

Witness appeal following one-vehicle collision on M90 south of Queensferry Crossing



Police are appealing for information after a serious road traffic collision on the M90 south of the Queensferry Crossing at junction 1A last night

The one vehicle collision happened at around 8:10pm on the southbound carriageway and involved a red BMW 3 series.

A 29-year-old man suffered serious injuries and was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment.

Sergeant Scott Sneddon from the Dalkeith Trunk Roads Policing Group said: "Our investigations into the collision are ongoing and we are reviewing CCTV as well as speaking to a number of witnesses.

"There would have been a number of vehicles on the road at the time and we would urge anyone who hasn't spoken to us but saw the vehicle prior to the collision, or the incident itself to come forward.

"Anyone with information can call Police Scotland on 101 quoting reference 3653 of 10th February or you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you wish to remain anonymous."

Shannon McGregor looking forward to opening game of SWPL campaign



Hibernian's SWPL campaign kicks-off this afternoon with a game against Spartans at Ainslie Park which kicks off at 3:45pm.

One player desperate to get started with her Hibs' career is Shannon McGregor, the attack-minded midfielder who joined from Aberdeen Ladies in December last year.

Having played against her new team mates for Aberdeen, Shannon is well aware of the talent at the club and she is determined to help bring in silverware.

Shannon told Hibernian Media: "It is amazing to know that the coaches have obviously been looking at me throughout the time that I've been playing for Aberdeen.

"There have been good times with Aberdeen and tough times as well, but I've still been able to prove myself as a player which is good, so it feels nice to know that I am wanted here at Hibs."

"I think playing around good players like we have at Hibs will help to develop me as a player, and will also help to develop the team as well.

"My main strengths I would say are that I am quite determined as a player and I will battle until the end of the game and never give up.

“I also like to think that I’m quite fast as well, which is a good quality to have when you are playing in my position.

“Getting in-behind teams is a good threat, and Hibs have quite a lot of pace throughout the team, so that’s a positive.

“I am looking forward to getting started next season and playing for Hibs. I think we can push forward and continue to be successful.

“It is a challenge against every team, but Glasgow City is obviously the main challenge and I feel that both our sides have the best players in the league.

“It’s an amazing feeling knowing that I am going to be part of a team that are aiming to take the league title away from Glasgow City, who are a team that I looked up to when I was younger.

“Playing against teams like Glasgow City and Hibs last season were great for my experience, as I am a young player and still developing and trying to improve as an individual, but I feel ready to be part of the Hibs team that want to win the league.

“Coming up against Hibs, I know from experience that the side are really good at keeping possession I feel. They always look really fit and strong, and are incredible athletes, and are good on the ball as well.

“I remember playing against them and knowing that you can’t be scared because it is a game of football, but it was a good challenge and I am looking forward to being part of the team for the season ahead.”

Comedy night returns to Easter Road next month



Hibernian's successful Comedy Night returns for a third instalment on Saturday 24 March at Easter Road Stadium.

Paul McDougall will host the event which featured four comedians and the organisers have announced that the opening act will be Vladimir McTavish!

One of the most popular and most successful of modern-day Scottish comedians, Vladimir McTavish is a stunning professional in every sense of the word.

Whether using his renowned skills as a top-class compere or closing a multi-act bill as a first-rate headline act, Vladimir can adapt to any situation and let his quality shine through.

He has appeared on a number of popular TV and radio shows. These have included 'The Empire Laughs Back' (BBC1), the football game show 'We're On Our Way To Wembley' (ITV) 'Velvet Cabaret' (BBC Radio Scotland) and the 'Live Floor Show' (BBC Scotland)

Tickets are £12 per person and doors will open from 7pm.

Hockey – Neave focuses on

beating the drop



Inverleith set to re-start the outdoor season after victory in the indoor campaign

Stuart Neave praised his jubilant Inverleith squad after regaining the Scottish indoor hockey title and he now focuses on moving the outdoor team off the bottom of Division One.

The Edinburgh-based side have only earned one point from their ten games since being promoted from Division Two.

And they have a goal difference of minus 32, the worst in the ten-strong division.

Inverleith trail second-bottom Uddingston by six points with eighth-placed Clydesdale on nine points along with Hillhead who have a superior goal difference and are seventh.

Inverleith's first game outdoors is scheduled for Saturday, February 24 against city rivals Edinburgh University at Peffermill. The students are fifth in the table with 13 points.

It's a massive ask for Kinross-based Neave and the squad but he hopes that the confidence gained from the indoor league will rub off.

Neave said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the team's performance in the Grand Final on Saturday and throughout the (indoor) season."

Inverleith beat Kelburne 5-2 at Perth in the indoor final and the West of Scotland combine did not use a goalkeeper, preferring to have six outfield players which included a kicking-back.

Neave conceded: "It is always awkward to play against six

outfield players, but we defended really well on Saturday and kept the scoreboard ticking over in our favour.

“The achievement is even more remarkable given the changes to personnel this season.

“We have an average age of 22 and only one player over 30 (former Olympian Stephen Dick) and that is a real credit to the squad.”

Inverleith now move into Europe next season and Neave said: “It is an exciting prospect , but with it comes the challenge of raising funds for the trip.

“Now it is back to outdoor hockey with a slightly different challenge.”

Ice hockey – Clan win but Fife go down



Action from a previous clash between Edinburgh and Fife at Murrayfield.

Picture by Ian Coyle

Elite League: Braehead Clan 3, Dundee Stars 1; Fife Flyers 2, Coventry Blaze 3

Braehead Clan boosted their Elite League play-off hopes with a 3-1 victory over rivals Dundee Stars.

The Tayside team lead 1-0 after 14 minutes through Gabriel Levesque but Clan then fired three unanswered goals to take the points.

Landon Oslanzki netted after 18 minutes with former Fife Flyers star Brendan Brooks making it 2-0 after 31 minutes.

And Jacob Doty completed the scoring five minutes later.

Lowly Coventry Blaze snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory at high-flying Fife Flyers to hand coach Danny Stewart a welcome birthday present.

Ben Lake after eight and 16 minutes made it 2-0 for the visitors with Danick Gauthier pulling one back for Flyers after 15 minutes.

Brett Robinson netted for 3-1 after 50 minutes but Chase Schaber gave Fife hope with a goal 39 seconds later.

It only proved a consolation and the result is a jolt to Flyers hopes of finishing in the top three.

Flyers now visit Edinburgh Capitals on Sunday (face-off 7.15pm) and Capitals could face a backlash after back-to-back defeats for the Kirtkaldy club who lost 6-4 at Belfast Giants on Friday.

Hearts Cruise Into Cup Quarter Finals



Hearts 3 St Johnstone 0

William Hill Scottish Cup 5th Round – Saturday 10th February 2018 – Tynecastle Park

Hearts completed their second victory over St Johnstone in the

space of seven days and in doing so reached the quarter finals of the William Hill Scottish Cup for the first time since they last lifted the trophy in 2012.

Two goals from Kyle Lafferty and a spectacular effort from Demetri Mitchell earned a deserved victory for Hearts as the Maroons produced a much-improved display from that which recorded a narrow league win last Saturday.

Hearts Head Coach Craig Levein recognised changes had to be made from last week when St Johnstone could count themselves unlucky not to have taken something from the game. One change was enforced and there were groans from the Hearts support when they learned Steven Naismith was injured and would not take part. Michael Smith, Aaron Hughes, Ross Callachan and Tony McDonald were drafted into the side with Connor Randall, Danny Amankwaa and David Milinkovic moving to the substitutes' bench.

A driech start to the day turned into a pleasant enough afternoon for early February and Hearts began much brighter than they had against the same opposition seven days earlier. Kyle Lafferty was playing the lone striker with young Tony McDonald just behind him and it was the big Northern Irish striker who gave Hearts the perfect start after just seven minutes with a goal out of nothing. Shaughnessy took a throw-in for St Johnstone on the halfway line but opted to throw the ball across the pitch rather than forward. Arnaud Djoum read the situation perfectly and intercepted to head the ball towards Lafferty. The former Norwich striker galloped forwards and finished brilliantly with a shot beyond Saints keeper Mannus and into the corner of the net.

