



# FP CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

The **NEW** Quarterly FP Club Newsletter | April 2023 | **Issue 2**

## A Word from the President

Following the bumper edition of our first digital Quarterly Newsletter and with the intervening festive holiday period normal service resumed at the club on Saturday 7th January with the pre-match lunch prior to the Stewart's Melville v Watsonians Edinburgh Derby match with the large attendance enjoying most entertaining speeches by our own Jim Calder and Watsonians Gavin Hastings who coincidentally celebrated his 61st birthday that day together with it the anniversary of winning the first of his 61 Scottish Caps. Clearly 61 was a lucky number!

The End of Month Lunches were restarted but unfortunately the planned January lunch was cancelled due to lack of support. The February lunch proceeded albeit with smaller numbers than required by the caterers although those attending enjoyed a convivial outing. I am looking forward to the March lunch.

In an effort to attract greater numbers at the lunches the present arrangements have been reassessed and there will be a new format for the monthly lunches from April to June. These are now open to the whole ESMS Community (Mary Erskine former pupils and retired staff of



**Ken, Angus and Tom at Royal and Ancient Club St Andrews.**

all three schools) and there is no longer a need to book in advance, although if you plan to attend, please contact Suzi on [smcfclub@esms.org.uk](mailto:smcfclub@esms.org.uk) or on 0131 311 1131 around a week prior to the event so that the caterers can ensure there is enough for everyone. The menu is changed too – we are now offering soup and either a meat or fish main for £15 with the option of purchasing a traybake from the bar. Dates are in the events grid in the next section. Vegetarians and other dietary requirements should be notified a week ahead of the date so that the caterers can ensure there is enough for everyone.

Once again, I will strongly encourage a greater number of members to participate in the lunches since attendances will have a direct impact on their future viability.

I was unable to attend the London Club Dinner which took place on Friday 17 March, although I understand there were a record number of guests including a good number of younger alumni living in the city and even some girls from MES too.

The first Council Meeting of 2023 was held on Wednesday 1st February on

Zoom. Council Member Alasdair Seale stood down last year when he became Chair of ESMS Governing Council. At this meeting Ali Stewart tendered his resignation from Council due to other commitments including elsewhere within the club. I would

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very much like to take this opportunity to thank Alasdair and Ali for their valued contribution as members of the Council and my thanks also to the remaining members for their continuing support.

On 22nd February I had a meeting with Keith Schorah, Chairman of Stewart's Melville Rugby by way of introduction and an update on the progress of the club. Later that day I met with Angela Alexander (new Director of Development) and Suzi Squires when we discussed various topics concerning the club namely End of Month Lunches, collaboration between SMC FP Club and the MES Guild, informal group get togethers off site in central Edinburgh to encourage those SMC & MES pupils who are due to leave school or have recently left in the benefits of being club members on leaving school.

It should be noted 2023 is the 50th

anniversary year of the merger of the two schools, Melville College and Daniel Stewart's College together with their respective FP Clubs in 1973. More details will emerge throughout the coming months and will be well publicised through appropriate channels.

The finances of the club are in good health and most capably managed by our stalwart treasurer Rob Kernohan. Prudent management of the club's finances shall continue in this satisfactory manner.

In conclusion I would again reiterate previous requests for all manner of contributions, photographs both old and new, cuttings from media publications etc. I would also remind members of the constant thirst for suggestions in terms of what the membership would like the club to offer to the members.



**Ken Russell as President of St Andrew's Business Club**

My very best wishes to all our members near and far and we look forward to Spring around the corner and the sounds of bat and ball on the cricket squares.

**Thank you all again for your much appreciated and valuable support.**

## Parent Club News and Events

Title	Date	Location	Booking required	How to book
London Club Pub Night	05/04/2023	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
FP Club Monthly Lunch	28/04/2023	Inverleith	No	Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance
Sydney Branch Gathering	02/05/2023	The Oaks, Neutral Bay	No	Please contact Graeme Reid on gmr1160@msn.com to advise of your attendance
London Club Pub Night	03/05/2023	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
FP Club Monthly Lunch	26/05/2023	Inverleith		Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance
London Club Pub Night	07/06/2023	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
FP Club Monthly Lunch	30/06/2022	Inverleith		Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance
London Scottish Schools Golfing Society Anniesland Trophy	27/06/2023	Denham Golf Club, UB9 5DE	Yes	Contact fred@torrangray.co.uk for more details



# End of Month Lunches

As mentioned by Ken Russell, the format for the end of month lunches is changing due to feedback from members. Dates for the summer term are: Friday 28 April, Friday 26 May and Friday 30 June, all at Inverleith from 12pm with lunch being served at 1pm. Lunch will now be soup and a meat/fish main for £15 per head. There is no need to book in advance, however it would be very much appreciated if you could either email or call Suzi on [smcfcplub@esms.org.uk](mailto:smcfcplub@esms.org.uk) or on 0131 311 1131 to advise your attendance as it helps our caterers prepare and ensure there is enough for everyone. Payments will be made at the till on the day. If you have any dietary requirements, please notify your attendance and requirements to Suzi at least 7 days ahead of the gathering to ensure catering to fit your needs.



## London Club

The London Club dinner took place on Friday 17 March in the Caledonian Club in Belgravia. A record 66 guests were booked to attend including a record number of young alumni from both SMC and MES. Guests enjoyed hearing from current Chair of the ESMS Governing Council, Alasdair Seale, as well as Anthony Simpson, current Principal of ESMS, about the schools as they are today. Congratulations to the London Club Committee on such a successful event!





