events.

In the past year in conjunction with the School significant refurbishment work has been carried out in the Clubhouse including the replacement of the balcony off the upstairs lounge. Thirty four years on, the Clubhouse remains the envy of visiting clubs and an attractive venue for functions.

Our branch clubs in Glasgow, Aberdeen, the Borders and London continue to hold annual dinners and I was pleased to attend all of these as a guest in my two years as President. We have, too, an active branch club in Sydney, Australia. Our own Club Dinner was held at Inverleith in September when as well as David Gray attending his last dinner as Principal we had former pupil Gavin MacColl QC and Willie Allan excelling as guest speakers while School Captain, Forbes Jackson, impressed all with his tales of his time at SMC.

Each year the FP Club President lays a wreath at the War memorial in the School grounds. It remains a tremendously moving event and a fitting reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many former pupils during the two World Wars.

As President of the FP Club I have been invited to attend meetings of the ESMS Governing Council. This gives a unique insight into how the School operates and its success. The School community has been fortunate indeed to have Mike Sims and David Gray leading it and I wish their successors well when the time comes.

Also I have had the pleasure of attending



the School's annual Sports Day, the Boarding House's Christmas Party, the Merchant Company Court Dinner and the FP vs School debate as well as the Watsonian and Heriot Club dinners and the Melville College Trust AGM.

Once again the FP News which was published at the beginning of the year was full of interesting articles telling us of former pupils' activities and honours earned both here in Scotland and throughout other parts of the World. Bob Young remains our Editor and is forever discovering untold stories of former pupils which reflect well on the School and Club.

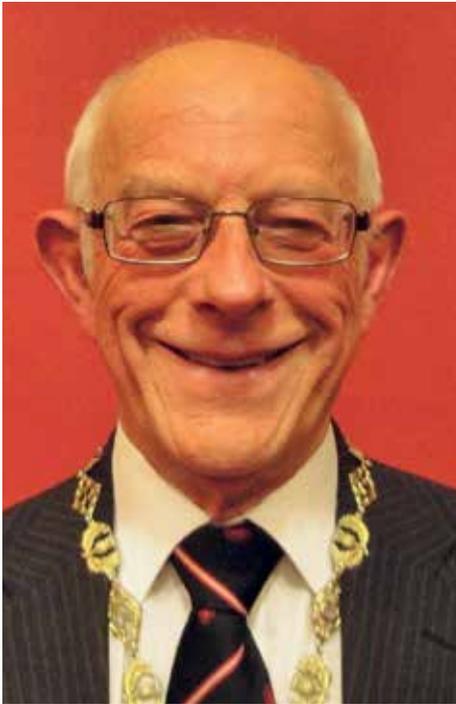
Vice-President Charles Wilson has continued to arrange a variety of social activities for members and is pretty much an ever-present with friends at the end of month lunches at Inverleith. I think I speak for all of the Council in thanking him for his work in putting together these arrangements.

On behalf of all I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Laura McIntosh, Denise Mitchell and Joyce Waterston in ensuring the success of so many of our activities and events in the Clubhouse at Inverleith.

It has been both an honour and privilege and always interesting to be your President for the past two years and I wish my successor, Charles Wilson, every success as he takes over.

**Robert Barclay**  
*President*

# New President...



**Charles S. Wilson MBE**

I started my education at Gillsland Park Preparatory School in Edinburgh before moving to Melville College in 1954. During my time at Melville, I played rugby (eventually joining the ranks of the 3rd XV) and Hockey, gained a Bronze Medallion in Swimming and was a member of the CCF attaining the rank of sergeant. I also gained my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and was a Junior and Senior Prefect, the latter with responsibility for the whole of the Junior School.

In August 1965, I joined The Standard Life Assurance Company (SLAC) working initially in the Assurance Valuation Department which was based in 5 Thistle Street. Four months later, I was transferred to the Investment Department in 3 George Street where, in common with all 'new-starts', I had to cut-out and file newspaper

articles on companies in which SLAC held shares. From there, I progressed to manually recording share deals on "Blue Cards" – this was in the early days of computerisation, when the hand-written deals were later transcribed onto punched tape and fed into a mammoth computer – jointly owned by Scottish Widows – with the resultant print-outs being compared with the hand-written original before being bound into volumes for posterity. The next step-up the ladder was to produce material and valuations for the monthly Investment Committee meetings. In those days, the initiation period was a lengthy one but eventually I became a Money Market Dealer and then a dealer in Gilt-edged Securities and Company Debentures & Loan Stocks. At some point, I don't remember exactly when, there followed a career swerve; I moved from actively investing back to passively reporting – providing quarterly investment reports for clients, occasionally getting to accompany the Investment Managers to review meetings with some of the Corporate clients. I did this for a number of years before switching to writing (in plain English) specs for computer programmes that were required to develop/enhance the [SLAC] business model and to test the resultant output. When I retired as Development Consultant in December 2008, I was – at that point in time – the longest serving member of staff in the Standard Life Group having served a total of 43 years and 4 months. I had also witnessed Investment growing from a department (of around 20 employees) within SLAC to a subsidiary company of the Standard Life Group – Standard Life Investment Limited in 1998 – with over 1,000 employees.

On leaving school, I joined both the FP Parent and Rugby Clubs. In those days, FP rugby was a very social affair with as much time, if not more, spent in the bar as on the training field and pitch. In spite of that handicap, I managed to play in the 2nd XV on a regular basis until I retired from playing in the mid-seventies. Although not a regular at Inverleith while working, I always retained a close interest in the Club and on retiring I made a point of returning to the fold. I was fortunate enough to be elected a Council Member in 2011 and appointed Vice-President in 2016.

In June 1984, I married Irene Hastie and we have stayed in Currie all of our married

life. We both enjoy following our various pursuits which include foreign travel (over the years this has fostered a love affair with the Greek Islands and, eventually, allowed us to fulfil a life-long ambition to visit New Zealand for seven weeks last year), theatre, reading, photography, hill-walking (not quite so much nowadays), following the Scotland Rugby team (for our sins) and working with the disabled.

I had the honour of being awarded the MBE for "Services to the Elderly Disabled in Edinburgh" in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List of 2002 being presented with my medal by Her Majesty at an investiture in Buckingham Palace in November of that year. I also had the honour of being the winner in the category of "Individual Volunteer" in the inaugural Standard Life Chairman's Awards in 2007, again for my work with the disabled through the Wednesday Club – an involvement that started back in 1964 when I was doing the Community Service section for my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Irene and I are still actively involved with the Wednesday Club which was inaugurated in 1956. The Club provides regular events in the autumn, winter and spring of each year for a group of disabled men from across the city. There are also summer trips – four all-day outings, including lunch – organised for the men and staffed by volunteers from the congregation of Morningside Parish Church, as well as ourselves. Up until July 2004, the Club provided a week's holiday for the men but due to changing legislation and the lack of premises available for hire that were fully equipped for the disabled, the holiday week was discontinued and replaced by the summer trips.

For the past seven years, I have been the Property Convener of Morningside Parish Church which has involved looking after and maintaining the fabric of the buildings which form the Morningside Parish estate; the Church and Church Hall, the Cluny Centre and two Manses. During that period, I have also overseen the construction of two suites of halls; one in 2010 and the other this year. I demitted office in October of this year in order to give my time fully to the FP Club Presidency, as I felt that I would be unable to occupy both roles and thereby do neither of them justice.

**Charles Wilson**

# Principal's Review...

2016/2017 has been a notable year for Stewart's Melville College. There have been many highlights which are the outcome of the commitment of my colleagues and of boys and the result of sustained application of effort in areas of boys' personal and School lives in which they have demonstrated talent and enthusiasm. They have learned too that the road to success is an arduous one, punctuated by disappointment as well as by moments of joy and satisfaction. They have required persistence and resilience to reach their goals and, in facing difficulties and new experiences, they have matured in the process.

The year started well, with boys returning from summer holidays having achieved exceptional examination results, a consequence of personal ambition and a strong work ethic which is integral to success in any field. At National 5 level, the pass rate was 96% with an A rate of 74%. At Higher level, critical, since these are matriculating qualifications for Scottish universities, the boys managed a 97% pass rate across all subjects with an A rate of 67%, matching the girls at The Mary Erskine School and demonstrating that boys certainly can perform, with the right approach and attitude. This was reinforced by their performance at Advanced Higher, the requirement for entry to universities in the rest of the United Kingdom and abroad, with a 93% pass rate and 56% of all grades achieved at grade A. If I have laboured a little on results, it is because too often boys in our society do not receive the credit they merit or are written off as being incapable – a notion very far from the truth.

Performance in other areas of School life has been no less impressive. In an enthralling and nail-biting final at Murrayfield, the 1st XV rugby team carried off the Scottish Schools' U18 Cup, edging

past Dollar Academy in the final seconds of the match. In the conferences (a polite euphemism for leagues), the School's top teams in all age groups emerged runners-up in the top (red) conference, while the second teams won the green conference, a tremendous achievement. More competitive rugby for teams which do not benefit from the limelight has led to a rise in standards and growth in confidence.

Hockey is perhaps the fastest growing sport for boys at Stewart's Melville College and the 1st XI team had a thrilling win over Loretto at Glasgow Green in the final of the Scottish Schools' Under 18 Cup, a match in which, as underdogs, they showed tremendous spirit and outstanding team work. They followed the U15's, who had an equally impressive triumph against Strathallan, and, in doing so, made it a double by winning the Scottish Schools Boys' Hockey Cup at Under 15 level. Not to be outdone, the 1st XI football team had a convincing win at Stenhousemuir against Dundee High School to win the Scottish Independent Schools' Football Association Cup. And there have been successes in swimming, badminton, cricket, golf, athletics, cross country running, curling and shooting.

No less stunning or exciting has been a range of theatrical and concert performances in which boys have featured prominently: "The American Dream and a Kind of Alaska", "Machinal", the S1/S2 musical "Seussical", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", the choral and orchestral concert held in Greyfriars Kirk and a splendid evening of jazz and blues. The Pipe Bands won two major trophies at the Scottish Schools' Championship and the Chamber Choir had a memorable tour to Rome which included singing Mass in St Peter's in the Vatican. What has been pleasing has been to see boys develop as their own selves according to their individual personalities and interests. It is as 'cool' to be a violinist as to be a fly half or to read as to debate. It is as important to draw out reflectiveness as it is to commend self-expression.

For the first time in 14 years, the School was inspected by HMIE. The inspectors' comments were instructive. They warmed to the sense of community and collegiality in the Schools, the excellent relations between teachers and pupils, the impact of our holistic educational philosophy underpinned by the School values, and to the courtesy, charm, confidence and communication skills of the boys. They particularly commented on the quality of teaching and learning, pastoral care, child protection and safeguarding arrangements, leadership and governance, staff commitment, the extra-



curricular programme, academic attainment and pupil achievement. Much credit for this glowing report resides with dedicated staff and hard-working pupils.

The year has also been marked by deep sorrow. Graeme Mitchell, teacher of Chemistry of distinction at Stewart's Melville College for 26 years, an exceptional leader of the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force for the past 11 years, died in January at the age of 53. He is much missed by the boys who revered him and who attended, many in RAF uniform, his funeral in Airdrie. A prize to honour an exceptional RAF cadet each year has been established in his memory.

The year then has had its highs and lows but the way ahead was pointed by Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart, former pupil of Melville College, who was elected joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on the synthesis of molecular machines and who gave a moving address to 500 Stewart's Melville College boys and Mary Erskine girls on his return from Stockholm where he had received the award. He came back to School again in June as our guest at the Commemoration of Founders and Prizegiving, speaking to a spellbound audience. We realised that what he had achieved was the climax of a long, distinguished and determined career in science, pitted and marked with setbacks, disappointment and sorrows, but, equally, sustained by determination, purpose, moments of triumph and of joy, leading, ultimately, to an achievement from which humankind will benefit. It is for just such journeys that we are preparing the boys of Stewart's Melville College today.

As a footnote this will be the final occasion on which I write for the FP News as Principal of the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools since I shall be retiring in July 2018 after 18 years in post. I am delighted that Mrs Linda Moule, Head of The Mary Erskine School Senior School and Vice-Principal of the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools, has been appointed to succeed me. I wish her every success in guiding our Schools into the future.

**J N D Gray**

*Principal*

# FPs in the News

## Iain Coke

Iain Coke – Head of the Financial Services Faculty at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales, Iain left DSMC in 1991. On 20th August Iain joined the crew of “Visit Seattle” one of the entrants in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. The Race covers 40,000 nautical miles and is the brainchild of Sir Robin Knox – Johnston. Participants do not require any previous sailing experience, but



have the benefit of a professional skipper. The Race started from Liverpool and covers the World via Rio, Cape Town, Freemantle, Sydney, Qingdao, China, Seattle, Panama, New York and finishing in Liverpool next July. So far, “Visit Seattle” has been performing well, leading at some stages but always in the first 5 of 12 yachts in the race.

You can follow the daily progress of the Race on [www.clipperroundtheworld.com](http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com)

It will come as no surprise to learn that it has been difficult to make contact with Iain, but it is hoped he may be able to contribute an account of his experiences in the next edition of FP News. However, the skipper of “Visit Seattle” was recorded as saying: “It’s been an epic day of fast and furious sailing. Everyone on board has now enjoyed the thrill of helming a Clipper 70 on a surf of 16 knots and above. The whoops and smiles from the back of the boat are great to see. It’s tough physically, and takes a lot of concentration so it’s awesome that everyone is having a go and sharing the load.” – which I think gives a fairly good idea of a good day’s sailing !

## David Clarke

David Clarke, FP Club Council Member and teacher of History at SMC, who has a special interest in the various centenaries from the First World War, was the ideal person to play the part of war poet Wilfred Owen during a re-enactment of Owen’s arrival in Edinburgh 100 years ago.

Owen arrived from London by train on 26 June 1917 and had been sent to be treated for shellshock at Craiglockhart War Hospital.



It is there he met anti-war poet Siegfried Sassoon, who would have a big influence on his work. It was at Craiglockhart, that Owen wrote two of his most-revered poems - Dulce Et Decorum Est and Anthem For Doomed Youth.

The re-enactment event took place at Waverley Station and along Princes Street earlier as a programme of events to commemorate the centenary.

David has also been kind enough to write an article about FPs who fell in the great First World War battles of Arras and Roelincourt which you can read on pages 16 & 17.

## Doddie Weir

The ubiquitous Doddie Weir has spent all his time promoting awareness of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) since announcing publicly in June that he had been diagnosed with the progressive debilitating disease.



## Doddie at EROS

An immensely popular man – both on and off the rugby pitch – and instantly recognisable in his trademark tartan suits, Doddie has set up the Doddie Weir 5 Trust to raise funds for research into MND, especially because no new treatment has been available in the last 20 years. In September he attended the monthly EROS

lunch at Inverleith and, together with Scott Hastings, put on a memorable double act in a question-and-answer session after lunch.



## Doddie at the Good the Bad and the very Ugly Dinner

Time is of the essence for Doddie and hardly a week goes by without him appearing at one fund raiser or another. On 6th November 1,300 guests attended the Good, the Bad and the Very Ugly of International Rugby Dinner in London and 12 days later, who could forget seeing Doddie and his 3 sons bringing the match ball on to the Murrayfield pitch for the start of the test match against the All Blacks.

For more information and full details of Doddie’s efforts go to:

[doddieweir5trust.co.uk](http://doddieweir5trust.co.uk).

We all wish him well.

## David Kyles

Whilst David is a past Captain and still actively involved in the FP Golf Club, his “day job” found him as a judge at the recent World Scotch Pie Championships in the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline, which he said he always had an appetite for. The winner is being announced on 9th January, 2018.



**David in Action - Copyright Press Association**

## Bert Barclay

Bert has lots of strings to his bow and at its recent AGM, Cricket Scotland awarded Bert the Basil D'Oliveira award for services to Scottish cricket. These included serving for 40 years on the Cricket Scotland (previously SCU) Committee & Board of Directors, a feat which few would contemplate.



## Grant Forrest

Grant has had his best finish on the European Challenge Golf Tour finishing tied second in the Hainan Open in China with a 16 under par score of 272 (67,68,68,69) two shots behind winner Erik Van Rooyen.



## FPs in Representative Rugby

**Scott Riddell** is the Captain of the Scotland National Sevens team and has competed in two Commonwealth Games and over 50 competitions in the HSBC World Sevens Series as well as playing in the 2009 and 2013 Sevens World Cups. He was named in the London Sevens Dream Team in 2015 and played an integral part in winning Scotland's first ever series cup at the London World Sevens in 2016.

He then captained Scotland in retaining the London World Sevens title in 2017, beating England 12 – 7 in the final at Twickenham.



**Scott Riddell**  
(Photo Courtesy of Scottish Rugby/SNS Group)

In doing so his Scotland team came from 21 – 0 down in the quarter-final against New Zealand.

The 31-year-old was in the medical room at Twickenham, having suffered a head knock, when the Scots came back from 21-0 to see off the Kiwis 24-21.

“You see the stats on the TV that we have played them so many times and it was always a zero for Scotland in the wins category. It should not be that way. It was just something that we needed to do.

“There was a lot of emotion in the changing room before the event with a couple of guys moving on and our coaching team moving on.

“It took a bit more emotion and a couple of bounces of the ball here and there to savour victory against New Zealand – that is how it is in sevens, the game can turn quickly and you get a win.

“To be the first Scottish side to beat New Zealand at any level is incredible.

That last eight victory then spurred Riddell's men to go on and lift the trophy with further victories over USA and England.

Scott continues to be involved with Stew Mel rugby and has become an integral part of the coaching set-up at the Academy section for boys in S1 to S6.

In the summer of 2015, **Callum Hunter-Hill**, travelled to the Canterbury High Performance Unit in New Zealand on the prestigious MacPhail Scholarship.

A BT Sport Scottish Rugby Stage 3 Academy player, he made his first appearance for Scotland U20, coming off the bench against England in the opening game of the 2016 Six Nations. He



**Callum Hunter-Hill**

captained Scotland U20 in each of their Six Nations matches this season, and went on to play in the World Rugby U20 World Championships in Georgia where Scotland finished a creditable fifth. In all, he has won 9 caps at U20 level and prior to that the lock forward earned 10 caps at U18 level, five of which were as Captain.

Callum, who currently studies Geography and Archaeology at Glasgow University, has captained Edinburgh at U17 and U18 level, as well as appearing for Edinburgh Rugby A against their Glasgow Warriors counterparts and Ontario Blues. He has now signed a 2 year contract with Edinburgh Rugby.

During his time at SMC, he won the Brewin Dolphin Shield competition.



**George Turner**  
(Photo Courtesy of Scottish Rugby/SNS Group)

**George Turner** left DSMC in 2010 and has been capped 10 times by Scotland at U20 level in 2011/12 and made his Edinburgh Rugby debut in 2014. The 24-year-old hooker was another who enjoyed the benefits of the MacPhail Scholarship to New Zealand. George now plays for Glasgow Warriors on loan from Edinburgh Rugby and was called up to the Scotland squad for the 2016 Six Nations Championship and again for Scotland's 2017 Summer Tour. More recently, George was included in the Scotland squad for the Autumn Test series winning his first cap against Samoa on 11th November and his 2nd against the All Blacks the following week in which Scotland so nearly had the result of the season, losing 22 – 17.

Making waves at the younger age-grades are **Jamie Hodgson** (Scotland U19), **Connor Boyle, Jacob Lineen, Ross Thompson** and **Cammy Symes** (Scotland U18) and **Nathan Moffatt, Finlay McNeill** and **Addy Robertson** (Scotland U16).

## The Year of 2017

If there is one thing that stands out in Jeff Marsh's review of the Year of 2017 (see page 30) it is that this year group contributed the majority of players to the School's cup-winning hockey, rugby and football teams. Golfer Eric McIntosh, footballers Ben Voy, Cieran Dunne & Euan Henderson and judo international Christopher Kumesu-Egri have already been making names for themselves and now as former pupils – we wish them the best of luck in the years to come.

# The Millennials

The Millennials are generally considered to be those who were born in the late 1980s to 1990s, reaching young adulthood in the early 21st century. As such they are venturing into the big wide world discovering what opportunities lie ahead. Here, 4 such FPs recount their experiences in 4 very different ventures.



## James Porteous - Gin Distiller

The founder and distiller of Leith-based Electric Spirit Co. attended SMC from 1996 – 2004. He gained a BDes (Hons) in Product Design in 2010 from the Glasgow School of Art (GSA), and subsequently an MSc in Brewing and Distilling from Heriot Watt University in 2014.

After leaving GSA, James worked as a service designer, first for Skills Development Scotland in Glasgow. He then moved to London, working for commercial consultancies Seren and Engine.

James says:

“I spent just over three years working in a pretty niche part of the design industry that’s quite close to management consultancy, only with a much bigger focus on creativity. It was great – I worked on a stack of interesting projects, got to travel to fascinating places like Hong Kong and Kosovo, and worked with a huge variety of clients from tiny, social start-ups, all the way through to sprawling multi-nationals. There’s a tendency to think of design being limited to apps, websites and re-hashing mobile phones, but as a discipline, it’s far

more potent than that. It’s certainly the most useful subject I studied at SMC.”

While working in London, he decided to make a major career switch, combined with a return to Edinburgh. He remembers:

“Things reached a point in London where I realised that I’d drifted away from the type of design I wanted to do, and I began to have a proper ponder about where everything was heading. Part of this was about whether that involved staying down south, and I kept thinking back to Edinburgh. I loved London – I still do, it’s an incredible city and I go back regularly – but it became clear I was going to head back north. Luckily, my girlfriend was keen on the idea too.”

Aware that he wasn’t likely to continue in his current career, James looked at what he could do for work on returning to Scotland.

“I’d previously worked as a photographer, so that was very much in the running to start with. A while back, I’d looked at Heriot Watt’s brewing and distilling MSc – it sounded bonkers, but had a serious reputation in the drinks industry, and after years of advising on intangible things strategy and customer experience, the idea of making something physical really tickled me. I applied, and got accepted. I spent a couple of weeks work experience with a then-tiny brewery called Beavertown in London, then packed up my life and moved back to Edinburgh.”

The course lasted a full year, with a thesis project run over the summer months. By this point, James’ focus had shifted from brewing to distilling, and his final project involved creating dozens of distillates of individual gin botanicals.

“Having no university-level science experience, it was a bit of a baptism of fire. The course is a combination of engineering (which I’d sacked off once before), physics, chemistry and biology. I think the difference was context – everything was taught with a view to why it was relevant in brewing and distilling – so although it was a hell of a lot of work, I enjoyed it a lot. I ended up graduating top of the whole faculty, which as an art school grad I was pretty chuffed at.”

Plotting to open his own micro-distillery – Electric Spirit Co. – was well under way when he graduated, but it took over a year to get up and running.

“It turns out that opening a distillery is as much of a bureaucratic nightmare as you’d expect. Finding premises was probably the hardest bit – I met with the top planning

lawyer in Edinburgh to see if I could open somewhere a bit different. In theory, there were loads of places, but every time you mentioned distilling, the answer was always “oh, that’s interesting... no way”. I eventually found somewhere in Leith, the city’s old distilling centre, and got up and running in 2015, initially with a 10 litre still. That soon doubled to 20 litres, which is still tiny.”

Starting a small company on your own always involves a huge amount of work, and the early stages were nerve-wracking at times:

“The initial panic was basically that nobody would buy anything. I’d taken a beer delivery job to pay the bills while I was setting up, so I knew pretty much every independent bottle shop in town. As a small producer, the philosophy was very much that it’s better to be somewhere than everywhere – to focus on getting the best bars, restaurants and shops to carry it. I was lucky in that lots of those guys believed in the gin, and have stocked it ever since. Initially I was driving it all over the place myself, although a couple of times I did end up delivering via Megabus to save the company some cash. It seems obvious, but you’ve got to avoid spending money where it doesn’t need to be spent.”

Although no longer a designer by trade, the business still benefits from James’ background in the creative industries and his time studying design in Glasgow.

“I’m heavily influenced by the craft brewing industry when it comes to the company’s style. The whole brand is about a million miles away from the type of thing you normally see in the industry – I didn’t want to just do the clear bottle / white label thing that was so prevalent when I was starting up, so I found a company who could coat the bottles in neon orange, and created a jig that allowed



me to hand-stamp the logo myself. Normally the kind of bottle design I have would require production runs in the thousands, so this meant I could do something pretty unusual as a small producer.”

Since production started two years ago, Electric has flourished, with bespoke products being produced for a range of events and businesses, while the core gin, Achroous is becoming available across more and more outlets.

“The gin industry, as the press never get tired of telling you, is booming at the moment, which is great as a producer, but also means the competition is insane. I just focus on making my spirits the best they can be, and try to let the product speak over the noise. Tiny-scale stuff is also a lot of fun. I work with Timberyard to make some awesome distillates using ingredients they provide – most recently that was douglas fir, but we’ve played around with gorse flowers and lemon verbena in the past.

“In terms of the company’s own gin, each batch of Achroous is 140 bottles, and to start with, I was maybe doing one a month. Now it’s heading towards one a week. I’ve got five wholesalers, and it’s available online and in about 200 places across Scotland and England. Things are busy.”

Given the enthusiasm for the company’s produce, planning for the future is a fundamental part of running the business.

“In terms of growing the business, it’s very easy to get stuck at this stage, especially as a single-employee company. I spend virtually all my time at this point producing gin, but I’ve got a very clear idea of how the company needs to grow, and how to do it. Over the next few months, I’m aiming to move to bigger premises, increase production capacity with a new still, and grow distribution, both in the UK and internationally. Oh, and hire staff too. It’s definitely at the point where I could do with a hand.”