Saints hit back and after a foul from Jaouin Adao on Davidson, former Hibe Wotherspoon tried his luck with the free-kick which just went wide.

In the 29th minute more slack play from Adao saw Tanser sprint

forward and his cross into the Hearts penalty box would have proved dangerous had there been a Saints player there to take advantage.

Hearts were looking to impose themselves in midfield, certainly more than they did last Saturday and Arnaud Djoum was looking like he was in the mood.

Saints had a chance to equalise just before half-time when Wotherspoon's cross was met by Kane but his effort on goal was saved by Hearts keeper Jon McLaughlin.

Half-time: Hearts 1 St Johnstone 0

Hearts began the second half in determined fashion. Just three minutes in and Ross Callachan, getting through a power of work, collected the ball from Lafferty's knock-down. The former Raith Rovers man took a moment before firing in a shot which went inches wide. Hearts second goal, however, was merely delayed.

In the 53rd minute came one of the goals of the season at Tynecastle. Hearts broke forward quickly following a St Johnstone attack. Fine play from the hugely talented Tony McDonald set up Adao who fired a fine pass to Djoum. The Cameroon international raced down the right wing, looked up and saw Demetri Mitchell. Twenty yards from goal the on-loan Manchester United man took a touch before firing an unstoppable shot beyond Saints keeper Mannus and into the net. Tynecastle – well, three quarters of it – rose to acclaim a brilliant goal.

The roof fell in on St Johnstone's cup hopes just four minutes later. Kyle Lafferty raced forward again and passed to his countryman Michael Smith who fed the ball back to Lafferty who finished from close range.

That was enough for many of the travelling support who headed for the exits. They almost missed a fourth goal for the home

side when Michael Smith's cross was only partially cleared by the unfortunate Shaughnessy and Connor Randall had all the time to fire the ball home. But the substitute delayed his shot which was enough for Tanser to clear off the line.

It finished 3-0 to Hearts and the Maroon Army are at last enjoying a decent run in the William Hill Scottish Cup having been deprived of one since they demolished Hibernian in the 2012 final.

Naturally Craig Levein was a delighted man afterwards.

"I said after the game last Saturday when we didn't play well and won that I felt I felt good about this week, because I knew we could play much better than we did last week" he told the official Hearts website.

"That proved to be the case today and I thought we ran out worthy winners in the end.

"I'm starting to feel good about the team. It's a pleasing day for everyone associated with the club."

"Kyle (Lafferty) is accurate with his finishing," he said. "We've seen that with the goals that he's scored for us this season.

"The first one was really difficult. Arnaud, who I thought looked more like himself today and was excellent, managed to win the ball and play him through, and it was a really difficult angle, but he controlled it perfectly and managed to sneak it inside the post on the far side."

"I was also really pleased for Demetri Mitchell" the Head Coach continued "You could see the delight on his face and I love to see that myself. I thought he had an excellent performance today and that goal just capped it off for him.

"In recent weeks he's looked like scoring but hasn't managed to do it through a combination of good goalkeeping, actually.

I was thrilled to bits for him today.”

Hearts now await the draw for the quarter finals which takes place on Sunday.

Hearts: McLaughlin, Smith, Souttar, Berra, Hughes, Mitchell (Randall, 77'), Adao (Buaben, 60'), Djoum, Callachan, McDonald, Lafferty (Henderson, 83').

St Johnstone: Mannus, Tanser, Shaughnessy, Anderson, Millar (Johnstone, 26'), Davidson, Wotherspoon, Kerr, Foster, Kane, Willock (Alston, 60').

Referee: Kevin Clancy

Attendance: 12,393

Top Man: Arnaud Djoum looked much more like the player we know he can be but the vote goes to Demetri Mitchell – what a signing he has proved to be for Hearts

Police appeal for help to trace missing man Colin McLennan



Police are appealing for information to help trace a man reported missing.

Colin McLennan, 58, was last seen about 4pm yesterday (Friday 9th February) from Morningside area of Edinburgh.

There is increasing concern for his welfare.

Colin is described as white, 5ft 10in, slim to medium build, bald with grey hair round the sides and a white moustache. Wearing a dark anorak/coat, red jumper, blue jeans, black shoes and a black woolly hat.

He has links to Colinton Dell, Riversdale and Cramond areas of Edinburgh.

Insp Colin Fordyce from Craigmillar Police Station said: "We are conducting a number of enquiries and we appeal to anyone who has seen him to contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 quoting reference number 3063 of 9 February 2018.

Witness appeal following robbery in Broomhouse



Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery which took place around 11.50pm on Friday 9th February 2018 at a property in Broomhouse Crescent.

From initial police enquiries the suspects have described as four men, white, large build, approximately 6' in height, Scottish accents and wearing balaclavas. They were dressed in dark clothing/tracksuits.

Detective Inspector Bruce Coutts, Corstorphine CID, said: "No-one was injured in this incident but it was a distressing experience for the victims. When the suspects left the property they were seen to be walking at speed, east on Broomhouse Crescent (adjacent to Broomhouse Primary School

playing fields) in the direction of Saughton Road, Edinburgh. We are asking anyone who may have any information about this robbery.”

Those with information are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 quoting reference number 4667 of the 9 February. Alternatively, an anonymous report can be made through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dementia friendly projects at Festival and King’s theatres

The Festival City Theatres Trust, which runs the Festival and King’s Theatres and The Studio in Edinburgh, marks the culmination of three years funding from The Life Changes Trust for its dementia friendly communities project, Forget Me Not, with the publication of three books: 

Beyond Memory: Storytelling & Singing: by Ailie Finlay and Marie-Louise Cochrane

Vivid Rebellion: The Art of Edward McLaughlan, MBE

An Audience With... Janice Parker Projects

In 2015 staff at the Festival and King’s theatres noticed avid friends of the theatre for many years had stopped attending events and shows. When they were contacted it was discovered that one of them had been diagnosed with dementia and no longer felt confident to see shows. It was at this point that staff asked the question, ‘What can we as an organisation do to enable people living with dementia to continue seeing shows and remain an active and valued part of the theatre community?’

That same year the Festival City Theatres Trust applied for a three-year grant from the Life Changes Trust to enable the theatres to become dementia friendly. The trust was successful and was awarded £321,000 over three years to set about doing exactly that with the Forget Me Not project.

☒ A large part of the project has included programming of dementia friendly events and performances, including the first dementia friendly performance of a major touring musical in Scotland, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the UK's first dementia friendly opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, produced by Scottish Opera.

In tandem with this programme of events FCTT have been working with artists, dancers, theatre makers and storytellers, some of whom are living with dementia .

Forget Me Not has encompassed work within and outwith the theatres, tea dances, art exhibitions, dance workshops, drop in cafes for carers, storytelling in care homes and theatre and dance shows on stage. The books – ‘An Audience With...’, ‘Vivid Rebellion’ and ‘Beyond Memory: Storytelling and Singing’ – tell some of the stories the project has encountered.

‘An Audience With...’ celebrates the work of six women, from three generations, who are all dancers. Together they explore what it meant to dance in the days of variety theatre, what it's like to dance together now and what this means in the future. The publication of the book is accompanied by the release of a film documenting the women's two-year residency at the Festival Theatre.

‘Vivid Rebellion’ celebrates the artwork of Edward McLaughlan MBE who has explored his dementia diagnosis and the world around him through his vivid pictures. He is a veteran dementia campaigner and advocate for people like himself, living well with dementia. Edward's work has been shown in two

exhibitions in The Studio.

'Beyond Memory: Storytelling and Singing' grew out of sensory story telling sessions delivered to Edinburgh schools ahead of our relaxed performances at the theatres. This book was developed with Bellville Lodge, Glencairn and the dementia wards at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Without the enthusiasm of the staff and the involvement of the people they support, this book would not have been possible. This is a practical resource for professionals and home caregivers alike to share the joy of story-telling and singing.



The Life Changes Trust was established by The Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten-year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

The Festival City Theatres Trust will be continuing its work in making its theatres dementia-friendly spaces where audiences of all ages feel welcome and included.