# MEMORIES

## FP Angling Club

We've had contact recently from the family of the late James Calum McCready who was involved in the FP Angling Club, variously being Secretary and Treasurer. The family are keen to have a photo of the Angling Club Trophy and to learn more about the Club itself. If you can help with either of these queries, please contact Suzi on [smcfclub@esms.org.uk](mailto:smcfclub@esms.org.uk) or on 0131 311 1131.



# SPORTS CLUBS UPDATE

## Rugby Club

The 1st XV have been playing in National League 1 this season - the highest tier of amateur rugby in Scotland.

After defeating GHK 27-21 at Inverleith in the first game of the season, the 1st XV have, sadly, lost all 18 of their league games since then. We picked up a number of injuries at the start of the season as our players became accustomed to the increased physicality of National 1 and things haven't improved on that front as the season has progressed. The end result is that we've regularly had to call on a number of 2nd XV players to step up to the 1st XV. They have all done their very best but, to be honest, we have been out of our depth this season.

The 1st XV have managed to pick up 8 losing bonus points in defeat but still sit bottom of the table. With three teams due to be relegated this season due to league reconstruction, we will definitely be playing in National League 2 during season 2023/24.

The 2nd XV have also suffered from injuries and player availability but, thanks to the Herculean efforts of the coaching team, have still managed to fulfil the majority of their fixtures. With the Reserve league season now complete, they sit 8th in the table after 3 wins, 13 losses and 2 draws.

The social scene remains strong at the club with Vice President Jason Conlin having organised two Community Days this season, bringing together our sponsors, ESMS 6th Year pupils

and special needs children from the Edinburgh area. The feedback from everyone involved in these events, not least the parents of the children taking part, has been fantastic and we will be looking to expand this initiative next season. The club also organised a very successful Burns Supper at Inverleith on 21st January while our pre-match lunches featuring big-name speakers like Gavin Hastings and Hamish Watson have been very well attended.

Preparations are already well underway for next season and there has already been one change in the coaching team with forwards coach John Hardie heading to take up a similar role at Goldenacre. He has been replaced by our former player and SMC FP Andrew Kelly.

**Bill McNie, Club President**



**Stew Mel Vs Aberdeen Grammar - Credit to Jax Mackenzie**



**Stew Mel Vs Stirling Wolves 1 - Credit to Jax Mackenzie**

## Curling Club

The season was later in starting and finished early due to large increases in electricity costs.

We managed with the help of our substitutes to complete our internal league for the Andrew Williamson Trophy which was won by the rink composed of skip Ralph Garden with Alastair Galloway, Tanya McLaren .

### FP League

This continued with four FP clubs and as you can see from the picture we swept the board, winning the Wilson Heatly trophy against Heriots, the Watsonian Salver, and the corn broom as overall league winners. From left to right, George Bee, Simon Luxford - Moore, Douglas Moncrieff and Vicky Gumley.

### Other Curling News

Vicky Gumley was part of the successful Scottish Ladies tour of the USA and also was in the rink that won the silver medal in the Scottish Senior Championships.

In January 60 male curlers set off for a three and a half week tour of Canada to play Canada for the Strathcona Cup. The party was split



into three groups of 20 curlers, with one on the west tour including our own Malcolm Watson, one on the central tour and one on the east tour, including President George Bee and Secretary David McKay. Sadly we

just failed to win back the Cup but a fabulous and exhausting time was had by all.

Unfortunately we were unable to organise a date for the match against the school.

## BRANCH CLUBS

### London Club

The London Stewart's Melville FP Club is in good heart under the Presidency of George McNeil and we are particularly pleased that our recent Annual Dinner achieved the highest attendance ever showing that we have truly bounced back from Covid constraints.

The Annual Dinner was held at The Caledonian Club on Friday 17th March with Alasdair Seale, Chair of the ESMS Governing Council as Guest Speaker and an overall attendance of 63. The School was well represented with the Principal and both School Captains (SMC & MES) all speaking and Frances McCrudden, Barry McMaster and Angela Alexander also attending.

However the major achievement this year was to achieve a significant breakthrough in getting a goodly number of younger FPs working and studying in London and the South-East to attend by offering 50% reduction on the ticket price to all under the age of 30. We first introduced this offer in 2022 when 14 SMC youngsters responded and this year we had 25 take advantage of the discount including, for the first time, thirteen Mary Erskine Ladies.

The London Club is funding these young FP reductions from our own funds and hopefully we shall be able to maintain this benefit in future years as we realise that only by sharply lowering our average age profile will the Club continue to thrive.

We were sorry that Ken Russell could not join us this year but were pleased that Ken Richards and Pauline again supported our Dinner. The banqueting room we have the use of at Caledonian Club can easily accommodate up to 100 so we are hopeful that we can build on this year's success on Friday 15th March 2024 when it would great if a few more FPs from Edinburgh could organise a Spring Weekend in London and join our Annual Dinner.



## Sydney Club

The Sydney Branch of the FP Club reports that they missed a couple of annual lunches due to COVID but their lunch did take place in April 2022 and they plan to hold their next lunch on 2nd May 2023, the first Tuesday after ANZAC Day, at 12 noon. The venue will be The Oaks in Neutral Bay, Sydney. Please contact Graeme Reid on gmr1160@msn.com to advise of your attendance.

## Glasgow Club

This Report will seem like Groundhog Day to those who bothered to read the previous one.

Once more the Club took a table at Old Anniesland for the Fixture against GHK. Club President Ken Russell was again invited as a guest and Peter Wright, the GHK Coach proffered his views on the club game in Scotland and its governing body. On this occasion the result again ended in a defeat but whereas the previous time GHK had pretty much run away with matters we managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory ending up on the wrong end of a 24-18 score line.

Its "Off Season" for beer festivals so none to report on this occasion but it is anticipated by the time of the next Report that a few will be under our belt. available or at least fit for publication.