**James Porteous**

## **Stuart Moffatt SMC 1999 - Golf Administrator**

In sixth year, I undertook the Higher Grade in Management & Information Studies. I enjoyed the marketing module and for my written assignment I produced a marketing study on Hibernian Football Club. My teacher suggested I think about undertaking the BA Honours degree at Strathclyde Business School so I applied in the UCAS process and was offered an unconditional place. On reflection, I suppose you could say I had an interest in the business of sports during school.

When I was at university, I specialised in Marketing for my honours degree but I

wouldn’t say that I was single-mindedly focussed on a career in sports at that point. I was far more actively interested in music and socialising; the kind of things that a student does! After leaving Strathclyde University I actually wanted to pursue an interest in internet marketing and e-commerce and the first two jobs I had after graduating were in that field. One was a client side role in the automotive retail industry and the other was account management for a marketing agency specialising in internet marketing. However, I didn’t really feel fulfilled by what I was doing and it gave me cause to reflect on what I wanted do to with my career. I did some research on opportunities which would enable me to pursue a career in the sports industry and after securing a career development loan, I enrolled at the University of Stirling to do a Masters degree in Sports Management. My thesis was on branding in Scottish football clubs. I knew then that I wanted to work in a sports marketing and communications role.

Effectively it is public relations and communications. It encompasses media relations, issues management, stakeholder management and communications, content creation and copywriting for various media channels including social media, digital media, broadcast media and traditional media, and monitoring and evaluation of campaigns.

I worked in an events management company for three years undertaking their marketing and sponsorship activities for outdoor events. I worked with sponsors such as The Royal Bank of Scotland, Red Bull, Hewlett Packard, Tennents and Baillie Gifford. I then moved onto a sports governing body undertaking its public relations and communications. I experienced working with athletes at the London 2012 Olympic Games and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, which were real highlights. I also was responsible for marketing and communications for domestic leagues and international events.

The job with The R&A became available in March last year. I applied and was selected for interview but I had to drop out of the process. My brother sadly passed away during that time and I felt I wasn’t in a position to commit to the interview process. Several weeks later, The R&A contacted me to see if I was still interested so I attended the interviews and was offered the role. I suppose the mantra ‘what’s for you in life won’t pass by you’ is true in this case.

My role is to protect and enhance the reputation of The R&A through management of public relations and communications. My role entails a wide range of responsibilities that cut across The R&A’s core business functions including staging professional and



amateur golf championships, rules of golf, golf development, sustainability and its commercial activities. During The Open I work in a media and communications team which services many of the world’s sports journalists, broadcasters and online publications. My responsibilities during The Open include hosting press conferences with players, dealing with any issues that arise both on and off the course, identifying media opportunities to promote The Open, working with our rights holders and partners and ensuring that the media receive timely information and content to support their work. The media operation at The Open is huge and I work with a very talented group of people to deliver it.

I’ve never played golf with any of the professionals, I would embarrass myself! I have interviewed several professional golfers including Jason Day, Matt Kuchar, Darren Clarke, Brooks Koepka, Padraig Harrington and Ian Poulter at The Open this year. If Tiger gets fit enough for Carnoustie next year, you never know! I’ve also worked with Charles Paterson who is Sky Sports’ Scottish Correspondent and was in our year at school.

**Stuart Moffatt**

## **Rory Bryant - Racing Driver**

I was fortunate enough to have spent my entire School career at Stewart’s Melville, having started in nursery back in 1992. In that time I had some great experiences and



met some great people including my wife and closest friends. Whilst this may be fairly typical of graduates from ESMC, my career path is perhaps not so conventional.

Competing on a race track with 30 other lunatics fighting for the same piece of

tarmac is a pretty unique and tough sporting challenge. (see Life in the Fast Lane page 12) However, off the track, trying to secure the funding to actually get onto the track is the most brutal challenge of all! It's an experience that drove me to tears at points but at the same time, it's an experience that I have gained so much value from and one that's taught me skills I could never have learned in a classroom or lecture theatre.

Whilst I still take any opportunity I can to get out racing, my day job is now focussed on encouraging new people to get involved and excel in motorsport, through my role as National Development Manager for Scottish Motor Sports. I started working for the group four years ago with a remit to create a strategy to attract public investment into developing the sport; both from a perspective of increasing participation and improving competitor performance on the national and international stage.

Last year, we were successful in securing investment from SportsScotland to implement our strategy to "put motorsport at the heart of the Scottish sporting landscape". This was a fairly significant milestone for motorsport which had never previously received the sort of public investment and support that more mainstream sports have benefited from for decades. On the 10th May 2016 motorsport hit the Scottish media channels as we announced this news from Ingliston Showground, with the help of Sir Jackie Stewart.

I am now responsible for the implementation of the strategy and 18 months on from the announcement we have made strong progress. We have hit our growth targets and we have recently launched an Academy programme to support up and coming competitors in Scotland; equipping them with a lot of the skills and knowledge I wish I had picked up 10 years ago!

On reflection, as with any career, my motorsport journey has certainly had its highs and lows but overall I feel very fortunate to have left School and worked in an industry that I'm passionate about. School never taught me much about racing lines and finding sponsorship but I think the constant encouragement to improve - whether academically or on the sports field - did help to equip me with the ambition to pursue this slightly more unconventional career path.

**Rory Bryant**

## Hamish Homer SMC 2003 - Life in Bermuda

Many FPs who frequented the bar at Inverleith in the 2003 -10 era will remember the super-efficient, clean-cut figure of Hamish Homer who helped Denise Mitchell serving behind the bar. Others will remember Hamish's exploits on the wing for the 3rd XV.



Hamish left SMC in 2003 with a view to getting his university degree and seeing what opportunities that would create after graduation both in life and professionally. Little did he know at that time where he would end up.

He Says:

"Six years later, and I'm still here! Bermuda, a small island with a population of around 65,000 isolated in the middle of the Atlantic. It was a tough decision to move from Edinburgh back in 2011 but recruiters sure can persuade you. After my Stew Mel education... in Edinburgh...I studied at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in Business Studies, before completing my CA training at Chiene & Tait, in Edinburgh. Despite my love of Edinburgh, the time came to look elsewhere. When you live in such a beautiful and well balanced city (let's exclude the weather for now), you become quite fussy and I quickly discounted many of the other cities in the U.K. With my general lack of languages skills and not much interest in moving across the other side of the world, a recruiter suggested Bermuda...a great climate, low tax jurisdiction (technically speaking), and its proximity to the U.S. east coast. My wife (then girlfriend) and I took the bold decision and both accepted positions at a Big 4 accountancy firm on the island. We were in the fortunate enough position of both qualifying as accountants at the same time which made the decision a little easier. A 21 month contract seemed plenty at the time, but 21 months later we found ourselves not wanting to leave. Yes, we don't see family and friends as often as we like, but the quality of life we have built out here is incomparable. Summers on the water or on any of the island's gorgeous beaches, winters resting after a hectic summer! Even as we look forward to the next stage of our lives, this place ticks many of the required boxes. All of this wouldn't have been possible without a great education and a feeling of motivation and expectation instilled in me from my schooling days.

Bermuda lies on a hurricane path. We have been through many tropical storms and hurricane strength storms. In the last couple of years we have survived direct hits from two category 3 hurricanes (Hurricane Nicole in 2016, for example). To be in the eye of the storm is a very surreal experience. 45 minutes of eerie silence, high air pressure, and no winds after hours of constant wind and rain. Then the second half...a barrage of wind and rain from the opposite

direction! Thankfully in Bermuda building regulations are strict enough to withstand hurricane force winds (to a certain extent!) and damage is largely limited to fallen trees and shrubs. No electricity, sometimes up to several weeks, is a definite drawback!

What I would call a perfect summer day would be to start with a cup of tea under the air conditioning watching some U.K. sport (with the 4 hour time difference this is perfect to watch sport in the morning). Then, pack a cool box (I'll let you imagine what I pack in there) and head out on the water with my wife and friends. A couple of hours' wakeboarding, then find a quiet spot to chill in the water with the music on and a couple of cold ones. To finish, light up the portable BBQ on the boat and eat while the sun sets before heading back to the dock at dusk.

Being close to the U.S. has allowed us to visit and explore many places in the U.S. and Canada that just wouldn't have been practical from the U.K. A road trip from Vegas to San Francisco via the Grand Canyon and the rest of the west coast is a definite highlight, as was a fun week in Austin, Texas and frequent long weekends in Boston and New York. That's not to say we get a large holiday allowance...after you factor in a trip or two home a year (normally to attend weddings!), your allowance disappears very quickly. Clever planning and use of public holidays always helps with that. Public holidays, particularly in summer, are also often jam - packed with activities. In the height of the summer each year there is a two day public holiday for a cricket match!

Christmas is a fun but quieter period on the island. A large number of expatriates will return home over the festive period (there are a large number of British, Irish, Canadian and South African expats here) and we generally also do that roughly every second year. Christmas Day on the island is fun, taken up with a trip to the famous Elbow Beach for drinks and music (and a swim for those who dare the chilly winter sea temperatures) followed by dinner with friends at one of our houses.



All in all, I would highly recommend a trip out to Bermuda, even if just a holiday. I've met and made friends with people from all over the world and had life experiences I never thought I would be able to do."

**Hamish Homer**

# Strike-ing Memories from my Ten-Pin Career



My involvement started way back in 1953 at 8 years of age, when I used to be a pin boy at a Sports club, an RAF base and various pubs in Edinburgh including the Sheep Heid, the Hillburn Roadhouse, the Links hotel and the Ship Inn. It was here I used to stand up the skittles, by hand, for the players.

Here the memories start :-

There was a very tall taxi driver in Edinburgh who had an enormous back swing and if he accidentally hit you with a flying skittle, he never said sorry, because we were supposed to look out and take evasive action. Instead, after he finished his game, he would toss a sixpence at the pinboy, (2 ½ pence in new money). You didn't really want to be hit though, I can assure you.

Eventually in 1968 the first, automatic pinspotters, as they are called, arrived, and I first started to work on them. Mostly, things have been self taught, and mistakes were made, but I am still here to tell some of the tales.

One morning I reported for work, a little rough, not feeling like working too hard, and

I told the owner, that a fancy named fictitious part needed to be changed. I said this would take most of the day, such was the power of knowledge that I had an easy shift.

In Cairo at the end of a particular job, to say "thank you" to the guard/watchman, Ahmed, who looked after my toolbox by using it as his pillow, I put some money into his hand, equivalent to about £5 sterling. He hugged me and held me and cried real tears, it was only later that I discovered, that my token gift was more than he was being paid for a whole month. Quite humbling.

In Bahrain, I was installing a centre for one of the crown princes, when he called in to see how the job was progressing. The date was the 21st December and in impeccable English he asked when I was due to leave, I said, "the 23rd Your Highness". Then he asked, "will you be finished and will everything be working." I said that I hoped so, and without hesitation, he raised one hand and calmly said "Remember I have your passport." Two long days and nights followed but thankfully all was well.

In Ireland, I was asked to carry out a de-install from a bowl and I was driving the fork lift, there was some very serious aggro between the two parties I was trying to work for, and it became obvious that I was the piggy in the middle, being used as a pawn by both sides. (for removing the equipment from one side by the (bowl owner) and for not having got it all out by the other, the land owner, seizing it for some sort of payment). I had two masters, and was trying to please them both at the same time. I was shouted at etc., etc. , you can use your imagination, so I decided to load half of the equipment, and then block off the doors with the fork lift, trapping the other half of the equipment still inside. I then left discreetly, unseen, with the keys to the building and the fork lift truck key in my pocket, while the two parties tried to reach a non - physical, amicable compromise without me. I laid low for two days before they both came looking for me, unarmed. Diplomacy, I just kept out of the way till it was safe.

There are many more stories:-

In the UK in the early eighties, a new trainee got his hand trapped in a pinspotter, and

only said "Excuse me Mr. Brown my hand's stuck". It was trapped quite badly and he was lucky I was there. He never yelled or screamed, and fortunately all was well, incidentally, he, like me, is still working in the bowling industry.

And more, please ask me sometime :-

The Middle East. Running out of petrol in the middle of the night in the middle of the Sinai desert between Cairo and Sharm el Shekh, an interesting story.

Cairo. Drinking home - pasteurised milk and ending up in hospital, and then visiting the pyramids in the middle of the night.

A day Trip to Moscow, arrested, placed under guard, and the plane was held back to fly me back to the U.K. !!!

Moscow. The floor layer that simply disappeared because he had not finished his job, thus holding up a new installation.!! My translator trainee simply looked at me with his mouth open.

Greece. The generosity of a bowling centre owner. (people really can surprise you).

Crete. The gift of a knife to a non Cretan. (an honour)

Being locked on bases in Europe. (security).

Making a bowl work, in Malta, from a container of bits and pieces of machines and parts. The owners were nearly in tears when they saw it but were truly amazed in the end.

Turkey, adopted by a young Turkish technician I was training, as his father .

Shutting down a military base. (when my car was not recognised).

The Final highlight. To be nominated for world technician of the year. A real honour and one I am very proud of and will never forget.

Thank You Melville College - School and staff - for your help in making me who I am today.

**Laurie Brown**

# LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

The death of Alistair Birrell last year has sparked off an interesting trail of other FPs in Motor Sport through the years.



Alistair Birrell

From Fleet Air Arm pilot to racing driver, hovercraft operator and impulsive hotel buyer, Alistair Birrell embraced every opportunity to tackle a new venture - life was a gamble and it generally paid off. A product of Daniel Stewart's, electrical engineering was his main interest and that brought him into the world of performance cars, teaming up with long - time friend Ron Flockhart as both an investor and a driver. Together they formed the Alba Union racing team. Then, having bought their first car – an ERA R1A – it was Alistair who gave it its first 2 outings at the opening race meeting at Charterhall in April 1952, in which he finished 3rd, and a month later he came 2nd in the Crimond meeting near Aberdeen. As Ron Flockhart's racing career advanced, Alistair bought out Ron's share of the car and continued racing it into the 1955 season, by which time his electrical business began to take up too much of his time. An appreciation of the rest of Birrell's life appears on page 41.



Ron Flockhart

In modern times, Ron Flockhart would be the Martin Brundle of his day – a fast, thoughtful racing driver who was more successful in sports cars than he ever was in grand prix cars. He was an all-rounder,

even competing in the Monte Carlo Rally with his partner, Alistair Birrell.

After School at Daniel Stewart's he studied engineering at Edinburgh University in 1940. Having been persuaded by his parents not to sign up for the RAF, he was one of the founding members of the University Flying Club (which didn't actually do any flying because of the War!). His passion for speed started as a motor cycle dispatch rider in the Home Guard and later, when posted to the Middle East on service with REME, his life was punctuated by sand races, motocross and impromptu speedway racing.

Demobbed in 1947, his interest turned to an MG TC car and when the Lothian Car Club laid out a racing circuit near St. Andrews, Ron was the first to enter and actually won his first race there.

His most important race was the 1951 Ulster Trophy meeting (a major international event in those days) where he was up against Peter Collins and Mike Hawthorn. Ron came out the overall winner, then teamed up with Alistair Birrell and the following year they headed back for the Ulster Trophy again. This time he was up against the big boys like Fangio and Stirling Moss. Driving brilliantly, he was in 3rd place when he ran out of fuel as he and Birrell hadn't calculated the fuel consumption properly!

Success led to success over the next 10 years. There were overtures from David Murray to drive a Jaguar but turned them down. He did drive for Murray later though, in the 1956 Le Mans, paired with fellow Scot Ninian Sanderson – which was slightly odd as Sanderson thought Ron was far too posh, coming from Edinburgh!

Ron Flockhart was one of racing's nice guys – stubborn at times, but his temperament always appeared relaxed and in control. Later, in the 1960s, his attention turned to flying, having held his pilot's licence since 1954, but sadly he was killed in a flying accident in 1962 in Australia. He was only 37 years old.



Dario Franchitti

Having been racing karts for some years, Dario started motor racing at the age of 17 in the Formula Vauxhall Junior class in 1991, having left SMC the previous year. By round 5 he had scored his first win at Thruxton. In 1992 he won the McLaren Young Driver of the Year.

Overall, Dario Franchitti made 265 career Indy car starts. His four championships are second only to AJ Foyt on the all-time list, and he is only the third driver in Indy car history to win at least three consecutive titles. Franchitti became one of only five drivers to win the Indianapolis 500 and the series title in the same season more than once. His 92 podiums place him fifth and his 119 top-five finishes place him tied for sixth on the all-time lists. In 2007, Dario became the first professional race car driver to ever capture the 12 Hours of Sebring, the Indianapolis 500, an open wheel title and the Rolex 24 at Daytona consecutively, accomplishing the feat in less than one year. Mario Andretti and A.J. Foyt are the only others to win the four titles, but neither did so in succession. By winning the 2012 Indianapolis 500, Franchitti became just the 10th driver in history to win the race three times.

On 6 October 2013, Dario was involved in a serious crash in the Grand Prix of Houston, when his car flew into catch-fencing after contact with another car. He suffered 2 fractured vertebrae, a broken ankle, and a concussion in the crash. Later he would learn that he had forgotten some of his past. A month later, on November 14, he announced his immediate retirement from motor racing on medical advice; he retired with 31 victories from 265 starts in his American open-wheel racing career.

On retiring from racing, Dario said: "Racing has been my life for over 30 years and it's really tough to think that the driving side is now over. I was really looking forward to the 2014 season with Target Chip Ganassi Racing, with a goal of winning a fourth Indianapolis 500 and a fifth IndyCar Series championship".

Life in the Fast Lane indeed !

So that's the past, but what about the stars of the future? Here 3 young Millennial FPs tell their story of how they got started.



**Rory Bryant**

As long as I can remember, I've had a fascination with machines and driving. Through time, this translated into a passion for motorsport. As we all know, race driver training was not part of the curriculum at ESMC so this was something I had to pursue elsewhere! During my senior school years I did a bit of karting but nothing too serious as my family never had the finances to pursue what is quite an expensive game. However, what I lacked in money I gained in enthusiasm for the sport! After leaving School in 2006, I went to Edinburgh University to study Geography but I continued to pursue my racing career. I had a number of failed attempts at trying to raise sponsorship before winning a scholarship in 2007 to move into racing cars, in the Scottish Legends Championship. This kick-started my racing career and 2 years later, I eventually managed to land a sponsor – in the shape of local Edinburgh firm, Scott & Co - which allowed me to start racing more seriously throughout the UK. Over the coming years, I raced a variety of different championships, latterly in the UK's premier sports car championship, British GT. In that time, I was fortunate enough to win a good few races and a couple of championships along the way but for me the biggest success was just getting there in the first place!

**Rory Bryant**



**Sebastian Melrose**

I joined SMC in 2008 in Primary 6 and the School has been a huge chapter in my life ever since that day of joining. However, my career in motorsport never actually properly started until 5th year at SMC (2014), when I got my first test in a Formula Ford and later that year entered my first race in the Scottish Championship. Unlike many racing drivers,

I never had the benefit of lots of experience racing go-karts from a young age, as football was what I mostly focused on, playing in a number of pro youth teams. Having FP Dario Franchitti as my godfather, I always had a big interest in motorsport which just kept growing having been to a couple of his races. Eventually the love of motorsport grew that strong, all I wanted to do was race.

In my first season (2014), I started off racing from the back and every time I sat in the race car I improved, absorbing as much information as possible and listening to the more experienced individuals around me, including my teammates. Admittedly, being focused at School was not always one of my strong points but the ability to focus at the race track is certainly something I've had to become very good at. 2015 was a tough year for me both on and off the track; I didn't get the grades I wanted in School or the results I wanted on the track. But I learned a lot from this year and bounced back in 2016 where I believe it all 'clicked' and was able to finish 3rd in the championship in only my second year ever in racing. This achievement won me the single seater Young Driver of the Year Award. 2017 has been a big year for me having been selected to be part of the governing body's talent development programme - the MSA Academy - . I am also in the battle for the Scottish Championship and have won a few races including the David Leslie Trophy which is arguably the most important individual race that Scotland holds. I've also made a mark in the British Championship, leading races and being one of the quickest drivers there. All of this had come from my constant hard work and dedication to achieve my dreams of becoming a racing driver at the highest level, following in my godfather's footsteps.

I think I was one of the few people on this planet who actually loved School and looked forward to seeing my teachers every morning. If I was to take one thing that I feel Stewart's Melville College had given me the most and who have been a big part in my

life, was the people skills that they had taught me. I have no problem sitting in front of some of the wealthiest business men, standing up on stage doing Q&A's with crowds in their hundreds, television interviews etc. If I hadn't gone to SMC, I believe I wouldn't have the confidence that I have.

**Seb Melrose**



**Colin Noble**

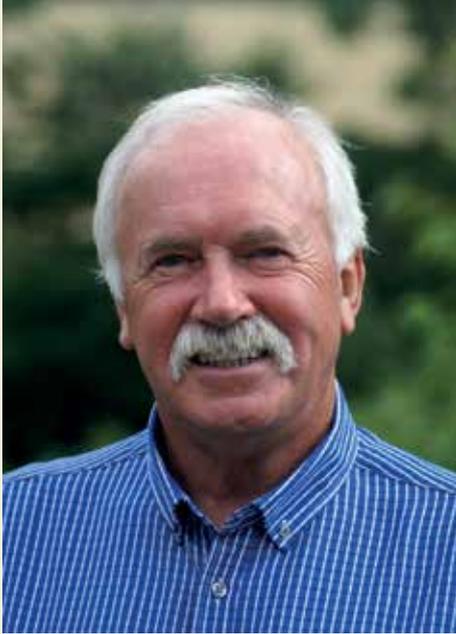
I began my time at Stewart's Melville when I was five in 2001, and when I was 11 I took up karting and was competing at a Scottish and British championship level. I was a part of the Saltire Motor Sport team competing up and down the country. After five years of karting I left school at the end of 4th year in 2012 to pursue a career in racing. I then progressed into SR1 British Radical Championship, and this was my first year in car racing and I won the British Championship. Then moved across to single seater from Radicals, and competed in the BARC Renault British Series. At the end of the series I came 5th and I moved up a class to the NEC Renault in 2015. This was my first time racing in Europe and on new tracks so was happy to secure 10th overall in the championship. In 2017 I made the switch to prototypes and joined Ecurie Ecosse, competing in the British LMP3 Cup and the European Le Mans Cup. So far it has been a successful season winning the British title, and we are currently sitting in 2nd with one race to go in Portugal in the European championship.

**Colin Noble**



**Seb Melrose leading the Action**

# Tales of a Whistleblower



When you played rugby for Melville FP in the old days, unlike the players of today, you didn't just play the game, you were usually involved somehow in the running of the club.

So it was that in my playing days I played rugby usually for the 2nd XV and was also Team Secretary, a role which involved the sending out of postcards on a Tuesday night to those selected for the three sides on the following Saturday. On a dull Tuesday night in 1973 Melville FP hammered Stewart's FP in the final of the less than prestigious Edinburgh Borderers Sevens at the now defunct Lomond Park after which the players of both clubs voted to merge following the amalgamation of the schools. Thus for the next season as Team Secretary of the merged club in conjunction with the then Stewart's Team Secretary, the late great Arthur Lowes, we became responsible for notifying players of eight teams whom they were selected to play for on the following Saturday. At that time we had so many players available for selection that it was far easier to find a player than a referee for the game especially when we might have four or five home matches. On one particular Saturday exasperated at the lack of a referee I stood down from playing and agreed to referee my first game Stewart's Melville FP 5thXV versus Lasswade 2ndXV. If my memory serves me correctly Stewart's Melville won by 90 points to 3 but that didn't prevent my receiving stick from my erstwhile playing colleagues for awarding

the visitors the 3 points from a drop-goal which apparently failed to cross the bar! Grudgingly however and in the way that is normal when refereeing, lavish praise was heaped on my performance along the lines of "you weren't too bad"!

The FP Club had a touring side known as the IADS whom I once refereed against Guinness Breweries on a Friday afternoon at Inverleith Park. It was necessary for me to hold up the game during the second half as a massive fight had developed..... not between the players I hasten to add but between two local schools who had decided to sort out their differences!

So began my refereeing career with a few more club games at Ferryfield and Inverleith before venturing to join the dizzy heights of The Edinburgh Rugby Referees Society whose acronym ERRS was always considered entirely appropriate. A couple of seasons were spent officiating at 3rd or 2nd XV matches where experience was gained from senior referees such as Brian Anderson with whom I shared a cupboard at Grangemouth the week after he had refereed Wales at Cardiff! After another season I was promoted to my first league game which was a Division Four game at Highland in Inverness. More experience was gained until I was appointed to my first Division One game (there was no Premiership in those days) which was a re-arranged midweek match between Hawick and Selkirk at Philiphaugh. The irony was that at that time I was working for an insurance company alongside Ian Paxton and John Rutherford both of whom of course played for Selkirk and whom I gave a lift to the game! Anyway the game went well and my career flourished from then as I spent about 8 years in Division One.

As with most referees however there were certain clubs that I just could not please, most notably Jedforest possibly because I did not send off the Edinburgh Accies scrum-half for having the temerity to start a fight with the legendary Gary Armstrong at Riverside Park. The crowd never forgot and I recall refereeing Jed at the then GHK at Anniesland on a wretchedly wet afternoon when a wag in the crowd shouted "Clark you're a self-abuser (well that's not exactly the term he used but you get the idea), nae wonder yer wife's goat a fancy man". I just couldn't let that go so turned to assure him that "well he certainly wouldn't be from Jedforest"!