The books will be officially launched at the Festival Theatre at the end of this month and will be followed by a screening, starting at 2.30pm, of 'An Audience With...' a film by Martin Clark and Janice Parker (75 mins)

[The Life Changes Trust](#) was established by the Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten-year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

Dementia Friendly Communities include, empower and support people affected by dementia and their carers in every aspect of life, from accessing services to using public transport. They can be geographical communities or communities of

interest.

They also help empower those whose lives are affected by dementia so that they can remain integrated in society, live as independently as possible and participate actively in decisions that affect their day-to-day lives.

New lease ensures Tron's future with EWH

The Tron Kirk on the Royal Mile has been used as a market until recently, but the council's Finance and Resources committee has now granted a lease to Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) to run it as a community and heritage centre.

EWH is a charitable body responsible for conservation and promotion of the two World Heritage Sites in the capital. The kirk will be used as a place to show Edinburgh and other World Heritage sites in Scotland but in the longer term the building will be refurbished.



A Grade A listed building it is officially listed on Historic Environment Scotland's Buildings At Risk register. The church has not been used as such since the early 1950s, and has been a performance space and bar.

There are no details in the public sphere about the lease as this was dealt with under a B agenda at Thursday's meeting which is discussed behind closed doors. But deputations by EWH and Tron Tourist Services were made to the committee prior to a decision.

Adam Wilkinson Director of Edinburgh World Heritage : "We were approached by the council to look at this building. We have dedicated significant staff time over the last five months. What we are proposing is in our mind a more appropriate short term use for the Tron Kirk. There will be a small retail offer. In the last 47 years we have in partnership with the council and the Scottish Government completed nearly 1500 restoration projects from large scale like Well Court to the twelve monuments programme."

Edinburgh World Heritage had competition in the lease of this important building.

It has been occupied for two years by the Royal Mile Market.

Stuart Ramsay spoke on behalf of the designers and other retailers who have traded at the Tron Market for the last two years. In offering a 44% increase in the current rent he pointed out how well the market was received by tourists and residents alike. He said : "We pride ourselves on being very artisan and offering a more authentic range of products. We have bow ties made in the New Town and I operate a privately financed tourist information desk. All told we are open 48 weeks of the year seven days a week, and we estimate that the Royal Mile Market is servicing around 150 jobs. We have an enviable daily footfall of around 3,000 a day. Sometimes we have to limit the number of people entering the building.

"We get dozens of positive comments from our visitors, due partly to the 371 year old building we are stationed in. We are a living breathing working environment offering many different things. Without ever advertising we have a list of

80 businesses looking to find an audience in a retail space and who want to be part of the Royal Mile Market.”

The Tron dates from 1633 and was designed by Charles I's Master Mason, John Mylne, who was influenced by Dutch architecture and design. Major alterations occurred in 1785 to accommodate the construction of South Bridge, and in 1824 after a calamitous fire. The floor structure and finishes were removed in the 1970s revealing the archaeological remains of Marlin's Wynd below. These represent the oldest known part of the High Street, which was the earliest paved thoroughfare in Scotland.

Until the 1990s, it was the main gathering point for the city's population at Hogmanay due to its prominent position, steeple and clock.

When the council had decided to award the new lease to EWH, Wilkinson said: 'This is an important moment for conservation in Edinburgh and I would like to thank the city's leadership for the trust they have placed in us. The Tron is a marvellous example of Scottish 17th century architecture, but its future has been uncertain for many years. This is an opportunity to tell the story of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site to residents and visitors alike, and is a first step towards creating a sustainable future for a building which is currently at risk'.



Shazia Mirza heading back to Edinburgh

After her 2016, 103 date sell-out international run of The Kardashians Made Me Do It, and fresh from being ravaged by hunger and sand-flies on Channel 4's Celebrity Island, Shazia Mirza returns to the road with her brand new show, With Love From St Tropez. And she is headed for Edinburgh.

The show is said to be about lies and truth, nudity and the periodic table, as these things hold the key to the future according to Shazia.



Courtesy of Amelia Troubridge

The Kardashians Made Me Do It explored politically correct liberalism, the intrusion of ISIS into young British lives and Jihadi brides and enjoyed four sell-out runs in London as well as the US, Sweden and Paris.

This brand new show is about lies, lies and more lies. The truth is so 1980's.

In 2008 Shazia was listed in The Observer as one of the 50 funniest acts in British comedy, won 'Columnist of the Year' at the prestigious PPA Awards for her fortnightly column in The New Statesman and won The GG2 Young Achiever of the Year Award.

She has performed internationally all over the world and is a regular contributor to The Financial Times and writes her weekly column 'Dairy of a Disappointing Daughter' for The Guardian.

The Edinburgh show is at Monkey Barrel on Sunday 15 April

2018. t 0845 5001056

For more information [Click here](#)

At The Usher Hall – Sunday Classics with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra

In April the Czech National Symphony Orchestra will perform during an afternoon session of the Sunday Classics series.

Pavel Kolesnikov will join them in an afternoon of classical music including Franz Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto and Dvořák's 7th symphony.



The orchestra has its 25th birthday this year and is renowned for its wide ranging musical output from classical to jazz.

Kolesnikov who is regarded as a real rising star is from Siberia and first made the headlines with a five star review of his Wigmore Hall debut.

Usher Hall, Lothian Road | 22 April 2018 | Door time: 2:00pm | Start time: 3:00pm

Schubert Symphony No.8 'Unfinished'

Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4

Dvorak Symphony No.7

Petr Altrichter Conductor

Pavel Kolesnikov Piano

Tickets available at: www.usherhall.co.uk/sunday-classics

Prices

Tickets £34, £28, £23, £17 and £12.50

Former Hibs' midfielder Liam Miller dies from cancer aged 36



Former Hibs' midfielder Liam Miller has died from cancer at the age of 36.

The popular Irishman started his career at Celtic in 2000 before moving to Manchester United four years later.

He also playing for Leeds, Sunderland and QPR before John Hughes brought him to Easter Road where he quickly became a fans' favourite with some skilful performances.

He won 21 caps for the Republic of Ireland between 2004 and 2009.

He ended his career in the United States in 2016, having also played for three clubs in Australia and his hometown club Cork City before retiring.

A number of team-mates, fans and clubs took to social media to

express their sorrow.

Hibs tweeted "We are incredibly saddened to hear of the passing of former Hibernian player Liam Miller. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time."

Tam McManus, who played with Miller at Hibs, tweeted: "I'm afraid it is true that Liam Miller has sadly passed away today. Thoughts are with all his family and friends at this horrendous time. So sad."

McManus added that "the esteem Miller was held in by supporters of every club he either played for or against" showed through in the tributes paid to him on Friday.

He himself described Miller as "a wonderfully talented player but more importantly a lovely, humble person who never changed despite the wealth and success".

Celtic said they were "deeply saddened", adding that their "thoughts are with his family and friends".

Stiliyan Petrov, who played with Miller at Celtic, said he was "deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my friend and old team-mate Liam Miller".

Petrov, 38 and now retired, returned to football in 2016 having recovered from acute leukaemia, four years after being diagnosed with the disease.

He added: "My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. RIP my friend."

Chris Sutton, who also played with Miller at Celtic, tweeted: "Terribly sad news about Liam Miller. Taken too young. Thoughts go out to his family."

Former Manchester United midfielder David Beckham said "Our thoughts are with Liam's family. Rest In Peace."

Manchester United said the club were “deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death” of Miller and they extended their “condolences to his loved ones at this extremely difficult time”.

The Edinburgh Reporter also send our condolences to Liam’s friends and family.

Liam played 76 times for Hibs, scoring 7 goals.

New contract for Hibs’ teenage striker Oli Shaw

Hibernian FC have always been known for giving young players a chance and the latest to come through the ranks is Oli Shaw.

The 19-year-old recently impressed Head Coach Neil Lennon sufficiently to be given a three-year contract after a number of impressive performances for the first team.

The son of former Dunfermline and Airdrie player Greg Shaw, Oli made his debut for the club as a substitute in a League Cup victory over Montrose, having passed his driving test that morning.



He opened his goal-scoring account at Hampden Park in a 4-2 defeat to Celtic then scored again against the champions in a

2-2 draw at Easter Road. Only a goal-line clearance prevented him making history by ending Celtic's unbeaten domestic run.