## Perth Club

Discussions are taking place with a former pupil now based in Perth, Australia, about setting up a branch of the Club there. If you know of any former pupils living in the area, please encourage them to get in touch with the Club on smcfclub@esms.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

# NEWS FROM STEWART'S MELVILLE COLLEGE

## A Word from the Head

At the beginning of February audiences were treated to the ESMS Middle School Musical – Shrek. With a talented cast of around 60 pupils, 12 props club members and a team of 12 upper school make-up artists the show was a resounding success. Jamie Liddle (Musical Director) and Diane Sobolewska (Director) began rehearsals with the cast in October last year and were joined by Jenny Watson as Stage Manager. This was an upbeat, colourful and fun production in the Mar Hall.

A few weeks later TFC audiences attended the second senior play of the academic year. This set a very different mood as the backdrop was a WWII Jewish ghetto in Poland, specifically an orphanage. The one act play was based on Janusz Korczak who was a pioneer of children's rights and was the first to publish an outline of the necessity to respect children as fully-fledged human beings. Directed by Laura Howarth there were strong performances from an excellent ensemble cast of 10 who made a lasting impact.

ESMS musicians have been busy in February. Monday 7 February saw the Pipe Bands in concert in the TFC with our Highland Dancers, the following evening was the Senior Chamber Concert which saw chamber groups, soloists and the Chamber Choir perform repertoire ranging from Beethoven to Elgar and Gilbert and Sullivan to Tim Minchin. The Junior School also presented their February Concert with string groups, wind bands, guitar ensembles and choirs. Friday 3 March saw ESMS give the first performance of a piece of musical theatre with words by renowned Edinburgh author Alexander McCall Smith and music by local composer Tom Cunningham. The piece



► is titled *Livingstone Presumed* and tells the story of the life of Dr David Livingstone. Three Stewart's Melville pupils took the roles of Livingstone, Robert Moffat and H.M. Stanley and they were joined by a chorus of children from Primary 6. The evening also gave Scottish charities who currently work in Malawi an opportunity to raise awareness of their work. As we move on through March we look forward to our Choral and Orchestral extravaganza in Greyfriars Church where ESMO will perform Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and the massed Upper School Choirs from MES and SMC will join forces with the ESMS Community Choir to perform two settings of the Gloria, one by Vivaldi, the other by John Rutter.

It has been another successful winter term of sport at SMC. Huge numbers of pupils have been able to represent the school over a wide variety of sports. The highlight of the year so far was the fantastic win at Murrayfield by our Under 16 rugby side in the Scottish Cup Final. A great achievement and a tribute to all the hard work the players, staff and parents have put in over the years. Other highlights include our Under 13 football side who reached the National Cup Quarter Final, a number of boys gaining medals at the Scottish Schools Athletics Indoor Championship, our swimmers heading down to the prestigious Bath Cup in London, our U15 hockey side reaching the Scottish Schools Plate Final and the school winning the Inspiresport Boy's National 1 Schools Rugby Conference for 2022-23 outright for the third year running.



## F1 in Schools UK National Finals 12-13 January

F1 In Schools is an international competition in which a team of 3-6 pupils design, test and manufacture a small model F1 car, 17 to 21 centimetres long. The car is propelled along a 20m track in under 1.5 seconds by a compressed CO2 cartridge. Along the way teams have to acquire sponsors and create a pit display to show what they have achieved in live events.

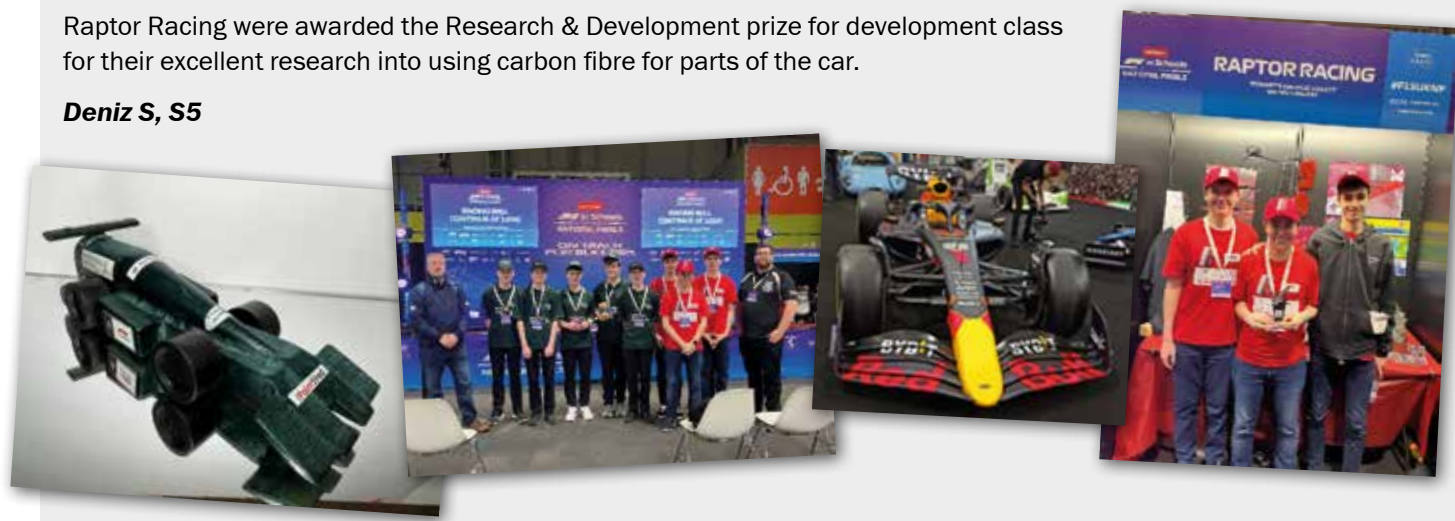
There are 3 stages of competition for development and professional class: first is your local area's regionals, the top three teams from the regionals then advance to your country's finals, the very best teams from your country are then sent to compete internationally in the World Finals.