I wore contact lenses as I always thought that a referee would leave himself open to all kinds of barbs if he arrived for a game wearing glasses. These have never

bothered me except the one time when one of my lenses disappeared somewhere under an eyelid necessitating a quick visit to the touchline whereupon a local gentleman assured me that "you'll no have had them in from the stert referee!"

My first Irish trip was a rather forgettable experience as the game at Thomond Park ended 6-3 with a try nowhere to be seen on a filthy wet and windy day. Still, afterwards I had the famous Irish hospitality to look forward to but both my touch judges had other commitments so it was left to the Referees' Assessor to take me out for a meal. Well this chap was rather fat and you could tell what he had been eating for the week before as it was all over the front of his sweater. My conversation was obviously riveting as he fell asleep just after the main course!

The next step for me was my first exchange game to France where I was appointed to a cup game at Bayonne. It was a terrific experience in front of a crowd of about 12,000 but I had some misgivings as I watched the "reserve" match between the two sides on the Friday night degenerate into a pitched battle with boots and fists flying everywhere. Nobody was sent off of course and thankfully my game passed off very peacefully. On another occasion in France, as is their custom, a lunch for the players and officials was arranged for a few hours before the kick off. Now Jim Fleming is the only referee that I know who could eat a three course lunch two hours before a big game. Well the first course "fruit de mere" was all set up on the table with every kind of fish thing you could think of. I hate fish so declined. Then the next course arrived which was a big flat fish with a tail and a head. No thanks! My host asked me what I would normally eat at home before a game so I told him perhaps some soup and a sandwich. "Garcon, potage for M. Arbitre s'il vous plait" which duly arrived - mussel soup complete with shells!

Things had a habit of going wrong in France like the time I arrived late in Toulouse and missed my connection to the town 40 miles away where my match was scheduled. It was akin to arriving in Edinburgh at 11:30 pm and trying to reach Hawick! After telephoning the SRU I was told to take a taxi. As I only had about 70 euros with me and had to fork out about 60 euros for the fare there was very little left over for anything else. No credit cards in those days! On another occasion pity the poor referee on exchange to France who was told that the match ball was to be dropped into the stadium from a small aeroplane only for the plan to go horribly awry as the

ground was so hard that the ball bounced back outside the stadium!

I did have some great games to referee including the touring South Africa side against a combined Edinburgh/Glasgow XV and the France XV playing Anglo Scots at Cupar of all places. That was the game where the traffic was so heavy that I was in grave danger of not reaching the ground in time for the kick-off so decided to overtake a long line of stationary cars on the wrong side of the road. A police car coming the other way duly put an end to that idea but when I explained that I was the referee they took me direct to the ground. As the Evening News stated the following Monday it was probably the first time that a referee had received a police escort to the ground. On arriving at the ground one of the French players remarked that there was going to be a big crowd at the match judging by the traffic jams.....but he didn't know that it was the Leuchars Airshow that day!

Because it was hard work, I have often said that the "worst" part of refereeing is the eighty minutes on the park but it is the camaraderie and laughs off or on the pitch which made it all worthwhile. I recall refereeing Leith Accies on an international Saturday morning when big John Murphy was propping for Leith. Much to everybody's amusement his shorts burst so a call went out for a replacement pair but back then John was probably a size 48 waist so the chances of finding a replacement pair at Hawkhill at 10.00 o'clock on a Saturday morning were nil! A bit of string did the job however.

I was lucky enough to tour with the FP side to Kenya with the intention of refereeing one or two matches but it came as a shock to be told on arrival by Club captain Alex Brewster that there was to be a training session later that day and that I was refereeing the local cup game in the afternoon. We had taken the odd drink or two on the plane over from Amsterdam, had little sleep, the temperature was about 85 degrees and we were at altitude! Great!

Rugby refereeing has changed dramatically since I retired with payment for officiating at top games, neutral touch judges at club matches, substitutes, the ball never going in straight at scrums and refs being "miked-up". Retired people in any walk of life usually claim that things were better in their day but I leave it to you to decide if rugby is more enjoyable to watch now than it was two decades ago. I had a great few years and visited a lot of places, some games were very difficult like the time I sent off the British Lion Graham Price of Pontypool..... but there were also a lot of laughs.

**Bobby Clark**



## Peter Mann Golf Challenge Mellies vs Daniels

It was on the thirteenth hole at Bruntsfield Links that Bert Hutchinson missed a tiddler to go two down. His playing partner Sam Malcolm made a derogatory remark about Bert's schooling and this sparked Bert into life.

The gauntlet was thrown down for a grand match between the Mellies and the Daniels. Although there may have been golf matches before with Melville College's finest taking on the Daniel Stewart's stalwarts, this time there would be a difference. The match would be played for the Peter Mann Trophy in memory of Ferryfield's genial groundsman and long suffering bar steward.

A bright sunny day at Bruntsfield Links in May with hardly a breath of wind saw the inaugural match for the trophy. The first game saw low handicappers Ian Morrison and Lindsay Duguid take on Richard Hughes and Jeff Forest. This game ebbed and flowed with the Melly team enjoying two birdies in the first three holes and the cunning use of trees by Hughes saw the Mellies home by 2 and 1.

The match was squared when David Thomson (DENT) and Euan Parker (George) came out of the blocks at great speed and built up a commanding lead against Charlie Spence and Simon Haves

Scott which was never challenged. One all.

Out in the country Graham Pole and Bob Young were playing some fancy golf with Pole's pitching a feature of the match. Jack Mainland's back started to play up and ex-cap Ian Forsyth seemed strangely attracted to sand. The Mellies moved into a 2-1 lead overall

Andy Scott and John Campbell played an out of form Moira Lister and Keith Donaldson and Melville took command of the match. With Jim and Gavin Calder playing strong golf (perhaps much stronger than their large handicaps would have suggested), Preacher and Charlie Allan failed to respond. With only one match to finish, the Mellies started to sing their school song "Summer Suns" for victory was theirs

The final match with Burlington Bertie Hutchison and CJ Anderson playing Mike Kidd and Bert Barclay went to the last green where the Daniels triumphed when Bert's usual bunker prowess failed him.

And so the Mellies became the first winners of the trophy by 4 games to 2. Beer was consumed and agreement was unanimous that an annual match would be held. Bert was reminded that had his pairing won their game the final result would have been 5-1, a score which would have reminded him of a football final held on the same day five years previously.

**Sam Malcolm**

# We Will Remember Them

This year, 2017, marks the centenary of several titanic battles which were fought in dreadful conditions in the First World War. Young men from Daniel Stewart's College amongst others were involved and David Clarke, Assistant Archivist and History master at the School has pieced together this powerful account of the actions of 8 of these men.



It is about 4.30 on the morning of Monday 9th April, 1917. A young subaltern shivers on the firestep. He is dressed according to orders in a private soldier's uniform in a bid to reduce the grim fact that junior officers such as he can statistically expect to survive

no longer than six weeks at the front. He is absolutely soaked to the skin as General Allenby has decreed that greatcoats be left at the divisional dump behind the lines. His sergeant presses a tot of rum on him. By his own admission it is the first time this 19 year old boy has taken neat spirits. At 5.30, he will attempt to lead 4 Platoon, A Company, 9th Royal Scots across No Man's Land, through three German lines held by the Bavarians, and capture a fire trench called Poser Weg. The overall objective is to take the village of Roclincourt. Second Lieutenant James Allison Adams- 'Wee Adams' to the men, Hamish to his anxious mother, has been in France since January as a musketry instructor, passing on the skills he learned as a cadet at Daniel Stewart's College. He joined his battalion in the front line six days ago. It is his first time in the trenches and the first time he has faced going over the top. He is 19. He has less than an hour to live.

The Battle of Arras was a key moment both in the Great War and in Scottish history. With the Scottish 9th, 15th and 51st Divisions present in addition to Canadian and South African Scottish units, more Scotsmen took the fight to the enemy on that April morning than at any previous point in history. A third of the assaulting infantry were Scottish. Arras is a much overlooked battle, and one much misunderstood. The official commemorations during this centenary year saw the usual round of parades, pipes and wreath - laying. Places on an official Scottish government funded visit to Arras were quietly declined to private school students. Selfies were taken with the First Minister amongst the headstones. Nobody visited Roclincourt.

The forces that drew a strong Stewartonian contingent to that fateful valley in northern France began well before the war. In Edinburgh, recruitment to the newly formed Territorial Force from the commercial and respectable artisan classes had succeeded beyond the planners' wildest dreams- with hundreds of men enlisting for a weekend warrior's life of outdoor activities, shooting, and, well, getting down a few ales. The 9th Highland Battalion, Royal Scots was a particular favourite in town- giving new meaning to be 'dressed to the Nines', this unit was the only battalion of the Royal Scots to wear the kilt and was inevitably christened 'The Dandy 9th'. This dash and excitement no doubt appealed to Stewartonian FP Private John Campbell. Enlisting in 1908, John co-managed the family butchery firm, which turned out hundreds of haggis for Edinburgh dinner tables each week- steady, but hardly glamorous work. Two years later, he was joined by William Lindsay, who was commissioned as a junior officer in 1910. By the time the battalion proceeded overseas in February 1915, Mitchell was still a private, but Lindsay was now a temporary captain- though of the same social class and both Stewart's FPs, the rigid social mores of the time would have killed stone dead any fraternisation across the chasm of commission. Lindsay would command D Company, which, along with Campbell and the boys of A Company, would be first over the top on the morning of the 9th April, 1917. The outbreak of war forced many men into



**Kinloch Ogilvie**



**David Cromb**

the ranks who would have never dreamed of wearing khaki. In September 1914, John's younger brother George enlisted in the Dandy 9th, leaving a desirable job at the Royal Bank and hanging up his boots after a successful career at Inverleith. No doubt John had to endure the jibes of his comrades as his younger brother was promoted to Lance Corporal over his head. They were immediately nicknamed 'Niffy' and 'Dooney'. These two men, more than anyone, would ensure that 4 Platoon's attack succeeded at Roclincourt. Lindsay and the Campbell brothers were part of the original draft of the 9th that landed in France in late February 1915, and fought through Second Ypres and the Somme. They would fight again at Arras.

The war disturbed plans and tore apart potential careers. Hamish Adams left his dentistry course to undergo officer training, and Jack MacGregor, after deferring his entry to the army to take his place at the Edinburgh College of Art, was delighted to be drafted to the 9th. He would find himself wearing the Hunting Stewart kilt of his cadet unit again, but this time in battle - the Highland Cadet Volunteers at school were affiliated to the Dandy 9th. Both boys were in the same form, though were separated by Hamish being six days older and being placed in Belford, whilst Jack was in Dean. Both were shy, but good athletes- Hamish took the hundred yards prize in 1913, whilst Jack excelled at tennis and captained the 2nd XV. The war would take them both to Roclincourt with the 9th.

In the forms above, John Ferguson (universally known as Percy from his middle name) took a commission in the 9th, his younger brother Tom one in the 4th, whilst classmates David Cromb gave up his Dundas Bursary at the University of Edinburgh for a commission in yet another battalion of the Royal Scots. John Ogilvie (Kinloch to all) would survive the first day of the Somme before being promoted to an officer. Ogilvie was a cadet corporal and a noted shot (he became a sniper in the 15th Royal Scots) and through careful cultivation of Jack MacGregor, a young protégé in his section, they ensured the Dean shooting team reigned triumphant before the war. They both had the honour of putting up their crossed rifles marksman

**George S. Campbell****Hamish Adams****Jack Macgregor****John M. Campbell****Percy Ferguson**

badges on their scarlet tunics in time for an inspection by H.M. The King in 1913. A couple of years older than Jack and Hamish, Ogilvie was a gutsy performer on the pitch. A player profile in the rugby notes of the College magazine noted in 1913 that he was 'extremely good in forward rushes'. The Germans would discover exactly how strong his attacking spirit was at Arras.

The carefree world of school and the promise of university and careers in peace and prosperity were probably the last thing on the minds of Second Lieutenants Ferguson and Adams as the seconds ticked down to zero. Percy had arrived in France in July 1916 in time for an honourable wounding at the battle of High Wood. Though only 21, he had been in eight previous engagements- it can be no coincidence that his school pal Hamish had been sent to 4 Platoon in A Company, as Percy commanded No. 2. Hamish's platoon sergeant, Bill Hay, was also a family friend, and Catherine Adams had begged Hay to look after her son in the 9th. He would do his best. Bill Hay was the last known survivor of the Dandy 9th and was an eyewitness to the events that followed that morning. In the last years of his life, he vividly remembered 'Wee Adams' licking his parched lips and checking his watch as the hour of attack approached. In the next firebay, Percy Ferguson was making his final checks, and just before kick-off, spent a few minutes with Adams to settle the nerves of the greenhorn Stewartonian. John and George Campbell sat nearby. Now 4 Platoon's Lewis gun team, they feigned indifference, checked their automatic weapon, and smoked. In the driving sleet of the early morning, the brothers took off their waterproof capes and wrapped them round their weapon and pans of ammunition. They might freeze, but the Lewis couldn't be allowed to. The quiet artist Jack MacGregor, also in 4 Platoon, would also have been readying himself for 'The day of doing'.

Percy Ferguson, who once donated exotic shells from Ceylon to the school museum, now watched high explosive shells tearing up the British wire ahead of A Company. Captain William Lindsay with D Company stood ready to advance. Sergeant Bill Hay describes the moment of attack: '...Adams tapped me on the shoulder indicating 'Go'. I was first up the ladder

and once on the top I turned about and put out my hand to assist him up; then there was a loud 'Clang!' and his steel helmet went spinning in the air. He was shot clean through the head and fell straight back into the trench. 'How bloody ridiculous!' I shouted, as if the Germans were listening. 'He was only a boy!'

Hamish Adam's fighting career began and ended in the time it took to scale a seven foot ladder. A and D Companies surged forwards into No Man's Land, roaring 'Come out you bastards!' Percy Ferguson immediately assumed command of Hamish's platoon- and was immediately killed by the same sniper that finished his school friend. Bill Hay saw men dropping to the ground all around him- he thought that they were taking cover. They weren't. With thick belts of uncut wire and the enemy massing in strength, the 9th were facing massacre. It was at this moment that Niffy and Dooley Campbell stepped forwards- laying down with their Lewis gun, they opened a rapid fire on the wooden wire posts, literally shredding the German defences and allowing A Company forwards. Within minutes, they were killed next to each other, probably by the same shell that dismissed Bill Hay with a chunk of shrapnel through his foot.

D Company under Captain William Lindsay pressed across No Man's Land and immediately set to work with bomb and bayonet. Their opponents from Munich fought gallantly, but utterly overawed by the skill and sheer aggression of D Company, they soon 'kameraded'. Lindsay rapidly brought the captured position under his command, and having secured it sent back valuable information as to the position of battalions attacking on his flanks. His well-earned Military Cross was gazetted at the end of the month. Percy and Hamish's Company Sergeant Major Jack Renwick stalked the sniper that had killed the two school friends- and bloodily settled the score. Somewhere in No Man's Land, Jack MacGregor was dead too. The survivors dug in, opened their haversacks, and peeled boiled eggs with chilled fingers. It was dawn, Easter Monday, 1917.

The editorial of July 1917 issue of the Stewart's College Magazine exhorted its readers to keep the faith and quit themselves

like men. The magazine, filled with obituaries from Arras, now makes curiously uplifting reading. It is full of the sort of sentiment my colleagues and I feel about our pupils now, but professionalism prevents us from ever really expressing. Perhaps we should. Jack MacGregor, forever 19, is recorded as a 'shy boy with a pleasant smile... a great favourite with his fellow students and his comrades in arms'. On the same page are the photographs of Percy Ferguson and Hamish Adams- a straightforward story of school, war, death. Hamish's company commander, Captain Pat Blair, was unable to express to his mother 'all we thought of the boy'. A friend of Percy Ferguson states unequivocally that 'he was, without a doubt, one of the best officers we had'. David Cromb- 'a thorough gentleman' is also there- he escaped the carnage of Arras only as far as the 23rd April, when he fell in the great assault at the Roeux Chemical Works. Kinloch Ogilvie appears a few pages later- winning the first of his two Military Crosses- for running through the British barrage with guide tapes to gaps in the German wire. Incredibly, given his penchant for this sort of reckless gallantry, he survived the war, though his contemporaries didn't.

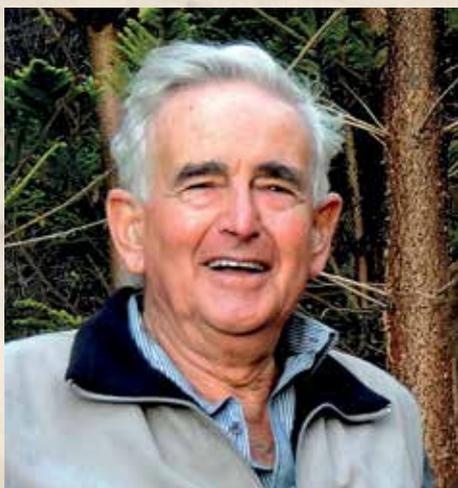
Despite the incredible detail, none of the obituaries mention the bonds of friendship between the men. Why would they? Any reader in 1917 would know that George and John were off together, that Percy had taken Hamish under his wing, that Kinloch had taught Jack his way around a rifle. It is time that unpicks this unspoken web- I hope I have in some respects rethreaded it. My final thoughts lie with Dooley and Niffy's mother, Jessie. Having lost both her eldest son and husband within six months in 1913, she placed her sons' Government Issue bronze death plaques on the family headstone, each one, according to the inscription, recording that John and George 'died for freedom and honour'. They lie buried next to each other in Roclincourt, but the inscription she chose for each of them was simply 'Amavimus'- 'We loved him'. These men belonged to Stewart's in their boyhood, and now they are our heritage. A century has passed- but a good name lives forever.

**David Clarke**

*History Master and Assistant School Archivist, DSMC*

# Letter From Oz

Stuart Gearey - A Stewartonian Ventures "Down Under"



In the 1950s a university degree was not considered a necessity to pursue a career in farming. And so it was that, seeking a farming property of my own, my career path took me from Daniel Stewart's to "The Land Of Opportunity" – Australia.



My journey to the Aussie Outback included the adventure of grooming "Salad Days", the horse which won Gold in the Equestrian Three Day Event in Rome in 1960, for the Melbourne Royal Easter Show in 1958. Ever westward bound, the overseer's position on the largest Merino Sheep stud at Blackall, in Queensland's central west, was to be a position offering a huge diversity of experience. This property, which sold 3,288 stud rams in 1964, covered an area of 105,500 acres.

From mustering to shearing, fencing to farming, mechanical maintenance to windmill and bore servicing, accounting to head office reporting, veterinary skills to carpentry and from welding to killing and dressing the very meat that we ate, the diversity of "hands on" involvement was endless. Our remote outback location demanded that we be self-reliant. A breakdown of a bulldozer or grader could require a spare part order which would take two weeks to arrive from Rockhampton. Even the 35mm movies, for the station community's entertainment, had to be ordered well in advance!

Having a school on the property required the services of a teacher. Our sporting outlet, apart from station tennis parties and cricket played in town, was the Australian conceived sport of Polocrosse. This was played using our station mustering horses.

With a weekly mail truck delivery, it was necessary to operate a station store. This

not only stocked the food supplies for eight kitchens, but must have on hand, tools, mechanical spare parts, fencing materials, various fuels and lubricants, saddlery, animal husbandry drenches and dips and agricultural fertilizers and stock feeds.

The annual off-shears sale of 9,649 head, conducted on the property, represented the station's rejected sheep. These included the culled weaners and one year of cast-for-age ewes. The photos, taken from the roof of the shearing shed, are self-explanatory of the scale of the operation.

Even the logistics of bringing the stock in for shearing was done with military precision. Flocks from outer paddocks (requiring days of mustering!) had to be brought in whilst avoiding the outgoing, shorn sheep, without getting them mixed. All of this was done having regard to the animal's need to have feed available throughout the process.

The image depicting my only Scottish contact with an animal of the equine variety, indicates from whence I came. Saddled up and ready for a polocrosse carnival shows a learning curve leading, perhaps, to bandy legs! My new life surely revealed an immeasurable contrast.

An era now lost in the past. An era superseded by motorbike and aerial mustering. An era when rail and drover stock movements are now replaced by road trains. Drone supervision of watering points now replaces the miles of driving or riding which were necessary to check dams and troughs.





*My only Scottish contact with a Horse*

This is but a chapter in the saga of Stuart Gearey. How could this lead to a water skiing business, coach company, travel agencies, a clothing factory and becoming a male escort? – But that's another story.

### Change of Direction

The very excellent training with the Australian Estates Company prepared me for the management of any property, but, what happened to the dream of actual ownership? My hard won savings could not stretch to 100,000 acres in the west, but a couple of hundred acres in coastal climes could be achievable. So, eastward bound to manage a vealer producing property whilst I sought out a suitable farm. Ah! The nuances of fate! Dairying took a turn whereby the evolving trend was towards over capitalisation. I was convinced that this direction would not prove financially viable. Now the owner of this property, by chance, happened to be developing a Lake Resort just south of the Queensland border. I just happened to become involved in driving the commercial ski boat in my spare time. Perhaps, one could say, a subtle change in my career path was negotiated with the purchase of that skiing business.

Did I do my business plan homework? Obviously not! With the boom income periods somewhat restricted to the Christmas and Easter holidays, how to eat and support my recently purchased first home for the rest of the year was something to be addressed. The manufacture of wetsuits could fill the void! People buy wetsuits during the winter for Skiing, Diving and Surfing - but wetsuit sales dry up in summer. What to do? I now had a factory, machines and staff, so the logical progression was to enter the realm of clothing manufacturing! I always wanted to get into bikinis and the only way was to make them, along with board shorts, beachwear and a variety of female attire.

In the meantime, it proved expansionist to use coaches to bring people down to the ski beach. This led to becoming a one third owner of an embryonic coach company. Coaches, of course, could do more than just supply water skiers, and so a holiday club (It grew to 4,200 members!) and two travel agencies ensued. So here I found myself, sitting in my office near the New South Wales/Queensland border, frantic! Life was busy, very busy, when the phone rang.

'Twas Danny Tye, my friend from New Zealand, who was establishing his Sunbeam Tour Company in Australia. "Stuart, would you like to go to Fiji?" "Danny, I'd love to go to Fiji but I don't have the time to go to Fiji!" "Stuart! It won't cost you anything!" My Scottish heritage dictated that I reorganise my business life in order to avail myself of his offer!

And so, out of the blue, I became a "male escort" or, in other words, a "tour director". Not knowing what to do gave me carte blanche to be resourceful. Thirty two customers were scrutinising the performance of their leader, and, on the first evening, when I had to put on welcome drinks and nibbles, none of the pre-ordered refreshments materialised. Fiji time dictated that I would be lucky to have the delivery by breakfast time! My party venue, a penthouse on the second floor, opened on to a vista of heavily nutted palm trees. A desperate search of the gardens found a hapless gardener who, upon admitting that he could shin up a palm tree, was coerced into giving a demonstration of palm tree climbing right outside my veranda. His skill with a knife quickly trimmed the top off the gathered nuts, thus supplying the party drinks, followed by nibbles of very fresh coconut! Crisis overcome! Upon our Boeing 747 return to Australia, I was able to get every last person in my group onto the flight deck of our plane in flight. Not a possibility in this day and age!

The positive outcome of my introduction to escorting led to many years of trips including 60-day around the world, 30-day South America, 30- day Orient, India, Cashmere and Nepal. I feel that I was living history by being privileged to have dinner at night, for thirty days, with a ninety three year old Hal Litchfield, who had been a navigator for Sir Charles Kingsford Smith aboard the famous Southern Cross.

I was so fortunate to have had very capable managers whilst I travelled with my tour groups. Some itineraries were conceived by my own organisation, whilst others I directed for my friend Danny, through his Sunbeam Tour Company. The tour director era led me to experience exciting times! For example, being relieved of 30,000 \$US in San Francisco (Tour operational funds!), to experiencing a sub machinegun prodded purposefully into my belly in Chile and to being held to ransom in Peru. I called it life enriching! On a 60-day around the world tour I would turn over one and a quarter million US dollars in eleven different currencies braced in a coach aisle with calculator in hand. This being in the days before the Euro came into being.

In this current day and age, it is said that one could expect to be retrained several times in a lifetime. Perhaps I pioneered the concept, as my path, viewed through the rear view mirror, covered a wide spectrum of different careers which actually melded into a cohesive interacting group.

Would I change a thing? Perhaps I would change my solicitor! He relieved me of \$480,000 in 1986 and went to jail for his misdemeanour – But that's another story!

Finally, though, I'm always happy to hear from any Stewart's lads who may venture into this part of the world.