The youngster also had a 'goal' disallowed in the Edinburgh derby at Tynecastle when the officials failed to spot that his shot had crossed the line.

Shaw said: "I'm delighted to have signed and committed my future here at Hibs. It's a massive club with great staff and a great manager and I am looking forward to continuing working and developing here.

"My goal is to play first-team football regularly here and to hopefully continue scoring goals.

"I've had a wee sniff of it recently, so I'm looking forward to getting back at it after the break and hopefully continuing with that."

Neil Lennon said: "I am delighted that we have signed Oli on a new deal for the next three years.

"There is a maturity about his play for someone so young, but a rawness as well which makes him difficult to play against. He is a real talent, that's for sure.

"His performances this season, especially last month, have really impressed me and his goals have been fantastic and shown a lot of the different aspects of the talent he possesses.

"He's a good kid with a bright future ahead of him if he continues to work as hard in training and in games as he has done so far this season."

Meeting Rab Bennetts

Here in Edinburgh we can be quite obsessed with its buildings and what is done with them to develop and put them to good use in the 21st century. It is perhaps a bit of a comfort to know that one of the major firms of architects involved with several big projects in the capital has many Edinburgh connections.

Not only does the company have a base here, the firm was co-founded by Rab Bennetts OBE in 1987 with his partner Denise after they studied together in Edinburgh.

Mr Bennetts now provides overall design direction to the firm which employs around 80 people here and in offices in London and Manchester. He is involved in research projects, is a member of many professional committees and is interested in construction education outside the firm. A co-founder of the UK Green Building Council, Rab is also a trustee of the Design Council and a director at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. In Edinburgh they were commissioned on the Astronomy Technology Centre at the Royal Observatory, Potterrow, the FloWave Test Facility and two significant buildings at Edinburgh Park. They are also working on the Bayes Centre for the University of Edinburgh.

In 2005 the firm was commissioned to transform the Royal Shakespeare Company's home at Stratford-upon-Avon and here in Edinburgh the University of Edinburgh has long been a client.



Rab Bennetts OBE

I met with Rab to find out about his work in Edinburgh which now includes the refurbishment of the former Royal Infirmary Surgical Hospital which is to become the [Edinburgh Futures Institute](#).

Our meeting took place in the relatively small and unobtrusive office which the firm occupies in Boroughloch Square where the atmosphere was one of concentration and collaboration. He apologised that I was not seeing the office on a busier day, as it was just ahead of Christmas when people were starting to go off for the holidays, but it looked busy enough to me!

Rab explained the beginnings of the firm : "The business was set up in London in 1987, but it wasn't long before we got offered a job here in Edinburgh which was our home town. It wasn't long after Edinburgh had bid for the Year of Culture which of course Glasgow won.

"But it gave us a taste for working in Edinburgh again. So we have had an office here since 1994, and it was nice to come back. The job that got us here was a new HQ for John Menzies out at The Gyle as it was called then. Now it's called Edinburgh Park of course!

"That was swiftly followed by another job for BT. Both of these came about as a result of winning design competitions, and we set up an office here hoping we could make it through. One person manned the office, Jane Burridge, a very good architect who stayed with us for around 12 years. She soldiered on for the first three years here, and suddenly we had more work. Now we have 15 people working here in Edinburgh where the atmosphere is usually buzzing.

"Our work is now all over the UK, in the Midlands, London and all three offices can share the load. Our Christmas party was held in London this year and we all had a great time. It had been quite a difficult year economically, largely due to the effects of Brexit.

"Commercial developers and others are easing off their decision-making so we were prudent this year. This time last year we all went to Milan.

"Normally we have two big office trips during the year, one on

home ground and one abroad. There is a good reason behind that – it is to try and bind people together. These Continuing Professional Development trips get people being friendly with each other, get them talking and discussing buildings together.”

THE FUTURE OF EDINBURGH

I was a bit surprised that someone like Rab had not been asked for his views on the City Vision 2050 as yet, and while this will form part of a future article, he admitted it is a difficult city to make long term decisions in.

He explained why : “The congestion charge was turned down, the tram was made to happen after a tremendous fuss and a lot of expense, but public transport is vital. In London, where I have lived for 40 years the biggest single change has been transport, and I think that is critical to where Edinburgh will be in the future too. The buses in London are now so good and the Tube so efficient, even running all night sometimes, meaning that we don’t use a car in London any more.

“Our one car has been moved up here to Edinburgh so that I can do trips to see my mum!

“In London the congestion charge was part of a joined up strategy linking to the improvements needed in public transport. I don’t think that congestion here is such a problem outside the two commuter times at either end of the day.”

EDINBURGH PARK

I suggested to Rab that some of the buildings at Edinburgh Park and elsewhere might have shorter lifespans than some of our other buildings across the city which he didn’t really agree with.

He said : “There are buildings up and down Britain which are

now being replaced rather quicker than people thought, mainly because development values have moved on and it suddenly becomes economic. Often it means demolition of an existing building and replacing it with something about three times the size, which would never have been possible before. But the building we were involved with at Edinburgh Park has been in place since 1995 now and it looks in mint condition still!

“To be fair to John Menzies they trusted us completely with the building and they were delighted with it when it was finished.”



©Bennetts Associates

EDINBURGH FUTURES INSTITUTE

The firm is now involved with the refurbishment of the former Royal Infirmary Surgical Department, which is the huge building opposite George Heriot's School. Bennetts admits it took a while before that kind of work came along. He said : “The first building we designed in the town centre was The Potterrow development in 2003, but we are thrilled to have the new contract for the Edinburgh Futures Institute. This is a huge job and we are really proud to be involved in it.

“The building is the last piece of Quartermile that has not yet been properly developed, although there are a couple of vacant plots for residential development in the centre of the site. This part is the major hospital building on Lauriston Place, the very famous one with the big clock tower in the middle. We took a leaf from a London project at King's Cross.

The thing that made that one work was having a college just behind it with 5,000 people going to and fro with a diversity of people. This is what this will be in Lauriston Place. There will be around 3,000 or so students there bringing life to Quartermile, which until now has been a bit monocultural. Its got some housing offices and shops with a little square in the

middle but not much else.

“The impact that a university building will have here is that it will complete it. It will have a sense of buzz and youth and will help the area hugely. It is perhaps not what the original intention for the building was. Originally the developer thought this might be a hotel or more flats but I think it will be much better for the overall scheme and for the city.”



©Bennetts Associates

Bennetts explained that the work on the former hospital is already underway as planning permission has already been granted. He said : “What people will see at the moment is stripping away all the bits that were added by the National Health Service, some of it was pretty awful! We are getting rid of some dry rot and asbestos, demolishing some extensions which were in the way of other things. The main contract to build new in amongst it and refurbishing the old wards and so on doesn’t start till the end of summer 2018. Then it is a three year contract and we aim to have it finished by summer 2021 so that it is ready for the new term.”

I asked if it would still feel like a hospital ward when the new offices are formed. We all have memories of the former wards with their lofty windows and polished floors.

Rab replied : “Well we all know it from the A&E entrance at the side. At the moment if you peer through the gates all that you see is a big flight of steps which is not politically correct at all as you can’t get disabled access up to the main door of the building.

“What we are doing is putting a ramp in at the main entrance on Lauriston Place, getting rid of the gatehouse to open the view up. That will be a new public square big enough for events and gatherings during the festival and other times.

Because it rises up slightly there is a huge events space underneath which will accommodate about 500 people. So in terms of its perception as a hospital it ought to feel like a building that has its own new character, particularly at the entrance and in the central assembly in the building.

“When it comes to the wards, they will always have the shape of hospital wards, but we are definitely not trying to make them clinical. We are taking out the old ceilings that the NHS put in which had some air conditioning above. This will open the wards up to their full height again, opening the windows so that the offices can be naturally ventilated, and just allowing the spaces to be themselves. They won’t be divided up too much as they will be open plan. So they will be recognisable as hospital wards, but these will be beautiful spaces.

“We are now two-thirds of the way through the architectural process but we have an oversight of the project after that.