On January 12, SMC sent two of their development class teams to the UK National Finals in Birmingham. Project Nitro comprised of five S4s, and Raptor Racing, three S5s. The competition would take place as part of the International Autosport Show at the National Exhibition Centre, it would last two days as the best teams in the UK battled it out for a spot at the World Finals.

On the first day the teams were given one hour to set up their pit displays. Then began two days of judging, racing, and eating. As well as seeing loads of very cool cars, including Max Verstappen's F1 car! On day 2 Raptor Racing faced Project Nitro in an interschool friendly, where Raptor Racing beat them four to nil.

Raptor Racing were awarded the Research & Development prize for development class for their excellent research into using carbon fibre for parts of the car.

**Deniz S, S5**





## Update from School Captain

Stewarts Melville this term has been buzzing with guest appearances, great performances (on and off the pitch) and a positive attitude as our end of year examinations rapidly approach.

**At assembly, Sir Geoffrey Palmer presented SMC's Senior debating team with a cup after their victory at the FJSS International Online Debating Competition.**

Callum Young 4A, Jack Edmondson-Jones 5T, Jonty Frost 6KAY and Connor Mair 6LYB all represented the school spectacularly showing intelligence, style and commitment with their victories over schools from Nigerian and Zimbabwean in the knockout stages. With powerful arguments in the final they beat out local rivals, Royal High, and earned themselves the trophy.



**Hockey Trip to Barcelona**

## Hockey trip to Barcelona.

Over the half-term break, Mr Constable and Mr Collister both led a senior Hockey trip to Barcelona so that the boys could develop their skills against some of the top sides in Barcelona (Although getting a tan along the way was an added bonus).

In all, this term has been a triumph in various ways but now the focus of school turns to our final exams as we look to back up our physical performances with our academic successes.

**Thomas Russell, School Captain, SMC**

## Update from Development Office

I am now six weeks into the role and have been spending time meeting staff, former pupils, parents and friends of the school, learning more about the needs of our wide ranging and wonderful ESMS community.

I have most recently had the privilege of going to the London Daniel Stewart's and Melville College Club Annual Dinner on the 17 March. It was a fantastic occasion, with a record attendance of 65 with Former Pupils aged 19 to 90, including many FPs from Mary Erskine. Young and old alumni came together to celebrate, connect and chat to one another, swapping stories of school life. It was also the first time that both the SMC and MES School Captains were in attendance together. Both gave brilliant speeches, reflecting on their own journeys through school, but also looking ahead to their future too.

The evening was best summed up by the current SMC School Captain, Thomas Russell who said; "Looking around the room, I can see that the ties to the school don't need to end,

and I look forward to attending FP dinners myself in the future... we are all part of the same family, and no matter where life takes us, we will always have a special connection to this school."

As we look ahead to the new school year, we have a major anniversary coming up to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Melville College and Daniel Stewart's Schools merging. We are finalising our plans for this at the moment and we will share details and dates soon. We hope that many of you will want to come back to the School to mark this special occasion with us together.

In the meantime, please contact us anytime on [development@esms.org.uk](mailto:development@esms.org.uk), if there is anything at all that we can do to help. We are the central hub for our ESMS community and can help you organise reunions, come back for a school visit, put you in touch with former pupils as well as help with work experience and mentoring opportunities. You are always welcome with the wider community.



You can read these any many more development initiatives on our blog at [www.esmscommunity.org](http://www.esmscommunity.org).

We have been working on a new version of ESMS Connect, the website that links current pupils and recent leavers with more established former pupils and parents for careers development purposes, whether that's mentoring in a particular field, assisting with work experience placements or just ad-hoc advice and support. We hope to relaunch this website with the new features early in 2023.

**Angela Alexander**



## Middle school (S1-S2) Musical performances & the Senior school production.

Pupils from SMC and MES came together to display their artistic talents both dramatically and musically this term. With stellar performances coming from all year groups a very special thank you should go to Mrs Howarth and Zainab Shafi for directing the play and to all the music teachers who made the Musical performances possible. And of course well done to all the pupils who took part.



## SMC ARCHIVES

In the new year, an enquiry came to the Archives at SMC regarding an especially notable Former Pupil.

In 1920, Finlay Kennedy (DSC '1909) became the first Daniel Stewart's FP to play for Scotland's international rugby team.

As per the school's handwritten rolls, Finlay alongside his brothers Angus and Alexander, enrolled at Daniel Stewart's on the 24th of May 1901. Finlay's sister Mary was also enrolled at Edinburgh Ladies' College this year. This would later become The Mary Erskine School. The Kennedys had recently moved to Edinburgh from Oban to run the Barton Hotel at Cramond.

Not long after starting school Finlay distinguished himself as a sportsman and an academic. In 1904, Finlay was awarded an under 14 school bursary. The title of School Champion (i.e. best all-round Sportsman) had not been established while Finlay was at school but it is later noted that he would have received this prize if it had been in place. Finlay was, of course, an accomplished forward in the 1st XV but

he also played in the cricket 1st XI and held the school's shotput record for over five years.

Upon leaving school in 1909, Finlay immediately joined the FP Rugby Team; he became Captain of the team in 1912 and held that role until 1922. In the FP notes of the DSC 1913 magazine, the editor hints that 1914 may be the year that Finlay is called up for Scotland; however, the outbreak of war halted the playing of professional rugby.