**J. Stuart Gearey**

# Gavin Park – DSMC Boy and Man



I joined Primary 1 at Daniel Stewart's and Melville College in 1978, the year DSMC merged with The Mary Erskine School and The Combined Junior School was created. I was in Miss McVey's class in one of the old – now decommissioned - tent-shaped classrooms in the South West corner of the site which were

most recently used as Primary 4 and 5 classrooms; the younger primary children are now based at the MES site. I remember quite clearly my first visit to DSMC for my entrance interview with Mrs Dryden. My parents had all but decided that I would go to another Merchant Company school



## The Young Gavin

closer to our home in the South of the city but felt that we should at least visit DSMC. It was actually Bill Knox, the Head Janitor, who swung the decision: as we walked through the gate of Home House, we bumped into him and he said, 'you must be Gavin.' A clever set-up perhaps, but my parents loved it and within a year, we were living in Cramond and I was a DSMC boy! After leaving School, I attended St Andrew's University from 1992-1996 to read Divinity. While I was a scientist at School, years of talking theology with my Church of Scotland Minister grandfather in his book-lined study had convinced me that this is what I should study at university; I think he hoped that I would follow him, as he had followed his father, into the parish ministry rather than the classroom. Following my teacher training year, I was appointed a teacher of Religious Studies and boarding house tutor at Bedford School. Interestingly, and unbeknown to me at the time, this is the school where Ernie Wilkins began his teaching career before moving to Daniel Stewart's. Bedford was a wonderful school and the perfect place to begin my teaching career; I was very fortunate to work for a super Head of Department and an outstanding boarding Housemaster who prepared me well for the move to Stewart's. Believe it or not, returning to Stewart's had never been part of the plan. Having spent two very happy years at Bedford School, I decided that it was time to return to Scotland, and preferably Edinburgh. I picked up a copy of the Times Educational Supplement for the first time in two years to find that the only Religious Education job to

be had in Edinburgh was Head of Religious Studies at Stewart's Melville College! I decided to apply and, rather surprisingly, was called for interview. However, I felt sure that Patrick Tobin was simply being kind by providing some valuable interview practice to a young and inexperienced FP! On the day of my interview, I was reminded just how young I was when I bumped into a Sixth Form boy who remembered me as the Sixth Form Buddy to his Primary 5 class in 1990-91 and said 'Hi Gavin. What are you doing here?' I was therefore rather surprised when Patrick Tobin telephoned me that evening to offer me the job.

It felt perfectly natural to return to SMC after leaving only 8 years previously and, at the same time, rather strange to return to Stewart's Melville as a member of staff. Going into the Staff Room for the first time was a big step but my colleagues were very friendly, with my former teachers being the most welcoming of all.

Today the boys are always intrigued when they discover I am an FP and will often ask if there are any teachers still on the staff who taught me as a boy; when I am feeling mischievous, I name names! I often find myself telling the boys stories about DSMC in the 80s and 90s and the characters who taught me. Wally Shaw, Iain Crosbie and Ernie Wilkins are frequently mentioned as examples of people who inspired me in the classroom and, more importantly, cared deeply about the young people they taught. Needless to say that the subjects I enjoyed most were the ones taught by these teachers – RE, Latin and Chemistry respectively. It occurred to me, only years after leaving School, that my school subject choices were as much about choosing the people I liked as it was about the courses they taught! I remember very little about Esters, Alkenes or the poetry of Catullus but I do remember Ernie's frequent digressions

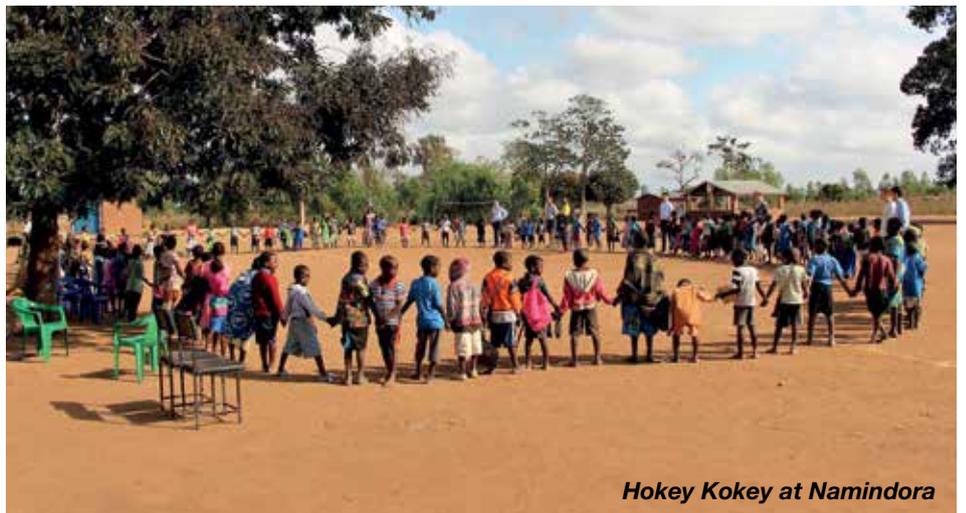
into current affairs, Wally's ghost stories and how Iain made us all laugh . . . a lot.

In 2013-14 I became Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Senior School Admissions, Form 1 and Boarding. In these roles, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to support young people and their families as they make the move to Stewart's Melville College, whether they come to us from our own Junior School or from further afield. I am also very fortunate to lead the annual Stewart's Melville College Malawi trip, which has been running since 2005. Each July, ten S5 boys travel to Malawi to work in our four partner schools in the Mulanje Region of Southern Malawi, teaching English, Maths and Sport to classes of up to 100 students.

Overall, however, how has the School changed? The facilities have certainly come a long way since I was at School and the buildings are in better shape than ever. The range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available to our young people is also wider than it has ever been - just pick up a copy of a recent Collegian! In terms of ethos, the staff-pupil relationship is as respectful as it always was, but more relaxed and friendly, in a good way. I often hear adults grumbling that young people today are lazy, ill-mannered, irresponsible and self-centred but I'm not disposed to join the moaners because what they say about young people is simply not true. I happen to think that the young men of today's Stewart's Melville could be the most caring, responsible and altruistic generation of boys to have passed through this school. The atmosphere of the place, the nature of its relationships and the calibre of its young people are as good, if not better, than they were when I was a pupil here.

We adults could all learn a thing or two from the boys' example!

## Gavin Park



Hokey Kokey at Namindora

Aubrey Chalmers was a journalist for a national newspaper for many years and, on reading last year's edition of FP News, has sent this account of his recollections of a special day at School.

I was eleven years old when I met my first real hero.

He was a former pupil who left the war behind for a few hours to make a swift visit to Daniel Stewart's College in Edinburgh to show us his newly awarded Victoria Cross. It was in the latter years of the war and everybody was hyped up with the expectation of victory.

Perhaps few of us listened to what the dapper moustachioed Flight Lieutenant in his smart RAF uniform had to say because we were mesmerised by the purple ribbon from which hung the cross of dark metal.

And disappointed. Why should such a uniquely prestigious medal look so dreary? It had been drilled into us that this was the highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy and many of us were boggle-eyed in expectation of seeing a glittering decoration. Of course nobody had explained that the medal was cast in gunmetal taken from a Crimea War cannon.

And the Flt. Lieutenant himself. Well. He looked so modest. He didn't actually look like a hero. From graphically illustrated stories in Boy's Own and breathless tales of heroism on the wartime radio series Into Battle, we boys had formed our own image of what a hero should look like.

But this RAF Officer looked just like any other RAF man you saw in the street. In fact, given that the headmaster was at his shoulder, he could even have been a little nervous. Definitely not the stuff a hero is made from. Definitely not a man who would stand out in a crowd. Definitely not what we expected.



**Flight Lieutenant John Cruickshank**

Unfortunately nobody explained that the poor man had just recovered from terrible wounds and a smart uniform concealed his damaged frame.

On July 17, 1944, Flight Lieutenant John Cruickshank was the pilot of a Catalina Flying Boat which had attacked a huge modern German U-boat in the crucial Battle of the Atlantic. His plane was hit by a torrent of anti-aircraft shells, killing one member of the crew and injuring two others as well as setting the aircraft ablaze.

The engagement was inside the Arctic Circle north west of the Lofoten Islands and the crew stood no chance if they had to ditch.

Cruickshank was hit by shrapnel in 72 places and had two puncture wounds in his lungs. Nevertheless, he went in for a second attack skimming 50 ft. above the waves, dropping the depth charges himself, and sinking the U Boat. Cruickshank lost so much blood he lapsed in and out of consciousness during a five and a half hour flight home. He recovered sufficiently to circle the landing area at Sullam Voe, Shetland, for an hour until conditions were right before landing successfully and beaching his crippled plane.

When he left hospital many months later, King George VI invested him with his VC at Holyrood Palace. Then the pilot came to visit his old school.

It was scarcely surprising that our School hero did not look the part. The men of RAF Coastal Command were virtually invisible in the war.

Their task was to combat the menace of the U-boats which were intent on strangling Britain's fragile supply lines. They worked unseen over vast expanses of ocean to protect our merchant seamen and vital supplies for the UK. There was neither the glamour of the Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot nor the excitement of bomber crews in the propaganda film Target for Tonight.

Flyers of Coastal Command lived in huddled towns far from civilisation and they engaged in patrols, lasting as long as 14 hours at a time, over a vast expanse of sea seeking packs of U-boats which followed merchant ships like sharks waiting to strike at a straggler.

Their enemy was the weather and the sea rather than the Germans. If their aircraft came down it would certainly be in the ocean with the prospect of a lingering death in an open dinghy. Unless they were terribly lucky. The returns for their efforts were meagre.

In one period during 1942-43 Coastal Command lost 170 aircraft over the Bay of Biscay for the sinking of only ten U-boats. Altogether, Coastal Command lost 11,000 men. During my working life as a journalist for a national newspaper I have met many other heroes but I have never forgotten that day at School when Cruickshank came to visit. I tried to ask what I thought were intelligent

questions: How many crew on the Catalina? What sort of guns did it have? How do you find your way around the sea without landmarks? How many hours do you do on a trip?

The session was brought to an abrupt halt, I seem to remember, when somebody with a weak bladder asked if there were toilets on the aircraft. The question came from a lad whose hand was frequently held aloft seeking permission to "leave the room," as the matter was delicately put in those days.

The answer to each and every question, including that about performing body functions, was a negative. It was classified information. Much later I was to discover that the Catalina had an amazing range of 3,750 miles, that it was armed with six .303 machine guns, had a crew of seven or eight and carried four depth charges. Cruickshank, within the Arctic Circle, must have been at the very limit of his aircraft's range.

That day, however, we went back to class speculating on the highly practical question put by the boy with the weak bladder: how could somebody go to the toilet when they were surrounded by miles of sea? The consensus was that they just opened a porthole or hatch in the aircraft and emptied a potty.

Years later I was to develop the art of wheedling scraps of information from a reluctant interviewee. But, as a boy of eleven, with the stern headmaster peering at me over the top of his reading spectacles, I stood no chance. Nor, I suspect, did Flt. Lieutenant Cruickshank VC for the very same reason.

Bravery in action can easily evaporate in the presence of your former headmaster; a hero, reverting to a classroom environment, is a hero no longer. He probably felt like a sixth former addressing younger classmates.

Actually he was a bank clerk before he volunteered, first for the Royal Artillery, and then for the RAFVR. The School was extremely proud of him and for years we would give Cruickshank's photograph an admiring glance as we passed it in the corridor. A form of silent salute or tribute.

Now my hero has resurfaced, in person, at the age of 96 (now 97). And, in the 73 years since he gained his VC, I gather from the FP Club he has maintained the same modesty that he showed that morning he stood in the School chapel to talk to us.

He was leading a campaign to provide a permanent memorial for those men of Coastal Command. Perhaps it might be a modest pillar of granite at some lonely spot on the coast to commemorate the invisible and modest heroes.

Like himself.

**Aubrey Chalmers**

# Branch Clubs...

## ABERDEEN

Like many organisations nowadays, our branch club would like to be able to attract new younger members. The topic was discussed at the AGM held in November, 2016 and it has to be said that no particular solution was identified. In previous years School leavers who were coming to Aberdeen University were contacted to let them know of our existence but regrettably there was little response. Again, all members of the Parent Club with an Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire postcode were circulated in the summer of 2016 but there was a virtual nil-response which was very disappointing. For all that, there is still a desire to continue our dinner which has a longstanding reputation in Aberdeen and is well supported by members and loyal guests.

The Dinner of 2017, held as usual at the Royal Northern and University Club, was a great success, attended by 35 people. It was chaired by Bob Jeffrey and the principal guest and speaker was Professor Jimmy Hutchison who delivered a most amusing toast to the School and FP Club. Principal David Gray was again most welcome and it was good to hear, as part of his speech, some details of the exploits of Jacob Lineen in the agonisingly close-run final of the Scottish Schools' Under 18 Cup. Jacob was the representative from the School at the Dinner.

The date for the 2018 Dinner is Friday 19th January, again at RNUC, and guests will be most welcome as usual. Since the last report there has been a change in personnel, with Bob Jeffrey taking over as President and David Fraser as Vice-President. Bob has also volunteered to take on the secretarial duties from Mike Wheeler who is going to continue as Treasurer. Bob's contact email is: [robertjeffrey@btinternet.com](mailto:robertjeffrey@btinternet.com)

**Mike Wheeler**



## AUSTRALIA BORDERS

Our Annual Lunch was held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017. The venue was Long Reef Golf Club, our usual location on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. The attendees were Ian Anderstrem, Nick Crombie, Ron Gardiner, Sandy Hinshelwood, Brian Hunter and myself. We greatly appreciated Ron Gardiner travelling from Brisbane for our annual lunch.

Apologies were received from Adam Doran, Patrick Buxton, Ian Johnston, Ron Hunter, and Mark Coyle.



**Nick Crombie, Graeme Reid, Brian Hunter, Ron Gardiner, Sandy Hinshelwood, Ian Anderstrem**

One of the topics discussed was the upcoming Lions tour of NZ and the Scotland tour to Australia. Sandy regaled us with stories of his Lions tours in the sixties when they were 'real' tours lasting 3 months or more. He shared a copy of photo of an FP jersey signed by all 6 Lions from the club. And Brian reminded us that when he was playing for FPs in the eighties there were 3 Lions players in the 1st XV (Doug Morgan, Jim and Fin Calder) – an incredible achievement for the club.

We asked Sandy to explain what he was trying to achieve with the unusual tackle of a Welsh prop in 1969 – it is interesting to note this type of smother tackle has not proved too popular.

A decision was taken to meet more regularly and we are planning to hold a Sydney Branch Golf Day in December.

The venue will be Cromer Golf Club on Tuesday 19th December – a game of golf in the morning followed by lunch. Anyone visiting Australia for Christmas is very welcome to join us.

**Graeme Reid**



The Annual Dinner of the club was held on Friday 21st April at the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels and was attended by 28 members and their guests. The evening was chaired by our President, Douglas Stephen who proposed the toast to the School and the Club. David Gray, Principal, replied and his address, as always, was much appreciated by those who have children or grandchildren at School and those who haven't, alike. In addition to two short talks by two of our schoolboy guests, Roy Hardie and Jack Williamson, we were further entertained by the violin playing of Andrés Vázquez-Brennan, who was awarded the Border Club Prize for 2017. Bert Barclay, the Parent Club President, concluded the evening with an appropriate speech. Guests for the evening included the Principal, David Gray accompanied by his wife Hélène who we are always delighted to welcome, the Parent Club President, Bert Barclay, and Jim Mitchell the President of the Border Heriot's Club.



**Doddie Weir In Good Spirits**

The 2018 Annual Dinner will be held on 11th May, rather later in the year than usual. It is hoped that that later date will prove more convenient to a greater number. It will again be held at the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels, a venue we have been returning to each year as a result of their care and attention not only in the preparation of the Dinner but also throughout the evening.

All interested in the club are welcome to contact the Secretary, Finlay Marshall (Tel: 01620 810 310, e-mail [fmarshall542@gmail.com](mailto:fmarshall542@gmail.com)) who would be delighted to hear from you.

**Finlay Marshall**

# GLASGOW

The Annual Dinner was held, once again, at the Blytheswood Hotel in early November and the attendance was encouragingly higher than in previous years. It is unclear whether the presence of Fraser Proven as our guest speaker influenced the turnout as he gave an entertaining account of his time at Daniel Stewart's in the 1950s recalling that he used to get the bus to school from Kirkliston in the company of his younger brother Walter and a youthful Jack Davidson. Fraser was a fine athlete in his youth and he is still enjoying life running a very successful B&B and self-catering operation in Lochearnhead. It was good to see John Crichton back at the dinner after a few years' absence, along with the President of the Parent Club, Charles Wilson MBE and several guests.

Once again it was good to see the Principal, David Gray, attending his last Glasgow branch dinner prior to his

retirement in 2018. He has been a regular supporter of the dinner and for that many thanks. He was given a bottle of Makar, the Glasgow gin which is best enjoyed with a slice of green chilli pepper and hopefully that will remind him of the warm welcome he always received in Glasgow. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

The annual golf match against Edinburgh at Murrayfield went to the last match and the home team triumphed although there was allegedly some jiggery-pokery in the final few holes and this should add spice to next year's encounter.

During the rest of the year some Glasgow members are keen attenders at local festivals



and under the guidance of Festival convenor Hugh Stevenson, the beer festivals at Paisley, Glasgow and Troon were all visited. If you are a former pupil in the west and would like to join the dinner mailing list please contact Rod Hunter [rod@rodcando.co.uk](mailto:rod@rodcando.co.uk)

**Rod Hunter**

# LONDON

The London Club is in good heart with 57 members and whilst many come from London and the 'Home Counties' we also have members resident around England as well as in Switzerland, Spain, France and USA and unusually our current principal office bearers both come from outside the South East.

Our President for the two years 2016 – 2018 is Alastair Cormack who is the Van Derck Frechette Professor of Ceramic Science at Alfred University located in upper New York State and the Senior Vice President is Derek Serafini who runs a Technology business in Worcester – 120 miles from Paddington. Alastair is the first member to follow his father as Club President with John Cormack having held the Office from 1983 to 1986.

The 2017 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 31st March at The Caledonian Club in Belgravia when 40 members and guests sat down to a lovely meal followed by excellent speeches. Our Guest Speaker was Professor Robin Grimes FR Eng, Professor of Materials Physics at Imperial College and Chief Scientific Advisor to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who gave us a most interesting talk. Ross Thompson, the College Head Boy then spoke briefly and was followed by

David Gray, the Principal, who gave us an excellent address with his trenchant thoughts on education.

Our Monthly Pub Nights are when we gather from 6.30 pm at the aptly named "The Clachan", Kingley Street (between and parallel to Regent Street and Carnaby Street) with the pub lying just behind the Liberty store – nearest tube Oxford Circus. We are always pleased to welcome visitors from Scotland or further afield and the StewMel contingent can usually be found at a table towards the back of this busy hostelry often on the small mezzanine area. In a break from tradition these gatherings are switching to the first Tuesday of the month with effect from February 2018. Douglas Forster has taken over from the late David West in organising these monthly gatherings and regales the assembled group with some poetry, for example:

"The lamps are lit, the sky is bright  
As Oxford Street lights up the night.

In Clachan's inglenook espy  
StewMellies chatting, as the world walks by."

The Bard O' Leith  
Aka Douglas Forster

Our 2018 Annual Dinner will be held at The

Caledonian Club on Friday 23rd March and any FPs who fancy a spring break in London would be most welcome – please make contact for further details.

Anyone interested in joining the London Club (the modest £10 subscription has been unchanged for 25 years!) or attending any functions should contact the Secretary, Tom Scrimgeour on 01206 574797 or 07767 392423 or [TomScrimgeour@aol.com](mailto:TomScrimgeour@aol.com)

**Tom Scrimgeour**



**Clachan Bar, Kingley Street**

# Seen Around the Club 2017

The FP Club's "home" is the Clubhouse at Inverleith, however the Club's activities are not restricted to that one place. Events at the Club's

Branches at home and abroad are described in their individual reviews on pages 22 to 23.

Throughout each year a wide variety of functions use the Clubhouse facilities

whether social, cultural, sporting or formal.

The new website – [smcfclub.co.uk](http://smcfclub.co.uk) – keeps you up to date with current and forthcoming events, but to give a flavour of the spread of functions, here is a selection of what was happening throughout 2017.

Inverleith hosted the Scottish U19 vs Scottish Students match and the East 16s & 18s vs the West 16s & 18s, under the auspices of the SRU.

Each month from September to March, **EROS** (Edinburgh Rugby Oldies Society) hold monthly lunches which are always sold out with over 100 like-minded ex-players turning up. After-lunch entertainment is provided by a distinguished personality from the sporting community with his recollections, views etc from the world of rugby. Last January South African referee Tappe Henning explained, amongst other things, why referees nowadays allow scrum halves to put the ball into the scrum squint. Tappe is presently Referee Commissioner at Scottish Rugby and in recognition of his oratorical performance at the lunch, Howard Haslett presented Tappe with a copy of Bill McLaren's TV crib notes for the Scotland vs Samoa match which he refereed at Murrayfield in 1995. Proceeds from these lunches go to several charities.



**EROS Presentation and Bill McLaren's crib sheet**

As a spin-off from these lunches, each Monday there is a **Rugby Memories** coffee-and-chat morning where volunteers spend time with older players reliving their past experiences and is designed to help those suffering from dementia in informal surroundings.

**Saturday mornings** during the winter can be pretty hectic with all School home matches, parents and supporters descending upon the Clubhouse. That is followed by home FP matches in the afternoon and very likely a function in the evening.

**The Minis, Midis and Rugby Academy youngsters** fill the Clubhouse with noise and laughter on Sundays, diving in to BBQs and Pizza Days to recharge their batteries.

**The last Friday in every month**, except December, sees an informal Club Lunch where anyone can just turn up for an excellent hot 3 course buffet amongst friends and colleagues.

The January lunch is a Burns' Lunch and in 2017 John Archer excelled himself by reciting the complete Tam O' Shanter (without a safety net) to a standing ovation.



**John Archer in Full Flow**

It is not unusual for an FP from far-flung shores to turn up to meet old friends and it was good to welcome Ron Gardiner to the September lunch – having come all the way from Brisbane.



**Ron Gardiner**

And, if there is a demand, Family Sunday Lunches may be on the cards for next year.

**At the end of June**, immediately after the School Prizegiving, the FP Club hosts an informal reception of all SMC School leavers. Interesting how this event has become even more popular since the MES girls have been included in recent years!



**School leavers' Reception**

Every Tuesday, **Ladies' gentle exercise** classes are held. **Pilates** are held every Wednesday evening, with **Weight Watchers** on Thursday evenings.

A local Stamp Dealer regularly holds his **quarterly nationwide Stamp Auctions** for outside parties.

It goes without saying that the high quality of catering at Inverleith has attracted many organisations and businesses to regularly hold private functions with us and, somewhat sadly, funeral parties are increasing all the time, partly due to the comparative proximity to Warriston Crematorium combined with excellent parking.



### Club Dinner

In between the regular functions there is a whole variety of individual events and private parties taking different formats, such as:

- Reunions**
- Race Nights**
- Ladies' Nights**
- Quiz Nights**
- Christmas Parties**
- Birthday Parties**
- Annual Dinners**
- Wine & Cheese Evenings**
- Burns Suppers**
- ESMS Sports Day**
- Lions Formal Dinner**
- Ex-staff Lunches**



### Gavin Calder's Memorial Lunch

## Keeping Up Standards

In between all these functions, the Club and the School have regular inspections to keep the whole amenity of the Clubhouse up to scratch. During 2017, the first floor balcony was removed and a new one created off-site. The replacement balcony was officially opened on 30th June. New blinds have been installed on all windows, the foyer was redecorated, and all kitchen equipment, appliances and carpets deep cleaned.

You can find out what events are coming up on the Club's web site:

**smcfclub.co.uk.**

To make a booking or just need more information contact:

**Club Secretary:** Laura McIntosh at:  
Email - [smcfclub@esms.org.uk](mailto:smcfclub@esms.org.uk)  
Phone – 07757 088 838

**Bar Manager:** Denise Mitchell at:  
Email: [deniseminverleith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deniseminverleith@hotmail.co.uk)  
Phone: 07708 199 405

**Catering:** Joyce Waterston  
Email - [joyce@ajcatering.org](mailto:joyce@ajcatering.org)  
Phone - 07775 675 388

## Denise Mitchell Bar Manager Extraordinaire

One face which is instantly recognisable around Inverleith is that of Bar Manager Denise Mitchell and in one of those seldom quieter moments, she describes how she came to be here:

"After leaving school in 1982 my first job was working for SMT Sales and Motoring in Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Leaving there after a year to join the travel industry working for Cotters World Travel which was a great learning experience. Following that I joined AT Mays business travel for John Menzies.

Married my husband Brian in 1985 and then had our first daughter Lauren in 1988.

When Lauren was aged 2 and a half I was asked by the former Club Steward Henry to help out in the bar at Inverleith, having never done bar work before. I was a bit apprehensive, however there was a great buzz about the place which made me feel at home and I've been here ever since. In 1991 I had my second daughter Sarah, then Amy arrived in 1993.

I have worked alongside many bar staff over the years. My first employee was Karen Adamson followed by Mhairi Cooper. The first male I employed was a former pupil, Hamish Homer who, as my children said, I should have adopted because they say he was better treated and fed than they were. I used to say he was a poor student and needed looking after. It was a great joy to see him go through University and then go on to be a successful accountant now living the dream in Bermuda.



Having been with the Club for approximately 26 years I have seen many highs and lows of the various stages that the rugby cricket and hockey clubs have gone through - winning and losing!

Over the years, though, it has also been a great privilege to work alongside many people on various committees.

It must be said that I like my job from doing a varied amount of functions from weddings, dinners, naming days and funerals. The best of all is the great atmosphere there is in the Club on a Saturday afternoon. You can't beat it!