“There was already planning permission in place for a hotel and then we had to change this with all the high standards for a Category A listed building like this. Some of the new buildings will be fitted in around the older parts and they will fit in very well.”



©Bennetts Associates

BENNETTS ASSOCIATES – The future

The firm just celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017 which Bennetts is understandably proud of.

He said : “From the beginning we were always trying to collaborate with other architects and friends. We are not egomaniacs, that’s not our style! There are several people who

have been with us since the early nineties and we took the decision recently with regard to succession in our firm.”

Bennetts wrote about the lack of ego in a book (Bennetts Associates Five Insights) published to coincide with the anniversary. He explains there : “Based on collaboration and to some extent containment of ego in favour of team spirit, we have an increasing conviction about a method which is far less reliant on individualism and is more in tune with the notion of architects as leaders, orchestrators and generalists within a complex process that is increasingly reliant on multiple specialists. Our architectural output depends on high levels of creativity of course, but it isn’t necessarily dominated by one individual; indeed it is the creative spark between a number of key people that allows us to punch above our weight as the cliché goes.”

The succession to the firm is already set out : “We already know who is going to be running the company after us when we decide to swan off into the sunset at some distant point.

“We have formed an employee trust which means the whole company is owned by a trust on behalf of its employees. This makes it difficult for the company to be taken over or sold. If some other firm bought our company it would have different values, people would hate it and they would leave. What would be the point of that?

“So now Denise and I, having set this business up, no longer own it. It’s owned by everybody. I think that is massively important. Some other firms of architects have done this. We used a firm called Baxendales here in Edinburgh as our advisers. This firm has a strange history as it was originally a fireplace shop in the Grassmarket and they are now a specialist firm on employee ownership!

TECHNOLOGY

As with every other business the technological advancements principally with computer networking has affected Bennetts Associates but Rab thinks it is for the better. He said : "The biggest change in the last 15 years is that owing to technology we can share projects at the same time across a couple of offices with one computer model. Previously the workflow might have ebbed and flowed in Edinburgh much more than in London, and that was really difficult to manage. Now it is a lot easier.

"There is a king-sized housing crisis in London and the consequences of that are that some younger people are beginning to wonder what they will do in their thirties. They can't buy a house and start a family.

"So, among our staff a couple of them have moved to Manchester, a couple have moved to Edinburgh and are still working on projects all over the place. I think that is quite interesting, and it offers quality of life to people who work here.

"In Edinburgh they can at least afford a flat!"

POLITICS

But the final word has to be about the current political state here in the UK. Bennetts is emphatic about that. He summed up : "Brexit is affecting London, and it is affecting commercial property here now too. We have a mix of projects and depend on our commercial work, but investors in that area are holding back. The building industry is officially in recession right now. People are leaving the UK and going back home. This is a real shakedown which people are keeping quiet about it but it could be very significant.

"Property and the construction industry as a whole is about two and a half million people. It is one of the biggest industries We have a serious problem if the construction industry is in recession."



Rab and Denise Bennetts

Hibs' pair Ryan Porteous and Fraser Murray called up to the Scotland U19 squad



Hibs duo Ryan Porteous and Fraser Murray have been called up to the Scotland U19 squad for two friendly internationals.

The squad, led by Donald Park and assistant Darren Jackson will will face Denmark on 27 February and Austria on 1 March.

The Elite Round takes place between 21-27 March, with Scotland drawn against Germany, Netherlands and Norway.

Centre-half Porteous, 18, has featured on eight occasions for Neil Lennon's side this season, making his first league start with an impressive performance n Hibs victory over Rangers at Ibrox..

Midfielder Murray, also 18, made his debut in last season's Challenge Cup, scoring against Turriff United, and has made six appearances this campaign, scoring twice in the League Cup group stages.

Officer taken off front line duties after rifle discharged in police station



A police officer has been taken off front line duty after a rifle was fired in the armoury department of former Lothian and Borders HQ at Fettes Avenue Sunday, January 28.

No-one was injured as a result of the incident and the circumstances have been referred to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (Pirc).

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Following an accidental discharge of a firearm within the armoury area of Fettes Police Station on Sunday, January 28, a referral was made to Pirc.

"No one was injured during this incident.

"It would be inappropriate to comment further at this time."

Theatre – Calendar Girls The

Musical at The Festival Theatre



David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers, the producers of Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's musical comedy, CALENDAR GIRLS The Musical, based on the true story, the film and the award-winning play by Tim Firth, Calendar Girls, are bringing the production to the Festival Theatre Edinburgh in October.

CALENDAR GIRLS The Musical is inspired by the true story of a group of ladies, who decide to appear nude for a Women's Institute calendar. The idea is to raise funds to buy a settee for their local hospital, in memory of one of their husbands, and has to date raised almost £5m for Bloodwise. This musical comedy shows life in their Yorkshire village, how it happened, the effect on husbands, sons and daughters, and how a group of ordinary ladies achieved something extraordinary.

The new tour will star novelist and television presenter Fern Britton, returning to the stage for the first time in 30 years, as Marie. Lorraine Bruce as Cora. Anna-Jane Casey as Annie. Sara Crowe as Ruth. Ruth Madoc as Jessie and Rebecca Storm as Chris and Denise Welch as Celia. Gary Barlow said, "What a phenomenal new cast we have. Tim and I sat in – and indeed played – on the auditions and have been so lucky to have put together such talented ladies."

Bloodwise, the UK's specialist blood cancer charity, will continue to receive monies from this production.

CALENDAR GIRLS The Musical is directed by Matt Ryan

[Tickets here](#)

Police arrest man in connection with doorstep fraud in Bathgate



A 56-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a doorstep fraud which took place in West Lothian.

Earlier this week, officers were contacted by a bank in Bathgate who stopped an elderly man from withdrawing a three-figure sum of cash to pay a bogus caller who had offered counterfeit designer clothing for sale.

The 56-year-old appeared at Livingston Sheriff Court on Wednesday 7th February.

Inspector Jamie Campbell of Livingston Police Station said: "We recommend that people never buy things from sellers in the street or who turn up announced at the door. Those who commit such crimes, like bogus callers and rogue traders, are extremely convincing in how they approach and interact with potential victims. Anyone can be convinced by the lies these criminals come out with.

"Anyone who feels threatened, pressurised or suspicious of a caller should call police on 999 immediately. The local Trading Standards service at the council is also committed to tackling this type of unscrupulous crime."

Anyone who may have been offered items for sale in similar suspicious circumstances should contact police on 101 quoting reference 1816 of Tuesday 6th February or contact

Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Edinburgh Napier students get work experience at the races

Edinburgh Napier University student Maiti Stirling applied for a work placement with Musselburgh Racecourse, but her request was initially turned down. The racecourse in common with other businesses gets many such requests and cannot fulfil them all.

But Ms Stirling's father Colin owns Foulrice Park Racing in Yorkshire. He came up with a three year sponsorship deal to help, not only his daughter, but also other undergrads so that all can benefit from work experience at Musselburgh.



Maiti Stirling, left, with Rebecca Morrison, Musselburgh Racecourse

Now third year events management student Rebecca Morrison has just completed a six month placement during which she was involved in the day to day operations. Catriona Kendall will begin her stint very soon.

Musselburgh Racecourse senior operations and commercial manager, Sarah Montgomery, said she hoped other businesses would support similar sponsorships to enable student to take up placements.

She said: "We get approached all the time from university students desperately looking for opportunities but for most businesses it is unrealistic to expect them to fund 6-12 month

placements. Colin Stirling's initiative was most welcome and allowed us to take on Maiti and then Rebecca, and both have been invaluable in helping with the day-to-day running of the racecourse.

"It would be excellent if other businesses followed Foulrice Park Racing's lead, not just in the racing industry but across all sectors, and this would help undergraduates complete this important part of their degree course."

Edinburgh Napier University manages the application process and each appointment is made based on interviews and suitability. The racecourse is flexible about the type of roles each student fulfils and tries to match a workflow which suits individual interests, strengthen their CVs and assist with applying for jobs on graduation.