During the war, Finlay served under the 1st Lovat Scouts and, in 1917, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for holding a strategic position for over fourteen hours during an attack. Subsequently, Finlay is offered a promotion in the field but turns it down, preferring to remain with his fellow N.C.Os.

Despite losing his brother Alexander to war in 1916, Finlay returns to Edinburgh and the FP Club after Armistice. In 1920, Finlay was finally



capped for Scotland and went on to play in every international match in that year's Five Nations. His debut was against France where Scotland won 5-0. In 1920, Scotland's home ground was still at Inverleith.

In the DSC magazine, it is noted that Finlay was injured in 1921 and only played in one international match against England. In 1922, Finlay steps down from the FP Rugby team. We can presume at this time that Finlay's health was deteriorating.

Unfortunately, while serving with the Lovat Scouts, Finlay contracted malaria and, in 1925, he passed away from the illness. Finlay was buried in the Dean Cemetery and the ceremony



was attended by Headmaster Dr Milne, the school's games master and the school captain. Later, Finlay's brother Alexander, who was killed in action in March 1916, would be also buried here with Finlay.

Throughout the 1920s and beyond, Finlay was a household name amongst Daniel Stewart's boys and he served as an aspirational figurehead for rugby-loving pupils and FPs alike.

Many thanks to the Wilson family who gave their permission for Finlay and his siblings' stories to be shared.

If you have any family history that you would like investigated by the Schools' archives, please get in touch via email at: [archivesmc@esms.org.uk](mailto:archivesmc@esms.org.uk)

## Current Internationalists

Of the four Rugby playing FPs mentioned in the last FP Club Newsletter as included in the SRU's Autumn International squad only George Turner subsequently has made a pitch appearance. At the time of writing before the last of the Six Nations games he had accumulated 34 full caps contributing nine tries which is a pretty amazing number for someone playing as hooker. He has started in all four of the Six Nations matches played to date with playing times of 58 minutes v England, 48 minutes v Wales, 63 minutes v France and 58 minutes v Ireland. He totalled 87 metres made in the four matches, his tackle count was 36 and passes completed 19 (source SRU match reports). All together a very telling contribution to Scotland's widely lauded performances this season.

For completeness Ross Thompson was an unused substitute in the Autumn international v Australia.

Historically such stats are not available or at least not published from earlier played internationals but try counts are although somewhat invidious – as comparatives - of the Club's British Lions also from 34 international appearances Finlay Calder scored two tries, Jim Calder from 27 Scottish appearances scored 3 tries, Dougie Morgan played 21 times for Scotland contributing 71 points and Doddie Weir who played all his senior rugby out with Inverleith 4 tries from 61 cap games for Scotland. Sandy Hinshelwood played 21 times for Scotland scoring five tries. John Douglas played 12 times for Scotland with one try to his name.

Still some challenges there for George but it would appear that of the players who at some time played for the club he is now both the most capped and top try scorer.

## Melville College Trust Update

Following the successful Melville College Reunion in November at which the function room at Inverleith was named the Dougie Morgan Room, we have been able to add more of Dougie's memorabilia.

We now have a separate display of Dougie's rugby history, which includes his first Scotland Cap and the No 9 Lions Jersey he wore against New Zealand in 1977. Above the entrance to the Dougie Morgan

Room is photographs of Dougie in international rugby action and also of Dougie in the Scotland Cricket Squad. All in all a fitting tribute to Dougie with the sign in the display cabinet saying simply – Dougie Morgan, Melville College FP.





# REUNIONS



We are supporting a number of year groups to organise reunions at the moment. The following year groups are currently planning events for 2023 and 2024:

## **SMC Class of 1979**

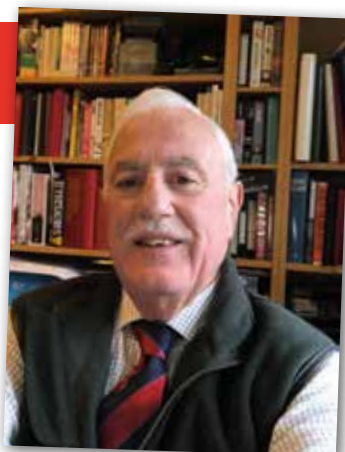
## **ESMS Class of 1984**

If you would like to organise a reunion for your year group then Suzi in the Development Office can provide a range of assistance from establishing a contacts list to negotiating with venues and managing tickets, as well as organising tours of the school today and linking you with the SMC archives for memorabilia. You can contact Suzi on [development@esms.org.uk](mailto:development@esms.org.uk) or on 0131 311 1131.

# FORMER PUPILS IN BUSINESS

## Ken Russell

**Ken Russell  
at Home**



### **What were your favourite subjects at school?**

I really enjoyed English, History, Geography and Chemistry. Both the late Tom Fraser (English) and RF King (Chemistry) were outstanding teachers. I particularly excelled in both subjects. Being hearing impaired I always considered the teachers of the four subjects mentioned above took time and patience to ensure I understood everything that was going on.

### **When you left school, did you have a career path in mind?**

Both my parents were very successful business owners and there was always a draw towards family business although after overcoming my Dr Kildare moment I developed a strong interest in the Financial Markets which remains with me today. Career guidance was sparse to say the least and as I did not wish to become a lawyer, Accountant, Bank Manager or Actuary a training towards a career in business was to be my destiny. As a trainee with the large National Construction Company I was able to take courses on a sandwich basis in Construction and Management Studies at Napier College, Edinburgh. This was after I completed two semesters at a High School in Illinois, USA which also involved extensive travel throughout that country which was an eye opening experience especially in the mid 1960's!