**Denise**



**Official Opening of New Balcony**

## REUNIONS...

Melville Year of  
**1963**

Our reunion in October 2017 followed what is becoming a tried and tested and successful format - an informal lunch at the Café Royal followed by a dinner at Bruntsfield Golf Club in the evening including partners.

**Boys Only Lunch**

Sadly since last year we have lost two of the 1950 intake who have been loyal supporters of the reunion – Frazer Madder, a motor sports enthusiast, and Gordon Stewart, younger brother of Frank and older brother of Peter. Gordon's family organised a celebration of his full and varied life at Inverleith in May and that allowed everyone to share fond memories.

Peter MacNaughtan, an occasional but very welcome attendee, was the furthest travelled this year along with Michael Walls from the Home Counties and other regular attendees now resident in England were George Ellis and Douglas Scott. Twelve in all came to the Café Royal and an extra 5 came to the evening dinner.

Not everyone can be a regular attendee but in the electronic age it is easy to keep in touch and provide an opportunity each year to catch up, even if it is only once in a while. Long may it continue!

**Mike Wheeler**

**Dinner with Partners**

**Front row: Gordon Smith, Tom Purves, David West (seated), Ron Lyle, Wilson Marshall, Neil Muir, Steve Mitchell, Jack Welsh, David Naismith, Theo Skinner, Niall Lothian.**

DSC Class of **1966****50 YEARS ON**

In the manner of the Conservative Party in the Macmillan years when "soundings were taken" to choose its new leader, Douglas Stuart and I unwittingly found ourselves following the decades-old tradition of arranging our class reunion to celebrate the 50 years we've been away from School. Wilson Marshall started the ball rolling at the 30-year mark and David West corralled us at 40. Believe it or not, on each occasion the numbers have increased. At the end of October 2016, 27 boys donned black tie and got together in the New Club for a celebratory dinner.

Bob Haywood, our Head Boy and now an engineer resident in Surrey, took the chair (a thankless task as the wine continued to flow) and Jim Gibson, minister of Bothwell Church and one of the Queen's chaplains in Scotland, gave the grace. Douglas Stuart (a retired GP in South Queensferry) and Nigel Smith (an importer of machinery in Leicestershire) topped the toast list. Their

witty speeches were punctuated by virtually all present in a display of mildly unruly behaviour which would not have been tolerated 50 and more years before.

After the meal we went on to the balcony of the club where those who had left Edinburgh years before could see the City in all of its floodlit glory. David Naismith, another retired GP, flew in from Vancouver and Steve Mitchell, a former university librarian, made it from Johannesburg. The next day, my wife and I hosted a lunch for the class together with wives and partners. Some intriguing conversations were to be heard as boys met former girlfriends now married to their classmates!

For readers of a certain age it may interest them to know that sons of four former masters attended the weekend, those of Herbert Robbie, headmaster of the School until his untimely death in 1964, George Blamire, head of Art, Bill Malcolm, head of Technical Subjects and Tom Lothian, School Chaplain.

**Niall Lothian**

DSC Year of **1964**

The Stewart's Class of 1964 held its 53rd Annual Dinner at Inverleith on 28 December 2016, a significant date as explained below. We had a bumper attendance of 19, with apologies from 15 others, several of whom were in distant parts of the world. As well as the hard core of regulars, we were very pleased to welcome George Lyall whom we hadn't seen for many a year. Once again we were rewarded with a warm welcome from Denise and Brian and another excellent meal.

After dinner the gathering was pleased to hear greetings from our absent friends. We then came to a special part of the

evening. 2016 was the year when most of us reached the big seven-oh (one or two having got there in 2015). The baby of the class is the irrepressible Hugh Stevenson and the day of the dinner was his 70th birthday. A celebratory cake was wheeled in and there was a small outburst of community singing to congratulate everyone collectively and Hugh in particular. It was agreed to hold our 54th dinner on Hugh's 71st birthday, deo volente. After a few more refreshments, everyone set off into the night in good heart.

**Adam McBride.**

# Melville Year of 1967 **A 50TH REUNION**

Quite a few events occurred in 1967, the Vietnam War was continuing under Lyndon Johnson's watch, there was a Six Day war in the Middle East, Harold Wilson the then Prime Minister decided that the UK would apply to join the EEC, subsequently vetoed by President de Gaulle of France. There was the Torrey Canyon oil spill and a civil war in Nigeria when Biafra tried to secede. The QE2 was launched at Clydebank and finally that year Celtic won the European Cup.

However that summer a good number of those pictured left Melville, having experienced our final leaving concert and prizegiving at the Usher Hall. We are now not looking as we were then but if our memories were up to it we did recall and share many stories of our years in Melville Street.

We have been meeting mostly on an annual basis for a number of years, usually in the centre of Edinburgh although one year we did take ourselves down to Inverleith for a lunch then watched a match against Edinburgh Accies – at least the meal was good.

Eleven of us gathered together at La Petite Folie in Randolph Place on Saturday 29th October. We had come from all parts, the south of England, the Highlands, Borders, Glasgow and Edinburgh. We had all a common bond and that was reinforced, sharing our experiences and memories from the early days Miss Stewart, Miss Pratt through into senior school being taught and trained by such as Ronnie King, Bob Fleming, Jake Young, David Sibley, Arthur (Chunky) Bain, Jimmy Ray and so many others, too many to mention. We recalled Miss Mair teaching us country dancing in the gym and dreading the changeover when some of us had to be girls wearing the red sash to distinguish us "I'll make a



girl of you yet!" was a cry well remembered even after all these years.

The most poignant moment was when we toasted absent friends and recalled those classmates we had lost over the recent past, such as Roy Stewart and Robin Macqueen. There may also have been others and one of our particular problems is keeping in touch so apologies if either there are Former Pupils of our era who could have come along or are no longer with us. My email address is appended to this article so if there is anyone interested in coming along to future annual events then please get in touch.

Our picture is taken after the meal when we retired downstairs to the wine bar and as an aide to any who would not recognise us, the names are from left to right:

**Robyn Aitchison, Jon MacQueen, John Stewart, Mike Surowiak, Johnny**

**Hood, Barry Meadows, Jimmy Cowper, Alasdair Smith, Danny McPhail-Smith, Rod Jack and Robin Cownie.**

We had been hoping to have a few others with us but they could not make it for one reason or another and they were Stewart Forsyth, David Hubbard and Michael White. Our mailing list also extends abroad but for obvious reasons they could not join us, such as Mike Hudson, Ken McGregor and Dave Lind. They were not forgotten.

All of us appreciate that some memories were better than others but our key wish is that through these meetings we are able to share openly - even admit - we were not without fault but confirm our shared brotherhood for all those many days and years spent together at Melville College.

**Danny McPhail-Smith**  
Danny.m-smith@sky.com

## SMC Year of 1997 **20 YEAR REUNION**

In conjunction with the anniversary of leaving Stewart's Melville College, a 20 year reunion was organised on 25th August 2017 for the 'Class of 1997'. There were 3 components of the reunion... Firstly, fifteen former pupils met at the reception of SMC for an element of nostalgia as they were treated to a tour of the School by Bryan Lewis - this was a great experience as we were allowed to indulge our memories of the School whilst being in awe of the new facilities - along with much appreciated honesty from Bryan. This

was followed-up by the full reunion with the Inverleith Clubhouse being privately hired out where thirty members of the class of 1997 caught up – some still close friends whilst others met for the first time in 20 years; it was a great moment to see so many enjoying the moment and really embracing the whole reason for the reunion, including a round of Stew Mel Cocktails! Finally, a dozen managed to make their way to Fingers Piano Bar to enjoy a few final drinks whilst stories continued to be shared and new ones created. Thanks to all that attended, the support of Bryan / Suzie from SMC, and Denise from Inverleith..... now onto the 30 year reunion!

**Chris Breeze**



## REUNIONS...

### DSC Year of 1967

Once upon a time, about 1960 in fact, some 11 year olds found themselves calculating in what year they would leave school. 1967, said one; can't be, said the others, that's too far off to be real. Well, sure enough, they left school in 1967, and that was 50 years ago. But what's happened in those 50 years? And why does it matter?

First of all, the reunion. We've had maybe three others, at 10 year intervals or more; and again we are grateful to Rodger Clyne who quietly keeps in touch with people, proposes the events, and does all the careful detail of organisation. To mark what was definitely a special anniversary, we started with a big dinner at the Murrayfield Hotel on the Friday night, in the company of wives and partners. That was a civilised and highly sociable occasion.

Then on the Saturday to the Clubhouse at Inverleith for a boys' dinner. 25 attended, including a first return visit by two schoolmates now living in Germany and Spain. The reunion was enlivened by Alistair Main's idea of preparing a Yearbook, which describes the School as we knew it, complete with unsparing recollections of our teachers, both the well regarded and the despised, and a summary of the diverse jobs which have kept us mostly in employment since School. Alistair and a team of sub-editors had spent a few weeks collecting and assembling material and photographs, and it's an absorbing read.

But why is a reunion worth doing? On one level, there is nothing special about being 68. It may not feel like 50 years since we left School, but a glance round the room says that we are getting older, and there is nothing we can do about that. And not everyone was there: we noted respectfully that a number of the class of '67 have died, not all of them recently. Some classmates chose not to come on this occasion; some were unable to travel for various reasons; and we have simply lost touch with some others.

Schooldays are a weird time: random boys lumped together by age, and by the income bracket and aspirations of their parents. Some boys had remained in close touch in the years after School,



**Attendees at Inverleith: Back Row: Sandy Wood, Nick Barnett, Drew Gilchrist, David Swan, Hamish Mundie, Rod Bunney, David Revolta, Ian Trapp, Ian Grant, Dougal Spaven, Michael MacPhail, Graeme Notman. Middle Row: Alastair Neilson, Gordon Campbell, Len Wolfe, John Russell, Bill Taylor, Chris Powis, Rodger Clyne, Philip Hutton, Alasdair Macinnes. Front Row: Gordon Roberts, Don McMillan, Alistair Main, Dave Alexander.**

while others had gone their own way. But as our various wives and partners noted, this is now a coherent, companionable and supportive group. The rough edges of competitive adolescence have been rubbed off.

There is no doubt that we are a privileged generation: we have lived almost without noticing in a time of peace and economic growth, with secure employment, subsidised university education, jobs and careers, affordable housing, and – hopefully – adequate pensions. And all this on the foundation of a decent education at Daniel Stewart's. So we finished by singing the School Song, allegro con spirito; and our reunion is a way of celebrating both the past and the future. Here's to the next time.

**David Revolta**

### ESMS Class of 1987 30 YEAR REUNION

Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville 1987 leavers met up in June to mark 30 years since leaving School.

Around 80 FPs got together for an evening of memories and catching up in the Devil's Cut in the West End. Social media made the organising of the event easier than it would have been in the past. It also allowed the sharing of old photographs (some of which should have been long lost....) and a lively discussion on the playlist for the night's disco.

Many people travelled to be there including Gillian Barnard from Germany and two from the USA (Robin Coupar from San Francisco and Roslyn Adams from Boston). Journeys from some parts of the UK (Brighton) may have taken just as long.

The day chosen coincided with the Mary Erskine Former Pupils Guild's annual lunch at Ravelston and a small group of the "boys" also had a guided tour of Stewart's Melville seeing new developments over the last three decades (Thanks to Bryan Lewis).

A good time was had by all and many old friends were able to catch up..... some talk of another event in five years' time.

A photo was taken to mark the evening – some had left for trains and buses, but here is the group that made it to the end of the evening.

**Euan Dobson**



# School Reports...

## Development Office



**Suzi Squires**

### Parent Champions & School Community

Our parent champions and community programme has gone from strength to strength this year with a wide variety of events taking place for the whole community. From musical extravaganzas to family ceilidhs, gatherings in bars in town to formal receptions at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, there has been something for everyone this year!

### A Little Night Music

Our new annual concert was a huge success as parents, alumni and friends of the schools came together at the Hilton Grosvenor for a celebration of music at ESMS past and present. Former Head of Brass, Alan Samson, brought his band Paraffin Joe to perform a mixture of jazz, big band and popular music. Freja Price, a talented sixth year pupil, performed with accomplishment accompanying the band on some of her favourite show tunes and finally, as an added bonus, our Junior School Show Choir performed superbly as they sung some of the numbers from their recent involvement in 'Joseph and the amazing technicolour dreamcoat' at the Playhouse, accompanied by Graham Bruce as Joseph and Freja Price as the Narrator. It was a lovely night for the audience, some of whom do not often have the opportunity to attend musical productions at school.

## Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Reception

After the success of last year's reception, we managed to secure three dates for the Tattoo this year and entertained over 100 guests over the course of the festival. The performances were preceded with receptions in different locations, either in Royal Gallery of the REMT high above the Esplanade or in their office Boardroom, with some of the best views in Edinburgh. Guests enjoyed the magnificence of the Tattoo performance, which for the fifth year in a row featured a young choir from ESMS.



## Engage & Connect & Careers

ESMS Connect has been a very popular addition to our services and has allowed many fifth and sixth year pupils to seek advice and find support or work experience from alumni and parents to help with their career development. We have just launched to this year's S5 pupils and we hope their search for work experience is fruitful!

Our Engage events continue with a wide range of presentations from alumni and parents on a variety of topics. These range from starting up a small business to managing career change to getting back to work after a career break. They remain very popular events and plans are already in place for the early part of 2018.

We continue to work very closely with our careers co-ordinators at both MES and SMC to help pupils to get support with their choices at various different stages of their school career.

## Highland Chase

The ESMS Highland Chase and P7 Challenge took place in May with all 34 children and alumni managing to complete the 'chase' from Fort William to Inverarnan. The children walked 55 miles over three days and the alumni went up and down Ben Nevis before chasing the children down the West Highland Way to the end. Over £20,000 was raised for two charities: Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity and Access to Excellence. Thank you to all the children, alumni and staff who helped to make the walk possible and a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored the individuals or teams taking part. A particular thanks to Cullerton's for sponsoring our alumni accommodation over the weekend. Our challenge in 2018 will be particularly special so watch out for news of this early in the new year.

### Bottom of the Devil's Staircase



## Alumni Reunions & Tours

During the year, the Development Office has assisted in the arrangements of the following Class Reunions:

### DSC 1967

The 50th reunion of the Daniel Stewart's College Class of 1967 took place on Saturday 4th November. A group of around 20 enjoyed a tour of the school as it is today before repairing to Inverleith for a dinner in the evening with a larger group.

### MC 1967

A small group of Melville College class of 1967 leavers got together on Saturday 28th October.

### ESMS 1987

A joint Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville class of 1987 reunion was organised for Saturday 10th June. Girls enjoyed a tour of Mary Erskine whilst boys undertook a tour of Stewart's Melville College and both groups admired how their school had changed in the last 30 years. A joint dinner was organised for that evening for larger groups which was quite raucous and very much enjoyed by all!

Two further reunions were also organised for MES Class of 1957 and MES Class of 1965.

## Inspire Lecture

Our Inspire 2017 speaker was James Ketchell who talked about the incredible challenges he faced while becoming the first and only person to cycle round the world, row the Atlantic and climb Mount Everest, all before the age of 30! James's book 'The Ultimate Triathlon' is an inspiring read and he has developed an outstanding reputation as an engaging and inspiring speaker whose story, from a life-threatening motor-cycle accident to the summit of Everest, was enjoyed by adults and children alike. James's presentation, accompanied by amazing photographs, was followed by a question and answer session.

## Contacts

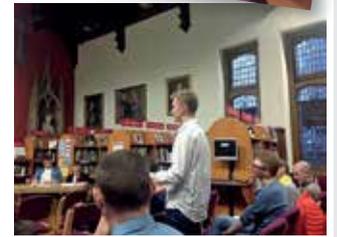
To contact the Development Office regarding any of our initiatives, please contact Suzi Squires in the first instance on [development@esms.org.uk](mailto:development@esms.org.uk) or on 0131 311 1131.



## School vs FPs Debate

Once again it was a delight to see the best of our past debaters return to Old College library, to pit their wits against the cream of our current crop. Tom Collins of S6 joined forces with Greg Ritchie (Oxford) against S5's Hector McIntosh and the returning Hamish Innes (Cambridge) to debate the merits of introducing positive discrimination for entrance into the UK's top universities. The scintillating main debate chaired by Principal David Gray was followed by some challenging questions and thought-provoking points of information from the floor. Former and current pupils, ESMS staff, parents and other guests enjoyed an evening of good company which showcased the formidable skills of undergraduate FP debaters and of emerging younger talents, while providing an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate debating here at SMC.

**Sandra Frost**



## Year of 2017

On Friday 30th June, another one hundred and twenty young men received their FP Club ties at the 2017 Stewart's Melville College Prizegiving to symbolise their passage from Sixth Former to Former Pupil, and as with other recent cohorts, their next destinations are both geographically and academically varied.

Unsurprisingly for a year group which contributed the majority of players to the School's cup-winning hockey, rugby and football teams, several students have opted to continue their sport alongside their studies. Eric McIntosh, the 2016 Scottish Boys' Golf Champion, has begun his first year at Northwestern University in Illinois which is, coincidentally, the current employer of Melville College FP and recent Nobel Prize winner Sir Fraser Stoddart, who had been the Guest Speaker at the June Prizegiving. Also heading to the States is footballer Ben Voy, whose first term at Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, was interrupted (but fortunately not too dramatically) by the unexpected arrival of Hurricane Harvey. GB Cadet judo international Christopher Kumesu-Egri has opted to stay closer to home, combining a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Edinburgh University with part-time training at the National Centre of Excellence at Ratho. Footballer Cieran Dunne chose to turn professional with Falkirk FC, and just four months after leaving School made his first team debut in their Scottish Championship match against St Mirren, whilst Euan Henderson left at the end of

S5 to join Heart of Midlothian FC full-time, making his debut first team appearance whilst still in the middle of his Highers away to Celtic in front of sixty thousand fans.

Those whose names have now been inscribed on the Dux board have now begun their degree courses at top universities, with Andres Vazquez-Brennan studying Theoretical Physics at St Andrews whilst fellow Deputy Head Boy Patrick Longmate headed to Durham to read Modern Languages and Culture. The Head Boy himself, Ross Thomson, is now studying Law at the University of Glasgow, whilst playing rugby with Glasgow Hawks, for whom he went head-to-head with SMC's own Director of Rugby, Mr Stuart Edwards in a recent league game with Heriot's.

Other students have opted for an eclectic range of subjects, from Agriculture at Scotland's Rural College (James Kennedy) to Classical Studies and Latin at St Andrews (Ruairidh McCallum), with Law, Economics/Business and Computing remaining popular options this year. In January 2018, Cameron Macdonald will become the final SMC Gap Tutor in our long-standing partnership with Knox Grammar School in New South Wales, whilst Duncan Ross is currently in New Zealand fulfilling a similar role at Dilworth School. Others have also taken Gap Years prior to moving onto the next stage of their lives, having (as a year group) made a huge contribution to the life and reputation of the School during their time at Stewart's Melville College.

**Jeff Marsh**

# Remembrance Service

The annual Service of Remembrance was held this year on Friday 10th November, and will be regretted as the last given by the current Principal, who has always taken care to break new ground with each of his addresses. Whilst the official commemorations in the Great War centenary period have been tiringly formulaic, the Stewart's Melville College Service remains at once comfortingly familiar in format but always strikingly different in content.

The weather was kind but cold - the entire School attended with customary reverence and respect. The Combined Cadet Force did well in the chill, commanded by RSM Gael Hopton, with the Contingent Colours being paraded by Sgt. Angus Douglas. The Last Post and Reveille, the proficiency of which can make or break a service, were performed flawlessly by Grace and Peter Molloy, as was the Lament from Piper Lochie Gunn, an especially difficult task to discharge well with cold fingers in front of an audience of 2,000. Wreaths were then laid by the Head Boy, the Master of the Merchant Company, the President of the FP Club and the Chairman of the Governing Council. The officers of the CCF and many cadets were sharply reminded of the absence of the irreplaceable Squadron Leader Graeme Mitchell - the jingle of his medals for many years of CCF service being particularly missed.

The lawn to the north of the Memorial was this year dominated by the striking addition of nearly 500 memorial crosses, each commemorating a former pupil. The visual impact of this installation was quite stunning, and answered the inevitable question heard every year from boys when buying a poppy as to how much they cost.

The Principal's address revolved around the astonishing recent discovery in a charity shop in Stockbridge of a book titled "The Pageant of English Poetry". This was a School prize awarded to Alexander Heggie, who died of illness in 1914 in the Third Form.



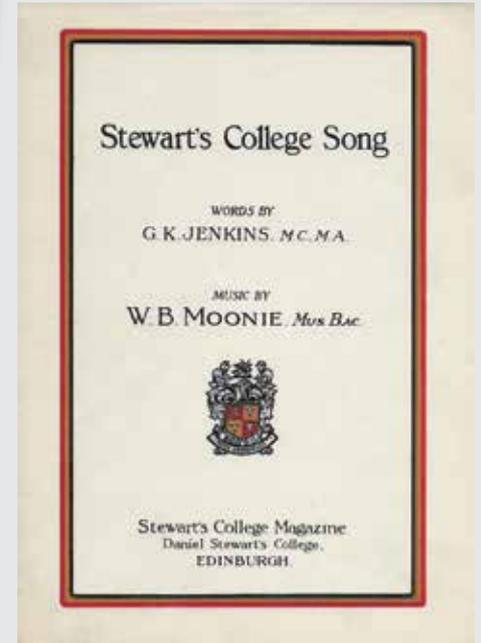
After some digging around in archives, papers and regimental histories, enough material was uncovered to allow Mr Gray to keep boys and visitors alike spellbound with stories of Heggie's classmates in the Battle of Arras. These stories are related in the article "FPs At Arras" on pages 16 & 17. The message was a simple one - just because the war happened in the past, it doesn't follow that these men and their example belong there. The world of 1914 in some respects is not too dissimilar to the world of today - and we were enjoined to realise that the generation of the Great War was plunged into unwanted and unforeseen calamity as well we might at any moment. The Senior Choir, never failing the occasion, very aptly augmented the service, and many in the audience derived much comfort from the words of Rev. Mr. Peter Nelson, who officiated.

The day was closed by the rededication of the SMC Poppy Memorial Garden, which has been relocated to the vastly more suitable environs of the grounds of the newly acquired Dean Church. It will hopefully reinforce to the boys what Field Marshall Plumer said at the opening of the Menin Gate in 1927 - 'the dead are not missing - they are here'.

**David Clarke**

## Whatever happened to the School Song?

I am sure that it wasn't just Daniel Stewart's which had The Song we boys had to learn and perform during those dismal war years. By today's standards it sounds trite and faintly ridiculous but in the 1930s and '40s a highly patriotic song was cherished. In those days we had to salute the War Memorial every time we passed it.



The opening lines of The Song are still in my head some 75 years later, "Forward the colours the red, black and yellow, emblems that honour the winds of the west". Make sense of that for a start! Worse follows:

"Hail to the college that floats them above her, mother the dearest, the kindest and best! Golden her turrets rise, pinnacled canopies gleaming as beacons to learning and fame. Home of our past-times and fount of our knowledge, College, our voices resound to thy name".

These patriotic words were written by G. K. Jenkins, who was awarded an MC in the First World War, and was presumably a master at the School. The Song, however, was partly the product of a very strange music teacher who had to deliver its performance. To describe him as an eccentric would be a gross understatement. To make matters worse the poor man carried the unfortunate name of Moonie. Naturally, this was an open invitation for boys to devise all sorts of lunar appellations.

To give it an authentic academic flavour the School Song embraced a line of Latin: "Oh volens, et potens et macte virtute". We never knew what it meant and neither did one or two of the masters. Nobody dared to show their ignorance by asking "Baldy" Stewart, the Latin teacher, fearing it might develop into a boring lesson with a huge lump of sarcasm thrown in.



Naturally, after much rehearsal, the School Song featured at the annual prize giving which, I recall, was held in the Usher Hall. It was the finale after we had sung other choral items to impress doting parents. W. B. Moonie, on the conductor's podium, looked as sane and respectable as any of the contemporaries who occupied that stand, not least Sir Adrian Boult or Sir Thomas Beecham.

The Song finished with a rampant Medieval battle cry which would have brought tears of joy to Sir Walter Scott:

"Stewart's will flourish, daring or dared,  
Blazon her torch on high, onward her glories  
lie . . . College for ever! . . . College for ever! . .  
. College for ever! . . . Never Unprepared!"

Having embraced the School motto Never Unprepared the Song appeared to have run out of superlatives to stimulate even greater loyalty. So it was completed with a series of rousing hip hurrahs ! which W.B. Moonie conducted with great energy, a raised arm and an index finger stabbing the air until the final hurrah bounced off the roof.

Appearing before the parents the gifted music teacher was nothing like the oddity in a rowdy classroom which he usually failed to control. Even a few hefty thumps on the piano to gain attention did not quell sheer bedlam. It wasn't unknown for another master to put his head around the door and one angry glare would restore order.

Pupils delighted in introducing a new boy whose voice had to be tested. The bewildered youngster had to attempt to sing some words, usually "the cool and gloomy pool", while Dr Moonie, as he was known, held and squeezed his mouth and then twisted it into painful shapes until the boy's singing voice was transformed into agonising shrieks. This brought much delight to the rest of the class. One is tempted to speculate how such a singing test would be received today !