Sarah Montgomery added: "Both Maiti and Rebecca made a huge impact and we are grateful for their contribution. They worked with us through our really busy planning period in the lead up to our most successful race days, the Edinburgh Gin Edinburgh Cup and our sell-out Stobo Castle Ladies Day.

"We are now delighted that Maiti has joined us in a full-time permanent role and to welcome on board Catriona as our third Napier University placement. We hope with continued support from Foulrice Park or other businesses that this will be a programme we can support for many years to come."

Colin Stirling of Foulrice Park Racing, said: "From both my observations as an employer and the direct experience with both my children, I am a huge advocate of the benefits of meaningful work placements as part of a student's education. It helps both the personal development of the individual and significantly improves their attractiveness to employers when they graduate.

"It is evident that universities which offer placements as part of their courses often struggle to gain the involvement

of employers to deliver the programmes. We were therefore delighted to work together with the team at Musselburgh Racecourse to come up with a plan to jointly fund the 3-year scheme to support Edinburgh Napier's Business School.

"The two placements completed so far have greatly benefitted both Rebecca and Maiti and the racecourse and I hope this success will inspire other employers to consider similar support to Napier or other universities in their locality."

Lynn Waterston, the lecturer at Edinburgh Napier's Business School with responsibility for marketing, hospitality and events undergraduate placements, said:

"Degree courses with a work placement element require a lot of commitment from employers, so it is fantastic to see a sponsorship initiative like this succeed not only in giving students valuable experience, but also in terms of the benefits that our placement students can bring to our partner organisations."

Letter from Scotland



A policeman's lot.....

Encore's production of the Pirates of Penzance

For Norfolk man Phil Gormley, a policeman's lot has not turned out to be a happy one. His resignation this week as Scotland's Chief Constable is a plot worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan. He's been on "special leave" since last September, tending that garden in Norfolk, following a series of allegations of "gross misconduct" by some of his senior officers.

We're not told what form the "misconduct" took or why it was so "gross", except it was alleged to be "bullying". He himself has denied all the charges. An enquiry was set up by PIRC the Police Investigations and Review Commission, a team of former police officers and others, headed by a lawyer, Kate Frame. This 63- strong force-within-a-force has taken five months so far to investigate the allegations, which makes the Keystone Cops look efficient.

So I'm left asking questions. Why has it taken so long to investigate five pretty simple complaints by witnesses all readily identifiable and available. What is wrong with the top team at Police Scotland that they are complaining about each other? Can't they take a little criticism? Isn't a new boss from Norfolk allowed to shout at his staff and demand results ? (If that indeed is what he did.) Or does this alleged conduct amount to bullying and gross misconduct ?

This central scene of our comic opera takes place against a background of beastliness. There was some resentment among the eight local police forces when they merged into one Police Scotland only five years ago. And this by an SNP government keen to nationalise the service as a money-saving measure.

The first chief constable Sir Stephen House was forced to step aside after just three years because he was seen as "Glasgow's chief constable" and because he decided to deploy armed police officers on regular duties without telling anyone in advance.

The body supposed to be overseeing this new police force, the Scottish Police Authority, quickly became dysfunctional. Members fell out with each other. A committee of MSPs found there was a lack of transparency about its proceedings. It couldn't make up its mind whether Mr Gormley should come back from "special leave" while the investigations proceeded. And in the end the chairman and chief executive resigned.

And to top off the show, the justice secretary Michael

Matheson appears, like the Modern Major General in the Pirates of Penzance, to float above it all. He's shrugged off calls for his resignation and assured us that normal police service is continuing – pirates are being caught. The Deputy Chief Constable Iain Livingstone has steadied the ship and the new chair of the SPA, Professor Susan Deacon, will set it sailing on a less accident-prone course. We'll see.



David Horne Managing Director of Virgin Trains East Coast arriving at Waverley on the first liveried train in March 2015

Meanwhile, capitalism has let us down again. The Perth-based company Stagecoach and its junior partner Virgin East Coast have announced they can no longer run the main east-coast railway service between Edinburgh and London.

They simply bid too low when they won the franchise in 2015. (Something we wrote about [here](#) in 2015) Since then Stagecoach has paid the UK government £1bn but it has made losses of £200m and can no longer afford to run the franchise which was due to last till 2020.

The UK Transport Secretary Chris Grayling says he will try to arrange a not-for-profit deal with Virgin Trains to continue the service or take it back into public ownership, as happened in 2009 when National Express pulled out. Nicola Sturgeon told MSPs on Thursday that the UK government had “made a mess” of the franchise and Labour called for the service to be re-nationalised. (Alex Cole-Hamilton called for Holyrood to do something about it but was told it is the remit of the UK Government.)

[The Royal Bank](#) has bowed to public pressure over its branch closure programme – as well it might, given that the public own 72 per cent of the shares. It originally announced that 62 local branches in Scotland were to close because they were

not being used sufficiently – due to the rise in on-line banking. This week, it granted a year-long reprieve to 10 branches in remote towns, from Gretna to Tongue, where there is no other banking service. It also offered to hand over its premises to local communities for three years and to install terminals in other premises for business customers. But the days of the local bank manager are truly over and that's a shame for our economy.

Another shame for our economy, according to a Scottish Government estimate this week, is that the UK's policy to cut immigration to the "tens of thousands" would reduce Scotland's national income by £10bn a year. Instead, our external affairs secretary Fiona Hyslop is working on a Scottish immigration policy which would allow more people from overseas to come to Scotland provided they live and work here and don't move to other parts of the UK.

Finally, we've been celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act which gave women over 30 the vote for the first time. And it's not been just an excuse for women to dress up in Suffragette costumes. The occasion has been used to highlight the current issues of equal pay and sexual harassment. Nicola Sturgeon said, in a special debate in the Scottish parliament: "The uncomfortable truth is that gender equality is still an unwon cause – an unwon cause that is the duty of our generation to win."

Rugby – The Auld Alliance Trophy – day begins with a memorial service

The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Frank Ross laid a wreath this morning at Edinburgh Castle as part of a memorial service for the captains of the Scottish and French rugby teams who died during World War One.

He was there at the invitation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle Major-General Michael Lawrence Riddell-Webster, and was joined by some descendants of both of the players. This is only the beginning of what will be an historic day for Scottish and French rugby. The Auld Alliance Trophy has now been created and will be awarded annually in a similar fashion to the Calcutta Cup when Scotland and France play in the Six Nations.



Eric Milroy was captain of the Scottish team in the early 20th century and once played against the French captain Marcel Burgun. The two families met for the first time this morning.

Lt-Col Colin McGrory welcomed the small party to the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, the first part of the Milroy tour which is taking place in the city today.

The Scottish National War Memorial was opened in 1927 as a tribute to the 144,000 Scots who died in World War One. The idea was conceived during the latter part of the First World War in the minds of a few determined individuals including the Duke of Atholl, a war time commander who served in the Boer War and at Gallipoli. His vision with the support of the then Prince of Wales was realised when construction work began here in 1924. To this day it is a place of pilgrimage and solace

for those whose loved ones friends and relatives are recorded in these books.



Scottish National War Memorial

The Lord Provost said : “Welcome to the capital city. We gather today to remember all those rugby players who lost their lives during WWI. They are remembered through this commemoration of the 1914 French and Scottish international captains Marcel Burgun and Eric Milroy. One the daring French pilot, and the other the unassuming Scottish accountant. The Auld Alliance between the Kingdoms of Scotland and France originally dates back to 1295, originally a military and diplomatic alliance but has developed into much more.

“In 1910 the two international rugby teams first played against each other in Edinburgh. They have now met on 91 occasions, and although France holds the upper hand at this moment in time there is always hope. Burgun and Milroy played against each other once in 1913 and when the two teams met again in 1920 the two players and many other rugby players had died.

“I, like Eric Milro, am a Watsonian and even today the club still plays in the club colours of maroon and white. Watsonians have had roles in all three of Scotland’s Grand Slam wins.”

Sir Eric Milroy is a great nephew of the former Scottish captain. He said : “It is fitting that we start this weekend in this place. The original idea was to honour the internationalists who died during the First World War and the Scottish regiments who played such a role in France around Amiens and in the Somme. We are very conscious that we commemorate them today with family pride, but we are also conscious that they are representatives of a much larger body of people. They represent their own two teams and all the

thousands of club players and schoolboy players who exchanged the fields where they played rugby for the fields of war in France.”