### **Tell us more about your career progression?**

On completing my traineeship after 5 years my father invited me to join the family business which was a very proud moment as I would become the third generation of my family in the business. Sadly 6 months later my father was diagnosed with a terminal illness and died a few months later. Aged just 25 I was left in charge of a business group with over 200 employees but thereby commenced my first lesson in management and leadership when I quickly commenced in building a team of very talented people to take the business forward into the future. 40 years later we had acquired other businesses including the famous Howtowdie Restaurant in Stafford Street, Edinburgh and the multi award winning Audi/VW dealership in the Scottish Borders as well as numerous property investments along the way.

### **What motivated you as you progressed through your career?**

Everyone needs motivation and my main motivators were undoubtedly my parents and also the staff at my US High School were great motivators and brought out the best in me. I never wanted to let anyone down and have always believed in being the best you can be.

## ► What do you do day to day?

Managing any business can be highly complex and perhaps the construction business is fairly unique in that respect. Managing through communication and delegation is key. Since moving on from the family businesses I have assumed several Chairmanships and Non-Executive Director appointments as well as advising the boards of several companies and coaching and mentoring a succession of very successful entrepreneurs.



**Ken Russell at Elite Group Capital**

Federation of Master Builders in 1991. I was elected President of St Andrews Business Club for an unprecedented three terms from 2012 to 2015

Being elected President of Stewart's Melville Club in 2021 was a great honour and when I hand over the Chain of Office in October I hope I will have performed my duties to the best of my ability.

## What's your fondest memory from your school days?

The sports I enjoyed in my school days were rugby and swimming. The Scottish Schoolboys Club (SSC) was a highlight and I have wonderful memories of camping at Dalguise (Easter) and Bruar (Summer) The SSC was founded in 1912 and my own father attended SSC camps during his school days at George Heriot's School in the early 1920's. I was fortunate enough to be at Dalguise on the occasion of the Jubilee Year of the SSC in 1962. The Cairngorm Club was another highlight with numerous expeditions to Scotland's majestic mountains and other wild places. My crowning and equally enjoyable achievement was the Duke of Edinburgh Award receiving my Gold Award from Prince Philip personally at Holyrood.



**Ken Russell at Bell Ingram Anniversary**

## What do you like most about your role?

I am proud of being able to walk, drive or sit on a bus and see the many buildings I was involved in on a professional basis for almost 50 years. Being able to coach and mentor so many ambitious people to climb their own career ladders to success has been a stand out highlight.

## Which professional achievements are you most proud of?

Educating 4 children both at school and Higher Education has been an enormous achievement especially as they have all gone on to becoming extremely successful in their chosen careers and businesses. With grandchildren now flourishing this will continue into the next generation and beyond.

I was one of the youngest elected Fellows of the Institute of Directors in 1975. I was proud to become a Member of the Royal Company of Merchants of Edinburgh in 1977 shortly after my 30th birthday. I was proud when my Motor Dealership was awarded Dealer of the Year twice in the 1980's and 1990's. I was elected as President of the



**Ken Russell at Dishoom in London**



**Ken Russell at Dundee Uni Business School**

## What are your hobbies?

Growing up on the foothills of the Pentlands and with our family holiday home in Lower Largo, Fife I was always destined for the hills and the sea becoming a competent yachtsman in my younger days. Golf was never an attraction for me and increasingly when not walking I am in the saddle pedalling long distances on my bike comfortably covering 100 miles every week.

## Have any school values or habits stayed with you?

Melville College was a small school which created an almost family environment where on the whole people watched out for each other. Evidence of the values of Melville remain all around us even in this long distant 50th year since merging with Daniel Stewart's College. A great number of successful people from all walks of life have been former pupils of Melville College with eminent members of all professions and in the world of business. Not many schools with a per capita roll like Melville College can boast an ex pupil jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Science, Sir Fraser Stoddart (MC 1960) and another awarded the Sword of Honour at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Angus M. Mitchell (MC 1965). Those names and those of a great many others epitomise the values of my school, Melville College.





## Catching up with Willie Malcolm, 2005 leaver

There was never any doubt about where I would go to school. My grandfather Willie or Bill Malcolm had attended Stewart's College in the nineteen twenties, played for a very successful FPs rugby team in the thirties and post-war he had been the mastermind behind the first Technical Department at the school. His tenure there lasted until the merger of Stewart's and Melville Colleges in 1973. He was a very popular teacher and stories still abound about his unconventional and interesting methods of teaching and his rapport with his pupils.

My dad, Sam Malcolm, also went to Stewart's College where the golf course took up a lot more of his time than his studies. In the FP rugby club he played at every level, although his finer achievements were probably winning the Edinburgh Grand Slam with the Fourth XV and as "Wardrobe Mistress" for Jim Preacher's Inverleith Amateur Dramatic Society (the IADS) a rugby touring team masquerading as thespians.

I enjoyed life at Stewart's Melville achieving good results at Higher and Advanced Higher levels whilst still managing to follow heavy metal group Biffy Clyro with more than regular visits to Glasgow and other far off places.

My bent was for mathematics and I chose to attend Bristol University. My parents still

believe my choice was because it was almost the furthest university

away from Edinburgh and this was partially confirmed when my sister Christina also chose Bristol. It was also close to Glastonbury where my Godfather Dick Vernon (another former Daniel) had a prominent role in the music festival and my education was greatly expanded by several years of rock 'n' roll and whatever else that entailed.

At Bristol I took an Honours Degree in Economics and Accounting and played social football and rugby and also developed a taste for the range of ciders purveyed in the Coronation Tap, a well-known local watering hole. (Their "best of the best" was only sold in half pints.)