The School Song probably faded out in the immediate post-war years. It had two further verses, but I cannot recall ever having sung them. The lines were full of the same brand of loyalty inspiring sentiment:

"Widespread thy sons over ocean and  
Empire, cherish thy memory bright with  
renown. Brandish the torch in the lustre of  
beauty. Honour is calling what son shall delay.  
Duty sounds the call, learning will prosper  
and virtue will rule".

Each verse ended with the enigmatic Latin expression: Oh volens et potens et macte virtute . . . .

Unknown to the authors, one line in the School Song, "Stewart's will flourish daring or dared", may have been prophetic. It flourishes, but in a different form.

**Aubrey Chalmers**

# Sports Clubs...



## CURLING

### Club League Curling 2016/17 Season

Four rinks once again played throughout the season for the Andrew Williamson trophy. There were many very close games, with the winners not being known until after the final game of the season. The winning rink was skipped by George Bee and ably assisted by Richard Bee, Frances Kerr and Sandra Shedden. Harry Waugh's rink were tied with George's rink on 11 points but lost out on the trophy on ends won (32 to 30).

### Glenfarclas Division 2 (Midlothian Province)

We again had hopes at one point of promotion to Division 1, but sadly missed out finishing third and will play in Division 2 next season.

### King George IV Knockout Trophy

Our rink were narrowly defeated by Holyrood in the 1st round

### Midlothian Province Bonspiel

We had 2 rinks in this competition and we beat 37 Club by 4 shots and lost to Gogar Park by 1 shot, so finished with a +3 shots score.

### FP League

Watsonians won the league this season and we came second for the 3rd year running.

### Challenge Match v Watsonians

Watsonians won back the salver.

### Match v Schools

Unfortunately Mary Erskine were unable to raise a team for this match and we managed to retain the shield by defeating the boys. Vicky Gumley and George Bee continued with the coaching of the Stewart's Melville rink this season. I am delighted to note that Chris Morris who was the School skip is joining the FP Curling Club for next season. Indeed his sister Sarah is also joining us.

**George Bee**

***As ever, we are in need of curlers of all abilities  
and if anyone knows a curler looking to join a club,  
please get them to contact our President, George Bee,  
on 0131 336 4533 or gbee@blueyonder.co.uk***

# RUGBY

The 2016/17 season was a rollercoaster one for the Club, an exodus of 23 players at the start of the campaign leaving us with a 'skeleton crew' on the business side of the whitewash.

Defeats in the first seven league games saw the 1st XV propping up the table and apparently destined to drop out of BT National League Division 1, but a Herculean effort by our coaches and players saw us turn things around in the second half of the season. A hard fought victory over Howe Of Fife on March 4th officially secured our National 1 status, while we finished the season in eighth place in the league with 47 points from 9 wins and 13 losses.

The 2nd XV faced ongoing challenges in their National Reserve League as players were promoted into the 1st XV, but still managed to end the season in fifth place, amassing 37 points from 7 wins and 11 losses.

The 3rd XV were rocked by Phil Waine's wholly understandable decision to step down after running the Mighty Threes for longer than anyone could remember, but responded well to the new management team of Fin & Jim Calder and Simon Scott. They ended the season in sixth place in their league with 42 points from 7 wins, 12 losses and 1 draw.

The 1st XV coaching team was largely unchanged for the 2017/18 season, with Gordon Henderson remaining as 1st XV coach and Graham Inglis as 1st XV team manager. Gavin McLeod also joined us from RHC to coach the 2nd XV.

Everyone connected with Scottish rugby was shocked by the sudden death of Club stalwart Gavin Calder on 11th August. A packed memorial service was held for Gavin at St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington at the end of the month, while the memorial lunch at Inverleith before our opening league game of the season against Accies was equally well attended. That game ended in a 38-26 win for the visitors, who took the newly commissioned Gavin Calder Memorial Cup back to Raeburn Place.

The loss to Accies was the first in a run of seven straight defeats for the 1st XV, who had lost a few senior players over the close season and (more tellingly) lost 25 plus players to injury in the first few games of this season. While losses away to Cartha Queens Park (24-22) and Musselburgh (19-14) were just about bearable, heavier defeats to GHA

(83-19 A), Jedforest (48-0 H), Aberdeen Grammar (67-25 H) and Dundee High (62-6 A) made for difficult viewing.



**vs Jedforest**



**vs Gordonians**

The situation did, however, start to improve around the end of October as our injury list began to reduce. A bottom of the table clash against Falkirk at Inverleith ended with a 41-17 home win, then, on October 28th, we recorded a 31-24 victory at Netherdale that will go down as one of our finest performances in recent years.



**vs Gala**

The last game before the Autumn International break ended in a narrow loss to Selkirk at Inverleith that (coupled with results elsewhere) saw us return to the relegation zone. There is, however, growing confidence that we can repeat the heroics of last season and retain our place in National 1.

The 2nd XV sit in fifth place in Reserve League 2 at the break, having won 4 of their 9 games, while the Mighty Threes sit sixth in East Reserve League 2 with 4 wins from 10 games. The 3s have struggled to raise a team at times, particularly for games beyond the City Bypass, and may become more of a social team in future.

Spirits remain high for the second half of the season, while the Club remains in

good health off the pitch, with the Ladies Night at Inverleith and the Annual Ball at BT Murrayfield both very well attended.



**Writers at Rugby Ladies' Night**

**Bill McNie**

## Stew Mel Lions

The Lions continue in rude health with around 230 children from P1 to P7 and 55 coaches participating regularly. In addition to regular training sessions at Inverleith the Lions participated in 21 events during the 2016 / 17 Season, ranging from full-scale tournaments to round robins and friendly "development fixtures." These tournaments see the boys play against some really stretching competition from teams such as Merchiston Castle School, Currie, Stirling, Ellon and Melrose, as well as all of our local Edinburgh rivals.



**Lions P7 Squad**

In addition the club ran 2 successful tours to the North of England for P4 to P6. In all of these tournaments and fixtures the Lions are highly competitive with our squads almost always making semi-final stages and often running out as winners. Particular thanks go to our tour hosts at Preston Grasshoppers, Vale of Lune, Northern and Novocastrians.

The P7 tour to Clusone, North-East of Milan, is a particularly noteworthy event. The Lions have been supporting this tournament since its inception 7 years ago and in so doing have contributed in no small part to the development of rugby in the Region. This year was by far the biggest and highest standard tournament to date, with 14 teams represented, all playing a really good standard of running rugby and

competing in the spirit which we have come to expect. Beyond the rugby the local area has historical links with Scotland dating back to 1525, when Scots mercenaries travelling (actually fleeing!) homewards decided to pause for the Winter and ended up staying, and anyone who has visited can see why. These links are still very important to the locals and the march through the town, led by the local pipe band, with hundreds of players, coaches and family in attendance is a real joy to behold.



#### **Welcome at Clusone**

Another major positive was the success of the **Stew Mel Lionesses**, who were set up as recently as 2 years ago by the inspiring Simon Baig, and who won their Under 12's league and also hosted their first home tournament in 2017 – another two notable milestones for the Season.

However the key to the success of the Lions is that our principles of Fun, Teamwork Respect and "Learning life's lessons along the way" are what guide us every step of the way. The Lions committee strongly believe that our success in attracting and retaining players is due to our ethos of developing all players and giving everyone equal opportunity to play in tournaments, rather

than selecting the "best" squad to represent the club. This is particularly important in a late development and specialisation sport like rugby. That said, it's clear when you watch their games that the "play to win" mentality is not being lost.

Surely there can't be anything else? Fundraising for MacMillan Cancer Support, 3 home tournaments, numerous social events, a black tie dinner at Inverleith, playing strips presented by Lions legend Jim Calder, playing at half-time at BT Murrayfield during the Edinburgh Glasgow 1872 cup game on Boxing Day, providing the guard of honour for an Edinburgh game, coaches "gracing the field" with their touch rugby skills at our end of Season BBQ, providing ballboys for Scotland U19 v Scottish Students, playing on the main pitch at the Greenyards, pre-Season training on the sand dunes at Gullane and a hundred other shared moments all contribute to making this the club it is today.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stewmellions/> or if you know anyone who's keen to give mini rugby a try, do please encourage them to get in touch via our website [www.stewmelrugby.com/stewmel-lions/](http://www.stewmelrugby.com/stewmel-lions/)

#### **Al Geddes**

### **Rugby Academy**

The Academy acts as a youth section continuation from the Lions' mini section, providing a rugby programme to ensure each player receives a well-balanced season plan and carefully targeted support. It caters for players from S1-S6 and is open to ALL players from ANY school who want to play rugby. Our programme is aligned and co-ordinated with the SRU's

pathway programme and Long Term Player Development principles.

We are continuing to enhance from the success of last season's Academy to give players further opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge within the game in a measured environment, with player welfare at the forefront of individual development.

Mixing hard work and fun will remain at the core of everything we do and the style of rugby we want to play is fast, free flowing and attractive to watch. We build our season plans and sessions around this style of rugby and encourage the players to have both the confidence and belief to play good rugby in high quality fixtures. The season plans once again include specialist skills sessions from top coaches and players as well as performance workshops so we develop the whole player and provide opportunities for all.

The past two seasons the Academy has coached over eighty young players who have developed as players and progressed well as young men on their life journey.



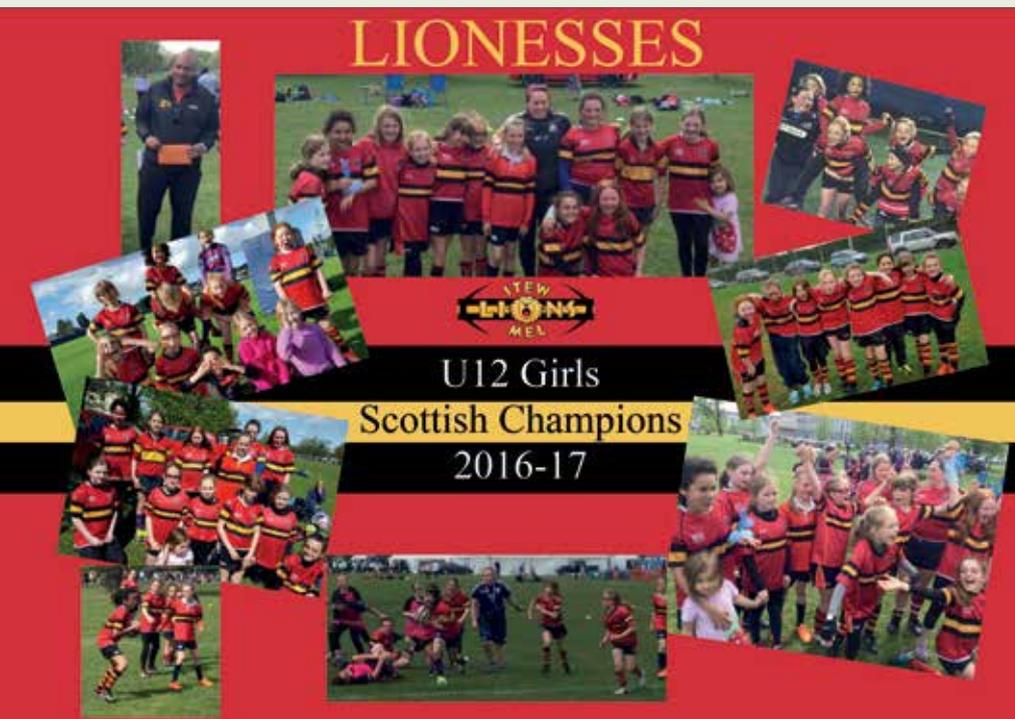
#### **Academy tour to Aboyne**

Highlights from last season included a brilliant tour to Aboyne with HorseBack UK and the Royal Marines (pictured above) and winning the Greenyards Shield Sevens trophy at Melrose. Specialist coaching sessions were also run by the Glasgow Warriors players Grayson Harte and Adam Ashe, former Scotland coach Frank Hadden and Scotland legends Tony Stanger and Sean Lineen.

The 2017/18 season was launched with an Open Day at Inverleith at the end of August. The Academy U15s travelled to Newcastle to play Northern RFC at the end of September, losing by only a single point (36-35) against the top side in Northumberland.

Former All Black Ben Atiga and Scotland Sevens captain Scott Riddell led a specialist skills session at the start of October. A joint Academy training session with Heriot's also took place at Inverleith during October.

#### **Ross McNulty**



**Lionesses**

# HOCKEY

## 2016/17 Season

### Men's 1s

It was another unstable season for the 1s with Men's Coach Simon Flynn electing to take a step back at the midway point. Having been relegated to National 3 last season, the team were keen to dig in and assert themselves in the league, and did themselves proud, despite the Coaching and Captaincy issues, finishing 4th overall only 1 point off the top 3. 16 games played, 10 wins, 2 draws and only 4 losses, scoring 61 goals along the way.

The Club are keen to find a Coach for the men's section next season and work towards building a firmer foundation for training and matches, given the clear potential within the team.

### Men's 2s

The Men's 2s have enjoyed another successful season in East District 1. Their season stats - 20 games played, 11 wins, 2 draws and 7 losses. Scoring 43 goals along the way and conceding 31, to finish in 3rd place.

In the Scottish Plate, the team also had an excellent run. Following a tight semi-final at Peffermill which went to running penalties, they came out eventual successors against Dundee Wanderers. The finals day at Glasgow Green was well attended by club supporters, but unfortunately a strong Edinburgh Uni team were too much to handle, losing 4-1 after an excellent effort and taking the title of runners up in the Scottish Plate.

### Men's 3s

Having been relegated last season, the Men's 3s were another team with a lot to prove.

Unfortunately, the team lost a few familiar faces. One of particular note was Pete Nienow who disappeared for a while and reappeared having been awarded a Polar medal for his research in the Arctic! An award shared by Sir Ernest Shackleton, Sir Edmund Hillary, and Captain Scott no less.

The 3s season stats. 18 games played, 11 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses scoring 54 goals along the way. The team finished in 3rd place overall. An excellent team effort which hopefully the team can build on next season.

### Ladies' 1s

The Ladies' 1s had their second season in National 1 – an achievement we are very proud of, being a first for the club on either the Men's or Ladies' side! Having survived their first-year foray in the top flight of Scottish hockey, and having lost a few key players, this year was always going to be a big ask. It would be fair to say, the rest of the Ladies' section played

a vital role, allowing the 1s to field a team, particularly in the second half. School girls Anna Youngs and Emma Forsyth made their 1s debut against a top form Edinburgh Uni, and there was a half and half 1s/2s deployment for the game against fourth place Western Wildcats.

Unfortunately, the Ladies will be returning to National 2 next season, having lost their Saturday relegation play-off game against Hillhead -- a team they had beaten comfortably in their 2 meetings during regular league fixtures -- and then a nail biting game against Grange on the Sunday which went to running penalties. With no score after the first 5, it went to sudden death and Grange were unfortunately first to break the deadlock.

Their season stats were 18 games played, 4 wins, 1 draw and 13 losses. 30 goals for, 70 goals against, scoring a total of 13 points and finishing in 8th place. The team exited the Scottish Cup in the 2nd round against Dundee Wanderers.

### Ladies' 2s

Enjoying their 3rd successive year of Championship League hockey, the team started with confidence and at the Christmas break were unbeaten, entering the second half as clear title favourites. It's tough to be the team at the top and the 3 below were gunning for them. Unfortunately, a mixture of some lacklustre second half performances and availability issues saw the girls lose the league to an ever growing in confidence Watsonians side. A sore result to take, however on reflection an excellent season and a team who showed determination to the end regardless of the challenges faced.

20 games played, with 14 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses. A total of 51 goals for and 22 against, the best defensive record in the league, finishing in 2nd place. In the Scottish Cup, the team lost the first round, entering the Plate competition where they faced National 1 side Cala in a tight game, which they unfortunately lost 1-0 in the end.

### Ladies' 3s

After a rather turbulent end to the 2015/16 season, the ladies of ESM's 3s anticipated a slightly easier road ahead. Preseason began with a massive defeat to Watsonians, "there's still time to improve they thought". The first game of the season was away in the Borders. Their Captain struggled to get a team together, but managed, only to lose one player early in the second half to a broken foot. On a positive note, the team's schoolgirl keeper Elizabeth saved a drag flick – only to find out at the end of the game it was from an ex-Scotland international player! Needless to say, they lost. As the games racked up, the wins eluded the team who were often close but just couldn't find the goal.

Returning from the Christmas break, the girls

travelled to Dunbar where they played in the snow! Apparently tough conditions suit the Ladies' 3s, and the win the team were so desperately seeking came and a good one at that, 5-0. The 2nd half of the season saw a notable improvement in terms of drive and desire, with the players also assisting the 2s and 3s when they were short.

The Ladies finished the season in 8th position out of 10, crucially avoiding relegation.

## 2017/18 Mid Season Report

At the start of the season ESMHC had the usual teething problems with players having moved on over the summer and trying to recruit new players. Despite this the season started well for our Men's 1s. They travelled to Aberdeen University with a depleted and inexperienced squad for the first game of the season and returned with a 2-1 win. This winning streak continued with a win against Greenock and another against Stirling University. Unfortunately, in recent weeks the team have not managed to continue with these winning performances and have lost the last 3 consecutive matches. However, there is still a lot to be optimistic about with plenty of hockey still to be played and a few new players joining the club in recent weeks.



**Hockey Men's**

Our M2s and M3s had mixed results during the first half of the season with some strong wins and a few disappointing results. Both teams are currently sitting mid table in their respective leagues. One major positive for these teams is the emergence of the U16 schoolboys, who having just turned 14 are eligible to play in the adult leagues. So far these boys have played incredibly well and have incredible potential for the years to come.

Having been relegated last season via the playoffs our Ladies' 1s are keen to bounce straight back to the top division. So far this season their performances have supported that ambition. They have brought in several new faces to their line up but you would never have guessed. They currently are sitting 2nd in the league and have recorded some impressive wins along the way including an incredible 20-2 win away to Dundee University.

Our L2s are having a difficult start to their league campaign. However, having had a difficult start to the season the team has started to settle into the season and the scorelines have started to reflect this.



Finally our L3s have had a solid start to the season sitting mid table. Like our Men's side they have welcomed new U16 players into the side, who have come through our youth section.

As these players gain more experience at this level the L3s will no doubt go from strength to strength.

## Youth Section

Another exciting season at ESM Youth Hockey as numbers and standards continue to rise. The youth now have a total of 117 registered members and a projected 140 for next season. We have teams throughout all levels, including one that finished 4th, having missed 3rd place by one goal, in A league, the highest in East of Scotland.

We have also started under 16 training for both boys and girls with the hope that we can have 2 squads next season and a smoother transition to adult hockey.

We have a host of talented, dedicated and fun-loving coaches who make each session enjoyable and worthwhile under the leadership of our Head Youth Coach Ally Dodge. We also have a fantastic bunch of

parent-helpers who, as well as being great supporters on the side-lines, are always happy to roll their sleeves up and get stuck in when it comes to helping the club out.

Our Youth camps have continued to grow and improve, with 3 fully booked Easter camps behind us and the Summer camps

a work in progress.

Further information can be obtained from the club website [www.esmhc.com](http://www.esmhc.com) or by contacting the club secretary [secretary@esmhc.com](mailto:secretary@esmhc.com), Club Captain [clubcaptain@esmhc.com](mailto:clubcaptain@esmhc.com) or Ally Dodge direct.

**Peter Lucas-Herald**

## Interested in playing hockey?

### Have you considered Erskine Stewart's Melville Hockey Club?

ESMHC are always looking to welcome new players to the club. We are a friendly Edinburgh Hockey Club playing out of Inverleith playing fields on East Fettes Avenue. We have 3 Men's teams and 3 Ladies' teams covering varying levels of Scottish Hockey including National, Championship and East District. In addition, we have a well-developed Youth Section and both male and female Vets teams. We look to welcome new faces and further develop all levels of hockey across

the club, from the sociable team players to the more serious National level players.

Our fees are some of the least expensive in Edinburgh and our focus is equally placed on the social aspect as well as results on the pitch, benefiting from co-location of our pitch and Clubhouse.

If you are interested in finding out more, we would love to hear from you so please contact us at [info@esmhc.com](mailto:info@esmhc.com). We will be holding a number of social events throughout the summer to introduce new people to the club; it would be great to see you there!

**Website:** [www.esmhc.com](http://www.esmhc.com)

**Email:** [info@esmhc.com](mailto:info@esmhc.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ESMHockeyClub>

**Twitter:** [@ESMHockey](https://twitter.com/ESMHockey)

## CRICKET

The FP Cricket Club 1st XI had achieved promotion to the East Premier league, the strongest league in Scotland, for the 2017 season. Realistic ambitions therefore had to be to remain in this Division rather than challenge for the title.

This was achieved. They were second bottom of the League for much of the season, but only one club is relegated from this league and we were always fairly comfortably above bottom club Falkland. Four league victories were recorded – two against Falkland and one each against Glenrothes and Aberdeenshire. Indeed, in what would have been their performances of the season, victory was very nearly also achieved in Aberdeen while only an exceptionally doughty batting performance from the tail enders of eventual league champions Heriots saved them from an embarrassing defeat at Goldenacre.

Before the season started, we secured the

services of two South African Players from Johannesburg. They proved to be splendid recruits, Club professional Shaylen Pillay scoring 659 runs & taking 25 wickets, while overseas amateur Cariston Diedericks scored 233 runs after a poor batting first half of the season and took 29 wickets. Even more importantly, they proved to be excellent coaches, much appreciated by our Junior players.

While the 1st XI seemed to have a reasonable pool of players, it was very badly hit by availabilities. Large numbers of players were unavailable most weeks, leading to weak teams being fielded. This was reflected in our results, with the batting being particularly fragile.

Apart from those mentioned above, Hayden Mourits scored 303 runs in aggressive style, while Greg Bissett scored



*Pillay in T20 vs Carlton*



1st XI vs Grange

295 runs in a more measured manner, passing Steve Kerr's Club record for 1st XI appearances (279) during the season. Captain Greg Ruthven (17) and Tom Hilton (11) contributed well in terms of wickets. After wintering in Australia, Elliot Ruthven was not able to replicate his achievements of 2016, but he did retain his position in the Edinburgh side (known as the Eastern Knights), the Scotland Development & Scotland A sides as an opening bowler.

The 1st XI had varying degrees of success in Cup Competitions. Our Scottish Cup run finished nearly before it began with a calamitous batting display at home against Carlton. The Masterton Trophy had a new League format in its early stages. In this we did well, winning our League group, including a revenge win against Carlton at Grange Loan, before being beaten in the semi-final by Grange.

We again fielded 2nd, 3rd & 4th XIs in the East of Scotland Leagues, with the addition of a Development XI in the new development League. This last named team was masterminded by David Gibson and was nearly all schoolboys, guided by David and one of our two 1st XI hired hands in each game, who coached during the games but did not bat or bowl.

The Development XI finished high up in their table, but that was not the point of the exercise. The team complemented the Thursday evening Trojans XI well in developing our Junior players into playing Senior games.

The other teams all finished mid-table for the second year in a row. This was particularly disappointing for the 2nd XI, who started with five wins from their first six completed games, but only won two games thereafter. Hopes had been high of

securing one of the two promotion spaces, but they ended up a rather disappointing third. Ironically, this still gains promotion due to two teams withdrawing from the League. To succeed in what would be East League Division 1 they will look for a greater degree of consistency & also a higher degree of player availability, a problem which faced all of our teams and was also evident elsewhere in the East Leagues.

Most notable performances for the season were the runs in the 3rd XI by veterans Vic Coltherd (249) and Martin Speirs (235). At a more youthful level, 15 year old Sam Tait made his debut for the 1st XI, bowling very well. A number of S3 boys played well in the lower teams, in particular Harry Johnstone, Charlie Phipps and Rory Phipps.

As mentioned above, our midweek Trojans XI continues to develop our younger

players. They also won six of their eight midweek matches.

## Youth Section

The Club continues to major in Junior Cricket under the guidance of David Gibson. A regular programme of practice and matches is followed at under 11, under 13 and under 15 levels. Two sides competed in Junior Leagues at each of these age levels. A number of talented cricketers are developing in the under 15 side, some of whom have been introduced to senior cricket via the Trojans XI who play on Thursday evenings and on Saturdays for the 3rd and 4th XIs. As in previous years, two very successful summer school weeks were run during the holiday period.

In addition to all of this, there have been major developments in two particular areas. Firstly, the continuing development of girls cricket, with ever increasing numbers at practice, led to our first ever Women's side being formed. They played in the East of Scotland Development League, winning four of their seven games played. Girls teams also played in four Kwik Cricket festivals at under 12 age level. On top of this, as well as supporting girls cricket at MES, the Club also supports cricket in the community, assisting in the organisation of cricket opportunities in surrounding primary schools and at Trinity Academy.

Secondly, the Club participated in "All Stars Cricket". This is a UK wide initiative for 5 to 8 year olds which has been introduced for the first time this year. Fifty one children signed up for the eight week programme with us, the largest intake by any club in Scotland and in the top 10% for the whole of the UK. The end result in that our junior programme now caters for boys and girls at all ages between 5 & 18.

## John Archer



FPs vs School

# GOLF

The 2017 golf season has been successful on and off the golf course. Over 90 attended another excellent Annual Dinner in March at Inverleith. We were royally entertained by Fringe favourite Bruce Fummey and past Captain Malcolm MacColl stepped in at the last minute to toast the guests with a fun and engaging toast / rules quiz. It was pleasing to get such positive feedback about what is now firmly established as one of the best dinners of the year.