Many have been involved in both the memorial and the creation of the Auld Alliance cup, and this includes the MP Joanna Cherry QC MP. This morning Ms Cherry has laid down an Early Day Motion at Westminster. It reads :

That this House celebrates the historic and continuing ties between Scotland and France; welcomes the creation of the Auld Alliance Trophy to be awarded annually when Scotland and France meet during the Six Nations; commemorates the memories of the 31 Scottish and 22 French international rugby players killed during the First World War; further celebrates the lives of the Scottish international captain Eric Milroy, the Prince of scrum-halves, who learned his skills at George Watson’s College in Edinburgh South West constituency and the French international captain Marcel Burgun, a remarkable pilot of rare intrepidity and recipient of the Croix de Guerre and Palm who both gave their life in the Great War and in whose names, along with all their fellow rugby players, the trophy is dedicated; and notes the passion and dedication of Patrick Caublot of Amiens Rugby Club for originating the idea, the work of David Anderson QC, Eric Milroy’s great-great-nephew, the Scottish Rugby Union and the Federation Française de Rugby in creating the trophy.

Hibs' defender Darren McGregor hopes to be back for Aberdeen game



Hibs defender Darren McGregor hopes to be fit enough to be included in the team to face Aberdeen at Easter Road Stadium a week on Saturday as he continues his recovery from injury.

Hibs have a free weekend after going out of the Scottish Cup which will allow him more time to recover from the slight strain picked up in the 2-1 victory at home to Motherwell.

The 32-year-old was taken off to prevent the injury worsening during the closing half hour of the game thanks to the advice of Nathan Ring, Head of Sport Science and Medicine.

McGregor told Hibernian Media: "I'm hoping to be back running by the end of the week. The injury was nothing more than a slight niggle.

"I thought it was a little bit of cramp and that's why I played on. I felt it about two minutes into the second half, which I thought was down to sitting down for 10 or 15 minutes in the second half.

"I thought that I could run it off, but it turned out to be more than cramp. Because I haven't had any muscular injuries, I spoke to Nathan who advised me to come off as a precautionary measure.

"He told me that hamstrings can be a volatile thing and advised me not to play as I could tear it and be out for a while.

"The type of niggle I picked up usually recovers in about ten

days, so I will be back next week and hopefully in contention for the Aberdeen game.

“As good as the team done at Ibrox, it is vital to get experienced players back ahead of a big match.

“Youth is one thing, and we’re blessed at the minute with really good youngsters coming through, but you also need the guys who have been there and done it.

“I’ve been there, as have Paul, Steven and Dave, and it’s about having the right blend of player and mixing youth and experience, which is something that the gaffer knows about and is doing well.

“I’m looking forward to the game and maybe being involved, because I think we are due a good result against Aberdeen.”

Lord Provost’s Burns Supper – raising money for OneCity Trust

The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Frank Ross held his 2018 Burns Supper in January at Prestonfield House.

This year the dinner raised over £30,000 in ticket sales and donations. It was a sell-out and you would be well advised to get in quick for next year’s event.

The Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said: “Since becoming Lord Provost and Patron of the OneCity Trust, it has been my

mission to use my position to bring the city together to help tackle social exclusion in Edinburgh.

“Scotland’s great capital has much to be proud of, but there are many people who do not have access to the privileges living in a city like Edinburgh brings. Be it homelessness, prejudice or poverty, the OneCity Trust helps to fight such exclusion and bridge the gap.

“I’m thrilled my first Burns Supper has already raised so much money and that we have broken the £30,000 mark.

“My thanks to my own staff for organising the event, the staff of Prestonfield House, each guest who attended and every single person who donated and made the night such a resounding success. Fare thee weel and do come again next year!”

The event was a fundraiser for the Lord Provost’s own charity the OneCity Trust and we had made a short film for the event featuring some of the recipients of grants during the year.

[OneCityTrust 2018](#) from [The Edinburgh Reporter On Vimeo](#) on [Vimeo](#).

In the past twelve months through sponsors, donations and fundraising, the OneCity Trust has been able to pay over £100,000 in grants to local projects. This was partly achieved through the Lord Provost’s inaugural Burns Supper, held last year raising over £33,000 for the trust.

The OneCity Trust was established in 2003 and fights inequality and exclusion in Edinburgh. The Lord Provost is passionate about the need for all citizens of Scotland’s capital city to be included in its success and opportunities by funding projects which actively bring people together from across divides, with long term social inclusion benefits.

The black tie gathering is now firmly in the civic diary following its reincarnation last year, and part of that is due

to the quality of the entertainment. On the evening we were entertained by a wide variety of speakers, singers and party animals!

Allan Wilson is a Selkirk native who charmed us all with his singing last year, and was in even better voice this year. A Man's a Man for A That was a fine way to set the proceedings off.

The haggis was piped in by the Lord Provost's piper Louise Marshall and most robustly addressed by Cameron Goodall who is the host of The Scottish Show at Prestonfield. Goodall joined the army to play percussion at the tender age of 16, and is now a mainstay of the entertainment that the hotel provides. He gave the haggis little chance of survival!

Shabir Beg of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society delivered the Selkirk Grace ahead of the meal which we all enjoyed.

The repast was exquisitely presented and prepared by James Thomson's chefs who had clearly gone the extra mile for the charity. Borders pheasant with haggis was followed by Aberdeen Angus Scotch beef and cranachan rounded off by some Scottish tablet.

Professor David Purdie is an Ayrshire man, an after dinner speaker of considerable note and a highly esteemed Burns aficionado.

He is also the official custodian of the manuscript of Auld Lang Syne which is placed in the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Ayrshire. Professor Purdie delivered an utterly outstanding Immortal Memory, with many references to Edinburgh where Burns spent some time.

A philosopher to trade he is currently working on the next edition of The Burns Encyclopaedia and is also an expert on Sir Walter Scott and David Hume. His sardonic wit was much enjoyed by the audience.

Grant Stott was on fine form wearing his bespoke Ralph Lauren tartan jacket, although he admitted to being exhausted after his seven week Panto run at the King's.

Grant held the audience in the palm of his hand particularly with his own Burns take on Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody. (Yes it had to be seen and heard to be believed!) He proposed the Toast to the Lassies which was replied to by Deidre Brock MP. Deidre is the first woman to have held the parliamentary seat and was well able to stick up for us all. She is a former Depute Lord Provost and professional actor which all adds up to someone who can not only hold feet to the fire in Westminster, but also be extremely entertaining at social events.

The evening finished off with a Vote of Thanks by eminent crime author Ian Rankin who hosted a table at the event, and Philip Henderson FGPT who is one of the City officers was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. As the only member of the Professional Toastmasters Guild who lives in Scotland he was indeed well qualified to do so.

Ice hockey – captain calls for big effort



Action from Murrayfield during the last Fife Flyers game courtesy of Ian Coyle

Mike D’Orazio is looking for squad players to step-up as his men prepare for Sunday’s home clash with high-flying Fife Flyers.

The club’s interim coach has had to juggle lines following the departure of two more key players.

And the Canadian defenceman was happy with the effort from his depleted team despite a 5-4 defeat at Dundee Stars on Saturday and 3-0 reverse at home to Milton Keynes on Sunday.

He admitted that recent events have made it tough but it is difficult running a short-benched team in the highly-competitive Elite League.

And D’Orazio, who doubles as club captain, is pleased that his men are still creating chances.

The down side is that they failed to capitalise on them.

If they had, he argued, then it might have been a difference story.

He’s looking forward to Sunday when Fife are likely to be followed by a big crowd and the atmosphere in the derby is always special.

D’Orazio would like nothing better than a win which would snap a six-game losing streak.

And it would take the team into double figures.

The odds are, however, against Capitals as Fife have won 5-1 and 5-3 at Murrayfield so far this season in the league.

And success-hungry Flyers have won 6-2, 10-1 and 6-1 at The Fife Ice Arena.

Face-off, incidentally, is at 7.15pm because of the rugby international at Murrayfield.