University of course was not just about work as I stayed in a mixed flat of magnificent shabbiness with eight students all



“studying” different subjects. We enjoyed many interesting nights out, learned a lot about communal living and still all meet up in various locations each year to chew the fat and reminisce about the fun we had.

I returned to Edinburgh joining Standard Life on a training scheme. I rotated around five different placements including Tax, Group Reporting, Business Performance and Private Equity, at the same time obtaining my C.A. qualification. The merger of Standard Life with Aberdeen Asset was not a happy one and I joined the forecasting team of tech company FNZ. A move to NatWest for eighteen months helped expand my knowledge of how larger companies worked (or didn’t!) and I looked after financial crime, one of their few growth areas.



On returning to Edinburgh from Bristol I started to play cricket, then social rugby for the FPs and enjoyed it so much I started to attend training. I now really enjoy playing in the Stew Mel First XV although having won promotion to Division One last season we have found life a bit more challenging this year.

Presently I am Financial Controller at Scion Instruments, part of the Techcomp Group. Based in Holland the company makes scientific instruments focussing on the Chromatographic market. Its machines separate out “mixtures” into their component parts. This is especially of use in medical and pharmaceutical fields.

I married Niamh in Donegal in 2017 finding out that Irish weddings tend to last about a week. We have two boys Liam (4) and Charlie (1.5) an immensely happy but boisterous pair who take up a lot of our time.

## OBITUARIES



### Bill Relph, 1947, DSC

Bill Relph who won four caps in 1955 was one of Scotland’s oldest surviving rugby internationalists. A hooker in an era when hooking involved skilful

technique, he was a master of the art as well as being a very effective player in the loose. Playing for Stewart’s College F.P.’s, (now Stewart’s Melville), he captained the team to its Unofficial Championship success in 1958 and won a number of ‘7’s tournaments with them, memorably Melrose in 1956. He also represented and captained Edinburgh District in Inter District fixtures and was selected to play for Combined Cities in their match against the touring Australians but unfortunately had to call off.

After moving to England in 1961, he became a keen golfer off a single figure handicap and in 2002/2003 had the honour of being President of the prestigious Royal Birkdale Club, a regular Open Championship venue. Bill also enjoyed a very successful business career as managing director of Plaschem Ltd., involved in the production of polyurethane foam for

insulation applications and for many years was President of the national trade association.

William Keith Linford Relph was born in Edinburgh to parents William and Margaret Keith and brought up in Dovecot Road in Corstorphine. He had a half-brother Robert Relph and half-sister Norma Keith. Between 1934 and 1947 he attended Daniel Stewart’s College where he began playing rugby.

His talent was apparent at an early stage and by 1944 was described as “the best forward in the 2nd XV.” In his final two years, 1945/6 and ‘46/7 he played for the 1st XV, making a significant contribution as hooker and leader of the forwards, being awarded a school ‘cap’. It was noted in his last season that “Most of the ball gained was due to Relph’s hooking.” He was also a prefect and Sergeant in the C.C.F.





After school National Service in the army had to be undertaken before Bill began studying civil engineering at Edinburgh University in 1949 and started playing for the F.P. club. He did not progress to graduation but in 1952 took a post as management trainee in Falkirk while continuing studies in the evenings at Heriot-Watt College, leading to a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. By then he was employed by the North British Rubber Company (later Uniroyal) at Fountainbridge, obtaining promotion to Factory Manager in the General Mechanicals department.

At rugby he made his 1st XV debut in 1951 and over the next seven seasons was a mainstay of the team. Shortly after his debut it was recorded that "Bill Relph had mastered the latest hooking rules and obtained a very good share of the ball even when outweighed." Stewart's were a strong outfit then, particularly renowned for their '7's expertise. In 1952 with Bill as hooker they featured in three consecutive finals, winning at Gala, losing the Melrose final to the host club and winning at Hawick. At Gala despite Bill playing with concussion they beat Melrose in extra time while a press report of their Hawick success stated, "Their trio of forwards must rank among the most skilful exponents ever seen in Borders 7's" namely Bill, Clark Sharp

and Mike Robertson. Sharp, brother of internationalist Gregor, also represented Edinburgh, was later S.R.U. Hon. Doctor and coach of the All Blacks at the first international '7's in 1973 at Murrayfield. Robertson later moved to Gala where he gained a cap in 1958.

In 1953 and '54 Relph was selected to play for Edinburgh against Northumberland and following three national trials was chosen for Scotland against France in Paris in January 1955, the last of the infamous run of 17 consecutive defeats. Thereafter he played in the remaining Five Nations matches, recording wins over Wales and Ireland before narrowly losing the Triple Crown match at Twickenham. Although that signalled the end of his international career, he continued to play for Edinburgh whom he also captained on occasion. Another highpoint was winning the Melrose '7's with Stewart's F.P's in 1956, the 'blue riband' of Borders tournaments while a year later he was a losing finalist there. Victories at Murrayfield and Langholm '7's softened the disappointment somewhat.

In the XV a side game between 1954 and '57 with Bill as vice-captain, Stewart's achieved high finishes in the Unofficial Club Championship before going on to clinch the title under his captaincy in 1958, winning 19 of their 22 fixtures. Much of the credit for that win was attributed to him for "his first class hooking and sedulous nurturing of team spirit..." according to club records. Thereafter he retired from top level rugby while continuing playing for lower XV's.

In Edinburgh on 20th May 1955 Bill married part time model Celia Wass, having courted for some years after first meeting as youngsters in Corstorphine. They enjoyed a long and happy marriage during which they had four daughters, Louise, Sally, Laura and Joanne, celebrating their golden wedding at Peebles Hydro in 2005 with family and friends. Celia's death in 2008 was a devastating blow.