**Golf Club Dinner**

The Spring Outing was held at Leven Links on a beautiful Sunday morning. We had excellent numbers and, with benign conditions and the course in good condition, excellent scoring was possible. In the scratch competition, Derek Miller pipped Peter McCallum by a stroke with a wonderful 73. The handicap prize went to Andy Fraser who amassed an incredible 43 points, ahead of Gordon Brown (39) and Harry Crombie (37). As with all our outings this year, it was pleasing to see such a good mix of members at Leven; old & new, high handicappers and low, regardless of age or ability we will continue to strive to be an attractive and welcoming Club to everyone.

Throughout the summer, it was good to see the foursomes and singles competitions well supported - and mostly played on time - for which the Secretary was eternally grateful. Sadly, our Sivewright team were beaten in the Semi Final by Hailes on a wet and damp evening by Kingsknowe.

Rather predictably, the match against the Schoolboys resulted in a comfortable victory for the latter - we really must improve our efforts at handicap negotiations going forward. That said, we believe our

links with the School remain extremely important and I'm grateful to the efforts of Rory Thomson, in the new Junior Convenor role for 2017, as we seek to build on what is already a strong relationship with the Pupils and Staff.

In other competitions, we were pipped by Accies in our quest for a hat-trick in the Edinburgh Cup, however, I'm delighted to say we won the Under 35 Edinburgh Cup, pipping local rivals Heriots. This theme was continued as our 16 strong team won the Grand Match vs. Heriots at the Burgess. Tony Kelly was a stalwart as ever organizing the troops and clearly got his pairings right with the boys winning 6 out of 8 fourballs. All the matches were played in a great spirit in what looks to become a solid fixture

in the calendar. Special mention to the Vice-Captain, Matthew Coyle who should know better than to slice one at the last at his home Club - a fellow member's windscreen paid the price, although the ball rebounded into play!

Our 'Summer' outing was held at Muirfield in conditions more reminiscent of "that" Saturday at the 2002

Open! With a steady 25mph north wind gusting to 40mph and unrelenting heavy rain, conditions were testing to say the least for the hardy souls who braved the links. Despite that, some excellent scores were returned. Drew McIntosh pipped Alan Foggo by a stroke in the scratch competition, with Malcolm MacColl winning the handicap. Drew won the Club Championship against Alan, who helped book his place in the final courtesy of a hole in one at Bruntsfield.

Indeed, the Scratch front has been another successful hunting ground for Stew Mel this year. Whilst we put up a valiant fight at the Grafton Morrish and the toughly contested Dispatch competitions, we came up agonizingly short losing on the last green in the Dispatch. Individually, Stuart McLaren has had a spectacular year, winning the Lothians' Order of Merit, the Stuart Cup and the North East District Open by 3 shots. A great achievement.

**A special mention must go to our Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Cup team** consisting of Kevin Cattanach (c), Stuart McLaren, Derek Miller, Drew McIntosh, Dave Donaldson and Stuart



**QE Trophy Winners 2017**

Cochrane. For only the second time in the competition's history, the boys won the trophy for the 3rd time in a row and making it 4 wins out of the last 5 which is a truly special achievement, especially considering the Club has only won this prestigious trophy, played over the Royal Burgess, on 5 previous occasions.

The Autumn Outing to Ladybank was well attended and the course was in great shape. Alan Anderson won the Scratch prize with a superb 74, with the evergreen Iain Morrison as runner up. David Lowes was the handicap winner with a solid 34 points, on a countback from Iain Armstrong. A great day and a lovely course, I'm sure we will be back to visit again soon.

As ever, this was closely followed by the hugely popular Annual Retreat which sees some of our 24 Bon Viveurs head away for the weekend to battle it out for the honour of being the Retreat Champion and, of course, avoiding the Shankers' Tankard (a reverse matchplay competition for the uninitiated with the highest score 'winning'). This year was another fantastic selection of courses. After an enjoyable Texas Scramble at the super Fortrose & Rosemarkie, the boys headed to Nairn. The course was in perfect condition with some of the best greens all year and, thankfully, a benign day which made good scoring possible. After a sociable formal dinner and the obligatory Court chaired by the Honourable Mr. Justice Tony Kelly, we headed to a breezy Nairn Dunbar where Malky MacColl emerged as Champion, amassing an incredible 100 points from 45 holes.

Once again, it has been a great year for the Golf Club which is in a very healthy position thanks to the efforts of all our members and many key people behind the scenes. Well done and a huge thanks to Jack Mainland, our ever vigilant and hard working Treasurer, Tony Kelly our tenacious and well organized Secretary, Matthew Coyle, our excellent Vice Captain, Rory Thomson Junior Convenor, David Kyles, the soon- to-be incoming Secretary. It is a pleasure and an honour to be Captain of this great Club and I look forward to seeing us going from strength to strength in 2018.

**Adam Preedy**

# Obituaries...



**Robert Gavin Calder**  
(M 1970)  
(Died 11th August, 2017)

The huge gathering at St Mary's Parish Church on a balmy Thursday afternoon in mid-August to celebrate the life of Gavin Calder stands testament to the understated but far-reaching contribution he made to east coast Scottish life for 65 happy years, before his sudden death from a heart attack on the 4th tee at the Hirsell Golf Club in Coldstream, Berwickshire

Born to Robin and Betty Calder, Gavin was the eldest of four brothers from one of the great Scottish rugby clans. In their youth, the quartet would play the game they loved in the field in front of the family home from dawn to dusk, laying the foundations for the youngest siblings – twins Jim and Finlay – to become two of the best Scottish back-row forwards of all time. Gavin would often joke that he had “taught those boys everything they know and they ended up better than me” but in reality he took great pride in their achievements.

He was on a family camping holiday in Dumfriesshire when Finlay captained the victorious British and Irish Lions tour to Australia in 1989, and persuaded the couple who owned the site to allow him entry to their farmhouse so that he could slip silently away from the family in the middle of the night to watch every game in the series on TV, then return before his absence had been noted. Big brother was a handy enough player in his own right, playing tight-head prop for Scottish Schools out of Melville College, and then for North and Midlands, Scottish Universities and British Universities while studying agriculture in Aberdeen.

After finishing his degree, he played briefly for Gordonians whilst based in Stonehaven and working for Scottish Agricultural Industries, but his heart – as far as rugby was concerned – belonged elsewhere. “One night he just sat up in bed and said: ‘I’m going back to Stewart’s Melville’. So from then on he trained with Gordonians during the week and drove down to Edinburgh every Saturday,” said Moira, his wife of 42 years. “We set off at 8am with our eldest son Robin as a baby in the back of the car, and he would drop me at my parents, who by this time lived in South Queensferry, before going to Inverleith to play. Then he would pick me up on the way back up the road. .”

Gavin served Stewart’s Melville RFC as a player, captain, coach, committee member, president, 2nd XV cheerleader, general dogsbody, opposition greeter, match-day announcer and – perhaps most satisfyingly – chief reporter on the club website, right up until his death.

Moira and Gavin’s paths first crossed as 18-year-olds on the 106 bus from Haddington to Edinburgh in the early 1970s, with Gavin making his way to Melville College (where he had been a pupil from age eight) and Moira headed to work at Standard Life. Moira invited Gavin to a friend’s 18th birthday party and the two never looked back. Moira went on to study teacher training at Moray House before joining Gavin in Aberdeen. The pair married in 1975. After a period as a procurement officer – buying cattle – for Donald’s of Portlethen, the family returned south in 1979 when Gavin became farm manager for Gilbert Archer in Drumelzier near Peebles, later taking the same role with the Ramsay family on Langrig Farm in Coldstream. With eldest son Robin joined by Laura, Cheryl and Gavin (“Wee Gav”), family life became the great preoccupation. So much so that in the late 1980s he took a brief break from travelling to and from Stewart’s Melville’s Inverleith base in Edinburgh, and had a couple of highly enjoyable years playing and coaching instead at the closer Berwick Rugby Club. The children attended Eccles Leitholm Primary School, and inspired by fond sporting memories from his own schooldays, Gavin struck upon the idea of setting up a Unihoc – floor hockey – team. “He just thought: ‘What club can I start to get the kids involved?’ And he had the confidence to approach people and say: ‘Can I start this?’” recalled Moira. When the

girls got into swimming he was not content with driving them to training and race meets all over Scotland, he took it upon himself to become a timekeeper and then a race starter. Then, in 1993, Duns Swimming Pool came under threat of closure due to lack of council funding, at which point Gavin came up with the idea of making it the first pool in Scotland to go into Trust status, leading to a group of volunteers (BREST – Berwickshire Recreation Education Sports Trust) running the facility ever since.

Cricket was a great passion for Wee Gav, but local club Manderston did not have a youth section, so “Big Gav” set up both under -13 and under-15 teams, organising indoor nets, entering the local league and even going on tour to Yorkshire. He was a long-serving elder at Leitholm Church and tried valiantly to set up a Sunday school in order to expand the congregation.

By the turn of the century it was apparent that the days of farm management were numbered. Gavin had a long standing interest in the money markets (setting up the Duns Investors Club in the mid-1990s, which involved monthly meetings in the Black Bull in Duns), so at a time most of his contemporaries were looking to ease slowly into retirement, he took the bold move of pursuing a career in financial planning. “It was a struggle to get into it because they wanted people with experience and he was in his fifties, having worked on a farm for the last 30 years,” said Moira. “But he somehow got himself onto a distance learning course, passed the exams and persuaded Axa to take him on. The one thing he absolutely detested was cold calling. He’d say to me that he was going to start at 6pm and by 6.30pm he still hadn’t started. He loved people and he loved speaking, he would talk to anybody, but he hated interrupting people’s evening to try and sell them something.” Eventually, Gavin found his groove with Melville Independent – based a stone’s throw away from his old school. He had clients across the country, from Shetland (where Robin had settled as a teacher) right down to Berwickshire (where he had spent most of his adult life).

Gavin started to wind down his professional career earlier this year and was dividing his time quite happily between family, the rugby club and his latest passion, golf. He had embraced the last of these with the same enthusiasm as he had every other aspect of his life – taking lessons, studying online videos and analysing his swing to the nth degree.

Gavin leaves behind a loving wife, four children and ten grandchildren.

**Jim Calder & David Barnes**

**James W Drummond**

(S1950)

(Died 10th October, 2016)

In the 1940's Jim Drummond was one of the few boys who came from outside Edinburgh to Stewart's. He lived in Kirkliston and travelled in every day. He excelled academically but sporting prowess passed him by! After majoring in Botany at Edinburgh University, he got a job at the Tropical Agricultural College in Trinidad. From there he went to South Africa and then on to Nyasaland (Malawi) where he got involved with the tobacco industry. When the political situation got worrying, he returned to London in 1960 and was employed as an agronomist with British American Tobacco, where he remained until he retired. He was a troubleshooter, going to all parts of the world where tobacco was grown.

He was a keen gardener and after retiring, could be found most days on his large allotment in Weybridge, where he had lived for over for 50 years. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and three sons. One of his grandsons has represented Scotland at Rugby League!!

**Stanley Vaughan****Peter Foubister**

(S 1970)

(Died 18th November, 2016)

Peter Foubister, the Royal Automobile Club Motoring Secretary, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Friday 18 November, joining the Club in 2010 after a long and successful career at Haymarket Publishing. Peter was born and grew up in Edinburgh. His passion for cars was always clear. At the entrance interview for Daniel Stewart's College the four-year old was asked to identify the colours of four cars. When he pointed out that the car was a Mini, as well as its colour, the headmaster knew he had a bright child. From School he went to Edinburgh Napier University to study biology and animal diseases, and then began a career at the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

In 1980 Peter became engaged to Marion, a dental nurse, and together they moved to London as Peter took up the job of Rally Editor at Autosport. As Peter's career as a writer and reporter with Autosport on the World Rally Championship progressed, he was made the weekly magazine's editor in 1988. His mantra for the writers was simple: 'Make the reader feel like they were actually there.' In 1987 one of Peter's initiatives was to turn the magazine's annual feature, the Autosport Awards as voted by readers, into a dinner event in London. This escalated in just a handful of years to become one of motor sport's most prestigious banquets.

In 1989, recognising Autosport's position in helping young racing drivers' careers, Peter

was pivotal in putting together the McLaren Autosport BRDC Award whose previous winners have included David Coulthard and Jenson Button.

As Autosport grew so did Peter's position within Haymarket Publishing, culminating in him becoming CEO of Haymarket Worldwide, which saw him and family relocate to Irvine, California. Whether in London or California, Peter's care of staff was clear, as was the respect he and his ideas were held in not just within the companies he worked but also in the motor sport industry as a whole.

On leaving Haymarket in 2008, after 28 years' service, Peter took on consultant roles before joining the Royal Automobile Club as Motoring Secretary in 2010, at an exciting and challenging time. He assembled a motoring team which would share his vision and bring creativity, humour and drive to the task.

London Motor Week stands out as an outstanding achievement that owes its genesis to his huge energy and drive. He understood the passion that underlies the Veteran Car Run and brought about the change that allowed it to develop into a world-class event. This was recognised at the International Historic Motoring Awards when Peter received the Rally or Tour of the Year Award on behalf of the Club, sadly on the night of his untimely death

Above all things, he cared. He cared about people, about encouraging them to surpass their own expectations and about doing not just a good job but the best job possible. He never accepted second best. He understood the value of relationships and the importance of building and maintaining them. In private he was a passionate family man, beloved husband of Marion, proud father of Gemma and Rory, and incredibly proud grandfather.

**Abbreviated from a contribution by Tom Purves, Chairman, Royal Automobile Club**

**Patrick Watson**

(M 1958)

(Died November, 2016)

Although Patrick only attended Melville College in the Primary School between 1944 and 1947, he nevertheless maintained an interest in the School, even attending the first Grand Melville Reunion in 1999.

After serving in the Royal Engineers for National Service, he graduated from Magdalene College, Oxford, reading Classics. A spell in the National Library followed after which Patrick studied Law in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Throughout his life he was always involved with libraries and the Law. He trained as a librarian and later on worked with mobile libraries in the RVS. He enjoyed helping small businesses with legal work in Bathgate and Stenhousemuir and latterly worked in Lindsays in Edinburgh until 1991. He had the unique experience of being admitted to the Law Society by his

father, who was the then President.

Patrick was a larger than life character, a keen hockey player, enjoying many hours hill walking in the Pentlands and the Cairngorms, helping with the Outreach programme for the disadvantaged at St. John's church, West End and also had an "ear" to pick up other languages (German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese etc) either through conversations or formal classes.

He had a full life, eventually settling in Inverness in 2013 and is survived by his wife, Rosemary and daughter Marion.

**Contributed****Rev. Alan Roy**

(S 1952)

(Died 30th November, 2016)



Alan John Roy was born in 1934 in Edinburgh. The family spent the war years in the country near Peebles and here Alan came to develop his love for nature, for adventure and for ordinary folk.

Having spent his primary school days during the War, he entered Daniel Stewart's College in 1944. The school suited Alan and Alan suited the school.

On leaving the School he was both School Captain and Dux.

But perhaps the greatest legacy of his education was a bond of friendship forged amongst the 8 boys who made up the entire 6th form. After reading TE Lawrence they called themselves the 7 Pillars who have stayed together ever since, despite being separated by great distances and even continents.

The remaining 4 Pillars last met up again in the summer of 2016.

Alan went on to greatly enjoy university at Edinburgh. His science degree was not enough for his humanistic mind and he added an MA in his spare time, devoting 13 weeks of the University year to the Territorial Army, and then came his Bachelor of Divinity.

Whilst at University Alan met Roma and they were married in 1959, then immediately left for a year in Jerusalem to perfect his Ancient Hebrew and Greek. They were real adventurers now and the next step in Alan's career took even more courage for in early 1961 they set sail for a remote mission station deep in Zambia.

Alan's various mission stations in Africa and his subsequent ministry in Dundee, Dunning and Leuchars gave us all a huge start in life to be the sons and daughter of Rev Alan Roy, who was so highly respected in the community.

He continued preaching till he was almost 80. Many was the Saturday when he took me to Tannadice to watch Dundee United when he

should have been writing his Sermon! But above all Alan was always interested and proud and supportive of whatever each family member was up to.

Of course, he made an impact on far more people than just his own family.

He has been described as a role model to us all; a true gentlemen; a great scholar; a gentle giant; an uplifting preacher; a towering influence; such a genuine kind man and an example to us all of the pure in heart. A man who attracted respect without ever demanding it.

It was said that he “.. does an awfy guid funeral”. When people said that, what they meant was he had the gift of turning a very sad event into a joyous celebration. Some of his best ones were for people he had never even met. So good in fact that often people who had never even known the deceased would come and join the service!

About 2 years ago Alan discovered that he was suffering from Parkinson’s but rather than complain, Alan chose to show gratitude for the life he had had the privilege to live and for his wonderful wife and for his family.

**Bryan Roy**

**Alistair Birrell**

(S 1941)

(Died 31st December, 2016)



Educated at Daniel Stewart’s College from 1929 to 1941 where he excelled at maths and science, he was also an enthusiastic piper and rugby player, becoming the School band’s pipe major and played

hooker for the first XV.

In 1948 a visit to an airfield at Duns prompted his interest in motor racing and his exploits in this field are described in the article “Life In The Fast Lane” on page 12.

Then in the 1960s he embarked on an entirely new venture but one that still involved transportation. He went into business with friend Peter Kay, launching a unique initiative, Clyde Hover Ferries sailing an SRN6 commercial hovercraft between Dunoon and Gourrock It was the first commercial passenger service and offered commuters a faster alternative to the road and ferry routes. But it failed to attract sufficient passengers and ran for only one season, in 1965. He and Peter also, briefly, became hoteliers, buying the Islay Frigate Hotel in Tarbert.

It was typical of his have-a go attitude and, though neither enterprise lasted particularly long, both were exciting at the time and provided valuable lessons for the future.

From there he founded Alistair Birrell Electrical Contractors in 1966 and revelled in the joys and challenges of self-employment,

being unafraid to take a calculated risk. His reputation and stature grew and, with it, the business which won contracts for projects and redevelopment in Edinburgh.

Equally, he retained an interest in serving individual private clients and always had time for the small jobs.

While forging ahead with his business, family was also hugely important to him, as evidenced by a large catalogue of carefully edited family photographs. He met his wife Olive at a ball in the Assembly Rooms. They married in 1958 and went on to have a son and daughter, Callum and Yvonne.

Family holidays entailed motoring vast distances across Europe, to Italy, Spain, France and Germany before driving made way for sailing, an interest that had begun in the 1960s in Fife. He joined Largo Bay Sailing Club and enjoyed many competition wins. Then in 1980 he bought a cruising yacht, big enough to accommodate the whole family and which he sailed along the west coast, before upgrading to a larger vessel which he would sail from Inverkip Marina in Renfrewshire to the Mediterranean.

He retired in 1989 but remained a man of an infinite sense of adventure and curiosity. He is survived by his wife, their son Callum, daughter Yvonne and four grandchildren.

**Contributed**

**Dr. David Sim**

(M 1943)

(Died 5th January, 2017)



David Robert Sim was born in the manse in Walkerburn near Galashiels on 14th November 1925, the only child of Frederick and Janet Sim. Being the son of a minister he developed a strong

Christian faith which he maintained throughout his life.

With his faith brought a strong moral conscience and firm belief in what was right and what was wrong. But he would always put his views across in a polite and considered manner. “Manners maketh man” was one of his favourite quotes. As my sister, Ann, and I grew up the importance of politeness, forgiveness and compassion that both our parents taught us was reinforced and instilled and has remained with us.

David moved to Edinburgh when his father took up the position of minister at Blackhall Church and he went to school at Melville College. He then studied and graduated in Medicine from Edinburgh University during which time he made many close friends. From 1948 onwards he had the distinction of having the national anthem played on the radio on his birthday each year. This always made us smile over our breakfast even if the

anthem was being played for Prince Charles!

Following time working as a houseman in Ormskirk, Lancashire he returned to Edinburgh and took up a position as a family GP, initially in Leith and then at the surgery on Ardmillan Terrace. As a family doctor he tended his patients and their families for over 30 years.

When it came to sport, which he loved, he would be the first to admit that he was happier spectating than participating and he would always make time to come and watch Anne and I take part in various sporting events as we grew up.

His greatest passion was rugby and he would love taking us to Inverleith to watch his team, Stewart’s Melville, or down to the Borders when they were playing. He appreciated the game and he instilled in us a sportsmanship which we will always treasure.

We have fond memories of our family holidays spent in the Highlands and Islands - an escape from the long hours of a GP. They often involved leaving at what seemed like an unearthly hour in the morning to drive north to catch a ferry or miss the traffic!! Driving, walking, playing on beaches allowed us to explore the beauty of Scotland in all weathers. Later on we explored parts of Europe and after he retired he spent some holidays with Mum in North America, Australia and cruising in the Mediterranean but he was always happiest at home in Scotland, driving through the countryside.

Retirement also brought the joy of welcoming his four grandchildren into the world and the support and advice of our parents has been much appreciated.

Sadly dementia gradually locked his memories away and for the last three years of his life he was looked after in the wonderful care of St Margaret’s Care Home.

He was one of the kindest, most generous, compassionate and gentle men you could ever hope to meet.

**Rob Sim**

**Graeme Ewen Ballantine**

(S 1963)

(Died 5th January, 2017)

Graeme was born in Edinburgh on the 19th of May 1944.

He attended Daniel Stewart’s from 1950 to 1963 and had been a keen sportsman, which aided his transition from a promising but callow athlete, to School Athletics Captain.

On leaving School he began a degree in Philosophy at Edinburgh University, graduating from Edinburgh then moved to Newcastle to study for a Post Graduate Diploma in Town Planning.

His post-graduate thesis at Newcastle was on remoteness and the particular area of focus for the thesis, the Knoydart Peninsula, revealed a lifelong love of the Scottish Mountains that he shared with his uncle, the

Scottish writer and adventurer Jim Adam. After Newcastle he began his professional career, in the planning department of Peterborough Development Corporation and was renowned throughout his life as a man who would drive a hard bargain, a character trait he demonstrated early in his time at Peterborough when the planning department were approached by a mining group who wanted to extract shale from a nearby stretch of land.

Graeme saw the opportunity to cut a deal for the benefit of Peterborough and the surrounding area telling the miners, "Of course you can dig out the shale, as long as you turn the hole in the ground you leave into an Olympic standard rowing facility to my specifications". Which they duly did!

After a planning position in Lancashire, he returned north of the Border when he took up the post of Principal Planner at Irvine Development Corporation.

In 1996 the Corporation was wound up and he decided that he was going to take early retirement and started working as freelance planning consultant to South Ayrshire and eventually started his own business Colinton Communication.

This allowed him the time to throw himself into performing in amateur dramatic productions, church pantomimes, musical performances and after dinner speaking, both in this country and in the USA.

He did not forget his children, putting on comic classical piano recitals for them, as well as throwing himself wholeheartedly into learning the clarinet, saxophone, and latterly the piano.

Sadly Graeme's wife, Vivian died of cancer, but he remained in Troon for a further year then chose to come back to the East side of the country.

He moved to East Lothian, to the village of East Saltoun. He met many new friends including Hella. Their relationship developed quickly and in 2009 they married, sold the East Saltoun house and moved to Gleneagles.

They shared a love of golf and there were many family parties and gatherings, both in Gleneagles and Edinburgh, voluntary work as part of the Hospitals Inspectorate and of course, grandchildren to engage with.

He was always the last to bed at the end of a get together. As his sister Lesley observed during his life, he never wanted the day to end, which adds poignancy to the observation that for all us who knew him, he left the party far too soon.

#### Contributed

### Ron (CHUBBY) Armstrong (S 1950)

(Died 7th February, 2017)

Ron was born in Leith, the youngest of the 3 children of Andrew and Frances Armstrong. He was always a proud Leither.



He spent a few years at Trinity Primary School and then in 1939 went to the Choir School at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Palmerston Place travelling there twice every day by tram or walking.

Beside basic education there he learned to love singing which was one of his passions until the end of his life. His voice broke in 1945 when he won a bursary to Daniel Stewart's College. Soon after his arrival they were having a poetry lesson and cherubic singing was mentioned in the text. His neighbour nudged him and said 'you are a singer; a cherubic singer; a chubby singer; we'll call you "Chubby"'. And so he remained till this day. He has always kept up the connection with St. Mary's, participating in various events and he would have been particularly pleased that Madeleine from the current choir of The Cathedral came to his Thanksgiving Service to sing 'I know that my Redeemer liveth'.

On their first date Chubby took Margaret to the Cathedral to the Christmas Eve service in 1970 and they have attended that service every Christmas since then - for 46 years!

Daniel Stewart's was quite another kind of education and he liked it there too. He was readily accepted because of his good nature, his sense of humour and his budding skill on the rugby field. Indeed, rugby seems to have been more important than gaining academic certificates. At that time there was a really good friendly competitive atmosphere in rugby when the players made friends both with their own team and with their opponents. He was proud to be a member of the FP 1st XV team for a while. He made good lifelong friends in these days, a few of whom have stuck it out to be present for him at the end of his happy life. For many years, 12-15 of these friends used to rent a holiday house for a week somewhere in Scotland and they spent the time telling stories, jokes, recalling happy memories and playing rounders or cricket. Chubby usually did most of the cooking for the mob.

He always enjoyed encouraging the younger rugby players and for many years was involved in assisting with the running of the team sport, culminating in being honoured as President of the FP Rugby Club.

He recalled with pleasure when he cycled round Scotland with his friend Ferrier Pryde and they both enjoyed the annual harvest camp when they helped farmers in various parts of the country to gather in the harvest during the School's autumn holiday.