The Caledonian Sleeper Experience now includes a bit of Burns



Burns Night 2018 – Wassails on the Rails

Overnight rail service **Caledonian Sleeper** has organised a new calendar of events for the year ahead, offering guests travelling between Scotland and London the chance to enjoy a series of celebrations on board.

Kicking off the new events programme was a true Scottish tribute to the great Robert Burns which allowed guests travelling from Inverness to London on 31 January and from London to Glasgow on 1 February to enjoy 'Burns on Wheels'. This was a traditional evening filled with live piping, haggis, songs from rising Scottish singer Robyn Singleton, poetry and a toast with a dram from Tomintoul Distillery.

Keith Wallace, Serco's Managing Director of Caledonian Sleeper who led the event, commented: "A Burns Supper is a true celebration of Scotland's history and culture and one that we were extremely excited to bring to our guests. We believe

this to be the first ever Burns Supper on a train, and are sure the conviviality would have made Caledonian Sleeper Burns' preferred choice of travel.

"From the live piping in Euston and Inverness railway stations which was played as guests boarded the train to the glass of whisky and traditional haggis enjoyed in the comfort of the lounge car, this was a unique and memorable event enjoyed by all."

The Burns Supper event will be followed by a series of events throughout the year hosted with partners of Caledonian Sleeper on routes across the country. These include:

- Tuesday 13 February Chocolate Tasting
with Hotel Chocolat
- Tuesday 06 March Gin Tasting
- Friday 06 April Magic Workshop
for Kids with Hopscotch Magic
- May Whisky
Tasting with Malt Whisky Trail
- June National
Gin Week Celebration
- July
Carnoustie Golf Club Insight into The Open
- August
Scotland's Natural Larder Tasting
- September Arm Knitting
with Loch Ness Knit Fest
- October Hallowe'en
with Mary King's Close
- December Christmas
Carols



Keith added: "We have a great line up of events for 2018 for those with all interests to enjoy. Our event partners are sure

to make the experience of travelling with [Caledonian Sleeper](#) even more exciting and we can't wait to welcome guests on board."

The Caledonian Sleeper's overnight service between Scotland and London has been hailed as one of Lonely Planet's 'Super Sleeper Trains' and the London to Fort William service made the world's best-selling travel guidebook's top ten list.

Every night, apart from Saturday, guests are transported both north and south between Inverness, Aberdeen, Fort William, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London Euston.

Travel bookings can be made up to 12 months in advance on www.sleeper.scot.

Follow them on [Facebook](#).

Books – Chrysalis by Jeremy Welch- a solid and original debut

Chrysalis by Edinburgh author Jeremy Welch is an engaging debut novel with a relatively simplistic premise, but complex undertones.

✘ When Sebastian, a self-pitying finance agent is fired from his prestigious job in London, he is forced by his former girlfriend to confront the apparent emptiness of his existence.

Vowing to rediscover his passion for writing, he travels to Amsterdam, encountering a circus and drawn to the red light districts. His life becomes rapidly more difficult when he witnesses the corruption hidden underneath the cheerfully bohemian exterior of the city.

The novel packs a great deal into its 327 pages. While at surface level it is a kind of contemporary *bildungsroman*, Welch's exploration of the crime in Amsterdam and exploitation of foreign prostitutes takes it to greater depths.

I would have liked this aspect of the novel to have been explored a bit more, as it adds a kind of grit and realism that the plot does sometimes lack. The crime and threat Sebastian faces feels slightly glossed over, and seems to serve as his moral growth rather than a major plot point.

But, the novel's major characters are well fleshed out and the backdrop of Amsterdam feels very vivid and real- the reader can almost see the lakes and hear the clicking of bikes. Sebastian is initially a frustrating protagonist, but he does grow and become less self-pitying. Arguably the city is what really makes the novel. Welch's Amsterdam is one where foreigners of all nations come to be themselves, but the seedy underbelly of gang crime threatens to spill over to the surface, with devastating results.

Chrysalis is published by [Troubador](#)

ISBN: 9781788039369 Price: £9.99

Works to begin at Picardy

Place this weekend

On a weekend when the town will be full of Frenchmen it is probably appropriate that work will start on the redesign of Picardy Place.

The Sherlock Holmes statue and Paolozzi's The Manuscript of Monte Cassino have already been moved to the Hillside area where the council believes they will be safer during the works.



Sir Tom Farmer who gifted the sculptures standing beside the Monte Cassino foot by Eduardo Paolozzi just before it was moved to Hillside Crescent in December 2017

Beginning this weekend the trees will be felled outside the cathedral before any birds nest in them. The council has assured us that for all trees cut down they will be replaced by two planted elsewhere.

The detailed design for the roundabout is not yet finalised. The council has delegated authority for the final design to the Chief Executive, although the outline plan is for a three lane gyratory with segregated cycle lanes.

This has not met with universal praise particularly from cycling and walking groups, some of whom think it will be more dangerous.



From 1,000 responses the majority were in favour of an improved public realm area, and the council has conceded in part by confirming that they will no longer sell or develop the central island area in any way, at least for the time

being.

Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport Convener, said: “These trees need to be removed to allow work to go ahead on Picardy Place and it’s essential they’re taken down before bird-nesting season begins at the end of February.

“Meanwhile, discussions continue with key stakeholders to finalise the finer details of the design.”



Doing business over coffee



The outside of the popular Paper Mill at Lasswade. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

The Midlothian Business Coffee Morning is on Tuesday, 13 February between 8.30am and 10.30am.

The venue is The Paper Mill, 2 to 4 Westmill Rd, Lasswade EH18 1LX and this is a bi-monthly networking group hosted by the Federation of Small Business (FSB) in collaboration with Business Gateway Midlothian.

These networking events are very relaxed affairs offering businessmen and women a chance to meet and mingle with other local business owners.

The event is free and guests are asked to pay for tea and coffee at the venue.

Booking is through Eventbrite.

ScottishPower announces new Masters scholarships

ScottishPower is set to demonstrate its commitment to nurturing the UK's future energy leaders by funding 16 new Masters Scholarships in energy-related disciplines in 2018.

The energy supplier is calling on UK final year undergraduates looking to progress their careers in the energy, digital and environmental industries to apply for the 2018/19 scholarships programme which opens this week.



Scholars visit Cruachan Power Station

The programme, which is now in its seventh year, has supported students at the country's most esteemed universities, including Cambridge University, Imperial College London, Edinburgh University, Glasgow University, Strathclyde University, Liverpool University and East Anglia University.

The same line up of universities will work in partnership with the energy supplier again for this year's student intake.

Sixteen scholars will receive full course fee funding for their Masters' studies as well as a generous living allowance.

This year for the first time ScottishPower has also pledged to work with successful scholars to help them into the workplace after their studies, establishing a new generation of forward-thinking leaders at the heart of the company.

Applications open today and will close on 2 April 2018 at 1pm. Full information on the scholarship programme can be found [here](#).

Students from a range of disciplines will be considered for the sought-after positions, including those looking to study engineering, renewable and sustainable energy systems. With the increased demand for new technology roles, the programme also began incorporating degrees such as computer science, cybersecurity and big data from last year.

Hamish Watson, HR Director at ScottishPower: "There is no doubt that the future of the energy industry lies in the hands of our bright young people and ScottishPower is committed to supporting the advancement of their education. We're delighted to be offering these scholarships opportunities this year; it presents a huge opportunity for graduates to develop their skills and knowledge, and to demonstrate how they can contribute to our future."

Previous alumni of the ScottishPower Scholarships programme have achieved great success, working in groundbreaking energy-related fields, including former student Lloyd Keogh who now works within SMART Technologies.

Lloyd Keogh said: "From day one of the scholarship, there are plenty of opportunities to take advantage of. This included networking with senior members of the business, site visits which provide a learning experience that cannot be replicated in lectures and assistance with my final year project. However, the biggest benefit was securing my position on the ScottishPower Graduate Scheme through the scholarship. The company have been excellent in supporting and developing me

for a career in an industry that is constantly changing. You are a valued member of the team right from the offset and I have already been given challenging and exciting projects to work on. For anyone wanting to work in the energy sector, being on the scholarship is the perfect opportunity to achieve this.”