In 1961 the family moved to Bury to enable Bill pursue a business opportunity with colleague Joe Dawson in connection with polyurethane and a year later formed Plaschem with Bill as managing director. Aided by external capital investment, the business went from strength to strength under their

leadership to the extent that in 1987 on its 25th anniversary, turnover reached J12 million, enabling Bill to retire comfortably two years later.

Living in Southport he had become a keen golfer and in 2002/3 was delighted to be appointed President of Royal Birkdale, reflecting the high regard in which he was held. For a number of years he visited Scotland to see old friends and enjoy golfing weekends with them. In retirement he and Celia enjoyed travelling widely, including cruises and holidays to the Greek Islands, the Seychelles, Dominican Republic and elsewhere. Another interest was photography, particularly working with old cameras and he followed the fortunes of Scotland's rugby team as well as having an interest in Rugby League.

Later years brought various health issues which his strong-willed personality helped him overcome. An astute, principled individual, he was very sociable, a pillar of the community and helpful to all. He is survived by his daughters, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

**JACK DAVIDSON**

## **Euan MacLeod, 1962, DSC**

Euan Roderick MacLeod (Ruary to friends and family) who died on 16 December 2022 was the youngest of three brother who were all destined to become partners in major law firms in Edinburgh.

Ruary was born in Dumfries, where his father was the Procurator Fiscal, on 17 January 1944. Because of his father's occupation the family moved around so Ruary's schooling was first at Dumfries Academy, then at Aberdeen Grammar School and finally at Stewarts where he started for the summer term in 1955.

He was not particularly athletic so did not figure in school sports teams, his interests lying more in the fields of music and drama. He sang in school choirs and acted in various theatrical performances. He also served in the CCF and had memories of a Summer Camp at Fort George and live firings on the range there.

On leaving school in 1961 he went



to Edinburgh University to study law graduating LL.B in 1964. He then served a professional apprenticeship with Davidson & Syme WS (D&S) qualifying as a solicitor in 1967 in which year he was also admitted as a WS. A few years later he was assumed as a partner in D & S and on that firm merging with Dundas & Wilson CS (D&W) he found himself in partnership with his brother Neil, also a Stewarts FP who had been with that firm since leaving University. With D&W Ruary developed a leading practice in the fields of employment and licensing law and had an extensive portfolio of major clients.

In 1968 Ruary married Fiona and settled in the Trinity area. They had two children, Alison and Kirsty but sadly the marriage ended in divorce. Sometime later Ruary remarried Pat with whom he was very happy until she died in 2018. Together they had created a beautiful house and garden outside Kinross where he continued to live till the onset of his final illness in the summer of 2022.

**From Donald MacLeod, brother.**

### **John Hepburn, 1938-2022, MC 1955**

John played cricked for the 2nd XI whilst at school then went on to the

University of Edinburgh where he studied a BSc in Agriculture. He moved to London in 1961 and studied at the Institute of Chartered Accountants until 1965. He emigrated to Canada and worked primarily as a Financial Controller of a large commercial property company in Toronto, Ontario. In 1993 he emigrated to New Zealand where he ran a small finance company until his retirement in 2003.

**Notified by Andrew Dobson, information taken from Red Book**

### **Oliver (Olly) Andrew Hemming, 1930-2023, DSC 1948**

Olly Hemming CA passed away peacefully at home on 11 January 2023.

Olly was the much-loved husband of Jean, and they were married for nearly 63 years before Jean sadly passed away last year. He has two children Alison and Andrew, son-in-law Charlie & daughter-in-law Dianne, four grandchildren (Graeme, Alasdair, Katie & Rory) and two great-grandchildren (Niamh & Kitt).

He was born in Edinburgh on 21 September 1930 and has always lived within the city's boundaries except for two short periods; one when 4 years old in Galashiels and one when serving Queen and country on National Service. When completing his National Service, a superb posting to Trieste was spoilt after six weeks by the Italians and Yugoslavs patching up their differences and all the troops



came home. That's how he ended up in Halifax, Yorkshire, where again good fortune awaited as it was there that he met his future wife Jean. He is one of the very few people who can claim that National Service was well spent!

Olly's father was a formal pupil, and he was proud to send his children to Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville. Olly's education at Daniel Stewart's College was from 1936 to 1948 and whilst there he determined that Accountancy was to be his chosen calling. He served his apprenticeship with McKerrrow Brown & Gray and passed his exams first time gaining admittance to The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland in 1954. He moved to Martin Currie and Christian Salvesen and then in 1968 he became a Partner in Robertson Carphin & Co, whose name changed to Smith Hemming & Dean in 1984. It was a medium-sized Edinburgh practice and Olly thoroughly enjoyed the variety of advisory and compliance and of course working with the clients! He retired in 1994.

Away from accountancy, one of Olly's main interests in life was the Stewart's/Melville FP Club, where he served as Treasurer and President. Being a long serving Daniel, it was a particular pleasure for him to be President when the new Pavilion at Inverleith was opened in 1983. He regularly watched rugby at Inverleith and enjoyed returning to school to attend functions and special celebrations. He also enjoyed curling and golf. He was a founder member of Corstorphine Round Table and joined both his local Rotary and Probud clubs. He was a sociable man who enjoyed the camaraderie with friends.

Olly was very active in his retirement travelling with Jean to Southern France, Portugal, and Spain. Further afield destinations involved visits to Canada, USA, Australia & New Zealand. He was a family man and despite Jean and him being busy in retirement, he always found time to show a great interest in the lives, achievements, and careers of all the family.

Olly battled with Parkinson's disease for 20 years, but his strength and determination always won through.

**Andrew Hemming**