He remained a loyal Former Pupil to Erskine Stewart's Melville throughout his life and was always interested and enthusiastic about its changing progress. He was proud of its success and hearing about the success of individual students and groups of students gave him real pleasure.

Of course he had also to make a living and left School to join Ferranti where he attended night school to qualify as an engineer. He enjoyed that too and got the opportunity to travel the world to help set off Blue Streak, one of the first rockets to be fired into space. He spent some time in Woomera, Australia where he joined an international team of engineers. There he was known as the best English speaker in the German team and, again, loved the social contacts and has friends from these days who still come to stay at Strathalmond Court. He took his holidays on the way home from spells in Woomera and visited relations in Canada and old school friends in many different parts of the world which he certainly would not have seen otherwise. He remained a Ferranti employee until he retired, just before that estimable firm got into difficulties and changed its character altogether.

Chubby and Margaret were married in 1971 and came to live in Strathalmond Court. About the third Sunday later he suggested they go down to Cramond Kirk to see what went on there, not having told his wife he knew anything about it.

They got to Cramond Kirk and Chubby was welcomed by many of the congregation. He hadn't told his wife that he had spent many happy years there with school friends who lived in the area. Of course he was quickly enrolled in the choir and the two of them have hardly missed a Sunday since. He became an elder in 1973 and both he and Margaret have been involved in the congregational life ever since.

Of course Chubby decided to try golf and became a member of the Royal Burgess Golfing Society where he never really became a star golfer but loved talking with people and making friends with everybody he met, enjoying the visits to other clubs throughout the country, especially perhaps the trips to Belfast and Blackheath. He assisted with the organisation of the annual Queen Elizabeth Competition when FPs came from many schools all over the country and was a great pleasure for him.

Again he played his part in the organisation of the club, was a Council member, and was Club Captain for a good number of years.

He had plenty of other activities and interests. He liked curling with the Cramond Curlers, trying to catch a salmon, cooking, gardening, reading, collecting and refusing to throw anything away.

Singing was one of his greatest pleasures. He sang quite a bit around the house, serenading Margaret with 'O gin I were a baron's heir' which gave her more pleasure than any bunch of roses which he never ever thought about.

Lately he has enjoyed his time with the Stewart's Melville Community Choir and was looking forward to presenting Zadok the Priest, The Heavens are Telling (Haydn) and Mozart's Coronation Mass in May 2017.

#### Margaret Armstrong

## Douglas Middlemass

(S 1952)

(Died 26th February, 2017)



Douglas was born in Edinburgh on the 30th May, 1935 and attended Daniel Stewart's College from the age of 5. From a very young age he was playing and watching sport and by 11 he was learning to ride race

horses in Edinburgh. After leaving School he joined a local bank, possibly influenced by his father who was a Bank Manager.

He worked there for a year before being called up for National Service where he spent two years in South Korea with The Royal Signals. Like many young men of his generation he made the most of opportunities presented and spent his leave in Tokyo.

After National Service he returned to the bank, but soon realised that he did not want to follow in his father's footsteps. He loved working outside and travelling so he pursued opportunities of working abroad.

In 1957 he joined The Standard Bank of South Africa in London and a year later was posted to Tanganyika (now Tanzania). On arrival in Dar es Salaam he became involved with the Currency Board which meant that he had to carry a gun although he never had to use it. He was able to pursue his love of horse riding, rugby and cricket at The Gymkhana Club. However, one big disappointment was that, due to illness, he had to call off playing scrum half against the visiting 1962 British Lions team which included an old classmate – John Douglas. They did finally meet up again when Douglas organised a Class Reunion in June 2012 at the School. He finally traced many of his classmates with the help of Bruce Field who it turned out had been trying to trace his whereabouts for more than 10 years.

Douglas and Barbara met in 1959 in Dar es Salaam. Five weeks after their first meeting Douglas asked her to marry him. In those days it was, of course, necessary to seek the consent of one's intended parents - not an easy task in the days before e-mail or reliable telephone calls, when mail could take several days to arrive. Consent was given, however it was not until 1962 that finally Douglas met his in-laws while on 5 months' leave in the UK.

After long leave Douglas decided to join Lloyds Bank and took a post in Guildford where he stayed for two years. By this time hankering to get back to his beloved Scotland he applied for a transfer to either Scotland or the North of England - only to be offered a move to Bromsgrove about 15 miles from Birmingham! His reasons for wanting a transfer were basically to be closer to his parents who were not too well at the time.

Douglas and Barbara moved to Droitwich Spa in Worcestershire where they soon made many friends. Andrew was born in 1967 and Fiona in 1969.

In the 1980s Doug's desire to work outdoors led to early retirement from the bank, ultimately setting up his own business as a landscape gardener.

He was in his element working outside and in horticulture, but his deep desire to be back in Scotland remained. Andrew and Fiona had left home to pursue their own careers, and Douglas and Barbara enjoyed several years of happy retirement together, spending holidays on cruises around New Zealand, South Africa, the USA, Canada, the Mediterranean and the Far East.

Douglas continued to pursue his various hobbies, gardening of course, golf, bowls, watching rugby and cricket, stamp collecting and jigsaw puzzles, the more complicated the better. He also read a lot and had a fantastic knowledge, which he always put down to the excellent education which Stewart's had provided and felt privileged to have been a pupil.

In many ways he was a quiet man; described by his friends as a true gentleman, but could be quite single-minded too. He trained as a Sports Therapist so that he could treat any injuries his daughter might incur when she was involved in athletics.

What is more he had a lively sense of humour and his family was an important part of his life.

He died on the 26th February, 2017 the day before our 57th wedding anniversary and was buried in the family grave at Kinghorn Cemetery in Fife. A Memorial Service was held in Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire on the 23rd March, 2017 and was attended by quite a few of his Scottish friends. The service was totally Scottish from beginning to end, including Robbie Burns and a Celtic Blessing, finally leaving the Methodist Church with a great rendition of Flower of Scotland.

Douglas would have been so proud!

**Barbara Middlemass**

## Dr Kenneth Tyson

(M 1951)

(Died 11th March, 2017)

Kenneth Tyson left Melville College in 1951, having been CSM in the CCF, winner of the Mile Cup and a Prefect. After graduating BDS in Edinburgh, he spent his life in Dentistry, becoming Head of Prosthetic Dentistry at the University of Edinburgh Dental School from 1983 – 1995, when he retired. He was Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Dundee from 1995.

**Contributed**

## Stuart Grant

(S 1943)

(Died 1st April, 2017)

Stuart went to Daniel Stewart's in 1931 in Class 1. Two years later, however, his father was killed in a road accident and his mother was left as a widow, without a pension and with two children at Merchant Company schools. Very fortunately Stuart was granted a foundation by the School and was able to remain at Stewart's until he left (as Dux) in 1943 to go to Edinburgh University to study Mechanical Engineering.

During the war the university courses were shortened by having an extra term from July to September, so he graduated in December 1945 (with a first class honours degree).

Although the war was over the graduates were conscripted into the Army and Stuart ended up as a Captain in REME stationed in Japan.

After demobilisation in 1948 he went to work for the North British Rubber Company in Edinburgh, which shortly before had been acquired by the United States Rubber Company, later Uniroyal. With them he made a number of visits to the USA, some of them with the General Sales Manager, who later offered him the job as Sales Manager of the Footwear Division.

Some years later after he had left North British, he had a phone call from an American who had been for some time with the NB in Scotland, to say that he, and two other industrial engineers whom Stuart knew, had left US Rubber and set up as Management Consultants. He asked if Stuart would like to come over and join them. After discussions with his wife, Joyce, he told them that he did not want to emigrate permanently but would be willing to come over for three or four years and so a few weeks later flew to Boston.

The stay in America went well but after a year Stuart met by pure chance the Chairman and CEO of Burlington Industries, then the world's largest textile Company. Mr. Love was looking for a young man to go to Europe and set up an office to help them to find other possible acquisitions to add to one or two small ones, which they already had. He offered Stuart the job and two weeks later, he spent his first day with Burlington flying to London with Mr Love to look at a possible acquisition. After a few days he returned to the USA and spent a few weeks learning something about the textile industry before going first to London and three years later, in 1964 to Switzerland.

At Stewart's, Stuart had given up French after Form IV to take Higher History and had never studied German, so living and working in Switzerland was a problem at first. Stuart and Joyce got up an hour earlier each day to study German. For the first four or five years the textile business went well and Burlington made a number

of acquisitions in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain and the UK which involved a great deal of travelling. But in the 70's, competition from the Far East became an increasing problem for the textile industry both in Europe and the United States and business started to go downhill. Thereafter the work became increasingly involved with closing plants and sales offices - a melancholy job.

As retirement approached, Stuart and Joyce decide that they would stay in Switzerland, having lived there longer than anywhere else and having become Swiss citizens in 1984.

Joyce recalls that though Stuart had a very varied life, sometimes things were pretty tough. However he was always a hard worker which was often the only way to get through.

**Contributed**

**Gordon Stewart**

(M 1963)  
(Died 4th April, 2017)



Born on 26th June, 1945, Gordon started at Melville College in 1950. Being a very sociable person, he made plenty of friends at School. Many remained lifelong friends, despite living far apart, and throughout his life he continued to

attend the Class of '63 reunions.

After leaving School, Gordon went into the insurance industry at Commercial Union. In those days it was a very personal business and he enjoyed looking after his clients. Over time, Commercial Union was acquired by General Accident, which then merged with Norwich Union (and later became Aviva). The industry had changed. It had become more impersonal; dominated by multinationals and their computer systems. For Gordon, it was also time for a change.

Tackling yet another raft of financial industry exams, he qualified as an Independent Financial Advisor and joined Murray Beith & Murray. There he was more at home - back doing business with people and not so much to do with computers!

After 11 years at MBM he retired, Gordon cultivated his passion for the history of Edinburgh and Scotland, volunteering as an official Edinburgh Royal Mile Festival Guide. Meanwhile, he continued his lifelong love of the accordion and piano. As a lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed cycling in the country with other 'golden oldies' who styled themselves as 'The Last of the Summer Wine Cycling and Luncheon Society' - although this was a far cry from the slightly wilder biker days of his youth touring the highlands of Scotland!

Unfortunately, Gordon was diagnosed

with cancer in 2014. He fought the odds with his typical stoic nature, took part in a pharmaceutical trial, and won another two good years beyond what the doctors thought possible.

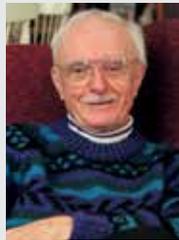
After a small family funeral, a celebration of his life was held at the Inverleith Clubhouse, with extended family and lifelong friends travelling from all over the country to say a final farewell. It was a night Gordon would have enjoyed himself.

Gordon leaves behind his wife Irena, sons Moray and Martin and 4 grandchildren.

**Martin Stewart**

**Brian Sunners**

(S 1950)  
(Died 18th April, 2017)



Brian was born in Liverpool the son of the late Henry and Frances (Connolly) Sunners. Brian grew up in Edinburgh, where he attended Daniel Stewart's from 1947 to 1950 then at Edinburgh University

obtaining a PhD in Chemistry. In 1957, at Blackhall Church in Edinburgh, he married Anne. Upon completion of his Doctorate, they moved to Ottawa. He obtained a fellowship to work at the National Research Council of Canada, a governmental research organization. After two years, he was recruited by IBM in Poughkeepsie. He spent the next 30 years working for IBM in a variety of capacities. During his tenure, he received many individual and group patents. He enjoyed the range of his work and the relationships he developed with his colleagues; relationships that continued until his death.

Brian retired at the age of 59, beginning part 2 of his life; and he never looked back. He spent close to the next 20 years hiking, biking, and travelling. He participated in these activities with a close knit group of friends. He and his friend and companion Angie spent many months, most years travelling to many exotic places. He truly enjoyed his retirement.

Brian died on 18th April, 2017 at Lake Katrine, New York, USA, and is survived by his two children, Alan and Liz, and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by his younger brother Donald.

**Liz Sunners**

**Alastair McLean**

(S 1950)  
(Died 11th May, 2017)

Alexander (or Alastair as he was better known) was born in Edinburgh on 9th July, 1932 - sharing a birthday with Donald



Rumsfeld and J. Paul Getty II!

Alastair's father was Junior Headmaster at Daniel Stewart's College until his death in 1944 and Alastair completed his schooling there before obligatory

National Service. Some of that time he was posted to Korea - where, by his own admission, the closest he got to action was watching a Chinese fighter plane being shot down.

He returned to Edinburgh and entry to the Dick Vet. College to study Veterinary Medicine. After qualifying he went to Cockermouth in Cumbria for some practical experience of country practice.

In 1959 he married Eleanor and the couple set up home in Keith, Banffshire. Their daughter, Alison, was born there in 1960. They then moved to Pitlochry for more experience and here their son Keith Blair Alexander was born.

The family settled in Hexham, Northumberland in 1963 where he took up a partnership.

Alastair had a distinguished 34 year career here, during which time he worked really hard, long hours without complaint and pretty much ignoring any stress or illness. Alastair didn't do "days off". He was held in very high regard by the Hexham and district farming community.

"Are ye gonna be a vet like your faitha" was a popular question to me in my younger days. He was not often there but was good fun when he was. We were encouraged to take no prisoners in Scrabble, Monopoly and card games and we were hugely encouraged in our school studies - Alison took notice, Keith less so!

His retirement came in 1997 and he found time for golf and regularly travelled up to Edinburgh to see Heart of Midlothian play. The 7 highlights of his retirement were his 7 grandchildren. He loved them all and put enormous effort into their stimulation & entertainment and received much love & respect from them. He accepted the tragic loss of his daughter, Alison, with dignity and courage, typically offering support to others in a situation no parent should have to go through.

The last few years were particularly dispiriting and gruelling for Alastair, but one thing he would have noticed was Eleanor's careful and considerate nursing and he was certainly cheered by the visits of the bright & pretty Hexham District nurses.

He went through the final 2 months in Hexham Hospital with more than one member of staff saying that he never complained about anything - which, in summary, he mirrored for nearly 85 years. We shall all miss the Head of our personal Clan McLean.

**Keith McLean**

**Dr. Stuart Laing, BSc, PHD, C,Chem., MRIC,BA. (Photo) (M 1960) (Died 4th June, 2017)**



Stuart enjoyed both Scottish and English life, full of colour and long-lasting friendships. He was an eminent and highly motivated analytical research chemist. Employed by Glaxo Labs in Greenford

Middlesex; from 1967-1995.

In 1987 the Glaxo team, including Stuart, were awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the production of the antibiotic cefuroxime axetil.

Stuart was born in Edinburgh in 1942 but in the 1950s he contracted polio and had to wear an iron lung. This meant he couldn't take part in most of the team sports in his teenage years. He attended Melville College from 1947- 1960 and started long friendships with Fraser Stoddart (now knighted and a Nobel Prize winner), and Derek Sutherland who would join him at Glaxo in later years. The CCF taught him discipline and leadership skills which became the foundation for his inquisitive and inventive mind.

He graduated BSc honours in chemistry at Edinburgh University, then continued with a University Demonstratorship, from which he gained his PhD.

In 1967 he became a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry as a chartered chemist and the doors opened for him to begin his illustrious and analytical research with Glaxo Labs Ltd, in Greenford, Middlesex.

A passion for deep-sea diving emanating from early family holidays in North Berwick led him to run and teach sub-aqua diving at Ealing pool in London. He loved photography and was a member of the Royal Society of Photography in Bristol and judged many competitions

Stuart's main passion though was of everything on two wheels and a motor which saw him criss-crossing the UK stopping at various biker-friendly watering holes. On 17th July, at his funeral, a 202 bike escort was arranged for his journey to the Crematorium – a road of thunder!

However his main love was everything to do with his homeland and the many friendships he made during a very active life.

**Adapted from a eulogy by Colin Veitch**

**David West**

(S 1966)  
(Died 17th June, 2017)

David West was a proud man of Scotland. Born in Edinburgh, the son of a butcher, brother to George, a pupil of Daniel Stewart's and a graduate in Architecture



from the Edinburgh College of Art. Edinburgh was where he met and wooed Sheila - probably turning her head with his first car - a very unreliable Ford Popular. And it was in Edinburgh that he had his first proper job - working for Sir Basil Spence.

David had decided he needed more to his bow than Architecture alone could provide, so he and Sheila left the comforts of their first home together, and set up house in Cardiff while he studied for a post graduate course in Town & Country Planning. David was immensely popular and great company. He was generous to a fault, had a razor sharp wit and always enjoyed mixing with friends and family - any venue would do but ideally a room with a bar in it!

But there was much more to David than his social skills. He was determined and had ambition carving out a very successful career. After an initial spell with Wyre Council, he went on to much greater things first with W S Atkins and then to Broadway Malayan in 1984 ultimately to become a Director until retirement in 2008. During those years he helped develop the consultancy to become one of the largest and most successful in the country.

Their move to London had its early challenges but eventually the family settled in East Horsley where David embraced new friends at the Drift Golf Club and then at Effingham's Golf and Rugby Clubs.

He loved his golf, could boast at least two holes in one, was a Life Member of the Ferret's Golf Society and also a member of the White Rabbit Golf Society. Despite increasing frailty in the last few years David was determined to continue to play regularly with colleagues and they did their utmost to bend the playing rules in David's favour.

David was a passionate, if sometimes frustrated, follower of Scotland's rugby fortunes as a squash playing member of The Waverley Boasters with his Edinburgh pals home and away. The Boasters enjoyed a pre-match game and then a glass or two in Dublin, Paris, Richmond, and Cardiff and of course as hosts at the Waverley Tennis and Squash club in Edinburgh.

With Broadway Malayan he travelled widely, to China and America amongst others and the family enjoyed trips to France and Holland and annual tours took us to New York, Iceland, various European cities and most recently to India.

Elsewhere, in all weathers, David bagged 98 Munros, including the Inaccessible Pinnacle on Skye. He loved his walking and was a member of The Strollers Walking Group for over twenty years.

Although he'd chosen to make his life in England, David remained truly Scottish at heart. Hogmanay and Burns' Night were

family traditions. He and Sheila renovated a wonderful apartment in North Berwick and he took great pride in his associations with the Caledonian Society and Stewart's Melville FPs. He will be remembered with fondness by members of the Stewart's Melville London Club as its President for two years between 2002 and 2004 and organising their meetings on the first Wednesday of each month in central London "committee rooms", aka The Clachan, Kingly Street. Sadly attendance could be challenging and I'm told that David's presidency was notable for the lengths he went to encourage old boys to come along!

This great strength of character shone through in his recent battle with illness. Doubtless this didn't make him the easiest of patients at times but as always Sheila was loving and tolerant and supportive. He took great pride in all his family, in their academic and sporting achievements and in their partnerships and of course most recently in his grandchildren.

David was our great friend and we'll all miss him. An old acquaintance who will never be forgot.

**Edited from a eulogy given by Andy Wallis**

**Colin McCulloch**

(M 1954)  
(Died 19th July, 2017)

Colin McCulloch, well known all round games player at School, died peacefully at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 19th July, 2017.

**Contributed**

**David Stewart Purves**

(M 1949)  
(Died 28th August, 2017)



Stewart came to Melville College from Gillsland Park Preparatory School when he was nine years old, and left school in 1948.

He started work with the National Bank of Scotland but was soon

called up for National Service.

After training at Catterick, he served with the 4th Royal Tank Regiment at Shandur in the Suez Canal Zone, being demobbed just before the Suez Crisis hit the area.

Once home, he returned to the National Bank, which was soon merged with the Commercial Bank to form the National Commercial Bank of Scotland and finally The Royal Bank of Scotland, where he became a Senior Assistant Manager in branch banking.

It was his lifetime career and he took a personal interest in the well-being of all of his customers.

Stewart was a keen sportsman. He played cricket for the 1st XI in 1947 and later played for the Melville College FP Cricket team, following in the footsteps of his father who played for Carlton Cricket Club.

His other love was golf. He was a member of Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society and played for Melville College FP Golf Club, whilst in earlier years he brought home a formidable array of trophies from the Bank Golf Club.

In recent times, the FP Golf Club Dinner was the highlight of the year, and he still played with the Wednesday Group at Bruntsfield every week until his final illness at the end of July this year.

He was a quiet man who enjoyed the company of his friends at the golf club, some of whom had been at Melville College with him all those years ago.

He is survived by his wife Marjory, whom he married in 1956, and his two sons, John and Michael.

He is very much missed by his family.

#### **Marjory Purves**

### **David K Snedden**

(S 1950)

(Died 20th September, 2017)

David Snedden, who died aged 84 was a major force in the British Newspaper industry as Chief Executive and then Chairman of Trinity International and Managing Director of The Scotsman amongst others.

He was born in Grangemouth on February 23 1933, the son of a publican. Educated at Daniel Stewart's College, he travelled from Grangemouth each day along with Jim Arnot, Ian Dick and Jim Nesbit. They all did well in later life but what went on in the train each morning was restricted information, if not top secret.

He had a commanding way with numbers and chartered accountancy beckoned. After qualifying as a CA in Edinburgh he immediately received his call-up papers and was selected for pilot training in the RAF (having avoided a more natural post in the Pay Corps.). As part of a group of young pilots he ranged far and wide during leave periods, often in a venerable Oldsmobile that was only kept on the road by filling the leaking gear box with sawdust.

Having completed his training in Canada the lure of the business world was to prove too strong and he returned to the UK spending a year with Guinness Mahon as an investment manager but felt somewhat constrained as the senior management

rejected all his prescient recommendations to move into Unit Trusts.

At an interview at the age of 25 for the post of Financial Director of The Scotsman, by the Canadian Sir Roy Thomson, Sir Roy remarked that he was very young for such a post to which he allegedly responded "do you want age or ability".

Indeed, David's success stemmed from his ability to cherish the bottom line and increase profits. Whilst MD of The Belfast Telegraph in 1967 he was the first to publish opinion polls, directly influencing the calling of the 1969 Election in Northern Ireland.

The move to Edinburgh in 1970 as MD of The Scotsman allowed him to put his ideas on the linkage of product profile to circulation and advertising sales into much wider practice. He quickly raised the circulation of The Scotsman to its highest ever level and formed a syndicate to secure the franchise for Radio Forth. He moved The Scotsman and The Edinburgh Evening News into new areas of sponsorship such as the Monte Carlo Rally and the first Edinburgh Marathon. Recognising the increasing importance of the Edinburgh Festival, The Scotsman organised the Cavalcade as a Festival opening event. Snedden was also very much a champion of the Tenovus charity in Scotland.

From Edinburgh, he moved to London becoming Joint Managing Director of Thompson Regional Newspapers. This was not a particularly happy time for him and he was delighted to be headhunted by what was to become the Trinity International Group. Here he quickly got to grips with the Militant Tendency faction by training senior staff to operate equipment, and thereby maintaining production. It came as no surprise to any who knew him well that he sought to modernise The Post and Echo to better champion local views in Liverpool. The evening paper shifted from a Conservative outlook to a Social Democratic one under a newly appointed editor, Chris Oakley.

Snedden retired at 60 in 1993 and kept himself fit and active on the golf courses at Bruntsfield and Grantown on Spey. He was a keen fly fisherman and was blessed with streaks of great good fortune including landing a brace of the largest Brown Trout caught in living memory on North Uist.

David is survived by his second wife Jane, his two sons Keith and Stuart, and his five grandchildren.

**With thanks to Keith Snedden & Ferrier Pryde**

## **Late Announcements**

### **Tom Craig**

(M1951)

(Died 23rd August, 2017)

### **Colin Peter**

(M 1969)

(Died 21st September, 2017)

### **James Hoggan**

(M 1965)

(Died 18th October, 2017)

### **David G S Macmillan**

(M 1944)

(Died 9th October, 2017)

### **Conrad Wilson**

(S 1950)

(Died 17th November, 2017)

### **James McLaren**

(M 1966)

(Died 27th November, 2017)

### **Ron Thomas**

(S 1951)

(Died November, 2017)

### **Arthur Christie**

(M 1937)

(Died 9th December, 2017)

### **Arnie Maran**

(S 1954)

(Died 10th December, 2017)

## **Members of Staff Past and Present**

**Graeme Mitchell**, teacher of Chemistry of distinction at Stewart's Melville College for 26 years, an exceptional leader of the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force for the past 11 years, died in January at the age of 53.

**Mrs. Margaret McKelvey (nee Pratt)**, a much loved Primary School teacher for many years at Melville College and ESMS and also a formidable hockey player, died peacefully on 6th April, 2017 aged 94.

# FP Club Council 2017-2018



*Back Row L – R: Bob Young, Suzi Squires, Ali Stewart (representing the Rugby Club), David Clarke, John Archer, Sandra Frost*

*Front Row L – R: Toby Hughes (School Rep); Laura McIntosh, Charles Wilson, Cameron Fulton (School Rep)*

*Inset: David Gray*



## Contacts

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<b>Glasgow</b>	Secretary: Rod Hunter Contact: rod@rodcando.co.uk
<b>London</b>	Secretary: Tom Scrimgeour Contact: tomscrimgeour@aol.com
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### Affiliated Club Contacts

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# Stewart's Melville FP Clubhouse **Available for Hire**



Corporate Meetings, Anniversary Dinners,  
Funeral Lunches, Private Parties and Weddings

**FUNCTION SUITES - BAR & CATERING FACILITIES**

**For Further Details Contact Laura McIntosh**

**Tel: 07757 088 838**

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